

# **THE GREAT VISIONARIES**

## **QUAID-I-AZAM MOHAMMED ALI JINNAH**

Quaid-i-Azam Mohammed Ali Jinnah was one of the most dynamic personalities of South Asia. His message of 'Unity, Faith and Discipline' and his determination and steadfastness, if made the guiding principles by the nation, can speedily set the nation on the path of progress and prosperity. He was one of the top barristers of Bombay.

### **1. What was Jinnah's greatest achievement?**

Jinnah's greatest achievement, which is unparalleled in the recent history of the world, is the creation of Pakistan. The world has seen many leaders who have obtained independence for their people from undesired rulers, but few have achieved what the Quaid-e-Azam did; he created a new country. He led the Muslims of the sub-continent to achieve an independent state called Pakistan, where they could live honourably, according to the teachings of their faith and culture.

### **2. Why was Jinnah popular among the Non-Muslims in South Asia?**

Mohammed Ali Jinnah was the only leader in British India, who was popular not only among the Muslims but also had a great respect among the people of other faiths, including the Hindus, Christians, Sikhs and Parsis. Due to his tolerance and acceptance of all faiths, some Hindu leaders, like Gokhale and the famous Hindu poetess Sarojini Naidu, called him 'the best Ambassador of Hindu Muslim Unity.'

### **3. Why did Quaid-e-Azam leave Congress?**

Initially, Quaid-e-Azam was a strong proponent of Hindu-Muslim unity and an active member of the Indian National Congress. But, as an outstanding political leader, he very soon sensed that the Indian National Congress was leading the Hindus of the sub-continent towards Hindu-Muslim polarization. This, he realized, would result in political and economic victimization of the Muslims in the region. Therefore, he decided to leave the Congress and join the Muslim League.

### **4. What was Quaid-i-Azam's vision for Pakistan?**

Quaid-i-Azam envisioned Pakistan, as a 'nation state' ensuring equal rights for all citizens of Pakistan. He also wanted Pakistan to be a state where justice and merit prevailed. He was very clear about one thing: while Pakistan would be a state where the Muslims would be free to practise the teachings of their faith and to prosper economically. This is in no way meant that the people of other faiths, living in the geographical boundaries of the new state, would, in any way, be lesser citizens

### **5. What did Quaid-i-Azam say about the freedom of religion in Pakistan?**

On August 11, 1947, the Quaid-e-Azam, on his election as the first President of the Constituent Assembly of Pakistan, declared, "You are free; you are free to go to your temples, you are free to go to your mosques or to any other place of worship in this state of Pakistan. We are starting in the days when there is no discrimination, no distinction between one community and another. We are starting with this fundamental principle that we are all citizens and equal citizens of one State."

### **6. What guiding Principles did the Quaid-i-Azam give to the people?**

He said: "My guiding principle will be justice and complete impartiality and I am sure that with your support and cooperation, I can look forward to Pakistan becoming one of the greatest nations of the world. "This great leader had to leave this world before he could transform his ideals into practical steps.

### **7. How can we pay homage to our great Quaid?**

If we truly want to pay homage to our great Quaid, we should try and do the things he wanted us to do and not merely praise what he did. He wanted the people of Pakistan to be united and to work towards making this new country, an exemplary state. On every Independence Day, we should think of what we need to do to take Pakistan forward on the way to peace and prosperity.

## **ALLAMA IQBAL:**

### **8. Write a short not on professional achievements of Allama Iqbal?**

Allama Muhammad Iqbal, the poet of the East, began his professional career as a Professor of Arabic at the Oriental College, Lahore, after doing his M.A., in 1899. In 1905, he went to London to study law and received a law degree. He thus became a barrister by profession. He continued his quest for knowledge in various fields and in 1908, he was awarded a Ph.D. degree by the Munich University, Germany, for his work on Persian philosophy. That is why he is known as Dr. Muhammad Iqbal.

### **9. What do you know about Iqbal's role in politics?**

Allama Iqbal also took an active part in politics. He was elected as a member of the **Punjab Legislative Council in 1926**, a post he held till 1929. By then, he had become deeply involved with the Muslim League activities. Due to his commitment to the cause of Muslim rights in India, he was soon elected as the **President of the Punjab branch of the All India Muslim League**, a post he held till the time of his death. Iqbal's biggest political contribution is his **Allahabad address** where he made a definite demand of a **separate homeland** for the Muslims of the Subcontinent.

### **10. What is Iqbal's biggest contribution?**

One of Iqbal's biggest political contributions is his **Allahabad address**, which he delivered in **1930**, when he presided over the Allahabad meeting of the All-India Muslim League. It was on this historic occasion that he made a **definite demand for a separate Muslim State** in South Asia.

### **11. What did Iqbal say about separate homeland for Muslims in Allahabad address?**

In his presidential address, Dr. Iqbal said, "India is a continent of human groups belonging to different races, speaking different languages, and believing in different religions.... The Muslim demand to create a **Muslim India within India** is in no way without justice. For my part I would like to go one step further; I would like to see the Punjab, North West Frontier Province, Sindh and Baluchistan **unite under a single Muslim State**".

### **12. What was the result of Iqbal's demand?**

This demand shocked both the Hindus and the British alike and they both opposed it. This demand for a separate state for Muslims took such firm root that at its meeting in Lahore, **on March 23, 1940**, the Muslim League passed a resolution demanding a separate state for the Muslims of India. This resolution is known as the **Pakistan Resolution**. From this point onwards, all efforts were directed towards this end, culminating in the creation of Pakistan, on **August 14, 1947**.

### **13. When did Iqbal die?**

Allama Iqbal died in 1938, nine years before the creation of Pakistan. But he played a major role in its creation, by planting the seeds of a separate state for the Muslims of India in people's minds.

### **14. What did the Quaid-i-Azam say about Iqbal on his death?**

Quaid-e-Azam, praised Iqbal's role in a message on his death: "To me he was a friend, guide and philosopher, and during the darkest moments through which the Muslim League had to go, he stood like a rock".

### **15. What did Iqbal say about Islam in his Allahabad address?**

Allama Iqbal had a great love for Islam; he always advised the Muslims to remain true to their faith, and to practise it in letter and spirit. In his Allahabad address he said: "**I have learned one lesson from the history of Muslims. At difficult moments in their history, it is Islam that has saved Muslims and not Muslims that have saved Islam. If, today, you put your faith in Islam, you will become strong and united once again and save yourself from complete destruction.**"