

Concept Note

National Seminar “ISLAM IN INDIA: Politics, Society and Culture”

A Two-Days National Seminar
15- 16 December 2016

Organised by: India-Arab Culture Centre,
Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi-110025

The proposed seminar will speak in detail about Islam in India from its advent in the sub-continent in the 7th century. Besides being the major religious doctrine, Islam has been a the chief political ideology for many dynasties in India such as Delhi Sultanate (1206-1451); the Illbaris Turk (also known as Mamluk 1206-1290); Khiljis (1290-1320); Tughlaqs (1320-1414); Sayyids (1414-1519), Afghans and Mughal Empire. Islam played pivotal role in shaping the polity and society during the period of each dynasty.

From Delhi Sultanate to Mughal Empire, the trajectory represents not just a change in nature of regimes but it reflected a formidable transformation of the society in terms of cultural and religious orientation. Historically, this shift has been echoed in socio-religious setting, economy, rituals, art forms, life-cycle events etc. Over a period of fourteen centuries, Muslim community had put many efforts to make a specific model based on certain principles and practices in accordance with their beliefs and living experiences. In such attempts, ample spaces had been given for cultural diversities and national self-determination. Plurality of the society they live in and belief in the diversity of the region was well-preserved. Looked at from this angle, Islam in India, ought to be seen not only as the chief political ideology of the dynasties, but also as a significant component that shaped cultural fabric of this country.

Many processes, movements and ideologies have emerged over the years challenging and contesting with each other for domination. Some of them could be identified as pan-Islamism, Westernisation and localization, torn among these social forces, Muslims in India have succeeded in negotiating their identity in a predominantly secular set up in

post-Independent India. Islam continues to play an integral role in defining the culture, political behaviour and economic interaction of the Muslims in India.

It is in this context, the India-Arab Culture Centre will be organizing a two-day National Seminar on "Islam in India: Politics, Society and Culture" on 15 -16 December 2016, at Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi-110025. This Seminar is an attempt to put together various vantage points to understand Indian Islam in a holistic manner and to provide a realistic assessment of the current dynamics. The seminar will bring together a group of distinguished scholars from India.

Important Themes:

- History of advent of Islam in India. The early spread of Islam; Malabar Coast, Arab Conquest of Sindh and early Muslim community in India.
- Islam as a political ideology; from dynasties to Islamist movements
- Mughals in India; their past legacy, state formation, Jagirdari system, rise of Regional Muslim Powers in India, socio-cultural impact
- A brief history of Sufism, Important Sufi orders in India; the Chishti, Suhrawardi, Qadiri and Naqshbandi, regional Sufi orders.
- Sufism and Bhakti movement; impact on local culture; Rishi silsilah in Kashmir, Nathpanti in Bengal
- Islam during Colonial India
- Rise of revivalist moment, Shaikh Ahmad Sirhindi, Shah Waliullah Dehlawi, Shibli Nomani.
- Rise of Intellectual movements, *Madrasa* education in different parts of India, Darul Uloom Deoband, Nadwatul Ulama, Lucknow and Aligarh Moment in Aligarh
- Islamization; different theories and regional deviations.

Papers are invited on the above themes from social scientists drawn from different disciplines such as history, sociology, political science, anthropology, and philosophy who are interested on Islam in India. We will be grateful if you could kindly participate in the seminar. Please send the title of the paper along with a 200-word abstract by 05 December 2016 to nrkhan@jmi.ac.in

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