

**Acceptance speech by Dr Dimitrios Vassiliadis upon receiving the ICCR award
at the residence of HE the Ambassador of India, Shri Ravi Shankar. 18 September 2026.**

Your Excellency, Ambassador Ravi Sankar, distinguished guests, friends and students of Indian languages and culture.

I am overwhelmed with gratitude to have been selected to receive the Bharat Mitra Samman — Distinguished Alumni Award. Thank you all so much for being here to share on this occasion. I am deeply honored to have my work appreciated in this way by the Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR).

ICCR was founded in 1950 by the first Prime Minister of India, Jawaharlal Nehru, and Education Minister Maulana Abul Kalam Azad, with the main objective of establishing and strengthening cultural relations and mutual understanding between India and other countries.

With the ICCR scholarships, I completed my M.A., Ph.D., and postdoctoral studies at Banaras Hindu University, one of the greatest and most acclaimed universities in Asia. Afterwards, I shared the knowledge that I received in India with my students in Greece. It is for all these years of study and work that this award is being given.

This accomplishment is not something that I did alone. I would like to thank my teachers, the Indian Ambassadors and the staff of the Indian Embassy, as well as the teachers and staff at the Foreign Languages Teaching Center at the University of Athens.

I would also like to thank my family, friends, and students for their patience, love, and support throughout my academic journey.

I am grateful to the Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) for offering recognition to Indology students like me. I hope that this recognition of my work can serve as an inspiration to others.

I will persevere in my efforts to promote indological studies in Greece through my teaching and writing, and look forward to your continued support for the years to come. I am humbled and appreciative.

Thank you very much.