

## **POLITICAL LEADERSHIP: WHAT YOUNG INDIA WANTS?**

1. AS SALAAM A LEIKUM AND JAI HIND.
2. I BRING YOU GREETINGS FROM ALIGARH MUSLIM UNIVERSITY - ONE OF THREE UNIVERSITIES ENSHRINED IN THE CONSTITUTION OF INDIA AS "INSTITUTION'S OF NATIONAL IMPORTANCE".
3. SINCE ITS BIRTH ALIGARH MUSLIM UNIVERSITY HAS BEEN THE SPAWNING GROUND OF LEADERS, NOT ONLY IN POLITICS BUT VARIED AND DIVERSE FIELDS.
4. WE PROBABLY ARE THE ONLY UNIVERSITY IN THE WORLD WHICH HAS HAD THE DISTINCTION OF PRODUCING HEADS OF STATE OF FOUR DIFFERENT COUNTRIES.
5. PRESIDENT DR. ZAKIR HUSSAIN AND MR. M. HAMID ANSARI THE PRESENT VICE-PRESIDENT OF INDIA ARE AMU ALUMNI.
6. WE ARE PROUD OF THE FACT THAT TIMES LONDON GRADED AMU AS THE NINTH BEST INSTITUTION IN THE COUNTRY.
7. AHEAD OF US WERE SEVEN IIMS AND IITS WITH ONLY DELHI UNIVERSITY AHEAD OF US.
8. MY DEAR YOUNG FRIENDS FOR THE LAST 66 YEARS WE HAVE BEEN ROMANCING WITH DEMOCRACY WHERE ACCORDING TO AGE OLD INDIAN CUSTOMS AND TRADITIONS WE ALLOWED OUR WISE OLD MEN TO LEAD US.
9. THE YOUTH, EXCEPT IN SOME EXCEPTIONAL CASES REMAINED ON THE FRINGES.
10. 2013 CHANGED THE ENTIRE EQUATION.
11. THE YOUTH REALIZING THAT, POLITICS NEEDED TO BE REVITALIZED, REJUVENATED AND CLEANSED NOT ONLY PARTICIPATED ACTIVELY IN POLITICS BUT ALSO BROUGHT TO THE FORE CHANGES THAT SURPRISED THE NATION.

12. WHO COULD THINK THAT THE TWO LARGEST AND WELL ESTABLISHED POLITICAL PARTIES WOULD BE UNDERCUT BY AN UPSTART "AAM ADMI PARTY". IT WAS EMBODIMENT OF THE "POWER OF THE ORDINARY", "THE POWER OF THE POWERLESS", "THE POWER FROM BELOW".
13. THE YOUTH SHED THE ROLE OF BEING MERE SPECTATORS AND SPEAR HEADED THE CHANGE THEY HAD ALWAYS YEARNED FOR.
14. THEIR DEMAND FOR CHANGE WAS TRIGGERED PRIMARILY BY CONCERN FOR SAFETY OF WOMEN AND RAMPANT CORRUPTION.
15. THERE WAS WIDESPREAD FEELING THAT POLITICIANS LIVED IN IVY TOWERS AND WERE NOT ACCESSIBLE AND RESPONSIVE TO THE PUBLIC. THE YOUNG RIGHTLY FELT THAT POWER WAS NOT ABOUT PRIVILEGES & PERKS BUT RESPONSIBILITY. THE YOUNG DEMAND TRANSPARENCY, ACCOUNTABILITY, DECENTRALIZATION AND SWARAJ AND POLITICS W/O ANY RELIGION, CASTE, CLASS OR CADRE BASE CONSIDERATIONS.
16. WE ARE A YOUNG NATION WITH MORE THAN 500 MILLION OF AN AVERAGE AGE LESS THAN 25 YEARS. POLITICAL INDIA ON THE OTHER HAND IS AGEING. OUR LEADERS ARE OLD, QUITE OLD; NOT ONLY IN AGE BUT ALSO IN THEIR OUTLOOK.
17. THE AVERAGE AGE OF CABINET MINISTERS IS 65. DOES THIS EXPLAIN WHY OUR POLICY MAKERS ARE UNABLE TO UNDERSTAND THE YOUNG MIND.
18. A STARTLING FOUR DECADE GAP EXISTS BETWEEN MAJORITY OF INDIAN POPULATION COMPRISING YOUTH AND AGED, UNRESPONSIVE POLITICIANS.
19. AND THE YOUNG, ON THE OTHER HAND, HAVE NO CLUE WHERE THE OLD GUARD ARE HEADING? THIS IS A BREAKDOWN SCENARIO. THE CIRCUIT IS NOT COMPLETE AND WE ARE PLUNGED INTO AN INTELLECTUAL DARKNESS.

20. TO GIVE A SEMBLANCE OF CONTINUITY AND THE FALSE FEELING THAT EVERYTHING WAS OKAY, UNDER CONTROL, SOME YOUNG FACES WERE INDUCTED.
21. THESE YOUNG FACES SHOULD NOT ALLOW THEMSELVES TO BECOME AN ASSERTION OF THE OLD GUARD OTHERWISE RULE BY PROXY WOULD BE PERPETUATED AND THERE WOULD BE NO CHANGES.
22. WE ARE IN AN ERA OF TECHNOLOGICAL DISRUPTIONS  
EVERYTHING THAT COULD BE DIGITIZED HAS BEEN SUBJECT TO MASSIVE DISRUPTION OR UPHEAVAL. EVERYTHING INFORMATION BASED, INCLUDING POLITICS HAVE UNDERGONE REVOLUTIONARY CHANGES.
23. WELL ESTABLISHED AND ENTRENCHED POLITICIANS CANNOT BUT GIVE WAY TO YOUNG, TECH SAVVY AND NIMBLE PLAYERS.
24. THE YOUTH MUST REMEMBER THAT THE WINDOW OF OPPORTUNITY IS THERE ONLY FOR ANOTHER DECADE OR SO AS THE DEMOGRAPHIC DIVIDEND CAN BECOME A LIABILITY ONCE THE WINDOW CLOSES AND CHANGES AND CORRECTIONS ARE NOT IMPLEMENTED.
25. MY DEAR YOUNG FRIENDS!
26. BE THE CHANGE. BE YOUR OWN PATH-FINDERS.
27. TODAY, INDIA NEEDS A NEW GENERATION OF ZEALOUS LEADERS WHO JOIN POLITICS TO SERVE THE NATION AND NOT TO AMASS WEALTH.
28. THIS IS NO TIME TO BE ON THE SIDE-LINES OR TO HOLD BACK.
29. REMEMBER! OUR GREATEST THREAT IS NOT THE STRIDENT VOICES OF THE BAD BUT THE APPALLING SILENCE OF THE GOOD.
30. JAI HIND!