

**Office of the PRO-Media Coordinator  
Jamia Millia Islamia**

March 18, 2019

Press Release

**National Conference on STATUS UPDATE ON INTERNATIONAL AND AREA  
STUDIES at JMI**

The Academy of International Studies, JMI organised a two day national conference on ‘Status Update on International and Area Studies’ in collaboration with the Indian Council of World Affairs on 13-14 March 2019. This was the third event in the 30th anniversary celebrations of the Academy. Prof Rajen Harshe, former VC, Allahabad University, delivered the Keynote Address on ‘India and the Emerging Challenges in International Relations and Area Studies’.

There were seven academic sessions in the conference. Three sessions were on Area Studies, focusing on Eurasia (including China and Japan), South Asia and West Asia. Three sessions focused on International Studies: on International Relations’ relationship with Area Studies and on new perspectives in IR and new issues in International Studies. The speakers and chairpersons were from JMI, JNU, Ashoka University, South Asian University, AMU, ICWA, Jadavpur University and the Academy. 21 papers were presented by specialists over the course of two days on a broad variety of topics: on disciplinary boundaries between Area Studies and International Studies; how studies on a particular area developed; on Partition; bilateral relations between India and other countries; discourses on migration; the role of the diaspora in the contemporary world; the development of Area Studies as a discipline; transportation and ICT; human rights; human security and environmental issues. There was a special section entitled ‘The Academy, Past, present, Future’ in which former faculty members of the Academy discussed the small and modest beginnings of the Academy, its expansion and future prospects.

Within the framework of the conference, a special lecture was held in memory of Amb. U S Bajpai, the first director of the Academy. The lecture, entitled ‘New Challenges for Indian Foreign Policy’ was delivered by Amb. Shiv Shankar Menon, former Foreign Secretary and former National Security Advisor.

The Valedictory Address on ‘Area Studies in an Afro-Asian Perspective: The Place of the Jamia Academy’ was delivered by Prof Hari Vasudevan, Eurasia specialist, former Director of the Academy and former Professor at Calcutta University. This session was chaired by Prof Zahid Hussain Zaidi, former Director of the Academy. He recalled the early years of the Academy, how Shri Rajiv Gandhi, then Prime Minister of India had been keen to set up a centre in JMI to study the Third World, and how Prof Ali Ashraf, then Vice-Chancellor of Jamia had taken the initiative and set it up with support and funds from the UGC.

All sessions were followed by questions and comments from students and faculty on the presentations, that were responded to by the speakers.

**Ahmad Azeem**  
PRO-Media Coordinator

 **National Conference on  
STATUS UPDATE ON INTERNATIONAL LAND AREA STUDIES** 

**Inaugural Session**

**Chair:** **Prof. Shibashish Chatterjee**  
*Department of International Relations, Andhra  
University, Kolkata*

**Welcome Address:** **Prof. Rashmi Doraiswamy**  
*Offg. Director, IIS, IIT*

**ICWA Representative:** **Dr. Fazze Rahman Siddiqui**  
*Fellow, ICWA, NEF Delhi*

**Keynote Address:** **Prof. Rajen Harsh**  
*Former VC, Allahabad University*

**Vote of Thanks:** **Dr. Mathew Joseph C.**  
*Member, Organising Committee, Status Update  
Conference, IIS, IIT*



**Dr. Mathew Joseph C.**

**Prof. Rashmi Doraiswamy**  
*Offg. Director, IIS, IIT*

**Prof. Shibashish Chatterjee**

**Dr. Fazze Rahman Siddiqui**

**Prof. Rajen Harsh**

