

# Islamic Centre poll returns incumbent

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NEW DELHI: The keenly-contested elections to the managing body of the India Islamic Cultural Centre (IICC) returned incumbent president

**Sirajuddin Qureshi**, for the third time in a row. All members of the rival panel led by Shakeel-uz-Zaman Ansari, a National Commission for Backward Castes member who was also a minister in Bihar during the Congress regime, were defeated.

Qureshi, a businessman, defeated Ansari in the election to the IICC president's post by 783 votes. Delhi Minorities Commission chairman Safdar H Khan, part of Qureshi's panel, won as vice-president by a 705-vote margin.

In the elections at the 2,810-member IICC, 1,800 votes were polled. Besides, there were 580 postal ballots.

Nine out of 11 members of Qureshi's panel won the Sunday poll for a five-year term. Two candidates of the panel contesting for the four-member Board of Trustees were defeated by two independent candidates — advocate H R Khan Suhail and former IPS officer Qamar Ahmad.

Both Suhail and Ahmad though were part of Qureshi's panel in the last election held in 2009, but contested as independents this time. All the four executive committee members were elected from Qureshi's panel.

The IICC has received positive response from the states, including Bihar, UP, Jammu & Kashmir, Rajasthan and Andhra Pradesh, for setting up branches. "We also plan to build hostels for Muslim girl students in and around Delhi," said Qureshi.

*Kayem* Siraj Qureshi is BA 1970 KM and LLB graduate CLC class of 1973.