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Danish Reyaz



Dr Azam Baig

Founder Director, JLN Educational Group
Shaping Future Through Education and Leadership

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From The Editor's Desk



By: Danish Reyaz

Finding a politician whose sole aim is to serve the people, without using politics as a means to accumulate wealth, is rare. Dr. Azam Baig, a Congress leader from Rajasthan, is one such figure. He believes that those who rely solely on politics for their income should avoid entering the field, as the desire to become wealthy through politics could undermine their integrity.

Instead, he advocates that those with independent sources of income and a genuine passion for serving the community should enter politics. This, he argues, will protect them from the temptation to exploit the system for personal gain—though, as we know, human greed has no limits.

Dr. Azam Baig is a successful educational entrepreneur who runs the Jawaharlal Nehru Educational Group in Kota and Jaipur, which includes institutions ranging from schools and ITIs to degree colleges, nursing institutes, B.Ed. colleges, and more. At the same time, he is the General Secretary of Rajasthan Pradesh Congress and the former Students' Union President of the prestigious Aligarh Muslim University.

Nevertheless, he considers himself more of an edupreneur and educationist than a politician because he believes that working to improve education for the needy and

underprivileged is the primary calling of his life. Through his visionary efforts, he has worked tirelessly to create an educational framework and infrastructure that enable youth to acquire skill-based professional education, providing them with meaningful employment.

From very humble beginnings, Dr. Baig has made an impressive transformation in his life through his commitment to enhancing the quality and scope of education for our youth. His inspiring journey, which intertwines his educational endeavours and political engagements, deserves to be featured as the cover story in this month's edition of our magazine.

In addition to his compelling story, this edition includes a variety of engaging write-ups and articles—covering news, events, opinions, and topics of broad public interest.

We hope you enjoy this issue as much as our previous ones, and we eagerly await your valuable feedback. So, what are you waiting for? Dive in and enjoy the read!

Book on Public Administration and Development Dynamics in India Released



Public Administration and Development Dynamics in India, a book edited by Dr. Syed Najiullah, Dr. Ahmed Raza and Dr. Naved Ashrafi was released in a function organized by the Department of Public Administration, Maulana Azad National Urdu University.

The Chief Guest, Prof. Y. Pardhasaradhi, former Head, Dept. of Public Administration, Osmania University and General Secretary, Indian Public Administration Association emphasized on the need for more research and publications on the emerging areas of Public Administration.

He appreciated the efforts of the editors in bring out the volume covering eight different areas of Public Administration.

Prof. Siddiqui Mohammed Mahmood, Officer on Special Duty II, MANUU in his presidential address emphasized on the humanistic approach to Public Administration and urged the academia to bring out publications which provides solution for the problems of the society. Prof. Afroz Alam, Head, Dept. of Political Science, MANUU in his book review highlighted that the edited volume qualifies as the best work on all the three parameters of content, quality and relevance. Prof. Kaneez Zehra, professor, Dept. of Public Administration in her address elaborated the efforts of the department in furthering research in Public Administration.

Dr. Syed Najiullah, Head, Department of Public Administration in his welcome address said that the book consisting of 28 research articles

is the outcome of the collective wisdom of the academicians of Public Administration from across the country. He has expressed his gratitude to Prof. Syed Ainul Hasan, Vice Chancellor for promoting academic culture and research in the University. He thanked the Registrar and the Dean, School of Arts and Social Sciences for their support and encouragement in bringing out the edited volume. He has also thanked the publishers, True Word Publications for their diligent work.

Dr. Ahmed Raza, Assistant Professor, Dept. of Public Administration has conducted the programme and Dr. Junaid Khan, Assistant Professor proposed the vote of thanks. A large number of faculty, research scholars and students attended the programme.

Workshop on Mobile and Data Journalism inaugurated at MANUU

“Journalism is changing completely and we are going through a very revolutionary phase. At present journalism is going into next phase. We need to work wisely on technique as well as on content.” These are the views expressed by Mr. Brajesh Misra, Editor in Chief, Bharat Samachar, UP, in the inaugural of two-Day Workshop on “Mobile and Data Journalism: Embracing Innovation in Media”. Prof. Syed Ainul Hasan, Vice Chancellor, Maulana Azad National Urdu University (MANUU) presided over the inaugural of the workshop being organized by the Department of Mass Communication and Journalism (M C J), MANUU.

Continuing his address Mr. Brajesh Misra said that the viewership of newspaper and TV news channels is decreasing now and digital viewership is increasing. There is a need to change within ourselves now, he added.

Prof. Ainul Hasan in his presidential address said that MANUU is named after Maulana Azad who was a great journalist so obviously Urdu journalism has a very strong foundation in this University. Also there is a hostel named after Maulvi Muhammad Baqir in MANUU, who was also a great journalist. While quoting an idiom “Blessings in

Disguise”, Prof. Hasan said sometimes mobile phones are a blessing and sometimes it is a disguise for us.

Mr. Nitin Srivastava, Editor, BBC Hindi, New Delhi in his address said that as a journalist right now we are in a very interesting and challenging phase. We have been a robust strong democracy; the journalism played a very important role in upholding our constitution. According to him journalism is now the first pillar of the constitution.

the first technical session, emphasized the transformative power of mobile journalism in the current media landscape. He discussed how smartphones have democratized news reporting, enabling journalists to capture, edit, and disseminate stories instantly.

Prof. Mohammad Fariyad delivered opening remarks and Dr. Mohd Mustafa Ali Sarwari, Associate

Professor was the moderator for this session.

The second technical session was held on the topic “Trust in Digital News”. Prof. Syed Afshana, Media Education Research Centre University of Kashmir, Srinagar

focused on the critical issue of trust in digital journalism. She highlighted the increasing prevalence of misinformation and disinformation in the digital age, stressing the importance of media literacy among consumers.

Dr. Meraj Ahmed Mubarak, Assistant Director, UGC-MMTTC was the moderator



Mr. Md. Faheem Qureshi, President, TGMREIS, Hyderabad, said media is a very responsible and respectful job.

Earlier, Prof. Mohammad Fariyad, Dean & Head, MCJ delivered welcome address and thanked workshop sponsors. Prof. Ehtesham Ahmad Khan, MCJ, MANUU delivered the introductory remarks. Mr. Meraj Ahmed, Assistant Professor convened the inaugural session.

Mr. Nitin Srivastava while addressing

‘Kairos 2024’ – Mega students event held at USTM



The Department of Computer Science at the University of Science and Technology Meghalaya (USTM) successfully organized ‘Kairos 2024,’ a mega student event held from September 20 to 21, 2024. The event was marked by a series of thrilling competitions and drew participation from Gauhati University, Assam Don Bosco University, Assam Engineering College, Cotton University, B. Baruah College, Handique Girls College, K.C Das Commerce College, Royel Global University, NERIM, Sonapur College, Tezpur University, Dibrugarh University, apart from the host USTM.

The competitions ranged from cultural performances to technical challenges. Melodia, the singing competition, and Groove Nation, the dance showdown, were crowd favorites, with participants showcasing their incredible talent. Art enthusiasts were

captivated by Color Craze, a painting competition, and Character Clashes, a cosplay contest, which brought color and creativity to the event. A coding competition hosted by the Department of Computer Science was another highlight, attracting a large pool of tech-savvy participants.

The event expanded beyond the academic realm, featuring exciting sports and recreational competitions. Students competed in an Arm-Wrestling Championship, Gully Cricket, and Photography contest Picture Perfect. Additionally, gaming fans were thrilled with competitive gaming events such as Mobile Legends Bang Bang and BGMI.

Innovation was celebrated with ideation contests such as Invention Insight and Robo Soccer, which sparked creativity and drew

widespread engagement. A major highlight of the event was the performance by the renowned band Junoon, who entertained the crowd at the end of the first day, adding a musical spectacle to the vibrant atmosphere.

The second day saw intense finals in sports events like Futsal and Gully Cricket, which drew large audiences. The event Seek and Unite, a campus-wide treasure hunt, saw teams collaborating to solve clues and find hidden treasures, making it one of the most exciting events of the day. Meanwhile, the Quiz Competition kept the audience on the edge of their seats with a closely contested final. As the event drew to a close, the winners of all competitions were awarded prizes in the presence of dignitaries, marking the successful conclusion of Kairos 2024.

The Curious Case of Antilia:

Waqf land sold during Congress rule, AIMPLB's legal advisor represented Ambani



By Syed Zubair Ahmad

The proposed Waqf Amendment Bill has sparked concerns among many in the Muslim community, as it is perceived to be a legal tool aimed at systematically stripping away Waqf properties from Muslim hands. Historically, Waqf properties are donated by individuals for the betterment of the Muslim community and, upon donation, these properties are considered to belong to God. The fundamental principle is that such properties cannot be sold or transferred under any circumstances, regardless of the situation. These assets may be developed for commercial purposes, but their legal status as Waqf property remains intact. However, the proposed amendments could potentially alter this protection, making it easier for individuals or organizations to acquire such properties, legally overriding centuries-old traditions and religious guidelines.

One case that exemplifies the misuse of Waqf properties is the controversial sale of land belonging to the Maharashtra Waqf Board, donated by Karim Bhai Ibrahim for charitable purposes. Contrary to the established Waqf laws, this land was sold off, violating the legal and ethical principles surrounding Waqf properties. This case sheds light on how political, corporate, and bureaucratic actors have already been mismanaging these properties, and the new bill could make such practices even more prevalent.

Waqf Properties in India

As of August 2024, India has a staggering 872,292 registered Waqf

properties, covering over 8 lakh acres of land. These properties are collectively valued at approximately ₹1.2 lakh crore, and they generate around ₹200 crore in revenue annually. However, despite their immense value and potential, Waqf properties have often been mismanaged, and in many cases, they have been looted by powerful groups that include politicians, bureaucrats, and even members of the Waqf Boards themselves.

The infamous case of Antilia, the residence of industrialist Mukesh Ambani, provides a glaring example of how Waqf properties have been appropriated for private gain. The land on which Antilia now stands was originally donated for the construction of an orphanage by Currimbhoy Ebrahim, a wealthy philanthropist, in 1895. The property was designated for the education and welfare of underprivileged children, but it was sold to Ambani's Antilia Commercial Private Limited in 2002 for ₹210.5 million (around \$2.5 million at the time), far below its market value of ₹1.5 billion (\$18 million).

The Antilia Controversy

The sale of the Waqf land for the construction of Antilia was highly controversial from the outset. Under the Waqf Act, the sale of Waqf properties requires approval from the relevant Waqf Board, in this case, the Maharashtra State Board of Waqfs. Initially, the Maharashtra Waqf Board, along with the state's Waqf minister Nawab Malik and the revenue department, opposed the sale, citing its illegality. They issued a stay

order on the transaction and filed a Public Interest Litigation (PIL) in the Supreme Court to challenge the decision of the trust that authorized the sale.

However, the Supreme Court dismissed the petition and directed the Waqf Board to approach the Bombay High Court. Eventually, the Waqf Board withdrew its objections, and the stay order was lifted. Ambani went on to build his residence, Antilia, on the land that had been intended for the education of impoverished Muslim children.

This sale was not only in direct violation of Waqf law but also betrayed the original donor, Currimbhoy Ebrahim, and the Muslim community. A property earmarked for charitable purposes was illegally sold off to a private entity for a fraction of its value, leading to widespread criticism. What makes the case even more scandalous is that only five members of the nine-member committee overseeing the sale made the decision to transfer the land, further flouting legal procedures.

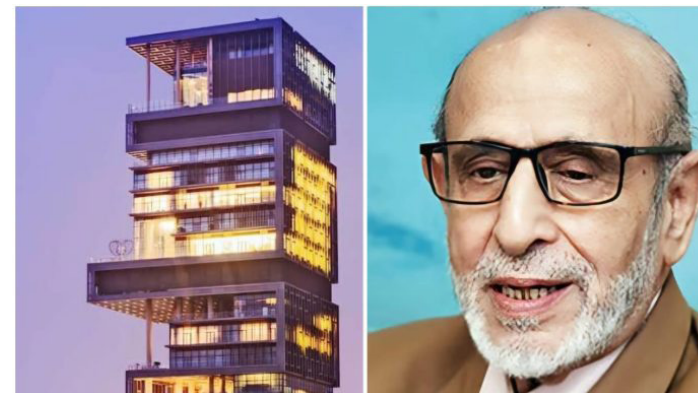
The Role of Advocate Yusuf Hatim Muchhala the legal adviser of All Indian Muslim Personal Law Board

What adds another layer of complexity to the Antilia case is the involvement of key figures within the Muslim leadership. Ironically, Advocate Yusuf Hatim Muchhala, who served as the legal advisor to the All India Muslim Personal Law Board (AIMPLB), represented Mukesh Ambani in the Maharashtra Waqf Board vs. Antilia Commercial Private Limited case. His role in facilitating the sale and defending Ambani's interests has raised significant concerns about

conflicts of interest and the ethical integrity of those tasked with safeguarding Waqf properties.

Machala's representation of Ambani did not end at the High Court level. Even when the Waqf Board pursued the case further in the Supreme Court, Muchhala continued to seek stays in favor of Ambani, ultimately helping Ambani retain control of the land. It is also noteworthy that the legal drafting for the case was reportedly done by late Justice A M Ahmadi, a former Chief Justice of India, who happened to be Machala's brother-in-law.

When this issue was raised during a meeting of the AIMPLB in Mumbai,



L-R, Antilia and Advocate Yusuf Hatim Muchhala

the board's general secretary, late Syed Nizamuddin, refused to entertain the matter. He stated that the board's involvement was limited to Waqf lands related to the Babri Masjid case, deliberately ignoring the Antilia controversy. This decision not to challenge one of their own members, who was representing Ambani in the case, has raised questions about the board's commitment to protecting Waqf properties. The same AIMPLB, which refused to act in the Antilia case in 2002, is now leading a campaign against the proposed Waqf Amendment Bill, raising concerns about its consistency and sincerity.

The Waqf Amendment Bill: A Legal Threat to Waqf Properties

The proposed Waqf Amendment Bill, in light of cases like Antilia, seems to provide a formal legal framework to facilitate the sale or transfer of Waqf properties on a much larger scale. What individuals and private entities were previously doing discreetly—often in collaboration with corrupt officials—the current government now aims to do openly, and potentially with greater efficiency.

By allowing for easier acquisition and sale of Waqf properties, the bill could open the floodgates for further exploitation of these lands, many of which hold significant religious, educational, and charitable value for the Muslim community.

The fear is that this bill will be a legal weapon that not only robs the community of its valuable properties but also undermines the very principles of Waqf, which are designed to protect and promote the welfare of the community.

The Waqf Amendment Bill is viewed as a dangerous development

that threatens the future of Waqf properties in India. Cases like Antilia, where legal loopholes and corrupt practices allowed the sale of Waqf land to a private entity, serve as a grim reminder of what could happen on a much larger scale if the bill is passed. Muslim leaders and organizations must take a firm decision.

The case is still pending before the Apex Court. Moreover, Yusuf Muchhala is a prominent figure in several Muslim organizations. He is one of the top leaders of the All India Milli Council and serves as the chairman of the APCR, a non-governmental organization dedicated to protecting the human rights of Muslims.

Dr. Azam Baig:

Shaping Future Through Education and Leadership



By: Danish Reyaz



Dr. Azam Baig with Mr. Rahul Gandhi, Former President, Indian National Congress & Member of the Lok Sabha, Wayanad, Kerala

The situation throughout India became deeply polarized following the demolition of Babri mosque in Ayodhya in Dec 6, 1992. Reports of communal clashes, rioting, and destruction or desecration of places of worship trickled in, further vitiating the already tense situation.

The atmosphere at Aligarh Muslim University, the world's largest university for minority education, also felt the impact. A sense of shock, anger, and protest gripped the campus. The police were concerned that the situation might get out of control in the face of the protests. However, in such a chaotic situation, Dr. Azam Baig, President of the Students' Union, rose to the occasion. He held a meeting with the District Collector and assured him that the protest would remain peaceful and within the bounds of the law.

He then addressed a huge crowd of aggrieved students for an hour, explaining that any untoward incident would only tarnish the university's reputation. His appeal seemed to have a noticeable effect on them. Not only did he guide his fellow students

effectively during the protest, keeping their emotions in check, but he also led hundreds of students to a nearby colony where the small temple, Chungi Mandir, was feared to be at risk. Dr. Azam Baig and his fellow students stood guard at the temple throughout the night, ensuring no harm came to it.

This act reassured the small Hindu community there and earned him praise from both the police and university authorities for his responsible leadership during a time of crisis.

Nevertheless, passion kept running high at the campus as the students, deeply hurt by the demolition of Babri mosque despite repeated assurances from the govt, court and establishment to protect it, wanted to register their protest more vigorously.

As the anger kept mounting, Dr. Azam Baig had to think of a way to channelize the students' frustration without letting it escalate into violence. He managed to persuade them for a jail bharo andolan. For the next four days, 300 odd students courted arrest each day. This helped ease the anger



*Dr. Azam Baig, Founder Director, JLN Educational Group
Former President, AMUSU
National Coordinator, AICC & Incharge, UP*

of students to a great extent and the initial wave of anguish and resentment gradually subsided.

The whole incident was featured on BBC radio, which noted that despite Aligarh's history of communal tensions, the city remained calm during the most volatile period following the Babri Mosque demolition, while much of India was in turmoil. Dr. Azam Baig's leadership was singled out for special praise, highlighting how he managed to prevent violence or any major incidents during such a tense and critical time.

Becoming president of the Aligarh Students' Union and successfully leading it through its most tumultuous

phase brought Dr. Baig the fame and recognition necessary for a promising political career, which he did pursue to good success. However, his true passion lay in uplifting education, particularly for Muslims and other disadvantaged communities.

Today, Dr. Azam Baig stands as one of India's foremost visionary educationists and edupreneurs, driving transformative changes in education for the underprivileged through his determined leadership, all while maintaining an active political career.

Background and Early Education

Dr. Azam Baig's admission to Aligarh

and his rise to President might give the impression that he came from a financially well-off, resourceful background, but the reality is starkly different. He endured significant struggles before making a name for himself.

He was born into a poor family; his father, Mirza Mehmud Baig, was a farmer, and his mother, Kaniza Baig, was a housewife. His parents were illiterate, as was much of Sangod, his birthplace, in the Kota district of Rajasthan, which lacked educational facilities. Today, the same place has world-class schools and colleges that Dr. Azam Baig himself established—something he never imagined would be possible in his early years.



*Dr. Azam Baig with Mr. Durru Mian,
Former Minister of Medical & Health, Govt. of Rajasthan*

Though illiterate, Dr. Azam Baig's father was determined for his children to receive an education. However, he lacked the means to send them to school. Due to these financial hardships, Dr. Baig was enrolled in a madrasa where education was free. From an early age, the weight of his family's poverty drove him to dedicate himself fully to his studies.

Despite the limited financial prospects of a madrasa education, he persevered with steadfast dedication and quickly proved his merit as a student. His intelligence and hard work were evident in his studies. Driven by a thirst for knowledge, he eventually enrolled at Jamiatul Falaullah, in Azamgarh, where he not only received

an advanced religious education but also began his journey into modern learning.

"I always knew that if I wanted to achieve something meaningful, it would be through modern education. Knowing this, I devoted extra time to modern studies on my own, beyond the scheduled time for modern education integrated into the madrasa curriculum," says Dr. Baig.

A Transformative Path to Aligarh

Though a man of poor means, his father always had an unexpressed dream of sending his children to Aligarh Muslim University. So, when, Azam Baig secured admission to the

university, his happiness knew no bounds. He felt that his son would not only make him proud but, more importantly, contribute to improving the lives of people, at least those from his native place. Little did he realize that his son would one day exceed his expectations and become an example for others, rising from a poor background to achieve remarkable success.

Dr. Baig reminisces, "Driven by my deep commitment to modern education and a strong desire to fulfill my father's dream, I decided to sit for the entrance exam for the Bachelor of Unani Medicine and Surgery (BUMS) program at Aligarh University. When I was selected, it felt like a validation



Dr. Azam Baig honoured in House of Commons, London by Indo-UK Global Awards

of all the hard work and sacrifice. That moment marked a turning point in my life.”

Dr. Baig was one of the few students from Rajasthan to attend Aligarh University, where admissions are predominantly secured by students from Bihar and Uttar Pradesh. But his time there wasn’t just about academics—he made history by winning the Students’ Union president election with a resounding majority in 1992. This landslide victory was unprecedented for a student from the BUMS stream, especially one with an early madrasa education. Traditionally, the presidency had been dominated by students from the engineering, medical, and humanities streams, making his win a groundbreaking

achievement.

A Landmark Presidency

As noted, Aligarh Muslim University had very few students from Rajasthan compared to UP and Bihar. It must have taken something special for Dr. Baig to be elected president. He reflects, “There were barely a dozen students from Rajasthan, yet I became president of around 40,000 students. That kind of trust they placed in me is something I’ve always been deeply grateful for.”

He describes, “I’ve had an ingrained sense of community service since my early days. Even before becoming president, I was involved in addressing issues affecting our students and

bringing them to the authorities for resolution. I worked impartially and quietly, without seeking attention, which resonated with the students and led to their overwhelming support in my favour.”

Dr. Baig proved himself to be a level-headed leader with the confidence to tackle critical issues, as demonstrated by his effective handling of the aftermath of the Babri Mosque demolition. He also showed immense courage, leading university delegations to meet with then Prime Ministers Chandrasekhar, V.P. Singh, and Narsimha Rao, raising key concerns affecting the community and urging them to take action towards meaningful solutions.



Dr. Azam Baig honoured in Asian Excellence Award, Singapore

He shares that he never shied away from tackling any student issue, no matter whom he had to approach to resolve it. He tirelessly worked for their benefit and was constantly inundated with requests, as students believed he was the one who could truly help them.

A Thoughtful Political Choice

Dr. Azam Baig shares an interesting insight into student politics at Aligarh Muslim University, noting that it’s the only university where student leaders are not aligned with or backed by any political party. “We run for elections as individuals, not as party affiliates. If there’s even a hint that a candidate has political backing, they almost always lose the election. During my time as

president, I was independent, free from any political influence, which allowed me to carry out my responsibilities without bias or pressure,” he explains.

Nevertheless, by the time Dr. Baig left the university, he was already a well-known figure as a dynamic student leader, and various political parties approached him. He politely declined their offers, waiting for the right moment before eventually joining Congress to pursue active politics.

“For those motivated by a sense of duty, politics offers a platform to tackle the issues that affect society, bring real change to people’s lives through development, and fight for justice and equality. I joined politics for these principles,” he says.

In explaining his decision to join Congress, he shares that it was influenced by his upbringing and the environment in which he was raised, where he was taught to be liberal and inclusive. Congress aligned with these values, and as the grand old party of the nation, it was capable of bringing together all sections of society without creating division.

Dr. Baig highlights, “I joined Congress at a time when many Muslims were drifting away from it following the Babri Mosque demolition. And today, while politicians are switching allegiances to further their careers at the drop of a hat, I have remained loyal to the party, even during its difficult times. Such is my commitment to Congress ideology, and I am grateful



Dr. Azam Baig with Amin Pathan, Rafiq Khan, Khanu Khan, Yogendra Yadav

that the party has recognized my contributions and entrusted me with top responsibilities within the organization.”

Political Journey So far

Aligarh has a tradition of student leaders rising to prominence in politics, often building their careers in Uttar Pradesh or Bihar, where the Muslim population is substantial. Dr. Baig reflects that if he had stayed there and pursued politics, he could have quickly climbed the ranks, possibly becoming an MP or MLA. But with his father’s dream in mind, he made the selfless decision to return to Rajasthan and pursue his ambitions in his home state.

Though his primary focus was on

charting a course in educational entrepreneurship, Dr. Baig continued to pursue politics in the state and achieved well-deserved success—all without compromising his principles. “I have engaged in politics with my head held high, even though many people consider it to be dirty and without morals,” he emphasizes.

Dr. Azam Baig served as the Vice-President and General Secretary of the Rajasthan Pradesh Youth Congress from 1996 to 2003. He has also been the National Coordinator in charge of Uttar Pradesh and has served as an election observer in several states, including Madhya Pradesh and Gujarat. He is currently the General Secretary of Rajasthan Pradesh Congress.

Dr. Baig has consistently showcased his exceptional organizational abilities over the years, playing a pivotal role in orchestrating successful election rallies and events for the party both in Rajasthan and beyond. He has led peaceful protests, spearheaded delegations, and built grassroots support for Congress, helping secure victories for various candidates.

Recognizing his potential, the party entrusted him with an MLA ticket for the Ladpura, Sangod, Kota constituency in the 2023 elections, which he narrowly lost. “From the outset, I knew it would be a tough battle, but I fought with full dedication and courage. Winning or losing is part of the political journey—what truly matters is how you come back



Dr. Azam Baig with Srinivas, President Indian Youth Congress & Kanhaiya Kumar, Former President JNUSU

stronger,” he says, hinting at his resolve to contest again in the future, if given the opportunity.

An Advocate of Conscientious Leadership

For a political leader, guiding people is an incredibly delicate task. A good leader not only inspires and directs people toward a noble cause, while a bad leader stirs up emotions and leads them astray for personal gain. “What’s essential for a leader is having the courage of conviction,” affirms Dr. Baig. “If you are convinced that something is right, you must stand by it, regardless of criticism or potential political gains.”

He emphasizes that he has never been an advocate of emotional leadership. However, nowadays, the trend is quite the opposite—leaders often capitalize on popular emotions and exploit them to advance their political careers. This is shortsightedness on the part of such leaders, which can be dangerous, as it

undermines the sanity of society and creates conflicts.

“A true leader is someone who strings people together despite the differences and lead them towards a common good, fostering lasting peace and brotherhood. “I tend to stand firm in my principles, which often work against me, but I have no regrets as my conscience is clear, and I am proud of that.” Dr. Baig remarks, with satisfaction clearly evident on his face.

Politics aside, a leader in any field must be principled and visionary to drive meaningful change. They need to work patiently and diligently, overcoming obstacles to implement the ideas and initiatives they believe will achieve their intended goals. “Today, we run about 16 institutions dedicated to education, and while we’ve reached a certain level of success, it didn’t happen overnight. I first envisioned these institutions and worked tirelessly to bring them to life,” Dr. Baig reflects. “Fortunately, I

received help along the way because people recognized the sincerity of my vision and efforts.”

Embarking on Educational Carvan

Dr. Azam Baig’s journey into educational entrepreneurship began with a profound realization: if any meaningful progress is to be made for the community—and society at large—it must come through education. After all, education is the only tool with the power to truly transform lives and uplift future generations. With this conviction, he set out on an educational caravan in 1995, accompanied by Aligarh’s former Vice-Chancellor, Syed Hamid and several educationists travelling across the country, including his home state of Rajasthan to spread awareness among Indians.

“We travelled to every corner of the country over a span of three years, until 1998, assessing the factors that were



preventing children from attending school. While poverty was certainly one of the reasons, we discovered that a serious lack of awareness—even decades after independence—was a major obstacle, keeping people from considering education for their children,” he observed. “At the same time, there was an awful scarcity of schools, and even fewer colleges, to accommodate students in a vast country like India.”

Dr. Baig describes the experience as eye-opening, one that prompted him to make education his life’s mission, even if it meant setting aside his political ambitions for a while. Since Rajasthan was his home state and one of the most educationally backward states with high unemployment, he decided to focus his efforts there.

Pursuing His Passion: The Edupreneurial Journey

While still moving forward with the caravan, Dr. Baig began making efforts to start his mission. Initially lacking resources, he partnered with like-minded individuals, and in 1999, he successfully established Dr. Zakir Hussain Muslim Minority B.Ed. College in Jhalawar. By 2001, he had also founded the Khwaja Garib Nawaz (KGN) Nursing Institute, as well as KGN English Medium School there. This marked the beginning of Dr. Azam Baig’s journey towards his mission, which would soon take a larger shape.

Dr. Baig explains that within his own community, he noticed a lack of professional skills, which denied its youth formal employment opportunities. “So, initially, we focused on skill development for

our youth and then moved towards improving basic education in schools,” he adds.

Dr. Baig mentioned that, realizing the need to expand their efforts for a greater impact on the community, they had established the Jawaharlal Nehru Samajik and Shekshanik Sansthan in 1997 in Sangod, Kota, which now operates 16 educational institutions under the aegis of the Jawaharlal Nehru (JNL) Educational Group.

“There’s no greater satisfaction than doing something meaningful and constructive in your hometown. What made it even more special was that the foundation stone of the Jawaharlal Nehru Samajik and Shekshanik Sansthan was laid by my father, who had always dreamed of his children contributing to the development of their birthplace,” reflects Dr. Baig with pride.



The first institution from the JLN Group that was established in Sangod was Jawahar Public Senior Secondary School in 1999, followed by Sanskar Academy English Medium School in 2005, aimed at promoting primary education to build a strong foundation for students. Both schools have since been upgraded to provide top-class education up to Class 12.

Dr. Baig explains, “We followed the school with JLN Degree College, which offers B.Sc. and B.A. courses, and now includes our ambitious four-year integrated B.Ed. program as well. There is also a JLN Teacher’s Training College, which offers a two-year B.Ed. program.”

He further adds, “To equip students with technical skills, we established JLN I.T.I. College in 2004, where students can study various trades such as Fitter, Electrician, Computer,

Electronics, and Mechanic.”

He underscores that Sangod, which once lacked proper educational institutions, is now self-sufficient in this regard, and he feels fortunate to have played a small part in its progress.

Dr. Azam Baig, despite his busy engagements with educational institutions, was a politician who wished to continue his political career, which required him to live in the capital, Jaipur. However, he did not want to compromise on his educational mission. To balance both, he decided to establish another campus near Jaipur, which also fit with his broader vision of expanding his efforts beyond Sangod, following the success he had there.

He shares, “Initially, I rented a place in Bhankrota, near Jaipur, where I laid the foundation for a nursing college.

After 3-4 years, I purchased a plot of over one lakh square feet on Tonk Road in Shivdaspora, Jaipur, which paved the way for the establishment of our second campus, JLN Education Campus, in 2005.”

Dr. Azam Baig’s vision for expanding quality education took another leap with the Jaipur campus, which became a major hub for nursing education. The campus primarily focuses on healthcare, housing two prominent nursing institutions. The Jaipur College of Nursing and Hospital offers B.Sc. Nursing and Post Basic B.Sc. Nursing, while the Jaipur Institute of Nursing provides General Nursing and Midwifery (GNM) courses.

In keeping with the model of the Sangod, Kota campus, the Jaipur location also includes a degree college and two senior secondary schools, ensuring a broad spectrum



of educational opportunities. Dr. Baig notes, “This campus continues our mission of holistic education, extending our reach into vital fields like healthcare while maintaining a strong foundation in general education.”

Emphasis on Nursing and B.Ed.

The programs offered at the two campuses of the JLN Group clearly reflect JLN’s emphasis on nursing and B.Ed. courses. Explaining this, Dr. Baig says, “Our primary objective was to equip our youth with professional skills that would enable them to find employment easily and improve their economic conditions.”

In Rajasthan, there is a strong inclination towards nursing and B.Ed. courses among students, particularly girls. A vast majority of them prefer

to find jobs within the state rather than moving elsewhere. This is where the B.Ed. course becomes valuable. “Around 50% of our graduates are now working in government schools, while the rest are employed in private institutions. Some have even started their own schools,” Dr. Baig reveals.

On the other hand, Kota has long been a hub for medical aspirants, which has benefitted Rajasthan, as some students from the state, though not in significant numbers, have successfully become doctors. However, a large portion of those who don’t secure medical selection opt for paramedical fields, and we provide them a viable alternative through nursing.

Additionally, the desire to serve and show compassion towards humanity has motivated many of our youth to pursue nursing. Today, Rajasthan is producing some of the best nurses,

both within the state and beyond, on par with those from South India, particularly Kerala.

Dr. Baig proudly states, “JLN today stands among the top private institutions offering exceptional nursing and B.Ed. programs, not just in the state but nationally. We provide the best faculty, state-of-the-art facilities, and strong placement partnerships to ensure our students not only succeed but thrive.”

The majority of JLN’s nursing graduates have secured government jobs, with many employed in multi-specialty hospitals, BHU, and Aligarh University. Some have even gone on to open their own clinics. It’s clear that no nursing student from JLN remain without employment.

Charity and Scholarships

The JLN Educational Group is



committed to the upliftment of those who are economically and socially disadvantaged. “We often encounter meritorious students who cannot afford the fees for their courses. In such cases, we offer significant fee waivers, sometimes even covering the full amount,” Dr. Baig states. “Additionally, we help them apply for government scholarships to ensure they are not denied the education they deserve, preventing their future from being compromised.”

In addition to its educational efforts, Jawaharlal Nehru Samajik and Shekshanik Sansthan actively engages in various social initiatives. From supporting old age homes, organizing educational and special cause rallies, and hosting health education and medical camps to running blood donation drives, assisting distressed women, participating in Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, and leading environmental

awareness campaigns—these efforts are all part of the Sansthan’s ongoing commitment to social responsibility.

Awards and Recognitions

Dr. Azam Baig has dedicated himself tirelessly to advancing education and skill development, sharing his wealth of knowledge and experience with numerous organizations across India and beyond. His passion for creating lasting impact in society through education has earned him recognition not just locally, but internationally.

Recently, he was invited to speak on educational research at Oxford University in England and was honoured by the House of Commons in the British Parliament. Furthermore, countries like the UAE, Singapore, and others in Asia have bestowed honours upon him, offering him opportunities to explore their educational systems

and collaborate on global initiatives.

Dr. Baig’s deep understanding of the Madrasa system, rooted in his own childhood experiences, led him to serve as the first secretary of the Rajasthan Madrasa Board from 2003 to 2004. Currently, he is the president of All India Muslim Educational Society of Rajasthan unit. And notably, he holds the position of founder and secretary general of Indian Muslims for Civil Rights, alongside notable figures such as former Foreign Minister Salman Khurshid, ex-Rajya Sabha Speaker K. Rahman Khan, and former Rajya Sabha member Mohammed Adib. This organization tirelessly works for the social, political, and educational upliftment of minorities and other underrepresented communities across India.



A Man of Knowledge and Speaker Par Excellence

Dr. Baig stands out as an exceptionally knowledgeable individual. He is well-versed not only in subjects related to his educational background but also in various other important fields, ranging from economics to social issues. Unlike many flippant politicians, he possesses a profound understanding of politics—whether local, national, or international—approaching each with thoughtful insight. Beyond that, his intellectual grasp extends to both historical and current issues affecting humanity at large, and his ability to connect the dots between them reflects a rare combination of wisdom and foresight.

He mentions, “Whether I possess knowledge or not, I can’t say, but I have been a voracious reader throughout my life, fully aware that

true knowledge lies between the pages of books. I have read extensively across various subjects and continue to stay updated through journals and the internet.”

His extensive knowledge, along with his mastery of languages like Hindi, Urdu, and English, as well as Persian and Arabic (which he also studied at Aligarh), allows him to articulate his thoughts with clarity. A gifted speaker, he communicates with coherence and lucidity, effortlessly inspiring and captivating his audience.

His speaking ability has greatly contributed to his leadership as president in Aligarh as well as in his political career, allowing him to connect with diverse audiences. However, more than anything, Dr. Baig says he loves speaking to his students, encouraging them to strive for excellence and unlocking their

full potential. For him, guiding the next generation is both a passion and a calling.

The Youth Are the Future

Prosperity of any community depends on its youth. When they are on the right path and equipped with the right skills, they can transform the future of their community. For many years, Muslim youth lacked direction due to insufficient education and limited opportunities, which led to unemployment and the overall stagnation of the community. “But things are changing now,” remarks Dr. Baig, “with efforts emerging from within the community itself. There is a stronger emphasis on modern education and professional skills, allowing young people to succeed in life. This, in turn, has renewed the confidence of the community, which is finally taking steps toward



progress after years of inertia and complacency.”

That being said, Dr. Baig has some advice for the youth. He points out that we live in a modern world that is also corrupted by unscrupulous practices, promoting drugs, intoxicants, and vulgarity. He urges young people to stay away from these negative influences to preserve their energy and focus on their studies, as their sole duty at this time is to study, nothing else.

He also adds that in this age, many wear their political ideologies on their sleeves. The youth must be vigilant against falling into this trap, as today’s politics is shameless and vicious, and it can negatively influence the minds of young people and affect their studies.

The Changing Political Dynamics

Political dynamics worldwide are shifting, with right-wing and fascist forces gaining momentum. The rise of these forces has been fuelled largely by large-scale propaganda on social media and polarized traditional media. India has not been immune to this trend. “For the first time, we are witnessing right-wing forces firmly in control, suffocating institutions and eroding the social fabric with their hate-driven politics,” laments Dr. Baig. “Minorities and disadvantaged castes have borne the brunt of this political climate, facing marginalization and having their voices silenced.”

That said, he predicts that hate-driven politics won’t endure for long, particularly in India, a nation profoundly diverse in caste, creed, religion, culture, and language. He

stresses that Indians, by nature, do not tolerate arrogance or negativity from those in power. While this aggressive and abusive form of politics will eventually fail, the damage it has inflicted on the social fabric will take years to fade away.

Dr. Baig says, “We, as politicians on the other side of the spectrum, are doing our part, but civil society must also step up to reclaim the narrative from these divisive forces. This is a collective fight because, in today’s world, lies and half-truths spread faster than wildfires, driven by the misuse of social media and digital platforms. It’s challenging, but we must combat this with facts and reason.”

Women’s Equality Matters

For centuries, women have been marginalized by patriarchal systems, denied equal status to men, and often



excluded from education, which led to their dependence on men and limited their potential. But today, a growing awareness of women's rights is shifting the narrative. "If society is to truly progress, we cannot afford to overlook the vital role of women," Dr. Baig asserts.

He emphasizes that men must move past the outdated, feudal mindset of restricting women from enjoying their rights and freedoms. They need to recognize that men and women are complementary and should be treated as equals. Women have excelled in numerous fields and are eager to walk side by side with men. "We must set aside our false egos and allow women to thrive and succeed," he argues.

Dr. Baig further notes that education has been a key factor in loosening the patriarchal grip and advancing women's emancipation. However, this

progress has not yet reached the lower strata of society, where many women remain illiterate and disempowered. "It is our collective responsibility to reach out and educate them about the importance of learning," he stresses.

At the same time, he states that we need to ensure that our institutions are safe and accessible for women, allowing them to study in an environment that meets their needs. "Think about it: the majority of schools in India don't even have proper toilets for women. In such conditions, do you really expect women to feel encouraged to attend and study?" Dr. Baig asks pointedly. He adds, "Schools are already few and far between in rural areas, and often located at a significant distance. Do you think girls from conservative families would feel comfortable traveling to these schools, worrying about their safety and the risk of

harassment?"

Living by Example

Dr. Baig's journey has passed through many challenges and milestones, both in politics and as an edupreneur. Throughout it all, he's had the unwavering support of his wife, Dr. Hamida Baig. "I'm truly blessed to have her by my side. She has not only nurtured our home, taking care of our family and children, but has also lent her capable hand in my professional life," he says with gratitude.

Dr. Hamida Baig holds a PhD in Physiotherapy and has worked at King Salman Hospital in Saudi Arabia, as well as in London. With her vast experience, she is perfectly suited to lead Jawahar Lal Education Sansthan as its Chairman. Her dedication to duty and strong leadership have been instrumental in guiding these

institutions.

"I often wonder if I could have achieved everything I have, without her by my side. We see ourselves as a team, and that partnership amplifies our strength, allowing our endeavours to truly thrive as a result," he shares.

In the same vein, he says, "People often speak grandly about women's empowerment and equality, but fail to practice it in their personal lives. I haven't just talked about it; I've lived it. Dr. Hamida Baig and I are a true example of a partnership rooted in mutual respect and equality, both in our home and professional lives."

Not only does his wife enjoy his trust and support, but his daughters also have his full confidence in pursuing their ambitions. Dr. Baig's eldest daughter, Uzma Baig, a graduate of Aligarh Muslim University, is currently managing the Kota campus while pursuing her MSc. His second daughter, Sana Baig, excels as a top student in the M.A. Psychology program at Aligarh Muslim University. "They are as talented as their mother. I've always aimed to ensure they reach their highest aspirations and live a life of fulfilled dreams," says Dr. Baig. "My son, Anam Baig, the youngest, is studying computer applications in New Delhi. I hope he grows not just into a successful professional, but more importantly, into a man who values respect for women and stands firmly in support of their rights, just as I have always done."

Projects on the Cards

Dr. Azam Baig is immensely satisfied with the trajectory of his educational entrepreneurship. However, he doesn't want to stop here; he aims to take it to the next level. "Our next target is to establish a university in Rajasthan and efforts are already underway for it. You need to have about eight educational institutions to apply

for a university," Dr. Baig explains. "We have 16, so that's not an issue. Furthermore, I have already donated 75 acres of ancestral land essential for the university. If everything goes as planned, and as soon as the government of Rajasthan gives its nod, we will begin the process. But, as you know, government approvals take time. Nevertheless, I've always been fortunate to receive good responses from the government, whether Congress or BJP, in educational matter."

At the same time, in the pipeline are the JLN Unani Medical College, JLN Agriculture College, and JLN Skill Training Centre (STC), for which construction work is currently underway. These institutions will further strengthen the educational framework of the region, providing specialized training and resources that will empower students and enhance community development.

That said, Dr. Baig mentions having a special bond with Aligarh, the place where he gained his education. Even today, when traveling to Delhi, he returns via Aligarh just to catch a glimpse of the place that nurtured the foundation of who he is today. He loves the university so much that he sent his daughters and son there as well.

However, on a serious note, he reflects on Aligarh, which has contributed significantly to the nation by attracting students from all over the country for quality education. Yet, it hasn't benefited the local population as much. The education level in Aligarh and its neighbouring areas at the grassroots remains a concern that needs to be addressed.

Dr. Baig shares, "I have enlisted the help of friends and landowners and have earmarked 13 acres of land for building schools and colleges that will focus on providing the local

population with top-quality education. Construction on 25,000 square feet has already been completed, and we hope to finish the remaining work very soon, possibly in a year or two."

Conclusion

Dr. Azam Baig's journey stands as a testament to his unwavering dedication to education and community upliftment. From humble beginnings, his vision has transformed into a legacy of educational institutions that have empowered countless students, especially in the fields of nursing and teacher training, across Rajasthan and beyond.

His commitment to professional skill development, coupled with a deep sense of social responsibility, has not only improved the lives of individuals but has also contributed to the overall progress of his community. And with future endeavours in the pipeline, he is poised to add another chapter to his already successful mission.

His politics, rooted in ethics, is another bright spot in his career. His industrious nature and resilience ensure he has a promising future in politics, and the community and society will continue to benefit from his spirited and inspiring leadership.

As JLN Group celebrates silver jubilee of its educational initiatives on Oct 6 this year, it's clear that Dr. Baig's mission is far from over. His legacy is one of not just transforming individuals but building a future where education is accessible and empowering, offering new opportunities for generations to come.

Maeshat Media congratulates Dr. Baig on 25 years of excellence in his mission. His vision and dedication have transformed countless lives through education, and we eagerly anticipate his continued impact and even greater achievements in the years ahead.

Blessings of Ism-e-Azam



By: Professor Obaidullah Fahad,
Department of Islamic Studies,
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Aligarh



Dr. Azam Baig with Mr. Naval Kishore,
Former Cabinet Minister & former Governor of Gujarat

Hafiz Dr. Muhammad Azam Baig began his education in Sangod, District Kota, Rajasthan, with the memorization of the Holy Quran and basic teachings at a Maktab (elementary religious school). Experience and observation show that a Hafiz (one who memorizes the Quran) not only possesses excellent memory but also demonstrates unparalleled diligence, perseverance, and intelligence. Beginning his educational journey with the memorization of the Quran, Dr. Azam Baig completed his Alim (scholar) course in 1982 and Fazil (expert) course in 1984 at the well-known religious institution, Jamiat Al-Falah in Bilariyaganj, Azamgarh.

It was here that he envisioned a comprehensive education system, and he was also elected as the Literary Secretary of the institution. This experience motivated him to gain expertise in worldly sciences as well, to benefit all of humanity.

Guided by this vision, he came to Aligarh Muslim University and enrolled in Ajmal Khan Tibbiya College to study medicine, where he earned a Bachelor of Unani Medicine and Surgery (BUMS) degree. At Aligarh Muslim University, Dr. Muhammad Azam Baig became familiar with the English language in addition to Hindi and Urdu, while



he had already mastered Persian and Arabic during his studies at Jamiat Al-Falah. He took a keen interest in student issues and the educational and cultural challenges faced by students at Aligarh, which made him popular among them from the very beginning. Twice, he contested the Aligarh Muslim University Students' Union presidential election, narrowly missing victory by just a few votes. Despite this, Dr. Azam Baig remained undeterred. His supporters and fellow students continuously kept him active and motivated. Azam Baig himself saw his growing popularity among the students as a good omen for his future. His student life came to reflect the following verse:

“Build nest upon nest in such a way, nasheeman pr nasheeman isi tarahh ta’ameer karta ja,

That even the lightning tires of striking you.” Ke Bijli girte girte aap khud bezaar ho jaye

At Aligarh Muslim University, he became the heartbeat of the students as a popular orator. His bold speeches on national and community issues captivated both students and the public. His unique style of reciting the following verse at the historic gatherings in Kennedy Hall would send waves of apprehension among his opponents:

“Come here, tyrant, let’s test our skills, idhar aa sitamgar, hunar aazamayein

You test your arrows, and I’ll test my courage.” Tu teer aazma, hum jigar aazmaye

After losing the election for the first time as a presidential candidate, Dr. Azam Baig emotionally challenged the winning candidate at a public gathering. The verse that he passionately recited became the rallying cry of every student:

“Don’t speak of this and that, just tell me why the caravan was looted. Tu

idhr udhr ki na baat kr, ye bta ke kafil kyu luta

I don’t care about the bandits, my question is about your leadership.” mujhe rehzaano se garaz nahi, teri rehbari ka sawal hai.

When Dr. Azam Baig lost the second election, he addressed the massive crowd of students in Kennedy Hall in the presence of the university administration. As he recited the following verse, the entire hall erupted in applause, with students giving a standing ovation to him:

“The heavens may persist in striking with lightning, falak ko zidd hai Jahan bijliyaan girane ki,

But I am just as persistent in building my nest there.” Hume bhi zidd hai wahan aashiyaan banana ki.

On his third attempt at the students’ union presidential election, Dr. Azam Baig achieved a historic victory,



one that became an unforgettable milestone in the university's history.

As the President of the Students' Union, Dr. Azam Baig took on important responsibilities, including serving as a respected member of the Academic Council and the Aligarh Muslim University Court. Despite an attack by miscreants, during which he was injured by gunfire, he never wavered in his commitment to representing the students' voice.

In one University Court meeting, he successfully blocked an unpopular professor from being appointed Vice Chancellor, ensuring the well-being of the university. At that time, not only was he the students' spokesperson, but he also emerged as a successful leader of the nation and the Muslim community. The esteemed members of the University Court appreciated his political and collective efforts, and congratulated him for saving the

university from a major crisis.

Dr. Azam Baig, with his educational and social background, entered the political arena. In the 1993 Rajasthan Assembly elections, he led a powerful public movement in support of the Congress candidate in the Tijara constituency. As the President of the Aligarh Muslim University Students' Union, he addressed large public gatherings and hosted rallies alongside Congress leader Rajesh Khanna in the Ramgarh constituency. In the 1996 parliamentary elections, as the former President of the Aligarh Muslim University Students' Union, he launched a nationwide campaign. He sent a dynamic team of his friends to support Congress in Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan. Personally, he gave speeches as a Congress speaker and stayed in the area for about ten days. Dr. Azam Baig's lifelong mission has been closely tied to Aligarh Muslim University and fulfilling the dreams

of Sir Syed Ahmad Khan. Since 1995, he has been celebrating Sir Syed Day every year with great honor and pride. As the Secretary of the Rajasthan Old Boys Association, he worked with four presidents, including prominent national figures such as the late Chaudhary Tayyab Hussain, former state minister, Chaudhary Abdul Rahman, another former state minister, the late Jafri Sahib, former member of the Rajasthan Public Service Commission, and S.K. Sherwani, National Director of the Food Corporation. Recognizing his dedicated service, the Old Boys Association later elected him as the President of the Rajasthan Old Boys Associates.

In 1998, Dr. Azam Baig organized an educational conference at the state level in Makrana, District Nagaur, where Sitaram Kesri, National President of the Indian National Congress, was the chief guest, and the



event was presided over by Rajasthan Governor Bali Ram Bhagat. In 1999, he organized a grand seminar on national unity and integrity at the divisional level in Kota District. Another significant achievement was his annual organization of the All-India Quran Recitation Competition, which began in 2001. In 2001 and 2002, under the leadership of Ibrahim Qureshi and Aslam Baig, he led educational caravans through Madhya Pradesh and Gujarat. In 2012, Dr. Baig organized the All India Educational Conference at Birla Auditorium, Jaipur, which was graced by notable politicians and social reformers, including E. Ahamed, Salman Khurshid, Digvijaya Singh, Justice Rajinder Sachar, and Justice Fatima Beevi, along with Rajasthan's Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot and Madhya Pradesh's former Chief Minister Digvijaya Singh. The conference, focusing on the social,

economic, and political empowerment of Indian Muslims, was held at Birla Auditorium and significantly enhanced by the participation of these distinguished leaders.

Since 2015, Dr. Azam Baig has been organizing events every year on International Women's Day, March 8th, with a focus on women's empowerment.

In the 1998 parliamentary and assembly elections, Dr. Azam Baig addressed election meetings alongside Mrs. Sonia Gandhi, President of the Congress Party. That same year, he was appointed an election observer in Madhya Pradesh by the All India President of the Youth Congress.

From 1996 to 2004, Dr. Azam Baig led strong political campaigns as the Vice President and General Secretary of the State Youth Congress. He

organized public meetings in support of the Congress Party's secular, democratic, and welfare policies. During this period, under the banner of the Minority Wing of the Rajasthan Pradesh Congress Committee, he held numerous gatherings and public meetings to promote and spread the ideology of the Indian National Congress. During this period, Dr. Azam Baig traveled to various states across India to initiate a movement for the establishment of the Madrasa Board. The Chief Minister of Rajasthan, Ashok Gehlot, appointed him as the first Secretary of the Madrasa Board after its formation.

Following this, Dr. Azam Baig remained active in the Congress Party's minority wing, both in Rajasthan and other states, working prominently to communicate Congress policies to the public.

In the 2018 Rajasthan Assembly elections, he was selected as a member of the Coordination Committee of the All India Congress Committee's Minority Wing, focusing his activities as in-charge of fifty electoral constituencies in the Jaipur region.

During the 2019 Lok Sabha elections, Dr. Azam Baig was appointed as the observer for the Amethi constituency by the All India Congress Committee's Minority Wing. He spent 15 days touring villages and cities across Amethi during this period.

On September 21, 2019, the All India Congress Committee's Minority Wing entrusted him with overseeing the state committee and district president elections in Lucknow. Within the same year, he was appointed as the National Coordinator of the All India Congress Committee's Minority Wing. In 2021, he was made in-charge of the Uttar Pradesh Assembly elections, where he led election campaigns in around 45 assembly constituencies. In 2022, he was appointed as an observer for the Gujarat Assembly elections.

Dr. Azam Baig did not make politics his profession but instead, after entering politics, accelerated his educational initiatives. In 1997, he led an educational movement across Rajasthan, organizing various events related to education under the guidance of the Sajjada Nashin

of Dargah Ajmer Sharif and senior Congress leader Rajesh Pilot.

In 1996, under the leadership of Rajesh Pilot, a state educational convention was held in Kota, and in 1997, talented and skilled students were awarded at a reception in Kota. This event served as a milestone in the beginning of an educational movement in Rajasthan.

Dr. Azam Baig's lifelong association with Aligarh Muslim University and his commitment to realizing Sir Syed's dreams have been his guiding principles. Since 1995, he has



Dr. Azam Baig with Mr. Digvijay Singh, Former Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh

celebrated Sir Syed Day each year with great honor and distinction. He has served as the Secretary of the Rajasthan Old Boys Association alongside four presidents, including prominent figures such as the late former state minister Chaudhary Tayyab Hussain, former state minister Chaudhary Abdul Rahman, the late Jafri Sahib (former member of the Rajasthan Public Service Commission), and S.K. Sherwani (National Director of the Food Corporation). Recognizing his dedication, the Old Boys Association

later elected him as President of the Rajasthan Old Boys Associates.

In 1998, Dr. Azam Baig organized a state-level educational conference in Makrana, District Nagaur, where the national president of the Indian National Congress, Sitaram Kesri, was the chief guest, and the event was presided over by Rajasthan Governor Bali Ram Bhagat. In 1999, he organized a grand divisional seminar in Kota District on the topic of national unity and integrity. One of his notable contributions is the All-India Quran Recitation Competition, which he has been organizing annually since 2001.

In 2001 and 2002, under the leadership of Ibrahim Qureshi and Aslam Baig, he led educational caravans through Madhya Pradesh and Gujarat. In 2012, Dr. Baig organized the All India Educational Conference at Birla Auditorium in Jaipur, attended by renowned politicians and social reformers, including E. Ahamed, Salman Khurshid, Digvijaya Singh, Justice Rajinder Sachar, and Justice Fatima Beevi, as well as Rajasthan's Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot and former Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Digvijaya Singh. The conference, which focused on the social, economic, and political empowerment of Indian Muslims, elevated the status of the event significantly with the presence of these distinguished leaders.

Since 2015, Dr. Azam Baig has been



organizing annual events on March 8th, International Women's Day, with a focus on women's empowerment.

A testament to Dr. Baig's national and community service is the lifetime memberships granted to him by various national and international organizations:

1. Aligarh Muslim University Old Boys Association.
2. Khwaja Gharib Nawaz Educational and Social Welfare Society, Ajmer.
3. India Islamic Cultural Center, New Delhi.
4. All India Muslim Educational Society, Chennai.

He serves as the Chairperson of the Aligarh Muslim University Old Boys Association in Rajasthan and the President of the Rajasthan Muslim Educational Society, Jaipur.

Dr. Azam Baig's educational and

political contributions are also noteworthy in his role as Secretary General of various organizations, such as the Aligarh Muslim University Old Boys Association, Jaipur, and South Ex Presidents Welfare Society, Jaipur. He is the former Secretary General of the Rajasthan Pradesh Youth Congress, Jaipur, and was appointed as the Member Secretary of the Rajasthan Madrasa Board by the Government of Rajasthan on February 3, 2013. Additionally, he has held prestigious positions such as Secretary of the All India Backward Classes Federation, New Delhi, and Secretary of the Rajasthan Private Nursing Schools and Colleges Federation, Jaipur.

As the Secretary General of the Indian Muslims for Civil Rights (IMCR), New Delhi, Dr. Azam Baig expanded his scope of social services. However, his most prominent contribution remains laying the foundation for various educational, social, and medical institutions in Rajasthan,

currently educating the nation's bright youth. These institutions include:

1. Jaipur College of Nursing & Hospital (B.Sc. Nursing).
2. JLN Institute of Nursing Education (GNM).
3. Jaipur College of Post Basic B.Sc. Nursing (PBB.Sc. Nursing).
4. JLN Degree College (Arts).
5. JLN Science College (B.Sc.).
6. JLN English Medium Public School, Jaipur.
7. JLN Unani Medical College & Hospital, Jaipur (Proposed).
8. JLN ITI College (Electrician).
9. JLN Industrial Training Center (Electronic Mechanic).
10. JLN ITC (Computer Center).
11. Jawaharlal Nehru T.T. College (B.Ed. College), two-year course.

12. Jawaharlal Nehru Degree College, four-year integrated B.Ed. course.
13. Jawaharlal Nehru Degree College, Sangod, Kota (B.A. course).
14. Jawaharlal Nehru Degree College of Science, Sangod, Kota (B.Sc. course).
15. JLN College of Teachers Education (BSTC course, proposed).
16. JLN Agriculture College, Sangod, Kota (Proposed).
17. Madrasa Kaneezat-ul-Islam.
18. Jamia Mahmood-ul-Quran.

Dr. Azam's capabilities and his educational and social prowess are also evident from the awards he has received throughout his academic and social life:

- In 1998, he won first prize in the inter-university essay writing competition.

- In 1989, he won first place in a debate competition at Habib Hall, Aligarh Muslim University.

- He secured first prize in an essay writing competition at Sir Syed Hall, Aligarh Muslim University.

- In 1992, he had the honor of speaking at the Aligarh Muslim University Old Boys Convention in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia.

- In the same year, he participated in and spoke at a youth conference on social justice held in Mumbai.

Dr. Azam Baig's organizational and academic competence is

further evidenced by the following achievements:

- In January 1992, he represented Indian youth as a student leader at an international conference on the sensitive and critical topic of the Iran-Iraq war, at the invitation of the Ministry of Information, Kuwait, with participants from 60 countries.

- He participated in a peace conference in Mumbai in 1993.

- In 1994, he spoke at an all-India historical literary seminar organized by Abhyas Mandal in Indore.



Dr. Azam Baig with Dr. Manmohan Singh, Former Prime Minister, India

- In 2012, he organized and presided over the all-India educational conference held in Chennai and Jaipur by the All India Muslim Educational Society.

- In 2020, he organized the All India Educational Conference in Jaipur.

- From 2020 to 2023, he held state-level meetings and conferences in New Delhi, Mumbai, Hyderabad, Lucknow, Jaipur, Azamgarh, Allahabad, and Ahmedabad on the important topic "Save Constitution and Human Rights,"

launching a nationwide campaign for constitutional struggle and human rights.

It is fitting to say that his parents named him Muhammad Azam, and by the grace of Allah and public support, this "Great Name" has achieved remarkable success. Today, Dr. Azam Baig is the heartbeat of millions of young people's hopes and

the realization of their golden dreams. We feel compelled to express this heartfelt commendation in his favor:

Their hopes are modest, their goals are noble,

Their demeanor is captivating, their gaze is pure.

In the words of Hafeez Jalandhari, Dr. Azam Baig is expressing through his actions:

"Hafeez, in his beloved tongue,

Neither Urdu, nor Hindi, nor Indian."

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By: Danish Reyaz for Maeshat



Defeating the travails of poverty, if a man achieves success with sheer hard work and yet shies away from glorifying himself, he surely must be big-hearted. Dr. P.A. Inamdar from Maharashtra is one such great human being.

He is a successful Promoter builder and as well as a banker. However, most significantly, he is a visionary educationist and a philanthropist dedicated to working for the poor, needy students of all communities for their welfare and education.



Furthermore, he is a public intellectual with an excellent grasp of various subjects such as law, Indian constitution, all religion, education, agro-economics, social welfare, minorities Educational rights of Religious & Linguistic minorities under Article 29 & 30 of the constitution of India, of all religion, Hindu, Muslim, Christian, Jains, Sikhs, Buddhist, Parsis & Jews and more.

As elected President of Maharashtra cosmopolitan Education society, Pune he is a pivotal figure at Pune-based Azam Campus, a top-quality nationally known education and

learning hub for all minorities. He is also instrumental in establishing many other educational trusts and institutions in different parts of the country.

His abundant contributions to education had led him to be the Government of India established Maulana Azad Foundation, New Delhi, as Vice-President and member of the Planning Commission on higher education, along with many such coveted posts.

Despite having multiple feathers on his cap, Mr. Inamdar remains modest and unassuming.

“All thanks to Allah Subhanahu Wa Ta’ala, who enabled me to chase education and knowledge even in the worst of times and made me pay back to the society in whatever ways I could,” says Inamdar in all humbleness and gratitude to the Almighty.

While he is modest and cares a fig for personal glorification, he is exuberantly dedicated to his mission in life, i.e., working for the communities welfare and education of poor, needy and deserving.

He is an enthusiastic man loaded with innovative ideas and indomitable zeal to take the such communities forward.



A pragmatic leader

Uncharacteristic of other Muslim leaders, Mr. Inamdar doesn't believe in painting a dismal picture of the past performance of the Muslims. But, according to him, prior to 1950 1% of Muslim and other communities girls were going to school after Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar's Constitution today i.e. 2022, 75% girls of all communities are going to schools he sincerely feels, dwelling on the negatives can impair all and educationally backward poor communities chances of progress & bright future.

He says, "To move forward we must first recognize that as a community we and other financially and educationally poor have done well since our Constitution came in 1950. Now No one can take that away."

"It is the confidence of the past that will propel all of us to do better in the future." He adds with a lot of conviction.

He is a rare breed of intellectual who kindles hope and sparks enthusiasm among the all community youths.

He says, "We all have suffered enough from the inferiority complex. Now, we have to talk the language of optimism

and hope."

There is no speech by him that talks about the negative of the past. Moreover, the speakers at functions held in Azam Campus are invariably told not to mention failures and victimhood but the positives so that the youths are filled with a "yes we can do it" attitude.

Poverty-stricken early life

To achieve so much in life, Mr. Inamdar had to wrestle against acute poverty in his childhood. "Today, I own almost everything. You name it, and I have it. But these things haven't come easily to me," he says.

Although his father was a police inspector by profession, on retirement from the service. He started a business moving back to his hometown Bijapur (now in Karnataka).

But as ill-luck would have it, his father's business tanked, and the family consisting of 13 siblings slipped into extreme poverty. Nevertheless, despite every odds, Mr. Inamdar managed to pass his matriculation from a Marathi Vidhalay High School of Bijapur(Now Vijaypur) with flying colours.

Recalling those days, he says, "He has

seen the kind of poverty you wouldn't have seen, or heard, or even read in a book."

With mere 15 rupees in his pocket, he arrived in Pune in 1965, unsure about his future. He had come to the city to study, but, with no money in hand, he had to manage on an 'earn and learn' basis.

Mr. Inamdar completed his BA (Hons) from the prestigious Shivaji University, Kolhapur, and ever since, there has been no stopping him.

Successful Promoter and Builder

Mr. Inamdar has varied colours of achievements, but his first job was at the land records department. After 15 years of service and amassing immense knowledge about land matters, he took a plunge into the real estate business on a partnership basis.

His role was to provide real estate knowledge and devise business strategies for his partners who lacked that knowledge but had the money to finance the projects.

Mr. Inamdar was an astute realtor and became successful in a very quick time. He amicably parted ways to form his own real estate company



called Ahura Builders, one of the best Builders and Developers in Pune.

His reputation in the field can also be gauged by the fact that he has served as President of the Promoters and Builders Association i.e CREDAI of Pune for 7 years. Also, he was elected as Vice President of the Maharashtra Chamber of Housing Industry.

A smart banker

His genius was also on display in the banking sector after being elected as Chairman of Muslim Co-op Bank, Pune.

The bank was in financial doldrums with only Rs. 6 Crores deposits, but after Mr. Inamdar took over and set the ball rolling, the bank's deposits increased to 400 Crores within a few years. What's more, the bank's branches increased from 4 to 10, widening its client base and income. Once stagnant in growth, this Pune Co-op Bank is now a thriving bank, serving first and foremost the poor and the needy. It became possible because

of Mr. Inamdar's vision and befitting execution of his ideas. Bank has 26 branches with Rs. 6.50 Crore deposits Mr. Inamdar has never taken loan through out his life not even "Hand Loan" either from his or any other bank.

A sharp legal luminary

Mr. Inamdar has a sharp legal brain as well quashing of state Govt. quota in private unaided educational institutions to many other important cases, he has always taken the cudgel on behalf of the victims, of all communities.

It was his dogged fight that helped to include as many as 80 Muslim communities under the OBC category by the state of Maharashtra. It remains a seminal work that one could have done for the community.

He is an expert in laws related to linguistic and religious minorities, Other Backward Communities (OBCs), Co-operative Banking and Co-operative Societies Acts, Land

Acquisition Acts, Construction Industry, laws etc.

Given Mr. Inamdar's wealth of knowledge in the matter of laws, it is immaterial to ask whether he has a qualified law background or not. No, he doesn't have one.

But he is such an authority on law-related matters that people from all walks of life, including the professionals and the government officials, consult him on various legal issues.

"I am approachable to all, however, people from linguistic and religious minorities and OBCs are more than welcome. Whether it is about their right to establish and administer educational institutions or any other rights guaranteed under the constitution I am always ready to guide and fight for their causes." Inamdar says quite assuredly.

A health care entrepreneur

A versatile achiever, Mr. Inamdar has also dabbled in the health care

system. “Hospitals are as important as the schools and colleges & financial institutions, I would say even more. What value is education or wealth if humans suffer from diseases?” says Inamdar.

According to him for Poor & needy please provide 1) Education 2) Financial Support 3) Health care facilities. By this your responsibility for poor is satisfied.

His Inamdar Multispecialty Hospital at Pune is one of the best hospitals, providing quality health care to all at an reasonable cost.

Mr. Inamdar has roped in a distinguished panel of doctors equipped with advanced medical tools and equipment to treat patients. No wonder the hospital has a high success rate in sending patients back home smiling.

Mr. Inamdar makes it a point to donate generously to establish hospitals elsewhere in India and other public health causes in the same way as he does for educational institutions and charitable trusts.

Transforming minority education

Mr. Inamdar is a man with impeccable commitment and passion for serving the people. No doubt, he has been doing laudable works in various areas of public interest, but it is the education field where he has poured most of his blood, sweat, and tears.

The Azam Campus stands as testimony to his steadfast commitment to revolutionize education for poor.

Centrally located in Pune on sprawling 24 acres of land, the Azam Campus today is a wellspring of modern education, producing thousands of poor students who serve the country and abroad in various capacities every year.

The Azam Campus derives its name from Haji Ghulam Mohammed Azam’s a Mumbai-based Gujrati businessman who provided the fund for the land and infrastructure in 1925.



Hon’ble Haji Gulam Mohammad Azam’s main aim was to provide education to the students from the Muslim minority and other weaker sections in Pune, the city in those days which was fast becoming a hub of education back then.

In 1948 the campus came under the Maharashtra Cosmopolitan Education Society (MCES). Azam Campus, since the beginning, it was performing decently, but the real transformation came about only after Mr. Inamdar was elected as its president.

He has been getting elected as its president since 1982 till today on the back of his stellar work for the campus till today.

“I know how poverty can affect one’s education. I have seen that from very close quarters. I don’t want today’s generations, especially the poor, to go through that hardship,” says Inamdar.

He further adds, “It is my mission to make available finest education to the poor and the minority so they can compete with the best of the best.”

Under the stewardship of Mr. Inamdar, and his Governing Board hard working members the Azam Campus, from its initial 2 primary schools and 2 high schools, has expanded to house 32 educational institutions (from primary to Ph.D.) and 12 professional colleges while teaching more than 27,000 students compared to 1,500 students it has in the early days.

Mr. Inamdar is a pro-active administrator. Instead of waiting for complaints to emerge, he makes the round of the campus on

foot every morning. He meets the department chiefs and staff and asks for their problems to solve then and there.

“By doing this I save time and you know time is the money,” he says smilingly.

Soon after his regular morning rounds, he could be seen wrapped in work-planning, reviewing, brainstorming with colleagues, or taking meetings in his office with no hint of tiredness. He is a workaholic.

When asked about the never-ending



energy, he says with another smile on his face, “What I do is my passion. And passion doesn’t give you pain.”

While one can’t be left unimpressed by his energy and prolific ideas, another very important aspect of his personality has led to the fast transformation of the Azam Campus. Speaking clearly and convincingly, he comes across as a great communicator. And this communication skill has resulted in drawing lofty donations for the campus from unexpected places. He always with great respect mentions names of two families one Mr. Mohammad Ali Rangoonwalla, Mrs. Banubai M.A. Rangoonwalla and their son Asif M.A. Rangoonwalla and second Late Abdul Razzak Allana his dynamic son Mr. Irfan Allana, Mrs. Fatima Allana for their financial support for establishing many professional colleges at Azam Campus named as Rangoonwalla and

Allana colleges.

At the same time, by making good use of every penny donors gave, Mr. Inamdar has always earned their trust, thus keeping the door open for further donations.

Trust on computer-based education

Mr. Inamdar is a visionary educationist who knew quite early i.e 2007 how technology would transform the ways of teaching learning. Due to his foresight, now education at Azam Campus is fully digitized with the help of computers and other technologies.

He says, “It’s a crime to teach students with chalks and blackboards in a modern fast-changing world. This process will not make them ready for the world that has already taken a giant leap in terms of technology.”

Azam Campus has thousands of computers, and all are interconnected. In addition, every lab is equipped with LCD screens to make the learning process more productive. At the same time, all kinds of books are digitally available so that students can access them anytime and from anywhere inside the campus.

Mr. Inamdar says, “All children have same level of talent irrespective of religious, social, or financial backgrounds. It is the lack of opportunities that drags them behind. However, technology can be a great leveller.” For poor and hence he opted for it.

Mr. Inamdar walks the talk. About 16,000 students in Azam Campus are from weaker and marginalized sections, but from Nursery, they are online; from class 3, they carry their email addresses; in class 5,



they skillfully type in English, while from class 6, they can type in Hindi, Marathi and Urdu typing

A 5-year-old student from the Azam campus can surprise you by repairing or making a computer and mobile from scratch. There are hundreds of such poor students. This each student can do in 15 minutes.

The students are so proficient in Information technology that more than 7,500 students, even before class 6, have passed MS-CIT, an IT course exam mandatory for any state government job in Maharashtra. In addition, about 3,000 students have cleared CCC, course which is a central government's IT literacy program.

Explaining the reason behind students sitting for these exams, Mr. Inamdar says, "When students from poor sections pass these exams and have a way with computers, it boosts their self-confidence and worth essential to do well in the future course of their

journey."

It is important to mention that apart from e-learning and e-teaching, the Azam Campus is also e-administered with only a little pen and paperwork.

In addition to above Mr. Inamdar in 2007 onwards introduced spoken English course in 37 Pune Municipal Corporation Urdu, Marathi, Hindi school and other 45 school from nursery to 8th standards 45000 such students have been trained in spoken English so far, from the financial support for this course by Azam campus. These poor back ground students speak fluent English better then me he says with smile.

Cleanliness is half of faith

Much as education is essential, so is a clean environment for it. The brain needs peace to be productive, and if the surrounding is not clean, it can't be productive. Also, as per Islamic teaching, cleanliness is half of faith.

And Mr. Inamdar is mindful of it.

The Azam Campus treats you with an immaculately clean environment. There is expansive lush green ground just as you enter. You can also find several flower gardens and numerous trees lining the streets inside the campus. In addition, the roads and streets are clean and free of squalor.

Besides the campus, the Pune Muslim Co-operative bank and other institutions Mr. Inamdar was associated with tell the same story about hygiene and cleanliness.

A staunch secularist

Mr. Inamdar is uncompromisingly secular. He is quite well-versed in scriptures and has participated in many comparative religion discussions and activities to achieve peace and harmony among different communities.

Despite Azam Campus' minority status, a large percentage of teachers,



professors, and staff come from different religions. In addition, several students also come from other cast and communities and are studying without bias or favour.

Mr. Inamdar says, "At the campus, each individual is respected and rewarded as per merit irrespective of caste, creed, and religion."

At Azam Campus, all the students are taught to be tolerant and respect each other's customs and religions. The harmony is easily reflected by seeing the students' camaraderie among themselves.

"I was never discriminated by any government or the people for grants or donations because I run a minority institution. Everybody helped me according to their capacity," says Mr. Inamdar, citing his example.

"We are a secular nation. Not only constitutionally but culturally and temperamentally as well." He adds.

Modernisation of Madrasa education

For long Madrasas have taken care of the educational needs of the Muslims; however, with changing times, the Madrasa education system needs improvement.

"Madrasa leaders students have as much right to a dignified livelihood as the students passing out from the formal education system." Says Inamdar.

As part of modernising of Madrasa education, he has convinced several Madrasas leaders across the country to teach new subjects like computers, English, Mathematics, etc., alongside their religious syllabus.

He says, "We know that Madrasa students are extremely disciplined and hardworking. If they are given a chance they can successfully compete with the others." Also in regular school education they can shine.

Mr. Inamdar suggests clubbing mainstream education with religious education so that students leaving

Madrasas will have valid certificates to enter colleges or universities for further studies like any normal student.

According to him, "Madrasas should take advantage of National Institutes of Open Schooling (NIOS) which conducts exams for up to 12th standard and is recognised by all universities and education institutes across India." His this initiative has started spreading in India Hon'ble Maulana Mahemood Madani sir and his team members have taken up the course to thousand of their Madrasa students

A man full of gratitude ::

The kind of success Mr. Inamdar has achieved is awe-inspiring. With smart business acumen, vastly competent administrative skills, and an unbounded charitable heart, he has created great impact and transformation in every field he has worked in.

But when a tree is laden with fruits, it bends down. Similarly, Mr. Inamdar is a grounded man despite enormous achievements.



“I am nobody to do anything. Allah does this All glory to him,” says Mr.Inamdar

When asked about his family’s role in his achievements, he expresses a lot of gratitude to all his family members, lauding their support through thick and thin.

“My 3 sons are well grown-ups, and are overseeing my businesses, allowing me enough time to spend on my labour of love which is working for the education of poor and weaker sections of the society,” he says with much satisfaction.

He has special gratitude for his wife, Mrs. Abeda Inamdar. “I have utmost respect for my wife who started as a custom and central Excise officer, raised our three children, and extended her helping hand in my businesses and also at Azam Campus,” says Mr. Inamdar. “I used to get amazed at her proficiency in dealing with so many things simultaneously,”

Today Mrs. Abeda Inamdar is a highly successful woman in her own right, standing shoulder to shoulder with Mr. Inamdar. She is now the Vice-

President at Azam Campus, where two colleges are named after her i.e. Abeda Inamdar Senior College (Now University and Abeda Inamdar Junior College as she donated her fortune to these colleges to get them functioning.

Winner of the Maharashtra Government’s ‘Savitribai Phule’ award for her services in women’s education, Mrs. Abeda Inamdar is the President of Maharashtra Medical Education & Research Centre, Pune, as well as Deccan Muslim Institute.

“I don’t know how much I am behind the success of my wife, may be nothing, but she is more than 200% behind my success,” saying this, he laughs and then adds, “I guess without her my journey could have gone astray.”

A consummate orator

An orator par excellence, Mr. Inamdar has the uncanny ability to enthrall the audience in multiple languages such as English, Hindi, Urdu, Marathi, Kannada, etc.

During the interview, it was amply clear that he is also a fine communicator off the podium. He has a way with words

and quickly draws you into his world of ideas and knowledge. And you can’t help but listen to him with rapt attention.

Final i mpression

Muslims have a preponderance of leaders, but very few are pragmatic, clear-headed, and visionary like Mr. Inamdar. Also, what makes him unique is his refusal to lament the backwardness of the Muslims perpetually.

His argument that self-flogging of the past could lead to a lack of confidence among Muslims to compete holds water.

Extremely hard-working and tech-savvy, Mr. Inamdar is determined to achieve fair access to quality education for the poor and needy. He himself spends his wealth for this cause.

He could be the new age icon for the Muslim youths. His education model at Azam Campus is worthy of being replicated elsewhere for a better outcome. We hope our community is listening.

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AMU Professor donates Rs 50 lakh to Create Endowment Fund

By: Syed Ali Mujtaba



Dr Suhail Sabir, a retired Professor from the Department of Chemistry AMU has donated Rupees 50 lakh to establish an Endowment Fund at the University.

This is one of the highest single donations made by an individual from the teaching community from his/her funds to the university, said the press release from the PRO of the University.

Prof. Suhail Sabir has been a guiding force in promoting education and uplifting the student community through his teaching career till his retirement in 2023. His contribution to his Alma Matter is an example of the transformative power of education in shaping the future of students.

“The income generated from Prof. Suhail Sabir’s Endowment will be utilized to provide scholarships to deserving students through an open, interview-based selection process, helping students realize their academic aspirations and lifting the needy in the community.” the press release said.

With such a generous gesture, Prof. Suhail Sabir truly embodies the spirit of giving back to the University what he has achieved after studying and teaching at this prestigious Muslim University of India.

Such acts of generosity signify that the true greatness lies in the willingness to give back to the institution, and what it has given to him. His generosity encourages alumni and well-wishers of the AMU to follow in his footsteps

and support the alma mater in more meaningful ways.

Prof. Suhail Sabir is a role model in philanthropy and community service. His contribution will set a new benchmark for alumni engagement and support for the AMU student community.

Prof. Suhail Sabir deserves these lines of Shakespeare in praise of his philanthropy.

*“His life was gentle; and the elements
So mixed in him, that Nature might
stand up*

*And say to all the world, THIS WAS
A MAN!”*

— William Shakespeare, Julius Caesar

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Rifah as a catalytic agent to promote businesses through networking



By S. Ameenul Hasan



More than 300 entrepreneurs, some with an annual turnover of Rs. 100 crore, took part in a day-long Rifah Business Summit and Networking Meet at the Shah Convention on Lakdi ka Pul Road here three days ago. Several others from diverse businesses, including small startups and beginners, also attended the meet.

The meet was organised by the Rifah Chamber of Commerce and Industry (RCCI), a networking group to promote business and trade as also to provide guidance and counselling about how to set up new businesses and expand the existing ones. The Rifah was set up in 2015 by a group of committed entrepreneurs with the objective of restructuring the economic system.

The efforts of Rifah has been quite successful which is evident from the number of participants in its Hyderabad summit where participation was through payment though a nominal amount of Rs. 500 per participant.

There were many young entrepreneurs having taken part in the meet. One individual introduced himself as a student pursuing an Aalim (Islamic

scholar) course, a Hafiz, and engaged in the oil business. His aim is to supply healthy, chemical-free products like groundnut oil and to trade organic coconut oil.

Another participant, under the age of 30, was involved in the furniture business. He initially started with an online business, which yielded encouraging results. Subsequently, he expanded into a large furniture showroom. He received counselling from Rifah about how to expand his business.

Another young businessman, also an Aalim, completed a 12 km cycle track with a solar-panel roof, a project he secured through Rifah. The project was valued at Rs 80 lakhs.

A seasonal mango businessman shared that he initially had only one garden but now owns five, producing 25 varieties of organic mangoes.

Thanks to Rifah, he has established a wide network of customers. He directly supplies them, eliminating the need for commission agents or city outlets. The day he posted a video in the Rifah group showcasing the mango varieties, he received an



overwhelming response by evening. He now directly delivers mangoes from his farm to his customers.

Another young engineer shared his story of choosing to pursue business instead of working as an average tech worker. He entered the soft drinks market, aiming to meet the increased demand following Israel's aggression on Palestine.

Leveraging the ideas and network provided by Rifah, he branded his drinks and made progress. However, he faces marketing challenges and needs counselling. Rifah has arranged for professional counsellors to support upcoming entrepreneurs like him.

A similar story came from a soap and detergent business owner who identified a gap in the demand for genuine liquid detergent due to

Israel's atrocities. He found Rifah to be an excellent platform to launch and expand his business in Telangana. He assured that his products match the quality of branded items and that he can supply them at half the cost of those products.

Durrani Enterprises, originally focused on rock salt as a traditional business, received guidance from Rifah to transform into a company,

complete with branding, packaging, and marketing strategies. Utilizing Rifah's platform, they successfully scaled up their business. Now, their products are presented attractively in packaging, and the owner is recognized as an emerging young entrepreneur.

Another notable example of Rifah Connect's impact is a young entrepreneur in digital marketing, social media marketing, and website design who secured numerous projects. He has now established himself as a seasoned professional.

These kinds of programs also elevate the morale and confidence of entrepreneurs who find themselves at crossroads after experiencing setbacks and failures.

The main session was led by Rifah's central leaders. Mirza Afzal Baig, general secretary, stressed the importance of advancing one's business beyond basic satisfaction. He highlighted that entrepreneurs should aspire for more and recognize their social responsibility to uplift the community and contribute to the country's GDP growth.

Mr. Mumtaz Mansoori, the state president of the Karnataka chapter and a prominent businessman in embedded systems for advanced military applications, spoke about Rifah's substantial contributions in guiding the business community.

Lastly, Rifah Chairman S. Ameenul Hasan extensively discussed how Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) was a great entrepreneur who began his career at the age of 18. He started as a supervisor, then a manager of others' businesses, and eventually became a renowned businessman, earning the titles of The truthful and The trustworthy. His remarkable journey from modest beginnings to affluence is mentioned in the Holy Quran.

He then highlighted the dire situation of Muslims in Hyderabad and Telangana. Only 2-3% of the minority community have an annual income of up to Rs 25 lakh or more, while 10-15% earn between Rs 2 lakh and Rs 5 lakh, and 20% have an annual income between Rs 1 lakh and Rs 2 lakh. According to the 2011 census, Muslims comprised 12.68% of Telangana's population, amounting to 4.465 million individuals, with 1.713 million in Hyderabad district alone, constituting 43.5% of the district's population (Government of Telangana, 2015). The data reveals that 29.7% of Muslims are illiterate, 44.3% live in pucca houses, and 43.1% reside in homes made of tin or asbestos sheets. Additionally, around 77.3% of Muslims live in rented houses. Many Muslim women work in low-paying jobs such as bangle making, sanitation, tailoring, rag picking, domestic work, teaching, and other wage labour. More than 900,000 Muslims live in the 770 notified slums within the Hyderabad Urban Agglomeration. These data testify to the significant responsibility Rifah members have in working towards the community's upliftment. It is essential not to lose sight of the abundant business opportunities available.

Towards the end of his keynote address, he highlighted several innovative solutions. He emphasized that Rifah members should utilize the Urban Poverty Reduction Strategy (UPRS) by leveraging local government resources such as MDC, MSME, startups, and clusters. Additionally, he suggested that the Rifah Telangana chapter should engage government agencies for capacity building of the stakeholders.

Emphasizing adequate economic opportunities for the urban poor, Mr Hasan proposed a six-point plan to encourage people to take to businesses to come out of poverty:

1. Raising awareness through community participation, such as khutbas (sermons) and college lectures.
2. Conducting short-term and long-term entrepreneurship development programs.
3. Building partnerships by organizing networking programs.
4. Focusing on capacity building for Rifah members.
5. Enhancing the accessibility and availability of finance by ensuring businessmen meet statutory requirements to obtain funding.
6. Providing microcredit services to the poor through microfinance credit cooperative societies.

Two introductory videos were also circulated at the meet. One from national chairman S Ameenul Hasan encouraging businesspeople to participate in the event, and another from Majid Sahab, the owner of Pista House in Hyderabad, who also urged businesspeople to attend the networking meet and reap its benefits.

The event had a few sponsors who were given the opportunity to introduce their products during the main session attended by national leaders. They also had counters to display their products, and their logos were featured on the banner on the stage.

Palestinian journalist Bisan Owda wins Emmy Award despite nomination controversy

- 'It's Bisan from Gaza and I'm Still Alive' chronicles life under siege in Gaza
- Jewish nonprofit Creative Community for Peace requested her nomination be rescinded after accusing Owda of having ties to the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine

Palestinian journalist Bisan Owda has won an Emmy Award despite a lobbying campaign that sought to have her nomination rescinded.

Owda was awarded the Emmy for Outstanding Hard News Feature: Short Form for her ongoing project, "It's Bisan from Gaza and I'm Still Alive."

"This award is testimony to the power of one woman, armed only with an iPhone, who survived almost a year of bombardment," said senior executive producer Jon Laurence, who accepted the award on Owda's behalf as she remains trapped in Gaza.

Produced with AJ+, the feature chronicles Owda's experience as her family fled the bombardment of their home in Beit Hanoun in the Gaza Strip.

The announcement came shortly after the National Academy of Television Arts & Sciences (NATAS) determined that there were no grounds for rescinding her nomination.



The 25-year-old filmmaker gained social media fame following Israel's military actions in Gaza, after she began documenting life under the siege, which has killed more than 40,000 Palestinians since Oct. 7. (IG/File)

This decision followed accusations from Jewish nonprofit Creative Community for Peace, which claimed Owda had ties to the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP), a US-designated terrorist organization.

NATAS stated that documented links between Owda and the PFLP occurred "between six and nine years ago" when Owda was still a teenager. It added that it was "unable to corroborate" claims of more recent connections and had found no "evidence of contemporary

or active involvement" with the PFLP.

"The content submitted for award consideration was consistent with competition rules and NATAS policies. Accordingly, NATAS has found no grounds, to date, upon which to overturn the editorial judgment of the independent journalists who reviewed the material," the group also said.

The 25-year-old filmmaker gained social media fame following Israel's military actions in Gaza, after she began documenting life under the siege, which has killed more than 40,000 Palestinians since Oct. 7.

With 4.7 million Instagram followers and nearly 200,000 TikTok followers, Owda has spent the last year chronicling the humanitarian crisis in Gaza.

Her reports highlight the blockade on essential supplies, the spread of diseases, and the forced displacement of Palestinians, including her own experience.

"It's Bisan from Gaza and I'm Still Alive" also won the Peabody Award in the news category earlier this year.

Indian hospitality sector's revenue per available room to grow by 8-9% in FY25

The segment mix is shifting towards upper midscale and midscale economy, with more than 60 per cent of new supply expected to be added in these segments.

The Indian hospitality sector is witnessing a boom and in FY25, the industry's revenue per available room is estimated to grow by approximately 8-9 percent, a report showed on Friday, September 27.

According to rating agency CareEdge, the industry's revenue per available room registered a strong growth of 14 percent during fiscal 2024.

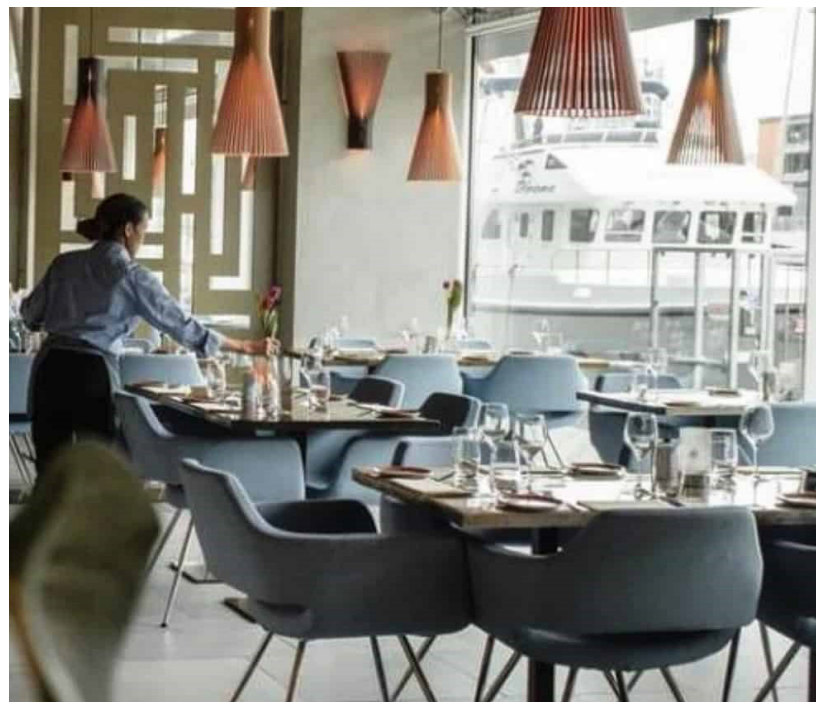
For FY25, it is expected to grow by 8-9 percent, building on the high base set in FY24.

CareEdge expects the industry to report average revenue per available room growth to Rs 5,200-Rs 5,400 on a high base of FY24 followed by a 5-6 percent rise even in FY26.

India currently has around 166,000 branded hotel rooms/keys. Over the next five years, the industry is expected to add approximately 55,000 rooms,

with supply registering a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of 4.5-5.5 percent during this period.

The hospitality sector is currently experiencing an upcycle, driven by favorable demographics, robust domestic demand (with supply lagging behind demand growth),



increased investments, and ongoing improvements in infrastructure and connectivity.

“On the back of the surge in domestic consumption and underlying GDP growth, the players in the industry are witnessing strong capacity utilisation,” said Ravleen Sethi, Director CareEdge

Ratings.

With the current travel momentum to continue and anticipated demand likely to outpace current supply over the medium term FY25 is likely to witness higher revenue per available room which would aid in the overall improvement of the credit profile of the players in the industry, Sethi added.

The segment mix is shifting towards the upper midscale and midscale economy, with more than 60 percent of new supply expected to be added in these segments.

This growth is driven by several factors, including a growing middle class, a significant uptick in business travel (especially from small and medium-sized enterprises, and an expanding scope of business

activities into tier 2, 3, and 4 cities.

According to the report, more than 70 percent of the proposed new supply is concentrated in tier 2 and 3 cities, followed by tier 1, as hotel owners and operators explore opportunities to capture unmet demand in emerging and underserved markets.

Oman credit rating rises to ‘BBB-’ from ‘BB+’: S&P

The agency raised its long-term foreign and local currency sovereign credit ratings, underlining a stable outlook on the long-term scores and upgrading Oman's short-term grades to “A-3” from “B.” Shutterstock

Oman's continued improvement in public finances has pushed its credit rating to “BBB-” from “BB+,” according to S&P Global Ratings.

The agency raised its long-term foreign and local currency sovereign credit ratings, underlining a stable outlook on the long-term scores and upgrading Oman's short-term grades to “A-3” from “B.”

The transfer and convertibility assessment was also improved, rising to “BBB” from “BBB-.”

The upgrade reflects a strengthening of Oman's public finances and the ongoing external deleveraging of state-owned enterprises.

“Following significant deterioration in the balance sheet over 2015-2021, the government has implemented structural reforms that will see it return to a net asset position from this year,” the report stated.

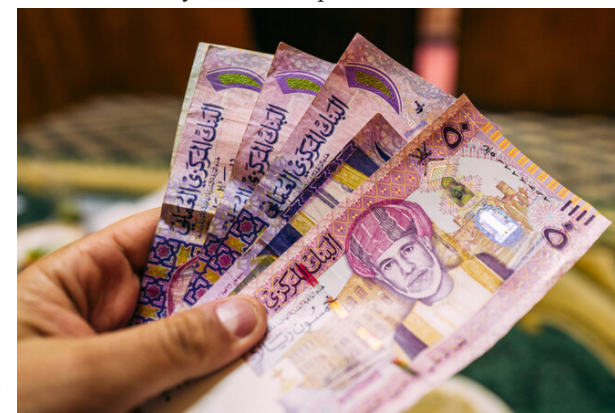
The government has reorganized its government-related entity sector to enhance operational efficiencies and improve financial stability, leading to a reduction in total GRE debt to \$33.8 billion, or 30 percent of gross domestic product, as of June, down from a peak of \$35.9 billion, or 41 percent of GDP, at the end of 2021.

S&P highlighted that Oman's fiscal

position remains highly dependent on oil price movements, but resilience against such shocks has strengthened through various reform measures.

Authorities have focused on rationalizing expenditure and mobilizing non-hydrocarbon revenue, with upcoming steps including implementing a personal income tax and phasing out energy subsidies.

Furthermore, the government is reducing its direct involvement in the economy, shifting toward a regulatory role by selling assets to develop the non-hydrocarbon private sector and



attract foreign direct investment.

The report also underscored Oman's growing financial buffers. “On the asset side, the government continues to accumulate sizable liquid buffers via its deposits in domestic institutions and the central bank, alongside its sovereign wealth fund — the Oman Investment Authority,” the rating agency stated.

S&P forecasts that Oman will post fiscal surpluses of 1.9 percent of GDP over 2024-2027, assuming Brent crude oil prices average around \$80

per barrel during that period. These surpluses would enable Oman to further reduce external debt levels and accumulate liquid assets.

“S&P upgrading Oman's investment grade rating affirms the country is confidently advancing toward the national goals of achieving fiscal balance and financial sustainability,” the nation's Minister of Finance, Sultan Al-Habsi, stated, according to a post on the Oman News Agency's official X account.

Al-Habsi added that this rating enhances confidence in the resilience, growth capacity, and investment appeal of the country's economy.

The stable outlook from S&P reflects a balance between the potential benefits of the government's fiscal and economic reform program and the economy's structural vulnerability to oil price volatility.

S&P suggested that the ratings could be raised over the next

two years if ongoing reforms lead to sustained growth in GDP per capita, bolstered by progress in non-oil sector growth and institutional strengthening aimed at economic diversification and domestic capital market development.

S&P also warned that any slowdown in fiscal and economic reforms or adverse external conditions, such as a significant negative shift in trade terms, could lead to budgetary deficits and elevated net debt levels, prompting a potential downgrade of Oman's credit rating.

Dawoodi Bohra's 45-Year-Old Qardan Hasana Institution

Uplifting Lives And Fuelling Businesses



For Abdul Tayeb Saifee, a 58-year-old Bengaluru-based industrial adhesive manufacturer, surviving and supporting his family was the only priority after a major economic setback. During this trying time, when he could not get sufficient financial help from friends and family, Qardan Hasana helped him sustain and rebuild his life.

Qardan Hasana, literally translated as 'the good loan', is a Dawoodi Bohra institution that offers interest-free loans in keeping with the Islamic injunction to refrain from all forms of interest. The objective of this institution is to assist community members in improving housing and

quality of life, supporting education and enabling business growth. Over the last 45 years, hundreds of Qardan Hasana branches have been set up throughout South Asia, where the majority of the Dawoodi Bohra community resides, and across the rest of the world.

"The timely loan was like an elixir, a single drop of water that revived me and gave me a new lease on life," says Saifee. He adds that choosing to repay the loan instalments on time has instilled a sense of responsibility in him and motivated him to push beyond his comfort zone to work harder. He expresses gratitude to the late 52nd leader of the Dawoodi Bohra

community Syedna Mohammed Burhanuddin, on his 11th death anniversary, for having established the Qardan Hasana institution in 1979.

The Working Mechanism

The primary contribution to any Qardan corpus is provided by Syedna of the time, currently by Syedna Mufaddal Saifuddin (the leader of the Dawoodi Bohra community), along with secondary contributions from local community members. The Syedna continues to infuse new funds, especially on important anniversaries or celebrations. His efforts to promote and implement the concept of Qardan Hasana inspire his followers to



emulate him. There are no limitations to contribution; members can give as little or as much as they like according to their capacity. As a result, these organisations are well equipped to cater to the socio-economic needs of any community member.

Interest Loans – A slow death

Every other day we read stories about interest-bearing loans that resulted in unpayable debts and bankruptcy or people feeling buried, almost as long as they live while paying off their interest on housing or education loans. The economic effects of the pandemic and period of extreme global banking systems have exacerbated the lives and livelihoods of millions across the globe. However, studies have shown how important cash reserves are in times of uncertainty, as well as for fostering future growth

Qardan Hasana – Fuelling entrepreneurship and growth

Ahmed Calcuttawala, 94, owns a marine supplies business in Kolkata. For his capital-intensive nature of the business, he requires a regular

Ministry of Defence for which heavy investment was required. They were offered loan options from the bank however, Ahmed chose to raise money from Qardan Hasana to fulfil his order.



infusion of cash which he avails from the Kolkata Qardan Hasana office. This, he says, "proved highly beneficial for my working capital especially during and post pandemic business recovery."

He recalled a recent incident while bidding for an order from the

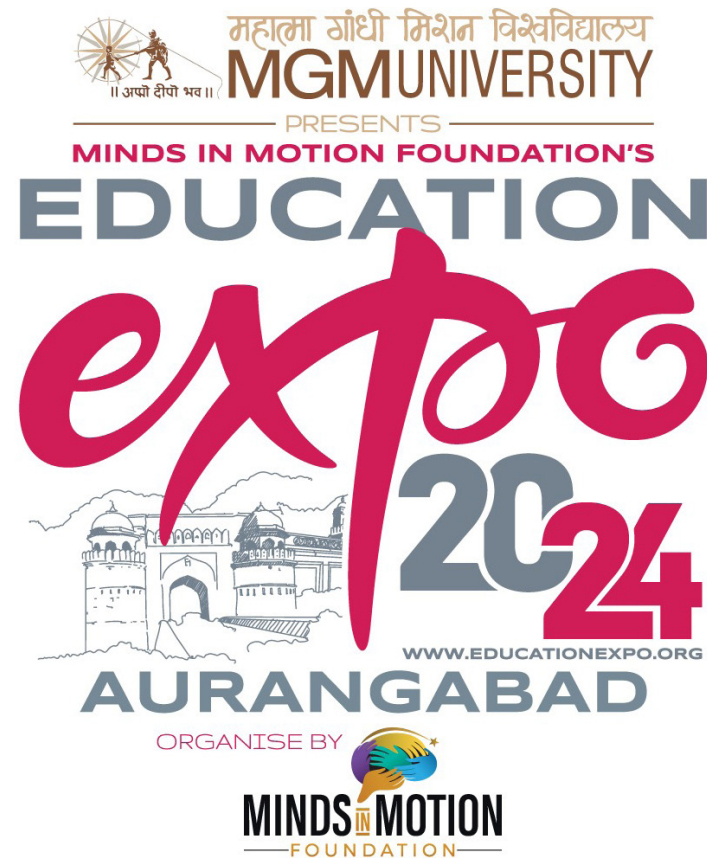
Ranging from large-scale amounts for industrial and commercial growth, to small-scale amounts to venture into businesses, Qardan Hasana has provided aspiring entrepreneurs with the financial wings they need to soar. "With the support of money I received, I was able to turn my dream into reality," shares 32-year-old Zahra Aliasgar, a teacher from Coimbatore who transitioned from working in a private school to starting her own kindergarten. "The institution's assistance gave me the confidence and resources to pursue my ambitions without the burden of interest."

Education Expo: Paving the Way for Holistic Learning

Over the past two years, the Education Expo has established itself as a key event in promoting learning and innovation. In 2022, the National Urdu Book Fair attracted over 150,000 visitors, selling more than 55 lakh Urdu books, while the Islamic Scientific Exhibition showcased the contributions of Islamic scholars to science and technology. Workshops and interactive sessions brought together students, educators, and parents to explore new trends in education, mental health, and career opportunities. In 2023, the Expo grew even bigger, with 164 exhibitors participating, and new features like the Student Catalyst Conference and Ulama Conference further broadening its impact by empowering students and discussing the role of traditional values in modern education.

Looking ahead to 2024, the Expo plans to build on this momentum by introducing new events, such as the Marathwada Level Science and Engineering Fairs for high school and

college students, providing young minds with a platform to showcase their innovations. The introduction of a Marathwada Level Job Fair aims to bridge the gap between education and employment by connecting



students and graduates with potential employers. Additionally, the Expo will expand its focus to include vocational training, digital literacy programs, and interdisciplinary workshops, ensuring

that participants gain practical skills alongside academic knowledge. The Expo will also welcome international collaborations, inviting educational institutions and thought leaders from around the world to share insights and best practices.

The Education Expo 2024 remains committed to blending tradition with modernity, continuing popular events like the National Urdu Book Fair, Interactive Science Fairs, and high-impact conferences. With a strong emphasis on technological advancements, community engagement, and international exchange, the Expo promises to be a landmark event that inspires and equips participants to excel in their educational journeys. Through these initiatives, the Expo will continue to shape the future of learning and development in the region, fostering an environment where innovation thrives.

Indian-American Entrepreneurs on **Maeeshat** Magazine Cover Page



As you know that Maeeshat is working to promote entrepreneurship among Indian Community. After lockdown, we are again publishing hard copies of Maeeshat Magazine (English) and sending to your doorstep. Alhamdulillah in every issue we are making a difference. we are publishing cover story on community leader and marketing across the country and abroad. Now we have started subscription drive, I am sure you are receiving our copies.

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