

The Aligarh Magazine (English)

1972-73

(Devoted to Twentyfive Years of India's Freedom)
shall be inaugurated and released by

Prof. K. A. Nizami

Pro-Vice-Chancellor

on 2 October 1973, at 5-30 p.m. sharp
in the Arts Faculty Lounge

You are very cordially invited to grace the occasion
with your presence.

NAZIRA MANZOOR

Asstt. Editor

ZAFAR MAHMOOD

Editor



THE ALIGARH MAGAZINE

1972-73

EDITOR
ZAFAR MAHMOOD
ASSTT. EDITOR
NAZIRA MANZOOR

ALIGARH MUSLIM UNIVERSITY
ALIGARH



25
TWENTY FIVE
YEARS
OF

INDIA'S
FREEDOM

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Zafar Mahmood

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Qamruddin Qamar
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Ali Refad Fatehi
S. E. S. Giwa

Cover design

Idea : Najmul Jafri
Drawing : A. Alvi



THE ALIGARH MAGAZINE

1972-73

Focus

TWENTYFIVE YEARS OF INDIA'S FREEDOM

Aligarh Muslim University,
Aligarh.

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CONTRIBUTORS

- | | |
|-------------------------|--|
| Q. H. Farooqi | — Professor and Head, Commerce Department, AMU. |
| S. Nasir Ali | — Professor in Political Science, AMU. |
| Suraj Bhan | — Vice-Chancellor, Punjab University. |
| M. Hashim Kidwai | — Reader in Political Science, AMU. |
| Tahir Mahmood | — Associate Research Professor, Indian Law Institute, New Delhi. |
| S. Irshad Ali | — Reader in Business Administration, AMU. |
| A. A. Siddiqi | — Reader in Economics, AMU. |
| (Mrs.) Sakina A. Hasan | — Reader in English, AMU. |
| A. F. Usmani | — Reader in Political Science, AMU. |
| A. P. Sharma | — Reader in Political Science, AMU. |
| Joseph Minattur | — Associate Res. Professor, Indian Law Institute, New Delhi. |
| (Miss) S. Saxena | — Lecturer in Education, AMU. |
| Ishfaq Abidi | — Lecturer in English, AMU. |
| Arshad Masood | — Lecturer in Law, AMU. |
| S. M. Waseem | — Lecturer in Commerce, AMU. |
| M. M. A. Khan | — Lecturer in English, AMU. |
| (Mrs.) Abida Samiuddin | — Lecturer in Women's College, AMU. |
| (Miss) Mehra Masani | — Embassy of Iraq, New Delhi. |
| Qaisar Mahmood | — Press Secretary, Embassy of Kuwait, New Delhi. |
| M. Saleem Kidwai | — Research Scholar in Pol. Science. |
| M. Mahmood | — Research Scholar in Pol. Science. |
| G. N. Saxena | — Lecturer, Degree College, Tonk. |
| Salman Kureishy | — Student of Mech. Engineering. |
| (Miss) Mah Seema Masood | — M. A. (final), Philosophy. |
| Tariq Qutbuddin | — M. Sc. (Alg.); Std. of LL, B. (Hons.). |
| (Miss) Azra Manzoor | — M. A. (final), Pol. Science. |
| Daud Bin Ozair | — B. Sc. (Engg.) final year. |

Pankaj Sharma	— M. A. (final), Pol. Science.
Altaf	— M. A. (final), English.
Arif H. K. Ghauri	— M. Sc. (final), Physics.
Zafar Mahmood	— Editor, Student of M. A. (final) Political Science.
(Miss.) Nazira Manzoor	— Asstt. Editor, Std. of M. A. (Prev.), English.
George Abraham	— M. A. (Prev.), Pol. Science.
(Miss.) Kamlesh Jasra	— M. A. (Prev.), English.
(Miss.) Rita Pasricha	— M. A. (Prev.) Pol. Science.
Javed Latif	— B. Sc. (Hons.).
Razmi Rizwan	— B. Sc. (Hons.).

The Editor acknowledges with thanks the very kind assistance of wide ranging natures, generously rendered by :

Dr. S. Irshad Ali	— Business Administration Deptt., Commerce Faculty.
Mr. M. H. Razvi	— Librarian, Maulana Azad Library.
Mr. M. Chalapati Rau	— Editor, National Herald (He has kindly permitted the reproduction of Dr. Suraj Bhan's article).
Mr. Jamal Khwaja	— (He made available some precious photographs)
Mr. Qamruddin Qamar	— (He collected quotations for the Magazine).
Mr. M. Mahmood	— a Ph. D. Scholar.
Mr. M. H. Hanifi	— Post-graduate student in Pol. Science.
Miss. Talat Bano Mehdi	— Student of B. A. (Hons.).
Mr. M. A. Ali	— (He processed some of the photographs)

and many other well-wishers.

Further, it is fervently expected from those whose writings could not find a place in this issue, to bear with the Editor his limitations.



The Editor

EDITORIAL

A QUARTER CENTURY IN RETROSPECT

Twenty five years ago a mighty empire bowed down to the indomitable will of an unarmed nation. Out of the long gloom of imperialism, India had awoken to freedom and democracy. The picture which emerges in looking back across the quarter century since independence is a mixed one. There have been achievements. The very fact that we have been able to preserve our democratic way of life through so many trials and tribulations gives us the confidence to face the future with hope and courage. There is no other instance in the history of a large country, riven by differences of language, religion and caste and plagued by dire poverty which has managed to work parliamentary system of government with a fair degree of success.

Yet complacency is not an alternative to self-pity. Confidence in the nation's ability to accept the challenges of the future should enable us to face some questioning about our past and present performance. In spite of considerable over-all progress, economic advance has repeatedly fallen short of specific targets. There has often been a tendency to promise more than what can be achieved; even what is realisable has sometimes been frustrated by barren slogan-mongering.

Although we have made much headway in all directions during the post-independence period, a candid assessment of our achievements presents a dismal picture, considering the needs of the country in the wake of rising population. Our economic growth rate is not compatible with 2.5 per cent growth rate of population. We should check population explosion through a vigorous campaign of family planning or population explosion will check our economic prosperity and social well-being.

In other major areas our over-all progress does not appear to be satisfactory. Economic planning has brought more distress than happiness to the common man. It goes without saying that the common man has all along been a cinderella of economic planning. Nations prosper not only by promoting economic welfares but also by reducing suffering. A system of planning which might ensure at least minimum comforts to all the strata of society and fulfil the aspirations of the common man is yet to be evolved. As a corollary to the large scale unemployment in almost all the sectors of economy, hyper-inflation and shortage of essential goods and commodities are sad reflections on our retrogressive progress. The breakdown of administrative machinery has eventually resulted in all sorts of corruption and fast deteriorating law and order situation.

Education which is the most powerful instrument for socio-economic transformation has, too, failed in its mission. The system of our education is based on authority, worship and passive reciprocity of thoughts. The dead-weight of examinations has almost stopped

the mental growth of the present student generation. Compulsory primary education still remains an unfulfilled dream; literacy in our country is still around 28 per cent and higher education is no serious obligation. We must lay emphasis on functional literacy but make higher education intellectually discriminatory. We should have a need-oriented system of education without which the values of socialism and democracy cannot be preserved.

Peep for a moment across the borders. The sub-continent has undergone a dramatic transformation which offers an opportunity for a new coming together as good neighbours. A South-Asian common market is a realisable goal. Otherwise, too, India should work for peace and stability through regional cooperation and seek normal cordial relations with all the great powers. Our political victory in Bangla Desh has, however, turned out to be an economic defeat. It has eaten up much of our material and man-power resources. It is dangerous to be too good to an individual or to a nation. Nevertheless, on the global scene, our policy of non-alignment has proved to be a fruitful instrument of maintenance of our fair and respectable image in the community of nations.

We are living in an age of change and expanding horizons. New forces are deeply penetrating our minds which are getting confused under the impact of scientific superiority and spiritual decay. It is for the men of letters, the artists, the thinkers, the politicians, the educationists and the plan visionaries to recapture the dignity, destiny and mission of this biggest democracy of the world—India. Indeed the task is difficult and obstacles are manifold. But an inevitable event is what we do not resist and an unattainable objective is what we do not attempt. We shall stumble and fall upon the sword of our own short-sightedness if we do not pledge ourselves to the values of socialism and democracy and preserve our ancient culture and heritage.

It were these ideals that motivated us to dedicate this issue of the Magazine to the twenty-five years of our freedom. It is fervently hoped that the ideas expressed by the learned writers on various aspects of our progress will provide enough food for thought to the readers and will also give us an opportunity for heart-searching.

16-MacDonnel House
Aligarh Muslim University
Aligarh.

