

# JAUHAR

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## Discourse in Diversity

Catering to students from a range of geographical and economic backgrounds, Jamia is a national university in its truest sense

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◆9 Faculties ◆37 Departments ◆27 Centres of Excellence and Research ◆231 Courses ◆642 Faculty Members  
◆Over 15,000 Undergraduate, Post-Graduate and Diploma/Certificate Students

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**Maulana Mohamed Ali 'Jauhar'**  
Founder, Jamia Millia Islamia

## From the Vice-Chancellor

**T**hree months ago Jamia launched the commemorative issue of *Jauhar*. It stole the hearts of many and brought this historical institution into focus. The intervening months have been fulfilling for us in many ways. The most important occasion has been the Annual Convocation, where the University awarded a *Honoris Causa* (Doctor of Letters) to his Holiness The Dalai Lama. Jamia shone in his august presence and the class of 2010 were truly blessed by his spiritual aura.

The audience at Ansari Auditorium swayed to some robust Qawwali on Foundation Day and to the mystic music and spiritual poetry of Hazrat Amir Khusrau and Maulana Jami. Considering the seminal contribution of Hazrat Amir Khusrau to mysticism, poetry and music, the University has named the main gate leading to the Faculty of Humanities and Languages as the 'Jahan-e-Khusrau'. Metaphorically speaking, as the "Jahan" (Universe) of Amir Khusrau is indeed Hazrat Nizamuddin Aulia, we named the building of Humanities & Languages as the Dabistan-e-Hazrat Nizamuddin Aulia.

For the first time, Jamia has introduced the semester system in its postgraduate classes. The teachers and the students must be thanked for this difficult transition.

On the sporting side, we have had two students winning the gold and bronze medals in the 10-metre Air Rifle competition at the All India Inter-University Tournament. One student represented India at the recently-concluded Asian Games in Soft Tennis while the other came in 5th at the All India Inter-University Power Lifting Tournament.

Before I end, I wish all my colleagues, students and staff at the Jamia Millia Islamia a very happy and fulfilling New Year.

**Najeeb Jung**  
Vice-Chancellor



# A desi cosmopolitanism

Notwithstanding its so-called Islamic image, Jamia Millia Islamia is a National University in its truest sense...

**Mukul Kesavan**

I began teaching in Jamia in 1983. It wasn't a central university in those days: it was designated a 'deemed' university and many of my senior colleagues then could remember a time when it had been a college. Jamia didn't figure largely in the imagination of *dilliwallahs*: the first time I visited the University in the late Seventies for a history seminar, the auto-rickshaw driver didn't know the way there.

When people did think about Jamia, they conjured up in their minds a 'Muslim' institution that lived on Delhi's margins, a place that despite its met-

ropolitan location was essentially provincial or mofussil in its composition. A cousin of mine from Jaipur commissioned me to buy her some 'ittar', my mother instructed me to enrol her in Jamia's wonderful Urdu correspondence course, well-meaning friends asked how I distinguished one girl student from another (they assumed all of them were veiled): every cliché in the book about Muslims was associated with Jamia.

Even thirty years ago these clichés misrepresented Jamia's significance. Its Fine Arts Department, for example, was the best institution of its sort in North India and its faculty included some of India's best artists — men like Jatin Das and



Paramjit Singh. Jamia's Departments of Social Work and Education were path-breaking institutions, thanks to Dr Zakir Husain's pioneering interest in education and extension work. Its Department of History was presided over by one of the great historians of the time, Prof M Mujeeb, whose masterwork, *The Indian Muslims*, remains the best book in its field.

While it's important to set Jamia in perspective, it is also important not to seem to disown its past. Historically, Jamia was a Muslim foundation, established to create a model of nationalist education among Muslims at a time when Aligarh Muslim University's conservative politics were felt to be out of step with the political passions of the early 20th century. In republican India, Jamia, along with the Aligarh Muslim University, has rendered invaluable

service in bringing higher education to a disadvantaged community. The Sachar Committee Report has shown in incontrovertible detail the extent to which Muslims have suffered from a lack of educational opportunity at every level. It is to Jamia's enormous credit that it has helped sustain India's claim to being a pluralist culture by becoming an educational lifeline for India's largest religious minority.

And yet, while playing this essential role, Jamia has simultaneously become, over the last quarter of a century, a model for a desi cosmopolitanism.

The watershed in Jamia's development as a centre of professional education was the founding of the AJK Mass Communications Research Centre (MCRC) in 1982. By establishing a media school at the very moment when national network television became a reality in India, Jamia raised its profile enormously. Overnight, Jamia became associated with a certain sort of professional modernity and the fact that admission into MCRC was enormously competitive helped bolster Jamia's claim to excellence and captured the attention of a student elite that might otherwise have overlooked the University.

While MCRC remains Jamia's most visible institution, it is only part of the University's enormous investment in professional education. The last 20 years have seen Faculties of Law, Engineering and Architecture and a College of Dentistry establish Jamia's credentials as a destination for ambitious young professionals.

The remarkable achievement of the University has been to manage this expansion without forsaking its traditional strengths in the Social Sciences, Education and the Humanities. At the same time, as Jamia becomes the proving ground for a professional, metropolitan elite, it remains a destination for excellent students from *madrassas*, a place where sharp young people from India's small towns and villages come to develop linguistic and academic skills, a trusted haven where girls from orthodox families are allowed by conservative parents to participate in higher education.

In this way, Jamia embodies a peculiarly Indian cosmopolitanism: it is a hospitable place, which hosts not just geographical and linguistic diversity but also goes out of its way to make room for religious and social groups that might otherwise not have had access to the intellectual and professional opportunities that a university education brings.

Where, but in Jamia, would you meet Abdul Hakim from Champaran? His father is an agricul-



**Well-meaning friends asked how I distinguished one girl student from another: every cliché in the book about Muslims was associated with Jamia.**

tural labourer, his brothers are tailors but he is doing a Master's degree in Persian in Jamia and he plans to go on to do a Doctorate. Shahnaz's father is a tailor too, but she's committed to becoming a teacher. Bishwajit Khumukcham from Manipur followed his sister to Jamia to study English literature. He found so many Manipuris in Jamia that had he chosen not to mix with other sorts of people he could have lived in a Manipuri cocoon. Kirti Gupta from Haryana graduated from Delhi University and came to Jamia to do her MSc. When she joined, some relatives tried to dissuade her because, as she explained, lay people outside have no real sense of the character of the University. From the inside, she said, it's at once apparent that in its diversity Jamia is truly national in its scope.

The plurality of Jamia's student body results in some interesting juxtapositions. Padmakar Dwivedi from UP, shares a room with Ahamed Saju PV whose home is Calicut in Kerala. They're different in every conceivable way: their disciplines diverge (Padmakar is doing a Master's degree in Hindi while Ahamed is a student of Sociology), they come from opposite ends of the country, one is a vegetarian while the other isn't, but both of them have self-consciously chosen a university environment that would draw them out of their comfort zones and bring them face to face with difference. Both of them want to become civil ser-

vants and both reckoned that Jamia would be a good training ground for the complexity they were likely to encounter in their careers. Padmakar chose to share a room with a Muslim because, as he explained, "...we live in a world with many diversities, and it's necessary to cross boundaries... If I have to live as a successful citizen, I have to learn to live with differences. As a civil services aspirant, it's essential I learn this art as early as possible." Ahamed's reasons are uncannily similar: "I decided to come to Delhi. Studying here is the experience of studying in an all-India environment. There's representation from different states, from Kashmir and UP to North-East, Maharashtra and Karnataka." Padmakar can't speak English and Ahamed can't speak Hindi but thus far, the chasm of language hasn't got in the way of co-existence and camaraderie.

**T**he examples above shouldn't be understood to mean that Jamia is some perfect microcosm of the nation. It isn't, because inevitably, both geography and history influence its student intake. Of its nearly 19,000 students, the vast majority are drawn from Delhi, Uttar Pradesh and Bihar and this is not unusual: students are more likely to study in colleges and universities in the vicinity of their homes because distances involve expense and unfamiliarity. Nevertheless, every state and union territory of the Union is represented in Jamia, from the Andaman islands to Jammu and Kashmir, with a sprinkling of foreign students thrown in for good measure. And this representation would be more substantial given Jamia's facilities and academic expertise, if the University could provide residential accommodation on a larger scale.

One noticeable skew in Jamia's student population is the preponderance of men and the relative under-representation of women. This is almost entirely a function of hostel facilities. This can be inferred from the fact that amongst students drawn from Delhi, women are very well represented: there are approximately 4,000 women compared to roughly 5,500 men. One major task confronting the University is a massive hostel-building programme, something that the Union Government would do well to fund, given Jamia's historic achievement in educating disadvantaged groups and minorities.

—Mukul Kesavan teaches at the  
Department of History and Culture,  
Jamia Millia Islamia



# The 'lusty child' turns 90

Jamia Millia Islamia celebrates its Foundation Day on October 29

Jamia Millia Islamia was founded in 1920, at the peak of the Non-Cooperation Movement. It took birth when a group of students and faculty at Aligarh Muslim University (then called Moham-maden Anglo-Oriental College) insisted that the college stop taking support from the British. When the authorities refused to do so, the Nationalists broke away.

Subsequently, even after the Non-Cooperation Movement ended, Jamia continued to support the nationalist cause all through. It was this link of the University to the freedom struggle, that made Pt Jawa-harlal Nehru describe it as “the lusty child of the Non-Cooperation Movement”.

The 90th Foundation Day of the University was celebrated on the lawns of Dr MA Ansari Auditorium, with Jamia’s NCC Cadets presenting a Guard of Honour to Vice-Chancellor Najeeb Jung.

The Vice-Chancellor recalled the enormous sacrifices the University’s edifice was built on and urged everyone to come forward to help take the institution to further heights.

Harsh Mandar, well-known social activist, social commentator and Member of the National Advisory Council, hoisted the flag. He reminded the gathering of the enormous disparities that continue to plague society and the role that educational institutions, such as Jamia, have played and continue to play in addressing them.

Traditionally, the Foundation Day Programme is organised by Jamia Schools.

The school children won the hearts of everybody by rendering the Jamia song, *Jamia Tarana*, recalling Jamia’s glorious history and its commendable achievements.

The Foundation Day celebrations included a *Sufiyana Qawwali* on Hazrat Amir Khusrau and Hazrat Maulana Jami by the Nizami Brothers. ♦



## Voice of youth

Lecture on ‘The Vision of Indian Youth in 21st Century’

Only the paranoid survive... Commitment to course and thinking beyond the short-term is important... Continue to persevere and don't be afraid of failure. These were some of the pearls of wisdom that Jyotiraditya Scindia, Minister of State for Commerce & Industry, shared with Jamia students at a packed MA Ansari Auditorium on the Foundation Day. He was delivering the Foundation Day Lecture on ‘The Vision of Indian Youth in 21st Century’.

Scindia listed leadership qualities, such as vision, commitment, belief in team work and compassion, and had a piece of advice for students. “Don't subscribe to not-in-my-backyard (NIMB) syndrome,” he said.

Scindia also answered a range of questions posed by students — from “Why should Indians still rely on English” to “How can I join politics”.



# Practices in pluralism

A seminar on how societies across the world deal with minority issues

Democracy was born in small communities which were societies with shared religious beliefs and ethnicity. There was room, however, for disagreement because there was fundamental agreement about a given society's place in the world. However, when societies became pluralistic, democracies were for the first time challenged. Can democracies work in conditions of pluralism? This question was posed by Benjamin Barber, Distinguished Senior Fellow, DEMOS, and President CivWorld, at a seminar on 'Cultural and Religious Pluralism: The Muslim Minority in Indian Democracy.

East-West Comparison', organised by Reset of Italy and Jamia Millia Islamia in October.

Benjamin, in his recorded address, emphasised that unlike monoculturalism or liberal tolerance, the third alternative of civil religion, was the only viable option. This called for creating a common identity around citizenship, identifying shared ideals, behaviours and histories, and involving citizens in civic activities, he observed.

Rajeev Bhargava, Director, Centre for Study of Developing Societies, in his gripping comparison of secularism in India and the West, said, "The crisis of secularism is deeper in Europe. There is a fundamental problem in the understanding of secularism in Europe, even though best practices have been instituted. It's a single-religion society. Other religions are at best tolerated. It's not toleration on equal terms... In India, diversity exists as part of our cultural landscape."

Among the speakers who presented their insights into the challenges of pluralism and responses were Raj Liberhan, Director, India Habitat Centre; Madhu Kishwar, author-activist; Dipankar Gupta, academic; and Roberto Toscano, former Italian Ambassador to India. ♦



Participants at the seminar on pluralism

## Multiple affiliations

A session on 'Understanding Communal Conflicts: Search for a New Paradigm'

If religion becomes the basis of social behaviour, a divide arises in society. A person has multiple identities and religion is just one of them. Plural affiliations are important. These thoughts were expressed by Pradeep K Lahiri, Former Secretary to the Government of India, Finance (Revenue & Mines), and Former Executive Director, Asian Development Bank (Manila), at a lecture-cum-book reading session on 'Understanding Communal Conflicts: Search for a New Paradigm', as part of the Knowledge Lecture Series of Jamia Millia Islamia on September 20. He was addressing a packed hall, with students and faculty from various depart-

ments in attendance. He also quoted extracts from his new book *Decoding Intolerance*.

Lahiri has discussed Hindu-Muslim conflict in his book. His inferences are based, in part, on five riots — Jabalpur (1961), Indore (1969), Bhagalpur (1989), Mumbai (1992-92) and Gujarat (2002). As part of the district administrations in Jabalpur in 1961 and Indore in 1969, he got an insight into the triggers that spark off a riot. He said, "The triggers are pedestrian and mundane. However, these are not the underlying causes." Vested interests always play up any tension between the two communities to their advantage, he added. ♦

# Dalai Lama conferred a DLitt

3,529 degrees/diplomas, 147 gold medals, 127 PhDs awarded on Convocation Day

Jamia Millia Islamia conferred the Degree of Doctor of Letters (*Honoris Causa*) on His Holiness Tenzin Gyatso, the Fourteenth Dalai Lama of Tibet, on the occasion of the Annual Convocation on November 23, 2010.

The Dalai Lama endeared himself to the young gathering. “You (students) have put in a lot more effort,” he quipped to loud applause. He said he had committed his life to two principles: one of harmony and peace, and the other of developing human values.

“The last century was one of violence, when 200 million people were killed. This should be a century of dialogue, for which openness and trust is very important,” the Dalai Lama observed.

In his concluding remarks, he urged his young audience to “exercise patience and develop a vision”.

Kapil Sibal, Union Minister of Human Resource Development, the Chief Guest on the occasion, had a word of advice for successful students: “Remember that life is one long journey interspersed with many dreams. Some may materialise and some might not. Stick with your dreams. A bend in the road is not the



end as long as you make the turn.”

Vice-Chancellor Najeeb Jung presided over the Annual Convocation. In his address, Jung chose to speak about the Dalai Lama. “His Holiness, as the greatest exponent of inter-faith dialogue in the world, whose life has been full of conversations with rabbis, bishops, popes and priests of every description, is the living embodiment of the openness and good faith so necessary to living together in peace,” he said.

The University awarded a total of 3,529 degrees/diplomas, 147 gold medals to toppers of different courses, and 127 PhD degrees to research scholars. ♦



## Jamia’s tribute to Sufi saints

Jahan-e-Khusrau and Dabistan-e-Hazrat Nizamuddin Aulia on University campus

Lieutenant Governor of Delhi Tejinder Khanna inaugurated Jahan-e-Khusrau and Dabistan-e-Hazrat Nizamuddin Aulia at the Faculty of Humanities & Languages, Jamia Millia Islamia, on November 9.

The institutions are a tribute to Hazrat Nizamuddin Aulia, who served the downtrodden of Delhi all his life, and Amir Khusrau, who was Hazrat Nizamuddin Aulia’s *murid* and was one of India’s most celebrated poets.

It was Prof SM Azizuddin, Dean of Faculty of Humanities and Languages, who had mooted the idea of renaming the Faculty of Humanities

and Language complex after the Sufi saints. Prof Azizuddin had felt that there was no building named after the two in Jamia where considerable work was being carried out in Urdu, Persian, Arabic and Hindi.



In naming the structure, Jamia has recognised the fact that even their final resting places were close to each other. Says Prof Azizuddin, “You first come across Khusrau’s *mazaar* and then Hazrat Nizamuddin Aulia’s *mazaar*.” Therefore, the entrance to the complex has been named after Khusrau and the building after Nizamuddin Aulia. ♦



# Naga concerns

Government interlocutor in Naga talks presents his approach to the issue

It's a widely-held misconception that Naga insurgency was born out of a lack of equity and development. The problem is "political" and is very different from Naxalism, said Raghav S Pandey, former Chief Secretary of Nagaland and presently Government of India Interlocutor to Naga Talks. Pandey was speaking at a discussion on 'Governance Issues in Nagaland', organised by the Centre for North-East Studies, MMAJ Academy of Third World Studies, Jamia Millia Islamia, in September.

Pandey said that as a civil servant of the Nagaland cadre and finally as Chief Secretary of the state, he had put his hopes in "social capital". His endeavour began with seminars to motivate government employees — he had even invited Shiv Khara to deliver a pep talk. However, Pandey thought of looking beyond the government, coming up with the 'Imagine Nagaland' campaign and encouraging the youth of the state to "imagine" a Nagaland of their dream.

The campaign was bolstered by some concrete steps the government took in improving governance. Instead of privatising defunct hospitals and schools,



Raghav S Pandey (right) at the discussion

Pandey decided to "communitise" them — the underlying proviso being that the Government would eventually hand over day-to-day governance to the people. He chose three areas for communitisation — elementary education, health and power. In the first year, only 12 percent of the state's villages opted for the model. In the third year, it had risen to 94 percent! Citing the example of the turnaround in education, Pandey said student dropout in many villages was zero! "If a person has an intrinsic interest in something succeeding and is put in charge of it, he will put his 100 percent into it." ♦

## For a better life

Department of Psychology workshops that focused on managing life

The Department of Psychology organised a workshop on Cognitive-Behavioural Therapy (CBT) on November 20-22. The training was imparted by Dr Siddiqa Najamuddin Mohammed Hussain, a certified CBT trainer, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, and Clinical Psychologist at Soor Center for Professional Therapist, Kuwait.

CBT is based on the theory that our thoughts shape our feelings and behaviours; external factors like people, situations, and events do not. Therefore, we can change the way we feel or think and act better even if the situation does not change. The workshop was attended by postgraduate students and



Dr Siddiqa NM Hussain at the CBT workshop

research scholars of the Department.

The Department also organised an extension lecture on November 23, which was delivered by Farida D'Silva Dias from the Centre for Reality Therapy, and President, Jeevan Community Centre, Panaji, Goa. The lecture dwelt at length on the application of 'choice theory' and 'reality therapy' that focuses on the present in order to create a better future. ♦

# 'Obama visit, a success'

Ronen Sen analyses President Barack Obama's India visit and India-US relations

**W**e should show self-respect and improve our country's well-being and economy, rather than banging at doors... It's a colonial mindset to join every club," said Ronen Sen, former Indian ambassador to the US, while referring to India's pursuit of a permanent seat in the UN Security Council. Sen was speaking on the theme of the 'Impact of the Obama Visit on India-US Relations', which was part of the Distinguished Lecture Series on Public Diplomacy held in Jamia Millia Islamia in early December. The talk was organised by the Centre for Culture, Media and Governance (CCMG) at Jamia.

Calling President Barack Obama's India visit a success, Sen

said the US had supported India's claim to a permanent seat in the Security Council, something it would not in the case of other claimants, such as Germany and



Brazil. Criticising the media's position that Obama's posture was that of a "salesman", Sen said that the success of a diplomatic establishment today depends on the extent to which it can impact the well-being of the country's people.

Answering a question as to why

the US continued to fund Pakistan despite Pervez Musharraf's claim that funds given for the war on terror had been diverted to anti-India activities, he urged the gathering not to be "jingoistic", saying that during his tenure in the US he had never raised this issue with the US.

Another event organised by CCMG was a conference titled 'Between the Mainstream and the Fringe: Environmental Activism in a Globalised World', in collaboration with Heidelberg University, Germany. Environment journalists discussed how globalisation had influenced the environmental agenda and how environmental publications impacted political discourses and mainstream news worldwide. ♦

## Laurels

**J**amia students displayed their prowess in oratory at the Inter-University North Zone Youth Festival organised by the Association of Indian Universities and Bundelkhand University, Jhansi. Jamia's quiz team, comprising Sarvjeet Singh, Zayed Masroor Khan and Ayush Sharma, emerged winners in the quiz competition. Sarvjeet Singh of MA Convergent Journalism also won the third prize in the elocution contest. Jamia was awarded the trophy for the Best Literary Team along with Aligarh Muslim University and Guru Nanak Dev University. Jawed Aslam of the Faculty of Fine Arts won the First Prize in Painting Competition at the festival. ♦

## Art aficionados



**From the Arab Film Festival to the Turkish Dance Festival, Jamia students experienced art in myriad ways. TOP: The 'Artisans of Non-Violence' exhibition, displaying 24 drawings of Mahatma Gandhi, Nelson Mandela and Martin Luther King, held at the MF Husain Art Gallery from Nov 1-10. The exhibition was curated by Suraj Sadan. BOTTOM: *Ant Nahin*, a play by Badal Sircar, directed by Samkuty Pottamkary.**



# 'Coz space matters

Jamia offers an interesting array of Master's programmes in Architecture

The Faculty of Architecture and Ekistics at JMI holds that a built structure is not just about walls, floors and tiles. Rather it's more about treatment, usage and aesthetics. An architect must understand the utility and personality of a building that would house, say, a hospital, as opposed to a convention centre, or a recreation centre. The Faculty has, therefore, structured a series of courses catering to a variety of needs.

At the M Arch level, it offers the following pioneering and unique courses.

- Master of Ekistics
- M Arch (Medical Architecture)
- M Arch (Recreation Architecture)
- M Arch (Architecture Pedagogy)
- M Arch (Building Services)

The base qualification for admission to all these courses is a B Arch degree recognised by the Council of Architecture, with not less than 50 percent marks in aggregate or the corresponding CPI/SPI.

Describing the need for these courses, Prof SM Akhtar, Dean, Faculty of Architecture & Ekistics, says, "Every built structure has a specific requirement, and you need specialist intervention to fulfil that. Not everyone within the broad field of Architecture is trained for that. For example, how should an F1 track be laid and what are the requirements of a zoological park or an exhibition ground. Now, a person might learn all this after an experience of 15 years, but we are trying to reduce the gap, making youngsters ready for field."

The programmes approach the subjects holistically and are interdisciplinary in practice. Take Ekistics, for instance, which takes into consideration the five essential components of an ideal centre of habitation: "nature, man, society, shelter and network (connectivity)". As Prof Akhtar says, in modern-day town planning, nature, human behaviour and societal needs are ignored, "which is why we make such a mess of urban settlements". As a branch of architecture, Ekistics seeks to address



## FOUNDATION FOR FUTURE

**Courses:** Master of Ekistics; M Arch (Medical Architecture); M Arch (Recreation Architecture); M Arch (Architecture Pedagogy); M Arch (Building Services)

**Eligibility:** B Arch degree recognised by the Council of Architecture, with not less than 50% marks in aggregate or the corresponding CPI/SPI.

**Number of seats:** Ekistics – 20; Medical Architecture – 10; Recreation Architecture – 10

**Fee:** ₹8,220 at the time of admission (subject to change)

these complexities of human settlements. Some of the factors that add to the dynamism of these programmes are intensive field studies in all climatic regions of the country and strong emphasis on institutional practice.

Every faculty member is equally engaged in professional practice as well as academics. This environment is further strengthened by a battery of accomplished visiting faculty with rich professional experience and expertise. Prof Akhtar has himself helped design a number of institutional, industrial and residential buildings in Lucknow, Kanpur and



even in Nepal. Young faculty members like Mariyum Ahmad, Kulsum Fatima and Sonia Chaudhary are working on live projects and Ziauddin, Feroz Anwar, Abdul Haleem, Qamar Irshad, Mohd Saquib, Tayaba Munawar, Ayla Khan, and Nisar Khan are working towards developing specialised courses.

Students too add to the department's dynamism, actively contributing to their areas of interest. A student of the department took keen interest in the sporting facilities that were refurbished ahead of the CWG Games. Another is today closely involved in the planning of the zoo. A few students conducted a case study on the tourism potential in the Orchha belt of Madhya Pradesh.

Dynamism has also flowed from exchange of ideas across borders. The Faculty, as part of its exchange programme with the University of Applied Sciences, Erfurt, Germany, sends its students and faculty to Germany each year, and invites students and faculty from Erfurt in return. The Indian and German students conduct joint studies, like examining 'space' for marginalised women. Similarly, a Spanish group spent a few weeks with the Department this summer, working on a project in Jasola village. ♦

## The answer is YES

Jamia ties up with Youth Empowerment Services to deal with students' career concerns

From a sheer lack of confidence coupled with utterly inadequate awareness about careers to little clarity about scholarships and funding options available for higher studies — students struggle with many issues they often tread. Jamia Millia Islamia strives to address these, both through in-house expertise and external counsel. Among the agencies Jamia invites to help with counselling students is Youth Empowerment Services (YES), a Delhi-based career guidance organisation.

During the last two years, YES has worked with over 5,000 students of the Jamia fraternity, including school students. YES conducts seminars on themes like 'Listen to what Others Don't Say: Body language', 'From I Can't to I Can: Positive Attitude and Self-confidence', and 'Jump Start: Self Motivation'.

A recent session that YES organised was on scholarships for higher education. It was an initiative of Jamia's Outreach Programme. Presenting a list of scholarships available in India and abroad, the YES counsellor demonstrated how students could present their case better. The counsellor dealt with the 'Statement of Purpose' and what it should include:

- How does your skill or your attitude distinguish you from others?
- How did you develop this attitude?
- Have you struggled for something in which you have succeeded?
- Have you struggled for something and yet failed? How did you respond?
- Have you taken part in any community activity?
- Who are your role models?
- What are your childhood experiences?
- Early career interventions like these go a long way in laying the foundations for a strong and vibrant career.



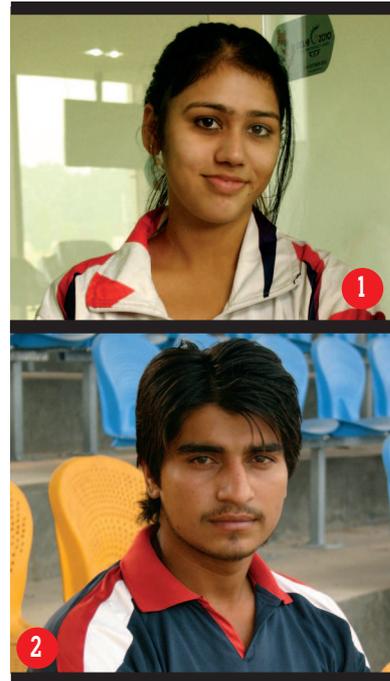
# On firm ground

Sport is no more synonymous with cricket in Jamia. Athletes from a range of disciplines exemplify the culture of diversity in the University

**B**adminton players Rachita and Mohita Sahdev, graduates from St Stephen's College, Delhi, are gung-ho about their silver medal in the North Zone Inter-University Youth Festival, organised by Association of Indian Universities at Panjab University, Chandigarh, from October 14-17, 2010. These MA Economics students, age 24 and 22 respectively, are Jamia's biggest hope in badminton. The siblings, who have learnt Bharatanatyam for eight years, took to badminton when Mohita, as a middle-school student, won an inter-school competition, defeating a national-level player! That caught the attention of their school's physical trainer and their mother. The two then introduced the siblings to formal training at the Surjit Singh Badminton Academy in Delhi. Mohita, the younger sibling, has been Delhi state champion for the last four years, and was All-India University Winner in 2007. Rachita, the older one, displayed her multifaceted personality by getting selected for a cultural exchange programme with Japan following a written examination and interview. Rachita then spent a year in Japan, learning Japanese and mastering the nuances of Japanese culture.

Tennis player Parul Goswami, a postgraduate in History from Jamia and now a student of Convergent Journalism at Mass Communication Research Centre (MCRC), has been ranked number 5 in India. She was National Games Winner in Guwahati in 2007. She was included in the list of probable players for the Commonwealth Games 2010, but a ligament rupture marred her chances of representing India. The injury means that she will be playing less for some time to come, and will be spending more time on media studies.

Sportspersons, such as Rachita, Mohita and Parul, represent a new sporting ethos at Jamia, demonstrating a positive attitude towards sport, career and life and displaying the capability to take the competitive pulls of playground and classroom in their stride. Simultaneously, a distinct change has come about in the general attitude towards sport in the University during the last few months. Mohammad Naseem



Chaudhry, a volleyball player at Jamia and a diploma student in travel and tourism, vouches for this change: "There has been a revolution in the University. Earlier we wouldn't get facilities in time. But now suddenly our needs are being taken care of."

This attitudinal shift is being facilitated by Sqn Ldr SS Hakeem, who was part of the football team in the 1960 Rome Olympics — the last time India qualified for it. A commissioned officer of the Indian Air Force from 1962 to 1983, he was Director of the National Institute of Sport (NIS), Patiala, and Regional Director, Sports Authority of India, from where he retired in 1997. He was also a FIFA referee from 1974 to 1989. Hakeem is now Consultant and Adviser with Jamia Millia Islamia, entrusted with the task of promoting all forms of sport and ushering in transparency in admission. Hakeem is determined to making sport a habit in Jamia, for he believes that the "topline can be strong only if the baseline is strong too. Quality comes out of quantity. Only if 100 players are playing, will 10 come up."



**1. Deepshikha Verma**  
**2. Sachin Yadav** **3. Jilke Nelord**  
**4. Mohd. Naseem**  
**5. Arif Hussain** **6. Rachita Sahdev**  
**7. Kamal Baniwal**  
**8. Sher Khan** **9. Adil Mirza**  
**10. Mohita Sahdev**  
**11. Parul Goswami**

Jamia has inducted five new coaches — SS Rawat for basketball, M Moonis for hockey, HS Negi for football, VK Sharma for athletics and RK Sharma for volleyball. Prof Waqar Ahmed Siddiqui, a professor in the Department of Applied Sciences, Faculty of Engineering and Technology, has been given additional responsibility as Honorary Director of Sports. Prof Siddiqui says that now various academic departments are also getting interested in sporting activities.

These appointments signal a departure from a cricket-focussed environment. True, alumnus Virender Sehwag is Jamia's poster boy, but sportspersons from other disciplines are finally getting the recognition they deserve. Alumnus Gagan Ajit Singh (hockey) makes them proud and so do Danish Mujtaba and Monica Murali Menon, who represented India in the Asian Games. Monica, a first-year MA English student, is a tennis player but represented India in soft tennis. She played team events — doubles and mixed doubles — against

Korea, China, Japan and Mongolia. Others may not have got the chance to represent India. Yet they exude the confidence and joy of a sportsperson.

Deepshikha Verma, 22, a table tennis player and a student of MA history, says with a twinkle in her eyes: "It's every player's dream to play for India. But even if I can't, I get happiness out of playing. The spirit of sportsmanship will always remain." In true demonstration of the dynamism that a sportsperson ought to embody, Deepshikha went to Maryland, US, during her summer holidays as a student of English in Khalsa College, Delhi University, to act as a counsellor and TT coach for school students for nine weeks, earning handsome dollars. She's also a freelance journalist with All India Radio, doing sports programmes for its *Khel Sewa*.

### Diversity in backgrounds

Not every sportsperson may have got such opportunities, but each has made the best of what has been available. For example, Jamia's football cap-



## HALL OF FAME

An indicative list of sportspersons who have done the University proud

<b>Virender Sehwal</b>	Vice-Captain of the Indian Cricket team
<b>Rameez Nemat</b>	Cricketer. Captain of Under-22 Jharkhand team in 2008-09, Ranji player from Jharkhand
<b>Gagan Ajit Singh</b>	Former Indian Hockey Captain, Arjuna Awardee. Played Olympics – 2000 and 2004, World Cup, Junior World Cup, Asian Games and Champions Trophy
<b>Devesh Singh Chauhan</b>	Hockey player, Arjuna Awardee. Played Olympics – 2000 and 2004, World Cup, Asian Games and Champions Trophy
<b>Prabhjot Singh</b>	Arjuna Awardee. Played Olympics – 2004, World Cup, Junior World Cup, Asian Games and Champions Trophy
<b>Tushar Khandekar</b>	Former Indian Hockey Captain. Played World Cup, Junior World Cup, Asian Games, Champions Trophy and Olympic Qualifier
<b>Danish Mujtaba</b>	Hockey player. Played Junior World Cup 2009, World Cup 2010, Asian Games - 2010
<b>Monica Joon</b>	Athlete. Gold medallist in discus throw in the All India Inter-University Meet
<b>Pavneet Kaur Chimni</b>	Athlete. 2005-2006 silver medallist in 100 meters Inter-University Meet
<b>Farid Ali</b>	Shooting. 2004-05 bronze medallist in Inter-University Meet



**“Quality comes out of quantity. Only if 100 players are playing, will 10 come up.”**  
**— Sqn Ldr SS Hakim**

tain in 2007-08 and 2009 Arif Hussain, who’s pursuing a Master’s in International Business, left his native town of Shajanpur and came to stay with his uncle in Delhi to practise in Nehru Stadium. Hockey player Sher Khan, a 1st Year student of BA History, was interested in taekwondo. However, when, on his father’s advice, he started playing hockey, he not only joined the Sports Authority of India for practice, but also changed schools and joined Union Academy, to be able to take part in the Nehru Cup! He’s glad that his team won a silver and that he could also win a

scholarship on his own strength.

Sachin Yadav, a sprinter from Ghaziabad, UP, won a gold and silver, respectively, in 2008 and 2009 at the CBSE National Tournament and qualified for admission to Jamia on the strength of his performance in the 100-meter race. Volleyball player

Mohammad describes how his whole family plays volleyball and how playing volleyball is a tradition in his village Balrampur in UP. Like Mohammad, tennis player Jilke Nelord says that her whole family plays tennis and that her father is a tennis coach as well. It was natural for her, therefore, to be drawn into this sport. “You get the satisfaction of being active in sport. And after that you can aspire for other roles in sport, like opening an academy. The field is expanding.”

### Diverse aspirations

Not surprising, therefore, that Jilke wouldn’t like to restrict her role in society to sport alone. Pursuing a Master’s in Social Work, she would like to make use of her expertise in an organisation like the UN. Adil Mirza, Jamia’s current football captain, would love to get a job on the strength of his sporting credentials. But he is equally keen to work in the field of human rights, which is why he is pursuing an MA in Human Rights and Duties, after graduating in Economics from Dehradun. Mohammad, though pursuing Tourism Management, would like to follow it up with MSW, and bring about constructive change in his native village. Sachin Yadav would like to run for India once, but otherwise, he is hooked to media. Deepshikha plans to follow up her MA with a PhD and Rachita, with her love for Economics, is also contemplating appearing for NET. So is Parul Goswami. Jamia’s most senior cricket player and MA Sociology student Kamal Baniwal would, however, want a job in the realm of sport, and has applied to ONGC and Air India, two companies well-known for supporting sportspersons.

### Common concerns

Economics. International business. Human rights. Sociology. History. With such demanding disciplines, it’s clear that sports students are not making short shrift of formal studies. And like true sportspersons, they are balancing the twin responsibilities with gusto. Sher Khan, who travels daily from Palam on the outskirts of Delhi, gets the opportunity to practise after 3.30 pm. Jilke also views it positively and says she gets all the time to practise after 1.30 pm. However, most sportspersons call for relaxation in attendance. They feel that the 60 percent-plus attendance norm is unrealistic. Worrying them is the juggling act — round-the-year tournaments and the attendance requirement. But the University’s goal is clear: foster a great sporting tradition. These hurdles, therefore, will take care of themselves. ♦



# A case 'for' Jamia

Debater PADMAKAR DWIVEDI explains why the University is important for his career plans

Jamia Millia Islamia would have lost an eloquent speaker to Allahabad University in 2007. When Padmakar Dwivedi, a graduate in Geography from Gorakhpur, sought admission to the MA Hindi course in Jamia, his name didn't appear in the first two lists for a berth in the hostel. If his name hadn't appeared in the third list, it would have spelt the end to Padmakar's 'Delhi dream'. "My family are agriculturists and you know the condition of agriculture today — with that kind of background my father could not have afforded a private accommodation for me in Delhi. And I would have probably been in Allahabad University today."

Thankfully, his name appeared on the final list. He not only went on to bag the gold medal in MA but also represented the University in a number of debating and elocution competitions. In November this year, he was honoured with a gold medal at the Convocation ceremony. In the same week, he, along with Jaynendra, an undergraduate student of Mass Communication, bagged the 2nd spot in the 6th Satpaul Mittal All India National Inter-University Debate Competition on the topic 'Population Stabilisation is the Pre-Requisite for the Preservation of Environment'. Dwivedi spoke 'for' the motion. Jamia's team got Rs 25,000 as prize money. More than 100 participants from all over India

participated in the event. The debate was organised by the Indian Association of Parliamentarians on Population and Development, which has a special consultative status with the United Nations.

He also won the 37th Kamal Nayan Bajaj National Inter-University Elocution-Cum-Extempore Competition in Wardha, Maharashtra, in early December. The competition was organised by Shiksha Mandal, Wardha. Representing Jamia, Padmakar bagged the first prize. The topic was 'Is the West declining? If so, why? What lesson can we learn from this?' There were representatives from 53 universities (35 in Hindi and 18 in English).

Padmakar is now pursuing an MPhil in Hindi, and also preparing for the Civil Services. He says, "I had got admission to MPhil courses in JNU and Delhi University too. But I reasoned out with my father and grandfather that given its atmosphere of diversity Jamia would groom my personality very well and that I needed to continue to stay here. They supported me in my decision."

In this student's case, Jamia has been twice lucky.♦





# Cinephilia and censorship

SALMA SIDDIQUE seeks to understand gender and politics in Iranian Cinema

She graduated in history from St Stephen's College, University of Delhi, and joined the MA Mass Communication programme at AJK Mass Communication Research Centre (MCRC) thereafter. It was the MCRC programme that opened Salma Siddique's eyes to the portrayal of women in countries with acute forms of censorship, notably Iran. And this experience made her take up this theme as her dissertation subject in MPhil at Maulana Mohamed Ali Jauhar Academy for Third World Studies.

"Censorship will always have interesting outcomes. Most censorship guidelines in Iran pertain to modesty principles — what can a woman wear, what relationships she's allowed to have, what professions she can follow, etc. Iran presents an interesting case study as to how filmmakers negotiate this restrictive code." Some of the movies that have left an impact on her are *Turtles Can Fly* and *Kandahar*. She feels that by circumventing and challenging censorship, Iranian cinema experiments in film form and narratives, and in fact tends to be more innovative than Bollywood. In the absence of a free press and a legitimate public sphere in Iran, cinema becomes a medium for

articulating political desires. While exposing herself to good cinema from across the world, Salma would also like to make films differently. This is what, she says, her Mass Communication programme instilled in her. She says, "The Mass Communication programme at Jamia is very intensive and demanding, both physically and intellectually. Students are encouraged to engage critically with their subject matter. From selecting locations and



## CELLULOID FANTASIES

**Favourite films:** *Jaane Bhi Do Yaaron, Oye Lucky...*

**Iranian films:** *Turtles Can Fly, Kandahar*

**Actors:** Raj Kapoor, Shah Rukh Khan, Abhay Deol

**Actresses:** Nargis, Shabana Azmi, Vidya Balan

people to be featured to handling cameras, we do everything as part of the course. This really encourages independent thinking. The kind of inputs we get there broadens our horizon."

The most important lesson for Salma is: 'No story is too small to tell'. Her first film *Road Less Travelled*, about an Australian migrant's bittersweet relationship with the city of Delhi, was recently screened at the Open Frame Festival in New Delhi. ♦

## Erfurt experience

Three students of Jamia represent India at a German University

Aisha Nusrat, a student of Master's in Human Rights and Duties, was chosen to participate in the two-week long Summer School at Erfurt University in Germany, along with Shahnawaz Ali Rahman, an MPhil student of Comparative Religion programme and M Reyaz, a PG student of Convergent Journalism. The programme was on 'Muslims in the West'.

The three students got to interact with students from Islamic countries, along with German students.

There were intensive lectures on Western perspectives on Islam, wherein faculty from German Universities also sought to understand perspective of Muslims on burning issues of the day. As Ayesha says, "The basic objective was to remove misconceptions. It was the time of Ramzan and German students always took care to ask whether they should be eating in front of us during the time of fasting or not."

The programme also included a three-day tour of Berlin. ♦

# Memory master

MUHAMMAD FAISAL turned his fortune through memory games and Vedic Maths

When Muhammad Faisal passed out of Modern Public School, Moradabad, in 2002, so modest was his score card that he didn't get admission to any degree course. By his own admission, he was a "weak student". Instead, he joined diploma in engineering at Aligarh Muslim University (AMU) and thereafter worked with LG Electronics as a service engineer for two years. He didn't enjoy the experience and developed a desire to do something on his own.

That "something" was memory games and Vedic Mathematics. Even as a diploma student, Faisal had started learning techniques in Vedic Maths and memory, and this resulted in a complete turnaround in his performance — he topped his batch in the diploma programme with 93.31 per cent.

Ask him for a calendar of the last 600 years. Give him a date and year and prompt comes the day of the week!

Now a student of BE at Jamia, he runs his own one-man MF Academy. From tapping schools,

colleges and universities to preparing the modules to attending to books and finances, he does all of it on his own. Of course, he does take outside help. Independent organisers, who help him in organising an event, get a percentage of his earnings. He has already conducted sessions at IIT Delhi, AMU, Punjabi University, Patiala, Panjab University, Chandigarh, Thapar University, Patiala, and Chitkara University, Patiala. He is now trying to expand his operations in the Middle East. He finds mention in the 2007 *India Book of Records* and in the *Global Book of World Records*.

Securing a degree is important, of course, but Muhammad has his sights set — on his business and on entering the Guinness Book of World Records. ♦



## Beyond Babri

Jamia students bring to light a touching story of a common man in Faizabad

Talk of Ayodhya and Faizabad and the Ram Janmabhoomi Babri Masjid dispute comes to mind. However, rarely does the world outside these twin cities care to find out about the residents of this place. But three students of Jamia Millia Islamia were moved enough by a humane story, risking their studies and camping in Ayodhya-Faizabad for about a month to shoot a film.

The film *Rising from the Ashes* is about Shareef Chacha, an ageing man who, after his son's death, chooses an extraordinary calling — of voluntarily performing the last rites for unclaimed bodies. This resolve was born out of the fact that he could never locate his

dead son's body.

Equally strong was the resolve of Syed Ali Akhtar, Shah Alam, Shariq Haider Naqvi and Mohd Gufran Khan to make a film on this theme. They put together ₹60,000 to make a 15-minute film on Shareef Chacha in June this year. Syed Ali Akhtar, the director, camped in Faizabad while preparing for his first-year exams. Shah Alam, a Faizabad resident and an MPhil student, who had conceptualised the film, failed to remit the fee for his exams. And Shariq Haider Naqvi, a Jamia alumnus and associate producer with Doordarshan's Kashmiri channel, helped edit the



From left: Shah Alam, Shariq and Syed with a fellow student

film on his laptop because his computer had crashed. While Syed Ali Akhtar plans to make more such socially-relevant films, he would like to be a print journalist. In fact, he edits *Jamia Jagaran*. Shariq pursued a BA in Geography at Jamia and followed it up with an MA in Convergent Journalism. Shah Alam belongs to a family of landless labourers in Bihar, and has been involved in numerous campaigns for social justice and peace. He was part of an India-Pakistan Peace March in 2005. ♦



# Premchand for posterity

Jamia strives to preserve the legendary author's works in its Archives

**T**he Premchand Archives & Literary Centre at Jamia Millia Islamia was launched in 2004, the 125th Birth Anniversary of India's revolutionary writer, who brought to light the living conditions in rural India through his writings, both in Hindi and Urdu. Premchand had written his work *Kafan* during his stay in Jamia and it was published in *Jamia Risala*. And he maintained regular corre-

spondence with Maulana Mohamed Ali, the founder of Jamia. It was not only for his association with Jamia that the Archive was set up; it was felt that the works of such eminent authors needed to be passed on to the next generation.



**The Literary Saga: The Archive hall (left); Premchand's horoscope (top); Banarasidas Chaturvedi's belongings (above)**

Prof SM Azizuddin, Dean, faculty of Humanities and Languages, currently Honorary Director of the Archives, says that besides striving to get works of

Premchand, he and his colleagues started the Premchand Memorial Lecture and brought out three calendars of correspondence – of MA Ansari, Maulana Mohamed Ali and Dr Zakir Husain. Prof Sabiha Anjum Zaidi, who joined as Director of the Archives in 2008 after a long stint in Indira Gandhi National Centre for Arts (IGNCA), started the process of acquiring entire works of authors with zeal. She persuaded Premchand's kin to donate some of his documents, although the difficulty was that Premchand and his family had not really preserved enough original documents. An appeal has now been sent out to collectors and individuals to donate Premchand's works. Efforts are also being made to get documents from the National Archives and the UP Government. Zaidi is clear that something is better than nothing, and therefore, if the Archives can't get hold of originals, then scanned copies will suffice to assist in scholarly works. Today, the Archives has books and translations of Premchand's works, PhD theses on Premchand, CDs of serials and plays on his stories (some of them from Doordarshan), his letters, his service book and even his horoscope.

Similarly, the Archives has acquired collections of Qurratulain Hyder, Banarasidas Chaturvedi and Qamar Rais, who was the first person to do a thesis on Premchand in Urdu in 1959.

The Archives has a team of experts – Shradha Shankar, Snigdha Roy and Dr SM Aamir – all diploma-holders in Archives and Record Management from the National Archives. And the team together strives to make the Archives a welcoming reading place, and not a dingy storehouse. ♦

## Factoid

When the Salt Satyagraha and Civil Disobedience Movement was launched in 1930, Devdas Gandhi, Shafiqur Rahman Kidwai

and Hafiz Fayyaz Ahmed, along with a few students, expressed their interest in joining the movement. Dr Zakir Husain, while wel-

# Jamia's tryst with Hindi

Hindi is a flourishing discipline in the University today. Its foundation was laid by none other than the Mahatma's son himself

Prof Abdul Bismillah

**M**ahatma Gandhi was deeply attached to Jamia Millia Islamia since its inception, a fact borne out by the fact that he sent his fourth son Devdas Gandhi to Jamia with the mission of teaching Hindi and popularising Khadi at the institution. Devdas spent a remarkable two years — 1928-1930 — in Jamia, carrying out his great father's wish.

Devdas was to become very popular with the student fraternity of Jamia. So much so that the University bestowed the title of Anjuman-e-Ittehad upon him, an honour earlier bestowed upon stalwarts like Mahatma Gandhi, Pt Jawaharlal Nehru, Allama Iqbal and Maulana Hasrat Mohani.

In 1930, after leaving Jamia, he led the Satyagraha Movement in Delhi. Writing about Devdas's leadership during that period, Mahadev Desai, the Mahatma's longtime associate and personal secretary, commented that Delhi, as well as Jamia Millia Islamia, would be proud of the work that Devdas selflessly carried out.

The seed of Hindi sown by Devdas Gandhi has now grown into a big tree. Today, the Department of Hindi not only has programmes from BA and MA to MPhil and PhD, it also runs a high-quality programme in journalism. It's a matter of great pride for us that one of Jamia's former Vice-Chancellors, Prof Masaud Khan, and the former Haryana Governor, Dr AR Kidwai, were taught Hindi by Devdas Gandhi himself.

Devdas Gandhi was a selfless patriot, freedom fighter, a staunch proponent of Hindi, and a prolific journalist. He played a crucial role in the launch of *Dainik Hindustan*, the Hindi daily of the *Hindustan Times* Group. *Saptahik Hindustan* was also launched during his time at *Hindustan Times*. For us the greatest source of pride is that he was our first Hindi teacher. In 2008, we set up the Devdas Gandhi Smriti Vyakhyan (Devdas Gandhi Memorial Lecture) in his memory. Interestingly, the first lecture in this series was delivered by his son Gopalkrishna Gandhi, a former Governor of West Bengal, and a distinguished son of India.

—Prof Abdul Bismillah is Head,  
Department of Hindi, Jamia Millia Islamia



**Devdas was to become very popular with the student fraternity of Jamia. So much so that the University bestowed the title of Anjuman-e-Ittehad upon him...**

coming their decision, decided that the University would continue to function, as the key function of the University, he stated in

an address, was to train young men as citizens and to give meaning and function to freedom once it had been achieved.



# ‘Young at 70’

Historian and heritage expert DR NAVINA Jafa walks down memory lane...

She’s a performing artist, activist, academician and entrepreneur, rolled into one. Dr Navina Jafa synergised her expertise in Kathak, her knowledge of Indian art, culture, history and heritage, and her readiness to take risks, to chart a unique course for herself.

Dr Jafa set out on her journey by conducting lectures on Indian art and heritage for interested audiences at various fora and taking heritage enthusiasts through a well thought-out itinerary in Delhi, Lucknow and other cities.

Today, she is Lead Consultant with Asian Heritage Foundation on Heritage and Pedagogy and a Consultant with World Cultural Forum; she has penned a book titled *Performing Heritage: Art of Heritage Walk*; has been a Fulbright Scholar in 2006 at the Smithsonian Center for Folklife and Cultural Heritage in Washington DC; taught a programme on Performance, Culture and Development at Brandeis University, Boston; and teaches

a module on the ‘Relationship between Performing Arts and Visual Arts’ at the National Museum, New Delhi.

Currently, she is involved in a project that seeks to revive India’s street performing arts by lending them the grammar of the classical circus act. Dr Jafa has helped “bring out history and heritage out of classrooms to the streets”, and proudly proclaims herself a “public academician”.

Dr Jafa learnt dance from Reba Vidyarathi, Munna

Lal Shukla and Pt Birju Maharaj, had tabla sessions at home, and learnt Sanskrit (including Panini’s *Ashtadhyayi* and *Abhijnana Shakuntalam*) from her maternal grandmother.

Jamia Millia Islamia, where she pursued her PhD in the late Eighties, played a crucial role in her journey. “That place embodies basic courtesy and warmth, which is lacking elsewhere. It symbolises parity, and democratisation in the way things function. It was such a relief.”

Academically, the University, then around 70 years old, still had youthful energy, with a number of scholars of repute on its rolls. “Their canvas was huge. They showed me how to look at my country, and I learnt to be analytical about culture.” Dr Narayani Gupta, an urban historian, under whom she did her PhD, proved to be a great source of inspiration. “I have memories of informal coffee sessions with her. She was more than a teacher.”

However, as a PhD student, most of her time at Jamia was spent in the library. As most of the sources in the Jamia library were in Urdu, the University suggested that she get help of a reader. In fact, Jamia students would go out of their way to help her understand the Urdu script.

Soon Dr Jafa was to join Jamia as a faculty member for a short while, when she taught a paper on ‘Performing Arts in Development Communication’ at the PG level. She recalls: “The whole batch would be present, listening to me in rapt attention. Not one would be absent and they would arrive before time. It was so delightful... Who wouldn’t like admiration?”

In turn, she was impressed by the level of awareness among her students. The atmosphere of social activism was also “so infectious”. She recalls an incident in 1998, when India and Pakistan had conducted their respective nuclear tests. She spotted students engaged in a session of *baitbazi* (a game in Urdu poetry) on this theme in their idle time.

Today, when she thinks of Jamia, the words that come to her mind are ‘*lihaaz*’ (respect) and ‘*tehzeeb*’ (etiquette). “It’s a place that stands for a wonderful Muslim cultural identity.” ♦



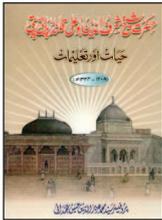


# Book on Sufi saint

**Hazrat Sheikh Sharafuddin Bu 'Ali Qalandar Panipati:  
Hayat aur Ta'limat**

**Author** Prof SM Azizuddin; **Pages:** 46 **Price:** ₹150

The book, penned by Prof SM Azizuddin, Dean, Faculty of Humanities and Languages, offers a new insight into Sufism, through the life and teachings of Hazrat Sheikh Sharafuddin Bu 'Ali Qalandar. This Sufi saint was an important link in the Chishti movement and was



highly revered by Ghiyasuddin Tughlaq. However, a lesser known aspect of Hazrat Sheikh Sharafuddin was that he was also a great poet. While much has been written about his role as a Sufi saint, this aspect has hardly been written about. Prof Azizuddin brings into limelight this aspect of the saint.

## ON HUMAN RIGHTS

Nisar-Ul-Haq, Head of the Department, Political Science, presented a paper at the 15th Session of Human Rights Council in Geneva in September. He said that 17 years after the adoption of the Vienna

Declaration and Programme of Action, the full realisation of human rights was still a dream. With human rights being linked to development, there was a big gap to bridge between the developed and the developing countries.

## New Maths journal

The Department of Mathematics at Jamia Millia Islamia has launched the *JMI International Journal of Mathematical Sciences* to encourage researchers in the area of Mathematical Sciences and allied fields. The first issue of the journal was released by Jyotiraditya Scindia, Minister of State for Commerce and Industry, and Najeeb Jung, Vice Chancellor, Jamia Millia Islamia, on the occasion of Founder's Day on October 29. The editorial board consists of eminent mathematicians from India and abroad.



## PENDULUM PROBLEM

**Jamia professors discover new formulae related to simple pendulum**

Prof MI Qureshi and M Rafat of the Department of Applied Sciences and Humanities, Faculty of Engineering and Technology, Jamia Millia Islamia, have discovered a set of new formulae associated with the simple pendulum. The new formulae have been published in the *European Journal of Physics*, Volume 31, 2010.

The motion of a simple pendulum of arbitrary amplitude has until now been derived through an approximate formula, because its path was considered to be linear, and not circular. The two professors provide the exact equation of the motion, treating the path as circular.

The Jamia faculty show that by using generalised hypergeometric functions, it is possible to solve the problem exactly. Not only that, they provide a new and exact expression for the time a pendulum takes to swing from a vertical position to an arbitrary angular position. The time taken by such a pendulum is also exactly expressible in terms of hypergeometric functions.

Their pathbreaking work has been uploaded on the website of European Journal of Physics at: <http://iopscience.iop.org/0143-0807/31/6/014>

## UPCOMING EVENTS

National Seminar on E-Waste Management and Recycling in India – Issues and Challenges Organised by the Department of Economics, Jamia Millia Islamia, under UGC Special Assistance Programme

**Date:** March 17-18, 2011

**Contact:** Prof Shahid Ashraf, Head of Department, Economics  
91-11-2698 5243  
ashrafjamia@yahoo.com

## Castro Café



Located behind the sprawling lawns of MA Ansari Auditorium and adjacent to the MF Husain Art Gallery with its sculptural installations, this eating area is an ideal getaway for students for a spot of chit-chat. This semi-open structure, displaying an interesting use of marble and granite, is appealing because of its minimalism and airy feeling. There are just two marble walls and a roof above you! The sitting arrangement is in the form of two columns of granite tables and sheesham benches and stools. And you can choose between shielding yourself from a searing sun while sipping on a cold coffee, or dig into your scrumptious lunch while enjoying the art installations in the open.



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