

## MRS FATMA RAFIQ ZAKARIA

MRS FATMA RAFIQ ZAKARIA WAS AWARDED  
THE PADMA SHRI BY THE PRESIDENT OF INDIA IN 2006

---

CHAIRMAN, MAULANA AZAD EDUCATIONAL TRUST  
&  
PRESIDENT, MAULANA AZAD EDUCATION SOCIETY

### DR. RAFIQ ZAKARIA CAMPUS I II III

INSTITUTIONS: 15  
COLLEGES, PROFESSIONAL INSTITUTES & SCHOOLS  
STUDENT STRENGTH: 15,000



PRESIDENT, MAHARASHTRA COLLEGE  
INSTITUTION: 1 COLLEGE  
ARTS, SCIENCE, COMMERCE & COMPUTER SCIENCE  
STUDENT STRENGTH: 3,500



CHAIRMAN, ALL INDIA KHILAFAT COMMITTEE, MUMBAI  
INSTITUTION: 1 COLLEGE  
B.ED, D.ED & COMPUTER CENTRE  
STUDENT STRENGTH: 280

---

### TAJ MAGAZINE EDITOR

ART QUARTERLY JOURNAL. CIRCULATION 30,000  
(2001 - TO PRESENT DAY)

R E S U M E

**Mrs. Fatma Rafiq Zakaria has had a long and varied career in journalism, social work, publishing and education for over 50 years.**

After studying at the prestigious **Isabella Thoburn College**, popularly known as **IT College** in Lucknow, founded in 1886 by an American missionary after whom it is named, as the first full-fledged Christian Women's College in Asia, Mrs. Zakaria qualified as a professional social worker from the **Institute of Social Work** at Nirmala Niketan in Mumbai.

### **Social Work**

In 1958 she established an institution of **Childcare and a Women's Industrial Home** in Mumbai where over 500 underprivileged children were given **All Day Care**, nursery, kindergarten and primary education and adequate healthcare with free meals and a full medical care programme along with a **Child Guidance Clinic** while the mothers were trained and given occupation which could supplement the family income.

### **Journalism**

In 1963, Mrs. Zakaria started writing for children in **The Illustrated Weekly of India**. Apart from running a regular weekly column, she translated childrens' short stories from Urdu to the English by eminent writers such as Dr. Zakir Hussain, Krishan Chandar and many others. She worked with the **Weekly** on a part time basis for 6 years.

From 1970 to 1980, she worked with **the Illustrated Weekly** first as Sub-editor & Chief-sub-editor and then **Assistant Editor**. Thereafter, she was promoted as **Senior Assistant Editor** at **The Times of India**. She worked there for over 10 years. She was also given independent charge of a 9-page Sunday Supplement (**Sunday Review**) and worked for some time as **Acting Resident Editor** as well.

Mrs. Zakaria wrote extensively in both, **The Weekly** and **The Times** on political and cultural affairs from 1978 to 1989. She did exclusive, comprehensive interviews with leading figures like **Mrs. Indira Gandhi**, **Mrs. Margaret Thatcher**, **Mr. J.R.D. Tata**, **Mr. Jayaprakash Narayan** and **Prime Ministers Mr. Morarji Desai**, **Mr. Charan Singh**.

She has travelled extensively covering **US elections** in 1984 and **Festivals of India in London and the United States** in 1982 & 1984.

She represented the country at the **Festival of Islam in London** in 1976. She edited the **Annuals of The Illustrated Weekly of India** from 1974 to 1980. During her term at **The Times of India**, she was also in charge of the **Art & Literary section** of the newspaper.

She was member of the **High-Power Committee** for restructuring of **Mass Media** by the **Government of India**. The Committee worked under the chairmanship of the late Mr. G. Parthasarathy for 5 years.

### **Award**

Mrs. Zakaria was awarded the **Sarojini Naidu Integration Award for Journalism** in 1983.

### **In Education**

In the field of **Education**, she has played an eminent role. She has been associated with **Maulana Azad Educational Trust** and **Maulana Azad Education Society** since their inception in 1962. She worked as Managing Trustee alongside her illustrious husband, **the late Dr. Rafiq Zakaria** as Chairman, in founding over 15 colleges and institutions in Aurangabad for the 15000-strong student community giving them state-of-the-art infrastructure set in 3 beautiful campuses where quality education is imparted to students from the lesser privileged sections of society.

The late Dr. Rafiq Zakaria and she founded a Girls College, the **Aurangabad College for Women** which has been running for 20 years and has today over 2000 girls in the Arts, Science and Commerce along with Management

Science Courses. She has now named the college after her late husband as **Dr. Rafiq Zakaria College for Women** and converted the Campus entirely for **Women only**.

Mrs. Zakaria is now **Chairman** of **Maulana Azad Educational Trust**, President of **Maulana Azad Education Society** and **Executive Vice-Chairman** of the Board of Governors of the Trust's **Institute of Hotel Management** which is run in collaboration with **the Taj Group of Hotels**.

Apart from these institutions, she is **Chairman** of the **All India Khilafat Committee** which runs Colleges of Education in Mumbai. She is also **President** of **Maharashtra College of Arts, Science, Commerce & Computer Science** (strength 4,000 students) in Mumbai where, once again, she has worked ever since 1968.

Mrs. Zakaria was member of the Senate of the **Bombay University** as the Chancellor's nominee from January 2000 for a period of 5 years.

Mrs. Zakaria is at present the Editor of the prestigious and much-acclaimed quarterly Art Journal – **The Taj Magazine** – brought out by **The Taj Hotels, Resorts and Palaces**, where she has worked since 2001.

She was born in Bombay (now Mumbai) on February 17, 1936.

Mrs. Fatma Zakaria's late husband, a renowned scholar and Cabinet Minister in the State Government of Maharashtra for over 15 years and thereafter Member of Parliament for 6 years wrote as many as 20 major books and was considered one of the tallest among Indian intellectuals.

Their two sons are Arshad and Fareed (who has recently been conferred with the **Padma Bhushan** Award in Journalism). Both graduated from Harvard and have won great laurels in their respective fields in the United States of America.

## **Award**

Mrs. Fatma Zakaria was awarded the **Padma Shri** by the President of India for her work in Education in 2006.

