

IOS NEWSLETTER

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Thought for the Month

Ramadhan is the (month)
In which was sent down
The Qur-an, as a guide
To mankind, also clear (Signs)
For guidance and judgment
(Between right and wrong).
So every one of you
Who is present (at his home)
During that month
Should spend it in fasting,
But if any one is ill,
Or on a journey,
The prescribed period
(Should be made up)
By days later.

Al-Quran- 2:185

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FOCUS

The ghost of partition refuses to recede in independent India with religious fanatics masquerading as politicians continue to legitimise their hatred in the name of rights of Hindus in Hindu India. It is ironical that India which rejected two-nation theory based on religion today seems to justify it through the act of majority vandalism over minorities during the past fifty years. A fact which we must ponder as why the political parties and ideologies persistently use the religious hatred as a tool to garner votes. Has India suddenly become communal with the emergence of BJP or Hindutva forces? Why hasn't there been a secular alternative to it. Has the secularism of the typical Indian variety, which our political leadership today demonstrate failed? Is the concept of 'sarva-dharma sambhava', a refuse for the conservatives and orthodox religious leaders in every community to take control over them? I think, the Indian media and particularly the linguistic media has used this brand of secularism for the benefit of a few religious people and spread religiosity of certain brand in their influential areas. Spreading such typical secular brand automatically give the religious rights legitimacy, which ultimately are harmful for a multicultural society. Today, Hindi media use such symbolic secular values by publishing photographs during Id, Holi when Hindus and Muslims 'greet' each other. More importantly, now the media continue to publish speeches of various saints and their congregations. The coverage to religious programme is quite impressive in almost all the Hindi dailies coming out from states. Some of them from Delhi also have been selling religious curiosity of the Indians. On the negative side, the politics of vote bank has harmed the secular concept. While the Centrist parties made themselves easily exchangeable and were incompetent to take on the fringe elements in the Muslim community, the media in general and Hindi media in particular was instrumental in creating a myth that Muslims are being appeased by the 'secular' parties. That they are unable to contain the Muslim anti social elements and don't condemn their activities and when the issue of Hindus come every one of them is up in arm. Such kind of blatantly mythicised reports and editorial harmed and distorted the notion of plurality. Today minority rights should be considered in the wider international framework and not as an appeasement. Unfortunately, that has not happened and this propaganda continued without verifying the facts as how many Muslims have presence in media, government's services, judiciary, police and administration. Such one-sided and unsubstantiated theories resulted in the legitimising VHP and Bajrang Dal among the middle class Hindus, though finally it is now disappearing because of their activities. However, still, new techniques have been developed to legitimise rowdies. If you cannot say something through editorial then editorialised the news item or make fake letters to the editor. There are various ways to create confusion in public mind and communalise the public opinion.

No doubt politicians have always used religion and caste as a weapon to exploit popular sentiments and get access to power but the intelligentsia of a nation speak at times of crisis against any kind of exploitation of its people. And no doubt some of them spoke valiantly and faced the tyranny of the ruling elite. Of course they were just a minority tribe who faced continuous jibe from their own community who took favour from the establishment.

**From Press & Prejudice – An Insightful Analysis of Hindi Media
by Vidya Bhushan Rawat, pp. I-II**

Activities of the IOS Headquarters

Governing Council Meet

The 75th Meeting (six-monthly) of the Governing Council (G.C.) of the Institute of Objective Studies (IOS) was held on 7th March, 2024 at 12:00 noon in the Auditorium of the Institute at 162, Jogabai Main Road, Jamia Nagar, New Delhi in hybrid mode.

A total of 20 persons (11 members and 9 special invitees) attended the meeting.

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

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

- The meeting began with the recitation of an ayah from the Holy Qur'an by Prof. Fahim Akhtar Nadwi.
- Condolence resolutions on the sad demise of prominent figures, who passed away during September, 2023 to February, 2024 were adopted and *dua* was made for their *maghfirat*.
- The minutes of the 74th meeting of G.C. of the IOS, held on August 26, 2023, were presented and confirmed.
- The Follow-up Report (Action-taken Report) of the last meeting was presented before the G.C. of the IOS. The same was considered and after deliberations, got approved with certain information/suggestions/decisions.

- In regard to reconstitute the composition of IOS Office-Bearers, the proposal of Dr. Mohammad Manzoor Alam was discussed by the G.C. at length, and after deliberations, the same was approved. The newly-constituted Office-Bearers, to be effective from April 1, 2024, are as given below:

Chairman: Prof. M. Afzal Wani

Vice-Chairpersons: Prof. Arshi Khan & Prof. (Ms.) Haseena Hashia

Secretary General & Finance Secretary: Mr. Mohammad Alam

It was further approved as

organising a two-day international conference on the topic "Contribution of Prof. M. Nejatullah Siddiqui in Islamic Economics" on April 27-28, 2024 at New Delhi.

- The names of scholars for the nomination of two members to the Board, administering the IOS Shah Waliullah Award, due to demise of Mr. Syed Mohd. Rabey Hasani Nadwi and Justice A. M. Ahmadi, were discussed at length and after deliberations it was decided that the following two scholars be nominated as the members to the Board administering the IOS Shah Waliullah Award:

1. Maulana Syed Bilal Abdul Hai Hasani Nadwi, Rector, Nadwatul Ulema, Lucknow and
2. Justice Syed Shah Mohammed Quadri, Former Judge, Supreme Court of India.

After obtaining their consent their names will be included in the Board, administering the IOS Shah Waliullah Award.



A view of GC Meeting

proposed, the following honorary designations to two senior G.C. Members of the IOS as:

Chief Patron: Dr. Mohammad Manzoor Alam

Patron: Prof. Z. M. Khan

- The matter about mobilising financial resources of the IOS was discussed at length by the G.C. members and special invitees and after deliberations various views were presented.
- The name of Prof. M. Nejatullah Siddiqui, an authority in the area of Islamic Economics and Islamic or Interest-free banking, was finalised as the national personality for

- In regard to the inclusion of some scholars as G.A. members of the IOS the names of 16 (sixteen) scholars were approved for their inclusion in General Assembly (G.A.) of the IOS after getting their consent.
- The proposed priority research projects, based on the research themes, provided in the 'Compendium of Research Themes', published by the IOS, were approved with minor changes/addition. It was also decided that the scholars should be identified for all the themes of the priority research projects.

Further, a Project Management Committee, consisting of the following, is formed, which will supervise the academic research projects and also the research projects to be taken up will be sent to this committee for approval:

1. Prof. M. Afzal Wani
2. Prof. Z. M. Khan
3. Prof. (Ms.) Haseena Hashia Convener

- After going through the list of upcoming programmes of the IOS the G.C. expressed its satisfaction.
- The status report of the on-going research projects was presented before the Governing Council (G.C.). The members, after going through the status report expressed their satisfaction.
- The progress reports of the translation of IOS books from English to Urdu and Hindi as well as the translation, review and editing of IIIT books were gone through by the G.C. members, who, after discussing these reports, expressed their satisfaction on the same.
- The report about the programmes organised by the IOS during September, 2023 to February, 2024; The list of journals/books/reports brought out during September, 2023 to February, 2024; The report of the progress of work done in the IOS Data Bank during September, 2023 to February, 2024 and the reports about the hits of the IOS Website, Current Affairs, Data Bank and Nuqta-e-Nazar during September, 2023 to February, 2024 were presented before the G.C., which

after going through the above reports, expressed its satisfaction.

In the end, Prof. (Ms.) Haseena Hashia, Assistant Secretary General of the IOS, thanked the members of the Governing Council (G.C.) and special invitees for their full support and cooperation.

Eleventh IOS Lifetime Achievement Award Presented to Prof. Dr. Syed Khalid Rashid

The Eleventh IOS Lifetime Achievement Award posthumously conferred on the former professor of law, International Islamic University, Malaysia Prof. Dr. Syed Khalid Rashid. The award was presented to his son,

described Prof. Rashid as a scholar of the international repute.

Registrar of Jamia Hamdard, Dr. M.A. Sikandar, presented the scroll of honour to Mr. Hamid Rashid, son of late Prof. Syed Khalid Rashid.

The Vice-Chairman of the IOS, Prof. M. Afzal Wani presented a cheque worth Rs. 1 Lakh to Mr. Hamid Rashid as the amount of the award. Prof. Z.M. Khan presented a Memento to him and his sister.

Addressing the function, the former Union minister for minority affairs, Mr. K. Rahman Khan, observed that Dr. Syed Khalid Rashid was an expert on Muslim Law, particularly Indian Muslim law and the administrative law, and contributed a number of articles on the subject. He held that Muslims owned biggest waqf properties in the world. But they were not being properly administered. He said that the Waqf Act, 1995 had several lacunae and in order to rectify them, several amendments were made during his tenure as minister of



Mr. Hamid Rashid and his sister Ms. Amnah Kalid Rashid receiving the Memento.

Hamid Rashid, at an impressive ceremony organised by the Institute of Objective Studies at Hall-2, Convention Centre, Jamia Hamdard here on March 2, 2024.

The function began with the recitation of a Quranic verse by Maulana Adnan Ahmad Nadwi.

In his welcome address, the Secretary General of the Institute, Prof. Z.M. Khan, said that Prof. Syed Khalid Rashid was an internationally known personality. He was a noble soul and a committed scholar. He also highlighted the activities of the Institute.

Former radio journalist S.M. Shafiq, read out the citation which

awqaf at the Centre. Waqf property was important because it belonged to Allah. Muslims had a duty to properly manage waqf properties and spend on the welfare of the community. Expressing concern over the large-scale encroachments on waqf properties, he said that if nothing could be done to protect such properties, Muslims would be answerable to Allah. He averred that awqaf were the property and a trust of Allah. About 123 waqf properties of Delhi were given to the entities for other purposes. Efforts should be made to take those properties back, he added.

Chairman of the IOS, Dr. M. Manzoor Alam, in his speech which was read out by the Secretary of the All

India Milli Council, Shaikh Nizamuddin, said that the legacy of the IOS Lifetime Achievement Award had been rich, and this year too, the honour was being dedicated to some one whose phenomenal life and actions were nothing short of an inspiration. An educationist par excellence, an institution building, Prof. Syed Khalid Rashid invested too much of his talent and capabilities in producing innumerable works which enriched the academic in India, Nigeria and Malaysia for over six long decades. He said that as a teacher and scholar researcher, his trajectory was remarkable.

The speech of the guest of honor, Dr. Mohd. Na'im Mokhtar, minister for religious affairs in the office of the Prime Minister of Malaysia, was read out by Dr. Fazlur Rahman, Fellow, Indian Council of World Affairs. In his address, Dr. Mokhtar said, "In a world that is constantly changing, I thought it is essential to recognise and celebrate the achievements of those who have risen above the challenges and have made a lasting difference to honour the best of the best, and to express our gratitude for their invaluable contributions. This year, as we cherished the Eleventh IOS Lifetime Achievement Award conferred upon (Late) Prof. Dr. Syed Khalid Rashid, former Professor of Law, International Islamic University Malaysia (IIUM), for his extraordinary contributions in waqf laws and its management.

"This ceremony marks a special occasion for all of us, as it gives us an opportunity to acknowledge the outstanding efforts of Dr. Syed Khalid Rashid, applaud his contributions, and be inspired by his contribution of knowledge and services, especially in the field of waqf, which has greatly and positively affected and benefited many".

Thanking the IOS for conferring its lifetime achievement award to his father, Mr. Hamid Rashid said that Prof. Syed Khalid Rashid had love for

Islamic law. He spent 25 years in the IIUM. Awqaf was his first love on which he worked throughout his life. He published about 18 books on law and allied subjects. He said that his father donated the entire amount of the royalty on his books to waqf institutions. Though he lived in Malaysia for a long time, yet he never renounced his Indian citizenship. This is enough to prove his love for his native country. He had much respect for the renowned institution builder, Hakim Abdul Hameed Saheb, Hamid Rashid said. On this occasion, the revised edition of the book titled 'Waqf Laws and Administration in India' authored by Prof. Syed Khalid Rashid, and published by the Institute, was released.

In his presidential remarks, Vice-Chairman of the IOS, Prof. M. Afzal Wani, said that he studied Prof. Syed Khalid Rashid's books while doing law at the Aligarh Muslim University, Aligarh. Describing Prof. Khalid as a true son of India, he noted that both he and Dr. Mohammad Manzoor Alam contributed to India by their valuable ideas. Today, India pays homage to Prof. Syed Khalid Rashid. He was not an ordinary person because he gave so much to the country. As an under-developed country, we do not give much importance to learning and knowledge. He maintained that great jurists like Prof. Khalid Rashid were born in India. It is the vision of Dr. Mohammad Manzoor Alam which brought scholars together. Laying stress on more research on Awqaf, he observed that unlike in 1960s, today it is easy to undertake research on waqf. Dr. Khalid's works are relevant not only in India, but also in the entire world. There is need for protection, proper management and development of Awqaf. Dr. Khalid edited IOS journal *Religion and Law Review* for 23 years, he added.

The function ended with the presentation of a vote of thanks by the Assistant Secretary General of the IOS, Prof. Haseena Hashia.

Five-day IOS Winter School Programme in Islamic Studies Concludes

A five-day online winter school programme in Islamic studies was organised by the Institute of Objective Studies from February 20 to 24, 2024. The programme was started in order to impart basic, but deep Islamic knowledge to the university students pursuing professional disciplines, like graduations and masters in business studies, science, computer science, engineering, medicine, etc. It is also an outreach programme to introduce the Institute to new and larger audience, particularly the students who are future leaders in different disciplines and have potential to take lead in decision-making in their respective fields.

The programme began with the recitation of some verses from the Holy Qur'an by Maulana Adnan Nadwi. In his inaugural speech, Secretary General of the Institute, Prof. Z.M. Khan, said that Islamic legends are becoming important day by day because Islam has powerful solutions to the problems and evils facing society. He observed that this programme is special because of the importance of the themes and the participation of well-known scholars. IOS is working hard on Islam and Ummah and the works related to them are topics of debate. Ideals in terms of morality and ethics are also being dealt with. The Institute is also coordinating with other organisations in USA, Malaysia and Indonesia in its outreach programme. Besides research, one of the other activities is the printing of books in English, Urdu, Hindi and Arabic. This includes publication of the books of International Institute of Islamic Thought (IIIT), Malaysia and Indonesia. The Institute is also regularly organising seminars, discussions and conferences, he said.

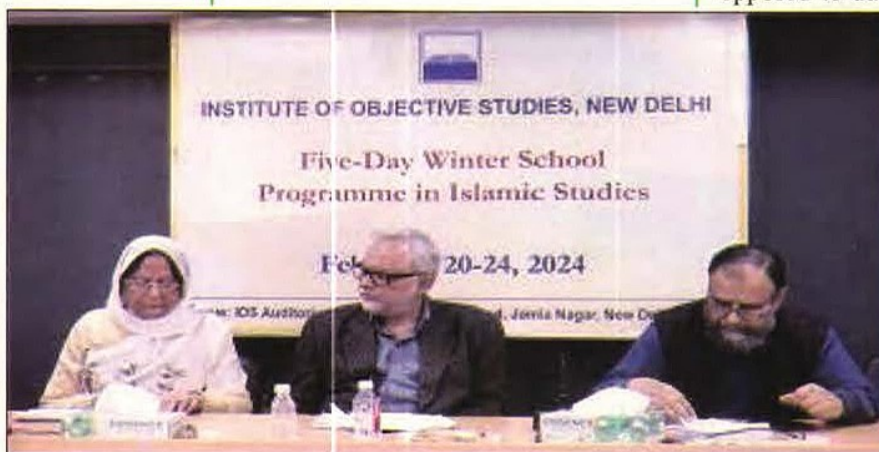
Speaking as a guest of honour, former Dean, Faculty of Humanities and Languages, Jamia Millia Islamia, Prof. Mohammad Ishaque, observed that the programme is aimed to prepare the young generation to embark on a

journey of Islamic learning. They are the future leaders in different disciplines. He said that there was a growing interest in Islam in the West. He emphasised that the Muslims should be fully aware of Islamic legacy and heritage. Briefly quoting from the history of Islamic thought, he said that the Dark Ages in Europe saw the fall of culture, knowledge, civilisational and intellectual values. Before the seventh century, Muslims excelled in Algebra, Mathematics and other natural sciences.

Former Vice-Chancellor of University of Islamic Science and Technology, Awantipura, Jammu and Kashmir, Prof. Mushtaque Ahmed, speaking as a guest of honour, observed that though the contribution of Islamic civilisation is in public domain, yet there has been renewed interest in the study of Islamic civilisation in the past 50 years. He said that today's academic world is developing educational dichotomy. Education unsuccessfully blended Islamic thought with the European thought. Islam is not a set of faults but a set of ethics and ideas. This could be traced to *Surah Al-Baqarah* and *Sahih al-Bukhari*. He opined that had the Greek scholars not translated Islamic works, Europe would not have as excelled as they are today. He noted that the Islamic empire was the golden period of Islamic thought. Referring to Abu Bakr al-Razi, he said that he was a Persian physician, philosopher and alchemist who lived during the Islamic Golden Age. He was widely regarded as one of the most important figures in the history of medicine. Artificial Intelligence, datamining, disruptive innovations, etc., have revolutionised technology. Disruptive technology and digital

economy emerged as new names in the field of modern technology. He asked for using indigenous technology to replace disruptive technology.

In his presidential remarks, Professor Emeritus, Islamic Studies, Jamia Millia Islamia, Prof. Akhtarul Wasey, suggested that the 5-day winter school programme should be stretched to one week. He pleaded that some change in the methodology of the understanding of the Holy Qur'an should be brought about. He said that Muslims at large listened to Qur'an but did not act according to it. He noted that the Prophet (PBUH) had said that religion of a student should not be taken into account while teaching him.



On the dais (L-R): Prof. Haseena Hashia, Prof. Mohammad Ishaque and Prof. M. Afzal Wani

He warned Muslims against being judgmental. Muslims could not expect similar response from non-Muslims unless they did respond to them in equal measure. He advised Muslims not to entertain fear in the face of adverse circumstances. Muslims survived after 1857 and 1947, and would survive in future as well, Prof. Wasey concluded.

The inaugural session ended with a vote of thanks extended by the Assistant Secretary General of the IOS, Prof. Haseena Hashia.

Business Session-I

Lecture-1

The first lecture of the business session-I focused on *Aqeeda: Tawheed*,

Risalat, Akhirat. Prof. M. Ishaque was the speaker who observed that *aqeeda* is the basic foundation of Islam. There are six *Kalimas* that formed the basics of Islam. Justice and righteousness are the foundations on which Islam stood. Allah sent the Prophet (PBUH) as His Messenger to guide humanity. One should remain content with whatever Allah granted him. Heart and wisdom are a building of the human being. Promise and actions are essential for practising faith. He explained that *Tawheed* is the existence of Allah. The one, who keeps his desire (*Nafs*) under control, becomes successful. There must be *Tawheed* (Belief in one God) as opposed to dualism or polytheism. He

was the only entity worthy of worship. Prof. Ishaque held that Allah is the creator of all. This is *Tawheed*. Allah is the only source of *Hidayah* (guidance). Faithful are asked to have faith in *Tawheed*. Muslims believe in *Akhirat* (The day of Judgement).

Lecture-2

The second lecture focused on *Jama Wa Tadween Qur'an* (collection and compilation of the Qur'an). The speaker of the topic was Dr. Mohammad Arshad, Assistant Professor of Islamic Studies, JMI. He said that Allah not only created man but also made a provision for food for him. Prophets were sent to earth for the guidance of human beings and Holy Books were revealed to them so that the people could read them. It is said that holy books were revealed to 315 prophets. Some pieces of the book revealed to the Prophet Idris have been found. The Qur'an is the final book to be revealed. He said that the Prophet (PBUH) used to dictate the *Sahabas* (companions) who were able to write.

Spellings of words were corrected subsequently.

Dr. Arshad held that the Prophet (PBUH) also made arrangements for the preservation of the Qur'an by way of compilation. In order to preserve it, Muslims were required to recite Qur'anic verses in Namaz (prayers) five times a day. Muslims were required to learn Qur'an from teachers. A large number of Muslims memorised the entire Qur'an and this practice continues even today. He said that the Qur'an was not compiled in the same chronological order as was revealed to the Prophet (PBUH). The Prophet used to listen and recite the Qur'an every year during the months of Ramadan. He recited Qur'an 4-5 months before his death so as to compare it with other manuscripts, Dr. Arshad concluded.

Lecture-3

The third lecture was devoted to *Jama Wa Tadween Hadith*. Dr. Mohammad Khalid Umri spoke on the topic. He observed that Hadith is the indirect *Wahi* (Revelation). *Wahi* is of two kinds – *Jali* and *Khafi*. Explaining both of them, he said that there were a number of prophets whom no holy book was revealed. But whatever they stated was the word of Allah. Such assertions were called as 'Khafi'. He held that the Prophet (PBUH) had disallowed compilation of Hadith lest it could distract the attention from Qur'an. Hadith was compiled much after the Prophet (PBUH). There existed no practice of writing during the lifetime of the Prophet (PBUH). One of the reasons for not recording Hadith was to prevent any apprehension of the Hadith forming a part of Qur'an, he said.

Dr. Khalid Khan held that the work of compilation of Hadith was completed in three stages. The compilation was started in the lifetime of the Prophet (PBUH) itself. As many as 236 Hadith were found after his passing away. These belonged to the treatise of Jabir bin Abdullah. In the second stage, Hadith were written during the Caliphate, he noted.

February 21, 2024 (Day-2) Business Session-II

Lecture-4

The fourth lecture featured on 'Revelation and its application: Focus on Sunnah as sources of Shariah which led to the emergence of Fiqh'. Prof. Mohammad Fahim Akhtar Nadwi, Head, Deptt. of Islamic Studies, Maulana Azad National Urdu University (MANUU), Hyderabad, was the speaker who very lucidly explained how the revelation was applied to various branches of theology.

Lecture-5

The fifth lecture focused on 'Introduction to Tasawwuf'. Dr. Mushtaq Tijarvi, Assistant Professor of Islamic Studies, Jamia Millia Islamia New Delhi, spoke on the topic. He explained that Sufism was also a way to worship Allah who is the Master of the universe. Sufis were fully immersed in the love of Allah.

Business Session-III

Lecture-6

The sixth lecture was devoted to 'Islam as faith and civilisation'. Prof. Hamidullah Marazi, formerly associated with Central University of Kashmir, explained in detail the Islamic faith and civilisation. He said that the Islamic faith leads one to firmly believe in the Majesty of Allah. Islamic civilisation stemmed from this belief.

Lecture-7

In his lecture, Prof. Abdur Rashid Bhat, from Deptt. of Islamic Studies, University of Kashmir centred on 'Islam and knowledge'. He said that the Islamic knowledge gave much to the world in terms of research and enquiry.

Lecture-8

This was the last lecture of the session which focused on 'Arab Muslim contribution to the Mathematics, Medicine and Astronomy (Natural Sciences)'. Dr. Mohammad Umar Farooque, Assistant Professor, Deptt. of Islamic Studies, Jamia Millia

Islamia, New Delhi, spoke on the subject. He explained how the Muslims contributed to these subjects before the Europeans could even think of it.

February 22, 2024 (Day-3) Business Session-IV

Lecture-9

Ninth lecture centred on 'Contribution to Humanities and Social Sciences'. Prof. Abdul Majid Khan, Deptt. of Islamic Studies, Aligarh Muslim University, Aligarh was the speaker who discussed Muslim contribution to humanities and social sciences. He held that Muslim scholars were much ahead of the Western thinkers who are credited with the development of various disciplines.

Lecture-10

The tenth lecture focused on the topic 'Non-Muslims during the time of the Prophet'. Dr. Waris Mazhari, Assistant Professor of Islamic studies, Jamia Hamdard, spoke on the subject. He argued that there was no discrimination against non-Muslims during the time of the Prophet of Islam. He was against all forms of discrimination against non-Muslims. They also enjoyed equal rights.

Business Session-V

Lecture-11

The eleventh lecture was devoted to 'Islam and multiculturalism: Modern debate and Islamic position on the subject'. Prof. Hamidullah Marazi deliberated on the subject. He noted that Muslim rulers were non-discriminatory towards non-Muslims as far as their cultural traditions and practices were concerned. Peaceful coexistence was policy they followed.

Lecture-12

The twelfth lecture was centered on 'Islam and Modernity'. Dr. Safia Amir, Assistant Professor, Deptt. of Islamic Studies, Jamia Hamdard, New Delhi, spoke on the subject. She said that Islam is not against modernity. Islam encourages its followers to forge ahead and do whatever was possible for welfare of the humanity.

Lecture-13

The speaker of the thirteenth lecture was Dr. Khurshed Afaq, Assistant Professor, Deptt. of Islamic Studies, Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi, who touched upon 'Muslims under the Muslim Empires: the Umayyads and the Abbasids'. He briefly discussed the state of Muslims during these two periods.

Lecture-14

The fourteenth and last lecture of the session was devoted to 'Non-Muslims in the Arab-Islamic World (Syria, Lebanon and Egypt)'. Dr. Mohammad Arshad discussed the topic. He said that the treatment with non-Muslims was based on equality. They were encouraged to pursue their faith without fear.

**February 23, 2024
(Day-4)**

Business Session-VI

Lecture-15

Prof. Syed Jamaluddin was the speaker of the fifteenth lecture which focused on 'Non-Muslims under the Muslim Rule in India'. He held that by and large, non-Muslims were not subject to oppression or victimisation. They were treated on par with Muslim counterpart.

Lecture-16

The speaker of the sixteenth lecture was Prof. Mirza Asmer Beg, Deptt. of Political Science, Aligarh Muslim University. He spoke on 'Islam vs. Terrorism'. He blasted the theory of Islamic terrorism. He said that it is the plot of the West to spread Islamophobia.

Business Session-VII

Lecture-17

The seventeenth lecture was focused on 'Globalisation and Islam'. Dr. Syed Fazlur Rahman spoke on the

topic. He said that owing to the universal appeal, Islam is globalised. It has presence in every part of the world due to its liberalism and the principles based on justice and equality.

Lecture-18

The eighteenth lecture was devoted to 'Islam and Liberation Movements'. Prof. Arshi Khan, Deptt. of Political Science, Aligarh Muslim University, Aligarh, deliberated on the subject. He held that Muslims fought against the colonial empire shoulder to shoulder with other communities.

Lecture-19

The nineteenth lecture was the last lecture of the session which touched upon the topic 'Islam and Secularism'.



Prof. Omar Hasan Kasule delivering his key-note address

The topic was discussed by Prof. Z.M. Khan, Secretary General, Institute of Objective Studies. As an expert on the subject, he said that secularism is basically a Western import on which modern democracies are functioning.

February 24, 2024 (Day-5)

Business Session-VIII

Lecture-20

The speaker of the twentieth lecture was senior Urdu journalist and special correspondent of the Voice of America (Urdu) in India, Mr. Suhail Anjum. He spoke on 'Islamophobia in the Contemporary World'. He said that in 2022, the Organisation of Islamic Countries (OIC) presented a resolution in the United Nations against

Islamophobia. Islamophobia was expressed in different ways. These included opposition to *hijab* (veils), inflammatory comments on masjids and abusive language against Muslims and slurring Muslim community. Muslims are looked with suspicion. They are targeted as high risk for the country. They are also alleged to be responsible for terrorism. He said that the mainstream media is also responsible for the spread of Islamophobia. Muslims are negatively portrayed in both electronic and print media.

Lecture-21

The speaker of lecture-21 was Prof. Z.M. Khan who touched upon the topic 'Islam and Socialism'. He said that both the terms are used as fashion these days. The term socialism has been hijacked by politicians. He argued that Islam covered every aspect of life. Secularism has several connotations; one of them being Western. It attacks religion; which means that it is now and here. As against this, Islam is a monolithic

religion which distinguishes itself from other religions. According to Islamic view, man's relationship with God means his submission to the Almighty unconditionally. Indian version of secularism is very relevant because it was adopted by the Constitution. Some people believe that secularism is a stumbling block to modernity. He categorically said that Muslims do not understand secularism nor do they work on it.

Business Session-IX

Lecture-22

The twenty-second lecture was devoted to 'Muslim Women's Empowerment in India'.

Dr. Suraiya Tabassum, Assistant Professor of Women Studies, Jamia Millia Islamia, spoke on the subject. She emphasised the need for participation of women in livelihood. She said that access and control are two different things. There are structural issues to deal with the issue in the context of Indian Muslim women. She said that if one has money and does not spend, it does not mean empowerment. She held that girl children are not encouraged to study. In the unorganised sector, they have no safeguards. Despite policies formulated by successive governments since 1947, not much changed till date. She concluded that women were secured with their faith.

Valedictory Session

In his key-note address, Secretary General, IIIT USA, Prof. Omar Hasan Kasule, said that the winter school programme of the IOS is a very good idea and interesting too. He compared it with the migration of Al-Quraish who left their place in Makkah. Similarly, participants in the winter school programme are drawn from across the world. They came in winter and gained knowledge. The programme was about knowledge (*Taalib-ul-Ilm*). They had road to knowledge because they were looking for knowledge. Acquiring knowledge means receiving energy which has the power to move the universe. He noted that wise people always listen. The more one listens, the more he acquires.

Secondly, Allah makes Jannah easy for those who seek knowledge as has been referred to by Hazrat Abu Hurairah.

Convenor of the conference, Prof. Mohammad Ishaque, said that the IOS has been organising school programmes for the last six years. The aim of organising school programmes is to acquaint students with Islamic knowledge in order to enable them to live in an Islamic way and succeed in future. They could be torch-bearers of Islamic thought, he added.

In his presidential remarks, Vice-Chairman of the Institute, Prof. M. Afzal Wani, called upon the participating students to see Islam in its true perspective. They are inspired to achieve their goal. They have many challenges ahead of them and it is their duty to accept them. These challenges could be met only by the correct understanding of Islam. He asked them to learn to apply their mind while dealing with an issue. They should perceive actual realities and apply their mind to act accordingly. He also called for understanding cloudy and foggy atmosphere. He said that they need methodology to understand the problem and use knowledge to solve it. Islam is a great religion and its greatness lies in the Message of Allah that touches upon every aspect of the life of an individual, he concluded.

At the end of the five-day winter school programme, Prof. Haseena Hashia, extended a vote of thanks to all the speakers and participants.

FORM IV (See Rule 8)

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