



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. 8 - December 2008

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Plans for Amroha's next Cataract Camp

I am pleased to report that preparations for the next eye camp on the 4th of January 2009 are going well.

The Venu Eye Institute team of ten people, comprised of doctors, optometrists and paramedics will arrive in Amroha on the evening of the 3rd of January. This way they will avoid arriving in Amroha late on the day of the camp due to fog which is so common at this time of year. It also means that they will be ready to start the camp at 9 a.m. the next morning. Accordingly, the costs of the camp will include their food and accommodation at the Satyam hotel.

Meetings with the local organisers have been very productive and the required



Doctor of Venu Eye Institute testing a patient for cataract at the AIS sponsored Cataract Camp in Amroha on 30 April 2008

application for approval of the eye camp has been submitted. Material for the pamphlet and banners in English is ready to go. These will be produced as soon as approval from the authorities is received.

Dr. Nitin Verma, a well known Australian ophthalmologist, previously of Delhi, accompanied me to the Venu Eye Institute on the 24th of December where we discussed further improvements in the service to the people of Amroha.

A full record of the camp by way of photos and video will be made available on the AIS website.

Story by Ikram Naqvi

EDITOR'S NOTE

Seasons Greetings and Happy New Year! I am writing this newsletter in Amroha, where I have been busy not only visiting family and friends, but also trying to implement some of the key goals of AIS established over the last 12 months.

I am pleased to inform you that the Amroha International Society is now registered in Australia. It is also registered in India under the name "Amroha Social Welfare Society".

I am told that there many overseas living Amrohvis are in Amroha. Hasan Hadi Naqvi, founder of the [Canadian Amroha website](#) is visiting Amroha for moharram after 63 years.

It has been a pleasure to work with local organisers of the Eye Camp set to take place on the 4th of January 2009. These committed individuals include Radhe Raman Gupta, Shashank Aggarwal, Anil Singh, Mutahir Husain, Suhail Murtaza and Ehteram Naqvi.

I received a very positive response from Professor Siddiqui of Aligarh Muslim University and Professor Mina of Jamia Millia Islamia University to promote our scholarships for Amroha students, which is very encouraging. With their help we look forward to helping many students achieve their goals.

A special congratulations to Khushboo Mirza and her family for her impressive role in the Indian space programme.

Congratulations also to all the Amroha students who have done so well academically since the last newsletter.

The number of hits on the website and participation in the Discussion Forum continues to remain high. It shows encouraging interest in AIS among Amrohvis.

Ikram Naqvi



The AIS Amroha Team

The AIS Amroha team has been established!

Thank you to the following members of the AIS Amroha Team who will be instrumental to implementing AIS programs on the ground in Amroha: Radhe Gupta, Satvir Rastogi, Anil Singh, Shashank Aggarwal, Suhail Murtaza, Mutahir Naqvi and Ehteram Naqvi.

AIS Scholarship Program

The AIS Scholarship Program is set to resume sponsoring talented students from poor families to undertake tertiary studies.

I had very fruitful meetings with Professor Mina at Jamia Millia Islamia University, New Delhi and Professor Siddiqui of Aligarh Muslim University, about our scholarships. Both universities have agreed to promote AIS scholarships. They will send filled out forms to our nominated University staff member, namely, Professor Huzoor Khan in Aligarh Muslim University and Dr Jamal Abidi in Jamia Millia Islamia University. Huzoor and Jamal will check the applications send them to me for approval.

Once the scholarship winners have been selected according to the AIS Scholarship Criteria, I will send the list of scholarship winners to them and pay their tuition fee.

At this stage, priority will be given to students seeking degrees in education, engineering, law, information technology and business administration, with a view to giving graduates the best chance of getting into a profession that will allow them to assist their families.

I am also planning to visit colleges in Amroha.

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

Almost all AIS members have paid their annual contributions, but much more will be needed in order to allow AIS to continue to contribute to the Cataract Camps and Scholarships.

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

Membership

Our membership has now grown to 346 people representing 18 countries.

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

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

Photographs in the Members' Gallery

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





Amroha's PRIDE



Shouldn't mother and brother of their home in America.

UP town finds place in the sun, thanks to Jr engineer Khushbu Mirza's link with moon mission

[illegible]

Amroha girl chose jeans, not burqa, joined ISRO

By Neha Sinha

Amroha, October 22:
Among the scores of families of ISRO scientists who woke up early on Wednesday, prayed and waited for the successful lift-off of Chandrayaan I, was one in Chaugori Mohalla, a tiny, traditional Muslim neighbourhood in UP's Amroha.

Khushboo Mirza is just one of the 12 engineers of the Check-Out Division of Chandrayaan I which carried out the thermal, vacuum and assembling checks on each component of the satellite. But the story of the 23-year-old is inspiration for a village which once looked at her journey in shock and disbelief.

When her father died when she was seven, her mother, Farhat, broke norms to run the family's petrol pump to keep her

children in school. Her brother, Khushtar, a 2005 BTech from Jamia Millia Islamia, shelved his career ambitions to take charge later. To get out of the claustrophobic bylanes of Amroha, Khushboo applied for B Tech at Aligarh Muslim University. A volleyball player, she qualified through the sports quota. When she graduated, she landed a lucrative job with Adobe but gave it up to join ISRO two years ago.

With traditional censures from the sleepy village getting louder, Farhat accompanied her daughter to ISRO training programmes across the country. And in an area where the women wear burqas, she let her daughter don a pair of jeans. "In the absence of her father, and given that she had to travel so much, a lot of people said a lot of unkind things. But I told my daughter to work hard and let her be. She wanted to wear jeans, not a burqa, and I let her," Farhat says.

"I wanted to make my contribution to Indian science," Khushboo told The Indian Express from Sriharikota, Chandrayaan's launch site. "I think I have made a start."

"When Khushboo was born, there was no water in the pipes. We had to get water for the delivery from a well which is since closed," recalls a relative. Now, the family has installed a generator so that Khushboo's younger sister, Mahak, a student of engineering at Moradabad Institute of Technology, can surf the internet unhindered.

This morning, the village started its day watching Chandrayaan's launch. Residents now describe the area, which still has a water problem and an erratic power supply, as "Khushboo Mirza's village."

Mohammad Atif, a class VIII student who Khushboo coaches in her free time, spent the entire day at Khushboo's house.

He says he “wants to be just like her.”

"She has accomplished the dreams of her father and brother who could not practise engineering," says Farhat. For her brother Khushtar, her success means something else too. "For all those who paint all Muslim youth with the same brush (of terrorism and fundamentalism), this is a positive message," he says.

[Click here for Khushboo's interview with TwoCircles.net](#)

These articles were sent to AIS by Shabana Khan, Ph.D., Senior Scientist National Center for Natural Products Research School of Pharmacy, University of Mississippi. Khushboo is her cousin sister (Mama's daughter).

Thank you for sharing this inspiring story!

Living with Autism

Autism affects 1 in 150 children around the world. Ali Goher's family is one such family, his son being autistic. He would like to share the following information with the AIS community.



About Autism

Autism is a complex developmental disability that typically appears during the first three years of life and affects a person's ability to communicate and interact with others. It is defined by a certain set of behaviors and falls under the diagnostic category of a Pervasive Developmental Disorder. It is a "spectrum disorder" that affects individuals differently and to varying degrees.

Two children, both with the same diagnosis, can act completely different from one another and have varying capabilities. It is important to understand that, whatever the diagnosis, children with autism can learn, improve in functioning, and show improvement with appropriate treatment and education.

Autism can be diagnosed in children as young as one by observation using proper questionnaires and screening tools. A developmental pediatrician, neurologist or psychiatrist familiar with developmental

disorders can make a diagnosis.

Studies have shown that early diagnosis and early intervention lead to significantly improved outcomes and better levels of functioning for those on the autism spectrum.

There are many myths and misconceptions about autism. Contrary to popular belief, many children with autism do make eye contact; it just may be less often or in a different way. While sensory stimulation is processed differently in some children, they can, and do, show and give affection; patience and understanding are needed to recognize and appreciate their unique forms of expression. Many children on the autism spectrum can develop good functional language and others can develop some type of communication skills.

Children do not "outgrow" autism, but symptoms may lessen as the child receives appropriate treatment. ASA [Autism Society of America] firmly believes that autism is treatable and, through early intervention, those with

autism can live full, productive lives.

(Source: Autism Society of America, "What is Autism?", www.autism-society.org)

Possible link between vaccines and autism

Thimerosal is the most common preservative that is used in vaccines and biologics that are marketed in the United States. Reports have surfaced linking thimerosal to mercury poisoning in infants often causing autism. On July 7, 1999, the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) issued with the US Public Health Service (USPHS) a joint statement alerting clinicians and the public of concern about thimerosal, a mercury-containing preservative used in some vaccines. The reason for the warning is that thimerosal contains related mercury compound called ethyl mercury.

The Food and Drug Administration suggested that some infants, depending on which vaccines they receive and the timing of those vaccines, may be exposed to levels

of ethyl mercury that could build up to exceed one of the federal guidelines established for the intake of methyl mercury. Symptoms of mercury toxicity in young children are extremely similar to those of autism. This can explain the recent increase in the numbers of children diagnosed with autism since the early 1990's. The numerous amount of children diagnosed with autism seems to directly correlate with the recommendation of both the hepatitis B and HIB vaccine to infants in the early 1990s.

(Source: Parker & Waichman, LLP Attorneys at Law, Thimerosal Information Guide)

Ali Goher, of Houston, Texas, is the owner of a company called Cargo Net, which inspects and surveys Ocean Freight as it imported or exported throughout the world.

News from AIS members

The latest news in the last quarter

Academic Results

Congratulations to the following students for their academic excellence:

Syeda Qurratulain Masood (Ainee) daughter of Syed Anwer Saeed and Rehana graduated in May 2008 from the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard with a Masters in Public Administration. She will be joining Boston Consulting Group (BCG) in Dubai, in December 2008.

Sarah Haider Naqvi daughter of Naeem

Haider (Mohalla Qazi Zada) and Mehmoona Bano (Mohalla Baray Darbar) joined North Eastern University in Boston after excelling in high school in Clear lake, Houston.

Narjis Khan daughter of Faisal Ali Khan and Neelofer (grand daughter of Furqan Hasan and Mariam Sultana) joined the College of Gonville and Cuis, Cambridge (her father's Alma Mater) in October 2008.

Zahra Hasan Rizvi daughter of Javad and Erum Rizvi (Dubai) has excelled in

Ordinary GCSE results and is now working on her Advanced levels with the possibility of going into a medical career.

Amrohvi Expats visiting Amroha

Hasan Hadi Naqvi from Toronto is visiting Amroha to do moharram after 63 years.

Anand Raj from Austin, Texas, is in Amroha for business.

Ikram Naqvi from Australia is in Amroha to take part in the marriage of his nephew (*bhanaja*) Haider's wedding with his niece

(*bhateji*), Riffat on 13 December and moharram.

The following Amrohvi expats are also currently visiting Amroha: Kamal and Sabiha Naqvi of London, UK; Farhan Naqvi of Boston; Zainab Khan of Boston; Pervez Naqvi of Washington; and Shahana Naqvi of Toronto

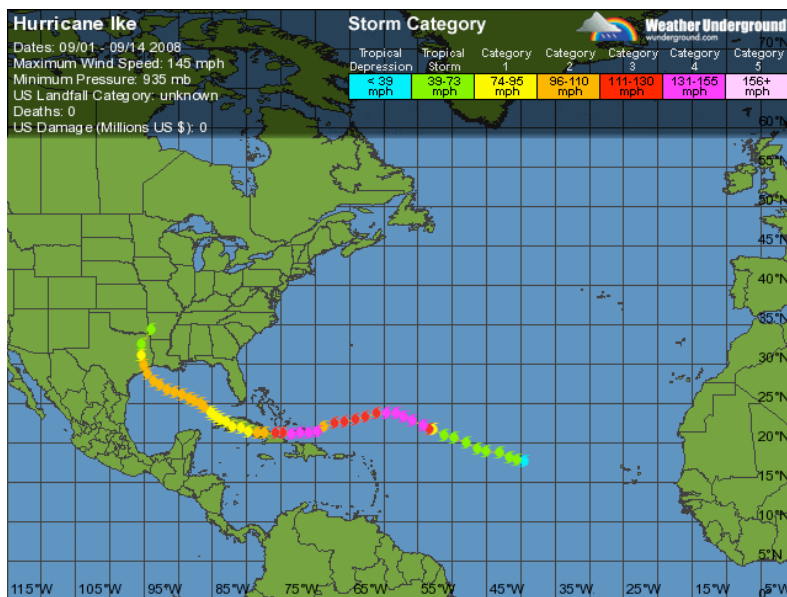
Deaths

It is with great sorrow that we convey the news that Salman Askari, son of Syed Sibtain Sadiq,

brother of Zeba Naqvi (wife of Syed Johar Naqvi), passed away recently in Houston, Texas.

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

Some AIS members living in Texas, United States, experienced Hurricane Ike in early to mid-September 2008 and sent in the following images



SADEQUAIN Foundation Report from San Diego, California

The SADEQUAIN Foundation of San Diego, California, reached important milestones during the last quarter of 2008. The Foundation is dedicated to discover, preserve, and promote the artwork of Sadequain, one of Amroha's most famous artists.

In November 2008, the Foundation signed a Memorandum of Agreement with Osians, one of the largest auction houses of fine art, through which the Osians will exclusively utilize the services of the SADEQUAIN Foundation to authenticate the artwork of Sadequain before putting it up for sale. In a recent auction, Osians sold a Sadequain painting titled "Bol Key Lab Azad Hein Tarey," an illustration of a verse by poet Faiz Ahmed Faiz, for US \$130,000.00.

Forgers have infiltrated the market for Pakistani art and a steady supply of forged paintings is finding its way into reputable art galleries and auction houses around the world. The SADEQUAIN Foundation has been working through the proper channels to raise awareness about this problem.

The Pakistani newspaper DAWN reported on December 12 the arrest of an individual in Karachi who was the mastermind behind the racket of fake art. The authorities recovered fifteen paintings from his possession. The estimated value of the forged art based on the recent sales of Sadequain paintings for the reported amounts of US \$108,000.00, US \$170,000.00, and US \$130,000.00, will peg the recovered paintings at more than US \$2.0 M. A nice chunk of change for white-collar criminals.

In November, a mushaira was held at the Foundation Gallery. It was attended by several local and overseas poets, including Dr. Raj Kumar, Dr. Anwar Dil, Dr. Vinod Kumar, Ms. Anisa Nishat, Mr. Arif Imam, and others. The mushaira was conducted in an intimate setting and it lasted into the wee hours of late night.



Mushaira at SADEQUAIN Foundation Gallery in San Diego, California



In December 2008, Pakistan National Council of Arts (PNCA) signed a Non Disclosure Agreement with the SADEQUAIN Foundation to catalog and publish the artwork of Sadequain in PNCA's collection. There are over two hundred paintings of Sadequain at PNCA, which are displayed in an exclusive hall dedicated in his name, the only artist with that distinction.

Story by Salman Ahmad

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/