

Press Release

**JMI holds a two-day Workshop and Collaborative Indo-German Dialogue on  
Inclusive and Special Education**

New Delhi, September 30, 2025

A two-day workshop on *“Enhancing Inclusive Education through Pedagogical Practices, Teacher Education, and the Role of Special Education with Special Reference to Gender – A Collaborative Indo-German Dialogue on Inclusive and Special Education”* was held on September 29-30, 2025. The workshop was organised in collaboration with the Centre for Jawaharlal Nehru Studies, Jamia Millia Islamia (JMI), and with the India Offices of the University of Cologne, the Max Planck Society, and the University of Heidelberg, with support from DWIH New Delhi.

The workshop was the result of the extensive efforts of the Centre for Jawaharlal Nehru Studies, JMI, under the guidance of Prof. Mazhar Asif, Vice-Chancellor, Jamia Millia Islamia, Prof. Md. Mahtab Alam Rizvi, Registrar, Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi and Prof. Bharti Sharma, Hony. Director at Centre for Jawaharlal Nehru Studies, along with the University of Heidelberg, the Max Planck Society, and the University of Cologne. This collaboration successfully brought together dignitaries and delegates from ten eminent Indian institutions, namely: the University of Delhi, National Council for Teacher Education (NCTE), Central Institute of Educational Technology – National Council of Educational Research and Training (CIET–NCERT), Institute of Human Behaviour and Allied Sciences (IHBAS), Savitribai Phule Pune University, Guru Gobind Singh Indraprastha University, Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU), Symbiosis International University, Amity University, and Galgotias University.

The welcome address was jointly delivered by Dr. Amisha Jain (University of Cologne), Dr. Poonam Suri (Max Planck Society), and Dr. Suboor Bakht (University of Heidelberg).

The inaugural addresses and sessions were delivered by Prof. Pawan Kumar Sharma, Controller of Examinations, JMI. In his address, he drew an insightful connection between inclusive and special education and the deep roots of Indian civilisation. By linking these traditional values with contemporary educational practices, he stressed that inclusive education is not merely a modern concept but an intrinsic part of India's cultural heritage, guiding us towards equity and harmony in learning spaces.

Following the inaugural remarks, Dr. Alok Kumar Mishra, Joint Secretary of the Association of Indian Universities, addressed the gathering with a thought-provoking perspective on disability.

The keynote speaker of the session was Shri Vikas Trivedi, Deputy Chief Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities, Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Government of India. In his address, Shri Trivedi emphasised that inclusion is not a matter of charity but a constitutional mandate that reflects the values of justice and equality. Drawing upon his vast administrative experience, he underlined the government's efforts to strengthen accessibility, promote assistive technologies, and provide educational as well as employment opportunities to differently-abled individuals.

A special address was also delivered in pre-recorded video mode by Prof. (Dr.) Pankaj Arora, Chairperson, National Council for Teacher Education (NCTE), Ministry of Education. He warmly welcomed Prof. Mazhar Asif, Vice-Chancellor, Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi and other eminent dignitaries. Prof. Arora discussed the inclusive policies and initiatives of the National Council for Teacher Education (NCTE) & Rehabilitation Council of India (RCI), emphasising the significance of NEP-2020, and emphasised education must be accessible, equitable, and flexible in nature. His talk stressed preparing teachers as inclusive educators to foster equity and holistic learning.

Prof. Bharti Sharma extended a heartfelt vote of thanks to all dignitaries, keynote speakers, and participants. She acknowledged their gracious presence and valuable contributions, emphasising that their insights and support added immense value to the event, setting a meaningful tone for the sessions ahead.

The two-day international workshop was structured into eight sessions, with four sessions on each day, and concluded with a valedictory session on 30th September 2025. Each session was well-coordinated, chaired by an academic expert, and featured two speakers representing India and Germany, thereby enriching the discussions with diverse perspectives.

Day one commenced with deliberations on the theme *"Inclusive Education in Global Context: Policy and Practices in India and Germany."* The speakers comprehensively compared the policy frameworks, highlighting similarities and differences in implementation strategies, challenges, and achievements in both countries. Post-lunch, three sessions were conducted on highly relevant themes. The first explored the role of *technology, innovation, and artificial intelligence in inclusive education*, emphasizing the transformative power of digital tools. The subsequent session focused on *teacher preparation and development*, both at the preservice stage and through continuous professional development, as key enablers of inclusive practices. A vibrant *poster presentation* session followed, accompanied by high tea, showcasing innovative ideas. The day concluded with *"Inclusion in Action: Insights on Building Inclusive Academic*

*Spaces*,"which offered practical strategies for fostering equity and accessibility in educational institutions.

The second day of the international workshop commenced with the fifth session, focusing on *"Gender and Sociological Perspectives in Special and Inclusive Education."*The speakers highlighted how social structures, cultural perceptions, and gender roles influence access to education, stressing the need for equity and sensitivity in policy and practice. The sixth session explored *"Psychological Therapies and Interventions in Children's Learning,"* underlining the importance of early identification, counselling, and therapeutic support in promoting inclusive learning outcomes.

After lunch, the seventh session engaged with *"Pedagogical and Evaluation Practices in Inclusive Education,"* presenting practical frameworks and models to assess learning outcomes fairly. The eighth session introduced the *University of Cologne Internship Programme in a School Abroad*, providing insights into experiential learning opportunities and cross-border academic collaboration.

The workshop concluded with a valedictory session with the best wishes of Prof. Md. Mahtab Alam Rizvi, Registrar, Jamia Millia Islamia, and was followed by a formal vote of thanks delivered by Dr. Amisha Jain, University of Cologne, marking the successful conclusion of the two-day deliberations.

Prof. Saima Saeed  
Chief Public Relations Officer



\*\*\*