

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

**RAJYA SABHA**  
**STARRED QUESTION No.105**  
**ANSWERED ON 15.12.2022**

**ICCR centre in Varanasi**

**\*105. Shri Rakesh Sinha:**

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Indian Council for Culture Relations (ICCR) under the Ministry plays a vital role in spreading the cultural values and legacies of India;
- (b) whether there is any centre of ICCR in Kashi (Varanasi) which is ipso facto cultural capital of India;
- (c) if so, the number of programmes it has organised during the last one year and its contributions in fulfilling the objectives of the ICCR;
- (d) whether the ICCR will consider to open a centre there if there is no branch; and
- (e) the number of cities in the country where ICCR has actively working branches?

**ANSWER**

**THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS**  
**(DR. SUBRAHMANYAM JAISHANKAR)**

(a) to (e) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

**Statement referred to in reply to parts (a) to (e) in respect of Rajya Sabha Starred Question no. 105 for reply on 15.12.2022 regarding ICCR centre in Varanasi asked by Shri Rakesh Sinha.**

(a): Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) promotes Indian culture worldwide through its Cultural Centres and Missions/Posts abroad. Activities conducted by them include inter-alia, teaching of Yoga, Dance, Music and Hindi, organising/supporting conferences/ seminars/ workshops in different fields of Indian culture; supporting Chairs of Indian Studies in the foreign universities; gifting of busts/statues of Mahatma Gandhi and other national heroes; exchanging visual art exhibitions; and celebration of International Day of Yoga at iconic centres abroad.

(b) to (e): In the reorganization of ICCR's work and to ensure efficiency and economy in its operations, and taking all aspects into consideration, the Statutory bodies of ICCR had decided to merge seven Regional Offices with the Zonal Offices. Subsequently, the ICCR Regional Sub-Office in Varanasi has been merged with Sub-Zonal Office Lucknow. Henceforth, activities carried out by the Regional Sub-Office in Varanasi will continue to be dealt by Sub-Zonal Office, Lucknow. ICCR has its Zonal, Sub-Zonal and other offices in 11 cities of the country. During the last one year (November 2021-November 2022) the Lucknow office has organized 22 programmes.

\*\*\*\*\*