



**Embassy of India  
Paramaribo**

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**[75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration of ICCR]**

**H.E Dr. Dewanchandrebose Sharman, the Deputy Chairman of Suriname's National Assembly Hindi and Pravasi Bharat Samman Awardee, Seniors Government officials, Art lovers, Students of SVCC, Distinguished members of Indian Diaspora.**

**Namaskar... Shubh Sandhya,**

It is indeed a great privilege for me to address this august gathering celebrating the 75th Anniversary of the Foundation Day of the Indian Council for Cultural Relations with the gracious presence of Shri Dev Sharman.

2. The Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) is an autonomous organization of the Government of India created on 9 April 1950, aimed at actively participating in the formulation and implementation of policies and programmes pertaining to India's external cultural relations; fostering cultural relations with various countries through cultural exchanges; and promoting the understanding and appreciation of Indian culture globally.

3. ICCR functions through its Indian cultural centers throughout the world and conducts a wide range of cultural, academic and intellectual activities related to Indian culture, including Indian performing arts, dance, music, yoga, languages, Cuisines, Cinema, numerous festivals, exhibitions, ethos and traditions, along with contemporary issues. The center has made its indelible imprint on the cultural and artistic landscape of Suriname in this process since its inception and produced a bunch of artists who are preserving and nurturing the tradition in Suriname.

4. India and Suriname enjoy close and cordial relations even before establishment of our diplomatic relations. Both nations based on value of unity in diversity started their journey under De-colonization process by Democratic means to achieve progress peace and prosperity. Indian diaspora is an umbilical cord between our two societies. Keeping the value of Indian culture intact, the diaspora well knitted and integrated in Surinamese society contributing immensely in national development as a proud Surinamese. That is testament of our believe in the philosophy of Vashudhaiva Kutumbkam. the entire world is a family.

The word Sanskriti is derived from the word "Sanskara" which means "Values". It is set of attitudes, norms, values, and behavioral aspects of a society which transmits from one generation to another generation. Culture plays a major role in connecting and bundling people and transforming their lives. India has a rich culture which is an amalgamation of several cultures. Having said that, this amalgamation or unified

existence is absolutely distinct because each of its elements has its own identity when knitted together given its flexibility and adaptability. Therefore, the tenants of Indian culture are keeping on flourishing in the Caribbean region.

6. This centre conducts a range of activities at this center, such as Yoga, Hindi and Darshan classes, and Dance and cooking classes will be started shortly. I expect in a coming month we will be operating fully at a pre-academic level. Kindly join the activities of the center according to your choice.

7. Taking advantage of this occasion, I also request each of the participants present here to encourage prospective candidates to avail themselves of the ICCR scholarships fully funded by the Government of India that are open to Surinamese students to apply in April-May 2025 for the upcoming Academic Session in India. More information about the ICCR scholarships is available at our webpage.

**Sarve Bhavantu Sukhinh Sarve Santu Niramaya**

**Jai Bharat Jai Suriname**