

भारतीय दार्शनिक अनुसंधान परिषद्  
(भारत सरकार, मानव संसाधन विकास मंत्रालय)  
INDIAN COUNCIL OF PHILOSOPHICAL RESEARCH  
(Government of India, Ministry of Human Resource Development)

F. No.4-8/14-15P&R/ICPR  
31 March 2015

**SANCTION ORDER**

Sanction of the Indian Council of Philosophical Research is hereby accorded for Rs.10 lakhs (Rupees ten lakhs only) as project grant to the Principal, Sri Ram College, Circular Road, Muzaffarnagar, to disburse to Dr. Preeti Singh, affiliated to the Sri Ram College, Circular Road, Muzaffarnagar, for working on the Project **Sufism – A Study Of Its Historical Perspectives And Elements Of Communal Harmony In An Age Of Conflict** Out of the grant sanctioned above, a grant of Rs 5,00,000/ (Rupees five lakhs) only is being released as 50% as 1<sup>st</sup> installment of the grant, 40%, grant of Rs. 4.00 lakhs may be released after the first years' report if satisfactory, as 2<sup>nd</sup> installment, and remaining 10% grant of Rs. One lakhs will be released as last installment only after receipt of complete project and other related required documents as per the sanction order. The duration of the project is for two years.

The project grant is subject to the following terms and conditions.

1. The sanctioned amount of the project grant shall be utilized exclusively for the purpose for which it is sanctioned and as per the budget provided by the scholar.
2. The payee shall exercise reasonable economy in expending sanctioned amount.
3. Not more than 20% of the total budget is to be used for Xeroxing, purchase of books and computer typing etc.
4. Regular account shall be maintained regarding expenditure incurred out of the project grant Statement of contingency expenditure supported by photo copy of bill and vouchers should be sent to release next installment of grant.
5. Immediately after the project is over the payee shall furnish the final manuscript and complete account of the expenditure out of the grant sanctioned herein along with an audited statement of account incurred out of the project grants audited by the chartered accountant or competent officer of the University along with the utilization certificate issued by the University or the Chartered Accountant to the effect that the amount sanctioned herein has been utilized for the purpose for which it was sanctioned. Copies of the bills and vouchers of the amount spent from the grant too should be sent to the Council along with Utilization Certificate. Unspent balance, if any, may immediately be refunded to the Council.
6. TDS (Tax deduction at sources) as applicable under income tax rule may be deducted and submit to the income tax department in time under the TIN No. of grantee and a copy of the TDS certificate may be provided to the Council along with the vouchers.
7. The payee shall submit the final manuscript -soft copy and hard copy- of the project by end of six months.

E-mail: [icpr@bol.net.in](mailto:icpr@bol.net.in), [icprhqrs@gmail.com](mailto:icprhqrs@gmail.com) Website: <http://www.icpr.in>

**CERTIFIED**

अ कार्यालय : दर्शन भवन, 36 तुगलकाबाद इन्स्टिट्यूशनल एरिया, गहरीली बरदपुर रोड, नई दिल्ली - 110062 दूरभाष : 29901516, 29901527 टेलिफैक्स : 29964750  
ad office: Darshan Bhawan, 36, Tughlakabad Institutional Area, M.B. Road, New Delhi-110062 Cable: ICPHILRES Tel.: 29901516, 29901527 Telefax: 29964750  
लखनऊ कार्यालय : 3/9, विपुल खण्ड, गोमती नगर, लखनऊ-226010 टेलिफैक्स : +91-522-2392636 E-mail: [icprkw@gmail.com](mailto:icprkw@gmail.com)  
Lucknow Office : 3/9, Vipul Khand, Gomti Nagar, Lucknow-226010 Telefax: +91-522-2392636 E-mail: [icprkw@gmail.com](mailto:icprkw@gmail.com)

Co-ordinator  
IQAC, Shri Ram College,  
Muzaffarnagar

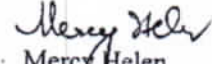
Principal  
Shri Ram College  
Muzaffarnagar

भारतीय दार्शनिक अनुसंधान परिषद्  
(भारत सरकार, मानव संसाधन विकास मंत्रालय)  
INDIAN COUNCIL OF PHILOSOPHICAL RESEARCH  
(Government of India, Ministry of Human Resource Development)

8. Final project report/manuscript will be the property of the Council.
9. In case of discontinuation of the project by the scholar, he/she will be liable to return the entire project grant received from the grant of the Council, failing which Council is free to institute legal action.
10. Legal dispute, if any, will be settled in the Court of Delhi.

The amount of Rs5 lakhs (Rupees five lakhs only) sanctioned herein as project grant would be released through Bank transfer to **Principal, Sri Ram College, Muzaffarnagar** against the A/c No. 2514000100133998 Punjab National Bank, Industrial Area, Muzaffarnagar (IFS code PUNE0251400, MICR code 251024005). The amount sanctioned herein is debit to the head of Account **D-X (A)** Plan Grants for Project out of the budget allocation of the Council for the current financial year.

(Authority: Approval of Member Secretary 19.12.14)

  
Mercy Helen  
Director P&R

Accounts Officer, ICPR, New Delhi (Bill Attached)

Copy to:

1. Principal, Sri Ram College, Circular Road, Muzaffarnagar,
2. Dr. Preeti Singh, Sri Ram College, Circular Road, Muzaffarnagar

  
CERTIFIED

E-mail: [icpr@bol.net.in](mailto:icpr@bol.net.in), [icprhqrs@gmail.com](mailto:icprhqrs@gmail.com) Website: <http://www.icpr.in>

मुख्य कार्यालय : दर्शन भवन, 36 तुगलकाबाद इन्स्टिट्यूशनल एरिया, महरीली बस्तरपुर रोड, नई दिल्ली - 110062 दूरभाष : 29901516, 29901527 टेलिफैक्स : 29964750  
Head office: Darshan Bhawan, 36, Tughlakabad Institutional Area, M.B. Road, New Delhi-110062 Cable: ICPHILRES Tel.: 29901516, 29901527 Telefax: 29964750

लखनऊ कार्यालय : 3/9 विपुल खण्ड, गोमती, नगर, लखनऊ-226010 टेलिफैक्स : +91-522-2392636 E-mail: [icprtkw@gmail.com](mailto:icprtkw@gmail.com)  
Lucknow Office : 3/9, Vipul Khand, Gomti Nagar, Lucknow-226010 Telefax: +91-522-2392636 E-mail: [icprtkw@gmail.com](mailto:icprtkw@gmail.com)

  
Co-ordinator  
IQAC, Shri Ram College,  
Muzaffarnagar

  
Principal  
Shri Ram College  
Muzaffarnagar

GOEL RAKESH & CO.  
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS.

57A, AGARWAL MARKET, MAHAVIR CHOWK,  
MUZAFFARNAGAR (U.P.), 251001

"UTILIZATION CERTIFICATE"

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

We, hereby certify that we have checked the Bills/ Vouchers presented by Dr (Smt) Preeti Singh before us and we have to report & certify as per below:-

1. Dr (Smt) Preeti Singh received a cheque no 727332 dated 20.05.2016 of Rs. 5,00,000/- (Rupees Five Lac Only) of Punjab National Bank, Industrial Area, Muzaffarnagar from M/s Shri Ram College, Parikarma Marg, Muzaffarnagar.
2. As per Bills/ Vouchers given as evidence, she has utilized the amount of Rs. 5,00,704/- (Rupees Five Lac Seven Hundred and Four Only) . The details are as per below:-


(a)	Honorarium received by her from 01.04.2015 to 31.03.2016		
	@ Rs. 25,000/-PM	=	Rs. 3,00,000/-
(b)	Bills/ Vouchers presented before us	=	Rs. 2,00,704/-
	<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>=</b>	<b>Rs. 5,00,704/-</b>


DATED: 06.10.2016

PLACE: MUZAFFARNAGAR (U.P.)

FOR GOEL RAKESH & CO.  
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS

(RAKESH KUMAR GOEL)  
B.COM (HONS) F.C.A.  
PROPRIETOR

  
Co-ordinator  
IQAC, Shri Ram College,  
Muzaffarnagar

  
Principal  
Shri Ram College,  
Muzaffarnagar

**CERTIFIED**

  
Co-ordinator  
IQAC, Shri Ram College,  
Muzaffarnagar

  
Principal  
Shri Ram College  
Muzaffarnagar



# SHRI RAM COLLEGE

(Affiliated to CCS University, Meerut & Approved by NCTE)

CIRCULAR ROAD, MUZAFFARNAGAR

Dated: 06.10.2016

To,

The Director (P&R)  
I.C.P.R.,  
New Delhi.

**Sub: Submission of photocopies of bills and vouchers of the 1<sup>st</sup> instalment by ICPR.**

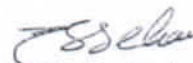
Respected Ma'am,

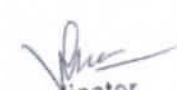
I am here by submitting photocopies of all the bills and vouchers related to the 1<sup>st</sup> instalment of the Research Grant of Rs. 5,00,000/- (Rupees Five lakh) only to Dr. (Mrs) Preeti Singh extended by ICPR for her project titled on- "Sufism-A Study of its Historical Perspectives and Elements of Communal Harmony in an Age of Conflict".


The photocopies of bills and vouchers and utilisation certificate have been duly audited by the Chartered Accountant.

Yours sincerely,

Encls: As above.

  
Principal

  
Co-ordinator  
IQAC, Shri Ram College,  
Muzaffarnagar

  
Principal  
Shri Ram College  
Muzaffarnagar

Phone No.: 0131-2620739, 3291854, 6299294, 262  
Fax.: 0131-2620890 Mobile : 992702

**CERTIFIED**

  
Co-ordinator  
IQAC, Shri Ram College,  
Muzaffarnagar

  
Principal  
Shri Ram College  
Muzaffarnagar

Recd  
18/5/15

INDIAN COUNCIL OF PHILOSOPHICAL RESEARCH  
Darshan Bhavan, 36, Tughlakabad Institutional Area, MB Road,  
New Delhi 110062, Tel: 29901527

F. No.4-8/14-15P&R/ICPR

12. May 2015

To

Principal,  
Sri Ram College,  
Circular Road,  
Muzaffar Nagar,  
UP

Subject: Payment against Ref. No F. No.4-8/14-15P&R/ICPR  
31 March 2015

Sir/ Madam,

I am directed to forward herewith the Canara Bank crossed cheque No 683512 dated 31.3.15 amount of Rs.5,00,000/ (Rupees five lakhs only) in full/partial payment against reference men above.

It is requested that the receipt of the cheque/demand draft duly affixed by a revenue stamp may be forwarded to this office immediately.

Yours fai

(S. Sab  
Superintendent

Encl: as above  
Copy to:  
Dr. Preeti Singh  
C-11/180, Satya Marg  
Chanakya Puri, New Delhi

Co-ordinator  
IQAC, Shri Ram College,  
Muzaffarnagar

Principal  
Shri Ram College  
Muzaffarnagar



**CERTIFIED**

Co-ordinator  
IQAC, Shri Ram College,  
Muzaffarnagar

Principal  
Shri Ram College  
Muzaffarnagar

**DR. PREETI SINGH**  
**DETAILS OF TOTAL EXPENDITURE UNDER VARIOUS HEADS**

Section	Sl no.	Particulars	Bill Date	Bill no. / Ref. no.	Amount
<b>PHOTOCOPY, TYPING, XEROXING</b>					
A	1	M/s Printing Point	31.07.15	1742	1525.00
	2	M/s Anand Photo Copy & Book Binding	28.09.15	404	510.00
	3	M/s Printing Point	30.09.15	1857	3165.00
	4	M/s Printing Point	30.10.15	3139	2135.00
	5	M/s Vishal Photostat	09.11.15	1211	60.00
	6	M/s Printing Point	28.12.15	587	9000.00
	7	M/s Printing Point	31.12.15	3137	1185.00
	8	M/s Anand Photo Copy & Book Binding	17.01.16	319	46.00
	9	M/s Printing Point	29.01.16	3140	1311.00
	10	M/s Printing Point	30.01.16	649	2245.00
	11	M/s Printing Point	29.02.16	3138	1483.00
	12	M/s Printing Point	29.02.16	650	2739.00
	13	M/s Printing Point	31.03.16	665	2287.00
		<b>Total</b>			<b>27691.00</b>
<b>Stationery</b>					
B	1	M/s R K Stationers	29.07.15	0827	6965.00
	2	M/s Rajasthan Book	08.08.15	0271	14572.00
	3	M/s A G Enterprises	30.09.15	5460	14540.00
	4	M/s Sai Business	07.11.15	535	3800.00
	5	M/s Gupta Stationers	04.02.16	1376	11730.00
		<b>Total</b>			<b>51607.00</b>
<b>BOOKS</b>					
C	1	M/s Goel Book Depot	16.07.15	021	2669.00
	2	M/s Fedex	07.09.15	2	375.00
	3	M/s Goel Book Depot	05.10.15	44	535.00
	4	M/s Goel Book Depot	11.10.15	58	675.00
	5	Amazon.in	18.06.16	MH-BOM3-133194821-114459	216.00
		<b>Total</b>			<b>4470.00</b>
<b>EQUIPMENT- LAPTOP</b>					
D		M/s 4 Genius Minds	18.08.15		62900.00
		<b>Total</b>			<b>62900.00</b>
<b>TRAVELLING</b>					
E	1	AIR INDIA	07.10.15	AIBE19934488	13523
	2	AIR INDIA	22.10.15	AIBE20227831	22704
	3	Chinar Taxi Operators	23.10.15		2500
	4	E-Ticket Itinerary	05.12.15	AIBE20838771	5702
	5	E-Ticket Itinerary	07.04.16	AIBE21933307	4007
		<b>Total</b>			<b>1500</b>
		<b>Total</b>			<b>49936.00</b>
<b>CONTINGENCY</b>					
F			23.10.15	14847, 014848	200.00
			04.02.16	1391	3900.00
	1	M/s Gupta stationers			4100.00
		<b>Total</b>			<b>30000.00</b>
<b>HONORARIUM</b>					
					<b>500704.00</b>
<b>GRAND TOTAL (A+B+C+D+E+F+HONORARIUM)</b>					

I Preeti Singh W/o Shri R P Singh R/o C-II/180, Satya Marg, Chanakyapuri, New Delhi- 110021 do hereby declare that above mentioned bills are genuine and actual amount spent by me a Grand Total 5,00,704/ (Rupees Five Lac Seven Hundred Four Only)

**CERTIFIED**



Co-ordinator  
 IQAC, Shri Ram College,  
 Muzaffarnagar

Principal  
 Shri Ram College  
 Muzaffarnagar



# भारतीय दार्शनिक अनुसंधान परिषद्

(भारत सरकार, मानव संसाधन विकास मंत्रालय)

**INDIAN COUNCIL OF PHILOSOPHICAL RESEARCH**  
(Government of India, Ministry of Human Resource Development)

Dr. Mercy Helen  
Director (P&R)

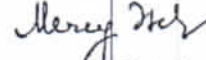
F.4-8/14-15/PR/ICPR  
6-September 2016  
30

Dear Preeti Singh,

This has reference to the submission of copies of vouchers submitted in connection with the project entitled **Sufism – A Study Of Its Historical Perspectives And Elements Of Communal Harmony In An Age Of Conflict**. You are requested to kindly resubmit all the photocopies of bills and vouchers and Utilization certificate duly audited by a Chartered Accountant, through the Principal of the college.

With regards,

Yours sincerely


  
(Mercy Helen)

Dr. Preeti Singh  
C-II/180, Satya Marg  
Chanakya Puri, New Delhi

E-mail : [icpr@bol.net.in](mailto:icpr@bol.net.in), [icprhqrs@gmail.com](mailto:icprhqrs@gmail.com) Website : <http://www.icpr.in>

मुख्य कार्यालय : दर्शन भवन, 36 तुगलकाबाद इन्स्टिट्यूशनल एरिया, महरोली बंदरपुर रोड, नई दिल्ली - 110062 दूरभाष : +91-11-29901518, 29901527 टेलिफैक्स : 29964750  
Head Office : Darshan Bhawan, 36, Tughlakabad Institutional Area, M.B. Road, New Delhi-110062 Tel.: +91-11-29901518, 29901527 Telefax: 29964750  
लखनऊ कार्यालय : 3/9, विपुल खण्ड, गोमती नगर, लखनऊ - 226010 टेलिफैक्स : +91-522-2392636 E-mail : [centre@icpr.in](mailto:centre@icpr.in), [icprkw@gmail.com](mailto:icprkw@gmail.com)  
Lucknow Office : 3/9, Vipul Khand, Gomti Nagar, Lucknow-226010 Telefax: +91-522-2392636 E-mail: [centre@icpr.in](mailto:centre@icpr.in), [icprkw@gmail.com](mailto:icprkw@gmail.com)

**CERTIFIED**

  
Co-ordinator  
IQAC, Shri Ram College  
Muzaffarnagar

  
Principal  
Shri Ram College  
Muzaffarnagar

**UTILISATION CERTIFICATE**

I hereby certify that I have utilised the 1<sup>st</sup> instalment of the Research Grant of Rs.5,00,000/- (Rupees Five lakh) only as per details enclosed as Annexure-I.

*Preeti Singh*  
(Preeti Singh)

  
Co-ordinator  
IQAC, Shri Ram College,  
Muzaffarnagar

**CERTIFIED**

  
Principal  
Shri Ram College  
Muzaffarnagar



Package Inquiry

Package Inquiry

Report run on Thu Sep 17 22:16:02 CDT 2015

PACKAGE TRACKING NUMBER: 781339547437

CLEAR REFRESH

File-508662  
9999198430

Package			
Form ID:	0305 - Domestic India C.O.D. Auto	Service Commit Date/Time	09/18/2015 21:30:00
Ship Date:	09/17/2015	CDO Commit Date/Time	
Service Commit Area	AA	Destination LOC ID:	DELKL
Origin LOC ID:	DELAZ	Handling Codes:	02-DELIVER WEEKDAY 13-GBG
Service/Packaging Type:	EXPRESS SAVER	Declared/Carriage Value:	
Package Weight:	0.2 kg	Total Customs Value:	375.00 INR
Total Packages: 1	PIECE 1 OF 1	Payment Type:	SHIPPER ACCOUNT 546119505
Shipper Account:	546119505	Commodity Description:	Book
Shipper Reference:	173515	MBG Service Classification:	
eSQI Service Classification:		Shipper Company:	EXOTIC INDIA ART P.LTD*DOM-SW*
Shipper Company:	EXOTIC INDIA ART P.LTD*DOM-SW*	Recipient Company:	
Name:	Suresh Kumar	Name:	Preeti Singh
Address:	WAZIRPUR INDUSTRIAL ESTATE	Address:	C2 180 Satya Marg
Additional Address:	A 16/1	Additional Address:	Chanakya Pur New Delhi
City:	NEW DELHI	City:	NEW DELHI
State/Province:	DL	State/Province:	DL
Postal:	110052	Postal:	110021
Country:	IN - INDIA	Country:	IN - INDIA
Shipper Phone:	01147024390	Recipient Phone:	8130022629

PACKAGE TRACKING NUMBER: 781339547437

Scans

Filters										
ID	TRACK TYPE	A	S	C	SCAN DATE TIME	LOC ID	FedEx ID	SOURCE / SYSTEM NAME	SVC	STATUS / COMMENTS
21	HIPS	N	Y		09/17/2015 01:30	GUXKA		TRIP		CITY: GURGAON STATE: HR --- POST DATE/TIME 09/17/2015 17:59:03
20	SOPS	N	Y		09/16/2015 23:45	DELAZ	851860	TRIP		CITY: NEW DELHI STATE: DL --- POST DATE/TIME 09/17/2015 17:27:02
19	CONS	N			09/16/2015 23:45	DELAZ	851860	TRIP		CONSOLIDATED ID: 304683393948 TRUCK: AIS70 DEST: GUXKA M/S: N --- POST DATE/TIME 09/17/2015 17:27:02
18	STAT [4]	N			09/17/2015 13:59	DELSN	5086652	Mass Entry (PFI) eMassEntry		44 - Package Movement Exception COMMENTS: held at dotm SCAN ENTERED BY FID#: 944031 --- POST DATE/TIME 09/17/2015 14:01:00
17	STAT [4]	N			09/17/2015 13:57	DELSN	5086652	Mass Entry (PFI) eMassEntry		41 - Commitment Not Due/Not Attempted SCAN ENTERED BY FID#: 944031 --- POST DATE/TIME 09/17/2015 13:58:40
16	SIPS	N	Y		09/17/2015 13:39	DELSN	852838	POWERPAD Manual		CITY: NEW DELHI STATE: DL SCANNING EMPLOYEE LOC: DELSN --- POST DATE/TIME 09/17/2015 13:42:09
15	CONS	N			09/17/2015 13:12	DELSN	852838	POWERPAD Manual		CONSOLIDATED ID: 806391512283 DELIVERY: BULK DEST: DELSN M/S: N --- POST DATE/TIME 09/17/2015 13:40:17
					09/11/2015					CONSOLIDATED ID: 304683351304 TRUCK: GUX63

CERTIFIED

https://sso.secure.fedex.com/ePkgInquiry/OparInquiryEntry.iface

9/18/2015

Co-ordinator  
IQAC, Shri Ram College,  
Muzaffarnagar

Principal  
Shri Ram College  
Muzaffarnagar



A STAR ALLIANCE MEMBER

1

You must present this receipt along with a valid photo identification, to enter the airport. We seek your attention to make a note of our Terms & Conditions and Conditions of Contract at [www.airindia.in](http://www.airindia.in)

### E-Ticket Itinerary Receipt

#### PASSENGER DETAILS

PASSENGER TYPE	NAME	FREQUENT FLYER NO.	MEAL REQUEST	SPL. REQUEST	TICKET NO.(S)
Adult 1	Preeti Singh	NA	Muslim Meal	NA	098-2114445830

#### TRAVEL INFORMATION

FLIG HT	Depart	Arrive	CLASS	FARE BASIS	NVB*	NVA*	BAGGAGE ALLOWANCE
AI 889 Booked	Delhi (DEL) Wed, 7 Oct 2015, 10:50 Terminal 3	Guwahati (GAU) Wed, 7 Oct 2015, 13:10	Economy -T	TRT7W EB	Wed, 7 Oct 2015	Wed, 7 Oct 2015	Adult: 25 Kg
AI 890 Booked	Guwahati (GAU) Mon, 12 Oct 2015, 17:05	Delhi (DEL) Mon, 12 Oct 2015, 19:35 Terminal 3	Economy -T	TRT7W EB	Mon, 12 Oct 2015	Mon, 12 Oct 2015	Adult: 25 Kg

\* All times are local to airport.  
\* NVB - Not Valid Before, NVA - Not Valid After

#### BOOKING DETAILS

Booking reference no (PNR): Y80MX  
 Web Reference: AIBE19934488  
 Issuing Airline: Air India Ltd.  
 Issued date: Tue, 29 Sep 2015

Place of issue: [www.airindia.in](http://www.airindia.in) / IBE  
 Contact No: +91-9554477777  
 Email: [singhrp55@yahoo.com](mailto:singhrp55@yahoo.com)  
 IP address: 120.59.38.245

#### FARE DETAILS

**FARE**  
 1 Adults @ INR 6,800.00 :INR 6,800.00

**SURCHARGE**

India: User Development Fee (IN)	:INR 1,411.00
India: Passenger Service Fee (WO)	:INR 298.00
India: Development Fee (YM)	:INR 114.00
Airline Fuel Charge (YQ)	:INR 4,900.00

**TAX**

**TOTAL TRIP COST** :INR 13,523.00  
 (Including Base Fare, Surcharge, Fees, Taxes)

#### PAYMENT DETAILS

NAME ON CARD: rajender pal singh (as entered while booking)  
 CARD TYPE: Visa  
 CARD NO.: \*\*\*\*\*3184  
 AUTH CODE: 095936

**ENDORSEMENT/RESTRICTIONS**  
 ENDOS NON ENDORSABLE/ CHANGE/REFUND/ NO-SHOW  
 FEE APPL

**TOTAL PAID** :INR 13523.00  
[payment details](#)

**CERTIFIED**

Co-ordinator  
 IQAC, Shri Ram College  
 Muzaffarnagar

Principal  
 Shri Ram College  
 Muzaffarnagar

2

Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone

----- Begin forwarded message -----

From: no\_reply@airindia.in

Date: 17-Oct-2015, 11:49:11 AM

To:

Subject: Air India e-commerce - Fulfilment AIBE20227831 J2ERP



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**E-Ticket Itinerary Receipt**

**PASSENGER DETAILS**

PASSENGER TYPE	NAME	FREQUENT FLYER NO.	MEAL REQUEST	SPL. REQUEST	TICKET NO. (\$)
Adult 1	preeti singh	NA	NA	Wheelchair user, assistance needed for steps *	008-211484748

**TRAVEL INFORMATION**

FLIG HT	Depart	Arrive	CLASS	FARE BASIS	NVB*	NVA*	BAGG/ ALLOW CE
AJ 886	Delhi (DEL)	Srinagar (SXR)	Economy -M	MEIPW EB	Thu, 22 Oct 2015	Thu, 22 Oct 2015	Adult: 2 Kg
Booked	Thu, 22 Oct 2015, 12:05 Terminal 3	Thu, 22 Oct 2015, 13:30					
FLIG HT	Depart	Arrive	CLASS	FARE BASIS <th>NVB*</th> <th>NVA*</th> <th>BAGG/ ALLOW CE</th>	NVB*	NVA*	BAGG/ ALLOW CE
AJ 659	Srinagar (SXR)	Delhi (DEL)	Economy -Y	YWEB	Sat, 24 Oct 2015	Sat, 24 Oct 2015	Adult: 2 Kg
Booked	Sat, 24 Oct 2015, 14:15	Sat, 24 Oct 2015, 15:50 Terminal 3					

\* All times are local to airport.  
\* NVB - Not Valid Before, NVA - Not Valid After

**BOOKING DETAILS**

Booking reference no (PNR): J2ERP  
Web Reference: AIBE20227831  
Issuing Airline: Air India Ltd.  
Issued date: Sat, 17 Oct 2015

Place of issue: [www.airindia.in](http://www.airindia.in) / IBE  
Contact No: +91 81300200629  
Email: [singhrp55@yahoo.com](mailto:singhrp55@yahoo.com)  
IP address: 120.59.169.153

**SEAT REQUESTS**

Your flight to Srinagar (SXR)  
preeti singh:

Seat number 7A

**FARE DETAILS**

**PAYMENT DETAILS**

NAME ON CARD: rajender pal singh (as entered while book)

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### E-Ticket Itinerary Receipt

PASSENGER DETAILS		FREQUENT FLYER NO.	MEAL REQUEST	SPL. REQUEST	TICKET NO.(S)	
PASSENGER TYPE	NAME	AI 141194971	NA	NA	098-2115058361	
Adult 1	preeti singh					
TRAVEL INFORMATION		CLASS	FARE BASIS	NVB*	NVA*	BAGGAGE ALLOWANCE
FLIGHT	Depart	Arrive				
AI 992	Delhi (DEL) Sat, 5 Dec 2015, 07:10, Terminal 3	Lucknow (LKO) Sat, 5 Dec 2015, 08:15, Terminal 1	Economy - S	SIPWEB	Sat, 5 Dec 2015	Sat, 5 Dec 2015 Adult: 25 Kg
Booked						
FLIGHT	Depart	Arrive				
AI 812	Lucknow (LKO) Tue, 8 Dec 2015, 20:00, Terminal 2	Delhi (DEL) Tue, 8 Dec 2015, 21:15, Terminal 3	Economy - S	SIPTUWEB	Tue, 8 Dec 2015	Tue, 8 Dec 2015 Adult: 25 Kg
Booked						

\* All times are local to airport.  
\* NVB - Not Valid Before, NVA - Not Valid After

#### BOOKING DETAILS

Booking reference no (PNR): YFM7Z  
Web Reference: AIBE20838771  
Issuing Airline: Air India Ltd.  
Issued date: Mon, 23 Nov 2015

Place of Issue: www.airindia.in / IBE  
Contact No: +91 8130022629  
Email: singhrp55@yahoo.com  
IP address: 59.177.74.142

#### FARE DETAILS

FARE	:INR 2,784.00
1 Adults @ INR 2,784.00	
SURCHARGE	
India: User Development Fee (IN)	:INR 968.00
India: Passenger Service Fee (WO)	:INR 298.00
India: Development Fee (YM)	:INR 115.00
Airline Fuel Charge (YQ)	:INR 1,300.00
TAX	
Service Tax (JN)	:INR 237.00
<b>TOTAL TRIP COST</b>	<b>:INR 5,702.00</b>
(Including Base Fare, Surcharge, Fees, Taxes)	

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### E-Ticket Itinerary Receipt

#### PASSENGER DETAILS

PASSENGER TYPE	NAME	FREQUENT FLYER NO.	MEAL REQUEST	SPL. REQUEST	TICKET NO.(S)
Adult 1	Preeti Singh	AI 141194971	NA	NA	098-2115835183

#### TRAVEL INFORMATION

FLIGHT	Depart	Arrive	CLASS	FARE BASIS	NVB*	NVA*	BAGGAGE ALLOWANCE
AI 992	Delhi (DEL) Booked Thu, 7 Apr 2016, 07:00, Terminal 3	Lucknow (LKO) Thu, 7 Apr 2016, 08:15, Terminal 1	Economy - S	SAP80W EB	Thu, 7 Apr 2016	Thu, 7 Apr 2016	Adult: 25 Kg
FLIGHT	Depart	Arrive	CLASS	FARE BASIS	NVB*	NVA*	BAGGAGE ALLOWANCE
AI 432	Lucknow (LKO) Booked Fri, 8 Apr 2016, 14:15, Terminal 2	Delhi (DEL) Fri, 8 Apr 2016, 15:30, Terminal 3	Economy - S	SAP80W EB	Fri, 8 Apr 2016	Fri, 8 Apr 2016	Adult: 25 Kg

\* All times are local to airport.  
\* NVB - Not Valid Before, NVA - Not Valid After

#### BOOKING DETAILS

Booking reference no (PNR): ZDEKJ  
Web Reference: [AIBE21933307](http://AIBE21933307)  
Issuing Airline: Air India Ltd.  
Issued date: Sat, 6 Feb 2016

Place of issue: [www.airindia.in](http://www.airindia.in) / IBE  
Contact No: +91 11 24673429  
Email: [preeti.singh802@qmail.com](mailto:preeti.singh802@qmail.com)  
IP address: 120.57.161.134

#### SEAT REQUESTS

Your flight to Delhi (DEL)

Preeti Singh:

Seat number 5F

#### FARE DETAILS

FARE	1 Adults @ INR 1,182.00	:INR 1,182.00
SURCHARGE	India: User Development Fee (IN)	:INR 968.00
	India: Passenger Service Fee (WO)	:INR 298.00
	India: Development Fee (YM)	:INR 115.00
	Airline Fuel Charge (YQ)	:INR 1,300.00
TAX	F2 (F2)	:INR 5.00
	Service Tax (JN)	:INR 139.00
TOTAL TRIP COST.		:INR 4,007.00

(Including Base Fare, Surcharge, Fees, Taxes)

#### PAYMENT DETAILS

NAME ON CARD:

rajender pal singh (as entered while booking)

CARD TYPE: Visa

CARD NO.: \*\*\*\*\*3184

AUTH.CODE: 004646

ENDORSEMENT/RESTRICTIONS


ENDOS NON ENDORSABLE/ CHANGE//REFUND/ NO-SHOW

FEE APPL

TOTAL PAID :INR 4007.00

[payment details](#)

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# SHRI RAM COLLEGE

(Affiliated to CCS University, Meerut & Approved by NCTE)

CIRCULAR ROAD, MUZAFFARNAGAR

Dated: 27.11.2015

To

**Dr Mercy Helen**  
Director (P&R),  
Indian Council of Philosophical Research,  
Darshan Bhawan, 36, Tughlakabad Inst. Area,  
M B Road, New Delhi-110062  
Phone: 011-29901537

**Sub:** Submission of Six Month Report of Research Project of Dr Preeti Singh on the topic "SUFISM - A STUDY OF ITS HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVES AND ELEMENTS OF COMMUNAL HARMONY IN AN AGE OF CONFLICT"

**Ref:** Your letter no. F.No.4-8/14-15P&R/ICPR, 31 March 2015

Dear Sir,

Please find enclosed herewith the first six monthly report of research project of Dr Preeti Singh on the topic "SUFISM - A STUDY OF ITS HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVES AND ELEMENTS OF COMMUNAL HARMONY IN AN AGE OF CONFLICT".

Thanking you,

Encls: As above

*B. Chandra*  
Principal  
Shri Ram College  
Muzaffarnagar

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*[Signature]*  
Co-ordinator  
IQAC, Shri Ram College,  
Muzaffarnagar

*[Signature]*  
Principal  
Shri Ram College  
Muzaffarnagar

TOPIC

"SUFISM- A STUDY OF ITS HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVES AND ELEMENTS OF  
COMMUNAL HARMONY IN AN AGE OF CONFLICT"

RESEARCH PROJECT FUNDED BY  
INDIAN COUNCIL OF PHILOSOPHICAL RESEARCH


FIRST REPORT REGARDING PROGRESS OF THE PROJECT  
(MAY 2015- NOVEMBER 2015)

  
Principal  
Shri Ram College  
Muzaffarnagar

  
BY: - DR. PREETI SINGH

DATE OF SUBMISSION  
23 NOVEMBER 2015

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CONTENTS

- (I) Introduction of the Report.
- (II) Approach adopted for the Research Project and the decided Work Plan.
- (III) Details of the work progress-Collection and collation of information, analysis of evidence and study material related to the Research Project.
- (IV) Future course of Action.
- (V) Difficulties faced during research
- (VI) Conclusion.

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- (I) **INTRODUCTION:** - The Research Project on "Sufism" is related to that aspect of History and Philosophy which can astound a scholar with its sheer aura, the staggering range of available information as well as by its immense research potential. The enormous challenge before me at the start, was to streamline my study in a manner that would help me to be methodical and meticulous in adhering to the aspects that are central to the main themes of this Research Project. A Study of the history, ideology, doctrines, organized functioning of various Sufi Orders in India, common features and regional variations and the present day relevance of Sufi philosophy- are all those facets of Sufism on which this indepth inquiry has been initiated.

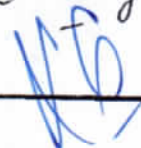
Elements of Communal harmony in Sufi ideology is the base line of my Project. While conducting this in depth study of Indian Sufism and its various aspects , a number of doubts and ambiguities that had come to the mind regarding its historical facts, ideology and authenticity of sources, have been gradually cleared. During this process I have been able to procure the most reliable sources and also learnt to sift the important from the less relevant information. I have also been able to identify some glaring gaps that exist even today in the comparative study of Sufism in various regions of India. It is a known fact that the liberal ideology of Sufism has, in the past, played a seminal role in developing a secular and tolerant society with faith in ideas of service to mankind, unity and peaceful co-existence. With such a rich lineage of tolerance, why is India facing the grave challenges of communal frenzy and intolerance in present times? The present study seeks to examine if the syncretistic influences of Sufism are waning with time or if referring back to Sufi philosophy and taking a cue from history today, shall help to stem the alarming increase in religious fundamentalism and conflicts.

- (II) **APPROACH ADOPTED FOR THE RESEARCH PROJECT AND THE DECIDED WORK PLAN :-** A two pronged approach has been adopted for the present Research Project.

- (A) Keeping the original aim, work plan and methodology, as the main base line of the project.
- (B) Observing, noting and delving deeper on certain such aspects of Indian Sufism that were not in the original work plan, but are certainly in tune with and are extremely important for achieving a more comprehensive and

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wholesome result of this study, hence need to be incorporated in the research process.

**WORK PLAN:** - In order to deal with the vast domain of Sufi literature and its numerous sources, it is imperative to follow a well thought out Plan of Action. Details of the same are given below:-

- (1) Drawing up an exhaustive list of all the resources that could possibly help in the research work: - Discovery, documentation, analysis and interpretation of the observations, scholarly articles and information in already published books on Sufism, interaction with eminent historians and academicians who have contributed meaningfully to the study of Sufi history and philosophy, Interviews with Sufi Heads and 'Khadims' of Sufi centers in different parts of India, tapping hitherto unknown sources in the form of Sufi literature, manuscripts, musical compositions and engraving on monuments.
- (2) Adoption of 'The 8-Zone Plan' :- In order to analyze, interpret and get a first hand knowledge of Sufi culture, philosophy, present day organizational structure and following, as well as to quench the desire to see how Sufism still holds a torch of hope in the contemporary context, it is important to make personal visits to various major Sufi centers of India. An important aspect of this research is also to identify the regional variations in Sufi ideology and practices throughout the length and breadth of the country. Over 210 Sufi sites are enlisted in the Sufi circuit published by the ministry of Tourism, Government of India, making India a contemporary epicenter of Sufi Culture in the world today. An 8-Zone approach has been adopted which involves identifying major Sufi Centers in the North, South, East, West, North-East, South West, Upper North and Central regions of India. Some of the sufi centers identified for visiting and conducting this study are located at - Budgam (Srinagar), Sibosagar (Assam), Delhi, Dhar (Madhya Pradesh), Ajmer (Rajasthan), Gulbarga (Karnataka), Mamburam (Kerala), Midnapur (West Bengal), Sirhind (Punjab), and Bahraich (Uttar Pradesh). Apart from these centers, visits may also be undertaken to other Sufi shrines in order to expand the horizons of my research. Effort has been to choose centers in different directions, as well as those associated with different historical Sufi orders in India, so that their common features, beliefs, regional influences and differences in ideology, music, poetry etc. may be identified.

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(III) DETAILS OF THE WORK PROGRESS :-

(a) ESSENTIAL READINGS DONE - COLLECTION OF REFERENCE MATERIAL:-

There is a plethora of valuable research material and information on Sufism which can be accessed through Books, articles in renowned and prestigious journals, lectures by eminent scholars and academicians and Sufi poetic and musical compositions. Stalwarts of History and Philosophy have made precious contribution to the study of Sufism in India. An effort has been made to access, compile and assimilate this colossal amount of information in a methodical manner. Some of the books and other reference material used till date are:-

- (1) The Islamic Path: Sufism, Politics and Society in India – S.Z.H. Jafri
- (2) The Sufi tradition and popular literature – S.Z.H. Jafri (Research paper)
- (3) History of Sufism in India Vol. 1, 2 – S.A.A. Rizvi
- (4) Influence of Islam on Indian Culture – Tara Chand
- (5) A study of Sufism and its syncretic significance in Medieval India – J. N. Sarkar
- (6) Studies in Islamic mysticism – R.A. Nicholson
- (7) Sufism: The Social bond in Medieval India – Neeru Misra
- (8) Piety on its knees: Three Sufi traditions in South Asia in Modern Times – Claudia Liebeskind.
- (9) Sufism and Communal harmony – Asghar Ali Engineer.
- (10) Islamic mysticism:-Sufism: Tara Chand Rastogi.
- (11) Islam and Sufism in Kashmir – Hamid Naseem Rafiabadi.
- (12) Lal Ded – S. S.Toshkhani
- (13) The Muslim Rishis of Kashmir (Part I) :Crusaders for Love and Justice (Part II) – Yoginder Sikand
- (14) Sufi Saints of Kashmir – Sayed Ashraf Shah
- (15) Sufi Movement in Eastern India – Mohd. Yahya Tamizi
- (16) Assam Muslim relation and its Cultural Significance – M. K. Saikia
- (17) Sufism and Ajan Fakir of Assam – Rahena Saikia (Article)
- (18) Assam Muslims: Politics and Cohesion – By Bimal J. Dev, Dilip Kumar Lahiri
- (19) Asamiya Zikir aru Jari – Syed Abdul Malik
- (20) Azan Fakir – Contours of pluralistic Society and Culture in Medieval Assam – M. Parvez (Article)
- (21) Sufism in Kerala – V. Kunhali
- (22) The Muslim Mystic movement in Bengal – Abdul Latif

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- (23) The Life and Times of Sheikh Nizamuddin Auliya – K. A. Nizami
- (24) Sufi music of India and Pakistan: Sound, context and meaning in qawwali – Regula Qureshi
- (25) Sufi Saints in Karnataka – Maruti Kamble.
- (26) Sufi Cults and the Evolution of Medieval Indian Culture – Anup Taneja (Ed.)

(b) LIBRARIES AND SUFI INFORMATION CENTERS VISITED FOR THE PURPOSE OF CONDUCTING THIS RESEARCH: -


- (1) Indian Council of Historical Research Library cum Documentation Center, N. Delhi
- (2) National Museum Library, N. Delhi
- (3) Delhi Public library, N. Delhi
- (4) Nehru Memorial Library, N. Delhi
- (5) Central Library, Delhi University
- (6) National Amir Khusro Society

Apart from articles, journals and books, some important Sufi manuscripts could also be accessed, which proved immensely useful for authenticating information regarding Sufism. Rare works of historical and contemporary significance related to Sufism, were also made available by some Professors of Delhi University from their personal collection. Sufi Heads of shrines at Charar-i-Sharif, Budgam (Jammu and Kashmir) and Dargah of Azan Fakir at Sibosagar (Assam) also arranged for informational literature on these Shrines.

(c) GUIDANCE FROM EMINENT HISTORIANS who possess vast and valuable knowledge on Sufism and are considered authorities in the field. I am fortunate to have immense co-operation and personal inputs from eminent historians like Prof. S.Z.H. Jafri (Delhi University), Dr. Painuruddin Ahmed (Cotton College Guwahati) and Prof. M. Parvez (Aligarh Muslim University), who are all credited with writing some of the most significant works on Sufism. Important pieces of information from these senior writers and academicians helped me to streamline my work and incorporate some new dimensions to the study.

(d) VISITS TO SUFI SHRINES AND CENTERS: In order to make in person visits and gather hands on experience of different facets related to Sufism in various parts of the country, a list of Sufi shrines has been prepared by me. The locations decided upon have been mentioned above. A wealth of useful information and wide ranging set of helpful inputs could be collected during my visits to two

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major Sufi Centers in two different regions of the country. Details of the visits are given below: -

(1) Charar-i-Sharif, Budgam distt.- Jammu and Kashmir (October, 2015): - Nothing can better exemplify the beauty of composite culture in India, than the Charar-i-Sharif Sufi shrine located in Budgam district 35 kms. from Srinagar (Jammu and Kashmir). It is the Center of the 'Rishi' order of Sufism which is said to have been the most dominant influence on the cross section of Kashmiri society in terms of their 'Kashmiriyat'. Use of the word 'Rishi' for Muslim mystics and Sufi saints of Kashmir, and the fact that the 'Rishi' order evolved in the Valley itself indigenously (unlike other Sufi orders like Suhrawardi, Kubravi, Nagshbandi and Quadri which arrived from Persia, Central Asia and other places) was enough to ignite my deep curiosity and interest in visiting Charar-i-Sharif. During the visit to the shrine, I was able to gather some extremely significant information regarding the history of Charar-i-Sharif. I was able to meet the main In charges and Administrators of the shrine, along with other well-informed members of the Jammu and Kashmir Waqf Board, directly associated with care and management of this Shrine.

History of the Rishi Tradition of Sufism in Kashmir: - The Rishi order may be regarded as the Islamic expression of the Kashmir Rishi tradition that long predates the advent of Islam in the region. It is because of the deep roots of this tradition in Kashmir, that the Kashmiris still call their state, 'Rishi Waer' or 'Pir Waer' (the land of Rishis or Pirs). Before the Sufi Rishis, Kashmir valley was already permeated with the tradition of Hindu ascetism and Buddhist renunciation, and Islamic missionaries from foreign lands had begun to make a significant impact on the minds of the people at many places. The Rishi order was founded by Hazrat Nooruddin Noorani who was born in Kemoh and lived from 1379 to 1442 AD. At Charar-i-Sharif, is his tomb, which is deeply venerated even today.

Sources of Information gathered during the visit: -

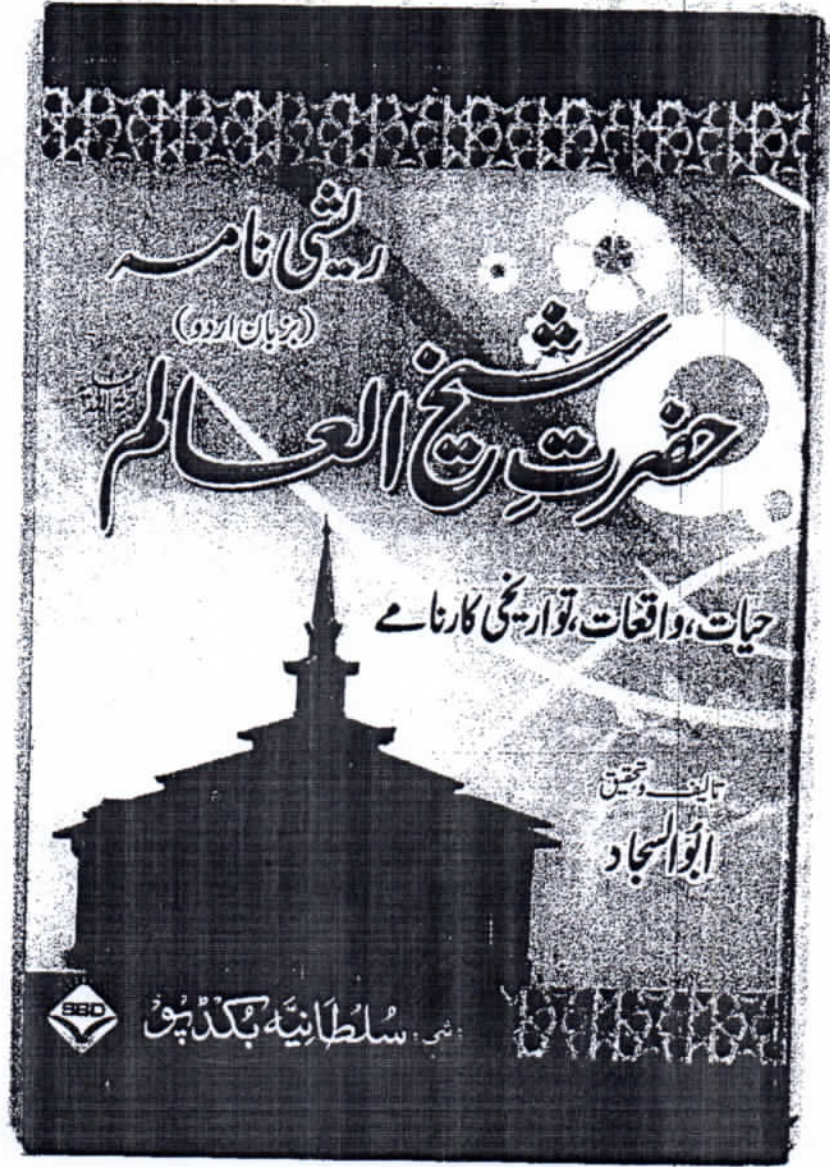
- Mohd. Shefi Shah, Administrator, J&K Wakf Board, 'Ziyarati-Chari-Sharief' (Mob. 9697920193)
- Haji Yunus Ahmad, member (Mob. 9419434452)
- Literature related to Hazrat Noorani and the shrine in Urdu Language procured from the local residents like Mr. Ashiq Tak
- Interaction with the visitors and followers of the Shrine on that day.

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Handwritten text in Urdu script, likely a certificate or official document, written on lined paper. The text is arranged in several lines, with some words underlined. The handwriting is in black ink.

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کیونکہ اللہ کبھی خدا ہے اسکی ہر مخلوق میں موجود ہے

اگر تم دانا ہو تو اپنے آپ کو جان لو

کہ میں کون ہوں۔ جب آپ یہ جان

لو گے تو اسی سے جس خدا کی خدائی

کا پتہ معلوم ہو جائیگا۔

من عرف نفسه فقد عرف ربه

God (shiv) is present in everything  
do not differentiate between Hindu & muslim

(NOTINGS BY  
MOHD. SHAFI SHAH,  
ADMINISTRATOR,  
CHARAR-I-SHRIF)

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**Some significant notings during the visit: -**

- **The origin of the term 'Rishi'** and how it came to be associated with Muslim mystics: According to Janab Mohd. Shafi Shah, the term 'Rishi' seems to have a clear derivation from Sanskrit, and the ascetic and pious lives of Kashmiri Muslim Rishis bear a close resemblance to the lives of Hindus 'Rishis' and 'Munis'. He, however, added that it could have also originated from the Persian word 'Rishi' or 'Rish' meaning feathers or wings. He also extended some other explanations on this issue, which shall be discussed in detail.
- **The Role of Lal Ded or Lalleshwari** in influencing Hazrat Noorani: Lal Ded was a mystic saint of the Kashmiri Shaivite sect, whose famous 'Vaakhs' are popular among Kashmiris of all communities even today, and have long inspired the people of Kashmir. Hazrat Noorani is said to have received 'ma'rifat' or the wealth of spiritual and Gnostic knowledge from Lalleshwari. Her teachings exercised a profound influence on Hazrat Noorani. 'The Ishq-i-haqiqi', according to Haji Yunus Ahmad, is 'The love of God' which was combined with austerities, meditation and simplicity and finds echoes in Shaivism and Rishism alike. The path was the same, and hence both Hindus and Muslims of Kashmir venerate the spiritual message in their verses even today.
- **Present day followers and influence of Hazrat Noorani and Rishi Order** - According to the local 'Khadims' at Charar-i-Sharif the number of visitors, belonging to all communities, has increased with time. According to Mr. Ashiq Tak, Sufis exerted a more dominant influence on society in Kashmir, than anywhere else. Thus the harmony and unity of being preached by the 'Rishis' gave birth to peaceful co-existence and mutual respect among Hindus and Muslims of the past centuries. The number of visitors on the day of my visit also substantiated the information provided to me regarding the increasing popularity of the Sufi Shrine Charar-i-Sharif.
- **Similarities between Hindu and Sufi 'Rishi' tradition:** - Apart from advocating ascetism and vegetarianism, Hazrat Noorani and later 'Rishis' practiced meditative techniques very similar to those of Hindus and Buddhists. 'Pas-e-anfaas' or controlling the breathing process is very similar to the 'Hath Yoga' tradition of Pranayam, which has long been practiced by Shaivite Yogis of Kashmir. The 'Vaakhs' of Lalleshwari had a deep influence on the verses composed by Hazrat Noorani.
- **Role of women in the Sufi tradition of Kashmir:** - Hazrat Noorani had accepted a woman as his teacher, and this marked a radical departure from tradition. He also welcomed women disciples, which was a new concept in those times. According to Haji Yunus Ahmad, the 'Rishi' order of Kashmir has given a highly

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respected place to women Sufis with prominent Sufi Saints like Shama Bibi and Dahat Bibi being held in high esteem even today.

Attached with this report, are some of documents, pictures and pieces of information gathered during my stay at Charar-i-Sharif in Jammu and Kashmir. Some of the literary and historical sources studied for information on this Shrine, Hazrat Noorani and the ideology of 'Rishi Sufism', have been mentioned earlier in this report.

Here is one of the many verses attributed to Hazrat Nooruddin Noorani and translated to English, signifying unity and harmony among Hindus and Muslims:

"We belong to the same parents, then why this difference?  
Let Hindus and Muslims together worship God alone.  
We came to this world like partners.  
We should have shared our joys and sorrows together!"

(2) Visit to 'Dargah' of Azan Faqir, Assam (October, 2015): -

A visit was made by me to the Dargah of Azan Faqir, a renowned Sufi Syed, poet, preacher and saint of Assam. It is situated near Sibosagar in Assam. A journey by road from Guwahati to Sibosagar took five hours. The shrine is highly revered in Assam and attracts people from all faiths since the 17<sup>th</sup> Century. According to Dr. Painurruddin Ahmad, Professor, Dept. of Islamic Studies (Persian) Cotton College, Guwahati, Azan Faqir's original name was Shah Miran and he was a disciple of Khwaja Nijamuddin Auliya of Baghdad. He came from Baghdad in 1635 and settled in Sibosagar, Assam, where he helped to unify the people of the Brahmaputra Valley. He is particularly known for his 'Zikir' and 'Zari', two forms of devotional songs that drew from the local Assamese musical tradition. According to Dr. Ahmad, Azan Faqir wrote around 160 Zikirs in Assamese mostly between 1635 AD and 1642 AD.

A plethora of information has been collected by me during this visit, which includes interviews with family members of Late Syed Shamsul Huda, Professor of Arabic, Guwahati University and also a descendent of Azan Faqir. Some important Zikirs said to be composed by Azan Pir help in understanding his beliefs and fundamental ethos as well as the ideological similarity between Sufism and Vedanta.

"Sankardeur jiyari madhavdeur bowari, rahpur nagrat ghar,

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Rahpur nagrar rasaknamai ani,diya sakaloke bati"

(This verse has a bearing on the Ratikhowa school of Vaishnavism)

"Hindu musalman ek allar farman.....Gorasthane kabar sari sari,  
hindu poriba mominak gariba....."

(Hindus and Muslims are bound by the same set divine rules of Allah. The act of cremating a hindu and entombing a mumin signify one end – death is a universal truth that treats all equally)

A talk with Shri Imdad Ali Ahmad, who has been the Supervisor of Assam Board of Waqf, Guwahati has given valuable information on 'Azan Faqirs' Zikrs. "Some of Azan Faqirs Zikrs were in the tune of "Naam-Kirtans" of the prevalent Mahapurasia religious sect. Even today, singing of 'Zikirs' produces a spirit of unity among Hindus and Muslims alike. Because of this deep rooted secular and liberal outlook, Assam has largely been free of communal clashes and bitterness, a fact that can be corroborated by records."

According to Dr. M. Parwez Professor, Aligarh Muslim University: - "Azan Faqirs Zikirs contain the unifying spirit of brotherhood and oneness of mankind. There is clear influence of Bhakti doctrines preached by the Saint poet Shankardeva (16<sup>th</sup> Cen.) on the philosophy of Azan Faqir. The frequent use of words like 'Nama', and respectful references exalting the glory of the revered Vaishnavite saint in the Zikirs, proves this fact. The interaction between Islam and Vaishnavism in Assam helped the growth of a deep sense of mutual respect and tolerance in the minds of its adherents. Sankardeva was taken as Guru by noted muslims like Chand Khan."

The Sufis had in opened the doors of their 'Khagnahs' to all, irrespective of religious beliefs, associated with Hindu 'yogis' and also used local languages in their conversation and discourses. Their benevolent attitude and liberal outlook, as well as their shunning of the outward show of religiosity, all went a long way to create a secular, uniform and composite society in India much before the idea became popular in the western world.

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(IV) FUTURE COURSE OF ACTION:

In the first stage of my Research Project the work has been mostly focussed on gathering a multitude of information for analysis, taking notes, recording and collecting sources and documenting the inputs. For this purpose I have adopted the technique of in depth scrutiny of available literature on Sufism in India, in books, journals and electronic sources. Finer points regarding history, spread, organization and tenets of Sufi philosophy could be well understood from the books and articles written by eminent historians. For a study of present day popularity and influence of Sufism in India, and for understanding the regional differences in Sufi beliefs and practices in various parts of the country, visits to two major Sufi centres have been conducted. Interviews and interactions with shrine management members, visitors and local academicians helped in gathering valuable information.

This process will be further extended in the coming weeks and months, while systematic compilation of whatever relevant material that has been already collected, shall go on simultaneously. It is expected that towards the end of Phase I (1st year of this Project) the analyzing and synthesizing process of collected information shall be well underway. Organizing this information around the questions related to the main themes of this research, and conducting an overview assessment of the field of available information shall be my targets in the later part of the research period. The important themes of this project are related to investigating how Sufism played a seminal role in moulding the secular attitudes of people of India and how it emerged as the torch bearer of cultural integration and religious tolerance in society since the last many centuries. This study focuses on sufi history and philosophy within the domain of today's relevance, hence there will be a constant effort to put the gathered information in perspective- and trace the immense potential of Sufism in social synthesis and harmonization of relations. Visits shall be made to three Sufi shrines and Centers in South and West, zones of the country in the next three months.

(V) DIFFICULTIES AND CHALLENGES FACED DURING RESEARCH:

- (a) Language related difficulty:- While the experience of visiting regional Sufi centers like Charar-i-Sharif (Jammu & Kashmir) and Azan Pir Dargah (Assam) were extremely enriching and useful, the language barrier created some difficulty as it was not always easy to interpret or take help of a translator at all times. While trying to communicate with local

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'Khadims' and followers at both the places mentioned above, constant effort had to be made to get the right translation of words and phrases.

(b) Doubts regarding Accuracy of Chronology and authenticity of facts:

Due to fragmented information from scattered sources, and distortion (which is a result of the limitations of oral tradition), conflicting pieces of information on events, personalities, and dates, deficiency of contemporary written sources on some aspects of the research, were some of the problems that had to be dealt with in the past months.

(c) Over abundance of documentation: In the process of collecting and collating the vast amount of information on Sufism at my disposal, there was often a danger of getting distracted by irrelevant data and facts. However, this was overcome with the help of the constant reference to the pre designed work plan of this Research Project.

- (VI) CONCLUSION:- After six months of keen, consistent and thorough enquiry into history, philosophy and regional aspects of Sufism in India, I am convinced that liberal Islam, as represented by Sufism, can be credited with fostering communal harmony and religious tolerance which has immense current relevance in today's turbulent times. Sufis, by their simplicity, open mindedness and strength of character helped in bringing about a rapprochement between Hindus and Muslims in the past. During my interactions with academicians and clerics and through the review of already published information on Sufi ideology, I can easily conclude that the spirit of Sufism holds great promise for future unity and peace in society. Keeping this in mind, this systematic investigation that has been launched will be carried forward to further elucidate and interpret the history, content and impact of Sufism in India.

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