

Dr Farooq Abdullah inaugurates 23rd All India Urdu Book Fair at KU



Srinagar | Jun 15: Member Parliament (MP) Dr Farooq Abdullah alongside Vice Chancellor University of Kashmir (KU) Prof Talat Ahmad inaugurated a nine-day National Urdu Book Fair here at University on Saturday.

The Book Fair is being organized by NCPUL (National Council for Promotion of Urdu Language) in collaboration with KU to promote reading culture and Urdu language.

While inaugurating the fair Dr Abdullah who was chief guest on the occasion at the very outset congratulated Prof Talat in particular and the University staff and students in general for bringing laurels to the state by achieving a brilliant Grade of A + in the recently held NAAC reaccreditation..

Referring to the present state of Urdu language at National level Dr Abdullah said that the language has now been confined to the Muslims only and Urdu language in particular and Urdu press in general is dying a slow death “The sorry state of affairs in the decay of Urdu language is such that there are a few takers left for the language and events like these can play a crucial role in bringing to fore the challenges faced by the language at grass root level.”

He added that the central government needs to get serious about the promotion and preservation of the Urdu language and institutions like NCPUL and University of Kashmir can play a great role in that.

Dr Abdullah while maintaining that Kashmiri students and youth are highly talented and are second to none in the world impressed upon them to work harder so that their talent and worth is acknowledged throughout the world.

Vice Chancellor KU Prof Talat Ahmad also assured University's facilitation to NCPUL in all its activities and programs aimed at promotion of Urdu language in the valley.

He impressed upon all the participants to get involved in all the activities which would be conducted during the book fair and get benefitted from the rich collection of books by renowned authors available during the fair.

Registrar KU Dr Nisar A Mir sought intervention and support of MP Dr Farooq Abdullah in providing assistance for strengthening the satellite campuses of the University with special focus on Kupwara campus. "We need support in strengthening the infrastructure in these campuses, a lot has been done but more needs to be done," he said.

Director NCPUL Dr Shaikh Aquil Ahmad highlighted the aims and objectives of the book fair and role of NCPUL in promotion of Urdu language at countrywide level. NCPUL organizes programs, projects, seminars and other activities in various corners of the country. "NCPUL has opened highest number of computer centers in the state of J&K than in any another state for the promotion and preservation of Urdu language with latest inputs of information and technology," he said. On the occasion Dr Ahmad emphasized upon the need of establishment of Urdu Academy in the state of J&K.

Librarian Allama Iqbal Library Prof GM Peerzada earlier welcomed the participants and guests from various parts of the country.

The book fair has 86 stalls and 51 book publishers participating from all over India. There are books on several subjects such as science, psychology, history available in Urdu. Students will get a discount ranging from 40-70% on the books for sale. Besides the stalls, there are several cultural and literary programs being held on the occasion.

DLL KU has also installed a stall on papier mache products on the sidelines of the book-fair which was visited by several participants and guests from outside the valley. Department of Students Welfare (DSW) is exhibiting Islamic calligraphy exhibition of valley's renowned artists and more than 60 art works including paintings and photos are being displayed on the event. Students of various schools and colleges of the valley participated in the book fair.