

National Education Day, 2021

November 13, 2021

In news– Every year since 2008, November 11 is celebrated as the National Education Day **to mark the birth anniversary of India's first Education Minister Maulana Abul Kalam Ghulam Muhiyuddin.**

About Maulana Abul Kalam–

- Abul Kalam Ghulam Muhiyuddin known as Maulana Abul Kalam Azad born in Mecca, Saudi Arabia in 1888.
- He was a journalist, freedom fighter, politician, and educationist.
- He was the **first education minister of independent India** and served from 1947 to 1958 in Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru's cabinet.
- Azad pursued traditional Islamic education.
- **He started a weekly journal in Urdu called Al-Hilal in 1912** to increase the revolutionary recruits amongst the Muslims.
- This **journal played an important role in forging Hindu-Muslim unity.**
- The government regarded Al- Hilal as a propagator of secessionist views and **banned it in 1914.**
- Maulana 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 Azad from Calcutta and exiled him to Bihar** from where he was released after the First World War 1920.
- He was one of the **founding members of the Jamia Milia Islamia University**, originally established at Aligarh in the United Provinces, India in 1920.
- He **supported the Non-Cooperation Movement** started

by Gandhiji and **entered the Indian National Congress in 1920.**

- He was elected as the **president of the special session of the Congress in Delhi (1923)** and at an age of 35, he became the **youngest person to serve as the President of the Indian National Congress.**
 - He was **arrested in 1930** for violation of the salt laws as part of Gandhi's Salt Satyagraha.
 - After his release, he again **became the president of Congress in 1940 (Ramgarh) and remained in the post till 1946.**
 - Azad strongly advocated for women's education.
 - Though he stressed on the English language, **he believed that primary education should be imparted in the mother-tongue.**
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- **The first IIT, IISc, School of Planning and Architecture and the University Grants Commission** were established under his tenure as the education minister.
 - The most prominent cultural, literary academies were also built including the Sangeet Natak Academy, Lalit Kala Academy, Sahitya Academy as well as the Indian Council for Cultural Relations.
 - He was **posthumously honoured with India's highest civilian award – Bharat Ratna in 1992.**