

New Delhi, 11 November 2024: The Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) marked the 136th birth anniversary of its founder, Maulana Abul Kalam Azad, with profound tributes and heartfelt celebrations. Revered as a luminary of India's freedom struggle and the first Education Minister of independent India, Maulana Azad's enduring legacy continues to illuminate the Council's mission of cultural diplomacy and international goodwill.

The day began with a gathering at ICCR headquarters, where Deputy Director General Smt. Anju Ranjan and Council personnel paid homage to Maulana Azad's remarkable contributions. A solemn floral tribute followed at Maulana Azad's Mazar near Jama Masjid, where senior ICCR officials laid a ceremonial *chadar* in his honour, reaffirming their commitment to his visionary ideals.

Born on 11 November 1888, Maulana Azad was a scholar, poet, and statesman whose legacy goes beyond generations. As a key architect of India's educational and cultural policies, his vision gave birth to ICCR in 1950, establishing it as a beacon of India's global cultural influence. The Council stands as a testament to Maulana Azad's belief by supporting the arts and building cultural connections worldwide.

