

VISIT OF MS. RENÉ MERCEDES BAPTISTE, SPEAKER OF THE ORGANIZATION OF EASTERN CARIBBEAN STATES (OECS) PARLIAMENT AND FORMER CABINET MINISTER OF GOVERNMENT OF SAINT VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES, TO INDIA UNDER THE ICCR'S DISTINGUISHED VISITORS PROGRAMME (DVP)

ICCR hosted Ms. René Mercedes Baptiste, Speaker of the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) Parliament and former Cabinet Minister of the Government of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines under its Distinguished Visitors Programme (DVP) from March 19-27, 2024.

Under the DVP, ICCR invites distinguished personalities from foreign countries to visit India in order to promote people-to-people connections and showcase the rich cultural heritage and democratic traditions of India.

Ms. René Mercedes Baptiste is a barrister at law, a solicitor, and a certified mediator. She has been practicing law since 1976. Ms. Baptiste served as the Minister of Tourism and Culture, Government of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines from 2003-05. She was re-elected in 2005 for a second term and served as the innovative Minister of Urban Development, Culture, Labor and Electoral Affairs until 2010.



During her visit to India, she had several meetings with the people holding key positions, including the Chief Justice of India, Shri D.Y. Chandrachud, Minister of State for External Affairs and Culture, Smt. Meenakshi Lekhi. Director General, ICCR, Shri Kumar Tuhin had an interaction over dinner with her which was also attended by select member from legal area. Ms. Baptiste also held discussions with senior government officials of the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology and Health and Family Welfare.

Apart from that, she met the Vice Chancellor of the National Law University (NLU), Dr. G.S. Bajpai, Dean, Faculty of Law, University of Delhi, Dr. Anju Vali Tikoo, and Director, All India Institute of Ayurveda, Prof. Tanuja Nesari, in New Delhi. She also delivered an insightful lecture titled 'Exploring Our Cultural Roots and Heritage: The Journey of Discovery' to the students of NLU, New Delhi.

