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Thought for the Month

On that account: We ordained
 For the Children of Israel
 That if any one slew
 A person—unless it be
 For murder or for spreading
 Mischief in the land—
 It would be as if
 He slew the whole people:
 And if any one saved a life,
 It would be as if he saved
 The life of the whole people.
 Then although there came
 To them Our Messengers
 With Clear Signs, yet,
 Even after that, many
 Of them continued to commit
 Excesses in the land

Al-Quran- S. 5:V-32

EDITOR

Prof. Sanghasen Singh

CIRCULATION MANAGER

Syed Arshad Karim

CORRESPONDENCE ADDRESS

162, Jogabai Extension
 Jamia Nagar, New Delhi
 PIN-110025
 India

Phone 26981187,
 26989253, 26987467
 Fax : 91-11-26981104

E-mail:

manzoor@ndf.vsnl.net.in

FOCUS

The partition of the Punjab took place as part of an overall agreement to partition India, brokered by the British government between the main country-level political parties – the Indian National Congress and the All-India Muslim League – and the Sikhs of the Punjab. The Partition Plan was announced by the British government on 3 June 1947 and was endorsed by the representatives of the main political parties and Baldev Singh, the representative of the Punjab Sikhs. In mid-August, the British Indian Empire ended. The international boundary between the two states was drawn, through the Punjab in the north-west and Bengal in the north-east of India, a couple of days later.

At that time, Muslims comprised the majority of the Punjabi population. According to the 1941 census, the total population of the Punjab – including British Punjab and the princely states – was 33,922,373. Muslims were in an absolute majority of 53.2 per cent, while Hindus made up 29.1 per cent (including 6.4 per cent scheduled castes and tribes), Sikhs, 14.9 per cent and Christians, 1.9 per cent.

British Punjab comprised twenty-nine districts with a total population of 28,418,819, of which Muslims were 57.1 per cent; Hindus 27.8 per cent (including 5.6 belonging to the scheduled castes or 'untouchables'); Sikh 13.2 per cent and Christians 1.7 per cent.

There can be no denying that if India had not been partitioned, the Punjab would not have been divided either. The demand for partition of the Punjab was made by the Sikh leaders in reaction to the demand by the leaders of the Muslim League for a separate Muslim-majority Pakistan, that would include the Punjab as well. However, it was not inevitable that the Punjab would have been partitioned if the leaders of the three main communities, the Hindus, Muslims and Sikhs, had agreed to remain together.

The decision to partition the Punjab applied to British Punjab: an administrative unit directly under British administration. However, the great commotion and upheaval that attended the partition process inevitably enveloped the princely states of the Punjab as well. The culmination of the partition process resulted in the obliteration of all traces of Muslim presence in the Indian Punjab; the sole exception was the tiny princely state of Malerkotla (total population 88,109) ruled by a Muslim nawab. Equally, Hindus and Sikhs became conspicuous by their absence from the Pakistani West Punjab and the princely state of Bahawalpur (total population 1,341,209).

The intriguing aspect about the Punjab was that pre-colonial Punjab had a rich tradition of liberal and pluralist interpretations of the three major religions – Islam, Hinduism and Sikhism – as they interacted with Sufi, Bhakti and Sant movements, which preached harmony rather than confrontation.

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Activities of the IOS Headquarters

Governing Council Meet

The six-monthly meeting of the Governing Council (G.C.) was held on 12.4.2014 (Saturday) at 10.00 a.m. in the Committee Room of the IOS, 162, Jogabai Main Road, Jamia Nagar, New Delhi-25.

The following were present:

1. Dr. M. Manzoor Alam in the Chair
2. Prof. Refaat Ali Khan Vice-Chairman
3. Prof. Z.M. Khan Secretary General
4. Prof. Ishtiaque Danish Finance Secretary
5. Prof. Mohsin Usmani Member
6. Prof. Manzoor Ahmad Member
7. Prof. A. R. Momin Member
8. Prof. P. Koya Member
9. Dr. Major Zahid Hussain Member
10. Prof. Faizan Mustafa Special Invitee
11. Prof. (Ms.) Haseena Hashia Special Invitee
12. Prof. Shamim A. Ansari Special Invitee
13. Dr. Eqbal Hussain Special Invitee
14. Ms. Farhat Azad Special Invitee
15. Dr. Zafar Mahfooz Nomani Special Invitee
16. Dr. Md. Aftab Alam Special Invitee
17. Mr. A. Basit Ismail Nadvi Special Invitee

Recitation of verses from the Holy Qur'an.

The meeting started with the recitation of verses from the Holy Qur'an by Prof. Mohsin Usmani, who also explained the meaning and context of the verses for the benefit of all.

Adoption of condolence resolutions.

Condolence resolutions on the sad demise of Mr. Ejaz Ahmad Azmi (Renowned Religious Scholar), Janab Abdul Moed Hameedi (Former Member of All India Milli Council), Mother of Mr. Waseem Ahmad (Public Relations Officer of AIMC, New Delhi), Wife of Engineer Abdur Rasheed of Parbhani (Member of Executive Committee of AIMC), Mr. Waliullah Rishadi of Wanambari (Vice President of AIMC), Dr. Nelson Mandela (Former President of Republic of South Africa), Mr. Fariduzzaman Kairanwi (Former President, Old Boys Association of Darul Uloom, Deoband), Dr. Syedna Mohammad Burhanuddin (Head of the Dawoodi Bohra Community and Brother of Shehzada Shabbir Bhai Nooruddin), Syed Asim Ali Sabzwari, Advocate (Former Member of Muslim

Personal Law Board), Mother of Mr. Suhail Nadvi (Naib Nazim, Imarat-e-Shariah, Patna), Syed Masood Ashraf (Renowned Surgeon of Aligarh), Mr. Zubairul Hasan (Ameer, Tablighi Jamaat), Mr. Ahmad Ali Qasmi (Member, All India Muslim Personal Law Board) and Mother of Mr. M. Aatur Rehman (Administrative Officer and P.S. to Chairman of IOS) and all those associated with the IOS, who passed away during the period, were adopted and *dua* for their *maghfirat* was made by the Governing Council (G.C.) of the Institute of Objective Studies (IOS).

Before taking up the agenda items and starting the business, Dr. M. Manzoor Alam, Chairman, IOS welcomed the members and special invitees for attending the meeting.

Thereafter the agenda of the meeting was taken up.

Confirmation of the minutes.

The minutes of the Governing Council (G.C.) meeting dated 31st August, 2013 were presented and confirmed.

Consideration of the Follow-up Report.

The Follow-up Report (Action taken Report) on the last G.C. meeting dated 31st August, 2013 was presented before the Governing Council. The same was considered and after deliberations, got approved with the following decision:

A Committee was constituted to look into the representations made regarding enactment of law for protection of women in the light of Nirbhaya case. To follow up the same it was resolved that in the light of "The Criminal Law (Amendment) Act, 2013", a Note will be prepared by Prof. Faizan Mustafa. This committee may decide about the line of action on the basis of the Note, as prepared by Prof. Faizan Mustafa. The same will be reported to the office bearers of the Institute.

The composition of the said Committee is as given below:

1. Dr. Eqbal Hussain Convenor
2. Prof. Faizan Mustafa Member
3. Prof. M. Afzal Wani Member

4. Mr. Mustaq Ahmad, Adv. Member
5. Dr. Zafar Mahfooz Nomani Member

Report about the International Conference on "Revisiting Abul Qasim Al-Zahrawi's Legacy in Medicine and Surgery".

The report of the International Conference on "Revisiting Abul Qasim Al-Zahrawi's Legacy in Medicine and Surgery", organized by the Institute of Objective Studies (IOS) in association with the Hyderabad-based Muslim Educational, Social and Cultural Organisation (MESCO), Hai Medicare and Research Institute of Patna and the India Islamic Cultural Centre (IICC), New Delhi on 13-15 December, 2013 at New Delhi, was presented before the members of the Governing Council (G.C.) of the Institute of Objective Studies (IOS) and special invitees, who, after going through the report, expressed their whole-hearted appreciation for holding such a conference with grand success.

Further, taking note about the resolutions adopted in the conference, the Chairman particularly discussed two resolutions which are as under:

1. To organize an International conference on Tibbe-e-Nabwi and Tibb-e-Islami on or after November 2014;
2. To request the Government of India to permit and sponsor the visit of exhibition "1001 Inventions" by Islamic Heritage, Manchester, U.K. on the occasion of 1001 years of Abu al-Qasim al-Zahrawi in the year 2014.

And also to take up two projects i.e. to develop (i) A Directory of people and institutions in Unani medicine in India; and (ii) A Directory of research on Unani medicine over the past 25 years in India.

Report about the progress in regard to Special Volumes based on Silver Jubilee Celebrations.

The Status Report about the progress of Special Volumes (other than the volume on "Media in a Globalising World") was presented before the members of the Governing Council (G.C.) and special invitees, who, after

going through the report, expressed their satisfaction. However, it was desired that the matter should be expedited for getting the volumes completed as early as possible.

In regard to the volume on 'Media in a Globalising World' it was reported that the work on the same was complete and sent to various experts for its pre-publication review/comments, which is expected by May 15-30, 2014.

Report about the IOS Shah Waliullah Award - 2012 on the topic "Islamic Mysticism".

As per decision taken by the Board administering the Shah Waliullah Award, the IOS Shah Waliullah Award for the year 2012 will be conferred on Hazrat Maulana Syed Mustafa Refaee Nadwi of Bangalore, who has contributed a lot on Islamic Mysticism.

The Award conferring ceremony will be held on **August 23, 2014** at **Bangalore**.

Further, it was decided by the Board that the topic for the next Award for the year 2013 will be "Education in Islamic Perspective".

A Note on the above topic has been prepared by Prof. Z.M. Khan for Shah

Waliullah Award, while a Note for Essay Writing Competition (Junior Category) will be prepared by Prof. Ishtiyaque Danish.

Discussion about the 6th IOS Lifetime Achievement Award.

In regard to the 6th Lifetime Achievement Award the members of the Search Committee identified the following names of individuals for the 6th IOS Lifetime Achievement Award:

1. Mr. A. G. Noorani (Mumbai)
2. Dr. Rahimuddin Kamal (Hyderabad)
3. Janab Abdur Rahim Qureshi (Hyderabad)
4. Dr. Abdul Hai (Patna)

Some more names are likely to be added in the above list.

All the names, after identifying them by the Search Committee, will be recommended to the Governing Council (G.C.) of the IOS for taking a final decision to confer the Award on any one of them.

Report about holding the 6th Maulana Qazi Mujahidul Islam Qasmi Memorial Lecture.

All the members of the Governing Council (G.C.) and special invitees present were informed that Prof. Refaat Ali Khan, Vice-Chairman of the IOS will deliver the said lecture on the topic "Communal Interpretation of Indian History" on **May 24, 2014 (Saturday)** and that full paper on the said topic will be submitted by April 20, 2014 for printing.

Report about the progress on digitization of IOS and IIIT



A view of the Governing Council (G.C) Meeting

publications.

The members of the Governing Council (G.C.) of the Institute of Objective Studies (IOS) and special invitees, after going through the status report of the digitization of the IOS and IIIT publications, expressed their satisfaction. Further, it was desired that the work of digitization should be expedited so that the same might be completed as early as possible.

Report about the progress in regard to Preparation of Textbooks, Translation, Adaptation, Review and Editing of Books.

The status report in regard to preparation of textbooks/reference books, translation, adaptation, review

and editing of books was presented before the members of the Governing Council (G.C.) of the IOS and special invitees, who, after going through the report, expressed their satisfaction.

Report about the status of IOS Periodicals.

In regard to the status report of IOS periodicals, published by the Institute of Objective Studies (IOS), the members of the Governing Council (G.C.) of the Institute of Objective Studies (IOS) and special invitees discussed the matter at length and after deliberations resolved that a meeting of the editors of various IOS periodicals, along with Vice-Chairman & Secretary General of IOS and Dr. Eqbal Hussain (Associate Professor, Faculty of Law, J.M.I.) & Prof. Faizan Mustafa (Vice-Chancellor, NALSAR University of Law, Hyderabad), will be held on May 04, 2014 at 2:00 p.m.

The agenda will be to chalk out the mechanism and time-line to improve the journals and their publication. The revival of the publication of Human Rights Today (HRT) will also be discussed in the meeting.

It was further decided that one issue of the

journals should be theme based as it is in the case of American Journal of Islamic Social Sciences (AJISS), published by the IIIT, Herndon, USA.

Report about holding three Lectures (under the Indian Constitution and Fundamental Rights) and a number of Periodical Lectures by the IOS scholars.

In regard to organising various lecture programmes by the IOS Headquarters, the members of the Governing Council (G.C.) of the Institute of Objective Studies (IOS) and special invitees were informed that:

The topics of three lectures to be delivered under "The Indian Constitution and Fundamental Rights" are given below:

- (1) Lecture on “*International Human Rights Norms, and the Indian Constitution*” by Dr. Eqbal Hussain, Associate Professor, Faculty of Law, Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi and Member, General Assembly of IOS, New Delhi, will be delivered on **7th of June, 2014.**
- (2) Lecture on “*Challenges to Constitutional Pluralism in India*” by Prof. M. Afzal Wani, School of Law & legal Studies, G.G.S.Indraprastha University, Delhi and Asstt. Secretary General of IOS, New Delhi.
Date of delivering the lecture will be decided consultation with the speaker.
- (3) Lecture on “*Inadequacy of Protection of Minority Language under the Indian Constitution*” by Mr. Mushtaq Ahmad, Advocate, Supreme Court of India, New Delhi and Member, General Assembly of IOS, New Delhi.
Date of delivering the lecture will be decided in consultation with the speaker.
- I. The topics and experts for delivering Periodical Lectures are as under:**
- (1) Lecture on “*Islamic Worldview*” by Prof. Z.M. Khan, Secretary General of IOS, New Delhi, will be delivered on **21st of June, 2014.**
- (2) Lecture on “*Questions in Parliament : Fascism in Democracy*” by Dr. Md. Aftab Alam, Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science, Zakir Hussain College, New Delhi and Associate Member, General Assembly of IOS, New Delhi, will be delivered on **9th of August, 2014.**
- (3) Lecture on “*Islamic Research Methodology*” by Prof. Shamim A. Ansari, Deptt. of Psychology, Aligarh Muslim University, Aligarh and Member, General Assembly of IOS, New Delhi, will be delivered on **20th of September, 2014.**
- (4) Lecture on “*Orientalism and Islamic Science –Contemporary Critique*” by Prof. Ishtiaque Danish, Deptt. of Islamic Studies, Jamia Hamdard, New Delhi and Finance Secretary of IOS, New Delhi, will be delivered on **25th of October, 2014.**
- (5) Lecture on “*Islamic Historiography*” by Prof. Refaat Ali Khan, Vice-Chairman of IOS, New Delhi, will be delivered on **15th of November, 2014.**
- (6) Lecture on “*Medical Ethics in Islam*” by Dr. Fakhruddin Mohammad, Hony. Secretary, MESCO, Hyderabad and Member, General Assembly of IOS, New Delhi.
Date of delivering the lecture will be decided in consultation with the speaker.
- (7) Lecture on “*Justice in Crisis: An Unattainable Dream*” by Prof. M. Afzal Wani, School of Law & Legal Studies, G.G.S. Indraprastha University, Delhi and Assistant. Secretary General of IOS, New Delhi.
Date of delivering the lecture will be decided in consultation with the speaker.
- (8) Lecture on “*Islam, Jamhooriyat aur Aalam-e-Islam*” by Prof. Mohsin Usmani, Member, Governing Council of IOS, New Delhi, will be delivered on **31st of January, 2015.**
- (9) Lecture on “*Tracing the Rules of Environmentalism under Indian Constitution*” by Dr. Zafar Mahfooz Nomani, Deptt. of Law, Aligarh Muslim University, Aligarh and Member, General Assembly of IOS, New Delhi, will be delivered on **28th of February, 2015.**
- (10) Lecture on “*Religious Minorities in Islamic Perspective*” by Prof. Manzoor Ahmad, Vice-Chancellor, Swami Vivekanand Subharti University, Meerut and Member, Governing Council of IOS, New Delhi, will be delivered on **21st of March, 2015.**
- (11) Lecture on “*Muslim Women in Science and Technology.*” by Ms. Farhat Azad, Senior Scientist at Central Road Research Institute, New Delhi and Member, General Assembly of IOS, New Delhi, will be delivered on **18th of April, 2015.**
- (12) Lecture on “Topic will be decided in consultation with the speaker” by Prof. (Ms) Haseena Hashia, Department of Geography, Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi and Member of General Assembly of IOS, New Delhi, will be delivered on **23rd of May, 2015.**

Discussion about the functioning of IOS Chapters.

The matter in regard to smooth functioning of the IOS Chapters was discussed at length and after deliberations it was resolved that all efforts should be made by the Chapters to organize at least one programme every month on current issues of the community/women’s education/rights of Muslim minority/role of youth in nation building, etc. in the form of Lecture/ Sham-e-Muzakrah/Discussion and leading personalities e.g. academicians, doctors, engineers and research scholars should be invited for participation in the programmes. And that the comprehensive report along with the photos should be sent to the IOS Headquarters so that the same might be included in the monthly IOS Newsletter.

Further, during discussion the Chairman, IOS informed the members and special invitees that, in view of the inconvenience and discomfort to the foreign delegates in reaching and staying at Aligarh, in regard to participating in the programmes of the IOS Centre for Dialogue, this Centre should be established at the IOS Headquarters instead of Aligarh (as proposed). The members and special invitees, under the situation, welcomed the idea and authorized the Chairman to take a final decision on this issue.

Any other item(s)

- (i) **Discussion about the proposal (submitted by Dr. Malika B. Mistry of Pune) for undertaking a research study on “Trends in Education and Exposure to**

Media among Muslim Women in India based on NFHS-I, II and III (1992-2006).

The proposal was discussed and after deliberations, the G.C. did not approve it. It was decided that she should be intimated of the same.

(ii) Report about the programmes organised by the IOS Headquarters and Participation of the Chairman, IOS in important programmes in India and abroad after the 27th Annual Meeting of the Governing Council (G.C.) held on August 31, 2013.

In regard to the programmes organized by the Headquarters and participation of the Chairman, IOS in important programmes in India and abroad after August 2013, a detailed report was presented before the members of the Governing Council (G.C.) of the Institute of Objective Studies (IOS) and special invitees, who, after going through the report, expressed their satisfaction and appreciation.

(iii) Report about the progress of work done in IOS Data Bank (from April 2013 till April 04, 2014).

In regard to the progress of work done in respect of IOS Data Bank a detailed report (from April 2013 till April 04, 2014) was presented before the members of the Governing Council (G.C.) of Institute of Objective Studies (IOS) and special invitees, who, after going through the report, expressed their satisfaction and encouraged to continue this work more vigorously.

(iv) Report about the progress of the "IOS Centre for Arabic and Islamic Learning".

The report about the progress of the 'IOS Centre for Arabic and Islamic Learning' in regard to a project on "Allah ka Kalaam hi Buland Hai",

wherein the work on 110 topics under 6 themes (*Aqaayed, Aamaal, Ausaaf Razeela, Akhlaaq Hameeda, Maashrati Aqdaar, and Islami Ayyam*) will be completed and published in booklet form consisting of 28-32 pages each, was presented before the members and special invitees, who, after going through the details of the project in reference, appreciated it and desired that the same should be completed as early as possible for the benefit of Muslim community as a whole.

(v) Report about hits of IOS Website www.iosworld.org

The report was presented before the members of the Governing Council (G.C.) and special invitees. After going through the report about the hits of IOS Website from August 2013 to April 2014, the members and special invitees expressed their satisfaction

(vi) Report about hits of IOS Online Magazine www.iosminaret.org



L-R: Prof. Z.M. Khan, Dr. M. Manzoor Alam and Prof. A.R. Momin

The report was presented before the members of the Governing Council (G.C.) and special invitees. After going through the report about the hits of IOS Minaret (Online Magazine) from May 2013 to April 2014, the members and special invitees expressed their satisfaction.

Copies of the following important documents were also circulated for information and opinion/comments thereon, if any:

(vii) Post Sachar Evaluation Committee – August 2013.

(viii) The Day of Arafah: That you may know each other by Prof. Abdul Hamid Ahmad Abu Sulayman.

(ix) Myth of Modi's Good Governance.

(x) Call for papers: American Journals of Islamic Social Sciences (AJISS).

In the end Prof. Z.M. Khan, Secretary General of the IOS, acknowledging the cooperation and active support by all the members of the Governing Council (G.C.) and special invitees, expressed gratitude and thanks.

The meeting got concluded at 1:35 p.m. with *dua* by Prof. Mohsin Usmani.

Activities of the IOS Chapters

CALICUT CHAPTER

Seminar on India 100 Years (1947 – 2047) Muslim Agenda, Past, Present and Future

Institute of objective studies Calicut Chapter conducted a Seminar on India 100 Years (1947-2047) Muslim Agenda, Past, Present and Future in association with Centre for Human Resource Development, Manjeri (CHRD) on 8th & 9th March 2014 at MSS

Auditorium Calicut, Kerala. Br. A A Vahab, Secretary IOS,

Calicut Chapter welcomed the audience. Prof. ZM Khan, Secretary General of IOS, New Delhi Inaugurated the seminar. CHRD Director Abdurahman Darimi presided over the meeting. Jamal Kochangadi, P.T. Kunhali, Dr. A.Jadeeda, Abdul Majeed Nadvi, Dr. A Nizarudheen, Dr. A.I.Rahmathullah, Sadarudheen Vazhakkad, Munawir Kodyathur, Dr. Z.A. Ashraf, V.M.Fahad, P.K.Hameed Kutty, C.Davood, Prof. A.P.Abdul Vahab, A.P.Kunhamu, A. Saeed, Ashraf Kalpatta, O.Abdullah, Civic Chandran, N.P.Chekkutty, Karamana Ashraf Moulavi, A Vasu, presented

papers on different topics in the seminar.

C.T.Sulaiman expressed vote of thanks. The programme started at 10.30 AM on Saturday and ended at 6.30 PM on Sunday March 2014.

Rigorous research needed about women and family issues

Calicut, April 15: The Institute of Objective Studies is getting ready to study the problems and prospects of tremendous upsurge in women's empowerment, said Dr. Mohammad Manzoor Alam, the Chairman of Institute of Objective Studies.

He was on a short visit to Calicut to discuss the proposed Centre for Women and Family Studies to be established in Calicut as a part of the decision taken in the Silver Jubilee celebrations of the Institute. He was addressing a select group of activists drawn from different areas.

Women are getting more educated while men are leaving higher education mainly for economic reasons. Migration to the Gulf

countries has created tremendous social tension in Kerala and other Indian states. New technology and social networks have inflicted serious damage to social unity, continued Dr. Alam. The family structure in the West is already broken, that's why they have created space for same sex marriage.

All these need a comprehensive and deep study and research. The proposed Centre will be a platform for producing rigorous academic papers in the areas related to women and family, Dr Alam said.

Dr K M Muhammad presided over the function. Prof P Koya and Mr AA Vahab spoke on the occasion.

Announcement

Shah Waliullah Award

A meeting of Board Administering Shah Waliullah Award was held on 12.4.2014 in the IOS Headquarters.

The Board besides deciding the name of the Shah Waliullah Awardee also decided to increase the number of Board's members. Prof. Mohsin Usmani, Editor, Mutaleaat will be a new member.

The Shah Waliullah Award 2012 will be conferred on Hadhrat Maulana Sayyid Mustafa Refai Jilani Nadvi. Maulana Refai is Sajjada of Khanwadah Qadriya Refaiya, Bangalore. He is



L-R: Prof. K.M. Mohammad, Prof. P. Koya and Dr. M. Manzoor Alam (on the podium)

renowned scholar of Tasawwuf and has authored several books on the subject. Besides being actively engaged in scholarly works, he also takes keen interest in social works. The award conferring ceremony will be held in Bangalore on August 23, 2014.

The meeting also deliberated over the ways and means about the increasing the number of nominations for Shah Waliullah Award and about how to reach more and more people/organizations so that large number of nominations are received and the Award indeed becomes worthy of the name it bears.

The meeting ended with Dua and thanks to the chair.

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There can be no denying, however, that the history of the Punjab was also one of frequent warfare, as invaders used to arrive in the subcontinent through the north-western mountain passes and establish their rule in the Punjab and beyond, in northern India and even further. Before the British annexed it militarily in 1849, the Punjab was under Sikh rule, though half a century earlier it had been one of the provinces of the Mughal Empire.

On the other hand, the three communities could invoke a long list of grievances against each other, with all of them deploying their 'historical memory' selectively. Yet, the evidence is overwhelming that most Punjabis, till almost before the

end of colonial rule, lived in peace. A shared sense of common Punjabi cultural identity was prevalent in the thousands of villages, towns, and cities of the province. That bond would later prove too weak, in the face of divisive forces that became active in the twentieth century. The Punjab administration began reporting from 1945

onward the establishment of 'private armies' by the three communities. The Sikhs bore arms, a sword called the *kirpan*, as a matter of religious right. Moreover, Punjabi Muslims and Sikhs, and Hindus from the Hindi-speaking districts of eastern Punjab constituted the largest single provincial group in the colonial army. Nearly one million of them returned to their villages because of general demobilisation after the Second World War. In addition, gangs of strongmen or criminals known as badmashes and goondas were to be found throughout the length and breadth of the Punjab. They, in turn, had links with the politicians and the police.

It was under these circumstances that the provincial election campaign began in the Punjab in the second half of 1945, and culminated in the election of February 1946. It resulted in a highly volatile situation. The Muslim League, which stood for a separate Pakistan through the partitioning of India on the basis of contiguous Muslim and non-Muslim majority areas, won the largest number of seats in the Punjab legislature. However, it did not win a majority and therefore, could form a government only by entering into a coalition with other parties. That did not happen. Its opponents formed a coalition government under the leadership of Sir Khizr Hayat Khan Tiwana, whose party had been routed in the election. Such a situation created a classic problem – that of distinguishing legality from legitimacy. The coalition government was undoubtedly legal, according to parliamentary procedure, but among the Muslim majority of the Punjab, it was not perceived as the legitimate representative government. That resulted in agitations and demonstrations by the Muslim League, culminating in the fall of the Khizr ministry on 2 March 1947.

From *The Punjab Bloodied, Partitioned and Cleansed* by Ishtiaq Ahmed, pp. xxxi-xxxiv.

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Their products, as a result, either find it difficult to get a job or are absorbed in low-paying and exploiting private sector.

The number of privately owned schools and colleges has increased substantially in the recent past. Many private colleges and universities also provide quality education but their fee is so high that it is beyond the capacity of most common Indians.

By and large Muslims are economically backward. Like all Indians, they also want to be upwardly mobile. There is also a great desire to obtain higher

education, for people feel that it is the only available way of economic empowerment. But the difficulty is that their children either fail to get admission in good schools and colleges because they do not have sufficient seats or they cannot afford the high fees they charge. The challenge, therefore, is to create quality and yet affordable educational institutions. The challenge has to be accepted both by the government as well as the community. The shape of things to come is not difficult to imagine about. The youth want better life and seems willing to work hard for it. They also realize that the circumstances they are living in can not allow them to be enterprising as it would require not just huge capital but also investment-related risks which is not advisable for first generation educated youth. A good job, therefore, is what he needs to be upwardly mobile. And for good jobs you need to excel in education.

What Needs to be Done

by *Ishtiyaque Danish*

The views expressed in the article do not necessarily reflect the editorial policy of the Newsletter (editor)

Although currently passing through a difficult phase of slow down, Indian economy is considered as resilient and destined to bounce back. True, that in this very difficult period China has been able to maintain a higher rate of growth. But probably it was time to realize that China has marched ahead. We may learn lessons from their success story but comparing the two economies and breast-beating would yield no result.

It is believed and rightly so that India has great potential to grow at a faster rate. Despite the global slow down, it has been progressing. The problem is not if we shall grow economically, rather it lies in inequitable economic development. Globalized market economy has created economic disparities all across the world which is perhaps being not felt as acutely in the so called advanced countries as in developing nations. Market economy has indeed made the rich richer and the poor poorer. The current economic thinking or philosophy does not have any solution to this acute problem of inequitable growth.

Market economy, in sum, is based on the premise that resources generate income that people need to lead a better life. Resources are both capital and human. If you have money in your pocket and you invest it wisely, you would sure make money. Surely investment

involves risk and for moneyed people who do not have a heart for risk, the market economy suggests to deposit your money in banks for more wealth creation. But there are always people who prefer to take risk for increased wealth creation. These people, especially if they have a lot of money and want diversified investment, need better qualified professionals to help them. Here comes the role of human resource or capital.

Human resource or capital is obtained through education. People who do not have financial resources have only the option of education for climbing the ladder of development. As an overwhelming majority in India as well as in the world does not have enough capital for investment and consequent wealth creation, it is binding upon states across the globe to create and provide educational facilities for the people. And the people's duty is to take advantage of such facilities created by the state in order to secure a brighter future for themselves.

Muslims, whether in India or elsewhere in South Asia, are educationally the most backward community. Not just illiteracy is common among them, they do not possess good educational facilities for higher education. As a result the human resources being produced by the Muslim Ummah are not of international quality. This explains why are we

invisible in the arena of high profile jobs.

The reasons for educational backwardness of Muslims are simple. We do not have enough number of excellent colleges and universities. Very few from among our community make to renowned colleges and universities through open competition mainly because of poor schooling. Solution to the problem, as can be imagined, is hidden in the problem itself.

We need either to force the government to provide us good schools and colleges or we, as a community, have to create such educational facilities for our children. The task is not easy to accomplish. The government lacks will, and also finances perhaps, to create affordable educational infrastructure. The existing schools and colleges are not just insufficient in numbers, the standard they maintain is also of low quality.

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