



ICCR NEWSLETTER

PROMOTING THE KNOWLEDGE AND WISDOM OF INDIA ACROSS THE GLOBE

The thirteenth issue of the ICCR newsletter highlights the conferment of ICCR's Bharat Mitra Samman – Indology Award 2023 and International Award for Promotion of Buddhism 2023, the signing of an MoU with State Hindu University of I Gusti Bagus Sugriwa Denpasar for the establishment of a Sanskrit chair in Indonesia, as well as the inauguration of a bust of Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore donated by ICCR at the Campo Grande Park, Valladolid, Spain.

DG, ICCR, Shri Kumar Tuhin, presented the ICCR's Bharat Mitra Samman – Indology Award 2023 to Lopen Lungtaen Gyatso of Bhutan



Lopen Lungtaen Gyatso, President of the College of Language and Culture Studies at the Royal University of Bhutan, was conferred ICCR's Bharat Mitra Samman – Indology Award 2023 by Director General of ICCR, Shri Kumar Tuhin. The award was presented in the esteemed presence of the Hon'ble Prime Minister of the Royal Government of Bhutan, Lyonchhen Tshering Tobgay, and the Minister for Foreign Affairs and External Trade of Bhutan, Lyonpo D.N. Dhungyel.

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On the 163rd birth anniversary of Guru Rabindranath Tagore, a bust donated by ICCR was inaugurated at the Campo Grande Park in Valladolid, Spain



To commemorate the 163rd birth anniversary of Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore, a bust donated by the ICCR was inaugurated by the Ambassador of India to Spain, Mr. Dinesh Patnaik, and the Mayor of Valladolid, Mr. Jesus Julio Carnero, at Campo Grande Park in Valladolid, Spain. Dignitaries of the Regional Government of Castilla and Leon and the City Council of Valladolid were present during the inauguration ceremony.

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DG, ICCR, Shri Kumar Tuhin, presented ICCR's International Award for Promotion of Buddhism – 2023 to Venerable Sitagu Sayadaw Dr. Ashin Nyanissara of Myanmar



During his visit to Myanmar, the Director General of ICCR, Shri Kumar Tuhin, presented the prestigious ICCR's International Award for Promotion of Buddhism – 2023 to Venerable Sitagu Sayadaw Dr. Ashin Nyanissara, a renowned Buddhist scholar and founder of the Sitagu International Buddhist Academy. The award was presented in the presence of the Ambassador of India to Myanmar, Shri Abhay Thakur as well as senior government ministers and officials at the India Centre in Yangon, Myanmar.

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Signing of MoU with State Hindu University of I Gusti Bagus Sugriwa Denpasar for the establishment of Sanskrit chair in Indonesia

ICCR signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the renowned State Hindu University of I Gusti Bagus Sugriwa Denpasar, Indonesia, to establish a Sanskrit Chair in Bali. This initiative will play a crucial role in promoting Indian knowledge traditions and enhancing academic collaboration between India and Indonesia, promoting mutual learning and cooperation.


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DG, ICCR, SHRI KUMAR TUHIN, PRESENTED THE ICCR'S BHARAT MITRA SAMMAN – INDOLOGY AWARD 2023 TO LOPEN LUNGTAEEN GYATSO OF BHUTAN



On May 10, 2024, the Embassy of India in the Kingdom of Bhutan hosted an award ceremony at India House in Thimphu. Lopen Lungtaen Gyatso, President of the College of Language and Culture Studies at the Royal University of Bhutan, was honored with the ICCR's prestigious Bharat Mitra Samman – Indology Award 2023. The award was presented by Shri Kumar Tuhin, Director General of ICCR, in the distinguished presence of the Hon'ble Prime Minister of the Royal Government of Bhutan, Lyonchhen Tshering Tobgay, and the Minister for Foreign Affairs and External Trade of Bhutan, Lyonpo D.N. Dhungyel.

The ceremony was graced by the Ambassador of India to Bhutan, Shri Sudhakar Dalela, along with senior officials from the Royal Government of Bhutan, eminent scholars, and representatives from various civil society organizations.

In his address, the Hon'ble Prime Minister of Bhutan emphasized the profound historical and cultural ties between India and Bhutan and the essential role both neighbours play in promoting regional stability and development. Director General of ICCR, Shri Kumar Tuhin, reiterated ICCR's commitment to strengthening people-to-people connections and enhancing India-Bhutan cultural ties.

Lopen Lungtaen Gyatso's contributions to Indology have been significant. He studied Buddhism at the Ngagyur Nyingma Institute in Mysore, Karnataka, and the Sikkim Institute for Higher Nyingma Studies in Gangtok, Sikkim. Additionally, he studied Sanskrit literature at Sampurnanand Sanskrit University in Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh. His scholarly work has significantly advanced the study and appreciation of Indology, enriching academic discourse and bolstering cultural ties between Bhutan and India.

The Bharat Mitra Samman – Indologist Award, instituted by ICCR in 2015, recognizes foreign scholars who have made outstanding contributions to India's cultural heritage through the study, teaching, or research in Indian philosophy, history, art, literature, culture, languages, and society. The award includes a citation, a medallion, and prize money equivalent to USD 20,000.



ON THE 163RD BIRTH ANNIVERSARY OF GURU RABINDRANATH TAGORE, A BUST DONATED BY ICCR WAS INAUGURATED AT THE CAMPO GRANDE PARK IN VALLADOLID, SPAIN



To commemorate the 163rd birth anniversary of Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore, a bust donated by ICCR was inaugurated by Ambassador of India to Spain, Mr. Dinesh Patnaik, and the Mayor of Valladolid, Mr. Jesus Julio Carnero, on May 7, 2024, at the Campo Grande Park, Valladolid, Spain. Dignitaries from the Regional Government of Castilla and Leon, the City Council of Valladolid, and Director, Casa de la India, Mr Guillermo Rodriguez Martin, were present during the inauguration ceremony.

In his remarks, Ambassador Patnaik reflected on the continuing relevance of Tagore as a giant of the literary field. He highlighted how the translations of Tagore's works by Juan Ramón Jiménez and Zenobia Camprubí made Tagore widely popular and respected in the Spanish-speaking world.

As part of the inauguration, Casa de la India's School of India organized open-air workshops on "Nature Day" at Campo Grande Park, inspired by the Santiniketan School in West Bengal, India. schoolchildren from Valladolid sang hymns and poems written by Tagore. Ambassador Patnaik also presented the mayor with books on Tagore and India for the collection of the Campo Grande Summer Library. The ceremony concluded with a cultural performance featuring Rabindra Sangeet.



DG, ICCR, SHRI KUMAR TUHIN, PRESENTED ICCR'S INTERNATIONAL AWARD FOR PROMOTION OF BUDDHISM – 2023 TO VENERABLE SITAGU SAYADAW DR. ASHIN NYANISSARA OF MYANMAR



During his visit to Myanmar, the Director General of ICCR, Shri Kumar Tuhin, presented the prestigious ICCR's International Award for Promotion of Buddhism – 2023 to Venerable Sitagu Sayadaw Dr. Ashin Nyanissara, a renowned Buddhist scholar and founder of the Sitagu International Buddhist Academy. The award ceremony took place on May 31, 2024, at the India Centre in Yangon, Myanmar, in the presence of the Ambassador of India to Myanmar, Shri Abhay Thakur.

The event was attended by eminent monks and distinguished dignitaries, including Myanmar's Union Minister for Information, U Maung Maung Ohn; Union Minister of Religious Affairs and Culture, U Tin Oo Lwin; Chief Minister of Yangon Region, U Soe Thein; and Mayor and Chairman of Yangon City Development Committee, U Bo Htay. ICCR alumni and members of the Indian community in Myanmar also joined the ceremony.

In his address, DG, ICCR highlighted that this award not only recognizes Venerable Sitagu Sayadaw's outstanding contributions to Buddhism but also strengthens the enduring bond between India and Myanmar. He emphasized the teachings of the Buddha as a shared cultural and spiritual heritage that continues to inspire millions globally.

Venerable Sitagu Sayadaw Dr. Ashin Nyanissara is renowned as a meditation teacher and prolific Buddhist scholar. He has founded seven Sitagu International Buddhist Academies in Myanmar and has been instrumental in strengthening the India-Myanmar Buddhist Association. Recognized with the Supreme Buddhist title "Abhidhagamaharattaguru" by the Government of Myanmar, he has also received numerous honorary doctorates from Myanmar and international universities. His scholarly works in Burmese on Buddhism, totaling thirty-eight books and articles, have significantly contributed to spreading awareness of India's rich cultural heritage.

Established in 2021, the ICCR's 'International Award for Promotion of Buddhism' honors foreign scholars, individuals, and organizations for their outstanding contributions to promoting Buddhism globally. The award includes a citation, a medallion, and a cash prize of USD 20,000. Previous recipients include Otani University of Japan and Dr. Duong Thi Thanh Huong of Vietnam in 2021, and Mr. Choijamts Demberel of Mongolia in 2022.





SIGNING OF MOU WITH STATE HINDU UNIVERSITY OF I GUSTI BAGUS SUGRIWA DENPASAR FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF SANSKRIT CHAIR IN INDONESIA

On May 16, 2024, ICCR signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the renowned State Hindu University of I Gusti Bagus Sugriwa Denpasar, Indonesia, to establish a Sanskrit Chair in Bali. The MoU was signed by the Consul General of India in Bali, Dr. Shashank Vikram and the Rector of the University, Prof. Dr. Drs. I Gusti Ngurah Sudiana, M.Si. The ceremony was attended by academicians, representatives of government institutions, media personnel, and members of the Indian diaspora in Bali.

This initiative marks a significant step in promoting Indian knowledge traditions and enhancing academic collaboration between India and Indonesia, facilitating mutual learning and cooperation. It will also strengthen the bilateral relations between the two countries, fostering people-to-people connections and serving as a hub for research, education, and cultural activities.

State Hindu University of I Gusti Bagus Sugriwa Denpasar is Indonesia's first and only state Hindu University, offering a wide array of courses ranging from languages, cultural and social studies to tourism and entrepreneurship.

For the past several years, ICCR has been actively establishing Chairs of Indian Studies at various international universities with the aim of generating interest in India amongst foreign students as well as creating greater understanding about India and Indian civilization amongst the global community of academic and thought leaders.

