

TEACHING AND RESEARCH ON THE QUR'ANIC STUDIES (AS A SUB-GENRE OF ISLAMIC STUDIES): A SURVEY OF SOME SELECTED INDIAN UNIVERSITIES

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ABSTRACT

Islamic Studies, as an academic discipline within the Humanities and Social Sciences, is globally taught in diverse higher education institutions, including colleges and universities. In India too, this discipline is offered in various universities and affiliated colleges, featuring 'Ulum al-Qur'an' (Qur'anic Sciences) as a fundamental course at both undergraduate (UG) and postgraduate (PG) levels. Within the broader domain of Islamic Studies, the sub-discipline of Qur'anic Studies ('dirasat al-Qur'aniyya') has emerged as a dynamic and captivating field of research, gaining substantial traction in recent years. In this context, this paper provides an account of the teaching and research related to the Qur'anic studies in some prominent universities of India—from Jammu & Kashmir to Kerala—which offer UG/ PG in Islamic Studies, with a course, or part of a course or topics, about the study of the Qur'an and the Qur'anic worldview. It also focuses on the research activities of some of these Universities and provides a list of MPhil and PhD Dissertations/ Theses related to Qur'anic Studies giving an impression and idea of the themes and issues explored in this area within the discipline of Islamic Studies.

Key Words: 'Ulum al-Qur'an (Qur'anic Sciences), Qur'anic Studies, Islamic Studies, Indian Universities, Curriculum.

1. INTRODUCTION

Islamic Studies is an academic discipline that is taught in different higher education institutions (colleges and universities) globally.ⁱ The concept of Islamic Studies as a social science discipline has a long journey in contemporary world, having different meanings and perspectives in Arab world and in Western world. The history of Islamic Studies, both in the West and East, is centuries old. In the West, it has passed through different stages/ phases (beginning with Orientalism).ⁱⁱ Back in 1990, Prof. Syed Maqbool Ahmad

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(in an Urdu quarterly, *Islam aur Asr-e Jadid*) wrote: “Islamic Studies, as a subject dealing with the study of Islamic history, culture and civilization, is not a new discipline”; “its name is new”, but not the subject itself and the contents it covers, because “the discipline is as old as Orientalism itself.”ⁱⁱⁱ In the East, including the Indian context, its history dates back, to speak from the academic/ teaching point of view, to the early decades of 20th century. Similarly, in J&K it was introduced from late 1980s.^{iv}

Islamic Studies, as a subject in Social Sciences, is taught at various universities of India, including *Aligarh Muslim University (AMU)*, *Jamia Milia Islamia (JMI)*, *Jamia Hamdard (JH)*, *Osmania University (OU)*, *Maulana Azad National Urdu University (MANUU)*, *University of Calicut (UC)*, *University of Kerala (UoK)*, *University of Kashmir (KU)*, *Islamic University of Science and Technology (IUST)*, *Baba Ghulam Shah Badshah University (BGSBU)*, *Central University of Kashmir (CUK)*,^v etc. In these Universities, the courses are related to Islamic history and civilization, religious sciences, modern developments, contemporary trends, and Islam’s relation with science and social sciences, gender, ethics, economy and banking, etc. Among these, one of the major courses in Islamic Studies is the ‘Islamic Religious Sciences’, which includes the study of the Qur’an, *Hadith*, *Fiqh*, etc. Below is presented in section-I, a description of the courses and/ or topics related to the Qur’an taught at some of these universities at UG and PG levels so that to get a glimpse of the topics, themes and issues covered under the theme of ‘Qura’nic Studies’. Moreover, in section-II, a list of MPhil and PhD Dissertations/ Theses on the Qur’anic Studies (awarded or in progress) conducted at various Universities of India under the banner of Department of Islamic Studies, with the objective to get ideas of the topics and themes explored in Qura’nic Studies and its scope, prospects, trends and tendencies as well as its significance in the discipline of Islamic Studies.^{iv}

Before going into the details, it is pertinent to add here that ‘Qur’anic Studies’, a sub-genre in the discipline of Islamic Studies, is one of the interesting, exciting and noteworthy academic discourses to which Muslims (from classical to contemporary era) and non-Muslims (or Western scholars) have contributed extensively. The Qur’anic scholarship has seen a rapid and broad-ranging development, especially in the present century, as it is seen as “a vibrant and multidimensional scholarly pursuit” to which scholars have “introduced a multiplicity of approaches that were unknown within medieval Muslim society and which are now being confronted by Muslims themselves in the face of the onslaught of the technological, post-enlightenment globalized world”, thus, the field has seen an increased ‘proliferation’ because the Qur’anic studies has been approached in a variety of ways, with different aims and purposes by different scholars. The “explosion of interest in the Qur’an over the past several decades”, as Devin Stewart (*Emory University*) rightly comments within the 21st century context, “has

produced a sharp rise in the rate at which scholarship in Qur'anic studies is being produced, as well as in the number of different approaches".^{viii}

Moreover, with reference to the academic study of the Qur'an in its present scenario, the remarks of Andrew Rippin (who served as Professor of History and Dean of the Faculty of Humanities at the *University of Victoria*, Canada, and is considered as one of 'the most influential Qur'anic scholars of the West') are noteworthy: "Given the Qur'an's centrality to Islam and to Muslims", the academic study of the Scripture is "a necessary focal point of any engagement in Islamic Studies", which is based on the fact that this "centrality also renders the subject vast as well as contentious, given the value that is placed upon the book by the community and outsiders alike".^{ix} He further adds that the "academic study of the Qur'an, in all of the scripture's manifestations in Muslim scholasticism and popular culture across the centuries, is a vibrant and multidimensional scholarly pursuit",^x and he adds these insights with reference to the 'future of [the] Qur'anic Studies':

[The field of] Qur'anic studies is a broad-ranging and very active field of study within the study of Islam. Not without its controversies, research has made significant progress in recent decades in producing the tools necessary for advanced work, in making classical manuscripts and texts available for scholarly use, and in becoming a firm part of the academy through periodically organized conferences, book series, and journals. The challenges of the field are real but the rewards are enormous in terms of participating in a substantial scholarly community with lively discussion and productive debate.^{xi}

This gives a clear glimpse of the importance and significance as well as scope and vibrancy of the Qur'anic studies, a sub-genre in the discipline of Islamic Studies.

Section-I: Courses and Topics on the Qur'anic Studies Taught at Some Prominent Universities of India (Content Analysis of Selected Courses)

This section provides a brief description of the courses related to the Qur'anic Studies that are being taught at the UG and PG levels in different universities across India in a chronological order. In most cases, the syllabus currently in vogue has been taken into consideration; however, as the syllabus is being revised under *National Education Policy (NEP)-2020*, especially at the undergraduate level in J&K, the syllabus of UG courses offered for batches up to 2021 is taken into consideration.

Department of Islamic Studies (DoIS), Aligarh Muslim University (AMU): At the AMU, Islamic Studies was first introduced in 1920 and later, in March 1954, the Institute of Islamic Studies was established. In 1968, the Institute was elevated as the Department of Islamic Studies (DoIS),^{xii} with the purpose "to promote the study of (a) Islamic Culture and Civilization (b) Social, Political, Economic and Cultural trends in the countries of

West Asia and North Africa and (c) Modern Arabic, Persian and Turkish (Language and Literature)”^{xiii} It is notable that at the AMU, besides DoIS and Department of Arabic Language and Literature, there are many other departments and centers for the study of Islam (Islamic creed and beliefs) and the Muslim world, viz., Departments of (Sunni and Shia) Theology, Department of West Asian and North African Studies, K. A. Nizami Centre for Qur’anic Studies (KAN-CQS) and Centre for South African and Brazilian Studies (CSABS).

At the AMU, DoIS, which is a part of the Faculty of Social Sciences, offers both UG and PG courses. In BA (Hons), there is a course on ‘Islamic Sciences under the Umayyads and Abbasids’, which includes following topics related to the Qur’anic Studies: Revelation and Preservation of Qur’an; Science of *Tafsir*: Origin and Significance and Development of *Tafsir*. While as, at the PG level, there is a complete course on the ‘Qur’anic Sciences’, which includes following topics: Qur’an: Revelation, Collection and Compilation; Qur’an: Literary Features and Style, Ijaz al-Qur’an; ‘Ilm [al-]Tafsir: Scope and Sources; Methodologies of Tafsir Writing; Development of Tafsir in Early Period; Special Study of Tafsir [al-]Tabari and Tafsir [al-]Razi; Main Tafsir Works of Classical Period; Development of Tafsir in Modern Period; Development of Tafsir in Urdu; Scientific Notions in Qur’an; Principles of Social Sciences in Qur’an. For this course, the main ‘recommended’ books include Jalaluddin Sutuyi’s *al-Itqan fi ‘Ulum al-Qur’an*, Richard Bell’s *Introduction to Qur’an*, W. M. Watt’s *Bell’s Introduction to Qur’an*, John Burton’s *The Collection of Qur’an*, G. A. Hariri’s *Tarikh-i Ulum al-Qur’an* and *Tarikh-i Tafsir va Mufassirin*.

Moreover, there are many topics related to the Qur’anic Studies in other PG courses of Islamic Studies; for example, in a course on ‘Islamic Political Thought’, there are topics on “Political Notions in the Qur’an” and “Qur’an’s Concept of State and Government”; the course on ‘Islamic Economic Thought’ includes a topic on “The Qur’an: Basic Source of Islamic Economic Thought”; the course on ‘Muslim Geography’ includes “Geographical Information in Qur’an”; and the courses on ‘Prominent Personalities’ of the Sub-Continent, like Shah Wali-Ullah and Ashraf Ali Thanawi also includes topics on their “Contributions to Qur’anic Sciences/ Studies”.

Department of Islamic Studies, Jamia Milia Islamia (JMI): At JMI, Islamic Studies has been a part of the curriculum since the inception of the University (in 1920); in 1975, a separate multi-disciplinary Department of Islamic and Arab-Iranian Studies was created, and following a trifurcation, a full-fledged DoIS was established in 1988. Presently a department in the ‘Faculty of Humanities and Languages’, JMI’s DoIS was established with the objective “to study the whole range of Islamic civilization and culture” with a special focus, besides the religion of Islam, on the “topics such as the socio-economic structure, military, administration, development of various sciences and thought, cultural life, cosmology, mysticism, literature and fine arts, and many other aspects of Islamic civilization”^{xiv}.

In its BA (Hons) curriculum, DoIS of JMI offers a full-fledged course on 'Development of Islamic Sciences: Tafsir', which includes the following topics: Introduction to Tafsir and its History: Tafsir and its Importance; Origin and Development of Tafsir; Eminent Tafsir Writers and their Works: A Short Introduction: Tabari, Razi, Zamakhshari, Ibn-e-Kathir, Jalalayn and Baidawi; Eminent Urdu Tafsir Writers and their Works: A Brief Introduction: Sir Syed Ahmad Khan, Ashraf Ali Thanwi, Abul Kalam Azad, Abul A'la Maududi and Amin Ahsan Islahi.

At the PG level too, it offers a course on '*Islamic Religious Sciences: The Qur'an and Hadith*', which includes following topics about the Qur'anic Studies: Qur'an: *Wahy*, Revelation and its types; Collection and Compilation of the Qur'an; Basic Qur'anic teachings; *Ilm-e-Tafsir*: Origin and Development; A Brief Introduction to Classical Arabic *Tafsirs* (Tabari, Razi, Zamakhshari, Ibn-e-Kathir, Jalalayn and Baidawi); India's Contribution to Tafsir Literature in Urdu (*Tafsir al-Qur'an* of Sir Syed Ahmad Khan; *Bayan al-Qur'an* of Ashraf Ali Thanwi; *Tarjuman al-Qur'an* of Abul Kalam Azad, *Tafhim al-Qur'an* of Abul A'la Maududi, and *Tadabbur-e Qur'an* of Amin Ahsan Islahi).

Some of the important works mentioned in the 'Books Recommended' for both these courses are: John Burton's *The Collection of the Qur'an*, Helmut Gatje's *The Qur'an and its Exegesis*, G. A. Hariri's *Tarikh Tafsir wa Mufasssirin*, Syed Shahid Ali's *Urdu Tafaseer Biswin Sadi men* and *Urdu Mufasssirin ka Tafsiri Mauqif*, Majid Ali Khan's *The Holy Verses*, Toshiko Izutsu's *The Concept of Belief in Islamic Theology and God and Man in the Qur'an*, Abu Zahra Misri's *Tarikh-i-Tafsir*, Salim Kidwai's *Hindustani Mufasssirin aur unki Arabi Tafsiren* and Shauqi Abu Khalil's *Atlas of the Qur'an*. Moreover, the course on 'Orientalism' includes a significant topic on "Study of Qur'an (Translation, Glossary and Critical Study of Orientalists' Writings on the Qur'an)" and the course on 'Non-Muslim Contribution to Islamic Studies' includes "Non-Muslim Translations of the Qur'an".

It is noteworthy to mention that JMI has also introduced Masters Programme in Islamic Studies in Distance Mode through Centre for Distance and Online Education (CDOE).^{xv} In its courses, it includes a course on '*Islamic Religious Sciences: The Qur'an and Hadith*', which includes following topics on the Qur'anic Studies: The Qur'an (Block-i): *Wahy* (Revelation) and its types; The Collection and Compilation of the Qur'an; Basic Qur'anic teachings; *Ilm-e-Tafsir* (Block-ii): Origin and Development of *Ilm-e-Tafsir*; A Brief Introduction to Classical Arabic *Tafsirs*: Tabari, Zamakhshari, Razi, Ibn Kathir, Baidhawi, Jalalayn; India's Contribution to Tafsir Literature in Urdu (Block-iii): *Tafsir al-Qur'an wa hu al Huda wal Furqan Bayan al-Qur'an*, *Tarjuman al-Qur'an* and *Tadabbur-e Qur'an*. Moreover, in the course on 'Orientalism', it includes two significant topics on the study of Qur'an: "Study of Qur'an: Translation and Glossary" and "Critical Study of Orientalists' Writings on Qur'an" and the course on 'Non-Muslim's Contribution to Islamic Studies' includes a topic on "Non-Muslim translators of the Holy Qur'an".

Shah-i Hamadan Institute of Islamic Studies (SHIIS), University of Kashmir (KU): In the KU, Shah-i Hamadan Institute of Islamic Studies (SHIIS) was established in 1988-89. Being the oldest institute/ department of Islamic Studies in J&K, it serves, from last few decades, to achieve the objectives of imparting “the knowledge based on considerate enquiry” in order to develop in the students and researchers the “capacity for independent and critical thinking”. It also aims (i) “to inculcate the spirit of tolerance and patience” among its students “in order to promote communal harmony and mutual understanding in a pluralistic society”; and (ii) “to develop the spirit of objective analysis based on impartiality, genuineness, authenticity, legitimacy and relevance”.^{xvi}

At the UG level, two courses—namely ‘*Islamic Religious Sciences*’ and ‘*Basic Islamic Sciences (Qur’an, Hadith and Fiqh)*’—are offered to students which include following topics in the area of the Qur’anic Studies: An Introduction to the Qur’an and its ‘*Ulum; Wahy; Asbab-e Nuzul; Rabt and Nazm; Tafsir*: Meaning and its Early Development; Principles of *Tafsir*; Following *Mufassirin* and an introduction to their *Tafasir*: Razi (d. 601/ 1209), Ibn Kathir (d. 774/ 1372) and Mufti Muhammad Shafi (d. 1976). For these courses, the ‘recommended’ books include Muhammad Taqi Uthmani’s ‘*Ulum al-Qur’an*’, Ahmad Von Denffer’s *Ulum al-Qur’an* and Hamid Naseem Rafiabadi’s *The Qur’an Illustrated*. Besides these two main courses, it prescribes topics like “The Qur’an: Its Revelation and Compilation”, “Ethical Teachings in the Qur’an”, “Qur’anic Concept of Religion”, “Main Political Teachings in the Qur’an”, “Scientific Perspective in Qur’an”, and “Women in the Qur’an” in other courses offered in different semesters.

At the PG level, SHIIS, KU offers course on basic Islamic sciences, ‘*Introduction to Islamic Sciences: Tafsir, Hadith and Fiqh*’ and includes two units on Qur’anic studies: *Mustalabat al-Qur’an* and Concepts (Unit-i): *Wahy* (Meaning, Types and Significance); *Al-Jam’wa al-Tadwin* and *Asbab al-Nuzul*, *Al-Nasikh was al-Mansukh* and *Mubkamat* and *Mutashabihat*; *Usul al-Tafsir* (Unit-ii): *Tafsir*: Meaning and Sources; Early Development; Arabic *Tafasir*: Introduction to *Tafsir al-Kashaf* and *Ibn Kathir*; Urdu *Tafasir*: Introduction to *Tafhim al-Qur’an* and *Tarjuman al-Qur’an*.

Moreover, there are many topics related to the Qur’anic Studies in other courses of Islamic Studies; for example, the course on ‘Islam and Women’ includes a topic on the status of “Women in the Qur’an”; the course on ‘An Introduction to Islam and Science’ includes one unit on providing “A Survey of Relevant Qur’anic Verses Related to: (i) the Universe, (ii) the Origin of Life, (iii) Embryology and (iv) Environment”; the course on ‘*Ilm al-Kalam* and Muslim Philosophy’ includes a topic on the “Qur’anic Account of ‘*Aql, Hikmah, Tadabbur, Tafakkur* and *Ilm*’”; the course on the ‘Dawah and its Practices’ includes topic on the “Conceptual Framework in the light of Qur’an and Hadith”; the course on ‘Basics of Islamic Religious Sciences’ includes full unit on ‘Tafsir’ which includes these topics: *Tafsir*: Meaning and Sources; Early Development; Introduction of Abdullah Yusuf Ali’s *The Holy*

Quran: Text, Translation and Commentary. The course on 'Ethics in Islam: Basic Concepts and Development' includes a topic on "Study of Islamic Ethical Concepts in the Qur'an: *Haya, 'Adl, Taqwa, 'Afu, Tarabbum, Tawadu, Sabr, Tawakkul, Tawbah* and *Sidq*"; the course on 'Major World Religions Other Than Islam', topics like "Qura'nic view of *Yabud (Bani Isra'il)*" and "Crisis of Christianity in the Modern West and the Qura'nic Account of *'Isa (AS)* and *Maryam (AS)*" and "Economic Teachings in the Qur'an" is a topic included in the course on 'Islamic Economics, Finance and Banking'.

Department of Islamic Studies, Islamic University of Science and Technology (IUST): At the IUST, Department of Islamic Studies was established at its inception in 2005, as a part of the 'School of Humanities and Social Sciences', with the objective to explore Islam not only as a religion, a history and a civilization which focuses on the intellectual, scientific, artistic and cultural dimensions of Islam but to shed light on the "multiple expressions of Islam as a spiritual tradition, the role of Islamic civilization in global history and importance of Islamic discourse in the contemporary world."^{xvii} Since its establishment, DoIS, IUST strives to present the subject into its real ideological perspective using the "tools of interdisciplinarity and comparative approach"^{xviii}.

It offers a full-fledged PG course on '*Islamic Religious Sciences: Ulum al-Qur'an*' with the objectives to "acquaint students with the basic concepts and themes related to the scripture of Islam (the Qur'an)" and to "explore the interpretive diversity vis-à-vis the Qur'an". It includes following topics, themes and issues: Unit-I: '*Ulum al-Qur'an: An Introduction & Various Aspects: Wahy, Shan-i Nuzul, Rabt and Nazm, I'jaz al-Qur'an, Mubkamat and Mutashabihat*'; Unit-II: *Jama wa Tadwin* (Collection and Compilation): *Jam'a* and *Tadwin* (Phases, Process and the Role of Abu Bakr and Uthman (RA) in the Formation of *Mushaf; Qir'at* Variations (Recitation); Unit-III: '*Ilm al-Tafsir* (The Science of Exegesis): *Tafsir—Meaning, Importance and Significance; Origin and Development; Sources of Tafsir, Usul al-Tafsir* and other inter-related topics; Unit-IV: Prominent *Tafasir* (Classical and Modern): Basic Themes and Narratives in Classical *Tafasir* like Al-Tabari's *Jami'al-Bayan*, Zamakhshari's *Al-Kashshaf* Ibn Kathir's *Tafsir al-Qur'an al-Azim* and in Modern *Tafasir* it includes the development of Urdu and English exegesis and their approaches and methodologies and as case study includes these exegesis: *The Glorious Qur'an, Maarif al-Qur'an* and *Tarjuman al-Qur'an*. In this course, following books are included and enlisted in its 'Required Readings': Ahmad Von Denffer's *Ulum al-Qur'an*; John Wansbrough and Andrew Rippin's *Qur'anic Studies: Sources and Methods of Scriptural Interpretation*; Taqi Uthmani's *An Approach to the Qur'anic Sciences*; Colin Turner's *The Koran, Critical Concepts in Islamic Studies*; Fazlur Rahman's *Major Themes of the Qur'an*; Michel Sells's *Approaching the Qur'an* and J. Penrice's *A Dictionary of the Glossary of Koran*.

Moreover, there are many topics related to the Qur'anic Studies in other courses of Islamic Studies; for example, the course on 'Islam and Science' includes these topics:

Qur'anic Vocabulary on and Concept of Knowledge, Qur'anic Account of Human Creation and Qur'anic Account of (i) Embryology, (ii) Geography and (iii) Cosmology. Similarly, topics like "Peace in the Qur'anic Perspective", "Qur'anic Perspective on *Fitna/Fasad, Khuruj and Nifaq*" and "Qur'anic Vocabulary on Covenants" are included in the course on 'Islam and Peace Building'.

Department of Qur'an and Related Sciences, Darul Huda Islamic University (DHIU): DHIU, Kerala was established as an Islamic Academy in 1986 and was later upgraded to University in May 2009.^{xxix} In its *Kulliyah/ Faculty* devoted to the study of Islam, its basic sources and allied subjects, it has a specific *Kulliyah* devoted to the study of the *Qur'an* and *Sunnah*, namely *Kulliyah of Qur'an and Sunnah* (KQS), which has two Departments, viz. Department of Qur'an and Related Sciences (DQRS) and Department of Hadith and Related Sciences (DHRS). This *Kulliyah* (KQS) is the "largest faculty" in DHIU, which aims at "pioneering the relevation of the two fundamental sources of Islamic revealed knowledge, namely the Qur'an and Sunnah".^{xxx} DQRS offers undergraduate and postgraduate courses/ programmes focusing on "different areas of Qur'anic Science, including Revelation, Compilation, Coherence, Qur'anic interpretation and different perspectives on the Divine Text". These courses include: '*Ulum al-Qur'an: An Introduction to Qur'anic Sciences; Coherence of the Qur'an; Qur'anic Interpretation: The System, Scholars and Methods; Authentic Methods of Qur'an Recitation; The Qur'an and the Modern Sciences; Orientalist Approaches to the Holy Qur'an; Qur'anic Legal Theories and Development of Tafsir Literature in India. Moreover, few major areas of specialization include the courses on "Qur'anic discourses such as critical reading of its classical, contemporary, and Western scholarship, diverse methodologies of Qur'anic interpretation and modern trends in its academic research"*.^{xxxi}

Moreover, it is pertinent to mention that DQRS has been organizing 'International Conference on Qur'anic Studies' (ICQS), annually. For instance, in March 2018 they organized conference on "*Qur'anic Perspectives on Social and Contemporary Issues*", and the main themes covered were: Diversity, Faith and Multi-culturalism; Gender, Sexuality and Humanity; Political Economy, Environment and IT and Socio-Political Issues (in which around two dozen papers were presented). Similarly, guided by the insights that the noble Qur'an provides "social, economic judicial and familial instructions for the whole mankind to pursue the straight path" as well as keeping in view the fact that "Qur'anic studies have been emerging as a vibrant field of research among scholars both in the West and the East", the theme of 2019 Conference was "*Diversity and Pluralism: A Qur'anic Perspective*" (December, 2019). The broad themes proposed for this conference were: *Kalimah Sawa: Possibility of Interfaith Dialogue; Qur'an as a Constitution of Minority Movement among Polytheistic Society and Multi-culturalism and the Qur'an*.^{xxxii}

Department of Islamic Studies, Maulana Azad National Urdu University (MANUU): In

MANUU (established in 1998), DoIS was established in May 2012, with the main objective “to offer courses in Islamic Studies in modern perspective”.^{xxiii} As a part of School of Arts and Social Sciences, the department offers different courses of study and research in the “vast areas of Islamic sciences, law, culture, civilization, mysticism and thought with the aim to train scholars in the subject of Islamic Studies” so that to play “a remarkable role in the progress and prosperity of humanity”.^{xxiv} DoIS, MANUU offers UG, PG, PhD programs as well as Diploma in Islamic Studies, and includes topics/courses on Qur’anic Studies in all of them. For example, at the PG level, it provides a course on ‘Islamic Sciences’ which includes a section on *Qur’aniyat*/ Qur’anic Studies and includes these three topics: Revelation: Disciplines and Thoughts of the Qur’an; Qur’anic Exegeses and their Methodology; and Themes of the Qur’an. ‘The Qur’an and Hadith’ course includes topics like Comprehensive Introduction of the Qur’an: Collection and Compilation of the Qur’an; (Major) Themes of the Qur’an; Qur’anic Teachings: Ethical, Social, Political, Economic, and Legal Commands; *Tafsir*: Origin and Development; (Few) Arabic Exegetes and their Exegesis: Muhammad bin Jarir al-Tabari, Jar Allah Zamakhshari, Fakhr al-Din al-Razi, Abdullah bin ‘Umar al-Baydawi; Urdu Translations of the Qur’an; Main Exegetes of India and their Exegesis: Ashraf Ali Thanawi, Abul Kalam Azad, Abu’l Ala Mawdudi, Sayyid Ali Naqwi and Pir Karam Shah. Similarly, the course on ‘Contribution of Non-Muslims to Islamic Studies’ includes a topic on “Academic Contribution of the Orientalists in the field of Qur’anic Studies”; the course on ‘Fundamentals of Islam’ includes a topic on “Qur’an: Introduction, Compilation, [major] Themes, and Commandments”.

In the UG, the course on ‘Faith, Qur’an and Hadith’ includes these topics: Qur’an and its Revelation, Compilation, and Fundamental Teachings; *Tafsir*: Introduction and Historical Development; Major Exegetical Works: *Tafsir-i-Tabari*, *Tafsir al-Kabir*, *Tafsir-i-Jalalayn*, *Tafhim al-Qur’an*, *Bayan al-Qur’an*, and *Tarjuman al-Qur’an*; the courses on ‘*Islamiyat*’ (I & II) contains “Translation of (selected chapters of) the Qur’an”, which includes introduction and translation of these chapters: Surah al-Fatiha and last 10 *Surahs* and Surahs al-Anbiya (verses 48-93), Luqman (12-19), al-Hujurat (11-13), al-Ma’idah (1-5), Bani Isra’il (23-39), al-Nur (27-31, 58-61) and al-Furqan (61-77).

Furthermore, DoIS, MANUU offers ‘Diploma in Islamic Studies’ which includes a course on “Translation of Qur’an and Qur’anic Arabic” (I & II) and covers translation as well as word-meanings and grammatical aspects of these *surahs*: al-Fatihah, al-Duha to al-Nass, al-Nisa, al-A’raf, al-Anfal, al-Kahf, al-Nur, Luqman and al-Sajdah (in part I) and Ya-Sin, al-Saffat, al-Mu’min, Ha-Mim al-Sajdah, al-Hujurat, al-Rahman, al-Waqi’ah, al-Jumu’ah, al-Talaq and al-Mulk (in part II).

The Books (Text and References) recommended for these courses include: *Al-Tafsir wa al-Mufasssirun*; *Nuqush: Qur’an Number*; Mahmood Ahmad Ghazi's *Muhadarat-e-Qur’an*,

G. A. Hariri's *Tarikh-i Tafsir va Mufassirin*; Taqi Uthmani's *'Ulum al-Qur'an*; Syed Shahid Ali's *Urdu Tafasir Biswin Sadi men*; Khalid Saifullah Rahmani's *Qur'an aur Asr-i Hadir*; Syed Siddiq Hasan's *Jam'a va Tadwin-i Qur'an*; Nisar Ahmad Nadwi's *Mu'allim al-Qur'an* and *Rabbar Qur'an-i Karim*.

Department of Religious Studies, Central University of Kashmir (CUK): At the CUK, Department of Religious Studies (established in 2015) forms "one of the main constituent departments of the School of Social Sciences". The department currently offers "Masters programmes in Comparative Religion and Islamic Studies" as well as research programme in diverse areas of Islamic and Religious studies.^{xxxv} In the courses offered for PG in Comparative Religion, it includes the following topics related to the Qur'anic studies: Islamic system of beliefs, worships and values as derived from the Qur'an and Sunnah; The Qur'an and Tafsir; Nature of Revelation, Compilation and Preservation of the Qur'an; Qur'an: its Structure, Content and Major Themes; Qur'an: its inimitability and uniqueness; Translations and major commentaries of the Qur'an; Legislative dimensions of the Qur'an and Sunnah. Moreover, a course on 'Muslim Philosophy' includes a topic on "Qur'anic Account of *'Aql, Hikmah, Tadabbur, Tafakkur* and *'Ilm*" and the course on "Principles and Schools of Fiqh" includes "The Qur'an" as the primary source of Islamic Law.^{xxxvi}

Similarly, in the syllabus for M.A. Programme in Islamic Studies, DoRS, CUK offers "Introduction to the Qur'an and its Sciences" as a full-fledged course, which includes these topics: (i) Basic Concepts: Wahy and its Types; Al-Qur'an: Definition and its Basic Teachings (Tawhid, Risalah, Ma'ad); Nuzul al-Qur'an and its Preservation (*Jama'wa Tadwin*) and Asbab al-Nuzul; (ii) Science of Exegesis (*Tafsir*): Tafsir al-Qur'an: Definition and its Types; Sources of Tafsir; Development of Tafsir Mufassirun (Sahabah and Tabi'un) and Muhkamat, Mutashabihat and Ijaz al-Qur'an; (iii) The Qur'an as a Source of Knowledge and Laws: The Qur'an as Source of Knowledge, Social and Economic Laws; The Qur'an and the Development of Modern Sciences; and (iv) Tafsir Literature: Classical and Modern: Classical Tafasir: *Tafasir al-Qur'an al-'Azim & Tafasir al-Qurtubi*; Modern Tafasir: *Bayan al-Qur'an & Tafhim al-Qur'an*, The Message of the Qur'an (M. Asad); Contemporary Developments in Qur'anic Studies in the Muslim World (an Overview) and Orientalist Approach to the Understanding of Qur'an (A. J. Arbery and J.M.S. Baljon).

Moreover, in the course on "Major World Religions Other Than Islam" it includes topics like 'Qura'nic view of Yahud and Banu Israel' and 'Crises of Christianity in the Modern West and the Quranic Account of 'Isa, Maryam and Nasara' and includes topics like 'J. S. Baljon on Tafsir Writing' and 'N. J. Coulson: Primary Sources of Islamic Jurisprudence (Qur'an and Sunnah)' in the course "Islam and Orientalism: An Introduction to Prominent Orientalists and their Works".

Department of Religious Studies, Baba Ghulam Shab Badshah University (BGSBU): At BGSBU, DoIS, under the banner of School of Islamic Studies and Languages (established in 2017) offers PG. M.Phil and PhD programmes.^{xxvii} In PG courses, it offers a full-fledged PG course on 'Islamic Religious Sciences-I (Study of Qur'an)', which includes these topics: The Holy Qur'an: Terminology and Concepts (unit-i): Basic Terms: *Wahy* [Revelation]; *Nasikh* and *Mansukh*; *Muhkam* and *Mutashabihat*; *Makki* and *Madani Surahs*; Compilation of the Qur'an; Unique Characteristics of the Qur'an: *Ajiaz*, *Nazm*, *Rabi*; Major Themes of the Qur'an (Unit-ii): Basic Teachings of the Qur'an (*Imaniyat* and *Ibadat*); Social and Ethical Teachings of the Qur'an; Economic and Political Teachings of the Qur'an; Study of Classical *Tafsir* Literature (unit-iii): Origin and Development of *Ilm al-Tafsir*, Types of *Tafsir*; *Tafsir bil-Mathur*: *Tafsir-i Tabari (Jami' al-Bayan)* and *Tafsir ibn Kathir*; *Tafsir bil-Ray*: *Tafsir al-Kashshaf* and *Tafsir-i-Kabir*; *Tafsir* Literature in Urdu (unit-iv): A Survey of Urdu *Tafsir* Literature; *Tarjuman al-Qur'an*; *Tafsir Sanai* and *Ma'arif ul-Qur'an*; *Tafsir* Literature in English (unit-V): A Survey of English *Tafsir* Literature; *The Holy Qur'an* (Abdullah Yusuf Ali), and *The Message of Qur'an* (Muhammad Asad).

The 'Books Recommended' for this course include, besides the books of Uthmani, Denffer and Salih, Fazlur Rahman's *Major Themes of the Qur'an*, Bilal Philips' *Usul al-Tafsir*, Abul Kalam Azad's *Basic Concepts of Qur'an*, Dr. Rafeeq Ahmed's *Introduction to Qur'an*, Anjum Awan's *Essentials of Islamic Sciences*, Prof. Hamidullah Marazi's *The Qur'an Illustrated* and Yasir Qadhi's *An Introduction to the Sciences of the Qur'an*.

It also includes topics like "Qura'nic Perspective of Ethics" in the course, 'Ethics in Islam'; "Qura'nic Perspective on Philosophy" in the course on Muslim Philosophy; "Spirituality in the Light of Primary Islamic Texts" in the course 'Spirituality and Islam' and "Qura'nic Perspective of Aesthetics" in the course 'Islam and Fine Arts'. Moreover, two units (out of five) on Qur'an and Tafsir are incorporated in an elective course on "Islamic Religious Sciences".

Section-2: List of MPhil and PhD Dissertations/ Theses on the Qur'anic Studies at Some Prominent Universities of India

This section provides a list of MPhil and PhD Dissertations/ Theses on the Qur'anic Studies (awarded or in progress) conducted through DoIS or DoRS at various Universities of India with the objective to get glimpses and ideas of the topics and themes explored in different universities under the broader rubric of Qura'nic Studies, which gives clear ideas about the scope and prospects, trends and tendencies and vibrancy and dynamism taking place in this sub-genre of Islamic Studies discipline.

1) List of PhD Theses on Qura'nic Studies at the DoIS, AMU

Title	Researcher	Supervisor	Year
Role and Status of Women in the Qur'an	Shaista Aziz Alam	Mohd Azam Qasmi	1988
A Critical Study of Muhammad Asad's <i>The Message of the Qur'an</i> (1980)	Abdul Majid Khan	Self-supervised	2005
A Critical Analysis of Amin Ahsan Islahi's Approach to Understanding the Qur'an	Herman Roborgh	Yasin Mazhar Siddiqi	2006
A Critical Study of Selected Urdu <i>Tafasir</i> of 20 th Century	Uzma Khatoon	Rais Fatima	2015
Orientalists' English Translations of the Qur'an with special reference to Alan Jones (2007)	Sajid Shaffi	Ziauddin Malik	2022
Methodology and Features of Sayyid Abu'l Ala Mawdudi's <i>Tafhim al-Qur'an</i> : An Assessment	Sajad Ahmad Dar	Abdul Majid Khan	(in progress)

2) List of PhD Theses on Qura'nic Studies at the DoIS, JMI

Title	Researcher	Supervisor	Year
The Concept of <i>Tazkiya-e-Nafs</i> [Purification of Soul] in Islam: A Study in Reference to the Qur'an and the Hadith	Ayisha	Ishaque	2017
An Analytical Study of <i>Al-Tafseer Al-Mazhari</i>	Mohd. Sayeed Anwar	Syed Shahid Ali	2017
Legal Verses of the Qur'an (<i>Ayat-e-Abkam</i>) and Hanafi and Shafi' 'School of Jurisprudence': A Comparative Study	Mohd. Serajuddin	Syed Shahid Ali	2018
Contribution of Women Scholars in the Qur'anic Studies and Tafsir Literature: A Critical and Comparative Analysis	Nadeem-e-Sehar Ambareen	Farida Khanam	2018
Concept of Political Authority (<i>Ulil Al-Amr</i>): Text, Context, and Interpretations by Prominent Modern Indo-Pak Exegetes	Owais Manzoor Dar	Mohd. Khalid Khan	2023

Title	Researcher	Supervisor	Year
Juristic Thought of Mufti Muhammad Shafi: A Study of <i>Tafsir-i-Ma'arif al-Qur'an</i>	Bilal Ahmad Wani	Naseem Ahamd Shah	2019
Basic Themes in Mawlana Azad's <i>Tarjuman al-Qur'an</i>	Naveed Anjum	Abdul Rashid Bhat	2019
The Trends of Sufi <i>Tafaseer</i> in the Classical Times: A Study of the <i>Tafaseer</i> of Sahl al-Tustari and Imam al-Qushayri*	Qaiser Muhammad	G. N. Khaki	(in progress)
Contemporary Trends in the Qur'anic Studies: A Study of Thematic Approach (Selected Works)*	Juneefa Bilal	G. N. Khaki	(in progress)

4) List of PhD Theses on Quranic Studies at the DoIS, MANUU

Title	Researcher	Supervisor	Year
A Study of Renowned Urdu Exegesis of Qur'an and their Methodologies [A Comparative Study of <i>Tafhim al-Qur'an</i> , <i>Ma'arif al-Qur'an</i> , <i>Tafsir-i-Na'imi</i> and <i>Tafsir-i-Sana'i</i>]	Abdul Raqeeb	Irfan Ahmad	2022
Orientalistic Approach to the Qur'an: A Critical Analysis (with Special Reference to 21 st Century)	Mujtaba Farooq	Fahim Akhter Nadwi	2023

5) List of MPhil and PhD Dissertations and Theses on Quranic Studies at the DoRS, CUK

Title	Researcher	Supervisor	Year
History of the Quranic Text: A Critical Study of the Orientalist Theories with special to George Sale and Richard Bell [MPhil]	Ab. Majeed Ganie (Furqaan Majeed)	Hamidullah Marazi	2023
History of the Compilation of the Qura'nic Text: A Study of John Wansbrough's Approach	--do--	Nazir Ahmad Zargar	(in progress)
Approaches to the Interpretation of the Qur'an: A Study of some Traditional and some Major Hermeneutical Trends	Ghazi Nazir Naqash	Moyeed-ul-Zafar	(in progress)

3) List of MPhil and PhD Theses on Qura'nic Studies at SHIIS, CCAS and SACMS, KU

Besides SHIIS, research is pursued in Islamic Studies in *KU* at the Centre for Central Asian Studies (CCAS) and Makz-i-Noor/ Sheikh-ul-Alam^(R.A.) Centre for Multi-disciplinary Studies (SACMS). CCAS is a multi-disciplinary research Centre which was established in 1979 (with 'Area Study Programme' in 1983) in order to study the Central Asian region from diversified point of view.^{xxiv} CCAS's Islamic Studies section was headed, since its establishment, by Professor G. N. Khaki. Similarly, SACMS was established in 1998 with the objective, among others, to foster and nourish comparative studies in the areas like Literature, Culture, Society and religion and offers PhD program for the students of Arts/Laguages, Oriental Learning and Social Sciences.^{xxx} At both these Centres, too, the researchers work on the topics related to the Qur'anic Studies. The below given table lists the research works carried in the domain of the Qur'anic studies (completed or in progress) at these three places (SHIIS, CCAS and SACMS): the works of CCAS and SACMS are distinguished from those of SHIIS by single and double asterisk marks (* and **), respectively.

Title	Researcher	Supervisor	Year
Impact of Qur'an on the Development of Social Sciences	G. N. Khaki	Riyaz Rehman Sherwani	1993
A Study of Environment in the Light of Qur'an and Hadith	Latief Ahmad Fazili	S. Muhammad Yunus Gilani	2000
Principles of <i>Tafsir</i> with Special Reference to <i>al-Fawā'id al-Kabir fi Usul al-Tafsir</i> of Shah Wali Ullah Dehalvi [MPhil]	Burhan Rashid	Hamidullah Marazi	2012
Contribution of <i>Darul-'Ulum</i> Deoband to the Development of <i>Tafsir</i> [MPhil]	Bilal Ahmad Wani	Naseem Ahmad Shah	2016
Impact of <i>Ruh al-Maa'na</i> of Allama Alusi on <i>Bayan al-Qur'an</i> of Mawlana Ashraf Ali Thanawi	Burhan Rashid	Hamidullah Marazi	2018
Impact of [the] Qur'an and Hadith on the Poetry of Shaikh-ul-Alam (RA)**	Muhammad Ilham Sheikh	Hamidullah Marazi	2018

CONCLUSION

The outlined overview of undergraduate (UG) and postgraduate (PG) courses pertaining to '*Ulum al-Quran*' (Qur'anic Sciences) and '*dirasat al-Qur'aniyya*' (studies related to the Qur'an, its associated subjects, and diverse aspects) within the domain of Islamic Studies underscores the prominent status of Qur'anic Studies as a primary and substantial component of the Islamic Studies discipline. A meticulous examination of the course content reveals a pervasive integration of '*Ulum al-Qur'an*' within the broader framework of 'Islamic Religious Sciences.' Notably, across various universities, a dedicated course or a substantial segment of a course is dedicated to Qur'anic Sciences. Furthermore, an in-depth content analysis underscores the incorporation of Qur'anic perspectives and worldviews across diverse thematic areas such as philosophy, ethics, major world religions, Islam and science, and Islam and gender, among others. This interdisciplinary approach manifests itself through the inclusion of Qur'anic insights into the exploration of various themes and issues.

From the above study, it also becomes evident that research in the area of Qura'nic studies covers a significant percentage of the research topics (both at M.Phil level and especially in the PhD programme) that have been completed, and or on going, in different universities of India—from J&K to Hyderabad—cover many themes and issues, which are diverse in nature—historical, linguistic, juristic, thematic, hermeneutics, etc. Moreover, contemporary issues (like gender, orientalist scholarship, exegetical literature in vernacular languages, scientific issues, etc.) are also explored in the area of Qur'anic Studies, which shows the significance and scope of Qura'nic Studies—an exciting and interesting area of studies and research in the current times—in the discipline of Islamic Studies. The comprehensive elucidation and analysis of courses, topics, and research initiatives offer a discerning insight into the evolving landscape and trends characterizing the field of Qur'anic Studies in India over the decades.

NOTES AND REFERENCE

- ⁱ For details, see Dr A. M. [Abdul Majeed] Mohamed. Mackeen, “Islamic Studies as a University Discipline”, (Parts 1 & 2), *The Islamic Review and Arab Affairs*, 57, 5, May 1969; 57, 6 (June 1969): 36-38; Richard C. Martin, *Islamic Studies: A History of Religions Approach*. 2nd ed. (Upper Saddle River, N.J.: Prentice Hall, 1996) [1st Ed.: University of Arizona Press, 1985]; Azim Nanji (ed.), *Mapping Islamic Studies: Genealogy, Continuity and Change* (Berlin: Mouton de Gruyter, 1997); Carl W. Ernst and Richard C. Martin, (eds.), *Rethinking Islamic Studies: From Orientalism to Cosmopolitanism* (Columbia, SC: University of South Carolina Press, 2010); Clinton Bennett (ed.), *Bloomsbury Companion to Islamic Studies* (London & New York: Bloomsbury Publishing Inc., 2013); . “The State of Islamic Studies in American Universities”, *The International Institute of Islamic Thought* (IIIT), USA, retrieved from <http://iiit.org/iiitftp/PDF's/Islamic-Studies.pdf>
- ⁱⁱ For details, see (besides the works cited in reference no.1 above), Maulana Imtiyaz Ali Khan, Arshi “Islamiyyat ka Muta'la [Studying Islamic Studies]”, *Islam aur Asr-i-Jadid*, 1, 1 (1969): 90-101; Prof. Syed Maqbool Ahmad, “Islamic Studies ki Tarikh aur Iskey Tehqeeqi Masayil [History of Islamic Studies and its Research Issues]”, *Islam aur Asr-e-Jadid*, 22, 1 (1990): 5-18; Mushirul Haq, “Islamic Studies in Modern India”, *Bulletin of the Institute of Islamic Studies [BISS]*, Vols. 27-29, (1994): 1-8; Afroz Ahmad Bisati, “Islamic Studies as a University Discipline: Origin and Development”, 3rd *International Symposium of FLA-2016*, 8 pp., retrieved from www.ir.lib.seu.ac.lk/handle/123456789/2585 (last accessed 15th April 2020); Dr Tauseef Ahmad. Parray, “Islamic Studies: Misconceptions & Misunderstandings”, *Greater Kashmir*, (Parts 1& 2), 20th March 2017, p. 9 & 14th August 2017, p. 9.
- ⁱⁱⁱ Ahmad (in *Islam aur Asr-e-Jadid*), *op. cit.*, pp. 6, 16.
- ^{iv} For details, see Prof. Mohd. Fahim Akhtar (ed.), *Islamic Studies: Tasawwur, Soorat-e-Haal aur Mustabil [Islamic Studies: Concept, Present Scenario and Future]* (Hyderabad: Maulana Azad National Urdu University [MANUU], 2022); Dr. Ashraf Amin, *Islamic Studies in Academia: Evolution, Approaches and Prospects* (Kulgam, Kashmir: Wular Publishing House, 2023); Parray (in *Greater Kashmir*), *op. cit.*
- ^v For details see, Amin, *Islamic Studies in Academia*, *op. cit.*; Parray (in *Greater Kashmir*), *op. cit.*
- ^{vi} Some portions of this paper are extracted (but are abridged and revised) from chapter 11, “Teaching and Research on the Qur’anic Studies: Introducing some Exemplary Academies and Journals of the Qur’anic Studies”, of my book *Recent Trends in Qura’nic Scholarship* (New Delhi: Viva Books, 2020), 232-269, pp. 232-40, 261-67.
- ^{vii} Andrew Rippin, “Qur’anic Studies”, in Clinton Bennett (Ed.), *Bloomsbury Companion to Islamic Studies* (London and New York: Bloomsbury Academic, 2013): 59-74, p. 59.
- ^{viii} Devin Stewart, “Growing Pains of Qur’anic Studies”, *IQS AWEB*, 19th January, 2015, retrieved from https://iqsaweb.wordpress.com/2015/01/19/stewart_growing-pains/ (last accessed on 15th June, 2019).

- ix Rippin, "Qur'anic Studies", in *Bloomsbury Companion*, p. 59.
- x Ibid.
- xi Ibid., p. 74.
- xii Haq (in *B.I.S.S.*), *op. cit.*
- xiii For details, see its website <https://www.amu.ac.in/departmentspage.jsp?did=78>
- xiv For details, see its website <https://www.jmi.ac.in/islamicstudies>
- xv For details, see its website [https://www.jmi.ac.in/Centre-For-Distance-And-Online-Education-\(CDOE\)/Programmes-Offered](https://www.jmi.ac.in/Centre-For-Distance-And-Online-Education-(CDOE)/Programmes-Offered)
- xvi For more details, see www.islamicstudies.uok.edu.in. The UG courses included here are pre-NEP-2020 batches/ course structure.
- xvii For more details, see <https://www.iust.ac.in/centre-about-us.aspx?deptcode=EI8sOMJf3uLoQKvn/REMyw>
- xviii Ibid.
- xix For details, see its website www.dhiu.in
- xx For details, see the webpage of DQRS, www.dhiu.in/kulliyah_of_quran_and_sunnah.html?t=kulliyah-of-quran-and-sunnah
- xxi Ibid.
- xxii For details, see its website www.icqs.in
- xxiii For more details, see http://www.manuu.edu.in/dde/departments/arts/islamic_studies
- xxiv Ibid.
- xxv For details, see its website www.cukashmir.ac.in www.cukashmir.ac.in/displaydepartment.aspx?sid=89&did=18&pag=638
- xxvi For details, see the webpage www.cukashmir.ac.in www.cukashmir.ac.in/displaydepartment.aspx?sid=89&did=18&pag=646
- xxvii For details, see its website www.bgsbu.ac.in/deptislamic/dep.aspx
- xxviii Full PG syllabus is available here www.bgsbu.ac.in/deptislamic/syllabus.aspx
- xxix For details about CCAS, see www.ccas.uok.edu.in/Main/Default.aspx
- xxx For details about SACMS, see www.markazinoor.uok.edu.in/Main/Default.aspx

