

**Concept Note**  
**Two-day National Conference**  
**On**  
**India and the Arab World: Civilization and Prospects**

**March 16-17, 2021**

The relations between India and the Arab world can be dated back to antiquity and the time bears witness to inter-cultural dialogues and exchanges between these two age-old civilizations. Historically, The Old Testament bears ample evidence for maritime mercantile relations between India and the Arab world during Solomon's period. And this is also a historical fact that for more than 2500 years, the lands of West Asia and North Africa, stretching from Egypt to Iran had traded regularly with Indus Valley civilization. India was a fulcrum of world trade and a meeting point of western and eastern trade routes. These two civilizations have been in constant contact through their people exchanging their goods, ideas, and cultures. The cultural contacts were not confined to the linguistic interactions only, but to a wide variety of activities ranging from menu to the naming of individuals and clans. Even, it is believed that the Arabs have contributed to the naming of this region, Hindustan. The name to the religion "Hinduism" is partly considered an Arab contribution. The emergence of Islam and its spread strengthened their relations further and fostered the old linkages tremendously.

At this end of the history, Indo-Arab relations have been on a distinctive trajectory with the massive movement of people from India to the Arab world and vice versa in the form of pilgrimage or labor migration. A large number of Indian expatriates in different parts of the region are the best example of good relations between the two regions.

Politically the region has witnessed the popular uprisings and great socio-political unrests which jolted not only the region itself but the whole world. As the world's three major monolithic religions (Islam, Christianity and Judaism) occupying their birthplaces in the region, makes it more significant as well as volatile both culturally and politically. And certainly the exploration of oil and its subsequent economical boom brought the well desired transformation into the Arab society. And this transformation not only caught the eyes of intellectuals of the world to explain them from the lances of modern ideologies but also brought them many unwanted results such as foreign interferences, and invasions.

India, throughout the ages, has enjoyed cordial relations with the Arab world and has enriched each other's culture and civilization. Especially after the emergence of Islam their relations seem to be on its zenith. The Indian delegations at the courts of Abbasid Caliphates and translation of Indian wisdom and science books into Arabic are the best examples of that. At this juncture of

history, Indian migrant laborers in Arab countries development of Urdu language in Arab and at other hand Arabic works done by Indian scholars and progress of Arabic language and literature in India not only strengthens their relations but also sets the future discourse too.

This two-day national conference is an attempt to understand the different aspects of Arab culture and its impact on Indian culture and society. It will also try to unearth the silent features of India-Arab relations from cultural perspective by bringing into light the cultural exchanges and the civilizational affinity that existed between them since time immemorial. And it will try to uncover the fact that the cultural linkages which brought these two neighboring regions closer in the past, whether rendering their duties of similar kind in the contemporary times too. The focus certainly would be on Arabic literature and culture in India and its role in maintaining good relations between the two regions.

### **Major Themes:**

- 1. Historical and Socio-Cultural Relations**
- 2. Islam, its impact on Indian society and Culture**
- 3. Imprints of Arab Culture in India: Arabic language and literature**
- 4. Arab-Islamic Art and Crafts in India**
- 5. Bollywood and the Arabs**
- 6. Arabic studies in India: Teaching and learning**
- 7. Literary and Intercultural interactions between India and the Arab world**
- 8. Societies in India and the Arab world: Similarities and Diversities**
- 9. Language, Art, Music, Dance and Popular Culture in India and Arab world**
- 10. Arab communities in India**

### **NOTE:**

The conference is open to scholars from diverse academic and research backgrounds. The scientific committee of the conference would wish to request the scholars and academicians from diverse fields of literature, Culture, media and area studies and else to contribute through their well-researched papers. The objective of the conference is to expand the horizon of the consciousness of the intellectuals on the Indo-Arab relations in multiple perspectives. This could only be achieved by adding well-researched and analyzed papers to the existing pool of literature on India-Arab relations. The scientific committee of the conference

would like to adhere to the international parameters for evaluating the quality and standard of each paper. Merit of the paper will be the sole criteria for getting qualified for the seminar.

The medium of discussion during the seminar will be English and Arabic. Scholars are requested to send the **title of their papers with abstract (300 words) with their C. V. by 10<sup>th</sup> February, 2021 and full paper latest by 10<sup>th</sup> March, 2021.** The scientific committee would also like to request the scholars to send their papers of 5000-6000 words with proper reference and bibliography.

**Note: (Only those participants will be invited for paper presentation who has successfully submitted their papers).**

**Important Dates:**

Date of Seminar:	March 16-17, 2021
Place of Seminar:	India Arab Culture Centre, JMI
Last Date for Abstract Submission:	10 <sup>th</sup> February, 2021
Last Date for Full Paper Submission:	10 <sup>th</sup> March, 2021

**Seminar Convener**  
Dr. Md. Aftab Ahmad

**Seminar Director**  
Prof. Mohammad Ayub Nadwi