



THREE-DAY NATIONAL WORKSHOP ON
**CONSTITUTIONAL LITERACY, DEMOCRATIC
CITIZENSHIP,
PLURALISM & RESILIENCE BUILDING AMONG
MUSLIM YOUTHS**

(5-7 November 2026 | 10:00 AM-5:00 PM)

CONCEPT NOTE





1. BACKGROUND AND RATIONALE

Muslim youth in contemporary India are navigating a complex social, political and digital environment. A college student in Hyderabad, a madrasa graduate, a young professional, a gig worker or a youth activist may come from very different backgrounds, yet many encounter a common set of questions: How do I understand my identity as a Muslim and an Indian citizen? What opportunities are realistically open to me? Whom should I trust when competing political, religious and social-media narratives offer sharply different accounts of my community, my faith and my country? Questions of faith and citizenship do not exist in separate compartments. They intersect in everyday concerns about justice, equality, religious freedom, education, employment, relations with other communities, political participation, dissent, social responsibility and responses to injustice. These questions have become more difficult in an environment marked by political and communal polarisation, misinformation, provocative social-media content, identity-based mobilisation, global conflicts and competing interpretations of religion.

Young people across communities can become vulnerable to alienation, misinformation, political cynicism, communal polarisation and absolutist narratives when genuine grievances become intertwined with exclusion, humiliation or a feeling of powerlessness. Social media can intensify these processes by circulating provocative content, conspiracy theories, selective representations of events and simplified 'us versus them' explanations. The challenge, therefore, is not merely to counter a particular radical/extremist narrative. It is to strengthen the intellectual, ethical and democratic resilience that enables young people to recognise manipulation, interrogate information, process grievances constructively and exercise their rights through peaceful and constitutional means.

For Muslim youth, resilience can also draw upon the intellectual and ethical resources of Islam itself. Islamic traditions contain extensive discussions concerning justice (adl), human dignity (karamah), consultation (shura), public welfare (maslahah), responsibility, protection of life, fulfilment of covenants, relations with neighbours, religious diversity and ethical conduct in situations of disagreement and conflict. These resources need to be discussed seriously in relation to the lived realities of Muslim youth in a modern, democratic and religiously diverse India. Constitutional literacy, therefore, should not be presented as a legal lecture detached from lived realities; nor should Islamic perspectives be reduced to sermons, apologetics or polemics. Young participants need opportunities to explore how justice, dignity, citizenship, religious freedom, pluralism, civic responsibility, dissent and the sanctity of human life can be understood through both the constitutional framework and serious Islamic scholarship.

In this particular context, the Department of Political Science and Islamic Studies, Maulana Azad National Urdu University, in collaboration with Billion Connect Private Limited, Hyderabad have jointly conceptualized this three-days' workshop to create a space where constitutional values, Islamic scholarship and contemporary youth experiences can speak to one another. The workshop is conceived as a participatory conversation rather than a one-way transfer of information, bringing young people from diverse educational, occupational and social backgrounds into dialogue with scholars of constitutional law, political science, Islamic studies, sociology, media and public institutions.



2. OBJECTIVES



Create a respectful space for Muslim youth to discuss their identities, aspirations, anxieties and concerns.



Strengthen understanding of constitutional rights, equal citizenship, religious freedom, minority rights and democratic institutions.



Explore Islamic perspectives on citizenship, justice, dignity, pluralism, coexistence and civic responsibility.



Help participants distinguish legitimate grievance and dissent from hatred, extremism and violence.



Build awareness of misinformation, hate speech, communal provocation and manipulation on social media.



Provide meaningful space for Muslim women's voices, rights, education, employment and public participation.



Encourage peaceful, ethical and democratic responses to injustice and disagreement.



Use storytelling, dialogue and difficult conversations to build confidence, understanding and resilience.



2. FOCUS AREAS OF THE WORKSHOP

The workshop is organised around interconnected thematic threads that run across the three days. Each will be approached through a mix of scholarly input, dialogue, case-based discussion and participant-led exercises rather than lecture alone.

	Identity, Belonging, Aspirations & Anxieties of Muslim Youths		Constitutional Literacy, Political Literacy & Democratic Citizenship
	Muslim Women: Voice, Dignity & Agency		Grievance, Alienation, Polarisation, Extremism & Resilience
	Social Media, Misinformation & Ethical Verification		Islam, Citizenship & Pluralism
	Faith, Global Muslim Concerns & Ethical Response		Storytelling, Difficult Conversations & Youth Leadership



3. WHO CAN APPLY?

Young Muslims between 18 and 30 years of age from Telangana, including college and university students, madrasa students, young professionals, gig and informal-sector workers, community volunteers, and members of youth and student organisations.



Limited Seats: Approximately 100 Participants



Participation: By prior registration and selection only



Last Date for Registration: 1 November 2026



Registration Link: Click the link and fill the Google Form to register for the Workshop:

<https://forms.gle/GauL28CMugoNP4259>



Email: For any clarification or query, write to us:
conference.polsc@manuu.edu.in



WhatsApp Only: +91 8977131640

SCAN TO REGISTER



Google Form



WORKSHOP DETAILS



Dates:
5–7 November 2026



Time:
10:00 AM–5:00 PM



Venue:
Library Auditorium, Maulana Azad National
Urdu University (MANUU), Hyderabad



ABOUT THE ORGANISERS



Maulana Azad National Urdu University (MANUU)

Maulana Azad National Urdu University (MANUU) is a Central University, established by an Act of Parliament in 1998 with all India jurisdiction. Its headquarters and main campus, spread over 200 acres, is in Gachibowli, Hyderabad. MANUU is recognized as a major higher education service provider in Urdu Medium across the remote areas of the country through its regular and distance mode programmes. It commenced with distance education programmes in 1998 and consolidated its regular academic and research programmes in 2004. The University is named after Maulana Abul Kalam Azad, a scholar par excellence, prolific writer, inimitable orator, gallant freedom fighter, visionary of the post independent Indian education system and architect of technical and scientific education in Independent India. Presently, MANUU is consolidating its existing institutions while expanding to reach the unreached, and is making considerable progress in academics, research and governance to meet the rising aspirations of its youth in general and the Urdu speaking community in specific.



Department of Political Science

The Department of Political Science was established as an independent Department in 2015, having earlier worked jointly with the Department of Public Administration. It started with M.A. in Political Science in 2012, began offering courses for the B.A. Programme in 2014 and launched its Ph.D. Programme in the 2017-18 academic session to nurture quality research. Today, it is one of the largest Departments in the School of Social Sciences in terms of students and courses, with students from more than seven states and different social backgrounds. With a mix of young and experienced faculty, the Department is committed to a high quality learning experience that integrates rigorous academic, applied, practical and cross-disciplinary perspectives, and aims to emerge as a learning centre of excellence and distinguished scholarship.



Department of Islamic Studies

The Department of Islamic Studies was established in 2012. It offers M.A., Ph.D. and Diploma in Islamic Studies programmes, and also offers Islamic Studies as Core and Generic Elective/Discipline Specific Elective for Post Graduate and Under Graduate students of other Departments. Its main objective is to impart teaching and conduct research in Islamic Studies in a modern perspective. As Islam has taken a central stage in public debates on its political ideas and social approaches, and carries a rich history of civilization and culture pertaining to India and the world, the Department studies the vast areas of Islamic sciences, law, culture, civilization, mysticism and thought with the aim to train scholars in the subject.



Billion Connect

Billion Connect, headquartered in Hyderabad, Telangana, is a research-driven consulting and advisory organisation established in 2024, working at the intersection of public policy, governance, electoral politics, strategic communications and data intelligence. It brings together academic expertise, empirical research, grassroots intelligence and data-driven analysis to support informed decision-making and effective strategic interventions. Its major areas of work include policy and governance advisory, public sentiment surveys, strategic research, political and social data analytics, market research, leadership development and capacity building. Through field-based studies, public opinion research, stakeholder engagement and evidence-based consultancy, it seeks to bridge the gap between academic knowledge and the practical challenges faced by governments, political institutions, businesses and civil society organisations.



5. ORGANISING TEAM



Patron: Prof. Syed Ainul Hasan, Vice-Chancellor, MANUU



Co-Patrons:

Prof. PH Mohammad, Dean, S&SS, MANUU
Prof. Sk Ishtiaque Ahmed, Registrar, MANUU



Coordinator: Prof. Nageswara Rao, Head, Department of Political Science, MANUU, Hyderabad



Convenor: Prof. Afroz Alam, Department of Political Science, MANUU, Hyderabad



Co-Convenor: Prof. Mohammad Habib, Department of Islamic Studies, MANUU, Hyderabad

