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Thought for the Month

The unbelievers will be
Led to Hell in groups:
Until, when they arrive there,
Its gates will be opened.
And its keepers will say,
“Did not messengers come
To you from among yourselves,
Rehearsing to you the Signs
Of your Lord, and warning you
Of the Meeting of this Day
Of your?” The answer
Will be: “True: but
The Decree of Chastisement
Has been proved true
Against the unbelievers!”

Al-Quran- 39:71

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FOCUS

Mob lynching is a form of punishment for an individual without legal authority. The fact is that social norms in India are now threatened by a rising number of mob lynchings and growing vigilantism. Since there are no specific laws here against mob lynching, these events leave no records of the social hatred behind them. The politicization of this hate challenges our secular and democratic values.

The judgement delivered in the “*Tehseen S. Poonawalla v. UOI & Ors*” case has provided the authorities with ways to take preventive, corrective and penal measures to check the alarming phenomenon. Some call for jurists’ help in framing the new laws, while others think that laws cannot identify the cause of this social menace and would be difficult to implement. Regarding the landmark judgments of the courts, it is suggested that the need of the hour is for a ‘centralized legislation’ instead of state-enacted legislations, upholding India’s responsibilities under the Constitution and global human rights mechanisms.

Mob lynching is a term applied to an incident of violence committed by an aggressive crowd. These people think that they are penalizing the victim(s) for an immoral act (not necessarily illegal) by taking the law into their own hands. “Aptly referred to by the Court as a horrendous act of mobocracy, mob lynchings have a pattern and a motive. More often than not, innocent people are targeted on the basis of some rumour, misinformation or suspicion.” The nation was distressed at the terrible murder of 3 individuals, 2 priests and a companion by a huge mob in Maharashtra. Little did the three, en route to Surat from Mumbai to attend an interment, know that this was their last journey. At a time when we are reeling under Covid-19 and social distancing is being urged officially, the question is, why was such a gathering, armed with axes, sticks and stones, allowed? There had been a similar event there 4 days before when a lady doctor’s car was stoned. The rumour of a child lifter engaged in the organ harvesting trade had been doing the rounds. Police can hardly be considered dutiful when registering an F.I.R only after the commission of several such horrors. And the police have also to ensure that citizens do not take the law into their own hands.

According to reports, this heinous crime had taken place under the eyes of the police. The latter said that they had fired shots in the air to disperse the mob. But was that all that they were expected to do? Were they expected to be mute spectators as the mob went on to commit cold-blooded murders? An armed assembly is to be dubbed an illicit meeting under Sec.141 of the IPC, 1860, where police are authorized to disperse it vide S.129 of the Cr PC, 1973. As per law, an illegal error is also deemed a crime. In the present case, the police were legally bound to protect those hounded, and their lapse renders them liable to be booked under S.299 (culpable homicide) of the IPC.

**From *Equality, Justice and Fraternity in Contemporary India*
by M.Z.M. Nomani (ed.), pp. 115-116**

Activities of the IOS Headquarters

IOS Latest Publication “Equality, Justice and Fraternity in Contemporary India” Released

“Equality, Justice and Fraternity in Contemporary India”, a book edited by Prof. Md. Zafar Mahfooz Nomani, Faculty of Law, Aligarh Muslim University, Aligarh was released by Prof. Eqbal Husain, Dean, Faculty of Law, Jamia Millia Islamia, at a function organised by the Institute of Objective Studies on November 12, 2022.

Presided over by Prof. Z.M. Khan, Secretary General, IOS, the proceedings of the function began with the recitation of a Quranic verse by Hafiz Athar Husain Nadwi with its Urdu translation.

Conducting the proceedings, the Assistant Secretary General of the IOS, Prof. Haseena Hashia, briefly highlighted the characteristics of the book. Referring to the editor of the book, she said that he is a researcher and a teacher of law with expertise in environmental law. He studied the impact of economic zones on the environment and farmers. He wrote several books and contributed several articles in various national and international journals, she added.

Speaking on the occasion, Prof. Md. Zafar Mahfooz Nomani said that the book was the outcome of the commitment of IOS to constitutionalism and constitutional morality. Commenting on the basic structure of the Indian Constitution, he said that in the Kesavananda Bharti v. State of Kerala case, the Supreme Court of India outlined that the basic structure

of the Constitution could not be changed. The case was decided on April 24, 1973. In Golaknath v. State of Punjab, which was decided by the apex court in 1967, the Court ruled that the Parliament could not curtail any of the fundamental rights guaranteed in the Constitution. Thus, the basic features of the Constitution could not be altered. He observed that the period between 1973 to 1990 was marked by judicial activism during which issues like the right to livelihood and Panchayati Raj were debated, discussed and decided. He said that under Article 45 of the Constitution, compulsory education became a fundamental right. The Supreme Court was reeling under a feeling that the country must have constitutionalism and constitutional

the Preamble to the Constitution. Similarly, according to Dr. Ambedkar, fraternity was most important, adding that equality and liberty were useless without fraternity. The executive was duty-bound to read and implement the provisions of the Constitution, he concluded.

Speaking as the chief guest, Prof. Eqbal Husain said that the title of the book was based on the topic of the two-day national conference organized by the Institute of Objective Studies in Kolkata on April 22-23, 2017. Thus the book was a compilation of papers presented at the conference.

He observed that equality, justice and fraternity were taken from the Preamble to the Constitution. Pandit



L-R: Prof. (Ms.) Haseena Hashia, Prof. Eqbal Hussain and Prof. Z.M. Khan releasing the book

Jawaharlal Nehru had moved a resolution in the Constituent Assembly to include fraternity and justice—social and political. Talking about the Preamble, he said that it was a pious agreement, and its utility was explained in several judgments of the Supreme Court. The Preamble also enunciated the nature and mode of governance.

Governance should also be democratic from a social point of view. The Preamble pointed out that economic justice should be ensured. He observed that the Constitution ensured political and social democracy. He pointed out that liberty could not be divorced from fraternity. Economic and social justice was included in the Preamble, which formed a basis for a reservation to economically backward sections. He explained the meaning of liberty and the idea of a secular state. He said that equality could not be ensured without the dignity of an individual. The Constitution ensured fair play, and thus, the spirit of it should be maintained, he stressed.

morality.

Prof. Nomani held that the establishment of an egalitarian society was envisioned by Dr. B.R. Ambedkar. The dream of the creation of a classless society was yet to be realized. The issue of EWS was being debated, and it was open to the Supreme Court to interpret who a minority was. Reports of the diversity and equal opportunities commissions were waiting for implementation. He questioned why a few sections were lacking behind others in terms of development. He also asked why the aid was not reaching certain sections. He commented that equality in social and economic terms was a part of

Prof. Z.M. Khan, Secretary General, IOS, observed that understanding things from a proper perspective is a big challenge today. Dr. B.R. Ambedkar was very anxious when the Constitution was drafted. Several things remained in order, but for some time now, the Hindutva ideology diametrically put itself against the spirit and intent of the Constitution. This was so because it believed in a Hinduism-graded society, which had no place in a democratic set-up where every citizen enjoyed the right to freedom of religion. In a democratic political system, it was the duty of the state to ensure that the ultra-religious groups and their activities were put under check. He said that for some time now, India has been witnessing the emergence of the Hindutva ideology, which threatened to develop into majoritarianism. This tendency could lead to dictatorship, which the framers of the Constitution never imagined. He observed that democracy was a commitment to the people to be treated equally. The present situation was tragic because of the plot hatched by the British colonial rulers to keep the pot of bigotry boiling. Referring to *Deen*, he said how one could know about the world if he had poor knowledge of it. He commented that the *madrasas* acquired huge properties and presided over them. Friction was bound to exacerbate if society, politics and economics were mixed up. He urged that the true spirit of Islam should be revived. He further asked the Muslims to come forward and work hard.

While extending a vote of thanks, Prof. Haseena Hashia paid rich tributes to the noted scholar of Islamic Economics and Finance, Prof. Mohammad Nejatullah Siddiqui, who died in the USA recently. She read out

Dr. M. Manzoor Alam's condolence message on the demise of Prof. Siddiqui. *Dua* for the *maghfirah* of Prof. Siddiqui was made.

The IOS Centre for Historical and Civilisational Studies (IOSCHCS) organises a Discussion on 'Framing the themes of research projects related to the social and cultural life of medieval India and identifying scholars to take up the themes' on November 8, 2022

A discussion on framing the themes of research projects related to the social and cultural life of medieval India and identifying scholars to take up the themes was held in a hybrid mode at the Institute of Objective Studies, New



A view of the Discussants

Delhi by the IOS Centre for Historical and Civilisational Studies on November 8, 2022.

The programme started with the recitation of a verse from the Holy Quran by Maulana Abdul Hamid Nomani.

- Prof. Syed Jamaluddin presented a brief introduction of the IOS Centre for Historical and Civilisational Studies (IOSCHCS). He informed the attendees that the main focus of the current meeting would be on the social-cultural history of medieval India. He also said that there is a need for the development of a comprehensive textbook to

cover the subject matters that are being scrapped in NCERT textbooks. He also proposed to include the study of folklore—customs, traditions, artforms, etc.—of certain communities, such as Mappila community, Meos (Mewati) community, Urdu Muslims (Urdu-speaking) and Tamil Muslims. Dr Babli Parveen added one more community to the list, that is, Bhil community. Maulana Nomani suggested Kathat and Dhurrat communities from Gujarat.

- Dr. Babli Parveen said that before taking up the themes, we have to be assured that these themes are not overdone. If we are to work on the topics already covered, we have to make sure that we bring a new perspective to it, at least.

- Maulana Abdul Hamid Nomani said that the centre may focus on working on the Mappila community, acknowledging its relevance in the current time. He also suggested that considering the prevalent practice of

the distortion of history by the Hindutva forces, we could bring the focus on the history of Salar Masud and Raja Suheldev, which has been twisted by the ruling party to suit its propaganda.

- It was decided that a textbook would be brought into different volumes, keeping in mind the existing as well as discontinued NCERT books. The literature will largely cover social-cultural history, which will cater to undergraduate students, researchers, and civil services aspirants. The objective would be to highlight the spirit of syncretism,

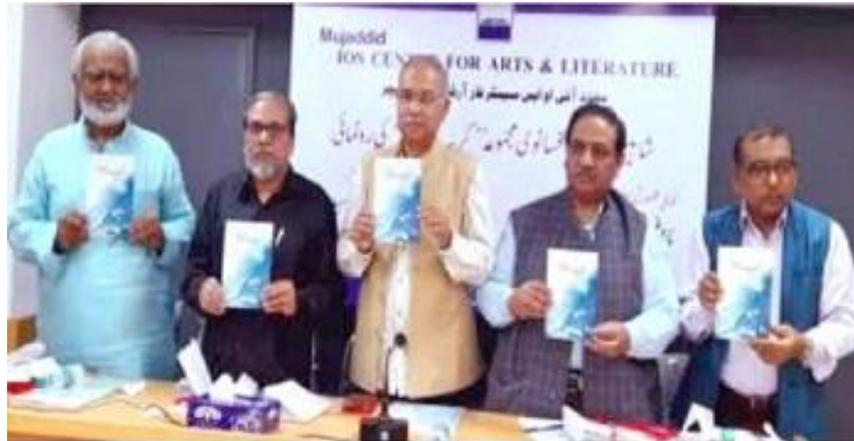
integration, and inclusion showcased by Muslims throughout history. Dr. Iqbal Ahmad said that each volume should be divided into different themes. Prof. Syed Jamaluddin said that he would look after dividing the textbook into themes along with the help of Prof. M. Ishaque, Prof. Wasim Raja and Dr. Babli Parveen. It was also decided that Dr. Iqbal Ahmad and Dr. Jawaid Alam will look after the theme of the national movement of India.

- Prof. M. Ishaque said that we have to bring a radical response to the existing cultural biases. He also suggested that the theme of the literature should mainly focus on the current political developments in India.
- Dr. Mallika Begum said that she will be working on “A Study on the History and Settlements of Tamil Muslims in Tamil Nadu”. She said that historical writings ignore the role of the Tamil Muslims, which should be brought forth to highlight the role of Muslims in the national freedom struggle. Prof. Syed Jamaluddin requested her to send the abstract to the office for consideration.
- The Chairman, IOS suggested keeping the focus on the current socio-political scenario and the act of distortion of history and its narrative in India, as discussed in the last meeting of the IOSCHCS. The centre should consider challenging the falsified narrative of history with facts and figures. The centre’s focus should be on the

objective analysis of the themes under consideration, he said. He said that the focus should be on social dimensions when we deal with cultural biases. The Chairman also suggested looking at Dalit literature to have a broader understanding of the topic. He instructed focussing on the socio-psycho analysis of the current socio-political scenario of India.

To sum up, the main themes discussed in the meeting are:

- a. The study of Folklore (traditions, customs, ceremonial songs, art forms, literature, architectures, etc.) among Muslim Communities—Meo Community



Shaheen Nazar (centre) and other guests releasing the book
L-R: Mr. Anjum Naim, Mr. Suhail Anjum, Mr. Shaheen Nazar, Prof. Shahzad Anjum and Mr. Khurshid Akarm releasing the book

- (Rajasthan, Haryana, Western U.P.), Bhil Community, Kathat and Dhurrat Communities (Gujarat), Mappila community (Kerala) — to demonstrate the idea of syncretism.
- b. Medieval Indian Culture: Salient Aspects of Art forms, Literature, and Architecture/The History of Medieval India: Beyond Myths and Misrepresentation.
- c. The Role of Unsung Muslim heroes in the Indian Freedom Struggle/ National Movement at different stages.

The discussion programme came to an end with a vote of thanks presented by Prof. Syed Jamaluddin.

Mujaddid IOS Centre for Arts and Literature organises the release of book ‘Karb Natamam’

Senior journalist Shaheen Nazar’s fictional collection ‘Karb Natamam’ was released during a programme of Mujaddid IOS Centre for Arts and Literature on November 5, 2022 at the IOS Headquarters, New Delhi. This book is a collection of very unique myths. Each of its fiction points out ground realities and draws attention to real social issues.

On this occasion, IOS Chairman Dr. M. Manzoor Alam, in his message, briefly mentioned the newly established Mujaddid IOS Centre for Arts and Literature and said that it is an attempt to integrate and organise the themes of contemporary literature and their sensory presentation through which we will be able to realise its usefulness only when this platform gets the trust and support of all. He further said that November 5 meeting was organised as the opening ceremony of Mr. Shaheen Nazar’s second collection of fiction, ‘Karb

Natamam’, wherein the author has attempted to highlight various moving images of daily life.

Well-known journalists Mr. Sohail Anjum and Mr. Khursheed Akram also expressed their views on this occasion. Writers, intellectuals, painters, photographers should come together and tell each other the story of modern life’s comforts, discomforts, perfections, explorations and achievements and organise all such efforts to understand its impact on our society.

Senior journalist Mr. A.U. Asif, well-known journalist Mr. Ahmed Javed, Mr. Safi Akhtar, IOS Finance

Secretary Mr. Mohammad Alam, Mr. Aatur Rehman, journalist Mr. Qasim Syed, Mr. Zafar Afaq and Mr. Qasim Usmani were present on this occasion.

Release of IOS book “Social Violence in Contemporary India: An Exploration of Aftermath”

The recent publication of the Institute of Objective Studies, “Social Violence in Contemporary India: An Exploration of Aftermath”, jointly authored by Prof. Arshi Khan, Professor of the Department of Political Science, Aligarh Muslim University, Aligarh and Dr. G.C. Pal, Director, Indian Institute of Dalit Studies, New Delhi, was released by the former Chief Election

Commissioner of India, Dr. S.Y. Quraishi on October 29, 2022.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Quraishi lauded the role of the IOS in taking up research projects and bringing out well-documented publications and reports besides and organising programmes focused on topical issues. He said that social violence had emerged as a big issue because Muslims were being regularly targeted in different parts of the country. Reports of their social and economic boycotts were being received on a regular basis. It appeared that this had become a common issue. This was so because the law to deal with such incidents was not strictly followed. He held that stringent laws should be made to curb such tendencies. He felt that the existing laws were enough to deal with the situation, and there was a need to strictly enforce them. He was of the firm opinion that the incidents of social boycott would continue until the law was enforced in letter and spirit. He also held that the media was responsible for

the social boycott of Muslims and said that the role of the media had been very shameful and deplorable. Referring to the population of Muslims in India, he said that the myth of steady increase in the growth rate of Muslim population was being deliberately spread in order to prove that if the current trend continued, Muslims would come to power after some time. He termed it as a white lie and added that the rate of the growth of Muslim population was, in fact, declining.

In his speech, Dr. Quraishi emphatically said that the Hindus of India were secular by nature. India was secular because its Hindus were secular. Despite vitiating the communal

In his presidential address, Prof. Z.M. Khan, Secretary General, IOS, said that the Institute had been trying to work on pressing issues, publishing reports of the research projects, and acquainting people with the critical issues at the very outset. He congratulated both the authors for preparing a well-documented report.

While the Assistant Secretary General of the IOS, Prof. Haseena Hashia proposed a vote of thanks to all the attendees, Dr. Md. Aftab Alam, Assistant Professor of Political Science, Dr. Zakir Husain College, University of Delhi, conducted the proceedings.

IOS Felicitates Prof. (Dr.) Mohammad Afshar Alam, Vice-Chancellor, Jamia Hamdard

A felicitation programme to honour the Vice-Chancellor of Jamia Hamdard, Prof. (Dr.) Mohammad Afshar Alam, was organised by the Institute of Objective Studies on October 15, 2022.

The function began with the recitation of a verse

from the Holy Qur’an by Hafiz Athar Husain Nadwi. Prof. Haseena Hashia, Assistant Secretary General of the Institute, welcomed the guests and presented a brief profile of Prof. Mohammad Afshar Alam. Having more than 25 years of experience in teaching and research, he has guided 30+Ph.D. scholars and 200+ post-graduate research projects. His research areas include software re-engineering, data mining, bio-informatics, fuzzy databases and sustainable development. He had been invited to several countries, including UAE, Nepal, Syria, Yemen, Iran, KSA, Singapore, Malaysia and the Republic of China, to deliver special lectures, plenary talks and keynote addresses at conferences.



L-R: Dr. Md. Aftab Alam, Dr. G.C. Pal, Prof. Arshi Khan, Dr. S.Y. Quraishi, Prof. Z.M. Khan and Prof. (Ms.) Haseena Hashia releasing the book

environment, BJP was voted by 35 percent voters. Though the country was partitioned on the basis of religion, Hindus made India a secular state. Under the prevailing situation, dialogue and discussion had become very imperative. This should be taken up in a big way, he stressed.

Earlier, one of the authors of the book, Prof. Arshi Khan, said there were several contributory factors that led to social violence. To top it all were a deficit in mutual goodwill, politically motivated agenda of the political parties and the social media. The second author of the book, Dr. G.C. Pal, observed that they presented the ground reality in the book.

She held that Prof. Afshar Alam authored 10 books and has more than 150 research papers in reputed journals to his credit. He has also served as a member of various committees of the government of India, such as NAAC, UGC, AICTE, SERB, NCPL, etc. He had been conferred with several prestigious awards, like AMP Award for Excellence in Education, Cooperative Award, World Environment Day Award, Mahatma Gandhi International Peace Award and the Time Magazine India's Excellence Icon Award, she added.

Prof. Md. Ishtiaque, Former Vice-Chancellor of Magadh University, Bodhgaya, Bihar, and a professor of geography at Jamia Millia Islamia, presented a bouquet and shawl to Prof. Afshar Alam. The occasion was marked by the presentation of the memento to Prof. Afshar Alam by Prof. Z.M. Khan, Secretary General of the Institute.

Expressing his gratitude to the IOS, Prof. Afshar Alam said that his association with the Institute went back to the year 1988 when Dr. A.R. Kidwai, who was serving as the Governor of Bihar at that time, told him about the Institute of Objective Studies and advised him to visit to see how the Institute was working. Being a General Assembly member of the IOS, he has been closely associated with social science activities even though his areas of expertise lie in the field of computer science. He observed that he read many books published by the IOS and had relied on data procured by the Institute and also submitted the data to the authorities as and when needed. This close association encouraged him to work on the topic of sustainable development goals (17 in number) and correlate it with computer science.

Prof. Afshar Alam maintained that the IOS had been engaged in bridging the gap between different sections of society for maintaining goodwill and harmony among them. The untiring effort of Dr. M. Manzoor Alam has resulted in recognition of the Institute at the national and international levels for promoting research, community service, conducting surveys on relevant themes, and publishing books and journals in the area of national concern and pressing challenges of civil society. He informed that an MoU with the IOS is going to be signed very shortly. He added that after taking the

Presiding over the function, Prof. Z. M. Khan said that he was delighted and encouraged by the speech of Prof. Afshar Alam. He noted that the scope of activities of the Institute has undoubtedly widened, but it could not do all the things alone due to a host of factors. Keeping this in view, the Institute decided to rope in several universities and organisations to collaborate with it in its varied programmes. He concluded by saying that the Institute gave serious thought to the observations of the Vice-Chancellor of Jamia Hamdard.

Dr. Mohammad Manzoor Alam, Chairman, IOS, observed that the IOS had previously signed memoranda with 8-9 institutions. He said that a programme on the need for a dialogue with the followers of other religions concluded recently. Another such programme is scheduled to take place shortly in Himachal Pradesh. He urged that the Islamic message of respect and honour to every

individual should reach every household because the word of Allah would always remain supreme.

The felicitation programme ended with a vote of thanks proposed by Prof. Haseena Hashia.

IOS organises a two-day National Conference on “Inter-religious Understanding and Programming for Sustainable Goals of Equality and Fraternity” in collaboration with Punjabi University at Patiala, Punjab

A two-day national conference on “Inter-religious Understanding and Programming for Sustainable Goals of Equality and Fraternity”, was organised by the Institute of Objective Studies in collaboration with Dept. of Religious



Prof. (Dr.) Mohammad Afshar Alam (in centre) being presented the Memento by Prof. Z.M. Khan

responsibility of the Vice-Chancellor of Jamia Hamdard, he started the Centre of International Studies. The university has also started B.A. and M.A. programmes in Public Policy and Human Rights. He said that he aims to develop a research centre in Jamia Hamdard in collaboration with the IOS.

In his address, Prof. Md. Ishtiaque said that the work being done by the IOS in different fields has been recognized not only in India but also in the world. That's the reason for its global recognition. Referring to Prof. Afshar Alam, Prof. Md. Ishtiaque said that although he is a computer scientist, his interest also extends to social sciences. And now, he is planning to set up a Centre of Political Science and Sociology in Jamia Hamdard, Prof. Md. Ishtiaque observed.

Studies, Punjabi University, with technical assistance of Baba Farid Centre for Sufi Studies, Patiala, Punjab, on October 10 and 11, 2022.

Inaugural Session

The inaugural session began with the playing of the university song. This was followed by the welcome address by Prof. Mohd. Habib, Department of Islamic Studies, Maulana Azad National Urdu University (MANUU), Hyderabad, & Hon. Director, Baba Farid Centre for Sufi Studies, Punjabi University, Patiala.

Prof. Haseena Hashia, Assistant Secretary General, IOS, introduced the Institute by highlighting its activities. She said that the IOS is a non-profit organisation, steadily pursuing its goal by conducting research in different areas, like the socio-economic plight of minorities, especially Muslims, oppressed sections, and pressing issues that confronted society. The IOS focuses on the issues

of secularism, democracy and constitutionalism and synergy with progress. She pointed out that five regional chapters are in place to take care of regional issues. She said that the Institute has embarked upon publishing books and journals notably. So far, more than 400 titles have been published by it. Regular publications like the Religion and Law, Journal of Objective Studies, IOS Newsletter, and Mutaleaat are regularly published by the Institute. IOS has a good library and an extensive databank, she added.

Prof. Hamidullah Marazi, Convener, IOS Forum for Inter-Religious Understanding, who introduced the theme, said that the world today is suffering from a catastrophe and one should feel concerned about it. Pluralism and

relationship with people of different religions should be encouraged to achieve sustainable goals. He called for setting an agenda which was neither too conservative nor too progressive. He observed that common points for inter-religious dialogue should be discussed to arrive at a decision. For this, religions should have good relations among themselves. As a human being, all the stakeholders must promote understanding of all religions, he stressed.

Inaugurating the conference, Professor Arvind, Vice-Chancellor,



On the dais (L-R): Prof. (Dr.) Harmohinder Singh Bedi, Prof. Hamidullah Marazi, Prof. M. Afzal Wani, Prof. Arvind, Prof. Syed Jamaluddin, Bhai Ashok Singh Bagrian and Prof. Harwinder Kaur

Punjabi University, Patiala, said that working together was necessary to sustain an understanding of all religions. This conference focused on sustainable goals of equality and fraternity. Being human was of paramount importance. Fraternity should open up to greater dialogue. He pleaded that the dialogue should be held among believers and non-believers and also with people of the same belief. He called for engaging in dialogue with different religions and making efforts to bring all the stakeholders together. He also stressed that the stage for democracy and equality should be set.

In his keynote address, Prof. M. Afzal Wani, Pro-Vice Chancellor, IILM University, Greater Noida & Vice-Chairman, IOS, emphasised the

need for achieving goals of religious understanding. Referring to fraternity, he said that it found a place in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. While achieving the goals of sustainable development, a change in the attitude towards humanity should be brought. He called for promoting fraternity by sustaining it. One should address his conscience. For the furtherance of fraternity, all religions have a role to play in it. Commenting on dignity and fraternity, he said that they also formed a part of the Preamble to the Indian Constitution. He concluded by observing that respect for human dignity should reflect in every decision.

Addressing as a special guest, Prof. Dr. Harmohinder Singh Bedi, Chancellor, Central University of Himachal Pradesh, Dharamshala, said that the cultural legacy and religion could be used to connect people. He referred to the views of Dr. Radhakrishnan who laid emphasis on the dialogue with

other religions. He said that it was Guru Nanak Dev who first spoke the language of dialogue and believed that it was like a bridge which could be crossed by all. His discourse contained the participation of all, which was an answer to all the issues that would be raised at the conference.

He observed that the *Guru Granth Sahib* presented a model to the world, describing it as the first book of dialogue in the world based on Indian languages and culture. When the Universal Charter of Human Rights was being revised, a scholar from Pakistan suggested that the views of Guru Tegh Bahadur should also be included in it. He concluded by saying that the external connection could be snapped, but the internal connection remained unbroken.

Dr. John Dayal, Secretary General of the All-India Christian Council & Member, National Integration Council of India, New Delhi, said that he had spoken several times about the need for holding dialogue with the followers of different faiths in order to understand their viewpoints on a lot of issues. But the problem arose from unrelenting hate speeches that poisoned the mind. Bearded Muslims and Sikhs were targeted by those elements who had no respect for other religions. This phenomenon was not conjoined to India because it was a global phenomenon. He categorically said that the hate against Muslims today was a solitary weapon of the political class to use for political purposes. Hate permeated the whole environment. He observed that the absence of positive wisdom was dangerous for the survival of democracy and its institutions. Dialogues could end the unrelenting hate. He urged the IOS to do something tangible in the field.

Bhai Ashok Singh Bagrian, Former President and Founder Member of the Institute of Sikh Studies, Chandigarh, who prepared the Encyclopedia of *Guru Granth Sahib*, touched upon various aspects of the Sikh holy book.

Maulana Anisur Rahman Qasmi, Member, All India Muslim Personal Law Board, Patna, observed that Islam had reference to other religions also. All human beings have been given respect and treated with dignity. Allah made man worthy of respect. All human beings were born to one mother and father, and no one had preference over the other. He observed it was Islam which gave respectability even to a dead body. Islam gave equal status to everybody in respect of justice, protection of life, honour, education, employment and business. Equal punishment for the commitment of similar crimes had been prescribed in Islam.

Swami Chidanand Saraswati, President & Spiritual Head, Parmarth Niketan Ashram, Rishikesh, while speaking as guest of honour,

highlighted the significance of Inter-religious understanding and stressed on the need of dialogue among different faiths in the present-day context.

Dr. Pramod Kumar Dash, Head, Department of Philosophy, Nayagarh Autonomous Utkal University, Odisha, said that there was much gap between religious paradigm and practice. He observed that religion was to understand one's existence. Everyone should have a common belief because values were beyond religion. There was the need for a common dialogue with different religious denomination he added.

In his presidential address, Prof. Syed Jamaluddin, Director, IOS Centre for Historical and Civilisational Studies, Aligarh, held that Punjab was fertile land for Sufis and saints. In this connection, he took several names of Sufis, saints, gurus and babas. Sohni-Mahiwal symbolised love like the clean water of the rivers flowing in Punjab. *Dastan-e-Ishq* and *Mohabbat* had been the legacy of Punjab, he concluded.

The inaugural session ended with a vote of thanks extended by Prof. Harwinder Kaur, Dean, Faculty of Social Sciences, Punjabi University, Patiala.

Business Session I

Chaired by Prof. M. Afzal Wani and co-chaired by Prof. Hamidullah Marazi, the first business session focused on peace in the context of religion and sustainable development. Dr. Altaf Hussain Yattoo, Senior Assistant Professor, Department of Higher Education Government of Jammu & Kashmir, spoke on the Quranic principles of tolerance. He was followed by Saba Naqvi, who focused on the Islamic concept of faith. Mr. Javed Ahmad Malik, Research Scholar, Department of Islamic Studies, Islamic University of Science & Technology, Awantipora, threw light on 'A Study of Prophet Muhammad (Peace be upon him)'s Universal Peaceful Initiatives'. He was followed

by Mrs. Jamaliah Jamil, Research Scholar, University Teknologi Malaysia and Idris Ali, Research Scholar, University Malaysia Sabah. Both of them centered their talk on the role of psychology and gratitude emotion in harmonising Islamophobic behavior. Mrs. Narinder Kaur, Research Scholar, Department of Philosophy, Punjabi University, Patiala, spoke on 'Humanising Dimensions of Religion and Sustainable Development'. She was followed by Ms. Chetna Trivedi, Research Scholar, Jawaharlal Nehru University, Delhi. She focused her paper on 'Reading Secularism in India with Special Reference to Akeel Bilgrami'.

Dr. Riyaz Ahmad Sheikh, Associate Professor, Department of Islamic Studies, Islamic University of Science and Technology, Awantipora, Kashmir, dwelt on 'Interfaith Dialogue as Tool for Co-existence: An Islamic Perspective'. He laid emphasis on achieving social cohesion and fostering mutual respect.

Business Session II

Devoted to religion, Gandhi and non-violence, the second business session was chaired by Prof. Idrees, Department of History, Patiala University, Punjab. Prof. Haseena Hashia was the co-chair. Dr. Daljit Kaur, Associate Professor, Department of History, Mata Sundari College for Women, Delhi, spoke on 'Bhagat Bani, *Guru Granth Sahib*-An Explicit Legacy'. She explained the concept of *Bhakti* and the composition of *Guru Granth Sahib*. She said that the Granth Sahib was a paradigm of peace and a model of structural harmony. She was followed by Dr. Rukhshanda Shaheen, Research Scholar, Department of Islamic Studies, AMU, Aligarh. She presented her paper on 'Religion and Peaceful living from the perspective of Abul Kalam Azad'. She said that Maulana Azad was a nationalist and expressed himself against dogmas. Ab. Majeed Ganaie, Research Scholar, Central University of Kashmir, spoke

on 'Universal Brotherhood: A Study'. Mr. Sandeep Kumar, Research Scholar, GNA University, Jalandhar, Punjab, focused on religion and peaceful living. He held that a healthy environment was required in society to promote calmness. Religious tolerance could ensure peace in society, he said. Summing up the proceedings of the session, Prof. Syed Jamaluddin said that history was all about the interpretation of events.

**Day 2 (October 11, 2022)
Business Session III**

The third business session focused on inter-religious understanding and the Indian Constitution. The session was chaired by Prof. Gurmail Singh, Deptt. of Religious Studies, Punjabi University, Patiala, and Prof. Leila Chamankhah, Visiting Professor from Department of Philosophy, University of Dayton, USA, was the co-chair. Dr. Khalid Hossain, Head teacher, Monu Memorial Institution, Kolkata, spoke on the Indian Constitution and its safeguards for minorities. He briefly discussed Article 30 of the Indian Constitution, which was most important for the minorities and Article 31, which gave right to them to set up and maintain their educational institutions. Dr. Peshimam Nazeer Ahmed, Joint Secretary, OMEIAT Tirupathur, Tamil Nadu, focused on 'Indian Constitution and Safeguards for Minorities'. He said that majorities created problems for minorities leading to conflict. The rights of minorities were inherent and in consonance with the rights contained in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Minorities, he added. Dr. Humera Afzal Qadri, Senior Lecturer of Islamic Studies, delved into 'Hazrat Ali's Perception on Social Justice and Human Rights'. Dr. Showkat Hussain, Sr. Assistant Professor, Department of Islamic Studies, Islamic University of Science & Technology, Awantiopra, focused on 'Debating Muslim Women's Rights Act in Contemporary Socio-Religious Context: Challenges and Future Discourse'. Dr. Asma

Kounsar, Research Scholar, Central University of Kashmir, Srinagar, presented her paper on 'Gender Equality in Islam'. Dr. Tamanna Mobeen Azmi, Research Scholar, Department of Islamic Studies, Jamia Millia Islamia, Delhi, spoke on 'Islamic Tolerance and Justice for the Peaceful Coexistence in Multicultural Society'. Mr. Arshadul Islam, Research Scholar, Shri Venkateshwara University, Gajraula, U.P., focused on the 'Significance of Religion in Social Justice: A Comparative Study of Social Justice Theories of Thomas Aquinas and Ibn Khaldun'. Ms. S. M. Rizwanah, Research Scholar, Department of Philosophy, Manipur University, presented her paper on Indian Secularism and its challenges. Ms. Umme Ammara, Research Scholar, Department of Islamic Studies, AMU, Aligarh, expressed her views on Social Justice and Equality: An Islamic Perspective.

The vote of thanks was proposed by Dr. Tajinder Kaur, Deptt. of Religious Studies, Punjabi University, Patiala.

Business Session IV

Chaired by Prof. Abdur Rashid Bhat, Department of Islamic Studies, IUST, Awantipora, the fourth session was devoted to the dialogue for social change and inclusiveness. It was co-chaired by Prof. Haseena Hashia and Prof. Leila Chamankhah. Dr. Tarunjit Singh Butalia, Executive Director, Religions for Peace, USA, spoke on 'Religious Pluralism in the Public Square: Perspectives from South Asia, United States, and Europe'. Dr. Mohammad Shekaib Alam, Research Scholar, Department of Political Science, IIU, Malaysia, spoke on internalising the maxim that "there is no compulsion in religion" in Islam to realise societal peace and harmony. Dr. Sabreen Javid, Post-doctoral fellow (ICSSR), Shaikh-ul Aalam Centre for Multidisciplinary Studies, University of Kashmir, Srinagar, discussed 'Linguistic Pluralism Today: A study of Humanistic Values in the Poetry of Shaikh-ul Aalam'. Mr. Mohd Azam,

Research Scholar, Department of Islamic Studies, BGSB University, Rajouri, spoke on the 'Role of Abul Hassan Ali Nadwi in Strengthening Communal Harmony in Indian Subcontinent'. Mrs. Robina Singh, Research Scholar, Department of Art History and Visual Arts, Panjab University, Chandigarh, touched upon 'A Study of Artistic Responses to the Communal Violence through Installation of Art in India'. Mr. Jaswinder Singh, Research Scholar, Centre for Comparative Religion and Civilisations, Jamia Millia Islamia, Delhi, spoke on 'Communicating "with" or "about" Other Religion: Making Sense of Inter-religious Dialogue in Habermasian Perspective'. Mr. Heera Singh, Research Scholar, Centre for Comparative Religion and Civilisations, Jamia Millia Islamia, Delhi, focused on 'Appropriation of Meaning of Religion in Inter-religious Dialogue: A Ricoeurian Perspective'. Mrs. Anita Rani Kamboj, Research Scholar, Tantia University, Sri Ganganagar, Rajasthan, read her paper on 'Sangat-Pangat and Human Welfare'. Ms. Humaira Mehmood, Research Scholar, Department of Islamic Studies, AMU, Aligarh, centered her paper on 'Inter-religious understanding: An Islamic perspective'. Ms. Arsala, Research Scholar, AMU, Aligarh, spoke on 'Peaceful Coexistence: An Islamic Perspective'.

The vote of thanks was proposed by Dr. Ritu Raj, Deptt. of Religious Studies, Punjabi University, Patiala.

Business Session V

Fifth business session was chaired by Prof. Syed Jamaluddin and co-chaired by Prof. Idrees, Deptt. of History, Punjabi University, Patiala. The session was devoted to the 'Concept of Langar and Idea of Human Equality'. Dr. Mohammad Ajmal, Assistant Professor, School of Language, Literature and Culture Studies, JNU, Delhi, focused on 'Vivekananda and Religious Diversity: A critical approach to his thought and

belief'. Dr. Sartaj Ahmad Sofi, Assistant Professor, BGSB University, Rajouri, devoted his paper to 'Contextualise "Langer Khana" in Tassawwuf: A Study of selected Langer Khana'. Dr. Ambreen, Research Scholar, Department of Islamic Studies, AMU, Aligarh, spoke on 'Tolerance and its value in one's life: The Perspective of Abul Kalam Azad'. Mrs. Areesha Azhar, Research Scholar, Aligarh Muslim University, Aligarh, focused on 'Islam and Peaceful Behavior'. Mr. Nasir Hassan Wani, Research Scholar, Department of Islamic Studies, AMU, Aligarh, spoke on 'Islam and Peaceful Behavior'. Mr. Umar Rashid Bhat, Research Scholar, Central University of Kashmir, Srinagar, co-authored his paper with Mr. Ishtiyahq Ahmad Wagay. He spoke on the 'Institution of Sangat-Pangat and Human Welfare in Sikhism'.

Summing up the proceedings of the session, Prof. Syed Jamaluddin highlighted the Concept of Langar and Idea of Human Equality.

Dr. Leila Chamankhah proposed a vote of thanks.

Valedictory Session

Addressing as one of the guests of honour, Dr. Abdullah Al-Lheedan, Visiting Professor, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, said that Islam called for equality regardless of colour and creed. There is no superiority of one race over the other. The idea of superiority represented colonisation or subjugation of others. He observed that equality was very important for progress and said, "We made nations and tribes, but they colonised them. Tolerance meant acceptance and peaceful co-existence. Tolerance also meant mercy and compassion". Equality and tolerance are the two pillars of Islam. Islam called for dialogue among all religions. Cooperation was the key to goals of sustainable goals of equality, he added.

The second guest of honour was Prof. (Dr.) R. S. Bawa, Pro-Chancellor, Chandigarh University, Punjab, observed that faith and religion are very

personal to everyone. Human dignity is central to all religions, and all humans must be respected and valued. He called for restraining from saying anything which hurt the sentiments of the people belonging to other religions. He suggested that a prayer relevant to all religions must be held in order to imbibe common minimum features of different religions.

Prof. Om Narayana Rao, Department of Philosophy, Niranjana Govt. Women's College, Odisha, held that every religion is supreme and human beings are at the centre of it. No interpretation was wrong because everyone has their standpoint. Much of the conflict would be resolved if one understood others' perspectives. He said that focus on good should be there. He called for focusing on the good and not on the bad. All the good things should be learnt from others. He added that the brotherhood in Islam and *Ahimsa* in Jainism should be adopted for greater acceptability. Prof. Hardev Singh Virk, former Professor of Department of Philosophy, Punjabi University, Patiala, also expressed his views on the subject as guest of honour.

Prof. M. Afzal Wani called for making all the efforts to arrive at a consensus. This was quite possible to achieve, he observed. He said that Guru Nanak Dev first initiated inter-faith dialogue. The purpose of such conferences and seminars was to disseminate ideas and the message, he pointed out.

Presiding over the valedictory session, Prof. Z. M. Khan, Secretary General, IOS, said that the politicisation of religion affects the true understanding of religion. He observed that propaganda has made religion a tool in the hands of politicians. Religion is the spiritualisation of the human body. He also emphasised that ventures like the two-day conference should try to be collaborative.

Earlier, a five-point resolution, read out by Prof. Syed Jamaluddin, was unanimously adopted by the

participants of the conference. The resolutions are as under:

1. Appreciating the impact of its programming in the direction of creating fair understanding about various religions for promoting equality and fraternity, the Institute of Objective Studies is urged to continue such programmes in collaboration with other institutions across the country.
2. The Institute of Objective Studies, by widening its horizon, should expand and extend such programmes and important messages to the whole of humanity, irrespective of their faiths.
3. The Institute of Objective Studies greatly acknowledges the healthy and cordial collaborative support from Sri Guru Gobind Singh Department of Religious Studies and Baba Farid Center for Sufi Studies, Punjabi University, Patiala, and expects such collaborations with other departments of the university also.
4. Youth, including students and scholars, should be involved in the dialogue process and essential measures should be taken for the same.
5. To facilitate this task of nation-building based on equality, justice, universal brotherhood, sustainable co-existence etc., individuals and organisations should come forward and support the Institute of Objective Studies in these endeavours.

The conference ended with a vote of thanks extended by Sh. Daljit AMI, Director, Educational Multimedia Research Centre, Educational Multimedia Research Centre.

IOS Centre for Historical and Civilisational Studies (IOSCHCS) organises a Discussion on "Sacrificing History and Culture on the Altar of Hate and Prejudice: Challenges Historians are Confronted with"

A Discussion on "*Sacrificing History and Culture on the Altar of*

Hate and Prejudice: Challenges Historians are Confronted with”, was organised by the IOS Centre for Historical and Civilisational Studies in both online and offline mode on October 6, 2022, at IOS Headquarters, New Delhi.

The programme of discussion started with recitation of a verse from the Holy Quran by Prof. M. Ishaque.

Prof. Syed Jamaluddin (Director, IOSCHCS) gave a brief about the IOS Centre for Historical and Civilisational Studies and presented its genesis.

Keeping in mind the present scenario of hate and prejudice in society and the attack on cultural and social history by the saffronised regimes and groups, the attendees presented their views to suggest means to prioritise areas of concern and suggested ways to overcome them.

Prof. Syed Jamaluddin said that the distortion of history by people in positions of power is very rampant these days. For example, the Mughal rulers have been a target of hate. Fake stories are circulating on social media about the Mughal lifestyle.

Dr. Zeeshan Ahmad Misbahi from Jamia Arifiya, Saiyed Sarawan, Allahabad, said that the rewriting of the history of India should be negated by presenting the truth, backed by facts and data. There is a need to organise lecture series, public awareness programmes, etc., to counter misinformation.

Prof. Waseem Raja from Centre of Advanced Study, Dept. of History, Aligarh Muslim University, said that the history of the Mughals is being targeted and dehumanised. The curriculum on Muslim rule in India has been reduced to mere small segments.

A thorough abuse of history is taking place. The agenda of the Hindutva is to malign and erase the documentation of Muslim rule.

He pointed out that the mission to erase the history of Muslim rule has been going at the school level, where the textbooks glorify Hindu rulers and demonise Muslim rulers. On ways to overcome these challenges, he said that the leaders of the community should come forward to address the issues at hand.

Professor Raja also emphasised that there was an urgent need to digitalise every document and data for public use so that the attack on our culture and history can be fought back with the help

distorted and falsified history while dealing with it.

He said that the Britishers tried to document history in a way that portrayed them in a positive light in terms of the welfare of people. This narrative was countered by a number of great historians such as Rajeshwari Prasad, Beni Prasad, Banarsi Prasad Saxena, Shafat Ahmad Khan, Tara Chand, Mohammad Habib, R. P. Tripathi, Ishwari Prasad by presenting a balanced view of that time. The distortion and falsification of history should be approached strategically, he said.

Dr. Mallika Begum, Assistant Professor, Department of History, JBAS College for Women, Chennai, said that the contribution of Muslims, especially Tamil Muslims, in the making of India has not been recognised appropriately. She noted that even in history textbooks the contribution of Muslims in the freedom struggle is marginally discussed. There is a need to highlight this aspect of the freedom struggle.

Maulana Abdul Hamid Noumani, Theologian, Author and Columnist, said that any historical explanation should be in accordance with the original sources. He emphasised that while writing history the historical evidence and materials related to different areas need to be collected and examined.

Dr. M. Manzoor Alam, Chairman, IOS, said that in the light of today’s discussion, there is a need to sit together and discuss the further course of action. He also said that non-Muslim historians should be called for discussion on the distortion and falsifying of history to enrich the perspective.



A view of the Discussants

of facts and data.

Prof. M. Ishaque, Former Head, Dept. of Islamic Studies, Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi, read out Ibn Khaldun’s definition and purpose of history—“History is a noble art, and to write history, you need a good speculative mind”. Talking about the falsification of history, he said that many earlier historians and scholars have talked about the act of falsifying history for selfish and unethical motives. The false narrative is repeated so many times that after a certain time, people start to believe it as the truth. Therefore, it is important to take the precaution of not falling for the

In the end, the Chairman constituted a Committee consisting of Prof. M. Ishaque, Maulana Abdul Hameed Nomani, Prof. Waseem Raja and Prof, Syed Jamaluddin to hold another round of meeting to frame the themes of research projects related to social and cultural life of medieval India and identify scholars to take up themes suggested to them.

The programme came to an end with a vote of thanks presented by Prof. Syed Jamaluddin.

IOS Condolence on the demise of Prof. Mohammad Nejatullah Siddiqui

Nov. 12: With immense grief and sorrow, Dr. Mohammad Manzoor Alam, Chairman, Institute of Objective Studies, New Delhi, offered his deep condolences on the sad demise of Prof. Mohammad Nejatullah Siddiqui, who passed away today morning in Palo Alto, CA, USA. *Inna lillahi wa inna ilaihi rajewoon!*

“Prof. Nejatullah Siddiqui was my teacher, guide and philosopher, who always guided and supported me. I have lost a great teacher, and a renowned scholar of Islamic banking and finance”, Dr. Alam said.

Prof. Siddiqui was the recipient of prestigious King Faisal Award. He was one of the founders of the Institute of Objective Studies and had been member of its governing council. He was also a recipient of the Third IOS

Shah Waliullah Award conferred on him in the year 2003 for his contributions in Islamic Economics. He authored books titled “*Jihad, Ijtihad aur Mujahida-e-Nafs*” and “*Tashaddud Islam aur Tahreek-e-Islami*” for the Institute, contributed several articles for different IOS publications, and participated in a number of conferences and seminars on banking and finance organised by the Institute.

Born in 1931 and educated at Aligarh Muslim University, he served as associate professor of economics and professor of Islamic studies at the Aligarh Muslim University and as professor of economics at the King Abdul Aziz University, Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, in its Center for Research in Islamic Economics. He later became a fellow at the Center for Near Eastern Studies at the University of California, Los Angeles, and after that a visiting scholar at the Islamic Research & Training Institute, Islamic Development Bank, Jeddah, KSA.

He was a prolific writer in Urdu and English, he has 63 works in 5 languages and 1,301 library holdings to his credit. Several of his works have been translated into Arabic, Persian, Turkish, Indonesian, Malaysian, Thai, etc.

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

Calendar 2023

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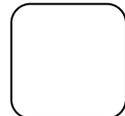
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