

# 2025 ANNUAL REPORT





# The Forum for Language Initiatives

We are Striving “To See all Ethnolinguistic Communities in Pakistan Flourishing Culturally and Economically”

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FLI Gawri Keyboard



FLI Bateri Keyboard



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FLI Gawarbatni Keyboard



FLI Palula Keyboard



FLI Ormuri Keyboard



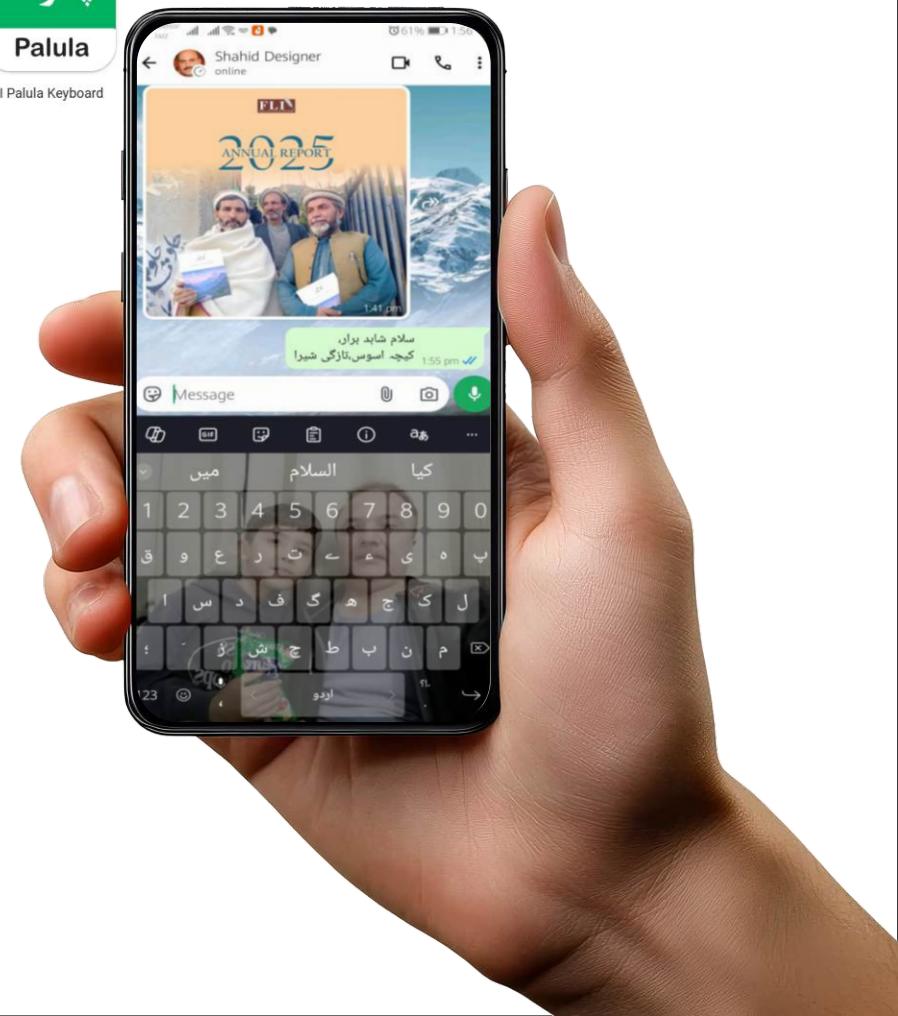
FLI Balti Keyboard



FLI Dameli Keyboard



FLI Indus Kohistani Keyboard



## Executive Director's Message

**Assalamo Alaikum and Hello,**



It gives me great satisfaction to present this year's newsletter, reflecting the collective achievements of FLI and its partners. The past year has seen important progress in advancing linguistic diversity, strengthening community capacities, and building bridges between local voices and global platforms.

A major accomplishment was the conclusion of the Poetry Promotion Project in Shina and Kalkoti. The project produced anthologies and inspired new poets, particularly within the Kalkoti community, where the number of active poets grew remarkably. This achievement shows how creative expression can serve as a powerful tool for language vitality and cultural pride.

Equally significant was the training of 50 government school teachers, including 25 women, in Saraiki subject teaching. This initiative has enhanced classroom practices and ensured that children receive instruction in their mother tongue with greater confidence.

FLI has taken pioneering steps in facilitating connections between researchers from indigenous language communities of northern Pakistan and professionals working in artificial intelligence, thereby opening new possibilities for the inclusion of local languages in emerging digital platforms.

These achievements, along with others highlighted in this report, underscore the importance of partnerships and community empowerment. By working hand in hand with local organizations, educators, poets, and technologists, FLI continues to demonstrate that sustainable progress in language development is possible when communities are at the center.

I extend my sincere gratitude to our donors, partner organizations, and the dedicated FLI team members whose commitment and support made these milestones possible. Their contributions remain the foundation of our success and the driving force behind our vision for inclusive and resilient language communities.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Fakhrudin Akhunzada".

Fakhrudin Akhunzada,  
Executive Director

## Call to Preserve Mountainous Region's Linguistic Mosaic



On February 26, 2025, FLI convened a landmark dialogue bringing together language activists, poets, and community representatives from Gilgit-Baltistan, Chitral, Indus and Dir Kohistan, and South Waziristan. The gathering highlighted the urgent need to safeguard more than a dozen endangered indigenous languages of the Himalayan, Hindu Kush, and Karakoram mountain ranges, including Shina, Balti, Khowar, Burushaski, Yadgha, Dameli, Palula, Kateviri, Kalkoti, Bateri, Indus Kohistani, Kohistani Shina, Gawri, Gawarbati, Ormuri, Domaaki/Dawoodi, and Wakhi.

Speakers underscored systemic challenges such as urbanisation, youth migration, lack of institutional support, and cultural stigmatisation, which threaten the survival of these languages. Yet, grassroots initiatives offered hope:

- Burushaski primer development in Hunza, Nager, and Yasin valleys.
- A Sweden-supported Palula dictionary distributed in schools.
- Shina census campaign led by members of a community based organization.
- Launch of Devaako Shloke, a Shina folktale collection, and viral Yadgha music by Allaudin Haideri.

Social media was noted as both a tool for amplifying indigenous literature and a source of misinformation, prompting calls for ethical digital literacy programmes.

The dialogue reaffirmed that despite looming threats, collaborative efforts bridging local activism, international partnerships, and policy advocacy can ensure these ancient voices endure for generations.



## FLI Hosts Regional Partners Meeting in Peshawar to Advance Indigenous Language Empowerment

Peshawar, September 4, 2025 — The Forum for Language Initiatives (FLI) convened a partners' meeting in Peshawar, bringing together leaders from 14 Community-Based Organizations (CBOs) across Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. The one-day gathering served as a platform for reflection, collaboration, and renewed commitment to indigenous language preservation.

Over the past six months, these CBOs have been actively engaged in grassroots efforts to strengthen their mother tongues. The meeting spotlighted inspiring stories from the field, with Nasir Mansur of the Kateviri language community earning special praise for his work with a government school in his village. He trained children to deliver speeches in their native language during Independence Day celebrations on August 14 — a moving initiative that saw enthusiastic participation from young speakers.

Alauddin from the Yadgha language group surprised attendees with news of writers' workshops held in both private and government schools in his region, nurturing literary expression among students. Another milestone was the first-time representation of the Mankiyali language, spoken by fewer than 500 people in Mansehra district. Aurangzeb's presentation marked a significant step forward in visibility and advocacy for this endangered language.

Following the presentations, FLI facilitated a session focused on promoting indigenous languages through poetry. Participants were encouraged to engage poets from their communities, recognizing the power of verse in cultural preservation and linguistic pride.

The meeting also explored strategies to expand language documentation across diverse domains, with participants offering valuable feedback and ideas. In a major development, a provincial-level regional network was formed to unify efforts across Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. A dedicated WhatsApp group was launched to foster ongoing collaboration and coordination.

In the closing resolution, participants committed to advocating for linguistic rights through their elected representatives. Regional delegations were announced to engage with members of the provincial assembly, aiming to push forward a resolution that would reinforce the government's commitment to indigenous language support. FLI remains steadfast in its mission to empower communities, amplify voices, and ensure that the rich linguistic heritage of northern Pakistan continues to thrive.



## FLI's Poetry Promotion Project: A Landmark Achievement

At the beginning of the year, the Forum for Language Initiatives (FLI) embarked on a bold journey: the Poetry Promotion Project in Shina and Kalkoti languages. Designed as a one-year initiative, the project began with formal MoUs signed with partner organizations—Sasken Research Development Foundation (SRDF) for Shina and the Kalkoti Community Welfare Organization (KCWO) for Kalkoti—setting the stage for a remarkable cultural revival.

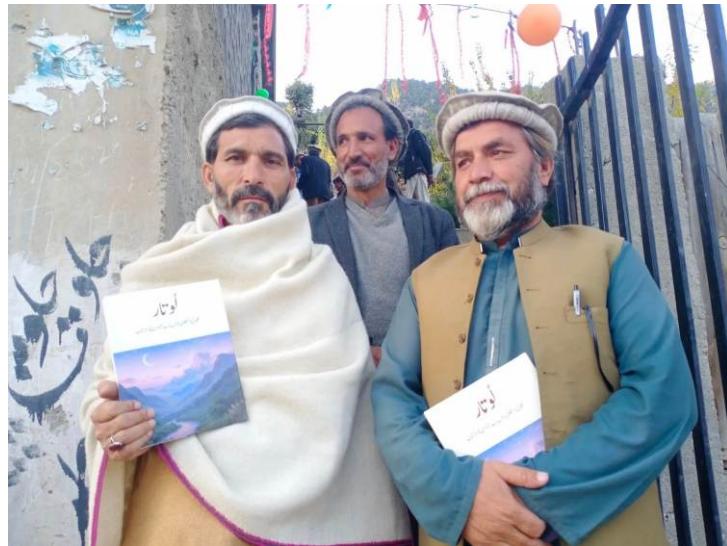
Why poetry? FLI has long recognized poetry as a powerful force in language promotion. Shina, though vibrant, had seen many of its poets writing in languages other than their own. Kalkoti, on the other hand, was only beginning to develop a written tradition, with its script newly established. Both communities stood at critical junctures, and poetry offered a way to strengthen identity, creativity, and pride.

To ensure success, FLI trained language consultants from each community in digital and print documentation, equipping them with laptops, DSLR cameras, and essential software. These consultants became bridges between FLI and their communities, guiding the project with dedication.

The results were inspiring. In Kalkoti, the project began with just two registered poets. By year's end, fifteen poets were actively composing in their mother tongue. Their collective work was published in the first-ever Kalkoti poetry anthology, launched with pride and celebration. Shina poets, meanwhile, prepared their own anthology, overcoming grammatical challenges to produce a collection now ready for publication.

Another milestone was music. For the first time, Kalkoti songs were composed and performed, giving the community its very first singer and filling hearts with joy. In Shina, FLI supported the creation of a devotional song—unique, culturally resonant, and deeply moving.

This project has not only produced anthologies and songs; it has sparked a movement. It has shown that with vision, mentorship, and community partnership, languages can thrive through creative expression. The Poetry Promotion Project stands as a proud achievement for FLI and a lasting gift to the Shina and Kalkoti communities.



## Devotional Song in Shina: A Gift for Youth and Community

FLI is proud to present a devotional song in the Shina language, created to celebrate the spiritual and cultural heritage of Shina-speaking communities and to inspire a new generation to reconnect with their mother tongue. This recording blends traditional melody with accessible production so young listeners can both enjoy the music and feel a renewed sense of belonging to their language and culture.

The song is offered as a small, mystical gift: a moment of reflection, a bridge between elders and youth, and a creative example of how language can live in contemporary media. It is part of FLI's wider effort to promote mother-tongue use across social and cultural domains, and to support projects that strengthen identity, pride, and intergenerational transmission.

### Why this matters?

Shina is one of the many indigenous languages of northern Pakistan that carries unique histories, songs, and spiritual practices. Creative works like this devotional song help keep those traditions alive by making them relevant and shareable for younger audiences. Music is a powerful tool for language revitalization: it travels easily, invites participation, and creates emotional connections that textbooks cannot.



## Capacity Building Workshop for Gojri Language Curriculum Developers in Muzaffarabad

Muzaffarabad, AJK — FLI organized a Capacity Building Workshop for Gojri Language Curriculum Developers and Reviewers from December 29, 2025 to January 2, 2026. The event brought together 15 Gojri reviewers, including teachers, linguists, and educationists, to strengthen curriculum development in light of the recent inclusion of Gojri in the educational framework of Azad Jammu & Kashmir. Six of the participants were women.

Gojri, spoken widely across northern Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Kashmir, and adjoining regions, has long been in written use. However, experts emphasized that further work is needed to standardize its orthography. Participants suggested that in future phases, representatives from Swat, Dir, Shangla, and Buner should also be included to broaden the scope of engagement.

This initiative marks a significant step toward preserving and promoting Gojri language and culture, ensuring its dignified representation in education and literature



## 60 Govt Schools' Teachers Receive Training in Saraiki Subject Teaching

Dera Ismail Khan, May 13, 2025 – A three-day capacity-building workshop commenced for 60 government primary school teachers in Dera Ismail Khan, focusing on Saraiki subject teaching. Organized by FLI in collaboration with the Department of Professional Development (DPD), Peshawar, this initiative aims to enhance teachers' skills in delivering mother tongue-based education.

Among the participants, 25 female teachers received specialized training from female trainers, ensuring inclusivity and tailored instruction. The workshop is facilitated by eight experienced trainers, all of whom were previously trained by FLI.

The training program underscores the importance of linguistic ownership, encouraging Saraiki-speaking students, parents, and teachers to recognize their language as a valuable academic and cultural asset.

Introduced into the KP curriculum in 2016, Saraiki was included as a subject alongside Pashto, Khowar, and Hindko. However, a lack of specialized teacher training remained a significant barrier to effective language instruction. FLI stepped in to bridge this gap, beginning with training Khowar-speaking teachers in Upper Chitral, and now expanding its efforts to support all languages included in the curriculum.

This initiative marks a significant step toward strengthening mother tongue education, ensuring sustainable language preservation and accessibility within government schools.



## Mother Language Festival Highlights

The Forum for Language Initiatives (FLI) once again made a contribution to the Mother Language Literature Festival 2025, held at the Pakistan National Council of Arts (PNCA) during the second weekend of February in Islamabad. The festival, which has become a vibrant platform for celebrating Pakistan's linguistic diversity, brought together writers, researchers, and cultural activists from across the country.

This year, FLI launched five new books published in various indigenous languages of northern Pakistan. The authors—all of whom are FLI trainees nurtured through its capacity-building programs—were facilitated to attend the festival, present their work, and engage directly with audiences. Their presentations were warmly received, earning applause and recognition for their dedication to preserving and promoting local languages.

The event was presided over by Rozi Khan Burki, Chairperson of FLI's Executive Board, whose longstanding commitment to language development was acknowledged with a Lifetime Achievement Award during the inaugural session. This honor underscored his role in advancing the cause of linguistic and cultural preservation in Pakistan.

In addition to the book launches, FLI set up a publication display booth at the festival. The stall attracted a large number of visitors, offering them a chance to explore the growing body of literature being developed in indigenous languages. Many attendees expressed appreciation for FLI's efforts, noting how these publications are not only preserving linguistic heritage but also inspiring new generations of writers and readers.

Through its active participation, FLI reaffirmed its mission of empowering communities by strengthening their languages and cultural identities. The festival once again highlighted the importance of mother tongues as vehicles of knowledge, creativity, and belonging—values that FLI continues to champion across northern Pakistan.



## What's New in FLI's Upgraded Android Keyboards?

FLI has rolled out a major upgrade to its Android keyboards, now supporting 14 indigenous languages of northern Pakistan. This milestone marks a significant leap in digital accessibility and linguistic empowerment.

Available Now on Google Play

- 15 keyboards are already live on the Google Play Store, ready for download.
- 15 PC keyboards have also been updated and shared.

Key Features at a Glance

- **Android 15 Compatibility:** Fully optimized for the latest Android OS, ensuring smooth performance on modern devices.
- **Urdu Support Included:** No need for a separate Urdu keyboard — it's built right in.
- **Lightweight Design:** Each keyboard is under 1 MB, making it ideal for low-storage devices.
- **Privacy-First:** No ads, no access to your gallery, contacts, or location. Once installed, it runs offline — no permissions required.

A Tool for Cultural Expression

FLI is proud to offer these keyboards as a resource for writers, educators, and social media users who want to communicate in their native languages. This upgrade is part of FLI's ongoing commitment to language preservation and digital inclusion.

<https://play.google.com/store/apps>

More by The Forum for Language Initiatives



## FLI's Publications in 2025

In 2025, the Forum for Language Initiatives (FLI) continued its mission of strengthening indigenous languages of northern Pakistan through publications. Each new publication represents not only a milestone in literature but also a step forward in empowering communities to celebrate their linguistic heritage. Below are the highlights of this year's achievements:

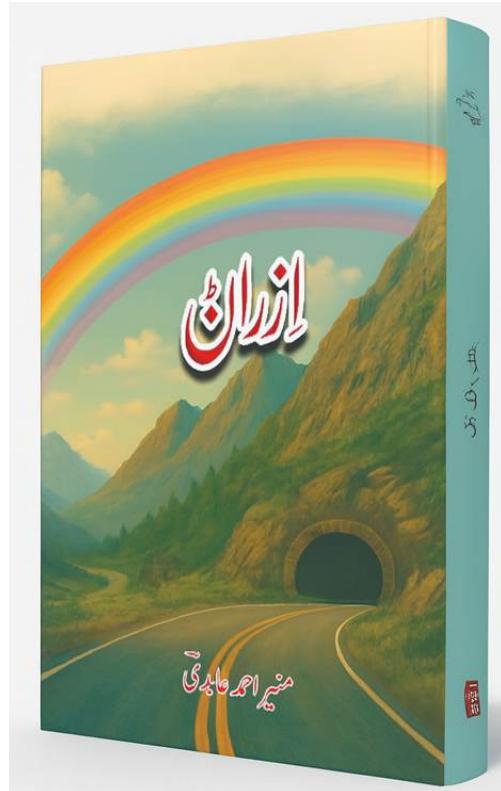
### FLI Publishes Poetry Book Izran in Palula Language

The Forum for Language Initiatives (FLI) has published another milestone in indigenous literature: Izran (Rainbow), a poetry book in the Palula language authored by Munir Ahmad Abidi.

This marks the 8th book published in the Palula language by FLI, in addition to printing support for education material in the language, a testament to its ongoing commitment to preserving and promoting indigenous voices.

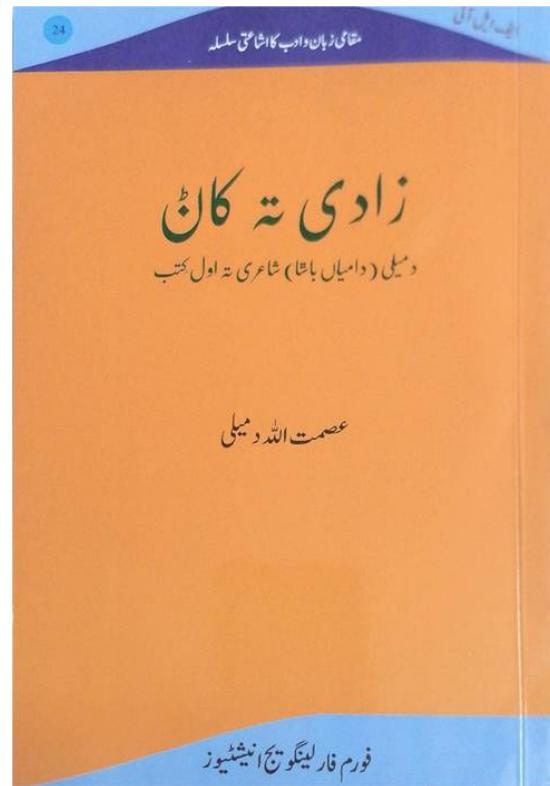
Munir Ahmad Abidi, a long-time trainee of FLI, is celebrated not only as a poet but also as the first singer of the Palula language. His dedication to writing and singing in his mother tongue inspired FLI to preserve and promote his works without delay.

Through Izran, FLI aims to strengthen Palula reading and singing traditions while encouraging the growth of poetry in the language. As a gift, the book is presented to the youth of the Palula community, with the hope that they will embrace and enjoy this vibrant addition to their cultural heritage.



## The first book of 2025 was a landmark:

FLI announces the publication of the first book of 2025, marking the sixth book in the Dameli language. This remarkable release is the first-ever poetry book in Dameli, featuring a poetry collection by Asmat Ullah—an FLI trainee committed to language strengthening within his community. Although Asmat Ullah does not claim to be the first poet in the Dameli language, he is the first to have his poetry collection published. We warmly congratulate him on this milestone and encourage the youth of his community to explore innovative ideas and themes as they continue to produce literature in their native tongue. Dameli, an endangered language spoken in southern Chitral, is a priority for FLI. We are dedicated to supporting our trainees, particularly in bringing their work to print, to fortify linguistic identity. By celebrating Asmat Ullah's achievements and this historic publication, we hope to inspire other language communities to publish their content—empowering future generations to connect with and champion their cultural heritage.

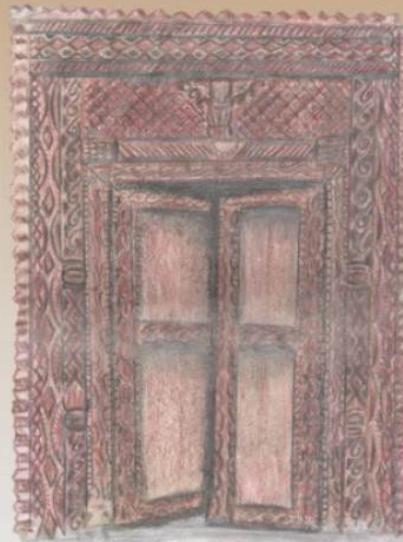


## A Research Book on Torwali

FLI is proud to announce the release of *Torwali Grammar and Typology*, authored by Dr. Wayne A. Lunsford. This publication represents the eighth book in the Torwali language published by FLI. The book offers a structured overview of Torwali, a Dardic language spoken by approximately 140,000 people originating from the Swat Valley in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Also known as Torwalak or Torwalik, this language holds immense cultural and linguistic significance. We are delighted that extensively researched works by foreign linguists continue to advance the understanding and preservation of indigenous languages. Dr. Wayne's dedicated focus on the Torwali language has resulted in yet another profound research publication. This book is to become an invaluable resource for both local and international researchers who wish to explore this unique language. Our congratulations go to the local Torwali researchers, for whom this work not only provides deep insights into their language but also enriches their understanding of their native heritage. At FLI, we remain committed to supporting publications in lesser-known regional languages. Torwali is one of the many languages we are dedicated to strengthening through literature development and research. With this being the eighth book we have published about the language, we reaffirm our pledge to foster the continued growth of indigenous literature.

### Torwali Grammar and Typology

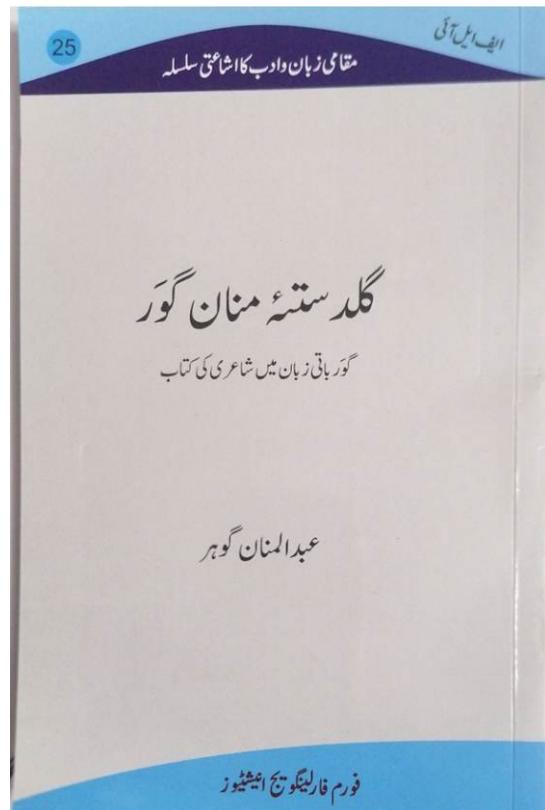
A STRUCTURED OVERVIEW OF A DARDIC LANGUAGE



Wayne A. Lunsford

## A Tribute to Late Abdul Manan – A Milestone for Gawarbati Literature

We are glad to share another achievement in our journey of preserving indigenous languages. FLI has published its fourth book this year, dedicated to one of our highly vulnerable target languages, Gawarbati. This publication is a heartfelt tribute to the late Abdul Manan Gohar, a poet whose creative legacy lives on through his timeless verses. Thanks to Abdullah, a FLI trainee from the Gawarbati language group, this treasure of poetry was collected and shared for publication. Together, we ensured that his artistic voice continues to resonate across generations. Gawarbati, spoken in the challenging, law-and-order-strained regions of northern Pakistan and across the border with Afghanistan, faces the threat of extinction. FLI has been working tirelessly for over a decade to strengthen and revitalize this endangered language. With this latest publication, we celebrate a total of eight books that preserve the cultural and literary heritage of Gawarbati. This newest addition—a poetry collection—aims to inspire the youth of the Gawarbati-speaking community to embrace and cherish their literary heritage. We extend our congratulations to the Gawarbati speakers on this achievement and remain steadfast in our commitment to fostering the development of literature in the indigenous languages of northern Pakistan. As we celebrate this milestone, we remain hopeful that more researchers, writers, and poets from the Gawarbati community will join us in creating and preserving their literature. Together, we will ensure that the narratives and artistic expressions of Gawarbati continue to thrive.

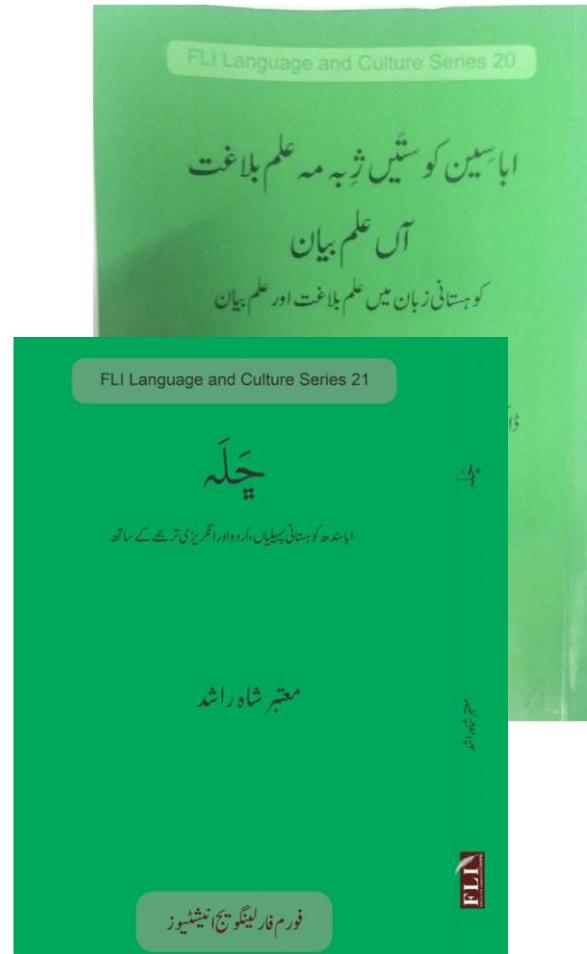


## Two New Books in Indus Kohistani

We are thrilled to share some exciting news! FLI trainees from the Indus Kohistani community have achieved a major milestone with the publication of TWO important books: A Riddle Book: Featuring over 40 riddles with translations in Urdu and English, this is a delightful addition to children's literature in Indus Kohistani. Huge applause for Mr. Mutabar Shah Rashid, a senior researcher and FLI trainee, for his dedication and hard work!

### Rhetoric, Morphology, and Syntax of Indus Kohistani:

This Urdu-language book, written by Faizi brothers—Dr. Hussain Ahmad Faizi and Mufti Rashid Ahmed Faizi Advocate—dives deep into the technical aspects of linguistics and sets a high standard for literature in the language. We are incredibly proud to support such inspiring contributions to the preservation and development of Indus Kohistani. These works show the power of local researchers stepping into fields traditionally dominated by others, and we hope they motivate many more to explore their potential. Let's celebrate the achievements of Mr. Mutabar Shah Rashid, Dr. Hussain Ahmad Faizi, and Mufti Rashid Ahmed Faizi Advocate!



## Evergreen Khowar Songs of Chitral

We at Forum for Language Initiatives (FLI) are proud to announce the publication of our latest contribution to indigenous literature: The Evergreen Khowar Songs of Chitral, a beautifully curated collection of traditional Khowar songs, now available with rhythmic translations in English and Urdu. Authored by Qazi Inayat Jalil, this book is a testament to the enduring spirit of Khowar oral traditions. It not only preserves the poetic richness of these songs but also makes them accessible to wider audiences through carefully crafted translations that retain their lyrical essence.

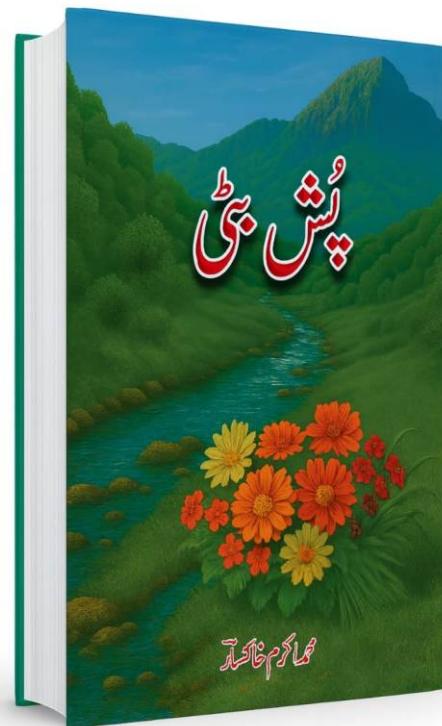
This marks the ninth book we've published in the Khowar language, a milestone in our ongoing journey to uplift and document the voices of northern Pakistan. Spoken in Chitral, parts of Gilgit-Baltistan, and a few villages in Swat, Khowar is a literary language with deep cultural roots. Yet, it has long faced challenges due to orthographic inconsistencies. At FLI, we've worked closely with Khowar-speaking researchers to standardize its writing system, ensuring clarity, continuity, and dignity in its representation. We extend our heartfelt congratulations to Qazi Inayat Jalil for his incredible work, and to the Khowar community whose heritage this book celebrates. Beyond its poetic beauty, the book uncovers fascinating insights into the history and evolution of old Khowar songs, offering readers a glimpse into the soul of Chitrali culture. At FLI, we remain committed to supporting such unique and meaningful projects that honor indigenous languages and empower local voices. This book is more than a publication—it's a cultural archive, a bridge between generations, and a celebration of linguistic identity.



## A Proud Day for Dameli Literature

In Peshawar on December 31, a moment of pride and celebration unfolded for the Dameli-speaking community. The Forum for Language Initiatives (FLI) launched a new poetry collection in the Dameli language, authored by the poet Muhammad Akram Khaksar. This marks the second Dameli poetry book published by FLI, a milestone that reflects both the resilience of indigenous voices and the growing recognition of Dameli literature. The launch is more than a literary event—it is a cultural affirmation. Each poem carries the rhythm of Dameli heritage, echoing the landscapes, traditions, and spirit of its people. By bringing this book into the world, Khaksar and FLI have taken another step toward ensuring that Dameli, one of Pakistan's treasured indigenous languages, continues to thrive in written form. This achievement is a testament to the Dameli community's dedication to preserving its language and identity. It is also a reminder of FLI's ongoing commitment: to uplift indigenous languages, nurture their literary traditions, and safeguard them for generations to come.

Congratulations to Muhammad Akram Khaksar and the Dameli community on this remarkable accomplishment. May this book inspire future writers, poets, and readers to carry forward the richness of Dameli culture with pride and dignity.



## Launching First Bateri Book; A Day of Celebration

On February 21st, coinciding with International Mother Language Day, dozens of Bateri language speakers gathered in Kohistan to mark a historic moment—the first publication in their mother tongue, the Bateri Alphabet. The event, held at a nearby school, was joyously attended by community members who eagerly celebrated the debut of the book in their language. Students were given copies of the book to familiarize themselves with their own alphabets. Language activists from the Indus Kohistani group also joined the celebration, showing their support and solidarity.

Prior to this milestone, the Bateri language was solely an oral tool. It was not until the Forum for Language Initiatives (FLI) intervened a year ago that the transformation began. The initial step was to determine if the community wished to preserve their linguistic heritage or shift to another language. The Bateri speakers' profound love for their linguistic identity motivated FLI to collaborate with them for the development of their language. Educated individuals from the community dedicated themselves to this cause, engaging consistently from the start to the end to turn their dream into reality.

Today, the community celebrates their remarkable achievement. They have transitioned their language into written form, eliminating the need to use Roman script to express themselves. Their language now stands as a powerful tool for them to write whatever they think and feel.

We congratulate all those from the Bateri language group who dreamed of making their language a medium for literature development. This success is a testament to their perseverance and commitment. We also urge the young people from the community to continue using their language on social media and in all aspects of their lives. The journey of the Bateri language has just begun, and its future is bright.



## Professor Henrik Liljegren's Contributions to Pakistani Languages Recognized at Workshop Conclusion

Professor Henrik Liljegren's contributions to linguistic preservation in Pakistan have been widely recognized as scholars and language advocates call for him to be honored with Pakistan's highest civilian award, Tamgha-e-Imtiaz. This demand was voiced by Dr. Kamal, Head of the English Department at Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU), during the closing ceremony of a week-long linguistic workshop focused on Pakistan's undocumented and under-documented languages. The audience expressed their agreement with enthusiastic applause, acknowledging Prof. Henrik's dedication to preserving Pakistan's linguistic heritage.



The five-day workshop, coorganized by the Forum for Language Initiatives (FLI) and AIOU, brought together nearly 40 participants, including PhD scholars, university faculty members, and representatives from indigenous language communities. A total of 16 languages were represented, highlighting the rich linguistic diversity of Pakistan. The event also showcased the active participation of women, who constituted one-quarter of the attendees, furthering inclusivity in the initiative.

Renowned linguist Professor Henrik Liljegren, Head of the Department of Linguistics at Stockholm University, Sweden, led the sessions covering language documentation methodologies, typology, linguistic variation, and classification. His expertise allowed participants to refine their skills in analyzing and preserving endangered languages, many of which face increasing threats due to institutional neglect and limited resources.

Participants engaged in practical exercises using databases, literature, and specialized linguistic software, ensuring that they are equipped with essential tools for further research and documentation efforts. The workshop emphasized the significance of collaboration between universities, local communities, and linguistic experts in safeguarding Pakistan's diverse languages.

Dr. Kamal's call for national recognition of Professor Henrik's contributions resonated strongly with attendees, who praised both FLI and the workshop facilitator for empowering them with new skills and perspectives on Pakistan's linguistic landscape.

The collaboration between FLI and AIOU reflects a long-term commitment to language documentation, with aspirations to extend preservation efforts beyond northern Pakistan. As the workshop concludes, participants carry forward renewed motivation and concrete strategies to further linguistic research and advocacy, ensuring that undocumented and under-documented languages receive the attention and preservation they deserve.

## First-Ever Conference on Dameli Language and Culture Held in Chitral

On June 15, 2025, the Damel Valley in Lower Chitral witnessed a historic moment: the first-ever Conference on Dameli Language and Culture. Organized by Anjuman Taraqqi Damyan Basha (ATD) in partnership with the Forum for Language Initiatives (FLI), the event brought together over 130 participants, including language activists, poets, researchers, and community members, to celebrate and advance the cultural and linguistic heritage of the Dameli-speaking people.



The conference featured sessions on language development, oral traditions, and inter-community exchange, with contributions from neighboring language groups such as Palula, Khowar, Gawarbati, and Kateviri. A major milestone was the launch of Dameli's first poetry book, *Zadi Ta Kan*, authored by Mr. Asmat Ullah Dameli, marking a significant step in building a written literary tradition. FLI's longstanding support—through funding, mentorship, and publishing—was pivotal in making the event a success.

The Executive Director of the organization, Mr. Fakhar ud Din Akhunzada underscored the importance of linguistic diversity for peace and inclusion in his keynote speech. A multilingual poetry session (Mushaera) and strong youth engagement added further depth to the day, sparking enthusiasm for creative writing, language documentation, and cultural promotion. This landmark event affirmed the strength of grassroots cultural movements and the importance of strategic partnerships in revitalizing endangered languages.

## Dameli Poets and Scholars Gather in Peshawar

Peshawar, Dec 30 – The Anjuman Taraqqi Damiyan Basha in collaboration with the Forum for Language Initiatives (FLI) organized a seminar dedicated to the Dameli language and culture. The highlight of the program was the launch of Push Bati (Bouquet of Flowers), a poetry collection by renowned Dameli poet Muhammad Akram Khaksar, published by FLI. The event, held in Peshawar, featured scholarly papers, dialogues, and poetry recitations. Mr. Saeed Ahmad Saeed, Secretary PMD, graced the occasion as chief guest, while Mr. Mehrban Elahi Hanfi, President of Anjuman Taraqqi Khawar (Peshawar



chapter) and Assistant Director, Public Service Commission, presided over the session. Mr. Fakhruddin Akhunzada, Director of FLI, traveled from Islamabad to attend and enrich the gathering. A large number of Dameli elders, scholars, and youth residing in Peshawar participated enthusiastically. Chairman ATD, Asmatullah Dameli, expressed gratitude to FLI staff, particularly Director Mr. Fakhruddin Khanzada, for their pivotal role in publishing the book.

He emphasized that the current standing of the Dameli language owes much to FLI's efforts and hoped for continued support. Speaking at the seminar, the Executive Director of FLI praised Khaksar's remarkable poetry, noting that Push Bati will play a vital role in promoting Dameli literature, preserving the language, and inspiring the younger generation to engage with Dameli literary traditions. The program concluded with Dameli poets reciting their verses, adding beauty and depth to the gathering. Members of Anjuman Taraqqi Damiyan Basha thanked all participants for their presence and contributions, which ensured the success of the event.

## FLI and Mozilla Foundation sign MoU for Data Sharing

We are glad to announce that Forum for Language Initiatives (FLI) and Mozilla Foundation have signed a MoU to champion Indigenous Language Data Sharing. This Memorandum of Understanding has been signed marking a transformative step in the protection, sharing, and celebration of indigenous language data. This collaboration reflects a commitment to:<sup>\*</sup> Open Technology: Promoting tools and platforms that are accessible, transparent, and community-driven<sup>\*</sup> Local Voices First: Ensuring indigenous communities lead the way in how their linguistic heritage is represented and preserved<sup>\*</sup> Values-Based Partnership: Upholding dignity, cultural integrity, and community-defined terms in every initiative By joining hands, FLI and Mozilla Foundation are opening new pathways for indigenous language data to thrive—not just in archives, but in living, breathing digital spaces. This partnership places community values at the heart of technological innovation, ensuring that language preservation is not only respectful but empowering.





FLI has initiated its new Poetry Promotion Project in two languages—Ormuri and Palula. To formalize this collaboration, Memoranda of Understanding were signed with both language communities: with Ormuri (left) and with Palula (right), at their respective locations.



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