



IOS NEWSLETTER

Vol. 30 No. 03

March 2023/Shaban-Ramadhan 1444 Hijri

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

Editor

Prof. Sanghasen Singh

Circulation Manager

Syed Arshad Karim

Correspondence

Address

162, Jogabai Extension
 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

The earliest history of madrasa education in India dates back to the 7th CE, with the conquest of Sindh by Muhammad Bin Qasim and establishment of makhtabs and madaris in the towns of Sindh, namely Debal, Mansura and Multan, through Arab traders and settlers. Madrasa education also flourished under various provincial kingdoms which had emerged due to gradual disintegration of the Delhi Sultanate from the reign of Muhammad bin Tughlaq and Firoz Shah Tughlaq and the Lodhis. The founder of Mughal Empire, Zahir ud-Din Muhammad Babar himself was a man of letters and an erudite poet and writer. During the reign of Babar, the public work department was also entrusted with the task of construction of makhtabs and madaris. During the reign of Humayun, new madaris were established in Delhi, Agra among other places. The Humayun's Tomb itself was once used as an important place of instruction. His successor Emperor Akbar though not formally educated himself, showed remarkable interest in educational and literary activities during his reign. Aurangzeb (1658-1707 CE) the last of the great Mughals who himself was learned scholar, initiated the establishment of a large number of makhtabs and madaris across his Empire and allocated handsome funds for this purpose.

After the fall of the Mughal Empire, it was Shah Waliullah of Delhi who spearheaded the first movement among Ulema and launched a powerful campaign to recapture the glory of Islam with an aim to regain political power. He established a madrasa in Delhi which focused on religious disciplines. Another centre of Muslim learning at Delhi was headed by Maulana Khairabadi, Lucknow also emerged as another centre of higher education.

In the presidencies of Bengal, Bihar, Orissa created by the East India Company, Arabic and Persian schools continued to function as before. With the gradual disintegration of Muslim rule particularly the Mughal Empire and its steady replacement by British administration, madrasa education had begun to receive its first wave of shocks. The transfer of power did not mean a mere substitution of one political power for another, rather it meant the destruction of a particular way of life, a particular culture, a basic source of empowerment of the Muslim community in the social, economic, cultural and emotional domains. The madrasa education system in vogue at that time was preparing the people for the then prevailing way of life which was now changing and taking a new direction. Madaris were the first social institutions which received the bitter taste of this change at that time. During the Mughal Empire, the rising number of madaris may be judged from the fact that according to the author of Subhul A'sha (5/69), in the Tughlaq period (14th Century), there had been about 1000 madaris in Delhi itself.

Most of big cities and towns had grand and spacious mosques with series of rooms (*hujrahs*), at least on two sides, which were meant mainly for the students and teachers.

**From Madrasa Education in North India – A Research Study
 by Tariq Ashraf, pp. 26-27**

Activities of the IOS Headquarters

Release of IOS Yearbook on Status of Muslim Dropouts

In a programme graced with the auspicious presence of intelligentsia through the hybrid mode of onsite and online participation on the national level, the second in line Yearbook from the Institute of Objective Studies (IOS) titled *Status of Muslim Dropouts in Comparative Perspective* was launched here on March 4, 2023 amid discussions on the crucial issues.

This special edition Yearbook is the second in the series, brought out by the Institute of Objective Studies. The first Yearbook was released in 2021. These Yearbooks are rather data books documenting the core issues related to educational status of Muslim community in India.

Undoubtedly, education has a more significant role by contributing to the communities' prosperity in the long run. Undeniably, a community lagging in education is equally an economically weaker stratum of society.

This book highlights many core issues and factual data brought by government agencies, including the Ministry of Education, Govt. of India.

Professor Amitabh Kundu, Professor Emeritus of LJ University, Ahmedabad, while releasing the book, mentioned that it highlights household-level information for caste-wise, community-wise and, much more data about Indians, minorities and, of course, about Muslims in India. He further said it is valuable work for future researchers researching in this area. He felt that dropout is in all other communities, but the case is worst in

the Muslim community. Ironically, Muslim women are facing a more dangerous situation, he observed.

Muslim deprivation is a serious matter that this book addresses and must be looked at keenly. The per capita expenditure of Muslim kids in primary education is less than Indian Rupees 500, unlike other communities, which is overall Indian Rupees 2600. It is a big gap, and community thinkers must look at it.

Ms. Rubina Tabassum spoke about the book systematically dealing with the core issues of types of schools available in India, the enrollment percentage of Muslims, and most

besides their socio-economic status thoroughly evaluated.

This book calculates the dropout percentage for all religious communities in India, particularly for Muslims, and does a comparative community-level analysis in India. Ironically, Muslim females face more deprivation than female members of other communities in India.

Professor (Dr.) Afshar Alam, Vice-chancellor Jamia Hamdard University, New Delhi, speaking as a guest of honour, mentioned that Muslim dropouts are still high in India, which is a big concern. Unfortunately, in higher studies, such cases are more severe. The

Yearbook brought by IOS is exclusive in the context of data on the Muslim community that perhaps hardly takes education seriously in today's India, he said.

Maulana Khalid Saifullah Rahmani, General Secretary of All India Muslim Personal Law Board, said that launch of this important book is an appreciable attempt. He applauded IOS for bringing out such exemplary work

which must be translated into Urdu, Hindi and other Indian languages, he concluded.

Dr N. Raja Hussain, Registrar, B.S Abdur Rahman Crescent Institute of Science & Technology Chennai, spoke that IOS fulfils the needs of all the deprived people of the country through its multiple intellectual resources. Releasing this Yearbook on the status of Muslim dropouts is excellent work.

Likewise, an eminent Human Rights Activist from Delhi, Dr. John Dayal, mentioned that this book is seminal as it urges introspection, especially for minorities. There is no social difference, and there is depression for



L-R: Prof. (Ms.) Haseena Hashia, Prof. Shoeb Abdullah, Prof. M. Afzal Wani, Prof. Amitabh Kundu, Ms. Rubina Tabassum, Dr. Varghese Kunjappay and Ms. Naaz Khair releasing the book titled "Status of Muslim Dropouts in Comparative Perspective – Yearbook 2022"

importantly, the dropouts at different levels of education.

"This book is a dynamic analysis of income-expenditure quartile factors for assessing educational investments by every Muslim family at a certain income level. It equally does a comparative study of such elements in the light of other communities capable of investing in education at a similar income level to theirs", she highlighted.

She further said that the determinants of school dropouts, underrepresentation of Muslims in India, dropout data of all societies and how weaker sections of the Muslim community lack educational avenues

people of the lower strata from the minorities.

Professor Shoeb Abdullah from Jamia Millia Islamia New Delhi considered this book a detailed work of research for which IOS deserves applause. All good researchers are torchbearers for future researchers as guidance. This book will undoubtedly play a similar role in detailed research and analysis.

Dr Tabassum Sheikh, G.M Momin Women's College, Bhiwandi, Mumbai, considered the Yearbook a stimulating work and the need of the hour. It's time to know community's needs and address them diligently.

Professor Nasreen Mujib from Aligarh Muslim University, Aligarh, mentioned the reasons for constant dropouts in the Muslim community due to many factors, including financial issues. It is a big challenge for the community and those in the education sector.

Dr Varghese Kunjappy from JNU, New Delhi, spoke about the dropouts in the religion-wise, social group-wise, economic strata-wise and gender-wise, amongst other categories as critical factors; thus, there remains a minority in the minority is the focus of the book.

Ms. Naaz Khair, consultant on education, applauded that IOS did this brilliant work with the publication of this Yearbook. This book systematically analyses education and Muslim education, which IOS has brought to the fore.

Professor M. Afzal Wani, Vice-Chairman, IOS, in his presidential remarks, said that "out and dropouts as two terminologies must be understood

in the context of Muslims and the masses. The behaviour of a community does matter in the cases of dropouts. It is the right time for the Muslim community to use different resources, including *Awqaafs* et al., to achieve their target of preventing dropouts.

The programme concluded with a Question-Answer session followed by a formal vote of thanks proposed by Prof. Haseena Hashia, Asstt. Secretary General, IOS.



On the dais (L-R): Mr. Anjum Naim, Mr. Suhail Anjum, Mr. Azim Akhtar, Dr. Syed Fazil Husain Pervez, Mr. Ahmad Javed and Dr. M.H. Ghazali. On the podium: Dr. Shafi Ayyub delivering his speech

IOS Mujaddid Centre for Arts and Literature organises discussion on the future of Urdu Journalism"

A discussion on the future of Urdu journalism was organised by the IOS Mujaddid Centre for Arts and Literature at the auditorium of the Institute of Objective Studies here on March 2, 2023.

The discussion began with the recitation of a verse from the Holy Qur'an.

Introducing the topic, the Convener of the Centre, Anjum Naim, outlined the aims and objectives of the Mujaddid Centre. He said that the Centre was founded to hold serious discussions on literary and cultural issues. This also coincided with the special guest of the occasion, Dr. Syed Fazil Husain Pervez receiving the prestigious National

Award for Excellence in Journalism by the Press Council of India.

Dr. Shafi Ayyub, in his inaugural speech, observed that in India, journalism started in 1780. Urdu journalism started its journey in 1822. Since then, caravan of Urdu journalism was wading its way through thick and thin. A debate too started if journalism was a profession, business, a mission or service. When the radio service was started, it was feared that the print media would be finished. So was the case with radio which was feared to be replaced by television. Now, the people were saying that only digital media had a future. The media mogul, Murdock, however, held that all those who carried news of death, would die but journalism would remain alive.

Participating in the discussion, Dr. Abrar Rahman observed that journalism was not confined to newspapers alone. He stressed the

need for focusing on other forms of writing. Earlier, senior journalist and the representative of the Voice of America, Urdu service in India, Suhail Anjum, remarked that Urdu journalism would remain alive so long as the print media was there.

President of the Urdu Media Association, Dr. Muzaffar Husain Ghazali, said that this was the age of fast communication and the social media platforms had made it faster. Urdu journalism had created new areas by using new techniques. Owing to its usage in a big way, the future of Urdu journalism was safe and secure.

Senior journalist, Ahmed Javed, observed that Fazil Husain was among those journalists who rose from below and reached the top. Struggle was the rule of the nature because nobody could sustain without struggle. Syed Fazil Husain was a case study which should

be undertaken. There were a number of challenges today and the people like Fazil Husain were always there to face them.

Editor of the Urdu weekly, ‘Gawah’ published from Hyderabad, Dr. Syed Fazil Husain Pervez, pointed out that Urdu journalism had a better future in India, but this depended on sincerity and the labour of Urdu journalists. He said that Urdu belonged to a large population and so long as this population continued to read, write and speak the language, its journalism would sustain itself.

Dr. Husain Pervez emphasised that a journalist should be an all-rounder. In order to keep pace with time, one should use necessary tools. He observed that if the future of Urdu journalism was not bright, it was also not bleak. Every party required newspapers to reach out to people. He concluded by suggesting that a corpus should be created to help journalists.

Vice-Chairman of the IOS Prof. M. Afzal Wani expressed happiness that Fazil Husain Pervez was being felicitated by the Mujaddid Centre. He termed Urdu journalism as *Ibadah* (Prayer) and not a profession. Besides being a sweet language, Urdu was a sprit.

He suggested that an endowment to work for the welfare of Urdu journalists be created to provide them financial assistance. A journalist was like a researcher who invented one thing or the other every day. A pen could do what a weapon could not, he added.

In his presidential speech, eminent Urdu writer and ex-bureaucrat, Azim Akhtar, remarked that the future of Urdu journalism was no different from

the future of Urdu as a language. He said that Urdu was caught up in the vortex of the three-language formula. Urdu journalism turned into Muslim journalism in India. Urdu held no future till it was made a regional language, he concluded.

At the end, Anjum Naim extended a vote of thanks to the audience. A good number of Urdu journalists and writers were present on the occasion.

IOS organises two-day National Conference on “Indian Muslims and Plural Society”

Institute of Objective Studies, New

diversity of plural society where different faiths coexist together.

Professor M.H Qureshi, retired Professor of Geography, CSRD, JNU, New Delhi, in his inaugural address spoke about the diversity in India. He talked about India witnessing constant and numerous migrations over the last centuries. The traders and invaders brought diversity to India while coming from different parts of the world. We have differentiations, pluralities and diversities, and multiple faiths that coexist due to our plurality. People are similar thinkers, although different, making them pluralistic, he concluded.

Professor Mehrajuddin Mir, former Vice-Chancellor of the Central University of Kashmir, while delivering his keynote address said that the concept of pluralism was how to live together, tolerate others’ thoughts and ideas, and even understand opponents’ miseries for solutions to live in diversity, he said.

He said that the roots of pluralism were solid in ancient India and the rest periods. India is still home to many significant world religions, making it a plural society. It revives the concept of tolerance and sustenance.

Professor Akhtarul Wasey, former President, Maulana Azad University, Jodhpur, Rajasthan, in his Presidential Address, said that Muslims came to India as traders and invaders. But once they came here, they delved into the culture and traditions of India and became one who enriched the nation to encourage pluralism here.

He said that India’s different religious traditions bring us to a close rather than distancing, although some people try to destabilise that plurality.



On the dais (L-R): Prof. (Ms.) Haseena Hashia, Prof. Akhtarul Wasey and Prof. M.H. Qureshi

Delhi, organised a two-day National Conference on “Indian Muslims and Plural Society” in hybrid mode on February 15-16, 2023.

Inaugural Session

The inaugural session of the conference commenced with the recitation of verses from the Holy Qur’an by Maulana Athar Hussain Nadwi.

Professor Haseena Hashia, Assistant Secretary General, IOS, while welcoming the guests and participants, introduced the IOS by highlighting its activities.

She talked about India’s multicultural identity and how Indian societies are cordial as propagators of coexistence as people live in its

Professor Haseena Hashia proposed the vote of thanks before the formal commencement of the first Technical Session.

Technical Session I

The 1st Technical Session began with the theme, "Genesis of Pluralism in India." Professor Arshi Khan, Department of Political Science, AMU, Aligarh, as Moderator & Chairperson, invited the speakers to express their views in the session.

Dr. Ram Puniyani, Human Rights Activist and Writer, said, the alliance of civilisations defines plurality. Religions don't have any nationality. They are universal.

He observed that calling Indian cultures as Hindu culture is an entirely wrong and bigoted idea. Hindu subjects having Muslim rulers and vice versa mattered the most for peaceful coexistence in the past, he said.

Professor Mohammad Sohrab, MMA Jauhar Academy of International Studies, Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi, described Pluralism as a definition both from a conceptual and theoretical perspective. Primarily a religious and moral philosophy, Pluralism was the acceptance of diversity. Diversity with Pluralism creates resilience, but diversity without Pluralism brings disaster, he concluded.

Mr. Gurtej Singh, IAS, Chandigarh, Punjab, spoke that the examples of Pluralism can be understood from the Guru Granth of Sikh religion.

The world has become a global village today, and India needs the blessings of the majority of Hindus to ensure plurality maintains when all minorities coexist with peace and prosperity, he said.

Mr. Sanjay K. Rai, a Social Activist from Lucknow, mentioned that "diversity doesn't accept dictators". He highlighted the importance of multicultural societies. He said that general public needed a pluralistic approach to grow and prosper.

Mr. Gurdeep Singh, a Sikh leader from Bhatinda, Punjab, stressed that it

was high time to focus on future, in view of the experiences of the past and present to grow in a plural society.

Dr. Lubna Naaz from the Department of Islamic Studies, Women's College, AMU, Aligarh, spoke on the topic, "An Islamic Perspective on Peaceful Coexistence." She stressed that the concept of peace in Islam should be adopted for peaceful coexistence.

Freedom from injustice, spiritual, intellectual and mental development and living with people of other religions for a peaceful existence is the message of Islam, she said.

The session concluded with a question & answer followed by a formal vote of thanks proposed by Professor Haseena Hashia.

Technical Session-II

Focused on the theme, Role of Islam to Strengthen Pluralism in India, the Technical Session II started under the Chairperson, Prof. M. Ishaque from the Dept. of Islamic Studies, Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi.

The key speaker of this session was Maulana Abdul Hameed Nomani, Former General Secretary, All India Muslim Majlis-e-Mushawarat, Delhi. He said that "Faith is vital, like Allah's mercy, unlike social practices that change with time". He further said that India's beauty was in its diversity of religious thoughts.

Professor Faheem Akhtar Nadvi, Head of the Department of Islamic Studies, MANUU, Hyderabad, emphasised that the role of Islam in strengthening pluralism in India is vital. Pluralism is a society where people of all religions reside and respect each other, he noted. India is one of the best examples of that, where pluralism has stayed for centuries, he said. He emphasised that India will grow only when pluralism is projected in practice.

Professor Hamid Naseem Rafiabadi, Head of the Department of Islamic Studies, Central University of Kashmir, spoke on the role of Islam in strengthening pluralism in India. Piety

and pluralistic vision are for all, not to be categorised as majority, minority or men and women, he emphasised.

He stressed the need to begin dialogues and communicate to bring pluralistic ethics to our communities. Religiosity to spirituality and vice versa strengthens societies. It's necessary to think with an integrated rather than an isolated approach. Islam is a pluralist religion and accommodative, he concluded.

Ab Majeed Ganaie & Iymen Nazir, Department of Religious Studies, Central University of Kashmir, presented their paper jointly on the "Islamic Perspectives of Pluralism with Special Reference to India".

Mr. Javid Ahmad Bhat from Srinagar, spoke on the topic, 'Prophet Muhammad (PBUH); the ultimate Guide to Promote Pluralism and Peaceful Coexistence Among Nations'. He said that Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) was the ultimate guide to Pluralism.

Mr. Mohd Azam from the Department of Islamic Studies, Baba Ghulam Shah Badshah University, Rajouri, spoke on the topic, "Role of Chishtiya Order in Promoting Pluralism in the Indian Subcontinent." He said that several Sufi orders propagated Islamic teachings, Pluralism and human values in the region.

While concluding the session, Professor M. Ishaque in his presidential remarks highlighted the idea of pluralism in modern and recent times. Religious teachings guide the teachings of truth. All prophets brought the same message of the diversity of the truth, he said.

The session ended with a vote of thanks proposed by Professor Haseena Hashia.

Technical Session-III

Professor Nasim Ahmad Khan, Chairman of the Department of Social Work, AMU, Aligarh, chaired the 3rd session on the theme "Contribution of Muslims in Nation Building" and stressed why every individual in the

society is a part and parcel of social development, irrespective of their faith and preferences.

Professor Mohd. Wasim Ali, Department of Law, AMU, Aligarh, spoke on “Sir Syed’s Perspective on Communal Harmony.” He emphasised that brotherhood, tolerance and humanity must exist with religious harmony. He said that Sir Syed Ahmad Khan’s teaching on communal harmony is worth reading and incorporating into daily life. He further said that Sir Syed Ahmad Khan conveyed that any society can’t prosper without an integrated approach. Sir Syed Ahmad Khan was the champion of communal harmony and practised that as well. It is high time we follow Sir Syed Ahmad Khan’s ideals.

Dr. Salma Aziz, Department of Sociology, Abeda Inamdar Sr. College of Arts, Science & Commerce, Pune, emphasised that Pluralism, as defined today, needs to be brought into perspective broadly. Language, religion and caste are some of the divisions in India, but all these divisions are advocators of Pluralism, she concluded.

Ms. Bhasha Singh, a Delhi-based Independent Journalist and Writer, highlighted the contributions of Muslims in nation-building, which remain at par. Muslims played significant roles in doing so.

Dr. Arif Mohammad Khan from AMU, Aligarh, spoke on the topic “Policies of Government and Pluralism in India.” Acknowledging pluralism is vital for social framework, he said that the current policies of the respective governments are showcasing a new way, yet more needs to be done.

Mr. Arshid Ul Islam from Shri Venkateshwara University, Gajraula, U.P. spoke on the “Role of Indian Muslims in Plural India: A Study of Contribution of Sir Syed Ahmad Khan in Nation-Building.” He said India is the most plural of all countries in the world. Sir Syed Ahmad Khan, a thinker and social reformer remained a torchbearer enlightener for generations to come. His life and works remain

relevant today in the context of Muslims in India and to increase Pluralism.

Dr. Nadeem Ashraf, Assistant Professor, Department of Sunni Theology, AMU, Aligarh, spoke on the topic, “Problems of Muslims in Plural Society.” He said that Muslim minorities often face problems as minorities. People need each-others’ help in plural societies. They need to maintain their religious identities and keep diversity right in order. He insisted that mutual harmony was the need of the hour. Focus on social relations with others is equally important.

Dr. Sajad Ahmad & Dr. Rafique Anjum presented the paper entitled “Contextualising Religious Coexistence in Plural India: A Study of Maulana Abul Hasan Ali Nadvi”. They gave a detailed life sketch of the late Maulana Abul Hasan Ali Nadvi and shed light on how Muslims are the best community and contribute to nation-building through their visionary roles and nationalistic spirit.

The session ended with a vote of thanks proposed by Professor Haseena Hashia.

Second Day: February 16, 2022

Technical Session-IV

The 4th Technical Session of the conference began with the theme, “Socio-Economic Patterns Reflecting Pluralism in India.” Moderated and Chaired by Professor M. Ishtiaque, former Vice-Chancellor of Magadh University, Bodhgaya, and one of the expert linguistic geographers, he highlighted India’s pluralism and diversity in numerous contexts.

Professor Arvinder Ansari, Department of Sociology, Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi, pointed out the difference between Pluralism and Multiculturalism that needs to be understood.

She said that a new phase of communalism has been witnessed in recent decades. Riots before independence and those happening now have changed in perspective and motive. Minorities are most often

symbolised by Muslims, although there are several others too. Majority appeasement and fear of pseudo-secularism have impacted India’s Pluralism.

Professor Naved Jamal, Department of Political Science, Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi, mentioned that the socio-economic theory of pluralism was essential. He said that India’s cultural ethos must imbue Pluralism and Secular state elements. The core idea of Pluralism must be incorporated at a larger scale for the country’s overall prosperity with the collective growth of all communities, he suggested.

Professor Shuja Shakir, Head of the Department of Political Science, B.R Ambedkar Marathwada University, Aurangabad, mentioned that pluralism was a vulnerable idea, and that identity politics damages the larger sections of societies and badly affects minorities. He emphasised the need to understand pluralism and the impact of majority and minority coexistence rather than the exclusion element or the vulnerable impact of marginalisation.

Dr. Nazia Khan, Department of Political Science, Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi, stressed that there should be accommodating factors for cultural autonomy in the country. Diversity of beliefs and practices must be given ample room for Indian pluralistic societies to survive, she said.

Dr. Mohammad Ajmal, Assistant Professor, School of Language Literature and Culture Studies, JNU, Delhi, spoke on the topic, “Pluralism vis-a-vis Religious Tolerance in India: The Question of Muslims.” Religious intolerance in Indian societies is one of the important questions beforehand. Religion has a sociological component in Indian diversity. State structure, multiculturalism and the rule of law in India are interconnected, he observed.

Mr. Mohammad Shekaib Alam, Research Scholar, Department of Political Science, IIUM, Malaysia, spoke on the topic, “The Concept of Pluralism: A Comparative Study between Islam, Hinduism and the

Indian Constitution.” He mentioned that Pluralism is an acceptance of diversity. Islam, like many other religions, including Hinduism, respects the ethos of Pluralism, he said.

Professor Haseena Hashia proposed the vote of thanks to end the session.

Technical Session-V

Co-Chaired by Professor Noor Ahmad Baba, Department of Political Science, University of Kashmir, and Mr. V. B. Rawat, technical session V started on the theme “Challenges and Remedies to Foster Pluralism in India.”

Dr. M. G. Mulla, Dean, Faculty of Commerce & Management, Abeda Inamdar Sr. College of Arts, Science & Commerce, Pune, said that India is indeed a land of pluralism—a political philosophy catering to various social and cultural needs of the societies concerned, irrespective of their religious faiths.

Prof. Nasrin Mujib, Chairperson, Department of Education, AMU, Aligarh, spoke with her own story of being the only Muslim in the whole class during her school days. That was the scenario in Muslim societies then, especially for women’s education a few decades ago. There has been awareness, and lots of changes occurred in the recent past, but still, it needs to be more satisfactory.

Sayed Bilal Haider (Habib Bilal), Research Scholar, Department of Islamic Studies, School of Islamic Studies, Baba Ghulam Shah Badshah University, Rajouri, spoke on the topic, “Religious Integrity and Intra-Faith Dialogue Among Muslims: Challenges and Prospects.” He observed that

Islam's concept of pluralism is needed now as it is a beautiful aspect of diversity. A peaceful and pluralistic environment can leave an impact.

Professor Noor Ahmad Baba, in his presidential remarks said that there should not be any discrimination in

He further said that religion was not a so-called culture; it is the primary feeling of love and affection. No religion says to damage nature and the environment. Politics has caused many differences, unlike religions that advocate peace and prosperity. Self-respect and respecting others propagate humanity.

Dr. Amita Valmiki, Head, Department of Philosophy, R. J. College of Arts, Science and Commerce, spoke that “Mysticism and mystical words for peaceful coexistence must be understood for thorough observation, assessment and implementation.” Mysticism is a constellation of distinctive practices for human lives. It is a

knowledge-granting concept. Mystical aspects portray universality besides intellectual elements, she said.

Mr. V. B. Rawat, Author & Human Rights Activist, said that the global right wing is the outcome of international right-wing economic development. The crisis is created for the accumulation of wealth. Multicultural societies are always beneficial, he said.

It followed with a lively question-answer session.

Valedictory Session

Professor Asmer Beg, Department of Political Science, AMU, Aligarh, in his speech as Guest of Honour, said that India is a multicultural democracy. Its democracy is flexible; thus, problems are also coming before it. Emotive politics in India is damaging the country's multicultural fabric. Religion and caste etc., play critical roles in this.



A view of the audience

society, especially among Muslims. India is one of the most plural societies in the world that safeguards Pluralism. It is time for further strengthening that spirit, he further said.

Mr. Vidya Bhushan concluded by saying that every religion has diversity, and that diversity must be understood.

Technical Session-VI

Chaired by Professor (Dr.) Sudeep Kumar Jain, Department of Prakrit Language, Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri National Sanskrit University, New Delhi, the session began on the theme, “International Scenario, Institutional Responsibilities and Trends to Establish Synergy for Peaceful Coexistence among Nations.” While opening the session, he said that one must appreciate his/her respective religious rituals but not forget the core of humanism when practising his/her religion.

Majoritarianism in communal politics is other factor, including minority appeasement. Sense of victimhood is assuaged in the majority of communities. Rationalism is the core of secularism—but it is defined in the context of religion instead. There is a need to redefine this concept, he emphasised.

In the Valedictory Address, Professor Eqbal Hussain, Dean, Faculty of Law, Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi, said, “unity in diversity must be understood in its historical context.” Indian composite culture of today is a mosaic of cultures due to multiculturalism proliferation. The Indian Constitution recognises social democracy and fraternity. Fraternity remained one of the cruces of pluralistic societies, but ironically, it has been turning hollow nowadays.

We have a vibrant judiciary in India, but these days they, too, are often politically motivated. We still have a deep foundation of secularism in the country that can be reignited with trust and commitment, he concluded.

Professor M. Afzal Wani, Vice Chairman, IOS, in his presidential address said, it is the time to value humanity and not the way of treating difficulties. Caring for each other and even caring for a single person is essential, he stressed.

He said that character building is the most crucial aspect to focus on and take action. It is the strength of faith to face the challenge and find solutions

rather than lament. There is hardly any need to rise against anybody but against violence and for dignity and self-esteem. He further said that serving human values is always crucial. Supporting others is the first feeling of Pluralism that Islam teaches.

In the end a 6-point resolution was unanimously adopted by all the participants, which reads as follows:

1. India is a Plural Society possessing a common heritage, shared values, shared vision and shared destiny, and all the people should strive to maintain this character of the country.
2. India's Constitution enshrines common heritage and shared values which must be propagated to all levels of society.
3. Islamic values have prioritized legal and social acceptance of diversities which must be followed and communicated to clarify its understanding.
4. India's Muslims and their socio-cultural attributes have contributed to pluralism which must be significantly propagated to defy false claims.
5. India's plural reality and peaceful coexistence face many challenges and turbulence that must be met with more compassion and steadfastness.
6. The conference calls for more vigorous efforts to make the constructive and constitutional narrative prevail, upholding the values of nation-building,

democracy, federalism, pluralism, peace and solidarity.

The conference was concluded with a vote of thanks proposed by Professor Haseena Hashia, Assistant Secretary General, IOS.

**FORM IV
(See Rule 8)**

1. Place of Publication :
162, Jogabai Extension, Jamia Nagar, New Delhi-110025
2. Periodicity of publication:
Monthly
3. Printer's Name:
M. Qamar Ishaque
Nationality: Indian
Address: 162, Jogabai Extension, Jamia Nagar, New Delhi-110025
4. Publisher's Name:
M. Qamar Ishaque
Nationality: Indian
Address: 162, Jogabai Extension, Jamia Nagar, New Delhi-110025
5. Editor's Name:
Prof. Sanghasen Singh
Nationality: Indian
Address: 162, Jogabai Extension, Jamia Nagar, New Delhi-110025

I M. Qamar Ishaque, hereby declare that the particulars given above are true to the best of my knowledge and belief.

(M. Qamar Ishaque)
PUBLISHER

Dated: 1st March, 2023

SUBSCRIPTION

**Annual : Rs. 20/- \$ 5
Five Years:Rs. 75/- \$ 15**

RNI NO. 59369/94

PRINTED MATTER



FROM
IOS NEWSLETTER
162, JOGABAI EXTN.
JAMIA NAGAR
NEW DELHI 110025

.....
.....
.....