

WORLD ARABIC DAY CELEBRATION- 2021

World Arabic Day: December 18, 2021 is this year's World Arabic Language Day (WALD). Also known as the UN Arabic Language Day, the WALD is observed annually on December 18. The day, which was first established by the United Nations Education, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) in 2010, is designed to celebrate Arabic Language and promote cultural diversity. The date for WALD signifies the day in 1973 when Arabic became the sixth official language of the UN.

Arabic is a language with rich history that is spoken by over 420 million native speakers and used by about 1.5 billion Muslims around the world including UNESCO's 22-member states. Although not many people associate Arabic language or Arab scholars with the early beginnings of science, the contribution of Arab philosophers made mainly through Arabic language to the development of science, medicine, mathematics and literature through ages is so huge to be ignored.

Being the only modern language written and read in a right-to-left form, Arabic is the only human language, according to Islamic literatures, which is spoken here on earth and in life after death. Arabic words have been borrowed by many world languages. More than 7,000 words in the English language are either Arabic or derived from Arabic. Cotton, coffee, alcohol, saffron, emir and giraffe are few examples of words 'borrowed' directly or indirectly from Arabic.

The theme for this year's WALD is "Arabic Language, a bridge between civilizations." As part of the events to commemorate the Day, a virtual panel was organized by UNESCO yesterday December 17 during which academics and other stakeholders joined to discuss the historic role of Arabic in creating and transmitting knowledge. As the theme suggests, discussions among experts showcased how Arabic language still functions as an effective tool for enhancing dialogue and building peace. This year's theme is particularly relevant in an increasingly globalized, digitalized and multilingual societies.

No historical account of modern science and technology would be complete without duly acknowledging the important role played by Arabic language. Greek ideas and philosophy couldn't have reached Europe without the translation works of Arabic scholars and philosophers who rendered the works of Plato and Aristotle into Arabic. This, by extension, also means that the scientific revolution of the 16th and 17th centuries couldn't have happened if Greek works had not been translated into Arabic. This is how Arabic served as the first bridge that linked Greek philosophy with European civilization.

In the 8th and 9th centuries, under the Abbasid Caliphs, Muslim civilization entered its golden age; reaching its apogee under Caliph Ma'mun, who in 830AD, established his

famous Baytul Hikmah (House of Wisdom) in Baghdad. The House, which was a combination of a library, an academy and a translation bureau, became world's treasure-garden of knowledge at a time when learning was at its lowest ebb in Western Europe. Arab scholars had to first rely on translations made by Syrian Nosterians. These Syrian translators who rendered Greek works into Syriac and then from Syriac into Arabic became the strongest link between Hellenism and Islam in the same way Arabic translators became the prime link between Hellenism and European scientists. The Abbasid era of translation lasted about a century after 750AD.

However, the decline of Muslim rule in Spain in the 13th century occasioned by crusaders in the West and Mongols from the East led to a rebirth of learning that transformed western civilization. The fall of Bagdad in 1258AD into the hands of Mongols who killed over fifty thousand people including the caliph, burned schools and also devastated libraries marked the beginning of today's backwardness of not only the Arabs but also of the Muslim world.

Arabic is the first language of algebra, medicine, chemistry, alchemy and astrology. From Ibn Haytham, Ibn Rushd and Ibn Sina of the Middle Ages to Elias Corey (a renowned chemist) of modern times, Arabs and other non-native users of Arabic produced some of the most brilliant scientists in the history of scientific thinking. Muslim Spain taught the West that the earth is sphere. Arabs, particularly Muslims, made significant advances in mathematics, geometric solutions, and trigonometric tables. Unfortunately, many English sources understate or completely ignore these contributions.



Department of Arabic in association with IQAC organized Arabic day celebration on December 18, 2021. Dr. Zainudheen P T, Assistant Professor TMG College Thirur was the speaker in the webinar. He marks in his theme presentation the fact that the rich diversity of Arabic Language, its strong bonds with various forms of cultural expression, and its significant role in connecting people and promoting dialogue, it will showcase diverse approaches to using Arabic language and its art forms.

The college Principal Dr. S. J. Shabu inaugurated the webinar. He highlighted the importance of Arabic Language. Dr. C. J. George (Former Principal in charge), Dr. Ajith (Principal TMGC) were present and shared their views in webinar. As a part of the celebrations, various competitions were organized as follows: Caption making, Reading challenge, Quiz and Manuscript magazine.