

Press Release

Jamia Millia Islamia hosts a two-day International Seminar on “Socio-Linguistic Relationship between Persian and Sindhi Languages”

New Delhi, November 24, 2025

The Department of Persian at Jamia Millia Islamia (JMI), in partnership with the Dara Shikoh Research Foundation and the National Council for the Promotion of Sindhi Language, successfully conducted a two-day international seminar entitled "Socio-Linguistic Relationship between Persian and Sindhi Languages" on November 19-20, 2025. The inaugural session of the seminar took place at the FTK CIT Conference Hall of the university, presided over by the Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, Professor Mazhar Asif. Ms. Meenakshi Lekhi, the former Minister of State for External Affairs and Cultural Affairs, Government of India, graced the occasion as the Chief Guest, while Dr. Fariduddin Farid Asr, Cultural Counselor at the Iran Culture House in New Delhi, was the Guest of Honor. The keynote address was delivered by Professor Ravi Prakash Tekchandani, President of the Department of Indian Languages and Literary Studies at Delhi University.

Professor Mazhar Asif, discussing the connections between the Persian and Sindhi languages, conveyed his commitment to incorporating additional Indian languages into the university curriculum. He noted that while some advancements have been achieved in this area, further efforts are required. Speaking in reference to the Persian and Sindhi languages, Ms. Meenakshi Lekhi emphasized the importance of acquiring knowledge to the fullest extent. "I have also pursued studies in Persian and Arabic. One seeks knowledge to enrich one's character rather than to display it to others," she remarked.

In his keynote address, Professor Ravi Tekchandani presented an overview of the geography of Sindh, the language utilized in the region, its architecture and Sufi traditions, while also elaborating on the Sindhi script and the intricate political dynamics involving the British colonial powers.

Dr. Fariduddin Farid Asr emphasized the significance of the Persian and Sindhi languages, noting that Sindh shares a border with Iran, which has fostered a long-standing and profound relationship between the two regions.

Professor Iqtidar Mohd. Khan, Dean of the Faculty of Humanities and Languages, highlighted the deep connections between JMI and Sindh by recalling how Maulana Ubaidullah Sindhi, a founding member of the university, was a lifelong member of its governing body. He further informed that a hostel at JMI was named in his honor.

The guests were greeted with flowers, shawls, and keepsakes. Professor Syed Kaleem Asghar, Head of the Department of Persian and the Director of the Seminar, expressed

his gratitude to the guests. Convenor of the seminar. Dr. Mohsin Ali, Deans from other faculties of the university, Heads of Departments, Professors from various disciplines, faculty members, and students from JNU and Delhi University, along with a significant number of JMI students, were in attendance.

On day 2, Dr. Pushkar Mishra served as the Chief Guest at the Valedictory Session conducted on November 20, 2025. In his address, he emphasized the connection between Persian and Sanskrit by referring to ancient scholars such as Panini and Bhartrihari, as well as by alluding to the ties between Avesta and Sanskrit traditions. He discussed four primary forms of language formation concerning the visualization and expression of speech. Furthermore, he articulated the importance of the Indian knowledge system as vital to global knowledge production. Dr. Mishra underscored the significance of the Indian subcontinent as a center for production across various domains.

The Guest of Honour, Prof. Ravikant Mishra, highlighted the importance of asserting Persianate identity and culture in medieval India by identifying the geographical, cultural, and linguistic region of Sindh. He also emphasized the significance of vernacular languages, that is, languages spoken by the populace such as Braj and Awadhi. Furthermore, he discussed the rise of "Indian Persian" during the medieval period in India. His address also focused on the historical emergence and evolution of regional and local cultures.

Prof. Anwar Khairee outlined the similarities between various words and terms in the Persian and Sindhi languages. Prof. Iqtidar Mohd Khan discussed the different phases of the arrival of Islam through various routes, focusing on trade, commerce, and other connections. He also added that Indian Muslims are linked to the Arabs solely through religion, rather than through civilization and culture. In fact, Muslims in India are culturally and linguistically Indian. Dr. Mohsin Ali gave the concluding remarks regarding the entire conference, emphasizing the numerous papers presented on various themes concerning the socio-linguistic relationship between the Persian and Sindhi languages. He also extended his sincere gratitude to all participants who contributed to the conference.

Prof. Kaleem Asghar graciously welcomed and expressed gratitude to the distinguished guests attending the conference. He concluded the valedictory session with beautiful couplets dedicated to all the attendees. Additionally, he extended his thanks to the participants, attendees, and volunteers.

Prof. Saima Saeed
Chief Public Relations Officer













