



**Consulate General of India
Erbil**

Press Release

Gifting of Indian Musical Instruments by the Consulate General of India to the Ministry of Culture and Youth, Kurdistan Regional Government.

The Consulate General of India in Erbil presented eight traditional Indian musical instruments as a gift from the Indian Council of Cultural Relations (ICCR) to the Ministry of Culture and Youth, Kurdistan Region, in a ceremony held in Erbil on 5th August 2024. The event was graced by the presence of the Ambassador of India to Iraq, H.E. Mr. Prashant Pise, and the Minister of Culture and Youth, H.E. Mohammad Said Ali.

2. The gifted instruments include the dholaki, tabla, bansuri (flute), dafali, manjeera, cymbals and shehnai, each representing the rich cultural heritage and musical diversity of India. These instruments symbolize the deep cultural ties and mutual respect between India and the Kurdistan Region, fostering a deeper understanding and appreciation of each other's traditions.

3. Speaking at the ceremony, the Indian Ambassador emphasized the significance of cultural exchange in strengthening bilateral relations. "The gift of these musical instruments is a token of our friendship and a celebration of our shared cultural heritage. We hope that these instruments will inspire local musicians and contribute to the cultural vibrancy of the Kurdistan Region," said the Ambassador.

4. The ceremony concluded with small audio clippings showcasing each Indian musical instrument, allowing attendees to experience the enchanting sounds and unique qualities of each piece. This cultural exchange event marks another milestone in the enduring partnership between India and the Kurdistan Region, paving the way for further collaboration in the arts and cultural sectors.

5. In October 2023, India and the Kurdistan Region exchanged cultural troupes to promote cultural ties and people-to-people contacts. An 8-member ICCR-sponsored musical group 'Taal Yatra' visited the Kurdistan Region and gave performances in Erbil during the celebrations of Mahatma Gandhi's birth anniversary and ITEC Day. In response, a 12-member Kurdish Sharya Art troupe visited India and participated in the international Kullu Dussehra festival in the Indian state of Himachal Pradesh. The group also performed in Delhi, Guwahati, and Chandigarh, and returned from India with good memories and experiences.

6. The ICCR, established in 1950, is an autonomous organization under the Government of India, dedicated to fostering cultural relations and mutual understanding between India and other countries. Through various cultural exchange programs, the ICCR promotes India's cultural heritage and facilitates international cultural dialogue.

Erbil
August 5, 2024.
