

# Indian Council for Cultural Relations

October 5, 2020

## In News

The Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) was **founded in 1950 by Maulana Abul Kalam Azad**, independent India's first Education Minister. Its objectives are to:

- . actively participate in the **formulation and implementation of policies** and programmes pertaining to **India's external cultural relations**
- . **foster and strengthen** cultural relations and mutual understanding between India and other countries
- . **promote cultural exchanges** with other countries and people
- . develop relations with nations.

## More About ICCR

- The ICCR **headquarters** are situated in **Azad Bhavan, New Delhi**, with regional offices in Bangalore, Chandigarh, Chennai and several other cities.
- The council also **operates missions internationally**, with established cultural centres in Georgetown, Paramaribo, Port Louis and several other cities.
- The Council addresses its mandate of cultural diplomacy through a broad range of activities. In addition to organising cultural festivals in India and overseas, the ICCR **financially supports a number of cultural institutions across India, and sponsors individual performers** in dance, music, photography, theatre, and the visual arts.

## Programs under ICCR

. **Distinguished visitors program:** The Council facilitates visits by nobel laureates, members of parliament, former prime ministers, bureaucrats, think-tanks, well-known personalities in the field of politics, art & culture to India to experience Indian culture and interact with institutions and audiences in India.

. **Academic visitors program**

. **Orientation program for students of Hindi:** The Council facilitates visits by Hindi speaking students abroad.

. **Fellowship program:** ICCR awards Junior and Senior Research Fellowships to International scholars specializing in Indian studies in the fields of culture and social sciences. Under this programme, the selected Fellow is affiliated, on the basis of mutual consent, to an academic institution in India.

. **Travel grant:** Under its mandate to strengthen people-to-people contact between India and other countries, ICCR facilitates visits of performing/ visual artistes, choreographers, curators, scholars, authors, academicians abroad to perform in international events or to give lectures on the field of his expertise.

. **ICCR scholarship:** ICCR with a mandate of administering scholarship programmes of Government of India annually awards about 3940 scholarships under 26 different schemes to foreign students from about 140 countries. The courses offered for studies are for under-graduation, post-graduation and M.Phil/ PhD levels.