

DIASPORA SAMVAD

डायस्पोरा संवाद

DIASPORA RESEARCH AND RESOURCE CENTRE (DRRC)
ANTAR RASHTRIYA SAHAYOG PARISHAD-BHARAT

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AUSTRALIA'S INDIAN DIASPORA IS BOOMING



India has overtaken the United Kingdom as the top country of origin of those living in Australia. The change is considered significant since this was the first time in the country's history that a non-British-origin migrant group has become the largest diaspora. The figures were released by *The Interpreter*, reflecting Australia's multicultural fabric's evolution.

However, the report highlighted that this change in demographics has brought challenges. The rise of Anti-immigration movements in Australia, with demonstrations such as "*March for Australia*", reflects the fact that the Indian diaspora continues to face real barriers to full acceptance within the country. The report highlighted that analysing the Indian diaspora's participation and level of trust in public life remains unexplored. For the longest time, people focused on how much the multicultural diaspora earned and how well they integrated. But limited research has been done on their thought process or on how they engage.

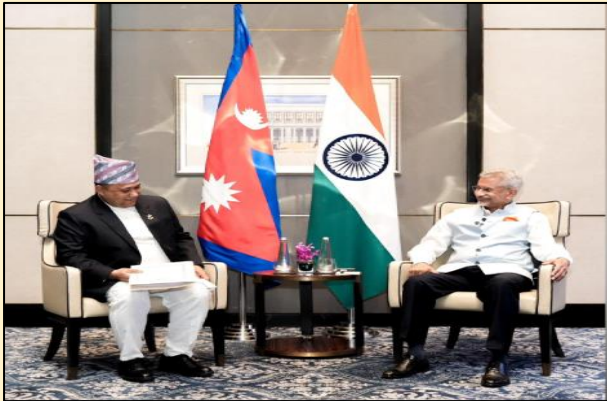
Two problems in looking at the Indian diaspora :- The analysts pointed out two problems in having a bird's-eye view of the Indian diaspora:

1. The Indian diaspora is framed as an economically successful model minority
2. The other end of the view is that Indian Australians are viewed as surplus actors slipping through the cracks in the immigration system.

Neither of these two perspectives reflects the full story or fully captures the demography. Instead of this, the *Interpreter* reports suggested that the Indian diaspora must be understood as a diverse cohort "whose internal stratifications – stemming from class, caste, language, religion, residency pathways, and generational identities – shape its members' experience in distinct ways." For instance, the experience of a temporary visa-holder navigating cost-of-living pressures is not the same as that of a permanent resident or even that

of an Australian-born Indian origin person. Interestingly, this diversion also extends to their political views, media consumption habits and the processes through which they cultivate and maintain trust in Australian institutions. In recent years, the Indian diaspora has been facing the challenge of anti-immigration sentiments, reflecting how the same community once celebrated for its economic contributions has been recast as a perpetual cultural outsider. The reports emphasised that the thorough study of the diaspora is also instrumental for the betterment of the India-Australia relationship.

INDIA-NEPAL PARTNERSHIP TO TAKE IT TO NEW HEIGHTS



The Minister for Foreign Affairs of Nepal, H. E. Mr. Shisir Khanal, undertook an official visit to India starting 5th June 2026 at the invitation of External Affairs Minister Dr. S. Jaishankar.

The Ministers held bilateral talks in New Delhi on 6 June 2026. They reviewed the full spectrum of India-Nepal bilateral relations covering development cooperation, connectivity, trade and transit, energy, and people-to-people ties. They also exchanged views on regional and multilateral issues of mutual interest.

The Ministers expressed satisfaction over the progress achieved in bilateral cooperation across diverse sectors and welcomed the recent initiatives to enhance co-operation in areas of innovation and startups; digital and financial technology; and training and capacity building. They agreed to intensify efforts towards further enhancing the multifaceted India-Nepal partnership to take it to new heights. Both Ministers welcomed the completion of internal processes for entry into force of the India-Nepal Mutual Legal Assistance Agreement in Criminal Matters (MLAA). This Agreement will benefit the people of India and Nepal by providing an institutional legal framework to enhance the effectiveness of investigation, prosecution and judicial proceedings relating to cross-border crimes.

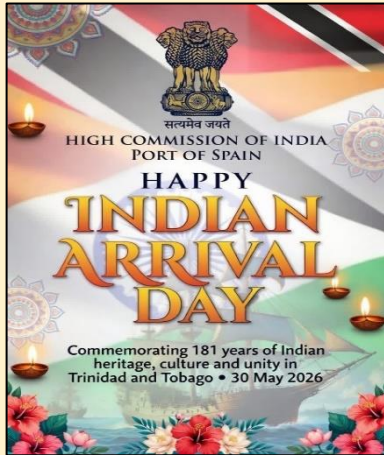
Following the bilateral talks:

- (i) External Affairs Minister of India handed over to Foreign Minister of Nepal, 72 health facilities and 12 cultural heritage sector projects, completed under India's post-2015 'Earthquake Reconstruction Assistance' to Nepal.
- (ii) The Ministers jointly launched the Peer-to-Peer (P2P) linkage between Unified Payments Interface (UPI) of India and National Payments Interface (NPI) of Nepal for facilitating cross-border personal remittances between India and Nepal.
- (iii) The Ministers witnessed the signing of MoU between Digital India Bhashini and Kathmandu University for co-creating National Digital Infrastructure for "Voice First" Language Translation platform;

The discussions were held in a warm, friendly and constructive atmosphere, reflecting the unique and special ties between the two countries. During the visit, Foreign Minister Khanal also met National Security Advisor Shri Ajit Doval. This was the first visit at the level of Foreign Minister between the two countries since the new Government assumed office in Nepal in March 2026. Nepal is a priority partner of India under its 'Neighbourhood First' policy and the visit reinforced the tradition of regular high-level exchanges between the two close and friendly neighbours. It provided an opportunity to exchange views on enhancing the bilateral partnership to fulfil the aspirations of peoples from both countries, and has imparted fresh vigour to our efforts towards this objective.

INDIAN ARRIVAL DAY IN TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

INDIAN INDENTURED LABOURERS TRANSFORMED ADVERSITIES INTO OPPORTUNITIES IN TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO : PRIME MINISTER KAMLA PERSAD-BISSESSAR



In celebration of the 181st Anniversary of Indian Arrival Day, the High Commission of India, in collaboration with the Government of the Republic of Trinidad & Tobago presented the acclaimed Brij Lok Manch folk troupe from Uttar Pradesh, India, led by Shri Sanjay Kumar and hosted by Sri Dattatreya Yoga Centre TT. This event took place under the patronage of The Honourable Jearlean John, MP for Couva North and Minister of Works and Infrastructure.

Prime Minister Kamla Persad-Bissessar participated in the re-enactment of the arrival of the first Indian indentured labourers to Trinidad, paying tribute to the courage, sacrifice and resilience of those who crossed the Kala Pani in search of a better future. Speaking in the Lower House the Prime Minister said, “When they came, they had no traveller’s cheques, I said it before. They had no credit cards. They had

no wire transfers. But they came with something even more valuable. They came with the Koran. They came with the Gita, with the Ramayana, and the holy books, and with their own disciplines and ways of life, which they brought into our country. Through sacrifice and perseverance, they transformed adversity into opportunity. They laid a foundation for generations to come. Today, their descendants stand proudly with all the people of T&T, all those who came to Trinidad and Tobago to create the beautiful rainbow nation that we now call Sweet T&T.”

Indian Arrival Day celebrations focused on future opportunities, as business and government leaders highlighted initiatives aimed at strengthening economic ties between Trinidad and Tobago and India. Speaking at the Cultural Heritage Ambassadors of Trinidad and Tobago’s Annual Indian Arrival Day Breakfast Fellowship, President of the Trinidad and Tobago-India Business Federation, Dr. Valmikki Arjoon, urged citizens to honour their ancestors’ resilience through risk-taking, entrepreneurship and national unity. He called for economic diversification, stronger India-Trinidad ties and collective action to build a more prosperous future. “An MOU on the pharmaceutical corporation has been signed, that could very well become manufacturing of pharmaceuticals on our soil. That’s a job. That’s foreign exchange. That is a brand-new sector that doesn’t care



what the oil price is doing. Trinidad is not the first Caribbean nation to have adopted India’s UPI, Digital Payments Platform. That digital infrastructure could position us as the gateway for financial technology in the entire Caribbean. OCI cards extended to the sixth generation.” However, Indian High Commissioner to Trinidad and Tobago, Dr. Pradeep Singh Rajpurohit, said there has been some difficulty in accessing Overseas Citizenship of India Cards. The card allows for better economic engagements between both nations for up to the sixth generation of the diaspora. As attendees networked over cultural music, dance and traditional food, the event served as a celebration of heritage while highlighting opportunities for future growth and collaboration between Trinidad and Tobago and India.

INDIAN ARRIVAL DAY 2026: CELEBRATING 181 YEARS OF HERITAGE, CULTURE, AND CONTRIBUTION

✍ Ms. Devina Birbal,

(A participant of 86th batch of Know India Program from Trinidad and Tobago)

Indian Arrival Day in Trinidad and Tobago is filled with festivities throughout the country. This year made it 181 years since the first set of East Indian Indentured labourers arrived in Trinidad and Tobago aboard the *Fatel Razack* on 30th May, 1845. The struggles that the East Indians had to face on their journey to Trinidad and Tobago were unimaginable. Some did not make it over the 'kala waters' as referred to by the indentured labourers. It was through great resilience, our ancestors survived and allowed for upcoming generations to experience and live their traditions, values and practices.

Despite oppression by the British and other rulers at that time, they were able to preserve their traditions and identity despite conversions of faith and faced unjust behaviour. Our ancestors strived through deplorable living conditions to make a better tomorrow for themselves and their upcoming generations. We have evolved as a people but our religious practices are still upheld till date such as Indian classical singing, their cuisines, the attire, their jewellery, and in some parts of Trinidad, they still speak Bhojपुरi.

One of the things Trinidad and Tobago is known for is its music artists. Music was one of the many facets that brought the people together, especially the African and India 'slaves' as well as the other indentured labourers and slaves such as Chinese, Spanish, Portuguese and many more. Due to our many colonizers, Trinibagonians refer to ourselves as a 'Boiling pot' of cultures. From this, came Doubles, something similar to chole bhature and we created something called chutney music and chutney soca music which is known internationally due to the blending of cultures and adaptations to our own understanding of music.

We also have traditional classical singing by artists such as the late Isaac Yankaran, Jameer Hosein, Budram Holass, Rasika Dindial and many more. Four of the eight Indian Classical dance forms are practised in Trinidad and Tobago which include Kathak, Bharatanatyam, Kuchipudi and Odissi. We also have chutney dancing as well as Bollywood, folk and fusion which evolved from the East Indians contribution to the people of Trinidad and Tobago. East Indian culture is very much alive and vibrant in Trinidad and Tobago.

The Indian High Commissioner of Trinidad and Tobago, Dr. Pradeep Singh Rajpurohit organizes many cultural programs alongside the other religious bodies to celebrate festivals such as Diwali and Holi and many more festivals surrounding Indian culture and traditions. Upcoming International Day of Yoga on June 21st where they have organized a venue to practise yoga alongside all the yoga practitioners and yoga teachers in Trinidad and Tobago.

Furthermore, programs such as Know India Program (KIP) are vital amongst the many other programs offered by the High Commission of India of Trinidad and Tobago. I was fortunate enough to partake in the 86th edition of KIP as the sole representative from Trinidad and Tobago and created unforgettable memories and experienced the essence of what India had to offer, to visit the land of my ancestors was truly a wonderful feeling and a dream realized.

India's involvement in its Diaspora across the globe helps to strengthen ties with their own people over millions of miles who share the same ancestry. Vasudeva Kutumbakam can be realized especially with the work that Prime Minister Narendra Modi is carrying about throughout the world. Dr. Subrahmanyam Jaishankar, India's External Affairs Minister visited Trinidad and Tobago earlier this year in May to follow up on promises Mr. Modi made only a year ago. Dr. Jaishankar held many discussions with our Prime Minister about bilateral relations, and expanding cooperation in health, energy, technology, and national security.

INDIAN ARRIVAL DAY IN SURINAME

INDIAN ARRIVAL DAY IS A CELEBRATION OF A VIBRANT AND ENDURING HERITAGE



On the occasion of 153rd Arrival of Day of Indians in Suriname, the Embassy of India in Paramaribo, as part of its Promotion of Cultural Ties with Diaspora (PCTD) Programme and in collaboration with prominent Surinamese socio-cultural organizations notably the Cultural Union Suriname, Suriname India Women Association, Stichting Hindustani Immigration, Yuva Dal Suriname, and SCSV Premjoti organized a commemorative event on 5 June 2026 to mark the 153rd Indian Arrival Day in Suriname.

The event was graced by the Hon'ble Chairman of the National Assembly of Suriname, H.E. Dr. Ashwin Adhin. The Hon'ble President was represented by the Hon'ble Minister of Youth Development and Sports, Ms. Lalinie Gopal.

In his remarks, Ambassador Subhash Gupta emphasized that the 153rd Indian Arrival Day is not merely a reflection on history, but a celebration of a vibrant and enduring heritage. He noted that the remarkable journey of the Hindustani community since 1873 stands as a testament to resilience, integration, and cultural pride. Dr. Ashwin Adhin and Minister Lalini Gopal also highlighted the significant contributions of the Indian diaspora to the development and progress of Suriname, while recalling the struggles and sacrifices of the ancestors who laid the foundation of today's diverse Surinamese society.

The event paid tribute to the historic arrival of the first Indian indentured labourers aboard the ship *Lalla Rookh* on 5 June 1873. The event encompassed a cultural evening showcasing the rich cultural synthesis of Indian heritage and Surinamese identity. The cultural programme featured a variety of performances. Students of the Swami Vivekananda Cultural Centre presented dance performances, while students from Dansschool Satrangi also enthralled the audience. Musical recitals were performed by the SVCC music faculty. Traditional folk expressions, led by Madan Tulsi including the Ahirwa dance and the dramatic storytelling form Londa Naach were also showcased. An enactment of the yoga sequences was performed by SVCC students under the guidance of the Yoga Teacher-in-Charge. Under the aegis of the Suriname Hindi Parishad, Hindi poetry recitations were presented. Mr. Kries Ramkhelawan and his group performed Baithak Gana, highlighting the Bhojpuri-Hindustani-Surinamese musical heritage.

In addition, SVCC students performed a dance set to "Vande Mataram" in commemoration of its 150th anniversary. The evening concluded with a delicacy from the Indo-Surinamese kitchen.

DIASPORA AS A BRIDGE: WHAT SURINAME AND INDIA CAN LEARN FROM EACH OTHER

✍ Wandana Kheda LL.M., Jurist

(Participant of 85th batch of Know India Program from Suriname)

Diaspora is often viewed as a consequence of migration and history. For India, however, it has grown into a strategic reality. According to figures from the Indian Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), the Indian diaspora numbers over 32 million people worldwide, including non-resident Indians (NRIs) and persons of Indian descent (PIOs). This makes India the largest diaspora in the world.

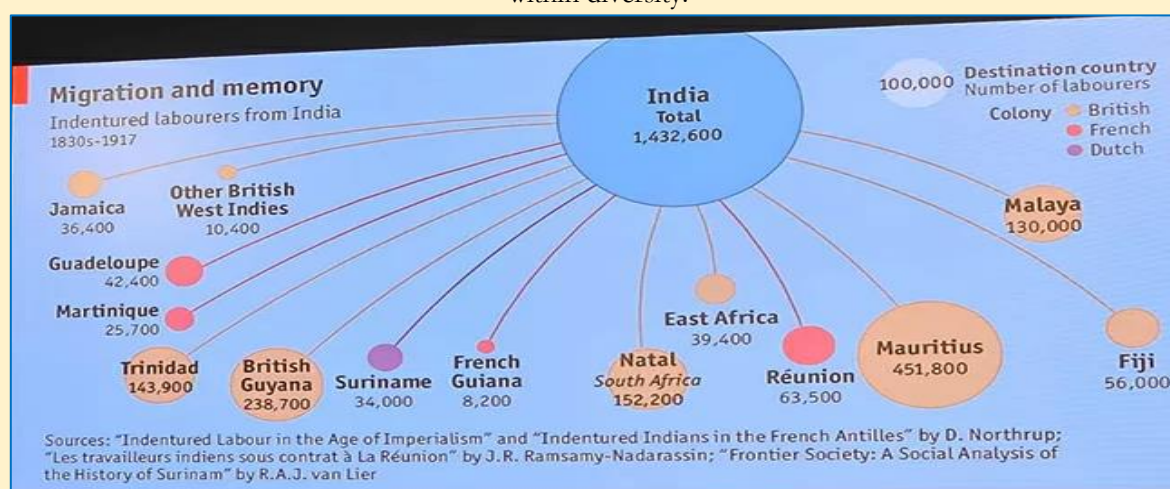
Suriname is also part of this global network. Not as a fringe phenomenon, but as a historically rooted community rooted in indentured labour of the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Approximately 34,000 indentured labourers from India settled in Suriname at that time—a history Suriname shares with countries such as Guyana, Trinidad, Mauritius, and Fiji. During my recent stay in India, it became clear that diaspora there is not primarily approached as nostalgia, but as a vision. It is seen as cultural capital, as an economic and social force, and as a form of quiet diplomacy. This approach invites reflection—not only on what Suriname can learn from India, but also on what India receives in return through Suriname.

Shared history with contemporary significance

Although the origins of the diaspora lie in a colonial past, its significance today is fundamentally different.

Diaspora is not a static heritage, but a living relationship. Suriname demonstrates how a community of

Indian descent can fully take root in a multi-ethnic society without losing its cultural identity. It is precisely in this that a valuable lesson for India lies. In a world where migration, integration, and identity are increasingly subjects of tension, the Surinamese experience offers an example of cultural continuity within diversity.



What Suriname Can Gain

For Suriname, there is added value in a conscious yet pragmatic approach to the diaspora. India demonstrates how the diaspora can contribute to:

- knowledge and education exchange;
- economic and technological cooperation;
- cultural diplomacy without political pressure;
- sustainable networks that transcend changes of government.

This requires no grand policy or ideological positioning, but rather targeted cooperation and institutional awareness. The diaspora can be a bridge—even for small countries with an open economy and a rich cultural history.

What India Gets In Return

However, the relationship is not a one-way street. Through countries like Suriname, India retains:

- the historical credibility of its diaspora narrative;
- access to regions where soft diplomacy is more effective than geopolitical influence;
- living examples of how Indian culture develops sustainably outside the subcontinent;

- partners who embody pluralism, stability, and the rule of law.
In that respect, Suriname is not a student, but a dialogue partner.

Diaspora as a Reciprocal Bridge

When the diaspora is viewed solely as a source of investment or loyalty, it loses its depth. Its true strength lies in reciprocity: in the ability to connect countries based on shared history, trust, and long-term relationships. For both Suriname and India, this presents an opportunity to approach the diaspora as:

- a bridge between continents;
- a form of quiet diplomacy;
- an instrument for cooperation, independent of political fluctuations.

Looking ahead

In a world where international relations are becoming increasingly complex, the diaspora offers something rare: continuity. It transcends governments, eras, and borders. Precisely for this reason, it deserves a place in contemporary policy reflection—not as sentiment, but as strategy.

For Suriname, this means consciously positioning itself within a larger whole. For India, this means continuing to listen to what its diaspora reflects back to the world. The diaspora is not a past to be merely commemorated, but a relationship that can be maintained—to the benefit of both countries.

INDIANS BROUGHT THE VALUES OF COEXISTENCE, HARMONY, AND DIVERSITY



The High Commission of India, in collaboration with the Saint Vincent and the Grenadines Indian Heritage Foundation (SVG IHF), hosted a landmark event marking the 165th Indian Arrival Day on 31st May, 2026 at Indian Bay Beach in Kingstown. Kingstown came alive with vibrant colours, rich culture, and deep reflection as the community gathered to honour the legacy of the first Indian immigrants. The memorable day commenced with a powerful, symbolic reenactment. Dressed in traditional Indian attire, participants gathered at the Young Island Dock before

journeying by boat to Indian Bay, retracing the historic waters crossed by their ancestors. Upon landing, a mock registration was conducted to simulate the historical arrival conditions faced by the pioneers who stepped off the ship *Travancore* on June 1, 1861.



The commemoration was profoundly honoured by the presence of the Governor General of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, H.E. Sir Stanley K. John, who graced the event as the chief dignitary. Speaking at the event, the Minister of Youth, Sports, Culture and Creative Industry, Hon. K. Cupid, highlighted the invaluable contributions and lasting legacy that Indian immigrants have woven into the socio-economic and cultural fabric of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines. Senator Mr. Carlos James echoed these sentiments, powerfully honouring the unmatched resilience, discipline, and work ethic of the historical Indian indentured labourers. In his address, the High Commissioner of India extended his warmest congratulations on behalf of the Government and people of India, paying a moving tribute to the Indo-Vincentian pioneers: “Our ancestors carried the spirit of India when they first stepped onto the shores of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines. They brought with them the values of coexistence, harmony, and diversity, alongside the enduring philosophy of ‘Labor Omnia Vincit’-Hard work conquers all. This is a unique and inspiring story of perseverance, determination, hope and sacrifice of our forefathers, which continues to inspire and enrich Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and strengthen the collective identity.”



The High Commissioner further underscored India's unwavering commitment to its development partnership with Saint Vincent and the Grenadines. He announced the upcoming handover of a vegetable processing facility in Langley Park and a renovated netball hard court in Edinboro. Additionally, he emphasized the importance of cultural preservation, calling for closer cooperation to digitally preserve and share the historic registers of Indian immigrants currently housed at the National Archives of SVG. Mr. Junior Baccus, President of the SVG Indian Heritage Foundation, outlined the deep significance of preserving these traditions for future generations. He extended his heartfelt gratitude to the visiting dignitaries, organizers, and community members for their overwhelming support to the event.

From the 260 brave souls who arrived aboard the Travancore to becoming a proud, thriving pillar of modern Vincentian society, the day served as a poignant reminder of past sacrifices, a celebration of shared culture, and a commitment to building a cohesive future together.

The High Commission of India wishes a very Happy Indian Arrival Day to all.

PM ADDRESSES THE INDIAN DIASPORA IN THE NETHERLANDS



Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi attended on May 16, 2026 an Indian community reception in The Hague. On arrival, he was accorded a warm and spirited welcome by a large gathering of the Indian diaspora and friends of India in the Netherlands.

Addressing the gathering, Prime Minister Modi expressed appreciation for the enthusiastic and colourful reception. He praised the Indian diaspora for its contributions to the Dutch society and for serving as a living bridge of friendship between India and the Netherlands. He also recalled the deep and enduring historical ties of the Surinami-Hindustani community with India, and commended their efforts to preserve and celebrate their rich cultural heritage across generations. Prime Minister highlighted that the large number of Indian professionals in the technology sector and the growing number of Indian students in Dutch universities, particularly in innovation-driven fields, were adding strength to contemporary partnership between the two countries. He further noted that sports linkages, in particular Cricket and Hockey, were contributing to new vibrancy to the close people-to-people ties between the two countries.

Prime Minister underlined that bilateral cooperation with the Netherlands was steadily expanding, with technology and innovation emerging as key focus areas. He underscored the robust and growing trade and economic relationship between the two countries, noting that the Netherlands is among India’s largest export destinations in Europe and one of its foremost investment partners. He added that the India-EU Free Trade Agreement would further unlock new opportunities for both sides.

Prime Minister highlighted the growth and progress happening in India with the objective to become a developed country – Viksit Bharat by 2047. He noted the scale and pace of the ongoing transformation in India through wide-ranging advancements across infrastructure, manufacturing, clean energy, and digital systems. He emphasized that India was confidently shaping its own future, while contributing to global growth and prosperity.

Prime Minister assured the community that the Government of India stood firmly behind every Indian living abroad and remained committed to their welfare. He called upon them to actively contribute to the Viksit Bharat journey by leveraging their experience in the Netherlands.

The Netherlands is home to the largest number of Indian origin people in mainland Europe, including around 200,000 members of the Surinami-Hindustani community. In this regard, he highlighted the liberalisation in OCI eligibility for the Surinami-Hindustani diaspora from 4th generation to 6th generation.

INDIAN DIASPORA A ‘LIVING BRIDGE’ BETWEEN INDIA AND US: EAM JAISHANKAR



External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar described the Indian diaspora in the United States as a “living bridge” that has played a major role in deepening ties between New Delhi and Washington across sectors ranging from technology and medicine to public service and entrepreneurship.

Speaking at the America’s 250th Independence Day reception hosted at the US Embassy in New Delhi, he said “The Indian diaspora in the United States has contributed enormously to American society across technology, academia, medicine, entrepreneurship, and public service. It has helped build political understanding between our two nations and remains a living bridge,” Jaishankar said.

PIYUSH GOYAL LAUDS INDIAN DIASPORA FOR STRENGTHENING INDIA-CANADA TIES



Union Minister for Commerce, Piyush Goyal, highlighted India’s growth journey and great market opportunities at the reception hosted by Canada’s Minister of International Trade, Maninder Sidhu. In a post on X he hailed the productive discussions held in Ottawa and praised the contribution of the Indian

diaspora in forging deeper ties in areas across the economy and culture. “Concluded a productive day in Ottawa with a delightful interaction at a reception hosted by my counterpart, Minister of International Trade of Canada, Mr. Maninder Sidhu. Spoke about India's remarkable growth journey, driven by the aspirations of its people, a thriving entrepreneurial spirit, a vast talent pool and greater market opportunities. Also, emphasised the significant contribution of the Indian diaspora in deepening economic, cultural and people-to-people relations!” he said on X. Piyush Goyal arrived in Canada for a three-day official visit from 25 to 27 May, taking place as New Delhi and Ottawa aggressively push ahead with negotiations for the proposed Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA), viewed as a vital step in rejuvenating economic relations between the two nations. Canada’s Minister for International Trade Maninder Sidhu said that a “Team Canada” business delegation will arrive in India later this year to further give boost to the economic ties as the two countries look forward towards tripling and taking their trade to USD 50 billion by 2030. Speaking at a joint press address with Union Minister Piyush Goyal, Sidhu recalled the sustained interactions between the Indian and Canadian leadership along with the announcement of the uranium deal with Canada. He called Goyal's visit “very timely” and noted, “there's a lot of excitement to do more with India in terms of our economic partnership.” At the address, Goyal hailed the growing momentum of ties between India and Canada during his visit to the country with the largest Indian delegation, that aims to take forward discussions on deepening the economic linkages between the two countries.

INDIAN-ORIGIN MOTHER-SON DUO FROM HARYANA BECOME MAYORS IN UK



In what can be called a double delight for a family from Haryana's Rohtak, 23-year-old Tushar Kumar and his mother, Parveen Rani, have been elected mayors in the United Kingdom, a country they moved to in 2013. While Parveen Rani was elected as the first Indian-origin mayor of Hertsmere Borough Council, her son Tushar Kumar created history by becoming the youngest Indian-origin mayor in the UK, taking over the Elstree and Borehamwood Town Council as its youngest-ever mayor. The mother-son duo was elected to the posts within a week of each other. Tushar's father, Sunil Dahiya, on Sunday told news agency PTI that Tushar was elected as mayor on May 13 and his mother Parveen became a mayor on May 20. The Dahiya family’s ancestral village, Rohna, falls in Kharkhoda in Haryana's Sonipat. But they had been living in Rohtak for a long time before moving to the UK in 2013. Sunil Dahiya, a businessman, said when he, along with his wife Parveen and two children, moved to the UK in 2013, they did not have anything specific in mind. “We had not come with any specific thing in mind when we moved to the UK in 2013... Tushar was just 10 years then,” he said.

Sunil Dahiya revealed that his wife and son used to teach Hindi free of charge to those born and brought up in the UK. “Tushar and his mother also used to teach Hindi free of cost to those born and brought up in the UK. Tushar is also connected with a charity-based organisation -- the Hindi Shiksha Parishad,” the father said. He said both Tushar and his mother contested elections for the first time in 2023, and they were elected councillors. “Prior to her mayoral appointment, Parveen also served as Cabinet Member for Streetscene, Parks, Leisure and Culture, deputy mayor of Hertsmere, and Global Envoy for Film and Television. Tushar became deputy mayor in 2025,” Dahiya said. Tushar graduated from King's College, London. He was a second-year undergraduate student at the college pursuing a BSc in politics when he became a councillor at the age of 20. He will also pursue his Master's degree in September this year. “My younger son is also pursuing his degree from King's College. He is also the trustee in King's College Students Union...,” Dahiya said. Parveen Rani is passionate about community service, education, culture and bringing people together across all backgrounds and generations, he added.

PM RESEARCH CHAIR SCHEME OPENS GLOBAL TALENT PATHWAY ACROSS 13 STRATEGIC SECTORS

The Department of Higher Education launches the PMRC portal and institutional framework to attract global Indian-origin researchers into top-ranked Indian laboratories and universities across 13 strategic technology sectors.

Key Details: - The PMRC framework combines global talent recruitment, strategic-sector research, and institution-based governance into a single national research architecture.

PMRC Architecture	Details
What	Applications opened for the Prime Minister Research Chair (PMRC) Scheme 2026 under the Ministry of Education
Objective	Attract global Indian-origin researchers and technology leaders into India's research ecosystem
Talent Pool	Indian nationals abroad, OCI cardholders, and Persons of Indian Origin (PIO)
Research Tracks	Young Research Fellows, Senior Research Fellows, and Research Chairs
Priority Areas	13 strategic sectors including AI, semiconductors, cybersecurity, space, advanced materials, healthcare, energy, agri-tech and atomic energy
Institutional Eligibility	Top 100 NIRF Overall/Engineering institutions or Top 50 Research institutions, alongside eligible national laboratories
Governance	Oversight by an Empowered Committee chaired by the Principal Scientific Advisor
Implementation Core	7 Lead Institutions including IIT Delhi, IIT Bombay, IIT Madras, IIT Kanpur, IIT Hyderabad, IIT (ISM) Dhanbad and IISc Bengaluru
Research Support	Multi-year grants, institutional fellowships and access to advanced laboratories and research infrastructure

The **Department of Higher Education**, Ministry of Education, has launched the **Prime Minister Research Chair (PMRC) Scheme 2026**, opening applications through a dedicated digital portal and establishing an institutional framework designed to attract Indian-origin scientific talent from overseas. The scheme seeks to connect internationally experienced researchers and technology leaders with India's premier universities and laboratories to strengthen domestic research capacity and accelerate strategic technology development. Positioned within the broader goals of **Aatmanirbhar Bharat** and **Viksit Bharat @2047**, the framework aims to convert global Indian expertise into locally anchored research ecosystems.

The PMRC architecture is organized across **three research tracks** to match varying stages of expertise:

- **Young Research Fellows** for early-career innovators
- **Senior Research Fellows** for experienced project leaders
- **Research Chairs** for globally established scientific leaders capable of anchoring large institutional programs

Selected candidates will receive institutional fellowships, multi-year research support, and access to advanced laboratories and technical infrastructure.

Research activity is directed toward **13 national priority domains**, reflecting India's strategic technology requirements. These include:

- **AI, Quantum and Advanced Computing**
- **Semiconductors and Cybersecurity**
- **Next-Generation Communications**
- **Space and Defence Technologies**

- **Advanced Materials and Critical Minerals**
- **Biotechnology, Healthcare and MedTech**
- **Energy and Climate Technologies**
- **Agri-tech, Blue Economy and Atomic Energy**

The sectoral design signals a shift toward mission-oriented research aligned with industrial competitiveness and technological sovereignty.

Institutional Guardrails and Lead University Network

The PMRC framework incorporates strict institutional quality filters.

Only **top-ranked NIRF institutions** and eligible laboratories operating under agencies such as **DST, DBT, ICMR and CSIR** may host fellows. Oversight rests with an **Empowered Committee chaired by the Principal Scientific Advisor**, intended to align research priorities with national strategic objectives.

Implementation support will be coordinated through **seven designated Lead Institutions**:

- IIT Delhi
- IIT Bombay
- IIT Madras
- IIT Kanpur
- IIT Hyderabad
- IIT (ISM) Dhanbad
- IISc Bengaluru

This layered structure combines talent recruitment, institutional accreditation, and strategic oversight into a single research governance framework.

What is an “Institutional Research Framework” in Higher Education?

An institutional research framework links funding, infrastructure, governance, and academic partnerships to national research priorities. Rather than supporting isolated projects, it coordinates researchers, host institutions, and regulatory systems to build sustained scientific capability aligned with strategic economic and technological goals.

Policy Relevance

The PMRC rollout signals a shift in India’s research policy—from training talent for global systems toward building domestic ecosystems capable of retaining and attracting frontier expertise.

- **Addresses Long-Term Brain Drain Challenges:** The framework creates structured pathways for overseas Indian researchers to undertake sustained research inside India.
- **Strengthens Strategic Technology Capacity:** Priority alignment with semiconductors, quantum, cybersecurity, and defence technologies supports national technology-security goals.
- **Raises Research Quality Inside Domestic Institutions:** International collaborations and high-end projects may deepen research culture within top Indian universities and laboratories.
- **Improves Lab-to-Market Innovation Pipelines:** Linking universities with national laboratories and industry-facing research themes can accelerate commercialisation and technology transfer.
- **Supports India’s Deep-Tech and IP Ecosystem:** The scheme may help expand indigenous patent generation and reduce dependence on imported frontier technologies.

**PEOPLE-TO-PEOPLE CONNECTIVITY IS THE FOUNDATION OF SMOOTH
AND FORMIDABLE RELATIONS BETWEEN INDIA AND AFGHANISTAN:
AMB. SUSHIL SINGHAL**



Antar Rashtriya Sahayog Parishad (ARSP) organised an interactive session on 28th May, 2026 at South Asian University (SAU), Maidan Garhi, New Delhi, 110068 with students of Afghan nationality. Senior officials of ARSP, academicians and professors of SAU and 15 Afghan Students from different academic backgrounds were present in the meeting.

The discussion started with the cultural similarity between India and Afghanistan. Each student suggested one cultural similarity. Some of them are - Relationship between siblings and a strong family

setup with one authoritative figure as head of the family, the sense of hospitality, cooking style and recipes, musical instruments like *Tabla*, milk tea and sweets, Garbha, but without sticks, Clothes like saree and pagadi, long wedding parties and Cricket. In the second half of the session, the Afghan students shared their likes and problems faced on campus and in India. They also shared their expectations from the Government of India and the problems in their homeland. Shri Manish Ahluwalia said, "India, unlike popular opinion, has only one culture that is to accommodate its diversity. Indians and Afghans were once under the same umbrella." Amb. Sushil Singhal, Sr. Vice President, ARSP, talked about the Government of India's efforts in Afghanistan, pre- and post-Taliban's control. Shri Narayan Kumar, Hon. Director-ARSP, talked about cultural assimilation and the flow of traditions in the subcontinent since time immemorial. Shri Anil Joshi, Joint Secretary, ARSP, talked about the steady Government of India's response before and after the regime change in Afghanistan. Zameer Anwar, Research Fellow, Centre for Roma Studies and Cultural Relations, ARSP threw light on the shared historical, civilizational, and linguistic kinship of India and Afghanistan. In his concluding remark, Amb. Sushil Singhal mentioned people-to-people connectivity and relations between the two countries. He emphasised the role of positive dialogues at the government and grassroots level to move beyond a formidable future for both countries.

OBITUARY

**IN LOVING MEMORY OF
DR RAJNI SARIN**



1949 - 2026

Antar Rashtriya Sahayog Parishad (ARSP) expresses profound sorrow on the passing of Dr. Rajni Sarin, a distinguished social worker, medical professional, and dedicated public servant.

Dr Rajni Sarin was an active member of Antar-Rashtriya Sahayog Parishad and the convenor of the Centre for Roma Studies and Cultural Relations. She practiced obstetrics and gynaecology in Farrukhabad, UP, India, for more than fifty years. Dr. Sarin worked against female infanticide long before it became a national conversation. She was a poet and writer, a philanthropist, and a community builder. She took her last breath on 7th June 2026, at the age of 77.

In this moment of grief, we extend our heartfelt condolences to her family, friends, colleagues, and all those whose lives were touched by her work and compassion. We pray that the Almighty grants eternal peace to the departed soul and gives strength and courage to her loved ones to bear this irreparable loss.

बालस्वरूप 'राही' जी के 90वें जन्मदिन पर उनका अभिनंदन एवं काव्य-पाठ



विश्व हिंदी सचिवालय, केंद्रीय हिंदी संस्थान, अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय सहयोग परिषद, वातायन (यू. के.) तथा भारतीय भाषा मंच के संयुक्त तत्वावधान में वरिष्ठ साहित्यकार एवं हिन्दी के सुप्रसिद्ध गीतकार बालस्वरूप राही के 90वें जन्मदिवस समारोह का आयोजन साहित्य अकादमी में सम्पन्न हुआ। कार्यक्रम का संचालन सुश्री अनीता वर्मा ने किया तथा अतिथियों का औपचारिक स्वागत ऋषि कुमार शर्मा (अध्यक्ष, वैश्विक हिंदी परिवार, दिल्ली इकाई) द्वारा किया गया। कार्यक्रम के प्रारम्भ में बालस्वरूप राही के जीवन-संघर्ष, साहित्यिक यात्रा तथा रचनात्मक योगदान का परिचय प्रस्तुत किया गया। इसके पश्चात राही जी

ने स्वयं अपनी लोकप्रिय बाल कविताओं, गीतों एवं ग़ज़लों का भावपूर्ण पाठ किया। राही जी के काव्य-पाठ के उपरांत उनकी पुत्री सुश्री गरिमा राही ने अपने पिता के जन्मदिन पर एक भावपूर्ण कविता प्रस्तुत की तथा अपनी माता स्वर्गीय पुष्पा जी को स्मरण करते हुए पारिवारिक भावनाओं को साझा किया। राही जी की पुत्रबधू सुश्री पूनम भटनागर ने कहा कि जिस प्रकार वे साहित्य-जगत में कविताओं के सम्राट हैं, उसी प्रकार परिवार में भी प्रेरणा और श्रद्धा के केंद्र हैं। वैश्विक हिंदी परिवार के मानद निदेशक विनयशील चतुर्वेदी ने अपने वक्तव्य में कहा कि उन्होंने राही जी से प्रेरणा लेकर साहित्य-सृजन का मार्ग अपनाया। कवि एवं लेखक राजेंद्र राज निगम ने राही जी से जुड़ी अपनी स्मृतियों को साझा करते हुए कहा कि उनका मार्गदर्शन और आशीर्वाद उनके जीवन की सबसे बड़ी उपलब्धि है। प्रख्यात लेखिका एवं कवयित्री अल्का सिन्हा ने राही जी की सरलता, स्वाभिमान और रचनात्मक व्यक्तित्व की सराहना करते हुए कहा कि किसी भी रचनाकार की सबसे बड़ी पूँजी उसका स्वाभिमान और पाठकों का विश्वास होता है। कवि, गीतकार एवं ग़ज़लकार विज्ञान व्रत ने राही जी में ज्ञान, संवेदना और विनम्रता के अद्भुत समन्वय की चर्चा की। दोहाकार, ग़ज़लकार एवं गीतकार नरेश शांडिल्य ने राही जी को जन्मदिन की शुभकामनाएँ देते हुए उनकी कर्तव्यनिष्ठा और मानवीय संवेदनाओं को नमन किया। अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय सहयोग परिषद के मानक निदेशक नारायण कुमार ने अपने वक्तव्य में बताया कि वर्ष 1970 में राही जी से पहली भेंट के बाद उन्हें साहित्य-सृजन की नई प्रेरणा मिली। उन्होंने कहा कि राही जी सदैव नवोदित रचनाकारों को प्रोत्साहित करते रहे हैं और उनके गीतों में सरलता, तरलता और सहजता का अद्भुत संगम दिखाई देता है। वैश्विक हिन्दी परिवार के अध्यक्ष और अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय सहयोग परिषद के संयुक्त सचिव अनिल जोशी ने अपने वक्तव्य में राही जी के 90वें जन्मदिन पर शुभकामनाएँ देते हुए कहा कि दिल्ली के साहित्यिक समाज में उनके योगदान का विशेष महत्व है। उन्होंने कहा कि राही जी ने कठिन बातों को सरल भाषा में अभिव्यक्त करने की अद्भुत क्षमता विकसित की है। मुख्य अतिथि के रूप में उपस्थित प्रसिद्ध हास्य-व्यंग्य कवि सुरेन्द्र शर्मा ने राही जी के जन्मदिन पर बधाई देते हुए कहा कि बाल कविता के क्षेत्र में उनका योगदान अद्वितीय है। उन्होंने अपने अंदाज़ में कविता, समाज और मानवीय मूल्यों पर विचार व्यक्त किए तथा कहा कि कविता का धर्म मनुष्यों को जोड़ना है, उन्हें विभाजित करना नहीं। कार्यक्रम की अध्यक्षता कर रहीं प्रमुख साहित्यकार इंदिरा मोहन ने अपने अध्यक्षीय उद्बोधन में राही जी के व्यक्तित्व को प्रकाश, संवेदना और मानवीय मूल्यों का प्रतीक बताया। उन्होंने स्वर्गीय पुष्पा जी को स्मरण करते हुए कहा कि राही जी जैसा व्यक्तित्व दुर्लभ है और उनका स्नेह तथा आशीर्वाद साहित्य-जगत के लिए अमूल्य धरोहर है। कार्यक्रम की संचालिका अनीता वर्मा ने राही जी को जन्मदिन की शुभकामनाएँ देते हुए उन्हें अपना प्रेरणास्रोत बताया। अंत में डॉ. शिवम शर्मा ने धन्यवाद ज्ञापन प्रस्तुत करते हुए राही जी, मुख्य अतिथि, अध्यक्ष, विशिष्ट अतिथियों, वक्ताओं, श्रोताओं तथा आयोजकों के प्रति आभार व्यक्त किया।

हिमालयन लिटरेचर फेस्टिवल, काठमांडू में हिंदी विमर्श और बहुभाषिक कविता का संगम



हिमालयन लिटरेचर फेस्टिवल एवं राइटर्स वर्कशॉप 2026 के अंतर्गत हिमालिनी द्वारा साहित्य, भाषा और सांस्कृतिक संवाद को समर्पित दो महत्वपूर्ण कार्यक्रमों का सफल आयोजन किया गया। इन आयोजनों ने नेपाल और भारत के साझा साहित्यिक एवं सांस्कृतिक संबंधों को नई ऊर्जा प्रदान की।

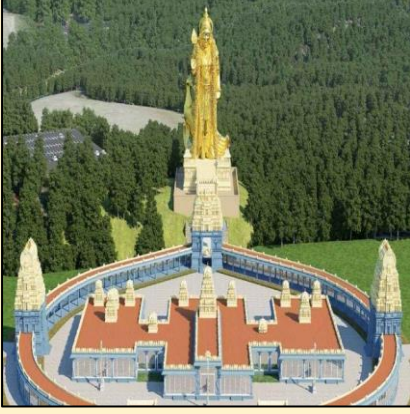


फेस्टिवल के दौरान आयोजित परिचर्चा 'नेपाल के सन्दर्भ में हिन्दी' में हिंदी एवं नेपाली साहित्य के प्रतिष्ठित विद्वानों ने भाग लिया। कार्यक्रम में प्रो.-डा. उषा ठाकुर, प्रसिद्ध रंगकर्मी निशा शर्मा तथा त्रिभुवन विश्वविद्यालय के अंग्रेज़ी विभाग के उप-प्राध्यापक दिवाकर उपाध्याय मुख्य वक्ता के रूप में उपस्थित रहे। कार्यक्रम का संचालन त्रिभुवन विश्वविद्यालय के हिन्दी केंद्रीय विभाग की अध्यक्ष डॉ. श्वेता दीप्ति ने किया, जबकि भारतीय दूतावास के पीआईसी प्रमुख बशिष्ठ नन्दन की विशेष उपस्थिति रही। चर्चा में नेपाली साहित्य पर हिंदी साहित्य के प्रभाव, दोनों भाषाओं की आध्यात्मिक चेतना, बनारस और नेपाल के साहित्यिक संबंधों तथा रंगमंच के साझा सरोकारों पर विचार-विमर्श किया गया। वक्ताओं ने निष्कर्ष रूप में कहा कि

साहित्य और कला की कोई सीमा नहीं होती तथा नेपाल और भारत की सांस्कृतिक एवं साहित्यिक विरासत एक-दूसरे से गहराई से जुड़ी हुई है। इसी क्रम में हिमालिनी द्वारा तराई बहुभाषिक कवि सम्मेलन का भी आयोजन किया गया, जिसमें हिंदी, मैथिली, भोजपुरी, अवधी, बज्जिका, उर्दू, नेपाली और राजवंशी भाषाओं के कवियों ने अपनी रचनाओं का पाठ किया। कार्यक्रम की अध्यक्षता हिमालिनी की संपादक डॉ. श्वेता दीप्ति ने की तथा भारतीय दूतावास के अताशे धनेश द्विवेदी की गरिमामयी उपस्थिति रही। विभिन्न भाषाओं के कवियों ने अपनी रचनाओं के माध्यम से तराई क्षेत्र की बहुभाषिक और बहुसांस्कृतिक पहचान को स्वर दिया। श्रोताओं ने कविता-पाठ का भरपूर आनंद लिया और साहित्यिक विविधता के इस उत्सव की सराहना की।

इन दोनों आयोजनों ने यह संदेश दिया कि भाषा और साहित्य केवल अभिव्यक्ति के माध्यम नहीं, बल्कि समाजों और संस्कृतियों को जोड़ने वाले सशक्त सेतु हैं। हिमालयन लिटरेचर फेस्टिवल के मंच से हिंदी तथा अन्य क्षेत्रीय भाषाओं के बीच संवाद, सह-अस्तित्व और सांस्कृतिक साझेदारी की भावना को और अधिक बल मिला।

अमेरिका में स्थापित होगी भगवान मुरुगन की विशाल प्रतिमा



अमेरिका अपनी अब तक की सबसे ऊँची प्रतिमा के निर्माण की तैयारी कर रहा है और यह प्रतिमा हिंदू देवता भगवान मुरुगन की होगी। यह भव्य प्रतिमा 155 फीट ऊँची होगी, जो वास्तव में स्टैच्यू ऑफ़ लिबर्टी से भी अधिक ऊँची है। इसका निर्माण अमेरिका में 130 एकड़ के विशाल परिसर में किया जा रहा है और पूर्ण होने पर यह विश्व की सबसे ऊँची भगवान मुरुगन प्रतिमा के रूप में दर्ज होगी। इस महत्वाकांक्षी परियोजना पर लगभग 1 करोड़ अमेरिकी डॉलर (10 मिलियन डॉलर) की लागत आने का अनुमान है। यह सोचकर ही आश्चर्य होता है कि जिस अमेरिका की पहचान लंबे समय से स्टैच्यू ऑफ़ लिबर्टी जैसी प्रतीकात्मक प्रतिमा से रही है, वही अब उससे भी ऊँची भगवान मुरुगन की प्रतिमा का घर बनने जा रहा है। अमेरिका में तेजी से बढ़ रहे हिंदू समुदाय के लिए यह एक ऐतिहासिक और गौरवपूर्ण क्षण माना जा रहा है। इस परियोजना की चर्चा न केवल अमेरिका में, बल्कि दुनिया भर में हो रही है।

भारत-इज़राइल मित्रता का प्रतीक बनेगी शिवाजी महाराज की मूर्ति



भारत-इज़राइल संबंधों को और सुदृढ़ बनाने की दिशा में एक महत्वपूर्ण सांस्कृतिक पहल के तहत मुंबई स्थित इज़राइल के महावाणिज्य दूतावास ने इज़राइल में Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj की प्रतिमा स्थापित करने की योजना की घोषणा की है। यह घोषणा शिवराज्याभिषेक दिवस के अवसर पर की गई, जो 6 जून 1674 को छत्रपति शिवाजी महाराज के राज्याभिषेक की वर्षगांठ के रूप में मनाया जाता है। इज़राइल के महावाणिज्य दूत Yaniv Revach के अनुसार, इस प्रस्ताव को Devendra Fadnavis का समर्थन भी प्राप्त हो चुका है।

परियोजना के उद्देश्य पर प्रकाश डालते हुए यानिव रेवाच ने कहा कि यह स्मारक भारत और इज़राइल के बीच बढ़ते संबंधों का प्रतीक होगा तथा महाराष्ट्र और यहूदी समुदाय के ऐतिहासिक संबंधों को भी रेखांकित करेगा। यह स्मारक विशेष रूप से इसलिए भी महत्वपूर्ण होगा क्योंकि महाराष्ट्र और भारतीय यहूदी समुदाय के बीच ऐतिहासिक संबंध रहे हैं। इस समुदाय के अनेक वंशज आज इज़राइली समाज के विभिन्न क्षेत्रों में महत्वपूर्ण योगदान दे रहे हैं। रेवाच ने यह भी बताया कि महाराष्ट्र सरकार इस परियोजना में महत्वपूर्ण भूमिका निभाएगी ताकि प्रतिमा छत्रपति शिवाजी महाराज के व्यक्तित्व, कार्यों और विरासत का प्रामाणिक एवं सम्मानजनक प्रतिनिधित्व कर सके। यह पहल न केवल दोनों देशों के बीच सांस्कृतिक संबंधों को नई ऊँचाइयों तक ले जाएगी, बल्कि साझा इतिहास, आपसी सम्मान और मित्रता के प्रतीक के रूप में भी याद की जाएगी।

अफ्रीका में इबोला नियंत्रण प्रयासों के लिए भारत की महत्वपूर्ण सहायता

भारत ने अफ्रीका में इबोला प्रकोप से निपटने के लिए अफ्रीका रोग नियंत्रण एवं रोकथाम केंद्र (Africa CDC) को त्वरित चिकित्सा सहायता प्रदान की है। यह सहायता अफ्रीकी संघ आयोग के अनुरोध पर भेजी गई है, ताकि प्रभावित क्षेत्रों में इबोला के प्रसार को नियंत्रित किया जा सके और सार्वजनिक स्वास्थ्य तैयारियों को मजबूत बनाया जा सके। विदेश मंत्रालय के अनुसार, भारत ने 24 मई 2026 को लगभग 2.5 टन आवश्यक चिकित्सा सामग्री की पहली खेप युगांडा की राजधानी कंपाला भेजी थी। इसमें सुरक्षात्मक उपकरण (Protective Gear), स्वास्थ्य निगरानी उपकरण,

स्वर्णिम मार्ग: जापान यात्रा और भारत-जापान संबंधों का बहुआयामी परिप्रेक्ष्य

लेखक: अमित गुप्ता, संयुक्त सचिव अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय सहयोग परिषद्, भारत (*Golden Route यात्रा: मई 2026*)



टोक्यो की सड़कों पर पहली बार कदम रखते ही मुझे लगा कि मैं किसी जीवंत चित्रकला में प्रवेश कर गया हूँ। शिबुया क्रॉसिंग की रोशनी और भीड़ ने मुझे दिल्ली की हलचल की याद दिलाई, लेकिन यहाँ अनुशासन और तालमेल अलग ही था। Golden Route – टोक्यो, क्योटो, नारा और ओसाका – जापान की आधुनिकता, परंपरा और व्यापारिक जीवंतता का संगम है। इस यात्रा ने मुझे यह समझाया कि जापान की धरती इतिहास, संस्कृति और भविष्य की संभावनाओं से जुड़ा हुआ है। भारत और जापान का रिश्ता केवल कूटनीति का नहीं, बल्कि आत्मिक जुड़ाव का भी है। नारा का तोदाइजी मंदिर इस जुड़ाव का प्रतीक है, जहाँ भारतीय भिक्षु बोधिसेन ने महान बुद्ध के प्रतिमा का अभिषेक किया था। आधुनिक काल में रवीन्द्रनाथ टैगोर ने जापान की यात्रा की और सांस्कृतिक संवाद को गहराई दी। वहीं नेताजी सुभाषचंद्र बोस और राश बिहारी बोस ने स्वतंत्रता संग्राम के दौरान जापान में भारतीय आवाज़ को बुलंद किया। आज भी योग, आयुर्वेद और भारतीय संगीत जापानी समाज में लोकप्रिय हैं।

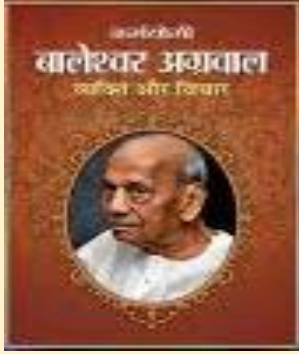
टोक्यो की गगनचुंबी इमारतें और आसाकुसा का सेन्सोजी मंदिर आधुनिकता और परंपरा का अद्भुत संगम हैं। लेकिन सबसे भावनात्मक क्षण था Mt. Fuji का दर्शन। जब मैंने उस पर्वत को देखा, तो मुझे हिमालय की याद आई। जापानियों के लिए यह पर्वत केवल प्राकृतिक सौंदर्य नहीं, बल्कि आध्यात्मिक प्रतीक है। क्योटो के किंकाकुजी (Golden Pavilion) और गिंकाकुजी (Silver Pavilion) मंदिरों में भारतीय दर्शन की झलक दिखाई देती है। नारा का तोदाइजी मंदिर तो मानो भारत-जापान संबंधों की आध्यात्मिक गहराई का जीवंत प्रमाण है। वहाँ खड़े होकर मुझे लगा कि यह रिश्ता आज भी जीवित है। ओसाका की चमकदार रोशनी और डोटोनबोरी की चहल-पहल ने मुझे मुंबई की याद दिलाई, लेकिन यहाँ की सफाई और अनुशासन ने मुझे चकित किया। जापान में भारतीय प्रवासी समुदाय भले ही संख्या में कम है, लेकिन उनकी भूमिका बेहद महत्वपूर्ण है। टोक्यो और ओसाका में भारतीयों ने मंदिर, गुरुद्वारे और सांस्कृतिक संघ स्थापित किए हैं। फुनाबोरी क्षेत्र का ISKCON मंदिर और जैन मंदिर भारतीय पहचान को जीवित रखते हैं। होली मिलन समारोह और नवरात्रि उत्सव जैसे कार्यक्रमों में जापानी परिवार भी शामिल होते हैं। रंगों और संगीत से भरे इन आयोजनों में जब जापानी नागरिक भारतीय मिठाइयों का स्वाद चखते हैं, तो यह अनुभव किसी भी पर्यवेक्षक को यह महसूस करा सकता है कि यह संवाद केवल सांस्कृतिक नहीं, बल्कि भावनात्मक भी है। भारतीय आईटी विशेषज्ञ, इंजीनियर और शोधकर्ता जापान की तकनीकी प्रगति में योगदान दे रहे हैं। वहीं भारतीय रेस्टोरेंट्स और व्यापारिक कंपनियाँ स्थानीय अर्थव्यवस्था को मजबूती दे रही हैं। यह समुदाय केवल अपनी संस्कृति को जीवित नहीं रखता, बल्कि भारत-जापान संबंधों को मजबूत करने में सेतु का कार्य करता है। प्रवासी भारतीयों के साथ मुलाकात के दौरान मैंने महसूस किया कि बच्चों की शिक्षा और पहचान बनाए रखना उनके लिए बड़ी चुनौती है। टोक्यो और योकोहामा के भारतीय स्कूल इस कमी को पूरा करते हैं, लेकिन ओसाका में परिवारों को अंतरराष्ट्रीय स्कूलों पर निर्भर रहना पड़ता है। इसके बावजूद, भारतीय समुदाय ने जापान में अपनी जगह बनाई है और सांस्कृतिक पुल का कार्य किया है। भारत-जापान व्यापारिक संबंधों में निरंतर वृद्धि हो रही है। 2025 में द्विपक्षीय व्यापार लगभग US\$ 25 बिलियन तक पहुँचा। Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) और Clean Energy Partnership (CEP) जैसे समझौते दोनों देशों के सहयोग को सुदृढ़ कर रहे हैं। जापानी कंपनियाँ जैसे Toyota और Panasonic भारत में सक्रिय हैं, जबकि भारतीय कंपनियाँ जैसे TCS और Infosys जापान में अपनी उपस्थिति दर्ज

करा रही हैं। जापान भारतीय छात्रों को आकर्षित करने के लिए *MEXT Scholarships* और *Sakura Science Program* चला रहा है। *Tokyo University* और *Osaka University* में भारतीय छात्रों की उपस्थिति उल्लेखनीय है। संयुक्त शोध परियोजनाएँ—जैसे रोबोटिक्स और ग्रीन एनर्जी—दोनों देशों के सहयोग को गहरा कर रही हैं। भारत और जापान ने *Green Hydrogen Collaboration* जैसे समझौतों के माध्यम से पर्यावरणीय सहयोग को बढ़ावा दिया है। जापान की तकनीकी विशेषज्ञता और भारत की मानव संसाधन क्षमता मिलकर भविष्य की ऊर्जा आवश्यकताओं को पूरा कर सकती हैं। भारत और जापान Indo-Pacific क्षेत्र में रणनीतिक साझेदार हैं। *Quad* और *Supply Chain Resilience Initiative (SCRI)* जैसे मंचों पर दोनों देशों का सहयोग वैश्विक आपूर्ति श्रृंखला और सुरक्षा को सुदृढ़ करता है। यह साझेदारी केवल सुरक्षा तक सीमित नहीं है, बल्कि इसमें तकनीकी सहयोग और समुद्री संसाधनों का संरक्षण भी शामिल है। *रवीन्द्रनाथ टैगोर* की कविताओं का जापानी अनुवाद हुआ और उन्होंने जापानी कवियों के साथ संवाद स्थापित किया। भारतीय फिल्मों का भी जापान में एक अलग दर्शक वर्ग है। स्वर्गीय राज कपूर की फ़िल्में, आमिर खान की कृतियाँ तथा अन्य प्रमुख बॉलीवुड फ़िल्में जापानी दर्शकों द्वारा सराही गई हैं। भारतीय भोजन—विशेषकर करी और नान—जापानी समाज में लोकप्रिय हो चुके हैं। टोक्यो और ओसाका में भारतीय रेस्टोरेंट्स न केवल प्रवासी समुदाय की आवश्यकताओं को पूरा करते हैं, बल्कि जापानी नागरिकों को भी भारतीय स्वाद से परिचित कराते हैं। *Golden Route* पर भारतीय पर्यटकों की बढ़ती संख्या जापान में भारतीय संस्कृति की पहचान को और मजबूत कर रही है। पर्यटन केवल आर्थिक लाभ नहीं देता, बल्कि सांस्कृतिक कूटनीति का माध्यम भी है। प्रवासी भारतीय समुदाय को भाषा अवरोध और कार्य संस्कृति जैसी चुनौतियों का सामना करना पड़ता है। समाधान के रूप में भाषा प्रशिक्षण, द्विपक्षीय विश्वविद्यालय सहयोग और भारतीय सांस्कृतिक केंद्रों की स्थापना आवश्यक है। भारत और जापान के बीच सहयोग के नए क्षेत्र खुल रहे हैं—डिजिटल साझेदारी, स्टार्टअप सहयोग, नवीकरणीय ऊर्जा और Indo-Pacific रणनीति। यदि भारत की युवा प्रतिभा और जापान की तकनीकी विशेषज्ञता मिल जाए, तो आने वाले दशक में एशिया वैश्विक नवाचार का केंद्र बन सकता है।

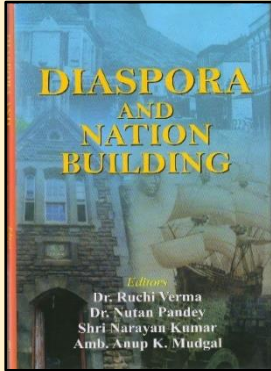
Golden Route की यह यात्रा मेरे लिए केवल जापान को देखने का अवसर नहीं थी, बल्कि यह समझने का भी कि भारत और जापान का रिश्ता कितना गहरा और जीवंत है। *Mt. Fuji* की आध्यात्मिकता, *क्योटो* और *नारा* की परंपरा, *ओसाका* की आर्थिक शक्ति और *टोक्यो* की आधुनिकता – सब मिलकर यह दर्शाते हैं कि भारत और जापान का संबंध बहुआयामी है। भारतीय प्रवासी समुदाय की सक्रियता इस रिश्ते को और गहराई देती है। जब मैंने *टोक्यो* के *फुनाबोरी* क्षेत्र में भारतीय मंदिरों और सांस्कृतिक केंद्रों को देखा, तो लगा कि यह केवल प्रवासी भारतीयों की पहचान नहीं है, बल्कि जापानी समाज के साथ एक साझा संवाद भी है। *होली* और *नवरात्रि* जैसे आयोजनों में जापानी परिवारों की भागीदारी यह साबित करती है कि संस्कृति सीमाओं से परे जाकर दिलों को जोड़ती है। व्यापार और शिक्षा के क्षेत्र में सहयोग ने दोनों देशों को एक-दूसरे के लिए और भी महत्वपूर्ण बना दिया है। भारतीय कंपनियों की उपस्थिति जापान में और जापानी कंपनियों की सक्रियता भारत में यह दिखाती है कि आर्थिक साझेदारी केवल आँकड़ों तक सीमित नहीं है, बल्कि यह लोगों के जीवन को भी प्रभावित करती है। भविष्य की संभावनाएँ और भी उज्वल हैं। डिजिटल साझेदारी, स्टार्टअप सहयोग, ग्रीन एनर्जी और Indo-Pacific रणनीति जैसे क्षेत्र भारत और जापान को वैश्विक मंच पर एक मजबूत साझेदार बना रहे हैं। मुझे विश्वास है कि आने वाले वर्षों में यह सहयोग न केवल दोनों देशों के लिए, बल्कि पूरे एशिया-प्रशांत क्षेत्र के लिए एक नई दिशा तय करेगा। *Golden Route* की यह यात्रा मेरे लिए एक व्यक्तिगत सीख भी रही। मैंने महसूस किया कि आधुनिकता और परंपरा का संगम केवल जापान की पहचान नहीं है, बल्कि यह भारत-जापान संबंधों का भी सार है। यह रिश्ता केवल कूटनीति या व्यापार का नहीं, बल्कि संस्कृति, समाज और मानवीय जुड़ाव का है।

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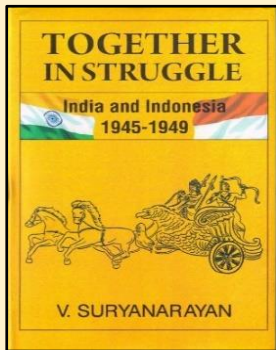
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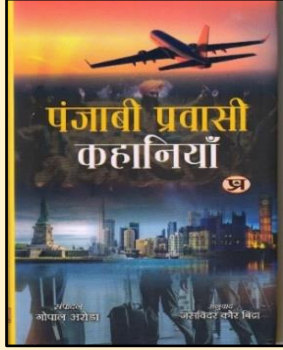
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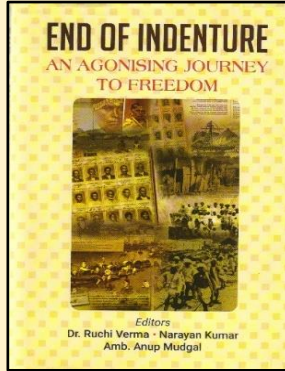
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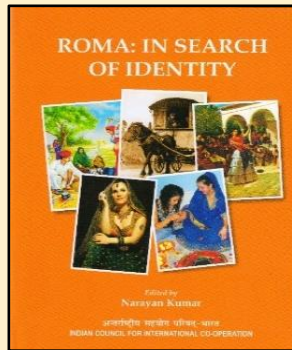
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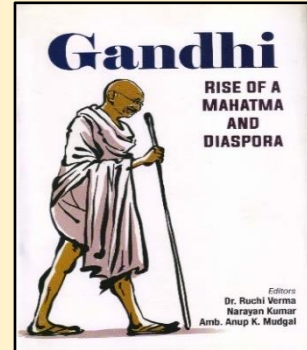
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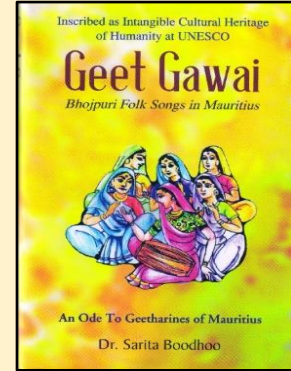
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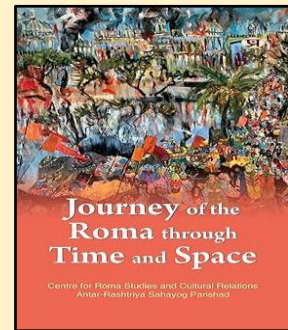
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