Introduction

şad jalvah rū bah rū hai jo mizhgāñ uṭhā'ie
ṭāqat kahāñ kih did kā ihsāñ uṭhā'ie

GHĀLIB

A hundred splendors face-to-face,
if you'd just lift your eyelids
Where is that strength—
to lift the vision's favor

The peer-reviewed Journal of Urdu Studies sets the stage for new conversations on Urdu and its attendant cultures across regions and times. Oriented to redressing the widely-perceived chasm between area and disciplinary studies, the journal is deliberately heterogenous in the methodological, generational, and geographic subject-positions of its authorship. This inclusive stance also renders the journal acutely sensitive to issues of marginalization—whether stemming from nationalist and colonial biases, or prejudices based on gender, sexuality, and religion. It is my hope that this invigorating blend of diverse methodologies and disciplines will open new vistas on the aesthetic calibration and cultural dynamism of Urdu's many worlds.

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Syed Akbar Hyder
Editor-in-Chief