



## ENHANCING INDIA - EGYPT BILATERAL RELATIONS: VISIT OF THE HON'BLE GRAND MUFTI OF EGYPT, DR. SHAWKY IBRAHIM ALLAM

India and Egypt share a long-standing history of cultural connections that have flourished over centuries. The roots of this relationship can be traced back to ancient times when trade routes between the two regions facilitated the exchange of ideas, art, and knowledge. Both countries have been home to great civilizations that have contributed immensely to the world's cultural heritage. Even in contemporary times, cultural ties between India and Egypt continue to thrive. Cultural festivals, music, dance, and cinema from both countries are celebrated and appreciated by each other's people. Moreover, collaborations in the fields of education, science, and technology have further strengthened the bond between the two nations.

In this context, the 6-day visit of the Hon'ble Grand Mufti of Egypt, Dr. Shawky Ibrahim Allam under the Distinguished Visitor's Programme of ICCR allowed us to discuss and promote cooperation pertaining to education and culture. During the 6-day visit, besides holding meetings in New Delhi, he travelled to Hyderabad, Agra, and Aligarh.

His official visit began by arriving in New Delhi and paying a visit to Jamia Milia Islamia University, Delhi on May 1st, 2023. He interacted with Prof. Najma Akhtar, Vice Chancellor, Jamia Milia Islamia University. He was welcomed by Dr. Vinay Sahasrabuddhe, President ICCR, Director General ICCR, Shri. Kumar Tuhin and Secretary CPV, MEA wherein bilateral, cultural & people-to-people ties between both countries were discussed. He also met upon dinner with the Ambassador of Egypt, H.E. Wael Mohamed Awad Hamed in New Delhi.





On 2nd May 2023, he visited Aligarh Muslim University to address the students and meet Vice Chancellor Mohammad Gulrez and delivered a lecture on "Dialogue Among Civilisations". He said, "There is a need to grasp and understand the true spirit of Islam that is engaging and dealing with people of all faiths, civilizations, and philosophies by seeking common grounds and recognizing the diversities and differences which are a divine gift and blessing from God", during his address to a large gathering of teachers, students and officials of the Aligarh Muslim University (AMU) on May 2nd 2023 at the Kennedy Auditorium.



The Grand Mufti also marvelled at the architectural splendour, a UNESCO World Heritage site in India, the Taj Mahal as well as the Agra Fort. On 4th May 2023, he visited the Hazrat Nizamuddin Aulia Dargah in Delhi, followed by the departure to Kozhikode (Calicut), to meet with the Hon'ble Grand Mufti of India at Calicut. They discussed accelerating educational exchange between India and Egypt and strengthening academic leadership.

Upon returning to Egypt, during a press conference, Dr. Allam praised India's generous hospitality and organization of the visit, asserting that its fruitful outcomes represent a significant incentive for the ongoing efforts of fostering international religious communication.