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Thought for the Month

He it is Who created
The heavens and the earth
In six Days – and His Throne
Was over the Waters –
That He might try you,
Which of you is best
In conduct. But if
Thou wert to say to them,
“Ye shall indeed be raised up
After death”, the Unbelievers
Would be sure to say,
“This is nothing but
Obvious sorcery!”

Al-Quran-11: 7

Editor:
Prof. Haseena Hashia

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

Islam is the religion of peace. Islam places emphasis on non-violence. The people who follow Islam are called Muslims. The word Islam means surrender or submission to Allah, the Creator and the Lord of the creation. A person has to surrender to Allah with all the body and the soul and follow what Allah has commanded and prohibited.

The Holy book of Muslims is the Qur'an. In the Qur'an, there are strict rules of conduct for the whole Muslim *Ummah*. Islam stresses values such as compassion, benevolence, wisdom and justice that are compatible with the practice of non-violence. The Qur'an teaches that forgiveness for any wrong deed is a much virtuous attribute than revenge. The Qur'an and the *Sunnah* of the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) is and will always remain the source of the Islamic weltanschauung.

Islam is a monotheistic religion along with Judaism and Christianity. The Qur'an is a sacred book of Muslims in which moral and pious precepts are written. It's also the primary source of the holy law. The Qur'an guides the Muslim community on how to regulate its relations with other religious communities and how to live peacefully. Christians, Jews and Muslims are the people of the Book, *Ahl-e-Kitaab*. Islam is a universal faith and is not meant for any particular ethnicity such as colour, creed, or caste but for all humanity.

In the eyes of the Muslims, the Qur'an is the infallible and eternal word of Allah the Almighty. The Qur'an and the *Sunnah* of the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) contain all the basic principles for human existence as practised by Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) in Makkah and Madinah. The interpretation of these principles has been deduced from the Qur'an that underlie the way of life of Muslims, and is affected by the prevailing political and historical conditions, schools of law, and political and religious trends. The important point to notice is that there was not a single viewpoint in Islam towards war and peace in the past not in the present scenario.

Islam is the religion of peace as it is seen that the people who followed Islam or Islamic groups or states did not spread Islam through swords and by waging wars. Still, they spread their message of Islam through humanistic tradition and contributed to peace. Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) started the idea of one religion, monotheism, and one human race for mankind which had been proclaimed by the Prophets and the Messengers of Allah the Almighty from the first Prophet Adam (AS) onwards through Abraham, Moses, and Jesus and which had come through him to the Arabs in an infallible and pure form.

The fundamental idea of Islam towards other religions, individuals, ideologies, and people and the questions of peace and tolerance establish the possibilities and limits of Inter-religious dialogue. The unity in diversity and religious pluralism seeks tolerance. Prophet Muhammad's (PBUH) message is seen easily in his behaviour towards the people of the book *Ahl-al-Kitaab*. There is one verse in the Qur'an 2:62, "People who believe in the Qur'an and those who follow the Christian and Jewish scriptures and those who believe in the Allah the Almighty and the last day of judgment and righteousness shall have their reward with their God; they shall have no grieve and fear".

**From *Inter-Religious Understanding for Promoting Peace and Harmony*
by Prof. M. Afzal Wani (ed.), pp. 245-247**

Activities of the IOS Headquarters

IOS Celebrates "Constitution Day"

A function to celebrate the Constitution Day (National Law Day) was organised by the Institute of Objective Studies at its auditorium on November 26, 2025. The theme was "We are Sovereign".

Addressing the gathering on the occasion, the Chairman of the Institute, Prof. M. Afzal Wani, said, "On this very day in 1949, the Constitution of India was adopted. The Constitution was adopted after three-year long debate in the Constituent Assembly. It was the outcome of the understanding reached after long discussions and hard work". This was the day to celebrate the largest Constitution of the largest democracy in the world. In order to understand the importance of the Constitution and its finer points, 1.4 billion people of India should connect to it. They should figure out the agenda of the Constitution. He called for understanding this agenda to enable India to shine in the world. Without this, no idea could come out and no action plan could be drawn up. Even the strength could not be gained without this agenda. "It is for us to discern what it contains. Some people say it has been borrowed from somewhere else and given a shape with a cut-paste. But I believe the Constitution of India grew out of the freedom struggle". He noted that the framers of the Constitution saw to it that there remained no shred of sufferings and excesses.

In this connection, Prof. Wani referred to the martyrdom of the Urdu journalist and editor, Moulvi

Mohammad Baqir who was strapped to a cannon and shot reducing his body to pieces in 1857. The entire country was united then to demand freedom of expression. Those who averred that the Constitution was brought from somewhere, were wrong. The IOS deemed it fit to hold a national conference in remembrance of Moulvi Baqir who laid down his life at the altar of press freedom.

Referring to the IOS, he said that it is a value-based institution, working for the good of the humanity. The Institute is engaged in conducting research in consonance with the spirit of International Bill of Rights. It carries out research in terms of values



On the dais (L-R): Prof. (Ms.) Haseena Hashia, Prof. M. Afzal Wani and Mr. Anium Naim

enshrined in the Indian Constitution. This is also an apex research body at the national level. Owing to being an institution of objective research, the IOS has an international mission. It is oriented to both the Indian Constitution and the International Bill of Rights. He observed that the Institute is taking forward its research and agenda in conformity with the voice of the votaries of rights. This Institute did a lot of work in support of constitutional values during 40 years of its existence.

Prof. Wani pointed out that the IOS took Constitutionalism forward under the able direction of its Chief Patron and founding-Chairman, Dr. Mohammad Manzoor Alam, whose

vision and acumen held it in good stead. In a way, the Institute is a movement which devoted itself to the well-being of humanity. Legislators, researchers, teachers and students of colleges as well as activists could utilise the findings of the researches undertaken by the Institute. Those who wanted to restore peace and order in the world, and to develop cordial relations among nations, could also benefit from the plethora of material put together by the IOS. He said that the IOS family is imbued with the spirit of the Constitution which is a testament to human welfare. The caravan of the Institute would continue its journey to work for social uplift. He said that the day is called the 'Constitution Day' in the entire country because among other things, it also articulated the improvement of relations with other nations. Extending his felicitations on the occasion, he laid stress on understanding the Constitution in letter and spirit, and speculate on the disorder that might follow in the absence of it. The occasion was marked by the pledge of the staff members of the Institute to stand by the Preamble to the Indian Constitution.

Twelfth IOS Lifetime Achievement Award presented to Prof. Z. M. Khan

The Twelfth IOS Lifetime Achievement Award was presented to Prof. Z. M. Khan (Zahoor Mohammad Khan) the former Dean, Faculty of Social Sciences, Jamia Millia Islamia, at an impressive investiture ceremony organised by the Institute of Objective Studies at its auditorium on November 5, 2025.

The function began with the recitation from the Holy Qur'an by Dr.

Nakhat Husain Nadwi, In-charge of Arabic section of the Institute. The recitation was accompanied by its translation in English.

In his welcome speech, the Secretary General of the IOS, Mr. Mohammad Alam, highlighted the activities of the Institute in detail. He then stated that the Institute has honoured individuals, institutions and NGOs, which have rendered invaluable service to national life with the IOS Lifetime Achievement Award. So far, 11 personalities have been honoured with the Award. The twelfth IOS Lifetime Achievement award is presented to Prof. Z. M. Khan in recognition of his services in the field of education, administration, planning, organisation and implementation.

Ex-President of Maulana Azad University, Jodhpur, Rajasthan and Professor Emeritus, Department of Islamic Studies, Jamia Millia Islamia, Padma Shri, Prof. Akhtarul Wasey presented the scroll of honour to Prof. Z. M. Khan.

The citation was read out by content editor, Mr. Faisal Hashmi. It described Prof. Z. M. Khan "An educationist par-excellence, an institution-builder, a researcher-writer whose innumerable works have stood the test of time, Prof. Khan had adorned the world of academia in India, for over six-long decades. His in-depth knowledge places him in a unique position of authority as he worked tirelessly, and lived his entire life, upholding the righteous traditions of the Holy Qur'an".

"Prof. Z. M. Khan's life story is one of the steadfastness, determination, unwavering integrity and extraordinary

commitment to learning and public service. His journey from a humble village in Uttar Pradesh to the highest positions in academia – stands as a testament to what dedication, vision and moral strength can accomplish. Prof. Khan's academic contributions are as vast as they are profound. A prolific writer and deep thinker, he has authored and edited nine major books and produced over twenty scholarly articles in national and international journals. His writings explore themes of Indian government and politics, minority affairs and international relations. But beyond subjects and data, they carry a moral vision – a concern for justice". "No tribute to Prof. Z. M. Khan would be complete without

remembered by his students because it is he who shares knowledge, acquired after several years of teaching, with his students. He expressed the confidence that Prof. Khan would continue to guide the younger generations. He is a true patriot and his contribution to the promotion of knowledge was noteworthy. It was an occasion to celebrate his achievements and the recognition he received from the noted institution like the IOS, he added.

Speaking as a guest of honour Prof. Akhtarul Wasey, said that Prof. Z. M. Khan spent three decades as a teacher and administrator at Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi. He is credited with starting the law department there. He played an important role in making the Jamia as a premier institution of higher learning in the country. He described Prof. Khan as a man of action. He did his every bit to take the university to high levels of teaching and research. His worth was recognised by Dr. Mohammad Manzoor Alam, the then Chairman of the IOS, who made Prof. Khan the Secretary General of the Institute. As

Secretary General, Prof. Khan took forward its mission and vision and made the Institute a think-tank to reckon with. While wishing him a good health and longevity, he hoped that the Institute would continue to expand its activities under his stewardship.

Another guest of honour, former Dean, Faculty of Education, Jamia Millia Islamia, Prof. Mohammad Akhtar Siddiqui, said that the gathering on the occasion was enough to show Prof. Khan's popularity and respect among his students and colleagues. He had been a teacher as well as an activist. He is well-known in academic circles. He did a lot for the upliftment of the Muslim community. He is a serious



Prof. Z.M. Khan (in centre) being presented the Memento by Prof. M. Afzal Wani and Justice Zaki Ullah Khan while Prof. M. Akhtar Siddiqui (in left), Prof. Akhtarul Wasey and Mr. Meem Afzal (in right) are on the dais

acknowledging his remarkable contribution to the Institute of Objective Studies (IOS) – a pioneering institution dedicated to the study of socio-economic and political issues affecting India's marginalised communities".

The Chairman of the IOS, Prof. M. Afzal Wani presented a cheque of One Lakh rupees while former judge, Allahabad High Court, Justice Zaki Ullah Khan presented the memento to Prof. Khan.

Addressing the gathering as the chief guest, Justice Zaki Ullah Khan, observed that political science has been his choicest subject. Referring to Prof. Khan, he said that a teacher must be

thinker and researcher. It was Dr. Mohammad Manzoor Alam who recognised the gem in him and brought him to the IOS. Owing to his efforts, the Institute was held in high esteem for research and objective study of socio-economic issues of the marginalised sections. He pooled together the academic minds and gave them an opportunity to share their knowledge for the benefit of society at large. He said that the IOS contributed volumes of research materials under the guidance of Prof. Khan. He authored and edited several books. He wished Prof. Khan's good health and alacrity.

Editor of Urdu newspaper, *Akhbar-e-Nau* and former Member of Rajya Sabha and ex-Indian Ambassador to various African countries, Mr. Meem Afzal, held that Prof. Khan raised the issues confronting the Muslim community. The Institute had been working at different levels. Congratulating Prof. Khan for receiving the award, he said that it was in the fitness of things to honour him with this prestigious Award. He did a lot for Jamia Millia Islamia to raise its status among the finest educational institutions of learning.

Former Professor and Head of the Deptt. of Political Science, Jamia Millia Islamia, Dr. Furqan Ahmad held that he was junior to Prof. Khan in the political science department. He specialised in public administration. The honour bestowed on Prof. Khan was not an honour to an individual, but to knowledge, dedication and sacrifices. He made a positive impact on the people who came in his contact. His life was replete with the relentless pursuit of knowledge. His integrity well-deserved this honour. His scholarly contributions reflected his wisdom. Pursuit of knowledge was his life-long journey. Close bonds between Dr. Mohammad Manzoor Alam and Prof. Khan gave a fillip to the IOS, he added.

Chief Patron of the IOS, Dr. Mohammad Manzoor Alam, who could not make it to the function on account of his ill-health, in his message, read out

by Prof. Hamid Nasim Rafiabadi, an Islamic scholar, said, "His credentials, his service, his scholarship, and his abiding commitment to the values which IOS holds dear—objectivity of enquiry, inclusiveness of purpose, social justice and the empowerment of marginalised communities—make him truly worthy choice for the Award. "This 12th conferment marks another milestone in our journey at IOS, in recognising those towering individuals whose lives embody the union of intellectual rigour and social commitment. In conferring the 12th Lifetime Achievement Award on Prof. Z. M. Khan, we pay homage not only to his individual achievements, but also recommit to those ideals for which IOS was founded and continues to live", Dr. Alam said. "Prof. Khan embodies the spirit of the IOS Lifetime Achievement Award because his life reflects scholarly rigour and institutional leadership, social engagement and public good, mentorship, community and inclusiveness", Dr. Alam concluded. Ex-Vice-Chancellor of Magadh University and Professor of Geography, Jamia Millia Islamia, Prof. Mohammad Ishtiaque, said that he worked with Prof. Khan in the university for years. He presented a shawl to Prof. Khan on the occasion. The daughter of Prof. Khan, Dr. Farhat Zahoor Azad said that this was a privileged day for the entire family.

Acknowledging the honour bestowed on him, Prof. Z. M. Khan said, "Faith in God and the spirit of service are life's greatest awards. This is a gratitude which I would like to express". The bounty of faith and trust could not be achieved so easily. Islam presented a perception of the world to man with a chart of duties to the Creator. It also ensures that the faithful remained accountable to God. He held that this feeling and faith is the higher honour for him. He held that the institutions played an important role in his life. These included Delhi University, Jawaharlal Nehru University, Jamia Millia Islamia and the Institute of Objective Studies. He

observed that one should cherish certain values. One of them was the belief that God exists. Then one had to enquire and ascertain whether it was true. He said that this gave him the highest prize of belief in God. There is a relationship of man with the Almighty and a relationship of man with other creatures. Relationship with God leads a man to submit to Him. Underlining the importance of Islam, he noted that universal brotherhood was given to the world by Islam which was wonderful. Everyone's deeds would be judged by God on the Day of Judgement.

Prof. Khan explained that man is only the trustee to every material thing created by God on earth. This also explains the relationship of man with man. He said that his spiritual gurus told him to be honest and do not do any immortality even at the minutest. "Family is first. Then go down the list. Islam gave you a worldview to think over issues. *Ibadah* connects you with God. Save the humanity by selecting a community. I selected Dr. Mohammad Manzoor Alam. This worldview should be understood". He said that his wife did a lot for his health and helped him to keep fit. He thanked the IOS for honouring him with the Award.

Presiding over the function, the Chairman of the IOS, Prof. M. Afzal Wani said that the award ceremony is a great occasion. Such an event is organised for the appreciation of any person who has shown some significant contribution in his life time. So, any conferment of an award is something which reminds humanity to appreciate the work done by various persons with distinction. It was the IOS which conferred the first Lifetime Achievement Award to the former Chief Justice of India, Justice A.M. Ahmadi in 2007. The IOS is an institution devoted to academics and research, creating beneficial knowledge for promotion of humane thought and understanding by books, intellectual deliberations in conferences and field studies. This is an activity connected with *Hikmah*. The IOS, accordingly,

enjoys the prime position of developing interest and engagement in intellectual pursuits and making the universe of knowledge possibly richer for anyone looking for access to its contributions. Referring to Prof. Khan, he said that he contributed to understanding the society by writing various prolific and guiding concept notes for conferences, seminars and other academic programmes which made them more focused and meaningful. He has the capacity to project ideas with intellectual depth and certainty with his long experience as an academic leader, especially in Jamia Millia Islamia.

He said that the Award has a symbolic value. His works on governance and empowerment should be understood in the light of that elevating and enriching perspective. The conferment of the award should inspire many more to use their time for knowledge creation. Prof. Khan deserves lot of gratitude from the society for his contributions in the form of writings and producing many scholars worth the name. The Award is an appreciation of Prof. Khan's sincere efforts and incentive for other researchers and academicians.

Prof. Wani pointed out that in his personal life, Prof. Khan has balanced the family engagements, intellectual efforts and the social obligations very nicely. He believes in the Almighty and kept contributing for long. Award is just a gesture that reminds other social scientists to sense the pulse of the community and contribute. He suggested to hold a conference on Justice Ahmadi in which lawyers of eminence should be invited to participate. Wishing Prof. Khan a long life, he stated that his way might be

followed by committed researchers to mitigate the factors working against the marginalised people anywhere.

At the end of the function, the Vice-Chairperson of the IOS, Prof. Haseena Hashia extended a vote of thanks to the attendees.

IOS and Genuine Publications jointly organise function to mark release of the biography "Dr Mohammad Manzoor Alam: Empowering the Marginalised"

A biography of the Founder-Chairman and currently Chief Patron of the Institute of Objective Studies (IOS), Dr. Mohammad Manzoor Alam, was released at an impressive function jointly organised by the IOS and



Release of the biography "Dr. Mohammad Manzoor Alam: Empowering the Marginalised"

Genuine Publications & Media Pvt. Ltd., at the Deputy Speakers Hall, Constitution Club of India on October 8, 2025. The biography Dr Mohammad Manzoor Alam: Empowering the Marginalised, compiled by the Delhi-based senior journalist, Mr. A. U. Asif, profiles Dr. Alam's life and his contribution to social uplift of weaker sections by way of research and action.

The function began with the recitation of some Qur'anic verses by Dr. Nakhat Husain Nadwi, In-charge of the Arabic Section of the Institute. The recitation was accompanied by the translation in English.

In his welcome address, Patron of the IOS, Prof. Z.M. Khan, appreciated

Mr. A.U. Asif for his efforts to compile the biography. He expressed the confidence that the biography would inspire the coming generations. He suggested that Dr. Alam's ideas and the efforts should be looked into the Islamic perspective. He said, "He is not feeling well, yet he came to attend the function. He is not fit to speak". He wished Dr. Alam's good health and longevity. The occasion was marked by the screening of a 15-minute documentary on the life of Dr. Alam, titled 'Dr. Mohammad Manzoor Alam: A Living Legend'.

Introducing the biography, Mr. A.U. Asif said that Prof. Amitabh Kundu was the most important man who did the

work on empowerment of the marginalised communities in India. Prof. Kundu made a big contribution to the subject as Chairman of the Kundu Committee of which Dr. Alam was also one of the members. He narrated an anecdote of Dr. Alam's young age which involved a Paswan boy of his native village. He argued with his father for the equal rights to

the village lad. While wishing Dr. Alam to complete the century of his life span, he held that at Aligarh Muslim University, he received the affection and guidance of Dr. F.R. Faridi and the well-known scholar of Islamic economics, Dr. Mohammad Nejatullah Siddiqui. Inspired by both of them, he founded the Institute of Objective Studies. Academically, socially and ideologically, he made his country a pride. Mr. Asif maintained that after doing his Ph.D. in economics, Dr. Alam went to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in 1980s where he took up a lucrative job, but returned to India after some time and established the Institute of Objective Studies in 1986. After

reading Jasoosi novels, he turned to the study of the Qur'an which gave him a new vision to focus on objective study of subjects and issues confronting socially and economically deprived societies, he added.

Prime Minister of Malaysia, Datuk Seri Dr. Anwar Ibrahim, in a message, read out by the Associate Professor of Political Science, Zakir Hussain College, Delhi University, Dr. Aftab Alam, described Dr. Mohammad Manzoor Alam "as a movement that will live forever". Recalling his friendship with Dr. Alam spanning over four decades, Datuk Ibrahim called Dr. Alam a "visionary leader who dedicated his life to empowering the marginalised and upholding the values of knowledge and justice". He said that he found in Dr. Alam—a sincere friend and farsighted guide. He hoped the biography would continue to inspire coming generations.

Prof. Amitabh Kundu, Professor Emeritus, L.J. University, Ahmedabad, observed that Dr. Mohammad Manzoor Alam has been the source of inspiration to him. He used to discuss socio-economic issues and educational status of Muslims with him. He maintained regular contact with him during his Chairmanship of the Post-Sachar Evaluation Committee, popularly known as the "Kundu Committee". Sharing his experience during the Sachar Committee years, he noted that Dr. Alam had an inclusive vision. He had a different perspective about the nation. He was an ardent believer in India's composite culture. Lauding Mr. Asif's efforts, he said that he did a tremendous job by touching on every aspect of life and contribution of Dr. Alam. He wished Dr. Alam many more years of life.

Dr. Abdullah Matouq Al-Matouq, Chairman, International Islamic Charity Organisation (IICO), Kuwait and special advisor for Humanitarian Affairs to UN Secretary General, in his video message, translated into English by Dr. Nakhat Husain Nadwi, held that Dr. Alam's perception and wisdom

made him a man of perfection and commitment to a noble cause. He laid the foundation for a path leading to the enrichment of knowledge for the benefit of society at large.

Former Chief Election Commissioner of India, Dr. S.Y. Quraishi, observed that his personal contact with Dr. Alam is since last 2-3 years, but he had been reading him for fairly good time. Though research in India left much to be desired, yet the IOS did its bit to supplement to it and raise the standard. No other institution or organisation did as much work on societal marginalisation as the IOS. He was all praise for Dr. Alam for founding a research-based Institute.

Professor and senior consultant to internationally reputed agencies, Bahrain, Dr. Samir Q. Fakhro said, "May Allah give us strength to do something on knowledge-based power of peace and respect to others. Dr. Alam's achievements were extraordinary and the efforts he made were useful for the younger generation. He also said that his legacy was rich as he had been cherishing the high values of Indian culture and the Constitution". He opined that lack of inclusivity led to marginalisation of communities.

Releasing the biography as Chief Guest, former Union Minister for External Affairs and Minority Affairs, and currently, President of India Islamic Cultural Centre, New Delhi, Mr. Salman Khurshid, observed that Dr. Mohammad Manzoor Alam worked tirelessly for the cause of the community and society. He described Dr. Alam as 'a beacon of light' for the new generation. He founded the IOS which set a high standard for intellectual and social excellence in India. He said that IOS was the brainchild of Dr. Alam which grew into an institution that had no parallels. He concluded saying that Dr. Alam rendered a great service to society.

Spiritual leader and the founder of The Art of Living, Bengaluru, Gurudev Sri Sri Ravi Shankar, in a video

message, said, "I have known Dr. Alam for some time. He contributed to national integration. He did a lot for inter-religious dialogues. This has been his lifetime mission. He is a role-model for those who are victims". While lauding his efforts to bridge religious and social divides, he called him "a guiding light for harmony".

Former President, Maulana Azad University, Jodhpur and Professor Emeritus, Islamic Studies, Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi, Prof. Akhtarul Wasey, held that Dr. Alam gave the concept of think tank a practical shape. He quietly did his work and set up several other institutions, besides the IOS. The coming generations would take pride in it that they saw Dr. Alam. He bravely and patiently faced adverse circumstances and finally overcame them. Praising Dr. Alam, he maintained that his stewardship is marked by the hosting of important seminars. The IOS also has a rich data collection. The Sachar Committee made use of the data provided by the Institute. He suggested that the biography on Dr. Alam should also be brought out in Hindi. Dr. Alam's concern was not confined to one community, but extended to other communities also. He called upon the scholars to connect with objectivity, instead of subjectivity.

Eminent journalist and human rights activist, Mr. John Dayal, pointed out that the Chairman of the Sachar Committee, Justice Rajinder Sachar, could not incorporate as much data as was provided to him by Dr. M. Manzoor Alam's Institute. He said that when he met Dr. Alam after the constitution of the Committee, he averred that the issue was not only statistical but also political. While providing the data to the Committee, arguments based on research were made. He opined that the Supreme Court should also have its own data. Caste in India was deep-rooted, but both Muslims and Christians are almost immune to it.

Vice-Chancellor of Chanakya National Law University, Patna, Prof.

Faizan Mustafa, described the IOS as a model of knowledge creation which deserves to evolve into a university. He recounted his first encounter with Dr. Mohammad Manzoor Alam when he was a young lecturer in Aligarh Muslim University. He received an invitation from Dr. Alam to speak at a seminar organised by the IOS. He refused to participate, but agreed later. This way he came into contact with him and the association with the IOS became stronger. Dr. Alam hosted many seminars, symposia, conferences, etc., and got written and published a number of books, yet the IOS did not vigorously pursue to set up a university. He suggested that a research university should be established to promote research in various subjects of study. He regretted that joint researches could not be undertaken with solidarity. He suggested for aggressive marketing of the IOS publications as well as improving the quality of production. He noted that Muslim society was a loose association which needed to be taken up for study.

Delhi-based senior journalist, Mr. Q.W. Naqvi, said that the IOS could not receive as much attention as it could have. He was associated with Dr. Alam since the days when the T.V. channel was planned to be launched. Ms. Binni Yadav, former General Secretary, Indian Women's Press Corps, Delhi, observed that she knew Dr. Alam since the past 16-17 years. She said that she met him first at the launch of a book at the IOS.

Eminent Urdu journalist and former Rajya Sabha Member, Mr. Meem Afzal, held that he witnessed such a spectacular function after a long time. He said, Dr. Alam is an institution in himself. He commands respect in society. In the current age, people were passionate about publicity. But Dr. Alam engaged himself in his work without seeking publicity. He was well-known to Mr. V.P. Singh, Mr. Rajiv Gandhi, Ms. Sheila Dixit and other high-profile leaders of India. All of them used to invite Dr. Alam for

discussions on vital national and societal issues.

The Coordinator, IIIT, Sri Lanka, Mr. AJM Zaneer, said that he met Dr. Alam in Sri Lanka in 1992. He spent three days in a hotel there and discussed several issues with him. For five years, he took care of the education of several Sri Lankan students. He secured scholarships for several under-graduate students from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. He also engaged him in some publications. He got some books of English translated into Tamil at the instance of Dr. Alam.

Research Director at CDDP, Hyderabad, Dr. Amir Ullah Khan, said that during the preparation of the Kundu Committee report, he got the opportunity to meet Prof. Amitabh Kundu, Mr. Salman Khurshid and Dr. Mohammad Manzoor Alam. He got inspiration from Dr. Alam and set up a small institution in Hyderabad. He believed that people were not as important as the institutions. He observed that Dr. Alam created a team of 10-12 people which would continue to work even after him. Earlier, he was very concerned about a hostile government assuming office. But later on, he decides to work with the new dispensation.

Acting President, All India Milli Council, Maulana Anisur Rahman Qasmi, congratulated Mr. A.U. Asif for writing the biography on Dr. Alam. He said that he had been associated with Dr. Alam since 1986. He influenced the country by his proactive approach. The efforts he put in were visible today. He objectively studied Islam and used his knowledge to take it forward. His future concerns were vindicated, he added.

Former Member of Parliament and Editor, *Kalom* daily, Kolkata, Ahmed Hassan Imran, observed that Dr. Alam's contribution to uplift the deprived sections and the minorities was immense. His work was great and deserved to be emulated. He said that though the Muslims of West Bengal lagged behind in the race of

development, they ardently believed in the Constitution. He expressed his desire to coordinate with the IOS. Mr. Gurdeep Singh, Managing Editor of *Aaj-di-Awaz*, Punjab, said that he has been associated with Dr. Alam since last 25 years.

Vice-President, Jamaat-e-Islami Hind, Prof. Saleem Engineer, praised Dr. Alam for his stress on objectivity in the field of study and research. He said that he provided a platform to scholars to converge and share their experiences for the good of the community and society.

Secretary General, International Institute of Islamic Thought (IIIT), USA, Prof. Omar Hasan Kasule, described Dr. Mohammad Manzoor Alam as a man who turned knowledge into a tool for transformation. He gave up comfort in Saudi Arabia to return to his country, India, to serve the people. He linked the personality of Dr. Alam with a *Sahabi* (Companion) of the Prophet (PBUH), Mas'ab Bin Omair (RA) who belonged to a well-to-do family. He migrated from Makkah to Madina on the instructions of the Prophet (PBUH) to educate and train the people of Madina. He spread the light of knowledge among the citizens of Madina. Dr. Alam also did the same thing. He established an institution of knowledge and research in India to empower the marginalised sections. This institution also spreads knowledge to other parts of the world. Dr. Alam is a votary of country's diversity of religion, language and faith. He has unwavering faith in the Constitution and constitutionalism, Prof. Kasule concluded.

The Chairman of the IOS, Prof. M. Afzal Wani delivered the presidential address. He initially, with reference to an Urdu couplet, explained that the spirit behind the efforts of Dr. Mohammad Manzoor Alam was his inner urge to communicate with others and share with them his understanding and enlightenment to generate in them a longing to work for the betterment of the humanity and benefit people to the

best of his energies and exertions. Prof Wani explained about the background of the IOS, established by Dr. Mohammad Manzoor Alam as an institution much need because of a pressing need for objective studies for knowledge creation and problem solving against an unwanted trend of scholars leaning towards the ideologies of the power yielders of the day or available funding agencies. Dr. Alam's quest to attain objectivity in academics and research proved successful in the form of hundreds of researches conducted in the institute through project works and research-oriented conferences, seminars and other academic activities of national and international levels.

Prof. Wani, with IOS research experience, asserted that studies in science and spirituality can go hand in hand. As I was in search of this approach of objectivity since my college days, my meeting Dr. Mohammad Manzoor Alam was in my understanding a Godly connect to go ahead in quest for the real. Prof. Wani said that the concept of objectivity can be best understood with reference to the typical prayers of the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH): "Allah show me the things as they are"! Prof. Wani described IOS a movement to be placed in context with great knowledge creators of human history from Ibn Khaldun to latest scholars of Islam. He cogently avowed that Dr. Alam is not merely a community leader, activist, economist, friend or mentor, but an academic worthy of being counted as a scholar in the intellectual tradition of the world. Prof. Wani, appreciating the public-spirited nature of Dr. Mohammad Manzoor Alam said that the institutions like Islamic Fiqh Academy and All India Milli Council were also born out of the vision of Dr. Alam. He described him as a multi-faceted personality with determination and rare capability of "doing what he says". Referring to the common belief of the people about establishing an IOS University, he said that IOS is more than a university with about five

hundred publications and one thousand and three hundred academic programmes which benefited a large number of university teachers, researchers, students, public servants, social scientists/activists, government agencies and international bodies. Prof. Wani clarified that effort for establishing an IOS University is half way. He however lamented that "We, Indians, do not focus much on research in comparison to non-productive rituals and solemnisations". "Dr. Alam always thinks not only of one community, but all the communities, especially the marginalised sections of the Indian population, with close cooperation with leaders of all the faiths in the country", he concluded.

At the end of the function, the Vice-Chairperson of the IOS, Prof. Haseena Hashia presented a vote of thanks to the attendees.

IOS Lecture on "US Punitive Tariffs on India: Challenges and Prospects"

A lecture on 'US Punitive Tariffs on India: Challenges and Prospects' was organised by the Institute of Objective Studies on September 7, 2025 to coincide with the 39th Annual Meeting of the General Assembly of the Institute.

Eminent economist and ex-Professor of Economics, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, Prof. Arun Kumar delivered the lecture. Currently, he is the Malcolm Adiseshiah Chair Professor in the Institute of Social Sciences, JNU. He specialises in development, economics, public finance, public policy and macro-economics. He was also a part of the team to study the black economy for CBDT (1982-85).

Delivering the lecture, Prof. Arun Kumar said that the richest and technologically most advanced nation in the world was seeking to protect itself from much poorer countries like, India and the African nations. US President, Donald Trump's bullying had succeeded because US' big trading partners could not take a common stand. Trump laid bare the hard face of

capitalism, 'might is right'. Since each nation would have a surplus of what they used to sell to the US, they would try to find markets for them and there could be dumping. "India is in a bind due to its past strategic mistakes. Its economy consists of vast unorganised sector where wages are low, resulting in inadequate internal demand. So, to meet the challenge, the need is to focus on employment generation, education, research, development and health". He observed that the contrast was stark in the US trade negotiations with China and India. A penal duty of 25 percent had been imposed on India for trade with Russia while China had got 90 days extension. India was being punished for showing relative independence. But, India could not concede to Trump's two key demands – opening up of agriculture and cultural ties with Russia. He said that US Treasury Secretary and President, Donald Trump's advisors were saying so many things. Some of the top US functionary has been berating India quite frequently.

Prof. Kumar held that India was being targeted for showing relative independence in spite of being a US strategic partner. "Trump is behaving like a King, squeezing whoever he could. He did not spare US' closest allies, like Canada and the European Union. The US was not behaving as a strategic partner and asking its ally, the EU, to also punish India with high tariffs for Russian crude oil. Referring to one-sided deals, he noted that USA signed trade deals with Japan, EU, South Korea, etc. Surprisingly enough, richest and technologically most advanced nation was seeking to protect itself against much poorer countries. He said that Trump managed to divide the world. There was global disquiet but helplessness. Donald Trump characterised April 2, 2025 as the 'Liberation day'. There was a ring of justification in the argument for reciprocity even though incorrect. But high tariffs were protectionist and not reciprocal. He declared praise in implementation to buy time.

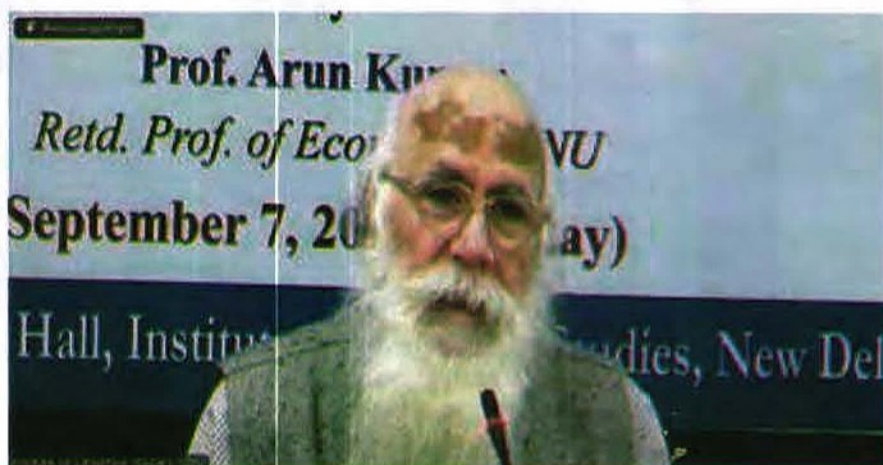
Referring to the rationale for proposed tariff, Prof. Kumar said that an across the board 12 per cent tariff on imports into USA and a much higher tariffs on its largest trading partners was not understandable. Rivalry between the two big powers stemmed from the fact that China was a manufacturing hub of the world. Trump realised that alternative supply sources were not easy to climb down on tariffs and give time to negotiate. He noted that changes might come from courts and the Congress. He said that capitalism was replacing soft face by a hard one. With the decline of Soviet Union in 1980s, alternative to capitalism weakened and disappeared in 1991. It was replaced by capital flows. Trump was a free marketer who granted more freedom to big business. Trump's high tariffs were due to the challenges facing capitalism. The US was not able to generate enough good jobs for its workers. Replying to the question why MNCs investing abroad, he noted that with the advent of WTO, world globalised rapidly, export and import ratio of GDP rose sharply for all nations. Production was globally integrated. Advanced countries miscalculated WTO impact. There was division between high, intermediate and low technologies. Low wages in the developing world were a source of low-cost supplies.

Prof. Arun Kumar explained that the terms of trade were in favour of advanced countries due to competition and monopoly of high technology. He said that the United States could not provide intermediate technology goods at low cost with its high minimum wages. Both China and US would have surplus which they would have to sell elsewhere. China had higher exports to the US than imports from the US. But

the total US exports would be impacted. President Trump had caused huge uncertainty globally since October 2024. He also pointed out that the process of de-globalisation started since the Ukrainian war. This process would further accelerate. He also opined that multilateralism would be replaced by bilateralism. The impact was most acute on unorganised sector and the marginalised. The US was trying to thwart China's rise. China had the chance to become a dominant power if it did not dump and others transited it. It was better if there was coordination across countries. The US was continuing individually hard capitalism. He concluded saying that 'Atma Nirbharta' (Self-Reliance)

agriculture sector. Agriculture sector declined due to demonetisation. Vegetables and fruits were rotting. In Punjab, farmers threw vegetables like tomato and potato on roads because there were no buyers for them. Due to poverty in the unorganised sector, 80 per cent of the population was getting ration free of cost. He said, "We are becoming de-globalised." Trust of Russia in India also declined. China is a big power. Trust in China is growing whereas trust in the US declined, he concluded.

Prof. (Ms.) Haseena Hashia, Vice-Chairperson, IOS thanked the speaker and all the members of General Assembly (G.A.) of the IOS and other participants.



Prof. Arun Kumar delivering his lecture

would not work.

Presiding over the lecture, the Chairman of the IOS, Prof. M. Afzal Wani, held that there was a need for trust between nations. India is giving concessions to Trump in its budget. Trade worth 15 billion dollars was agreed upon in February 2025", he said. He also noted that 46 per cent workforce was engaged in the agriculture sector. It was very difficult for the people engaged in agriculture to shift to non-agriculture sector. He advocated for protecting agriculture sector. The US gave a subsidy of one per cent to its farmers. Trade was the second largest sector after agriculture. India had no option but to protect its

IOS organises condolence meet to mourn the death of Dr. Abdullah Omar Nasseef

A condolence meeting was organised by the Institute of Objective Studies at the Institute's auditorium on October 26, 2025, to mourn the death of Dr. Abdullah Omar Nasseef, an acclaimed scholar, administrator and a devoted leader of Global Scouting Movement.

Expressing grief over the passing of Dr. Nasseef a few days ago in Jeddah, the Chief Patron of the IOS, Dr. Mohammad Manzoor Alam in his message, read over by Mr. Mohammad Alam, Secretary General, IOS, said that his demise marked the end of an era—the departure of a visionary and a scholar who was known for his strong dedication to education, moral improvement and service to humanity. Dr. Nasseef was an educator who held many important positions, such as the President of King Abdulaziz University, Jeddah, KSA. He led the university to become one of Saudi

Arabia's top academic institutions, promoting research and global cooperation. He was very active in Islamic groups worldwide and student movements outside of the school. This could be understood from the fact that he was the Secretary-General of the Muslim World League from 1983 to 1993. His passion for youth development and moral education found early expression when he joined the Scouting Movement in 1956 as a Rover Scout, he noted.

Dr. Alam held that as Vice-President of Shura Council of Saudi Arabia, Dr. Nasseef served his country with honour and knowledge, giving important advice on education, ethics and national development.

In 1991, he received King Faisal Prize in recognition of service to Islam. He was also given King Abdulaziz Medal of the First Class in 2004 followed by the Bronze Wolf, the singular honour bestowed by World Scout Committee in 1983. Referring to his close association with the IOS, he said that Dr. Nasseef was a

valued member of the Editorial Board of the *Religion and Law Review*, the Institute's flagship bi-annual journal. He visited India several times and attended programmes organised by the Institute. Among these programmes the notables were—a lecture on the topic '*Islam in the 21st Century*', held at the Hamdard Convention Centre, Jamia Hamdard, New Delhi on March 7, 2001 and a three-day international conference on '*Inter-Civilisational Dialogue in a Globalising World*', held at FICCI Auditorium, New Delhi on April 8-9, 2005. His presence at these programmes was always a source of inspiration, he noted. Dr. Alam observed that he possessed the unusual gift of inspiring scholars, students and

ordinary people to serve humanity through knowledge and morality. Dr. Nasseef strongly believed that knowledge and faith were inseparable from each other. He often reminded educators that knowledge without ethics could not bring about change in society. Through inter-faith discussions, academic conferences and global initiatives, he dispelled myths about Islam, and promoted peace and cooperation. "For the Institute of Objective Studies, Dr. Nasseef's association was an honour and a source of enrichment that strengthened our academic partnership and reinforced our shared vision of social reform through scholarship and dialogue", he added.



On the dais (L-R): Dr. Nakhat Husain Nadwi, Mr. Mohammad Alam, and Maulana Abdullah Tariq; From the top – Row-1 (L-R): Prof. Omar Nasseef, M. Khalid Saifullah Rahmani; Row-2 (L-R): Dr. Ali Mohiuddin Al-Qardaghi, Shaikh Abdullah Al-Misfir and H.E. Dato Dr. Koutoub Moustapha Sano; Row-3 (L-R): Dr. Abdullah bin Fahad Al-Lheedan, Dr. Samir Qasim Fakhro and Prof. Dr. Ali bin Ibrahim Namrah; Row-4 (L-R): Engineer Badar Al-Sumait, Prof. M. Afzal Wani and Prof. Omar Hasan Kasule.

Paying his tribute to Dr. Nasseef, the Secretary-General of International Islamic Fiqh Academy, Jeddah, KSA, H.E. Dato Dr. Koutoub Moustapha Sano, said that he was the confluence of the classical and modern knowledge. He created awakening about education in the Islamic world. His contribution traversed borders. He was the President of King Abdulaziz University. He was a global academic partner and the embodiment of service to humanity. He was also a votary of inter-faith dialogue and harmony. His life and contributions had illuminated hearts of so many people. He was a tall mountain of thought and knowledge, and an epitome of wisdom. He contributed significantly

to Islamic scholarship. For me, he was not a teacher, but a father. He did so much for the Islamic world and Muslims. He held that the realm of Dr. Nasseef's intellectual, religious and humanitarian services were very wide. His life and services were worthy of emulation, he stressed.

Prof. Dr. Omar bin Abdullah Omar Nasseef, the elder son of Dr. Abdullah Omar Nasseef, paid an emotional tribute to his father. He described his father as a symbol of high level of ethics and morals. He expressed his gratitude to the admirers of his father.

President of the All India Muslim Personal Law Board and Secretary-General of Islamic Fiqh Academy (IFA), Maulana Khalid Saifullah Rahmani, held that Dr. Nasseef was the pillar of knowledge and a man of action.

Former Minister of Labour and Social Welfare, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Prof. Dr. Ali bin Ibrahim Namrah, in his recorded video message, highlighted the distinguished positions Dr. Nasseef held through his intelligence, diverse talents, and remarkable contributions he made in various fields.

Dr. Samir Qasim Fakhro, Senior Adviser to international educational organizations in Bahrain, spoke about three prominent qualities that characterised Dr. Nasseef—sincerity in work, gentleness in dealing with others, and responding to harsh with kindness.

Ameer of Markazi Jameat Ahle-Hadis Hind, Maulana Asghar Ali Imam Mahadi Salafi pointed out that Allah blessed Dr. Nasseef's efforts and upbringing, allowing his services to extend for more than half a century. These services included the establishment of educational and

charitable institutions dedicated to Islamic sciences and the nurturing of young people.

Shaikh Abdullah Al-Misfir from Riyadh Foundation, KSA, expressed his views filled with profound emotions—and concluded with an eloquent supplication for the elevation of the Dr. Nasseef's ranks in *Aakhirah*.

Dr. Abdullah bin Fahad Al-Lheedan, a Visiting Professor from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, highlighted the significant scientific and intellectual contributions of Dr. Nasseef and offered a sincere testimony to the noble works of the late scholar—may God have mercy on him.

Assistant Secretary of Jamaat-e-Islami Hind, Dr. Rizwan Ahmad Rafiqi presented the exemplary and impressive services offered by Dr. Nasseef to the Muslim *Ummah* across the globe.

Dr. Kaleem Alam, Member, Governing Council, IOS, New Delhi, offered an exemplary portrayal of the Dr. Nasseef's life and his close relationship with his father, Dr. Mohammad Manzoor Alam, and with the Institute of Objective Studies.

Senior journalist of Saudi Arabia, Dr. Laiquallah Khan highlighted the late scholar's commitment to supporting Muslim minorities around the world, his constant efforts to uplift them, preserve their identities, and enable them to fulfil their responsibilities towards Islam, their homelands, and humanity.

In his recorded video message, the President of the International Union of Muslim Scholars, Qatar, Dr. Ali Mohiuddin Al-Qardaghi said "We have lost an exceptional and exemplary figure who combined knowledge into action". He added that Dr. Nasseef came from an honorable and noble scholarly family, one of the most deeply rooted families of Hijaz, whose origins are firm and whose branches reach the sky—in a blessed land whose plants flourish by the permission of its Lord.

He was a true Arab who inherited the finest Arab qualities of generosity, hospitality, and selflessness.

Likewise, Director General of the International Islamic Charity Organisation, Kuwait, Engineer Badar Al-Sumait, in his recorded video message, highlighted Dr. Nasseef's outstanding humanitarian services.

In his concluding remarks, Prof. M. Afzal Wani, Chairman, IOS remarked that Dr. Abdullah Omar Nasseef (born in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, in 1939) obtained degrees in Chemistry and Geology from King Abdulaziz University and University of Leeds in the United Kingdom. He was a man with prime quality of being concerned about the Muslims and peace-loving people of the world. He possessed deep thinking, strong communication skills, empathy, courage, vision and commitment to inclusiveness. In his qualities, he was a born researcher and played a great role in establishing research institutions to promote studies in socio-economic development, preservation of faith, promotion of intellect, universal education, peace, sustainability and cooperation among individuals, institutions and nations. He had a good grasp on the principles of Islam relating to these human values. As the Secretary-General of Muslim World League (1983-1993), he worked firmly with commitment to persuade the leadership of the world to follow those cardinal principles of cooperation for minimising conflict and making contribution for reducing illiteracy, ignorance and sufferings of people in minority through promotion of research studies and understanding for purposeful programming and action. He possessed the qualities of a jurist also and acted as the Vice-President of the Shura Council of Saudi Arabia (the Advisory Legislative Council) effectively.

Dr. Abdullah Omar Nasseef provided a decent model of friendship, sincerity, public service and empathy for the youth to promote values for bringing a better world into existence

with sustainability. Dr. Nasseef did memorable work in the direction of streamlining Hajj Pilgrimage Management and for focusing on Muslim Minority affairs. His efforts were appreciated to be declared the Chief Scout for the Saudi Arabian Boy Scouts Association (having joined it in 1956) and later was the President of the International Union of Muslim Scouts. He also received the Bronze Wolf (the only global distinction of the World Organisation of the Scout Movement) in 1983 for services to world scouting, characterised by research, audit and advice on matters of sustainability. In 1991, he received the King Faisal Prize (Service to Islam category) and was awarded the King Abdulaziz Medal – First Class in 2004. He shall be remembered as a man of science, research, management and cooperation, and a role model for many to follow. We pray to Almighty Allah for acceptance of his good deeds and rewarding him with *Maghfirah* and *Jannah*.

The condolence meet began with the recitation of some verses from the Holy Qur'an. In-charge of the Arabic section, Dr. Nakhat Husain Nadwi conducted the proceedings. The meeting ended with *dua* offered by Maulana Abdullah Tariq.

Seminar on 'Minorities & Backward Classes: Problems and Their Solution'

A Seminar on 'Minorities & Backward Classes: Problems and Their Solution' was jointly organised by Aqliyati Council of India and IOSCHCS at IOS Aligarh Chapter building on November 23, 2025.

Participants included the intellectuals drawn from various backgrounds, while retired District Session Judge, Janab Saleem Khan was in the chair.

Dr. Wasi Bilal, Director, ACN Group of Institutions, Aligarh, conducted the proceedings of the seminar interspersed with his own Urdu verses, rightly composed for every situation arising in the seminar.

Mr. Manzar Jamal, retired Principal, India International School, Riyadh (KSA), reflected on communalisation of Indian society and politics. He raised the question how hatred should be challenged. He laid emphasis on spreading education among Muslims, so they can resist the challenges created by the spread of hatred and also shape their own career.

Advocate Farhat Ali Usmani, President, Aqliyati Council of India said that while education is important, but Muslims should also participate in politics to send their concern over the politics of hatred and marginalisation of Muslims and other minorities and Dalits.

Professor Syed Jamaluddin, Director, IOSCHCS, Aligarh presented the genesis of divide and rule policy of the present political regime. He said, the legacy of the colonial practice of divide and rule is being orchestrated by the communalists.

Speaking on hatred targeting Muslims, he referred to the distortion of history and throwing away the Muslim rule from school textbooks. He also focused on the need to promote Urdu and improve our expressions in Urdu language.

Prof. Shamim, Former Principal of University Polytechnic (Boys) AMU, Aligarh emphasised the need to join politics to get various benefits offered by the state. He said that political empowerment of Muslims was more important even than education. He drew attention to the rise of Yadav community, which improved its destiny due to organised efforts of their community leaders.

invited to share their views on SIR, but they could not make it since they were called to do some other duties.

Rest of the speakers also expressed their views on the issues related to SIR and Waqf properties and shared their experience on the most pertinent issues of the day.

In his presidential remarks, Mr. Saleem Khan explained how Muslims are being denied the benefits offered

by the state. He highlighted an important point that except Muslims and Christians, all other religious minorities are included among Hindus and, therefore, they become entitled to all the benefits given by the state. He said with a heavy heart that a whole drama is being staged to keep Christians and Muslims from getting several benefits.

In the end, Advocate Farhat Ali Usmani, President, Aqliyati Council of India thanked the speakers for expressing their views on the theme of the seminar. He also thanked the audience and hoped that they would attend such programmes in future also.



Prof. Syed Jamaluddin delivering his speech

Mr. Rais Ahmad Khan, owner of City Hospital, Aligarh and Mr. Moinuddin, Social Worker, spoke on the issues related to the registration of Waqf properties by December 05, 2025 and matters related to SIR. They explained in simple words how waqf properties can be registered on Ummeed Portal. They also offered free of cost assistance and help in filling the prescribed forms. BLOs were

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