URDU

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WLNG MEETING

OCTOBER 14TH

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As we can see in this map before the partition in 1947 both countries were under British rule as one continent and called INDO- PAK. But then the social, cultural and religious difference were grown so much that the Muslim population was forced to have a separate country of their own.
At that time indo- pak had a huge Urdu speaking population all over the continent and the language was known for its best Gramer and literature.



BIRTH OF THE URDU LANGUAGE

The Urdu language began to form around the 12th to 13th century (1100s–1200s) in the region around Delhi, India, evolving from the intermingling of local Prakrit/Khariboli dialects with Persian, Arabic, and Turkic influences during the Delhi Sultanate.



- The Delhi Sultanate was a major Islamic empire based in Delhi that ruled over large parts of the Indian subcontinent for more than 300 years, from 1206 to 1526 CE.

WORDS TRAVEL PEOPLE BELONG

Origins of the Urdu Language

PEOPLES · PLACES · IDEAS · A SHARED HERITAGE

LANGUAGES CONNECT WORLDS

1 North Indian Indo-Aryan Speech Traditions



Urdu developed from North Indian Indo-Aryan speech traditions, especially the Delhi-region Hindavi/Khari Boli base spoken in everyday life across towns and cities.

BEFORE 13TH CENTURY

2 Sustained Contact in Medieval North India



Ongoing interaction in medieval North India brought together local languages with Persian-speaking courts, scholars, merchants, and travelers, creating a rich environment of cultural and linguistic exchange.

13TH – 16TH CENTURIES

3 Persian, Arabic, and Some Turkic Influence



Urdu absorbed a substantial vocabulary and literary influence from Persian and Arabic, along with some Turkic words, enriching its expression while retaining its Indo-Aryan grammatical base.

14TH – 18TH CENTURIES

4 Growth of Rekhta/Urdu Literary Culture



From roughly the 17th to 19th centuries, a vibrant Rekhta/Urdu literary culture flourished in Delhi, the Deccan, and Lucknow, producing a rich body of poetry and prose that gave Urdu a distinctive literary identity.

17TH – 19TH CENTURIES

5 Modern Urdu in India and Pakistan



Modern Urdu is used widely in India and Pakistan and is written mainly in the Perso-Arabic Nastaliq script. It continues to evolve, carrying forward a diverse literary and cultural heritage into the present.

20TH CENTURY – TODAY

Urdu and Hindi share a closely related grammatical base; they differ mainly in script, formal vocabulary, and literary tradition.

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MANY LANGUAGES ◆ SHARED ROOTS

A LANGUAGE OF ENCOUNTERS

RICHER TOGETHER ◆ BRIGHTER TOMORROWS

- After the partition in 1947 geographics changed a lot and it affected the Urdu itself and Urdu speaking population as well.

- Most of Urdu speaking population partitioned to Pakistan and half of the population decided to stay in the other part which is known as India now.



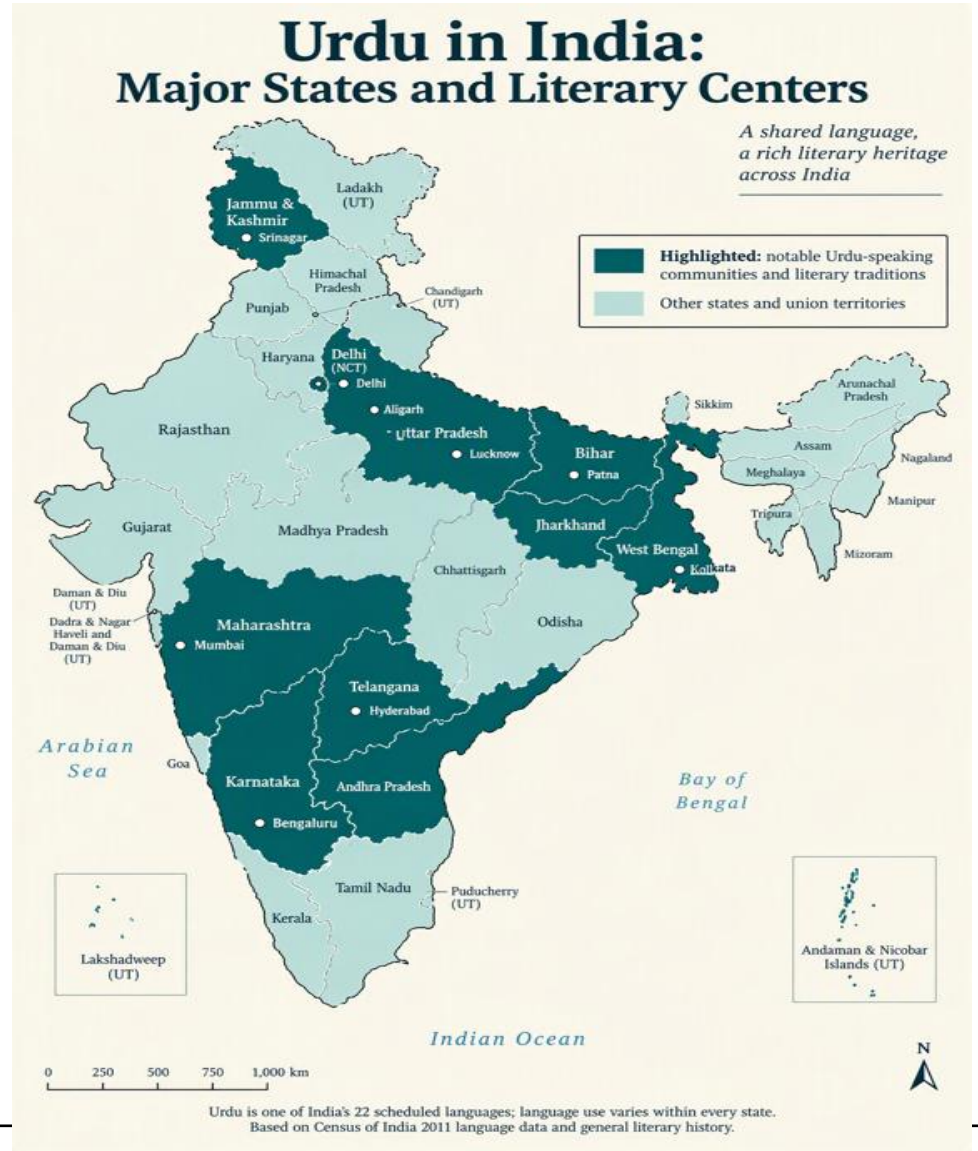
URDU BECAME THE OFFICIAL PRIMARY LANGUAGE OF PAKISTAN. BUT IT HAD LEFT ITS DEEP ROOTS IN INDIA AS WELL



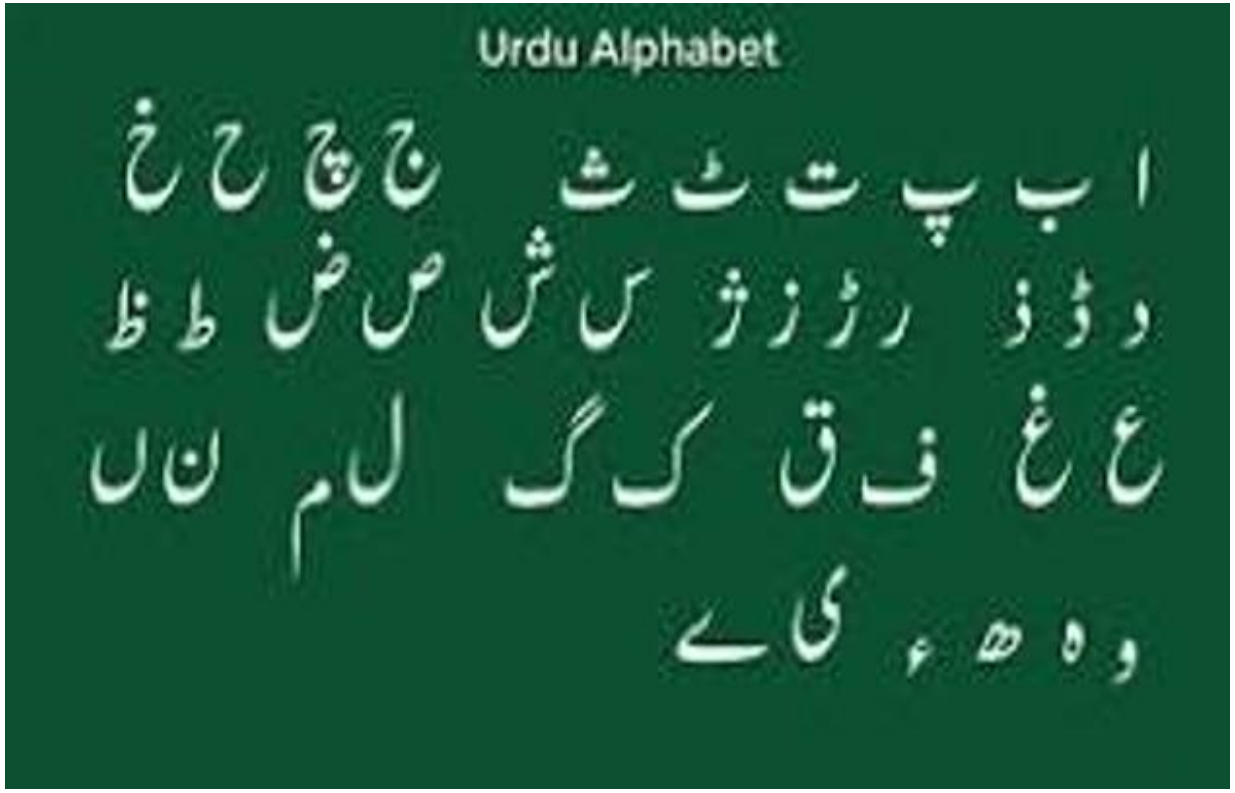
MAJOR CITIES WHERE URDU IS SPOKEN

Urdu is widely spoken across several major cities in India, particularly in northern, central, and southern regions where large Muslim communities and historical cultural centers are located.

- Hyderabad **(Telangana):** Famous for a unique regional dialect known as *Deccani Urdu*. [1, 2]
- Lucknow **(Uttar Pradesh):** Historically one of the greatest cultural and literary capitals of Urdu language and poetry.
- Delhi **(National Capital Region):** Especially in Old Delhi, where a large portion of the population continues to use and preserve the language.
- Bhopal **(Madhya Pradesh):** A major central Indian city with a rich historical and linguistic Urdu footprint.
- Aurangabad / Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar **(Maharashtra):** A key city in the Deccan region with deep historical ties to Urdu and Deccani culture.
- Rampur **(Uttar Pradesh):** Known for its historical royal library and traditional North Indian Urdu heritage.
- Meerut **(Uttar Pradesh):** Located in the heart of the Hindi-Urdu belt with a substantial Urdu-speaking population.
- Bangalore / Bengaluru **and Mysore (Karnataka):** Home to sizable communities speaking regional variants of Urdu.
- Patna **(Bihar):** A prominent urban center in Bihar, which ranks among the top states for Urdu speakers.


Urdu in India:
Major States and Literary Centers
A shared language, a rich literary heritage across India
Highlighted: notable Urdu-speaking communities and literary traditions
Other states and union territories
Jammu & Kashmir
Srinagar
Ladakh (UT)
Himachal Pradesh
Punjab
Chandigarh (UT)
Haryana
Delhi (NCT)
Delhi
Aligarh
Uttar Pradesh
Lucknow
Rajasthan
Bihar
Patna
Sikkim
Arunachal Pradesh
Assam
Nagaland
Meghalaya
Manipur
Tripura
Mizoram
Jharkhand
West Bengal
Kolkata
Gujarat
Madhya Pradesh
Chhattisgarh
Odisha
Daman & Diu (UT)
Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu (UT)
Maharashtra
Mumbai
Telangana
Hyderabad
Arabian Sea
Goa
Karnataka
Andhra Pradesh
Bengaluru
Bay of Bengal
Tamil Nadu
Puducherry (UT)
Kerala
Lakshadweep (UT)
Andaman & Nicobar Islands (UT)
Indian Ocean
0 250 500 750 1,000 km
N
Urdu is one of India's 22 scheduled languages; language use varies within every state.
Based on Census of India 2011 language data and general literary history.

URDU HAS 39 LETTERS IN ITS ALPHABET CHART



URDU WRITING STYLE

Urdu
Written in the **Perso-Arabic Nastaliq script**: اردو
Written from **right to left**
Formal vocabulary often comes from **Persian and Arabic**
Mainly associated with **Pakistan**, but also widely used in India
Literature includes authors such as **Mirza Ghalib, Faiz Ahmed Faiz, and Ismat Chughtai**

HISTORY OF THE LANGUAGE ORIGIN

Urdu originated in northern India and developed through the mixing of local Indian languages with Persian, Arabic, and Turkish.

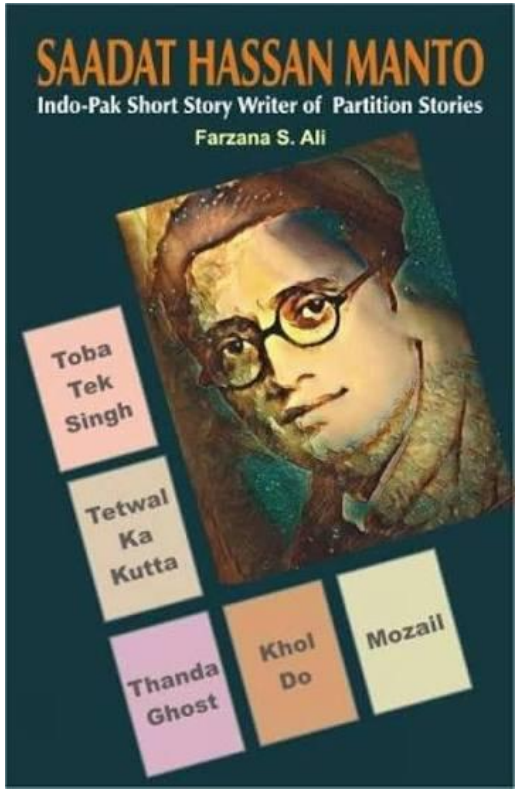
It grew in cities, royal courts, markets, and military camps where people from different cultural backgrounds communicated.

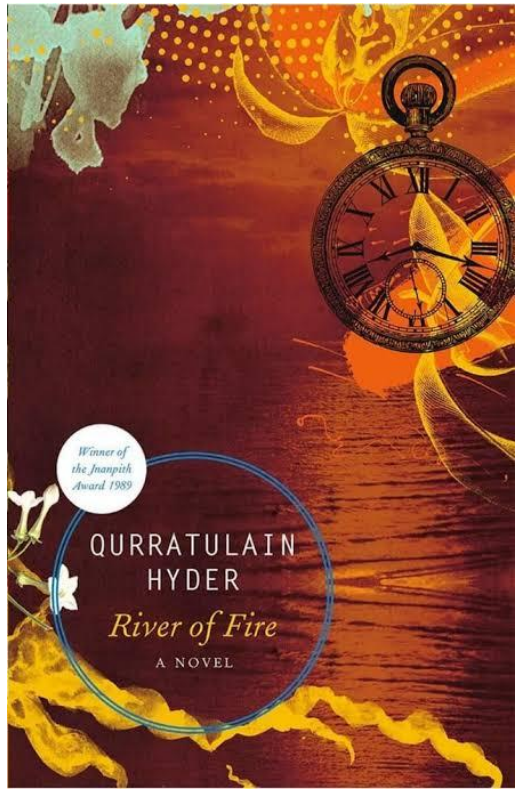
Hindi and Urdu therefore share the same basic grammar, although Urdu uses the Nastaliq script and draws much of its formal vocabulary from Persian and Arabic.

DIFFERENCE IN URDU WRITING BETWEEN INDIA AND PAKISTAN

- The principal difference is not the language itself but the **environment in which it is written**. In India, Urdu literature often represents a minority language within a multilingual society.
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- For example, a person who lives in Gujrat his primary language is Gujrati but mostly they can speak and understand Urdu as well.
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- In Pakistan, Urdu has national status and is widely used in education, publishing, journalism, television, and public life along with the multilingual society as well.
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- For example, a person who's lives in the province of Sindh they speak sindhi but urdu is the primary language for schools and daily life

WRITERS SUCH AS **SAADAT HASAN MANTO** AND **QURRATULAIN HYDER** ALSO DEMONSTRATE THAT URDU LITERATURE CANNOT ALWAYS BE NEATLY DIVIDED BETWEEN INDIA AND PAKISTAN—THE LITERARY HERITAGE REMAINS SHARED ACROSS BOTH COUNTRIES.





URDU LITERATURE IN INDIA

- Urdu is one of India's officially recognized languages, but its speakers form a linguistic minority.
- Writers often explore **multicultural life, Hindu–Muslim relations, secularism, minority identity, and the survival of Urdu**.
- Indian Urdu literature is influenced by Hindi and regional languages such as Punjabi, Bengali, Marathi, and Telugu.
- Important literary centers include **Delhi, Lucknow, Hyderabad, Aligarh, and Mumbai**.
- Notable writers include **Ismat Chughtai, Rajinder Singh Bedi, Krishan Chander, Ali Sardar Jafri, and Kaifi Azmi**.

URDU LITERATURE IN PAKISTAN

Urdu is Pakistan's national language, although most citizens have another regional language as their mother tongue.

Common themes include:

- **Partition**
- **Migration**
- **National identity**
- **Military rule**
- **Religion**
- **Class inequality,**
- **Political conflict**

Pakistani Urdu may use more Persian and Arabic vocabulary, particularly in formal or religious writing.

Important literary centers include:

- **Karachi**
- **Lahore**
- **Islamabad**
- **Rawalpindi**

NOTABLE CLASSIC WRITERS IN PAKISTAN

- Faiz Ahmed Faiz
- Intizar Husain
- Ahmad Faraz
- Parveen Shakir
- Bano Qudsia

POPULAR CONTEMPORARY URDU WRITERS OF PAKISTAN

- **Umera Ahmed** — spirituality, relationships, class, and social issues; known for *Peer-e-Kamil* and *Zindagi Gulzar Hai.*
- **Nimra Ahmed** — mystery, romance, suspense, and faith; known for *Namal*, *Mushaf*, and *Jannat Kay Pattay.*
- **Farhat Ishtiaq** — emotional and romantic fiction; known for *Humsafar* and *Bin Roye Ansoo.*
- **Hashim Nadeem** — romance, spirituality, and social themes; known for *Khuda Aur Mohabbat* and *Abdullah.*
- **Anwar Maqsood** — humor, satire, drama, and commentary on Pakistani society.
- **Kishwar Naheed** — poetry and writing about society and women's experiences.
- **Zehra Nigah** — one of Pakistan's best-known contemporary Urdu poets.
- **Mohammed Hanif** — fiction, satire, politics, and Pakistani society in both English and Urdu.

TOP URDU WRITERS ASSOCIATED WITH INDIA

- **Amir Khusrau (1253–1325)** — an early poet who wrote in Persian and Hindavi and influenced the development of Urdu.
- **Mir Taqi Mir (1723–1810)** — one of the greatest masters of the Urdu ghazal; known for poetry about love, loss, and Delhi.
- **Mirza Ghalib (1797–1869)** — celebrated for sophisticated ghazals, letters, wit, and philosophical reflections.
- **Momin Khan Momin (1800–1852)** — famous for romantic ghazals and elegant language.
- **Bahadur Shah Zafar (1775–1862)** — the last Mughal emperor and a poet remembered for verses about grief, exile, and loss.
- **Dagh Dehlvi (1831–1905)** — admired for clear, musical, and romantic Urdu poetry
- **Altaf Hussain Hali (1837–1914)** — poet, critic, and reformer who helped modernize Urdu literature.
- **Akbar Allahabadi (1846–1921)** — known for humorous and satirical poetry about colonialism and social change
- .**Munshi Premchand (1880–1936)** — influential Urdu and Hindi novelist and short-story writer who portrayed poverty, village life, and social injustice.
- **Hasrat Mohani (1875–1951)** — poet known for romantic ghazals and political activism.
- **Firaq Gorakhpuri (1896–1982)** — major Indian poet whose work combines classical Urdu traditions with modern ideas.
- **Ismat Chughtai (1915–1991)** — groundbreaking fiction writer who explored family life, class, and women's experiences.
- **Rajinder Singh Bedi (1915–1984)** — renowned short-story writer and novelist known for realism and human compassion.
- **Qurratulain Hyder (1927–2007)** — acclaimed novelist who explored history, migration, identity, and Partition.
- **Kaifi Azmi (1919–2002)** — poet and lyricist known for progressive poetry and writing for Indian cinema.

SHARED EMOTIONS IN LITERATURE AND POETRY

- Love (Prem / Mohabbat)
- Friendship (Dosti)
- Grief and loss
- Longing and separation
- Religion
- History
- Politics
- Family relationships
- Spirituality
- Hope and patriotism

COMMONLY READ GENRES FOR URDU READERS IN PAKISTAN

- **Urdu fiction:** Novels, short stories, family dramas, romance, and social issues
- · **Urdu poetry:** Especially ghazals and poetry by writers such as
  - **Allama Iqbal**
  - **Faiz Ahmed Faiz**
  - **Parveen Shakir**
  - **Ahmad Faraz**
- · **Religious books:** The Quran with translations, Islamic history, biographies, and books about faith and spirituality
- · **History and politics:** Pakistan's history, the Partition of 1947, current affairs, and international relations
- · **English fiction:** Classics, mysteries, thrillers, romance, fantasy, and books by Pakistani English-language writers
- · **Self-help and business:** Personal development, motivation, finance, and career guidance
- · **Children's books:** Illustrated stories, moral tales, Islamic stories, folk tales, and educational books in Urdu, English, and regional languages
- · **Biographies and memoirs:** Accounts of national leaders, writers, athletes, and other notable figures
- · **Regional-language literature:** Books in Punjabi, Sindhi, Pashto, Balochi, Saraiki, and other languages
- · **Digital reading:** Younger readers increasingly read e-books, online articles, serialized stories, and literary content on mobile devices

POPULAR AND WIDELY READ URDU BOOK GENRES IN BOTH EDUCATIONAL, NON-FICTION, AND MASS-MARKET FICTION CATEGORIES

- **Educational and Exam-Prep Publishing**: Textbooks, academic guides, and competitive exam preparation materials form the largest base of India's publishing economy.
- **Mythological and Devotional Retellings**: Reinterpretations and modern spins on epics like the *Ramayana* and *Mahabharata* (such as works by Chitra Banerjee Divakaruni or Amish Tripathi) command a massive readership
- **Romance and Relationship Fiction**: Contemporary young-adult and popular romance novels (featuring authors like Durjoy Datta and Ravinder Singh) are top sellers on the mass-market shelf.
- **Self-Help and Motivational Books**: Personal development, career advice, and inspirational literature—frequently localized or tailored in regional voices—enjoy high demand.
- **Narrative Non-Fiction and Biography**: Political histories, biographies, and memoirs are widely favored by Indian readers who gravitate heavily toward fact-based writing.
- **Literary Fiction**: Acclaimed works by prominent Indian and diaspora authors (such as Arundhati Roy, Amitav Ghosh, and Salman Rushdie) maintain strong prestige and sales.
- **Crime, Thriller, and Detective Pulp**: Regional and English-language mystery and crime series consistently move large volumes on the mass market.

THE BEST URDU SUSPENSE AND THRILLER WRITERS ARE RENOWNED FOR CRAFTING GRIPPING ESPIONAGE, DETECTIVE, AND MYSTERY SERIES

- Ibn-e-Safi (Asrar Ahmed): Widely considered the master of Urdu detective and spy fiction. He created the iconic *Jasoosi Duniya* (featuring Colonel Faridi and Captain Hameed) and the hugely popular *Imran Series* (featuring Ali Imran).

- Mazhar Kaleem: Famous for taking over and writing hundreds of action-packed and high-stakes novels in the *Imran Series*, alongside thrilling titles like *Power Land*, *Black Zero*, and *Death Group*.

- **Ishtiaq Ahmed**: Beloved for his family-friendly yet suspenseful mystery and detective novel series, most notably the *Inspector Jamshed Series*, *Shoki Brothers*, and *Junaid Series*.

- M. A. Rahat: A prolific writer known for blending suspense, crime, and supernatural/horror elements, including the popular *Shikari Series*.

- Anwar Aligi: Known for gripping thrillers and suspense works such as *Maskan*.

- Iqbal Kazmi: Recognized for intense Urdu thriller novels like *Aatish Fishan*.

THE MOST ICONIC URDU HUMOR AND SATIRE WRITERS (TANZ-O-MAZAH) HAVE SHAPED THE LANGUAGE WITH WIT, CULTURAL INSIGHT, AND UNFORGETTABLE PROSE

- **Mushtaq Ahmad Yusufi** — Widely considered the master of modern Urdu humor, known for deep linguistic brilliance and classics like *Chiragh Talay* and *Aab-e-Gum*.
- **Patras Bukhari (Ahmed Shah Patras Bukhari)** — Celebrated for the gold standard of witty Urdu essays, notably *Mazameen-e-Patras* (featuring the iconic piece "Kutte").
- **Ibn-e-Insha** — Famous for his lighthearted travelogues, gentle satire, and the brilliant textbook parody *Urdu Ki Aakhri Kitab*.
- **Colonel Muhammad Khan** — Renowned for his hilarious, gentle-hearted military and World War II memoirs, especially *Bajang Aamad*.
- **Shafiq-ur-Rahman** — Beloved for his youthful, light-hearted, and romantic-comedic sketches in works like *Hamaqatain* and *Parvaaz*.
- **Akbar Allahabadi** — The premier satirical poet of Urdu who used verse to skewer colonial modernity and social change.
- **Anwar Masood** — A contemporary icon of hilarious, performance-driven Urdu and Punjabi-infused humorous poetry.
- **Mujtaba Hussain** — A prominent Hyderabadi satirist known for his sharp yet affectionate look at middle-class life and social quirks.

COMMONLY READ GENRES FOR URDU READERS IN INDIA

Urdu readers in India enjoy many kinds of writing, but **poetry remains especially popular**.

Common interests include:

- **Poetry and shayari:** Ghazals, nazms, and couplets about love, separation, beauty, spirituality, and everyday life.
- **Classic literature:** Works by **Mirza Ghalib, Mir Taqi Mir, Allama Iqbal, and Faiz Ahmed Faiz.**
- **Short stories and novels:** Family life, relationships, social change, history, and the experiences of ordinary people
- **Indian society and identity:** Multicultural life, Hindu–Muslim relations, secularism, minority identity, and the preservation of Urdu.
- **Partition literature:** Stories about the 1947 Partition, migration, displacement, and shared memories of India and Pakistan.
- **Humor and satire:** Comic essays, social criticism, literary anecdotes, and political satire.
- **Religious and spiritual writing:** Islamic history, biographies, moral teachings, and Sufi thought.
- **Children's literature:** Folk tales, moral stories, educational books, and poetry.
- **Translations and accessible scripts:** Many readers enjoy Urdu works printed in **or Roman script Devanagari**, sometimes with Hindi or English translations.

DIGITAL RESOURCES FOR URDU LITERATURE

- **Rekhta** – Excellent source for Urdu poetry, biographies of poets, and many free literary resources.
https://www.rekhta.org
- **Hindwi** – A major website dedicated to Hindi literature, featuring poems, stories, and author profiles.

https://www.hindwi.org

- **Internet Archive** – Contains many public-domain Hindi and Urdu books.

https://archive.org

- **Adeeb online**

web.adeebonline.com

- **United online book store**

https://www.unitedonlinebookstore.com

Gufhtugi publications

https://gufhtugu.com

ONLINE BOOKSTORES

- **Amazon India** – Large selection of Hindi and Urdu literature, including classics and contemporary authors.
- https://www.amazon.in

- **Flipkart Books** – Popular Indian retailer with Hindi novels, poetry, and academic books.
- https://www.flipkart.com/books-store

- **Dua Book Palace**
- https://duabookpalace.com/collections/urdu-books

- **Urdu Bazar Online**
- https://www.urdubazaronline.pk

- **Kitab Mela**
- https://kitabmela.com.pk

- **Online Books Outlet**
- https://onlinebooksoutlet.com

- **Rajkamal Prakashan** – One of the leading Hindi publishers, offering works by classic and contemporary Hindi authors.
- https://www.rajkamalprakashan.com

- **Vani Prakashan** – Well-known publisher of Hindi literature, criticism, and translations.
- https://vaniprakashan.com

- **Hind Yugm** – Publishes contemporary Hindi fiction and poetry.
  https://hindyugm.com

- **Educational Book House** (Aligarh**)** – Known for Urdu literature and criticism.
  https://educationalbookhouse.com

- **Maktaba Jamia** – Long-established publisher of Urdu books.

- **Liberty Books** – A prominent Pakistan-based retailer with a massive catalog of Urdu and English literature, poetry, and biographies that regularly handles international shipments (frequently serving North America and other global regions) via advance payment.
- https://www.libertybooks.com

- **Sang-e-Meel Publications / Online Bookstores** – Widely regarded as a cornerstone for traditional, academic, and rare Urdu books out of Lahore, often fulfilling international inquiries and bulk/special orders upon direct request or coordinated logistics.
- https://sangemeel.shop

- Ferozesons – One of Pakistan's oldest and most established publishing and bookselling houses, stocking an extensive range of Urdu classics, history, and children's books with global dispatch capabilities.
- https://ferozsons.com.pk

- **Frere Hall Sunday Books** – Various curated local groups (such as active community-based online book dealers out of Karachi) offer custom international shipping options outside Pakistan via direct coordination on WhatsApp or social channels

IF YOU WANT BOOKS SHIPPED INTERNATIONALLY FROM INDIA TO THE U.S., THESE ARE AMONG THE MOST RELIABLE SOURCES

1. Rajkamal Prakashan
One of the most respected Hindi publishers.
Large catalog of classic and contemporary Hindi literature.
Good source for authors such as Munshi Premchand, Ramdhari Singh Dinkar, and Nirmal Verma.

2. Vani Prakashan
Major Hindi publisher with extensive literary collections.
Carries novels, poetry, criticism, and translations.

3. Bookshop of India
Specializes in Indian books and frequently serves international customers.
Good for library acquisitions and academic titles.

4. Amazon India
Many Hindi books are available with international shipping on selected titles.
Easy way to purchase both new releases and classics.

5. Gyan Books
Large inventory of Indian-language and academic publications.
Often used by researchers and libraries.