

THE ALIG

AMU Alumni Association Newsletter

Volume 1, Issue 5

March 17, 2008

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Sir Syed Speaks to you

"What we are not ashamed to do before God, we should not fear to do before our fellow men."

- Sir Syed

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Dear Mr. Najam Ansari: Assalam-O-Alaikum (Peace be to you)

Welcome again to Fifth issue of "The Alig" eNewsletter, "The Alig".

"The Alig" has grown to nearly 7,000 subscribers, who, like you, are interested in the alma mater, alumni associations and the success stories that are told in each issue. Online statistics show that Fourth issue was the most read since we started it. We thank you for your patronage. We are delighted to continue sharing our news with you through "The Alig" and encourage you to forward it to your classmates, as well as interested friends and family members, or have them subscribe.

You, our alumni and friends, are the reason we exist, and for whom we strive to provide valuable information.

Enjoy the current issue of THE ALIG.

Sincerely,

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AMU NEWS

ZHCET RECEIVED ADDITIONAL GRANT OF Rs. SEVEN CRORES FROM UGC

ALIGARH, March 4: The University Grants Commission has sanctioned an additional grant of Rs. Seven crores to the Zakir Husain College of Engineering and Technology, at the Aligarh Muslim University, Aligarh for the upgradation of the College to

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the level of an IIT.

Professor M T Ahmad, Principal, Zakir Husain College of Engineering and Technology, said that the Ministry of Human Resource Development has identified AMU's Engineering College as one of the seven institutions to be upgraded to the level of IIT. These institutions were identified by S K Joshi's Expert Committee, based on stringent benchmarks for parameters, research quality, Staff qualifications, physical infrastructure, long term stability, etc.

A vision document was submitted by the ZHCET to the MHRD in July 2005. A fresh Expert Committee under the leadership of Professor Anand Krishnan was constituted by the Ministry.

The Z H College of Engineering and Technology has already submitted its comprehensive proposal to the UGC/MHRD for XI Plan period of the tune of Rs. 633 crores. Subsequently, essential financial requirements of Rs. 147 crores were also communicated for the first year of XI Plan proposed for 2007-2008.

AMU Vice Chancellor, Prof. P K Abdul Azis said that the University has been requesting the UGC and the Ministry for subsequent release of funds. It is hoped that as soon as the regular funding from MHRD/UGC on the basis of XI Plan proposal is received, the dream project of "Upgradation of Z H College of Engineering & Technology to the level of an IIT" will resume to enable the College to attain new heights of excellence.

Dr. Rahat Abrar

Public Relations Officer

Source: [AMU Network](#)

XXIV CONVENTION OF INDIAN ASSOCIATION OF SEDIMENTOLOGISTS AT AMU

Inaugurating the three-day XXIV Convention of Indian Association of Sedimentologists, Professor P K Abdul Azis, Vice Chancellor of Aligarh Muslim University said that Sedimentary rocks are important not only because they contain large number of economic minerals and serve as repositories of

energy resources, viz., petroleum, natural gas, coal, radioactive minerals, etc., but the history of evolution of the earth and life is best preserved in these rocks.

Prof. Azis said that the Department of Geology, AMU has a reputation of being a Center of Excellence in Sedimentological Studies and the faculty members and research scholars have made pioneering contributions in this field.

He hoped that the scientific presentations and deliberations will greatly enhance our understanding of Sedimentary basins and their economic potential.

Eminent Geoscientist, Professor S K Tondon, Pro Vice Chancellor of Delhi University was the Chief Guest of inaugural function.

In his welcome address, Professor Mahshar Raza, Chairman, Department of Geology highlighted the teaching and research activities of his Department.

He said that the Department has produced 140 M.Phil., 106 Ph.D. and 3 D.Sc. and the faculty members have contributed more than 650 research papers in journals of national and international repute. More than 250 delegates from all parts of the country are participating in the three-day national convention.

Dr. Rahat Abrar
Public Relations Officer

ALIGARH MUSLIM UNIVERSITY GIVES ITSELF PAN-INDIA CHARACTER

Aligarh, March 11 (IANS): The Aligarh Muslim University is trying to make itself compatible with the changing times and needs of the society despite resentment from within. Vice-chancellor P.K. Abdul Azis is keen that the institution joins the ranks of the best in the field of education.

The vice chancellor told the IANS that a proposal to open five new centers of the university to give it an identifiable all-India character is awaiting clearance from the Ministry of Human Resources Development (HRD) while four examinations

centers have started functioning this year.

The University Grants Commission (UGC) has also given Rs.70 million to the university's technical college, the Zakir Hussain College of Engineering and Technology (ZHCET), to upgrade it to the level of the Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs).

The money, according to university officials, will give a fillip to the university's initiatives.

M.T. Ahmad, principal, ZHCET, said the HRD ministry has identified the college as one of the seven institutions to be upgraded into an IIT.

The university hopes that its project to upgrade ZHCET will resume as soon as the ministry and the University Grants Commission resume funding under the 11th Plan.

The university has set up four new centers to conduct entrance examinations across the country to give it a pan-India status. The move, though welcomed by almost everybody, was opposed by a section of teachers who alleged that they were not taken into confidence.

The vice-chancellor will meet the teachers March 16 to discuss the initiatives. He denied allegations by some teachers that the university was not following standard democratic procedures to arrive at policy decisions.

"Many teachers feel that the new centers will dilute the hold of the academic community and perhaps lower the prestige of the university," said a leader of the teaching staff.

Early January, the executive council of AMU decided to start four admission test centers at Bhopal, Kolkata, Kozhikode and Pune.

The vice-chancellor appointed four committees comprising deans of faculties, members of the executive council and senior teachers of the university to visit these centers to assess the facilities available, security measures to be adopted and ascertain the reputation of institutions where admission

tests were to be conducted.

The university management said at that time that the initiative was aimed at attracting meritorious students to AMU and to strengthen its all-India character.

But most of the teachers do not seem to be in favor of this decentralization process. "The teachers would be at the mercy of the management and the inconvenient ones would be transferred from one place to the other," a section of the teachers feared.

Mustafa Zaidi, one of the leaders of the teaching community, told IANS: "We are not opposed to changes or initiatives per se, but we would like democratic procedures followed in letter and spirit. The AMU has a well laid out democratic system, the decisions on policy matters have to go from bottom to top and in the process everyone is involved."

The AMU before Abdul Azis took over a year ago had seen a longish spell of turmoil and chaos, with crime rate shooting up.

Last year, the university was closed sine die after the murder of a student and boarders were told to vacate their hostels. It opened after two months and the break took its toll on studies.

The university has witnessed sporadic protests by students over the last decade.

However, in recent months the university has not only limped back on rails but there has been a spurt in activities including conferences, seminars and a staggered exercise to restructure the university system to give it a modern look.

Source: [Tha Indian](#)

REVIVAL OF SCIENTIFIC SOCIETY OF AMU

ALIGARH, March 13: The Aligarh Muslim University has decided to revive the Scientific Society by re-defining its objectives and goals taken into consideration contemporary challenges and a desire for inducting scientific thought in all

field of knowledge.

The decision for revival of the Scientific Society was taken at a consultative meeting with Deans of all the faculties under the Chairmanship of AMU Vice Chancellor, Prof. P K Abdul Azis.

Prof. Azis said that a Committee would shortly be formed to drafting the rules and regulations of the above body. Journals published by various departments of study brought under this Society.

The Scientific Society was established by Sir Syed Ahmad Khan in 1864 and served as the focal point of the Aligarh Movement. The Scientific Society was the main plank of Sir Syed's educational movement and rendered remarkable service in liberating the mind of the people from conservatism and inertia.

The Scientific Society sought to broaden the horizon of the people of that era by inculcating a thirst for the modern knowledge especially among the Indian Muslims.

Dr. Rahat Abrar

Public Relations Officer

AMU MEDICAL STUDENT WON THE BEST COLLEGE AWARD AT BHU

ALIGARH, March 14: The Vice Chancellor of Aligarh Muslim University felicitated the students of the Jawaharlal Nehru Medical College who had got the National Trophy and won the best College Award by the Institute of Medical Sciences, Banaras Hindu University in the ELIXIR - 08 recently.

Thirty-six medical students of the JNMC participated in all the socio-cultural and sports events and won 76 prizes. Students of ten Medical Colleges of the country participated in the competitions.

In the theatrical events, AMU students won the first prize in drama and mime competitions. In the musical events, AMU students won II prize in solo and duet and third prize in instrumental music. In the literary events, they got first prize in English debate and II prize in Hindi debate. In the sports

competition, AMU Medical students were winner in Cricket and Volleyball while football they were runner-up.

Team Leader, Dr. Shahzad Ahmad, President College Society of the AMU JN Medical College highlighted the achievements of their fellow students and thanked the Vice Chancellor for honoring these students.

University Registrar, Professor V K Abdul Jaleel, Professor Usha Singhal, Dr. Mujahid Baig, Elected Member of the Executive Council and the PRO, Dr. Rahat Abrar were also present in the felicitation ceremony organized at the Vice Chancellor's Lodge.

Dr. Rahat Abrar

Public Relations Officer

MEDIA CENTER AT AMU

ALIGARH, March 14: The Aligarh Muslim University will soon setup a Media Center for making its Community Radio and Community Television Network functional, said Professor P K Abdul Azis, AMU Vice Chancellor while addressing students at Sir Syed Hall today.

The University has recently set-up a three camera studio at the Department of Mass Communication where students get hands on training in TV & radio production. In order to provide the Department state-of-the-art Radio Production infrastructure the University will establish a Media Center at the cost of Rs. One crore, said the Vice Chancellor Professor P K Abdul Azis. The Vice Chancellor has asked the Department of Mass Communication to work on a detail proposal.

NEW INITIATIVES BY AMU

ALIGARH, March 17: A meeting of the Deans of all faculties presided over by the AMU Vice Chancellor, Professor P K Abdul Azis has taken a very important decision with a package of

"New Initiatives" under the XI Plan suggested by the University Grants Commission, New Delhi.

Aligarh Muslim University would revamp its M.Phil. and Ph.D. program with a view to improve the quality of research in the University.

The University will introduce a Common Entrance Test and interview for admitting candidates at the University level for this program.

The Aligarh Muslim University has appointed a committee consisting of Professor M. Murtaza Khan as its Convener with Professor M. Zubair Khan, Professor Abul Kalam Qasmi as Members to prepare a detailed framework for a common entrance Admission test for M.Phil. and Ph.D.

The University has also decided to review the semester system already introduced at Post Graduate level and examine the possibility of implementing the grading system in evaluation. Professor Javed Musarrat was appointed its Convener and Professor A A Nizami, Professor Farman Husain, Professor Absar Mustafa Khan, Professor Badar Alam Iqbal as its members. This Committee would review the working of the Semester System at the PG level in various faculties and suggest measures to strengthen the same.

The meeting has also decided to organize an AI India Workshop for revising the syllabi of various courses involving expert from other national institutions and representatives of the business and industries. Besides the Deans, Professor V K Abdul Jaleel, Registrar and Professor Mohammad Irfan, Controller of Examinations attended meeting.

AMUAAs NEWS & EVENTS

SCHOLARSHIP REPORT

Suhail Sabir, Ph.D.
Campus Coordinator
Scholarship Program
AMU Alumni Association, Michigan, USA

AMU Alumni Association Michigan USA started a program to award scholarships to the needy and meritorious students of AMU from class XI up to post graduate studies (first two years even up to Ph.D). In the first year it awarded scholarships to 48 students next year to 109 students and this year it has

awarded 124 students. Students apply in the month of August, interviews are conducted within three weeks which continue for 20 days and final selection is made before SIR SYED DAY. This year it got delayed because of unfortunate happenings in September. Although it is herculean task to find out who is really a needy student, however through a three hour grilling of not more than 20 students a day makes it easier to select almost 80% really deserving students. For all the last three years some one from Michigan has taken trouble to come to Aligarh during their visit to India and delivered the award letter to the awardees. Students receive money in the form of dinning hall charges ranging 3-5 months and their dues are paid through Finance Office. Only NRSC students receive award in cash (given by the respective provosts). A total amount of around \$9106 has been sanctioned for this year. Dr. Mozaffarul Islam in a function held at Ibne-Sina Academy on March 2, 2008 delivered the award letters this year. Dr. Islam is Vice-President of AMU Alumni Association of Michigan, USA.

It is hoped that in years to come such a nice program would continue and many more needy students of this University would be benefited Inshaallah.

ALUM NEWS

BHU TO CONFER D. LITT. ON PROF. IRFAN HABIB

VARANASI, March 14: Prime Minister Manmohan Singh will be conferred an honorary D Litt degree by the Banaras Hindu University (BHU) on Saturday, varsity officials said on Thursday.



BHU Vice Chancellor Panjab Singh said the university will honor Singh on its 90th convocation for "his contributions to the Indian society".

Singh will arrive in Varanasi on Friday on a two-day visit. The University will also confer the honorary D Litt degrees on painter Satish Gujral and **historian Irfan Habib**, Panjab Singh said.

ALIGARH, March 3: **Mr. Mudassir Rashid Bandey** of Deptt. of Chemistry A.M.U, Aligarh won the Young Scientist Award for Oral presentation in Organic Section at 26th Annual Conference of 'Indian Council of Chemist' held on 26th - 28th

Feb, at Dr. H. S. Gaur University, Sagour (M.P) .

ALIGARH, March 6: **Mr. Ksh.Toumcho Singh (M.Sc.'01)**, who has completed M.Sc. (Applied Geology) from Deptt. of Geology,A.M.U., Aligarh and now working in Atomic Mineral Division,Bangalore, came to present his paper in 24th Convention of Indian Association of Sedimentologist and National Seminar held at Deptt. of Geology,A.M.U.,Aligarh from 4-6 March 2008 won the Young Scientist Award for Oral presentation in Young Scientist category Section.

ALIGARH, March 6: **Dr. Badar Alam Iqbal (Ph.D.'77)**; Professor of International Business at Department of Commerce, Dean, Faculty of Commerce at AMU was invited by Dr. Baba Ambedkar Marathwara University, Aurangabad as a Chief Guest at International Seminar on Global Tourism to deliver Inaugural Address on February 3-4, 2008.

Prof. Iqbal has also been offered to act as an Academic Advisor and member of Editorial Board of Journal of Management and Social sciences by Institute of Management and technology; Karachi.

 **Dr. Afshan Hashmi (Ph.D.'91)**, President of Global Regulatory and Business Solutions, LLC, was awarded Certificate of Appreciation by the County Executive of Montgomery County, Maryland Isiah Leggett, for serving as a member of Montgomery County's November 2007 business mission to India. The Certificate of Appreciation was presented to Dr. Afshan Hashmi on March 10, 2008 in the Bethesda Theatre, Bethesda, Maryland in a reception hosted by the County Executive Isiah Leggett to celebrate the success of Montgomery County's recent business mission to India. Certificate of Appreciation was also presented to other business leaders as well. Dr. Hashmi helped the Montgomery County's Department of Economic Development team to tell its story to Indian government and business leaders in bringing investment back to the County.

AEEF NEWS

The Aligarh Education Endowment Fund (AEEF) has been established for the enhancement and modernization of education, and improvement of educational opportunities for the underprivileged sections of the Indian society. This should result, in the long run, in economically uplifting these groups and helping them to become productive members of the Indian society.

Over the last decade, India has undergone tremendous economic growth, fueled by the Information Technology revolution supported by its large pool of college graduates. Unfortunately, a large section of the Indian society has been left behind primarily because of lack of educational opportunities, especially in Science and Technology. The digital divide is continuing to widen for this section of the society. A glaring example of a component of this underprivileged section of the society is the Muslim community. The fact that Muslims are educationally the most backward community in India was acknowledged for the first time by the government in 1986, vide Program of Action - New Education Policy and again in 2006 through Sachar Committee (appointed by the Prime Minister of India) report. Unless major efforts are undertaken to boost the educational standards, the economic backwardness of this underprivileged group would become a drag on the economic growth of the country. Moreover, for its own prosperity as well as to play its positive role fully in this globalizing economy India needs to tap every ounce of its manpower talent.

The AEEF is being organized as a non-profit, secular, non-partisan, and non-political organization, under Section 501(c) (3) of IRS, to serve the educational needs of the underprivileged communities in India. The AEEF will fund a broad variety of educational projects, ranging from high school to post-graduate levels, including areas such as Information Technology, Biotechnology, Medicine, Management and Business Administration, Mass Communication, Basic Sciences, Social Sciences, and Law with emphasis on areas, which will accelerate the flow of the young generation into the economic mainstream.

Individuals, corporations, foundations, and organizations are requested to donate generously to this humanitarian, educational cause.

Visit us at : [AEEF](#) or call (650) 969-AEEF

Tax Exempt Status

Aligarh Education Endowment Fund (AEEF) was granted a tax-exempt status, 501(c) (3) designation, by the United States IRS in 2005. Tax ID # 20-1000034. Donations to AEEF are tax

deductible in USA as allowed under the law.

Donations

Your support of AEEF is crucial to its efforts to serve the educational needs of the underprivileged communities in India. Make a pledge to donate today. Together we can make a difference.

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Mountain View, CA 94043, USA
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EFT's offer a fast, convenient way to contribute to AEEF on an ongoing basis. With your permission, AEEF will automatically withdraw an amount you specify from your checking account around the 1st of each month.

Your monthly bank statement will provide you with a record of each transaction and, for tax purposes; you will also receive a receipt from the AEEF each January showing your entire year's contribution.

You may cancel or change your EFT authorization at any time simply by contacting us.

To begin an EFT, please contact us:

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Tel: (650) 969-AEEF

Gifts of Stocks

These gifts can be donated via registered mail or electronic transfer to AEEF. A letter of intent stating the purpose of your gift, the number of shares and the name of the stock are required.

Please contact us to receive a copy of letter of intent that you can fill and fax or mail to AEEF office.

Matching Gifts

Many employers in USA sponsor matching gift programs and will match any charitable contributions made by their employees. To find out if your company has a matching gift policy, please check with the HR department.

If your company is eligible, request a matching gift form from your employer, and send it completed and signed with your gift. We will do the rest. The impact of your gift to our school may be doubled or possibly tripled! Some companies match gifts made by retirees and/or spouses.

Thanks for your support.

SEE ALSO:

Giving Back: Aligarh Endowment (Silconeer)

- **Aligs meet in US, launch Aligarh Education Endowment Fund**

- **A dollar-a-day turns Ena's fortune (Can we do the same?)**

What if Aligarh Education Endowment Fund (AEEF) earned a penny every time you searched the Internet? Or how about if

a percentage of every purchase you made online went to support our cause? Well, now it can!

www.GoodSearch.com is a new Yahoo-powered search engine that donates half its advertising revenue, about a penny per search, to the charities its users designate. Use it just as you would any search engine, get quality search results from Yahoo, and watch the donations add up!

GoodShop.com is a new online shopping mall which donates up to 37 percent of each purchase to your favorite cause! Hundreds of great stores including Target, Gap, Best Buy, ebay, Macy's and Barnes & Noble have teamed up with GoodShop and every time you place an order, you'll be supporting AEEF.

Just go to www.GoodSearch.com and be sure to enter [Aligarh Education Endowment Fund] as the charity you want to support. The more people who use this site, the more money will go to support educational projects. So please spread the word to your friends and family. Please download the Good Search Toolbar on your computer and encourage the family members use it is they would use any other search engine.

So start raising money for Aligarh Education Endowment Fund right now just by searching the Internet or shopping online with GoodSearch - powered by Yahoo! To search Click on the link below.

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FEATURE ARTICLE

RECALLING ALIGARH

Ahmad Ali Khan

These are passages from the unpublished and incomplete memoirs of the writer on the first anniversary of his death. Ahmad Ali Khan, who died on March 13, 2007, was Editor/Chief Editor of Dawn from 1973 to 2000 and again in 2003-04. He was the longest serving editor of this newspaper who steered Dawn through the most difficult times for the print media in the history of Pakistan without compromising its independence and credibility.

THE four years at Aligarh were in several ways an enriching experience for me, both academically and in other ways.

There were a few outstanding teachers whose commitment to learning and to teaching were a source of inspiration; teachers like Prof. M. Habib of the political science department, Dr. Hadi Husain, Professor Khawaja Manzoor Husain, who taught us English literature, to mention only a few of the more distinguished members of Aligarh's academia. Of course the average faculty member was not too good. There were some senior teachers who fell into a category of their own. For instance, as Vice Chancellor Dr. Ziauddin Ahmed handled matters of institutional policy.

Of course there were others like Prof. A.B.A. Haleem (Abba Haleem to some boys because of his authoritarian manner and paternal airs) whose primary interest seemed to be in administration. He was known to have specialized in the study of the French revolution and was said to be good at it when he began. But after he became Pro-Vice Chancellor he had less and less time for studying the latest literature on the subject. I was summoned to meet him on three different occasions. At the first such meeting he asked me to clarify my position on what he had been told about my intellectual leanings. He said he had been informed that I was quite interested in atheism and socialism. "Mein ney suna hai ke aap ko atheism aur socialism sey kafi dilchaspi hai" (I have heard that your interest is in atheism and socialism).

Regarding the first charge, I said I had made no claim about being an atheist in any conversation with anybody. And I added that if anybody had arbitrarily formed any opinion about my religious beliefs without directly discussing those supposed beliefs with me, I was not bound to accept that opinion. This matter disposed of, I pleaded guilty to the second charge, namely, that concerning socialism.

As I said I was interested in socialism and was keen to understand its meaning and purpose, I was subjected to a spontaneous viva voce. Prof Haleem rattled off one question after another at a good speed to test my knowledge of the subject. I don't remember the wording but I was supposed to offer definitions of Fabian socialism, guild socialism and

Marxian socialism and to say how one differed from the other. As he finished with his questions, I knew I had passed the test.

I was required to present myself before Prof. Haleem on two other occasions and in both these cases I was really at fault for having acted rashly and provocatively. On one occasion I rode a tonga and using a loudspeaker invited listeners to a public meeting of leftists to be held in Aligarh city. This tonga was fitted with two red flags, one on each side. I should have known that nobody had been doing this kind of thing on the university campus. Besides, it was a useless venture since the university had already been captured by the Muslim League.

As I was passing the road behind the S.S. Hall boundary four boys, each of sturdy build, came and stopping the tonga took strong exception to the use of the red flag. They were very angry. Therefore, I and Comrade Siddique who was accompanying the tonga on a bicycle offered to remove one red flag and replace it with a Muslim League flag. A League flag was provided and was duly hoisted on one side using a rope.

The angry boys then insisted that I stop the announcement and accompany them to the house of Prof Haleem. The latter was very annoyed with me and with Siddique. He ordered that the announcement be stopped and noted down my name and the name of my boarding house. Next morning I found a brief notice posted on a notice board near the entrance to my hostel saying that I had been fined Rs10 for "taking out an unauthorized procession".

The bursar's office never asked me to pay the fine and I still owe Rs10 to the university on this account. The third time I had to appear before Prof Haleem was when I committed an act of premeditated indiscretion by distributing in broad daylight a leaflet which contained derogatory remarks against M. Mohsin Siddiqui, one of the candidates contesting for the office of the vice-president of the Union.

Mr. Siddiqui later became a political leader and a factory owner in Pakistan. He was assassinated a long time ago in Karachi. I was working for Mr. Nusrat Hassan, who was my roommate (Mr. Hassan held a number of high official posts and now lives in Karachi after his retirement. We continue to be good friends).

While distributing the leaflets I was intercepted by a group of boarders, mostly senior boys who 'arrested' me and presented me before Prof Haleem. This was the second time I was appearing before him as an accused, leaving aside the first occasion when I was asked to defend my 'subversive' views. I was quite worried. I knew that I had violated the unwritten

Aligarh code according to which any printed material against a candidate in the Union elections was distributed only in the darkness of the night.

The person engaged in such activity - it was called "anti-work" in the Aligarh parlance - had to take care that he was not caught in the act. The impugned leaflet was produced before Prof. Haleem who looked at it. Then two fierce eyes glared at me making me quite nervous since I had no defense to offer.

OPINION

BETTER HIGHER EDUCATION WILL CHANGE LIVES

Shashi Tharoor

When I left India for post-graduate studies in 1975, there were perhaps 600 million people in India, and we had five IITs (Indian Institutes of Technology). Today, we are nearly double that population, and we have seven IITs, one of which has essentially involved the relabelling of an existing Regional Engineering College. To keep up with demand - and the needs of the marketplace - shouldn't we have had 20 IITs by now of the same standard as the original five? Or even 30?

India is entering the global employment marketplace with a self-imposed handicap of which we are just beginning to become conscious - an acute shortage of quality institutions of higher education. For far too long we have been complacent about the fact that we had produced, since the 1960s, the world's second largest pool of trained scientists and engineers.

They were more than our protected economy could absorb, and their talents outran the facilities and opportunities available to them in India, so many tens of thousands of them left to make their fortunes elsewhere, founding companies in Silicon Valley, inventing the Pentium chip, and even winning America a couple of Nobel Prizes. Their success meant that 'IIT' soon began to be spoken of in the same breath as 'MIT', and the Indianness of engineers or software gurus is now taken as synonymous with technical excellence. But their success also masked another reality - that there just aren't as many of them as there should be.

Talk to senior Indian executives whose businesses require

them to recruit competent staff with scientific or engineering training, and they'll confirm that their demand for such talent vastly exceeds the supply. Once the elite institutions are accounted for - the IITs, BITS, the Indian Institute of Science - what remains is of decidedly uneven quality. For every Narayana Murthy produced by a local or regional engineering college, there are hundreds of graduates whom Indian employers, let alone international ones, do not consider ready for prime time.

In fact, one of the under-reported stories of today's employment market is that companies like Tata's and Infosys are actually hiring people they do not consider to be up to par - and spending six to nine months, and sometimes longer, re-educating them. This is not merely professional training - these companies have set up campuses essentially to make up for the deficiencies in the education of the ostensibly-qualified graduates they have hired. Our university system simply isn't producing enough well-educated graduates to meet the needs of Indian companies today, let alone for their planned growth tomorrow.

It doesn't need to be this way. The major problem remains that our national educational policy remains completely out of step with the times. Whereas countries in the Middle East, and China itself, are going out of their way to woo foreign universities to set up campuses in their countries, India turns away the many academic suitors who have come calling in recent years. Harvard and Yale would both be willing to open branches in India to offer quality education to Indian students, but have been told to stay away. Those Indians who choose to study abroad easily get scholarships to do so - currently 80,000 of them are in the United States alone. They would not need to go abroad if we opened up the higher educational space in our country to institutions of international repute, and authorized the setting up of double the number of universities as we currently have.

There is no question that the need exists, the demand is huge, and that our growing and youthful population could easily fill several hundred new campuses. Nor is there a shortage of able and willing institutions ready to come into India. But there's the rub: many of these would of necessity be for-profit ventures in the private sector, and our ideologues recoil in

horror at the prospect. Official India is convinced that education is a holy sacrament that can only be administered by disinterested souls operating from purely non-commercial motives. Since such souls are few and far between, we have university places available to barely 5% of those who clamour for them. Meanwhile, ordinary Indians would scrape and save to buy their children the best possible education, but it's simply not available.

Whatever one may think about the US, there's no arguing with the fact that it has the best and most efficient higher education system in the world, much of it runs in the private sector and for profit. Of course, there are excellent state-funded higher education systems in countries like France and Germany, but they require a level of government resources that we simply do not have available in New Delhi. Why not import the American system if we can't afford to replicate it ourselves?

If our students are ill-served, our teachers are no less so. We do not have enough professors, researchers and scientific scholars in our university system, and we do not make it attractive enough for others to join their ranks. As it is, many qualified teachers are leaving university jobs to join the remedial institutes set up by private companies, where the conditions and the rewards are much better. If private-sector higher education came in, it would once again help make the academic profession the prestigious and well-remunerated career that it is in the West.

These are obvious ideas that require one elementary but elusive thing - a change of policy at the top. There is a crying need to sweep the cobwebs out of the Human Resources Development ministry and oblige it to rethink the policies that are manifestly failing the country.

The alternative will be to see Indian companies recruiting abroad because the talent isn't available to them at home, and the ranks of frustrated unemployed swelling across India, easy prey for the blandishments of terrorists and Maoists. If we are to avoid an apocalyptic fate, we must give them a better chance of employment through more and improved educational possibilities. So, let a thousand educational flowers bloom. Now.

Source: [Times of India](#)

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Sir Syed Day 2008 - Mushaira Schedule for USA

October 10 - November 28

Please click on Federation's website below for Mushaira details in your city.

[Mushaira Schedule 2008](#)

Empowerment of Marginalized Groups, State, Law & Civil Society: Predicaments & Premonitions

26th - 27th April 2008

Under
The Aegis of Dr. Ambedkar Chair of Legal Studies & Research,
Department of Law,
A.M.U., Aligarh - 202 002

Shabbir Mohammad
Program Director
Email: mshabbir100@hotmail.com

World Summit of AMU Alumni at Aligarh

October 17 & 18, 2008

Please save the Date and mark your calendars. More details will follow.

CD REVIEWS

"BAAT KHUSHBOO SI"

A COLLECTION OF URDU POEMS

Poet: Dr. Nausha Asrar

Available from:

Dr. Nausha Asrar

Tel:832-324-8103

Cell: 281-543-6886

Email: nasrar7@gmail.com



"Baat Khushboo Si" is a collection of magnificent Urdu poems (*Ghazals* and *Nazams*), written and recited by Dr. Nausha Asrar. This album brings a fresh deluge of literary opulence that rests on 17 heart touching *Ghazals* and *Nazams*. This melodious palette of excellent poetries touches the realities of human life (with optimistic approach), spills out the beauty and romance, and, analyzes the causes of rise and fall of societies and communities and encourages people for peace and progress. Melodious voice, emotional expressions, selection of pertinent literary words, and visionary thoughts not only entertains the listeners, but also entrains them to the world of truth, realities and tranquility. It brings the listener back to some serious contemplation.

The CD includes some of the finest *Ghazals* and *Nazams* of Urdu literature. The richness of the content coupled with Nausha Asrar's voice renders this CD indispensable for Urdu lovers everywhere.

Few tracks from the collection:

Ghazal:

Chand paani mein jab utar aaya
Uska chehra mujhe nazar aaya

Dil hai phoollon sa baat khushboo si
Aur chehra kali saa sharmaya

Ghazal:

Basaaye aankhon mein aik chehra, bhatak raha hoon mein sahra sahra

Sulagtey hain jub dilon mein arman, to chhaley padtey hain paon mein kyon?

Ghazal:

Chali hai baad-e-saba ab pyaam ayega
Mujhey yaqeen hai wo mere naam ayega

Koyi suney na suney zikar-e-haque kiye jao
Isi muqaam pe ek azhdahaam ayega

Ghazal:

Yak lakhat zindagi jo sar-e-raah mil gayi
Nazrein utha key dekha to duniya badal gayi

Jis din key usney "pe" se padha pait ka sabaq
Takhti hamarey lal ki oos raat jal gayi

Nazm: "Ghar"

aawo ke is jahan ko ek baar phir sajayen
Saarey jahan se achha Hindostan banayen
Aesi zameen banayen wo asmaan banayen
Jahan kah koh darya, mahee, parind, insan
Khursheed maah, taarey, sham-o-sahar, nazarey
Gayen wafa key naghme, saaz-e-dil-e-jawan pe
Chalo ye jahan sajaayen, phir haseen ghar panayen!

Nazm: "Kya Eid Aayi?"

Ab haal ye hai behal sa dil har aan ye mujh se kahta hai
Jeeney ke hain saaman bahot, marney ke liye kya rakha hai?

Nazm: "Khaali Botal"

Hukum-e-quraan key ayen barakas tarz-e-shahi ko shah dey di
Yaani ke hawas-e-maal-o-zar, ayesh-o-masti ko rah dey di

Dunyaye ilm-o-daanish ney aflaak pe dorey daal diye
Aur aik key tum ho aaj talak bus mahw-e-shorish-e-barbat-o-naye

Nazm: "Dil"

Dil ko socho, dil ki soch, dil nazuk hai, dil bechara
Dil phool pe shabnam ka qatra, jo dhalka to paraa paraa

About Dr. Nausha Asrar

Born in Haspura, a small village of Gaya district, Bihar, India. After high school joined Aligarh Muslim University in 1973 and did graduation and post grade from there. He did Ph.D from Moscow State University, Russia, in the area of Materials Science. Presently working as Sr. Materials Scientist at Schlumberger.

Dr. Nausha Asrar is a man of many talents. He has immense interest in fine arts in general and Urdu literature in particular.

Participation in Mushairas is a more recent addition to his repertoire.

OBITUARY

DR. MASOOD ALAM

AUSTIN, TX, March 18: Dr. Masood Alam, a very senior Aligarian based in Austin, Texas passed away today at around 1:00 PM at St. David's Hospital in Austin, TX.

He was 72 years old. He was survived by his wife, a son and a daughter.

MAIL BOX

March 6, 2008

Dear Editor,

Asak, I am grateful to you for e-mailing the Alig, the AMU Alumni news letter. I congratulate you and your team for the commendable efforts in bringing out a highly readable news letter. I am confident that efforts of well meaning alumni addressing the issues related to AMU will certainly bear fruit. In the last few months we had the visits of several highly successful former students of the university, who expressed keen interest in helping the university improve the academic standards. Our Vice-chancellor is also keen to make bet use the expertise and experience of the eminent alumni in this regard. The Alig I am sure will play a very important role in bringing the alumni and all well wishers of AMU together. My good wishes are with you all.

Yours sincerely,

M. Saleemuddin, Ph.D.
Professor & Coordinator
Interdisciplinary Biotechnology Unit
Aligarh Muslim University Aligarh 202002
Tel: 0571/2720449; Fax; 0571/2721776

March 5, 2008

ASAK

Thanks for coming up with the idea of 'The Alig'. The Newsletter indeed provides a very comprehensive source of information about AMU & Aligs.

The content, design & look the newsletter are indeed very good. However, I have a suggestion for the newsletter design team. The newsletter covers about 50% of the browser space in breadth, which makes it unnecessarily lengthy. It will be great if the newsletter can be re-designed (for browser space) so that the breadth of the newsletter covers around 80% of the browser space. This will make the contents lot more concise & easier to read.

Congratulations, once again on this excellent effort!

Best regards,

Javed F. Husain
Chicago, IL, USA

March 6, 2008

Dear Editor

its really heartening to see that in a span of just three weeks 'THE ALIG' has generated lot of interes amongst the AMU fraternity.Its a marvellous initiative taken by you and your team to keepALIGS wherever they are informed of the happenings in AMU and outside world where Aligs are involved.

Suhail Sabir, Ph.D.
Department of Chemistry
AMU, Aligarh

March 5, 2008

Dear Editor

Its a commendable job which you are doing. Editing any newsletter is itself not an easy task. Bringing a newsletter of AMU Alumni Association shows your in-depth love and association with your alma mater. I congratulate you once again for bringing out this informative newsletter specifically for Aligarians residing outside the AMU Campus.

With best wishes and regards,

Syed Ziaur Rahman, MD
AMU, Aligarh

We invite readers to share their thoughts with us by expressing their opinion on newsworthy topics to "The Alig". We reserve the right to condense and/or edit them for clarity and space. We don't use anonymous letters. Because of the heavy volume of mail received at The Alig, we request writers to limit to one letter per issue. No attachments please.

We hope you enjoyed the newsletter and encourage you to share it with your friends.

This message is being sent to you because of your affiliation with AMU or AMU Alumni Association.

We hope you enjoy hearing from us, but will honor your request should you choose not to receive messages in the future. To unsubscribe, please use the link at the end of the newsletter.

Please take a couple of minutes of your valuable time to update your profile. This will allow us to address you in a proper way in our future personalized mailings. To update please click on the link "[Update Profile/Email Address](#)" at the end of this newsletter.

NOTE: If you have more than one e-mail address in our database, you will have to unsubscribe from all of them. Otherwise, the address that you did not unsubscribe will continue to receive messages.

Sincerely

AMU Alumni Association
Tel: (650) 212-ALIG

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