

PRESS RELEASE

Celebration of ICCR Foundation Day

In connection with the Foundation Day of the Indian Council for Cultural Relations (9 April 1950), a vibrant performance by the Bastar Band, an ICCR troupe from Chattisgarh, was held at the premises of the High Commission of India today. The Bastar Band, a group of heritage keepers, represents the entire Bastaria community, its traditional tales, myths, evolution, deities, customs and musical instruments that are on the verge of extinction.

On the occasion, a ‘Brides of India’ show by the Indian Women’s Association (IWA), Abuja was also held, at which bridal dresses worn by Indian women from different states of India were shown, along with an Indian wedding display. IWA also handed over donations to select charity organizations of Nigeria.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Abasubong Samson Idiong, (PhD), Instructional Lecturer & Research Supervisor at the Faculty of Social Sciences, National Open University of Nigeria, who completed his PhD in Rural and Community Development at the Department of African Studies, University of Delhi from 1995-1998, expressed his deep appreciation for the ICCR scholarship programme for graduate, post-graduate and doctoral studies in India, which has contributed immensely to people-to-people level ties between India and Nigeria.

General elections in India, the largest democratic exercise in the world, are underway, and a short film on the elections was shown on the occasion.

The event was attended by over 600 guests including Nigerian dignitaries Mr. Femi Adesina, Special Adviser to the Hon’ble President of Nigeria on Media and Publicity, Otunba Olusegun Runsewe, Director General, National Council for Arts and Culture, Queen Zaynab Otiti Obanor, Founder of the Arab African Economic Development Initiative, and friends of India from various walks of life, as well as members of the Indian community and diplomatic corps, including the Heads of Missions of Bangladesh, Israel and Netherlands.

High Commissioner Shri Abhay Thakur thanked the Government and people of Nigeria, the largest economy and most populous country of Africa and India’s priority partner on the continent, for their abiding and enthusiastic support to the further strengthening of India-Nigeria cultural and educational cooperation.

13 April 2019, Abuja

Photographs of Celebration of ICCR Foundation Day 2019



Bastar Band's spectacular performance during Celebration of ICCR Foundation Day.



Members of the 'Bastar Band' being felicitated by Mr. Femi Adesina, Special Adviser to the Hon'ble President of Nigeria on Media and Publicity, Otunba Olusegun Runsewe, DG, National Council for Arts and Culture, Queen Zaynab Otiti Obanor, Founder of the Arab African Economic Development Initiative, and Indian High Commissioner Shri Abhay Thakur.



Group photograph of Bastar Band with Nigerian dignitaries, High Commissioner Shri Abhay Thakur and Dr. (Mrs.) Surabhi Thakur.



'Brides of India' show by Indian Women's Association (IWA), Abuja.



'Indian Wedding Display' by Indian Women's Association (IWA), Abuja.



Dr. (Mrs.) Surabhi Thakur, Patron of IWA Abuja presenting donations on behalf of IWA Abuja to charity organizations of Nigeria.