

Office of the
Public Relations Officer-
Media Coordinator
Jamia Millia Islamia

December 6, 2018

Press Release

**Three-day International Conference on Art and Architectural Traditions of India and Iran:
Commonality and Diversity at JMI**

India-Arab Cultural Centre, JMI in collaboration with Indira Gandhi National Center for the Arts and the Iran Culture House, New Delhi, organized a three-day international conference Art and Architectural Traditions of India and Iran: Commonality and Diversity from 5-7 December, 2018.

The inaugural session took place on 05 December at M.A, Ansari auditorium, JMI. The Chief Guest, Mr. Arun Goel (IAS), Secretary Minister of Culture, Government of India inaugurated the event and eminent art historian Catherine Asher from the University of Minnesota delivered the keynote address. Dr. Ali Chegeni, Honourable Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Iran to India, was the special guest of the session along with other dignitaries including, Dr. Ali Dehgahi, Cultural Counsellor, Iran Culture House and Dr. Ramesh C. Gaur, Head, Kala Nidhi Division, IGNC also enhanced the aura of the occasion with their presence.

The session was chaired by Mr. A.P. Siddiqui (IPS), Registrar, Jamia Millia Islamia, who also welcomed the guests with mementoes. Dr. Nasir Raza Khan, conference convener and the officiating director of IACC introduced the theme of the conference. Mr. A.P. Siddiqui (IPS), Registrar, Jamia Millia Islamia delivered the welcome address and explained how this conference is a reflection of a unique confluence of multi-diverse and multi-perspective themes around India-Iran relations. Emphasising on the ancient roots which have imprints on the contemporary art, culture, cinema, music and literature, Mr. Siddiqui described that Iran has taught us Islamic values as well as a notion of modern Islam to compete in the globalised world.

Dr. Ali Chegeni, Honourable Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Iran to India, highlighted the historical cultural ties between India and Iran. These ties could be seen in the similarities of the mutual cultural influence on poetry, language, films, songs and even in the religious beliefs. India and Iran have been learning from each other through mutual cultural interaction as close neighbours. Their strategic location and political relations have played an important role in strengthening this relationship. Referring to the art, architecture, especially in terms of the religious as well as buildings like Rashtrapati Bhavan, Taj Mahal, Jama Masjid, Chahar-Bagh design of gardens, geometrical and floral patterns are some reflections of these deep cultural ties between India and Iran. He concluded calling India his second home and a symbol of two nations in one.

Mr. Arun Goel (IAS), Secretary, Minister of Culture, Government of India, highlighted the ancient cultural ties between the two civilizations calling the relationship as ethno-religious families. He explained that these ties could be traced back to Indus-valley civilization. He elucidated how the transfer of ideas and thoughts between India and Iran paved the way for the a rich literary dialogue between Sanskrit and

Persian in the form of the translations of Ramayana, Mahabharata, Bhagavat Gita, and even the Indian tales and folklore like Panchtantra into Persian. He also emphasised that the political, diplomatic, cultural and literary linkages should be strengthened in future by learning from the past.

Eminent art historian Catherine B Asher from the University of Minnesota delivered the keynote address 'The Qutub Complex: Iran and India'. She argued that the history of Qutub complex should not be read as a conflict between Hind and Muslim civilizations instead, as a symbol of long cultural ties in terms of art and architecture between India, Iran and Afghanistan.

The long gap in the construction of the Qutub Minar, Alai Darwaza (entrance), the Quwwatul Islam mosque, the placement of Iron pillar, Alai Minar and other prominent structures should be studied with the history of Islam in India which reflects different colours of Islamic philosophy, Asher said.

Dr. Ali Dehgahi, Cultural Counsellor, Iran Culture House, and Dr. Ramesh C. Gaur, Head, Kala Nidhi Division, IGNCA also spoke on this occasion.

Ahmad Azeem
PRO-Media Coordinator



INDIA-ARAB CULTURAL CENTRE

Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi

INAUGURAL SESSION

of the three day International Conference

5 - 7 December 2018



Art and Architectural Traditions of India and Iran: Commonality and Diversity

5 December 2018, 2:30 p.m. onwards

Dr. M.A. Ansari Auditorium, Jamia Millia Islamia

Chief Guest

Mr. Arun Goel (IAS)

Secretary, Ministry of Culture, Government of India

Keynote Speaker

Prof. Catherine B. Asher

Department of Art History, University of Minnesota

Distinguished Guest

Dr. Ali Chegeni

Ambassador, Islamic Republic of Iran in India

Welcome

Dr. Nasir Raza Khan

Conference Convenor & Offg. Director, IACC

Chair

Mr. A.P. Siddiqui (IPS)

Registrar, Jamia Millia Islamia

Guests of Honour

Dr. Ali D.

Amesh C. Gaur

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Dr. Ali D

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ICHR, M

Cultural Counsellor &

Nidhi Division, IGCA

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Art and Architectural Traditions

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Secretary, Ministry of Culture, Government of India

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Department of Art History, University of Minnesota

Distinguished
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Nasir I
Convenor



Prof. Catherine B. Asher



Dr. Ali Dehgahi





INDIA-ARAB CULTURAL CENTRE

Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi

INAUGURAL SESSION

of the three day International Conference

5 - 7 December

Architectural Transformations of India and Arab World: Commemorative

5 December 2018, 2:30 PM onwards

M.A. Ansari Auditorium, Jamia Millia Islamia

Chief Guest

Mr. Arun G

Minister of Culture

Distinguished Guest

Ali Chege

Member of Parliament

Welcome

Basir Raza Khan

Chairman & Offg.



Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi

INAUGURAL SESSION

of the three day International Conference
5 - 7 December 2018

Architectural Traditions of India and Iran: Commemorative

December 2018, 2018 onwards

Ansari Auditorium, Jamia Millia Islamia

Chief Guest

Mr. Arun Goel

Ministry of Culture

Distinguished Guest

Ali Chegini

Islamic Republic of Iran

Welcome

Sir Razvi

Convener & Organiser



Mr. P. Siddiqui (IPS)

Mr. Arun Goel (IAS)





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Keynote Speaker
Prof. Catherine B. Asher

Department of Art History, University of Minnesota

Chair

Mr. A.P. Siddiqui (IPS)

Registrar, Jamia Millia Islamia

Prof. Rajanesh Kumar Shukla

Member Secretary, ICOR, New Delhi

Guests of Honor

Dr. Al

Cultural Counsellor &

in collaboration

*Indian Council for Historical Research
& Indira Gandhi National Centre*



Keynote
Prof. Cather
Department of Art History

Ch
Mr. A.P. Sid
Registrar, Jamia

Prof. Rajanesh Kumar Shu
Member Secretary, KHR, New Delhi

