



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. 7 - October 2008

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The legacy of Mr. Chatrath



M. L. CHATRATH



It is with a heavy heart that we report the untimely death of Mr M.L. Chatrath of Faredabad in India.

Not all AIS members may know the name of Mr. Chatrath, but he was instrumental in helping AIS in organizing our first cataract camp in Amroha. He was also helping us to organize others soon.

Mr. Chatrath worked tirelessly to help the poor people of Faredabad for

thirty years through the Chatrath Charitable Medical and Educational Trust, of which he was the founder and President.

Mr. Chatrath was very keen to build an eye hospital in Amroha. A retired Air Force member from Amroha had already agreed to donate two acres of land for it. He used to often say to me, "we will build an eye hospital in Amroha, *insha-allah*, Ikram".

We will miss this dynamic man, but his legacy of selfless contribution and caring

about the needs of those less fortunate will live on in AIS work, as well as in the work of the Chatrath Trust and in all those people whose lives have been improved because of the work of this one man, and his dreams for a better future.

"What I spent I lost; what I possessed is left to others; what I gave away remains with me." Joseph Addison (1672-1719)
English essayist, poet, and dramatist.

EDITOR'S NOTE

This period has been one of consolidation. Based on the overwhelming response to our cataract camp, it has become clear that there is a desperate need for more cataract camps in Amroha.

Thanks to all AIS members for their generosity to AIS so far. AIS aims to spend this money wisely. Central to being able to do this is to secure the involvement of committed people in Amroha to help AIS in the implementation of its work to improve the lives of people in need. This will be a key goal of my next trip to Amroha this November. Another challenge currently facing the AIS is to improve our scholarship programme. This will also be a driving objective of my next visit.

The death of our dear friend Mr. Chatrath was a tragedy for all who knew him and also a big setback for AIS. He was such a dynamic person and a source of inspiration and practical help. He will be sorely missed, but his memory will live on in the work done by AIS and other charity institutions with which he was involved.

I am delighted with the positive response from members to the AIS website changes particularly the Home Page. All the pages of the website will be continuously improved and updated. The Discussion Forum on the AIS website continues to be active. More participants are most welcome. You can obtain new password if you have forgotten it. I encourage you to put your family photos in the Members' Gallery. You are also welcome to put your photo in the Members' Directory. Thanks to all those who keep sending news items.

Finally, congratulations to all the Amroha origin students who have done so well in the last academic year. The results have been very impressive. You are a great inspiration for present and future generations of Amrohvis!

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

AIS Website Development

Have you checked out the AIS Website lately?

We have made changes to the website (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 lost or have forgotten 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@yahoo.co.uk

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 343 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

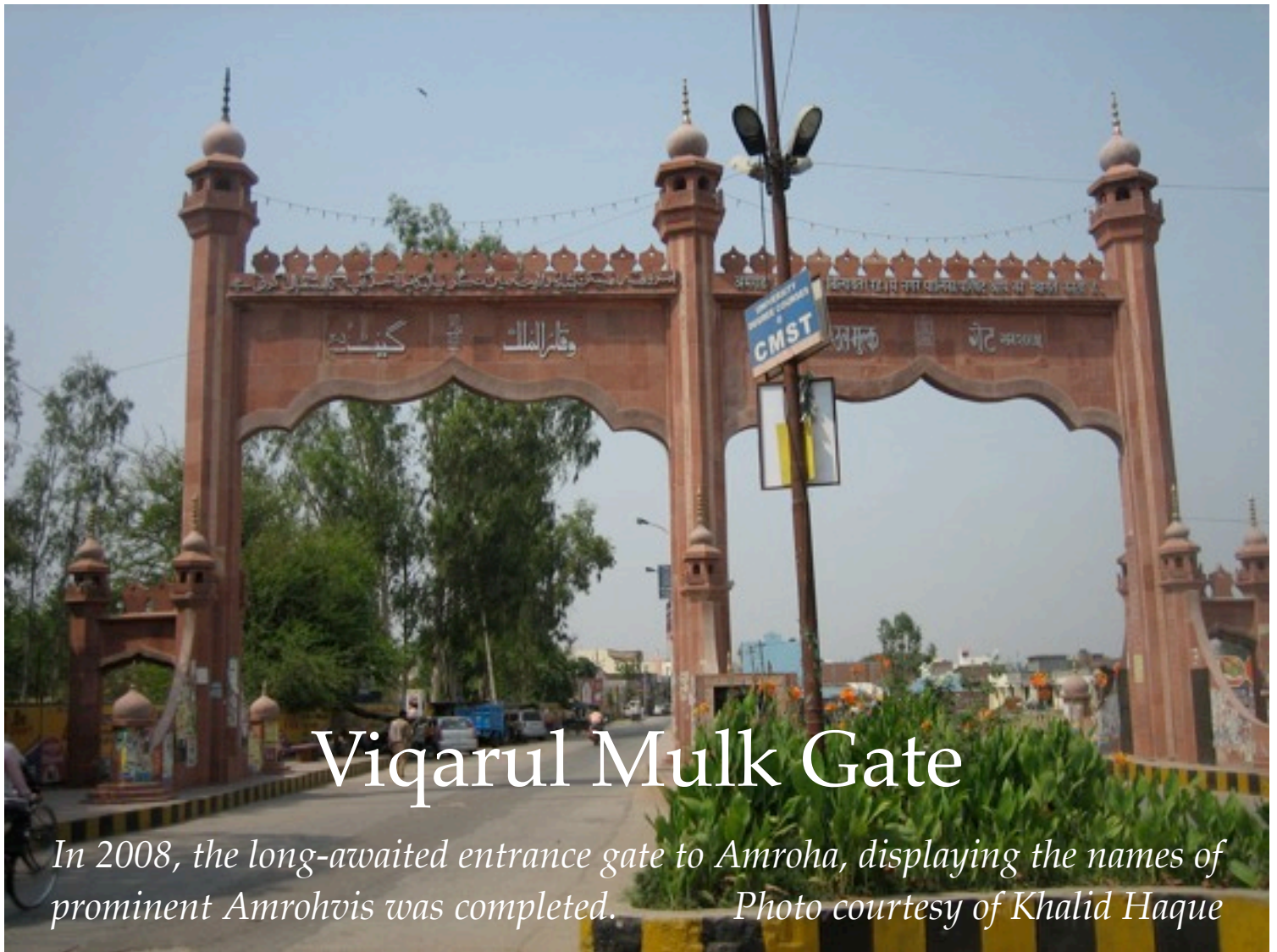
There are more hits on the AIS website than ever.

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

Photographs in the Members' Gallery

Members are encouraged to add their photographs to the Members' Gallery





Viqarul Mulk Gate

In 2008, the long-awaited entrance gate to Amroha, displaying the names of prominent Amrohvis was completed. Photo courtesy of Khalid Haque

She needs your loving charity

Picture a girl of 4, or so, bright eyed and full of life
Expectations of love, caring and security
Sadly missing for her are these basic rights
The orphan child depends - on your heartfelt charity

View the world through her eyes and you'll see
Busy people with no time to care for me nor my makeshift family
We are poor and have no means to further your pursuit of wealth - and the economy

The day begins when at dawn I'm chased
Not by dogs but a heartless band of people to whom I posed no harm other than to
Lie uncomfortably on his dusty land

I see lucky people - they wash their face
Roadside pools of water for me - I have no such facility
Why, the rich folk even clean their teeth but
I cannot afford this vanity

Fruit market stalls they soon open
People flock to buy with much frugality
They save their money and I wonder if maybe
They may share with me in an act of generosity

Instead they juggle their load past me
And sneer at me for having the temerity
- How dare I yearn their breakfast food
All I get are skins, of this or that variety

I see with envy the kids with shoes
Going to schools in buses and cars that choke the city
I stand at street corners my waves to them go unnoticed as
I resume my life of scavenging, with brave-faced dignity

I have no mother to dry my tears
As I fall ill - there's no possibility
Of us being treated like normal folk, with feelings
And emotions like in your privileged community

Wretched is our meagre life
My throat gets parched while in close proximity
Of ice-cream floats and lollypops
Is this the justice in today's society?

Rich girls play with little dolls
Wearing ribbons so cute that it's my curiosity
How would I look if I had a mum
Who'd adore me with love and sincerity?

The day soon ends and my search restarts
To find a refuge - my dormitory
Safe from drunks and strays
As the cold rainfall completes my misery

An empty stomach is all I have
My eyes well up - there's no subtlety
I'm desperate now and I need your help
I beg you for your charity

But wait, I've heard there's an orphanage here
I hope its true - an act of piety

By someone who cares I pray
Has compassion, faith and charity

A ray of hope a shaft of light
Don't cry my darling for help is near
Wipe away those tears - your mother's here
At last to love you my child, please now no longer fear

And you my friends please do take note
From here to the outer reaches of our cosmos
There is none more precious than an innocent child
Thank God for giving us - the Jannatul Firdos

Dip into your pocket and you dip into your heart - please help our child
Fulfil her dreams, avail your superiority
And bring forth for her some tears of joy
Please do it now - she needs your loving charity...

Poem by Salman Ahmad



Sadequain Foundation

A fundraiser and exhibition of the works of Sadequain was held in San Diego, California on 23 August 2008



The SADEQUAIN Foundation hosted a fundraiser and exhibition of the paintings, calligraphies, drawings, and replicas of murals by Sadequain in San Diego, California on the 23rd of August.

Riffi and Salman Ahmad are the founders and curators of the SADEQUAIN Foundation Gallery, which is dedicated to discovering, preserving, and promoting the art of Sadequain, who was born in Amroha in 1930.

The exhibition was part of ongoing projects to document the life and catalogue the works of Sadequain.

The dinner, presentations, and entertainment took place in the Ahmad's backyard under the stars.



The exhibition attracted a large number of people from all walks of life including local government officials, members of the media and representatives of art organizations and art departments of the local universities who enjoyed a comprehensive presentation on the life and achievements of Sadequain.

Sadequain was responsible for the renaissance of Islamic Calligraphy in Pakistan. He transformed the art of calligraphy into eye-catching pictorial images that translated the meaning of the script even for those who could not read.

His monumental murals, such as the one displayed above, in excess of thirty-five, represent unparalleled body of artistic endeavor by any artist of the region.



These murals adorn the halls of the State Bank of Pakistan, the Frere Hall Karachi, the Lahore Museum, the Punjab University, the Mangla Dam, the Aligarh Muslim University, the Banaras Hindu University, the Indian Institute of Geological Sciences, the Islamic Institute in Delhi, and the Abu Dhabi Power House, to name a few.

To put it in perspective, his paintings and calligraphies in the building of the Islamic Institute in Delhi cover more than seven thousand square feet.

For additional information please visit www.sadequainfoundation.com

Story by Salman Ahmad

News from AIS members

The latest news in the last quarter

Marriages

Congratulations to Suhail and Hina Naqvi on their wedding in New York recently. Best wishes to the couple and to both families!



the birth of baby girl Samar Fatima on the 9th of September.



Sadat-e-Amroha Website

The recent developments on the Sadat-e-Amroha Canada website are most impressive. You can visit the site

Births

Congratulations to Farhan and Ailya, and grandparents, Nana and Nani Askari and Zohra of Houston on

through the link on the AIS Website.

Academic Results

Congratulations to all Amrohvi students who have done so well in their academic results recently.

Admission into Harvard University

Congratulations to Farhan, son of Qurban Naqvi of Mohalla Katkoi for his admission into the MBA program at the Harvard University.

Syeda Siddra Naqvi goes to NASA Space Camp

13 year old Syeda Siddra Naqvi, a student of PISD Beverly Hills Elementary School, just came back from the NASA Space Camp Trip. She won this trip in a Great Women in Science & Technology Essay Contest, sponsored by the Engineers Women of Houston, Texas Association.



Fantastic job Syeda!

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

Qawali in Toronto

Anjuman Sadat-e-Amroha Canada commemorated the 646th Death Anniversary of Hazrat Sharfuddin Shah Wilayat on Friday, 22nd of August.

General Secretary Mr. Asif Akhtar invited ASAC's president and founder on stage who delivered a wonderful and very informative speech about our "Dada Shah Wilayat" and about the history of Anjuman- e- Sadaat- e Amroha, Canada.

By 10.30 p.m., the hall was almost full. The stage was then set on fire by the naatia/soofiana qawwalis of the renowned Qawwal, Shahid Ali Khan and his sons.

A break was announced at 11.45 p.m. when the guests were served with our special samosas, cake and *masala* tea. The qawwali was then resumed at 12.05 p.m. which went on until the wee hours of the morning.

Everyone was mesmerized and couldn't stop clapping. Some of the kalam included: Koi to hai jo nizam e hasti, Jhoolley Jhoolley Laal dum must qalander, and Duma dum mast qalander.

No one wanted it to end but eventually it did at around 1.35 a.m.

Zehra Naqvi in a new Indian movie

After being nominated as best supporting actress and best debut actress in the 2008 Nokia Screen Awards in "Dhan Dhana Dhan Goal", Zehra Naqvi is starring in another Indian movie, "Kon Bola".

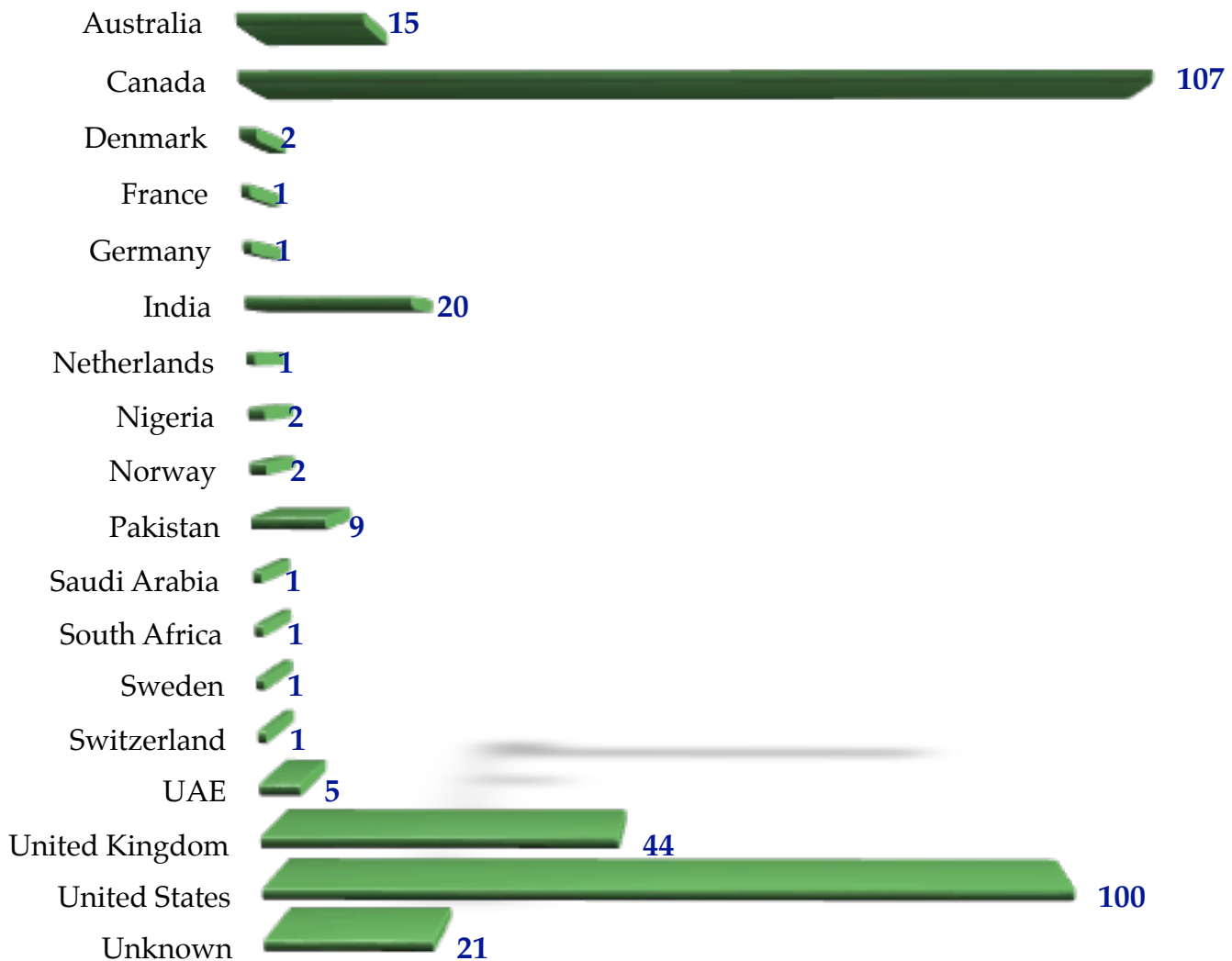
She has just finished shooting in Newcastle, United Kingdom. She will be going to Goa and Mumbai for further shooting in December.

Other actors in the film include Arshad Warsi, who is also directing, Dia Mirza and Bonam Irani.



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/