

Report

Talk on

“Reading Iqbal’s Reconstruction of Religious Thought Today”



India Arab Cultural Centre, Jamia Millia Islamia organized a talk on **“Reading Iqbal’s Reconstruction of Religious Thought Today”** on Monday, March 30, 2026 at 11:30 am, in the conference room of IACC. Dr. Huzaifa Omair Siddiqui, Assistant Professor, Dept. of English at Ashoka University enlightened the audience as a speaker of the session. The event was chaired by Prof. Abdul Majid Qazi, former head, Dept. of Arabic JMI and moderated by Dr. Sayyid Umar Sameer, Assistant Professor of India Arab Cultural Centre.

Dr. Md. Aftab Ahmad, Director of the Centre inaugurated the event by welcoming the guest speaker and the audience. Dr. Ahmad thanked the honorable Vice Chancellor, Prof. Mazhar Asif and Registrar, Prof. (Dr.) Md Mahtab Alam Rizvi for supporting and

patronizing such academic activities which enhance the debate and discussions among students and faculties. He also thanked Prof. Abdul Majid Qazi for accepting the invitation to chair the session and enlighten the students with his academic and research expertise and the speaker of the session, Dr. Huzaifa Omair Siddiqui.

Dr. Huzaifa spoke on the intellectual legacy of Muhammad Iqbal and he believed that it continues to resonate deeply in contemporary discussions on Islam, modernity, and philosophy. His seminal work '*The Reconstruction of Religious Thought in Islam*', originally delivered as a series of lectures in the early 20th century, represents a bold attempt to reinterpret Islamic thought in light of modern scientific and philosophical developments. Reading this work today provides valuable insights into the dynamic relationship between faith, reason, and changing socio-political realities. He highlighted that the book addresses key issues such as the nature of religious experience, the concept of God, the self (*khudi*), the universe, and the role of *ijtihad* (independent reasoning). He sought to reconcile Islamic theology with modern philosophy, particularly engaging with Western thinkers like Bergson, Nietzsche, and Kant.

Prof. Abdul Majid Qazi explored that the reading of Iqbal's *Reconstruction* today is not merely an academic exercise but a necessity for engaging with the intellectual and spiritual challenges of the modern world. His vision of a dynamic, rational, and spiritually grounded Islam offers a powerful framework for renewal and reform. Iqbal's call for *ijtihad*, self-realization, and harmony between faith and reason continues to inspire scholars, thinkers, and reformers across the globe. He also believed that influenced by modern physics and philosophy, Iqbal reinterprets Islamic metaphysics, presenting time as dynamic and creative rather than static.

The event was concluded by a formal vote of thanks followed by an engaging question answer session. Dr. Sameer proposed the vote of thanks to all the participants present in the event including Prof. Abdul Majid Qazi, Dr. Huzaifa Omair Siddiqui, Prof. Ayub

Nadwi, Dr. Atikur Rahman, Dr. Zulfikar Ali Ansari, Dr. Ahsan Raza, Dr. Abdullah NC and other faculty members and research scholars of Jamia.







