

light six ethical values listed by some researchers, namely: respect, responsibility, fairness, caring and citizenship. The characteristic of a good citizen was also evoked.

After welcoming the personalities and guests present, the Chairperson of USU, Mr Shehzad A. Ahmed extended a warm welcome to the new High Commissioner of India, H.E. Mr Tanmaya Lal. He stated that the objective of USU is to promote the Urdu language and culture and there was no doubt that the students are contributing to the progress of this beautiful language in terms of their effort and tremendous success, which goes in consonance with the following verses:

**Chalo ek raah par hi hum chalein, hathon mein dale haath
Issi mein kaamyabi hai, issi mein kaameraani hai**

The chairman of USU made an appeal to the students not to learn the Urdu language solely for career purposes but to master Urdu above all for their own benefits which will allow them to appreciate programs such as Mehfil-e-Qawwali, Ghazals, Drama, Mehfil-e-Naat, Islamic Speeches etc which after all forms part of our cultural as well as Islamic heritage. He laid emphasis on the fact that it is Urdu language that has been the essential tool to understand Islam and its principle better.

Mention was made about Govt. of India who has been offering scholarships to Mauritian students for the last 45 years. A list of activities organised by USU was brought to light, namely:

- An Urdu Drama Workshop based on "Acting & Directing", conducted by Mr Jawaid Danish, famous playwright from Canada.
- The National Naat Competition, "Aqeedat ké Phool", this year, for children between 6 and 15 years old. 171 entries were received, 43 selected for the preliminaries and 12 selected for the final.
- National Urdu Competitions, with the participation of 450 students from primary and secondary schools. 9 competitions in different categories were organised and the respective winners to be rewarded on this same occasion.
- In the context of National Eid Celebrations, the International renowned Qawaal Group known as Haidri Brothers from Pakistan, Mehfil-é-Qawaali were organised by USU, in collaboration with the Ministry of Arts and Culture, thanks to the courtesy of the High Commission of Pakistan. The personal intervention of Hon. Mrs Fazila Daureeawoo, Vice Prime Minister, to enable the Qawwali Group to travel to Mauritius was placed on record.

So far as the forthcoming activities are concerned, the following will be scheduled:

- A two-day conference to commemorate the 150th Death Anniversary of the world renowned poet Mirza Ghalib, and the event will culminate with a Mehfil-é-Ghazal.
- Urdu House has been a long awaited project, but Insha Allah, with the support and determination of our local well-wishers and sponsors, it would soon be materialised with the laying down of the foundation stone, during the Sacred Month of Rabbi-ul-Awwal this year. The project will be developed in different phases, starting with the administrative block, to be followed by the multipurpose hall and to be ended with the library cum mediatheque among other facilities.

On a separate note, reference was also made to the decision by the Government to go ahead with the Culture House Project, with a view to regrouping all Speaking Unions under one roof, thus consolidating unity in diversity in this rainbow island of ours.

It was with immense pleasure that he announced that the HSC Urdu Laureate for the year 2018 is Suhaylah Toorabally. Suhayla will be admitted at the Jamia Millia Islamia University, Delhi for higher studies in Urdu. On the other hand, the Imteaz-é-Urdu Award for this year in the field of Formal Education goes to Mr. Muhammad Haniff Caunhye.

Mr Shehzad A. Ahmed ended by referring to the launching of the book, "Taqdir, Eik Zindagi, Eik Qismat". He said that "Mr A.R. Bundhun does not need any introduction. A self-made man. A man of achievement." Mr. A.R. Bundhun, he added, has always shown a keen interest for the cause of Urdu and is also a great supporter of USU. He recollected the time he was Acting President of the Republic, a Mehfil-é-Naat for ladies was organised at the State House in collaboration with the USU in July 2007 which was a unique and historical event.

The following personalities were present: Respected Ulama-e-Kiraam, Hon. Dr Anwar Husnoo; Minister of Health and Quality of Life; Mr Cassam Uteem, Former President of the Republic; Mr Abdool Raouf Bundhun, Former Vice President of the Republic; H.E., Mr Tanmaya Lal, High Commissioner of India; H.E. Dr Syed Rizwan Ahmed, High Commissioner of Islamic Republic of Pakistan; Mr Ehsan Mamode, Deputy Mayor of Port Louis; Mr Abdul Rafiq Carrim, Vice President of the Jumma Musdjid, among others.

