

Curriculum Vitae

Prof. Aal-e-Ahmad Suroor

Personal Details

Name: Prof. Aal-e-Ahmad Suroor (also spelled Ale Ahmad Suroor)

Pen Name: "Suroor"

Date of Birth: 9 September 1911 (some sources: 11 August 1911)

Place of Birth: Badaun (Badayun), Uttar Pradesh, India

Date of Death: 9 February 2002, Delhi, India

Academic Qualifications

- B.Sc. – St. John's College, Agra (1932)
- M.A. (English Literature) – Aligarh Muslim University (circa 1934)
- M.A. (Urdu Literature) – Aligarh Muslim University

Academic & Professional Appointments

- Lecturer in English and Urdu – Aligarh Muslim University (early career)
- Head, Department of Urdu – Aligarh Muslim University (1958 onwards)
- Visiting Professor – University of Chicago, USA
- Iqbal Chair / Director – Iqbal Institute of Culture and Philosophy, University of Kashmir (from 1977)
- Professor Emeritus – Aligarh Muslim University

Research Interests & Scholarly Focus

Prof. Suroor was a leading Urdu literary critic and poet whose research focused on:

- Urdu literary criticism – the evolution of modern Urdu aesthetics and theory.
- Studies on Allama Muhammad Iqbal – philosophical and literary analysis.
- Modernism, humanism, and the aesthetics of Urdu poetry.
- Comparative approaches to classical, progressive, and modern Urdu trends.

Selected Publications

Major Books:

- Tanqeedi Ishare (1942)

- Naye aur Purane Chiragh (1946)
- Tanqeed Kya Hai? (1947)
- Adab aur Nazriya (1954)
- Nazar aur Nazariya (1973) – awarded by Sahitya Akademi
- Khwab Baaki Hain (1991) – Autobiography
- Iqbal: Nazriya aur Shairi (1978)
- Danishwar Iqbal (1996)

Awards & Honours

- Sahitya Akademi Award, 1974 (for 'Nazar aur Nazariya')
- Padma Bhushan, 1991 (Government of India)
- Pakistan President's Iqbal Centenary Gold Medal, 1978
- Ghalib Award for Literary Criticism

Professional & Administrative Roles

- General Secretary, Anjuman Taraqqi-e-Urdu
- Editor of Urdu literary journals (e.g., Hamari Zaban, Urdu Adab)
- Chairperson, Department of Urdu, AMU – restructured the department's modern curriculum.
- Visiting lecturer and keynote speaker at international conferences on Urdu and Iqbaliat.

Legacy & Impact

Prof. Aal-e-Ahmad Suroor is remembered as one of the greatest Urdu literary critics of the 20th century.

He redefined Urdu literary criticism by combining modern literary theory with the classical heritage of Urdu literature.

His writings made literary criticism accessible, balanced, and intellectually vibrant.

His influence continues through his students and the Iqbal Institute at the University of Kashmir.

References & Sources Consulted

1. Wikipedia: "Ale Ahmad Suroor" (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ale_Ahmad_Suroor)
2. Dawn: "Aal-e-Ahmed Suroor: a critic with exquisite equipoise" by Rauf Parekh (Feb 8, 2021)
3. The Milli Gazette, Vol 3 No 5 (2002)
4. Rekhta.org – Biography and works of Aal-e-Ahmad Suroor

5. Aligarh Muslim University website (Department of Urdu)
6. Iqbal Institute, University of Kashmir