

IOS NEWSLETTER

Vol. 29 No. 9

September 2022/Safar-Rabi al-Awwal 1444 Hijri

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

Editor

Prof. Sanghasen Singh

Circulation Manager

Syed Arshad Karim

Correspondence Address

162, Jogabai Extension
Jamia Nagar, New Delhi
PIN-110025
India

Phone 26981187,
26989253, 26987467

E-mail:

info@iosworld.org
ios.newdelhi@gmail.com

Website:

www.iosworld.org

FOCUS

There are various institutions on the Indian sub-continent imparting education that varies from information technology, basic sciences, medicine, humanities and languages to social sciences. Besides, there are a large number of institutions that are meant basically to promote religious education. Among such institutions Maktab and Madaris (plural of madrasa) are found across the sub-continent with their main focus on religious teaching. These institutions are established and maintained by Muslims either privately or through registered trust/societies, but the institutions do not have adequate infrastructural facilities, competent staff and an up-to-date syllabus. Similarly, in most of the cases the mode of teaching is as old as that of the fifteenth century when these institutions were established to educate the children of nobles/royals during the Mughal period.

Gradually this system expanded and spread among Muslims all over the sub-continent, especially in the dominant Muslim regions. Besides Urdu, Arabic and Persian are the major languages taught in these institutions, though Arabic and Persian are neither functional in India nor scientifically updated. But there is a strong belief among Muslims that learning these languages, especially Arabic, is essential to their religious and cultural identity. So, Muslims send their children to Maktab/Madrasa in order to preserve their cultural identity. Consequently, these religious institutions are mushrooming in the country, in spite of their rudimentary and ill-equipped syllabus.

The role of religious preachers is crucial in this regard as they have been preaching that without reading the Holy Quran it is not possible for a Muslim to have a place in Heaven. Since prayer (*Namaz*) is one of the basic tenets of Islam and verses of the *Quran* are a must-read in *Namaz*, the learning of the *Quran* is also a must for a Muslim and for this purpose Maktab/Madaris have been considered the most suitable places to learn the *Quran* and *Hadith* (a collection of traditions containing sayings of the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) and recounting his daily practices that constitute the major source of guidance for Muslims apart from the *Quran*).

Education in Islam has been given priority and is considered the basis for the entire code of conduct of a human being. So Islamic culture is mainly based on education and this is the reason that education in Islam has been given a prime place. Acquisition of knowledge would enrich the life of human beings and enable them to discharge their duties according to the teachings of the Holy *Quran*. In the very first revelation of the Holy Book the Prophet (PBUH) was given a command related to reading. The Prophet (PBUH) also exhorted believers to seek knowledge from cradle to grave and regard it as their sacred duty. According to Him, the ink of a scholar is holier than the blood of the martyr and the learned are the heirs of the Prophet (Abrar and Ishaq, 2002). He not only encouraged but actively participated in the promotion of education. He undertook steps for the establishment of Darul Akram (House of Akram) at the base of Safah Mountain and taught the *Quran* to his companions (Wani, 2012).

From *Status of Madrasa Education in India* by Mohammad Ishtiyaque (ed.), p.1

Activities of the IOS Headquarters

IOS organises International Conference on “Power of Good in Changing Global Scenario”

A one-day online International conference on “Power of Good in Changing Global Scenario” was organised by the Institute of Objective Studies on September 17, 2022.

Inaugural Session

Conducted by Shaikh Nizamuddin, a social activist from Sholapur, the inaugural session was initiated with the recitation of a verse from the Holy Qur’an by Maulana Athar Hussain Nadwi of the Urdu section of the IOS.

In his welcome address, Prof. Z.M. Khan, Secretary General, IOS, observed that the current global scenario was very disturbing, and it was the power of good that could address the problems facing humanity. Islam has the power to create a world order that could restore the lost values, he remarked.

Referring to the activities of the IOS, he noted that the area of its operation was spreading. The IOS was engaged in promoting research, conducting surveys on relevant themes, and publishing books and journals in areas of national concern and pressing challenges of civil society. The Institute had certain permanent and regular publications. Publication was a big area in which the IOS was working. More than 400 titles had so far been published in English, Urdu and Hindi. Regular publications include the IOS Newsletter, Mutalea’at and two journals of the IOS. Besides, IOS Minaret was an online magazine of

viewpoints. Translation of books in different languages was another area in which the Institute stepped in a big way.

Two awards, namely, the Shah Waliullah Award and Lifetime Achievement Award, had been instituted to recognize the contribution of scholars and other personalities to various fields.

Inaugurating the conference, Prof. Omar Hasan Kasule, Secretary General, International Institute of Islamic Thought (IIIT), USA, stressed the need for peace. Expressing his happiness over the selection of the theme, he said that good meant peace. He related *Salah* to peace and held that the Qur’an assured that peace would

Citing another example, he said that there was the virtue of good in Prophet Yusuf, which made him triumphant. In the Qur’anic narrative, illustrations of the fight between good and ego abounded. Coming down heavily upon the media for exaggeration and sensitisation of incidents, he noted that it aroused people. Good might or might not be seen; it should always be discovered. We should look for the good in everything. One needed to work at the individual level and be rational. He also called for educating good to young people. Then ego would disappear from society, and good would prevail. He laid emphasis on the epistemological approach to history.

In his keynote address, Prof. M. Afzal Wani, Pro-Vice Chancellor, IILM University, Greater Noida and Vice-Chairman, IOS, held that things were not as simple as they looked. Truth should be modulated and looked into the upright way. It was the consequence that helped do action. Illustrating his point, he said that when you see a child around her



A view of the Speakers

ultimately triumph. The world was witnessing a lot of suffering, but it would vanish with the triumph of good. Referring to the epistemology of history, he said that Allah asked Prophet Adam to stay in the garden of Heaven, but Satan confused him. This was the conflict between good and bad, but eventually, good triumphed over bad. Similarly, so was the history of Moses and Pharaoh, he added.

Prof. Kasule observed that while Pharaoh was played out because he stood for bad, Prophet Moses triumphed because he embraced the virtue of good. In history, there were plenty of such incidents to show how rational people always stood by good.

mother, there is always a smile on the face of the child. The virtue of good gave power, energy and stimulus. It was good for humanity and the cosmos. Non-good resulted in oppression and the denial of humanity, childhood, fatherhood, respect, etc. All the things should be examined in terms of consequences. It should be measured in terms of good. He asked for having truthful democracy, appreciating the power of good and being on its side. Public opinion should also be in favour of good. He said that a legal system of good for the people in the world had been created.

Prof. Wani said that there should be power to identify the attribute of good.

One had to explore good and enjoy the fruits of good. There should be collective good for ensuring local and global harmony. He stressed the need for seeing things from the correct perspective. There was a prevalence of hunger and poverty all around. He regretted that alleviation of poverty programmes were launched every 10 years, but they failed to cut much ice because of policy paralysis. He called upon the people to appreciate the good and take a vow to eradicate poverty. He said that greed had destabilized governance and the governing system. If the people gave good education to their wards they would become the best citizens of the world. Equality was good because it empowered people. He called for identifying the truthfulness of what was good.

Prof. Wani observed that the good behind every action should be seen. He cited the example of Buddha, who left his palace in search of the good. It was good by which he stood. History taught humankind to be on the side of good. This meant that there should be harmony in society. The Prophet of Islam (PBUH) was on the side of good and truth. He was the best for humanity because he stood for good. He quoted the Prophet who said that a fair-skinned person was not superior to a black-skinned. The best of things was the best of understanding. The creation of knowledge should be for the benefit of society and the sustenance of the universe. Distinguishing between good and evil was necessary to choose the right path. He concluded by commenting that one should understand the power of good and the power of truth.

Prof. M. Ishaque, Department of Islamic Studies, Jamia Millia Islamia,

New Delhi, summed up the proceedings of the inaugural session and proposed a vote of thanks.

Technical Session-I

Presided over by Prof. Syed Jamaluddin, Director, IOS Centre for Historical and Civilisational Studies, the first technical session was moderated by the principal of Jibreel International School Kolkata, A. Basit Ismail.

The first speaker of the session was Prof. Shamim A. Ansari, Dept. of Psychology, Aligarh Muslim University, who focused on “Power of Good for Goodness of Enhancing Sustainability of Inter-Personal Relationships”. He said that good was

openness were also constituted. Goodness, he added. Prof. M. Ishaque observed that according to the Prophet (PBUH), good was beautiful and the beautiful was good. He said that good and bad things were for the test only. There were trees of good and evil. Good had its provision. He called for return to the divine directions in the present global scenario. He counseled that one must keep himself patient.

Prof. Akbar Hussain, Department of Psychology, AMU, spoke on “Power of Good Behaviour to Attain the Goal of Humanness”. He said that the Prophet (PBUH) emphasized the importance of good. All people should strive for good things. He observed that what was

beautiful was good and what was good was beautiful. Allah likes those who are good and knows who are good. Allah likes those who excel in doing good. Allah also likes those who are good in their deeds. Modesty did not convey anything but goodness.

There was a relationship between good behaviour and character. Akhlaq was the soul of the

character since there were good and bad akhlaq. He pointed out that doing good would bring rewards 10 times more. Good was an attribute of humanity. One should be good and generous to everyone, he added. Prof. Hendry Tanjung, Vice-Director, Postgraduate School, Ibn Khaldun University Bogor, Indonesia focused on “Responsible Role to be Played by National Government and International Agencies for Attaining Sustainable Social Order and Development for All”.

Defining Waqf, he said that it was Sadqaa-e-Jaariah. Waqf had played a significant role in the world for both Muslims and non-Muslims. Waqf was



A view of the Speakers

always good. Referring to the Greek concept called hedonism, he noted that the man was basically good. All human relations were based on power. Influence and compulsions of power had a cascading effect on goodness. He observed that if one did good to others, he would receive the same from them. The power of good had effects of positivity in individuals. Smiling face of people always had positive effects and influenced others. Human qualities were very good and they should be imbibed. Loyalty formed an important element of goodness. Besides, piety that implied speaking truth was equally important. Humanity, compassion, love, peace, courage and

embedded in a Muslim society. He noted that cash Waqf had become increasingly popular. Cash Waqf in Indonesia had been recognised by a Fatwa dated May 11, 2002. He continued that there were 17 goals of sustainable development. He enumerated all of them. He held that Waqf had played a positive role in India to feed the hungry and provide water to the thirsty. Waqf was also doing a very good job in Indonesia. He was followed by Dr. John Dayal, Human Rights and Christian Political Activist, Delhi, who called for walking together and helping together. Referring to the tragedies and other incidents in other parts of the world, he said that the post-war economic power was in shambles. Secularism was on the run, and democracy was dangling. He said that ultra-nationalism was now a global phenomenon. He expressed his willingness to work with the IOS. He emphasised the need for working together. He said that *Rajdharm* in India should be to see everyone with the same eye.

The next speaker was Maulana Atiq Ahmad Bastavi, Secretary, All India Muslim Personal Law Board. He said the world was undergoing a change, but it should be good and beneficial for humankind. Expressing concerns over the grouping together of evil forces, he regretted that those who stood for good were badly divided. Islam stood for the entire humanity and Muslims and had been ordained with greater responsibility as *Khair-e-Ummat*. One of the duties of the *Ummah* was to spread the message of virtue and abhorrence for vice. He said that efforts should be made to ensure justice for those who suffered due to one reason or the other. Everyone should get his due without hindrance. He suggested that the good people of every community should be approached to seek their cooperation in the spread of peace, order and goodwill. He called upon non-governmental organisations to activate such groups as could work for the welfare and development of the

country. The IOS and other such organisations should come forward and chalk out a plan for promoting mutual love and brotherhood, he concluded.

Prof. Shuja Shakir, Department of Political Science, Babasaheb Ambedkar Marathwada University, Pune, observed that today's challenges had moral dimensions. Moral issues were there and had not seen solutions. Today, society was morally weak leading to the deficit of the ideas of freedom, justice and equality. Morality in public life was missing. In order to keep the society bound by ethical values Prophets and great men always pleaded for cherishing a high moral order, he added. Professor Samir Qasim Fakhro, UNESCO Consultant, Bahrain, focused on "The Good, the Bad and the Ugly". In his message read out by Prof. M. Ishaque, he said that the power of the good was only meaningful when associated with ethnically disciplined human beings who ventured out, acted or pro-acted based on the governing universal laws laid out by the creator of this universe and had to be followed in detail by the people He created. He observed that being an optimist yet realist, he had based his narrative on the conclusive findings of a few world strategists and futurists who were also close to the decision-making circles in the West. Their findings coincided with the existing ground realities and the most likely events expected in the near future. He recommended that one should keep the findings and warnings in mind during the coming few years and review them every six months to check their evolving validating or falsehood.

Another activist, VB Rawat, held that India was a multicultural society. With a view to cementing cultural bonds among different communities, constitutionalism should be strictly followed and practiced. He said that one must have the courage to speak the truth and stand up to falsehood and propaganda. Emphasising the urgent need for initiating dialogue with the representatives of different faiths, he

opined that courage should be displayed to condemn the wrongs done in the past. He asked for apologizing for the dark chapters of the past and learning from them. Religion and religious persuasion should be a very personal matter, he contended.

The first technical ended with the summing up of the proceedings by Prof. Syed Jamaluddin.

Technical Session II

Chaired by Prof. Hendry Tanjung, the second technical session was moderated by Shaikh Nizamuddin.

The first speaker of the session was Dr. Syed Ashraf Imam, a Licensed Clinical Psychologist in the state of California who centered his presentation on "Positive Change through the Power of Empathy & Conditional Positive". He said that human life was a two-way street. He called for following the guidance of human relations. He asked to empathise with the condition of others or the behaviour of a person. He was followed by Prof. Syed Jamaluddin who observed that Allah loves good doers, and acts of goodness were recognized by Allah. He said that good and evil existed since time immemorial. Good doers would be rewarded by Allah. One should believe in God, His Angles and the Day of Judgement. God could never be unjust. One should try to be of a good moral character in public as well as in private. One should also be good to others regardless of what they did. He said that believers were always positive. He referred to several motivational Ahadis. Allah is compassionate, kind and merciful, he added. The third speaker was Prof. Amita Valmiki, Head, Deptt. of Philosophy, R. J. College of Arts, Science and Commerce, Mumbai. In her presentation, she referred to the Bhakti and Sufi way of goodness by quoting Kabir, Meera, Buddha and the modern time philosopher Bertrand Russell. Bhakti and Sufism embodied theistic mysticism. She also quoted Swami Vivekananda who opined that

religion taught goodness. The Bhakti movement played an important role in promoting good in society. The self or the ego was annihilated gradually in the process of realization. She noted that Guru Nanak Dev said, "Those who have loved are those who have found God."

Independent journalist and writer Bhasha Singh held that hatred could be challenged by collective efforts. Everyone had to stand against wrong and stand for humanity. One should speak the truth to their inner-selves. All the humane and just people were co-travellers and should stand together. "Fascist forces are at our doorsteps and we should accept their challenges", she said. Dr. Nirwan Syafrin, Senior Lecturer, Ibn Khaldun University Bogor, Indonesia, focused on "Qur'anic and Prophetic Teachings on Promoting Global Peace". There was no doubt that religion was one of the fundamental elements that intrinsically inhered in every human being. He said that Islam was the religion of peace, and it preached harmony and peace. Muslims constituted 20 percent of the world's population, but Muslim countries were involved in civil war. There are 49 Muslim countries, but peace eluded in several of them because of conflicts. Islamic principles called for creating congeal environment for peaceful living. Referring to the objectives of *Shariah*, he said that providing goodness was one of them. The Holy Qur'an categorically condemned any form of destructive acts. Islamic principles should be applied to deal with the people of other faiths, he pointed out.

The last speaker of the session was Maulana Abdul Hameed Noumani, General Secretary of the All India Muslim Majlis Mushawarat, New Delhi. He called for creating alternatives to prevent ills from prevailing in society. He said that the path that the Qur'an showed the believers must be followed. There should be a distinction

between *Halal* and *Haram*. If one wanted to get rewarded, he must connect with Allah. He said that socially, the scope of *khair* was very wide. In the Indian context, it was *Dharmshastra* that guided *Raj Dharm*. He noted that truth, welfare and piety would have to be seen from an international perspective.

Valedictory Session

Conducting the valedictory session, Prof. M. Afzal Wani observed that goodness would have to be seen in political, social, religious and moral contexts. The distinction between good and bad would have to be made. It was humane and needed to be addressed in the same way. There was no difficulty in identifying the truth. He said that there should be an administrative code of ethics and international code of medical ethics.

Addressing the session as the guest speaker, Mr. Mamoon Al Azmi, Head, Community Development Programme, IIT, USA, said that the darkness was poverty and deprivation. The power of good was clearly demonstrated in the Qur'an and Hadith. Only good could create good. Justice should be done because it was the way of *Taqwa*. It was evil versus good. He held that the one who spoke the truth could not lie, adding that forgiving was the power of good. He suggested that one should start with himself as an individual and then progress to promote good and pacify others. People should be mobilized for good things, he emphasized.

The message of the chairman, IOS Dr. M. Manzoor Alam, who was supposed to preside over the session but could not make it, was read out by Prof. M. Ishaque. In his message, Dr. Alam said, "Each day, we make decisions as per our beliefs and values. Sometimes, the decision is easy to make, but many times, we are faced with predicaments to make a choice. The choices made by us are depended on economic, cultural, social, political, religious and other factors, and these choices, at the end of

the day, reflect our identities that are also shaped by these factors. The ideologies and the set of rules one grows up with also play an equal part in our decision-making."

"One could argue that it becomes challenging to carry the virtue of goodness in the current global changing scenario. In recent times, the world experienced a humanitarian crisis followed by the fall of other components that run our society.

Unfortunately, we live in a world which is so full of disapproval and hatred against certain communities, races, classes, castes, genders, etc.; the world is a witness to social evils, like racial supremacy, class hierarchy, gender disparity, religious hate crimes, etc. In such circumstances, we ought to be more responsible for the holistic development of society and desire a life sans vileness and inequality. Imagine living in a world that emphasized making our lives better and also full of love, empathy and respect for others. This should be our goal in the long run on both individual and community levels."

A three-point resolution, moved by Prof. M. Afzal Wani, was unanimously adopted by the attendees.

The resolution read: A one-day International conference on "Power of Good in Changing Global Scenario", held on September 17, 2022, via Zoom, has been successfully concluded in which researchers, academics, activists, and journalists from India and abroad participated, and the following resolutions were presented and adopted:

1. The Regulatory bodies of education across the globe are urged to include in the courses of study the content enabling an understanding of 'good' and its 'power' to create a better humane world.
2. Institutions of politics, economy and society should strive for

directing their planning and action in the direction of achieving good for all and facilitating the working of all people in creating a better political, economic and social order in the world.

- All the countries across the world are to be stressed upon to cooperate and give a good shape to inter-country relations to cooperate in harmonious development and prevent and mitigate the horrors of war and disasters together.

In the end, Prof. Syed Jamaluddin extended a vote of thanks to all participants.

Annual Meeting of Governing Council (G.C.)

The 72nd Meeting (Annual) of Governing Council (G.C.) of the Institute of Objective Studies (IOS) was held on September 3, 2022 in both offline and online mode.

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

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

The meeting got initiated with the recitation of a verse from the Holy Qur'an.

Condolence resolutions of all those associated with the IOS, who passed away during April to August 2022, were adopted and *dua* was made for their *maghfirat*.

The minutes of the 71st G.C. meeting, held on March 26, 2022, were presented and confirmed.

The Follow-up Report (Action-taken Report) of the last G.C. meeting

was presented, which was considered and got approved with the following information/ suggestions/ decisions:

In regard to the volume on “*Good Governance in a Globalising World*”, it was reported that two chapters have been received from Dr. Malika B. Mistry and Prof. M. Afzal Wani. Further, three more chapters committed by Prof. Amir Ullah Khan, Dr. Kaleem Alam and Prof. Afroz Alam are yet to be submitted.

It was decided that those who have committed to contribute chapters will be reminded again to submit their

papers, received so far, have already been edited by him.

In this regard, it was decided that the volume, final in all respect, should be submitted by Prof. Syed Jamaluddin by November 15, 2022.

Regarding the editing of the book on “*Musharakah*”, jointly by Prof. Javed Ahmad Khan and Dr. Kaleem Alam, it was reported that the deadline for full paper submission for 9 approved abstracts received so far is 15th September, 2022.

Further, the Chairman instructed to remind the respective scholars for the submission of full papers by the stipulated deadline, so that the volume can be submitted to IOS by November end 2022 for its printing.

For developing an ‘Index’ by the IOS to be called as ‘*World Government Index*’ or ‘*Best Government Index*’ or ‘*Peoples Government Index*’, a meeting consisting of Dr. Kaleem Alam, Prof. Haseena Hashia

and Mr. M.M. Khan was held on August 17, 2022, at the IOS. Prof. Haseena Hashia reported that Dr. Kaleem Alam, while showing his displeasure, informed that he will prepare the ‘Index’ on his own. The rest work will be followed by other members.

It was further decided that a meeting consisting of Dr. Kaleem Alam, Prof. Haseena Hashia and Mr. M.M. Khan will be held on October 5, 2022, to chalk out the plan before starting the work.

Regarding the lecture series under the broader theme “*Constitution, Democracy and Rule of Law in India*”, a committee consisting of Prof. Arshi Khan, Prof. Z. M. Khan, Prof. Haseena Hashia, Prof. M. Ishtiyaque, and Mr. V.



A view of the G.C. meeting

chapters as soon as possible so that we can proceed for the volume compilation by November 30, 2022.

In regard to prepare the ‘Note’ on “*Political Thought of Muslims in India in different times*”, it was reported that Prof. Arshi Khan regretted to prepare the said ‘Note’ due to his busy schedule.

Further, looking at the relevance of the topic in the contemporary times, Prof. M. Afzal Wani offered to prepare the said ‘Note’.

Regarding the National Seminar on “*Religious Interactions and Cultural Encounter in Medieval India*”, edited by Prof. Syed Jamaluddin, it was reported that out of 14 papers, 11

B. Rawat has been formed. It was decided that the Committee will hold a meeting on September 22, 2022, to finalise the names of scholars for delivering the lectures.

Further, Dr. Md. Aftab Alam agreed to deliver a lecture under the series in October 2022.

Under the 5-Point Agenda it was decided that Mr. V.B. Rawat will work on the project titled “*Achievements and failures of print media in protecting democracy and human rights*” after completing his present assignments.

On the topic “*Contribution of Urdu to the making of India*,” which is to be approached in two ways—through fiction and poetry, it was reported by Prof. Syed Jamaluddin that Dr. Zabeen Anjum will take up the project in association with Prof. Siraj Ajmali and Prof. Tariq Chattari. The work on it will be started in the month of October 2022 with the deadline of four months. Further, Prof. Syed Jamaluddin informed that there will be no financial liabilities on the Institute for this project.

On the topic “*National Integration and history text books*,” it was reported that Dr. Babli Parveen has informed that she has collected the hardcopy of concerned books and will start the work soon.

Moreover, it was decided that Prof. Syed Jamaluddin will remind and follow-up with her to initiate the work as soon as possible.

Regarding the topic “*Subversion of mainstream media and spread of fake news and stories destroying social harmony*” under the 5-Point Agenda by Dr. Md. Aftab Alam, he informed that the proposal will be submitted by him to the IOS in the month of October 2022.

Regarding Webinar/Seminar on “*Role of Social Scientists in Resolving Socio-Religious Tensions*” under the umbrella of the IAMSS, Prof. Haseena Hashia informed that the date and other details of the webinar/seminar will be

finalised in the next meeting of the committee consisting of Prof. Haseena Hashia, Prof. Shamim A. Ansari, and Prof. Nasreen Fatima (Aligarh), scheduled to be held on September 4, 2022.

Regarding the Conference on ‘*Awqaf*’ in collaboration with Muslim Chamber of Commerce at Pune scheduled to be held on November 19-20, 2022, Shaikh Nizamuddin informed that as suggested by the IOS, Mr. K. Rahman Khan may be approached for presiding over the inaugural session and Prof. Syed Khalid Rashid (Malaysia) for delivering a keynote address. He also informed that he will be sending a draft concept note of the said conference seeking inputs from the IOS Headquarters, and that a meeting with concerned people at Pune would be held soon to finalize about the logistics, transportation, delegations, etc. The details of the said meeting would be sent to the IOS Headquarters soon.

Regarding the proposal to establish the “IOS Foundation” submitted by Dr. Kaleem Alam, the opinions/suggestions received from members were discussed at length. It was further reported that Prof. Eqbal Husain has already been requested to send his suggestions on the legal affairs of the said Foundation. It was decided to send a reminder to Prof. Eqbal Husain to expedite and send his suggestions soon. Further, Prof. M. Afzal Wani suggested approaching a practicing lawyer for this matter.

The 36th Annual Report of the IOS (along with its Executive Summary) for the year 2021-2022, was presented before the Governing Council (G.C.) of the IOS. The same was considered and recommended to the General Assembly of the IOS for its approval.

The Audited Financial Report for the year 2020-2021 of the IOS was presented before the Governing Council (G.C.) of the IOS. The same was considered and recommended to the General Assembly of the IOS, for its approval.

The Estimated Annual Budget of the IOS for the year 2022-2023, was presented before the Governing Council (G.C.) of the IOS. The same was discussed at length and recommended to the General Assembly of the IOS, for its approval.

It was reported that as per the decision taken during the office-bearers meeting, held on August 25, 2022, the 10th IOS Lifetime Achievement Award will be conferred upon Mr. K. Rahman Khan, Former Union Minister for Minority Affairs, Govt. of India. The award conferring ceremony will be held on December 29, 2022 at New Delhi.

The Governing Council (G.C.) members endorsed the above decision.

It was reported that for the topic for 15th Shah Waliullah Award “An Objective Study of Indian History and Culture (*Hindustani Tareekh wa Tahzeeb ka Maroozi Muta’ala*)”, and essay writing competition (under junior category) “Treatment of Muslim rulers to Non-Muslims in India (*Hindustan mein ghair muslimon kay saath Muslim Hukmaranon ka Bartao*)”, the concept notes on the topics have been prepared and the nominations from the scholars will be invited soon. The award conferring ceremony will be held on January 28, 2023.

The Governing Council (G.C.) members endorsed the above decision.

It was reported that as per the decision taken during the office-bearers meeting, held on August 25, 2022, a two-day national conference under the series on “*Shah Abdul Aziz Muhaddis Dehlavi: Ilmi Sarmaya aur Fikri Meeras*” will be held on December 3-4, 2022 in a hybrid mode.

It was decided that the concept note for the conference will be prepared by Shah Ajmal Farooq Nadwi in consultation with Maulana Abdul Hameed Nomani.

The Governing Council (G.C.) members endorsed the above decision.

It was reported that as per the decision taken during the office-bearers

meeting, held on August 25, 2022, a two-day international conference under the series on “*The Life and Contributions of Dr. Malek Bennabi*” will be held on March 17-18, 2023.

The concept note for this conference will be prepared by Prof. M. Afzal Wani.

The Governing Council (G.C.) members endorsed the above decision.

As per the decision taken in the meeting of Office-bearers of the IOS, held on June 25, 2022, it was reported that the membership fee for the General Assembly (G.A.) has been enhanced to 2000 INR. Also, a letter was sent to G.A. members on behalf of Prof. Z. M. Khan, Secretary General, IOS, on August 24, 2022, informing them about the revised annual fee for IOS members and requesting their active participation in the activities of the IOS. Moreover, the Chairman, IOS, requested the members to send their membership fee for the year 2022 by mid-October 2022.

During the meeting, Prof. M. Afzal Wani explained the importance of fund-raising for the functioning of think tanks like the Institute of Objective Studies. He requested the attendees to come forward and explore the funding possibilities as per their capacity. He said that though the Institute is not structurally a very big organisation, its objectives are significantly far-reaching. This organisation needs our support to further strengthen its objectives and mission of knowledge creation. Following this, 8 G.C. members and 4 special invitees came forward and assured to contribute the amount ranging from Rs. 5,000/- to 50,000/-.

As per the decision taken in the meeting of Office-bearers of the IOS, held on August 25, 2022, regarding the reframing of the Policy for induction of new members, it was reported that a copy of the ‘Memorandum of Association and Rules and Regulations’ of the IOS was sent to all the office-bearers on August 26, 2022. Further, Prof. M. Afzal Wani was requested to

send a note suggesting the revised policy for induction of new members from a legal perspective by the first week of September 2022. After receiving his suggestions, a comprehensive meeting of the office-bearers will be scheduled by mid of September to finalise it and get it incorporated in the Memorandum.

In regard to developing a pool of researchers in different disciplines of Social Sciences at IOS it was reported that the Institute has been regularly sending the ‘Compendium of Research Themes’ to various departments of Jamia Millia Islamia, Aligarh Muslim University, Jamia Hamdard, Maulana Azad National Urdu University, University of Kashmir and Aliah University, Kolkata. Accordingly, many professors and associate professors have responded positively. Also, the Institute has uploaded the compendium of research themes inviting research proposal on its website.

The Chairman, IOS recommended identifying scholars and researchers from the younger generation. He also requested the attendees to ponder over and come up with fresh ideas for approaching new scholars, which will be discussed in an exclusive meeting for developing a pool of researchers on October 6, 2022, in a hybrid (offline and online) mode. In this regard, Delhi-based scholars and researchers are to be invited to attend this meeting. He also said that a letter should be drafted along with the compendium of research themes for inviting scholars from across the globe. He asked the Office to keep track of all the replies/inquiries and answer them in a positive manner.

The status report of the on-going research projects was presented before the Governing Council (G.C.). After going through the status of the research projects at the Institute, the members expressed their satisfaction.

The progress reports of the translation of IOS books from English to Urdu and Hindi as well as the

translation, review and editing of IIT books were presented before the G.C. members, who, after discussing these reports, expressed their satisfaction on the progress made.

The report about the programmes organised by the IOS during April 2022 to August 2022; The list of upcoming programmes of the IOS Headquarters from September 2022 onward; The list of the Journals/publications brought out during April 2022 to August 2022; The report of the progress of work done in the IOS Data Bank during April 2022 to August 2022; The reports about the hits of IOS Website, Current Affairs, Data Bank, Nuqta-e-Nazar and Social Media during April 2022 to August 2022 were presented before the members of Governing Council of the IOS, who, after going through these reports, expressed their appreciation.

The members of the Governing Council authorised the Chairman to appoint one G.C. member of the IOS in place of Ms Farhat Azad, who regretted to continue as a member of the G.C. and other committees of the IOS because of some personal reasons. The Chairman proposed the name of Prof. Mohd. Fahim Akhtar Nadwi to be appointed as a Governing Council member of the IOS, with immediate effect. The members of the Governing Council appreciated and welcomed the Chairman’s decision.

Prof. Mohd. Fahim Akhtar Nadwi accepted his appointment with honour and thanked the Chairman and G.C. members for the opportunity.

After going through the suggestions made by Dr. Anwar Ibrahim to organise the programmes based on different approaches adopted by respective countries on Islamic Psychology in collaboration with IIT and East and Southeast Asia, it was decided that the said matter will be taken up as an agenda item in the office bearers meeting of IOS.

The following IOS books were released in the G.C. meeting:

- 1) *Maulana Manazir Ahsan Gilani: Hayat, Afkaar aur Khidmaat* (Urdu)-Edited by Prof. Mohd. Fahim Akhtar Nadwi.
- 2) *Mashaheer Khwateen-e-Islam* (Urdu)-Authored by Prof. Mohsin Usmani.
- 3) *Islami Ma'ashiyat: Masadir, Mabahis aur Tareekh* (Urdu)-Authored by Prof. Abdul Azim Islahi.
- 4) *Social Violence in Contemporary India: An Exploration of Aftermath*-Authored by Prof. Arshi Khan and Dr. G. C. Pal was pre-released.

Before the vote of thanks, the Chairman, IOS, shared a few words for the overall development and evolution of the Institute and its Chapters. Since some of the Chapters of the IOS are lagging, the Chairman requested the Governing Council Members to travel to the respective Chapters and look after their progress. He showed his concerns for the IOS Chapters that are not actively partaking in any activities; an effort should be made by the Office-bearers to discuss and come up with a plan for developing an interest and reviving the IOS Chapters, which will also be discussed in the next Office-bearers meeting. The Chairman also asked the G.C. members to suggest ways to improve and enrich the activities of the IOS Chapters.

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.

Annual Meeting of General Assembly (G.A.)

The 36th Annual Meeting of General Assembly (G.A.) of the Institute of Objective Studies (IOS) was held at 11:00 a.m. on September 04, 2022 in both offline and online mode.

Before taking up the agenda items and starting the business, Prof. (Ms.) Haseena Hashia, Assistant Secretary General, IOS, initiated the proceedings and welcomed the members to the meeting.

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

considered and got approved with certain information/ suggestions/ decisions.

Then the General Assembly (G.A.) approved the Annual Report, Audited Financial Report, Estimated Annual Budget of the IOS and Appointment of Auditors, as recommended by the Governing Council (G.C.). It also discussed many other issues as per agenda items and took suitable decisions on these issues.

The following IOS books were released in the G.A. meeting:

1. *Hazrat Ayesha (R.A) Aur Unka Nikah*, authored by Mohd. Jameel Jalili Nadwi.
2. *Deeni Rasael ki Sahafati Khidmat*, authored by Mr. Suhail Anjum.
3. *Status of Madrasa Education in India*, authored by Prof. Mohammed Ishtiyaque.

Prof. M. Afzal Wani, Vice-Chairman, IOS, shared a few words with the attendees. He said that he has been editing Religion and Law Review (RLR), a journal published by the IOS, for

the last 22 years. He requested everyone, irrespective of their background in law, to contribute their writings in the form of reviews of books, comments, articles, etc.

The Chairman, IOS, while addressing the attendees, said that the Institute of Objective Studies makes a continuous effort to focus on pressing issues of our society; the institute conducts research, assign projects, and organise conferences/symposia, etc., on relevant topics. He emphasised the focus of the IOS, which is social sciences (economics, political science, geography, psychology, sociology, etc.). The Institute has been working tirelessly to bring forth a number of books and reports, etc., on prevalent



A view of the G.A. meeting

The meeting was initiated with the recitation of a verse from the Holy Qur'an.

Condolence resolutions of all those associated with the IOS, who passed away during April to August 2022, were adopted and *dua* was made for their *maghfirat*.

The minutes of the 35th Annual Meeting of G.A. of the Institute of Objective Studies (IOS), held on 12th September 2021, were presented and confirmed.

The Follow-up Report (Action taken Report) of the last G.A. meeting was presented before the General Assembly (G.A.). The same was

issues on a regular basis. In his concluding remarks, he reiterated the need to “sit together, think together and work together”.

After the meeting of the General Assembly (G.A.), Prof. Amitabh Kundu, Professor Emeritus at L.J. University, Ahmedabad, delivered a lecture on the topic “Challenges faced by Minorities in the Current World Scenario, focusing on Indian Muslims”. Prof. M. Afzal Wani, Vice-Chairman, IOS, presided over the lecture. The lecture was followed by an interactive question-answer session. Prof. M. Afzal Wani, congratulating Prof. Amitabh Kundu for delivering such an insightful lecture, gave his concluding remarks.

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 General Assembly (G.A) of the IOS and special invitees, thanked all of them.

IOS Lecture on “Challenges faced by Minorities in the Current World Scenario, focusing on Indian Muslims”

An online/offline lecture on “Challenges faced by Minorities in the Current World Scenario, focusing on Indian Muslims” was organised by the Institute of Objective Studies on September 4, 2022, on the occasion of the Institute’s 36th Annual General Assembly meeting. The lecture was delivered by Prof. Amitabh Kundu, the professor emeritus, L.J. University, Ahmedabad, and a distinguished fellow at the Research and Information System for Developing Countries.

Introducing the topic, Prof. (Ms.) Haseena Hashia, Assistant Secretary General, IOS, held that the topic was

very important from the prism of the status of Muslims in economic and social fields.

Prof. M. Afzal Wani, Vice-Chairman, IOS, and Pro-Vice-Chancellor, IILM University, Noida, in his brief speech, said that the topic was very much important for the whole of the world. He said that Prof. Kundu is a good fit to talk on the subject matter, given his area of expertise and caliber. He would do the best while dealing with issue of what was happening about the minorities in the world. Nobody was carrying such kind of heart and sensitised mind and a skillful person with modern systems of analysis in

pointed out that India was now struggling and getting out of two and a half years of the nightmare of Covid-19.

Every developing country was talking about the reshaped economic recovery. He said that in the case of India, regional, social and economic disparity were the major areas of concern. The deprivation of the Muslim population was also a matter of concern, he said.

Prof. Kundu maintained that the unequal access of people to the labour market caused disparity among various social groups. He said that even before Covid-19, the Indian economy was not very well. At present, share of India in

the global economy was only 8 percent out of 18 percent of the total population share of the world. It was expected that India’s share would be 29 percent by 2050. Then, it would be much larger economy than China. This projection had been endorsed by the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and World Bank. He struck a note of optimism by saying that the 21st century

belonged to India. He said that Asia’s share in the global income was 58 percent as against 12 percent in 1961. As per Bloomberg Foundation analysis, the projection was that Asia’s share would again reach 50 per cent, which would mean a big recovery. Indian recovery was also much sharp. He said that the projection for India’s economic growth was very positive.

Prof. Kundu said that Indian economy was poised to reach 10 trillion dollars by 2032. Referring to the skill development, he noted that it was unequal in respect of both Muslims as well as Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes. Not everybody had an equal share in the labour market; if certain critical assumptions were not made



Prof. Amitabh Kundu (2nd from the left) delivering his lecture

social science as Prof. Kundu, he remarked.

Delivering the lecture, Prof. Kundu said that he would focus on social and economic conditions globally and the condition of minorities in India with a little more attention on Muslims. He clarified that he was not working for the Muslim community but worked for inequality and social justice. Referring to India’s growth recovery, he said that it was faster and was doing better. The 21st century belonged to India, and its faster economic growth was poised to leave even China behind. But, there are some structural issues. Inequality and regional disparity were major areas of concern. Deprivation of the Muslim community was one of them. He

available to different social groups, then, certainly the dream projection of a most powerful nation would be difficult to achieve. In order to achieve this in the labour market, access had to be given to all irrespective of caste, class, gender and religion. Similarly, in skill development, if inequality among various social groups was not minimized, then projected growth would not be accomplished, he said.

Prof. Kundu observed that India was certainly looking up. It would overtake China in terms of its share in the GDP. But still, there were some catches and assumptions. Putting up a mathematical model, the Asian Development Bank, Manila, said that 21st century belonged to Asia – to India. According to Angus Madison, an economic historian, Asia's share in economy was 58 percent in 1700, and it continuously slid downward. He said that Indian recovery was much sharper as it was doing much better. If India was able to maintain growth tempo with its structural parameters being very much strong, it would certainly come up. He noted that in the last 7-8 years or a little earlier to this, the Human Development Index (HDI) had been growing well as it was growing two decades ago prior to this. The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) brought out the report of HDI every year where India's growth was seen negligible. Earlier, India's growth used to increase 2 per cent. But now, it was less than 1 per cent. He pointed out that India dropped to 132nd rank out of 191 countries in the 2021 HDI report. It was further declined during two years in a row – 2020 and 2021.

Explaining that there were three things that came under HDI, he said that they were education, health and average

income. Inequality in the access to education and skill development was very high, and unless it was addressed, the whole dream of India becoming a 10 trillion economy would become a far-fetched goal. He also revealed that the rate of education among Muslims had increased. But the rate of education among women was very low. Even today, the drop-out rate of Muslim girls was very high. He reasoned that the high rate of drop-outs in education was due to their economic hardship. However, he said that in rural areas, the overall situation of Muslims improved, compared to Dalits and OBCs because



A view of the participants in the Interactive Session

of the latter's dependence on agricultural wages. The death of children up to the age of 5 years was also less among Muslims, he concluded.

In his presidential remarks, Prof. M. Afzal Wani, observed that Prof. Kundu provoked a thought that intrigued one to think. There was dejection, depression and deprivation in our society. He said that when one was caught up in a difficult situation, he must try to wriggle himself out of it. One should rise and ensure justice to everybody. He advised to give respect to every human being. He exhorted the young Muslims not to get depressed and accept challenges.

The lecture ended with a vote of thanks extended by Prof. H. Hashia.

Activities of the IOS Chapters

CHENNAI CHAPTER

IOS Chennai Chapter's interactive session on "Role of Civil Societies in Upholding Communal Harmony"

IOS Chennai Chapter organised an interactive session on Saturday, September 17, 2022, at IOS Chennai office at 5:00 pm. at Darul Ihsan, 4, Zackria Colony 1st Street, Choolaimedu, Chennai. Dr. Inamul Hasan, spoke on the subject "Role of Civil Societies in Upholding Communal Harmony". The session was presided over by Ibnu Soud Shahabdeen, Member, IOS Chennai Chapter.

The programme commenced with the recitation of a few verses from the Qur'an by Rafi Ahmed Khan. Mohamed Haneef Katib, Coordinator, IOS Chennai Chapter, introduced the speaker of the evening, Dr. Inamul Hasan, Convenor, Social Harmony Federation, Chennai, and fellow, Rajiv Gandhi Foundation.

Speaking on the subject, Dr. Inamul Hasan described that the role of civil society has assumed the position of the fifth pillar of democracy in addition to the executive, judiciary, legislative and the media. The strength of any democracy could be gauged by understanding the strength of civil society of that country. It ensures dignity of every citizen and gives voice to dissent against any aggression or repression of the rights of any individual, group or community of the country. Civil Society should endeavour to uphold the dignity of every citizen by ensuring their safe and secure existence in the State, he said.

He briefly discussed the Indian constitutional values which include sovereign, socialist, secular, democratic and republic form of system ensuring justice, liberty, equality for every citizen. It should work as a catalyst to maintain an atmosphere of peace, equality and justice in society and adopt an inclusive approach to achieve the same, he further said. Working efficiently on the above agenda, the civil society should play a major role in maintaining communal harmony in the country, particularly in a country like ours, which is home to multiple religions and ethnicities. Talking about disharmony in society, he said it destroys the social fabric of any society, and thus it should be the priority of the civil society to try to ward off any destructive and divisive force which threatens it. He stressed that it is our duty to build bridges for reaching out to other communities and maintaining an atmosphere of peace and understanding. There are several groups and organizations in India that strive to uphold the democratic values, and we should join forces with them to create a lasting bond, which will ensure an atmosphere of harmony and justice, he concluded.

A lively interaction with the speaker raised several concerns with regard to the safety and security of minorities, particularly Muslims, in Indian society.

It was finally the unanimous understanding that we Muslims should

play a bigger role in the civil society, which, among other things, will ensure a peaceful existence in this plural country of ours. The session got concluded with remarks and vote of thanks.

CALICUT CHAPTER

IOS Centre for Gender Studies, Calicut, releases 9 Malayalam translations of English books

The IOS Centre for Gender Studies, Calicut released 9 books translated from English to Malayalam at IOS Hall, Calicut on August 13, 2022.

IOS book “*Hindu Tolerance: Myth and Truth*” by Dr. Jalalul Haq and translated by P.A.M. Haris was released by Ms. Malavika Binni and Gopal Menon jointly. P.A.M. Haris introduced the book and underlined the fact that the concept of tolerance in Hindu religion was really a latter-day construct, propagated by upper caste political and social leaders in the 19th century to win over Dalits and “lower castes”.

Another major work released was “*Contemplation*” by Dr. Malik Badri, the Sudanese thinker and professor of psychology. This is the third reprint of the book. Jamal Kochangadi, a famous writer who had translated the work, said that he was overwhelmed by the acceptance of the book received in Kerala. The book was released by Prof. R. Anandan and C. Abdul Hameed jointly.

The following 7 BiBs released were:

1. “Mapping the Secular Mind: The Modernity’s Quest for a Godless Utopia”.
2. “Ethics of Assisted Reproductive Medicine”.
3. “Anthropomorphic Depictions of God: The Concept of God in Judaic, Christian and Islamic Traditions”.
4. “Public Policy beyond Traditional Jurisprudence: A Maqasid Approach”.
5. “Post-Normal Times Reader”.
6. “Contemporary Approaches to the Quran and Sunnah”.
7. “Reviving the Balance: The Authority of the Quran and the Status of the Sunnah”.

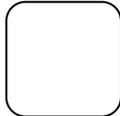
E.M. Sadik said that the International Institute of Islamic Thought (IIIT), USA, is rendering remarkable service to Islamic thought and education, mostly through publication of books. The Books-in-Brief series especially has made it possible to present great Islamic great Islamic ideas in social sciences in a condensed form. He added that Malayalam might be among very few languages in which more than 20 BiBs have been translated and published. The set of BiBs was released jointly by E. Abubacker and P.T. Kunhali.

Adv. M.K. Sharafudheen, the Secretary of IOS Calicut Chapter, welcomed the audience, and Ahmed Sahal proposed the vote of thanks.

SUBSCRIPTION Annual : Rs. 20/- \$ 5 Five Years: Rs. 75/- \$ 15

RNI NO. 59369/94

PRINTED MATTER



FROM
IOS NEWSLETTER
162, JOGABAI EXTN.
JAMIA NAGAR
NEW DELHI 110025

.....

