

## Press Release

Dated: April 21, 2020

### Indian Muslims for Progress and Reforms

#### *Prominent Muslims form National Think Tank*

Over 200 prominent Muslims of India have come together to create a national think tank and an apex coordination body to put forward the voice of progressive and modern Muslims and to collectively express their constructive views to the media and the nation. Indian Muslims for Progress and Reforms (IMPAR) will work with the intellectual and thought leaders of all communities and represent voices of educated and modern Muslims of the country in the public domain. It will also strive to promote the cosmopolitan, pluralistic, and secular fabric of India by culturally engaging with all communities and media. We hope that our sustained efforts at the grassroots level will bring about a constructive change for the community and the nation.

Former Dy. Chairman, Rajya Sabha – Mr. K Rahman Khan; former CEC – Dr. SY Quraishi; former Ministers – Mr. Tariq Anwar and Sh. Roshan Baig; ; Chairman of India Islamic Cultural Center – Siraj Qureshi, Brig. Syed Ahmed Ali; former Spl. Police Commissioner – Mr. AA Khan; ex. ADG, CRPF Mr. Aftab Khan, former bureaucrats – Dr. Anis Ansari, Mr. MH Khan, and Mr. Salauddin Ahmed; educationists – Mr. PA Inamdar and Mr. SW Akhtar; media persons – Mr. Saeed Naqvi, Mr. QW Naqvi, Mr. Qamar Agha, Mr. Shahid Siddiqui; authors – Ms. Seema Mustafa, Ms. Saba Naqvi, and Ms. Sheeba Aslam; business luminaries – Mr. Saeed Shervani and Mr. Juneid Yousuf; corporate leaders – Mr Siraj Chaudhry and Mr. Riaz Naqvi; thought leaders – Dr. Zafar Mahmood, Dr. Abu Saleh Sharief, and MM Ansari; film world – Mr. Hasan Kamaal, Mr. Aijaj Khan, and Ms. Atika Farooqi; legal luminaries – Mr. Feroz Ghazi, Mr. M Tahir, and Mr. Mehmood Mehdi; and social work – Ms. Amina Shervani, Mr. Arshad Siddiqui, and Mr. Pasha Patel are among the prominent names.

The Muslim community in India has been at the center of a lot of negative news. Due to poor education and limited exposure to the modern world and to India's pluralistic social and cultural ethos, a large section of the community lacks rational thinking and scientific temperament to adjust to the new situations and challenges. IMPAR plans to chalk out strategies to connect them to modern education and inculcate shared cultural values and thus contribute to the nation-building efforts.

Muslims constitute a large segment of Indians that continues to suffer due to the lack of proper education and ability to access social and economic opportunities. Lack of basic education, social vulnerability, poor economic orientation, and, importantly, certain policy decisions from time to time have in totality contributed to keeping the community backward. We realize that any positive change in the condition of the community is possible only by initiating internal reforms, inculcating scientific and rational thinking and doing community service on one hand and favorable social and political environment, and enabling access to educational and economic opportunities on the other hand.

In recent days, it has been observed that the media engagement of the Muslim community has been poor and represented by self-styled clergy or semi-literate people, engaging irrationally in discussions and presenting imbalanced views. As a result, the community's voice and concerns could not be presented or articulated, and a wrong narrative and negative perceptions built over a period of time. IMPAR would like to share its panel of eminent persons to help the media to have more informed discussions.

In the current circumstances of a countrywide lockdown, our immediate goal is to mobilize the community to assist health administration, law enforcement, and other government agencies in the fight against this pandemic. IMPAR, through its various Working Groups and important members, is coordinating with various community NGOs, institutions, and individuals to help stranded people with food and other necessities and also liberally donate to PM Care Funds and other charitable bodies.

The barriers to access and equity faced by Muslims require a better understanding by the Government, media, thought leaders, and political class for which a research, monitoring, dialogue, and policy advocacy forum needed to be created by the community. The situation of Muslims and their more constructive engagement can be promoted by creating a national forum and through the process of engagement and community reforms, and by adopting shared values and national ethos and effective policy advocacy and media engagement.

### **About IMPAR: Indian Muslims for Progress and Reforms**

Promoted by 200 plus most prominent Muslims from different walks of life, IMPAR looks forward to your active cooperation and support in making a meaningful difference to the community's engagement with the society and the nation. Mahatma Gandhi once said, "Let's be the change that we wish to see in the world." The Forum comprises the eminent persons from politics, bureaucracy, corporate, business, academia, science, economy, journalism, policy-making, art and culture, and philanthropy.

### **Main Objective**

To act as a think tank, research and advocacy center and national-level communication, coordination, and dialogue body on social and political issues, policies, and perceptions pertaining to Indian Muslims and to creating better understanding and opinions among the people and communities by meaningfully engaging with key stakeholders, such as Government, media, other think tanks, and social, cultural, religious and political organizations. And also, to work on promoting education and awareness, national ethos and shared culture, rational thinking and scientific temperament, reforms, and positivity in the community toward maximizing social and economic access and opportunities.

### **Objectives**

- Conducting research and collecting data on Muslims' social, economic, and educational status and trends in light of various Government decisions and social, economic, and policy developments, including participation in flagship programs and presenting the same to the Government, various groups, and the media.
- Analyzing social, political, economic, and policy environment and media coverage, which have a direct and an indirect impact on the well-being of the community, including its security, image, and opportunities; and prepare responses to be taken up with the media, social and political spectrum, and the Government.
- Dialogue with Ministries and State Governments, media, political parties, and social and intellectual groups for sensitization and creation of a better understanding on issues concerning Muslims. Building a database of Muslim professionals in media, law, health, education, business, politics, legislatures, etc.

- Organize consultation meetings, seminars, and discussions and dialogues with various bodies, think tanks, development organizations and media houses, and social and political leaderships to sensitize them and create understanding on issues pertaining to the community.
- Educating youth and inculcating among them rational and scientific thinking, broad social and national ethos and shared values, and greater respect for laws and institutions and promoting social work and community service culture in the community and understanding of the real essence of Islam, and not the demonstration of Islam.

*We have set out to correct several long-standing problems. If we change nothing, nothing will change. The road ahead looks long and tedious. Hence, we seek the help and cooperation of all the people of our country in this endeavor.*

## **About IMPAR - Indian Muslims for Progress and Reforms**

*Promoted by 200 plus most prominent Muslims from different walks of life, IMPAR is a national think tank, research and advocacy centre, which aims to work in making a meaningful difference to the community's engagement with the society and the nation. IMPAR focusses on social and political issues, policies and perceptions pertaining to Indian Muslims and creating better understanding and opinions among the people and communities by meaningfully engaging with key stakeholders – Government, media, other think tanks, and social, cultural, religious and political organizations. IMPAR also aims to working on promoting education and awareness, national ethos and shared culture, rationale thinking and scientific temperament, reforms and positivity in the community towards maximizing social and economic access and opportunities. Like Mahatma Gandhi said, let's be the change that we wish to see in the world.*

### **List of IMPAR Media Panel:**

1. Mr. K. Rahman Khan, former Union Minister, Bangalore = 9844037811
2. Mr. Tariq Anwar, former Union Minister, Bangalore = 9868181278
3. Mr. Shahid Siddiqui, Editor, Nayi Duniya and former MP, New Delhi = 9810153786
4. Mr. Roshan Baig, former Home Minister of Karnataka, Bangalore = 9845007788
5. Dr. SY Qureshi, former Chief Election Commissioner of India, New Delhi = 9810928844
6. Mr. Saeed Naqvi, Eminent Journalist and Author = 9811077940
7. Mr. Siraj Qureshi, President, India Islamic Cultural Centre, New Delhi = 9810093344
8. Mr. PA Inamdar, Educationist and President, Azam University, Pune = 9890620700
9. Mr. Syed Salauddin Ahmed, former Chief Secretary of Rajasthan, Jaipur = 9829063463
10. Brig.(Retd) Syed Ahmed Ali, Member, Lucknow = 8193956786
11. Mr. Faizi Hashmi, ex IAS and former Secretary, Cooperation, Goa = 9958766778
12. Dr. Syed Zafar Mahmood, President, Zakat Foundation and ex IT Commissioner = 9810334141
13. Mr. Siraj Chowdhury, Board Member, Tata Beverages Ltd., Gurgaon = 9810826669
14. Ms. Amina Shervani, Business and Social Work, Gurgaon = 9818273414
15. Ms. Atika Farooqui, Film and TV Journalist, Writer, Poet. Mumbai = 9820982690
16. Mr. Mohammed Atique, President, Marwar Educational Foundation, Jodhpur = 9414127387
17. Ms. Sheeba Aslam Fehmi, Writer, Blogger, Media and Social Work, New Delhi = 9871683654
18. Dr. Abu Saleh Sharief, Economist and Policy Expert, Bangalore = 7995566627

19. Dr. Nuzhat Husain, Dean, RML Institute of Medical Sciences, Lucknow	=	9415333729
20. Mr. Khwaja Shahid, former Registrar JMI and Vice-Chancellor, MANUU	=	7799110909
21. Dr. Riaz Ahmed, Professor, Delhi University, Delhi	=	9818012281
22. Mr. Feroz Khan Ghazi, Senior Partner, Diwan Advocates, New Delhi	=	9810920561
23. Dr. Abdul Raqeeb, General Secretary, Indian Center of Islamic Finance, Chennai	=	9444075501
24. Dr. Anis Ansari, former Additional Chief Secretary, Uttar Pradesh	=	9839010735
25. Mr. Qamar Agha, Media and Expert, West Asia Diplomacy	=	9810150736
26. Dr. MJ Khan, Chairman, Indian Chamber of Food and Agriculture	=	9560097890
27. Mr. Qamar Waheed Naqvi, former News Director, Aaj Tak	=	9810032316
28. Mr. Aftab A Khan ex IPS and former Spl Police Commissioner, Mumbai	=	9820522199
29. Mr. Saeed Shervani, Industrialist and Hotelier, Gurgaon	=	9811892333
30. Dr. ZI Khan, Chairman, Delhi Minority Commission, New Delhi	=	9811142151
31. Mr. Boby Naqvi, Editor, Gulf News, Dubai	=	+971504296826
32. Dr. SW Akhtar, Chancellor, Integral University, Lucknow	=	9554308444
33. Sh. Arshad Siddiqui, President, Red Crescent Society, Mumbai	=	9324384461
34. Mr. Juneid Yousuf, Chairman, MBI Group, Zambia	=	+260975286777
35. Mr. Mehmood Mehdi Abdi, Eminent Lawyer, Mumbai	=	9930006489
36. Mr. MH Khan, ex IAS, former Secretary, Government of India	=	9868805444
37. Mr. MM Ansari, former Member, UGC and Kashmir Committee	=	9818492848
38. Mr. Hasan Kamaal, Films Writer, Mumbai	=	9820042762
39. Ms. Parveen Talha, ex IRS and former Member, UPSC	=	9415581879
40. Mr. Pasha Patel, Chairman, Maharashtra Farmers Commission	=	9422071786
41. Mr. Riaz Naqvi, Chairman, Cupertino INC and Board Member, Austin University	=	9810871258
42. Mr. Aftab Ahmed, ex ADG, CRPF, Lucknow	=	8874727940

43. Ms. Seema Mustafa, Author and Journalist	=	9871683654
44. Mr. Khalid Ansari, Director, Indian Institute of NRM, Noida	=	9350171230
45. Mr. Rashid Chowdhary, Advocate, Guwahati High Court	=	9557239070
46. Mr. Aijaj Khan, Film Producer, Mumbai	=	9820060797
47. Mr. Sajjad Hasan, ex IAS former Secretary to CM, Manipur, New Delhi	=	9650795364
48. Mr. Aslam Moosa, Chairman, Skills Academy, Mumbai	=	9821678722
49. Mr. Zaheeruddin Ali Khan, MD, Siyasat Daily, Hyderabad	=	9246537851
50. Dr. M. Wali, former Medical Advisor to the President of India and HOD, RML	=	8527213666
51. Dr. Hussain Madavoor, President, Malabar Jamiyya, Kerala	=	9495030405
52. Ms. Saima Ahmed, Young Muslim Voice for Change, Mumbai	=	8451989859
53. Mr. Imteyaz Siddiqui, CEO, Power Group, Noida	=	9311990786
54. Mr. Arif Malik, Vice President, PRHUM, Mumbai	=	9833934002
55. Ms. Saba Naqvi, Journalist and Author, New Delhi	=	9810947237
56. Ms Uzma Naheed, Founder, IIWA, Bangalore	=	9987026436
57. Shiraz Askari, Group CEO, Apollo International, New Delhi	=	9810001791
58. Mr. Amir Abadi, Founder and CEO, Taraqqi India Foundation, Gurgaon	=	9810499416
59. Mr. Qurban Ali, Noted Journalist, New Delhi	=	9899108838
60. Mr Ramish Aqeel Siddiqui, Chairman, Travel Craft, New Delhi	=	9971788888
61. Mr. Tariq Ghouri, ex IRS, former IT Commissioner, Lucknow	=	9971678686
62. Mr. Aarish Khan, Chief Commercial Officer, Tourism Inc., Mumbai	=	09810333992
63. Mr. Shuja Khan, Officer, British High Commission, New Delhi	=	98990641000
64. Mr. Muder Patherya, Journalist and Columnist, Kolkata	=	09830072720
65. Ms. Afrida Rahman, Editor and Anchor, Mirror Now, Mumbai	=	9987555869
66. Ms. Uzma Akhtar, ex President, Urdu Academy, New Delhi	=	9039343201

67. Ms. Uzma Naved, Director, ICRA, Bangalore	=	9987026436
68. Ms. Talat Zameer, Social Work, Noida	=	9811021339
69. Mr. Basheer Ahmed, ex IAS, former Secretary, Government of Tamil Nadu	=	9444022812
70. Mr. Akbar Ali Khan, ex IPS former Addl. DGP, Kolkata	=	9038000252
71. Dr. Tafheem Siddiqui, Director, Walmart Group, New Delhi	=	9971107775
72. Mr. Shameer S., Founder, By The Startups Business, Chennai	=	
73. Ms. Sumaiya Rana, Journalist, Freelance and Women Rights Activist, Lucknow	=	7860321786
74. Mr. Gulrez Alam, Director, IB Group of Companies, Raipur	=	9993911110
75. Mr. Ibrahim Ahmad, Group Editor, Cyber Media India Ltd, Gurgaon	=	9810122090
76. Dr. Tajwar Khan, Chairman, Nursing College, Bhopal	=	9826011037
77. Dr. Hilal Ahmad, Professor of Economics, University of Lucknow	=	8005215588
78. Dr. Idrees Qureshi, Vice President, All India Muslim Educational Society, Delhi	=	9811614891
79. Mr. Shah Raza, Head – National Sales, NDTV, Delhi	=	9811680343
80. Dr. Zeba Siddiqui, Educator, La Martiniere College, Lucknow	=	7706005945
81. Mr. Siraj Abbasi, Director, KiddoX Education Venture Pvt Ltd, Lucknow	=	8318439450
82. Ms. Shabana Khan, PTA President, Sanskriti School, New Delhi	=	9999768034
83. Mr. Tanweer Alam, Director- Marketing, Kemin Industries, Tamil Nadu	=	9500026674
84. Mr. Syed M Q, MD, Imamia Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Mumbai	=	9870244475
85. Dr. SM Ilyas, former Vice Chancellor, NDUAT Faizabad, New Delhi	=	9560848971
86. Mr. Syed Abbas Ali, Group Editor, Sahafat Urdu, Lucknow	=	9415020128
87. Mr. Iqbal Hasan, Director, IT Professionals, New Delhi	=	7678461909
88. Mr. Shakil A Syed, Lawyer, Syed & Syed Solicitors, New Delhi	=	9810086453
89. Mr. Imteyaz Siddiqui, Director, ISA Advance Instruments (I) P. Ltd., Noida	=	9311990786
90. Ameerque Jamai, Politician, Spokesperson, SP, Lucknow	=	9871589153
91. Mr. Kaiffee Anwer, National Head, Ashpra Skills Private Limited, Patna	=	9911810949
92. Mr. Sajid Ali, Head-Direct Implementation Programs, Tech Mahindra, Noida	=	8556996459
93. Mr. Gazanfar Ibrahim, Managing Director and CMO, Fairfest Media Limited	=	9867662781
94. Ms. Nikhat Khan, Social Worker, Feminist, New Delhi	=	9871598231
95. Mr. Mohd Asif Khan, Founder, Mission Humanity Foundation, Lucknow	=	9837515048
96. Mr. Abdur Rahman ex IPS, former IG Police, Mumbai	=	8888810010
97. Mr. Osama Manzar, President, Digital Empowerment Foundation, New Delhi	=	9810042862
98. Ms. Nafisa Yasmin, Corporate Director, Kolkata	=	9836119075
99. Tariq Siddiqui, Films Write Director, Mumbai	=	9833461620
100. Yusuf Ansari, Media, Director, Al Jazeera, New Delhi	=	7982552236

#### List of Important Muslim Clergy Members (Not Members of IMPAR)

1. Mr Taukeer Raza,	Chief Barelvi Sunni Sect, Barielly	=	7017752322
2. Mr Mahmud Madni,	Gen. Secy Jamiat e Ulema Hind, Deoband	=	8826163786
3. Maulana Arshad Madni,	Chief Jamiat e Ulema, Deoband	=	9312223374
4. Mr Maulan Khalid Rashid Firangi Mahali,	Eminent Scholar, Lucknow	=	9415021548

5. Maulana Umer Ilyasi, President, All India Imam's Conference, New Delhi = 9811641786
6. Maulana Kalbe Jawad, Prominent Shia Cleric, Lucknow = 9415021548
7. Mr Diwan Sahib Syed Zainul Abideen, Dargah Ajmer = 9414004004
8. Mr Navaid Hamid, President, All India Majlis-e- Mushawrat = 9811643929
9. Mr T A Rehmani, President, Muslim Political Council, New Delhi = 9811221233
10. Maulan Sayid Mohammad Wali Rahmani, Gen. Secy. AIMPLB, Patna = 9871077738
11. Mr. Mujtaba Farooq, Member Central Advisory Council, Jamaat e Islami = 9810863691