

*Ham Bhi Dariya Hain  
Hamein Apna Hunar Malaam Hai*  
Celebrating International Women's Day



Since the latter half of the 20th century, feminist voices have stormed the literary and cultural milieu. Female writers and poets have been intensely aware of the female predicament, and it has significantly contributed to their literary sensibilities. On this momentous day, when the achievements of women are being celebrated all around the globe, we have gathered for you, the works of a few representative Urdu female writers and poets.

## YE HAM GUNAHGAAR AURATEN URDU WOMEN POETS YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT



### KISHWAR NAHEED

Kishwar Naheed is known to be an unapologetic individual and a poet much to confound. She led an unconventional life and defied stereotypical expectations. Thus, she offers unapologetic models of femininity through her life and work.

[Know more](#)

### PARVEEN SHAKIR

Parveen Shakir managed to establish herself in Urdu literature like almost no other female ghazal poet. The elegance in her ghazals is a luminous display of her excellent craftsmanship, the fluidness of her diction is the core of her identity as a woman.

[Know more](#)



### FEHMIDA RIAZ

The poet and activist who wrote extensively and strongly over gender inequality, men and women struggling against the imposed masculinity of the bourgeois class and class conflict.

[Know more](#)

### SARA SHAGUFTA

The Pakistani modernist poet who is known for her confessional and unconventional style of Nazam. Amrita Prasad considered Sara Shagufta's poetry close to the style of Sylvia Plath.

[Know more](#)



## DEATH CERTIFICATE PAR LIKHI EK NAZM

by SIDRA SAHAR IMRAN

mai us aadmi ki zaban  
kat dena chahti hun  
jis ne pahli bar  
panw chatne ki riwayat qaem ki

main us ladki ke hath  
qalam karna chahti hun  
jis ne pahli bar  
ek mard ke palron ko chhua



[Click Here to Read Full Nazam](#)

## BREAKING BARRIERS KISHWAR NAHEED ON THE FIERCE WOMAN

(WOMAN AS OUTCAST, WOMAN UNVANQUISHED,  
WOMAN AS A FORCE TO BE RECKONED WITH)



Naheed extends the image of woman as wilderness. In an attempt to define herself, she writes a nazm in response to the question of her identity – who is she? She defines herself as the one from whom loveliness has been extracted ruthlessly but she is still unvanquished.

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## WOMEN'S DAY SPECIAL WITH REKHTA



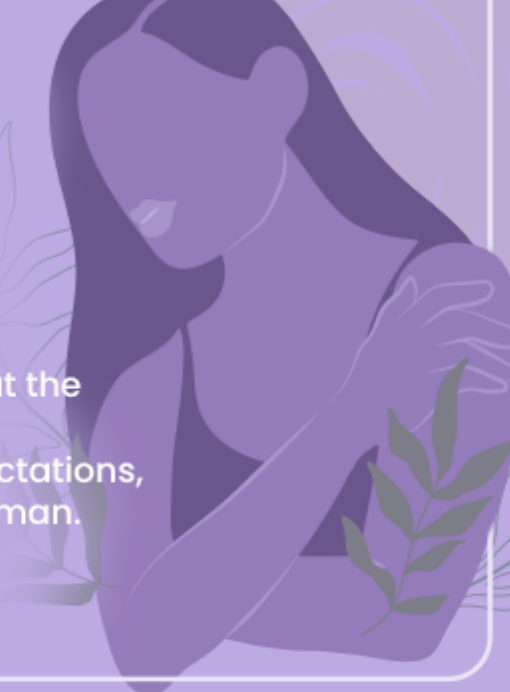
Uth Meri Jaan : Kaifi Azmi's Feminist Perspective

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## URDU FEMINIST POEMS

Apni Tasweer Mujhe  
Apni Banani Mujhe

Inclusivity and intersectionality are at the forefront of this collection. It explores toxic masculinity, stereotypical expectations, and what it's like to grow up as a woman. Readers are sure to see themselves represented in these poems.



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## DID YOU KNOW?

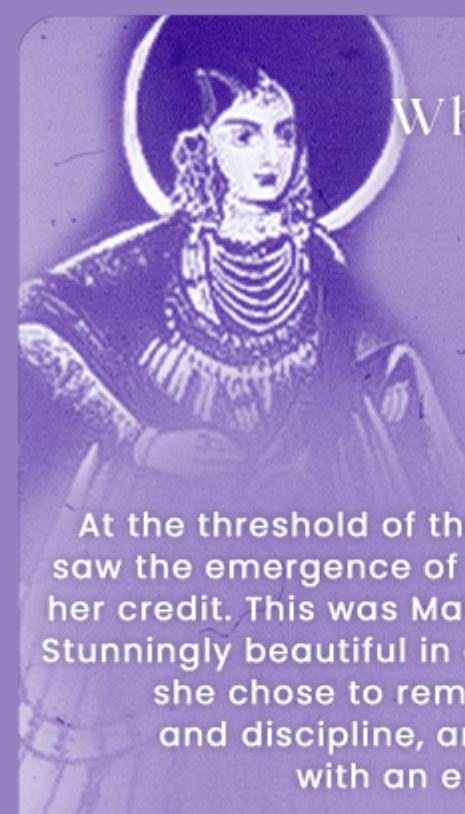
### AAG KA DARIYA

Originally published in 1959, Aag Ka Dariya is widely recognized as one of the most important novels of 20th century Urdu literature. Hyder's witty and lyrical prose in this work won her the Bhartiya Gyanpeeth, India's highest literary award, in 1989. Her own English translation of the novel has been published under the title "The River of Fire."



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When there was no woman poet  
in Urdu, there was  
**MAH LAQA**

At the threshold of the nineteenth century, the Urdu language saw the emergence of the first woman with a complete Diwan to her credit. This was Mah Laqa Chanda born in 1768 in Hyderabad. Stunningly beautiful in appearance and superbly jovial by nature, she chose to remain unmarried, lead a life of comfort and discipline, and move like a warrior on horseback with an entourage of her bodyguards.

[Know More](#)

## 5 INSPIRING WOMEN URDU WRITERS, YOU SHOULD READ



(Click on the images above to read about the writer)

## THE FIRST PRAYER OF MY ELDERS

by **Ishrat Afreen**

Out of night's womb  
A tiny ray was born  
The night unclenched the rosy fist of sunset  
And read through palm lines  
And whispered unknown words in breeze's ears  
It brought tears into dewy eyes  
Far far away, a star whimpered  
Moonshine stopped smiling  
My feeble mother  
Turning over in her weakness  
Gestured something  
Someone sighed in despair and whispered  
It's a girl!  
So furiously sad words, my God  
Were carved on my first memory  
In my early breaths, they dissolved  
The poison of those hushed breaths  
Ah, it's a girl  
A girl it is  
Pray for her fate  
That still burns on my memory  
The first blessing of my elders

Tr: USAMA ZAKIR



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दिन भर की उजरत होती है

EK DIYA AUR  
EK PHIOL ISHRAF AFRIN

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