

MAULANA AZAD NATIONAL URDU UNIVERSITY MAGAZINE

الكلام

Al kalam

ISSUE XXII, FEBRUARY 2016





Maulana Azad National Urdu University is perhaps the first Central University in the country that has followed the instruction of the Ministry of HRD and hoisted the national flag on its building

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مولانا آزاد نیشنل اردو یونیورسٹی
मौलाना आज़ाद नेशनल उर्दू यूनिवर्सिटी

Maulana Azad National Urdu University

(A Central University Established by an Act of Parliament in 1998)
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MANUU Model School in Darbhanga receives 10 letters of appreciation from Smt. Smriti Irani



HRD Minister Smt. Smriti Irani

appreciations from Human Resource Development (HRD) Minister Smt. Smriti Irani for the school's outstanding performance in 2014-15.

Two of these letters were addressed to two students, a girl, Farkhanda Jawed and a boy, Md Shoaib Akhtar whose CPGA score was 10 out of 10 in 10th grade board examination. The remaining eight letters have been received by teachers who have contributed in making the KMMS a special place of learning in the entire State of Bihar. The names of the teachers who received appreciation letters from the Minister are: Fahim Ashraf and Farhat Jamal, both Urdu; Md Nasiruddin Quraishi, Social Science; Wakil Ahmad, English; Md Ghufuran Jeelani, Hindi; Md. Ibrahim Ansari, Science; M M Quraishi and Md. Hasnain, both Mathematics.

According to In-charge Principal of the School Mr Shafayat Ahmad, the Honourable (HRD) Minister has acknowledged the great performance of the school generously. "This spurs us to work harder and achieve better records in this academic year and beyond," he said.

In one of the letters addressed to a teacher, the Minister said:

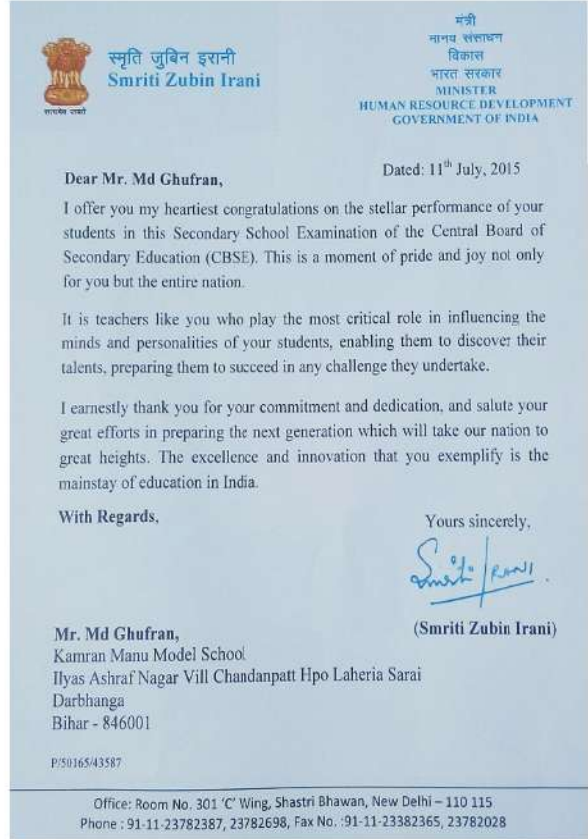
"I offer you my heartiest congratulations on the stellar performance of your students in this Secondary School Examination of the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE). This is a moment of pride and joy not only for you but the entire nation.

It is teachers like you who play the most critical role in influencing the minds and personalities of your students, enabling them to discover their talents, preparing them to succeed in any challenge they undertake.

I earnestly thank you for your commitment and dedication, and salute your great efforts in preparing the next generation which will take our nation to great heights. The excellence and the innovation that you exemplify is the mainstay of education in India."

With regards,
Yours sincerely
(Smriti Zubin Irani)

K a m r a n
M A N U U
Model School
in Darbhanga,
Bihar, has set
a record by
receiving 10
letters of



KMMS is one of three Model schools that have been established and run by MANUU. The other two are in Falaknuma, Hyderabad, and Nuh, Mewat, Haryana.

KMMS is the first Urdu medium school in India that is affiliated to Central Board of School Education. Established in 2007, it started with Primary section where 320 students had taken admission.

They were being taught by eight teachers.

Seventy-seven students wrote the 2014-15 board examination of which two got outstanding marks while the remaining 75 passed with good grades. A total of 762 students were enrolled in the school in that academic year.



Farkhanda Jawed



Mohd Shoaib Akhtar



Dr. Mohammad Aslam Parvaiz

Dear colleagues,

I have been with Maulana Azad National Urdu University for more than four months now as the Vice-Chancellor. Even before my appointment, I was acquainted with the churnings that the University was going through. The teaching and non-teaching staff were on strike and work at MANUU had come to a grinding halt. Perhaps, this was for the first time that MANUU employees had experienced such a long period of turmoil. That however, did not deter me from taking the plunge, because I was looking at MANUU differently. There has been a sea change in my perception of things as, over the years, I have gained exposure and experience as a scientist, teacher and editor of a monthly science magazine in Urdu. Therefore, I decided to take the call, observe the happenings personally, and find out how best the University could be put back on the road to development.

The first thing I did on my arrival at the University, after formally taking charge, was to meet representatives of the agitated employees, listen to their grievances, and reassure them that henceforth every decision will be on the basis of merit and assured justice for all. Fortunately, I have noticed that there is a

You can make MANUU an exemplary institution

positive attitude among a large number of employees. There is willingness to contribute to the welfare and development of the University. With these encouraging signs, I have launched myself on a mission to prepare a time-bound plan and conceptualize a vision for the University. I have begun the process of finding out how best the goodwill, talents and capabilities of the employees could be tapped and channelized for the good of the institution.

I have noticed that most of the employees believe that MANUU is a unique institution of higher learning that has been designed by visionaries of the nation for the progress of the Urdu speaking population that had been slipping into social and economic backwardness for decades. The mandate is simple and clear—to impart education through the Urdu medium. To achieve this purpose, the potential of both distance and campus modes has to be fully utilized. The other element of the mandate is to provide the Urdu speaking population with vocational skills. The Government has also laid down the objective of empowerment of women by giving special attention to their educational requirements. Another significant component of the mandate is to preserve, promote and develop Urdu language and its culture, which is the best example of India's composite fabric.

I have realized that my predecessors have made sincere efforts in creating and developing necessary infrastructure. In fact, I find MANUU at a stage where the work that has been done so far has to be consolidated and then taken forward.

Unfortunately, I have also come across instances wherein the University's functioning has slowed down owing to non-performance of some sections and activities that have been detrimental to its development.

The task before MANUU is replete with massive challenges. The challenge is that of creating and spreading knowledge through all possible means. The challenge is to make education more student-centric. The challenge is to increase the intake of students manifold. The challenge is to make the world know that Urdu is not merely a language of extra-ordinary literature and soul stirring poetry but is also an effective vehicle for learning and practicing modern subjects such as Computer Sciences and Information Technology; Pure and Applied Sciences; Mathematics; Technology and Industry and; Business, Finance and Management.

The University has several Schools, Departments and Centres to deal with specialized subjects; an Academy to prepare students for All India Service Examinations, and a Chair named after the versatile genius and front-line freedom fighter Maulana Abul Kalam Azad.

The University is almost fully equipped to take up multiple challenges, overcome them with grit and contribute positively and substantially towards the country's growth.

What is required is to involve students in an imaginative and innovative plan by upgrading their knowledge base, by imparting special coaching for proficiency in English and Hindi. It is also necessary to hone their soft skills and open avenues to a larger arena of competition so that they have no hesitation in competing shoulder to shoulder with the best in the country. In this endeavor, their sole objective of success should be serving the nation and humanity at large.

In the panoramic image that I have, and am working on for MANUU, I visualize it as holding a place of pride in the league of Universities. Here I see no scope or place for any laxity or indiscipline from any quarter. It is a situation where sincere performance and accountability will be made articles of faith; to learn, impart education effectively, and be honest in giving one's best. I am positive that the faculty, staff, and students would rise to the challenges and make MANUU a success story beyond compare.



Dear Readers,

We are pleased to inform you that Al Kalam, the Maulana Azad National Urdu University magazine, has begun to create a niche among the academic circles in the country. We have been receiving positive letters on the quality of content and design of the magazine. Keeping in view the suggestions coming from the MANUU staff and student community two new elements have been included in the issue of Al Kalam that is in your hands. The first is *Voice of Azad*, a permanent column that will bring to light the subjects and issues on which Maulana Abul Kalam Azad raised his voice or wrote in his articles and books. The second element is the contribution from our students on issues of their concern.

Al Kalam plans to start regular contributions from MANUU staff, both teaching and non-teaching from the next issue. It would be highly appreciated if you could spare some time and help us with your feedback.

Mir Ayoob Ali Khan
Media Coordinator

Hyderabad welcomes People from everywhere, says Telangana Dy. CM Mahmood Ali

Mr. Mohammed Mahmood Ali, Deputy Chief Minister of Telangana State, said that he was impressed at the progress made by the University within a short span of 17 years. "I request you to set up Study Centres of the University at all the district headquarters of Telangana State," he said.

The Deputy Chief Minister said that his government was making efforts to provide 12 percent reservation to the Muslims in education and employment. "We are expecting to achieve this objective by next year," he hoped.

Speaking at the Eid Milap party organized by MANUU Employees Mutually Aided Cooperative Housing Society at the campus on 27th July 2015, the Deputy Chief Minister said certain groups have approached him with petitions against the University but he has advised them to shed their negativism as the institution of higher learning was contributing to the cause of promoting Urdu and spreading education. "Instead of making it the



target of destructive criticism, help the university to consolidate and spread its work across all the Urdu speaking sections of the country," he advised.

Referring to the national character of MANUU Mr. Ali said, "Hyderabad is a big Metropolitan City with a rich tradition of inviting and allowing people from all parts of the country to work here."

Mr. Mahmood Ali promised the employees that he would help them in setting up a housing colony in the vicinity of the University. "But I advise to you to follow up your proposal vigorously," he said.

Dr M Junaid Zakir, Assistant Professor, Translation Department, introduced the chief guest while Dr M A Quddus, Secretary of the Society, explained the working of Mutually Aided Cooperative Society. Dr Mazhar Quadri conducted the programme and presented the vote of thanks.



MANUU enters into MoU with Medwin Institute of Medical Sciences

According to the co-coordinator of Paramedical Programs Dr. S. Maqbool Ahmed, MANUU has signed an MoU with Medwin Institute of Medical Sciences, Nampally, Hyderabad. Under this MoU two Diploma and two Certificate programs of two year duration each will be offered to students.

Meanwhile, Dr. Ahmed, who is also the Head of Department of Botany, has published two research articles in September, 2015.

The first one being, "Allelopathic Effects Commelina Bengalensis L on Soybean (Glycine max Linn. Merr)" published in the "Global Journal for Research Analysis" in volume 4

The second research paper that was published was, "Allelopathic effect of weeds on seed germination percentage of soybean (Glycine max Linn. Merr.)" The publication that carried this research paper is 'Paripex – Indian Journal of Research'. It was published in Vol;4 ; Issue 9 of the Journal.

Distribution of Galaxies is not random, says Somak Raychaudhury

Dr. Priya Hassan presenting bouquet to Dr. Somak Raychaudhury

Dr. Somak Raychaudhury, Director, Inter University Center for Astronomy and Astrophysics, Pune, said that the distribution of galaxies in space is not random. There are clear structures up to certain scales which are indicators of the large structure formation of the universe.

Delivering his inaugural address on December 15, 2015 Dr Raychaudhury told the participants in the International Conference of the Celestial Mechanics and Dynamical Astronomy that, how through observations, the turbulent teenage lives of galaxies has been found. That part of the life of galaxies is spent in the filamentary structures of the cosmic web following which they end up in clusters.



While the galaxies are in filaments, they interact, merge and induce star formation. On the other hand, galaxies in clusters are stripped off their gas and hence there is no raw material for star formation. These observations lead to the bottom-up model of galaxy formation where small galaxies merge to form larger galaxies.

The conference was dedicated to S M Alladin, an eminent pioneer in the field of Galaxy Dynamics from Osmania University, Hyderabad.

Dr. Mohammad Aslam Parvaiz, Vice-Chancellor of Maulana Azad National Urdu University, congratulated the convener of the conference, Prof. S N Hasan and Co-Convener, Dr Priya Hasan and said that a proud moment has come in the young life of the University where it is able to impart education in Urdu and hold meetings on science, technology and astronomy on international level. He said that MANUU would provide great opportunities to *madrassa* educated students to study subjects like science, technology and astronomy.

Raychaudhury's research interests lie in the study of the evolution of galaxies in groups and clusters, and on the super-cluster filaments of the cosmic web. He is one of the key people to start the Indian Astronomy Olympiad and has selected and coached the Indian Olympiad team to top results at the International Astronomy Olympiad in 1999 and 2000.

The Inter-University Centre for Astronomy and Astrophysics (IUCAA) is an autonomous institution set up by the University Grants Commission (UGC) of India to promote the nucleation and growth of active groups in astronomy and astrophysics at Indian universities.

Dr. S M Alladin's son Mr. Sultan Alladin received a memento given as part of tribute to the late scientist.

Prof. P F Rahman, Dean School of Science, introduced Dr Chaudhury and the conference to the audience who had gathered from different prestigious institutions from all parts of India and foreign lands. The three-day conference on "Celestial Mechanics and Dynamical Astronomy" was organized from 15 - 17 December, 2015.



English should be taught as native language, says Prof Mohanty

Prof Panchanan Mohanty, Dean School of Humanities, University of Hyderabad, felt that English which has become the lingua franca of India should be taught as a native language and not as a foreign Language.

Delivering his keynote address at the inaugural session of the fourth National Conference on Language, Literature and Society on February 17, he said that the contemporary status of English require impartial research. How long English should be treated as a foreign language? The recognition of English as an Indian language would enable its teaching in schools not as a foreign language but as a native One.

One of the primary reasons for poor acquisition of the English language, he said, was its being taught through other languages. “Just as we do not learn

Mohd Ali Baig points out religious labeling to language is worst disservice

University Prof C R Visweswara Rao.

Prof. Mohanty revealed that though only about four percent of Indians spoke English, it is the language that connects the entire country. There are 22 scheduled languages that are spoken by 96.6 percent people in the country.

Prof Visweswara Rao reflected on the historical shifts in criticism on the relations between literature and society. Covering the length and breadth of critical thinking from Aristophanes to the New Historicists, the speaker commented on how society which was once perceived merely as backdrop to literature progressed to being considered as a literary text.

English of Maulana Azad National Urdu University was inaugurated by former Vice Chancellor of Vikrama Simhapuri



Prof. Panchanan Mohanty delivering keynote address at the Conference (L-R) Mr. G. Godavarthi, Dr. Shuguftha Shaheen, Prof. C.R. Visweswara Rao and Prof. Naseemuddin Farees.



Mohammed Ali Baig speaking at the Conference. (L-R) Mr. G. Godavarthi, Dr. Shuguftha Shaheen, Mrs. Noor Baig, and Prof. S M Rahmathullah

our mother tongues with the help of another language similarly, English should be taught without interference from other languages,” he said

He pointed out that the language of France is French and that of Spain is Spanish. But in India it is not Indian. This question has to be thoroughly studied.

The conference organized by the Department of

Professor Naseemuddin Farees, Dean School of Languages, Linguistics and Indology, commended the Department of English on organizing this conference and stated that it has made a valuable choice in terms of the theme by selecting language, literature and society.

Dr Shuguftha Shaheen, Head of the English Department, said that society is mirrored in



(L - R) Mr. G. Godavarthi, Dr. Shuguftha Shaheen, Prof. C.R. Visweswara Rao, Prof. Panchanan Mohanty and Prof. Naseemuddin Farees

literature as the primary function of literature is to inculcate humanistic values. The debate between aesthetic and pedantic functions of Literature has engaged scholars since classical times. The issue continues to be relevant in the contemporary era. It is therefore, essential to engage in academic debates and discussions, especially when the vey legitimacy and utility of the Departments of Literature in academic institutions is being questioned.

The conference has highlighted, investigated, and critically examined myriad reflections and diverse viewpoints, Dr Shuguftha Shaheen, said and added that in the process it has presented a sociological and linguistic response towards literature and vice-versa.

Valedictory function of the conference was organised the following day wherein noted theatre personality Padmashree Mohammed Ali Baig was the chief guest.

He said that the language and religion are two separate spheres one influencing the other but not controlling each other. It would be disservice to a language if it is strongly associated with a particular religion.

Speaking on Influences and Counter Influences of the language, literature and culture he said one can win hearts by using polite language.

Quoting Rumi, Baig said that words are a pretext while it is the inner bond that draws people together; silence is the language of gods and all else is translation.

His speech focused on simplification of language with the objective of achieving effective communication.

Baig specifically reflected on language beyond words as it is used in theatre. The significance of this variety of language includes silence and body movement. Different fields and disciplines have their own conceptual

language and rhetoric, for instance cinema has its own language and theatre its own. All these languages contribute to our understanding of language and through them the society.

He pointed out that theatre has contributed by imparting knowledge and practice of a language that exists beyond words.

Dr Shuguftha Shaheen welcomed the guests and thanked the participants. Prof. S M Rahmatullah, Dean Faculty of Social Sciences, summed up the proceedings of the conference. The highlights of the conference were the papers that threw light on Maoist fiction to the pains of partition brought forth mainly by Sadat Hasan Manto. "The participation of people like Mohammed Ali Baig has given a practical dimension to the conference," Prof. Rahmatullah said.

A large number students attended the conference and took active part in its deliberations that took place in a number panel discussions.





Students visit the beautiful church in Medak

HKS CDS bags another international project

Deccan Heritage Club

The Deccan Heritage Club was launched from the academic year 2015 to tap the spirit of celebrating the past glory of the Deccan region. This is basically an activity designed for the students of MANUU.

After collaborating with the Association for the Study of Persianate Societies (ASPS) for a Research-cum-Travel Grant, the H.K. Sherwani Centre for Deccan Studies has now become part of an on-going international project of writing History of Islam and Muslim Civilization in ten volumes which will be published in three languages: English, Arabic and Turkish with the Research Centre for Islamic History, Art and Culture (IRCICA), a subsidiary of the Organization of the Islamic Cooperation (OIC), based in Istanbul, Turkey. The H.K. Sherwani Centre for Deccan Studies is contributing chapters related to all the Muslim kingdoms of the Deccan.

The purpose of the Club is:

- To highlight various aspects of local heritage and to inculcate values of respect for diversity and tolerance.
- To create awareness, preserve and promote varied and rich culture and traditions of the Deccan among the young learners.
- To conduct various activities and educational excursions for students that enable them to appreciate the traditions, culture and religious diversity of the Deccan.

The Centre in association with Agha Khan Trust for Culture organised the first field trip for the member students of Deccan Heritage Club to the Qutb Shahi tombs.

Trading Network of the Deccan released

The Centre's third research study titled *Trading Network of the Deccan* was released by Vice Chancellor Dr Mohammad Aslam Parvaiz on 21st January 2016. The work on the Study in March 2015. This well-illustrated book comprising five chapters attempts to study the complex world of the Indian Ocean, origin of merchant communities, movement of material commodities, emergence of ports and trading centres, and formation of plural societies.



Vice Chancellor Dr Mohammad Aslam Parvaiz, A G Noorani, Salma Farooqui and Subash Avvaru after the release of book

Azad Chair organizes discussion of *India Wins Freedom*

A panel discussion on *India Wins Freedom*, the celebrated book written by Maulana Abul Kalam Azad, was organised by Maulana Abul Kalam Azad Chair on 21st of August, 2015. The session had Prof. Aleem Ashraf Jaisi, Associate Professor (Arabic), Dr. Sami Siddiquee, Assistant Professor (English), Dr. Shugufta Shaheen, HoD (English) and Mr. Abdul Qadir Siddiquee, Research Scholar (MCJ) as panellists. The discussion was chaired by Prof. Amina Kishore, Maulana Azad Chair.

The session began with a brief introduction of *India Wins Freedom* by Prof. Amina Kishore. She explained why it was important to organise such discussions.

Prof. Jaisi, the first speaker of discussion, gave an interesting understanding of Maulana Azad and described the freedom fighter as an honest man. He said that the book should be read by all to understand an important chapter in the freedom struggle of the country. The book, according to him, would serve as an eye-opener for the new generation. Dr. Sami Siddiquee presented a critical analysis on the book providing the political and social context of the time.

Dr. Shugufta Shaheen raised questions regarding the void between the Muslims of India and Pakistan and said they should be objectively studied. Mr. Abdul Qadir Siddiquee also spoke.

The presentations of the panellists was followed by a question-answer session. Prof. Amina Kishore summed up the discussion while Dr. Salma Ashraf, Research Fellow at the Chair, thanked the panellists as well as the members of the Azad Forum for Creative Thought for making the discussion lively and meaningful.

Leadership workshop

A day long workshop was organised by Maulana Abul Kalam Azad Chair on 10 August, 2015.

Thirty members of Azad Forum for Creative Thought participated in the workshop which was both informative and interesting.

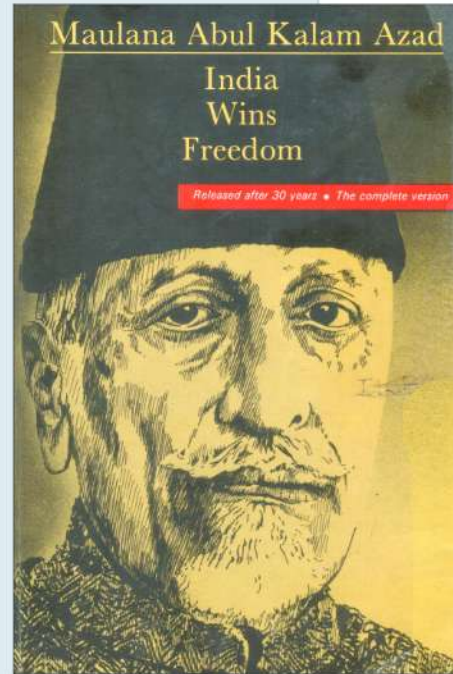
Prof. Amina Kishore welcomed the members and the speakers and pointed out the relevance of a platform like Azad Chair. She emphasised the necessity to channelize the creative energies of the students along with the promotion of Urdu language and literature under the name of a great visionary like Maulana Azad.

In his keynote address, Prof. Wahab Qaisar of Distance Education spoke about how Azad remained a formidable leader with his repertoire in journalism, education and politics.

He reminded the audience how Maulana Azad fought till the last minute to retain the nation united.

Dr. Salma Ashraf introduced Prof. Manikandan, an expert on Human Resource Management, Organizational Behaviour, Research Project Management and Scientific Communication to the audience.

Manikandan spoke on leadership training using various strategies which held the audience spellbound. He said that an effective leader is a person who is in the process of realisation of a productive goal enhanced by the support of his/her followers. He said that a leader's charisma is reflected in the opportunities he has given to his followers to become effective future leaders.



DSW begins work on major academic publication series

The Department of Social Work has developed three major academic publication series under its Innovative Academic Interventions initiative related to Social Work Curriculum namely, Field Work Term Plan Manual (Series-1), Field Work Manual (Series-2), and Skill Lab Manual Outlines (Series-3). This work is a product of the collective initiative of social work students, field work agencies and faculty members.

The Field Work Template is bilingual--in Urdu and English. These are designed to strengthen students' learning and capacity building through enhanced knowledge, skill and attitude towards social work profession and practices. The same has also been uploaded on the university website under the Department's column (www.manuu.ac.in).



Students at an orientation programme

Job Placements:

The students of MSW Batch (2013-15) have performed well and many of them have been placed during their Block Placement period. Shahnawaz Khan and Farhat Jahan have been selected as Gandhi Fellows in Piramal Foundation; J. Abdul Qaliq got placed as Project Coordinator in Safa Society, Hyderabad; S. Bavajan in VKS Sharanya Welfare Society, Hyderabad as Project Coordinator; Rashid Raza in Shrdha Rehabilitation Foundation, Karjat; Abid Reza has been selected as boundary-less fellow in Boundryless Initiative, Dehradun; Naved Anjum and Aquib Ansari in Prayas, New Delhi, as Project Coordinator and outreach worker, Rescue Team respectively.

Orientation Programme:

The Department organised a week long Orientation Programme for newly admitted students of Master of Social Work (2015-17) from 3rd of August 2015 to 9th of August 2015.

Speaking at the inaugural session Prof. S.M. Rahmatullah, Dean School of Arts and Social Sciences, appreciated the efforts of the department and described the department as one of the most effective and functional ones in the university. Mr. Md Israr Alam, In-charge Orientation Programme, welcomed the guests and distributed kits to the participants. The students were informed about Core Papers, Field Work Practicum and Skill Lab.

There were issue based expert lectures. Prof. D.K. Lal Das, Ex. Principle Roda Mistry College for Social Work, spoke on Social Work Research; Mrs. Jameela Nishat from Shaheen NGO delivered a lecture on Social Work and gender issues and; Mr. A.M. Raja Reddy from Don Bosco NGO talked about agency profile and its functioning. Participants were taken for exposure visit to Don Bosco Rehabilitation Centre, Ramanthapur Hyderabad.

Prof. Mohd Shahid, Head, Department of Social Work, described the orientation programme as foundation to give effective direction to two years for inculcating social work values and temperament.



Urdu is no barrier to land jobs in public or private sector, say MCJ graduates

Najmunneesa Chempayil, 25, who passed out from the Department of Mass Communication and

Journalism (MCJ) of Maulana Azad National Urdu University, is now an Assistant Professor in the same subject at C.H.Muhammed Koya Memorial Government Arts & Science College in Mallapuram, Kerala. She has also cleared the UGC conducted NET Exam.

Iftekhhar Alam, 29, is working in the Press Information Bureau (PIB), New Delhi. He has also qualified the Junior Research Fellowship (JRF).

Aamir Badar, 27, is employed with the Registrar of Newspapers for India (RNI), New Delhi. He has cracked NET Exam. These are some of the young achievers who have passed out from the Department of Mass Communication & Journalism of Maulana Azad National Urdu University, Hyderabad, where the medium of instruction is Urdu.

These professionals have broken the stereotype belief that those who pass out from MANUU would not be absorbed in national media organizations, both public and private, because their medium of instruction was Urdu.



Iftekhhar Alam

The Department of Mass Communication and Journalism is slowly coming of age. It has begun to prove that it is talent that matter in landing jobs, not in which language one has graduated.

“We get students mostly from weak socio-economic background and they are the first generation matriculates or graduates in their families. The other commonality among them is that they usually come from the hinterlands. Making them market ready is a challenge,” says the Dean and Head of the Department Prof. Ehtesham Ahmad Khan.

The Department of MC&J was established in MANUU in 2004. In the last about 12 years it is creating a niche for itself.

The Department is well equipped with modern



Najmunneesa

infrastructure to provide students with training in Electronic and Print Media. Students of the department get hands on access to Video Studio, Audio Studio, associated control rooms, and a comprehensive postproduction facility by way of audio and video edit suits, teleprompter, computer graphics and animation. The department also boasts of 15 high-end graphic workstations with sophisticated software for the usage of 2D & 3D animations at its Graphic & Animation Lab. The Print Lab has 14 high-end computers to publish the in-house Journal *Izhaar* produced and edited by the students.

According to Dr Syed Husain Abbas Rizwi, Assistant Prof, the focus on New Media has attracted a lot of students to join MA MCJ. For many others, technical skills in Electronic Media are of greater importance as they open employment windows for them faster.

“Through internships we try to put students in situations exercises hone their skills for actual industry requirements,” says Associate Professor Mohammad Fariyad.

He reveals that recently the Directorate of Audio-Visual Publicity (DAVP) has offered internships to the students in New Delhi.

“Cinema studies was another crucial gap which we could finally plug in 2013-14”, says Assistant Professor Dr. Meraj Ahmed Mubarki.

There are other graduates from MCJ Departments who have used the skills they learnt here to find jobs in fields other than journalism, revealed Associate Prof Mustafa Ali Sarwari.

Some time back the Department organized an international conference that saw the coming together of renowned journalists from across the globe. They included renowned journalists like Najam Sethi, N Ram, Rajdeep Sardesai, Shekar Gupta, Memhal Sarfraz, Imtiaz Alam, Kamal Khan, Swapan Dasgupta, Ved Pratap Vaidik and Sheshadri Chari.

“The Department has gone a long way in dispelling notions of arrested underdevelopment usually and quite



Madhavi Tata

erroneously associated with the Urdu language,” opines Dr. Durgesh Tripathi, former member of the Central Board of Film Certification, New Delhi. “But a visit to the university was an eye opener,” he said.

“The general perception is that students opting for courses in journalism through Urdu medium would be good enough for Urdu newspapers alone. That has changed”, says Mohammad Jehangir Alam, 28, who passed out from the department and is a sub-editor with an English news web portal.

Professor Shafey Kidwai, chairman, Dept of Mass Communication, AMU, Aligarh reiterates that ‘employers are apprehensive about the viability of Urdu as a language of mass communication but a beginning has been made. Let’s not forget film scripts and screenplays for the Hindi film industry are majorly written in Urdu even today’. Anjum Rajabali, script writer of successful Bollywood films like Ghulam, Satyagraha, Raajneeti, and Aarakshan who recently delivered a lecture in script writing at the Department felt that Urdu language is no barrier to a successful career in Bombay cinema. “Most of our successful script writers came from an Urdu background”, he pointed out.

To augment research, the department has started to offer PhD courses from 2014 with emphasis on minority and contemporary media issues.

“I left my job at ETV Network and enrolled for a PhD at the department. Now I have also been qualified for the Maulana Azad National Fellowship to continue my research work at the department’, says Abdul Qadir Siddiqui, a native of Kolkata. Professor Dr. Dipak Shinde, Director, School of Media Studies at Swami Ramanand Teerth Marathwada University, Nanded, agreed that media students from vernacular background often face unfair treatment and are prejudged. Former BBC South

Asia correspondent Satish Jacob, said, “I noticed that journalists from vernacular background have to prove themselves more than their missionary schooled colleagues. But given an opportunity, these students are no less than anyone in the profession’.

Names of the students who have cleared JRF/NET/SLET

1. Mr. Sageer Ahmad, batch 2008-10, qualified SLET (AP) in 2013
2. Mr. Iftexhar Alam and Mr. Md. Aamir Badar, Batch 2009-11, qualified JRF and NET, respectively, in 2012.
3. Mr. Afsar Ali Raini, batch 2009-11, qualified SLET (Maharashtra) in 2016.
4. Mr. Faisal Shoeb, batch 2010-12, qualified NET in 2012.
5. Ms. Najma Chempiyal, batch 2011-13, qualified NET in 2014.

Some students who have landed jobs

1. Mr. Iftexhar Alam and Mr. Md. Aamir Badar, batch of 2009-11 are in Indian Information Service (Group B) in 2013. They are currently posted at DD News and RNI as Assistant News Editor and Registration Assistant, respectively, at New Delhi.
2. Mr. Zahoor Hussain Bhat, batch of 2012-14 joined United News of India (UNI) Urdu Service as Trainee Sub-Editor in Year 2014 and the following year he was absorbed as a Sub-Editor. He is currently posted at Srinagar, J & K.
3. Ms Hira Aftaab, RJ, Radio Charminar, Hyderabad
4. Mr Mohammad Latif, Copy Editor, ETV- Urdu, RFC, Hyderabad
5. Mr. Rezaullah, Copy Editor, ETV- Urdu, RFC, Hyderabad.

Mustafa Ali Sarwari and Basith Malik with students



Muslims on the margins in Higher Education

Muslim community has contributed greatly to India's economic development over the centuries. History is witness to the role of Muslims in enriching India, both culturally as well as materially. At the same time it is a fact that India cannot develop without the required development of Muslims in all walks of life. Therefore, they will remain an indispensable part of the Indian development wheel.

In recent times, however, the community has been pushed to the margins of economic activity. There are several factors responsible for their decline. One of the reasons for the backwardness of Muslims is their dismal representation in higher education. According to All India Survey on Higher Education 2011, Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) in Higher Education in India is 20.4. GER in higher education is calculated for 18-23 year age group in a given school year. It indicates the percentage of eligible population (18-23 years) enrolled in higher education.

GER for male population at all India level is 21.6 in comparison to 18.9 for females. According to the survey, merely 4.5% of those enrolled in higher education belong to Muslim Minority Community. Their share is 3.12% in teaching and 3.31% in non-teaching staff. The share of staff of other minority communities is more than the share of students. There are many reasons behind this scenario. For instance:

1. Lack of awareness regarding higher education among Muslims.
2. Lack of encouragement from family and society.
3. Lack of financial aid for education.
4. Scarcity of job opportunities in public as well as private sector.

Comparison between South and North India:

An analysis of North Indian and South Indian universities, by Ms. Saima Iqbal as part of her Ph.D. thesis in the Centre for Dalit and Minorities Studies, Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi, shows a

"spectacular divide between South and North Indian Muslims in terms of education the four universities studied in North India, the two minority universities, Aligarh Muslim University and Jamia Millia Islamia, have more than 50% Muslim students. However, in the other two universities, Hemwati Nandan Bahuguna Garhwal University and Allahabad University, enrollment-rate for Muslims is merely one and three percent respectively, which is much below to SC (13 percent) and ST (5 percent) enrolment.



Serajul Haque

On the other hand, Muslim enrollment in the four analyzed South Indian universities viz., Karnatak University, Puducherry University, University of Hyderabad, and University of Kerala, is around 10 percent. Incidentally, none of these universities is a minority university. The South Indian Muslims, particularly of Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Maharashtra have shown impressive progress in education, compared to their counterparts in Bihar, U.P., Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Haryana.

The educational institutions in the South have played a major role in maintaining communal harmony in the region. The institutions in the South accommodate students and faculty from various religious and cultural backgrounds.

Educational backwardness of Muslim men and women is not a problem of the Muslim community alone but also a matter of concern for the entire nation. Muslims themselves have to come forward collectively to remove their backwardness. Intellectuals should organize awareness programs, government should endeavour to provide job opportunities for educated Muslims by creating necessary systems. The government should also increase financial assistance for Muslim students. Collectively these efforts can help the community to keep pace with other communities of India in the field of higher education.



Serajul Haque
MBA 2nd year
MANUU Hyderabad

Use Your Personality Traits to Professional Advantage



Sharafat Hussain

If you are more pessimistic than your colleagues, you'll learn about being a little Skeptic. If you think collaboration is less effective than following one's vision, you will know about being a Maverick. If competition makes you uncomfortable, you'll learn about thriving as a Pacifist. If you think rules get in the way more than they help, you'll find out about being a Free Spirit. This article explains how to use your personality traits to your professional advantage. Here are some important traits to keep an eye on as you pave the path of your career development.

1. Balance between being a Turtle and a Social Butterfly

Overall, any professional tends towards extroversion, but many have a mix of extroverted and introverted tendencies. This blend works magic and enhances the leadership skills. When you are a Turtle, you are likely to have good listening skills that may help you gather and process large amounts of information, which may help you in making more thorough evaluations of situations. You are also likely to be independent and self-sufficient. This aspect of your personality may help you in becoming less dependent on other people for help. When you are a Social Butterfly, you may be able to handle social pressure and additional responsibilities well. Your collaborative and socially interactive skills may translate into people management skills, which, in turn, may help you land promotions. However, keep in mind that other Turtles may view you as an attention-seeker. They may find you easily distracted. Also note that other Social Butterflies may see you as non-collaborative and withdrawn. They may mistake your silence and lack of visible enthusiasm for indifference or even boredom. When you need your alone time, go ahead and take it, but make it clear that this is about how you function best and shouldn't be seen as a rejection of anyone else.

2. Be a Strategizer Not a Control Freak Nadir Shah

Most of us enjoy working on new things, although we typically are more interested in the details and implementation. Focus on the big picture. Humans are likely to feel the constant urge to work on new things because one cannot work on the same tasks for too long — we tend to get easily bored. Delegate the work, and be less concerned about the nitty-gritty details of your strategies as long as they are successfully implemented. Your ability to strategize and devise plans may help you earn recognition from your superiors and may land you challenging new assignments. You may even be entrusted with the management of projects and resources, among other things. However, keep a fair balance, if you are too much of a Strategizer, you may keep yourself from getting involved in matters that require your attention. Your disregard for minute details may hold you back from monitoring the performance of your subordinates and the progress of your projects.

3. A Logician is not always good, be an Intuiter too

Being both a Logician and an Intuiter may help you in making transformative professional decisions. Any industry demands a great deal of creativity, and a mix of logical and intuitive skills may help you in analyzing a situation well before deciding. However, note that other Logicians may perceive you as being unreasonable. They may not be able to understand why you choose to act on hunches when you can do research to find out the best course of action instead. Likewise, Intuiters may perceive you as being too rigid. They may not be able to understand why you do not adopt a new idea or course of action just because research says otherwise, or why you spend so much of time gathering data instead of just following your gut instincts. Try to lay out the logical basis for your conclusions when you can, and explain the limits of relying solely on logic when you need to make an intuitive leap.

4. Daredevil or a safety officer?

Being a Daredevil always is not a good idea, become a Safety Officer sometimes. Many professionals are ready to take risks if it allows them to explore new opportunities, but they are also apprehensive about losing control over what happens to them. Your risk-taking nature may help increase your prospects for success. Taking risks may also be the only way to gain a competitive edge over rivals in the industry for a businessman. However, taking risks can backfire. Try to place yourself in situations where risk-taking is rewarded or even required and avoid situations in which the down sides of risks outweigh the advantages. For example, risk is essential in entrepreneurial ventures but more dangerous when it comes to product quality or legal compliance. No matter what, always try to make your risks calculated ones.

5. Mix of Balancer and Partisan

In profession, Balancers and Partisans are both common, as a good professional we need to be somewhere between the two. As a Partisan, you may save yourself and your company valuable time by making rapid decisions. You may not spend too much effort in analyzing a situation, when you can channel the same amount of energy into doing something more constructive. However, other Balancers may find your approach to decision making rushed and hasty. They may even mistake your tendency to view things from only one perspective for stubbornness or arrogance. Likewise, you may come across as being vague and undecided to Partisans, and this behavior may frustrate them. Other Partisans may not be able to understand why you spend so much of your time mulling over a situation when they can make the same decision as you in half the time. If you think you need to analyze a situation more thoroughly, go ahead and do so, but try not to over-analyze.

6. Experiment, but abide when needed

Many professionals are usually open to change, but may decide to stick to old regimes occasionally. As an Experimenter, you will find it easier to adapt to changing work environments and work patterns. Your flexibility and willingness to experiment will help you tap into your innovative spirit. However, being too much of an Experimenter has its drawbacks. Change is not always a good thing. An incessant demand for change might be indicative of instability and may make you tire of jobs or tasks too easily. Consider giving the old-but-tested approach a shot sometimes. Also, people who prefer tried-and-tested approaches may not be comfortable with new approaches, so try to explain the benefits of the new thing to your colleagues. Reading this article on your Kindle or sharing on your social media wall will definitely save paper but gift this magazine to old school fellows. Do not give lessons of sustainability to everyone.

7. Compromiser or Steamroller?

Many professionals respect other people's feelings and interests but are also concerned about achieving their own goals and strategies. As a Compromiser, you will be respected for your "fair-mindedness" and diplomacy. Your respect and concern for other people's views and feelings will help strengthen your interpersonal relationships and help you develop better people management skills. Listening carefully to other people's points of view may also give you a better insight into the problems at hand and the different ways of resolving them. However, if you are too accommodating and unwilling to speak up for yourself, your contributions to a discussion will be ignored or overridden. Steamrollers in particular may not appreciate the skills and ideas that you bring to the table unless you stand up for yourself sometimes.

8. Be a Maverick

Some level of collaboration is essential for career advancement and project management. You can't do everything by yourself. Also, your colleagues are likely to prefer a collaborative environment, which may mean that you'll be in more brainstorming sessions than you would like. Try to stay positive, or at least friendly, even when you feel that the discussion is going nowhere. You can voice your opinion and request to work alone sometimes without making your colleagues feel disrespected. Stay connected with the rest of your colleagues in a team environment, though, even if much of your work is as a solo contributor.

9. Free Spirit? Be careful!

Keep in mind that a disregard for rules may land both you and your organization in trouble. It may have a negative impact on your productivity, your professional image in the workplace, and your time management. Breaking the rules to find a creative new way to communicate with customers is great. Breaking the rules of legal compliance is another matter. Also, be aware that many of your colleagues are more rule-bound than you are. Pick your battles, and try to figure out the thinking behind a rule before you reject it. Sticking to rules and procedures may sometimes minimize your exposure to risk and your chances of failure. Take the freedom you need to feel comfortable and be flexible, but at the same time, cultivate your sense of responsibility and self-discipline. I hope you found it fun and informative. Remember, there are no right and wrong traits in human beings. It's all about identifying the best application of that trait for yourself, which will help build your career path. As the saying goes "Don't blame your genes...change them!"

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The Name Plate at the door

Prof. Amina Kishore is A Traditional Modernist

Dr Shugufta Shaheen

The all too brief stint of Professor Amina Kishore at MANUU began in 2007 when she joined the University as Head of the Department of English. Having vast experience of both teaching and administration, she was vested with the additional responsibility of establishing the CSEC Academy as its first Director. At the time of her retirement in 2011, Prof. Amina Kishore was Dean, School of Languages, Literature and Indology. Subsequently, in 2012, she was appointed as consultant to the University and in 2014 she was named Professor, Maulana Azad Chair. By the time she decided to bid adieu in November 2015, Professor Amina Kishore had endeared herself to the MANUU family and the vacuum created by her departure will be felt for a long time to come.

In 2007, news that a professor from the Aligarh Muslim University would be joining the Department of English was received with varied reactions at MANUU. As details trickled in, self-styled heralds proclaimed the impending arrival of a tough disciplinarian; an Iron Lady who administered with a firm hand. In consequence, she became the subject of animated debates and discussions which, as a result of the ensuing perplexity, finally turned her into an enigmatic apparition. Adding to the confusion was her very name, Amina Kishore; a rather peculiar assemblage of nouns which itself was subject to minute critical examination. "Must have married a Mr. Kishore" said some, while those unable to digest the implied 'transgression', insisted that it could actually be 'Kishwar'. Paradoxically, the unraveling of the mystery surrounding her name was rather an anticlimax. It turned out that the unusual name was neither the result of an attempt at 'national integration' nor, like in the case of renowned Hyderabad singer Sajjad Kishore, the outcome of misplaced appreciation of an ardent fan. The inconsistency had in fact come about as the result of a mistake committed by an unknown hand while recording a child's name for admission at school.

Not to be content so easily, the discordant notes of the brigade changed tack and set a new course in their voyage of discovering Prof Amina Kishore as soon as she joined MANUU. The focus was now on her persona. Here was somebody who appeared to be too modern and dynamic, when judged by the then prevailing standards of MANUU. Yet, there was an unmistakable element of traditional values integral to the aura surrounding her; made tangible by her speech, bearing, interactions and conduct. As time would prove, there could never be an iota of doubt as to her being the perfect modern Indian woman.

Those of us who had an opportunity to interact with Professor Amina Kishore right from the day she arrived at MANUU,



caught on early to her inherent loving nature. However, our own inexperience continued to foster some concerns regarding her ability to cope with the drastic change that the shift to MANUU had brought about. At Aligarh, she had been part of the academic and administrative elite and had achieved great heights in both her professional accomplishments and interpersonal relations. The apotheosis of Prof Amina Kishore, by the multitude of her students at Aligarh and wards at the Women's Hostel there, is manifest in torrent of accolades that result from the mere mention of her name in the presence of all those who have known her. That this continues even today, despite the years since she has left Aligarh, is truly remarkable. Skeptics wished away her immense popularity at Aligarh with the argument that AMU had more than a century of history, culture and tradition, which encouraged close bonding between students and teachers.

At Hyderabad, this iconic figure of Aligarh would find herself in rather reduced circumstances; a climb down comparable to a shift from an urban to a provincial setting as far as the relative prestige of the two universities was concerned. However, MANUU it was felt, was a different cup of tea altogether. It would therefore be a 'wait and watch' policy for us. Would she be able to take the change in her stride? And if successful, the degree and ease with which Prof Amina Kishore adapted to change would certainly prove to be a great learning experience, especially for those of us who were as yet fortunate enough to have remained insulated from such trials and tribulations.

Prof Amina Kishore, it appeared, had come with a vengeance to prove us wrong. She seemed extremely happy and contended to return to Hyderabad and actually looked forward to working at MANUU. Her enthusiasm at being of service to the university and furthering its mandate, especially that of furthering the cause of education for women, was contagious and brought about a positive change in all those who worked with her. The disappointment of having missed out on a juicy story where her name was concerned was largely compensated with the realization that thankfully she was not the dictator 'ruling with an iron hand' as had been so blatantly proclaimed by chronic harbingers of disaster at MANUU. In fact she turned out to be the most reasonable colleague; polite and accommodative to a fault.

Personally, I was reminded of Browning's Monologue My Last Duchess, in finding an apt portrayal of her persona in literature. The Duchess had paid a heavy price for the inherent goodness manifest in her personality. Fortunately, in the case of Professor Amina Kishore, the obsessive compulsion to do good and be good was contagious and has resulted in her reaping rich returns.

*A heart - how shall I say? - too soon made glad,
Too easily impressed; she liked whate'er
She looked on, and her looks went everywhere.
Sir, 'twas all one! My favour at her breast,
The dropping of the daylight in the West,
The bough of cherries some officious fool
Broke in the orchard for her; the white mule
She rode with round the terrace—all and each
Would draw from her alike the approving speech,
Or blush, at least.
Oh, sir; she smiled, no doubt,
Whene'er I passed her; but who passed without
Much the same smile?*

Assailing all our doubts about adjusting, she (we had ceased to be surprised by now) took to MANUU like a fish takes to water. Possessing a skill which made everyone around her feel special, she would leave all with an impression that they were the ones who had a special place in her heart. The fact that others too received the same degree of affection, at times kindled the flames of jealousy which would soon be doused by the realization that Prof Amina Kishore could never be termed hypocritical. The universal affection dispensed without reservations was equal and impartial with everyone alike; colleagues, staff and students, all received the same treatment.

On a personal level, my relationship with Amina Ma'am was not always smooth. We had our share of disagreements where each one, may not have been pleased with how the other reacted in a given situation. But then, what is a relationship without disagreements especially when these are, more precisely, differences of opinion, rather than disagreements on principles. But such disputes enabled us to accept each other as we were, rather than trying to impose our views on the other. Considering that wide gap in our relative experience in academics and administration, I find it quite heartening that she never made me feel any less than her equal in such exchanges when anyone less accommodating would tend to be condescending at the least. As a result, I have learnt to be accommodative and open to the opinions and perspectives of others.

Prof Amina Kishore began her academic career at the Aligarh Muslim University and served there for almost 40 years before moving to Hyderabad and joining MANUU. At Aligarh she had the distinction of being one among the renowned principals of the famous Abdullah College for Women, who have collectively charted the path of liberation through education for generations of Muslim girls. Her adroit

handling of sensitive and critical issues was the prime reason why her advice was much sought after by the university administration as well as the staff and students. With her vast experience, Prof Amina Kishore ensured that situations which could develop into major conflicts were nipped in the bud. It is not difficult to ascertain that her analysis of events, situations and personalities, is fair and objective.

It will not be out of place to mention here that there were a few who resented her popularity. Their worst machinations however left little discernible impact on her and although one could, with great difficulty, establish the hurt; her attitude towards detractors seemed quite clear –'forgive but never forget'.

Prof Amina Kishore's literary acumen goes far beyond the English language. She has an exceptional command over Urdu and Telugu and has frequently translated from both

languages into English. One of her translations from Telugu, an autobiographic narrative of a tree, is sufficient to establish her credentials as a sensitive poet who succeeds in true transmittal of the subtle nuances which made the original a masterpiece.

More significant than her academic achievements and literary contributions, Prof Amina Kishore has endeared herself to students and colleagues at Aligarh and MANUU due to the positive influence that impacts those around her by being a role model. She is accommodating of differing opinions, strikes a balance between the modern and the traditional, and above all is an exceptional human being; qualities which eminently qualify her as a Professor Emeritus.

Prof Amina Kishore personifies the modern Indian woman, displaying a flair for striking a perfect balance in her career and familial responsibilities. She has recently decided to end her active role in academics and devote all her time to personal interests and family. She has been active, for the past many years in striving for social justice to underprivileged sections of society and is quite vocal about issues relating to women. In her long career, she has inspired numerous students to emulate her and with determination and conviction motivated quite a few of her younger colleagues to follow in her footsteps.

The emergence of the 'New Woman', so long anticipated in the feminist literary output of Indian women authors, appears to have finally made it to reality in the personality of Prof Amina Kishore.

Dr Shugufra Shaheen,
the writer of this poem and the article, is HoD of English

On the Retirement of Professor Amina Kishore The Name Plate at the door

*The Name Plate at the door
Recounts a story of feelings felt
About the resident of the room who has left
To carve a new life, and a new lore.
The Name Plate at the door
Makes one nostalgic and reminiscent
About the beautiful days and times spent
Within this room, which can be no more.
The Name Plate at the door
Seems like footprints on sand;
A different Chair and a different hand
Now has become a part of the room that we adore.
The Name Plate at the door
Remains after one leaves that space
To fill a new world with a new fragrance
Leaving behind a vacuum for evermore.
The Name Plate at the door
Has taught us crucial lessons of life.
To tirelessly day and night strive
And not pine for rewards ever more.*



Excerpts from Maulana Azad's Presidential Address to the Indian National Congress, 1940 Indian Muslims and the Future of India

....Do not know how many of you are familiar with what I wrote in Al-Hilal, some twenty eight years ago. If some of you were readers of Al-Hilal, I request you to refresh your memories. I had expressed this conviction, and, once again, I repeat, that nothing in India's political development has been as blatantly wrong as the assertion that the Muslims constitute a political minority, and that they should be wary of their rights and interests in a democratic India. This one fundamental misconception has led to innumerable misunderstandings. Wrong arguments have been built upon false foundations. On the one hand, it confused the Muslims about their true position in India, and, on the other, it baffled the world so that it could not find the right perspective on India.

Whatever may be the details of the future constitution of India, we all know that it will, in the fullest sense, be a democratic constitution. Every unit will be autonomous with regard to its internal affairs, while the federal centre will be concerned only with matters of common interest to the nation, such as foreign affairs, defence, customs etc. Given this scenario, is it possible that anyone who has any concept of the actual working of a democratic constitution, will have misgivings on the majority and minority issue? I, for one, cannot believe that even for a single

moment, there could be any room for these misgivings in the future course of India.

These apprehensions arise because, to quote a British statesman on the subject of Ireland, we are still standing on the river bank, and, though we wish to swim, we are unwilling to enter the water! There is only one remedy for such apprehensions; take the plunge fearlessly. No sooner that is done, we shall realise that our fears had no basis in reality...

.....The bright sun of faith, determination, action, and endeavour never sets in this world. No complicity of the times, no imbalances of the situation, no irritants surrounding issues can change our course. We are honour bound to march ahead towards the attainment of India's national goal.

I will remind my Muslim brethren that I stand at the same position where I stood when I gave them a call in 1912. Nothing in the ensuing occurrences which have shaped our present circumstances, has gone unnoticed by me. I have been deceived neither by my eyes, nor by my mind. I have watched and felt everything. Events have not just passed before me like a pageant. I have been in the thick of them, a participant, examining each one of them. I cannot help it but I cannot be false to my perceptions. It is impossible for me to deny my convictions; I cannot stifle the voice of my conscience.



Muslims and United Nationalism

I am a Muslims and profoundly conscious of the fact that I have inherited Islam's glorious traditions of the last thirteen hundred years. I am not prepared to lose even a small part of that legacy. The history and teachings of Islam, its arts and letters, its civilization and culture, are part of my wealth and it is my duty to cherish and guard them. As a Muslim I have a special identity within the field of religion and culture and I cannot tolerate any undue interference with it. But, with all these feelings, I have another equally deep realization, born out of my life's experience, which is strengthened and not hindered by the spirit of Islam. I am equally proud of the fact that I am an Indian, an essential part of the indivisible unity of Indian nationhood, a vital factor in its total make-up without which this noble edifice will remain incomplete. I can never give up this sincere claim.

It was India's historic destiny that its soil should become the destination of many different caravans of races, cultures and religions. Even before the dawn of history's morning, they started their trek into India and the process has continued since. This vast and hospitable land welcomed them all and took them to her bosom. The last of these caravans was that of the followers of Islam, who came in the footsteps of their many predecessors and settled down here. This was the meeting point of two different currents of culture. For a time they flowed along their separate courses, but Nature's immutable law brought them together into a confluence. This fusion was a notable historic event. Since then, destiny, in her own secret ways, began to fashion a new India to take the place of the old. We had brought our treasures with us to this land which was rich with its own great cultural heritage. We handed over our wealth to her and she unlocked for us the door of her own riches. We presented her with something she needed urgently, the most precious gift in Islam's treasury, its message of democracy, human equality and brotherhood.

Eleven centuries have passed since then; Islam has now as valid a claim on this land as Hinduism. If Hinduism has been the religion of its people for

several thousand years. Islam, too, has been its religion for a thousand years. Just as a Hindu can say with legitimate pride that he is an Indian and a follower of Hinduism, so can a Muslim proudly claim being an Indian and a follower of Islam. I would go further and say that an Indian Christian (or the following one of her many religions).

Eleven hundred years of common history have enriched India with our common creative and constructive achievements. Our languages, our poetry, our literature, our culture, our art, our dress, our manners and customs all bear the stamp of this common life. Our languages were different, but we grew to use a common language; our manners and customs were dissimilar, but they acted and reacted on each other and thus produced a new synthesis. Our old dress may be seen only in pictures of bygone days; no one wears it today. These common riches are the heritage of our common nationality and we do not want to leave them and go back to the times when this adventure of a joint life had not begun. If there are any Hindus among us who desire to bring back the Hindu life of a thousand year ago and more, they are just dreaming and such dreams cannot become real. Likewise, If there are any Muslims who wish to revive their past civilization and culture, which they brought a thousand years ago from Iran and Central Asia, they too, dream and the sooner they wake up the better. These are unnatural fancies which cannot take root in the soil of reality. I am one of those whose believe that revivalism may be necessary in religion, but in matters of culture the same revivalism is a denial of progress.

Our shared life of a thousand years has forged a common nationality. Such moulds cannot be artificially constructed. Nature's hidden anvils shape them over the centuries. The mould has now been cast and destiny has set her seal upon it. Whether we like it or not, we have now become an Indian nation, united and indivisible. No false idea of separatism can break our oneness. We must accept the inexorable logic of facts and apply ourselves to fashioning our future destiny.



Maulana Azad firmly believed in pluralism of India

Maulana Abul Kalam Azad firmly believed that India is a land of multiple languages, religions and cultures. But the debate on what India was what India should be made into is taking place without dis-

cussing Azad and his ideas.

This was stated by Prof. Anwar Moazzam, an expert on Islamic history and culture, while delivering the 18th Foundation Day Lecture at Maulana Azad National Urdu University (MANUU) on January 8.

Speaking on the topic “Maulana Azad’s Idea of India,” Prof. Moazzam said that unfortunately today’s politicians are defining the personality and culture of India for which they are not qualified. It is for the academicians in universities like MANUU to do this job, he clarified.

Prof. Moazzam lamented that there is no mention of Maulana Azad or his ideas in the current debate on the idea of India.

He argued that Azad was possibly the first and the only Indian thinker who accepted the ‘Indian personality’ as a whole. In this wholeness there is no compromise of the ‘cultural or religious’ identity of an Indian whether he is a Hindu, Muslim, Christian, Sikh or Jain.

Prof. Moazzam juxtaposed Maulana Azad’s idea of India against two other significant and competing ideas of India: the constitutional idea of India and the Hindu nationalist idea of India as expounded in Golwalkar’s *Bunch of Thoughts*. He said the later two are in direct conflict with each other. He also called for an academic debate on the viability of these ideas.

Tracing the concept of the idea of India he said perhaps Alberuni is the first traveller who defined what India is in his remarkable book *Indica*, a compendium of the country’s religion and philosophy, written in the 11th century. After him the person who praised India as a multi-cultural

civilization was Syed Jamaluddin Afghani in 1882 while he was visiting Kolkata.

The clarity of plurality of India as found in the works of Maulana Azad is not available elsewhere. “It is necessary for a university like MANUU to not only to have intellectual discussion on this subject but also propagate it because it contains the core of Indian spirit,” he said.

Vice Chancellor MANUU, Dr. Mohammad Aslam Parvaiz, in his presidential address, stressed that India will always remain a plural country. He called for a tolerant, assimilative and accommodative understanding of religion.

In-charge Registrar MANUU, Prof. S.M. Rahmatullah presented the vote of thanks.



Prof. Anwar Moazzam