

ICCR's activities in November reflected its commitment to cultural diplomacy, global connections, and promoting a deeper appreciation of India's rich cultural heritage. This issue, uncovers ICCR's commitment to global outreach with President Dr. Vinay Sahasrabuddhe's visit to Tanzania and the 'Bharatiyam' initiative across 37 Indian Cultural Centres worldwide, promising a rich people-to-people connect.

## LEVERAGING INDIA'S SOFT POWER STRENGTHS THROUGH NETWORK BUILDING

# Visit of President, ICCR to Tanzania (29-30 November)

President, ICCR, Dr. Vinay Sahasrabuddhe visited Dar es Salaam, Tanzania to launch India Alumni Association (Tanzania chapter) on 29 November 2023. He visited the newly established offshore campus of the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Madras in Zanzibar. During his visit, President, ICCR also engaged with key representatives of the Tanzanian government and Indian diaspora.



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# **Bharatiyam' or ICCR's School Connect Fortnight Programme (Oct- Nov)**

The 'Bharatiyam' or 'ICCR's School Connect Fortnight Programme' was organized from 23 October to 07 November 2023 at 37 Indian Cultural Centres (ICCs) based abroad. This programme aimed to establish a strong connection with local schools, raise awareness about India and its culture among higher-class students, and increase the presence of Indiarelated books in school libraries.

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## **Buddha Bhoomi Vandan Yatra (Oct-Nov)**

**ICCR** has organized 'Buddha Bhoomi Vandana Yatra' programme from 25 October to 03 November 2023 to promote crosscultural understanding and facilitate exploration of India's rich Buddhist heritage. Under this programme, ICCR has invited 23 Buddhist scholars from young Cambodia, Japan, Laos, Malaysia, Mongolia, Nepal, South Korea, Sri Lanka, Taiwan, Thailand and Vietnam.

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#### **Diwali Milan**

On the occasion of Diwali, President, ICCR, Dr. Vinay Sahasrabuddhe hosted 'Diwali Milan' for the diplomatic community based in New Delhi at NGMA, New Delhi on 13 November 2023. The main attraction of the event was a special performance 'Shashrang' by much-celebrated vocalist and music composer from the UT of Jammu & Kashmir, Ustaad Waheed Jeelani & his 15- member group.

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### 7th India-International Folk Festival

The 7th edition of India-International Folk Festival was organized by ICCR in Shillong, Meghalaya from 22-24 November 2023 with participation of international cultural troupes from 7 countries including Russia, Cuba and Vietnam. The Hon'ble Governor of Meghalaya, Shri Phagu Chauhan inaugurated the Festival. In a first, the festival was taken out of Delhi with a view to achieve larger public outreach.

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