

Press Release

Union Minister of Science and Technology Dr. Jitendra Singh inaugurates the 6th Asian Conference on Geography hosted by the Department of Geography, Jamia Millia Islamia (JMI)

New Delhi, November 7, 2025

Union Minister of Science and Technology and Minister of Earth Sciences, Dr. Jitendra Singh yesterday inaugurated the 6th Asian Conference on Geography (ACG-2025) hosted by the Department of Geography, Jamia Millia Islamia (JMI), in collaboration with the Asian Geographical Association (AGA) at the Ansari Auditorium of the university. The theme of the three-day conference from November 6-8, 2025 is 'Climate Change, Urbanization and Sustainable Resource Management in Asian Countries'. Notably, this is the first time that the prestigious Asian Conference on Geography is being organized in India, symbolizing a momentous occasion for JMI and the Department of Geography.

The event was graced by Prof. D. P. Singh, distinguished educationist and former Chairman, University Grants Commission (UGC); Prof. Mazhar Asif, Vice Chancellor, Jamia Millia Islamia and Prof. Md. Mahtab Alam Rizvi, Registrar, JMI. The occasion also witnessed the presence of eminent international scholars including Prof. Yuji Murayama, Vice President, Asian Geographical Association, Japan; Prof. Kenta Yamamoto, Secretary, Consortium of Geographical Sciences, Japan; and Ms. Xuanzi Zhang, Secretary and Treasurer, Asian Geographical Association. Prof. Saeed Uddin, Dean, Faculty of Natural Sciences, Prof. Atiqur Rehman, Organizing Secretary and Prof. Haroon Sajjad, Co-organizing secretary, Prof. Lubna Siddiqui, Treasurer and all the faculty members and research scholars of the Department of Geography were present at the inaugural session. The dignitaries extended their appreciation to the Executive Council of the Asian Geographical Association for entrusting Jamia Millia Islamia with the opportunity to host this historic event.

In his inaugural address at JMI as the Chief Guest, Dr. Jitendra Singh said that he was happy to be at JMI when the university was celebrating its 105th Foundation Day, a grand and historic event. The Minister said the meet was timely as it focuses on the deeply interconnected issues of climate change, urbanization, and resource management- issues of "contemporary, futuristic and global concern". Dr. Singh flagged that over 750 million people in Asia and South Asia are exposed to severe pollution and hazards emanating from climate change and named Delhi, Dhaka, Bangkok, and Manila as among the world's most climate-vulnerable megacities projected by 2050. Lauding Jamia Millia Islamia for hosting the first-ever edition of ACG in India, the Minister said that India has emerged as a global leader in linking economic growth with environmental sustainability, guided by Hon'ble Prime Minister Narendra

Modi's vision and efforts towards creating an "interdisciplinary milieu" He outlined India's policy framework for sustainability, including the National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC), State Action Plans, Smart Cities Mission, AMRUT, and Swachh Bharat Mission. He said these important programmes of the Government of India under PM Modi reflect India's commitment to "ensuring climate justice and industrial growth". Emphasizing public participation as key to the success of any governmental initiative, Dr Jitendra Singh said. "Unless there is a social movement, no amount of policy or seminar will yield optimal results," and advised for the use of social media and short digital contents like video reels to build awareness and promote sustainable practices as climate is a concern for all not just scholars, scientists and policymakers.

Prof. Asif, VC JMI, hailing the conference as "not only relevant but profoundly transformative" cautioned against unprecedented urbanization, emission of carbon and other toxic fossil fuels, cutting of trees and deforestation. He called for the need to "live in harmony with nature and stop excessive consumption and misuse of natural resources."

Prof Rizvi, Registrar JMI, in his address while emphasizing the importance of sustainable resource management, reduction in the use of plastics and greater reliance on green energy and a shift to Electronic Vehicles (EVs), said that it was a matter of pride that JMI has been ranked 3rd in the SDG (Sustainable Development Goals) category in NIRF 2025 which demonstrates the university's commitment towards encouraging sustainable practices on campus and to that extent JMI hopes to become a model in the implementation of UN-SDGs.

Prof Yuji Murayama said that ACG-2025 at JMI was "not just a conference but it reflects the daily reality of one of the most populous continents in the world, Asia, which is a hotspot of vulnerability and a living laboratory of resilience." Prof. Kenta Yamamoto said that the conference, AGA and AGC-2025 respects "local knowledge while keeping a global view on cultures". He emphasised that the theme of the conference was "hugely significant for Asia's future".

Prof. D. P. Singh, Guest of Honour on the occasion, congratulating the VC JMI, Prof Asif for his leadership and his significant role as member of the drafting and monitoring committee of the NEP-2020, said that there was an unprecedented pressure on land, water and other natural resources of the planet leading to heat waves, droughts and other natural disasters. He said that the time had come for Asia to take big steps towards the use and promotion of renewable energy like solar and wind energies. Prof. Singh said that climate change directly intersected with all the 17 SDGs with strong evidence of interconnectedness. Prof. D. P. Singh added that Asian countries must adopt sustainable urban planning, green energy practices and go for building smart cities and take to other eco-friendly practices.

The ACG-2025 focuses on sixteen vital sub-themes that address pressing global issues including climate change and vulnerability assessment, urban challenges and

management, watershed and natural resource management, peri-urban and environmental sustainability, impacts of the built environment and urban heat islands, global and regional environmental change, biodiversity, extreme weather events and disaster mitigation, resource sustainability, nature-based solutions and SDGs, health and well-being in the built environment, sustainable agriculture and food systems, urban health and social well-being, innovations in disaster risk reduction and resilience, ecosystem services and sustainable land-use planning, climate change adaptation and sustainable societies, integrated resource management through the water-energy-food nexus, and application of geospatial techniques for climate change and resource management.

The conference has received an overwhelming response, with a total of 409 registered participants including 53 foreign delegates and 356 Indian delegates. Around 375 participants are attending the event in person, and 26 poster presentations have been scheduled. The conference brings together academicians and researchers from a wide range of institutions across India including Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU), University of Delhi, Aligarh Muslim University (AMU), Banaras Hindu University (BHU), Amity University, University of Allahabad, Presidency University, University of Calcutta, Jadavpur University, Central University of Punjab, University of Lucknow, Banasthali Vidyapith, Kalinga University, University of Rajasthan, Patna University, Maharana Pratap University (MSU) Udaipur, Punjab University Chandigarh, Doon University, University of Mumbai, and University of Kashmir. Participation from southern and eastern India includes representatives from the Central University of Tamil Nadu, Central University of Karnataka, University of Madras, Manipur University, Nagaland University, Tripura University, University of Meghalaya, Bodoland University, Cotton University (Assam), Rajiv Gandhi University (Arunachal Pradesh), and North Eastern Hill University (NEHU), Shillong. Premier technical and research institutions such as BITS Goa, IIPS Mumbai, TISS Mumbai, NIT Rourkela, IIIT Allahabad, IIT Patna, and IIT Bombay are also actively participating, reflecting the interdisciplinary scope of the conference. Foreign delegates from Japan, China, Malaysia, Thailand, the United Kingdom, South Korea, Sri Lanka, Russia, and Saudi Arabia are attending the event, making it a truly global academic congregation. Over the course of the conference, 36 parallel sessions and 20 lead lecture sessions will be conducted, providing an interactive platform for research dissemination, policy discussion, and international collaboration.

Prof Saima Saeed
Chief Public Relations Officer

Faculty of Geography, Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi, India

In collaboration with

The Asian Geographical Association (AGA)
Beijing, China





Resource Management in Asian Countries

Delhi, India

on (AGA)



Prof. D. P. Singh
Guest
Chairman
Former



Prof. Md Mahtab Alam Rizvi
(Registrar, JMI)



Prof. Yuji Murayama
(Vice President, AGA)

Prof. D. P. Singh
(of Honor)

Prof. M. Saad
Faculty



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Prof. D. P. Singh
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Prof. Md Mahtab Alam Rizvi
(Registrar, JMI)







6th Asian Conference on Geography
 6-8 November, 2025 | New Delhi, India

Climate Change, Urbanization and Sustainable Resource Management in Asian Countries

Inaugural Function
Organised by
 Department of Geography
 Faculty of Sciences, Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi, India
In collaboration with
 The Asian Geographical Association (AGA)
 Beijing, China



Prof. Dahe Qin
President, AGA



Prof. Mazhar Asif
Vice Chancellor, JMI
(Chief Patron)



Dr. Jitendra Singh
Chief Guest
Union Minister, GoI
Minister of State (I.C.), Ministry of Earth Sciences
Minister of State (I.C.), Ministry of Science and Technology
Minister of State, Prime Minister's Office
Minister of State, Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pension
Minister of State, Department of Atomic Energy
Minister of State, Department of Space



Prof. D. P. Singh
Guest of Honour
Chancellor, TISS
Former Chairman, UGC



Prof. Md Mahtab Alam Rizvi
Registrar, JMI
(Patron)



Prof. Yuji Murayama
Vice President, AGA



Prof. Kenta Yamamoto
Secretary, Commission of Geographical
Science, Japan



Prof. Saeed Uddin
Dean, Faculty of Sciences



Prof. Atique Rahman
Organising Secretary &
Head, Geography



Prof. Haroon Sajjad
Co-Organizing Secretary

Venue: M.A. Ansari Auditorium @ 10:00 A.M.
Celebrating 105th Foundation Day of Jamia Millia Islamia

