

**Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR)**  
**Azad Bhavan, I P Estate, New Delhi – 110002**

**Press Release**

**75th Foundation Day Celebrations of the ICCR**

The Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) is celebrating its 75th Foundation Day on April 9, 2024. ICCR, since its inception, has been at the forefront of promoting cultural exchange and fostering global understanding.

ICCR was founded in 1950 by independent India's first Education Minister, Maulana Abul Kalam Azad, with the objective of fostering and strengthening cultural relations and mutual understanding between India and the world, and to promote cultural exchanges with other countries and people. In these last 75 years, ICCR has emerged as the 'soft power' arm of the Ministry of External Affairs through an array of well-designed and targeted programmes.

A wide range of ICCR's cultural, academic and intellectual exchanges and promotion of India's culture abroad encompass various outreach activities through its 37 cultural centres abroad and 11 regional offices within India, including Indian art, history, oral traditions, dance, music, yoga, languages, food, festivals and contemporary issues.

The main attraction of the Foundation Day celebrations will be 'Arindam', an art exhibition on Ramayan under ICCR's 'Year of Connecting the World through Ramayan – 2024', and an ensemble of 15 winners of the 2nd edition of the Pratibha Sangam Competition 2023 from 7 countries (Russia, Sri Lanka, Japan, UK, Malaysia, USA and Netherlands) along with ICCR's foreign students. Smt. Meenakashi Lekhi, Union Minister of State for External Affairs and Culture, will grace the occasion as the Chief Guest.

As the ICCR completes 75 years of its establishment, its Director General, Shri Kumar Tuhin, said, "While commemorating the 75th Foundation Day of the ICCR, we reaffirm our commitment for promoting cultural exchange and building bridges of understanding between nations. Through our diverse programmes, we aim to celebrate the richness of Indian culture while fostering dialogue and cooperation on a global scale."

The 75th Foundation Day celebrations reflect ICCR's rich legacy and continued commitment to the promotion of Indian soft power.

**New Delhi**

**April 9, 2024**