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English Monthly




Regd. With Registrar of Newspaper of India Under Reg.No. 45497/87. Reg. No. KRNA/BGE/176/2024-2026 | Posted at Mysore Road Bangalore PSO, BG 560026 on 1st or 3rd or 5th of Every Month.



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Vol 37-02 No 447

February 2025 Bengaluru Pages 20 Rs. 40

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## Prof. Syed Ainul Hasan Awarded Padma Shri



The Hon'ble Vice Chancellor of Maulana Azad National Urdu University (MANUU), **Prof. Syed Ainul Hasan**, has been conferred the prestigious **Padma Shri** award for his outstanding contributions to the fields of **Literature and Education**. This recognition by the Hon'ble President of India was announced by the Ministry of Home Affairs on the eve of the **76th Republic Day 2025**. Prof. Hasan's dedication to promoting education and Urdu literature has earned him this well-deserved honor, reflecting his lifelong commitment to academic excellence and cultural enrichment.

## Symposium on Imam Khomeini International Award Highlights His Multifaceted Legacy



Abdul Bari Masoud

the leader of the 1979 Islamic revolution in Iran. The symposium featured discussions on various subjects, including



**New Delhi:** The Iran Culture House hosted the second regional symposium on the Imam Khomeini World Award, shedding light on the multifaceted life and lasting impact of Imam Khomeini,

interfaith dialogue, social justice, and Imam Khomeini's views on advancing the status of women in society. Dr. Iraj Elahi, Iran's Ambassador to India, emphasized the

complexity of discussing Imam Khomeini's persona, noting his profound influence on both the Iranian people and the broader Islamic world. He described Imam Khomeini as one of the most successful figures in modern history, credited with altering the course of human destiny. Dr. Elahi highlighted Imam Khomeini's unique contributions to the relationship between politics and religion, ethics and politics, and the revival of religious thought alongside Sufism. He also stressed the importance of the Imam Khomeini International Award in promoting research that honors and advances the Imam's ideas.

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## Imran Khan Sentenced to 14 Years in Corruption Case



Former Pakistani Prime Minister Imran Khan has been sentenced to 14 years in prison for corruption charges, while his wife, Bushra Bibi, received a seven-year sentence. The ruling, reported by *The Guardian*, stems from accusations of illegally acquiring valuable land through a deal with property tycoon Malik Riaz, linked to laundering \$239 million. The accountability court, operating within Adiala Prison in Rawalpindi, also imposed a fine of 1 million Pakistani rupees (£2,900) on Khan. This verdict marks a significant blow to the former leader, who has been imprisoned for over 18 months and is entangled in more than 100 legal cases, including allegations of murder and terrorism. Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), Khan's political party, denounced the verdict as a "black day" for Pakistan's justice system, accusing the judiciary of lacking independence. Khan has vowed to challenge the decision and firmly stated he will not seek any clandestine agreements for his release.

## UNA Lauds Muslim World League's Initiative on Girls' Education

**Jeddah:** The Union of News Agencies (UNA) of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) has praised the



The exclusive Scholars' Session, part of the "Girls' Education in Muslim Communities" initiative, was held in Islamabad. Asharq Al-Awsat

outcomes of the global conference on the Muslim World League's initiative to promote girls' education in Muslim societies. The conference, held in Islamabad, Pakistan, concluded on January 12, 2025, with significant participation from ministers, scholars, diplomats, and representatives of regional and international organizations.

### "Islamabad Declaration" Gains Historic Approval

The event culminated in the

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Sohail Anjum

A speech delivered by RSS ideologue and former BJP MP Rakesh Sinha at a seminar titled "Future of Muslims in Today's India" has gone viral, igniting widespread discussion. The seminar, organized by the Nai Dunya National Forum at Delhi's Constitution Club on January 16, was attended by notable politicians and intellectuals, including Shahid Siddiqui, the forum's founder and editor of the weekly *Nai Dunya*.

Siddiqui emphasized the need for dialogue to foster inclusivity and harmony in society, lamenting the absence of meaningful conversations among scholars. While the event was intended to promote understanding, Sinha's revelations and sharp remarks brought a controversial edge to the discussion.

#### **Viral Statement: A Double-Edged Sword**

Sinha claimed during his speech

## Controversial Claims and Media Narratives: Rakesh Sinha's Remarks Spark Debate



that a national news channel had urged him to criticize the beard and cap associated with Muslim identity during a debate. He stated, "I was born not to remove anyone's beard and cap but to fight those who remove it." This comment, especially coming from an RSS representative, has drawn polarized reactions. While some

lauded his stance, others accused him of duplicity, alleging that the RSS outwardly portrays inclusivity but harbors anti-Muslim sentiments.

#### **Historical Context and Media Critique**

Sinha's comments have also reignited scrutiny of his 2009 book, *Aatanika Vaad Aur*

*Bhartiya Media* (Terrorism and Indian Media), in which he examined the English, Hindi, and Urdu media's reporting on terrorism-related incidents such as the Batla House encounter and the 2008 Mumbai attacks. His analysis focused disproportionately on Urdu media, accusing it of sensationalism and sectarianism while framing it as biased against state narratives.

The book has been criticized for selectively citing news clippings from Urdu newspapers to support preconceived conclusions, ignoring instances where the same media condemned terrorism or reported on anti-terrorism initiatives. Sinha's approach has been seen as an attempt to discredit Urdu journalism and, by extension, Muslim voices in media.

#### **Rebuttals and Counter-Narratives**

Sohail Anjum, the author of this

report, previously reviewed Sinha's book and responded to its allegations through articles included in his own 2010 publication, *Media Urdu and Modern Trends*. These articles present counterexamples from Hindi and English newspapers that contradict Sinha's claims, highlighting instances where mainstream media provided balanced or sympathetic coverage of Muslims.

#### **The Larger Implications**

Sinha's remarks and the reactions they have elicited underscore the ongoing tensions in media narratives surrounding Indian Muslims. While his speech has sparked meaningful conversations about media responsibility and communal harmony, it has also brought to light the challenges of navigating entrenched biases and ideological divides.

As the debate continues, the question remains: will figures like Rakesh Sinha address these critiques and contribute constructively to the dialogue they claim to support? ■

## India and Saudi Arabia Sign Historic Agreement for Haj 2025



Abdul Bari Masoud

**New Delhi:** Union Minister for Parliamentary Affairs and Minority Affairs, Kiren Rijju, recently visited Saudi Arabia to strengthen collaboration on Haj pilgrimage arrangements. During his visit, he signed the Bilateral Agreement for Haj 2025 with Saudi Minister of Hajj and Umrah, Dr. Tawfiq bin Fawzan AlRabiah, setting the stage for an improved pilgrimage experience for Indian Haj pilgrims.

On January 13 in Jeddah, the agreement was formalized, allocating a quota of 1,75,025 Indian pilgrims for Haj 2025. Rijju's visit from January 11 to 14 included key discussions with Saudi leaders, participation in the inaugural session of the Hajj and Umrah Conference and Exhibition, and an inspection of facilities in Jeddah and Madinah to ensure a seamless pilgrimage experience.

#### **Strengthening Pilgrimage Cooperation**

The Saudi Ministry of Hajj and

Umrah hosted the 4th Hajj and Umrah Conference and Exhibition in Jeddah, where Rijju attended the opening session. This global conference brings together decision-makers, scholars, and professionals to discuss best practices and innovations in Haj and Umrah services.

Rijju held bilateral talks with Dr. AlRabiah, focusing on ensuring a safe and rewarding experience for Indian pilgrims. Both leaders agreed to deepen cooperation, particularly in logistics, transportation, and accommodations.

In Riyadh, Rijju met with Saudi Minister for Transport and Logistic Services, Eng. Saleh bin Nasser Al Jassar, to explore ways to streamline transport services for Indian pilgrims. He also met Prince Saud bin Khalid bin Faisal Al Saud, Deputy Governor of Madinah Province, to review arrangements for pilgrims' stays in Madinah.

#### **On-the-Ground Inspections**

Rijju conducted a comprehensive assessment of the facilities for

Indian pilgrims, including administrative structures, transportation plans, and medical services. He visited the Indian Haj Pilgrims' Office in Madinah and toured the Haj terminals at airports in Madinah and Jeddah, inspecting amenities for arriving and departing pilgrims as well as

baggage handling systems.

#### **A Legacy of Cooperation**

The Haj pilgrimage remains a cornerstone of India-Saudi Arabia relations, rooted in deep historical and civilizational ties. This agreement marks a significant milestone in the evolving partnership, reflecting the shared

commitment to enhancing the pilgrimage experience for Indian Hajjis.

Rijju's visit and the signing of the agreement underscore the strategic importance of people-to-people connections in strengthening bilateral relations between the two nations. ■

## When Will Muslims Rise Above Their Challenges?



Masoom Moradabadi

Aalam Badi Azmi, the senior-most member of the Uttar Pradesh Assembly at 89 years old, is a symbol of selfless public service. Despite his age, his political legacy continues to inspire. Trained under the late Quaid-e-Millat Dr. Abdul Jalil Faridi, the founder of the Muslim Majlis, Azmi remains the last surviving figure from this movement, which once championed the political empowerment of Muslims in Uttar Pradesh.

Azmi's daily conversations reflect his deep anguish about the state of Muslims today. His sharp memory recalls the journey from independence to the present, though his hearing now falters. His recurring question echoes a shared frustration: *When will Muslims become a united and righteous nation?*

This reflection comes at a time when Muslims face marginalization in political, social, economic, and educational spheres. Daily conspiracies have crippled their ability to act, leaving them stuck in a cycle of despair.



The late journalist Jamil Mehdi once posed a similar question in his editorials, later compiled into the booklet *"What Should Muslims Do?"* Mehdi's observations, like those of Azmi, reflected a deep concern for the community. As a journalist with over four decades of experience, I have seen the plight of Muslims up close, and I echo this concern.

#### **A Crisis of Priorities**

The core of the issue lies in misplaced priorities. Muslim neighborhoods often appear preoccupied with indulgence, as if eating and drinking were the sole purposes of life. Lavish expenditures on weddings and material possessions have become the norm. For instance, in Uttar Pradesh's Ghaziabad, a Muslim family recently spent ₹10 crores on a wedding money that could

have funded a college to uplift the community's youth.

In contrast, South Indian Muslims have made remarkable progress, establishing educational institutions and hospitals. Meanwhile, in Uttar Pradesh, cities like Bhadohi and Moradabad showcase stark disparities. While these cities thrive

economically Bhadohi in carpets and Moradabad in pottery exports their wealth remains concentrated among a few. The laborers working in hazardous conditions in these industries continue to struggle, with little access to education or healthcare.

#### **A Call for Change**

Muslims must shift their focus from extravagance to meaningful investments in education and healthcare. Wealth, if used wisely, can transform the community and break the cycle of backwardness. The time has come to reassess priorities and work collectively for political, social, and economic empowerment.

This is not merely Azmi's plea or Mehdi's vision but a call to action for every Muslim who yearns for a brighter future. Let us reflect on this and strive for unity and progress. ■

**New Delhi:** In response to the Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC) on Waqf's inquiry regarding the Waqf (Amendment) Bill, 2024, Jamaat-e-Islami Hind (JIH) has submitted comprehensive written replies addressing the committee's questions. This submission follows a meeting between the organization's delegation and the JPC in November 2024, during which Jamaat-e-Islami presented a memorandum on the Bill.

Malik Moatashim Khan, Vice President of JIH, stated that the organization had received approximately 65 questions from the JPC. The queries focused on several critical aspects of Waqf properties, including their definition, administration, and legal framework. The JPC sought to understand the religious and secular dimensions of Waqf, as well as its accessibility to

## Jamaat-e-Islami Submits Detailed Responses to JPC's Waqf Queries

communities beyond Muslims. Key issues such as "Waqf by User," encroachments, and the role of Waqf boards were also discussed, along with procedural concerns regarding the powers of the Collector and tribunal composition.

The JPC also raised questions about the inclusion of non-Muslims in Waqf management and the potential reforms aimed at improving transparency and oversight. Additionally, members explored the historical and theological roots of Waqf and its compatibility with modern governance structures.

In its detailed replies, Jamaat-e-Islami Hind expressed significant concerns about the Waqf (Amendment) Bill, particularly its potential to undermine the sanctity

and proper functioning of Waqf properties. The Bill's proposal to abolish "Waqf by User" threatens long-standing religious and community properties such as mosques, graveyards, and dargahs that lack formal documentation but have been in continuous use for generations. Removing this definition, Jamaat-e-Islami warns, could lead to widespread legal disputes and the potential loss of these vital assets.

Another major issue highlighted was the proposed transfer of powers to District Collectors, which Jamaat-e-Islami argues could create conflicts of interest, especially since many encroachments on Waqf lands involve government departments. This shift of authority from judicial bodies to the executive could

hamper the community's ability to contest such encroachments effectively.

The Bill's provision restricting certain Muslims from dedicating property as Waqf for five years also raised alarms. Jamaat-e-Islami sees this as a violation of constitutional principles, particularly the right to equality and freedom of religion guaranteed under Articles 25 and 26 of the Indian Constitution.

Furthermore, the proposal to include non-Muslims in Waqf Management Boards is viewed as an undue interference in the community's ability to independently manage its religious and charitable endowments—a right enjoyed by other religious groups in India.

Jamaat-e-Islami Hind also voiced concerns that the Bill would

weaken Waqf Boards and favor encroachers by reducing criminal liability and narrowing the definition of Waqf. The organization pointed to the government's own data on the WAMSI portal, which highlights that inefficiencies and mismanagement of Waqf properties stem from executive lapses, not legislative shortcomings.

In conclusion, Malik Moatashim Khan reiterated Jamaat-e-Islami Hind's position that the contentious amendments in the Bill should be dropped, and instead, existing Waqf laws should be effectively implemented. He emphasized the organization's readiness to engage further with the JPC and the public to address any additional questions or concerns regarding Waqf properties. ■

## AMU Faculty Members Re-elected as Office-bearers of Indian History Congress



Staff Writer

**Patiala, Punjab:** In a notable development, faculty members from Aligarh Muslim University (AMU) have been re-elected to key positions in the **Indian History Congress (IHC)**. Prof. Shireen Moosvi has been re-elected as Vice President, while Prof. Syed Ali Nadeem Rezavi and Prof. Manvendra Kumar Pundhir, both from AMU's Department of History, have retained their roles as Secretary and Joint Secretary, respectively. Additionally, Prof. Irfan Habib and Dr. Shamim Akhtar will continue to serve on the IHC Executive Committee, and Prof. Syed Jabir Raza has been re-elected as Treasurer.

Former Director General of the Archaeological Survey of India and eminent archaeologist Prof. Gautam Sengupta has succeeded Prof. Aditya Mukherjee as General President of the IHC.

Prof. Rezavi shared that the elections took place during the **83rd Session of the Indian History Congress**, held at Punjabi University, Patiala, Punjab, from December 28–30, 2024.

### Highlights of the Session

The inaugural session was graced by Harjot Singh Bains, Education

Minister of Punjab, with Prof. Richard Eaton as the guest of honor. Other dignitaries included Prof. Narinder Kaur Multani, Dean of Academic Affairs at Punjabi University, and Dr. Sanjiv Puri.

The event featured **six simultaneous sessions** focusing on diverse aspects of history, including ancient, medieval, modern, and contemporary Indian history, as well as the history of other countries and archaeology. Specialized panels addressed topics such as Punjab's past and present, social history, urban history, and Dalit history.

### Keynote and Lectures

Prof. Irfan Habib delivered a powerful keynote address, critically examining attempts by right-wing historians to distort history to align with Hindutva ideology.

The Prof. S.C. Misra Memorial Lecture was delivered by Prof. Yogesh Sneh, while the IHC symposium featured lectures by Prof. Seema Bawa, Dr. Anjali Guhan Gulia, and Prof. Urvi Mukhopadhyay.

### Participation and Organization

The session witnessed the presentation of over **885 research papers**, with participation from

approximately **1,300 delegates**. Prof. Muhammad Idris, the Local Secretary, led a team of dedicated volunteers and senior teachers to successfully organize the event.

### About the Indian History Congress

Founded in 1935, the Indian

History Congress is the largest professional association of historians in South Asia, boasting around **35,000 members**. With more than **2,000 delegates participating annually**, the IHC is committed to advancing secular and

scientific historiography, organizing annual sessions, and publishing proceedings regularly.

The event concluded with renewed commitments to promoting historical research and scholarship in India. ■

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## Backward and Dalit Leaders Unite to Oppose Waqf Amendment Bill

**Mumbai:** The Bharati Vikas Alliance (BVA), a coalition representing backward classes, tribals, and Dalits, has vowed to resist the contentious Waqf Amendment Bill, labeling it a significant threat to Waqf properties and a step in a broader agenda to seize them. The declaration came during a recent meeting with representatives from the All India Muslim Personal Law Board (AIMPLB).

### Joint Opposition to the Waqf Amendment Bill

The AIMPLB raised concerns about the bill, describing it as disruptive and polarizing. In response, BVA leaders pledged to mobilize nationwide opposition, warning of a large-scale movement if the government proceeds with the bill.

The meeting underscored a shared concern over the increasing erosion of constitutional rights for marginalized and minority communities. Both organizations criticized the government for promoting divisive agendas, including efforts to establish a "Hindu Rashtra" rooted in Manusmriti, which they argued distracts from the country's pressing issues while fueling anti-Muslim sentiment.

### Unified Action Plan

To address these challenges, the BVA and AIMPLB agreed to adopt a coordinated approach. A core committee of leaders from both groups will convene in Delhi to develop an actionable plan. Once finalized, this plan will be reviewed and implemented by both organizations.

Dr. S.Q.R. Ilyas, AIMPLB spokesperson, highlighted the Board's inclusive representation of Indian Muslims and its commitment to addressing national issues through collaboration. He emphasized the importance of unity in countering threats to constitutional and social justice.

### Commitment to Justice and Equality

AIMPLB General Secretary Maulana Mohammad Fazalurrahim Mujaddidi, who chaired the meeting, reiterated the Board's dedication to protecting the Constitution and defending the rights of oppressed communities. He stressed that Islam opposes caste-based injustice and all forms of discrimination, advocating for justice, equality, and societal well-being.

Prominent leaders present

included:

- **BVA Representatives:** Dr. Advocate Suresh Mane, Bhagwan Gavai, Sahib Singh Dhangar, Dr. Bela Ram Ghogra, Siddharth Parmar (former Gujarat MLA), Professor Mohammad Suleiman, Hafiz Manzoor Ali Khan, among others.

- **AIMPLB Representatives:** Maulana Muhammad Sulaiman Motawalla, Muhammad Fareed Sheikh, Maulana Hafiz Iqbal Chunawala, Maulana Mahmood Ahmad Daryabadi, Dr. Zahir Qazi, Maulana Mujaddidi, and Dr. S.Q.R. Ilyas.

### Context of Unified Resistance

The meeting followed last year's AIMPLB-led roundtable discussion on the Uniform Civil Code (UCC), which concluded with a unanimous rejection of the UCC as harmful to India's diversity. This earlier collaboration between indigenous communities, Dalits, and religious minorities set the stage for ongoing unified efforts to safeguard constitutional rights and pluralism.

Both organizations remain resolute in their commitment to justice, equality, and protecting the rights of marginalized communities across India. ■

## Imarat-e-Shariah Launches Waqf Registration Drive in Bihar



**Patna:** Imarat-e-Shariah, serving Bihar, Odisha, and Jharkhand, has initiated a comprehensive awareness campaign to safeguard Waqf properties in light of the recently introduced Waqf Amendment Bill in Parliament. The campaign emphasizes the importance of registering Waqf properties with the Waqf Board and includes workshops and community-focused activities to highlight the significance of protecting this shared heritage.

As part of the drive, Fahad Rahmani, CEO of Rahmani 30, organized a special event aimed at inspiring youth to take an active role in safeguarding Waqf properties. During the event, Rahmani commended the young applicants, offering prayers and acknowledging the pivotal contributions of Maulana Gohar Imam Sahib and Qazi Wasi in mobilizing their participation. He also reiterated Ameer Shariat's call to register endowment properties with the Waqf Board, emphasizing that this step would

streamline processes and reduce challenges for stakeholders.

Mufti Qiamuddin Qasmi, the project manager overseeing the Waqf registration drive, provided an overview of the initiative and detailed plans for its continuation. Acting Nazim of Imarat-e-Shariah, Maulana Shibli Qasmi, praised the campaign's historic efforts in promoting and defending Waqf properties. He expressed gratitude to Fahad Rahmani and the Rahmani 30 technical team for their dedication to simplifying the registration process.

The event was graced by notable attendees, including Dr. Athar Imam, Nazim of Jamia Rahmani Munger, Maulana Muhammad Arif Rahmani, Maulana Ehtesham Rahmani, and other Shura members of Imarat-e-Shariah.

Imarat-e-Shariah's proactive measures underscore its commitment to preserving community assets and ensuring the continued utility of Waqf properties for the welfare of the community. ■

## Reassessing AMU's Minority Status: A Historic Legal Perspective



Salman Khurshid

*Economic & Political Weekly / Jan. 4, 2025 / Vol. LX No. 1*

The Supreme Court's recent judgment on the minority status of Aligarh Muslim University (AMU) marks a significant legal and historical moment. A seven-judge constitutional bench has overruled the 1968 judgment in *S. Azeez Basha and Anr v Union of India*, which held that AMU was not a minority institution under Article 30(1). This decision, split 4-3, provides a fresh interpretation of AMU's origins and its alignment with constitutional principles. The matter will now return to a regular bench for a detailed examination of the factual context.

### Historical Context and Legal Evolution

The 1968 ruling in *Azeez Basha* asserted that AMU, being established by legislation, could not claim minority status. This judgment reinforced amendments made in 1951 and 1965 to align AMU's structure with constitutional imperatives, effectively diluting its autonomy. While political and intellectual debates continued, including efforts by Congress governments to address Muslim concerns, the issue remained unresolved until the landmark 2024 judgment.

The Court's recent decision has upended the strict interpretation of "establish and administer" in *Azeez Basha*. The new majority view emphasizes the intent and contribution of the Muslim community in the university's establishment, recognizing AMU's roots in the Muhammadan Anglo-Oriental

(MAO) College and the aspirations of Indian Muslims post-1857.

### Key Legal Arguments and Judgment Analysis

The majority judgment provides clear criteria for determining the minority character of an institution:

**1. Origin and Purpose:** The idea and intent to establish the institution must stem from the minority community, and it must primarily benefit that community.

**2. Implementation and Administration:** The steps taken to realize this idea must involve significant participation from the minority, and the institution's governance should affirm its minority character.

By redefining "establish" to encompass foundational contributions rather than legislative acts, the Court affirmed AMU's minority status. This interpretation also aligns with principles of constitutional morality, recognizing rights inherent to minority groups irrespective of historical legislative interventions.

### Implications for AMU and Minority Rights

The judgment underscores the need to view Article 30 through an inclusive lens, rejecting the binary of national versus minority character. AMU's distinct heritage reflected in its

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## «Page 1 UNA Lauds Muslim World League's Initiative on Girls' Education

adoption of the "Islamabad Declaration on Girls' Education," which received historic support from prominent Islamic scholars, jurisprudence councils, international organizations, and global activists. The declaration underscores the Islamic legal stance advocating girls' right to education and aims to remove barriers that hinder their access to learning.

### Global Partnerships for a Noble Cause

A key highlight of the conference was the launch of a global platform for partnerships, which will serve as the initiative's executive arm. Over 20 agreements and pledges were signed by senior scholars, heads of Islamic councils, UN organizations, and leaders from academia, research, media, and civil institutions.

### UNA's Commitment to Girls' Education

Speaking on the occasion, UNA Director General Mohammed bin Abdul Rabbah Al-Yami emphasized the Union's

commitment to advancing girls' education through media efforts. He commended the Muslim World League, under the leadership of Secretary-General Sheikh Dr. Muhammad bin Abdul Karim Al-Issa, for its pivotal role in addressing critical issues in the Islamic world and advocating for girls' education rights.

### Strengthening Media and Educational Efforts

During the conference, UNA signed multiple memoranda of cooperation, including agreements with the Muslim World League and the University of Management and Technology in Pakistan. These agreements aim to enhance media support for girls' education and provide professional and cognitive training opportunities for girls in Muslim societies.

### A Global Step Forward

The conference marks a significant step in empowering girls in the Islamic world through education, reinforcing the principles of justice, equality, and opportunity within Islamic teachings. ■

## JIH Proposes Budget Reforms, Promotes Communal Harmony, and Highlights Concerns Over Targeted Harassment

**New Delhi:** Jamaat-e-Islami Hind (JIH) has presented detailed recommendations for the Union Budget 2025-26, addressing critical issues like unemployment, inequality, and poverty. The organization also voiced serious concerns over communal tensions and harassment of the Muslim community in Sambhal, Uttar Pradesh.

### Union Budget Suggestions for Livelihood Revival

During a press briefing on January 2, JIH President Syed Sadatullah Husaini emphasized the nation's livelihood crisis, highlighting alarming statistics:

- **Youth unemployment:** 45%
- **Population in poverty:** 20%
- **Agrarian growth:** Stagnant at 2.8% (CMIE).

He urged the government to pivot from business-centric to citizen-focused policies that prioritize welfare, stimulate demand, and foster inclusive development. Key proposals include:

- **Social Security:** Strengthening schemes for marginalized and minority communities.
- **Employment Initiatives:** Restoring MGNREGA funding, introducing urban unemployment programs, and establishing Rural Employment Hubs.
- **Healthcare & Education:** Allocating 4% of GDP to healthcare and 6% to education under a comprehensive Mission Shiksha Bharat.
- **Minority Empowerment:** Reviving scholarships, establishing skill zones, and improving access to land and entrepreneurship for SC/ST communities.
- **Agriculture Support:** Implementing debt relief, guaranteed MSP, and expanding irrigation projects.



- **Universal Basic Income:** Phased rollout for vulnerable groups.
- **Revenue Reforms:**
  - Capping GST on essentials at 5%.
  - Imposing windfall and digital taxes.
  - Increasing states' share of central taxes to 50%.
  - Strengthening CSR norms and introducing tax-exempt infrastructure bonds.

"These measures are vital for redistributive justice, equitable growth, and restoring public trust in governance," said Husaini.

### Year of Communal Harmony and Unity

JIH Vice President, Professor

Salim Engineer, announced the designation of 2025 as the "Year of Communal Harmony, Trust, and Understanding." He stressed the urgent need to counter rising communal rhetoric, Islamophobia, mob lynching, and religious discrimination, which threaten India's rich legacy of unity in diversity.

JIH has initiated platforms like *Dharmik Jan Morcha* and *Sadbhavna Manch* to foster interfaith dialogue and mutual understanding. These efforts aim to bridge divisions, promote tolerance, and combat divisive narratives. Prof. Salim called upon faith and social leaders to actively participate in fostering

peace and harmony.

### Concerns Over Harassment in Sambhal

JIH Vice President Malik Moatasim Khan condemned the state administration's actions in Sambhal, Uttar Pradesh, where targeted harassment of Muslims has escalated. He highlighted recent events:

- Filing cases against dozens of Muslims, including MP Zia-Ur-Rahman Barq.
- Power cuts, fines, and FIRs used to intimidate families mourning victims of police firing during protests.
- Revival of decades-old cases from the 1978 communal riots.

"These actions exacerbate communal tensions, spreading division and fear," Khan said. JIH called on the Uttar Pradesh government to cease discriminatory actions, uphold the rule of law, and ensure justice for affected individuals.

### Conclusion

Jamaat-e-Islami Hind's proposals and initiatives reflect its commitment to tackling systemic challenges while safeguarding communal harmony. The organization urges citizens, leaders, and the government to work collectively toward a just, united, and prosperous India. ■

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## Reassessing AMU's Minority Status: A Historic Legal Perspective

name, logo, and historical association with Islamic culture was pivotal in overturning the earlier decision. The Court's emphasis on inclusivity and equality highlights the syncretic nature of Indian secularism, where minority rights are integral to national unity. This ruling sets a precedent for evaluating other institutions with similar historical contexts, ensuring that minority rights are preserved as a constitutional guarantee rather than a conditional concession.

### Conclusion

The reversal of *Azeez Basha* reaffirms the constitutional promise to minorities, recognizing their contributions and ensuring equitable treatment within the democratic framework. As the regular bench delves deeper into the factual details, the principles laid out by the majority judgment will guide the determination of AMU's minority character, marking a pivotal chapter in the university's storied legacy. ■

### Islamic Spirituality:

#### A Path to Closeness with Allah

Islamic spirituality is a way of life centered on developing a deep connection with Allah and striving for piety (taqwa). It encompasses faith, rituals, and ethical conduct, guiding individuals toward: Strengthening their relationship with Allah through prayer, remembrance, and devotion. Cultivating moral character by practicing humility, gratitude, and

compassion. Fostering connections with others through kindness, service, and community engagement. Appreciating nature as a sign of Allah's presence and wisdom. By integrating these principles into daily life, Islamic spirituality nurtures inner peace, purpose, and a profound sense of divine closeness. ■

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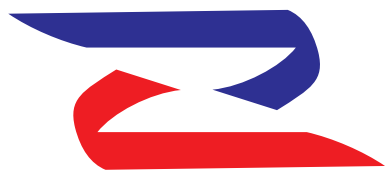
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## UGC Draft Regulations 2025: Implications for AMU



Mohammad Sajjad

The Draft UGC Regulations 2025 have sparked concerns among academics about potential encroachments on university autonomy. However, Aligarh Muslim University (AMU) provides a unique lens to evaluate these apprehensions, given its exceptional autonomy in empanelling Vice Chancellors (VCs).

Unlike other Central Universities, AMU's Executive Council, dominated by internal faculty, selects its VC panel without advertising for applications or conducting interactive sessions. This autonomy has led to significant internal inbreeding, as panels often consist exclusively of internal candidates, limiting diversity and innovation.

Recent examples highlight challenges, including short application windows, lack of adherence to UGC guidelines, and entrenched local cliques influencing administrative decisions. Such practices have fostered inefficiencies, from prolonged ad hoc appointments to compromised examination systems.

The proposed regulations aim to

address these issues by mandating fairer selection processes, limiting ad hoc appointments, and ensuring accountability. While critics argue this centralization could stifle autonomy, the regulations also present an opportunity to enhance transparency and academic integrity.

AMU's experience underscores the need for balanced governance reforms that uphold academic excellence while safeguarding institutional autonomy.

*Professor Mohammad Sajjad teaches modern and contemporary history at Aligarh Muslim University.*

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## Advocate Khalid Hasan Honored with Multiple Prestigious Awards

Advocate Khalid Hasan, Director of 1 World Law Academy, Hyderabad, received a Doctor of Philosophy in Constitutional Law from Maryland State University, USA, in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, on January 17, 2025. The following day, he was conferred the "Outstanding Mentor Award" by Help University, Malaysia, in recognition of his dedicated efforts in guiding over a thousand youth to pursue law as a career.



Earlier in January, on the 4th, Advocate Hasan was also awarded the "SYPA National Life Empowerment Award" in Chennai for his contributions to empowering individuals through legal education.

Since 2019, Advocate Hasan has been instrumental in mentoring students, with over a thousand currently enrolled in various law colleges and practicing in courts across Telangana.

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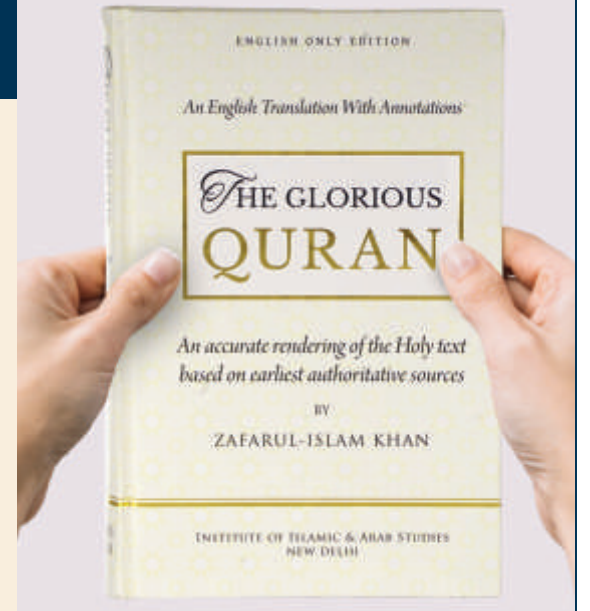
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## 3rd World Islamic Tourism & Trade Awards 2025: A Global Celebration of Excellence



**Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia:** Nominations are now open for the highly anticipated 3rd World Islamic Tourism & Trade Awards (WITA), an event designed to honor excellence in the global Islamic tourism and trade sectors. Organized by the Malaysian Association of Tour and Travel Agents (MATA), the awards ceremony will take place on **August 25, 2025**, at the luxurious **Sunway Resort Hotel** in Selangor, Malaysia.

### Objectives of WITA

The awards aim to:

1. Recognize outstanding achievements in Islamic tourism and trade.
2. Foster innovation and sustainability within the Islamic economy.
3. Highlight Islamic tourism and trade as key drivers of economic growth and cross-cultural understanding.

### Event Highlights

- **Inaugural Venue:** The prestigious Sunway Resort Hotel will host the event, coinciding with two major international events, the

**World Islamic Tourism & Trade Expo (WITEX)** and the **World Cultural & Art Festival (WCAF)**, creating a dynamic platform for industry leaders.

- **Global Networking:** Industry pioneers and stakeholders from across the globe will converge to share insights, foster collaboration, and celebrate achievements.

### Key Themes and Vision

Dr. Izyan Diana, Chairperson of WITA, emphasized the awards as a catalyst for progress, saying: "This event celebrates achievements while promoting collaboration and shared growth, inspiring innovation and excellence within the Islamic economy."

### Eligibility and Criteria

The awards are open to individuals, organizations, and initiatives demonstrating exceptional contributions to Islamic tourism and trade. Nominees will be evaluated on:

1. **Innovation:** New ideas, services, or practices enhancing the Islamic tourism experience.

2. **Sustainability:** Eco-friendly and culturally sensitive practices.

3. **Impact:** Tangible contributions to economic growth and cultural understanding.

### Broader Context: Malaysia as a Global Hub

Malaysia's leadership in hosting WITA underscores its prominence in the Islamic tourism and trade sectors. The country, consistently ranked among top Muslim-friendly destinations, continues to leverage its cultural richness and strategic initiatives to strengthen its position in the halal economy.

### Complementary Events

- **WITEX:** A platform for exploring opportunities in halal travel, Islamic finance, and trade.
- **WCAF:** A vibrant showcase of Islamic art, culture, and cuisine.

### Why Participate?

1. **Global Recognition:** Gain international visibility.
2. **Networking:** Connect with global industry leaders.
3. **Insights:** Discover trends shaping Islamic tourism and trade.
4. **Economic Growth:** Contribute to a thriving halal economy.

### How to Nominate

For nomination details and event updates, visit [www.witex.my](http://www.witex.my).

**The 3rd WITA promises to be a transformative event, fostering innovation, collaboration, and cultural celebration. Be part of this historic occasion, shaping the future of Islamic tourism and trade.** ■

## Kazakhstan and Muslim World League Collaborate for Global Peace and Harmony



**January:** Kazakhstan's Ambassador to Saudi Arabia, **Madiyar Menilbekov**, held a pivotal meeting with the Deputy Secretary-General of the **Muslim World League (MWL)**, **Abdulrahman Alzaid**, to discuss strengthening interfaith dialogue and global harmony, according to [DKnews.kz](http://DKnews.kz).

The discussions revolved around collaboration on the **Congress of Leaders of World and Traditional Religions**, which aims to promote mutual respect and understanding among diverse religious communities worldwide.

### VIII Congress in Astana

Ambassador Menilbekov shared details about Kazakhstan's

preparations for the upcoming **VIII Congress of Leaders of World and Traditional Religions**, scheduled to take place this year in **Astana**. The Congress serves as a platform for fostering **interreligious and intercultural dialogue** at the international level.

### Muslim World League's Support

Abdulrahman Alzaid expressed strong support for the Congress initiatives, commending its role in promoting peace, understanding, and cooperation among global communities. He also emphasized the MWL's commitment to deepening partnerships with Kazakhstan to further these goals.

### Honorary Medal Presentation

As a gesture of appreciation, the Ambassador of Kazakhstan presented the MWL Deputy Secretary-General with the **Honorary Medal of the Congress**, symbolizing their shared commitment to fostering peace and harmony worldwide.

This meeting highlights Kazakhstan's dedication to becoming a hub for global dialogue and cooperation, with the MWL as a key partner in advancing these efforts. ■

## Lateefah Simon Joins US House of Representatives as Fourth Muslim Member



**January:** California's **Lateefah Simon** has officially taken office as a member of the 119th Congress, becoming the fourth Muslim American to serve in the **US House of Representatives**. She joins **Rashida Tlaib**, **Ilhan Omar**, and **André Carson**, marking a milestone in Muslim representation in Congress.

Simon, a prominent **community organizer** from the San Francisco Bay Area, succeeds **Barbara Lee**, who vacated her seat to run for the US Senate. Her career spans advocacy in **criminal justice reform**, leadership in public service, and membership on the boards of California's state university system and the Bay Area Rapid Transit (BART) system.

### A Significant Step Forward

Robert McCaw, Government Affairs Director for the **Council on**

**American-Islamic Relations (CAIR)**, hailed Simon's election as a victory for **American Muslims** amid increasing Islamophobia.

"Her presence in Congress, alongside her colleagues, is a testament to the resilience of the Muslim community and its unwavering commitment to justice," McCaw said.

### Committees and Focus Areas

Simon has joined key committees, including:

- **Oversight and Accountability**
- **Small Business**

• Several caucuses addressing progressive and social justice issues.

Her election underscores the growing influence and diversity of Muslim Americans in public office, reflecting their contributions to **justice, equity, and representation** in the United States. ■

## Muslim World's Vice Chancellors' Conference Set for February 4 in Islamabad

**ISLAMABAD:** Pakistan is gearing up to host the Muslim World's Vice Chancellors' Forum from February 4 to 7 in Islamabad. The prestigious event will bring together over 150 vice chancellors from universities across member states of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) to foster collaboration and enhance higher education within the Islamic world.

Chairman of the Higher Education Commission (HEC), Dr. Mukhtar Ahmed, formally extended an invitation for the forum during a meeting with Somali officials at the HEC Secretariat on Monday.

The Somali delegation, led by Minister of Education Farah Abdulkadir and Ambassador of Somalia to Pakistan Sheikh Nur Mohamed Hassan, had visited Pakistan to participate in the International Girls Conference, which concluded on Sunday.

### Focus on Bilateral Higher Education Collaboration

The meeting also included Somali officials such as Abdullahi Omar, Director General of the Ministry of Education, and advisers Ms.



Deka and Ms. Asma. From Pakistan, HEC Adviser on Global Engagement Awas Ahmad and Director Administration Tariq Iqbal were present.

During the discussions, both sides explored opportunities for mutual development in the higher education sector. Dr. Mukhtar Ahmed assured the Somali delegation of Pakistan's support in advancing higher education in Somalia, including offering scholarships and facilitating academic exchange programmes.

### Expanding Opportunities for International Students

Dr. Ahmed highlighted HEC's ongoing efforts to increase scholarships for international students, particularly for youth from Muslim countries. He referenced the success of the

Afghan Student Scholarship Programme, which has enabled many Afghan students to pursue higher education at Pakistan's leading universities.

He also discussed strengthening quality assurance systems and fostering collaboration in key areas such as agriculture and information technology.

### Launch of the 'Ilm-Bank' Platform

The HEC Chairman introduced the Somali delegates to 'Ilm-Bank,' a virtual knowledge-sharing platform designed to serve higher education institutions in OIC member countries. The platform aims to facilitate cross-border education, training, and research opportunities, enabling students and scholars to access resources and collaborate across borders.

This landmark event promises to be a significant step forward in uniting the Muslim world's academic leaders to create a shared vision for the advancement of education and research.

Published in Dawn, January 14, 2025. ■

**HONG KONG SAR:** The 18th Asian Financial Forum (AFF) concluded on January 14, drawing over 3,600 participants, including 130+ high-profile speakers, and facilitating 700+ AFF Deal-making meetings. The two-day event at the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre highlighted Hong Kong's pivotal role as an international financial hub.

#### Theme and Objectives

Under the theme *Powering the Next Growth Engine*, AFF 2025 aimed to enhance global cooperation and foster mutually beneficial outcomes. Co-organized by the Hong Kong SAR Government and the Hong Kong Trade Development Council (HKTDC), the event provided a dynamic platform for dialogue on fintech, sustainability, and global financial collaboration.

#### Key Highlights

##### 1. Strategic Collaboration with

## Asian Financial Forum 2025 Sets the Tone for Global Finance Growth



The first-ever Gulf Cooperation Council Chapter is successfully held at the Asian Financial Forum on January 14.

**AIIB Hong Kong's** Chief Executive John Lee engaged with Jin Liqun, President of the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB), reaffirming Hong Kong's commitment to leveraging its

financial strengths and cultural connections to support AIIB's long-term goals.

**2. Focus on Sustainability** Sue Lloyd, Vice Chair of the ISSB, led discussions on adopting financial

disclosure standards to bolster confidence in Hong Kong's capital markets, aligning with government sustainability initiatives.

**3. Inaugural GCC Chapter** The forum introduced its first Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) Chapter, connecting financial leaders from Hong Kong and GCC member states to foster stronger bilateral investment ties.

**4. Expert Insights and Networking Opportunities** Sessions such as *CIO Insights* and *Global Spectrum* explored critical issues like fintech innovations, female entrepreneurship, and the role of corporations in supporting startups. Notable speakers like Joe Tsai of Alibaba shared insights on driving economic growth through corporate investment.

#### Deal-Making Success

AFF 2025 brought together 270+ investors and over 560 projects,

resulting in 700+ one-on-one meetings. Investment opportunities spanned diverse sectors, including fintech, healthtech, energy, and real estate.

#### Interactive Exhibition Zones

Exhibition areas like the *Fintech Showcase* and *InnoVenture Salon* hosted 140 exhibitors, including global financial institutions, startups, and tech companies, enhancing networking and collaboration.

#### Part of Financial Week 2025

As the cornerstone of 2025 *International Financial Week* (January 13–17), AFF was complemented by events like the *Malaysia–Hong Kong Islamic Finance Roundtable* and the *Family Office Symposium*, fostering industry-wide synergies. The Asian Financial Forum 2025 reaffirmed Hong Kong's status as a leading global financial center, uniting stakeholders to shape the future of global finance through collaboration and innovation. ■

## Iran and Pakistan Explore Joint Weapons Production



**TEHRAN (MNA):** Iran has expressed readiness to collaborate with Pakistan in the joint production of military equipment, signaling a potential boost in defense ties between the two neighboring nations.

During a meeting in Islamabad with Pakistan's Chief of Army Staff, General Asim Munir, Major General Mohammad Hossein Bagheri, Chief of Staff of the Iranian Armed Forces, emphasized the importance of cooperation in defense manufacturing.

#### Strengthening Border Security and Counter-Terrorism

General Bagheri highlighted the significance of intelligence-sharing and coordinated efforts in combating terrorist groups operating along the shared border. Commending Pakistan's resolve against the Jaish al-Adl terrorist group, he proposed joint cross-

border patrols and military exercises to enhance security and stability.

#### Joint Naval Drills and Regional Cooperation

Iran also expressed interest in conducting joint naval drills with Pakistan, aiming to strengthen maritime security. General Bagheri underlined the importance of collaboration among key Islamic nations, including Turkey and Saudi Arabia, to advance regional interests.

#### Focus on Afghanistan

The Iranian general stressed the need for collective efforts to restore peace and stability in Afghanistan, a key concern for both Iran and Pakistan.

#### Diplomatic Engagement

In addition to his meeting with General Munir, Major General Bagheri met with Pakistani President Asif Ali Zardari, discussing mutual interests and areas of cooperation.

General Bagheri's visit, accompanied by a military delegation, was made at the official invitation of Pakistan's Army Chief, further cementing ties between the two countries. ■

## Jordanian Banks Earn Global Recognition in Islamic Finance

**Amman, Jan. 18 (Petra)** – The Secretary-General of the Union of Arab Banks (UAB), **Wissam Fattouh**, highlighted the remarkable growth of the global Islamic financial industry, which reached approximately **\$3.38 trillion** in total assets by the end of 2023.

#### Global and Regional Highlights

Of these assets, **\$1.8 trillion** (52.5%) are concentrated in **Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC)** countries, underlining the region's dominance in Islamic finance.

Two Jordanian banks, the **Jordan Islamic Bank** and **Bank al Etihad**, were recognized among the world's best Islamic banks in **The Banker** magazine's annual ranking.

#### Jordanian Achievements

• **Jordan Islamic Bank:** Ranked **26th** in the Arab world and **42nd** globally, with significant Sharia-



compliant assets.

• **Bank al Etihad:** Ranked **34th** regionally and **60th** globally, showcasing its robust financial position.

Together, these banks hold approximately **\$10.7 billion** in Sharia-compliant assets and have a combined capital of **\$1.2 billion**, cementing Jordan's position in the global Islamic banking sector.

#### Arab Banks' Dominance

A total of **77 Arab banks** made it to the list, representing **\$1.41 trillion** in Sharia-compliant assets and **\$2.659 trillion** in total assets.

#### Country-wise Representation:

- **Iraq** led with 19 banks included.
- **UAE** followed with 12, while **Saudi Arabia** and **Bahrain** each contributed 9 banks.
- **Oman:** 7 banks,
- **Qatar:** 5 banks,
- **Kuwait:** 4 banks.
- **Jordan, Egypt:** 2 banks each, while **Tunisia** and **Sudan** had one bank each.

#### Regional Leaders in Assets

- **Saudi Arabia** topped the rankings with **\$732 billion** in Sharia-compliant assets.
- **UAE:** \$225 billion.
- **Kuwait:** \$161 billion.
- **Qatar:** \$147 billion.

Jordan's inclusion in the prestigious list highlights its growing role in the Islamic banking sector and underscores the country's commitment to adhering to Sharia principles while achieving financial excellence.

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## Saudi Arabia Champions Inclusive and Sustainable AI Governance at Davos



**Davos (SPA):** Minister of Communications and Information Technology, Eng. Abdullah Alswaha, underscored the transformative role of artificial intelligence (AI) in modern economies and societies, likening its significance to essentials like oxygen, water, and food. Speaking at the "State of Play: AI Governance" panel during the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland, he called for a robust and innovative global governance framework to mitigate the potential risks of AI on economies and societies.

Eng. Alswaha described AI as a "general-purpose technology" fundamental to economic and social advancement. He warned that the absence of global AI governance could result in a divide between an elite benefiting from technological advancements and the rest of the world, fostering a dangerous ethical and technological gap that could undermine sustainability. Highlighting Saudi Arabia's leadership under His Royal Highness Prince Mohammed bin Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, Crown Prince and Prime Minister, the minister detailed the

Kingdom's initiatives to close gaps in computing, data, and algorithms through substantial investments, energy resources, and international collaborations.

### Key Areas of Focus

#### 1. Computing:

Saudi Arabia is advancing its position in computing by developing state-of-the-art data centers in partnership with leading global companies.

#### 2. Data:

As the heart of the Arab and Islamic world, the Kingdom leverages its cultural heritage and natural resources to lead in the field of data.

#### 3. Algorithms:

The minister stressed the necessity of secure and unbiased algorithms to ensure the reliability and trustworthiness of modern technologies.

Eng. Alswaha concluded by reaffirming Saudi Arabia's commitment to collaborating with nations and institutions that share its vision for innovative and sustainable AI solutions. These efforts aim to address humanity's needs while promoting equitable access to technological advancements globally.

--SPA ■

## Floating Solar Panels Could Power 100 Million U.S. Homes Annually



A study by the U.S. Department of Energy's National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) reveals that floating solar panel systems on federally managed reservoirs could generate enough energy to power approximately 100 million homes annually.

Researchers Evan Rosenlieb and Marie Rivers estimate a potential output of up to 1,476 terawatt-hours of electricity per year if these reservoirs are fully utilized. Even harnessing just 10% of this capacity would provide a substantial boost to the nation's energy supply.

Floating solar panels not only save land but also help reduce water evaporation, offering dual environmental benefits. However, the study highlights challenges such as environmental impacts and logistical complexities tied to specific reservoir conditions.

Future research aims to address these issues, exploring site suitability, costs, and regulatory hurdles to advance hybrid solar-hydropower systems nationwide. This innovative approach holds promise for meeting energy demands while supporting sustainable practices. ■

## Iran: A Leader in 3D Printing and Advanced Technologies Among Muslim Nations

**TEHRAN (MNA):** Over the past decade, Iran has emerged as a key player in cutting-edge technologies among Islamic nations, with significant contributions in fields like 3D printing, artificial intelligence, and neural networks, as per the latest report by the **Web of Science database**.

### Excellence in 3D Printing

From 2014 to 2023, Iran ranked second among Islamic countries in 3D printing publications, with 606 scientific papers, and 22nd globally. Leading Iranian institutions in this field include:

- **University of Tehran:** 83 publications
- **Amirkabir University of Technology:** 83 publications
- **Tarbiat Modares University:** 40 publications
- **Tehran University of Medical Sciences:** 37 publications

Globally, Turkey ranked first among Islamic nations with 779 publications, while Malaysia secured third place with 543.

### Leadership in Emerging Technologies

Iran has also demonstrated remarkable achievements in advanced technologies:

- **4D Printing:** First among Islamic countries with 65 publications; ranked 11th globally.



- **Industry 5.0:** Second among Islamic nations with 1,625 publications, following Turkey (1,817) and ahead of Malaysia (1,611). Key Industry 5.0 technologies include 4D printing, collaborative robots (cobots), augmented and virtual reality, cognitive computing, digital twins, and additive manufacturing.

### AI and Neural Networks:

#### Global and Regional Impact

Iran holds the **top rank among Islamic countries in neural network technology** with 17,458 publications (6th globally) and multi-agent systems with 351 publications (12th globally).

- **AI Leadership:** Second among Islamic nations and 16th globally.
- **Machine Learning:** Second regionally, 17th globally.
- **Robotics:** Second among Islamic countries, 27th globally.

The production of AI-related research in Iran has shown an impressive upward trend:

- **Neural networks:** Increased from 950 papers in 2014 to 2,207 in 2023.
- **Machine learning:** Rose from 81 papers in 2014 to 1,656 in 2023.
- **Artificial intelligence:** Grew from 98 papers in 2014 to 647 in 2023.

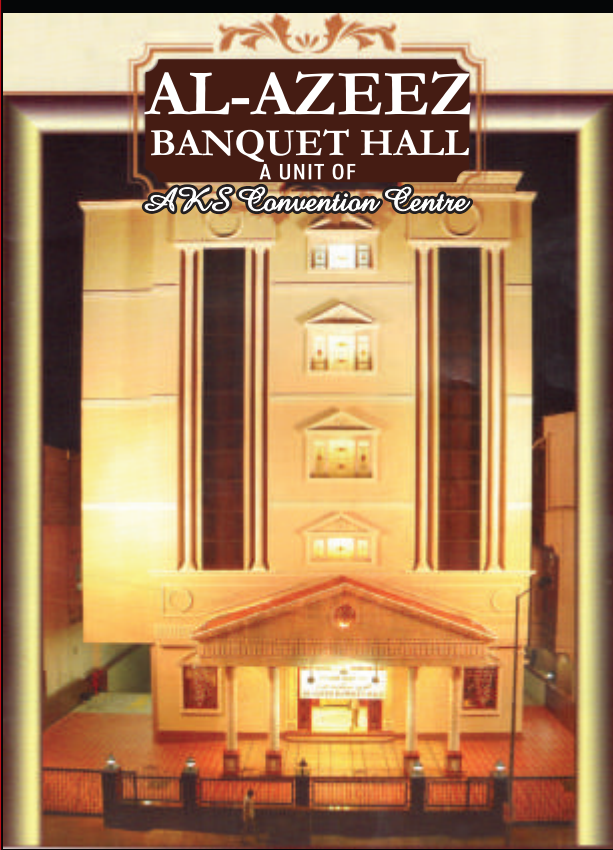
### Academic Contributions

Top universities driving Iran's technological progress include:

- **University of Tehran:** Leading in AI, neural networks, machine learning, and robotics.
- **Amirkabir University of Technology:** Excelling in visual computing, natural language processing, and multi-agent systems.
- **Sharif University of Technology and Tarbiat Modares University:** Significant contributors in visual computing, robotics, and machine learning.

### A Rising Force

Iran's consistent advancements in 3D printing, AI, and emerging technologies underscore its position as a regional leader in innovation. With a focus on research excellence and strategic academic contributions, the country continues to shape the future of science and technology in the Islamic world. ■



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**Islamabad (APP) :** The Inter Boards Coordination Commission (IBCC) hosted Dr. Haddy Jatou Sey, Head of Education Sector at the Islamic World Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (ICESCO), at its Islamabad headquarters. This visit marked a pivotal moment in advancing education and assessment systems across ICESCO's 53 member states.

#### Strategic Discussions for Educational Reform

Dr. Sey, a distinguished educationist with 28 years of experience at the World Bank and as a former Minister of Basic and Secondary Education in Gambia, engaged in strategic discussions with Dr. Ghulam Ali Mallah, Executive Director of IBCC. The talks explored solutions to shared educational challenges within the Muslim world.

During the meeting, Dr. Mallah showcased IBCC's innovative Model Assessment Framework (MAF), which aims to revolutionize Pakistan's assessment system by shifting from rote learning to a conceptual

## IBCC and ICESCO Join Forces to Transform Education in the Muslim World



and skills-based approach aligned with national curriculum standards.

#### Shared Vision for Standardization and Quality Education

IBCC and ICESCO agreed on developing a unified Model Assessment Framework for member states. This initiative will:

- Standardize assessments.
- Enhance the quality of

education.

- Equip students with the skills needed for success in a globalized world.

The collaboration also proposed capacity-building initiatives, including training programs, workshops, webinars, and seminars for educators. These would focus on standards-based assessment design, item writing, psychometric analysis, and leveraging digital tools to

modernize education.

#### Facilitating Mobility and Modernizing Assessments

A key aspect of the partnership is establishing systems to streamline qualification recognition and equivalence across ICESCO member states. This would facilitate mobility in education and employment across the Muslim Ummah.

With ICESCO's technical expertise, the collaboration aims to introduce advanced tools, including:

- Question Item Banks (QIBs).
- On-Screen Marking Systems.
- Real-Time Proctoring Technologies.

These tools are designed to enhance the efficiency and reliability of assessments.

#### Proposed International Conference

A notable outcome of the discussions was the proposal to host an **International Conference of All Examination**

**Boards of the Islamic World** in Islamabad during 2025-26. This conference would provide a platform for education leaders from ICESCO member states to collaborate on standardizing and innovating assessments.

#### Mutual Commitment to Empower the Ummah

The partnership reflects a shared commitment to addressing challenges such as teacher training, quality assurance, and assessment standardization. Through innovation and inclusivity, IBCC and ICESCO aim to combat literacy poverty and ensure equitable access to quality education for all, empowering the Muslim Ummah.

Dr. Sey praised IBCC's advancements in digital transformation, capacity building, and client-centric services, pledging ICESCO's full support through technical expertise, funding, and resources.

This collaboration underscores a transformative vision for education in the Islamic world, fostering unity and innovation to build a brighter future for students across ICESCO's member states. ■

## Saudi Arabia Invests \$100 Billion in Two Holy Mosques, Sponsors Nigerian Pilgrims for Umrah



Saudi Ambassador to Nigeria presenting a copy of Noble Qur'an to one of the beneficiaries of King Salman Umrah Program

**Muslim News Nigeria:** As part of its ongoing efforts to enhance the pilgrimage experience, Saudi Arabia has invested over \$100 billion in the expansion and modernization of the Two Holy Mosques in Mecca and Medina.

The ambitious projects include advanced infrastructure, cutting-edge technology, and efficient crowd management systems to accommodate the growing number of pilgrims.

In a symbolic act of unity, the

Saudi Embassy in Abuja hosted a farewell ceremony for 20 Nigerian pilgrims selected for the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques' Guests Program for Umrah 2025. The initiative, launched by King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, covers all expenses, including travel, accommodation, and logistics, ensuring a seamless spiritual journey for Muslims worldwide.

Speaking at the event, Saudi Ambassador to Nigeria, Faisal bin Ibrahim Al-Ghamdi, expressed gratitude to King Salman and Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman for their dedication to serving Islam's holy sites and facilitating spiritual connections for Muslims. He emphasized Saudi Arabia's commitment to improving the pilgrimage experience and fostering global Islamic unity.

The selected pilgrims expressed their heartfelt appreciation for the Kingdom's generosity and leadership in serving Islam and its sacred sites. ■

## Pakistan Launches First Indigenous Observation Satellite



By Reuters

**KARACHI :** Pakistan successfully launched its first homegrown observation satellite, the **PRSC-EO1**, on Friday from the **Jiuquan Satellite Launch Centre** in northern China, as announced by the Pakistan Space and Upper Atmosphere Research Commission (SUPARCO).

The satellite, **Electro-Optical PRSC-EO1**, marks a significant milestone in Pakistan's space exploration efforts. It is designed to enhance the nation's ability to:

- Monitor and manage natural resources.
- Improve disaster response strategies.
- Support urban planning initiatives.

• Advance agricultural development.

The launch was broadcast live at SUPARCO's complex in Karachi, where a crowd gathered to witness this historic event.

SUPARCO stated that the satellite's cutting-edge technology will enable Pakistan to gather detailed earth observation data, supporting sustainable development and informed decision-making across various sectors.

This achievement highlights Pakistan's growing capabilities in space technology and its commitment to leveraging science and innovation for national progress. ■

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## Saudi Future Minerals Forum Concludes with \$28.5 Billion in Deals



126 agreements and deals worth \$28.5bn signed at Future Minerals Forum in Saudi Arabia- Arabian Business

The **Future Minerals Forum 2025**, held in Riyadh at the **King Abdulaziz International Conference Center**, concluded with a remarkable **126 agreements and deals** signed, amounting to an impressive **\$28.5 billion**.

Organized by Saudi Arabia's Ministry of Industry and Mineral Resources under the patronage of **King Salman**, the three-day event

brought together representatives from over 85 countries, including ministers, international organizations, and business leaders. The forum focused on advancing sustainability, fostering global partnerships, and strengthening mineral supply chains to support the energy transition.

### Key Announcements:

• **Major Investments:** The agreements reflect Saudi Arabia's commitment to positioning itself as a global hub for mineral development and green technology.

• **Focus on Sustainability:** Deals emphasized innovation in critical minerals, renewable energy integration, and environmentally responsible mining practices.

• **Global Cooperation:** Partnerships spanned across Africa, Asia, and Europe, showcasing the Kingdom's role in uniting mineral-producing and consuming nations.

The forum's success underscores Saudi Arabia's vision to lead in the global mineral sector while balancing economic growth with environmental sustainability. The **\$28.5 billion** worth of agreements marks a significant step forward in driving transformative projects and fostering international collaboration in the mining industry. ■

«Page 1

## Symposium on Imam Khomeini International Award Highlights His Multifaceted Legacy

Dr. Fariduddin Farid Asr, Cultural Counselor of the Islamic Republic of Iran, explained the objectives of the symposium, outlining the award's goal to recognize and evaluate scientific and humanitarian contributions related to Imam Khomeini's life worldwide. He also emphasized the importance of the Qassem Soleimani martyrdom anniversary and reaffirmed Imam Khomeini's universal teachings against oppression.

The symposium also introduced a ten-volume encyclopaedia of Imam Khomeini, presented by Dr. Mohammad Reza Mahedvi. He highlighted Imam Khomeini's literary works and their connection to the teachings of the Holy Quran.

Syed Mohammad Askari, in his speech, praised Imam Khomeini as a reformer, revolutionary, philosopher, jurist, and servant leader, whose intellectual revolution transformed Iranian society. He noted that Imam Khomeini's leadership cannot be compared to other world leaders, as his influence spanned multiple areas of life and was rooted in pure monotheism and devotion to serving God's people.

Maulana Mohsin Taqvi spoke about the role of prophets in establishing justice and fairness, emphasizing Imam Khomeini's commitment to supporting oppressed people and nations. He highlighted the Palestinian cause as one close to Imam Khomeini's heart and stressed the importance of justice against global tyranny, with a particular focus on the Zionist regime.

Professor Azra Abidi, in her paper on the role of women, compared Imam Khomeini's perspective on the family with Western views, noting that Imam Khomeini regarded the family as a moral and sacred institution, with mothers as the foundation of society. She also emphasized the importance of balancing the complementary roles of men and women to maintain family harmony.

Maulana Mohammad Hossein Lotfi, Head of the Imam Khomeini Memorial Trust from Kargil, introduced the institution and its humanitarian efforts, reflecting Imam Khomeini's enduring legacy of service to humanity.

This symposium served as a platform to highlight the diverse contributions and enduring

teachings of Imam Khomeini, emphasizing his influence on politics, social justice, and women's rights, as well as his commitment to serving humanity through his leadership and vision. ■

## OIC Launches Initiative to Propel Science and Technology in the Islamic World

In response to the rapid advancements in science and technology, the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) has unveiled a groundbreaking initiative to foster scientific and technological progress among its member states. The initiative, spearheaded by the Standing Committee on Scientific and Technological Cooperation (COMSTECH), seeks to address shared challenges, promote sustainable development, and enhance self-reliance across the Islamic world.

### High-Level Collaboration

The launch event, held in Islamabad, Pakistan, was attended by OIC ambassadors, diplomats, university leaders, scientists, and students. OIC Secretary-General Hissein Brahim Taha emphasized the importance of collaboration to tackle critical challenges, including healthcare, agriculture, energy, and education.

### Key Features of the Initiative

**1. Fellowship and Scholarships for Palestinians:** Focused on empowering Palestinian youth through education and skills development.

**2. Support for African Member States:** Targeting sustainable solutions to challenges faced by African nations.

**3. Combating Brain Drain:**

Encouraging self-reliance in technology while fostering local expertise.

**4. Strategic Development:** Leveraging collective expertise to address global and regional issues through solidarity and innovation.

### COMSTECH's Role

Iqbal Choudhary, Coordinator-General of COMSTECH, highlighted the committee's efforts in mobilizing expertise across the Islamic world, aiming for sustainable development and technological self-sufficiency.

### OIC's Broader Vision

Founded in 1969, the OIC represents 57 member states across four continents. Its charter promotes solidarity, cooperation, and global harmony, operating through committees focused on science, technology, economy, trade, and culture. Specialized institutions like the Islamic Development Bank (IDB) and Islamic World Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (ICESCO) further its mission to advance the interests of the Islamic world.

This initiative underscores the OIC's commitment to innovation, unity, and progress, positioning the Islamic world to navigate contemporary challenges and thrive in the global arena. ■

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Syed Tahsin  
Ahmed

### Historical Perspectives on Matchmaking

From ancient India to the modern era, matchmaking has evolved significantly. In ancient India, matches were made considering astrological compatibility, social status, and family background. Medieval Europe saw the rise of "marriage brokers," and the 18th century brought England's first matchmaking agency with a systematic approach to client compatibility. By the 20th century, psychological testing revolutionized matchmaking, leading to the development of "psychological matching." The 1960s saw the advent of computer-based systems, and the 1990s introduced online platforms, paving the way for global accessibility.

## The Evolution of Matchmaking and Marriage in India

### Matchmaking in India

In India, matchmaking has traditionally been a family-centered activity. Relatives and friends played the role of matchmakers, often exaggerating qualities of prospective brides or grooms. Over time, professional matchmakers emerged, providing paid services to families. These matchmakers initially relied on typewritten biodata and photographs, which have now transitioned to digital formats shared via email and WhatsApp, making the process faster and more convenient.

### The Rise of Online Matrimonial Apps

The advent of matrimonial apps like Shaadi.com, Jeevansathi.com, and Bharat Matrimony has revolutionized the matchmaking process. These platforms offer extensive profiles and preferences, connecting families and



individuals globally. While parents often manage these profiles, the potential bride and groom can interact independently later. Meetings typically take place in a neutral setting, and thorough background checks are essential to ensure authenticity, given the

risks of online fraud. Compatibility remains a key focus, with lifestyle similarities playing a crucial role in successful alliances.

### The Need for Pre-Marital Counselling

Social activists advocate for mandatory pre-marital counselling as a prerequisite for marriage registration. Retired IAS officer Ms. Nikhat Abroo Tabassum highlights efforts to establish pre-marital counselling centers in Karnataka, inspired by Christian practices where such courses are mandatory. The Church's initiative has significantly reduced domestic violence and marital discord, emphasizing the value of pre-marital education.

### Promoting Marital Harmony

The DMS Human Rights Foundation, led by Mr. Hyder Vali, has published the fourth edition of *The Art of Successful*

*Marriage*. Priced at Rs. 50, the book offers Islamic perspectives on marriage, covering 81 sub-chapters, including the etiquette of marital life and practical guidelines for harmonious relationships. It provides 20 golden rules for wives and husbands to foster understanding and prevent conflicts. The book is available through Moulana Mahmood Ali Mazhari (Mob: 9342867828) or the Brainy Stars School office (Mob: 8123646862).

### Conclusion

Matchmaking and marriage in India have transitioned from traditional familial arrangements to sophisticated digital platforms. The integration of pre-marital counselling and resources like *The Art of Successful Marriage* can further strengthen marital bonds, fostering peace and stability in families and society. (The author is a retired KAS officer and can be contacted at [tahsin789@yahoo.com](mailto:tahsin789@yahoo.com))

**New Delhi:** The Institute of Objective Studies (IOS) hosted a virtual event to unveil its latest publication, "*Mohammad Nejatullah Siddiqi: Life and Contributions to Islamic Economics*". The book celebrates the life and legacy of Prof. Mohammad Nejatullah Siddiqi, a renowned economist and pioneer of interest-free Islamic banking and finance.

In his welcome speech, IOS Secretary General Mohammad Alam described the book as a significant addition to the study of Prof. Siddiqi's transformative ideas. Edited by Prof. Javed Ahmad Khan, the book comprises essays exploring the multifaceted contributions of Prof. Siddiqi to Islamic economics. Prof. Khan emphasized the need for further research into Prof. Siddiqi's theories, particularly his efforts to educate madrasa students in financial literacy and his focus on economic justice.

The book was released virtually by Prof. Emeritus Dato Dr. Azmi Omar, President and CEO of INCEIF University, Malaysia. Dr. Omar highlighted Prof. Siddiqi's ethical approach to economics, describing him as a pioneer who combined faith and reason to address contemporary challenges like poverty and inequality. "His

## IOS Launches Book on Prof. Mohammad Nejatullah Siddiqi's Contributions to Islamic Economics



interdisciplinary methods expanded the scope of Islamic economics, making his work a beacon of hope in times of economic and moral crisis," said Dr. Omar.

Dato Iqbal Ahmed Khan, CEO of Fajr Capital Group, Dubai, shared personal anecdotes about Prof. Siddiqi, recalling his intellectual courage during India's Emergency in 1975. "His groundbreaking ideas inspired generations of scholars. Prof. Siddiqi believed that faith and reason could work together to serve humanity," noted Dato Khan.

Prof. Mohammad Ahmadullah Siddiqi, nephew of Prof. Siddiqi, lauded his uncle's work in presenting a just and fair economic

system through *Maqasid-e-Shariah*. He criticized exploitative capitalist and socialist models and celebrated Prof. Siddiqi's establishment of an Economic Research Centre in Aligarh as a milestone in Islamic economics.

Prof. Abdul Azim Islahi, a former student of Prof. Siddiqi, reflected on his teacher's dissatisfaction with existing Islamic economic models and his push for reformation. Prof. Siddiqi's advocacy for financial literacy and economic empowerment within Muslim communities remains profoundly relevant.

Dr. Aftab Alam of Abida Inamdar Senior College, Pune, praised Prof. Siddiqi's focus on prohibiting *riba* (interest) in

financial transactions. He discussed Prof. Siddiqi's contributions to implementing Islamic financial instruments like *Mudharabah*, *Musharakah*, and *Wakalah*.

In his presidential remarks, IOS Chairman Prof. M. Afzal Wani

provided historical context for Prof. Siddiqi's work, emphasizing his ability to balance Islamic economics with the principles of welfare economics.

The event underscored Prof. Siddiqi's enduring impact on Islamic economics and the need to continue exploring his visionary ideas to address the challenges of modern economic systems.

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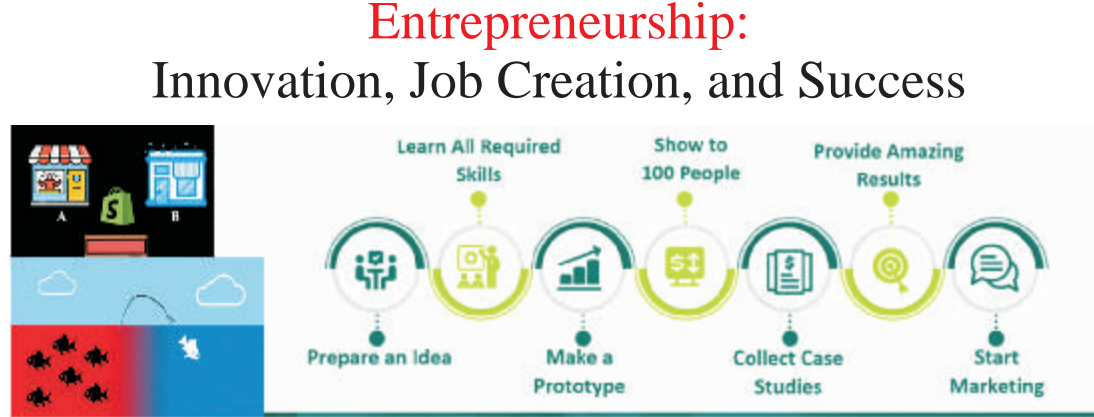
Arshad Sayyed

Entrepreneurship is the process of creating innovative business ideas that cater to both profit and social needs, often simultaneously. It is widely regarded as one of the most significant business concepts of recent times. An entrepreneur is someone who transforms an idea into a tangible business model. According to a hadith, Prophet Muhammad (SAW) stated that Allah SWT opens nine out of ten doors of sustenance and wealth through business, emphasizing the essential role business plays in meeting human needs. In the 20th century, rapid innovations spurred unprecedented progress. In today's fast-changing world, entrepreneurship is gaining immense popularity, especially among creative youth eager to generate new ideas that foster employment, economic growth, and future-shaping products and services.

#### Distinguishing Business, Self-Employment, and Entrepreneurship

Before diving into entrepreneurship, it's essential to understand the distinctions between a business, self-employment, and entrepreneurship:

- **Job:** A job is typically defined as specific tasks done for an agreed price as part of an occupation.
- **Self-Employment:** Self-



employment occurs when an individual works for themselves, often in a fixed place of business like a shop.

- **Business:** A business generates income not only when the owner is present but also in their absence.
- **Entrepreneurship:** The key distinction of entrepreneurship lies in its innovative nature. While businesses and self-employment may focus on competing in existing markets, entrepreneurship involves creating unique solutions that cater to unmet needs, resulting in new opportunities and products.

#### The Entrepreneurial Journey

Peter Thiel, in his book *Zero to One*, explains that successful entrepreneurs don't replicate existing business models they solve new problems. Entrepreneurs are innovators who identify issues and build solutions, thereby improving lives and providing value.

An entrepreneur typically has qualities like innovation, risk-

taking, leadership, and resilience in the face of failure. To turn an idea into a business, they follow steps such as:

1. Developing a scalable business idea.
2. Acquiring the necessary skills and resources.
3. Creating a product prototype and gathering feedback.
4. Using feedback to improve and market the product.

#### Inspiration from Prophet Muhammad (SAW)

Prophet Muhammad (SAW) was not only a leader but also a successful entrepreneur. His business ethics offer invaluable lessons. He was known as *Sadiq* (truthful) and *Amin* (trustworthy), qualities that were admired by both friends and adversaries. His key business principles included:

1. Honesty and truthfulness.
2. Condemnation of fraud (as mentioned in the Qur'an, 83:112).
3. Serving customers and understanding the social impact of business.

4. Paying fair wages promptly, as the Prophet said, "Pay employees' wages before their sweat dries up."
5. Avoiding undermining competitors to boost one's own business.

Following these principles, Hazrat Abdul Rahman Bin Awwaf (RA) became one of the wealthiest individuals in history, with an estimated net worth of \$605 billion today.

While the path to entrepreneurship is not easy, it offers many opportunities. Entrepreneurs face roadblocks and challenges, often requiring sleepless nights and overcoming failures. But the real task lies in identifying a good idea and seeking funding from angel investors or venture capitalists.

#### How to Start Your Entrepreneurial Journey

Key steps to start include:

- Developing a comprehensive business plan.
- Building a growth mindset.
- Aligning personal interests with

market needs.

#### Benefits and Risks of Entrepreneurship

Entrepreneurship offers significant rewards but also comes with risks:

##### Benefits:

- **Autonomy:** Being your own boss and building something from scratch.
- **Work-life balance:** While entrepreneurship often requires hard work, it offers flexibility.
- **Financial growth:** A successful business can yield more wealth than any conventional job.

##### Risks:

- **Uncertain income:** Financial stability is not guaranteed, especially in the initial stages.
- **High competition:** In a crowded market, businesses may not survive.
- **Stress and anxiety:** The demands of entrepreneurship can lead to greater mental strain than traditional jobs.

##### Conclusion

As emphasized in hadith, entrepreneurship opens doors to wealth and sustenance, and can be one of the most rewarding endeavors of life. Prophet Muhammad (SAW) provided timeless lessons on trust, ethics, and fairness in business, which continue to serve as a guiding light for modern entrepreneurs.

By following the principles of innovation, ethical business practices, and resilience in the face of challenges, aspiring entrepreneurs can embark on a successful journey, contributing to job creation, economic growth, and societal development. ■

### Review of "Peer-e-Kamil" by Umera Ahmed

#### Overview

"Peer-e-Kamil" (*The Perfect Mentor*) is a masterpiece by Umera Ahmed that explores profound spiritual and emotional transformations. The novel delves into the lives of two contrasting protagonists Imama Hashim, a young woman who breaks away from her rigid family traditions to embrace her true beliefs, and Salar Sikandar, an arrogant and troubled genius with a deep moral void. Their journeys of faith, love, and redemption are woven together in a story that leaves readers deeply reflective.

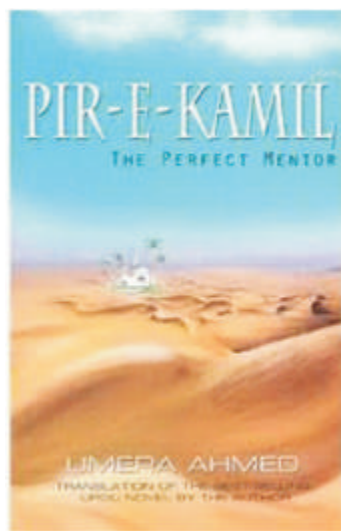
#### Themes

##### 1. Spiritual Growth

The core of *Peer-e-Kamil* is the pursuit of spiritual perfection and self-discovery. Imama's unwavering faith and Salar's path to redemption highlight the transformative power of Islam when embraced wholeheartedly.

##### 2. Love and Sacrifice

Umera Ahmed portrays love not as a fleeting emotion but as a profound commitment that demands patience, sacrifice, and selflessness. The bond between Imama and Salar develops subtly, reinforcing the idea of a spiritually aligned companionship.



**Author:**  
Umera Ahmed  
**Publisher:**  
Alif Publications, Delhi

##### 3. Moral and Ethical Dilemmas

The story forces readers to confront moral complexities, from family pressures to societal expectations, while emphasizing the importance of choosing the path of truth and righteousness.

##### Writing Style

Umera Ahmed's narrative is engaging, blending emotional depth with spiritual insight. Her characters are multi-dimensional,

with flaws and growth that resonate with readers. The dialogue is impactful, often laden with Quranic references and Islamic teachings, adding layers of meaning to the text.

#### Impact

The book leaves a lasting impression, encouraging introspection about one's own spiritual journey. Its universal themes of hope, repentance, and the pursuit of a higher purpose make it relatable to a wide audience, particularly those seeking inspiration in their faith.

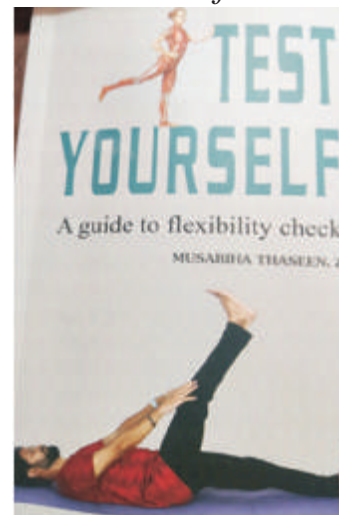
#### Conclusion

"Peer-e-Kamil" is not merely a novel; it is a spiritual experience. Umera Ahmed's storytelling bridges the gap between fiction and moral philosophy, making it a must-read for anyone interested in exploring the depths of faith, love, and redemption. Alif Publications' Delhi edition brings this masterpiece to Indian readers, ensuring its powerful message reaches a broader audience.

**Rating:** (5/5)

This is a book that will stay with you long after you turn the last page, inspiring a reevaluation of life's priorities and the meaning of true success. ■

### Test Yourself: A Guide to Flexibility Check



**Author:** Musabiha Tahseen Z.  
**Publisher:** Zindaan  
Physiotherapy Centre, Chennai

*Test Yourself: A Guide to Flexibility Check* by Musabiha Tahseen Z. is an insightful and practical guide for individuals looking to assess and improve their physical flexibility. Written by a certified physiotherapist with over a decade of experience, the book blends professional expertise with easy-to-follow instructions, making it accessible to readers of all backgrounds.

The book provides a step-by-step

approach to understanding flexibility, its importance for overall health, and methods to test and track progress. The author's clear explanations and illustrative examples empower readers to perform self-assessments effectively, ensuring they can identify areas requiring improvement.

What sets this guide apart is its emphasis on practical application. Whether you are a fitness enthusiast, an athlete, or someone recovering from physical limitations, the book offers tailored insights to suit diverse needs. The content is enriched with tips for incorporating flexibility exercises into daily routines, fostering long-term physical well-being.

Musabiha Tahseen Z.'s experience as a physiotherapist shines through in her attention to detail and her ability to simplify complex concepts. Her dedication to promoting physical health is evident in every page, making this book a valuable resource for anyone committed to maintaining a healthy, active lifestyle.

#### Verdict:

*Test Yourself: A Guide to Flexibility Check* is a must-read for those seeking a deeper understanding of



Naqi Ahmad Nadwi  
Riyadh, Saudi Arabia

Wilma Glodean Rudolph's life story is a powerful testament to the strength of determination and resilience. Born in 1940 into a modest American family, Wilma faced an enormous challenge early in life. Stricken with polio at the age of four, her left leg became paralyzed, and doctors predicted she would never walk again. Despite wearing braces and later orthopedic shoes, her weak legs did not dampen her strong spirit.

From a young age, Wilma dreamed of running like the other children she watched from the sidelines. Her determination ignited a lifelong goal: not only to walk but to become the fastest runner in the world. Against all odds, Wilma gradually transitioned from walking with braces to running without any



support. By the age of 11, she was walking unaided, and by 18, she began running competitively.

#### Turning Challenges into Triumphs

Wilma's athletic potential caught the attention of her school coach, who encouraged her to focus on sprints rather than basketball. She trained rigorously and soon

began participating in national and international competitions.

In 1956, Wilma made her Olympic debut in Melbourne, Australia, at the age of 16, winning a bronze medal. However, this was just the beginning of her extraordinary journey. By 1960, she had already set a world record in the

200-meter race. At the Rome Olympics that same year, Wilma won three gold medals:

- **100-meter race:** 11.3 seconds
- **200-meter race:** 23.2 seconds
- **4x100-meter relay:** 44.4 seconds

Wilma became the first American woman to win three gold medals in track and field at a single Olympics. Her accomplishments transformed her into a global icon, inspiring millions with her resilience and determination.

#### A Legacy of Courage

Wilma's incredible journey from a disabled child to an Olympic champion became a beacon of hope for generations. In recognition of her achievements, the United States established the **Wilma Rudolph Courage Award**, honoring female athletes

for their exceptional performances and indomitable spirit.

Her story reminds us that with determination, courage, and a clear goal, we can overcome even the most daunting challenges.

#### A Life Lesson for All

Mark Twain, the renowned American writer, once said:

*"There are two days in your life that are very important. The first day is the day you were born, and the second day is the day you discover why you were born."*

Wilma's life illustrates the transformative power of discovering one's purpose and pursuing it with unwavering dedication. Her journey teaches us to set meaningful goals and face life's challenges with courage and perseverance.

As we navigate our own paths, let Wilma Rudolph's story inspire us to dream big, stay determined, and believe in the impossible.

Naqi Ahmed Nadwi, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. Email: [naqinadwi2@gmail.com](mailto:naqinadwi2@gmail.com)



Sana Rubiyana

#### Understanding Identity Crisis

An identity crisis is a period of confusion or uncertainty about one's self, marked by feelings of instability and a struggle to reconcile roles and values. This can manifest after major life changes like marriage or having a baby, as individuals navigate new roles and responsibilities.

Identity Crisis After Marriage  
Psychologists define this as a period of self-doubt and uncertainty following marriage, often linked to feelings of losing individuality. While not universal, it is a common experience, particularly during transitions such as moving in together or taking on shared responsibilities.

#### Causes of Identity Crisis Post-Marriage

- **Loss of Independence:** Sacrificing personal habits or hobbies to accommodate a partner.
  - **Role Expectations:** Societal pressures around traditional gender roles in marriage.
  - **Fear of Losing Oneself:** Worry about becoming overly intertwined with a partner.
  - **Controlling Partner:** A partner who limits your growth, changes your values, or enforces their own goals over yours.
- Signs of an Identity Crisis Post-Marriage**
- Questioning your values and beliefs.
  - Feeling disconnected from interests and passions.
  - Struggling to describe yourself beyond the marital role.
  - Increased anxiety or dissatisfaction with life.
  - Changing yourself to please your



partner.

#### Loss of Identity After Having a Baby

Becoming a parent, especially a mother, can bring immense joy but also lead to significant lifestyle changes, often resulting in identity loss.

#### Common Changes That Trigger Identity Loss

- Losing professional identity or income.
- Reduced social life and spontaneity.
- Limited time for leisure,

personal interests, or self-care.

- Changes in body image and confidence.
  - Loss of freedom and alone time.
- These feelings are normal and do not diminish your love for your child or your abilities as a parent.

#### When to Seek Professional Help

If identity loss persists and disrupts daily life, it may indicate postnatal depression or anxiety. Early signs should prompt consultation with a psychologist for support.

#### Steps to Reclaim Yourself In Marriage

- **Self-Reflection:** Reassess your values, passions, and personal goals.
- **Maintain Hobbies:** Engage in activities you enjoy independently.
- **Open Communication:** Share feelings and concerns with your

partner.

• **Seek Therapy:** Professional guidance can help process and resolve identity struggles.

#### After Having a Baby

- Accept that identity shifts are normal and temporary.
- Seek support from your partner, family, or friends.
- Join parenting groups to connect with others who understand your experience.

#### Conclusion

Life transitions like marriage or parenthood bring profound changes, but they don't have to result in losing yourself. Embracing self-reflection, maintaining individuality, and seeking help when needed can foster a stronger sense of self in your new role.

*(The author is a Psychologist & Rational Emotive Cognitive Behavioural Therapist. Contact Sana Rubiyana at [sanarubiana@gmail.com](mailto:sanarubiana@gmail.com))*

## Navigating Identity Crisis After Marriage or Parenthood

### Kota Tragedy: A Call to Reform Education and Parenting

The recent suicide of Kriti, a talented student in Kota, has brought attention to the immense pressure students face in the pursuit of academic excellence. Her heartbreaking note reveals the struggles many children endure silently, urging systemic change in education and parenting.

#### The Plea for Change

Kriti directly addressed the Government of India and the Ministry of Human Resources, calling for the closure of coaching institutes that she claimed "leave students hollow." She highlighted the immense pressure to succeed, which often overwhelms young minds, leading to mental health crises.

#### The Emotional Toll

Despite her achievements 90+

marks and a bright academic future Kriti battled deep-seated feelings of hatred and despair. Her note reveals her pain, stating she could help others escape depression but couldn't save herself.

#### A Cry to Parents

In her heartfelt message to her mother, Kriti disclosed how she was coerced into pursuing science to fulfill her family's expectations. While she developed an interest in quantum physics and astrophysics, her true love remained with English literature and history, subjects that offered her solace during dark moments. Kriti urged her mother to let her younger sister choose her



own path, warning against repeating the same mistakes.

#### The Larger Picture

Kriti's note underscores a critical issue: the toxic culture of competition and imposed dreams. Parents often prioritize societal benchmarks over their children's individuality, pressuring them into paths they may not desire. This lack of autonomy and support leaves children unequipped to cope with failure, driving some toward suicide or substance abuse.

#### Conclusion: A Disturbing Reality

Kriti's tragic story is a wake-up call. It highlights the urgent need for reform in the education system, a shift in parenting attitudes, and a focus on teaching resilience and the importance of

family values. Without addressing these issues, the cycle of despair among students will continue.

Let this be a reminder that every child deserves the freedom to dream and the support to grow into their best selves. (<https://www.facebook.com/share/p/18Hd1vaGp/?mibextid=wwXlfr>)

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### Test Yourself: A Guide to Flexibility Check

their physical capabilities and practical strategies for improvement. It is both informative and empowering, reflecting the expertise and passion of its author. Highly recommended for readers in Chennai and beyond.





**Alaisa Sehrish**

Have you ever gone trekking on a whim, driven solely by motivation and adrenaline?

That's exactly what I did during the 11th Leadership Development Program of the *Discover Yourself* initiative by Sadathullah Khan (and also during the 7th and 8th programs).

On the 5th day of the workshop, we visited Bagepalli, a tranquil site in rural Bangalore, where the Wisdom Paradise is being built. I felt an urge to climb the nearby hill, but doubts crept in. Would anyone else join me? Could we even make it to the peak? Disheartened, I began walking.

Then, out of nowhere, I noticed someone heading toward the hill. Excitement surged. I called out to

them, and soon a few friends joined in. Together, we embarked on an unplanned adventure to conquer what I now call the Hill of Wisdom Paradise.

**Thorns and Challenges**

The journey was not without its trials. Tiny, stubborn thorns clung to our shoes and clothes, pricking us at every step. Despite our efforts to remove them, they persisted.

Adding to the struggle was the intense heat and our limited water supply. It was 3 p.m., and exhaustion was setting in. At one point, I began questioning myself: "Is this even worth it?"

"Why am I doing this?"

"What will I gain by reaching the top?"

A 67-year-old climber, who had already reached the peak, offered timely advice:



"Don't stop because of the thorns. They'll always be there. Ignore them if you want to reach the top."

**The Turning Point**

The climb got tougher. My hands ached, my knees wobbled, and my throat felt like the Sahara. I stood

just 15 minutes away from the peak, consumed by doubt.

I turned back to see how far I'd come. In that moment, clarity struck:

"I won't know the answers to these questions unless I finish what I started. The person who began this climb had a reason to reach the top. This current me, overwhelmed by challenges, must honor that decision."

Step by step, I pushed forward. With each stretch, I silenced my doubts. And then I heard cheers my name being called out. I looked up and realized: I had made it.

**The View from the Top**

Standing at the peak, surrounded by breathtaking beauty, everything made sense. The thorns, the heat, the exhaustion all of it paled in comparison to the sense of

achievement. The questions that had haunted me? They answered themselves.

**Lessons from the Climb**

Life mirrors this climb.

- You will have goals.
- You will face thorns challenges that poke and prod you.
- Your resources may feel insufficient, and people may drop off along the way.

But you'll also find those who stay, those who lift you when you falter. You'll face moments of doubt and forget why you began. That's normal.

What's extraordinary is silencing the doubts, pausing the excuses, and moving forward no matter what.

The climb taught me that resilience and focus lead to breakthroughs. If you, dear reader, want to discover these truths for yourself, you'll have to climb your own hill.

Because the answers and the bigger picture await at the top. ■

**OBITUARY**

**Br. Ghazli (1963–2025)**



evident when he traveled from Riyadh to Colombo to attend the first Discover Yourself (DYS) workshop. Inspired by its transformative potential, he became instrumental in organizing several DYS workshops in Riyadh and Chennai, impacting many lives positively.

Br. Ghazli also dedicated his life to spreading the understanding of the Quran, leaving a lasting legacy of faith, service, and inspiration. He is survived by his beloved wife and three daughters.

May Allah reward him abundantly, elevate his ranks in Jannah, and grant patience and strength to his family and loved ones during this difficult time. *Inna Lillahi wa Inna Ilayhi Raji'un.* ■

It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of our dear friend and well-wisher, Br. M.B. Mohideen Ghazali, on January 21, 2025, after a few months of illness. Born on January 26, 1963, Br. Ghazali was a successful businessman in Riyadh, managing Zee Express Freight Co. Ltd. His passion for personal and spiritual development was

**Are We Preparing Our Children for Paradise?**

A teacher once asked her students, "What do you want to be in life?"

Answers varied doctor, lawyer, accountant but one response stood out: "I want to be a Sahaabi." While no one can become a Sahaabi, this child's answer reflected his admiration for the qualities of the Sahaabah (radhiyallahu 'anhum), such as their piety, love for Rasulullah (sallallahu 'alaihi wasallam), and loyalty to Islam. This aspiration was a testament to the values instilled by his parents at home.

**The Role of Parents**

Parents shape their children's values, priorities, and future paths. It's worth asking: **What values are we instilling in our children?** Often, children spend over 16,000 hours in school over 12 years, preparing for careers and financial success. Yet, their Deeni education may total as little as 1,900 hours.



This imbalance is alarming, considering that eternal success in the Hereafter depends on their understanding and practice of Deen.

**Prioritizing Deeni Education**

Parents often prioritize school over madrasah, allowing children to skip Islamic studies for exams, sports, or other activities. This teaches children, intentionally or not, that worldly success outweighs their religious obligations. Such a mindset risks raising individuals who value wealth and luxury over loyalty to Allah Ta'ala.

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**TANVEEN:** An excellent and rejuvenating experience. I hope such sessions are held regularly to refresh our Iman. Reflecting on how much valuable time we have lost has been eye-opening. Many aspects of life remain unknown to us unless someone guides us, as the coach did. Thank you for your guidance; I hope to get involved in this cause, *InshaAllah*. We often chase external achievements without focusing on our inner selves. Carrying the burden of the past and worrying about the future has made me lose sight of the present. I want to let go of my past and start listening to my heart. I will release falsehood, ego, and the wrongs done by others and strive to serve humanity to the best of my ability.

**RIZWANA:** I experienced a profound transformation on the very first day. On the second day, tears rolled down my cheeks, and I realized things that are hard to explain in words. I will give up my ego and stand by my word, no matter what comes my way.

**EHSAN:** This unique workshop emphasizes the inner aspect of a Muslim's life. It is highly useful and every Muslim should attend it. The coach has vast experience and is well-versed in the subject. This workshop is life-changing. It opened my eyes and gave me a new perspective on life. Your mission of spreading the teachings of Islam is a selfless service. May Allah (SWT) accept your efforts.

**KITTUR:** I came to learn many things about real life, *deen*, and *duniya*. This workshop is essential for everyone's life. I am completely satisfied.

**IFFATH:** This is a very motivating workshop. I thoroughly enjoyed it. I've learned to let go of things and gained the ability to differentiate between the mind and reality.

**RAZIYA:** This workshop is very interesting, and my whole family attended. I feel stress relief and am letting go of my ego.

**ANJUM:** A brilliant workshop to know and understand ourselves and to build ourselves emotionally and mentally. It was a great platform to release all my problems and become stress-free.

**MOULALI:** Your explanation

## A Journey from Darkness to Light: Insights on Life and Spirituality

505<sup>th</sup> Discover Yourself Workshop Hosted By KPTCL- MEWA  
On The 11 & 12 January 2025 at the Karnataka Urdu Academy, Bangalore.



### Some of the Participants Share Their Experiences:

- I feel free, calm, and have learned to listen from the heart.
- It's an ocean of humanity.
- I have learned to distinguish between truth (*haqq*) and falsehood (*batil*), emerging from darkness into light. An excellent workshop.
- It was truly excellent.
- A great initiative to help people live in the present moment.
- I've learned how to live in reality and differentiate between *haqq* and *batil*. I will treat all human beings as equals and forgive those who have wronged me.
- The workshop provided valuable thoughts, knowledge, ideas, and insights into the concept and purpose of life.
- An engaging and helpful experience with a very encouraging and enthusiastic coach who kept the audience engaged throughout the workshop. I've learned to find peace and trust in Allah (SWT) without any questions. I am letting go of expectations from people.
- It is mesmerizing. It boosts our minds and hearts to forgive everything. I am ready to give up my ego.
- As a mother, I have shifted my perspective and learned to forgive everyone.
- I've learned how to live my life peacefully and make it meaningful for my future.
- The connection with Allah and the ability to distinguish between *haqq* and *batil*. The workshop has transformed my life. His way of explaining the reality of life helped me to forgive the past and live in the present.
- It is incredibly useful and exactly what our community needs. It was a wonderful experience that helped me understand the concept of duality and reality. The examples from real life were very convincing.



was amazing mind-blowing! The distinction between *haqq* and *batil* was revealed so clearly.

**FAIZ:** This workshop is interesting and beneficial for a peaceful life. I will implement what I've learned immediately and share the message with my family and friends. I will also encourage them to attend future workshops.

**RASID:** The workshop teaches the

Quranic way of life, which is useful in every human's life. This workshop is dedicated to making human beings perfect. If applied in daily life, it will be very effective.

**ARSHIYA:** The workshop is useful and helpful for mental peace. I will start forgiving everyone from now on, *InshaAllah*. I will give up my ego and live in a way that aligns with Allah's will.

**EJAZ:** This workshop helped me see what I couldn't see before. It is aligned with the Quran and connects you to Allah, guiding daily decisions in line with Islam. The demonstrations on each topic were effective, practical, and inspirational. "As you sow, so shall you reap. As you live, so shall you rise."

**MOHD SHARIF:** It was

inspiring, with explanations supported by case studies, thoughtful and meaningful. I will give up my ego, forgive, live with love, respect, generosity, and integrity. I will serve those in need.

**ILYAS AHMED:** This workshop is life-changing truly the best of the best. It changed my perspective with my son and brothers. I am giving up the belief that I am always right. I've gained the ability to differentiate between truth and falsehood.

**SHABANA:** Mashallah, the workshop was very good. I missed the first day, which made me realize how much I missed. I've gained many useful and important lessons from this workshop. I have forgiven all those who hurt me for Allah's sake. We must love one another, forget our past, and peace will come into our lives. I will give up my ego.

**AFRAM:** This was a life-changing experience. I was able to look deeper within myself. The way Sadath Sir engages the audience and invites participation is remarkable. The workshop helped me focus on the present, guided by Allah's will, leaving the past behind and forgiving those in my life. It taught me to disconnect from the mind and connect with the heart, guided by Allah.

**JABEEN:** This workshop connects people with Allah (SWT) and helps practically implement what we know. It encourages us to bring out our humanity offering forgiveness for the sake of Allah, feeding the hungry with the thought that we are feeding Allah's creatures for His sake.

**HABEEB:** The workshop was excellent, *Mashallah*, *Subhanallah*. I am so grateful I attended this workshop. Without it, I would have missed out on so much. *InshaAllah*, I will make an effort to control my speech and speak less. First, I will focus on becoming a better person. This collection of reflections highlights the powerful impact of the workshop, helping participants on their journey of spiritual growth and self-awareness. Let me know if you'd like to adjust anything further! ■

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### Malala Urges Against Validating Taliban Gender Apartheid

maintain modesty and avoid fitnah (temptation).

#### 2. Permissibility with Conditions

Others argue that coeducation can be permissible when conducted within the framework of Islamic guidelines, ensuring modesty and equal access to education.

#### Conditions for Permissible Coeducation

**1. Modesty:** Both genders must adhere to Islamic dress codes and maintain respectful interactions.

**2. Separate Facilities:** Separate prayer areas, restrooms, and classrooms (if possible) can help

uphold Islamic principles.

**3. Supervision:** Proper oversight can ensure a safe and respectful learning environment.

#### Benefits of Coeducation

**1. Fostering Mutual Respect:** Interaction in a controlled environment can promote understanding and mutual respect between genders.

**2. Equal Education Opportunities:** Coeducation can ensure that both males and females have access to quality education and opportunities.

**3. Preparation for Real Life:** Exposure to diverse perspectives

can help students adapt to real-world environments and interactions.

#### Conclusion

Islam values modesty and humility while encouraging the pursuit of knowledge. Coeducation can be permissible under conditions that respect Islamic principles, such as maintaining modesty, ensuring proper supervision, and providing separate facilities. Ultimately, decisions on coeducation should consider cultural, social, and individual needs, balancing the benefits with adherence to Islamic teachings. ■

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### Are We Preparing Our Children for Paradise?

#### Striking the Balance

To ensure our children succeed in both worlds, parents must:

- Prioritize madrasah alongside school education.
- Foster a Deeni environment at home through regular ta'leem, dua, respect, and Salah.
- Model the importance of Deen in daily life.

By doing so, children will learn to prioritize their faith, making choices that align with Allah

Ta'ala's guidance and safeguarding their path to Jannah.

#### A Reminder for Parents

A child is born a Muslim but not born a Jannah. Jannah must be earned through conscious effort and commitment. Just as we prepare our children to earn a living, let's prepare them to earn Paradise.

(Uswatul Muslimah, Jamiatul Ulama (KZN), Council of Muslim Theologians) ■

Find the sweetness in your own heart, then you may find the sweetness in every heart

**New Delhi:** Nawab Salahuddin Khan, the visionary philanthropist behind the Rahmani Foundation, passed away in Chicago at the age of 90. A generous benefactor, Khan donated his historic mansion, Nawab Koti, located at Belan Bazar in Munger, to the Rahmani Foundation, an organization established in 1996 by the late Maulana Mohammad Wali Rahmani.

Khan's passing, following a long battle with age-related ailments, has evoked deep sorrow among the Rahmani Foundation community and the residents of Jamia Rahmani Khanqah in Munger.

Nawab Koti, once a symbol of heritage, was transformed by Maulana Mohammad Wali Rahmani into the cornerstone of

## Philanthropist Nawab Salahuddin Khan Passes Away at 90 in Chicago

the Rahmani Foundation, an institution devoted to the social upliftment of the community. Today, the mansion is home to numerous projects, including Rahmani Healthcare and the Rahmani Computer Center. These initiatives have grown into well-recognized institutions such as Rahmani 30, Rahmani School of Excellence, and Rahmani B.Ed College, serving the nation through education, vocational training, and healthcare services. The foundation's charitable programs, such as the annual restoration of eyesight for hundreds of individuals regardless of their background, exemplify its dedication to humanity.



Established to formalize the charitable efforts of the Rahmani Mission, the Rahmani Foundation has been active since 1996 in areas such as public health, education, social justice, and environmental welfare. Under its aegis, numerous education centers, vocational institutes, and healthcare facilities have uplifted thousands of lives.

### Tributes to a Life of Service

Ameer Shariat, Maulana Ahmed Wali Faisal Rahmani, expressed profound grief over Khan's passing, extending condolences to his family. In a heartfelt statement, he honored Khan's legacy:

"Nawab Salahuddin Khan's life was a beacon of service and sacrifice. By giving up his residence for the betterment of humanity, he demonstrated unparalleled selflessness. His contributions have educated thousands and supported countless individuals in need. Though we mourn his loss, his legacy will endure through the institutions he helped build. May Allah grant him a high place in

Paradise and patience to his loved ones."

Maulana Muhammad Arif Rahmani, General Secretary of Jamia Rahmani, and Maulana Saleheen Nadvi, Secretary, also conveyed their sorrow. They emphasized that Nawab Salahuddin Khan's sacrifices would forever be remembered and pledged to continue his mission with Allah's guidance.

Nawab Salahuddin Khan's life remains a testament to the transformative power of generosity and the enduring impact of serving humanity.

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**Bijapur based Sunni Muslim parents** invites alliance for their daughter MDS Orthodontics, 27 years, Very fair, height 5.2ft. Seeking alliance from well-educated family. **Contact 9886925552**

## In Loving Memory of Maulana Jafar Masood Hasni Nadvi

Abdul Matin Muniri (Bhatkal)

The passing of Maulana Jafar Masood Hasni Nadvi has left a profound void in the hearts of many. A devout scholar and humble servant of Islam, he tragically departed this world on January 15, 2025, in Rae Bareilly, Uttar Pradesh, after a road accident. His loss is mourned deeply by the Muslim community in India and beyond.

Born on September 13, 1965, in Rae Bareilly, Maulana Jafar



A Teacher, Preacher, and Torchbearer of Islamic Thought

Masood belonged to the esteemed lineage of Hazrat Maulana Syed

Abul Hasan Nadvi. He inherited not only the legacy of scholarship but also the virtues of humility, piety, and intellectual brilliance.

A product of Nadwat Ulema, Lucknow, he excelled in Arabic, Islamic jurisprudence, and literature, earning advanced degrees and certifications. His career spanned decades of teaching, writing, and editing, with significant contributions such as translations of key Islamic texts and intellectual works in Arabic and Urdu.

Beyond his scholarship, Maulana Jafar Masood was a quiet force, preferring the path of humility over fame. His dedication to educating future generations and upholding Islamic values made him a cornerstone of the community.

His untimely demise is an irreplaceable loss, yet we submit to Allah's will with patience and prayers. May Allah grant him Jannah, elevate his ranks, and provide solace to those he leaves behind. Ameen.

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February 2025, Vol. 37-02, No. 447

Printed and Published by A.W. Sadathullah Khan on behalf of Islamic Voice (Trust) and Printed at M.N.S Printers Pvt. LTD.Regd & HO: No 345/4, Bhattarhall, Old Madras Road ,Bangalore-560049

Published at: 3/1, Palmgrove Road, Victoria Layout, Bangalore-560047  
 Tel: 080 - 41126165, Whats App No. : 98458 94900

February 2025 Editor: A.W. Sadathullah Khan  
 Email: editor@islamicvoice.com

Regd. with Registrar of Newspaper of India Under Reg. No. 45497/87  
 Registered, Regn. No. KRNA/BGE/176/2024-2026

Posted at Mysore Road Bangalore PSO, BG 560026 on 1st or 3rd or 5th of Every Month. No. of Pages 20  
 Licensed to Post without Prepayment, Licence No: PMG BG/WPP/61/2024-2026 Published Date: 31-01-2025

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