

## Report – 87<sup>th</sup> Know India Program



Diaspora Research and Resource Centre (DRRC)-Antar Rashtriya Sahayog Parishad (ARSP) hosted the 87<sup>th</sup> batch of Know India Program (KIP), a flagship initiative of the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) to connect with the Indian Diaspora across the globe, on 25 February 2026 at Pravasi Bhawan, New Delhi. This batch brought together thirty-seven delegates from fifteen countries: Denmark, Fiji, Guyana, Israel, Malawi, Malaysia, Mauritius, Myanmar, Portugal, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, the United Kingdom, and the United States of America.

After a formal welcome of the delegates, Mr. Navnit Kumar, Senior Research Fellow at DRRC-ARSP, presented all the milestones achieved by the DRRC-ARSP in the recent past. Prof. Gopal Arora, Secretary, ARSP, presented introductory and welcome remarks. He traced the journey of Giritiya countries through the lenses of the youth and remembered the dreams of their founding fathers about being connected to the roots.

A workshop on ‘Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam’ was presented by Dr. Bharat Choudhary, Assistant Professor, Hansraj College, University of Delhi, in which he explained the concept from philosophy to the practical aspects, i.e., “*swa se sarva tak*” (from only one to the all). Another workshop, titled ‘Discover Bharat: A Visual Feast’, was conducted by Dr. Astha Agarwal. This was purely an activity-based moment. The delegates were divided into teams, and a quiz was conducted. This activity helped delegates identify culturally significant personalities and monuments, listen to songs from the film soundtrack, and recognise them. The winning team was also awarded. The quiz fostered teamwork and knowledge-sharing, and left a lasting impression on the participants.

Amb Sushil Singhal, Sr. Vice President, ARSP, chaired the second session of the event. In his welcome address, he said that India’s relationship with its diaspora is not only sentimental, but it is a structured engagement, and we see our overseas community as a partner in development,

innovation, culture and global dialogues. H. E. Mr. Chandrath Singh, High Commissioner of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago in India, praised India's initiative of the AI summit, 2026, calling it 'unprecedented'. He also praised the ARSP for its good work in connecting the diaspora. H.E. Mr. Jagnnath Sami, High Commissioner of the Republic of Fiji in India, mentioned the 37% of Indian-Fiji who are a living bridge between India and Fiji.



Madam Sharifah Ezneeda Wafa, Deputy High Commissioner of Malaysia in India, talked about the two waves of Indians that have come to Malaysia; one was around 2000 years ago in the form of sailors, traders and philosophers, and another was during the British era and after the Independence of Malaysia. Ms. Sandiyakoemarie Mangre, Commercial Attache of the Republic of Suriname in India, said that she is a proud daughter of the Indian diaspora, deeply rooted in culture, tradition and identity. "We are still called as 'Hindustani', and not Surinamese. It is not just a name, but an identity," she added. Mr Mahesh Mahakumarage, First Secretary, High Commission of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka in India, talked about the importance of lifelong learning. He gave an example of India to show how this country embraced the British Institutions and made them work in the development of India and its citizens.

This was followed by an interactive session, in which participants provided their views about India based on their various attachments. The participants were quite impressed with their visit, not only to reconnect with their ancestral land but also to witness what India had achieved in various spheres of socio-economic and technological development. They said that they felt very proud of the management of a complex and pluralistic democracy by the Government of India and expressed their rich experience and lessons learned during this visit.

Dr. Vishnu Bisram presented the Vote of thanks, and the program ended with the distribution of certificates to the delegates of KIP for their active participation.