

JAUHAR

Volume 04 | Issue 02 | December 2013 - February 2014



JAMIA GOES GREEN

With faculty and research scholars cutting across disciplines working on ways to curb pollution, the University offers some path-breaking solutions in environment protection

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● 9 Faculties ● 39 Departments ● 27 Centres of Excellence and Research ● 238 Courses ● 991 Faculty Members ●
Over 16,500 Undergraduate, Post-Graduate and Diploma/Certificate Students

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Maulana Mohamed Ali 'Jauhar'
Founder, Jamia Millia Islamia

From the Officiating Vice-Chancellor

Care for environment requires scientific understanding of the processes around us. In order to know how environmental degradation is happening, and how to mitigate the losses, scientific data is required. At Jamia, researchers have been working diligently on understanding air, water and soil pollution and are engaged in developing appropriate technologies for environment protection.

Our green research is not confined to sciences. Social science researchers are working on policy and legal aspects of environment, working on global green politics and response of communities by way of course correction. This issue of Jauhar is devoted to the green cause (read our Lead Story 'Jamia's Green Brigade').

Another area where Jamia is conscientiously working is gender sensitization. The Sarojini Naidu Centre for Women's Studies has brought the 'One Billion Rising' campaign — started by noted activist author Eve Ensler — to the campus. Eve Ensler visited the campus in December 2013 and gave a moving performance. There have been dances, musical performances, street plays and panel discussions on this pertinent issue (read our On Campus section).

We are committed to making the campus safe for women and our endeavours will continue. The University feels deeply concerned about the racial discrimination and violence against persons from the North-East in Delhi. The findings of the study conducted by the Centre for North East Studies, JMI ('Discriminatory Delhi') are disturbing and the issue requires immediate attention.

The University has been fortunate to host several thought-provoking talks and seminars in the last quarter. Jamia was among the central institutions of higher learning whom President Pranab Mukherjee addressed this new year. Minister Jairam Ramesh shared his thoughts on the problem of insurgency. Eminent thinker Kancha Ilaiah lambasted the intellectual class for being divorced from production. Political commentators Paranjoy Guha Thakurta and Dipankar Gupta, among others, offered election prognosis.

This issue of Jauhar carries a touching story of an old-timer, Syed Hasan, who joined Jamia in the 1940s as a primary school student and went on to become its headmaster. Based on the life principles he imbibed at Jamia, he started the Insan School in Kishanganj, Bihar, that has thrived for four decades and promises much more in future. (read our Special Story 'Kishanganj experience').

Happy reading.

Prof SM Sajid
Officiating Vice-Chancellor

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Cleaning-up act: Work on water treatment in progress in the Department of Chemistry

Jamia's green brigade

Environment conservation is a cause that is close to Jamia's heart. A multi-disciplinary intervention by the University on this front tells as much

Momina Nazir, a PhD student at the Department of Chemistry, is focusing her research on removal of harmful metals and dyes from water through adsorption technology. Adsorbents, when mixed in water, bind with metals and dyes, and can then be taken out of water using the centrifuge method. These metals can then be reused. The method, says Momina, would be less power-consuming, and would therefore be a big incentive to industries like paper pulp, cosmetics and textiles, which are discharging their waste into rivers without treating it. Prof Tabrez Alam Khan, Head of the Department and her supervisor, says that the larger industrial application will come after testing the

feasibility of the work and pilot studies.

In the Proteomics and Bioinformatics Lab of the Department of Biotechnology, Rita Bagheri is investigating the proteomic response of spinach to abiotic stress using 2D electrophoresis and mass spectrometry. The research is focused on environment stresses like salinity, heavy metals, nutrient-deficiency and drought on crops because stresses are becoming major challenges and hurdles in sustaining of the plant productivity and growth. An agriculture and irrigation expert herself, Rita would like to use her research for increased agricultural productivity back home in Iran.

Environment concerns of all hues — from water and soil pollution to carbon footprint politics — are an important research area cutting across disciplines in Jamia. While faculty members are involved in several projects within Jamia and in association with Government departments and organisations like TERI, research scholars have taken up environment as their research subject. Environment also constitutes part of the course curriculum in several courses, like law.

PHYSICS DEPARTMENT

The focus area of research in the Department is air pollution in urban and industrial areas. The effort is to study the particulate matter in the atmosphere, which, because of their small size, can even penetrate the deepest part of the lungs such as the bronchioles or alveoli.

The Department, in collaboration with the National Physical Laboratory (NPL), New Delhi, carried out two different types of research work on measurement of atmospheric pollutants in Delhi and in other Indian cities.

One was carried out by Khem Singh in collaboration with the NPL, which led to the award of his PhD in 2011 from Jamia on the theme 'Physico-Chemical Characterisation of Aerosols and Precursor Gases in and around Delhi' under Prof ZH Khan. In one of the studies, he carried out a field campaign on aerosol chemical properties and trace gas measurements along the Delhi-Hyderabad-Delhi road corridor, spanning about 3,200 km. Aerosol particles (PM10) were collected at various locations along the route (i.e., urban, semi-urban, rural, and forest areas). The aerosols were characterised for major inorganic cations of Na, Ca, Mg, K, and NH₄, anions of Cl, NO₃, and SO₄, and heavy metals (Cu, Cd, Fe, ZNB, Mn, and Pb). The ambient PM10 concentrations of anions, cations and metals



A Professor, an activist

PROF VIKRAM SONI of the Centre for Theoretical Physics is doing pioneering work in non-invasive 'Preserve and Use' solutions for the planet. The Pi Sci Foundation, which he runs, is dedicated to creating solutions for production that are not injurious to the planet and to provide a template for a change to a non-invasive scheme of living.

In particular, it focusses on local solutions that will safeguard local natural resource.

He has worked tirelessly to protect living natural resources both on the judicial and government fronts. The Aravalli biodiversity park in Delhi exists

thanks to these efforts. The protection and moratorium on building on the floodplain of the Yamuna river followed from the novel natural water storage scheme proposed by him and co-workers.

His articles have appeared in several leading magazines and journals, including 'Water and the Carrying Capacity of a City: Delhi' in *The Economic and Political Weekly*, November 8, 2003; 'Protected Areas, Forest Dwellers and Ecodevelopment' in *The Ecologist* (2002); and 'A Process for Organic Water' (co-authored with Ravi Mehrotra, PS Datta, and S Chander) in *Current Science*, April 2009.

observed in semi-urban sites, near forests and in urban areas, were found to vary. Such information is important for policymakers to better understand the air quality in the region. The research work has been published in international journals.

The second research was done by Homdutt Sharma in collaboration with the School of Environmental Sciences, Jawaharlal Nehru University, for his PhD on the topic 'Application of Spectroscopy For Monitoring PAHs and their Derivatives in The Urban Atmospheric Environment', also under Prof Khan.

The motivation behind the study was that some of the pollutants are highly carcinogenic (cancer-producing) and their presence in the atmosphere is a great health hazard for the human population, especially in urban areas where concentration of such hydrocarbons is miserably large due to increasing vehicular traffic and the dispersion of the atmospheric pollutants.

For the initial experiments, Jawaharlal Nehru University was selected as the observational site. It was later extended to Okhla, Daryaganj, ITO and

Dhaura Kuan. Observations were carried throughout January to December 2003 and the seasonal variation of PAHs concentration was studied. These studies revealed that at all the sites, vehicular emissions were the main sources of PAHs. Moreover, during winter, the pollution levels were found to be higher than in summer and the monsoon.

The importance of this research work can be judged from the fact that all the six papers have been published in reputed international journals with high impact factors and, in particular, the research publication at serial #[6] has the credit of having till now achieved the citation index of 94 as per a search through Google Scholar.

DEPARTMENT OF BIOTECHNOLOGY

In the Department of Biotechnology, researchers in the Proteomics & Bioinformatics Lab under Dr M Irfan Qureshi are working on very important issues associated with the impact of environmental stress on medicinal and crop plants. One objective of the research is understating the molecular adaptation acquired by plants against heavy metals, salinity and nutrient deficiencies. The lab has identified more than 500 proteins from chloroplast, N-fixing nodules and leaves with modulated expression in response to environmental pollutants and extremes.

The lab is among few in the world which has got the expertise to analyse chloroplast multiprotein complexes (MPCs) and their regulation for altered rate of photosynthesis by environmental factors. Another objective is the molecular assessment and improvement of plants for phytoremediation of the toxic metals from the environment.

The Rainwater Harvesting Master Plan was executed in 2003 and continuous monitoring indicates there is a drastic improvement in groundwater quantity and quality.

Dr Qureshi is working on the identification of human allergens of plant sources.

FACULTY OF ENGINEERING

From research to application, Jamia has covered the distance by using its expertise to solve the water crisis. The major source of water supply for the University is ground water. Only 7-10 percent of the total requirement is met from municipal water supply. To solve the crisis, Prof Gauhar Mahmood of the Civil Engineering Department developed Jamia's water harvesting plant.

The fundamental idea of the Rainwater Harvesting Master Plan was to develop a technique to capture every drop of rainwater because of the critical water supply situation in and around Jamia. The situation was further deteriorating due to unplanned development in the surrounding areas.

The rainwater harvesting plan needs coordination among hydrogeologists, civil engineers and architects and Prof Mahmood found the expertise within the various faculties and departments of Jamia, like Architecture and Ekistics.

The Rainwater Harvesting Master Plan was executed in 2003 and continuous monitoring indicates there is a drastic improvement in groundwater quantity and quality. The University has harvested 100 percent rainwater, unlike roof-top technology. Effort has been made to avoid water-logging, flooding, failure of tube wells and salinity.

In order to reduce the strain over-ground water resources, effective use of recycled water from a waste water treatment plant is done specially to offset potable water demands with non-potable water, both in terms of quality and quantity. Areas like horticulture, toilets, construction work, etc., utilise recycled water, thereby reducing demand.

Jamia being the only place where lot of open space is available in the locality, recharging benefited the area a lot and Jal Board tube wells are also surviving apart from tube wells in Jamia.

OTHER EFFORTS

While the Faculties of Natural Sciences and Engineering are striving to increase scientific understanding regarding environment issues, researchers in other departments and centres are trying to understand the socio-political-legal aspects of it. Upasna Kaul, after her Master's degree in Sociology from Jamia and MPhil from the Academy of International Studies, is doing her research on climate change at the Academy. Her research



Controlled environment: A researcher in the Proteomics and Bioinformatics Lab of Biotech working on plant stress

topic is 'International Climate Change Regime in India: A Critical Analysis' and is focused on environment politics and governance. She is grappling with questions like North-South divide, the diverse aspirations of the countries within the South, and the vulnerability of developing countries vis-à-vis the developed countries.

Afroz, who did her M Ed from Jamia and MPhil from AIS, is now doing her research work on 'Behavioural Impact of Environment Education among Graduate Level Students: A Comparative Study of India and Bangladesh'. She also presented a paper at a seminar at Dhaka University on 'Water Future'.

In the Law Faculty, Stanzin Chostak is doing his PhD on 'Climate Change Impact on Mountain and Downstream Communities: A Socio-legal Study with Special Reference to Ladakh'. Adaptation and mitigation is his focus area. He is studying communities' response to climate change, and what laws the country should be enacting to help those communities. Livelihood, access to resources, migration in the face of climate change and compensation are areas that Chostak, a native of Ladakh, will be researching.

Here's hoping that this pool of knowledge will translate into a cleaner, greener world. 🌱

President's call for collaboration

Pranab Mukherjee addresses students and teachers of IITs, NITs and other Central Universities, including Jamia Millia Islamia

President Pranab Mukherjee delivered a video conference address to students and faculty of Central Universities, including Jamia, IITs and NITs using the National Knowledge Network. The event was attended by students and faculty of these institutions at their respective campuses.

Mukherjee said, "Education is the true alchemy that can bring India to its next golden age. My first and foremost concern is the quality of education in our country. Two recent surveys conducted by reputed international organisations have brought out the difference in the standards of education between institutions in India and abroad. None of the Indian universities find any place in the top two hundred institutions."

Why is it that our higher education system, that is capable of producing world class scholars, loses them to foreign institutions, he wondered. "To nurture and retain talent, our institutions must increase their potential for research and promote an eco-system conducive to creativity and innovation."

He added, "What we need today are more collaborative partnerships on cutting edge technology,



Roadmap for Indian education: Pranab Mukherjee addressing the students via video conferencing

better linkage with industry and greater incentivisation through scholarships. This will not only encourage meritorious students to do research, but also attract talent from foreign universities... To bring about qualitative changes in teaching, the institutions must arrange a common platform of resources to be used by all faculty members for skill enhancement and knowledge gathering."

Honoris Causa for LG Najeeb Jung



Home coming: LG Najeeb Jung receiving the Honoris Causa at the Convocation in Jamia

Jamia Millia Islamia conferred the Degree of 'Doctors of Letters'(Honoris Causa) on Najeeb Jung, Lieutenant Governor of Delhi and former Vice-Chancellor of Jamia. The degree was conferred upon him by Chancellor Lt Gen (Retd) M A Zaki. Speaking on the occasion, Jung connected with the students "who have been my family over the past half decade of my life" and said, "I feel like a rock star." Jamia Millia Islamia awarded a total of 4,569 degrees/diplomas to students who successfully completed post-graduation, graduation and diploma courses from different faculties/departments/centres of the University in the Academic Session 2011-12. The University also handed out 154 gold medals to the toppers of different courses and awarded 224 PhD degrees to research scholars.

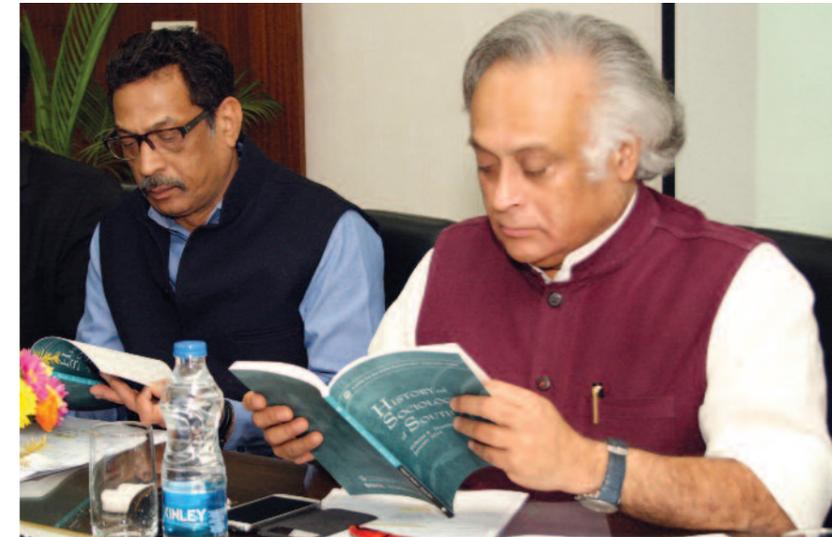
'Don't romanticise insurgents'

Speaking at a seminar on 'Insurgency and Development', Union Minister Jairam Ramesh cautions against demonising the security set-up

We should not fall prey to any form of fundamentalism, including development fundamentalism. It's false to think that development and pumping in more money is the answer," said Union Minister Jairam Ramesh at a conference on 'Insurgency and Development', organised by the Centre for Jawaharlal Nehru Studies, Jamia Millia Islamia, and the Indian Council for Historical Research, on January 28.

He said, "We must recognise that it's the political processes and the weaknesses of these that caused the insurgency. Where political organisations are strong, Maoist organisations are weak," he said, adding that in Jammu and Kashmir, the rejuvenation of the political process in 2002 had given a glimmer of hope.

Emphasising the role of law and order, he said, "No development is possible if there is an atmosphere of fear." He gave the example of Punjab and said it was only after the local police had got control of the situation that political parties came forward. "It is fashionable to romanticise insurgents and demonise security. Don't do that," he urged.



State perspective: Minister Jairam Ramesh at the conference on insurgency and development

Prof Amiya Baghchi of Tripura University delivered a perspective lecture, in which he provided a historical background to the atrocities on the marginalised sections of Indian society.

'An anti-production literature'



Voice of the tiller: Prof Ilaiah at the conference

PEOPLE WHO are tilling the soil, who are artisans, barbers, shepherds, iron smiths, have had very rich tradition of songs, proverbs, cultural idioms and food culture. But they have never found space in

Brahmanical literature, which was completely cut off from production. This anti-production literature was anti-human. While the best sources have come from productive communities across the world, Brahmins, delinked from production, can't produce one class text.

These views were expressed by Prof Kancha Ilaiah, Director, Centre for Study of Social Exclusion and Inclusive Policy, Maulana Azad National Urdu University, Hyderabad, at a conference on 'Dalit Literature and Historiography: Resistance and Reconstruction' organised by the Department of English, Jamia Millia Islamia, in December 2013.

He expressed happiness that a new generation of literature and readers was emerging, along with ideas close to production and producers.

Discriminatory Delhi

Eighty-one per cent of NE women are harassed in Delhi, according to a Jamia survey

A study sponsored by the Centre for North East Studies and Policy Research, Jamia Millia Islamia, sponsored by the National Commission for Women (NCW), has reported that not less than 60 percent of women who have migrated from the North-East India to the four metros have faced harassment and discrimination.

The study came just a few weeks before the incidents of harassment of women and the murder of a boy from the North-East in the Capital.

The study was conducted in New Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata and Bangalore by researchers and comprised of a limited sampling of students and young professionals both in the organised and unorganised sector. Two-thirds of the women were studying, the rest worked as teachers, doctors, engineers, government employees, call centre workers and beauticians. In contrast to poverty-driven migration

from other parts of the country, over 33 percent respondents belonged to families falling in the middle income groups and 60 percent had travelled in order to find better job opportunities.

The survey found that migrant women are especially vulnerable to deprivation, hardships, discrimination and abuse, more pronounced in the case of women from the NE. In fact, while 23 percent of the respondents admitted to having been harassed by landlords, an alarming 42 percent said that they were often subjected to verbal abuse. A total of 29 percent reported harassment and molestation.

Despite being a preferred destination for women migrants, Delhi has the worst record of meting out discrimination, with 81 percent respondents in the city reporting it, followed by Bangalore at 60 percent. Mumbai emerged as the safest city, although there were reports of extortive behaviour by auto and taxi drivers. Ⓝ

Bracing for a new order



Season of worry?: Historian Mukul Kesavan and other scholars at the seminar on Election 2014

The Department of Political Science, Jamia Millia Islamia, in association with Northern Regional Centre – Indian Council for Social Science Research, organised a day-long seminar on the theme ‘Making Sense of 2014 Indian Election:

Who Wins, Who loses’, on February 4. Eminent political and social commentators, including Dipankar Gupta, Director, Centre of Political Affairs and Critical Theory, Shiv Nadar University; Saba Naqvi, Political Editor, Outlook; Paranjay Guha Thakurta, senior journalist; and Shankar Raghuraman, Senior Editor, *The Times of India*, spoke on the occasion.

Prof Sudha Pai, Centre for Political Studies and Rector, Jawaharlal Nehru University, gave her keynote address on the theme ‘Political Competition in the Heartland 2014: Emerging Patterns in Uttar Pradesh’.

She dwelt at length on three major factors in the 2014 elections: communal mobilisation following the Muzzafarnagar riots and BJP’s propaganda; caste-based politics; and the arrival of Aam Admi Party. The successive ruling parties of the state, she said, had failed to ensure development, unlike what Nitish Kumar had managed in Bihar. UP continued to be mired in caste and religious politics, frustrating its middle class and youth. Ⓝ

‘Difference is beautiful’

At an international conference on ‘Knowledge-based Sustainable Development’, speakers call for the preservation of local cultures and diversity

The West has developed, and now we are going through the same cycle of industrialisation, materialism and spirituality. Are we required to go through that cycle or can we learn from others? Prof SM Sajid, Officiating Vice-Chancellor, Jamia Millia Islamia, posed this question at the Seventh International Congress of Asian Philosophical Association on ‘Knowledge Based Sustainable Development’, organised by the Centre for Jawaharlal Nehru Studies, Jamia, in collaboration with Jawaharlal Nehru University in January 2014. Prof Sajid called for a convergence between what is needed now and what would be needed by future generations.

Dr Choi Woo-Won, Pusan National University, South Korea, said that while the West had contributed much to human civilisation, it had also caused several problems. It was time to solve these problems through the convergence of civilisational

values and philosophies. He called this “philosophy of essential integration”.

Prof Alparslan Acikgenc, from Yildiz Technical University, Turkey, and Co-President of the Asian Philosophical Association, said that though past achievements were of great importance, the course of history can’t be reversed.

He said globalisation is like a flooded stream. If we try to stop it, it would demolish whatever came in its way. But it’s possible to have canals to divert the flow, and said it was important to preserve local cultures through these canals.

“Difference is beautiful,” he said, and called for a global human civilisation with pluralistic background, where every culture is celebrated.

The conference revolved around the following four themes: Philosophical foundation; historical roots; economic approaches; and cultural and anthropological considerations. Ⓝ

Thoughts on governance

Jamia’s Department of Political Science organises a national seminar on ‘Making Democratic Governance Work: Reinventing Public Delivery Systems in India’

A TWO-DAY national seminar on ‘Making Democratic Governance Work: Reinventing Public Delivery Systems in India’ was organised by the Department of Political Science in November 2013. Delegates and participants from various universities across India and other countries presented their papers highlighting the current paradigms in the available political discourse.

In his inaugural speech, Professor Badrul Alam, Head of the Department, maintained that the question to be answered actually was whether the democratic governance systems work better to ensure improved public delivery system? “Do public powers in democracies necessarily match human welfare and better public outcomes? Are democracy and good governance antithetical?”

“In this era of liberalisation, when the government falls short of being a holistic service provider,

there is an urgent need to improve our public service delivery system with innovative strategies,” said Prof Alam.

Prof SM Sajid, Officiating Vice-chancellor of Jamia, said that accountability is the key issue. He talked about entitlements and service delivery systems and said, “I think that the work culture which is required for the service delivery system is lacking.”

Professor Arvind Sharma, ex-Vice Chancellor of Central University, Mizoram, in his keynote address said that the decisive influence in shaping of India’s response to the question of country’s delivery systems was exercised by the doctrine of emphasis derived from the West. “New Public Management has been one such doctrine,” he said. He further said the second major source of influence was the Total Quality Management (TQM).

Jamia joins 'One Billion Rising'

Series of events to bring awareness regarding gender equality to girls and boys on the campus

To sensitise the student community about the increasing violence against women, The Outreach Programme, Jamia, and Sarojini Naidu Centre for Women's Studies, Jamia, along with several Delhi-based organi-

sations held an event called 'Join and Strengthen – One Billion Rising for Justice to End Violence Against Women' on December 13, 2013.

Eve Ensler, a playwright, performer, feminist, activist and founder of V Day USA, captivated the huge Jamia gathering with her performance 'In the Body of Justice'. Ensler has started a global 'One Billion Rising' movement and the 'One Billion Rising' event at Jamia was part of this.

It was an evening of performance, art and music, which saw a fine arts exhibition on the theme, performance by music band Manzil Mystics, Bharatanatyam by Justin McCarthy, vocal performance by singer Katie Gray, and dances by young performing groups.

Another event in the 'One Billion Rising' series was held on February 11. Students danced to the tune of *Jaago Dilli Jaago* and *Break the Chain*. There was a street play, which took up women issues like female infanticide, domestic violence, dowry deaths and rapes. This was followed by a panel discussion on women's issues.



We are the world: Eve Ensler (third from right) with other representatives at the One Billion Rising event

All for quality in minority education

A day-long round table consultation was organised by Jamia Millia Islamia on two welfare schemes of the Ministry of Human Resource Development, namely 'Scheme for Providing Quality Education in Madaras' (SPQEM) and 'Infrastructure Development in Minority Institutions' (IDMI), on November 23, 2013.

The consultation was attended by a large number of participants from 14 states of the country.

The meeting was addressed by Prof S M Sajid, the Officiating Vice-Chancellor of Jamia, who praised the students of madaras for having some of the best minds in the country.

He added that it was unfortunate that following 9/11, the madaras were all brushed with one stroke and were seen by some as carrying out illegal activities, whereas they fulfilled an important education objective. He highlighted the importance of these madaras in providing education to those segments

who have, for one reason or the other, remained on the margins of society.

The consultation was chaired by M Atyab Siddiqui, Legal Advisor of Jamia Millia Islamia, and Dr Tanweer Fazal, Associate Professor at Jamia Millia Islamia, who expressed their gratitude to all the participants for attending what they called a "very important consultation".

The participants comprised members of the Madarsa Board, members of the Management Committee of Madaras and teachers involved with the scheme. The agenda of the meeting was to discuss the implementation of the two schemes as well as the challenges and problems faced by their beneficiaries.

Jamia Millia Islamia was entrusted with the responsibility of evaluating the two welfare schemes by the MHRD earlier during the year under the directorship of Prof Azra Razzak.

Jamia in images



1. **Meeting of minds:** Officiating Vice Chancellor of Jamia, Prof SM Sajid, meeting President Pranab Mukherjee at a Conference of Vice Chancellors at Rashtrapati Bhavan on February 6-7
2. **Instruments of change:** Officiating VC Prof SM Sajid inaugurating the Central Instrumentation Facility of the University
3. **Ready for the world:** Passing out students at the Convocation ceremony
4. **In memory:** Singer Seema Anil Sehgal performing at the centenary celebrations of Jnanpith award winner Ali Sardar Jafri in a concert titled *Yaadon ki Sunehri Baarish*
5. **Literature, revisited:** Tagore's play *Dak Ghar*, staged by the Department of Urdu
6. **Strokes of nature:** An exhibition of paintings titled *Amwaaj-e-Takhayyul* by Ghazali Moinuddin
7. **For the cause of unity:** A play titled *Hum Ek Hain*, staged by the drama club of Jamia, Josh.



DENTAL PRIDE

A relatively new course, Dentistry at Jamia has already become a hot option

Tucked in a back lane of Jamia, behind the Bhopal Grounds sports facility of the University, is a massive five-storey building. It houses the Faculty of Dentistry of Jamia. Amid the loud sounds of cheering and clapping emanating from the adjoining sports ground, the Faculty is silently fashioning the cohesiveness of the new course – Bachelor of Dental Science – the first batch of which will be passing out this academic year. The Dental Council of India has now recognised the BDS degree of the Faculty.

Prof Ragini, Dean of the Faculty, informs us that despite being a new course, the Faculty has attracted experts from some of the best institutes. At present there are 73 faculty members looking into specialised disciplines.

During the five-year course students study both dental and medical subjects, including anatomy, pathology and pharmacology, oral pathology and endodontics. There are nine specialisation areas to which students get exposure over these years. The

final year is compulsory internship at the clinic, which is on the premises.

The OPD clinic, or rather clinics, are a phenomenal aspect of the faculty.

The Faculty treats patients from Jamia and its vicinity and on any given day, there are long queues, with 300 patients on average thronging the facility. Dr Keya Sircar, who specialises in oral pathology, says that all kinds of treatment are done at the clinics – filling, laser, periodontal treatment, implants and tumours.

These clinics, housed in long galleries, have a series of dental chairs and the best of equipment and dentists, who are also teaching at the Faculty. Together with interns and third and fourth year students, they treat patients for various ailments.

The classrooms on each floor are well equipped, each with an LCD projector. The labs for various specialisation areas are equipped with the best technology and equipment. Students can be seen working at all hours on dummies, taking im-

All for that smile: (Facing page) faculty and interns treating patients in the clinic; (right) a student working in the lab

pressions, doing fillings, and such like activity.

An important aspect of the students' life at the Faculty is the numerous seminars and paper presentations they get to attend.

It organised the 26th National Endodontic Conference in the academic year 2011-12. Bushra, an intern with the Faculty, says the Faculty also sends them for other dental conferences and paper presentations. Naila Parveen, a third year student, has also got the opportunity to present a paper at a conference.

Community outreach is a very important plank of the Faculty, which has been actively engaged in several community-based social outreach programmes aimed at prevention, control and betterment of oral health among the masses.

Of these, efforts have been directed towards schools as well as neighbouring residential localities to sensitise as well as educate the community.

The Faculty extends dental treatment services through dental camps to school children ranging from nursery to senior secondary level on a regular basis. Its dental outreach programme also renders treatment to children from Centre for Special Children, Okhla.

Adult oral health education programmes are also organised in Jamia's neighbourhood, with special focus on women residents.

Oral health talks are routinely conducted by the Faculty on Radio Jamia, making it possible for the general public to address their oral health related queries to the dentist and receive beneficial advice.

And now the Faculty has added a mobile dental clinic – a swanky purple bus with state-of-the-art equipment on board – to assist in these outreach programmes. 



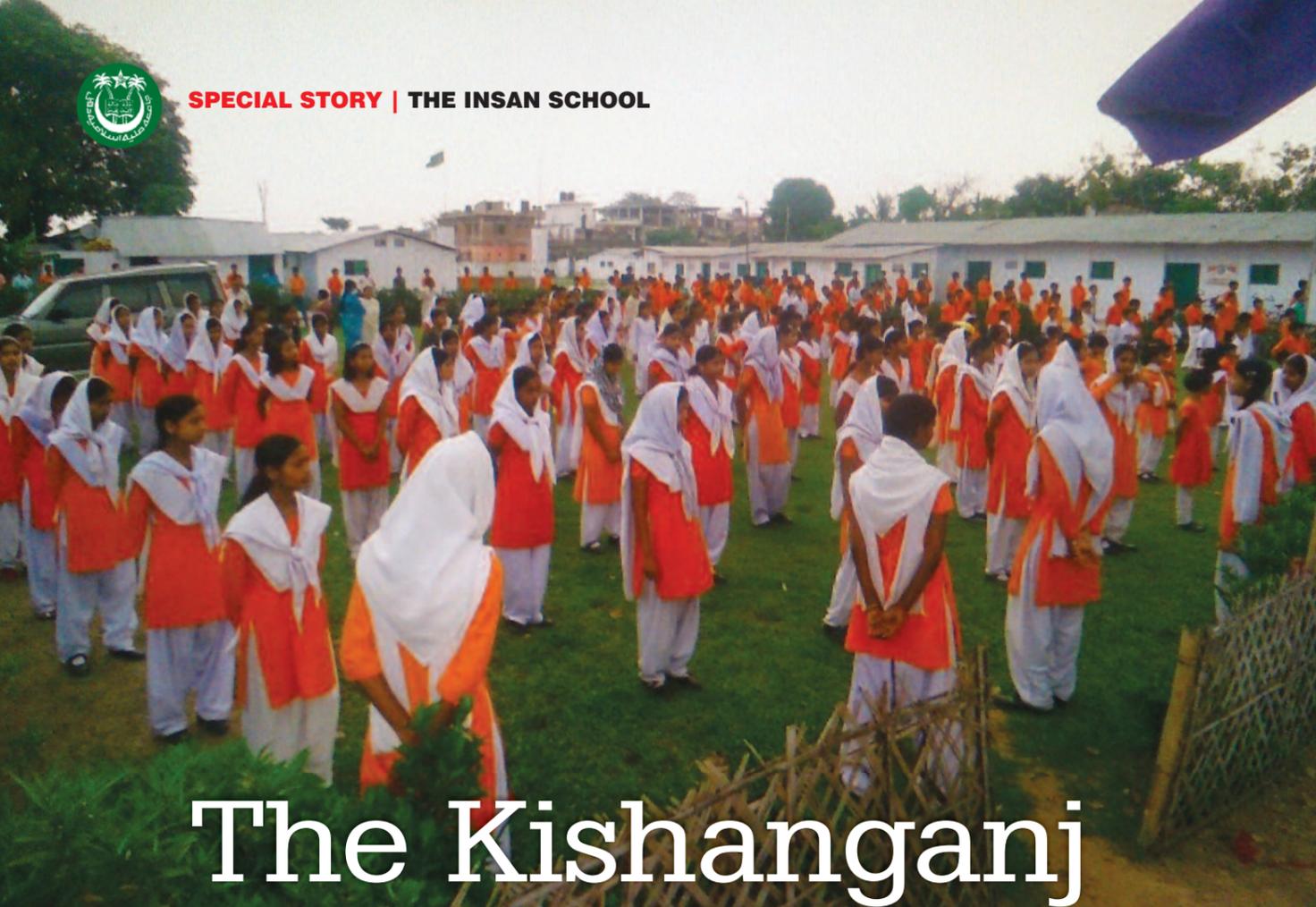
For advances in oral health

A NUMBER OF conferences and scientific programmes have been organised at the Faculty for upgradation of knowledge.

A full-day continuing medical and dental education programme on 'Basic Life Support' and 'Basic Fundamentals of Lasers in Dentistry' was held at FTK-CIT, Jamia on September 23, 2013. It included

a workshop on 'Basic Life support', conducted by Rajiv Gupta, who has qualified from AIIMS in Emergency Trauma and Disaster Management.

On October 3, 2013, a Webinar on 'Slim Tips, Soft Approach: Make a Difference' was conducted by Dr A Kumaraswamy, the pioneer of perio-aesthetics in modern dental practice in India.



The Kishanganj experiment

In step with the times: Students of the Insan School during their morning drill

An educationist from Jamia thought of replicating his alma mater's model in his native place in Bihar. The institution thrives more than four decades later

Syed Hasan, born in Jehanabad, Bihar, in 1924, joined Jamia Primary School in class IV. He was a frail and shy child. But such was the personal care of Jamia's teachers that, within two years, he was excelling in sports and was eventually made the sports captain of the school.

Hasan went on to complete his graduation from Jamia in 1946 and was appointed as a teacher in the Primary School. In 1951 he became the headmaster.

A long stint in the US followed, where he completed his Master's degree from the Southern Illinois University at Carbondale, in 1956, and a PhD from the same University in 1965, with Education, Psychology, Education Psychology, Child Psychology, and Neuro Psychology as doctoral subjects.

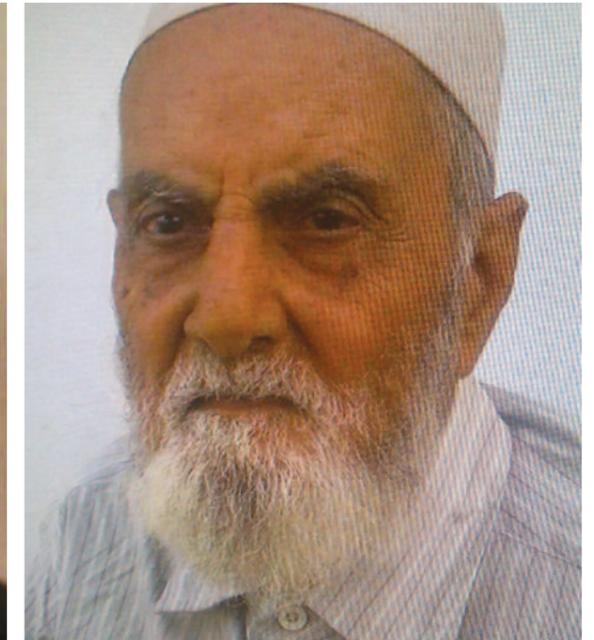
And in 1964 he also won the Instructor of the Year

Award at Frostburg State University. He could have continued on that brilliant path in the US. But he felt his calling was in India, and decided to apply for a faculty post in Jamia. Unfortunately, no post could be created for him.

Prof Ghazanfar Zaidi, Dean, Faculty of Fine Arts, who had the opportunity to interact with Hasan both before and after his US stint, says the reason could have been the non-availability of a suitable position for him.

Taking it into his stride, Hasan decided to pay the ultimate tribute to Jamia by starting an institution on a similar pattern in Bihar. He discussed his idea with students and teachers of Jamia.

Khalid Saifullah, who had graduated from Jamia in 1965, expressed his interest in joining the new school, but Hasan asked him to wait till his B.Ed



A vision and a mission: Syed Hasan in his youth and now

was over. Saifullah finally joined Hasan in 1966, and the school was launched on November 14. But the name of the school was a matter of debate even then. Hasan had already started the Taleemi Mission Corp in Bihar and Saifullah says, "For the name of the school, we argued in favour of Taleemi Mission School. But he insisted on Insan School."

To Hasan, the word '*insan*' held significance, as human or mankind defines the greater good for all, regardless of one's cast or creed, region, religion, or language. This is the kind of humans he wanted to develop in his school.

Saifullah, who spent three years at the school, says Hasan's idea of education was to keep it unstructured. The emphasis was on experimentation and observation. There were a lot of songs, games and skits. Students didn't want to go back home after school, he says. Since the school filled a crucial gap in the education for Muslim children in the northern states of the country, its popularity grew and students from adjoining states began seeking admission. Hasan gave due thought to the extension of the campus, creation of a hostel, and expansion of staff, though resources were limited.

Mohammad Nazim Khan, a promo producer with *Aaj Tak*, who has also acted in theatre, TV and films, did his schooling till class X from Insan School from 1981 till 1989 and graduation in Fine Arts from Jamia. He talks of the affinity between the two institutions. The first thing that struck him in Insan

School was that everyone was a 'bhai', even teachers. He found the same spirit when he joined Jamia for graduation.

While Jamia had in its early years emphasised practical training and made the students dirty their hands in manual work, in Insan School practical training is the order of the day till date. Khan says the teachers

Since the school filled a crucial gap in education for Muslim children in the northern states of the country, its popularity grew...

try to gauge where your interest and aptitude lies and develop your skills in that direction. And so it happened that he was encouraged to perform on stage, as the teachers recognised his acting abilities.

Today, Insan campus is an important landmark in the educational map of Kishanganj, and indeed of Bihar. It has been much in news owing to its experimental approach and unifying impact. The nonagenarian founder has received many honours, including Padmashree, for his educational initiatives. But the greatest satisfaction would be to see his students pass out of the school as *insan*.



Script for women's safety

Jamia student scores a point on gender-based issues at the American Centre

Zubair Nazeer, a research scholar with the Department of Political Science, doing his PhD on Development Administration, has bagged the second prize in a contest on 'Ways to Increase Awareness and Reduce Gender-based Violence on the College Campus', organised by the American Centre.

The annual contest on gender activism required candidates to write a brief essay on ways to eradicate gender-based violence on the campus. Nazeer elaborated on three thoughts: that students should be made aware of the rights of women; that the communication gap between students and teachers should decrease, so that students can confide in teachers; and that we should go back to our values, because hate values were never part of our culture.

As his prize, he has not only got books and access to American Centre resources, but has also been selected to write for *Span* magazine. And writing is his dream, especially on his home state Kashmir.

Having done his graduation in English from Jamia and Master of Public Administration from Jamia again, he is interested in both the spheres of learning. But his focus area is to look at J&K from administrative point of view, not through political lens. 



Iranian pride

RITA BAGHERI, a PhD scholar at the Proteomics and Bioinformatics Lab Department of Biotechnology, Jamia Millia Islamia, has won the award for best student in research and technology among the Iranian students present in the Indian subcontinent, in a symposium of research and technology held at the Iran Culture Centre in New Delhi on January 11-12, 2014.

Rita is doing her research on proteomic response of spinach to abiotic stress using 2D electrophoresis and mass spectrometry to understand environmental stresses in plant growth (see our cover story). But she has a rich agricultural experience in her native place Kerman, the capital city of Kerman Province in Iran.

Since the area is semi-arid, she has developed expertise in central pivot irrigation, which is a method of crop irrigation in which equipment rotates around a pivot and crops are watered with sprinklers. Says she, "My father and brothers set up mechanised agriculture farms with the central pivot irrigation about 35 years back. I joined their industrial agriculture company as project manager for setting of 6th central pivot irrigation of this company in 1999. Our company was the greatest producer of potato seedlings in southern Iran in 2001-2002."

Farming trophies: Rita Bagheri with her award at the Iranian Centre



Sense and simplicity: Students of the Jamia team, which participated in the HPVC Competition

Designs on the future

Jamia's engineering students showcase their technical prowess in a design, fabrication and racing competition

Jamia Millia Islamia participated in an International 'Human Powered Vehicle Challenge (HPVC) – 2014' challenge, organised by American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME) at the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Delhi, from January 17-19, 2014.

The HPVC is an inter-college design, fabrication and racing competition, wherein teams have to conceptualise, design and fabricate a human-powered vehicle during a three-day event comprising design competition, endurance race and a drag race entries. This year's event was a platform for students from all over India to showcase their technological and engineering prowess by engineering a human-powered vehicle.

The HPV team of Jamia Millia Islamia secured an all India third position and was adjudged the winners of the all India drag race event. The position was secured by beating the likes of IITs, NITs, BITS Pilani, ISM Dhanbad and various other reputed colleges from all over India. 

Green points

ABHISHEK MUKHERJEE, Nitesh Salwan, Neeharika Bhatto, Shamik Ranjan Laskar and Yusra Ansari of the Faculty of Architecture and Ekitics, Jamia Millia Islamia, were among the top seven out of a total of 37 entries from across the country, who participated in a competition organised by National Association for Students of Architecture (NASA) in collaboration with Green Rating for Integrated Habitat Assessment (GRIHA) for students of Architecture in India.

The objective was to design a 'School of Sustainability' housing 300 students with hostel and staff accommodations which would be an off-grid, zero energy campus.

The team moved on to win the second special mention in NASA Convention 2014 at Hyderabad.

The team selected its proposed site at Kottakuppam, Tamil Nadu. The main focus was to incorporate sustainable techniques in the design. The students informed, "We stuck to the basics for saving on the costs. Using LED lights in place of incandescent lamps and using 35 Watt fans in place of 75 Watt ones was done."



Three cheers to environment: Architecture students of Jamia at the NASA Convention in Hyderabad

Jamia students curate film festival

A DOCUMENTARY film festival titled 'Ainaa', curated by the students of MA Convergent Journalism at the AJK Mass Communication Research Centre (MCRC), Jamia, was held on January 24, 2014.

This documentary film festival presented documentaries that were conceptualised, shot, edited and directed by the final year students of MA Convergent Journalism of MCRC. The six films screened were: *This Filthy Life* (18 minutes); *Kaansutra* (15 minutes); *Please Mind the Gap* (20 minutes); *Head in the Stars* (19 minutes); *What's Wrong with my Islam* (23 minutes); and *Uncle Bond* (22 minutes).



Power of printed word

Jamia's own publishing house has brought out several important titles, including *Kafan*

The Maktaba Jamia was established by the Jamia Millia Islamia in 1922. The principal objective was to translate books on various subjects from other languages into Urdu and also publish the books written by the authors of Jamia. Its branches were spread from Delhi to Lahore. It also helped Jamia procure textbooks for students at affordable prices.

Among the early books published by Maktaba was *Deewan-e-Ghalib* by Dr Zakir Husain in 1925. Dr Husain wrote this account of Ghalib when he was pursuing his PhD in Germany. In fact Dr Husain, upon his return to India and taking over the reins of Jamia, was always nudging his colleagues, who had any literary talent, to write

books for children, and set an example by writing books for children himself.

In this process, Maktaba Jamia published several books for children which were included in the syllabus of schools as far as Jammu and Kashmir, MP, Maharashtra, Gujarat and Karnataka for a long period of time. It published eminent thinkers and authors like Mahatma Gandhi, Nehru, Abul Kalam Azad, Ismat Chughtai, Qurratulain Haider, among others. The works of literature which it published are still in the syllabus of various universities. It has the copyright for Premchand's *Godaan*, and also published his *Kafan*.

Dr Khalid Mahmood, Director of Maktaba Jamia and a faculty with the Urdu Department,

says Maktaba contributed greatly to popularising Jamia across the country. Its books are in demand not only within India, but in the US, UK, Canada, UAE, South Africa and Pakistan.

In 1947, at the time of Partition, Maktaba was set on fire and suffered very heavily. It was at that juncture that the institute shifted from Karol Bagh to the present campus of Jamia. The authorities, worried about its viability in the wake of the damage, made it a limited company, with some teachers transferring 100 percent equity shares to their names. This was done to make the Maktaba self-reliant and more sustainable.

Prof M Mujeeb, with the help of UNESCO, also arranged two Japanese printing machines. The machines were optimally utilised for publishing the various magazines and periodicals such as *Jamia*, *Islam and Modern Age*, *Payaam-e-Ta'aleem* (for kids) and *Kitab Numa* (for scholars).

There came a period of fund crunch, and its printing facility, Liberty Art Press closed down. However, a new vigour has been added with a memorandum of understanding between Jamia and the National Council for Promotion of Urdu Language (NCPUL), for production and sale of

Maktaba published eminent thinkers and authors like Mahatma Gandhi, Nehru, Abul Kalam Azad, Ismat Chughtai, Qurratulain Haider, among others. The works of literature which it published are still in the syllabus of various universities.

Jamia books. NCPUL now publishes all Maktaba books as joint publications of Maktaba and NCPUL. The copyright rests with Maktaba.

Taking advantage of this initiative, Maktaba has published 400 of its old titles, with 1,100 copies of each title. Dr Mahmood informs that it owns five lakh books as on date. It registered a sale of ₹50 lakh last year. Prof Mujeeb's dream of self-reliance for Maktaba is being fulfilled. 📖



Literary tomes: (Facing page) An outlet of Maktaba Jamia; (above) an employee manning the operations



Of human bonds

Prof Asghar Wajahat, author of the famous Hindi play *Jis Lahore Nai Dekhya, O Janmyai Nai*, describes the unique culture that Jamia has evolved



In service of Hindi: Prof Wajahat at Jamia campus

He has been made famous by the play *Jis Lahore Nai Dekhya, O Janmyai Nai*, which has run to packed houses wherever it has been staged. No less important is the fact that Prof Asghar Wajahat is an academic and has spent a good part of the last four decades teaching Hindi at Jamia Millia Islamia.

Joining Jamia in 1971 after completing his MA in Hindi from Aligarh, Prof Wajahat has seen the cusp years when Jamia was transitioning from its post-Independence dilemma years of whether or not to take Government aid to survive, to the modern institution that it is today. But with the sensibility of a literary

Multiculturalism has been a strong point of Jamia... Whether a girl student is wearing a western dress or burqa is entirely her business.

person, he says, the basic character of the institution remains the same. Its cultural DNA, after all, had been structured during the Independence struggle.

In the purest Hindi he begins to describe Jamia, “*Yahaan kaagaz se adhik mahatva manushya ka hai.*” (People are more important than paper, ie documents, here). There’s no hierarchy, and peons are held in great respect. He narrates an incident of a rather aged peon, whom the Jamia faculty would never ask for water. They would indirectly say, “*Uff, badi garmi hai,*” and he would get up on his own to fetch glasses of water.

He talks of the culture of *sadbhav* (harmony) and remembers how a Sanskrit teacher, Shastri ji, used to take the entire staff of Jamia to his native village in a bus, where they would have a day out savouring jaggery, sugarcane juice, *mattha* and curd. It was an annual ritual at Jamia.

Prayogdharmita (emphasis on experimentation) was what he noticed about Jamia. He had heard of a teacher who refused to teach in the classroom but took his students to the banks of Yamuna, taking classes in moonlight. No paper, pen or book was allowed. He says, “Many years later, I met one of this teacher’s students. He said he had been to many institutions and taught across the world but he had never experienced such a wonderful class. Because when you don’t have paper and pen, you are forced to absorb.”

Multiculturalism has been a strong point of Jamia, feels Prof Wajahat, and adds that whether a girl student is wearing a western dress or burqa is entirely her business.

And of course he has fond memories of those days when Jamia was a wilderness. “There was such greenery and peace. On the road that intersects Jamia, only one car would pass each day. Only two people had cars in this entire locality. There was no bank, no grocery shop.”

Prof Wajahat feels that despite changing times, Jamia has stuck to its values. But having taught in Hungary for five years and extensively travelled across the world, Prof Wajahat feels Jamia should connect to other universities to know what is happening in research all over the world.



President’s honour for Arab scholar

Prof Zikrur Rahman has several books to his credit



President Pranab Mukherjee on January 17 presented the country’s highest Arabic Scholar’s Award for the year 2013 to Prof Zikrur Rahman, Director, India Arab Cultural Centre and Centre for West Asian Studies, Jamia Millia Islamia. The award carries a certificate of honour, a citation and ₹500,000.

Prof Rahman is a seasoned diplomat who has held a number of prestigious positions in the Indian embassies in the Arab World. He has also been India’s ambassador to the Palestine.

Considered one of India’s best Arabic scholars, Prof Rahman has several works to his credit, including *Arab Diaspora in India*, *India Palestine Relations* and *Short Stories from India*. He has also translated several prominent Indian books into Arabic.

Wordly wise

Prof M Asaduddin of the Department of English has bagged this year’s prestigious Crossword Book Award which carries a cash award of ₹3 lakh plus a medal and a plaque. The award was instituted in 1998 by Indian book retailer, Crossword, to promote the best of Indian writing.

Prof Asaduddin was given the award for the book, *A Life in Words: Memoirs*, which is the English version of Ismat Chughtai’s autobiography in Urdu. The book describes the spirited struggle of a feisty and unstoppable Muslim woman in the early part of the 20th century India to get her rights.

In service of psychology

Prof Waheeda Khan of the Department of Psychology has been selected for UGC-UKEIRI Thematic Partnership Award 2013-14, for a project titled ‘Intergroup Contact and Collective Action in Educational Settings in India’. The main aim is to investigate how intergroup contact and collective action tendencies work in multiple group settings where individuals share a multiplicity of social identities. The UK partner is Dr John Dixon of The Open University.



In memory of Masoom Raza

PROF ABDUL BISMILLAH, senior faculty with the Department of Hindi, has been bestowed with the Rahi Masoom Raza Sahitya Sammaan for the year 2013, instituted by the Dr Rahi Masoom Raza Sahitya Academy, Lucknow. Prof Bismillah Khan is a renowned litterateur with several books, novels and literary works to his credit.

Taking over at Magadh University

PROF M ISHTIAQ of the Department of Geography at Jamia has been appointed as the Vice-Chancellor of Magadh University, Bihar. Prof Ishtiaq has more than 32 years of teaching experience and has written a number of books. His research papers and articles have been widely published in journals, newspapers, and magazines.

... And at Rohilkhand University

PROF MUSHAHID HUSAIN, faculty member at Jamia, has been appointed as the Vice-Chancellor of MJP Rohilkhand University, Bareilly, Uttar Pradesh.

Prof Husain was the Director of the Centre for Nanoscience & Nanotechnology and a Professor in the Department of Physics at Jamia.

He specialises in Materials Science, which includes Amorphous Semiconductor X-ray Spectroscopy, ECR Plasma Etching, and Nanostructures.

The Nelson Mandela Block



This elegant structure, located in a quiet lane, houses the Centre for European and Latin American Studies and the Centre for Culture, Media and Governance. On the exterior, the sleek pillars and horizontal beams lend an artistic effect of light and shade, with the shadows creating geometric patterns. Inside, the central courtyard has a fountain, flanked by arches and tall creepers. These elements provide a cooling effect and a sense of warmth at the same time, with sun rays falling on the arches. An extension to the building is now coming up.



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