

INDEPENDENCE DAY SPEECH, 2019

Mr. Pro- Vice Chancellor, Registrar, Faculty Members, Support Staff, and my dear students, Ladies and Gentlemen !

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At the very outset, I wish you all a very Happy Independence Day and extend heartiest welcome to you on this day of national reverence as we have gathered here today to celebrate the nation's 73rd Independence day. As we all know that it was it was the joyous moment in the Indian History when India gained Independence on this fateful day in 1947 after nearly 200 years of struggle against the British rule. We celebrate this day every year with great enthusiasm and gaiety and salute our national flag that symbolizes our national pride. The day provides us an opportunity to remember and recall the services rendered by the indomitable heroes of the freedom movement led by the father of Nation Mahatma Gandhi, including Jawahal Lal Nehru, Sardar Patel, Maulana Azad, Subhash Chandra Bose and others and reminds of the valour and sacrifices of our great fore fathers who were the torch bearers of the freedom movement. It was only because of their hard struggle and sustained efforts that we stand today and breathe in an Independent India. Nation can never forget the ultimate sacrifices of Shaheed Bhagat Singh, Ashfaqullah Khan, Khudi Ram Bose, Chandra Shekhar Azad.

Ladies and Gentleman!

It is matter of great satisfaction and pride that our country has made great strides since Independence in the field of education, infrastructure, technology, economic development, space exploration, poverty alleviation, food security, and stabilizing the democratic institutions. The progress we make each year takes us further towards the path that our founding fathers have dreamed of our beloved Nation, India is an epitome of unity in diversity and religious tolerance. The concept of " Sarva Dharma Sambhava" is deeply ingrained in Indian culture and traditions and millions of Indians have been living in peace and amity through the ages. Despite having such diversity in terms of religion and culture, our nation remains by far the largest one to have people living peacefully with each other. The "idea of India" as envisioned by the father of Nation, Mahatma Gandhi for creating an inclusive, multi-religious, multi-culture, multi-linguistic, multi-ethnic society showing unity in diversity and reflecting the will and aspirations of different sections of the society was enshrined in the Indian Constitution making it a "Secular" and democratic state.

Our legendary founder, Sir Syed Ahmad Khan's vision was couched in the idea of secularism and communal harmony and faithfully represented composite culture of India. He was a nationalist and secularist to the core. He, with his acute perceptiveness, realized very early in the day that India's future lay in co-existence between different religions. He also fore-saw that co-existence and progress in such a society will depend on even-handed justice to all sections.

It is gratifying for me to report that our university has figured amid the top ranking educational institutions of our country. AMU has been ranked among top 5 Universities in India by Times Higher Education and India Today and 2nd best

by the US News Education. Let us pledge today to take it to further heights through our hard work, excellent teaching, quality publications, patents, and state of the art infrastructure on the campus for the benefit of our aspiring students.

We are consistently working for the upgradation of our departments of studies and improvement of teaching-learning facilities. Syllabus in departments of Studies has been revised. Last year we have converted 85 classrooms into new smart classrooms. Civil construction work is underway for construction of new College of Nursing and Paramedical Science and Institute of Pharmacy is expected to be operationalized in next academic session Inshallah. We will also commence construction of separate Research Scholars Hostel soon and have also submitted proposals for separate hostels for Sports Persons and Foreign Students. The second block of Begum Azizun Nisa Hall will be operationalized next month.

I exhort the teaching staff to collaborate with eminent academicians globally through Government of India initiative, GIAN, LEAP and the Alig's Academic Enrichment Programme.

We are committed to the cause of Muslim education, especially for girls. We should aim to keep women education at AMU our focal point for University Centenary Celebrations 2020. In this session we have increased seats in various courses in Women's College.

Let us make everybody aware and focus on Water Preservation, Water Harvesting, Importance of Renewable Energy including Solar and Wind Energy. We have received Ist prize in U.P. in field of solar energy. We will be submitting a comprehensive plan for Green Campus to the Ministry of Environment. Various departments have obtained several important projects from various agencies

including NHM, Central Waqf Council, MAEF, etc. We have Reestablished Centre for Promotion of Science for Modernization of Madarsa education and Maulana Azad Education Foundation has sanctioned Rs. 25 Lakhs for the first programme to be held soon.

The Department of Remote Sensing and Community College have also been sanctioned Rs. 5 Crores each by the Central Waqf Council and Ministry of Minority Affairs respectively. We are also playing a role in the Environmental Protection of Taj Mahal as well as Smart City Projects of Aligarh and Agra. NHM has sanctioned almost 62 Crore Rupees for various projects in Department of Cardiac Surgery, Gynaecology and Paediatrics.

The admission process for this academic session has been completed on time Alhamdulillah and academic session has commenced smoothly. I urge students to remain disciplined and focus on their studies and not pay heed to baseless and fabricated rumors.

I also reiterate that I believe in democratic functioning and democratic rights of all sections of the university community but university will not allow Criminal Activities in the Campus and Law and order will be preserved under all circumstances. I also assure the students of a secure, safe and congenial environment in the university to pursue their academic goals.

I wish good luck, health and peace to all of you and your families. Let me thank you for your help and support and for your renewed pledge on this Independence Day for bringing further glory to our very dear India and our university.

