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Jamadi-ul-Awwal / Jamadi-us-Sani - 1444 H

**Mahathir Mohamad:  
Former Malaysia PM  
to run for office aged 97**



**Mahathir Mohamad  
made the announcement at  
a news conference**

One of the world's most seasoned politicians, Mahathir Mohamad, is to run for parliament in Malaysia's general election - even though he's 97.

Mr Mahathir has been prime minister of Malaysia twice, the first time for a 22-year stint. He was appointed again in 2018 when he was 92.

He was in hospital earlier this year with a heart condition but says he is now well enough to defend his seat. He has not said whether he will be prime minister if his alliance wins. "We have not decided who will be prime minister because the prime minister candidate is only relevant if we win," Mr. Mahathir told a news conference.

Malaysia's parliament was dissolved recently paving the way for a general election that the government hopes will end political instability after one of the world's biggest financial scandals, involving a government fund known as 1MDB.

## Seminar on Darul Qaza held in Jamshedpur

**Spl Correspondent**

**Bangalore / Patna:** The Imarat Shariah, Bihar, Orissa & Jharkhand organized an All India Seminar on Darul Qaza on November 13 in Jamshedpur, Jharkhand. The seminar placed a strong emphasis on the Darul Qaza system's contribution to the application of Shariat laws to the Muslim Ummah.

Ameer-e-Shariat Maulana Ahmad Vali Faisal Rahmani, who was presiding over the first session, stated in his opening remarks that the Imarat Shariah's judicial system (Darul Qaza) is ideal for the entire world because

**Darul Qaza is the ideal system to resolve family matters**



**دار القضاء**  
Darul qaza not a  
parallel court system,  
instead helpful to  
judicial courts

70% of cases are resolved within a month, and the world cannot present such an example of the judicial system. He clarified the functions of the Imarat Shariah,

describing it as a singular and unmatched socio-religious organization that assists people of all faiths and creeds. One of this organization's most

significant accomplishments for the application and enforcement of Shariat laws on the Muslim Ummah is the founding of Darul Qaza, he added.

In his keynote address, Maulana Khalid Saifullah Rahmani, general secretary of the All India Muslim Personal Law Board, outlined the rationale and finer points of the Shariat laws in his keynote speech. According to him, the second pillar of Shariat law is how to save humanity from harm. The first foundation is impartiality and ultimate justice (Adl). Maulana Khalid Rahmani

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## India celebrates diversity and welcomes the world's persecuted to its shores, says RSS leader Ram Madhav

**Ishita Mishra**

India to host R-20 summit of global religious leaders, parallel to G-20, during its presidency in 2023

India is set to overtake Indonesia as the country with the largest Muslim population, RSS leader Ram Madhav said on Thursday (3 November), telling a group of global religious leaders that India celebrates diversity and welcomes the world's persecuted to its shores.

He was speaking at Religion-20 (R20), a global summit of religious leaders being held parallel to the



**RSS leader Ram Madhav at the R20, a global summit of religious leaders, in Indonesia. Photo: Special Arrangement**

G20 summit, which is being hosted by Indonesia this year. Next year, when India will hold the Presidency

of the G20, it intends to also host the R-20, Mr. Madhav announced. "We have 180 million Muslims in

India, 25 million Christians. The projections say that in 2030, India's Muslim population will be equal to that of Indonesia and by the end of 2050, we will be the world's largest Muslim population with 310 million Muslims in India", said Mr. Madhav, speaking on the concluding day of the summit in Bali.

The RSS leader emphasized that India is a country that doesn't just tolerate or respect diversity but celebrates it, noting that Indian Muslims have held the roles of

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Abdul Bari  
Masoud

The contentious madrasa survey in Uttar Pradesh has now turned out to be a political one as the BJP-led state administration instructed officials to take "as per law" action against "unrecognized" madrasas. While earlier the state government had maintained that the survey would only be used to improve the level of education in the madrasas.

Even 154-year-old internationally renowned Darul Uloom Deoband is also referred to as an "illegal" madrasa in the survey report. This classification has outraged Darul Uloom Deoband's administration and religious scholars. They lodged a strong protest with the state government for being termed as "illegal" by the Minority Welfare department after the survey. They called for "rectification of the wrong message that has gone out". Muslim groups and leaders said the mala-fide-hidden intentions of the survey have come to the fore and it is a part of the Hindutva agenda.

Ashraf Usmani, the spokesperson of the Islamic seminary, told *Islamic Voice* that we have registered a strong protest with the state government for dubbing Darul Uloom as "illegal" by the district officials in the report.

"Darul Uloom is registered under the Societies Registration Act, and both religious and modern education is imparted here as envisaged in the Constitution of India. There is no question of it being illegal," he said.

The UP Madarsa Education Board also came out in support of the Islamic seminary saying such a message is being circulated in the world.

Board Chairman Ifthikar Ahmad Javed said, "It is sad that this kind

## UP Controversial Madrasa Survey

*The cat is out of the bag, action will be taken against "unrecognized" madrasas*



of message is being spread. Darul Uloom is an Islamic University that gives affiliated with over 4,000 madrasas all over the country. It is registered under the Societies Act, and it propagates religious philosophy and ideology to half the Muslims of the world called Deobandis. 'Unrecognized' is not synonymous with illegal."

However, Maulana Niyaz Ahmad Farooqi, Jamiat Ulema Hind (M) leader and convener of the Madrasa Steering Committee, claimed that referring to Darul Uloom as an "illegal madrasa" is a pro-Hindutva media deception because the survey report used the term "unrecognized" instead of "illegal" to describe madrasas.

While speaking with *Islamic Voice*, he noted that the Indian Constitution does not contain any provisions requiring the registration of any madrasa. Madrasas are part of registered trusts or societies, he underlined.

Echoing Farooqi's words, Maulana Khalid Rashid Firangi Mahali said: "No issue of legality exists in this situation. A madrasa can operate in one of three ways. It operates by the mandate provided to minorities under Article 30 of the Indian Constitution, or it is registered under the Societies Act or Trust Act. None of the three laws come from outside of India." Maulana Mahali, who is the Imam of

Aishbagh Eidgah in Lucknow and an executive member of the All India Muslim Personal Law Board, further said children of marginalized sections of society receive free education, boarding, and accommodation from Darul Uloom Deoband. They pay for everything out of pocket. It does not rely on funding from government organizations."

It is to be noted that the District minority welfare officer in Saharanpur, Bharat Lal Gaur, had

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## Fundamentals of the Election Process



Dr. Mohammad Manzoor Alam

The dates for the upcoming assembly elections of Gujarat and Himachal Pradesh have been declared, and it is our responsibility and duty to take part in them with open eyes and awakened sensibilities. It is remarkably interesting to note that, unlike many first-world countries, independent India adopted a very progressive approach in granting voting rights to everyone without discriminating based on class, caste, gender, etc. The regressive prerequisites for voting in many countries encompassed consideration of a voter's economical wealth, gender, and educational qualification, while India's universal suffrage dismantled any such conditions following the enforcement of India's constitution in 1950.

The farsightedness of the drafters of the Indian constitution deserves all the credit for bringing an unbiased system of electoral voting for the citizens of India. The practice of free and fair elections is very crucial for the survival of democracy; it not only provides people with the opportunity to elect their representatives but also endows a system of accountability for those who govern. The stakeholders of the election process, which also include common people, always have a huge obligation to know about the manifesto of the contesting parties and their promises to the masses. A critical understanding is necessary among people to choose the right candidate who is capable of bringing development and growth to society and its people, and the pressing priority of the voters should be to identify and deject the bogus assurances of political parties. Socio-economic and political awareness to question the government on persistent issues such as unemployment, public health, education, women

empowerment, etc., is required of voters to make an informed decision in casting their votes. Many propagandist parties usually have a trump card to present before people as a vote bank but fall short to fulfill even the elementary necessities; this should be identified and cast off immediately.

Along with the responsibility of voters, some institutions like the Election Commission of India (ECI) involved in election processes also play a vital role. The ECI is enshrined with the responsibility of conducting free, fair, supervised, and regulated elections of the world's largest democracy. The ECI, being one of the most essential independent organs of our democracy, should maintain transparency and fairness in the whole process, from the beginning till the end of elections. There have been many instances of disparities during the period of the voting day and the result day; therefore, the ECI should specifically scrutinize these days to avoid any such occurrences and consider shortening the gap between the voting day and the result day, as longer gaps may lead to inconsistencies and discrepancies in the electoral process. The ECI is always expected to be seen as an upright and reliable autonomous body that prioritizes the democratic principles of India without any bias toward any political party/candidate. This righteous image of the ECI is required to be maintained for the confidence building of all eligible voters, especially young voters (18 years of age and above).

The constitution of India has very strongly emphasized upholding the tenants of democracy, and among that, elections general, state assembly, local bodies, etc. strengthen the democratic milieu undeniably. Hence, it is indispensable for all of us to respect and take part in India's celebration of democracy.

*The writer is Chairman of, Institute of Objective Studies, New Delhi*

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## India celebrates diversity and welcomes the world's persecuted to its shores, says RSS leader Ram Madhav

President, Vice President, and Chief Justice. India gives absolute respect to all religions and diversities, he said.

"India is a mosaic of religion and mother ship of spirituality. India is a country where all religions of the world exist and lives far from persecution. All the persecuted come to India came to India, and continue to come and take shelter in India," added Mr. Madhav.

Terming the summit as 'significant' and 'unique', he hailed the initiative and said that it had unleashed a tectonic force by bringing together leaders of all the important world religions to discuss the important issues of the 21st century.

"It's not just a religion-centric event but a humanity-centric event. Here, we brainstorm challenges like climate change, terrorism, wars, disharmony, hunger, and poverty. These issues require the attention of spiritual, cultural, and religious leaders apart from the leaders of the government," he said.

Mr. Madhav also stressed that humans are entering an era of artificial intelligence which is already making machines that are more intelligent than human beings.

"There is a discussion in psychiatry circles that today's machines have their mind and will they also have their consciousness. Will they start crying, will they start responding to situations? It may sound absurd today but please don't rule out the ability of humans to create demons. We are entering into that kind of an era," he added.

He added that in the past when humanity faced such challenges, there were philosophers and religious leaders, who guided mankind in the right direction.

"Today, we are busy quarreling among ourselves. This is why there are no philosophers. The religions are quarreling. This is why

politicians, economists, and technocrats are the new popes of the world. We should be today pondering this big challenge," he added.

(Source : <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/india-will-have-largest-muslim-population-in-the-world-by-2050-ram-madhav/article66091812.ece>)

**“Today, we are busy quarreling among ourselves. This is why there are no philosophers. The religions are quarreling. This is why politicians, economists, and technocrats are the new popes of the world. We should be today pondering this big challenge,”**



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Ghulame Ghouse

It is usually seen that Muslim political representatives are surrounded by illiterates, sycophants, and greedy persons who can only do *Jai Jai Kar* to their master. These sycophants do not allow others to meet the MLA easily. Nobody knows when the MLAs will be available. They will not receive the phone calls and do not ring back. How can we accept such MLAs as our representatives? These politicians should realize that they are not masters of every subject, but unfortunately, they consider themselves as masters on every subject and ignore the views of the experts. This reflects their arrogance. Actually, they must surround themselves with educated advisors who can give them expert advice as is done by politicians in Europe and America. If we read the thinking of our politicians we find that they are more interested in their personal success than the success of their party. To overcome this thinking all the political parties

## Are the Muslim Politicians Rendering Real Service to the Community

must make it a rule that no one will be made a minister for more than two terms and for thirty months in each term and not to those above 70 years of age. This way they can avoid revolts and satisfy all the ministerial aspirants. It is shameful to see that in areas represented by Muslim MLAs there are no good roads, no Govt colleges, engineering colleges, medical colleges, Govt hospitals, libraries, reading rooms, banks, post offices, factories, and multinational companies while all these are available in the areas represented by non-Muslim politicians. Why is it so? Because they have no learned advisors. Most of our Muslim MLAs do not place and discuss the problems and views of Muslims within their party. They do not discuss the problems with Muslim organizations and intellectuals. They seem to try their best to avoid intellectuals. If a politician spends his ill-gotten money on his supporters they call him *Qaid e millat*, *Qaide Azam*, leader of the community, and *massayah* of the poor.



In today's scenario, no single party will get an absolute majority. These are the days of coalitions. Although Muslims are nearly 20 crores they are scattered in different areas. For the success of our representatives, we need the support of both Muslim and non-Muslim voters. This our candidates can achieve only by doing good work in the constituency. There are Muslims in every political party but most of them are semi-literates who are fit only to shout slogans and paste posters. It would be better if educated Muslims join every political party and become the eyes and ears of the politicians. It is common knowledge that our Muslim MLAs do not give importance to Muslim organizations and intellectuals. They take us for granted. In such a

scenario we Muslims have to think whether we can also ignore Muslim politicians and look to non-Muslim MLAs to get redressal of our grievances. They will listen to us, respect us, and get our work done. It is better that Muslim MLAs take this lesson before the above ideas take root in the Muslim community. We Muslims must think of different political strategies in different States. If there is any coalition of secular parties in any State, we must support the coalition. In other States where there is no coalition, we must support any one party without getting our votes divided. Here we must also remember that most of the coalitions have failed because of the greed of some politicians. Karnataka, Bihar, and Maharashtra are examples. For the present, we have no other alternative. Just we can hope that the coalitions do not break. MIM and SDPI cannot claim that they represent the Muslims because they are one among the other political parties. They are not the representatives and spokespersons

of the Muslims. It is better that they accept this truth as early as possible. It is better if these parties try to join the coalitions in every state and leave the leadership of the community to the Muslim intellectuals and Ulemas. Whatever may be the negative propaganda against the Aam Admi Party, it is emerging as a force to reckon with because of its honest administration, free Health care, and free quality education. ■



**We Muslims must think of different political strategies in different States. If there is any coalition of secular parties in any State, we must support the coalition. In other States where there is no coalition, we must support any one party without getting our votes divided.** ”

## Jamaat-e-Islami Hind raises concerns over the system of electoral and political funding; demands to extend reservation benefits to Dalits, who convert to Christianity, Islam

**New Delhi:** Jamaat-e-Islami Hind (JIH) has raised concerns over how the elections in India are funded and contested by the political parties.

Addressing the monthly press briefing, held today at the JIH headquarters, JIH Vice-President Prof. Mohammad Salim Engineer has opined on various issues including electoral funding, reservation benefits for Dalits, who convert to Christianity and Islam under Article 341, and the Supreme Court's recent remarks against hate speeches.

Speaking on political funding, Prof. Salim cited a study conducted by the Center for Media Studies, which estimated that the Lok Sabha elections in 2019 cost Rs. 55,000 Crores, which was the world's costliest conducted elections ever while the share of the ruling party was half of the above amount. He noted that the study estimated that a third of the amount was spent on poll campaigning and publicity and about a fourth of that amount or Rs 15,000 crores was distributed among voters to influence and buy their votes.

Pointing out that another ingenious way deployed by the politicians to fill their coffers is the method of funding through electoral bonds, Prof. Salim said that according to an RTI, the government printed 10,000 electoral bonds worth Rs 1 crore each in 2022 and according to the latest available SBI data, political parties secured Rs 545 crores through electoral bonds ahead of



the assembly elections in Himachal Pradesh and Gujarat. He noted that ever since the Electoral Bond Scheme was introduced, the total amount collected by political parties now reached Rs 10,791 crores, which was collected from various anonymous donors in 22 phases in the last four years.

Prof. Salim said that the electoral bonds were anonymous, however, since they are sold by a government-owned bank (SBI), it was easy for the government to know who was funding the opposition. “By amending the Finance Act 2017, the government has exempted political parties from disclosing donations received through electoral bonds, which prevents the voters from knowing the identity of the individual, company, or organization that funds the party, and to what extent. This disproportionate share of money in electoral politics and that too in a non-transparent manner is not healthy for a democracy,” he

added

The JIH Vice-President called on political parties to come together to bring about legislation to curb the growing clout of money power in elections by making the entire process fair and transparent.

Urging the Election Commission of India (ECI) to introduce measures to ensure transparency about donors to political parties, Prof. Salim held that the poll panel is not playing any role in regulating the growing expense of elections. He added that political parties should also present their accounts in the public domain.

Saying that the judiciary is yet to pronounce any judgment about electoral bonds, Prof. Salim hoped that the Supreme Court would pronounce the verdict soon in favour of fairness, transparency, and strengthening democracy.

The JIH Vice-President has demanded to extend of the reservation benefits to Dalits, who converted to Christianity and Islam, besides Dalit Hindus,

Buddhists, and Sikhs.

Speaking on the issue, Prof. Salim said, “under Article 341 of the Constitution, the President of India may 'specify the castes, races or tribes or parts of or groups within castes, races or tribes which shall...be deemed to be Scheduled Castes'. Earlier this benefit was only confined to Dalit Hindus (1950) but later on, Sikhs were added to the list in 1956 and then Dalit Buddhists also were added in 1990.”

Prof. Salim hoped the Commission, headed by the former Chief Justice of India and former chairperson of the NHRC, K G Balakrishnan would look into the issue, ensuring equal treatment for those Dalits who became Christians and Muslims. He said, “we hope our Dalit brothers and sisters will not be deprived of the benefits of reservation simply because they became Christians and Muslims.” Welcoming the remarks of the apex court against hate speech, the JIH Vice-President agrees with the Supreme Court Bench of Justices K.M. Joseph and Hrishikesh Roy as they told the police not to wait for complaints to act against hate speech. The apex court also remarked that any “hesitation” to comply with the direction would attract proceedings for contempt of court against the erring officers.

He endorsed the concerns of the court which directed that FIRs should be registered and criminal proceedings initiated against the makers of hate speech irrespective

of their religion to preserve the secular character of the country.

Stating that now the onus is on the government and the police to implement the SC directives, ensuring zero tolerance for hate speeches, Prof. Salim said that anyone violating the court directives should be arrested and prosecuted as per the provisions of the law. He also urged civil society to play its part in monitoring and opposing hate speeches and creating awareness regarding the ill effects of communalism and violence, on the unity and harmony of the country.

Speaking on the newly-released National Curriculum Framework (NCF), Mr. Syed Tanveer Ahmed, director of JIH Markazi Taleemi Board (MTB) has informed that the MTB organized an online consultative meeting with experts to discuss and review the NCF for the Foundational Stage released on the NCERT website. He welcomed the long-awaited release of the first of four NCF documents, but expressed apprehensions that the NCF for Foundational Stage of Schools (2022) needed critical review and deepening of the consultative process. He hoped that the current document as well as all future NCFs be made more inclusive, socially just, and substantially reflective of shared, consensual constitutional values which are truly inclusive of all communities and learners of all backgrounds. ■



## On Children's Day, Markazi Taleemi Board calls for serious attention to children's issues in India

Staff Writer

**New Delhi:** On Children's Day, the Jamaat-e-Islami Hind's Markazi Taleemi Board (Education Board) urged both central and state governments to allocate a quality budget for children.

Calling children, the architects of the country's future, MTB chairman Mujtaba Farooq said we as concerned citizens need to reflect upon the current conditions and situation of children in our country.

In a message, he said, "as a nation, we have been celebrating this day since November 14th, 1948. At a time when India is observing 75 years of Independence with fanfare, we as concerned citizens need to reflect upon the current conditions and situation of children in our country, who are its most treasured future. Children of this country consist of one-fifth of the total population and we



believe that this group needs immediate attention from the state and non-state actors in order to make this day truly meaningful." Farooq said that on a special day, the MTB would like to highlight the serious issues affecting children in India. Emphasizing that all stakeholders need to work on the issues of nutrition, health, and education of children, he stressed addressing the concerns of malnutrition, stunting, and infant mortality. Pointing out that though the National Education Policy 2020 has repeatedly emphasized the need to universalize Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) by 2030, Mr. Farooq says, "the reality

is that a big percentage of children do not have access to Anganavadi services as well as private and public pre-schools."

Calling children, the architects of the country's future, Mr. Farooq urged both central and state governments to allocate a quality budget for children, in this regard. He observed that the current budget FY 2022-23 of 2.35% of the total union budget was not sufficient to meet the nutritional, health, and educational goals to achieve the overall well-being of children of the country.

He also called on the Union and State to try to match up to the standards of Scandinavian Countries' budgets on ECCE. The Chairman of the MTB also expressed grave concern regarding the situation of childcare institutions in India, children with special needs, the safety and security of children in government schools and pre-matric hostels, etc. ■

## Pavoor Village has set an Example of Religious Harmony in India

Syed Ali Mujtaba



**Mangaluru:** In the age of anti-Muslim and Anti-Islam rants in Indian media, there is a tiny hamlet called 'Pavoor,' in Mangaluru taluk that has set an example of communal harmony in the country. Members of the Hindu, Muslim, and Christian communities living in Pavoor village have initiated a campaign to promote religious harmony by constructing an entrance arch that's common to their places of worship.

As part of the initiative, the single entrance arch will lead the Hindus to the Sri Vaidyanatha Temple, Muslims to Al-Mubarak Juma Masjid, and the Christians to Infant Jesus Church.

'Residents cutting across religions and political parties have united to construct this arch whose foundation stone ceremony was held recently,' said Mangaluru MLA UT Khader.

'Elected representatives, religious leaders, and residents of Pavoor village have come forward to lay

the foundation stone of a symbol of religious harmony that is essential to living peacefully in a multi-religious society like India,' said UT Khader.

The arch is built in memory of my father late UT Fareed who was the MLA of the erstwhile Ullal constituency and an avid campaigner of religious harmony in Dakshin Karnataka, said Khader. 'Residents of 'Pavoor' are making continuous efforts to make their village a more harmonious place to live and they do not pay heed to any religious propaganda to disturb the peace,' he added.

Pavoor village is an oasis of peaceful coexistence where people live harmoniously without allowing conflicts in the name of religion and politics.

The village has set an example of communal harmony unparalleled in the country. Such kind of communal harmony is needed all over the country which is the foundation of India's unity in diversity.

In the age of Hindu-Muslim conflict that often hogs the media limelight, tales of communal harmony go unreported. Pavoor village is a classic example of such media neglect. There is none to tell this story of peaceful coexistence.

The writer can be contacted at syedalimujtaba2007@gmail.com ■

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## Seminar on Darul Qaza held in Jamshedpur

continued by saying that a sense of justice *Adl* can be attained by putting things right in a fair and just way. You might need to draw a distinction between rights and obligations to accomplish this.

When discussing the financial rights of women in Islam, Maulana Khalid Rahmani said that under some circumstances, women have a greater inheritance entitlement than men. He claimed that as a result, the Hindu code bill had appropriated Islamic ideas on divorce and inheritance. In-depth explanations of *Khulla*, *divorce*, *Talaq*, *Talaq-e-Bid'a*, *Talaq-e-Tafvidh* and other concerns were also provided.

The three acts relevant to Muslim

Personal Law were mentioned by a senior Supreme Court attorney. He said that the Darul Qaza system is under the scope of the Arbitration Act and that this act gives the Qazi the authority to decide on the parties' family problems, with the court accepting their decisions.

Anil Kumar Mishra, the district judge for Jamshedpur, stated that legislation is passed to provide victims with justice. Justice Mishra stated, "I'm glad I came here and learned a lot from the seminar's sessions."

Lala Ajeet Kumar Bista, president of the Jamshedpur Bar Association, stated that the goal of the law is to uphold justice for individuals and humanity. He

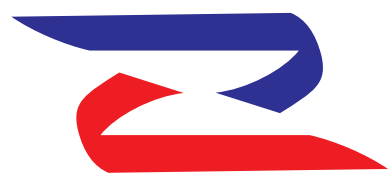
stated that everyone should keep their own house in order and that all religions must be respected.

More than 20,000 cases have been resolved in the Darul Qaza headquarters in Patna since the organization's founding in the year 1921, and a comparable number of cases have been resolved in the Sub-Darul Qaza in the various districts of Bihar, Jharkhand, and Orissa.

Notable among the participants in the seminar were Maulana Atiq Ahmad Bastavi, convenor Darul Qaza committee of All India Muslim Personal Law Board, Maulana Saghir Ahmad Rashaadi, Amir Shariat Karnataka, lawyers, intellectuals, and religious scholars. ■

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Zeena Akhtar

## Indian and Pakistani Students' Artwork for a Joint Peace Calendar Promotes Peace

**New Delhi:** Students in India and Pakistan are participating in efforts for peace building at a time when geopolitics is dominated by conflicts and violence, particularly due to the Russia-Ukraine crisis. Being two nuclear-armed countries with a history of conflict and skirmishes, India and Pakistan are always seen as being particularly vulnerable because, even when these nations are not directly engaged in any hostilities, skirmishes, ceasefire violations, and other indirect effects of conflicts can be seen and felt.

For its 11th Indo-Pak Peace Calendar, *Aaghaz-e-Dosti*, an Indo-Pak Friendship Initiative that primarily works with school pupils on both sides, stated that it will be accepting peace artwork from students in Pakistan and India. This would be a special calendar where twelve of the greatest paintings (six from each of India and Pakistan) would have the opportunity to appear in peace calendars that are typically published on both sides.

When asked about the significance of this calendar, the initiative's originator, Ravi Nitesh, stated, "The calendar with the artwork of an innocent and apolitical mind will remind us that mindsets have been built. The Calendar also features notes from persons who have been actively working to foster these ambitions, together with the lovely dreams of the young and innocent. This calendar is a collection of common hopes for friendship and peace. It serves as a common hope for others who suffer and have habits similar to our own. The hope will be revived as the pages change to begin a new month."

*Aaghaz-e-Dosti*, which has been operating since 2012, has already published eleven such calendars.

We want to work with students because they will become responsible adults, and their future should be devoid of hatred, violence, and war. When kids produce art, it reflects their feelings, ideas, and dreams. We can tell that we probably need to learn a lot from these pupils when we look at these arts in the calendar. said Nazir Ahmad, the Pakistani branch's coordinator for *Aaghaz-e-Dosti*.

According to Jansher Khan, a coordinator for *Aaghaz-e-Dosti* in Pakistan, students from both sides are genuinely expressing their right to peace by making such a calendar. According to him, neither side's educational system provides students with the chance to understand the "other" side, and in some cases, it even fosters hostility. As a result, this calendar also presents a chance for young people to develop the potential for fostering peace and fostering the development of a better and more peaceful future. We have built numerous hurdles to travel and communication over the past seven decades, but Nitin Mittoo, who oversees *Aaghaz-e-Dosti* activities in Punjab, said that despite this, we all still long for a time when people from opposite sides can interact without difficulty. To achieve this, we must put more effort into cultivating a culture of peace via education. He added

**Aaghaz-e-Dosti**  
Inviting paintings for

**11th Indo-Pak Peace Calendar**

**Guidelines:**  
 \*Theme: Indo-Pak Peace  
 \*A4 Paper Size, Non Spiral Sheet  
 \*Write Name, Class, School Name, Email ID and Painting Description / Caption on the back side of Painting  
 \*Be Creative and Imaginative. Please do not plagiarize!  
 \*Any student (Class 6th to 12th), with Indian/Pakistani origin can participate

Six Paintings from India and Six From Pakistan will be selected and will receive Digital Certificate of appreciation. All participants will get certificates of participation.

E-mail your scanned paintings by 15th Dec 2022 at aaghazedosti@gmail.com  
[www.aaghazedosti.wordpress.com](http://www.aaghazedosti.wordpress.com)

that due to the many cultural parallels and a sense of unity, Punjabis have an emotional bond with those on the other side.

Looking at these artworks gives us the chance to comprehend how young kids can think freely and without prejudice as they attempt to convey their feelings for peace in various ways. said *Aaghaz-e-Dosti* member Ilma Iqbal.

Any student from sixth grade to twelfth grade studying in India or Pakistan, or any Indian or Pakistani student studying in another country, may participate this year as well under the same terms and circumstances by

sending their scanned drawings to *Aaghaz-e-Dosti*.

This calendar offers a platform for many young people to join and volunteer for the cause without anticipating any concrete benefits, therefore it is also an endeavour to experience volunteerism, stated member Shruti Achesh, who frequently creates peace calendars. Himanshu Shekhar Parida, a sand artist, created this calendar last year.

*Aaghaz-e-Dosti* is a voluntary organization, and a network of young people from Pakistan and India assist in managing the programmes. *Aaghaz-e-Dosti* has received recognition and awards at various levels over the years, and numerous notable individuals and pillars of peace, including Dr. Asma Jahangir, Kuldeep Nayar, Kamla Bhasin, Dr. S. N. Subbarao, Swami Agnivesh, Dr. I. A. Rehman, Ela Gandhi, Dr. Shashi Tharoor, Mubashir Hasan, Dr. Salima Hashmi, and many others have supported the initiative through their messages and participation. ■



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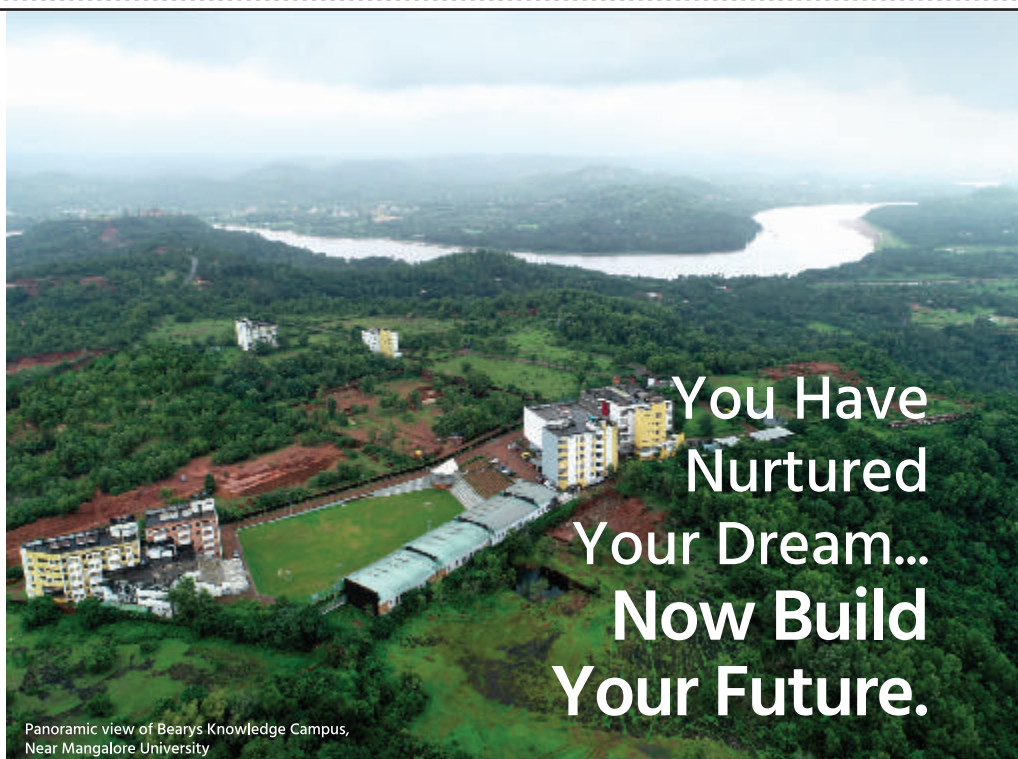
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Panoramic view of Bearys Knowledge Campus,  
Near Mangalore University



## Young Muslim swimmers lauded for saving lives in Morbi bridge mishap



Spl Correspondent

**Gandhinagar/ New Delhi:**

Whereas the entire nation still struggles to comprehend the tragic occurrence in Morbi on October 30—where about 150 lives were lost as a result of a 15-year-old cable bridge collapsing into the Machchu River in Gujarat—the Muslim community of Morbi was able to save over 80 lives after the mishap struck. Hussain Mehboob Pathan, Taufeeq, Saddam, and Naeem were among those young Muslims who helped rescue lives risking their lives.

Around six o'clock in the evening, Pathan received a call saying that he was needed to save lives when the bridge supported by a wire collapsed. Being a skilled swimmer, Hussein sped out to the area and, putting others' safety ahead of his own, assisted in bringing roughly 50 people to safety.

When the 'Jhulato Pul' (hanging bridge) fell and people began to drown, I received a call at six o'clock. Being a skilled swimmer, I dove into the water to save about 50 people, including babies and expectant women. I was present when the bridge collapsed, but I am unsure if

there were as many as 700 people on it. Since the bridge was restored around seven months ago, I haven't been there. I did everything I could to attempt to rescue as many lives as I could, Hussein told the media.

Another Muslim young man Saddam said, "I don't know how to swim, therefore I didn't save anyone from drowning but I supported others who were undertaking rescue efforts."

"We have a skilled squad of 15 fisherman from the Miyana community in Morbi who are all excellent swimmers, and if any such catastrophe occurs, we hurry off to save lives. After the bridge collapsed, our community prevented about 80 people from drowning in the Machchu River, according to an elderly-looking resident.

The faith of the people they were saving didn't matter to any of the people who saved them.

One of Naeem Sheikh's pals passed away while attempting to save a person's life, according to Naeem Sheikh, who along with his friends rescued other lives. He said that between 50 and 60 persons were saved by him and his friends.

The Muslim teenagers who

rescued lives were referred to be Heroes on Twitter.

"This is the befitting Reply to Merchants of Hate! Humanity Transcends all Religions" Twitter said.

While some Muslims pulled the victims out of rivers, others—including Hussein Pathan—transported them to medical facilities, Ahmadabad-based anti-communalism NGO ANHAD's activist Dev Desai told Islamic Voice.

He lauded Muslim youths for their bravery and said they set an example for those who always harp on hatred against the Muslim community.

A delegation of Congress, including Digvijay Singh, Arjun Modhwadia and Gayasuddin Shaikh, paid a visit to the location.

The community of miyana fisherman in Visipara, Morbi, has been very helpful to the administration in carrying out the search and rescue operations following the accident. One Hassanbhai retrieved between 30 and 35 bodies from the river using his fishing board. He demonstrated the solidarity of Hindus and Muslims by not asking if the victims were Muslims or Hindus. We are grateful to everyone who has been so helpful. Digvijay Singh added, "We also want the government and administration to recognise and reward their valiant efforts."

The bridge had reopened on October 30 after seven months of repairs work.

Nine individuals from the Oreva group (Ajanta Manufacturing Pvt Ltd), which was awarded the contract for repairs and maintenance, have been detained by police in the meantime. Two managers, two ticket takers, two contractors hired by the business for repairs, and three security guards are among those detained. ■

## AMP's National Talent Search (NTS) 2022 Competition held

Staff Writer



**Mumbai:** Association of Muslim Professionals (AMP) concluded its 1st leg of National Talent Search (NTS) 2022. Senior College students participated from all over India through the AMP World Mobile App. The exam was conducted on Sunday, November 13<sup>th</sup>, 2022.

The 2nd & 3rd legs of NTS 2022 for Junior College Students (XI & XII) and High School Students (VIII, IX & X) were conducted on, 20<sup>th</sup> Nov. & 27<sup>th</sup> Nov. respectively.

The winners of this Talent Search Competition, with Cash Prizes, NEET & JEE Coaching Scholarships (up to 100%) as well as Academic Scholarships for deserving students will be announced on Saturday, 10<sup>th</sup> Dec. 2022. There will be a Mega Hybrid Event (Physical & Online) held in Mumbai, where besides some selected winners, influential community members, social leaders, politicians, and bureaucrats will also be invited.

Aamir Edresy, President—of AMP and the brain behind this initiative said "It was immensely satisfying to see that the 1st leg of NTS 2022 went off as planned. We had recently upgraded and relaunched our mobile app AMP World on which the exam was conducted successfully. This initiative is a journey to support and nurture students to achieve their full potential. The AMP World App will help them keep connected with the world of higher education, careers, and jobs, leading them on to the path of Professional & Personal success." The exam was conducted under

the supervision of Prof. Syed Khaleel Ahmed, Project Head – NTS 2022, and a Mentor & Trainer for the last 20 years. He said "The participants of the 1st leg of the NTS 2022 exam had a very smooth experience, with all the required support from the AMP NTS 2022 team. Our experience of the past 2 years has been greatly helpful in organizing the complete logistics of the online exam."

The AMP National Talent Search Competition is conducted annually by AMP and gives students a chance to prepare for the forthcoming Competitive Exams for Higher Education, Post-Graduation as well as Civil Services, etc. All the participants are awarded an E-Certificate and they are also given access to AMP's various Projects and Activities, through the AMP World Mobile App.

There is no participation fee for the NTS 2022 exam and it is open to students from all over the Country without any restriction of caste, color, or creed.

Colleges & Schools are requested to help their students by registering as Institutional partners for NTS 2022. Registration and more details at: [www.ampindia.org/national\\_tale](http://www.ampindia.org/national_tale) nt\_search

### About AMP:

The Association of Muslim Professionals (AMP) is a Platform for all Muslim professionals and volunteers to share their knowledge, intellect, experience, and skills for the overall development of Society at large. AMP will shortly be completing 15 years of existence, working in the domains of Education & Economic Empowerment. AMP has inspired and convened Professionals from all walks of life and in the process uplifted several thousand people from the underprivileged sections of society. ■



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Dr. Javed Jamil

As the dates for the inauguration of the FIFA World Cup in Qatar started approaching, the world media got busy playing the game of market forces, which commercializes every human weakness in the name of "Freedom of Choice" despite there being a huge threat to human life and health. The world media is full of stories related to "controversies" surrounding the first major world tournament being held in a Muslim Arab country. They thought that this tournament would help them in popularising the "Freedom of Choices, which will help them impose the Sex and Alcohol markets in the Arab countries, some of which are already toeing their lines. Qatar resisted and banned alcohol and the display of nakedness in the stadiums. To add to the world fury, it opposed any show of solidarity (through ribbon bands in the arms) with the LGBT movement, which has in recent years become a big global movement despite its posing the most deadly threats to human existence. They expected that Qatar would bow down and under global pressure will allow at least some "Freedom" during the tournament. As it did not happen, they chose to question Qatar over its "Human Rights" records. The unfortunate part is that despite some of these "human rights" being responsible for tens of millions of deaths every year, right-thinking people including religions have failed to combat the designs of the global market forces led by the Western powers.

## Qatar showing the Right, the Healthy Path to the World

*Dangerous Choices are being commercialized and globalized in the name of "Freedom of Choice"*



### Facts that Expose the Threat to Humanity

See the following facts that show how dangerous sex, alcohol, gambling, and smoking have become for the very survival of humanity:

In 2021, around 650,000 people died from AIDS-related illnesses worldwide. Since the beginning of the Pandemic in the 1980s, more than 40 million people have died of AIDS.

Worldwide there is an estimation of 40-42 million prostitutes. 80 percent of the world's population of prostitutes are female and range in age between 13 and 25. Globally, female sex workers are 13.5% more likely to be living with HIV than other women of reproductive age

Homosexuality is the biggest threat to human life, as according to various figures, they are 8-30 times more likely to get HIV/AIDS and all other Sex Transmitted Diseases, the latest being Monkey Pox. The Life Expectancy of Homosexuals is considered to be 20-30 years less than normals.

According to reports, there were more than 604,000 new cases of cervical cancer and 342,000 deaths in 2020. This again is directly related to promiscuity,

homosexuality, and prostitution. (Much less common in circumcised communities)

70-100 Million Abortions take place. The right of Killing Children in wombs has become a human right.

Alcohol kills 3 million people worldwide every year. It means Every 10 seconds a human being dies because of alcohol. This represents 5.9 % of all deaths. Alcohol consumption is a causal factor in more than 200 disease and injury conditions. A large number of murders, accidents, and suicides are also under the effects of alcohol.

The WHO estimates that more than 8 million people die prematurely due to tobacco use each year. This is the latest available WHO estimate as of June 2021.

According to WHO, close to 800,000 people die of suicides globally every year. Gambling accounts for one in five cases of suicides, which means that as many as 200,000 people commit suicides on account of gambling-related problems.

**Freedom of Choice: Biggest Corporate Conspiracy against Health**

The forces of globalization commercialize every human

weakness irrespective of its disastrous effects on health in the name of Freedom of Choice. Nobody has the guts to shout that "Human Rights" at the cost of Human Security and life cannot be defended as Human Rights. They use four-tier formulas to commercialize human weaknesses: Normalization, Institutionalization, Legalization; and Commercialization. First, they try to prove that these are normal practices and exist since ancient times. Then NGOs and other groups are used to campaign for their legalization, which is then followed by legalization. Once legalization is achieved, they are free to commercialize and globalize them. All these "Choices" bring trillions of dollars and after commercializing these, once they bring problems to society in the form of diseases, deaths, and crimes, the healthcare

and law industry is there to commercialize the solutions, which again bring trillions of dollars. "Freedom of Women" has in effect proved to be nothing but the freedom of men and men-dominated markets to enjoy, exploit and commercialize their beauty and "services".

### Religions Need to Unite

If the world must be saved from the destructive designs of the forces of globalization, the only hope lies in religion. All religions, Islam, Christianity, Buddhism, and Hinduism included, will have to unite on the grounds of common morality rather than keep fighting on the ground of religious identity. Qatar has presented a bold example. Let other countries and all those ideologies and organizations that care for life and health more than economics follow and enlarge the campaign against dangerous economics. Let Health reign supreme and not Economics! Let the World Health Organization stop playing in the hands of the market forces and prepare an agenda for truly achieving the "Highest Standards of Health" in mankind!

*\*Dr. Javed Jamil is a thinker and writer with over twenty books including his latest, A Systematic Study of the Holy Qur'aan. He is currently Chair at Yenepoya University Mangalore.)*

**All religions, Islam, Christianity, Buddhism, and Hinduism included, will have to unite on the grounds of common morality rather than keep fighting on the ground of religious identity.**

Abu Dhabi will host the World Islamic Economic Forum in 2024, the Abu Dhabi Department of Economic Development (Added) has announced.

The forum, launched in 2005, was created to promote and discuss the latest economic developments and trends while inciting Islamic ethics of peace, fairness, and equality.

"Hosting the World Islamic Economic Forum reflects our efforts to encourage dialogue

## Abu Dhabi to host World Islamic Economic Forum in 2024

between relevant stakeholders to further develop Shariah-compliant economic activities and enhance trade and business," said Mohamed Al Shorafa, chairman of Added.

"In recent years, halal food, Islamic finance, including FinTech, have moved up the agenda in several parts of the world. Our initiatives and efforts to nurture businesses across all sectors offer ample



**The World Islamic Economic Forum 2024 will take place at Abu Dhabi National Exhibition Centre. Delores Johnson / The National**

opportunities for major players in these sectors, and we encourage entrepreneurs to benefit from the business-supportive environment in Abu Dhabi to reach their full potential."

An agreement was signed by Mr. Al Shorafa and Syed Hamid Albar, chairman of the World Islamic Economic Forum Foundation, for the event to be hosted at the Abu Dhabi

National Exhibition Centre from January 15 to January 17, 2024.

About 3,000 participants from over 80 countries are expected to attend the forum in Abu Dhabi, Added said.

The \$2.2 trillion global Islamic finance industry is expected to grow 10 percent to 12 percent over 2021-2022 due to increased Islamic bond issuance and economic recovery in the main Islamic finance markets, S&P Global Ratings said.

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**JAKARTA:** Indonesia, the world's largest Muslim-majority country, kicked off on Wednesday the Group of 20's first-ever Religion Forum ahead of the upcoming G20 summit in Bali. The forum, R20, organized by Indonesia's biggest Muslim organization Nahdlatul Ulama, and the Muslim World League, is part of a series of events initiated under Indonesia's presidency of the group of the world's 20 leading economies.

More than 300 religious leaders and scholars from around the globe attended the opening of the two-day meeting.

Indonesian President Joko Widodo, who inaugurated the forum, called on participants to work together to help resolve global challenges and put an end to wars for the future generation to inherit a peaceful, united world.

"I hope you succeed in building understanding and agreement and

## Indonesia, Muslim World League hold first-ever G20 Religion Forum



**Religious leaders gather at the first-ever G20 Religion Forum in Bali, Indonesia on Nov. 2, 2022. (G20 Religion Forum)**

will concur on concrete steps so that religion will have a bigger contribution to civilization and humanity, and a happier world for everyone," he said, addressing on a large screen the audience in Nusa Dua, Bali the venue of the G20 Summit, which Indonesia will host on Nov. 15 to 16.

MWL Secretary-General Dr. Mohammed bin Abdulkarim Al-Issa announced in his opening speech the launching of the

Building Bridges Between the East and West initiative under the R20 forum's platform.

"I am pleased to launch the initiative of Building Bridges Between the East and West for a better world understanding, peace, and mutually accepting societies," the league's chief said.

"We discussed in this platform many initiatives comprising human diversity, religious

diversity, and civilizational diversity on the platform of human brotherhood. This diversity is important. God has wanted it from us in his wisdom." Yahya Cholil Staquf, head of Nahdlatul Ulama, said the R20 initiative came from a "sincere concern of all believers" about the future of humanity.

"On behalf of the Nahdlatul Ulama, I want to express our utmost gratitude to the MWL and especially to Dr. Mohammed bin Abdulkarim Al-Issa for the willingness to collaboration with NU to co-host this forum for all of you.

"May God's blessings, guidance, and help always be with us during this event and afterward, and our joint endeavor contribute positively and constructively for all humanity," he added.

Ulil Abshar-Abdalla, head of NU

think tank Lakpesdam, told Arab News from the summit's venue that the very fact the forum had been initiated by the organization which with a membership of 90 million was also the largest Muslim body in the world highlighted its importance.

"The purpose of this forum is, among others, to promote an honest conversation among religious leaders from diverse faith traditions through rethinking religious doctrines and traditions that hamper dialogue and peaceful coexistence," he said.

"This is the first time that the meeting of government leaders is preceded by a forum of religious leaders. The goal is to encourage the leaders of G20 to give religion a voice in any decision they make that touches the interest of people, given the importance of religion in the lives of many."

### Jayson Casper

After greeting Pope Francis last week with a red carpet, a 21-gun salute, and a contingent of horses to accompany his humble vehicle, King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa highlighted one document to characterize his realm:

"[Bahrain is] a cradle of mutual coexistence between followers of different faiths," he said, "where everyone enjoys, under our protection after that of God Almighty, the freedom to perform their rituals and establish their places of worship, in an atmosphere of familiarity, harmony, and mutual understanding."

With Bahraini flags flying side by side with the Vatican banner, Francis was profuse in his praise. Enduring severe knee pain, he noted the country's centuries-old "Tree of Life," a 32-foot acacia that somehow survives in the Arabian desert.

Bahrain honors its roots.

"One thing stands out in the history of this land: It has always been a place of encounter between different peoples," said Francis.

## Pope Francis in Bahrain: A Royal Reminder of Religious 'Freedom of Choice'



**image: Loredana Mantello / Getty Images**  
**Pope Francis meets with King of Bahrain Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa (second from right) at the Sakhir Royal Palace on November 3, 2022**

"This is in fact the life-giving water from which, today too, Bahrain's roots continue to be nourished."

In the island nation the size of New York City, flanked on either side by Iran and Saudi Arabia, from November 3-6 the pope visited its 160,000 Catholic migrants primarily from the Philippines and India living among a population of 1.5 million, evenly divided between foreign

workers and citizens.

From 111 nationalities, 30,000 gathered at the national stadium for Mass.

Bahrain is a Sunni Muslim monarchy ruling over a narrow majority of Shiites. Christians comprise 10-14 percent of the population, with up to 1,000 Christian citizens originally from Iraq, Palestine, and Jordan who were present at the time of independence. Alongside a 200-

year-old Hindu temple, a renovated synagogue hosts prayer for Bahrain's few dozen Jewish citizens.

But beside pastoral responsibilities, Francis came prepared to preach.

Francis' visit was the 39th foreign trip of his papacy, in which dialogue with the Muslim world has been a prominent feature. Two

months earlier he was in Kazakhstan, and Bahrain represented the 13th Muslim-majority location in his travelogue.

In 2019 in the United Arab Emirates, he cosponsored the Document on Human Fraternity for World Peace and Living Together with Egypt's Ahmed al-Tayyeb, Grand Imam of al-Azhar, the foremost center of learning in the Sunni Muslim world.

» Page 10



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## Potential of Islamic tourism worth \$230 billion by 2028: Speakers



**Islamabad:** The speakers at the tourism (Ziyarah) conference held in Uzbekistan said that the potential of Islamic tourism is US \$230 billion by 2028 which can play a significant role in the economic integration of Islamic countries.

They said that currently, the population of the Muslim world is 2.3 billion, which is 27 percent of the world's population, which has great potential for economic activities and tourism.

The Tourism (Ziyarah) conference and "International Ziyarah Tourism Week" was held in Samarkand (Uzbekistan) and organized by Uzbekistan's Ministry of Tourism and Cultural heritage.

The Speakers said that every year 160 million Muslim tourists do religious duty or other international tourist tours, whose number will increase to 230 by 2028.

They said that Uzbekistan being the center of Islamic culture and heritage can play a major role in the promotion of Islamic tourism, today's Ziyarah conference is a sign that Uzbekistan is making serious efforts in this regard.

Meanwhile, while addressing the tourism (Ziyarah) conference held in Samarkand (Uzbekistan), Uzbekistan's Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Tourism

and Cultural Heritage Aziz Abduhakimov said that the cities of Samarkand, Bukhara, and Khiva of Uzbekistan cities have shrines of Saints and scholars, and along with that, many famous Muslim scholars and scientists were born in this country and gained world fame in their field.

He said that the government of Uzbekistan is promoting direct flights with various countries of the world, which will improve economic, trade, and tourism links with these countries.

He said that apart from this, "we are also relaxing the visa policy and providing ease in the visa process for tourists,"

He said that in the last ten months till October 30, 3.6 million tourists visited Uzbekistan and in the next two months this number is likely to reach 5 million.

The minister said that this number is 40 percent more than the number of tourists visiting Uzbekistan in 2021.

He said that the United Nations body, UNESCO has declared Samarkand as the best destination for international tourism.

He said that there are all kinds of facilities for tourists from Islamic countries in Uzbekistan, including halal food, which they can take advantage of.

He said that Uzbekistan is currently on top of the Global

Muslim Tourist Index and thus many global rating agencies have declared Uzbekistan as the best place for tourism.

On the occasion, while addressing the tourism (Ziyarah) conference, the Director General of the Islamic Tourism Centre (Ministry of Tourism, Malaysia), Dr. Muhammad Razip Hasan said that Uzbekistan has its origin and has a huge potential in Islamic tourism which can improve the economies of Muslim countries.

He said that currently, 70 percent of the world's young population is in Muslim countries, which can play an important role in such activities. Razip Hasan said that tourism is the backbone of the modern economy, on which Muslim countries need to work.

He said that tourism has a very important role in the Malaysian economy and our government is paying a lot of attention to its facilities.

On this occasion, Fazal Bahardeen, an expert on Islamic tourism and halal market and researcher, said that Islamic tourism has a huge value in the global economy, which will reach \$230 billion in the next 6 years.

He said that Islamic tourism has a lot of potential in Uzbekistan, Saudi Arabia, Iran, Pakistan, and Iraq. Similarly, in the present era, there is a potential of \$2.5 trillion in the world market of Halal food products, from which Islamic countries can get economic benefits.

He said that if this sector is accepted at the official level, economic integration can also happen in Muslim countries.

(Source : <https://www.app.com.pk/business/potential-of-islamic-tourism-worth-230-billion-by-2028-speakers/>)

## National Mosque Open Day returns in style in Australia



John Mahoney

Inaugurated in 2014, National Mosque Open Day (NMOD) is an annual event facilitated by the Lebanese Muslim Association (LMA) which sees mosques around Australia open their doors simultaneously to all members of the community, regardless of their religious beliefs.

The COVID-19 pandemic forced NMOD into an online format for both 2020 and 2021 and it was a relief to see the 2022 renewal return to the masjids on Saturday 29 October.

Venues involved in this year's NMOD included Lakemba Mosque, Cabramatta Mosque, Parramatta Mosque, Young Mosque, Omar ibn Khattab Mosque (Marion Mosque), Palmerston Islamic Centre, Riverdale Mosque, and Masjid al-Salam Logan City.

Australia's most iconic masjid, the Imam Ali bin Abi Taleb Mosque (Lakemba Mosque) played host to huge crowds for LMOD and as always, the local community was out in force to support the event.

Features of the day at Lakemba included guided tours of the Mosque, Islamic exhibitions, Q & A sessions (which provided the expert panel of Imams the opportunity to clear up any

misconceptions that visiting non-Muslims may have had about our religion), and a variety of family orientated activities.

The smiling faces of the countless number of children in attendance were a testament to the success of the Day.

The LMA/Lakemba Mosque's relationship with our elected representatives has never been stronger, with a host of politicians from the three levels of government present on the day, including state and federal Ministers.

Visitors from the political sphere included Tony Burke MP (Federal Minister for Employment and Workplace Relations), Mark Coure MP (NSW Minister for Multiculturalism and Minister for Seniors) and fellow NSW state members Jihad Dib MP and Sophie Cotsis MP, Canterbury-Bankstown Mayor Khal Asfour, Deputy Mayor Bilal El-Hayek and other local Council members.

The LMA already has plans afoot to ensure that the tenth National Mosque Open Day in 2023 will be the best on record – which based on the success of this year's offering, will be no mean feat.

(Courtesy: Australian Muslim Times)

## The new building of the OIC Mission in Kabul Opens



**Kabul:** The Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) Mission in Kabul opened its new facilities on November 13. Amir Khan Muttaqi, the acting foreign minister of Afghanistan, as well as representatives from the United Nations, the European Union, and other international organizations, were present at the opening ceremony.

At the inauguration ceremony, Amb. Tarig Bakheet, Special Envoy to the OIC Secretary-General, expressed gratitude to the de facto Afghan government for its support and cooperation, as well as for providing the OIC Mission with the facilities and security that were required. He expressed gratitude for the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia's kind

financial and material support, which made it possible for the OIC Mission to move to the new structure. The OIC would continue to carry out the mandate given to it by the OIC Council of Foreign Ministers, Amb. Bakheet added.

Amb. Mohamed Ayyash, Director General of the OIC Kabul Office, welcomed the guests and reaffirmed that the mission's primary goal was to direct help from the OIC Member States toward Afghanistan.

Speaking to the group, Minister Muttaqi expressed his appreciation for the OIC's move into new facilities and gave the audience his word that the Afghan de facto government would assist any efforts to make the OIC mission more efficient. Yousef Aldobeay, the OIC ASG for Political Affairs, also attended the inauguration ceremony.



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## Pope Francis in Bahrain: A Royal Reminder of Religious 'Freedom of Choice'

Francis referenced the document at the forum, and Tayyeb concurred.

"The Quran establishes ... that man was created free and able to choose belief, religion, ideology, and doctrine," he said. "It follows that they must be free to choose any faith."

This is not yet true in many nations in the Islamic world.

"Let us be guided by the saying of

Imam Ali," Francis said, quoting from the Shiite hero: "*People are of two types: they are either brothers and sisters in religion or fellow men and women in humanity.*"

(Source: <https://www.christianitytoday.com/news/2022/november/pope-francis-bahrain-christians-religious-freedom-declarati.html>)



## Spl Correspondent

**Chicago (US):** The American Federation of Muslims of India (AFMI) hosted its 32nd annual conference. The conference expressed worry over the rise of right-wing fanaticism and hate speech in India under the BJP regime, noting that it "had had a serious psychological impact on Muslims and other minorities" in that country.

Although the organization was founded by American Muslims of Indian descent and has always prioritized education, it has recently expressed worry about "infringing upon the rights of the minorities and members of civil rights organizations."

"The hate-filled atmosphere has sparked phobias, worries, and an atmosphere of insecurity. There is an urgent need to put an end to the periodic hate speeches and violence against Muslims and other marginalized communities," said AFMI President Dr. M Qutubuddin.

Dr. Qutubuddin also asked people to speak out against injustice and utilize all nonviolent measures at their disposal to bring about change.

The Annual Education Convention was held on October 22, in the Chicago suburb of Bensenville, and the theme was 'Our Stories are Our Future: The Power of Narrative to Reimagine'. With hundreds of thousands of

AFMI's 32<sup>nd</sup> Convention Raises Concerns over Rights Situation in India

kids served, AFMI has built schools in various Indian communities and adopted several others over the past 33 years. After two years of virtual conferences in 2020 and 2021 due to COVID-19 constraints, the convention resumed in 2022.

The convention's major objective was to bring together Indian Muslims living in the USA to promote growth and unity among them.

Khaled Al Maena, a well-known media, and political analyst and the former editor of Arab News, spoke to the convention via video conferencing and noted that the world is grappling with several problems, such as poverty and hunger, and that it is crucial for those who desire peace and tolerance to come together at occasions like the one held in Chicago.

Al Maena also praised AFMI for its initiatives to increase knowledge and education among India's minority communities.

At the event, Sameer Quraishi received the "Excellence of

Leadership Award" on Khaled Al Maena's behalf.

A morning and an evening session were held during the convention. In one of the morning sessions, the topic of Indian Islamic Intellectual History Before

Colonization was discussed. Maheen Ahmed, Dr. Imran Khan, and Amena Iqbal gave presentations on the topic of Islamophobia and how it affects Muslim youth in India and the United States, with a discussion by Saaleh Baseer.

That evening also featured the annual gala and convention. Live speeches, a sit-down dinner, an awards ceremony, and a reception were all part of the event. Numerous professors, authors, thinkers, decision-makers, activists, and professionals

received prizes.

Several people got recognition, including Azhar Usman, Thenmozhi Soundarajan, Rummana Hussain, Ruchira Gupta, Shaikh Noman Hussain, Secretary of State Jesse White, State Representative and Congress Candidate Delia Ramirez, Rajinder Singh Mago, Khawaja Moin Uddin, Asad Khan, and others.

The conference was streamed and broadcast to community members across the world while outside speakers delivered their speeches to the audience through a video link. ■

## The Selfless Man who Designed the Two Holy Mosques

He was an Egyptian engineer and architect who preferred to be away from the public limelight, unknown to many: **Dr. Muhammad Kamal Isma'eel** (1908 - 2008)

He was the youngest person in the history of Egypt to obtain high school (certificate), the youngest to get enrolled in the first Royal School of Engineering, and the youngest to graduate from it, the youngest to be sent to Europe to obtain three doctorate degrees in Islamic Architecture.

He was also the youngest to obtain the "Nile" scarf and the rank of "Iron" from the king.

He was the first engineer who undertook the planning and



implementation of the (Haramain) Makkah and Madinah mosques expansion project.

He refused to receive any payment for his engineering design and architectural supervision, despite efforts by King Fahad and Bin Laden

Company.

When he returned a cheque of millions he told Bakar Bin Ladan:

"Why should I accept money (for my work) at the two sacred mosques, how will I face Allah (on the Day of Judgement?)." Kamal rejected payment with a blank cheque. When the authority came to know that the marble is for the mosque of the Holy Prophet (pbuh), he said I will not accept even one Riyal.

Allah made me purchase this marble and forget about it, it was meant to be used for the mosque of the Holy Prophet (pbuh).

May Allah bless Kamal the Highest place in 'Jannah' Ameen. ■

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Syed Tahsin  
Ahmed

Decades back, one of the most enjoyable activities in our school days was reading comics. My favourite was *Phantom* which was published fortnightly by Indrajal comics and how eagerly I waited for the next issue! We also borrowed plenty of storybooks from the school library and would read them with awe and wonder. When we grew up to adulthood, it was time to read all types of novels including detective novels by Agatha Christie, Erle Stanley Gardner (Perry Mason), and James Hadley Chase. Reading the morning newspaper was an addiction and on rare occasions when it was not delivered, I would go searching to newspaper stalls to buy one. There were also glossy magazines like *The Illustrated Weekly of India* (edited by Khushwant Singh), *India Today*, and *Filmfare*. We had the Read and Return book stalls from where we could borrow books and magazines by paying daily charges. That was our generation.

#### The Changed Times

What is the present situation? I gifted the children's magazines *Chandamama* and *Magic Pot* to a few children related to me. I was surprised to find out that they were not interested in them. Why would they read a story when they can watch the story live in colour from videos which are freely available to them on iPad and mobiles? But there is a huge difference between reading a story and watching a story. I will come to that later. Even the youth have distanced themselves from reading books, novels, magazines, and even the daily newspaper. A few of them do read books online or in the Kindle app, but their number is also fast



diminishing. Many elderly people, who were avid readers of books when they were young, are now spending time glued to the TV screen. How many grandmothers are reading bedtime stories to their grandchildren nowadays? They find it more convenient to hand over a remote or mouse to them instead.

#### The Modern Libraries

Now we have many user-friendly and classy libraries stacked with books of all literary genres. The quality of printing of the books has also improved. But the footfalls in most libraries are on the decline. The libraries in many schools and colleges are meant to showcase the same to authorities while seeking recognition or accreditation. The books borrowed by students are mostly related to their syllabus. If any general information is required, the internet search engine is always there which will give access to any information under the sun. Not just the students, even the teachers find it easier to do the Google search. It may not be an easier option but culling out information from books generates original ideas and a creative effort

instead of picking up "packaged ideas" from the internet which may or may not be authentic. The Mudaliar Commission Report said that the library should be the most attractive place in the school. True, but the students should also be motivated to use the library extensively.

#### Benefits of Reading

Books are an essential medium for the development and promotion of human values, for generating and spreading new ideas and they contribute to overall personality development. Reading books on varied subjects provides meaningful education in contrast to syllabus-oriented reading. Reading boosts our imagination and transports us to different places and different eras. It exposes the readers to new ideas and different ways of thinking and helps them to improve their communication skills by making them better informed. Reading improves your vocabulary too and thus improves your writing skills. Francis Bacon has said, "*Reading maketh a full man, conference a ready man and writing an exact man.*"

That reminds me of an interesting

incident that happened when I was a PG student in Manasa Gangothri, Mysore. In my student days, I was writing many articles which I would send to different newspapers and magazines and would wait with the fond hope that I would see them in print. But, they all used to get rejected. So one day I took one of my best articles to Prof. C. D. Narasimhaiah (also a literary critic), to seek his opinion as to why my articles don't get published. The famous Professor read my article but did not speak for a while and I was waiting for his comments with bated breath. After some time, he looked at me and just spoke one sentence: "*People start writing before they start reading*". This triggered my passion for reading books. Reading will certainly polish your language and give you confidence.

#### Sale of Books in Marriages

A few years back we experimented with a program of setting up a book stall in marriage halls on the function day with the cooperation and active participation of the Islamic Book Centre, City Market, Bangalore. The books kept for sale were on the lives of the Prophets, the *Khulfa-e-rashideen*, the Islamic history, the heroes of Islam, and

the different aspects of the holy Qur'an and the *Ahadees*. We were surprised to see people thronging to the stall while on their way out. More women than men purchased the books; the reason being that women are rarely exposed to such availability. Generally speaking, in matters of religion, the Muslim community prefers to listen to *bayans* (sermons) of the Ulemas and does not show much inclination to read books written by erudite and learned Islamic scholars which are available in all languages.

All devout Muslims recite the Qur'an in Arabic since it has great benefits. This should be done and there is no second opinion about the same. But it is also necessary to understand its meaning by reading the translation in the language of our choice. The Qur'an is there to make men and women read, understand, and introspect; and by introspection to develop faith, and by faith to develop devotion. This is evident from the repeated exhortation to mankind in the holy Qur'an:

*These are signs for people who can understand.*

*These are signs for people who give thought.*

*These are signs for people who reflect.*

*These are signs for people who believe.*

(The author is a retired KAS officer and can be contacted at tahsin789@yahoo.com) ■

**Books are an essential medium for the development and promotion of human values, for generating and spreading new ideas and they contribute to overall personality development.**



Sana Rubiyana

**Self-criticism** or the act of pointing out one's perceived flaws can be a healthy way to increase and achieve personal growth but it may also prove a barrier to one's self-esteem and peace of mind. Self-criticism may often help facilitate the process of learning from one's mistakes and can also be helpful when one attempts to overcome areas of weakness or unwanted habits.

A high level of self-criticism that prevents individuals from taking risks, asserting opinions, or believing in their own abilities may be unhelpful or detrimental to well-being.

#### Examples of Self-Criticism

Self-criticism is typically experienced as negative internal thoughts about oneself or more

specifically about one's behaviors and attributes. When self-critical thoughts apply broadly rather than focus on a particular behavior, they may be more likely to impact well-being negatively.

- I am a failure
- I can't do anything
- I am not good enough
- I'll never get better
- I am so stupid
- I am just so ugly
- I am so weak
- I can't do anything right

#### Origin of Self-Criticism

The predisposition toward self-criticism originates in our early relationships.

- Excessively self-critical thoughts may often have their roots in negative experiences with caregivers in childhood. Parents may have extremely high expectations. We may have a sibling who excels academically, in sports or in some other area and always receives attention and praise for his or her super

## Self-Criticism



achievement.

- Rigidly demanding teachers or punitive coaches may also contribute to this predisposition.
- Culture or society may also install high demands on ourselves that further our sense of not feeling good enough.
- Friendships can also fuel this type of inner critic.

These earlier experiences may contribute to overtly intense perfectionism driven to avoid shame- in the eyes of others and oneself. Additionally, they may contribute to feeling flawed, unlovable, and undesirable when

seeking connection with others.

#### The Effects of Self-Criticism on Mental Health

Self-criticism can be beneficial when it allows for the acknowledgment and assessment of mistakes and failures or the cultivation of humanity and positive change. But when one's self-critical tendencies impede the ability to thrive, any benefits of self-criticism may be overshadowed by possible harm to mental well-being.

Occasional self-doubt is generally considered to be a normal part of life, but chronic and excessive self-criticism may contribute to mental health conditions such as depression, anxiety, body image issues, or feeling of worthlessness. A tendency to blame oneself when things go wrong may lead to feelings of failure, lowness, or a depressed mood. Highly self-critical individuals may also feel guilty or ashamed when something goes

wrong, believing the fault lies with them, it can also be linked with perfectionism, self-harm, eating, and food issues.

#### Self-criticism as an expression of Anger

Self-criticism can generate a variety of feelings including shame, guilt, sadness, anger, frustration, disappointment, and hopelessness. At the same time, it may stem from an ongoing sense of anger toward oneself. It is then understandable that such criticism can foster a tendency to feel isolated.

While many of the individuals who seek my services for anger management direct their anger outward, those who experience depression or anxiety often direct their anger inward in the form of self-criticism. Such anger may blend with a sense of self-disgust, a revulsion regarding some aspect of ourselves or ourselves as a whole.





Mohammed Rafiq

One of the biggest miseducation of the current times is competition. Education referred to here does not restrict to academic circles but encompasses home, office, neighborhood, friends circle, sports teams, etc. What is being strongly inculcated widely in all minds is 'me-I-myself' or 'we-us-ourselves'. Everybody is in a race to prove that one is better than the others.

Walk into any of the parent-teacher meetings in schools invariably parents are worried about their classmates' performance vis-à-vis their little one. The ultimate objective is to join a better coaching center, sports club, or cultural center than that of a relative's or neighbor's child. Imagine the impact of such conversations and thinking of the parents and teachers on the young minds. The youngsters are bombarded with one-upmanship strategies. This same brainwashed child will move into the 'doing' world from the 'learning' world. The sense of competition in the garb of motivation-to-excel pushes the person into self-indulgence at the cost of undermining all the others.

A simple but essential question to young school goes what do you want to become when you grow up? The answer could be a big surprise depending on the age of the child, one gets an answer like a driver, conductor, doctor, pilot, nurse, teacher, etc. from an infant. Typically, an adolescent changes the earlier stance with answers more matching the social status associated with a particular profession or position. There is nothing wrong with aspiring and dreaming big, but the major problem is when one carried an exaggerated opinion about one's choice.

As a student, a neighbor, or a relative if not groomed to be selfless in doing good to others then expecting an exceptional person in the later part of one's life is nothing but an unrealistic aspiration. Children at a very early age are ingrained with the idea of not sharing toys with their siblings or

## Strive to be Better or Best?



neighbor children. It may look trivial to pay heed to such petty things at an early age but these are the values that get etched into one's personality. How unnatural it would be to expect the same person to share the inherited wealth equitably among the siblings when growing up or not to encroach upon others' properties.

There is a hue and cry on the importance of education from every platform. What are the primary lessons that are imparted to a student? Every other classmate is a competitor or challenger to oneself. Strict instruction needs to be adhered to not to share stationery or knowledge so that one can always enjoy the competitive advantage. Instead of working towards improving self for a better version of oneself, all efforts are made to constantly visualize stature with others. This false self-image in the hypothetical mirror serves a narrow purpose, the day it gets shattered the person stands broke.

An analogy story goes that two friends were walking in a jungle; suddenly they encountered a Lion chasing them. Both men were running as fast as their feet could carry them. One of them said we should keep running faster than the Lion to escape unhurt. The other friend said, I just need to run faster than you to keep myself safe. Does the simple but apt story give a lesson about the priorities one sets in adversities depending on what values and beliefs have been fed? Is it just self or collective?

The most valuable guidance to the believers and humanity, in general, is Quran and Sunnah. The Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) was the living model of the instructions in the

Quran. Some of the best results of the implementation can be found even among his companions. If at all one needs to improve oneself or improve youngsters under one's patronage, then all efforts should be made to imitate the absolute references rather than spend all energy to beat the peer group. A single reference on the journey to greatness is to follow the Prophet (pbuh).

In the later part of life, whether working in an organization as a team member or a family member, collective success becomes the prime importance of individual achievement. Imagine a football team whenever an individual contributes the team wins. In any game where the individual player puts effort into proving himself better then there are very high chances of the individual and the team losing out.

As parents, teachers, and elders it is the moral responsibility to inculcate compassion among youngsters toward others from an early age. Teach them to be the best by following the best human beings as their role models rather than getting engaged in the rat race of one-upmanship. The most powerful influencers are the people whom they see often and regularly. Teaching by practice and not by preaching is inevitable. Rivalry whether in the class, profession, or society can be a self-inflicted mental illness, where the alphabet "I" needs to be replaced with "We" to make it well.

*You are the best of peoples, evolved for mankind, enjoining what is good, forbidding what is evil, and believing in Allah. If only the People of the Book had faith it was best for them; among them are some who have faith, but most of them are perverted transgressors.* (S3: V110). As Almighty Allah ? says in the verse we are best if one were to follow the instructions in the holy Quran. The evaluation criteria should be against the absolute reference as mandated in Quran and follow the practices of Prophet Muhammad (pbuh), we do not need to create arbitrary references with others. The cutthroat competition might have given technological advancement, but humanity has taken a back seat.



**As a student, a neighbor, or a relative if not groomed to be selfless in doing good to others then expecting an exceptional person in the later part of one's life is nothing but an unrealistic aspiration.**



The vast majority have been deprived to exercise the benefits.

It is not unusual to hear that there is a lack of leadership within the community. For anything to get prominence a supporting ecosystem needs to prevail. When all the focus is on the results and the inputs remain heedless the outcomes will be obvious.

*"Insanity is doing the same thing over and over and expecting different results"* - Albert Einstein. Groom selfless individuals in the circle of influence, and leadership will evolve automatically.

Let us shed the tag of being better than our fellow person just to massage one ego and work towards greatness, which provides ample scope to work incessantly to improve oneself. The impact of a good education is it makes the seeker humble. With percolation of knowledge (Haqq) deeper in one being makes the person selfless and magnanimous. This follows with a compulsion to look forward to capitalizing on every possible opportunity to pull others out of the darkness (basil).

"Satisfied life is better than successful life because success is measured in comparison with others and satisfaction is experienced internally in one's own heart, mind and body". Perhaps it is the Nafs-e-muthmainah that leads us to the higher purpose of life and get acceptance from our creator.

(The writer is an IT Professional, Counselor & Coach, mdratifq2005@gmail.com)

## READERS RESPONSE



### "Meet Inferiority Complex"

Sir,  
Assalamualaikum. The article "Meet Inferiority Complex" in Islamic Voice November 22 by Janaba. Sana Rubiyana is timely and well thought and well-analyzed subject. In these days of differences in opinions in the daily walk of life, this chronic disease of behavioural change plays an important role in deciding a decent halal life. Many divorces especially in Islam are based on this malady. It will be suitable if the author quotes the Quranic verses which deal with and find a solution for this disorderly malady. ■

### 'The connection between Quran and Nature'

The article 'The connection between Quran and Nature' by Janaba. Moqheeta in Islamic Voice November 2022 is exemplary. The Quranic ayats tell Allah's creations for the benefit of living specially for human beings to know the supremacy of Allahuthala. The author's approach is appreciated to link nature with Allah.

**Agri. A. Kaja Nazimudeen. - 00207**

Eruvadi, Tirunelveli district, Tamilnadu. ■

Hey,  
Hope you are doing well. I am a professional outreach manager and a blogger by passion. I've been following your blog regularly. Your recent post "<https://islamicvoice.com/youth/indian-student-gets-10-year-uae-golden-visa/>" resonated with me.

I appreciate the awareness you are creating with a meaningful post on your website.

I thought it was something my audience would love to read, so I will share it on my social platforms.

**Gissyl Smith**

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focus on present events, and avoid lingering or reacting to every negative thought. Mindfulness is believed to be likely to further one's ability to self-validate and challenge negative thoughts.

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### Self-reflection, self-evaluation, and self-criticism

The capacity for self-reflection is a key quality of being human, such reflection can be helpful when it involves an objective evaluation of ourselves, our thinking, feeling, and behaviors. It can be beneficial to our wisdom in a variety of ways. Self-reflection helps us connect with ourselves and by doing so it can help us to notice negative patterns in our lives, support our

motivation to achieve a goal, look at the bigger picture in our lives, promote self-soothing for difficult emotions, identify values, and support decision making.

Constructive self-evaluation offers us information about what went wrong and what we might do differently the next time. It focuses on the task with objective attention to the details of the task and our actions.

**Therapy to Address Self-**

### Self-Criticism

#### Critical Tendencies

There is no specific type of therapy that is used, a variety of therapeutic techniques may be beneficial. One effective intervention for self-criticism is self-compassion or practicing kindness and understanding towards oneself. A therapist can teach ways to practice compassion and can help a person seeking treatment explore any potential barriers to self-compassion.

Mindfulness interventions also serve as another effective method of combating self-criticism. Mindfulness, which refers to a nonjudgmental awareness of one's thoughts and feelings, has been linked to enhancing self-esteem. Therapy can improve insight into thoughts and feelings and those with greater mindfulness skills may be better able to verbally describe internal experiences, consider thoughts and emotions without judgments,



Dr. Darakhshan Anjum

## Hijab: A Question of Uniformity or Dignity



Ongoing debates on *hijab* realised me that the word '*hijab*' is the most misinterpreted and misunderstood. It is not a matter of Muslim women or their religion only. It is a 'cover' that gives protection, dignity and honour to all.

We see the natural things covered by nature, which shows their purity, such as pearls in the shells, seeds in the seed coats, and fruits in have peels and nuts covered. The cook put on a cap and apron for hygienic reasons. Head is also covered by industrial workers, mechanics, engineers and labourers while working in fields. Doctors wear an apron, mask, head cap and gloves while inspecting or operating on patients to be safe from infection. The use of masks reduces the spread of droplets and aerosols. Let us not go far, Covid has taught us to cover our mouths and nose. The disease forced us to wear a mask (a form of *hijab*). Coronavirus has made everybody *hijabis*. The use of a mask reveals the hypocrisy of face-covering bans. We are thankful for this *hijab* (mask) through which we fought successfully against such a disastrous pandemic situation. It protected us, gave us life and caused all to look anew at discrimination against *hijab-wearing* Muslim women.

Civilization starts with covering, sheltering and protecting. Ancient Indians, Mesopotamians, Sumerians and Babylonian all used head covers. Since the dawn of the Harappan civilization, the turban was in common use with the gentleman of the era, both the commoners as well as the nobles. In Sanskrit, the turban is called *Shiravashtra*. According to ancient sources, a person without a turban was not allowed to enter the royal court. Southern

Emperors of the Chola, Chera and Pallava dynasties covered the heads of the *moortis* of the various Gods.

In Vedic and Sanatan culture, the turban is marked as the uniqueness of masculinity and pride of debonair Indian men. In recent times various head covers widely used are symbols of respect. As the turban is a sign of valour and dignity for men so is the *hijab* and veil for women. The turban has different names such as *Saafa*, *Dastar*, *Topi*, *Shiravashtra*, *Pagg* and *Ushnisha*. *Kapalika* and *Shirovesh* are also different forms of head covers. The *Ghoonghat* has its origin in the ancient Sanskrit term '*Avagenthan*' means cloak - veil. Other kinds of veils popular in medieval and ancient society were the *Uttariya* (shoulder veil), *Adhikantha Patta* (neck veil), *Siro vashtra* (head veil) and *Mukhapatta* (face veil). Dr G.S. Ghurye has remarked in his book '*Indian Costume*' that Lord Indra's wife Indrani used to wear a head cover known as '*Usnisa*'. Head is covered before entering religious places to show respect and gratitude to the divine. It is said that in the temple's precincts, vibrations are such that the head cover awakens the energy of the soul (*Atma-Shakti*). This awakened *Atma-Shakti* can get

easily discharged through the *Brahmarandhra* (present on the crown of the head) within seconds, if not harnessed usefully. In Gurdwara, the bare head is covered as a sign of respect towards the Sovereignty of Guru Granth Saheb. In Christianity, the female characters e.g. Mother Mary, and Sister Martha are seen wearing head covers. According to Bible, a woman wearing a veil shows dignity, modesty and grace. A veil is a symbol of a nun's status, a sign of affiliation to the church and her submission to God.

*Hijab* is the blessing of Allah which saves women from humiliation. The ultimate goal is to please Allah and to maintain a wholesome and stable society. There are rules also for men to preserve modesty in dress and behaviour. The guidelines given to men and women regarding *hijab* are to be followed by them strictly. It is the code of behaviour to protect chastity and to be meritorious, dignified and honourable. The reason is mentioned in Qur'an in the following verse.

*"O Prophet! tell to your wives and your daughters and the women of the believers to bring down over themselves (part) of their outer garments. That is more suitable that they will be known and not be*

*abused."* (33:59)

*Hijab* observing women is like a pearl in a shell, soothing, generating healing currents which flow through society to integrate it on civilized lines.

Our constitution gives the right to freedom in Article 25 (1)

*"Subject to public order, morality and health and other provision of this part, all persons are equally entitled to freedom of conscience and the right freely to profess, practice and propagate religion."*

'Article 21' (Protection of life and Personal Liberty) guarantees the right to a dignified life.

The *hijab* controversy violates the fundamental rights of Muslim women given by our constitution. As far as the uniform is concerned, it includes coats, scarves and caps then why can't the *hijab* be included? According to Indian tradition, we consider school as '*Vidya-Mandir*' so when we cover our head in *Mandir* then why not in *Vidya-Mandir*? How can uniformity to this extent be acceptable in a diverse country like ours, where Sikhs wear *pagdi*, Christians wear a cross, and

Hindu ladies wear *mangal sutra* (all acceptable in uniform)? In the name of "*hijab*," Muslim girls are being marginalized, defamed and deprived of education. So are we heading towards the age-old culture of not allowing *Dalits* to wear the blouse? If '*hijab*' is the issue today then the blouse might be tomorrow!

A *hijab-wearing* girl feels so ashamed in removing the *hijab* as some might feel in wearing less or no clothes. Can't a uniform be only a 'colour code'? We allow boys to wear pant shirts and girls shalwar- qameez in colleges diversity already exists here, they are not asked to wear the same dress! Uniformity cannot be maintained in any institution of a country with diverse cultures and religions. How can we give a single hue to the rainbow?

Let us think once again. People cover their heads in winter to save from cold, in summer to beat the scorching heat of the sun, and in rain with a raincoat then what remains?

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**When we cover our heads in Mandir then why not in Vidya-Mandir? How come uniformity to this extent is acceptable in a diverse country like ours, where Sikhs wear pagdi (acceptable in uniform), Christians wear a cross (acceptable in uniform) Hindu ladies wear mangal sutra (acceptable in uniform), and so on? In the name of "hijab," Muslim girls are being marginalized, defamed, demoralized, and deprived of education.**

## PARENTING

Laura El Alam

## Gathering Tips on Raising Human Beings

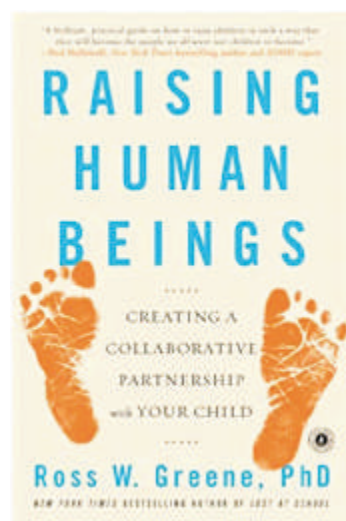


*Raising Human Beings: Creating a Collaborative Partnership with Your Child* by Ross W. Greene, Ph.D.

Gathering Tips on Raising Human Beings is a book I wish I had read years ago. If I could go back in time, I would hand a copy of this book to myself, the young

mother who needed guidance, sound advice, and strategies to cope gracefully with the parenting challenges that had only just begun.

Dr. Greene's approach, called Collaborative and Proactive Solutions (CPS), promotes a synergetic, non-adversarial



approach that encourages parents to partner with their kids to solve problems.

CPS is not about "permissive" parenting, and it's not about

moms and dads surrendering their right to guide their children, make rules, or have expectations. Rather, it's about:

Identifying the root causes behind a child's undesirable behaviors

Empowering children to help plan and implement necessary changes, which increases the likelihood that the child will cooperate

One of the main messages that really stood out to me was that children don't act out because they are trying to be naughty or attempting to manipulate us. Children greatly prefer parents' approval over their frustration and there are always reasons behind undesirable behaviors. Only by calmly talking with our child, brainstorming, and problem-solving together can we

learn the reason they are acting in certain ways. And only by identifying and solving the root cause can children change their behavior. This opened my eyes to a new way of parenting that did not include punishment, judgment, or shame.

Dr. Greene, a father of two who has worked as a clinical psychologist for over 25 years, lays out some key themes in his book:

Kids do well if they can. Your child would prefer to be doing well.

Good parenting means being responsive to the hand you've been dealt.

I found *Raising Human Beings* to be easy to read and understand. It is engaging because it is full of excellent advice and real-life scenarios. This book is not only





Moqheeta

## ALLAH'S WORLD

### An Naml - Ant

October 2022 brought accolades to a Lithuanian photographer named Eugenijus Kavaliauskas. He had won a prestigious prize at a Nikon photography competition under the "microscopic photography" category. And what was the subject of his photo? An ant. A humble ant. The microscopic image showed the face of an ant with eyes and teeth. In no time the photograph was crazily shared all across the globe. It fascinated many and shocked many. The photographer was widely recognized, but very few remembered the creator of the breath taking ant.



Another photo that was doing viral rounds was 'how ants store coriander seeds'. One who has some gardening knowledge will know that coriander seeds need to be whole or split in half in order to germinate. And this WhatsApp message was pointing at the intelligence given by Allah swt to the ants. The ants know the importance of cutting the coriander seed into four parts before storing it in their anthills for wintertime. If the seeds are not cut into four, they will germinate and leave the ants with no food. After reading about the coriander seeds, one of my aunts asked me to write about these marvellous creations of Allah az wajaal. We all have had experiences where we saw an ant trail or an ant colony on a visit to a park or picnic.

Talking of experiences, I would like to share a little memoir of mine that left me mesmerized. I had dropped an almond by mistake on the kitchen shelf which turned out to be a surprise treat for the ants. I was so fascinated by the smartness of these tiny ants, the way they suddenly appeared from nowhere, and knew exactly what they needed to do to devour the special protein bar. They bore only a tiny hole in the skin of the almond and carried parts of it from that hole. I didn't shoo away the ants nor did I move the almond. It was a captivating scene of hard and smart labour.

I even took a quick video to capture this amazing work of nature. Later when I shared the video with my friends to highlight the amazing work of ants, it was only to get a quick tart reply 'you seem to have too much time on

your hands to stop by and record how ants eat and carry their food'. But to me, it was time to put it to good use. It made me marvel at Allah's design of things. How supreme is He and how perfect His planning is even for a creature as minuscule as an ant? The intelligence Allah has bestowed in all His creations, makes me a much more humble and grateful servant.

Allah swt has given these tiny creatures an uncanny ability to protect themselves and their colony. Some of us might have experienced a nasty bite from any ant. Ouch, that really hurt!! But not all ants sting. Some bite and ward off the danger, some fly, and some scurry into crevices.

When they have to cross over a big gap, Allah swt has even given them the ability to form a living bridge by clutching each other's limbs. And they use this bridge either to help other ants cross or to carry food. Another remarkable mastery of ants is making a raft on water. They again clutch each other's limbs and form a raft-like shape. This helps them to float on water and take their queen to safe dry ground.

Like any other creation, even in the ant species, Allah swt has created more than 12000 different types of ants. We all must have seen a few different ones around our area - the big-bellied ants, small black ants, red ants, and flying ants. But imagine more than 12000!!!

Scientists have found ants on every part of the earth except for Antarctica. Funny isn't it, the name of the continent itself starts with Ant..., but they couldn't find any ant there! Allah alone knows whether he has placed any ants in Antarctica or not. A human can know only what Allah wants him to know.



If you happen to be near nature and are good at observational skills, you might have spotted ants taking away parts of the leaves and sometimes the whole leaf on their heads. The size and weight of an ant are no match to the weight and size of a leaf. Then how are they capable of such a feat? Who has given them the strength to perform such mighty tasks?

Allah al Azim made us strong. We can lift heavy weights. A very strong man is believed to lift double his weight. But who should take the credit when a tiny 5 mm ant is capable of carrying

objects approximately 30 - 40 times their own body weight!!! Is it the ant or the maker of the ant that deserves all the praise?!!

Should these signs not make us stop and ponder?

Ants are fast-moving creatures. And they work in teams. But would you believe that Allah swt did not give them the faculty of hearing and some ants can't even see!! Then how do they perform all the tasks? Allah al Musawwir has given ants the ability to "listen" by feeling vibrations from the ground through their feet. Have you seen an ant with raised antennae? The ants send as well as receive messages using their antennae.

This reminds us of the ayah in surah a Naml where one ant warns the others

"... get into your habitations, lest Sulayman and his hosts crush you (under their foot) without knowing it."

Scientists claim that ants do not make sounds to converse but send chemical signals called pheromones released through their body to send messages to other ants!

Allah swt gave the Sulaiman AS the power to understand the animal's language and also the power to understand the chemical signals. What Sulaiman AS said soon after deciphering the message is a lesson for all of us.

Upon being reminded of his powers, he immediately showed his humility and said,

"My Lord, enable me to be grateful for Your favour which You have bestowed upon me and upon my parents and to do righteousness of which You approve. And admit me by Your mercy into [the ranks of] Your righteous servants." (Al Qur'an 27:19)

He instantly acknowledged that it is only Allah swt who is the bestower of favours and is merciful.

This teaches us to be humble no matter what power we hold.

So next time you see ants, do not see them as some insignificant creatures merely mentioned in a science textbook. See them from a Muslim's perspective and you will begin to marvel at Al Majid The All-Glorious, The Majestic, and The Ever-Illustrious who made the ants that are so disciplined, diligent, hardworking, team-focused, and goal-focused. And just like the ants He teaches every creation of His, the skills to hunt for food, work together, survives, reproduce, protect, escape, build shelter, and overall be an ayah for us humans.

They all remind us of the greatest power and to be in awe of Him - our creator. ■

## A Different Diary

Many of us at one point or another must have written diary notes. Some of you still might be writing them. A Diary entry is a good literary activity. It has its benefits.

When we write our diary, we tend to also write the lows of that day. Psychologists say penning down these negative emotions is a good vent out and it helps emotional health. But we need to check the source the psychologists get this thinking from.

A Muslim has to constantly work on strengthening his Iman and block the holes where disappointment creeps in from. Maintaining a written record that holds negative thoughts, unrestrained emotions, and harmful behaviour...how much will that help a Muslim?

Today I would like to share a different kind of diary that Muslims can start maintaining. The time given by Allah az wajaal is precious. A Muslim cannot afford to miss even part of his day without doing something beneficial for his akhirah. He should always work towards a fruitful day, one that will act in his favour on the day of Qiyamah. How can we achieve such productive days?

Every day there are plenty of opportunities Allah swt sends our way to do something worthwhile and add goodness into our account. There are many routes to reach our destination (A day that has pleased Allah swt). One such practical way of ensuring fulfilled days is to write at the end of the day - 'the day's achievements. And the list of these achievements should not include any worldly activities. It should include acts done purely for Allah's sake.

Another common practice of many people is to create a 'TO DO' list. The TO DO list helps people plan, focus, and work in an organized manner. Creating a TO DO list and following it through is a useful skill, but sometimes it can act as a limitation. One can get so caught up in completing the tasks on the list that he misses the other openings around him.

But the 'THE DIFFERENT DIARY' can help overcome such limitations. Allah swt sends our way opportunities at every second. A conscious Muslim will notice these moments and immediately act upon them. TO DO list helps us plan ahead, most of the time we succeed in accomplishing it, and a few times we fail to. But there are times when we do not plan to do any sadaqah, but Allah swt brings in front of our situations that remind us of sadaqah. Another simple example can be; giving your seat to an elderly person on the bus, or letting

someone take your place in the queue. These are all opportunities sent by Allah that we hadn't planned. 'THE DIFFERENT DIARY' should become a place where we record our purest of deeds. Over a period of time, the list will slowly become longer because the recorded deeds act as motivation to do more for the akhirah. And no matter when we read it, it will only give us a good feeling, make our hearts happy, and will push us to do more.

The natural fear every diary writer holds is - what if someone reads my diary and comes to know of my deepest thoughts and my life secrets? Well, with 'THE DIFFERENT DIARY', we need not have such fears. The intention to record the deeds is for our own

improvement and if someone by chance even reads the diary, they might also be motivated to do something similar.

Another page of the diary should hold the moments when we felt genuinely grateful for Allah's blessing. All of us have moments when we feel so fortunate, and our heart recognizes His blessings. These moments should be recorded. The blessings can be big

or small but recognizing them is important.

Allah swt says "If you are grateful, I would certainly give you more; and if you are ungrateful, My chastisement is truly severe." (14:7).

The feeling of gratitude can be as simple as; 'sleeping on a clean bed, sipping a homemade tea with family around, being able to walk without assistance, opening a fridge full of food, being able to call a friend or relative'. Our day is completely filled with Allah's Rahmah. We need to train ourselves to see it more and thank Him more for it.

We all have days when we feel low. Shaitan plays his role to the fullest in making us become unmindful and ungrateful slaves of Allah. Imagine on such low-spirited days, if we open our diary and read how blessed we always have been, wouldn't it be a weapon against shaitan? Wouldn't it lift our Imaan and bring us back to the grateful self?

We do plenty of good deeds in a day. Maintaining 'THE DIFFERENT DIARY' will ensure we carry on being conscious and do more of such mindful deeds for our akhirah. May Allah swt help us make use of the time He has bestowed upon us and may He help us do things that please Him. Ameen.

(The writer can be reached at ascendtosuccess22@gmail.com for bulk diary orders. The diaries can be used as employee gifts.) ■







Moin Qazi

***But the most incredible bliss (happiness) is the Good Pleasure of All h. That is the supreme success. (Q:71-72)***

We are all caught in the maze of chasing fame and fortune and, of course, power, in whatever form we can attain it in the delusive hope that it will provide us lasting and wholesome happiness.

We see hordes of people who seem to have it all money, fame, houses, cars, yet miserable at heart, whose lives are devoid of the peace and contentment that all this was expected to bring.

Fortunately, happiness does not rest in anyone's hands but in our own. Happiness is not found over the rainbow or in some mythical place. It is around the corner, dancing down the street with no cares.

Looking for happiness through acquiring objects is like trying to catch your own shadow. The closer you move toward it, the farther it moves away from you.

The problem is that we can so easily be seduced into believing that generating more external value whether in the form of wealth, status, or even achievement leads to a greater sense of internal value. Each of these, pursued as a means to ensure our value, delivers diminishing returns over time.

Psychologists explain that what is essential is an engagement with something that gives meaning and purpose to one's life. In the words of Carl Jung, "The least of things with a meaning is worth more in life than the greatest of things without it."

Happiness can be found in the

solace that comes from practicing the truth. It can be achieved by practicing sincere worship, promoting noble and beautiful deeds, and performing acts of kindness and charity. They all have the potential to make us happy every day, under any circumstances. Even giving the smallest charity to please God can bring a smile to your face and a feeling of joy to your heart.

The Qur'an says *"And the likeness of those who spend their wealth seeking God's pleasure while they are sure and certain that God will reward them (for their spending in His Cause), is the likeness of a garden on a height; heavy rain falls on it and it doubles its yield of harvest. And if it does not receive heavy rain, light rain suffices it."* (Qur'an 2:265)

In his book *Alchemy of Happiness*, al-Ghazali begins by saying, **"He who knows himself is truly happy."** Self-knowledge consists in realizing that we have a perfect heart or spirit, but which has been covered with dust by the accumulation of passions derived from the body and its animal nature. The essence of oneself is likened to a perfect mirror which, if polished, would reveal one's true divine nature. The key to this polishing is the elimination of selfish desires and adopting a contrary desire to do what is right in all aspects of one's life. He writes, *"Moral discipline aims to purify the heart from the rust of passion and resentment till, like a clear mirror, it reflects the light of God."*

The most striking claim that al-Ghazali makes about the prophets is that they are the happiest people, for they have achieved the ultimate goal of human existence. Al-Ghazali writes that every

person is born with a **"knowing pain in the soul"** resulting from a disconnection from the Ultimate Reality. The tragic condition of Man is that our eyes have been so distracted by physical things and



**In his book *Alchemy of Happiness*, al-Ghazali begins by saying, "He who knows himself is truly happy." We are lost in a world of delusion and attachment, extremely caught up in the whirl of material life. We have no time to reflect upon the words of these wiser souls. They spoke out of their religious experience to awaken us from our slumber.**



pleasure that we have lost the ability to see the unseen. This is why people are so unhappy: they are trying to relieve this pain in the soul by recourse to physical

pleasure. But bodily pleasure cannot reduce an essentially spiritual pain. The only answer to our condition is a pleasure that comes not from the body but from self-knowledge.

The idea of happiness is not a universal human that applies across all times and all cultures, but something that remains fluid through the eons. There is, however, an overwhelming agreement that the texture of the lives of all happy people shows that they connect very well with the world around them and have a purpose to their lives that buffers them from worldly strife. "Life has meaning," as Robert Browning reminds us, and "to find its meaning is my meat and drink." These happy people are like Mitya in *The Brothers Karamazov*, "One of those who don't want millions, but an answer to his questions." Sadly, most of us have lost focus of this age-old equation and are pursuing a mirage the conquest of the unconquerable.

Every single one of God's commandments aims to bring happiness to the individual. This applies to all aspects of life, worship, economics, and society. *"Whoever works righteousness whether male or female while he (or she) is a true believer verily; to him, we will give a good life (in this world with respect, contentment, and lawful provision), and we shall pay them certainly a reward in proportion to the best of what they used to do (i.e. Paradise in the Hereafter)."* (Qur'an 16:97).

Following the teachings of Islam and striving to please God is a constant reminder that this life is but a brief pause on the way to life everlasting.

*"But whosoever turns away from*

*My Reminder (i.e., neither believes in this Qur'an nor acts on its teachings) verily, for him is a life of hardship, and We shall raise him blind on the Day of Resurrection."* (Qur'an 20:124)

Parents and teachers must teach children to develop a suitable template for happiness and then equip them with a moral compass to keep it intact. An ideal template has all these ingredients sensitivity to the feelings and needs of others and skills that are best learned early notably: empathy, responsibility, kindness, reciprocity, generosity, and the value of fairness.

Gloom sets in when desires and impressions of worldliness stain our conscience. It needs to be polished by a deep journey inward. A successful journey opens our spiritual eyes to the wonders we have been gifted with. Instead of comparing ourselves constantly with "the haves" and feeling deprived, we start weighing our good fortunes against those who have little

We are lost in a world of delusion and attachment, extremely caught up in the whirl of material life. We have no time to reflect upon the words of these wiser souls. They spoke out of their religious experience to awaken us from our slumber. We must use these pearls of wisdom to discover that inner happiness. Instead of comparing ourselves constantly with "the haves" and feeling somehow cheated and deprived, it would do us a world of good to weigh our good fortunes against those who have little. Our time on this earth is not infinite. We must welcome any opportunity to smile and can't afford to waste one second. There's a real purpose in our desire for happiness it's not selfish to pursue it. ■

## Gathering Tips on Raising Human Beings

appropriate for a Muslim audience but would, I think, enable us to improve our relationships and raise better members of our Ummah. Today's adult Muslims often carry a great deal of trauma from the way they were raised with harsh punishment, criticism, and poor communication. If the current generation can learn a new and better way of parenting, we can make a change in our communities that will have a positive ripple effect on future generations.

Oftentimes cultures (including and perhaps, especially cultures from Muslim-majority lands) pass down parenting techniques that involve punishment, guilt, authoritarianism, and shame. However, if we look at the example of the Prophet

Muhammad, peace and blessings be upon him, we see that he took a very gentle approach with children. He told us that Allah loves gentleness:

Aisha reported that the Prophet Muhammad, peace and blessings be upon him, said: *"Allah is gentle and He loves gentleness. He rewards for gentleness what is not granted for harshness and He does not reward anything else like it."* (Sahih Muslim)

Furthermore, Anas Ibn Malik reported, *"I never saw anyone who was more compassionate toward children than Allah's Messenger, peace and blessings are upon him."* (Sahih Muslim) Implementing Dr. Greene's technique requires learning a new way of parenting that is gentle and compassionate, just like our beloved Prophet. This

entails partnership, teamwork, improved communication, and collaboration rather than force or compulsion. As Dr. Greene points out, parents should strive for *influence*, not *control*. After all, someday our children will be making their own decisions. Don't we want them to make good choices because they want to, not because they feel forced or shamed into it?

(Laura El Alam is a first-generation American Muslim and the founder of Sea Glass Writing & Editing [www.seaglasswritingandediting.com](http://www.seaglasswritingandediting.com). A prolific writer, A wife, and a mother of five, Laura lives with her family in Massachusetts.

**S o u r c e :**  
<https://www.soundvision.com/article/gathering-tips-on-raising-human-beings> ■



## A TEN-DAY DYS RESIDENTIAL SPIRITUAL WORKSHOP IN BANGALORE

**DATES:** 20th (Tuesday) to  
30th (Friday) December 2022

**VENUE:** The School of Ancient  
Wisdom a Spiritual Center,  
situated at Devanahalli, is Nestled  
away some 32 km from  
Bangalore City, Karnataka.

**ELIGIBILITY:**  
Only those who had done one or  
more DYS workshops.

**PARTICIPANTS:**  
Both Men & Women.

### INVESTMENT

Accommodation Rs. 25,000/- (Triple sharing rooms)  
Includes course material, accommodation,  
Food & Misc. expenses per person.

**ONLINE REGISTRATION LINK, & FOR DETAILS VISIT**  
<https://tinyurl.com/DYS-TT-8-DEC-2022>

**FOR ANY CLARIFICATION CALL**  
9892882029 / 9916283458 / 9880455799 / 9804121116



## One of the Best Three Days of My Life

*Discover Yourself workshops were held on the 28-30 October 2022 at Integral Foundation School, Toli Chowk, Hyderabad, and on the 4-6 November 2022 at AIL SG Mayor Hall, Andheri, Mumbai*

### Some of the Participants Share Their Experiences:

- One of the best three days of my life.
- It is a completely spiritual training workshop.
- A must for all psychologists and anyone trying to understand themselves and Muslims looking to connect deeper with Allah.
- I was with unclear mind with full of doubts regarding my family and relatives. The best thing about this workshop is the Reality Check. Alhamdulillah! All my doubts were cleared.
- I gained inner strength and self-confidence and I invite everyone to attend this workshop. It is VVV Excellent and Interesting.
- People talk about religion and its duties but here I learned to be a human being first and then automatically we become good Muslims.
- The workshop is brilliant and absolutely phenomenal. I was lost in the world and the worldly problems and now I have realized that everything starts with me.
- My stress was relieved, relieved myself from overthinking and evil thoughts. A good way to bring people to the straight path.
- I realized that all human beings are equal, and it is the opinion that creates all mess. I loved the journey within myself, and the reality was something too good beyond everything.
- It changed my context of seeing things' No judgment and see as it is. Excellent workshop to erase misconceptions about your life.
- This workshop is one's own journey, oneself into one's inner self and it is brilliant.
- I realized my life purpose is to serve human beings irrespective of any differences because the difference is in the mind not in reality.
- It is valuable. I discovered myself and surrendered myself to Allah and accepted reality. It was amazing and wonderful.
- The whole workshop is based on valuable values. As well as precious. Alhamdulillah! Thank you so much for the life change coach.

**SANNA:** Jazakallah Khair! For this amazing workshop. These three days were insightful and some information that I never thought of before, I was able to get. I am going to inculcate all the values slowly but willingly and will keep them with me throughout my life. May Allah protect you always and give you help, assistance, long life, and energy, to continue this amazing workshop in connecting

people to Allah and themselves. Ameen!!

**JUVERIA:** This workshop was eye-opening. Now, I am not scared of criticism from people. I feel more positive day by day and I got hope that I can do better, and I will do better. I believe, whatever happens, it's for my own good, and by Allah's will! I trust the timings of my life and learned that every moment, I



Mumbai DYS Workshop Photos

have a choice to change my life. I felt, and my family has seen a slight change in me, my energy, my body language, etc.,

**ANWAR:** My life was completely inside the hardware (Mind), thinking over everything. Dealing with Waswasa was the most difficult task, but after attending I got clarity. Understood many hadiths about the heart as to what Allah is telling me. I am relaxed now. My feelings for the family have changed, seeing from the view of Being and treating equally.

**SABIHA:** Before the workshop, I was confused about the concepts. I was stuck in past experiences. After the workshop, I feel positive energy entering me. Insha Allah, I will work on my negative attitude and strive to change myself.

**NILOFER:** The workshop is a very useful, great, joyful, and mindful experience. I was so disturbed and stressed but now I am really feeling good inside. I learned so many things which I cannot explain but I got something that will change me more in the future in shah Allah.

**AYESHA:** It is an eye-opener and an amazing workshop. The first day after the workshop I opened up myself. I cried, hugged my mum, and let my fear away. I shared all my feelings. I felt at peace and accepted the fact that all is by Allah.

**SHAIKH:** After attending the workshop, I was very overwhelmed by the speaker and his practical approach to changing oneself from within that was powerful and I would have missed

that if not attended the workshop. Family members were comfortable when I spoke to them, and my experience was very encouraging to motivate myself, and was very happy within.

**SHABANA:** Before the workshop was not knowing the submission to Allah's will and was not accepting the truth. After the workshop, I submitted it to my Creator. Alhamdulillah! Now life is happy and cool.

**NOORIN:** My learning journey started very early in life. But I was not able to find a coach who can show me the realities and clear my confusion. But Alhamdulillah! I managed to attend the workshop and got clarity and answers to all my questions. This workshop should reach every corner of the world.



Hyderabad DYS Workshop Photos

«Page 2

said, "Even Darul Uloom is not registered with UP Madarsa Board and hence it is not recognized, and so students of the seminary cannot avail government schemes and scholarships."

Gaur said that 306 madrasas in the district were not recognized, making a total of 754 madrasas that were registered in Saharanpur and Deoband is a part of the district.

"An investigation was conducted based on specifications provided by the Administration, such as the madrasa's founding year, its operating society, name, and its source of funding," he said and added that "Whatever action the administration takes, a complaint will be made based on that action."

A state-wide survey of madrasas or schools that teach Islamic religious education was ordered by the state government in September. According to a survey report that District Magistrates provided to the state government, throughout the state, around 8,441 privately run, unrecognized, and unregistered madrasas have been found. It is not a final list of 'unrecognized'

madrasas which will be released only after all the district magistrates submit their reports. The survey based on a 12-point questionnaire was started on September 10 in 75 districts of the state.

A government spokesman claims that Gorakhpur has 150 unofficial madrasas; Lucknow, Azamgarh, Varanasi, and Mau each have 100, while Aligarh has 90, Kanpur has 85, Prayagraj has 70, and Agra has 35. The highest number of 'unrecognized' madrasas was found in the Moradabad district.

The survey is being done to provide recognition to 'unrecognized' madrasas once they meet the government-mandated requirements.

Dharampal Singh, the state's minister for minority welfare, Muslim Waqf, and Haj, claimed to have ordered department staff to post a list of all madrasas that are not officially recognized on the department portal and the MELA app so that parents can get accurate information about any given madrasa and avoid sending

their kids to misleading institutions by sending them to the wrong schools.

The ministry reported that 8,441 'unrecognized' madrasas with roughly 7, 64,164 pupils enrolled, including both boys and girls, were found during the survey.

"These children are the future of our nation, and it is essential that they have access to modern education to guarantee that they are linked with mainstream society," he said, adding that the department had also been able to determine the ways of funding for the unrecognized madrasas, and in the majority of cases, contributions and zakat were the main sources of support.

Singh instructed officials to act so that minority community children might receive an education by the new education rules.

The Minister also warned that 'unrecognized' madrasas should be subject to legal action, and a presentation outlining every unrecognized madrasa that has so far been detected must be made.

The survey report would be

presented before Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath in the coming days.

Iftikhar Ahmed Javed, Chairman of, the Board of Madrasa Education, stated that teams in 75 districts had assessed 7,500 such madrasas by October 20. However, it may take some time to determine the precise figures.

"In Uttar Pradesh, there are 16,513 recognized madrasas, out of which 560 are given government grants (salary to employees, including teaching and non-teaching ones). There are 350 madrasas with less than 15 students. The teaching staff of 560 madrasas have pay scales similar to those in central government-run secondary schools..., "he said. It is being said that once the unrecognized madrasas fulfill the government's stipulated conditions, such as having a classroom, table, bench, chairs for pupils, sufficient lighting, fans, restrooms, and other essentials, they will be recognized by the Board of Madrasa Education.

Additionally, they will be eligible

to apply for both teaching and non-teaching employee salaries.

As part of the madrasa modernization program of the Union Education Ministry, 744 madrasas in the state are awarded funding for Shiksha Mitra. However, the ministry does not pay the salary of the Shiksha Mitra or assistant teachers in time which lingers for months. For pay, these teachers have repeatedly knocked on the ministry's door in Delhi.

There are several factors behind the mushrooming of madrasas in the state including economic dynamics and the denial of primary and secondary education to Muslim children in their mother tongue Urdu. Instruction in Urdu medium was banned in UP soon after the Independence in order to promote Hindi.

However, Maulana Farooqi admitted that there are many shortcomings in the madrasa education system.

We are working to address these issues and provide our kids with a modern education so they may confidently transition into the next life, he added. ■

## UP Controversial Madrasa Survey



Dr. Najatullah Siddiqui was a famous economist of India, an excellent Islamic scholar, and the author of many popular intellectual and research books on the subject of economics, and a prominent member of Jamaat-e-Islami.

Dr. Najatullah Siddiqui is one of the eminent scholars and economists of the Islamic world. On the one hand, his books on economics and other Islamic sciences have received much praise and his books have been translated into many languages of the world. On the other hand, he developed a team on Islamic economics in the Islamic world that is fully capable of carrying his work forward. It is for this reason that he was awarded the King Faisal International Award in Islamic Studies in 1982 for outstanding research services in economics. Not only this but he

was also awarded the American Finance House Award in 1993 along with many other awards. Dr. Najatullah Siddiqui was the author of about twenty-five research and Islamic books, his books have been translated into Persian, Turkish, Hindi, Bengali, Mali, and Thai languages and his writings and publications are seen with great value in the academic circle. Apart from this, hundreds of his articles were published in prestigious journals and magazines around the world. His most famous book is Banking without interest, which has been published in more than 100 editions and has been translated into many major languages of the world, and is available in two hundred and twenty libraries of the world. He

## Eminent Islamic economist Dr. Nejatullah Siddiqui passes away in the US



**Naqi Ahmad Nadwi,  
Riyadh, Saudi Arabia**

has famous books in the Urdu language.

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His famous works are in the English language.

Dr. Najatullah Siddiqui has also been a member of the editorial board of many renowned academic journals of the world, among which are notable.

Member of the Editorial Board of the Journal of King Abdulaziz University Jeddah, Member of the International Board of the Review of Islamic Economics of the International Association of Islamic Economics of the United Kingdom, Member of the Board of Trustees of the Accounting and Auditing Organization for Islamic Financial Institutions of Bahrain, Indonesia's Economist Member of the Editorial Board of Journal of Islamic Economics, Member of the Advisory Editorial Board of The American

Journal of Islamic Social Sciences, etc.

**Dr. Najatullah Siddiqui passed away on November 11, 2022, in America.**

May Allah accept their services  
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**Bengaluru:** South India's largest edible oil brand, Sunpure, today announced the launch of its maiden e-commerce website to provide easy access to its wide range of products. Currently, online purchase and home delivery services are available in Mysuru. MK Agrotech, the parent company, plans to expand Sunpure's online services to all markets across Karnataka in 2023.

This is the first time in the history of the edible oil and food industry of India that a company has facilitated the direct purchase of its products from the comfort of the consumers' homes. Another USP of this e-commerce initiative is the guaranteed delivery of fresh products, 'made with a whole lot of love, within three hours of the online purchase.

An exclusive 'Product Combo Offer', available only for purchases through Sunpure's new e-commerce website, offers never-before deals on Sunpure Sunflower oil, Sunpure Filtered Groundnut Oil, Sunpure Rice Bran Health, Sunpure Palmpure (imported refined palmolein oil), Sunpure Sugar (refined via a sulfur-free process) and Sunpure swaad (whole wheat atta produced using Swiss technology).

Sharing the company's vision behind the newly launched e-commerce platform, **Mr. Gokaran, General**

## Sunpure Launches Maiden E-Commerce Platform

*\* South India's largest edible oil brand provides easy access to its wide range of products via online purchase and home delivery services first in Mysuru, followed by other markets in Karnataka.*

*\* Guaranteed delivery of fresh products within three hours of the online purchase; exclusive 'Product Combo Offer' available only for purchases through Sunpure's new e-commerce website.*

**Manager - Sales and Operations, MK Agrotech** said, "As the manufacturers of the most revolutionary refined Sunflower oil in India, we have witnessed overwhelming love from our consumers for more than two decades now. In keeping with the changing times and evolving consumer needs, Sunpure's e-commerce platform is a pioneering endeavour to deepen our customer bond and carry forward the brand's legacy of bringing together technology and tradition. The future looks exciting!"

Sunpure has the distinction of being India's only chemical-free processed and physically refined oil with improved patented technology. Sunpure Oil is free from harmful preservatives, like tertiary butylhydroquinone (TBHQ) commonly used in food products, and is also enriched with Vitamins A, D, and E.

Unlike other brands in the market that use harmful mineral oil as the heating



medium for the refining process, Sunpure uses RO-treated water. Besides, the manufacturing process is eco-friendly. The company uses 100% green electricity generated by windmills, producing eight times more power than it consumes! Last year, Sunpure appointed actor and philanthropist Sonu Sood as its brand ambassador. The brand's marketing campaigns have consistently reiterated its core values

of purity, trust, care, and honesty.

Currently, Sunpure is present in key markets across India, namely, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra, and Kerala.

### About Sunpure

Sunpure, a part of MK Agrotech Group, is known for its first chemical-free, processed, and physically refined oil with improved patented technology. The company has adopted the highest standards of environmental and sustainable practices in its manufacturing processes including 100% green electricity. The company is present in key markets across India, namely, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra, Goa, and Kerala. The range of products includes Sunpure Sunflower oil, Sunpure Filtered Groundnut Oil, Sunpure Rice Bran Health, Sunpure Palmpure, Sunpure Sugar (refined via a sulfur-free process), and Sunpure Swaad Sharbati Atta (produced using Swiss

technology).

### About MK Agrotech

Guided by the principles of purity & transparency, MK Agrotech is one of India's finest food companies that prides itself on ensuring the health & wellness of its consumers. The brand had a humble beginning in Srirangapatna in the Mandya district of Karnataka, way back in 1976. Its flagship brand, Sunpure, launched in 1995, is a household name in the edible oil segment and continues to expand its presence across key markets in the Southern and Western regions of India. The company is now a 1000-plus strong team with an annual turnover of close to INR 2,700 crore. From edible oil and wheat flour to sugar, MK Agrotech has emerged as a leading food company that touches an average of 2.5 lakh families daily and is closely engaged with more than 800 distributors, which is growing with each passing day. As a socially responsible corporate group, MK Agrotech is actively giving back to society through various initiatives. Every year more than 1,000 students are being benefited from the company's support in enrolling in various courses. It also supports patients in the need of dialysis with more than 30,000 procedures getting completed with the group's financial assistance.

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