

National Seminar
on
Ideas, Traditions and Cultural Values in Medieval India
Chairperson: Professor Ali Athar
23-25 February, 2016

The three days national seminar began with the inaugural session. Dr. Firdos Anwar presented his Keynote address on 'Social Interaction and the Growth of a Composite Culture: A Study in Retrospect'. Total twelve academic sessions has been held in three days in which around 49 delegates attended from different universities and also by the teachers and Research scholars of the Department.

The first academic session was chaired by Dr. Firdos Anwar. Prof. Amit Day (Calcutta University, Kolkata), Dr. Etee Bahadur (Centre for Jawaharlal Nehru Studies, JMI, Delhi) and Dr. C.M. Agrawal (Kumaun University, Almora, Uttara Khand) were presented their papers in this session.

The second academic session was chaired by Professor Amit Day. Dr. Hussain Randhathani (MES College, Perinthalmanna, Malapuram- Kerala), Dr. Tabir Kalam (Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi) and Salma Bano (Research Fellow, AMU) were participated and presented their papers in this session.

The third academic session was presided by Prof. Iqtidar Husain Siddiqui (Aligarh). Four papers were presented in this session. The scholars who presented their papers in this session were Prof. S. M. Azizuddin Husain (Jamia Millia Islamia, Delhi), Dr. Sandhya Sharma (Vivekananda College, University of Delhi), Dr. Tasneem Suhrawardy (St. Stephen's College, University of Delhi) and Dr. Shadab Bano (Aligarh Muslim University).

The fourth academic session was chaired by Prof. S.M. Azizuddin Husain. In this session Dr. Gulfishan Khan (Aligarh Muslim University), Rameez Ahmad Padder (Research Fellow, AMU), Dr. Ambika Singh (Aligarh) and Dr. Nasir Raza Khan (Academy of International Studies, JMI, Delhi) were presented their papers.

The fifth academic session was presided by Professor Liyaqat Husain Moini (Aligarh). Three scholars namely Dr. Nazer Aziz Anjum (Jamia Millia Islamia, Delhi), Swanti Kulshreshta (Research Fellow, AMU), Dr. Farhat Nasreen (Jamia Millia Islamia, Delhi) were presented their papers in this session.

The sixth academic session was chaired by Professor Prof. Ishrat Alam (Aligarh Muslim University). Prof. Syed Ayub Ali (Warangal), Dr. Md. Tarique Anwar (Zakir Husain Delhi College, University of Delhi), Dr. M.A. Haque (National Archives, Delhi) were presented their papers in this session.

The seventh academic session was chaired by Prof. Shahabuddin Iraqi (Aligarh). Dr. Jibraeil (Aligarh Muslim University), Dr. Nishat Manzar (Jamia Millia Islamia, Delhi), Dr. Rashmi Upadhyaya (Aligarh Muslim University), Dr. Syed Bashir Hasan (Aligarh Muslim University) were presented their papers in this session

The eighth academic session was presided by Prof. Ali Athar (Aligarh Muslim University). Three scholars namely Dr. Tanuja Kothiyal (Fellow NMML/ Ambedkar University, New Delhi), Dr. Samana Zafar (Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi), Dr. Wasim Raja (Aligarh Muslim University) were presented their papers in this session.

The ninth academic session was chaired by Prof. Syed Ali Nadeem Rezavi (Aligarh Muslim University). Three distinguished scholars namely, Dr. Mayank Kumar (UGC Affiliate Fellow, NMML/ University of Delhi), Dr. Saifuddin Ahmad (University of Delhi), Dr. S. Chandni Bi (Aligarh Muslim University) were participated and presented their papers in this session.

The tenth academic session was chaired by Prof. Syed Ayub Ali (Warangal). Dr. Reyaz Ahmad Khan (Aligarh Muslim University), Sajad Subhan Rather (Research Fellow, AMU), Dr. Jawaid Akhtar (Aligarh Muslim University) were presented their papers in this session

The eleventh academic session was chaired by Prof. Mohd. Parwez (Aligarh Muslim University). Mr. Sameer Ahmad Sofi (Research Fellow, AMU), Dr. Amir Ahmad (Aligarh Muslim University), Ms. Kanchan Lawania (Aligarh Muslim University) were presented their papers in this session.

The twelfth academic session was chaired by Prof. Yaqub Ali Khan (Aligarh Muslim University). Dr. Mohammad Nafees (Aligarh Muslim University), Dr. Abdus Salam Jilani (Aligarh Muslim University), Ms. Shoki Jan (Research Fellow, AMU) were presented their papers in this session

The seminar came to an end with the Valedictory session, presided by Professor Ali Athar (Chairperson and Coordinator, CAS, Department of History, Aligarh Muslim University) who gave his invaluable comments on the three days seminar. Professor Ayub Ali Khan (Warangal) as an external delegate and Dr. Gulfishan Khan (Aligarh Muslim University) as an internal delegate expressed their notions on almost each and every papers, presented in the national seminar. The young research scholars also received valuable tips from the above eminent scholars' views.

National Seminar
on

Exploring Medieval India through Persian Inscriptions

Chairman: **Professor Ali Athar**

20-22 February, 2017

The Centre of Advanced Study, Department of History, Aligarh Muslim University in collaboration with National Mission for Manuscripts, New Delhi organized three days National Seminar on 'Exploring Medieval India Through Persian Inscriptions' on 20-22 February, 2017. This seminar began with the Inaugural session at 10.30 a.m. The theme of the seminar and welcome address at the inaugural session was given by Prof. Ali Athar, presided by the Honorable Vice Chancellor Lt. Gen. (Rtd.) Zameeruddin Shah and vote of thanks was given by Prof. Shamim A. Ansari, Dean, Faculty of Social Sciences, AMU, Aligarh. It was attended by a number of delegates invited from various universities and institutions of the country.

Prof. Ali Athar, Chairperson and Coordinator of CAS, Department of History, Aligarh Muslim University, and National Mission for Manuscripts, New Delhi jointly ventured to make this seminar successful.

The first academic session was presided by Prof. Kr. Refaat Ali Khan (Retired Professor, Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi) and three papers were presented by local and outside Aligarh namely, Prof. Amit Dey (Calcutta University, Kolkata), Dr. Aneesa Iqbal Sabir (Aligarh Muslim University) and Dr. Abdus Salam Jeelani (Aligarh Muslim University).

The scholars who had presented papers in the second session include Prof. Nishat Manzar (Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi), Ms. Lubna Irfan (Aligarh Muslim University), Mr. Abdul Motleb Shaikh (Aligarh Muslim University) and this session was chaired by Prof. Jigar Mohammad (Jammu University, J&K).

The third academic session was presided by Prof. Yaqub Ali Khan (Aligarh Muslim University). The scholars namely, Dr. Amir Ahmad (Aligarh Muslim University), Mr. Mohammad Anash (Aligarh Muslim University) and Dr. Reyaz Ahmad Khan (Aligarh Muslim University) were presented their papers.

The fourth academic session was chaired by Prof. Syed Ali Nadeem Rezavi (Aligarh Muslim University). The distinguished scholars namely, Prof. S.M. Azizuddin Husain (Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi), Prof. Surinder Singh (Punjab University, Chandigarh) and Dr. Tasneem Suhrawardy (St. Stephens College, Delhi University) were presented their papers in this session.

The fifth academic session was presided by Prof. Ali Athar (Aligarh Muslim University). Four scholars namely Prof. Ravindra Sharma (Kurukshetra University), Prof. Ishwar Dayal Gaur (Punjab University, Chandigarh), Dr. M. Waseem Raja (Aligarh Muslim University) and Dr. Shadab Bano (Aligarh Muslim University) were presented their papers in this session.

The sixth academic session was chaired by Prof. Ishrat Alam (Aligarh Muslim University). Prof. Jigar Mohammad (Jammu University, J&K), Prof. Yaqub Ali Khan (Aligarh Muslim University) and Dr. M.A. Haque (National Archives of India, New Delhi) were presented their papers in this session.

The seventh academic session was chaired by Prof. Surinder Singh (Punjab University, Chandigarh). Dr. Parwez Nazir (Aligarh Muslim University), Dr. Syed Ali Kazim (Aligarh Muslim University) and Mr. Irfan Ahmad (Aligarh Muslim University) were presented their papers in this session.

The eighth academic session was presided by Prof. Amit Dey (Calcutta University). Three scholars namely, Dr. Pushpa Sharma (Kurukshetra University), Dr. Lucky Khan (Aligarh Muslim University) and Dr. Mohammad Nafeesh (Aligarh Muslim University) were presented their papers in this session.

The ninth academic session was chaired by Prof. Nishat Manzar (Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi). Dr. Syed Bashir Hasan (Aligarh Muslim University), Dr. Jibraeil (Aligarh Muslim University) and Mr. Mohd. Noorain Khan (Aligarh Muslim University) were presented their papers in this session.

The tenth academic session was chaired by Prof. Mohd. Parwez (Aligarh Muslim University). Dr. Enayatullah Khan (Aligarh Muslim University) and Mr. Mohammad Abdullah Raza (Aligarh Muslim University) were presented their papers in this session.

The seminar came to an end with the Valedictory session, presided by Professor Ali Athar (Chairperson and Coordinator, CAS, Department of History, Aligarh Muslim University) who gave his invaluable comments on the three days seminar. Prof. S.M. Azizuddin Husain (Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi) as an external delegate expressed his notions on the theme. In continuation, Prof. Kr. Refaat Ali Khan uttered his view on each and every papers, presented in the national seminar. The young research scholars also received precious tips from the above eminent scholars' views. As a whole more than 30 papers were presented in this seminar by the delegates from different Universities and local scholars.

National Seminar
on
Centre, Provinces and Regional States in Medieval India (1206-1707)

Chairman: **Professor Ali Athar**

20-21 March, 2017

The inaugural session of two days national seminar was held in the Arts Faculty Lounge, presided over by Lt. Gen. (Rtd.) Zameer Uddin Shah, Vice-Chancellor, Aligarh Muslim University, Aligarh. Dr. Jibraeil voiced on the relevance of the theme and conducted the inaugural session of the seminar. In details the theme of the seminar was elucidated and welcome address at the inaugural session was given by Prof. Ali Athar. It was attended by the galaxy of distinguished scholars from different universities and institutions. Local scholars also participated in sufficient numbers to make this seminar successful. It was organized into seven academic sessions followed by a Valedictory session.

The first academic session was presided by Prof. Mohd. Afzal Khan (Aligarh Muslim University). In this session, Dr. Gulfishan Khan (Aligarh Muslim University), Dr. Saifuddin Ahmad (University of Delhi) and Dr. Farah Saif Abidin (Aligarh Muslim University) were presented their papers.

The second academic session was chaired by Prof. Mohd. Parwez (Aligarh Muslim University). It comprise the papers of Dr. Kanchan Lawaniya (Aligarh Muslim University), Dr. Monika Sharma (Aligarh Muslim University), Mr. Abdul Motleb Shaikh (Aligarh Muslim University), Mr. Md. Asfaque Julfikar (Aligarh Muslim University), Ms. Safia Shahzad (Aligarh Muslim University), Dr. Syed Bashir Hasan (Aligarh Muslim University) and Dr. Reyaz Ahmad Khan (Aligarh Muslim University).

The third session was presided by Prof. Yaqub Ali Khan (Aligarh Muslim University). Dr. Etee Bahadur (Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi), Dr. Rohma Javed Rashid (Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi), Dr. Amir Ahmad (Aligarh Muslim University), Ms. Syed Sumbul Arif (Aligarh Muslim University) and Ms. Samrin Rao (Aligarh Muslim University) were presented their papers in this session.

The fourth academic session was chaired by Prof. M.K. Pundhir (Aligarh Muslim University). The scholars who presented their papers in this session were Dr. Syed Mohammad Amir (Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi), Dr. Abdul Salam Jeelani (Aligarh Muslim University),

Ms. Shah Sabiha Fatima (Aligarh Muslim University), Ms. Swanti Kulshrestha (Aligarh Muslim University) and Mr. Tean Hussein (Aligarh Muslim University).

The fifth academic session was presided by Prof. S.M. Azizuddin Husain (Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi). Dr. Arshia Shafqat (Aligarh Muslim University), Dr. Mohammad Nafeesh (Aligarh Muslim University), Mr. Rameez Ahmad Padder (Aligarh Muslim University), Dr. Neeraj Ruwali (Nainital) and Dr. Jibraeil (Aligarh Muslim University) were presented their papers in this session.

The sixth academic session was chaired by Prof. Ruquia Hussain (Aligarh Muslim University). Dr. Md. Khurshid Alam (JDM College, DU), Ms. Saima Haleem (Aligarh Muslim University), Mr. Naseer Ahmad Mir (Aligarh Muslim University), Mr. Md. Masiur Rahaman (Aligarh Muslim University) and Dr. Syed Ali Kazim (Aligarh Muslim University) were presented their papers in this session.

The seventh academic session was chaired by Prof. S. Jabir Raza (Aligarh Muslim University). Dr. Md. Tarique Anwar (University of Delhi), Dr. Parwez Nazir (Aligarh Muslim University), Ms. Lubna Irfan (Aligarh Muslim University), Dr. Ambika Singh (Aligarh Muslim University) and Dr. M. Waseem Raja (Aligarh Muslim University) were presented their papers in this session.

The seminar was ended with the Valedictory session, presided by Prof. Ali Athar (Chairperson and Coordinator, CAS, Department of History, Aligarh Muslim University) who gave his precious comments on the two days national seminar. Prof. S. Jabir Raza (Aligarh Muslim University) also expressed his notion on the theme. Besides participants, the young research scholars also received valuable tips from the eminent scholars' views.

National Seminar
on
‘Sir Syed Ahmad Khan: His Vision and Legacy’
21-22 November, 2017

As part of Sir Syed Bicentenary Celebrations, the Centre of Advanced Study in History and the Sir Syed Academy, Aligarh Muslim University, Aligarh organised a two day national seminar on “Sir Syed Ahmad Khan: His Vision and Legacy” at Sir Syed House, AMU, Aligarh on 21-22 November 2017.

Inaugural function of the seminar was presided over by noted historian Prof. Irfan Habib. Prof S. Ali Nadeem Rezavi (Chairman & Coordinator, Centre of Advanced Study, Department of History, AMU) introduced the theme of the seminar. Prof. Tariq Ahmad (Director, Sir Syed Academy) welcomed the guests.

In his inaugural address Prof Aditya Mukherjee said that longest lasting colonial legacy in India has left behind a divided people. Colonial rulers thought that India can't be a nation and it is merely a geographical expression, as people speaking different languages and practicing different religions can't make a nation. The emergence of nation states in Europe was based on one nation and one language concept and the colonial rulers looked upon India in the same way as a multi cultural, multi religious and multilingual country like India was beyond their imagination, he said. This European construct is there behind the historiography of India too and terms of reference like Hindu rule and Muslim rule was used by the European historian, Prof. Mukherjee said, whereas for the British rule they did not call it a Christian rule.

The seed of separation between the two largest communities of India was sown by the colonial masters and formula of separate electorate was applied, which was basic to the two nation theory, Prof. Mukherjee said. While presenting an overview of 19th century, Prof. Mukherjee said that later on in this fashion, Jinnah was patronised by the British colonial rulers.

Describing the political hegemony of colonial rule and events of 1857, Prof. Mukherjee said that Syed Ahmad Khan adopted a middle path and emerged as a major reformer, moderniser and a sharp critic of irrational religious dogma and orthodoxy. Sir Syed had not even an iota of Hindu-Muslim divide in his mind and there were more Hindus in the Executive of “Scientific Society” formed by Sir Syed in 1854 AD, than Muslims, Prof. Mukherjee said. He further said that there were more than 20% Hindu students in the MAO College established by Sir Syed which later became Aligarh Muslim University.

Prof. Mukherjee said that Sir Syed was opposed to communal hatred and his opposition to Congress was based upon his thinking that Bengali speaking elite will start dominating Urdu speaking people (both Hindus and Muslims) of North.

Prof. Shireen Moosvi, in her key note address, said that Sir Syed was a moderniser and social reformer and to develop civility and scientific temper he started a journal, Tahzibul-Akhlaq and wrote a rationalist interpretation of Quran. For imparting modern scientific education, Sir Syed advocated adopting English as a medium of instruction, Prof. Moosvi said.

In his short presidential remarks Prof. Irfan Habib said that Sir Syed insisted on modern education, modern ideas and values, and it is time to revive those values and ideas.

During the inaugural function of the seminar, a copy of the Bulletin of Sultania Historical Society of the Department of History, AMU was presented to the guests on the dais.

During the two day national seminar five sessions were held.

In the first session, chaired by Prof S.M. Azizuddin Husain, Prof. Rizwan Qaisar (J.M.I. New Delhi) presented a paper on “Extricating Sir Syed from the cleft stick of Historiographical Approaches”.

He said that Sir Syed is a victim of historiographic interpretations and it is time to re-visit him and his times; there is a difference between Communal Politics and Communitarian Politics, Prof. Rizwan Qaisar said. He informed that Sir Syed wrote two articles in Tahzibul-Akhlaq in which he advised Muslims to give up killing cows. Labelling such a person as communalist is a far-fetched idea. In fact Sir Syed tried to seek good relations with all the communities, Prof. Qaisar said.

Ms Rana Safavi said that there is a need to safeguard Sir Syed’s built legacy.

Dr Hasan Imam (AMU) presented a paper on “Sir Syed’s vision and social reform”.

In the second session chaired by Prof. Rizwan Qaisar, Prof. S. Zaheer Husain Jafri on “Sir Syed’s Perceptions on the Uprising of 1857: Re-reading of Asbab-i Baghawat-i Hind”, Prof Farhat Hasan on “Sir Syed as a historian: Perception of Time in Indo-Muslim Consciousness”, Prof. Shafey Kidwai on “Sir Syed and Freedom of Expression” and journalist Mr. Manimugdha Sharma (TOI, New Delhi) on “Sir Syed and the Aligarh Movement in the contemporary English Language Press” presented papers.

In the third session on the following day, chaired by Dr. Rakhshanda Jalil, papers were presented by Dr. Anirudh Deshpande from Delhi University on “Ideological Contours of Colonial Education in India in the 19th Century: A Critical Summary”, Prof. Mazhar Husain from JNU on “Religion, Science and Curriculum: Re-imaging Islamic Tradition in Colonial India” and Prof. Mohammad Sajjad on “Safeguarding Qaum’s Future: Sir Syed’s Evolving Position about Modern Education”.

In the fourth session chaired by Prof. Farhat Hasan, Dr. Rakhshanda Jalil on “Sir Syed Ahmad Khan and Taleem-e-Niswan: The struggle for a ‘Normal School’ for girls”, Dr. Shadab Bano on “Reforming women and the ‘Reform’: Muslim Reform in the 19th Century” and Dr. Ayesha Munira Rasheed on “Sir Syed in the era of Post Truth” presented papers.

In the fifth and last session chaired by Prof. S. Zaheer Husain Jafri, papers were presented by Prof. S.M. Azizuddin Husain on “A Comparative Study of Monuments of Delhi in Pre & Post 1857 in the light of Sir Syed’s Asar us Sanadid”, Prof. Asif Naem on “Qila-i-Mualla in 19th Century as described in Asar-us Sanadid” and Dr. Gulfishan Khan on “Art, History & Architecture in Pre-1857 Delhi” presented papers.

In the valedictory session, Prof. S. Ali Nadeem Rezavi (Chairman & Coordinator, CAS, Department of History, AMU) proposed vote of thanks. He also pointed out that a living legacy of Sir Syed was the Archaeological collection and the Archaeological Section of the Department which need to be arrested from decay and further developed.