

One day International Seminar on rethinking progressive ideology in contemporary Urdu literature

A **one-day International Seminar** on the theme “*Rethinking Progressive Ideology in Contemporary Urdu Literature*” was organized by the Department of Urdu at **Khwaja Moinuddin Chishti Language University**, Lucknow. The seminar brought together distinguished scholars and academicians to deliberate on the relevance and evolution of progressive thought in modern Urdu literature.

The programme commenced with a welcome address by **Prof. Sauban Saeed**, Programme Coordinator of the seminar, who warmly welcomed the scholars and participants. In his introductory remarks, he emphasized that **Urdu literature and cultural traditions continue to play a significant role in shaping social values and intellectual discourse in contemporary society**.

During the seminar, **Amir Mehdi**, Chief Editor of *Sahafat* (UK), presented his research paper and highlighted the importance of progressive thought in the development of society. He noted that as long as oppression, inequality, and injustice persist in the world, the progressive movement will remain relevant. He further emphasized that one of the key aspects of progressive ideology is the **advancement of women’s rights and the establishment of equal status for women in society**.

Delivering his scholarly address, **Prof. Khwaja Ikramuddin** from **Jawaharlal Nehru University** discussed the historical development of the Urdu language and literature. He observed that Urdu has now achieved global recognition and that its literary traditions have evolved significantly over time. Referring to **Amir Khusro**, he noted that Khusro is often regarded as one of the earliest poets associated with the development of Urdu literary expression. He explained how themes such as the portrayal of the beloved and the concept of love transformed as Urdu literature spread to the Deccan region. Prof. Ikrāmuddin emphasized the importance of **Takhliq (creative expression) and Tanqeed (literary criticism)** in strengthening literary traditions. He also remarked that the era of **Mir Taqi Mir** is widely regarded as the **golden age of Urdu poetry**, during which Delhi and Lucknow emerged as two major centres of Urdu literary culture. He further stressed the need to rethink and advance literary traditions in the contemporary technological era.

In his concluding remarks, **Prof. Abbas Raza Nayyar** expressed gratitude to the scholars present on the stage and reflected on the influence of progressive ideology on literary discourse. He observed that technological developments have significantly transformed literary diction and modes of expression. While discussing the ideas of **Karl Marx**, he acknowledged the influence of Marxist thought on progressive literature but also highlighted certain limitations in its practical application, particularly with regard to the principle of equal pay.

The seminar concluded with remarks by the Hon’ble Vice Chancellor of **Khwaja Moinuddin Chishti Language University**, **Prof. Ajay Taneja**, who welcomed all the distinguished scholars and participants. He noted that the Urdu language and its literary traditions have played an important role in promoting progressive thinking since the early twentieth century and continue to do so with a strong sense of responsibility toward society. The seminar provided a meaningful platform for scholarly dialogue and reflection on the evolving role of progressive ideology in contemporary Urdu literature.







