

ADDRESS BY HON'BLE CHANCELLOR, JAMIA MILLIA ISLAMIA
AND GOVERNOR OF MANIPUR, DR. NAJMA HEPTULLA AT THE
ANNUAL CONVOCATION, 2019 OF THE JAMIA MILLIA ISLAMIA ON
30TH OCTOBER, 2019 AT JMI, DELHI

Hon'ble President of India, Shri Ram Nath Kovind ji,
Vice-Chancellor of Jamia Millia Islamia University, Prof. Najma Akhtar,
Registrar, JMI, Mr. A.P. Siddiqui,
Distinguished Guests, Faculty Member, Students, Media Persons,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

As the Chancellor of Jamia Millia Islamia University, I deem it a pleasure and a rare privilege to extend a hearty welcome to the Hon'ble President of India, Shri Ram Nath Kovind ji. The University is proud and grateful to the Hon'ble President for gracing the Annual Convocation, 2019 of the University being held on the 99th year of its establishment as the Chief Guest. Shri Kovind ji is a distinguished public figure with exemplary service to the Nation. Sir, it is indeed a great day for the Jamia Millia Islamia University for having you in our midst. I am sure that your enlightened words would kindle the torches of the future. We all look forward to your Convocation Address.

Jamia Millia Islamia is an outcome of the tireless efforts of its founders, such as Shaikhul Hind Maulana Mahmud Hasan, Maulana Muhammad Ali Jauhar, Hakim Ajmal Khan, Dr. Mukhtar Ahmad Ansari, Jenab Abdul Majeed Khwaja and Dr. Zakir Husain. It symbolizes the unflinching and resolute commitment of these great visionaries in bringing about socio-economic transformation of the common masses in general and Muslims in particular through the vehicle of education. The mission of the founding fathers continues to serve as a beacon light for all the stakeholders. Since its inception Jamia has been on its growth trajectory. Today, it has achieved the distinction of being one of the premier institutions of higher learning in the world that provides cutting edge learning experience,

internationally benchmarked education, intellectual freedom and critical research opportunities in frontier areas.

Jamia Millia Islamia is now an “A” grade Central University accredited by NAAC offering a range of academic courses at various levels. The university recognizes that teaching and research are complementary activities that would advance its objectives of bringing about innovation in education, promotion of inter-disciplinary studies, national integration, secularism and international understanding. Jamia Millia Islamia, in keeping with its tradition, is tirelessly reinforcing its social relevance. New branches of learning are being systematically introduced and the curricula are being routinely revised and restructured through statutory arrangements to keep them up-to-date.

The university is making rapid strides both in terms of teaching and research. There are over 200 on-going research projects that includes bilateral international projects, multi-institutional and individual projects with grants over 40 crores from different agencies like DST, DBT, ICMR, ICCR, AYUSH, MEITY, ICSSR and other prestigious agencies. The University has also established centres such as Central Instrumentation Facility that offers advanced analytical characterization services within and outside University, Nanotechnology Research Lab, High Performance Computing Lab and Advance Power Electronics Research powered with Solar Energy.

Jamia Millia Islamia has developed collaborative partnerships with different universities, namely: University of Applied Sciences, Erfurt (Germany), York University (Canada), University of Toronto (Mississauga), INALCO (Paris), The University Court of University Edinburg (Edinburg), National College of Science & Technology (NCST), Salalah (Oman), Pedagogica and Technologica University (Colombia), University of Regina (Canada), King Abdul Aziz Foundation (Kingdom of Saudi Arabia), National Tsing University (Taiwan), Institute of Islamic Understanding (Malaysia), School of Psychology, Plymouth University (UK), University of Westminster (UK), University of Virginia (USA), among others. Jamia has initiated

research-based MoUs with partnering universities and educational institutions both at the national and international levels.

Even as Jamia makes progress through digitization and ICT enabled services, it's time for the institution to realize something that it has been dreaming of for the past three decades. It aspires to set up a Medical College-cum-Hospital on the campus. To realize this aspiration, it needs support from all quarters. To set up a Medical College-cum-Hospital, the institution would require massive resources and infrastructure. I would use this august occasion which has the gracious presence of the Hon'ble President of India, to request the Visitor of the university to support us in this endeavour. We need to acquire a piece of contiguous land (popularly known as Pahari land), which incidentally belongs to the Government of Uttar Pradesh, for the establishment of the Medical College-cum-Hospital. We would also look forward to the good offices of the Ministry of Human Resource Development, under the able and visionary guidance of Hon'ble HRM Shri. Ramesh Pokhriyal Ji, to support us with funds to translate our dream into a reality. A lot of hard work will go into this project and I'm very confident that Prof. Najma Akhtar, as Vice-Chancellor of the University, is ready to work overtime to make this happen.

I am very proud to share with our Chief Guest and Guest of Honour that Jamia Millia Islamia has devoted and industrious teachers. Equally committed are our students to transform their lives meaningfully through education and learning. The recipients of respective Degrees, Diplomas and Certificates in this convocation are the torchbearers of Jamia's legacy. They are ready to play a meaningful and constructive role in the life of the nation, both as citizens of this great country and agents of positive change. I congratulate them heartily for their academic successes and wish them the very best for their future.

Thank you.

Jai Hind.