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Thought for the Month

Those who avoid
Great sins and indecent deeds,
Save lesser offences,—
Verily thy your Lord is ample
In forgiveness. He knows
You well when He brings
You out of the earth,
And when ye are hidden
In your mother's wombs.
Therefore hold not yourselves
purified:
He knows best who it is
That guards against evil.

Al-Quran- 53:32

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FOCUS

The term 'empowerment of women' which gained currency during the years 1976-1996, emanated from the Third World feminists, including Indian ones and has come to be associated with women's struggle for social justice and equality. It is surprising to note that the concept of the 'empowerment of women' emanated from the Third World feminists and not from the Western feminist movements, as it should have been, after the publication of Kate Millet's *Sexual Politics*, wherein she attempted to demonstrate and proclaim that there exists between the two genders an unceasing power struggle in which women come out as the losers. The radical feminists of the West, instead of logically choosing after Kate Millet's revelations, to work for greater power to women that is, empowerment, opted instead to step out of the struggle. They felt that to cut themselves off from men altogether was the only way women could come into their own and be liberated from the politics of gender. They aspired to develop a separate alternate women culture. They felt that men were only needed for reproduction and Shulamith Firestone in her *The Dialectics of Sex* even offered the way out – "test-tube babies". Another brand of feminists in the West labelled "liberal feminists" who, as opposed to the cessationism of the radical feminists, adopted a more conciliatory, integrationist approach and demanded equal rights with men in all spheres, in a man's world. They too did not think in terms of empowering women though, perhaps, their demand for equal opportunities and equity contained an implicit notion of empowerment. The liberal feminists did not think in terms of transforming the established patriarchal order. The Black feminists and the Third World feminists, however, considered all Western feminists bourgeois middle class, white and even imperialist – and found themselves out of tune with the latter's total anti-male thinking and attitudes. In the struggle against racism, colonialism, neo-colonialism and class domination, the Black feminists and the Third World feminists felt a unity with their male counterparts and did not quite see men as confirmed necrophiliacs, nothing-lovers, murder-mongers and a warping and destructive lot. They agreed with the Western feminists that, at one level, there did exist a gender struggle, gender power play and gender politics to the detriment of women but they felt that the solution lay in the 'empowerment of women' in all spheres (Saraswati Haider, 1995). In spite of the fact that the term has gained popularity and wide usage, it has neither been given any definite and authoritative definition nor has its dimensions been understood properly. Since women are considered the most oppressed section of society, the term 'women's empowerment' has come to be associated with women's struggle for social justice and equality. The term empowerment is often used to describe a process whereby the powerless or disempowered gain a greater share of control over resources and decision making. This is because the most outstanding feature of the term empowerment is that it contains within it the word *power*. Therefore, empowerment naturally is about power and about changing the balance of power. Power itself can be simply defined as control over resources and control of ideology and it is exercised through a series of orders or decision-making capacity.

From Empowering Women: Paradigms and Strategies by Prof. P. Koya, pp. 123-125

Activities of the IOS Headquarters

IOS On-line lecture on The Way to Economic Recovery after the Scourge

A virtual lecture on “The Way to Economic Recovery after the Scourge” was organised by the Institute of Objective Studies on September 20, 2021. Delivered by the noted economist, senior civil servant and the former deputy chairman of the Planning Commission of India, the lecture focused on the current state of economy and the prospects for recovery in the post Covid-19 period.

The lecture began with the recitation of a verse from the Qur'an by Hafiz Athar Husain Nadwi. The secretary-general of the IOS, Prof. Z.M. Khan briefly highlighted the activities of the Institute.

Dr. Amir Ullah Khan, research director of the Centre for Development Policy and Practice (CDPP), who introduced the subject, said that the lecture would offer answers to several questions which the policy makers were grappling with. Describing Dr. Ahluwalia as a development economist, he observed that his advice on economic reforms during the preceding two regimes at the centre was core to India's economic development.

Speaking on the topic, Dr. Ahluwalia held that today economists went by the data that was frequently revised. But phenomenon created by the unofficial sources pointed to a difficult problem that arose as a result of the pandemic. All the estimates made pre and post-pandemic were

based on the activities in the formal sector. He exuded confidence that the stagnating GDP at the current level below 7 per cent caused by Covid-19, could bounce back if 18 percent population of the country was vaccinated against the pandemic. Pandemic was an extended shock. Earlier, the government had said that the economy would recover by December, but that did not happen. He held that the situation three years before the pandemic was good. The current situation threw challenges not only before India, but also to the world as a whole. There would be no adverse effect on the world economy but it might affect India considerably. If India wanted to improve, it should start now. Given the situation, the

Referring to the economic growth that stood at 7.6 percent from 2003 to 2017, i.e., the pre-pandemic period, he said that the Covid-19 vaccination drive, undertaken on a massive scale by the government demonstrated well for the economic health of the country. The economy next year was likely better, particularly in the formal sector. The informal sector, which was not in good shape, would, however, grow with the advancement of the formal sector. Palliatives were needed to put the informal sector back to good health, he added.

Dr. Ahluwalia emphasised the need for reduction of poverty. Significant work on the eradication of poverty should be undertaken to generate employment in the unorganised sector.



Dr. Montek Singh Ahluwalia delivering his lecture

Social security net should be widened to bring in more and more people under its cover. Similarly,

regulatory provisions should be strengthened to secure the interest of the industry. There should be no reason to remove labour regulations.

Flexibility for the industry was needed to create a healthy environment for its growth and

pandemic is likely far from over and that should not halt the efforts at economic recovery, he said.

Dr. Ahluwalia pointed out that the economic growth during the last three years had been sluggish, with a swing between 6 to 4 percent, and the output in 2020 remained at the level of 2019.

He called for increasing the volume of export by doing away outdated set of ideas. Instead, India should adopt the policy of openness. It would help the country grow faster. He expressed the confidence that Indian economy would perform better as the country was well-positioned to grow in 2022.

expansion. He said that the present labour laws discouraged an industry to get rid of labour force without the permission of the government. He suggested that the contract employment should be introduced to allow the industry to engage workers initially for one year with the provision for its renewal at the expiry of the period. He argued how one could continue with the labour when there was a downswing in the economy.

Laying emphasis on better quality of education, Dr. Ahluwalia made special mention of Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs). But he batted

pressed for improvement in particular courses linked to the requirements of industry. He called for introducing skill development programmes that were tailor-made to business and industry. This would help produce skill-based labour force. He said that the percentage of hiring people in self-owned business was less than that in the big business. But the employment in businesses had expanded. He also pleaded that the kirana market be modernised. He said that the problem started when people's hopes of better jobs were belied. Pitching for better infrastructure like roads, power; etc., he observed that one should have good access to other parts of the country – Improvement in the infrastructure was also important because globalisation was now turning back to the domestic economy. Thus there was the need to focus on the expansion of the private sector. This called for suitable regulations to allow competition in the private sector. He said that there was a consensus to allow domination of the private sector to boost economic growth. There were high expectations from the private sector to generate money. Another route to involve the private sector in the process of development was the Public-Private Partnership (PPP) model, which was more empowering. Though one might not be sure of the money to earn from the partnership, yet once it came, it would continue to come.

Dr. Ahluwalia also focused on the climate change around the globe. And if nothing tangible was done about it, global climate would be hugely impacted. He warned that India would be among one of the most affected countries if this happened with severe droughts, rising sea level, and irregular

rainfalls. He was optimistic that India could achieve seven plus percent growth rate. But this could happen only when India did not articulate a particular policy. He also laid emphasis on asset modernisation programme. This was not asset privatisation. It was for the government to have balanced minimum pay.

In reply to a question by Prof. Furqan Qamar, professor in Finance, Jamia Millia Islamia, Dr. Ahluwalia, said that 65 percent grain was available in the country for distribution under BPL programme. He pleaded that the government should provide some support to this group. He noted that the GDP went down substantially after 2017. On the financial sector, he



Dr. Syed Ashraf Imam delivering his lecture

said that banks had not been able to reduce NPA (Non-Performing Assets). This resulted in writing off loans which implied that loans were bad. There needed to be some amendment in RBI Act to make it more powerful. While pitching for serious bank reforms, he said that public sector banks needed more reforms. He called for re-structuring of public sector enterprises. He also noted that informal sector survived due to tax evasion to some extent. However, more leverage should be given to the informal sector. Small and medium industries and micro-enterprises should get more support, he emphasised.

Dr. Ahluwalia said that there was a need to spend more money on education and health. It was also the duty of the government to see to it that states were doing good on the count. He laid stress on developing a strong health system for tackling health-related issues in future. Regarding employment, he said that unless it was effectively addressed the demographic dividend could become demographic disaster. Long-term policy should be formulated to provide employment. Strengthening of social security system was equally important, he concluded.

The chairman of the IOS, Dr. Mohammad Manzoor Alam in his concluding remarks, raised the question of a big gap between haves and have nots. He said that poverty among economically backward sections had only deepened. To this question, Dr. Ahluwalia, replied that due to growth of 8 per cent GDP, the employment increased during 2004-2011 period. Employment was thus linked to growth. This was also a fact that the poor did not get the benefit of growth. But still, the increase in growth was a must, he added.

IOS On-line Lecture on Growth-oriented Optimisation of Personal and Professional Life

An on-line lecture on “Growth-oriented Optimisation of Personal and Professional Life” was organised by the Institute of Objective Studies on August 28, 2021. Delivered by Dr. Syed Ashraf Imam, Ph.D., licensed clinical Psychologist, San Diego, California, USA, the topic was introduced by Prof. Akbar Husain, Department of Psychology, Aligarh Muslim University, Aligarh, who also chaired the function.

The lecture began with the recitation of a verse from Qur'an. In his introductory remarks, Prof. Akbar Husain said that the topic was contemporary in nature. Modern age of crisis and a variety of allied factors at times made human existence challenging. The constant struggle at one's personal, familial, social, professional level in the daily life space made it harder to have the feeling of healthy living. But human species were endowed with the quality of being flexible and adaptive to various existential challenges, he observed.

In his lecture, Dr. Syed Ashraf Imam said that the world was currently passing through a critical phase resulting in violence and frustration. But there were simple ways to overcome them and enhance work. Then the question arose how to optimise one's attributes. And this could be done by optimising one's mind. He noted that life space had everything to do with the human being. One did not know what was going around one's life. Secondly, there was a psycho-social factor that optimised man's mental faculty. There were family members and family values that had to be adjusted. Life could become more purposeful if certain things were ignored. He said that everyone should be treated equally. Frivolous things, like the absence of househelps to do domestic chore should not cause unnecessary worry. One should cherish family values by being communicative to the spouse and other members. This needed effective and appropriate communication. He advised that one should shun having negative behaviour.

Syed Ashraf Imam called for optimising the energy earned in life. This would have a healing effect. He said that one should express himself without fear. Respect was always a two-way traffic. Thus one should have the capacity to accept others.

One must not be rigid and give others space in terms of nice advice and fulfill some expectations of others in orderly fashion. There were some social expectations from others to do something for society. He also observed that one should not hold a grudge against anybody. There should be no negative emotion against anybody. It was up to a person to accept or refuse negative sentiments. Calling for controlling anger, he said that the energy must not be wasted in

trust. One should learn how to remain strong in adverse circumstances. He should be immune to such situations and stand solid rock in his trust. Emotions should not be allowed to hurt. One could achieve his goal by structuring his life. One's journey started when he focused on himself. One should be resilient and have solid faith in the Creator. He also said that daily practices like salah, rituals, prayers, etc; should continue. If one had a high level of empathy, the negative emotions would lessen.

He said that by getting negative energy, one hurt himself. He concluded by saying that Islam offered the best therapy for neutralising negative energy and this therapy could be applied by keeping faith in Allah.



Dr. Gustavo Zubieta-Calleja delivering his lecture

entertaining negative emotions. In this respect, forgiveness was the best policy. He pointed out that anger should be controlled at all costs.

Explaining the attribute of empathy, Dr. Imam said that without knowing the person one generally developed antipathy against others. This should not happen. Referring to the positive effect of empathy, he said that it helped a lot. Empathy also lessened tension. Another attribute he spoke on, was truth. He observed that trust was related to growth and development. In unsuccessful interviews and examinations, one lost

Associate professor in the department of psychology at AMU, Dr. S.M. Khan observed that one could put forward the teachings of Islam for developing positive energy.

IOS on-line lecture on Philosophy of Science and Human Evolution

An on-line lecture on "Philosophy of Science and Human Evolution" was organized by the Institute of Objective Studies on August 21,

2021. The lecture was delivered by Dr. Gustavo Zubieta-Calleja, M.D., FVPRI High Altitude Pulmonary and Pathology Institute (HAPPI) Instituto Pulmonary Patologia de la Altura (IPPA), La Paz, Bolivia, South America.

Introducing the topic, Dr. Md. Imtiyaz Hassan, Asstt. Professor, Centre for Interdisciplinary Research in Basic Sciences, Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi, said that science was a fundamental pillar of human evolution. It stemmed from intuition and above all, the search for human

needs of understanding and resolving the sustenance of life. He observed that science involved an interaction of multiple specialties with the mother of sciences being Mathematics.

Speaking on the subject, Dr. Calleja held that the philosophy of science was very important in the COVID-19 time. Science had to look forward. Referring to human evolution, he said that the theory in biology was posturing that various types of plants, animals and other living things on earth had their origin in other pre-existing types of philosophy. He listed three branches of philosophy as ethics, epistemology and metaphysics. Science stemmed from logic, methodology, curiosity and ability. It also involved an interaction of multiple specialties with the Maths. He listed some of the great men of science, like Rene Descartes, Srinivasa Ramanujan, Charles Darwin, Galileo Galilei, Nicolaus Copernicus, Ignaz Semmelweis, Newton, Leibniz and Erwin Schrodinger.

Dr. Calleja pointed out that there was also ethics in science and moral principles that governed it. Referring to human evolution, he said that Kevin Blake's work "The March of Progress" was an important book on the origin of human. Problems associated with the progress too surfaced. Science should focus on problems like global warming, desertification of the planet and holistic management of resources. He said that fauna and flora should be allowed to grow naturally. He made special mention of Clifford Allan Redin Savory, a Zimbabwean ecologist, livestock farmer and

president and co-founder of the Savory Institute, who held that only livestock could reverse desertification. There was no other tool available to humans to address desertification that was contributing not only to climate change, but also to much of the poverty, emigration, violence, etc. He expressed himself against burning of the forests and pleaded for the reduction of carbon emissions. He advised everybody to live with nature and respect the nature. Expressing concern over the increase of methane gas in the atmosphere, he said that animals generated only 7.2 percent of

He emphasized that humans must evolve to a better psychology and peaceful co-existence. It was a great mystery as to who created the universe. He concluded by saying that there should be a balance between scientific strides and its negative impact on human life.

IOS on-line lecture on Social Media and Marginalised Communities

An on-line lecture on "Social Media and Marginalised Communities" was organised by the Institute of Objective Studies on August 14, 2021. The lecture was delivered by Prof. Ehtesham Ahmad Khan, Dean, School of Mass Communication and Journalism, MANUU, Hyderabad.

Introducing the theme, senior journalist, Abdul Bari Masud, said that social media was an important platform of communication and a weapon to influence the users. It had become evident that the prominent way to reach out to young adults was through social media platforms. He observed that the social media influenced the decision making of the youngsters between the age of 16 and 25 years, who were going through quick changes in their lives.

Delivering the lecture, Prof. Khan, observed that the social media was yet to reach out to the illiterates and the marginalised in today's globalised world. Thus it raised the question of haves and have-nots; the question whether socially excluded sections were benefiting from the space created by the social media. He said that spurt in the usage of social media was evident during the Lok Sabha elections in 2014 and 2019. Used since 2004, Facebook became the most popular platform for the users of social media.



Prof. Ehtesham Ahmad Khan delivering his lecture

the methane.

Commenting on the steps that could be taken to reduce the level of lethal gases on earth, Dr. Calleja said that afforestation, reforestation and neo-forestation could play an important role. Oxygen, which was sourced from sunlight, nutrients and water, was the lifeline for every individual on earth.

He said that humans must evolve to a better psychology, peaceful interaction and inner tranquility with abundance of water, nutrients and oxygen. Defining philosophy of science, he noted that it was love of knowledge. Knowledge served to understand human evolution meticulously beyond earth in space.

The Member of Parliament, Shashi Tharoor had been using twitter since 2009, and it became the most popular platform among those in high positions. He said that 70 crore people accounting for about 50 percent population, were using smartphones daily. Giving the figures of the social media users, he noted that while WhatsApp was being accessed by about 53 crore, the number of YouTube users stood at 48.8 crore. The data revealed that the number of Twitter users was less, compared to other platforms, he maintained.

Commenting on the use of multiple accounts, Khan said that India stood second after United States. He sought to know if the space created by social media had been equally divided in society. Social media had also been misused as a ploy to spew hatred and for political campaigns. Marginalised communities had been constantly complaining that they were not receiving fair share in social media. Some headway had, however, been made but that did not suffice.

Prof. Khan pointed out that Twitter offered a suitable alternative to other social media platforms as it provided a facility to use minimum words to express views and opinion. Social media provided a platform to marginalised sections. But the use of social media was a bit difficult as those who were not technologically literate could not operate it. He noted that as many as 70 crore people were currently using social media. By 2025, as many as 89 crore people would own smartphones. But the digital divide continued to rule the roost as digital participation in society had not become inclusive yet. Though WhatsApp had the largest

number of users, yet its penetration in terms of digital participation was not balanced. Citing internet inaccessibility as one of the reasons for the digital divide, he said that marginalised societies lagged behind in terms of accessibility. Both Dalits and Muslims were far behind the upper castes in the usage of digital device.

Prof. Khan pointed out that making marginalised communities digitally literate was a problem. Media literacy among these communities could not gain ground because of non-availability of internet services round the clock. Thus, digital accessibility for marginalised sections continued to be a problem. Under such circumstances, the question arose if

Emphasising the need for equipping children with the digital device, he said that this would bridge the existing gap. This technology was as important as food. He opined that the importance of a community was not determined by its population but their presence on social media platforms. He called upon the community to become digitally savvy. Similarly, the digital divide should be narrowed or else marginalised sections would lag behind others. He said the Muslim community needed to correct its negative image. This was a big challenge before the community. Owing to some regulatory bodies put in place by the government, hate campaign against Muslims had been put under check to some extent.



A view of the Speakers

these sections could provide smartphones to their children. It also raised the question if the accessibility of this technology would increase in view of the 27 percent people living below the poverty line and earning a paltry sum of Rs. 75/- per day. He noted that social media was a luxury today as digitalization was linked to income.

Referring to the role of social media, he said that it aimed at making human life better. Social media played a significant role in the health sector during the last one and a half year. It yielded better results.

Prof. Khan observed that social media platforms were facing a big challenge and if corrective measures were not taken, it could prove to be counter-productive. In order to strike a proper balance, marginalised communities should optimally make use of social media. He concluded by saying that the social media was an effective platform for the marginalised sections to share their views and help reduce the digital divide.

IOS organizes virtual condolence meet on the demise of Prof. AbdulHamid A. AbuSulayman

A virtual condolence meet was organized by the Institute of Objective Studies on August 31, 2021 to pay homage to Prof. AbdulHamid A. AbuSulayman, former rector, IIU, Malaysia and former president IIIT, USA who died recently.

The condolence meeting began with the recitation of a verse from

Qur'an by the in-charge of Urdu section, IOS, Maulana Shah Ajmal Farooq Nadwi.

Vice-chairman, IOS, Prof. M. Afzal Wani, who conducted the proceedings, briefly threw light on the life and works of Prof. AbuSulayman.

The Chairman, IOS, Dr. Mohammad Manzoor Alam, who spoke first, called Prof. AbuSulayman his mentor. Recalling his first meeting with him in Saudi Arabia late in 1970 where he had gone to seek employment, he held that since then he used to frequently meet Prof. AbuSulayman there. He believed in universal brotherhood and equality, and did everything to promote them. He was an institution builder and a prolific writer whose deep knowledge of Qur'an and Sunnah was reflected in his books. What distinguished him from other Islamic scholars was that he was not wedded to traditional theories of Islam. He visited India four times and attended programmes organised by the IOS. He was also shot for a film prepared by the Institute of Objective Studies, in November 2017, under FutureFocus program to documenting Islam's vision and visionaries, values and movement, in November 2007. In the film divided in 2-parts, Dr. AbuSulayman discussed and explained different aspects of his life, thought and works that future generation would find beneficial and constructive. In March 2010, he participated in two conferences organised by the Institute of Objective Studies in India. The reading material he prepared was of high quality. He called for working further on Prof. AbuSulayman's ideas.

Former deputy prime minister of Malaysia, Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim, observed that Prof. AbuSulayman always corrected his Arabic pronunciation. He was a lovely brother and an intellectual who was imbued with high moral and ethical values. He was a legendary figure in Malaysia and his contribution to the Islamic university of Malaysia as a rector

would be ever remembered, Anwar Ibrahim added.

Dr. Hisham Altalib, president, International Institute of Islamic Thought, informed that in 1980 he established the IIIT to do something concrete for the promotion of Islamic thought. Endowed with deep knowledge of Quranic thought, Prof. AbuSulayman was impactful to him and his wife, he noted.

Prof. Omar Hassan Kasule Sr., secretary general, IIIT, held that the death of Prof. AbuSulayman, is a loss of an intellectual giant. Since he had a cosmopolitan upbringing in Makkah, he developed a cosmopolitan world view. He said that Prof. AbuSulayman appreciated the contribution of Indian Ulema, particularly Shah Waliullah, during the Mughal and British colonial periods. India was one of the countries that influenced Prof. AbuSulayman most, he observed.

Recalling his meeting with Prof. AbuSulayman, Dr. Habib Chirzin from IIIT, Indonesia, said that his contribution in the field of reforms and *Islah* was remarkable. He noted that he was impressed with his educational reforms and his deepest commitment to the interest of the ummah. He was committed to justice, peace and development. He stood for Islamisation of knowledge and curricular reforms. His work on integration of knowledge received much appreciation from scholars, Dr. Chirzin added. Zaid Barzinji from USA, said that Dr. AbuSulayman's commitment to seek *Haq* (Truth) was inviolable. According to him, Islam is not human-centric religion but it was created by Allah.

Dr. Zaleha Binti Kamaruddin, former rector, IIU and judge of appeal, Shariah Court, Malaysia observed that he did much to transform the system of education. She said that he advised her to start projects for bringing change in the system of modern education.

Dr. Fathi Malkawi from Jordan, said that Dr. AbuSulayman was

concerned about Islamic resurgence. Dr. AbuSulayman had a noble vision and devoted his life to Islamic reform projects, he noted.

Prof. Koutoub Moustapha Sano from Saudi Arabia, noted that Dr. AbuSulayman left behind a lasting legacy. He enriched Malaysia with his knowledge and wisdom. He was very optimistic about life and looked at it as such. He asked the ummah to work hard for the realization of Dr. AbuSulayman's dreams.

Secretary General, IOS, Prof. Z.M. Khan, referred to Dr. AbuSulayman's thought and action plan, and said that he left a mission which had to be completed. Those who were close to him needed to complete his projects. *Crisis in the Muslim Mind* was his best book, he added.

Assistant secretary general, IOS, Prof. Haseena Hashia, said that he was a great scholar and educator. His concept of Islamisation of knowledge distinguished him from other Islamic scholars. He was a man of many dimensions and an institution in himself. In his death, the world lost a great reformer, thinker, and leader. She suggested that the IOS should organize conferences on various aspects of his life.

Prof. Hamid Naseem Rafiabadi, dean, faculty of social sciences, Central University of Kashmir, said that he was concerned more with the methodology. He was of the opinion that there was no difference between reason and revelation. There was a common origin of man, whether Hindu or Muslim. He wrote a book on international relations. Prof. Rafiabadi stressed the need to take Dr. AbuSulayman's mission ahead and reach it to its logical conclusion. Dr. AbuSulayman always laid emphasis on the periodical revision of text-books.

Dr. Kaleem Alam, researcher, Islamic Economics Institute, King Abdul Aziz University, Jeddah, said that he was very humble and dedicated

himself to the development of the university.

Prof. Jamil Farooqi, held that Dr. AbuSulayman was a distinguished educationist and a great contributor to knowledge. He said that there were two types of knowledge—traditional and modern. Dr. AbuSulayman emphasised that both of them should be integrated into one. He wanted development of knowledge in Islamic perspective and integration of Islamic knowledge with human sciences.

In his concluding remarks, Prof. Afzal Wani observed that one could find a great teacher in Dr. AbuSulayman. Describing him as a leader of humanity, he said that Dr. AbuSulayman was very sensitive and a rational Muslim. He was a reformist. Initially, he was a political scientist whose writings were very balanced. As a great thought leader, he looked at the world across the globe, he said.

While Dr. Mohammad Manzoor Alam presided over the meet, Prof. Afzal Wani extended a vote of thanks to all panelists.

Annual meeting of Governing Council

The 70th Meeting (Annual) of the Governing Council (G.C.) of the Institute of Objective Studies (IOS) was held on September 11, 2021 (Saturday) at 11:00 a.m. in the Committee Room of the IOS at 162, Jogabai Main Road, Jamia Nagar, New Delhi-110025 in both offline and online mode.

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

Thereafter, the agenda of the meeting of the Governing Council (G.C.) was taken up.

The meeting got initiated with the recitation of verses from the Holy Qur'an by Prof. Mohsin Usmani.

Condolence resolutions of all those associated with the IOS, who passed away since the last meeting of G.C., were adopted and *dua* was made by Prof. Mohsin Usmani.

The minutes of the 69th Meeting of Governing Council (G.C.) of the IOS, held on March 27, 2021, were presented and confirmed.

The Follow-up Report (Action taken Report) of the last G.C. meeting was presented before the Governing Council. The same was considered and

in a meeting to be held soon in respect of 'Social Media', with the Chairman, IOS, which will be attended by Prof. Ehtesham A. Khan, Mr. Ashraf Ali Bastavi, Mr. Abdul Hameed Nomani, Mr. Shams Tabrez Qasmi and Shah Ajmal Farooq Nadwi.

In regard to prepare the 'Note' on "Political Thought of Muslims in India in different times", it was decided that an online workshop would be organised and attended by the Political Science experts. Based on the ideas/outcome of the workshop, the 'Note' will be developed.

Prof. Arshi Khan informed that the workshop may be organised in the month of October, 2021, and details for organising the said workshop will be submitted soon to the IOS.



A view of the G.C. meeting

Prof. Syed Jamaluddin informed that Prof. Kochhar has approved his transcribed lecture on "Aryans in India and Iran: A Synthesis of linguistic, literary, archaeological and genetic evidence", along with the Preface and Introduction, written by Prof. Syed Jamaluddin. The same is to be readied for Press.

Regarding the National Seminar on "Religious Interactions and Cultural Encounter in Medieval India", Prof. Syed Jamaluddin informed that the said volume/booklet will be completed and submitted to the IOS by 31st December, 2021 for publication.

In regard to the research project on "Universal Quranic Values and Its Relevance to Social Sciences (Alami Qurani Aqdaar aur Samaji Uloom se inki Tatbeeq)", it was decided that in addition to 20 topics, as suggested by Late Prof. Ishtiyaque Danish and approved by the GC in its meeting held on March 27, 2021, 150 more topics have been identified under the broader

after deliberations, got approved with the following information/suggestions/decisions:

In regard to the volume titled "Good Governance in a Globalizing World" Prof. Z.M. Khan informed that he had completed only two chapters of the volume. Now, due to his health issues, all other chapters will be assigned to a team of scholars for writing these chapters.

Regarding the programme to be organised for the students of journalism, it has been decided that the matter will be discussed and finalised

theme of “Anthology of Islamic terms”, which will be sent to IIIT for their consideration and approval.

The research work on the said project will be initiated under the supervision of Prof. Fahim Akhtar Nadwi, Head, Dept. of Islamic Studies, MANUU, Hyderabad.

In regard to organising a three-day conference on “*Environment, Social and Religious Consequences on Human Evolution*”, it was decided that instead of three-day, a two-day conference on the above theme will now be organised online via Zoom on November 20-21, 2021 at New Delhi.

Regarding the lectures on “*Musharakah*”, delivered by Dr. Kaleem Alam, as well as by Prof. Javed Ahmad Khan, both of them will again be requested to submit their full papers so that the same may be published in booklet form.

Further, for editing a book on “*Musharakah*”, jointly by Prof. Javed Ahmad Khan and Dr. Kaleem Alam, it was decided that Prof. Javed Ahmad Khan will again be requested to start the work on the said book at the earliest.

For developing an ‘*Index*’ by the IOS to be called as ‘*World Government Index*’ or ‘*Best Government Index*’ or ‘*Peoples Government Index*’, as proposed by Dr. Kaleem Alam, the Chairman, IOS, instructed Prof. (Ms.) Haseena Hashia to schedule the meeting with Dr. Kaleem Alam and Prof. M. Ishtiaque at the earliest and expedite the matter.

In regard to organising a two-day National Conference on “*Inter-Religious Dialogue and Its Implications for Human Rights*”, it was reported that the said conference will now be organised in offline/online mode, in collaboration with Dept. of Religious Studies, Punjabi University, Patiala, on September 29-30, 2021.

In regard to delivering the lecture on “*Majoritarianism*”, Dr. Md. Aftab Alam informed that the said lecture

will now be held in a panel discussion form, on the occasion of Gandhi Jayanti (i.e. 2nd October, 2021). He also informed that he has already approached Mr. Ajeet and Dr. Ashwini Yadav to participate as discussants.

Further, Prof. Arshi Khan suggested that the IOS should start a series of lectures once a month, under the broader theme “Constitution, Democracy and Rule of Law in India”. The Chairman, IOS, requested Prof. Arshi Khan to prepare and submit a proposal for the same within 15 days’ time.

It was reported that the two-day National Conference on “*Ahad-e-Jadeed ke Muallim Awwal Allama Shibli Nomani-Hassas Mufakkir, Afkar wa Islahaat*” will be organised by the IOS in collaboration with Faculty of Theology, AMU, Aligarh, through online mode on October 23-24, 2021 at New Delhi.

Preparation of Research Projects based on the 5-Point Agenda, as identified by the Prime Minister of India, Mr. Narendra Modi, for Celebration of 75 years of India’s Independence.

The 5-Point Agenda is as under:

1. Freedom Struggle
2. Ideas at 75
3. Achievements at 75
4. Actions at 75
5. Resolve at 75

In this regard, all the office-bearers and G.C. members of the IOS were requested to suggest some topics for research, based on the above 5-Point Agenda, for developing/ taking them as full-fledged research projects in coming days.

In response, Prof. Syed Jamaluddin suggested 18 topics to be considered for research project(s):

Similarly, Dr. Kaleem Alam suggested that the IOS must think to work/take up as research project(s) on 3 topics:

In this regard, Prof. Syed Jamaluddin has suggested to invite the

experts from different fields, like law, socio-political, etc. Further, he has advised to make a committee, consisting of Prof. Eqbal Hussain, Prof. Arshi Khan and himself for exploring the suggested topics in detail.

After thorough discussion, the Chairman, IOS, requested Prof. Syed Jamaluddin to choose any three pertinent topics out of the 18 topics and workout further.

Further, Dr. Md. Aftab Alam has shown interest to work on the topic, “Subversion of mainstream media and spread of fake news and stories destroying social harmony”, so he was requested to submit the research project proposal for the said topic.

Similarly, on the topic “Development of Law in India in 75 years”, the Chairman, IOS, requested Prof. Md. Zafar Mahfooz Nomani to plan for taking it up as a research project.

On the topic, “75 years of Political Development in India”, it was decided that a committee, consisting of Prof. Arshi Khan, Prof. Aftab Alam and Prof. M. Asmer Beg is to be formed and convened by Prof. Arshi Khan for developing it into a full-fledged research project proposal.

On the topic, “75 years of Progress in Education”, the Chairman, IOS, requested Ms. Naaz Khair to develop a research project on the same topic, highlighting about -- Education Policies in India till today, followed by Progress of Education of the Muslim Community, OBCs and other communities as per the strata of our society, and challenges faced during the advancement of education in India, with special reference to New Education Policy.

The 35th Annual Report of the IOS (along with its Executive Summary) for the year 2020-2021, was presented before the Governing Council (G.C.) of the IOS. The same was considered and recommended to the General Assembly of the IOS for its approval.

The Audited Financial Report for the year 2019-2020 of the IOS was presented before the Governing Council (G.C.) of the IOS. The same was considered and recommended to the General Assembly of the IOS, for its approval.

The Estimated Annual Budget of the IOS for the year 2021-2022, was presented before the Governing Council (G.C.) of the IOS. The same was discussed at length and recommended to the General Assembly of the IOS, for its approval.

The appointment of the Auditor/Auditors for the financial year 2021-2022, was considered, and taking in view the satisfactory performance of the Auditor/Auditors during the year 2020-2021, it was recommended to the General Assembly of the IOS that M/s Chandna Associates be retained for the year 2021-2022 on the existing terms and conditions.

In regard to the appointment of Finance Secretary of the IOS, due to the demise of Prof. Ishtiyaque Danish (who was Finance Secretary of the IOS), it has been decided, after discussion, that Mr. Mohammad Alam (the existing Assistant Finance Secretary of IOS) is appointed as Finance Secretary of the IOS. Consequently, one position in the Governing Council has fallen vacant, and, therefore, Dr. Kaleem Alam is appointed as a Member of the Governing Council (G.C.) of the IOS.

For finalising the name of the scholar for the 9th IOS Lifetime Achievement Award, the members of Governing Council (G.C.) of the IOS, after thorough discussion, authorised the IOS office-bearers to discuss and finalise the name of the scholar for the 9th IOS Lifetime Achievement Award.

In regard to finalising the mechanism to regulate the contents on Social Media it was decided to hold a meeting of the committee, consisting of Prof. Ehtesham A. Khan, Hyderabad, Mr. Abdul Hameed Nomani, Mr. Ashraf Ali Bastavi, Mr.

Shams Tabrez Qasmi, and Shah Ajmal Farooq Nadwi with the Chairman, IOS, and expedite the matter.

Further, in this regard, Prof. Hamid Naseem Rafiabadi suggested that the general online group of IOS has to be properly monitored. Also, we need to create an official WhatsApp group of IOS members to apprise about the activities and developments taking place at IOS.

Additionally, Mr. Abdul Basit Ismail suggested 5 points in this regard.

The members of the Governing Council (G.C.) of the IOS endorsed the name of Mr. Mohammad Asad, an Austro-Hungarian born journalist, writer, linguist, political theorist, diplomat and Islamic scholar, as approved in the meeting of the office-bearers of the IOS, held on August 19, 2021, for organising the two-day international conference, highlighting his contribution and work, sometime in March, 2022.

Further, Prof. M. Afzal Wani was requested again to prepare and submit the concept note for the same, at the earliest.

The members of the Governing Council (G.C.) of the IOS appreciated the efforts of the IOS for signing the MoU with Ibn Khaldun University, Indonesia. It was reported that a committee, consisting of Mr. Mohammad Alam (Convenor), Prof. (Ms.) Haseena Hashia (Member), and Ms. Samra Firdous (Member) was formed to work out on the priority areas with the Ibn Khaldun University in the light of mutually agreed areas of the MoU.

In this regard, Prof. Arshi Khan suggested that IOS may think of developing a course on Indonesian language for Indian scholars through its Chapters.

The status of the ongoing research projects undertaken by the IOS Headquarters is given as under:

The following manuscripts/volumes were sent to Press for printing:

- *“Status of Madarsa Education in India”*, authored by Prof. M. Ishtiyaque.
- *“The Role of Communication in Political Empowerment of Women Panchayati Raj Functionaries: A Field Study of Baramulla District in Kashmir”*, authored by Afsana Rashid.

The following manuscripts/volumes were sent to Press:

- *“Role of Muslims in the Indian Freedom Struggle (1857-1947)”* Vol. IV-Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Gujarat, authored by Prof. Mujeeb Ashraf.
- *“Hazrat Ayesha Siddiqah (R.A.): Her Life”*, authored by Mr. Imran Hashmi.

The following manuscripts/volumes are being readied for Press:

- *“Principal Foundations for Global Peace: A Way Forward for Better Future”*, edited by Prof. Afzal Wani.
- *“The Life and Contributions of Dr. Fuat Sezgin”*, edited by Late Prof. Ishtiyaque Danish.
- *“Towards Creating a Just and Equitable Future in India”*, edited by Prof. Mirza Asmer Beg.
- *“Constitutional and Legal Dimensions of Muslim Empowerment in India”*, authored by Prof. M. Afzal Wani.

The following manuscripts/volumes are to be readied soon for Press:

- *“Social Violence in Contemporary India: An Exploration of Aftermaths”*, authored by Prof. Arshi Khan and Dr. G.C. Pal.
- *“Educational Institutions Established by Muslims in India between 1986-2016”*, authored by Ms. Naaz Khair.

- “*An Encyclopedic Compendium of Muslim Communities in the World*”, Vol. V-Africa, authored by Mr. Javed A. Siddiqui.

The following manuscripts/volumes are under language editing or in the pipeline:

- “*Tipu Sultan: Indomitable Nationalist and Martyr*”, authored by Dr. B.P. Mahesh Guru.
- “*Towards Equality, Justice and Fraternity in Contemporary India – Creating a Better Tomorrow through History*”, edited by Prof. Syed Jamaluddin.
- “*The Life and Contributions of Prof. Ismail Raji Al-Faruqi*”, edited by Prof. Hamid Naseem Rafiabadi.
- “*Contribution of Haji Mohammad Mohsin to Bengali Muslim Education in Contemporary Era*”, authored by Dr. Sumaiya Ahmed.
- “*Islamic Banking and Finance: Potential and Prospects in India*”, authored by Dr. Shahana Khan.
- “*Waqf Laws in India*”, authored by Prof. Syed Khalid Rashid.
- “*Equality, Justice and Fraternity in Contemporary India*”, edited by Prof. Md. Zafar Mahfooz Nomani.

The manuscript on “*Readings in Islamic Psychology*”, edited by Prof. Shamim A. Ansari, has been submitted to the IOS. Rest formalities are to be initiated soon.

The following manuscripts/volumes are in the final stage of completion and are likely to be submitted soon:

- “*Muslim Women in Kerala: Transformation, Progress and Empowerment since 1990*”, authored by a team of scholars from Centre for Gender Studies, Calicut.
- “*Personality and Contribution of Dr. Mohammad Natsir*”, edited by Prof. M. Afzal Wani.
- “*Status of Muslim Education in India*” (Yearbook preparation),

authored by Mrs. Rubina Tabassum.

- “*Electoral Politics in Uttar Pradesh and Muslims*”, authored by Mr. Anil Kumar Yadav.
- “*Indian Youth – Their Aspirations and their Expectations from Political Leadership*”, authored by Prof. Amir Ullah Khan.
- “*A Study of Institutional Communalism in India*”, authored by Aman Mohd. Khan.
- “*Global Trends in Education: Problems & Prospects and Contemporary Challenges*”, edited by Prof. Shueb Abdullah.
- “*A Study of Inter-Community Prejudices among Muslims in Mithila Region*”, authored by Prof. Shamim A. Ansari.
- “*Technology and Youth*”, edited by Prof. (Ms.) Haseena Hashia.

The manuscript titled “*Knowledge and Purpose: A Comparative Perspective*”, authored by Prof. Hamid Naseem Rafiabadi is under revision.

The work on the following manuscripts/volumes is going on:

- “*Inclusive Development and Islamic Financial Solutions: The Kashmir Perspective*”, authored by Shabbir Ahmad Handoo.
- “*Justice System in India: Ethical Dimension*”, edited by Prof. Md. Zafar Mahfooz Nomani.
- “*Gandhi: Myths and Truth*”, authored by Mr. Piyush Babale.

The work on the following manuscripts/volumes will be initiated soon:

- “*Contemporary Islamic Thought and Societal Reforms through Education*”, to be edited by Prof. M. Akhtar Siddiqui.
- “*Introduction to Psychology: An Islamic Perspective*”, to be authored by Prof. Akbar Husain and Dr. Mustafa Nadeem Kirmani.

For the project titled “*Legacy of Islam*” undertaken by Late Prof. M. Yasin Mazhar Siddiqui, it has been reported that the volume-I of

“*Masadire Tasawwuf*” is being readied for Press.

The work on volume-II of “*Masadire Tasawwuf*” has been assigned to Dr. Mushtaque Ahmad Tajarwi, Asstt. Professor, Department of Islamic Studies, Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi. The same will be initiated soon.

Under the project titled “*Kalimatullah Hiya Al-Ulia (Allah ka Kalima hi Buland Hai)*”, it has been reported that (a) 18 booklets under the theme “*Ausaf-e-Hameedah*” have been published (b) 17 booklets under the theme “*Seerat-e-Nabwi*” have been sent to Press; and (c) All other booklets under various themes (numbering 82) have been completed and are readied to be sent to Press.

Further, these booklets will also be translated in Hindi as well as other Indian languages.

Under the project titled “*14 Centuries of a Glorious Legacy: Biographical Sketches of 1400 Outstanding Muslims Who Enriched Humanity*”, under the directorship of Prof. Mohsin Usmani, it has been reported that the following manuscripts have already been published:

- *Mashaheer Uloom Islamia aur Mufakkirin wa Musleheen*
- *Mashaheer Sher-o-Adab*
- *Mashaheer Fatiheen Islam*
- *Mashaheer Muslim Sciencedaan*
- *Mashaheer Khulfa wa Salateen Islam*

The manuscript on “*Mashaheer Khwateen Islam*” has been sent to Press.

The manuscript on “*Mashaheer Maasir Islami Shakhsiyaat*” is being revised and will be sent to Press at the earliest.

The work on volume ‘*Mashaheer Islam aur Insani Aqdaar wa Islami Kirdaar*’ is going on.

Under the research project on “*Wa Laqad Karnamna Bani Adam (Dignity*

of Humanity)” it was reported that all 50 booklets were received from the experts in composed form and the corrections on these booklets were made. Now, these booklets are ready to be sent to Press for printing.

Further, these booklets will also be translated in Hindi as well as in other Indian languages. The translation in Hindi will be initiated soon.

The members of Governing Council (G.C.), after going through the progress report of the research projects, expressed their satisfaction.

The progress reports of the translation of the IOS books as well as the translation, review, and editing of the IIIT books were presented before the Governing Council members of the IOS, and the same was appreciated.

The report about the programmes organised by the IOS during April, 2021 to August, 2021; The list of the upcoming programmes of the IOS Headquarters from September, 2021 onwards; The report of the progress of work done in the IOS Data Bank during April, 2021 to August, 2021; The report about the hits of IOS website; and the reports about the hits of (a) IOS Data Bank, and (b) IOS Current Affairs were presented before the Governing Council members of the IOS, which, after going through the above reports, expressed its appreciation.

The members of Governing Council of the IOS were reported that in the meeting of IOS office-bearers, held on August 19, 2021, the following four names were considered and approved for inclusion in the Board of IOS Shah Waliullah Award, in place of Prof. A.R Momin, Dr. A. Hasib and Prof. Ishtiyaque Danish, who passed away recently:

1. Maulana Khalid Saifullah Rahmani
2. Prof. M. Afzal Wani
3. Prof. M. Ishtiaq
4. Prof. Fahim Akhtar Nadwi

The Chairman, IOS, was authorised to appoint one member secretary out of

the members of the Board. He appointed Prof. Fahim Akhtar Nadwi as Member-Secretary of the Committee.

The revised composition of the 9-member committee of the Board will now consist of the following:

1. Dr. M. Manzoor Alam
2. Ml. Syed Rabey Hasani Nadwi
3. Justice A. M. Ahmadi
4. Prof. Z. M. Khan
5. Prof. Mohsin Usmani
6. Ml. Khalid Saifullah Rahmani
7. Prof. M. Afzal Wani
8. Prof. M. Ishtiyaque
9. Prof. Fahim Akhtar Nadwi

The decision taken in the meeting of the IOS office-bearers, as given above, was endorsed by the Governing Council (G.C.) of the IOS.

The members of Governing Council of the IOS, after going through the suggestions as given by Shaikh Nizamuddin, appreciated his concern and deferred this matter to be discussed in the meeting of IOS office-bearers at the earliest.

Before the presentation of vote of thanks by Prof. (Ms.) Haseena Hashia, the Chairman, IOS, expressed that the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic is overshadowing the activities of the IOS. In fact, the productive capacity has been compromised globally in the changing times. We are the few of the fortunate who have been blessed with knowledge and wisdom. We have to constantly think, as a team, how humans, especially as Muslims play a role in our lives. We have to take up challenges and difficulties thrown at us. With changing history and culture, we have to focus on making our lives better. We should keep working to overcome the difficult times in the current scenario, with proper use of social media. Also, we have to take the opportunity to further the legacy of knowledge and wisdom that we have been blessed with.

In the end, Prof. (Ms.) Haseena Hashia, Assistant Secretary General of the IOS, acknowledging the full

cooperation and active support by all the members of Governing Council (G.C.) of the IOS and special invitees, thanked all of them.

Annual Meeting of General Assembly

The 35th Annual Meeting of the General Assembly (G.A.) of the Institute of Objective Studies (IOS) was held at 11:00 a.m. on September 12, 2021 (Sunday) in the Committee Room of the IOS at 162, Jogabai Main Road, Jamia Nagar, New Delhi-110025 in both offline and online mode.

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

Thereafter, the agenda of the meeting of the General Assembly (G.A.) was taken up.

The meeting got initiated with the recitation of verses from the Holy Qur'an by Janab Mohammad Athar Husain.

Condolence resolutions on the sad demise of all those associated with the IOS, who passed away since the last meeting of G.A., were adopted and *dua* was made by Prof. Syed Jamaluddin.

The minutes of the 34th Annual Meeting of General Assembly (G.A.) of the Institute of Objective Studies (IOS), held on 11th October, 2020, were presented and confirmed.

The Follow-up Report (Action taken Report) of the last G.A. meeting was presented before the General Assembly (G.A.). The same was considered and after deliberations, got approved with the following information/ suggestions/decisions:

- (i) It was decided that Prof. M. Afzal Wani will again be requested to complete the “*Yearbook of Human Rights*” as early as possible.

(ii) In regard to the research project on *"Universal Quranic Values and Its Relevance to Social Sciences (Alami Qurani Aqdaar aur Samaji Uloom se inki Tatbeeq)"*, it was decided that in addition to 20 topics, as suggested by Late Prof. Ishtiyaque Danish and approved by G.C. in its meeting, held on March 27, 2021, 150 more topics have been identified under the broader theme of "Anthology of Islamic terms", which will be sent to IIIT for their consideration and approval.

(iii) Out of thirteen themes, selected for lectures under the project on *"Challenging Trends of 21st Century in the field of climate as well as Technology"*, the following four online lectures were delivered by the experts during the period August 22 to September 09, 2020:

1. *"Rejuvenation Biotechnology: Why Age May soon Cease to Mean Aging"* by Dr. Aubrey de Grey (from California, USA).
2. *"Challenges and Opportunities of Modern Civilisation"* by Dr. Sudhir Singh (from Dayal Singh College, University of Delhi).
3. *"Can Religion Survive in the Age of Science"* Dr. M. R. N. Murthy (from Molecular Biophysics Unit, Bengaluru).
4. *"Environmental Challenges to Human Civilisation"* by Dr. Sultan Ahmad Ismail (Director, Eco-science Research Foundation, Chennai).

The Chairman, IOS, directed the office to avail the soft copies of the lectures at the earliest so that the same may be published in booklet form.

Further, it has been decided that a two-day conference on *"Environment, Social and Religious Consequences on Human Evolution"* will be organised online via Zoom on November 20-21, 2021 at New Delhi.

(iv) A Social Survey Data Sheet, giving the information about the relief work, undertaken by the individuals/community during the COVID-19 pandemic, received from Mr. Abdul Basit Ismail, IOS Kolkata Chapter, was presented before the members of General Assembly (G.A) of the IOS. After going through the report, the members appreciated the effort made by the IOS Kolkata Chapter.

In this regard, the Chairman, IOS, requested the members to collect such

consideration. Appreciating the suggestions the G.A. members of the IOS authorised the IOS office-bearers to discuss it further at length and take a decision accordingly.

And two books namely *"Muslim Women in India: Education and Exposure to Media"*, authored by Dr. Malika B. Mistry and *"Muslim Women's Rights Enshrined in the Holy Qur'an and the Indian Constitution"*, authored by Dr. Suraiya Tabassum, which were published by the IOS, were released by the Chairman, IOS, and other members of General Assembly (G.A.).

After the conclusion of agenda items, the Chairman, IOS, talked about the ongoing crises and proposed some ways to overcome them. He said, right now, we all are going through a crisis, especially Muslims. He stressed on the need for looking for answers to the ongoing predicament in the light of Qur'an and Hadith. For a healthy debate on any topic, he said, we all should be respectful and adopt a holistic approach in decision-making. We all should appreciate each other's differences and cooperate to attain prolific resolutions.

In the current scenario, the dominance of one community over others and the subsequent atrocities committed on the marginalised are evidently clear. We have been blessed with knowledge and wisdom by Almighty; therefore, to further this blessing not just for ourselves but for the entire humankind, we have to embrace the teachings of the Qur'an; he said that we own the responsibility to take it further for the greater good.

Although the pandemic has slowed down the lives of people, which has impacted the functioning of the IOS as



A view of the G.A. meeting

information from their own areas and send the list to the IOS so that these may be published in booklet form.

Then the General Assembly (G.A.) approved the Annual Report, Audited Financial Report, Estimated Annual Budget of the IOS and Appointment of Auditors, as recommended by the Governing Council (G.C.). It also discussed many other issues and took suitable decisions.

Further, the suggestions, given by Dr. Kaleem Alam, were presented before the General Assembly for

well, the Chairman is hopeful for a brighter future ahead. He hopes for a better tomorrow with a fresh and robust determination and upgraded competencies of the people.

Emphasising the importance of ideology, he explained how ideological dominance determines one's position in any society. The need of the hour is to stick to the principles of the Holy Qur'an and adopt them in our day-to-day activities. As per the Qur'an, we will be tested over and over by the Almighty, which will jolt our understanding of things and our collective capacity to deal with them. Therefore, the onus is on the Ummah to come out of these difficulties, taking into consideration the principles and teachings of the Qur'an and Seerah. He further highlighted the need for changing our perspective towards problems, stating that people should invest their attention in finding a solution to problems and not get overwhelmed with the challenges.

In the end, Prof. (Ms.) Haseena Hashia, Assistant Secretary General of the IOS, acknowledging the

full cooperation and active support by all the members of General Assembly (G.A.) of the IOS, thanked all of them.

Activities of the IOS Chapters

CHENNAI CHAPTER

IOS Chennai Chapter's new office premise inaugurated

IOS Chennai Chapter's new office premise was inaugurated on Sunday, August 1, 2021 at 9.45 am at 'Darul Ihsan', 4, Zackria Colony, 1st Street, Choolamedu, Chennai - 600094. The

office will be jointly shared by Institute of Objective Studies, Chennai Chapter, All India Milli Council TN Chapter, V for all Foundation, and Muslim Marriage Advisory Council (MMAC). Office-bearers and Trustees of the above organisations were present on the occasion. After an opening remark by Ibnu Soud, President, AIMC TN Chapter, dua was made by Haji Rafi. Later the members moved to Event Hall, Kodambakkam Jumma Masjid for the Inaugural function.

The program was conducted in the presence of Janab P. K. Shabbir Ahmed. The proceedings commenced with recitation of verses from Holy Qur'an. Dr. N. S. Ashraf, Managing Director, Ayesha Hospitals, Trichy, and Patron Trustee of V for All

Institute of Objective Studies and All India Milli Council. He invited the representatives of various organisations and the intellectuals present in the function to come forward and join hands with the above organisations in serving the Muslim community.

Moulana Mansoor Kashifi traced the formation of V for All Foundation and presented the aims and objectives of the Foundation.

Dr. Amjad Khan gave an introduction of Muslim Marriage Advisory Council and outlined the services offered.

M. A. Siddique, IAS, Principal Secretary to Govt. of Tamilnadu expressed his best wishes through Zoom connection.

Guest of honour Janab M. Abdur Rahman, Chairman Tamilnadu Wakf Board commended the activities and achievements of the organisations and assured all possible help and cooperation from the Wakf Board.

Chief Guest Mr. S. Peter Alphonso, Chairman, State Minorities Commission, Govt. of Tamilnadu, in his thought provoking address exhorted

the Muslim intelligentsia to chalk out a time bound plan and engage in it fully, to redeem it from the depths of decadence it has fallen. He assured all possible cooperation from the Minorities Commission in solving the many problems faced by the Muslim community.

Mementos and Certificates of Appreciation were presented to 60 male and female Counsellors, in appreciation of their sincere contribution in successfully carrying out the programs during the pandemic.

Mementos and Gifts were also presented to the dignitaries.



A view of the Inauguration Programme

Foundation, welcomed the dignitaries and august gathering. In his presidential address, Justice Akbar Ali, Retd. Judge, Madras High Court, commended the services of the above organisations and expressed hope that from the well-equipped new office more services will be offered to the community.

Mohamed Haneef Katib, Coordinator, IOS Chennai Chapter, and Secretary, AIMC TN Chapter, gave a brief introduction of the aims and objectives and achievements of

KOLKATA CHAPTER

IOS Kolkata Chapter organises an online International Symposium on The Life and Contributions of Maulana Mahboobur Rahman Azhari (r.a.)

An online international symposium was organized on the life and contributions of Maulana Mahboobur Rahman Azhari Nadvi by the Kolkata Chapter of the Institute of Objective Studies on 18th September 2021. The webinar was presided over by Maulana Khalid Ghazipuri Nadvi of Darul Uloom Nadwatul Ulama Lucknow with Abdul Basit Ismail, coordinator at IOS Kolkata chapter who performed the role of anchor. The notable attendees of the program were; Dr. Saleem Rehman Khan Nadvi, professor of Chuo University, Tokyo, Japan; Dr Md Anas Nadvi, member - Australian National Imam Council, Australia; Son of Maulana Mahboobur Rahaman Azhari - Dr Saeedur Rahman Faizi Nadvi, president- Al Nadwa Education Centre, Canada and Dr Mohammad Manzoor Alam, Chairman- Institute of Objective Studies, New Delhi. Maulana Md Rabey Hasani Nadvi, President, AIMPLB sent his video message for the event that was played for the audience.

Kolkata Chapter of IOS has been organising a series of symposiums under the theme -“Remembering the 20th Century Islamic Scholars of West Bengal“. This symposium was the third in the series. Well-researched papers and lectures were presented by scholars on different aspects of the life of Maulana Mahboobur Rahman Azhari (r.a.).

Maulana Mahboobur Rahman Azhari is a highly respectable name in

the assembly of scholars from Kolkata, West Bengal. Born in 1919 in Lucknow, Maulana completed memorization of the Quran when he was 9. After the completion of Hifz and Tajweed he learnt the basics of Arabic language from his teacher, Mufti Mohammed Zuhoor Bihari. In the year 1935, he travelled to Mecca for higher education and studied at Madrasa Sualatia for 3 years. Later, to quench his thirst for knowledge, he travelled to Cairo and got admission in the faculty of theology at Cairo University. After his return to India he was appointed as a senior teacher at Darul Uloom Nadwatul Ulama, Lucknow in 1943. In 1949, Maulana shifted to Kolkata and started teaching at the historical institution, Madrasa Alia, Calcutta. During his stay of long

symposiums on the life and contributions of Muslim scholars of 20th century, he said, “such programs will not only make today's generations aware of the glorious history of the sacrifices and contributions of Muslim scholars but it will also help them in dealing with different social, political and religious issues faced by their elders.” He added, “One of the biggest contributions of Maulana towards the Muslim community is thousands of his students who are serving humanity in different parts of the world.”

Dr Mohammad Manzoor Alam, Chairman of IOS said, “Maulana Mahboobur Rahman Azhari, as his name suggests, was a spiritual person dear to God. One of the qualities that make him stand out is that he faced several challenges of his time very bravely and wisely.

The symposium began with the recitation from the Holy Quran by Maulana Ahmad Ali Qasmi. The recitation was followed by the speech of Maulana Dr Saleemur Rahman Khan Nadvi where he said, “Maulana Mahboobur Rahman belonged to a noble family of Kerana of Muzaffarnagar, and he has been an untiring servant of education and humanity.” Dr Mohammad Anas Nadvi from Australia, said, “Maulana Azhari was a person of high morals and values. He was the teachers of teachers, rather if a list of teacher of teachers is made Maulana Azhari will surely be on the top of that list.”

Maulana Wazir Ahmad Nadvi, UAE, said, “Maulana Azhari’s works will always be remembered like his famous book, *Al Muntakhabatul Arabiyyah*, and his research work against misleading religious groups.



A view the Speakers

28 years in Kolkata Maulana did remarkable works in academic fields. After his retirement from Madrasa Alia, Calcutta in 1977, he re-joined Nadwatul Ulama, Lucknow. Maulana passed away in the year 2009. Maulana Azhari will surely be remembered for his writings, his movement, and efforts against Qadiyaniyat, and his tireless efforts for social reforms.

Maulana Khalid Ghazipuri Nadvi, in his presidential remarks of the symposium, appreciated the initiative taken by the Institute of Objective Studies. Congratulating the members of IOS for conducting the series of

Maulana Alauddin Nadvi, in his paper presentation on the symposium said, "Generally there are three factors which make a person a good human being; ancestral traditions, atmosphere and education and Maulana was lucky enough to have all these three." Dr Farman Nadvi said that Maulana Azhari had three unique qualities; he was a sincere Da'ee of Islam, was an expert of Arabic language, and a great scholar of Islam.

Maulana Azhari's son, Dr Maulana Saeedur Rahman Faizi Nadwi said, "My father lived his life as a good human being. He always cared for his neighbours and relatives. He was a true well-wisher of humanity and an ambassador of peace. Mufti Sarwar Farooqui mentioned some of the Dawah activities of the Maulana and said that he was a "great Da'ee of Islam".

During the symposium, a video of Maulana Syed Mohammed Rabey Nadvi was shared in which Maulana praised the services and contributions of Maulana Azhari. Mentioning his teaching skills he said, "When Maulana Azhari returned from Cairo and joined Darul Uloom Nadwatul Ulama, Lucknow as a teacher of Arabic he had invented some unique and modern methods to teach language, which proved to be very effective and unique at that time."

The symposium started with the introductory speech of Dr Sabah Ismail Nadvi, member-Madrasah Service

Commission, Government of West Bengal. Afnaan Akhzar presented the vote of thanks. IOS Kolkata Chapter will soon be organising its next symposium of the series on Pir Abu Bakr Siddiqui (r.a.) of Furfura who was one of the most learned, revered and influential Sufis of the nineteenth century Bengal.

A Tribute to Prof. Shamim Hanfi

Prof. Shamim Hanfi, my senior colleague in the Dept of Urdu, Jamia Millia Islamia passed away on May 6, 2021 after battling a protracted illness. He was a prolific writer, famous critic, orator, and a good teacher. With his wit and remarkable sharp memory, he endeared both of his readers and listeners, nevertheless avoided to involve himself in the literary controversies of the day so as not to be irrelevant in the course of the heated debate and discourse on post-modern western theories and their application on the creative writings. He had a good taste and understanding of the philosophical dimensions of the modern Urdu literature and was a credible literary and cultural link between India and Pakistan. With his visible presence on Delhi's many important Urdu platforms such as Rekhta, Ghalib institute, Ghalib academy, Anjuman Tarraqi-e-Urdu, NCPUL and NCERT, etc, he served the cause of Urdu with passion, courage, and distinction. He was also the recipient of this year's coveted International Qatar Award chaired by the eminent Urdu critic Professor Gopi

Chand Narang. He was a familiar face on print and electronic media throughout his life. Not to have evolved any style of his own, he truly followed his Aligarian mentors and always lived under the shadow of Rasheed Ahmad Siddiqui, Ale Ahmad Suroor and Khurshidul Islam, etc, so far as his infatuation, deep interest and orientation to classical critical traditions are concerned. Though he could not convincingly clarify his literary stand or theory probably owing to his essentially narcissistic nature, he usually talked and focussed on the literary cannons in terms of its ethics and social consciousness in most of his writings which put him closer to the Progressives of the bygone era. He will go down in the annals of Urdu literature as an exceptional visionary who was quite often found basking in India's past glory manifested through its syncretic cultural ethos and pluralistic legacies unfortunately vanishing in our times. He wanted this multiculturalism to be fostered, strengthened, and protected instead of being desecrated and destroyed owing to greed and ignorance.

Professor Shamim Hanfi will be remembered for his graceful personality, sparkling prose and overall, the range of his insightful attainments and enviable corpus of his lifelong intellectual accomplishments.

— Qazi Obaidur Rahman Hashmi

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