

# Digital library for Urdu literature launched ✓

## The Hindu Bureau

CHANDIGARH

The Punjabi Wikimedians User Group has launched an Urdu Wikisource, a free, open source, global digital library for Urdu literature. The group has also urged the Punjab government to ease copyright restrictions, which continue to hamper access to regional languages in the digital domain.

Satdeep Gill, manager, content enablement, Wikimedia Foundation, said international partnerships provided the foundational content for the platform. "Rekhta Foundation, the Urdu literary repository, jump-started the project by sharing 10 rare Urdu texts, ensuring the platform launched with high-quality, culturally significant material. The British Library shared seven rare historical texts that were digitised as part of the 'Two Centuries of Indian Print' project [2016-2022], bridging the gap between the physical archives in London and digital accessibility for users in South Asia. These texts include *Alif Layla*, a book of Arabic fables, and a 19th century version of *Padmavat*, Malik Mohammad Jayasi's Awadhi poem," Mr. Gill said.