Pandit Bhimsen Gururaj Joshi (February 4, 1922 - January 24, 2011) was a legendary Indian classical vocalist and one of the greatest artists of his generation. Hailed as the Tansen of India, Pandit Bhimsen Joshi was born in Gadag district of the Southern State of Karnataka, India. He was renowned for the khayal form of singing and belonged to the Kirana Gharana which was founded by the famed Ustad Abdul Karim Khan. Pt. Joshi was the flagbearer of Hindustani classical music by bringing it more closer to a common man. He was awarded with Sangeet Natak Akademi Award in 1975, Padma Shri in 1972 afterwards, Padma Bhushan in 1985 and India’s highest civilian honour, the Bharat Ratna was bestowed on him in 2008. The illustrious life of Pandit Ji is an inspiration for many generations in classical music to come.

He had such a distinguished and powerful voice with a fine musical sensibility and an unwavering grasp of the fundamentals that made him the supreme Hindustani vocalist, practicing a subtle fusion of intelligence and passion that imbued life and excitement to his music. Such was Pt. Joshi's talent that he effortlessly changed tracks from classical music to abhang, natyageet (musical Drama), semi-classical and even a playback singing in Bollywood cinema, his composition for a short film on national integration, “Mile Sur Mera Tumhara...” was a massive hit at that time. He was noted for his international concerts, between 1964 to 1982 he performed in countries like Afghanistan, Italy, France, Canada and USA. The music maestro’s soulful khayal renderings, bhajans and abhangs continue to enthrall music lovers.
Pandit Bhimsen Joshi Fellowship
Terms & Conditions

In the memory of world famous Indian musician Pandit Bhimsen Joshi, ICCR has initiated a “Pandit Bhimsen Joshi Fellowship for Music” which will be available to foreign musicians/artists/scholars to do research in the field of Indian music. Under this programme, the selected Fellow is affiliated, on the basis of mutual consent, to an academic/cultural institution in India. Fellowships are for eminent musicians/artists/scholars with proven knowledge in the field of music with at least 10 years of practical/research experience and should be above the age of 35 years on the date of application. The terms and conditions of this fellowship are as follows:-

(a) A Fellow will be paid a lumpsum stipend of Rs.1,50,000/- per month for the duration of his/her Fellowship, towards living expenses, accommodation, medical facilities, local transport, travel within India etc. The Council will not be liable for any expenditure incurred by the Fellow over and above this monthly stipend.

(b) One economy class excursion return airfare would be provided by the Council to the Fellow.

(c) The tenure of the Fellowship would be for a minimum of 3 months and a maximum of 12 months, starting from the day the Fellow joins the institution to which he has been affiliated.

(d) A maximum of 5 days time will be prefixed and suffixed to the Fellow’s tenure period in India to cover travel/preparation time. Pro-rata payment of stipend will be made for these 10 days.

(e) For any fellowship exceeding three months, the Fellow has the option to spread the approved duration of the fellowship over two years with the following provisions:-
   I. That the total stay of the Fellow in India under this scheme should not exceed the approved duration of the fellowship.
   II. That the minimum stay at any given time should be for three months.

III. That travel/preparation time would be allowed only once during the duration of the fellowship.

IV. That only one economy class excursion return airfare would be provided by the Council during the entire duration of the Fellowship.

V. That the final schedule for implementing the Fellowship should be intimated to ICCR, in consultation with the affiliate institution, within 60 days of the first arrival in India.

(f) The stipend for the first month will be advanced to the Fellow immediately on his/her arrival in India. In subsequent months, the amount would be paid by the 7th day of every month into Fellow’s local bank account. The Fellow would therefore need to open a local bank account at the earliest possible after his/her arrival and intimate the details to the Council.

(g) A report containing feedback and an assessment of the experience as an ICCR Fellow should be submitted to the Council at the end of the Fellow’s tenure.

(h) Entire output that is based on the work done by the Fellow during his/her tenure would be used in the public domain only after giving due credit/acknowledgement to the Council where relevant. The Council would also be entitled to use the relevant output in the Council’s own publications or activities, after giving due credit/acknowledgement to the Fellow.
(i) Since the Fellow would be associated with an institution, he/she would be required to interact extensively with the faculty/staff and other colleagues, subject to mutual agreement on the modalities thereof, which may include being requested to give lectures, take part in panel discussions, hold workshops etc.

(j) Fellow should follow the rules, regulations and by-laws of the institute to which he/she is affiliated.

(k) The Council would arrange a gratis visa for the Fellow through the concerned Indian Mission/Post.

(l) The dates for arrival and departure of the Fellow should be indicated at least two months in advance to the Indian Mission in the respective country to ensure that suitable travel bookings can be made. However, if the dates for final departure from India cannot be finalised before arrival, the same may be finalised and intimated to the Council within 60 days of the Fellow’s arrival in India.
Maulana Abul Kalam Azad, the first Education Minister of Independent India, founded the Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) on 9th April 1950.

The objectives of the Council are to participate in the formulation and implementation of policies and programmes relating 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; to establish and develop relations with national and international organizations in the field of culture.

ICCR is about a communion of cultures, a creative dialogue with other nations. To facilitate this interaction with world cultures, the Council strives to articulate and demonstrate the diversity and richness of the cultures of India, both in and with other countries of the world.

The Council prides itself on being a pre-eminent institution engaged in cultural diplomacy and the sponsor of intellectual exchanges between India and partner countries. ICCR’s activities are aimed at reaching out to the hearts and minds of the people through a dissemination of its heritage, values and philosophy to create an endearing and everlasting image and promote India’s soft power overseas.
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