

Urdu litterateur visualises its revival

Abhinav Malhotra | TNN

Kanpur: "Once the most spoken language of Bharat, 'Urdu' is perishing. In the pre-Independence era, 'Urdu' was the official language which was widely used in the courts and other government departments. Therefore, India is 'Mayka' to this language and Pakistan is 'Sasural'. Save this language from dying," said Hamida Banu, a noted Urdu litterateur, on Thursday, who along with her husband, famous scientist Prof Anil K Chopra of University of California, Berkeley, USA, is currently on a visit to IIT-Kanpur.

'Urdu' has been accorded the status of second official language in the state of Uttar Pradesh. An Indian by birth, Hamida Banu has a vision for the revival of dying Urdu language in India. Though settled in USA, she conducts 'Urdu' class for the Indian students and for Indians settled therein. Hamida may not be a much known name to many but she is deeply involved into the promotion of 'Urdu' language in USA or in other words it can be rightly said that Hamida is well versed with the basics of Urdu language.

Talking about her Indian connections she explained that she was born and brought up in Udaipur, Rajasthan. An alumni of Aligarh Uni-

versity and University of California, Berkeley, Hamida has devoted herself to the cause of the revival of the fast fading Urdu language.

Hamida who lives in California and has been conducting a campaign to spread the Indian language to western shores, added that it gives her a sense of contribution when she imparts the language to the Indians. "This will help in reviving the dying heritage of India, a widely spoken language by the people irrespective of their religion," she added.

"It's a sweet language and has all its roots in India. Even our neighbouring country Pakistan has adopted the language from us. The first home of this language is India, I take class at my residence to ensure that this language spreads," said Hamida Banu.

Hamida Banu added, "At times students drive for more than two hours to reach my home. This interest of the students gives me an impetus from inside to contribute more."

Prof Chopra spouse of Hamida Banu, is in IIT-K and is conducting a four day short course on 'Seismic design of concrete gravity dams'. The seminar has been focussing on issues and best practices towards seismic safety of concrete gravity dams, with special reference to state-of-the-practice in India and the United States.