



Begum Sultan Jahan

Why in News

Recently, the death anniversary of Begum Sultan Jahan was observed.

- She was a Philanthropist, Prolific writer, Feminist, Symbol of Women Empowerment, First female Chancellor of Aligarh Muslim University.



Key Points

- **Birth:** In 1858 (Bhopal).
- **Ruler of Bhopal:**
 - She was the **last Begum of Bhopal. Ruled from 1909 to 1926** after which she was succeeded by her son.
 - Fourth female ruler of Bhopal.
 - Set up the **municipality system, introduced municipal elections** and constructed a **walled city and a palace** for herself.
 - Took steps for **improving public health, sanitation, and water supply** in the walled city and implemented **widespread vaccination drives** for its residents.
- **Feminist Icon:**
 - Her progressive policies for women, at a time when they were shackled by the forces of patriarchy, have made her a feminist icon even today.
 - Constructed a **Meeting Hall for Ladies in Lahore in 1913.**
 - Organised an **exhibition called 'Numaish Masunuaat e Hind' in Bhopal** to encourage

women and promote handicrafts.

▪ **Philanthropist:**

- Established the **Sultan Jahan Endowment Trust** with a corpus of Rs three lakhs for helping needy students.
- **Funded** a Madrasa in Deoband (UP), Nadwatul Uloom in Lucknow and even Madarsa Sultania in Mecca, Saudi Arabia.
- Institutions such as **Lady Hardinge Medical College, Delhi and some renowned colleges in Bombay and Calcutta** received generous grants from her.

▪ **Educationist:**

- Authored 41 books, translated a number of English books into Urdu.
- **Authored a book, Dars-e-Hayat**, about the education and parenting of young girls.
- **Revamped the syllabus** and added subjects such as English, Urdu, Arithmetic, Home Science and crafts of the Sultania School she started.
- Started a nursing school called **Lady Minto Nursing School**.
- She was the **first women chancellor of AMU (Aligarh Muslim University)**.

- During AMU's centenary celebrations in December 2020, the Prime paid tribute to Begum Jahan and her contribution to the historic institution.

▪ **Death:** 12th May 1930.

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