



Of Baseless Ritualism and Ostentatious Weddings

Should the few rich squander their resources on baseless ritualism and extravagant weddings, when the average Muslim subsists on a daily income of Rs. 70 a day?

BY A STAFF WRITER

Chennai: A recent study highlights that Indian Muslims spend nearly Rs. 15,000 crore on repeated Hajj and Umrahs to the holy places in Saudi Arabia. Some activists from Chennai and Hyderabad have come together to persuade members of the more affluent sections within the community to divert their surpluses instead towards charities to be spent on the educational uplift and economic betterment of the underprivileged sections within the community.

Chennai based scholar A. Faizur Rahman, who has been taking up issues that afflict the Muslim community in popular newspapers, says, quoting conservative estimates, that a little over 250,000 Muslims from India travel to Saudi Arabia to visit the holy places for Umrah every year. Each such trip costs an individual around rupees two lakh. Going by these statistics, the total annual spending by the community on Umrah, which is not an obligatory ritual, comes to a whopping Rs. 4,100 crore. This amount is just a little lower than Rs. 4,535 crores which were allocated

“ Nearly 2.5 lakh Muslims perform Umrah, every year which is only an optional ritual. ”

by the Union Government to the Ministry of Minority Affairs. It is useful to be reminded that Umrah is an optional ritual. The Holy Prophet himself performed Umrah only on four occasions. It is customary for Muslims to perform Umrah if they happen to visit the holy city of Makkah or if visiting someone in cities in vicinity of the place. Those who go for the Hajj, which is obligatory just once in a lifetime, the Muslims generally perform an Umrah or two during their stay. But the Government of Saudi Arabia has been promoting Umrah pilgrimage to prop up the economy of the eastern region, which has traditionally revolved round the visit to the holy sites. Currently, the Saudis have come under a financial crunch and have gone on an overdrive to promote

the lesser pilgrimage as a pleasure trip. In fact, most of the hotels, transport networks and guides and escorts groups are owned by individuals from the leviathan princely family.

Faizur Rahman approaches the issue from a secondary route too. He says that around 4.50 lakh Muslims applied for Hajj during 2017. Of this, around 1.80 lakh were permitted to undertake the pilgrimage. (The Government of the Saudi Kingdom has hiked the number of Hajj visas to two lakh for Hajj-2019). It is therefore reasonable to presume that the ratio between aspirants and those who eventually perform the Hajj works out to 2:1 i.e., of every two applicants, only one ends up fulfilling the life's dream. Rahman takes this as a sign of 450,000 Muslims having the capacity to spend around Rs. 2.50 lakh every year on pilgrimage. This works out to more than Rs. 10,000 crore. If this is added to the community's annual spend on Umrahs, one arrives at the figure of Rs. 15,000 crore. "Even if a small portion of this amount is to be diverted for humanitarian causes, it will come



under the definition of effective altruism, which, by the way, is not out of sync with the egalitarian teachings of Islam", asserts Rahman.

Rahman says that as of now, the only beneficiaries of this expenditure are tour operators, airlines and oil-rich Saudi tycoons. It is beyond comprehension that such huge sums could be spent annually at a time when all indices of the socio-economic conditions of the Indian Muslim community in comparison to other social components of Indian population are pointing downwards, as has been highlighted by the Sachar Committee Report.

New Fad by the Rich

As can be seen, performance of Umrah has emerged as a new fad among affluent Muslims. Some social activists concerned with the pathetic plight of the underprivileged sections of the community do not feel qualms in

“ Though most of the Umrah expenses are on the individual self, an average Muslim mistakenly thinks of the expenditure being in the way of Allah. ”

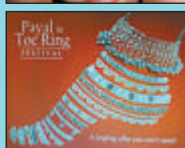
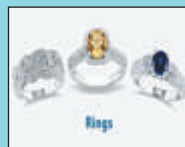
even dubbing it a "Holy Picnic". The crowd of pilgrims in Makkah during the last ten days of Ramzan has begun to surpass the number of Hajj pilgrims, which hovers round 20 lakh. Some scholars equate the Umrah with unnecessary ritualism motivated by a wish to mask one's inclination to spend on oneself with religious devotion which Islam neither desires nor prescribes.

» Page 22

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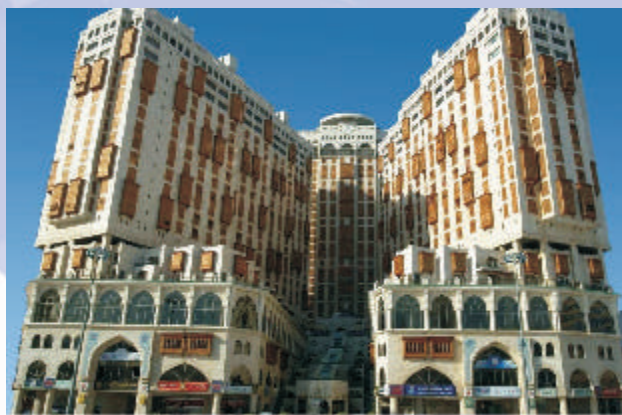
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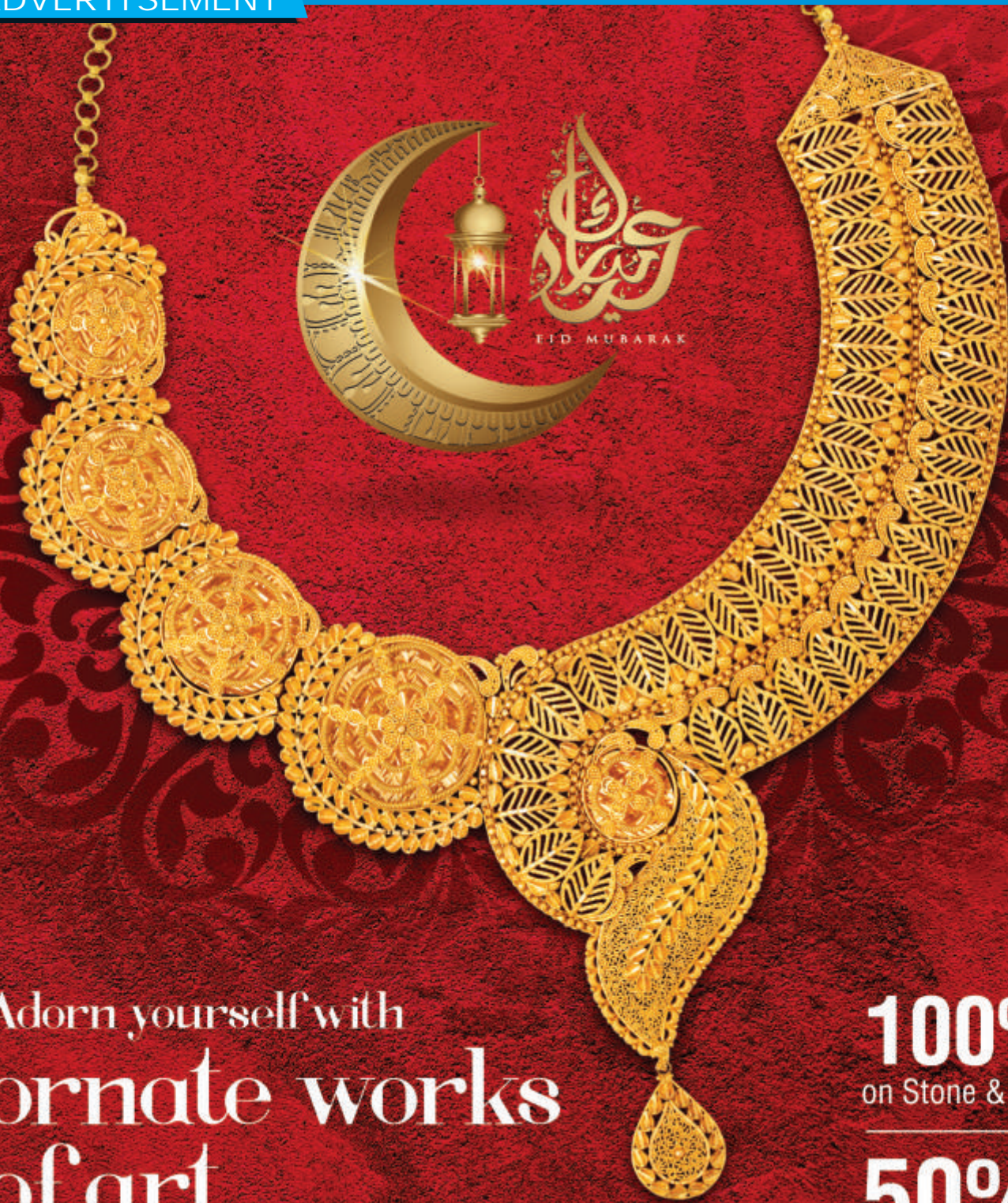
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An initiative of the Bangalore-based Al-Aman Educational and Welfare Trust headed by well-known social worker Dr. Mohammed Farooq, a skill development centre located on the edge of a slum near Boopasandra has reached out to several hundred people since its launching last January. Housed in a three-room basement, the centre helps people from economically vulnerable backgrounds with valuable life skills. The centre's space is also used for Islamic and personality development talks and tutorial classes at the time of examinations. Presently, the centre offers

courses in computers (3 month basic computers course, 3 month tally course, and 6 month networking course), tailoring (one year course) and spoken English and Kannada (6 month course). All the courses are free of cost. These courses, explains Amina Arshiya, the Trust's General Secretary, are geared to help people obtain jobs and have a better income. The centre also offers separate English classes for imams and muezzins of mosques, which are conducted by an engineer who studied in an English-medium school and college and later became a scholar

► Page 8

“Till date, some 450 students have passed out from the centre. Presently, the centre has some 120 students. Around 70% of them are girls and women, and the rest boys.”

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Electoral Analysis: Uttar Pradesh Mulayam Sowed Confusion

**Mulayam Singh's controversial statements
sowed the seeds of confusion in the
SP's core votebank**

**FROM AKHILESH TRIPATHI IN
LUCKNOW**

Perhaps the most stunning outcome of the mandate 2019 has come from Uttar Pradesh where the BJP took away 64 (62 for itself plus two seats by its ally Apna Dal) of the 80 Lok Sabha seats. Contrary to expectations, the formidable SP-BSP-RLD Gatbandhan which was being thought to be an alternative pole for the social components such as Jats, Jatavs, Muslims and Yadavs to gravitate, had to be content with merely 15 seats (five for SP and 10 for the BSP). Having grabbed three Lok Sabha seats during the last two years in byelections, Gatbandhan was

“SP cadre was confused as to what its supremo meant by issuing public statements favouring a second term for Mr. Narendra Modi.”

considered the natural choice for those not enamoured with the BJP's slogans.

Sowing Confusion

One could question as to what went wrong. A major reason for the Gatbandhan to fail was the dissensions and dissonance within the Samajwadi Party (SP). Party supremo Mulayam Singh Yadav queered the pitch for the party led by his son, Akhilesh Yadav, through a series of contentious statements which sowed the seeds of confusion among party workers. The party could win merely five seats with father and the son winning the Mainpuri and Azamgarh seats respectively. But Akhilesh's wife Dimple Yadav lost her Kannauj seat. Mulayam's nephew Dharmendra Yadav lost the Badayun seat mainly because of the confusing statements from the party supremo. The buzzword is that Mulayam's statement that Modi should head the Union Government a second time led to division of core votebank. He

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FROM ANISH ANKUR IN PATNA

The outcome of the Lok Sabha elections in Bihar has been unprecedented. The sweeping victory of the NDA winning 39 of the 40 seats in the State has stunned the observers. Riding the Modi wave, the NDA juggernaut has reduced to pulp the entire Mahagatbandhan (MGB) led by the Rashtriya Janata Dal whose supremo Laloo Yadav has been in jail for the last couple of years. The five-party MGB alliance could win just a lone seat of Kishanganj where Congress candidate Dr. Mohammed Jawed registered his victory.

Biggies on the Trash Heap

In the dustbin of the electoral rejects can be seen leaders like film actor Shatrughan Sinha, former Speaker of Lok Sabha Meira Kumar, former Union Minister Upendra Kushwaha, former chief minister Jitan Ram Manjhi and veteran socialist leader Sharad Yadav. The rout of the RJD has come as a shocker and may spell trouble for Tejaswi Yadav, younger son of Laloo Yadav, who is the principal Opposition leader. The outcome has hiked people's expectation for 'Development' from the Nitish Kumar's 'Double Engine' Government (NDA at the Centre as well as in Patna). One of the most talked about personalities in the election, Kanhaiya Kumar of JNU, came second in Begusarai against BJP's Giriraj Kishore.

Electoral Analysis: Bihar

Caste Arithmetic Failed the Gatbandhan

The NDA bagged 39 of the 40 LS seats in Bihar by stringing together several social components.

“Laloo's absence and infighting between two inheritors of his political legacy as spoiled the prospect.”

The grand alliance's drubbing at the hustings has been more severe than in 2014 when it could take at least seven of the 40 seats. The seat saw a three-cornered contest and RJD's Tanweer Hasan even lost his deposit. Such was the magnitude of defeat that the combined count of both the CPI and the RJD is less by a margin of two lakh votes from the BJP rival. Most of the NDA nominees won by an average margin of two lakh votes. An interesting fact about elections in Bihar is that NOTA votes accounted for third highest on 13 seats.

Laloo's Absence

But why did the MGB fail so miserably? Poll observers link the

failure primarily to RJD chief's absence from the poll arena and then to delay in reaching the seat adjustment and RJD's strategic ploy to accord priority to smaller allies such as RLSP, HAMS and

VIP over the nominees from the Congress in matters of seat allocation.

But even this alliance did not work properly. Says Vinit Rai, socio-political activist: Delay in seat

adjustment and rebel candidates of RJD and Congress who contested against the official nominees, be it in Madhubani, Jehanabad, Shivahar and Buxar, spoiled the prospects. Laloo's elder son Tej Pratap rebelled against his brother sending wrong message across the core constituency of Laloo's supporters. Even Tejaswi and Rahul Gandhi did not campaign together till the third phase of the election. Cracks were evident in the traditional Muslim-Yadav combination. “Tejaswi lacked his father's capability to effect vote-transfer among these two important social components”,

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Bengaluru: Mr. Sayeed Munawar has been elected General Secretary of the Hasanath Group of Institutions. Sayeed Munawar comes with immense experience as an educationist, having run the New Generation School (NGS) in Basavanagudi for four decades. He took charge as Honorary Secretary from April 11, 2019.

Hasanath Group of Institutions manages the Hasanath Degree College for Women on Dickenson Road in Cantonment area and Hasanath College for Co-ed in Hennur Bande area. Hasanath College for Women has completed 48 years. Currently, it has 1,250 students on its rolls and imparts education from PUC till degree stage. It introduced M.Com a few years ago. The Hasanath College at Hennur Bande under Kalyan Nagar came up around fifteen years ago on a two and half acre plot. A school, Focus International School, was also started by a group

of peoples recently in the same premises. It has a classes upto 8th standard.

Speaking to Islamic Voice, Sayeed Munawar said the Hasanath College for Women is likely to start a B.Sc Fashion Designing course from the new academic session. Inspection for the same has been completed.

Mr. Sayeed Munawar has been secretary of the New Generation School (NGS) in Basavanagudi for the last 38 years. The school has made a name for itself with excellent coaching and exceptional performance in board exams. It also has a PU college. NGS was the dream of late Abbasiya Begum Mecci



she was the founder, chair person of Al-Ameen Education Society and it's Group of Colleges in Bangalore. NGS was founded by Mrs. Kausar Sayeed & Sayeed Munawar in the year 1982-83, Daughter and Son-in-Law of Abbasiya Begum Mecci. Seven years ago, the NGS also set up the NGS Madrasa Ashrafal Banat, Arabic College for girls (Residential) on Kanakapura Road, Taalagatapura. The madrasa is funded by the NGS family and does not raise funds from the public.



ELECTIONS 2019

Page 5

Mulayam Sowed Confusion

even made a similar statement during the electioneering. Dharmendra Yadav had been elected during both 2009 and 2014.

Need to Introspect

Conflict between two of Mulayam's brothers spoiled prospects of Akshay Yadav from Ferozabad LS constituency. He was being opposed by his own uncle Shivpal Yadav, besides the the BJP candidate. The SP even lost Gorakhpur, Phulpur and Kairana seats despite the fact that its candidates had won these seats in by elections a year ago. All three candidates were refused renomination by the party. In fact, only these byelection victories made the three parties realize their combined strength. The SP even bungled ticket distribution this time. Several defeats are attributed to nomination of wrong and incapable candidates. Withdrawal of candidature of Puja Paul from Unnao and her replacement by Arun Shukla led to dissonance. Perhaps the SP will require immense introspection while analyzing the outcome and its defeat.

BSP better placed

In contrast to the SP's dismal performance, the BSP benefitted from the alliance immensely. In 2014, it had drawn a zero. But 2019 election has witnessed ten of its candidates emerging victorious. The RLD proved a reliable partner for the BSP which is evident from the wide range of constituencies the party could grab. The BSP MPs were elected from Saharanpur, Nagina, Bijnore, Amroha, Ghosi, Jaunpur, Ghazipur, Ambedkar Nagar, Shravasti, and Lalganj. Some amount of inner conflict

“ The BSP was more streamlined in comparison to the SP in its fight against the BJP. ”

damaged the BSP prospects from Agra, Fatehpur Sikri, Hathras, Aligarh etc.

Though Gujjar voters solidly backed the Gatbandhan, division was witnessed among Jat votes between the BJP and Gatbandhan. This resulted in RLD chief Ajeet Singh and his son Jayant Chowdhury losing the battle against the BJP from Muzaffarnagar and Baghpat respectively. The margin of defeat in both cases was extremely narrow.

Congress' Ouster

As for the Congress, a kind of arrogance led to the party's almost ouster from the map of Uttar Pradesh where only party supremo Sonia Gandhi could register her victory from Rae Bareilly. Congress candidates were runner-up from only three constituencies. Party organization in UP is now overloaded with leaders with no cadres on the ground. Rahul Gandhi lost his Amethi seat with a margin of over 55,000 votes against Smriti Irani of the BJP. He failed to keep touch with the constituency while Smriti Irani nurtured the electorate well. Generally Muslim voters supported the SP-BSP-RLD combine. Most of the eastern UP seats were won by the BJP with extremely thin margins as the Gatbandhan could not put its act together.



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Page 4

Empowering People With Skills and Knowledge

from a reputed Arabic college.

Till date, some 450 students have passed out from the centre. Presently, the centre has some 120 students. Around 70% of them are girls and women, and the rest boys. Students range from 16 years to 40 years, says Amina. Most students come from poor families. A few are SSLC pass, and some have received even less formal education.

Stepping into the centre, one is greeted with a very warm welcome. A batch of women is attending the tailoring class, which appears to be a big draw. In many families, only the husband is the bread earner, so it was thought that if the women could get tailoring skills, it would help the family and they could educate their children better. Some women who have done the course have started stitching clothes at home. A few are working in a boutique and are earning roughly around Rs. 10,000 to 20,000 per month.

Elaborating on the vision behind the centre, Amina says, "Knowledge is the key. Why give a fish and feed someone for one day when we can teach them fishing and enable them to feed themselves for life? Allah has given education a lot of importance. If we can spread

education for free, it will be counted in our good deeds because we are not taking a price for it in this world we may be rewarded for it in the Hereafter."

"The rich and the poor have equal rights over knowledge," Amina continues. "The underprivileged should not be deprived of knowledge because of lack of money. Seeking knowledge is an obligation on every Muslim. We believe we are just trying to make some Muslim's obligation a little easier by conducting free courses. We pray that Allah accepts our efforts."

Amina's and Mohammed Farooq's enthusiasm and dedication to the cause they and the other trustees of the Al-Aman Educational and Welfare Trust have taken up is palpable. If others would like to help out, they can do so in many different ways. For instance, they can understand the concept of spreading free education, help with the expenses of the centre and volunteer to teach there and donate sewing machines and computers, not only to the centre but to the beneficiaries as well.

(For more information, contact Mohammed Farooq on 9740125500, 9964908600 Email: mfarooq032@gmail.com) (Report by Dolcy and Nigar)



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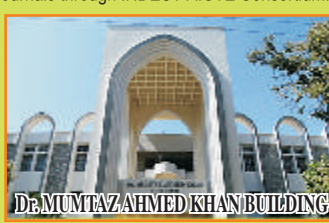
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Ghousia College of Engineering was started in the year 1980. The College is affiliated to Visvesvaraya Technological University, Belagavi and recognized by AICTE, New Delhi and Government of Karnataka. It is the No.1 Minority College in the State of Karnataka. The College is situated on an expanse of 35 acres of land, about 45 KMs from Bengaluru on the Bengaluru-Mysore Highway. The Library is housed in a separate building with a separate Issue, Reference and General Reading Room Sections with a sufficient collection of books and subscribed to the e-Journals through INDEST-AICTE Consortium.

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For further details contact:

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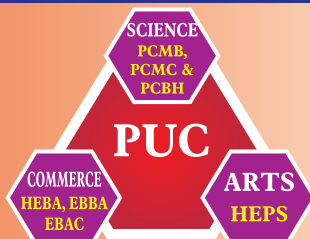


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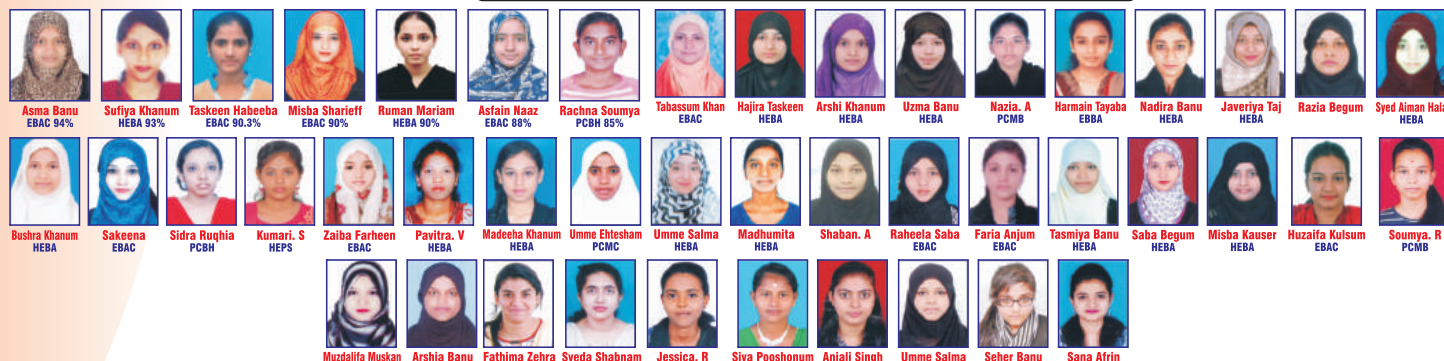
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The Verdict-2019 has powered BJP-led National Democratic Alliance (NDA) into the seat of power in Delhi for a second time. It is a resounding victory of the BJP and its allies for all those who were expecting that the BJP had reached its peak in 2014. But given the disarray in the ranks of the Opposition parties, it is not surprising. With the decimation of some of the major regional foes of the BJP though some others have benefitted in alliance with the saffron party the mandate signals a stable five-year rule by the NDA at the Centre.

Howsoever one may detest the BJP's ideology, one must reckon with the fact that the party has proved itself a firm fulcrum of power with smaller allies joining on margins and has reached the new peak with sustained hard work during the last few decades. The party has expanded its sway to wider areas across the states and threatens several regional bastions. Besides, there is no gainsaying that the party was cash-rich and had undiluted support from industrialists and business tycoons and was capable of shielding its pro-rich face under the religio-cultural mask that is gaining wider appeal.

Inconsequential

The BJP's most shocking victory has come from Uttar Pradesh, where the erstwhile social justice platform was sought to be presented as a substitute for the BJP, with the Samajwadi Party (SP), the Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) and the Rashtriya Lok Dal having stitched a formidable alliance. Efforts in the direction of converting it into legislative seats have come to naught. The party has impressively improved its tally from the southern state of Karnataka.

General Election-2019

A Resounding Mandate for NDA

A ragtag opposition was no match for the well-oiled machine of the BJP. Besides, it lacked a counter-narrative.

Discernible Arrogance

Even more surprisingly, the revival of BJP's fortunes in three states Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh should have a dumbfounding impact on the Congress, where the party failed miserably to consolidate its recent gains. The Congress victories in Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh were not emphatic and convincing and it needed votebanks of smaller allies to stay afloat. An element of arrogance was discernible in the way the Congress ignored overtures from SP and BSP in Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan and Aam Aadmi Party in Delhi. This was reason enough for the SP-BSP-RLD combine to keep the party away from the loop in Uttar Pradesh.

Refusal to Reinvent

The Congress will have to blame none other than itself for the second time rout in a row, although the tally has improved marginally from 47 in 2014 to 52 this time. One had expected that the party would provide space for new and young leaders in Rajasthan (in this case Sachin Pilot) and Madhya Pradesh (Jyotirindya Scindia) to emerge on the top. But by choosing oldies like Ashok Gehlot and Kamalnath, it proved itself to be a party of the old, the worn-out and the past. In Karnataka, too many power-hungry leaders have made the life a hell for Chief Minister Kumaraswamy and governance a mess with their statements on a day to day basis during the last one year. Refusal to show a give-and-take spirit with the Left parties in

BY
MAQBOOL AHMED SIRAJ

The Opposition alliances had no counter narrative against the BJP-led UPA's taunt of 'mahamilawati sarkar' and the promise of the stable government besides the cash-rich party cadre.

West Bengal undid the prospects of an alliance in West Bengal, where the twain could have vied for the major Opposition slot. Interestingly, most Congress seats 30 of the 52 now come from the four southern states. In the mainland states, the Congress has been reduced to a rump.

Nothing Left

The election result points to irreversible decline of the Left parties. Its erstwhile bastion, i.e., West Bengal, has returned none of the Left candidates. Kerala has sent just one CPI member. Ironically, it is Tamil Nadu from where four Left MPs (CPI 2 & CPM 2) have been elected as part of the alliance with the DMK. With election victory behind them, the NDA is all likely to plump for and pursue pro-business policies and savagery of

the capitalist lobby will grow fiercer. With the din over Mallaya, Choksi, Nirav Modi, Rafale Deal, farm crisis and jobless growth and countless cases of scams vanishing for some time, the new Government will feel emboldened in extending largesse to its corporate friends. Banking NPAs are set to grow as borrowers will turn defaulters with impunity. More chunks of forests are likely to go under the axe under one or the other excuse. Rivers will turn muddier and hills will get denuded with NGT closing its eyes from concessions allowed to lobbies practicing extractive economic

policies. As for the social harmony front, less said the better. One only wishes good sense prevails and the new Government in office opts for inclusive approach giving up its divisive policies.

As for the Opposition, it would need to develop a counter narrative and a pan Indian leadership if it has to capture the imagination against the BJP. The rag-tag picture it presented was no match for the well-oiled BJP machine which roared from the word 'go'.



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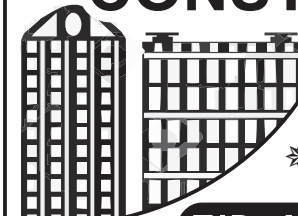
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Ten Key Pointers from the Verdict 2019

- The BJP's victory is shell-shocking for all those who hoped for its decline, but not surprising.
- Congress feared it would be reduced to a regional party if it gets into too many alliances across states. It finds itself in a worse plight with no seats from 14 mainland states.
- Indian National Congress fails to reinvent itself. It is clearly devoid of new and young leaders. Liberalist ethos of Congress fails to cast a spell even as Nehru-Gandhi dynasty is in danger of moving into oblivion.
- BJP has emerged as the chief opposition party in West Bengal and Odisha, two states where it had only nominal presence.
- Hindutva overwhelms the social justice narrative in two principal Hindi states, i.e., Uttar Pradesh and Bihar.
- Regional dynasties such as Mulayam-Akhilesh Yadavs' in UP, Gowdas' in Karnataka, Naidu's in Andhra Pradesh and Laloo Yadavs' in Bihar have been decimated completely. The incipient dynasty of KCR has come in for a shock in Telangana. How would Jaganmohan Reddy and his YSRCP would negotiate with the Centre remains an imponderable.
- Parties with standalone iconic leaders like Mamata's TMC, Mayawati's BSP and Mahbooba Mufti's PDP are now vulnerable.
- The BJP makes an impressive dent into Karnataka, which it had ruled just once.
- Split and power tussle in regional dynasties works to the benefit of the BJP. Look at Bihar.
- Marginal victories of Congress in Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh have been reversed with massive resurgence of the BJP. Sweeping victory in Chhattisgarh has been negated within six months.

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Hindus help Muslims Shift Puranigudam Minar in Assam

Nagaon: In a heart-warming gesture, locals, cutting across religious lines, have been tirelessly helping Muslims shift the 100-year old, two-storeyed minaret in Puranigudam area in Nagaon district after there was a fear of its demolition for the expansion of the National Highway (NH)-37 into a four lane highway from Nagaon to Upper Assam. In 2015, the National Highway Authority of India (NHAI), had proposed the expansion of NH-37; however, the heritage structure became a hurdle, so the authorities decided to demolish it. As soon as the locals heard the news, they approached the district administration with a memorandum to preserve the Minar. But, the NHAI and the public works department said that it was impossible to move it;



therefore, it had to be destroyed. Unabated, the locals decided to preserve their symbol of unity by any means possible. They started a crowdfunding initiative and came in contact with a Haryana-based engineering firm, RR Sons, that extended help to them. The engineer, Gurdeep Singh said, "We proposed a technique called lifting and shifting. We lift the

structure from its base using plate rollers and move it." He further added, "The base of the Minar has a perimeter of 42 feet, intricately designed. A few accidents have damaged it a little over the years. Now the Minar is being moved 70-feet away from the original site, engaging six labourers. The work is 60% done. In another 20 days we will be able to finish it." After four years of strenuous battle, the locals are finally relieved and feel secure.

Chittaranjan Borah, a resident of Puranigudam, who was one of the first persons to oppose the demolition, said, "It has been four years since we took the initiative to preserve the site. The Minar is a symbol of harmony in Nagaon. Through social media, a lot of people are now aware of it and help is coming in from all quarters."

(Extracted from sabrangindia.in)

Khudai Khidmatgar Opens Coaching Centre for Slum Kids

New Delhi: The Delhi Unit of Khudai Khidmatgar, with the Rahnuma Foundation, inaugurated the Justice Sachar Education and Training centre on Labour Day, 1st May in the Haji Colony slum of Okhla. Khudai Khidmatgar's Delhi unit is working with ragpickers, domestic workers, rickshaw pullers and construction labourers. The education and training centre was inaugurated by the Delhi Minorities Commission Chairperson Dr. Zafarul Islam Khan. The centre honours the memory of late Justice Rajendra Sachar, who did much



for the uplift and protection of the underprivileged sections of society. It will provide free coaching and counselling to the children of workers living in slum areas. Khudai Khidmatgar also organised an Iftar for domestic workers on 8th May,

(Based on inputs taken from twocircles.net)

Hyderabad Muslims Condemn Terror Attacks in Sri Lanka

Hyderabad: Hyderabad's St George's Church on April 28 saw a rather unusual guest addressing the 300-odd Christians assembled for the morning worship service. An Imam was speaking of peace, condemning the ghastly terror attack in Sri Lanka that killed more than 350 people, mostly Christians and international tourists in the island nation. As many churches in Hyderabad wore a gloomy look after the bomb attacks in Sri Lanka, Muslim clergy and scholars came together and spoke of religious harmony at various churches in the capital city of Telangana. During the worship service, Shaikh Mirza Yawar Baig, an Imam of Masjid Mahmood Habib



in Banjara Hills, along with other Muslim clergy and scholars, visited the church. With flowers for distribution, as a symbol of peace, and placards that read of spreading 'unity,' the group met the members of the church after the service. The pastor of the church invited the Imam to address the congregation. "God is one, whatever name you call or however way you worship. But as far as this world is concerned, we

are brothers and sisters to one and other," Baig, an alumnus of St George's Grammar School told the gathering.

Resident presbyter of St George's Church, M Prashanth Babu, said, "The Muslim scholars came in the morning and asked if they could meet

the members. But we invited them to speak. They were extremely sad with what happened in Sri Lanka and preached the message of peace."

The Muslim group was led by Mecca Masjid society vice-president Iqbal Jaweed, architect Khaja Asif Ahmed and members from the Students Islamic Organisation.

(Extracted from mattersindia.com)

Jamiat-e-Ulema Hind Supply Free Water in Rural Solapur



By Imran Inamdar
Solapur: The entire state of Maharashtra is facing drought like situation this summer. The condition in rural areas is the worst where people face hardships for water and they have to walk 5 km to get one pot/bucket of drinking water. In an attempt to

serve humanity, the local unit of Jamiat-e-Ulema Hind has started supplying free water to more than 100 villages of 6 Talukas in Solapur District through water tankers regularly. Unit head Moulana Ibrahim told Twocircles.net: "We are running this project under the guidance of our state unit and have planned to cover the entire district and provide drinking water to people in the rural area."

(Taken from twocircles.net)

National Seminar on Islamic Studies hosted by MANUU

Hyderabad: "Islamic Studies as a branch of Social Sciences can play a vital role in removing misconceptions and misunderstandings about Islam and Muslims," said eminent scholar Abdul Ali, former head of department of Islamic Studies, Aligarh Muslim University while delivering the keynote address at a national seminar held on "Islamic Studies: Concept, Present Scenario and Future," organised



by the Department of Islamic Studies, Maulana Azad National Urdu University (MANUU) here. Participants of the seminar paid homage to the victims of recent terror attacks in Sri Lanka.

Dr Mohammad Aslam Parvaiz, Vice-Chancellor of MANUU, in his presidential address, quoted extensively from the Quran, highlighting the parameters set by the holy book to lay the foundation of a society based on communal harmony and peaceful co-existence. Dr. Parvaiz asked the scholars to revise the syllabi of Islamic Studies and make provision for interface study with other branches of Social and Natural Sciences.

Hindu Family Donates Land for Muslim Burial Ground

North Lakhimpur: Breaking religious barriers and going an extra mile to strengthen the bond between two communities, a Hindu family from Lakhimpur district donated a piece of land for expansion of a Muslim burial ground. The family of late Karunakanta Bhuyan, which stays at Gorehaga village in North Lakhimpur, donated 0.84 acres to the Nahar Pukhuri Khabarstan (graveyard), which is located near the North Lakhimpur railway

station. Notably, the burial ground also shares its border with a Hindu crematorium ground. On May 4, the governing body of Nahar Pukhuri Khabarstan Committee organized a meeting where the family of Bhuyan donated the land. Later, they were felicitated for their great gesture. The Committee's chairman, Dr Hamidur Rahman chaired the meeting and expressed gratitude to all the people involved in this initiative.

HZCT & FEED

Rs. 127 Cr. Disbursed during 27 Years

Hyderabad: The Hyderabad Zakat & Charitable Trust (HZCT) and the Foundation for Educational & Economic Development (FEED) together disbursed Rs. 4.72 crore by way of scholarships and distributed food packets and Eid clothes to widows and orphans to the tune of Rs. 1.94 crore, supported 25,000 students in 106 schools with Rs. 1.43 crore, devoted Rs. 39 lakh for nurturing excellence through special measures by awarding Rs. 10,000 to 316 girls who topped in 10th grade Board exams in Telangana and Andhra Pradesh and allocated Rs. 23 lakh for digging borewells, relief and rehabilitation and

remarriage of young widows.

In its latest report made available to *Islamic Voice*, Chairman Ghiasuddin Babukhan states that the organisation has completed 27 years since it began its charitable work. During the period, the Trust and the Foundation together spent Rs. 123 crore to enhance the level of education and living standards of 13 lakh beneficiaries. It provided uniforms, Eid clothes and iftar food packets to 50,000 orphans and 166,000 children and their families.

Adding another feather to its crown, another Trust named as GBK Trust set up a Hyderabad

Institute of Excellence in Vikarabad. The students taught and trained till the 12th standard level have been cornering seats in renowned professional institutes such as the IITs, NITs etc. According to the report, so far four students have entered the Indian Institute of Information Technology and 20 in MBBS courses of various medical colleges. Eight have cracked the entry level test to enter NITs; eight students were able to get seats in Institute of Architecture and Planning in Delhi; 288 have made it to various engineering colleges; and 41 were able to enroll in distinguished universities.

English Diploma Certificates Conferred on Madrasa Graduates



Mumbai: The 18th convocation of Markazul Ma'arif Education and Research Centre (MMERC) was held in its campus in Mumbai on 27th April 2019. Madrasa graduates who completed their two-year 'Diploma in English Language and Literature' (DELL) course in MMERC, Mumbai were conferred Diploma certificates. In addition, some of the graduates were awarded with prizes for their

outstanding performances in academic as well as extra curricular activities. The chief guest of the programme, Maulana Badruddin Ajmal Qasmi, MP and founder of MMERC, congratulated the MMERC graduates. Maulana Muddassir Ahmad Qasmi, National Coordinator of DELL course and Asst. Editor of Eastern Crescent, said that this year 29 meritorious

madrasa graduates have completed their Diploma Course and out of them, 24 are given in-campus placements by MMERC in different institutions or organizations for teaching and preaching purposes and the remaining 5 will continue their education in universities in India and abroad.

(Extracted from twocircles.net)

Mysuru Jamaat Offers Solidarity with Christians

Mysuru: The Mysuru chapter of Jamaat-e-Islami Hind appealed to Muslims to stand outside a church here while Sunday service was underway to offer solidarity to Christians following the terror attacks in Sri Lanka that killed over 250 people. According to the President of JeIM, Mysore, Munawwar Pasha, the appeal had been made to convey the message that the Muslims and other communities stand by the Christians at this hour of grief. In an audio message, circulated through social media, Pasha said that when New Zealand had faced



a terror attack at a mosque, Muslims were overwhelmed with the amount of support received

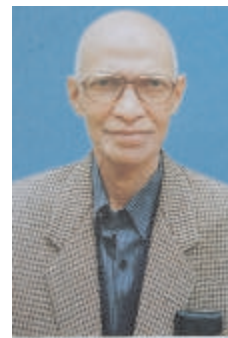
from various communities.

(Extracted from <http://muslimmirror.com>)

OBITUARY

M. A. Ataulla

Educationist Dr. M. A. Ataulla passed away in Bengaluru on April 27 after brief hospitalisation. He was 86. A noble soul, Ataulla sahib was a widely respected figure in Karnataka who served several institutions with distinction and a high degree of integrity. A very well-read person, he served the public sector undertaking Indian Telephone Industry (ITI) for over three decades as Personnel Manager with deep engagement with the vast workforce. He retired as General Manager of HRD and HRM. Following his retirement, he got associated with the Al - A meen



Educational Society as Director, Al-Ameen campus. Even as he served Al-Ameen, he would lecture and interact with students at Darul Umoor at Srirangapatnam, an institute set up by business tycoon Janab Ziaulla Sheriff for training madrasa graduates in contemporary sciences and humanities. A man of frugal habits, he wore integrity on his sleeves even while keeping company with bigwigs of corporate world and the academia. Ataulla sahib hailed from Mudigere and had his higher education in Mysore. He was a post graduate from Mysore

University and had the distinction of being an inmate of the Muslim Hostel at Mysore. He went on to acquire a PG diploma in Management Studies from the University of Leeds and visited Alcatel in Paris for an orientation. Ataulla sahib contributed several papers on human resource management and was on the governing and advisory board of several professional bodies. He authored the book titled *Dawati Tarbiyati Guide baraye Management wo Shakhsyat Saazi* (Training Guide for Management and Personality Building). It was published by Darul Umoor in 2004.

The book is one of its own kind in Urdu as it entwines modern psychology with Quranic insights. An ardent and voracious reader, any interaction with him would bring bucketloads of insights suffused with wisdom and references to latest books on diversity of subjects. This writer's frequent personal and telephonic interactions with him were often followed by delivery of a few books that he would have referred. He is survived by three erudite daughters, two of them journalists. His wife had passed away in 2009. He was buried in the Neelasandra graveyard the same evening. (Contributed by Maqbool Ahmed Siraj)

Arakkal Beevi

Head of erstwhile Arakkal Royal Family

Kannur; (Kerala): Sulthan Arakkal Adiraja Fathima Muthu Beevi, the 38th head of the erstwhile Arakkal royal family here, passed away at her residence in Chettumkundu near Thalassery. She was 86. She had assumed the title of Arakkal Beevi, following the death of her sister Sulthan Arakkal Adiraja Zainaba Aysha Beevi on July 1 last year.

Muthu Beevi, had been born as the eighth child of Alooppy Elaya and Arakkal Adiraja Mariyam on August 3, 1932, in the Arakkal Kettu, which is the ancestral house of the Arakkal royal family. She had done her schooling in the local school near the Arakkal Kettu. As head of the Arakkal house, the lone Muslim principality in the State that ruled parts of Kannur and the islands in Lakshadweep, she had been the ceremonial head of the establishments under the



erstwhile royal family. As the Arakkal family follows a matriarchal system of descent, it chooses the eldest member of the family as its head and ruler. Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan has condoled the death of the Arakkal Beevi. The body of the deceased was buried at the Odathil Mosque at Thalassery.

(Taken from thehindu.com)

Man Breaks Ramzan Fast to Donate Blood

By **Utpal Parashar**

Guwahati: Twenty-six year old Md. Panaulla Ahmed was resting after his 'sehri' (pre-dawn meal) on the second day of the month-long Ramadan fast, when he noticed his roommate Tapash Bhagawati was upset. An active member of Team Humanity, a group of voluntary blood donors, Tapash had got a call the previous night about a patient needing two units of O positive blood which the latter's family had tried hard to procure, but with no success. "I asked him what the problem was and immediately offered to donate my blood," said Ahmed, a ward boy at a private hospital in Guwahati. Tapash, who works as operation theatre technician at the same hospital, wasn't sure whether Ahmed could help since the latter was fasting for Ramadan and could weaken after donating blood. "I had got negative responses from many before Ahmed offered. I was happy, but didn't want him to break his fast. But he was adamant," said Tapash. The two friends rushed to another hospital in the city where



Ahmed (left) donated blood after breaking Ramzan fast. (HT Photo)

Ranjan Gogoi, a 50-year-old businessman from Dhemaji in upper Assam, was about to be operated for the removal of two tumours in his stomach. "I consulted some 'maulvis' who encouraged me to go ahead with my plan, but advised not to continue with the fast if I felt weak," said Ahmed, whose blood group is B positive. "I donated one unit of blood, which the hospital kept in their blood bank and they released a unit of O positive blood for the patient. Once I was done, I

had to break my fast and eat something," he added. Doctors removed both the tumours in Gogoi's stomach and will test them for cancer. "We are very thankful for Ahmed's gesture. I was very surprised to learn that he broke his 'roza' (fast) to donate blood. I was even more surprised when he refused to accept anything from us in return," said Gogoi's brother-in-law, Binod Baishya.

(Taken from www.hindustantimes.com)

CBSE Exam in Govt Schools

Urdu Medium Girl Tops in Delhi

New Delhi: Proving her mettle that she is second to none when it comes to studies, Sana, a girl from Urdu medium school of Old Delhi has emerged as a topper in 12th grade CBSE Delhi government schools exams. Sana scored 97.6 per cent marks in the Board examination and she is the fourth of her sisters to complete education from the same school. She is student of Sarvodaya Kanya Vidyalaya No. 2, Jama Masjid in Old Delhi. Hailing from an average family Sana managed to score high in her studies. She also had topped the exam by scoring 89% in 10th grade. Two years ago, Sana's elder sister, Umra, had topped the school in her 12th grade CBSE examinations. Her youngest and fifth sister is also studying in 9th grade in the same school. The 17-year-old Sana is the daughter of a cook at Matia Mahal's famed Al Jawahar restaurant. Her father and mother, a housewife, both stopped studying after 8th standard. And these four sisters are the first ones in the family to have completed 12th grade. She wants to pursue graduation from St. Stephen's College and become an IAS officer. Delhi Education Minister, Manish Sisodia spoke to Sana and two other toppers of the state's

government schools, which outperformed the national as well as city pass percentage. Gyan Kaur with 97 per cent marks was the second topper. She is from SKV, Ramesh Nagar. The third position was shared by two students. Nikita Dhaiya and Naman Gupta. Under the AAP Government, the Government schools in Delhi have shown tremendous improvement in standards of



Sana with her mother

coaching due to enhancement of infrastructure and strict monitoring of academic standards.

Maryam Raza Khan

Bihar Topper in Class XII

Patna: Maryam Raza Khan, a student of Notre Dame Academy (NDA), is the state topper in Class XII examination, results of which were announced by the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) recently. She has scored 489 marks out of 500. Maryam scored 100% marks in chemistry and informatics practices, 99 in mathematics and 95 in physics and English. Daughter of Tarique Raza Khan (director, ST Raza International School) and Shahina



Raza Khan (principal, Raza International Girl's School), Maryam wants to become an IAS officer.

Nader Mahmoud Kouja

The Quran Memoriser with One Lung



Listening to his full Quran recitation will leave you spell-bound. And when you come to know that the 21-year-old has only one lung, it will cement your belief that 'God manifests Himself in miracles'. Nader Mahmoud Kouja from Lebanon, knows the Quran completely by heart and recites it with amazing perfection despite his health challenges. Nader - which means 'rare' or 'one of a kind' - lives up to his name. He is bestowed with an exceptional talent and is humility personified. Ask him about his achievement and he quips: "I know it is a big challenge to finish this 'sacred mission' with not just one lung, but also respiratory issues, but to have the honour of memorising the words of Almighty Allah is one of a kind." "By memorising the holy Quran, one feels safer, more relaxed, and inspired," he says. "Your spirit, heart and mind

become more divine and closer to the great Creator." It makes one happy and satisfied in both life and beyond, he underlines. "The Quran has significantly sharpened my memory, boosted my academic performance, and won me people's respect."

Nader started learning the holy book at the age of 14 at a mosque where small classes were held on a daily basis. He finished memorising it three years later when he was 17, despite his health problems. Nader, who leads worshippers in prayers back home in Lebanon, studied Sharia or Islamic sciences in his hometown Tripoli. He wishes to continue his graduation in the same subject and "to be a competent scholar in the future". "I do believe in and adopt what Prophet Muhammad (Pbuh) said: 'The best of you is the one who learns the Quran."

JEE Main 2019

Rahmani 30 Students Excel



The students of Rahmani Program of Excellence, also known as Rahmani 30, have demonstrated their success at the JEE Main 2019 examination, the Patna based centre said. "131 out of the total 142 who appeared have succeeded in JEE Main April 2019 exam. This is a success percentage of 92%", the centre said. "Amazingly, all but one in the female engineering stream were successful", Rahmani 30 Patna office said. "This is an inspiring

performance, especially given that engineering is a less favoured stream for female students in our societal context", it added. Some of the students studying under Medical stream of Rahmani Program of Excellence have also passed the JEE main 2019 exam. "17 out of 22 boys from their Patna branch, and 3 out of 9 girls from their Aurangabad branch, who attempted this exam are successful", the centre said.

(Taken from ummid.com)

Riyadh Mosque Delivers Friday Sermon in English

Riyadh: Al-Maidani Mosque in Al-Wurud district in Riyadh welcomes the followers every Friday to pray, but here, there is something unique: The mosque delivers the sermon in English. Mohammed Abu Shaban, who delivers the sermon after the Friday prayer every week, told Arab News that expatriate worshippers asked for the translation for the benefit of non-Arabic speaking attendees.



"We started this translation over 10 years ago, it was organized in

cooperation with Imam Abdus Salam, who kindly arranged this session with the Ministry of Islamic Affairs, Dawah and Guidance, for our non-Arabic speakers," said Shaban. "At the beginning, we started with just the session in the mosque, then soon we launched our YouTube channel where we record the session, and then we broadcast it for our viewers. Anybody can search for our video."

Malaysian Mosque Offers Free Bikes for Kids

A mosque in Kelantan, Malaysia, promised free bikes for children who attend prayer all through the holy month of Ramadan, New Straits Times reported. "Those who show a full attendance for the Subuh, Maghrib and Isyak prayers will be given a bicycle," said senior Imam Ustaz Baharin Yusoff of Mahmudi Mosque, located in front of Pantai Irama, Kelantan. "Initially, they might come to the mosque for the sake of the free bike offer, but over time,



their interest to perform prayers will grow," he added. Yusoff said the initiative started last year to encourage young kids to attend at

least three of the daily five prayers. Last year, more than 100 children attended the program, but only 15 managed a full attendance for the three prayers. "Everyone can win a free bike if they fulfil the condition. This year, we are also rewarding the most active senior citizen who attends the most Tarawih prayers," he said, adding that the winners would be known on the 28th of Ramadan when the prizes are given away.

PEOPLE

Meena Mangle, Afghan Cultural Advisor Killed

Kabul: Mina Mangal, cultural advisor to Afghan Parliament and a former TV journalist was shot dead on May 10 by two unidentified gunmen close to her home in eastern parts of the city drawing widespread condemnation. Mangal was earlier associated with Ariana News.

There was no immediate word on the motive for the attack, but another Kabul police spokesman, Ferdous Farahmarz, suspected



family dispute to be the cause for

the killing. However, women in Afghanistan have been target of hardliners who equate their freedom as alien to status of women in Islam. Afghan female journalist Zalma Kharooty, demanded protection for women rather than appreciation of their work. Afghanistan ranks near the bottom of global indices on gender equality, with forced marriages, honour killings and domestic violence prevalent nationwide.

Munera Yousufuza Appointed as Deputy Defence Minister of Afghanistan



Munera Yousufuza, who was until recently serving as director of programs coordination on cultural,

political and social affairs in the Office of the Chief of Staff of the President of Afghanistan, has been appointed as Afghanistan's deputy defence minister. She has previously served as deputy governor of Kabul, spokesperson of the Independent Directorate of the Local Governance and some other senior governmental positions.

First Women Emirati Doctors Honoured

Dubai: The first two Emirati women doctors to have graduated from the Arab Board of Health Specialisations Dr Fayeza Ahmad Yousuf and Dr Aisha Al Shiba were honoured by Dr Mohammad Salim Al Olama, Undersecretary of the Ministry of Health and Prevention, recently. The two doctors, who specialise in ear, nose, throat, head and neck treatment with surgical and medical management, are considered the first batch of Emirati women doctors.

WOMEN'S VOICE

Tengku Maimun Tuan Mat

Malaysia's first female top Judge is 'Big Step' for Women's Justice.

Kuala Lumpur: Malaysia has appointed its first female top judge, leading to calls from human rights activists to reform the country's judiciary, and improve the low conviction rates for crimes against women. Widely seen as a progressive judge, Tengku Maimun Tuan Mat, an ethnic Muslim Malay woman, was unveiled as the country's next chief justice by the prime minister's office recently. There have been a rising number of female judges in Malaysia's top courts in recent years, but women's rights groups hoped her appointment would help tackle the low conviction rates in cases like rape and domestic violence. Latheefa Koya from Lawyers for Liberty, a non-profit of human rights lawyers, said the appointment was a "big step".

"It makes a difference when it comes to cases which involve the rights of women - rights at the workplace, marriage and divorce," said the executive director. "If you have gender balance in the judiciary, it only means there will be consideration and understanding from a woman's perspective," she added.

Malaysia's government, which came to power a year ago on promises of reforms, has pledged to improve its record on women rights. Women's rights groups however, have criticised the government for failing to fulfil an election promise to have at

"In cases such as divorce and domestic violence, Majidah said women sometimes have had to wait up to 10 years to get a court judgment granting a separation because of a 'lack of empathy' among male judges."

least a third of women in policy-making positions. Malaysia was ranked 101 out of 14 countries in the World Economic Forum's 2018 Gender Gap Index after scoring poorly on political empowerment.

(Extracted from news.trust.org)

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MONUMENTAL MEMORIALS

Times Asia University Rankings-2019

JMI Earns 188th Rank

New Delhi: Jamia Millia Islamia has been placed at 188th rank by the London Based Times Higher Education (THE) Asia University Rankings-2019. Last year it was ranked in the 201-250 category. This year, THE has ranked more than 400 universities, up from just 350 last year. These universities come from 27 countries/regions. THE has based its ranking on scores in five key parameters Citations, Industry Income, International Outlook, Research and Teaching. JMI has scored maximum points for its teaching, industry income and citation. It may be noted that earlier this month, JMI was ranked at 631 position worldwide by Moscow-based Round University Ranking(RUR) 2019, among 1100 universities assessed globally, improving its ranking from 747 last year. Vice Chancellor Najma Akhtar has commended the efforts of the members of the faculties and hoped the rankings would improve further in years ahead. Earlier this month, THE had released its first ever University Impact Rankings-2019 in which JMI was ranked 301+ worldwide and scored maximum points under Gender Equality, Quality Education and Good Health & Well being Sustainable Development Goals (SDG)



Ultra fast Quantum Thermometer developed at JMI

New Delhi: Researchers at Centre for Nano science and Nano technology, JMI have developed an ultra-sensitive quantum thermometer from Graphene Quantum Dots (GQDs) array. The thermometer has quick response time and can measure very minute changes in temperature. The thermometer, developed by a team of researchers led by the Director of the Centre Prof. S.S. Islam, has very high sensitivity and can register a change in temperature



from 27 degree C to -196 degree C in 300 milliseconds. The team also comprises Poonam Sehrawat and Abid. It shows extremely quick response time of just about 300 milliseconds to register a change

in temperature and it can return to its initial temperature value in as little as about 800 milliseconds. Results of the study have been published in the world famous journal Nanoscale Advances. The device can find widespread applications in cryogenic temperature sensing. It performs remarkably well even in high temperature window as well. The team is also working to explore other applications possibilities of this device in the field of thermo electricity and optical sensing.

National Science Academy

Two Jamia Dons Nominated Members

Dr. Tokeer Ahmad, Associate Professor at Department of Chemistry and Dr. Asimul Islam, Assistant Professor at Centre for Interdisciplinary Research in Basic Sciences, Jamia Millia Islamia (JMI) have been selected for the Membership of The National Academy of Sciences, India (NASI) for the year 2019. The National Academy of Sciences, established in 1930, is the oldest Science Academy in India. It is located in Allahabad, Uttar Pradesh. The main objective of the Academy is to provide a national forum for the publication of research work carried out by Indian Scientists and to provide opportunities for exchange of views among them. Being the oldest science Academy of the country, NASI has carved a niche in science popularization and promotional activities. In the recent past, the Academy gave outstanding performance with the active support of its Fellows and Members. Dr. Tokeer Ahmad did his masters in chemistry from IIT, Roorkee (2000) and Ph.D. from

IIT, Delhi (2006) in the thrust area of Nanotechnology. He has supervised eight PhD's, 54 post graduate students and currently supervising eight Ph.D. students. Dr. Ahmad has received eight research projects from Ministry for Human Resource Development (MHRD), Dept of Science & Technology, Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), University Grants Commission (UGC), Jamia Millia Islamia innovative programme and one international project from Saudi Arabia worth more than Rs. 30 million. Dr. Ahmad has published 102 research papers in peer-reviewed journals of international repute and authored a book on Principles of Nano science and Nanotechnology. Dr. Islam has published more than 110 research articles in internationally reputed peer reviewed journals having research citations of 1725 with 20 h-index and 63 i-10 index. His research was funded by various research grants from CSIR, SERB-DST, UGC and ICMR.

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institution in possible form to get the great compensation from Allah. ● The annual expenditure of an orphan student ● Having constructed the rooms or halls on the name of your ancestor ● The different ways of co-operation are ● Zakat ● Donation ● Sadquat ● Ushra (Zakat of Agriculture production) ● CHIRM-E-QURBANI or its price etc



- Remember:** 1. Donate the Bank Interest which is illegal for the Muslims, to orphan fund to eradicate illiteracy of the poor and orphan boys and to spread education. 2. A quality education in peaceful environment open space, Islamic dress and Islamic Uniform based on the syllabus of Bihar School Examination Board. 3. All facilities with food and lodging are provided free to the orphan boys just like a son whose father has died. 4. Hostel facility is also available for the external students at their own expenses. 5. Here audit is performed every year. Come and see yourself in the Institution, the great example of uniformity how the orphan and non orphan students live together.

NOTE: ENAYETH (I.T.I) INDUSTRIAL TRAINING INSTITUTE Approved by N.C.V.T (Government of India):- The Electrician Trade for session of 2018-20 is going on Admission for the session (2019-21) has been started for the trade of electrician and fitter.

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● **NOTE:** See the documentary film NAZR-E-ENAYAT on the Internet "YOUTUBE" in which there is a brief history of both orphanages

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◀ Page 6

Caste Arithmetic Failed the Gatbandhan

says social scientist D. M. Diwakar.

Poor Connect

Congress also performed clumsily. According to poll watcher Gopal Sharma, weak organisational structure and over-dependence on 'imports' led to the disaster. Some of the imported nominees such as Shatrughan Sinha, Neelam Devi and former BJP MP, Uday Singh fielded by the Congress, failed to connect with the workers who remained indifferent.

Multiplier Effect

Interestingly, even in terms of social components that the BJP, the JDU and the LJP (led by Ramvilas Paswan) represented, the NDA harvested better dividends than the Gatbandhan. They had together taken 30% votes in 2014. But this time round, their combined tally of votes soared to 52.30%. Their coming together had a multiplier effect. In 2014, JDU had contested alone and had to be content with victory on two seats. Having moved to the NDA side, the BJP and LJP sacrificed five seats to accommodate Nitish's party. Thus, while the BJP and JDU were assigned 17 seats each, the LJP was given six seats. While the BJP brought uppercaste votes, the JDU with deep penetration among

“The NDA was better funded and could muster media support easily.”

extremely backward classes (EBCs), boosted the prospects. The LJP further enhanced the prospects with its Dalit component.

No Counter Narrative

Along with the caste arithmetic, the strong organisational structure and assiduously built electoral machinery over the years, played a decisive role in NDA's favour. Says educational activist Gajendrakant, with the help of its giant election machinery, monopoly over media and digital platforms and money power, the BJP was able to sell and send its narrative to the voters more effectively. The narrative was centred around development and nationalism, the latter carrying a communal connotation.

Caste turning into Class

Gajendrakant goes on to say that the parties in opposition, despite their rich political experience, were not able to create a their

counter-narrative against the BJP. It is buttressed by Ghalib Khan who travelled extensively during the elections, says the fight was almost one-sided. “The NDA was much ahead of the Gatbandhan. He says, the political weight of the neo-rich rural class has increased considerably in recent years and it is they who control and direct the electoral behaviour of the poor who work on their farms. “It is entirely new phenomenon which cannot be understood through coloured glasses of caste. In my view, it is the victory of the new capital,” he asserts.

Future Imperfect

What does this success mean to Bihar? Will the new NDA Government respond to Nitish Kumar's old demand of special status to Bihar? Incidentally in the last phases of elections Nitish started raising the issue of special status. The questions now uppermost in minds are: How the Parliamentary elections will impact the prospects of 2020 Assembly elections? Will the Grand alliance partners remain within the RJD fold till then? Will Bihar Assembly elections be fought with the same combination or a new set of equations will emerge?

Jewish Americans most favourable towards Muslims: Report

Islamophobia in the United States is not rooted in a clash of religious beliefs but is driven by politics, according to a survey focusing on Muslim Americans.



The survey, conducted by the Institute for Social Policy and Understanding (ISPU), noted that anti-Muslim sentiment is influenced by a host of factors, including personal and national politics and how much a person knows about Islam, but is not due to their religious affiliation. It found that Americans who personally know a Muslim are more than twice as likely to have a positive opinion of Muslims compared to those who do not. However, the ISPU's Islamophobia Index rose from 24 in 2018 to 28 in 2019, indicating that Muslims remain the most likely group to face discrimination for their religion.

The index is a measure of the level of public endorsement of five negative stereotypes associated with Muslims in America – that most Muslims living in the U.S. are more prone to violence than others, that they discriminate against women, that they are hostile to the U.S., that they are less civilized than other people, and that they are partially responsible for acts of violence carried out by other Muslims. According to the ISPU's data, the Jewish community scored the lowest on the index at 18 while white evangelicals scored the highest at 35.

A total of 2,376 Americans, including 804 Muslims and 360 Jews, were polled during the survey, which was conducted in January.

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NOTE: See the documentary film NAZR-E-ENAYAT on the Internet "YOUTUBE" in which there is a brief history of Girls and Boys orphanages

New Delhi: The number of Muslim Members in the Lok Sabha has gone up a bit, with 27 of them being elected from various states. The previous house had 23. But the National Democratic Alliance which will rule the nation for the next five years has just one Muslim MP, Mahboob Ali Kaiser, who won from Khagaria in Bihar. He has been elected on the ticket of LJP, an NDA ally. The BJP had fielded six Muslims, three each in Jammu & Kashmir and West Bengal. All of them were defeated.

Two Muslims have emerged victorious from unlikely places i.e., Mohammed Sadiq in Faridkot in Punjab, and Imtiaz Jaleel Syed, a former journalist and a sitting MLA in Maharashtra Assembly, from Aurangabad. Punjab has never elected an MP earlier. The state has less than 4% Muslims, most of them concentrated in Malerkotla town.

The Trinamool Congress Party takes the credit for sending the largest number of Muslims i.e., five, to the Lok Sabha. They are 1: Aparupa Poddar from Arambagh who has taken the name Afrin Ali after embracing Islam upon marriage, 2: Nusrat Jahan Ruhi, Bengali actress from Basirhat; 3: Khaleelur Rahman from Jangipur; 4: Abu Taher Khan from Murshidabad; 5: Sajda Ahmed from Uluberia, who retained her seat. Besides, Abu Hasem Khan

Muslim Representation Slightly Up

The new Lok Sabha will have 27 Muslim MPs. The previous house had 23

Chowdhury of Congress also retained his seat from Maldaha South. A prominent loser this time is Benazir Mausam Noor who changed her party from Congress to TMC before elections and lost.

Six from SP-BSP

Six Muslims, three each from Samajwadi Party (SP) and Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP), have made it to Parliament this time. Those who won on the SP ticket are: Afzal Ansari from Ghazipur; Fazalur Rahman from Saharanpur and Danish Ali in Amroha. Registering victory on BSP ticket are: Azam Khan, the veteran SP leader from Rampur; Shafique Rahman Barq from Sambhal; and, S. T. Hasan from Moradabad. Azam Khan defeated film actress Jaya Prada who had joined the BJP a month before the elections. Danish Ali was General Secretary of the Samajwadi Party at all-Indian level and resigned the party before election. He joined the BSP with the blessings of JDS supremo H. D. Devegowda.

Three from IUML

The Indian Union Muslim League will have three representatives in the Lok Sabha during this tenure.

They are : Kunhalikutty from Malappuram; E. T. Mohammed Basheer from Ponnani; and, Navas Ghani from Ramanathapuram in Tamil Nadu. IUML was part of the DMK-led front in Tamil Nadu. However, there is one more Muslim, A. N. Ariff from Kerala (from Alappzha) who won the seat on CPI(M) ticket. He is the lone LDF candidate to win from Kerala.

NCP from Lakshadweep

Mohammed Faizal P. P. of Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) won the seat for a second time from Lakshadweep islands, a constituency off the Kerala coast. The constituency has only around 50,000 voters. It is reserved for the Scheduled Tribes (ST). Nearly 99% of the population consists of Muslims and are categorized under STs.

MIM count goes up

Barrister Asaduddin Owaisi of the All India Majlise Ittihadul Muslimen (AIMIM) has won the Lok Sabha election for the fourth time in a row from the traditional Hyderabad seat. The party's strength goes up to two for the first time in Lok Sabha with Imtiaz

Jaleel joining him from Aurangabad.

J&K has Three

Jammu and Kashmir, a Muslim majority state in India, has elected three Muslim MPs on the National Conference (NC) ticket. They are Hasnain Masoodi from Anantnag; Farooq Abdullah from Srinagar and Mohammed Akbar Lone from

Baramulla.

Congress will have four Muslim faces in the new Lok Sabha. Mohammed Jawed has bagged the Kishanganj seat from Bihar. Another Congress Muslim nominee Abdul Khaleque won from Barpeta in Assam. Two other Muslims winning on Congress ticket are Abu Hasem Chowdhury from West Bengal and Md. Sadique from Faridkot in Punjab. Besides them all, Mr. Badruddin Ajmal of All India United Democratic Front (AIUDF) has retained his Dhubri seat in Assam. During the last tenure, the party had three MPs.

Seminar on Muslim Education

Bhatkal: The Anjuman Hami e Muslimeen here will organize a two-day seminar on challenges before Muslim minority educational institutions and their solutions on August 10-11, 2019. It will be part of its centenary celebrations, which were kicked off earlier this year. The seminar will discuss issues such as Challenges of Management of Muslim Minority Educational Institutions and their possible solutions; Improving quality of education in Muslim educational institutions and infusion of new ideas and concepts; Use of new digital technology and electronic media in improving education; Skill development part of education; and Compliance with various Government regulations in establishing and running educational institutions and availing of various facilities for promotion of education among the minorities. Those who wish to contribute papers or participate in the deliberations can contact **Abdur Raheem Jukaku**, General Secretary, Anjuman Hami e Muslimeen, email: arjukaku@hotmail.com, Ph: 99003-26654.

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Electoral Analysis : Karnataka

Cong-JDS Alliance: Flop Show

An acrimonious alliance between the Congress and the Janata Dal Secular proved to be its undoing in the LS poll.

The exit poll results for the 28 Lok Sabha seats in Karnataka turned out to be conservative for the BJP. On the evening of May 19 when Exit Poll predicted 21 out of the 28 seats for the BJP in the State, many in the State thought the pollsters were biased in favour of the party. But final results i.e., 25 for the BJP and three for others have proved that the pollsters were only modest in conceding a super slice of seats to the ruling combine.

“The coalition allies, the Congress and the Janata Dal Secular could not transfer each other's votes to the candidates.”

As could be seen, the BJP bagged 25 out of 28 seats from the State. Besides, independent candidate Sumalatha, film actress and wife of former Congress MP from Mandya constituency, too emerged victorious with the support of the BJP. The rival against her who kissed the dust was Nikhil, son of chief minister H. D. Kumaraswamy. The Congress totally misread the undercurrents and could not resist its ally Janata Dal Secular's bid to make the most of the situation to consolidate the Gowda dynasty into power. Besides his two grandsons, JDS supremo and former Prime Minister H. D. Devegowda were fielded in the election. The lone seat coming the JDS way is Hassan where one of the two grandsons, registered his victory. Even Devegowda was defeated from Tumkur. The poll outcome has shown that Congress paid a price for the overbearing stance of the JDS.

Grim Birthday

The clean sweep by the BJP in Lok Sabha election came exactly on the first birth anniversary of the Kumaraswamy-led Government was sworn in State last year. The Congress and the JDS had separately fought against the BJP last year. The BJP emerged the

largest party with 104 out of the 224 seats. But the



Congress and the JDS forged a quick alliance immediately afterwards to put up a coalition Government in the saddle. The ride has been rough since the beginning and only the fear of decimation at the hands of the BJP kept it going.

No Transfer of Votes

The BJP which went into the campaign with a sense of vengeance for having been denied power last year, improved its tally of votes from 36.3% in 2018 Assembly election to 51% this time. The Congress with nearly 32% and the Janata Dal with around 10% fared poorly. It seems the two allies could not transfer their votes in most constituencies. They believed in arithmetic but could not ensure chemistry between their cadres. Having fought like bitter enemies only a year ago, there were reports of their block and district level leaders rebelling against the party's command to work for the rival party's candidate. Congress had to issue ultimatums to rebels and renegades. But in each case, the beneficiary was the BJP as rebels turned to it out of vengeance against their own party.

As we had reported earlier, the Karnataka has been the most hospitable terrain in Southern India for the BJP. While the party could not open its account in

Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh, it proved the pollsters totally wrong as far as the state was concerned. The Congress and JDS could manage just one seat each i.e., Bangalore Rural and Hassan respectively for themselves. Mandya where Sumalatha won with the BJP support could be counted as the BJP's by default.

Impressive Garbage

Besides former Prime Minister Devegowda, the electoral garbage heap has worthies such as former chief minister Veerappa Moily, Opposition leader in the previous Lok Sabha Mallikarjuna Kharge (the Congress leader who had never tasted a defeat during his 11 encounters), K. H. Muniyappa from Kolar and several others. The only Muslim candidate Mr.

“The mutual acrimony between the allies dented the image of the government thereby lending advantage to the BJP.”

Rizwan Arshad tasted the defeat for a second time at the hands of BJP's P. C. Mohan. In between the two was film actor Prakash Raj who could muster only around 28 thousand votes. The winning margin for Mohan was over 70 thousand votes.

Acrimonious

As it seems now, the Congress-JDS coalition government will find it tough to continue their hold on power. It could avert a fall several times during the last one year. The arrangement with Congress having over twice the MLAs than the JDS, has been the cause of heartburn for several ambitious Congress MLAs who have been denied berth in the cabinet. There were umpteen issues between them and the electoral defeat has turned the future even more grim. Considerable portions of their traditional voters have shifted their loyalty to the BJP. The two

OPINION

Mask of Lateral Entry

The Union Govt takes the early steps to undo the reservation system and fill up the civil services with ideological fans and favourites.

The drastic decrease in the intake of cadre from the Union

BY
MAQBOOL AHMED SIRAJ

will throttle their prospects at the entry point.

There could be opponents of this hypothesis. But one needs to look for other sources from where the Modi Government would be harvesting the minds and hands it needs to run the administration. Even before bringing down the intake, the Government had made it plain that it would allow for lateral entry of individuals with competence and expertise from the private sector. It is something akin to the capitalist United States which neither has a reservation system in place, nor a past of historical suppression of the underprivileged communities. This clearly spills the beans. The kind of people who predominantly man the private sector's industry and services are those who belong to uppercaste sections. Naturally, the ones going to be drawn from the private sector will have their origin from the privileged communities. Thus while the intake of the SCs, STs and the OBCs will be effectively checked, the Union Government would fill up the cadres with individuals who have not experienced the historical prejudices and will not be expected to be sensitive to the issues of justice, equity and fairness. One could see through the game the saffron parivar is upto while having anointed Mr. Narendra Modi as the Prime Minister of the country who does not tire of claiming himself to be from the OBCs as could be seen during electioneering in Uttar Pradesh.

It is not difficult to understand the reason why the BJP-led NDA government has opted for this drastic decrease of the brightest youth who clear the stringent criteria to be placed in the most important positions of administration. Civil Services cadres are known as steel frame of India as they man the services from where emerge the most crucial decisions. The RSS-BJP's discomfort from such selection has always been known as these men and women are selected after a process where their intelligence quotient, wisdom, analytical competence and decision-making is tested thoroughly. This is simply anathema to groups which are deeply immersed in antiquated ideologies and look for adherents rather than reason-based thinking individuals. They could be stumbling blocks for parties whose initiatives are dipped deep into an ideology that does not see all people as equal before the law and are committed to demands of justice.

With nearly 50 per cent of the civil services jobs being reserved for the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and the Other Backward Communities (OBCs), the BJP and the Sangh Parivar do not see their design of undoing the social justice platform which has gathered a host of communities who have been historically been treated unfairly. It is perhaps in this context that the NDA Government has gone for cutting down the numbers which

allies have been exchanging angry volleys since the formation of the Government. Several have even raised the banner of revolt. However, they are holding their guns knowing full well that mutual acrimony would only benefit the BJP which has eroded the ground from under their feet.



Cardinal Bo calls for Communal Harmony among Lankan Minorities

Yangon: In the aftermath of the horrific Easter Sunday multiple bomb blasts by Islamist terrorists on 3 churches and 3 luxury hotels in Sri Lanka claiming lives of over 250 people including 50 foreigners and injuring hundreds, the Churches were closed for services. Lankan Cardinal Malcolm Ranjith has now called for Churches to re-open for Sunday services from 5th May 2019. In the context of retaliation from

some Christian groups targeting innocent Muslims, the Federation of Asian Bishops Conference president Cardinal Charles Maung Bo of Myanmar wrote on 3rd May saying, "I condemn unequivocally the horrific unprovoked suicide bomb attacks against unarmed civilians in churches and hotels on Easter Sunday, April 21, 2019 in Sri Lanka." The 71 year old cardinal further condemned the trend of

retaliation by some Christian groups saying, "The Church is deeply concerned by reports of revenge and the targeting of Muslim residents, refugees and asylum seekers in Sri Lanka. Many have fled persecution in their own lands, and are now being targeted again. Almost 900 have been reported to have been at risk of reprisal, 150 of these were forced to seek shelter in police stations." (mattersindia.com)

British Mosques Go Green in Ramadan

This Ramadan, mosques across Britain banned the use of plastics during the holy month to promote a more environmentally friendly month of fasting. "It was estimated that our mosque distributes an average of 800 to 1,000 bottles every evening in Ramadan, which generates a shocking amount of plastic waste," informed a spokesperson of Green Lane Mosque in

Birmingham which decided to announce a plastic ban for this year's Ramadan. It is estimated that the UK uses 13 billion plastic bottles a year, 7.7 billion of which are water bottles. As a result, many British mosques have implemented the eco-friendly iftar campaign this year, where Muslims break their fast, by distributing reusable cutlery and water bottles. With this in mind,

Green Lane Mosque decided not to issue plastic water bottles to their congregation. Instead, it decided to purchase reusable bottles that could be sold at a subsidized cost to the congregation and also installed water fountains to act as filling stations. The Muslim Council of Britain (MCB) encouraged more mosques and Muslims to join the campaign.

Bosnia Herzegovina

Local Muslim Youth Clean up Jewish Cemetery

Young people from the Youth Network of the local Muslim community, led by local Imams, have organized a clean-up of the Jewish cemetery in Tuzla, Bosnia Herzegovina. An article on Tuzlanski.ba said the action was taking place on April 28, on the

occasion of the Day of the Mosque. It described the initiative as a "beautiful and socially-beneficial action." The cemetery was founded in the late 19th century and is located in the district of Boric. According to the Institute for the Protection and

Use of the Cultural, Historical and Natural Heritage of Tuzla Canton, the cemetery covers 2,760 square meters and has around 161 tombs. There is a tiny Jewish community in Tuzla that still uses the cemetery.

Khalsa Aid Gifts Quran to Iraqi Refugee Camp

As Muslims around the world celebrated the holy month of Ramzan, the Sikh charitable group Khalsa Aid is earning praise for a touching gesture. The UK-based philanthropic group recently gifted copies of the holy Quran to people living in a refugee camp in Iraq. The Sikh group has

made headlines in the past for helping refugees in the Middle-East and Europe by providing them with essential supplies, and also making festivals special for them. In Iraq, the group presented five copies of the holy book to the camp's manager near Mosul. The volunteers were distributing food

packs for iftar to the camp's residents when the manager asked if they could arrange for the Quran. The group's volunteers obliged and a video of the moment when it was handed over is going viral. Many on social media lauded Khalsa Aid for their act of kindness.

London's St Paul's Cathedral Hosts First Ramzan Iftar

The Naz Legacy Foundation hosted the first ever iftar at St Paul's Cathedral in London on May 7, bringing together British Muslim and non-Muslim leaders. The interfaith iftar offered attendants a platform to interact, communicate, and exchange ideas and a Ramzan iftar meal. Sadiq Khan, the British Muslim Mayor



of London shared his excitement

on Twitter writing, "History made! @StPaulsLondon hosts its first ever #Iftar. Real honour to be part of such a special evening breaking my fast with Londoners of all faiths and backgrounds. Together we sent the message loud and clear: London's diversity is our greatest strength. #Ramadan."

Top Catholic Body Wishes Muslims on Ramzan and for Eid

Pontifical Council for Interreligious Dialogue
Christians and Muslims: Promoting Universal Fraternity
Message for the month of Ramadan and Id ul-fitr
Vatican City

Dear Muslim Brothers and Sisters,

The month of Ramadan with its dedication to fasting, prayer and almsgiving, is also a month for strengthening the spiritual bonds we share in Muslim-Christian friendship. I am pleased, therefore, to take this opportunity to wish you a peaceful and fruitful celebration of Ramadan. Our religions invite us to "remain rooted in the values of peace; to defend the values of mutual understanding, human fraternity and harmonious coexistence; to re-establish wisdom, justice and love" (cf. Human Fraternity for World Peace and Living Together, Abu Dhabi, 4 February 2019).

We Muslims and Christians are called to open ourselves to others, knowing and recognizing them as brothers and sisters. In this way, we can tear down walls raised out of fear and ignorance and seek together to build bridges of friendship that are fundamental for the good of all humanity. We thus cultivate in our families and in our political, civil and religious institutions, a new way of life where violence is rejected, and the human person respected.

We are encouraged, therefore, to continue advancing the culture of dialogue as a means of cooperation and as a method of growing in knowledge of one another. In this context, I recall that Pope Francis, during his visit to Cairo, highlighted three fundamental guidelines for pursuing dialogue and knowledge among people of different religions: "the duty of identity, the courage of otherness and the sincerity of intentions" (Address to the participants in the International Conference for Peace, Al-Azhar Conference Center, Cairo, 28 April 2017).

In order to respect diversity, dialogue must seek to promote every person's right to life, to physical integrity, and to fundamental freedoms, such as freedom of conscience, of thought, of expression and of religion. This includes the freedom to live according to one's beliefs in both the private and public spheres. In this way, Christians and Muslims – as brothers and sisters – can work together for the common good.

It is my wish that the gesture and message of fraternity will find an echo in the hearts of all those holding positions of authority in the areas of social and civil life of the whole human family, and may lead all of us to put into practice not merely an attitude of tolerance but true and peaceful living together.

With heartfelt fraternal greetings, renewed esteem for our friendship, and in the name of the Pontifical Council for Interreligious Dialogue, I convey sincere best wishes for a fruitful month of Ramadan and a joyous 'Id al-Fitr.

Miguel Ángel Ayuso Guixot, M.C.C.J.
Secretary

Muslim Refugees Feel Safer in Non-Muslim Countries

Putrajaya: Malaysia's Prime Minister, Dr Mahathir Mohamad, has expressed disappointment with Muslim countries which, he argued, have "failed," as Muslim refugees now feel safer seeking asylum in non-Muslim countries. "I feel sad looking at Muslims (abroad). Muslim countries have failed and they (their citizens) have to save themselves by going to non-Muslim countries. They should actually go to other Muslim countries. But most of the Muslim countries are not safe and are not willing to accept refugees," he said at a breaking of fast event

organised by the Malaysian Islamic Welfare Association. Mahathir said millions of refugees had migrated to European countries in their search for safety and protection. "This is not because of Islam as a religion itself, but because the Muslims push aside the teachings of Islam, even though they often preach in God's name," he said. He said people in many Muslim countries face occurrences that are "against Islam". "A lot of governments also oppress their citizens. Even though they are Muslim, they do not abide by the religious teachings," he said.

Muhammad Dilshad

Kerala 's Success Story

Bihar migrant boy is board exam star, in Malayalam medium

By Vishnu Varma

Bhutto Sajid, 41, is an 'angoothachaap' (illiterate). Born into a poor peasant family in Bihar's Darbhanga, Sajid's family didn't have the financial means to send him to school. Doing odd jobs, first in his village and then later in Delhi, Sajid was among the first wave of migrant workers in 1999 travelling thousands of miles to Kerala, a state grappling with a shortage of labour after its own people left in droves looking for jobs in Gulf countries.

In the past two decades, Sajid has made Kerala home, working in a small shoe factory in the industrial area of Edayar in Ernakulam district and living with his wife and five kids.

If the lack of education suppressed Sajid's dreams in life, on a Sunday, in a bittersweet moment for him, his eldest child, Muhammad Dilshad, made him and his family proud by topping from his Malayalam-medium government school in the Class X Board examinations and securing A+ grade in all subjects.

"Hum gareeb the, nahi padh paye. But mera beta mera sar unchakardiya (We were poor so couldn't study. But my son has made me proud)," Sajid said. Ever since the news of the results filtered in, Sajid, his wife Abida and the teachers at the Binanipuram Government High School have been flooded with congratulatory calls from government quarters and the media.

Sudi TS, the mathematics teacher at the school who took a special interest in Dilshad's studies, said he is more happy with his student's performance than his own son who also appeared for the board examinations this year.

"I used to tease my son by telling him that Dilshad would score better than him. That would get him jolted and serious about studying," Sudhi said.

"In fact, I had the opportunity of a transfer to another school here two years back. I have an asthma condition and this is an industrial area. But I stayed on just to help him (Dilshad) out. I wanted to see him do well in the exams because he has a bright future ahead," he said, adding that he would often fix special classes at 6 am in the morning for Dilshad's batch.

The six-decade-old government school, located in an industrial belt on the fringes of Kochi where a large section of inter-state workers are employed, receives a sizeable number of applications of children of such workers into all grades. In Dilshad's class of 12



Bhutto Sajid (right) with his son Dilshad. (Express photo: Vishnu Varma)

“ Having lost two years in the midst of shifting homes between Bihar and Kerala, Dilshad was admitted to Class 1 by his parents at the Binanipuram school. ”

students who wrote the board examinations this year, four of them, including him, hail from northern states.

But, the primary hurdle for such students in excelling at studies has been the medium of instruction. Most subjects, with the exception of English and Hindi, are taught in Malayalam at schools like these, which end up making the learning process arduous.

The Roshni Project

To solve this particular problem, the Ernakulam district administration flagged off the 'Roshni' project two years ago through which schools with a large concentration of migrant students were identified. The project, a brainchild of Ernakulam district collector Mohammed Y Safirulla, involves an extra hour of language proficiency class in the morning before regular classes begin.

Teachers under 'Roshni' have been trained to use code-switching methodology to help students, from classes I to VII, in familiarising with the Malayalam language. To attract more students to the programme, a round of nutritious breakfast is offered at the school as an incentive.

The project, aimed at slashing the drop-out rate among migrant students in government schools and help them communicate better with their Malayali counterparts, has been a roaring success. With the help of CSR funds, the project was extended

last year to nearly 20 schools in the district covering 750 students. Kerala is home to nearly 25 lakh inter-state workers who fill the labour vacuum here by working in shopping malls, restaurants, construction sites, plywood factories and garment workshops. Having lost two years in the midst of shifting homes between Bihar and Kerala, Dilshad was admitted to Class 1 by his parents at the Binanipuram school. At a time when there were no incentive-based, add-on government initiatives like 'Roshni', Dilshad's first couple of years at the school were particularly hard. A reticent student, he had a tough time interacting with his classmates and often stayed aloof, his teachers reminisced.

But today, Dilshad says, "Malayalam comes much more naturally to me than Hindi. Kerala is a nice place and I have good friends here."

When he thinks of his native village in Bihar and the state of schools there, he counts himself lucky to be in Kerala.

"Back in Bihar, the only school in our village is very far from home. There are no buses and you have to walk a lot. Secondly, there are no desks and benches. I have seen students carrying sacks from home and sitting on them during classes," said Dilshad.

Fortunately in the case of Dilshad, his mother Abida always took a special interest in his studies, Sudhi said.

"She would attend all the parent-teacher meetings and would regularly call me for updates on his studies. It was somehow very important to her that he does well in the board exams," said Sudhi.

In fact, in the run up to the examination, Abida tested positive for uterine cancer, which she hid from Dilshad in fear of breaking his focus. Even today, he is not privy to her condition though he knows she's not well. Taking into account the family's



Muhammad Dilshad with his Mathematics teacher Sudhi TS at the school. (Express photo/Vishnu Varma)

“ Fortunately in the case of Dilshad, his mother Abida always took a special interest in his studies, Sudhi said. “She would attend all the parent-teacher meetings and would regularly call me for updates on his studies. It was somehow very important to her that he does well in the board exams,” said Sudhi. ”

financial state, the teachers at the school attempted a crowd-funding measure to help out with her treatment but it has not been enough.

"We are in touch with the district administration to see if it can finance her treatment. Dilshad is a

bright child and he understands the poverty in his family. His father doesn't earn enough to feed five kids. So it's critical that Dilshad studies further and does well in life," the teacher said.

(Extracted from The New Indian Express)

UPDATES

RSS to Set up Madrassa

Dehradun:

The Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) will start a madrassa in Delhi region in Haridwar district of Uttarakhand. Ms. Seema Javed, the head of the Muslim Rashtra Manch, an organ of the RSS has confirmed the news while speaking to a TV channel. According to several media sources, it will admit 50 Muslim girls and all arrangements have been made for the purpose. She told Zee Media that the madrassa will follow the guidelines provided by Prime Minister Narendra Modi who, she said, would like to see Muslim children with Holy Quran in one hand and computer in another. She said it would include both Islamic theology and contemporary sciences such as Mathematics, modern languages and natural sciences. She said the land has been identified for the purpose but refused to disclose the spot. She said construction of the building would begin shortly.

The madrassa will be affiliated to



the Uttarakhand Madrassa Board. Board Chairman Haji Akhlaq Ahmad Ansari does not see any contradiction in RSS running a madrassa. "Whoever fulfills the requirements for a madrassa, should be naturally eligible for setting up a madrassa", he commented. He said people regardless of their affiliation to party can access their right to set up educational institutions. The vice president of the Uttarakhand Congress Party Suryakant Dhasmana has criticized the move and said, why the RSS which had been accusing madrassas to be hotbeds of terrorism, should set up a madrassa. "Be it individuals or organizations, they should mind their own business. Organisations should not divide people through sectarian educational institutions and should engage themselves in nation-building" he added.

Karnataka SSLC Exam 2019 Results

Performance of Muslim Managed High Schools

Furnished below is the performance of the Muslim-managed high schools in Bangalore in the SSLC exams 2019. The results were announced on April 30. Though the community runs and administers around 400 high schools in the city, and may be over 1,500 across the state, majority of the schools are not registered as minority schools. Similarly, most private schools are mere teaching shops that are more commercial in nature than academic in objective. However, it is failure of the public school system that encourages private schools to flourish. And it is not exclusive to Muslim community alone. Parent aspiring to have better education for their children, prefer private schools. Some old institutions such as Al-Ameen, Central Muslim Association, Muslim Orphanage, Quwathul Islam Institutions and Jame ul Uloom too run high schools in Bangalore. Some of these schools are government-aided and admit children without



any screening test at the entry level. They are even bound by the law not to restrain poorly performing students from appearing in the Board exam at the SSLC level. Their SSLC performance naturally suffers due to absence of filters. Some of these schools shy away from placing their performance in public domain. We had difficulty in approaching them and consequently several of them are missing from our list this year. Several calls to Al-Ameen High School on Hosur Road, Quwathul Islam High School on Borebank Road (Benson Town) and the Central Muslim Association (CMA, which runs three high schools) failed to evoke a response. Queries pertaining to

Schools managed by major Muslim bodies performing poorly. They fight shy of placing their SSLC performance in public domain.

SSLC results are stonewalled with some or the other alibi. Their compulsions are known and criticism of their performance should not fail to lose sight of their limitations. But course correction will only follow when facts are placed in the public domain. According to Mr. Sayeed Ahmed, Secretary, Crescent School, Basavanagudi, the constant decline in performance at the SSLC level owes itself to Urdu medium background of most the students. The school receives children from Govt. Urdu Higher Primary schools in southern parts of Bangalore. These children arrive not even with rudimentary literacy in English and cannot even write their names in Urdu. Taking them forward in high school classes requires monumental effort focused on making them literate in English. They naturally perform poorly at



Schools run by Central Muslim Association, Al-Ameen Educational Society and Quwathul Islam Institutions fight shy of placing their SSLC performance in public domain.

institutions when it comes to producing the SSLC results. Since the input from the feeding institutions is poor, it reflects in the output at the 10th grade level. Ironically, the Quwathul Islam institutions have, rather than

addressing the deficiency at the school level, had started a degree college and even more surprisingly, set up a civil services exam coaching academy (since then closed). Had they rejected the Government aid, returned the

Government teachers and set up an English medium school, the results would have improved tremendously.

Presented below is the data pertaining to the performance of the Muslims managed high schools principally in Bengaluru and some other locations within Karnataka. By no means the data is complete or comprehensive. The City has around 400 high schools managed by the community. Of these nearly 50 schools do not carry the minority status and are just managed by the individuals from the Muslim community. Their students and teachers represent a diversity of communities. Several schools are unrecognizable by their names and appear to be mainstream schools. Even data pertaining to the Government Urdu High Schools could not be accessed. However they are less than half a dozen of them or so. A couple of Christian managed schools too figure in the list as majority of the students belong to Muslim community.

Some schools refused to divulge the performance while others were not easily accessible despite several calls.

Bengaluru and Environs

| Name of the School | Total appeared | Pass % | Dist. | I Cl. | II Cl. | |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|--------|-------|-------|--------|---------|
| Al-Mubarak High School, J. C. Nagar | 25 | 84% | 04 | 10 | 04 | 03 pass |
| A. U. High School, Palace Gutthahalli (Aasiya 85%) | 13 | 92% | 01 | 09 | 02 | 01 pass |
| Al-Azhar High School, Padrayanpura | 19 | 85% | Nil | 08 | 05 | |
| Alpha High School | 58 | 58 | Nil | 11 | 08 | 20 pass |
| Ammar High School, D. J. Halli | 96 | 85% | 12 | 61 | 05 | |
| Bangalore Public School, Kottigere | 25 | 98% | 04 | 14 | 04 | |
| BET Sufia Girls High School, Bismillahnagar | 95 | 70% | 07 | 30 | 20 | |
| Blossom Public High School, Padrayanapura | 62 | 65% | 00 | 37 | 04 | |
| Bibi Fathima Girls High School, Ilyasagar | 16 | 85% | 04 | 08 | 02 | |
| Crescent High School, Basavanagudi | 75 | 55% | 02 | 15 | 06 | |
| Excellent High School, Bismillahnagar | 35 | 62% | 01 | 13 | 07 | 01 pass |
| Excellent High School, Managanapalya | 39 | 50% | 01 | 05 | NA | |
| Everest Public School, Chamundinagar | 30 | 60% | 03 | 02 | 02 | 11 pass |
| Florida English School, Vinobhanagar | 58 | 88% | 07 | 11 | 06 | 20 pass |
| Hilal High School, K. R. Puram | 38 | 60% | Nil | 12 | 047 | 07 pass |
| Huda National School Group, Bengaluru | | | | | | |
| The group has 7 high schools at Rahmathnagar, Broadway, Guruppanpalya, D. J. Halli, Umarnagar, Rashadnagar, Kavalbyrasandra | | | | | | |
| Hegdenagar Public school, Hegdenagar | 46 | 89% | 04 | 28 | 09 | |
| Iqra High School, R. T. Nagar (Zoya Fathima 93%) | 41 | 83% | 02 | 15 | 16 | |
| Indian Children's English School | 55 | 80 | 08 | 30 | 06 | |
| Jame Ul Uloom High School, City Jama Masjid | NA | 92% | 10 | NA | NA | |
| Jame-ul Uloom Residential School, Banikuppe | NA | 96% | NA | NA | NA | |
| Jamia Muhammadiya Mansoor, Hegdenagar (Sumaiya 91%) | 35 | 78% | 01 | 26 | nil | |
| K. K. English School, Varathur (Likitha, Ranjitha, Vinutha, Chaitrashree, Vikas Patel, Aishwarya, scored above 90%) | 109 | 90% | 15 | 75 | 09 | 03 pass |
| Kenmore High School, Basavanagudi | 71 | 75 | 01 | 17 | 38 | |

Quwathul Islam High School has state-of the art infrastructure. But it is of no avail. They refuse to disclose their SSLC result. Ironically, the Institution started an IAS Coaching Academy (now closed) while it needed to address the basic malady at the high school stage.

Performance of Muslim Managed High Schools

Bengaluru and Environs

| Name of the School | Total appeared | Pass % | Dist. | I Cl. | II Cl. | |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------|--------|-------|-------|--------|---------|
| Lillyrose High School, Bismillahnagar | 310 | 98% | 42 | 135 | 53 | |
| Meraj School, Wilson Garden | 25 | 72% | 01 | 07 | 10 | |
| Manahill High School, Pillanna Garden | 85 | 84 | 05 | 12 | 31 | 23 pass |
| M. M. English School, Electronic City | 67 | 77% | 05 | 30 | 10 | 07 pass |
| New Generation School, Basavanagudi | 65 | 95% | 07 | 38 | 17 | |
| Najmus Saher High School, Eidgah, Tannery Rd. (Niseheba Riyan 85%) | 62 | 84% | 02 | 14 | 41 | 07 pass |
| Quwathul Islam Girls High School, K. G. Halli | 36 | 80 | Nil | 03 | 11 | |
| Quwathul Islam High School, Benson Town (HM 080-23537944) | 157 | 70% | 03 | 54 | 41 | 13 Pass |
| Royal English School, Whitefield | 60 | 100% | 14 | 26 | NA | |
| Rubia High School, Opp. Lalbagh | 10 | 50% | Nil | 03 | 02 | |
| Silicon City Public School, Indiranagar | 25 | 100% | 02 | 21 | 02 | 01 pass |
| Silicon City Public School, Islampur, HAL | 30 | 100% | 02 | 08 | 20 | |
| St. Frazer High School, Govindpur | 37 | 95% | Nil | 19 | NA | |
| Subhash Memorial High Schools (Combined) (This combines results of three schools in Padrayanapura, R. T. Nagar, D. J. Halli). | 226 | 81% | 14 | 87 | 82 | |
| Stratford Public English School, Shampur Rd. | 08 | 50% | Nil | 02 | Nil | 02 pass |
| St. Joseph's School, Govindpur | 27 | 96% | 04 | 16 | 07 | |
| St. Win Public school, Ambedkar Layout | 30 | 90% | 06 | 16 | 06 | |
| St. Dominic School, Govindpur | 41 | 90% | 03 | 15 | 18 | 01 pass |
| Tilak High School, Muniyappa Layout, B.lore-68 | 2486% (18 out of 24 passed) | | | | | |
| Uzma High School, Old Madras Rd. Hosakote, | 22 | 92% | 021 | 08 | 10 | |
| Wisdom Public High School, BTM Ist stage | 17 | 29% | NA | NA | NA | |
| Wisdom International School, Frazer Town | 56 | 93% | 06 | 39 | 07 | |
| Willington English School, Chamrajpet | 74 | 85% | 03 | 25 | 09 | |

Other Towns and Cities

| Name of the School | Total appeared | Pass % | Dist. | I Cl. | II Cl. | |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|--------|-------|-------|--------|---------|
| Anjuman Islam High School, Badami (Sana Kousar 86%, Rubina Golandaz 82%, Anisa 81%) | 35 | 94% | 01 | 24 | 03 | |
| Anjuman Islam High School, Muddebihal (Asfia Golsanki 87%, Rubina Naddaf 87%, Muskan Gangur 85%) | 38 | 94% | 03 | 30 | 03 | |
| Muslim welfare Assn. School, Chinthamani | 51 | 92% | 16 | 30 | 01 | -- |
| Ambaji New Modern School, Chintamani | 16 | 70% | 01 | 06 | 01 | |
| Anglo Urdu High School, Koulpet, Hubballi | 355 | 71% | 02 | 103 | 132 | 16 pass |
| Anjuman Urdu High School, Eidgah, Old Hubballi | 157 | 61% | NA | NA | NA | |
| Maualana Abulkalam Azad High School, Hubballi | 30 | 81% | 01 | 11 | Nil | |
| Anjuman Girls High School, Bhatkal (Urdu) | 57 | 84% | 01 | 09 | 20 | 20 pass |
| Anjuman Girls High School, Bhatkal (English) (Maimoona 96%, Lamees 92%, Daniya 91%, Hanan 91%) | 102 | 94% | 16 | 72 | 08 | |
| Anjuman Girls English Medium High School, Nawayath Colony, Bhatkal | 108 | 77% | 19 | 06 | 57 | 01 pass |
| Islamia Anglo Urdu High School, Bhatkal (Khubaib Akrami 92%) | 100 | 60% | 02 | 17 | 29 | 12 pass |
| Anglo Urdu Hr. Sec. Boys School, Gbantikeri, Hubli | 223 | 44% | NA | NA | NA | |
| Sardar Mahboob Ali Khan English Medium School Hubballi | 93 | 34 | Nil | 14 | 12 | 06 pass |
| Islamia Arabic College Mansoor, Hassan | 24 | 96% | 05 | 16 | 02 | |
| Reshmi Urdu High School, Hubballi, Urdu medium | 33 | 90% | Nil | 05 | 10 | |
| Reshmi Urdu High School, Kannad medium | 33 | 91% | Nil | 06 | 18 | |
| G. M. Memorial High School, Hassan | 58 | 94% | 18 | 36 | 02 | |
| Gem International School, Alipore | 24 | 100% | 12 | 11 | 01 | |
| Zainubiya Girls High School, Alipur, (Basiya 95%; Rdbae 94%; Zaine 92%; Ruthbe 91%) | 44 | 98% | 16 | 27 | Nil | |
| Bintul Huda High School, Alipore | 24 | 96% | Nil | 21 | 01 | |
| Modern English High School, Kolar | 23 | 82% | 05 | 14 | Nil | |
| Millat Girls High School, Kolar | 60 | 85% | 04 | 20 | 10 | 17 pass |
| Ummul Fuqraa Urdu Girls High School, Belgaum | 28 | 100% | NA | NA | NA | |
| Modern School, Kolar | 26 | 92% | 02 | 18 | 02 | |

Abbreviations: Dist. - Distinction (Over 85% marks are considered distinction.);

NA- Not available; Cl- Class; H.S.-High School)

Brother & Sister nominated for Google Science Fair

A Hyderabad brother and sister (residents of Saudi Arabia) have been selected among 20 global finalists in the Google Science Fair Competition. 19 year-old Zain Ahmed Samdani (who was a student of Al-Yasmeen International School, Riyadh) and 17 year-old Faria Zubair (a student of Indian International School, Riyadh) were selected as global finalists for the Google Science Fair, which will be held at Google Head Quarters in California scheduled to be held in July this year. The name of their project is "Neuro-ExoHeal" and it

aims at utilizing neuroplasticity to retrain the brain and rehabilitate patients with hand stroke/paralysis.

The Google Science Fair is a science competition sponsored by Google, Lego, Virgin Galactic, National Geographic and Scientific American. The competition is open to 13 to 18-year-old students around the globe who formulate a hypothesis, perform an experiment, and present their results. **To learn more about this project and Google Science Fair, see www.google-sciencefair.com**

KARNATAKA STATE MINORITIES COMMISSION

G. A. Bawa is new Chairman

Bengaluru: G. A. Bawa, retired deputy commissioner of police and Chairman of the Hameedsha Dargah Wakf Management Committee has been appointed as the chairman of the Karnataka State Minorities Commission from June 1.



Al-Fitra Pre School

Bhatkal: The Ajuman Group of Institutions here has opened the Alfitra Islamic Pre-School in the second week of May as an initiative during its centenary year. Apart from basic Islamic teachings, the children will be taught regular subjects like Science, Mathematics etc. The Pre-School has been established in collaboration with Alfitra Islamic Foundation in Calicut, which claims to have 140 such schools affiliated to it across southern states of India. The Foundation ensures regular prior training and on-job training for teachers and involves mothers too in educating the children.

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Saji Cheriyan

Christian Businessman from Kerala Hosts Iftar for 800 Muslims

Dubai: Workers who are part of the Indian diaspora in UAE's Fujairah are all praises for a businessman from Kerala who not only built a mosque for Muslim workers in the city, but also served iftar meals to as many as 800 workers during the month of Ramadan. Originally from Kerala's Kayamkulam, 49-year-old Saji Cheriyan is a Christian businessman who migrated to UAE in 2003. Cheriyan built a mosque in Fujairah last year for workers employed by 53 companies who are living in accommodations rented out by him to their employers. The businessman said that he decided to build the Mariam Umm Eisa



(Mary, the Mother of Jesus) mosque after he noticed that workers had to spend a considerable chunk of their income to travel to the nearest mosques in order to offer prayers

during the holy month of Ramadan.

According to a report by Gulf News, the mosque opened its gates to the workers on the 17th night of Ramadan. Cheriyan was also quoted as saying that he will serve iftar to the worshippers every day of the holy month, from this year onwards. Looking back on his journey, Cheriyan says that he landed in UAE about 16 years ago with nothing more than a few dirhams in his pocket, but now hosts as many as 800 people for iftar at an air-conditioned convention centre in the complex he built in Fujairah which houses workers and managers from as many as 53 companies.

Iftar in Church in Ras Al Khaimah, UAE

Keeping with the UAE's vision for 2019 to be the 'Year of Tolerance', a group of expats took the opportunity to celebrate Ramadan and partake in a special Iftar inside a church in Ras Al Khaimah. In what could be a first, the expats, mainly from Kerala, spent the evening celebrating Ramadan and partaking in the Iftar inside St. Luke Anglican Church in northern Emirate. The event titled "Vishu Easter and Iftar meet", was organised by the RAK Knowledge Theatre in conjunction with other community groups, including the Kerala Muslim Cultural Centre based in the UAE.

A Hindu priest Swami Sandeep Anandagiri flew in especially from Trivandrum, Kerala to deliver a special message at the event. Speaking to Gulf News, he said: "We need more platforms like this to spread the message of love and peace. It is terrible living a life of hatred and violence". Anandagiri, is chairman and managing director of the School of Bhagavad Gita in Trivandrum. Reverend Father Kent Middleton, who hails from South Africa, said he was enthusiastic about playing host to a secular Iftar and will be doing it on a regular basis going forward. Reverend Father Nelson Fernandes, former parish priest of St. Luke Anglican church and the current chaplain of mission to seafarers in Dubai, said: 'In all the 13 years I have lived in the UAE, I have not seen anything like this. To my knowledge, this is the first time a church held Iftar prayers inside its premises'.

(Extracted from gulfnews.com)



Father Reverend Kent Middleton (second left) with Hindu priest Swami Sandeep Anandagiri and other community members during the special Iftar in St. Luke Anglican Church

Tihar Jail

150 Hindu Prisoners observe Fast with Muslim Inmates

At least 150 Hindu prisoners observed Roza inside Tihar jail. "Of the 16,665 prisoners spread across different jails of Tihar, at least 2,658 prisoners, that include both Hindus and Muslims observed the fast. Jail officers said the Hindu prisoners gave different reasons why they were observing the fast. "Most of them said they were doing it in solidarity for their Muslim friends. Maybe they did not want to admit that they are turning to religion after coming to

prison. We have observed that 80%-90% of inmates become religious inside prison. Religion is a way of finding peace. A few said they believe they could be released early if they pray to God," a senior jail officer said. Another jail officer said every year they see a similar trend during Navratri, the nine-day Hindu festival. During Navratri, a large number of Muslim prisoners fast with the Hindu inmates. "

◀ Page 1

Of Baseless Ritualism and Ostentatious Weddings

Evidently, most of the expenses are incurred on air travel, stay in expensive hotels, hiring luxurious transport and indulging in consumerist pursuit in the malls of Bin Dawood, Panda or Carrefour. Some Muslims have begun to even conduct the *nikah* of their offspring in Masjid e Nabawi in Madinah, although no *hadith* points to such marriages being more blessed in the sight of Allah. In fact, the Prophet directed the *ummah* to simplify *nikah*, lest Muslims fall into licentious pursuits.

Ostentatious Weddings

Pointing at yet another avenue of wrongful expenditure, Rahman

says an average middle class wedding involves an expenditure of Rs. 6.4 lakh. If one could assume that around 1.5 lakh such weddings take place among Muslim population across India, the expenditure could be computed at Rs. 12,000 crores. Describing it as avoidable expenditure, he says the community needs introspection as to where its resources are being placed and what the priorities are. He asks, 'Are the few rich justified in devoting huge resources for Umrahs and weddings when around 120 million Muslims are forced to subsist on an income less than Rs. 70 a day?'



Nobel Prize winner and Chemistry Pioneer Ahmed Zewail (1946-2016) said that "some of the best minds in the world are religious people."

Known as the "Father of Femtochemistry", "The World's Fastest Scientist" won the 1999 Nobel Prize in Chemistry for using ultrafast lasers to reveal chemical reactions.

GLOBAL AFFAIRS

Cardinal & Maulana Propose to send Delegation to Sri Lanka



The Cardinal (left) and the Maulana

Mumbai: A leader of the Catholic Church and a leading Muslim theologian on May 4 proposed to send a high level interfaith delegation to Sri Lanka to explore ways to help the island nation struggling to recover from terrorist attacks. "The most ghastly serial bomb blasts in Sri Lanka's churches and hotels on Easter Sunday have shocked the entire civilized society all over the world. We ... condemn unequivocally these dastardly acts," Cardinal Oswald Gracias and Maulana Mahmood A. Madani said in a joint press statement issued in Mumbai expressing solidarity with the terror victims. Cardinal Gracias is

the president of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of India, and Maulana Madani is the general secretary of Jamiat Ulama-e Hind or the Council of Indian Muslim theologians. "Sri Lanka being our closest neighbour, we are ready with an offer of help to enable the victims to get over the unprecedented crisis in their lives. We propose to depute a high level delegation of various faiths to Sri Lanka to explore the possibilities of cooperation and also to offer our sincere condolence to the bereaved families," says the statement from the Cardinal and the Maulana.

(Extracted from mattersindia.com)

Q: To present Islam in practice, as a practical way of life, is indeed a very important task. But do you think that in the light of Islamic beliefs, Science can provide us with guidance with regard to certain basic questions that relate to the purpose of human existence, the relationship of humans with God, the basis of morality and so on and can help guide youngsters who may be under the influence of various atheistic ideologies to the right path?

A: The basic problem lies in the mistake of making other worldviews the focus of discourse, rather than the Quran. This is an indication of our distance from the Quran. We need to make the philosophy, worldview and way of life of the Quran the basis of our discourse. For instance, when it comes to our understanding of the Quranic concept of the economy, we haven't been gone beyond the notion of 2.5% zakat, whereas in the Quranic economic system there should be a development fund to which everyone is exhorted to contribute whatever they may have left after their needs have been met. There is need to highlight the entire philosophy of the Quran, understood in this expansive manner, a philosophy that is the basis of human welfare.

As far as young people who are attracted by atheistic philosophies are concerned, one needs to reflect on the arguments on the basis of which these ideologies may attract them. And then we need to present the philosophy of the Quran with convincing arguments and evidence. To seek to convince people about religion through authoritarian commands and verdicts will not help at all. We must recognise here that the Quranic narrative itself employs arguments, proofs and evidence, and so there is no reason why our young people should not be given knowledge of the Quran in the same way.

Q: On the whole, what sort of alternative thinking do you think needs to be promoted in society so that people become

Muslims and Scientific Research

Q & A Dr. Mohammad Aslam Parvaiz on Muslims and Scientific Research

Dr. Mohammad Aslam Parvaiz did his Ph.D. in Botany from Aligarh Muslim University and taught for many years at Delhi University. In 1994, he established the Urdu monthly 'Science'. The magazine, which continues to be published regularly, has played an important role in promoting scientific awareness among the Urdu-reading public.

Dr. Parvaiz has also written widely on the relationship between the Quran and Science. Presently, he is the Vice-Chancellor of the Maulana Azad National Urdu University, Hyderabad.

more interested in scientific research?

A: There is need for transformation in the family environment, encouraging us to become givers, instead of takers. In many places, the Quran exhorts us to spend on others. So, we need to become more concerned with serving and helping others. With regard to education Muslims often talk about scholarships and reservations, but they should learn from the Jews, who despite being such a small minority have won such a large number of Nobel prizes. That means that being a minority or being Muslim is not the cause of our backwardness. Instead, our backwardness is an expression of our lack of hard work. We need to develop our skills. If we are in a minority, there is even more need to work harder. To cry about discrimination is also a reflection of weak faith. If we put in our all efforts in a particular task and hope for good results from God, there would be no reason to complain about discrimination and prejudice. But it is a common practice to attribute the causes of one's failures to discrimination.

Q: Besides publishing the Urdu monthly 'Science', you have established another organisation Society for the Promotion of Science. Could you please share something about this?

A: This organisation was established in 1992, even before the monthly 'Science' began. Among the founders of the organisation were people like the late Syed Hamid, Hakim Abdul Hamid and the Nobel Laureate Abdus Salam. But because of people's engagements, not much happened, even though the



organisation still exists. In the meantime, we began holding an annual Quran Conference and are trying to promote understanding of the Quran from an intellectual perspective, rather than from the point of view of the minutiae of fiqh or jurisprudence. Similarly, we began the 'Urdu Science Congress', on the pattern of the 'National Science Congress', seeking to bring Urdu-knowing people who have an interest in Science on one platform. The first meeting of the Urdu Science Congress was held at the Zakir Husain College, Delhi University, the second at Aligarh and the third at the Maulana Azad National Urdu University, Hyderabad. Along with this, the 'Urdu Social Science Congress' is also being organised. This has become a part of the intellectual activities of this Central University and so we hope this will continue, and if for some reason these meetings aren't held in the university, they will, we hope, be organised through the Society for the Promotion of Science.

Q: It is a general misconception that other than in the field of literature, research conducted through the medium of Urdu in the social sciences is substandard. What do you think about this?

A: This is no mere misconception. Rather, it is a fact. And the people responsible for this are Urdu intellectuals because the Urdu

language undoubtedly has great scope and expansiveness, and especially in the social sciences, the field is wide open. In the natural sciences, there are some limits and boundaries, but even these are not such that work cannot happen in Urdu.

Another thing to consider is that in most cases, the teaching of English in Urdu-medium schools leaves much to be desired, because of which many Urdu-readers cannot access research done in English.

Q: What have been the main factors motivating you in your effort to understand the Quran from a scientific perspective, and which personalities have influenced you particularly in this regard?

A: In this regard, verse 85 of Surah Al-Qasas has been a major inspiration. This verse taught me that the Quran is binding on us. The Quran being a duty means that I need to turn to it, read it and understand it. And that is what I started doing. After reading and understanding the Quran I discovered that this Islam was something that no one had ever told me about! In other words, I regard the Quran itself my real motivating force.

Q: The work that you have been engaged in with regard to the Quran has helped promote awareness about the Quran and its teachings among many

people. What do you think might be the reasons for this?

A: The basic reason is the Quran itself, because it is one of the wonders of the Quran that it is a book that exercises a deep impact on the hearts of its readers. In this regard, Muslims in general have been negligent. Look at the madrasas even there the education is not based on the Quran. Rather, the Quran is merely a relatively small part of the madrasa curriculum. For around a thousand years Muslims have distanced themselves from the Quran, and in this way bearing witness to their downfall.

Q: Could you please share some experiences from your student days for the benefit of readers and students?

A: There are many things that one could say, but there's one in particular that I'd like to share. I had my initial education in a government school, where there was no proper arrangement for learning English. From the sixth standard onwards, in order to learn English I began reading signboards along roads and old newspapers. I worked hard and dedicatedly. And then God arranged for that day to come when I was invited to speak on Islam and Ecology at Harvard University.

In other words, if you work hard and with true dedication for a noble purpose, God will definitely help you. And so, I'd like to tell students to work hard and with commitment and to submit to God's commands with full faith, for success.

(This interview is based in large part on an interview that was published in Afkar-e Milli)

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Sunni Muslim mother seeks alliance for their daughter brought up in orphanage aged 24 years BA BEd fair religious working as a teacher. Groom should be employed with good character. **Contact: 8197881132 Email: imran_381@yahoo.com**

Sunni Muslim, Bangalore based-Syed family looking alliance for daughter age 26, ht-5'5", fair, religious, Qualification- Bsc Biochemistry and own house. Looking for Bangalore-based family age between 27 to 31, qualifications BE or MBA, working in Bangalore or Gulf, religious and own house. **Contact: +919108564965.**

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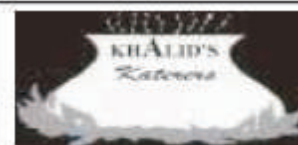
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Rebuilding the Muslim House of Wisdom

By Jim Al-Khalili

Excerpts:

Muslim-majority countries spend, on average, less than 0.5% of their GDP on research and development, compared with five times that in the advanced economies. They also have fewer than ten scientists, engineers, and technicians per thousand residents, compared to the global average of 40 – and 140 in the developed world. And even these figures tend to understate the problem, which is less about spending money or employing researchers than about the basic quality of the science being produced.

To be sure, one should not be overly hasty in singling out Muslim countries for criticism; even in the supposedly “enlightened” West, an alarmingly high proportion of the population regards science with suspicion or fear. And yet, in many parts of the Muslim world, science faces a unique challenge; it is seen as a secular – if not atheist – Western construct.

Too many Muslims have forgotten – or never learned about – the brilliant scientific contributions made by Islamic scholars a thousand years ago. They do not regard modern science as indifferent or neutral with respect to Islamic teaching. Indeed, some prominent Islamic writers have even argued that scientific disciplines such as cosmology actually undermine the Islamic belief system. According to the Muslim philosopher Osman Bakar, science comes under attack on the grounds that it “seeks to explain natural phenomena without recourse to spiritual or metaphysical causes, but rather in terms of natural or material causes alone.”

Bakar is of course entirely correct.

Seeking to explain natural phenomena without recourse to metaphysics is exactly what science is about. But it is difficult to think of a better defense of it than the one offered almost exactly 1,000 years ago by the 11th-century Persian Muslim polymath Abu Rayhan al-Biruni. “It is

knowledge, in general, which is pursued solely by man, and which is pursued for the sake of knowledge itself, because its acquisition is truly delightful, and is unlike the pleasures desirable from other pursuits,” al-Biruni wrote. “For the good cannot be

» Page 28



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BY MOHAMMAD MAHDI

Thus it was destined for me. My first trip abroad took me to a place where two geographies, two continents and two cultures converge: Turkey. It was an amazing trip! I want to share with you my travel to Konya, a wonderful place in Turkey best known for its association with the famed Sufi Mevlana Jamaluddin Rumi. Our flight was from Delhi to Istanbul, and from there we took another plane to Konya to encounter a yet different experience. The pilot announced that there was heavy snowfall in Konya. I was excited! I was curious to see how heavy snowfall looks like. As we landed, we saw a thin white sheet of snow all around the runway. We came out of the terminal. A man was there to receive us. We got into his car. In the cold snowy surroundings, the cosy, warm car was really comfortable! We finally arrived at our hotel.

THE BEAUTY OF KONYA

Konya looked beautiful, covered in a long white dress of snow. Snow hung from branches of trees like works of art. The next day was a great day for me. We attended a short programme and I also listened to people talk on "Konya the City of Peace and Reconciliation". In the afternoon, we went on a visit around the city. We arrived at a small building which appeared to be very old. We were told that it was very important site. It was a grave of the Mevlana Rumi's cook. He was known as AatishBaz, meaning the man who plays with fire. Also on our itinerary was a historical well, where the teacher of Mevlana Rumi, Shams Tabrizi was assassinated. His assassins apparently took out his heart from his body and threw it into the well. The next day we went to the burial place of Mevlana Rumi. On top of the monument there was a big green dome and there were many graves outside. Inside, there were

WITH SUFIS IN KONYA

Konya looked beautiful, covered in a long white dress of snow. Snow hung from branches of trees like works of art.



TOMB OF SHAMS TABRIZI



TOMB OF MEVLANA RUMI

Talking to the Sufi people was amazing. The main thing about them which I liked was their behaviour towards other people.

many people. Some were reading something, expressing their love for the Mevlana. I saw a man who was sitting in a corner teaching people something which I could understand because he was speaking Turkish. There were many old things kept there. The shrine was like a small museum. There was a book which I think was the original copy of *MasnaviMaulana Rum*, book of poetry written by Rumi. That evening we attended a special programme, in a huge stadium where Rumi's death anniversary was celebrated. It was a momentous event. We were led to a reserved area where foreign guests were hosted. The stadium was full. After a while, the programme started with a song which was in Turkish. The song was good. I couldn't understand it but certainly the music was soothing!

There was an announcement that

the Sema was about to start. Sema is a sort of Sufi dance. I like the music of the Sufis and the way some of them dance. It is very unique. The main concept of dancing is to differentiate between the true and false thinking. It was a wonderful

experience, this exposure to Sufis. Talking to the Sufi people was amazing. The main thing about them which I liked was their behaviour towards other people. We left Konya and arrived in Istanbul. Our next flight to Delhi

was at night, so we had some time to move around. We visited two most important monuments of the city: the Hagia Sophia Museum and the Blue Mosque. Later, we went to see the grand bazar, a famous tourist destination. The market was full of people. There were many shops of different things, including clothes, jewels, Turkish caps and food. The way the people were buying made me happy because it looked like a celebration. We also bought some articles of our interest. Turkey is a great place to visit. The Quran exhorts us to visit places. Travel is a great way of knowing, leaning and feeling humbled. Travelling also makes us open to other cultures and people – a must for peaceful coexistence.

(The writer is a student of Class XII in Aligarh and can be reached at mahdimohammad2002@gmail.com)

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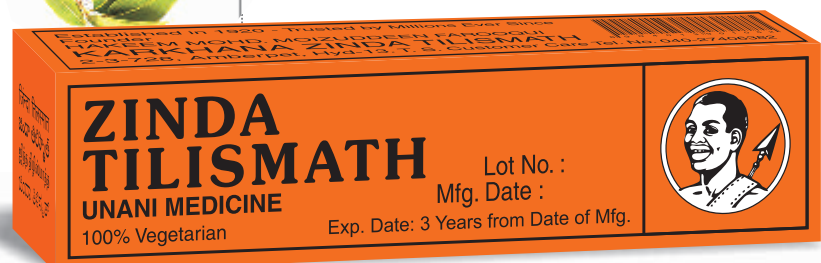
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Once Upon An Eid

Ameena wanted to show Tipu that turning throw-away stuff into useful things can be fun.

Eight year old Tipu was eager to meet his favorite cousin, 10-year-old Ameena Aapa and look into her fun box. Fun box?! "I have created a fun box for myself," Ameena had told Tipu one day during Ramzaan when he had called her. "I have lots of fun with it," she said and promised, "When we meet on Id I will show you how I have lots and lots of fun with it."

"I have come to see your box of fun," announced Tipu as he entered Ameena's house on Eid day.

"Arrey! No salaam! No Eid Mubarak!" Khalajaan looked very annoyed.

"Sorry, sorry Khala! I was just so eager to see Appa's fun box!" Tipu grinned sheepishly as he wished his aunt and uncle before dashing with Ameena into her room.



BY
SHAHIN ASHRAF ALI

pebbles, shells, stones, twigs, seeds, old greeting cards and other things. Most of the things were those that you throw into the waste paper basket! Before Tipu could say anything, Ameena spoke: "I make

can be fun! You do have a box of fun!"

"You know, there are lots and lots of things you can make with simple things. I'm sure during your free time you will be able to think of many more ideas and make lovely things out of waste. So the next time you are about to throw away something, just think

if you can make something out of it. Maybe you can," said Ameena happily.

Later she would tell her young cousin what she had learnt: "Allah has blessed us with a beautiful earth. We should take care of it. The three Rs of Earth-care are recycling, reusing and reducing."

This Eid she had introduced Tipu to Earth-care in a fun way and felt blessed.

Indeed, making best of waste can be fun. Try it!

(Shahin Ashraf Ali is an author of children's books, a freelance journalist and teacher. She teaches memorizing techniques to school students in Mumbai.)

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Ameena stuck the pill bottles on the magazine and started playing with it! She kept the magazine-pill-bottle game at a distance. Then she tried to throw a bangle around a bottle. Soon Tipu joined her. They had fun playing the game!



something useful out of waste and have lots of fun."

"I don't think it is all that fun," said Tipu and lost interest in her box.

Ameena wanted to show Tipu that turning throw-away stuff into useful things can be fun.

There was an old magazine, metal bangles and empty little empty bottles of pills in the box.

Ameena stuck the pill bottles on the magazine and started playing with it! She kept the magazine-pill-bottle

game at a distance. Then she tried to throw a bangle around a bottle.

Soon Tipu joined her. They had fun playing the game!

At the end of the game, Tipu exclaimed, "Making best of waste

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Soon Tipu joined her. They had fun playing the game!

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In the Name of God, the Beneficent, the Merciful

Mutual Benefit

'So they departed, whispering to one another: "Let not a single needy person break in upon you into the garden this day."

**Al-Qalam (The Pen)
Sura 68: Verse 24**

The principle of "giving" or "spending on the needy" or "sharing" has been emphasized in the successive messages of God since early times. God calls on the human beings to worship Him only, and His messages, if truly understood, may take them away from their egotism and greed, and direct them towards sensitivity towards others and human togetherness. In the above verse, the owners of a garden combined their lack of God-consciousness with their refrainment from helping the needy. As their greed tempted them to forget God and to refrain from giving and sharing with the needy, they were reminded that God's will and might are above their planning. It was not only the poor and needy who could not receive their share of what God entrusted the garden's owner with, but the owners themselves were

deprived of any fruits from the garden. The message is clear: the rich and the poor, and God's guidance

secures justice for all. Everyone has to work hard to earn his/her own living, and those who may be deprived of any chance to secure their needs temporarily or permanently have to be supported by those who are prospering. The whole society contributes to the individual's wealth, and giving to the needy would add to the purchasing power and economic development. It is a circle of mutual benefit that is achieved by human co-operation and solidarity, whereas selfishness and greed lead to a deterioration of faith and morality as well as a decline and conflict in the society, and they result in human suffering in this life and the life to come. However, self-correction is always possible as long as one is alive.

Everyone has to work hard to earn his/her own living, and those who may be deprived of any chance to secure their needs temporarily or permanently have to be supported by those who are prospering. The whole society contributes to the individual's wealth, and giving to the needy would add to the purchasing power and economic development. It is a circle of mutual benefit that is achieved by human co-operation and solidarity, whereas selfishness and greed lead to a deterioration of faith and morality as well as a decline and conflict in the society, and they result in human suffering in this life and the life to come. However, self-correction is always possible as long as one is alive.

(Compiled From: "Concepts of the Quran" - Fathi Osman, pp. 782, 783)

“Everyone has to work hard to earn his/her own living, and those who may be deprived of any chance to secure their needs temporarily or permanently have to be supported by those who are prospering.”

► Page 25

Rebuilding the Muslim House of Wisdom

brought forth, and evil cannot be avoided, except by knowledge.” If the Muslim world is to become a center of innovation again, it is useful to recall the Islamic “golden age” that stretched from the eighth century well into the fifteenth. For example, the year 2021 will mark a millennium since the publication of Ibn al-Haytham's Book of Optics, one of the most important texts in the history of science. Written more than 600 years before the birth of Isaac Newton, al-Haytham's work is widely regarded as one of the

earliest examples of the modern scientific method. Among the most famous of this era's intellectual epicenters was Baghdad's House of Wisdom, at the time the largest repository of books in the world. Historians may bicker over whether such an academy truly existed and what function it served; but such arguments are less relevant than the symbolic power it still holds in the Islamic world. But it is nonetheless important to recognize how much Muslim countries could contribute to

humankind by nurturing once again the spirit of curiosity that drives scientific inquiry – whether to marvel at divine creation or just to try to understand why things are the way they are.

(Extracted from an article hosted on islam-science.net)

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Ibn Umar said: 'God's Messenger always used to say the following words, morning and evening: "My Lord, I pray to You for well being in this life and in the life to come. My Lord, I pray to You for forgiveness and well being in my faith and my life, with my family and in my property. My Lord, cover my defects and give me reassurance in time of fear. Grant me protection, my Lord, from the front and the rear, from the right and the left, and from above. I seek shelter with You against any evil that may overwhelm me from under me". [Bukhari]

In this supplication, the Prophet (Pbuh) is appealing to God for well being in all situations and all aspects of one's life. This is clear at the beginning where well being in faith, which means having only sound beliefs and following the Divine guidance in worship and other practices, is stressed ahead of safety in life which indicates physical and psychological health. The Prophet also teaches us to pray for the well being of one's family and property. This prayer addresses practically all the main concerns of everyone. **Having sound faith, feeling healthy, and taking proper care of family and property are the total sum of what everyone would like to have at any moment in time.**

Times of Fear

But the Prophet's supplication also addresses what may unexpectedly happen. To start with he prays for the covering of his defects and to be granted reassurance in time of fear.



“ In this supplication, the Prophet (Pbuh) is appealing to God for well being in all situations and all aspects of one's life. ”

Needless to say, the Prophet had no defect in character, action or feelings towards others. He never entertained any feeling of hatred. He loved all people and cared for them. Even those who opposed him and did him much harm would have enjoyed his love had they, at any time, acknowledged the truth of his message and believed in God.

As a human being, the Prophet experienced times of fear, but he always placed his trust in God, and prayed to Him for wellbeing, safety and security. Hence, in this

supplication, he prays for reassurance in times of fear, and for God's protection all around. He expresses this in a very tangible way, since human beings have to think within their limited world. Besides, his supplication is meant as guidance for us so that we know how to pray to God for our own protection from all evil. We cannot do better than follow the Prophet's example and repeat his supplication.

The Prophet varied his supplication, using different formulae so that his supplication did not become too stereotyped. Moreover, the variation meant that different people heard different prayers and supplications, and reported them. We have, as a result, a good variety, and whatever we learn is sufficient as such supplication is recommended, not obligatory.

(Compiled From: "Al-Adab al-Mufrad with Full Commentary: A Perfect Code of Manners and Morality" - AdilSalahi)

God's Control

Hudhayfah reports: 'When the Prophet wanted to sleep, he would say: "It is in Your name, my Lord, that I die and live". When he woke up from sleep, he would say: "Praise be to God Who has given us life after he has caused us to die, and to Him we all return." [Bukhari, IbnMajah]

[The Arabic wording of the first part is: "Bismikallahummaamu-tuwaahya". The wording of the second part: "Al-hamd lilla-halladhi ahyanaba da ma amatanawailayhi al-nushur".]

We note here that the Prophet (Pbuh) compares sleep to death and waking up to coming back to life. This is a point the Prophet stressed many times. It is indeed accurate, because when we go to sleep, we lose consciousness of everything around us, in the same

way a dead person is unconscious of what goes on next to him. Waking up is a return to activity and full control of one's senses.

This comparison is also stated in the Quran, when God says that He gathers people's souls when they die, but those who are not dead, He gathers their souls when they sleep. He then keeps with Him those who died and releases the

others for a specified time. (39: 42). To acknowledge this, as the Prophet teaches us in this supplication, is to **acknowledge God's control of our lives and that death is as near to us as the next time we go to sleep.**

(Compiled From: "Al-Adab al-Mufrad with Full Commentary: A Perfect Code of Manners and Morality" - AdilSalahi)

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Autocracy: This is a government by an individual with unrestricted authority. (خود مختارانہ حکومت)

Authoritarian: An authoritarian regime is one that is characterized by or favoring absolute obedience to authority, as against individual freedom. (مطلق العنانیت)

Candidate: A candidate is a person seeking or nominated for election to a position of authority such as president, prime minister, member of parliament etc. (امیدوار)

Constitution: A constitution is a system of fundamental laws and principles that prescribes the nature, functions, and limits of a government. (دستور آئین)

Constitutional Monarchy: This is a monarchy in which the powers of the ruler are restricted to those granted under the Constitution and laws of the nation.

(آئینی بادشاہت مثلاً برطانیہ، جاپان وغیرہ)

Democracy: The form of government run according to the aspirations of the people by their elected representatives. (جمہوریت)

Dictatorship: A form of government in which all authority rests with a single leader or coterie of leader with no scope for pluralism. (آمرانہ حکومت)

First-past-the-post system: An election system in which the candidate who gets the maximum number of votes declared elected, regardless of him or her polling majority of votes or not e.g., If a candidate gets 17,000 of valid votes out of 50,000 votes cast while other three candidates polled 15,000, 10,000 and 7,000, the first is declared elected. This mostly happens in multi-party systems like Britain, India, Pakistan etc.

(انتخابی عمل جس میں سب سے زائد ووٹ حاصل کرنے والا منتخب قرار پاتا ہے)

Plebiscite: The direct vote of all the members of an electorate on an important public question such as a change in the constitution.

(استصواب رائے)

Political Party: A political party is a political organization that typically seeks to influence government policy, usually by nominating their own candidates

and trying to seat them in political office. Parties participate in electoral campaigns, educational outreach or protest actions.

(سیاسی جماعت جو مخصوص نظریات کو پارلیمنٹ میں ڈھالتی ہے)

Referendum: It is a direct vote in which an entire electorate is invited to vote on a particular proposal. This may result in the adoption of a new law. In some countries, it is synonymous with Plebiscite.

(کسی تجویز پر ووٹروں کے رائے طلب کرنے کا عمل)

Sovereignty is the quality of having supreme, independent authority over a geographic area, such as a territory. (اقتدار اعلیٰ)

State: It is an organized political community, living under a government. (ریاست)

Theocracy: It is a form of government in which a state is understood as governed by immediate divine guidance provided to ruling clergy or other ruling officials. (حکومت الہیہ)

Totalitarian: A system of government that is centralized and dictatorial and requires complete subservience to the state.

(کفایت پسندانہ طرز حکومت)

Westminster Style: The Westminster system is a democratic parliamentary system of government modelled after that of the United Kingdom system, as used in the Palace of Westminster, the location of the Parliament of the United Kingdom. The system is a series of procedures for operating a legislature.

(برطانوی حکومت کے طرز پر قائم سیاسی نظم)

Dear Readers

We wish to inform you that Islamic Voice takes no responsibility for the validity of the commercial or matrimonial advertisements which are published in the paper. The information and content in the advertisements has to be verified by the readers themselves if they are using the products and the services.

From Clothes to Catering!

He doesn't have any fancy degree in catering or hospitality, but Muneer Ahmed of M.K. Caterers has made a major mark in Bangalore for his famous biryani through sheer hard work and hands-on experience!

In a quiet lane off a busy road near Shivajinagar in Bangalore, there is a tiny room adorned with calendars and prayer posters, and a few portraits of popular political bigwigs. There are no pots and pans scattered around, and so you wonder if this room really belongs to Muneer Ahmed, 65, chief of M. K. Caterers, who is today one of the most sought after persons by those who crave for authentic Bangalore Muslim biryani!

While studying for his PUC, Muneer Ahmed pitched in to help in his father's tailoring shop in Commercial Street. But more than needles and thread, his mind wandered around spoons and plates! With some friends, he would help out with arranging for food for functions and weddings informally. In 1987, for the first time, he with some friends organised the proper biryani for 25 people.

Those days, there was no concept of catering among Muslims here, at least among the middle class sections. Muneer and started one of the first Muslim-run catering businesses in town. In a few years, the business became very well known. Muneer now caters for functions, big and small, some with more than 2000 guests.

'I have no degree in cooking or hospitality', Muneer says, indicating that one does not need to have a formal degree in a subject to excel in it. His business' success owes in large measure to his years of hands-on, first-person experience.

Over the years, as people came to know more about M K Caterers by word of mouth, the business expanded. Catering is hard work Muneer Ahmed explains. There is



a lot of competition in the field today. But Muneer Ahmed's hard work has paid off well. He was recently conferred with the Lifetime Achievement Award by the Karnataka Caterers Association. This indeed is an honour going by the fact that there is so much competition in the catering field now.

'Catering has immense scope for youngsters today. Though I did not need a formal degree in cooking, today courses are available for youngsters and later they can set up their own catering business and become entrepreneurs, although you don't really need a degree for this' Muneer says.

While people who have tasted Muneer's biryani may remember the taste for a long time, not many know that besides being busy with cauldrons and ladles, Muneer is also a philanthropist and his kindness is well known. He is also clear about not wasting food, and if food is left over after a function, it is distributed to the needy or the workers or a food bank.

Muneer can be reached at M. K. Caterers, 9845044246.

**Email: mkcaterers@live.in
(Report by Nigar and Dolcy)**

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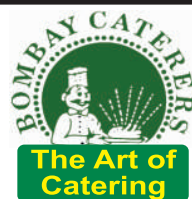
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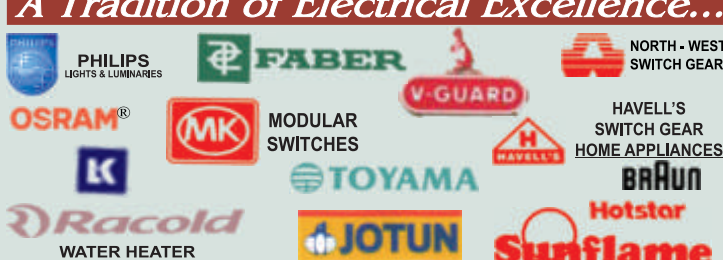
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