

Concept Note

National Conference

on

India, China and the Arab World: Exploring New Dynamics

25-26 March 2019

Organised by:

India-Arab Cultural Centre,

Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi-110025

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Indian Council of World Affairs, (ICWA), New Delhi

India has enjoyed close historical and cultural ties with the Arab world since ancient times. In modern times India developed strategic, political and economic relations with various Arab countries. Close cultural ties of the past provide sound basis for building multifaceted ties between the two regions in the contemporary times. The Indus Valley Civilization in India, had close interaction with contemporary civilizations in Egypt and Mesopotamia. The cultural contacts were not confined to linguistic interactions only, but to a wide variety of activities ranging from trade to cuisine to naming of individuals and clans. India has also been accorded special status at the Arab League, which enables it to attend the Arab League Council meetings and have access to some of the documentation. Regular trade in number of goods passes through the Suez Canal, the Red Sea and the Gulf of Aden. India's staunch commitment to the Palestinian cause and its views on the major international developments and strong economic and commercial relations mark healthy relations in present times.

The Sino-Arab ties can be defined as 'comprehensive cooperative relations' and 'strategic partnership'. It means a long term well planned relationship to achieve certain objectives. The Sino-Arab Cooperation rests on three important foundations: comprehensive friendship which reminds of the 'Ancient Silk Road', the modern economic links and last but not the least - the strategic or the security interest of China. Apart from the global economic relations between China and the leading world economies, Chinese government has developed closer political links with the countries of the Arab World leading to the favourable political conditions in the development of the Sino-Arab economic and trade relations.

With a huge population, big market, and high rates of growth India and China are very important in the contemporary international economic, political and security scenario. The two countries also are ancient civilizations. The two countries have history of cultural exchange for more than 2000 years. Although they are divided by the great Himalayas but that never became a hurdle in the cultural interaction between the two. But in recent past both the countries were colonized and struggled for their freedom. After independence both faced challenges of underdevelopment and poverty due to imperialism of the developed countries. Industrialization and improved trade and investment opened their economies and today both are heading towards speedy economic development though at different speed and trajectories. The two countries are also energy deficient and import significant portion of their oil from the Arab countries of the Gulf.

Since ancient times China has been a centre of civilization and attracted travellers from across the world. There is enough proof that China had cultural contacts with Arab countries through the Ancient Silk Road. Arab travellers like Abu Zayd al-Sirafi, Ahmed Ibn Fadlan, Abu Abd Allah Mohammed Abd Allah El Lawati, who is known to the world by his sir-name Ibn Battuta, have left vivid and splendid account of China.

In this backdrop, to discuss this important subject, the India-Arab Cultural Centre, Jamia Millia Islamia (a Central University), proposes to organise a two-day national conference on **India, China and the Arab World: Exploring New Dimensions** on **25-26 March 2019**, at Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi India. The conference will bring together distinguished scholars from different part of India to deliberate on different aspects of this dynamic subject.

Papers are invited from social scientists drawn from different disciplines such as International Relations, history, sociology, political science, anthropology etc. on the following themes:

- History of Indo-Arab and Sino-Arab relations.
- Shared cultural and religious traditions
- India, China and the Arab world in contemporary times
- Strategic Partnerships between India, China and Arab countries
- Regional Dimensions of the trilateral Relationship
- Economic Partnership: Trade, Commerce and Energy ties

- Globalization and Connectivity and Diaspora
- Indian and Chinese Soft Power (Indian Cinema etc.) in the Arab world
- India, China and the Arab World: divergence and convergence.

We are inviting papers with innovative and novel approaches based on the above themes. Please send the title of the paper along with a 200-word abstract to conference.iacc@gmail.com or nrkhan@jmi.ac.in by 10 March 2019.

We look forward to your active participation in the conference.

Important Dates:

- Last date for sending abstract: 10 March 2109
- Abstract confirmation: 15 March 2019
- Last date for submission of full paper: 20 March 2019

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