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Thought for the Month

Who is more unjust
Than one who forges
A lie against Allah
Or rejects His Signs?
For such, their portion
Appointed must reach them
From the Book (of Decrees):
Until, when Our messengers
(Of death) arrive and take
Their souls, they say:
"Where are the things
That ye used to invoke
Besides Allah?"
They will reply, "They
Have left us in the lurch,"
And they will bear witness
Against themselves, that they
Had rejected Allah.

Al-Quran- 7: 37

Editor
Prof. Sanghasen Singh

Circulation Manager
Syed Arshad Karim

Correspondence
Address

162, Jogabai Main Road
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

History is a complex issue because it has always been used by the power elite to serve the political purposes and therefore the victim is 'truth'. History has to be narrated as facts that happened during a particular period and it does not matter whether they were 'golden' or something less. Unfortunately, history is more political than political science as a subject because history is being used to mobilise masses and inject in their minds the distorted facts. History projects are mostly to create a sense of 'pride' among the 'children' about their 'glorious' past and therefore historians tend to make mistake and convert history into a mythology of nationalism which is dangerous and prone to create misconception in the minds of young generation. A distorted history will only create hatred in the minds and heart of the people and confine our worldview to narrow partisan purposes of the powerful victorious people. Those who wish to convert history into myth will only do perils, as civilizations do not grow just on the 'victory' 'marches' over the opponents but with a definite positive agenda for the subject masses.

We live in democratic times today where historians, writers, political and social scientists need to be iconoclastic without any fear or favour. The intellectual, if honest, will always question the wrongs done to any society and historical wrongs give us opportunity to learn from it and better the society. Any attempt to cover up the past wrongs would only return in creating a society of hatred, mistrust and deeply vengeful. Democracy must develop spirit of mutual understanding, rule of law as defined in various international covenants and right to dissent helps us reaching out those who are not like us. Any 'majoritarian' point of view presented as 'gospel truth' or historical facts is bound to bring catastrophe in democracy and will develop an unreasonable society deeply prejudiced and antipathetic to minorities and marginalized.

India is a multicultural society. Many people suggest it is a multi-national country with so many languages, cultures, religions, and identities. Writing a history of India is a challenging task because without understanding various issues of community, cultural struggles, and the like, it would be impossible to develop understanding among such vast segments of people. Unfortunately, history in India means our struggle against British colonialism and that too under the leadership of Gandhi. The historians of India have by and large been influenced by the Gandhian thoughts and therefore did not bother to explore other streams of thoughts. The scholars failed to take into account the discrimination against communities based on caste which is the hallmark of Indian society. The result is that today most of our students are not aware of caste system and the damages it has brought in our social lives.

**From Rise and Role of Marginalised Communities in Indian Freedom
Struggle by Vidya Bhusan Rawat, pp. vii-viii**

Activities of the IOS Headquarters

IOS organises two-day International Conference on "War, Politics and Peace in the Globalized World: Looking for Way Forward"

A two-day international conference on 'War, Politics and Peace in the Globalized World: Looking for Way Forward' was organised by the Institute of Objective Studies in hybrid mode on December 16-17, 2023.

Inaugural Session

The conference commenced with the recitation of a verse from the Holy Qur'an.

Introducing the theme, Convenor and the Vice-Chairman of the IOS, Prof. M. Afzal Wani, said that the thought on peace should be constant and a continuous process. It was due to the thought that the human being dominated the world. But, looking at the two world wars, one found that the world was ridden with conflicts. Wars turned out to be one of the attributes of human being. Though there was the least possibility of reducing wars, every opportunity should be utilized to reduce them.

Inaugurating the conference, intellectual, inventor, telecommunication engineer and entrepreneur based in the United States, Sam Pitroda, deplored that various countries and their leaders were inciting violence in place of peace in a bid to serve their interest and implement their agenda of throwing the world into a new war. It could be very disastrous for humanity and cherishing values of the world. Dreadful wars in Africa and the

Middle-East were symptomatic of a phenomenon which was very disturbing. He noted that the situation was very alarming. He held that peace in the world was not possible until the balance of power among influential nations was maintained.

Referring to the information explosion, Sam Pitroda said that it was a content communication and the connectivity of life. Due to hyper connectivity, change in governance, education, health and humanity was taking place. Communication had commanded hyper-connectivity and exclusion of social groups created a lot of problems in society. These ideas left the world with two wars which were

justice and trust. Unfortunately, there was little or no conversation at all on this issue. Then came diversity which made the world diverse in various respects. But, this potential was not being fully tapped. There was a need to exploit diversity for the good of the world. He said that the real war was about the climate change. Global warming was posing a serious challenge to human existence. Then there was the problem of homeless people, besides health issues. Inequality and injustice were other issues which should receive a priority to be addressed. There was also the need to ensure economic parity for the under-privileged. Today, the world needed hyper-connectivity. He

concluded that facilities like military establishments were misused.

In his key-note address, former Defence Minister, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Professor at the School of Political Science, University of Sarajevo, Bosnia, Prof. Selmi Cikotic, remarked that there was tension and violence all around

the world. The world was ridden with either war or civil war. He said that super powers were responsible for these wars and conflicts in various parts of the world due to their vested interest. When one group declared war on the other, these powers supported one group against the other by helping it by way of arms supplies. Pleading for inter-dependence of countries, he said that this became more important in the present context for national and international security. Major technological cooperation among SAARC countries was needed for better international understanding. There had been Euro-centric war due to the insane use of military and technology to subjugate a country.



On the dais (L-R): Prof. Akhtarul Wasey, Prof. M. Afzal Wani, Prof. Z.M. Khan and Mr. Meem Afzal

unparalleled in history. In the wake of the Second World War, the United States of America designed the United Nations and other specialized agencies of it. He said that these organizations were created due to hyper-sensitivity. But arms race had not as yet ended as an estimated amount of two billion dollars were being spent on warheads.

Sam Pitroda talked about the crisis of leadership in today's world. These leaders were pigmies. They were a corrupt lot and had their egos. They were not like Gandhi who was truthful and wedded to his commitment. They could not speak against injustice and exploitation. He noted that there was also the crisis of values due to lack of

Factors that exacerbated hostilities included power of armaments and non-justifiable hierarchy. Referring to his country, he said that she was a mixture of religious and progressive country. The people of the country cherished civilizational and social values.

Prof. Selmi Cikotic stressed the need for Mediterranean alliance of civilizations rather than clash of civilizations. There should be collaboration and alliance of civilizations. Instead of the politics of battle, region, religion, economy and justice should receive more attention. He concluded that there should be no ground for revenge.

Speaking as a special invitee, Director, Institute of Chinese Studies, Delhi and India's former Ambassador to China, Mr. Ashok K. Kantha, referring to Israel-Hamas war, said that the latter was fighting for a rightful cause. Israeli bombing on civilian areas and the denial of food to thousands of people in Gaza was inappropriate. Since India had good relations with all the stakeholders in the area, it supported UN resolution on Palestine. It would promote equity in and nationalism in Gaza area. Though there was transition towards a multipolar world, it was not yet complete. It might be the start of a new cold war there. Fragmentation of global economy was a new phenomenon which could further worsen. He noted that both USA and China could resolve global issues, though this could be a very challenging task.

Mr. Ashok K. Kantha said that the Chinese behavior was distinctive in the region which was guided by its interest internally. Nation-building was the purpose of China which led to the coaxing of others. But India was obliged to work for global peace. Politics, economy and foreign policy were looking towards South and the West. Under the circumstances, how one could suggest for global peace. He questioned the role of global powers in performing their duty fairly. Gameplan

of the big powers was to serve their interest by prolonging conflicts. But it was India's duty to keep the people's interest in view. He called for using India's potential to promote global peace.

Former Member of the Rajya Sabha, Mr. Meem Afzal, deplored that despite the world being civilized, it was haunted by wars. There were wars between Russia and Ukraine and the Israeli war in Gaza. He appealed to the world community to impress upon Israel to stop brutalities on the Palestinians. In order to stop war, rights of Palestinians should be recognized. He said that politics and diplomacy were responsible for war. Politics was at the heart of war and the decision to start and end war was taken by the politicians. The military started war only after it was ordered by the political establishment.

Senior journalist, Dr. John Dayal, observed that Sam Pitroda opened factories of technology and gave chance to capitalism. Children, journalists and women were being killed by Israel in Gaza with the result that about 200 human bodies were rotting there. The United Nations forgot its Charter to protect the life and property of the Palestinians. Israel was a nuclear power and her stubbornness could not be checked. He said that hundreds of people were lynched due to their identity as Muslims.

Social activist, Dr. Ram Puniyani, referring to the current conflict between Israel and Hamas, said that 85 percent land of Palestine was occupied by Israel. He insisted that peace could not be restored without justice. USA had been using its stooges to run government in several parts of the world. There was a war industry in powerful countries which supplied military hardware to combatant nations. With a view to putting a check on wars, he suggested the formation of a world government by the UN with the assistance of other international organizations. He also suggested that there should be an alliance of

civilizations to counter clash of civilizations. He held that powerful nations attacked weaker countries. Countries should, therefore, be sensitive to peace at the global level. Majoritarian politics had become the bane of harmony and peace.

Former Vice-Chancellor, Maulana Azad University, Jodhpur and Professor Emeritus, Islamic Studies, Jamia Millia Islamia, Prof. Akhtarul Wasey said that war in itself was a problem as the one who fought war also faced danger. League of Nations was replaced by the United Nations in 1946. But the veto power enjoyed by the members of the Security Council made the world body ineffective. He suggested that veto power should be exercised only if the majority of the members exercised it. Peace was essential for sustained development. He nursed a grouse that instead of connecting the people, politics was only dividing them. He warned that what was happening today could set the world on dangerous course. War had wide ramifications for others as well even if they were not directly connected to it. Big powers waged war to protect themselves. He said that defence industry was flourishing due to the supply of weapons to the warring nations by big powers. He held that peace in the Middle East was not possible without restoring peace in Palestine. He urged the US to impress upon Israel to abide by the Oslo Accord. Today, there was the need for politics of integration as against the politics of division, he added.

Chairman of the IOS, Dr. M. Manzoor Alam, observed that peace could be built on the concept of justice for all. There was no other way than helping others than killing them. If justice was denied on the basis of class, caste, colour and region, peace could not be built. He said that there was a responsibility on the leaders of the world to work for justice for all. Development should benefit all the people of the world. He continued that the whole humanity should in any case

not ignore human sufferings under the scourge of wars and the aspiration for peace as a cherished goal for all. The international legal framework for controlling of war prospects and reduction of war atrocities should be strengthened. Issues of justice, economic and political conflicts creating ground for wars in the emerging world should be examined seriously. United Nations should not be allowed to remain in crisis and fail like the League of Nations, he concluded.

Presiding over the session, Secretary General of the IOS, Prof. Z.M. Khan observed that it was very difficult to suggest solution to the problems facing the world. Coming to the home front, he said that religion was being misused and mobilized to seek votes. Tribals and Adivasis were especially used for the purpose. The outreach of the saffron party did not find support in the South yet. Ultra-rightists engineered riots and engaged poor sections in violence against the minorities. They used weaker sections in their own interest in order to keep them in their fold. They used technology with the same mindset.

On this occasion, two books – *Technology and Youth*, edited by Prof. Haseena Hashia and *Global Trends in Education*, edited by Prof. Shueb Abdullah, and published by the IOS, were jointly released by those present on the dais. Both the editors highlighted the contents of the books.

Technical Session-I

Chaired by the Ex-Associate Dean, Director and Chairman, School of International Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University, Prof. Aftab Kamal Pasha, the first technical session focused on perspectives, policies, conflicts and aspirations for peace.

Prof. Dr. Noor Ahmed Baba, former Dean of Social Sciences, Kashmir University and Central University of Kashmir, Srinagar spoke on 'Rethinking War and Violence as an instrument of security in

contemporary times. He said that this was a very complex theme. Conflict and confrontation were common to the region. Anarchy had put them into war. It created an order for a population group of people. Growth of knowledge and technology had created a dynamics of power. There were 70 percent casualties in Gaza. It was a challenge to human peace, he noted. Prof. Iqbal Ali Khan from Faculty of Law, Aligarh Muslim University focused on 'War and its effects: As way forward'. He observed that since history, war had affected civilian population in terms of human sufferings. It had had an indelible mark and multi-dimensional impact on humanity. There was the need for holistic approach to war. International organizations failed to stop war. Veto power had defeated the very purpose of UN resolutions. He called for the withdrawal of veto power.

Prof. Arshi Khan from Department of Political Science, Aligarh Muslim University, Aligarh focused on the way forward for world peace. He said that in the 19th century, power became a decisive factor. Referring to the Israel-Hamas war, he suggested that the entire Palestine should be made one state. He also suggested that three-fourths majority of the UN resolution should be there to take action against the erring country.

Prof. Upendra Choudhury from Department of Political Science, AMU centered on 'International politics and security issues in Indo-Pacific'. He maintained that in order to contain China, United States was focused on Indo-Pacific. The concept Indo-Pacific should be inclusive. He said that India stood for all-inclusive approach. Assistant Professor of Political Science, Jamia Hamdard, Dr. Ayan Guha spoke on 'Global Politics and Peace Processes in the world: Between myth and reality'. He held that every state wanted to accumulate power. Every system was anarchical. It was in that context that collective security concept was devised by the UN. He

said that security also became a social structure.

Assistant Professor of Law and Political Science, School of Law, Fairfield Institute of Management and Technology, New Delhi, Dr. Manish Yadav focused on 'International Humanitarian Law: Issues and challenges after seven decades'. He commented that Gaza was the largest open jail in the world and the international response and humanitarian assistance had been blocked. Efforts for de-escalation of Israel-Hamas conflict were the need of the hour, he said. Dr. Swati Pandita, Assistant Professor, School of Law, Fairfield Institute of Management and Technology spoke on 'Conceptual Foundations and Working of International Criminal Courts'. She explained that judges of the court had a 7-year term. There were three types of judges and war crimes defined by the Geneva Convention came under its jurisdiction. There was an office of the prosecutor with which cases were registered. The term of the prosecutor was 9 years. Then the cases were investigated and the help of witnesses sought, she said. Senior journalist Iftexhar Gilani based in Istanbul whose topic was 'Analysis of political factors influencing peace in the contemporary world'. He could not speak but sent his paper in which he analyzed briefly the factors that influenced peace initiatives in the world.

In his presidential remarks, Prof. Aftab Kamal Pasha said that Israel was defying the appeal of 53 countries to stop war. He held that Israel was uprooting Palestinians and brutalities were perpetrated on them by the Israeli war machinery.

Technical Session-II

Chaired by Prof. Arshi Khan, the second technical session focused on the 'United Nations responsibilities, legal regime for peace'.

Prof. Mohammed Asad Malik from Faculty of Law, Jamia Millia Islamia spoke on 'Critical View of the

performance of United Nations Security Council as expected under the UN Charter'. He said that Security Council had a delegated role. Only permanent members could exercise veto power. The UN had the doctrine of collective humanitarian intervention in case of humanitarian crisis, he added. Prof. Khawaja Abdul Muntaqim, human rights expert, New Delhi dwelt on Human Rights, Genocide and working of the Genocide convention. He noted that despite efforts to stop them, genocide, continued to happen. Non-influential institutions proved to be paper tigers. He also referred to environmental injustice. Dr. Mohammad Umar, Associate Professor of Law, Lucknow University said that there was flagrant violation of international criminal law. Geneva Convention, 1949 protected civilians from violence, discrimination, torture and their killings. Outrage of personal dignity of individuals was prohibited, he said.

Dr Amrendra Kumar, Assistant Professor, Faculty of Law, Delhi University spoke on 'Challenges for appropriate implementation of sustainable development goals (SDGS) for universal peace'. He said that the creation of peaceful and inclusive society was on the goals of sustainable development. Other goals included reduction of all kinds of violence, human trafficking and torture, violation of the rule of law, reduction of corruption and bribery in all forms. It also included non-discriminatory law and policy. He noted that security also became a social structure.

In his presidential remarks, Prof Arshi Khan observed that more than 60 resolutions were passed by the UN General Assembly, but not a single of them was implemented. These resolutions were related to Iraq, Iran, Israel and Afghanistan. In Gaza, rights of the people in occupied areas were violated. More than 115 UN officials were killed there. Besides, several hospitals in the area were bombed, he said.

Day-2 (December 17, 2023)

Technical Session-III

The third technical session was chaired by Prof Mohammad Asad Malik. The session was devoted to 'Laws, institutions and initiatives for mitigation of horrors of war'.

Dr. Amit Gupta, senior adviser on conflict resolution and international security, Forum of Federations, Ottawa, Canada, USAF Air War College, Albania discussed Ukraine, Israel and decline of the Western World Order. He said that in the globalized world, Indian standard of education was not still upto the mark, because Britishers were not there to train Indians. He noted that environment, education and water were three major issues before the country. Dr. Mehnaz Najmi, Adjunct Professor at Taxila American University, Guyana focused on the human cost of Palestine-Israel conflict. Dr. Syed Ali Nawaz Zaidi, Professor, Faculty of Law, AMU spoke on 'Reasons for the failure of League of Nations and the Emergence of the United Nations'. Prof Dr. Anuj Kumar Vaksha from University School of Law and Legal Studies, GGSIP University, Delhi focused on structure, purpose and the role of ICRC in mitigating the horrors of war and war-like situations in present day globalized world.

Dr. M. Kalimullah, Assistant Professor, Faculty of Law, AMU spoke on social and cultural conflicts contributing to breaking out of wars. Dr. Kirti Shinde focused on 'Repercussions of war on women: Special reference to sexual violence against women'. Dr. Subhadipta Sarkar, Associate Professor, Faculty of Law, JMI spoke on the second Geneva Convention, 1949 for the protection of the wounded, sick and shipwrecked military personnel at sea during war'.

Technical Session-IV

Chaired by Prof. Nuzhat Parveen Khan, Former Dean, Faculty of Law, Jamia Millia Islamia, the fourth

session was devoted to agenda for development, peace and related strategies.

The session began with the presentation of the paper on Protocol additional to the Geneva Convention of 12 August, 1949 and relating to the protection of victims of International Armed Conflicts (Protocol), 8 June, 1977. Prof. Mohammad Sohrab from MMAJ Academy of International Studies, JMI spoke on moral imperatives for a just World Order. Dr. Vandana Singh, Associate Professor, University School of Law and Legal Studies, GGSIP University, Delhi devoted her paper to 'Implementation of Global IPR Agenda for Harmonic Development of Nation States and Strategies for minimization of conflicts'. Dr. Parikshet Sirohi, Senior Professor, Faculty of Law, Delhi University spoke on 'Reformation of UN for effective implementation of peace agenda in the world'.

Technical Session-V

Prof Ghulam Yazdani, Faculty of Law, JMI was in the chair. The theme of the session was the impact of war on economy, society, health, education and environment.

Dr. Kamar Oniah Kamaruzaman, former Professor of Comparative Religions and Islamic Studies, International Islamic University, Malaysia spoke on 'Growing new humanity: Global citizens grounded on conscience and compassion'. Dr. Qazi Mohammad Usman, Professor, Faculty of Law, JMI focused on the topic, 'Role of the World Health Organisation (WHO) during war, or excessive use of force'. Dr. Binish Maryam, Assistant Professor, Nelson Mandela Centre for Peace and Conflict Resolution, JMI devoted to the communal violence and peace process. Dr Zubair Ahmad Khan, Assistant Professor, University School of Law and Legal Studies, GGSIP University centered on 'Repercussions of wars for environment: Global experiences'. Dr. Syed Iqbal Ahmad from National Law University, Dwarka, Delhi spoke on

'Repercussions of wars for education system: Global experiences'.

Dr Ghazala Sharif, Assistant Professor of Law, Amity University, NOIDA discussed repercussions of war on children: Global experiences. Ms. Sadaf briefly commented on effects of conflicts. Dr. Seema Singh from Law Campus, Delhi University examined the role of the International Court of Justice.

Valedictory Session

In his special address, Prof. Mohammad Tariq from Faculty of Law, AMU said that the United Nations was being dressed down due to its inability to intervene in conflicts in several parts of the world. There were numerous cases in which UN Security Council found itself unable to take effective action due to the veto power used by one of its permanent members to block implementation of the resolution. While one member voted in favour of the resolution, the other member said 'no' to it. Today's war could not be called war because combatants were not on an equal footing. The country which was attacked was not so powerful as to retaliate against the attacker. International laws were flagrantly violated by powerful countries, he added.

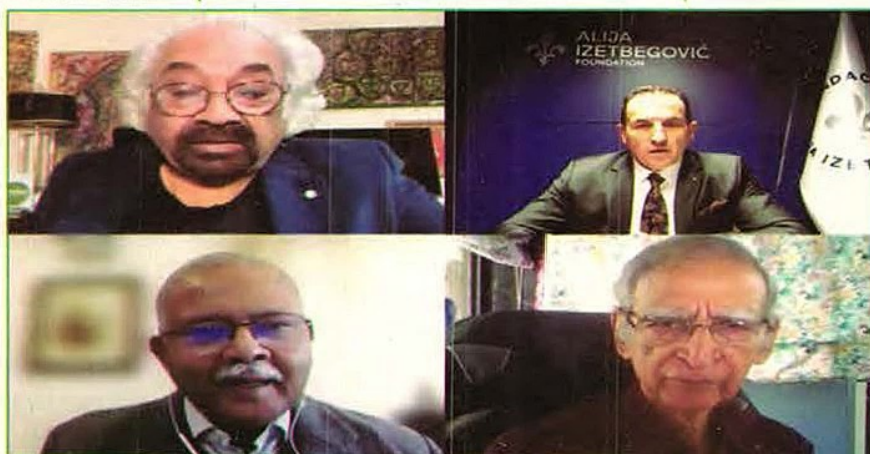
Referring to the consequences of the next world, if at all it happened, he said that they would be disastrous for human beings. Going into the causes of a war, he noted that it was the issue of the economy of the developed nations who targeted poor countries. In spite of all this, these countries called themselves civilized. Thousands of people were being killed for nothing. They were completely destroying economy and resources of poor

countries. He noted that one of the members of the Security Council was very important. Multipolar power system existed in the world today. He called for the restoration of peace in Palestine.

In her valedictory speech, Prof. Kahkashan Danyal, Dean, Faculty of Law, JMI stressed the need for examining the dynamics of war. She said that in order to respect the international law, Article 15 of the Indian Constitution forbade discrimination on grounds only of religion, race, caste, gender, or place of birth. Commenting on geo-political complexity, she said that open resilience was necessary to soften

Authority), called for promoting sustainable goals of development.

Prof. Hamid Naseem Rafiabadi from Kashmir University, Srinagar, observed that peace had emerged as a new era. He demanded that Asia should be given its right to be a member of the Security Council. Only six members of the Council decided the matter on Africa. He called for giving a chance to Asia and Africa. He also called for favouring countries who were non-combatants. There should be a new mechanism to ensure peace. Instead of allowing to depend more on the West, East should also be given a chance to do something concrete.



Mr. Sam Pitroda, Prof. Selmi Cikotic, Mr. Ashok K. Kantha and Dr. Ram Puniyani delivering their speech

Presiding over the session, Prof. M. Afzal Wani, emphasized that thought was very important. Only then action would follow. He said that those who guided the world, had thoughts. One should think of what the war was. He opined that politics was a process by which one lived. It was not a bad thing. Politics was not a crude consideration.

He also urged the people to listen to the voice of nature.

At the conclusion of the session, the following 7-point resolution was unanimously adopted by the participants:

1. The United Nations organisation should take the conflicts between nations and non-international conflicts seriously to prevent bloodshed in the world.
2. The world community should realise the needs of the globalising world to establish peace for advancing it forward to attain main objectives of prosperity and peace.

hardened attitude of nations on different issues. She also laid emphasis on commitment to dialogue to resolve contentious issues. She also explained the factors on which the future of global economy depended. Similarly, socio-economic disparity should be removed in order to ensure equality among all sections. In the age of ever expanding landscape of technology, power of education should be harnessed. Every effort should be made to see to it that peace was not elusive. With a view to raising collective conscience, criticism should be taken seriously, she added.

Dr. Raqeeb Alam, working with the NALSA (National Legal Service

3. The purpose of International Humanitarian Law should be popularised for promoting the policies for least damage caused by hates, conflicts and wars.
4. In conflict regions, the Nation States should be persuaded to have a reconciliatory approach in resolving mutual conflicts and avoid use of force.
5. Ethnic, racial, religious differences should not be allowed to result into hate and bloodshed through use of weapons.
6. Concepts of justice for all should be made part of curriculum in educational institutions and media discussions to change the mindset for achieving better for humanity.
7. Welfare measures should be taken at a larger scale to help the suffering millions due to wars for rehabilitation.

The conference ended with Prof. Haseena Hashia extending a vote of thanks to all the participants of the conference.

**Mujaddid IOS
Centre for Arts &
Literature organises discussion on
“Search for Nazir Akbarabadi’s
Village”**

A discussion on ‘Search for the village of Nazir Akbarabadi’ was organised by the Mujaddid IOS Centre for Arts and Literature at the auditorium of the IOS on December 30, 2023.

As usual, the programme commenced with the recitation of Qur’anic verse by Asif Jamal. Noted Hindi-Urdu critic, Dr. Janki Prasad Sharma presided over the function.

Introducing the theme, the Convenor of the Centre, Anjum Naim,

said that Nazir was forgotten by the critics for a long time. But he was being remembered today for his works which depicted the common life of Hindus, Muslims and Sikhs. His poems were simple and reflected the composite culture of the Hindi belt with the celebration of festivals together. His poetry had an input of divinity, he observed.

Well-known Urdu novelist, Khursheed Hayat, held that the dialogue increased the life span. A composite culture was reflected in the poetry of Nazir and his predecessors. He described Nazir as the father of Nazm (verse). Nazir wrote *Chakkinama* and *Bheednama*. But

and wrote in that background. Not a single subject was untouched which was not imbued with the fragrance of his soil. He maintained that Nazir Akbarabadi was a votary of the composite culture.

Prof. Dileep Kumar Shakya from Department of Hindi, Jamia Millia Islamia described Nazir’s poetry ‘as the open art gallery of the composite culture’. He was contemporary of Mir Taqi Mir.

It was his individuality that he preferred to keep away from royal patronage. The narrative of Urdu poetry he set was set in rural life with vibrant culture. This was called shared culture that brought together to two

major communities. He said that both Hindi and Urdu were the streams flowed from the same river. Tracing the history of Hindi, he said that it was Bharatendu Harish Chandra who started the use of the language in 1850. He called for taking Hindi and Urdu together because it was the relationship or in amiability of the body and soul. This was better reflected

in the composite culture.

Dr. Nazir Ahmad wrote extensively on Nazir Akbarabadi. If there was reference to gods and goddesses, the invocation of Ganeshji, there was also mention of Shab-e-barat. He wrote *Lallu-Jagdhara Ka Mela*, *Sudama Charit*, *Kans Ka Mela* and *Fakir Ki Holi*. He argued that Nazir’s narrative was different from Surdas and Raskhan whose adoration of Lord Krishna was utopian. While Kabir had a religious critique, Nazir looked at his social surroundings. He never talked of only one religion. Nazir’s other notable poems included *Krishna Kanhaya Ki Bansuri*, *Mahadevi Ka Mela* (a Nazm), he added.



On the dais (L-R): Haqqani Al-Qasimi, Dr. Janki Prasad Sharma, Prof. Dileep Kumar Shakya and Mr. Khursheed Hayat On the podium: Mr. Anjum Naim introducing the theme of discussion

from then onwards, the literary landscape of Urdu poetry underwent a sea change. He said that the critics today were wandering in Nazir’s village in pasts. He was a poet of different colours. He used Khari Boli, Avadhi, Punjabi and Persian languages to compose his poems. He was a people’s poet and the festivals were scouting for his village. He observed that today, Nazir was Benazir (unique). He never allowed himself to be a courtier because of individuality. He wrote on Holi, Diwali and other festivals of both Hindus and Muslims. He also wrote *Aadminama* and *Banjaranama*. He wrote on the socio-political system of his times. He never snapped his association with his roots

Senior journalist, critic, and advisor to the National Council for the Promotion of Urdu Language (NCPUL) journal, Haqqani Al-Qasimi, said that Nazir Akbarabadi was a victim of bias. He was ignored by the Urduwallas themselves. He was born in Delhi, but his village was found in his poetry. His collected works of poetry contained all types of poems. He held that cultural pluralism was profusely found in his poetry. Public psyche was the subject-matter of his poetry. Festivals, games, sparrows, etc. prominently found place in his poetry. He said that Mathura Vrindavan and Gokul were his villages. If he wrote on Holi, Diwali and Basant, he also penned poems on Shab-e-barat/Eid. He described Nazir as a poet of crowd who was not lost in it. He deplored that Nazir was forgotten for a long time.

Senior Urdu journalist and Urdu Bureau Chief of Voice of America (Urdu service) in India, Suhail Anjum also briefly spoke on the poetry of Nazir.

In his presidential remarks, noted critic of Hindi and Urdu, Dr. Janki Prasad Sharma, remarked Nazir's village was a world of union. His village did not believe in division, but in unity. In his poetry love was eternal. It was set in a cultural context which should be preserved. He said that Indian culture was pluralistic because of the oneness of her cultural memory. It was a one-thousand-year old legacy. Because of long legacy, it could never

be singular. It was politics that made the legacy singular. He observed that there was an element of realism in Nazir's poetry. Around 25-30 Nazms of Nazir were based on Sufism. But, there was a difference between Iranian and Indian Sufism. Nazir's Sufism was Indian. He was a realist poet because his observation of society was very minute. He opined that Nazir's poetry was the only answer to today's communalism, he concluded.

At the end, Anjum Naim extended a vote of thanks to the attendees who were fairly in good numbers.

IOS condoles sad demise of Prof. Dr. Syed Khalid Rashid

With immense grief and sorrow, Dr. Mohammad Manzoor Alam, Chairman, Institute of Objective Studies, New Delhi, offers his deep condolence on the sad demise of Prof. Dr. Syed Khalid Rashid, who passed away on December 15, 2023 in the morning after a prolonged illness in Malaysia, *Inna lillahi wa inna ilaihi rajewoon!*

Prof. Rashid was a renowned scholar of waqf laws and its management, who always guided and supported me and the Institute, Dr. Alam said.

Prof. Syed Khalid Rashid was deeply associated with the Institute of Objective Studies since its beginning, and extended valuable contributions in

waqf-related activities and programmes of the Institute. He authored 6 books on waqf for the Institute.

Born in 1937, and educated at Aligarh Muslim University, Prof. Rashid served as Professor of Law at the International Islamic University, Malaysia for 25 years (1990-2015), had 50 years of research and teaching experience mainly in waqf laws and management in four different universities of Malaysia, Nigeria and India. His publications include 14 books and 88 research papers, out of which 9 books and 27 papers are on waqf laws and its management. He won the Best Researcher Award in Law at International Islamic University, Malaysia during 2004.

In 2011, Islamic Development Bank, Jeddah, Saudi Arabia invited him as a Visiting Scholar (Waqf), and JAWHAR (Prime Minister's Department, Federal Government of Malaysia) appointed him as the Chief Consultant (Waqf) during 2010-11. He was the Founding Director of the International Centre for Waqf Research, IIUM during 2014-15.

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*.

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