



One-day International Seminar

On

“Lingua-cultural Pluralism between Arabic and Other Languages

on the occasion of the *World Arabic Language Day*

Venue: **Mahitosh Nandy Mahavidyalaya**

Date: **20 December 2022** Time: **10:30AM – 4.00 PM**



Organized by

**Departments of Arabic, Bengali, English, & Sanskrit
Mahitosh Nandy Mahavidyalaya, Hooghly, India**

in collaboration with
Calcutta University Arabic Students & Alumni Association, Kolkata.

Concept Note

Languages like Bengali, English and Sanskrit enjoy proximity to the Arabic Language in educational institutions in India. The proximity between the Indian sub-continent and the Arab peninsula had been strong enough since the pre-Islamic days. Such linkages could be visualized through seafaring, trade and religio-cultural missions. Now, when we turn our attention to the impact of India on the Arabic culture and language and vice-versa, we note that it acts in two ways—one is social and the other is literary. The former is through trade and the other is through the exchange of cultures. In later periods, Persian culture influenced the Arabs. The Arabs, on the other hand, transmitted this cultural union when they established political control over the Indian subcontinent.

The Arabs considered the Indian people as one of the four nations having distinctive qualities—the others being the Persians, the Romans and the Chinese. They also acknowledged India's rich heritage in Mathematics, Astronomy, Medicine and many other arts. Al – Qifti has even said that the eight peoples who paid attention to Science and excelled in their status were the Indians, the Persians, the Chaldeans, the Greeks, the Romans, the Egyptians, the Arabs and the Jews.

The Arabs acquired knowledge from Indian books on Mathematics, Geometry, Philosophy, Astrology, etc. written in different Indo-Aryan languages like Sanskrit, English and later Bengali. Undoubtedly, we can say that the Arabic Language and Literature have benefitted from the Indian heritage of knowledge as well as the Indo-Aryan languages i.e. Sanskrit, Bengali, English and their literature have also been enriched with the fragrance of Arabic language and literature. Needless to say that the spread of Muslim rule over undivided Bengal for centuries contributed substantially to the development of Arabic learning in the educational institutions of present West Bengal and Bangladesh. Later on, since the British East India Company started to patronize and establish modern institutions of learning, especially when they set up Calcutta Madrasa (Later Aliah Madrasa College & Aliah University), and University of Calcutta respectively, the interrelationship between these languages flourished even more.

Presently, the flourishing phenomenon of such interrelation between these languages and cultures can be seen even in the curriculum of the educational institutions of West Bengal whether it is Govt. and private. But to make the best use of such interrelations and make them flourish more there are certain intrinsic and extrinsic challenges related to both pedagogical as well as non-pedagogical spheres to be overcome.

Thus the main concern and focus of this Seminar will remain to try and understand the correlations between these languages and help find ways in which may address the problems and impediments in the way of such fruitful interrelations in the future. The same is envisaged to be deliberated systematically by a galaxy of national and international honourable experts of learning, language teaching, and cultural studies with an aim to smooth sailing between Arabic and other Languages for educational, academic and professional purposes.

Programme Schedule
(Programme starts at 10:30 am)

Opening song and felicitation of the Guests

Lighting the lamp and welcome address

Dr. Tapas Kumar Munshi

Principal, MNM & President of the Seminar

Address of the Patron-in-Chief

Shri Sneathis Chakraborty

President, GB, MNM

MLA, Jangipara AC

Minister in Charge of transportation, Government of West Bengal.

Introducing the theme of the seminar

Honourable presence: ***Prof. M. Isharat Ali Molla***

Former Head, Department of Arabic & Persian, University of Calcutta &

Director, Arabic Students & Alumni Association, CU

Keynote Address

Speaker: ***Dr. Md. Ashraf Ali***

Associate Professor & Head, Department of Arabic & Persian, University of Calcutta

Speaker: ***Dr. Narayan Haldar***

Associate Professor. Department of Bengali. Rabindra Bharati University

Topic: “বাংলা ভাষায় আরবী ও ফার্সির প্রভাব”

Speaker: ***Dr. Rafat Ali***

Associate Professor, Department of English, Jadavpur University

Topic: “The Matter of Araby: Islam and the Making of European Modernity”

Speaker: ***Dr. Parboti Chakraborty***

Professor. Department of Sanskrit, Rabindra Bharati University

Topic: “Understanding Society through Sanskrit and other Languages in India”

Speaker: ***Dr. Mohammad Shahidul Islam***

Professor, Department of Arabic, University of Dhaka, Bangladesh (Blended Mode)

Topic: “আরবী ও বাংলা কবিতার ছন্দের তুলনামূলক পর্যালোচনা”

Question & Answer Session

Vote of Thanks

Dr. Sk Md Ruhul Amin

Head, Department of Arabic. MNM

Organizing committee of the International Seminar, 2022

Patron in chief: Shri Snehashis Chakraborty, GB President, MNM

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Joint convenor: Dr. Biren Halder & Dr. Somrita Mishra

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