PRO-Media Coordinator's Office Jamia Millia Islamia

September 29, 2020

Press Release

JMI and USA's California State University collaborates to organise Webinar on 'Gandhian Thoughts and Philosophy'

Jamia Millia Islamia(JMI) organized a Webinar today on 'Gandhian Thoughts and Philosophy' in collaboration with California State University, Sacramento, USA. This was the third webinar in the series which is in sync with the University Grants Commission's proposal to celebrate 150th Birth Anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi to disseminate Gandhian Thought and Philosophy in intellectual circles.

Mr. Robert S. Nelson, President, California State University, Sacramento, USA was the Chief Guest of the webinar and Prof. Ajay S. Singh, Department of Environmental Studies, California State University, Sacramento, USA was the main speaker who delivered a very insightful lecture on a very new topic ' Gandhi and the U.S. Environmental Movement'.

Prof. Najma Akhtar, Vice Chancellor, JMI chaired the webinar session and formally welcomed the Chief Guest, main speaker and other dignitaries. In her inaugural address she said that this webinar is an outcome of the collaborative partnership JMI has forged with California State University, Sacramento early this year.

Prof. Akhtar said that Gandhi's ideas on environment are intimately linked with his ideas relating to the polity, economy, health, and development. What is very interesting is that the concepts of "ecology" and "environmentalism" never figured in his writings and speeches yet he is seen as a thinker with profound ecological sensibility and his thinking has exercised far-reaching influence on ecological movements in India and abroad.

Prof. Ajay S. Singh talked about reduction in consumption patterns in the US following environmental movements. Gandhi, according to him, provided a template for environmental thought.

The ideas of 'non-duality', 'deep ecology' and 'simplicity of life' were common points in Prof. Najma Akhtar's address and Prof. Ajay Singh's lecture.

Prof. Robert Nelsen talked about having collaborative degree programs between JMI and California State University and spoke about bringing classrooms of one university to another under the collaborative partnership notwithstanding the limitations imposed by the prevailing Corona virus pandemic and different time zones.

Prof. Mukesh Ranjan of Department of English and OSD (Planning & Development), JMI coordinated the webinar and introduced the speaker and other panellists.

JMI had earlier organised two webinars on the same topic in collaboration with University of Oxford, UK and SNU, South Korea respectively.

Ahmad Azeem PRO-Media Coordinator



Speaking: Ajay Singh, JAMIA MILLIA ISLAM...



Ajay Singh

Dr. Nazim Husain Jafri



Robert S. Nelsen

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