

Valladolid and Ahmedabad sign a Friendship Agreement for the exchange of experiences in Heritage Conservation and the Promotion of Tourism

- **The Mayor of Valladolid meets a delegation from the Indian city of Ahmedabad, lead by Mayor Kanaji Thakore, to sign a Friendship Agreement**

The City Council of Valladolid and the Municipal Corporation of Ahmadabad, represented by Francisco Javier León de la Riva and Kanaji Thakore, met this morning in the City Hall to sign a collaboration agreement for the exchange of experiences in the fields of heritage conservation and the promotion of tourism, among others.

The Ahmedabad delegation travels to Valladolid after participating in a tour, organized by the UNESCO, visiting a selection of French cities related to the conservation of architectural heritage. Their trip to Valladolid, outside the agenda of the French tour, has been organized with the decided interest to close ties between the two cities, after conversations held by Mayors of both municipalities at the Euro-India Forum 2008, which took place in Goa from April 3 to 5.

The paper of the Mayor of Valladolid in the EuroIndia Forum centred precisely on the importance of city-to-city cooperation as a fundamental aspect for local development. Thus he stated that “hosting delegations from Indian towns is the first step in a process which must be programmed on the medium-long term”. The signing of a Friendship Agreement with Ahmedabad is therefore the springboard of a series of actions which will bring both cities together and which will be made extensive to all institutions, public and private, companies and citizens.

In fact, as sources of Casa de la India announced in the month of April, both Valladolid and Ahmedabad are already working on the organization of an exhibition, which will take place in 2009, and which will travel to both

cities to show different methodologies in the treatment and conservation of heritage.

During his visit in Valladolid, the Mayor of Ahmedabad, accompanied by an engineer and an expert in heritage conservation, participated in a technical visit to the Patio Herreriano Museum and to the Municipal Archives, two prime examples of heritage conservation, commented by the architects of the projects.