

Subuhi Parvez, Hindustan Times New Delhi, February 25, 2014

Naseeruddin Shah takes in a long whiff of the deep red rose in his hands, and out of that sweet suffusion flows shayari that woos Madhuri Dixit and all the people who've watched [Dedh Ishqiya](#). Some words evoke wonderment ... Uns, Mohabbat, Aqeedat, Ibadat ... and there's much more Urdu floating in the air these days.

Author Rakhshanda Jalil, whose new series of Urdu cultural events at The Attic in Connaught Place, has the speaker talk about how a particular poet like Faiz Ahmad Faiz or Sahir Ludhianvi has influenced them in a way, believes Hindustani is the next big thing. The series, called *Hindustani Awaaz*, comprises poetry recitation, dramatic plays and theatrical readings. "The purpose was to make a space for Hindustani, which is a nice mix of Hindi and Urdu. The idea was to create a space for people who are not inclined towards a particular language and its politics. Urdu needs to be pulled out from the akhadas (camp mentality)," says Jalil.

She is glad that the series, and more events such as these, are pulling in crowds without having to shout from the rooftops. "Why do you need posters and hoardings? I get a dedicated audience and they come because they're willing," she says.

And the folk she refers to isn't your good old grey-haired audience, but young, new-age culture junkies who are fans of the language.



Najmi and Rakhshanda Jalil

Rakhshanda Jalil is BA Eng Hons MA Eng LSR and her husband Justice Najmi Waziri High Court of Delhi is BA Philo Hons 1983 St Stephen's LLB 1986 CLC

There's more than one language at play for this youthful alumni couple .