

Delhi Urdu Conference

[*Editor's Note:* An "International Conference on Minorities, Education and Language in Twenty-First Century Indian Democracy—the Case of Urdu with Special Reference to Dr. Zakir Husain, Late President of India," sponsored by the Dr. Zakir Husain Study Circle (ZHSC) and the Modern Education Foundation, was held in New Delhi, 8–11 February 2002. Soon thereafter, Mr. Salman Khurshid, President, Dr. Zakir Husain Study Circle, New Delhi, got in touch with me and expressed his desire to publish the entire proceedings of the Conference in the *AUS*. Readers will recall that the *AUS* has published in several of its back issues quite a bit of material along these lines generated by sundry conferences of a similar nature held in New Delhi in the preceding years. Publishing the entire proceedings of the recent Conference would have seriously strained the resources of the *AUS*; additionally, the situation of Urdu in India, although grave and certainly the concern of all those individuals who are interested in its fate and continued well-being, can only occupy a proportionate share of the attention of the *AUS*. I offered instead to print a few representative items, and particularly the Program of the Conference for its obvious usefulness. Mr. Khurshid agreed and, later, also informed me that the entire proceedings would be published by Oxford University Press, India. *Alḥamdu li 'l-Lāh!*)

I have selected four items from the Conference for inclusion here, along with two letters of Mr. Khurshid written to me in Urdu. I have included the letters because they raise some important issues. Regrettably, I could not obtain the Program which reflected the actual papers delivered. The one I did get was printed well before the Conference. I might also mention that the versions of papers presented here have been revised and edited both by their authors and the *AUS* and thus differ, in some cases substantially, from the papers presented at the Conference.]