

Sufi Tradition and Democratic Socialism have strong links, *Syed Mustafa Hassan Latify, the Qaim Maqam Sajjada Nasheen of the Dargah of Hazrat Shah Abdul Latif Bhittai*

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**The University has successfully blended Sufi philosophy and intellectual concepts into all Bachelor-level courses.** *Professor Dr. Arabella Bhutto, Vice Chancellor of USMS*

**BHITSHAH:** (November 13, 2025) The intersection of ancient Sufi philosophy and modern political thought was the focus of a one-day seminar today at the University of Sufism and Modern Sciences (USMS), hosted jointly by its Office of Research, Innovation & Commercialization (ORIC) and the Centre of Sufi Studies, Research & Publication (CSSRP).

The seminar, titled “Sufism: The Root of Democratic Socialism,” featured a thoughtful address by Syed Mustafa Hassan Latify, the Qaim Maqam Sajjada Nasheen of the Dargah of Hazrat Shah Abdul Latif Bhittai. The event was presided over by Professor Dr. Arabella Bhutto, Vice Chancellor of USMS. The session was moderated by Mr. Atta Muhammad Chopan of ORIC. Professor Dr. Qamar Mahar welcomed the guests, detailing ORIC’s efforts in establishing professional links with industry and organizations. Subsequently, Dr. Zaffar Junejo elaborated on the CSSRP’s vision, noting that the Centre offers foundational courses such as *Origin and Evolution of Sufims in the Subcontinent* and *Common Spiritual Approaches and Techniques in various Silsilas/Orders*. Dr. Junejo also introduced the lead speaker, highlighting Mr. Latify's diverse background as a Social Science graduate, a graduate of filmmaking and public speaking programs, and an experienced radio presenter, producer, and anchor for networks like Dubai Radio and Zee TV Dubai. Mr. Latify is also currently working on a book exploring the relationship between the teachings of Rumi and Bhitai.

Syed Latify in his thought-provoking lecture explored the deep philosophical connections between classical Sufi thought, the tenets of Socialism, and the practical application of Democracy. He began by offering a critical analysis of the established model of democracy. He noted that while democracy historically has its roots in the western cultures and is now widely practiced in countries defined by maximum capitalization. However, the happiness index within those nations is often far from promising. He pointed to some Western nations where basic public services, such as healthcare and education, remain costly and generally beyond the reach of the average citizen.

The speaker contrasted this model with nations practicing social democracy, particularly citing the success of Scandinavian countries. In these territories, the

happiness index is consistently reported at the highest levels. Latify elaborated that this disparity exists because the latter category of nations invests heavily in their people, a stark difference from Western systems where the profits largely accrue to a select few. Consequently, many Western countries exhibit lower social indicators and human development indices.

Moving to his central thesis, Latify argued for a clear link between Socialist principles and Sufi thought. He elaborated that Sufi ideology encourages the collective investment in humanity, regardless of the existing resources. This investment manifests not just through physical labour or the giving of time, but also through the imparting of education on a purely voluntary basis.

In support of his arguments, which advocate for placing the people's welfare above corporate profit, Latify cited numerous verses from the revered 18th-century poet, Shah Abdul Latif Bhittai, demonstrating how the wisdom inherent in local Sufi tradition aligns perfectly with modern concepts of a just and equitable social system.

Following the primary presentation, Professor Dr. Arabella Bhutto, the Vice Chancellor of USMS, delivered her presidential address. In her settled and highly academic discourse, she detailed the University's concerted effort to seamlessly blend Sufi philosophy and intellectual concepts into all Bachelor-level courses. This philosophical integration, she stressed, is uniformly applied across all departments, from Education and Business Studies to Computer Technology and Computer Science.

Dr. Bhutto further announced that, since the last academic session, it has become mandatory policy that every student's final thesis must explicitly connect with or highlight Sufi thought. This requirement is deliberately flexible, allowing students to explore the concepts through various contemporary mediums, whether Artificial Intelligence, graphic design, lesson planning, textbook development, or business models. She summarized the institutional mandate: "Whatever the theme or subject a student chooses, Sufism has to be there."

She elaborated that theses will soon be showcased, granting students an official opportunity to present their completed papers. The Vice Chancellor supported her vision by referencing the successful "Green Latif" initiative at Shaheed Allah Buksh Soomro University of Art, Design, and Heritages Jamshoro, Sindh. She concluded by extending her gratitude to Syed Mustafa Hassan Latify, the faculty members, and the students, and offered congratulations to ORIC and CSSRP teams for organizing such an impactful event.

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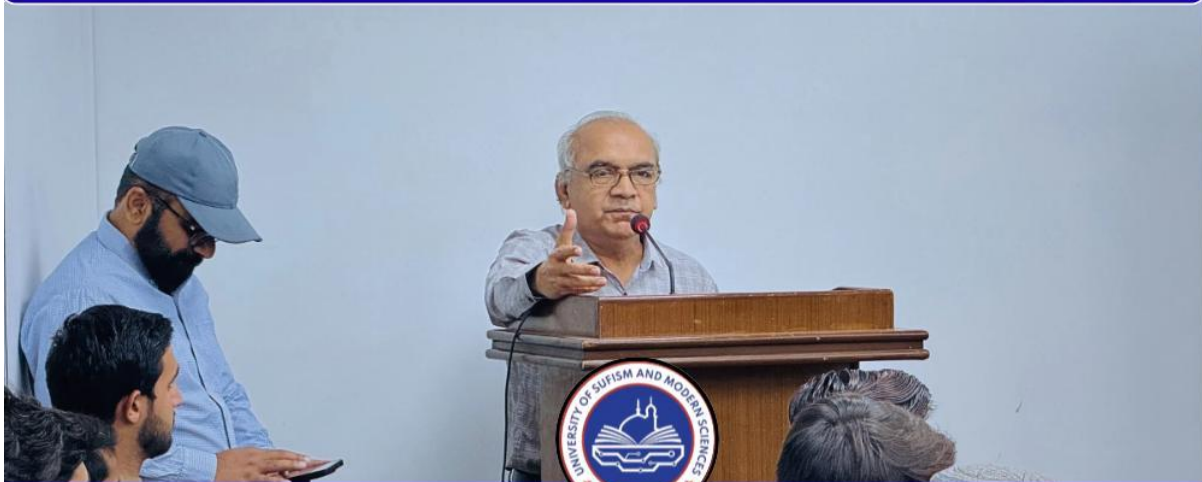
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