

*Embassy
of the Islamic Republic of Iran
New Delhi*

Message

In the Name of the God, the Most Compassionate, the Most Merciful

The role of dialogue and discourse has never been so significant as it is today. The present world, while passing through the modern times and breathing in the atmosphere of post modernism, has entered in a specific field of cultural diversity, wherein culture is accorded a distinct recognition on the basis of its active and civilized presence. However, no nation or civilization is able to prove its presence in the cultural field of post modern world without assistance of dialogue and discourse.

International peace and friendship has occupied the minds of scholars, leaders and all peace loving people of the world from time immemorial, and it has been found that cultural relations and dialogue plays a very important role in this respect.

Experiencing multiple wars and conflicts at world, regional and local levels which have led to continued catastrophes and taken a huge toll on the lives and minds of humanity, humankind has realized that there is nothing better than peace and that progress and development will only ensue against a backdrop of understanding. Needless to say, taking into consideration all forms of existing diversities and cultural differences, the prerequisite to peace and understanding would be respecting and proper recognition and appreciation of the other cultures and values. To achieve this goal the elite should engage in dialogue and discussion by stressing on shared values and principles with an aim to strengthen and reinforce our bonds of unity and friendship. More importantly, people to people relations must be boosted with an aim to know each other first hand on the basis of dialogue and interaction. Robust people to people linkages will even cause the leaders of countries to adjust their policies on the basis of peace, harmony and understanding. The concept of cultural dialogue will surely bring a brighter and more promising future for mankind and the conflicts, problems and disunity can be solved by the process of dialogue.

For cultural understanding based on dialogue and interaction, first hand familiarization with other cultures must be followed. In this way, the views of eminent cultural figures ought to be communicated and shared with each other. Besides, knowing splendid cultural productions in multiple various domains and areas including art, music,

architecture and literature will cause interest amongst various interlocutors, especially when one notices striking similarities or shared values in this process.

It is heartening that the scholars and intellectuals of Iran and India have ever acted as torch bearers of culture and civilization in the history of world and the two countries have always collaborated with each other in upholding the torch of knowledge and art. The names of Ferdowsi, Maulana Jalaluddin Rumi, Khayyam, Sa'adi and Hafiz from Iran and Mahatma Gandhi, Jawaharlal Nehru, Maulana Abul Kalam Azad, Rabindra Nath Tagore are just a few names from an unfinishable roster of larger than life characters which may show how tremendously the Iranian and Indians have contributed to humanity.

India and Iran are two countries with rich culture and art loving and cultured peoples. Throughout history, the two societies have had multiple engagements and interactions and thus they have influenced and enriched one another to such an extent that it is impossible to study the history of either without reference to the other. This fact has already been authenticated by top ranking historians of the world. These relations, especially in the field of culture is so deep, rich, effective, fruitful and productive that their outcomes and achievements have gone far beyond the borders of these two countries and have directly influenced humanity and world culture.

It is a must for these profound cultural relations panned against mankind's history to be emphasized and especially to be familiarized to the younger generations of the two countries.

Fortunately, there is a strong political will to cement our deep-rooted bonds; the leaders of the two countries are strongly determined to broaden all-out bilateral relations and multiple regular visits by high ranking delegations in various fields and conclusion of abundant documents of mutual cooperation is a testimony to this fact.

The effort by Culture House of this Embassy for releasing the first edition of an English Quarterly Journal named “CULTURAL DIALOGUE” containing scholarly articles by eminent professors and academicians is a commendable act and it is hoped that it will help to the greater cause of promoting and strengthening the multifaceted relations between India and Iran.

I also take this opportunity to express my gratitude to all those who have dedicated their services for the promotion of Indo-Iranian Relations.

Ali Chegeni

Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Iran in India