



# Amroha International Society

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

**A Biannual Newsletter**

**Issue No. 17 - March, 2011**

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AIS Website,  
membership and  
fundraising**

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about the AIS*

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Programme**

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program and read a  
letter from a  
scholarship recipient.*

*Congratulations to  
members around the  
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**Eye Camps**

*See photographs from  
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Camp.*

*Next Eye Camp, April,  
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**Passion for Peace**

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the artist, Sadequain,  
written by Dr. Salman  
Ahmad for the  
Sadequain Foundation  
and reproduced for the  
AIS.*

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**Safarnama**

*Purchase a Memoir of a  
boyhood in Amroha and  
life in the wider world.*

*All proceeds to aid the Eye  
Camps and Scholarships.*

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**Where Do Our AIS  
Members Live?**

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***A Wonderful Milestone.***

***Happy 80th Birthday to Mr Hasan Hadi Naqvi in Toronto***

## Editor's note

*Since the last newsletter the Amroha International Society (AIS) has continued to recruit more volunteers in Amroha.*

*We have established further contacts with new government officials in Amroha and have a closer relationship with the Venu Eye Institute. We have also made contact with the Directors of Student Welfare (DSW) in both Aligarh Muslim University and Jamia Millia Islamia in New Delhi.*

*Our eye camps continue to be successful. People ask immediately about the next eye camp which further confirms the need and we are pleased to announce that the next AIS eye camp is on 14th April.*

*It is satisfying to know that over two thousand people have registered in the eye camps so far. One hundred and fifty people had a cataract operation.*

*However, it is sobering to note that eighteen percent who required a cataract operation were under thirty years and nine percent under twenty years. Even children under ten years of age account for four percent.*

*All AIS members lead very busy lives! Including your Editor! In view of this fact, it has been decided our future AIS newsletters will be **Biannual** (twice a year) instead of Quarterly. The Newsletter will be produced near the beginning of the year and then in the latter part of the year, timed to coincide as closely as possible with our important work - the Eye Camps and the Education Scholarships, both of which continue to need your financial support.*

*However, this Editor still wants your personal and social stories and your photographs and would like to encourage you to keep sending them in whenever you get the urge! They will be stored and ready to go for the next newsletter.*

*Your news items are always appreciated. Please keep them coming in for fellow Amrohians to share and enjoy. .*

*Ikram Naqvi*



## Member's Gallery

Members are invited to put their family photos on the Member's Gallery of the AIS website.

## AIS Website

This continues to attract people from all over the world. The number of hits over the past two months averaged around 7000 and this is quite remarkable.

It is important for us to keep it interesting with your photographs and stories from the present and the past.

## Discussion Forum

We encourage you to participate in the Discussion Forum. This is your opportunity to share your thoughts with fellow members of the AIS.

Lively discussion is always appreciated.

## Membership

Our membership continues to grow. It is now over 427. Our members are in fourteen countries. Please encourage your family and relatives to register on line.

## Fundraising

Thanks to all those who reacted positively to my plea for more funds in the last newsletter. Just \$50 can give eye sight to a poor Amrohi. Donations can be made through PayPal on the AIS website or by cheque/ money order in the name of the Amroha International Society and posted to me at 295 Tinderbox Road, Tinderbox, Tasmania 7054, Australia.

Thanks to Virender & Celeste Manral of the Anapurna restaurant in Hobart for raising \$315.00 by putting collection boxes and photos of the eye camp in their two restaurants. Their continued support is appreciated.

## Newsletter

"The AIS newsletter continues to impress me. It is always informative and interesting. I look forward to it."

*Posted by Shariq Hasan, Friday 28th February 2011*

## Feedback

Thanks for your feedback by e-mails, phone calls and participation in the discussion on the website.

## Scholarships

*It is always good to receive feed back from our scholarship winners and we are trying to encourage this communication even more.*

It is satisfying to know that our scholarship recipients are appreciative of their AIS scholarships.

The letter quoted below was written by one such recipient, Furqan Ahmad, and his letter reaffirms what the AIS is all about:

*Dear Sir,*

*The AIS scholarship will be helpful for me, as i am in MFA final year, i need to spend a lot money in my dissertation, canvases colours and other stationary materials which is very costly now.*

*I am really happy that you people are doing such a good work and you are supporting students in making there future bright .*

*I really to appreciates your efforts and wants to continue this if ALLAH will blessed me  
Once again Thank You Very Much.*

*Furqan Ahmad*



*Congratulations to Virender and Celeste Manral of Hobart on the birth of their baby boy.*

*Annual Picnic in Houston*

*The Annual Picnic of Sadate Amroha USA  
is on  
20th April, 2011*

## Congratulations

**Congratulations** to the AIS Amroha Committee who are working very hard and achieving well under the leadership of Mutahir Husain and Anil Singh.

**Congratulations** to Salman Naqvi of San Diego for promoting our great artist, Sadequain, through the Sadequain Foundation. Read his fascinating article about Sadequain on Pages 5, 6, 7 and 8.

**Congratulations** to Kamal Naqvi of London for his promotion to Managing Director level at Credit Suisse.

**Congratulations** to Suhail (Shanoo) Abidi of Amroha for his admission to Stanford University Business School. Shanoo starts his course in September.

**Congratulations** to Mohd Abbas for his national award in his Bachelor of Dentistry course.

*Mohd Abbas Khan is the son of Dr. Zebun Nisa Khan and Professor Huzoorul Hasnain Khan, of Mohalla Danishmandan, Amroha.*

*Abbas is a student of BDS final Professional (2007 Batch) at Dr. Z.A.Dental College, Aligarh Muslim University. Aligarh, India. He was awarded the Gold Medal for securing the highest marks in the Preventive Dentistry in the 3rd Professional Examination in the country (India) at the XV International Conference of Indian Association of Public Health Dentistry 2010, held at Mysore (3 - 5, December 2010).*

*In the same conference he was also awarded the bronze medal in the National Level Essay Competition*

*Abbas also secured the highest marks in Preventive Dentistry and in General Surgery in the 3rd Professional Examination of the Dr. Z.A. Dental College Examination.*

*Professor S.H.Hashmi, Principal, Dr. Z.A. Dental College AMU has congratulated Abbas for his achievement in the College as well as nationally.*



Mohd Abbas Khan





## More Eye Camp Photos from the Sixth AIS Cataract Camp 2 December 2010.

—All patients from our last eye camp in December last year were very grateful for their restored eye sight.—

**The Preparations are progressing well for our seventh eye camp on 14th April, 2011.**

We have had over two thousand people registered in our eye camps of the past three years.



150 people had cataract operation.  
55% were female  
31% were between 30 and 50 years  
18% were under 30 years  
9% were under 20 years  
4% were children under 10 years

### Eye Camp

*Delighted to know that the AIS sixth eye camp was also well attended. Obviously there is need. Keep up the good work.*

*Posted by Tanveer Ali,  
Tuesday, 1st February, 2011*



### Eye Camp

*Wow 500 people attending last eye camp. It confirms the need. Makes me very proud to be part of the AIS.*

*Posted by Nargis Siddiqui,  
1st of August 2010*



# Passion for Peace (Aman ki Asha)

## A Gift by Pakistan's Eminent Artist Sadequain to the Indian Nation

February, 2011

Dr. Salman Ahmad  
SADEQUAIN Foundation, USA

This February marks 24<sup>th</sup> anniversary since Sadequain passed away and 29<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his return to Pakistan after a one year hiatus in India. This article is a tribute to Sadequain on his anniversary.

### Aman ki Asha:

Pakistan's most celebrated artist, Sadequain (1930 – 1987) spread the message of peace between the two warring neighbors through his customary benevolence twenty-eight years ago in 1982, when he stayed and painted in India for over one year, and at the end, left all his work, worth tens of millions of dollars - if sold in the current market - as a gift to the Indian nation. It was a gesture of friendship and peace of unprecedented nature that has not been matched since.

Sadequain's generous gesture now looms larger than life in the wake of recent incidents of lewd behavior and criminal acts by the so called Pakistani celebrities, who venture across the border under the guise of *Aman ki Asha*.

### Preeminence:

Poet Faiz Ahmed Faiz complimented Sadequain as follows: "He is a preeminent artist, but more than that he is a thinker." Faiz further added, "Sadequain attained this distinction because he operated at a higher stratosphere with total command over the fundamental tenets." It has been said that, "when Sadequain's pen moved, not only the universe, but also the past, present and the future moved with it." If art measures the pulse of a nation then Sadequain had his fingers on this pulse and he recorded it for posterity. Sadequain was arguably an embodiment of the spirit of Picasso, grandeur of Michelangelo, poetic prowess of Omar Khayyam, and calligraphic skills of Yaqoot.

### International Presence:

In the October 16, 1962 edition, newspaper Le Figaro of Paris stated that, "Sadequain adds up the impression of space, density, volume and the reality of matter, which transforms an abstract thought into a material fact in plastic." Two years later, when Sadequain had established his footing in French art circles, Le Monde et La Vie, Paris, reported in the edition of April 1964, "The multiplicity of Sadequain's gifts is reminiscent of Picasso." A comparison of a young Pakistani artist to a giant like Picasso, and that too on the home turf of Picasso, said it all, a unique distinction indeed. While residing part time in Paris during the 1960s, he was chosen to illustrate the novel, *The Stranger* written by noble laureate Albert Camus – an extraordinary achievement for a Pakistani artist by any measure and he was also awarded Laureate Biennale de Paris for his painting, titled, "Last Supper." Sadequain never looked back, and while shuttling within Europe and to Pakistan during the mid 1960s, created the most significant body of work in about five years, that alone should place him among the most significant artists of the era.

## Sadequain's Creed:

Born in the city of Amroha, UP, self proclaimed “faqir,” Sadequain was outside society’s worldly greed or hypocrisy and called himself “speaker of truth.” He donated most of his work to public institutions, friends and strangers at no cost. In an interview he said, “People ask why I don't paint flowers, butterflies and landscapes? I tell them that I seek the truth and I am after reality. I am not inspired by someone posing against the backdrop of roses in a vase or pink curtains. What inspires me is a person who has gone hungry for hours and is struggling for survival. The expression that lights his face at the end of the day when he has finally found some scraps, that is what touches me. I am a painter of the expression of reality.”

## Indian Home Coming:

Sadequain traveled all over the world long before it became fashionable and accessible to his generation. His paintings were widely displayed on five continents and received praise from public and connoisseurs alike and commanded generous press coverage.

His long awaited visit to India had a special significance and he called it as his home coming. In December of 1981, Sadequain was invited to visit India. Upon his arrival in Delhi, he commented that the distance between Lahore and Delhi can be covered in forty-five minutes, but it took him 33 years. Sadequain stayed in India for over one year, and painted several large murals, paintings and calligraphies.

During his stay in Aligarh, Sadequain designed and completed a large mural for the Maulana Azad Library and an abstract mural in metal cutouts for the wall at the entrance to the Department of Geography. In Delhi, he held a major exhibition sponsored by the State Lalit Kala Academy at Rabindra Bhavan. Before returning to Pakistan in December 1982, Sadequain painted and gifted murals to Urdu Ghar, Indian National Geophysical Research Institute at Hyderabad, and a large mural titled “Quest for Reality” to Banaras Hindu University, to name only a few.



Mural (30 x 15 feet) by Sadequain titled, “Quest for Reality” gift to Banaras Hindu University



One of the most significant calligraphic works was the rendition of the ninety-nine panels of Asma-e-Husna (The Beautiful Names of God) that he inscribed on the circular wall of the rotunda, which stands an imposing five stories high in the Indian Institute of Islamic Studies at Delhi. The approximate length of this calligraphic work is seven hundred feet and the surface area is close to 4,000 square feet.

In addition to the calligraphic work at the Indian Institute of Islamic Studies at Delhi, Sadequain painted or sculpted several other calligraphic works in India at Aligarh Muslim University, Ghalib Academy, Urdu Markaz, and the Tomb of Tipu Sultan.

In addition to painting the murals and calligraphies in India, he exhibited his works at Delhi, Lucknow, Hyderabad, Aligarh, Banaras, and several other cities.

In later years, Sadequain always fondly remembered his visit to India. One pleasant experience of his visit was documented by Munir Sheikh, who was, at the time, posted at the Pakistan High Commission in Delhi. According to him, on the day after his arrival, Sadequain was given an invitation on behalf of the Indian Prime Minister, Mrs. Indra Gandhi, to visit her office on the following day, as she was preparing to leave on a foreign visit the day after.

Sadequain arrived at the prime minister's office at 11:00 A.M. on the morning of the appointment. He was received by the personal secretary to the prime minister and invited to have a seat in the waiting room for a few minutes. In the waiting room were three Indian army generals, who had a prior appointment with the prime minister at the same time, but they were advised to wait until she had completed her meeting with Sadequain.

The meeting between the prime minister and Sadequain lasted for forty-five minutes. At one awkward moment, Mrs. Indra Gandhi protested that Pakistani newspapers held a bias against her in their reporting, to which Sadequain responded, "Madam, I am a faqir by nature, and we faqirs seldom pay attention to the newspapers; I cannot say much about the slant of the political publications." After responding to the query, Sadequain pulled out a pad of drawing paper and drew several calligraphies for her, all the while relating fond memories of his ancestral town of Amroha. He then raised his right hand and explained to the prime minister that because he was so preoccupied with his work, that his hand was permanently reconfigured in the form of holding a pen. He then pointed his fingers upwards and said, "Miraculously, my fingers seem as though they form the word 'Allah' when pointed upwards, and if I turn them sideways, they form the word 'Oom'."

Mrs. Gandhi, at one point, picked a calligraphy that had the inscription of the word "Allah," and signed it for Sadequain. Later, when in Islamabad, Sadequain related his visit with Mrs. Gandhi to a newspaper reporter and showed him the calligraphy that she had signed. The reporter inspected the calligraphy and said that it must be worth a fortune, to which Sadequain responded, "Do you want it?" The newspaper reporter was giddy at the offer and, with utmost care, placed it in his briefcase.

Sadequain is perhaps the only Pakistani artist who is on display at public buildings in India, and no Indian artist is on display at any public building in Pakistan. By extension, that makes him the only artist of the Indian sub-continent - out of a population of well over a billion people - who is on display in public buildings across the border in the sub-continent.

For the first time in the last twenty-eight years since Sadequain left India in February 1983, Sadequain's generosity has been acknowledged by the Indian authorities in a befitting manner. As the National Geophysical Research Institute of India celebrates its golden jubilee, its commemorative brochure displays Sadequain's gigantic mural on its cover with full glory. A faqir, who never sold his

work, Sadequain would cherish the fruits of his labor in time for his 24<sup>th</sup> anniversary in February 2011.



Sadequain's mural (35 x 12 feet) at National Geophysical Research Institute in Hyderabad

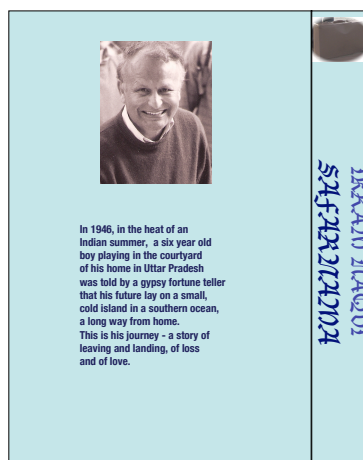
## PRICE

US and Canada: \$15 Postage: US \$10  
Great Britain: 15 Pounds Postage: 10 Pounds  
Australia: \$15 Postage: \$5

Please note that the proceeds from SARARNAMA go to the charity work of the Amroha International Society: [www.amrohainternationalsociety.com](http://www.amrohainternationalsociety.com)  
Please also note that postage and packaging is from Tasmania, Australia

Payment to be made to: SAFARNAMA via **PayPal**, through [www.amrohainternationalsociety.com](http://www.amrohainternationalsociety.com)  
Or  
By cheque/postal order/money transfer in the name of

**Amroha International Society** and addressed to:  
I. H. Naqvi  
295 Tinderbox Road  
Tasmania 7054, Australia

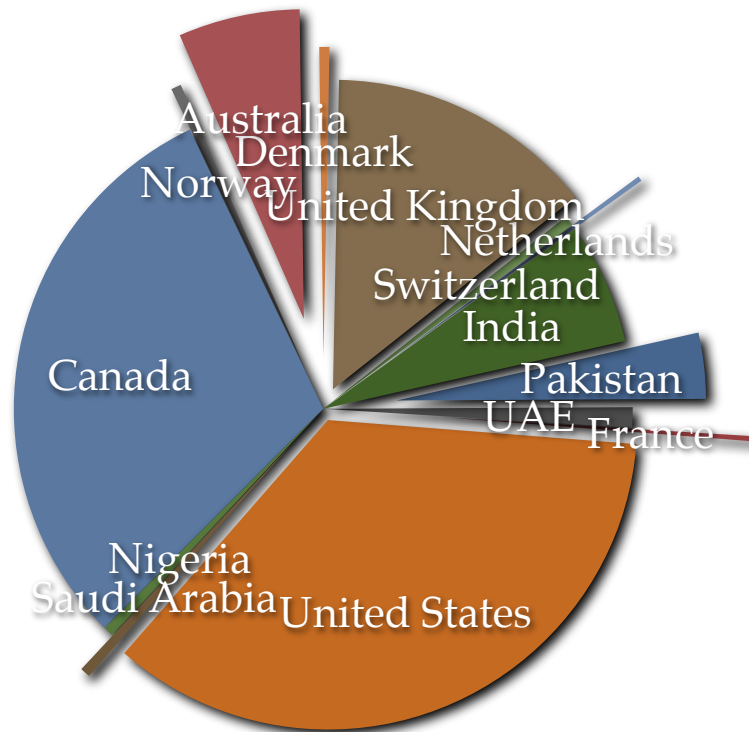


IQBAL NAQVI



# Where are AIS members?

*This pie graph gives a view of where AIS members are currently living*



- |                 |                |           |                  |
|-----------------|----------------|-----------|------------------|
| ● India         | ● Pakistan     | ● UAE     | ● France         |
| ● United States | ● Saudi Arabia | ● Nigeria | ● Canada         |
| ● Norway        | ● Australia    | ● Denmark | ● United Kingdom |
| ● Switzerland   | ● Netherlands  |           |                  |

## 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/)