



भारत का उच्चायोग, लंदन
High Commission of India
London, United Kingdom



Ministry of Culture
Government of India



INDIA@UK2017

पुष्कर रत्न उत्सव

FESTIVAL OF INDIA

FESTIVAL REPORT

Incredible India

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BRITISH COUNCIL UK/IN

YEAR OF
CULTURE
2017

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From the desk of the **HIGH** **COMMISSIONER**



I am delighted to have this opportunity to introduce the year-long celebration of India-UK cultural ties. The decision to organize the India-UK Year of Culture in 2017 was taken by the Prime Ministers of India and UK in November 2015 during the visit of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to the UK, a commitment that was reiterated during Prime Minister Theresa May's visit to India in November 2016. In April 2018, both Prime Ministers lauded the successful completion of the India-UK Year of Culture. This year-long programme saw an unprecedented level of cultural exchanges, showcasing artistic, cultural and literary traditions in both countries and was a fitting celebration of the symbolic ties that bind India and the UK.

The Year of Culture assumed a special significance in light of the 70th Anniversary of India's independence. These celebrations indeed offered to our two countries a unique opportunity of renewing and revitalizing our inextricable threads of cultural heritage and to enhance our engagement at a people to people level. It created many memorable events across the UK like the Independence Gala at the South Bank Centre and the Bharat Symphony at the Barbican Theatre. I am certain that the partnerships forged during the year between the people and

organisations in both countries will serve us well in the years to come.

I am grateful to Her Majesty The Queen for hosting a grand reception at Birmingham Palace to launch the Year of Culture in February 2017. I would like to also thank the British government and various organizations on both sides with whom we partnered to make this year truly successful. The India-UK Year of Culture was indeed a colourful and vibrant cultural extravaganza celebrating the rich and multi-faceted ties between India and the UK.

Y.K. Sinha
High Commissioner of India

INDIA AT UK 2017

*A single word that captures
India's essence is her
diversity...*

With a population of more than a billion people, multiple religions and thousands of tongues, Indian culture, in its 70th year of Independence, has ensured for the people despite their age, origins and beliefs, an ingrained sense of their cultural heritage. Continuous exploration and experimentation of the complexities of ancient traditions have brought India's classical arts into a modern idiom which is acclaimed across continents.

India and the UK, bound together through the inextricable threads of history, have been friends and allies who have facilitated mutual progress across economics, business, science, and culture.

In 2015, Indian Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi and former UK Prime Minister, David Cameron, announced 2017 as the India-UK Year of Culture, to celebrate our deep cultural ties.

Bringing a slice of India's vast cultural canvas, India at UK 2017, was organized by the Indian High Commission, the Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR), the Ministry of Culture, and festival producer, Teamwork Arts, in association with key institutions in the UK across premier venues. The Year of Culture was launched by Queen Elizabeth II at a glittering reception in Buckingham Palace on February 27th, 2017 which was attended by close to 200 eminent persons.



FESTIVAL HIGHLIGHTS



ZEE JLF @ The British Library
20-21 May | London



India Season @ Edinburgh
2-28 August



Festival of Dance & Theatre
20 September-26 November
London | Birmingham | Edinburgh | Glasgow



Independence Gala
4 October | Southbank Centre, London



Bharat Symphony
28 November | Barbican Concert Hall, London

ZEE JLF @ THE BRITISH LIBRARY



The festival provides a platform for debate and discussion and bridges cultural, geographical and historical divides, bringing the world to India and India to the world.

The Festival is a cultural catalyst exposing audiences to constant flow of ideas, it provides a space to dare, dream and imagine.

Last year, the British Library had been infused with excitement and repartee for two days and had resounded with sessions on PG Wodehouse, the Beatles in India, travel, migrations, fictionwriting, the Partition, and poetry. Speakers ranged from Stephen Frears, Anita Anand, Shashi Tharoor, Karan Johar, Tahmima Anam to Arundhathi Subramanian, Philip Norman, Roy Moxham and others.



THE WODEHOUSE EFFECT:

Why India Loves Jeeves

Swapan Dasgupta, Tony Ring and Shashi Tharoor, moderated by Mihir Sharma



AN UNSUITABLE BOY

Karan Johar in conversation with Rachel Dwyer

IDEAS OF INDIA

Mihir Sharma, Meghnad Desai, Meena Kandasamy, Namita Gokhale, Prajwal Parajuly, Asiya Zahoor and Arundhati Subramaniam, introduced by Sanjoy K. Roy



THE BEATLES IN INDIA

The Rishikesh Trip

Philip Norman and Ajoy Bose in conversation



THE GREAT PARTITION

Lady Mohini Kent Noon and Faisal Devji in conversation with Patrick French

INDIA SEASON @EDINBURGH 2-28 AUGUST

Through a partnership highlighted by panache and variety, India @ UK 2017 brought to Edinburgh the very best of music, dance, and theatre, in talented solo performances



*"The Offering is
storytelling at it's
most purest" –
Theatre Full Stop
★★★★*



*"Majuli is a gift to any
festival" –
The Scotsman ★★★★★*



*"An Edinburgh Fringe
highlight, it's a hidden
gem of a show" –
Theatre Full Stop
★★★★★*



All the shows spoke directly to the soul in an idiom of pure artistic passion, mythology, and history.

In *The Offering*, a curious boy, full of wonder, dreams of great warriors of the past and wants to be one of them and in a complex depiction, the piece made the unique relationship between between a “guru” (master) and his “shishya” (student), come to life.

Elephant in the Room, which was a runaway success, paid homage to Lord Ganapati, the elephant god, in a quirky and poignant reinterpretation of his story. The protagonist, a young boy interestingly named Master Tusk, seeks his real identity, and in a life-changing coming-of-age adventure, emerges with a head firmly on his shoulders.

Majuli told the tale of the picturesque island of the same name in Assam’s mighty Brahmaputra river, also the world’s biggest river island. Through an intense and evocative narrative of movement, dance, and theatre, it wove together a story of the intricate bond between people, their land, and the river.

At the 68th season of the world-famous Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo, the Indian Naval Band presented a heady mix of intense and joyous music. Torches held by the Scottish Highland dancers, dressed in colourful Indian finery, lit up the Esplanade while Indian dancers celebrated diversity and patriotism, expressing the fierce, adventurous, and indomitable spirit of India’s youth.



FESTIVAL OF DANCE AND THEATRE

20 SEPTEMBER-26 NOVEMBER

Festival of Dance and Theatre had a bouquet of eclectic offerings across London, Birmingham, Edinburgh & Glasgow

A FRIEND'S STORY

Akvarious Productions (*Theatre*)

20 & 21 September | Sam Wanamaker
Playhouse, Globe

Set in and around a college campus in Poona (now Pune) in the 1940s, 'A Friend's Story' was about three students – the diffident Bapu, the carefree Mitra, and the deceptive Nama. Essentially a love triangle, *A Friend's Story* is Vijay Tendulkar's understated Greek tragedy about obsession, jealousy, betrayal, and a search for redemption.



SARI

Daksha Sheth Dance Company

23 & 24 September | MAC Birmingham

27 September | Festival Theatre Edinburgh

29 & 30 September | Tramway Glasgow

India's tradition of handwoven textiles with their incredible range of colour, texture and design, has for millennia, been one of the most visually striking elements of the Indian persona. The 'sari' is the jewel of the Indian weaver's inimitable talent. At India UK 2017, Renowned dancer and choreographer Daksha Sheth's SARI celebrated of this unique drape.



AKSHAYAMBARA

Dramanon Bangalore (*Theatre*)

5 & 6 October | *Blue room, Southbank Centre*

8 Oct | *MAC Birmingham*

Akshayambara is an experimental play that used modern theatrical tools and the ancient dance drama form of “Yakshagana” and created a contemporary narrative raising questions on female representation and male ownership.



INTER_RUPTED

Aditi Mangaldas Dance Company

20 & 21 October | *Tramway Glasgow*

23 October | *Birmingham Hippodrome*

Celebrated around the world for startling richness and intricacy of her choreography, dance revolutionary Aditi Mangaldas's latest piece *Inter_rupted* was inspired by fragility, disintegration, and renewal. The show featured seven dancers, including Mangaldas, and music composed by Sajid Akbar performed live by onstage musicians.



ŚRIYAH

Nrityagram Dance Ensemble

24 & 26 November | Science Museum, London

A decade of dance-making, a selection of works created over a decade, starting from Śri to Samyoga has been perfectly blended into Śriyah, which has been choreographed by Surupa Sen and set to original live score composed by Pt. Raghunath.



INDEPENDENCE GALA

4TH OCTOBER – GALA AT
SOUTHBANK CENTRE, LONDON

A magical confluence of dance and music, the Independence Gala marked the culmination of the UK-India 2017 Year of Culture. An extravaganza of dance and music, the Gala heralds a coming together of British and Indian performing art forms, highlighting their distinct movements, rhythms, and inherent similarities.

The Independence Gala was a rich, eclectic and a symbolic confluence of India and UK through dance and music from diverse regions and repertoires of each country, which characterised their cultural legacy, showcased in seamless fusion. The programme was a mesmerising line-up of artistes from both countries performing in perfect synergy to lead up to a swashbuckling finale.





The show, with a mesmerising line-up of artistes from both countries, was headlined by renditions from Junun, an album of Sufi qawwals in Urdu and Hebrew. The composers -- acclaimed Israeli composer/musician Shye Ben Tzur, guitarist Jonny Greenwood from the Grammy Award-winning band Radiohead, and Indian band Rajasthan Express -- performed on stage themselves.

Preceding them was a spectacular montage of the performing arts encompassing diverse artistes from India and the UK which embodied an exquisite flavour of collaboration.





BHARAT
SYMPHONY

28 NOVEMBER

BARBICAN CONCERT HALL, LONDON

Composed to celebrate 70 momentous years of India's Independence, violin icon L. Subramaniam's new orchestral work, '*Bharat Symphony*' which was the grand finale to the India@UK 2017 Festival, held at the Barbican Concert Hall in London on November 28, 2017, was an elegant tapestry of Indian culture in four movements, symbolizing four major periods of Indian heritage. The piece featured an eight-member ensemble including celebrated vocalists Kavita Krishnamurti Subramaniam and Bindu Subramaniam.



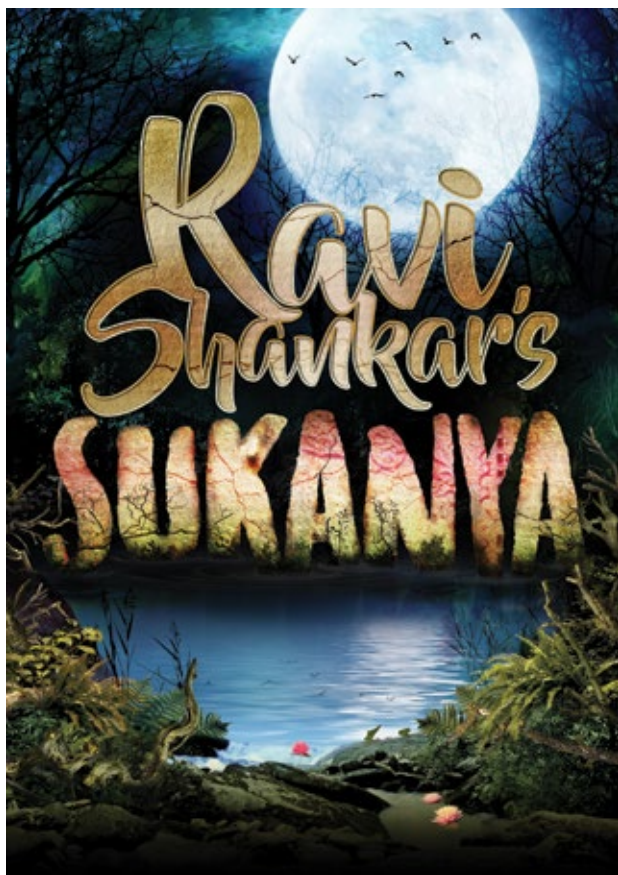




Associate Events

Spotlight on India@The London Book Fair

The annual London Book Fair held from 14 – 16 March 2017 featured a series of events as part of 'Spotlight on India' marking the India-UK Year of Culture. It also hosted three separate India Pavilions featuring over 100 publishers from India. The Indian High Commissioner to the UK H.E. Mr. Y.K. Sinha inaugurated the India Pavilions at LBF.



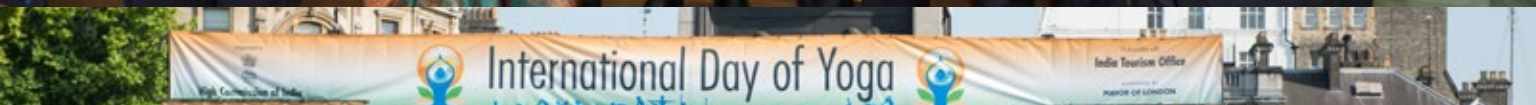
Ravi Shankar's Sukanya

Pandit Ravi Shankar's only opera, which was a co-production between The Royal Opera and the London Philharmonic Orchestra premiered at Leicester and thereafter toured Salford, Birmingham and London between 12 and 21 May 2017. ICCR supported this spectacular musical extravaganza through two of its empanelled artists Shri Parimal Manmohan Sadaphal and Shri Ashwani Shankar who performed in the Opera.



Cricket@IndiaUK

The High Commissioner of India to the UK H.E. Mr. Y.K. Sinha and Mrs. Sinha hosted a grand reception at the Long Room of the Lord's Cricket Ground on 12 June 2017 to commemorate the long-standing and vibrant India-UK cricketing ties. A specially-curated cricket exhibition commissioned by the Ministry of Culture to the Nehru Science Centre, Mumbai, for this occasion, was on display along with exhibits from the Lord's Museum. The Indian cricket team, led by Captain Virat Kohli and coach Anil Kumble, attended the Reception along with senior members of the BCCI, ECB, and some cricket legends from both countries. The High Commissioner released the book *Cricket Connects* also published by the Nehru Science Centre, Mumbai. The exhibition continued thereafter at various venues in London, Birmingham and Edinburgh.



Yoga@IndiaUK

The annual International Day of Yoga was held at the iconic Trafalgar Square in London on 20 June 2017. Thousands of yoga enthusiasts and practitioners from 15 yoga organisations all over the UK assembled at the Trafalgar Square to celebrate the Yoga Day. The event was organised by the High Commission of India with the support of the Mayor of London. Several other events were held in this week to mark the Yoga Day including one at the London Eye to create a 'wheel of yoga' within the 32 pods of the Eye, a day-long yoga celebration at the lawns of Alexandra Palace and so on.



Tarkash@Thames

The Indian Naval Ship *INS Tarkash* visited the UK and was docked at Plymouth and thereafter on the River Thames in London from 2 - 10 May 2017. H.E. Mr.YK Sinha, High Commissioner of India, Rt Hon Sir Michael Fallon KCB, PC - Secretary of State for Defence, Admiral Sir Philip Jones KCB, ADC - The First Sea Lord and CNS of the Royal Navy, along with other dignitaries graced an event onboard commemorating 200 years of *HMS Trincomalee* - the oldest warship afloat in the world which was built in India. Several events were held onboard the ship including a performance by the musical group 'NEOM' and an 'Open Day' that saw the participation of hundreds of families including the 'Master Blaster' Sachin Tendulkar.





India Season @ The Science Museum Exhibition

The Science Museum in London launched 'Illuminating India' -an exhibition presenting an international perspective on the remarkable contributions of the Indian subcontinent to global science and culture over the last 5000 years. The idea of the exhibition was conceived with the support of the Ministry of Culture, Government of India, Indian High Commission in the UK and sponsors including The Bagri Foundation, The Helen Hamlyn Trust and the John S Cohen Foundation. Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Prince Charles jointly visited the exhibition on 18 April 2018 and also formally launched the Ayurveda Centre in UK.

ILLUMINATING
INDIA

At the Heart of the Nation: India in Britain

The histories of Britain and India have long been interwoven. Indian presence in Britain has been critical: 'At the Heart of the Nation: India in Britain', celebrated unknown narratives of this relationship through a stunning outdoor photographic exhibition, led by the Open University, in collaboration with the Indian High Commission, the Nehru Centre, and the University of Exeter. It was launched in September 2017, and toured Edinburgh, London and Leeds. A digital timeline of this exhibition was opened too at the Republic Day Reception on 26 January 2018 by Rt. Hon. Mark Field, UK Minister of State for Asia and the Pacific, and the High Commissioner H.E. Mr. Y.K. Sinha.



Suron Ki Mehfil

The High Commission of India in association with local partners - 'Here and Now', 'St James Court', and 'Speaking Minds', presented four musical legends from India performing together for the first time: Padmashri Kavita Krishnamurti, Dr. Suresh Wadkar, Padmashree Anup Jalota and Shailendra Singh. They collaborated with 20 talented musicians of The Grand Philharmonic Orchestra at the prestigious London Coliseum in Westminster.





Usne Kaha Tha – The Troth

This unique show, conceived by Akademi's Mira Kaushik and directed by British choreographer Gary Clarke, was supported by the Indian Council for Cultural Relations, the Ministry of Culture, The Nehru Centre, High Commission of India, the Arts Council England and the British Council through their Reimagine India programme. A dance theatre, it was based on the classic short story 'Usne Kaha Tha', by Chandradhar Sharma Guleri and featured a multicultural cast of six dancers. The Troth toured India

in early 2018 and performed at the ZEE Jaipur Literature Festival, followed by performances in Delhi, Bhopal, Jabalpur, Kurukshetra, International Kala Mela at IGNCA, New Delhi and a special performance at Rashtrapati Bhavan in the presence of the President of India, and other dignitaries. The Troth toured widely in the UK too and was dedicated to the memory of over 60,000 Indian soldiers who died serving the British Army during the First World War.



FESTIVAL PUBLICITY

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WITH OVER 150 ARTISTS IN A
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OF CULTURAL COLLABORATIONS.

INDIAN INDEPENDENCE GALA

INDIA@UK2017
year of culture

**TOMORROW
NIGHT**
4 OCTOBER, 8PM
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NRITYAGRAM DANCE ENSEMBLE
SRIYAH
With traditional live music

24 & 26 NOVEMBER, 2.00PM
SCIENCE MUSEUM, LONDON

"The only proper response to dancers
this amazing is worship!"
The New York Times

going out.

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London (from Indian to
Caribbean)

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CULTURE

Louis Theroux's
'Heroin Town' is a very
personal look at the
opiod crisis

Curl's 'The Pickle Gambit' was
one of the funniest episodes to
date

Why horror's having its moment
at the London Film Festival

**BHARAT
SYMPHONY**
Dr L. Subramaniam &
The London Symphony Orchestra
'The God of Indian violin.'
Times of India
28 NOV 7.30PM.
BARBICAN HALL, LONDON

Death From Above Interview:
'Outrage is a fashion'

Kazuo Ishiguro
Ishiguro wins the 2017 Nobel Prize
in Literature

Liam Gallagher
interview: 'I miss
being in a band with
my brother'

Frieze: Is it just an overblown
trade fair?

How to get tickets to Kendrick
Lamar's UK shows

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ADITI MANGALDAS DANCE COMPANY
INTER_RUPTED
"Wonderful excursions into the heart of Bollywood"
The Herald
26 & 27 OCTOBER | TRAMWAY GLEASON
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Interviewed by Victoria Collette

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CENTRE**

**SCIENCE
MUSEUM**

TRAMWAY



dancebase EDINBURGH
NATIONAL CENTRE FOR DANCE

C venues



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Ministry of Culture

Government of India

Culture plays an important role in the development agenda of any nation. It represents a set of shared attitudes, values, goals and practices. Culture and creativity manifest themselves in almost all economic, social and other activities. A country as diverse as India is symbolized by the plurality of its culture. The mandate of the Ministry of Culture revolves around the functions like preservation and conservation of our cultural heritage and promotion of all forms of art and culture, both tangible and intangible. The Ministry's task is to develop and sustain ways and means through which the creative and aesthetic sensibilities of the people remain active and dynamic. The functional spectrum of this Ministry is wide, ranging from generating cultural awareness at grassroots level to promoting cultural exchanges at international level. In order to achieve these objectives, the Ministry undertakes various activities that flow from subjects allocated under the Govt. of India's Allocation of Business Rules.



भारतीय सांस्कृतिक सम्बंध परिषद्

Indian Council for Cultural Relations

The Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) was founded in 1950 by Maulana Abul Kalam Azad, independent India's first Education Minister. Its objectives are to actively participate in the formulation and implementation of policies and programmes pertaining to India's external cultural relations; to foster and strengthen cultural relations and mutual understanding between India and other countries; to promote cultural exchanges with other countries and people; and to develop relations with nations.

FROM CONCEPT TO CURATION, AND DESIGN TO PRODUCTION

For over 25 years, Teamwork Arts has taken India to the world and brought the world to India.

In countries such as Australia, Canada, Egypt, France, Germany, Hong Kong, Italy, Israel, Korea, Singapore, South Africa, Spain, UK and USA, Teamwork produces over 25 highly acclaimed performing arts, visual arts and literary festivals across more than 40 cities.

Teamwork Arts produces one of the world's largest free literary gatherings, the annual **Jaipur Literature Festival**, the **Ishara International Puppet Festival** in New Delhi, the annual **Mahindra Excellence in Theatre Awards (META)** and Festival, international festivals **Shared History** in South Africa, **Eye on India** in the United States of America, **India by the Bay** in Hong Kong, and many more.

Teamwork Arts' musical extravaganza, **Bollywood Love Story – A Musical**, continues to tour the world and has had sold out shows in Austria, Germany, Netherlands, South Africa, Spain and Switzerland.



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