

Dr. Zakir Husain Library, Jamia Millia Islamia, organized an exhibition on The Holy Quran on March 12, 2026

The Dr. Zakir Husain Library of Jamia Millia Islamia (JMI) organized a special exhibition titled “The Holy Quran” during the blessed month of Ramadan, celebrating the intellectual, artistic, and spiritual heritage associated with the sacred text. The event was inaugurated by Prof. Mazhar Asif, Hon’ble Vice-Chancellor, JMI, in the distinguished presence of Prof. Md. Mahtab Alam Rizvi, Esteemed Registrar, JMI; Prof. Ahteshamul Haque, Controller of Examination, JMI; Prof. Neelofar Afzal, Dean of Students' Welfare, JMI; Prof. Md. Kamalun Nabi, Finance Officer, JMI; Dr. Vikas S. Nagrale, University Librarian, Dr. Zakir Husain Library, JMI. The exhibition witnessed an impressive turnout of deans, heads of departments, directors, the security advisor, provosts, faculty members, Jamia Schools Principals, staff, and students, all of whom expressed great appreciation for the initiative.

The exhibition showcases thirty-five rare and scientifically preserved Quran manuscripts, dating from the 15th century to the early 20th century, reflecting diverse Islamic calligraphic traditions and artistic illuminations. A series of curated posters illustrating the evolution of Quranic calligraphy from the 7th to the 14th century was also displayed, offering visitors a comprehensive visual insight into the historical development of Quranic script styles.

In addition to the manuscripts, the exhibition features printed editions of the Holy Quran in several Indian languages, including Malayalam, Kannada, Hindi, Urdu, Tamil, and Bengali. Several international translations are also on display in languages such as Chinese, Japanese, German, French, Turkish, Russian, English, Spanish, Albanian, Myanmar (Burmese), and Persian. A Braille edition of the Holy Quran was also displayed, highlighting the library’s commitment to accessibility and inclusivity.

In his presidential address, Vice-Chancellor Prof. Mazhar Asif highlighted the vital role of libraries in preserving and safeguarding our rich cultural and intellectual heritage. He emphasized that the library is committed to collecting copies of the Holy Qur’an in all state languages so that its message can reach a wider and more diverse audience.

He further remarked that all heavenly scriptures convey a universal message for humanity—kindness, compassion, and mutual respect. Referring to verses from the Holy Qur’an, he stated that a truly religious person respects all faiths. He commended, Dr. Vikas S. Nagrale, University Librarian and his team for their efforts of preserving the documentary heritage.

Speaking on the occasion, Prof. Md. Mahtab Alam Rizvi, Registrar of JMI, applauded the digitization of Quranic manuscripts and appreciated the efforts of the library to preserve and make these invaluable treasures accessible to scholars and the wider community. He emphasized the importance of not only reading the Quran but also understanding its meaning and message. He noted “that the Holy Quran serves as a complete guide for personal life, promoting peace, moral values, and ethical conduct. According to him, the Quran already provides a comprehensive code of conduct for humanity and remains a timeless source of wisdom and guidance for all”.

The event also featured a guest lecture on the Holy Qur’an delivered by Prof. Habibullah Khan, Honorary Director of the Dr. Zakir Husain Institute of Islamic Studies. In his lecture, he explained that the Qur’an is the divine revelation from Allah and that its message is not limited to Muslims alone but is meant for all human beings. He emphasized the universal values promoted by the Qur’an, such as justice, equity, kindness, and respect for human rights, and highlighted the ethical principles it upholds, including the clear guidance on what is permissible and forbidden in order to build a just and compassionate society.

The welcome address was delivered by Dr. Vikas Nagrale, University Librarian, Dr. Zakir Husain Library who stated that the main aim of this Quran Exhibition is to spread the message

of the Holy Quran to all human beings, while also highlighting the importance of preserving and promoting manuscript heritage. The main objective organizing this program is to spread the humanitarian teaching contains in the Holy Quarn to the public and promote peace, brotherhood and awareness towards moral values in the society

This was followed by an introduction to the Catalogue of Quran manuscripts (printed and web-based) and the library's archival preservation and digitization initiatives by Dr. Umaima, Convener of the event

A significant highlight of the event was the release of the Catalogue of Qur'an Manuscripts and Rare Printed Editions preserved in Dr. Zakir Husain Library. It includes 71 Qur'an manuscripts, including translations and commentaries; one Braille Qur'an; one lithograph manuscript inscribed on cloth; and 37 rare printed editions of the Holy Qur'an. along with the launch of a Web-Based Interactive Catalogue, which aims to make the library's valuable manuscript resources more accessible to National and International scholars. A short clip reflecting the inhouse archival conservation and digitization activities of the library was also played during the event.

The program conducted by Mr. Johan M. Mir, Co-convener of the event and vote of thanks was proposed by Prof. Shehbaz H. Naqvi, Dr. Zakir Husain Library, JMI

The exhibition will remain open to visitors at the Dr. Zakir Husain Library, Jamia Millia Islamia, until March 18, 2026.









