



ICCR NEWSLETTER

ICCR'S NOVEMBER HIGHLIGHTS: A MONTH OF LEADERSHIP, LEGACY, AND CULTURAL DIPLOMACY

November was a month of cultural transitions and celebrations at the Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR), where leadership met legacy under the guidance of its new Director General, Mrs. K. Nandini Singla. Embodying its vision of "Bridging Worlds, Building Friendships," the Council hosted a landmark dialogue to deepen India-Vietnam cultural ties and celebrated global camaraderie by honoring Ms. Masako Satou with the Bharat Mitra Samman for her enduring commitment to Indian art and heritage. The month's symphony of cultures resonated further with a profound exploration of India-Russia relations through Gagananchal magazine, the spirited melodies of the 8th India International Folk Festival, and a heartfelt tribute to Maulana Abul Kalam Azad on his 136th birth anniversary. November showcased ICCR's dedication to weaving cultural narratives that goes beyond borders.

Mrs. K. Nandini Singla Steps Into Leadership as ICCR's New Director General



On November 21, 2024, the Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) welcomed Mrs. K. Nandini Singla as its new Director General. A seasoned diplomat with nearly three decades in the Indian Foreign Service, Mrs. Singla brings extensive expertise in international relations and cultural diplomacy, having previously served as India's High Commissioner to Mauritius. She succeeds Shri Kumar Tuhin, under whose leadership ICCR achieved significant milestones in fostering cross-cultural collaborations. Mrs. Singla's vast experience is expected to guide ICCR in its mission to showcase India's rich heritage and nurture global cultural connections.

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Strengthening India-Vietnam Cultural Ties: A Landmark Dialogue at ICCR

ICCR hosted Mrs. Nguyen Thi Thu Ha, Vice President-General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Vietnam Fatherland Front and a member of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Vietnam, at its New Delhi headquarters, reaffirming the deep cultural ties between India and Vietnam. Welcomed by Acting Director General Shri Rajeev Kumar, discussions focused on enhancing bilateral collaboration rooted in shared traditions like Buddhism. Key initiatives include the Swami Vivekananda Cultural Centre in Hanoi, scholarships for Vietnamese students, cultural delegations, and iconic performances at ASEAN festivals. Future plans, such as Buddhist exhibitions and participation in ICCR's flagship events, promise to deepen this bond further, highlighting ICCR's commitment to cultural diplomacy and mutual understanding.



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A Cultural Confluence: Delving into India-Russia Relations through Gagananchal



ICCR has released Gagananchal Volume 47, Issue 3 (May–June 2024), focusing on the cultural and historical connections between India and Russia. This special edition delves into centuries-old ties, offering fresh perspectives, rare insights, and analyses of the cultural intersections between the two nations. Renowned for its thoughtful narratives and striking visuals, Gagananchal continues to promote India's soft power and foster global cultural dialogue, making it a must-read for scholars and enthusiasts alike.

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ICCR Confers Bharat Mitra Samman on Ms. Masako Satou: A Journey of Art, Culture, and Friendship



On November 8, 2024, ICCR honoured Ms. Masako Satou with the Bharat Mitra Samman—Distinguished Alumni Award 2022 at the Embassy of India in Tokyo. Presented by Indian Ambassador to Japan, Mr. Sibi George, the award celebrated Ms. Satou's remarkable contributions to Kathak dance and cultural exchange. An ICCR alumna and disciple of Pt. Birju Maharaj, Ms. Satou trained at Kathak Kendra and Kalashram, New Delhi, before establishing the Miyabi Kathak Dance Academy in Tokyo. Her work has strengthened India-Japan cultural ties, reflecting ICCR's mission to promote global connections through the arts.

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Folk Culture Comes Alive and Hearts Unite at ICCR's 8th India International Folk Festival



The Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) hosted the 8th India International Folk Festival on November 26-27, 2024, at Kamani Auditorium, New Delhi. Featuring folk performances from Colombia, Sri Lanka, Slovakia, and Iraq, the festival celebrated cultural harmony and paid tribute to the 150th birth anniversary of Bhagwan Birsa Munda. Inaugurated by Union Minister Shri Pabitra Margherita and graced by Mrs. K. Nandini Singla, Director General, ICCR, the event highlighted India's tribal legacy while fostering global cultural ties.

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ICCR Celebrates Maulana Abul Kalam Azad's 136th Birth Anniversary



On 11 November 2024, the Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) commemorated the 136th birth anniversary of its founder, Maulana Abul Kalam Azad, with a series of heartfelt tributes. The day began at the ICCR headquarters, where Deputy Director General Smt. Anju Ranjan, along with the Council staff, paid homage to Maulana Azad's contributions to India's educational and cultural legacy. A floral tribute was also held at his Mazar near Jama Masjid, where senior officials laid a ceremonial *chadar* in his honour.

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