8th National Conference On

CONTRIBUTIONS OF SHAH WALIULLAH AL-DAHLAWI'S FAMILY TO ARABIC STUDIES IN INDIA

Department of Arabic, University of Kerala

Venue: Conference Hall, Department of Arabic, University of Kerala

5 - 7 January 2027

The Indian subcontinent is renowned as one of the most prominent non-Arab regions that has made profound and enduring contributions to the development, enrichment, and dissemination of Arabic language, literature, and Islamic sciences across the globe. Throughout centuries, India has produced an illustrious galaxy of visionary scholars, luminaries, and authors who enriched the Arabic scholarly tradition. Among them, the venerable scholarly dynasty founded by Shah Waliullah Al-Dahlawi holds an unparalleled and historic status.

Shah Waliullah Al-Dahlawi (1703–1762) stands as a monumental figure of intellectual renewal whose masterworks, most notably Hujjat Allah al-Balighah, reshaped Islamic thought, theology, philosophy, and classical Arabic scholastic literature. His profound intellectual legacy was vigorously sustained and enriched across generations by his illustrious family members. His sons—Shah Abdul Aziz, Shah Rafi'uddin, Shah Abdul Qadir, and Shah Abdul Ghani—alongside his distinguished grandson Shah Muhammad Ishaq Al-Dahlawi, made pioneering contributions that bridged profound Arabic scholarship with local pedagogical traditions.

The Dahlawi family's mastery of the Arabic language was not confined to theological treatises; it encompassed seminal Quranic exegesis, Hadith commentaries, Arabic grammatical and rhetorical insights, and eloquent Arabic prose and poetry. Their scholarly and educational movement centered at Madrasa Rahimiya in Delhi revitalized Arabic linguistic studies, making India a global beacon of Hadith studies and classical Arabic scholarship. In light of their timeless academic, linguistic, and literary legacy, this national conference is convened to provide a rigorous platform for researchers and scholars to explore, analyze, and document the monumental contributions of Shah Waliullah Al-Dahlawi and his noble family to Arabic studies in India.

Details of research undertaken in the area of the proposed Conference

The scholastic, linguistic, and literary legacy of Shah Waliullah Al-Dahlawi and his family represents a fertile area of research within Arabic Studies, Islamic Intellectual History, and South Asian Scholasticism. Over the decades, academic investigations across universities in India and abroad (such as Aligarh Muslim University, Jamia Millia Islamia, University of Delhi, University of Kerala, and international institutions like Al-Azhar and McGill University) have approached this tradition from several critical dimensions.

1. Stylistic and Rhetorical Analysis of Shah Waliullah's Arabic Prose
2. Arabic Poetry, Odes, and Panegyrics (Mada'ih)
3. Hadith Commentaries, Glosses, and Lexicographical Studies
4. Pedagogical and Curricular Research (The Madrasa Rahimiya Model)

5. Transnational Academic Networks and Archival/Manuscript Research

While considerable scholarship exists on Shah Waliullah's overarching theological, philosophical, and political thought, the specific contributions of his family as a collective literary and linguistic school in Arabic studies remain underexplored. Much of the existing academic literature treats family members (such as Shah Abdul Aziz, Shah Rafi'uddin, and Shah Abdul Qadir) primarily through the lens of Urdu literature or socio-religious reform movements.

This conference addresses that gap by consolidating research on the Dahlawi family's direct textual, rhetorical, and institutional contributions to the Arabic language and literature in India, providing an updated, unified scholarly assessment.

The conference papers to be presented in Arabic or English only

Abstract of the paper should be send on or before 15th October 2026. Late Entries will not be entertained.

Important dates:

Abstract Submission Deadline	:	**15/10/2026**
Notification of Accepted Abstracts	:	**20/10/2026**
Full Paper Submission Deadline	:	**30/11/2026**
Conference	**:**	**05/01/2027 to 07/01/2027**

All Communications related to this Seminar are only to: **deptofarabickvtm@gmail.com**

Staff & Students

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