



Indian Council for Cultural Relations

Book Presentation Ceremony

of

**“The Private Travels to India of Heirs of the Belgium Throne”**

to

**Commemorate 75 years of India-Belgium diplomatic relations**

**18 July 2022**

**(Press Release)**

Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) supported the Embassy of Belgium in India for printing a book titled **“The Private Travels to India of Heirs of the Belgium Throne”** in English, to commemorate 75 years of India-Belgium diplomatic relations. The book has been authored by Philippe Falisse and was translated from French to English by Punam Puri.

Belgium was among the first European countries to set up a bilateral relationship with India in March 1947, five months before India’s independence. India opened its Embassy in Brussels in 1948. Both countries share a common value of “democracy, pluralism and rule of law”.

Mr Phillippe Falisse, has stayed in India for around 40 years and has taken deep interest to understand India and its culture. The book encapsulates the visit of various members of the Royal family of Belgium to India over the period of time since 1864.

A book presentation ceremony was organised to mark the 75 years of Diplomatic relations of India and Belgium, coinciding with 75 years of India’s Independence under Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav. At the ceremony, Shri Kumar Tuhin, Director General, ICCR presented the book to HE, Francois Delhaye, Belgium Ambassador to India, on 18<sup>th</sup> July 2022 at 11.30 AM at ICCR in the presence of Shri Sandeep Chakravorty, Joint Secretary (Europe West Division), Ministry of External Affairs, H.E. Santosh Jha, Ambassador of India to Belgium along with other dignitaries.

Ambassador François Delhaye in his remarks thanked ICCR for its support in printing the book and highlighted the contribution of the Belgium Archives which provided useful material for research on this project. He further added that he will look forward for a similar travelogue where Indians have travelled to Belgium and shared their experience.

In the vote of thanks, Smt. Sumathi Vasudev, Deputy Director General, ICCR presented her gratitude for the initiative taken by the Belgium Embassy for this project.