



# IOS NEWSLETTER

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## Thought for the Month

Ramadhan is the (month)  
In which was sent down  
The Qur-an, as a guide  
To mankind, also clear (Signs)  
For guidance and judgment  
(Between right and wrong).  
So every one of you  
Who is present (at his home)  
During that month  
Should spend it in fasting,  
But if any one is ill,  
Or on a journey,  
The prescribed period  
(Should be made up)  
By days later.

Al-Quran- 2:185

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## FOCUS

Peace is a state of harmonic co-existence—an earnest desire of all human beings. It enjoys precedence in thought and priority in action. Whenever man has behaved differently, and opted for war, he has done so on some misunderstanding or considered it a prelude to peace. The issue was never understood better than during the two World Wars. The realisation of the significance of peace during the period invoked positive responses from almost all nations of the world, which led to the adoption of many declarations related to peace by the UN General Assembly and a number of operations for peacekeeping in different regions of the world. Efforts to restrict the nuclear culture and destruction by mines are the recent manifestation of the same basic human desire for peace.

To emphasise further, it may be stated that peace is a state of tranquility, serenity and order. It implies calmness, harmony and freedom from war. It is marked by cessation of hostilities and non-existence of strife. As the most cherished desire of humanity and an unending aspiration of every individual, peace in its wider perspective refers to conditions of liberty, good health and security as indicators of development. It has, therefore, a direct nexus with enjoyment of human rights—the rights without which it is not possible either to live or to live like a human being. They are fundamental in their nature and purpose, accordingly sometimes termed as basic human rights. When allowed, they help in the fullest development of human qualities, intelligence, talent and conscience. They improve human dignity, enable maximum use of human capabilities, ensure greater safety and also tend to satisfy the spiritual needs of an individual. Availability of human rights facilitates life with comfort and excellence. Their denial leads to conditions of social imbalance, unrest and violence.

It is not in any way imponderable or difficult to understand that nobody can live, labour, develop and sustain himself without peace; nor can anyone enjoy rights in belligerence. To think of rights in a ruffled and raucous situation is quite moronic and doltish. Even in the biological sense, life is a peaceful, harmonious and coordinated existence of various constituent elements. A placatory situation is a sine qua none of birth, growth and dignity of human beings, while antagonism is a prelude to rage, rowdiness and destruction. Likewise, it can be asserted that peace is a sine qua none of enjoyment of human rights, and belligerence renders life with health, comfort and excellence impossible. Thus peace, human rights and development are interdependent. It is not possible to appreciate and enjoy human rights, including right to economic development, fully without peaceful circumstances and, conversely, it is not possible to maintain peace without securing human rights and economic well-being for all people. Thus, right to peace is the first and foremost right of every human being, as well as that of a group of human beings or a nation, without which other rights cannot be enjoyed. The fact is supported by the unending chain of events in whole human history, which in its reality has been, nonetheless, a struggle for rights and establishment of peace and prosperity.

*From Principal Foundations for Global Peace: A Way Forward for  
Better Future by M. Afzal Wani (ed.), pp. 29-31*

## Activities of the IOS Headquarters

### G.C. Meet

The 71<sup>st</sup> Meeting (six-monthly) of the Governing Council (G.C.) was held on 26.3.2022 at 11:00 a.m. in the Committee Room of the IOS Headquarter in both offline and online mode under the chairmanship of Dr. M. Manzoor Alam.

A total of 25 persons (12 members and 13 special invitees) attended the meeting:

Before taking up the agenda items and starting the business Prof. (Ms.) Haseena Hashia, Asstt. Secretary General, IOS, welcomed the members and special invitees for attending the meeting.

Thereafter, the agenda of the meeting of G.C. was taken up.

- The meeting started with the recitation of verses from the Holy Quran by Prof. Akbar Husain.
- Condolence resolutions on the sad demise of many prominent figures were adopted.
- Thereafter the minutes of the 70<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Governing Council (G.C.) held on September 11, 2021 were presented and confirmed.
- The follow-up Report (Action-taken Report) on the last G.C. meeting was presented before the Governing Council. The same was considered and after deliberations, got approved.
- The report about the progress in respect of MoU signed with Ibn Khaldun University, Indonesia was presented before the members of G.C., who after going through it, expressed their satisfaction.
- The suggestions, given for the revival of MoU signed with International Islamic University, Malaysia, were discussed in detail by the G.C. The members, appreciating the suggestions on the

bye-laws and themes based on the Sustainable Development Goals adopted by the UN emphasised the need to work on the topics such as climate change, peace and justice etc. in contemporary times.

The Chairman, IOS said that the focus of the suggested themes should be based on the Institute's vision to conduct academic research, intellectual studies, etc., and not so on the physical aspect of it. Keeping in mind the suggested topics, the Institute may take up some topics as research projects.

- In the context of Islamic Psychology the suggestions received from Dr. Anwar Ibrahim and Dr. Ahmad Totonji were considered in detail and Prof. Akbar Husain, who is writing the book titled "*Islamic Psychology: History, Theory Practice and Application*", was requested to work on the same lines, as suggested by Dr. Anwar Ibrahim and Dr. Ahmad Totonji.
  - Regarding the IOS Centre for Historical and Civilisational Studies, it was decided that former research scholars from political science, history, psychology, etc., as expertise are to be mobilised. Further, Prof. Syed Jamaluddin, Director, IOS Centre for Historical and Civilisational Studies, was suggested to take up the topics mainly related to history and civilisation.
- Moreover, the Chairman, IOS suggested to focus on the distortion of history by the Hindutva narrative. Besides, Prof. Arshi Khan also suggested to include the topic of Islamic architecture. Other suggestions include food culture, etc.
- Two project proposals – the first titled "*75 Years of Progress in Education*" (submitted by Ms. Naaz Khair) and the second titled "*Achievements and failures of*

*print media in protecting democracy and human rights*" (submitted by Ms. Vaishali), based on "the 5-point agenda as identified by the Prime Minister of India for celebration of 75 years of India's independence", were presented before the G.C. for consideration. The members after going through both the project proposals expressed their satisfaction.

- In regard to the 15<sup>th</sup> Shah Waliullah Award, the Governing Council (G.C) after deliberations endorsed the decision of the Board Administering the Shah Waliullah Award, which is as under:

The topic for the 15<sup>th</sup> Shah Waliullah Award will be "*An Objective Study of Indian History and Culture (Hindustani Tareekh wa Tahzeeb ka Maroozi Mutaleaa)*", while the topic for essay writing competition (under junior category) will be "*Treatment of Muslim rulers to Non-Muslims in India (Hindustan mein ghair musalmanon kay saath Muslim Hukmaranon ka Bartao)*".

Further, Maulana Khalid Saifullah Rahmani will prepare the 'Concept Note' on the theme of the Shah Waliullah Award, while the 'Concept Note' for the essay writing competition will be prepared by Prof. Fahim Akhtar Nadwi. And that the award conferring ceremony may be held either in the last week of August 2022 or in the month of September 2022.

- After discussion about the 10<sup>th</sup> IOS Lifetime Achievement Award it was decided that all the members of the IOS will be requested to suggest the name(s) of the person(s)/organisation(s) (along with their details) for this award within a month so that the name of the person/organization may be finalised.

- Under the suggested list of topics given by the Delhi government for preparing the budget of Delhi for the year 2022-23, the IOS submitted a number of suggestions, focusing on the problems of marginalised sections, to the Delhi government for consideration.

After going through these suggestions, the members of the G.C. expressed their appreciation.

- In regard to the revision of contents/overall outlook of IOS Newsletter

presented before the G.C. members, who, after going through the suggestions, approved the same. Now the office will work out on the same line.

Further, it was also decided that Prof. (Ms.) Haseena Hashia will be the editor of the IOS Newsletter. She very kindly agreed

to take up the responsibilities of editorship of the IOS Newsletter from April 2022 onwards.

- The two-day International Conference on “Need of Inter-religious Understanding for Promoting Peace and Harmony” in collaboration with G.M. Momin Women’s College, Bhiwandi was successfully organised on March 19-20, 2022 at Bhiwandi, Maharashtra. And that the volume on the said conference’s proceedings will be edited by Prof. M. Afzal Wani.

Further, the other three conferences – (i) on the theme “Inter-religious Understanding and Programming for Sustainable Goals of Equality and Fraternity” will be organised in collaboration

with Punjabi University, Patiala, (ii) on the theme “Role of Religions in Promoting Co-existence and Human Development” will be organised in collaboration with Chandigarh University, at Chandigarh, and (iii) on the theme “Role of Religious Diversity in Harnessing Human Values” will be organised in collaboration with Himachal University, for which action will be initiated soon.

- Two-day International Webinar on “Personality and Contribution of



A view of the Governing Council Meeting

Mohammad Asad, as an International Journalist, Linguist, Political Theorist, Mufasssir, and Scholar of Religions in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century” in collaboration with the International Institute of Islamic Thought (IIIT), USA will be organised on 28-29 May, 2022. The other details of this conference are being finalised.

- In regard to the National Conference on “1921: Malabar Revolt” it has been decided that the conference will be organised in online mode sometime in July, 2022 after Eid-ul-Azha.

Regarding the Concept Note, as prepared by Prof. P. Koya, it was pointed out that:

In concerned with the release of English translations of select

writings on the topic, as listed under “Session 8” of the Concept Note of the conference, it was decided that Prof. P. Koya should be requested to send the available literature to the IOS Headquarter as early as possible for forwarding it to prospective resource persons for their consultation.

Prof. Syed Jamaluddin suggested that particularly for themes 6 and 7 scholars are to be mobilised from Kerala. Also, the “Role of Women in the Malabar Revolt” is to be included in the theme. Moreover,

Prof. (Ms.) Haseena Hashia suggested for adding the topic “Impact of consequences of the Malabar Revolt” under the proposed topics of discussion.

It was decided that Prof. Syed Jamaluddin shall coordinate with Prof. P. Koya for organising this conference sometime in July 2022.

- A two-day Workshop on “Social Media: Significance, Issues and Opportunities (Social Media: Ahmiyat, Masael aur Imkanaat)” will be organised jointly by the Institute of Objective Studies (IOS), New Delhi and Dept. of Mass Communication & Journalism, Maulana Azad National Urdu University (MANUU), at Hyderabad after Eid-ul-Fitr. The preparatory work for this workshop is under process.

This matter is being coordinated by Mr. Mohammad Alam and Mr. Shams Tabrez with Prof. Ehtesham A. Khan, Head, Dept. of Mass Communication & Journalism, Maulana Azad Nation Urdu University (MANUU), Hyderabad.



- A Webinar/Seminar on “*Role of Social Scientists in Resolving Socio-Religious Tensions*” under the umbrella of Indian Association of Muslim Social Scientists (IAMSS) will be organised in online mode. The date for organising the webinar/seminar will be decided later on.

Prof. (Ms.) Haseena Hashia will keep Prof. Shamim A. Ansari updated on the latest developments in this matter.

- The conference on “*Awqaf*” will be organised at Pune in June/July 2022.

A letter is to be sent to Mr. A.J. Khan for sending further details of the said conference. Further, Dr. Kaleem Alam was requested to send his suggestions on this matter.

- The report about the progress on the ongoing research projects undertaken by the IOS Headquarter was presented before the Governing Council (G.C.) of the IOS. The members of G.C. and special invitees, after going through the above progress report of the research projects, expressed their satisfaction.
- The progress reports of the translation of the IOS books as well as the translation, review, and editing of the IIIT books were presented before the Governing Council (G.C.) of the IOS, and the same was appreciated.
- Report about the programmes organised by the IOS; Report of journals, newsletters and publications brought out by the IOS Headquarter; Progress of work done in IOS Data Bank during September 2021 to February 2022; Reports about the hits of IOS Website, IOS Data Bank and IOS Current Affairs were presented before the G.C., which, after going through the above reports, expressed its appreciation.

- The proposal for establishing the ‘*IOS Foundation*’, submitted by Dr. Kaleem Alam was discussed at length and after deliberations it was decided that the same should be sent to all the members of the G.C. and special invitees with the request to go through the proposal and give their suggestions/opinion on the same within 15 days for consideration.

Further, it was decided that Prof. Eqbal Hussain will look after the legal affairs of the ‘*IOS Foundation*’ and send his suggestions soon.

- In regard to finalising the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the Institute of Objective Studies, New Delhi and K.M.E Society’s G.M. Momin Women’s College, Bhiwandi, affiliated to University of Mumbai, Maharashtra, after deliberations, it was decided by the G.C. that this MoU should be sent to all the members and special invitees with the request to go through the above MoU and give their suggestions/opinion for finalising the same.

Before the presentation of the vote of thanks by Prof. (Ms.) Haseena Hashia, the Chairman, IOS, took the opportunity to welcome the sacred month of Ramadan. Emphasising the importance of the month of Ramadan, he said that the world is in turmoil and the only solution to this chaos is present in the Holy Qur’an. It is pertinent that we give time to the book of Allah and try to understand the Qur’an with *Tafseer* (meaning), he said.

Besides, he suggested that the attendees of the meeting to present their feedback on the decisions taken during the meeting. The suggestions and feedback will improve the efficiency of the Institute. The larger goal of the IOS should always focus on setting a precedent for future generations, which will encourage the

younger generation to take up similar endeavours for the betterment of society and the upward mobility of the Muslim community, he said. We, as a society, should always focus on humanity and dignity, which has also been highlighted in the Holy Qur’an.

In his concluding remarks, he reiterated that the responsibility to identify new scholars fall on everyone, and this will further help the Institute to keep up with the changing and contemporary perspective.

In the end, Prof. (Ms.) Haseena Hashia, Assistant Secretary General of the IOS, acknowledging the full cooperation and active support by all the members of Governing Council (G.C.) of the IOS and special invitees, thanked all of them.

### **IOS publication on ‘Year Book 2021-Educational Status of Muslims in India: Strive for Bright Future’ Released**

An online programme for the release of the ‘Year Book 2021-Educational Status of Muslims in India: Strive for Bright Future’, authored by Rubina Tabassum, development professional, education sector, was organised by the Institute of Objective Studies on March 8, 2022 at its headquarter. It may be recalled that this is the latest publication of the Institute.

The programme formally began with the recitation of a verse from the Holy Qur’an by Hafiz Athar Hussain Nadwi.

The programme was moderated by an eminent economist, Dr Amir Ullah Khan, who also introduced the author. In his welcome address, the Secretary General of the IOS, Prof. Z.M. Khan, said that this was the second publication of the series and its importance lay in the treatment of the subject. She took an incisive view of the state of education among Muslims, he added. In her study, she also touched upon the status of enrolment in schools. Referring to the role of women in the spread of education, he

said that a guild of Muslim educational institutions should be created to give thrust to education in the community. The IOS, too, would do something in the field, he added.

Dr. Amir Ullah Khan held that due to Covid-19, educational activities were confined to online mode for two years. Education today faced its toughest challenges due to a variety of problems. Praising Rubina Tabassum for her work, he said that suggestions made by her for the education of children would go a long way in achieving the goal of education for all.

Introducing her book, Rubina Tabassum held that the task assigned before her was very challenging, and she took it at its face value. She succeeded in her task due to her background in education and the seriousness she attached to the subject. Sharing her presentation on the screen, she explained the educational status of Muslims in India. The book, divided into six chapters, has a historical

background and the educational background of Muslims in India, among other topics. She said that Anglo-Arabic schools in India played an important role in the early years of the popularisation of education. She briefly discussed the role of Muslim educational reformers in India and the state of Muslim education in the country. She also focused on the educational level of Muslims at the state and the national levels. Referring to the Muslim womenfolk as a double minority, she said that the status of Muslim females left much to be desired. She suggested that educational backwardness among Muslims in India could be addressed by way of framing

policies, programmes and other initiatives.

Rubina Tabassum commented that gaps and challenges in reforms in formal education among Muslims should be identified and rectified as more Muslims fell off the education ladders. She said that the widening gap at the college level and above was worrisome. She made certain recommendations, which included collecting and making data related to Muslim education, mapping Muslim-managed educational institutions, and promoting the education of Muslim students in premier minority universities. She also recommended that the change in the social behaviour change of the community should be

government rejected the post-Sachar Committee report outright. Thus both the Sachar Committee and post-Sachar Committee reports were put in the cold storage. Deprivation of Muslims, particularly in education, had blocked avenues of their progress. Even after 16 years of the Sachar Committee report, the government did not take a position on it. He observed that the deprivation of Muslims in various fields had not yet been updated. Appreciating the book, he said that it was very difficult to write a book, especially when one had to contend with the problem of the database. This decade saw a new low as employment data had been rejected, and no other data on employment was available.

Similarly, data on poverty was not available. Data on education in relation to the income level was also scarce. So was the case with the figures on education in relation to the economic deprivation. He held that facts did not exist on their own; they were generated after an exhaustive exercise. There should be a strong line while presenting the data. Data was what the eyes believed. Holding that rural Muslims were

badly affected during the Covid-19 pandemic, he called for giving primary education to Muslim women.

Speaking as the guest of honour, the Chairman, Delhi Co-operative Housing Finance Corporation Ltd., Rajesh Goyal, insisted that information and data are relevant in today's world. He expressed the hope that the book would bust several myths being spread about different communities. He extended good wishes to Rubina Tabassum for her book.

As a key speaker, eminent journalist John Dayal observed that education was not meant to collect



A view of the speakers

studied, and also the mapping of Muslim-managed educational institutions should be done. Besides, she called for the designing of programmes and policies.

Distinguished Fellow, Research and Information Centre for Developing Countries, Prof. Amitabh Kundu released the book online (symbolically) on the occasion. In his address, Dr. Kundu said that the yearbook focused on the status of Muslim women. He said that he headed the evaluation committee on the Sachar Committee Report. When he submitted the report, it was the NDA government in power. The

degrees. The empowerment of a person was a key point that could be achieved through education only. Illustrating his point further, he said that the real strength of education was displayed when burqa-clad women of Jamia Millia Islamia came out of the campus to protest against the Citizenship (Amendment) Act (CAA). Education was also helpful in controlling population growth. He also batted for a complete comparative data on the educational backwardness of Muslims vis a vis other communities.

Former Vice-Chancellor of the Central University of Himachal Pradesh, Prof. Furqan Qamar, said that the data on education and health issues were important, but they should be seen from a social perspective. Commenting on the book, he noted that it was one of the resource books. Rubina Tabassum, despite several hurdles, performed her job very well. Referring to the all India survey of education, he held that the issues and challenges involved in it were many. Out of a population of about 20 crores, only 21 lakh Muslims were pursuing higher education. This spoke volumes about the low participation of Muslims in higher education. The intake of Muslims in the Indian Institute of Technology (IITs) was a bare 0.2 per cent. He pleaded for making efforts to prepare students for competing with others for admission to quality institutions of higher education.

Eminent educationist P.A. Inamdar from Pune pointed out that in Islam, education has been a continuous process from birth to death. Muslims needed to keep pace with the paradigm shift in technology. No efforts should be spared to make children from the age of three to 12 fluent in English. He said that currently, the enrolment of Muslims in medical colleges was only 8 per cent. The number of medical colleges managed by Muslims stood at 20, and more and more professional colleges needed to be opened to train Muslim students professionally. This would require more trained teachers in

technology and other sciences. He invited young teachers to his campus for training. He believed that children should be taught spoken English. The methodology should change with the increase of educational institutions, and madrasas should impart religious education along with modern education. He said that 27,000 students were studying in his institutions. Things had become better than before, and if the community wanted to improve its plight further, it must remove blackboards and switch over to technology, he emphasised.

Dr. Malika Mistry, retired professor of economics, lauded the IOS for publishing 12 books on education. She said that the Institute was really doing an excellent job in different areas of study and research. Admitting that it was very difficult to collect data, she asked the Muslim community to educate the entire family. Both boys and girls should be educated with missionary zeal. She deplored that many well-off Muslims did not want to come out to help their brethren.

Prof. Arshi Khan from the Department of Political Science, Aligarh Muslim University, observed that the book had a lot of information on where the Muslims stood on education indicators. However, additional improvements needed to be made to make it more exhaustive. He said that Muslims were at a double disadvantage; they were highly deprived, and their representation in elected bodies of the government was almost zero. He sought to know where the Muslims were before Independence. He saw a change in the nature of the government before and after Independence. There was deliberate indifference to Muslims on the part of the government. The problem of enrolment of Muslim students in educational institutions was also a big challenge. He said that Muslims were off state and were not governing the state. He stressed that the community should be given extra care.

Prof. Nasreen from the Department of Education, AMU, held that Rubina Tabassum raised pertinent questions in her book. All the scenarios of pre and post-Independence were covered in the book. She said that education was a powerful tool to empower Muslims. Case studies of families and institutions had been included in the book to have a better understanding of the educational backwardness of Muslims. Muslims should be given the freedom of choice. She urged Muslim women to take a pledge to help women in need. She called for research on social issues.

Vice-Chairman, IOS, Prof. M. Afzal Wani, praised the author for making good efforts. The data made available in the book was in good context. Several issues regarding Muslims have been analysed in the yearbook. She focused on enrolment and the level of education, besides the scenario of education. He said that several factors, including economic and self-employment, needed to be taken into account while dealing with the subject. He called for connecting with the mission of education and driving for enrolment of Muslim boys and girls. Every Muslim wanted to get a good education, but there were constraints. They needed support for mainstream education. He asked for preparing modules for educational institutions. He also stressed the need for thought producing institutions.

In his presidential remarks, the Chairman, IOS, Dr. Mohammad Manzoor Alam, said that a delegation led by the Ex-Chief Justice of India, Justice A.M. Ahmadi, met the UPA Chairperson, Sonia Gandhi in 2013 and discussed social, economic and political problems facing Indian Muslims. Later, the members of the delegation met the then Prime Minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh, who appointed a committee headed by Justice Rajinder Sachar. He said that he presented a set of books to him on Muslim issues published by the IOS. Then the Kundu Committee report on



the action taken on Sachar Committee recommendations was submitted to the then Minister of Minority Affairs, Government of India, Najma Heptullah. But no response was received from her office. Congratulating Rubina Tabassum for her work, he hoped that the next volume of the book would be out soon with more information. He held that education was the ornament of humanity and exhorted the younger generation to build future. He asked them to take a lesson from the past and plan for the future for the welfare of humanity. He said that the IOS always stood for the motto—sit, think and work together. He advised to not step into the darkness and produce light to drive away darkness, he concluded.

The function ended with a formal vote of thank extended by Ibrahim Alam, Director, Genuine Publications and Media Pvt. Ltd., New Delhi.

**IOS book on ‘The Role of Communication in Political Empowerment of Women Panchayati Raj Functionaries: A Field Study of Baramullah District of Kashmir’ Released**

The Institute of Objectives Studies organised an online programme to release the book, ‘The Role of Communication in Political Empowerment of Women Panchayati Raj Functionaries: A Field Study of Baramullah District of Kashmir’, written by Dr. Afsana Rashid, Assistant Professor of Media Education Research Centre, University of Kashmir on February 28, 2022. It may be recalled that this is the latest addition to the books published by the IOS.

The programme commenced with the recitation of a verse from the Quran by Hafiz Syed Athar Husain Nadwi.

In his welcome address, the Secretary General of the Institute, Prof. Z.M. Khan, said that he had a chance to visit Baramullah and found the place very charming. Referring to the book, he observed that it was an important work on the district. Half of the population of ummah could benefit from Panchayati Raj institutions if they functioned properly. Hailing the book as very valuable, he opined that Kashmir was attracting the world’s attention to the empowerment of women. This area of work could not receive much attention, and the IOS was open to assisting the project like

for educational infrastructure at the panchayat level. Information, education and participative role for women were necessary to make them truly representative of panchayati raj institutions. Practical field demonstrations were equally important. Women’s participation was handicapped by lack of exposure and ignorance. They required more communication tools and community support, she emphasised.

Speaking as a key speaker, Ex-Chairman of the Delhi Minorities Commission, Dr. Zafarul Islam Khan, observed that political and social empowerment of women was a key to ensure their fair representation at various levels of decision-making. To buttress his point, he argued that women got only 9 percent representation in the Rajya Sabha. It was the aristocratic women who grabbed the opportunities. Reservation to women in Jammu and Kashmir was provided in 1996 through central legislation. Pointing to the problem of proxy culture, he said that women were represented by their husbands, adding that the role of media and



A view of the speakers

the one she undertook, he added. Introducing her book, Dr. Afsana Rashid pointed out that the work was based on her thesis ‘Empowerment with Panchayati Raj institutions and disparity between theory and practice: Ignorance and biases’. She said that 33 per cent reservation to women at the grass-root level was sufficient. The majority of women were illiterate, though devolution of power offered them a role in local-self government. They needed socio-political space. She held that the communication helped them play their role in decision-making, and mass media created awareness among them. She pleaded

communication was very important in this connection. He held that Kashmiris started working in the field of journalism in the early nineties. Several young men made their debut in journalism and the national media, he added. Director, Women’s Studies Centre, University of Kashmir, Prof. Tabassum Firdous, sought to know if women were really empowered in panchayati raj institutions. She said that when one talked of women’s empowerment, he should also factor in the structure available to them for the purpose. There were security-related issues, besides the problem of mobilising funds. They were not

empowered because of the lack of women's role in decision-making. They were considered a subordinated entity because of their gender. She flagged that women were living in a conflict zone since they could not move freely. Women were not literate and thus could not discharge their responsibilities very effectively. She urged the women representatives in Panchayati Raj institutions to come up with plans at meetings. She described the book as a tremendous work and hoped that it would be an addition to the available literature.

Former Vice-Chancellor, Uttarakhand Open University, Prof. Subash Dhuliya, regretted that most of the Ph.D. theses were not impactful. Compared to research on the subject in other universities, Afsana Rashid's work certainly deserved acclaim. Explaining the role of media in the empowerment of women, he said that it created awareness among women about the importance of the grass-root level of democracy. He maintained that the late Rajiv Gandhi ensured funds for Panchayati Raj institutions, but most of the money was pocketed by politicians. Democracy was not just to win elections but also to strengthen its institutions. In a democracy, informed citizens should remain vigilant, and the media should be focused on how these institutions function. In order to fill the gap, a new kind of communication channel should be launched. Due to the bombardment of the media, this was called the age of misinformation and propaganda. He called for empowering women by the use of new technology in the field of communication.

He also laid emphasis on creating a set-up for the empowerment of women at the grass-root level. Social media platforms and other forms of media should be used to empower them, he added.

Senior journalist and columnist, A.J. Philip, commented that reading this research work was interesting. Sharing his own experience, he said that sometime back, women

outnumbered men in the daily Hindustan Times. He also recounted his experience in Katihar, where a woman sarpanch was not allowed due to the lack of women's empowerment. Today, nearly 44 per cent of students were girls. They were more studious and disciplined than boys. Expressing his happiness, he said that it presented a good study. Kashmiri women were not educated, but they were empowered in terms of communication, he remarked. Noted social activist Dr Shaikh Ghulam Rasool, who wrote a lot on Panchayati Raj and grass-root level democracy, insisted that women's empowerment should be made an issue of discussion. He encouraged girls to work for financial independence.

Renowned scholar and media representative, Dr. Muslim Jan Fazili, held that Dr. Afsana's work was very important from the prism of women's empowerment at the grass-root level of democracy. Women should be empowered with information, education and skill development, and by enabling them to be conscious of the environment through discussion and training, women could erase prejudices. She noted that numbers did not necessarily lead to desired results. Women must be given the power of decision-making, which is at a very low level currently. It was due to the domination of men. She said that a woman was emotionally very scientific, and her contribution in different fields could not be underestimated.

Women's representation at the political level was also very low. Information systems should be expanded to show women as important members of society. Today, women are raising their voices and reporting on domestic violence. Digital media gave voice to them to react on YouTube, blogs and Facebook. Women were coming outside and proving the best. She called for giving space to women in the media.

In his presidential remarks, Vice-Chairman of the IOS, Prof. M. Afzal

Wani, released Afsana's book. He said that the 1992 amendment to the Panchayati Raj Act clearly gave power to women. Underlining the need for a communication strategy, he asked women to be very communicative. Women had a note under the Constitution, and hence they were grass-root constitutional functionaries. They had been constitutionally mandated to play a comprehensive and wide role as stakeholders. Fourteen hundred years ago, the Prophet (PBUH) had said that men and women had equal rights. He asked them to develop modules of communication. A man could never be higher than a woman because she gave birth to him. Illiteracy in Baramullah was a rarity than reality, he concluded.

Assistant Secretary General of the IOS, Prof. Haseena Hashia, who conducted the proceedings of the function, proposed a vote of thanks to the participants.

### **IOS-Jamia Hamdard jointly organise 5-day online Winter School Programme in Islamic Studies**

A five-day online Winter School Programme in Islamic Studies was jointly organised by the Institute of Objective Studies and Jamia Hamdard from February 21 to 25, 2022 at New Delhi.

#### **Inaugural Session**

The programme formally commenced with the recitation of a verse from the Holy Quran by Hafiz Athar Husain Nadwi. While the Head of the Department of Islamic Studies, Jamia Hamdard, Dr. Arshad Hussain delivered the welcome address, the Secretary General of IOS, Prof. Z.M. Khan, explained the objectives of the programme. In his welcome address, Dr. Arshad Hussain expressed his gratitude to the participants and thanked the IOS for extending cooperation to Jamia Hamdard for organising a mega programme for the benefit of students and researchers of Islamic Studies. Prof. Z.M. Khan, who



also presided over the session, observed that the winter school programme was an opportunity to reach out to those who were interested in enhancing their knowledge in the subject, but could not benefit due to the situation created by the Covid-19 pandemic. This also assumed importance against the backdrop of the crisis. He further noted that lack of knowledge about the glorious past of Islam led to a host of misgivings about it. Whatever came from the west about Islam, was not true. Islam could not have sustained itself for so long had it not contributed to every field of life. Nobody could dispute that the present time was very difficult, and things could be understood in proper perspective by expressing oneself to study and research. He categorised human personality as the physical self, emotional self, rational self and spiritual self. He pleaded for the scientific study of Islam by way of questioning and methodology in order to get answers.

Addressing the session as key speaker, former Vice-Chancellor, Maulana Azad National Urdu University (MANUU), Hyderabad, Prof. Md. Aslam Parvaiz, stressed the need for the interface study of Islamic Studies with other disciplines, like environment, world resources, planets, etc. He said that environment and planet conservation were also a part of Islamic Studies, and therefore, they must be included in the curriculum. Globally, it meant urgent attention to Islamic Studies. Then the question naturally arose how Islam was capable of tackling today's issues. He urged that *maulvis* and *khatibs* to find ways and means to address issues that were confronting the *Ummah*. He suggested that Islamic Studies should

take the contemporary issues to the public by organising workshops, lectures, symposia, etc. Recounting his own experience, he said that being born in old Delhi, he continued to be associated with his own people. Quoting *Surah Al-Qasas*, he observed that the Quran was a Book of guidance for the entire humanity. If this was so, then the question arose whether the Muslims read it at all. Reading and understanding Quran, and following it was mandatory for every Muslim. A faithful was ordained to be a puritanist, meaning thereby, he had to be God-conscious, he said.

Prof. Aslam Pervez maintained that Allah's religion had no place for

of family broke up due to the obsession with self. He said that Muslims used many alibis to justify their desires. Today, more often than not, the Quran is taught without knowing the meanings of *Ayahs*. Those who were enjoying worldly pleasures were oblivious to the Quranic *Ayahs*. Quran ordained every Muslim to faithfully believe in all the Messengers of Allah and the Day of Judgment. All believers are the followers of Islam and were required to totally submit themselves to divine guidance, he said.

Prof. Pervez minced no words when he said that, by and large, Muslims hardly did good to others. Referring to *Hijrat*, he said that it was not a geographical migration and that a born Muslim was not a Muslim. Muslims today needed to re-orient their understanding about Allah. He opined that if one followed Islam strictly, it came into conflict with society, rituals, customs and the family. The majority of Muslims

spent their entire life without understanding the Quran. Din implied submission to Allah and His Law, and Allah nurtured those who followed His Din. A Muslim was the generator of peace, and he must be at peace with himself. He concluded by observing that Allah did not change men's condition unless they changed themselves.

Speaking as the chief guest, the Vice-Chancellor of Jamia Hamdard, Prof. Afshar Alam, observed that the winter school programme in Islamic Studies had been specially designed for the young scholars to re-orient themselves in the discipline. He said that Islamic Studies faced problems of



A view of the speakers

negativity, and the Quran is a guide to the righteous path. Quran was a guide book that gave humanity the best way for living. Nature provided a model of synthesis to humanity which could be learnt from the life of a tree. A tree contained a number of industries in itself. It had chemicals and sugar, besides other things. He said that all the revealed Books had the same message. The Holy Quran was the latest of them all. The Quran says, "Follow what has been revealed to you from your Fosterer and Do not follow guardians besides Him." This meant that the faithful must follow the divine guidance and avoid being self-centered. He noted that the institution

methodology. This brought the scholars in the field to organise more such winter school programmes for refreshing students and the young scholars alike. He urged the IOS Chairman, Dr. Mohammad Manzoor Alam, to hold such programmes in future as well for the benefit of students. He praised Prof. Aslam Pervez for making valuable points in his presentation. On this occasion, he released two books written by the Finance Secretary of the IOS, the late Prof. Ishtiaque Danish. The books he released are—'Islamic Studies and the Future of India' and '*Hindustan Ka Mustaqbil Aur Islam*' (in Urdu).

Prof. Mohammad Ishaque of the Department of Islamic Studies, Jamia Millia Islamia, who was the guest of honour at the session, said that the release of Prof. Ishtiaque Danish's books on the occasion was the best tribute to him. He held that Muslims possessed a rich legacy of Islam, and one needed to benefit from it. Referring to the Western scholar of Islamic history, Philip K. Hitti, he said that Europe faced intellectual and economic decay in the wake of the fall of Roman Empire. The period between the 8th and 9th centuries was a transitional phase in Europe. He referred to Allama Shibli's observations about Islamic glory in various fields. Iranians excelled in the intellectual sphere. But unfortunately, the vast Iranian literature could not be translated into other languages. However, the glorious past of Islam could not be underestimated, he said. Prof. Syed Mehrtaj Begum, Dean of Humanities and Social Sciences, Jamia Hamdard, joined the session as the special guest. Making her concluding remarks, she said that the course for the winter school programme was encapsulated to enhance the knowledge of attendee students.

In his presidential remarks, Prof. Z.M. Khan observed that the IOS had been constantly making endeavours to bring intellectuals together. He explained the need and relevance of

the winter school programme. It was also a moot point to debate how far Islamic Studies could contribute to the solution of present-day issues. He said that the Corona time changed the world a lot in terms of issues and their resolution. The present age was the age of super connectivity but the bonds were losing. The gap between developed and developing nations was widening. The onus now rested on the intellectuals to tackle it and create a humane society. He held that the present generation sought answers to these questions. And the Quran had answers to these questions. He said that inter-organisational connectivity should be established to provide answers to these questions. Islam was being targeted from all sides, and instead of fighting against such forces, they should be confronted with arguments based on the Quranic teachings and the Hadith, he remarked.

The inaugural session concluded with a vote of thanks by Dr. Najmus Sahar, convenor of the programme and Assistant Professor of Islamic Studies, Jamia Hamdard.

#### **Business Session-I**

The first business session focused on Islam and knowledge. Dr. Anvar Sadath K.T., Assistant Professor, SSA College, Areekode, Kerala, said that the importance of knowledge was explained in the Hadith. According to it, scholars were heir to the Prophet (PBUH). Quranic verses and Hadith both highlighted the importance of knowledge, he noted.

#### **Business Session-II**

The moderator of the session was Dr. Najmus Sahar. In lecture-I, Dr. Tamanna Mobeen Azmi, J.M.I., presented her paper on 'Islam as Faith and Civilisation' in which she said that Islam was an Arabic word, which meant submission, surrender and obedience. Belief in *Tawhid* and belief in the Prophet (PBUH) were basic tenets of Islam, she added. Lecture-II was devoted to *Aqeeda: Tawhid Risalat and Akhirat*. In his lecture,

Prof. Mohammad Ishaque explained that *Imaan* assumed special significance in Islam. *Imaan* meant complete faith in Allah, His Messengers, Angels, and the Day of Judgment. He said that the existence of God could not be denied, adding that He put humankind to tests and trials.

#### **Day-2, February 22, 2022 Business Session-III**

##### **Lecture-I**

The first lecture of the session focused on 'An approach study of the women empowerment and Islamic discourse. While the Assistant Secretary General of the IOS, Prof. Haseena Hashia, was the moderator, Dr. Asma Zehra, member, working committee, All India Muslim Personal Law Board, spoke on the topic. She said that the empowerment of women implied women's social and economic improvement. Empowerment meant empowering women at the individual and community level. In Islam, she was liberated from illiteracy and poverty. She noted that women, in many cases, were economically weak and dependent on men. She urged the community to send girls to schools and women to colleges.

##### **Lecture-II**

In this lecture, Secretary, Jamaat-e-Islami Hind, Dr. Raziul Islam Nadvi, spoke on compilation of the Quran. He said that the Quran was not revealed in book form. The Prophet (PBUH) spent 13 years in Makkah and 10 years in Medina. Thus, the Holy Quran took 23 years to be revealed to the Prophet (PBUH). There was a difference of opinion among the scholars regarding compilation of the Quran. The Quran was compiled in three phases and order of Surahs was decided under the instructions of the Prophet (PBUH).

##### **Lecture-III**

The last lecture of the session was devoted to compilation of the Hadith. Dr. Waris Mazhari, Assistant Professor, Islamic Studies, Jamia Hamdard, touched upon the topic. In

his lecture, Dr. Mazhari underlined the significance of the subject. He said that Hadith was the second source of Shariah and played a key role in constructing Islamic thought and culture. There was also suspicion about the compilation and presentation of Hadith. A group of scholars rejected Hadith. He observed that Hadith expanded the scope of the Quran. Some scholars, however, refused to consider Hadith as the source of Shariah.

The Prophet (PBUH) himself forbade the writing of the Hadith. He said, "Anyone who attributes false reports to me will certainly find himself a place in Hellfire". He held that three ways of protection and preservation of Prophetic Traditions were found. While the first was for the *Ummah* to act upon the Hadith, the second was by way of memorisation and writing. And lastly, it was narrating and teaching Hadith in study circles.

#### **Business Session-IV**

##### **Lecture-I**

The first lecture of the session focused on 'Revelation and its Application: Focus on Quran and Sunnah as sources of Shariah', which led to emergence of *fiqh*. While Syed Abdur Rasheed moderated the session, Dr. Mohammad Khalid Khan, Assistant Professor, JMI, spoke on the subject. He said that *Wahy* (Revelation) belonged to Allah and He chose the best among human beings to reveal His message through him. The Prophet whom the *Wahy* was revealed, was ordained to guide His subjects. *Wahy* is of two types—Direct speech and indirect speech. His indirect speech is in the form of Hadith. He said that the Quran was the first source of Shariah and Hadith was the second source of it. *Muhaddisins* (Scholars of Hadith) preserved the Hadith. None else understood the Quran better than the Prophet (PBUH) himself. Certain Ahadith (were supportive of Hadith, he concluded.

##### **Lecture-II**

The second lecture devoted to the development of *Fiqh* and *Ijtihad* was delivered by Prof. Fahim Akhtar Nadvi, Professor, Islamic Studies, MANUU. He said that during the lifetime of the Prophet, *Fiqh* did not develop as an art. He observed that *Fiqh* was an Arabic word which had been used in the Quran in several places. *Fiqh* meant the understanding of *Deen*. *Fiqh* was taken from both Quran and Hadith. According to some Islamic scholars, *Fiqh* was 200-250 years old. As far as *Ijtihad* is concerned, the Prophet (PBUH) himself called for it. He (PBUH) was followed by His *Khulfa-i-Rashideen* (Companions of the Prophet (PBUH)). He said that the need for *Ijtihad* arose when the answer to an issue was not available in Quran or Hadith. He observed that the Prophet (PBUH) never raised an objection to differences of opinion. Thus the doors for *Ijtihad* had not been closed, he added.

#### **Day-3, February 23, 2022**

##### **Business Session-V**

##### **Lecture-I**

The fifth business session was focused on Islam and secularism. Dr. Syed Fazluar Rahman of Jamia Hamdard was the moderator and Dr. Sher Ali Tarin from Franklin & Marshall College, USA, spoke on the subject. He said that secularism was not opposite of the religion. There did exist an assumed binary between religion and secularism. Modern states' function was to maintain public order through laws. But the complication lay in striking a balance between religion and politics. He observed that the idea of political secularism was to separate religion from politics. Religious differences were haunting the sovereignty of modern states. Secularism was a western concept, which came out of evangelical, Christian and protestant understanding of religion. He said that until one controlled religion, it would spill out.

##### **Lecture-II**

The second lecture was devoted to non-Muslims in the Arab-Islamic World (Syria, Lebanon and Egypt). Speaking on the topic, Prof. Hamidullah Marazi from the Central University of Kashmir held that Palestine was inhabited by about 75.3 per cent Jews, and Muslims constituted only 25 percent. Christians had their churches in the Arab-Islamic world, but they were never persecuted. About 20,000 Zoroastrians lived in Iran, but no discrimination based on their religion was ever made. Similarly, Buddhists, Hindus, Sikhs, Zoroastrians and even atheists were living peacefully in the middle-east. They had their places of worship and were never prevented from worshipping according to their faith. He said that when the *Meesaq-e-Madina* (Constitution of Medina) was signed, the Prophet (PBUH) called Muslims and Jews, because both of them believed in *Tawhid* (Oneness of God). There was no scope for violence in Islam as it never advocated violence. But, a negative image of Islam was built up in western media. He asked the Muslims to acquaint themselves with the rules under international law that dealt with the minorities.

##### **Lecture-III**

Dr. Thanveer T., Lecturer, T.K.M. College of Arts and Sciences, discussed important medieval Muslim contributions to Kalam and Philosophy.

#### **Business Session-VI**

Focused on the major medieval Muslim contribution to humanities and science, the lecture was moderated by Dr. Najmus Sahar. Speaking on the topic, the Ex-Head of the Department of Islamic Studies, Aliya University, Kolkata, Syed Abdur Rasheed said that Muslims made significant contributions to history and historiography, *Sirah* writing, economics, geography, political science, ethics, etc. He listed some of the important names of prominent



authors who wrote in Arabic and Persian.

**Day-4, February 24, 2022**  
**Business Session-VII**

**Lecture-I**

The first lecture of the session was centered on non-Muslims during the time of the Prophet (PBUH) and Rashidun Caliphate. The moderator of the session was Dr. Waris Matin Mazhari. Dr. Saifuddin Kunju S., faculty, Madras University, Chennai, held that Islam preached that the followers of other religion should be free to practise their own faith. He said that God created human beings with certain dignity. Muslims and non-Muslims were alike. He elevated their status much above other creatures, Dr. Kunju added.

**Lecture-II**

The lecture was devoted to non-Muslims under the Muslim empires, with reference to Muslim Spain and the Ottomans. Speaking on the subject, Dr. Mohammed Farooqui, Assistant Professor, JMI, said that Hindus and Muslims in India face off roots in the intolerance that existed in Spain. The battle in Spain was fought with no disrespect to religious sensibilities of other religions like Christians and Jews. There were two types of people there—*Ahle-Harab*—those who were in wars and *Ahle-Ahad*—those who were engaged in negotiations. In the early phase of history, Muslims in Spain interacted with both Christians and Jews, he noted.

**Lecture-III**

The last lecture of the session focused on the Islamic state in the modern world. Dr. Mohammad Ghitreef from AMU spoke on the subject. He said that the judiciary, legislature and the executive were the three components of a modern Islamic state. In the Islamic state, the source of the constitution would be the Quran and Sunnah. Nearly 40 per cent of the Muslim population lived in non-Muslim countries, like India, Japan,

England, American and European countries. Under the circumstances, the concept of *Zimmis* or *Jihad* could not be applied in these countries, he added.

**Business Session-VIII**

**Lecture-I**

Dr. Md. Ahmad Naimi, Assistant Professor, Islamic Studies, Jamia Hamdard, was the moderator of the lecture. Prof. Hamidullah Marazi spoke on the topic of 'Islam and Multiculturalism: Modern Debate and Islamic position on the subject'. He said that in Indonesia, UAE, Malaysia and other Muslim countries, the rights of the minority groups were protected, and tolerance towards them existed. They synthesised multi-culturalism since multicultural societies had diverse cultures, he noted.

**Lecture-II**

The second lecture was focused on Muslims' contribution to science, astronomy, medical science and mathematics during the medieval period. While Dr. Syed Fazlur Rahman moderated the lecture, Dr. Md. Ahmad Naimi spoke on the subject. He quoted the noted scientist Albert Einstein, who had said, "Science without religion is lame and religion without science is blind". He said that what the Quran and Hadith informed about foetus 1400 years ago had been proved by the modern science much later. Medical units were formed for the first time during the Prophet's (PBUH) lifetime. The first hospital was established by Muslims in 931 A.D. There were medical colleges and residences for the doctors. Hospitals were opened in Damascus and Baghdad, he observed.

**Day-5, February 25, 2022**  
**Business Session-IX**

**Lecture-I**

The moderator of the session was Maulana Shah Ajmal Farooq Nadvi. Dr. Talha Rehman of Gulf Asian English School, Sharjah, who spoke on 'Non-Muslims in the Modern Islamic

States: Citizens or Zimmies, said that there were two types of citizens. Under the first category were non-resident citizens and resident citizens. Under the second category were aliens. At that time, people did not experience citizenship or any other kind of political membership in the same way. Some of the factors that shaped these experiences were, socio-political, economic, besides those belonging to a disadvantaged groups—minorities and women—and history, she held.

**Lecture-II**

The topic of the second lecture was 'Islam and Modernity'. Dr. Safia Amir, Assistant Professor, Jamia Hamdard, spoke on the subject. She said that modernity began with the invention of printing in 1450 and the second phase of modernity was witnessed during the Renaissance (15th -17th centuries).

**Business Session-X**

This session was devoted to Islamophobia in the contemporary world. The session was moderated by Dr. Najmus Sahar. Dr. Saeed T.V., Associate Professor, Yobe State University, Nigeria, spoke on the topic. He said that Islamophobia had a political role. The Uttar Pradesh government tried to do something in the name of madrasa reforms. He advised that, instead of depending on the government, madrasa management should do something on its own.

**Valedictory Session**

In his keynote address, Secretary General, International Institute of Islamic Thought (IIIT), USA, Prof. Omar Hasan Kasule, focused on 'The Way Ahead: Regenerating Knowledge in Islamic Perspective'. He said that the generation of knowledge and its integration was important. Calling for integrating textbooks to generate knowledge, he observed that Allah gave man the knowledge to discover what was right and what was wrong. He stressed that constructive and purposeful knowledge should be pursued, which is also promoted in

Islam. *Ilmul-Yaqeen* was the core of knowledge. Pleading for the revival of knowledge sciences, he said that the *maqasid-e-shariah* was the revival of religious sciences. Revival of knowledge was possible through intellectual pursuits, education and the teaching of knowledge. He asked for integrating transmitted knowledge with the *Naqli* knowledge, which was gained by experiments. There was a need for the regeneration of holistic knowledge. This required a trans-disciplinary approach. This also meant the integration of *Ilm Asli* and *Naqli*. Regeneration of knowledge in the Islamic language meant the Quran. Languages spoken by Muslims were inter-related. He held that the Urdu language had big sources of regeneration of knowledge. He emphasised the need for using digital languages like coding and software applications. He advised against being a consumer of knowledge. Laying stress on online teaching and research, he called upon Muslim youth to become pioneers of knowledge. He asked them to develop a capacity for information and research, and to know how to do *Dawah*. He asked for using technology to promote research of knowledge.

Speaking as the special guest, Prof. Iqtidar Mohammad Khan, Ex-Head of the Department of Islamic Studies, said that Islamic Studies was a subject based on the perspective of Islam. It was a social science, history and civilisational study. He observed that the study of Quran, Hadith and *Fiqh* was also necessary for a student of Islamic Studies. Since there was a reference in the Quran, importance to the study of biology, zoology, etc., as a part of Islamic sciences should be given. The faithful had been asked even to go to China for seeking knowledge. This meant that, besides Quran and Hadith, modern sciences should also be studied. He pointed out that 70 persons who were caught as prisoners in the battle of Badr were asked by the Prophet (PBUH) to give education to 10

Muslims each. They gave them education that was prevalent at that time. Muslims remained dominant till they pursued the course of religious and contemporary learning. When they shunned that course, their downfall began and Islamic knowledge and science made their way to Europe via Spain. Europeans put their seal on it and ruled over the world for the next 300-400 years. He recalled the Prophet's last sermon and asked Muslims to keep Quran close to their heart and remain united.

In his concluding remarks, the Head of the Department of Islamic Studies, Jamia Hamdard, Dr. Arshad Hussain observed that the 5-day winter school was a beginning and more such programmes would be organised in future.

In his presidential remarks, Vice-Chairman, IOS, Prof. M. Afzal Wani, observed that the Institute had structured courses like winter and summer schools. He said that sometimes one should go beyond traditional ways of teaching courses. One should take a break from everyday teaching. These types of school programmes gave an opportunity to the students to open their intellect. This also gave an occasion for the mind to think in one's own way. When one was serious, he created an idea. Rationally, one thought of Quran, Sunnah and Hadith in his mind without being imposed. For 300 years, the West created knowledge. Thus the Muslims' actions must be harmonious with knowledge. He called for creating a system that could inculcate more knowledge, human activity and social sciences. One must have faith in Allah because He is the source of knowledge. He said that the winter school programme provided an opportunity to ponder upon more about *Akhirat*, *Tawhid*, *Risalat*, *Aqeedat*; etc. Knowledge should be in conformity with the Quran and Hadith. The IOS stood for the creation of knowledge in every branch, he concluded.

The Assistant Secretary General of the IOS, Prof. Haseena Hashia, extended a vote of thanks and remarked that this was the 10th winter school programme. She said that in all, 10 sessions of the school programme were held with 22 lectures.

### Activities of the IOS Chapters

#### **ALIGARH CHAPTER**

#### **IOS lecture on "Islamic Practices and Psychotherapy in Clinical Setting"**

The Institute of Objective Studies, Aligarh Chapter, organised an online lecture delivered by Prof. Akbar Husain, Department of Psychology, Aligarh Muslim University, Aligarh on February 21, 2022, which was presided over by Professor Azizuddin Khan, IIT Bombay. Prof. Husain spoke on "Islamic Practices and Psychotherapy in Clinical Setting", which, as emphasised, is very much needed in the present-day scenario to provide bread and butter to psychologists and render the much-required services to society.

The event turned out to be a massive success, with more than 50 attendees getting apprised by one of the most eminent personalities in the realm of Islamic Psychology. Prof. Husain, in his address, very beautifully vocalised the role of Islamic Psychology and practices in the realm of the clinical setting. More explicitly, he started with a brief introduction to the emergence of Islamic Psychology as a speciality of Psychology of Religion and Spirituality, followed by the acclamation of the field by ardent researchers. He shed light on the surge of research work in Islamic Psychology, such as the development of Models on Islamic Psychological Constructs and ensuing empirical exploration of these models.

The lecture apprised the attendees about the role of Islamic beliefs, prayer, and Zikr in alleviating a myriad of mental and physiological ailments.

It further accentuated the role of Islamic Psychology in begetting a distinct trend in Islamic Psychotherapy and Quranic therapy in clinical practice. During his lecture, Prof. Husain discussed the empirical studies of the last three decades reviewed from eminent sources like PsycInfo, PubMed, Web of Sciences, Index Copernicus, Research Gate, SCOPUS, Semantic Scholar, SpringerLink, and Google.

The salient points of his lecture were as follows:

- The positive role of Islamic beliefs in self-health and societal-health behaviours, such as a positive attitude to organ donation and self-breast examination as a preventive action against cancer.
- The role of integration of Islamic principles and narratives with the process of traditional Cognitive Behaviour Therapy (CBT) in the alleviation of trauma-related distress.
- Association of Islamic appraisal with curtailed Post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) symptoms post-trauma.
- The role of Zikr therapy in the improvement of physiological measures such as visual analog, blood pressure, blood temperature, cerebral blood flow, galvanic response, and heart rate.
- The efficacy of Zikr therapy in the treatment of depression, general anxiety, and pre-operative anxiety among prospective surgery patients, especially with cancer, heart disease, obstetrical conditions, and orthopedic disease.
- The effectiveness of Islamic Psychotherapy combined with

conventional CBT in relieving panic attacks, agoraphobia, distress, and depression in cancer patients and post-partum depression in women.

- The role of Islamic forgiveness therapy in effectively managing the cases of marital issues by elevating adjustment and forgiving tendencies in married couples.
- The role of Islamic hope therapy and conventional hope therapy in alleviating depression and enhancing hope among Muslim patients suffering from coronary heart disease.



A view of the paper presentation programme

Over all, his lecture motivated the audience, especially the young enthusiasts, to delve into the nuances of Islamic Psychology and leverage its bounties. The lecture by Prof. Husain lasted for one hour, with high interactions and colossal acclamation.

**IOS Centre for Historical & Civilisational Studies' program on "Tarikh Maskh Karne aur Saqafat ko Mitane ka 'Amal: Daur-e-Hazir ka Almiya"**

In order to address the perpetual onslaught on the culture, civilisation, and history of our country, an event was organised in both online and offline mode by the IOS Centre for Historical & Civilisational Studies on the premises of the IOS Aligarh Chapter on February 19, 2022, at

11:00 A.M. This event was attended by a large number of legal practitioners, social activists, retired teachers, and other academics.

After the recitation of some verses from the Holy Qur'an by Hafiz Qari Mohammad Danish from Madrassah Faizan-e-Mustafa, Mr. Mohammad Serajuddin Khan, Asstt. Coordinator, IOS Aligarh Chapter welcomed the speaker and members of the audience and invited Professor Syed Jamaluddin, Director, IOSCHS, to present his paper titled "*Tarikh Maskh Karne aur Saqafat ko Mitane ka 'Amal: Daur-e-Hazir ka Almiya*".

Before presenting his paper, the learned speaker appreciated the initiative taken by Dr. Mohammad Manzoor Alam, Chairman, Institute of Objective Studies, to establish a Centre to promote the study of history and culture and the contribution of Muslims to the making of Indian civilisation based on primary historical sources. He also highlighted the aims and objectives of the Centre.

Professor Syed Jamaluddin presented an overview of a series of incidents related to the politics of changing the names of roads, cities, and railway stations. According to him, all these activities were aimed to erase everything that symbolised Muslim culture. He also discussed the distortion of historical facts and figures from public platforms by those wielding political clout. He further said that all efforts are being made to tarnish the image of Muslim rulers and defame ulama and Sufis. Character assassination of Muslim rulers in Bollywood movies and television serials, according to him, has become a regular feature. He further said that no



stone has been left unturned to deface or wipe out anything symbolic of Muslims or Islam. Mosques, madrassahs and dargahs are being targeted and attacked, but the media, both print and electronic, and those occupying high positions in government and administration remain mute spectators to this phenomenon. Referring to the hijab controversy and the appearance of Islamophobic and misogynist Apps like Sulli Deals and Bulli Bai, Professor Syed Jamaluddin narrated the ordeal of reputed working Muslim women and young college-going girls in recent months. He exhorted the scholars to remain vigilant and expose historical distortions and attacks on the cultural ethos of the Indian Muslims as it is the need of the hour.

While giving his presidential remarks, Professor M. Muqim, Coordinator, IOS Aligarh Chapter, appreciated the well-thought and written presentation of the speaker and said that generally, distortions of historical facts and cultural manifestations are made owing to an inferiority complex, but in his opinion, this malicious campaign will not succeed. He said that historical distortions could be countered with the deep study and analysis of the primary sources of the medieval period.

Towards the end, the vote of thanks was proposed by Mr. Mohammad Serajuddin Khan.

**IOS Centre for Historical & Civilisational Studies' symposium on "Gandhi and His Legacy of Peace and Harmony"**

IOS Centre for Historical & Civilisational Studies (IOSCHCS),

Aligarh, an affiliate of the Institute of Objective Studies, New Delhi, observed Martyrs Day by organising a symposium on 'Gandhi and His Legacy of Peace and Harmony' on January 30, 2022, at 11:00 A.M. in the Conference Hall of the IOS Aligarh Chapter.

The proceedings started with the recital of a few verses from the Holy Qur'an. Professor Syed Jamaluddin, Director, IOS Centre for Historical & Civilisational Studies, was in the chair. Professor Mohammad Muqim, Coordinator, IOS Aligarh Chapter, welcomed the distinguished panelists from the Department of History,

Nathu Ram Godse to shoot Mahatma Gandhi with his weapon:

- Support for the two nation theory;
- Agreeing to transfer Rs. 55 crores to Pakistan;
- Appeasement of Muslims.

Professor Waseem also enumerated eleven points of Gandhian philosophy that helped him fight racialism.

Professor Perwez Nazir from Dept. of History, AMU, said that it is only the relevance of Gandhi and his philosophy that we remember him and his policy of non-violence even after 75 years of his martyrdom.

In the context of globalisation and its evil effect, Professor Nazir said that the looming threat of the third world war is being felt by the nations of the world; they want to avoid war and stay in peace. He recalled Gandhi's words and said that Gandhi was against imperialism and racialism, but he was not against the British people.

Professor Hasan Imam, Dept. of History, presently Director of

AMU's Kishanganj Centre, narrated the episode of how Gandhi was thrown out of the train compartment, which was meant for only the whites and the consequent decision of Gandhi to fight against discrimination, imperialism and apartheid. He also touched upon the background of Champaran Satyagraha. Professor Imam explained that it was in view of the atrocities committed against the peasants and farmers of Champaran that Gandhi chose this place as his *karambhoomi*. He further said that the philosophy of truth and non-violence were the mantras of Gandhi's life and mission, which he pursued relentlessly till the end of his life, except in 1942 when he espoused the notion of "do and die".



A view of the participants of the symposium

Aligarh Muslim University and members of the audience. Professor M. Muqim also introduced the theme of the symposium.

Mr. Mohammad Serajuddin Khan, Asstt. Coordinator, IOS Aligarh Chapter, who anchored the event, first requested Professor Waseem Raja of AMU'S Centre of Advanced Studies, Dept. of History, to express his views on the theme under discussion.

Professor Waseem Raja asserted that M.K. Gandhi will always be looked upon as a torchbearer of peace and harmony. Referring to the tragic assassination of the Father of the Nation, he traced the following reasons, which prompted the fascist

Towards the end of the three-hour long symposium, participants made some suggestions. Professor Perwez Nazir suggested that the IOSCHS should invite the students of the universities and colleges to such kinds of programmes so that they get acquainted with Gandhi's quest for peace and harmony in our society.

Prof. Muqim suggested that the Centre should bring out literature to bust concocted truth tarnishing the image of the Father of the Nation.

In his presidential remarks, Professor Syed Jamaluddin acknowledged the contribution of the panelists to making the symposium a memorable event. He explained the relevance of Gandhi in the present time to bring peace and harmony to society. Welcoming the suggestions made at the end of the symposium, he said that the Centre would organise an essay writing competition on themes related to 'Freedom Struggle' for various levels of students of Aligarh and the adjoining districts. The symposium came to an end with a vote of thanks presented by Dr. Zabeen Anjum, Former Principal, Jamia Urdu College of Education, Aligarh.

**CALICUT CHAPTER**  
**IOS Calicut Chapter organises**  
**lecture on "Anti-Women Customs**  
**and Rituals in South India"**  
**on April 23, 2022 at Calicut**

Ms. P. Ambika, activist and writer said that customs and rituals in many temples in South India are anti-women and anti-Dalit and despite the strenuous efforts by social reformers these unconstitutional and

again became victims of suppression and marginalisation.

Brahmin priests and the rulers allied with them promoted two important religious texts: Manu Smriti and Shankara Smriti. Both promoted varnashrama dharma and were basically anti-women. It is true that influential Brahmin priests were behind the elevation of traditional goddesses to a higher pedestal and the Hindu pantheon. But at the same time the customs and rituals most often depict women as source of evil. She said that her survey of certain temples in South India prove this argument. Women are described as "impure" and refused entry in some of very famous temples. For instance in Sabari Mala Sri Sastha temple only young girls and old women are permitted for darshan in spite of the judgment of the



Ms. P. Ambika delivering her lecture

discriminatory practices still remain unchanged. She was addressing a select audience on the topic "Anti-Women Customs and Rituals in South India". Historical record show that when Buddhism was wiped out in the country, the Vedic Brahmins regained hegemony over the society, she added. It was the beginning of a new phase of control in which Dalits and women

Supreme Court, permitting women of all age groups could enter the temple.

Prof. P. Koya, IOS Calicut Chapter's Coordinator presided over the function. Ms. K.V. Jameela welcomed the audience and E.M. Sadiq proposed the vote of thanks.

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