



IOS NEWSLETTER

Vol. 21 No. 07

July 2014/Ramadhan-Shawwal 1435 H

Thought for the Month

Those who avoid
Great sins and indecent deeds,
Save lesser offences, –
Verily thy your Lord is ample
In forgiveness. He knows
You well when He brings
You out of the earth,
And when ye are hidden
In your mother's wombs.
Therefore hold not yourselves
purified:
He knows best who it is
That guards against evil.

Al-Quran- 53:32

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 ancient theme of human quest for immortality, blended together with Gnosis and human supremacy over creation, produces the greatest masterpiece of Iqbal in Javidnama (approximately meaning The Epic of Eternity).

Iqbal opens the book with a prayer to God. He complains that the human race has forgotten its greatness, and he prays that this book – a message of human greatness – should be made easy to the younger readers.

On the first day of creation when Life brought forth the world out of its yearning for the presence and absence, the star-studded Sky taunted the Earth for being dark and lightless. The Earth complained to God and a voice from across the heavens predicted the glory that will spring from the Earth's dust: the human being, who will surpass the Sky. Angels offered a song.

Iqbal sings a ghazal of Rumi on a riverbank at sunset, and the spirit of the great sage appears to answer his questions about existence, God and humanity. Rumi's answers invoke Zurvan, the ancient angel of Time, who now appears to unveil his mystery: he is the master of all, and yet a man who is blessed with the grace of Prophet can break away from the prison of Time. Stars offer a song.

Rumi becomes Iqbal's guide and they set out on their heavenly journey. The Moon – the first stage in their journey – is a lifeless planet but Iqbal is able to see its inhabitants when Rumi tells him to look with his inward eyes. Hence they meet Vishwamitr (an ancient Hindu sage) who resides in a cave on that planet. Rumi bestows the title of Zinda Rud (The Living Stream) on his ardent follower while introducing him to the Hindu sage. They also hear the song of Sarosh (the ancient angel of the Unseen), and pay a visit to the Tawasin of four great prophets in the Valley of Yarghamid. These four prophets are Buddha, whose Tasin contains a dialogue between the sage and a repentant woman; Zarathustra, whose Tasin contains a dialogue between Ahraman – the spirit of darkness – and the founder of Zoroastrianism; Christ, whose Tasin is occupied by Leo Tolstoy complaining against the perversions of the Church; and Muhammad, whose Tasin contains the spirit of Abu Jahl wailing before the ancient gods of Arabia in the shrine of Ka'bah.

Iqbal now wonders if these heavenly bodies are contained within his own soul, but he nevertheless follows his guide to yet another world where no human life is seen and yet the voice of the Muslim call for prayer can be heard in the air. Rumi explains that this is the station of saints. Here, they meet Afghani and Saeed Haleem Pasha. Afghani discourses on religion and patriotism, socialism and monarchy, the teachings of the Quran regarding the vice regency of Adam over the Earth, divine government, divine ownership of land, and the abounding graces of wisdom. His discourses are punctuated with Saeed Haleem Pasha's brief reflections on the East and the West. The visit to mercurial sky is concluded with Afghani's message to the Russian nation and Iqbal's recital of a ghazal on Rumi's request.

From Iqbal An Illustrated Biography by Khurram Ali Shafique.

Activities of the IOS Headquarters

Certificate Distribution Programme of IOS Computer Learning Centre

New Delhi, June 28, 2014: Distributing certificates to 25 girl students who passed the six-monthly course "Diploma in Computer Applications and Multi-Lingual DTP" run by the IOS Centre for Computer Learning with the financial assistance of the Delhi Minorities Commission, the Chairman of the Commission, Mr. Qamar Ahmad observed that the complaints of communal bias and discrimination were often heard about, but if one was equipped with the information and knowledge, one's capability could not be ignored. In that case, one would be crowned with success irrespective of the field he or she belonged.

He said that recently, he came across a family at Mustafabad, Delhi, with seven children but none going to a school. Similarly, he said he came to know of a school where the number of seats stood

at 250 against about 1,600 students with the turn of each student coming after two days. This problem was not confined to a particular area. Others also had such problems. Attributing such problems to the lack of awareness, he said that improper planning was aggravating it. He stressed the need for adopting a two-pronged strategy to tackle it.

On this occasion, Mr. Qamar Ahmad presented mementos to Ariba, Afeena Parveen and Sairah who secured first, second and third positions respectively. The first position holder Ariba was given a cash reward of Rs. 5,000 under the Rasheeda Scholarship. It was given away to her by a scientist at the Central Road Research Institute, Mrs. Farhat Azad, who has instituted this award in the name of her mother. It

may be recalled that this was the fifth batch of the computer learning programme. A copy of the study conducted by the Institute of Objective Studies on issues relating to Muslims of Delhi, was presented to the Chairman of Delhi Minorities Commission, Mr. Qamar Ahmed.

In his presidential address, the Chairman of the IOS, Dr. Mohd. Manzoor Alam, secured a pledge from the girl students that they would unitedly oppose dowry saying a woman is oppressed by a woman in this system. He also asked them to take a resolve to educate to their children even if it meant not meeting some of their needs. He said that according to the law of nature, girls left their parental home after marriage. But



L-R (Sitting): Dr. Parvez Mian, Dr. Mohd. Manzoor Alam, Mr. Qamar Ahmed and Prof. Refaqt Ali Khan

wherever they went, they should remain associated with the IOS by e-mail and strengthen humanity and give a fillip to the welfare of the community. He said that this stupendous job was not possible without their cooperation. He urged the chairman of the Minorities Commission to start a personality development course for the students, besides other modern courses in order to prepare them for leadership in the next 20 years. He said that efforts should also be made to strengthen the foundation of their civility, so that the community and the country could benefit from it.

Earlier, the Secretary General of the IOS, Prof. Z.M. Khan, gave a brief account of the activities of the Institute. The Vice-Chairman of the

IOS, Prof. Refaqt Ali Khan and Chairman Delhi Haj Committee, Dr. Parvez Mian, also spoke on the occasion. The proceedings of the function were conducted by Prof. Hasina Hashia.

Activities of the IOS Chapters

ALIGARH CHAPTER

Annual Report : 2013-2014

By the grace of Allah (Swt) Aligarh Chapter of the Institute of Objective Studies, New Delhi, has completed 27 years of its existences. After its inception this Chapter has given valuable contribution for the realization of the objectives determined and policies formulated from time to time.

In a matter of 27 years our institute has become a household name in the academic circles of Oxford of the East i.e., Aligarh Muslim University and other educational institutions in the nearby areas.

Here under is the report showing the activities undertaken and programs organized between April 2013 and March 2014. In total three lectures and seven symposia were organized during the period under report and the description of some of them are as under.

Please see annexure I to know the programs organized during the period under report (2013-2014) with date, name of speaker and the nature of program. Annexure II mentions the name of persons who visited our Institute on different occasions.

Lecture on Belief and Behavior towards Environment

Prof. Salahuddin Qureshi, an eminent professor of Geography Department, A.M.U. Aligarh dwelt at length on the problem of environment

and shed sufficient light on Islamic teachings with regard to protection and preservation of environment. He said that it is our responsibility to do our best in all possible ways to protect the environment for the sustainable development of animals, humans and plants. All through the history upto the 1980s Man and environment were considered as separate entities. As a result of it there was a general indifference and neglect towards the environment.

Environment hinges on a delicate balance of the support systems in nature. A misunderstanding and misuse of the environment has led to the problems of global dimensions such as desertification, global warming, ozone hole and acid rains.

Environmental degradation has raised several questions on the survival and the sustainable development of Man.

In view of these alarming questions, there is a newer and genuine understanding of the Man and Environment relationship. Man is now considered an integral part of Environment. Environment is considered an inseparable and indispensable entity of Man.

The individual and the society is evasive of the environmental problems. This is because we tend to view the environmental problems in a global perspective. Therefore, it is acknowledged as a distant problem beyond the horizon. As long as it is envisaged a global problem it would remain someone else's concern. The environmental problems can effectively be addressed only if we view them through a local prism rather than the global perspective. There should be a shift of emphasis from the Major World Environments to Micro Municipal Environments. The environment we live-in, is our immediate surrounding. The health, hygiene and longevity are dependent upon our built-up environment. For a healthy, sustainable future we should protect and promote our outdoor as well as the indoor environment. This

seems to justify the proverb, "think globally and act locally". It is ironical to note that despite the low per capita consumption, India has the highest municipal pollution in the World. It is largely due to the lack of individual concern for the micro environment we live-in. On the World Environment Day let's pledge to safeguard the environment from doing things as insignificant as throwing away the banana peelings, toffee wrappers, cigarette ends and the likes. Such habits will help prevent the municipal pollution.

IOS hosted Iftaar

As per our traditions we hosted iftaar in the lecture hall of the institute on July 25, 2013 which was attended by many teachers and students belonging to various departments of the university and some of the retired teachers of A.M.U. In addition to the persons living in the neighbourhood.

Symposium on Children's Day

A symposium on "*Problems of Children and their Remedies*", was organized to observe Children's Day at 5:30 p.m. on 14/11/2013 which was attended by a good number of school, college and university students and teachers.

Asst. Coordinator of the Chapter, Mr. M. Serajuddin Khan welcomed the speakers as well as the audience, introduced the theme of the symposium and requested Prof. Mehmood S. Khan Former Chairman Dept of Psychology, A.M.U. Aligarh to preside over the function.

Mr. M. D. Hasan Raza Phd Scholar, Dept. of Political Science, A.M.U shed some light on the general problems faced by Children and spoke on the uses and abuses of Internet and its place in educating the children. As the children of tender age are becoming more and more internet 'addict', there exists every possibility of their being led astray, he opined.

Mr. M. Allam, a senior Asst. teacher at the S.T.S High School

observed that the teachers cannot succeed in their efforts of educating the children unless parents extend their helping hand in this regard.

Mr. Farhat Ali Usmani, an advocate by profession was of the view that for all round development of the children, they deserve a good environment, both in their schools and at homes. He also warned the teachers and the parents to remain vigilant about the attitude and behavior of children particularly about the adolescence.

Prof. Md. Muqim expressed his concern regarding female feticide, male-female ratio, child deprivation, drop out ratios and abuses of children in the houses, on the streets and even in the schools. He attracted attention of the audience and requested to create awareness and change the mindset so that all these practices could be stopped.

A child is not safe even in the womb of her mother said Prof. Mehmood S. Khan in his presidential remarks and questioned as to where a child would be safe if not in mother's womb. He said that, if we wish to change our society, we will have to bring changes in the mindset of all and sundry and he exhorted the youth to play a vital role in this direction.

Minorities and their rights

In order to mark the international minorities rights day, a symposium was organized on Dec 18, 2013 on the premises of the local chapter of the institute which was attended by a large number of A.M.U students, research scholars and teachers.

After welcoming the audience and the speakers Mr. M. Serajuddin Khan, Asst. Coordinator of Aligarh Chapter said that in view of the flagrant violations of minorities rights in the nooks and cranny of the globe it is must to give sharp teeth to the Minorities Commission of India to enable it to deal with the cases of violations of the Minorities Rights heavily handedly.

An Asst. Prof. Dr. Muhib ul haque of Dept. of Political Science A.M.U. Aligarh emphasized the need of effective measures by the Central as well as the State Governments. He suggested to enact effective laws to control communal activities and also laws of equal compensation for equal sufferings during communal rights.

Dr. Arshi Khan, an Associate Prof. of Political Science Dept. A.M.U was of the view that in the presence of sufficient legal provisions on the statute books as well as enshrined in the constitution, members of the Minority Community are not in a position to enjoy these rights and violations are witnessed at frequent intervals here and there which is not a healthy sign in the largest democracy of the world. He exhorted the audience particularly the youth to come forward to change the mindset of the people.

In his concluding remarks Asst. Coordinator of Aligarh Chapter said that it is the duty of the Majority community to protect the rights of the people who are in Minority so that they could live in peace in the society.

Symposium on “Empowerment of women; problems and prospects”

On the occasion of international women’s rights day, a symposium was organized on the above topic on March 8, 2014 at 5:30 p.m. which was attended by the people belonging to almost every walk of life.

Mr. Mohammad Serajuddin Khan, Asst. Coordinator of the Chapter, welcomed the speakers as well as the members of audience and introduced the theme by saying that half of the population i.e., women need to be empowered to contribute their bit in the progress of our Society and Nation in the 21st century world and invited Dr. Albina Shamsi to share her views on the occasion.

Dr. Albina Shamsi an assistant professor in the department of Jarahat, AK Tibbiya College, AMU Aligarh dwelt at length on the growing member of breast cancer, its causes

and possible remedial measures. She emphasized the need for periodic checkups by experts and treatment thereof without any delay.

Dr. Zoya Zaidi, a private medical practitioner specializing in the treatment of arthritis gave a synoptic picture of incidents of rape prevalent in almost all the strata of our society, irrespective of rich-poor, urban-rural, educated and uneducated and tried to attract an attention of our so called civilized society by sharing that in India, a rape is reported every twenty two minutes and also that for every reported case there are at least three unreported cases. By citing the figures of National Crime Records Bureau, in 2012, 25000 rape cases were reported across our motherland and out of these 24,470 were committed by relatives and neighbor. The reasons of unbridled rape cases according to her were lack of commitment on the part of law enforcement agencies and treatment of women as a commodity instead of a dignified human being. She reported each and every member of our society to be responsible and vigilant enough with regard to the fair sex problems particularly sexual violence in houses, school-colleges, streets, workplaces etc. She also suggested an easy and early delivery of justice by fast track courts, in order to check such crimes.

Education serves as the conduit, to empowerment and economic independence and provides the critical foundation from which further empowerment flows said Dr. Md. Tarique an associate Professor, Department of Economics, AMU, Aligarh. He informed that the third goal of Millennium Development Goal is to promote gender equality and empower women and according to him women in order to become equal to men and empowered will have to adorn themselves with the jewels of education.

Dr. Mohsin Raza, a senior consultant surgeon, on the occasion shared with the audience that in our country, one in 22 women develop breast cancer and this particular ailment is one of the top killers of

Indian women which could be treated easily if detected in early stages. Dr. Raza suggested that self breast examination if done from the age of 20, it would be possible to detect the disease at a controller stage and once detected there should not be delay in reporting the complaint to a surgeon and treatment commenced. He also gave tips for self breast examination.

“Breast Feeding: A Boon to Child and Mother Health” was the title of paper presented by Dr. Saman Anees, Dept. of Auraz-e-Niswaan, Ajmal Khan Tibbiya College, AMU, Aligarh wherein she gave a detailed information regarding the composition and richness of human milk and suggested that a newly born child should be breastfeed within the first hour after birth and claimed that the children having the opportunity of breast feeding are less vulnerable to ill health and more protected from ear infections, respiratory infections, allergies, gastroenteritis etc. Dr. Saman also showed the innumerable benefits of breast feeding to mothers and concluded by saying that breast feeding not a choice but an obligation to the choice.

Dr. Naghma Azhar, an assistant professor at the Faculty of Commerce, AMU, Aligarh presented a paper entitled “*Women and the law in India*” in which she gave the details of women living in different periods of time and also highlighted the legal provisions with regard to Women’s rights, empowerment emancipation of status, safeguards against atrocities and discriminations of various kinds, made available in the constitution’s chapter III and IV and a number of legislations enacted till the recent past. She also enumerated the initiatives taken by state government on the above subject but at the same the speaker shared her views regarding non-implementation of the laws and provisions by the law enforcement agencies, particularly police force and their discriminatory attitude towards 50% population of our society i.e. women. Dr. Naghma supported her claim by giving increased data of kidnapping and abduction of women, domestic

violence and dowry deaths, rape, torture by husband and in laws, trafficking harassment at workplaces etc.

She was of the view that only speedy trial of cases against women pending in various courts of law and early delivery of justice can check the crime against women.

While speaking on the occasion Ms. Arshi Shoab, a research scholar Dept of Islamic Studies, AMU, Aligarh asserted that women in general and Muslim women in particular have been socially, economically, physically and psychologically exploited. Her paper entitled *Problems and Issues of Muslim Women in India*.

After presentation of paper was over, a warm discussion took place during the question and answer session.

Refresher Course Delegates at the Chapter

It is a matter of pleasure that a good number of teachers belonging to different departments of Arts & Social Sciences faculties and hailing from various parts of the Indian Union attending refresher course at the UGC, Academic Staff College, AMU, Aligarh, visited our institute on 11/1/2014 during evening hours.

They were welcomed by MR. M. Serajuddin Khan, Asst. Coordinator, Aligarh Chapter who informed these delegates the aims and objectives of the institute and its 6 chapters, its publications, its activities and programs. He also showed them copies of books, journals, newsletters and calendar published by the Institute. By coming to know the activities undertaken and programs organized by the institute particularly its effort of promoting researches in Islamic Perspective and some of its pioneer work like readings on minorities, 100 great muslims of the world and its calendar, they very much appreciated the performance given by the institute.

At the end of the meeting, Mr. Khan requested them to contribute their papers for publications in the 3 journals and also the 2 online journals.

PATNA CHAPTER

Annual Report (2013-2014)

The Institute of objective studies (Patna Chapter) has continued to act as a vibrant-center of academic activities in this region. Several historic Regional, National and International conferences, workshops and seminars were organized at different intervals on major issues like Ijtehad, Inter-faith dialogue, empowerment of Muslims, crises in Muslim mind, global trends in education etc., that led to multivolume publications of the Institute.

The Patna Chapter took another initiative in launching teaching program by signing MOU with Maulana Mazharul Haque University, Patna in 2009. Accordingly the Patna Chapter was declared as one of Knowledge Resource Center (KRC) of the university to carry on teaching programs both at degree and diploma level. The chapter was also assigned to prepare courses of studies of different disciplines including library & Information Science (BLIS) journalism & Mass communication (BJMC), Oriental librarianship (DOL) and Islamic Banking etc. These courses of studies prepared and designed by Dr. S.F. Rab were approved and included in the university program.

The chapter further moved ahead to organize skill development programs to promote capacity building among the student of library & Information Science. Accordingly, short term training program on the 'Managing e-library services' was organized at different intervals. The module of this short term training program is quite unique but essentially a need based. So far three national and a few state level training programs have been organized in collaboration with National Informatics Center (NIC) Ministry of communications, Information Technology, Govt. of India, New

Delhi and ANS Institute of social studies, Patna.

The chapter also intends to organize Research Methodology courses in the field of Social Sciences in collaboration with Indian Association of Social Sciences Institutes, New Delhi. In this connection we need necessary guidance and support from the IOS headquarter. A proposal to this effect will be sent to the headquarter for approval and directives.

The chapter is also visualizing the possibility of bring out a bi-annual journal on women studies in Hindi language. All these efforts require necessary expertise and financial support. Unfortunately, despite continued efforts the chapter could not be able to generate adequate funds so far. The chapter is now facing the difficulties even meeting the bare necessities like rent, electricity and maintenance of the office. These problems have always been mentioned in the successive annual reports of the chapter. The current annual report for the year 2013-14 also mentions the constraints faced by the chapter along with the achievements made in different directions as indicated above.

Activities

Lectures

One of the major activities of this chapter during 2013-14 was to organize lectures and meetings on contemporary issues by inviting intellectuals from diverse field of life. An interactive session was organized under the chairmanship of Dr. Mohammad Manzoor Alam, Chairman, IOS. At the outset Dr.Syed Fazle Rab welcomed the IOS chairman who despite his busy schedule finds time to visit the chapter and provides an opportunity to its members to interact on various issues relating to national importance in general and Muslim community in specific. Dr. Mohmmad Manzoor Alam presented an overview of the general scenario of the country and expressed the need of

addressing some core issues of the country by the Muslim intellectuals in providing an alternative to the 'failed system'. Dr. Alam emphasized that the basic spirit of the Indian constitution expressed through its various articles relate to the basic tenants of Islam such as freedom, equality, fraternity, Justice etc., it is therefore responsibility of the intellectuals to interpret these articles for evolving theoretical frame-work to address the various issues faced by the country. He further added that the very issue of 'inclusive development' is essentially based on the concept of equality and justice and hence the governance should evolve such mechanism to address all developmental issues based on equality to all and discrimination to non. Dr. Alam also said that over the last two decades no big idea has emerged which could bring impact on social life of this country. He further added that it is an age of dialogue and debate. The Muslim intellectuals should come forward and join mainstream debate to make their contributions more visible and acceptable in resolving crises including moral, social and other developmental issues so that this country should emerge stronger and stronger.

This interactive session followed a very lively discussion by the participants drawn from different walks of life. The prominent among those were Reyaz Azimadadi, Mr. M.Q. Jauhar (both journalists) Dr. Saad- Bin- Hamid, Dr. Imtayaz Hassan, Tanveer Ahsan Nizami, Ibrahim Alam, Dr. Shauket Ali, Prof. Maulana Shakil Qasmi (academicians), Syed Shakil Hassan, Ejaz Ahmed (Advocates) Masood Akhtar, Omar Aqdas, Md. Yusuf (social Activists) etc. During the discussion the participants also highlighted on Muslim youth who needs special attention for taking up the new challenges. The members were quite unanimous on this point that the IOS should come out with a series of research and training programmes on Muslim youth. The discussion ended with Doas.

Another magnificent well attended function was organized by the Patna chapter to mark the release of a book in Urdu entitled 'Hindustan: Inteshaar ke Bhanwar men' authored by Khursheed Anwar Arfi; on 8 Dec 2013 at Urdu Bhawan Patna. It is the Urdu translation of the author's original book "India: A Nation in turmoil" published by the institute of objective studies. The book was released by an eminent surgeon Dr. Ahmad Abdul Hai. The function was presided by Professor Shamshad Hussain, Ex- vice chancellor, Magadh and Nalanda Open Universities. Maulana Aneeshur Rahman, chairman, Bihar state Haj committee was the chief guest. Among others who spoke on this occasion include shafi Mashhadi, Fayyaz Hali (lawyer), Shakil Hassan, Rehan Ghani etc. The function was conducted by Dr. Syed Fazle Rab. The function was attended by a number of scholars, journalists, social activists, academicians, students, etc.

On 12 Jan 2014, a special meeting was organized at the premises of this institute under the chairmanship Dr. Syed Fazle Rab. The meeting was attended by several eminent intellectuals and scholars including Aftab Ahmad engineer, Rehan Ghani, Mohd Arif Ansari, Shah Faizur Rahman, Fayyaz Hali etc. While discussing the various issues relating to the present scenario of this state, it was observed that the contribution made by the Muslim community has gradually been over shadowed. The present generation is quite unaware of the role played by eminent persons like Maulana Mazharul Haque, Maulana Sajjad, Syed Ali Imam, Syed Hassan Imam, Dr. Sayed Mahmud, Sir Sultan Ahmad, Shafi Daudi, Prof. Abdul Qayyum Ansari, Shah Zubair, Abdul Bari, etc. It was unanimously resolved that a series of popular lectures be organized by the IOS (Patna chapter) It was further resolved that first lecture in this series be started about the life and contribution of Maulana Sajjad on convenient date.

On 15 Mar 2014, an emergent meeting was organized to discuss the electoral scenario of the country and the role of Muslim Intellectuals. The meeting was chaired by Maulana Aneeshur Rahman, secretary general, Imrat-e-shariah phulwarisharif, Patna. At the outset Dr. M Manzoor Alam, chairman, IOS, presented an overall picture of the country and underlined certain electoral issues that need to be dealt by the intellectuals very carefully. He stressed the need of strengthening secular values and tradition of the country as enshrined in the Indian constitution. The talk was very thought-provoking which followed a very lively and meaningful discussions by the participants including professor Abdul Quddus, Dr. Imteyaz Hassan, Dr. Saad bin Hamid, Dr. Shahid Jamil, Syed Hussain Abbass, Dr. Abdul Matin, Professor Maulana Shakil Qasmi, M.T. Khan (Intellectuals), Najmul Hassan Najmi, Dr. B.H.Khan, Mr. Zafar Ahmad, Javed Iqbal, Md. Mazahir (social & political activists), Dr. Masudur Rahman, Rashid Ahmad, Khursheed Hashmi (journalists).

Meetings

Dr. Syed Fazle Rab Hon'y Director, IOS, (Patna chapter) represented the IOS (HQ) in the 14th Annual conference of Indian Association of Social Science Institutions (IASSI) New Delhi on 7-8 March 2014, held at Patna. Dr. Syed Fazle Rab was deputed to represent the IOS in the meeting of the Annual General Body (AGM) held on 7 March 2014 at ANS Institute of Social Studies, Patna. The meeting discussed the following agenda: Confirmation of the minutes of the last meeting; Presentation of annual report for 2012- 13; Presentation of audited accounts for 2012- 13; Action taken on the decision of the AGM held on 30 Oct 2012; Activities carried out by IASSI for the year 2013-14; Programmes for the year 2014-15.

On this occasion a 2 day seminar on Regional Pattern of Indian Development was organized in collaboration with ANS Institute of

Social Studies, Patna on 7-8 March 2014 which was participated by eminent social scientists including, Prof S.R. Hashim, Prof Yogesh Atal , Prof T.S. Papola, Prof B. Banerjee, Prof M.M Goel, Prof Braj k Shinha, Prof Janak pandy etc.

Knowledge Resource Centre (KRC)

Another major activities of the chapter is to act as a Knowledge Resource Centre (KRC) to carry on teaching program of Maulana Mazharul Haque Arabic & Persian University. During 2013-14 the chapter took up two courses i.e. Bachelor of Library and Information science (BLIS), and Diploma in Oriental Librarianship (DOL). Unfortunately the number of students in these two courses remained quite unexpectedly very low i.e. 25 in BLIS and 2 in DOL. This declining trend in admission is due to the lack of employment opportunities in this State and other inherent issues Consequently the income generated by this chapter is not sustainable. On an average this chapter receive around a sum of Rs. 1,80,000 on admission but its expenditure goes up two Rs. 2,75,000 per annum. Consequent, this gap between income and expenditure remains to be a great stress on the management which finds itself in a helpless situation in organizing other activities of the chapter.

Skill Development

A 5-Day National workshop cum training program was organized on 'Managing e-library services during June 24-28, 2013 in collaboration with the ANS Institute of Social Studies Patna and the National Informatics Center (NIC) Ministry of communications Information Technology Government of India, New Delhi. The workshop was inaugurated by Professor Ram Bachan Rai, chairman, Bihar State Authority for Public libraries and Information Centers. Government of Bihar Professor Shamshad Hussain, Ex-vice chancellor, Nalanda Open University and Magadh University, chaired this inaugural session. Professor Vinay

Kantha , was the chief guest. A team of expert headed by P.K. Upadhaya, Technical Director, NIC, Ram Krishna Anukari ,Scientist, NIC, New Delhi, Jahangir Alam, computer programmer, Khuda Bakhs Oriental Public library, Patna, Dr. B.L. Sharma and Dr. S. Fazle Rab, (IOS) conducted this training programme. Nearly 50 participants from different states including Bihar, Jharkhand, West Bengal, Odhisa, Uttar Pradesh attended this workshop cum-training programme. Professor Nil Ratan , Registrar, ANS Institute proposed vote of thanks. Encouraged with the success of such national programme, the Patna chapter also decided to launch a series of skill development programmes at certain intervals.

On 22.08.2013 a skill development programme on library automation was organized which was inaugurated by Professor Shamshad Hussain Ex-vice chancellor. Magadh university and Nalanda Open University, Professor Qamar Ahsan Ex-vice chancellor, Maulana Mazharul Haque Arabic And Persian University. (MMHA&PU), B. N. Mandal University, Madhepura was the chief guest. Khursheed Anwar Arif , and eminent journalist and social activist, Fayyaz Hali, a senior Lawyer, (Gaya) attended this programme as the guests of Honour. The training was conducted by Dr. Fazle Rab, Dr. B.L.Sharma, Jahanghir Alam and Afroz Ahmad . A small group of ten participants attended this programme which continued for 8 days.

On 2 Feb 2014, A small workshop-cum-training programme was organized on 'Managing e-library services'. It was inaugurated by prof Azhar Hussain, vice chancellor, Veer Kunwar Singh University, Ara (Bhojpur). The function was chaired by prof M. A. Quddus. A team of experts including Dr. Fazle Rab, Dr. B.L.Sharma, Mr. Mukesh kumar shahi, Mr. Jahanghir Alam also spoke on this occasion.

BJP's Strategy *by Ishtiyaque Danish*

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

With BJP being in power with absolute majority, there is a wide spread apprehension that they would begin to implement the saffron agenda sooner than later. It is quite possible that initially they might be relatively discreet and would like to achieve their goals in an indirect manner. Education, culture, history and communication are the areas that they would like to target first for direct or indirect saffronization. The unexpected appointment of Ms. Smriti Zubin Irani as Minister of Human Resource Development is not without reason. Her elevation appears to be a well-thought out strategy. She does not come from RSS background. She is a model turned actress who became a household name through a TV serial in which she played the role of a model Hindu Bahu (daughter in law). She continues to be popular as Tulsi, the name of the character she played and so many people do not know her real name. She is in politics for several years and has been BJP's spokesperson. One can see that before becoming the Minister, she had not attained the kind of experience and political maturity which are needed to head and handle a big ministry like that of Human Resource Development. People have raised objection over her educational qualification saying how an undergraduate can head a ministry responsible for

educating the young India. I see in it BJP's strategy of indirect saffronization. First and foremost, being a novice she will be totally dependent on Mr. Modi. Second, being unfamiliar with the task she has been assigned, she would be easily influenced by bureaucrats with a saffronized mindset. Third, she would always walk the extra mile to please RSS as she has got the education portfolio with its blessing. Manmohan Singh, blamed for inaction, had done pretty well in the field of education. He had realized that India was far behind in higher education and therefore established several Central Universities. As we all know, universities are not built easily; they take years to come up and be functional. Most Central Universities and other institutions of higher learning that Manmohan Singh had established, are yet to recruit faculty for teaching various courses. Probably many thousand faculty will be required in few years time and BJP would surely like to fill large number of vacancies with candidates having saffronized bent of mind. People may recall that in 1977-79 Mr. L.K. Advani was Minister of Communication/Information in Morarji Desai's cabinet who had used his position to appoint in his ministry persons with RSS background. Ms. Smriti Zubin Irani would precisely do the

same and fill up academic positions with men and women who are already influenced by RSS or may be indoctrinated in its ideology. We can imagine about the far reaching consequences of such appointments. Not just vacant positions in existing universities will be filled with persons of RSS background but the Minister, Ms Irani has also announced to set up more IITs which will give her more opportunities to induct saffronized persons in education sector. So a clear strategy of indirect saffronization of education is visible. Sadly the opposition parties do not appear to be aware of the danger of saffronizing education indirectly. And even more disturbing is the intellectual scene as most academics and intellectuals continue to be influenced by Mr. Modi. The PM has already started doing what he wants, for example, promoting market economy. As a result his favourite industrialists are out to buy TV channels or increase their influence in the media and thus influence public opinion in their favour. We, therefore, need to open our eyes and realize the gravity of the danger staring in our face.

SUBSCRIPTION

Annual : Rs. 20/- \$ 5
Five Years: Rs. 75/- \$ 15