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भारतीय सांस्कृतिक संबंध परिषद
Indian Council For Cultural Relations

ICCR in Australia Newsletter Swami Vivekananda Cultural Centre February 2025



I. Director's Desk

Namaste and Greetings from the Swami Vivekananda Cultural Centre. The National Multicultural Festival in Canberra with the High Commission of India in Australia and Swami Vivekananda Cultural Centre was a wonderful way of showcasing India's rich heritage as a part of Australia's multicultural society.

In the cinema space, the Consulate General of India, Sydney and the Centre collaborated on the National Indian Film Festival of Australia in Sydney and Adelaide. The Consulate and the Centre also partnered with the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, National Films Division Corporation, Riverside Theatre Parramatta, and Cinema Reborn to organise 'Parallel Cinema of India' to showcase the artistic work of Mrinal Sen and Mani Kaul. This was followed by a stimulating panel discussion on the value of 'Parallel Cinema'. With the amazing Indian visual artists aka Murthovic and Thiruda from 'Elsewhere in India', the Consulate and the Centre participated at the Adelaide Fringe and hosted a workshop. Vishwa Hindi Diwas and Maha Kumbh were also celebrated during the month at the Centre.

To know more about what we do, please connect with us 'ICCR in Australia' on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and LinkedIn.



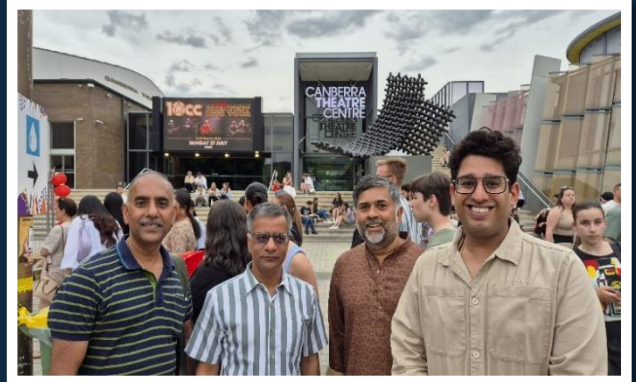
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II. Activities

- The High Commission of India in Australia, Canberra, and Swami Vivekananda Cultural Centre, in association with the Federation of Indian Association of the ACT Inc. (FINACT) represented India's rich cultural heritage in the National Multicultural Festival from 7 February 2025 to 9 February 2025 in Canberra. The festival comprised of dance, music and art and facilitated a unique experience of Australia's multicultural heritage. The festival was a rich tapestry of cultures from around the world with over 170 multicultural communities, more than 270 stalls and 200 performances were presented during the festival.



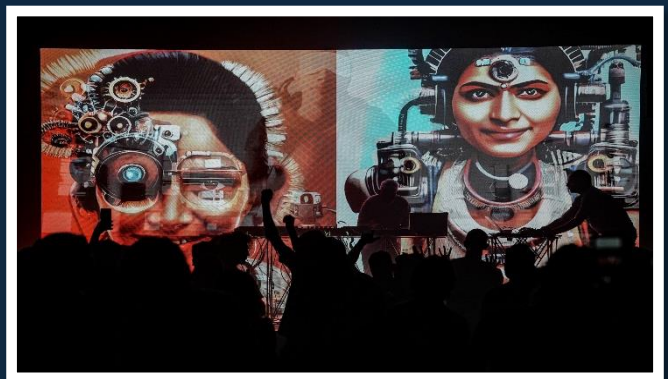
National Multicultural Festival, Canberra



- The Consulate General of India, Sydney and Swami Vivekananda Cultural Centre in association with the National Film Development Corporation of India (NFDC), Australian Centre for Indian Cinema and Dendy Cinema, NSW organised the National Indian Film Festival of Australia (NIFFA) on 13 February 2025. The opening red carpet was held on the occasion, followed by the Premiere of the feature film - Superboys of Malegaon. The event was attended by more than 100 prominent community members and dignitaries. The film festival showed more than 35 films in different languages.

National Indian Film Festival of Australia (NIFFA)

- The Consulate General of India, Sydney and Swami Vivekananda Cultural Centre collaborated with the Adelaide Fringe Festival. The Indian duo, Murthovic and Thiruda, combine 3D video games, AI-generated art, motion-captured dance, and futuristic Indian stories from 2079 AD. They also intertwine heritage, science, and society through electro-classical dance music. Pioneering Indian transmedia artists Murthovic and Thiruda push digital storytelling and cultural preservation boundaries, blending technology with traditional Indian aesthetics.



Elsewhere in India, the remix of art and AI at Adelaide



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- Consulate General of India, Sydney and Swami Vivekananda Cultural Centre collaborated with the South Asian Australian Hindi School for the celebrations of Vishwa Hindi Divas 2025 at Parramatta West Public School on 23 February 2025. The event comprised poems and talks from experts. Various competitions such as the Parent and



the Children Poetry and Essay Competition via Video blogging on the topic 'Celebrating Indian Festivals in Australia' and on-the-spot poetry competition on the topic 'Ocean that connects two countries were organised to encourage participants. Winners of the competitions - Suyash Gupta, Palak Arora and Vedang Srivastav were felicitated on the occasion. Director SVCC Ms. Niyati Mehta and Clr Sandy Reddy – Strathfield Council were present at the event as a guest of honour and felicitated winners of the competitions.

Vishwa Hindi Divas 2025 with South Asian Australian Association Hindi School

- The Consulate General of India, Sydney and Swami Vivekananda Cultural Centre in association with Hindu Council of Australia organised a community gathering 'Sacred Waters' to underpin the significance of Maha Kumbh 2025 in Indian Culture. Prominent community members shared their experiences of the Kumbh Mela. Additionally, an expert of Tamilian cultural studies Mr. Annamalai was invited to address the gathering on Kashi Tamil Sangamam 3.0.

Sacred Waters & Kashi Tamil Sangamam 3.0



Elsewhere in India – A workshop for aspirant artists at the Centre

- The Consulate General of India, Sydney and Swami Vivekananda Cultural Centre in association with Antariksha Studio organised an interesting and interactive workshop demo and performance titled 'Elsewhere in India'. The remix with a millennium of cultural heritage, 3D art, AI, motion-captured dance, and archival footage made it a unique event. It also showed the immense potential for AI to preserve cultural heritage. Murthovic and Thiruda created a mesmerising performance during the event.



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Parallel Cinema of India

- The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, National Film Development Corporation, the Consulate General of India Sydney and the Swami Vivekananda Cultural Centre collaborated with Riverside Theatre Parramatta, and Cinema Reborn to organise 'Parallel Cinema of India'. The event was inaugurated on 28 February 2025 at the Riverside Theatre Parramatta. The Consul General gave the welcome address along with Mr Craig McMaster, Director Riverside Theatres. Councillor Sreeni Pillamarri represented the Lord Mayor's office and spoke about the importance of Parallel Cinema and hosting an event in Paramatta for the community. Screening of the cinematically beautiful feature film 'Suddenly One Day' by the acclaimed Indian director Mrinal Sen was shown. The India Australia Co-Production Agreement was also touched upon. On the second day, the artistic feature film 'Duvidha' by the acclaimed Indian director, Mani Kaul was shown. This was followed by a stimulating panel discussion with Ms. Adrienne McKibbon, Ms Aparjita Sarcar, Ms. Emie Roy, Mr. Partho Sen-Gupta and Mr. James Vaughan on the contribution, significance and scope of the Parallel Cinema.

III. Invites



The Consul General and Director, SVCC was present for the celebrations of 9th Pongal at the Parliament of New South Wales organised by the Tamil Arts and Culture Association. Dr S. Janakiraman, Consul General of India gave the welcome address.

Pongal at the New South Wales Parliament



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- Director SVCC was present as a guest of honour for the celebration of International Mother Tongue Day organised by Gujarati Brahman Samaj of NSW Inc. The event aimed to enhance awareness about the mother tongue in the second generation of the Indian diaspora in Sydney.

International Mother Tongue Day



Upcoming Events

- The Consulate General of India, Sydney, Swami Vivekananda Cultural Centre in association with the Australian Hindi Indian Association (AHIA), NSW will be celebrating Holi 2025, on March 2, 2025, at Harvey Lowe Pavilion, Castle Hill.

EMBRACE THE COLOURS OF HOLI 2025

Celebrate Holi with the Consulate General of India Sydney, Swami Vivekananda Culture Centre and the Australian Hindi Indian Association (AHIA).

Date : Sunday, 2 March 2025 10.30am to 2.30pm

Venue:
Harvey Lowe Pavilion,
Doran Drive, Castle Hill
(Next to Castle Hill Showground main arena)

RSVP is necessary on ahiaholi@ahiainc.com.au

ADELAIDE WRITERS' WEEK WW

THE 40TH ADELAIDE WRITERS' WEEK FEATURES OVER 230 WRITERS ACROSS MORE THAN 151 SESSIONS, INCLUDING 11 TICKETED EVENTS AT ADELAIDE TOWN HALL AND THE DRILL HALL AT THE TORRENS PARADE GROUND. THIS YEAR'S THEME IS WORDS MATTER. WRITERS FROM INDIA ARE ALSO PARTICIPATING.

ADELAIDE WRITERS' WEEK BY NUMBERS:

- 6 DAYS
- 231 WRITERS, 37 INTERNATIONALS LIVE AND LIVESTREAMED
- 140 FREE SESSIONS AND 11 TICKETED EVENTS
- 8 PODCAST SESSIONS
- SCHOOLS DAY

DATE: 1 MARCH TO 6 MARCH 2025

VENUE: PIONEER WOMEN'S MEMORIAL GARDEN, KING WILLIAM ST, ADELAIDE


- The Consulate General of India, Sydney and the Swami Vivekananda Cultural Centre will be partnering with Adelaide Writer's Week in the first week of March 2025. With over more than 230 literary artists participating in the week including from India, it promises to be a stimulating week.



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- The poster features a vibrant, abstract background with a large, stylized image of a tabla. At the top, there are three logos: the Borekondale logo on the left, the Government of India emblem in the center, and the Melbourne International Festival of Hindustani Classical Music logo on the right. The main title is prominently displayed in the upper middle section. Below the title, the date and venue are listed. A central orange band contains the names of the performers and their instruments. The bottom section is divided into two rows of performer photos, with a QR code and contact information on the left, and the organizing society's name and logo on the right.
- Melbourne International Festival of Hindustani Classical Music**
- www.mhcms.org
- 8-9 March 2025**
- James Tatoulis Auditorium, 207 Barkers Road, Kew
- Shruti Sadolikar Katkar (Vocal) | Indrani Mukherjee (Vocal) |
 Debopriya and Suchismita - Flute Sisters (Flute) |
 Ragini Shankar (Violin) | Ramdas Palsule (Tabla) |
 Vinay Mishra (Harmonium) | Apurba Mukherjee (Tabla) |
- Back Now: Season Pass \$160**
- Organised by:**
- MELBOURNE HINDUSTANI CLASSICAL MUSIC SOCIETY

- 


WOMADelaide
7-10 March 2025



COMPASSATE GENERAL OF NSW
NSW GOVT
SYDNEY



Indian Council for Cultural Relations
संस्कृत विद्यापीठ संघ, नवी दिल्ली



SATISH VYAS & U RAJESH

WOMADelaide
BOTANIC PARK / TAINMUNTILLA
ADELAIDE, SOUTH AUSTRALIA

**SATURDAY 8 MARCH 4:00PM,
BOWEN LAST STAGE 1**

SUNDAY 9 MARCH 4:00PM, STAGE 7

BOOK AT: WOMADelaide.COM.AU

WOMAD Aotearoa
BOWL OF BROOKLANDS PARK
NEW PLYMOUTH, NEW ZEALAND

**SATURDAY 12 MARCH 4:00PM,
BROOKLANDS STAGE**


SUNDAY 14 MARCH 12PM, GABLES STAGE

BOOK AT: WOMAD.CO.NZ


RENOWNED MAESTRO PANDIT SATISH VYAS WAS AN OUTSTANDING REPUTATION AS A SOLOIST ON THE SANTOOR (HAMMERED SUGARMASS). HE HAS BEEN A CONCERT ARTIST FOR MORE THAN 30 YEARS PERFORMING AND RECORDING ALL OVER THE WORLD. IN 1997, HE WAS THE ONLY NON-WESTERN INSTRUMENTALIST TO PLAY AT THE MUTHA WOGAST FESTIVAL IN VIENNA.

UPALAKSH RAJESH IS MANDOLIN MAESTRO IN CARNATIC CLASSICAL MUSIC, WHO IS ONE OF THE MOST SOUGHT-AFTER ARTISTS CURRENTLY PERFORMING IN INDIA. HE HAS PLAYED WITH NEARLY ALL OF THE TOP MUSICAL STARS IN THE COUNTRY AND RECORDED MORE THAN A DOZEN ALBUMS.


BOTH ARTISTS CAME FROM MUSICAL FAMILIES, WHO TAUGHT THEM FROM A YOUNG AGE. SATISH VYAS IS THE SON OF THE LATE PADMA BHUSHAN PANDIT CH VYAS, ONE OF THE MOST RESPECTED VOCALISTS ON THE INDIAN MUSIC SCENE; WHILE RAJESH WAS TUTORED BY HIS FATHER U SATYANARAYANA AND BROTHER U SRIVINAY, WITH WHOM HE PERFORMED AT WOMADelaide 2009. VYAS AND RAJESH WILL PERFORM TOGETHER, ACCOMPANIED BY PERCUSSIONISTS SHAMINATHAN KARUNARAJ AND RUPENDRA SINGH.

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THE UNIVERSITY OF
SYDNEY




CONSULATE GENERAL OF INDIA
SYDNEY



THE NELSON MEERS FOUNDATION
sydney nelsonmeersfoundation.com.au

UNDERSTANDING THE OCEAN THAT CONNECTS US

AN AFTERNOON CONVERSATION ON ACADEMIC RESEARCH ABOUT MARITIME CULTURE BETWEEN INDIA AND AUSTRALIA



This forum will bring together Australian scholars working in India to discuss current research and future strategies about the connections in maritime culture between India and Australia. This includes Indian history, culture, art, languages, archaeology, shared maritime connections and histories, and cultural links with Australia and the Indian-Australian diaspora. In moderated roundtable discussions, the presentations will discuss future directions in research across arts and humanities studies that can enhance the cultural engagement between nations and the next generation of students in both countries.

Presented by the Consulate general of India, Swami Vivekananda Cultural Centre, the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences at the University of Sydney and the Chau Chak Wing Museum.

EVENT DETAILS: PANEL DISCUSSION
DATE: TUESDAY 11 MARCH 2025
TIME: 2:00PM - 5:00PM
LOCATION:
NELSON MEERS FOUNDATION AUDITORIUM

REGISTER HERE:
<https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/understanding-the-ocean-that-connects-us-tickets-1252463228689747?i=000012000000>



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FESTIVAL AT A GLANCE

Cowra Festival of International Understanding
Yindiyangidyal Ngurumbang
GUEST NATION – INDIA
21-23 March 2025

6:30pm Thurs 21 March
Trivia Night
Club Cowra
Up to 10 People per Table \$10 PP
Namaste From Cowra

6:30pm Fri 21st March
Opening Dinner & Youth Ambassador Presentation
Cowra Civic Centre
Featuring special guest performances.
3-course Meal \$80 PP

6:30pm Wed 19 March
Cowra Health Club
Indian Yoga Class
11:00am & 1:00pm
Fri 21 March
Rangoli Workshops

9:30am Sat 22nd March
FREE PLANTING CEREMONY
Squigum Park
11:00am
Sat 22nd March
COWRA PEACE BELL RINGING
Civic Square

12:00pm Sat 22nd March
FESTIVAL PARADE
Kondal Street
1:00pm Sat 22nd March
Carnival Twigg Oval

10:00am Sun 23rd March
India Vs Australia
Cricket match
Olive Oval

1:00 - 5:00pm CARNIVAL
Saturday 22nd March
Twigg Oval (next to Cowra Aquatic Centre)

12:00 Acknowledgement of Country & Welcome Dance
1:00 CDF Ready Set Dance
1:30 Karika & The Funksters
1:54 CMC Ineson
2:05 Silas & Dax

2:30 Subotic Institute of Dance
3:35 Truck Race & Prize Presentation
3:55 Swazik Institute of Dance
4:15 Curry Making Competition & Judging
4:30 Karika & The Funksters

Share, Dine & Celebrate! Hosted by the Cowra Youth Council. Curry making competition hosted by the festival youth ambassadors. carnival, peace bell ringing, and lots of stalls.

This Program is subject to change

facebook.com/cowrafestival

Indian movie screenings: Check out the website for more details!

Use the QR Code below for more festival information, tickets & entries

➤ The High Commission of India, Canberra, Consulate General of India, Sydney, and Swami Vivekananda Cultural Centre in association with Cowra City Council is organising 'Festival of International Understanding' from 21 March to 23 March 2025. The event comprises a Rangoli workshop, yoga session, Tree plantation ceremony, festival parade, carnival, Indian classical music, dance, curry-making competition and cricket game between India and Australia. Enjoy the day at Cowra with family and friends.

NIDA

THE WORKSHOP AIMS TO FAMILIARIZE PARTICIPANTS WITH MARATHI THEATRE, FOCUSING ON THE GROUNDBREAKING PLAY JAANTA RAJA. THIS PRODUCTION IS A SIGNIFICANT MILESTONE IN MARATHI THEATRE, TRANSFORMING THE TRADITIONAL INDOOR THEATRE FORMAT INTO AN OPEN-AIR SPECTACLE.

VENUE: NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF DRAMATIC ART, NIDA
DATE: 7 MARCH 2025 (FRIDAY)
TIME: 2:00 PM ONWARDS

FOR NIDA FACULTY, ALUMNI AND STUDENT ONLY

IV. Contact Us

Ms Niyati Mehta

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