

## AMU to launch course in Islamic chaplainship

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**Agra:** Aligarh Muslim University (AMU) has decided to start a one-year post-graduate diploma course in "Islamic Chaplaincy" from July this year to help Madrasa students apply for the post of Muslim chaplains in the Indian Army, jails or hospitals.

Talking to TOI, vice chancellor of the university, Dr Tariq Mansoor said that 10 seats have been approved for the course. "Madrasa students who have religious knowledge can apply for the bridge course in the university. They can apply for it after graduation. The course will help them get hired in the Army, prisons or hospitals." "Spiritual teachers play a very important role in keeping morale of the soldiers high during conflict through motivational speeches and also act as counsellors, helping them to deal with combat stress," said AMU spokesperson Shafey Kidwai.

In Army, candidates are taken in as junior commissioned officers (JCOs) with designations like maulavis, pundits, priests, monks or granthis. A senior army official said that religion provides great strength to soldiers in difficult times.

The syllabus of the course includes English, information technology, personality development and a course on contemporary Islam.

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