



# **ampConnect**

**QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER**

*"Yeh mehr-e-taabaan se koi keh de ke  
apni kirno'n ko gin ke rakh le,*

*Main apne sehra ke zarre zarre ko  
khud chamakna sikha raha hoon..."*

**Sir Syed Ahmad Khan**  
1817-1898



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## In this Issue

MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT

AMP JOB FAIR

AMP ZAKAT FUND SCHOLARSHIP

NEW CHAPTERS ESTABLISHED

SIR SYED DAY CELEBRATION

SKILL DEVELOPMENT LECTURES

NEW SHINING STARS

## SDL SERIES



# From the President's Desk...

Dear Friends,

**Assalamualaikum.**

With the year 2015 closing to an end with this quarter, we are indeed glad and hopeful at our accomplishments Alhamdulillah and pray that AMP scales up new heights of achievement in the years to come Insha'Allah! I, on behalf of the AMP Governing Council and the entire AMP Team, extend our heartfelt greetings and best wishes to you all on the joyous occasion of Eid-ul-Adha, with a hope that may our way of life depicts true meaning of sacrifice; and may we all take the opportunity given by the Almighty to become His beloved by sacrificing our treasured possessions in the service of the community, and help the underprivileged in whatever way we can, Ameen!

We are deeply saddened by the tragic incident at Mina, Makkah, which resulted in the loss of precious lives during the blessed pilgrimage of Hajj. Our sincere condolences and prayers are with the families of the deceased pilgrims, and we pray that may Allah grant them a place in Jannah. We also pray for the speedy recovery of the injured.

This quarter at AMP had been buzzing with activities, most important of them has been the SDL Series which commenced on the Independence Day 2015, with the theme 'Hum Banenge Hind Ki Nayi Pehchan – Career in Nation Building.' We tried to pay our sincere and heartfelt tribute to the legend Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam who recently passed away leaving behind him a void, never to be filled. AMP remembered his contributions and sacrifices for our great nation, and in a humble endeavour, organized the mass campaign on 'nation building' to spread his message from school to school to inspire our young generation to work hard, succeed in life and build a strong nation. It is indeed our pleasure to share with you, that we were able to organize hundreds of lectures in various parts of the country. We received tremendous support from our volunteers, some of whom conducted 5 to 6 lectures in different schools. The response has been amazing even from the side of the students and teachers; the number of schools willing to participate in the drive was so overwhelming that we even found it difficult reaching out to all those schools. We thank our volunteers for their dedication in this regard, and congratulate all our members who joined the initiative and helped in adding another milestone. Many congratulations! Another major highlight of the quarter was the AMP mega job fair organized by AMP at Mira Road, Mumbai, in association with the organization Ishteraq, which was attended by over 1000 job aspirants and witnessed the participation of many reputed recruiters and corporate. Also two new AMP Chapters were established recently, one at Hubli, Karnataka and other at Raipur, Chhattisgarh, adding another feather of achievement to AMP's cap and expanding our reach even further Alhamdulillah! I congratulate our Chapter coordination teams and the local teams, and wish them great lucks. We have also started



planning AMP meetings of various Chapters which will be attended by members from the AMP GC and by me personally, to take stock of the planning and implementation of the AMP activities by all AMP Chapters. The recent visits to various cities including Delhi, Pune, Solapur, besides others, have been some of them, while some have also been planned for the coming months.

The Teachers Day this quarter, marked by the love, guidance, encouragement and motivation of teachers, reminds us of the opportunity that we are blessed with to give back to our society through the noble profession of teaching. There is a teacher in each one of us, and the AMP SDLs are one such opportunity for us to make use of, to realize our duty and to contribute in this noble initiative. And realizing the true essence of service to the community and the country, on Gandhi Jayanti and Sir Syed Day, we hope the youth of today will understand the true meaning and importance of leadership, and will stand up and lead as torch bearers and influential agents of change, to voice the community concerns in a dedicated manner. There is indeed a strong need to revive the ideals of Gandhi, to strengthen the unity of our country.

With this year closing to an end, and in reflecting on our journey so far, we believe that there is no dearth of people who wish to talk about the misery and extraordinary poverty which our community is suffering from, but, to actually prosper we need strong commitments and dedication amongst ourselves to change the picture. And we need to have our heart into these efforts, and take ownership of our tasks to rise upto expectations. And we indeed need more hands to reach out, to strengthen our network and membership base. We thank all our members for their contribution so far and hope to have their support also in the years to come, in our humble efforts to give in our best to our community. And perhaps this is the least we can do, as thinking and practicing Muslims and Indians.

Wishing all our members and the entire country great success and a vibrant change in the closing days of this year and a promising morning of the next year! Best Wishes!

Sincerely,

Aamir Edresy  
President- AMP  
(Association of Muslim Professionals)



# AMP JOB FAIR

organized at Mira Road, Mumbai



Taking one more step towards its resolve of continually supporting the community in its march towards economic empowerment, Association of Muslim Professionals (AMP) organized another successful Mega Job Fair in association with the organization Ishteraq, at St. Thomas Church, Mira Road, Mumbai, on 17th Oct 2015, Alhamdulillah!

The Job Fair was attended by over 1000 job aspirants, and witnessed the participation of many well-known recruiters and corporate, including one of India's leading recruiters F. Gheewala, who was also the event partner. The event was inaugurated by Mr. Nawab Malik, NCP spokesperson and Father Benny T parish priest of St. Thomas Church. The attending corporate included India's leading recruiter F. Gheewala, Financial organizations such as Bajaj Capital, HDFC, ICICI, Wellness companies such as Richfeel, Trident Hotels and ITES TCS, First Source, etc. The key highlights of the AMP Job Fair included besides the recruitment, the conduction of Aptitude Tests for candidates by experienced trainers, and guidance lectures on Personality grooming and interviewing skills by industry experts. The Job Fair was very well-appreciated by all who held it as one of the landmark events of Mira Road that witnessed more than 45 participating companies/ recruiters and more than 1000 candidates with 227 being shortlisted and 245 getting on the spot offer.

Mr. Nawab Malik, while inaugurating the event, appreciated the efforts of AMP for doing a commendable job for social welfare, and held the event as the need of the hour. Father Benny T. Parish priest, St. Thomas Church expressed his pleasure in hosting the event and his delight at the selfless service of a Muslim Organization working for the benefit of all, irrespective of caste, creed or religion. Speaking about the event, Mr. Razak Shaikh, AMP's event coordinator, held the event as a unique opportunity to extend the benefit to a large number of candidates to connect them with their livelihood. Ms. Rubina Firoz from Ishteraq shared her pleasure at the coordination of the event. Lauding the well-organized and well-coordinated efforts of AMP, Mr. Farrok Gheewala, CMD., M/s F. Gheewala Resource Consultants extended his support, and pleasure for partnering with AMP and for more of such events in future as well. In its humble endeavour to serve the needs of the deserving youth of the community, AMP plans to conduct more of these Job Fairs and similar events on a regular basis, and aspires to replicate this model on a Pan-India scale to provide a fair platform to the youth of our community to demonstrate their skills and prove their potential.





# AMP President invited as Chief Guest

at Azam Scholarship Distribution Function  
& Felicitation Program of D. Ed Colleges

*at Pune and Mumbai*



A Felicitation Programme and Azam Scholarships Awarding Ceremony for Scholarship Distribution, was organized at Pune by Haji Gulam Mohammed Azam Education Trust, Pune, on 10th Sept, 2015. The event was held at Dr. A.R. Shaikh Assembly Hall, Azam Campus, at Pune to felicitate the meritorious students of various schools and colleges in the district. Mr. Aamir Edresy, President of Association of Muslim Professionals (AMP) received a special invitation to grace the occasion as the Chief Guest at the event, to felicitate the SSC meritorious students from all Urdu Medium Schools and HSC students from minority managed Junior Colleges of Pune District. The event was attended by many distinguished dignitaries from Pune, and other parts of the country, including Dr. Muhammad Shahid Peerbhoy, MD, MRCP (UK), CCST (London), who was the Guest of Honor at the event; Mr. Munawwar Peerbhoy, the Chairman of Haji Gulam Mohammed Azam Education Trust, and Mr. Zubair R. Shaikh, the Hon. Secretary of the Trust, besides others.

Mr. Aamir Edresy was also invited at the Felicitation Program organized by the Association of all D. Ed. colleges in Mumbai, to felicitate the graduating students of the colleges, in a glittering ceremony having an august gathering of distinguished dignitaries. The event was organized at the Shirodkar Hall at Parel in Mumbai on 17th Oct, 2015, where various colleges of Mumbai, both Muslim and non-Muslim and of different mediums were part of the felicitation function. Speaking at the events, Mr. Aamir Edresy lauded the efforts of the meritorious students for their outstanding performance, and wished the successful candidates for a bright and prosperous future ahead.







# AMP Chapter Meetings

at Delhi, Solapur, Latur, Manor, Bijapur, Aurangabad and Bangalore



With a focus on expanding its reach to almost 200 cities of India in the coming years under its Expansion Drive, Association of Muslim Professionals (AMP) organized a number of Professionals Meet recently with atleast one Core Team Member from AMP Team being a part of these Expansions Meet in every city. AMP Chapter Meetings were also held in some major cities in the country with an objective to plan future targets to be met in the coming years, conduct SDLs, strategies to broaden the membership base and strengthening AMP Teams in Delhi, Solapur, Latur, Bijapur, Bangalore and Aurangabad, besides others. The AMP Chapter Meeting at Delhi was conducted on 19th Sept 2015 and was coordinated by Mr. Waseem Khan, while the meeting at Latur was held on 21st Oct 2015 at Taake Nagar, Latur which was coordinated by Mr. Irfan Karbhari, Mr. Bakhtiyar Hashmi and Mr. Sohail Pathan. The last week of Sept 2015 was buzzing with AMP Meetings at Aurangabad, Solapur and Bijapur, where the Aurangabad meeting was coordinated by Mr. Mujtaba Umair, while the Bijapur meeting was coordinated by Mr. Nayeem Inamdard and Mr. Yaseer Jahagirdar. These meetings primarily focused on team building and group discussions on future activities to be taken up by these AMP Chapters. This quarter also witnessed the successful establishment of the AMP Raipur Chapter and AMP Hubli Chapter, the Chapter introduction meeting of which were held at Raipur, Chhattisgarh and Hubli, Karnataka respectively. While the meetings at Delhi, Solapur and Latur were presided over by AMP President Mr. Aamir Edresy; the AMP introduction meeting at Raipur was presided over by Mr. Aatif Naseem, Member of AMP Governing Council. The meetings were attended by a large number of AMP members from these cities and surrounding areas. The various topics covered were AMP Vision & Mission, AMP Policies, AMP Projects, Team Building, AMP Activities in different cities, implementation of SDL Projects and the strategies to implement AMP projects in these cities. An important AMP Leadership Meeting was held at Manor on 3rd - 4th Oct 2015, with selected AMP Members from different cities, which was presided over by AMP President Mr. Aamir Edresy and AMP Gen. Secretary Mr. Najeeb Syed. The key areas focused on during this meeting were the AMP Flagship Projects, monitoring the growth of AMP, measures to effectively run a AMP Chapter, fund-raising activities, effective use of social media for networking and team building, membership management, training and capacity building to promote youth leadership, and detailed discussions on AMP Chapter targets, training modules and AMP Annual Plan. An AMP meeting was also conducted at Bangalore, on 4th Oct 2015, which was coordinated by Mr. Sheikh Akhter and Mr. Md. Aaqil, with the key targets of AMP introduction to the new members, planning for the implementation of SDL Series at Bangalore, targeted Schools/colleges for conducting SDLs, discussion on the need for Train the Trainer sessions and other AMP Projects, planning out the future course of action and task allocation to members, encouraging voluntary ownership and successful project coordination. With strengthened teams in the major cities of the country, and with a better task coordination, AMP endeavours to extend its activities further, to benefit the community at large, and in a better manner Insha'Allah.



## AMP Hubli Chapter and AMP Raipur Chapter Established!!



With the establishment of two new AMP Chapters, the AMP Hubli Chapter (Karnataka) and AMP Raipur Chapter (Chhattisgarh), AMP achieved yet another milestone this quarter Alhamdulillah!

The introduction meeting of AMP Raipur Chapter was held on 29th Sept, 2015, at Raipur, Chhattisgarh, which was presided over by Mr. Aatif Naseem, Member of AMP Governing Council. The meeting was coordinated by Mr. Syed Tahsin Ali and Mr. Mohammad Javed Qureshi and attended by members of the new Chapter from Raipur, Chhattisgarh. The meeting of the AMP Hubli Chapter was successfully conducted on 3rd Oct 2015 and attended by the new Chapter Team including Mr. Ali Ladkhan, Mr. Asif Kaladgi and Mr. Asif Danwad from Hubli, Karnataka. The major highlights of the meetings were – an orientation and introduction of AMP to the newly added members of the Chapters, discussion on AMP Policies, Vision and Mission of AMP, strategies for team building, conduction of SDLs on a regular basis by the Chapters and discussion on the different AMP Projects. The formation of these new AMP Chapters is seen as a promising addition to the AMP Family for extending its reach and making a mark in community upliftment!





# AMP Career Charts Exhibition

and Career Counseling Program Organized by AMP

In yet another quarter buzzing with activities, Association of Muslim Professionals (AMP) organized various Career- Counseling and Guidance Programs and Career Chart Exhibitions across various locations, in an attempt to help guide students in choosing relevant careers, for having a competitive edge in facing cut-throat competitions in various streams. Various AMP Chapters across the country conducted the program, including the AMP Career Charts Exhibition & Counseling Program organized at Iqra High School, Bopodi, Pune, and the AMP Career Charts Exhibition at Anjuman Faizul Islam, Urdu High School, Ganesh Peth, Pune, on 3rd October 2015. The event at Iqra High School was coordinated by Mr. Mohammad Sabir, Mr. Imran Khan, Mr. Azhar Mangure, Mr. Junaid Patel, Mr. Saboor Quadri, Mr. Shayan Hussaini and Mr. Imran Khan as Counselors to guide the students at the event; while the AMP Career Charts Exhibition at Anjuman Faizul Islam, Urdu High School, Ganesh Peth, Pune was coordinated by Mr. Zuber Ahmed and Mr. Muzammil Choudhary. The major Highlights of the events were – AMP Career Chart Exhibition, displaying the various career options available to students in various streams; Career Counseling, and Professional Career Guidance to help the students in deciding relevant and need-based career options. The events witnessed an overwhelming attendance and response from the students, and helped in boosting their confidence. AMP plans to conduct more of such events in various parts of the country in coming months Insha'Allah.



## AMP in MEDIA



## 245 picked up by top companies at Muslim job fair in Mira Road

dina correspondent @dina

At least 1,000 job seekers got the opportunity to meet 45 well-known companies or employers at a mega-job fair held in a Church by a Muslim organisation in Mira Road on Saturday.

The fair was successful in providing on-the-spot job offers to 245 aspirants. Organised by Association of Muslim Professionals (AMP) in association with NGO Ishteraq at St Thomas Church, the event was a rare example of communal harmony witnessed by the people of Mira Road.

AMP president Aamir Edresy said that it was different from other job fairs. This job fair was aimed at attracting aspirants from all communities and the organisers had a holistic approach towards it. An aptitude test was conducted for all aspirants by experts before selecting the candidates and offering them jobs.

Edresy informed that special training on interview techniques was given to the aspirants in addition to lectures on personality development. He added that F Gheewala, who is known for his abilities as a recruiter and guide for aspirants, was an event partner. NCP spokesperson Nawab Malik and Father Benny T. parish priest of St Thomas church, inaugurated the fair.



Muslim youths interact with corporate executives in Mira Road

### The firms

Bajaj Capital, HDFC, ICICI, Wellness companies such as Richfeel, Trident Hotel, ITES, TCS First Source participated in the mega job fair and offered opportunities for the aspirants.

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Father Benny said that it was a great occasion to witness this work by AMP for aspirants from all the communities. AMP event coordinator Razak Shaikh said that the event would provide the AMP with energy to continue with welfare activities for the society at large.

Rubina Firoz from Ishteraq said that her organisation was happy to participate in this event and would continue to cooperate with AMP for such initiatives.





# SKILL DEVELOPMENT LECTURE (SDL) SERIES

Aug - Oct 2015

## Hum Banenge Hind ki Nayi Pehchaan

Marking a splendid start of yet another nation-wide campaign on "Careers in Nation Building", dedicated to APJ Abdul Kalam's Vision of Strong India, that commenced on this Independence Day, Aug 2015, more than 200 lectures were conducted by AMP Chapters across the country on the theme "**Hum Banenge Hind ki Nayi Pehchaan.**" We share here a glimpse of the SDLs conducted during Aug-Oct 2015. AMP congratulates all its members for their priceless support and contributions!



Sr. No.	SCHOOLS WHERE SDLs WERE CONDUCTED	CITY	STATE	SPEAKERS (AMP Members who conducted the SDLs)
1	Anjuman Faizul Islam	Pune	Maharashtra	Mr. Arshad Sayed
2	Maulana Azad	Pune	Maharashtra	Mr. Shaikat Tarade
3	Iqra School	Pune	Maharashtra	Mr. Shayan Husaini
4	Al Mannar	Pune	Maharashtra	Mr. Akbar Mulani
5	Yasin Inamdar	Pune	Maharashtra	Mr. Shabbir Shaikh
6	S. Senani Hakim Ajmal	Pune	Maharashtra	Mr. Akramul Khan
7	Lady Taherunnisa	Pune	Maharashtra	Mr. Rameez Shaikh
8	Rahemani	Pune	Maharashtra	Mr. Tanveer Mujawar
9	Anglo Girls	Pune	Maharashtra	Ms. Aayesha Sayed
10	Mohd Ali Johar	Pune	Maharashtra	Mr. Munir Aalam
11	Miliya High School	Beed	Maharashtra	Mr. Zeeshan Shaikh
12	Azad Hind Urdu School	Beed	Maharashtra	Mr. Zeeshan Shaikh
13	Motiwalla High School	Aurangabad	Maharashtra	Mr. Mushahed Nadeem
14	Anjuman Ishat Islam	Jalna	Maharashtra	Mr. Nadeem Hamdole
15	Unique English School	Amrawati	Maharashtra	Mr. Nashit Sayed
16	National Urdu School	Nashik	Maharashtra	Mr. Rahil Shaikh & Mr. Mujeeb Pirzade
17	Smart Vocational Training Institute	Bangalore	Karnataka	Mr. Mohammed Yunus
18	Shareef Academy High School	Bangalore	Karnataka	Mr. Syed Nashit & Mr. Imtiyaz Khan
19	Little Angel High School	Raichur	Karnataka	Mr. Mohammed Ghouse
20	Sufiya High School	Raichur	Karnataka	Mr. Mohammed Yunus
21	Little Gems	Raichur	Karnataka	Mr. Mohammed Ghouse
22	Iqra High School	Bijapur	Karnataka	Mr. Naveed Nagthan & Mr. Abdul Samd
23	Islamiya School, Motavarchha	Surat	Gujarat	Mr. Jabir Choksi
24	MES Girls School	Baroda	Gujarat	Ms. Nida Farooqui
25	MES Boys School	Baroda	Gujarat	Mr. Nafees Kasimi
26	Faiz English School	Baroda	Gujarat	Mr. Anish Pathan
27	Crescent English	Baroda	Gujarat	Mr. Nayyar Hashmi & Mr. Zeeshan Shaikh
28	Roshan Memorial	Baroda	Gujarat	Mr. Rizwan Sayed
29	F.D. High School	Ahmedabad	Gujarat	Mr. Faizan Sarwar
30	Millat Academy	Dhanbad	Jharkhand	Mr. Nayeemuddin
31	Crescent High School	Barwani	Madhya Pradesh	Mr. Zuber Shaikh
32	Iqra High School	Barwani	Madhya Pradesh	Mr. Zuber Shaikh
33	Kulliyat Us Salehat	Araria	Bihar	Mr. Farhan Ahmed
34	Anjuman I Islam Saif Tyabji Girls High School	Mumbai	Maharashtra	Ms. Muzna Memon
35	Anjuman-E-Islam Allana English High School	Mumbai	Maharashtra	Mr. Habib Siddiqui
36	Navi Mumbai Municipal Urdu School	New Mumbai	Maharashtra	Ms. Sharmin Shaikh
37	Salauddin Ayubi Memorial English High School	Thane	Maharashtra	Mr. Mohd Aqib Ansari
38	Holy Prophet	Thane	Maharashtra	Mr. Kaifee Zairuddin



**IQRA HIGH SCHOOL,**  
Barwani, Madhya Pradesh



**Anjuman Ishat Islam  
Urdu School**  
Jalna, Maharashtra



**F.D. High School,**  
Ahmedabad, Gujarat



**Madarsa Islamiya High  
School, Motavarchha**  
Surat, Gujarat



# Sir Syed Day

Celebrated by AMU Alumni  
of AMP across the globe!

*“Jo abr yahan se uthega,  
wo saare jahaan par barsega ...”*

‘Sir Syed Day’, marking the 198th birth anniversary of Sir Syed Ahmad Khan, a distinguished educationist, reformer and the Founder of Aligarh Muslim University (AMU), was celebrated with great fervour by the illustrious AMU alumni across the world, on 17th Oct, 2015. The AMU Tarana echoed loud, and basking in the treasured AMU tradition, the celebrations witnessed the conduction of various educational and cultural programmes, followed by the traditional Sir Syed Day Dinner. Mr. Aamir Edresy, President of Association of Muslim professionals (AMP), recalling the remarkable contributions of Sir Syed to the Muslim community and to the country, stated that more than the celebrations, this day is a day to reflect on our potential capabilities to benefit our community and the whole society, in our individual capacities, to truly value the essence of this occasion.

Mr. Mohammad Shahanshah Ansari, Member of AMP Governing Council and Head of AMP Administration, who is also a distinguished AMU alumnus, convened the Sir Syed Day event organized by AMUAA-GC at Chicago, USA. Speaking at the event, Mr. Ansari said that the vision and educational philosophy of Sir Syed and his sense of acceptance, tolerance, unity, rationality and scientific temper, is a shining example to the present day youth to embark on the journey of success, with an inclusive approach, to preserve the glorious past and to enlighten the future of the community. Mr. Ajmal Sufiyan, President of AMUAA-GC, while delivering his key note address at the event, held Sir Syed as a great educationist, modernizer, reformist and visionary, who had established a cross cultural atmosphere where students across states, nations not limited with geographical boundaries, race, religion, caste; could think, act or respond differently. People were lifted out of their slumber, and his imprint survives to this day as he is honored by professionals around the world who got the opportunity to enter their professions through the doors of AMU. Indeed, the teachings of Sir Syed inspire us to find joy in challenging ourselves and stretching the limits of our dreams and possibilities.



## ANNOUNCEMENT AMP Scholarship Fund 2015

With the noble intention of helping our needy Muslim brethren, Association of Muslim Professionals (AMP) initiated its “AMP Scholarship Fund” two years back, to award scholarships to meritorious and genuinely needy Muslim students in order to support them with monetary assistance in their pursuit of Higher and Technical Education. AMP, with a firm belief that Education has the power to salvage the community from the throes of ignorance and widespread adversity and usher in a new era of prosperity, holds that there needs to be special focus on Higher Education so that talented and able individuals from the community can gain the right skills and qualifications required to grab contemporary opportunities and walk at pace with the fast-evolving world. AMP has now successfully moved on to its 3rd year of this project Alhamdulillah!

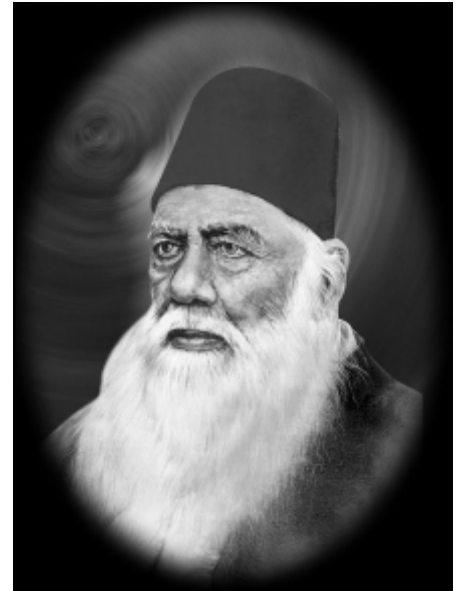
The AMP Scholarship Fund is open for students belonging to economically poor families for pursuing higher professional education (Medicine/ Engineering/ Architecture/ Chartered Accountancy) in a government or private college/ university recognized by UGC/ AICTE. It would also cover technical and vocational courses in Industrial Training Institutes/ Industrial Training Centers affiliated with the National Council for Vocational Training (NCVT) of classes at Graduation level. With a disbursement amount of Rs. 10,000 per annum for Education, AMP endeavours to reach out to beneficiaries through transparent but stringent screening criteria to benefit the genuinely needy and deserving candidates. A candidate to be eligible to apply for this scholarship should therefore be meritorious and Class 12th/ equivalent passed from any board, and be interested to pursue higher education in the Professional disciplines of Medicine, Engineering, Architecture, Chartered Accountancy, Company Secretaryship, Diploma Course in any field or other equivalent courses, Vocational Courses through Government recognized Colleges/Institutes or courses in Industrial Training Institutes (ITI). The Scholarship covers only benefits to Candidates who deserve to receive Zakat under Sharia guidelines; and the disbursal of the money will be done only through cheques, given directly to the respective college. The detailed eligibility criteria and application process for the AMP Scholarship is available at the AMP website ([www.ampindia.org](http://www.ampindia.org)). AMP, with the coordination and support of its members, endeavours to reach out to such deserving hidden gems in the community, who can be supported and encouraged through this humble effort to make a positive change in their life and to the community; with a sincere hope to see the beneficiaries of today become the benefactors of tomorrow Insha'Allah.

# SPECIAL FEATURE

## SIR SYED DAY - 2015

Late 18th century has witnessed an unprecedented degeneration of the Muslim society in India. The failed mutiny of 1857 shattered the souls and minds of the common and elite Muslims alike. Muslims at the time were educationally most backward, economically shattered and politically defeated. In this gloomy scenario Sir Syed Ahmed Khan decided to take upon himself the challenge of educating Muslims. Sir Syed decided to push ahead his community towards overall development by arming them with most modern scientific education at that time.

Sir Syed was a distinguished son of India who transformed social and intellectual India after the failure of First War of Independence (1857). He had a multifaceted personality. He was a social reformer, an educationist, a political ideologue, a journalist and writer, historian, archaeologist and above all a humanist. He crusaded against orthodoxy and religious dogma. He took upon himself to cement the relations between Hindus and Muslims. By writing "Asbab-e-Baghawat-e-Hind" at a time when it was unimaginable to utter a single word against the British, he proved his nationalistic approach towards problems and controversies prevailing at that time. He was the product of political and social changes resulted from the collapse of 1857 mutiny. Muslims were shattered at that time in every respect. He appeared on that backdrop and decided to make constructive contribution in regenerating and rejuvenating suppressed Muslims instead of making complaints and weeping.



Sir Syed believed that only Western education could empower them with the ability to survive with dignity. Hence, he took up the task of setting an institution for the purpose. M.A.O. College was established in 1877 at Aligarh which later on became renowned Aligarh Muslim University. Sir Syed categorically stated the purpose behind the establishment of the MAO College. In a speech, he said that, "I shall feel sorry if anybody thinks that this college has been established so as to show discrimination between Hindus and Muslims. The main reason behind the establishment of this institution was the wretched dependence of the Muslims, which had been debasing their position day after day. Their religious fanaticism did not let them avail the educational facilities provided by the government schools and colleges. It was, therefore, deemed necessary to make some special arrangement for their education." According to Sir Syed "Suppose, for example, there are two brothers, one of whom is quite hale and hearty but the other is diseased. Thus it is the duty of all the brothers to take care of, their ailing brother. This was the very idea that goaded me to establish the Mohammedan Anglo-Oriental College. But I am pleased to say that both the brothers get the same education in this College."

No doubt, Sir Syed had achieved an impossible goal in a short span of time. But beside education, Sir Syed's ideas and ideals in some other fields also hold significant position. Often people overlook other aspects of his giant personality. He undertook rational social reforms also. He was die-hard secularist not only in letters but also in spirit. He was a nationalist who refused to surrender before British superiority. He appears to have been inspired by Tipu Sultan. But at the same time he had imbibed intellect of Raja Ram Mohan Roy who dedicated his life for enhancing education among Hindus and also for eradication of evil customs prevailing in the society. Whole personality of Sir Syed reminds us combination of Tipu, Raja Ram Mohan Roy and Syed Ahmad Shaheed.

Sir Syed's contribution towards development of secularism is too large to be recounted here. He worked hard to bring Muslims and Christians closer. For this purpose, he wrote commentaries on the Bible. He supported large hearted tolerance between Hindus and Muslims and tried to bridge the gulf between them. It is an open secret that till last he tried to bring unity between Hindus and Muslims whom he described as "the two eyes of a beautiful bride". Sir Syed was of the view that both Hindus and Muslims should jointly embark upon nation building. He said in a speech that, "we may call ourselves Hindus or Muslims here in India but in foreign countries we are all known as Indian natives. This is why the insult of a Hindu is an insult of the Muslims and the humiliation of a Muslim is a matter of shame for the Hindus." Sir Syed's efforts for Hindu and Muslim friendship were noticed when Alexander Shakespeare, District Magistrate of Bijnor was approached by the Hindu Chowdharies that when you leave Bijnor, kindly handover the charge of the district to us. He said, I have already handed over it to Mohammed Rahmat Khan and Syed Ahmad Khan. The Hindu Zamindars said that we have full confidence on Rahmat Khan and Syed Ahmad.

When he established M.A.O. College, he kept its doors open for each and every community. He never discriminated on the grounds of religion while appointing the faculties and staff. Thus, he appointed Theodore Beck as Principal of the College despite the fact that he was a Christian. His secularism was perfect, practical and in motion. In fact today's politicians should learn a lesson from him in this regard.

When Colvin, Governor of his province visited MAO College he was delighted to know that Hindu scholars were equally received by the Mussalmans. Same feeling was expressed by Hindus and Sikhs when Sir Syed visited Punjab.

Another aspect of Sir Syed's personality should be taken into account. Although democracy at that time of the history was near about unknown but Sir Syed was not only a democrat but also introduced democratic institutions in his College. He established a Student's Union in the College and perhaps it was the first ever Student's Union in India. At the time of the establishment it was called Siddon's Union Club but later on Sir Syed himself wished to change its name to Siddon's Debating Club as its rules and regulations were all based upon the Oxford Debating Club. Students' representatives were duly elected by students except that of first year students for Debating Club. In a routine way, highly intellectual debates on issues concerning Muslims were held there. Prizes were introduced for best speakers. Sir Syed himself was its patron.

He was the first to use the term "Scientific temper" which later on became a pillar of our Constitution. He started Scientific Society in Ghazipur to popularize Western knowledge and to inculcate Scientific and rational temper among the people of the east. Subsequently the Society was transferred from Ghazipur to Aligarh as Sir Syed came to Aligarh. In addition to Oriental Studies, Sir Syed gave more importance to science-oriented education.

He was a large hearted person and his religious views were down to earth rational. He wrote a lengthy commentary on the Holy Quran which is considered as a rational approach to understand and interpret Quran. Although orthodox people objected to certain portions yet he did not succumb to the pressure. At the same time, he was careful not to hurt feelings of others. The syllabus of theology in M.A.O. College did not reflect Sir Syed's views. He never forced anyone to accept what he believed.

If we take up his political views, they are as rational and practical as his other views. He did not support Indian National Congress but that was not due to any ill-feeling or grudge. Education was his primary concern and he did not want to destabilize it by any action. Hence, he advised, students not to take part in politics and concentrate only on education. Even Pt. Jawahar Lal Nehru has pointed out that, "He was deeply committed to the national cause, though education was his first priority and love as far as the Muslims were concerned." Sir Syed was aware that Muslims can be a party in nation building only if they get quality education at par with Hindus.



## SIR SYED DAY - 2015

The students of MAO College, which was established by Sir Syed Ahmad Khan, took active part in the freedom struggle and made tremendous sacrifices in order to liberate the nation from foreign rule. A number of them occupied important offices which included the President-ship, Governorship, Chief minister-ship, and minister-ship of the Indian Union and the States. Thus, they did a lot to build the country in the post Independence period. Some of them opted for Pakistan and left the country after partition and occupied many important posts in Pakistan also. A few leading names are: Maulana Mohd. Ali, Maulana Shaukat Ali, Khan Abdul Ghaffar Khan, Dr. Zakir Hussain, Rafi Ahmad Kidwai, Hasrat Mohani, Abdul Majeed Khwaja, Zafar Ali Khan, Dr. Saifuddin Kitchlew, Hafiz Mohd. Ibrahim, Raja Mahendra Pratap Singh, Sheikh Mohd. Abdullah, Nisar Ahmad Sherwani, Abdul Qayyum Ansari, Qazi Adeel Abbasi, Abdul Aziz Ansari, Thakur Malkhan Singh, Mirza Afzal Beig, etc.

He was a champion of Women's rights. He pointed out evils of widowhood. He said, "the women is in need of gentle treatment at the hands of man because of her delicate nature and especially the widow deserves all human sympathies. At that time widow-remarriage was a taboo in Indian Society. He appealed to the Muslims "to encourage Widow-remarriage and earn the blessings both in this world and the next for their virtuous deeds." He pleaded for organized charity to fight the cause of widows. Often it is claimed that he was against female education but the reality is otherwise. He was fully in favor of educating girls. But he was of the opinion that first the task of educating boys should be taken on priority basis.

A very notable feature of Sir Syed's personality was that he was in government service but did not deter in pointing out flaws in government policies. He wrote "Asbab-e-bagawat-e-Hind" (Causes of Indian Revolt) to highlight that the policies of the British Government were responsible for the mutiny. Sir Syed's fearlessness and straight forwardness is an example for our present bureaucracy which toe the line of the government on most occasions. As has been earlier pointed out that Sir Syed had a multifaceted personality but basically he was an educationist and social reformer. It will be appropriate to evaluate his educational and social aspect in detail. For taking a glimpse of Sir Syed's educational philosophy, let me to quote him on College boarders. He wrote a short pamphlet entitled, "College life or New Life" for the resident students. Therein he says, "First and foremost of all, mutual love and amicable conduct towards one and another is the fountainhead of all bliss and blessings here. All the students, lying as they are on the lap of this Alma Mater, no matter whether they hail from Hindustan or the Punjab, East or West or South, are your brothers first and last. If you did not treat and love them like brothers it would mean that you infringed the first principle of being the sons of one and the same "wise mother." This was the concept of Sir Syed in respect of brotherhood on the campus and certainly it was the base of what today we call "Aligarianship".

His dream of the residential life may be understood from what he himself said about it. He said, "Just as the students of Oxford and Cambridge have to visit the church and attend the prayers regularly, so also the residents of this institution would be duty bound to visit the mosques and offer prayers. The students would be provided with black half-sleeved gowns and red Turkish cap. They would not be allowed to enter the institution without these gowns and caps. Students would be strictly forbidden against uttering bad or abusive words." Sir Syed also paid attention to such minor points which are often ignored even today. He was against flattery on which he said that, "of all the ailments of heart, the most injurious is fondness for flattery." He was against sitting or wandering without any purpose. He said, "Idleness is a word whose meaning are not rightly comprehended by people. The real idleness is the idleness of heart and mind."

He gave importance to right attitudes. He advised students that, "a man should be upright, truthful and righteous even in dealing with his enemy." He pointed out that for the development, one should earmark his own weaknesses. In this connection, he said that, "there are two indications of a nation's will to progress: first, they should realize that they have fallen deep into ignominy and backwardness and second, that they should struggle to make up leeway."

Sir Syed opined that the education is the vehicle for political rights also. In a speech, he said that, "if the government has not conceded some of our rights to us as yet, for which we may have grudge, higher education is such a thing that it will secure those rights for us."

Sir Syed's education philosophy was to develop a person in all respect

for the good of the society, as well as nation. On the purpose of the education he said that, "by acquiring knowledge he may become more refined in his manners, may earn his livelihood in a better way and may give his thought to life hereafter." He was in favor of following a healthy life style and giving up conventional, unhygienic, unscientific traditions and customs. He emphasized clean clothing, nutritious food and a hygienic mannerism. Common men of his times had a general apathy towards western culture and lifestyle. Sir Syed always condemned this unjustified attitude of his peer group. He said, "If we hate the culture and lifestyle of different societies, however pristine they may be because of sheer prejudice or because of age old traditions, then what vision and hope do we have for our own development and progress?"

Sir Syed Ahmad Khan was in strong denial of superstitions particularly miracles, magic and mystic. He has said, "There is nothing more damaging than a belief on superstitions like miracles and magic for the human mind and for the very existence of humanity." He denied any contradiction between religion and science. He said, "Religion is the word of God and our surroundings are the work of God. And explanation of the existence of work of God is science. No contradiction is possible between science and religion as word of God cannot be opposition of work of God. If a contradiction between religion and science exists in a mind then it indicates cloudy thinking and therefore one should try to clear his thinking." He was a strong supporter of religious understanding. He always emphasized the importance of religious tolerance. In this regard he has said, "In reality denouncing religious heads of other sects is actually denouncing the religious heads of one's own religion." With all the above mentioned intentions and opinions, he embarked upon to change society through education and established MAO College which later on became renowned Aligarh Muslim University. The AMU Alumni are spread over almost all parts of the world and at several places branches of the Old Boys' Associations do exist. The products of Aligarh Muslim University have established about 500 educational institutions in different parts of the world. The data indicates the powerful impact of the Aligarh Movement throughout the subcontinent and far beyond. In Pakistan the AMU Old Boys' Association has established the 'Sir Syed University of Engineering and Technology' at Karachi. It was due to the earnest and untiring efforts of the AMU Alumni Association of London that a building in central London where the late great Sir Syed Ahmad Khan had once stayed during his visit to England between 1869-70 had been named after the noble soul by the British Heritage Society at 21 Mc Leans Square, St. Pancras in West London on November 14, 1997 at a function attended by diplomats of India, Pakistan, and Bangladesh. Sir Syed was a staunch Muslim. He did for the Muslims what Raja Ram Mohan Roy did for the Hindus. He wanted Muslims to adopt western education and scientific outlook. But he was never ready to compromise with the high ideals and values of Islam. Thus, he elaborated his educational philosophy in the following words, "Philosophy will be in our right hand and natural science in our left. And the crown of, 'There is no God but Allah' will adorn our head". The Aligarh Muslim University is paying homage to Sir Syed Ahmad Khan by retaining his scheme of education even today.

We must strive hard to achieve goal set by Sir Syed to handover glorious past to our children.

*Article First Published (including References and Notes used by Author) at: TwoCircles.net – Oct, 2013*

*Reference: [http://twocircles.net/2013oct16/sir\\_syed\\_ahmad\\_khan\\_global\\_phenomenon.html#.Viojf866bIU](http://twocircles.net/2013oct16/sir_syed_ahmad_khan_global_phenomenon.html#.Viojf866bIU)*



**AMU founder Sir Syed Ahmad Khan was born on 17<sup>th</sup> October 1817, which is celebrated at AMU and by its illustrious alumni across the world as 'Sir Syed Day'. Senior AMU faculty Dr. Shakeel Samdani remembers the reformer and his contributions.....**

# SHINING STARS OF THE QUARTER

As part of AMP's initiative of continuously motivating its members, the GC Team felicitates the most dedicated member for the period with the **"Shining Star of the Quarter"** Award!!

This quarter we are glad to felicitate **Mr. Anish Ahmad Pathan** (Vadodra, Gujarat), **Mr. Akbar Mulani** (Pune, Maharashtra) and **Mr. Salim Mulla** (Mumbai, Maharashtra) for their contribution towards AMP's activities!!



**Mr. Anish Ahmad Pathan**  
Vadodra, Gujarat

*BE Mechanical, Technical Assistant in ONGC Gujarat.*

*A dedicated AMPian actively associated with AMP since the past 5 years! Over the years of association with the organization, his significant contributions have proved him to be a key player in achieving the organizational goals. He had a pivotal role in the formation of AMP Vadodra Chapter and his experience and amicable guidance has helped the new members to contribute actively, efficiently and effectively in various AMP activities in Vadodra, Gujarat. With his unmatched dedication to the cause, AMP is sure to have more participation of Gujarat members in such activities. May Allah reward him for his dedication and may he continue to serve as a torch bearer, taking AMP to new heights!*



**Mr. Akbar Mulani**  
Pune, Maharashtra

*Mechanical engineer; Project Chief, Project Lifecycle Management Department of Fiat Chrysler Automobiles, Pune*

*A brilliant AMP member associated with AMP since the past few months, and in a short span of his association with AMP, he has hugely contributed in various AMP activities. Has been actively conducting SDLs in schools on weekends, while contributing to other AMP activities during the weekdays! His dedication for supporting AMP and its vision has been second to none, and so has been his contribution! With a staunch resolution to serve the community, he for sure is a guiding light to the members of AMP and a source of inspiration for all! May Allah reward him manifold for his selfless contributions!*



**Mr. Salim Mulla**  
Mumbai, Maharashtra

*P G in HR from welingkar Institute of Management, Mumbai. Manager, Training & Placement - Employability Skill Development Programme, Mumbai*

*An astute professional with over eight years of experience into Training & HR. Joined AMP an year back with an objective to serve the community by utilizing his professional and personal experience and connects, to benefit job seekers. With a firm belief that "every person is responsible to give the best out of him to their community," in his one year of association with AMP, he has successfully coordinated two Mega Job Fairs which were held at Mira Road, and was also part of "Hum Banenge Hind Ki Nayi Pahchaan" lecture team, which received an overwhelming response! May Allah reward him for his tireless endeavour and inculcate such spirit in all AMPians! Many Congratulations!!*

**"NEVER DOUBT THAT A SMALL GROUP OF THOUGHTFUL,  
COMMITTED PEOPLE CAN CHANGE THE WORLD.  
INDEED, IT IS THE ONLY THING THAT EVER HAS!"**





# Volunteer with us.

In this era of knowledge and growth, Muslims, the fastest growing segment of populace around the world, cannot afford to lack behind. Sadly, though this is true, we are all witness to the fact that in India, being Muslim most of the times invites to be looked upon as uneducated, economically backward, shy, mute to discrimination and problems and politically irresponsible.

AMP seeks to overcome these and many more challenges within the Muslim Community. It provides a single platform for Muslims all over the country/world to come together to converse, debate and draw plans based on their experience, intellect and knowledge with the aim to facilitate Muslim Empowerment in all possible fields.

AMP strongly believes that the commitment of their members and supporters are the most critical in achieving the Vision and Mission of the organization.

Anyone who is willing to join AMP as Volunteer should:

- Be interested in serving the community and the society at large
- Be secular and without any prejudice to any community or belief
- Be ready to invest 2-3 hours every week/ fortnight on field/online depending upon the project
- Be willing to serve others without any expectations, monetary or otherwise
- Abide by all the Rules & Regulations and the Code of Conduct laid by AMP

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