



From the President's Desk...

Assalamualaikum,

We are now in second quarter of 2014, Alhamdulillah! Three months have passed quite soon! We have been consolidating on all our projects and priority has been given to Skill Development Lectures (SDL) and membership drive. We have recently surpassed 40,000 members milestone in our Facebook Group! I congratulate everyone in the team for their sincere efforts.



The second quarter would be a National Election quarter and Election Commission (EC) has already announced the schedule of various phases of the election. The environment is heating up with election debates, political parties with their leaders and workers are on the street searching for buyers of their promises and sincere voters are listening and reading all these to make informed choice for their votes. Rallies, speeches, road shows, pamphlets, hoardings and banners have made the dance of democracy very colorful and the purpose of all these modes of communication is to convey the message of the political party to the people.

The constitution of India has given a great power to the voter which has to be properly and effectively used. National Election 2014 therefore puts a great responsibility on Muslim youths. Educated Muslims are well aware of the situation of their community; and clearly know the history of negligence from different political groups and are very well aware of what is needed to change the situation.

The first thing to do is to compulsorily go and caste your own VOTE, which means there should not be any one not voting for any reason. Secondly, educating and convincing our family, relatives and friends to vote. It must be kept in mind in national election that voting for a candidate means voting for a party, which if comes to power at the center would have huge impact in internal and external policies of the country. These policies would be driven by their ideologies and not by their election manifesto which goes to dustbin right after the elections. I do not discourage you from studying these manifestos but I am warning you from believing in it completely.

We must keep in mind while voting of any political party, the issues of identity of India, plural, moderate and secular India, good governance, equality and dignity for everyone, corruption, affirmative actions for weaker sections of the society, economy and education etc. We must be very mindful of voting anyone in the just name of good governance as it is very subjective and progressive society needs more freedom than governance. There are attempts to create a favorable public opinion by massive media usage, we have to be very tactful in understanding and making our own positions and then going to others, like your non-Muslim friends and explaining them your own stand and convincing them to vote on principles rather than propaganda.

Wishing you all and the entire nation a very happy, peaceful and prosperous time ahead!!

Sincerely,

Aamir Edresy
President – AMP
(Association of Muslim Professionals)

About AMP

Association of Muslim Professionals (AMP) is a Platform for all Muslim professionals, and volunteers to share their knowledge, intellect, experience and skills for the overall development of not just the Muslim Community but also the society at large, and further empowering Muslims in the educational, social, political and economic front of life.

AMP is an intellectual organization spread out at a national level. Having presence in 13 Indian States and more than 50 Chapters across India, and growing further with a strong presence of professional base across the country, AMP has been instrumental in conducting various activities for the benefit of the society across the length and breadth of the country. It is a non-sectarian organization which is politically not affiliated to any organization and endeavors to promote social welfare, community spirit and knowledge in our society. AMP is founded by a group of citizens in India and registered as a welfare organization under the societies Act and is entirely funded by its members and socially aware individuals. Its financial records are audited and are presented to its members.

It gives us a single platform where our individual scattered efforts can transform into big collective and effective force for the renovation of whole of the Muslim community. AMP seeks to exhort the Muslims, to volunteer in the mission of making the present Muslim society as a dynamic one, responsive to the changes taking place in day-to-day business of life and further shaping our community into a conscientious and responsible part of our nation. AMP's Primary focus is on Education & Professional Empowerment for all; Secondary focus areas are Political cognizance/ recognition, economic awareness, social responsibilities etc.

We are working for the upliftment of our Muslim brothers but at the same time our doors are wide open for our non-Muslim brethren who look towards us for assistance.

AMP Organizes an Interactive Discussion on 'Representation of Muslim Youth in Governance and Politics' on 15th Jan, 2014 in Mumbai

An interactive session on 'Representation of Muslim Youth in Governance and Politics,' was organized by AMP on 15th Jan, 2014 in Mumbai at Karimi Library, Anjuman Islam CST.

The current Political scenario in India is very volatile. Keeping this in mind, it was felt that it is the need of the hour to gather the young, enlightened and dynamic Muslim youth and educate them on the various aspects of the political scenario today. It was therefore AMP's sincere effort to organize this youth program designed to discuss and understand the feelings, thinking and issues of Muslim Youth for the Political Empowerment of the Muslim Community.

Mr. Rasheed Ansari, President of the US India Policy Institute was invited to be a part of the discussion panel. Other important guests included Mr. Bhalchandra Mungekar (MP) and Mr. Hussein Dalwai (MP) including few other prominent people from social and political sphere. A number of socio-political Youth Leaders and policy makers also attended this highly important dialogue.





AMP HOSTED A SUCCESSFUL 'INTER-SCHOOL QUIZ COMPETITION' AT PUNE ON 4th Jan 2014

Association of Muslim Professionals (AMP) hosted an Inter-School Quiz Competition on 4th Jan 2014, in the Azam Campus premises, Pune. Considering the challenges related to education in the society and to provide a proper direction to students, AMP organized a stimulating Quiz competition for the Standard IX students across Urdu and semi- English schools in Pune. The chief guest for the event was Munawar Peerbhoy, Chairman Haji Gulam Mohammed, Azam Education trust, and special guests for the event were Dawood Khan of INA foundation, Mujeebullah Khan (Retired Army Officer), Jameel Shaikh, District Judge/member of Co-op, Appellate Mumbai. AMP conducted an Aptitude Test in 26 schools from December 31, 2013 to January 2, 2014 and shortlisted a group of two students from each school to perform in the finale. On the day of finale (4th Jan 2014), 2 rounds were conducted. Only 5 groups of the 26 teams reached the final round, which are Anglo Urdu Girls School, Azam Campus, IQRA English School, Dapodi, Lady Taherunnisa Urdu School, Yarawada, Anjuman-E-Islam Peer Mohammed School, Bund garden, Anglo Urdu Boys School, Azam Campus. Sariya Ansari and Shaikh Ayesha from Anglo Urdu Girls School won the Winner's trophy and medals and gift vouchers, first runner-up's trophy with medals and gift vouchers were given to Shaikh Afreen and Saniya Sayyed from Anjuman-E-Islam Peer Mohammed School, and second runner-up's trophy with medals and gift vouchers were bagged by Attar Bushra and Farheen Siddiqui from IQRA English school. Prizes were distributed by the chief guest to all the winners and certificates were distributed to all participants.



AMP PRESIDENT MR. AAMIR EDRESY'S VISIT TO DELHI AND MEETINGS WITH AMP DELHI CHAPTER MEMBERS AND STUDENTS OF JAWAHARLAL NEHRU UNIVERSITY (JNU), NEW DELHI

**You are cordially invited to
An Interaction Session with
Aamir Idrisi**
President, Association Of Muslim Professionals (AMP)

**On Muslim's Socio-Economic Problems:
Does AMP have any solution to offer?**

مسلمانوں کے سماجی و اقتصادی مسائل: (کے پاس کیا کوئی حل ہے؟)

मुसलमानों की समाजिक और अर्थिक समस्याएँ: क्या हमारे पास क्या निदान है?

at: 6pm, Jan 4, 2014

At: Tefla, JNUSU Office

New Delhi

Organised BY

STUDENTS OF JNU



On 4th Jan 2014, AMP President Mr. Aamir Edresy visited Delhi and had an interactive session at Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU), with the JNU students and scholars, to introduce AMP and to discuss with them on the issue "Muslims Socio-Economic Problems: Does AMP have a Solution to offer?" The event was organized at Tefla, JNUSU Office at JNU, Delhi and was coordinated by AMP Delhi Chapter Coordinator Mr. Waseem Khan, Mr. Syed Mohammad Raghib and Mr. Altamash Mohammed. Mr. Aamir Edresy also met the GC members of AMP at Delhi and attended a meeting with the AMP Delhi Chapter on 5th January 2014, where he met and addressed the AMP Delhi Chapter members on pertinent issues of the community. The agenda of the meeting was to engage in strategic planning for AMP Delhi, discussion on AMP's National movement for demanding equal and fair share for Muslims in Government Welfare Schemes and also a discussion on the representation of Muslims in Governance and Politics in the country. With the target to make the AMP Delhi Chapter one of the most active AMP Chapter in the country, these meetings proved successful and looked quite promising for AMP in ensuring participation in planning and implementation from the future potential leaders of the AMP family, Alhamdulillah!



ASSOCIATION OF MUSLIM PROFESSIONALS (AMP) ORGANIZED A SUCCESSFUL JOB FAIR AT HABIB COLLEGE, MUMBAI ON 1ST FEB 2014

Association of Muslim Professionals (AMP), as per its core objective of supporting the community in economic empowerment; conducted a Job Fair at Habib College of Commerce and Arts, Mumbai on 1st February 2014. Many job aspirants/Students from Habib College as well as other Colleges of South Mumbai earnestly attended the event. Mr. Aamir Edresy, President of AMP said, "The response for the event was indeed very overwhelming. More than 2000 people turned up for the Job fair hoping to find their ideal job". At the end of the day around 150 candidates were given on-the-spot offers by the recruiters. This Job fair gave a chance to the candidates to give interview for vacancies in Sales, Marketing, Back Office, Admin and other departments of these prestigious firms like Café Coffee Day, Serco, ITM, Landmark Solutions, Jobastra, Big Basket, Future General Insurance etc, Yukti marketing & media Pvt, Adhan Solutions, YOKO Sizzlers etc. This is indeed a benchmark for AMP and we will definitely strive to take it a notch higher the next time with similar events in other cities as well.





A LECTURE ON "NEED FOR LEGAL ACTIVISM IN TODAY'S SCENARIO" FOR THE WELFARE AND ADVANCEMENT OF MUSLIM COMMUNITY BY MR. AAMIR EDRASY (PRESIDENT AMP), ORGANIZED BY SAMLA, AT DELHI ON 4th Jan 2014

The "South Asian Minorities Lawyers Association (SAMLA)" organized a program with "Association of Muslim Professionals (AMP)" on 4th Jan, 2014 in Delhi.

It was a meaningful interaction to explore legal activism for welfare and advancement of Muslim community through development of legal culture to secure rights and entitlements. The AMP President Mr. Aamir Edresy introduced his work and sought inputs from lawyers of Delhi for advancing the cause of community welfare. Mr. Feroz Khan Ghazi Adv., the Secretary General of SAMLA, shared his experiences and expressed his willingness to contribute in the work of AMP. Some of the important participants in the interaction included – Adv. Mr. B.A. Jha, Adv. Mr. Mansoor Ali, Adv. Mr. G.M. Farooqui, Adv. Mr. Nasir Aziz, Adv. Ms. Rubina Jawed, Adv. Mr. Salar M. Khan, Adv. Mr. Shani, Adv. Mr. Farrukh Khan etc. AMP looks forward to more of such interactions in future, to address the pressing issues of the community.

AMP LUCKNOW CHAPTER MEETINGS WITH MR. SHAHANSHAH ANSARI (HEAD, GENERAL ADMINISTRATION, AMP)

On 26th Jan, 2014, AMP had a very successful meeting of AMP Lucknow Chapter Members at Khurram Nagar Lucknow. Eight new members were present, including Mr. Mohammad Shahanshah Ansari (Head- General Administration, AMP and Member of AMP Governing Council), to discuss the Agenda- "How to manage the Growth of AMP". Mr. Mohammad Shahanshah Ansari gave a brief introduction about AMP to the members present and discussed in detail about AMP's working areas and the reach so far. The meeting met with a good response and another meeting was scheduled for the next week to deliberate on the discussions and accelerate the AMP motive. Decision was also taken to conduct AMP meetings of AMP Lucknow Chapter on a monthly basis which was indeed a promising indication of the enthusiasm of the AMP members. AMP Lucknow Chapter organized its next Monthly Meeting on 2nd Feb 2014 at Shayam Nagar, Khurram Nagar, Lucknow, UP. The agenda of the meeting was to Plan SDLs for the month, formation of SDL Team, Team Building and discussing and assigning responsibilities amongst the team members. The meeting was coordinated by Mr. Mohammad Ali and Mr. Sulaiman Khan.

AMP MEMBERS MEETING AT BIJAPUR, KARNATAKA ON 16th JAN 2014

AMP with a focus on expanding its reach to almost 200 cities of India, in next couple of years, as part of its Expansion Plan, plans to organize a Professionals Meet in all these Cities with atleast One Core Team Member from AMP Team being a part of these expansions meet in every city. AMP Members had a meeting at Bijapur, Karnataka on 16th Jan 2014 for discussing this purpose, and Mr. Ayaz Shaikh, AMP's Active member from Pune Team attended that meet along with five members from Bijapur who have taken the responsibility on their shoulders to help the organization in expanding its reach. The various topics that were discussed were AMP Vision & Mission, AMP Policies, AMP Projects, AMP Activities in different cities and how to implement AMP projects in Bijapur. The meeting was attended by Mr. Ayaz Shaikh, Mr. Yaseer Jahagirdar, Mr. Mohammad Ali Nagarbowdi, Mr. Nayeemullah Inamdar, Mr. Abdul Gaffar Quadri Jilani and Mr. Jafar Ali Jahagirdar.



- ASSOCIATION OF MUSLIM PROFESSIONALS (AMP) IN NEWS-





“ONE DAY MOCK INTERVIEW WORKSHOP” ORGANIZED BY AMP AT SOLAPUR ON 19th Jan 2014

Association of Muslim Professionals (AMP) hosted a one day workshop on ‘MOCK Interview’ for engineering students in Social College Seminar hall, Solapur (MH) on 19th January 2014. In continuation of organizing SDLs for students, AMP aimed to carry out technical and interpersonal skills improvement workshop in Solapur. The principal idea behind the MOCK interview workshop for engineering students was to provide a platform for final year Engineering students to prepare for their upcoming competitive era post completion of their graduation. AMP received an enormous response from 8 engineering colleges across Solapur among which 40 students had registered for final event.

The event started with the Tilawat-E-Qur'an by Mr. Zahid Ali Khan (FAME Organization) and Mr. Abrar Sayyad gave an introduction of AMP. The workshop was divided into two parts, namely- ‘Awareness Sessions’ which comprised of sections on ‘How to prepare for the interview’, ‘Interview etiquettes’, ‘Resume writing’, ‘Motivational lecture’ and ‘Corporate etiquettes’. The second part ‘Interview Rounds’ comprised of ‘Aptitude test’, ‘Group discussion’ and ‘Personal & Technical Interview’. The first half was meant to hone the skills of the students on how to prepare for interview and the basic etiquettes of interview discussed by Mr. A.V Peerzade (Director – Sonankar Company, Solapur). As Resume being the signature towards talent and image of personality and the first level of screening while being in interview, hence it is the most important part to keep in mind while appearing for an interview. Mr. Faisal Shaikh (H.R. Pune) provided his valuable view on “Resume Writing”. Motivational and Career Guidance sessions were held by several technical experts in different engineering areas. Mr. B.H. Bijali (Director – Sub Associates, Pune) provided guidelines to students on corporate and industrial etiquettes and the various concerns to keep in mind while being in any Industry. In the second half, students were driven into MOCK interview based on MNC guidelines where approx. 40 students appeared for aptitude test, group discussion and personal interview. The personal interview had a panel of three interviewers (one HR and two technical). Mr. Minhaj Kazi and Mr. Nadeem Ahmed were present for HR interview. Dr. Ismail Shaikh and other Industrial experts were present for technical interview. In continuation to completion of the second half, AMP member Prof. Asma Khan (social reformer) made the environment more pleasant and energizing by sharing her personal experience and some guidance about personality development and overview on expected answers by recruiters on their questions. The Host for the event was Mr. Ejaz Sheikh. A wonderful job was done by Abul Faiz, Aamir Bagban, Saif Jahagirdar, Aamir Jamadar, Zahid Shaikh and team who deserve appreciation for putting their effort to make this event a grand success! The event concluded with the vote of thanks by Mr. Shuaib Savved. Insha Allah, we hope to see many more such events in near future.



AMP SKILL DEVELOPMENT LECTURES (SDLs)

AMP conducted a SDL at Jaipur, Rajasthan on 18th Jan, 2014

This quarter has been a busy one for the AMP Team. With a sizeable number of SDLs and different workshops being conducted across the Chapters of AMP, the exemplary passion within the members of AMP is being put to good use.

A SDL was conducted by AMP on 18th Jan, 2014 at Jaipur (Rajasthan). It was a very interactive session with students of class X to XII and also a session was held for class Ist and IInd in a Madarsa. Mr. Faisal and Mr. Mehboob steered the sessions and concluded remarking that though it being a satisfying experience, it was just a beginning, hoping to cross many more miles in serving the community.

AMP Bangalore Chapter Conducted a SDL on “Effective Verbal Communication” at Bangalore, on 25th Jan 2014

AMP Bangalore Chapter conducted a SDL session on “Effective Verbal Communication” at “Excellent School”, Bismillahnagar, Bangalore, on 25th Jan 2014. Mr. Mohammed Zabeeulla from Bangalore Chapter was the coordinator of the session and Mr. Mohammed Aaqil conducted the session. Students of class IXth participated in this 1 hr interactive session. On the spot assessment for a few students was also done and feedback given on areas of improvement. The school students and management appreciated the effort and requested the AMP team to make these sessions more frequent. The school principal also asked the AMP team to share any long term course module which can be conducted for enhancing soft skills of the students. “Excellent School”, Bismillahnagar, is unique in more than one way. Most of the students here are the children rescued from child labour. Apart from providing them education from LKG to standard 10, this school also runs vocational classes to make the students find a source of livelihood when they grow up. Parents of many of these children also attend separate classes where vocational trainings are imparted and they are trained in various skills. The overall response to the event was good and we look forward to more such sessions in the near future.

AMP organized a Skill Development Lecture at Iqra School, Bijapur on 22nd Feb 2014

AMP has always endeavored to provide a platform for Muslim Students to let them achieve their fruitful career. Keeping the same motto in their mind AMP Bijapur Team for the first time organized a Personality Development and Career Guidance Program on Saturday, 22nd February 2014, at Iqra Urdu Medium School, Bijapur, Karnataka. Mr. Sayyed Aamer Sadat (Lecturer, Malik Sandal Polytechnic) discussed the ‘Importance of Education in Society’ while Mr. Mohd. Azhar Sagar (Assistant Professor, Training & Placement Officer, SECAB Institute of Management Studies) guided the students about ‘Personality Development’. Mr. Nayeemullah Inamdar (Assistant Professor BLDE's COE & Tech Bijapur) gave a Motivational Talk to boost the confidence of the attendees of this program. The event was coordinated by Mr. Yaseer Jahangirdar.

AMP Pune Team Organized 10 SDLs at Pune in the last quarter

The AMP Pune Team conducted around 10 SDLs altogether in Pune in the last quarter. Mr. Monis Khan conducted 3 SDLs at Iqra School Dapodi, on the topics- ‘Workshop on Communication’, ‘Group Discussion’ and ‘How to prepare for Exam & Quiz’. Ms. Mehek Kazi conducted 2 SDLs at Lady Hawabai Girls High School on Importance of Education & Girl Child which was attended by around 190 students from Class VIIth to Class IXth. Mr. Mateen Shaikh conducted 3 SDLs on ‘Personality development’ at Mubarak High School. At Tayyabiya Orphanage Camp, Mr. Saboor Siddiqui and Mr. Abrar Sayyad conducted a SDL on the Importance Education and Mr. Shaukat Tarade and Mr. Mujammil Choudhari took 1 SDL at Maulana Azad Urdu High School Akuri, on the topic ‘How to prepare for Exams’. In all the last quarter as usual had been buzzing with a lot of activities by the passionate AMP members riding on high spirit!



AMP MEMBER SPEAKS....

WHAT DO YOU DO FOR A LIVING?

— Ms. Asma Khan

(Member of the Editorial Board, AMP Connect)

So what are you doing this weekend?

A guest from Romania was asking me, So what do you do for a living?

I teach English literature, was my prompt reply.

No, she insisted, What do you do for a living?

Finding me surprised she rephrased her query.

I am asking what do you do for the people, for your society?

What did she exactly mean, I asked. She explained she goes to an Old Age home every weekend and spends time with the elderly, tells them stories, listens to their woes, worries and returns feeling fulfilled.

Fulfilled? I was surprised again.

And slowly the reality began to dawn. She meant Social work! And we look down upon this term, thinking, only affluent women with nothing much to do at hand, go for such social work!

But how wrong I was!

Doing something for our society is so very precious. We women especially in India are not used to this concept. Our idea of a good life doesn't include this, unfortunately. Most of us women, after a day's work at home, switch on the Television and enjoy a regular bout of Saas –Bahu serials or romantic sagas. Our idea of outing is limited to being with family to a picnic spot, mall or visit to relations. But have we ever given a thought to the idea that while our husbands and kids are busy in their own life and friends, what do we do? Except waiting for them, after finishing the work and killing the time by watching inane television or gossiping? Shouldn't we too get some life?

What about the idea of spending time meaningfully? For caring for some other not so privileged people, for a change? This giving, would give you so much happiness, I am sure, that a good bout of television or shopping, won't. I as a teacher have



been taking my students for such Good Picnics. We go to orphanages, Schools for the Blind and Deaf and the Dumb. The change in the attitude and way of thinking in our kids after the visit is visible and positive.

Doing good, does not just mean dispensing off some money to the needy; it can also mean giving your time. Time is the greatest gift, we can give someone, because once you give time, you can't take it back. In fact it becomes the most precious gift to the society you live in. Dedicating a few hours of the week for a good cause means you too get to spend your time in a better way. The satisfaction you feel, when you know that you have brought a smile to some one's lips is indeed valuable. Black American writer, Maya Angelou claims,

Giving liberates the soul of the giver. The giver is as enriched as is the recipient, and more important, that intangible but very real psychic force of good in the world is increased.

How true!

Examples of Muslim women working for a just social cause are many. Coming to the mind right now is from history, our dear Old Bi Amman, the great mother of the great Ali brothers, who inspired her sons and a whole lot of her countrymen to fight against the British oppression in pre-1947 India. There are numerous others.

Let's begin to give for a good cause and the cause of education is the best cause and what better platform than our AMPF?

Wish you all Best Luck!

(Ms. Asma Anjum Khan is Assistant Professor of English and a community activist based in Maharashtra, India)

INDIAN ELECTION 2014

GEARING UP FOR THE WORLD'S LARGEST DEMOCRATIC ELECTION



AMP Newsletter

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SPECIAL FEATURE ON GENERAL ELECTIONS 2014

WHAT ARE THE ISSUES IN THE LOK SABHA ELECTIONS 2014?

The Parliamentary elections are a mandate to govern India. The issues in these elections are common to all the Indians and are of national importance. The expectation of the common man is to know the difference in policy prescription that the political parties have on the issue concerning the nation. They want to know the unique ideas political parties have on all such common issues and how different are they from their rivals in its solutions.

However, what is seen in the run up to the Lok Sabha election 2014 is that the political parties are indulging in mudslinging and the electioneering is becoming an event of kettle calling the pot black! Each political party is talking about the past and none is spelling their ideas about the future governance of India. It looks they hardly differ with each other on the issues concerning the nation. They want one set of people to be replaced by the other. There is hardly any change in thought process on policies to govern the country. It slowly dawning upon the electorates that since past 15 Lok Sabha elections they have been taken for a ride. Their votes have been garnered on the divisions that exist around caste, community, religion, region, etc. These are being exploited during elections and vote bank politics is played up to trap the people and emotionally blackmail them. This has hardly brought any substantial change in the lives of the common man. The people in the country are now realizing that in none of the elections they have cast their votes on the basis of gains they may have made voting a certain political party. This realization is making a change in the mind-set of the electorates. They want to know from the political parties how they are unique in their action to solve the problems faced by them. They also like to know how they differ in taking India to the next level.

Some of the issues that will prominently figure in 2014 Lok Sabha elections are as follows:

Managing the economy is the burning issue. Related to it is the inflationary trend that is gripping the country and which is leading to spurt in the price rise in the nation. The prescription that is so far offered to manage the economy is disinvestment of the public sector undertakings and foreign direct investment. There is a clear bias towards industrial and urban growth in the country and that is at the expense of the agriculture sector that is hugely neglected.

The mixed economy that was followed since 1947-1990 gave way to liberalization and capitalist economic model. The economic reforms that were initiated by the then Congress regime were carried forward by the BJP led NDA government from 1999-2004.

There was hardly any change in the counters of economic policy by the new political formation that came to power. In fact it they only added jest to the vision and mission to its predecessors.

The reforms that were initiated in 1990 gave returns in the first decade of the 2000, but now show signs of slowing down. This is the reality of Indian economy. In such case what could be the new policy prescription to manage the economy? This is the foremost issue that concerns the country.

Corruption and transparency in governance is another issue. The Anna Hazare movement in 2012 and the rise of the Aam Adami party are both based on this issue. The UPA-II brought the Lokpal bill and conceded their points but the fact remains that there hardly any change noticed on the ground. The people of the country are burdened with the problem of corruption.

The electorates want to know what they may expect from the change of guard. Can the political parties come up with a deadline for corruption free India? Can they give any deadline starting from 2014 general elections?

The internal and external security is another matter of concern. The terrorists, both Jehadist and Hindutva are on prowl to disturb the peace in the country. The Maoist is already having a field day. The north east region in boil so is the restive state of Jammu Kashmir. All pose a serious challenge to internal security. As far as external security is concerned, China remains most boisterous, Pakistan, Bangladesh and other threat perception. All pose external security challenges. These concerns of the country, has to be handled by the political parties that vie for power. The voters want to know their stand to address their security concerns.

Communalism is another issue that challenges the constitutional provision of the country. The past sixty six years this constitutional guarantee has been flouted by recurrence of communal riots. The central government skirts the problem blaming the states and shrikes away from its responsibilities. This going on for long and there is hardly any full stop to loss of life and property that emanate from communal riots. The people of the country want to know whether any change of mind-set in governance will be seen on this issue or will the new rulers continue to turn their backs on such happenings in the country?

The country is reeling under the problem of shortage of water and power. Clean drinking water is becoming scarce. There is shortage of potable water in many parts of the country. Farms are dry as there is no water for irrigation available. Same is the case with the power situation. These are a serious problem faced by the people of the country. What vision the political parties have to solve these problems, how different are they in their approach to address them, is what the electorates wants to know.

The environmental issues facing the country are another major challenge. The problem of climate change is looming large and is affecting the livelihood of many. How differently the issues related to environment are going to be addressed by the political parties.

In the 2014 Lok Sabha elections many chief ministers of the states are aspiring to be the Prime Minister. As Chief Ministers they have been talking about the shabby treatment of their states are receiving from the center. The Centre - State relationship is another concern of the people. Will the state Chief Ministers after becoming the Prime Minister, indulge in pruning the unitary features of India to strengthening the federal structure of the country or will they eat their own words on this issue? The people of this country have the right to know from the leaders their stand on issue of center - state relations.

Other issues are; realizing the growth potential of north-east, increasing quality of education system, increasing quality of primary healthcare, ensuring safety of women and empowering them, increasing employment of the youth, reducing malnutrition, promoting research and innovation, controlling population growth, faltering food production, and the ever-present poverty.

Well these are the real issues the country faces as it is getting ready for the 2014 Lok Sabha elections. The electorates like to know from the leaders of the political parties their views on these issues. They also like to know how different they are from their contenders. Their views are crucial because it is only after knowing them that the electorates will decide their votes and make their choices. Right now the leaders of the political parties have taken the people of the country for granted. These issues do not matter to them and what actually matters are only the primordial loyalties. This mindset needs has to be changed in 2014 Lok Sabha elections.

The good news is that this time "None of the above" option will figure in all the EVMs at the polling booth. This provision has given a powerful weapon to the people to reject all who do not live up to their expectations.

Once the people overwhelmingly start exercising this option, only then issue based democratic culture can develop in the country. The political parties will then change their attitude towards politics and come up with solutions to the problem to win the support of the electorates. Will this happen from 2014 Lok Sabha elections? Well one needs to wait and watch.

(Mr. Syed Ali Mujtaba is a journalist based in Chennai. He can be contacted at: syedalimujtaba@yahoo.com)

(REFERENCE: TwoCircles.net, 13th March 2014
TCN: http://twocircles.net/2014mar13/what_are_issues_lok_sabha_elections_2014.html)



Volunteer with AMP

In this era of knowledge and growth, Muslims, the fastest growing segment of populace around the world, cannot afford to lack behind. Sadly, though this is true, we are all witness to the fact that in India, being Muslim most of the times invites to be looked upon as uneducated, economically backward, shy, mute to discrimination and problems and politically irresponsible. AMP seeks to overcome these and many more challenges within the Muslim Community. It provides a single platform for Muslims all over the country/world to come together to converse, debate and draw plans based on their experience, intellect and knowledge with the aim to facilitate Muslim Empowerment in all possible fields.

AMP strongly believes that the commitment of their members and supporters are the most critical in achieving the Vision and Mission of the organization.

Anyone who is willing to join AMP as Volunteer should:

- Be interested in serving the community and the society at large
- Be secular and without any prejudice to any community or belief
- Be ready to invest 2-3 hours every week/ fortnight on field /online depending upon the project
- Be willing to serve others without any expectations, monetary or otherwise
- Abide by all the Rules & Regulations and the Code of Conduct laid by AMP

----Register Yourself----

<http://tinyurl.com/joinamp>

Join AMP - Join Revolution!!!

AMP Shining Stars of the Quarter

"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed people can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has!"

As part of AMP's initiative of continuously motivating its members, the GC Team felicitates the most dedicated member for the period with the "Shining Star of the Quarter" Award!! This quarter we are glad to felicitate Ms. Mehek Kazi (Pune, Maharashtra), Mr. Abul Faiz Pathan (Solapur, Maharashtra) and Mr. Yaseer Jahagirdar (Bijapur, Karnataka) for their contribution towards AMP's activities!!



Ms. Mehek Kazi, Pune, Maharashtra
Certified Psychological Counselor - Enterprenuer Pune.

She is one of the very prominent and consistent Member of AMP and Member of the Editorial Board of AMP Connect. Since more than two years she has conducted many SDLs across Pune on health issues, motivational lectures, Interview Etiquette and career guidance to name a few. Her major focus is towards female students. She has prepared many PPTs which are being extensively used by all AMP Chapters for conducting SDLs.

Mr. Abul Faiz Pathan, Solapur, Maharashtra
B. Com; Masters in Finance. Currently working as Asst. Chartered Accountant.

He has brought a spark in AMP Solapur chapter conducting more than 30 SDLs in one & half years & enrolling new members in AMP. His share is phenomenal in conducting events like Mock Interview for Engg. students and Awareness about MPSC and UPSC in Solapur.



Mr. Yaseer Jahagirdar, Bijapur, Karnataka,
B. Tech (Electrical Engineering) and M.Tech in Automation. Currently he is working as Professor in Polytechnic college Bijapur.

Inspired by our Vision & Mission, joined AMP 4 months back, but within such a short span of time he has been instrumental in forming a very active chapter in Bijapur, Karnataka. He along with team Bijapur has conducted many SDLs in Urdu schools in a very organized manner. His enthusiasm shows that in near future AMP Bijapur Team will set new milestones and achieve great success Insha Allah.

Congratulations! Well Done!!

EDITORIAL

When Politics starts deciding your future, decide what your Politics should be!

Witnessing the rising and falling curtains in politics, India has perhaps never had an outcome as fraught with consequences as will be the coming General Elections in the country. Political umbrellas having barely fared well in shielding the common man and in coming upto their expectations, the aam aadmi is left with the last option of looking up to the 'aam aadmi' as the only hope to address the daunting task of uprooting the age old vices that have firmly taken roots and decaying the social fabric of the country. Turning pages on the issues of fighting poverty and communalism, a failing economy has forced corporate India and the country's newly minted and insecure middle class to look upto the emerging supremo of the saffron brigade as the only hope for the economic development; while the country's hard-pressed working class has turned to AAP, the people's anti-corruption movement, to fight corruption and unearth the lost glory of India- the dying golden bird! The major concerns being voiced in the coming elections are apparently interrelated; the nation though in this tug-of-war of preferential choices, which is based mostly on propaganda, stands at the threshold of a dangerous polarization; a state where the country is vulnerable enough to get divided on conflicts of class, caste, religion and even humanity! To say the least, when being offered an old wine with a new label or perhaps with different labels amidst the dance of democracy, it is up to 'we' the people, to think and decide if the offer is worth it, or should we instead try and prepare a new flavor that's reliable enough to satiate the collective appetite of the nation; especially when there being no litmus test to justify the available options.

Besides the other prevalent issues in the country needing attention, corruption in India for sure is a major issue that adversely affects its economy. But, is it really a cause of concern when it comes to weighing the choices collectively? Who exactly is to be blamed in this blame game of 'give' and 'take' and the 'right' and 'wrong'? Perhaps, it's not only the ones in chair who are responsible in the mismanagement or to be held accountable for not doing anything about the pressing issues despite being in power, but yes, we the people are equally well hands-in-glove in all this mess! From hiring an auto rickshaw, to arranging a LPG gas cylinder in the kitchen, it would not be wrong to say that like charity even corruption begins at home! Transparency International, in a study in the year 2005, found that more than 62% of Indians had firsthand experience of paying bribes or influence peddling to get jobs in public offices; while in the year 2008, 40% of Indians had firsthand experience of paying bribes or using a contact to get a job done in public office. In 2012, India was ranked 94th out of 176 countries in Transparency International's Corruption Perception Index. While corruption usually stays an under-table activity, sadly most of the sources of corruption in India are entitlement programmes and social spending schemes enacted by the Indian government. Examples include MGNREGA and NRHM. Other daily sources of corruption, beside others, include India's trucking industry which is forced to pay billions in bribes annually to numerous regulatory and police stops on its interstate highways. Besides, the debate around Lokpal has raised not just the issue of failure of state institutions in checking corruption but their sheer complicity in them at all levels and raised question marks on the promises of deliverance and governance. 'Corruption' hence has been rightly flagged for attention in the coming general elections and the pertinent issue favoring the Aam Aadmi Party that's reining in goodwill of the aam aadmi, for turning the national spotlight on the issue; and hence is sure to see the sun sooner or later.

Reflecting on the other side of the story and analyzing the pressing issues of the Muslim community in particular; hammering the point home, the community as well needs a third option besides the available players on stage, who can aptly put forth the story of the community undistorted, and garner support and attention for solutions by being as efficient a catalyst as the emerging 'aam aadmi' leading the present day tsunami!

Recalling what Sundar Sarukkai, pinpoints in a creative dialogue about the encroachment of an 'instant' culture into the domain of 'thinking and reasoning', in the life of the common man, leaving him with hardly any time to think in the age of instant desires, instant gratification and instant results; Voting today no doubt appears to be just as hurried a process in terms of rationality behind the choice of candidates, thus the community falling prey to propaganda instead of being inspired by the inherent vision! 'Thinking' needs 'time', a commodity which is not available in the present 'instant' age, to bring together the fundamental concerns. The common man today, terribly loaded with endless pre-occupations, hardly endeavors to think and look beyond the agenda, flagged by the political parties, which is as short lived as the election process itself with no fool proof monitoring mechanism after the elections. And pathetic enough, the community even stays indifferent many a time to the need to come out and cast their vote, not realizing that the power to choose is indeed crucial to strike the match as the least effort, if change is needed. Hence, it is not surprising that the economical and developmental health of the country too is bearing the brunt of a culture that wants instant results with least effort and reflection, and then washing hands off in the blame game instead of any attempt to take charge of their destiny at their own stake. The political state of affairs, is bound to lose brake when one knows the direction but isn't sure if the driver is capable enough to drive him home safely! The mindset of the community should change, for the change to be sustainable; for every vote is not just a number added for victory, but a deciding factor of the choice we make not only as Indian citizens but as conscious human beings, conscious enough of what we live in and what we live for.

True to life's cyclical patterns, every once in a while, a nation too reaches a peak stage, ready for rebirth and here it is the ideology and approach of both the ruler and the ruled, which is the deciding factor for the fate of the community. India as well is now ripe enough for Change. And when the clash is of vision, the Muslim community as well can certainly not afford to stay indifferent to politics anymore, as the fight for secularism and democracy is now more of a fight for survival and social health of the country! A revolutionary change is what the nation in general and the Muslim community in particular requires at this stage. And the change should come from within. A leader to be born within the community to take center stage, to voice the community concerns; instead of being juggled between the available options as the only refuge for survival and development!

Political leaders are reflection of our society! It's high time now that the community should wake up from its deep slumber, to healthier options and be open to elect or reject with an informed choice, being rational enough to support secular forces for a collective development, strengthening unity; instead of being a victim of the vote bank politics! In short, when Politics starts deciding your future, decide what your Politics should be! Either sink or swim, the choice is yours!!

- Fouzia Khursheed Ahmad
(Editor)

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