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CITIZEN CHARTER

INTRODUCTION

Urdu language was born out of the Indian soil. Urdu poetry, in a great measure, inspired millions to make sacrifices in the long drawn out freedom struggle and it remained India's most popular language for centuries together. Unfortunately, after independence, Urdu language lost its status slowly due to various reasons. Therefore, there was a long felt need to have an apex body to preserve and nurture the rich heritage of Urdu. With these objectives in view, the then Delhi Administration established Urdu Academy in May, 1981 under the Chairmanship of Lt. Governor of Delhi for the promotion, propagation and development of Urdu language and culture as an integral part of Delhi. With the passage of time the Academy has made its identity as a premier Urdu literary, cultural and educational institution in Delhi. Ever since its inception, the academy has been implementing all its schemes with certain improvements every year. The Academy has been playing a catalytic role in the promotion of the lingual, literary and cultural activities in Urdu world.

After the establishment of elected Government in Delhi, the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Delhi is holding the chairmanship of Urdu Academy, Delhi. After declaration of Urdu as 11nd Official Language, the Academy has tried its level best in granting Urdu its due status in Delhi. The Hon'ble Chief Minister of Delhi had taken keen interest personally in gearing up its speed of activities towards achieving its goal to propagate Urdu and its composite lingua franca culture in Delhi. Her worthy patronage has granted Urdu Academy, Delhi a very enlightened place among the other states Urdu Academies. The Academy has achieved a very effective publicity even abroad.

The Academy has a Governing Council consisting of 25 members including Ex-officio members and Secretary, Urdu Academy. This council is constituted by the Hon'ble C.M. of Delhi for the tenure of 2 years. As per bye-laws, the Executive Committee is constituted from the members of the Governing Council by the Chairman of the Urdu Academy for the decision of day to day activities of the academy and implementation of the schemes which were necessary to promote the language and literature.

For the speedy decision and smooth implementation of various schemes the Governing Council is further bifurcated in 4 Sub Committees. The recommendation of Sub-Committees are placed before the Executive Committee for final approval.

AIMS & OBJECTIVES

- i) To preserve and promote the language and literature of Urdu as an integral part of the linguistic culture of Delhi.

- ii) To encourage and publish original works of literary and academic merit and also books for children in Urdu.
- iii) To arrange the translation of literary and scientific and other works and publish them in Urdu language.
- iv) To prepare and publish reference works in Urdu.
- v) To help deserving authors of Urdu in publishing their work.
- vi) To give monthly financial assistance to old and needy authors of Urdu.
- vii) To give awards to authors on their Urdu works published during the previous year.
- viii) To invite eminent scholars and experts of eminence to deliver lectures.
- ix) To organize seminars, symposia, conferences, and other gathering of an academic nature, inter-alia for discussion problems connected with Urdu in the perspective of world literary trends as also with respect to the implementation of Govt. orders regarding facilities for the teaching and use of Urdu and in pursuance of the aforesaid object, to give financial assistance to various literary and cultural organizations that organize similar function.
- x) To bring out journals, periodicals, magazines and similar publications in Urdu of a high standard.
- xi) To arrange the sale of published works under these rules on profit no loss.
- xii) To acquire moveable and immovable properties in the Academy provided that in case of acquisition of immovable properties, prior approval of Govt. of NCT of Delhi shall be necessary.
- xiii) To bring to the notice of the Govt. of NCT of Delhi the demand of Urdu speaking people regarding the teaching and use of the Urdu, including difficulties in the implementation of Govt. Orders.
- xiv) To do all such legal acts and take all such legal steps as per likely to advance the objects specified above.
- xv) All income of the Society shall be utilized towards the promotion of aims and objectives of the Society.

ACTIVITIES OF URDU ACADEMY, DELHI

The Academy has taken so many steps for developing and propagating the Urdu language, its literature and culture in Delhi. The activities of Urdu Academy can be broadly classified in the following categories under various Committees.

1. **Publication of Magazines**

The Urdu Academy brings out two monthly magazines titled “Aiwan-e-Urdu” and “Bachchon Ka Mahanama Umang”. Now about 12000 copies of these magazines are printed and circulated all over the country and abroad every month. During this year, these magazines have successfully maintained their standard. These literary magazines have been very popular in the Urdu world. Both the magazines are supplied at subsidized rates.

2. **Publication of Books**

New books are published by the Academy every year on various subjects viz. literature, literary criticism, culture, books related to the History and Culture of Delhi, come out of seminar and symposia, books on great personalities, books for Children and also reference books. The Academy has published 200 books so far. The Academy has published 30 Monographs on classical poets and writers. Besides this, the printing of new books and reprint of old books in demand.

3. **Subsidy to Authors for publishing of manuscripts**

This is a scheme for those writers who are financially weak. Financial assistance is extended to such writers for publishing their creative works. The applications are invited from respective writers every year alongwith manuscripts that are scrutinized by experts. Financial assistance is granted to a tune of Rs.20,000/- or 85% of the cost of publication, which-ever is less. So far, the Academy has extended financial assistance to about 700 writers in Delhi.

4. **Participation in Book Fairs**

The Academy is a renowned publishing house also. For the promotion of language and sale of books, it is necessary to participate in Book Fairs which are organised all over India from time to time.

5. **Seminars**

The Academy has made a significant contribution towards promoting Urdu among the masses by holding seminars and literary get-togethers on various subjects and personalities. The proceedings of these seminars are published by the Academy for the benefit of litterateurs and research scholars. In these literary seminars the scholars from all over India participate and present valuable papers on the various literary topics.

6. **Nai Puraney Chiragh**

Every year, the Academy organises a four day literary gathering in which Urdu Ppoets and scholars (seniors and juniors all together) present their papers, short-stories, sketches and poetry in Poets' Meet. This is a very popular programme.

7. **Misc. Programmes/Literary Evenings**

The Academy organised a number of programmes with prominent personalities of Urdu from different Indian cities and abroad. Academy also organized Condolence Meetings to pay tribute to departed souls in the field of Urdu. Also, a number of literary evenings with the young and established writers/poets.

8. **Urdu Drama Festival/Children's Theatre Workshop**

This is a regular feature in which well-known and reputed drama groups stage Urdu dramas on a variety of topics such as social inequality, students problems, history and ancient culture of Delhi etc. Academy also conducts its own theatre workshop for children every year.

10. **Sponsored Programmes with Literary and Cultural Organisations of Delhi**

These events included mushairas, qawwalis, ghazal programmes, seminars etc. in Delhi and other literary evenings.

11. **Prizes on books**

The Academy gives away prizes on books to writers and publishers every year for writing/publishing high standard of books. These books are classified into two categories. The Ist category amounts to Rs.9100/-, IInd category amounts to Rs.7100/- and one Prize of Rs.11,000/- may be given to the best book of the year if such a book is approved by the concerned and Executive Committee of the Academy.

12. **Annual Awards**

Every year, the Academy honours litterateurs, scholars in the field of literature, criticism, poetry, humour & satire, translation, urdu journalism and performing arts such as drama, ghazal singing etc. of Delhi for their outstanding contribution in the promotion and development of Urdu language and literature. One award namely The Bahadur Shah Zafar Award, is an all India level award and another award namely Pt. Brijmohan Datataria Kaifi Award are presented to the scholars of Delhi exclusively, both the awards are Rs.1,50,000/- each. The other six awards are Rs.50,000/- each.

13. **Monthly Financial Assistance to aged writers/poets/journalists**

The Academy provides monthly financial assistance to old and needy writers/poets/journalists who have spent their valuable time in the promotion and propagation of language or to their nearest dependent also @ Rs.5000/- and Rs.3000/- per month each.

14. **Mushairas**

In order to preserve and promote the rich literary, composite and cultural heritage of Urdu language, the Academy organises Poets' Meet every year i.e. (1) The Republic Day Mushaira at Red Fort (2) The Independence Day Mushaira (3) The National Integration Mushaira, (4) The Teachers' Day Mushaira and (5) The Ladies Mushaira

15. **Prizes to Urdu Toppers**

The Academy gives away cash prizes, mementos, certificates to Ist & IInd Position holders of M.A. (Urdu), M.Phil Urdu, B.A.(Hons), B.A. (Pass Course – Urdu) B.Ed.(Urdu) and ETE(Urdu). The Ist, IInd and IIIrd Urdu topper of Sr. Secondary Examination of CBSE and Jamia Board, Urdu Certificate Course, Urdu Calligraphy & Computer Course are also given prizes.

16. **Educational & Umang Painting Competitions**

Every year, Urdu Academy organises Educational & Cultural Competitions in various fields of study such as "Essay Writing", "Debate", "Quiz Context", "Bait Bazi", "Urdu Ghazal", "Drama" and "Umang Painting" etc. for the students of Middle, Secondary and Sr. Secondary level. Top three position holders in these competitions are given cash prize, alongwith shield/mementos and certificate.

17. **Urdu Certificate /Diploma Course Centres**

To promote and propagate Urdu amongst non-Urdu knowing adults of Delhi, Urdu Academy has established 7 centres of Certificate Course and once centre for Urdu Diploma Course. The learners get text-books free of cost. Top three position holders of each centre in Certificate Course are given prizes.

18. **Urdu Coaching Classes**

The Academy provides instructors/teachers to various Urdu Coaching Centres of Delhi.

To bring out the students of Madarsas in the main stream, the Academy has decided to maintain status-quo in providing 2 part-time teachers in Madarsas.

Coaching classes are also organized by the Academy for the entrance examination for admission of ETE(Urdu).

The Academy organizes coaching classes two times in a year to prepare Urdu students and to those who pass the examination of B.Ed. or ETE (Elementary Teacher Training) and register for CTET. CTET is a minimum qualification for a person to be eligible for appointment as a teacher.

19. **Urdu Literacy Centres**

The Academy had launched a scheme for eradication of illiteracy under the National Policy on Education in 1988 to provide Urdu literacy amongst women and low income groups of the city. The Academy has established about 175-200 centres in various parts of Delhi in which about 5000 learners were admitted.

20. **Jt. Programmes with other Language Academies of Delhi**

The Academy conducts cultural and literary programmes with the other sister (Language) Academies, and Sahitya Kala Parishad.

21. **Urdu Academy's Dara Shikoh Library**

The Academy has a good Library with about 38000 books available for the readers. About 150 rare books are also kept for reference, especially for Research Scholars. Academy purchases books and manuscripts that are useful for the Urdu Scholars every year. Various newspapers and magazines of Hindi, Urdu and English are also made available in the library for the readers.

22. **Newspaper Corners**

The Academy has 45 newspaper corners in mohallas and bastis where the people are taking advantage of this scheme. This is a monthly regular work.

23. **Supply of books and magazines to Urdu School Libraries**

The Academy has been supplying books and magazines useful for students to Urdu schools free of cost. This is a regular feature.

24. **Complementary Advertisements for promotion of small Urdu Newspapers**

In order to provide help to the small newspapers, magazines, souvenirs of schools and colleges of Delhi, the Academy issues complementary advertisements comprising of its activities.

25. **Urdu Computer, Shorthand Classes and Calligraphy Training Centre**

To preserve the dying art and heritage of Urdu language and literature, the Academy has established an Urdu Calligraphy Training Centre.

26. **Teaching Programme in Schools (Teachers on contract basis)**

To supplement the efforts of Delhi Govt., Urdu Academy provided full time teachers in Urdu schools from Primary level to Senior Secondary level where they are required every year as stop gap arrangement and are paid as per rates approved by the govt. At present, 102 Urdu teachers are deputed to the MCD/NDMC, Directorate of Education's schools on the requisition of school authorities.

27. **Urdu Heritage Festival**

The Academy organizes a five day Urdu Heritage Festival every year. Besides, various exhibitions and entertainment items, the academy organized a Ghazal Programme, Theatrical presentation, Qawwali Programme and Mushaira in which renowned artists and poets of the country presented their programmes.