The Need for New Muslim Leadership

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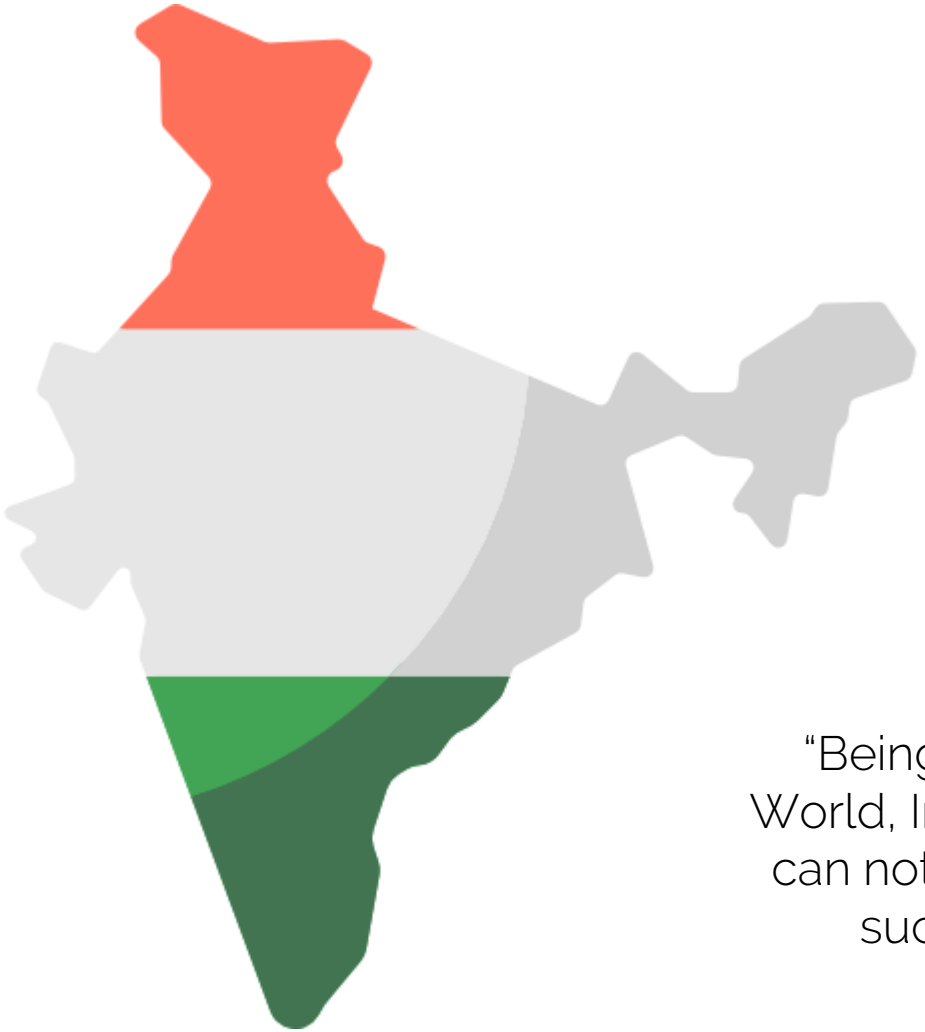
Indian Muslims – Global Outlook

We must rise up to the challenge of leading the Ummah.



200m

Muslim Population

Second largest community of Muslims in the world. In next 30 years, Indian Muslim population is going to exceed the Muslim population in Indonesia, making us the largest section of Ummah.

1

6x Saudi Arabia

6 times more Muslims are in India than Saudi Arabia.

2

2.5x Iran

2.5 times more Muslims in India than Iran.

"Being one of the largest community of Muslims in the World, Indian Muslims must aspire to produce leaders who can not only succeed in the local politics of India but also succeed in helping the Ummah at a global scale"

Why Indian Muslims must produce Global Leaders and provide Vision to Muslim World?

1

Largest Community within Ummah by 2050

Largest section of Muslim Ummah by 2050. We must produce World Leaders who not only have solutions to the problems faced by Indian Muslims but have solutions to Global issues as this is the responsibility of the largest section.

2

Perfected by Trails.

Despite Islam not being a native religion of India, the Indians who have accepted Islam are torch bearers of true faith in Allah. Moreover, we live surrounded by polytheists. The trails we face on daily basis are much more challenging than those by a Muslim in Saudi Arabia or Iran.

3

Better Prepared for Facing Non-Muslims at Global Stage

Despite being over 200+ million, Indian Muslims are minority group in India. For a leader to emerge from a minority group, such leader should also get acceptance from majority community. This gives the leaders an edge compared to leaders emerging from Saudi Arabia or Iran.

How many Muslim Leaders did we create in last 20 years?

Only 21 out of 500

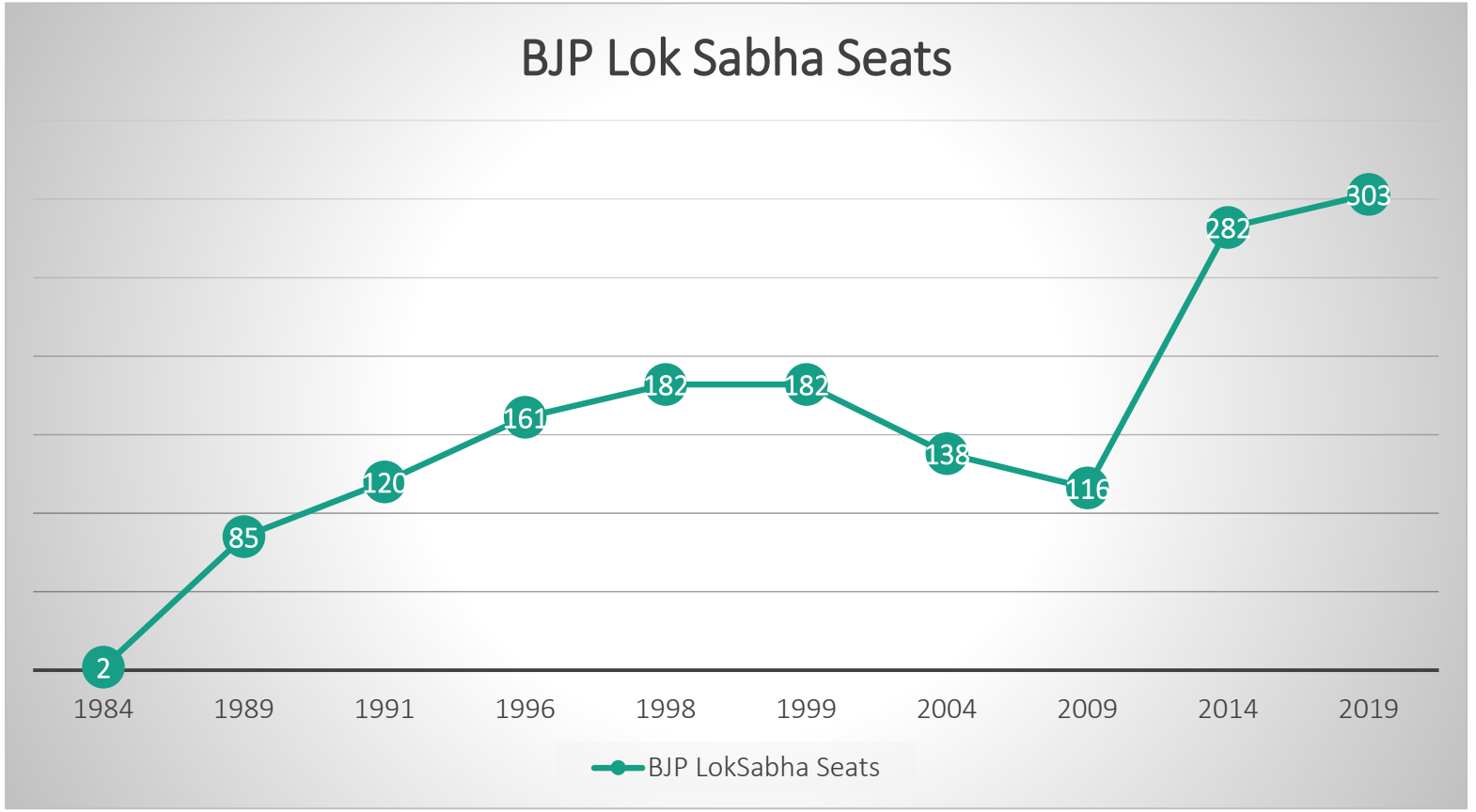
In the Top 500 Most Influential Muslims list 2015 published by Royal Islamic Strategic Studies Centre, only 21 Muslims from India featured. That's 4.2%, whereas Indian Muslims constitute 11.1%.

No Under 40

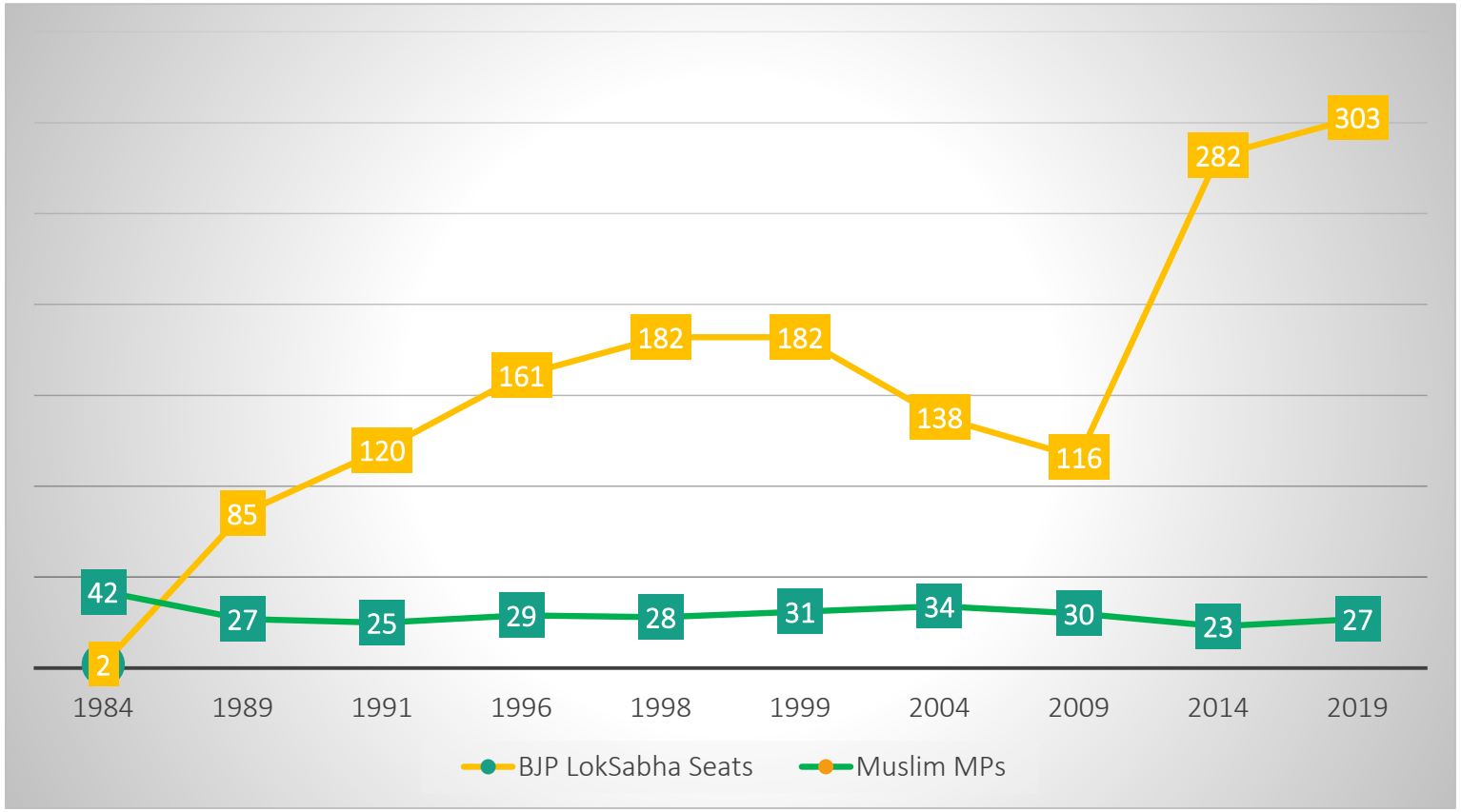
Not a single Indian Muslim featured in 2015 List of Most Influential Muslims was under 40.

How within Four Decades, BJP won Elections in India.

1. Set-up of Party by Vajpayee & Advani
2. The Hindutva Ideology
3. Coming to Power
4. Downfall & Leadership Change
5. The Rise under Modi/Shah



How Did Muslim MPs perform against BJP's Rise?



Only in Muslim Majority Seats

Muslims have traditionally won in the Muslim Majority areas and have failed to do outreach to Secular audiences.

Old faces & Celebrities

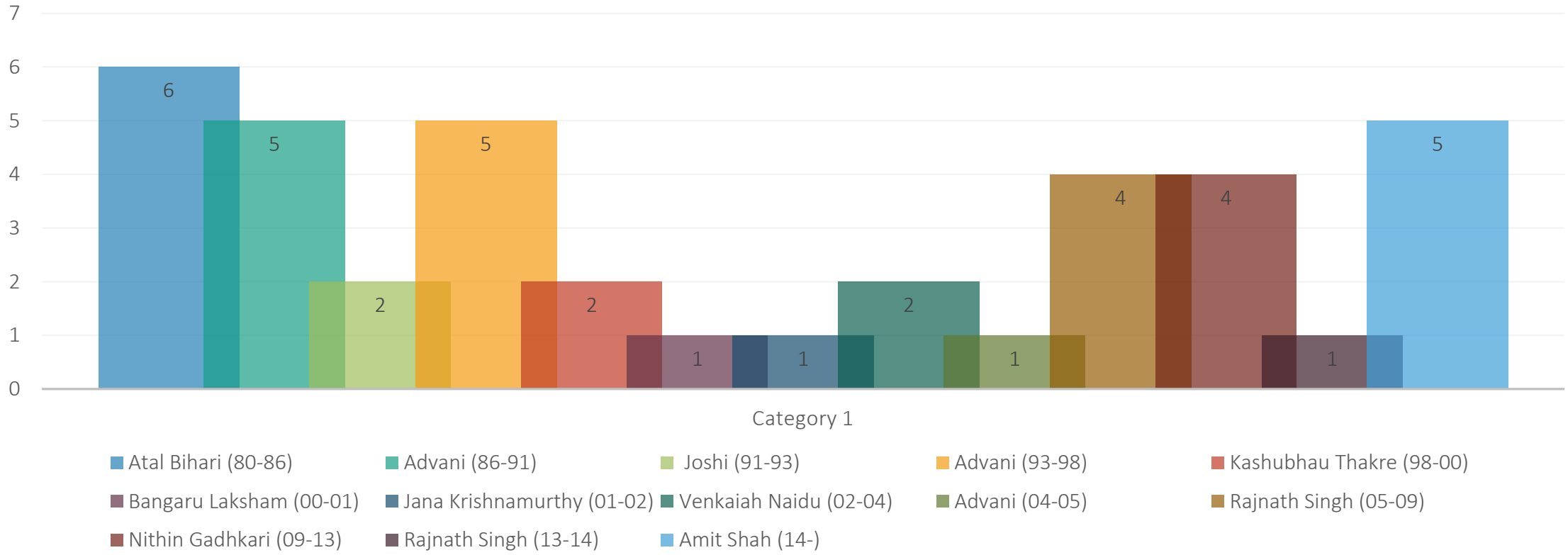
Majority of the Muslims winning the MP Seats are either from political families or celebrities given tickets.

The Exception

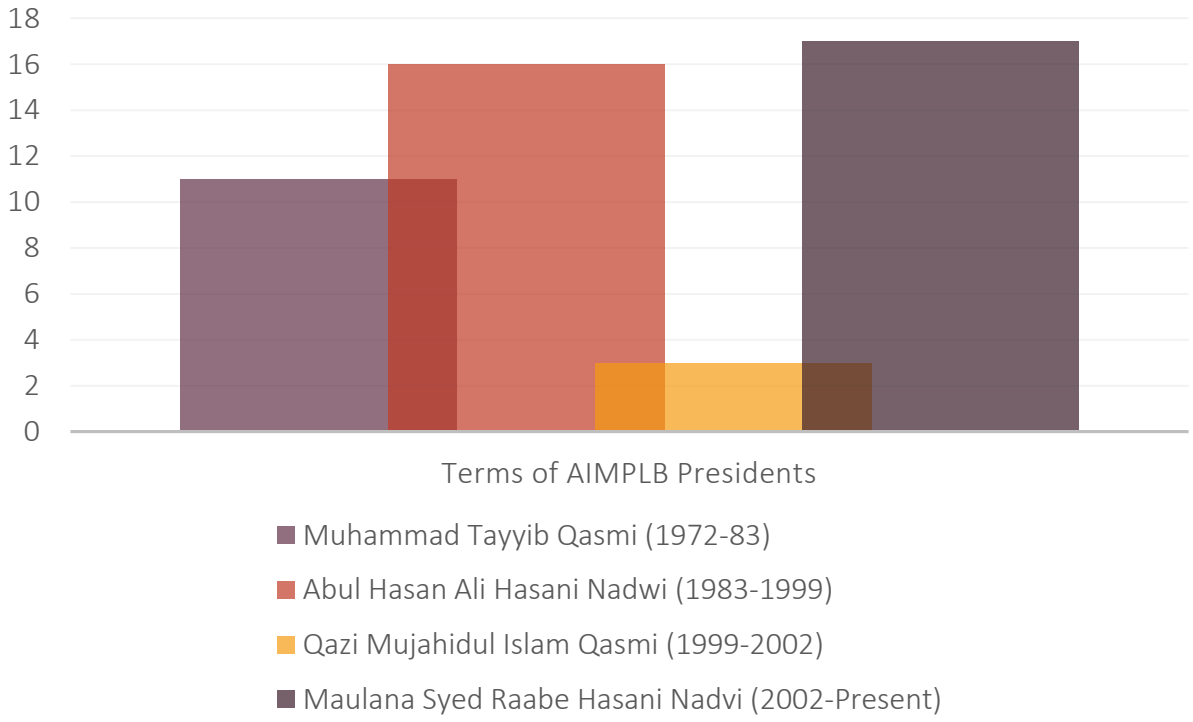
Imtiaz Jaleel from AIMIM won MP seat in a non-Muslim Majority area of Aurangabad in 2019 Elections.

BJP – Party Presidents & Terms

1. Encouraging New Members to take up Leadership Roles.
2. Taking a bet on New Leaders by giving Leadership Opportunities.



How Muslim Orgs like AIMPLB Operate when Compared to BJP?



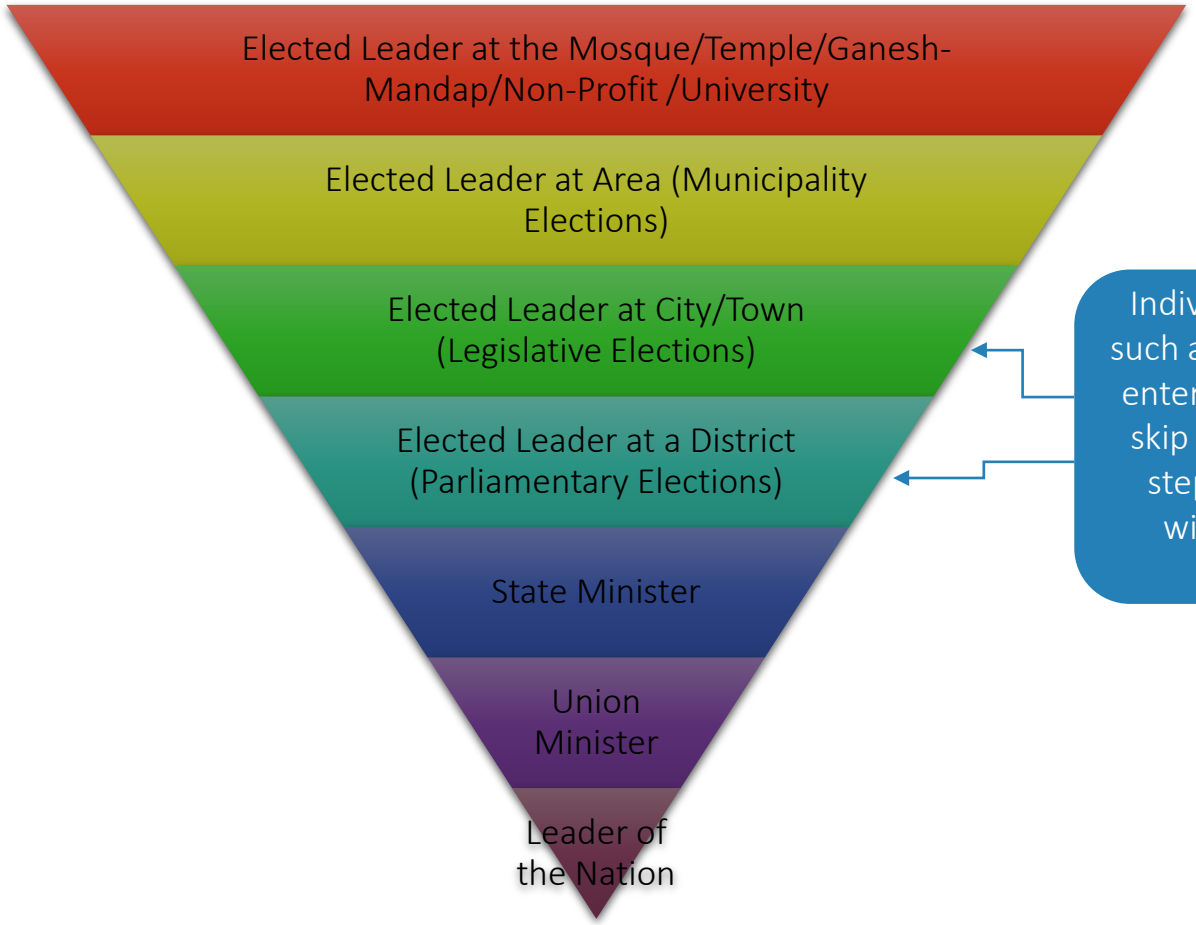
01 Only if the President dies, the Leadership Changes. Even if the President is 90+ years, he will retain the power.

02 There is absolutely no encouragement for the new members to join and get elected to leadership positions.

03 No innovation happens because the same set of people continue to hold the leadership positions for years.

04 Fear of failure and paranoid attitude is adopted whenever a new person is given an opportunity.

Traditional Funnel for Political Leadership within Indian Context



Individual Achievers such as sportspersons, entertainers, etc. will skip couple of initial steps due to their wider audience appeal.

1. If a Muslim is becoming the head of the Mosque Committee at the end of 60 years, then there is no way he will climb up the ladder.
2. If a person is stuck at a particular level, he/she must give way for a younger person to climb up.

Challenge 1: The Ageing Uncles domination in Muslim Organizations (Non-Profits)

Muslim Organizations (non-profits) provide an ideal opportunity for grooming young leaders, who can subsequently become Leaders of the Community. However, Muslim Orgs are dominated by Ageing uncles who hardly provide any grooming or opportunities to Youth:

1. Lack of democratic elections at Muslim Organizations, resulting in status quo.
2. Holding on to the posts for decades in Muslim Organizations is a very common issue, which is resulting in status quo and lack of creation of Muslim Leaders.
3. One or two individuals holding the grip over the organization over decades, resulting in incompetence and downfall.
4. Majority of the Muslim Organizations are family run, effectively father passing on the organization to the son.
5. Absolutely no emphasis in encouraging youngsters to join the organization and having a voice in the programs and events conducted by the Organisation.

Challenge 2: Discrimination of Youth at Mosques

Take over by Retired Men

Majority of the Mosque committees in India are filled with retired men (above 60). Often the criteria set for becoming a member of the Mosque Committee is praying five times at the same mosque, which is effectively not possible for the youth because they would be working at a different location during day time.

No Encouragement for Youth

Youth are actively discouraged from holding events at the mosques. No effort is made by the Mosque committee to encourage youth to visit mosques.

Mosques open only for 5 hours per day

Mosques remain closed except during prayer hours, effectively the entire infrastructure of the mosque is utilized for less than 5 hours per day. Youth are asked to leave the mosque if they stay beyond prayer hours.

Constantly lectured and disciplined

Aging uncles strongly believe and lecture youth who want to bring a change to focus on education and jobs. They do not have the maturity that, these youngsters can be groomed into leaders of the community.

Challenge 3: Judging a Muslim on Religious Grounds

01

Quick Judgements

Indian Muslims are took quick to judge a fellow Muslim on religious grounds and discard his/her personal achievements.

02

Alienating Achievers

Because of such quick judgements, we push away literary authors, lawyers, businessmen, journalists, sports personalities, entertainers, etc. from active participation in resolving Muslim issues and providing thought leadership.

03

Personal Attacks

Discussing the issues with the personal life of an individual and thereby using that as a data point to discredit the achievement is a common aspect.

04

Daily Gossip

Islam provides no right to any person to judge another Muslim. Allah alone has such honour of judging. Yet, on a daily basis Indian Muslims judge other fellow Muslims on religious grounds.

Challenge 4: Inability to Understand the importance of Women

01

No Place for Women

Majority of the mosques in India do not have place for women. This effectively results in lack of participation from women from any civic activities.

02

Active Discouragement

Majority of the households actively discourage women from pursuing higher education or jobs, which could have resulted in rise of women leaders.

03

Marriage Barriers

Simple statistics from Shaadi.com and other matrimonial sites reveal that majority of Muslim men want to marry a non-working lady.

04

Yet, the Muslim Women have not given up

The current protests against NRC/CAA are being led by women across India. Muslim women have stood up against Police. Muslim women have refused accepting Gold Medals from President. Muslim Women have protests day and night for the future of Indian Muslims. It's a reminder to entire Muslim community about the importance of women.

Challenge 5: Lack of support for Progressive & Secular Programs

Lack of Support for Progressive Programs

Muslim Community in India hardly supports progressive programs taken up by Muslims, which pushes the Muslim representatives to purely focus on religion oriented programs. In the long run, this severely damages the chances of a Muslim Representative getting acceptance among non-Muslims.

Secular Campaigns

Saving the Water, Saving the Rivers, Environment Protection, Better Sanitation, Women Rights, Physical fitness, etc., are all essential aspects of Islam. Yet, none of these attract attention among Muslim masses.

The Zakat Challenge

Majority of the Muslim organizations confine themselves to Zakat donations, thereby the funds are only utilized for the benefit of Muslims. Therefore, all the programs done by such Muslim Organization gets limited to Muslim Audiance.

Lack of Secular Outreach

Outreach to non-Muslims is often confined to only Dawah Programs. There is no effort made by leaders of Muslim Organizations to build bridges on common values with like minded non-Muslim Organisations.

The Solution

The Answers are Obvious.

We have to push as many youth as possible to lead our Mosque committees and Organizations by the time they are 30 years.

Even Muslim Orgs need Margadarshak Mandals

Not only BJP but also Muslim Organizations needs Margadarshak Mandals, where all the age-old members can be pushed into. Maintaining status quo anymore would be unacceptable to the community.

THANK YOU!

For Your Attention