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Vol 35-06 No 427

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Zil Qadah / Zil Hijjah - 1444 H

More than 22 million worshipers visited the Grand Mosque during Ramadan's first 20 days



Staff Writer
Saudi Press Agency

Makkah: General President of the Affairs of the Grand Mosque and Prophet's Mosque Sheikh Dr. Abdulrahman bin Abdulaziz Al-Sudais declared that the total number of male and female worshipers who visited the Grand Mosque during the first 20 days of Ramadan amounted to more than 22 million people. Dr. Al-Sudais stressed that the Presidency prepared the Grand Mosque through an operational plan and strategy that provided all means of convenience and facilitated all services for worshipers to perform their rituals with ease and tranquility, and also ensured the availability of safety means inside the Grand Mosque and communication with the relevant authorities.

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Contrary to Smiriti Irani's claim, Haj becomes more costly

Airline companies charging 67K to one lakh more rupees from certain EPS



Abdul Bari Masoud

New Delhi: The first phase of the transfer of Indian Hajis to Saudi Arabia began on May 21 at 20 out of 25 embarkation points throughout the country. However, the inexplicable and exorbitant increase in the fares at the most of 25 embarkation points (EPs) has caused deep anger among the Indian pilgrims. Contrary to Minority Affairs Minister Smiriti Irani's claim that the cost per pilgrim has been reduced by Rs 90,000, the Central Haj Committee is charging over Rs 4 lakh to 3 lakh from each pilgrim exclusive of



(Photo courtesy Business Today)

foreign exchange money. A petition has been filed in the

Aurangabad bench of the Bombay High Court challenging the sharp increase in prices. Huge differences in Haj charges can be judged from the fares fixed at different EPs. For example, if a pilgrim takes a flight from Mumbai, he/she has to pay Rs 3.05 lakh while from Aurangabad which is just 400 km away from Mumbai, the fare is fixed at Rs3.93 lakh, and for Nagpur another EP in Maharashtra its Rs 3.72 lakh. It's a huge gap of Rs 88,000. Likewise, a haji embarking at Hyderabad and Bangalore has to

» Page 4

Farheen Fatima Becomes First Muslim Woman as Advocate-On-Record of Supreme Court

Zeena Akhtar

New Delhi: Advocate Farheen Fatima has become the first ever Muslim woman as Advocate-on-Record of the Supreme Court. She passed the Advocate-on-Record Examination 2022 conducted by the Supreme Court of India. She hails from Kareli Allahabad (Prayagraj). Fatima has been practicing in the Supreme Court of India ever since she completed her graduation in law. She did her schooling at St.



Anthony's Convent School, Prayagraj with flying colours and

did law from Dehradun.

Speaking with *Islamic Voice*, the suave advocate said, "Yes it's my childhood dream".

"When I was a kid, I noticed most of the big personalities in public life had one thing in common. They were all lawyers. So, I decided to go for law as I found them more intelligent, knowledgeable, and socially aware than others", Fatima said when asked why she prefers the law profession.

Recently, she was honored by the

Indian Council of Jurists and All India Bar Association for achieving this feat.

Congratulating Farheen Fatima for her feat, the National President of Urdu Development Organization's president Dr. Syed Ahmad Khan said that it is undeniably admirable that even at this trying time, our daughters are making steady progress towards achievement in all spheres of life.

Fatima is also an Honorary

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Abdul Bari Masoud

In spite of all odds, including the partisan referee, the people of Karnataka overwhelmingly defeated the incumbent BJP government as well as its anti-Muslim-centric divisive agenda also known as Hindutva. In the words of actor Prakash Raj, "it is not a vote for Congress; it is a vote against BJP and its ideology".

Unmistakably, Congress won the 16th Assembly elections with a thumping majority and dethroned the BJP from power in the lone southern state of Karnataka that made South India or Dravidian lands free from the BJP. On the other hand, the Karnataka verdict also busted the many myths including Prime Minister Narendra Modi's 'invincibility' that had been manufactured by his managers with the support of a subservient media and "double engine sarkar" slogan.

A disdainful rejection of the anti-Muslim rhetoric and actions of the incumbent BJP government and its top leadership, however, may be summed up as the primary message of the people of Karnataka. The decision would also allow those secular parties, who play 'soft' Hindutva out of fear of losing Hindu support, the confidence to take on the Hindutva bogey (which is nothing but anti-Muslim propaganda) head-on.

The verdict has also given a loud message that there are few takers for the Ariyan brand of Hindutva in Dravidian lands as underlined by several commentators and the Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M K Stalin.

For the 224-member legislative assembly, elections were held on May 10 and results were declared on May 13. The ruling BJP which held 118 seats in the 15th Assembly was reduced to 66 by the Congress surge from 69 seats to 136. With a 43% vote share, Congress registered a seven percent lead over the BJP's 35.9 in the course of the win.

BJP underperformed across the state

It should be emphasized that the senior leaders of the party had taken complete control of the polling preparations and made all of the major arrangements themselves. Modi's frantic tour of the State included 18 rallies and five roadshows throughout the course of his six-day stay. Among the more than 120 key personalities who had actively campaigned in the State were Amit Shah, the party's chief strategist, a sizable number of Union Ministers, and the vituperative monk Yogi

Adityanath.

Even in its strongholds like the state capital of Bengaluru, where it lost three seats to Congress, the party underperformed throughout the state. It only received 14 of the available 28 seats. Even in its stronghold of coastal Karnataka, BJP's vote share has crashed down which is considered as the hotbed of RSS activities.

The party was heavily banking on the powerful Lingayat community but most of them also ditched the BJP this time. Lingayats comprise an estimated 14% of the 5.3 crore electorate. The Community has been fighting for independent religious status from what they call Vedic or Brahmin Dharma. Lingayats dominate about 90 of the 224 assembly segments in the state. Only 15 of the BJP's 69 Lingayat candidates were able to win. While on Congress tickets 37 of the 46 Lingayat candidates were successful.

The party was unable to win even one of the Scheduled Tribe (ST) seats. In addition, the party suffered defeat in 24 of the 36 seats set aside for Scheduled Caste (SC) candidates.

There are 51 reserved constituencies in Karnataka, 36 of which are for candidates from the SC group and 15, for the ST community.

Furthermore, in the debacle that shocked the BJP leadership, 26 ministers in the Bommai government, who contested the election, almost half of them bite the dust including School education minister B C Nagesh who created the Hijab row.

Modi gave the election campaign a personal touch by presenting it as a vote for a double-engine sarkar. Invoking Bajrang Bali also gave it a divisive spin, especially in the last lap. But all these tricks fell flat. It is to be noted that BJP twice came to power in the state but had never secured even the requisite majority for forming the government. Even in 2018 — when it won 104 seats — its popular vote share was only 36 percent while Congress won 80 seats with 38 percent votes. It formed a government under the leadership of B.S. Yeddyurappa on Aug. 25, 2019, by creating defections in the Congress and JD(S) ranks.

Congress Stunning Success

The Congress staged an incredible recovery in the state that had been devastated by a succession of defeats countrywide after ten years. It garnered 122 seats in 2013 with a 36 percent vote. It obtained 135

Karnataka Mandate

Voters Rejected Anti-Muslim Rhetoric Government

seats, more than double the BJP's record of 66, and about 43% of the vote. Its ally, the Sarvodaya Karnataka Paksha, won the one seat it contested. This is the biggest triumph for the party since 1989 when it had gained 178 seats.

A record high since 1989, when it received 43.76% of the vote, the vote share for the Congress likewise grew to a high of 42.9%.

The Congress manifesto used the renowned words "*Sarva janangada shanthiya thota* (the garden where all communities live in peace)" by the great poet Kuvempu as its motto. The public preferred this promise of welfare and its embrace of secularism. It is so tempting to concur with Rahul Gandhi's statement that "*Karnataka mein nafrat ka bazaar band hua hai aur mohabbat ki dukan khuli hai*". It's also true that Rahul's Bharat Jodo Yatra traveled all of Karnataka, and the Congress has performed quite well there.

The Congress adopted the strategy of focusing on hyper-local issues and trusted local leadership. It did not raise national issues like the Adani scam and others but local corruption issues. Its manifesto offered a cautious line on reinstating the old pension scheme (OPS) and promises to increase reservations for SCs, STs, OBCs, Lingayat and Vokkaliga communities, restore 4% quota for Muslims, and impose a ban on organizations spreading hate, whether it's Bajrang Dal or PFI.

JD(S) reduced to oblivion

Once the powerful formulation of the state, the Janata Dal (Secular), led by former prime minister H D Deve Gowda, has been reduced to a marginal player in the state. Its standing dropped dramatically, going from kingmaker to minor player. The party's vote total in the assembly elections fell to 20 seats from the 37 it gained in 2018, and this, combined with a dramatic drop in vote share of five percentage points from 18.3% to 13.3%, resulted in its worst electoral showing since 2004.

Muslim Vote Played Key Role

Muslim voters, who made up between 13 to 17 percent of the electorate, were crucial to the Congress's convincing victory. They contributed to the victories of at least 67 to 72 candidates for Congress. It is said 88 percent of Muslim votes went into the Congress kitty. The community has shown exemplary patience in the face of extreme provocation and actions thus failing the BJP's polarizing plank.

Attempt To Pass Over Hindutva Defeat

Several right-wing observers are characterizing the Karnataka mandate as a plain instance of anti-incumbency at the State level in an effort to downplay the failure of the Hindutva ideology. It's partially

accurate given that Karnataka hasn't had an incumbent government that was re-elected in nearly 40 years. Given the widespread dissatisfaction with the Bommai government in particular, a renewed mandate seemed further away. An overly simplistic anti-incumbency narrative, however, would only obscure how the current "national" politics also significantly affect "state" outcomes.

The BJP's election campaign and Modi's speeches were fiercely divisive and communal, with claims that the Congress was collaborating with terrorists and Amit Shah warning of rioting if the Congress won. The Supreme Court blocked the BJP's decision to eliminate the 4% quota for Muslims on election eve, which served as the party's campaign's first salvo. Asking the voters to shout 'Jai Bajrang Bali' after pressing the EVM button was not the only case. In order to win over Hindu voters, Modi also used the polarizing propaganda movie The Kerala Story. B.S. Bommai's "face" was really a fig leaf for a campaign that was primarily overtly Hindutva. The hijab ban and halal meat, azan, love jihad, and other anti-Muslim issues ran throughout the campaign.

Voters in Karnataka did not

respond favourably to the anti-Muslim rhetoric and actions of the BJP. As Hindutva poster boy, BJP heavyweight CT Ravi suffered defeat in Chikkamagaluru and has termed the verdict, a 'personal loss, not that of our ideology'. He played a key role in a Hindutva agitation for control of a shrine in the Bababudangiri Hills

Another hardcore Hindutva acolyte B C Nagesh, the state's minister of education, bites the dust at the hustings. Nagesh was the epicenter of every controversy in the state with a communal overtone, including the hijab issue and saffronization of school textbooks. He had lost by more than 17,000 votes to Congress challenger K Shadakshari for the Tiptur Assembly seat in the Tumkur district.

BJP Lost Its Lone Southern Post

The disastrous defeat in Karnataka has surely destroyed the BJP's hopes of being regarded as a pan-Indian party. BJP managers believed that Karnataka also referred to as the party's southern gateway, was the one state where their presence would herald their entry into other southern states.

After Karnataka's victory, Congress President M. Mallikarjun Kharge declared, "Those who wanted 'Congress Mukh Bharat' ended up facing 'BJP Mukh Dakshin Bharat'," which proved to be true. ■

«Page 1

More than 22 million worshipers visited the Grand Mosque during Ramadan's first 20 days

He hailed the Saudi leadership for supporting the Two Holy Mosques and their visitors and for creating the best conditions for

worshippers to perform their rituals easily.

(Source:

<https://www.zawya.com/>) ■

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Vivek Gupta

On 31 March, the day of a Hindu religious festival and during Ramadan, an extremist mob set a Muslim school, the Azizia Madrasa, and its library ablaze in the city of Bihar Sharif in eastern India. More than 4,500 printed books and manuscripts of Islamic heritage were lost and damaged in the fire. The throng also threw petrol bombs into a nearby mosque and left explosives outside the madrasa's classrooms. Since the attack, the district's superintendent of police, Ashok Mishra, has stated that 77 people have been arrested. One person died in the violence, and several remain injured.

Endowed by a woman named Bibi Soghra around a century ago, today the madrasa has 22 classrooms, which serve up to 450 students. Such madrasas form the core of Muslim communities and foster childhood development and education. Now, ashes of burned books line the floors of the school's library. Images show an imam holding a manuscript with burnt edges and several destroyed handwritten books strewn across the grounds. The histories of these books are forever fragmented.

Anti-Muslim context

This communal violence occurs in the wake of numerous recent laws targeting Muslims on both national and state levels in India. Yet these events have not drawn nearly as much uproar as previous cases, raising concerns as to whether this has become anodyne for the mainstream Indian public and media. Most recently, the National Council of Educational Research and Training (Ncert) dropped entire chapters and sections on Mughal history from Indian school textbooks, effectively erasing three centuries of Indian history from public education and skewing the perspectives of future generations. Leading historians across the world have condemned this, but it is unclear whether that will make any impact.

Bihar has had at least two great sites of learning during its long history. From at least the fifth century AD it witnessed the rise of Nalanda, a Buddhist monastic university, or vihara, from which the region derives its name. The medieval historian Juzjani drew an equivalence between the concept of a vihara and a madrasa in his description of Bakhtiyar Khalji's conquest of Nalanda at the beginning of the 13th century. He noted that the Buddhist site boasted many books and recognized it as a place of deep knowledge, despite its conquest. Bihar's capital Patna also houses the Khuda Bakhsh Oriental Public Library, a world-class collection of rare books and manuscripts, especially in Arabic, Persian, and Urdu, which opened to the public

What the violent destruction of a Muslim library in Bihar tells us about the troubling state of Islamic heritage in India.'

The recent communal violence which burned down the Azizia Madrasa occurred in the wake of numerous recent laws targeting Muslims.



A pile of burnt books at the Azizia Madrasa library
Courtesy of Meer Faisal

in 1891. A history of Timur and his successors with 132 full-page paintings commissioned around 1584 stands as one of the library's finest masterpieces. Yet, in 2021, Bihar's government proposed to build a flyover that would involve razing a historical part of the library and endangering the safety of the collection. Widespread disapproval halted this plan.

Whether it's a Buddhist monastery, Muslim madrasa, or public manuscript repository, the government of India and international parties must protect heritage whatever its religious affiliation. UNESCO has stepped in to protect vulnerable heritage in many other times of crisis globally, and the evidence from razing Muslim monuments to burning libraries speaks in favour of intervention. The stewardship of the Endangered Archives Programme and the Hill Museum and Manuscript Library, both supported by the Arcadia Fund, have led the way for digitizing collections that could be subject to destruction, neglect, or decay, but further institutional and governmental collaboration is necessary for all endangered archives to be documented.

When heritage such as the Azizia Madrasa vanishes, a physical anchor for an entire community ceases to exist within history. Globally, we might even lose the ability to answer questions about the faraway past. For example, a calligraphic practice indigenous to premodern South Asia identified as Bihari apparently acquired this designation because of an association with Bihar. Other reasons for this name have been put forth, but researchers still have no definitive evidence as to why or how this calligraphy came to be popularly known as Bihari. Is the name a modern myth or does it have some historical credence? Given the script's close relationship to Sufi practices and the long history of Sufism in Bihar, this may have been one reason for the connection. Perhaps the answer lay amid the rubble of

the Azizia Madrasa for a student of its community to bring to light. Now, this archive is lost forever.



Qur'an Manuscript,
Gwalior, India, 11 July 1399,
AKM281 (f.189r-190v)
© The Aga Khan Museum

The burning of a madrasa library finds further resonances within the arguments of contemporary artists who occupy cultural spaces distant from contexts like Bihar Sharif. Shubigi Rao, an artist and the curator of the Kochi-Muziris Biennale 2022-23, says "the destruction of the Azizia Madrasa [is] heartbreaking, like so many libraries that have suffered similar fates at the hands of those too ignorant and vicious to understand the magnitude and tragedy of such loss." Rao's practice has long concerned "libricide" and she made *The River of Ink* (2008) in response to the destruction of the Bayt al-Hikmah, or the library of Baghdad pillaged during the thirteenth-century Mongol invasions of West Asia. The work features scattered books drowned in ink across crates to evoke ashes and the memory of forgetting. Meanwhile, the centerpiece of Document 13, *The Parthenon of Forbidden Books* by Marta Minujin, featured a symbolic architectural tribute to the many banned books all over the world. In their destruction, such arson of libraries erases knowledge from histories, much like banned or censored books all over the world such as in the case of Mughal history in Indian textbooks.

Far from an isolated event in a provincial town, the burning of the Azizia Madrasa library has global ramifications. It leaves one wondering what the future holds when governments and

India. Libraries are not merely stacks of old books. They contain lives whose histories are waiting to be told.

(Vivek Gupta is post doctoral associate at the University of Cambridge)

(Source: <https://www.theartnewspaper.com/>)

institutions show no signs of safeguarding Muslim heritage in



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Bibi Hajira

Staff Writer

Muslim Representation in Newly Elected Karnataka Assembly Slightly Increase Lingayats Get Lion's Share Again



Bangalore: In the newly constituted 16th Legislative Assembly of Karnataka, the representation of Muslims in the state has marginally improved from seven to nine MLAs. Despite a proportion of more than 13 percent of the total population of Karnataka, Muslims never get their due share in the state's highest law-making body. Only in the 1978 assembly election, 18 Muslim candidates have romped the home, and one of them in the bye-election. This is the highest tally of Muslim MLAs and the lowest was seven in the previous assembly of 2018.

All nine Muslim candidates won on the Congress tickets which fielded 15. In contrast, the powerful Lingayat community always gets the lion's share in the 224-member state assembly. In the new assembly, their strength is 51 while they constitute around 14 percent of the total population. 37 of the 46 Lingayat candidates put forth by Congress were successful. Only 15 of the BJP's 69 community candidates who received nominations were able to win.

Muslims are slightly more represented in the new assembly than they were in the last assembly. Seven Muslims were elected in the 2018 election. Compared to the 11 Muslim MLAs that were elected in 2013, it was a significant decline. Of the 211 candidates the JD(S) ran, 23 were Muslims, but none were elected. As its policy, BJP did not give tickets to Muslim candidates. Muslim votes played a key role in the Congress's decisive win which accounted for 13 to 17 percent of the total voters. They helped at

least 67 to 72 Congress candidates to win the elections. It is said 88 percent of Muslim votes went to the Congress kitty. Five-time MLA Zameer Ahmed Khan was made the cabinet minister.

In Gulbarga city, after a close race against Chandrakanth Patil, a Lingayat youth activist running for the BJP, the incumbent Congress MLA from the Gulbarga North constituency, Kaneez Fatima the only Muslim woman candidate filed by the Congress retained her seat. She faced a challenge from BJP and 9 Muslim

rivals. She won the seat by a margin of 2,712 votes. Fatima, 63, received 80,973 votes with a 45.28% vote share as opposed to Patil's 78,261 votes with a 43.76% vote share.

When her husband Qamarul Islam, a minister and six-term local MLA, passed away a few months before the 2018 Assembly elections, Fatima was propelled from her domestic position into the spotlight of public life.

Besides Fatima, other Congress victorious candidates are Rahim Khan won in Bidar by a margin of

10,659 votes; UT Khader Fareed in Mangalore by 22,977 votes; Tanveer Sait in Narasimharaja (Mysuru) by 31,091 votes; Asif (Raju) Sait in Belagavi North by 4,551 votes; Rizwan Arshad in Shivajinagar by 23,198 votes; B Z Zameer Ahmed Khan in Chamrajpet by 53,983 votes; H A Iqbal Hussain in Ramanagaram by 10,846 votes; and N A Haris in Shanti Nagar by 7,070 votes. All of them have been re-elected, except Asif (Raju) Sait and Iqbal Hussein, who are entering the Assembly for the first time.

Asaduddin Owaisi's AIMIM contested two seats and secured only 0.02 percent of the votes polled. The Social Democratic Party of India (SDPI) met a similar fate as none of its 16 candidates could open their accounts.

Despite the BJP leaders' extremely provocative statements and the Bommai government's anti-Muslim measures, they have shown exemplary patience and composure. The Congress appears to have benefited from the Muslim vote's consolidation. The party has pledged to reinstate the 4% Muslim quota that the former BJP government abolished. ■

◀ Page 1

Airline companies charging 67K to one lakh more rupees from certain EPS

pay Rs 3.05 lakh and Rs 3.04 lakh respectively. In contrast, for Srinagar and Gaya (Bihar) charges are Rs 3.95 lakh and over Rs 4 lakh respectively.

Because of exorbitant charges at most of EPS, many applicants have sought a change in their EPs. Many of them are dissatisfied and desire to alter their EP at this time. For example, 3,266 hajis will embark from Nagpur airport but they can't afford to spend an extra Rs67,000 when they can make the pilgrimage from Mumbai for less money. Likewise, 1,773

Hajis will take a flight from Aurangabad and have to pay an additional Rs 88,000.

There is news circulating on social media that about 117 pilgrims from the Yavatmal district wanted a change in the embarkation location from Nagpur to Mumbai.

In Aurangabad, on behalf of 64 Haj pilgrims, attorney Syed Tausif Yaseen filed a petition. Yaseen claimed that the petitioners objected to the Haj Committee of India's May 6, 2023 circular asking for an additional Rs 88,000. According

to the appeal, the intended Hajis were kept in the dark until the very last minute about expenses. The petition argued that in 2019, the fare difference between the embarkation sites in Mumbai and Aurangabad was only Rs 10,500. Normally, it costs just Rs. 3,500 to go from Mumbai to Aurangabad on one side. The Bombay High Court's single bench took notice of the case and ordered the Haj Committee to provide an explanation for the significant hike in the cost for the Aurangabad EP before June 12. However, the Bench asked them to deposit the third and final payment for Haj expenditures. Aurangabad was not designated as the EP for Haj pilgrims in 2020, 2021, or 2022.

Many Hajis are now in a terrible situation as a result of this added expense. Several hajjis spoke with this correspondent at the Delhi airport and told that they

faced many problems including the administration of vaccines.

This situation disproves the assertion made by Smriti Irani, Minister for Minority Affairs that this year the ministry worked to lessen the financial burden on Indian Hajis. When this scribe confronted Smriti Irani, she stated that pilgrims have consistently asked for a designated Embarkation Point (EP) to be established near their individual points of departure in as many States as feasible.

It was decided in the Haj Policy-2023 to designate 25 EPs for Haj 2023. Accordingly, bids for air charter arrangements were called for all 25 EPs. Bids were received for only 22 EPs, out of which 10 EPs were successfully bid by GoAir, which however subsequently became insolvent.

It seems the main reason behind the steep increase in fares is that GoAir declared itself bankrupt.

These EPs were originally allocated to GoAir. Presently, pilgrims are proceeding for Haj from 20 EPs. As many as eight air companies including Vistara, Spicejet, AIX, flydeal, Indigo, Air India, Saudi airline, and Flynas have been assigned the task of transportation.

As per the new Haj policy, all pilgrims were given the choice of selecting two EPs. On the basis of their first choice, all 100% of pilgrims were accommodated in the EPs of their own preference. But this option seems to be only on paper as very few hajis were allowed to change.

In the first phase, 54,000 pilgrims will depart from Delhi, Jaipur, Lucknow, Kolkata, and other EPs which commenced on 21st May 2023 to 06th June 2023 while the remaining 85,000 pilgrims shall depart in phase II from 07th June 2023 to 22nd June 2023. ■



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of Jamia Tazkiyat-ul-Banat Noor Nagar Bangalore

Muslim boy tops UP Sanskrit board, beats over 13000 Students

Mohammad Irfan, the 17-year-old son of a farm daily wage labourer Salauddin in Uttar Pradesh's Chandauli district, has scored 82.71% in the Uttar Pradesh Madhyamik Sanskrit Shiksha Parishad Board's Uttar Madhyama-II (class 12) examinations.

The board requires Sanskrit language and literature as two compulsory subjects, along with other subjects.



Irfan, who aspires to be a Sanskrit teacher, is the only Muslim among the top 20 scores in classes 10 and 12.

The boy reportedly got admitted to the Sampurnanand Sanskrit Government School because that is the only school his father could afford to send him to. Salauddin earns a mere Rs 300 per day and the school charged Rs 400-500 as an annual fee. ■

Staff Writer

Hyderabad: Maulana Azad National Urdu University (MANUU) organized a one-day workshop for Urdu working journalists on the topic of countering disinformation as the fake news industry has grown alarmingly in the country.

Addressing the inaugural session as the Chief Guest of the workshop, US diplomat David Moyer said citizens needed to be aware of the ecosystem of false information and combat it with accurate knowledge.

"It was imperative for Citizens to be aware of the misinformation ecosystem and counter it through truthful information. Misinformation threatens democracies across the world, as there is the divergence of opinion and no shared understanding of basic facts," Moyer said, who is Public Affairs Officer, the United States Consulate General, and Hyderabad.

Moyer further underlined that "There is a need to change the nature of discourse in the media towards positive and factual information on the issues relevant to the public." The workshop will help strengthen democratic foundations by empowering Urdu journalists with fact-checking skills and provide reliable news to the public, he added.

Training Workshop 'Countering Disinformation for Urdu Journalists' organized by the Department of Mass Communication and Journalism (MCJ), MANUU in collaboration

MANUU Organizes Workshop for Urdu Journalist on 'Countering Disinformation'

Misinformation threatens Democracies, David Moyer



with the Department of MCJ, Osmania University (OU) and US Consulate General, Hyderabad. Prof. Syed Ainul Hasan, Vice Chancellor, MANUU presided over.

Prof. Ainul Hasan urged the media to work to build trust by strengthening digital media literacy and empowering individuals to identify, critically analyze and counter disinformation. It is also our responsibility to know whether the information provided is correct or not. Maulana Abul Kalam Azad, the first Education Minister of Independent India, and Maulvi Muhammad Baqir, who was the first martyr from the Indian journalist community, used journalism as a weapon during the freedom struggle, he remembered.

The Guest of Honour Ms. B. Sumathi, IPS, DIG, Women Safety, Govt of Telangana, Hyderabad opined that countering disinformation may be used for the promotion and protection of women's rights. Disinformation

should not become a pretext to intimidate and harass critical voices, denigrate opponents, or

obstruct the legitimate activities of human rights, she remarked.

Prof. Stevenson Kohir, Project Coordinator and Head, Department of Journalism and Mass Communication, OU outlined various topics of training sessions conducted by noted fact checkers led by Lead Trainer, U Sudhakar Reddy, Md. Abdul Basith, Media Advisor, US Consulate General Hyderabad.

Prof. Mohammad Fariyad, Dean & Head, School/Dept. of MCJ delivered the welcome address. Prof. Ehtesham Ahmad Khan, Dept of MCJ proposed a vote of thanks. A booklet "Standard Operating Tools" for Urdu Journalists was also released. The resource persons including Krishna Sastry Pendyala, Ms. Umam Noor, Sudhakar Reddy Udumula, and M. A. Majid provided insights on various aspects pertaining to Countering Disinformation, Visual Content Verification, and misinformation.

Farheen Fatima Becomes First Muslim Woman as Advocate-On-Record of Supreme Court

Member of the Legal Wing of All India Unani Tibbi Congress. She is the niece of UDO National General Secretary Dr. Faraz Uloom and the grandchild of Bahur Uloom, 103-year-old founder and patron-general of the Urdu Development

Organization. She also makes clear that she is not the first female Advocate-on-Record of the Supreme Court; rather she is the first female advocate from her hometown to ever become AoR.



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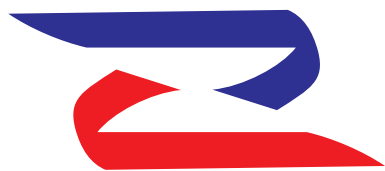
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Abu Zaeem

New Delhi: A first-of-its-kind empirical study on Muslims living in the national capital reveals that Muslims are lagging behind other socio-religious sections of Delhi in terms of multiple deprivations on the parameters of education, economic growth, employment, health, living standards, and political representation in the elected bodies.

The study report titled "Muslims of Delhi: A Study on their Socio-economic and Political Status" was released on April 30 at the function in the presence of leading academicians and media persons including Ashutosh , Urmilesh, Qamar Agha, Yusuf Ansari, Dr. MH Ghazali, Abrar Ahmad, and Prof. Khwaja M. Shahid.

The study was jointly carried out by Delhi-based think tanks, the Institute of Policy Studies and Advocacy (IPSA), and Indian Muslim Intellectuals Forum (IMIF).

Speaking with *Islamic Voice*, IPSA's founder Dr. Jawed Alarm Khan says the condition of Muslims in Delhi has been the subject of very few thorough studies, and the current study aims to fill some of that vacuum.

This study report is spread over 110 pages and was carried out in 2022, and it is mostly based on secondary data, including some recent government papers. In terms of many deprivations on the parameters of education, economic growth, employment, health, living conditions, and political representation in the elected bodies, the report emphasizes that Muslims are falling behind other socio-religious groups of Delhi.

According to the 2011 Census, there were 1, 67, 87,941 people living in the NCT of Delhi. The national capital has been estimated to have 1, 93, 01,096 residents. As a result, the projected current Muslim population in Delhi is 2.5

Muslims in Delhi Lag Behind Other Socio-Religious Sections of the National Capital: Study



million, or 24, 81,839, or 12.86% of the total population. According to Census 2011, there were 21, 45,499 Muslims living in Delhi (12.78% of the total population), a number that has somewhat increased since 2011 as a result of accelerated Muslim migration to urban regions from other parts of the nation and also because of a slightly higher fertility rate.

In spite of the fact that there are many Muslims living in the nation's capital, there aren't many studies that have been done on their plight, Dr. Khan says.

There was a wealth of information about the situation of Muslims throughout India, particularly in Delhi, in the Sachar Committee Report from 2006. According to a Baseline Survey of the North-East District of Delhi, conducted in 2009-10 by the Ministry of Minority Affairs' Minority Concentrated Districts Project, Muslims in the district are falling behind in a number of socioeconomic indicators, including education, employment, health, access to basic amenities, and financial inclusion.

Earlier, the Institute of Objective Study (IOS) held a survey of conditions in 7 Muslim concentration wards in 2015.

Apparently, no comprehensive

research study has been carried out on the status of Muslims in Delhi after the Sachar Committee Report by any government or private agency for understanding the state of affairs and level of improvement in their socio-economic conditions and challenges, except some research papers on one or the other aspect of their life, says kaleem ul Hafeez, Convener, IMIF.

The current study includes data analysis on fiscal support for minority schemes, employment, education, healthcare, living conditions, and political clout in the context of the development of Delhi's Muslims and is based on authentic secondary sources including the Census of India, NSSO Round, National Family and Health Survey, Periodic Labour Force Survey, etc. and public perceptions from the Muslim concentration wards of MCD as a primary data source. The relevant data coincide with the period of political transition in Delhi from the Congress to AAP-led government and, thus, they provide valuable insight regarding the progress of the community under a new regime.

The report underlines that the fiscal share in the overall state budget for the development of the SC/ST/OBC/Minorities'

department, which directly takes care of 83% population of the NCT of Delhi including Muslims, has come down from 0.98% in 2013-14 to almost 0.60% since 2015, though the actual amount has partially increased over the years along with the overall state budget. The only scheme for weaker sections in the state that shows consistency in public provisioning is the financial assistance for EWS category under the RTE. It has also been underlined that such autonomous agencies as Delhi Minority Commission, Delhi Waqf Board, NMFDC, Urdu Academy, etc are not functioning at their optimal level.

The educational performance of Delhi's Muslims does not reveal any promising status in the midst of the hype of special achievements of the state's educational department, though their literacy rate is somewhat better than in many other states. There is a big gender gap between Muslim males (15%) and females (30%) in terms of illiteracy, contrary to the lower national average. The distribution of government educational institutions in the Muslim pockets has not improved even under the present government as noted from the fact that there are an average of 4 schools per ward run by the state

government and MCD in the Muslim concentration wards as compared to 10 in all wards.

The unemployment rate for Muslims has been noted at 11.8% as compared to 8.6 in the national capital and Muslims are generally engaged in lowly-paying jobs and occupations.

The Mother Mortality Rate (MMR) in the NCT of Delhi has increased from 37 in 2015 to 54 in 2020 and is becoming a disturbing health issue, in spite of the claims of good healthcare infrastructure in the state. Muslims must be the worst sufferers of the situation as Non-Institutional Delivery is the highest for them (13.7%) as compared to all SRCs (8.2%).

In terms of living conditions, the report underlies that 69.70% of Muslims avail the piped drinking water contrary to 76.3% of Delhi's overall residents.

The report finds that one of the major reasons for Muslims' grave situation in Delhi is that they are inadequately represented in the decision-making bodies, e.g. the number of Muslim MLAs in Delhi remains static at around 5.5%, almost one-third of their population in the state. Their representation in the MCD is even lesser.

The policy of the report demands increased fiscal support, better implementation of schemes, sensitization of public servants towards a sympathetic approach for the faster development of all weaker sections of Delhi including Muslims, and enhancement of their visibility in the decision-making bodies at every level.

The authors of the report hope that it will generate a wide range of awareness and clarity of vision regarding improving the condition of 2.5 million Muslims in the national capital which then should lead to an actionable agenda on the part of various stakeholders. ■

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Book Release Ceremony at the Department of Arabic



Staff Writer

Aligarh: The Aligarh Muslim University's (AMU) Department of Arabic hosted a special ceremony on May 10 to celebrate the publication of Professor Abu Sufyan Islahi's ten volumes.

Academic and literary works encourage students and future generations, and Prof. Islahi's creative activism and academic rigour are commendable, according to Prof. Azarmi Dukht Safavi, Honorary Advisor and Former Director, Institute of Persian Research, AMU, who presided over the event.

Prof Arif Nazir, Dean, the Faculty of Arts praised Prof. Islahi and explained the value of knowledge creation by quoting various Sanskrit Slokas

The books released on the occasion include 'Tabyin-ul-Kalam' (edited), 'Tammulaat-fi-Akaar-is-Sir Syed', 'Khutoot-e-Zakir', 'Auraq-e-

Aligarh', 'Danishwar: Professor Sherwani', 'Tasaveer-e-Aligarh', 'Fozla-e-Madrasatul-Islam ki Qurani Khidmaat', 'Abdur Rahman Nasir Islahi: Shaks-wa-Shakhsiyat', 'Makaatib-e-Mashaheer-wa-Makaatib-e-Nasir', and 'Tasawwur-e-Akhrat'.

Prof Syed Kafeel Ahmed Qasmi (former Chairperson, Department of Arabic), Prof. A R Kidwai (KA Nizami Centre for Quranic Studies), Prof M. Salahuddin Umari, Dr. Rahat Abrar, Prof Ghazanfar Ali, Prof Sagheer Afraheem, Prof Ziaur Rehman Siddiqui, Prof Obaidullah Fahad, Prof Abdul Azim Islahi, Prof Mohd Sanaullah Nadvi (Chairperson, Department of Arabic), Prof Quamrul Hooda Faridi, Prof M. Khalid and others spoke on the occasion and shed light on the contents and importance of the released books. ■

Reconstruction Rather than Agitation

Israrul Haque



Students organisations protest against the discontinuation of Maulana Azad National Fellowship in Delhi.

Photo: Newsclick

Lucknow: The recently released All India Survey on higher education 2020-21 shows data indicating a fall of 8% in Muslim enrollment from 2019-20. However, the amazing fact is that this level of absolute decline has not happened to any other group neither Dalits, OBC's nor Adivasis. The educational backwardness of Muslims in India is too well known even before these surveys, however, I am writing in the hope that how we would try to undo the immense harm which the Karnataka government has done by scrapping the 4% Muslim sub-quota, the ministry of minority affairs has done by stopping the Maulana Azad fellowship for minority students from 2022-23. Within the next few months, the Aligarh Muslim University old boys association (AMUOBA) will

be observing October 17th as the birthday of Sir Syed not only in India but even in KSA, and other gulf countries, in Lucknow the heartland of U. P. which accounts for 36%, the maximum decline in the enrollment of higher education, AMUOBA will celebrate the celebrity's traditional birthday at a spiraling cost in stark contrast to the disruption of access of higher education to the minority. AMUOBA all over India must cancel these traditional celebrations and convert them into fundraising ceremonies, just because something is traditional is no reason to do it, of course. We as Muslims are expected to apply wisdom in the use of whatever little power we have, as this regime has taught us the importance of remaining alert and becoming self-reliant. ■

Jamaat Islami Hails Karnataka Mandate, Politics of Hate Gets Defeated

New Delhi: Jamaat-e-Islami Hind congratulated the people of Karnataka for defeating the advocates of hate and polarization in the recently held assembly election.

In a statement, the Vice-President of Jamaat-e-Islami Hind, Prof Salim Engineer said, "Jamaat-e-Islami Hind (JIH) applauds the people of Karnataka for defeating the advocates of hate and

polarisation. Despite desperate attempts to divide the people of Karnataka along communal lines and polarize them through hate mongering, the people of Karnataka maintained their composure. They did not let the communally surcharged election campaign influence their vote. The people of Karnataka have sent an important message to the people of the country on how to

remain united and maintain peace and harmony in the face of instigation and provocation. They have shown that real issues like employment, price rise, health, education, and welfare are more important than emotional issues deliberately created to hide the failures and non-performance of those in power. It is a welcome sign that those who tried to create division in society and resorted to

» Page 9



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Moin Qazi

First Blossom

I am long past my active professional career and spend my day in the serenity of my home. Yet I still lead a productive life in all ways: academic research, community service, and, most importantly, a very deep-rooted engagement with the Qur'an. On one tranquil evening, a motley group of spiritualists and eminent professionals approached me to join them. My nerve ailment isn't a handicap and allows me to remain engaged in work, but I do this job directly from home, which also serves as an extended office. My restricted mobility has kept me away from our grassroots work. Still, my spirit keeps me familiar with the more profound philosophy of Zakat, visible from the greening patches on many Muslim colonies' barren economies. I can grasp this transformation from the many success stories that our volunteers keep filing.

The dilemma of tax exemptions. Here I would like to emphasize that several charities do not have 80G certification that entitles you to income tax exemption. I



appeal to people to understand Zakat's spiritual sanctity and dimension carefully. Zakat is a fundamental pillar of Islam, and tax exemptions should not sully our spiritual conscience. There are so many charities that are covered under the IT law. All corporate charities go to fund the vast penumbra of activities, particularly in the field of education, health, and shelter provision. But Zakat is exceptional; in many cases,

smaller organizations may not meet stringent statutory requirements. We should carefully examine the more profound philosophy of Zakat before concluding that income tax refunds should be weighed and compared with Zakat. There is every possibility that if we have received a refund, the refunded tax may dilute or neutralize the zakat component by that amount.

A Living Force

Zakat Centre is not even a year old. Still, I have seen them combine a novel approach to solving myriad problems of the community that has captured, in essence, the spiritual energy created by the meeting of two prayers:

- The earnest plea of a sincere giver who asks God to let the resources He has given one do well in the world
- The urgent requests of someone in need asking God for help.

That spiritual energy is called Servanthood servants are not status seekers.

Instead, they display humility.

I believe Servanthood is the founding ethic of the Zakat Centre. Servanthood is the condition that the people who direct, staff, and support the Zakat Centre strive for. I am a speck in the vast spiritual reservoir of Zakat Centre. They all seek to serve our One Creator by serving all His creation. My contribution is small, but the spiritual energy that I derive is phenomenal.

What We Do - And Never Do

- We seek not merely to aid but to enrich the impoverished people experiencing poverty.

We stand by the widow and the single mother and do not desert her.

We support her through self-reliance with skills-acquisition courses that ready her for employment.

I urge you all that we should channel our knowledge and skills toward expanding the zakat landscape and making it meaningful and relevant to all stakeholders. This is a critical divine duty. ■

MUSLIM WORLD NEWS

Tipu Sultan's sword makes 14 million at Bonhams

LONDON: May 22: Tipu Sultan's fabled bedchamber sword sold for £14 million at Bonhams Islamic and Indian Art sale in London on Tuesday, May 23, 2023. It had an estimate of £1,500,000-2,000,000. This is a new auction world record for both an Indian and Islamic object.

Nima Sagharchi, Group Head of Islamic and Indian Art, said: "The sword has an extraordinary history, an astonishing provenance, and unrivalled craftsmanship. It was no surprise it was so hotly contested between two phone bidders and a bidder in the room. We are delighted with the result."

Of the many weapons removed from the palace of Tipu Sultan after the fall of his royal stronghold at Seringapatam on 4 May 1799, few have such resonance nor such a close connection to Tipu Sultan, the Tiger of Mysore, then the Bedchamber Sword, found in his

private quarters after the battle. Unquestionably part of Tipu's own arsenal, the sword is arguably the finest and most important of the weapons with a proven personal association with the ruler.

As described by Francis Buchanan in his on-the-spot account describing Tipu's palace immediately after the siege, a sword lay within reach of the Sultan while he slept. (On constant alert against attack, Tipu slept in a hammock suspended from the ceiling of his locked and bolted bedchamber with a pair of pistols and a sword by his side). The weapon is of exceptional quality. The blade, which is inscribed 'The Sword of the Ruler' is particularly fine. It was manufactured by Mughal swordsmiths following the model of German blades introduced to India in the 16th century. The hilt is inlaid in exquisitely executed gold



The bedchamber sword of Tipu Sultan. Sold for £14 million. Photo: Bonhams

calligraphy with five of the qualities of God and two

invocations calling on God by name.

Speaking before the sale, Oliver White, Bonhams Head of Islamic and Indian Art, said: "This spectacular sword is the greatest of all the weapons linked to Tipu Sultan still in private hands. Its close personal association with the Sultan, its impeccable provenance traceable to the very day it was captured, and the outstanding craftsmanship that went into its manufacture make it unique and highly desirable."

The sword was presented to Maj Gen David Baird, by the army 'as a token of their high esteem of his courage and conduct in the assault which he commanded and in which Tipu Sultan was slain.' Baird had led the soldiers on May 4 which finally ended the month-long siege of Seringapatam.

Tipu Sultan (1751-1799) succeeded his father as the ruler of the kingdom of Mysore in south India in 1782. He earned the

sobriquet 'Tiger of Mysore' from the ferocity with which he defended his kingdom's interests. He pioneered the use of rocket artillery in wars both against neighbouring states and also the East Indian Company of which he was an implacable opponent. His reign was also characterized by the introduction of a new calendar and coinage system and other administrative and financial reforms which built on the work of his father and he transformed Mysore into the most dynamic economy in India.

Bruno Vinciguerra, CEO, Bonhams, said: "This is one of the most astonishing objects Bonhams has had the privilege of bringing to auction. It is a stupendous price for a stupendous piece. I am so thrilled for our teams that worked so hard to deliver this result." (<https://theprint.in/india/veteran-journalist-sheetla-singh-passes-away-in-ayodhya/1577743/>) ■

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Dukhan Bank named 'World's Best Islamic Private Bank'



**Dukhan Bank Acting Group Chief Executive Officer
Ahmed Hashem (left) and Chaouki Daher,
GM-Head of Private Banking**

The Peninsula

Doha: Dukhan Bank has achieved another worldwide recognition for the outstanding quality of its private banking service by winning the World's Best Islamic Private Bank award at Global Finance World's Best Islamic Financial Institutions Awards for 2023 for the second year in a row. This significant achievement follows the bank's successful transformation into a Qatari public shareholding company by listing its shares on the Qatar Stock Exchange and the commencement of trading on 21 February 2023.

Year after year, Dukhan Bank has led the Islamic banking sector as demonstrated by its unrivaled private banking proposition offering an end-to-end portfolio of financing, banking, and investment products and services for high-net-worth individuals (HNWIs).

Global Finance is a leading international magazine and industry analyst that evaluates and awards the top performers among banks and other financial services providers on global and regional levels in technology, leadership, brand, and sustainability categories in more than 150 countries.

The winners of this year's awards are institutions that contributed to the growth of Islamic financing. They successfully met their customers' needs for Shariah-compliant products with modern

and efficient delivery channels, while creating the foundation for continued growth and safety in the future.

Dukhan Bank Acting Group Chief Executive Officer Ahmed Hashem said: "We are extremely proud to win this award and to be named for the second consecutive year as the World's Best Islamic Private Bank by the respected experts at Global Finance. I would like to dedicate this award to our committed and hardworking teams from senior management, and head of departments to the entire employees of Dukhan Bank who have worked extremely hard over many years to achieve this level of global recognition."

He added: "This award is a testament to Dukhan Bank's unrelenting efforts to offer innovative Shari'ah-compliant products and services to the banking industry for an enhanced customer experience. The award recognizes Dukhan Bank's position at the pinnacle of Islamic banking as we meet and exceed the growing sophistication and increasing demands of private banking clients, particularly within the digital realm." Dukhan Bank was selected as the winner of the award by the Global Finance editorial team after extensive consultations with bankers, corporate finance executives, and analysts throughout the world.

(Source: <https://thepeninsulaqatar.com/>)

ICIEC honored with GTR Leaders in Trade Award for Islamic Finance in Trade

Riyadh, KSA: The Islamic Corporation for the Insurance of Investment and Export Credit (ICIEC), the insurance arm of the Islamic Development Bank (IsDB) Group, is proud to announce that it is the recipient of the prestigious Global Trade Review (GTR) Leaders in Trade Award for Islamic Finance in Trade. This esteemed accolade was presented to ICIEC during the GTR Saudi Arabia awards ceremony on May 9, 2023. The GTR Leaders in Trade Awards celebrate innovation, excellence, and growth in the trade, commodity, supply chain, and export finance markets, with a specific emphasis on Islamic finance. This award underscores ICIEC's unwavering commitment to supporting and promoting trade within the Islamic world, fostering economic development, and driving sustainable growth.

ICIEC CEO, Mr. Oussama Kaissi,



This esteemed accolade was presented to ICIEC during the GTR Saudi Arabia awards ceremony on May 9, 2023. Image Courtesy: Islamic Development Bank (IsDB) Group

expressed appreciation for the recognition, stating, "It is with immense pleasure that we receive the GTR Leaders in Trade Award for Islamic Finance in Trade. This award serves as recognition for ICIEC's dedication to providing

our member states with comprehensive, world-class Islamic insurance and risk management services. We remain committed to driving transformative change in the sector, and we thank GTR for acknowledging our efforts in championing Islamic finance in trade."

Since its establishment, ICIEC has been actively involved in its member states' economic growth and development by offering Shariah-compliant insurance and reinsurance solutions, reducing trade and investment risks, and promoting the expansion of trade within the Organization of Islamic Cooperation countries. The GTR Leaders in Trade Award cements ICIEC's position as a leader and pioneer in the Islamic finance industry.

(Source: <https://www.zawya.com/>)

« Page 7

Jamaat Islami Hails Karnataka Mandate, Politics of Hate Gets Defeated

hate mongering were comprehensively defeated in the polls"

The verdict also sends a message to all secular parties that they should take a principled stand on issues like the hijab ban, halal issue, Muslim reservation, and their economic boycott without fearing the political loss they

might have to incur.

They should adopt policies that are based on justice and equality regardless of caste and religious considerations. Denying Muslims their due share of political representation fearing a backlash from the majority community is principally incorrect. The people of Karnataka have given a

message that Indian politics should be based on real issues rather than emotional issues or those that cause division and polarization. The parties that believe in reaping benefits by spreading hate should correct their course of action as this policy is not politically sustainable, Engineer Salim said.



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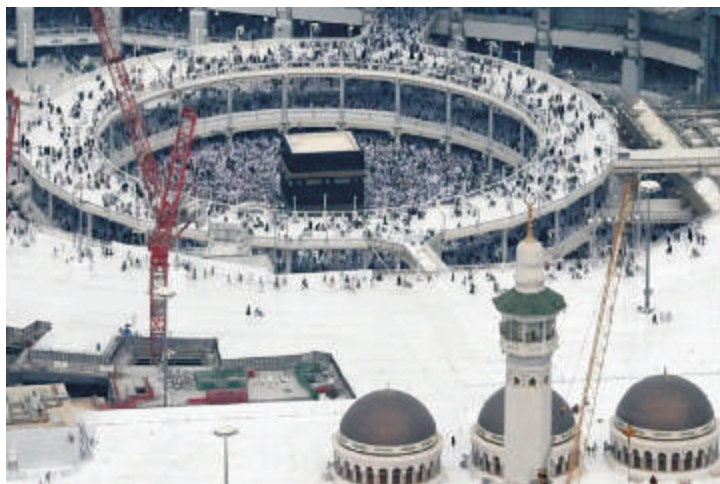


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Mataf Expansion Building in Grand Mosque named Saudi portico



An aerial view is seen of the Grand Mosque on the second day of Eid al-Adha in the holy city of Mecca October 5, 2014. Reuters Images/Muhammad Hamed

Staff Writer, Saudi Gazette

MAKKAH: The Head of the Presidency for the Affairs of the Two Holy Mosques announced recently that the higher Saudi authorities have issued approval to name the Mataf Expansion Building Project at the Grand Mosque as Saudi portico, the Saudi Press Agency reported.

Sheikh Abdul Rahman Al-Sudais said that the Saudi portico that surrounds the Abbasid portico features a much wider area that the

Grand Mosque has not seen before. It consists of four floors, which are the ground floor, the first floor, the second-floor mezzanine, and the roof. The Saudi portico and the mataf have the maximum capacity to accommodate 287,000 worshipers, and 107,000 performers of tawaf per hour.

The presidency chief said that the Saudi portico includes the expansion project of the mataf (circumambulation area around the Holy Kaaba) behind the Abbasid portico, and its

surrounding courtyard of the Holy Kaaba.

"King Abdul Aziz, the founder of modern Saudi Arabia, ordered the expansion of the Grand Mosque to accommodate the increasing number of pilgrims, and accordingly, the expansion work began during the period of King Saud in 1955.

"The portico building's expansion continued during the eras of King Saud, King Faisal, and King Khalid," he said while noting that the expansion of the project is in the phase of completion during the periods of King Fahd and King Abdullah and the present era of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Salman.

He said that the Saudi portico provides wider spaces for pilgrims and worshipers in accordance with high-quality and accurate engineering standards.

"It is also distinguished by the availability of all technical services, as well as sound and lighting systems, which contribute to creating the much-needed spiritual ambiance for the pilgrims," he pointed out.

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Indonesia becomes 3rd largest shareholder of the Islamic Development Bank



Indonesian Finance Minister Sri Mulyani Indrawati (second from right) and Chairman of Islamic Development Bank (IsDB) Muhammad Sulaiman Al-Jasser (second from left) attend the 48th Annual Session of IsDB in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, on Saturday (May 13, 2023). (ANTARA/HO-Finance Ministry/uyu)

Jakarta (ANTARA) - The Indonesian government has increased its shares in the Islamic Development Bank (IsDB), making it the third-largest shareholder of the institution after Saudi Arabia and Libya, according to a statement released on Sunday. At IsDB's 48th Annual Session in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, held on May 10-13, 2023, the institution's board of governors unanimously approved the proposal to increase the Indonesian government's shares.

"I hope that by increasing the share, the cooperation between Indonesia and IsDB can improve and bring prosperity to all people,"

Indonesian Finance Minister Sri Mulyani Indrawati said at the IsDB annual session.

She further said that this move could provide various strategic and economic benefits for Indonesia, including increasing Indonesia's bargaining position within IsDB and increasing IsDB's financing potential to Indonesia by 3.5 to 4 times.

By becoming the third-largest shareholder, Indonesia can assert its contribution to the international community by helping determine the direction of global development through its membership in IsDB as a multilateral development bank.

Indonesia can also actively and directly participate in the operation of IsDB to improve welfare and help eradicate poverty in IsDB member countries, many of which are low-income Muslim countries.

In addition, Indonesia will be able to further encourage IsDB's involvement in various development programs in the country, including in the Islamic economic and finance sector.

Indrawati emphasized that Indonesia is committed to closely collaborating with IsDB to provide long-term positive benefits to Muslims and the international community.

"Strengthening cooperation, especially in the face of various current global economic challenges, is the goal that will be realized in line with the increase of Indonesia's role and share in IsDB," she added.

As of December 2022, IsDB has provided US\$6.3 billion in financial support for Indonesia, mostly in the agriculture, education, industry, and mining sectors.

IsDB is the only multilateral development bank that applies Sharia principles. The institution also promotes South-South cooperation as the majority of its members are developing countries. (Reporter: Agatha Victoria, Uyu Liman, Editor: Anton Santoso, COPYRIGHT © ANTARA 2023) ■

Islamic Development Bank signs 77 deals worth \$1.4bn for projects in member countries



The group also signed several agreements to finance six projects worth over \$588 million in the field of sustainable development.

RIYADH: In a bid to address the ongoing global crises, the Islamic Development Bank Group signed 77 financing agreements worth SR5.4 billion (\$1.44 billion) with 24 member countries as it concluded its annual meeting in Jeddah, the Saudi Press Agency reported.

Mohammad Al-Jasser, chairman of the group, said the agreements seek to promote various sectors including health, agriculture, food security, transportation, energy, small and medium-sized businesses, education, and humanitarian relief.

The group also signed several agreements to finance six projects worth over \$588 million in the field of sustainable development. The deals focus on promoting inclusive growth and building sustainable infrastructure in member countries.

"We must leverage the

technological disruptions along with the ethical principles of Islamic finance to foster inclusive development," Al-Jasser said.

The group signed seven agreements worth \$8.09 billion for projects related to sustainable development in Afghanistan, including grants from the King Salman Humanitarian Aid and Relief Center.

"We must embrace this 'disruption' and integrate it with our business processes to create effective solutions for our member countries.

Combining modern technology's efficiencies with Islamic economics' sustainable and ethical principles can result in championing product solutions that can help tackle various global economic challenges," the IsDB Group chief said.

IsDB also launched the second phase of the Lives and Livelihoods Fund, as the bank is committed to providing \$325 million in soft loans.

The 2023 IsDB Group annual meetings, themed "Partnerships to Fend Off Crises," aimed to provide a solution-oriented space for participants to talk about current financial, economic, and development concerns confronting member countries and partners. enable development.

(Source: <https://alkhaleejtoday.co/business/>) ■

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Syed Tahsin
Ahmed

Establishing Old Age Homes is against Islamic ethos, and they are the products of the modern Western society' is an argument that is commonly advanced. Muslim society treats this subject as taboo since Islam considers the elderly parents as an integral part of the family and the children are expected to take care of their parents when they reach old age. The Holy Qur'an says: *"And your Lord has decreed that you worship none but Him and do good to parents. If either of them or both reach old age, do not say to them 'uff' (a word of anger or contempt), and do not scold them. And address them with respectful words, and submit yourself before them in humility out of compassion and say, 'My Lord, be merciful to them as they have brought me up in my childhood.'"* (Surah Bani Israil: 17, verse 23-24). Ahadees tell us that paradise lies beneath the feet of the mother and the father is the gate of paradise. Thus, when the parents become old, infirm, helpless, and even sick, it becomes the bounden duty of the children to take care of them. This explains why historically Muslims were not very keen on establishing Old Age Homes but gave more emphasis on establishing orphanages. While there is no denying the truth of these arguments, modern life has thrown up new challenges which cannot be overlooked. Due to increased life expectancy, the population of elderly citizens has increased. The children of many such parents have migrated not only to other cities, but to other countries too and the parents suffer from Empty Nest Syndrome. The joint family system had some members who could take care of the elder members. But in a nuclear family with both the men and women employed in grueling jobs and the grand children having no free time from their studies, who is there to take care of the aged parents? A grandmother is welcome so long as she can take

Old Age Homes and the Muslim Community



Ashiana Old Age Home in Devanahalli,

care of the grandchildren. If the parents have chronic diseases, the problem is multiplied. There may also be senior citizens who have no children, or the son/daughter has pre-deceased them. In all such cases, staying in an Old Age Home is the only option before them. Instances of children throwing their parents out of the house are very rare, but they do really exist. There are also instances where the daughter-in-law feels it is a burden to take care of her husband's parents and the son-in-law also thinks likewise. Sometimes the parents themselves opt to shift to an Old Age Home when they get a feeling that they are not wanted in the house and have become a burden to their children. No relative or friend will take responsibility.

Old Age Homes in India

In the year 1840, The Friend in Need Society of Madras was the first voluntary organization to devote itself to the care of the aged. It was followed by Little Sisters of the Poor in 1882 at Calcutta. The first Old Age Home in India was established in Thrissur, Kerala in 1911 by the Raja of Cochin and was called Raja Varma Old Age Home. Currently, it is estimated that there are 728 old age homes in India which are mostly established by NGO's. Almost half of these old age homes are free of cost while the rest have a pay and stay facility.

Muslim Managed Old Aged Homes in Karnataka

As far as I am aware, no Muslim-run Old Age Home existed in Karnataka till the late 20th century. The shelter-less-aged Muslims stayed in Christian-run institutions

and breathed their last there. The Millat Management Society of India led by the late Dr. Salaam Musheer and his team took the pioneering step by establishing an old age home named **Buzurgon ka Ghar** at Kolar in the year 1989. In the year 2010, Mr. Mohammed Farooq established **Ashiana Old Age Home** in Devanahalli Taluk, Bangalore (Rural) under the banner of the Al-Aman Educational & Welfare Trust. I had the opportunity of visiting this institution which provides free residential accommodation for 50 aged men and women at present and heard their sob stories before they landed up in Ashiana. They told me that now they have peace of mind and have facilities for performing salat and other religious duties. All their needs are taken care of. Just before *Eid-ul-Fitr*, the residents of Ashiana were taken to a shoe shop to select the shoes of their choice. It is these small gestures which bring a glow to their faces. Those who arranged this deserve to be complimented. At Udayagiri in Mysore City, the **Mysore Old Age Home** was established in the year 2019. This ambitious project in Mysore is committed to rehabilitating the destitute and abandoned old men and women. The residents of this institution with whom I met and interacted were grateful for the shelter provided and told me that the management not only takes care of their day-to-day needs but also provides medical treatment to those who are sick.

Five Star Old Age Homes

There are charity-based free Old Age Homes and also those who charge for the facilities. Rich-aged persons or those who have

rich children who are settled abroad, do not mind paying hefty amounts in return for luxurious living. Such institutions provide good meals, healthcare, housekeeping and laundry, activities and entertainment, safety, and security. Many such posh old age homes also take care that the inmates do not feel lonely and arrange games, visit malls, gardens, and temples and ensure that they are provided with a thriving community life.

Trending in India is the **Senior Citizen Homes / Apartments / Villas** with clubhouse, games room, mini cinema theatre, library, indoor and outdoor dining, yoga room, ayurvedic treatment center and round-the-clock medical care.

Charity-Based Muslim OAH Needs Support

Muslim-managed old age homes do not boast such facilities. But the quality of life for those in the evening of their lives needs to be improved with the help of philanthropists and donors. Some issues like privacy can be addressed with the better inflow of funds. To lead a community life, the residents are provided with beds in an open hall, but sometimes the inmates need privacy and private space. Corporate financing can provide better buildings, landscaping, better amenities, better accommodation, and well-maintained toilets. Old age homes should provide social, cultural, and permissible entertainment for the inmates. Muslim society should evince interest in such institutions.

Government Schemes

The Government of India has in

the year 2007 enacted "The Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and senior citizens Act" which makes it a legal obligation for children and heirs to provide maintenance to senior citizens and parents by way of a monthly allowance. But the moot question is do we need an Act to take care of our parents? The younger generation needs to be sensitized to treat the elderly in their lives as an asset. Even according to the "National Policy for Senior Citizens", institutional care for senior citizens "should be seen as a last resort". The Integrated Programme for Senior Citizens (IPSR) is a Central Government scheme of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment to improve the quality of life of the old-age population in the country. Under this programme, the government grants financial assistance to eligible NGO's and institutions to run various old age homes, daycare centres Mobile Medicare Units, etc., for older persons in the country.

Old Age Home is a blessing for aged people who have no other option. But if we delve deep into their minds, we will notice that they miss the time they spent with their children, grandchildren, and neighbours. For a man who was the master of his house and for a woman who was the queen of her kitchen, it is indeed difficult to reconcile to the changed situation. The young generation would do well not to abandon their parents and grandparents. If they do so, they are setting an example for their children, and it will not be surprising if they too land up in an old age home when they grow old. (The author is a retired KAS officer and can be contacted at tahsin789@yahoo.com)

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Sana Rubiyana

They create (sometimes even before the child is born) a fantasy version of who the child will be. Based on their own needs, not the unique traits of their child. They struggle to connect with the child emotionally, and instead, stay connected to a mental version of who their child 'should be'. Children of those parents subconsciously feel like the

Insecure Parents seek a sense of Self-Worth through their Children

relationship is transactional and that if they don't fulfill their parent's needs (accomplish, perform, be perfect) their parents will not approve of them. As adults they sometimes have double lives- the self- they present to a parent and the self- they present to the rest of the world.

At their core, they want nothing more than to be loved and accepted by a parent not for what they do, but for who they truly are.

Parents need to provide a secure style of parenting which is where a

child feels comforted by the presence of their care giver. Securely attached children feel protected and that they have someone to rely on.

Ways in which you can create a secure parent child relationship- Parents should be loving and caring.

- There should be trust and mutual understanding
- The parent provides opportunities for the child to develop autonomy and independence.
- The parent should pay attention to

the child's needs and not just what they want or expect from the child.

- Active listening should be practiced.
- Quality time should be provided on a daily basis
- Unique traits of your child should be accepted wholeheartedly
- Parent has to understand and realize that the child has his own identity and their choices should not define their worth or image (The writer is a Psychologist and R E C B T T h e r a p i s t , sanarubiana@gmail.com)

DEAR READERS

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Noor Husna

In my first article, I have highlighted the reasons and facts that help us understand, "who is responsible for broken marriages". Now let me throw some light on the next big question across the globe, which is "what is the reason that leads to broken marriages".

"Marriage is supposed to be a holy bond between a male and a female and their families and they are meant to last forever." This has become an understatement. Now, for the present generation marriage is just a temporary deal, the moment conflicts and discomforts start in a marriage the couple begins to lose interest, ignore each other, blame each other, ridicule each other and finally end up in divorce.

All breaking off a marriage is painful yet it's necessary for the survival of partners as an individual. Broken marriages bring in lots of financial stress, social trolling, mental trauma, physical hardship, and agony to the entire family.

In earlier years, the divorce rate was higher in love marriages, however in the current scenario it is not just the type of marriage but there are many other reasons for divorces.

Let me take you through some very important and prominent factors that lead to divorce.

1. Forceful marriage: Even today in India we have almost 60-70% of forceful marriages, and the couples pushed into these marriages are all mostly of an age group of under 25 years. The couple is neither prepared mentally nor physically for a marriage. Once the couple is forcefully married, they treat this marriage as a compromise, they will not be able to give their 100% to this relationship and many marriages break within a span of 6 months to 1 year. Marriage is just a cage for them and they want to get out of it at the earliest.

2. Independence of women: One of the major reasons for divorce across the world today is the independence of women, the smartphone and social media are giving out a lot of knowledge and awareness about the rights and independence of women. Higher education and excellency in career growth has given women immense financial independence and this is one of the greatest reason that is leading to a higher level of divorces in urban cities. In earlier days women use to compromise in their abusive and destructive marriages mainly due to financial dependency on their husbands, but those days are gone and it's history now.

3. Lack of equality and



commitment: A successful marriage requires commitment and compromise from both partners, unfortunately even if one of them fails the marriages break. Even today, men dominate marriages. Right from a very young age, men in India grow up with the mindset that they are the decision-makers and superior ones in a relationship. On the other hand, a woman, right from her childhood is been trained to be obedient and submissive towards their husband. However, this is not working anymore, since women are well-educated and financially independent they demand equality and respect from their husbands.

4. Cheating/unfaithful spouse: Cheating on your partner has become a common trend now. It is no more an act of shamefulness or embarrassment. Be it a man or a woman it has become their right to get close to anyone outside their marriage and they easily get away by blaming each other for this. Cheating is a choice, no matter what if you are not happy with your spouse for whatever reason, you should have the courage to tell him/her about it and finish this chapter, and then move on to a new chapter. Being married to one person and having a relationship with another person is a shameful sin.

Unfaithfulness in a relationship leads to a breakdown of trust, jealousy, bitterness, and a weakening of self-worth, it creates irreconcilable differences.

5. Intimacy: Most marriages die because the sex life disappears between couples. A good sexual relationship leads to emotional intimacy and closeness, if you are hoping to improve your physical relationship, you need to first work on your emotional connection. Focus on meeting your partner's needs and communicating your own needs lovingly and respectfully. Holding hands, hugs, and tender touches are great ways to affirm your love for your partner and improve your intimacy level.

6. Effective Communication: Communication is the foundation of any relationship, good & effective communication improves the quality of a marriage. Many couples ignore

the fact that they need to have healthy & effective communication to sustain a happy married life. Communication is not just about being verbal, it is also about non-verbal actions or gestures that can make your partner feel secure, loved & cared for when they are in a bad situation.

Communication is crucial in marriage and not being able to communicate effectively leads to resentment and frustration for both, influencing all aspects of a marriage. Many times, the little things can trigger bigger issues in a relationship.

7. Incompatibility: Every person is different, hence their likes, interests, lifestyle, expectations, viewpoints, and preferences will differ too. In the initial stage of a relationship, both partners will try

to compromise and adjust with each other to make the marriage last long. Nevertheless, this is only possible when both partners are mutually willing to do it. However, few couples are completely incompatible, and such marriages will end soon.

8. Involvement of a third person: A marriage is an agreement between two people. Nevertheless, Indian marriages are influenced, supported, and inspired by their families, too much interference from a family member, colleague/friend or relative will defiantly create many misunderstandings and negativity between couples and the marriages dissolve. In-laws are the major reason that can lead to divorces. It is intolerable and an offensive act.

9. Domestic Violence: Domestic violence includes physical, mental, verbal, and emotional abuse by a partner. Most of us have an assumption that domestic violence occurs only in slum areas, ironically domestic violence occurs even in highly qualified and well-civilized so-called high society people too. It's offensive.

10. Financial Issues: Money is crazy it can turn around tables. In the present scenario, the couple must discuss their future financial plans. Today men and women

both work and both are capable of spending for their families.

11. Infidelity: One of the most important purposes of marriage is to produce springs; the procreation of humankind is continued through marriage. Children stabilize the foundation of a family, as they are blessings in disguise for every married couple. If one or both partners are suffering from any infidelity, such marriages will break.

12. Addiction: Addiction only leads to destruction, one or both partners suffering from addiction to alcohol, drugs, or something else, will end up breaking a marriage bond. Living with an addict and supporting them can be extremely difficult, and eventually, the marriage collapse.

13. Unexpected situations in life: Life is a roller coaster, and undoubtedly, every marriage has to go through the difficulties of it. Most relationships are tested during these tough phases of life, and not all of them survive. To deal with such tough situations one or both partners have to be mentally and emotionally strong to handle such situations and hold on to each other.

14. Physical or mental health issues: An ongoing physical or mental health issue suffered by one or both partners will cause intolerable stress in a relationship. One needs to have a lot of patience and commitment to take care of

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Arshad Sayyed

Our success mostly depends on how we utilize our time. All of us have the same time. The same 24 hours a day, the same seven days a week and the successful people aren't the only ones who worked hardest but also the ones who maintained their FOCUS throughout this journey of success.

Focus is one of the most important factors in the journey to success. If you want to achieve something in life, whether it be good marks in school/college, good performance at the workplace, earning maximum success and good money then it will depend on how focus you can be. But, in today's distracted world when everyone is getting too much addicted to social media, unhealthy food, and a very stressful, disturbed lifestyle causing so many difficulties in concentration. But thankfully we have various practical steps which will help one to avoid distractions, stop checking WhatsApp, Facebook, Instagram, etc. again and again, and will help you to focus.

So, in this article, we are trying to understand what breaks your focus. How you will get distracted and what are the solutions?

• Focus / Concentration:

Focus or Concentration can be simply defined as "The ability to switch from all the distractions in our life and sticking to one Goal". Focus can help you to achieve your goals either short-term or long-term, a vital skill for personal and professional growth. But with technological advancements, today's world brings so many distractions that impede the concentration of a person and this problem can greatly shake your ability to carry out your important tasks and achieve your goals.

• Why I Feel Trouble in Focusing?

This is one of the common issues in many. Some people find it difficult to perform a task that they don't like and they lose focus, some people struggle to focus when they are multitasking but sometimes, we find ourselves struggling to complete a simple task.

Some common factors which are affecting your ability to focus are:

- Stress
- Mental and Physical health issues
- Lack of Sleep
- Not eating healthy food and excess junk food
- Addiction of Phones and other electronic and social media devices
- Not getting in enough physical activities throughout the day
- Distractions

These are just a few common

reasons affecting your focus. In so many cases, poor concentration is accompanied by depression, stress, fear, and anxiety which not only affect your future goals but also the happiness of your present life as well.

Now, when you know the problem and you need help with concentration. But there is not one answer to it. Also, problems and solutions vary from person to person. Thankfully we have some very important and beneficial tips. If you follow them regularly then we can expect that it will bring some positive change in your life.



5 Ways To Improve Your Focus (Concentration):

1. Setting Goals:

Your life needs planning and planning needs purpose. Focus starts with a clear goal. For Example: Completing the study before the exam, learning new skills, Fitness, etc. with more specific, Time Bounded, and achievable goals help you concentrate more and provide you a roadmap of how much hard work and effort you need to put up to accomplish the goal.

2. Priority and Daily Target:

Once you set up your goal then list out how many targets you want to accomplish every day. Prioritization of proper task helps you to focus more on short targets as your brain consider it an easier task to accomplish. Try to cover these tasks in productive hours and repeat the same every day. Whether it will be project deadlines, household work, or exam studies. Everyday activity and priority will help you achieve your goals in a more convenient and confident way.

3. Proper Eating, Sleeping, and Exercise:

Confident way. In today's distracting world, what fuels more in one's less productivity is unhealthy eating and not taking enough sleep / bad sleep cycle. First of all, take enough sleep of at least 6 hours including power naps in day time as well as necessary breaks.

Then choose healthy food which completes your need for carbs, Proteins and avoid junk which just fills up the fat in your body. Choose food that helps you to maintain energy such as fruits, vegetables, vitamins, and fiber foods also, avoid food that increases your blood sugar because spikes and dips in sugar can cause drowsiness and excessive sugar can create lifelong health issues as well.

How to Stay Focused:

The Method of Concentration in a Distracted World



And Lastly, work out at least one hour a day and maintain a fitness routine. It helps you to stay fit, away from diseases, balance your energy, makes your mind sharp, and gives you a confidence in every phase of life.

Proper eating, sleeping, and workout habit contributes a lot in your concentration and focus.

4. Avoid Distractions:

'Distraction Kills Concentration'. How can we focus when we always get distracted by something like phones, tv, computers-gaming? To avoid distraction, make a proper schedule of your important tasks and during that time keep yourself away from all the distractions. Keep your mobile phone at a distance, keep

notifications off, and try to sit in an isolated or more quiet comfortable place. If you don't have such a place then create one in your house or around where no one disturbs you frequently and where you are able to distance yourself from all distractions mentioned above.

5. Self-Discipline and Mind Training:

Self-Discipline plays an important role in maintaining focus. Bounding yourself to complete the achievable task by pushing yourself, tracking your progress, and discussing with your ideal ones/well-wishers will help you improve concentration and gives you the satisfaction of adopting positive habits.

Along with that, training your brain is also equally important. Your subconscious mind reacts to the order and commands of your active mind and if you are sending the right and productive commands to your brain then they eventually generate the energy and it improves your cognitive skills. And at last, add reading habits, creative skillful hobbies, and active listening in your to-do lists.

Some Additional Tips for staying more focused are:

- Getting Organized at home and workplace
- Meditating for at least 10 mins every day
- Taking Breaks in between the task
- Working in a quiet, good, comfortable environment
- Try to complete your sleep at night by following the proper sleep cycle
- Early to bed and early to rise maintains lots of positivity in life
- Doing Cheerful, soulful activities such as charity, helping the poor and needy
- Spending time with nature Etc.

Learning how to improve concentration is easy to read and understand but is not something that you can achieve overnight. In a world full of distractions, mastering focus requires deliberate efforts and practice and, in this journey, the best way to keep yourself motivated is to understand **why you are doing this. Focus on the final product/goal. The happiness of that achievement.** And with that, you will surely achieve a Happy, Meaningful, and Satisfying life.

(The writer is a Software Engineer, International NLP Master, and Motivational Speaker) ■



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VA Abdul Rahim

Prophet's Farewell Hajj and Lunar Month Calendar

.....today I have completed your religion for you.
I have fulfilled my blessing for you. I have satisfied you with Islam as a religion.



The above verse is a part of the third verse of Surat al-Maida. One thing we intend to discuss here is about the day this verse was revealed. It is not that this day is the most important day for Muslims, but there is nothing more important than this. This is because all the customs and beliefs that have arisen from time to time in the history of the human race have become obsolete and there will no longer be any custom, belief, or prophet, and by this day our Lord has fulfilled all His blessings to us and accepted Islam as a religion and completed it. This incident takes place during the Hajj of the Prophet (PBUH). The three most important days of Hajj are *YaumTarwia*, *YaumArafah* and *YaumNahr*. It is on the third day, *YaumNahr* (Day of Sacrifice), that the Hajj is completed, and the pilgrims retire from Ihram. That is why the Qur'an and history are witnesses that the above-mentioned word was revealed on this day itself. It is very important as it was a Friday and the 10th day of Dhul Hijjah. On this day, the Muslims of the world celebrate the festival on both sides. It has been said that Friday is the Hajj of the poor and needy and a festival for believers. The 10th of Dhul Hijjah as a date is also a festival for the world. Allah has chosen that day in advance because the day on which Allah's blessings and His Deen are fulfilled should be remembered and celebrated.

Many hadiths related to this incident are recorded in Sahih al-Bukhari itself. This number of hadiths related to the speech of the Prophet on the day of the Feast of Sacrifice has been reported only by Sahih al-Bukhari. It is noteworthy that the Prophet's speech was on the day of the Feast of Sacrifice, which is indisputably accepted by the Qur'an and the Hadith, and that the above-mentioned words were revealed on that day, and that is why the day was a feast.

The reason for writing so much is because the core of the subject is so serious. What it is will be understood at the end of this article.

Qur'an 9:36 makes it clear that Allah subhanahuwata'ala established the universe from the day it was created and its calendar.

Qur'an 9:37 warns that making mistakes in any way is an increase in hypocrisy.

Qur'an 10:5 teaches us that its basis is the sun and the moon. Qur'an 2:189 states that its sign is the waxing of the moon.

Qur'an 36:39/40 teaches us about its monitoring.

We can see many more Quranic sayings related to this topic. One thing that we can clearly understand from this is that there is no compromise in the calculation of time in Islam and man can easily understand it when he observes the signs of Allah. We are also convinced that the teachings of the Qur'an do not differentiate between the scholar, the layman, the rich, and the poor. On the basis of the aforementioned Qur'anic words, it can be seen that the chronology or calendar system that exists in Muslim societies today has nothing to do with the Qur'an and the Sunnah.

To anyone who believes that Islam is a natural religion, the discovery of the current fasts and feasts of Muslims is something that may seem distasteful. One of the challenges faced when they set out to find out what is its status, opponents come forward with evidence stating that the Prophet's Arafah was Friday. That's when we're going to learn about it.

See the evidence advanced by the opponents.

A Jew asked Umar (RA), "O Ameer, there is a word in your Quran, if we had it, we would have celebrated that day".

Umar (RA) asked, "What is the Word"

said the Jew. "*Al YawmAkamalt Lakum*today I have completed your religion for you. I have fulfilled My blessing upon you. I have satisfied you with Islam as a religion....."

Umar (RA) said, "I know which day it is" on Friday when the Prophet stood at Arafah. From this, we can understand that the speech is not complete.

This is the only event that is held by the enemy to question the accuracy of the Islamic calendar. How weak this is can be understood if we analyze this conversation itself, which is said to be a hadith.

1. **The Jew's Question:** *Al YawmAkamalt Lakum* Dinukum..... If it was up to us, we would have celebrated that day.

2. **Umar's reply:** It is well known that it was on Friday at Arafah. This conversation is hard to digest for someone who uses even a modicum of intelligence. Before discussing its sanad or authenticity let's check its contents. First of all, pay attention to the question itself. Not the answer to the question, what the Jew wanted to know was not 'what was that day and where was it read' but about making that day a feast. But the answer of Umar (ra)! The reason for saying Friday at Arafah is true and false, and it is wrong to say that Friday is at Arafah, and it is wrong to say that it is at Arafah, can be understood by examining the twenty hadiths quoted from Sahih al-Bukhari alone in the first part of this article. It says that the Prophet's historic speech did not take place on Arafah, but on Yaum Nahar, or the Day of Sacrifice, but it is not possible to see anything other than this one conversation between the Jew and Umar, who is said to be on Arafah. Be that as it may, neither of the two things Umar (RA) said is an answer to the Jew's question. To the question of whether it is possible to make it a festival, either it is a festival or it is a fast or it is not a festival. Because the day of Arafah is a day of fasting for the world. When you answer in a different way without saying anything, it means that there is some other purpose in recording this incident. That is what needs to be noted here

1. Deen is completed on *Yawm Nahar* or the Day of Sacrifice. It was on that day that the Prophet's farewell speech took place. On that day, it is the festival of sacrifice for the Muslims of the world.

2. That day is Friday itself. Hajjul Akbar is said to be when Friday and the day of sacrifice fall on the same day. Also known as Eidain (double feast). The day 'Friday' is also called the 'Feast of True Believers'. Similarly, Friday is also referred to as the Hajj of the poor.

3. Deen is not completed on 'Arafah because the deeds of Hajj are completed on *Yaum Nahar*. The subsequent acts of *AyyamuTashreekare* repetitions of *Yaum Nahar*.

4.. The Ayah was also revealed on *Yaum Nahar because* "*Al YawmAkamalt Lakum*.".....On this day your Deen is fulfilled...." It is said that It does not mean that you will complete your deen tomorrow.

5. It is not intelligible that Umar (ra) and the Jew had a conversation. Because the question is not answered, the conversation is incomplete.

6. Another version of the same says Laylatul Jumma, Friday night or Thursday night, but the story is incorrect because the verse says "Al Yawm" and not Allail. Because of that, that narration is also not acceptable as it does not agree with the Qur'an.

It has been unequivocally proved by the Qur'an, the Prophet's teachings, and the science of spheres that the waxing and waning of the moon are the dates applicable to humans. Since this is a divine false calendar, Iblis will always try to undermine it, because Satan is the avowed enemy of man. By wronging the calendar, all the Muslims of the world are under his influence. By breaking fasts and feasts, the forbidden is made permissible and the permitted forbidden. So, as the Qur'an says, beware of your apparent enemy, it is impossible to tell in what form he will attack us.

Eidul Adha of this year 1444 is on 28 Wednesday, June 2023 and Arafah is on Tuesday according to the Moon phases of the month of Dulhijja.

(The writer is General Secretary, Hijri committee of India)



Tariq Sohrab Ghazipuri

Muhammad (Peace and Blessings of Allah be upon him!) has been sent as Allah's Last Messenger and Prophet for the whole universe. Along with Prophet-hood as well as Messenger-hood, he, as the great reformer, made a wonderful change with his good morals, modest impeccability, and wisdom by launching a very stout campaign and strong social movement in the Arab civilization, regarded as the regions of ignorance at that time. And not only this, expanding the circumferences of the sweet-smelling spirits based on human fraternity, he introduced the

amazing practical aspects of the political, social, economic, and moral values of the social life of that contemporary age because of on the soil of Arabian Peninsula, rose a new sun of peace, harmony, and prosperity after the monotheistic completion of beliefs, deeds, and moralities. This rectifying reformation has perpetually been in continuation from generation to generation. The great work, for the sake of



humanity, which the world's famed great reformers, guides, leaders, etc. could not do in their lifetime, Allah's last Messenger, Mohammad (Pbuh) did in the tenure of 23 years.

Arabians' Conditions Before Advent of Prophet Mohammad (Pbuh)

'Arab nations and tribes were divided into three parts.

Arab Bayadah were putrefied many years before Islam such as



Âd, Thamûd, Jarhum, 'Amaleqa and Judais.

'Arab Aaryah who were the original inhabitants of Arab and whose living place (residence) was Yemen; they were Qada, *Kehlân*, and *Âzd*, and

Arab Musta'arba, the descendants of Banu Ismail in Hejaz were called Banu Adnan and Banu Qehtan (Children of Adnan and Qehtan. In addition to it, Jews



Dr. Yaaseen
Maswood

The Quran proclaims about itself thus:

"(This is) a book which We have revealed unto you in order that you might lead mankind out of darkness into light by their Lord's leave to the Path of the Almighty, the Praised." (14:1)

It is from the wisdom of Allah that He legislated fasting in the month of Ramadan on account of the revelation of Quran so that we take heed to its teachings and become more obedient to Allah. The question before us is: Ramadan came and has gone! What has happened to our lives? Have we changed for the better? Has Quran impacted our lives? If yes, what has been its impact? Has the Quran made us more obedient to Allah than we were before Ramadan? Has the Quran instilled in our minds the constant remembrance of Allah and our need to be accountable to Him in the Hereafter? Are we worthy of being labeled as "Believers" whose hearts feel a tremor when the word Allah is mentioned before us and does our Imaan increase when the verses of Him are recited? Are we among those believers who are not only steadfast in their prayers but also devout during their prayers? Are we putting our complete trust in Him, as He ought to be trusted? Are we constantly seeking forgiveness for the sins that we keep committing day in and day out?

Quran did impact the lives of those before us in a way that it transformed them in a wholesome manner and the impact was such that it not only transformed their lives but also continues to inspire those that came after them. If it is so, why would it not impact our lives? It will definitely do, provided we are ready to taking the effort, for truly the Quran states:

"Allah will not change the

Impact of Quran on our Lives, Post Ramadan



condition of people until the people change what is in themselves." (Ar-Ra'd).

A few examples might throw light on this.

Fudayl ibn Iyad (who lived during the third century of Islam) was a notorious thief known and feared for his dacoity during the daytime and for committing adultery during the night. Once when he was traveling in a valley at night to commit adultery when he heard the verses of Sura Al Hadeed, which states:

"Has the time not come for those who have believed that their hearts should become humbly submissive at the remembrance of Allah and what has come down of the truth? And let them not be like those who were given the Scripture before, and a long period passed over them, so their hearts hardened, and many of them are defiantly disobedient" (Quran 57:16).

And these words touched his heart and he responded, "Indeed yes my lord. This is the time." Then Fudayl left that area and walked away. As he was walking, he saw a group of travelers who were disputing amongst themselves on whether to take the route where the highway thief (Fudayl ibn Iyaad) was living as they fear that he might attack the caravan. On hearing this, Fudayl began to cry, grabbed his beard, and said the following words: *"During the night I soil myself in the disobedience of Allah, and in the*

morning, there are believers who fear my presence. I don't see that Allah (SWT) made me hear that conversation except that He (SWT) wants me to come back to the right path. O Allah I have repented to you and made my decision to live in Majid-ul-Haraam in accompany by the scholars of Makkah". And then years passed when he learned more about Islam and eventually became the Imam of Makkah! This is the story of Imam Fudayl ibn Iyaad who is known to be the "Imaam-ul-Haramain" (The Imaam of the 2 holy mosques in Madinah and Makkah).

The incident of Thabit bin Qays radiyallahu anhu keeping himself aloof from the company of our Prophet (PBUH) just because he was afraid that his righteous deeds would be blotted out by Allah when a verse from sura Al Hujuraat was revealed is incredible.

The (translation of this) verse reads: *"O you who believe! Do not raise your voices over the voice of the Prophet (PHUB), and do not speak loudly as you would do among yourselves, lest your deeds be rendered worthless while you perceive it not."* (49:2).

This companion of Prophet (PHUB), who naturally had a loud voice, felt that his voice would be louder than that of the Prophet (PBUH) and chose to avoid the company of our Prophet (PBUH) out of fear that his good deeds might be rendered worthless in the

sight of Allah. Our Prophet (PBUH) started missing him and send word for him. When the delegation sent by the Prophet (PBUH) met him, he expressed his concerns in the context of the above-mentioned verse and the reason behind staying away from the presence of Prophet (PBUH). While this was conveyed to our Prophet (PBUH), he (PBUH) assured that Thabit bin Qays was not a person of Hell but a person of Paradise. It was only after this assurance from the Prophet (PBUH) that Thabit bin Qais (radiyallahu anhu) again started being in the presence of our Prophet (PBUH). This is how one single verse from the Quran impacted his life! He got the glad tidings of Paradise in this world itself because he treated verses that were addressed generally to the believers as though they were addressed specifically to him. Subhanallah! If only we were to do the same, we would also be positively influenced by the excellent teachings of the Quran. The conversion story of Umar (radiyallahu anhu) is very well known. On his way to assassinate our Prophet (PBUH), he happens to meet a person who directs him to his sister Fathima's house where she and her husband Saeed radiyallahu anhu were reciting the Quran. These verses from Sura Taha changed him to become someone on whose tongue a few verses of the Quran were revealed and also to become the second caliph of Islam. This was the impact of a few verses of the Quran on his life and what he left behind as a legacy will speak for itself till the end of times.

If this is how Quran impacted the lives of our pious predecessors, it would also do the same to us, if we are ready to change our attitude towards the Quran. This is the ultimate purpose of the revelation of the Quran. i.e. to bring us from the various darknesses like evil behavior, misguidance, corruption in the land, and

worship of the creation to the light of the guidance and worship of the Creator by the permission of Allah. Not having Arabic as our mother tongue can no longer be a valid excuse for anyone reading this article, for truly there exists no one in whose mother tongue the Quran is not translated. Subhanallah! If this is the unequivocal truth, what excuse can we offer to our Creator when we will be questioned by Him on the Day of Judgement? Allah's protection is sought!

If we have to benefit from the Quran, here are some tips:

1. Make it a point to never skip a day without engaging with the Quran. If you schedule Quran daily, it will help you schedule your life.
2. Commit to reading the commentary of the Quran on a regular basis.
3. Have a mindset that Allah is directly addressing one's own self whenever He is generally addressing the believers.
4. Regard that it is the right of the Quran that it be believed, recited upon, practiced, pondered over, and that its message be spread to others.
5. Reckon that it can turn around our lives, irrespective of how bad our past has been.
6. Prioritize Quran over other sources of knowledge and consider that being associated with it is the most superior form of spending time.
7. Seek Allah's help to make it a fountain of goodness for you.

If we are sincere in our efforts to learn the Quran and to understand its meanings so that we put it in our lives, then it would not only be a source of guidance in this world but also a means of salvation for our next life. May Allah make us among such people who are referred to as the People of the Quran by our Prophet (PBUH). May He allow the Quran to act as the spring of our hearts, the light of our chests, the banisher of our sadness, and the reliever of our worries. Ameen. ■

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were also living in the regions, but their political situation was critical, and they were the victim of anarchy, only the administration was based on tribal systems in which chiefs were called Sheikhs who were authorized to take decisions about rights and wrong. They were so biased, arrogant, and extremely warriors that the wars continued between tribes from generation to generation. They didn't have their systematic populations; in fact, they were vagabonds or gypsies wandering from place to place. Their economy was based on agriculture, cattle, and trade. The Jews living in those regions had spread a wide net of work of their businesses based on

interest and bribery; they were inferiors in categories on ethical and social grounds. Murdering, looting passersby, theft, drinking wines, abusing, and raping, etc. were the order of the day, and such heinous acts were so customized that after the death of the father, the mother was divided like property and then she would become the destiny of her elder son; there were expositions of private parts of physical bodies in composing poems. They nakedly performed Umrah around Kaabah, and buried daughters alive, on religious grounds they were idolaters and stars-worshipers, some were also followers of Christianity, Judaism, Magianism, Paganism, and the

major religion of the time, Maids and stewards were also passing through critical situations, animals were also tortured with utmost cruelties, and the flesh of living animals was cruelly cut hurting them with swords, disturbances were uselessly produced in ecological systems by cutting trees without reasons. The centuries of depravity lost, perpetuated misguidance, and from which the reproduction of ignorance continued. In other words, we may conclude that the evils prevailing in societies for a long period of centuries, ignorance and wickedness, etc. being customized in all corners were the order of the day for polluting human

environments with the dust of badness. But the critical situations changed after the advent of Allah's Messenger, Prophet Mohammad (Pbuh).

Undeniable Achievements by the Prophet (Pbuh)

He, Mohammad Sallallahu 'Alaihi Wasallam, within a short period of 23 years, trained the ignorant Bedouin world of Arabs with a revealed civilized culture, guided them with wisdom as well as the correct pulse-recognition, knowledge of mode, accurate knowledge of situations, rhetoric, style of speech, etiquette, gentleness and tolerance and gradual principles. As a result, the same ignorant Bedouins who were

wrapped in wrappers of evils became the rulers of the world; in other words, the idolaters or idol-worshippers embraced Monotheism in place of worshipping idols.

In a nutshell, it will be recalled that Mohammad (Pbuh) under the commands of Allah, brought humanity in the right direction specialized by Allah for mankind on earth. He (Allah's Messenger) turned the apathetic and dead-tempered brains into a living nation --- turned Prejudice and tribalism into the relationship of fraternity --- taught well-mannered discipline to the thieves and robbers --- made people of surroundings the experts in world-affairs --- taught disciplinary manners with cultures

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Sarah Fatima

The Pursuit of Paradise



(Courtesy: image: Freepik.com)

Once upon a time, there were two siblings named Safiya and Abdullah. They loved to go on adventures together and discover new places. One day they decided to climb a mountain that beckoned them.

When they reached the top of the mountain, they looked at each other with a smile and said, "Hurray!! We did it!!" They were proud of themselves for having conquered the mountain together.

At the top of the mountain, they noticed a beautiful sight - a garden full of flowers and strange birds as if straight out of a storybook.

They sat back, watched, and pulled out crispy chicken nuggets and cold cranberry juice from their backpacks. After a long journey, the food tasted better.

Safiya: "Wow, Abdullah, this place is beautiful! It's like heaven."

Abdullah: "Yes, it is. But do you know the true meaning of heaven?"

Safiya: "I think it is a place where everything is perfect and there is no sadness or worry."

Abdullah: "Yes, but in Islam, Paradise is also the reward for good deeds. The more we do, the closer we get to it."

Abdullah: "Do you even know there are things in Heaven that are beyond our imagination, such as honey rivers and gardens, which are more beautiful than this one."

Safiya: "Now I really want to go to Heaven. How do we do that?"

Abdullah: "Well, be kind to others, help the poor, pray, fast in Ramadan, and more. When we do these things, Allah will reward us with Paradise."

Safiya: "Very good. I think we should start doing our best now." There was pride in her eyes.

Abdullah: "Yes! Let's make a list

of all the good things we can do and try to do at least one a day." There was joy in his voice.

Safiya: "Wow, sounds great! I can't wait to achieve our goal."

Abdullah: "Yes, me too. But let's not forget that good deeds should come from the heart, not just to get the reward."

Safiya: "Yes, Abdullah. Good works should be done because we love God and want to make Him happy."

Abdullah: "Yes, Safiya. If we continue to do good things, one day we will have blessings and we will see the Paradise of Allah's mercy."

After dinner, Safiya and Abdullah felt refreshed and energized, high-fiving each other - their special code for "ready for duty". It was their way of showing that they had achieved their goals and were ready to move on to the next exciting adventure.

As they climbed down the hill, they chased the setting sun that disappeared behind the rolling hills. A brilliant idea suddenly came to Safiya's mind.

"Every time we do something good, we can add a note, and at the end of the month, the person with the most notes wins!"

Abdullah's eyes shone with happiness. "Sounds fun! I'll make myself a blue jar, and you can have a purple one."

They spent the rest of their journey wondering about all the good things they could fill their jars with.

They knew that spreading happiness and goodness is not only beneficial in itself but also a way of gaining Paradise from Allah.

Both set out with relentless determination to make the world a better place, one good thing at a time. ■

Belittling Others

Najma Ansari

*Don't think anyone haqeer (low)
We are all faqeer (poor)*

*Don't call anyone shaytanic
Or anyone munafiq*

*We're in need of rahmah
Be covered of our faults*

*Let's take stock
Don't let's mock*

*It takes us close to kufr
We will ultimately suffer*

*No swearing, nor name calling
We may need the hauling*

*Stay with
Amr bil Maroof
wa Nahi 'anil Munkar*

*Can be done with kindness
Not with rage or blindness*

*Softness of speech
Free from hardness beseech*

*To think ill is enough
To create fitna and stuff*

*Even when feeling oppressed
Depressed and abused*

*Don't blow the fuse
Reconnect, prayers use*

(Hadith 1574 Riyadh us salihien:

Not to look down on fellow
Muslims

Ref: surah Hujjarat: 11) ■

A Bus Journey

Surayya Najeeb

Diana was determined to spend her vacation at her grandmother's house in the countryside. Every year, her family used to visit there together. On the contrary, this year owing to some family problems they canceled the trip. In fact, her mother with surety agreed to join her granny on the following vacation. Diana, a loving granddaughter, was unwilling to miss out on the opportunity to see her sick and grey-haired granny.

She left her house alone for the countryside by opting for the bus route. Well, the bus journey was not comfortable in the eyes of Diana, yet she was inclined to choose the same as thrill and adventure. As soon as the bus set out for the countryside, Diana would be highly excited to travel alone by bus as well as to see her granny by giving her a surprise.

As the bus was plying fast; Diana began to feel that her life too running at a high speed. Moreover, as the bus went from one stop to another; her days and nights were rushing rapidly on the flying wings. She was worried that she was losing precious time like an hourglass destined for her lot. She eagerly wanted to escape from this feeling, so, she closed her eyes. A sudden jerk jolted her badly which caused her to plunge into the sea of thoughts. "If life is a journey like a bus, then, everyone should be alert and cautious of the ups and downs and bumps of the journey because every jerk, be it small or big, is enough to harm, ruin, and impact severely the rest of the life and sufficient to finish off quickly." The

voice of the bus conductor "Ticket, ticket, madam your ticket please" brought her back to reality. She was firm to savour this adventurous bus trip. She began to look out through the window. The scenery was beautiful, mesmerizing, and appealing too. She pleasantly commenced, realizing the fresh air on her soft white cheeks. Her silky smooth brown hair was playing with the tickling of the gentle breeze. In the meanwhile, the bus was running at high speed, and out of the blue like an unannounced storm, one blue bike appeared at high speed in front of the bus. The bus driver had struggled hard to control but the bus jumped with a heavy jerk. Diana was busy making good memories of this journey and was completely unaware of what was happening around them.

She suddenly got jolted heavily with the absence of mind and bumped her head on the iron roof. Momentarily by forgetting the physical pain she immersed herself into the thought that "Whether enjoying the journey of life with the open eyes or the eyes closed: everyone should be prepared for any incident, event or accident which could be taken place anywhere or any time."

Hence, the journey ended with mixed experiences, some were good and some were bad. Ultimately, she reached her destination with whatever new things had happened to her by saving in her mind for all time and walked swiftly towards her granny to surprise her. ■

Rumi, a 13th-century Persian Spiritual teacher, was asked:

What is Spirituality?

1. It's when we stop trying to change others and focus on changing ourselves.
2. It is when we accept people as they are.
3. It is when we understand that everyone is correct according to their own perspective.
4. It is when we learn to "let go".
5. It is when we are able to not have "expectations" in a relationship, and we give of ourselves for the pleasure of giving.
6. It is when we understand that



what we do, we do for our own peace.

7. It's when we stop showing the world how smart we are.
8. It's when we stop seeking approval from others.
9. It's when we stop comparing ourselves to others.
10. It is when we are at peace with ourselves.
11. It is when we are able to distinguish between "need" and "want" and we are able to let go of that want.
12. Spiritual maturity is gained when we stop attaching "happiness" to material things! ■

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Global Achievements of the Prophet in a Short Period

of shame and modestly graced the gamblers, wine drinkers, alcohol users, and adulterers ---- honored in all respectable manners to relations of mother, sister, daughter, wife, etc..... By decorating ignorant Bedouin with ornaments of knowledgeable education and practicality, advocating for the rights of slaves, concubines, and even animals, and

teaching the manners of the development of environmental beauty to all the peoples of the region, Allah's Messenger, Prophet Mohammad (Pbuh) decorated them with the equipment of bonafide appearances and survivals up to the day of resurrection.

(The writer can be contacted @ tarique.sohrab@gmail.com) ■

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Major Reasons that Lead to Divorce

his/her partner who is physically or mentally sick for a very long time, it's not at all an easy task, hence most partners give up after a certain point and this leads to divorce.

15. Religious beliefs: Religion plays a vital role in any relationship. If a person is a righteous human being and a good follower of his/her religion then there is no room for any

disappointment or failure in their relationship. However, while choosing a life partner one has to make sure that their partner has the same level of or at least a similar level of religious beliefs. Praying together makes a relationship stronger and such a spiritual bond lasts forever.

I have explained the most common and important factors that lead to divorce. The above list can go on

and on, but I wanted to focus only on the major reason, as once these are fixed or addressed in the right manner the minor issues will automatically fall into place. This is an effort to educate each sector of our society irrespective of age, gender, or religion to make marriages last long, and avoid the couple and their families from going through the humiliation and agony of divorce. ■

The workshop changed me from Human Being to Being a Human

Discover Yourself Workshops were held at Patna and Ranchi in May 2023



DYS WORKSHOP IN AMD FOR STUDENTS, PATNA



DYS WORKSHOP IN BIHAR URDU ACADEMY- PATNA



TALK IN AL HIRA PUBLICS SCHOOL- PATNA

Some of the participants share their Experiences.

- Before there were inside me lot of negativities and after the workshop, I feel proud of myself, feel light, and positive.
- I would say that these three days of the workshop are the best days of my life. Amazing and gained lots of knowledge.
- I developed the ability to listen to my heart and became closer to Allah.
- MY life totally changed after the workshop, my family members are very happy and shocked to see the changes.
- It helped me to find the true meaning of humanity. Before I get frustrated easily, but now I try to keep myself calm.
- I am able to see the reality and my mistakes. It was very beneficial.
- It was an eye-opening workshop. It opened my eyes to perceive things and change my perception instead of picking faults in others.
- A unique presentation. Amazing. I cannot believe that I just changed in 24 hours.
- Before I was skeptical of doing something challenging, I always wanted to be in my comfort zone but now I am ready with the help of Allah, and I will definitely succeed.
- Before I was very unhappy and disconnected from Allah. Now I am very happy and connected to Allah. I omitted all bad habits and do all good habits every day.
- I discovered myself. I changed myself and understood the world in a better realistic way. This workshop changed the mistakes which I was making in my life. I am thankful to you, sir.
- I was confused about what is right and what is wrong before the workshop, but now I know what Haq is and Batil is.
- Before the workshop angry, over-sensitive, and thinking too much. Right now, I feel at ease and peaceful.
- This workshop changed my life.

My family members felt proud of me and I also see some changes in me.

- All the family members are impressed with me. Before the workshop, I felt that I was irresponsible and now I am responsible. I feel very good.
- I was rude to my family members. But now I understand why my mother scolded me. I helped my mother. My relatives and friends saw the changes in me, and I am very grateful.
- Before the workshop I had many problems, was stressed, and felt weak. After attending I gained confidence and now, I am free from stress, and problems. I am living a relaxed life. Thank you, sir.
- Before this workshop, I often got angry about small things and considered everyone wrong except me. But after attending I can control my anger and have stopped judging others.
- It helped me to control my anger, how to face the world, and helped me to be positive. My family is very happy that I am attending such a workshop that changed my attitude and my speaking.
- Now, after attending the workshop control my anger, learned not to judge and not to make opinions. I got the ability to distinguish between good and evil. Now I can see everyone as human beings.
- Life-changing! I used to think about my future and make myself sad by doing this, but because of this workshop, I overcame this problem. Thank You.
- It helped me in a way to change my mindset and provoked me to accept reality.
- I had many questions which I had written in the registration form. But, overall I got 85% answers to my questions and I want to say Jazakallah Khair.
- It is the need of the hour. A necessity for the youth as well as family members.



DYS ONE DAY WORKSHOP FOR LADIES AT AMD HOSTEL- PATNA



DYS WORKSHOP IN BIHAR URDU ACADEMY- PATNA

PINKI ROY: Before the workshop, I am always depressed. Negative thoughts always come into my mind. I thought I cannot do this, and it is not possible for me. But after the workshop, I am a changed person. I feel positive. Now I only listen to my heart and not to my mind. Now I have control over the mind.

ANIL KUMAR: It was a life-changing workshop for me. I would have missed valuable lessons in life. As a human being, I began to feel my humanity, equality for all humans. I got to know how to live and achieve success. I feel like you put a few drops in my mouth out of your intense thirst. I did not know when, where, and how I would get answers to all my questions, and that is why I am thankful to God who sent his representative to help me. I love you God, Eshwar, Allah. Thank you so much. This workshop should be spread to the whole world.

MAJID: Yes! There was a big change in my attitude toward certain things. Developed a more optimistic and solution-seeking mind, solutions that are literally cool and relevant.

RAHMAN: I developed a very optimistic mind. There was a very vast change in my attitude. I got the confidence and way to fight my inner negative self. My parents are very happy seeing the change in me! Like not arguing or developing the mindset of me being the right one always and the other one is on judging and criticizing me.

ZEB: This was an absolutely amazing and enlightening workshop. Totally enjoyed and learned a lot.

I am inspired to use these wonderful techniques in my practice. Glad to be part of it. Thank you.

NISHAT: I thank Allah for choosing me to attend this workshop. I am feeling very fortunate to myself. Inshah Allah, I will improve my character and personality in a positive way so that Allah swt is pleased with me and shower His mercy on me. My spouse and my siblings co-operated and supported me very heartily and consciously. I must fight my negativity, Shaitan, and my deficiency and build my connection to Allah swt very strongly.

SHAISTA: Before the workshop, I was angry, never listened to anyone, did not care about anyone and I was in my own world. I felt my family members are always judging every time and are selfish. After the workshop, I realized that I was wrong. I feel relaxed and I experience that no one is bad, but has their own opinions. My family members are surprised to see the changes in me and asked is this you. I said I am this and everyone is happy at home.

SADAF: I see a new personality and new behaviour in me. The way I was seeing people now is completely changed. I am focusing more on my life and not on others. I

am trying to live my life according to Allah's standards.

BILQUIS: It is a life-changing experience. My life was different before the workshop. I learned to control my anger and differentiate between Haq and Batil, and my behaviour towards others, and my perspective and opinion about my family members changed a lot. The experience of forgiving others was the most memorable experience that I experienced through this workshop.

ZUFA: It helped me to know more about myself. Before attending the workshop I felt very heavy and depressed. I did not know the value of life. But these three days changed my life so much. I am happy that I got answers to all my questions. I love this workshop.

AZRA: My life was very confused and very contradictory before attending this workshop. After attending I can discover so many values of life. I am now able to listen to others and not react quickly and because of this my family members also share the same energy as mine thus creating a sense of peace and companionship among us.

ARFA: This workshop taught me how to live my life. Before the workshop, I was a human being and now I am being human, helping and focusing on others. This workshop helped me to enhance relationships and forgive others. It helped me to work willingly, control my anger and be positive. ■



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Masoom Moradabadi

Babri Masjid case lawyer Zafaryab Jilani (73) passed away in Lucknow after a prolonged illness. The death of Muslim Personal Law Board President Maulana Syed Rabi Hosni, is the second major tragedy of the Nation of Islam. He has closed his eyes at a time when the nation of Islam, suffering from various problems, is in dire need of sincere leaders like him. He was apparently an expert lawyer and lawgiver, but his finger was always on the pulse of the nation. It is difficult to find an example of the courage and steadfastness with which he fought for the Babri Masjid *Kamqadama*. This is the reason that after losing the case, he was broken inside, but did not let anyone show his grief. Patience and tolerance were part of his temperament. He used to respond to every provocative matter with gentleness and wisdom. He actively participated in three major movements of Muslims in independent India and endured the arrows of the opponents, but he never deviated from his principle and stand. Be it the minority role of Aligarh Muslim University or the protection of Muslim personal law, or the movement to recover the Babri Masjid. He was an

Senior Advocate and AIMPLB Secretary Zafaryab Jilani Passes Away



integral part of these movements. His understanding of the case was also the most different. He remembered the Babri Masjid case covering millions of pages by word of mouth and when he expressed his views on its various aspects, he was able to see it.

Two years ago in May 2021, while coming down from the steps of Islamia Inter College, he suffered a severe brain injury and suffered a brain haemorrhage. During this time, the corona epidemic also took hold of him. After the brain operation at Medanta Hospital, he was apparently healthy, but his memory was not working. In recent days, his condition suddenly worsened, and he was

admitted to Nishat Hospital in Lucknow, where he breathed his last on the afternoon of May 17, 2023.

The greatest quality of Zafaryab Jilani was that he made a place for himself in every national organization with his hard work and sincerity. He was also an official. He was the head of most of the educational and social institutions of Lucknow. He was also a confidant of Mulayam Singh and Akhilesh Yadav. He was made the Deputy Advocate General of the state during the Samajwadi regime. He also had close ties with former Prime Minister VP Singh and Chandrasekhar.

Zafaryab Jilani was born in 1950 in the famous town of Malihabad in Lucknow. He did his LL.M from Aligarh Muslim University. During his studentship, he participated in the movement to restore the minority status of Aligarh Muslim University in the 70s. Here, his active colleagues included Prof. Akhtarul Wasi, Javed Habib, Basir Ahmad Khan, Azam Khan, and ZK Faizan etc. Later, along with his longtime friend Javed Habib, he founded the Muslim Youth Convention in

1982 and became its founding president. He also participated in the movement to protect Muslim personal law in the Shah Bano case. He also started the Muslim reservation movement with the late Salim Pirzada, but his real fame is as a lawyer and convener of the Action Committee in the Babri Masjid case. happened Zafaryab Jilani was the founding convener of the Action Committee that was formed in Lucknow after the Babri Masjid lock was opened in 1986. Most of my meetings with him took place during various programs of this movement. His role was key in the central action committee meetings held in Delhi. On one occasion, Syed Shahabuddin told me, "Remember, Zafaryab Jilani will be identified as an important Muslim leader one day." This prediction of Syed Shahabuddin proved correct. He was very impressed with Fahmi. Zafaryab Jilani greatest quality was that his homework was very strong. He also kept records and files very carefully. Each paper was preserved in his memory. With his death, the nation lost a sincere leader. His services will always be remembered. ■

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Ahmed Kamal Khuroo

Formal religious rituals are meant to discipline the soul, body and mind. They are not rites into which we move blindly. Regular meditation or spiritual exercises are meant to purify the heart and the soul. The heart is the nexus of the spiritual light that comes from the Maker and the universe.

Once the heart is purged of negative and toxic emotions as well as base desires, greed, vengeance and overweening pride and possessiveness, then the vacuum becomes filled with love, understanding, tolerance and faith. When darkness is dispelled, light comes in and things appear to us from a new perspective. We realize the interconnectedness and interdependence of all things in the universe.

Then conscious actions mimic the unconscious obedience of everything to natural laws from the flow of blood in the body to the geometry of time and space. Since man is given free will, he should consciously follow the dictates of the Almighty in a display of obedience just as the natural world is unconsciously bound to follow

the pattern laid down by the Almighty. This obedience is immanent in all universal forms of existence. Except for slight aberrations, the whole universe is ordained by the Maker to follow natural laws and conform to an intelligent design. We are free, but we should choose to be unfree, as far as our obedience to Almighty Allah is concerned.

Formal prayer is only five times a day but the efficacy of the prayer should be registered in the in-between timings and its glow should pervade our activities for the rest of the day. This is, in fact, establishing prayer. Just as a flower blooms in one place, but its perfume is wafted by the breeze everywhere, in the same way, the open and hidden effects of prayer should inform all our actions and reinvigorate our relationships with family, friends and society at large. This behaviour outside of formal prayer is informal spirituality.

If our actions are shorn of the vestiges of humanity and goodness, then it is clear that our

Spiritual Musings

The Interplay of Formal and Informal Spirituality

formal spirituality in prayer is devoid of the true spirit. We are conscious of the Almighty when we stand in prayer, and in the same way, we should be conscious in our everyday actions that the Maker is watching our every move and it is being recorded. A heightened sense of consciousness in prayer results in a deep sense of accountability and restraint in our actions outside prayer.

When we discipline ourselves to a marked extent, we show our obedience to the Maker and the pattern of the universe fashioned according to natural laws. The acts of free will are not for personal licentiousness but to subjugate our will to the greater good, arriving at inclusivity rather than exclusivity. Exclusivity thrives on creating barriers of class, culture, nation, and ethnicity.

Does not the sunshine on rich and poor, white and black and coloured alike? Does not the rain benefit all plants, animals and human beings? So why does this egotistical and selfish exclusivity make us blind to

the needs and feelings of all but our own selves, or at most, our kith and kin?

Some years back, I was working as a journalist in Saudi Arabia. I would meet people from India at some gatherings. Someone would ask "Oh, so you are from Mumbai?". Then he would ask "Which part of Mumbai?" When he came to know that I had a house in one corner and that he was from another, his interest would flag a little. So, I used to think that if I told him "I stay in the building next to your house", would his interest in me increase? Or if I told him that I was his long-lost brother, would he be perked up?

This shows the ridiculous extent to which we carry our personal and parochial leanings. We wear our regional and national colours on our sleeves. To what end? To fight and show off our jingoism and superiority in any way we can. *But the nearest to the Maker is he who renders his full due and shows pure thanksgiving for the uncountable gifts He showers us with. We feel humbled and beggared by the*

bounties He bestows on us.

Formal spiritual discipline is for conditioning the heart and the soul to face the obstacle race that is life. Formal spiritual exercises, if done the right way, give meaning to life's informal moments. When you think of the Almighty, say, several times in a day, formally, then in the intervening period its light is shed and suffuses those hours with radiance. If we do not have such a spiritual undertow, then we are swept away like flotsam and jetsam by every passing wind of whim and fancy.

If our actions are shorn of the vestiges of humanity and goodness, then it is clear that our formal spirituality in prayer is devoid of the true spirit. We are conscious of the Almighty when we stand in prayer, and in the same way, we should be conscious in our everyday actions that the Maker is watching our every move and it is being recorded

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