



ARABIC KERALA HERITAGE EXPO 2026



— من التراث إلى الآفاق
FROM HERITAGE TO HORIZONS



7 - 11
DECEMBER
2026

EXPLORE • RESEARCH • CREATE • EXHIBIT • COMPETE

*Discover an Untold Story
of Arabic in Kerala*

Organised by

KTM College of Advanced Studies

Karuvarakundu, Malappuram, Kerala

Accredited by NAAC with A Grade

A COMPETITION, NOT JUST AN EXHIBITION

Celebrating the Journey of Arabic in Kerala

Arabic has been an integral part of Kerala's intellectual, cultural, educational and social history for centuries. Its journey in Kerala extends from the early Arab-Malabar encounters and maritime connections to scholarship, education, literature, Arabi-Malayalam, translation, journalism, migration and contemporary global engagement

Arabic in Kerala - Heritage Expo 2K26 seeks to bring this remarkable journey together in one comprehensive statewide competitive exhibition.

The Expo will provide institutions across Kerala with an opportunity to research, document, interpret, create, exhibit and compete by presenting different dimensions of Arabic's presence and evolution in Kerala.

WHY THIS EXPO?

The history of Arabic in Kerala is much broader than the history of a language taught in educational institutions. It is a story of:

- Cultural encounters between Kerala and the Arab world
- Maritime trade and historical connections
- Scholarship and intellectual traditions
- Arabic education and institutions
- Manuscripts and textual heritage
- Arabi-Malayalam and its distinctive literary tradition
- Arabic literature and poetry
- Translation and intercultural exchange
- Printing and publishing
- Arabic journalism and media
- Kerala's connections with the Arab world
- Gulf migration and its social and cultural impact
- Contemporary Arabic education and research
- Digital Arabic and emerging technologies
- Artificial Intelligence and the future of Arabic

The Expo aims to make this rich heritage visible, accessible, research-oriented and relevant to the younger generation.

THE VISION

FROM HERITAGE TO HORIZONS

The Expo is conceived as a journey through three broad dimensions:

1. HERITAGE

Where did Arabic in Kerala come from?

Early Arab-Malabar encounters, trade, scholarship, manuscripts, education, literature, Arabi-Malayalam and cultural traditions.

2. CONNECTIONS

How has Arabic connected Kerala with the wider world?

Translation, publishing, journalism, education, migration, Gulf relations, cultural exchange and global communication.

3. HORIZONS

Where is Arabic going?

Digital learning, technology, Artificial Intelligence, translation technology, Arabic content creation, global careers and emerging possibilities.

COMPETITION CATEGORIES

Institutions may select one of the following broad categories and develop a research-based exhibition around a specific topic within that area.

CATEGORY - A **HISTORICAL RESEARCH EXHIBITION**

Arabic in Early Kerala

Possible areas include:

- Early Arab-Malabar encounters
- Arrival traditions and historical narratives
- Arab maritime trade with Kerala
- Ports and trading centres
- Historical travel accounts
- Archaeological and epigraphic evidence
- Early mosques and Arabic inscriptions
- Arab merchants and settlements.
- Kerala's early connections with the Arab world

Participants are encouraged to use maps, timelines, archival materials, photographs, documents, models and research-based visual presentations.

CATEGORY - B **MANUSCRIPT & HERITAGE**

Arabic Manuscripts, Documents & Cultural Heritage of Kerala

Possible areas include:

- Arabic manuscripts from Kerala
- Rare Arabic books
- Historical documents and letters.
- Handwritten texts
- Arabic inscriptions
- Old Arabic textbooks
- Printing and publishing heritage
- Arabic calligraphy
- Personal and institutional collections
- Libraries and manuscript repositories
- Documentation and preservation of Arabic heritage

CATEGORY - C

ARABI-MALAYALAM EXHIBITION

Script Literature Culture Legacy

This category focuses on one of Kerala's most distinctive linguistic and cultural traditions.

Possible themes:

- Origin and development of Arabi-Malayalam
- Arabic script and Malayalam language
- Arabi-Malayalam manuscripts
- Arabi-Malayalam literature
- Songs and poetic traditions
- Religious and social literature
- Printing and publishing
- Important writers and works
- Arabi-Malayalam in education
- Contemporary relevance and preservation

CATEGORY - D

ARABIC LITERATURE & SCHOLARSHIP IN KERALA

This category focuses on one of Kerala's most distinctive linguistic and cultural traditions.

Possible areas include:

- Arabic scholars of Kerala
- Arabic poets and writers
- Arabic prose
- Religious and intellectual writings
- Arabic grammar and linguistic scholarship
- Institutions of Arabic learning
- Traditional systems of Arabic education
- Major works and authors
- Literary movements
- Contemporary Arabic scholarship
- Kerala's contribution to Arabic studies

CATEGORY - E

TRANSLATION

Arabic ↔ Malayalam

Possible areas:

- Arabic-Malayalam literary translation
- Malayalam-Arabic translation
- Translation of religious texts
- Translation of Kerala literature into Arabic
- Translation of Arabic literature into Malayalam
- Translation history
- Translation challenges

CATEGORY - F

ARABIC MEDIA IN KERALA

Press Publications. Journalism. Digital Media

Possible areas:

- Arabic newspapers and magazines in Kerala
- Arabic journalism
- Arabic publishing houses
- Periodicals and newsletters
- Arabic broadcasting
- Arabic news and digital platforms
- Arabic media professionals from Kerala
- Arabic in public communication
- Evolution of Arabic media
- Social media and Arabic content creation

Exhibits may include newspapers, magazines, archival materials, photographs, audio/video recordings, digital media and interactive displays.

CATEGORY - G

ARABIC & KERALA'S GULF CONNECTION

Migration • Culture • Education • Economy

Kerala's relationship with the Arab world entered a new phase through Gulf migration and contemporary transnational connections.

Possible themes:

- Kerala-Gulf relations
- Gulf education
- Arabic language and employment
- Malayalam-Arabic cultural exchange
- Kerala diaspora in Arab countries.
- Economic and social transformation
- Gulf-influenced cultural changes
- Kerala's contemporary Arab connections

Participants may use oral histories, interviews, photographs, documents, statistics, maps, timelines and multimedia presentations.

CATEGORY - H

FUTURE OF ARABIC IN KERALA

Innovation • Technology • AI • Careers

This category looks beyond history and examines the emerging possibilities of Arabic.

Possible themes:

- Arabic in international business
- Arabic and tourism
- Arabic and global employment
- New career opportunities for Arabic learners

CATEGORY - I

CREATIVE & DIGITAL EXHIBITION

Interactive • Visual • Multimedia • Digital • Creations

This category provides space for innovative forms of exhibition.

Possible formats include:

- Digital storytelling
- Interactive installations
- Multimedia exhibitions
- Virtual exhibitions
- Digital maps
- 3D models
- Animation
- Documentary presentations
- Short films
- Interactive screens
- Educational games
- Digital archives
- Creative visual representations

The emphasis should be on originality, research, creativity, communication and visitor engagement.

THREE LEVELS OF PARTICIPATION

To ensure meaningful participation from institutions with different levels of resources and academic capacity, the Expo will have three participation levels.

SCHOOL CATEGORY

COLLEGE CATEGORY

**UNIVERSITY/PROFESSIONAL
INSTITUTION CATEGORY**

WHAT CAN AN EXHIBITION LOOK LIKE?

The Expo is intentionally open to different forms of presentation. An institution may develop its exhibit through one or a combination of:

PHYSICAL

- Exhibition panels
- Posters
- Models
- Artefacts
- Manuscripts
- Books
- Documents
- Maps
- Timelines
- Reproductions

DIGITAL

- Interactive screens
- Websites
- Digital archives
- QR-based content
- Digital maps
- Virtual exhibitions
- Animations

MULTIMEDIA

- Documentary films
- Interviews
- Audio recordings
- Video presentations
- Podcasts
- Oral histories

INTERACTIVE

- Live demonstrations
- Translation activities
- Calligraphy
- Language activities
- Digital applications
- Educational games
- Visitor participation

Institutions are encouraged to adopt innovative methods rather than relying solely on conventional display boards.

CALL FOR INSTITUTIONAL PROPOSALS

Institutions wishing to participate are invited to submit an abstract of not more than 300 words describing their proposed exhibition.

The abstract should clearly indicate:

1. CATEGORY

The competition category under which the institution wishes to participate.

2. THEME/FOCUS

The specific topic or aspect of Arabic in Kerala that will be explored.

3. OBJECTIVES

What the exhibition seeks to communicate, document, demonstrate or achieve.

4. CONTENT / SCOPE

A brief description of the major areas, materials, historical sources, research or ideas to be presented.

5. MODE OF PRESENTATION

The proposed method of exhibition, such as:

Panels Models, Manuscripts, Artefacts, Digital Displays, Videos, Interactive Installations, Live Demonstrations, Multimedia QR-based Resources, Working Models.

6. ORIGINALITY/INNOVATION

What makes the proposed exhibition distinctive, creative or innovative.

7. MATERIALS / REQUIREMENTS

Any special facilities required for the presentation.

8. INSTITUTIONAL DETAILS

Name of institution, Address, Category of participation, Name of institutional coordinator, Designation, Contact number, Email address.

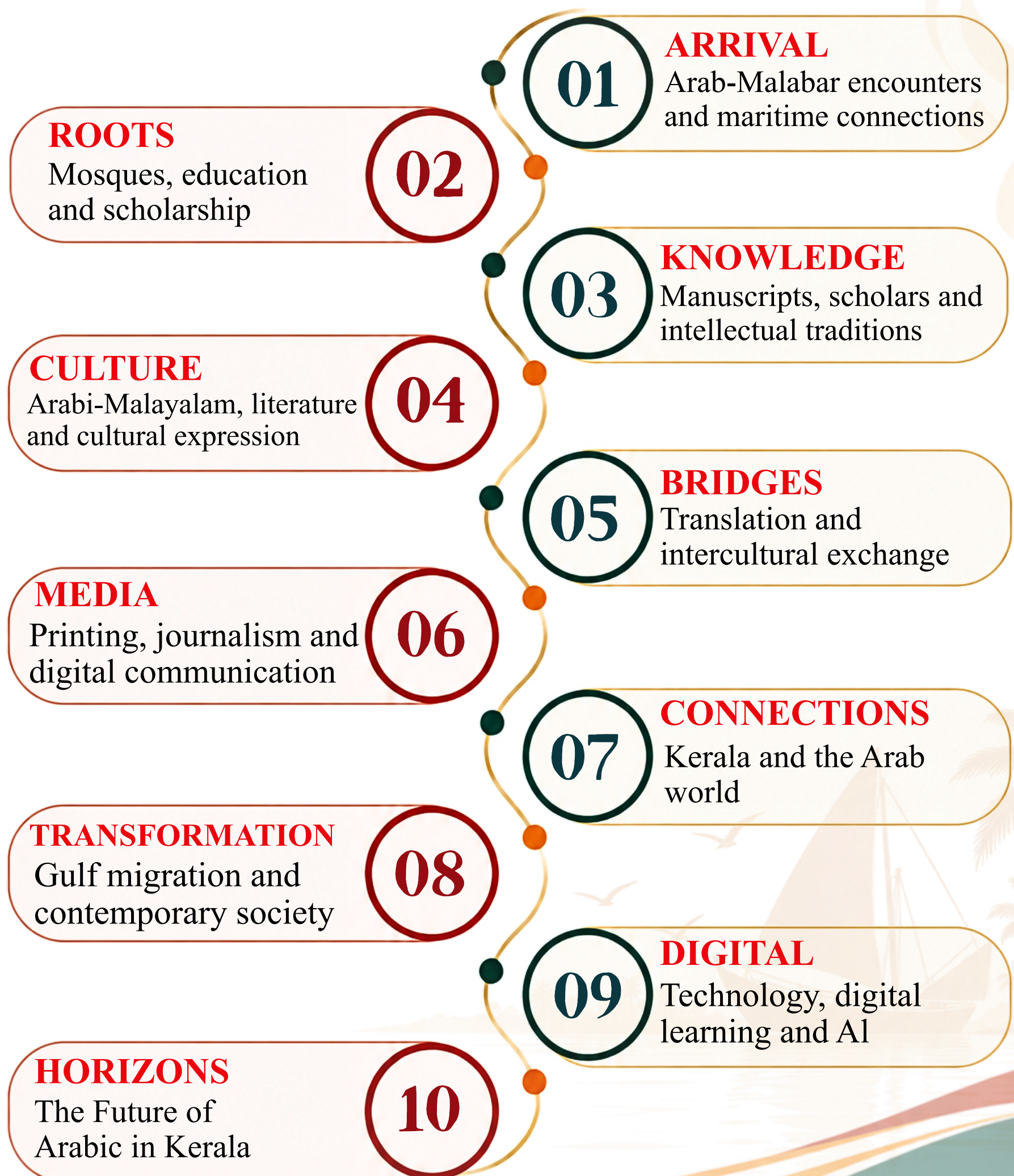
ABSTRACT SUBMISSION

- Maximum length: 300 words
- Abstracts should clearly communicate the proposed theme, category, content, objectives and mode of presentation.
- **LAST DATE FOR ABSTRACT SUBMISSION : 21 OCTOBER 2026**
- Abstracts should be submitted by email to: ktmexpo2026@gmail.com
- Subject: Heritage Expo 2K26-Institutional Proposal - [Institution Name]

Selected institutions will receive further communication regarding participation, exhibition requirements, space allocation, presentation guidelines and competition procedures.

A JOURNEY THROUGH ARABIC IN KERALA

The Expo will encourage visitors to experience Arabic in Kerala as a continuous journey:



BEYOND AN EXHIBITION

Arabic in Kerala - Heritage Expo 2K26
aims to create more than a five-day exhibition.

It seeks to:

- Encourage young people to discover Kerala's Arabic heritage
- Promote research into lesser-known aspects of Arabic in Kerala
- Document manuscripts, publications and oral histories
- Encourage institutions to preserve cultural heritage
- Create opportunities for interdisciplinary learning
- Connect heritage with contemporary developments
- Introduce students to new possibilities in Arabic and technology
- Encourage innovation in Arabic education and communication
- Build a statewide network of institutions interested in Arabic heritage and its future.

The Expo can therefore become a platform where history meets research, heritage meets creativity, and language meets technology.

IMPORTANT DETAILS

EVENTS	DATE
Call for Institutional Proposals	7 Oct 2026
Last Date for Abstract Submission	21 Oct 2026
Selection / Confirmation	To be communicated to selected institutions
Heritage Expo 2K26	7 - 11 DECEMBER 2026