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Rabi-ul-Awal / Rabi-us-Sani - 1446 H

Syed Moosa Kaleem Al-Falahi Wins Global Islamic Finance Award 2024



HYDERABAD: Syed Moosa Kaleem Al-Falahi, Chief Business and Investment Officer of the Islamic Bank of Afghanistan, has been awarded the prestigious Global Islamic Finance Award 2024 at the Global Islamic Finance Conference in Male, Maldives. The event, organized by the Maldivian government and Cambridge IFA, attracted notable Islamic finance leaders, including former Maldives President Mohamed Waheed Hassan and Finance Minister Dr. Mohamed Shafeeq. Syed Moosa, a Hyderabad resident, was recognized for his significant contributions to Islamic banking, particularly in expanding the Islamic Bank

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Abdul Bari Masoud

The election for the 90-member Haryana Assembly is scheduled for October 5. The ruling BJP, which has held power for ten years, faces challenges to secure a third term due to growing anti-incumbency sentiment and a poor showing in the recent general election.

Haryana is home to 36 prominent biradaris (communities), with Jats being the largest demographic, primarily residing in Rohtak, Bhiwani, Hisar, Karnal, Gurgaon, and surrounding areas. Additionally, a significant Punjabi

Security Concerns for Muslims in Haryana Ahead of Assembly Elections



A group of men discusses the upcoming Haryana assembly polls at Chandeni village in Nuh. (Parveen Kumar/HT)

biradari, which migrated from Pakistan during partition, adds to the state's diversity. Over five percent of the population

identifies as Sikh.

As usual, all parties are relying heavily on caste calculations. Although Jats, who represent over 22% of the state's population, and Scheduled Castes (SCs), who account for about 20%, may lean towards Congress, this alignment does not seem to favor the BJP. Before 2014, the BJP's influence in Haryana was minimal, but it won 47 of the 90 assembly seats in that year's election, marking its first significant victory due to a communal wave from the Lok Sabha elections. In the 2019 assembly elections, the BJP managed to retain power with only 40 seats, relying on the support of the JJP, which won 10

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38th International Islamic Unity Conference Opens in Tehran

The 38th International Islamic Unity Conference commenced in Tehran, bringing together over 150 scholars, leaders, and intellectuals from around the world. With President Masoud Pezeshkian present, the conference focuses on "Islamic Cooperation to Achieve Common



Values with an Emphasis on Palestine." The three-day event aims to foster unity between Shia and Sunni communities while highlighting the

importance of the Palestinian cause.

At the 38th Islamic Unity

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Singapore to Launch New Islamic College for Future Leaders

SINGAPORE: Prime Minister Lawrence Wong announced the establishment of the Singapore College of Islamic Studies, aimed at nurturing future Islamic leaders in the multi-ethnic city-state. Unveiled during his National Day Rally on August 18, this initiative, in development since 2016, aims to train religious scholars (asatizah) to provide

relevant guidance in Singapore's diverse context.



Wong praised the resilience of the Malay/Muslim community and reaffirmed his commitment to supporting their progress while preserving their traditions. The

new college is part of broader efforts to modernize Islamic education and empower the community.



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Abdul Bari Masoud

NEW DELHI: The Indian Islamic Culture Centre (IICC) has unanimously rejected the Waqf Amendment Bill 2024 and decided to make a formal representation to the Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC) regarding the issue. The IICC asserts that the bill violates the Constitution of India, which prohibits interference in the religious affairs of any community.

To discuss the implications of the proposed bill, the IICC organized a national conference on Sunday, which was attended by members, eminent scholars, former high court judges, and legal experts. Participants engaged in in-depth discussions about various aspects of the bill, concluding that its enactment would fundamentally undermine the Waqf concept and harm beneficiaries, particularly widows, orphans, and those reliant on religious endowments for support, including mosques, graveyards, and khanqas.

Key points of concern highlighted during the conference included:

1. The misleading acronym

IICC Rejects Waqf Amendment Bill, Advocates for Community Rights



Photo credit: indiatomorrow.net

"UWMEED," which obscures the bill's divisive nature.

2. The dismantling of a decades-long legal framework for Waqfs, akin to obliterating an entire act.

3. The introduction of "Collector Raj," which threatens the independence of Waqf Boards and diminishes the authority of the Waqf Tribunal.

4. The bill's drafting process lacked proper consultation with stakeholders, altering the definition of Waqf beyond legislative boundaries.

5. Significant issues such as the recolonization of Waqf

legislation, the removal of Waqf by users, stifling board elections, and inadequate Muslim representation on the Central Waqf Council.

Speaking with Islamic Voice, Salman Khurshid, the newly elected president of the IICC and former Union Minister for Law and Justice, emphasized that the bill was introduced with malicious intent and must be resisted at all levels. He asserted that the bill's subversive nature prompted the IICC to convene this meeting, leading to the unanimous rejection of the bill and a call for

its withdrawal. A delegation from the IICC also visited the JPC on September 10.

The conference featured notable speeches from Justice Iqbal Ansari, former judge of the Patna High Court, Justice Z. U. Khan, Zakat Foundation Chairman Dr. Syed Zafar Mahmood, Supreme Court senior advocates M.R. Shamshad and Baharuddin Barqi, and former Chief Election Commissioner Dr. S.Y. Quraishi. Khurshid delivered the presidential remarks, emphasizing the need for collective action against the bill.

Sardar Daya Singh remarked on the government's negative intentions towards religious minorities, cautioning that the Sikh community could be the next target. He urged the audience to foster unity between the Muslim and Sikh communities, recalling former Lok Sabha speaker Sardar Hukam Singh's words about the strength of their solidarity.

Dr. Mahmood stressed that the proposed amendments reflect a targeted attack against a specific community and pointed out that the Central Waqf Council (CWC), the highest decision-making body for Waqf matters, has not been constituted since 2021. He called for a privilege motion against Union Minority

Affairs Minister Kiren Rijju for misleading the House during the bill's presentation.

Khawja Shahid noted that various government departments had made presentations to the JPC and advocated for a counter-presentation to challenge their claims. Advocate M.R. Shamshad highlighted the destructive implications of the proposed bill, emphasizing the importance of countering right-wing propaganda. Advocate Wajih Shafi, attorney for the Delhi Waqf Board, raised concerns about the government's intentions regarding 123 contentious Waqf properties, citing specific legal cases.

The government's decision to refer the highly contentious Waqf Amendment Bill 2024 to the JPC came after strong opposition and protests from various parties. Critics argue that the bill aims to undermine the Muslim community, interfere with religious affairs, and violate constitutional principles. Congress MP K.C. Venugopal characterized the bill as an assault on religious freedom, cautioning that it could extend its reach to other religious communities.

The conference concluded with plans to form an expert committee to articulate a more nuanced response to the Waqf Amendment Bill. ■

Muslim Law Board Meets JPC on Waqf Bill

Staff Writer

NEW DELHI: A delegation from the All India Muslim Personal Law Board (AIMPLB) met with the Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC) on Waqf on September 19 to

present the Muslim community's perspective on the proposed Waqf Amendment Bill 2024. The Board received the invitation from the JPC on September 11.

The delegation included:

- Maulana Khalid Saifullah Rahmani, President of the AIMPLB
- Ml. Mohd. Fazlur Rahim Mujaddidi, General Secretary
- M.R. Shamshad, Senior Advocate, Supreme Court and Executive Committee Member
- Dr. S. Q. R. Ilyas, Spokesperson and Executive Committee Member
- Prof. (Dr.) Saud Alam Qasmi, Executive Committee Member



Prior to the meeting, the Board had already submitted detailed written submissions to the JPC, as well as informal submissions made to the Chairperson on August 24, 2024.

During the meeting, the President of the Board and Prof. Qasmi delivered brief oral submissions highlighting potential issues that could arise if the amendments were approved. They also elaborated on the status of Waqf in Islamic Sharia. M.R. Shamshad provided detailed legal insights into the implications of the proposed amendments, assisted by Advocate Arijit Sarkar. The General Secretary and

spokesperson summarized the broader community's concerns regarding the proposed legislation.

The written submissions were distributed to JPC members, with

several expressing appreciation for the clarity and thoroughness of the documents, stating they "cleared many doubts and answered questions."

Due to the confidential nature of the proceedings before the Joint Parliamentary Committee, specific details cannot be publicly disclosed. However, Dr. Ilyas affirmed that the Board has communicated the collective opposition of the community to the proposed amendments. He emphasized that the AIMPLB, along with prominent community organizations, has firmly rejected the bill and called for its withdrawal. ■

Tabish Raza Secures Spot at Indian Statistical Institute, Delhi



TABISH RAZA
DS/BSD-PT-A108/2024

PATNA: Tabish Raza from Giridih, Jharkhand, has made an outstanding achievement by qualifying for the Bachelor of Statistical Data Science (Hons) program at the Indian Statistical Institute (ISI) Delhi, becoming the only Muslim student selected this year. ISI's admission process is known to be more challenging than even the IITs, highlighting Tabish's dedication and hard work.

A student of the Rahmani 30 program, Tabish received praise from Maulana Ahmad Wali Faisal Rahmani for his determination and the support of his parents. His father, Muhammad Aminuddin, is a contract para-teacher, while his

mother, Wajida Tabassum, manages their home. Rahmani emphasized that Tabish's success proves that hard work and perseverance can lead to great accomplishments, regardless of background.

ISI Delhi, founded in 1974, is India's leading institution in statistics, mathematics, and computer science. Notable alumni include Sandeep Junia, a financial engineering expert, and Min Shah, a UCLA economist. Tabish's achievement contributes to Rahmani 30's milestone of 4% Muslim representation at ISI Delhi, inspiring students from disadvantaged backgrounds to pursue excellence in education. ■

Protect Religious Minorities: AICU Calls for Action

Spl Correspondent

PANAJI/NEW DELHI: The All India Catholic Union (AICU) has urged South Asian governments to safeguard religious minorities. At its AGM in Tamil Nadu, AICU re-elected Anthony Chinnappan as National Vice President. The Union highlighted the importance of minority scholarships and restoring rights for Dalit Christians and Muslims.



(Photo: Unsplash/Joshua Olsen)

AICU President Er. Elias Vaz

praised Nobel laureate Muhammad Yunus for his commitment to protecting Christian and Hindu minorities in Bangladesh. The Union condemned violence in Manipur and called on PM Modi to take urgent action. They also appealed to President Draupadi Murmu for the protection of Christian Adivasis facing hate campaigns. ■

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seats, while a simple majority requires 46.

In the 2019 general elections, the BJP won all ten parliamentary seats in the state, but in the 2024 elections, it lost five seats to Congress, indicating a possible resurgence for the opposition party. Current ground reports predict Congress may win between 50 to 65 assembly seats, fueled by internal dissent within the BJP over ticket distribution. Unemployment has emerged as a prominent issue, with Congress accusing the BJP government of making "Haryana number one in unemployment in the country." Other critical issues include rising incidents of mob lynching.

Muslims, who constitute around 8 to 10% of the total population, are primarily concentrated in the Nuh district of the Mewat region. Their voting power is crucial in at least 15 assembly seats, including Nuh, Ferozpur Jhirka, and Punhana, while areas such as Sohna, Hatin, Hodal, and Palwal also have significant Muslim voter presence. In the 2009 assembly elections, five Muslim candidates were elected to the state legislature, showcasing a history of representation that is currently threatened.

Muslims in Haryana are often cited as the most backward group, lagging behind on various social indicators. Since the BJP's ascent to power, concerns for security have intensified among the Muslim community. The three Muslim MLAs from the Meo-dominated Nuh district Aftab Ahmed, Mamman Khan, and Muhammad Ilyas have been fielded again by Congress. In contrast, the BJP has introduced new candidates, including Sanjay Singh, the minister of state for the environment, and Aizaz Khan, while Naseem Ahmed is contesting once more after being defeated by Mamman Khan in 2019 by a margin of over 36,000 votes. The AAP has introduced Rabia Kidwai as its first female candidate from Nuh; she is the granddaughter of Haryana's 13th governor, Akhlaq-Ur-Rehman Kidwai.

Security is a significant concern in Nuh, where the BJP's attempts to polarize religious sentiments have intensified over the past decade. There have been multiple instances of lynching of Muslim men by cow protection groups during the BJP's governance,

contributing to communal unrest in July that resulted in the deaths of at least seven people.

One of Haryana's most impoverished regions, Nuh experienced communal violence in September last year during the Brij Mandal Jalabhishek Yatra organized by the Vishwa Hindu Parishad. Despite being adjacent to Gurugram, Haryana's financial center, Nuh lacks essential services, including adequate health care, education infrastructure, and access to clean drinking water.

In April 2018, Niti Aayog designated Nuh, formerly known as Mewat, as the most backward district in India, situated in the National Capital Region. Both Congress and BJP-led governments have allocated significant funds for welfare programs aimed at "uplifting" the district, yet the effectiveness of these expenditures remains unclear. Nuh scored the lowest in the country, at 26%, among 101 districts evaluated on 49 development indicators, including health, education, agriculture, financial inclusion, skill development, and basic

infrastructure.

The area has also witnessed incidents of cow vigilantism over the past decade and continues to face critical challenges, such as the need for a university, railway connectivity, and the expansion of the Gurugram-Alwar highway through Nuh. Despite its location in one of the most prosperous states in the country, Nuh remains underdeveloped.

Activist-lawyer Mohammad Ramzan Chaudhri expressed concerns over the successive government's neglect of this region, which he describes as an "oasis of backwardness." He stated, "Right now, security is the foremost and overriding concern of the people in the region."

Issues such as communal riots, mob lynching incidents, fake encounters, and arbitrary arrests have become distressingly common, according to Chaudhri. Water scarcity is also a significant problem; the region relies heavily on monsoon rains. A 2015 Niti Aayog survey revealed that only 23% of homes have a water supply facility, far below the national average of 47%. Many residents are forced to buy water from

tankers, incurring significant expenses. There has long been a demand for the construction of a canal that could supply water from the neighboring Mahendragarh district, yet no government has fulfilled this request.

The district also struggles with inadequate educational facilities. Activist Deen Mohammad Mamluka noted that many village schools are staffed by just one teacher. For instance, Otha village has only one high school with eight teachers, half of whom are guest teachers. He also pointed out that the quality of the midday meals provided to students is very low.

Residents of Nuh have voiced their frustration, acknowledging that neither the BJP nor the Congress has made meaningful contributions to the district's development over the years. Since the BJP came to power, many opposition parties have hesitated to nominate Muslim candidates, fearing that such decisions could further polarize the election. This reluctance has contributed to a decline in Muslim representation; in 2009, Muslim candidates won seats in Hathin, Jagadhri, and Taoru, but only three Muslims have received tickets from Congress, the main contender in this election. ■

Muslim Group Reaches Agreement to Resolve Mosque Dispute in Shimla



Syed Ali Mujtaba

The Muslim community in Shimla has urged municipal authorities to seal the unauthorized sections of the Sanjauli mosque, agreeing to demolish these areas once a court verdict is reached. This development signals a potential resolution to the ongoing dispute over the additional floors constructed at the mosque in the Sanjauli area.

The controversy centers around a five-story mosque, which some Hindu organizations claim was built illegally. Accusations have been made that the mosque expanded from a single floor to five without proper authorization.

Hindu groups contend that such unauthorized constructions could disrupt the local demographic balance and have called for an investigation into

the backgrounds of local Muslims, suggesting that some may be illegal immigrants from Myanmar or Bangladesh.

In response, the Muslim group maintains that the mosque's original construction dates back to 1947. Due to an increase in worshiper attendance, additional floors were built. The Waqf Board asserts ownership of the land and argues that the extension of the mosque complies with regulations.

The dispute dates back to 2010, when a case was filed regarding the alleged illegal construction of the mosque. Since then, four floors have been added to the original structure, with the extensions occurring under various governmental administrations.

The Shimla Municipal Corporation has been actively involved in resolving the issue. Recently, a municipal court

heard the case, questioning both the Waqf Board and the mosque committee on how the structure expanded from one to four floors. The court criticized the Waqf Board for failing to obtain the necessary legal approvals for the expansions. The next court hearing is scheduled for October 5.

In light of rising tensions, the local Muslim welfare committee submitted a memorandum to the municipal commissioner, requesting the sealing of the unauthorized portions of the mosque and offering to demolish them once the court has rendered its decision.

Bhupender Kumar Attri, Municipal Commissioner of Shimla, stated, "The matter is sub-judice and pending in court. If one party is willing to refrain from using the contested portion and offers to seal it, the authorities can act on it until the outcome of the case in the court of law. I am reviewing the contents of the memorandum."

Meanwhile, members of the Dev Bhoomi Sangharsh Samiti, who are leading the protests, have welcomed this gesture from the Muslim community. "We appreciate this initiative and would be the first to embrace them for taking such a step in the larger interest," said Vijay Sharma, a member of the Samiti. ■

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38th International Islamic Unity Conference Opens in Tehran

Conference in Tehran, Aziz Rahman Mansoor, Deputy Minister of Guidance, Hajj, and Endowments, stressed the critical importance of Muslim unity. He highlighted the need for Muslims worldwide to strengthen their ties and work together against global challenges. Mansoor called on the Muslim Ummah to support oppressed communities, particularly in Palestine, and

underscored that unity should be a consistent duty, rooted in Islam and Sharia.

He also shared the achievements of the Islamic Emirate over the past three years, including progress in security, anti-drug efforts, and Sharia enforcement. The conference aims to promote unity among Muslims and address global issues faced by the Ummah. ■



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Dr. Javed Jamil

During his recent visit to the United States, Prime Minister Narendra Modi highlighted India's challenges in combating cervical cancer, a disease claiming numerous lives. At the Cancer Moonshot event in Delaware, Modi announced \$7.5 million to support countries battling this deadly illness. He emphasized India's efforts, including cost-effective screening programs, the development of a cervical cancer vaccine, and AI-driven treatment protocols.

Cervical cancer, the eighth most common cancer globally, leads to over 348,000 deaths annually, with India contributing to a significant portion of these fatalities. Modi stressed the need for an integrated approach to prevention, screening, diagnosis, and treatment.

While these measures are vital, an often-overlooked yet effective preventive tool against cervical

Circumcision: A Potent Tool in the Fight Against Cervical Cancer

MODI PLEDGES \$7.5M FOR CERVICAL CANCER BATTLE



cancer is male circumcision. Extensive research shows that circumcision significantly reduces the risk of cervical cancer in women by limiting the transmission of the Human Papillomavirus (HPV), the leading cause of cervical cancer.

In 2023, cervical cancer was responsible for over 661,000 new cases globally, with India seeing an alarming 77,348 deaths annually. Notably, studies indicate that Muslim women, both in India

and globally, exhibit lower cervical cancer rates, largely attributed to the widespread practice of circumcision among Muslim men.

A *Times of India* report confirmed these findings, noting that religious, economic, and regional differences play a role in how cancer affects India's population. The data suggests that Muslim women are less likely to die from cervical cancer compared to their Hindu counterparts.

The Growing Case for Circumcision

Male circumcision has gained recognition for its protective effects against sexually transmitted diseases, including HIV. A study from South Africa found that circumcised men were 60% less likely to contract HIV. This has led to a surge in circumcisions in regions like Swaziland, where HIV rates are high. Hospitals that previously performed few circumcisions now face two-month waiting lists as more men opt for the procedure.

Circumcision's benefits extend beyond HIV prevention. It also reduces the transmission of HPV, which, while causing minimal harm to men, can lead to cervical cancer in women. According to Ronald Gray, a physician and professor at Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, the health benefits of circumcision outweigh the risks. He emphasizes that circumcision lowers the risk of genital infections, herpes, and HPV,

thereby protecting both men and their female partners.

Time for Action

Given the rising cervical cancer fatalities in India, it is time to promote circumcision at a national level. The Ministry of Health and medical professionals should advocate for its widespread adoption, emphasizing its health benefits beyond religious associations. Circumcision is now accepted globally, even in regions where it is not a religious mandate, like among Christians in the U.S.

India should recognize the immense value circumcision offers in preventing sexually transmitted diseases and cancers, including those of the cervix, penis, and anus. The evidence is clear: circumcision can play a pivotal role in reducing the burden of cervical cancer and improving public health.

(Dr. Javed Jamil is an Indian thinker and writer with over two dozen books, including "Economics First or Health First?", "Rediscovering the Universe", and "Muslim Vision of Secular India: Destination & Road-map.")

Sir Syed Lecture Series by AMU History Department: A Successful Academic Event

ALIGARH : The Department of History, Aligarh Muslim University (AMU), in collaboration with the Centre for Advanced Studies (CAS), hosted the second round of the Sir Syed Lecture Series on September 17 and 18. The event brought together two renowned scholars, Prof. Arshad Islam, former Chairperson of the Department of History at the International Islamic University, Malaysia, and Dr. Abbas Panakkal, from the School of History, St. Andrews, UK, who also serves as the Director of the International Interfaith Harmony Initiative.

The series was inaugurated by Prof. Hassan Imam, Chairperson and Coordinator of CAS, Department of History, who presided over the lectures. In his opening remarks, Prof. Imam underscored the importance of the department's commitment to scientific research and the objective study of history.

On the first day, Prof. Arshad



Islam delivered an insightful lecture titled "Multifaith Relationships and Civilization-Building in India's Muslim States and Societies." He emphasized the historical coexistence of diverse communities during medieval times and discussed the principle of adl (justice) in Islam as a key factor in maintaining social equality.

Dr. Abbas Panakkal followed with his lecture, "Musaliar King: Decolonial Historiography of Malabar Resistance," which explored the colonial narratives surrounding the 1921 Malabar resistance. He highlighted the unity between Hindus and

Muslims in resisting British rule, while deconstructing biased colonial perspectives.

The second day of the lecture series featured another session by Prof. Arshad Islam on "Writing Research Proposals for the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy." He shared valuable insights into research ethics practiced at the International Islamic University, Malaysia, encouraging AMU students to adopt similar academic standards. Dr. Abbas Panakkal's second lecture, titled "Integration of South Asia and Southeast Asian Cultural Traditions," examined how Islamic traditions shaped the cultural syncretism in both regions.

The event, convened by Prof. Parwez Nazir, was attended by faculty members, research scholars, and students, fostering rich intellectual discussions. Dr. Sana Aziz moderated the sessions, while Dr. Aneesa Iqbal Sabir concluded the program with a vote of thanks.

CBSE Decision to Drop Urdu Leaves Students in a Bind

Muslim Mirror



An Urdu medium school in Rajasthan

The Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) has come under fire for its decision to provide question papers exclusively in English or Hindi, leaving students from Urdu medium schools facing significant challenges. This change affects numerous institutions across India, including Maulana Azad National Urdu University (MANUU), where instruction has traditionally been conducted in Urdu.

As a result of this directive, students are now forced to choose between English or Hindi when filling out admission forms, creating difficulties for those who are more proficient in Urdu. According to a report in *The Telegraph*, CBSE has mandated that question papers for classes 10 and 12 will only be printed in English or Hindi. Moreover, any answers submitted in languages other than these two without the board's explicit permission will not be evaluated. Students who attempt to write in Urdu will

receive results with no marks for that subject.

The issue is particularly concerning for MANUU students, many of whom are not comfortable with Hindi or English. Despite the CBSE being aware of the Urdu medium instruction when granting affiliation to these schools, the board stopped providing Urdu-language question papers since 2021, without prior notice. While students had continued to write their answers in Urdu, this latest directive prohibits that practice.

An official from one of the MANUU schools expressed frustration over the sudden policy shift, highlighting that students are struggling to understand question papers in Hindi or English after being accustomed to Urdu. This abrupt change has left thousands of Urdu medium students uncertain about their performance in upcoming exams. In Delhi alone, there are 12 CBSE-pattern Urdu medium schools that are now affected by this decision.

Ex-AMU VC Urges SC to Address Bulldozer Action Targeting Muslims

Former Aligarh Muslim University (AMU) Vice-Chancellor Zameer Uddin Shah has approached the Supreme Court, criticizing the increasing use of "bulldozer justice" the practice of demolishing properties of individuals accused of crimes. Shah compared these demolitions, particularly targeting Muslims, to "extrajudicial executions"



without due process, including lack of show cause notices or hearings.

Shah's plea, filed through advocate Prashant Bhushan, joins ongoing

petitions calling for pan-India guidelines to regulate property demolitions. The Supreme Court has already indicated plans to issue such guidelines, condemning the practice as a violation of legal principles. Other petitioners have also emphasized the need for proper notice and time for appeal before demolitions are carried out.

Reception Committee Established for AIMPLB Annual Session Led by Maulana Sagheer Rashadi

New Delhi: Bangalore is set to host the All India Muslim Personal Law Board's (AIMPLB) annual session on November 23-24, 2024. In preparation for this event, a reception committee has been established, consisting of representatives from various schools of thought, religious organizations, community groups, and notable public figures.

This decision was made during a consultative meeting held on September 24 at Darul Ulum Sabeel Al Rashad, chaired by AIMPLB General Secretary, Maulana Fazlur Raheem Mujaddidi. The meeting was

attended by Board members from Karnataka and prominent public figures from Bangalore, who engaged in detailed discussions on organizing the annual session.

Maulana Mujaddidi emphasized the significance of the Board's sessions, highlighting their deep impact and stressing the importance of sincerity and commitment. Maulana Muhammad Umarayn Mahfuz Rahmani, Secretary of the Board, discussed administrative matters and reiterated that the AIMPLB is a united platform representing Indian Muslims. He urged for the reception committee and all

related activities to include representation from all religious and community groups.

Maulana Sagheer Ahmad Rashadi, Ameer Sharia of Karnataka and Board member, was appointed Convenor of the Reception Committee, with a team of assistant convenors.

In addition to the Board's meetings, a historic public gathering will also be held during the session, reinforcing the Board's mission amid the current challenges facing the country.

Notable attendees included Maulana Peer Tanweer Hashmi, Dr. Abdul Qadeer Khan, and Dr. Sa'd Belgami, among others. ■

Abdul Hamid's Bravery to Inspire Schoolchildren

NEW DELHI: The story of Abdul Hamid, an Indian Army hero from the 1965 Indo-Pak War, will now be taught to Class 6 students through a new NCERT social studies chapter titled "Veer Abdul Hamid." The chapter, along with a poem about



the National War Memorial in New Delhi, aims to instill patriotism and the value of sacrifice in young learners.

Hamid, serving with the 4th Grenadiers, was crucial in the Battle of Asal Uttar, where he destroyed seven Pakistani Patton tanks using a recoilless rifle. His unparalleled bravery earned him

the Param Vir Chakra posthumously after he was killed while attempting to destroy an eighth tank.

This educational initiative, part of the National Curriculum Framework for School Education 2023, aligns with the National Education Policy

2020. It aims to foster a sense of duty and nation-building among students. Hamid's legacy, which astonished even the United States, is also commemorated through a 2000 postage stamp. His story, now part of the curriculum, will ensure that future generations honor his contributions to India's history. ■

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Syed Moosa Kaleem Al-Falahi Wins Global Islamic Finance Award 2024

of Afghanistan. His extensive career includes roles at Dubai Islamic Bank and other prominent institutions. Syed Moosa's expertise in developing Islamic financial products and

supporting small- and medium-sized enterprises was specifically highlighted. The award acknowledges his ongoing efforts to promote Islamic finance principles globally. ■

Prof. Zia ur Rehman Siddiqui Honored with National Urdu Award

Aligarh, September 9:

Prof. Zia ur Rehman Siddiqui from the Centre of Advanced Study, Department of Urdu at Aligarh Muslim University (AMU), has been awarded the prestigious National Urdu Award by the Madhya Pradesh Urdu Academy, Ministry of Culture, Government of Madhya Pradesh. This honor recognizes his significant contributions to Urdu literature and research.

The award was presented by Mr. Dharmendra Singh Lodhi, Minister of Culture, and Dr. Nusrat Mehdi, Director of the Madhya Pradesh Urdu Academy, during a ceremony held in Bhopal.

Prof. Siddiqui is the author of several influential works, including *Tehreek-e-Azadi aur Urdu Nasr*, *Urdu Adab Ki Tareekh*, *Urdu-Hindi Dictionary*, *Armughan-e-Tehzeeq*, *Asaleeb-e-Fikr*, *Bengali Kahaniyan*, *Doon ka*



Sabza (an Urdu translation of Ruskin Bond's writings), *Hsuan Tsang ka Safar-e-Hindustan*, and *Asan Urdu Grammar*. He has also published over two hundred research papers in esteemed journals both in India and internationally.

Prof. Q.H. Faridi, Chairman of the Department of Urdu, along with Prof. S. Siraj Ajmali and other faculty members, congratulated Prof. Siddiqui on receiving this distinguished award. ■

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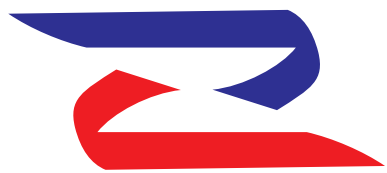
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Teachings of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) Are a Model for All Humanity:
Swami Lakshmi Shankaracharya



Staff Writer

HYDERABAD: Swami Lakshmi Shankaracharya emphasized that the teachings of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) serve as a universal paradigm for all of mankind. Speaking on September 21 at a symposium titled "Prophet Muhammad: The Benefactor of Humanity," Swami Shankaracharya highlighted the Prophet's compassion, charity, and dedication to world peace. He stressed that Islam spread through kindness and understanding, not force, and that Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) led humanity on the path of righteousness and truth.

Swami Shankaracharya remarked that the teachings of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) are relevant to people of all faiths, not just Muslims. He called for the widespread dissemination of these teachings, noting that they offer solutions to many of today's societal problems.

In a personal revelation, Swami Shankaracharya shared that he had once written a book criticizing

Islam based on misconceptions. However, after studying the true teachings of Islam, he realized his mistake and authored another book, this time highlighting Islam as a religion of ethics and peace.

Other prominent speakers at the event included Khalid Mubashir, President of Jamaat-e-Islami Hind Telangana, who emphasized that the teachings of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) offer solutions to contemporary challenges. He urged for a broader campaign to share these teachings with Telugu-speaking communities.

The symposium was also attended by figures like Kondaveeti Anantayya, Secretary of the Telugu Catholic Bishop Council, Dr. Khalid Mubashir, and Moulana Iqbal Mulla, former national secretary of Jamaat-e-Islami Hind. They collectively stressed the importance of addressing misconceptions about Islam by promoting the message of the Quran and the life of the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH).

Honoring Moulvi Baqir: Pioneer of Indian Journalism

NEW DELHI: At a Press Club of India (PCI) memorial on September 16, historian Dr. Swapna Liddle celebrated Moulvi Muhammad Baqir's contributions during the 1857 Revolt. Liddle emphasized Baqir's crucial role in the rebellion and his pioneering influence on Indian journalism, addressing issues like British exploitation and racial



Maulvi Muhammad Baqir, Martyr Journalist of 1857

inequality. PCI President Gautam Lahiri praised Baqir's dedication and urged introspection within the media, noting India's declining position in the World Media Freedom Index. A panel discussed Baqir's legacy and the struggles of modern Urdu journalism, highlighting parallels between his era and today's media challenges.

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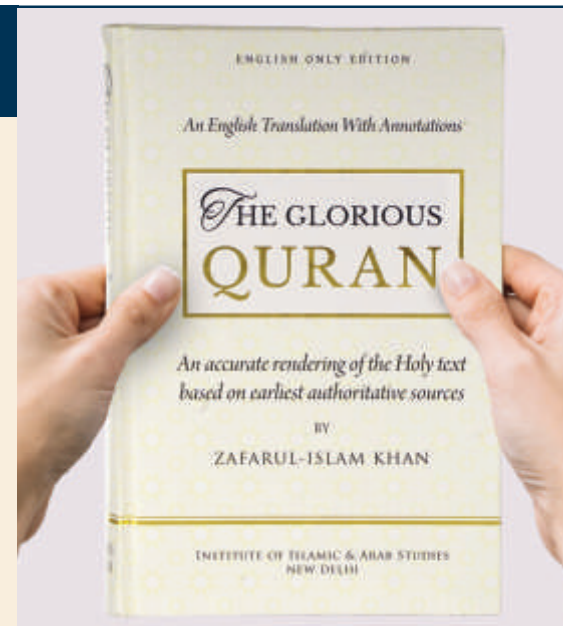
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Studied at Indian madrasas, then later at Al Azhar and Cairo universities and obtained his PhD in Islamic Studies from Manchester University (UK) in 1987. He is author and translator of over 50 books in Arabic, English and Urdu.



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Character and Choice

"Character is defined by the choice one makes when the mind oscillates between two inner selves one pulling towards sins and another keeping conscience alive," stated Vijay Phanshikar, Editor of *The Hitavada*, during the annual 'Padma Bhushan Maulana Abdul Karim Parekh Memorial Lecture' on the topic *Role of Religion in Character Building*. The event was held at the Convocation Hall of Rashtrasant Tukadoji Maharaj Nagpur University (RTMNU) on 20 September 2024.

A Tribute to a Visionary

The annual lecture is organized jointly by RTMNU and Humanity Charitable Trust to honor the peaceful ideology promoted by the late Maulana Abdul Karim Parekh. Esteemed figures such as K. Sudarshan, Balbir Singh Renu, Kuldeep Nayar, S. Y. Quraishi, Arif Mohammed Khan, and Dr. Bhushan Kumar Upadhyay have delivered orations in previous years.

Phanshikar's Reflection

Phanshikar shared his close association with Maulana Parekh, recalling the vast sea of mourners at the Maulana's funeral, a testament to his character. He emphasized how Maulana Parekh introduced him to the 75 commandments of behavior outlined in the Holy Qur'an for building a good character. Instead of using the term 'religion', Phanshikar preferred 'Dharma' to

Dharma and Character: Insights from Maulana Abdul Karim Parekh's Memorial Lecture



Maulana Abdul Karim Parekh Noted Islamic Scholar Receiving Padma Bhushan Award from President KR Narayanan at Rashtrapathi Bhawan Awards News Profile

convey the broader concept of character building. "Lord Ram stayed committed to his wife. It was his Dharma. A king takes care of his subjects. It is his Dharma. Good qualities are common to humanity, and every religion describes them in different ways. The term 'religion' limits the idea while 'Dharma' expands it," he noted.

Defining Good Character

Phanshikar outlined essential traits that define a person's character: honesty, integrity, and compassion. "What do good qualities have to do with religion?" he challenged. He drew upon anecdotes from the lives of Swami Vivekananda and Jesus Christ, referencing the *Shreemad Bhagavad Gita* and the Holy

Qur'an to reinforce his message.

The Journey of Character Building

He concluded that one must be free from pride and prejudice to achieve greatness. "Character is defined by the choice one makes when the mind oscillates between two inner selves one pulling towards sins and another keeping conscience alive. The choice of which inner voice to listen to ultimately shapes one's character. In the absence of character, the mind is like a headless chicken. The process of controlling the wandering mind is what character building entails."

Legacy of Maulana Parekh

Maulana Parekh (1928-2007) was born on April 15, 1928, in Kanseoni, Maharashtra, into a

family facing financial hardships. Starting as a child laborer at the age of nine, his education was limited to primary school. However, through his mother's prayers for scholarship and his determination, he developed a love for learning, mastering languages and gaining knowledge in various fields.

Despite early challenges, he became a prosperous businessman committed to humanitarian efforts. His teachings on peace, tolerance, and respect left a lasting impact on his followers. Honored nationally for his contributions, he served as a leading patron of numerous organizations, including as a board member of Rabita Al-Alam Al-Islami (The Muslim World League). In 2001, he received the prestigious Padma Bhushan award from the Government of India for his advocacy of communal

harmony.

A Call for Unity

During the event, Abdul Majid Parekh presented Phanshikar with a memento and urged attendees to set aside religious animosity and unite to address social issues. He emphasized that nations overcoming religious extremism have achieved significant progress. Dr. Shamrao Kareti highlighted that an individual's character shapes societal character, which in turn reflects the nation's character, encapsulated in the principle of *Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam* the idea of unity in diversity that represents India.

Conclusion

Dadhya conducted the program, and Dr. Vijay Khandal proposed a vote of thanks, marking a significant tribute to the enduring legacy of Maulana Abdul Karim Parekh and the vital role of character building in fostering brotherhood. ■

Jamaat-e-Islami Hind Organizes Masjid Darshan Program in Chamarajanagar

Staff Writer

Chamarajanagar: As part of its "Masjid Darshan" initiative, Jamaat-e-Islami Hind, Karnataka, invited people of all faiths to visit the Madina Masjid in Chamarajanagar on September 16. The event aimed to dispel misconceptions about Islam and mosques, fostering a better understanding and harmony within society.

Muhammad Kunni, the state secretary of Jamaat-e-Islami Hind, Karnataka, emphasized the need to address misunderstandings about Islam and its places of worship. He highlighted that creating an open and welcoming atmosphere can bridge gaps between communities. The program coincided with the birthday of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH), whose teachings, Kunni noted, brought peace and justice to Arabia.

Kunni explained that the Masjid Darshan initiative aims to educate people about mosques, which are often misunderstood. He stressed



that places of worship should be open to all, allowing individuals to learn and appreciate different religious practices, promoting peace. Shri Sarpabhoshana Swamy of Channabasaveshwar Mutt echoed this sentiment, stating that visiting mosques can enhance peace and spirituality. He noted that such programs help break down barriers between different faiths. Other speakers included Fr. Antonappa of St. Paul Church and Maulana Jafar Hussain, Chief Qazi of Chamarajanagar, who also emphasized interfaith harmony. The event was attended by local MLAs Puttarangshetty, A.R. Krishnamurthy, and H.M. Ganesh Prasad, representing Chamarajanagar, Kollegal, and

Gundalpet, respectively. Naeem Ul Haq, President of Madina Masjid, led the program, which saw participation from many dignitaries, including Dr. Basava Rajendra and Dr. Shweta. ■

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ALIGARH: A gathering of esteemed scholars and academicians convened at Sir Syed Academy, Aligarh Muslim University, to discuss Dr. Laurence Gautier's recent book, *Between Nation and 'Community': Muslim Universities and Indian Politics After Partition*. The event explored the complex interplay of community, nation, secularism, nationalism, Muslim identity, and the evolution of Muslim universities.

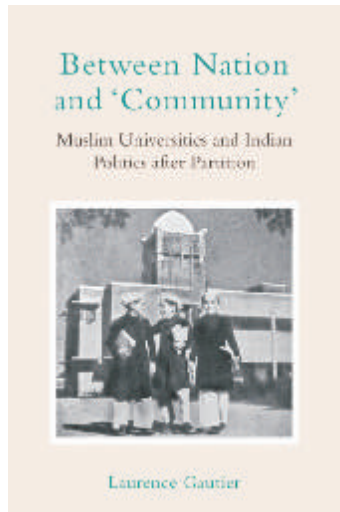
Organized in collaboration with the Aligarh Society of History and Archaeology, the discussion was graced by Dr. Gautier herself.

Prof. Irfan Habib, a noted historian and Professor Emeritus at AMU, presided over the event. He reflected on the challenges faced by Aligarh Muslim

University post-partition, highlighting how the Kumaon Regiment was deployed to protect the institution. "Despite financial pressures, the University Act of 1951 ensured that the government took responsibility. Maulana Azad provided vital assurances," he stated.

Prof. Habib emphasized the remarkable communal harmony in Aligarh during 1947-48, crediting leaders like Pandit Nehru and Sardar Patel for maintaining peace. Sharing his experiences as a student during that tumultuous period, he noted the commitment to education, saying, "Even when teachers left, classes had full attendance,

Engaging Dialogue on Dr. Laurence Gautier's Book Initiated



showcasing resilience amid

turmoil."

In her address, Prof. Naima Khatoon, Vice Chancellor of AMU, pointed out the need for a deeper exploration of the relationship between AMU, Jamia Millia Islamia, and Indian politics. She commended Dr. Gautier for filling this gap, noting that both universities acted as intermediaries between Muslims and the central government in the absence of a strong Muslim political party.

Prof. Khatoon underscored the book's insights into Muslim identity and its role in nation-building, praising Gautier for highlighting the contributions of AMU and Jamia in preserving

pluralism and democracy.

Dr. Gautier clarified that her book is not merely a comparison of the two universities but an exploration of their roles in nation-building. Prof. Syed Ali Nadeem Rezavi provided a critical view, praising Gautier's scholarship while suggesting a bias toward Jamia. He contested interpretations that portrayed Jamia as progressive and AMU as regressive.

Prof. Farhat Hasan advocated for viewing the book through an academic lens rather than as a rivalry between the two institutions. He appreciated its empirical research approach.

The event concluded with the release of Dr. Gautier's book, with Dr. Mohammad Shahid proposing a vote of thanks and Syed Hussain Haider conducting the proceedings. ■

Index of More than 10,000 Books on Seerat-ul-Nabi (PBUH) in Urdu

Abdul Mateen Muniri (Bhatkal)

The comprehensive index compiled by Abdul Mateen Muniri is a monumental work, listing over 10,000 books on the life of the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) (Seerat-ul-Nabi) in Urdu. This significant literary achievement showcases the rich tradition of biographical writing in Urdu, with roots extending back to Sir Syed Ahmad Khan's *Khutbat Ahmadiyya* and Syed Amir Ali's *Spirit of Islam*. These early works marked a new phase in Urdu biographical literature, characterized by simplicity, scholarly rigor, and literary finesse.

Evolution of Biographical Writing

The traditional style of biography, focusing on miracles and spiritual aspects, was gradually replaced by a more historical and analytical approach, thanks to scholars like Shibli Nomani and Syed Sulaiman Nadwi. Their contributions elevated the genre, making biographical writing more accessible and relevant to contemporary audiences. Throughout the 20th century, biographers in the subcontinent have explored new dimensions of the Prophet's life, particularly in fields such as military strategy and

international law, as exemplified by the works of Dr. Muhammad Hameedullah.

Highlights of the Index

The index presented by Abdul Mateen Muniri compiles a vast range of works related to the life of the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH), covering:

- **Books on Ahl al-Bayt:** Recognizing the importance of the Prophet's family in the context of Seerat.

- **Biographical Reviews:** Detailed evaluations of individual scholars' contributions.

- **Travelogues:** Included as an integral part of the biography of the Prophet, though excluding those related solely to Hajj guidance.

This extensive index spans the work of scholars from nine major libraries and draws on seventeen indexes, offering an unparalleled resource for researchers and enthusiasts of Seerat literature.

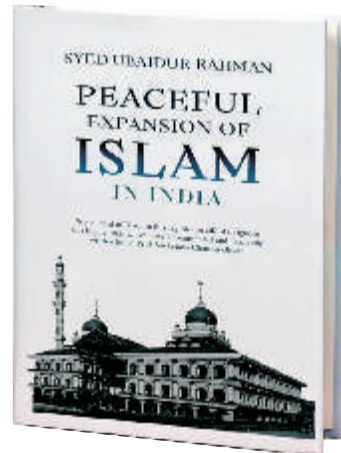
The Future of Seerat Studies

Muniri's work emphasizes the need for future initiatives, such as digitizing the indexed books and creating a thematic catalog to enhance their accessibility. By building a comprehensive digital library of Seerat works in Urdu, scholars can ensure that this rich literary tradition continues to benefit future generations. ■

Peaceful Expansion of Islam in India by Syed Ubaidur Rahman

Syed Ubaidur Rahman's *Peaceful Expansion of Islam in India* offers an in-depth, well-researched account of how Islam spread in India through peaceful means. The book highlights the early influence of Arab traders, particularly on the Malabar coast, where Islam arrived during the lifetime of Prophet Muhammad. Rahman discusses the significant role of Sufi saints like Baba Farid Ganj-i-Shakar and Bahauddin Zakariya, whose spiritual teachings resonated with marginalized communities.

By focusing on the peaceful



expansion of Islam through Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Gujarat, Bengal, and Kashmir, Rahman challenges the narrative that Islam spread solely through conquest. His rigorous research and reliance on primary sources make the book a crucial read for students and scholars of Indian and Islamic history. Professors Sreemati Mukherjee and Suchetana Chattopadhyay praise the work for addressing the complex history of Islam's spread, emphasizing its spiritual and inclusive nature. ■

Understanding Jihad: Clearing Misconceptions "Tafheem e Jihad"

"Tafheem e Jihad" by Dr. Zeeshan Ahmad Misbahi is a 200-page scholarly work that addresses the widespread misinterpretations of the term Jihad, especially its association with violence and extremism. This book is a critical response to the distorted doctrines propagated by radical groups like Al Qaeda and Boko Haram, which misuse Jihad to justify acts of terror.

Dr. Misbahi, a respected Islamic scholar, challenges these radical interpretations by revisiting the



The author of the book, Dr Zeeshan Ahmad Misbahi, speaks to a journalist at the book release in New Delhi September 4.

true essence of Jihad through in-depth analysis of Quranic verses and hadiths. He highlights the distinction between the greater

Jihad the internal spiritual struggle against one's ego and the **lesser Jihad**, which refers to self-defense rather than offensive violence.

Published by the Khushro Foundation and released after a symposium at Jamia Millia Islamia in Delhi, the book is written in Urdu, with translations in progress for broader audiences. It aims to educate scholars and students in madrasas across India, particularly in Kashmir, to foster a deeper understanding of Jihad and dispel harmful misconceptions. ■

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Global AI Summit 2024 in Riyadh Urges Ethical AI and Cooperation



Global AI Summit Calls for Global Action to Guarantee AI Innovation is for the “Good of Humanity” (PRNewsfoto/The Saudi Data & Artificial Intelligence Authority (SDAIA))

The Global AI Summit (GAIN) 2024 in Riyadh wrapped up after hosting over 30,000 delegates and featuring 450 speakers from 100 countries. Organized by the Saudi Data and AI Authority (SDAIA), the summit highlighted the need for global action to ensure AI innovation serves humanity through ethical governance. Key

initiatives included the Riyadh Charter for AI, grounded in Islamic values, and collaborations with tech giants like Microsoft and IBM. The event also saw the unveiling of ALLaM, the most advanced Arabic language model, alongside discussions on AI ethics, generative AI, and deepfake technology. ■

Ayatollah Khamenei Calls for Islamic Solidarity and Commitment to Palestine During Unity Week



Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei said that the issue of the “Islamic Ummah” should not be forgotten.

In celebration of the birth anniversary of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH), marked as Unity Week in Iran, Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei emphasized the importance of Islamic unity, particularly between Shia and Sunni Muslims. Meeting with Sunni scholars, the Leader stressed the significance of the Islamic Ummah, a collective identity transcending national and geographical boundaries. He warned against efforts to create divisions within the Muslim community and called for unity,

especially in supporting the oppressed in Palestine, a duty central to the Islamic world. ■

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Freemuslim Association Urges Islamic Nations to Promote Charity on International Day of Charity

On the International Day of Charity, 5th September, the Freemuslim Association called on Islamic nations to strengthen the principle of charity, which aligns with Islamic teachings and social customs. The organization emphasized that charity is essential for national prosperity and plays a vital role in



strengthening social, economic, and political foundations. It also highlighted the importance of volunteerism and philanthropy in creating inclusive, resilient

communities and supporting public services. The association urged the formation of youth volunteer teams and the expansion of charity efforts across Islamic nations, following the Prophet Muhammad's (PBUH) guidance on brotherhood and compassion. ■




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MENA2050: Fostering Peace through Grassroots Collaboration



ILLUSTRATION - MENA collage - from top left clockwise Bar-On, Bichara, Otaibi, El-Haite. (photo credit: MENA2050 website)

MENA2050, an organization of academics, policymakers, journalists, and writers from the Middle East, is committed to building peace through shared visions and grassroots initiatives, even amidst ongoing regional conflicts. The Jerusalem Post spoke with its members, including Israeli CEO Dr. Hecham Bishara, to explore their efforts in promoting dialogue and cooperation. Bishara highlighted the importance of fostering connections among individuals

from different countries, aiming to tackle shared challenges like environmental issues and international collaboration. He advocates for initiatives such as medical exchanges between Israeli and Egyptian doctors and agricultural projects in the border areas, emphasizing that peace requires interaction despite governmental tensions. MENA2050 strives for constructive dialogue, particularly between Israelis and Palestinians, as a path toward a more peaceful future.

Over 2,500 Iranian Researchers Among World's Top 2% Most-Cited Scientists

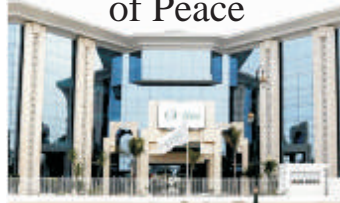
Stanford University, in collaboration with Elsevier's Scopus database, has recognized 2,503 Iranian researchers in the top 2% of the world's most-cited scientists. This marks a significant rise from 1,870 in 2023. The ranking is determined by a composite score (C-score), which includes various factors like total citations and h-index, with or without self-citations. Researchers are classified into 22 fields and 176 sub-fields, and those ranked in the top 2% of their sub-field are included.



Iran ranks 32nd globally in the 2024 Nature Index Research Leaders report, with the University of Tehran and Sharif University of Technology among its top institutions. The country's highest ranking is in Physical Sciences, where it placed 27th globally.

Additionally, Iran ranks 14th worldwide for most-cited universities and research institutes in the Essential Science Indicators (ESI) database, with 134 institutions represented across 19 subject areas, making it second among Islamic nations after Turkey.

ICESCO Urges Global Unity for Peace on International Day of Peace



On the International Day of Peace, ICESCO urged the global community to adopt innovative strategies and unite efforts to promote peace amidst rising global challenges. Celebrated under the theme "Cultivating a Culture of Peace," ICESCO emphasized the importance of humanitarian standards during conflicts to protect vulnerable groups, including children and women. The organization reaffirmed its commitment through its "Peace 360°" initiative, which integrates cultural, economic, and technological factors to foster peace, tolerance, and resilience in societies.

Jabir ibn Hayyan, "Father of Chemistry," Honored at STEAM 2024 Science Festival in Riyadh



The STEAM 2024 Science and Technology Festival, held at the King Salman Science Oasis in Riyadh, celebrates the legacy of Jabir ibn Hayyan, the "father of chemistry." Born in 721 AD, Ibn Hayyan made pioneering contributions to chemistry, including the discovery of essential compounds like hydrochloric and sulfuric acids. His work influenced both the Islamic world and the West, earning recognition from scholars like Ibn Khaldun. The festival connects Saudi Arabia's rich scientific heritage to its future, offering visitors interactive exhibits and activities that explore innovations in science and technology.

Seminar on Intra-Islamic Dialogue at Baghdad International Book Fair Highlights Unity and Cooperation



At the 2024 Baghdad International Book Fair, the Muslim Council of Elders hosted a seminar titled "Intra-Islamic Dialogue and Shared Challenges," presented by prominent scholars including Sheikh Dr. Mahmoud Abdulaziz Al-Ani and Dr. Jawad Al-Khoei. The seminar, moderated by Dr. Samir Boudinar, Director of the Al-Hokama Center for Peace Research, emphasized the urgent need for unified dialogue among Islamic sects to address global challenges faced by Muslims. Key speakers stressed that intra-Islamic dialogue is vital for fostering cooperation, combating

extremism, and preserving Islamic values. Dr. Al-Ani highlighted the importance of agreeing on clear definitions for productive discussions, while Dr. Al-Khoei underscored the role of dialogue in unifying the Ummah to confront shared challenges. The Muslim Council of Elders also showcased over 220 publications and hosted further discussions on promoting peace, dialogue, and cooperation within the Islamic world. This first-time participation by the Muslim Council of Elders reflects its mission to promote unity, tolerance, and peaceful coexistence among diverse communities.

Understanding Keir Starmer's Perspective on Islam and the West

Keir Starmer's recent article in The Sun reveals critical insights into the complexities of the relationship between Western leaders and the Islamic world. He emphasizes the need for honesty regarding these relations, particularly in light of the Al-Aqsa Flood. Starmer acknowledges that the core issues lie not just with Islamic regimes but with Islam itself as a civilization that poses a challenge to Western values. He suggests that many in the West are drawn to Islam for answers to existential questions that liberal society fails to address.



He expresses concern over the potential for a growing Islamic influence in Europe, advocating for restrictive measures on Muslim immigration and continued support for Israel to

counteract this trend. Starmer warns of a future where liberal values clash with rising Islamic sentiment, potentially leading to significant societal upheaval. This article is essential for understanding the mindset of modern Western leaders and their approach to Islam, urging readers to reflect on its implications for the future.

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Bangladesh Lifts Ban on Jamaat-e-Islami



India Tomorrow

NEW DELHI: Bangladesh's interim government, led by Nobel laureate Muhammad Yunus, has lifted the ban on Jamaat-e-Islami, the country's largest Muslim political party. The ban, initially imposed under an anti-terrorism law during the last days of former Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's administration, was revoked by the Ministry of Home Affairs on Wednesday. A gazette notification from the caretaker government stated that there was "no specific evidence of involvement of Jamaat" or its affiliates "in terrorist activities." Jamaat-e-Islami, which has millions of supporters, has been barred from contesting elections since 2013 due to a High Court ruling that declared its charter in violation of Bangladesh's secular constitution. This ruling led to the party's exclusion from the 2014, 2018, and 2024 elections, during which Sheikh Hasina secured her fifth term amid criticisms regarding the lack of credible opposition. The ban was imposed on August 1, shortly before Hasina was ousted

following student-led protests against a controversial government job quota system. Jamaat-e-Islami was accused of inciting unrest during these protests, but the party has consistently denied these allegations, calling the ban "illegal, extrajudicial, and unconstitutional." In response to the lifting of the ban, Jamaat-e-Islami announced plans to petition the Supreme Court to restore its registration with the Bangladesh Election Commission, seeking to participate in future elections. Founded in 1941 during British colonial rule, the party opposed the creation of Bangladesh as an independent state during the 1971 war of independence from Pakistan. Since 2013, many of its senior leaders have faced convictions for crimes against humanity related to the 1971 conflict, with several being executed or imprisoned. Bangladesh achieved independence on December 16, 1971, with significant support from neighboring India. ■

India and UAE Forge Landmark Nuclear Agreement



Photo credit: en.etemaaddaily.com

NEW DELHI: India and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) have made a significant advancement in bilateral relations by signing a landmark nuclear agreement focused on peaceful nuclear energy collaboration. Finalized during a high-level meeting between officials from both nations, this agreement marks a crucial development in their energy partnerships. The accord facilitates cooperation in nuclear research, development, and training, reflecting both countries' commitment to utilizing nuclear energy for peaceful purposes. Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi expressed optimism about the agreement, stating, "This partnership will strengthen our

energy ties and contribute to our respective nations' economic growth." UAE Minister of Energy and Infrastructure Suhail Mohamed Faris Al Mazrouei emphasized the UAE's ambition to expand its clean energy portfolio. The agreement is expected to foster knowledge exchange and joint projects in nuclear technology, positioning India and the UAE as influential players in the global nuclear energy landscape. Experts anticipate that this collaboration will enhance energy security and stimulate economic growth through job creation and technological innovation, while both nations commit to upholding international nuclear safety standards. ■

Global Celebrations Mark the Birth Anniversaries of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) and Imam Jafar al-Sadiq (AS)



Muslims across the globe are marking the birth anniversaries of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) and the sixth Shia Imam, Jafar al-Sadiq (AS). The Prophet's birthday is celebrated by both Shia and Sunni Muslims, with Shias commemorating it on the 17th of Rabi' al-Awwal and Sunnis on the 12th. This day is also significant for Shia Muslims as it coincides with the birth of Imam al-Sadiq (AS), known for his knowledge and contributions to Islamic teachings. Both anniversaries are celebrated with various ceremonies, uniting Muslims in reflection and reverence. ■

Debate Sparks Over Women's Charter at Tirana Summit on Afghanistan



Image Credit: Gaurdian

The "All Women Summit, Tirana," held from September 10-14 in Albania, gathered over 120 women to discuss Afghanistan's future, but it faced controversy over two articles in the final resolution. The resolution highlighted Afghanistan's worsening human rights conditions, particularly for women under Taliban rule, and proposed creating a "Women's Political Charter for Afghanistan's Future." However, Articles 13 and 14, which suggest engaging the Taliban with women's involvement in negotiations, sparked objections. Women's rights activists argue that engaging the Taliban could grant them legitimacy, undermining efforts to hold them accountable for human rights abuses. Despite these disagreements, the resolution emphasizes prioritizing women's rights, humanitarian aid, and education in Afghanistan's green energy transition. ■

The Art of Dining: Exploring the Rich Culinary Traditions of the Islamic World



Madhava Khurd and Jamshid Chela, India. Babur Enjoying a Meal at the South Madrasa (College) in 1506, from a Manuscript of the Baburnama (Memoirs of Babur), ca. 1590-93. Photograph: The British Library

A new exhibition, *The Art of Dining: Food Culture in the Islamic World*, is on display at the Detroit Institute of Arts (DIA). It showcases over 250 works of art and artefacts, revealing the deep connection between Islamic culinary traditions and artistic expression. The exhibit spans centuries of history and geography, from royal banquets in Iran to intimate picnics beneath swaying trees.

Curator Katherine Kasdorf highlighted how food culture has been intertwined with Islamic art since the 9th century, with items like historical cookbooks and ornate cookware on display. One of the highlights is *The Book of Delights* (1490s), an illustrated cookbook from India, offering

recipes not only for food but perfumes and health remedies. Visitors can also explore culinary videos, take home traditional recipes, and experience sensory elements, such as scent boxes and video-embedded serving dishes. The exhibition also explores the history of coffee, from its Yemeni roots to the rise of coffeehouses in Istanbul. In partnership with Yemeni coffee chain Qahwah and Detroit's Hashem's Nuts & Coffee Gallery, the exhibit offers an immersive journey through the culinary and artistic legacy of the Islamic world.

The Art of Dining is on display until January 5, 2025, and seeks to engage local communities, especially the large Arab American population in Detroit. ■

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PM Modi Visits Iconic Mosque in Brunei



Photo credit: news9live.com

NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi continued his religious purification initiative with a visit to the Omar Ali Saifuddien Mosque in Brunei during a two-day trip on September 3-4, 2024. This visit follows his recent inaugurations of the Ram Mandir in Ayodhya and another temple in Dubai, UAE.

During his trip, Modi met with Brunei's Sultan Hassanal Bolkiah and was welcomed by the Religious Affairs Minister, Pehin Dato Ustaz Awang Badaruddin, and Health Minister Mohammad Isham. The Prime Minister expressed admiration for the mosque's architectural beauty and watched a video about its history. Modi shared his experience on social media, stating, "Went to the

Omar Ali Saifuddien Mosque in Brunei," and interacted with Indian Muslim families residing there. Completed in 1958, the mosque honors Sultan Omar Ali Saifuddien III, Brunei's 28th Sultan, and is a symbol of the country's cultural heritage.

Before his visit, Modi expressed eagerness to strengthen ties with Brunei, highlighting the significance of their 40 years of diplomatic relations. This marks Modi's first visit to Brunei in a decade; the last visit by an Indian Prime Minister was by Manmohan Singh in October 2013. Modi's visit underscores his ongoing commitment to fostering ties with the Muslim community and enhancing India's diplomatic relationships. ■

Focus on Climate Finance at the 10th World Green Economy Summit



DUBAI (WAM): The 10th edition of the World Green Economy Summit (WGES) highlights climate finance as a central theme, emphasizing its critical role in enhancing global climate resilience. Organized by the Dubai Supreme Council of Energy, Dubai Electricity and Water Authority (DEWA), and the World Green Economy Organisation (WGEO), the summit aims to address the urgent need for adequate funding to support vulnerable countries in managing climate change impacts.

With global climate investments reaching USD 1.3 trillion between 2021 and 2022, experts stress that

these must increase fivefold to meet the Paris Agreement's 1.5°C target. The UAE is positioned as a leader in climate action, mobilizing resources through initiatives like the ALTERRA Fund, which allocates AED 92 billion (USD 25 billion) to climate investments.

The summit builds on the outcomes of COP28, reinforcing the importance of financial mechanisms in achieving sustainable development goals. Notable speakers highlighted innovative strategies and commitments from various sectors to drive the green transition and accelerate carbon neutrality efforts. ■

Indonesia Launches Islamic Finance Center to Lead Global Halal Market



President Joko Widodo delivers a speech during the opening ceremony of the Indonesia Islamic Financial Center in Jakarta on Sept. 17, 2024. (Cabinet Secretariat)

President Joko Widodo inaugurated the Indonesia Islamic Financial Center (IIFC) in Jakarta, a new hub aimed at bolstering the country's Shariah economy and positioning Indonesia as a global leader in the halal industry. Home to Indonesia's largest Islamic bank, Bank Syariah Indonesia, the center will support sectors like halal tourism, food, and Muslim fashion. Ranked third in the 2023 Global Islamic Economy Indicator, Indonesia aims to leverage its 236 million Muslim population to become a global halal hub and strengthen its Shariah banking and economy. ■

Türkiye Launches New Strategy to Boost Exports to Islamic Nations



Turkish Trade Minister Omer Bolat in Ankara, /Anadolu via Getty Images

Türkiye has introduced a comprehensive plan to increase its exports to Islamic countries, particularly Gulf nations, with which it has deepened trade and cultural ties. Under the 'Export Development Strategy with Islamic Countries,' announced by the Ministry of Trade, the goal is to raise the share of exports to Islamic countries from 26% to 30%.

The strategy identifies 21 focus countries, including the UAE, Saudi Arabia, Egypt, and Malaysia, targeting key sectors such as agriculture and industry. Intensive promotion and marketing efforts will be made to strengthen Türkiye's role in global value chains and boost its international trade presence. ■

Iran Emphasizes Strengthening Economic Ties with Saudi Arabia on National Day



At a celebration marking Saudi National Day, Paknejad, head of the joint Iran-Saudi economic committee, extended warm congratulations to the Saudi government and people. He highlighted Iran's commitment to deepening relations with Saudi Arabia under the leadership of President Masoud Pezeshkian, stressing that cooperation between the two key Persian Gulf nations is essential for regional stability and prosperity. Iranian officials, including former Economy Minister Ehsan Khandouzi, have engaged in successful talks with their Saudi

counterparts, focusing on public-private sector cooperation. Both countries are working on a roadmap for economic collaboration following the resumption of diplomatic ties in 2023.

The private sector is set to play a pivotal role in developing bilateral trade, with Iranian industries, including high-tech, health, and petrochemical sectors, eager to engage in Saudi markets. Both nations have emphasized collaboration in exhibitions and trade facilitation to boost relations. ■

Azerbaijan Speeds Up Green Energy with Floating Solar Plant



The floating solar power plant installed on the Lake Boyukshor in the suburbs of Azerbaijan's capital Baku / 1News.az

Azerbaijan is advancing its green energy transition by attracting foreign investments and launching its first 100-kilowatt floating solar plant on Lake Boyukshor near Baku, funded by the Asian Development Bank. Opened in July, the plant is projected to generate over 160,000 kilowatt-hours annually.

This strategic move, ahead of the COP29 global climate summit in Baku, showcases Azerbaijan's commitment to renewable energy and reducing carbon emissions. With plans to increase renewable energy to 30% of its total energy by 2030, Azerbaijan is positioning itself as a key player in the green energy sector. ■

Restoration of 3,000-Year-Old Temple of Hecate in Türkiye Underway

Restoration efforts are ongoing at the ancient Temple of Hecate in Lagina, southwestern Türkiye, a 3,000-year-old site significant in pagan beliefs. The project, led by Professor Bilal Sogut, involves reassembling the upper structures of the temple's columns. The site,



located in Mugla province, is the largest known sacred area dedicated to the goddess Hecate. Sogut highlighted the importance of preserving the temple's architecture, noting that blocks dating back 2,100 years are being carefully placed back in their original positions. ■

Suggestion for Enhancing Islamic Voice Readership

I wanted to share a suggestion regarding the format of *Islamic Voice*.

While I truly appreciate the positive news and inspiring stories about the growth and contributions of Muslims featured in the monthly, I find it challenging to go through the entire PDF or flipbook version. In the past, with the hard copy, I would keep it on my desk and read the articles gradually over time.

I propose that your team consider creating a WhatsApp channel titled "*Islamic Voice monthly*," where one or two articles could be posted daily or every few days. This would allow subscribers to read and reflect on the articles at their own pace. You could share content from the current edition throughout the month, or occasionally feature relevant articles from past issues.

This approach would offer readers a steady flow of positive and insightful articles to engage with over the month.

**Shabbir Ahmed
Mumbai.**

A Voice of Inspiration for Growth

Your journal truly embodies the "Voice of Islam," offering life-changing ideas that shape our thoughts and actions. I strongly believe that Islamic organizations, including schools, should subscribe to this journal to gain insights that will inspire their growth and development.

**Javid Hassan,
Journalist, Bengaluru**

No Room for Debate on Riba: A Reader's

Perspective

The article titled "*Understanding Riba in the Context of the Prophet's Era and Modern Economics*" by Mr. M.A. Siraj, published in the September 2024 issue of *Islamic Voice*, touches upon a sensitive and important topic. While I appreciate the insights, I must emphasize that when Allah and His Messenger (peace be upon him) have clearly decreed against Riba (usury), there is no room for debate—regardless of the era or economic context. Riba cannot be justified or modified to suit modern economies.

The author rightly cites the Quran and Hadith, which condemn Riba in all its forms. Whether in the past or today, any form of Riba remains prohibited. Islam outlawed usurious practices to protect the vulnerable from exploitation by the wealthy. The concept of lending without interest is rooted in mercy and compassion. Islam also promotes charity and Zakat to support the less fortunate, ensuring that they are not burdened further by debt.

In modern times, financial institutions have introduced systems that often involve interest. While Islam permits profit-sharing and investments from Halal earnings, borrowing or lending on interest is strictly forbidden. The idea of adjusting for inflation or depreciation does not justify indulging in Riba, as the wrath of Allah is not worth any material gain.

The article also addresses the failures of some so-called Sharia-compliant institutions. These failures are often the result of mismanagement, greed, and corruption, not the principles of



Sharia itself.

I hope this response helps clarify misconceptions around Riba. May Allah guide us all on the right path.

**Qazi Minhaj Azher
USA**

Response to Article on Riba

I would like to extend my compliments to Mr. M.A. Siraj for his thought-provoking article. Despite its brevity, it raises important questions regarding the economic implications of Riba, which I hope the community will seriously consider.

In the Noble Quran, Riba is addressed in several verses:

• Al-Baqarah (2:275-279): Allah permits trade and forbids Riba. "*O you who believe! Be conscious of Allah and give up what remains (due) from Riba.*"

• Aal-Imran (3:130-133): "*O you who believe! Do not consume Riba, doubled and multiplied.*"

• An-Nisa (4:153-161): *References the Jews' practice of taking Riba, despite being forbidden.*

The term Riba essentially means 'excess.' This distinction between Riba al-Nasiya (related to money) and Riba al-Fadl (related to trade) allows for excess in trade while prohibiting it in monetary transactions.

These verses were revealed towards the end of the Prophet's (PBUH) life, particularly after the Jews of Taif converted to Islam, leading to complications arising from the loans they provided to Makkan traders, which involved interest.

As the global economy has become monetized, debates have emerged regarding what constitutes 'excess.' Is it merely double and multiplied, or does it extend to even a single basis point? Initially, only compound interest and usury were classified as Riba, but by the late 1970s, the consensus expanded to categorize any form of interest as Riba, even amidst the challenges posed by inflation.

Bankers and economists have urged Sharia scholars to recognize inflation as a legitimate economic factor, yet there remains resistance to this acknowledgment, as it could

inadvertently legitimize simple interest.

Regrettably, the discourse surrounding Riba has deterred many young Muslims from engaging in critical fields like money, banking, finance, and economics. It is my hope that Indian Ulema and the broader community will approach these issues with logical reasoning, considering the realities of our modern economic landscape.

**Mohamed Ashrafulla
(Email: ashrafulla@hotmail.com)**

Save Our Library

The Muslim Library on Veera Pillai Street in Shivajinagar, Bengaluru, is a treasure trove of Urdu and Islamic books. Housed in its own building, it also generates significant monthly income from the shops on the ground floor.

However, the current condition of the library resembles a neglected shop. Each day, the situation worsens.

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Syed Tahsin
Ahmed

Motherhood is considered a blessing and as one of the fundamental aspects of womanhood. Motherhood is the primary culturally available identity for a woman in Asia. But that is no reason why a woman who is childless after marriage has to face undesirable stigma, emotional distress and societal pressure. Society intrudes the privacy of a couple who, after a few years of marriage, are yet to beget a child. Parveen (name changed) and her husband went to a shopping mall and unexpectedly met an aunt, a distant relative. After the pleasantries were exchanged, the aunt suddenly asked: "any good news"? Even as Parveen tried to brush aside this question, the aunt started lecturing about the reasons why it is desirable to have a child and that they should not delay blah blah. There are many such aunts who have forgotten the etiquettes of social interaction and they feel free to inappropriately meddle in someone else's private matters.

Women At the Receiving End

Childless women are at the receiving end of unwarranted comments, probing questions and unsolicited advice, making them feel inadequate. This adds to their underlying despair and longing for motherhood. Childlessness can strain relationships with the spouse, family and relatives leading to feelings of 'role failure' and isolation. Sabiha (name changed) has a mother-in-law who is very eager that her son should have a child. Her desire having remained unfulfilled even after five years have elapsed after her son's marriage, she has become irritable and flares up at

her daughter-in-law for no reason at all. Stigmatization and discrimination are often faced by childless men and women, more so the latter. This is a universal phenomenon and quite common, not only in India, but in many other countries as well. Women are the one who are always blamed even if the husband happens to be infertile, leading to their emotional and mental distress. This could lead to frustration, depression and even marital discord.

When couples are unable to have children, even the husband bears psychological burden because of the expectations of the society. He too shares the distress, but to a lesser extent. In many cases, even after the couple have reconciled to the fact that they cannot have a child, the people around them keep reviving the pain.

How Rampant Is Infertility?

Infertility is a global health issue that affects approximately 80 million people worldwide. According to the World Health Organization data, infertility affects approximately eight to twelve percent of couples of reproductive age worldwide. As per the District Level Household and Facility Survey (DLHS 3), around 8.8% of the married women in the reproductive age group had infertility problems in India. Infertility in Middle Eastern countries is estimated to affect between ten and fifteen percent of married couples. Research conducted by Inhorn (Inhorn, M.

The Unseen Pain of Childless Women



The new Arab Man-2012) reveals that, contrary to popular belief, infertility is more commonly found in men than women among couples in childless Middle Eastern marriages. Various studies conducted reveals high prevalence of male infertility, even though this is generally considered a woman's problem. Male infertility is hidden in many societies, but the woman becomes a soft target.

Infertility- A Social Problem

This article attempts to deal with the subject of infertility as a social and psychological problem. The biological and medical issues like its treatment, surrogate motherhood, test-tube babies etc, need to be dealt separately. Another important aspect which religious scholars have to throw light upon is the Islamic point of view pertaining to adoption, surrogate motherhood, test-tube babies etc.

Whatever the biological reasons

for infertility, couples undergo a painful phase and they can also become a subject of gossip among relatives. The trials and tribulations of the childless couples is irrespective of their economic status, but among the poorer classes the confrontations are more brazen. Many infertile women have the fear that their husband may take a second wife. Generally, in cases where the husband goes for a second marriage, the childless first wife faces the mortification of seeing the greater importance given to the child-bearing second wife. There will also be an expectation that the second wife should beget a son and not a daughter. This gender bias needs to be condemned. Rural childless women experience strong stigma as their identity is devalued for not being able to produce children and as a result, they develop a sense of guilt. The urban childless women also suffer from guilt and loss of self-esteem.

Childless And Childfree

There are many couples, especially in the western countries, who voluntarily make a choice not to have children. They are called 'childfree' couples in contrast to 'childless' couples. The reason for this could be personal, economic, career or medical concerns. Some people who carry genetic disorders maybe afraid that their offspring may inherit the same. But generally, it is just a matter of choice resulting from

shirking responsibilities, doing something different and the outcome of some liberal ideas. International Childfree Day is celebrated annually on 1st August for people who voluntarily choose not to have children and to foster acceptance of the childfree choice. The day is also described as "a day of celebration worldwide for those couples who have faced criticism, ridicule and rejection because they chose to be Childless by choice".

The Islamic Perspective

In Islam, children are considered a great and blessed gift of Allah. However, procreation of children, whether boys or girls, as well as infertility are all determined by the will of Allah. The Qur'an says: "To Allah belongs the dominion of the heavens and the earth. He creates what He wills. He bestows (children) male or female according to His will. Or He bestows both males and females, and He leaves barren whom He wills." (42:49-50).

Many of the greatest women in history were childless. Hazrath Ayesha (RA) never had a child. She became a narrator of a huge number of *ahadith* and is a valuable source of knowledge. She is addressed as the mother of Believers.

In the backdrop of the fact that everything is the outcome of the will of Allah, childless women need compassion, understanding and support. By acknowledging their despair, we can work towards creating a more inclusive and empathetic society. Social cultures should challenge their own stereotypes of childless people and start accepting childless men and women on par with child bearing men and women.

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



Sana Rubiyana

What Are Eating Disorders?

Eating disorders are serious mental health conditions that cause severe disruptions in a person's eating habits, thoughts, and emotions related to food. Individuals with these disorders become preoccupied with their body weight and food intake, leading to dangerous behaviors that can negatively affect their physical health, emotional well-being, and ability to function in daily life. The most common types of eating disorders include anorexia nervosa, bulimia nervosa, and binge-eating disorder.

These disorders often develop in adolescence or early adulthood but can emerge at any age. Eating disorders can cause significant harm to the heart, digestive system,

bones, teeth, and overall health. Without treatment, they can result in severe complications, including malnutrition and life-threatening conditions.

Prevalence and Causes

Eating disorders affect millions of people worldwide, particularly women aged 12 to 35. A 2015 survey by NIMHANS found that 2% of the Indian population suffers from eating disorders. A 2018 study revealed that 6.5% of adolescent girls in India are affected.

Eating disorders often co-occur with other psychiatric conditions such as anxiety, panic disorder, obsessive-compulsive disorder (OCD), and substance abuse problems. While genetics may play a role in predisposing individuals to eating disorders, many people without a family history also develop these conditions.

Types of Eating Disorders

Understanding Eating Disorders



Photo credit: uk-rehab.com

- Anorexia Nervosa
- Bulimia Nervosa
- Binge Eating Disorder
- Pica
- Rumination Disorder
- Avoidant/Restrictive Food Intake Disorder (also known as Feeding Disorder of Infancy & Early Childhood)

Health Risks and Impact

Eating disorders can lead to numerous health issues, including heart problems, digestive issues, weakened bones, and tooth decay. They can severely impair the body's ability to absorb and process nutrients, resulting in malnutrition. Additionally, eating disorders often

affect mental health, leading to depression, anxiety, and other emotional challenges.

Without proper treatment, these conditions can become life-threatening. However, with medical intervention, it is possible to restore healthy eating patterns and improve both physical and mental health.

Treatment of Eating Disorders

Early detection and intervention are crucial for successful treatment. Family support plays a vital role in encouraging individuals to seek help and providing emotional backing during recovery. Research shows that family involvement in treatment improves outcomes for individuals with eating disorders.

Treatment plans typically include a combination of the following approaches:

- Psychotherapy
- Medical care and monitoring

- Nutritional counseling
- Medications

The primary goals of treatment are:

- Restoring adequate nutrition
- Achieving a healthy weight
- Reducing excessive exercise
- Stopping binge-purge behaviors
- Understanding triggers and adopting healthier coping mechanisms

It's also important to address any co-occurring mental health issues, such as anxiety or depression, as part of the treatment plan. Cognitive-behavioral therapy (CBT) and other psychotherapy approaches have proven effective in treating certain types of eating disorders. In some cases, medications may also help manage symptoms of eating disorders and related mental health conditions.

(The writer is a Psychologist and Rational Emotive Cognitive Behavioral Therapist, sanarubiana@gmail.com)

The Key to Pleasing the Creator: A Path to Divine Happiness



I asked, "How can one keep Allah pleased?" He smiled and in a gentle voice said, "Pleasing Allah is the easiest thing in this world. It's as simple as turning on the AC with a remote control or changing the TV channel. But understanding how to do it is the difficult part."

I was puzzled and asked, "You said it's easy, but now you're saying it's difficult? I don't understand."

He smiled again and replied, **"To grasp this, you must first understand the psychology of the Creator."**

I asked, **"What do you mean by the psychology of the Creator?"**

He replied, "Have you heard of Edison?"

I quickly responded, "Yes, he invented the lightbulb and the railway signal system."

"Exactly! I want to share a story about him. One day, as Edison was walking through the market, he saw a lantern maker cursing his invention. The man blamed Edison's lightbulb for rendering him and his family jobless. Edison, unable to tolerate this insult to his creation, got into an argument with the man. It escalated to a physical altercation, and the police had to intervene. Despite Edison being known as a calm person, this incident was true."

He paused briefly, then continued, "This small event reveals the psychology of every creator. Every creator is sensitive about their creation. They may tolerate personal insults but not disrespect toward their creation. You've seen artists, writers, poets, and musicians they are always fond of those who appreciate their work. If

you praise a poet's work, he won't let you leave his company. This is the psychology of a creator."

I listened attentively as he explained, "Every creator shares two things: they love hearing praise about their work, and they cannot stand insults to it."

Growing restless, I asked, "But my question was about how to please Allah, not the psychology of creators."

He smiled, looked at me with a wise gaze, and asked, "What happens when Allah is pleased with someone?"

I admitted my lack of knowledge and requested an explanation. He responded, "When Allah is pleased with someone, He grants them ample provision, peace, happiness, and expands their dominion. But when He is displeased, these blessings vanish prosperity declines, peace disappears, happiness fades, and everything falls apart, whether it's a home, a business, or even a nation."

He continued, "Allah is the greatest Creator, and humanity is His most beloved creation. Until a person loves Allah's creation, Allah will not be pleased with them. And if Allah is displeased, that person's provisions, happiness, peace, and authority will not grow."

He elaborated further, "Look around the world. The countries that respect their people, ensure their rights, and protect their dignity are the ones thriving with

prosperity, peace, and expansion. On the other hand, countries that disregard human dignity, where the rich grow richer and the poor poorer, are left begging at the doors of wealthier nations."

He paused before adding, "Now, extend this principle beyond just humans. In countries where even animals, trees, rivers, and mountains are cared for, those countries advance rapidly. There, oppressing a helpless person or cutting down a tree is a crime. Allah is pleased with those nations, and thus they progress."

Listening intently, I realized the depth of his words.

He concluded, "To please Allah, you must love and honor His creation, especially the needy, the helpless, and the marginalized. When you do so, Allah will be pleased with you, and your provisions, peace, and happiness will increase."

I asked, "Is this philosophy only applicable to nations and rulers? What about ordinary people like me?"

He smiled and emphasized, "Allah's laws are universal. Whether you're an ordinary person or a ruler, Allah expects the same from everyone. If you want to please Allah, draw close to the needy and the helpless. Share your happiness, peace, and provisions with them, and Allah will do the same for you. This is a simple and effective formula."

He gave a practical example, "Go outside today and feed someone hungry. By the evening, you'll find that your own provisions have increased, and you'll experience relief from your troubles. Try it once. When you please Allah, you won't need to seek the approval of worldly powers."

In essence, the Creator loves His creation deeply and has commanded us to care for it. As the Qur'an states:

"Righteousness is not turning your faces toward the east or the west, but righteousness is in one who

believes in Allah, the Last Day, the Angels, the Book, and the Prophets and gives wealth, in spite of love for it, to relatives, orphans, the needy, the traveler, those who ask [for help], and for freeing slaves." (Al-Baqarah: 177)

"Worship Allah and associate nothing with Him, and to parents do good, and to relatives, orphans, the needy, the near neighbor, the neighbor farther away, the companion at your side, the traveler, and those whom your right hands possess. Indeed, Allah does not like those who are self-deluding and boastful." (An-Nisa: 36)

"But he has not attempted the steep path. And what can make you know what is the steep path? It is the freeing of a slave or feeding on a day of severe hunger an orphan of near relationship or a needy person in misery." (Al-Balad: 11-16)

Let us follow this divine path, serving Allah's creation to attain His pleasure and success in this world and the hereafter. (Extract from: bittertruth.uk/khadim-omakhdoum) ■



Zia Farooqui Sandelvi,
Bhopal

Dr. Mohammed Iqtedar Husain Farooqi stands as a unique figure among contemporary scientists, excelling not only in Phytochemistry and Economic Botany but also as a prominent Islamic scholar. He is celebrated for his groundbreaking work on the plants mentioned in the Quran and Hadith, merging scientific inquiry with Islamic teachings and offering a fresh perspective on Quranic and Prophetic plants through a medical and scientific lens.

Early Life and Education

Born in Barabanki, Uttar Pradesh, in 1936, Dr. Farooqi pursued his early education in Aurangabad (Maharashtra) and Barabanki. He later attended Aligarh Muslim University (AMU) for higher studies, where he completed an M.Sc. in Organic Chemistry in 1958. After two years of teaching at AMU's Polytechnic, he joined the Forest Research Institute, Dehra Dun, and later the National Botanical Research Institute (NBRI) in Lucknow as a Research Assistant in 1963. He earned his Ph.D. in 1966 from AMU, focusing on Plant Chemistry and Economic

Botany.

Career and Contributions

Dr. Farooqi's career at NBRI was illustrious, where he rose to the rank of Scientist F and eventually became the Head of the Plant Chemistry Division and Deputy Director before retiring in 1996. Throughout his career, he authored nearly 36 books and published over 125 research articles in national and international scientific journals.

A man of diverse intellect, Dr. Farooqi also founded the Urdu Scientific Society in Lucknow, promoting scientific thought in Urdu. His writings, which span science and Islamic studies, have made significant contributions to the renaissance of scientific and Islamic scholarship in the Muslim world.

A Balance of Faith and Science

Dr. Farooqi's works reflect a unique balance between faith and intellect, presenting complex scientific ideas in a simple and engaging manner. His ability to use science to uncover truths embedded in

Dr. Mohammed Iqtedar Husain Farooqi: A Trailblazer in Science and Islamic Scholarship



Islamic texts has added a valuable dimension to both scientific and religious literature. Notable among his works are:

1. **Plants of the Quran**
2. **Medicinal Plants in the Traditions of Prophet Muhammad**
3. **Animals Mentioned in the Quran**
4. **Indian Plants of Commercial Value**
5. **Plants in Ayurvedic and Unani Medicine**

6. Muslim Societies: Rise and Fall

7. Dictionary of Indian Plant Gums

8. Dictionary of Flora and Fauna of Quran

Several of his books have been translated into Arabic, Persian, Indonesian, and multiple Indian languages, making them accessible to diverse audiences globally.

Awards and Recognitions

Dr. Farooqi's contributions have been widely acknowledged with several prestigious awards, including:

- Agricultural Award by the Ministry of Agriculture, India (1977)
- King Saud Gold Medal for Muslim Theology (1960)
- Sultan Qaboos Award (2011) for his work on Quranic and Prophetic plants
- Sir Syed Award by AMU Old Boys Association (2007)
- Dr. Salim Ali Award by Uttar Pradesh Urdu Academy (2012)
- Ethnobotany Award by the Ethnobotanical Society of India

(2004)

In addition, UNESCO proposed a project for establishing "Quranic Botanical Gardens" inspired by his research.

Global Impact and Esteemed Opinions

Dr. Farooqi's work has earned praise from globally renowned scholars and dignitaries, including:

- **His Majesty Mohammed VI, King of Morocco**, who expressed admiration for his invaluable contributions to Islamic writings.
- **Maulana Abul Hasan Ali Nadwi**, who acknowledged Dr. Farooqi's contributions to resolving long-standing scholarly confusions on Quranic plants.

His research continues to inspire and enlighten, contributing not just to scientific progress but also to the spiritual and intellectual growth of the Muslim Ummah.

Legacy

Dr. Farooqi currently resides in Lucknow, dedicating his time to intellectual pursuits. His motto, drawn from the poetry of Iqbal, reflects his lifelong belief in the transformative power of education:

"In this era, education is the remedy for the nation's ailments." ■

Nasira Jibeen

A heart illuminated by divine light (Noorullah) naturally follows the path of righteousness. Ethical earnings and actions are fundamental to spiritual growth, fostering a pure heart and nurturing a loving family environment. The love and care parents provide significantly shape their children's character and future.

Practices like staying in a state of Wudhu (ritual purification) protect against Shayateen (evil forces) and Nafs (base desires), strengthen our bond with Allah, and guide us toward righteousness. Wudhu helps us avoid sinful acts, engage in virtuous deeds, and ensures contentment in this life and the hereafter.

Children learn by observing and imitating, making it essential for parents to lead by example. In Islam, the mother's role is noble

Guiding Hearts and Souls: The Power of Ethical Living, Parenting, and Faith in Islam



Image credit: islamicity.org

and vital, characterized by her boundless mercy. The Arabic word for the womb, "Ar-Rahm," is derived from Allah's names, Ar-Rahman (The Most Merciful) and Ar-Raheem (The Most Compassionate). The Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him)

emphasized the importance of family ties, stating, "Verily, the womb is a branch derived from the name of the Most Merciful. He will maintain whoever maintains its relations, and He will cut off whoever cuts off its relations." (Musnad Ahmad, #2953)

The life of Imam Shafi's mother is a powerful example of maternal love and guidance. Despite her challenges, she inspired her son to excel. When young Imam Shafi asked for stationery, she encouraged him to use his mind like paper, leading to his remarkable photographic memory. Her story teaches us to inspire others, even in difficult circumstances, and to express gratitude to Allah, who rewards us beyond our imagination.

Effective parenting requires careful planning and reflection on Allah's blessings. We will be held accountable for how we spend our time in this life. Engaging in meaningful activities and discussing these blessings with our children is crucial, as gratitude multiplies blessings. Parents must observe their children closely,

especially in the early years, as these formative years have a lasting impact.

Instilling good eating habits and discipline is essential. Teaching children to respect food as a divine blessing from Allah is vital for their moral and spiritual development. As narrated by Abu Huraira, "A man used to eat a lot, but when he embraced Islam, he started eating less. This was mentioned to the Prophet, who then said, 'A believer eats in one intestine (is satisfied with little food), and a Kafir eats in seven intestines (eats a lot).'" (Sahih Al-Bukhari)

Incorporating the teachings of the Quran and Sunnah into our daily lives brings joy and fulfillment to our children and ourselves. Regular prostrations and sincere supplication to Allah ease life's challenges. Maintaining a strong connection with Allah through Dua (supplication) is key to achieving everything we desire.

Alima Ahmed

The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) has recently called for the decriminalization of begging, advocating for a more compassionate approach that emphasizes rehabilitation and support over punitive measures. The NHRC recommends repealing the outdated Bombay Prevention of Begging Act, which criminalizes begging and imposes harsh penalties.

Islamic Teachings on Begging

Islamic teachings generally discourage begging, promoting self-reliance and hard work instead. Several hadiths emphasize the dignity of earning one's livelihood through honest means. Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) encouraged individuals to work hard, even in manual labor, rather than relying on alms. However, Islam also recognizes the need to support

those genuinely in need through charity (Sadaqah) and mandatory almsgiving (Zakat).

The Social Worker's Perspective

During my master's in social work at Jamia Millia Islamia, I worked with the NGO Ashray Adhikar Abhiyan and witnessed the impact of the Bombay Prevention of Begging Act (BPBA) on marginalized communities. This law, dating back to the 1920s, criminalizes begging and imposes severe penalties, including imprisonment for first-time and repeat offenders. I observed the fear among the marginalized whenever the Sewa Kuteer van, which rounds up beggars, appeared.

Advocacy for Change

Under the guidance of Dr. Archana Dassi, I conducted research revealing that the BPBA's broad definition of

A Humane Approach to Begging



Image credit: Hindustan Times

begging allows for arbitrary arrests and harassment of vulnerable individuals. The harsh penalties are counterproductive, preventing individuals from seeking employment or improving their circumstances. The act disproportionately affects children, the elderly, and the disabled, violating several provisions of the Indian Constitution.

My fieldwork experience highlighted the urgent need for changes to the BPBA. Together with various stakeholders, we designed and implemented an advocacy campaign to raise

awareness about the criminalization of homelessness. One of our key successes was forming a coalition of NGOs and civil society organizations dedicated to advocating for the repeal or amendment of the BPBA.

Sustained efforts are necessary to ensure the voices of the marginalized are heard and to achieve lasting change. Building stronger networks, increasing public awareness, and continuously engaging with

policymakers are crucial steps toward decriminalizing begging and ensuring dignity and security for all individuals.

(Alima Ahmad is a committed writer and advocate for social change, focusing on Islamic teachings and community welfare. She addresses social issues passionately through her writing. Alima holds a Master's degree in Social Work from Jamia Millia Islamia (New Delhi) and has collaborated with numerous philanthropic organizations. Can be reached at alimaahmad@gmail.com)

Meaning of Love for the Prophet Muhammad (SAWS)

Khursheed Alam
Dawood Qasmi

A Muslim's love for Allah, the Prophet Muhammad (SAWS), and Islam should surpass all other attachments. True faith (imaan) hinges on this love. The Prophet (SAWS) embodies perfection, deserving our utmost affection.

Nature of Love: Allamah Nawawi defines love as the heart's inclination towards what it finds beautiful or beneficial. Love for the Prophet (SAWS) is essential for a believer's faith.

Qur'anic Teachings:

1. The Prophet is closer to believers than their own selves (Ahzab: 6).

2. Love for Allah and His Messenger must surpass love for family and wealth (Al-Taubah: 24).



Hadith on Love: Faith is incomplete without loving the Prophet (SAWS) more than family and possessions (Sahih Bukhari). Three types of love exist:

- **Natural Love:** Involuntary, for family.
- **Spiritual Love:** Optional, aligned with faith.
- **Rational Love:** Driven by wisdom.

Causes of Love:

1. **Beauty:** The Prophet (SAWS) was described as the most

handsome.

2. **Perfection:** He possessed unparalleled knowledge and virtues.

3. **Generosity:** His acts of kindness and generosity were unmatched.

Requisites of Love: Love must be demonstrated through obedience to Allah and following the Sunnah of the Prophet (SAWS). True success lies in embodying his teachings.

Conclusion: Desiring to be resurrected with the Prophet (SAWS) requires sincere love and adherence to his guidance. "Everyone will be with those whom he loves" (Sahih Bukhari). Embrace this love to attain a noble fate in the Hereafter.

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Better to Light a Candle than to Curse The Darkness

Rebirth and Renewal: Personal Reflections on Finding Clarity and Purpose Through DYS Workshop Experience

The "Discover Yourself" workshop took place in Goa on September 7, 8, and 9, 2024, at ICG Dona Pula, Panjim.



Below are reflections from participants sharing their experiences of the workshop.

- The workshop was very useful and interesting, the things I learned here are gonan help me in my day to day life.
- Before the workshop I would get angry at people very easily but I have learned that is my mind giving its opinion and it is not the reality.
- I genuinely didn't realize it before. I used to think I was talking to myself for hours, believing I was my own friend. This workshop made me see that it wasn't really me it was my mind controlling me all these years. It was an eye-opening experience.
- Every person should attend this workshop to truly understand what it means to be being human. Forgiving others brings peace into our own lives.
- It was very different and unique workshop in its own way.
- This workshop was a deep cleansing experience. It transformed my perspective on life, giving me clarity and a renewed sense of human values. It was truly mind-blowing.
- I discovered my true self and my path. It was a joyful and enlightening experience perfect and excellent!
- It taught me how to offer salah without distractions.
- The workshop was well-balanced, accommodating different age groups and levels of stubbornness. It was perfectly executed, with enough repetition for hyperactive participants to grasp the information. The topics were well-informed and engaging.
- The workshop provided me with a new perspective on life, enhancing my awareness of my inner self as well as the connection between my mind, body, and heart. It helped me recognize the voice in my head and taught me how to manage it, allowing me to control my actions.
- This was a unique, life-changing experience for me. I see myself in a whole new light now. There are no words to express how valuable these three days were; it should have been longer!
- Before attending the workshop, I struggled with many unanswered questions and was often an overthinker. After three days, I found answers to those questions and discovered a sense of peace I hadn't felt before.

ASHMIYA: A Journey of Rebirth- After attending the second day of the workshop, I felt like I was reborn. The night before, I had decided not to return the next day, but when I woke up and listened to my heart instead of my mind, I realized the difference between the two. This experience helped me discover who I truly am. I especially loved how the coach spoke about forgiving your enemies, letting go of the past, and living fully in the present.

SUNITA: Transformation Through Enlightenment- The

workshop was enlightening and clarified all my beliefs. I discovered myself and shifted from the chatter in my mind to the state of 'LA' and surrendering to Absolute Reality. I am committed to standing by my word and making a difference in my community. Khan Sir is doing a remarkable service to humanity. His ability to connect and simplify the teachings is marvelous. He is a great coach and mentor, filled with knowledge and a pure soul. He shares his wisdom with love.

NIKHAT: Finding Inner Peace-

The workshop definitely helped me recognize key situation and taught me how to respond more thoughtfully. As discussed, I've learned to reason with myself and react in ways that protect my peace of mind. InshaAllah, I will apply these lessons daily and hope to see positive changes in myself and the impact on my family.

IZZAH: Healing from Within- During the workshop, I rediscovered many insights I had forgotten over the years. Past negative experiences led me to emotionally detach from both my inner and outer worlds. I realized that the voice in your head isn't as important as the voice in your heart. It was a powerful reminder that I can live from the inside out. The coach keeps the sessions engaging, humorous, and ensures clarity until everything clicks. I'm gradually learning to care less about what others think or say. Now, I carry no regrets or pain. I feel deeply happy and grateful to be part of this workshop.

HASAN: A Journey of Transformation- Today, I am wise enough to seek change within myself through this workshop. I understand that transformation takes time, but I am confident it will happen. This experience has sparked deep introspection. While I once believed the mind was the key to change, the workshop challenged this idea and opened me to the wisdom of the heart. I am certain this journey will reshape my personality, and I'm grateful I made the effort to attend. It offered me a practical approach to understanding the Self (khudi).

SHIRIN: Life-Changing Experience- I attended the workshop with my daughter, traveling all the way from Margoa.

I had many struggles, but after participating, it not only transformed my life but also my daughter's. The most powerful words from the coach were about not just forgiving but also loving your enemy. This helped me gain a deeper understanding of myself. The workshop is truly beyond excellent.

SHITAL: Closer to Truth and God- This workshop helped me distinguish between false beliefs and reality, as well as between reaction and response. It brought me closer to God, making me realize that He is the ultimate truth. I learned how just a single word or sentence can change your perspective and situation. By the end, I felt positive and determined to stay connected with reality and truth, holding on to God no matter what. The coach made everything

simple with practical, everyday examples instead of preaching.

HANI: A Catalyst for Transformation- I was already familiar with the information shared in the workshop, but it truly made sense to me only after attending. I gained perspective and meaning in everything. While my transformation is still in progress, this workshop has become a driving force for my commitment to change myself and positively impact those around me. I am dedicated to molding myself according to the will of Allah and honoring my commitment, insha'Allah. The coach's approach resonated with me deeply. His efforts and struggles for this cause have touched my heart, and he is a living example to everything that he coaches. ■



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Rich Tributes Paid to Distinguished Intellectual, Journalist, and Lawyer A.G. Noorani



New Delhi: A memorial meeting was held at the India International Centre on September 20 to celebrate the life and legacy of A.G. Noorani (1930-2024), a renowned constitutional expert, historian, and public intellectual. Noorani, who passed away on August 29 in Mumbai, was remembered by scholars from various fields for his invaluable contributions to public life. Former Vice President of India, Hamid Ansari, presided over the event, describing Noorani as a unique individual and a close friend. Ansari fondly recalled their shared love for traditional Old Delhi cuisine and praised Noorani's keen insights into international and constitutional matters, including India's relations with China, Pakistan, and the U.S. Ansari stated, "In his passing, we have lost a great personality, someone who will be remembered not only through his vast compendium of books but also for his invaluable contributions to public life."

Salman Khurshid, former Union

Minister and noted lawyer, lauded Noorani's scholarship, stating that his research and writings on complex issues, even before the internet era, were unparalleled. "He was unmatched in his day and ours in addressing the core of the problems with courage and precision," Khurshid remarked. Former Editor-in-Chief of *The Hindu*, N. Ram, offered his condolences virtually, describing Noorani as "a journalist's journalist—erudite, versatile, brave, and fiercely independent." Ram highlighted Noorani's steadfast defense of citizens' constitutional rights and his unyielding commitment to transparency in public affairs. Harish Khare, former Chief Editor of *The Tribune*, called Noorani "a one-man institution," noting that his insistence on constitutional principles often irritated both security establishments and liberals alike. "Noorani was a legal fundamentalist who believed that the state's coercive powers must operate

lawfully," Khare stated. Siddharth Varadarajan, former editor of *The Wire*, emphasized Noorani's commitment to human rights and secularism, urging followers to uphold these values as a tribute to his legacy. Mani Shankar Aiyar, former Union Minister, described Noorani as "an encyclopedic figure" with an astonishing memory for details. "Approaching him always brought a sense of humility," Aiyar added. Senior Advocate of the Supreme Court, Colin Gonsalves, praised Noorani's stance on liberty, human rights, and anti-conversion laws, while criticizing the judiciary's reluctance to give due attention to these issues. The event was moderated by former BBC journalist Qurban Ali, who highlighted Noorani's multifaceted persona. K.N. Shrivastava, Director of the India International Centre, delivered the vote of thanks, concluding a heartfelt tribute to one of India's most respected legal minds. A.G. Noorani authored numerous books, including *The Kashmir Question*, *The RSS and the BJP: A Division of Labour*, and *The Destruction of Hyderabad*. His works continue to serve as foundational texts in understanding India's political and constitutional landscape. ■

MATRIMONIAL

WANTED BRIDE

Hosur-Bangalore based Sunni Muslim parents seek alliance for their son, 26 years old, with a diploma in EEE. He is well-mannered, well-settled, 182 cm tall, engaged in business horticulture, and residing near Hosur. The father is a landowner. Looking for a Sunni Muslim girl who is well-mannered, educated, and good-looking. **Contact: Father at 9066026263 / 9344414486.**

WANTED GROOM

Oman-based parents are seeking a spouse for their 24-year-old graduate daughter, who is 5'3" tall. She was born and raised in the Middle East and is currently residing in Pune. They are looking for a simple, decent, educated, and deeni family. Preference will be given to a groom who is settled abroad. **Contact: Iqbal on WhatsApp at +968-95894904 (Father).**

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Bangalore based Sunni Muslim parents invite alliances for their daughter, 32 years old, 5'6", Chartered Accountant/Medical Transcriptionist. Seeking a well-educated family, preferably from Bangalore. **Contact: 8310264205 (WhatsApp) / 8217562719/9483962324.**

Groom required for a 1995-born Sunni girl, 5'6", working in an MNC. Based in Bangalore. **Contact: Khan at 879 288 6534 (JP Nagar, Bangalore).**

Bangalore based Groom sought for a 38-year-old daughter working in a senior position at an MNC in Bangalore. Originally from Guwahati, Assam, height 5'0". The groom must be well-educated and from a decent family. **Contact: +91 82550 78371.**

Alliance sought for our daughter, 36 years old, with a PhD in Psychology from NIMHANS. She is an Assistant Professor at a reputed university and has a khula from a previous marriage. **Contact: Father at 9986092823.**

ALLIANCE FROM SYED FAMILY

Looking for a bride for my son, 32 years, 5' 11" MBBS, MPH (Master of Public Health) done in Deakin University, in Melbourne, Australia, working in a hospital in Melbourne, Australia. Bride should be MD in Gayneologist / Dermatologist / Pathologist, Radiologist or any other PG, should be 5'5" and above. Should be fair and good looking.

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Overview

On August 12, 2024, the Type 1 Diabetes Grand Challenge announced grants exceeding £2.7 million for innovative research in developing next-generation insulins. This initiative, backed by the Steve Morgan Foundation, Diabetes UK, and JDRF, aims to create insulins that mimic healthy pancreatic function.

Understanding Type 1 Diabetes

Type 1 diabetes is a chronic condition marked by insufficient insulin production, necessitating frequent insulin administration. Without insulin, blood sugar levels can rise dangerously high.

Key Research Areas

1. Glucose Responsive Insulins (GRIs)

• **Projects:** Four international projects focus on GRIs that activate in response to blood glucose levels.

• **Objective:** To prevent both hyperglycemia and hypoglycemia by ensuring insulin is released only when needed.

2. Ultrafast Insulin

• **Research at Stanford University:** Developing an insulin that acts rapidly without

New Research Projects in 'Smart' Insulin



clustering, inspired by insulin found in cone snail venom.

• **Goal:** To minimize blood sugar fluctuations.

3. Insulin and Glucagon Combination

• **Indiana University Research:** Exploring the combination of insulin and glucagon to stabilize blood sugar levels.

• **Findings:** Initial tests in rats

show potential for reducing hypoglycemia risks.

Notable Projects

• **Monash University, Australia:** Developing a nano sugar-insulin system that reacts to blood glucose changes, aiming to reduce injection frequency.

• **Wayne State University, U.S.:** Creating a "smart insulin" that accurately detects glucose

fluctuations.

• **Jinhua Institute of Zhejiang University, China:** Innovating a novel insulin that forms a reservoir under the skin for controlled release.

• **University of Notre Dame, U.S.:** Developing nanocomplexes for insulin delivery that automatically release insulin based on blood sugar levels.

Conclusion

These cutting-edge research projects aim to transform insulin therapy for type 1 diabetes, potentially heralding a new era in diabetes manage

Talk on Gestational Diabetes Mellitus at National Conference

ALIGARH: Dr. Hamid Ashraf from the Rajiv Gandhi Centre for Diabetes and Endocrinology, Jawaharlal Nehru Medical College, Aligarh Muslim University, delivered an insightful presentation titled "Metabolic Profile of Offspring of Mothers with Gestational Diabetes Mellitus (GDM)" at the national conference Yuvocrinology,

organized by the Endocrine Society of India in Vishakhapatnam.

Dr. Ashraf highlighted that hyperglycemia during pregnancy can lead to abnormal adaptations in the developing fetus, increasing the risk of various metabolic disorders in children born to mothers with GDM.

His research found that a significant proportion of children under five, born to mothers with GDM, exhibited metabolic abnormalities:

- **14%** were overweight or obese
- **35%** had hypertension
- **80%** showed lipid profile derangements
- **20%** experienced insulin resistance

• **21%** had deranged blood glucose levels

Emphasizing the importance of managing gestational diabetes, Dr. Ashraf called for comprehensive treatment for affected women and long-term follow-up for their children. He urged the adoption of a healthy lifestyle to promote better outcomes for those born to mothers with GDM. ■

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