PRESS RELEASE

Cultural Performances by ICCR sponsored Maharashtra Folk Group from India in Kuching, Sarawak

A 12-member Maharashtra Folk Group from India, led by Ms. Reshma Chhaya Musale, visited Kuching, Sarawak, from 16 to 19 November 2026, presenting a vibrant series of folk dance performances showcasing the rich cultural heritage and artistic traditions of Maharashtra.

2. The troupe comprised 12 talented folk artistes who enthralled audiences with colourful and energetic performances, reflecting the region's artistic diversity, cultural richness and traditional expressions. The performances collectively attracted an audience of 400 people.The cultural programme was organised by the High Commission of India, Kuala Lumpur and Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose Indian Cultural Centre (NSCBICC) in collaboration with the Sarawak Indian Women's Association (SIWA), in conjunction with the South Asian International Women's Assembly organised by SIWA.

3. During their visit, the troupe performed at several prominent events and venues in Kuching, including South Asian International Women's Assembly which was virtually inaugurated by YAB Datuk Patinggi Tan Sri (Dr.) Abang Haji Adul Rahman Zohari bin Tun Datuk Abang Haji Openg, Premier of Sarawak, on 18th November 2026, closing ceremony of the South Asian International Women's Assembly, Sri Maha Mariamman Temple, and a lecture-demonstration session at Swinburne University of Technology, Sarawak Campus. The performances also formed part of the cultural celebrations at the Riverside Majestic Hotel, Kuching.The lecture-demonstration at Swinburne University of Technology provided students and participants with an opportunity to gain insights into Maharashtra's folk dance traditions, their cultural significance and the artistic expressions associated with them.

4. These cultural performances were organised as part of the ongoing efforts to strengthen people-to-people connections and promote greater cultural understanding between India and Malaysia. They also reflect the spirit of the Programme of Cooperation in the Field of Culture, Arts and Heritage signed between India and Malaysia during the visit of the Honourable Prime Minister of Malaysia, H.E. Dato' Seri Anwar Ibrahim, to India in August 2024.

5. The visit of the Maharashtra Folk Group was sponsored by the Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR), Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, as part of India's efforts to promote its rich cultural heritage and strengthen cultural diplomacy with Malaysia. This visit marked the first-ever performance by a cultural troupe from India in the State of Sarawak, making it a significant milestone in India-Sarawak cultural engagement. The vibrant performances received an enthusiastic response from the people of Sarawak and were widely appreciated and enjoyed by audiences across the various venues.

****