

**Report of the Committee constituted by the Competent Authority to  
deliberate upon the feasibility of language studies of the Central Asian  
Countries in the University of Delhi**

**Composition of the Committee:**

1. Dean, Faculty of Arts Chairperson
2. Head of the Department of Persian
3. Head of the Department of East Asian Studies
4. Head of the Department of African Studies
5. Prof. Aleem Ashraf Khan
6. Head of the Department of Slavonic and Finno-Ugrian Studies-Special Invitee

Assistant Registrar (Academic) assisted the committee in its deliberations.

Head, Department of East Asian Studies could not attend the meetings because of other preoccupations. However, her views, as obtained by the Chairperson of the committee, were taken into considerations by the Committee in course of deliberations.

**Dates of the meetings**

- 25.10.2021
- 03.11.2021
- 10.11.2021

**Deliberations of the Committee and its Recommendations**

- The Committee was apprised about the factual position on this matter by the Head, Department of Persian in terms of the academic aspects of feasibility of establishment of an entity in the University which will address the mandate of the

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*A. Ashraf Khan*

*Rohini Kumar*

*Rajendra*

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Central Asian Studies, an area of academic activity hitherto not expressly deliberated earlier.

- The Committee was apprised about the prevailing geopolitical situation vis-à-vis the importance of the Central Asian Countries including Afghanistan and the strategic importance of this region.
- The Committee also deliberated upon the shared historical, cultural and linguistic relations of our Country with the Central Asian Countries which include Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan and Kyrgyzstan as well as Afghanistan.
- The Committee in its wisdom also discussed the historical perspective of this region and noted that historical sources reveal India's old age and multi-dimensional relations with the aforementioned countries. They should be revived in language fields. This may also be highlighted that India is taking a keen interest in developing multifold relations with Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan and Afghanistan as these are the key countries for India's strategic partnership in the areas of peace and security, science, trade, commerce, culture, languages and education.
- The rationale of deliberation on establishment of such an entity which would be involved in teaching-learning and research activities in the areas of language, culture and other attendant fields arises out of the fact that in the present situation, it is necessary to promote teaching-learning of Pashto, Tajik, Uzbek and Kazak languages.

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- Various eminent institutions of the world, considering the changing geopolitics of the world, have started teaching language, literature and culture of the Central Asian countries. The Central Asian region is culturally very important for India.
- The rationale for establishment of an entity within the University lies in the fact that among the languages of the said area, only Uzbek is currently taught in Jamia Millia Islamia University by a single Indian teacher. In the present situation, it is necessary to promote the teaching-learning of Pashto, Tajik, Uzbek and Kazak languages. The literature of this area can be introduced to the Indian scholars and academicians.
- Apart from strengthening the strategic partnership of our nation with this region, the initiative will also pave the way for researchers to better understand our own past, acquaint themselves with the culture of our central Asian neighbors and understand our ancient connections with the wider world. In the light of aforementioned facts, learning the said languages is inevitable.
- The Committee also deliberated upon the modalities of establishment of such an entity, its umbilical relationship within the University, its nomenclature, courses of study to be pursued including other academic endeavors among others.
- After extensive deliberation, the Committee is of the view that the newly constituted entity which will be primarily engaged in the studies of the languages of the Central Asian Region including Afghanistan e.g. Pashto, Tajik, Uzbek and Kazak languages.
- The committee deliberated upon two aspects of formalizing the Academic activities in the areas under reference within the organizational superstructure.

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- Expansion of the Department of Persian with a mandate to carry out teaching-learning and research in the languages of these Central Asian Countries including Afghanistan as highlighted above.
- Establishment of a Centre under the aegis of the Department of Persian to carry out the identical activities which will be governed by the Ordinance XX of the Ordinances of the University.
- The committee after due deliberation recommended that the newly constituted entity which will be primarily engaged in the studies of the languages of the Central Asian Region including Afghanistan e.g. Pashto, Tajik, Uzbek and Kazak languages.
- The nomenclature of such an entity engaged in the above academic endeavors may be the “**Centre for Central Asian Studies**”. The proposed Centre for Central Asian Studies may function under the aegis of the Department of Persian.
- The umbilical relationship of the Centre with the Department of Persian is primarily considered relevant as it is well known that from the ancient times till the early modern period, Persian has been the core language of all matters in most of these countries. Though, at present, countries like Iran, Afghanistan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan have a separate national identity, Samarkand and Bukhara cities in Uzbekistan, Herat and Balkh in Afghanistan and Khujand in Tajikistan are considered to be a precious gem in the stunning crown of charismatic Persianate culture. Samarkand and Bukhara are still significant, where Persian language and culture flourished so marvelously and its glory yet remains worth admiring and attention-grabbing for the lovers of Persian architectural, linguistic and cultural heritage.

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