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Thought for the Month

Those who avoid
Great sins and indecent deeds,
Save lesser offences,—
Verily thy your Lord is ample
In forgiveness. He knows
You well when He brings
You out of the earth,
And when ye are hidden
In your mother's wombs.
Therefore hold not yourselves
purified:
He knows best who it is
That guards against evil.

Al-Quran-53:32

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FOCUS

Minorities in India: The Constitution of India uses the word 'minority' in some Articles but does not define it. The term 'minority' is used in Articles 29, 30, 350A and 350B. Article 29 gives the right to preserve distinct language, script and culture. Article 30 refers to minorities based on religion or language, while Article 350A and 350B deals with linguistic minorities only. The National Commission for Minorities Act, 1992, also did not have any definition, in Section 2(c), the Act defined minority as a community notified as such by the Central Government. Acting under the provision on October 23, 1993, the Central Government notified Muslim, Christian, Sikh, Buddhist, and Parsi and later Jain communities as minorities for the purpose of the Act. When the Central Government listed these communities as minority it appears that numerical criterion was taken into consideration.

The Constituent Assembly of India also discussed the issue of concept of minority and it was pointed out in the debate that numerical weakness and socio-economic vulnerability should be the major criteria in defining the minority. There was a long discussion on the rights and safeguards of minorities to be incorporated in the Constitution, still it did not define the term minority or provide details relating to the geographical and numerical specification of the concept, and it appears that the constitutional scheme envisages this to be determined at the national level. Thus, there is no group explicitly mentioned as minority in the Constitution. It was the judiciary which took interest in defining the term. Several Supreme Court judgments have sought to define minority at the state level in terms of protection under Article 30. The issue of defining minority was first taken in consideration in *Re Kerala Education Bill* in 1957 in which the Supreme Court declared that a minority means community which is numerically less than 50 percent of the population of the state. In 2002, Supreme Court in *TMA Pai Foundation & Others vs. State of Karnataka & Others* considered the question of the unit for the purpose of determining the definition of 'minority' within the meaning of Article 30(1). It held that a minority either linguistic or religious is determinable only by reference to demography of the state and not by taking into consideration the population of the country as a whole. As regards religious minorities at the national level, all those who profess a religion other than Hinduism are considered minorities.

Attempts at individual level had also been made to define the concept of minority based on the non-dominant position and vulnerability. Zoya Hasan stated that: "A meaningful conception of minorities would include sections of people who, on account of their non-dominant position in the country as a whole, are targets of discrimination and therefore deserving of special consideration." Another prominent scholar Wiener has viewed Indian minorities on the basis of the sense of belongingness to a minority community, their regional affiliation, lack of access of power and status one has, and one's sense of community threat.

From *Exclusion of Muslims in India: Participation, Tolerance and Legitimacy of the State* by (ed.) Arshi Khan, pp. 30-31

Activities of the IOS Headquarters

IOS 14th Shah Waliullah Award on “Islamic Dawah” presented to Maulana Syed JalaluddinUmari

The 14th Shah Waliullah Award on “Islamic Dawah” was presented to Maulana Syed JalaluddinUmari, Vice-president, All India Muslim Personal Law Board at a virtual function organised by the Institute of Objective Studies on June 20, 2021.

The award presentation ceremony began with the recitation of a verse from the holy Quran by Hafiz Athar Husain Nadwi. Maulana Shah Ajmal Farooq Nadwi, in-charge of Urdu section, IOS, who conducted the proceedings of the function briefly highlighted the features of the award. He said that Shah Waliullah Award was given every year in recognition of the services rendered by the awardee, in the field of promotion and propagation of Islamic values. It was also aimed at introducing the scholar to the people and encouraging younger generation to engage themselves in the pursuit of knowledge. He observed that scholars from different fields were short-listed for being nominated for the award. It was also aimed at honouring the awardee for his contribution in the field.

In his introductory remarks, the secretary general of the Institute, Prof. Z.M. Khan, said that earlier the functionaries of the Institute sought to focus on future, but today research in different areas had caught their attention. Committees were in place to decide on the research projects. Briefly

explaining the procedure followed in selecting projects, he said that proposals from researchers were invited and after discussions on them a final decision was taken to give a go-ahead to the project. In order to ensure timely completion of the project, the Institute provided financial assistance to the researcher, to partially meet the expenses to be incurred during the course of research. Referring to the activities of the Institute, he said that five regional chapters were in place to connect with the local people. He further said that the IOS could boast of publishing more than 400 titles so far in English, Urdu and Hindi on various subjects. Besides, a translation bureau had been set up to translate standard

other universities and institutions. It had widened its scope by entering other areas, like awqaf and educational reforms. While working on such areas, experts of the field were consulted and the report prepared. Explaining further the area of its activities, he said that the Institute took up several issues, organised talks and discussions on them before finally sending the recommendations to the government. He sought the cooperation of all stakeholders in terms of the ideas and assured that such ideas would be welcomed by the Institute.

Representative of the Voice of America (Urdu services), SuhailAnjum, presented the profile of Maulana Syed JalaluddinUmari in which he very vividly described his life journey.

MaulanaUmari was presented with the scroll of honour, which was read over by Dr. Nakhat Husain Nadwi of the Institute.

Assistant finance secretary of the IOS, Mohammad Alam presented a cheque of rupees One lakh to MaulanaUmari at his

residence in Delhi as the amount of the award. The maulana was also presented with a memento by Mohammad Alam accompanied by the administrative officer of the Institute, Mohd. AtaurRehman.

Addressing the gathering virtually, Maulana Syed JalaluddinUmari said that the IOS was a platform for different schools of Islamic thought. Institution of Shah Waliullah Award was part of DawahIslami. Speaking on DawahIslami, he observed that more than 50 books had been written on the subject. Dawah, he noted, had several important aspects. One of them being the religious duty of every Muslim to engage the people with Dawah. The



Maulana Syed JalaluddinUmari being presented the Scroll, the Memento and the Cheque for the Shah Waliullah Award

books into different Indian languages. IOS also organised national and international conferences on various issues of topical importance in which experts from within India and abroad were invited. The Institute awarded scholarship to deserving but poor students pursuing doctoral and post-doctoral research. IOS also regularly published journals, newsletters. Journals like Mutalea’at in Urdu and the IOS Journals in English were also regularly published. The Institute had instituted two awards – Shah Waliullah Award and Lifetime Achievement Award that were given to outstanding scholars for their exceptional contribution in their field. The Institute had been working in collaboration with

Quran explained it very lucidly. This assumed importance with special reference to today's circumstances in India where several religions were flourishing. It devolved on the community to engage with the opponents of Islam and convince that Islam was not against them. They should be told that Allah commanded the faithful to convey His message to them by way of Dawah. This should continue to be done whether they accepted it or not. He asked the Muslims not to be found wanting in this noble task which had been bequeathed to them by Allah.

MaulanaUmari observed that this was a concern in which lay Allah's command. It was quite possible that the people did not heed the advice. But that should not deter one to stop from extending Dawah to other communities. The work of Dawah should at no cost be stopped or slowed down. He said that the job of Dawah might face resistance, but that should not cause any sluggishness or stopping of it.

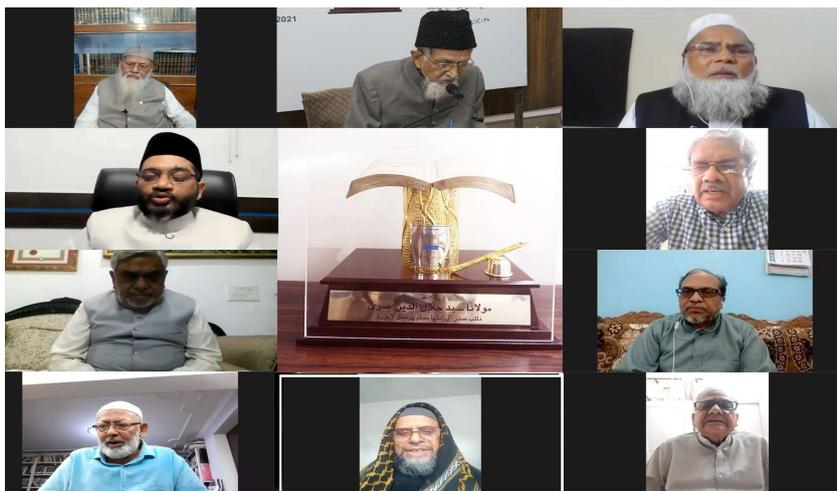
The occasion was marked by the presentation of prize of Rs. 25,000/- for the best essay to Ms. FaridahHusaini, research scholar in the department of Psychology, Aligarh Muslim University, Aligarh, in the junior category for her paper on "Dawat-e-Islam aurAsreHazarkeTaqaaze" (Dawah of Islam and Expectations of Modern Times) in which she briefly explained niceties of Dawah.

Speaking as the guest of honour, president of the All India Muslim Personal Law Board, Syed Mohammad RabeyHasanNadwi, described MaulanaUmari as an *alim* who had concern for Dawah. Praising the IOS chairman, Dr. M. ManzoorAlam for

instituting the Shah Waliullah Award, he said that the award had gone down well with Islamic scholars. He stressed that scholars could benefit from his scholarly zest. He noted that MaulanaUmari chose to work in both the directions. He penned some forty books to give thrust to the understanding of Islam. This was supplemented by his endeavours to take forward the work of Dawah. This yielded fruitful results as the awakening about *Deen* (Religion) increased. He emphasised that Islamic Dawah must be taken forward. Owing to the maulana's ceaseless efforts, people were turning to the *Deen*. His association with several organisations bore the testimony to his concern for Dawah. Describing MaulanaUmari as a doyen of Islamic scholars, he said

who were alive. The Prophet (PBUH) himself recounted the qualities of his *Sahabas* (Companions). He asked the Muslims to give due recognition to those who were alive. He said that the hand of a person who enjoyed higher position in a field was better than the one who was a receiver. The former was better because he benefited the latter. In order to take something from the former, it was necessary to engage in Dawah. He observed that MaulanaUmari enriched Islamic learning by a number of books he wrote. The tragedy today was that, instead of involving themselves in the cause of Dawah, Muslims were engaged in the debate on the preference of one school of thought over the other. He suggested that the lecture marking the award presentation

ceremony should focus on one of the aspects of Shah Waliullah's philosophy. Ameer, Jamaat-e-Islami Hind, Syed SaadatUllahHusaini noted that the work of Dawah was of utmost importance. He lauded



A view of the Speakers

that he successfully countered the misconception of the West about Islam. This was the recognition of his work that should be hailed. The Muslim community benefited from him and his work was being recognised. He concluded by congratulating MaulanaUmari on receiving the award.

The spokesperson of the AIMPLB, Maulana Khalid SaifullahRahmani, referred to the two Sunnah of the Prophet (PBUH). These were – highlighting big achievements of those who were no more in this world and give respect and importance to those

MaulanaUmari'sendeavours in the field of Dawat-e-Din. The maulana also took initiatives in bringing non-Muslims closer to Islam by organising inter-faith dialogues. His experience in Dawah and engagement with knowledge was worthy of emulation, he added.

Vice-chancellor of Maulana Azad University Jodhpur, Prof. AkhtarulWasey, pointed out that much had been written on Shah Waliullah, but still a lot of work needed to be done. One would always feel proud of him because of his contribution to Islamic thought. Referring to

MaulanaUmari, he said that he embodied reasoning and the practical life. He extensively wrote on Islam and women. He expressed happiness that the IOS was also giving a chance to young scholars. Former Vice-chancellor of Magadh University, Bodh Gaya, Prof. Mohammad Ishtiyahq, observed that he was very much impressed by the IOS that had become a forum for different schools of thought to work unitedly. He described the Institute as the only institution of its kind in the country. Its success lay in the convergence of scholars of various shades who made a mark on the history and culture of the community. The Shah Waliullah Award was a link in that chain. The IOS had in fact honoured itself by handing the award to MaulanaUmari, he added.

Presiding over the function, the chairman of the IOS, Dr. M. ManzoorAlam, observed that he was still a student and would continue to be so till the end. Referring to the all-round onslaughts on Islam, he said that a community would be weakened if its cultural legacy was weakened. It was a matter of concern that sharp differences had surfaced among different schools of thought and blew out of proportions. Laying emphasis on reply to the questions relating to knowledge with knowledge and not with obstinacy, he said that Prof. A.R. Momin and Prof. Ishtiyahque Danish did much in that direction. He held that he was in constant touch with the scholars to counter the disinformation campaign against Islam and Muslims. He voiced concern over attempt of replacing Muslim history with myths and untruths. He informed that efforts were on to consult scholars

in India and abroad to present an objective view of the history of civilisation. In order to reach a consensus on different issues, it was necessary to sit together, think together and work together. This should be taken forward for better results. He stressed that efforts should be made to work on civilisational dimensions and a centre for carrying out such work could be set up in Aligarh on the lines of the IOS Centre for Gender Studies established at Calicut. He said that the IOS was trying to engage scholars, both men and women, for interactions on vital issues. Calling for making dignity of humanity a national and international agenda, he said that Allah was commanding human beings to be truly humane. This was the foremost job to be done by Muslims. He asked the community to follow the teachings of the Qur'an and act accordingly. All the suggestions made by the speakers would be factored in. Every suggestion in the field of knowledge would be given due weightage. He reiterated Institute's commitment to continue working in all the three languages – English, Urdu and Hindi.

Extending a vote of thanks, Vice-

Defining Dawah, he said that it meant inviting attention of others. Thus Dawah was meant for the entire humanity. Owing to his work in the field of Dawah and the teachings of Islam, MaulanaUmari truly deserved the award, he concluded.

IOS-MANNU organises a two-day webinar on 'Islamic sciences during Muslim rule in the Deccan'

A two-day national webinar on 'Islamic sciences during Muslim rule in the Deccan', was jointly organised by the Institute of Objective Studies and Maulana Azad National Urdu University, Hyderabad on April 7 and 8, 2021 via Zoom at Hyderabad.

Presided over by the acting vice-chancellor of MANNU, Prof. S.M. Rahmatullah, the first-day session began with the recitation of a verse from Qur'an by Dr. Atif Imran from the department of Islamic Studies. Prof. Mohammad Fahim Akhtar Nadwi, head of the department of Islamic Studies, presented the welcome address in which he thanked the IOS chairman, Dr. M. ManzoorAlam for extending cooperation in the organisation of the webinar. The topic was introduced by the assistant professor of Islamic Studies, Dr. Zeeshan Sarah. Before delivering his presidential speech, Prof. Rahmatullah released the book *Hindustani*



On the dais from L-R: Prof. S.M. Rahmatullah and Prof. Mohd. Fahim Akhtar Nadwi, while Dr. Zeeshan Sarah on the podium

chairman of the IOS, Prof. M. Afzal Wani, said that Dawah should be seen in the context of its width. Similarly, justice, democracy, governance and human rights should receive optimum attention as being Allah's words.

Musalman Aur Islami Tasakkhush: Masa'ail Aur Hal written by Prof. Mohammad Fahim Akhtar Nadwi and published by the IOS. He welcomed the guests and congratulated the

department of Islamic Studies of the University for organising the webinar.

In his key-note address, former vice-chancellor of Osmania University, Hyderabad, Prof. Mohammad Suleman Siddiqui, said that the history of Deccan Muslim was 600 years old. The six-century old history had in its wake a rich legacy of art and culture. But unfortunately, this area was left untouched by the researchers. He observed that during the rule of Mohammad Bin Tughlaq in Delhi, the Muslim urban centre came into being in Deogir (Daulatabad) in the Deccan. During the same period, Alauddin Hasan Gango Bahmani established the Bahmani kingdom. This period was marked by the visit of a number of ulema, sufis, etc., to the Deccan. Majority of these ulema were Shiite with the result that Shi'ism flourished in the region. During the two phases of the Bahmani Kingdom, Gulbarga became the hub of the Sunni ulema who patronised scholarship and Bidar attracted Shiite ulema. Their influence continued to dominate during the entire period. He made special reference to Sheikh Ainuddin, Sheikh Rukunuddin, Sheikh Burhanuddin Gharib and Khwaja Gesudaraz, and threw light on their writings and their contribution to scholarship. He referred to Ainuddin Ganjullilm's book *Atwarul Abrar* that spoke of 132 sufis belonging to Junaidiya Sufi Order who made Deccan as their abode and enriched it with knowledge. He dilated on the nobles of Bahmani Kingdom, like Mir Fazalullah Anju, Mahmud Gawan and others.

As a guest of honour, dean, faculty of theology, Aligarh Muslim University, Prof. Saud Alam Qasmi, spoke on the contribution of sufis in the Deccan. He said that Khwaja Gesudaraz had already initiated inter-religious studies in the fourteenth century. The Khwaja learnt Sanskrit to study Buddhist and Hindu religious books in detail and tried to understand

these religions for the purpose of Dawah.

The director of Zakir Husain Institute of Islamic Studies, Jamia Millia Islamia, Prof. Iqtedar Mohammad Khan, focused on the contribution of Asifjahis to Islamic learning. He made special mention of Maulana Maududi whose thoughts were influenced from the intellectual milieu of Asifjahi rule. The Asifjahi system of governance had a bearing on the ideas of Maulana Maududi.

Former head of the department of Islamic Studies, JMI, Prof. Mohammad Ishaq, highlighted the love of the Bahmani rulers for knowledge and their contribution to its promotion. Head of the department of Arabic, MANNU, Prof. Syed Aleem Ashraf Jaisi mentioned the important books on Sufism, particularly the books written by Maulana Abdul Jabbar Malkapuri. He said that while only few places in the South were known for the spread of Sufism, the entire Deccan region was humming with sufis. They left their imprint everywhere in the region. He described Dairatul Maarif Osmania as one of the important centres of learning.

Dean faculty of social sciences and former head of the department of Islamic Studies, University of Kashmir, Prof. Naseem Ahmad Shah threw light on the contribution of Muslims to the art of translation and other sciences. He said that Muslim rulers of Deccan patronised literature, science, Islamic Studies and other branches of knowledge. In this respect, the Deccan assumed the same place in India as did Spain in the Arab world. Director of Haroon Khan Shervani Centre for Deccan Studies, MANNU, Prof. Mohammad Naseemuddin Farees commented that Muslim rulers of Arcot in Madras and Tipu Sultan in Mysore took interest in the promotion of knowledge, art and literature. Among those who spoke on the occasion included Vice-president, All India Majlis Tameer-e-Millat, Prof. Ziauddin Nayyar, Sheikh al-Fiqh,

Jamia Nizamia, Hyderabad and the director, historical research projects, IOS, Prof. Syed Jamaluddin. Prof. Jamaluddin in his presentation said that the Muslim rulers accomplished the first task of attaining power in the region followed by reinforcing their political and economic power. Later on, they turned their attention to art, culture and literature. Referring to the spread of sufism in the Deccan, he noted that the sufis also contributed to the development of Tibbi system of medicine. They used to give written prescriptions for treatment of diseases.

In this connection, he specially mentioned the name of the sufi saint, Syed Shah Aale-Rasool (Marehwi). One of the notable features of the period was that from Bahmani to Asifjahi rulers patronised different branches of knowledge, he concluded.

Technical Session-I

The first technical session of the webinar was chaired by Prof. Syed Aleem Ashraf Jaisi, head, department of Arabic, MANNU. Assistant professor of Islamic Studies, MANNU, Dr. Atif Imran conducted the proceedings. In this session a total number of 8 papers were presented. The first paper was read by the head of the department of history, MANNU, Dr. Danish Moin who spoke on 'Influence of Shi'ism in the light of numismatic evidences'. It was followed by the presentation by Prof. Saud Alam Qasmi, who focused on 'Role of Khwaja Gesudaraz in the promotion of comparative study of religions'. The third paper was presented by Aejaz Malik, research scholar in the department of Persian, University of Kashmir. His paper centered on 'Promotion of the study of Hadith during Asifjahi rule'. While the fourth speaker was the head of the department of Islamic Studies, Aliah University, Kolkata, Dr. Sumaiya Ahmad, who dwelt on 'Study of Qur'anic knowledge in the Deccan', the fifth speaker was the assistant professor of Islamic Studies, MANNU, Dr. Mohammad Irfan Ahmad who

spoke on 'Few scholars of the Deccan and their historical works'. The sixth paper presenter was assistant professor at Indian and Foreign Languages University, Hyderabad, Dr. AnzarNadwi. He based his discussion on the Deccan Ghazals and Mathnavis in praise of the Prophet (PBUH). The seventh speaker was Dr. GhatrifShahbazNadwi from AMU who presented his paper on 'The review of the popularisation of Islam in the study of English orientalis'. The session concluded with the presentation of the paper on 'Initial imprints in the study of Hadith in the Deccan' by the in-charge, Urdu section, IOS, Shah Ajmal Farooq Nadwi.

Technical Session-II

The second technical session was chaired by Prof. Naseem Ahmad Shah. Dr. Atif Imran conducted the proceedings. In all, 9 papers were presented in the session. Assistant professor, department of Islamic Studies, JMI, Dr. Umar Farooq was the first speaker who touched upon 'Promotion of Islamic Studies under Bahmani Kingdom as told by Mahmud Gawan'. It was followed by Maulana Faisal Ahmad BhatkaliNadwi who teaches Hadith at DarulUloomNadwatulUlema, Lucknow. He focused on 'KutubkhanaSaeediya, Hyderabad: An Introduction'. The third speaker was MaulanaIlyas Hashmi Nadwi from DairatulMaarif Osmania, Hyderabad, who presented his paper on 'Libraries during and after Bahmani Kingdom'. He was followed by the assistant professor, department of Arabic, MANUU, Dr. SameenaTabish who spoke on 'Sufism: Study of the growth of Chishti order from fourteenth to seventeenth centuries'. Assistant professor at Central University of Karnataka, Dr. Majid Manyar was the fifth paper presenter who spoke on the 'Writers of the Deccan: Contribution of Haroon Khan Sherwani and GhulamYazdani: An introduction'. The sixth paper was presented by Dr. FazalUllah Sharif who discussed the 'Intellectual contribution of

AhyaulMa'arif al-Noamania'. The seventh paper presented by Maulana Jamil Akhtar Jalili (Jharkhand) was devoted to the contribution of Islamic Studies during AdilShahi rule. Research scholar in the department of Islamic Studies, MANUU, MaulanaSaqibRaz, spoke on 'The writings of KhwajaGesudaraz with reference to Islamic Studies'. The ninth and the last paper was presented by Prof. Naseem Ahmad Shah who spoke on 'The role of the Deccan institutions in the translation of scientific text into Urdu'.

Technical Session-III

The third session was chaired by the head of the department of Arabic, English and Foreign Languages University, Hyderabad, Prof. Syed Rasheed NaseemNadwi. Dr. Zishan Sarah, assistant professor of Islamic Studies, MANUU, conducted the proceedings. A total number of eight papers were presented in the session. While the professor of Arabic at English and Foreign Languages University, Hyderabad, Dr. MuzaffarAlam spoke on 'Tarikh-i-Farishta: A brief review', Dr. WarisMatinMazhari, assistant professor of Islamic Studies, JamiaHamdard, New Delhi, dwelt on the 'Poetry of Anwar-UllahFarooqi: A study'. The third paper was presented by the Professor of Islamic Studies, Osmania University, Hyderabad, Prof. Aisha MahmoodFaruqi, who spoke on the establishment of Osmania University and its syllabi on Islamic Studies. She was followed by the assistant professor of Islamic Studies, JamiaMilliaIslamia, Dr. Mohd. Usama, who focused on 'The role of AdilShahi Kingdom in the promotion of Islamic Studies'. The fifth paper was presented by Dr. NajmusSahar, assistant professor of Islamic Studies, JamiaHamdard, who discussed upon 'Maulana Abdul Majid Daryabadi's contribution to Islamic Studies'. The sixth paper, read by the research scholar in Islamic Studies, MANUU, Mohammad Aziz Alam, who centered

his discussion on 'The popularisation of Islamic Studies during Firoz Shah Bahmani's rule'. The last paper of the session was presented by the head of the department of Arabic, EFLU, Prof. Syed Rasheed NaseemNadwi, who based his discussion on 'Syed Mohammad al-Husaini's commentary 'Al-Manaqat': A Study'.

Technical Session-IV

Chaired by the assistant professor of Islamic Studies, JamiaHamdard, Dr. WarisMazhari, the proceedings of the fourth session were conducted by Dr. Zeeshan Sarah. The total number of papers that were presented in the session stood at eight. The session began with the presentation of the paper on 'The intellectual contribution on JamiaNizamia' by Sheikh al-Fiqh, JamiaNizamia, Hyderabad, Mufti Ziauddin. He was followed by the former head of the department of Islamic Studies, JamiaMilliaIslamia, Prof. Mohammad Ishaq, who focused on services of AllamaShibliNomani in the Deccan state. The third paper was presented by the assistant professor, Henry Martyn Institute, Hyderabad, Dr. Syed WahidullahMultani on 'The growth and development of Islamic learning during the reign of Mir Usman Ali Khan'. While Dr. HaziqNadwi (Bengaluru) read his paper on the 'Promotion of knowledge during the rule of Tipu Sultan' as the fourth speaker, Dr. Atif Imran from the department of Islamic Studies, MANUU, focused on 'Islamic Studies during the rule of ImadShahi: A review' as the fifth paper presenter. The sixth paper was presented by the research scholar in Sunni theology at AMU, Mohammad Ismail Islahi who spoke on the 'Intellectual victories of AllamaFalahi in Hyderabad'. The seventh speaker was Mujtaba Farooq, research scholar, department of Islamic Studies, MANUU, who touched upon the topic 'DairatulMaarif Al-Osmania: An Introduction'. The eighth and the last paper was read by AbdurRaqeeb, research scholar in Islamic Studies, MANUU, on the 'Contribution of

Maulana Abdul Qadeer Siddiqui to the study of Islamic literature’.

Technical Session-V

The fifth session was chaired by the former head of the department of Islamic Studies, JMI, Prof. Mohammad Ishaque. The proceedings of the session were conducted by the coordinator of the distance education, MANUU, Prof. Saleh Amin. The session had a total number of 11 papers.

The first paper of the session was presented by the ex-research scholar, department of Islamic Studies, MANUU, Syed Minhaj, who presented his paper on the ‘Writing of Islamic books and their publicisation during Asifjahi rule’. He was followed by the director, AbulHasanat Islamic Research Centre, Hyderabad, Mufti Syed Misbahuddin, who centered his talk on the work on Hadith by the Mohaddis of the Deccan, Hazrat Abdullah Shah. The third paper was presented by the assistant professor, EFLU, Dr. Shahabuddin Sabili, who focused on ‘An introduction of kutubkhana Asifiya’. Dr. AbrarulHaq, assistant professor, department of Islamic Studies of MANUU at Lucknow, was the fourth paper presenter who spoke on the ‘Promotion of Islamic learning during the Bahmani rule’. Dr. Mufti Mushtaq Tajawari, assistant professor of Islamic Studies, JMI was the fifth speaker who dwelt on the ‘Sufis of the Deccan and their contribution to Islamic learning’. The sixth paper was read by the research scholar at department of Persian, MANUU, Syed Aijaz Husain which discussed the ‘History writing and its tradition during Asifjahi reign’.

Dr. Mohammad Khalid Khan, assistant professor of Islamic Studies, JMI, presented the seventh paper which

was devoted to the ‘Role of Jamia Darussalam, Umrabad in the promotion of Islamic Studies in south India’. While the eighth paper was read by Dr. Shakeel Ahmad, assistant professor, department of Islamic Studies, MANUU, who dealt with the ‘Role of DarulTarjuma in the promotion of Islamic Studies’, the ninth paper focusing on ‘Growth of Islamic learning during the Bahmani rule’, was presented by Prof. Saleh Amin, assistant professor of Islamic Studies and co-ordinator, distance education, MANUU. Mufti Amanat Ali Qasmi, research scholar at department of Islamic Studies, MANUU, presented the tenth paper which concentrated on ‘Mahmud Gawan and Madarsa Mahmudiya’. Dr. Zeeshan Sarah, assistant professor at department of Islamic Studies, MANUU was the eleventh and the last speaker who presented her paper on the ‘Islamic Studies during Qutubshahi era’.

Valedictory Session

The valedictory session was chaired by the registrar of MANUU, Prof. Siddiqui Mohd Mahmood. The secretary general IOS, Prof. Z.M. Khan and the professor of history, AMU, Prof. S. Chandni Bi were the guests of honour. In his address, Prof. Khan said that it was not only the high classes who had their history, but others too had their own history. Keeping this in view, the IOS from the very outset paid attention to the study of the history of lower strata of people as well. It focused on the life of

common people, especially on the regional history. He said that compared to north India, the Deccan was generally peaceful as a result of which knowledge received a big boost and facilities for its pursuit grew at a fast pace. He stressed the need for widening the scope of research by including geographical sciences into it as geography played a decisive role in economic, social, political, intellectual and cultural development of the area. He thanked Prof. Mohd. Fahim Akhtar Nadwi for hosting the webinar on an important topic.

Prof. S. Chandni Bi briefly discussed the scientific development during the Muslim period. She specially referred to the study of science and other disciplines during the Abbasid caliphate. In his presidential remarks, Prof. Siddiqui Mohd. Mahmood threw light on the state of study of science, intellectual pursuits and religious reciprocity. Referring to Daulatabad, he said that before the conquests of Alauddin Khalji, the region was ruled by the non-Muslim Yadava family. This family built several buildings, which included temples. Alauddin spared the temples built within buildings and constructed a structure known as Chand Minar. A masjid was later added to it. Successive Muslim rulers gave due respect to these religious structures. Continuing his speech, Prof. Mahmood noted that the father of Khwaja Gesudaraz wrote two books. These were Tohfat Unnaseh and Suhagin Nama. The latter was written in Hindi and professor of history at Dr.



A view of the Speakers

Babasaheb Ambedkar Marathwada University, Prof. Tailang worked on it. He termed the book as fine example of cementing the bonds of unity between Hindus and Muslims.

In his concluding remarks, Professor and head, department of Islamic Studies, MANUU, Prof. Mohd. Fahim Akhtar Nadwi, expressed happiness over the successful conduct of the webinar. He thanked Dr. M. Manzoor Alam and the entire IOS team for extending all possible cooperation to make the webinar a success. He said that all the papers presented at the webinar would be published in book form soon.

The webinar ended with a vote of thanks by Dr. Zeeshan Sarah.

IOS-MESCO 5 day Winter School Programme on Islamic Studies

A five-day winter school programme in Islamic Studies, organised by Muslim Educational Social and Cultural Organisation (MESCO) Hyderabad in collaboration with Institute of Objective Studies (IOS), New Delhi, was held from February 8th to 12th 2021 at MESCO Education Complex, Mustaidpura, Karwaan.

It was for the first time that due to the pandemic the programme was conducted on a hybrid basis (both online and offline).

Inaugural Session

On 8th February 2021, the programme started with the inaugural session. The chief guest of the session was Mufakkir-e-Islam, Professor Dr. Syed Jahangir Sahab, head of department of Arabic Studies at

English and Foreign Languages University (EFLU), Hyderabad, presided by Professor Z.M. Khan, Secretary General, Institute of Objective Studies, New Delhi.

The session started with *qirat* by Maulana Mohammad Hamed Hussain, the welcome address was by Dr. Saleha Firdous, principal MESCO Degree College, followed by introduction of IOS by Prof. Mohammad Masood Ahmed, director MESCO, MIMCS. The objective of the programme was explained by Dr. Fakhruddin Mohammed, honorary secretary and chairman MESCO.

A brief address by the chief guest, Professor Dr. Syed Jahangir Sahab, about the importance of the programme was to encourage students for inculcating the habit of reading the Quran, learning Arabic language and Hadith for the right path, walking on which one can reach the heights of satisfaction and love for humanity. It was followed by presidential address by Professor Z.M. Khan, secretary general, IOS. In his address he welcomed this type of programme, which creates awareness about Islam and its dignity. The inaugural session concluded with *du'a* and national anthem.

Business Session 1

It started with the topic "Islam as faith and civilisation". The speaker was Dr Faheem Akhtar Nadwi, Professor Islamic Studies, Maulana Azad National Urdu University. He talked about human nature, the

Quranic view of men and women, the divine law of Islam, the spread of Islam outside the Arab and Persian world, up to the present day.

Business Session 2

Dr. Fatima Parveen, former head Urdu dept., Osmania University, on "*Aqeeda, tawheed, risalataakhirat*". She highlighted the issues related to the belief of Muslims in Islam. She said about the world hereafter the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) taught us to tread on the righteous path and reach *akhirat*, by offering *salat* on time and following Islamic tenets.

DAY TWO

Business Session 1

In the first lecture by Dr. Syed Iftekhar Hussain, HoD ALEEF, MESCO was on "Jamawa Tadween Quran". He highlighted the idea of compilation of the Quran originated when a great number of *sahaba* went in a battle during the rule of Hazrat Abu Bakar Siddique. Muslims won the battle. There were fewer casualties, but among those who embraced shahada, many were hafiz-e-Quran. Observing this, Hazrat Umar Farooq got worried, What if *huffaz* continued dying in large numbers. We would be soon short of people who have learned the Quran by heart. Umar shared his thoughts with Abu Bakar and suggested the compilation of the Quran in the form of a book.

The second lecture was by Maulana Mohammad Ghayasul Islam Rahmani, former director, MESCO-ALEEF, on Jamawatadween Hadith. It preserved Hadith and became a source of inspiration for Muslims.

Business Session 2

It started with Mr Lateef Ateer's lecture. His topic was Arab Muslim contribution to medicine, mathematics



Dr. Fakhruddin Mohammad and other dignitaries of Winter School Programme

and other sciences. His main purpose was to make students aware that Muslims were the first in inventions in different field of mathematics, physical and social sciences. The contribution of women to science was also highlighted.

Business Session 3

"Revelation and its application, Sunaah as source of Shariah, which led to emergence and development of fiqh" by Mufti Omer Abideen of Fiqh Academy (Online from Dubai) was about Muslims regarding the Quran as the most important miracle of Muhammad (PBUH). It was the proof of his prophethood and the culmination of a series of divine messages drawn from the Quran which is the incomparable, infallible and final revelation from God. Hadith is a second major source of Islam.

Dr. Kaleem Ahmed Jaleeli, head, deptt. of Physics, Nizam College talked on a "Critique of globalisation". According to him, globalisation is much less of a reality in other fields than it is in the economic one. Cultures till display strong national, regional and local variations.

Day Three

Business Session 1

"Non-Muslims during the time of prophet (PBUH)" was the topic of Mohtarma Akheela Khamooshi.

Prof. Obaidullah Fahad, deptt. of Islamic Studies, Aligarh Muslim University, talked on "Non-Muslims during the time of Prophet (PBUH) and the Rashidun caliphate" He took the examples of some non-Muslims influenced by Muslims and said, Muhammad (PBUH) was the man of the hour. Michael H Hart, in his book *The 100* has ranked the great men in history with respect to their influence on human history. He ranked the holy Prophet as the most influential man in human history.

Syed Omer Farooq, asst. professor, MANNU, talked on "Islam and knowledge". He spoke about the life of the Prophet's (PBUH), In Makkah, he

had a small following. In Madinah, he had many more and soon acquired an influence that made him a virtual emperor. During the next few years, while Muhammad's (PBUH) following grew rapidly, a series of battles were fought between Madinah and Makkah. This war ended in 630 with Muhammad's (PBUH) triumphant return to Makkah as conqueror. The remaining two and a half years of his life witnessed rapid conversion of Arab tribes to the new religion. When Muhammad (PBUH) died in 632, he was the effective ruler of all of southern Arabia.

Business Session 2

"Islam and Secularism" was G.Q. Haqqani's topic. He said secularism has no place in the lands of Islam for two reasons: The first of these is that Islam is the religion that Allah sent down to replace the previous manifestations of faith and to govern all aspects of life. The simplest Muslim can see how Islam explains all matters in detail.

Business Session 3

"Responsibilities of youth towards the state and citizens" was the topic of Prof. M. Afzal Wani, professor of Law GGSIP University. The youth, the future of the nation and the people who have the power and the destiny to change the nation have certain responsibilities towards the country. The youth is often considered the most powerful part of the population and that is a correct way to describe the youth, he observed.

Prof. Haseena Hashia, former professor in the department of geography, Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi, talked on "Islam and terrorism". She spoke about Islam as a religion of peace. Islam has laid rules for believers, based on justice, harmony, honesty and coexistence. Even in war, a code of Islamic conduct is there. Children, women and the disabled should not be harmed. Even flora and other living things should not be harmed, according to Islam. Prof.

Hashia presented various verses from the holy Quran to prove that Islam is a religion of peace.

Day Four

Business Session 1

Prof. Mirza Asmer Beg, of deptt. of political science, AMU, spoke on "Globalisation, Definition and Impact". He said, Many people debate the impacts of globalisation and discuss the for and against conditions for it. Globalisation implies that something new is happening to the world. It leads to interconnection between countries of different cultures, races and religions.

"Islamic states in the world" was the topic of Mohammad Masood Ahmed, director, MIMCS, According to him the Muslim population in the world stands at second followed by other religion.

Business Session 2

"Muslims under the Muslims Empire Umayyads of Spain, Abbasids, the Ottomans" was the topic of Mohammad Naseeruddin, MESCO senior faculty. He emphasised mostly the empire of Ottomans which conquered European and Asian countries and spread Islam not with the force of sword, but with superior morals.

Business Session 3

Mr. Hamid Hussain, lecturer MESCO Degree College, delivered a lecture on "Islam, Modernity and Westernisation" and said that Islam is a complete religion which guides in all aspects of human life. It is realistic. It doesn't give any scope for old age homes.

According to Islam, Muslims respect their parents and take care of old people. According to a Hadith the Prophet (PBUH) said, "Every righteous person who casts a look of mercy and affection upon his parents shall be granted, for every look of his, rewards equivalent to that of an accepted Hajj".

In Western culture sending parents to old age home is not discouraged. The Western culture actually began in the 16th century and they started the movement of “freedom of thinking”. The effects of Western culture started on Muslims from 1857 when the British conquered Delhi.

“Islam and liberalisation movement” was the topic of Khaja Hasanuddin Anas, member, managing committee, Ayesha Niswan. He said that in current political discourse the “Muslim question” in India is not articulated in terms of demands for equity. Instead, the political leadership camouflages real issues of backwardness, prejudice, and social exclusion with the rhetoric of identity.

Day Five

Business Session 1

Mohammad Ihteshaamuddin Aziz, research scholar, Nizam College, spoke on “Islam and Multiculturalism”. According to him it is difficult to find a country in the world that has absolute uniformity in terms of religious identity. In attempting to cope with this challenge, academics, non-governmental organisations and others made the protection of ethnic and cultural minorities a subject of great consideration in the European Union. The results were more imaginative models upon which the state could be based in order to manage such diversity.

“Islam’s Contribution to humanities and social sciences” was Mohammad Abdul Saleem’s topic. A research scholar at Nizam College, Abdul Saleem said Islam unified science, theology, and philosophy. Muslims were commanded by Allah to study, seek

knowledge, and learn and benefit from others’ experiences.

Prof Syed Jamal ud Din, former professor of Jamia Millia, New Delhi, spoke on “Non-Muslims under Muslim rule in India”. According to him Muslims are governed by Muslim Personal Law. The Personal Law play a vital role in reconciling the conflicting interests of individuals. In India in personal matters, there is no national or regional law. Personal Law of a person is not determined by his domicile or his nationality but by his membership of the faith community to which he belongs.

At the valedictory session of the programme, the chief guest was Hazrath Moulana Mufti Khaleel Ahmed Sahab, Sheikh-ul-Jamia, Jamia Nizamia, Hyderabad. It was presided by Dr. Ghouse Mohiuddin Ali, president MESCO. The virtual keynote speaker was Prof. Ishtiyaque Danish finance secretary, Institute of Objective Studies, New Delhi. The guest of honour was Mr. Mir Ayub Ali Khan of Siasat.com. This session was followed by distribution of certificates to the students.

IOS Condolence on the demise of Prof. Refaqt Ali Khan

With immense grief and sorrow, the Chairman, office-bearers, and members of staff of the Institute of Objective Studies, New Delhi, offers its deep condolences on the sad demise of Prof. Refaqt Ali Khan on June 9, 2021.

Prof. Refaqt Ali Khan was deeply associated with Institute of Objective Studies, New Delhi, for a long time. He was former Vice-Chairman of IOS and also looking after the academic projects of the Institute. He was the General Editor of the three volumes published by the Institute ‘*The Role of Muslims in the Indian Freedom Struggle 1857-1947.*’

Born in 1939, Prof. Khan studied at Aligarh Muslim University, Aligarh. Initially he worked for Indian National Science Academy, New Delhi. He worked with Professor A Rahman’s project ‘*Science and Technology in Medieval India*’. Professor Refaqt Ali Khan taught history at Aligarh Muslim University, Aligarh, Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi and Maulana Azad College at Aurangabad.

May Allah accept all his good deeds, bless him with the choicest place in the heaven and grant sabr to all in the grieved family and us to bear this loss. Aameen.

Activities of the IOS Chapters

KOLKATA CHAPTER

IOS Kolkata Chapter organises symposium on “Social and Academic Contributions of Maulana Hakim Mohammad Zaman Hussaini (r.a.)”

Institute of Objective Studies, Kolkata chapter organised a symposium on “Social and Academic Contributions of Maulana Hakim Mohammad Zaman Hussaini (r.a.)” on 7th March 2021 at the Lecture Room of IOS Kolkata Chapter.

Kolkata Chapter is organising a series of symposiums under the theme -“Remembering the 20th Century Islamic Scholars of West Bengal“. This symposium was the second in its series.



A view of the audience of the Symposium

Addressing the audience on this occasion, prominent scholar Maulana Khalid Ghazipuri, who is a teacher of Hadith at DarulUloomNadwatulUlama, Lucknow said, “Hakim ZamanHussaini is among those people, whose sincere efforts, contributions and sacrifices made them beloved to everyone. He had a good reputation and recognition among his contemporaries. He had a good command over different languages and the way he communicated with the people was exemplary.”

He added, We all know that Bengal is a place which gave a good number of poets, politicians and educationists to the country, but few people knew that Bengal has also been the birthplace of many great religious scholars. He appreciated the initiative taken by IOS Kolkata Chapter.

In his brief address Dr Mohammad ManzoorAlam, chairman of IOS, said, “If we are not attached with our history, our predecessors, their contributions and their sacrifices, we will never be able to achieve the goal we set for our future generations. He said that it was the need of the hour to make the new generation aware of their glorious history. He also advised the Kolkata Chapter to publish the works of these scholars in the regional language.

Introducing the purpose and the topic of the symposium, coordinator of IOS Kolkata Chapter, Abdul Basit Ismail said that in past people from Bengal had played leading roles in different fields of life. He added that it is our duty to make Muslims aware of their glorious past, so that they could take guidance from it.

MaulanaAneesur Rahman Qasmi, who joined the meeting online through Zoom

said that Hakim ZamanHussaini had made a comprehensive study of the Quran. He had read almost all the famous books of commentary on the Quran. Apart from this he had in-depth knowledge of Hadith as well. His service to the Quran is a model for new generations of Islamic scholars.

Dr. Shamim Akhter Qasmi, head of the department of Islamic Theology, Aliah University, presented his paper on “Life and Contributions of Maulana Hakim Mohammad ZamanHussaini (r.a)”. “Hakim ZamanHussaini was among those extraordinary people whose contributions will keep benefitting people for a longer period of time”, he said.

Views were expressed by eminent scholars like Qari Mohammed Ismail Zafar and Talha bin Abu Salma Nadvi and the family members of Hakim ZamanHussaini- like Salman Hussaini and Hassan Hussaini.

IOS Kolkata Chapter and Aliah University organise 5-day Winter School on Islamic Studies

Institute of Objective Studies (IOS), has started its Summer/Winter School programmes for the benefit of university students.

The IOS Kolkata Chapter jointly organised the event with the Department of Islamic Theology, Aliah University, Kolkata from 15th to 19th February, 2021. The five-day winter school was conducted online. The joint venture brought the likes of literary stalwarts Prof. Nilanjana Gupta and Prof. Mir Rejaul Karim to share

the dais along with kind patrons like the Minister of State, Mr. Siddiqullah Chowdhury.

The five-day workshop commencing on February 15, 2021 at 06.30 p.m. was opened with a recitation from the Holy Quran by Maulana Ahmad Ali Qasmi, followed by a speech by Dr. MohdShamim Akhter Qasmi, Head of the Department of Islamic Studies, Aliah University. The topic was then formally introduced by Mr. Abdul Basit Ismail, Coordinator of the Institute of Objective Studies, Kolkata Chapter.

The inaugural address was made by Prof. Z. M. Khan, Secretary General of Institute of Objective Studies, and two special addresses by Maulana Khalid NadviGhazipuri, Shaikhul Hadith, NadwatulUlama, Lucknow and MaulanaSiddiqullah Chowdhury, Minister-Mass Education, Extension & Library Services, Government of West Bengal. The attendees also had the pleasure of listening to inputs from special guest Prof. Mahammad Ali, Vice Chancellor, Aliah University, Kolkata.

Prof. Nilanjana Gupta from the Department of English, Jadavpur University, Kolkata also spoke on this occasion.

Comprising of two lectures, Business Session-I of the Winter School commenced at 10.00 a.m. on February 16, 2021. First to speak was Prof. Ishtiaque Danish, a former Professor in the Department of Islamic

Studies, JamiaHamdard, New Delhi, followed by Dr. ImdadHussain, Asstt. Prof. of the Department of Islamic Theology, Aliah University. Business Session II was taken over by Mr. Syed Abdur Rasheed, Head of the Department of Islamic Studies,



A view of the Speakers

Aliah University, Prof. Mohd. Fahim Akhtar, Head of the Department of Islamic Studies, MANUU, Hyderabad and Dr. Md Ashraf Ali, Assistant Professor, Department of Islamic Theology, Aliah University, Kolkata.

Prof. M. Afzal Wani, Professor of Law and Dean, University School of Law and Legal Studies, GGS Indraprastha University, New Delhi, took over the Business Session III along with Asst. Prof. Dr. Ziauddin, Department of Islamic Studies, AMU, Aligarh. Two very important topics “*Globalisation and Islam*” and “*Islamic Perspective of Knowledge*” were addressed by Prof. Wani and Prof. Ziauddin, respectively.

The eloquent Dr. Sajjad Alam Rizvi, Asst. Prof. in the Department of History, Presidency University, Kolkata addressed the topic, “*Muslim Contribution to Mathematics and Medicine*”. Dr. Rizvi blew the dust off our memories, revealing major contributions made by the Muslims, the most unique one being ‘cross application of disciplines’, the ones made by Umar Khayyam and so on.

Dr. Muhammad Raziul Islam Nadvi, Assistant Editor, Tahqeeqate Islami Quarterly, Aligarh, spoke on the “*Islamic Perspective on Money and Wealth*” presenting the most beautiful and equitable social scenarios that could ever exist and how effortlessly this can be materialized following the light of Islam.

Prof. Hamid Naseem Rafiabadi, Department of Islamic Studies, University of Kashmir, enriched the audience with the elixir of years of his groundwork and study on the topic, “*Islam in the 21st Century*”.

“*Non-Muslims under the Muslim Empires*” was the topic explained by Dr. Enayatullah Khan, Asstt. Prof., Department of Islamic Theology, Aliah University. Sensitive as it is, the topic required gentle and tactful handling, which is exactly what Dr. Khan was able to do. The second lecture of the Business Session V, held on February 18th 2021, was delivered by Dr. Mohd. Shamim Akhter Qasmi, Head of the department of Islamic

Theology, Aliah University, Kolkata on the topic “*Development of Fiqh*”.

The commencing lecture of the Business session VI was one by Prof. Arshi Khan, Department of Political Science, AMU, Aligarh on the much talked about topic, “*Islam and World Peace*”. In the wake of controversial allegations like fundamentalism and terrorism, Prof. Khan, raised and answered questions like “Why there is no world peace?”, “How can we achieve world peace?” and “How Islam plays a vital role in bringing peace into our lives by channelling thoughts positively”? The second lecture by Dr. Abu Tamim, Asstt. Prof., Department of Islamic Theology, Aliah University, focused on “*Islam and Humanity*”. Smoothly and systematically, Dr Tamim, could disintegrate the allegations against Islam.

Finally, ending the day’s session with the lecture by Dr. Uzma Naheed, Director, Iqra Education Foundation, Mumbai, on “*Women in Islam*”. In the light of the arguments made by Dr. Naheed, the accusations of the Western world that has so often been used against Islam, seemed to naturally succumb and fizzle out.

The first of the two lectures in the second last session was on “*Islam and Multiculturalism*” by Prof. Obaidullah Fahad, Department of Islamic Studies, AMU, Aligarh. This was followed by the address by Prof. Syed Jamaluddin, former Professor,

Department of History, Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi, on the topic, “*Muslim Contribution to Social Sciences*”. The lecture was packed with useful information much of which came as a surprise to most of us.

February 19, 2021, the last day of the five-day workshop arrived even before we knew it. As is the tradition the Valedictory Session was started with a recitation from the Holy Quran by Maulana Ghulam Rabbani Nadvi and was followed by the Key Address aptly called “*The Way Ahead*” by Prof. Ishtiyaque Danish, Former Professor, Department of Islamic Studies, Jamia Hamdard, New Delhi. Prof. Amzed Hossein, Professor of English and Dean of Students’ Welfare, Aliah University, Kolkata, Md Nadimul Haque, honourable Member of Parliament, Dr. Sk. Ashfaq Ali, Deputy Registrar, Aliah University, ensued the Key address. The Theme Address was made by Dr N Sabah Ismail Nadvi, Alig, Chief Administrator, Jibreel International School, Kolkata. Dr. Ismail skilfully summed up the five-day journey, stringing the various pearls of wisdom into a single strand.

Dr. Mohammad Manzoor Alam, Chairman, Institute of Objective Studies, New Delhi, delivered the Presidential Address while the workshop was concluded with a vote of thanks by Mr. Abdul Basit Ismail, coordinator, Institute of Objective Studies, Kolkata Chapter.

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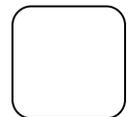
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