

High Commission of India
Kuala Lumpur

Press Release

77th ICCR Day 2026

&

15th Anniversary of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose Indian Cultural Centre

The High Commission of India, Kuala Lumpur, in association with the Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose Indian Cultural Centre (NSCBICC), celebrated the 77th Foundation Day of the Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) on 09 April 2026 at NSCBICC, Kuala Lumpur. This occasion was celebrated worldwide as ICCR Day. The event also commemorated the completion of 15 years since the establishment of the NSCBICC.

2. The evening programme began with the lighting of the ceremonial lamp, followed by the welcome address by H.E Shri. B. N. Reddy, High Commissioner of India to Malaysia. The Chief Guest, YB Tuan R. Yuneswaran, Deputy Minister of National Unity, Malaysia, delivered the inaugural address. Dato' Ts. Dr. Nagulendran Kangayatkarasu, Secretary General, Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation, Malaysia, Datuk B.Sahadevan, Managing Director, NLFCS and YAM Tunku Zain Al- Abidin ibni Tuanku Muhriz are the other esteemed guests of honour for the event. A short video showcasing the highlights of the 15 year journey of the NSCBICC in Malaysia also was played at the start of the event.

3. The programme included a sharing session by Tunku Zain Al-Abidin ibni Tuanku Muhriz, who shared reflections on his visit to India in January 2026 under ICCR's Distinguished Visitor Programme. Padma Shri Datuk Ramli Ibrahim thereafter shared his experience of participating in the ICCR 11th International Dance & Music Festival held in India in January 2026. A representative from Vehara Arts also spoke about their visit to Chitrakoot and Bhopal in India for participation in the International Ramayana Mela Festival 2025 at the invitation of ICCR and the State Government of Madhya Pradesh.

4. The ICCR Day celebrations also featured several cultural performances, including a rhythmic yoga demonstration by the yoga teacher and students of NSCBICC, showcasing a harmonious blend of balance, flexibility, and concentration, a Bharatanatyam dance performance, titled 'OmKarakarini'

presented by Ms. Ambigga Nagulendran of Kalpana Dance Theatre portraying Goddess Lalitha Tripurasundari, the divine embodiment of beauty, strength, and cosmic energy who restores balance and protects devotees and Kathak performances by the Kathak teacher and students of NSCBICC. The first performance was based on a composition by Guru Sandip Mallick, showcasing traditional Kathak elements and intricate rhythmic footwork. The second presentation, titled 'Thunga Thunga', composed by legendary Kathak maestro Pt. Birju Maharaj, depicts the joyful dance of Lord Krishna and the gopis, celebrating devotion and the festive spirit of Vrindavan. Ms. Vijayalakshmy Sunderrajan, Counsellor (Culture) & Director, NSCBICC delivered the vote of thanks.

5. The celebration was graced by around 200 distinguished guests which included senior officials from various ministries and departments of the Government of Malaysia, as well as heads and members of academia, cultural institutions, community associations, ICCR alumni and cultural enthusiasts in Malaysia.

6. The event marked the 77th anniversary of the Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR), founded on 09 April 1950 by Maulana Abul Kalam Azad with the objective of fostering and strengthening cultural relations and mutual understanding between India and the world, as well as the 15th anniversary of the establishment of the Indian Cultural Centre in Kuala Lumpur.

7. In Kuala Lumpur, a full-fledged Indian Cultural Centre (ICC) was inaugurated on 10 February 2010 and was later renamed the 'Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose Indian Cultural Centre (NSCBICC)' during the visit of Narendra Modi, Prime Minister of India, to Malaysia from 21–23 November 2015.

Kuala Lumpur
09 April 2026
