

# SERVICES OF JAMIAT ULAMA-I-HIND

R.VENKATESAN.M.A.B.ED;  
M. Phil (Part -Time) Research scholar  
P.G & Research Department of History  
Islamiah College (Autonomous)  
(Re-accredited by the NAAC with “A” Grade)  
Vaniyambadi

## ABSTRACT

In this research paper an attempt has been made to bring out the services of Jamiat Ulama- i-Hind since its inception. Jamiat Ulama-i-Hind (Council of Indian Muslim Theologians) is a socio-political organization formed in the year 1919 by a group of prominent Muslim leaders namely, Sheikh-ul-Hind MaulanaMehmoodHasan, Mufti Kifayatullah Dehlavi, Maulana Syed Husain Ahmad Madani, Maulana Ahmed SaeedDehlvi, Mufti Muhammad Naeem Ludhianvi, Maulana Ahmed Ali Lahori, Maulana Bashir Ahmad Bhatta, Maulana Anwar Shah Kashmiri, Abdul HaqAkorwi, Maulana Abdul HaleemSiddiqui, MaulanaNooruddinBihari and Maulana Abdul Bari Firangi Mahali.

The services of Jamiat Ulama-i-Hind can be classified into two headings; pre-independence and post-independence periods. Jamiat Ulama-i-Hind is actively serving the society across India eventoday.

The objectives of Jamiat Ulama-i-Hind are to establish institutions for progress and stability in educational, cultural, economic and social affairs, fostering and stabilizing amicable relations between different communities.

## Key words:

Jamiat, Ulama-i-Hind, Deobandi, Azad Muslim Conference, Khilafat, Aukaf

## Introduction

Success of any organization formed for rendering service to mankind depends upon the benefaction enjoys from the affluent members of the society. Survival of social service organization depends upon relevance of its services to the society.

Jamiat Ulama-i-Hind is one of the leading organizations of Islamic scholars in India. It was founded in 1919 by a group of Deobandi scholars, Mufti Kifayatullah Dehlavi was elected as the first president of the organization.

*Jamiat is known for its golden past. Great role and sacrifice in freedom struggle, its opposition to Two-nation theory and as flag bearer of brotherhood and world peace.It is also recognized for balanced and moderate political view and commitment to non- violence<sup>1</sup>.*

During the British rule, the Deoband-based organizations were against the British rule in India, opposing the formation of a separate homeland for the Muslims. JamiatUlema-i-Hind was a member of the All India Azad Muslim Conference, which contained several Islamic organisations standing for a united India.

*The Jamiat Ulama-i-Hind, the largest and oldest Muslim organisation in the country, which played an important role in India's freedom struggle, is celebrating its centenary this year. The plural isticethos it stood for at the time of its formationin1919 has not been diluted over the years. In fact, its leaders have reiterated time and again that the organisation will fight divisive forces the same way it fought Muslim communalism in the past and opposed the Muslim League's demand for Pakistan during the freedom struggle...<sup>2</sup>*

Maulana Syed Husain Ahmad Madani, the principal of the Darul Uloom Deoband (1927– 1957) and the leading Deobandi scholar, held that Muslims were undeniably part of a united India and that Hindu-Muslim unity was necessary for the country's freedom. He worked closely with the Indian National Congress. Mufti Kifayatullah Dehlavi was the first president<sup>5</sup> of the organisation and Syed Husain Ahmad Madani led the organisation in freedom movement with great zeal. After attaining freedom, the organization has dedicated itself to serve the people of India with the following aims and objectives:

### *Aims & Objectives<sup>3</sup>*

- *Protection of Islamic beliefs, identity, heritage and places of worship.*
- *Securing and safeguarding the civil, religious, cultural and educational rights of Muslims.*
- *Social, educational and religious reform among Muslims.*
- *Establishment of institutions for progress and stability in educational, cultural, economic and social affairs of Muslims.*
- *Fostering and stabilizing amicable relations between different communities living in the Union of India, in accordance with the teachings of Islam.*
- *Revival of Arabic and Islamic studies and framing syllabus and curriculum according to needs of the present age.*
- *Dissemination and propagation of the teachings of Islam.*
- *Management and protection of Islamic Aukaf.*

The first meeting of Jamiat was held at Amritsar on December 28, 1919 presided by Maulana Abdul Bari of Farangi Mahal to register protest against the continuous imprisonment of Shaikhul Hind and Maulana Azad. Consequently the resolution of Non-cooperation adopted by Allahabad conference in June 1920, the movement was officially launched on August 31, 1920<sup>4</sup>.

On July 19, 1920 Shaikhul Hind issued a fatwa in favour of non-cooperation which was endorsed by five hundred Muslim Scholars (Ulama). The leaders and volunteers of Khilafat committee and the congress went to resist imperialism armed with the above fatwa. The British Government seized it<sup>5</sup>.

In July 1921, at the Karachi Khilafat conference, the call of non-cooperation set by Maulana Hussain Ahmad Madani led to his detention along with Maulana Mohammad Ali Jauhar, Maulana Shaukat Ali, Dr. Kitchlew and Jagatguru Shankar Acharya<sup>6</sup>.

- Jamiat Ulama-i-Hind provided all sorts of relief to Mappilas of Malabar<sup>7</sup>
- Jamiat Ulama-i-Hind gave a call for Boycott of Assemblies (December 1922)<sup>8</sup>
- Jamiat Ulama-i-Hind had called for full independence (January 1924)<sup>9</sup>
- Jamiat Ulama-i-Hind was the first organisation to announce boycott of the Simon Commission (December 1927)<sup>10</sup>
- Jamiat Ulama-i-Hind participated in All Parties' Conference at Lucknow and rejection of Nehru Report (1928)<sup>11</sup>

- Jamiat Ulama-i-Hind assured its cooperation with congress (Amroha conference, May1930)<sup>12</sup>
- Jamiat Ulama-i-Hind took part in Civil Disobedience Movement where four key leaders of Jamiat were imprisoned(1930)<sup>13</sup>
- Jamiat Ulama-i-Hind opposed to the in famous Sharda Act for its interference in Muslim Personal Law<sup>14</sup>.
- Maulana Syed Hussain Ahmad Madani advocated the idea of composite nationalism and combined fight of all religious communities against the British and justified inter-communal unity and cooperation on the basis of the Quran and the Hadith. When the religion-based nationalism was being advocated by the Hindu Mahasabha and the Muslim League, MaulanaHussain Ahmad Madani advanced “the theory of territorial national hood” saying that it is “not necessary that to a nation, to be a nation, should share the same religion andculture”<sup>15</sup>.

In the Jamiat Ulama-i-Hind Moradabad conference held at Bachhraon (April 23-25,1940) Maulana Hussain Ahmad Madani did raise the question of Indian independence. As a result he was imprisoned in Naini Jail<sup>16</sup>.

On August 5, 1942 Jamiat asked the British to quit India. Thereafter on August 9 the Bombay session of the Congress passed the legendary Quit India resolution which led to the arrest and incarceration of the Congress and the Jamiat leaders<sup>17</sup>.

Before independence its main objective was to struggle for freedom of India. After India's independence, it concentrated upon the socio-economic and religious as well as educational upliftment of Indian Muslims.

The rotten wave of riots that attended upon partition swept through Punjab, Himachal, Delhi, Haryana, West U.P., Bihar etc. demoralized the Muslims. In that situation, it was the death- defying courage of the Jamiat leaders that restored the confidence of the Muslims inIndia.

In those turbulent times that Jamiat Ulama-i-Hind called a conference in Lucknow, on 27,28<sup>th</sup> of December 1947 which is unprecedented in significance. It not only gave courage to the demoralized community but also declared abdication from politics. In the post- independence period, the Jamiat made notable contribution towards making India secular state and framing a secular Constitution<sup>18</sup>.

Provisions in the Constitution for protection of minorities, and special conveniences for their growth, are the fruits of the labours put in by the Jamiat General Secretary, MaulanaHifzurRahman in his capacity as a member of the Constituent Assembly<sup>19</sup>.

In 1951, the draft bill for protection of Muslim Aukaf was presented in the parliament through Mr. Mohammad Ahmad Kazmi. The Bill was passed on March 13, 1953. The Jamiat has been active in providing relief and getting justice for the victims of communal riots that have occurred from time to time. Maulana Hifzur Rahman and Maulana As'ad Madani dynamically raised the problem of communalism and communal violence in the parliament <sup>20</sup>.

With the prime objective of checking the growth and spread of communal violence Maulana Hifzur Rahman convened a Muslim Convention in 1961 and Maulana As'ad Madani organized Democratic Convention (1964) and an Anti Communal Convention (1991) which yielded positive results. It was followed by a much larger Convention under same issue on 12<sup>th</sup> February 1993<sup>21</sup>.

To defeat the forces of communal fascism Maulana As'ad Madani launched the “Save the country and community” movement in 1979. In its first phase (July 9-25) 2,226 people courted arrest and in the second phase (October 2-15) 4,611 people went to jail<sup>22</sup>.

A Bill was introduced by the Government of Uttar Pradesh interfering with the Constitutional right of freedom of religion was effectively opposed by Jamiat Ulama-i-Hind with a mass rally held at Ram Lila Ground, New Delhi on 13<sup>th</sup> May 2000<sup>23</sup>.

Moulana Syed Arshad Madani, held peace talks, with RSS chief Mohan Baghawat and its leaders on 01-09-2019<sup>24</sup>.

Jamiat Ulama-i-Hind is considered as one of the Top Relief Organisations of the country ever ready to respond to human disasters whether man-made such as communal riots or due to natural calamities such as fires, floods, droughts and earth quakes across the country. It immediately rushes to the affected area with skilled volunteers and relief material in the form of food, clothes, basic necessities and medicines. Health Care and Educational Projects form the core of organization's activities. The following list demonstrates the diversity and fundamental utility of its running projects from purely humanitarian angle<sup>25</sup>.

Muslim Fund Deoband- self-sufficient institution provides interest free loan through its 318 branches spread all over the country to Millions of people to help them provide basic source of earning. I.T.I Deoband: Self-supporting institution provides technical education to two hundred pupils each year. Eye Hospital: Self-supporting, serves 80 patients daily<sup>26</sup>.

Boarding House for Travelers at Patna (Bihar): (Madani Musafir Khana), serves fifty travelers daily. Three hundred Primary Schools: spread all over country benefiting sixty thousand children per year. Six Mobile Dispensaries, ten Primary Health Care Centers and organization of temporary health check up camps in rural and distant areas. Two Girls Hostels, one at Anjar and other at Bhuj, Gujrat. **One Children Village** at Anjar Distt. Bhuj, Gujrat<sup>27</sup>.

## CONCLUSION:

Jamiat Ulama-i-Hind was founded in the year 1919. Its chapters were established across India where there are considerable numbers of Muslim populations. Since inception it has contributed for the socio-economic and educational advancement of not only Muslims but the people of other communities too without any discrimination. Jamiat Ulama-i-Hind, active participation in the freedom movement together with congress and other prominent organizations was instrumental in freeing the country from the British. After independence, the organization is concentrating on communal harmony, socio economic development of the marginalized and down trodden communities across India. It has been identified as the to prelief organization in times of natural calamities like floods, earthquakes, heat wave, land slide, train accidents, fire accidents etc. Jamiat has provided relief to the victims of several communal clashes and riots in several places like Gujarat, Assam and Delhi etc. Jamiat Ulama-i-Hind has worked on relocation and rehabilitation of people affected by riots, floods, tsunami, droughts etc.

Over the years Jamiat Ulama-i-Hind has established hospitals to provide free and subsidized medical care to the needy people of all communities, several schools in various parts of the country to provide quality education, I.T.I.s and training centres for skill development of the masses. Thus the concluding remark of this research paper in a nutshell is that it is a source of inspiration for those who are all willing to serve the country by serving the society.

## Foot notes:

<sup>1</sup> A Study of Jamiat Ulama-i-Hind with special reference to Maulana Hussain Ahmad Madani in Freedom Movement (A.D. 1919-A.D.1947) Syeda, Lubna Shireen, 2014, p.296

<sup>2</sup> Sabir Shah, Jamiat Ulema-e-Hind turns 100 today, The News, Nov 17, 2020.

<sup>3</sup> Akabir –e-Jamiat Ulama, Novemeber, 2008, P

<sup>4</sup> ZIYA US SALAM, Jamiat Ulama-i-Hind: Building bonds, Front Line, November 08, 2019

<sup>5</sup> Ibid

<sup>6</sup> Nasreen Afzal, KHILAFAT MOVEMENT AND THE PROVINCE OF SINDH, 2010, P 65

<sup>7</sup> Souvenir, Issued by Jamiat Ulama-i-Hind, March 2019, P 64

<sup>8</sup> Ibid 65

<sup>9</sup> Ibid 65

<sup>10</sup> Ibid 65

- <sup>11</sup> Ibid 65
- <sup>12</sup> Ibid 66
- <sup>13</sup> Ibid66
- <sup>14</sup> Ibid 67
- <sup>15</sup> ZIYA US SALAM,JamiatUlama-i-Hind: Building bonds,Front Line, November 08, 2019
- <sup>16</sup> Ibid
- <sup>17</sup> Ibid
- <sup>18</sup> Souvenir, Issued by JamiatUlama-i-Hind ,March 2019, P 73
- <sup>19</sup> Ibid P 74
- <sup>20</sup> Ibid P 75
- <sup>21</sup> Ibid P 83
- <sup>22</sup> Website of JamiatUlama-i-Hind,[https://jamiat.org.in/masters/jamiat\\_history/](https://jamiat.org.in/masters/jamiat_history/)
- <sup>23</sup> Souvenir, Issued by Jamiat Ulama-i-Hind ,March 2019,P 85
- <sup>24</sup> The Quint,4<sup>th</sup> September,2019
- <sup>25</sup> Website of Jamiat Ulama-i-Hind,[https://jamiat.org.in/masters/jamiat\\_history/](https://jamiat.org.in/masters/jamiat_history/)
- <sup>26</sup> Ibid
- <sup>27</sup> Ibid

