



Presidential Address

34th General Session of
Jamiat Ulama-i-Hind

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10, 11, 12 February 2023

**Ramlila Ground (Usmanabad)
Turkman Gate, New Delhi**

Published by

**Publication Department
Jamiat Ulama-i-Hind**

1, Bahadur Shah Zafar Marg, New Delhi - 110002



الحمد لله نحمده ونستعينه ونستغفره ونؤمن به ونتوكل عليه ونعوذ بالله من شرور
 أنفسنا ومن سيئات أعمالنا من يهده الله فلا مضل له ومن يضلل الله فلا هادي له ونشهد
 أن لا إله إلا الله وحده لا شريك له ونشهد أن سيدنا ومولانا محمداً عبده ورسوله
 صلى الله تعالى عليه وعلى آله وأصحابه وذريته أجمعين، أما بعد:

Respected Islamic scholars, members of Jamiat Ulama-i-Hind, dignitaries, intellectuals, distinguished guests and friends!

Jamiat Ulama-i-Hind is the torchbearer of a great trust from the Indian Muslims; today the Indian Muslims look towards us with hope and optimism. It is the most important duty of all of us to fulfil our responsibilities and to be action oriented rather than being only vocal.

I feel that it is both a blessing and burden on myself: blessing in the sense that I have been honoured to lead this leading organisation as its president, and burden in the sense that this is a post which had been graced by such learned and visionary Islamic scholars who devoted their life both to the welfare of the people and whose hearts were always immersed in the remembrance of Allah Almighty. I am humbled by the fact that such great responsibility has been entrusted to me, though I feel myself inadequately qualified for this huge task.

Dear brethren!

Today we are reminded of two great personalities Fida-e Millat Hazrat Maulana Syed Asa'd Madani and Hazrat Maulana Qari Syed Muhammad Usman Mansoorpuri,

former Presidents of Jamiat Ulama-i-Hind. I am also reminded of the huge work delivered by these personalities and of 1996 when I was appointed Jamiat's secretary, and later, on 24th of September 2001, I was appointed as the General Secretary. At that time, Maulana Syed Asa'd Madani was the Jamiat's President. I wish that I am able to follow in the footsteps of and uphold the high values and standards, set by these elders of mine.

I request you to pray that Allah grant this humble servant the ability to carry out the duties of this honourable position, and be guided by His beloved elders (peace and blessings of Allah be upon them) (Ameen).

Dear brethren,

Today, our country is reeling under the influence of hatred and religious prejudice, instead of engaging the youth in constructive work; they are being used as tools of destruction. In addition, the media has become the biggest ally of these forces to spread incitement and hatred. The campaign of senseless and baseless propaganda against Islam, Islamic civilisation and culture, and especially against the prophet of Islam (peace be upon him), is in full force in spite of the country's Supreme Court's warnings, these elements are being encouraged and left free to indulge in unwanted hate propaganda. Jamiat Ulama-i-Hind considers aggressive communalism as a great loss to the whole country and community and considers it a serious threat to the integrity of the homeland. Communalism does not match India's great heritage of social harmony. Friendly and brotherly relations between different religions are a proud and enduring feature of our society. To destroy these relations is a national crime.

Let us control the raging fire that is burning away the great identity built by the hard work of our past generations and build a nation where one can walk without fear. Today, is the time to fight, to protect principles and ideals. Today, voices are being raised everywhere that the guarantees given in the Constitution of India are useless. What will be the fate of the country in view of all this? It is also impossible to imagine the progress and development of the country by neglecting Dalits, backward classes and minorities, this country belongs to everyone and everyone enjoys the same rights and duties.

All peace and justice loving organisations and persons in the country should refrain from indulging in emotive politics and instead should unite to defeat extremist and fascist forces at social and political level, such that an atmosphere of camaraderie, tolerance, mutual understanding and trust fulfilling the demands of justice can prevail.

We would like to forewarn organisations of our youngsters and students that they are the target of anti-national elements both within and outside the country, who are exploiting every avenue to arouse and mislead them. Thus, we would appeal to them that they should not feel disappointed by the current state of affairs and neither should they despair. So-called organisations which propagate extremism and violence in the name of Jihad, and who are at radar of different security agencies due to their activities, our youth and students should maintain a distance from them and instead focus on their career and studies. They should be forewarned that a slight mistake by them could result in affecting their whole family besides themselves.

India is our homeland

India is our homeland, as much as this homeland belongs to Narendra Modi and Mohan Bhagwat, it also belongs to Mahmood Madani. Neither Mahmood is an inch ahead of him nor are they an inch behind Mahmood. The distinction of this land is that the first prophet of Islam Adam (peace be upon him) descended here. This land is the birthplace of Islam and the first homeland of Muslims. Therefore, to say that Islam is a religion that came from outside is completely wrong and historically baseless. Islam is the religion of this country and it is also the oldest of all religions. The last prophet of Islam, Muhammad (peace be upon him) came to complete the same religion, which bloomed in India.

So, I have no qualms in saying that India is the best place for Indian Muslims, just like one's house is the best place to live in, however dilapidated it may be. But at the same time, it is important to understand the fact that there is a system to follow to live in one's own country, if that system is right, it will be easier for the citizens of this country to live, and if that system is corrupted, their life will be difficult. We have to see how the system of our country is and how responsible are those who run it. Before that, we also have to see the country's constitution, democratic system and law and order institutions and their functioning in the current political situation. Only after that analysis, it will be possible to make a decision. We have to understand that (1) the Constitution, (2) Democracy and thirdly the Human Rights are the hallmark of modern India.

If these three features are preserved and implemented in true sense in the country, it will be easy for us to say

that today's India is the best place, but if any of these three or even one of them is compromised, then it will not be easy for us to claim this. To further examine and understand this we have to scrutinise the functioning of four pillars of democracy (1) Legislature (2) Executive (3) Judiciary, and (4) Media also:

Rule of justice

For any civilised society, justice and equality are the greatest standards, without justice and equality, even the strongest state and country cannot function properly. The first duty of every ruler is to provide justice to his/her subjects. Establishing and sustaining a crime-free society cannot be achieved without justice. It is a grim reality of our country and society that not only have we failed to punish the oppressors, murderers and rioters, but instead we punish the innocent. The police trap them and keep them in prison for a long time, due to the inordinate cumbersome judicial processes and after the passage of twenty years' the court releases them. In this regard, we can present records of thousands of such victims. To follow up such cases, Jamiat has setup a permanent Legal Department, through which we are fighting the cases of thousands of people from the lower courts to the Supreme Court of the country, particularly of those individuals who have been arrested under the UAPA and other laws related to terrorism. It is also commonly seen that Muslims are killed and robbed during riots, but on the contrary, instead of providing succour they are found guilty and sentenced to imprisonment.

Questions on the Judiciary

The Supreme Court and other courts of the country are guardians and strengths of the Indian democracy. Due to their independent status, these courts can question the unrestrained actions of the governments. Previously, on several issues related to social welfare, environmental protection, electoral reforms etc., their guidance and judgments showed the correct path to the government of the day.

But in the recent period, especially after the judgments on Babri Masjid, Triple Talaq and Rafael arms deal etc., an impression is gaining strength that the courts are working under the pressure of the government. Several recent instances of judicial interpretations related to the constitutional rights of the minorities, relating to the basic principles of the constitution have come to light, which have put a question mark on the role and conduct of the courts. Various courts have given several judgments on issues related to Muslim Personal Law by which it appears that these courts have tried to formulate their own law rather than interpret it. The following recent judgments are important examples of this:

(1) Babri Masjid Case (2) Issue of Triple Talaq (3) PC Act and Pocso Law having precedence on Muslim Personal Law related to Marriages of Minors (4) Kerala High Court's decision on Khula (5) Decision of a Mumbai court on maintenance of a divorced woman (5) Interpretation of right to second marriage by Muslim men, given by the Allahabad High Court (6) Decisions of Karnataka High Court and Supreme Court on Hijab (8)

GyanVyapi case (9) The decision to declare the cases of GyanVyapi and Mathura temples being admissible while ignoring the Place of Worship Act (10) The arrest of preachers under Forced Conversion Law, not granting them bail and various other recent legislations related to Forced conversion Law legislated by several state governments.

Injustices committed by the Legislature

Several states in India, using the legislative route have enacted laws recently to control religious conversions. The Gujarat and Madhya Pradesh High Courts have struck down these provisions, saying they violate a person's right to privacy. The respective governments have appealed to the Supreme Court. The anti-conversion legislation is aimed at undermining the fundamental Right to Religious Freedom and basically these law starget minorities. The language of these laws is so vague that they pose a serious challenge to religious freedom itself, which is a fundamental law as enshrined in the Constitution of India.

We are also against converting someone through "force", "deceit" and "allurement", but it is observed that those who genuinely convert themselves or those who facilitate their conversion are being arrested under false accusations of coercion, fraud and greed and the law is being used against them completely unnecessarily. Therefore, such a law is no acceptable at all.

Administration's behaviour

The administration and law enforcement agencies of the state are misusing different laws to target the minorities. Several such examples have been observed in

the recent period:

(1) Prohibition of prayers at public places

After a video surfaced of people offering Namaaz at Prayagraj railway station waiting area, the police started investigating the matter and then took action against them.

In June 2018, a professor from Aligarh was sent on a month's leave after he was found offering prayers in the college lawns. The college instituted an inquiry against the professor and the police booked and prosecuted him and others. In May 2022, four tourists were arrested for offering prayers at a mosque inside the Taj Mahal complex. In early January, activists from a Hindu organisations entered the waiting room of a railway station in Bengaluru, where prayers were being offered. They said the prayer were a "threat to national security" and threatened to stage a severe protest if the prayers were not stopped immediately.

In the Lulu Mall incident of Lucknow, a case was registered against the accused under four different sections of the Indian Penal Code. They were charged with promoting enmity between two groups (Section 153A), hurting religious sentiments of a group (Section 295A), wrongful detention of a person (Section 341) and making statements causing public disturbance (Section 505). Under some of these provisions, the police can arrest a person without a warrant and no prior bail. It is obvious that these provisions cannot be applied in any way to those who are performing prayers i.e. Namaaz, and as such Namaaz in itself can't cause hatred between two communities.

(2) Police's attitude against public demonstrations

The behaviour of the police in UP especially towards public demonstrations on the issues of civil rights and farmers demands was deplorable and shameful. Horrifying images and videos of police brutality have surfaced, showing severe brutality at various protestsites across the state. Stun grenades were used and firing resulted in huge casualties. More than 19 people were killed in police firing. The police have been accused of attacking property, killing women and the elderly, detaining many protesters and imposing discriminatory financial fines. Usually cases of custodial torture are associated with criminals but inflicting torture on simple protesters irrespective of their gender, shows that the state wants to suppress the people's will using its brutal power.

(3) Bulldozer Justice

The action taken in the name of "bulldozer justice" in India lately has undermined the country's prestige globally. Using bulldozers against alleged culprits, without directive of court istantamount to an attack on the democracy and constitution of our country. During a festival period in early 2022, sword-wielding elements carried out planned attacks on Muslim homes and businesses, in Khargaon, Karoli, Rajasthan, and Jahangirpuri in Delhi. These elements played loud musics on loudspeakers in front of mosques during Ramadan, entered the Muslim neighbourhoods and subsequently a clash occurred between the two communities. Yet, the police unilaterally blamed Muslims for the unrest, arrested hundreds of innocent Muslims,

including minors, and bulldozed their homes.

Similarly, after the BJP leader Nupur Sharma insulted the Holy Prophet (PBUH), a bulldozer operation was carried out in UP's Kanpur and Allahabad cities and the punishment of an individual's alleged wrongdoing was given to the entire family. In this regard, the Guwahati High Court in its historic judgment described the behaviour of the police as illegal and deplorable and said that if someone's house is allowed to be bulldozed in the name of investigation, then anyone "will not be safe," adding that demolition of the house is not permitted under any criminal law. Jamiat Ulama-i-Hind has also filed a case in the honourable Supreme Court raising the plea of these oppressed people; the hearing in the case is currently going on.

(4) Persecution of eviction protesters in Assam

I would like to draw attention to the sad and alarming situation of the Muslim community in Assam. Thousands of Muslims are being evicted from their homes and villages, under the guise of clearing encroachments and illegal property, under the supervision of the Assam government. In the presence of police and paramilitary forces, resident's houses and shops were bulldozed and massive atrocities were committed against them. Everyone will remember the behaviour of the Assam Police when after shooting a person, it allowed a journalist to jump on the dead man's chest. It was the defeat of the civilised society and humanity and a violation of the Indian constitution.

The Government of Assam is not averse to violate fundamental human rights or rights to life and property granted by the Constitution. The government has clearly

announced that the victims of eviction will not be given any compensation or even a drop of water by the government. The number of evicted homeless people in the state is increasing with every passing day. These refugees face the risk of annihilation due to hunger, disease, cold and unhygienic living conditions.

Media's attitude

Free Media is the most important pillar for the survival of democracy. But today it has become the biggest challenge for democracy in our country. In fact, the majority of media in our country undermines the basic values of democracy and journalism, both. It seems to engage full time in defaming the weakest minority of the country in every matter related to social, religious and national matter, portraying it as a villain.

The manner in which the Indian media tried to portray the Tablighi Jamaat and other unrelated incidents, as a collective fault of a community, during the Corona era was perplexing. Apart from this, it has become media's regular practice to report a case involving a Muslim hyperbolically without ascertaining the facts first and by continuously portraying Muslims in a demonic light; it has played a major role in disintegrating the society's social fabric. When people from other sections of the society commit heinous acts, the media remains silent. But wherever the name of any Muslim crops up, it is debated for hours and hours endlessly, entirely based on misreporting, on different TV channels, which severely harms the basic values of democracy, humanity and national harmony.

Ideological conflict between Hinduism and Composite Nationalism

Incidents of attacks and mob lynching of Dalits and especially Muslims are undoubtedly very sad and shameful for the country. Voices are being raised and should be raised against it at various levels, but what worries us most is the aggressive attempt to create an ideological clash between the misinterpretation of Hinduism and our long-standing ideals of composite nationalism.

India is a beautiful country with a diverse and pluralistic society; one of its main features is the freedom granted to people with various faiths, belief and ceremonies to lead their own lives and follow their unique ideology while cohabiting with other faiths. Gandhiji and other leaders had made tireless efforts to save and nurture this tolerance and coexistence. In this regard, the efforts of Jamiat Ulama-i-Hind and its leaders are also part of the golden history of India's past and present, the ideals and philosophy of united nationalism and Hindu-Muslim unity is the legacy given by them.

In contrast, the current interpretation of Hinduism and the aggressive sectarianism being promoted in the name of Hindutva do not match the basic ethos of this country. We want to make it clear here, that we do not have any religious or ethnic enmity with RSS and BJP, but we only object to these ideas, which lead to unequal treatment meted out to different sections of the society, which further leads to racial discrimination and flouts the basic principles of the Indian Constitution.

In our view, Hindus and Muslims both are equal, we

do not make any distinction between human beings and do not recognise racial superiority.

Whenever we talk about RSS and its ideologies, we are reminded of its past leader Guru Golwalkar and about his philosophy. However, one should also put forward the views of the current Sarsanghchalak of the RSS, some how endorses united nationalism, one nation for all and fostering fraternal ties between different faiths. According to Islamic teachings, the hand extended for friendship should be held firmly. We warmly invite RSS and its leader Shri Mohan Bhagwat and his followers to eschew mutual hatred and enmity and embrace each other and make our dear motherland the most developed and ideal country in the world.

In the current dark atmosphere of hatred, we welcome and support all those who are trying to initiate a dialogue and understand each other's ideas in order to foster stronger mutual relations. Mutual negotiation is the solution to all problems, besides an effort to stop disagreement, and thus its path should never be blocked. Islam never allows ignoring or being separated from one's brothers and neighbours. Jamiat's leaders adopted the policy of walking side by side with other countrymen and the Jamiat is firmly rooted to follow the same approach even today.

In the current situation, Jamiat Ulama-i-Hind appeals to the RSS and its leaders to take practical steps in the light of the current ideas of their leaders and to convince their affiliated organisations to throw off the cloak of hatred and sectarianism. We have no grudge against the promotion of Santan Dharma, nor should you have any grudge against the promotion of Islam, as Swami Vivekananda had said:

"On the other hand, my experience is that if ever any religion approached to this equality in an appreciable manner, it is Islam and Islam alone--Therefore I am firmly persuaded that without the help of practical Islam, theories of Vedantism, however fine and wonderful they may be, are entirely valueless to the vast mass of mankind. I see in my mind's eye the future perfect India rising out of this chaos and strife, glorious and invincible, with Vedanta brain and Islam body".

Almora, 10th June, 1898.

(Letter written to Mohammed Sarfaraz Husain of Nainital, Letters of Swami Vivekananda pp.426).

Respect for religious figures !

Hateful and blasphemous statements, articles and slogans written or raised against the revered religious personalities are a source of pain to Muslims and other minorities, conscious individuals and religious groups of the country.

One persona which is most endeared and loved by Muslims all across the globe is the personality of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH), as he taught to respect and protect all the pious ones and gave the teachings of righteousness and said that the respect of every pious man is an essential part of the Muslim faith. So, when Muslims in India see insulting statements and actions towards this messenger of decency and humanity, Muhammad, the Messenger of Allah (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him), naturally,

the Muslims get disturbed and hurt.

Currently Indian Muslims suffer from anguish and anxiety. Of course followers of other religions will also feel the same way, if any one insults their holy leaders, further insulting leaders of other faiths is also intolerable for us.

Therefore, in this situation there is a dire need for a law, which will prevent this kind of rabble rousing and protect the honour and sanctity of the religions of the book.

Along with this, it is also necessary to pay attention to the fact that the life and character of Prophet (PBUH), who was sent as a mercy to the whole world, and his services and sacrifices for humanity, should be made known to the common people in their languages. Mere legislation will not achieve full results unless you influence minds through disseminating, preaching and understanding of noble thoughts. Scholars and writers should use their skills in writing and compiling such useful and short booklets and create short messages that can be conveyed to the youth through social media in the form of audio or videos so that the misunderstandings created by the rogue minds can be debunked.

Islamophobia

Dear brethren!

Islamophobia is also damaging the social harmony of India; it is not the religious animosity but making enmity the dominating thought process, which sometimes takes the form of a mental illness. This is the reason why the United Nations has officially declared the International

Islamophobia Day on March 15 every year. We never thought about the dangers of Islamophobia in India and never in the minds of the architects of this country would this idea might have arisen, that in this country of religious tolerance and coexistence, such hatred related to any particular religion can be fomented.

To address this, it is necessary that Hate Speech should be unequivocally condemned and the law should take its due course, to counter it. In this regard, it is not enough for the constitutional institutions to say that they are hindered in this regard. Is the state really so powerless and helpless? Not at all, there are many laws to prevent Hate Speech, as enshrined in the Indian Constitution's various laws and further Sections 153A, 295A and 298 of the Indian Penal Code, criminalise acts of promoting enmity between different groups of people on the basis of religion and language as well as acts detrimental to the communal harmony. Reviewing the scope of Hate Speech laws in India, the Law Commission, in its 267th report published in March 2017, recommended the introduction of new provisions within the Indian Penal Code to deal with violence, in addition to the existing laws. We should especially punish the instigators. In my view, it is very important, therefore, that the government is urged to enact a separate law specifically to combat Islamophobia and Hate Speech. In the light of this new law it will be easier for the government machinery to take immediate remedial action.

Apart from this, it is also important that there should be a watchdog for the media as well. In recent years, hate speech and statements have been prominently published

in the media and on the Internet. Derogatory speeches against minority communities, especially Muslims, and misinformation campaigns on media networks have made trolling and fake news a major part of the public discourse. With the constant onslaught of anti-minority sentiments numbing citizens psychologically, the moral fabric of our democracy is being torn; we cannot wait for another day to address this mounting challenge, we should take an immediate action.

In view of this, Jamiat Ulama-i-Hind has established a department to officially fight against Islamophobia, violence and Hate Speech; it is named 'Justice and Empowerment of Minorities' (JEM). Established in February 2021, it aims to develop strategies for responding to persecution and intimidation of minorities through Hate Speech and Hate Crimes. It attempts to ensure delivery of equality of rights, access to justice and establishing peace in the country, as well as ensure that the rule of law is followed and access to justice, equal rights, civil protection and human rights is granted to every citizen.

It is a truth that this war cannot be won by establishing a single department, but it requires long-term and multi-resourced efforts, so all the units of Jamiat Ulama-i-Hind should support JEM and participate in its programmes. There should be no lassitude in this. This organisation has taken up a difficult task and God willing; it will work and fight for it, with all its strength.

Sadbhavana Manch

Respected members of the Jamiat Ulama-i-Hind and members of the fraternity,

In order to eliminate the hatred between citizens of the country and to bring different communities closer, the need of a platform where the people of different communities and faith could meet each other at a social level was being felt for a long time. To achieve this objective, Jamiat Ulama-i-Hind decided to establish Sadbhavana Manch.

So far, Sadbhavana Manch has organised about two hundred meetings across the length and breadth of the country, in which, Alhamdulillah, leaders of different religions and their practitioners have participated. In addition to addressing religious issues like cow slaughter, the use of loudspeakers at mosques and local religious disputes, other important social issues like environmental protection, tree plantation, cleanliness of water used for our daily consumption have been some of the few subjects on which these meetings have been organised and after hearing out each other, a common understanding was built on these issues, in addition to reaching a resolve to fight unitedly against communalism.

These are some of the problems that every section of the society faces; therefore a joint struggle against them is the most important need of the hour. This movement of ours is more of a national movement rather than an organisational movement. We hope Jamiat will be able to respond positively to the actions of hostile elements through the shared environment and common cause built by the Sadbhavana Manch.

Jamiat appeals to strengthen this movement and form committees of Jamiat Sadbhavana Manch in your respective areas.

We hope that the workers of the Jamiat will consider it indispensable in the current situation and will make all possible efforts in this regard, to make Sadbhavana Manch a success.

Uniform Civil Code

Dear brethren,

The issue of enforcing a Uniform Civil Code in the country is not a new one, this issue has been raised time and again and after the intervention of Jamiat Ulama-i-Hind and other Muslim organisations, institutions and respected and influential scholars and political leaders, it has always been put in cold storage for some time.

The government in dispensation has once again clarified through his statement that a Uniform Civil Code will be implemented soon in the country, this is one of the agendas for contesting the parliamentary elections in 2024, he started this process from the states this time, and Uttarakhand & Madhya Pradesh has been chosen as the state which will test this step first.

Discussions on the Uniform Civil Code so far show that the government wants to abolish the Muslim Personal Law and replace it with a law representing its own interpretation of the issue. In such a situation, it is necessary to assess the situation with full insight. Effective steps should be taken and the Government of India should be exacted to change this mindset and consider the position of the Muslims seriously and give up these intentions and should announce the protection of the religious rights of the Muslims in unambiguous and clear words.

Modern education policy and saffron education

Dear brethren,

According to the New Education Policy, all curriculum and pedagogy from the basic stage to the secondary stage, should be steeped in terms of promoting the Indian culture, traditions, heritage, customs, language, philosophy, geography, and firmly rooted in the Indian and local context and ethos. Designed from the ground up, this is simply an attempt to mould education into a particular mindset.

It is not that all these things are mere concerns, but the rapid changes made by the current government in the curriculum and history books and education materials in the last few years, reinforces these concerns. Just a few months ago, the Gujarat government announced that the teaching of the Bhagavad Gita would be made part of the school curriculum. Apart from memorising the verses of Bhagavad Gita, the students will be introduced to its popular interpretations. The decision does not mention any other religious scriptures, which may be included in the curriculum. We are not against Bhagavad Gita being taught, but forcing any other religion on the minds of innocent children cannot be tolerated.

In the same way, CBSE decided to delete the chapter "Rise and Growth of Islam" from the history book of the 11th class and last year, the names of MoplahMujahideen were removed from the Dictionary of Mujahideen-eAzadi by an official panel. The advice is based on highly communal thinking, and shows which culture the architects

of modern education policy have tried to promote in the name of promoting the Indian culture.

In this context, Jamiat Ulama-i-Hind, regardless of religion and community, appeals to all fair-minded and secular citizens to take every possible measure to protect the innocent minds of our children being poisoned and further resist the actions aimed at contaminating them with religious prejudice and such negative practices carried out under the guise of modernising the education policy, and launch a campaign against these nefarious plans. Also, we appeal to the Muslims to seriously reinforce the long-standing efforts of the Jamiat Ulama-i-Hind to establish as many Islamic schools as possible where modern education is also provided in an Islamic environment so as to guarantee the religious and cultural development of our future generations.

Promoting Contemporary and Religious education

Brothers of Islam!

Pursuing religious education is a duty of every Muslim so that they can implement Islamic teachings in their everydaylife; therefore it is our religious duty to equip our children also, with basic religious education. If our children are not familiar with Islamic teachings, about Islamic beliefs, way to worship and religious affairs, it will not be possible to save them from misguidance and apostasy. In this background our elders established Islamic schools in every nook and corner of the country, and in this context even today, Jamiat Ulama-i-Hind gives priority to the establishment and strengthening of religious schools in

its constructive programmes.

In the current era, it has become even more important to establish schools in every corner of the country, strengthen and establish a religious school in every mosque where every child of the locality studies religious subjects, in addition to ensuring that children studying in modern schools are also taught religious subjects.

At present, providing modern education to the students of religious madrassas is also an important issue, our effort is to provide at least secondary-level modern education to the madrassa students without disturbing the madrassa system. Science, modern languages and mathematics should be taught to madrassa students also. Without it, the students cannot face the challenges of the modern era after graduation and they cannot successfully fulfil their religious and worldly responsibilities. To counter this, Jamiat Ulama-i-Hind has started a programme for teaching modern subjects to madrassa students under the NIOS scheme of the Education Ministry, and Alhamdulillah thousands of madrasa students are benefiting through this scheme.

Girl's education is also an important challenge before us. Particularly, the Hijab controversy has created a new problem for our girls; the long-needed solution is to establish girls educational institutions all across the country, so that they can avoid the difficulties faced by them inco-educational institutions leading to disruption of their education. Parents of these girl students should not lose hope and we should make full arrangements for their education keeping in mind the Islamic teachings.

One important factor, which needs to be borne in mind

about the real purpose of education is, that education is not just a means of earning and getting a government job. Rather such education is useless and meaningless. We have to equip our generation with an education, which guarantees all-round development including moral and spiritual learning and which creates true patriots, believers and custodians of the country and the nation.

Removing cobwebs about Islamic education

Dear scholars,

Our biggest duty is to find a way to immediately clear the misunderstandings, which are being spread amongst our countrymen regarding the Islamic education and teachings. You are well aware that the present day project of spreading misunderstandings about Islam is affecting not only the secular persons but our new generation also. These misunderstandings are being created especially in connection with terrorism, extremism and unfair treatment of women. These misunderstandings must be put to an end for the protection of religion and faith (Islam) and for the young Indian Muslims to remain committed to their faith. In the age of media dominance, it is necessary to give an effective response to the campaign of spreading false propaganda and untrue notions against Islamic rules, beliefs and laws through the media. It should be countered and for this social media is the best and effective means. In this regard, there is an immediate need to do three things:

- (1) Creating and broadcasting messages through short videos using social media that highlight the virtues of Islam and Muslims,

- (2) Curating materials to influence modern educated and atheist people using material, which could be comprehended by them,
- (3) Organising an Islamic quiz on the Prophet's life and motivate students of all religions to participate in the competition.

In today's meeting, especially the leaders of the Jamiat Ulama-i-Hind and in general the Islamic madrasas, organisations and movements are humbly requested to show special awareness in this regard and to serve the religion of Islam which the Almighty Allah has blessed us with.

Backward (Pasmanda) Muslims

Dear brethren!

Among the distortions that have arisen in the Indian Muslim society, the most important is the caste system, although Islam teaches equality for all and racial non-discrimination. However, those who adopted the religion of Islam, found themselves chained to the old caste system and practices. They could not free themselves completely from the old systems and customs of their forefathers, thus they were a victim of contradictions, on the one hand, they wanted to embrace the Quranic teachings, but on the other they were chained to the old customs and the concept of 'Ashraaf' and 'Arzaal', further the societal pressure was so much that the Indian Muslims were not able to adhere to the teachings of the religious scholars and the holy saints, though the Holy Quran clearly states that:

" O, mankind, indeed We have created you from

male and female and made you peoples and tribes that you may know one another. Indeed, the most noble of you in the sight of Allah is the most righteous of you. Indeed, Allah is Knowing and Acquainted." (Al-Hujarat: 13)

On the occasion of the lastHajj, Hajj Al-Wida, The Prophet (PBUH) clearly stated in his speech that:

"People! Your Lord is one, your father (Adam) is one, listen, There is no superiority for an Arab over a non-Arab, nor for a non-Arab over an Arab. Neither is the white superior over the black, nor is the black superior over the white -- except by piety." (Musnad Ahmad: 4568)

There is no doubt that a large section of Indian Muslims are still affected by the ethnic and community discrimination and there is a dire need for measures like granting reservation to them to come out from their backwardness, but the categorisation of backwards on the basis of 'Ashraaf' and 'Arzaal' amongst Muslims is not true and acceptable at all.

However, accepting the presence of backwards (Pasmanda) and Dalits amongst Muslims as a reality, today on this occasion, we would like to assert that every section of Muslims has equal status in the Muslim society and the exploitations which were committed in the past, we are ashamed of those, and we pledge that we would try to forge economic, social, and educational equality amongst all sections of the Muslim society and also strive to demand reservation and special schemes for the welfare of pasmanda Muslims.

But at the same time we fully support efforts from

Government of India to help the backward castes amongst Muslims, so as to ensure their progress and development by granting special measures for them. Today, we would like the Indian Muslims to be aware of plans to categorise and divide them, therefore they should adhere firmly to the principle of equality to all sections of the society as enshrined in Islam. We hope that the government will take practical measures to help these oppressed and marginalised sections of the Indian Muslims in all possible manner and recommendations made by different Commissions, earlier in this regard will be implemented as soon as possible.

Country's Economic situation and increase in poverty

Dear brethren,

The poorer sections of the country are most worried about the current economic situation of the country and the increase in inflation. Despite the liberal economic policies of the country, poverty is increasing day by day. The economic crisis in India is blamed on Covid pandemic, which is entirely wrong, as its genesis began with the Demonetisation Scheme of the government in 2016.

And then a new tax system called GST was implemented, which further impacted the economy and what was left was further destroyed during the Corona period. The underlying reasons for the current economic situation in the country are the high rate of unemployment standing at 7.8%, the highest in the last 45 years, apart from rising inflation, fall in earnings, negative growth of

the private sector, fall in the rupee value and failure of start-ups from taking off.

Think tank 'People's Research on India's Consumer Economy' (PRICE) has released a report, according to which, the income of poor people declined by 53% during 2020-21 compared to the first period of 2015-16. Since the implementation of liberal economic policies in the 1990s, India had consistently recorded an increase in the income of the poor and a decrease in poverty, but this is the first time that poverty has increased.

Various reports have revealed the fact that more than four hundred and three million people lost their jobs in the country during and after Covid pandemic and the average income of 97% of Indians decreased. This further created a gap between the Indian economy and the society. To end this, people would require creation of ninety million additional jobs by 2030. The second most important thing is that only certain sections are reaping the benefit of the country's economic growth. According to the Global Inequality Report 2022, 64% of India's wealth is controlled by only 10% of its people. In order to eradicate inflation and poverty, it is essential that governments provide equal opportunities for the prosperity of all classes, especially in the field of financial security, development and jobs.

Not only has the employability of employed professionals decreased, but the employment opportunities have also decreased a lot. In these circumstances, what can investors do to reduce inequality? It needs to be given a serious thought. There is a need to identify alternative, inclusive and sustainable models of economic growth that simultaneously promote profitability and workers welfare.

Muslims' educational and economic conditions

Different government commissions and survey reports like the Sachar Committee, Ranganathan Mishra Commission etc. have established the fact that in the country, Muslims are both educationally and economically most backward community, even below the Dalits. If 20% of the country's population is living below these standards then how the country can flourish, how can we be included in the top rung of the countries at the global level. We need to introspect immediately to find the reasons, as it is not an issue related only to the Muslims but an issue for the country. We would appeal to discard the communal spectacles and consider the issue keeping in mind the country's benefit and progress.

Though Indian Muslims are backward both educationally and economically, yet their contribution to the national economy, production and earning, especially earning the crucial foreign exchange can't be denied and it is in no way lesser than other communities of the country. Though through communal machinations, their contribution is ignored and not acknowledged. According to various economic reports, every month Indian economy receives \$ 6 billion from the Middle Eastern countries of which 70% are earnings of the labour class, of which the majority is Muslims. Additionally, in different handicraft related and small labour intensives trades, nobody can overlook the big percentage of Muslim artisans' presence who contributes immensely to the country's commercial growth and profit. In spite of this, the country's economic policies ignore them year after year. Also the various schemes,

which are announced for their welfares do not reach them either due to their ignorance and educational backwardness or due to communal attitude of the administration.

We would appeal to the administrative and economic policy makers to ensure that in the economic policies and programmes including the budget, special allocations should be made for the minorities and Dalits keeping in mind the country's interest and prosperity agenda.

It is also observed that those industries and cities where the Muslims have been traditionally engaged in small-scale industries, like leather industry in Kanpur, lock making industry in Aligarh, brass industry in Moradabad, weaving industry of Eastern UP, carpet industry of Mirzapur, Bhagalpur's silk manufacturing industry and Chennai's cloth and leather industries, are targeted through communal policies and administrative actions. Taking the pretext of environmental pollution and other though laws, these small scale industrialists and artisans are harassed continuously. The earlier inspector raj system which was put to an end after much struggle, it has been reincarnated in another form of harassment combined with the communal angle. GST is another source of negative impact on the economic activities in the country, though it affects not only Muslims but everyone in the country but the Muslims are burdened most as they are already economically backward.

Here we would like to appeal to our youngsters to undergo business and skills training and instead of looking for jobs, they should start their own ventures which would not only employ them but others also and in a manner would be able to address the country's employment problem also.

Lastly, but most importantly our educational backwardness is the most important issue. Both religious and modern education is related to our educational backwardness. Muslims should try to cut down on other wasteful expenditure and instead spend more on building an educational system for their children. We are trying to provide modern education to our madarssa students and moral educational to our school and college going youngsters. To further give an impetus to this endeavour, we would like to appeal to all Muslims, educational and social organisations to formulate a short-term plan with set targets, both financially and practically to achieve greater educational emancipation for the community.

As far as girl's education is concerned, we fare very poorly in that regard also. In absence of girls exclusive educational institutions, our girls are either forced to give up continuing their education or join a co-educational institutes, which may hamper their religious and moral education. To overcome this, we need to immediately form a strategy and take corrective steps.

India's Foreign Policy

The prestige and position of any country in the world generally depends on what it has achieved at the domestic level. If your character, plans and efforts at the domestic level are not good, then you'll not be able to present your point of view convincingly at the global level, besides your stand will be considered not laudable.

Today, India is the biggest democracy in the world, so its role and position should be the largest, but recently the Economist Intelligence Unit of the Economist magazine

has stated in its research that on the Global Democratic Index, India has gone down two ranks and reached the 53rd position. The fall of India in the democratic index will alarm the global investment companies, which may result in them maintaining a distance from the market here, which in the long run will harm the country's economy. In the same way, in the Global Hunger Index, India is ranked at 101 among the 116 countries of the world. In terms of the freedom of its citizens, India's position is continuously falling, Sweden's VD Institute has recently highlighted this.

The surprising point is that instead of reviewing all these reports, the Government of India works hard to ignore them. There are many countries in the world, which have warned the Government of India about its economic decline as well as the issues of minorities. But the government's energies are spent on telling them that its opponents are spreading these false reports. Although our country has the ability to become a world leader at the international level, yet it has not been able to achieve even the regional leadership. In terms of Human Rights, the record of many countries in Asia is quite bad. But the Government of India has not warned them till date, including the neighbouring countries like Burma and China. If a country wants to become a leader, it will not only have to improve its own record in human rights matters, but it will also have to engage with other countries of the world on such issues.

Jamiat Ulama-i-Hind wants the government to be aware of these issues and take further internal and external measures, to add to the country's prestige at the global level, especially by focussing on the issues of Human and Minority Rights immediately. In this regard, Jamiat Ulama-

i-Hind is ready to play its active part for the progress of our country.

Environmental Protection

Regardless of religion and race, country or society, cleanliness is essential for leading a good and healthy life. All religions of the world and even the oldest civilisations have emphasised the importance of cleanliness. If seen from the Islamic point of view, cleanliness has the status of fulfilling one's half faith.

Maintaining personal hygiene, cleanliness inside and outside our homes is one of our collective and individual responsibilities. Instead of leaving our work to others or to the government, we should do it ourselves. If we all understand our responsibility, our environment will always be clean and healthy. Imams of mosques, speakers and influential people have a moral responsibility to spread the message that filth is not just dirt; it is the root cause of thousands of illnesses.

Similarly, air pollution is a problem for the whole world; the cause of this pollution is mainly from industries, automobiles and household fuels. Similarly, water is a beautiful gift of nature, which is not only reserved for humans, but the life of all creatures in this world is dependent on it. Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) has said: It is forbidden, to waste water. Even if you are near a flowing stream, don't use excess water for ablution even, nor waste it. (Ibn Majah; Kitab Al-Tahara) Likewise, water conservation has become a global movement in today's era.

So we need to examine how we can avoid the wastage of water in our daily lives, especially religious institutions

should present themselves as an example in this regard, mosques and places of worship should not adopt a system where water is wasted unnecessarily. Also, in our religious messages, we should propagate tree plantation, water conservation, keeping our homes and neighbourhoods clean should be specifically mentioned and stressed upon.

Society's Reformation

All the reformers, Mujaddids and Prophets (peace be upon them) of the world performed reformative services in their respective eras to improve the waned condition of the society and spent all their efforts for the benefit and reformation of mankind. In particular, the work of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) with his all-round comprehensive efforts in calling for and reforming the society of all evils are the greatest.

An ignorant and illiterate tribe of people, whose ears were unfamiliar with the name of civilisation and culture, who committed murder and mayhem, for whom burying a new-born girl child alive was a trivial matter, in a short period of 23 years our Prophet cleansed such a society, thus creating a social revolution.

But unfortunately, among the believers of this Ummah, the extravagance and wasteful ways of un-Islamic customs are hollowing out its roots. In many parts of India, there is an illegal ritual like tilak. Due to this ritual, many Muslim girls remain unmarried and become a burden for their poor hapless parents. As a result many girls are ruining the world and the hereafter by being engaging in fornication, apostasy, yet the greedy are not ready to have mercy on the sisters and daughters of their poor brethren. Have mercy on the

needy sisters and let the spirit of self-sacrifice awaken in them.

These extravagances usually lead to economic ruin, the issues which should be the priority in our economic endeavours today, have been relegated to the back and have been replaced by useless expenditure. If you analyse the extravagance in weddings, there are millions of families who are burdened with debt and their economic condition becomes miserable after marrying off even one sister or daughter. You will be surprised to know that according to National Commission for Enterprises in the Un-organised Sector(NCEUS) report, 84 percent of the Muslim population in the country has a daily income of less than fifty rupees, but despite this, most of the Muslims in the country spend more than their financial capacity on marriages. Parents can give their children education, but this nation spends on girls' dowry instead of education, and that too so much that if this money is spent on education, thousands of girls can be equipped with education. Therefore, it is important that the Ummah today, instead of spending on marriages and other unIslamic practices should constructively focus on contributing to the field of education, it will have a significant impact on their educational and economic development, both.

Economic conditions plays a great role in the development and decline of communities, today we are sitting here to analyse our social life, so today we'll have to think about our situation and our position among communities, which should be bettered. Instead of passing this same depravity to our future generations, we need to

fix it, we invite you to think over this problem with us again and again and remove this wasteful curse from our society.

Protection of Endowments (Waqf)

Dear delegates,

You know that the number of Waqf properties in the country is in millions, according to an estimate; there are five lakh Waqf properties, of which about 220,000 are registered, but due to mismanagement, misappropriation and illegal possessions, Ummah has been deprived of their income and benefits since the Central Waqf Act was passed in 1954 with the efforts of Jamiat Ulama-i-Hind. The condition of Awqaf is getting worse and worse. Countless Waqf properties are occupied by anti-social elements, land mafia and corrupt people of the administration. There are also reports of the staff of Waqf Boards selling off the Waqf properties at exorbitant prices. Due to these illegal possessions, a large part of the Waqf income is spent on lawsuits. Yes, the government earns billions of rupees from within the country every year from many Muslim historical monuments, but none of it is spent on welfare of Muslims.

There is an urgent need for the government to take all the necessary steps to correct the Awqaf system, remove legal obstacles, take effective measures to remove corruption, and create such a system, which will enable Awqafs to be used according to the intention or will of the dedicators.

Islamic world

It has been the characteristic of Jamiat Ulama-i-Hind since its inception that it has always kept a close eye on the affairs of the world of Islam and Muslim countries and has taken a correct stand whenever required. Among the problems of the Islamic world, the problem of Palestine is an ancient thorn, which has continuously wounded the heart of the Islamic nations.

On the other hand Syria has been the altar of killings of innocent Muslims for many years and with the intervention of world powers, that problem is getting more complicated, no one is ready to listen to the cries of the oppressed Muslims there. On the other hand, only Muslim countries are engaged in the war in Yemen and the role of international powers reminds us of collusive wrestling. Libya is in worst chaos and suffers from continuous instability. Meaning, wherever you look, the world of Islam is suffering the worst consequences due to the conspiracies of foreigners and the indifference and inaction of its own people.

In such circumstances, there is a dire need for the ruling class of Muslims to understand and grasp the situation with a awakened mind and perspective, and to find the courage of their ancestors to fulfil their responsibilities properly and to find a common ground. Muslims should also hold Allah's moorings firmly and pledge to adhere to the Sharia in all spheres of their lives.

Afghanistan

To establish a stable and firm government in

Afghanistan, Taliban, which came to power after a long period of fighting with world powers and countless sacrifices, it is necessary for them to ensure protection of human rights in the light of Islamic values and the prophetic character. Respecting the importance of fair and generous dealings with all sections of the society, it is the duty of the Taliban government to make every possible effort to forge cordial relations with all countries of the region, especially India. Its relations with India should be cordial and stable, besides ensuring that its territory is not being used by any one against any country.

Other countries of the world should also come forward to help and support the Afghan people and should take the path of dialogue instead of boycott. It is very sad that the assets of Afghanistan have been frozen in many western countries and the channels of aid and support to their sympathisers and well-wishers around the world have been blocked by not recognising the government of Afghanistan. Its adversarial nations have reached an unannounced agreement to boycott its economy, which is being strictly enforced, even the little aid that is reaching it, is at the will and discretion of the powers that be. Due to this interference, the Afghan society has been destroyed by the four decades long war and Afghanis currently suffering from famine and poverty and has also been deprived of the right to unconditional aid and cooperation on humanitarian basis, in the current economic crisis this could be construed as blackmailing. Jamiat Ulama-i-Hind expresses its anguish at the conduct of global players and their cruel political and security policies, in reality you can not punish the common Afghan, but in reality that is

happening. Unconditional assistance to the Afghan nation for recovery in the current economic crisis is also a humanitarian act.

On the other hand, it is also important to uphold the Islamic rule in Afghanistan and not to make non-Islamic practices a slogan while representing the Islamic government, for example, currently the issue of girls' education is associated with international rights very loudly. Undoubtedly, educated women are important for any country and society, so it is important to manage the education of girls while staying within the limits of the Shariah. It should also be understood that no government in the world has succeeded by adopting oppression and illegal means to manage its stability, justice and the Rule of Law are very necessary. Especially in matters of punishment and righteousness, a strong and independent judicial system is a very important component of any government; therefore, the Afghan government should play its role in the development of a civilised society and nation by adopting the path of wisdom and prudence.

Organisational stability

Dear respected members!

Individuals are the backbone of any organisation, the development of any organisation depends on its sincere workers, no matter how high the goals of the organisation are, if its organisational structure is not strong, it will never achieve its goals. So I would appeal to all Jamiat members and stakeholders to contribute to strengthening the Jamiat by all means, as no organisation can prosper unless it

followfollows certain constructive programmes and has a committed membership. According to our elders, the importance of constructive programmes was so high that they were made a part of the regular constitution of the Jamiat. These constructive programmes are the real soul of the Jamiat and the units, which implement them methodically, get unprecedented recognition and acceptance amongst the masses, so other units should also try to emulate them.

Conclusion

Gentlemen!

In the end, I apologise for any inconvenience caused and I am grateful for your help and support, I would like to draw your attention to the problems and challenges of the current times, reminding you that our history is full of instances that whenever we have faced any difficulty and we have approached Allah with full sincerity, success has been ours. We should rely on him with full confidence and ourselves become active for discharging our religious, national, individual, collective duties and to solve our economic, political and constitutional problems we should move ahead in co-operate tandem with our democracy loving, nationalist countrymen.

