

## **Visit of Director-General of the Indian Council for Cultural Relations to the UAE (October 07-09, 2025)**

October 09, 2025

Director-General (DG) of the Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR), Ms. K. Nandini Singla visited Abu Dhabi to co-chair the 2<sup>nd</sup> Joint Steering Committee (JSC) Meeting of the India-UAE Cultural Council with H.E. Noura Al Kaabi, Minister of State in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the UAE on 09 October 2025.

2. India and UAE have signed an MoU to establish the Cultural Council Forum with the objective of further strengthening the deep-rooted cultural and people to people bonds between the two countries. Under the umbrella of the MoU, the two sides held the 1<sup>st</sup> JSC Meeting of the Cultural Council in March this year in New Delhi during the visit of H.E. Noura Al Kaabi to India.

3. Building up on the discussions held in New Delhi, the two sides met in Abu Dhabi today under the Cultural Council Forum and discussed several initiatives to enhance collaborations in the domains of youth engagement, sports, yoga, arts, education, tourism, archival cooperation among others. Both the co-chairs underscored the importance of advancing cultural ties as part of further strengthening the broader partnership between the two countries. DG (ICCR) thanked the leadership of the UAE for their care and warmth towards over 4.3 million strong Indian community in UAE, which is the biggest cultural bridge between the two countries.

4. The Meeting saw participation of the representatives from ICCR, Ministry of External Affairs, Ministry of Culture, Ministry of Youth Affairs, Ministry of Tourism, National Archives of India and Nalanda University from the Indian side. From the UAE side, representatives of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Culture, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research, Ministry of Economy & Tourism, Department of Culture and Tourism Abu Dhabi, Dubai Culture, Dubai Tourism, National Youth Federation and National Library and Archives had participated in the Meeting.

5. On 08 October, DG (ICCR) separately held a meeting with the Vice-Chancellor of the New York University Abu Dhabi (NYUAD), Mr. Fabio Piano and Executive Director of NYUAD Arts Centre, Mr. Bill Bragin. They discussed avenues of cooperation in the academic and cultural domain between ICCR and NYUAD.

6. DG (ICCR) also visited the Louvre Abu Dhabi Museum and interacted with Mr. Manuel Rabate, Director of the Museum. They exchanged views on ways to enhance India-UAE ties in the domains of museums, visual arts, capacity building in museology etc.

Abu Dhabi

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