



ALIGARH MUSLIM UNIVERSITY

ALIGARH – 202 002, U.P., INDIA

LT. GEN. ZAMEER UDDIN SHAH (RETD.)

VSM, SM, VSM

Former Deputy Chief of Army Staff &
Member, Armed Forces Tribunal

Vice-Chancellor

Phone: (Off) +91-571-2700994/2702167

(Res) +91-571-2700173

Fax : (Off) +91-571-2702607

(Res) +91-571-2700087

Email : vcamu@amu.ac.in

09 April 2017

Dear Aligs,

اسلام علیکم

1. I am writing to you regarding the drop in university rankings. Our vision statement stated clearly that we should strive to become the No.1 University in India by 2017. We came close to that in 2016 but this year we have slipped and I will not shirk taking full responsibility for this.
2. By its very nature ranking is intrinsically changeable and can never remain fixed for any institution for all times to come. This fluctuation in ranking is quite evident when we look at the Panjab University which fell down to 54 from the 12th position in 2016 NIRF and similarly the Tezpur University, which has been the recipient of the Visitor's Best University Award, has now come down to 48th position in 2017 NIRF. We slipped down to 19th from 10th.
3. 2017 NIRF ranking stands unique. Unlike 2016 NIRF, this year's ranking has included flagship institutions of technology, research and management such as IITs and IIMs in the overall list of ranking. These institutions have the benefit of liberal funding both from Government and their Alumni. Their entry, this year, has significantly changed the order of ranking of the Universities. This is evident from the present ranking of University of Hyderabad and the University of Delhi which have slipped down to 14th and 15th positions from the previous 4th and 6th positions, respectively.
4. Let it be understood that the ranking practice - be it NAAC or NIRF or the Times Higher Education World & Asia Ranking - has made us evaluate ourselves dispassionately. It has also instilled a sense of confidence and has awakened us to realize our strength and weaknesses in academics, teaching and research. What comes with ranking is the spirit of healthy competitiveness. It has driven us to join the arena of competition along with others. This we were reluctant to submit to earlier, but took the plunge. We knew of possible pit falls but subjecting ourselves to external audit and assessment is an imperative and inescapable.
5. I must emphasize here that the kind of an academic support that our teaching community and financial support our alumni has given to the University is laudable.
6. Out of the five parameters on the basis of which the scores of ranking are determined, the parameters of paramount importance are Teaching, Learning & Resources(TLR) and Research, Publications and Citations(RPC).
7. Under TLR, I am very happy to share with you all that AMU stands above BHU, Jadavpur University, Anna University, University of Hyderabad and Pune University which have been given 10th, 12th, 13th, 14th and 18th positions respectively in 2017 NIRF. <https://www.nirfindia.org/OverallRanking.html>
8. Each one of you will agree that the visibility and vibrancy of academic institutions are marked on the basis of publications and their citations.
9. The two internationally renowned agencies used for determining the publications and citations are the Web of Science and the Scopus.

Contd. on (2)

