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Thought for the Month

On that account: We ordained
For the Children of Israel
That if any one slew
A person—unless it be
For murder or for spreading
Mischiefs in the land—
It would be as if
He slew the whole people:
And if any one saved a life,
It would be as if he saved
The life of the whole people.
Then although there came
To them Our Messengers
With Clear Signs, yet,
Even after that, many
Of them continued to commit
Excesses in the land

Al-Quran- S. 5:V-32

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FOCUS

There took place an incident which presumably was the starting point of the collection of *Hadith*. Tirmidhi has it in his collection. It is related that a Companion, whose name has not been mentioned, came to the Prophet (peace be upon him) one day and said: "O Prophet! The things you tell us every day are extremely interesting, important and essential but I have a weak memory. I tend to forget them. What should I do?" The Prophet (peace be upon him) replied: "Seek the help of your right hand", i.e. write them down. Possibly he made use of this permission. What happened later is not known.

Another incident which is probably a consequence of the permission to write is that of 'Abd Allah ibn 'Amr ibn al-'As. He was a young man of about sixteen or seventeen; very intelligent, extremely religious and keenly devoted to learning. Later he learnt Aramaic in order to read the Bible. The Prophet (peace be upon him) encouraged him in his literary pursuits. When he heard that the Prophet (peace be upon him) had permitted a certain person to write down the *Hadith* he also began to do so. He would take down whatever he heard from the Prophet (peace be upon him).

He had done so barely for a few days when his friends pointed out to him that the Prophet (peace be upon him) was only a human being. He was happy at times and was angry at occasions. It was not appropriate, therefore, to record all his utterances in all his moods. Another person would have acted on their advice to abandon recording the Prophet's sayings but 'Abd Allah ibn 'Amr was a very intelligent man. He thought that instead of taking his friends at their word he should go directly to the source. The Prophet (peace be upon him), in answer to his enquiry permitted him to write: "Even when you are angry"? asked 'Abd Allah ibn 'Amr. The Prophet (peace be upon him) replied: "By the One in Whose hands is my life! Whatever proceeds from here [pointing to his mouth] is the truth".

It is clear from this account that 'Abd Allah ibn 'Amr ibn al-'As wrote down the *Hadith* with perfect equanimity. Some accounts suggest that his collection contained some ten thousand traditions. Based on his manuscript, his sons and grandsons imparted knowledge of *Hadith* to the succeeding generations. As a result, 'Amr ibn Shu'ayb ibn 'Abd Allah ibn 'Amr ibn al-'As, who was the grandson of 'Abd Allah, became a famous traditionist.

There are other examples of this nature. Abu Rafi' was a freed slave. He too approached the Prophet (peace be upon him) for permission to write down the traditions. The permission was granted. He too must have compiled a collection. Of all these narrators Anas ibn Malik is the most significant. He was barely ten years of age at the time of Migration. He was the son of parents who were very sincere Muslims. Anas himself narrates that his mother presented him to the Prophet (peace be upon him) at his house and said with great pride that her boy knew how to read and write. She then requested the Prophet (peace be upon him) to do her honour by accepting the boy in his service.

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Activities of the IOS Headquarters

Governing Council Meet

The six-monthly meeting of the Governing Council (G.C.) was held on 05.4.2015 (Sunday) at 10.00 a.m. in the Committee Room of the IOS, 162, Jogabai Main Road, Jamia Nagar, New Delhi-25.

The following were present:

1. Dr. M. Manzoor Alam in the Chair
2. Prof. Refaat Ali Khan Vice-Chairman
3. Prof. Z.M. Khan Secretary General
4. Prof. M. Afzal Wani Asst. Secretary General
5. Prof. Ishtiyaque Danish Finance Secretary
6. Prof. Mohsin Usmani Member
7. Prof. Manzoor Ahmad Member
8. Prof. A. R. Momin M
9. Prof. P. Koya M
10. Dr. Major Zahid Hussain M
11. Prof. (Ms.) Haseena Hashia M
12. Ms. Farhat Azad M
13. Mr. Mohammad Alam M
14. Mr. Ateeq Ahmad Bastavi S
15. Mr. Mushtaq Ahmad S
16. Prof. Shamim A. Ansari S
17. Dr. Eqbal Hussain S
18. Dr. Arshi Khan S
19. Dr. Javed Ahmad Khan S
20. Dr. Nityananda Kalita S
21. Dr. Md. Aftab Alam S
22. Mr. A. Basit Ismail S
23. Prof. H.N. Rafiabadi S

The meeting started with the recitation of verses from the Holy Qur'an by Prof. Mohsin Usmani, who explained the meaning and context of the verses for the benefit of the participants.

Thereafter condolence resolutions on the sad demise of Janab Saiyyid Hamid (Chancellor, Jamia Hamdard, New Delhi), Janab B.S. Abdur Rahman (a business tycoon, philanthropist & founder of B.S. Abdur Rahman University of Chennai), Janab Dr. Ausaf Ahmad (Former Finance Secretary of the IOS), Dr. Sayeed Maracker (President, All India Milli Council, Kerala state), Wife of Hazrat Maulana Qazi Mujahidul Islam Qasmi (Darbhanga), Janab Khwaja Hasan Saani Nizami

(Islamic scholar, Delhi), Dr. Abdul Moid (Hamdard Foundation, Delhi), Janab Prof. Mohd. Siddiq (Dept. of Pol. Science, J.M.I., New Delhi), Elder sister of Mr. Mohd. Shahid (Office Assistant, IOS), Mother of Mr. Mohd. Ishaq (Photocopying Operator, IOS) and Mother of Mr. Anwar Hussain (Accountant, All India Milli Council, New Delhi) and all those associated with the IOS, who passed away during the period, were adopted and *dua* for their *maghfirat* was made by the Governing Council (G.C.) of the Institute of Objective Studies (IOS).

Before taking up the agenda items and starting the business, Dr. M. Manzoor Alam, Chairman, IOS



Governing Council members attending the G.C. meeting

welcomed the members & special invitees and thanked them all for attending the meeting. He expressed his satisfaction on the working of the IOS as it has been marching ahead all along with its years of existence in pursuit of its objective of service to humanity and national development. The track record was indeed impressive and well appreciated across the world.

He further emphasized that in view of the present scenario of the country, we have to work with full wisdom and vigour for the betterment of the Muslim community and the nation. Moreover, the elements of welfare and security of marginalized sections of

Indian society in general and Muslims in particular would carry importance for the Institute, which calls for evolving new paradigm, methodology and tools of research to contribute for the cause.

Thereafter the agenda of the meeting was taken up. The minutes of the Governing Council (G.C.) meeting dated 6th September, 2014 were presented and confirmed.

The Follow-up Report (Action taken Report) on the last G.C. meeting dated 6th September, 2014 was presented before the Governing Council. The same was considered and after deliberations, got approved with the following decisions:

- **National Seminar on “Minority Rights and Identities and Constitutional Safeguards: The Role of State, Judiciary and Civil Society”.**

It was agreed that its Outline and Concept Note will be prepared and submitted to the IOS by Dr. Eqbal Hussain, which will also be seen by Prof. M. Afzal Wani.

Seminars will be held at Amritsar, Chennai, Kolkata, Ahmadabad and Delhi.

Further, local issues in the Concept Note may be added by the organizers of respective places.

Delhi might act as the culminating point of deliberations at different places.

- **National Workshop on “Current Issues & Scenario of Indian Muslims”.**

The workshops will be held at Delhi, Aligarh, Guwahati, Nagpur and Srinagar.

Further, Prof. Z. M. Khan was requested to prepare the Concept Note for the Workshop.

After going through the progress report (wherein it was mentioned that three manuscripts entitled 'Islamic Finance and Venture Capital', 'Women Empowerment', and 'Indo-ASEAN Relations: A Historical Contemporary Perspective (Trade & Investment)' were received) the G.C. members and special invitees expressed their satisfaction. However, for remaining volumes (7 in Number) reminders should be sent and strongly followed so that these volumes may be completed at the earliest.

Old and new research projects were discussed.

It was reported that seven manuscripts of the projects namely "Weavers Struggling for their Survival", "Indo-Arab Relations: Partnership in Development", "Introduction to Sociology: An Islamic Perspective", "Psyche in Islam", "Uttarakhand mein Muslim: Chhunautiyan wa Vikalp", "Ethnic Conflict in Northeast India" and "Towards Urban Swaraj: Enhancing Access to Urban Basic Services" were received, while the projects on "State, Criminal Justice System and Challenges to Individual Liberty; A Critical Evaluation of Criminal Statutes of last Twenty Years", "Inter-Community Prejudices among Muslims in Mithila region", "Vision India-2025" and "Data Collection for Qualitative Enquiry of Youth Education and Interest towards their Career Perspective in Jamia Nagar, New Delhi-25" are in progress. The G.C. members and special invitees, after going through the report, expressed their satisfaction.

After discussing the proposal at length to create a forum for inter-religious understanding it was approved in principle. Prof. Hamid Naseem Rafiabadi was asked to develop its mechanism and programmes.

The meeting discussed about digitization/strengthening electronic use at IOS. The idea was greatly appreciated and consequently adopted in the meeting.



A view of the Governing Council Members

The meeting chalked out the programme of organizing Special Lecture Series by the IOS Headquarters during 2015-2016.

The details about the approved lectures are given below:

1. Speaker: Mr. Mushtaq Ahmad, Advocate
Theme: "Inadequacy of Protection of Minorities Languages under the Indian Constitution".
Venue & Date: New Delhi on 25.04.2015.
2. Speaker: Mr. Mushtaq Ahmad, Advocate
Theme: "Judicial Response to Cattle Slaughter and Latest Legislations".
Venue & Date: Aligarh on 26.04.2015 (on the initiative of Dr. Arshi Khan).
3. Speaker: Prof. M. Afzal Wani
Theme: "Challenges to Constitutional Pluralism in India".

Venue & Date: New Delhi on 16.05.2015.

4. Speaker: Prof. (Ms) Haseena Hashia
Theme: "Gender Justice in Comparative Perspective".
Venue & Date: New Delhi on 23.05.2015.

5. Speaker: Ms. Farhat Azad
Theme: "Muslim Women in Science and Technology".
Venue & Date: New Delhi on 01.08.2015.

6. Speaker: Prof. Refaat Ali Khan
Theme: "Building up of an Inclusive Civilisation in Medieval India – Experiments of Muslim Rulers in Good Governance and Human Rights".
Venue & Date: New Delhi on 22.08.2015.

Heeding to the request the members and special invitees responded positively and agreed to deliver the lectures during

the year 2015-2016.

Further, it was decided that the annual meeting of the Governing Council (G.C.) and General Assembly (G.A.) of the Institute of Objective Studies (IOS) will be held on 5th and 6th September, 2015 respectively and that Prof. A. R. Momin will deliver a special lecture on "Restructuring Sociology in an Islamic Framework" in the G.A. meeting (on 06.9.2015).

The 6th IOS Lifetime Achievement Award.

Regarding about the progress in regard to preparation of Textbooks and Reference books, the meeting was informed that one textbook entitled "Introduction to Sociology: An Islamic Perspective" by Prof. A. R. Momin has been completed. Further, Prof. Momin has informed that the other book on "Sociology in Islamic Perspective: Selected Readings" (under Reading

Series) will be completed by the end of June 2015.

Further, a book on “*Introduction to Psychology in Islamic Perspective*” is being written by Prof. Shamim A Ansari and it is expected that the same will be completed soon.

The progress report of the translation and adaptation etc. of IIT books as well as the translation of IOS books was perused by the members, who expressed their satisfaction on the progress. However, it was desired that the programme should be further accelerated and special attention should be drawn to monitoring part of the programme.

A report about the progress of the project on “*Kalimatullahi Hiya Al-ulia (Allah ka Kalaam hi Buland Hai)*” under the ‘IOS Centre for Arabic and Islamic Studies’ was presented.

After going through the progress report of the above project the G.C. expressed its satisfaction.

Regarding the progress about establishing IOS Specialised Centres. The Chairman, IOS informed that:

- The blue print has been prepared by Janab Obaidullah Shariff for the ‘IOS Centre for Media and Regional Studies’ at Bangalore.

Further, it has been decided that Mr. Raju Mansukhani along with a team of media persons will visit Bangalore for discussion.

- The ‘IOS Centre for Media and Regional Studies’ at Kolkata is also to be established on the similar lines.
- The ‘IOS Centre for Women’s Studies’ at Calicut will also be established at the earliest.

Further, it was desired that an ‘International Conference on Women’ should be organized at Calicut and prominent Muslim women from within and outside the country may be invited to participate. Prof. P. Koya,

Coordinator of ‘IOS Calicut Chapter’ was requested to develop a ‘Concept Note’ and suggest suitable date for holding the conference.

- In regard to establishing the ‘IOS Global Council for Youth Development’ at Chennai the members were informed that some concrete shape for its establishment will take place at the earliest.
- It was informed that the ‘IOS Centre for Dialogue’ will be established at New Delhi under ‘IOS Forum for Religious Understanding’ and the work on it will be initiated shortly.

In regard to the progress of work done in respect of IOS Data Bank, a detailed report (from September 2014 till March 2015) was presented before the members of the Governing Council who, after going through the report, expressed their satisfaction.

A Report about the programmes (other than special lecture series) organised by the IOS Headquarters after the 28th Annual Meeting of the Governing Council (G.C.) held on September 06, 2014 was presented and appreciated.

The report about the programmes of special lecture series was presented before the Governing Council (G.C.), which expressed its appreciation after going through it. Further, it was agreed that the papers of the lectures will be published as occasional papers / separate booklet(s).

All the members and special invitees present in the Governing Council (G.C.) meeting were requested to support online for the acquittal of Dr. Anwar Ibrahim as his is a “politically motivated prosecution”.

In the end Prof. Z.M. Khan, Secretary General of the IOS, acknowledging the cooperation and active support by all the members of the Governing Council (G.C.) and

special invitees, expressed gratitude and thanks.

The meeting concluded at 2:10 p.m. with *dua* by Ml. Ateeq Ahmad Bastavi.

125th Anniversary of Dr. Ambedkar

The All India Milli Council in collaboration with People’s Lawyers Association and AMODE organized a day-long seminar to mark the 125th anniversary of Dr. Ambedkar at Indian Law Institute, Bhagwan Das Road, near Supreme Court of India. The theme of the seminar was: Save Constitution and Constitutional Culture. The speakers who addressed at the seminar included Dr. Mohd. Manzoor Alam, Dr. N.D. Panchuli, Prof. Z.M. Khan, Arun Kumar Manjhi, Prabhash Kumar Yadav, P.I. Joshi, Vijendra Kasana and K.K. Negi.

Explaining the purpose of the seminar, its convener Mr. Arun Manjhi said that addressing the concluding session of the Constituent Assembly, Dr. Ambedkar, Chairman, Drafting Committee, had said although a constitution may be good, however, if its implementers are bad, they will make it ineffective whereas a bad constitution might become good, if its implementers are good.

Addressing the seminar, Dr. Manzoor Alam, Chairman, IOS, gave a detailed account of the culture of constitution-making, of the method adopted for this purpose and of the thinking behind this exercise. He appealed people to unite and join hands to realize the lofty ideals of the constitution. He asked if the present government is not implementing the RSS agenda. He said that a member of Parliament openly demands to deprive Muslims of the right to vote and no one challenges him in the Supreme Court.

Responding to Dr. Alam’s appeal many lawyers came forward and decided to challenge the anti-minority statement in the Supreme Court.

Advocate N.D. Panchuli has been entrusted with this task. Very soon he would call a meeting to discuss all the issues related with filing a case against the anti-minority statement.

Many speakers addressing the seminar highlighted the issue of judges' appointment in High Courts and in the Supreme Court. Speaking on the occasion Prof. Z.M. Khan shed light on the dangers facing the nation. He also touched on the crisis afflicting the Constitution. He warned that any lapse on part of the civil society will prove deadly for the country. Therefore we have to be alert and determined to frustrate the forces which are trying to disfigure the image of the secular India.

Advocate Prabhash Kumar Yadav said that Dr. Ambedkar was a great legal mind and he has given the Indians an ideal constitution, and now it's our duty to preserve it. He also appreciated the convening of this seminar to mark his anniversary at a very appropriate time.

Mr. Prabhash Joshi, advocate Supreme Court, said that equality without freedom is not possible. He urged to promote feelings and ideals of love and brotherhood. Mr. Vijendra Kasana, advocate Supreme Court, spoke on the issue of reservation. He said that had reservation been given to Dalits and minorities in secret agencies like IB and RAW, the condition would have been different. He also said that the Dalits, the deprived and the minorities are facing problems at every level. The poor is being suppressed and laws are being made to deprive farmers of their land give it to big business houses to set up malls etc. The land acquisition bill will only benefit the rich and the corporate houses. Mr. K.K. Negi said that the Centre should ensure that the state governments implement law, maintain law and order and protect minorities from facing Hashimpura type of police brutality. He urged people to follow

and protect the composite culture of the country.

Addressing the gathering, Mr. N.D. Panchuli, who presided over the seminar, said that those who take oath in Parliament are expected to safeguard the constitution. He urged that the court and government both should take steps to punish people who are openly saying that Muslims should be deprived of the right to vote.

Advocate R.N. Singh thanked the speakers and the audience on behalf of the Lawyers Forum.

Shah Waliullah Board Meet

A meeting of Board Administering Shah Waliullah Award was held on 5.4.2015 in the IOS Headquarters. The following were present:

1. Dr. M. Manzoor Alam Chairman
 2. Prof. A.R. Momin Member
 3. Prof. Z.M. Khan Member
 4. Prof. Mohsin Usmani Member
 5. Prof. Refaat Ali Khan Member
 6. Prof. Afzal Wani Member
 7. Prof. I. Danish Member Secretary
 8. Dr. Qamar Ishaque Office Secretary
1. The member deliberated over various proposals and unanimously decided to confer the Shah Waliullah Award 2013 on Hazrat Maulana Syed Rabe Hasni Nadwi, President All India Muslim Personal Law Board, and Nazim, Darul Uloom Nadwatul Ulma Lucnow. A function will be organized to give the award to Maulana Nadwi.
 2. In Essay Competition (Junior Category) for the year 2013 on the topic "Education in Islamic Perspective", three essays were received. The experts went through the essays and two were recommended. On the recommendation of the experts the Board has decided that the prize be given jointly to Mr. Mohd.

Kefaetullah and Miss Najmus Sehar. They will receive the award in function to be organized shortly.

3. The Board decided the discipline or the area for which the Shah Waliullah Award 2014 will be given. The discipline is, "Journalism".
4. The topic of the articles under junior category will also be the same: "Journalism".

The meeting ended at with dua.

IOS Lecture on "Budget and Social Sector Implications (Social Justice, Women and Child Health, Education and Minorities)"

A lecture on "Budget and Social Sector Implications (Social Justice, Women and Child Health, Education and Minorities)" was organised by the Institute of Objective Studies at its conference hall on 27.3.2015. Speaking on the subject, Member, Post-Sachar Evaluation Committee, Deputy Director, Gate Foundation and Visiting Professor, Indian School of Business, Hyderabad and Infinity Business School, Gurgaon, Dr. Amir Ullah Khan, held that Union Finance Minister Arun Jaitley's budget for the financial year 2015-16 was a confused statement of the vision of what the government wanted to do and how it intended to achieve it.

The Finance Minister had started his speech by talking about agriculture and extending eight and a half trillion rupees to farmers. But he failed to explain what would be the government's role in something that was and should be between banks and farmers. He also did not explain that the priority farm loans were given at 7 per cent to all farmers and at 4 per cent to those farmers who made timely repayments. These loans were a major burden on banks that were already reeling under non-performing assets or bad loans totalling more than Rs. 2.8 lakh crore, he said.

Dr. Amir Ullah Khan noted that the dichotomy was further displayed by nearly 50 per cent cut in the allocation to the ministry of women and child development. Budget for primary education and the ministry of environment had been slashed. Whether the goal of universal education under the present circumstances would be achieved was anybody's guess. He held that cuts were everywhere the most blatant being the severe cut in the budget for health. While observing that good health was a necessity for both quality of life and productivity of a person to support his family, Jaitley said that providing medical services in each village and city was absolutely essential. But then he slashed the health budget by nearly 20 per cent.

This only explained a big gap between principle and practice. Arguing for increase in the allocation to health sector, he said it was imperative as life expectancy had now gone up to 65 years compared to 37 years in 1947. Highlighting poor health care in the country, he said that only 50 per cent children were vaccinated against various diseases. Nearly forty-nine percent population was poor and had no access to health and medical care with the result that general health continued to be a great problem. So was the case with child health, he said. It was a pity that India was the only country where a pregnant mother lost weight.

Dr. Amir Ullah painted a rosy picture of the Indian economy by stating that last year India was the fourth largest economy of the world. If the present trend continued, it was poised to emerge as the largest or the second largest economy of the world in the coming years. He maintained

that India's growth of income rose in the last 20 years and would take a further jump in the next 20 years. But at the same time inequality in terms of income had widened on a scale which was never seen before. India's 360 million population accounting for 36 percent was miserably poor.



L-R: Dr. Amir Ullah Khan, Dr. Mohammad Manzoor Alam, Dr. Waquar Anwar and Dr. Mohd. Aftab Alam

Commenting on the largesse distributed to the corporate sector by way of reduction in corporate tax from 30 to 25 per cent over a period of four years he said that this was the "achchhe din" for the sector. He held that the Finance Minister had given a post-dated cheque to the corporate sector.

An exuberant corporate sector responded by hailing the move, but refused to put its money on the budget and the stock market fell by about 250 points. This was the most bizarre outcome of the budget. He observed that the industry leaders were falling over each other in trying to compliment the government, but their fund managers were selling their stocks and by the end of the day the government demonstrated how confused it was. He said that on one hand it swore that it would end subsidies and on the other it went straight ahead to allocate Rs. 2.27 lakh crore in the name of attracting huge investment. In spite of big concessions to investors, no fresh investment was coming to India. Similarly,

manufacturing sector was registering a negative trend which must cause concern to our planners, he noted.

Dr. Amir Ullah Khan underlined the ambivalence of the government on MGNREGA by saying that just a day before Prime Minister Narendra Modi had decided that the Rural Employments Guarantee Scheme was the most useless scheme and ridiculed the Congress Party by terming it as a "living example of your failure". But Arun Jaitley announced a hike of Rs. 5,000 crore for the very scheme which was objected to the BJP government. Referring to the new scheme for minorities, "Nai Manzil", announced in the budget, he said that the scheme

was aimed at working with school dropouts among the minorities. But, despite the new scheme in place, there was no increase in the budgetary allocation for the Ministry of Minority Affairs which remained a little more than Rs. 3,000 crore. The Finance Minister made no mention of an amount about Rs. 600 crore which remained unspent in the last financial year, he added.

Attributing price spiral to stagnant production and rising demand of pulses and edible oil in both India and China, Dr. Amir Ullah Khan said that the pulse production had not increased for the last seven years. Surprisingly, Afghanistan had emerged as a major producer of pulses, he noted. He said that demographic changes were increasing the rural urban divide. To buttress his point, he explained that in 2001, eighty percent population lived in villages and 20 percent in urban areas. But the composition changed in 2011 with the villages accounting for 65 per cent population and cities inhabited by 35 per cent. This followed

the Western trend of urbanisation, he said.

Dr. Khan pointed out that an amount of Rs. 7,000 crore was earmarked for developing a 100 smart cities in the last year's budget, but it found no mention this year. Nobody knew what happened to this scheme. While ignoring the promise made to the armed forces personnel for 'one rank and one pension', the defence expenditure had been hiked by Rs. 25,000 crore. This year's budget made a provision of Rs. 2,510 crore for "Digital India", a great scheme which required 7.5 lakh kilometers of optical fibre to be laid to connect all villages across the country. But it had not been clarified who would pay for this mammoth project. Commenting on the Ganga Action Plan, he said that the order to about 600 tanneries, owned mostly by Muslims to close down, would deal a heavy blow to them as thousands of workers would be rendered jobless.

More than the Ganga clean-up, the project was aimed at breaking the economic backbone of Muslims, he said. Incidentally, the Ministry of Water Resources, which looked after the project, was headed by Uma Bharti, a known Muslim-baiter. Opining that the lack of capital formation caused poverty, he said that 49 per cent of the population of the country was still poor. He concluded by remarking that with huge cuts in spending delayed targets for fiscal discipline and lip service paid to most of the schemes, the Union budget failed to lift sentiments among all segments of society.

Dr. Aftab Alam from the department of Political Science, Zakir Hussain College, Delhi University, pointed out that it was politics that decided the budget. Terming the budget as pro-corporate, he said that big relief given to the corporate sector belied the pro-poor claims of the Central government. Dr. Waqar Anwar, an expert from the Indian Centre for Islamic Finance (ICIF), held

that despite a huge mandate, the ruling party had not measured up to the expectations of the people. Referring to the scrapping of the Planning Commission by the present government, he said that the planning body was responsible for approving annual budget outlays of states and various central ministries. Besides, it used to draft five year plans. But it had been replaced with a new panel called NITI Ayog (National Institute for Transforming India) which had an advisory role only. Earlier, multi-sectoral and several other schemes being implemented by the states, were monitored by the Planning Commission. But the Central government had now washed its hands off the responsibility to review the progress of schemes. While striking a note of dismay over doing nothing worthwhile for the minorities, he said that much significance had been attached to yoga.

The Chairman of IOS, Dr. Mohammad Manzoor Alam, in his presidential remarks expressed concern that today wealth was concentrated in a few hands. Referring to a book that was published in 1984, he said that the book revealed that only 18 percent people had accumulated world's wealth into their hands. Common people were still being exploited and made to suffer. He stated that the Government of India had asked NGOs receiving funds under Foreign Contributions Regulation Act (FCRA) to renew their registration by 2016. This strengthened the fear that while the NGOs run by the minorities would lose registration, the NGOs promoted by the Hindutva brigade would be spared. Raising the issue of the order to nearly 600 tanning units and other industries in Kanpur and its adjoining areas along the river Ganga, to shut down, he said that Muslims would be the worst sufferers as a majority of the units were owned by them. He noted that though the area was also dotted with chemical manufacturing industries which were more lethal, yet

no action against them was contemplated.

Social activist and advocate Arun Kumar Manjhi lashed out at the Ganga Mukti Abhiyan by saying that it was aimed at targeting Muslims and fishermen's community. A great conspiracy was hatched by the corporate sector in collusion with Hindutva forces to deprive the minorities and other weaker sections of their livelihood. Quoting a World Bank report which said that India's 43 percent population was poor, he held that the corporate sector engaged pliant economists who could solicit in their favour. Similarly, it was no secret that the corporate sector influenced decisions of the Supreme Court through lawyers who filed proxy PILs. The court in turn did not ignore the huge investment made by big business house.

Earlier, the programme began with the recitation of a verse from the Holy Quran by Hafiz Athar Husain. The proceedings were conducted by Dr. Tariq Ashraf of the Civil Society Network. Those who attended the lecture included the Secretary General of the IOS, Prof. ZM Khan, SM Kirmani, Dr. Abdul Azim Akhtar, Prof. Hasina Hashia from JMI, Yasir Imam, Pervez Ashrafi, Md. Farooq Kazmi, Md. Salahuddin, Shahid Habib, H. Abdul Raqeeb, Shamshad Akram, besides several research scholars from the JMI and other universities.

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Anas narrates that the Prophet (peace be upon him) acceded to his mother's request and he remained in his house until his death. For ten years he had the rare privilege of observing the public and private life of the Prophet (peace be upon him). He saw that the Prophet (peace be upon him) did in the mosque; at home he observed how he dealt with his wives. He saw what he ate, how he slept; in fact, he observed everything.

From The Emergence of Islam by Muhammad Hamidullah, pp. 55-56.

OPINION

**Our Daily Life is Worse than Before
by Ishtiyaque Danish**

The views expressed in the article do not necessarily reflect the editorial policy of the Newsletter (editor)

With coming to power of AAP in Delhi, the common man is feeling empowered in a strange way. The pedestrians, being common men, have started disregarding traffic rules with impunity. Almost at every crossing in crowded areas people cross roads even when green lights are on for vehicles to move. And if any vehicle touches the wrong-doing pedestrian, its driver has to face the ire of common men who are in abundance everywhere in Delhi. It appears as all the jobless people of the country have flocked to Delhi thinking the crores of jobs Modi Ji promised during the election campaign are been created in this city only. Bike and car-owners of unauthorized as well as posh colonies are another kind of common men. With AAP being in power, these common men feel the roads in front of their houses and shops are their property where they have a right to extend their shops or park their vehicles. Many good-looking common men have invented intelligent methods of stealing and robbing. They touch your car and claim being hit. In the ensuing argument you either cough up money willingly or they snatch your purse, mobile and other electronic gadgets. The police, as usual, is never present or arrives on the spot too late to be of any consequence. Moreover,

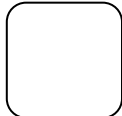
the police are also behaving like common men. They know well that their brethren, the common men, or at least a great majority of them, are corrupt in varying degrees. In other words most common men are involved in small scale wrong doing and therefore rarely complain to the police; instead they want the police to cover up the matter. For instance you are driving without licence or with incomplete papers like insurance and pollution certificates. The police would initially demand Rs. 2000/- as fine and then would agree to take a bribe of Rs. 500/- and let you go off unpenalised. It appears as the whole system is rotten. The life for the law-abiding is becoming as difficult as driving by rule on Delhi's roads. A year ago life in Delhi was not bad to the extent we see it today. The reason is simple. With Modi Ji and Kejriwal Ji being preoccupied with managing headlines in print and electronic media we can expect only poor governance. They both made tall promises which were difficult to fulfil and therefore they are failing to deliver. Every month thousands of people come to Delhi and try to find a place in its fast disappearing empty spaces. For many years Delhi has not been able to solve the problems of large numbers of unauthorized colonies. And the new-

comers hailing from all over the country are creating new unauthorized colonies and thus are adding to the existing problems. Something is wrong with our development policies. We have neglected our rural sector which specially lags behind in infrastructure; economic and educational development has specially not taken place in rural India. For everything – good schooling, higher education, good living and healthcare etc – they are compelled to come to big cities. And here they see that they can earn more on Delhi's roads than they had been doing in their villages and towns. Similarly many comparatively rich and well to do families realize that rural India has poor schooling opportunities for their children and to secure a brighter future for them they come to Delhi and settle in unauthorized colonies. So what we need is simple. That we need to develop our rural India and we have to develop it fast. Only by making rural India attractive enough for its own villagers and inhabitants, we can release the pressure from big cities like Delhi and Mumbai etc. and in so doing we would make these cities liveable.

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