

RIASATH ALI ASRAR

SUMMARY

An experienced Urdu poet with several linguistic and literary skillsets in Urdu and Dakhni, complemented by a solid foundation in Persian and Arabic. He holds a Bachelor's degree in Commerce and has received traditional training in Quranic sciences, Hadith, and Tasawwuf from esteemed scholars. After transitioning from Mechanical Engineering, he has focused his educational pursuits on literature and history. He has delivered lectures on history, languages, and literature, as well as conducting workshops and courses on Urdu, Hindi, and Dakhni literature, poetics, and prosody. He has been involved in the community with the scholarship and founded Anjuman e Fannan and The Kabikaj Foundation. He is actively involved in preserving rare books and manuscripts. His current research explores Deccan history, literature and Islam.

EXPERIENCE

Research Associate

Dr. Sarah F. Waheed, Assistant Professor
University of South of Carolina, USA

April 2022 - Present
Hyderabad, India

- **Library and Archives Research:** Visited libraries and archives to retrieve essential documents, rare books, and primary sources for Deccan and South Asian studies.
 - **Heritage Site Exploration:** Helped document and assess heritage sites in the Deccan, offering crucial insights and context for research and coursework.
 - **Sourcing Experts and Works:** Reached out to scholars and local historians to obtain specialised knowledge and unpublished materials for in-depth South Asian historical research.
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Founder

The Kabikaj Foundation

December 2021 - Present
Hyderabad, India

- **Founded and Directed Organisation:** Established and led an organisation for conserving, preserving, and digitising valuable historical materials.
 - **Preservation Success:** Preserved and digitised over 200 significant artefacts, ensuring long-term accessibility and protection.
 - **Training Programmes:** Developed training programmes to educate individuals and institutions on conservation, preservation, and digitisation practices.
 - **Library Preservation:** Currently preserving private libraries and supporting public libraries, enhancing access to historical resources.
 - **Collaborations and Projects:** Partnered with institutions on various projects to advance conservation efforts and share resources.
 - **Provided hands-on training and guidance to interns,** equipping them with essential skills for cataloguing and digitising important manuscripts and rare books.
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Research Coordinator

December 2020 - Present

The Deccan Archive Foundation

Hyderabad, India

- **Research at Libraries and Archives:** Explored various libraries and archives to gather vital documents, rare publications, and primary sources pertinent to Deccan and South Asian studies.
 - **Exploration of Heritage Sites:** Contributed to the documentation and evaluation of heritage sites in the Deccan, offering essential insights and context for research initiatives and academic coursework.
 - **Connecting with Experts:** Reached out to academics and local historians to obtain specialized knowledge and access unpublished materials for in-depth investigations into South Asian history.
 - **Intern Training Development:** Designed and delivered extensive training sessions for interns, enhancing their research capabilities and professional skills.
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Founder

December 2018 - Present

Anjuman e Fannan

Hyderabad, India

- **Founded and Managed Organisation:** Established and managed a literary organisation dedicated to Urdu script, language history, poetry, and poetics.
 - **Event Coordination:** Organised and hosted over 50 literary symposiums, workshops, and courses in various Indian cities and online.
 - **Focused Content Delivery:** Provided expert sessions on Urdu script, language history, poetry, poetics, and prosody to diverse audiences.
 - **Collaborative Partnerships:** Collaborated with organisations like Hyderabad Literary Festival and Rekhta Foundation to broaden literary engagement.
 - **Digital Repository Initiative:** Spearheading a project with The Kabikaj Foundation to create a digital repository of Dakhni literature, preserving its rich heritage.
 - **Mentored and trained interns** on key organisational processes as well as language training, significantly improving their performance and contributions.
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Project Associate and Founding Member

July 2022 - Present

Dar al Isnad (DHIH), Hyderabad-Jeddah

Hyderabad, India

- **Tracing, documenting and studying the lost and neglected isnads (chains of transmissions)** of traditional scholars from the Indian subcontinent with a focus on the Deccan region in Hadith studies.
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Project Associate

July 2018 - October 2019

B M Birla Science Centre,

Hyderabad, India

Birla Archaeological and Cultural Research Institute

- **Museum Curation Assistance:** Contributed to curating a 9,000 sq. ft. museum showcasing models of spacecraft, satellites, and rockets - highlighting India's space exploration history.
 - **Event Coordination and Participation:** Assisted in organising and participating in Astronomy Winter Schools and international science conferences, supporting educational and scientific discussions.
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TALKS & WORKSHOPS

Kaargaah e Urdu

2021-Present,
The Deccan Archives Foundation, Hyderabad

- A series of literary workshops - organised at various heritage sites across the Deccan, aiming to preserve both the architectural and literary heritage of the region.
 - Conducted approximately 10 workshops, each involving 30-40 participants, as part of this initiative at multiple locations.
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Auraaq 101

27th July - 4th August, 2024;
Gawan Academy, Hyderabad

- Introduced the history of the Urdu language and its literature, followed by prosody classes and a detailed talk on Urdu poetics.
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The Art of Composing Time in Words

4th February 2024;
TDA, Qutub Shahi Tombs, Hyderabad

- Introduced the art of Chronograms through the Abjad-system through examples from Urdu Literature and Persian inscriptions found in the Indian subcontinent.
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Making Ghazal Multilingual

27-29 January, 2023;
Hyderabad Literary Festival, Hyderabad

- Hosted a session on the Ghazal genre: Explored its presence in literature beyond Urdu, with a focus on English literature. Participants studied the genre's style and nuances and composed poetry in Russian, Marathi, Telugu, and English.
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Harf

July-September 2022; Online

- Delivered a beginner's course on Urdu literature: Focused on practising the Urdu script through literature, complemented by sessions on prosody and poetics.
 - Conducted during the COVID-19 pandemic, the course attracted approximately 30 participants from diverse global backgrounds.
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Kargah-e-Sukhan

December 2021; Lodhi Gardens, Delhi

- Facilitated an introductory workshop on prosody and Urdu literature organised by the UrduBazaar.com - which is known as an online marketplace and bookstore.
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Quli Qutub Shah's Dakhni Divaan

May 2021, Salarjung Museum, Hyderabad

- Delivered a talk at the Salar Jung Museum in Hyderabad: Organised by INTACH, the session examined Quli Qutub Shah's Divan, focusing on the Dakhni language's history, poetic style, genre, preserved manuscripts, and the poetics of his poems. The museum, known for its art, antiques, and scholarly heritage, provided the backdrop.
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- UnHeard: A fictional period drama exploring the 1905-1950 narratives of Hyderabad's annexation, depicting the Indian independence movement through the eyes of common people during pivotal historical events.
 - In-depth Research: Conducted extensive research to create authentic dialogue reflecting Hyderabad's socio-political climate in 1948.
 - Language Training: Trained cast in period-specific dialects, enhancing authenticity and character development in performances.
 - Collaborative Workshops: Facilitated workshops with directors and actors to align historical accuracy with narrative vision.
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Guftagoo e Adab

13th February 2020; EFLU, Hyderabad

- Curated a session at a literary seminar: Focused on various genres and forms of Urdu poetry, examining their historical evolution and development.
 - Delivered a talk on literary connections: Explored how genres such as Arabic Qasidahs, Japanese Haikus and Haibuns influenced and adapted within Urdu literature.
 - Conducted at the English and Foreign Languages University and organised by the Department of Comparative Literature and India Studies to highlight cross-cultural literary borrowings and adaptations.
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Urdu Poetry and Indian JudiciaryFebruary 2020, Symbiosis Law School
Literary & Debate Society, Hyderabad

- Discussed the relationship between Urdu literature and language with the legal language of the Indian subcontinent: Explored how Urdu's literary and linguistic features intersect with and influence the region's legal discourse.
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Shaam-e-Rekhta

October 2020; Public Gardens, Hyderabad

- Organised by Anjuman e Fannan in collaboration with The Rekhta Foundation: Held in Hyderabad, the event drew a crowd of 1,000, celebrating Urdu literature and music.
 - Sessions: Featured a diverse programme including prose readings (Nasr-goi), a poetry symposium with poets from Hyderabad and Delhi, and music performances where fusion bands and qawwals presented compositions based on Urdu poetry.
 - Book Stalls: Showcased rare, out-of-print, and neglected Urdu literary books, providing attendees with unique opportunities to explore significant but overlooked texts.
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Science and Urdu PoetryNobel Room,
B.M. Birla Science Centre; 2019 Hyderabad

- Delivered a Talk on "Science and Urdu Poetry": Presented at the "Universe in Verse" event, exploring the intersection of scientific concepts and Urdu literature.
 - Explored Scientific Theories: Discussed how scientific ideas, including Einstein's theory of relativity, are mirrored in Urdu poetry, highlighting unexpected thematic parallels.
 - Analysed Ghalib's Poetry: Investigated how Ghalib's poetic themes intriguingly reflect scientific concepts, despite his lack of exposure to these Western theories.
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WRITINGS & PROJECTS

Poetry (Ghazals)

- Ghazals featured on The Rekhta Foundation's digital repository:
<https://www.rekhta.org/poets/riasath-ali-asrar/all>
- Ghazal published in an anthology "Shaheen Bagh ke Naghmey" compiled for the anti-CAA protests 2019-2020 held at the Shaheen Bagh area of Delhi, India

Chronograms & Numismatics (ongoing)

- Cataloguing and studying the Deccani coinage from 16th century Qutub Shahis to 20th century Asaf Jahis.
- Cataloguing and studying the Islamic coinage from the early Umayyad dynasty to the last Ottoman Empire.
- Cataloguing and studying the Persian and Arabic inscriptions and chronograms found in the Deccan region and tracing history through them.

Dakhni-pedia (ongoing)

- Establishing a digital repository and knowledge base: Documenting poets, scholars, and their works spanning four centuries of Dakhni literary heritage.

Writings (on-going)

- On A.G. Noorani's works
 - published in The Siasat Daily: <https://www.siasat.com/ag-noorani-the-voice-of-reason-in-indias-legal-and-political-discourse-3087905/>
 - Kabikaj
 - Iqbal and Halley's comet
 - The Islamic Waqf System
 - A Brief History of Urdu Prosody
 - Different Genre & Forms of Urdu Poetry and their origins in other Languages & Literature
 - Persian, Arabic and other languages in the Deccan
 - A Brief History of the Dakhni
 - Urdu as a part of 'World Literature' - translations from Russian, English and other languages in in the 20th century
 - Non-Muslim and Non-Indian Poets of Urdu from the 18th century to 20th century
 - History & Development of Prakrit Literature
 - 'Sufeyd RaateiN' - translation of the 19th century novelist Dostoevsky's " Belye Nochi (White Nights)" into Urdu
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RESEARCH INTERESTS

- Language and Literature
 - History of Urdu Language & Literature
 - Urdu-Hindi Polemics
 - Comparative Literature (mainly, Urdu in the 'World Literature')
 - Contemporary socio-political scenarios of Urdu
 - History of Persian & Arabic Language in the Indian subcontinent with a focus on the Deccan region
 - Dakhni Literature
 - Poetics
 - Indian Poetics
 - Persian Poetics
 - Comparative Poetics and Theories of Literary Criticism
 - Prosody
 - Comparative Prosody
 - History & development of Urdu Prosody
 - Science and Literature
 - History
 - Early, Medieval and Modern Cultural and Political connections of the Deccan with the rest of the World
 - Islam in South Asia, particularly in the Deccan region
 - Early, Medieval and Modern Islamic Era
 - Pan-Islamism
 - Islamic Intellectual, Political and Literary Studies History particularly in the South Asia and Deccan
 - History of Philosophy
 - Indian, Greek and Western
 - Islamic
 - Comparative Philosophy
 - Manuscriptology, Manuscripts and Rare Books
 - Chronograms, Numismatics and Inscriptions
 - Islamic Sciences
 - Islamic Intellectual Sciences
 - Cosmology
 - 'Aqidah/Theology
 - Kalaam Tradition
 - Logic & Philosophy
 - Fiqh/Jurisprudence
 - Early and modern Islamic Fiqh development
 - Comparative Fiqh within the four Sunni schools as well as other Muslim and Secular Jurisprudence
 - Ihsan/Tasawwuf/Sufism
 - Sufi practices and traditions
 - Sufi Warriors
 - Occult Sciences
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EDUCATION

Bachelor of Commerce

2019-2022

Glocal University

U.P., India

- **Financial and Accounting Skills:** Developed expertise in financial principles, accounting practices, and auditing techniques.
 - **Business and Economic Knowledge:** Gained insights into marketing, economics, organisational behaviour, and market structures.
 - **Quantitative and Analytical Skills:** Mastered business mathematics, statistics, and data analysis for decision-making.
 - **Legal, Ethical, and HR Awareness:** Learned business laws, ethics, human resources management, and corporate governance.
 - **Entrepreneurship:** Explored principles of starting ventures, business planning, and innovation.
 - **CGPA:** 6.25
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Bachelor of Mechanical Engineering

2017-2019 (Discontinued)

Muffakham Jah College, Osmania University

Hyderabad, India

- Acquired a solid foundation in mechanical engineering principles through coursework, gained practical experience in projects and workshops, and developed transferable analytical and problem-solving skills.
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High School (12th CBSE)

2017

Delhi Public School, Jeddah

Jeddah, KSA

- **STEM:** Developed a strong understanding of physics, chemistry, mathematics, and scientific principles.
 - **Analytical and Technical Skills:** Enhanced problem-solving and analytical abilities through rigorous coursework and technical training.
 - **IT Proficiency:** Gained hands-on experience with programming, databases, and software applications for technical skills.
 - **High School Project: Telescopes -** Investigated various types of telescopes (optical, radio, space), their mechanisms and functions, and traced their development and evolution from Galileo's early designs to modern observatories.
 - **CGPA:** 6.3
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Secondary School (10th CBSE)

2015

International Indian School, Jeddah

Jeddah, KSA

- **Academic and Language Skills:** Studied Indian and world history, social science, geography, and core sciences; proficient in Urdu, Hindi, and English.
 - **Scientific and Mathematical Proficiency:** Gained strong understanding in biology, physics, chemistry, and mathematics, enhancing analytical skills.
 - **Holistic Development:** Engaged in co-curricular activities, fostering personal growth and teamwork abilities.
 - **CGPA:** 8.2
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SKILLS

- Advanced Communication (written and verbal)
- Team Leadership and Collaboration
- Strategic Problem-Solving, Critical and Analytical Thinking
- English - C2 Proficient
- Urdu-Hindi - C2 Proficient
- Persian - B1 Intermediate Proficiency
- Arabic - B1 Intermediate Proficiency
- Workshop Facilitation and Educational Instruction
- Research and Curriculum Development
- Archiving and Digitisation
- Proficient in Microsoft Office and Google Suite
- Graphic Designing
- Website Development and Management

Languages

OTHER DETAILS AND REFERENCES

Name: Mohammed Riasat Ali

Email: riaaasath@gmail.com

D.o.B.: 10th August 1999

Phone Number: 0091-91215-69542

Nationality/ Residence: Hyderabad, India

Linkedin: www.linkedin.com/in/riaaasath

Website-Portfolio: www.asrar.blog

• **Dr. Sarah Fatima Waheed**
Assistant Professor,
University of South Carolina
swaheed@mailbox.sc.edu

• **Zoë Woodbury High**
PhD Candidate,
University of Chicago
zoehigh@gmail.com
