

Press Release

JMI's India-Arab Cultural Centre organizes an International Conference on ' Sardar Vallabh Bhai Patel: Life Works and Indian Muslims'

New Delhi, December 23, 2025

India Arab Cultural Centre JamiaMillia Islamia organized an International Conference on **Sardar Vallabh Bhai Patel: Life Works and Indian Muslims** on 22-23 Dec. 2025. Inaugural Session of the conference was organized on 22 Dec. 2025 at 11:30 a.m. in the conference hall of India Arab Cultural Centre JMI. After the *Tilwah of Ayate Quran* the Director of the Centre Prof. Nasir Raza khan welcomed and thanked the guests present in the event first, then he introduced the guests. The session was graced by the presence of **Prof. Mazhar Asif** (Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor, JamiaMilliaIslamia), **Dr RizwanKadri** (member of the Prime Minister's Museum & Library Society) **Mr. Yahya Aldughaiishi** (Embassy of the Sultanate of Oman) **Prof.Mohd. Muslim Khan** (Dean, Faculty of Social Sciences, JMI) Prof. Mohammad Sajjad from the dept. History AMU and faculties and scholars from various universities.

Prof. Nasir Raza Khan explained the relevance of the theme of the conference. Prof. Khan thanked the honourable vice chancellor, Prof. Mazhar Asif, for his support in organising the conference and delivering the presidential remarks. He also expressed his gratitude to the Registrar of the JMI, Prof. (Dr) Md Mahtab Alam Rzivi, for being generous in supporting the conference. He also extended his gratitude to the Indian Council of Historical Research (ICHR) for co-funding the organization of the conference.

While talking about the conference, Prof Khan explained that this conference aims to foster dialogue and facilitate a more profound understanding of Patel's legacy and its impact on communal harmony. By creating a platform for diverse perspectives, the organisers hope to illuminate nuanced historical narratives. He explained that his exploration of the history of Nizamuddin Dargah inspired him to organise a conference on Sardar Patel. He noted that Patel visited the Nizamuddin Dargah in 1947 and ensured its protection during the turbulent period of Partition. He spoke about the need to bring academics together to discuss the hidden and unspoken truths about the relationship between Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel and Indian Muslims, which often remain overshadowed. The conference aims to foster dialogue and inspire innovative solutions through the exchange of ideas among participants. **Mr. Yahya Aldughaiishi** (Embassy of the Sultanate of Oman) thanked the organiser for inviting him to deliver a lecture on this crucial issue. He explained the Patel's relation with Indian Muslims in the context of India's relations with Oman. **Prof. Mohd. Muslim Khan**, Dean Faculty of Social Sciences, JMI explored the role of Sardar Patel in uniting the country as well as his efforts to maintain peace and harmony among Muslims and Hindus at the time of partition of India. Muslim Khan highlighted Patel's profound association with Jamia Millia Islamia.

and its former Vice-Chancellor, Dr. Zakir Husain, rooted in their shared participation in the Bardoli Movement led by Patel during his early political career. He told the audience that at that very tumultuous time Sardar Patel being the home minister of India managed the situation very well where he personally took interest in visiting not only the various refugee camps in Delhi but also he visited the Nizamuddin Dargah where he instructed the authorities not to harm any section of the Dargah.

Dr. Rizwan Qadiri delivered the keynote address, bringing to light several lesser-known anecdotes from the life of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel. He invited historians and scholars to explore the Sardar Patel files and emphasized the urgent need for research grounded in regional and vernacular historical records. He talked about his relation with Maulana Ghulam Rasool known as *Imam Sb* about whom he said once that whenever I feel low and in crisis I take the strength and guidance from *Imam Sb*. He also explored his relation with Maulana Hasrat Mohani whose slogan Inquilab Zindabad was initiated from Ahmadabad by Sardar Patel himself. He also explained that he forgave those Muslim League supporters who attacked Sardar earlier.

Prof. Mazhar Asif, Vice-Chancellor of JMI, urged researchers to explore the life and legacy of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel through primary sources available in regional languages, particularly Gujarati. He emphasized the need to closely examine Patel's role as Home Minister during the turbulent years of Partition. Stressing that Patel must be studied at a broader level, the Vice-Chancellor noted that such exploration is essential for a deeper understanding of Indian secularism. He also mentioned that the Urdu broadcasting in the country was started by Sardar Patel only, who happened to be the minister of information and broadcasting. It is not only this; he also supported starting the magazine Aaj Kal in Urdu. When it comes to religion, he quoted Madan Mohan Malviya as saying very famously, "As Maulana Azad is Muslim, in the same way Sardar is Hindu." There, the role as a nation builder is not seen in terms of their faiths but their works as politicians and leaders.

The session concluded with a formal vote of thanks delivered by Dr Aftab Ahmed, Associate Professor at IACC, who thanked the Chief Guest of the session, the honourable Vice Chancellor of JMI, Prof. Mazhar Asif; Keynote Speaker Dr Rizwan Kadri; Mr Yahya Aldugaishi (Embassy of the Sultanate of Oman); Prof. Mohd Muslim Khan (Dean, Faculty of Social Sciences, JMI); Prof. Mohammad Sajjad from the Dept of History, AMU; and the faculties and scholars from various universities who were present there.

Prof. Saima Saeed
Chief Public Relations Officer





Plenary Session
10:30 A.M. onwards

Chief Patron

Prof. Mazhar Asif

Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, Jamia Millia Islamia



Keynote address

Dr. Rizwan Kadri

(Member, Prime Minister's Museum & Library Society)



Conference Convener

Prof. Nasir Raza Khan

Hon'ble Director, IACC, Jamia Millia Islamia

Organised by
INDIA-ARAB CULTURE

JAMIA MILLIA ISLAMIA

New Delhi-110025

Conference Room, India-Arab

Sponsored by

Indian Council of Historical Research



Prof. Mazhar Asif

Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor









