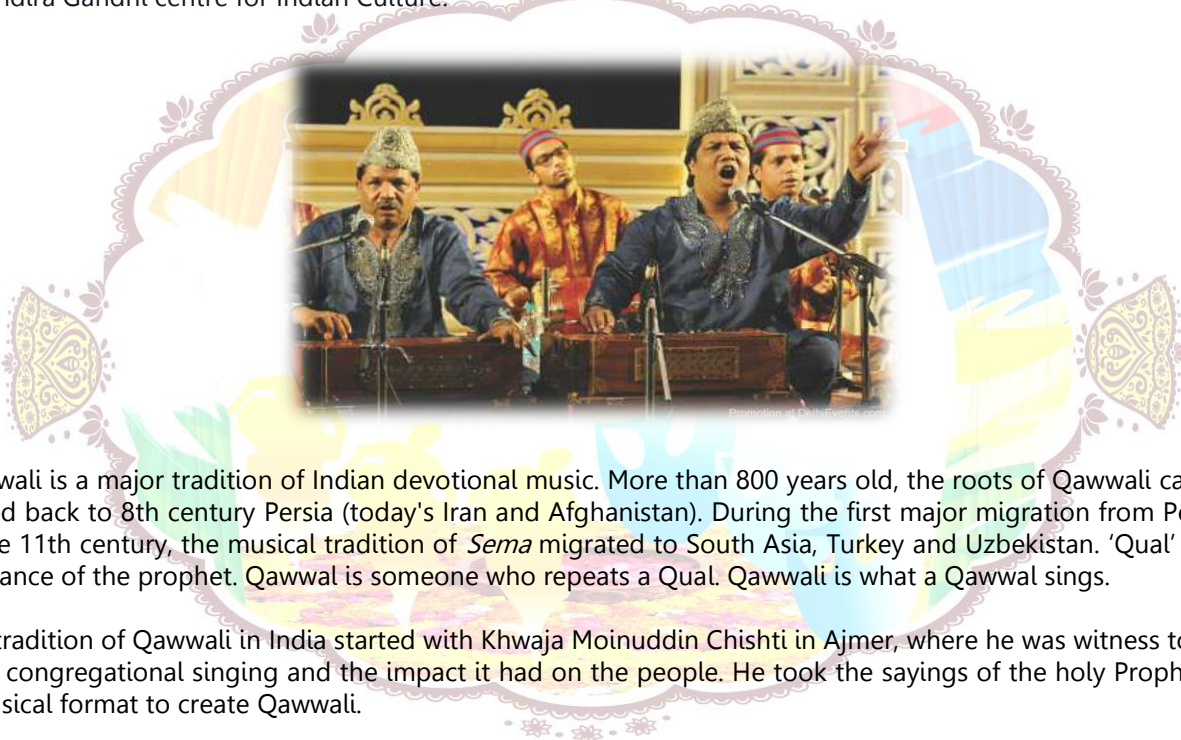




## ***Press Release***

### **Festival of India in Mauritius:**

For the next presentation of Festival of India in Mauritius 2015, we bring you a soulful **Qawwali performance** by the renowned **Nizami Brothers**, led by Sh. Ghulam Sabir on **Saturday, 28 November 2015 at 2030 hrs** at the Indira Gandhi centre for Indian Culture.



Qawwali is a major tradition of Indian devotional music. More than 800 years old, the roots of Qawwali can be traced back to 8th century Persia (today's Iran and Afghanistan). During the first major migration from Persia, in the 11th century, the musical tradition of *Sema* migrated to South Asia, Turkey and Uzbekistan. 'Qual' is an utterance of the prophet. Qawwal is someone who repeats a Qual. Qawwali is what a Qawwal sings.

The tradition of Qawwali in India started with Khwaja Moinuddin Chishti in Ajmer, where he was witness to the local congregational singing and the impact it had on the people. He took the sayings of the holy Prophet in a musical format to create Qawwali.

The musical instruments used were Daff and Sarangi. The main content of the verses of Qawwali were taken from the Hadees. Amir Khusro contributed to Qawwali and gave it a shape and embellished it with Ragas. He used Braj Bhasha, Hindavi, and Khari Boli, the language of the masses. He created and introduced Tarana as an element of Qawwali. Amir Khusro also brought together some young children and trained them in the singing of Qawwali. They were known as Qawwal Bachche.

Over time Qawwali became a very popular genre of music and has developed regional variations including Sindhi, Saraikki and Punjabi.

Read more about the artistes, the Nizami Brothers, at:

<https://www.facebook.com/IndiaInMauritius/photos/pcb.1003658219676674/1003657863010043/?type=3&theater>

Also learn about the ongoing 3<sup>rd</sup> World Urdu Conference, Mauritius at:

<https://www.facebook.com/IndiaInMauritius/photos/a.570637496312084.1073741828.309478002428036/1001285146580648/?type=3&theater>

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