

NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF HISTORICAL AND CULTURAL RESEARCH, ISLAMABAD

Establishment

A National Commission on Historical and Cultural Research was established by the Government of Pakistan on 6 April 1973 and charged with:

The task of identifying, assessing, interpreting and projecting the genesis and fulfilment of the Muslim freedom movement in the Subcontinent with particular emphasis on its psychological background, its socio-economic compulsions, its future course in the context of global movements, its place in the contemporary world, its relations with the world of Islam and its connections with other Asian and non-Asian societies.

However, the Commission could not develop as expected, and also it ran into administrative difficulties.

Reorganization

As a result of the decision taken by the Standing Organization Committee of the Government of Pakistan, the Commission was reorganized as an Institute. Dr. N. A. Baloch took over as Chairman in July 1979 and the process of reorganization was completed. The Commission became a constituent Institute of the Quaid-i-Azam University and came to be administered by a Committee of Management appointed by the Syndicate, a step which aimed at providing for sufficient autonomy to enable the Institute to execute its research and publication programmes under the guidance of the Director.

A New Direction

After heading the Institute, Dr. Baloch has taken a number of steps to put the functioning of the Institute on sound lines. His policy is to make the Institute truly 'National' in scope and objectives. Believing that this can be done through close contacts with our scholars he addressed a letter to some 70 eminent historians and scholars inviting suggestions for developing the research and publication programmes of

the Institute. He put forth the following specific proposals for their advice:

1. The Institute should publish important source materials which are in manuscript form and which have not yet been published.
2. The Institute should bring out new editions of some important works which were published long ago.
3. The Institute should undertake long-term plans of research and publication.
4. The Institute should publish books/theses of those scholars who have not been able to find publishers.
5. In the field of historical research, the Institute should give priority to some specific programmes/series.
6. The programme of research (books/subjects) which the Institute should undertake on priority basis in the field of culture.
7. The Institute should render some specific services to those who are engaged in research.

Almost all the scholars responded to this letter and indicated those avenues of research which needed specific attention. In the light of these suggestions, the administrative structure and research plans of the Institute are being reorientated.

Since then, progress has been made in two directions: (i) to publish a series of volumes on source materials of Indo-Muslim History, and (ii) to document the current history of Pakistan.

Widest Possible Consultations

To have widest possible and continuous consultations with eminent Pakistani scholars on matters of research and publication, a panel of advisors has been constituted. Accordingly the following scholars have accorded the status of expert advisors to the National Institute:

Dr. I. H. Qureshi,
Karachi.

Hakim Muhammad Saeed,
Karachi.

Dr. M. Rafique Afzal,
Islamabad.

Mr. A. J. Halepota,
Islamabad.

Prof. Sharif al-Mujahid,
Karachi.

Dr. Naeem Qureshi,
Islamabad.

Dr. A. H. Dani,
Islamabad,

Prof. Muhammad Aslam,
Lahore.

Dr. Hamida Khuhro,
Hyderabad.

Prof. Sheikh Abdur Rasheed,
Lahore.

Dr. F. A. Khan,
Karachi.

Dr. (Miss) Lal Baha,
Peshawar.

Dr. Anwar Khan,
Peshawar.

Dr. Aslam Syed,
Islamabad.

Dr. Abdul Hamid,
Lahore.

Dr. Moizuddin,
Lahore.

Dr. Riazul Islam,
Karachi.

Dr. Yar Muhammad,
Lahore.

Mr. Sardar Khan Baloch,
Quetta.

Prof. Saeed Shaikh,
Lahore.

Mr. Ahmed Nadim Qasmi,
Lahore.

Prof. M. A. Siddiqui,
Islamabad.

Mr. Rafique Ahmad,
Islamabad,

Library

The Institute has established a reference library which is being developed keeping in view the needs of research scholars. Presently it consists of 9150 books, a large number of pamphlets, journals and newspapers. A number of rare items are also available on microfiches/microfilms; these include a complete record of the proceedings of the Central and Provincial Legislative Assemblies of pre-independence period, the microfiches of such newspapers as *Statesman*, *Aligarh Institute Gazette*, *Civil and Military Gazette* etc. A separate reading room is also provided in the library for the readers.

Special Cell

An additional facility has been developed in the form of a Special Cell to assemble and document non-book material on the current history of Pakistan. The Director, in this connection, wrote to all the Federal Ministries and Provincial Departments for the supply of published and non-classified mimeographed materials. The response has been favourable and more than one thousand items of current material have so far been received in the Cell.