



ICCR

भारतीय सांस्कृतिक संबंध परिषद
Indian Council For Cultural Relations



Swami Vivekananda Cultural Centre, Sydney
स्वामी विवेकानंद सांस्कृतिक केंद्र, सिडनी

ICCR in Australia Newsletter Swami Vivekananda Cultural Centre January 2025



I. Director's Desk

Namaste and Greetings from the Swami Vivekananda Cultural Centre. We wish you a very Happy 2025. The year has begun with a wonderful start as we celebrated Vishwa Hindi Divas and Pravasi Bharatiya Divas at the Centre and our 76th Republic Day. India's theme this Republic Day was 'Swarnim Bharat- Virasat aur Vikas' (Golden India – Heritage and Development), highlighting our rich cultural legacy while celebrating its continuous path of progress and growth. Our partnership for 'Steps of Unity' on Indian dances in an Australian landscape is a beautiful video on 'Vande Mataram'. We at the Centre continue to explore new ideas, create partnerships and build cultural relations between India and Australia. Do join us this February for an exciting array of events from the National Indian Film Festival of Australia with National Film Development Corporation of India in Sydney and Adelaide with Australian Centre for Indian Cinema to cultural futurism with Elsewhere in India at the Adelaide Fringe, and from 'Indian Parallel Cinema' with Riverside Theatres and Cinema Reborn to Vishwa Hindi Divas in the Paramatta community. There is also an announcement of 100 prestigious ICCR - Lata Mangeshkar Scholarships in the cultural space later this month. To know more about what we do, please connect with us 'ICCR in Australia' on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and LinkedIn.

II. Activities



The Consulate General of India Sydney and the Swami Vivekananda Cultural Centre had a wonderful celebration for Pravasi Bharatiya Divas and Vishwa Hindi Diwas 2025 on 9 January 2025. The Hon'ble External Affairs Minister's address was screened on the occasion. Pravasi Bharatiya Samman Awardees, Mr. Neville Roach and Ms. Mala Mehta shared their views.

Pravasi Bhartiya Diva- Speech by Dr. S. Jaishankar – Hon'ble Minister of External Affairs

For Vishwa Hindi Divas, we had various competitions such as Video blogging on 'Why I Love India' and a Parent – Child competition to encourage and share the beauty of the Hindi language. The winners of the competitions were Ms. Myra Kumar and Ms. Ruchika Sharma (Parents – Child competition of poetry recitation), Ms. Aanika Sharma, Mr. Advait Kulkarni, and Mr. Shivaansh Chowdhury (theme-based video blogging competition). Students for their outstanding performance in Hindi were also felicitated. The Consul General congratulated Ms. Sannah Mahajan, Ms. Bianca Goel, Mr. Advait Kulkarni, Mr. Ahaan Dani, and Ms. Myra Kumar.



Address by Consul General Dr. S. Janakiraman on the occasion of Pravasi Bharatiya Divas 2025

The event played an instrumental role in enhancing awareness about the Hindi language especially among the next generation of Indians in Sydney and encouraged them to pursue their love for the language.

Celebrations and felicitation at Vishwa Hindi Divas



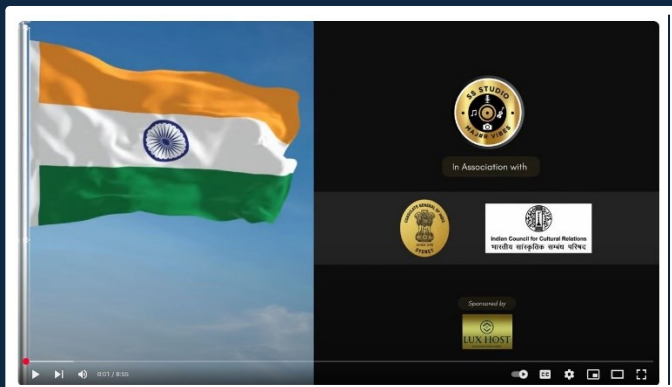
The Consulate General of India Sydney and Swami Vivekananda Cultural Centre in association with the Indian Cultural Association organised the Kite Flying Festival 2025 at Castle Hill Showgrounds on 25 January 2025. The Hon'ble Ray Williams, Member of Parliament of NSW, Hon'ble Mark Hodges Member of Parliament of NSW, Dr. Michelle Byrne, Mayor of Hills Shire Council and Deputy Mayor Frank De Masi of Hills Shire Council as well as Director SVCC were

present among the dignitaries. The festival was celebrated with family and friends, good food and colourful kites in all sizes and shapes, soared the sky.

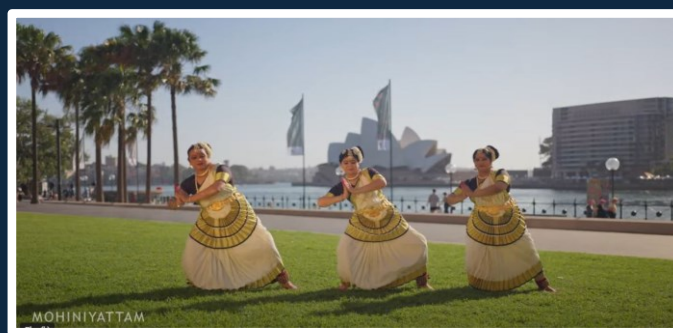
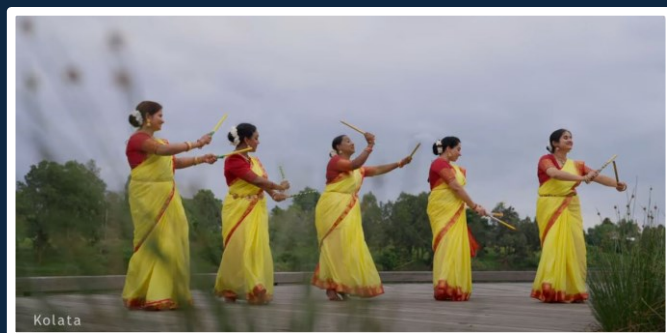


Kite Festival 2025 at Castle Hill Showground

'Steps of Unity - Vande Mataram' is a beautiful video on the Indian Dance heritage in an Australian landscape. Director SVCC was present as a guest of honour for the official launch of the video. Curated and created by Mr Sajan Raj of SS Studio and Ms Nisha Mannath, the visuals depict the rich cultural dance heritage of India in Australia.



Steps of Unity - Vande Mataram - Indian Dance Heritage in Australia - Republic Day Tribute



Link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r2bJcfByUdY>



The Consulate General of India, Sydney and Swami Vivekananda Cultural Centre celebrated the 76th Republic Day of India at the Centre. The event comprised of flag hoisting, the National anthem and narration of the president's speech by the Consul General of India in Sydney Dr. S. Janakiraman. The theme this Republic Day 2025 in India was 'Swarnim Bharat- Virasat aur Vikas' (Golden India – Heritage and Development), highlighting India's rich cultural legacy while celebrating its continuous path of growth and modernisation.

Flag hoisting on Republic Day of India

III. Invites

Director SVCC attended the launch of the epic Marathi play 'Jaanta Raja'. The play is based on the life of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj and is scheduled for August 2025 in Sydney. It will also be a wonderful opportunity for Indian and local artists to work together.



Launch of Janata Raja – Marathi Play based on the life of Chhatrapati Shri Shivaji Maharaj



IV. Upcoming Events

➤ 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), will represent India's rich cultural heritage in the National Multicultural Festival from 7 February 2025 to 9 February 2025 in Canberra. The festival is an iconic 3-day event in Canberra that brings together more than 170 multicultural communities to share their culture, history and heritage through food, art, song and dance.

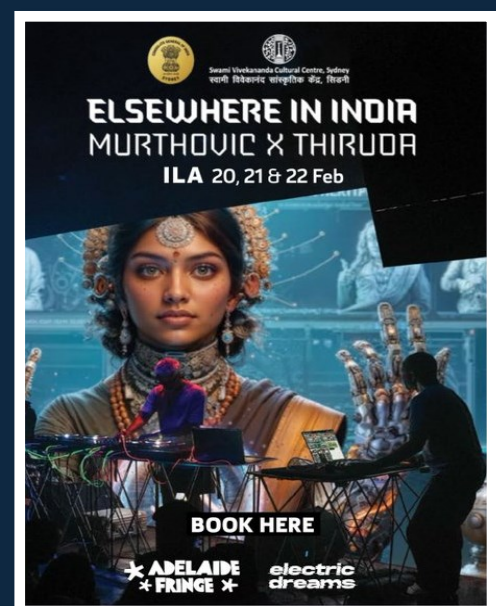
- The Consulate General of India, Sydney and Swami Vivekananda Cultural Centre in association with the National Film Development Corporation of India (NFDC), Australian Centre for Indian Cinema and Dendy Cinema, NSW is participating in the National Indian Film Festival of Australia from in Sydney and Adelaide.



- The Centre is pleased to announce the prestigious 100 ICCR - Lata Mangeskar Scholarship in Dance and Music for pursuing study of Indian Culture in fields such as dance, music, theatre, performing arts, sculpture, Indian languages, Indian cuisine and other areas for Indian Universities/Institutes for the Academic Year 2024- 25. Applications from interested international students for the academic year 2024-25 are invited online through ICCR's A2A Scholarship portal from 20 February.

<http://a2ascholarships.iccr.gov.in>

- Swami Vivekananda Cultural Centre in association with the Consulate General of India, Sydney is participating at the Adelaide Fringe for 'Elsewhere in India'. The Indian duo, Murthovic x 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.





➤ The Consulate General of India, Sydney and Swami Vivekananda Cultural Centre in association with the South Asian Australian Association Hindi School celebrating Vishwa Hindi Divas 2025 with exciting competitions such as the 'On the Spot Hindi Poem Competition', 'parent-child poetry/prose competition' and other cultural activities in the community to encourage the Hindi language.

➤ The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, the National Film Development Corporation of India, the Consulate General of India Sydney and Swami Vivekananda Cultural Centre in partnership with Riverside Theatres and Cinema Reborn is organising the Indian Film Festival 'Indian Parallel Cinema' at the Riverside Theatre' on 28 February and 1 March.



V. Contact Us

Ms Niyati Mehta
Director,
Swami Vivekananda Cultural Centre,
Consulate General of India,
265, Castlereagh Street, Sydney, NSW 2000.
Tel: +61 - (02)-9223-2702
Contact us on cul.sydney@mea.gov.in
Webpage: <https://www.cgisidney.gov.in/svcc>
Facebook: ICCR in Australia
Twitter @ICCR_Australia
Instagram @ICCR_Australia