

Iqbal Day Celebration

An event, 'Re-visioning Iqbal as a poet and Muslim Thinker' was held at IMSciences, Peshawar in order to celebrate Allama Iqbal's role in the reconstruction of religious thought and as a poet. The event included a panel discussion on Iqbal's religious, political and philosophical views. Musical performances, inspired from Iqbal's poetry, were also exhibited.

The panelists included Professor Syed Ghayur Hussain, Coordinator Cultural Centre Islamic Republic of Iran, Peshawar, Dr. Aslam Mir, Controller Federal Public Service Commission KP, Dr. Syed Waqar Hussain Shah from IMSciences and Assistant Professor Sikandar Tangi as the Moderator of the event, also from IMSciences. The Panelists discussed the relation between Iqbal's Poetry and the Quran, both of which have suffered similar cases of misinterpretation by their readers. The discussion moved on to Professor Syed Ghayur, discussing Allama Iqbal's role as a Persian literary phenomenon as opposed to primarily an Urdu literarian since Iqbal's poetry in Urdu is overshadowed by his poetry in Persian.

Dr. Aslam Mir discussed Iqbal as a mere human but with incredible influence as a poet, rather a misinterpreted poet. He commented on how Iqbal's poetry throughout the years has only rarely been understood, and understood only to be used for furthering interests that were not those of Iqbal's.

The discussion engulfed many of Iqbal's notable works such as *Javed Nama*, *Masjid-e-Qurtaba* and the symbolism behind these works focusing on Iqbal's message and belief in 'movement' or 'change'. The role of Iqbal in the sub-continent wing of the Sufi Movement was then discussed by Dr. Syed Waqar Hussain, who compared Iqbal to Rumi.

Among the highlights of the event were exquisite musical performances. The first was a surreal performance by Shujaat Hussain of '*Khudi Ka Sirr-e-Nihan La illaha ill Allah*', followed by '*Tere Ishq ki inteza chahta hun*' by Arbab Hussain and '*Zamane ke Andaaz Badley Gaye*' by Yawar Ali. A beautiful cover of '*Gulzar-o-hast-o-bood*' was performed by Ashir Mubeen and finally an electrifying performance by Yawar Ali and Arbab Hassan of the notable ballad '*Khudi ko kar buland*' was exhibited.

The event was a refreshing homage to Iqbal, produced by the faculty and students of IMSciences in an auditorium packed with a fandom of Iqbal that hasn't quite withered even today.