



# Amroha International Society

*This quarterly newsletter provides information about the latest activities of the Amroha International Society and shares the stories and news of its members.*

## A Quarterly Newsletter

Issue No. 6 - July 2008

### Editor's Note

Page 2

### AIS Website Development

Check out the revamped website.

Page 2

### Membership

Find out how many members there are now.

Page 2

### Discussion Forum

What to do if you've lost your username or password

Page 2

### Donations

The generosity of the AIS community

Page 2

### Hits on the AIS Website

Page 2

### One Day in Amroha

Catherine Gosden tells about her impressions and experience of visiting Amroha for the first time.

Page 3

### It's hard to be an orphan

A poem by Athar Siddiqui.

Page 5

### News from Members

Page 5

### Summer Picnic

Canadian Amrhorvis enjoy a day outside

Page 5



## Amroha's first Cataracts Camp



Amroha had its first Cataracts Camp operated by the Venu Eye Institute and funded by AIS on 30 April 2008.

The cataracts camp was a great success. Over 400 hundred people came to be examined by the doctors and to receive treatment.

The health professionals at the Venu Eye Institute remarked that this was the largest ever attendance to their



camp, which signifies the dire need and critical importance of these camps.

Thirteen patients were transported by the Venu Eye Institute buses to the hospital in New Delhi. After having received treatment and given rest, they were brought back to Amroha.

The people of Amroha were delighted with the provision of the camp because of the lack of such facilities in Amroha.



The local media also picked up the story and the success of the camp was well reported in the local news.

The next camp is planned in the forthcoming months.

## EDITOR'S NOTE

*I am delighted by the progress of the AIS in the past quarter.*

*The highlight was the success of the first cataracts camp in Amroha funded by the AIS on 30th April. This camp provided a much needed facility which is not normally available in Amroha. We are planning another camp in the near future.*

*Our website is now much easier to navigate and more interactive. The Home Page has also had a facelift. Thank you to Simon Stanton, our web administrator, for all his hard work and generous contribution in the last few months. Any comments or suggestions on further improvements members may have would be most appreciated.*

*I would also like to thank Steve Walker, an Australian accountant, for accepting my invitation to audit AIS accounts probono.*

*AIS membership has grown to 340. It has been most pleasing to see an increase in the participation of members on the Discussion page.*

*Members are encouraged to put their family photos on the "Member's Gallery".*

*Young Amhrovis continue to excel in their chosen professions. In particular, congratulations to Zainab Khan for her admission into the Masters program in Dentistry at Harvard University.*

*A heartfelt thank you to all donors to AIS charity projects in Amroha. Our work has just commenced.*

*With your help, particularly through the cataracts camps, we will help to bring light to peoples' lives.*

Ikram Naqvi



## Paypal

*In order to make donations, we encourage you to make use of [Paypal](#) on the AIS website.*

This system of secure credit card payment makes it much simpler for you to make donations to AIS charity projects.

Please visit the website:

[www.amrohainternationalsociety.com](http://www.amrohainternationalsociety.com)

## AIS Website Development

*Have you checked out the AIS Website lately?*

We have made changes to the website ([www.amrohainternationalsociety.com](http://www.amrohainternationalsociety.com)) to make it easier to navigate and more interactive. The Home Page has also had a re-vamp. Your comments and suggestions are always welcome.

## Discussion Forum

*The number of people participating in the Discussion Forum continues to grow.*

The topics are very wide-ranging and interesting. Members are encouraged to participate.

To access the discussion forum members need to log-in to the members only pages for which a user name and password are required. These are provided to each new member by the Coordinator.

If you have lose or forgot these, just click on the link to reset and a new password will be sent to your e-mail address. Alternatively contact the Coordinator at [ikenaqvi@hotmail.com](mailto:ikenaqvi@hotmail.com)

## Photographs in the Member's Directory

You are invited to add your photograph to your profile on the "[Members Directory](#)" so that fellow members can see you.

## Donations

*The response of our donors has been inspiring.*

The AIS community has provided generous donations in the last quarter, effectively allowing the Cataracts Camp to treat a large number of people for a debilitating condition that would otherwise have likely gone untreated.

Almost all existing donors renewed their donations and there were several new donors.



## Membership

*Our membership has grown to an impressive 340 representing 18 countries.*

AIS members are encouraged to tell other non-registered Amrohivis or others who might be interested about the Society.

Interested persons may register online or send by email their names and email addresses.

## Hits on the AIS Website

*There are more hits on the AIS website than ever.*

Over 8000 hits were registered on the AIS website in June 2008.



## One day in Amroha

*In December 2007, Catherine Gosden of Adelaide, Australia, visited Amroha for the first time.*



*My name is Catherine, I live in Australia with my husband Geoff. In December 2006, my son Joel married Yasmin Naqvi in Hobart, Tasmania. Geoff and I had spent some time in southern India in 2002 – 2004, but we had never been to Amroha.*

*Four family members, Geoff and I and Geoff's brother Peter and his wife Barbara, returned to India for a holiday in December 2007 and we spent a day in Amroha. Here is my account of that day taken from my travel journal.*

Saturday 1st December, 2007

Our car picked us up at the hotel at 8 am. We drove one hour through Delhi and met Nargis who was waiting in her car. She transferred to our car and we set off for a day to Amroha. The drive was expected to take 2.5–3 hours.



There were traffic jams and one huge gridlock that was obviously going nowhere.

Nargis guided the driver to a bypass road and we managed to get through. Along the way there were more jams, not helped by police who were there to stop traffic so that the Education Minister and his entourage of sirened cars could squeeze through on the side of the road.

Ever ready to grab an opportunity, Nargis urged the driver to tag onto the end of the Ministerial cavalcade so that we too were waved on.

As we neared the entrance to Amroha, there was another traffic stoppage due to a sit down protest on the road by people wishing to gain publicity for the lack of education in the area. They saw this as an opportunity to get the Minister's attention. Not daunted,



Nargis hopped out of the car and told the driver to wait. She walked to the protesters about 100 metres up the road. We could see her talking and gesturing. Then she waved our driver on. He was very nervous and would only move a couple of feet at a time. She finally returned to the car and told him in no uncertain terms to drive on. She had negotiated that we could drive through!

And so it was that we arrived at the Naqvi household in Amroha after 6 hours on the road. The whole family was there to meet us as we drove through the high gates.

Lots of introductions and hugs and kisses and photos. We wandered around the big house, its crypt and courtyards and took in the view from upstairs.

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It was decided that as time was limited we would drive to the Dargah which means "Graveyard of Saints".

We removed our shoes and covered our heads. This was a moving experience with many people inside the walls praying.

I was approached by a man who had a scorpion on his hand. He indicated for me to put out my hand to receive the scorpion! I did. He blew on the scorpion to get it moving! The scorpion did not sting! Peter and Barbara both had the scorpion put on them but Geoff declined!

Oh ye of little faith! I recall reading Kamal's childhood account of his scorpion experience in one of the AIS newsletters. It includes much history of the Dargah and is told far more eloquently than I could manage.

After this visit, we returned to the house for a huge lunch. Everyone was so kind and interested in us. We were made to feel very much at home.

After our lunch, we went in two cars to the family farm of mangoes and guavas. I helped Islamiya to walk through the trees to a seat where she could see everything.

Lots of photos and laughs and finally it was getting dark and we returned to the house for a cup of tea. I had wedding photos to show them of Yasmin and Joel's wedding in Tasmania. Ehteram had attended the wedding but other family members had not seen them.

Farewells were hard: I felt a connection with this family, who were all so welcoming to us. The house with its courtyards, bedrooms, daybeds, so big behind its high walls and strong gates, away from the bustle.

As we drove out of the Naqvi gates, the family was there to wave us off. A truly wonderful day, a world away from our lives in Australia.

We drove back to Delhi without incident or delay and arrived at Nargis' apartment where a delicious meal was ready and waiting for us. Her son Nihal was there and we had a lovely meal and conversation.

Then we left and drove back to the hotel.

We had only been away for a day but it seemed like our adventures to Amroha had taken many more than that.

*Story by Catherine Gosden*

## It's hard to be an orphan

No caring mum to give hugs and kisses

No new clothes in which to strut

No healthy foods or meals from decent cooks

No dad to shield him from the searing sun

No one to give you birthday wishes

No learning numbers, science or just ABC

No chance even of a bounce on daddy's knee

No praises for scribbles on paper which he thinks spells his name

No laughter or fun in a childish game

No sweets for being the best, or doing a good deed

No luxury even of a guaranteed feed

No shoes or toys, huh - not even a shelter or hut

No one to decorate her hair and say how pretty she looks

No warmth of its mother's tender feel

No one to keep away those childish fears

No mum to rub ointment to hasten the heal

No mum to wipe away those tiny tears

Sadly this is the life of the lonely one

Its hard to be an orphan...

*Poem by Athar Siddiqui*

*Charity Dinner, Birmingham  
2 January 2005*



Photo: "Eid with Indian Orphans"

# News from AIS members

*The latest news in the last quarter*

## Admission into Harvard University

Zainab Khan, of Mohalla Danishmandan was admitted into Harvard University, where she will undertake a Masters/Ph.D. program in Dentistry. Congratulations and good luck to Zainab!



England. Congratulations to the couple and to both families!

## Marriages

Saleha Rizvi Mohalla Danishmandan, residing in Chicago was recently married in New Delhi to Sameer Raza Ali of Mohalla Shafat Potta, presently residing in London,

## Births

Congratulations to Shahab, son of Hasan Hadi and Farzana (Sadaf), daughter of Kazmain Sadiq Hasan on the birth of a lovely daughter, Rida.



Congratulations to Kamal, son of Ikram and Jane Naqvi, and Sabiha, daughter of Intezam and Nargis Naqvi, on the birth of a gorgeous son, Zain, in London.



## Deaths

We regret to inform members of the death of Mr Aley Naqvi of Houston. Sincere condolences to his family.

We regret to inform members of the death of Mr Qambar Naqvi of California. Sincere condolences to his family.

We regret to inform members of the death of Mr Javed Hasan of Dubai. His Chehlum is on 31st July. Sincere condolences to his family.

**If you have news you wish to share with the AIS community, let us know so we can include it in our next newsletter.**

## Mohd Rafi Remembered

Aligarh Muslim University Alumni UK and Sare Gama combined to launch a new CD called *Mohd Rafi Remembered* in memory of the great singer Mohd Rafi in the Nehru Centre in London on 17th June.

This was followed by a live concert tour by Sonu Nigam with the Birmingham orchestra in Manchester, Birmingham and London. At the concert, many of his great geets were sung and there was a well deserved standing ovation from the crowd. Some of Mohd Rafi's family members including his grandson came to this enjoyable function.

## Iqbal Conference

The Iqbal Academy of the United Kingdom celebrated 100 years since Sir Dr Mohd Iqbal's visit to Europe at the University of London, on the 17th of June. Guest speakers from the UK, the USA and Pakistan spoke about Iqbal's philosophy. His poetry was recited and a lively discussion followed. Everybody enjoyed a most stimulating conference.

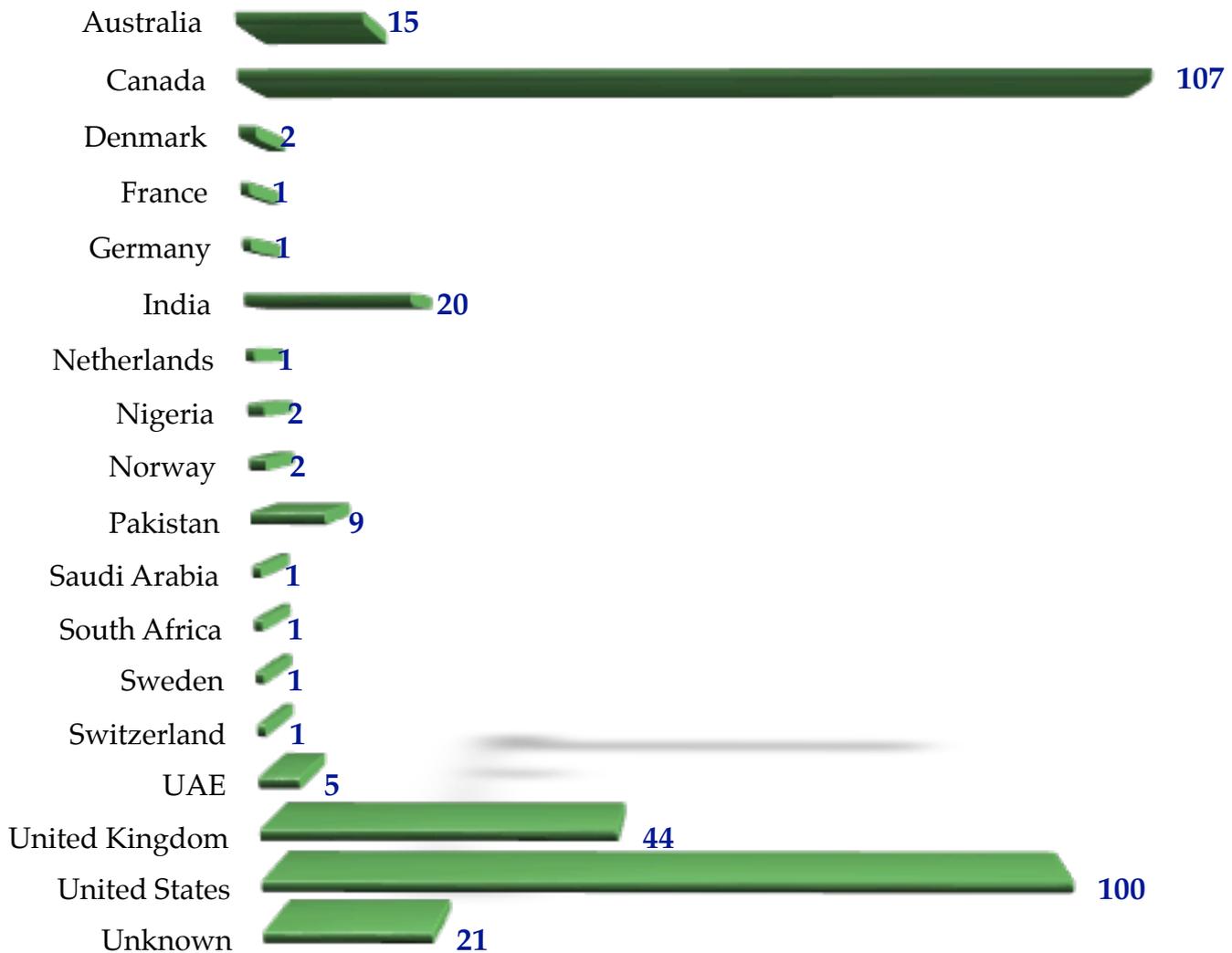


## Summer Picnic in the Park

A large number of members of Canada Sadat-e-Amroha enjoyed an al fresco picnic lunch on the 1st of July in Toronto.

# Where are AIS members?

*This bar chart gives an indication of the distribution of AIS members in the 18 countries in which they find themselves living at present*



## Contact

You can [email](#) your suggestions and comments about the AIS to the Co-ordinator, Ikram Naqvi, using the [mail option on the AIS website](#).

**Amroha International Society**  
[www.amrohainternationalsociety.com/](http://www.amrohainternationalsociety.com/)