

**IACC Organizes a Special Lecture
on
Intermingling of Civilizations:
Arab Cultural Renaissance and the Quest for Modernity**



The India Arab Cultural Centre (IACC), Jamia Millia Islamia organized a Special Lecture on **“Intermingling of Civilizations: Arab Cultural Renaissance and the Quest for Modernity”** on Thursday, October 01, 2026 in the Conference hall of IACC. Prof. Mohammad Saleem, Director of the School of Foreign Languages, IGNOU, New Delhi delivered the lecture while Prof. Habibullah Khan, Hony. Director of Dr. Zakir Husain Institute of Islamic Studies chaired it. Dr. Md. Aftab Ahmad, Director of the Centre introduced the speaker and the chair of the event and said that the theme of the today’s lecture offers valuable insights into the historical encounters that contributed to the transformation of Arab intellectual and cultural life.

During his lecture, Prof. Mohammad Saleem highlighted the significance of cross-cultural interactions and the intermingling of civilizations in the development of Arab intellectual thought. He discussed how encounters with Europe, particularly during the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, stimulated debates among Arab intellectuals concerning education, science, literature, political reform, constitutionalism, language, women's education and social transformation. These encounters also encouraged Arab thinkers to reconsider the relationship between tradition and modernity.

The Chair of the session, Prof. Habibullah Khan provided an academic perspective on the themes. In his observation, he underlined the importance of understanding

civilizations not as isolated entities but as traditions that have historically interacted, exchanged ideas and influenced one another. He emphasized the relevance of studying Arab cultural history through the broader framework of intellectual and civilizational encounters.

The programme concluded with a vote of thanks delivered by Dr. Ahsan Raza, Asst. Professor, IACC) to the distinguished speaker, the chair, faculty members, research scholars and students for their participation.