



## Mian Altaf inaugurates Academy's 2-day Gojri conference

### Writers discuss promotion of language, Govt assures support

**Srinagar, September 26, 2013**

The 2-day Gojri Language Conference, organized by J&K Academy of Art, Culture & Languages, started here Thursday with Minister for Forest & Environment, Mian Altaf Ahmad, inaugurating the major literary even, the first held in Srinagar since 1989.

Prominent writers, poets, intellectuals and lovers of Gojri language attended the conference in large number.

Secretary Academy, Khalid Bashir Ahmad, noted Gojri writer, Chowdhary Iqbal Azeem who presented the theme paper, Ghulam Nabi Khayal, Farooq Nazki, Ayaz Rasool Nazki, senior journalist Shujaat Bukhari and members of the civil society were present.



Prominent Gojri writers presented their papers followed by discussion and question-answer session.

Addressing the Conference, Mian Altaf Ahmad called upon writers and intellectuals of Gojri language to actively work for its promotion. He assured full support of the Government in this regard and also assured it would push for inclusion of Gojri in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution of India.

The Minister appreciated the efforts of the Academy to promote different languages of the State including Gojri. He asked the writers to produce quality literature and supplement the efforts of the Academy. He also assured support to the Academy for holding similar literary activities in Gojri language.



Mian Altaf Ahmad said that matter regarding inclusion of Gojri language at school and university level will also be seriously pursued.

In his address, writer and journalist Ghulam Nabi Khayal spoke about the development made by Gojri literature in Jammu & Kashmir.

Welcoming the participants, Secretary Academy, Khalid Bashir Ahmad gave an overview of the Academy's initiatives for the development of Gojri and specifically referred to its massive publication programme in the language. He said the institution had started a series of language conferences last October and so four conferences in Kashmiri, Dogri, Punjabi and Pahari were held and the Gojri Conference was the fifth in the series.

Khalid also dwelt upon some major initiatives taken by the Academy during the past year including laying of foundation stone of the multi-crore cultural centre, Tehzeeb Mahal, digitization of the Academy's rich collection of manuscripts, paintings, images and artefacts, launching of a comprehensive website and publication of a complete cultural newspaper, Saqafat.

On the occasion, Academy's five latest Gojri publications were released by the minister, which include Gojri translation of Masnavi Moulana Rumi (4<sup>th</sup> Volume), translation of Tareekh-e Ibn-e-Khaldoon (Vol 2 & 3),

Qadaaver (Israeil Asr Number) and The Gujjars (Vol 1 & 2). A Gojri titled "*Khaechal*" written by prominent Gojri writer Naseem Poonchi was also released.

Dr. Javaid Rahi, Chief Editor Gojri spelt out the publication programme of Gojri and said that 74 books in Gojri were published in last three years, comprising about 23000 pages.

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