

**PRO-Media Coordinator's Office
Jamia Millia Islamia**

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Press Release

JMI organises Extension Lecture on 'The Current Nuclear Arms Control and Disarmament Landscape'

The Nelson Mandela Centre for Peace and Conflict Resolution (NMPCR), Jamia Millia Islamia(JMI) organised an online Extension Lecture on the theme 'The Current Nuclear Arms Control and Disarmament Landscape' as part of the university's Centenary Celebrations. The keynote speaker was Dr. Manpreet Sethi, Senior Fellow, Centre for Air Power Studies, New Delhi. Prof. Ravinder Kumar, Dean, Faculty of Social Sciences, JMI chaired the session.

Prof. Kaushikee, Hony. Director, NMPCR,JMI in her introductory remarks welcomed the speaker, the faculty members, the research scholars and students of JMI and others. She gave a brief introduction about NMPCR and its objectives. Prof. Ravinder Kumar, the chair, welcomed the speaker, Dr. Manpreet Sethi and introduced her. He also highlighted the importance of the theme of the lecture.

Dr. Manpreet Sethi began by congratulating JMI on completion of 100 years and also NMPCR on completion of fifteen years. Speaking on the current status of Nuclear Arms Control (NAC) she said that the prevailing situation spells sense of 'gloom and doom' because of various factors like: old architecture being under threat; absence of new serious initiatives and disinterest of countries like China; growing importance of nuclear weapons as reflected in the sense of urgency of nuclear modernisation by all nine nuclear weapon countries citing it as central to national security as interstate distrust has increased; and a heightened sense of mounting nuclear dangers especially of the inadvertent nuclear use.

She also emphasised on nuclear emergency by highlighting the 'Doomsday Clock: It Is 100 Seconds to Midnight', which reflects the unacceptable state of world affairs. The speaker laid out the reasons why NAC is a desirable goal – it deals with nuclear dangers, it is a component of military strategy pursued through diplomacy, it maximises one's military superiority and minimises adversary's ability to spring strategic surprise, and it showcases the restraint to the wider community. Sense of risk recognised by countries is necessary for NAC from both sides. She also presented a brief account of the various important bilateral NAC Treaties that reflects the precedence of NAC efforts.

Speaking on Disarmament, the speaker presented the features and current situation of the Treaty on Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) that was adopted in 2017. She highlighted a major challenge by pointing out that none of the nine nuclear weapon possessors participated in the negotiations of the TPNW. But all is not lost, and NAC can certainly be helpful as a way of reducing nuclear dangers. The last part of the presentation comprised of what we as citizens and academics can do to prevent or reduce gloom and doom. It can comprise of understanding nuclear risks and raising awareness, seeking political attention and consensus on various issues,

demanding international action against perpetrators, and suggesting possible measures to governments.

The lecture held on September 29, 2020 was succeeded by a Q and A session wherein participants raised several critical questions. The event concluded with the presentation of a brief summary of the lecture, and a proposition of vote of thanks by the Convener Dr. Reshmi Kazi, Associate Professor, NMCPCR.

The lecture was attended by some eminent personalities, HoDs of other Departments of JMI, faculty members, students and research scholars of NMCPCR, and by students and research scholars of other departments of JMI and a few from other universities as well.

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