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CHIEF EDITOR,
PROFESSOR M. M. HUSSAIN

Prof.,

Post Graduate Department of Persian



POST GRADUATE DEPARTMENT OF PERSIAN
UNIVERSITY OF KASHMIR
SRINAGAR - 190006.

POST GRADUATE DEPARTMENT OF PERSIAN,

At a Glance

Persian language has remained official language of the Jammu and Kashmir State for about Six Centuries. During this period, it has influenced the Culture, Art and the regional languages of the State of a great extend. Due to the literary domain and Scio-cultural significance, the Post-Graduate Department of Persian was established in the Jammu and Kashmir University in 1962 with a view to impart Higher Education, protect the cultural heritage and promote the composite culture in the state.

The Department of Persian is one of the oldest established Departments in the University of Kashmir. Initially Department was affiliated with the Department of Urdu with a common Head. Since 1963, when the Department separated from the Department of Urdu, it has been running smoothly Professor shamus-ud-Din Ahmad was the first Head of the Department after separation. The Department has the honour of having the association of some renowned scholars like Professor Shams-ud-Din Ahmad recipients of the Certificate of honour in Persian from the Hon'ble President of India, Prof A.R. Rahi, Kashmir University's first Professor Emeritus, Prof Kashi Nath Pandita, Former Director, Centre of Central Asian Studies and Professor Margoob Banhali, Former Head, Department of Kashmiri on its teaching staff.

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Professor M.M. Masoodi, Head, Post-Graduate Deptt. of Persian,
University of Kashmir, Srinagar.

The Department has been facing acute problems on account of the decreasing roll of students due to the newly-formed educational policy and introduction of NCERT Syllabi in which no classical languages in the State.

Due to this policy, the classical languages like Sanskrit, Arabic and Persian received a set back. But due to the earnest efforts of the members of staff, the Department of Persian has achieved best results at a quick pace. The Department has been able to attract more and more students for Post-Graduate Studies. The number of students increased from 16 in 1996-97 to 90 in 2003-04-05-06 and 91 in the year 2007-08 with a pleasant addition of four payment seats at the Post-Graduate level.

The Department also introduced two additional professional courses, a one year Certificate Course and a one year Post-Graduate Diploma in the subject to equip the students with various job opportunities in the field of tourism, tele-media, press-media, judiciary, revenue forestry, medicine, pharmaceutical science, interdisciplinary departments like History, Islamic Studies, Kashmiri, Urdu, Iqbaliyat, Centre of Central Asian Studies, ancient subjects and other various fields of life in accordance with the cultural heritage of the soil since 1992 and 1994 – 95 respectively.

In the year 1994-95, the University Grants Commission sanctioned DRS support under SAP which was reviewed 1998 and on the basis of departmental performance the scheme got entered in phase second with further enhancement. Presently the department is running the scheme in Phase III which may hopefully enter into a DSA. The department besides University Administrative support is endowed to University Grants Commission's strong support in promoting research and enhancing infrastructure of the department. Thanks to UGC that now all the teachers of the department are having independent rooms and a language lab for the students of the subject, due to this support of UGC, the department now stands scientifically equipped and every facility for the students, Research scholars and the teachers is available the library of the department with its allied facilities like internet, microfilm reading facility

projection facility, library on University and Department website and language lab now in two units. The library namely Moulana Roomi Research library has been recognized at the National level.

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES:

There are multiple aims and objectives in view. One of the important aim is to protect the cultural heritage and promote the composite culture in the State. Moreover, to conduct research in thrust areas i.e. Culturology of Persian with special reference to Kashmir is also one of the objectives in the indo Persian context.

As Islam made its way to Kashmir through the Persian/Iranian missionaries in the beginning of the XII century A.D., one of the most significant contributions of Persian to Kashmir was the promotion of Islamic Science, Persian language and literature and arts and crafts. Madrasa's (Schools) were established through the length and breadth of Kashmir, in which reputed scholars of Iran worked as teachers. These schools became the centres of Islamic learning and science. The medium of Instruction was Persian. Therefore, by and large, Persian language and literature were introduced in the Valley. This language got popularity and very soon it was introduced as the court language during the reign of Sultan Zain-ul-Abidin. Right from the beginning down to the middle of twentieth century, Persian remained the official language in the Jammu and Kashmir State. During this long period of about seven hundred years, thousands of books about astronomy, astrology, medicine and other branches of science were written in Persian language. Thousands of artisans and craftsmen migrated from various parts of Iran, Afghanistan and Tajikistan whose excellent art and craft had a great impact on Kashmiri art and crafts. Thousands of Persian poets and prose writers flourished in Kashmir. The intimate cultural contacts with these neighbouring countries exercised considerable influence over the culture of Kashmir. As a matter of fact, Kashmiri Culture, Language and Economic, religious and social life underwent a revolutionary change. The study of the intimate historical, cultural and commercial contacts between Kashmir and its neighbouring countries i.e. Iran, Afghanistan,

Tajikistan etc has provided a fertile field for research. With this objective in view, the following areas have been identified for research purposes:

- Role of ethical and Sufistic Persian literature produced in Kashmir, in strengthening the composite culture;
- Compilation of History of Persian literature produced in Kashmir from Shahmirs to the contemporary times;
- Role of Kashmiri Pandits in the evolution of Persian Literature in Kashmir;
- The Persian inscriptions of Kashmir;
- Compilation of the comprehensive catalogue of Persian manuscripts preserved in the different Libraries of Kashmir;
- Editing of classical Persian Texts (Prose and Poetry);
- Editing and translation of important Persian chronicles of Kashmir.

So far as the role of ethical and Sufistic literature is concerned, the teachers and research scholars of the Department have taken up some projects in hand. It was due to this aim in view that Dr. Shams-ud-Din Ahmad (Former Head, Department of Persian) translated a well known Persian epic The Ramayana into Kashmiri. Haft Ganje Sultani of Professor Mohammad Sidiq Niazmand is an additional to the field. Professor M. M. Masoodi edited and compiled "Chehil Asrar" "Deewan-e-Ghazalyat-e Shah Hamadan(R.A." with its translation in three languages, English, Kashmiri and Urdu. A dictionary of its terminology has also been included Professor Masoodi among his other literary works has compiled a Persian Kashmiri Dictionary first of its kind and nature in the history of spread of Persian in Kashmir.

The project of compiling the History of Persian Literature in Kashmir from Shahmirs to the contemporary times has been taken up in hand and the Teachers and Research Scholars of the Department of Persian are involved in it. About 70% of the work has been completed so far.

PREPARING CATALOGUE OF PERSIAN MANUSCRIPTS:

The teachers of the Department are engaged in preparing a comprehensive catalogue of the Persian manuscripts preserved in various libraries of Kashmir. In this connection, Professor M.S.

Niazmand has prepared a catalogue of Persian MSS preserved in the Iqbal Library of the University of Kashmir. He has also prepared a catalogue of S.P.S. Museum, Srinagar and the personal manuscript collection of Dr. M. Maqbool Sofi of Tral, Kashmir. A part of this comprehensive catalogue of Persian MSS has been published in the Departmental Journal "DANISH" and some portions of the catalogue pertaining to S.P.S. Museum have been published in the journal of Centre of Central Asian Studies, University of Kashmir, Srinagar.

ACADEMIC PROGRAMME OFFERED:

The Department of Persian from its inception has been engaged in teaching Persian at the Post-Graduate level. The courses that are taught at M.A. level in the semester system are as under:

SYLLABUS AND COURSES OF STUDY FOR M.A. { PREVIOUS & FINAL } PROGRAMME IN PERSIAN & Under Graduate (1st, 2nd, 3rd. Year) FOR THE SESSION 2009 AND ONWARDS

DEFINITIONS:

SEMESTER: This will mean one half of an Academic Year: 15th of March to 30th of July; and 1st of August to 15th of December;

PROGRAMME: This term will be used to designate what at present is usually called a course of study. Thus a normal four semester (2 year) M.A. Course in Persian will henceforth be called M.A. Programme in Persian;

COURSE: This word will be used exclusively for a course unit in a subject or what is at present called "Paper". Thus each semester will have a number of courses (Core as well as Optional);

CREDIT: This is a measure of course/courses successfully completed by a student. A course taught through 5-6 hours a week will have 4 credits. A semester will have 4 courses and each course 4 credits. The quality of a student will be measured by marks. Each course will have 100 marks: 80 for the examination at the end of the course and 20 for continuous assessment;