

**RELIGION IN INDIAN HISTORY: IDEAS, PRACTICE AND CHANGE**  
NATIONAL CONFERENCE ORGANIZED BY DRS-SAP PROGRAMME  
DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY AND CULTURE  
JAMIA MILLIA ISLAMIA, NEW DELHI – 110025  
29 FEBRUARY AND 1 MARCH 2008

**PROGRAMME**  
**DAY ONE**  
**29 FEBRUARY 2008**

**INAUGURAL SESSION**

(11:00am – 12:30 pm)

VENUE: EDWARD SAID HALL, JMI

Introductory Remarks	:	Prof. R. Gopinath (Department of History and Culture, Jamia Millia Islamia)
Welcome Note	:	Dr. Ranjeeta Dutta (Department of History and Culture, Jamia Millia Islamia)
Inaugural Address	:	Prof. Mushirul Hasan (Vice Chancellor, Jamia Millia Islamia)
Keynote Address	:	Prof. Irfan Habib (Professor Emeritus, Aligarh Muslim University)

Session I: (12:30 pm – 02:00 pm)

VENUE: YASSER ARAFAT HALL, JMI

**TEXTS AND RELIGIOUS DISCOURSE**

Chair: Dr. Kumkum Roy (Centre for Historical Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University)

1. Tradition and Memory : Filiation and Identity in Early Sanskrit Literature  
– Dr. Heeraman Tiwari (Centre for Historical Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University)
2. Buddhist – Brahmanical Dialectic in the Indian Tradition  
– Dr. Uma Chakravarti (University of Delhi)
3. Dhurtakhyana – Narratives of the Wicked : A Jaina Approach to Brahmanical Mythological Texts  
– Mr. Rajneesh Kumar (Department of History and Culture, Jamia Millia Islamia)
4. Texts, Narratives and Identities in Brahmanic Discourse in Early Fifteenth Century North Bihar  
– Dr. Pankaj Jha (Department of History, LSR College, University of Delhi)

*LUNCH*

*02:00 PM -02:45 PM*

Session II: (02:45 pm – 04:00pm)

VENUE: YASSER ARAFAT HALL, JMI

**RELIGIOUS IDEAS AND RESPONSE**

Chair: Prof. N.R. Farooqi (Department of Medieval and Modern Indian History, Allahabad University)

1. Death and Devotion  
– Prof. Susan Vishvanathan (Centre for the study of Social Systems, Jawaharlal Nehru University)
2. Response of the Jurists of the Sultanate Period to the Contemporary Problems of State and Society  
– Prof. Zafarul Islam (Department of Islamic Studies, Aligarh Muslim University)
3. The Limits of Universalism : The Bengali Hindu Intelligentsia and Strategies of Survival in a Colonized World  
– Prof. Amiya P. Sen (Vishwa Bharti)

*TEA BREAK*

*04:00 PM – 04:15 PM*

Session III: (04:15 pm – 05:30 pm)

VENUE: YASSER ARAFAT HALL, JMI

**RELIGION IN PRACTICE: THE REGIONAL CONTEXT**

Chair: Prof. Inayat A. Zaidi (Department of History and Culture, Jamia Millia Islamia)

1. Religion and Early Medieval State: Epigraphic Data from Malwa  
– Dr. Vishwa Mohan Jha (Department of History, ARSD College, University of Delhi)
2. Aspects of Geographical and Socio-Cultural Background of Islamization in Bengal  
– Mr. Aksadul Alam (Centre for Historical Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University)
3. Popular Religions as Survival Strategies : The Mahima Cult in Colonial Orissa  
– Dr. Biswamoy Pati (Sri Venkateshvara College, University of Delhi)
4. Christianity and Mizo Identity: Historical and Sociological Perspectives  
– Dr. Joy L. Pachau (Centre for Historical Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University)

**PROGRAMME**  
**DAY TWO**  
**1 MARCH 2008**

Session IV: (09:30 am – 11:30 am)

VENUE: YASSER ARAFAT HALL, JMI

**REPRESENTATION OF GENDER AND GENDER RELATIONS IN RELIGION**

Chair: Uma Chakravarti (University of Delhi)

1. Demand, Dialogues and Declaration : Women Seers in gveda  
– Dr. Kumkum Roy (Centre for Historical Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University)
2. Accommodating the Goddess : Structural Shrines for Independent Female Deities in Early Medieval Tamilakam c. 600-1300 CE  
– Dr. R. Mahalakshmi (Centre for Historical Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University)
3. The Sanskritized Face of Indian Dance : The 'Sacred' Shaping of the Female Dancer and Dancing Body  
– Dr. Urmimala Sarkar Munsri (School of Arts and Aesthetics, Jawaharlal Nehru University)
4. Islamic Rights of Muslim Wives : Situation , Interpretation and Actuality  
– Dr. Farhat Nasreen (Department of History and Culture, Jamia Millia Islamia)
5. Sulh-i kul and Gender  
– Prof. Sunita Zaidi (Department of History and Culture, Jamia Millia Islamia)

*TEA BREAK*

*11:30 AM – 11:45 AM*

Session V: (11:45 am – 01:45 pm)

VENUE: YASSER ARAFAT HALL, JMI

**CONSTRUCTION OF RELIGIOUS IDENTITIES**

Chair: Prof. Salil Mishra (Department of History, IGNOU)

1. Religious Identities: Diversities, Conflict and Coexistence in India (from 13<sup>th</sup> to the 17<sup>th</sup> Century)  
– Prof. S.IA. Zaidi (Department of History and Culture, Jamia Millia Islamia)
2. Saiyid Ahmad Bareilvi , Altaf Husain Hali and the Formation of Muslim Identity in the Nineteenth Century  
– Prof. N. R. Farooqi (Department of Medieval and Modern Indian History, Allahabad University)
3. Who is a Sikh? : Problematizing the Sikh Identity and Sikh Studies  
– Dr. Sumail Singh Siddhu (SGTB Khalsa College, University of Delhi)
4. Construction of Religious Identity in Colonial India  
– Prof. Sushil Srivastava (Department of Medieval and Modern Indian History, Allahabad University)

*LUNCH*

*01:45 PM – 02:45 PM*

Session VI: (02:45 pm – 04:15 pm)

VENUE: YASSER ARAFAT HALL, JMI

**CONFLICTS AND NEGOTIATIONS**

Chair: Prof. Sushil Srivastava (Department of Medieval and Modern Indian History, Allahabad University)

1. Understanding the Nature of Sufi- Sant Interaction in Medieval India  
– Dr. R. P. Bahuguna (Department of History and Culture, Jamia Millia Islamia)
2. Plurality and Sufi Tradition : A Case Study of Chishtis in Awadh  
– Prof. S.Z.H. Jafri (Department of History, University of Delhi)
3. Religious Rhetoric, Mercantile Strategies and a Revolting Community: A Study on the Conflicts Between the St. Thomas Christians and the Portuguese Padroado  
– Dr. Pius Malekandathil (Centre for Historical Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University)
4. Exclusive Resources – Inclusive Objectives : Invoking Islam in The Making of Anti- Colonial Nationalism in India 1857 – 1920  
– Dr. Rizwan Qaisar (Department of History and Culture, Jamia Millia Islamia)

*TEA BREAK*

*04:15 PM – 04:30 PM*

**VALEDICTORY SESSION**

(04:30 pm – 05:15 pm)

VENUE: YASSER ARAFAT HALL, JMI

Valedictory Address : Prof.T.N. Madan (Professor Emeritus, Institute of Economic Growth, New Delhi)

Vote of Thanks : Prof. R. Gopinath (Department of History and Culture, Jamia Millia Islamia)