

Office of the
Public Relations Officer
& Media Coordinator
Jamia Millia Islamia

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Press Release

**AJK MCRC honors alumni, including first Indian Pulitzer award-winning
Photojournalist**

First Indian Pulitzer award-winning Photo Journalist and alumnus of AJK Mass Communication Research Centre (AJK MCRC) of Jamia Millia Islamia Danish Siddiqui along with two other alumni were today honored by the Centre at an impressive programme organized to welcome students for the academic session 2018- 2019.

Apart from Danish, others who felicitated were -- Filmmaker Udayan Baijal, Assistant Editor of Oscar-winning film Slumdog Millionaire, and 2017 Society of Publishers in Asia (SOPA) award-winner journalist Karan Deep Singh. SOPA is considered to be Asia's equivalent of Pulitzer Prize.

AJK MCRC Director Prof Iftekhar Ahmed gave away a plaque and citation to each of those honored at the function attended by about 300 students, including fresher's, from different courses run at the Centre, along with faculty members.

Danish, who works as a Photo Journalist with Reuters, has done his Masters in Mass Communication from AJK Mass Communication Research Centre in 2005-2007. He was a part of a seven-member Pulitzer-winning Reuters team that covered tragedies unfolding in the wake of mass migration of Rohingya from Myanmar to Bangladesh. Danish took a photograph of an exhausted and anguished Rohingya woman crossing the Bay of Bengal in a boat as she reached the shores of Cox's Bazaar refugee camp in Bangladesh.

Udayan, who did his Masters in Mass Communication from AJK MCRC in 2002-2004, apart from being associated with the making of Slumdog Millionaire, has also been involved in the Visual Effects Unit of Ang Lee's film Life of Pi. He has also worked in numerous big-budget productions like Mira Nair's Reluctant Fundamentalist, Christopher Nolan's Dark Knight Rises and Kathryn Bigelow's Zero Dark Thirty.

Karan, after completing his Masters in Convergent Journalism from AJK MCRC in 2014, joined The Wall Street Journal, where he currently works as a reporter and producer. Some of his key works as a journalist include the coverage of Rohingya Crisis and Nepal Earthquake in 2015. Karan received an honorable mention for Excellence in Reporting by SOPA for a story on Yamuna River titled 'The World's Next Environmental Disaster,' in 2018.

Speaking on the occasion, Prof Iftekhar Ahmed told the students to analyse the happenings in the society critically and put facts in an objective manner so that it does not lead to polarisation. He asked students to work for downtrodden and weak sections of the society and be a source for voiceless.

The awardees also exchanged their experiences and hazards that come with the profession with the students.

(Ahmad Azeem)

Public Relations Officer
& Media Coordinator, JMI

Pictures attached with the email

Captions for pictures:

PIC 1: Danish Siddiqui receiving a plaque from AJK MCRC Director Prof Iftekhar Ahmed

PIC 2: Udayan Baijal receiving a plaque from AJK MCRC Director Prof Iftekhar Ahmed

PIC 3: Karan Deep Singh receiving a plaque from AJK MCRC Director Prof Iftekhar Ahmed

PIC 4: AJK MCRC Director Prof Iftekhar Ahmed addressing the audience as filmmaker Udayan Baijal, photojournalist Danish Siddiqui and journalist Karan Deep Singh look on.

PIC 5: AJK MCRC students and faculty members attending the function to welcome students for the academic session 2018- 2019





