

## ORGANIZATION OF THE INDUCTION TRAINING PROGRAMME FOR 36 OFFICER TRAINEES OF THE 2023 BATCH OF INDIAN FOREIGN SERVICE (IFS) AND 2 DIPLOMATS FROM BHUTAN

On February 15, 2024, ICCR organized the Induction Training Programme for 36 Officer Trainees of the 2023 batch of Indian Foreign Service (IFS) and 2 diplomats from Bhutan. During the programme, the officers were provided with an overall perspective on India's cultural diplomacy, ICCR's engagement within India, and its activities abroad carried out by its Cultural Centres and by Missions and Posts.

The Director General of ICCR, Shri Kumar Tuhin addressed the Officer Trainees and highlighted the growing influence of India's soft power globally, and how Indian culture and values open up immense possibilities for India to realize its foreign policy goals. A documentary on India's soft power has also been screened for the trainees to get insights into the diverse elements contributing to India's global influence. In addition, the Deputy Director General of ICCR, Smt. Anju Ranjan and Shri Abhay Kumar briefed the future diplomats on the cultural and academic activities of ICCR.



Apart from that, Mr. Constantino Xavier, Fellow at the Centre for Social and Economic Progress (CSEP), New Delhi, and ICCR Distinguished Alumni Awardee, has had an interactive session on the 'Role of ICCR and its Scholarship Programme'. He highlighted the importance of scholarships being offered by the ICCR to foreign nationals and how they have helped foster cultural exchange, academic collaboration, and lifelong connections between India and other countries.

To provide a deeper understanding of Indian classical dance forms, their intricate techniques, and expressive storytelling, a lecture demonstration by Ms. Shreyasi Gopinath has also been organized. Ms. Gopinath is a Bharatanatyam dancer, teacher, and choreographer based in New Delhi. She is a recipient of various awards including the Nritya Mani by the Government of Odisha and the Rukmini Devi Smriti Samman from Chhattisgarh's AIDA Nrithyathi Kalakshetram.

