



Report on the Inaugural BML Munjal Memorial Lecture



Hosted by BML Munjal University

Date: 6th February 2025

Venue: India International Centre, New Delhi

Title of Lecture: *India 2047: Strategies for a Viksit Bharat*

Guest Speaker: Prof. Jeffrey D. Sachs

Introduction

On February 6, 2025, BML Munjal University (BMU) hosted the inaugural edition of the *BML Munjal Memorial Lecture* at the prestigious India International Centre, New Delhi. The event marked a significant milestone in the university's efforts to foster intellectual dialogue and contribute to the nation's development discourse.

The lecture, titled "**India 2047: Strategies for a Viksit Bharat**," featured globally renowned economist and sustainable development advocate **Prof. Jeffrey D. Sachs**, Director of the Centre for Sustainable Development at Columbia University. This landmark event brought together scholars, policymakers, industry leaders, and students to reflect on the strategies needed to build a prosperous, inclusive, and sustainable India by the centenary of its independence.

Objectives of the Event

The BML Munjal Memorial Lecture series was launched to honour the legacy of the university's founding inspiration, Late Shri Brijmohan Lall Munjal. It aimed to:

- Provide a platform for intellectual and policy-driven dialogue on critical national and global issues.
- Encourage scholarly discourse that bridges academia, policy, and practice.
- Inspire students and professionals to think critically and act ethically in addressing challenges facing India and the world.

Event Highlights



Keynote Address by Prof. Jeffrey D. Sachs

Prof. Sachs delivered a compelling keynote that outlined a comprehensive vision for a “Viksit Bharat” (Developed India) by 2047. He emphasised that India’s path to becoming one of the world’s top three economies lies in a bold, adaptive, and inclusive approach that harmonises:

- Economic growth with environmental sustainability
- Social equity with technological innovation
- National goals with international cooperation

He identified key focus areas including:

- Energy transition to renewables
- Public-private sector collaboration
- Policy innovation
- Human capital investment

In his words:

“India’s journey to becoming a Viksit Bharat by 2047 requires a bold and adaptive approach, balancing economic growth with sustainability and social equity. The biggest challenges ahead include environmental degradation and global instability, but India has the potential to lead in sustainable development.”

Prof. Sachs also drew comparisons with successful Asian economies, stressing that India must leverage both state and market forces to drive innovation and development.

Remarks by BMU Vice Chancellor, Prof. Shyam B. Menon

In his opening remarks, Vice Chancellor Prof. Shyam B. Menon contextualised the significance of the memorial lecture, stating:

“The BML Munjal Memorial Lecture is envisioned to become an institution and an integral part of the cultural and academic calendar of Delhi. This is our tribute to the city’s tradition of conversations, reflections, and debates.”

He further announced that BMU would soon be establishing a Centre for Public Policy and Governance, strengthening the university’s commitment to research, policymaking, and public dialogue.

Panel Discussion Led by Prof. Deepak Nayyar

The session was chaired by Prof. Deepak Nayyar, Professor Emeritus of Economics, Jawaharlal Nehru University. Prof. Nayyar echoed Prof. Sachs' thoughts and further emphasised the need for social and economic inclusivity, stating:

“The aspiration for development is both feasible and plausible. Two critical elements are essential: First, the creation of equal social and economic opportunities for all, irrespective of caste, gender, or religion; and second, public investment in education and healthcare.”

He concluded with a powerful message on regional cooperation, advocating for greater collaboration between India and China as a potential game changer for global peace and prosperity.

Outcomes and Impact

The inaugural memorial lecture was a resounding success, drawing a distinguished audience of policymakers, academics, researchers, students, and professionals. The thought-provoking discussion spurred meaningful conversations around India's future, both during and after the session.

Key outcomes included:

- A renewed focus on sustainability and inclusion in development planning.
- Encouragement for youth and academia to engage in nation-building.
- Enthusiastic participation and feedback from attendees, indicating strong interest in future editions of the lecture series.

The event also set the stage for BMU's emerging role as a hub for policy discourse and thought leadership.

Conclusion

The successful launch of the *BML Munjal Memorial Lecture* marks a pivotal moment in BML Munjal University's journey to becoming a center of academic excellence and policy influence. The event not only honoured the legacy of Late Shri Brijmohan Lall Munjal but also brought to light a roadmap for India's future through the lens of sustainability, innovation, and inclusivity.

As the university continues to foster dialogue on contemporary challenges, the Memorial Lecture series is poised to become a cornerstone of BMU's commitment to shaping India's leadership in the 21st century.