

**MAULANA AZAD MUSEUM
UNDER
MAULANA ABUL KALAM AZAD INSTITUTE OF ASIAN STUDIES, KOLKATA
(An Autonomous Body under Ministry of Culture, Govt. of India)**

Future Programme & Planning of Maulana Azad Museum

Introduction:

Maulana Abul Kalam Azad, after whom our institute is named was an erudite scholar, a patriotic leader, immensely contributing to India's freedom struggle, the Congress President at the crucial period of Partition and Independence and as the first education Minister had the important responsibility of initiating policies and decisions to weld a new education policy, which would steer the nation to the road of development and progress. It was also important to uphold the cultural and the tradition of India. In the field of science and technology, art and culture the democratic essence of the society was to be extended to the world of knowledge. Though some attempts have been made to preserve his legacy through our institute museum (**Maulana Azad Museum**) but that's not enough. Presently we have two galleries in ground floor (Main Gallery & Corridor) where 146 numbers of artifacts are displaying (in showcase and without showcases), but we need some more galleries to display all the objects (1420 approx) we have in our museum for public visit. Not only that, we have to be prepare the galleries more attractive, descriptive and much informative which can help from students to scholars everybody.

Maulana Abul Kalam Azad lived with his family for a long time in his last days in this historic building at Kolkata during turbulent phase of India's struggle for freedom and now it is a memorial Museum, Maulana Azad Museum, a cultural hub. On 12th March, 1993 Maulana Abul Kalam Azad Institute of Asian studies (MAKAIAS) have taken up the task to get possession of this building at 5, Ashraf Mistry Lane, Kolkata and after a long legal process and hard work of the employees of this institution was able to get possession of this building. On 16th November, 2005 office of this institution is shifted from a rent house at Behala to Maulana Azad Museum Building, from that day this institution has get its own building. After that on 11th November,

2006 inaugurate the Maulana Azad Museum and its open for all. This building has its own history.

In 1932, Maulana took this house on rent from the Naskar, a well known family of East Calcutta, who held this building as a temple endowment. Maulana's wife Begum Zulekha breathed her last at this house on 9th April, 1943 at the time Maulana Azad was confined in the jail. This house is a witness to many meeting of the All India Congress Committee, especially before the Quit India Movement in August 1942, when Maulana Azad was the congress president. He lived in this house till 1947 when he shifted to New Delhi to become independent India's first Minister of Education and Culture. So this is to the memory of a great, liberal and patriotic leader of India that this museum is dedicated.

The Maulana Azad Museum was established in November, 2006. Museum Initiated collection of various memorial items since 2007. This museum comprises furniture, textiles, glass or ceramics object, metal artifacts and various other personal belongings of Maulana Azad as well as important archival or textual materials. Detail collections of this museum are following:

1. Ceramic Objects: 55
2. Glass object: 33
3. Metal objects : 84
4. Wooden objects : 47
5. Photographs : 68
6. Paintings : 5
7. Textile objects : 207
8. Books and Manuscripts: 858
9. Miscellaneous : 63

Total number objects are: 1420

Provenance: This object belonged to Maulana Abul Kalam Azad and his family. After his death it was inherited by his nephew, Mr. Nooruddin. After the death of Mr. Nooruddin his brother Mr. Abdus Salim inherited it. Later it was gifted to the museum by him and Ms. Shahan Ara Salim, sister-in-law of Mr. Nooruddin, along with all other articles.

Future Plan & Activity in Maulana Azad Museum:

Firstly, we have four rooms and a corridor on 1st floor at museum building. We are planning to renovate them and make galleries for different objects in different room. Like textile gallery; ceramic & glass gallery; metal gallery; wooden galley and miscellaneous gallery, with proper lighting, showcasing or displaying and informative label for all objects and galleries.

Secondly, we are organizing several seminars, lectures, symposium and other educational programme at our museum. So, we are planning to publish a museum bulletin in half-yearly with all the articles are presented in seminars and lectures and events or programme are organized by Maulana Azad Museum.

Thirdly, we are planning to prepare a brochure with brief introduction of our museum and some photographs and details of selected artifacts to distribute the entire visitor are come here at museum and others also.

Lastly, there has not been any visual documentation of the life and times of this great statesman, which we planning to make a film (it will be 30 minute duration and in English) on his life and contribution to our country. Because, if this type of film we have introduce to our visitor, they can easily relate with the objects we are displaying with Maulana Azad.