

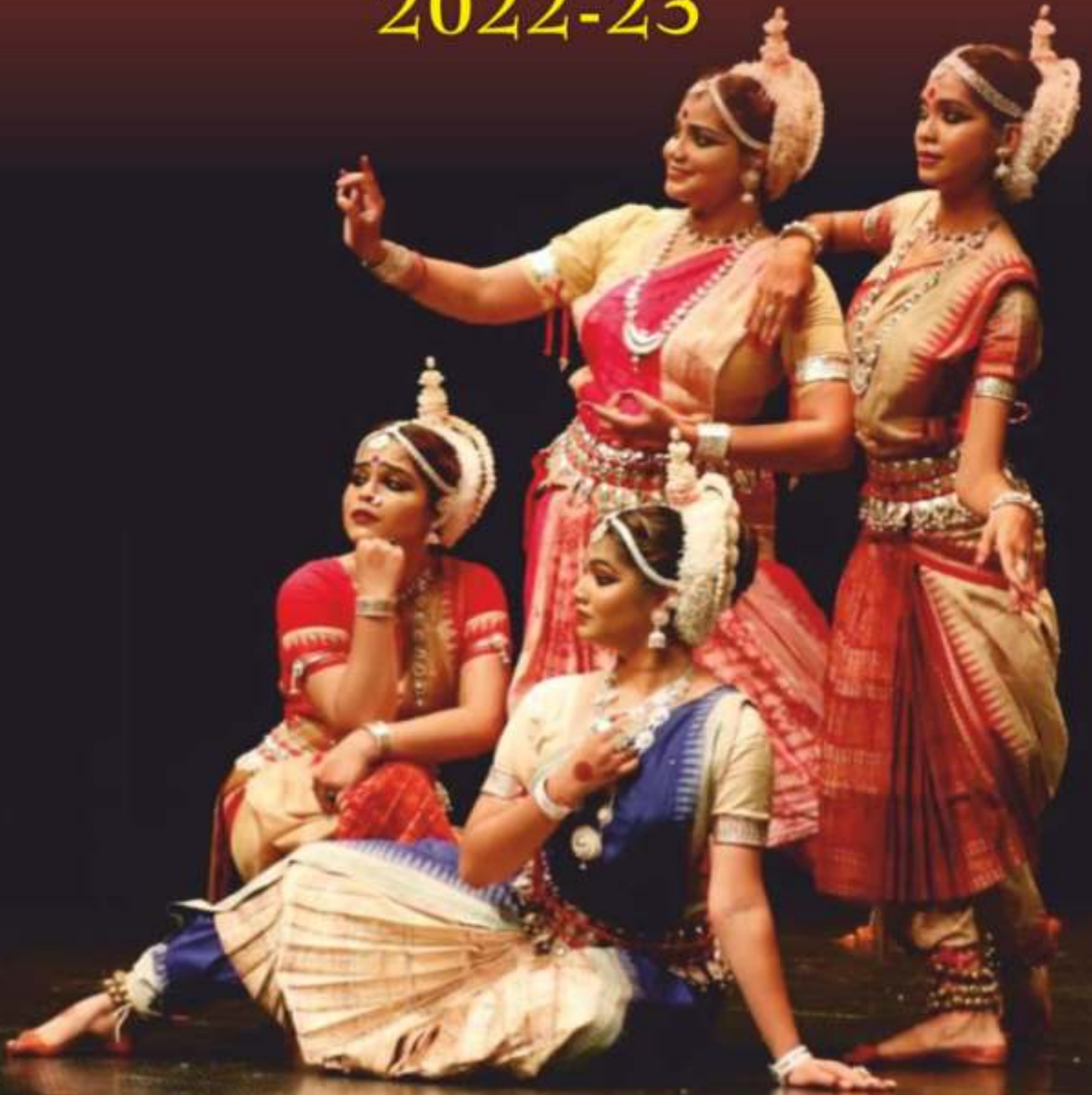


ICCR



भारत 2023

ANNUAL REPORT 2022-23



Fostering Cultural Relations and Exchanges

वार्षिक रिपोर्ट
Annual Report
2022-2023



भारतीय सांस्कृतिक संबंध परिषद
Indian Council for Cultural Relations

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Growing global interest in Indian history and culture offers many opportunities for those pursuing humanities.

Shri Narendra Modi
Hon'ble Prime Minister of India



In the last two generations the world has seen a steady economic and political rebalancing. However, if a multipolar world is to really emerge, this can only happen with cultural rebalancing as well. The diversity of the world in terms of heritage, customs and narratives must be recognized and respected in a democratic global order.

Dr. S. Jaishankar
Hon'ble External Affairs Minister



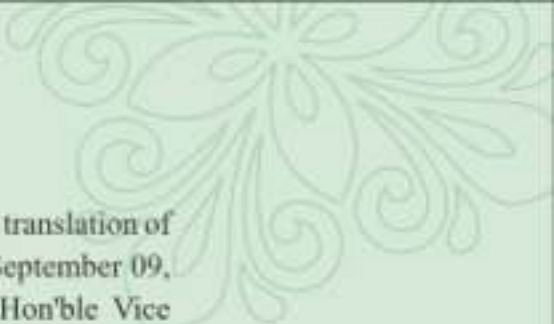
Message

Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) is a unique platform to promote India's global cultural relations or soft power. ICCR as an organization has been striving towards creating a proper understanding about the idea of India, its culture, values, people and its civilization. With several new initiatives that were launched last year, three important things mark out-of-the-box thinking of ICCR in the year 2022-2023. Firstly, bringing Indian traditional crafts as a part of a narrative about soft power through a lecture by Smt. Jaya Jaitly, secondly, promoting translation of Indian literature in foreign languages through the release of 'Majma-ul-Bahrain' of Dara Shikoh in Arabic and thirdly recognizing emerging talents of students of Indian classical dance traditions abroad through an initiative like Pratibha Sangam Competition.

In recognition with the deep association of various foreign citizens towards India and its culture, ICCR has launched first-of-its-kind international competition titled Pratibha Sangam competition on April 16, 2022. This is the first ever global competition for performers from around the world in the categories of classical Indian Music and Dances.

In observance of the World Culture Day which is celebrated on May 21 every year, ICCR has been organizing a lecture on the subjects pertaining to India's cultural influence/ soft power annually. In 2022, the 5th edition of this oration was delivered on "Craft Traditions as India's Soft Power" by Smt. Jaya Jaitly, a renowned handicrafts curator and President of Dastkari Haat Samiti, New Delhi. During her lecture, Smt. Jaitly highlighted the potential of Indian art and craft and how art can act as a means of introducing people to India's values and its culture.

Since 2018, ICCR has been organising international conference on Yoga every year to cultivate deeper understanding of multiple dimensions of Yogic science. To mark the 8th edition of the International Day of Yoga 2022, ICCR in association with Wonkwang Digital University, South Korea organized an international conference on the theme "Yoga and Natural Healthcare for Covid Pandemic (From Prevention to Long-term Rehabilitation)" on June 25, 2022. The academic partner for the conference was SVYASA University, Bengaluru and Karnataka.



Also, ICCR organised the book release ceremony of the Arabic translation of 'Majma-ul-Bahrain' of Dara Shikoh by Shri Amar Hasan on September 09, 2022. The book was released by Shri Jagdeep Dhankhar, Hon'ble Vice President of India. This translated version of the book is an attempt to spread India's spiritual and philosophical literature and texts among Arab audiences for a better understanding of India.


Along these lines, for the first time, ICCR has organised an Essay and Elocution competition for the foreign students at Mewar University, Rajasthan from 19-21 February, 2023. It was open to all International students whether on ICCR Scholarship or studying on self- financed basis. The topics for the competition were related to India's G20 Presidency, Indian traditional knowledge systems and Indian freedom struggle among others.

As a part of AKAM celebration, ICCR continued with one of its flagship initiatives, the "Gen-Next Democratic Network" programme. Under this one-of-its-kind initiative, ICCR has been hosting young, emerging, social and political leaders of seventy-five democracies across the globe. The 8th batch of thirty nine delegates from eight countries has already visited India from 06 – 15 March, 2023.

In order to deepen the understanding of policy decisions of the Government by the academics and creating an interface for academia with policy makers, ICCR has organized a National Convention on India's International Relations in association with the Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU), New Delhi on March 17-18, 2023. This convention was inaugurated by Dr. S. Jaishankar, Minister of External Affairs, Government of India and Heads of Departments (HODs) of International Relations of universities across India were invited.

With the objective of providing a better glimpse to all our readers about the diverse activities undertaken by ICCR during 2022-23, I am delighted to present this Annual Report.

Vinay Sahasrabuddhe
President, ICCR







Foreword

Coming out from the shadows of Covid-19 pandemic, the Indian Council for Cultural Relations truly hit the ground running in 2022-23. We not only fulfilled pending demands from the last two years but also proudly showcased Indian culture during events like India's G-20 presidency, 17th Pravasi Bhartiya Divas, 12th World Hindi Conference, etc.

Major steps were taken to enhance ICCR's institutional capacity. After a gap of many years, new recruitment was undertaken which saw the staff strength going up to 144 (in April 2023) from 119 (pre-2021). Training of staff at premier institutions like Sushma Swaraj Institute of Foreign Service imparted new skills required for the cultural diplomacy work. Important task of rightsizing Regional Offices of ICCR was completed through which 18 Regional Offices were organized under 11 Zonal/Sub-Zonal Offices. Review of recruitment rules, financial management plan/SOP, transfer policy, etc., were finalized. Several new measures were undertaken to strengthen ICCR's capacity in the digital domain, including launch of Gyan Setu application on 6 February 2023 to digitize the scholarship process especially its interface with the students and the empanelled institutions, launch of India Alumni Portal on 9 April 2022, launch of ICCR's new website, rolling out of e-office, and commencement of several new online programmes. These measures played key roles in the highest ever budget utilization in ICCR history in FY 2022-23.

For promoting better understanding of India, ICCR's initiatives such as launch of new visitors' programmes of IVP/Art Residency/Hindi Students and hosting of young leaders from 75 democracies across the globe under the Gen-Next Democracy Network Programme received wide recognition and applause.

ICCR's engagements, both external and internal, were unprecedented. A record number of cultural events under various categories like outgoing cultural delegations, incoming cultural delegations, Horizon series programmes, G-20 cultural events were organized this year. MOUs with 22 states were signed to partner with them in showcasing the vibrancy and richness of India's culture abroad. MOUs were also signed with the empanelled universities for better delivery of ICCR's scholarship schemes which attracted over 3000 acceptances this year.

For better understanding of various dimensions of cultural diplomacy, ICCR embarked upon new initiatives like launch of Annapurna Certificate (cuisine as soft power), organizing a conference on Indian cinema and soft power in May 2022, and holding of a National Convention on International Relations (Feb 2023).

कुर्वन्नेवेह कर्माणि जिजीविषेत् शतं समाः । (ईशोपनिषद्) By doing one's karma in this world only should one wish to live long.

Kumar Tuhin
Director General, ICCR

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Ghazal concert by Rajesh Bhowari on September 9, 2022 under Horizon series







भारतीय सांस्कृतिक सम्बंध परिषद
Indian Council for Cultural Relations

Introduction

The Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) is an autonomous organisation of the Government of India which was set up in 1950 with the overall mandate of promoting Indian culture abroad and furthering cultural ties with the rest of the world. Its activities encompass cultural, academic and intellectual exchanges and promotion of India's culture abroad through various outreach activities on subjects like Indian art, history, oral traditions, dance, music, yoga, languages, food, festivals and contemporary issues.

ICCR is registered as a Society under the Societies Act. It operates as an independent body under the administrative control of the Ministry of External Affairs. ICCR works towards creating an understanding of Indian culture with the Global community through its 38 International Cultural Centres and 5 Zonal, 4 Sub-Zonal and 2 RPOs. During the last seven decades, the functioning of ICCR as an institution has acquired new dimensions towards promoting India's cultural heritage. It has emerged as the 'soft power' arm of the Ministry of External Affairs through an array of well-designed and targeted programmes.

All of ICCR's activities aim to reach out to the people's hearts and minds through disseminating Indian heritage, values and philosophy to create an endearing and everlasting image of India and promote India's soft power overseas. ICCR facilitates exchanges/visits by scholars, academicians, opinion-makers, artists and writers along with the facilitation of seminars and symposia abroad, exchanges of visits by performing art groups, exchanges of exhibitions, commissioning of busts and statues of Indian leaders for installation abroad, etc. It also establishes & maintains Chairs of Indian Studies in Universities abroad and administers awards for various academic schemes. It also administers scholarship schemes for foreign students to pursue studies in India.

The Council takes pride in being a pre-eminent institution engaged in cultural diplomacy and the sponsor of intellectual exchanges between India and partner countries and symbolises India's great cultural and educational strengths.





ICCR

Organization Structure

At the organizational level ICCR is headed by the President. Executive head of the Council is the Director General, who is a Secretary or Additional Secretary level officer from the Indian Foreign Service, deputed by the Ministry of External Affairs. The Director General is assisted by Deputy Director Generals (officers from the Indian Foreign Service), Officers from the ICCR cadre and functionaries engaged by the organization as consultants and outsourced staff.

The headquarters in Delhi has sections dedicated to various programmes and overall administration, planning, and financial management of the Council. These sections are headed by Directors, Senior Programme Directors and Programme Directors.

Work undertaken by the sections include (i) Administration, Establishment & Zonal Offices, (ii) Finance & Accounts, (iii) Indian Cultural Centres & Yoga Promotion, (iv) Scholarships (v) Chairs, (vi) Conference & Seminar, (vii) Hindi Promotion, (viii) Outgoing Cultural Delegation (OCD), (ix) Incoming Cultural Delegation (ICD), (x) Exhibition, Bust & Statue, (xi) Visitors' Programme, (xii) ICCR Awards, (xiii) Publications & Library, (xiv) General Coordination, (xv) Presentation, (xvi) EG & IT (xvii) Special Projects (xviii) G-20 Section.

ICCR also delivers through its 11 Zonal Offices (5 Zonal, 4 Sub-Zonal and 2 RPOs) in various States in India and 38 Indian Cultural Centres overseas.



Statutory Bodies

ICCR is governed by its Constitution. The Council's activities are overseen by its three statutory bodies – General Assembly, Governing Body, and Finance Committee. These bodies provide overall guidance and direction at periodical intervals; approve ICCR's budget and Annual Plan of Action. These bodies meet regularly to monitor the implementation of programmes and functioning of the Council. The tenure of the members of these statutory bodies is three years.

General Assembly

Members to the General Assembly are individuals nominated from varied fields including governmental ministries/ departments, Institutions of repute from the field of Art, Culture, Literature and Academics and renowned artistes and others.

The general assembly consists of (i) President (ii) Three Vice-President (iii) Director General (iv) Financial Advisor (v) Five persons nominated by the Government of India (vi) Two members of the Lok Sabha nominated by the Speaker of the Lok Sabha and one member of the Rajya Sabha nominated by the Chairman of the Rajya Sabha (vii) One representative each of the Lalit Kala Akademi, Sahitya Akademi and Sangeet Natak Akademi; to be nominated by the competent authorities of these Academies (viii) Not more than ten persons eminent in various spheres of Indian Culture to be nominated by the President of the Council in their individual capacity (ix) Ten eminent artistes from the fields of performing, fine and plastic arts to represent institutions and organizations of this category to be selected by the Governing Body (x) Fifteen representatives of universities or of institutions deemed to be universities, to be selected by the Governing Body (xi) Five representatives of prominent scientific and technical institutions to be selected by Governing Body (xii) Five representatives of research institutions and institutes of higher learning in areas of Humanities and Social Sciences and (xiii) Five representatives of other organisations interested in the work and

objectives of the Council to be selected by Governing Body.

The list of the members of the General Assembly is at **Annexure: 1 (Pg.145)**

Governing Body

The Governing Body consists of the selected members from the General Assembly.

The governing body consists of (i) President (ii) Three Vice-Presidents (iii) Director General (iv) Financial Advisor (v) Three members, nominated by the Government of India from among their nominees on the General Assembly (vi) Nine members to be elected by the General Assembly from amongst its members of whom at least one shall be a member of the Rajya Sabha and two of the Lok Sabha.

The list of the members of the Governing Body is at **Annexure: 2 (Pg.149)**

Finance Committee

The Finance Committee consists of the following members: (i) Chairperson-elected by the Finance Committee (ii) Director General, ICCR (iii) Financial Advisor, ICCR/MEA (iv) One nominee of the Government of India (v) Two representatives of the General Assembly (vi) One representative of the Governing Body.

Shri Deepak Karanjikar was the Chairperson of the Finance Committee of ICCR in the Year 2022-23.

Programme Committee

Under Clause 3(iv) of the Constitution of ICCR, President ICCR constituted a Programme Committee under the Chairmanship of Shri Vivek Srivastava, along with Shri Karan Singh Chetri, Shri Dnyanand Deshpande, Smt. Ruchi Sood, Shri Mukesh Aggarwal and Deputy Director General (Culture) and Deputy Director General (Special Projects) as the members. The Committee prepares outlines of all the events/ programmes with the help



of concerned sections of ICCR to be undertaken during the course of year.

Meetings of Governing Body & General Assembly

During the reported period, two meetings of GB & GA in the hybrid mode were held on September 07, 2022 and January 4, 2023 respectively.

Training to the New Recruits

A batch of 33 newly recruited personnel joined the Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) at various levels, including Programme Officer, Assistant Programme Officer, Assistant, Senior Stenographer (Sr. Steno), Junior Stenographer (Jr. Steno), and Lower Division Clerk (LDC). The training program for these recruits was conducted in four phases at different locations and dates:

Phase 1: Conducted from June 20 to June 24, 2022, at the Sushma Swaraj Institute of Foreign Service in New Delhi.

Phase 2: Conducted from July 11 to July 16, 2022, at RTC (*Rabindranath Tagore Centre*) in Kolkata.

Phase 3: Conducted from September 26 to September 30, 2022, at the International Centre for Information Systems and Audit in Noida.

Phase 4: Conducted from December 5 to December 9, 2022, at the Institute of Secretariat Training and Management (ISTM) in New Delhi.

400th Birth Anniversary of Bir Lachit Borphukan

ICCR celebrated the 400th birth anniversary of legendary General Bir Lachit Borphukan on November 24, 2022 to honor the memory and contributions of this historical figure. Shri Bir Lachit Borphukan was a commander in the erstwhile Ahom kingdom and is known for his leadership in the 1671 battle of Saraighat that thwarted an attempt by the Mughals to capture Assam.



Gudi Padwa Festival

ICCR celebrated Gudi Padwa festival with a musical performance, Media Sammelan and Maharashtrian cuisine on 24.03.2023.



Internship programme at ICCR

The Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) introduced an Internship programme for students with maximum age of 25 years and a minimum educational qualification of graduation in Humanities, Mass Communication, Journalism, Designing, Anthropology, History, Art, Archaeology Science, Languages, Museology and

Fine Arts. The internship programme introduces the process of formulation of soft power diplomacy and its implementation by ICCR wherein the applicants are selected through a two-tier selection process.

Deployment of Directors at Indian Cultural Centres (ICCs) Abroad

The Council shortlisted a panel of candidates for Director, ICCs abroad. Out of which, 15 candidates have joined during the reporting period. Apart from this panel, two Directors have also joined ICCs

abroad who were nominated by the President, ICCR and one Director joined from a previously formed panel.



ICCR

Indian Cultural Centres

The primary objective of the Council is to establish, revive and strengthen cultural relations and mutual understanding between India and other countries to promote awareness and appreciation of India's soft power and cultural diplomacy.

The Council has 38 full-fledged Indian Cultural Centres (ICCs) in different parts of the world. These centres serve as important cultural hubs and work closely with the Indian Embassy/Mission in the country facilitating the exchange of ideas, traditions, and artistic expressions between India and the rest of the world, helping to strengthen cultural bonds and promoting mutual understanding. Additionally, ICCR extends support to the Casa de la India in Valladolid, Spain established on the 'PPP' Model (Public-Private Partnership).

Indian Cultural Centres organized a wide range of activities and events, including cultural performances, art exhibitions, lectures, workshops, film screenings, and language classes. These events showcase the rich cultural heritage of India and facilitate cross-cultural interactions.

To promote Yoga, Veda and Sanskrit globally, the

Council deployed 45 Teachers of Indian Culture (TICs) to various Missions/Posts/ICCs. The Council also deployed 37 India-based Performing Arts teachers in the disciplines of Bharatanatyam, Kathak, Odissi, Hindustani/Carnatic Vocal, Tabla and one teacher of Hindi language in the Mission/Posts/ICCs. Additionally, in order to encourage the deployment of teachers from the local talent, the Council initiated and encouraged Missions/Post to hire Local Resources Persons (LRPs) as Teachers of Yoga, Indian Dance and Music. A total number of 87 LRPs is presently deployed at various Missions/Posts/ICCs. Online Kathak dance classes were conducted from 16th July to 14th September 2022 in ICCs on a pilot basis in collaboration with Routes 2 Roots. In order to popularize Hindi language abroad, the Council signed a tripartite agreement with Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU) and Central Hindi Directorate on 9th November, 2022 for three months online Hindi awareness programme. The programme commenced on 15 November 2022.







List of Indian Cultural Centres Overseas

1. Swami Vivekananda Cultural Centre (SVCC), Afghanistan, Kabul
2. Swami Vivekananda Cultural Centre (SVCC), Sydney, Australia
3. Indira Gandhi Cultural Centre (IGCC), Dhaka, Bangladesh
4. Nehru-Wangchuck Cultural Centre (NWCC), Thimphu, Bhutan
5. Swami Vivekananda Cultural Centre (SVCC), Sao Paulo, Brazil
6. Swami Vivekananda Cultural Centre, Beijing, China
7. Swami Vivekananda Cultural Centre (SVCC), Prague, Czech Republic
8. Maulana Azad Centre for Indian Culture (MACIC), Cairo, Egypt
9. Swami Vivekananda Cultural Centre (SVCC), Suva, Fiji
10. Swami Vivekananda Cultural Centre (SVCC), Paris, France
11. The Tagore Centre (TTC), Berlin, Germany
12. Swami Vivekananda Cultural Centre (SVCC), Georgetown, Guyana
13. Amrita Sher-Gil Cultural Centre (ASCC), Budapest, Hungary
14. Swami Vivekananda Cultural Centre (SVCC), Bali, Indonesia
15. Jawaharlal Nehru Indian Cultural Centre (JNICC), Jakarta, Indonesia
16. Swami Vivekananda Cultural Centre (SVCC), Tehran, Iran
17. Indian Cultural Centre (ICC), Tel Aviv, Israel
18. Swami Vivekananda Cultural Centre (SVCC), Astana, Kazakhstan
19. Vivekananda Cultural Centre (VCC), Tokyo, Japan
20. Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose Indian Cultural Centre (NSCBICC), Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
21. Indian Cultural Centre (ICC), Male, Maldives
22. Indira Gandhi Centre for Indian Culture (IGCIC), Port Louis, Mauritius
23. Gurudev Tagore Indian Cultural Centre (GTICC), Mexico City, Mexico
24. Swami Vivekananda Cultural Centre (SVCC), Yangon, Myanmar
25. Swami Vivekananda Cultural Centre (SVCC), Kathmandu, Nepal
26. The Gandhi Centre (TGC), The Hague, Netherlands
27. Jawaharlal Nehru Cultural Center (JNCC), Moscow, Russia
28. Swami Vivekananda Cultural Centre (SVCC), Durban, South Africa
29. Swami Vivekananda Culture Centre (SVCC), Paramaribo, Suriname, South America
30. Swami Vivekananda Cultural Centre (SVCC), Seoul, South Korea
31. Swami Vivekananda Cultural Centre (SVCC), Colombo, Sri Lanka
32. Swami Vivekananda Cultural Centre (SVCC), Dushanbe, Tajikistan
33. Swami Vivekananda Cultural Centr (SVCC), Dar-es-Salaam, Tanzania
34. Swami Vivekananda Cultural Centre (SVCC), Bangkok, Thailand
35. Mahatma Gandhi Indian Cultural Centre (MGICC), Port of Spain, Trinidad & Tobago
36. The Nehru Centre (TNC), London, United Kingdom
37. Lal Bahadur Shastri Centre For Indian Culture (LBSCIC), Tashkent, Uzbekistan
38. Swami Vivekananda Cultural Centre (SVCC), Hanoi, Vietnam

Swami Vivekananda Cultural Centre (SVCC), Sydney, Australia

Swami Vivekananda Cultural Centre (SVCC), CGI Sydney, organized a range of cultural events and activities, featuring dignitaries, artists, academics, and experts during the year 2022-23. Events included National Day celebrations, International Day of Yoga (IDY), festivals and exhibitions. SVCC celebrated ICCR Foundation Day on April 9, 2022, by organizing the Sydney Sanskrit School Summer Camp, which received enthusiastic participation from around 240 students, parents, and teachers.

As part of IDY 2022, SVCC took several initiatives, including a Yoga video, photoshoot, quiz contest, engaging prominent institutions to promote yoga. The grand IDY event took place at Sydney Town Hall, featuring a yoga session based on the official common Yoga protocol and recitations by students of John Colet school, Sydney. SVCC also organized an IDY event in association with the Art of Living at St. Mary's Cathedral Sydney and an exclusive yoga

session for the Consular Corps and CGI Sydney staff in Sydney.

On India's 76th Independence Day and as part of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav, SVCC held a flag hoisting ceremony at the Consulate General of India, Sydney, followed by cultural events featuring local artists. A grand reception was held at the Museum of Applied Arts and Science, Ultimo and also organized a handloom exhibition "Charkha and Kharga". The programme comprised of a Fashion Show in Indian traditional outfits for exclusive promotion of the handloom and a classical dance performance by Kalashree Academy Sydney. Additionally, SVCC facilitated drone photography of Exclusive tri-color lighting on the iconic Sydney Opera House for the celebrations of the 76th Independence Day of the Republic of India in coordination with NSW state authorities.





Indira Gandhi Cultural Centre (IGCC), Dhaka, Bangladesh

Indira Gandhi Cultural Centre (IGCC), Dhaka is located at Dhanmondi, Dhaka is well known as the cultural hub of Dhaka. The Other branch of IGCC is running at Gulshan-II, Dhaka. Both the Centres conduct different classes and cultural programmes on regular basis. Cultural programmes are also organized in collaboration with different local cultural organizations in Bangladesh and sometimes in different locations of the country.

The centre organised several activities during the year such as classical dance, instrumental music, Rabindra nazrul, Lallangeet/sangeet and light music in Hindi and Bangla languages. Classes of Indian dance and music were also conducted. The centre also celebrated festivals and birth anniversaries of great leaders, National Days to promote India's rich culture and traditions in Bangladesh.

Bangladesh



The Nehru-Wangchuck Cultural Centre (NWCC), Thimphu, Bhutan

The Nehru-Wangchuck Cultural Centre (NWCC), Thimphu actively participated in Swachhata Pakhwada week observed from 1-15 January, 2023 pledging to maintain cleanliness and promote the Swachh Bharat message during the year 2022-23. World Hindi Day was celebrated with the Ambassador reading out a special message from the Prime Minister of India. Young participants of various competitions organized by Embassy to promote Hindi language, were also honored on this occasion.

The centre celebrated India's 74th Republic Day on January 26th with fellow Indian citizens. A tribute was paid to Mahatma Gandhi on Martyrs' Day, featuring a talk by Dr. Shobhana Radhakrishna on

Gandhi's service to humanity. The NWCC organized an interactive session with Bhutan's creative sector leaders to expand collaboration in film, arts, literature, and digital platforms.

The "International Year of Millets 2023: Millets for Mission Life" was celebrated with Bhutanese dignitaries, officials, business leaders and the Indian community, including showcasing the live inauguration of the Global Millets Conference at Indian Agriculture Research Institute, New Delhi by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi. A culinary workshop on millet cuisine was conducted for Desuup under the De-suung Skilling Programme, supported by the India Bhutan Foundation.





Swami Vivekananda Cultural Centre (SVCC), Sao Paulo, Brazil

The Swami Vivekananda Cultural Centre (SVCC), Sao Paulo and the Consulate General of India organized a series of impactful events highlighting rich Indian cultural heritage during the year 2022-23 and took various innovative initiatives to strengthen the cultural connect and promote Indian culture in Brazil through various activities like participation in Brazilian Carnival, Chai Pe Charcha, Miniature Art exhibition and Incredible India evening. The emphasis was on increasing footfalls in the centre and establishing a live connect with the Brazilian people.

On January 10th, SVCC celebrated World Hindi Diwas with the event “Chai Pe Charcha”. It showcased Hindi language through poetry recitations, storytelling sessions, and open discussions, encouraging cultural dialogue. February 18th witnessed “Amrita - Celebrating the Spirit of Indian Women” at the Brazilian Carnival’s Bollywood “Bloco.” Thousands of Brazilians participated in this vibrant street party, experiencing Indian culture through captivating dance performances.

March 3rd marked the “Words and Strings” event at USP’s Indian Corner, dedicated to International Women’s Day. Distinguished poets presented their works, accompanied by live music, offering insights into India’s cultural richness.

SVCC organised the first-ever Art in Miniature Painting exhibition on March 28th, showcasing the beauty of Rajasthan’s Miniature Paintings. This exhibition attracted art enthusiasts, promoting Indian art and culture in Brazil. March 29th featured the “Incredible India Evening - Indian Holiday” event, aiming to promote India as a tourist destination. The evening consisted of cultural presentations, informative talks, and theatrical performances, fostering tourism ties between the two countries



Swami Vivekananda Cultural Centre (SVCC), Beijing, China

The SVCC, Beijing has been actively engaging and promoting Indian culture and ethos through organizing various events and conducting different courses including Kathak, Bharatanatyam, and Yoga etc.

The marquee event of the year was Vasant Mela & Holi which was a two day event held on 11-12 March, 2023 witnessing a footfall of 3000 people. The cultural program brought together various elements of Indian culture such as classical, folk and film music, classical and modern dance forms, Yoga, theater and other fun elements.

Other noteworthy events included the International Day of Yoga, celebration of Independence Day and

Republic day. The Gandhi Jayanti was celebrated at Jintai Museum, Beijing where there is a bust of the Mahatma Gandhi. A play “Being Mahatma” was enacted during the program. It was an in house production from the SVCC and was well appreciated by everyone.

The Centre also partnered with community organizations and held various regional festivals such as Ganeshotsav, Durga Puja, Onam, Pongal etc. during the year. Apart from this, the Centre organized ICCR Foundation day events, Kathak and Yoga Workshops and Hindi Pakhwada.





Swami Vivekananda Cultural Centre (SVCC), Prague, Czech Republic

SVCC, Prague, as part of ongoing AKAM events, organized a series of events including Durga Puja, Dussehra, Diwali, Navaratri, (Garba and Dandiya) Ganapati Mahotsav and Onam in cooperation with Indian community and Friends of India.

Ambassador paid his respects to Dr B.R. Ambedkar and recounted his contributions to the constitutional architecture of India in a solemn ceremony. ICC Prague celebrated Baishakhi festival and Bengali New Year with Indian Community. The centre took lead in organizing a series of events in collaboration

with Yoga in Daily Life centre to celebrate IDY 2022 across Czech Republic.

Ayurveda Day 2022 was observed in collaboration with University of Ayurveda Prague Clinic, Ayur Farm. An interactive session was held with practitioners and academics on the benefits of application of Ayurveda in daily life. On this occasion, Czech actor and theater legend Mr. Miroslav Janek and TV Actress, Ms. Petra Špindlerova conveyed video messages regarding Ayurveda and its impact on overall health and well being.

Czech Republic



Maulana Azad Centre for Indian Culture (MACIC), Cairo, Egypt

The Maulana Azad Centre for Indian Culture (MACIC) and the Embassy of India in Egypt have been actively engaged in a wide range of cultural and educational activities. It offered Hindi and Urdu language classes attracting over 150 students, and hosted Yoga classes with 140 participants. It also celebrated Holi and commemorated "ICCR Foundation Day."

Leading up to the International Day of Yoga, MACIC organized yoga workshops and events across Egypt. The main event in June 2022 at Al-Azhar Park had over 500 participants, including the Egyptian Minister of Youth and Sports. MACIC actively participated in India@75 "Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav" celebrations, engaging in activities like painting and quiz competitions and organizing cultural events at various locations in Egypt.

MACIC also hosted *Kathak* and *Qawwali* dance groups from India, fostering cross-cultural

exchanges and showcasing the rich tapestry of Indian art. In December 2022, MACIC organized the annual "Glimpses of India" painting competition, involving thousands of students from various Egyptian schools who painted on themes related to India's culture and heritage.

The MACIC further expanded its reach by participating in International Culture Day events at various universities and institutions. MACIC celebrated International Women's Day by organizing Yoga sessions and performances of Indian dances, highlighting the significant role of women in Indian culture. Additionally, MACIC contributed to the promotion of **KABADDI**, an indigenous Indian sport, by organizing a tournament in Cairo, attracting participants from various categories and emphasizing the sport's growing popularity in Egypt.





Swami Vivekananda Cultural Centre (SVCC), Suva, Fiji



The SVCC, Suva organized more than 70 events during the year 2022-23. SVCC celebrated important occasions like the Foundation Day of ICCR, 131st Birth Anniversary of Dr. B. R. Ambedkar, 143rd Anniversary of the arrival of Girmityas in Fiji, 161st Birth Anniversary of Rabindranath Tagore, Commemoration of 143rd Indian indenture ship, 143rd Girmity Divas, 348th Coronation Day of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj, 8th International Day of Yoga, 76th Independence Day of India, 153rd Gandhi Anniversary, 553rd Birth

Anniversary of Guru Nanak Devji and 74th Republic Day of India 2023.

ICC Suva also organized outreach activities such as gifting of books as well as musical instruments and lecture-cum-demonstration on aspects of Indian culture and heritage. The World Hindi Conference was organized from 15-17 February, 2022 showcasing four cultural groups from India captivating the audience and the participants.



The Tagore Centre (TTC), Berlin, Germany

The Tagore Centre (TTC) named after Nobel Laureate Rabindranath Tagore, is committed to strengthening Indo-German cultural ties. In line with ICCR's mandate of promoting Indian culture abroad, TTC endeavors to present Indian culture in its composite form, through a wide spectrum of activities. The events of the Centre have been conceptualized in a manner that envisages collaborations with organizations and institutions for a wider reach. The process of cultural dialogue through partnerships has contributed to fostering a better understanding of India amongst the Germans.

The TTC organized cultural events like classical music concerts, classical dance performances, Rabindra Jayanti, Gandhi Jayanti and Hindi Divas. The Centre has also organized 58 in-person cultural events showcasing Indian classical music and performing arts.

The TTC collaborated with Indo-German Films to organize Indo-German Film week in October 2022. Free online Hindi & Sanskrit classes were also organized by the Centre to foster Indian languages among the German audience.





Swami Vivekananda Cultural Centre (SVCC), Georgetown, Guyana

SVCC organized many events during the year 2022-23. The SVCC celebrated Dr. B. R. Ambedkar Jayanti by offering floral tributes and screening a documentary based on Dr. B.R. Ambedkar's life & achievements. SVCC celebrated 8th International Day of Yoga by organizing yoga activities from 28 May to 21 June. The centre also started its regular Kathak outreach classes at Better Hope Temple & Soesdyke Vishnu Temple around Georgetown on Sundays.

The High Commission of India, Guyana celebrated Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation program “ITEC Day” on Sep 13, 2022 at SVCC, in which Ministry of External Affairs, Govt. of India partners with developing countries and offers

assistance in various areas including technical consultancy, disaster relief, humanitarian aid, educational scholarships and a wide range of capacity building programs including short-term training courses.

The Centre also celebrated other important events like: Independence Day, Rakshabandhan, Krishna Janmashtami, 153rd Birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi, 118th Birth anniversary of Lal Bahadur Shastri, Dusshera, 17th Pravasi Bhartiya Diwas, Diwali, 147th anniversary of the birth of Sardar Patel, 400th birth anniversary celebrations of legendary war hero of Assam, Lachit Borphukan, Republic Day of India etc.



Amrita Sher-Gil Cultural Centre (ASCC), Budapest, Hungary

ASCC organized various events such as celebrations of Gudipadva/Ugadi, the traditional Indian New Year, with children presenting skits, songs and dances at the ASCC Auditorium. The event also featured vibrant dance performances showcasing Indian culture. A larger event marked World Dance Day, celebrating India's 75th year of independence with performances by ASCC teachers and their disciples.

It also saw various cultural events, including Hindi poems and stories sessions, Vesakh Celebration to mark the birthday of Gautam Buddha and workshops on Indian rhythm and Kathak dance. In June, the cultural centre hosted an interactive

program at a local school to showcase Indian art and culture, drawing over 150 students and parents.

Events continued throughout the year, including art exhibitions, yoga sessions, meditation sessions, cultural celebrations, and participation in various community events. These activities promoted Indian culture, yoga, and the exchange of cultural knowledge between India and Hungary.





Swami Vivekananda Cultural Centre (SVCC), Bali, Indonesia

Swami Vivekananda Cultural Centre (SVCC), Bali organized several events during the year 2022-23 including International Day of Yoga, Raksha Bandhan, International Bali Fashion Week, Diwali, Denpasar Festival, Vishwa Hindi Diwas and G20 Summit Culture Community Programme.

During the G20 summit, SVCC, Bali organized cultural performances (musical and dance) in the honour of Hon'ble Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi on 15 November 2022.

Vishwa Hindi Diwas was also celebrated by Consulate General of India and the SVCC, Bali on 10 January 2023 to spread awareness about Hindi among the local and international community.

Indonesia



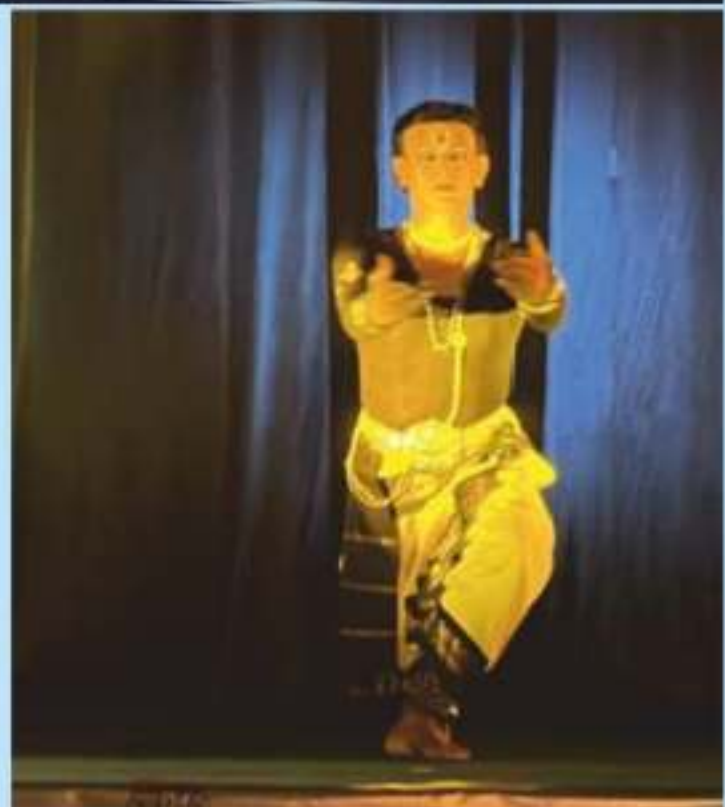
Jawaharlal Nehru Indian Cultural Centre (JNICC), Jakarta, Indonesia

The JNICC organized various events during the year 2022-23. The Indonesia Telugu Association, Jakarta, in collaboration with the Embassy of India, Jakarta, celebrated Ugadi on April 9, commencing with the traditional lighting of the lamp and a warm welcome to Ambassador Shri Manoj Kumar Bharti and Mrs. Anamika Bharti. The event was a joyful showcase of members' diverse talents, emphasizing JNICC's commitment to preserving India's rich cultural heritage. Additionally, The centre celebrated 8th International Yoga Day at the Prambanan temple in Indonesia. The International Dance Day was marked with captivating performance by Bharatanatyam exponent Mrs. Sindhu Raj.

The Embassy of India and JNICC Jakarta, organized the **AKAM MUSICAL EVENING** to celebrate India's 75 years of independence and its ongoing

G20 Presidency. The event featured mesmerizing performances by talented young diaspora members and acclaimed singer Mr. Murali Narayanan from India.

JNICC showcased a variety of cultural performances, highlighting dances from different Indian states. This year has been marked by cultural exchange, celebration, and collaboration, strengthening the ties between India and Indonesia.





Swami Vivekananda Cultural Centre (SVCC), Tehran, Iran

The Swami Vivekananda Cultural Centre (SVCC), Tehran conducted a series of diverse and enriching events that celebrated Indian culture, promoted yoga and facilitated academic engagement.

The activities included 161st birth anniversary of Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore's, with book reading session by Iranian scholar Mr. Hooman Babak, highlighting Tagore's literary contributions, followed by musical performances by Iranian artists, creating a vibrant cultural atmosphere. The online Yoga Quiz and lecture on "Yoga for Wellness" was part of IDY celebrations. A lecture series focusing on topics such as linguistics and culture, sustainable development, and technological advancements were also part of centre's activities. The Centre also organized painting exhibitions and competitions to mark the 161st birth anniversary of Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore and hosted a photo exhibition on Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel titled '**Sardar Patel – The Architect of Unification**' to commemorate his contributions.

SVCC played a pivotal role in promoting cultural, educational, and diplomatic relations between India and Iran throughout the year, hosting a wide array of events that engaged diverse audiences and furthered understanding and cooperation between the two nations.



Indian Cultural Centre (ICC), Tel Aviv, Israel

ICC, Tel Aviv organized a diverse range of activities during the year 2022-23. The year commenced with a captivating art exhibition organized in collaboration with the Tribal and Israeli Art Gallery, showcasing the artistic creations of the acclaimed Israeli artist Orly Alon Merguei. Her works, inspired by 16 years of living in India, offered a unique perspective on cross-cultural experiences.

ICC Tel Aviv organized several significant events such as 'Hindi Sammelan' 'Hindi Bhasha Parv' to promote Hindi language. 'Marathi Bhasha Gaurav Diwas' was celebrated with launch of the second batch of Marathi language courses. The Centre organized 'India Darshan' for young members of the Indian Jewish diaspora. International Day of Yoga was also organized in a grand manner with the active

participation from yoga enthusiasts across the country. India Week was celebrated at Tel Aviv University in March 2022, showcasing the rich tapestry of Indian culture.

Music and dance performances enriched the cultural landscape with ICC Tel Aviv hosting numerous Indian classical music concerts across different towns in Israel. The centre continued to promote Ayurveda in Israel through seminars and workshops featuring eminent experts. Furthermore, ICC Tel Aviv celebrated all major Indian and Jewish festivals, fostering a sense of unity and cultural exchange among the Indian-origin diaspora. The center's dedication to promoting cultural diversity and engagement remains unwavering.





Vivekananda Cultural Centre (VCC), Tokyo, Japan

The Vivekananda Cultural Centre (VCC) at the Embassy of India in Tokyo curated an extensive array of cultural events and initiatives fostering cultural exchanges between India and Japan. The VCC commenced the year with a remarkable composite event, featuring a captivating performance of Iwami Kagura and an exhibition of Gond Tribal Paintings. Iwami Kagura, a traditional form of devotional dance and theatre, impressed the audience with its mythological storytelling. The celebration of Mahatma Gandhi's 153rd Birth Anniversary at the Kudan Dojo of Nipponzan Myohoji marked a significant tribute to his legacy.

The VCC organized an Odissi dance recital by the Smitalaya group, featuring ICCR-sponsored performances across Japan. Students from School in Tokyo were invited for a familiarization visit to learn about India, which included a yoga session and a multimedia presentation. The VCC also celebrated

the 32nd Nakamura Hajime Eastern Prize Award Ceremony, recognizing the works of Japanese scholars in Indian Studies, emphasizing Professor Hajime Nakamura's contributions to Indian Philosophy and Buddhist Studies.

In VCC various cultural programs were organized to enrich the understanding of both Indian and Japanese cultures. These included Ikebana flower arrangement demonstrations, Diwali celebrations in Yokohama, the annual "East Asia Yoga Therapy Conference," and the "Knowledge India Dialogue." The VCC also hosted an Indian Classical Evening, a Bollywood event, and an event commemorating the birth anniversary of Guru Nanak Dev Ji, involving Bhajan, Kirtan and Guru ka Langar. The VCC also hosted a performance by Grammy Award Winner Padma Bhushan Sh. TH Vinayakram and Kanjira player Sh. Selvaganesh Swaminathan, adding musical delight to its cultural offerings.







Swami Vivekananda Cultural Centre (SVCC), Astana, Kazakhstan

SVCC organized several activities in different spheres of culture, namely regular classes, concerts and outreach events by teachers, academic cooperation, signing and execution of CEP, participation in activities by local organizations, promotion of Yoga, performances by groups from India, AKAM festivals, screening of Indian films, engagement with media etc. during the year 2022-23.

Major highlights were-visit of SVCC teachers to 9 cities, MoS (ML)'s interaction with ICCR/ITEC Alumni, award of Fellowship, special edition of Art Journal on Indian culture by the National Choreography Academy, MoU between South Kazakhstan Medical Academy and the JSS Academy of Higher Education and Research, Mysuru, signing of CEP, Grant-in-Aid to 9 Kazakh organizations, 2 Series of Yoga master classes (95 classes in 17 cities by experts from Dev Sanskriti Vishwavidalaya) and 64 classes in 14 cities by experts from Kaivalyadhama), IDY celebration with Ministerial level participation at the iconic Astana Opera Theatre, IDY celebrations in 21 cities

of Kazakhstan, installation of Gandhi Statue in Astana, "Mohan Se Mahatma" Gandhi Exhibition at Bayterek Tower, celebration of ICCR Foundation Day, Ambedkar Jayanti, 348th Coronation Day of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj, ITEC Day, Independence Day, Unity Day and a special presentations "Vande Bharat" during interaction of MoS (ML) with Indian community, "Lok Rang" during media interaction, "Vande Matrabhumi" marking Independence Day of India, performances and workshops by ICCR-sponsored Kathak Group, "Gandhi Symphony" concert by Dr. L Subramaniam with Kazakh National Symphony Orchestra, 2 AKAM Festivals with local artistes, Indian film screening in local festivals, participation in live TV programmes etc.

A total number of 188 activities organized during the period throughout Kazakhstan were extensively covered with more than 500 posts on social media in addition to coverage in print and electronic media.



Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose Indian Cultural Centre (NSCBICC), Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

The NSCBICC, Kuala Lumpur, in collaboration with numerous organizations and cultural institutions organized a series of cultural events in Kuala Lumpur during the year 2022-23. The year began with celebrations of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Jayanti on April 14, 2022.

A series of culturally enriching events and activities were organized, by the centre reflecting the vibrant engagement of the community such as: Ramanavami, 72nd Foundation Day of ICCR,

International Dance Festival, Coronation Day of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj, 8th International Day of Yoga, India's Independence Day, 153rd Gandhi Jayanti, Ayurveda Day, Hindi Diwas Celebration, Guru Nanak Jayanti, 400th Birth Anniversary of Assam's Legendary War Hero Lachit Barphukan, 200th Birth Anniversary of Maharishi Dayanand Saraswati, International Women's Day.





Indian Cultural Centre (ICC), Male, Maldives

During the year 2022-23, The Indian Cultural Centre (ICC), organised a diverse array of cultural events and initiatives, enriching the cultural landscape of the Maldives. One notable event took place on April 1st, featuring a live feed of the 'Pariksha Pe Charcha' interaction with the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India.

The ICC also celebrated various cultural occasions, such as Ugadi (Telugu New Year) and Puthandu (Tamil New Year). Additionally, a significant collaboration between the ICC, the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Home Affairs, and the Maldives Correctional Service marked the commencement of yoga sessions for inmates at Maafushi Prison.

Maldives



Indira Gandhi Centre for Indian Culture (IGCIC), Port Louis, Mauritius

During the year 2022-23, The Indira Gandhi Centre for Indian Culture (IGCIC), operating under the High Commission of India in Phoenix, Mauritius, played a pivotal role in promoting cultural exchanges between India and Mauritius.

ICCR Day was celebrated on April 9th, 2022, with the honorable Vice Prime Minister of the Republic of Mauritius, Mrs. Leela Devi Dookun-Luchoomun, gracing the occasion as the Chief Guest.

On August 15, 2022, IGCIC marked the 75th Anniversary of Indian Independence with a Flag Hoisting Ceremony and a cultural program to showcase the rich patriotic traditions of India, including classical instrumental performances and patriotic Kathak dance. The event was graced by the President of the Republic of Mauritius, the Prime Minister of Mauritius, the High Commissioner of India, and other distinguished guests. Another noteworthy event was the presentation of Raas Lila and Martial Arts of Manipur by the Jawaharlal

Nehru Manipur Dance Academy Imphal, India which received widespread acclaim and was attended by high-ranking officials.

The year also featured a play in Hindi, French Creole and English titled 'Aap Hamare Hain Kaun' and the inauguration of a Children's Theater project. The year was rounded off with the felicitation of Mauritian painters whose works were donated to IGCIC for its permanent collection. These initiatives demonstrate IGCIC's tireless efforts to strengthen cultural bonds and foster a deep appreciation of Indian art and culture in Mauritius. Additionally, the week-long festival '**Jashn-E-Dosti**' featured a spectacular Indo-Mauritian symphony, a diverse range of musical performances, plays, and a grand celebration of India-Mauritius diplomatic relations' and 75th anniversary, solidifying IGCIC's commitment to cultural enrichment and bilateral cooperation.





Gurudev Tagore Indian Cultural Centre (GTICC), Mexico City, Mexico



During the year 2022-23, a total number of 85 events were held by the Centre. Starting the year with the inauguration of the Festival of India at CENART which had exhibitions like Stree Drishti, Lok Mein Ram from Lalit Kala Academy as well as a collection of Saris from the ICCR. The activities also included the presentation of Indian Ensemble of Mexican artists performing various dance forms and music from India, a mega Yoga class, Indian Bazaar, lectures and film cycles.

Pandurang Khankoje's bust was installed at the University of Chapingo during the visit of the Honorable Speaker of Lok Sabha, His Excellency Shri Om Birla. The year ended with a dance performance at the Emiliano Zapata Cultural Centre in the Municipality of Netzahualcoyotl, State of Mexico by GTICC Kathak Teacher and students.



Mexico



Swami Vivekananda Cultural Centre (SVCC), Yangon, Myanmar

During the year 2022-23, SVCC organized several events such as screening of movies/documentaries, musical evenings, workshops, celebration of Independence Day of India, launch of books and other programmes marking Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav. It took many steps for the promotion of Hindi/Ayurveda/Yoga.

SVCC celebrated important days like Gandhi Jayanti & Guru Nanak Dev Jayanti and also organized an **Education Fair on 24-25 March, 2023** in partnership with SAPE in which several public and private institutions of higher education from various parts of India, including Delhi, Kolkata, Hyderabad, Bangalore, Chandigarh, Mumbai etc. participated.

SVCC also distributed musical instruments and religious books to various temples and religious associations. On the occasion of Women's day the Ambassador, accompanied by Embassy officials visited Kila village in Zeyawaddy on 4 March, 2023 and encouraged women to rise to their full potential. Books on Indian art and culture were also handed over to the girl children in the village. Ms Lalan Desai, dance teacher at the Swami Vivekananda Cultural Centre held a lecture cum demonstration on Bharatanatyam.





Swami Vivekananda Cultural Centre (SVCC), Kathmandu, Nepal



Nepal

Swami Vivekananda Cultural Centre (SVCC) organized a diverse range of cultural events and celebrated the 72nd ICCR Foundation Day, attended by various dignitaries and alumni during the year 2022-23. The centre also celebrated Ambedkar Jayanti jointly with Kathmandu University, inaugurated by the First President of Nepal.

The 161st Birth Anniversary of Rabindranath Tagore was celebrated with performances by students and an informative presentation on **"Shanti Niketan: Tagore's Idea on Education"** on education.

Coronation Day of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj was celebrated on 6 June, 2022 with participation of

academicians, scholars etc. A curtain raiser event for International Day of Yoga 2022 took place at the Pashupatinath Temple in the presence of President, ICCR.

SVCC started a cultural heritage series titled **"Sangeet Sadhana"** in collaboration with the National Cultural Corporation, promoting Indian music, with a focus on Raga Yaman. The centre also screened a documentary in honor of the 400th Birth Anniversary of Assam's war hero Lachit Borphukan. The Ayurveda Day 2022 was celebrated by hosting on **"Kitchen Ayurveda,"** emphasizing the importance of diet and daily routines.



The Gandhi Centre, (TGC) Hague, Netherlands

During the year 2022-23, TGC organized several events such as screening of movies/ documentaries, musical evenings, workshops, celebration of Independence Day of India, launch of books and other programmes marking Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav. India and the Netherlands have a long history of friendly bilateral relations going back to more than 400 years encompassing many areas of shared interests.

To celebrate the Hindi Pakhwada and popularize Hindi among the Hindustani Samami community, the Gandhi Centre organized a series of competitions in Hindi such as Poetry Recitation, Essay competition, Hindi Writing Competition in various schools as well as temples in the Netherlands including Algemene Hindoe Basisschool (VAHON).

The website for the 17th Pravasi Bharatiya Divas Convention was jointly launched on 13th October 2022 by External Affairs Minister, Dr. S. Jaishankar and Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh, Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan. Minister of State for External Affairs, Shri V. Muraleedharan also participated in the launch ceremony. In this connection, the Embassy of India and The Gandhi Centre screened a live stream of the launch of Pravasi Bharatiya Divas website at the Gandhi Centre.





Jawaharlal Nehru Cultural Centre (JNCC), Moscow, Russia



Russia

The JNCC organized array of cultural events and activities covering almost all the disciplines including performing art, visual art, spirituality, lecture demonstrations, yoga, celebration of birth anniversary etc. during the year.

As part of AKAM, an evening of instrumental music "Swara Laya Sandhya" was organised in collaboration with Tchaikovsky Moscow State Conservatory and ZIL Cultural Centre. JNCC organized a meditation of Om Chanting in association with 'Yogamodern', Moscow. In the presence of President, ICCR, Dr. Vinay Sahasrabudhe, a gifting of Saraswati Veena ceremony to the State Museum of Orient Art Moscow was held followed by award ceremony, 'ICCR World Sanskrit Award 2021' & 'ICCR Distinguished Alumni Award 2021' conferred on to Dr. Boris Zakharyin and Irina Glushkova respectively.

The other highlighted events were the unveiling of the statue of Anna Bhau Sathe and release of his

books in Russian language at the Margarita Rudomino all Russia State Library for Foreign Literature, Moscow, in the presence of Dr. Vinay Sahasrabudhe, President ICCR, Shri Rahul Narvekar, Speaker of Maharashtra Legislative Assembly, and Shri Devendra Fadnavis, Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister of Maharashtra. The other celebrations included Foundation Day of ICCR, Birth anniversary of Bharat Ratna Dr B. R. Ambedkar, Independence Day, Gandhi Jayanti, ITEC Day, Hindi Pakhwada, Vishwa Hindi Diwas, Rashtriya Ekta Diwas. The other events included performances of Indian artists who visited Russia through ICCR or otherwise. JNCC also participated in the programme 'The Power of Transformation' at Brahmakumaris Centre for Spiritual Development. This was dedicated to the 75 years of India's Independence. In-house programmes were also conducted by teachers and students from time to time.



Swami Vivekananda Cultural Centre (SVCC), Durban, South Africa

During the year 2022-23, a series of cultural events and activities were organized, reflecting the vibrant engagement of the community. A memorable musical concert was held in April to commemorate Tamil New Year, which attracted 400 guests. SVCC hosted discussions, yoga demonstrations, and interactive sessions for the public. The commemoration of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Coronation Day was held in collaboration with the Durban Marathi Mandal.

Notably, International Day of Yoga witnessed a mass yoga demonstration with over 400 participants at Kingsmead Cricket Stadium, telecast live on Doordarshan. Independence Day celebrations included flag unfurling ceremony, cultural performances, and the distribution of Made in India Jute bags, exemplifying the spirit of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav. It also saw the enthusiastic celebration of Hindi Diwas in partnership with Hindvani Radio, featuring poetry recitations, Hindi songs, and dialogues. Gandhi Jayanti was marked with an indigenous basket-weaving workshop and an exhibition at the Durban Business Fair, reaching more than half a lakh people. The year also featured events like the Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel photo

exhibition, ICCR Rajasthani troupe performances, and a floral tribute to Assam's hero Bir Lachit Borphukan.

The SVCC's activities also included an interactive session with Mr. India South Africa participants, a screening of the United Nations' International Year of Millets 2023 launch, a dance drama curated by Vishwa Shakti and a commemoration of Tamil poet Mahakavi Subramania Bharati, with a musical and dance evening involving local artists and senior citizens from the Aryan Benevolent home.





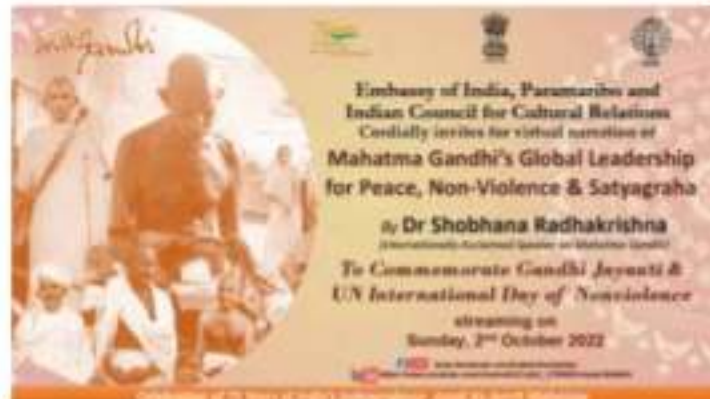
Swami Vivekananda Cultural Centre, Paramaribo, Suriname

The Swami Vivekananda Cultural Centre (SVCC), Suriname conducted various events during the year 2022-23. Guru Ravindra Nath Tagore Jayanti was celebrated at the Alpha Max Academy of Suriname on May 6th, 2022. The coronation Anniversary of Chhatrapati Shiva Ji Maharaj was also celebrated at Yoga hall, SVCC, Paramaribo.

SVCC conducted other events like 8th International Day of Yoga, a cookery class in collaboration with OHM organization, Hindi Diwas Pakhwada, the 400th Birth Anniversary of India's legendary war hero 'LACHIT BORPHUKAN' a dance performance by the kathak dance students of SVCC on Youth Day and a photo exhibition on millets to celebrate the "International Year of Millets 2023" on 7th March, 2023. The event was inaugurated by Hon'ble President of the Republic of Suriname, First Lady of Suriname & Ambassador of India.



Suriname



Swami Vivekananda Cultural Centre (SVCC), Seoul, South Korea

South Korea



The Swami Vivekananda Cultural Centre (SVCC), Seoul marked a significant year in 2022-23 as it celebrated the Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav, showcasing India's rich culture, history, and the achievements of its people in the Republic of Korea (ROK). SVCC held special lectures, workshops, and commemorative events resuming its cultural endeavors with classes in Yoga, Hindi, Sanskrit, Kathak, Odissi, Rabindra Nritya, Folk dance, Bollywood Dance, Hindi Song, and Tabla, employing a hybrid mode to reach a broader audience. In a significant development, the India Centre for the promotion of India-focused activities at Busan University of Foreign Studies (BUFS) was inaugurated on 27 June, 2022. The centre serves as a focal point for India-related events in Busan, offering resources for students interested in India and fostering academic and cultural collaboration with the university.

The 8th International Day of Yoga, themed "**Yoga for Humanity**," was celebrated with enthusiasm across various cities in ROK. The 8th edition of the annual "SARANG– The Festival of India" was held

from September 30 to October 14, 2022, featuring cultural performances and a series of events at diverse locations across the country, providing a glimpse into India's rich cultural heritage.

The year also saw the 10th Indian Film Festival, which showcased award-winning and critically acclaimed Indian films with Korean subtitles, promoting India's rich cultural heritage, history and social values at multiple cities in ROK. A wide array of lectures and workshops under the '**India@75**' initiative covered topics ranging from Ayurveda to Indian history and culture, contributing to the deepening of cultural ties between India and ROK. SVCC continued to celebrate various annual events, including Independence Day, Republic Day, Constitution Day, Ambedkar Jayanti, Tagore Jayanti, Gandhi Jayanti, Ekta Divas, World Hindi Day, and the birth anniversary of Swami Vivekananda. Furthermore, scholarships were awarded to students from ROK for various programs, fostering academic and cultural exchange.





Swami Vivekananda Cultural Centre (SVCC), Colombo, Sri Lanka



Sri Lanka

The Swami Vivekananda Cultural Centre (SVCC), in collaboration with numerous organizations and cultural institutions orchestrated a series of cultural events in Sri Lanka to facilitate cultural exchange and celebrate noteworthy occasions. The festivities commenced with a tribute to Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore on Tagore Jayanti followed by launch of Sinhala audio book called "**Jataka Tales: Good Advice**" on Poson Poya to cater to the visually impaired. International Day of Yoga was celebrated with multiple events, emphasizing the shared heritage of Yoga and Ayurveda between India and Sri Lanka. The **Har Ghar Tiranga Campaign**, launched on India's 75th independence anniversary, encouraged the Indian community in Colombo to proudly hoist the national flag at their homes, fostering unity and patriotism.

SVCC played a pivotal role in hosting various events, including the Gandhi Oration event, an exhibition promoting Ayurveda for improved health

and Ayurveda Day. The Unity Run symbolized the camaraderie among the Indian community in Sri Lanka, while the celebration of Guru Nanak Dev Ji's birth anniversary highlighted his teachings. Constitution Day was marked by an art competition to raise awareness among students about the Indian constitution. The Centre's commitment to cultural exchange was evident in events commemorating the arrival of Sanghamitta Theri and celebrating World Hindi Diwas. The grand finale included a Carnatic music concert and the Sri Tyagaraja Aaradhana festival, immersing participants in the beauty of Carnatic music.

The ICCR Distinguished Alumni Award was presented to Prof. Mervin Dharmasiri, recognizing his exceptional contributions as an Indologist. The launch of the India Alumni network's Sri Lanka chapter aimed to connect Indian alumni residing in Sri Lanka and foster a sense of belonging, networking and knowledge sharing,



Swami Vivekananda Cultural Centre (SVCC), Dushanbe, Tajikistan

Swami Vivekananda Cultural Centre (SVCC), Dushanbe organized more than 50 cultural events during 2022-23, in collaboration with several local organizations that include government agencies, international schools, Universities, radio channels, TV channels and cultural institutions.

In addition to celebration of Indian Festivals such as Rakshbandhan, Diwali, Holi etc. SVCC contributed immensely in the cultural landscape of Tajikistan by participating in various local Indian festivals and cultural events to propagate Indian arts and culture.

To mark the 348th Coronation Day of **Shri Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj**, an online music video was released on the social media handles of SVCC and the Mission, To mark the **147th birth anniversary of Sardar Patel & National Unity Day**, a concert dedicated to **Lata Mangeshkar** for a local television channel 'Shahnovoz TV' was held. A 3 - Day dance festival titled **"Dance Unites Us"** organized in collaboration with Ministry of Culture

of the Republic of Tajikistan. Also participated in **Food Festival and Craft Festival** during the Water Conference organized by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Tajikistan. Dance and Music Concert by SVCC students was organized to mark the **30th Anniversary of Diplomatic Relations between India and Tajikistan**.

Some of the other major events included-'**Jashn-e-Sari**' an exhibition of Saris organized in collaboration with the National Museum of Tajikistan to showcase the rich tradition of Indian Saris from different regions of India. Another innovative project was a collaboration with a social organization named Cultural Cooperation to showcase **Indian Teas at a Tea Festival**. Many Asian countries such as Japan, South Korea, China, Indonesia participated in this event. **International day of Yoga** was also celebrated by the Mission by organizing Yoga workshops, Film screening on '**Journey of Ayurveda**', Meditation workshop etc.





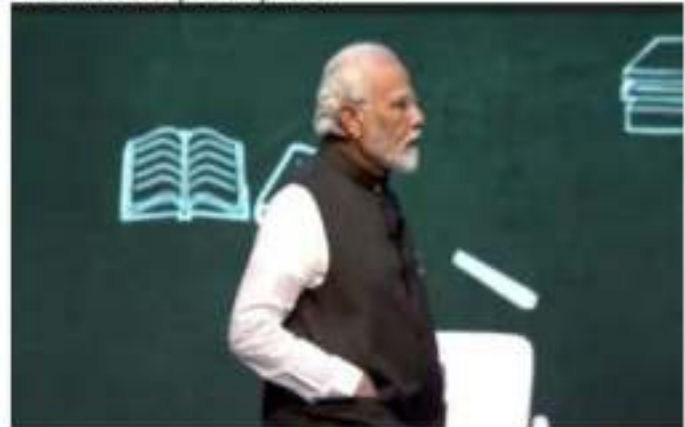
Swami Vivekananda Cultural Centre (SVCC), Dar-Es Salaam, Tanzania

The Swami Vivekananda Cultural Centre (SVCC), Dar-Es Salaam organized a diverse range of cultural events during the year 2022-23. This included the celebration of International Day of Yoga at Uhuru Stadium, featuring Hon'ble Pauline Gekul as the Chief Guest. It also celebrated various significant occasions, such as the **Foundation Day of ICCR, Coronation Day of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj, World Environment Day**, and a Blood Donation Camp as part of Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav. SVCC also engaged with the Assamese Community to celebrate the 400th birth anniversary of Bir Lachit Borphukan and also observed Vishwa Hindi Diwas.

SVCC hosted a mesmerizing **Qawwali night** with Syed Nasir Husain and Khaleel Husain from India at the Amphitheatre in Stone Town, Zanzibar. It showcased Indian Classical Dance at the **Haba Na Haba International Dance Festival** and participated in the **'Orange Concert 2023'** at Hotel Serena on International Women's Day, featuring Mr. Hon'ble Nape Moses Nnauye as Chief Guest. The Centre also conducted the 17th Pravasi Diwas Convention and organized live streaming of

"Mookanayak" a documentary on Dr. B R Ambedkar on his birth anniversary. Screening of the Documentary produced by famous film Director Satyajit Ray was organized on 161st Birth Anniversary of **Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore**. Events like **"Kaavya Naman"** on Atal Bihari Vajpayee's birth anniversary, live telecasts of **"Pariksha pe Charcha"** by the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India and an art exhibition on the theme **"Beyond Herself."** were also organized. Additionally, they hosted a virtual narration on the **"Quit India Movement,"** an exhibition of paintings by Indian Artist Mr. Narendar Reddy and a **"Poetry and Laughter Show"** featuring Hindi poets from India.

SVCC organized an interaction with Sri Sri Ravishankar on **'Freedom and Spirituality'** and conducted "Yoga for peace" on Swami Vivekananda's Jayanti. An international conference on India and Tanzania Relations was held at SVCC, and also celebrated **'World Kabaddi Day'** with Men's and Women's tournaments in collaboration with the Tanzania Kabaddi Association, featuring around 250 participants.



Swami Vivekananda Cultural Centre (SVCC), Bangkok, Thailand

The Swami Vivekananda Cultural Centre (SVCC), Bangkok organized a diverse range of activities to promote Indian culture and endeavored to present similarities between Indian and Thai culture.

The SVCC, Embassy of India celebrated “National Youth Day” on the occasion of the birth anniversary of Swami Vivekananda, as part of Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav. The other celebrations included a virtual message from the President, ICCR and lecture delivered by Ms. Amit Waikar, Pravasi Bhartiya Samman Awardee and Life Member of Ramakrishna Mission, Belur Math, W.B. India, on “Swami Vivekananda’s teaching and its

relevance today”.

A Hindi Quiz competition was organized on World Hindi Day and an Essay competition on topic “Contributions of Subhash Chandra Bose in the Indian Independence” on the occasion of Parakram Diwas was also arranged. Embassy also organized varied cultural performances at 56 Diplomatic Red cross Bazar at Siam Paragon, Bangkok.





The Mahatma Gandhi Institute for Cultural Cooperation (MGICC) Port of Spain, Trinidad & Tobago

The Mahatma Gandhi Institute for Cultural Cooperation (MGICC) organized several events during the year 2022-23, showcasing a rich and diverse cultural tapestry.

Notably, the unveiling ceremony of the Gandhi Statue at Manmohan Singh Park, in collaboration with the High Commission of India, T&T, and the Siparia Regional Corporation, marked a significant occasion on Indian Arrival Day.

Collaborations with local Indian organizations yielded vibrant cultural events, including a Navratri festival with over 300 participants, highlighting the Indian diaspora's cultural vibrancy. A particularly successful event was the Karnataka Day celebration, jointly organized with the Kannada community, showcasing Karnataka's tourism, trade, economy, culture, and cuisine. MGICC's commitment to promote Indian culture was further evident in its efforts to teach students the authentic language, songs, and dances.

Another prominent occasion, Kala Sandhya 2022, served as an annual platform for MGICC students to exhibit their cultural learning from the past year, fostering cultural pride and sharing their

achievements with relatives and peers. The International Day of Yoga 2022 was a resounding success, featuring a serene yogic experience by the seaside, with over 600 participants, including esteemed guests from various embassies, insurance organizations, and the High Commission of India in T&T. MGICC also organized a memorable 'Memories of India' program with Mr. Winston Dookeran, former Minister of Foreign and CARICOM Affairs, T&T, celebrating India's 75th Anniversary and emphasizing its cultural impact in Trinidad and Tobago. On Gandhi Jayanti, MGICC hosted online quiz and essay competitions to instill awareness of Mahatma Gandhi's principles and relevance among the younger generation, recognizing and rewarding the talented winners.



The Nehru Centre (TNC), London, UK

The Nehru Centre (TNC) organized a dynamic array of cultural events that contributed to the cultural enrichment of the community. The TNC serves as a platform for Indian culture in the broadest sense, focussing on the role played by British and Indian artists & scholars in promoting greater cultural understanding. The weekly yoga sessions promoted physical and mental well-being, fostering a healthy community. The TNC continued to promote art and craft with the Jaipur Rugs Exhibition, Saree Drape Show by Shaina NC as a tribute to the elegance and diversity of Indian fashion. The Indian Culinary Week in May, 2022 graced by the High Commissioner showcased the rich and diverse culinary traditions of India.

The year also displayed a series of engaging sessions, including a dialogue with Chief Justice DY Chandrachud in June highlighting legal and constitutional aspects. The India-UK Cultural Week was also organised in the gracious presence of Dr. Vinay Sahasrabudhe, President, ICCR on 27 June, 2022 which further solidified cultural ties and

provided a platform for cultural exchange between the two nations. A session with prominent figures like Nandita Das, Konkana Sen, and Aparna Sen on 3rd July, 2022, focusing on the role of women in the film industry was enlightening. These events collectively exemplify the ICC's dedication to enhancing cultural exchange and community engagement.

Additionally, the Interactive Session by Mukesh Chhabra provided insight to the world of cinema and acting on 17 October, 2022 enriching the cultural experience for attendees. Notable highlights include the mesmerizing Guldasta Music Performance featuring Satarupa Ghosh on 5 December, 2022, which celebrated the musical talents of a gifted artist. TNC hosted a captivating dance drama, "MayarKhela," on Friday, 26 August, 2022. The performance enthralled the audience with its artistic fusion of dance, music, and storytelling, showcasing the rich cultural heritage and vibrant traditions of the region.





Lal Bahadur Shastri Centre for Indian Culture (LBSCIC), Tashkent, Uzbekistan

The Lal Bahadur Shastri Centre for Indian Culture (LBSCIC), Tashkent, Uzbekistan, engaged in an array of diverse activities aimed at promoting Indian culture and fostering diplomatic ties during the year 2022-23. These initiatives encompassed a wide spectrum of events, ranging from educational programs to cultural celebrations. Some of the highlights were the live broadcasting of the 5th edition of Pariksha Pe Charcha, an event attended by students from Tashkent State University of Oriental Studies. Additionally, the release of Hindi course books at Lal Bahadur Shastri School No. 24 was graced by Dr. Vinay Sahasrabuddhe, President of ICCR and marked a crucial milestone.

LBSCIC also celebrated significant Indian festivals, including Raksha Bandhan, Independence Day and

commemorated historical events, such as the birth anniversary of B. R. Ambedkar.

The inauguration of the 17th Pravasi Bhartiya Diwas convention website and the participation of LBSCIC in the SCO Summit 2022 in Samarkand were the other highlights. It also covers notable visits and commemorations, showing the strong diplomatic presence of LBSCIC. These activities showcase the dedication of LBSCIC in enhancing cultural and educational exchanges between India and Uzbekistan, strengthening the bonds between the two nations and expanding India's cultural footprint in the region.



Swami Vivekananda Cultural Centre (SVCC), Hanoi, Vietnam

During the year 2022-23 Swami Vivekananda Cultural Centre (SVCC), Hanoi held yoga and classical dance classes and conducted wide-ranging cultural events, including webinars, talks, performances, quizzes, film screening and celebrated occasions during the year. The events showcase various facets of rich Indian culture, such as Yoga, Indian traditional medicines, main festivals/important occasions of India, Buddhism under the overall theme of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav.

As the year 2022-23 marked 50 years of diplomatic ties between India and Vietnam, SVCC events were organized under this framework. SVCC Hanoi's activities and events extended from photo exhibition, painting competition, friendship tree plantation to musical and classical dances evening. As pandemic-related limitations dissipated in the course of the year, renowned Indian groups travelled around the country in the second half of 2022 such as Parinday Music of Soul, Indian Ocean Band & Dance groups from the Centre for Indian Classical

Dance led by Padma Vibhushan Dr. Sonal Mansingh, Member of Parliament. These groups performed in Hanoi, Ho Chi Minh City and the provinces of BinhDinh (Qui Nhon City), Phu Yen (TuyHoa City), NinhThuan (Phan Rang City) and Tay Ninh and witnessed attendance by Vietnamese dignitaries and prominent venues in various cities.

Some of the cultural activities that attracted wider public interest were: the celebration of Vesak Day, where Embassy and SVCC coordinated with the Vietnam-India Friendship Association of Hanoi and the Vietnam Buddhist Sangha with the participation of more than 200 Buddhist followers, 10 Yoga related events in different regions of Vietnam in May-June 2022 around the international Day of Yoga. Several iconic and historical world heritage sites were chosen as the venues for performing the Common Yoga Protocol, namely the Tam Chuc Pagoda, Ha Long Bay and My Son Tower Temple Complex. ICCR Scholarships to Vietnamese students in diverse fields strengthened linkages with youth and scholars in the country.





ICCR

Zonal/Sub-Zonal Offices

ICCR's Regional Offices were restructured and consolidated under 5 Zonal and 6 Sub-Zonal Offices by the statutory bodies of ICCR. Seven Regional Offices were merged, namely (i) Bhopal (ii) Bhubaneswar (iii) Chennai (iv) Goa (v) Hyderabad (vi) Thiruvananthapuram and (vii) Varanasi with respective Zonal Offices which became operational w.e.f 1st July, 2022. These zonal/sub-zonal offices undertake outreach activities at the State level for both cultural and academic work. They oversee scholarship programmes for foreign students studying in their jurisdiction and play a significant role in organizing inbound cultural programmes, exhibitions, conferences, seminars, visits and lectures. They also liaise with State Governments, cultural institutions, local artists, scholars and universities.

ICCR Zonal Offices

S.No	Zonal Offices	S.No	Sub-Zonal Offices
1.	Bengaluru	1.	Ahmedabad
2.	Delhi	2.	Jammu
3.	Guwahati	3.	Lucknow
4.	Kolkata	4.	Patna
5.	Mumbai	5.	Pune
		6.	Shillong

Regional Advisory Committee

With a view to draw best talent and ideas, Regional Advisory Committees (RACs) have been constituted. Members of RAC are selected based on different areas of expertise of the individual concerned. At present, RACs are in 8 Zones/Sub-Zones.

1.	Ahmedabad	5.	Kolkata
2.	Bengaluru	6.	Lucknow
3.	Delhi/NCR	7.	Mumbai
4.	Guwahati	8.	Pune



MOUs with State Government and Other Organizations

ICCR has signed MoUs with 22 States of India. The objective of MoU is to make the partnership between the States and ICCR more meaningful, bringing in active involvement, and institutionalizing the same. A Signing Ceremony of MoU between ICCR and 22 States of India was organized on **11 November, 2022** at ICCR, New Delhi.

Similarly ICCR has signed **MoU with Haryana Institute of Public Administration (HIPA) on 7th October, 2022**. The objective of this Memorandum of Understanding is to institutionalize the partnership between HIPA and ICCR in the areas of cooperation mutually identified.



Ahmedabad

Ahmedabad



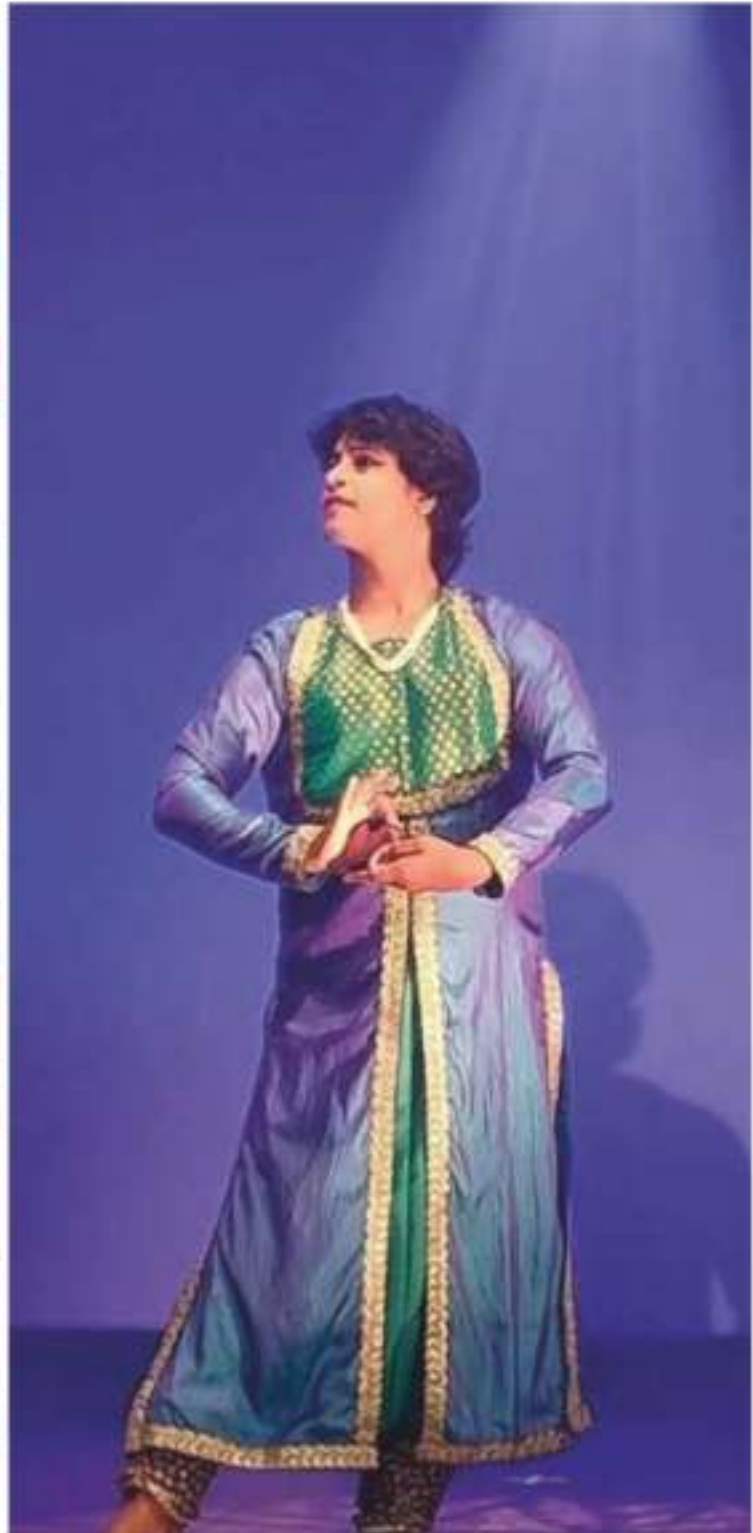
The Sub- Zonal office, Ahmedabad organized a series of vibrant and culturally enriching events to celebrate and promote cultural exchange and international cooperation during the year 2022-23. These events began with a get-together (संमेलन) on the occasion of ICCR's **72nd Foundation Day**, fostering the exchange of ideas among academicians, artists, and cultural experts from various cities in Gujarat. The office celebrated Baba Saheb Ambedkar's 131st Jayanti on April 14, 2022, with the participation of international students. On the auspicious occasion of Gujarat day and World Dance Day, ICCR live streamed a dance performance by Taal Group on May 1, 2022 from National Salt Satyagraha Memorial, Dandi. ICCR Gujarat & Musica Production presented "MUSICATHON 2.0" on World Music Day" on June 21, 2022. Guru Purnima was marked with classical dance performances and Guru Felicitations in a collaborative event with **TAAL Group, CIOFF INDIA, and Charu Castle Foundation**. The Ahmedabad office, coordinated the participation of 150 international students from 31 countries in the inaugural ceremony of the Megh Malhar Festival and also coordinated a Kathak Dance performance by an ICCR student from Egypt at the Ahmedabad International Literature Festival. International students celebrated "**UNITY IN DIVERSITY**" with their National Flags at MSU, Vadodara. Hosted **five Ramayana Groups** from Sri Lanka, Thailand, Fiji, Malaysia and Trinidad & Tobago as part of 6th International Ramayana Festival at Vadodara and Kevadia.





Bengaluru

The Zonal Office, Bengaluru curated a captivating series of cultural events as part of the Every Friday Cultural Evening Programme (EFCEP) at Nayana Auditorium and in collaboration with the Department of Kannada and Culture, Department of Youth Empowerment & Sports, and FISA-B. These events showcased a remarkable array of talents, including the enchanting **"Janapada"** Folk Songs by S.P. Govindappa and group, the mesmerizing Odissi Dance Recital by Yasomati Misra, **Nrityadhwani**, the graceful Bharatanatyam Dance by Aruna Bhargavi, and the soulful Carnatic Vocal Recital by Sriram Sastry, dance recital by students of **"Gejjenadha Nruthya Mandir,"** choreographed by Bhuvana H. S. ZO Bengaluru, this year marked a special milestone, celebrating the 40th anniversary of this cultural initiative that began on June 3, 1983. These cultural evenings celebrated India's rich artistic heritage and received continuous support from collaborators, the audience and young artists throughout the year. The program aims to enrich Bengaluru's cultural landscape and promote traditional Indian arts and music.



Delhi

The North Zonal office, Delhi hosted a series of captivating performances featuring renowned artists such as Shri Danish Ali Khan, who mesmerized the audience with a captivating violin recital. Shri Vishavdeep showcased the beauty of Kathak dance. The festivities continued with Ms. Vrinda Chadha's elegant Odissi dance performance and concluded with Shri Siddharth Chatterjee's mesmerizing tabla recital, making May an enchanting month of artistry. Dr. Madhu Bhatt Tailang showcased the timeless art of Drupad gayan, and Dr. Swapnil Karmahe's delivered a captivating Kathak Dance performance.



The cultural showcase continued with Shri Kaluram Bamaniya's powerful Kabir Gayan and later Shri Asghar Husain presented a soulful Violin recital on November 30, 2022. The year concluded with a cultural extravaganza featuring Vinod Nath Sapera & Party's vibrant Rajasthani folk dance and Ms. Heena Wasen's mesmerizing Kathak Dance. The Punjabi folklore performers, led by Shri Atamjeet Singh, delighted the audience with Punjabi Folk Songs & Dances on January 4, 2022. These events collectively painted a vibrant tapestry of artistic excellence throughout the year.





Guwahati

The North East Zonal Office, Guwahati orchestrated a series of impactful initiatives and organized a diverse range of cultural programs and events throughout the year. It commenced with the spirited ICCR Foundation Day celebration on April 9, 2022, featuring a football match and captivating cultural performances. These included "Nriya Anand," a fusion of Bharatanatyam, Kathak, and Odissi dance forms in celebration of World Dance Day in April, and "Enajori," an enchanting evening of folk music and dance of Assam in May 2022.

The Regional Advisory Committee Meeting in September, 2022 addressed important cultural and diplomatic matters. While November's ICCR Cultural Programme at the Sangai Festival was graced by the presence of esteemed dignitaries and marked a cultural pinnacle. "Yatra - The Journey of Life," a dance production blending Sattriya and Kathak was presented. In December a captivating folk theatre play titled 'Noti Binodini,' was presented by Shraboni Theatre, offering a delightful blend of culture and entertainment. These events collectively underscore ICCR North East Zonal Office's commitment to promoting cultural exchange and artistic expression throughout the year.



Jammu



The Zonal Office, Jammu and Kashmir organized a diverse range of cultural events showcasing the rich cultural heritage and artistic diversity of the region during the year 2022-23. On ICCR's 72nd Foundation Day, a **Dogri drama** depicted **Mirza Ghalib's** era, with a standout performance by Balwinder Pal Singh and his group was held. On 29 June 2022, "**DOGRI and Kashmiri**" music concert celebrated Jammu and Kashmir's folk music traditions, featuring Ms. Alka Anil Mahajan & Group at the Govt. Polytechnic College Auditorium in Jammu. Dr. Abhishek Bharti performed a thought-provoking performance named "**Ghalib at Quarantine-Part 2**" on January 21, 2023 in association with Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology of Jammu.

The traditional dances and the rich culture of **Gojri J&K** were showcased, along with a Dogri dance performance in honor of Assam's legendary hero Lachit Borphukan 400th Birth anniversary. On 29 March, 2023 the J&K Art and Cultural Academy organized a captivating performance of Kashmiri and Dogri folk songs and dances.





Kolkata

The Zonal Office (East), Kolkata organized a diverse range of cultural events showcasing the rich cultural heritage of India, promoting cultural exchange. The year started with the ICCR Foundation Day celebration and included a number of cultural events, such as the **Horizon Series, Incoming Cultural Delegations** and **training sessions** for recently recruited officials. The office organized a special trip for senior diplomats to witness Kolkata's celebrated Durga Puja. The ICCR Regional Office in Bhubaneswar, Odisha, in collaboration with the Odia Language, Literature & Culture Department, Government of Odisha, celebrated the 72nd Foundation Day of ICCR in a grand fashion on April 9, 2022. A successful Festival of Russian Culture in India was organized at Rabindra Sadan, Kolkata, featuring performances by renowned Russian groups, including "Lezginka," "Terem-Quartet," and "Krinitsa."



Kolkata



Lucknow



The Sub-Zonal office, Lucknow observed "ICCR Foundation Day," on April 9, 2022 during which students from Afghanistan, Tajikistan, and Sri Lanka gave lively performances. On the occasion of 44 years of diplomatic relations between India & El Salvador, ICCR, the Embassy of the Republic of El Salvador, New Delhi and Kala Srot Art Gallery organized an exhibition of paintings featuring the works of renowned artist Mr. Rodolfo Vega Oviedo from El Salvador from September 21-27, 2022. On October 1, 2022, Dr. Vinay Sahasrabuddhe, President ICCR paid a visit to the Department of English & Modern European Languages, University of Lucknow and interacted with international students. The office hosted visit of a 22-member Cairo Opera Ballet Company of Egypt for public performance on November 5, 2022 at the University of Lucknow (New Campus) and celebrated 400th Birth Anniversary of Assam's legendary war hero Lachit Borphukan on 24 November 2022. During the period, 235 new students joined various universities/institutes under various scholarship schemes administered by ICCR.





Mumbai



Mumbai

The Zonal Office West, Mumbai organized a series of cultural events during the year 2022-23. On the occasion of ICCR's Foundation Day on April 09, 2022, a cultural performance in Bharatanatyam, Odissi and Kathak dance forms was organized. It was well attended by the foreign students and consular corps. The **"Real Flamenco" Dance and Music** troupe from Spain led by Guerrero presented a mesmerizing performance. The event was graced by Dr. Vinay Sahasrabuddhe, President, ICCR, Zonal Office, Mumbai also hosted **Cairo Opera Ballet Dance** group from Egypt during 6-8 November, 2022. The **Krinitza Music and Dance** group from Russia performed in the august presence of Hon'ble Governor of Maharashtra, Shri Bhagat Singh Koshyari, who graced the occasion as the Chief Guest.

The office had four Regional Advisory committee meetings during the year, three of which were presided by the President, ICCR. A diverse array of performances and recitals, including Hindustani Classical Dance, Hindustani Classical Vocal, Hindustani Classical Sitar, Sarod, and Siddh Veena, were held as part of the ICCR's Horizon Series. Also organized a two-day national seminar on **"Indian Cinema and Soft Power"** at Raj Bhavan in Mumbai, which was opened by renowned film director Shri Shekhar Kapur in the presence of Maharashtra Governor Shri Bhagat Singh Koshyari. The Hon'ble Governor of Maharashtra, diplomats from several nations and foreign students from ICCR participated in the Interantional Yoga Day celebrations on 21 June, 2022 at Raj Bhavan.



Patna

The Sub-Zonal office, Patna during the programmes of the year **Horizon Series Programme** featured a diverse array of cultural events showcasing the rich cultural heritage of Bihar. These included Chhau & Kathak dance, Bhojpuri lok music, Sarod recital and more showcasing both traditional and contemporary Indian arts. The celebrations continued with performance by Bihar Folk Dance an ICCR empanelled group "**Prangan Patna**" at Jehanabad Mahtsova, followed by a stirring Independence Day event featuring patriotic songs by Mr. Samarth Nahar as part of the "**HAR GHAR TIRANGA**" CAMPAIGN in collaboration with RPO Patna. The new year began with a splendid Bharatnatyam dance and light music performance by local artists Smt. Sudipa Ghosh and Sh. Satyendra Sangeet at the Embassy Bungalow of Raxaul, Bihar, in collaboration with CGI Beerganj and District Administration East Champaran. Celebrated Bihar Diwas with a captivating Bharatnatyam dance performance.





Pune

The Zonal Office, Pune organized a diverse range of cultural programs including receiving students and visitors under scholarship and distinguished visitor programs, contributing to the promotion of Indian culture and international relations. Important events include the Maharashtrian folk dance performance by "**Mudra Creation**" on ICCR's Foundation Day, the Kathak Mahayagya to pay tribute to Pt. Birju Maharaj, and various Hindustani classical vocal and dance performances. These events featured renowned artists and were well-received by the audience. In addition to traditional performances, ICCR Pune also organized a **MIME WORKSHOP** and the "**Tritatvam**" program on October 9, 2022 showcasing diverse art forms. The **Chakari Bhajan** event with explanatory commentary provided cultural enrichment, while Sarod and Jaltarang performances demonstrated the richness of Indian instrumental music.

ICCR Pune continued its commitment to supporting students by awarding Graduation Certificates to ICCR scholars and self-financed students. The ceremony was graced by Prof. Karbhari Vishwanath Kale, Vice Chancellor, Savitribai Phule Pune University. Diwali celebrations with foreign students fostered a sense of community and cultural exchange. The Distinguished Visitor Programme saw the visit of the 2nd batch of the **Gen-Next Democracy Network Programme** delegation from six countries, promoting cultural and political exchange. Delegates explored cultural and educational institutions in Pune. ICCR Pune actively participated in the International Day of Yoga on June 21, 2022 by organizing a special yoga session in collaboration with the International Centre, Savitribai Phule Pune University. ICCR Pune also celebrated the 400th Birth Anniversary of Assam's legendary war hero, Lachit Borphukan, with a lecture by Dr. Prasanna Deshpande.



Shillong

In the year 2022 the Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) Sub-Zonal Office in Shillong celebrated its Foundation Day on the 9th of April. Mr. Sibor Mawkin and his dedicated team hosted this event at the Asian Confluence in Shillong. On the 8th of May, 2022 music enthusiasts gathered at Vanapa Hall in Aizawl for an electrifying Rock concert by the Boom Band, creating an unforgettable musical experience. Then, on the 10th of May, 2022 an enchanting Wangala Dance performance took place, led by Ms. Jesilda and her team. Wangala, a dance involving 100 drums, is a mesmerizing tradition of the Garo Tribes of Meghalaya. Continuing the celebration of diverse cultures, on the 18th of June, 2022 the Kabui Naga Dance, performed by RK Jenny and her team, enthralled the audience at the TMD Auditorium in Imphal. On July 17th, 2022 marked the occasion of U Tirot Sing Day, and a captivating performance by Ms. Andreas Lyngdoh and her team was held at the U Soso Tham Auditorium in Shillong. The ICCR Sub-Zonal Office in Shillong collaborated with other organizations to host the Horizon Series Cultural Programme at the College of Post Graduate Studies in Agriculture, Sciences, Central Agricultural University, Umiam, Meghalaya, with 700-800 attendees from Meghalaya and other North East cities. In October, Fullming Star Lyngdoh and her team delivered an exceptional performance at the "Jaintia Folk Theatre" event in Jowai, Jaintia Hills, on October 15, 2022. On November 14, 2022 the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Meghalaya, Shri Conard K Sangma, inaugurated the Shillong International Centre for Performing Arts and Culture (SICPAC), marking a significant moment for the preservation and promotion of the region's cultural heritage. These events exemplified ICCR's commitment to nurturing cultural exchange and appreciation in Meghalaya and the North East.





ICCR Programmes

The ICCR implements several programmes with the two key areas of ICCR's operations being academic and intellectual exchange programmes and the active promotion of Indian visual and performing arts and artistes all over the world.

The academic and intellectual activities include Chairs of Indian Studies, scholarships to foreign students, conferences and seminars etc. to

disseminate and encourage the study of Indian culture among the global fraternity. The ICCR has also been at the forefront of encouraging and nurturing talent among Indian artists and assisting them to exhibit their talent overseas. The performing arts are an entertaining and creative initiative to advance people to people contact and facilitate better understanding between nations.







ICCR Outgoing Cultural Delegations

The Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) showcases the rich tapestry of India's performing arts on the global stage through outgoing delegations. ICCR spearheaded cultural diplomacy through the empanelled/Vande Bharat cultural delegations and sponsored troupes as part of the

Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav (AKAM) celebrations during the year 2022-23. Ninety cultural troupes and delegations were sent through ICCR's sponsorship and support during the year.

Netherlands: Kalakshetra Adyar's Bharatanatyam Group

The Bharatanatyam group "Kalakshetra Adyar" from Tamil Nadu, led by Ms. Revathi Ramachandran, presented Ramayana from 4-7

April, 2022, to commemorate of the 75th anniversary of diplomatic relations between India and the Netherlands.



Uzbekistan: Benny & The Jazz Collective

A Jazz group, "Benny & The Jazz Collective" led by Shri Benedict Lazarus, participated in the

International Jazz Festival in Uzbekistan from 10-13 May, 2022.



Guatemala, Honduras, El Salvador: Kathak Dance Group

Kathak Dance Group, led by Ms. Sonia Parchure participated to commemorate the 50th anniversary

of diplomatic relations between India and Guatemala from 16-25 May, 2022.



Zambia: "Vande Bharatam" Contemporary Dance Group

The "Rekha Contemporary Dance Ensemble," led by Mr. Samrat Das, presented a performance from 03-07 June, 2022 that showcase the diversity of Indian dance forms.



Spain and France: "Shivoham" Production

"Shivoham," dance troupe led by Shri Deepak Maharaj performed during the International Yoga Day from 15-21 June, 2022.



Austria: Nrutyaniaya's "Vande Bharatam" Odissi Dance

The "Vande Bharatam" Odissi Dance group "Nrutyaniaya" led by Ms. Swapana Rani Sinha performed in Austria from 17-23 June, 2022.





Russia: Carnatic Veena Ensemble

A Carnatic Veena ensemble, directed by Suma Sudhindhra, performed in Russia during the "India Week" festivities from 20-28 June, 2022.



USA: Classical Dance Group, Vande Bharat

The "Shiva Sri Nritya Kalaniketan" classical dance group, led by Mr. Sreebhashyam Sundara Ramakoundinya, performed at Washington, Atlanta and Chicago during the annual convention of the American Telugu Association from 29 June, 2022 to 21 July, 2022.



Turkey: Saptak Folk Dance Group

"Saptak Folk Dance Group," led by Shri Chetankumar Chandrakant Jethava, represented India at the 34th International Golden Karagoz Folk Dance Competition in Bursa from 01-08 July, 2022.



Belarus and Germany: Bhairi Bhavani Performing Arts, Vande Bharat

The "Bhairi Bhavani Performing Arts" group, under the guidance of Ms. Bhavana Chaudhary,

illuminated Indian culture at Slavianski Bazar and took part in India Summer Days 2022 from 15-25 July, 2022.



Jordan: Rooh-Dhruv Sangri's Qawwali Group

The "Rooh-Dhruv Sangri" Qawwali group performed during the Jerash Festival for Culture and Art from 26-29 July, 2022.



Thailand: North East Festival Extravaganza

Three fusion groups, "Rhythms of Manipur," "Ramdhenu," and "Soulmate," presented the cultural heritage of Northeast India from 29-31 July, 2022 at North East Festival (NEIF), Bangkok.



Ghana: Dance Era's Cinematic Music & Dance

The "Dance Era-Manik Bhatheja" group, led by Mr. Manik Bhatheja, celebrated India@75 through cinematic music and dance from 11-16 August, 2022.





Croatia: Instrumental (Sarod) Performance

An instrumental (Sarod) group, led by Arnab Bhattacharya showcased its performance at Dubrovnik Summer Festival in Croatia from 11-18 August, 2022.



Brazil: Aavishkar's Gujarati Folk Extravaganza

The "Aavishkar" Gujarati folk group, led by Shri Dinesh Gokaldas Parekh, showcased the culture of Gujarat from 12-21 August, 2022.



Vietnam: Celebration of Independence Day



Three diverse groups, including "Odissi Dance led by Anu Narayan," "Bollywood group of Shipra

Goyal," and "Parinday Music of Soul led by Soumitra Paul participated in the Namaste Vietnam Festival from 12-21 August, 2022.

Egypt: Kathak Group

A Kathak Group, led by Ms. Luna Poddar, presented their artistry from 13-19 August, 2022.



Mauritius, Madagascar, South Africa, Botswana and Swaziland: JNMD Dance Ensemble

The "Jawaharlal Nehru Manipuri Dance Academy" group, led by Ms. Chandandevi Gurumayum, showcased the art in multiple African nations from 14-31 August, 2022.



Saudi Arabia and Qatar: Qawwali Extravaganza

A Qawwali Group, led by Shri Danish Hussain performed in Saudi Arabia and Qatar from 14-20 August, 2022.



Lebanon: Giddha Performance, Vande Bharat

The "Chandigarh University Girls Team - Giddha" group, led by Mandeep Kaur, celebrated India Week in Lebanon from 14-18 August, 2022.



New Zealand: Bhangra Group, Vande Bharat

The "Chandigarh University Bhangra Group," led by Shri Amit Sarwan performed from 19-22 August, 2022.



Ireland, Switzerland, UK: Theatre Group, Tagore Jayanti

A theatrical group led by Dona Ganguly presented

dance drama on the occasion of Tagore Jayanti from 19-29 August, 2022.



Scotland: Bharatanatyam Performance, Vande Bharat

Bharatanatyam Group, "Sree Natya Niketan," led by Ms. Shrinithi Vijaykumar, showcased the dance performance from 2-5 September, 2022.



Malaysia: Bharatanatyam Dance Group, Vande Bharat

A Bharatanatyam Dance group led by "Manjula Ramaswamy," performed from 8-14 September, 2022 for celebration of the 65 years of diplomatic ties between India and Malaysia.





Tanzania, Ethiopia and Egypt: Qawwali Group

Shri Syed Nasir Husain from Madhya Pradesh led a Qawwali Group to deliver cultural performances from 8-25 September, 2022. The group also participated in the International Samaa Festival for Chanting and Spiritual Music in Cairo.



Japan: Jhelum Paranjape Kathak Group

A Dance Group led by Ms. Jhelum Paranjape from Maharashtra participated in Namaste Nakama and India Mela Kobe Festival from 29- September to 10 October, 2022.



South Korea: Odissi Dance and Hindustani Vocal Group

Kunjata Mishra's Odissi Dance ensemble and a Hindustani Vocal group led by Ms. Sunanda Sharma showcased their talents at the SARANG Festival from 29 September -10 October, 2022.



Australia: "Margam" and "Pavitra Art Academy" Vande Bharat

"Margam" the Folk Group from Gujrat led by Ms. Priyal Dipesh Zaveri and "Pavitra Art Academy" a Bharatanatyam ensemble from Maharashtra, led by Shri Pavitra Bhatt, presented the dance performances from 6-17 October, 2022.



Uganda, Ethiopia and Israel: Kathak Dance Group

Ms. Ritusri Chaudhary's, Kathak dance group presented the performance at the 4th Annual Art & Cultural festival in Uganda and also participated at the 6th National Jewish Convention in Israel from 7-17 October, 2022.



Spain: Bharatanatyam Group

Ms. Rama Vaidyanathan presented Bharatanatyam performance in Spain from 8-12 October 2022.



Mexico: Indian Classical Music Group - Cervantino Festival

Indian Instrumental Classical Group led by Ms. Bindiganavale Manasi Prasad from Karnatak was sponsored to participate in the Cervantino Festival from 11-28 October 2022.



Malaysia: Folk Group - 'Nava Jeevan Kalaari Sanghom'

A Kerala Folk group, "Nava Jeevan Kalari Sanghom" led by Babu Sivadas was sponsored to Malaysia to participate in the Living Arts Cultural Festival from 28 October – 7 November 2022.





Germany: The Kanglei Mime Theatre Group-Travel Grant

"The Kanglei Mime Theatre Repertory" led by Shri Y Sadananda Singh from Manipur was sponsored to participate in the 37th International Pantomime Festival in Dresden, Germany from 02-06 November 2022.



Vietnam: 'Indian Ocean' Fusion Music Group

A Fusion Music group, "Indian Ocean" led by Shri Dhruv Suresh Jagasia visited Vietnam for cultural performances on occasion of Diwali celebrations organized by the Indian Chamber of Commerce (INCHAM) from 11-15 November 2022.



Myanmar and Vietnam: 'Centre for Indian Classical Dance' Bharatanatyam Dance Group

A classical dance group "Centre for Indian Classical Dance" led by Ms. Sonal Mansingh was sponsored to give cultural performances in Myanmar and Vietnam from 25 November-10 December, 2022.



Ethiopia, Sudan, and Israel: 'Bhairi Bhavani' Folk Dance Group

A Folk Dance Group "Bhairi Bhavani" led by Shri Pradeep Kadamb was sponsored to give cultural performances in Ethiopia, Sudan, and Israel from 25 November- 8 December, 2023.



Malaysia: Punjabi Folk Dance Group

A Punjab folk dance group, Punjabi Cultural Society led by Ms. Sangeeta Kaushik visited Malaysia for cultural performances in a Gurudwara Event at Sabah & Sarawak, Kuala Lumpur & Ipoh from 3-7 December, 2022.



Nepal: Kathak Dance Group

Ms. Namrata Rai from Delhi led her Kathak dance group to participate in the Republic Day Celebrations in Nepal from 25-30 January 2023.



Fiji: Dance, Music & Folk Groups, World Hindi Conference

"A R Divine," "Bagga Lok Nach Academy," "Mohiniyattam Dance Group," and "Geetanjali International Folk Tang," were sponsored to Fiji to participate in the 12th World Hindi Conference from 12-19 February, 2023.





Democratic Republic of Congo, Republic of Congo, Gabon & Sudan: Folk Dance Group

Gujarati Folk Dance Group led by Mr. Kushal Dixit from Gujarat, visited D R Congo, Republic of Congo, Gabon and Sudan during the Republic Day celebrations from 25 January- 4 February 2023.



Bahrain: Qawwali Group 'Aslam Sabri & Party

A Delhi based Qawwali Group "Aslam Sabri & Party," led by Shri Aslam Sabri was sponsored to Bahrain to participate in the Spring of Culture Festival from 5-8 March, 2023.



Uzbekistan: Contemporary Dance Group

Shibani Kashyap, from Delhi NCR, led a contemporary group to Uzbekistan from 16-20 March, 2023 celebrating Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav in Uzbekistan.



ICCR

Incoming Cultural Delegations

Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) showcases performances by foreign cultural troupes so that the people of India get to see and appreciate cultures from across the globe. This includes cultural weeks and Festivals dedicated to a specific country, region or even a continent.

In addition, the Council implements cultural projects on behalf of the Ministry of External Affairs and extends support to State Governments of India and their Cultural organizations to showcase foreign culture in their respective States. The Council also organizes monthly 'Horizon Series', performances in each of its Regional Offices within the country in India.

Celebrating India-Uzbekistan Diplomatic Relations

ICCR organized two dance performances from Uzbekistan, the 'Havas' and the 'Lazgi' group to mark the 30th anniversary of diplomatic relations between India and Uzbekistan at ICCR Auditorium, New Delhi on April 2, 2022.

Musical Extravaganzas

A fusion of Jazz and Hindustani Classical was presented by **Benny & the Jazz** collective and Rajat Kakkar & group during the dinner hosted by the Ministry of External Affairs for senior journalists and diplomats in April 2022.

Cultural Showcase at Hyderabad House

An instrumental music recital was presented by **Shri Bipul Kumar Ray** on Santoor at Hyderabad House in honor of the Prime Minister of the United Kingdom on April 22, 2022.



Cultural programme by Shri Bipul Kumar Ray (Santoor Player) at Hyderabad House on 22 April, 2022 during lunch hosted by Hon'ble Prime Minister of India in honor of the Prime Minister of UK.



Celebrating Rajya Sabha Day

Rajya Sabha Day-2022 was celebrated in GMC Balayogi Auditorium in the Parliament Complex on **May 10, 2022** with performance on the theme "**Azadi & Patriotism**," in line with the Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav celebrations.

World Portuguese Language Day

ICCR celebrated World Portuguese Language Day on **May 13, 2022**. Ms. Rani Khanam presented a special choreography featuring singers, musical bands, western and folk dancers along with Kathak and Bharatnatyam artists. Smt. Meenakashi Lekhi, Hon'ble Minister of State for External Affairs and Culture graced the occasion as Chief Guest.

Crafts Traditions as India's Soft Power

A cultural program by a 7-Member Folks-Wagon Band group, led by **Mr. Madhur Padwal** was held on **May 21, 2022** at the Nehru Memorial Museum and Library in New Delhi on the occasion of 5th Pandit Deen Dayal Upadhyay Annual Oration 2022 and World Culture Day focusing on "Crafts traditions as India's soft power."



Lighting of lamp by Smt. Meenakashi Lekhi, Minister of State for External Affairs & Culture on the occasion of the celebration of World Portuguese Language Day on 13 May 2022 at Azad Bhavan Auditorium, New Delhi.



Cultural performance on 13 May 2022 at Azad Bhavan Auditorium, New Delhi

Transforming External Engagements

Shri Rohit Anand flautist presented a musical performance at the event, titled "**8 years of Modi Government - Transforming External Engagements**" on **June 7, 2022** in the presence of External Affairs Minister, MoS of MEA and Heads of the Missions in Delhi.

Special ASEAN-India Meetings

Shri Debojyoti Mukherjee presented Sitar recital on **June 15, 2022** for the Special ASEAN-India Foreign Minister's Meeting (SAIFMM) and Delhi Dialogue XII (DDXII).

Honoring ASEAN-India Meeting

Anveshana Society for Performing Arts presented a Cultural performance for Special **ASEAN-India Foreign Minister's Meeting** held on **June 16, 2022** at Hotel Taj Palace, New Delhi.

Cultural Diplomacy at Hyderabad House

At Hyderabad House on **August 2, 2022**, Pt. Prabhat Kumar presented a mesmerizing performance of the Santoor in honor of the President of the Republic of the Maldives.

Cultural Diplomacy Discussion

A lecture-demonstration by **Ms. Jayalakshmi Eshwar** was organized on **August 2, 2022** at ICCR Auditorium as part of discussion on understanding Cultural Diplomacy for Indian Service Officer Trainees and Bhutanese Diplomats.

Interaction with Lok Kala Artists

President, ICCR had an interaction with **Lok Kala Artists** of Rajasthan who had performed abroad, on **August 20, 2022** at Rajbhavan, Jaipur in the gracious presence of the Hon'ble Governor of Rajasthan.

Indo-Trinidad & Tobago Diplomatic Relations

To celebrate 60 years of Indo-Trinidad & Tobago diplomatic relations, a fusion performance by a group from Trinidad and Tobago and an Indian folk group was held on **September 2, 2022**. Smt. Meenakshi Lekhi, MoS, Ministry of External Affairs graced the occasion as chief guest.



Inauguration of the cultural programme held at ICCR Auditorium on 2 September, 2022 commemorating 60th anniversary of diplomatic relationship between India and Trinidad & Tobago



Cultural performance by the Indian group & 'Chutney Socha Monarch' group from Trinidad & Tobago on 2 September, 2022 at ICCR Auditorium.



Cultural Diplomacy at Hyderabad House

In honor of the Prime Minister of Bangladesh on **September 6, 2022**, Pt. Kayam Ali presented a sarod recital.

Indo-Spanish Cultural Exchange

ICCR hosted the Indo-Spanish joint production "Kijote Kathakali" presented by Margi Kathakali and a Spanish Kathakali team on **September 16, 2022** in Thiruvananthapuram. A workshop was also conducted by the Spanish team at Cervantes Institute, Delhi on September 18, 2022.

Theatrical Exchange with Georgia

ICCR hosted Tbilisi Akhmeteli State Drama Theatre from Georgia from **2-10 September, 2022** for theatrical presentations and workshops in collaboration with universities and colleges in India.



Cultural Exchange with Kyrgyzstan

"Kambarkan" and "Ak Maral," - two dance and music groups from **Kyrgyzstan** mesmerized the audience with their performances on **October 12, 2022** at the ICCR Auditorium in New Delhi in the august presence of Dr. Rajkumar Ranjan Singh, Hon'ble Minister of State for External Affairs & Education and Dr. Vinay Sahasrabuddhe, President, ICCR.



SCO Cultural Presentation at Hotel Taj Palace, New Delhi

ICCR in collaboration with the National Security Council Secretariat (NSCS) organized a captivating cultural presentation at Hotel Taj Palace, New Delhi on **October 14, 2022** to celebrate the diverse cultures and traditions of the **Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO)** member countries. The event was choreographed by Smt. Bharati Shivaji and Ms. Minaakshi Dass featuring international students and scholars from Russia, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan and Indian artists representing cultural performance of China and Pakistan.



Cultural performance showcasing traditional dance-music forms of SCO member countries during the 38th meeting of the Council of RATS-SCO at Hotel Taj Palace, New Delhi on 14 October, 2022.



Indo-Spanish Cultural Exchange

ICCR hosted "Flamenco Real," a 9-member group from Spain during **12-19 October, 2022**. A joint production of Spanish Flamenco artists and Indian Kathak artists led by Ms. Vidha Lal held at Kamani

Auditorium, New Delhi, on **October 14, 2022**. Smt. Meenakashi Lekhi, Hon'ble Minister of State for External Affairs and Culture graced the event as Chief Guest. The Spanish team also performed in Chandigarh and Mumbai.



Korean Culture Festival

ICCR in partnership with the Korean Culture Centre, India and the Embassy of the Republic of Korea in India organized a cultural presentation at the DLF Saket Shopping Mall, New Delhi on **October 19, 2022**. The 9-member group led by **Ms. Rekha Mehra** showcased a blend of Korean folk and Kathak dance contributing to the vibrant Korean Culture Festival (Rang de Korea).

Malaysia and Thailand along with India's 'Sadhya' group led by Shri Santosh Nair enthralled the audience with their performances. Hon'ble Minister of Culture, Shri G Kishan Reddy graced the occasion as Chief Guest, and Dr. Vinay Sahasrabuddhe, President, ICCR was the Guest of Honour. These groups also participated in Ramayana Festivals in Bhopal, Ayodhya, Ahmedabad, Vadodara fostering cultural bonds across borders. Additionally, the visiting 15-member group 'Naty Kala Mandhir' from Sri Lanka performed at the GMC Balyogi Auditorium in the Parliament of India.

6th International Ramayana Festival

ICCR organized the 6th International Ramayana Festival at Kamani Auditorium, New Delhi during **19-20 October 2022**. Cultural groups from **Sri Lanka, Trinidad & Tobago, Indonesia, Fiji,**





Inauguration of the '6th International Ramayana Festival' by Hon'ble Minister of Culture, Shri G Kishan Reddy at Kamani Auditorium, New Delhi on 19 October, 2022.



Performance of Ramyana group from Thailand at Kamani Auditorium on 19 October, 2022 during the 6th International Ramayana Festival.



International Diplomatic Training Course

On **26th October, 2022**, ICCR organized two captivating lecture-demonstrations by eminent artists **Ms. Meenu Thakur** (Kuchipudi) and **Ms. Jaya Prabha Menon** (Mohinyattam) at Sushma Swaraj Institute of Foreign Service (SSIFS) for foreign diplomats attending a month-long Professional Course for Foreign Diplomats (PCFD). The event was attended by 48 diplomats from 48 countries.

Counter Terrorism Committee Meeting

ICCR organized a diverse cultural presentation featuring Chhau, Contemporary, Bollywood and Indian folk dances at the Taj Palace Hotel, New Delhi on **29th October, 2022**. This special event

was presented by Aniruddha Das & Group from Delhi on the occasion of counter terrorism committee meeting held by MEA.

National Tribal Dance Festival

ICCR supported the **National Tribal Dance Festival (NTDF)** held from **1-3 November, 2022** in Raipur, Chhattisgarh. This Festival celebrated the 22nd Foundation Day of the State and featured international cultural groups from Russia, Mongolia, Togo, Mozambique, Serbia, Indonesia, New Zealand, Maldives and Egypt.

Cairo Opera Ballet Group

ICCR hosted a 22-member '**Cairo Opera Ballet**' group from 31 October - 8 November, 2022 in India. They performed in various cities of India including New Delhi, Raipur, Lucknow and Mumbai.



Inauguration of the '**Cairo Opera Ballet**' performance event by Hon'ble Minister of State for External Affairs & Culture, Smt. Meenakshi Lekhi on 3 November, 2022 at Kamani Auditorium, New Delhi.





Performance by the 'Cairo Opera Ballet' group from Egypt at Kamani Auditorium, New Delhi on 3 November, 2022.

IFDT Closing Ceremony

On 16th November, 2022, ICCR organized a cultural performance choreographed by Ms. Kavita Dwibedi at Hotel Taj Palace, New Delhi during the closing ceremony of the 48th Annual Meeting of the 'International Forum on Diplomatic Training' hosted by SSIFS.

Festival of Russian Culture in India

In collaboration with the Department of State Support of the Art and Folk Creativity, Ministry of Culture of the Russian Federation, ICCR hosted three Russian cultural groups during 20-30 November, 2022 in India for cultural performance. These groups performed in Delhi, Kolkata and Mumbai as part of the "Festival of Russian Culture in India."





ICCR organized the '**International Lusophone Festival-2022**' in collaboration with MEA and State Government of Goa from **3-6 December, 2022 in Goa**. Cultural presentation by cultural groups from **8 CPLP Countries**: Angola, Brazil, Cape Verde, Equatorial Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Mozambique, Portugal and Timor-Leste along with Indian cultural performances choreographed by **Ms. Rani Khanam** were organized. The Festival was inaugurated by **Hon'ble Chief Minister of Goa Shri Pramod Sawant on 3 December, 2022 at Raj Bhawan, Dona Paula, Goa** in presence of **Hon'ble Minister of State for External Affairs & Culture, Smt. Meenakashi Lekhi**. Cultural performances by groups from 8 CPLP countries were also organized on rest of the days of the '**International Lusophone Festival-2022**' from **4-6 December** at different venues in Goa.



Delhi International Art Festival

ICCR hosted a 6-member musical troupe '**La Carisalve**' from **Dominican Republic** visiting India under the ICD programmes in collaboration with the Embassy of the Dominican Republic in India. Apart from performance at 'Delhi International Art Festival' (DIAF) on **16 December, 2022**, the group performed in 2 other cities of India i.e, Mumbai & Pune under the respective Zonal Offices of ICCR. The group was also hosted by the North Zone Cultural Centre, Ministry of Culture for their performance in Kalagram, Chandigarh on 11 December, 2022.

ICCR also hosted the 15-member **Malaysian** Cultural troupe led by **Guru Ramli Ibrahim** (Sutra Foundation) from 27-31 December, 2022 for performances in DIAF-2022, New Delhi from 29-30 December, 2022.



50th anniversary of diplomatic relationship between India and Vietnam

ICCR in collaboration with the Embassy of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam in India and the Ministry of Culture, Sports & Tourism of Vietnam organized a cultural programme celebrating the 50th anniversary of diplomatic relationship between India and Vietnam on **12th December, 2022** at Kamani Auditorium, New Delhi. The visiting 20-member '**Viet Bac Folk Music and Dance Theatre**' group performed at the event and also at 'Vietnam Cultural Space' organized by the Embassy of Vietnam in New Delhi on 13th December, 2022 in presence of DG, ICCR, Shri Kumar Tuhin.



Pravasi Bhartiya Divas

17th Pravasi Bhartiya Divas was organized in **Indore** from **8-10 January, 2023** in partnership with **State Government of Madhya Pradesh**. ICCR was entrusted with the responsibility to curate the cultural presentations during the 3-day convention held at **Brilliant Convention Centre (BCC), Indore**. ICCR also presented a **Theme Song** in Sanskrit composed by 16-member '**Gandharva Choir**' group led by **Mr. Madhup Mudgal** which was played live during the inaugural ceremony attended by **Hon'ble Prime Minister of India on 9 January 2023 at Indore**.

ICCR also presented a **Gala cultural show** which was hosted by **Hon'ble External Affairs Minister, Dr. S Jaishankar** with cultural presentations choreographed by **Ms. Jayalakshmi Eshwar** and **Ms. Arupa Lahiry** involving 60 Indian and 8 international artistes (winners of **Prathiba Sangam**, Indian Classical Performing Arts competition organized by ICCR) from Japan,

Hungary, Malaysia and Sri Lanka at the lawns of Brilliant Convention Centre, Indore on 9 January 2023. The event was attended by the Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh; President of Guyana along with various international & national dignitaries. **Dr. Vinay Sahasrabuddhe**, President, ICCR also graced the occasion. The theme of the ICCR's specially curated show was '**Pragatisheel Bharat**' reflecting **India's scientific progress** from the pre-historic time and values of Indian Cultural traditions.

ICCR organised a classical instrumental performance by **Mr. Satyendra Singh Solanki** (Santoor player) during the lunch hosted by **Hon'ble Prime Minister of India** and by **Kedia brothers** (Sarod & Sitar) at the dinner hosted by **Hon'ble EAM on 9 January, 2023 at BCC, Indore**.



17th Pravashi Bharatiya Diwas (PBD), Indore – Ms. Jayalakshmi Eshwar & group, January 09, 2023

Cultural Diplomacy BIMSTEC Countries

ICCR organised an instrumental performance by **Shri Dhruv Bedi (Sitar)** on **January 12, 2023** at Hotel Hyatt Regency, New Delhi in honour of the delegates of **BIMSTEC Countries** visiting India for the 10th BIMSTEC Joint Working Group on Counter Terrorism and Transnational Crime (JWG-CTTC) meeting.



Asean-India Bazaar

ICCR sponsored a Mohiniyattam classical dance performance by **Ms. Radhika Menon & group** (Vande Bharatam Troupe who were sponsored to Switzerland in September-2022) on **14 January, 2023** at the Royal Thai Embassy; New Delhi for the Event **ASEAN-INDIA BAZAAR** organised to commemorate the 30th anniversary of ASEAN-India Friendship Year.





Hyderabad House- Hon'ble President of Arab Republic of Egypt

ICCR organised an instrumental performance of Sarod, Sitar and Tabla by **Maharaj Trio** led by **Shri Prabhash Maharaj** from Varanasi during the lunch hosted by Hon'ble Prime Minister of India in honor of Hon'ble President of Arab Republic of Egypt on **25 January, 2023**

Delegation of National Assembly of Bhutan

ICCR organized a specially curated classical dance performance '**Srijan**' (The dance of Victory) by **Vidha Lal & group** at the Parliament Annex Hall Auditorium on **6 February, 2023** in honor of the visiting Parliamentary delegation of **National Assembly of Bhutan** led by H.E. Mr. Wangchuk Namgyel.



Cultural performance by **Vidha Lal & group** at the Parliament Annex Hall Auditorium on **06 February, 2023** in honor of the visiting Parliamentary delegation of **National Assembly of Bhutan** led by H.E. Mr. Wangchuk Namgyel hosted by Hon'ble Speaker of the Loksabha, Sh. Om Birla.

International LAC Conference

ICCR hosted a 6-member “**First Citizens Dragon Boys Tassa Band**” from Trinidad & Tobago for series of cultural performances in different cities of India from 20 February-1 March, 2023. The group was invited as part of the International LAC conference - “**Connected Histories, Shared Presents, Trans-cultural experiences between Latin America, The Caribbean and India**” co-organized by India International Centre (IIC), New Delhi. Apart from performance at IIC, New Delhi on 21 February, 2023, the group also performed in Lucknow, Guwahati & Patna.



Cultural Performance by the “First Citizens Dragon Boys Tassa Band” from Trinidad & Tobago at India International Centre (IIC), New Delhi on 21 February, 2023 during the International LAC conference: “Connected Histories, Shared Presents, Trans-cultural experiences between Latin America, The Caribbean and India”

The Council also hosted a 7-member folkloric ensemble ‘**Raices Santenas**’ from Panama for their series of cultural performances in different cities of India from 21 February to 1 March, 2023 as part of international LAC conference. The group performed in international LAC conference on 22 February, 2023 at IIC, New Delhi and at ICCR Auditorium, New Delhi on 24 February, 2023 to commemorate the 60 years of diplomatic relationship between India & Panama. Apart from Delhi, the group also performed in Mumbai at NCPA, Tata Theater on 27 February, 2023.





International Day of Yoga (IDY)

ICCR facilitated the celebration of the 8th International day of Yoga-2022 in 178 countries through 127 Missions and 49 posts. Furthermore, a special project/ event “Global Yoga Ring” was also conducted through 53 Missions/ Posts as part of celebration of IDY-2022.







ICCR

Showcasing Indian Culture at G20

The G20 presidency provided a unique and unprecedented platform for ICCR to showcase India's rich and diverse cultural heritage to the world leaders and delegates.

ICCR was privileged to shoulder the responsibility of the cultural components of G20. It coordinated over 300 cultural programmes involving 17000+ artists in over 60 locations across the country during G20 presidency.

All the events were in the form of performing arts, visual arts, handicraft and other exhibits of décor were showcased at the iconic venues such as the City Palace in Udaipur, Hampi heritage sites in Karnataka, Gateway of India in Mumbai, Statue of Unity in Kevadia etc. which not only depicted the rich culture but also development march of India towards future as a guiding voice for the world, navigating through contemporary global challenges. The G20 cultural events were hosted in each state and union territory of India promoting cross-cultural understanding and creative synergy.







ICCR Exhibitions

To promote India's rich and diverse visual art forms including contemporary and traditional art, folk and tribal art, textiles, ceramic arts etc., ICCR organizes bilateral and multilateral exhibitions. Keeping with the objective of ICCR in the field of visual art, ICCR has organized 10 exhibitions in the year 2022-23.

'The Head of the Giant' Painting Exhibition by Mr. Crisobal Gabarron

The "The Head of the Giant" painting exhibition by Mr. Crisobal Gabarron was organized at Kalamkaar Gallery, Bikaner House. The exhibition was inaugurated on April 27, 2022 and remained open for public viewing until May 5, 2022.



Retrospective Exhibition of Artwork by Rokeya Sultana from Bangladesh

In collaboration with Bengal Foundation, Bangladesh, ICCR organized a retrospective exhibition of artworks by Rokeya Sultana at Lalit Kala Akademi, New Delhi. The exhibition was inaugurated on June 6, 2022, by MoS, Smt. Meenakshi Lekhi, and was open to the public from June 7 to June 26, 2022. It was also organized at the Art Gallery, Rabindranath Tagore Centre, ICCR, Kolkata from July 7 to July 20, 2022.



Textile Exhibition from Thailand

A Textile Exhibition in association with Embassy of Thailand, New Delhi was organized in Varanasi from 20-22 June and in Kolkata on 25-26 June, 2022.





Painting Exhibition 75th Anniversary: A Portrait of Indo-Thai Friendship

A contemporary art exhibition 75th Anniversary: A Portrait of Indo-Thai Friendship exhibition of contemporary art was organized in collaboration with the Embassy of Thailand, New Delhi to mark the occasion of 75 years of friendship between India and Thailand. The exhibition was inaugurated by Ms.Pattarat Hongtong, Ambassador, Thailand and DG, ICCR Shri Kumar Tuhin at Lalit Kala Akademi on 20 August 2022 and for public viewing till 31 August 2022. The 75 works from Thailand and 25 paintings from Indian side were curated by Kumar Vikas Saxena from India and curators from Princess Sirindhorn Art Centre from Thailand. The inauguration was attended by large number of art lovers receiving rave reviews through print and social media.



Art is Residency Programme and Exhibition for Mr.Pedro Vaz from Portugal

An Art is Residency Programme in collaboration with the Kala Kuteer Garhi Regional Centre of Lalit Kala Akademi, New Delhi was organized for Mr. Pedro Vaz from Portugal with the interactive session 'Artist in Art' on 31 August 2022. During the residency programme, the artist created several works until 16 September 2022. An exhibition of the art works created by Mr. Pedro Vaz during the Residency Programme was organized at ICCR Art Gallery in collaboration with Embassy of Portugal, New Delhi. The exhibition was inaugurated by MoS, Smt Meenakashi Lekhi on 16 September 2022, and for public viewing from 17-30 September, 2022. The event was well attended by Ambassadors of various countries besides notable artists and art lovers.



Painting Exhibition by Mr.Rodolfo Vega Oviedo from El Salvador

A painting exhibition of Mr.Rodolfo Vega Oviedo from El Salvador was inaugurated by MoS, Smt, Meenakashi Lekhi on 9 September 2022 at IGNCA Gallery. It was organized in collaboration with the Embassy of El Salvador, New Delhi which was attended by a large number of art lovers including Ambassadors of various countries, media and eminent personalities.



Painting Exhibition from Cuba and Book Release of Viva Latino 3 by Shalu Chopra

Exhibition of Cuban Paintings in collaboration with the Embassy of Cuba, New Delhi and Book Release of Viva Latino 3 (Study of Cuban language in India) was inaugurated by MoS Smt. Meenakashi Lekhi on 27 October 2022 at ICCR Art Gallery. Exhibition for public viewing was showcased from 28 October to 6 November 2022. The inauguration was well attended by diplomats and art lovers.



Painting Exhibition 2.0 and conversation with the authors of MAD (E) IN INDIA

The exhibition India 2.0 was inaugurated by DG, ICCR on 16 November, 2022 at ICCR Art Gallery, New Delhi. It was open for public viewing from 17-23 November, 2022. The event was followed by Conversation with the Author of Mad (E) IN INDIA, Ms. Soumya Gupta and Ms. Tarika Roy. (The exhibition was displayed for the visit of Malaysian Minister of Foreign Affairs on 17 June, 2022.





Paintings Exhibition from Egypt

The exhibition of Egyptian Photographs and Sculptures was inaugurated by President, ICCR on 29 November, 2022 at IGNCA Gallery, New Delhi. Exhibition was open for public viewing from 30 November to 4 December 2022.



OUTGOING EXHIBITION

ICCR sponsored the visit of Shri Kumar Vikas Saxena, Curator to Thailand to participate in the exhibition celebrating 75th Anniversary: A Portrait of Indo-Thai Friendship from 11-18 December, 2022. The exhibition was organized by Princess Maha Chakri Siridhorn Art Centre at Loei Province, Thailand and was in exchange of similar exhibition organized in India from 20-31 August, 2022.



ICCR

Bust and Statue

ICCR gifts busts and statue of Indian icons and national leaders for ceremonial installation in other countries through Indian Missions and Posts there. These busts and statues have been installed at iconic locations in various countries to showcase India's national leaders in a prominent way. Indian Missions and Posts organize ceremonial functions regularly at such venues to apprise the local audience about the contributions of these icons and national leaders to the world. Details of such busts and statues sent in 2022-23 are as under:

S.No.	Name of Country	Description of bust/statue
1	Kazakhstan	Statue of Mahatma Gandhi
2	Vietnam	Bust of Guru Rabindranath Tagore
3	Bolivia	Bust of Mahatma Gandhi
4	Myanmar	Bust of Lokmanya Bal Gangadhar Tilak
5	Mexico	Bust of Dr Paduranga Khankhoje and Statue of Swami Vivekananda
6	Spain	Bust of Guru Rabindranath Tagore
7	UAE	Bust of Mahatma Gandhi
8	Guatemala City	Two Busts of Mahatma Gandhi
9	Oman	Statue of Mahatma Gandhi
10	Malaysia	Bust of Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose
11	Netherlands	statue of Swami vivekananda
12	Osaka Kobe , Japan	Three Busts of Boddhisena
13	Mexico, Belize	Statue of Mahatma Gandhi
14	Moka, Mauritius	Statue of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj





ICCR Chairs

ICCR in consultation with Indian Missions abroad, establishes Chairs of Indian Studies to promote Indian Studies and languages. These chairs are in a wide range of disciplines such as international Political Science, Philosophy, History, Sociology, Economics, Buddhist Studies, Sanskrit, Hindi, Urdu, Tamil, Bengali and Dance & Music. These chairs are established in different foreign universities across the world at their request. The purpose of these Chairs is familiarizing students about Indian history and culture to become a local hub around which Indian Studies and Indian Languages can be promoted in academic institutions abroad. The Chairs not only teach courses on various aspects of India but also support other academic activities like research guidance, seminars, publication, public lectures etc. to assist the selected country to create awareness about India and facilitate a better appreciation of various India related issues.

The following activities were undertaken by the Council from April 2022 till March 2023.

(a) List of operational Chairs:

Sr No.	COUNTRY	UNIVERSITY	SUBJECT
1.	Iceland	University Of Iceland	Indian Studies
2.	Jamaica	University Of West Indies	Indian Studies
3.	Germany	University Of Hannover	Indian Studies
4.	Cambodia	Psrb University	Sanskrit & Buddhist Studies
5.	Croatia	University Of Zagreb	Sanskrit
6.	Hongkong	Chinese University Of Hong Kong	Indian Studies
7.	Bulgaria	Sofia University	Hindi



(b) MoU signed/renewed with various Universities in this period-

Sr. No.	Country	University	Discipline
(i)	Canada	University of Alberta	Indian Studies (History)
(ii)	Canada	University of Calgary	Indian Studies (History)
(iii)	Canada	Concordia University	Indian Studies
(iv)	Canada	Simon Fraser University	Indian Studies
(v)	Nepal	Lumbini Buddhist University	Buddhist Studies
(vi)	Nepal	Kathmandu University	Indian Studies (Political Science)
(vii)	Nepal	CNAS, Tribhuvan University	Indian Studies (Political Science)
(viii)	Russia	St. Petersburg University	Indian Studies (Philosophy)
(ix)	Thailand	Thammasat University	Hindi
(x)	UK	Birmingham City University	Traditional Music Chair
(xi)	Sri Lanka	Sabaragamuwa University	Hindi
(xii)	USA	University of Houston	Tamil
(xiii)	Qatar	Qatar University	Indian Studies
(xiii)	Cambodia	PSRB University	Sanskrit and Buddhist Studies
(xiv)	Jamaica	University of West Indies	Indian Studies
(xv)	Tajikistan	Tajik National University	Hindi cum Urdu
(xvi)	Mauritius	Mahatma Gandhi Institute	Hindi
(xvii)	Mauritius	Mauritius Sanatan Dharma Temple Federation	Purohit Course
(xviii)	Iceland	University of Iceland	Indian Studies (History)

ICCR Chairs in Nepal



India and Nepal have signed three Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) on 16 May, 2022 for setting up of chairs in Nepal.

These MoUs are:

1. Memorandum of Understanding between Indian Council of Cultural Relations (ICCR) and Lumbini Buddhist University on the establishment of Dr Ambedkar Chair for Buddhist Studies. Dr. Bimalendra Kumar from Banaras Hindu University has been deployed to the Chair.
2. Memorandum of Understanding between Indian Council of Cultural Relations (ICCR) and CNAS, Tribhuvan University on the establishment of ICCR Chair of Indian Studies. Dr. Kaushikee from Jamia Milia University, New Delhi has been deployed for the Chair.
3. Memorandum of Understanding between Indian Council of Cultural Relations (ICCR) and Kathmandu University (KU) on the establishment of the ICCR Chair of Indian Studies, Dr. Sangeetha Thapliyal from Jawaharlal Nehru University has been deployed for the Chair.

ICCR Chair in Birmingham City University, UK



An MoU on the 'Chair for Indian Studies' signed between ICCR & Birmingham City University was exchanged on 22nd April, 2022 during the official visit of Prime Minister of UK to India. It will be an important step towards strengthening cultural and educational ties between India and UK.

MoU signing ICCR and University of Alberta, Canada

The ICCR and the University of Alberta has signed for creation of a Chair of Indian Studies. The agreement was signed in May 2022 by Shri Ajay Bisaria, High Commissioner of India to Canada in Ottawa and



University of Alberta, President and Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Bill Flanagan.



MoU signing ICCR and University of Calgary, Canada



Consul General of India in Vancouver Shri Manish signed a MoU with University of Calgary on behalf of ICCR on 29 June, 2022 to set up a Chair of Indian Studies at Faculty of Arts. From University of Calgary, Dr. William Ghali, Vice President (Research) signed the MoU. University of Calgary became fourth University in Canada to have an India Chair. The establishment of ICCR Chair of Indian Studies will further deepen educational cooperation & academic exchanges between India and Canada.

MoU signing ICCR and University of Houston, USA



The University of Houston has partnered with the Indian Government to expand its teaching and research on Tamil language, literature and culture. The University and the ICCR signed a MoU on March 29, 2023 to establish the ICCR Chair of Indian Studies, a position to be held by a visiting scholar from India with expertise in Tamil studies.

MoU signing ICCR and University of West Indies, Jamaica



The University of West Indies and the ICCR signed a MoU on March 29, 2023 to establish the ICCR Chair of Indian Studies (Philosophy). Currently, Prof. Balaganapathi Devarakonda from University of Delhi has been deployed as ICCR chair of Indian Studies.

ICCR

Conference & Seminars

With a view of meeting the cultural diplomacy objectives of the Govt. of India. ICCR organizes international conferences on subjects like Indology, Buddhism, Sufism, Tagore and other subjects related to Indian culture, philosophy and society.

These conferences helped ICCR to accomplish its mandate to promote India's great cultural and educational efflorescence. These Conferences prove very useful and interactive as they bring eminent Indian scholars & other international scholars at the same platform.

ICCR organized a two days national Seminar on "Indian Cinema and Soft Power" in collaboration with Flame University, Pune. The Conference was

inaugurated by the renowned Film Director Mr. Shekar Kapur on 3rd May 2023 in the august presence of 'Governor of Maharashtra, Shri Bhagatsingh Koshyari and President, ICCR, Dr. Vinay Sahasrabuddhe on 3rd May 2022 at Raj Bhavan. The inaugural session was followed by a panel discussion. The second day of the Seminar was held at Films Division, Mumbai on 4th May 2022 with a panel discussion and culminated with the closing remarks (virtually) by Shri Anurag Thakur, Hon'ble Minister for Information & Broadcasting.



ICCR launched "International Film making Competition" on the occasion of Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore's Birth Anniversary amongst Indian Diaspora and Foreign Alumni in

collaboration with Route 2 Roots from 9 May, 2022 to 1 January, 2023 under different theme for different age group.

INTERNATIONAL FILMMAKING COMPETITION RESULTS

Value Proposition

Vasudhaiva Kurumbham: World as my family

1. Arun Kulkarni - Australia
2. Anshul Kumar Gupta - Germany
3. Simranjit Singh Sandhu - Denmark

My roots, My ancestral

1. Manish Sahasrabudhe - Mauritius
2. Anshika Talsani - Canada (only 2 entries qualified)

Away from India: what do I miss the most

1. Jashwanth Khanna - US
2. Suresh Sankaran - France
3. Anandharam The Velupillai - Singapore

Foreverland of India

Indian Culture: Impacts on my mind

1. Dilga Chatterjee - Switzerland
2. Manish Sahasrabudhe - Mauritius
3. Anshika Talsani - Canada

India: My home away from home

1. No entry qualified

Learning in India, Learning from India

1. Anshika Talsani - Canada
2. Anshika Talsani - Canada
3. Anshika Talsani - Canada



ICCR also organized 5th Pandit Deendayal Upadhaya Memorial Oration 2022 to mark the World Culture Day on the theme “**Craft traditions as India's Soft Power**” followed by a unique Indian folk music performance by Folks Wagon group led by Madhur Padwal on 21 May, 2022 at Nehru Memorial Museum & Library (NMML)

Auditorium, Teen Murti Bhavan New Delhi. The key note lecture was delivered by Smt. Jaya Jaitley in the august presence of President ICCR and Director General ICCR. Parliamentarians from various countries visiting India under Gen-Next Distinguished Visitors Programme were also invited.



Another International conference was organized on “**Yoga & Natural Health Care for Covid pandemic: From Prevention to Long Term Rehabilitation**” in association with Swami Vivekananda Yoga Anusandhana Samathihana (S-VYASA) University, Bengaluru, Embassy of India, Seoul and Wonkwong Digital University, Seoul

during 25-26 June, 2022. The seminar addressed the linkages between yoga-based lifestyle including personal hygiene, physical and mental well-being, diet, and psychosocial counseling and Covid pandemic. Yoga experts from India, Japan, Saudi Arabia and Switzerland countries participated in the Seoul Conference.



The 8th International Day of Yoga was organized on the theme “**Yoga for Humanity** “on 21 June, 2022 at Purana Qila, New Delhi in the presence of Union Minister of External Affairs. Ambassadors and High Commissioners of various countries and members of the Diplomatic corps participated in the event. ICCR hosted 20 member Buddhist delegations from Koyasan University, Osaka – Kobe (Japan) under the Distinguished Buddhist Scholar Programme. The visiting delegation called on President, ICCR,

visited Buddhist Study Centre, Gautam Buddha University at Greater Noida. The delegation also visited various prominent Buddhist Sites in India i.e Ajanta & Ellora in Maharashtra, Dhauli Stupa in Bhubaneswar, Odisha, Rajgir, Nalanda and Bodhgaya in Bihar from 5 -15 November, 2022.



Plenary Session on “Leveraging the Soft Power of India Goodwill through Craft, Cuisine and Creativity” as part of 17 Pravasi Bharatiya Divas (PBD) Convention 2023 was held during 8-10

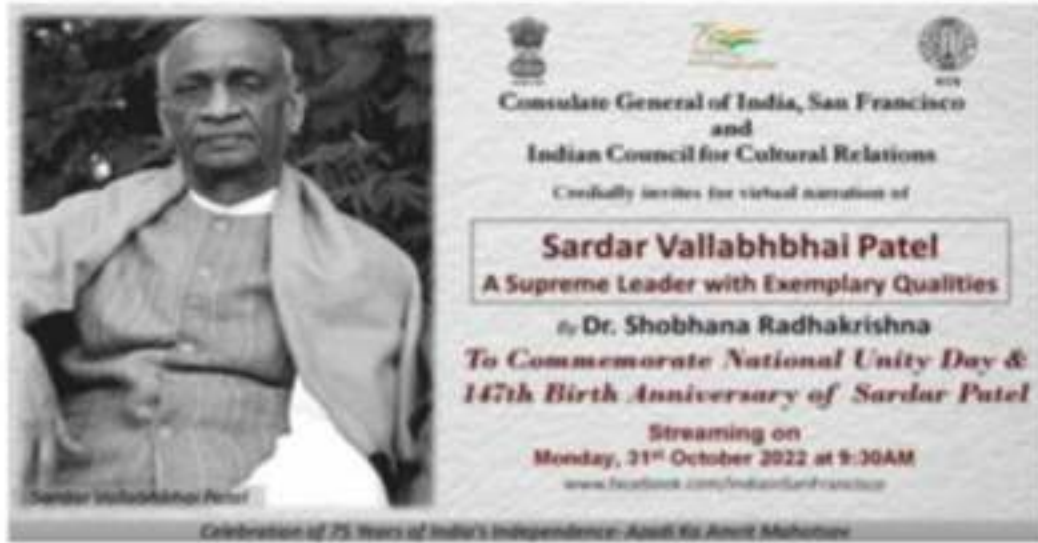
January, 2023 in Indore, Madhya Pradesh. Smt Meenakashi Lekhi, MoS External Affairs and Cultural chaired the event in which domain experts from Bahrain, Madrid, Mauritius, Nigeria, Nepal and Spain also participated.



Participants of Plenary Session “Leveraging the Soft Power of India Goodwill through Craft, Cuisine and Creativity”

ICCR in association with Indian Missions in Riyadh, San Francisco, Baghdad, Bahrain, Doha, Kuwait City, Minsk, Ankara, Bucharest, Nicosia, Athens, Abu Dhabi, Muscat and Smt. Shobhana Radhakrishna, internationally acclaimed speaker organized virtual narration and online certification course on Leadership of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel as part of the AKAM celebrations to commemorate National Unity Day and 147 Birth Anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel.





ICCR organized "National Convention on India's International Relations" in association with Jawaharlal Nehru University from 17-18 March, 2023 at Sushma Swaraj Bhawan, Chanakyapuri, New Delhi. External Affairs Minister delivered the keynote address. The two day convention consisted of an interactive plenary and technical sessions with FS, Dy. NSA, Secy (West), President, ICCR, DG ICCR spanning on topics like India's Foreign Policy, India's G20 Presidency, building upon

strengths of India's Soft power, Strategic partnerships and economic relations etc. Head of the Departments in International Relations from Central and State Universities also participated in the convention. Smt Meenakashi Lekhi MoS External Affairs & Culture launched a short film "Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam: World as My Family" created by the winners from Germany, Australia, Denmark etc., in international film making competition.



Fellowships

ICCR awarded Ustad Ghulam Mustafa Khan Fellowship of music to Mr. Carsten Wicke from Germany under the guidance of Guru Ms. Bisakha Goswami, Rabindra Bharati University in Kolkata from August 2022-23.



ICCR awarded Senior Fellowship to Prof. Ramdhony Dhanwantree Reshmi from Mauritius to do her research on **“Medieval India: Sultanate, Mughals, Sikh Guru, Bhakti Saints, Christianity, Sufism”** from Gautum Buddha University, Noida.

ICCR awarded Senior Fellowship to Professor Laura Yerkeshve from Kazakhstan to do research on **“Art and cross Cultural Encounters between Ancient and Early Medieval Central Asia and India”** from National Museum Institute of History of Art, Conservation and Museology, New Delhi.



ICCR awarded Senior Fellowship to Peter Pannke to do his research on **“Dhrupad Classical music traditions of India”** from University of Allahabad in October 2022.



Outgoing Visitors Programme (OVP)

- i. ICCR facilitated the visit of Prof. Amrit Sen and Mr. Somjitdas Gupta for participating in “International Conference on Tagore” as an Educator at the University of Valladolid, Spain in May 2022.
- ii. ICCR facilitated the visit of Shri. Zameer Anwar, ARSP from New Delhi to France and Sofia for participating in the *Kali Sara Festival* & other events in May 2022.



- iii. ICCR facilitated the visit of Dr. Sudhakar Sharma, former director of Lalit Kala Akademi to Moscow and Samara for attending a book launch event in June 2022.
- iv. ICCR facilitated the visit of 4 Maharajas/ descendents of Jamnagar and Kolhapur & their nominees to Poland for participating in cultural event celebrating links between India and Poland under Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav (AKAM) in July 2022.
- v. ICCR facilitated the visit of Dr. Bharat Mohan Balvalli to participate in the series of lectures-cum-demonstration on Indian classical music, ragas & its traditions to USA under Outgoing Visitors programme (OVP) in August 2022.



- vi. ICCR facilitated the visit of Sh. Amarjiva Lochan to participate in series of lectures on Buddhism in Kuala Lumpur in August 2022.



- vii. ICCR facilitated the visit of Ms. Anamika, recipient of 2020 Sahitya Akademi Award for Hindi Poetry, to participate in Modern Hindi Workshop in Adam Mickiewicz University, Poland in September 2022.
- viii. ICCR facilitated the visit of 2 scholars, Prof. Nilufer E Barucha, Director, Mumbai University and Dr. V. Selvakumar, Associate Professor & Head, Department of Maritime History and Marine Archeology, Centre for Indian Ocean studies, Tamil University, Thanjavur to Tanzania for participation in "International Conference on India Tanzania Relations" in **October 2022**.
- ix. ICCR organized a Cultural Economy Conclave (CEC-22) at Gandhinagar, Gujarat from October 14th-16th, 2022. ICCR supported the conclave by providing International air travel of 03 foreign speakers from BIMSTEC and ASEAN region.
- x. ICCR facilitated the visit of Ms. Pratibha Jana Singh, renowned Odissi Dancer to Russia for attending a book launch event by Ms. Natalia Belchenko titled "The Absolute of the one beginning and the absolute of infinite Differentiation; Hindu Temple as an image of the dancing Deity". She also participated in workshop, seminar and concerts at Yekaterinburg Russia in **September 2022**.



ICCR

Visitors Programme

The ICCR administers various programmes under which it hosts eminent personalities from abroad for a certain period. These programmes promote India's cultural relations with other countries through various instruments that involve people to people contact.

These programmes also includes a variety of sessions such as lectures, round table discussions, call on Ministers, senior government officials, NGO's, intellectuals etc., as well as visits to places of cultural and educational importance.

Distinguished Visitors Programme (DVP)

Under this programme, the council facilitates visits of Nobel Laureates, Members of Parliament, former Prime Ministers, bureaucrats, think-tanks, eminent personalities in the field of politics, arts & culture from abroad to India to experience Indian culture and interact with institutions and audiences in India. Leading think-tanks and cultural institutions are also invited to share their insight and experiences and to meet Indian leaders in their area of expertise, as well as obtain a first-hand view of developments in India.

- Visit of Mr. Haval Abubaker, Governor of Sulaimaniah in Kurdistan, Iraq and his companion to India under Distinguished Visitors Programme 2022-23 (April 11- 21, 2022).



Dr. Haval Abubaker meeting with Sh. Ram Madhav

- Mr. Cristobal Gabarron renowned artist from Spain visited India under Distinguished Visitors Programme 2022-23 (25 April- 3 May, 2022).



Mr. Cristobal Gabarron with President ICCR

- Visit of Prof. Majeste Ihou Watebato, Minister of Higher Education, Togo under Distinguished Visitors Programme 2022-23 (2-11 October, 2022)



Prof. Majeste Ihou Watebato, Minister of Higher Education, Togo with DG, ICCR



- Visit of Lady Justice Martha Karambu Koome, Chief Justice and the President of the Supreme Court of Kenya from 3-11 March 2023 under Distinguished Visitors Programme



6 Judges of the Supreme Court of Kenya under the leadership of their Chief Justice Ms. Martha Koome met President, ICCR, Dr. Vinay Sahasrabuddhe and DG, ICCR, Shri Kumar Tuhin



Hon'ble Chief Minister of Goa, Dr Pramod P Sawant hosted a dinner in honour of Ms. Martha K Koome, Hon'ble Chief Justice of Kenya at Taj Convention, Goa



Ms. Martha K. Koome, Hon'ble Chief Justice of Kenya met Hon'ble Chief Justice of India, Shri Dhananjaya Chandrachud.

- Visit of H.E. Ms. Kolinda grabar Kitarovic, Former President of Croatia from 19-25 March 2023 under Distinguished Visitors Programme (DVP)



Interaction between Former President of Croatia H.E. Ms. Kolinda Grabar-Kitarovic visiting India under ICCR's Distinguished Visitors Programme and DG,ICCR, Shri kumar tuhin



Former President of Croatia H.E. Ms. Kolinda Grabar-Kitarovic had a luncheon meeting at Vigyan Bhavan, New Delhi

Academic Visitors Programme (AVP)

Under the Academic Visitors Programme the Council facilitates visits by eminent academicians to India to experience Indian culture and interact with institutions and audiences in India. Leading representatives of think-tanks and cultural/academic institutions are also invited to share their insight and experiences. This programme includes a variety of sessions such as lectures, workshops, meetings with Vice Chancellors of Indian Universities, in addition to meetings with senior bureaucrats, NGOs and intellectuals.



Gen-Next Democracy Network Programme

ICCR organizes the "Gen Next Democracy Network Programme" as part of the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav (AKAM). Young emerging leaders of 75 democracies and global forum united to visit India to get a comprehensive overview of India's democratic traditions, its cultural heritage, its developmental initiatives and democratic traditions. The delegates are briefed on India's progress in the political arena, in economic sectors and in science and technological capabilities by different organisations. The programme is divided into various groups with each group consisting of about seven to eight countries with two to five delegates from each country.



27 delegates from 6 countries visited under Gen-Next Democracy Network Programme (20 May- 29 May, 2022) with Smt. Meenakashi Lekhi, Minister of State for External Affairs and Dr. Vinay Sahasrabudhe, President ICCR.



21 delegates from 6 countries visited under Gen-Next Democracy Network Programme (18 July - 27 July, 2022) at Dalit Indian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (DICCI), New Delhi.



18 delegates from 6 countries visited under Gen-Next Democracy Network Programme (05th September – 14th September, 2022) at Maharashtra Sadan, New Delhi



Hon'ble Chief Minister of Goa, Shri. Pramod Sawant welcome 18 delegates during their visit to Goa



29 delegates from 7 countries under Gen-Next Democracy Network Programme (22 - 31 January, 2023) visited Pura Buriyar village near Varanasi, a Sansad Adarsh Gram Village being taken care of by Hon'ble PM Narendra Modi



Delegates of Gen Next Democracy Network Programme visited Shri Kashi Vishwanath temple, Varanasi



38 delegates from 8 countries visited under Gen-Next Democracy Network Programme (06 - 15 March, 2023) were briefed on the "Role and functions of the Election Commission of India" at Nirvachan Sadan, New Delhi.

ICCR

Scholarship and Welfare of International Students

In 1989, ICCR was entrusted with the responsibility of awarding scholarships to foreign students interested to pursue UG/PG/Ph.D courses in Arts, Commerce & Sciences (excluding medical /paramedical/fashion/law courses) at various State/Central Universities in India.

In the year 2022-23, 3878 scholarships were offered to students from all over the world under 21 Scholarship Schemes, out of which 6 are

administered by ICCR from its own fund, 12 on behalf of Ministry of External Affairs and remaining 3 on behalf of Ministry of AYUSH. The detailed bifurcation of 3878 slots is at **Annexure:3 (Pg. 150)**

Some of the scholarship schemes have been named after renowned personalities of India in the field of Art/ Culture & Education. The rechristened schemes are as under:-

S.No	Earlier Scholarship Scheme Name	New Name
i	General Scholarship Scheme	Atal Bihari Vajpayee General Scholarship Scheme
ii	Commonwealth Scholarship Scheme	Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam Commonwealth Scholarship Scheme
iii	Cultural Exchange Programme/EEP	Dr. S. Radhakrishnan Cultural Exchange Scholarship Scheme
iv	ICCR Scholarship Scheme for Dance & Music	Lata Mangeshkar Dance & Music Scholarship Scheme

At a given point of time ICCR hosts around 6500 foreign students in India.

About A2A/GYAN_SETU Portal

The Scholarships which were being administered manually, were digitised by introducing, Admissions to Alumni (A2A) portal in 2018 <http://a2ascholars.iccr.gov.in> In order to further simplify the scholarship process and to automate the entire Scholarship process a new application named GYAN_SETU – “Connecting Culture through Knowledge”, was launched by ICCR on 6 February 2023. This application facilitates ICCR, universities/institutions and foreign students to access key information at one place, thus catalysing New India’s Techade as well as digitalizes the payment of scholarship to students and tuition fees to universities.

Selection Procedure

ICCR in the last few years has made changes in the selection procedure of the beneficiaries wherein the applicant is eligible to choose five (instead of earlier three) preferred Indian Universities/institutes following which the applicant has to upload his/her credentials. Once the applicant completes the online procedure, the application automatically can be viewed by the preferred Universities/ Institutes. Concerned Universities/ Institutes then scrutinize the application of the applicant as per their eligibility criteria and, if accepted, upload Provisional Admission Confirmation of the applicant on the portal. This is again automatically visible to the portal of the concerned Mission/ICCR Headquarters/Zonal/Sub-Zonal Office.



Orientation Programme

The Orientation programme is arranged at ICCR Headquarters in New Delhi and its Zonal/Sub-Zonal offices all over India to familiarize ICCR foreign scholars about Indian art, culture, heritage, tradition, Ayurveda, Yoga, Law, economy, climate, dance, music, cuisine, rituals, etc. in order to make their stay comfortable, meaningful and holistic by adding value to their institutional education programme. This programme aims in creating pleasant, positive outlook towards India.

Welfare Activities

Since the inception of Scholarship programme, ICCR utilizes the vacation periods by arranging Summer/Winter Camps for foreign students studying in India. ICCR also organizes several cultural activities including celebration of festivals for foreign students in Headquarters as well as its Zonal/Sub Zonal/RPO offices. The biggest festival is the International Students' Festival which is organized every year in november coinciding with the birth anniversary of Maulana Abul Kalam Azad, the Founder-President of ICCR.

Activities performed by Scholarship Division during A.Y 2022-23

Launch of INDIA Alumni Portal

Smt. Meenakashi Lekhi, Minister of State for External Affairs inaugurated the INDIA ALUMNI portal (www.iccr.almaconnect.com) developed by ICCR on April 9, 2022 (ICCR Foundation Day) with the aim to connect all foreign scholars who have studies in India including ICCR scholars.

Students who availed ICCR scholarships are possibly occupying important positions in their country.

The aim of the INDIA Alumni portal is to engage them and keep connected/updated on a dynamic India so they can be the bridges of friendship and India's unofficial cultural ambassadors in their own unique ways. It is aimed to be a single platform for all past and present foreign scholars to register, interact, maintain their Indian linkages. The portal also facilitates continuity and re-connecting with many past scholars. The students departing after completing their studies are encouraged to register on the portal.



Summer Camps welfare of International Students

In June 2022, ICCR organized 16 Summer Camps at Sikkim, Manali, Jim Corbett, Mumbai & Bangalore. Approximately 650 students from 60 countries and 75 Universities/Institutes spread

across 18 states participated in the Camps. To assist/ guide the students during camp, few volunteers and academicians from World Organization of Students and Youth (WOSY) also participated in the camps.



Launch of 'GYAN_SETU'

The ICCR launched an application, “Gyan_Setu - connecting Culture through Knowledge”, on 6 February 2023 at ICCR Auditorium to automate the entire work process of ICCR's scholarship. The application was officially launched by Dr. Rajkumar

Ranjan Singh, Hon'ble Minister of State for External Affairs and Education, in the gracious presence of Dr. Vinay Sahasrabuddhe, President, ICCR, Shri Kumar Tuhin, Director General, ICCR, Shri Deepak Karanjikar, Chairman Finance Committee, ICCR, and Dr. Rahul Marathe Professor, IIT, Madras.



Launch of GYAN_SETU Portal by Dr. Rajkumar Ranjan Singh, Hon'ble Minister of State for External Affairs and Education, in the gracious presence of Dr. Vinay Sahasrabudhe, President, ICCR & Shri Kumar Tuhin, Director General, ICCR.

Elocution & Essay competition for foreign students studying in India

ICCR organized Essay & Elocution competition amongst International students studying in India. It was open to all International students ICCR Scholarship holder or on self-financed.

Elocution Competition

- i. The Competition was held in two parts and following were the topics of the competition:-
 - a) **Relevance of VASUDHAIVA KUTUMBAKAM or World as one Family as world view of nations;**
 - b) **The Role of Indian Freedom Struggle in strengthening global fight against Colonialism in mid 20th Century;**
 - c) **Importance of Traditional Indian Knowledge Systems.**
- ii. First round was held at ICCR Zonal offices & Mewar University and the final round (amongst the winners of zonal round) was held at Mewar University, Mewar from 19-21 February 2023.
- iii. 14 students participated in the final round of Elocution competition.

Following were the winners of Elocution Competition:-

Sl. No.	Name of the Student	Country	Reward
1	Mr. Ezeoke Michael Obina	Nigeria	First Position
2	Ms. Indrakanti Sriprada	United States of America	First Runner up
3	Ms. Nnaji Clara Sochimajem	Nigeria	First Runner up
4	Mr. Pince Yadav	Nepal	Second Runner up
5	Ms. Mohinee Prithula	Bangladesh	Second Runner up

Essay Competition

Essay Competition was held online on the following topics in which 252 students from 40 Countries participated:-

- a) **Development of Democracy in India;**
- b) **Contribution of Spiritual leaders in development of India;**
- c) **STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) Education and its future in India;**
- d) **India's G20 Presidency-Importance & Impact.**

The top 3 entries of the essay competition were awarded at the event held at Mewar University, Mewar on 20 February 2023, and are as under:-

Sl. No.	Name of the Student	Country	Reward
1	Mr. Haroun Bangura	Sierra Leone	Third Prize
2	Ms. Pallek Kankanamge Don Manoli Gayanika Premalal	Sri Lanka	Consolation Prize
3	Ms. Anindita Choudhury	Bangladesh	Consolation Prize



Elocution Competition at Mewar University, Mewar



Winners of Elocution and Essay Competition with Dr. Vinay Sahasrabuddhe, President, ICCR



ICCR

ICC Section

The Council has 38 Indian Cultural Centres (ICCs) in different parts of the world. Additionally ICCR extends support to the Casa de la India in Valladolid, Spain established on 'PPP' Model (Public-Private Partnership).

To promote Yoga, Veda and Sanskrit globally, the ICCR deployed 48 Teachers of Indian Culture (TICs) to various Missions / Posts / ICCs. The Council also deployed 40 India based Performing Arts teachers in the disciplines of Bharatanatyam, Kathak, Odissi, Hindustani / Carnatic Vocal, Tabla and 1 teacher of Hindi language in the Mission / Posts / ICCs. In addition, the Council initiated and encouraged Missions / Post to hire Local Resources Persons (LRPs) as Teachers

of Yoga, Indian Dance and Music to promote local talent. Total numbers of 87 LRPs are presently deployed at various Missions / Posts / ICCs. Online Kathak dance classes were conducted from July 16 to September 14, 2022 in ICCs on pilot basis in collaboration with the Routes2Roots. In order to popularize Hindi language abroad, the Council signed a tripartite agreement with Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU) and Central Hindi Directorate on November 9, 2022 for three months online Hindi awareness programme for interested participants.

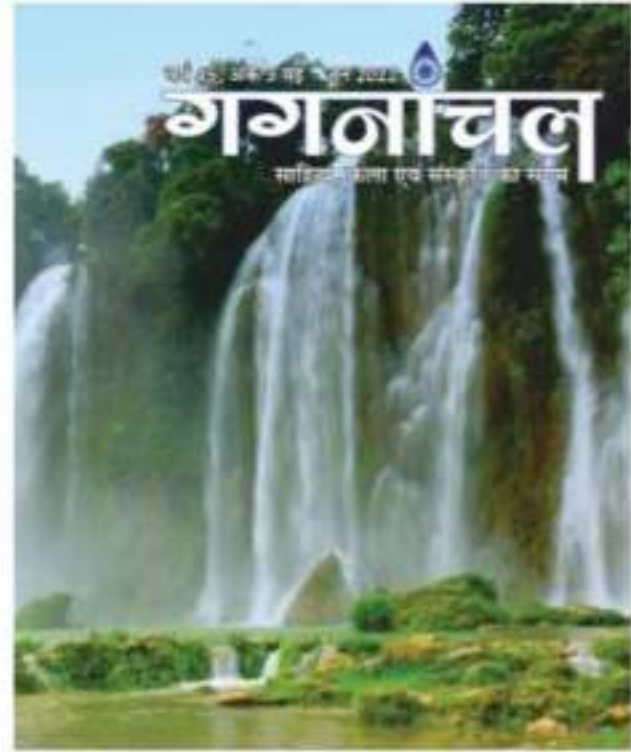
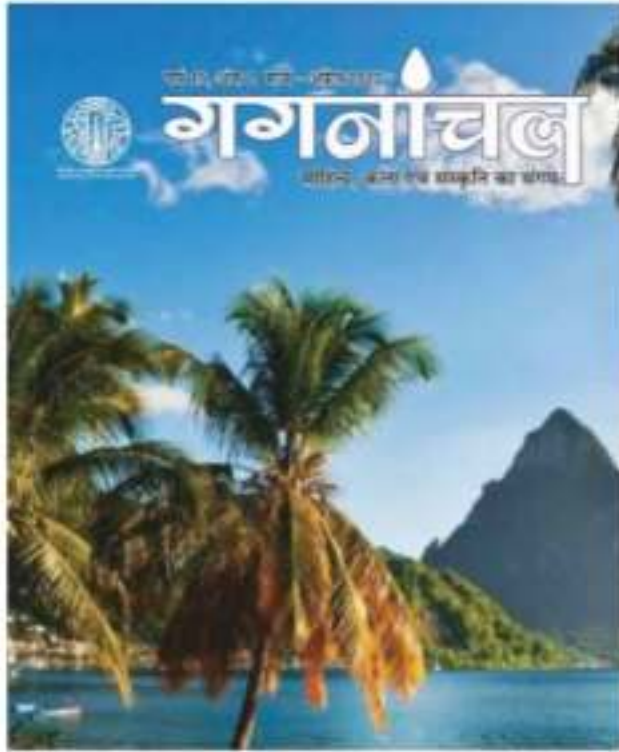


Hindi Promotion

Gagananchal

ICCR has been publishing bi-monthly Hindi magazine Gagananchal for the last 45 years; the main objective is to promote Hindi in the country as well as abroad. During the year 2022-23, Gagananchal Volume 45 Issue-2 (March-April),

2022 Volume 45 Issue-3 (May-June) 2022, Volume 45 Issue-4 (July-August) 2022, Volume 45 Issue 5-6 (September-December) 2022, Combined Issue and Volume 46 Issue 1-2 (January-April) 2023 & 12th Vishwa Hindi Sammelan Special Combined Issue were published.



Hindi Workshop

ICCR organized four Hindi workshops on different topics on 21 June 2022, 19 September 2022, 13 December 2022 and 22 March 2023 to encourage its employees to work in Hindi during the financial year 2022-23. Apart from this, ICCR has organized 4 Hindi Implementation Committee meetings to review the work of Hindi in the Council.

14-29 September 2022. On this occasion, competition in various categories like Hindi Essay, General Hindi, Noting and Letter Writing and Dictation were held. In the closing ceremony of Hindi Fortnight on 29 September 2022, a poetry recitation was organized in which the officers and employees of the Council recited the poems.

Hindi Pakhwada was organized by the Council from





12th World Hindi Conference

The 12th World Hindi Conference was organized in Fiji on 15-17 February 2023 & On this occasion, ICCR organized a series of cultural programs and also released 12th Vishwa Hindi Sammelan Visheshank of the Hindi Gagananchal Patrika. ICCR facilitated the participation of 54 foreign Hindi Scholars in the prestigious conference.



12th World Hindi Conference

ICCR Awards

To promote India's cultural relations with other countries, ICCR has instituted various awards to recognize the foreign nationals for their contribution in the respective fields.

These awards are:

Distinguished Indologist Award

The annual "ICCR Distinguished Indologist Award" was instituted in 2015 during the First World

Indology Conference hosted by the then President of India bringing prominent Indologists from world over to a single platform with Indian scholars to deliberate upon the scope of promoting Indian Studies abroad. Award is given to a foreign scholar in recognition of his/her outstanding contribution in study, teaching and research in any of the fields of Indian Studies. In 2022-23, the award was conferred upon Dr. Vishwa Adluri from USA in the ceremony organized on 29th June in New York.



Dr. Vinay Sahasrabudde, President, ICCR presenting the Distinguished Indologist Award 2019 to Dr. Vishwa Adluri in New York on 29 June, 2022.

World Sanskrit Award

The institution of annual "World Sanskrit Award" was announced by External Affairs Minister, Late Smt. Sushma Swaraj during her Inaugural Address at the 16th World Sanskrit Conference held in Bangkok in June 2015, recognizing the contribution of foreign scholars in promoting Sanskrit studies. Award is given to a foreign scholar for his/her contribution in study, teaching and research in Sanskrit language and literature. This year award conferring ceremony for Dr. Boris Alekseevich Zakharin recipient of the World Sanskrit Award 2021 was organized in Russia.



Dr. Vinay Sahasrabudde, President, ICCR presenting the World Sanskrit Award 2021 to Dr. Boris Alekseevich Zakharin in Russia on 13 September 2022



Distinguished Alumni Award

ICCR has an extensive scholarship programme for foreign students. It annually disburses large number of scholarships to students from countries across the world to pursue academic and other courses in Indian performing/visual arts at under-graduate, post-graduate and research levels in Indian institutions. Foreign students who studied in India are India's goodwill ambassadors and over a period of time, have achieved influential positions in their respective countries. Recognizing the achievements

of foreign students who studied in India, "ICCR Distinguished Alumni Award" was instituted in 2015. Award is given to the foreign nationals who studied in India, for their contribution to the promotion of understanding, goodwill and friendship between India and people of their respective countries. This year award conferring ceremony for Dr. Ergogie Tesfaye Woldemeskel recipient of Distinguished Alumni Award 2021 was organized in Delhi University, New Delhi.



Dr. Vinay Sahasrabudhe, President, ICCR presenting the Distinguished Alumni Award 2021 to Dr. Ergogie Tesfaye Woldemeskel in presence of Amb. of Ethiopia to India Dr. Tizita Mulugeta, Shri Kumar Tubin DG, ICCR & Dr. Amarjeeva lochan, ISA of DU in Delhi University on 8 August, 2022.

Special Project

Celebrating Cultural Harmony: Pratibha Sangam Competition Winners Shine at Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav

In the spirit of 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav,' to celebrate India's rich cultural heritage and the 75 years of India's independence, ICCR organized the Pratibha Sangam Competition, a unique initiative to showcase the prowess of foreign nationals and People of Indian Origin (PIOs) who are passionate, dedicated and actively promoting Indian classical dance and music forms in their respective countries. These individuals have become esteemed ambassadors of goodwill, fostering cultural ties and embodying the essence of 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam' - The World is One Family.

A Global Showcase of Talent

The competition garnered an overwhelming response, with 273 entries pouring in from 37 countries across the globe. These entries spanned seven genres of Indian dance and music, reflecting the diversity and universality of Indian culture. Subsequently, a panel of distinguished experts, representing each genre, diligently selected 21 winners, who demonstrated unparalleled dedication and skill in their respective disciplines.

The Grand Celebration in India

To celebrate the achievements of these talented artists and foster cultural exchanges, the Council extended an invitation to 14 winners, including 1st and 2nd prize recipients, to visit India from December 26, 2022, to January 15, 2023. During their visit, these artists had the opportunity to showcase their remarkable talents at prestigious venues and events across India, making this experience truly unforgettable.

Artistry in Harmony with 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam'

The ICCR organized a joint performance of foreign delegates that exemplified the theme 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam' or 'The World is One Family'. These performances transcended borders, language, and cultures, resonating with the essence of unity and harmony that defines India's cultural tapestry.





The Distinguished Winners:

Among the 14 invitees, following eight winners performed with their remarkable talents and passion for Indian classical arts:

- Mr. Sajith Hangaredna, Sri Lanka
- Mr. Thanura Madugeeth Dissanayaka Mudiyansele, Sri Lanka
- Ms. Kim Khoo, Malaysia
- Mr. A. K Ravishankar Karunakaran, Malaysia
- Ms. Vinitha Balrama, Malaysia
- Ms. Anitha Szegedi, Hungary
- Ms. Atsuko Katsura, Japan
- Mr. Neriya Padiachy Veerlapin, Mauritius



ICCR

Finance & Accounts

ICCR received Grant-in-Aid of ₹320.00 crores against its Budget Estimate of ₹386.18 crores. ICCR has been able to implement a range of important activities within the allocated grant. Following are highlights of activities, related to Finance & Accounts:-

1. Annual Accounts of ICCR for the year 2022-23 has been prepared. This has been completed after rigorous follow-up with 11 ZO/Sub-ZOs in India and 38 ICCs abroad.
2. In view of implementation of Public Financial Management System (PFMS) in ICCR, necessary technical process for creating Maker & Checker had been completed. ICCR has filled up expenditure on PFMS platform for the year 2022-23. Besides this, all scholarship payments are being made through PFMS. Further TSA (Treasury Single Account) has been implemented in ICCR and all payments from Grants-in-Aid are being released from RBI Account through PFMS only.
3. All payment through Electronic mode are being released directly to Vendor/Beneficiary's bank account by processing of all bills and payments through PFMS platform since April 2021.
4. Annual Account and Annual Report of ICCR for the year 2021-22 were laid on the table of Parliament on December 22, 2022 (Rajya Sabha) and February 3, 2023 (Lok Sabha).
5. 88th Finance Committee meeting of ICCR was held on June 28, 2023, wherein ICCR's Annual Accounts for the year 2022-23 have been approved. Minutes have been circulated to the Committee Members.
6. Also, Annual Accounts of the Council for the Financial Year 2022-23 was approved by President, ICCR during the Governing Body meeting held on 11 December, 2021, authorized President-ICCR approved Annual Accounts on behalf of Governing Body, after approval from Finance Committee.
7. ICCR's 3-years Plan of Action for the FY 2021-22, 2022-23 and 2023-24 based on proposals received from more than 135 Missions/Posts was compiled. The same was approved by the Statutory Bodies of ICCR on 11.12.2021.
8. Internal Audit Programme was approved for Zonal/Sub-Zonal Offices. A team from ICCR Headquarters conducted internal audit of Zonal Office, Delhi-NCR during October, 2022.



The head-wise expenditure during financial year 2022-23 is as given below:

A. General Activities–Revenue Accounts

(Figs in Lakhs)

S.No.	Appropriate Head	Expenditure (FY 2022-23)
1.	Incoming & Outgoing Delegation/Visitors and Gen Next Democracy Network Programme	3317.02
2.	Cultural Performances of ICCR	490.00
3.	Seminars/Symposia/Conferences/Lectures/SIS	152.58
4.	International Students Divisions/Alumni Awards	6553.98
5.	Exhibitions/Bust/Orientation Grant	363.14
6.	Presentation of Books and Art Objects	6.57
7.	Publications	5.79
8.	Libraries	17.20
9.	Multimedia & Website	120.99
10.	Hindi Activities	134.99
11.	Festivals	0.00
12.	Fellowship	29.52
13.	Misc. Deposits	1.75
	Total (A)	11193.53

B. Projects Abroad

(Figs in Lakhs)

S.No.	Appropriate Head	Expenditure (FY 2022-23)
1.	Cultural Centres Abroad	10854.08
2.	Chairs/Centres of Indian Studies	648.16
3.	Grants to Casa De La India (Spain) and Busan	83.14
4.	Deployment of Resource Persons	150.33
5.	Teacher in Centres (TIC)	921.32
6.	International Day of Yoga (2022)	770.03
7.	Hindi Teacher Chair Abroad	85.84
8.	Selection of Directors/Professor/TIC/Yoga/Dance Teacher	47.78
9.	Local Resource Person Abroad	158.37
10.	Rakhi Purchase for 37 ICCs	3.74
	Total (B)	13722.79

C. Fixed Charges

(Figs in Lakhs)

S.No.	Appropriate Head	Expenditure (FY 2022-23)
1.	Meeting of GA/ GB and other Committees	8.79
2.	Establishment of Central and Regional Offices	2913.32
3.	Office Expenses	1126.69
Total (C)		4048.80

D. Capital Expenditure

(Figs in Lakhs)

S.No.	Appropriate Head	Expenditure (FY 2022-23)
1	Air conditioners/Furniture/Fixtures/Vehicles/Computers	67.11
2	Maintenance of Jinnah House	13.45
Total (D)		80.56
Grand Total (A to D)		29045.68

In addition to general activities, the Council also carried out various Agency Works on behalf of MEA and other Govts./Departments/Ministries, details of which are as under:

(Figs in Lakhs)

S. No.	Name of Department	Receipt (FY 2022-23)	Expenditure (FY 2022-23)
A	Ministry of External Affairs Scholarships	23442.11	21153.44
B	Other Govts./Departments/Ministries		
1	AYUSH Non-BIMSTEC (Health)	--	693.31
2	AYUSH Scholarship for SEAR		
3	AYUSH Scholarship for Malaysia		
4	OKITA Memorial Scheme	0.72	0.00
		23442.83	21846.75



ICCR Annexure

Annexure 1

List of Members of General Assembly

Office	Name	Details
President	Dr. Vinay Sahasrabuddhe	President, ICCR
Three Vice-Presidents	Shri Vinay Kwatra	Foreign Secretary, MEA & Ex Officio Vice President, ICCR
	Shri Hans Raj Hans	Vice President, ICCR & Member of Parliament (Lok Sabha), New Delhi
	Shri Adwaita Charan Gadanayak	Vice President, ICCR & Director General, National Gallery of Modern Art, New Delhi
Director General, ICCR	Shri Kumar Tuhin	Director General, Indian Council for Cultural Relations, New Delhi
Financial Advisor	Shri Vibhu Nayar	Additional Secretary & Financial Advisor, MEA, New Delhi
05 Nominated persons by the Government of India	Shri K Sanjay Murthy	Secretary (Higher Education) Ministry of Human Resource Development, New Delhi
	Shri Govind Mohan	Secretary, Ministry of Culture, New Delhi
	Shri Arvind Singh	Secretary, Ministry of Tourism, New Delhi
	Shri Upendra Prasad Singh	Secretary, Ministry of Textiles, New Delhi
	Shri Alkesh Kumar Sharma	Secretary, Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, New Delhi
Two members of the Lok Sabha	Smt. Navneet Ravi Rana	Member of Parliament (Lok Sabha), New Delhi
One member of the Rajya Sabha	Shri Rakesh Sinha	Member of Parliament (Rajya Sabha), New Delhi
One representative each of the Lalit Kala Akademi, Sahitya Akademi and Sangeet Natak Akademi	Ms. Uma Nanduri	Chairman, Lalit Kala Akademi, New Delhi
	Dr. K Sreenivasarao	Secretary, Sahitya Akademi, New Delhi
	Shri Aneish P. Ranjan	Secretary, Sangeet Natak Akademi, New Delhi
Ten persons eminent in various sphere of Indian Culture nominated by the President of the Council in their individual capacity	Shri Nitin Bhai Dave	Mumbai, Maharashtra
	Smt. Jaya Jaitly	New Delhi
	Shri Deepak Karanjikar	Mumbai, Maharashtra
	Shri Gurumayum Biseshwor Sharma	Imphal (East), Manipur
	Ms. Malini Awasthi	Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh
	Shri Vivek Srivastava	New Delhi
	Shri Arif Noorani	Mumbai, Maharashtra

	Dr. Arindam Mukherjee	Director, Indian Institute of Social and Cultural Studies, Kolkata, West Bengal
	Ms. Lily Pandeya	New Delhi
Ten eminent artistes from the fields of performing, fine and plastic arts to represent institutions and organizations of this category selected by the Governing Body	Ms. Chitra Visweswaran	Bharatanatyam Dancer, Chennai, Tamil Nadu
	Pt. Vishwa Mohan Bhatt	Musician (Mohan Veena), Jaipur, Rajasthan
	Ms. Kavita Krishnamurti	Playback singer, Bangalore, Karnataka
	Shri Kaushal S. Inamdar	Musician, Mumbai, Maharashtra
	Shri Naresh Kumar Kumawat	Sculptor, Gurugram, Haryana
	Shri Vivek Agnihotri	Film Maker, Mumbai, Maharashtra
	Dr. Prakash Khandge	Folk Artist, Mumbai, Maharashtra
	Shri Wasifuddin Dagar	Vocal Musician (Dhrupad), New Delhi
	Shri Sudarshan Thakur	Secretary, Srimanta Sankaradeva Kalakshetra Guwahati, Assam
	Smt. Tana Yami	Tribal Artist, Papum Pare District, Arunachal Pradesh
Fifteen representatives of Universities or of Institutions deemed to be Universities, to be selected by Governing Body	Prof. (Dr.) Karbhari Vishwanath Kale	Vice Chancellor, Savitribai Phule Pune University, Pune
	Prof. Sudhir K. Jain	Vice Chancellor, Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh
	Prof. Raj Kumar	Vice Chancellor, Punjab University, Chandigarh
	Prof. Sunaina Singh	Vice Chancellor, Nalanda University Rajgir, District Nalanda, Bihar
	Dr. P. Venkat Rangan	Vice Chancellor, Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu
	Prof. Murli Manohar Pathak	Vice-Chancellor, Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri National Sanskrit University, New Delhi
	Dr. Vidya Yeravdekar	Principal Director, Symbiosis International (Deemed University), Pune, Maharashtra
	Dr. M. D. Venkatesh	Vice Chancellor, Manipal Academy of Higher Education, Manipal, Karnataka
	Shri Shekhar Kapur	Chairman, Film & Television Institute of India (FTI), Pune, Maharashtra
	Prof. Prabha Shankar	Vice Chancellor, North Eastern



	Shukla	Hill University (NEHU), Shillong, Meghalaya
	Dr. J.P. Sharma	Vice Chancellor, Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences & Technology, Jammu
	Prof. (Pt.) Sahitya Kumar Nahar	Vice Chancellor, Raja Mansingh Tomar Music & Art University, Gwalior, Madhya Pradesh
	Prof. V. K. Srivastava	Vice Chancellor, The Maharaja Sayajirao University of Baroda Vadodara, Gujarat
	Prof. Vishwanath D. Sabale	Dean, Sir J J School of Art, Mumbai, Maharashtra
	Dr. Ishwar Basavaraddi	Director, Morarji Desai National Institute of Yoga (MDNIY), New Delhi
Five representatives of prominent Scientific and Technical Institutions selected by Governing Body	Shri Nisheeth Srivastava	Principal, Institute of Hotel Management, Catering Technology and Applied Nutrition, Mumbai, Maharashtra
	Dr. H. R. Nagendra	Chancellor, Swami Vivekananda Yoga Anusandhana Samsthana Bengaluru, Karnataka
	Prof. Tanuja Manoj Nesari	Director, All India Institute of Ayurveda (AIIA), Delhi
	Shri T. G. Sitharam	Chairman, AICTE, New Delhi
	Prof. Rajiv Shekhar,	Director, Indian Institute of Technology (Indian School of Mines), Dhanbad, Jharkhand
Five representatives of Research Institutions and Institutes of Higher Learning in areas of Humanities and Social Sciences selected by Governing Body	Prof. Santishree Dhulipudi Pandit	Vice-Chancellor, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi
	Prof. Najma Akhtar	Vice Chancellor, Jamia Milia Islamia, Central University, New Delhi
	Dr. Chinmay Pandya	Pro Vice-Chancellor Dev Sanskriti Vishwavidyalaya Haridwar, Uttarakhand
	Prof. Deepak Kumar Srivastava	Member Secretary, Indian Council of Social Science and Research New Delhi
	Prof. E. Suresh Kumar	Vice Chancellor, The English & Foreign Languages University, Hyderabad, Telangana
Five Representatives of other Organisations interested in the work and objectives of the council to be selected by Governing Body	Prof. M Jagadesh Kumar	Chairman, University Grants Commission, New Delhi
	Dr. (Mrs) Pankaj Mittal,	Secretary General, Association of Indian University, New Delhi
	Shri Chamu Krishna Shastry	Trustee, Samskriti Promotion Foundation, Thanjavur, Tamil Nadu

	Kum. Nivedita Bhide	Vice President, Vivekananda Kendra, Kanyakumari, Kerala
	Mrs. Nilanjana Roy,	Secretary, Sanskar Bharti, Kolkata, West Bengal

Members of the General Assembly are nominated as mentioned in the list above. Except where otherwise provided, the term of General Assembly is three years.



Annexure 2

Governing Body

The current Governing Body consists of the following members:

Office	Name	Designation
President	Dr. Vinay Sahasrabuddhe	President, ICCR
FS/ Ex-Officio Vice-President	Shri Vinay Kwatra	Foreign Secretary, Ministry of External Affairs Ex-Officio Vice-President, ICCR
Two Vice-Presidents elected by General Assembly	Shri Hans Raj Hans	Vice President, ICCR & Member of Parliament (Lok Sabha), New Delhi
	Shri Adwaita Charan Gadanayak	Vice President, ICCR & Director General, National Gallery of Modern Art, New Delhi
Director General	Shri Kumar Tuhin	Director General, ICCR
Financial Advisor	Shri Vibhu Nayar	Additional Secretary & Financial Advisor Ministry of External Affairs New Delhi
Three Members nominated by Government of India from among their nominees on the General Assembly	Shri K. Sanjay Murthy	Secretary (Higher Education) Ministry of Human Resource Development, New Delhi
	Shri Govind Mohan	Secretary, Ministry of Culture, New Delhi
	Shri Arvind Singh	Secretary, Ministry of Tourism, New Delhi
Nine Members elected by the General Assembly from amongst its members of whom at least one shall be a member of Rajya Sabha and two of Lok Sabha	Smt. Uma Nanduri	Chairman, Lalit Kala Akademi, New Delhi
	Dr. K. Sreenivasarao	Secretary, Sahitya Akademi New Delhi
	Shri Aneish P. Ranjan	Secretary, Sangeet Natak Akademi, New Delhi
	Smt. Navneet Ravi Rana	Member of Parliament (Lok Sabha), New Delhi
	Shri Rakesh Sinha	Member of Parliament (Rajya Sabha), New Delhi
	Shri Deepak Karanjikar	Mumbai, Maharashtra
	Ms. Malini Awasthi	Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh
	Shri Arif Noorani	Mumbai, Maharashtra
Dr. Arindam Mukherjee	Director, Indian Institute of Social and Cultural Studies, Kolkata, West Bengal	

Members of Governing Body are selected from the General Assembly.

(Scholarship Division)			
Details of slots allocation under different scholarship schemes of ICCR for the Academic Year 2022-23			
Sl. No.	Name of the Scholarship Scheme	Slots	Courses
Non-Agency Work			
1	Atal Bihari Vajpayee General Scholarship Scheme	613	UG, PG, Ph.D. Courses
2	Dr. S. Radhakrishnan Cultural Exchange Scholarship Scheme	152	UG, PG, Ph.D. Courses
3	Dr. A.P. J Abdul Kalam Commonwealth Scholarship Scheme	24	UG, PG, Ph.D. courses
4	Lata Mangeshkar Dance and Music Scholarship Scheme	100	Dance, Music, Yoga/Art Courses
5	Suborno Jayanti Scholarships Scheme	500	UG, PG, Ph.D. Courses
6	Nehru Memorial Scholarship Scheme for Sri Lankan nationals	60	UG Courses
Agency Work			
7	Africa Scholarship Scheme	908	UG, PG, Ph.D. Courses
8	Mekong Ganga Co-operation (MGC) Scholarship Scheme	50	UG, PG, Ph.D. Courses
9	Afghan National Defense & Security Forces	103	UG, PG, Ph.D. Courses
10	Special Scholarship for Afghan nationals	1000	UG, PG, Ph.D. Courses
11	Silver Jubilee Scholarship Scheme for Nepal	64	PG, Ph.D. Courses
12	Aid to Mongolia Scholarship Scheme for Mongolia nationals	20	UG, PG, Ph.D. Courses
13	Aid to Bhutan Scholarship Scheme for Bhutan nationals	25	Under Graduate (only Engg. Courses)
14	Aid to Maldives Scholarship Scheme for Maldives nationals	20	Under Graduate Courses
15	Nehru Memorial Scholarship Scheme	60	Only UG Courses
16	Maulana Azad Scholarship Scheme	50	Master Degree in Agriculture Science & Engg. Courses
17	Rajiv Gandhi Scholarship Scheme	25	For study in the field of IT (BE/B.Tech Courses)
18	Ayush Scholarships Scheme to study Indian Traditional Medicine Systems such as Ayurveda, Unani, Siddha & Homeopathy (available for students from all Countries, though priority is given to those from BIMSTEC Countries) (Funded By MEA)	30	Undergraduate/Post Graduate /Ph.D. Courses in Ayurveda, Homoeopathy, Unani, Sridhar, Yoga



19	Ayush Scholarship Scheme for Non BIMSTEC countries on behalf of Ayush Department to study in Indian Traditional Medicine System such as Ayurveda, Yoga Unani, Siddha & Homeopathy (Funded By AYUSH)	25	Undergraduate/Post Graduate /Ph.D. Courses in Ayurveda, Homocopathy, Unani, Sridhar, Yoga
20	Ayush Scholarships Scheme to study Indian Traditional Medicine Systems such as Ayurveda, Unani, Siddha & Homeopathy (for Malaysian nationals) (Funded By AYUSH)	20	Undergraduate/Post Graduate /Ph.D. Courses in Ayurveda, Homoeopathy, Unani, Sridhar, Yoga
21	Ayush Scholarships Scheme to study Indian Traditional Medicine Systems such as Ayurveda, Unani, Siddha & Homeopathy for South East Asian Region (SEAR) Countries (Funded By AYUSH)	29	Undergraduate/Post Graduate /Ph.D. Courses in Ayurveda, Homocopathy, Unani, Sridhar, Yoga
Total		3878	



Indian Council for Cultural Relations

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