



Association for the Study
of Ginans

NEWS BULLETIN

July 2023: No.1

Imamat Day Issue

Editorial

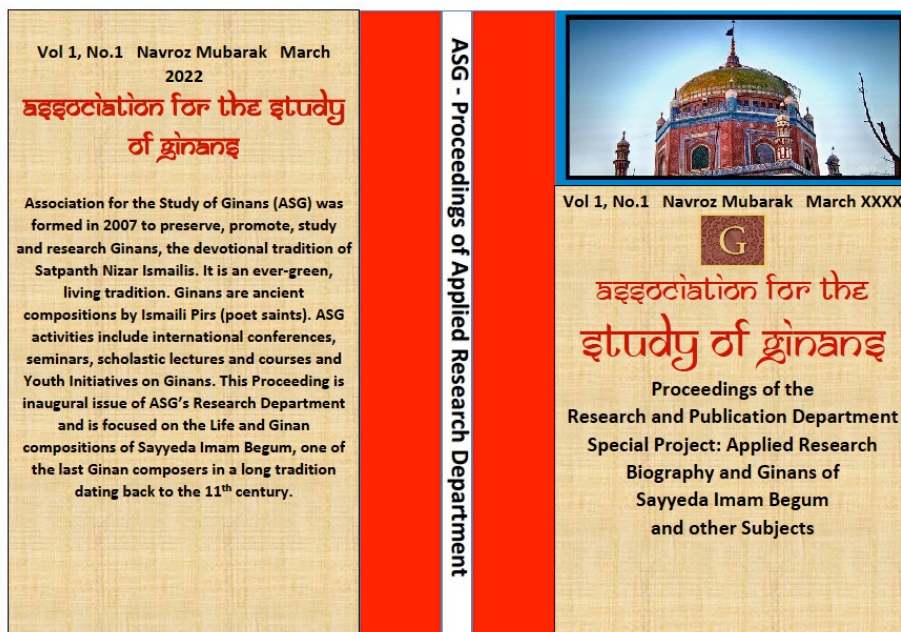
The *Association of the Study of Ginans* (ASG) is delighted to issue its first Bulletin and inform its members and participants about its activities and accomplishments over the last few years. The goal of ASG is to uphold the Ginan tradition, educate and to spread interest in ginans at an individual and communal level. The onset of the global Covid-19 Pandemic in 2020 posed a serious challenge but at the same time it offered ASG the opportunity to adapt to fulfil its constitutional mandate. A fundamental tool for its initiatives was to create an online presence through a website (www.asginans.com) that provides many resources. Like other educational and academic institutions, ASG rapidly developed an online, multimedia platform that allowed the Association to expand its reach globally. It established a strong academic foundation by appointing a *Board of Governors* composed of international scholars. It also increased its attention to active youth involvement that resulted in the formation of an ASG USA chapter that focuses on youth activities such as the *International Ginan Youth Festival*. Additionally, a critical initiative was to hold a series of online webinars called *Ginan Insight* and to host *Annual Keynote Addresses* by recognized scholars of Ginans and Satpanth Ismailism. These online presentations have been hugely popular and attracted an international audience. ASG has also developed courses modules on ginans for online study. In future, ASG aims to publish a journal of proceedings of the webinars and speeches. The Bulletin covers additional crowning achievements of ASG activities since 2020. The board looks forward to your continuing support for the Association's endeavours.

Appointment of ASG's first Board of Governors: In 2022, ASG established its first Board of Governors. Hussein Jessani, Head of the Department of South Asian Studies at the Institute of Ismaili Studies, was appointed as the first Rotating Chairman of the Board. Additional members of the Board are Professor Zayn Kassam of Pomona College (currently Director of the Institute of Ismaili Studies), Professor Tazim Kassam of Syracuse University, New York, Fayyaz Vellani of University of Pennsylvania, Shiraz Pradhan (Chairman of the Executive Board of ASG), Mohamed Moledina (Vice-Chairman of ASG) and Islamshah Rahemtulla (Treasurer of ASG).

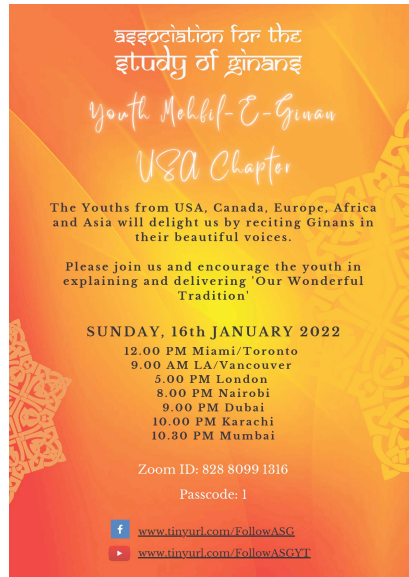
Mumtaz Tajdin's Visit to United Kingdom: Mumtaz Tajdin, the eminent Pakistani Ginan scholar, visited London in March 2022. ASG arranged a dinner and lecture evening at the Blue Room where Mumtaz Tajdin delivered a very informative lecture on the status of Ismailis in Northern Pakistan and the broader region. He conveyed the deep desire of the Ismaili community in the region for contact with academic centres of knowledge and, more specifically, with ASG to increase its knowledge of ginans.



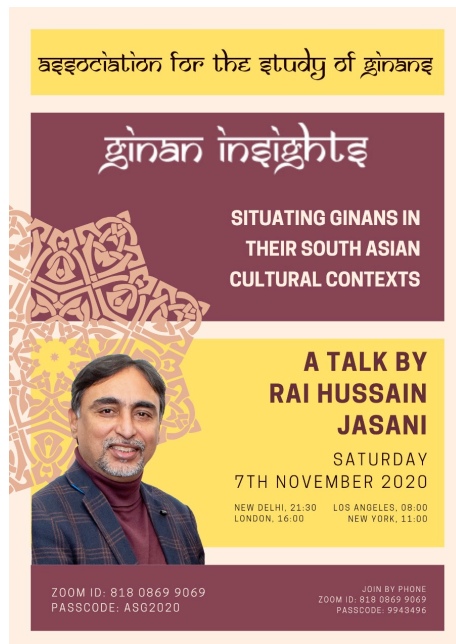
Research and Publication: In the final quarter of 2021, ASG launched its Study Project on Sayyed Imam Begum’s biography and her ginans. Eight research associates from ordinary walks of life participated in the project which was supervised by Shiraz Pradhan and supported by Rafiq Bharwani, Akbar Huda, Javed Chandwani and Mumtaz Tajdin of Pakistan. Mumtaz Tajdin made a special research visit to rural Sindh on behalf of ASG to collect oral history from people who had intimate knowledge of Sayyed Imam Begum’s life and works. This new information is captured in the Proceedings that also contain analysis of Imam Begum’s ginans. It will be published in the second quarter of 2023.



International Youth Ginan Mehfil United States Chapter: ASG hosted an online International Youth Ginan Mehfil in June 2022. This was a well-attended event with participants from all over the world. The project leaders were Naila Charania and Karim Hemani who were assisted by Islamshah Rahemtullah, Musa Sheikh, Nazlin Howell and Rafiq Bharwani.



ASG Ginan Exploration Webinars: In 2020, ASG launched its online *Ginan Insight* Webinars to promote the wisdom and research of ginans to a wider audience. All the Webinars were delivered by prominent ginan scholars and experts. The Inaugural Webinar was presented in November 2020 by Hussein Jessani, Head of the Department of South Asian Studies at the Institute of Ismaili Studies. Recordings of these Webinars are posted on ASG Website (www.asginans.com).



Hussein Jessani, Head Department of South Asian Studies, Institute of Ismail Studies, *Situating Ginans in their South Asian Cultural Context*, November 7, 2020

સહકરણ માટે
શુભકામનાઓ

ગિનાન અંકુશ

MY LEARNING JOURNEY OF
ISMAILI GINAN TRADITION

SATURDAY
29TH MAY 2021

LONDON, 15:00 KARACHI, 19:00
KAMPALA, 17:00 NEW YORK, 10:00
NEW DELHI, 19:30 LOS ANGELES, 07:00

A SESSION BY
CHANCELLOR BALVANT JANII

Balvant Jani is the Chancellor, Dr. Harisingh Gour University, Sagar (M.P.) and Director of Gardi Research Institute for Diaspora Studies, Rajkot. He is one of the most distinguished scholars in medieval Gujarati literature with over 126 research papers and is associated with numerous foreign and domestic universities.

[www.tinyurl.com/FollowASG](https://www.facebook.com/FollowASG) Zoom ID: 915 011 8939
<https://tinyurl.com/2p2wtc> Passcode: ASG2021

Professor Balvant Jani, Dr. Harisingh Gour University, Sagar, M.P. India. *My Learning Journey of Ismaili Ginan Tradition*, May 29, 2021

સહકરણ માટે
શુભકામનાઓ

ગિનાન અંકુશ

RETHINKING GINANS: MUSIC, MIGRATION
& TRANSMISSION IN THE MODERN TIMES

SATURDAY
3RD JULY 2021

LONDON (BST) 5:30 PM LOS ANGELES 9:30 AM
MIAMI 12:30 PM EDMONTON 10:30 AM
KARACHI 9:30 PM TORONTO 12:30 PM
MUMBAI 10:00 PM EAST AFRICA 7:30 PM

Dr. Karim Gillani continues his engaging theme of Sounds and Content of Ismaili Ginans and examines the challenges due to migration that have emerged in recent time.

"Dr. Karim Gillani received his PhD in Music and Religious Studies from the University of Alberta in 2012. His PhD dissertation "Sound and Recitation of Shajja Ismaili Ginani: Tradition and Transformation" is a pioneering work that situates Ginans within the wider context of South Asian Muslim devotional practices. He is a graduate of the Institute of Ismaili Studies, UK. Dr. Gillani has been invited to share both his academic and musical contributions in various national and international forums including BBC World, CBC Canada and TEDx. He is currently working on his book exploring the rich musical heritage of Ismaili Ginans."

Participant are requested to listen to Dr. Gillani's previous session on ASG to fully understand and appreciate the insights scholarly research and the wider socio-cultural context of the music of Ismaili Ginans.
<https://youtu.be/XVt9paw3990>

[www.tinyurl.com/FollowASG](https://www.facebook.com/FollowASG) Zoom ID: 915 011 8939
<https://tinyurl.com/2p2wtc> Passcode: ASG2021

Dr. Karim Gillani, University of Alberta, *Rethinking Ginans: Music, Migration and Transmission in the Modern Times*, July 3, 2021

वैदिकीकरणे रीतः
इतःपुत्रे रीतः

गिनान इन्सिग्टेड
SONGS OF WISDOM AND CIRCLES OF
DANCE: THE GARBIS OF PIR SHAMS
SUNDAY, 21ST NOV 2021

LONDON 4:00 PM LOS ANGELES 9:00 AM
MIAMI 12:00 PM EDMONTON 10:00 AM
KARACHI 9:00 PM TORONTO 12:00 PM
MUMBAI 09:30 PM EAST AFRICA 7:00 PM



Aljoh Sabaha Dr. Tazim R. Kassam is a professor at Syracuse University who teaches courses on Islam on topics such as history, gender, and literature. She specialized on Shi'a Ismaili Muslims for her doctorate at McGill University. Her book, *Songs of Wisdom and Circles of Dance: Hymns of the Muslim Saint Pir Shams*, was published by the State University of New York Press in 1996. It explores the origins, identity, and creative synthesis of Ismaili Muslims in South Asia expressed through their vast literary and musical tradition of religious hymns called ginas. Professor Kassam has chaired the Department of Religion at Syracuse University, and won several awards such as the National Endowment of Humanities Fellowship. In the Ismaili community, she has served as a National member of the Ismaili Tariqah and Religious Education Board in Canada, and the Aga Khan Foundation in the USA. She is an avid fan of Hindustani classical vocal music.

www.tinyurl.com/FollowASG Zoom ID: 915 011 8939
<https://tinyurl.com/2p2wtc> Passcode: asg21

Professor Tazim R. Kassam, Syracuse University, *Songs of Wisdom and Circles of Dance: The Garbis of Pir Shams*, November 21, 2021

वैदिकीकरणे रीतः
इतःपुत्रे रीतः

गिनान इन्सिग्टेड
EXPLORING SELECTED THEMES FROM
SALOKO NANO BY PIR SADARDIN
SATURDAY 11 JUNE 2022

LONDON 04:00 PM LOS ANGELES 08:00 AM
MIAMI 11:00 AM EDMONTON 09:00 AM
KARACHI 08:00 PM TORONTO 11:00 AM
MUMBAI 08:30 PM EAST AFRICA 6:00 PM




"Join us for an exciting discussion by Ashraf Ladha on Pir Sadarddin's *Saloko Nano* (सलोक नानो). Having studied this *Granth* at length, Ashraf Ladha will explore selected ideas such as *Satpanth* (सतपन्थ), *Satgur* (सतगुरु) as well as *Sirsata* (सिर्सता) as the central themes of the *Granth*. Ashraf Ladha is an IT Professional with TD Bank Group and also an honorary *waezeen* for past several years."


www.tinyurl.com/FollowASG Zoom ID: 9150118939
<https://tinyurl.com/2p2wtc> Passcode: asg22

Ashraf Ladha, *Study of Pir Sadardin's Granth Saloko Nano*, June 11, 2022

Mehfil-e Noor, a Joint Collaborative Event: In November 2022, a joint collaborative event between the Institute of Ismaili Studies (IIS) and ASG was held on the eve of the IIS's three-day conference on *Ismaili Studies: The State of the Field*. Mehfil-e Noor was a soulful evening program of Ismaili Devotional poetry that included ginans, qasidas, and geets and was held at the Ismail Centre in London, and also broadcast live on Ismail TV. Hussein Jessani of the IIS together with Professor Ali Asani facilitated the joint venture. The event was very well received globally.



The Institute of Ismaili Studies



Association for the
Study of Ginans

Mehfil-e Noor: A Celebration of Ismaili Devotional Poetry

*A collaboration between
the South Asian Studies Unit (Department of Academic Research & Publications, IIS) and
the Association for the Study of Ginans*

**will be transmitted LIVE on the Ismaili TV (<https://tv.ismaili/>)
on Monday 21st November 2022
20:15 to 21:15 GMT**

*Performances will include a selection of devotional poetry from diverse Ismaili traditions across
Central Asia, Iran, Syria and the Indian Subcontinent.*



ASG Meet and Greet Event with International Scholars: The IIS three-day conference on *Ismaili Studies, The State of the Field* attracted numerous International Scholars to London.

Amongst these were several ginan and Satpanth scholars including Professors Tazim Kassam, Shafique Virani, Ali Asani and Karim H. Karim. ASG held a high-profile evening event of Meet and Greet of some of these scholars, ASG supporters and advisors. Also in attendance were ASG donors, Board of Governors and Executive Board and ASG members. Dr. Aziz Esmail, the former Director of the Institute of Ismaili Studies, delivered a Keynote Address on *Ginan Studies and the Aesthetic Application of Ginans*.



Dr. Aziz Esmail delivering keynote address



Keynote Speakers on Ginans: ASG’s December High-Profile Keynote Addresses have become its one of its flagship events. These addresses are a well-appreciated platform for international scholars of ginan, Satpanth and allied disciplines, and provide the latest research. They have attracted an international audience. The 2020 Inaugural Keynote Address on “*Towards a ReligioHistory of the Ginans*” was delivered by Professor Ali Asani, Professor of Indo-Muslim and Islamic Religion and Culture at Harvard University. Dr Aziz Esmail, the former Dean and Member of the Board of Governors of the Institute of Ismaili Studies, delivered the 2021 Keynote Address on “*Reflections on Ginans.*” Professor Karim H. Karim, Chancellor’s Professors at Carleton University delivered the 2022 Keynote Address on “*Are Ginans Islamic or Hindu?*” All Keynote Addresses were applauded globally and had record attendance. Recordings are posted on ASG’s website, www.asginans.com

Association for the Study of Gīnanīs

ANNUAL LECTURE 2020
"TOWARDS A RELIGIOHISTORY OF THE GINANS"
 SUNDAY 20TH DECEMBER 2020

LONDON, 16:00 KARACHI, 21:00
 KAMPALA, 19:00 NEW YORK, 11:00
 NEW DELHI, 21:30 LOS ANGELES, 08:00

BY PROF. ALI ASANI
 Murray A. Albertson Professor of Middle Eastern Studies and Professor of Indo-Muslim and Islamic Religion and Cultures at Harvard University.

www.tinyurl.com/FollowASG Zoom ID: 815 9698 4969
 Passcode: ASG2020

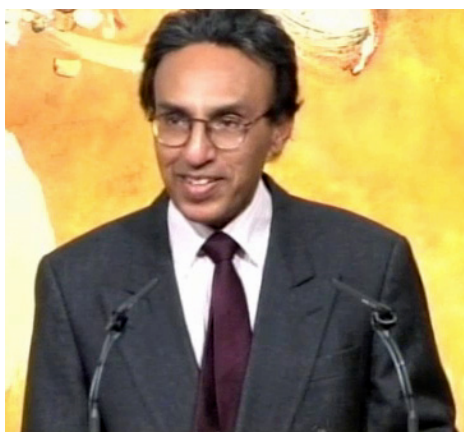
Association for the Study of Gīnanīs

HIGH PROFILE KEYNOTE ADDRESS
ARE GINANS ISLAMIC OR HINDU?
 SATURDAY
 17TH DECEMBER 2022

LONDON: 4:00 PM GMT INDIA: 9:30 PM
 VANCOUVER/LA: 8:00 AM PAKISTAN: 9:00 PM
 EDMONTON: 9:00 AM E. AFRICA: 7:00 PM
 HOUSTON: 10:00 AM

JOIN US FOR AN EXCITING TALK BY KARIM H KARIM
 Karim H. Karim is Chancellor's Professor at Carleton University. He has held directorships at the Carleton Centre for the Study of Islam and the Institute of Ismaili Studies. Dr. Karim is a critically-acclaimed and award-winning author whose research covers several areas, including the Satpanth tradition, contemporary Ismaili developments, the clash of ignorance, inter-cultural relations, diaspora, and social dimensions of technology usage. He has been a visiting scholar at Harvard, Simon Fraser, and Aga Khan universities and has helped to establish academic programmes in Kenya and Central Asia.

www.tinyurl.com/FollowASG ZOOM ID: 915 011 8939
<https://tinyurl.com/2sru2w7j> Passcode: asg22



Dr. Aziz Esmail
 Keynote Address December 2021

Association of Ginanic Studies Joint Conference with Mumbai University, 7th-8th December 2021: Convened jointly by Dr. Urvashi Pandya of the Department of Sindhi Language, Mumbai University, Hussein Jessani of the Department of South Asian Studies, IIS and Shiraz Pradhan, Chairman of the ASG, Executive Board, this was an online, two-day Conference on *Medieval Indic Devotional and Mystical Literature* on 7th and 8th December 2021. The first keynote address was delivered by Dr. Kaladhar Arya, Professor and Director of HRDC, Saurashtra University, Rajkot, Gujarat. The second keynote was delivered by Professor Ali Asani, Murray A. Albertson Professor of Middle Eastern Studies and Professor of Indo-Muslim and Islamic Religion and Culture at Harvard University.





Department of Sindhi

Department of Sindhi, University of Mumbai & Association for the Study of Ginans, UK.

Jointly organized a Two-day online International Conference on

“Medieval Indic Devotional and Mystical Literature”

Day 1 : 7th Dec. 2021, Tuesday : Indic Devotional Traditions
 15:00 - 17:30 GMT / 20:30 – 23:00 IST; (Language: Hindi & Gujarati)

Day 2 : 8th Dec 2021, Wednesday : Satpanth Literature & Indic Devotional Poetry
 15:00 - 17:00 GMT / 20:30 – 22:30 IST; (Language: English & Gujarati)



Dr. Urvashi Manuprasad Pandya
I/C Head, Department of Sindhi, University of Mumbai,
Chairman, Women's Development Cell, University of Mumbai



Mr. Shiraz Pradhan
Chairman &
Head of Research, ASG



Mr. Hussain Jasani
Head of South Asia Studies,
The Institute of Ismaili Studies, UK

--: Convenors :-

Mr. Shiraz Pradhan, Dr. Urvashi Manuprasad Pandya, Mr. Hussain Jasani

Meeting Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/9150118939?pwd=SEJnUjBibFhGeGdU2ZVVFicnESZz09>
Meeting ID : 915 011 8939, Passcode : muag21

“Medieval Indic Devotional and Mystical Literature”

Day-1: 07th December 2021, Tuesday 15:00 - 17:30 GMT / 20:30 – 23:00 IST
(Language: Hindi & Gujarati)
Welcome: DR. URVASHI MANUPRASAD PANDYA.

- 1) **Dr. Kaladhar Arya (Bhartiya Sant Parampara)**
Professor & Director, HRDC, Saurashtra University, Rajkot, Gujarat.
- 2) **Dr. Vandana Khushlani (Sindhi Kavya Main Sufi Chintan)**
Former Principal, Arya Kanya Mahavidyalaya, Nagpur & Renowned Scholar & Researcher of Indian Literature, Society & Culture.
- 3) **Dr. Jitendra Tiwari (Vedon Mein Prakriti Upasana Aur Samprat Samay Mein Uski Prastutata)**
Associate Professor & Head, Sanskrit Department, SNTD University.
- 4) **Dr. Urvashi Manuprasad Pandya (Sant Kabir Ane Bulle Sahana Adhyatma Chintanma Gurumahima : Ek Tulnatmak Adhyayan)**
I/C Head, Department of Sindhi, University of Mumbai.
Chairman, Women's Development Cell, University of Mumbai.
- 5) **Shyamal Garud Bansod (Maharashtra Ke Naree Santon Ki Kavita Mein Vidroh)**
Assi. Prof. of Marathi Dept. University of Mumbai Poet, Activist, Eminent Scholar & Researcher.
- 6) **Dr. Ravindra Katayyan (Uttar Bharat Ka Sant Sahitya)**
Associate Professor & Head, Hindi Department, Maniben Nanavati Women's College, SNTD University.

Dr. Ravindra Katayyan (Q & A)
Q & A, Panel Discussion, Moderator - Dr. Urvashi Manuprasad Pandya

Day-2: 08th December 2021, Wednesday 15:00 - 17:00 GMT / 20:30 – 22:30 IST;
(Language: English & Gujarati)
Welcome: MR. MUSA SHEIKH.

- 1) **Mr. Musa Sheikh**
Member, Association for the Study of Ginans (ASG).
- 2) **Prof. Ali Asani (Keynote - Ethical Ideals in Ginanic Literature)**
Professor of Indo-Muslim and Islamic Religion and Cultures at Harvard University.
- 3) **Mr. Hussain Jasani (Early Ginan Printing in Mumbai (C.1860 -1930))**
Head of South Asia Studies - The Institute of Ismaili Studies, UK.
- 4) **Dr. Balvant Jani (Reflections on Raja Govrchand ni Katha in Gujarati)**
Hon'ble Chancellor, Sagar University, MP.
- 5) **Mr. Shiraz Pradhan (Mystical Aspect of Satpanth Ginans, Devotional Poetry of Narsinh Mehta & Meera Bai)**
Chairman & Head of Research, ASG.
- 6) **Ms. Yasmin Gadhia (Reflections on Buj Niranjani in Gujarati)**
A student of Ginanic Studies.
- 7) **Mr. Mohamed Moledina : Vote of Thanks**
Vice Chairman, ASG.

Q & A Panel Discussion, Moderator - Mr. Hussain Jasani

Online Presence: In 2022, ASG increased its online presence by launching a Facebook page, YouTube Channel and improved Website, www.asginans.com. All ASG webinars and Keynote Addresses recordings have been posted online.