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Aligarh Muslim University Gazette

Special Issue on the Foundation Stone Laying Ceremony of Murshidabad Centre



Mr. Pawan Kumar Bansal, Union Minister of Water Resources, Mr. Buddhadeb Bhattacharjee, Chief Minister, West Bengal, Mr. Parnab Kumar Mukharjee, Union Finance Minister, Prof. P.K. Abdul Azis, Vice-Chancellor, Ms. D. Purandeswari, Union State Minister for HRD, Mr. Anisur Rehman, Prof. V.K. Abdul Jaleel, Registrar and Dr. Rahat Abrar, PRO, AMU at the Foundation Stone Laying Ceremony of Murshidabad Centre.



Mr. Pawan Kumar Bansal, Union Minister of Water Resources, Mr. Buddhadeb Bhattacharjee, Chief Minister, West Bengal, Mr. Parnab Kumar Mukharjee, Union Finance Minister, Prof. P.K. Abdul Azis, Vice-Chancellor, Ms. D. Purandeswari Union State Minister, for HRD, Mr. Anisur Rehman, Prof. V.K. Abdul Jaleel, Registrar at the Ceremony.



Mr. Pawan Kumar Bansal, Union Minister of Water Resources, Prof. P.K. Abdul Azis, Vice-Chancellor, Mr. Parnab Kumar Mukharjee, Union Finance Minister, Mr. Buddhadeb Bhattacharjee, Chief Minister, West Bengal, Mr. Sudershan Roy Chaudhry, Minister West Bengal Government and Ms. D. Purandeswari, Union State Minister for HRD, inspecting model of Murshidabad Centre.



Prof. P.K. Abdul Azis, Vice-Chancellor, present a portraits of Sir Syed Ahmad Khan to Mr. Parnab Kumar Mukharjee, Union Finance Minister.

Our News for the World



Founder
Sir Syed Ahmad Khan



Sir Syed Ahmad Khan

Patron
Professor P.K. Abdul Azis
Vice Chancellor

Aligarh Muslim University Gazette originated as The **Aligarh Institute Gazette**. Launched by Sir Syed Ahmad Khan in 1866, it projected a vision much ahead of its times. Sir Syed is known for his devotion to education, support for intellectual pursuits and commitment to public welfare.

Currently **Aligarh Muslim University Gazette** is a monthly journal brought out by the Publications Division, A.M.U. in cooperation with all university divisions. The Gazette promotes values and achievements that foster a sense of pride in belonging to the University. The goal is to encourage positive exchange of ideas and information.





Tile, Victoria Gate



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From the Vice-Chancellor's Desk

It gives me immense pleasure to inform that AMU has attained the most cherished historical goal by opening its centre at Murshidabad. It is a fitting homage to Sir Syed Ahmad Khan, the founder of Aligarh Muslim University, Aligarh. The appointment of Justice Sachar Committee was a path breaking initiative of Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Manmohan Singh to understand the status of Muslims in India in terms of their deprivation and development deficit since independence. The Fathmi Committee that was appointed to look into possible affirmative actions in the field of education and the National Minority Committee on Minority Education proposed that the Aligarh Muslim University be permitted to open campuses in the North, South, East and West in the country.



The Hon'ble Chief Minister of West Bengal, Shri Buddhadeb Bhattacharjee seized the moment and had ignited the idea of a campus in Murshidabad by writing a letter to the Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Manmohan Singh on March 30, 2007 requesting to establish a campus of the Aligarh Muslim University. The Government of Kerala had dashed a letter to AMU with a similar request. Earlier, the University had received similar letters from the Gharib Nawaz Foundation, Bhopal (Madhya Pradesh) and the Ministry of Human Resource Development, Government of India forwarded these letters for further action.

Taking a historic initiative, the AMU Court had unlocked the potential of the University by passing a resolution at its meeting held on 2.12.2007 directing the Vice-Chancellor to establish 4 centres of AMU across the country. This resolution was moved by Dr. Mohd. Asif Khan and supported by Mr. Kamal Farooqui. The Executive Council at its meeting held on 17.1.2008 had approved the proposal of the Vice-Chancellor to establish 5 centres of AMU across the country, namely Bhopal (MP); Katihar (Bihar) later changed to Kishanganj; Pune (Maharashtra); Malappuram (Kerala) and Murshidabad (West Bengal). The Academic Council had also unanimously approved the proposal for the establishment of 5 centres creating the opportunity for a nation-wide expansion.

The President of India in her capacity as the Visitor of AMU had approved in principle the University's proposal to establish these centres under Section 12(2) of the Act, vide letter dated April 27, 2010. The Academic Council at its meeting held on 12.7.2010, the Executive Council at its meeting held on 21.7.2010 and the University Court at its special meeting held on 31.7.2010 unanimously approved the amendments required in the Statutes and Regulations of the University to formally operationalize these centres. The President, in her capacity as the Visitor was pleased to approve the amendments proposed by the University vide Order No. F.3-26/10-Desk(U) dated 12.10.2010. The University vide Notification D.No. (C) 1557 dated 19.10.2010 had issued orders establishing the AMU Centres at Murshidabad (West Bengal) and Malappuram (Kerala) as its maintained institutions.

By laying the Foundation Stone for the Murshidabad Centre today, we are translating this idea into a reality. The Model placed before this gathering is the dream that we have visualized. By 2020, we hope that this Centre would become fully developed. The birth of the Centre today, signals the birth of a New University in West Bengal. I hope, the Hon'ble Finance Minister, Shri Pranab Mukherjee, who in a visionary move had made an allocation of Rs. 50 crores as part of his 2009-10 budget for establishing the AMU Centre at Murshidabad and Malappuram would provide adequate funds to build these centres as per the vision placed before you.

By establishing the AMU Centre in Murshidabad as its maintained institution, we are sowing the seed for an Education Revolution in the country, more especially in the Muslim concentrated minority districts, so that the deprived and marginalised Muslims get chances to catch up with the lost opportunities. I would appeal to Muslims across India to observe a "Decade of Education" to bridge the gap that they experience between them and the other communities in terms of development and empowerment.

Very soon we will be laying the Foundation in Perinthalmanna, Kerala for the Malappuram Centre. Bihar Government has promised land in Kishanganj. Since the site shown was not suitable, we have requested allocation of a fresh site. The idea of AMU Centres has ignited the aspiration of the Muslims in different states and many state governments such as Assam, Rajasthan and Haryana have come forward with the offer of land for similar Centres in those states. The Wakf Board of Tamil Nadu has offered land for the AMU Centre in Tamil Nadu.

Shri Pranab Mukherjee and Shri Buddhadeb Bhattacharjee, both great leaders of West Bengal displayed exemplary sense of co-operation in making this idea, a reality. For the difficulties that we faced to get the land, both of them acted promptly and sorted the problem with the farsighted support of Shri Kapil Sibal, Hon'ble HRD Minister and Shri Pawan Kumar Bansal, Hon'ble Minister of Water Resources and Parliamentary Affairs. They have together added a golden chapter in the history of modern education in West Bengal. On behalf of AMU and on my own, I place on record my profound sense of gratitude to all of them for their wisdom and farsightedness. I would also like to specially acknowledge the contribution of Shri Moinul Hassan, Hon'ble Member of Parliament and AMU Court for the stellar role that he played in co-ordinating all efforts to remove bottlenecks that arose from time to time and doing everything possible on behalf of the Aligarh Muslim University.

The support of the HRD Minister, Hon'ble Minister Shri Kapil Sibal, Smt. Vibhupuri Das, Secretary, MHRD; Mr. Anant Kumar Singh, Joint Secretary and Mr. R.D. Sahay, Director, MHRD deserve special thanks. The support of UGC Chairman Prof. Sukhdev Thorat, Secretary Dr. Neelofer A. Kazmi and Joint Secretary Dr. Renu Batra also deserve special thanks. I seek the support and blessings of all in our long journey to revive the glory of Murshidabad.

Prof. P.K. Abdul Azis
Vice-Chancellor

ALIGARH MUSLIM UNIVERSITY CENTRES
IN MURSHIDABAD AND MALAPPURAM:
A CHRONOLOGY

Prof. P.K. Abdul Azis
Vice-Chancellor

- § In 1950, the framers of the Indian Constitution, gave AMU the status of 'an Institution of National Importance' and incorporated it in the Schedule VII of the Constitution
- § Well known for its tradition of broadmindedness, tolerance and enlightened inquisitiveness
- § Maintains India's glorious secular traditions
- § Its doors are open for every knowledge seeker regardless of his religion, caste, creed, region or colour
- § True to the spirit of its founding, the Government of India had accorded it the status of Minority Institution

Genesis of the Idea

Madhya Pradesh

Madhya Pradesh

- | | |
|-------------------------|--|
| <u>July 21, 2003</u> | <u>While attending a function in Bhopal, Shri Naseem Ahmad, the then Vice-Chancellor of AMU agrees to examine the request of the Gharibnawaz Foundation, Bhopal that a second campus of AMU be established in Bhopal, M.P</u> |
| <u>July 24, 2004</u> | <u>Gharibnawaz Foundation requests the HRD Minister, Shri Arjun Singh to establish a second campus in Bhopal. The same was forwarded to UGC for action.</u> |
| <u>March 13, 2005</u> | <u>Again a letter is submitted to HRD Minister by the Gharibnawaz Foundation</u> |
| <u>January 28, 2005</u> | <u>UGC Informs the Foundation that it has asked AMU to submit a proposal for further consideration</u> |

West Bengal

- | | |
|-----------------------|---|
| March 30, 2007 | Shri Buddhadeb Bhattacharjee, Chief Minister of West Bengal, writes to the Prime Minister Shri Manmohan Singh requesting to establish a Campus of Aligarh Muslim University in Murshidabad. |
|-----------------------|---|

KERALA

November 21, 2007

Later, the Education Minister, Shri M.A. Baby, Government of Kerala meets Mr. M.A.A. Fatimi, Minister of State in the HRD, and requests to start a Centre of AMU in Kerala.

Shri P.J. Thomas, the then Chief Secretary, Government of Kerala requests the Vice-Chancellor to start an Off Campus Centre of AMU in Kerala

MHRD also indicated that the proposal needs to be approved by the appropriate authorities of the University before the Ministry could process the request for obtaining necessary sanction of the Visitor.

June 7, 2007: The MHRD again requests the University that necessary action in the above matter may be expedited.

September 26, 2007: Consequent upon further enquiry from the Prime Minister's Office, MHRD again sought the views of the University on establishing a new campus of AMU in Murshidabad.

The University had seized the opportunity by passing the above resolution to start Centres in different parts of the country.

It is a historic opportunity for AMU to create a knowledge revolution in the backward region of the country

AMU RESPONDS WITH VISIONARY INITIATIVE

2.12.2007 :

The University Court resolves to establish Four Special Centres on each in North, South, East and West covering different regions of the country under Section 12(2) of AMU Act with permission of the Visitor.

17.1.2008 :

The Vice-Chancellor places before the Executive Council the proposal to establish Special Centres of A.M.U., Act under Section 12(2) of AMU in the following places:

1. Katihar (Bihar) – later shifted to Kishanganj District
2. Pune (Maharashtra)
3. Bhopal (Madhya Pradesh)
4. Malappuram (Kerla)
5. Murshidabad (West Bengal)

The Executive Council unanimously approved the same.

5.1.2009 :

The Academic Council of the Aligarh Muslim University endorses the above resolution to establish the Centres under Section 12(2) of the Aligarh Muslim University Act, with the permission of the Visitor. The Vice-Chancellor was authorized to take necessary follow up actions.

Thus it became a historic and path breaking initiative and a renewed commitment of the Aligarh Muslim University in the context of the mandate given to AMU under Section 5(2)(c).

AMU Approaches MHRD

February 13, 2008: The University has submitted the proposal for the “**Establishment of Five New Centres of Aligarh Muslim University in the Muslim Dominated, Educationally backward**

and underdeveloped regions of India” to the Government of India vide letter No. 2-21-EP/DS/1042. The proposal represents the biggest and most farsighted initiative of AMU in the context of the Sachar Committee Report.

The University has also requested the M.H.R.D. to get the approval of the Visitor under Section 12(2) of the AMU Act.

MHRD Opens a Window of Opportunity

MHRD forwards the request of the Gharibnawas Foundation suggesting that it be examined under Section 12(2) of the AMU Act.

August 28, 2006: MHRD draws the attention of AMU to a resolution passed by the ‘National Monitoring Committee for Minorities Education’ held on 11 & 12 July 2006, indicating that AMU may be permitted to open another Campus. **MHRD desired the view of the University on the matter.**

May 3, 2007: MHRD forwards the letter received from the Chief Minister of West Bengal for necessary action.

MHRD also suggested that the proposal be examined “in terms of Section 12(2) of the AMU Act” wherein it is mentioned that “the University may also, with the sanction of the Visitor and subject to the Statutes and Ordinances, establish such Special Centres, Special Laboratories or such other institutions for research or instruction as are necessary for the furtherance of its objects, either on its own or in cooperation or collaboration with any other institution”.

M.H.R.D. asks AMU to get the land required, free of cost, from State Governments, Submit Detailed Feasibility Report and Detailed Project Report.

The Vice-Chancellor, AMU writes to the Chief Ministers/Education Ministers of the five States during Nov. – Dec., 2008 requesting 250 – 300 acres of encumbrance free, contiguous land, free of cost, in the Districts identified for establishing AMU Centres.

ALUMNI EXCITED AND INVOLVED

- AMU Alumni spread over 90 countries excited.
- Overwhelming global support for the largest expansion initiative.
- **October 14, 2009:** Vice-Chancellor appoints Alumni Advisory Committee to get feed back from Alumni spread all over the world.
- Alumni Advisory Committee:
 - Dr. Masood Akhtar (Wisconsin, USA) – Chairman
 - Mr. S. Ali Rizvi, President, FAAA (Boston), USA
 - Mr. Nadeem Tarin (KSA)
 - Mr. Khwaja Shahid, President, AMU Old Boys’ Association (Delhi)
 - Prof. Javed Musarrat (KSA)
 - Mr. Safdar Khan, TFAI (Delhi)
 - Mr. M.A.A. Fatmi, Former Minister, GOI
 - Mr. Faisal Saleem (Arizona)
 - Mr. Zaigam Khan (KSA)
- AMU intents to get benefitted from the immense pool of alumni talents, ideas, resources and collaboration available world-wide.
- **February 02, 2010 :** AMU Alumni Advisory Committee submits its report. The report has been sent to 160 prominent personalities for feed back.

The Alumni Report highlighted the following ideas

- AMU Special Centres should be State of the Art campuses & knowledge hubs. They should be Green field campuses, Energy efficient and e.Governed.
- Full fledged campuses by 2020, when AMU celebrates its Centenary as a Central University.
- Establish globally renowned centres of Teaching, Research, Innovation and Entrepreneurship.
- Partnership with Foreign Universities.
- AMU should go Global by creating strategic partnerships and Internationalizing its activities.

National Consultation

About 100 distinguished personalities who have made notable and meaningful contribution in the sphere of education and National life were invited for a brain storming sessions on May 30, 2010 at the India International Centre, New Delhi.

Prominent Participants

- § **Justice Mr. A.M. Ahmadi**, Former Chief Justice of India, Former Chancellor of AMU
- § **Professor (Dr.) A.R. Kidwai**, Former Governor of Bihar, West Bengal and Haryana
- § **Shri M.A. Baby**, Hon'ble Minister of Education, Government of Kerala
- § **Shri Hari Narayan Singh**, Hon'ble Minister of Human Resource Development Government of Bihar
- § **Shri M.A.A. Fatmi**, Former Minister of State for HRD, Government of India
- § **Prof. D.P. Agrawal**, Chairman, Union Public Service Commission, Government of India, New Delhi
- § **Dr. Deepak Bhattacharya**, Member Secretary, West Bengal Council of Higher Education, Government of West Bengal
- § **Dr. Syed Shamsul Alam**, Vice-Chancellor, Aliah University, Kolkata
- § **Prof. Waseem Akhtar**, Vice-Chancellor, Integral University, Lucknow, UP
- § **Shri Moinul Hasan**, MP, Murshidabad, West Bengal
- § **Maulana Asrarul Haque**, MP, Kishanganj, Bihar
- § **Prof. K.N. Panikkar**, Vice-Chairman, Kerala State Higher Education Council
- § **Adv. S.M.A. Kazmi**, Chairman, U.P. State Minority Commission
- § **Maulana Fazlur Raheem Mujaddidi**, Jamia Hidayat, Jaipur, Rajasthan
- § **Maulana Wali Rahmani, Nazim**, Kanquah Rahmani, Munger, Bihar
- § **Shri P.A. Inamdar**, Maharashtra Cosmopolitan Educational Society, Pune, Maharashtra
- § **Dr. Fazal Gafoor, President**, Muslim Educational Society, Kerala
- § **Dr. P.A. Ibrahim, Chairman**, P.A. College of Engineering, Mangalore, Member, AMU Court
- § **Mr. Kamal Faruqui**, Former Chairman, Delhi Minorities Commission
- § **Mr. Ali Rizvi, President**, Federation of Alumni Association, USA.
- § **Mr. Ameer Ahmad**, Chennai, AMU Alumnus
- § **Mr. Hasan Kamal**, AMU Alumnus, Atlanta, USA
- § **Mr. Syed Mohammad Beary**, Chairman, Beary's Group, Bangalore
- § **Mr. C.A. Danish Kamal**, Raheja Chambers, Mumbai
- § **Dr. Ahmad Abdul Hai**, Managing Director, Hai Medicare and Research Institute, Patna.
- § **Dr. Fakhruddin Mohammad**, Honorary Secretary, MESCO, Hyderabad, AP

This National Meet Adopted the following Resolution

“The participants unanimously endorsed the establishment of the Centres of Aligarh Muslim University in Murshidabad (West Bengal), Malappuram (Kerala) and Kishanganj (Bihar), and wanted the University to take all

necessary steps to establish the same. The house appreciated the efforts of the University for taking this great national initiative and re-launching the Aligarh Movement.”

State Government hands over Land

(i) Murshidabad (West Bengal):

The documents were handed over to Prof. V.K. Abdul Jaleel, Registrar, AMU on 03.09.2010 by General Manager, Farakha Barrage Project in the presence of SDM, Jangipur and the Finance Officer, AMU, Mrs. Yasmin Jalal Beg. The West Bengal Government has handed over 288 acres of land free of cost to the Aligarh Muslim University in Ahiron, Murshidabad.

The Foundation Stone for the Murshidabad Centre was laid on Nov. 20, 2010 by Shri Pranab Murkherjee, Hon. Union Finance Minister, Government of India. This historic function was attended by Shri Buddhadeb Bhattacharjee, Hon. Chief Minister of West Bengal, Shri Pawan Kumar Bansal, Hon. Minister for Water Resources and Parliamentary Affairs, Smt. D. Purandeshwari, Hon. Minister of State, M.H.R.D., Govt. of India and Sri Sudarshan Roy Chaudhary, Higher Education Minister, Govt. of West Bengal.

(ii) Malappuram (Kerala):

The Government of Kerala has given 122 acres of land in Perinthalmanna, Mallapuram District, free of cost to Aligarh Muslim University in June, 2010. The documents were handed over to Prof. P.K. Abdul Azis, Vice-Chancellor, AMU at a public function held in Perinthalmanna, Malappuram District on 06.03.2010 by Shri M.A. Baby, Hon. Minister for Education, Govt. of Kerala in the presence of the Registrar, Controller of Examination, Media Advisor, Dean, F/o of Management and Prof. Ekram Husain of A.M.U., Aligarh.

Another 218 acres of land is expected to be handed over in the last week of Dec. 2010. Very soon we will be laying the Foundation Stone in Perinthalmanna, Kerala for the Malappuram Centre.

(iii) Kishnaganj (Bihar):

Bihar Government has promise land in Kishnaganj. The Vice-Chancellor, AMU has vide letter No.572/VC/Scctt. Dated 8.12.2010 has requested Shri Nitish Kumar, Hon. Chief Minister of Bihar to expedite the handing over of land for the Kishnaganj Centre in Bihar.

(iv) Other States:

The idea of AMU Centers has ignited the aspiration of the Muslims in other states and many state governments such as Assam, Rajasthan and Haryana have come forward with the offer of land for similar Centers in those states. The Waqf Board of Tamil Nadu has offered land for the AMU Centre in Tamil Naidu.

The Aligarh Muslim University in particular and the Muslim Community members across the country feel sincere gratitude to the Central Government and the various State Governments, and the political leadership cutting across party lines for the countenance and support with which they have honoured the Muslim aspirations in the field of education.

Statutory Approvals completed

The President of India in her capacity as the Visitor of AMU had approved in principle the University's proposal to establish these centers under Section 12(2) of the Act, vide letter dated April 27, 2010.

The Academic Council at its meeting held on 12.7.2010, the Executive Council at its meeting held on 21.7.2010 and the University Court at its Special Meeting held on 31.7.2010 unanimously approved the amendments required in the Statutes and Regulations of the University to formally operationalize these centres.

The President, in her capacity as the Visitor was pleased to approve the amendments proposed by the University vide Order No. F.3-26/10 Desk(U) dated 12.10.2010.

The University vide Notification D.No. (C) 1557 dated 19.10.2010 had issued orders establishing the AMU Centers at Murshidabad (West Bengal) and Malappuram (Kerala) as its maintained institutions.

The entire initiative has thus the approval of all the statutory bodies of the University, including M.H.R.D. and the Hon'ble President of India as the Visitor of AMU.

Central Government Allocates Fund

The Hon'ble Finance Minister, Shri Pranab Mukherjee, in a visionary move had made an allocation of Rs.50.00 crores as part of his 2009-2010 budget for establishing the AMU Centers at Murshidabad and Malappuram. A vision plan is ready for submission to Government of India for funding during the XI-XII Plans. The birth of these Centers signal the dawn of a New Era in those regions providing greater access to people for Higher Education.

DFR and DPR

- Ø June 29, 2009: The Govt. of India informs the allocation of Rs.25.00 Crores each for establishment of 02 Campuses and asks for site specific Detailed Feasibility Report (DFR) and Detailed Project Report (DPR). MHRD also wanted Monthly Progress Reports.
- Ø A.M.U. has on 05.06.2010 appointed EDCIL (India) as the Consultant to prepare the Detailed Feasibility Report and Detailed Project Report
- Ø Edcil has submitted the DFR and DPR and the same has been approved by the Finance Committee on 19.10.2010 and by the Executive Council on 27.11.2010. University has submitted the same to the Govt. of India for further action.

Admission Notified

- Ø Notification of Admission for BALLB – 05 year integrated programme and MBA – 02 year programme has been announced and classes will commence by First Week of January.
- Ø Notification for the posts of Directors, Professors, Associate Professors and Assistant Professors etc. on deputation/contractual basis has been issued and selection committee will be held shortly.
- Ø Building for commencing classes have been made available by the Govts. of Kerala and West Bengal. The same will be ready by the first week of Jan., 2011.
- Ø Classes will commence by the last week of Jan., 2011.

University is immensely indebted to the following personalities:

- Shri Kapil Sibal, Hon'ble HRD Minister, Government of India
- Shri Pranab Mukherjee, Hon'ble Finance Minister, Government of India
- Hon'ble Buddhadeb Bhattacharjee, Hon'ble Chief Minister of West Bengal
- Shri V.S. Achutanandan, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Kerala
- Shri Nitish Kumar, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Bihar
- Shri Moinul Hasan, M.P. (Murshidabad)
- Maulana Asrarul Haque, M. P. (Kishanganj)
- Shri M.A. Baby, Hon'ble Education Minister of Kerala
- Shri K.P. Rajendran, Hon'ble Revenue Minister of Kerala
- Shri Hari Narain Singh, Hon'ble Human Resource Minister of Bihar
- Shri Sudarshan Raychaudhuri, Hon'ble Minister Incharge for Higher Education, West Bengal

For facilitating the establishment of these Centres.

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Speech delivered by Shri Pranab Mukherjee, Hon'ble Minister of Finance at the Foundation Laying Ceremony, Murshidabad

I want to share with you all, why the AMU is opening its Centre in Murshidabad. It is a long history. Murshidabad was, once upon a time, the capital of Bengal, Bihar and Orissa and it was not only governing centre, but also a cultural centre of the whole of eastern India. But let me not go into that detailed history...

Now the question arises why AMU in Murshidabad? Is it because Jangipur is my constituency. No, It is because, Murshidabad actually has a right on AMU. One of the members of the Nawab family of Murshidabad, Nawab Shamsul Jahan Begum donated Rs. 1 lac to the fund that was being raised to expand the MAO College founded by Sir Syed Ahmad Khan. She was also present in the meeting in which the fund-related decisions were taken after Sir Syed's death. She visited MAO College in 1901 and delivered a lecture on how to spread education among women, Muslim women in particular. It is apt and logical to establish a centre of AMU at a place from where a presighted person like the Nawab Begum who relentlessly pursued the cause of modern education, especially female education.

We have decided to start classes in this campus from this academic session itself. We have rented a building for this purpose.

We want an extremely modern and state-of-the-art campus to develop here. This educational complex will benefit not only the people of Murshidabad but the entire eastern region. We shall also be opening a branch of the well known business school, MDI, Gurgaon, one of the bet of its kind, near this campus on the National Highway 34.

This year the University is starting the MBA and the BA-LLB classes. Other subjects will gradually follow. AMU is destined to play a very important role in the education and upliftment of the region. The progress and development of our country is not possible without the provision of quality education. Nation building is possible when education is provided to the masses.



*Translated from Bengali by
Prof. S.N. Zeba and Dr. Sajidul Islam
Department of English, AMU*

Speech delivered by Shri Buddhdeb Bhattacharjee, Hon'ble Chief Minister of West Bengal at the Foundation Laying Ceremony, Murshidabad

It is a memorable day in the history of Murshidabad; in the history of education of our state also it is a memorable day. I came to know for the first time, that the AMU plans to open its Centres outside of Aligarh, from Shri Moinul Hasan. I write a letter immediately to Prime Minister that Bengal be considered as the venue. Then I contacted our respected great leader Shri Pranab Mukherjee, the Finance Minister, requesting him to extend help in this matter. I got a positive response from him. And today that dream is taking a real shape.

We have transferred 260 acres of land to AMU. They have prepared a wonderful plan for the campus. One day a magnificent University campus will come up here and our dream will become a reality. Our state was in the need of such a University. West Bengal has eighteen Universities and this new one will take the number to the nineteenth. We know the history of AMU which was founded by one of the 'great' man of India, Sir Syed Ahmad Khan in the form of the Mohammadan Anglo Oriental College in 1875, which later became the Aligarh Muslim University in 1920. This University is one of the premier institutions of learning in the country and has played a pivotal role in the propagation of modern education. It is a University that has always stood for secular and liberal values. When AMU starts its Murshidabad Centre, I hope it will spread education, not only among the Muslims, but keeping its secular ideals alive, other communities too will be its beneficiaries.

Lastly, I want to say that we have tried our best to modernize and secularize education in our state. From this perspective I want to reiterate that the education provided by AMU is advanced, modern and secular. We desire that this kind of education be spread in our state.



*Dhanyavad,
Translated from Bengali by
Prof. S.N. Zeba and Dr. Sajidul Islam
Department of English, AMU*

Speech delivered by Mr. Pawan Kumar Bansal, Union Minister for Parliamentary Affairs and Water Resources at the Foundation Stone Laying Ceremony of Murshidabad Centre of AMU on November 20, 2010

Hon'ble Union Finance Minister Mr. Pranab Kumar Mukherjee, Mr. Buddhdeb Bhattacharjee, Chief Minister, West Bengal, Union Minister of State for HRD, Ms. D. Purandeswari, Minister of Education, West Bengal, Mr. S. R/ Chaudhuri, AMU Vice Chancellor Prof. P. K Abdul Azis, Mr. Adhir Ranjan Chaudhary, MP, Mr. Moinul Hasan, MP, Prof. V. K. Abdu Jaleel, Registrar, Minister of Panchayati Raj Mr. Anisur Rahman and Ladies and Gentlemen!

Today indeed is a very gratifying occasion for me. Ever since my student days at the University of Punjab, I was aware of the sterling role the AMU had played in our country. A century back as early as in the later Nineteenth Century the AMU had made it a point to promote the secular and core ideals which inspired freedom fighters of the country. Today, I consider it to be a proud occasion for me that I happen to be present here when AMU embarks up on another path of its journey by having foundation stone laying ceremony of its Murshidabad Centre. I think the University should have its small centres all over the country and the beginning in this direction is late but it is certainly very determined one.



The Government of India has also approved one more centre in Kerala and it is the second Centre that the country would have away from Aligarh. The AMU has inspired lakhs of students over the years who entered the portal of the University. The students got proper grooming at the University and later they served the country in various capacities with rare distinction. The AMU had nurtured and still propagating the values that hold dear to us.

I am delighted to be with you and, as D. Purandeswari referred to, the land transferred to AMU belonged to Farakha Barrage project. It is the land of Tagore where people having an abiding concern for education and culture. Today we are here to let thoughts come from all over to strengthen our vision of education. Education should become an important vehicle for mitigating the suffering of the people and brighten the lives of human beings. I am sure that given the commitment AMU had been working this Centre would cater to a large number of people. The Government of India has put due emphasis on the concept of inclusive growth. Inclusive growth is not possible until education is imparted to every citizen of the country. People belonging to the marginalized section of the society including the minorities should no longer be allowed to lag behind. Today all leaders whether political, religious or social must seize the opportunity to ensure that education is accorded the highest priority in our thinking.

I take this opportunity to congratulate Union Finance Minister Mr. Pranab Mukherjee for taking the initiative to start Centre at Mursidabad and he was very keen to ensure that no delay takes place in the transfer of land from Farakha Barrage project to the government. I am happy to say that no formality is left behind in this regard.

I firmly believe that the Murshidabad Centre will prove to be a vibrant Centre of quality education that would benefit a large section of people. I would be failing in my duty if I do not mention my colleague in the parliament Mr. Adhir Ranjan Chaudhary who relentlessly pleaded the case of Murshidabad Centre. I again congratulate the AMU, the important seat of learning, to open its centre at Murshidabad.

Speech delivered by the Union Minister of State for HRD, Ms. D. Purandeswari at the Foundation Stone Laying Ceremony of Murshidabad Centre of AMU on November 20, 2010

Hon'ble Union Finance Minister Mr. Pranab Kumar Mukherjee, Mr. Buddhdeb Bhattacharjee, Chief Minister, West Bengal, Union Minister for Parliamentary Affairs and Water Resources, Mr. Pawan Kumar Bansal, Minister of Education, West Bengal, Mr. S. R/ Chaudhuri, AMU Vice Chancellor Prof. P. K Abdul Azis, Mr. Adhir Ranjan Chaudhary, MP, Mr. Moinul Hasan, MP, Prof. V. K. Abdu Jaleel, Registrar, Minister of Panchayati Raj Mr. Anisur Rahman and Ladies and Gentlemen!

I must begin by saying it is my proud privilege to be a part of a historical occasion. The establishment of AMU Centre at Murshidabad will be a respectful tribute to the late ruler of Murshidabad who had particular passion for female education in the country. West Bengal, as we all know, has always been a front runner in propagating many moments of the country particularly independence movement, when it had given our country such noble souls whose name I hardly refrain myself from mentioning – Rajaram Mohan Roy, Ishwarchand Vidyasagar, Tagore, Vivekanand, C. R. Das, these are few names and I would like to pay my sincere tribute to all these great souls as they had played an important role in deciding the future of our country.

Having been said this, I must begin by saying that we believe education is a very important *Kriya* (tool) to accelerate economic and social development of the country. The Twenty First century has been acclaimed as the knowledge century which means that knowledge is to be reflected in country's advancement, competitiveness and its strategy to develop human capital. Human capital will be a kind of investment that we make in human resources. The best investment that we can make is nothing but education. In the final reckoning, it is education that helps people come out from the quagmire of sorrow and also helps them to become an active partner of the development of our country.

We know education is very important, the government of UPA I and II had never lost sight of the fact that education needs to be given to every child of our country and we emphasize on it with three cornerstones, access, equity and quality. These cornerstones of the education sector must be focused whatever we do. It is with this idea that Sachar Committee was constituted to look into the plight of Muslim minorities. The committee came into being to ensure that we intensify our efforts to improve the condition of Muslims who are mired in educational backwardness. The Fatmi Committee, I see Mr. Fatmi sitting before the dais, went through the report and suggested a slew of measures to the Government of India to ensure that the recommendations of Sachar Committee are taken forward.

It is a part of that strategy that AMU was requested to establish centres across the country to ensure that the quality education was given to every citizen, particularly to the Muslim minority. I am happy to inform that AMU Centre which is going to be set up in Murshidabad, the first one, besides other Centres to be set up at Malappuram, Bhopal, Kishanganj and Pune, will propagate education in this area in a big way. We are confident that these centres will become a hub of quality education and it will inspire our children, particularly minority students to join the mainstream of the society and become an active partner in the development of the country.

I would like to thank Union Finance Minister Mr. Pranab Mukherjee for having accepted the proposal to establish AMU Centre at Murshidabad and also giving me an opportunity to be a part of this wonderful programme. I am also thankful for providing me an opportunity to share my concerns with you. I would also like to thank Mr. Buddhdeb Bhattacharjee who actually gave us 290 acres of land through the Ministry of Water Resources and my colleague Mr. Pawan Kumar Bansal who had actually walked with us in ensuring that the land is transferred smoothly.

I am also thankful to AMU, which is very important University of our country where twenty thousand students and 1500 faculty members are there. Further, 400-500 foreign students join AMU for higher studies. AMU is a very special kind of the University that imparts education from KG to Post-doctoral level. It also covers entire gamut of education therefore I once again say that it very momentous moment for me to be a part of this wonderful gathering. UPA government is fully committed to ensure that quality education is given to every child of the country living in the remotest area and belonging to the last strata of the society. We want the children must have quality education, which will not only enable them to become national but global citizen. We want our children to act and think globally and only then, the children of the country, the future of the country will take our country to the right path of development.



Once again, I would like to thank everybody present here to listen to me patiently.

Speech delivered by Mr. Sudershan Roy Choudhary, Minister of State for Higher Education at the Murshidabad Foundation Laying Ceremony on November 20, 2010

This day is not only a historic day for the district of Murshidabad or the State of West Bengal but the whole Eastern Indian. Aligarh Muslim University which is a symbol of a unique blend of tradition and modernity is going to establish its campus here. This campus will play a significant and glorious role for the future generations of this region, who will pursue higher education.

I thank the University officials and other decision making bodies of AMU, the concerned departments of the Central Government and the Government of West Bengal for taking this initiative to open a centre of AMU here, which is going to be a reality very soon.

Hon'ble Finance Minister, Shri Pranab Mukherjee and Hon'ble Chief Minister of West Bengal, Shri Buddhadeb Bhattacharji have taken this project as the realization of their personal dreams. And they have taken quick steps to give this dream a material shape. This will go down in the history of the Indian subcontinent as an exemplary and unique initiative taken up as a joint venture by the State and the Central Government.

We all know the past history as well as the present status of AMU, how it has been imparting modern education among its students, and, we hope that it will do so in the new centre too, in the coming days. We are immensely proud of Aligarh Muslim University as a unique centre of learning. And today we have laid the foundation of this new campus, of which we shall certainly be proud in the future.



*Translated from Bengali by
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Murshidabad Center Inaugurated

Rahat Abrar



It looks incredible. Nearly 1300 acres of land in Jangipura, Murshidabad, suddenly get associated which the movement of educational resurgence as Aligarh Muslim University's Murshidabad centre becomes functional here.

The foundation Stone laying ceremony was presided over by the Mr. Buddhadeb Bhattacharjee, chief Minister of West Bengal and Union Finance Minister Mr. Pranab Mukherjee, representing Jangipura Lok Sabha constituency participated as the chief guest.

The glittering ceremony was attended by Mr. Pawan Kumar Bansal, Union Minister for Parliamentary Affairs and Water Resources, Ms. D. Purandeswari, Minister for State Human

Resources Development, Mr. Sudarshan Roy Chaudhary, Minister of Education, Government of West Bengal, Mr. Aneesur Rehman, Mr. Moinul Hasan, MP and AMU court member, Mr. Adhir Ranjan Chaudhary, MP, Mr Manan Husain, Ms . Purnima Das Sabhapali Murshidabad Zila Parishad, Mr. Jan Alam, MLA, Mr. Keshendra Yadav, General Manager Farraka Barrage. AMU delegation comprising about two dozen senior faculty members and officials led by Vice Chancellor Professor P. K. Abdul Azis and University Tarana team also participated in the epoch-making ceremony.

The foundation stone laying ceremony was held in a sprawling pandal that accommodated more than five thousand participants. The pandal was dotted with AMU flags and banners. Full size portraits of Sir Syed Ahmad Khan on either side of the dias made it clear that Aligarh movement is being revived in West Bengal where Muslims are still mired in the guagmire of ignorance and poverty. The Vice Chancellor Professor Abdul Azis and the Registrar, dressed in traditional attire-Sherwani- welcomed the honourable guests. Mr. Buddhadeb Bhattacharjee, Chief Minister of West Bengal reached the venue quite early and had held informal discussions with the Vice Chancellor and assured him of all possible help needed for the smooth functioning of the centre. Mr Bhattacharjee directed the District Magistrate of Murshidabad Mr. Parwez Ahmad Siddiqui to get in touch with the university.

Before the formal commencement of the ceremony, Dr. Shakeel Smadani highlighted the contribution of Sir Syed and his institution for spreading education among the Muslims. The foundation stone laying ceremony was started with the recitation of the Holy Quran by Professor Saud Alam Qasmi.

Welcoming the guests Mr. Sudershan Roy Chaudhary described the ceremony as the harbinger of education revolution. The creation of the centre is the testament to the sincere effort of the left front government in putting Muslims on the road of educational empowerment.

Professor P. K. Abdul Azis, Vice Chancellor, AMU, said the university has got all sort of help from Union Finance Minister Mr. Pranab Kumar Mukherjee and Chief Minister Mr. Bhuddhadeb Bhattacharjee in opening the centre at Murshidabad. The university will start BALLB and MBA classes from January 2011.He said the opening of the centre is the historical day both for AMU and West Bengal. The Sachar Committee impelled the central government to take concrete steps in eradicating educational backwardness among the Muslims and after thorough deliberation it was decided to open the centers of AMU at various parts of the country. Various bodies of AMU unanimously passed the resolution to set up centers and various amendments were made and the visitor of the university has approved the creation of the center. He said the university intendeds to create centers at Bhopal, Malapuram, Kishanganj and Pune. He hoped that the Murshidabad center will set new standard of academic excellence. Vice Chancellor Professor P. K. Abdul Azis said that the admission and recruitment process has already been initiated.



Speaking as chief guest Mr. Parnab Mukherjee said that Murshidabd is the Muslims majority district of West Bengal. Once West Bengal, Bihar and Orrisa were governed by Murshidabad and it was the hub of educational and cultural activities, but now it is a pale shadow of its glorious past. It is one of the most backward district and a center of AMU is being setup to eradicate educational backwardness of Muslims. The center will certainly provide excellent education at affordable cost to the people living in the district.

Explaining the rationale behind the setting of the center at Murshidabad, he said Murshidabad has a long association with AMU and Begum Shamsul Jahan was the first lady who made a significant financial contribution to MAO College.

Mr. Mukherjee said the central government has welcomed the initiative of AMU at Murshidabad and it provided Rs. 25crore. Praising the effort of Chief Minister Bhuddhadeb Bhattacharjee as the state government tpaid 8 acres to water resources ministry to get land for the AMU. "Today is a day of rejoicing and it is not a day of announcements, said Mr. Mukherjee". The government is committed to provide all monetary help to the centre", he concluded.



Presiding over the ceremony, Mr. Bhuddhadeb Bhattacharjee, Chief Minister of West Bengal, said the opening of centre marked the beginning of the educational revolution in the state and with the creation of centre a cherished dream was fulfilled. The Chief Minister said that first he wrote to the Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and later contacted Pranabda. The dream became a reality. He added that Pranabda is a respected leader and he is personally thankful to him for all his help in setting up the center. The Chief Minister, said that the AMU has a distinct identity and Murshidabad centre will certainly add to its pristine glory. With the setting up of this center the state now houses 19 universities. It is a matter of pride that the AMU is opening its center in West Bengal and it will accelerate the process of educational development in the state. Mr. Bhuddhadeb Bhattacharjee hoped that the center will impart modern and scientific education-the hall mark of AMU.



Mr. Pawan Kumar Bansal, Union Minister for Parliamentary Affairs and Water Resources said the AMU is known for its excellent academic and secular credentials. It is heartening to note that AMU has decided to extend its reach. He said that the centre is being setup on the land belonging to Farrka Barrage project. He said his ministry transferred land to the state government to be handed over to AMU. He hoped the land will be used to spread knowledge. Ms. Purandeswari, Union Minister of state for Human Resource Development said that the West Bengal has given birth to many reformative movements and Rabindernath Tagore was instrumental in propagating education. Education is the most powerful medium and the backward classes need it the most. The creation of Murshidabad center is a step in this direction. She recalled the role played by her predecessor Mr. Ali Asharf Fatmi in setting up AMU centers at various places. Mr. Moinul Hasan also spoke on the occasion.

Extending the vote of thanks AMU Registrar Professor V. K. Abdul Jaleel said that AMU has been adding a new chapter to its history and the center will benefit the people of West Bengal. Vice. Chancellor Professor P. K. Abdul Azis presented the portrait of Sir Syed Ahmad Khan to the honourable guest in line with the tradition of AMU the programme was concluded with the National Anthem and university Tarana.

On this occassion Maulana Wali Rehmani, Member of AMU Court and Dr. Fakhruddin Mohammad, a member of AMU Court and Hon. Secretary Mescoc Centre were also present. Finance Officer Ms. Yasmeen Jalal Bag, Controlar of Examinations, Prof. Pervez Mustajab, OSD (Devlopment), Prof. Akhtar Haseeb, Dean, Faculty of Law, Prof. M. Shabbeer, Dean, Faculty of Managment Studies, PProf. Javed Akhtar, Principal, ZHCE & T, Prof. Ikraam Husain, OSD, Malapuram Centre, Prof. Yahya, Member-in-Charge, Electricity, Prof. Anwaruddin Anwer, Prof. Shafey Kidwai, Dept. of Mass Communication, Cordinator, General Education, Dr. Shakeel Samdani, Dr.



Mohd. Asif, Dept. of Commerce, Dr. Pankaj, Dept. of Hindi, Prof. V.K. Parasher, University Polytechnic, University Engineer, Mr. Firooz Ahmad and Public Relations Officer, Dr. Rahat Abrar, General Secretary, West Bengal old boys association, Mr. Viqar Ahmad and Former student of Murshidabad Mr. Humayun Rasheed played a key role in making this programme a grand success. A large number of Alumni from West Bengal participated in the function.

The programme was conducted by Ms. Jayanti Bhumik in Bengali and English.