

A BRIEF INTRODUCTION AND RESUME OF IQBAL INSTITUTE

UNIVERSITY OF KASHMIR SRINAGAR

HISTORY

To commemorate and celebrate the 100th birth anniversary of the renowned poet-philosopher of the East and great son of the soil---Dr Shaikh Muhammad Iqbal, in 1977, the University of Kashmir established a Chair after his name. Prominent academician and noted literary personality of the sib-continent Prof. Ale Ahmad Saroor was appointed as Professor to initiate a systematic, methodical and scholastic work covering all aspects of Iqbal's life, art and thought.

Keeping in view the fervent influence of Dr. Iqbal's philosophy and Teaching on the social, Political and cultural fabric of Kashmir, in 1979, the said Chair was elevated to Iqbal Institute with Prof. Ale Ahmad Saroor as its first Director.

The inception of this Institute was a milestone in the History of academic and literary circles, as this Institute is the only institute throughout India, which awards M. Phil and PhDs solely in Iqbal studies and the allied branches.

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES OF THE INSTITUTE

The aims and the objectives o the institute:

- It aims the promotion of Urdu, Persian, Kashmiri and Arabic with special reference to Iqbal.
- It believes that it is in the general interest if the Humanity that the religious and philosophical doctrines of Iqbal should be made available to the world in scholastic perspective.
- It feels that students trained in the multi and inter disciplinary approach to Iqbal studies can tackle the complex, multi-dimensional contemporary and future problems of Muslim and non-Muslim societies.

- It further believes to educate and train students who may, by their researches in the various branches of literature and thought, be able to trace genetically the continuity of intellectual life between Muslim culture and modern knowledge.

Iqbal institute is not only compassed to the study of Iqbal alone but also encompasses versatility of Iqbal's genius. Iqbal's multi-dimensional personality has drawn the Institute into such areas, which were of special interest for him. Thus the Institute has over the years developed into a Center of whetted intellectual activities, scholarships and research.

TEACHING AND RESEARCH

Being an inter-disciplinary and multi-disciplinary in nature the Institute admits students from various disciplines like Urdu, Persian, Arabic, English, Political Science, Philosophy, Islamic Studies etc. A Separate Board of Research Studies (BORD) chaired by the Hon'ble vice-chancellor or Dean Academics grants registration to the aspiring research scholars.

The institute gradually developed strong links with various Post-Graduate departments of the University which enables the Institute to Co-opt members of different faculties to diversity its scope and exalt its nature of research.

Registration for M. Phil and PhD programs is a continuous process and more than thirty-five scholars have been awarded their respective M. Phil and PhD degrees till date. Currently more than eighteen research scholars are pursuing their M. Phil and PhDs in the Institute.

PROJECTS

Iqbal Institute, since its onset, has published more than sixty books, which were highly appreciated in the academic circles, and one of them, *Shairiyat-e-Iqbal*, was also awarded "Sahitya Academy Award". Iqbal Institute is also publishing an annual bilingual Research Journal under the title *Iqbaliyat*.

The Institute has completed number of projects and few more are under progress like Iqbal's Impact on Kashmir, *Nayay Aalmi Tanazuraat Aur Fikr-i-Iqbal Ki Maenwiyat* etc.

The Institute considers taking up some more substantial projects, which include a definitive biography of Dr. Iqbal, his contribution to Art, Literature, Philosophy, Religion, Education, Political Science Sociology, Comparative Studies of Religion and Literature, Mysticism etc. and also aims to frame an Iqbal Encyclopedia.

SEMINARS AND OTHER ACTIVITIES

Besides pursuing research and other literary activities, Iqbal Institute is among few institutes in the Kashmir University which remains active in organizing seminars, symposia, debates, extension lecture, poetic symposia and other literary programs of State and National Level in which Iqbal experts of National and International repute are being invited constantly to share their experiences and new research findings regarding Dr. Iqbal's contribution and his relevance to the modern world.

So far, more than fifty seminars, symposia, extension lectures, debates, poetic symposia etc. were organized which were highly appreciated in academic, literary, intellectual and social circles because of their academic and literary excellence. The proceedings of various seminars have been published in various international Journals which itself adds to the credibility of the Institute.

In concordance to the tradition, Iqbal Institute organized the following functions in the current academic session.

1. In order to commemorate the sanctity and the holy essence of Prophet's (SAAS) life and teachings, Iqbal Institute organized "the *Seerat* Lecture competition" on 08-05-2003 on the eve of the celebrations of *Idd-i-Meelad-un-Nabi* (SAAS). The huge gathering of Prophet's (SAAS) Lovers, Scholars, Students and Literary persons attended the grand function held at the lawn in front of historical Arts block of University of Kashmir.

Prof. A. Wahid the senior most Professor of the University Presided over the function and famous personalities of the Valley such as Prof. Margoob Banihali and renowned physician Dr. A. Q. Allaqb and were present in the function. In the inaugural speech Director Iqbal Institute, Prof. B. A. Nahivi, presented highest salutations to the glory of the holy Prophet (SAAS). While

elucidating various aspects of the Prophet's (SAAS) life Prof. Nahvi said that the only way to achieve salvation is to follow the footsteps of the holiest of the holy Prophets (SAAS). The proceedings of the function were so heart touching that eye of all the persons was full of tears. The cash prize of Rs. 3000, 2000 and 1000 were awarded to first, second and third positions respectively and in addition consolation prizes were distributed among all the fifteen participants.

2. Iqbal Institute invited the renowned Iqbalian Scholar Prof. Abdul Haque of Delhi University to deliver an Extension Lecture on the topic "*Iqbal Key Kalaam main Ishq-i-Rasool (SAAS)*". The lecture was delivered on 28-05-2003 in the Gandhi Bhawan of the University, a full gathering of academicians, scholars and students were present. Prof. Haque in his lecture said that the focal point of Iqbal's poetry and thought is *Ishq-i-Rasool (SAAS)*, which energizes a Muslim with miraculous feelings. Director Iqbal Institute Prof. B.A. Nahvi himself conducted the proceedings and the lecture was presided over by the renowned poet of the country Hakeem Manzoor.

3. Another renowned critic, Scholar and Urdu literature expert of National repute Prof. Zahoor-ud-Din of Jammu University was invited by Iqbal Institute to deliver an extension lecture on the topic "*Modernity and Post-Modernity in Literature*". The lecture was held on 05-06-2003, which was attended by various Heads of the departments, Dean Faculty of Arts Prof. M. S. Niyazmand and good number of Academicians, Scholars and students from various departments.

In his inaugural speech Director Iqbal Institute, Prof. B. A. Nahvi gave a detailed account of the multi-dimensional activities of the Institute. The lecture delivered by the invited Professor was very informative for scholars and opened new horizons for them. Head of the Deptt. Urdu Prof. Qudoos Javed presided over the function and stressed that such functions are very important to get benefited from and should be organized in frequently.

4. On 12 July 2003 Director *Shab-i-Hamadan* Institute of Islamic Studies Kashmir University, Dr. Syed Muhammad Yunus Geelani, delivered an extension Lecture on "*Research Methodology*" in the Seminar Library of Iqbal Institute and urged Iqbalian Scholars to adopt the doctrines of research methodology in its true letter and spirit while pursuing their researches.

FACULTY STRENGTH

The institute was launched with just three positions presumably with the intention of increasing the number gradually. The faculty strength of Iqbal Institute is presently as under:

	Name	Designation
1	Dr. Bashir Ahmad Nahvi	Professor/Director
2	Dr. Taskeena Fazil	Reader
3	S. Iqbal Quraishi	Teaching Assistant
4	Moyeed-ul-Zafar	Teaching Assistant
5	Muhammad Aijaz Ashraf	Guest Lecturer

LIBRARY

The library of Iqbal Institute consists of rich collections of more than 8000 books and Journals, on Iqbal Studies, Islamic Studies, Comparative Studies, Mysticism, Urdu English and Persian literature. The students and scholars of various departments and faculties are availing the facility.