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# ISLAMIC VOICE

English Monthly



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Rajab / Shaban - 1444 H

## Award



Dr. Tanzeemunisa, MS (ENT) has been awarded a Gold medal for securing the First Rank in the Diploma in Allergy and Asthma examinations conducted by the International Asthma Services, USA in association with the Christian Medical College, Vellore. Dr. Tanzeemunisa is currently working as Assistant Professor, in the ENT department, at JSS Medical College and Hospital, Mysore.

## Milli Council's 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual session held in Chennai

# Calls upon the Community to Start Outreach Programme With Non- Muslim Brethren's

### IV Correspondent

**Chennai:** All India Milli Council held its 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual session here from January 13 to 15. The council passed several resolutions concerning the community and the country and called upon the community to widen the outreach programme with fellow citizens and other religions leaders.

We have gathered here at a crucial juncture in India's history, and the leaders of the ruling party and its affiliates are reportedly inflaming communal strife in the nation, according to Dr Mohammad Manzoor Alam, General Secretary of the Milli Council. In light of this, Dr Alam suggested that we launch an outreach programme



with our brothers to attempt and correct any misconceptions they may have about Islam and Muslims that have been spread by communal Hindutva forces.

In particular, he advised meeting with the four Shankar Acharyas and other important Hindu

religious figures in order to disseminate the message of oneness at all levels. Let it be known that we are taking these actions to bring back the nation's peace and order. The second crucial action is to knock on the judiciary's door, organize the legal battle, and

use the constitution to solve our concerns. The third action that needs to be taken is for us to receive the support of any section of the community that is working for peace and justice. They don't communicate with them. Making the atmosphere more pleasant is the fourth crucial job.

President of the Milli Council Maulana Abdullah Mugheishi also stated in his inauguration speech that we have gathered at this pivotal moment in history to discuss the community's bright future and make some crucial decisions. These problems continue to appear as a result of the reversals we are battling.

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## 3<sup>rd</sup> Shafi'i Fiqhi Seminar concludes in Kerala

# Ulema ponder over new challenges in Islamic frame: Maulana Rahmani

### IV Correspondent

**Ochira, Kerala:** The third 3-day Shafi'i Fiqhi Seminar hosted by Majmaul Imam Ash Shafie Al Alami Academy came to a successful conclusion here on January 15. The general secretary of the All India Muslim Personal Law Board, Maulana Khalid



Saifullah Rahmani, who was present at the concluding session, urged the ulema, scholars, and fiqhi jurists to discuss current problems and difficulties in the context of the Quran and Hadees.

In his remarks, Maulana Rahmani acknowledged his delight with the seminar's activities. He called Ulemas attention to the concerns

brought on by new technology, particularly the expanding use of the internet, and he reminded them that they also needed to consider problems with online trading and filming. Can we follow an Imam leading namaz in Haram Sharif via online video to do namaz? He added that this

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## “Diabetes and Blood Pressure Screening and Counseling Centre at Nehtaur”



**Hundreds of free Screening and Counseling Centre's are needed” – M. Imdad Aalam**

During his discussions with those responsible for running the “Diabetes and Blood Pressure Screening and Counseling Centre” at Nehtaur, Mr. Mohammad Imdad Aalam, a Jamia Millia Islamia alumnus, who is presently working at the Indian Embassy in Riyadh, congratulated them for establishing such a unique center that offers free services and underlined the need to establish hundreds of such centers to create awareness regarding silent attackers such as diabetes and blood pressure across the country and build a healthy Indian society. He opined that such public welfare work helps strengthen the bond between human beings irrespective of any and every difference of religion, sect, caste, gender, region,

or any other.

Under the aegis of the Health and Education Promotion Trust (HEPT), Mr. Ghizal Mahdi, former President of Jamia Millia Islamia Alumni Association (Riyadh), has established this center; and people have been availing its free services, since October 2022. The office bearers of HEPT are Professor Zubair Meenai (President), Mr. Shyam Sundar (Vice President), Mr. Ghazal Mahdi (Secretary), and Mr. Mahindar Manral (Treasurer).

Mr. Ita-at Husain, a member of the team that looks after the smooth functioning of the center, is apprised of the functioning of the center and its approach to sending the patients to the local Community Health Centre. He

also informed that so far over 30 health volunteers – including bioscience students of classes 11 and 12 and those pursuing education in medical sciences – have joined the center.

Dr. Ijmal Ahmad said that the number of youth who have kidney failure due to diabetes and high blood pressure is alarming. In the Bijnor District Hospital, an average of 25 people, undergo dialysis every day, 10 belong to the 15 to 35 age group. He stressed the need to educate the people – about the need for regular light exercise, low salt diet, less use of painkillers, controlling of blood sugar and blood pressure, and approaching government hospitals for advice – through health awareness campaigns.

Emphasizing the need to create awareness regarding blood sugar and blood pressure, Mr. Naved Iqbal cited the diabetes data, which indicates the likelihood of India having the highest number of blood sugar patients in a few years from now. Mr. Riyaz-ul Hasan suggested that to create awareness regarding blood sugar, pamphlets in Hindi and Urdu be distributed. Mr. Dilshad Ahmad, Advocate Musawwir Husain, Mr. Shariq Abrar, and Mr. Mohammad Umar also participated in the discussions. ■

## Tales of Communal Harmony: Muslim Man Saves A Hindu Girl from Sure Death



A Muslim man Tipu Sultan saved the life of a Hindu girl Monali Kaushal, from sure death, even without knowing her religion, in Dewas, Madhya Pradesh on January 1, 2023. Monali Kaushal had reportedly tried to attempt to commit suicide by jumping into the River Shipra apparently due to being ditched by her Hindu lover. Tipu Sultan, who was among the people who watched Monali Kaushal jumping into the river in an attempted suicide bid, relied on quick thinking and did a brave act to save Monali's life.

Tipu asked a passing truck for a rope, and one trucker, Vinod Solanki, provided the same. Tipu tied one end of the rope with the truck and used the rope to lower himself into the river.

After touching the water he had to swim a bit holding the rope in his teeth to reach Monali, who was still alive. Tipu grabbed Monali in his arms in a bid to rescue the victim with hundreds of people watching his daredevil act. Tipu then shouted to the truck driver to move the vehicle so that both were pulled out from the river and brought to safety on the road. The locals who gathered there helped the duo to come to a safe position. They first provided first aid to Monali by making her vomit the water she slowed and then rushed to the nearby hospital, where her condition is said to be stable.

The residents of Dewas feted Tipu

Sultan as a hero. They first garlanded him and lifted him on their shoulders and took him out in procession. His action was rightly celebrated as an example of where humanity triumphed over the religious divide.

In times of religious polarization, this incident highlights the ability of people of different faiths to come together to manage a crisis situation.

This incident also sparks off a conversation about the need for individuals to listen to the call of consciousness and condemn the campaigns of Hindus to get united against Muslims.

This incident also showcases a living reality of how humanity comes first at the time of crisis and not religion. The incident also gives the message that each Indian should hold the thread of hope that interfaith communal harmony is the only way to peace of co-existence in the country.

This incident also shows how Indians continue to reject hateful and divisive agendas and reinforces the idea that only through collective will; we can uphold and defend our unique pluralism, and our diverse culture and still be united. In the end, the love of humanity is the sum and summary of this incident. (Source: <https://theindianawaaz.com/tales-of-communal-harmony-muslim-man-saves-hindu-girl-from-sure-death/>) ■

## Tamil Nadu CM announces to Increase the funds to Repair the Mosques to 10 Crore

**Chennai:** Tamil Nadu Chief Minister MK Stalin has announced enhancing the subsidy for mosques under the Major Repair Grant (MRG) to Rs 10 crore. Last year the DMK government provided the same subsidy of Rs 6 crore. The previous AIADMK regime had given the MGR to the tune of Rs 5 crore.

The Tamil Nadu Chief Minister made the announcement following a demand from Manithaneya Makkal Katchi leader and Papanasam MLA M.H. Jawahirullah.

Welcoming the announcement made by the Tamil Nadu Chief Minister, the MMK leader M.H.

Jawahirullah said that the MRG was Rs 5 crore during the previous AIADMK government and it was increased to Rs 6 crore last year after the DMK came to power, and now he is glad to hear that now it is further increased to Rs 10 crore.

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister reiterated his government was not against believers, but against those who use people's religious faith for their personal gains. In the period since the government came to power till October 31, 2022, it has recovered 3,150 acres of encroached land worth Rs. 3,657.48 crores belonging to temples and charities, he pointed out. ■

## MASJID-O-MADRASA ABDULLAH BIN ZAID (RAZ)

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Over 1,000 Muslim girls dropped out as a result of the hijab prohibition in Karnataka. This dire scenario was highlighted by prominent rights body the People's Union for Civil Liberties – Karnataka unit (PUCL-K) in its report which conducted a survey of the state's five districts.

The report entitled 'Closing the Gates to Education: Violations of Rights of Muslim Women Students in Karnataka' revealed that a total of 1,010 hijab-wearing girls dropped out of PU colleges "because of the hijab ban and other reasons as well". The report asserted that Hindutva organizations had waged a campaign of demonization against students who wore hijabs. It also highlighted the government's and the police's passive role in dealing with fundamentalist groups who indulged in violence with full impunity. The PUCL study covered five Karnataka districts: Hassan, Dakshina Kannada, Udupi, Shimoga, and Raichur. Another report published by The

## One Year of Hijab Ban's Consequences Over 1,000 Muslim Girls Left Education in Middle



Indian Express stated that the proportion of Muslim students admitted into government pre-university colleges (PUCs) in the Udupi district has dropped by roughly 50%.

In comparison to 5,962 the year before, over 4,971 students across all categories registered for PUCs in government institutions in Udupi in 2022-23.

According to IE, although there hasn't been much of a shift in the district's Class 11 enrollment of Muslim students in pre-university institutions, there has been a major drop in applications to government PUCs.

There were 186 Muslim students enrolled in Udupi's government PUCs in 2022-23 (91 females and 95 boys), which is less than half of the 388 (178 girls and 210 boys) students enrolled in 2021-22.

Muslim admissions to private PUCs increased from 662 (328 girls and 334 boys) in 2021-22 to 927 (487 girls and 440 boys) in 2022-23.

Many people consider that the current hijab controversy, which dominated the first several months of 2022, was the reason for the change from government to private.

The proportion of Muslim female students at our PU College has nearly doubled for the first time, said Aslam Haikady, administrator of the Saliath Group of Education, "This is a testimony to how the hijab problem has actually impacted them personally and academically. Furthermore, parents of male students also want them to avoid any problems, especially social ones."

### Genesis of Hijab Issue

Six Muslim students at a Udupi pre-university institution were abruptly notified in December 2020 that they could not uphold their religious obligation by wearing the headscarf on the campus premises. This is when it

all started. When the Muslim students arrived wearing saffron scarves, the Hindutva groups encouraged the Hindu students to fight them. The state officials made the decision to close the colleges in the area following many protests and altercations with Hindu classmates who came up wearing saffron scarves. In compliance with the Karnataka Education Act of 1983, the Karnataka government subsequently issued an order on February 5th requiring all students attending public schools

to wear a uniform.

The hijab was prohibited in the classrooms according to the Order. The order appears to be an appeasement with Hindutva elements.

The difficulties faced by female students were significantly made worse by the hijab prohibition decision. According to responses provided in response to RTI queries submitted in June 2022, the prohibition has resulted in 145 out of 900 Muslim female students in colleges connected to Mangalore University in the Udupi and Dakshina Kannada districts receiving transfer certificates.

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**Bangalore-based prominent journalist M. A. Siraj said the Hijab order by the Karnataka government is a "retaliatory action." He blamed SDPI for stoking the issue for its politics. The issue was manageable at the local level as the Beary Muslim community has its own educational institutions to adjust these girls in their colleges,**



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## Rahman Khan receives IOS Lifetime Achievement Award



### IV Correspondent

**New Delhi:** K Rahman Khan, a former deputy chairman of the Rajya Sabha and former minister for minority affairs, has received the prestigious 10<sup>th</sup> IOS Lifetime Achievement Award for his contributions to academia, society, and other fields. He received the award, which consists of a memento, a shawl, and a check for Rs. 1 lakh, at a ceremony on December 29, 2022, held at the Constitution Club. He was given the award by Harish Rawat, the former chief minister of Uttarakhand, who was present at the occasion as the chief guest. He complimented Rahman Khan and said he felt privileged to present the award to Rahman Khan as he had worked with him in the government and in Parliament. It was a source of pleasure for me, he added. He said that Rahman is an institution rather than a single person. "His entire career and life have been a light, from the realm of education to politics and the legislature. Rahman performs each task flawlessly. Held the position of Deputy Chairman of the Upper House and managing the Rajya Sabha is a highly challenging job. He made decisions with a grin and said unpleasant things with a very courteous smile, which was a very

observable manner. The development of parliamentary abilities takes time; they are not developed overnight. I have seen how government initiatives helped minorities. He worked as a minority minister in the sectors that required government funding. He also has an open heart and appreciates others. One of those people who takes into account the opinions of others and behaves appropriately is Rahman Sahib," Rawat said. Rahman Khan thanked IOS and Dr. Manzoor Alam in particular during his address and said he was thrilled to receive this honor from such a prestigious organization as IOS. Narrating his life experiences, the former minister said we should be positive and work for others. I was born in a village before we gained our independence, he said and added when I hear that nothing has improved in the last 70 years, I chuckle as they are not aware of the pre-independence realities. "I have found that people who work with faith in Allah usually succeed. One's life is changed through education. The community advances," he said. "I have approximately 55 years of experience in the field of education and have founded numerous schools. The community's worries are highly

important, and those who worry also take action. There are a lot of meetings and conferences in our community but no implementation, the former minister opined. As other communities move to progress, we can also move forward, and blaming the government is not the solution to the problem. We tried to do various things, such as create medical and engineering colleges; we did all of this after much work". Khan highlighted these points in his speech. He gave the example of Karnataka's Lingayat community saying the community itself has developed through its own efforts.

On his entry into politics, Khan said he was offered to contest legislative council elections and entered politics and worked with full honesty.

"We cannot move forward with mutual conflict, so negotiation and conversation are crucial. It is necessary to move forward in a constructive way and to be together with everyone. Dialogue is necessary to good living. You must dispel misunderstandings. Some people wish to destroy this country, and only when all religions are acknowledged will it stay secular," Rahman Khan said, who returned the prize money of one lakh rupees to IOS.

Farqan Qamar, a professor, remarked awarding exceptional work in a variety of sectors is a source of pride, and individuals who have received awards in the past have a significant impact. Rahman Khan has made outstanding contributions to education and other sectors, according to IOS Chairman Dr. Manzoor Alam, which is why the award committee chose his name.

IOS General Secretary Prof Z M Khan gave details about the activities of the institute. Former Delhi L G Najeeb Jung, Dr. Arshad Khan, Prof. Afzal Wani, and other personalities were present on the occasion. ■

## MIA-Muslim Industrialists Summit Transform Muslim Enterprises into Corporate Sector, Rahman Khan

Staff Writer



**Bangalore:** Former Union Minister K Rahman Khan advised the Muslim industrialists to transform their companies into corporate entities. Speaking on the last day of 2-day the Muslim Industrial Association Summit held at Palace Ground on January 15, the former minister Khan said Muslims were dealing with a wide range of issues and had an inferiority complex, both of which needed to be addressed. He argued that attempts should be made to get people out of this attitude and inspire them with fresh ideas and thinking. Lauding the Muslim industrialists for their entrepreneurship, he said they

should take a cue from the WIPRO which was a small business entity at the beginning now transformed into a big corporate house. They should follow the footsteps of WIPRO and elevate their holdings into big corporate companies, he said. He posed the Questions to the Ulema to give alternatives for not taking loans from the banks. The leading Muslim business people in the city attended the two-day summit. Abdul Subhan, the Falcon Group of Institute's promoter, and MLC Naseer Ahmad were also present. The Muslim Industrial Association Summit concludes with prospects for growth. ■

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## Ulema ponder over new challenges in Islamic frame: Maulana Rahmani

issue also needs to be thought upon. Imam Ash Shafae Al Alami Academy's academic and research work was praised by Maulana Rahmani for advising believers on modern challenges. He asked the Ulema assembly to maintain its unity and resist the plots of outside conspirators. Stop the advance of western civilization and thwart attempts to turn away the next generation of Muslims from Islam. Maulana Rahmani who authored several books is also the general secretary of Fiqh Academy of India and the head of Al Mahad Ul Aali Al Islami, Hyderabad. The seminar featured papers on a

variety of topics, including *Royat-e-Hilal* (moon sighting), *Sadaqat al-Fitr*, collective sacrifice, insurance, and relationships with non-Muslim brethren. A number of suggestions were also presented and approved in accordance with Shafae jurisprudence. Additionally, Maulana Rahmani was present during the Darul Uloom Islami annual gathering. In the end, 23 madrasa graduates received certificates. In his speech, Maulana Rahmani warned the students of Shakil bin Hanif, a new fitnah (a heretical rebellion). He said that many upright Muslims were victims of this fitnah. He also spoke at length about the unity issue in the Muslim community. ■



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## AMU Historians elected in the Indian History Congress

**Aligarh:** Professor Shireen Moosvi (ex-faculty member, Centre of Advanced Study, Department of History, Aligarh Muslim University) has been elected as the Vice President of the Indian History Congress, the largest body of professional historians in India, while Professor Syed Ali Nadeem Rezavi, Professor Manvendra Kumar Pundhir, and Professor Syed Jabir Raza have been elected as the Secretary, Joint Secretary, and Treasurer respectively. Eminent historians Professor Irfan Habib and Professor Ishrat Alam have been elected as Members, the Executive Committee of the prominent body. Incidentally, Professor Alam was



also the President of the Medieval India Section of the Indian History Congress this year. Notably, the annual session of the Indian History Congress was held at Madras Christian College, Chennai between December 27-29, where these historians got elected for their respective positions during the Executive Committee and General Body meetings. During this 81st session of the Indian History Congress, a large contingent of 30 teachers and researchers from the Department of History, AMU participated and contributed research papers in its various sessions, symposiums and annual felicitation lectures. ■

## «Page 1 Calls upon the Community to Start Outreach Programme With Non-Muslim Brethren's

He added that the entire world is unified in its opposition to Islam today. There is an effort to obliterate the religious identity of Muslims in India, seeds of division have been sown, leading to an atmosphere of hatred and prejudice, minorities are experiencing more fear and terror, and they are feeling as though their rights are being violated, but there is no need to panic. Positive actions should be taken, relationships with God Almighty should be strengthened, and the Milli Council should continue to be active in finding solutions to the difficulties faced by the community and the country. In his special address, Dr Jawahirullah, a well-known political figure and MLA from Tamil Nadu, said that there was an

effort to turn India toward fascism. In North India, a gulf is being created between Muslims and Hindus, something that needs to be avoided in order to forge a sense of unity. The work should go on. He claimed that whereas Christians and Jews had complete freedom to practice their religions and were never barred from doing so during the time of the Prophet, in India, which is now a secular democracy, yet we Muslims are still battling to defend the personal law.

National Vice President of the Milli Council, Maulana Abdul Halim Baqvi, stated that the Milli Council was founded in order to bring all of the countrymen together on the basis of humanity and religion and to protect the community and society from

dangers. The Milli Council has a distinguished past and will continue to lead Millat Islamia in the same vein. The second vice-president of the council, Maulana Anisur Rehman Qasmi, claimed in his speech that the government is misinforming Muslims about several topics. There is no cause to be concerned, even though the police administration's failure to carry out its duties is alarming on every level. Being able to handle such circumstances is a sign of faith.

In the concluding session, Milli Council passed several resolutions on important issues facing the community and the country. Members, representatives, and state officials of more than 20 state units participated in the event. ■



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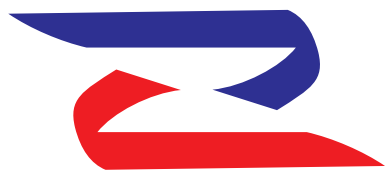
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## Malika Mistry

IGC (Information, Guidance, and Communication) Forum is a group of educationists, consultants, social activists, scientists, technocrats, social mobilizers, and Islamic scholars who want to contribute their expertise to the cause of aspiring Muslim youth's career development. Education, health, and self-employment are the focus areas of community service. IGC was founded by Prof. K. G. Pathan of Bharati Vidyapeeth University, Pune in 1997. Its work is concentrated in the districts of Pune, Sangli, and Satara of Maharashtra.

Recently it organized a novel community awareness program "Chupe Rustum" (in Muslim Community) to acknowledge and felicitate those selfless Muslim individuals from small places who have contributed to the development of Muslims in their areas. These individuals were identified by doing research, survey, and community mobilization in Ahmed Nagar, Satara, Sangli, and Pune districts. IGC believes that there are many Muslims who are highly educated or less educated but very successful in their respective fields. However, they are away from publicity and social media. Stories of ten such successful Muslims were presented to the

## "Chupe Rustum" - Community Awareness Program by IGC Forum, Pune



audience to inspire them to do similar work. Dr. P.A. Inamdar, Chancellor, Dr. P.A. Inamdar University, Pune, facilitated these ten personalities whose stories are narrated below:

**1. Mustafa Mujawar:** He has rehabilitated nearly 247 beggars, physically handicapped, homeless, and mentally retarded males and females found in open areas.

**2. Shama Attar:** She is a successful small entrepreneur. She was the female head of seven sisters (with no male in the house) who successfully gave higher education to her sisters and got them employed.

**3. Feroz Metkari:** A successful nursery owner who lost his parents in his childhood. Self-educated. Through his honesty, hard work, and excellent public relations he became successful.

**4. Zaid Saeed Sayyad:** A social activist in the field of rehabilitation of children. After

getting professional training and fieldwork experience at the Tata Institute of Social Work, Mumbai, he is now working as a stakeholder in a child development project with the prestigious Azim Premji Foundation, Bangalore.

**5. Mufti Raees Khan:** Teacher of Blind Muslim students of Vision School of Rehabilitation Centre of Kondwa Madrasa in Pune: IGC Forum enrolled them in the course on computer learning viz. CBCAL. Because of Raees' efforts, 12 of these blind students could pass this course. Now they can get some jobs.

**6. Nasir Khan:** A rare personality who is helping madrasa students to appear for the 10<sup>th</sup> standard exams

of Maharashtra State Board. He also provides financial assistance to 180 students of madrasas. He also helps them to pursue skill development courses after passing SSC.

**7. Mohammad Farid Tunekar:** He is the Founder-Director of the Waqf Liaison Forum ([www.waqfliasion.com](http://www.waqfliasion.com)) which is doing great work to bring awareness about waqf properties and how to retrieve them from the occupation in Maharashtra. He is a successful Health Services Engineer with immense experience in Iran and Kuwait. His wife Seema Tunekar is a well-known social worker in Pune delivering Islamic education and provision of basic needs to women in the slum areas of Pune.

**8. Abdul Karim Chiniwar (age 82):** Mr. Chiniwar educated all his six brothers and four sisters as his father had meagre income. All his siblings are highly educated and occupied important positions in Central Government and State

Government. Thus, he is an ideal brother.

**9. Sufiyan Tambatkar:** A successful young entrepreneur from Pune. His enterprise Bombay Steel Equipment manufactures bakery furniture. Through his hard work and good public relations, he could establish a monopoly in the market.

**10. N.M. Nadaf V.S.M., A.V.S.M:** He worked as an atomic scientist with Dr. APJ Kalam at Kalpakam, Tamil Nadu. Presently he is associated with the Walchand Nagar industry as a Senior Scientific Advisor near Pune.

All these *Chupe Rustum* are ideal personalities for the Muslim community. There is a lot of talent among Muslims. If utilized properly, it will surely empower the community and give dignity to Muslims. IGC Forum intends to organize this program every year to provide inspiration to the Muslim community.

Many girls had done job-oriented certificate and diploma courses under the guidance of the IGC Forum. They were all awarded in the convocation.

(<https://igcforum.org/Activity>)



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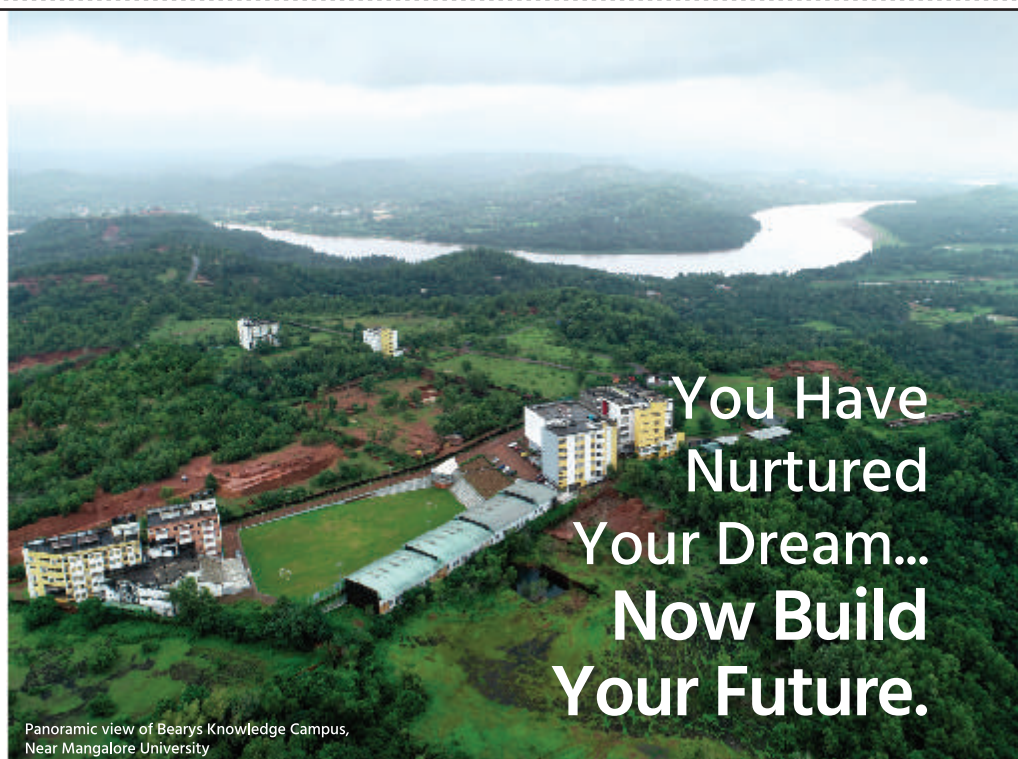
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## Maharashtra Chief Minister Promises 10 % Reservation for Unani Doctors



Abuzaeem

**Nagpur:** While thanking Unani physicians for their services during the deadly Covid epidemic, Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde promised that a 10% reservation quota will be fixed in the state's public hospitals and primary healthcare facilities for Unani doctors. He also promised that a government-run Unani medical college will be sanctioned shortly. He made these commitments through a video message during the 40<sup>th</sup> National Unani Medicine Conference. The conference was hosted by the Nagpur branch of the All India Unani Tibbi Congress on December 25. Shinde assured the gathering that his government would take measures to advance Unani medicine in the state.

Dr. Wajahat Mirza, a Congress MLC and the head of the Maharashtra State Wakf Board, welcomed the Chief Minister's decision in his speech and assured the gathering that he would exert all of his political power to see that the proposed government Unani Tibbi College would be realized. Echoing his views, former Congress minister and MLA Nitin Raut said Unani medicine is a very efficient and cost-effective treatment and that it should be given every chance to flourish.

Dr. Anis Ahmad, a former minister of Maharashtra, proposed building a Unani house with full facilities. He also offered to provide a plot of land to the intended centre.

Presiding over the session, AIUTC national president Professor Mushtaq Ahmad noted that this was the first time the Maharashtra government has made a significant announcement about the development of Unani medicine.

In his keynote address Dr. Syed Ahmed Khan, general secretary of AITUC provided a snapshot of the organization's activities. He listed problems faced by the Unani fraternity at national and state levels. He pointed out that Unani representation was overlooked in the new decision-making process as it was clubbed with a regional medicine system. He called upon the Unani fraternity to make concentrated efforts for the advancement of Unani Tibbi.

The organizing chairman of the conference Dr. Niyazuddin Siddiqui said Maharashtra state is a model state for Unani medicine because it enjoys the support of the state government. He claimed that 200 Unani doctors are practicing in and around Nagpur city and demanded the revival of the Unani Tibbi College, which was shut down in 20024. He claimed Nagpur had become a hub for Unani medicine.

Special Guest Dr. Vaidya Jayant Devpujari (Chairman, NCISM Government of India) said that our primary goal is to standardize medical colleges. He said, "Such a conference is very important for the promotion of Unani medicine, and the role played by Unani medicine in Covid-19 is commendable."

The 40th Conference titled 'Role of Unani Medicine In Present Scenario' has sessions on specialized lectures on some major diseases.

It also passed several resolutions including the Directorate of AYUSH, Government of Maharashtra must create a post, Deputy Director - Unani, Assistant Director - Unani in the Directorate to represent the Unani System of Medicine in the State of Maharashtra. ■

«Page 3

## One Year of Hijab Ban's Consequences Over 1,000 Muslim Girls Left Education in Middle

This implies that their education has, if not been completely interrupted, then at the very least, been hampered.

The PUCL report observed that in the aftermath of the hijab ban, students were forced to remove their hijab before entering college premises. Those who continued their education in the same colleges faced many challenges.

It was released on January 9 in Bangalore on the occasion of the birth anniversary of Fatima Sheikh, a social reformer and an educator who was a close associate of Savitribai Phule.

The report also examines the role of college authorities and administrative and police officials with respect to the ban. According to it, Muslim girl students faced humiliation and harassment in classrooms at the hands of the faculty, college administration, and classmates.

The report focused on three major areas: (1) The impact on Muslim women students after the imposition of the restriction on wearing hijab in their educational institutions, (2) The failure of different stakeholders in ensuring the safety of Muslim students, and (3) Various socio-cultural factors, including the biases, prejudices, and stereotypes against the Muslim community, especially women, which have enabled the escalation of a climate of hate.

It chronicles all major developments from December 2021 until the split ruling delivered by the Supreme Court of India. It details how the education departments failed in their duty to protect the rights of the students and to appropriately implement the order of the Karnataka High Court. It is to be noted Muslims in India have historically had limited access to education, but those in Karnataka have had it particularly difficult. According to a government survey published in 2013, Karnataka had the highest dropout rate of all the states for Muslim children in grades 1 through 8—6.3%. It also discovered that 73.9% of all Muslim upper primary students in India who discontinued their studies that year were from Karnataka.

In light of this, Syed Tanveer

Ahmad, secretary of the Jamaat-e-Islami Hind Markazi Taleemi Board, stated that the Karnataka Government is required under the constitution to address the continued violations of young Muslim women's fundamental rights. According to Syed Tanveer, the findings of numerous survey reports that highlighted the undesirable position of Muslim women students in the state should be a topic of great concern.

Citing the British Airways example which allowed its crew members to don headscarves, he said that the state government shouldn't apply a double standard to such matters or see them through a communal lens. However, Bangalore-based prominent journalist M. A. Siraj said the Hijab order by the Karnataka government is a "retaliatory action." He blamed SDPI for stoking the issue for its politics. The issue was manageable at the local level as the Beary Muslim community has its own educational institutions to adjust these girls in their colleges, he added.

The PUCL Karnataka unit president Adv. Arvind Narrain, and general secretary, Shujayathulla, also urged the state government to address the negative effects on Muslim women's rights to education, dignity, and privacy of the de facto prohibition on the hijab in educational institutions.

They pointed out that the split verdict of the Supreme Court delivered on October 13, 2022, has only prolonged the students' wait for justice.

The PUCL report made several recommendations and some are listed below:

1. The State of Karnataka must uphold its constitutional commitment to principles of nondiscrimination, privacy, autonomy, and dignity in relation to the affected Muslim students.
2. The State must compensate students for the loss they have suffered due to its unconstitutional and arbitrary action which has deprived Muslim girl students of their constitutional rights to education, expression, dignity, and non-discrimination.
3. The Education Department must issue directives clarifying the ambit of the Karnataka High Court order

in Resham vs. the State of Karnataka.

4. The State of Karnataka should immediately withdraw prosecution initiated against Muslim students, teachers, or any such individual for carrying out peaceful protests during the period of February - April 2022.

5. The media must develop internal guidelines to regulate the reporting relating to vulnerable communities, minors, and ongoing court cases to ensure that the coverage does not aggravate the alienation and stigma experienced by marginalized communities.

6. The police must extend protection to all the petitioners and their families who were before the High Court and Supreme Court and ensure their physical safety and security. Take swift action in registering cases against members of vigilante groups who have been visibly seen in videos and images harassing and stalking Muslim women students. Act on the complaints that were filed by Muslim women students in an unbiased manner and file FIRs against college authorities, Hindutva groups, or any individual who violated the right to dignity, privacy, and freedom of expression of the students and their families.

7. The Women and Child Department, Karnataka must: Initiate programmes for providing mental health support for students adversely affected by the hijab verdict.

8. The Karnataka State Human Rights Commission (KSHRC), Karnataka State Minorities Commission (KMSC), Karnataka State Commission for Protection of Child Rights (KSCPCR), and Karnataka State Commission for Women (KSCW) must take Suo-moto cognizance of the violations of the rights of Muslim students, women, and minors, and intervene in cases of harassment, discrimination and hate speech against Muslims students.

The report also appealed to the Chief Justice of India to constitute an appropriate Bench as early as possible. "There is an urgent need for the matter to be taken up expeditiously as Muslim women students continue to be denied their constitutional right to education, dignity, and privacy". ■

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Liu Xin and  
Fan Lingzhi in Urumqi

Visiting the exhibition on the fight against terrorism and extremism, talking with religious groups, and interacting with local residents at the bazaar... a group of Islamic figures and scholars are paying a visit to Northwest China's Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region to get a clear and better understanding of the region in contrast to the US-led smear campaign.

Led by Ali Rashid Abudula Ali Alnuaimi, chairman of the World Muslim Communities Council, the delegation consists of more than 30 Islamic figures and scholars from 14 countries, including the UAE, Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Syria, Bahrain, Tunisia, Bosnia, and Herzegovina, who began their Xinjiang visit.

Ma Xingrui, Party chief of the Xinjiang region, welcomed the delegation - the first foreign delegation to the region in 2023 - at a meeting in Urumqi, acknowledging their support for China's stance on Xinjiang-related issues, as the US and some Western countries continuously spread rumors, throwing mud at China and attempting to sow discord between China and Islamic countries.

However, righteous people in the Islamic world have never bent to the pressure from some Western countries, nor have they been fooled by lies about the Xinjiang region, Ma said. Instead of following a few Western countries in using Xinjiang-related issues to interfere with China's internal affairs, these people have affirmed the development of the Xinjiang region, exposed the political practices of the US and some Western countries, and defended international fairness and justice, he said.

During the meeting, Ali spoke highly of the region's measures on countering terrorism and extremism, and also of the people who have contributed to the stability and development of the region.

The scholar also noted that some anti-China forces have attacked China, mainly on topics related to the Xinjiang and Xizang regions and the island of Taiwan, which are related to China's national security. In Chinese culture, there is no concept of targeting Muslims or the Islamic civilization, Ali said, adding that it is their responsibility to tell the world about China's prosperity and development.

Ali also noted that the whole world needs China, and its stability and prosperity are also important to the world.

## Islamic scholars from 14 Countries visit the Xinjiang region, and praise efforts on countering Terrorism, and Extremism.



**A delegation consisting of more than 30 Islamic figures and scholars from 14 countries, including the UAE, Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Syria, Bahrain, Tunisia and Bosnia and Herzegovina begin their Xinjiang visit on Sunday.**  
Photos: Fan Lingzhi/GT

In addition to meeting with the Xinjiang Party chief, the delegation also visited an exhibition on the fight against terrorism and extremism on Sunday to learn more about how the region previously suffered from terrorism.

The exhibition introduces the history of the Xinjiang region, which is an inseparable part of China. It also showed how the three forces of separatism, extremism and terrorism plagued the region from 1990 to 2016, resulting in thousands of terror attacks and leaving miserable memories for local residents. Brief introductions on 52 terror attacks with photos of scenes from the attacks and victims from different ethnic groups and religious groups, were displayed. The violence and brutality shocked the delegation. Fahad Ahmed, a reporter from the UAE, told the Global Times that the pictures and videos of the terror attacks were like "horror movies" and it is hard to imagine people could do such brutal things to others. Such acts of violence have nothing to do with religion, he said.

Saudi Arabia's former Minister of Education Abdullah Saleh Al Obaid said they felt grieved to see the terrorist attacks in Xinjiang region.

Osama Elsayed Mahmoud Mohamed Saad, the Egyptian president's advisor for religious affairs, said that the exhibition exposed the crimes of terrorists and also showed the efforts made by the Chinese government and Chinese people to counter-terrorism.

Terrorists violate human dignity and cause a pandemic among the people, said the Egyptian religious figure, calling on the international community to understand the nature of

said Ali.

He noted that all the terrorist attacks that happened in the region should be documented and the new generation should learn about them.

However, for a long time, the US and some Western countries have applied double standards on terror attacks that took place in China's Xinjiang region and described the Chinese government's counterterrorism measures as "oppressing ethnic minorities."

"We shouldn't play political games when countering terrorism and extremism... This is why we think it's the responsibility of wise people everywhere to understand that the threat of terrorism and extremism is not a threat to one single nation or a single region. It's a threat to the world. All of us should come together and fight terrorism and extremism," said Ali.

To learn more about the development of Islam in the region, the delegation also went to the regional Islamic Association, the Xinjiang Islamic Institute, and some

mosques in Urumqi.

Bai Shengfu, vice chairman of China's Islamic Association, noted that the institute's new compound covers an area of 50,000 square meters with an investment of 279 million yuan (\$41.1 million). It includes teaching buildings, a library, a gym, playgrounds, canteens, and dormitories and also has a hall for praying.

The delegation took a tour of different parts of the institute and prayed with local students.

Mestaoui Mohamed Slaheddine, advisor to the Tunisian Prime Minister, and also secretary general of the Supreme Islamic Council, said he was impressed when he saw the institute's new and unique compound and was amazed by the elegant design of the prayer hall. "I believe that Muslims can feel the peace the moment they step in here."

During a symposium of the delegation with teaching staff and students in the Islamic Institute, Abdureqip Tomurniyaz, president of the institute, outlined the education of Islamic clergies in the region and said that Muslims' freedom of religion has been fully protected, and no one in the region has been treated unfairly due to their beliefs. ■



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Mohammed Rafiq

In the common parlance the statement human is "Crown of the Creations or Ashraf ul Maqluqaat" is very much quoted. What did the holy Quran say about it? Perhaps not directly, however, the Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) has been referred to as the best of all the creation (S68: V4, and S33: V21) What makes humans superior creatures? Some argue the superiority of the intellect qualifies it so. No doubt the overall human may be considered a super-intelligent creation. Perhaps this capability makes humans control many other creatures. Humans can tame wild carnivores like a tiger or a lion, making the largest animal like an Elephant walk on the ramp in the circus. Cage the largest land bird (Ostrich) or largest flying bird (pelican) in the zoo. Whether it is venomous Snakes or scary Crocodile surrender to the intelligent capabilities of human beings. Though humans may not have the physical strength of many of the mentioned creatures still it is able to control them through their sheer intelligence. Human has been able to create tools and techniques that can help them overcome some of their inherent short comings. Human is the weakest of all land animals by birth. Perhaps it is the only living creature that requires more than 6 months to become mobile on its own. It needs feeding and nursing for almost 2 years and modern-day child needs caretaking till adulthood. It cannot protect



itself from any form of danger around it. It has the weakest immunity to tackle diseases that can occur due to invisible microorganisms. The last 2 years of COVID are a recent example. A minute virus has created havoc of unparalleled magnitude in the shortest possible time and killed millions. The irony is humans cannot even see the disease-causing micro-organisms with their own naked eyes. Some creatures display isolated superiority and strength that can be jaw-dropping to the observant human. A tiny little Ant can carry weight equal to 150 times its own weight or can pull 300 times its own weight. Birds can fly non-stop for thousands of kilometers without any navigational aid. Elephants and dogs can sniff from far distances; Whales can hear the calls of their co-species from thousands of kilometers. It is only humans that can overcome their limited strengths by converting the available resources to leverage their capabilities. Allah swt in its divine wisdom provided a superior brain that can put the available resources to unlimited

conveniences. The progress in terms of development is no doubt enormous. Human has conquered the heights of the skies, depths of the oceans, peaks of ice-laden mountains, vast stretches of the moon, and a large expanse of deserts. Other creatures have predominantly adapted to survive in a particular climatic and living conditions. But it is only human that has developed adaptation to live in multiple environments with ease.

All said and done these credentials do support the claim of being a superior creation. But the unlimited greed and lack of empathy towards fellow being are converting progress into a curse. Humans have brought all the other creatures and resources under their control. Its undying desire to expand its circle of control to other fellow beings has created a conflict-of-interest situation. A never-ending saga of suppressing individuals and groups to promote self-centered interest

has created unrest within human dwellings and challenged the survival of other living creatures.

Today the biggest threat to humans is from other human beings. We have created nuclear weapons, chemical and biological arsenal, destroyed the environment, polluted seas, and rivers, deforested, exploited resources unchecked, shrunk habitats of other living beings, and exchanged fresh air with polluted air, living very limited options for a thriving a life that can live and let live for others. The biggest loss of humans in recent history was the world wars where an estimated approximately 60 Million lives were lost. About half a million people died in the gulf and Afghanistan due to war during the fag end of the last century. About 15 million children die out of hunger every year on the contrary about 3 million people die due to obesity, 1.1% of the world population owns 46% of the global wealth, and ironically 55% of the world population owns 1.3% of the global wealth. Inequality and exploitation are human-created and flourished under the tutelage of the powerful. Perhaps the creator of all the creation is aware of the mischief of his human creation. If left unchecked, it can become a monster of disaster.

To keep the human greed and addictive aspiration to be supreme, noble individuals in the form of

Prophets were sent to keep the associated title of 'crown of creations' intact. Revelations to check the acts in the form of guidance were sent and demonstrated by his chosen vices.

"Mischief has appeared on land and sea because of that the hands of men have earned that (Allah) may give them a taste of some of their deeds: in order that they may turn back (from Evil)". (S6-V41)

We the believers are given the bigger responsibility to strictly adhere to the revealed instructions, and become role models and torchbearers of the divine standards. "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).

This position of Ashraf Ul Maqluqaat has to be earned and acquired through sincere efforts with the intention to please the Almighty Allah swt. It cannot be inherited by name or lineage. Perhaps the biggest challenge is to continue being human at every instance of the act and thought to claim the position of a human being.

Bas Ke Dushwar Hai Har Kaam Ka Asaan Hona

Admi ko Bhi Mayassar Nahin Insaan Hona

(Poet: Mirza Ghalib)

### READERS RESPONSE

Sir,  
The article "Community Organizations: Need for Introspection" by Mr. Tahsin Ahmed (IV Jan 2023). His articles are always to the point and thought-provoking. The bane of our organizations is that they start with a bang and end up with a whimper. The reason is that every member worth his salt pulls it in his own direction, ultimately defeating the very purpose of the group. Selflessness is a rare commodity among us. Surely, they need to introspect on the issues raised.

Iqbal Ahmed,

Deputy Director of Sericulture

(Retd.),

Bangalore,

Mobile: 9916496392

Sir,  
Apropos the article "Community

Organizations: Need for Introspection" by Mr. Tahsin Ahmed (IV Jan 2023). His articles are always to the point and thought-provoking. The bane of our organizations is that they start with a bang and end up with a whimper. The reason is that every member worth his salt pulls it in his own direction, ultimately defeating the very purpose of the group. Selflessness is a rare commodity among us. Surely, they need to introspect on the issues raised.

Yours truly,

Dr. Syed Inayathulla,

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Syed Tahsin  
Ahmed

Quite often we have come across social media campaigns advocating simple marriages. Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) has said: *"The best of marriage is that which is made the easiest."* The Ulema keep telling us to make Nikah easy and Zina (illicit sexual relations) difficult and not the other way round. This directive to make weddings simple is more honoured in the breach than in the observance.

#### A RARE WEDDING

More than three decades back, I had attended the wedding of an affluent cousin of mine which can truly be called a "simple wedding". On a Wednesday, my cousin and his family went to see a girl, liked her, and gave a proposal for marriage which was promptly accepted. The wedding was fixed on the very next day to be solemnized after *namaz-e-asar* in a nearby mosque. No shaadi mahal, no stage decoration, no printed invitations, no garlands, no photos, and no videos. The close relatives were invited over the phone to attend the Nikah in the mosque. Neither the bride nor the bridegroom had time to buy a new dress and came for the Nikah wearing the best dress they had in their wardrobe. The Nikah over, the bridegroom arranged a simple Valima dinner in his house for his first cousins after two days. The couple is leading a happy married life. In contrast to this, I have seen so many grand weddings attended by more than a thousand guests and with lavish arrangements, yet the marriages ended in disaster.

Frankly speaking, I do not have the courage of conviction that my cousin has. Moreover, I do not have the moral authority to write on this topic since I have celebrated the marriages of my children with the usual fanfare. But I am emboldened to take a look at this subject since it is extremely important to understand the underlying issues which compel even a person who does wish to celebrate a simple wedding, yet becomes helpless and

has to fall in line with the usual practices. There are a huge number of people who strongly believe that ostentatious weddings should be stopped, yet are unable to implement the same when their turn comes.

#### MODALITIES OF MARRIAGE

Once a marriage alliance is decided, the elders from the bride and bridegroom's side hold talks to work out the nitty gritty of the marriage. Generally speaking, the boy's side will put forth that an engagement ceremony should be arranged by the girl's side, the Nikah could be solemnized in a mosque and thereafter the bride's side should arrange a grand function in a big shaadi mahal, the function should be in the evening with lights, there should be a well-decorated stage with costly flowers and for the dinner, the menu should have this and that item. Strangely, many times, the bride's side will be insisting on a grand wedding and do not mind footing the bill. The bridegroom's side will invite most of their guests for the Nikah hosted by the bride's side but will invite a lesser number for the Valima which they have to arrange. A huge amount is spent to buy dresses for each and every event for the men, women and children of both families. The extravagant dresses of the bride and bridegroom cost a fortune, but they are used just once.

#### FRINGE EVENTS OF WEDDING

Apart from the main events, there will be many other sub-events like sending *Dulhe ka naashta* (breakfast for the bridegroom), *Haldi*, *Mehendi* and *Shukrana*. It is astonishing that a boy who is getting married cannot arrange his breakfast and his in-laws have to send a special breakfast; not only for him, but for the other guests too. If this is a custom, why can't the boy's parents send breakfast to the bride similarly? Some people even insist that the bride's parents should provide their invitation cards! I was



once invited for what they called "*samdiyon ka milaap*" (get-together of in-laws) which is fast becoming another add-on event. After marriage, the *dulha* (bridegroom) gets VIP treatment in his in-law's house, but not all *dulhans* (brides) will be lucky enough to get similar treatment in their in-laws house. Post marriage, the bride's side have to host many dinners for various ceremonies like seventh day ceremony, *jummagi* (five Fridays after marriage) and so on.

The arguments put-forth to arrange such lavish weddings are usually the following:-

- 1) The bridegroom is our only son or the bride is our only daughter and we have so many desires to be fulfilled
- 2) We have attended so many marriages and have taken food and now we have to invite them all
- 3) This is a prestige issue for us (*izzat ka sawal*)
- 4) We have spent huge amount for our daughter's wedding, now let the bride's people spend in our son's wedding.
- 5) If we arrange a simple wedding, relatives and friends will call us misers (*kanjoos*)
- 6) If we arrange a simple wedding, our daughter will be taunted throughout her life by her in-laws with statements like: "your parents could not even arrange a grand wedding for you. Look how the parents of X, Y and Z have arranged a lavish wedding"
- 7) A big function with many guests is a good opportunity for relatives and friends to meet since the

custom of visiting houses is on the decline due to busy schedules and long distances

Any campaign for advocating simple marriages cannot succeed unless the above issues are tackled head-on and counter arguments are presented. Merely arguing from the religious point of view or telling that we are setting a bad

precedent for the poor and consequently burdening them will have no impact.

#### THE EVENTS CONTINUE

Once all these ceremonies are over, the bride's side who are not financially well-off can now heave a sigh of relief. But not for long. The bridegroom's birthday comes soon enough and another party and costly gifts have to be arranged by the bride's side. One year passed after marriage, now the onus will be on the bride's side to host another party for the wedding anniversary and a gift to follow. I am not talking here about the dowry, vehicle, furniture and household items which the bride's side are expected to give. That is a bigger ball game altogether.

Life goes on and the events continue to happen. The bride gets pregnant and all the expenses from

the time of the pregnancy test up to the delivery of the child have to be borne by the bride's parents since this is the first child. **Who drafted these rules which unabashedly favour the boy and his family and which are religiously followed by us as sacrosanct?** Then follow the post-birth ceremonies like *sathvasa* (seven days after birth of the child) and *chilla* (forty days after birth of the child). The bride's people have to do all this happily since they are becoming grandparents (*naana and naani*). It is forgotten, at least as far as the expenses are concerned, that the boy's parents have also become grandparents (*dada and daadi*). The responsibility of the father of the child is not at all in the radar. What an irony that he becomes a father of a son or daughter, but his in-laws have to foot the bill!

The bride's people who are rich will bear all these expenditures un-grudgingly and they even enjoy the joyous occasions. But for the bride's parents who are in financial straits and have taken loans for their daughter's marriage, all these practices cause so much strain on their finances. When we speak of arranging simple marriages, let us also keep under scrutiny the fringe events which are no less taxing for the bride's parents.

(The author is a retired KAS officer and can be contacted at [tahsin789@yahoo.com](mailto:tahsin789@yahoo.com)).

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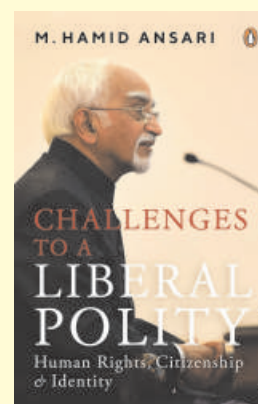
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## AFMI 32<sup>nd</sup> Annual Convention, 84 Meritorious Students Felicitated



Zeena Akhtar

**New Delhi:** At its 32<sup>nd</sup> Annual Convention for All India Meritorious Students and Award Function, the American Federation of Muslims of Indian Origin (AFMI) felicitated 84 meritorious school students from all over the country. The convention was held in collaboration with Delhi Youth Welfare Association (DYWA) here on December 31 and January 1. The US-based organization has awarded medals to 3,000 since its formation.

In the nation's capital, students and parents from 19 different states gathered for the occasion. In the year 2022, more than 80 students who passed the 10th and 12th grades were awarded medals, certificates, and cash rewards. Sixty-one out of 84 awardees were girls. Gold, silver, and bronze medalists received Rs 7,000, Rs 5,000, and Rs 3,000 respectively. Two sisters from Telangana were among the honorees. In grade 12, Nargis Sultana earned a gold medal, and Nafees Sultana a silver medal with respective marks of 93% and 95%. Nargis is getting ready for NEET and hopes to become a doctor. In Telangana, Nafees is pursuing a bachelor's degree in pharmacy. Mohammad Abdul Saleem, their father, attended the ceremony with them. "Neither my wife nor I were able to complete our studies. We made it very clear that we will send our daughters to college and raise them to be independent, said Saleem, a borewell superintendent. Events

like this one help to raise our spirits, he added.

Parents and students lauded the AFMI's services to the community. "I was truly impressed when I got to know that people in America are so committed to contributing to the welfare of students here in India. This is very motivating," said Ifrah Rauf, who received a silver medal. Ifrah scored 95.6 percent in class 12th and is now pursuing B.C.A from Indraprastha University. Ifrah's mother is a teacher and their father, is a software professional. "This is encouraging for parents as well. This makes us believe that we took the right step by getting our daughter educated," said Ifrah's mother, Tayyaba Rehman who was present at the convention.

As the program's chief guest and a former Delhi LG and former Vice Chancellor of Jamia Millia Islamia, Najeeb Jung observed, "It is amazing to see so many youngsters, especially girls, score so high in schools." "We must keep in mind that education and knowledge are two separate things. While you learn through the curriculum, it's also critical to acquire information because it teaches you how to treat others well and how to be a better human being. While information will alter your perspective, good grades will help you land a job, according to Jung. In his speech, Jang warned the audience about the risks associated with technology. The usage of social media is beneficial, but we must guard against addiction and watch out for tech companies' attempts to control us, he said.

"In a jungle, trees compete to get sunlight. In the process, they outgrow each other. Similarly, we have tried to create healthy competition among students. They get motivated and inspired when they see each other at such events," said Shafi Lokhandwala, a member, of AFMI.

AFMI is a philanthropic charity formed by American Muslims of Indian Origin in the year 1989 in Detroit (USA). It strives to improve the socio-economic status of the underprivileged Indian Muslim minorities through education. Since it was founded, AFMI has remained steadfast in its mission to achieve 100% literacy amongst Indian Muslims. It has held conventions all over the country since its inception and has honored more than 4,000 students from over 400 of India's districts.

It also gives scholarships to 200 students each year and built 100 new schools and gives aid to 1000 schools across the country.

The other NGO, DYWA, formed in Delhi's Walled City in 1990, works to promote education for underprivileged children. It runs scholarship schemes, course distribution, and a library housing more than 4000 books, among other initiatives.

Khalil Ahmed, patron, DYWA, said that in the present age and time, we should not always associate education with jobs and careers. "Get educated to understand yourself, the world, and the journey of life," he said. "If you get a job, it is an added bonus. If you don't get one, it is not the end of the world. If you have a family business, focus on expanding the same and take it to new heights. Don't look down at it," said Ahmed. Dr. Kavita Sharma, former president, of South Asian University, Dr. Akhtarul Wasey, president, of Maulana Azad University, Jodhpur, and historians Swapna Liddle and Samina Mishra were also present at the event.

## UP's Sania Mirza, became the first Muslim fighter pilot in the Indian Air Force



Syed Ali Mujtaba

Indian Muslims always get bad press, and they are in the news for all the wrong reasons, but not this time. Uttar Pradesh's Mirzapur, Sania Mirza (18 yrs) is going to become India's first Muslim girl fighter pilot in the Indian Air Force (IAF).

This positive story from the Muslim community is a slap on Yogi Adityanath's face whose "Abbajan" comment had pained the Muslim community a lot. It is also a slap on Godi media which has made the entire Muslim community anti-national to be vilified day in and day out on the so-called national TV Channels.

Anyway, the daughter of a TV mechanic from Jasovar village, in the Dehat Kotwali police station area of Mirzapur district UP. Sania Mirza has been selected to become a fighter pilot in the Indian Air Force after she secured 149<sup>th</sup> rank in the NDA exam.

"There were only two seats reserved for the women in the fighter pilot wing. I failed to grab a seat on the first attempt. However, I managed to bag a seat on the second attempt," Mirza reportedly told the media.

Her message to the aspirants is that it is incorrect to assume only applicants with strong English communication abilities can crack such prestigious posts. "I went to a Hindi-medium school and have become a role model for all Hindi-medium students," she said.

Sania is the second girl in the country who has been selected as a fighter pilot. The first is Avni Chaturvedi Sania's role model. Sania's mother Tabassum Mirza said, "Our daughter has made us and the entire village proud. She fulfills the dream of becoming the first fighter pilot. She inspired every girl in the village to follow their dreams."

There were 400 seats available in the National Defense Academy 2022 examination, which included both male and female candidates. There were 19 seats reserved for women and two for fighter pilots. Sania could secure a seat in these two seats due to her talent.

Sania Mirza will join NDA Khadakwasla in Pune. After completing the course she will join the Indian Air Force and become the first Muslim female fighter pilot in India.

## Driver's Daughter, Sana Ali Becomes ISRO Scientist



IV Correspondent

**Bhopal:** A driver's daughter, Sana Ali, has now become a scientist at the prestigious space agency Indian Space Research Organizations (ISRO). Sana hails from Madhya Pradesh's Vidisha district. She has been assigned to work as a technical assistant at Satish Dhawan Space Centre (SDSC). It is a rocket launch facility run by ISRO and is situated in Sriharikota, Tirupati district of Andhra Pradesh.

Through sheer effort,

commitment, and sincerity of purpose, Sana was able to earn this distinction. Sana completed her B. Tech and M.Tech degrees at Vidisha's Samrat Ashok Technical Institute despite having few resources available to her due to her father's low financial resources (SATI). Sayed Sajid Ali, her father, is a driver for the same institution.

To help Sana continue her studies, Sajid Ali was forced to take out loans, while Sana's mother mortgaged her jewelry. Sana's parents also disregarded advice to cut back on Sana's education from various people, including their relatives. They advised them to arrange for her early marriage.

Her proud father said, "I sacrificed a lot to fund my daughter's

## Jamiat Concern over Luring Muslim Girls to Apostasy

### IV Correspondent

**New Delhi:** Serious concerns have been raised by Maulana Arshad Madani, the leader of Jamiat Ulama-i-Hind, regarding a coordinated effort to persuade Muslim female students to renounce their faith.

On January 9, Jamiat President Maulana Arshad Madani spoke at a meeting of the organization's working committee here. He attributed the phenomena to co-education and emphasized the need for more Muslim educational facilities.

"The country is experiencing rapid growth of apostate temptation. It presents a serious risk, according to Maulana Madani. "It has been deliberately

begun against Muslims, and our girls are the targets.

"If immediate and effective measures are not taken to prevent this temptation, the situation may become explosive in the coming days. This temptation is being strengthened due to the co-education system, and that is why we opposed it, and then the media negatively presented our point of view and proclaimed that Maulana Madani was against the education of girls. We are against co-education, we are not against girls' education," he said.

"We must create separate educational facilities for our boys and girls if we are to beat this silent conspiracy and reach the pinnacle of success," he added. Maulana Arshad Madani claimed

that while we are entangled in a number of issues, our path to social, political, economic, and educational advancement is being obstructed.

The group also discussed the country's current state of affairs and expressed serious worry over the rise in extremism, sectarianism, and lawlessness as well as the discriminatory treatment of the Muslim minority. The meeting appealed to all secular-minded people to unite and fight the extremist and fascist forces at the political and social level instead of reacting and resorting to emotional politics, and make every effort to spread brotherhood, harmony, mutual tolerance, and justice in the country.



## Ensure our kids get an Education; it's the Obligation of every Muslim: Maulana Mujadadi, Ameer Jamia Al Hidayah Jaipur



Zeenat Akhtar

**Jaipur:** "It is our duty to ensure that our kids receive an education, so we must give it our whole attention. People that place a high priority on education find improvement in all aspects of life. Education is a key measure of any community's growth".

This was exhorted by Maulana Muhammad Fazl-ur-Rahim Mujadadi, Ameer Jamia Al Hidayah Jaipur, and Chairperson of the Imam Rabbani Group of Schools who was addressing the annual educational program of Crescent Public School held on November 26 in the pink city.

Maulana Mujadadi said, "the first ayah of the Quran that was revealed upon the Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) by Allah: "IQRA" (Read), and the Qur'an and Hadith emphasized the value and virtue of knowledge. Man was created by Allah Ta'ala as His Khalifa based on knowledge".

He bemoaned the fact that higher development in education is now very challenging to attain, that it has turned into a business as a result of being placed in private hands and that only those with sufficient financial means may enroll their children in professional and higher education programmes.

In the backdrop of this, the Imam Rabbani Group of Schools was established to offer the best education and training in the Islamic environment to the children of the Ummah who cannot pay the fees, he said and added that we support such students from Maulana Abdul Rahim Educational Trust. He also stressed the need of establishing English medium schools in towns and cities. We are carrying forward the

mission of Hazrat Maulana Shah Muhammad Abdul Rahim Sahib Naqshbandi Mujadadi with full determination and enthusiasm, Maulana Mujadadi said who is also the secretary of All India Muslim Personal Law Board.

In his keynote address, Maulana Mujadadi referred to Muslims' lamentable educational backwardness and stated that Muslims ought to have become the teachers of other nations as if they had attained knowledge.

While Muslims are represented less frequently in all branches of the government and semi-government, they are disproportionately over represented in prisons. According to a research survey, whereas Muslims make up 11% of the population, they make up around 52% of Mumbai Central Jail and Thana Jail.

This country won't advance until Muslims join the race for progress; if Muslims in India advance, India will advance as well. Only 3.6% of our kids attain graduation, while 10.96% in secondary and 4.53% in senior secondary school education.

When a community is in the minority, then its members face more injustices than the majority community members.

The primary cause of this issue is that Muslims are not represented proportionally in all democratic systems, including the court, administrative power, bureaucracy, and all centers of power. Minorities must endure injustices and prejudice as long as there is an unequal distribution of power across all communities.

We built Crescent Academy as a long-term solution to improve

Muslim participation in the bureaucracy. 200 IAS and IPS officers have so far entered the public services after getting to coach from the Academy. We determined that good students from other communities who are interested in secular democracy should also receive coaching in this institution in addition to Muslims.

Referring to a report about Rajasthan, he expressed regret over the declining number of Muslim officers in the state and claimed that Muslims in the region do not prioritize education even though their diamond, jewelry, and carpet businesses make them wealthy and self-sufficient enough to send their children to college. They do not give education the attention it deserves.

He stated that by founding Jamia Al Hidayah Jaipur, his father Maulana Shah Muhammad Abdul Rahim Sahib Naqshbandi Mujadadi made a revolutionary and historic contribution to the area of education.

"Being his son and the leader of his movement makes me proud. Currently, four thousand male and female students attend Imam Rabbani School. After the construction is finished, this number will be doubled, and the process of opening more new schools will continue, God willing. I am fighting this battle with all of my heart and zeal."

On the occasion, Chief guest Jyoti Khandelwal, former mayor of Jaipur Municipal Corporation said that these children are the future of India, and he was very happy to see the performance of the children. ■

## Top Ulemas of the Country join the IndiaZakat.com Shariah and Advisory Board

*"The collaboration of Ulemas and Professionals in IndiaZakat.com will help in realizing the power of Collective Zakat thus leading to Social and Economic justice within the Community."* - **Maulana Khalid Rasheed Farangi Mahali**, Shahi Imam-e-Eidgah, Lucknow

*"Just as the Masjid is a better place to perform Namaz collectively, similarly IndiaZakat is like a Jama Masjid to deposit Zakat for better use within the Community."* - **Mufti Abdul Kadir Barkatulla**, Sharia Judge at Islamic Sharia Council, London



**Friday, 13th Jan. 2023:**

**IndiaZakat.com** is India's 1st Zakat-based crowd-funding platform launched in April 2020, run by the **Association of Muslim Professionals (AMP)**. Within less than 3 years, it has already collected and disbursed 12.5+ Crores for 4000+ causes in Education, Medical Assistance, Livelihood, Orphan & Poor Children's Education, Disaster Relief, etc., thus impacting thousands of lives so far.

On Friday, IndiaZakat.com launched its newly re-constituted Shariah and Advisory Board with the following Team Members, who are highly learned as well as experts in the field of Islamic Shariah, Islamic Finance, and Zakat Management like Maulana Khalid Rasheed Farangi Mahli, Shahi Imam-E-Eidgah Lucknow, Mufti Omar Abedeen Qasmi Madni, Islamic Scholar & Educational Trainer Hyderabad, Janab H. Abdur Raqeeb, General Secretary, India Centre for Islamic Finance Chennai, Mufti Abdul Kadir Barkatulla Sahab, Sharia Judge at Islamic Sharia Council - London, UK, and Maulana Mohd. Ziaur Rahman Alimi Sahab, Islamic Scholar, Author & Teacher, Jamia Arifia Kaushambi.

This illustrious Ulema as well as Shariah and Islamic Finance experts lauded IndiaZakat.com's efforts in bringing Collective Zakat on a digital platform and helping the Community immensely.

**Maulana Khalid Rashid Farangi Mahli Sahab** said "We need to educate and create awareness among the youngsters and the new generation on the importance of Zakat. How in the Qur'an Allah SWT has included Namaz and Zakat in the same verses to show its importance. Even the Constitution of India says that Wealth should not be limited to a few hands."

**Mufti Abdul Kadir Barkatulla Sahab** while acknowledging the contribution of IndiaZakat in the collection and distribution of Zakat in India said "Just as the Masjid is a better place to perform Namaz collectively, similarly IndiaZakat is like a Jama Masjid to deposit Zakat for better use within the Community." He further said that all Indian Muslims are thankful to the Association of Muslim Professionals (AMP) and the entire team of AMP deserves accolades.

**Mufti Omar Abedeen Qasmi Madni Sahab** said "IndiaZakat is a successful example of a joint collaboration between Ulemas & Professionals. Without proper utilization of Zakat, Social and economic justice is not possible."

**H. Abdur Raqeeb Sahab** said "As per government estimates, more than 30% of the Muslim population live below the poverty line. Zakat and Islamic Finance are two valuable instruments which can remove inequity in the Society."

**Maulana Ziaur Rahman Sahab**, said "Dedication, Hard work, and Ikhlas by Team AMP are responsible for the immense success of IndiaZakat.com in such a short time. The involvement of Ulemas will give the platform the right direction as well as Barakah."

**Mr. Aamir Edresy Sahab**, President of AMP, in his keynote address, enumerated the unique features of IndiaZakat and the role of its Donors, Volunteers & Operations Team, which contributed to its immense success, said "We have been able to connect with 12,000+ donors in these past 3 years, Alhamdulillah. Going forward, we envision that IndiaZakat becomes the leading Centre of Zakat Collection & Disbursement in the Country." The meeting was attended by many Donors, Team AMP Professionals, Volunteers, and other participants from all over the Country and Globe. ■

## «Page 12 Driver's Daughter, Sana Ali Becomes ISRO Scientist

education. Despite all financial limitations, we continued her education. I advised my daughter to put all of her efforts into her studies in order to succeed. My daughter worked extremely hard in her academics and made it to this point. We are overjoyed. I offer prayers for my daughter to continue to advance."

I want to send the message that all women should pursue education no matter what. Make every attempt to accomplish the

life objective you have set. You must put in a lot of effort despite all the setbacks you encounter; Sana was cited in the media as saying.

Shivraj Singh Chouhan, the state's chief minister, and Jyotiraditya M. Scindia, a union minister, both praised Sana. Both the leaders tweeted about her success.

Sana was congratulated by the chief minister and given the name "Vidisha ki Beti" (Daughter

of her district Vidisha).

"Girls like you are making Madhya Pradesh proud and showing the strength of daughters. I wish you a pleasant, successful, and bright future," said Chouhan.

Congratulating Sana and wishing her a bright future, Scindia said: "Under difficult situations, you have achieved your goal. This makes the entire Madhya Pradesh proud." ■





Moqheeta

*It doesn't happen in our family. Our ancestors never did anything like this.*

*Where are you bringing these practices from?*

We have seen families where the father claims that his family has better values. And then mother says her roots have better values.

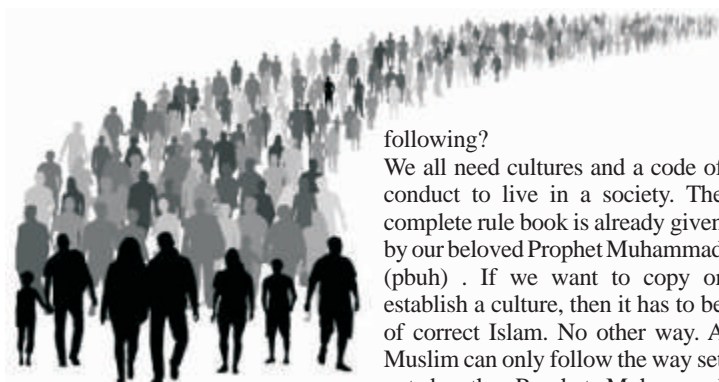
When there is a wedding in the family, the Grandma says the wedding should be according to the family culture. Whereas the boy says, I want to have my own say in how my wedding should take place. Have you heard statements and questions like these from family members? Yes, we all have heard this, irrespective of the places we come from.

And now as parents have you noticed saying something similar to your children?

The never-ending tug of values and customs, creates confusion, disturbance, and ego battles within the families.

We all want the best for ourselves and for others, more so when it is our own children. But who will decide what is best? Whose lifestyle should we follow and should ask the children to follow?

The secret behind the existence of the strongest of cultures is the unquestioned and unified following of a willing society. A society that



has made an informed and independent choice and not a blind or forced decision to follow their leader.

The question to the parents and other adults is - whose culture are you following?

A culture that pleases you. Or a culture that defines you?

In order to answer this question one needs to ask themselves- Who am I? An Asian, American Indian or Alaska Native, Black or African American, Hispanic or Latino, Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander.

If we are talking about Muslims, then before any other ethnicity, his/her foremost identity is Muslim. He/she is first a Muslim and then of any ethnicity, place, tribe, or family. Islam is a way of life. If every Muslim decides to follow their own idol and practices then will there be uniformity among Muslims?

So coming back to the previous question - whose roots are we

following?

We all need cultures and a code of conduct to live in a society. The complete rule book is already given by our beloved Prophet Muhammad (pbuh). If we want to copy or establish a culture, then it has to be of correct Islam. No other way. A Muslim can only follow the way set out by the Prophet Muhammad (pbuh).

How can a Muslim think of following some grand dad or uncle's practices when he already has the full blueprint of the lifestyle? The Prophet (pbuh) hasn't left any area which wasn't already modeled by him or explained by him.

Parents have been given children as Amanah and will be questioned by the Rabb about their upbringing. Every moment, every approach, every source, and every objective of *tarbiyah* will be brought into question. It is not just about raising one's children, the purpose is to raise a total generation of Muslims. The values the parents pass on to their children will be carried forward for years to come. So when the task is so important and huge, then whose roots are best to be followed? Definitely the ones shown by the leader of all Muslims, the Prophet Muhammad (pbuh).

We have come across many who argue that it is very difficult to go

against the set family values or it is difficult to go against society, or it is very hard to break the culture.

Have we not seen heroes in our own times? Heroes who went against the culture and revived the correct Islamic practices. We have seen sincere men who shunned dowry or married widows. We have witnessed women who didn't compromise on Islamic rulings yet achieved worldly accolades.

We need to revive the sunnah and follow the teachings shown by our Prophet Muhammad (pbuh). No parent, no grandparent, no uncle, no husband, no teacher, no leader, no imam, no judge is correct if he isn't advocating what our Prophet (pbuh) had already shown.

Islam is not a religion of convenience nor is it an evolving religion. Islam has been perfected for us. How can a slave make changes to something which is already perfect, and that perfection has come from the creator of humans and *Deen* itself?

Customs have never been static. There is always some addition or subtraction in them. And in every era, we have had people who broke the cultural barrier and either introduced something new or brought back old practices. If men could do it before, why can't the Muslims do it for their *Deen* and for their *akhirah*.

Imagine the peace and uniformity if all of us do what our *Deen* says and not follow different leaders and influencers.

For us to revive our *Deen*, we need to have the following;

- Knowledge of the *Deen*
- Implementation of the *Deen*
- Hikmah to preach.

It all might sound very overwhelming. How can anyone master all of the above? We are insane, imperfect beings. Mastering all at one time is not expected of us. One deed at a time. Every day is an opportunity for parents to present the right to Islam to their children. In order to do that they need to learn, accept and follow the right *Deen* first. There is a huge difference between knowledge and practice.

*"The Messenger of Allah (S.A.W) said to me: 'Whoever revives my Sunnah then he has loved me. And whoever loved me, he shall be with me in Paradise.'* (Tirmidhi: 2678)

The beloved Messenger of Allah (pbuh) has shown what, why, when, and how anything needs to be done.

Dear parents, use this rule book left by him and raise a generation whose roots go deep down to the main roots set by the Messenger of Allah (pbuh) let your children become the branches of the same tree and let them produce fruits that will again join the same roots.

When you speak to the children, give them the practices of the Messenger of Allah (pbuh) and not of any other personality. Let the respect for your elders remain intact but do not choose them as your leaders or guides. All Muslims have only one leader the Messenger of Allah (pbuh). ■

## Moqheeta Mehboob

Education is a lifelong process. We all learn till we are alive. But when it comes to children's education, it is the parent's foremost responsibility to give the child the best education. When I say best, I do not mean the topmost international level of education.

**Allah swt says He created man and jinn only for one purpose - to Serve Him.** This means, no matter what we do, our actions should align with the purpose for which we have been created. The same goes for education as well.

No education should be prepared to be learned in isolation. It is designed to work in collaboration with other streams of knowledge. For a Muslim student, the purpose of his/her education is to know the Creator and the Creator's world.

In almost all the schools, the child is made aware of the Creator's world, but no mention is made of the Creator of all the creations. Isn't that a grave misdemeanour?

If the parents have chosen a non-Islamic school, then the onus lies totally on the parents to give the child a real education. Education doesn't place learning in separate boxes but is integrated into a child's learning journey.

The following is a sample teaching plan on **Planets** for 8 years old which parents/teachers can use to teach the child. No part of the

national curriculum learning objective has been left out. The textbook content is usually taught keeping the creation as the focal point, but this teaching plan will also talk about the Creator and will enhance the child's critical thinking skills.

I am sharing the first session's lesson plan (out of seven sessions). In the coming months, in sha Allah, I will post lesson plans of other topics and age groups.

### GRADE 3 - SCIENCE - PLANETS AND THEIR NEIGHBOURS

The learning objectives

To be able to

- List the planets of the solar system.
- Describe the shape of the earth

You may introduce the lesson in the following manner;

*Greet the children warmly.*

*Make them recite the dua - 'Rabbi Zidni Ilma'*

*Remind them of the class rules.*

Tell the class that we will be starting a new topic from today - Earth and its companions

Ask the class to share their knowledge about Earth. And what is the meaning of Earth's companions? Ask the class, what/who could be earth's companions.

Write their answers on the board.

Allah swt created this beautiful

## Integrated Learning for Children



planet that we call Earth. Allah swt covered the surface of the Earth with land and water and surrounded it with a layer of air called the atmosphere. Air and water support life on the earth. We walk on land and grow our food on land.

Some people have gone to space and taken photographs of the earth from there.

People who go into space are called astronauts. The earth is round and bulging in the middle, just like an orange. It is slightly flat at the two poles.

The Earth is round but why does it look flat? The Earth is very big. We can see only a small part of it. This small part appears flat to us.

Ask the class what the solar system is.

After taking the answers, explain that Allah swt also created many other planets apart from Earth and ordered all the planets to move around the Sun. These are Mercury, Venus, Earth, Mars, Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus, and Neptune.

The family of the sun and the eight

planets is called the solar system.

Allah swt has placed the Sun as a big lamp in the centre of the solar system. It is like a big ball of hot gases and fire. The Earth gets heat and light from the Sun.

Planets do not have their own light. They reflect the sunlight.

Allot some time for children to carry out an activity. Enhancing learning through activities is a good approach to deepening their learning. It also improves their high-order thinking skills. Always make sure to divide the class into your time and their time. Never design a session with you as the teacher doing most of the talking and making the students passive learners. Assign a good amount of time for students to have a hands-on learning experience.

**Activity 1** - Explore the chapter. Ask children to open their textbooks and go to the current chapter. Ask them to go through the chapter to know what we will be learning in the coming sessions under this chapter. Ask children to give out the headings. Write the headings on the board. Encourage children to find on their own something about each topic.



**Activity 2** - Make a solar system. Choose 9 students. One student can be given the position of the sun and the rest of the students can be asked to take the position of the planets.

Children can take the help of the textbook to know the positions. The other students can also help.

As part of the session concluded, ask the children, what is the title of our chapter. What are we going to learn in the coming sessions? Who created the earth? Why did Allah swt create the sun?

What is the shape of the earth, and how do we know?

The above teaching plan is not comprehensive. Depending on the ability of the students, the plan can be tweaked. But whenever you plan a lesson, keep in mind that every child learns differently and will respond differently. One size doesn't fit all. As a teacher or parent, you need to have more strategies in your box. Plan for the child not for completing the syllabus.

*(The writer is a curriculum designer and helps schools with custom-made lesson plans and teachers' training. She can be approached at ascendtosuccess22@gmail.com)* ■



Adil Salahi

## Love in the Prophet's Home

*A foremost characteristic of life in the home of the Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him) was love. Love is the quality most necessary to ensure happiness. When love is present, happiness is assured.*



The Prophet preferred a life of poverty, which was sometimes close to, if not below, the subsistence level. Yet this did not detract from the fact that his was a very happy home, with love spreading from its rooms to those who were associated in any way with the Prophet's family.

Should love be removed from the life of any family, happiness becomes lacking for everyone, no matter how affluent the family may be.

Wealth can buy comfort and luxury, but it cannot buy love and happiness. Muhammad (peace and blessings be upon him) experienced first a life of poverty when he was brought up by his uncle Abu Talib, who had a large family and small means.

The Prophet had to work and earn his living when he was still in his early teens. Then he experienced a life of comfort and plenty when he lived with his first wife, Khadijah, who was rich and he looked after her business.

Then in Madinah, he lived a life of poverty, even though he could have had whatever he wanted. He was the head of state and all its resources were at his disposal. Yet he preferred to live on the borderline of poverty. When he had more than enough for his family's needs for the day, he gave away all that was extra.

His life with Khadijah was the symbol of happiness. She cherished his company and looked after him in the most exemplary way. She realized that he combined characteristics of the noblest type that made him unique among men.

On her part, Khadijah combined beauty, good sense, mature judgment, and a loving and

generous heart. They were the happiest of couples. They lived together for 15 years or longer before he began to receive his message. Theirs was a happy life of a loving couple.

When he received his message, she realized that her task became greater, and she fulfilled it with exemplary devotion. He might spend a whole day speaking to people and telling them about Islam, stressing that they needed to believe in God as the only deity in the universe, and receiving nothing but one hostile reaction after another.

Yet he was assured that once he steps home, a comforting heart will be there to receive him and dispel all that troubled his caring soul. He was pained by the fact that people could not realize that the guidance he gave them was for their own good and happiness in both this life and the life to come.

Khadijah was his only wife for 25 years or longer. When she died, she left a huge vacuum in his life that no woman could easily fill. Later, the Prophet needed to marry several other women for social, political, or legislative reasons leading to each of his marriages.

Allah allowed him any number of wives, exempting him from the condition that allows man no more than four wives at the same time. Despite the fact that some of these marriages were in quick succession, love spread its wings on the Prophet's homes, with all inhabitants benefiting from it.

No man's life was documented in such detail as the Prophet's life,

yet we do not have a single incident when any of his wives felt anything other than love toward him. Never was any of them hurt by an angry word or an insult. He never raised his hand in earnest or in jest to express an angry feeling.

`A'ishah was the one he loved most, but this did not mean that he did not love others. He felt for them and prayed that God would not hold him accountable for his feelings, which were beyond his control.

Yet his treatment of all his wives was an exemplary exercise in complete fairness. However, `A'ishah knew how to impart her feelings to him without putting this in words. The Prophet once told her that he knows when she is pleased or angry with him. As she was keen not to let her anger surface, she was surprised. She asked him: "How do you know that?" He said:

"When you are pleased with me [and you want to emphasize something,] you say: 'No, by [God,] the Lord of Muhammad!' But when you are angry with me, you say: 'No, by [God,] the Lord of Abraham!'" She said: 'By God, I forsake only your name.'" (Al-Bukhari and Muslim)

It was the love he emanated in his family life that made each of his wives happy with her situation,

despite the fact that there were several others sharing the same position with her. None would exchange her position as the Prophet's wife for being the wife of any man on earth.

When they all joined together in demanding a better standard of living, he was angry with them and left them all for a whole month. After that, he gave them the choice that he would either divorce them and give them plentiful gifts or they would remain with him accepting the sort of life he gave them, which was one of hard poverty. Every one of them said unhesitatingly that she would stay with him and never make a similar demand.

We should remember that divorce in their society was accepted as normal, and a divorcee or a widow

could easily be married again.

Yet none of them would contemplate for a moment living with any man after having been the Prophet's wife. It was such exemplary love that pulled them toward such a happy life.

Hence, God admonishes them to be grateful for their lot and to remember the supreme wisdom that is recited in their homes, as it is revealed from on high to their husband, Muhammad (peace and blessings be upon him).

Allah also elevated their rank, making them mothers of believers, in all generations. Each one of them is Umm Al-Mu'mineen, i.e. Mother of the Faithful. This was a real status, and all their contemporaries treated them as such. Later generations of Muslims venerated them in the same way. As mothers of all Muslims, they could not marry anyone after the Prophet had died. Thus, they kept this status for all times.

Source: (guide to Islam) ■

**No man's life was documented in such detail as the Prophet's life, yet we do not have a single incident when any of his wives felt anything other than love toward him. Never was any of them hurt by an angry word or an insult. He never raised his hand in earnest or in jest to express an angry feeling.**

## Practicing Gratitude Every Day is Key to Well-Being



Sana Rubiyana

**Key points-** Gratitude can boost happiness and strengthen relationships. gratitude should be a long-term practice and not short term. When expressing gratitude to others, it's best to focus on the strengths and actions of the giver, not just the benefits to oneself.

Of all the positive emotions, gratitude appears to be one of the most important for our overall well-being. Gratitude helps us focus on what we have, rather than lack. It turns our attention to the good, rather than dwelling on our many gripes in life.

Researchers have found that gratitude is foundational for healthy relationships. It's the emotional glue that strengthens bonds. In many relationships that fall apart, one or both individuals do not feel any type of gratitude

from their partner. Instead, they often feel taken for granted.

We all naturally want to feel appreciated by our partners, friends, family, and colleagues. Gratitude is a great way for individuals to feel and express their appreciation to one another.

**How to Practice Gratitude today and Every day-**

**Gratitude is a skill:** While some of us appear to be naturally grateful, seeing the blessings bestowed upon us, many of us are not. The good news is that gratitude is a skill we can learn and practice. Like a muscle, it gets stronger the more we use it. Start noticing the good in life today. You can start small by being thankful for the sunshine, a hot cup of coffee, and a warm shower. After a while, gratitude can become a regular habit whereby we train our minds to focus on the many gifts in life.

**It's not enough to simply feel grateful, we must express it as well:** Our spouses, families and

friends aren't mind readers, do not assume that they know we are grateful for them. Make it a habit to tell them on a regular basis. Gratitude is like compound interest. The more we express it the stronger our connections become. It has been found to be a booster shot for our relationships.

**It's not just if you express gratitude but how you do it matters:** When expressing gratitude to others, be sure to focus on the strengths and actions of the giver, not just the gifts and benefits to yourself.

**Teaching our kids gratitude is essential:** Teaching our kids how to feel and express gratitude is fundamental to their well-being and development. Kids, like many adults, don't naturally feel grateful. By helping them to cultivate a practice of gratitude, they will be more able to focus on the good in life and others, something we all naturally want for our children. sanarubiana@gmail.com ■

## PLATINUM CITY

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Moin Qazi

One of Islam's most characteristic - and stirringly evocative - symbols is the *adhan*, the Arabic call to prayer, dramatically intoned in a resonant cadence by a muezzin (prayer caller) from high atop a lofty minaret.

The *adhan* (also called in Turkish: *Ezan*) is the Islamic call to worship, recited by the *muezzin* at prescribed times. The root of the word is *ʾadhina* meaning "to listen, to hear, be informed about". Another derivative of this word is, meaning "ear".

The announcement of the *adhan* goes back to the lifetime of the Prophet, and is mentioned once in the Qur'an, in connection with the Friday assembly:

*"O believers, when the proclamation is made for prayer on the Day of Congregation, hasten to God's remembrance and leave trafficking aside; that is better for you, did you but knew."* -(Q62:9)

The Prophet's mace-bearer and steward, Bilal, an Egyptian Negro was the first muezzin to call the *adhan* at Makkah. After the emigration of Muhammad and his followers from Makkah to Madinah, a believer named Abd Allah ibn Zaid had a vision in which he tried to buy a wooden clapper to summon people to prayer. But the man who had the clapper advised him to call out to the people instead and to intone a short message. Ibn Zaid went to Muhammad with his story, and Muhammad, approvingly, told him to ask Bilal, who had a marvelous voice famous for majestically sonorous renditions of the *adhan*, to perform the task. The Prophet

also approved the *adhan*. The rich cadence continues to stir believers five times each day: "*Come to prayer. Rise up to your welfare!*" And in the last hours of darkness just before dawn: "*Come to prayer. Rise up to your welfare. For prayer is better than sleep.*"

Ibn Ishaq, the Prophet's biographer, corroborates this incident. (in Albert Guillaume's translation): That he should go to Bilal and communicate it to him so that he might call to prayer thus, for he had a more penetrating voice. When Bilal acted as muezzin, Umar, who later became the second caliph, heard him in his house and came to the Prophet saying that he had seen precisely the same vision. The Apostle said, "*God be praised for that*" the Prophet used to say: "*Comfort us, Bilal!*" The Prophet used to say that because Bilal was the Muazin of the Muslims in Madinah. Each time he did the call to prayer, Muslims of that era used to experience indescribable joy; in prayer (salat) they found joy; in prayer they found comfort.

Borne aloft five times a day, from Shanghai to Chicago, Jakarta to Timbuktu, the cadence of Islam's call to prayer stirs the soul of devout Muslims everywhere. Whether cast from metal loudspeakers over teeming city streets or lifted as the murmured song of camel drivers kneeling in the sand, it begins with the same Arabic phrase Muslims have used for nearly 1,400 years, Islam's melodic paean to the Creator: *God is most great! God is most great! I testify that there is no god but God.*

A Negro slave originally from Habasha (Ethiopia), Bilal ibn Rabah's story is a poignant tale as well as evocative evidence of



Islam's respect for human equality, anti-racism, and social equity. Born in 680 CE in Makkah, to his slave parents — Rabah and Hamamah — Bilal too served as a slave to a lady close to Umayyah ibn Khalaf, an arch-enemy of Islam. When Umayyah heard about Bilal converting to Islam, he tortured him and tried to pressurize him to relinquish the new faith. But filled with love for the Prophet and Islam, Bilal remained steadfast in his faith despite extreme torture and kept saying "*Ahad, Ahad.*" (Allah is One, Allah is One). When the Prophet learned about his tribulation, he sent Abu Bakr, who relieved him from the oppressor and freed him. Freedom was Islam's first gift to Bilal.

Bilal became one of the most trusted and loyal Companions of the Prophet. He migrated with the Prophet to Madinah and participated in major battles including those of Badar, Uhud, Ditch, and others. In the battle of Badr, he killed the staunch enemy of Islam — and his own former tyrant master, Umayyah. Another great honor came to Bilal after the Conquest of Makkah in 8 AH. When the city surrendered and all the nobles for the Muslims and the non-Muslims had assembled in the courtyard, the Prophet asked Bilal to climb the roof of the Holy Ka'bah and give a call of the *adhan* from the top of it. This was the first *adhan*, which was given in Makkah. Once the Prophet said, "*O*

*Bilal, what special deeds you have done that I heard sounds of your walking steps ahead of me in Paradise.*" Bilal said, "*Whenever I make wudu (ablution), I offer two units (rakah) of prayer as Tahayyatul Wudu.*"

Bilal was among Ashab Al-Suffa, a generic name given to the Companions who stayed in the arbor, or verandah, next to the mosque of the Prophet in Madinah after the emigration and studied religious sciences there. When King Najashi of Habasha sent three spears as gifts to the Prophet, the latter gave one each to Umar, Ali, and Bilal, who used the spear to fix the direction of prayer.

**Responding to *adhan*, praying in the mosque, and making the pledge to God, is the only thing needed to become a Muslim. At this point, one crosses over from Dar ul Harb, the house of the pagan, into Dar ul Islam, the house of Islam (submission). The slave can no longer be beaten carelessly, and the Coptic Christian must hereafter be given work and treated with respect.**

**This is a very simple, faithless, and almost mindless exercise.**

**Bilal spent his last days in Syria. He died in 18 AH at 64 and was buried at Bab-Al Sagheer near Jama Umavi in Damascus. He served the Prophet for 25 years. While on death bed, his wife Hind cried, 'wa hazanaa' (what a great grief), to which Bilal replied, 'Wa Tarabaa' (what a great joy); 'Tomorrow I will meet with my loved ones - Muhammad (peace be upon him) and his companions,' he is said to have told his wife.**

## Saba Naaz

In the name of Allah the Most Gracious and Most Merciful, the Ever-forgiving (Al-Ghafur), the Preserver (Al-Hafeez), the Nourisher (Al-Muqet), and the Giver of life (Al-Muhyiy).

How beautiful are the names of Allah, and everything that they represent about Him? If we dwell deeper into the understanding of the ninety-nine names of Allah and His attributes, we come to understand one very simple thing;

If you must pray, then pray to Allah alone. If you must obey, then obey His commands and everything that the Prophet Muhammed (Pbuh) taught us through His revelation. If you must love, then love the One (Al-Wahid) and if you expect, then put all your expectations on Allah, the Bountiful, the Generous (Al-Karim).

As simple as it is, the understanding of these names is something that most of us do not ponder over. If we sit down and think over these beautiful names, we come to realize,

that every single thing in the entire Universe was created, placed, and perfected by Allah Al-Sammad (The Self-sufficient) on such a level, that every known and unknown creation and its life depends on Allah alone. An example of it can be seen in the Quran, in Surah Al-Anbya.

*"And We placed within the earth firmly set mountains, lest it should shift with them, and We made therein [mountain] passes [as] roads that they might be guided."* (21:31)

*"And it is He who created the night and the day and the sun and the moon; all [heavenly bodies] in an orbit are swimming."* (21:33)

So, why do our insignificant human souls expect so much from each other, when all our expectations should belong only to Allah? Why do we not realize that our needs and our desires cannot be sufficed by another person? Why do we complicate our lives with the disease of expectations?

## The Disease of Expectations

In all walks of life, I have seen people succumb to this disease from time to time. I have heard people say "I am the only one who keeps calling her to my house, she never calls me" or "I am the only one who gives my neighbor, a share of the food I prepare at home, she never bothers to give me anything". One of the most common complaints is within blood-related family members who expect so much from each other, that their relationships get severed.

This desire for support, sympathy, and recognition is like an inbuilt software. Allah created every human with this vulnerability and need so that we could turn to our Lord, for His mercy and console. But we tend to direct this feeling towards our fellow brothers and sisters, in hope that we receive what we expect from them.

I have heard people complain that "Such a loss occurred in my family, and he did not even bother to call me, or even utter a word of

sympathy."

In all honesty, are we really in need of that sympathy? Do we really need the words of a fellow friend to overcome our losses? If we think about it, the only thing we are in the real need is the mercy of Allah, yet we expect words of sympathy from friends or family.

I agree that it is the Sunnah of our Prophet, to be kind and caring towards one another, but just because we follow it, does not mean everyone should. Just because we do good things for other people, it does not necessarily mean that they must do the same for us.

With this train of expectations, we are destroying even the little brotherhood we share among ourselves. In a generation of independent living, selfish desires, and exaggerated needs, it's high time, that we as Ummah stop expecting and start accepting our differences. Do everything for the sake of Allah alone, with a heart that yearns only for the love and

The emphasis is not on making a verbal mistake but rather believing something. If the Muslim makes an error in the word sequence of prayer in the mosque, he will rise and quietly exit in shame.

**The prayer carpet is carried by Muslims when he travels abroad. At the times of prayer, he will determine the direction of Mecca, roll out his prayer carpet, and say his prayers to Allah.**

After the Prophet passed away, Bilal felt it challenging to spend time in Madinah without his beloved Prophet. He asked then Caliph Abu Bakr to let him go to Syria for jihad. And there he spent the rest of his life. He said *adhan* only twice after that. The first was when Caliph Omar Ibn Al-Khattab came to Syria; the second time, he visited the tomb of Madinah.

Bilal spent his last days in Syria. He died in 18 AH at 64 and was buried at Bab-Al Sagheer near Jama Umavi in Damascus. He served the Prophet for 25 years.

While on death bed, his wife Hind cried, '*wa hazanaa*' (what a great grief), to which Bilal replied, '*Wa Tarabaa*' (what a great joy); '*Tomorrow I will meet with my loved ones - Muhammad (peace be upon him) and his companions,*' he is said to have told his wife. ■

pleasure of Allah.

If you ask, Ask from Allah alone. If you give, then give for the sake of Allah. If you are hurt by the actions of your fellow brothers, forgive them for the sake of Allah. If you rely on, then rely on Allah alone. Because Allah reminds us in the Quran, multiple times

*"It is You we worship and You we ask for help."* (1:5)

*"Remember me, I will remember you"* (2:152)

*"Oh, you who believe! Seek help with patient perseverance and prayer, for God is with those who patiently persevere."* (2:153)

*"Unquestionably, the help of Allah is near"* (2:214)

*And will provide for him from where he does not expect. And whoever relies upon Allah - then He is sufficient for him.* (65:3)

May Allah forgive us, protect us from the trials of fitnah, safeguard our Tawheed and grant us peace in our worldly affairs through His mercy.

(The writer can be contacted at: saba18saleem@gmail.com) ■





# Ten Magical Days! Bonding like a Family!

**Ten-Days Residential Discover Yourself Leadership Development workshop was hosted at The School of Ancient Wisdom, Bangalore from 20-30 December 2022.**

## Some of the participants share their experiences:

- This workshop is a living example of our day-to-day life and I got the realization.
- The workshop was filled with love, truth, compassion, warmth, laughter, tears, enlightenment, and most importantly, it was filled with humanity in its purest form.
- Happiness is inside all of us. Sometimes you need someone to find that.
- I discovered the true me as a human being and I have found the purpose of my life i.e... Love of Allah.
- The counseling techniques have given answers to my many questions.
- The best place to transform from mind to heart.
- It is an essential course for every human being and a must for youngsters.
- I feel free and happy, just want to walk on this biggest transformation from charcoal to diamond.

**Dechamma:** I came here with so many questions. Questioning my existence. Today, I stand here with complete silence and all my questions seem to have evaporated somewhere. I felt alive somewhere I was dead. My heart is filled with so much love, love, and love which I have not experienced for a very long time. I feel there is so much to do going out from here. Thank you, sir, you have connected me to my Creator. The Creator who cannot be seen/felt. My heart was zipped, thanks for opening it. There is so much to give unconditionally and yet again I would say *"Love moves the world"*. I declare that I will serve my Creator's creation and the Creator will show me the way and I shall follow.

**Pyman Jamal:** I have been associated with Discover Yourself Workshop since 2018 and there has been no looking back since then. Every workshop has been enriching and enlightening. There is always something new to learn and apply in my life.

Our beloved coach Sadath Sir ensures every act we do is from the context of Allah's love and also to see and treat everyone as HUMAN BEING. Jazakallah khair Sir, for tirelessly working to bring us out of the opinion or judgment world to the world of reality and truth. You have imbibed in us that Islam is a way of life of submission to the Truth and Reality. Alhamdulillah, accepting reality now comes with ease. I am experiencing and enjoying life. The transformation within me was a shift from *"focus on the self"* to *"focus on others"*. I strongly recommend this workshop to

everyone.

**Yumna Fazal:** The workshop was like a life-changing one for me! Went there with so many questions and fears and all I knew was that whatever happens I'll not give up and will overcome the fears and find answers. I listed them down...but after going there I realized they were many more.

I actually realized that I was the one who was creating problems for myself, which was important as - *"Realization is the key to transformation"*?

The environment of that place was so peaceful, connected to nature, nonjudgmental, helpful, caring, and full of unconditional love...

I even met such lovely people over there and we formed a beautiful DYS family.

At the end of the workshop, Alhamdulillah there were transformations from charcoal to diamond.

**Alaisa Sehrish:** The Workshop focused on Transformations through wisdom rather than mere informative talks of knowledge. The person who came to the workshop and left the workshop were two completely different personalities.

During the workshop, we shared our life experiences, we shared hugs, tears, our deepest fears, our warmth, and love. And by the end, we shared a Goal - to share with the whole world what we got from this life-changing workshop and to make a difference in this world just the way Sadathullah Khan Sir made the greatest of difference in Our world! During the workshop, I realized that Allah has given us the freedom of



choice. We get to CHOOSE what we want, which path we want, and we alone are *Responsible and Accountable for our choice*.

**Tanzeem Fathima:** I attended this 10-day workshop to escape the daily stressful life. On the 3rd day of the workshop, I felt my soul which was shut deep in me was liberated through which I found peace and freedom from all the self-questioning (How/why). Sadath Sir was an extremely understanding and trustworthy coach who walked us through the absolutely beautiful reality of life.

Alhamdulillah, it feels like I've been reborn and my connection with Allah has reached an extremely high level. I discovered a better version of myself and began the journey of self-love, opportunities, forgiveness, and being a *responsible Khalifa of Allah*.

Highly recommend this workshop for all age groups.

**Sarah Fathima:** It all began with a plan and resulted in a plethora of memories to be treasured for the rest of one's life. After attending DYS TT, I realized that a new ME required not only an external change and internal motivation but also the ability to organize oneself from within. To focus on one's BEING rather than one's DOING....There I discovered WHO I AM.

The realization that I CREATE my own problem, assisted me in analyzing my mistakes, rather than blaming and complaining about the circumstances to avoid suffering. This workshop shook me to the core; my perception of myself, and others, as well as the purpose of my life, have all changed and are now heading in the right direction; which is the path of Submission.

This workshop is the need of every

individual existing in the world, struggling to find happiness and peace, as one is seeking peace and joy in the external but in reality, it lies within us.

I first like to thank Sadath Khan Sir for his unwavering dedication to his vision of helping the ummah. I consider myself lucky to be part of this course since 2011.

**Javeer Nakooda (Durban):** Prior to the workshop, your issues are external and everybody else needs to be fixed. Post-workshop your issues are internal, I got no time to fix others because I have got a thousand issues to fix in myself, internally.

In ten days, I have seen a miracle. I have seen 45/50 strangers listen to their coach to show love and kindness, and focus on others, which in turn led to Participants treating each other as human beings, not objects.

Participants are in the present, in a state of 'LA'- Nothingness which makes it easier to listen.

Nobody is judgmental, interpreting, or making the assumption. Participants feel so safe that they share so deep inner secrets with people they met for the first time in their lives, yet back home they know people all their lives but they can't share these inner thoughts with.

**DYS Leadership Workshop 8 is a bond of strangers into a family of love and kindness in ten days.**

You need to find your blind spots through these DYS TT courses to develop yourself so that you can go out into the world, with this character and be of benefit to mankind.

**Sanaa Jamal:** The letters of the alphabet are not enough to describe the absolutely magical experience that I had in the ten days. What a



memorable time I had! With people from all walks of life gathered for the same purpose, stopping, falling, learning, and growing together. I thank God every day for this family. Sadath Sir's vision and hard work to make it a reality is unlike anything I've seen before and I feel proud that God chose me to be a part of it. The journey of life inside the DYS workshop brings peace internally...it made me realize that life is simple, but I was so caught in the everyday rat race.

Not just life but even my love and connection with our Creator has increased because of Sir's cause.

*The human-to-human, non-judgment, nonopinionated zone of DYS is MAGNIFICENT*, one WANTS to keep coming for more sessions.

**Nilofer Kazi:** Attending the 'Leadership Development Training workshop' conducted by Sadathullah Khan Sir was a great opportunity for me. The workshop was enlightening, well-structured, detailed, and very informative. Sadathullah Sir conducted it with great enthusiasm and passion. He touched upon many subjects for which I was looking for answers.

*He also sprinkled humor and kept every participant engaged.* The outdoor activity was well-planned and was full of adventure. All participants greatly enjoyed it.

I went back with great learnings, experiences, and memories from the programme. My heartfelt thanks to Sadathullah Sir and his team. May Allah bless him for his efforts and spiritual journey.

**Abdul Khader:** I attended DYS TT from December 20th to 30th December and it was a life-transforming experience for me. I can guarantee that this is the solution to all our present-day relationship problems. I was very skeptical about attending it at first because I didn't get an answer about what it actually was about. After attending this workshop, I got the answer to not just that particular question, but all my questions about life. At first, one might not feel the need for it, but I believe everyone should attend this at least once. *I recommend anyone reading this to go for it and you will not regret it, I assure you.* ■





## Progressive Kannada Writer Saara Aboobacker Dead

M. A. Siraj



Progressive Kannada Writer Saara Aboobacker passed away in Mangalore on Tuesday, Jan. 10, 2023. She was 87 and is

survived by four sons.

Saara belonged to the Beary Muslim community and was born in Kasaragod town of Kerala, an area in Kerala close to the Karnataka border to a lawyer father. Beary Muslims number around five lakh and are concentrated in the DK and Udupi districts of Karnataka and the bordering region of Kerala. They speak the Beary language, an amalgam of Kannada, Malayalam, Tulu, and Konkani. Of late, the community has improved its educational status and entered the business in a big way. Beary is only a tongue and for all practical purposes, they get educated through the Kannada medium. They follow Shafii Maslak just as Malayali Muslims do.

Saara was a progressive writer and did not mince words. Her writings have been included in Kannada textbooks for schools. She began writing from 'Lankesh Patrike', a progressive journal run by Mr. Lankesh. (It may be recalled that his daughter Gauri Lankesh was killed by Hindu fundamentalists six years

ago.). Her first novel *Chandragiriya Theeradalli* was a big hit. It was a critique of orthodoxy and conservatism among Muslims and injustice towards women. It was translated into English (as *Breaking Ties*) and still later into Hindi, Tamil, Odiya, and Marathi. Her books were critical of patriarchy. (She was divorced from her engineer husband by three talaqs in a single sitting). Her lawyer father supported her all along for her courageous writings. She was the first among the Muslim girls in the Chandragiri area of Kerala to pass the 10th grade (SSLC) exam. She was conferred Kannada Rajyotsava, Kannada Sahitya Academy, and Nadoja awards. On several occasions, she was targeted by Muslim fundamentalists for her views and bold narratives against injustice. Having been born in the twilight zone of Kannada and Malayalam, she translated several Malayalam works into Kannada. She had shifted to Mangalore in her later life.

She was even elected *Karavali Lekhakiyaru Mathu Vichakiyaru Sangha* (Coastal Writers and Intellectuals Union).

Her death has been mourned by several writers and Kannada literary organizations.

Her last rites were performed at the Zeenath Baksh Masjid in the Bunder area of Mangalore and were buried in the adjacent graveyard on Tuesday night. ■

## Dr. Nafees Siddiqui Passes Away



New Delhi: Dr. Nafees Ahmad Siddiqui, former Principal, Shaheed Bhagat Singh College, University of Delhi passed away on January

19 after a brief illness. Delhi-based the Institute of Objective Studies has mourned his death. In a statement, the IOS said, "With immense grief and sorrow, the Chairman, office-bearers, and members of staff of the Institute of Objective Studies, New Delhi, offers its deep condolence on the sad demise of Dr. Nafees Ahmad Siddiqui, who passed away at New Delhi".

Dr. Nafees was deeply associated with the Institute of Objective Studies and was part of its academic endeavours from the very

beginning. He was a member of its general assembly and used to attend its meetings and programmes, and cooperated wholeheartedly in the academic endeavours of the Institute, it added.

He was also associated with the Indian Association of Muslim Social Scientists (IAMSS), and served as its Secretary. He authored one book titled *Geographia-e-Alam*, published in 1998 by Foundation for Education Development, New Delhi.

May Allah accept all his good deeds, bless him with the choicest place in heaven and grant *sabr* to all in his family to bear this loss. Aameen. ■

### Tufail Ahmed Mehkri



Tufail Ahmed Mehkri Saheb, aged 97 years, Ex-President, Majlis-Rifahul Muslimen. He served for ten years, at Muslim

Boys and Girls Orphanage, Farooqia Educational Institution Groups, and other educational organizations in Mysore, passed away in Bangalore, due to a brief illness on 16.01.2023. ■

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M.A. Samad

Qatar's extraordinary FIFA world cup event is indebted to leather. A few square feet of basically vegetable tanned leather is a key element in having successfully held the international sports event of world cup football. But for leather covers on rubber bladders, the event may not, have been possible, for no other material could be put to use on the bladders of a football. Since the use of vegetable-tanned leather in the early days of playing, this unique game has a link with the physical fitness and health of human beings all over the world. In almost all countries, at the school level, football playing begins, and later on, in colleges, its standard gets improved and refined, and the game sees further overall development and improvement in football clubs around the world. In a way, this material is God's gift to mankind for its unique contribution to people from



boyhood to adulthood. In recent times, women too have started playing this game in schools from girlhood to adult age in colleges which is yet another significant development. That half of mankind has linked themselves to this game is for good. Making of football's leather covers with vegetable tanned leather has developed into a regular production process in the sports industry. And its commerce is benefiting in more than one

good way-contributing to economies of nations all over the world and artisan workers in their beginning. It has now entered technology-oriented manufacturing to meet standards and criteria. Its demand is in all lands of the world. As a lad in school, I played football up to adult age and having got to work in the leather technology, it has occurred to me, to sum up; the above facts, for understanding and appreciating, the significance of



leather, in particular the vegetable- tanned, to make covers for football's rubber bladders to be considered an essential product. But for it, the world sensationalizing the event of Qatar may not have happened. But for it, Pele may not have become a single unique legend of football. Now, the fact that Messi being held in the greatest regard in the beautiful game on the world scene is indebted to the leather as a

football cover. This fanfare event of Qatar, which began in November and ended in December last year, was held with the due support of football's leather covers on rubber bladders. (The writer can be contacted @ Leather Technologist, Ex. Tata Exports Ltd. New No.29/3, Old No.12/3, Arundale Street, Mylapore, Pin:600004. Mobile 9 8 4 0 9 1 7 0 3 7, E - mail:tantech\_48@yahoo.com)

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