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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 October 2024



I. Director's Desk

Namaste and Greetings from the Swami Vivekananda Cultural Centre. We wish you a very Happy Diwali. October has been a busy month! It began with the Consulate General of India Melbourne and the Swami Vivekananda Cultural Centre collaborated at the Melbourne Fringe for 'Two Worlds Collide'. The Consulate General of India Sydney and the Swami Vivekananda Cultural Centre along with Five Pleats by Poornima Menon participated at the Fabric of Modern Australia (FOMA). Along with the Australia India Business Council, we participated at SXSW Sydney on two sessions – 'Culture & Technology Intersection - Scaling opportunities across India and Australia' and 'Indian Fashion in Western Cultures'. We also partnered for the Indian showcase at 'Sculpture by the Sea', the world's largest free to the public sculpture exhibition in Sydney. The Festival of Lights was celebrated in partnership with the Powerhouse Museum in Castle Hill and the Art Gallery of New South Wales. The enthusiastic participation of a multicultural audience made it very festive. We also celebrated Ayurveda Day. We were happy to share books on India's rich art and culture with Cumberland City Council and Blacktown City Council. To know more about our events, please connect with us 'ICCR in Australia' on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.

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II. Activities



The Consulate General of India Melbourne and the Swami Vivekananda Cultural Centre with Ms. Nandita Chakraborty participated in 'Two World Collide' at the prestigious Melbourne Fringe Festival.

Melbourne Fringe Festival

The Consulate General of India Sydney and the Swami Vivekananda Cultural Centre with Five Pleats by Poornima Menon participated at the Fabric of Modern Australia (FOMA). Beautiful Indian textiles were displayed at the Exhibition and trendy Indian fashions highlighted on the runway.

Participation at Fabric of Modern Australia (FOMA) Photo credit: FOMA



Inauguration of New India House at SXSW by the Consul General and Director SVCC participated on the panel 'Culture & Technology Intersection - Scaling opportunities across India and Australia'

We collaborated with the Australia India Business Council (AIBC) to participate at SXSW Sydney. Consul General Dr S Janakiraman inaugurated New India House at SXSW. Ms. Niyati Mehta, Director of Swami Vivekananda Cultural Centre participated in the panel discussion on 'Culture & Technology Intersection - Scaling opportunities across India and Australia'.

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Director of the Centre shared insights on the India Australia fashion and textile space in the panel 'Indian Fashion in Western Cultures'.



Panel Discussion at SXSW on 'Indian Fashion in Western Cultures'



The world's largest free to the public sculpture exhibition, 'Sculpture by the Sea' was held from 18 October 2024 to 4 November 2024 at the picturesque Bondi Beach in Sydney. The Consulate General of India Sydney and the Swami Vivekananda Cultural Centre collaborated for the India Showcase. The High Commissioner of India in Canberra, Shri Gopal Baglay appreciated the works of Indian and international artists. Director SVCC attended the Preview Opening and participated in the Media launch. Team member, Mr Vishwajit Marathe also attended.

'Sculpture by the Sea'

From textiles to cuisine, Director and SVCC team member coordinated with Cumberland City Council to share books on India's art and culture with the eight libraries within the Council and presented them at Merrylands Library.

Sharing books on India's art and culture with Merrylands Library





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We collaborated with the Powerhouse Museum in Castle Hill to celebrate Diwali. It was a wonderful day of Diwali celebrations with family, friends and the community. It is in this diversity of celebration – with music, rangoli, dance, storytelling - that makes our culture so vibrant! Thank you to Karpahavalli Music Academy, Nryyam Sydney Dance Studio, Kalashree Dance Institute, Kiyara Dance Academy, and Ms Sandhya Srinivasan and team, and author, Ms Susanne Gervay OAM for partnering with us.

Diwali celebrations at Powerhouse Museum Castle Hill Photo credit: Powerhouse Museum

The Consulate General of India Sydney and the Swami Vivekananda Cultural Centre celebrated Ayurveda Day 2024 at the Centre in Sydney. Panel discussion was organised on the theme 'Innovation in Ayurveda for Global Health'. The Consul General gave the welcome address. Distinguished speakers from the Ayurveda field - Dr. S. Rajagopala, Professor Dennis Chang, Dr. Tim Carr, Ms Emma Elizabeth and Dr. Naveen Shukla shared their expertise and insights on this special day.

'Ayurveda Day 2024' celebrations at Swami Vivekananda Cultural Centre



Director, Ms Mehta and team member, Mr Marathe coordinated with Blacktown City Council to share books on Indian cricket, architecture, and a diverse range of topics with the five libraries. The books were presented at the Max Webber Library.

Cricket to Architecture, books on a diverse range of Indian topics was presented at the Max Webber Library in Blacktown.

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The Consulate General of India and the Swami Vivekananda Cultural Centre in collaboration with Art Gallery of New South Wales showcased the colourful diversity of Indian culture across the beautiful spaces at the Gallery. The enthusiastic participation of a multicultural audience made it very festive. Thank you, Samskriti School of Dance, Pratik Dance Academy, and Nartan Institute of Performing Arts, and artist, Ms Gauri Torgalkar for partnering with us.

Diwali celebrations at Art Gallery NSW

III. Invites



Director of Swami Vivekananda Cultural Centre was present for the Sharad Utsav - Durga Puja organised by the Bengali Association of New South Wales (BANSW).

Durga Puja by Bengali Association of New South Wales

Shrimad Rajchandra Mission Dharampur in Australia organised a programme for the gracious presence of Pujya Gurudev Shri Rakeshji. Director SVCC attended it.

Visit of Gurudev Shri Rajchandra Mission Dharampur in Australia



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The Consul General of India in Sydney and the Director attended the event, 'Soak in Bliss' meditation session by Gurudev Sri Sri Ravishankarji of the Art of Living.

Visit to Sri Sri Ravishankar ji, Art of living

Titled 'In Conversation with Rahman' held by the Centre for India Australia Relations, Powerhouse Museum and Hyatt Regency, the famous Indian composer, singer and songwriter, AR Rahman shared his thoughts and experiences on his musical journey. Director of the Swami Vivekananda Cultural Centre attended the event.

In Conversation with Rahman



The Consul General and Director attended 'AR Rahman – Live in Australia'. AR Rahman is a recipient of six National Film Awards, two Academy Awards, two Grammy Awards, a BAFTA Award, a Golden Globe Award, six Tamil Nadu State Film Awards, fifteen Filmfare Awards, and eighteen Filmfare Awards South. In 2010, the Government of India conferred him with the Padma Bhushan, India's third-highest civilian award. He captivated the audience with his music.

Live concert of A. R. Rahman in Sydney

'Pali Hill Ki Ek Raat' is a Hindi play by Adakar Theatre and Cultural Group. The High Commissioner and Director attended it.

Pali Hill Ki Ek Raat by Adakar Theatre Group



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Indian Link's 30th Anniversary celebrations were held at NSW Parliament. The Consul General and Director attended it.

Indian Link – 30th Anniversary celebrations

Director SVCC officiated the opening of 'Elsewhere in India' at the 4A Centre for Contemporary Asian Art. Elsewhere in India is a body of work that explores cultural heritage, digital technology, and speculative futures through film, interactive experiences, video games, and sculpture, created by artists Murthovic and Thiruda. The exhibition is an initiative seeking to redefine heritage and cultural objects held in public collections by placing them in a post-colonial Indofuturist virtual space.



IV. Contact Us

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