



IOS NEWSLETTER

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Thought for the Month

O mankind! We created
You from a single (pair)
Of a male and a female,
And made you into
Nations and tribes, that
Ye may know each other
(Not that ye may despise
(Each other). Verily
The most honoured of you
In the sight of Allah
Is (he who is) the most
Righteous of you
And Allah has full knowledge
And is well-acquainted
(With all things)

Al-Quran- 49:13

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FOCUS

One Lawrence's scheme for West Asia was outlined in a long memorandum entitled: The Conquest for Syria: If Complete which he wrote in early 1916. It is a very significant document which delineates Lawrence's personal view of the Arab Revolt, the politics underlying it, Britain's post war objectives and the strategy and the tactics which were to be adopted for making the Arab rebellion a success. The following passage of the document sums up his ideas in a concise yet clear fashion:

"This war should, if it resulted in anything at all, take away definitely and finally the religious supremacy of the Sultan (of Turkey). England cannot make a new Khalifa (spiritual ruler) as she has made a new Sultan (of Egypt) any more than the Japanese could impose a new Pope on the R(oman) C(atholic) Church. Nor can the Sultan of Egypt make himself Khalifa: for his action would be suspected; from his relations with us; and the true Arab and even he Syrian has a such a lively contempt and dislike for the loose-mouthed Egyptian as would entirely forbid him ever to recognize any spiritual over-lordship assumed by one without the force to support him."

The most probable claimant – barring the Sultan – to the Khalifare would be the sheriff of Mecca, who has been active in the last few years in Arabia and Syria, asserting himself as an arbiter of morals. He is held down by Turkish money – which, we via Egypt or India could replace with interest – and by a Turkish Army corps. The only way to rid ourselves of this (hostilities in the Yemen being impossible) is by cutting the Hedjaz line. The soldiers are paid and supplied with arms, etc. along this line, and its existence is always a present threat of reinforcements. By cutting it we destroy the Hedjaz civil government... and we resolve the Hedjaz army into its elements – an assembly of peaceful Syrian peasants and incompetent alien officers. The Arab chiefs in the Hedjaz would then make their own play, and for our pilgrims' sake one can only hope, quickly. In any case if we cut the Pilgrim Railway the Turkish Government would irrevocably lose the Haramein and that draws their teeth and renders them harmless. The Beduin tribes hare the railway which has reduced their annual tolls and way-leaves; and would help us cut it. This cutting can be done by occupying Deraa if Damascus is neutralized: at Amman, if Jerusalem can be passed, by blowing up a viaduct: and at Maan by an occupation.

In another remarkable paper, The politics of Mecca, Lawrence advised the British government to break up the Ottoman Empire and set up in its place one or numerous weak Arab states. He also urged not to allow the Arabs to get united and become powerful. Further, he cautioned his government not allow any European power to gain a foothold in the Arab world, for this will hurt the British interests in the region. The following passage merits a careful study:

"(Husain's) activity seems beneficial to us, because it marches with our immediate aims, the breakup of the Islamic "bloc" and the defeat and disruption of the Ottoman Empire, and because the state he would set up to succeed the Turks would be as harmless to ourselves as Turkey was before she became a tool in German hands.

Contd. on page-7

Activities of the IOS Headquarters

Eighth IOS Lifetime Achievement Award Presented to Prof. Mohsin Usmani Nadwi

Former Dean, School of Arabic Studies, English and Foreign Languages University, Hyderabad, and Islamic scholar, Prof. Mohsin Usmani Nadwi, was presented the Eighth IOS Lifetime Achievement Award at an impressive ceremony organised by the Institute of Objective Studies at the Conference Hall, FTK-CIT Building, Jamia Millia Islamia on February 22, 2020.

The function began with the recitation of a verse from the Holy Quran by Hafiz Athar Husain Nadwi, who also translated it into Urdu. It was followed by the welcome address and the introduction of the IOS by the secretary-general of the Institute, Prof. Z. M. Khan, who said that a lot of work had been done during the last 33 years of its existence.

Remarking that reward of good work meant more work, he added that the work had gone beyond the boundaries defined earlier.

While the former radio news presenter S. M. Shafiq read out the citation detailing Prof. Usmani's scholarly feats, the vice president, All India Muslim Personal Law Board, Maulana Jalaluddin Umri, presented the scroll of honor to him. A cheque for one lakh rupees, the amount carried by the award, was presented to him by Prof. Z. M. Khan.

The chairman of the IOS, Dr. M. Manzoor Alam, released a 16-minute

film on Prof. Mohsin Usmani Nadwi's life and works which was screened immediately afterwards. He also presented a memento to Prof. Usmani.

Addressing the audience as the guest of honour, Maulana Umri recalled his long association with Prof. Usmani. He said that Prof. Usmani always thought of issues and tried to find solutions to them as a scholar. In his thoughts, he looked like the renowned Islamic scholar late Maulana Syed Suleiman Nadwi. Whatever he thought, he never let it be out. He always called a spade a spade and never went back on it. He restrained himself from referring to irrelevant things. He was truly performing his duty to take Allah's message to the

couplet of the famous Urdu poet Faiz Ahmad Faiz, he said that his association with the IOS was long and he was unable to pay the debt he owed to the Institute.

Presiding over the function, Dr. Mohammad Manzoor Alam, held that by honouring Prof. Usmani the Institute was celebrating the best traditions of scholarship in India. In every way, Prof. Usmani was an inspiration and a role model for the present and coming generations. He said that Prof. Usmani's inspiration came from men and women of eminence, individuals and organisations that represented the democratic spirit of India whose thought, work and life exemplified excellence and dignity.

For the young nation, role models were needed who stood for harmony and represented the diversity of the country.

He added that IOS had been working tirelessly for social equality, human rights and religious freedom for all citizens. IOS saw the Indian Constitution as a fountain-head of empowerment, rights

and privileges for all Indians. Referring to legacy, he said that it meant doing something tangible for the future so that questions raised by younger generations could be answered. As far as the protection of human dignity was concerned, compared to Christians, Muslims did the least work.

Listing the initiatives taken by the IOS, he said as many 122 booklets had been planned for 18-36 years age group under the series "Allah Hi Ka Kalaam Buland" to explain basic tenets of Islam to them. Each booklet consisting of 20-24 pages would be translated into 19 regional languages.



L-R: Maulana Jalaluddin Umri, Dr. M. Manzoor Alam, Prof. Mohsin Usmani and Prof. Z.M. Khan

people, the Maulana added.

In his reception address, Prof. Usmani described the IOS as a secular institution. Its work was the hallmark that Allah accepted. He said that the Institute deserved a big award for its extraordinary service to knowledge and society. Underlining the need for mass contact with the non-Muslims to dispel misconceptions about Islam, he said that past mistakes in this connection must be rectified. He regretted that most of the organisations working in the fields of Muslim awakening lacked the initiative to engage with non-Muslims. Quoting a

He asked scholars to help this project with their valuable advice. Commenting on the Preamble to the Constitution, he said that it reflected the Islamic teachings of liberty and justice.

As a think tank IOS was constantly striving to build bridges between academicians, intellectuals, activists, legislators, policy-makers and young intellectuals.

The proceedings were conducted by Shah Ajmal Farooque Nadwi, in-charge of Urdu section, IOS. Former vice-chancellor of Magadh University, Bodh Gaya, and member of the general assembly of the Institute, Prof. M. Ishtiaq extended a vote of thanks.

International Conference on “Psychology of Religion and Spirituality”

A three-day International Conference on “Psychology of Religion and Spirituality” was organised on 24th, 25th & 26th February 2020, by the Department of Psychology, Aligarh Muslim University, Aligarh in collaboration with the Institute of Objective Studies, New Delhi, and Centre for Study and Research, Hyderabad, at Aligarh Muslim University, Aligarh. The conference was well attended by scholars and researches, in which 82 papers were presented.

Preceding the ICPRS Conference, the Department of Psychology, AMU, Aligarh, in collaboration with the Student’s Counseling Centre, AMU, Aligarh also organised a Pre-Conference Workshop on the “Role of Spirituality for Counselors and Health Care Professionals” held on February 22, 2020 in the Conference Hall of the Faculty of Social Sciences, A.M.U., Aligarh.

Day 1 (February 24, 2020)

The Inaugural function of the Conference held at the Polytechnic Assembly Hall (Boys) on 24th Feb, 2020, at 10:00 a.m. was presided over by the Chief Guest Prof. V. K. Goswami (former VC, Sangam University and Sunrise University). The Guests of Honor of the function were Mr. Mohammad Muqim (Coordinator, IOS Aligarh Chapter) and Prof. Girishwar Misra (former VC, Mahatma Gandhi Antarrashtriya Hindi Vishwavidyalaya). Other dignitaries on the dais were Prof. Akbar Husain (Director, ICPRS & Dean, faculty of Social Sciences, AMU, Aligarh), and Prof. Roomana N. Siddiqui (Organizing Secretary, ICPRS &

research and clinical practices that facilitate the understanding of religion and spirituality in the lives of people. She then expressed gratitude to the outstation and international delegates for making it possible to attend the conference. She wished that the three-day deliberations would open new avenues for collaboration of science, religion and spirituality. She concluded by congratulating the organizers, collaborators, faculty members, and the organising team of the conference. Then mementos were presented.

Prof. Akbar Husain, in his address, shed light on the theme of the conference saying that spirituality is a realm of causality which unites all humankind within a framework of beliefs, experiences, and practices that

eventually develops a sense of harmony and bliss. In contrast, religion is an assortment of beliefs and practices shared by a group of individuals concerning their relationship with the Supreme. It intends to stimulate spiritual cognizance, which eliminates

suffering from the apparent level of existence and induce solidarity, harmony, and an ineffable ecstasy. In his concluding remarks, he said that he is overwhelmed to see the interest and prodigious participation of eminent thinkers, researchers, educationists, and students from various national and international institutions for enlarging the sphere of spiritual and religious psychology.

Later, the souvenir and abstracts were released by Prof. Girishwar Misra.

Mr. Mohammed Muqim mentioned that psychology is an integral science



L-R: Prof. Roomana N. Siddiqui, Prof. Akbar Husain, Prof. V. K. Goswami, Prof. Girishwar Misra and Mr. Mohammad Muqim

Chairperson, deptt. of Psychology, AMU, Aligarh).

Inaugural Function hosted by Dr. S. Reshma Jamal (Assistant Professor, Deptt. of Psychology, AMU) commenced with recitation from the Holy Quran. Thereafter, Prof. Roomana N. Siddiqui, delivered the welcome address where she extended a warm welcome to the delegates. In her opening remarks, she said that the Psychology of Religion and Spirituality is a very important division in the American Psychological Association, and it is dedicated to the promotion of psychological theories,

dealing with the nuances of complex human behaviour. He added that religion being a personal relationship with God significantly embraces this field. Moreover, he said that human beings are not merely limited to their physical selves; thus any study related to them should focus on the holistic aspects of the human self. In this direction, the subtleties associated with spirituality offers inclusive ways of living, rendering a life filled with clarity and integrity.

Prof. Girishwar Misra, in his keynote address, explained the psychological perspectives on spirituality with particular emphasis on conceptual and applied concerns. More specifically, he said that scholars in the present time are pursuing investigations about the potential influence and role of spirituality in the fields of health, well-being, education, work, and family. He added that numerous traditions are endorsed across the globe, which focuses on the search for the sacred. In continuation, he said that these liberating efforts transform the person and make him or her more inclusive. He appreciated modern approaches in the realm of spirituality, which have paved the way for integrating science and spirituality. There is a dire need for learning the nuanced ways about the processes and consequences of spiritual modelling, the relationship of spirituality with health, effects of meditation, attachment to divinities, spiritual creativity, spirituality and self-regulation, and relation of spirituality and emotions, he concluded.

The Chief Guest, Prof. V. K. Goswami in his address, exquisitely dwelled upon the idea of synchronizing Science, and Spirituality

for establishing peace. He stated that spirituality being the science of soul is intrinsic by nature and transcending the five senses. He dwelt on the nuances of science and stated that it is logical, analytical, and systematic knowledge of global phenomena backed with experimental proof. He also enlightened everyone about peace equation and said that peace is inversely proportional to entropy, i.e., disorderliness. He also talked about two models developed by him, "VG: Hub & Spoke Model" and "VG: Life (L) Circle Model". Science and Spirituality together mint the coin of peace.

In the end, Dr. Shah Mohd. Khan (Associate Professor, Deptt. of Psychology, AMU, Aligarh) delivered

Professor Nilanjana Sanyal (Univ. of Calcutta, Kolkata) was the first to deliver her speech. She spoke on "Detachment: A Gerotranscendent Spiritual Practice in Autumn of Life Stage".

Professor Parul Rishi (Indian Institute of Forest Management, Bhopal) talked about "Spiritual Intelligence and Mindfulness across Indian Religions-Meditating Role of Subjective well-being and coping with stress".

Prof. Novrattan Sharma (deptt. of Psychology, M.D. University, Rohtak, Haryana) delivered a talk on "Configure Religiosity and Spirituality for the Development of Positive Mental Health".



A view of the audience

Last speech was delivered by Dr. A. A. Qadri (Director, Mental Health Centre, Aurangabad, Maharashtra), who expressed his views about "Islam and Spirituality in the management of Psychiatric Patients".

Concluding remarks were given by Professor V. K. Goswami, who stated that there is a need to

simultaneously promote scientific research, spirituality and peace. The session concluded at 2:15 p.m.

Scientific Sessions

The Scientific Session I was commenced in the PG Lab I of the Department of Psychology, Arts Faculty Building, AMU. The session was chaired by Dr. Nadeem Kirmani and co-chaired by Dr. Salma Kaneez, in which seven international and two local delegates presented their papers.

The Scientific Session II was held in PG Lab II of the Department of Psychology. The session was chaired

the vote of thanks, which was followed by the University tarana and the National Anthem.

Invited Lectures Day 1

After the Inaugural function and high tea, the session comprising of Invited Lectures was conducted in the Polytechnic Assembly Hall (Boys). The session being chaired by Prof. V. K. Goswami started at 12:45 p.m., where four eminent speakers (Prof. Parul Rishi, Prof. Novrattan Sharma, Prof. Nilanjana Sanyal, and Dr. A. A. Qadri) delivered their Invited Lectures.

by Prof. Parul Rishi and co-chaired by Mr. Usama Rehman, in which six papers were presented by the delegates.

The Scientific Session III was held in the Smart Class Room No. 13, and was chaired by Prof. Mohd. Ghufuran and co-chaired by Dr. Fauzia Nazam, in which five papers were presented.

These three sessions marked the end of Day One of the conference.

Day 2 (February 25, 2020)

The Scientific Session I was devoted to the Invited Lectures held at the Arts Faculty Lounge, AMU, Aligarh. The session began at 9:30 a.m. where three invited lectures were delivered by distinguished scholars. The session was chaired by Prof. Suneetha B. Maryam, and Dr. Pepper McDonald co-chaired this session.

The session comprising three Invited Lectures, was initiated by Prof. Mohammad Ghufuran (Kumaun University, Almora, Uttarakhand). He talked on "Islamic Approach of Counseling" wherein he attempted to explain asabiyyah or prejudice from an Islamic perspective as well as from the standpoint of mainstream psychology.

Dr. Thomas B. Idiculla (Director, Harvard Medical School), spoke on "Spirituality in the Context of Mental Health Assessment, Intervention and Outcomes: Experiences in The U.S., India and The Middle East."

Dr. Mustafa Nadeem Kirmani (Associate Professor, Amity University, Haryana) lectured on "Psychology of Peace: Quranic Model".

The concluding remarks were given by Prof. Suneetha B. Maryam.

Scientific Session II was held in PG Lab II of the Department of Psychology. The session, commencing at 9:30 a.m. was chaired by Prof. Showkat Ahmad Shah and co-chaired by Dr. Heena Parveen, in which five papers were presented by the delegates.

Scientific Session III was held in the PG Lab II of the Department of Psychology and it was chaired by Dr. Shah M. Khan and co-chaired by Dr. Sarah Javed, in which six papers were presented by delegates.

Scientific Session IV of the second day was commenced in the PG Lab I of the Department of Psychology. The session was chaired by Dr. Prof. Musaddiq Jahan and Co-chaired by Dr. Maha Fathima Gani, in which six

Arabi's views on Spiritual Self-Actualization."

Five papers were presented by delegates of the conference. This marked the end of the second set of parallel sessions of the second day of the conference.

Parallel Scientific Session III

The next set of scientific sessions of Day 2 commenced at 2:45 p.m. in which three parallel sessions were organized.

Scientific Session VII began in the PG Lab I of the Psychology Department, Arts Faculty. The session was chaired by Dr. Kr. Sajid Ali Khan and co-chaired by Dr. Geetanjali Roy, in which 13 papers were presented.

Scientific Session VIII of the second day was held in PG Lab II of the psychology department. The session was chaired by Dr. Javed Alam and co-chaired by Dr. Abbas Bakhshandeh Bali, in which nine papers were presented by the delegates.

Scientific Session IX was held in the Arts Faculty Lounge and was chaired by Prof. Neena Kohli and co-chaired by Dr.

Asif Hasan, in which eleven papers were presented by the local, outstation and international delegates of the conference.

These three sessions marked the end of Day 2 of the conference.

Day 3 (February 26, 2020)

On Day 3, a workshop was conducted at 9:30 am, by Mr. B. K. Satya Prakash Sharma (Brahma Kumaris) on "Communion with God: Meditation".

Invited Lectures

Time: 10:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.



Speakers at Parallel Scientific Session-I

papers were presented.

Scientific Session VI was held in the Arts Faculty Lounge and was chaired by Prof. Mahmood S. Khan and co-chaired by Dr. S. Reshma Jamal. The session began with the invited lecture delivered by Prof. Neena Kohli (University of Allahabad, Allahabad) on "Religiosity, Spirituality, and Well-being: Search for links."

Dr. Abbas Bakhshandeh Bali (Asstt. Prof. of Philosophy, University of Mazandaran, Iran) spoke on "A Comparative Study of Ibn Sina and Ibn

Venue: UGC-HRD Centre, A.M.U.

Two Invited Lectures were delivered by the Invited Guests from 10:30 a.m. onwards.

Prof. Naved Iqbal (Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi) delivered his talk on "Islamic Psychology: Background of emergence and current challenges".

Dr. Shah Mohd. Khan, (Associate Professor, Deptt. of Psychology) delivered his lecture on the "Quranic Verses and effects on Human Emotion".

With this, the sessions of the conference came to an end.

Valedictory Function

Time: 12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Venue: UGC-HRD Centre, A.M.U.

The valedictory function of the Conference held at the UGC-HRD Centre on 26th February, 2020, at 12:00 noon was presided over by the chief guest Prof. Akhtar Haseeb (Pro-Vice-Chancellor, A.M.U., Aligarh). The Guest of Honour and Keynote speaker of the function was Prof. Braj Bhushan (IIT, Kanpur). Other dignitaries on the dais were Prof.

Akbar Husain (Director, ICPRS and Dean, F/o. Social Sciences, AMU) and Prof. Roomana N. Siddiqui (Organizing Secretary, ICPRS and Chairperson, D/o. Psychology, AMU, Aligarh).

The valedictory function was anchored by Dr. Ali Hur Kamoopuri (Assistant Professor, D/o. Arabic, AMU). It commenced with the recitation from the Holy Quran and thereafter Prof. Akbar Husain delivered the welcome address. He extended a warm welcome to the distinguished guests and delegates. He

briefly shed light on the theme of the conference.

Prof. Braj Bhushan delivered the Keynote address, where he enlightened the audience on the theme of the conference. He also spoke on "Functional Integrity of Cerebral Regions and Self-reported Spiritual Experiences". He said that spirituality is widely studied and reported by researchers of psychology and other disciplines in India. One of the striking features of such behavioural studies is the administration of Western tools on the Indian population. Considering the difference in the conceptualizations of self and assessment of culturally-rooted constructs, using Western psychometric tools, a set of studies examining the neuropsychological indices of the functional integrity of

spirituality deals with seeking meaningful connections with the divine and leads to the experience of positive emotions. He added that the path of spiritual solace imparts compassion, the capacity for love and forgiveness, altruism, and joy which can be acquired through meditation, prayer, affirmation, yoga or specific spiritual and religious practices. He concluded by saying that spirituality and religion is a way of gaining perspective, recognizing our role in life, which serves a larger purpose than simply what we do every day. It provides the insight to rise beyond material existence and find solace in life. Thus one must continuously strive for spiritual actualization.

In the end, Dr. Nasheed Imtiaz (Assistant Professor, D/o. Psychology, AMU, Aligarh) delivered the vote of thanks, which was followed by the University tarana and the National Anthem.

Summary of the ICPRS Report

The three-day International Conference on Psychology of Religion and Spirituality, orchestrated by the dedicated efforts of Professor Akbar

Husain, Director ICPRS and Dean, Faculty of Social Sciences, AMU, Professor Roomana N. Siddiqui, Organizing Secretary, and Chairperson, Department of Psychology, AMU, Dr. Mohammad Manzoor Alam, (Collaborator ICPRS) Chairman, IOS, New Delhi, and Prof. Mohammad Rafat, (Collaborator ICPRS) Director, CSR, Hyderabad, successfully concluded on Feb 26, 2020. Where in total, 12 invited lectures were delivered by the distinguished delegates of the conference namely, Prof. Harold G. Koenig, Dr. Thomas B. Idiculla, Prof.



L-R: Prof. Braj Bhushan, Prof. Akhtar Haseeb, Prof. Akbar Husain and Prof. Roomana N. Siddiqui

cerebral regions and self-reported spiritual experiences. He succinctly summarized the empirical findings pertaining to cultures, ethnicities, and religions.

Prof. Roomana N. Siddiqui presented the report of the AMU Centenary International Conference on Psychology of Religion and Spirituality.

The chief guest, Prof. Akhtar Haseeb, in his presidential address, spoke on the need for exploring the realm of the psychology of religion and spirituality. He said that

Parul Rishi, Prof. Nov Rattan Sharma, Dr. Abbas Bakhshandeh Bali, Dr. Mustafa Nadeem Kirmani, Prof. Mohammad Ghufuran, Prof. Neena Kohli, Prof. Nilanjana Sanyal, Prof. Naved Iqbal, Dr. A. A. Qadri and Dr. Shah Mohd. Khan. Throughout the 12 sessions of the conference, 82 papers were presented by the local, outstation, and international delegates of the conference. Besides this, two keynote addresses were also delivered by Prof. Girishwar Misra, former VC, M.G. Antarrashtriya Hindi Vishvidyalaya, and Prof. Braj Bhushan, IIT, Kanpur on the respective themes "Psychological Perspectives on Spirituality: Some Conceptual and Applied Concerns" and "Functional Integrity of Cerebral Regions and Self-Reported Spiritual Experiences." Moreover, two workshops were also conducted. One of the workshops was a pre-conference workshop organized in collaboration with the Student's Counseling Centre, AMU, Aligarh on the theme "Role of Spirituality for Counselors and Health Care Professionals" held on February 22, 2020, and it was facilitated by Prof. Suneetha B. Maryam and Dr. Pepper McDonald (Mercer University, Georgia). The other workshop was organized on the last day of the conference, i.e., February 26, 2020, on the theme "Communion with God: Meditation" by BK Satya Prakash Sharma from the Brahma Kumaris. Eventually, the conference reached its conclusion and opened new avenues in the field of Psychology of Religion and Spirituality.

Contd. from page-1

The Arabs are even less stable than the Turks. If properly handed they would remain in a state of political mosaic, a tissue of small jealous principalities incapable of cohesion, and yet always ready to combine against an outside force. The alternative to this seems to be the control and colonization by a European power other than ourselves which would inevitably come into conflict with the interests we already possess in the Near East."

Another passage of the same paper is even more important for in it Lawrence proposed to divide Islam against itself so that it will never become a threat to the British hegemony in the region or elsewhere:

"Husain has a mind some day to taking the place of the Turkish Government in the Hidjaz himself. If we can only arrange that this political change shall be a violent one, we will have abolished the threat of Islam, by dividing it against itself in its very heart. There will then be a Khalifa in Turkey and a Khalifa in Arabia, in theological warfare, and Islam will be as little formidable as the Papacy when Popes lived in Avignon."

From Islamic Perspective and Ideas by Ishtiaque Danish, pp. 22-24.

Calendar 2020

Agents, Shop-keepers and others may place their order of the IOS calendar 2020 which has following features:

- Page-1 India: Non Performing Asset Write-offs (Rs. Crores) (2009-2018).
- Page-2 World: Multidimensional Poverty Index: Developing Countries - 2019.
- Page-3 World: GDP Expenditure on Education & Population with some secondary Education.
- Page-4 India: Mosques through the Ages (Started from 2011) Four Largest Mosques of India.

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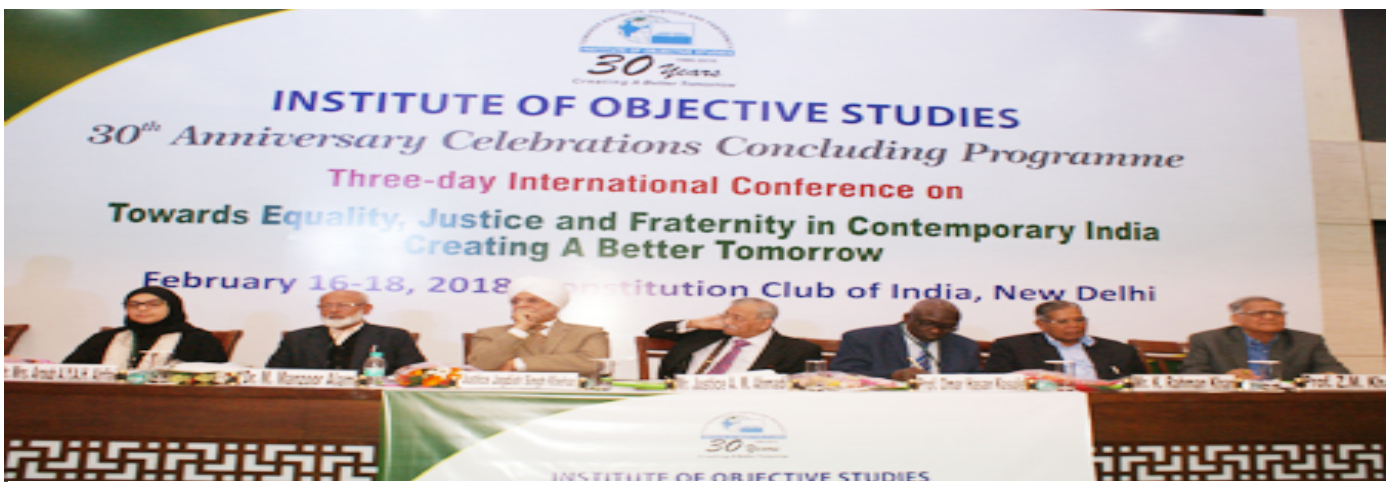
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L-R: Prof. Furqan Qamar, Former Vice-Chancellor of the Central University of Himachal Pradesh and General Secretary, Association of Indian Universities; Prof. Akhtarul Wasey, Vice-Chancellor of Maulana Azad University, Jodhpur; Dr. Shakeel Ahmad, Former Union Minister of State for Communication and Information Technology; Justice AM Ahmadi, Former Chief Justice of India; K. Rahman Khan, Former Union Minister for Minority Affairs; Dr. M. Manzoor Alam, Chairman, IOS; Brigadier S Ahmed Ali, Pro-Vice Chancellor of Aligarh Muslim University; Prof. M. Aslam, Vice-Chancellor of the Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU)



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