



# ICCR

भारतीय सांस्कृतिक संबंध परिषद  
Indian Council For Cultural Relations

## ICCR in Australia Newsletter Swami Vivekananda Cultural Centre March 2025



### I. Director's Desk

Namaste and Greetings from the Swami Vivekananda Cultural Centre. This month we celebrated the 'International Festival of Understanding' in Cowra with India as guest nation in collaboration with the High Commission of India, Consulate General of India in Sydney and the Swami Vivekananda Cultural Centre. We also collaborated at the Adelaide Writers' Week, Adelaide Fringe and WOMADelaide. With the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences at the University of Sydney and the Chau Chak Wing Museum, we partnered to present a symposium "Understanding the ocean that connects us" to discuss current research and future strategies about the connections in maritime culture between India and Australia. There was of course 'Holi', the festival of colours with music, dance and happy colours. Along with the Consulate General of India in Melbourne, the Swami Vivekananda Cultural Centre, participated at the Melbourne International Festival of Hindustani Classical Music.

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 Consulate General of India, Sydney and Swami Vivekananda Cultural Centre collaborated with the Adelaide Festival to celebrate Adelaide Writers' Week. Australia's largest free literary festival offered both writers and readers a unique opportunity to spend a week sharing ideas and literary explorations.

*A session at Adelaide Writers Week 2025.*

➤ The Consulate General of India, Sydney and Swami Vivekananda Cultural Centre, in association with the Australian Hindi Indian Association (AHIA), celebrated Holi, the festival of colours, at Harvey Lowe Pavilion, Castle Hill. The event was attended by more than 250 community members. Dignitaries such as Hon'ble Chris Minns, Premier of New South Wales, and Hon'ble Warren Kirby, MP - Member for Riverstone, Mayor, Dr Michelle Byrne, Deputy Mayor, Councillor Frank De Masi were present for the event. The Director SVCC was present for the celebration as a guest of honour.



*Holi celebrations with the Australian Hindi Indian Association*



➤ The Consulate General of India, Sydney and Swami Vivekananda Cultural Centre in association with e3 Events, organised a lecture-demonstration of renowned theatre artist Dr. Ajit Apte at the National Institute of Dramatic Art (NIDA). The workshop was based on the epic Marathi play 'Janata Raja' on the life of Chhatrapati Shri Shivaji Maharaj. The workshop shared the beauty of Regional Marathi Theatre, the play, exhibiting props and a Q&A session. Academics and students at the National Institute of Dramatic Art were present at the event.

*Workshop on Janata Raja at the National Institute of Dramatic Art*





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➤ The Consulate General of India, Melbourne and the Swami Vivekananda Cultural Centre collaborated with the Melbourne International Festival of Hindustani Classical Music 2025. Renowned artists participated with multiple performances to showcase India's rich musical heritage and mesmerised the audience.

*Pt. Ramdas Palsule on Tabla and Ragini Shankar on violin*

➤ The Consulate General of India, Sydney and Swami Vivekananda Cultural Centre collaborated with WOMADelaide 2025. Legendary santoor player Satish Vyas and mandolin maestro Uppalapu Rajesh performed at the World of Music Arts & Dance - an iconic open-air festival.

*Legendary santoor player Satish Vyas and Mandolin maestro Uppalapu Rajesh*



➤ The Consulate General of India, Sydney and Swami Vivekananda Cultural Centre collaborated with the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences at the University of Sydney and the Chau Chak Wing Museum to present a symposium "Understanding the ocean that connects us". This forum brought 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.



*Understanding the ocean that connects us – A symposium at Chau Chak Wing Museum, University of Sydney*





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➤ High Commission of India, Canberra, Consulate General of India, Sydney and Swami Vivekananda Cultural Centre partnered with Cowra City Council to celebrate Cowra Festival of International Understanding. The festival 2025 was scheduled from 21 to 23 March 2025 in Cowra, New South Wales. The festival presented a vibrant celebration of cultural diversity, marking its 60th anniversary. This year, India was the guest nation, bringing a dynamic blend of traditions and activities to the festival. Highlights include a lively street parade, Rangoli art workshops, yoga sessions, and a curry cooking competition, alongside captivating performances, market stalls, and diverse food options at Twigg Oval. Dignitaries such as His Excellency Mr. Gopal Baglay, High Commissioner of India, Hon Michael McCormack MP, Member for Riverina, Hon'ble Paul Mayor, Cowra Council, Ms Stephanie Cooke, Member for Cootamundra, Clr. Nikki Kiss and Cowra's Youth Ambassadors enhanced the event's significance. This festival facilitated a wonderful opportunity for the community to connect and immerse themselves in the rich cultural heritage of India.





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### III. Invite



➤ 3DOTS Studios organised a screening of two Marathi short films based on women's empowerment – titled 'Mukta' and 'Metkut' to celebrate the spirit of Women's Day with an inspiring conversation with the cast and crew of the films. Director SVCC was present for the premier show as the guest of honour.

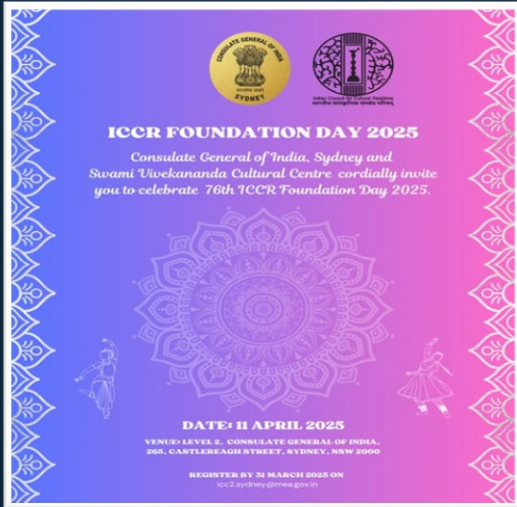


➤ The Indian classical dance performance of Bharatanatyam titled 'Isha' by Ms. Manjula Viswanath and Ms. Sagarika Venkat was held. Director SVCC was present. The event was attended by 180 prominent community members and the dignitaries, such as a MP Donna Davis, Member of Parliament.

*Isha by Ms. Manjula Viswanath and Ms. Sagarika Venkat*

### IV. Upcoming Events

➤ The Consulate General of India, Sydney and Swami Vivekananda Cultural Centre will be celebrating ICCR Foundation Day on 11 April 2025 (Friday) from 5:00 pm – 7:30 pm at level 2, 265 Castlereagh Street, Sydney 2000. The event will comprise of Hindustani music, classical dance and talks from experts in Indian – Australian cultural space. Registration closes on 31 March 2025.

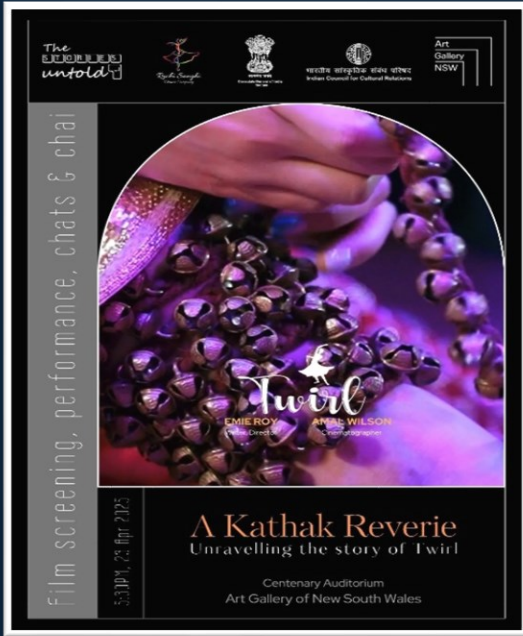






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➤ The Consulate General of India, Sydney and Swami Vivekananda Cultural Centre will collaborate with The Stories Untold by Ms. Emie Roy for the screening of the short film – Twirl, a short film exploring India's ancient Kathak dance form and Niharika Sanghi's efforts to preserve it in Sydney. The screening is followed by a panel discussion featuring filmmaker Emie Roy and practitioners Ruchi Sanghi, Philippa Vetich, and Ruby Arrowsmith-Todd, moderated by journalist Alicia Vrajlal. Topics include culture, art, and the role of facilitators in supporting artists. The evening will conclude with a mesmerising live Kathak performance in Kaldor Hall. The event will be held on 23 April 2025 at the Art Gallery NSW.

- The Consulate General of India, Sydney and Swami Vivekananda Cultural Centre will be collaborating with the Sydney Conservatorium of Music, University of Sydney, to organise a live music concert of Mr. Arnab Bhattacharya, renowned sarod player, on 10 April 2025 at the Sydney Conservatorium of Music.
- The Consulate General of India, Sydney and Swami Vivekananda Cultural Centre will collaborate with Wollongong Conservatorium of Music to organise a live music concert of Mr. Arnab Bhattacharya, renowned sarod player, on 14 April 2025 at the Wollongong Conservatorium of Music.



➤ The Consulate General of India, Sydney and Swami Vivekananda Cultural Centre will collaborate with ISKON to organise a cultural program for youth at the BhaktiFest 2K25 from 25 to 27 April 2025.





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## IV. Contact Us

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