



National Museum  
New Delhi

## Public Lecture

# 2



Speaker : Dr G.S. khwaja

Islamic calligraphy: a mesmerizing art

Date : 13 February 2019

Time : 05:00 PM

Venue : NMI, Conference Hall

**Dr G.S. Khwaja** is the former Director (Epigraphy) (Arabic and Persian Inscriptions) of Archaeological Survey of India, Nagpur. With his specialization in Islamic Calligraphy; Arabic & Persian Epigraphy; Medieval Numismatics and Islamic Architecture, he has contributed in the field of Epigraphy through his various academic publications including Archaeological Glimpses of Indian Culture; Diwan-e-Husain Ellichpuri (Anthology of Dakkani Poetry); Achalpur: Tarikh aur Thaqaafat; Mashaheer-e-Barar (Biographies); Farsi Tarikh Nawisi (Persian Historiography); Islamic Architecture of Delhi and Encyclopaedia of Islamic Architecture (3 Vols).

Dr Khwaja is a recipient of the *Vidarbha Gaurau Puraskar*, for his contribution to literature & stage. He has also been awarded with the *Maharashtra State Urdu Academy Award*, for prose writing.

As depiction of living beings in any form is prohibited in Islam, the efforts of calligraphers and graphic artists were diverted to make writing so beautiful that it could surpass the beauty of paintings. The history of art says that there is a rainbow of seven major styles of calligraphy found on stone, wood, metal and paper. The evolution of art of calligraphy and various styles in India, and elsewhere in the world, has got its own chronology.

Though this script was invented in Kufa (now in Iraq) where Arabian calligraphers shaped its early form and style and later on the contribution Iranian artists was of immense value but when this art came to India our calligraphers added glory and glamour to this art. Some of the specimen created in India are considered as master-pieces of calligraphy and are regarded as the contribution of India to this Islamic art.

In his illustrated talk Dr. Khwaja would be sharing his views on contributions made by the Turkish Sultans in the field of language, script and art of calligraphy along with a new style of architecture to this land. He would present examples of epigraphs on protected and unprotected monuments, coins in museums, seals, copies of Holy Quran, hand-written books and wall-hangings in archival collections which are the specimen of beautiful calligraphy, done in different styles.

