



Indian Council for Cultural Relations

**PRESS RELEASE**

**ICCR Joins Hands with MEA for the First-Ever BIMSTEC  
Traditional Music Festival in New Delhi**

**SaptaSur: Seven Nations, One Melody**

The Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR), under the aegis of the Ministry of External Affairs, is set to host the first-ever BIMSTEC Traditional Music Festival on Monday, 4 August 2025, at 6:30 PM at the Plenary Hall, Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi. Dr. S. Jaishankar, External Affairs Minister of India, will grace the event as the Chief Guest. This inaugural edition marks a significant cultural milestone in BIMSTEC cooperation, offering a shared stage for artists from Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Myanmar, Nepal, Sri Lanka, and Thailand to explore and celebrate their distinct musical traditions in dialogue with one another, rightfully called '*SaptaSur: Seven Nations, One Melody*'.

The genesis of this cultural initiative can be traced to Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's affirmation at the BIMSTEC Summit in Thailand on 4<sup>th</sup> April 2025 of India's commitment to strengthening regional cultural ties through music by hosting the first BIMSTEC Traditional Music Festival in India.

The evening will feature a remarkable line-up of seven ensembles, each showcasing the musical identity of its country. From Sri Lanka, the 'State Dance Ensemble' will present traditional percussion rhythms, while Dorji Tenzin & Sonam Yangzom with Ensemble from Bhutan will offer poetic chants and folk melodies. Bangladesh's 'Mon Kuthuri' will bring the soulful sounds of Bangladesh, and 'Kutumba' from Nepal will present vibrant native folk music. A troupe from Myanmar's National University of Arts and Culture will showcase the grace of traditional Burmese music, and Thailand's 'SUN DER' will blend Isaan folk with modern energy. Representing India, the specially curated 'String of the World' ensemble, led by the renowned violinist Shri Sharat Chandra Srivastava, will form the melodic thread uniting the evening – '*SaptaSur: Seven Nations, One Melody*'.

Prior to the Concert, all artists will participate in a three-day workshop (31 July-2 August 2025) at ICCR's Rabindranath Tagore Centre in Kolkata, under Shri Sharat Chandra Srivastava's direction, culminating in a collaborative musical piece that embodies BIMSTEC's cultural vision.

The event is free and open to all, welcoming audience from all walks of life to enjoy this extraordinary evening of cultural connections. Seating is available on a 'first-come, first-serve basis', and guests are requested to be seated by 6:00 PM. Entry is through Gate No. 10 or Gate No. 7 at Bharat Mandapam (nearest metro station: Supreme Court).

Join us as ICCR brings seven nations together to celebrate music in a shared language of peace and partnership - where seven cultures resonate as one.

New Delhi | 29<sup>th</sup> July 2025