

Plans to establish the Institute of Research and Music Academy and an art gallery depicting seven 'surs' (themes) of Shah Abdul Latif Bhitai's poetry in the historical town were steps in that direction, she said.

She was speaking to journalists after visiting the shrine of the great Sufi poet during the saint's 269th annual Urs celebrations at Bhit Shah on Friday.

She said that a cultural complex and an institute of ceramic (Kashi) would also be established at Bhit Shah to promote and preserve Sindhi handicrafts. The culture department had launched different development schemes in the town, which included beautification of Karar Lake, repair and renovation of Shah Latif auditorium, Shah Jo Bagh, Excellence Centre, Bhit Shah Rest House and Shah Abdul Latif Museum where six new statues representing six surs (themes) of Shah's poetry had been put up, she said.

Ms Paliyo said that work on the translation of Shah Jo Risalo into French, German, Spanish and other international languages would begin in 2013. It would greatly help promote Sufism, tolerance, love and affection among people of the country and international communities, she said.

"We can confront the present-day challenges of terrorism and extremism only through the teachings of Sufism as propagated by Shah's poetry," she said.