Maqasid al-Shariah refers to the higher ideals and objectives of Islamic Law which forms an important yet neglected area of Islamic Law, particularly relevant to address current and real challenges facing Muslims living both in Muslim societies and as minorities. For Islamic rulings to fulfil their purposes of justice, equality, human rights, development, and civility in today’s context, implementation of Maqasid al-Shariah is vital. The field highlights human welfare as the ultimate purpose of all Islamic rulings and stresses its importance, while basing itself on the foundational postulates of Islamic faith and scripture. It is for this reason as well as the paucity of works in the English language on the subject of Maqasid al-Shariah that the IIIT decided to fill the vacuum by initiating the translation and publication of a series of books on al-maqasid to introduce this important and difficult area of thought to English speaking readers. These include to date, Treatise on Maqasid al-Shariah by Ibn Ashur, Imam al-Shatibi’s Theory of the Higher Objectives and Intents of Islamic Law by Ahmad al-Raysuni, Towards Realization of the Higher Intents of Islamic Law: Maqasid al-Shariah a Functional Approach by Gamal Eldin Attia, and Maqasid al-Shariah as Philosophy of Islamic Law: A Systems Approach by Jasser Auda.

As the topic is complex and intellectually challenging, with most books appearing on the subject written mainly for specialists, scholars and intellectuals alone, the IIIT London Office is also producing simple introductory guides to the subject as part of its Occasional Papers series with a view to providing easily accessible material for the general reader. These include Maqasid al-Shariah: A Beginner’s Guide by Jasser Auda, The Islamic Vision of Development in the Light of Maqasid al-Shariah by Muhammad Umer Chapra, and Maqasid al-Shariah Made Simple and Maqasid al-Shariah, Ijtihad and Civilisational Renewal by Mohammad Hashim Kamali.
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