

STRENGTHENING INDIA-VIETNAM CULTURAL TIES: A LANDMARK DIALOGUE AT ICCR



The Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) was privileged to host 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 headquarters in New Delhi. Welcomed warmly by Acting Director General Shri Rajeev Kumar, the visit highlighted the enduring cultural bond between India and Vietnam, rooted in shared traditions and values.

Discussions centered on enhancing bilateral cultural collaboration, emphasizing the historical ties between the two nations. Buddhism, a shared spiritual foundation, has been pivotal in knitting these countries closer over centuries. ICCR continues to strengthen this relationship through dynamic initiatives, including the Swami Vivekananda Cultural Centre (SVCC) in Hanoi, which promotes Indian culture, inspiring Vietnamese audiences since 2016.

ICCR also facilitates academic and cultural exchanges with scholarships like the Atal Bihari Vajpayee General Scholarship Scheme and the Dr. S. Radhakrishnan Cultural Exchange Scholarship Scheme, offering opportunities for Vietnamese students to connect with Indian traditions and knowledge system. Cultural delegations, performances at prestigious festivals like ASEAN Cultural Festivals and Namaste Vietnam, and symbolic gestures such as the installation of Rabindranath Tagore's bust in 2022 further deepen ties.

In the coming years, proposed exhibitions on Buddhism and the participation of Vietnamese scholars in ICCR's flagship global conferences on Indic studies, promise to enhance collaboration.

This engaging visit by Mrs. Nguyen Thi Thu Ha further solidifies ICCR's commitment to strengthening cultural diplomacy with Vietnam. As both nations move forward, these initiatives will undoubtedly enhance mutual understanding and cooperation, celebrating the shared ethos that binds them.

