

Event Report, Zest 2024

The Faculty of Dentistry at Jamia Millia Islamia hosted the 5th edition of its two-day cultural and sports festival, Zest 2024, on February 21st and 22nd, 2024. The cultural events took place on the first day at the M.A. Ansari Auditorium and amphitheatre, while the sports competitions were held at the sports complex of Jamia Millia Islamia. Over 550 students from more than 10 colleges in Delhi and NCR, including ESIC Dental College, Manav Rachna Dental College, and Sharda Dental College, participated in the festival with great enthusiasm.

The first day kicked off with innovative competitions such as rangoli, face painting, logo designing, dental amalgamation art, and fruit and vegetable carving, where participants showcased their creativity and imagination. Simultaneously, stage events started with a very interesting debate on “social media influencers as a career option,” in which participants presented their views for or against the motion in both English and Hindi. This was followed by two guest lectures, one on “Dental Practice Start Up Tips” by Dr Kapil Raina and “Career options after Dentistry” by Dr Simranjit Singh, which presented the students with practical clinical and career tips. The lectures were followed by the inauguration, which was graced by several esteemed dignitaries, including the Hon’ble Chief Guest, Vice Chancellor, JMI, Prof. Iqbal Hussain, Dean, Faculty of Dentistry, Prof. Keya Sircar, organizing secretary, Prof. Tanveer Ahmed, and Prof. Harneet Kaur, and Prof. Gurjeet Kaur on the behalf of Dean Students’ Welfare, Prof Seemi Farhat Basir. The Hon’ble Chief Guest in his talk complimented the immense effort by the organising team for this successful endeavour and supported the spirit of healthy competition in all the events. The Dean, Prof Keya Sircar, highlighted various initiatives taken by the faculty as part of “Viksit Bharat” programme, and also the fundamentals of a progressive and holistic education policy adopted by the faculty which has raised its level to NIRF ranking 10th amongst national dental colleges. The dignitaries on the dias also released the memoir book for ZEST 2024 showcasing the spirit of the festival. The day also witnessed amazing talents in solo and group performances in events #sureelasafar & #shameraqs, where our participants flaunted their melodious voices and graceful dancing talents. The amphitheatre also livened up with an energetic display of Nukkad Natak participation. The first day ended with a valedictory ceremony where the awards for various categories were announced, and the efforts of various organizing teams were acknowledged. An e-newsletter was also released, which would compile the events of these two days.

The second day charged-up with sports events which were inaugurated by Director (Games and Sports) Prof. Waseem Ahmad Khan, and Dean, Prof. (Dr.) Keya Sircar. During the day, the participants were engaged in various athletic events involving the 100-meter dash, 200-meter sprint, and 400-meter relay race. The faculty members joined in different activities along with the students, such as athletics and cricket. Various indoor categories like table tennis and chess were also held. Boys and girls were involved in separate events, including badminton and basketball. To maintain the spirit of sports, informal events like tug of war, spoon race, and 3-legged race were also held.

The day ended with an alumni meet of Faculty of Dentistry at Nehru Guest house which happened for the very time in its history with over 100 alumni from the 2009-2018 batch joining for this joyous gathering. The celebrations multiplied when the teaching and non-teaching faculty who had superannuated in the past few years also joined as guests in the meet, and interacted with the alumni and present faculty.

Events like these distinguish our institute from a mere academic fulcrum and establish it as a concrete concoction of equivocal co-curricular activities with hinged academic excellence. This is what Jamia has been all about in its more than 100 years of lustrous legacy.