

Office of the Chief Public Relations Officer
Jamia Millia Islamia

Press Release

**India Arab Culture Centre, JMI organizes Extension Lecture on
“India and Iran: Ancient Civilizational Links and Contemporary Perspectives”**

New Delhi, February 17, 2026

India Arab Cultural Centre, Jamia Millia Islamia organized an extension lecture on ***“India and Iran: Ancient Civilizational Links and Contemporary Perspectives”*** on 13 April 2026. Dr. Faridoddin Faridasr, Cultural Councilor of Islamic Republic of Iran in New Delhi delivered the lecture. The event was chaired by Prof. Zubair Meenai, Dean, Faculty of Social Science Jamia Millia Islamia.

Dr. Aftab Ahmad, Director of the Centre inaugurated the event by thanking the Honorable Vice Chancellor, Prof. Mazhar Asif and Respected Registrar, Prof. (Dr.) Md Mahtab Alam Rizvi for being generous enough to support and patronize such academic activities which enhance the debate and discussions among students and faculties. Expressing his thanks and gratitude towards the guest speaker, Dr. Faridoddin Faridasr and the chair, Prof. Zubair Meenai introduced the theme of the lecture and introduced the speaker. Dr. Ahmad said that the civilizational links between India and Iran are among the oldest and most profound in the world, rooted in a shared Indo-Iranian origin that dates back over 3,000 years.

Dr. Faridasr expressed his view by revisiting the history and said India and Iran (ancient Persia) rank among the world’s oldest continuous civilizations with deep cultural, linguistic and historical ties. Both share a civilization heritage that predates recorded history, rooted in the early Indo-Iranian cultural sphere and shaped over millennia through trade, religion, language and geopolitical interaction. He highlighted that archaeological and historical evidence shows that contacts existed between ancient India and regions in what is now Iran and Mesopotamia as early as the 3rd millennium BCE. Indus Valley artefacts and seals appear in areas of southern Iran and Mesopotamia, indicating trade and cultural exchange. Linguistically, Sanskrit and Old Persian are both branches of the Indo-European language family. Early texts like India’s *Rigveda* and ancient Iran’s *Avesta* show parallels in vocabulary, mythic motifs and ritual concepts. With the spread of Islam into Persia and parts of India, cultural and intellectual exchange

expanded. Persian became a major language of administration and literature in medieval India. The Indo-Persian literary tradition, including styles like *Sabk-e-Hendi*, deeply influenced South Asian arts and literature. In contemporary time India and Iran established formal diplomatic relations in 1950 and have maintained cooperation in various spheres — from cultural diplomacy to economic cooperation. Throughout the Cold War and post-Cold War era, India sought to maintain a balanced relationship with Iran, even as geopolitical pressures (such as U.S. sanctions) affected economic ties.

In his presidential remarks, Prof. Zubair Meenai said that the relationship between India and Iran is not limited to modern geopolitics — it is anchored in deep historical and civilizational links that encompass linguistic roots, shared spiritual traditions, material culture exchanges and long-standing interactions over millennia. In the contemporary era, these ties continue to evolve pragmatically in response to global dynamics, reinforcing both countries' interests in economic cooperation, regional connectivity, and cultural collaboration.

The event was concluded by a formal vote of thanks by Dr. Zulfikar Ali Ansari who thanked all the participants present in the event including the Guest Speaker, Dr. Faridoddin Faridasr and the Chair, Prof. Zubair Meenai.

Prof. Saima Saeed
Chief Public Relations Officer







