

**Details of Major cultural activities undertaken by
International Cultural Relations Division of Ministry of Culture
during 2017-18**

July, 2017

- Four member delegation led by Hon'ble Minister of State for Culture participated in 2nd BRICS Culture Minister's Meeting held in Tianjin (China) from 5th to 6th July, 2017. During the said meeting, the following five documents were signed.
 - a. Action Plan for the Implementation of the Agreement between the Governments of the BRICS States on Cooperation in the Field of Culture (2017-2021).
 - b. Letter of Intent on the Founding of the BRICS Alliance of Art Museums and National Galleries.
 - c. Letter of Intent for BRICS Alliance of Libraries Cooperation.
 - d. Letter of Intent of the Founding of the BRICS Alliance of Museums.
 - e. Letter of Intent for Strategic Cooperation of the BRICS Alliance of Theatre for Children and Young People.

- Celebration of the 70th Anniversary of India's Independence was held in Tunis from 27-31 July, 2017.

AUGUST, 2017

- The celebration of the 70th Anniversary of India's Independence were held in the following countries during the month of August, 2017:

Cuba & Dominican Republic, Ghana, Togo, Burkina Faso & Sierra Leone, Belgium & Luxemburg, Myanmar, Brunei Darussalam, Colombia & Ecuador, Mexico & Belize, Czech Republic, Iran, Norway, Oman, Spain, Vietnam, Chile, Denmark, Uganda, Rwanda & Burundi, New Zealand, Laos, Seychelles, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Japan, Belarus

- A 14 members Manipuri Dance group from Jawaharlal Nehru Manipuri Dance Academy, Imphal participated in Festival of India, Thailand from 31st July to 6th August, 2017.

- A 7 members Bharatnatyam Dance group led by D. Bhavani Shankar participated in Festival of India, Cote d'ivoire (Ivory Coast), Liberia and Guinea from 14-17 August, 2017.

SEPTEMBER, 2017

- Cultural Exchange Programme between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar for the year 2017-2020 was signed during the visit of the Prime Minister of India to Myanmar (5-7 September, 2017).
- Programme of Cooperation between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Republic of Belarus in the field of Culture for 2018-2020 was signed on 12th September, 2017 at New Delhi.
- A delegation led by Mr. Daniel Herman, Minister of Culture of the Czech Republic met with Hon'ble Culture Minister, Dr. Mahesh Sharma on 11th September 2017 at New Delhi.
- A meeting of the SFC to consider and approve the Scheme titled "Scheme for Promotion of International Cultural Relations" was held on 22nd September, 2017.
- Some events under the celebration of 70th anniversary of India's Independence were organized in Afghanistan, Turkey, Algeria, Croatia and Czech Republic during the month of September, 2017.
- A group of 6 writers participated in the seminar on Influence of Sanskrit and Pali on South East Asian Languages from 23-27 September, 2017 under the Festival of India in Thailand.

OCTOBER, 2017

- Executive Programme of Cultural Cooperation between India and Italy for the years 2017-2020 was signed on 30th October, 2017 at New Delhi.
- The Festival of India was inaugurated on 28th October, 2017 in Fiji and the concurrently – accredited countries of Kiribati, Tonga, Vanuatu, Nauru, Tuvalu and Cook Islands.
- The celebrations of the 70th Anniversary of India's Independence were held in Angola from 1-3 October, Switzerland from 6-9 October, France from 24-28 October, Tanzania from 27-30 October, and Portugal from 28 October – 3 November, 2017.

NOVEMBER, 2017

- Hon'ble Culture Minister, Dr. Mahesh Sharma met with Russian Delegation led by Mr. Vladimir Medinsky, Minister for Culture of the Russian Federation on 10th November, 2017.
- Festival of India Scheme and Grant in aid to Indo Foreign Friendship Cultural Societies Scheme have been merged into a new Scheme viz. "Scheme for Promotion of International Cultural Relations". The said Scheme has been continued beyond 12th Five Year Plan up to the end date of 14th Finance Commission viz. 31st March, 2020.
- The Festival of India was inaugurated on 20th November, 2017 in Uzbekistan.
- The celebrations of the 70th Anniversary of India's Independence were held in Argentina, Israel, Uganda, Rwanda and Burundi, Oman, Brunei Darussalam, Venezuela, Trinidad & Tobago, Croatia, Sri Lanka, USA, Sudan, Turkmenistan, Bahrain, Kenya and Tanzania during the month of November, 2017.
- Meetings of the Screening Committee for empanelment of Artists/Groups for performing abroad were held on 3rd and 7th November, 2017.