

# LANGAT SINGH COLLEGE

NAAC Grade – 'A'

(A Constituent unit of B.R.A. Bihar University, Muzaffarpur)

## Department Of Persian



### **:- ONLINE CLASS E-MATERIAL :-**

Topic :- Life and works of Maulana Abul Kalam Azad

M. A 2<sup>th</sup> Semester (Persian)

Course No & title :- Per 205 CC – Classical Persian Poetry

By

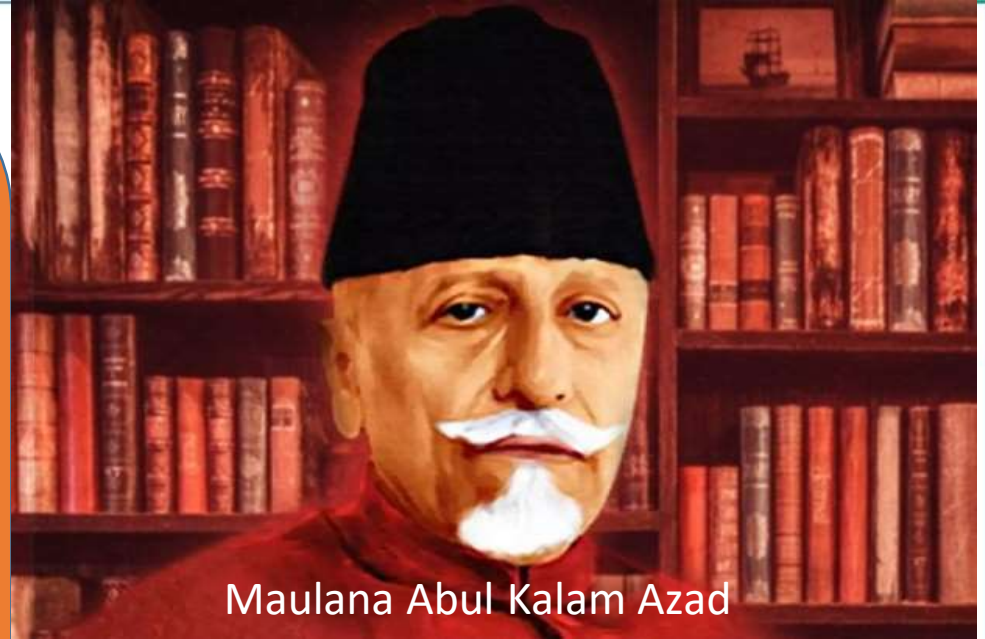
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Maulana Abul Kalam Azad's real name was Abul Kalam Ghulam Muhiyuddin and he was popularly known as Maulana Azad. Maulana Azad was one of the foremost leaders of Indian freedom struggle as well as a renowned scholar and poet. Maulana Azad was well versed in many languages like Hindi, Urdu, Arabic, Persian, English and Bengali.



Maulana Abul Kalam Azad

Azad was a brilliant debater, as indicated by his name, Abul Kalam, which literally means "Lord of dialogue". He adopted the pen name Azad which means Free. Through his own efforts, he learnt English, along with Western philosophy, history and contemporary politics.

Maulana Abul Kalam Azad was born on 11<sup>th</sup> November, 1888 in Mecca. His forefathers came from Herat (a city in Afghanistan) in Mughal emperor Babar's days. Azad was a descendent of a lineage of learned Muslim scholars. His mother was an Arab and his father, Maulana Khairuddin, was a Bengali Muslim of Afghan origins. Khairuddin left India during the Sepoy Mutiny and proceeded to Mecca and settled there. He came back to Calcutta with his family in 1890.

Azad was taught first at home by his father and later by appointed teachers who were eminent in their respective fields. Azad learned Arabic and Persian first and then philosophy, geometry, mathematics and algebra. He also learnt English, world history, and politics through selfstudy.

Azad was trained and educated to become a clergyman, He wrote many works, reinterpreting the holy Quran. His erudition let him to repudiate Taqliq or the tradition of conformity and accept the principle of Tajdid or innovation.



He developed interest in the pan-Islamic doctrines of Jamaluddin Afghani and the Aligarh thought of Sir Syed Ahmed Khan. Imbued with the pan-Islamic spirit, he visited Afghanistan, Iraq, Egypt, Syria and Turkey.

In the tour he met so many revolutionary activists of the Arab world. On his return from abroad; Azad met two leading revolutionaries of Bengal- Aurobinto Ghosh and Sri Shyam Shundar Chakravarty, and joined the revolutionary movement against British rule.

In 1912, Maulana Abul Kalam Azad started a weekly journal in Urdu called Al-Hilal to increase the revolutionary recruits amongst the Muslims. Al-Hilal played an important role in forging Hindu-Muslim unity after the bad blood created between the two communities in the aftermath of Marley-Minto reforms.

Al-Hilal became a revolutionary mouthpiece ventilating extremist views. 'The government regarded Al- Hilal as propagator of secessionist views and banned it in 1914.

Maulana Abul Kalam Azad then started another weekly called Al-Balagh with the same mission of propagating Indian nationalism and revolutionary ideas based on Hindu-Muslim unity. In 1916, the government banned this paper too and expelled Maulana Abul Kalam Azad from

After his release, Azad roused the Muslim community through the Khilafat Movement. The aim of the movement was to reinstate the Khalifa as the head of British captured Turkey. Maulana Abul Kalam Azad supported Non-Cooperation Movement started by Gandhiji and entered Indian National Congress in 1920. He was elected as the president of the special session of the Congress in Delhi (1923).

Maulana Abul Kalam Azad is a man who made India realise the value of education. Azad was the first education minister of independent India and his birthday, 11 November, is celebrated as National Education Day.



Azad established institutions such as the Jamia Millia Islamia in Delhi. In 1992, he was posthumously conferred the Bharat Ratna, India's highest civilian award. He argued that education was a matter of grave importance and the central government should be given this authority in order to ensure a uniform national standard of education across the country.



As first education minister of the country from 1947 to 1958, he advocated for free and compulsory primary education for all children up to the age of 14 as he believed it was the right of all citizens.

Later, he went on to establish the Jamia Millia Islamia in Delhi and contributed to the setting up of the IITs. He was also one of the the brains behind the University Grants Commission, India's higher education regulator, and played a key role in the establishment of other educational institutions.





He died of a stroke on February 22, 1958. For his invaluable contribution to the nation, Maulana Abul Kalam Azad was posthumously awarded India's highest civilian honour, Bharat Ratna in 1992.

