

**Address By**  
**Mrs. D. Purandeswari MoS-HRD(HE)**  
**At The National Seminar**  
**On “Mir-Taqi-Mir” At Imphal, Manipur**  
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It gives me a great pleasure to be present here at this inaugural session of the National symposium which is being held to highlight the contribution of the famous poet “Mir-Taqi-Mir” to the cause and development of Urdu Poetry.

We in India have never regarded Urdu as a language belonging to a particular group of people professing a particular faith or residing at a particular region or regions. On the contrary, we regard it very much as an Indian language which has been duly recognized as such and included in the Eighth Schedule of our Constitution. It is given the status of an official language in a number of States in the Indian Union including A.P, Bihar, Delhi, J&K and Uttar Pradesh.

In India, Urdu is spoken in large parts of the UP, Delhi, Bhopal, Hyderabad, Bangalore, Mysore. Some Indian schools teach Urdu as a first language and have their own syllabus and exams. Indian madrasahs also teach Arabic as

well as Urdu, India has more than 2,900 daily Urdu newspapers, such as Daily Salar, Daily Pasban, Siasat Daily, Munsif Daily and Inquilab which are published and distributed in Bangalore, Mysore, Hyderabad and Mumbai.

Today, even a cursory look at the Urdu milieu discloses the fact that the language is spoken by a speaker belonging to an affluent section of people as well as by economically and socially disadvantaged citizens and that it is spoken in nearly every State of the country and enjoys wide social and cultural patronage and acceptability.

Urdu language is recognized mainly for its literature, poetry and Ghazals and yet this is only partly true. It also serves as a medium of instruction in several institutions in India and abroad up to university level in many subjects. We therefore decided that we must not allow this language to languish and be relegated to backwaters. The Government, therefore, established a Central University, known as Maulana Azad National Urdu University at Hyderabad in 1998, with an all India jurisdiction and with the mandate to promote and develop Urdu language, provide higher, technical and vocational education in Urdu medium and to provide focus on women's education. The very name and idea of the University suggests that the Government recognizes and places special

emphasis on Urdu as one of the National languages. It is a language of the masses. It is a language of idea and emotion that has served to build bridges across nationalities and cultures. It is the language of drama, cinema, poetry, politics and everyday conversation among the masses cutting across all artificial distinctions of caste, creed, religion and the like.

It is, therefore, appropriate that we should from time to time relive the life and contribution of the famous poets in various languages, including Urdu, and assess the contribution they have made to enrich our social scenario and National milieu. One such famous poet in Urdu language was Mir-Taqi-Mir, to appreciate whose poetic genius we have assembled here, and in whose memory a seminar is being held by National Council for Promotion of Urdu Language. He was a poet of great stature and his poetic talent was recognized by all sections of literary world. He is known as undisputed idol of the world of ghazal, but this high position does not diminish his stature in the field of other forms of poetry. No poet or writer, either of his own time, or of today, has ever challenged the poetic greatness of this stalwart of the 18<sup>th</sup> century.

The poetry of ghazal is called the poetry of love. But the concept of love in Urdu poetry is as diverse, deep and

complex as the human life itself. In Urdu ghazal, the concept of love transforms into a world-view in which all differences on the basis of caste and creed ceases to exist and only the bond of humanity remains as an all pervasive value. This is a world-view which has always been sought after at every point of time and which has gained universal acceptance deeply embedded in our thought process.

Mir's literary reputation is anchored on his ghazals. Mir lived at time when Urdu language and poetry was at a formative stage – and Mir's instinctive and aesthetic sense helped him to strike a balance between the indigenous expression and new enrichments coming in from Persian imagery and idiom to constitute the new elite language known as Rekhtaa. Basing his language on his native Hindustani, he leavened it with a sprinkling of Persian diction and phraseology, and created a poetic language at once simple, natural and elegant, which was to guide generations of future poets.

Mir-Taqi-Mir is often compared with the later day Urdu poet, Mirza Ghalib. Lovers of Urdu poetry often debate Meer's supremacy over Ghalib or vice versa. It may be noted that Ghalib himself acknowledged, through some of his couplets,

that Meer was indeed a genius who deserved respect. Here is a couplet by Mirza Ghalib:

**Reekhta kay tumhi ustaad nahi ho Ghalib  
Kehtay hain aglay zamanay may koi Mir bhi thaa.**

**It means:**

**(You are not the only master of Urdu, Ghalib  
They say there also used to be a poet, named Mir in  
the past).**

The poetry of Mir is a valued treasure of our Nation. It is our composite legacy and this is our duty to protect and carry forward this legacy. This is a duty, which we are bound to perform wholeheartedly with all our pleasure. We find in it the message of humanity and universal brotherhood. This message is of such a valuable prize that it cannot be described in words. The charm of poetry of Mir encaptures our imagination, heart and mind completely. To keep the message propagate and to keep it afresh in our heart and mind is a duty because his poetry is full with milk of humanity. I am sure that after the deliberations of this seminar, the importance and relevance of Mir would be felt ever more urgently. It would show new vistas of human values. The papers that would be presented here in the seminar would, I hope, throw new light on the aspects of Mir's life and poetry

and ultimately contribute to our understanding of Mir's message.

I would like to congratulate National Council for Promotion of Urdu Language on its good work in organizing seminar on renowned Urdu poets and convey my best wishes to the authorities of the Council on their effective contributions to the growth and development of Urdu Language and Literature. I have no doubt that the Council will continue to make untiring efforts in this field in the years to come.

Jai Hind.

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