

# Aligarh Muslim University Minority Status Case

## Why In The News?

- The Supreme Court Constitution Bench Of 7 Judges Led By Chief Justice DY Chandrachud Today Reserved Its Decision On The **Issue Of Granting Minority Status To Aligarh Muslim University (AMU)**. The Bench Heard The Arguments From Both Sides For 8 Days.

## What Is The Issue?

- The Issue Of Minority Status For Aligarh Muslim University (AMU) Has Been A **Longstanding And Complex Legal Matter**. The Debate Revolves Around **Whether AMU Should Be Recognized As A Minority Institution**.
- The University Was Established By **Sir Syed Ahmed Khan In 1875** As The Muhammadan Anglo-oriental College. Over Time, It Evolved Into Aligarh Muslim University. The Question Of Its Minority Status Has Been A Subject Of Legal Scrutiny And Debate.



- In 1981, The Supreme Court, In The **Azeez Basha Vs. Union Of India Case**, Held That AMU Was Not A Minority Institution. The Court Ruled That Although AMU Was Founded By Muslims, It Did Not Retain Its Minority Status As It Had Been

### **Taken Over By The Central Government After The Enactment Of The AMU (Amendment) Act In 1981.**

- However, In 2005, The **National Commission For Minority Educational Institutions (NCMEI) Declared AMU A Minority Institution**. This Decision Was Based On The Interpretation That The University's Character As A Minority Institution Was Not Altered By The 1981 Act.
- Subsequently, The Matter Has Seen Legal Challenges And Counterchallenges, Leading To Varying Judgments In Different Courts. The Issue Is Significant As It Has Implications For The **Autonomy And Character Of AMU** As An Educational Institution.

### **What Will Happen If Minority Status Is Lost?**

- The Question Of Minority Status Involves Complex Legal And Constitutional Considerations, And The Case Has Been Subject To Ongoing Legal Proceedings And Discussions. If Aligarh Muslim University (AMU) Were To Lose Its Minority Status, It Could Have **Several Implications For The Institution**.
- **Admission Quotas:** Minority Educational Institutions Often Have The Autonomy To Set Aside A Certain Percentage Of Seats For Students Belonging To The Minority Community They Represent. If AMU Loses Its Minority Status, It Might Have To Adhere To A Different Set Of Admission Criteria, And The Existing Reservation Quotas For Minority Students Might Be Reconsidered.
- **Autonomy And Administration:** Minority Status Can Provide Certain Privileges And Autonomy To Educational Institutions In Terms Of Administration And Decision-making. Losing Minority Status May Result In Increased Interference Or Regulation From The Government In The Administration Of The University.



- **Cultural And Educational Identity:** AMU Has Historically Been Associated With The Muslim Community, And The Minority Status Reflects Its Cultural And Educational Identity. Losing This Status May Lead To A Change In The Institution's Identity, And There Might Be Concerns About Preserving The Cultural And Religious Character That Has Been Integral To Its History.
- **Legal Status And Protections:** Minority Status Often Comes With Legal Protections And Exemptions That Safeguard The Institution's Interests. Losing This Status Might Expose The University To Different Legal Frameworks And Regulations That Could Impact Its Functioning.
- **Funding And Support:** Minority Institutions May Receive Specific Funding And Support From The Government Based On Their Minority Status. Losing This Status Could Affect The Financial Support And Resources Available To The University.