

Concept Note

National Conference

India-Arab Relations: Understanding the Old and New Trajectories

Proposed Dates

14 to 15 December 2022

Organised by:

India-Arab Cultural Centre

Jamia Millia Islamia (Central University), New Delhi, India

Conference Convener

Prof. Nasir Raza Khan

The proposed conference attempts to bring new perspectives on the dynamics of *India-Arab Relations: Understanding the Old and New Trajectories*. The people of India and the Arab world, the two ancient extended neighbouring civilisations, have enjoyed close historical links through the ages. Over the years, they interacted and enriched each other in language, religion, art, culture, architecture, food, and other traditions.

The conference aims to understand the long history of contact between India and the Arab World and how this has contributed to dynamic and mutually beneficial interactions. This has led to sharing a vast history imbued with the richness of art, architecture, and socio-cultural and political exchange. From ancient times, the trade between India and the Arab world has been through the land and the sea. The ocean bifurcated the two lands; on one side was the Holy land of Arabs, and on the other, the foothills of Aryawarta. The sea and the land became the throughway for the Indian ships to sail to and fro and, to quote a chronicle, "carried such Indian products as perfumes and spices, cotton and silk, shawls and muslin, pearls and rubies, brocades of silver and gold" to Arabia and Mesopotamia.

The interactions of both the civilisations and the regions were not only limited to trade, commerce and economic activities. The main areas where more meaningful exchanges occurred were Science, Literature, Art, Philosophy, Religion, Academic interactions, etc. Both the communities had a positive impact on the existing cultures and practices of their respective places. These cultural exchanges and scholarly communications can very well be traced in all the fields mentioned above in a detailed manner. It is considered that during the Abbasid period, these cultural and, more specifically, intellectual exchanges were at their peak. Various

Abbasid emperors were personally involved in translating different Indian texts related to Astronomy, Medicine, Literature, Mathematics, etc.

During different phases in Indian History, many travellers visited India from the Arab world. The name of *Al-Beruni* stands out amongst all the names. He has translated a vast body of work into Arabic. In one of his famous works, *Kitab fi Tahqiq ma'lil Hind* (Research on India), he described the cultural, social, scientific, and religious history instead of telling India's political and military history. In his work, he rendered his services and represented India's cultural and scientific legacy to the Arab world.

It also has to be noted that the cultural interaction between India and the Arab world is not just limited to the percolation of literary ideas. The cultural exchanges had an enormous impact, like many of India's Islamic social reform movements. For more than half a century, India-Arab relations have been on a distinct trajectory that sets them apart from the earlier periods. The relatively recent phenomenon of migration from India to the Arab World also adds a new dimension to India-Arab relations, which needs to be discussed in the light of a cultural paradigm.

To deliberate on these issues, India-Arab Cultural Centre, Jamia Millia Islamia, will organise a two Days National Conference on ***India-Arab Relations: Understanding the Old and New Trajectories*** from 14 to 15 December 2022, in Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi, India. Papers are invited on the following broader themes, from social scientists (above Post Graduate level) drawn from different disciplines interested in the above subject.

- Cultural History of Indo-Arab relationship
- Shared cultural and religious traditions
- Forging social, economic, and cultural linkages
- India and the Arab Worlds; Regional Dimensions of the trilateral Relationship
- Economic Partnerships: Trade, Commerce and Cultural Exchange
- Globalisation and the Emerging Trends and Challenges
- Spice Route trade and cultural products
- Intangible Cultural Heritage in coastal zones
- Indian Cinema and its reception in the Arab world.
- India and the Arab World: Space of divergence and convergence.

Those desiring to participate in the conference are requested to send their paper titles and 500-word abstract by 31st October 2022 to the following email addresses nrkhan@jmi.ac.in or conference.iacc@gmail.com.

Proposed Dates:

- Last date for sending abstract: 31st October 2022.
- Abstract confirmation: 10th November 2022
- Last date for submission of full paper: 30th November 2022

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