



Newsletter of Ibn Sina Academy (NISA)

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Eleventh Ibn Sina Memorial Lecture

"Role of Mysticism and Sufiya-e Kiram is important in unification and peaceful coexistence of people in India", stated, Dr. Naresh, while delivering Eleventh Ibn Sina Memorial Lecture. Dr. Naresh, a renowned scholar of Urdu, Hindi, English and Punjabi, from Punchkula, Haryana, delivered the 11th Ibn Sina Memorial Lecture on "Tasawwuf aur Hindostani Roohaniyat", on 31 December 2017 at the Conference Hall of Ibn Sina Academy. Prof. Farhatullah Khan, Emeritus Professor at Department of English, AMU, Aligarh, presided over the lecture.

Endowed with a vision and literary elegance, Dr Naresh in his lecture delineated the origin, growth and impact of 'Sufism' on the people in India during the old and the contemporary period. With a deep scholastic insight into the profound depths of Indian Vedas and the history of Sufism, Dr Naresh brought out explosive truths in this field.

His study based on extensive research and rational analysis proves beyond doubt that the Sufi mysticism holds similarity to the 'Sahaj Yoga' propounded by Indian sages since times immortal and enshrined in Vedas. The sufi thought, as such, is the mere expansion of the Indian thought. He supplemented it further with a connotation of a cry for a Sufi 'Allah,' an expression for love for God which is the opening sermon in all the Vedas. The Sufis were always revelling in the glory of Almighty and whenever they came to India with the invaders from the middle East, they were not treated as foes as they talked of Sufi thought which was enshrined in Vedas.

Dr Naresh had categorised the available Sufi poetry in Hindi into three forms. Firstly the 'Propagation' – An explanation of the philosophy of a particular Sufi sect. Secondly –'Spiritual Love Poetry'— The

mundane love stories with a clear spiritual message and thirdly the 'Miscellaneous poetry'. All of these were contributed by Sufi poets at random. He also feels that many writings by the Sufi poets have the least Sufi content but are considered in Sufi category.

Before, his lecture, he was introduced by the President of Ibn Sina Academy, Prof. Hakim Syed Zillur Rahman, as presently the Chairperson of the Chandigarh Sahitya Academy. He had been professor and chairman of Bhai Vir Singh Chair at Punjab University for Modern Literature for fifteen years and court member of both Punjab University and Aligarh Muslim University. He is also member of Anjuman Urdu Tarraqi Urdu (Hind) and has authored dozens of books in Urdu, Punjabi, English and Hindi.

Book Releasing Ceremonies

Ghalib Study Centre of Ibn Sina Academy arranged a ceremony to release two books namely "*Jihad-e Musalsal*" by Dr. Abidullah Ghazi, Chicago, USA and '*Dr. Abidullah Ghazi (Ahle Fikro Fun Ki Nazar Mein)*' by Shahnaz Kanwal Ghazi, on 7th November 2017. These books were released by Prof. Masoodul Hasan (former Dean, Faculty of Arts, AMU, Aligarh) and presided by Padma Shri Prof. Hakim Syed Zillur Rahman. The program was conducted by Dr. Ubaid Iqbal Asim and addressed by Ms. Shahnaz Kanwal Ghazi (Aligarh), Dr. Salman Ghazi (Iqra Education Foundation, Mumbai), Prof. Saud Alam Qasmi (Aligarh), Prof. Zafar Ahmad Siddiqui (Aligarh), Prof. Abu Sufyan Islahi (Aligarh), Dr. Rahat Abrar (Director, Urdu Academy, AMU, Aligarh) and Maulana Ashad Jamal Nadvi.

Ghalib Study Centre of Ibn Sina Academy arranged another ceremony on 9.10.2017 to release '*Zamin Kha Gayi Aasman Kaise Kaise*' by Habibur Rahman Chigani. The

book is a tribute to those who excelled in their academic life and came in contact of Habibur Rahman Chigani, former Director, Khuda Baksh Oriental Public Library, Patna, since 1985. The ceremony was addressed by the President Prof. Hakim Syed Zillur Rahman and other critics such as Prof. Abdur Rahim Kidwai, Prof. Tariq Chattari, Prof. Shafey Kidwai, Prof. Maula Baksh, Dr. Muzaffar Hussain Syed (Delhi), and Dr. Habibur Rahman Chigani. The programme was conducted by Dr. Shariq Aqeel.

Valedictory Function of MEDICS

MEDICS, an NGO and which stands for 'Medicos Establishment for Development of Integrated Care Society', had its valedictory function at Ibn Sina Academy on 15.12.2017. It was well attended by volunteers of MEDICS and was addressed by dignitaries like Prof. Rashid Hayat, Prof. H. S. Zillur Rahman, Prof. Naseem Ahmad, Prof. S. Ziaur Rahman, Mr. Yogesh Bhatia (President, "Gift a Sight Project" Canada), Dr. Ashish Kumar, Dr. Farooq Dar, Mr. Sartaj and Ms Syeda Shaheen Saquib. The programme was conducted by Secretary MEDICS, Dr. M. Saquib Rahman.

Weekly Meetings of WoD

Wings of Desire (WoD) is a student NGO based in Aligarh. It organized weekly meetings during October-November 2017 at Ibn Sina Academy under the guidance of Ms. Swati Dixit. The NGO also organized "Public Meeting" on 14.12.2017 regarding social and educational issues in Aligarh, specially to take views of the candidates contesting for AMU Students Union Election. The meeting was organized by the President Mr. Sameer Sherwani.

VISIT OF DIGNITARIES

1. Prof. Abul Fadl Mohsin Ebrahim, School of Religion, Philosophy, Classics, University of Kinnazulu-Natal, Durban, South Africa, 2.11.2017

2. Dr. Hakim Md. Yousuf Harun Bhuiyan, Managing Director and Mr. Mohammad Zamal Uddin, Director Planning & Development, Hamdard Laboratories (Waqf) Bangladesh, Dhaka, Bangladesh, 7.12.2017
3. Mr. Prabodh Saxena, Principal Secretary (Home), Himachal Pradesh, Shimla, 10.12.2017.
4. Mr. Moin Don, (CEO and Founder, PVCON Pharmacovigilance Auditing & Consulting Services, Mumbai), 16.12.2017
5. Mrs. and Mr. Aslam Abdullah, Las Vegas, Nevada, USA, 30.11.2017
6. Delegates, CME on Moalejat, Ajmal Khan Tibbiya College, AMU, Aligarh, 13.10.2017
7. Delegates, ISRPTCON 2017, JNMC, AMU, Aligarh, 19.12.2017
8. Delegates, Special Winter School, UGC-HRD Centre, AMU, Aligarh, 19.12.2017
9. Delegates, Subject Refresher Course in Environmental Studies/Earth Sciences, UGC-HRD Centre, AMU, Aligarh, 13.12.2017.
10. Delegates, Subject Refresher Course in Arabic, UGC-HRD Centre, AMU, Aligarh, 26.10.2017.
11. Delegates, Subject Refresher Course in Urdu, UGC-HRD Centre, AMU, Aligarh, 1.11.2017.
12. Delegates, Orientation Programme, UGC-HRD Centre, AMU, Aligarh, 31.10.2017.
13. Delegation of Senior Pharmacologists including Prof. Priyamwada Sharma (Itawa), Prof. Chowdhary Nazrul Islam (Katihar), Prof. R. K. Goyal (Varanasi) along with Prof. M. Nasiruddin (Aligarh), 22.12.2017

MEMBERS' ACTIVITIES

Prof. Hakim Syed Zillur Rahman, Founder President, Ibn Sina Academy, Aligarh, was invited as

1. Chief Guest, International Conference, Rampur Raza Library, Rampur, 16-18 December 2017 (detail on page 7-8)

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2. Chief Guest, Sir Syed Bicentenary Celebrations, AMU ABK High School for Girls, 3.10.2017 (detail on page 12)
3. Presided, Book Release Event, Brown Books, Arts Faculty Lounge, 6.11.2017. Following three books were released on that occasion: *Danish-e-Rahebeen* by Mohd. Haris bin Mansoor, *Bridging the Divide* by Faiza Abbasi and Sujan Mondal, *Masnavi Karb-e Jaan ka Tanqidi Muta'lah* by Seema Saghir.
4. Chief Guest, Iqbal Day 2017, Faculty of Arts Lounge, AMU, Aligarh, 14.11.2017 (detail on page 9)
5. Guest Speaker, Sir Syed Bicentenary Celebration, AMU Duty Society, Held at Kamla Devi Complex, India International Centre, New Delhi, 18th Oct, 2017 (detail on page 12-15)
6. Special guest, Sir Syed Day Celebrations, Dr. B R Ambedkar Hall, AMU, Aligarh, 17.10.2017.

Prof. S. M. Razaullah Ansari, Secretary, Ibn Sina Academy, was invited as

1. Guest Speaker, Sir Syed Bicentenary Celebration, AMU Duty Society, Held at Kamla Devi Complex, India International Centre, New Delhi, 18th Oct, 2017 (see detail on pages 12-15). Prof. Ansari emphasized in his short remarks the importance of scientific thinking in Sir Syed's outlook. It is known that he invited popular articles on scientific topics for inclusion in the *Institute Gazette*. Besides he also got arranged public lecture on modern sciences by scholars similar to those which he might have attended during his sojourn in England. Prof. Ansari informed the audience that Sir Syed managed to get a telescope for observing the heavenly bodies in the sky. Finally, Ansari reported also that Sir Syed distanced himself from his book on geocentric system written earlier in later life.

2. Prof. Ansari was also invited by the director of Raza Library (Rampur), Prof. Hasan Abbas, to deliver a lecture at the

International Conference on the Contributions of Non-Muslims to Islamic Studies in India, held in Rampur during Dec. 15-18, 2017. The topic of the paper was: "Raja Ratan Singh Zakhmi and his Book *Hadā'iq al-Nujūm*". It may be added that Ansari has been engaged in a detailed study of this unique book of 1200 pages on modern mathematical astronomy in Indo-Persian.

Prof. Tajuddin (Department of Saidla, Tibbiya College, Aligarh Muslim University, AMU) has been conferred with the 'Acharya Award' for contribution in research and teaching of Unani System of Medicine by the Central Council of Indian Medicine. He was awarded at the Mahatma Mandir, Convection Centre, Gandhi Nagar in Gujarat during the National Ayurveda Summit 2017, which was inaugurated by Shri Vijay Rupani (Chief Minister, Gujrat) as the chief guest.

Ms. Zahra Hashemi, Museum Curator, Ibn Sina Academy, has been invited as guest of honour during following events:

1. Clique 2017-2018, an annual function of Wings of Desire (Aligarh based NGO), University Polytechnic, AMU, Aligarh, 6.12.2017. Mrs. Salma Ansari was the chief guest.

2. Inter-school Sports Events, Abdullah Girls College, AMU, Aligarh, 18th November 2018 (on the occasion of World's Diabetes Day)

Prof. Syed Ziaur Rahman, Honorary treasurer, Ibn Sina Academy, was awarded with "Pharma Ratan 2017" in health care sector in a glittering function organized by RDM at Crown Plaza Hotel, Rohini, Delhi, 28.11.2017

He had also been invited:

1. To serve as panel member of the jury to select "Science Scholars' Awards 2017" of the Sun Pharmaceutical Science Foundation, Gurugram, Haryana.

2. To deliver keynote lecture during the 1st International Congress on Ethics in Science and Technology (ICEST 2017) from 4th-8th December 2017 in Tehran, Iran. It was organised under the aegis of the Iranian Association for Ethics in Science and Technology (IAEST). Dr. Rahman represented the congress as secretary of International Association of Medical Colleges.
3. To deliver guest lecture, ADRs, Classification and Identification, "Skill Development Program of Health Care Professionals" for "Monitoring ADRs and Preventing Medication Errors", KD Medical College Hospital and Research Center, Mathura, 24.10.2017.
4. To deliver lecture on Pharmaceutics in Environment (PiE) as resource person, Subject Refresher Course in Environmental Studies/Earth Sciences, UGC Human Resource Development Centre, AMU, Aligarh, 18.12.2017 (detail on page 12)
5. To deliver lecture as resource person (Topic: Plagiarism Check), PG Thesis Writing Workshop Series 3 for MD/MS/MDS (Admitted Batch 2015), MEU, JNMC, AMU, Aligarh October 11, 2017.
6. To attend, Sir Syed Bicentenary Celebration, AMU Duty Society, Held at Kamla Devi Complex, India International Centre, New Delhi, 18th Oct, 2017 (detail on page 12-15)
7. To organize ISRPTCON 2017, JNMC, AMU, Aligarh during 19-21 November 2017 (detail on page 10-11)
8. To organise National CME on Pharmacovigilance, JNMC, AMU, Aligarh during 16 December, 2017 (detail on page 11-12)

FORTHCOMING CONFERENCE

Biennial Conference of European Society for the History of Science,
Panel proposal and call for papers are invited for European Society for the History of Science, Biennial Conference

will be held at UCL Institute of Education in London from 14-17 September, 2018. Details can be accessed from <http://eshs2018.uk/>

Cultures, stars and numbers: Inter-cultural exchanges in East Asian mathematics and astronomy.

Pre-modern East Asia was the home of distinctive traditions in both mathematics and astronomy. During the first millennium CE these traditions, first developed in China, became common to the whole region, including Korea and Japan. Within the broad theme of the conference, 'Unity and Disunity', the aim of this panel is to encourage discussion of relevant issues in a regional and global historical and cultural context.

Despite their common roots, the theory and practice of mathematics and astronomy was by no means uniform across the whole East Asian land-mass. It is thus illuminating to trace the way that elements of these disciplines were appropriated, adapted and developed as they moved across regional and cultural boundaries. Moreover, pre-modern East Asia was highly permeable to the flow of ideas from the rest of the Eurasian continent - first from South Asia in the context of the coming of Buddhism in the first millennium CE, then from the Islamic world from the Yuan dynasty (1271-1368) onwards, and finally from early modern Europe with the arrival of Jesuit Christian missionaries in the later part of the 16th century. The complex interactions that followed from these contacts are revealing not only of the nature of the East Asian traditions in astronomy and mathematics, but also of the traditions that scholars in East Asia encountered afresh.

Suggestions for paper topics from scholars working in any relevant area are sought. Given the short time that is likely to be available for submissions (of the order of 20 minutes or less), we are particularly interested in suggestions for

well-focused and specific contributions that can be shared effectively with a broadly-based audience within those constraints. Those interested are invited to submit a title and a short draft abstract to: tangquan74@163.com before 11 December, 2017.

Submitted by: Christopher Cullen (Needham Research Institute, Cambridge, UK); Daniel Morgan (CNRS & Université Paris Diderot, Paris, France); Anjing Qu (Northwest University, Xi'an, China); Quan Tang (Xianyang Normal University, Xianyang, China).

DOCUMENTATION

“Housed in the Ibn Sina Academy, Aligarh, the museum is one man’s effort to preserve articles of Muslim lifestyle or *tehzeeb* that include textiles, crockery, manuscripts, and musical instruments among other things”, wrote Eram Agha for News18 under the heading, “Muslim Lifestyle Beyond Maqbara, Masjid and Madrasa”. The full article can be accessed from:

<http://www.news18.com/news/india/muslim-lifestyle-beyond-maqbara-masjid-and-madrasa-1567389.html>

Sir Syed Collection at Ibn Sina Academy

Description of Ibn Sina Academy for its collection on Sir Syed at his bicentenary birth celebration has extensively been covered in various newspapers by Alim Naqvi on 17th October 2017.

International Seminar on Contribution of Non-Muslims to Islamic Studies in India

A three-days International Seminar on “*Contribution of Non-Muslims to Islamic Studies in India*” was organized by the Rampur Raza Library, (Ministry of Culture, Government of India), between 16 and 18 December 2017 at Rampur, Uttar

Pradesh, which is a rich cultural and aesthetical city. The chief guest of the seminar was Padma Shri Hakim Syed Zillur Rahman (Aligarh).

In the inaugural session, which was presided over by Prof. Akhtarul Wasey (President and VC, Maulana Azad University, Jodhpur), the importance of the seminar theme was highlighted. It was observed that the growing interest of Hindu scholars in Islamic learning during Muslim rule in India was an excellent development in their academic life. This was the result of a close relationship between Hindus and Muslims in socio-cultural life.

The influence of Islam on Hindu society has been acknowledged by many Hindu scholars. They would develop special interest in Arabic, Persian, Urdu languages.

A good number of non-Muslim professors, scholars and researchers participated and presented their papers which are indeed commendable. More than a hundred scholars from across India were invited to present their research papers in the seminar. The seminar was conducted in the conference Hall of Raza Rampur Library; and it spread on 12 sessions and a valedictory session. There were two other cultural programs arranged by the organizers. The scholars who presented their papers represented universities, among others, included Hindu Banaras University; Delhi University; Jawaharlal University; Jamia Millia Islamia; Aligarh Muslim University; Baba Ghulam Shah Badshah University; and other centers of learning like Idara-i-Tahqeeqat-i-Islami.

In the seminar, it was highlighted that non-Muslims have profusely written and contributed to various disciplines of Islamic Studies such as Qur’anic Studies; seerah (biography) of Prophet Muhammad; fiqh; historiography; Sufism;

women issues and other Indo-Islamic cultural arts: poetry and calligraphy.

The contribution of Hindu scholars such as Malik Ram Baveja (1906–1993), M.N. Roy (1887-1954); Vinoba Bhave (1895-1982); Dinshah Fardunji Mulla (1868-1934); Pandit Sunder Lal; O. P. Ghai (b.1928), Prof. Ramakrishna Rao (b. 1932), Dr. Tara Chand (1888-1973); Bhagwan Das (1869-1958); Bharatendu Harishchandra (1850-1885) and others were highlighted and deliberated upon. In India, we have many translations of the Qur'an in different Indian languages such as Hindi; Sanskrit; Bengali; Telugu; Malay; Marathi; and other languages. Vinay Kumar Awasthi's Qur'an Shareef-Tafseer Majeedi, is a Hindi translation of Maulana Abdul Majid Daryaabadi's exegesis Tafeer-i-Majidi. Similarly, Ramchandra Dehlawi, a noted scholar of Arabic, has also translated some parts of the Qur'an in Hindi. Among others who have contributed to the Qur'anic Studies are Vinoba Bhave (The Essence of Qur'an); Prem Saran Parant; Pandit Sunder Lal (Geeta Aur Qur'an); Pandit Ragunath Prasad Mishara. The seerah of the Prophet Muhammad also remained a dominant discussion/theme of the seminar.

Prof. Ramakrishna Rao's "*Mohammed The Prophet*" was greatly discussed by many scholars. Based on non-Muslims works, scholars presented their general views on Islam and the Prophet Muhammad. "*Aurataur Islami Taleem*" by Malik Ram (a noted scholar of Islamic culture and literature), also remained a hot topic of discussion and was explored by many presenters. It is an in-depth study of the status and rights of a woman in Islam – as daughter, wife, mother, divorcée, widow and heir. Moreover, this book has been translated into English and Arabic as *Woman in Islam*, *Al-Mara'tu fi al-Islam* respectively. M.N. Roy's *Historical Role of Islam*, and D.F. Mulla's *Principles of Muhammadan law* also figured in various presentations.

Scholars highlighted that many Hindu's were lovers and great admirers of Arabic, Persian, and Urdu books of various subjects. Printing press of Hindus was used to print Urdu, Persian and Arabic books. For example, Munshi Nawal Kishor (1836-1895) was the most famous. Similarly, the calligraphy works of various Hindu artists were discussed. Pertinently, Raza Rampur Library has a unique distinction of having 17000 rare manuscripts and other works of immense value of various Islamic and other traditions of India in its record.

It is clearly evident from the fact that Hindu scholars have translated Quran primarily from Urdu, Persian and English. Only a few were able to benefit directly from the original language of the Qur'an, which is Arabic. Nevertheless, their contribution cannot and should not be ignored keeping in view the current religious and communal tension in India and abroad.

In the valedictory session, the conference organizer and Director, Rampur Raza Library, Prof. Syed Hasan Abbas thanked all the participants for making the conference a success. He, however, reiterated that non-Muslim contribution to Islam in India has largely been unexplored, if not completely ignored. He called upon scholars, researchers and knowledge seekers to sincerely work and explore the hidden treasures of Indo-Islamic culture and civilization. He said that Rampur Raza Library would always welcome sincere researchers. He also offered that he would provide every possible help for young scholars and researchers to conduct their research at Rampur Raza Library which is a repository house of Indo-Islamic cultural heritage and a treasure-house of knowledge established in last decades 18th century.

Heavenly Numbers: Astronomy and Authority in Early Imperial China
This book gives a systematic historical

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narrative, set in social and intellectual context, of the development of astronomical systems in China in the period from the late 3rd century BCE to the early 3rd century CE. It was this period that saw the establishment of the basic paradigms for predictive calculations relating to the heavens and the heavenly bodies that were in use for much of the history of pre-modern China.

My treatment of this subject cites and explicates selected primary source material, and gives detailed explanations of technical points. These latter are frequently given in separate text boxes, whose conclusions are summarised in the main text; I hope this will make it possible for readers to use this book in the way that they find most suitable for their needs and interests.

I have already published complete translations of the main sources used in this book, with commentaries, explanations and worked examples of calculations, in this book published by Routledge earlier in 2017: "The Foundations of Celestial Reckoning: Three Ancient Chinese Astronomical Systems"

I hope that these two books, taken together, may be helpful to colleagues who want to give substantive coverage to China in courses on the history of astronomy, as well as being useful to graduate students in relevant areas.

Submitted by: Christopher Cullen, Emeritus Director, Needham Research Institute, Cambridge; Emeritus Honorary Professor of the History of East Asian Science Technology and Medicine, University of Cambridge; Emeritus Fellow, Darwin College Cambridge

AMU observes 'Iqbal Day'

The Department of Philosophy, Aligarh Muslim University commemorated 'Iqbal Day 2017' with lectures by noted

academicians on 'Contemporary Significance of Iqbal' at Arts Faculty Lounge of the University.

Padma Shri Prof. Hakim Syed Zillur Rahman (Founder Ibn Sina Academy, Aligarh), who attended the function as the Chief Guest said that Allama Iqbal was a staunch supporter of modernity and religious rationalism. "Iqbal demonstrated in his thought an evolutionary process," added Prof. Rahman.

Prof. Farhathullah Khan (Emeritus Professor, Department of English, AMU) said that Iqbal stood as a revivalist and struggled hard throughout his life for the revival of religious thoughts and rich civilizations associated with it.

Prof. Siraj Ajmali (Department of Urdu, AMU) pointed out that Iqbal's poetic works are written primarily in Persian and Urdu. He added that poetry of Iqbal emphasises the spirit and self from a religious, spiritual perspective. Prof. Sanaullah Khan Mir (Department of Philosophy) further pointed out that many critics believe that *Asrar-i-Khudi* (Secrets of the Self), which explains Iqbal's philosophy of 'Khudi' (Self) is Iqbal's finest work.

While delivering the welcome address, Prof. Latif H S Kazmi discussed how Iqbal's books, '*The Development of Metaphysics in Persia*' and the '*Reconstruction of Religious Thought in Islam*' called for a re-examination of the intellectual foundations of Islamic philosophy. He pointed out that Iqbal's books left a major influence on many reformers.

Meeting on Autism and other Developmental Disorders: A Clinical Approach' held in JNMC

Dr. Jyotsana Nair (Director, Psychiatric Program, Burrell Behaviour Health, Missouri, USA) delivered the lecture on 'Autism and other Developmental Disorders: A Clinical Approach' during the

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'Combined Clinical Meet', Faculty of Medicine, Jawaharlal Nehru Medical College (JNMC), Aligarh Muslim University (AMU). She said that there is a dire need to raise awareness about autism and developmental disorders. The meeting was conducted under the aegis of 'Aligns Academic Enrichment Programme' (AAEP).

Prof. Khalid Sherwani (Department of Orthopedics) shared his experiences of meeting autistic children who are often deprived of care, attention and rehabilitation. He pointed out that there are times when parents of autistic children are not aware about the problem. Prof. Suhail Azmi (Department of Psychiatry) said that reliable researches have shown that as much as 70 percent of autistic patients have at least one co-morbid condition such as constipation, food restriction or depression and nearly 40 percent have two or more such co-morbid conditions. He pointed out that teams of psychiatrists, psychologists, paediatricians, occupational and speech-therapists have to work together to treat autistic children.

After introducing the speaker, Prof. Syed Ziaur Rahman (Coordinator, AAEP) thanked AMU Vice Chancellor, Prof. Tariq Mansoor and the University administration for the approval of the programme. He also thanked Dr. Ashraf Khan (Chair, AAEP) for recommending the lecture on behalf of Aligarh Medical Alumni Association of North America (AMAANA). Meanwhile, Prof. M. U. Rabbani thanked the speaker on behalf of the Faculty of Medicine. Prof. S. C. Sharma (Dean, Faculty of Medicine) delivered the welcome address.

9th Annual Conference of Indian Society for Rational Pharmacotherapeutics (ISRPTCON 2017)

Jawaharlal Nehru Medical College (JNMC), Aligarh Muslim University (AMU) hosted the inaugural function of the 9th Annual Conference of Indian Society

for Rational Pharmacotherapeutics (ISRPTCON 2017) on the theme of '*Rational Therapeutics - A Step for Healthy Nation*'.

While attending the function as the chief guest, AMU Vice Chancellor, Professor Tariq Mansoor, said that appropriate use of drugs is an essential element in improving the quality of health and medical care. He pointed out that inappropriate, ineffective and economically inefficient use of medicines leads to increase morbidity and mortality, wastage of resources, increased risk of adverse drug reactions and emergence of drug resistance. Prof. Mansoor further said that at a time when commercialization of medical Profession is becoming a matter of concern, JNMC is providing high quality treatments affordable to all sections of society. The Vice Chancellor added that there is a need to work for 'safe-drug' and patient care in useful collaboration with clinicians. He stated that awareness programs on adverse drug reactions should be conducted regularly.

Speaking on the theme of the conference, Prof. K. K. Sharma (President, ISRPT) said that it is apt and timely proposition as the purpose of placing pharmacology in medical curriculum is to achieve this aim. He urged young teachers and doctors in JNMC to provide the best of patient care while setting an example to the rest of the nation. Dr. Harmeet Singh Rehan (General Secretary ISRPT) said that this conference is an opportunity to understand rational use of medicines and Pharmacovigilance with emphasis on how to bring a change in prescribing behaviour among medical practitioners.

Prof. Satish Chandra Sharma (Dean, Faculty of Medicine and Principal, JNMC) said that rational pharmacotherapy is the need of the hour as it minimizes the cost of therapy by increasing efficacy and decreasing drug related adverse effects.

While welcoming the guests, Prof. M Nasiruddin (Chairperson, Department of Pharmacology and Chairperson of the Organizing Committee) said that drugs are for curing ailments and saving lives. "However, sometimes drugs induce noxious unintended effects, which may lead to life threatening conditions," said Prof. Nasiruddin.

Prof. Syed Ziaur Rahman (Organizing Secretary) said that this conference-cum workshop is a step to explore how to develop strategies to strengthen evidence based rational patient care in India. He also proposed the vote of thanks.

On the occasion, the AMU Vice Chancellor and the guests also released a conference souvenir and two journals of rational Pharmacotherapeutics research. Dr. Nafis Faizi, Assistant Professor, Dept. of Community Medicine, conducted the programme.

National CME on Pharmacovigilance at JNMC, AMU, Aligarh

Department of Pharmacology, Jawaharlal Nehru Medical College (JNMC), Aligarh Muslim University (AMU), organized a 'National CME on Pharmacovigilance' under the aegis of Society of Pharmacovigilance India (SoPI).

Attending the function as the chief-guest, AMU Pro Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Tabassum Shahab discussed his experience of working as a paediatrician. He recalled how he once treated a patient sensitive to procaine penicillin while suffering with serious ADR. Prof. Shahab pointed out that drugs have harmful effects and doctors should be cautious while prescribing medicines to patients. "Adverse effects can lead to harm ranging from minor troubles to hospitalization or even death," said the Pro-Vice Chancellor adding that Pharmacovigilance remains the key to prevent these situations. He said that the medical and the paramedical

staff needs to be actively involved in ensuring that adverse reactions in patients consuming drugs are reported for evaluation. Prof. Shahab also released a souvenir on the occasion.

Prof. K. C. Singhal (former Vice Chancellor, NIMS University, Jaipur and Patron of SoPI), who attended the programme as the guest-of-honour threw light on the history of Pharmacovigilance while sharing time line and milestone progress in the field.

Congratulating the organisers for the success of the programme, Prof. S. C. Sharma (Dean, Faculty of Medicine and Principal, JNMC) pointed out that the Department of Pharmacology developed the first 'Pharmacovigilance Protocol for India'.

Dr. Moin Don (CEO and Founder, PVCON Pharmacovigilance Auditing & Consulting Services, Mumbai), presented a holistic overview of Pharmacovigilance. Dr. Manoj Sharma (Senior Manager and Head, Global Pharmacovigilance Win-Medicare Pvt Ltd, Delhi) discussed drug safety and flavor of Pharmacovigilance as career.

Prof S. Ziaur Rahman (National Secretary, SoPI) briefed about the role of health care practitioners in patient safety through active Pharmacovigilance practice. Dr. M Nasiruddin (Coordinator, ADR Monitoring Centre, Pharmacovigilance Programme of India, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Govt. of India) discussed the role of ADR monitoring centres. The programme also had an interactive panel discussion.

Dr. Midhhat Muttaqui and Dr. Ankita Mishra conducted the program. Prof. M Nasiruddin (Chairperson, Organizing Committee) delivered the welcome address, while Prof. Syed Ziaur Rahman (Organizing Secretary) proposed the vote of thanks.

Subject Refresher Course (SRC) In Environmental Studies

A multidisciplinary subject refresher course (SRC) in environmental studies and earth sciences conceived by the UGC Academic Staff College, Aligarh Muslim University, has been started for teachers from all fields of study. In his inaugural speech, Professor Abdur Raheem Kidwai, Director of the Centre, welcomed the course participants and explained the objectives of the course. He said that the Aligarh Muslim University has always upheld the traditions of secularism and advised the participants coming from outside Aligarh, to try and learn the lessons of multiculturalism and tolerance during their stay in AMU. Course Coordinator, Dr Arshad Hussain, Civil Engineering Section, University Polytechnic spoke on the importance and necessity of environmental protection and awareness. Dr Faiza Abbasi conducted the programme. Fifty-nine university and college teachers from Uttar Pradesh and Maharashtra are attending the course.

Prof. S. Ziaur Rahman, Treasurer, Ibn Sina Academy, covered a session on Pharmaceuticals in Environment. During the course, delegates also visited Ibn Sina Academy.

Sir Syed Bicentenary Celebrations organized by ABK High School

ABK High School for Girls, AMU, Aligarh, organised Sir Syed Bicentenary celebrations on 3.10.2017 in which Prof. S. Zillur Rahman (President, Ibn Sina Academy) was the Chief Guest.

While addressing the students on the occasion, Prof. Rahman appreciated the school teachers for their hard work and dedication. Mrs. Tanveer Badar, wife of Prof. Asfar Ali Khan (Director, AMU Schools) attended the function as the guest of honour.

Dr. Saba Hasan (Acting Principal), Mrs. Naghma Irfan (Principal, Senior

Secondary School for Girls) and Mrs. Firdaus Rehman (Principal, Ahmadi School for Visually Challenged) were present on the occasion.

An Environmental Quiz competition took place during the celebrations in which Mr. Islamuddin and Mrs. Parveen Siddiqui were jury members. The school also organised a special display of its Art and Craft Gallery.

Mrs. Farhat Parveen conducted the programme, while Dr. Saba Hasan proposed the vote of thanks. Mrs. Rizwana Khatoun, Mrs. Arshi Zafar and Mrs. Ruqaiya Siddiqui worked with great efforts and energy to make the programme successful.

Sir Syed Bicentenary Celebration organized by The Duty Society

The Duty Society of Aligarh Muslim University (AMU), which was founded a quarter of century before the establishment of AMU, celebrated 200th birth year of the legend Sir Syed Ahmad Khan, the founder of the Aligarh Muslim University, at a function on Wednesday, 18th Oct, 2017 at Kamla Devi complex of India International Centre, New Delhi. This society has played a very significant role in the development of AMU, whose alumni are spread all over the world, occupying respectable positions. A good number of these alumni have benefited from the activities of the society in one way or the other.

Sir Syed's birth anniversary in the Aligarh community is more popularly known as the 'Sir Syed Day'. He established the Mohammadan Anglo-Oriental College in Aligarh in 1877. In 1920, by the efforts of Duty Society which had raised a fund of Rs.30 lakhs to get the Charter of Aligarh Muslim University, the Muhammadan Anglo-Oriental College was given the Charter of the University. Since then the Duty Society has been engaged in the

services of the University. Utilising it as an opportunity, the Duty Society celebrated the Bicentenary of Sir Syed by discussing the great works done by him and the scope of widening the mission and vision of Sir Syed Ahmad Khan, as he would have wanted it to be.

Distinguished invited speakers devoted their talks with great enthusiasm. The list of speakers on this occasion included persons associated with Aligarh Muslim University like Mr. Salman Khursheed whose birth place is the VC Lodge of AMU; Prof. B.S. Panwar (VC- Sharda University)-former alumnus of Aligarh Muslim University and a Faculty Member who secured high position in IIT- Delhi and other educational institutions in India and abroad; Dr. Syed Shahid Mahdi, AMU alumnus, former Faculty Member of AMU, former IAS, important functionary of World Food Organisation and former VC, Jamia Milia Islamia, Delhi; Padma Shri Prof. Iqbal Hasnain, AMU alumnus, Faculty Member of AMU and JNU and former VC- Calicut University; Padma Shri Hakim Syed Zillur Rahman, President, Ibn Sina Academy, Aligarh and Prof. S.M.R. Ansari, Secretary Ibn Sina Academy. There was a galaxy of other distinguished members of public life, academicians, administrators, social activists from India and abroad who actively participated in this function. To name a few: Mr. Arif Mohd. Khan and Mr. M.A.A. Fatmi, former ministers of the Government of India, who have helped AMU in various ways. They eloquently narrated their experiences and the services they rendered to AMU; Mr. Mohd. M.M. Ansari, Ex-Information Commissioner of the Government of India and member of UGC; Engr. Moonis Kidwai; Mr. Khwaja Iftikhar, Prof. Humayun Murad, Prof. Mrs. Naushaba Murad, Dr. Ataah, Ms. Mariyam, Ms. Shahin Ghayas, Engr. Hasan Kamal, Ms. Shakila Ahmad, Prof. M. B. Khan, Prof. Syed Ziaur Rahman and a large number of senior Faculty Members of Jamia Milia

Islamia, Jamia Hamdard, Gautam Buddha University and Sharda University.

The office bearers of the Duty Society themselves are highly qualified. The President, Dr. Nadeem Tarin is a distinguished philanthropist, widely travelled person, current member of AMU Executive Council and Court; Vice-President, Prof. Mohd. Miyan is former VC, MANUU and former member of UGC; Keeper, Prof. A.H. Siddiqi is former PVC of AMU, a distinguished Mathematician and current President of ISIAM and also holding various academic responsibilities; Prof. Azra H. Siddiqi is the Director of The Duty Society Coaching and Guidance Centre, which is rated as one of the best in Aligarh. More details about the functioning of the Society can be found on its official website: www.dutysociety.org

The programme started with Tea Party followed by presenting Bouquets to Guests of Honour by Dr. Nagma Irfan and Ms. Sana Arif, as a token of love and respect. Programme Convenor, Prof. Abul Hasan Siddiqi (Keeper, Duty Society) delivered the welcome address. Prof. Siddiqi briefly highlighted the works and achievements of the Society. He emphasized on the fact that we need to take Sir Syed's mission forward by concentrating on innovation, research, building knowledge-based society and taking the reputation of the country to new heights. He also discussed active participation of Duty society towards Muslim education and helping students from weaker sections of our community to achieve their goals and fulfill their dreams. A brief welcome address was then given by Prof. Mohd. Miyan, the Vice-President of Duty Society, followed by Dr. Nadeem Tarin, the President of the Society. He emphasized in his speech to expand the role of Duty Society. In his dynamic leadership and guidance the functionaries and their team may achieve the above mentioned goals, besides completion of his own pet project-

construction of Riyadh Hall at AMU Campus.

Session-I started with the speech of Mr. Salman Khursheed, Ex- Cabinet Minister, Government of India. Mr. Khursheed delivered a remarkable address dealing with the special features of the character and contributions of Sir Syed Ahmad Khan towards modern education. In his address Mr. Salman highlighted the importance of modern education and the need of more universities like Aligarh Muslim University, for educational and cultural development of our nation. He talked about the Minority status issue of the Aligarh Muslim University and commended the works of Sir Syed Ahmad Khan which brought the Aligarh Muslim University into existence. He expressed the serious concern of scientists, engineers and all well-wisher of our nation on dwindling standard of higher education of Muslims. He asserted that the sorry state of education in the country could not be improved without the joint effort of the Government and all segments of our nation. He congratulated that AMU students have achieved remarkable and prestigious positions, even up to High Court Judges. However, it should be extended to Supreme Court. He congratulated the Duty Society for constantly working towards the improvement of the state of education in the country.

Next, Dr. Syed Shahid Mahdi, former IAS and Ex-VC of Jamia Milia Islamia discussed the mission of Sir Syed Ahmad Khan to provide best education to his people. After Dr. Mahdi, Prof. B. S. Panwar, Vice-Chancellor of Sharda University, Greater Noida addressed the gathering. Prof. Panwar recalled his days at AMU as a student and commended the efforts of Sir Syed in the field of education. Himself an excellent academician, Prof. Panwar talked about the various fields of education, which the Aligarh Muslim University can promote. He said that he has visited many educational institutions

across the world but he found a very different sense of discipline and decorum among the students of AMU. He emphasized the introduction of studies of new emerging fields like artificial intelligence and compressed sensing. After Prof. Panwar, Mr. Arif Mohd. Khan, Ex-Cabinet Minister of the Govt. of India, spoke. While explaining the importance of Sir Syed Ahmad Khan, he observed that Sir Syed was futuristic and a great visionary, who understood that uplifting of the community, can be achieved through by providing it modern education and particularly in English language. The last speaker of the first session was Mr. Mohd. Ali Ashraf Fatmi, former Minister of State, MHRD. Mr. Fatmi stressed the importance of elementary education and the need of spending more and more in the field of education, not only on higher but also on primary education.

Both Mr. Salman Khursheed and Prof. Panwar focused on the possible achievement of the Noble Prize or an equivalent prize by AMU scientists/scholars in future. The Duty Society also took this opportunity to honour the distinguished speakers with a memento. After a small pause the Seminar proceeded towards its next session, Session-II. The first speaker of the second session was Prof. Hakim Syed Zillur Rahman, President of Ibn Sina Academy, Aligarh. He emphasized upon the great works of Sir Syed Ahmad Khan and how to carry forward his legacy as an educationist. Next, Prof. Razaullah Ansari, Secretary of Ibn Sina Academy and a distinguished science historian of Medieval India, shared his thoughts on the importance of scientific thinking in Sir Syed's outlook (cf. pp. 3-4 for some details). After Prof. Ansari, Prof. Mushahid Husain, Ex- VC, M.J.P., Rohilkhand, spoke on the progress of education in Jamia Milia Islamia— an offshoot of AMU. The session was then carried forward by Prof. Syed Iqbal Hasnain, Ex-VC, Calicut University. Prof. Hasnain shared his

thoughts on spreading of education. He was followed by Mr. Qurban Ali, a senior journalist who appreciated the efforts of Sir Syed Ahmad Khan and lauded the education system of the Aligarh Muslim University.

The second session culminated into a Prize Giving Ceremony in which some meritorious students of the Coaching and Guidance Centre of the Duty Society, who have secured very high positions in various entrance examinations, were given out prizes by Mr. M. A. A. Fatmi and the functionaries of the Society. This was followed by the much-awaited program of the night, the musical event. The performance was given by Johny Foster, the well known musician -and the voice of AMU *Tarana*, the University anthem. Mr. Johnny Foster and his team started by reciting two of his self-composed *Nazm* on Sir Syed Ahmad Khan. As per the tradition followed in all the functions of the Aligarh Muslim University, the Duty Society Bicentenary Celebration of Sir Syed ended with AMU *Tarana* followed by the National Anthem. AMU *Tarana* is considered one of the best anthems written for any Indian educational institution. The guests then proceeded towards Fountain Lawn of India International Centre for dinner.

In sum, the Conference was organised and proceeded successfully. There were three concrete suggestions that can be highlighted:

1. The Aligarh Muslim University should endeavour to get Nobel Prize or an equivalent international prize in any field. This suggestion came from none other than the well-known educationist and legal expert Mr. Salman Khursheed.
2. AMU should focus on emerging areas of Science and Technology like Artificial Intelligence, Computational Linguistics, etc., emphasized by several speakers especially by Prof.

Panwar, Vice-Chancellor, Sharda University.

3. Creation of organizations and institutions by associated persons, who are engaged already in carrying forward the mission and vision of Sir Syed Ahmad Khan.

All invited and eminent speakers on this occasion echoed the same sentiments of Sir Syed's mission towards modern education. This event provided ample opportunity and an enjoyable experience of meeting a large number of talented Aligarians and friends of AMU discussing Sir Syed's mission towards education.

An Important Announcement

"Professor Doctor Fuat Sezgin is no longer managing director of the Institute for the History of Arabic-Islamic Sciences at the Johann Wolfgang Goethe-University Frankfurt am Main. Until a new managing director will be appointed, the Institute is managed by Dr. Klaus Zimmermann on an interim basis. The academic work of the institute is not affected by this. For reasons of reorganization the access to the library is temporarily limited."

Fuat Sezgin (born 24 October 1924) has been very close to Prof. Hakim Syed Zillur Rahman (Aligarh). He showed his 'Institute of the History of the Arab Islamic Sciences' personally, when Prof Rahman visited Frankfurt. Dr. Sezgin also created museums in Frankfurt and Istanbul with replicas of historical Arabic-Islamic scientific instruments, tools and maps. His best known publication is the 13-volume *Geschichte des Arabischen Schriftums*, a standard reference in the field, which he promised to arrange for the Library of Ibn Sina Academy, if he finds a sponsorer. Prof. Rahman dedicated one of his books in the name of Prof. Sezgin for his scholarship contribution in the field of Islamic Medicine.

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