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INDIAN DIASPORA: A LIVING BRIDGE BETWEEN INDIA & MALAYISA - PM MODI



Prime Minister Narendra Modi's February 2026 visit to Malaysia placed the Indian diaspora at the centre of bilateral engagement, highlighting its role as a cultural, economic, and strategic connector between the two nations. Malaysia hosts nearly **three million people of Indian origin**, making it one of the largest Indian diaspora populations globally. During a community event in Kuala Lumpur, Modi described the diaspora as a **“living bridge between our two nations”** and acknowledged its immense contribution to Malaysia's progress and bilateral ties. He emphasised cultural unity, noting that people from across India have made Malaysia their home and that shared traditions bind the two societies strongly. A Malaysian report similarly observed that the diaspora connects the histories, traditions, and aspirations of both countries, underscoring its diplomatic importance. Several policy measures announced during the visit were explicitly aimed at strengthening engagement with overseas Indians: **Extension of OCI eligibility to the sixth generation** of Malaysian citizens of Indian origin, Introduction of **Thiruvalluvar Scholarships** to enable Malaysian Indian students to study in India, plans to **open a new Indian consulate**, intended to bring the two communities closer, Scholarships, youth exchanges, and expanded connectivity initiatives were also announced. Leaders of the community welcomed measures such as the consulate, a proposed Thiruvalluvar Centre at Universiti Malaya, and OCI expansion as important for welfare and identity preservation. Modi highlighted the long presence of the Tamil diaspora in Malaysia and said India would establish a **Thiruvalluvar Centre** to strengthen shared heritage. He also noted that more than **500 schools teach Indian languages**, praising the community for preserving its cultural roots. During the trip, he toured a **Person of Indian Origin**

History and Heritage Exhibition, celebrating the resilience and legacy of Indians in Malaysia. Modi met industry and diaspora leaders, appreciating business connections and encouraging investments in sectors such as infrastructure, renewable energy, digital technology, AI, and healthcare. Additional initiatives, including a social security agreement for Indian workers, free e-visas, and the rollout of India’s UPI digital payments, were described as measures that would directly benefit people. The visit itself aimed to deepen the Comprehensive Strategic Partnership established in 2024 and expand cooperation across trade, defence, and innovation. Malaysia and India share longstanding historical and cultural ties underpinned by the Indian-origin population, while economic relations continue to show strong momentum. The Prime Minister framed the partnership as entering a new phase of progress and prosperity, reflecting the growing strategic value of people-to-people connections. PM Modi’s Malaysia visit demonstrated a clear evolution in India’s diaspora diplomacy, from symbolic outreach to concrete institutional support. By combining cultural recognition, educational pathways, mobility benefits, and economic integration, the visit positioned the Indian diaspora not merely as a sentimental link but as a strategic pillar of India-Malaysia relations. In doing so, New Delhi signalled that the future of bilateral partnerships increasingly rests on transnational communities capable of shaping trade, culture, and geopolitics simultaneously.

THE ASIATIC SOCIETY, KOLKATA, TO MARK ITS FOUNDATION DAY
DR. SARITA BOODHOO HIGHLIGHTED INDIA’S CULTURAL DIPLOMACY AND DIASPORIC CONNECTIONS



The Asiatic Society, Kolkata, one of Asia’s oldest and most prestigious centres of learning, founded in 1784, celebrated its 243rd Foundation Day.



The celebration was graced by Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, Minister of Culture & Tourism, as the Chief Guest, while the Foundation Day Oration was delivered by Dr. Sarita Boodhoo, Mauritius-based social activist, writer and journalist, and Awardee of the Pravasi Bharatiya Samman – 2025. Her address on “Geet Gawai – The Chord and Spirit of the Giritiyas” highlighted the deep cultural links between India and its global diaspora. A central feature of the foundation day programme was the formal national unveiling of “Anukriti & Vidhvanika”, two next-generation heritage platforms being developed jointly by The Asiatic Society, IIT Kharagpur and C-DAC

Kolkata. Unlike conventional digitization, Anukriti seeks to restore the physical experience of manuscripts, enabling museum-grade replicas to be created so that fragile originals can remain safely preserved while their form and appearance are made accessible for scholarship, exhibitions and education. Vidhvanika, in parallel, is being developed as a national AI-powered manuscript intelligence platform. It will enable automated transcription, transliteration, translation, metadata generation and scholarly search across a wide range of ancient and medieval scripts. Together, Anukriti and Vidhvanika form a complete civilisational pipeline, from scientific recovery and physical reconstruction to AI-driven interpretation and global digital access, placing India at the forefront of international heritage science. The foundation day programme also witnessed the exchange of a memorandum of understanding (MoU) between The Asiatic Society, Kolkata and IIT Kharagpur, Visva Bharati Santiniketan & CDAC Kolkata, formalising long-term collaboration in heritage science, digitisation, artificial intelligence and interdisciplinary research. There was also the launch of the new website of The Asiatic Society apart from the release of the book “A Descriptive Catalogue of Sanskrit Manuscripts in the Collection of The Asiatic Society, Vol. IV; Philosophy Manuscript”, further strengthening the Society’s role as a leading centre of classical scholarship.

Dr. Sarita Boodhoo also highlighted India’s cultural diplomacy and diasporic connections, focusing on Geet Gawai, the Bhojpuri-derived musical and ritual tradition of the Girmitiya communities in Mauritius and the Indian Ocean world. The oration underscores how India’s languages, music and social traditions have travelled across continents, becoming a shared global heritage.

ICCR FIJI ALUMNI MEET IN SUVA: INDIA-FIJI EDUCATIONAL BONDS DEEPEN THROUGH ALUMNI ENGAGEMENT



Educational cooperation continues to anchor India’s growing partnership with Fiji, highlighted by the **ICCR Fiji Alumni Meet held at the Civic Centre in Suva** and hosted by the High Commission of India along with the Swami Vivekananda Cultural Centre. The gathering brought together former scholarship recipients, diplomats, and government representatives to reaffirm the enduring relationship between the two nations. Fiji’s Minister for Multi-Ethnic Affairs, Charan Jeath Singh, attended as chief guest and described the bilateral relationship as “unique and deeply rooted in history,” shaped by shared heritage, democratic values, and strong people-to-people ties. The partnership traces its evolution from the Girit legacy to contemporary diplomatic

engagement, reflecting sustained high-level interactions. India's scholarship diplomacy has emerged as a central pillar of this engagement. The Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) offers **over 3,000 scholarships annually to students from nearly 180 countries**, while the Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation programme trained about **100 Fijian professionals last year**, with more than 1,000 beneficiaries since 2007. Alumni returning from India contribute skills and global perspectives that support Fiji's national development while reinforcing bilateral goodwill. Collaboration is also expanding into healthcare, including plans for a **100-bed super-specialty hospital in Suva**, signalling a broadening development partnership. Cultural performances, alumni reflections, and a "Vande Mataram" exhibition at the event further illustrated how education-driven exchanges continue to nurture civilisational affinity and strengthen India's presence across the Pacific.

INDIA-FIJI PARTNERSHIP STRENGTHENS THROUGH DIASPORA LEGACY AND DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION



India has reaffirmed its long-term commitment to Fiji, signalling a partnership entering a new phase grounded in trust, shared values, and strong people-to-people ties. The message was conveyed during **India's Republic Day reception held at Novotel Lami in Suva on January 24, 2026**, where Indian High Commissioner Suneet Mehta emphasised a collective vision for a brighter and more inclusive future. Highlighting historical continuity, Mehta acknowledged the enduring contribution of the **Girmitiya-descended Indian diaspora**, describing it as a cornerstone of bilateral relations since the 19th century. Today, the community continues to play an integral role across agriculture, trade, education, and public service, reinforcing the social and economic fabric of the island nation. The year **2025 was characterised as a milestone** for ties, marked by sustained high-level political engagement, including visits by Fiji's President Naiqama Lalabalavu and Prime Minister Sitiveni Rabuka to India, which produced key agreements and reaffirmed *Veilomani Dosti*, a friendship rooted in mutual respect. Health cooperation has emerged as a major pillar of the partnership, with India committed to establishing a **100-bed super-specialty hospital in Suva**, envisioned as a regional hub for advanced medical services. Collaboration is also expanding into agriculture, education, defence, capacity building, renewable energy, digital technologies, and climate resilience. Through these initiatives and its engagement with Pacific nations via the Forum for India-Pacific Islands Cooperation, India continues to position the diaspora as both a historical anchor and a forward-looking bridge for sustainable growth and shared prosperity.

Profiles

<p style="text-align: center;">Jiang Jingkui: A Chinese Scholar’s Lifelong Bond with Hindi Reflects the Enduring Cultural Bridge Between India and China</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">António Costa: The European Council President whose Goan roots continue to shape a personal and diplomatic bridge between India and Europe.</p>
<div style="display: flex; align-items: flex-start;">  <div style="flex-grow: 1;"> <p>Professor Jiang Jingkui, one of China’s foremost Hindi scholars and Director at the Institute for International and Area Studies, Tsinghua University, has dedicated over three decades to studying Indian language, literature, and culture. A graduate of Peking University with doctoral training in Indian Language and Literature, he also studied at India’s Central Hindi Institute, deepening his academic and cultural engagement with the country. His commitment to strengthening India-China cultural ties echoes a broader call for linguistic exchange. Speaking at a programme on the “Contribution of Hindi in India-China Friendship,” Prof. Jiang noted that hundreds of Chinese students are learning Hindi across multiple universities, highlighting its growing relevance for employment and people-to-people engagement with India. Prof. Jiang has received several prestigious honours, including the George Grierson Award, considered the highest international recognition in Hindi studies, and the Kamleshwar Award from the Government of Madhya Pradesh for overseas scholars of Hindi. His academic work spans monographs, translations, dictionaries, and more than 100 research papers focused on Indian civilization and South Asian studies. Describing literature and culture as vital instruments for fostering mutual understanding, he has consistently advocated deeper intellectual cooperation between the two ancient civilizations. Through scholarship and cultural dialogue, Prof. Jiang Jingkui stands as a living symbol of how language can transcend borders and nurture enduring international friendship.</p> </div> </div>	<div style="display: flex; align-items: flex-start;">  <div style="flex-grow: 1;"> <p>António Costa, President of the European Council and former Prime Minister of Portugal, shares a deep and personal connection with India rooted in his Goan ancestry. His father’s family hails from Goa, with his grandfather spending much of his life there, while his father, Orlando da Costa, a noted writer, retained strong Goan influences in his work. Costa has often emphasised that this heritage shapes his worldview, declaring, “I am the President of the European Council, but I am also an overseas Indian citizen... I am very proud of my roots in Goa.” Born in Lisbon, Costa visited Goa as a teenager and continues to maintain familial ties; his ancestral house, over 200 years old, still stands in Margao(or Madgaon), where extended relatives reside. He is affectionately known as “Babush,” a Konkani term of endearment, reflecting the cultural imprint of his heritage even while growing up in Portugal. In 2017, he returned to Goa, met family members, and was honoured with the Pravasi Bharatiya Samman, with Prime Minister Narendra Modi describing him as representing “the best of the Indian diaspora.” Costa’s Overseas Citizen of India (OCI) status further formalises this bond, which he has called “something personal,” underscoring how his Indian origins contribute to strengthening Europe-India relations. Analysts note that his heritage symbolically bridges the two regions, illustrating how historical family links can influence contemporary diplomacy and cooperation. Through both identity and leadership, Costa embodies a rare example of diaspora heritage shaping global political engagement.</p> </div> </div>

FELICITATION AND INTERACTION WITH 85TH AND 86TH BATCHES OF KIP



Diaspora Research and Resource Centre (DRRC)-Antar Rashtriya Sahayog Parishad (ARSP), in collaboration with Janki Devi Memorial College, University of Delhi hosted the delegates of 85th and 86th batches of the Know India Program (KIP), a flagship initiative of the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) to connect with the Indian Diaspora across the globe, on 22 January 2026 at Janki Devi Memorial College (JDMC), University of Delhi, Sir Ganga Ram Hospital Marg, New Delhi. These combined batches brought together seventy-eight participants from twenty countries: Australia, Canada, Malaysia, Switzerland, the Netherlands, the UK, Fiji, France (Including Reunion Island), Malawi, Panama, Guyana, Israel, Mauritius, Myanmar, Singapore, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Suriname, Trinidad & Tobago and the USA. The main theme of the program was in sync with the initiative of the government of India, **“Nationwide Commemoration of 150 Years of ‘Vande Mataram’**”. this program was organised under the guidance of Prof. Sandhya Garg, Vice Principal, JDMC, University of Delhi. After a formal welcome of the delegates, the lamp-lighting ceremony, and a presentation of the College prayer, followed by the **Kulgeet of Delhi University (दिल्ली विश्वविद्यालय का कुलगीत)** by the ‘Sarang’, the Indian Music Society of JDMC, Prof. Swati Pal, Principal, JDMC, presented the welcome address. (full text of her welcome address is on next page) A Short film highlighting all the milestones achieved by the JDMC was also displayed. Amb. Vinod Kumar, President, ARSP, explained the relevance of KIP through the lights of *Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam*. He emphasised the need for a common identity throughout the globe. He said that

in the present day, the distinction between the ‘Old’ and ‘New’ diaspora is not applicable, which were earlier used to describe the POIs. In the end, he advised the delegates to make their adopted homeland feel that they are honoured and proud to have them. This was followed by the cultural performances by the different groups/societies of the JDMC. It has beautifully blended the Western, Indian, Classical, and modern art forms. Dr Komal Chikara, Assistant Professor, University of Delhi, conducted a workshop titled “Vande Mataram to Viksit Bharat: The journey of Indian aspirations”, in which she beautifully traced the history of Vande Mataram since its inception.



The second session begins with the workshop, titled ‘Discover Bharat: A Visual Feast’, 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, monuments, and listen to songs on the film soundtrack and recognise songs. The winning team was also awarded. The quiz fostered teamwork and knowledge-sharing, and left a lasting impression on the participants. This was followed by Prof. Swati Pal’s introductory remark and the felicitation of the Ambassadors and the High Commissioners. Shri Gopal Arora, Secretary, ARSP, highlighted the heavy work done by our ancestors and ARSP to connect with the diaspora spread across the globe. He pointed out two important tasks fulfilled by the KIP: to connect with the educational institution and to connect with NGOs. In that light, he emphasised the importance of the Short-Term Course. H.E. Mr. Jagannath Sami, High Commissioner of the Republic of Fiji, New Delhi, talked about the shared vision and mission of India and Fiji. He explained the shrewdness of the Britishers in calling the ‘Girmit people’ as ‘Indentured Labourers’ or ‘a party to some agreement’, in which all the terms were already decided by them only. He also questioned being called a ‘coolie’. He referred to the reasons for the forced migration from almost every part of the colonised India (especially from U.P. and Bihar) under the umbrella of a quote, “For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil” (1 Timothy 6:10, New King James Version). H.E. Mr. Dharamkumar Seeraj, High Commissioner of the Republic of Guyana, appreciated the diversity of India and its achievements since independence. He talked about Highbury monuments and threw light on the cultural similarity between India and Guyana. He emphasised the fact that if India prospers, its soft power grows, and more and more Guyanese will feel proud of their Indian roots. He also expressed concern about nearly 40% of the PIOs who do not speak Hindi, but at the same time, felt proud that they kept our culture preserved. H.E. Mr. Chandradath Singh, High Commissioner of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago, praised the government of India for setting an example with the KIP initiative to connect the Indian diaspora. He talked about connecting factors such as Cuisines, Garments, music, especially the Bollywood, which has done the job more efficiently. These are also important forces in maintaining the tradition. Ms Sunaina Mohan, CdA, at the Embassy of the Republic of Suriname, remembers her journey as a delegate in the KIP batch to inspire the current batch. She gave much attention to Hindi as a binding force

and a source of pride in Indian roots. She talked about the six cultural aspects that have been preserved by the Suriname; *the Bhasha, the Bhesha, the Bhajan, the Bhojan, the Bhootkaal, and the Bhawana* (i.e. the Language, Appearance, Devotional songs, Food, History, and the Feelings). She highlighted the growth of Suriname and that of the Hindustani people as the backbone of Suriname's economy. Mr Mahesh Mahakumarage, First Secretary, High Commissioner of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka, focused mainly on education and the bilateral relations between India and Sri Lanka. He said that the primary way through which one can achieve real strength is to have continuous education. He also termed the relations of Sri Lanka with India as 'Civilizational linkage'. Peter Mahafha, First Secretary: Political, High Commission of South Africa, traced India's relations with South Africa since Apartheid times. He said that India was too vocal about it and supported the anti-apartheid movement. He also remembered Mahatma Gandhi and Nelson Mandela. He drew much attention to the present relations and the shared vision of India and South Africa in BRICS. 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 learnt during this visit. Concluding remark and Vote of Thanks were presented by Shri Narayan Kumar, Hony. Director, ARSP. The program ended with the distribution of certificates to the delegates of KIP for their active participation.

INDIAN DIASPORA IS OUR TRUE CULTURAL DIPLOMAT: PROF. SWATI PAL



India, Identity and the Young Diaspora

Good morning, everyone,

It gives me immense pleasure to welcome you to our college. You come from different countries, different experiences, and different life journeys, yet you share something deeply meaningful. You share roots that trace back to India. Many of you may live far away from India geographically, but India often lives quietly within you. In family conversations, in festivals celebrated abroad, in food that tastes like home, and

in stories passed down across generations. Today, I am not here to give you a lecture on India. I am here to invite you into a conversation about India. India is not merely a country that emerged in 1947. It is one of the world's oldest living civilisations. For over five thousand years, India has absorbed ideas, welcomed travellers, faced invasions, endured colonisation, and yet continued to renew itself. What makes India unique is not uniformity, but coexistence. Few societies in the world have managed such extraordinary diversity. Languages, religions, philosophies, cuisines, and customs exist side by side. In India, difference is not an exception. It is the norm. Swami Vivekananda once said, "We believe not only in universal toleration, but we accept all religions as true." This idea shaped India long before modern concepts of multiculturalism came into existence. It teaches us something powerful. India survives not because everyone agrees, but because disagreement itself is allowed. When we speak of Indian culture and heritage, we must remember that it is not something frozen in the past. Indian culture is alive. It evolves, adapts, and responds to time. Classical dance today finds expression on digital platforms. Ancient yoga has travelled from Himalayan caves to global studios. Indian music blends centuries-old ragas with modern rhythms. Handloom traditions meet contemporary fashion. Culture in India does not

disappear with modernity. It walks alongside it. Rabindranath Tagore beautifully expressed this spirit when he wrote, “Where the mind is without fear and the head is held high... into that heaven of freedom, my Father, let my country awake.” Tagore’s India was not just a land of rituals or history. It was an India of free thought, creativity, dignity, and openness to the world. For many of you, India may appear complex, sometimes contradictory, and occasionally overwhelming. That is because India is not a finished idea. It is a continuous process. And the India you are visiting today is very different from the India your grandparents knew. Contemporary India is young. Over sixty per cent of its population is under the age of thirty-five. It is one of the fastest-growing digital societies in the world. From startups and innovation to space exploration, renewable energy, and global diplomacy, India today is confident, ambitious, and deeply connected to the world. Prime Minister Narendra Modi once captured this spirit when he said, “Today’s India is confident, ambitious, and ready to take on the world.” This confidence is not about dominance, but about belief. Belief that India can grow while staying rooted. That it can modernise without losing its soul. Mahatma Gandhi reminded us that, “A nation’s culture resides in the hearts and in the soul of its people.” Culture is, therefore, not found only in monuments or museums. It lives in everyday choices, in compassion, in responsibility, and in how we treat one another. This is where you, the youth of the Indian diaspora, become especially important. You live between worlds. You understand global values, democratic ideals, and cultural pluralism. At the same time, you carry memories, traditions, and emotional ties to India. That makes you bridges between cultures. You do not have to choose between being global citizens and being Indian. India itself has always engaged with the world. From ancient trade routes to modern diplomacy, from philosophy to science, India has always believed in dialogue, not isolation. Swami Vivekananda urged the youth of his time with these words, “Arise, awake, and stop not till the goal is reached.” That message remains deeply relevant today. Not merely as a call to nationalism, but as a call to purpose, responsibility, and self-confidence. As you spend time on this campus, I encourage you to look beyond stereotypes. Explore India not only through headlines, but through conversations. Ask questions. Travel with curiosity. Listen with empathy. India is not perfect. No civilisation is. But India has always been brave enough to question itself, reform itself, and reimagine itself. You are not visitors to a distant land. You are participants in an ongoing story that stretches across centuries. I hope that when you leave this campus, you carry back more than photographs or memories. I hope you carry a deeper understanding of India as a civilisation that welcomes debate, values diversity, and believes in coexistence. And above all, I hope you feel that wherever life takes you, India remains not just a place of origin, but a source of inspiration. Thank you and have a good day!

PM MODI HIGHLIGHTS LITHUANIA’S SANSKRIT INITIATIVE, SIGNALLING A SHARED LINGUISTIC AND CULTURAL CONNECTION

Prime Minister Narendra Modi underscored the growing global appeal of Sanskrit during the 113th episode of *Mann Ki Baat*, drawing attention to Lithuania as an example of cultural affinity with India. Referring to a project by Professor Vytis Vidunas, Modi described how enthusiasts gathered along the Neris River to chant the Vedas and the *Bhagavad Gita* under the initiative “Sanskrit on the Rivers.” Calling such efforts inspiring, he encouraged people to support activities that preserve and promote the ancient language. The mention reflects broader intellectual engagement between India and Lithuania, where scholars have documented linguistic similarities and even produced a dictionary mapping common words in both languages. Together, these initiatives highlight how shared linguistic heritage continues to strengthen cultural diplomacy, positioning Sanskrit not merely as a classical Indian language but as a living bridge fostering dialogue across continents.

INDIAN-ORIGIN SCIENTIST MEHA JAIN WINS GLOBAL SCIENCE PRIZE FOR CLIMATE RESEARCH



Indian-origin climate scientist Meha Jain has been awarded the inaugural Arizona State University-Science Prize for Transformational Impact, a global honour recognising early-career researchers whose work delivers measurable social benefits. The University of Michigan associate professor was recognised for pioneering the use of satellite imagery and artificial intelligence to understand how smallholder farmers respond to climate stress. Her research provides data-driven insights into shifts in irrigation, planting schedules, and land use as rainfall patterns become unpredictable and temperatures rise.

Jain's work also highlights hidden environmental costs, particularly the gradual depletion of groundwater in heavily farmed regions. With academic training from Princeton and Columbia and postdoctoral research at Stanford, her approach has been shaped by extensive fieldwork in rural India, where she observed that farmers often operate under severe economic and climatic constraints rather than mismanaging resources. By integrating remote sensing, machine learning, and field surveys, she maps agricultural patterns in areas lacking reliable data and is developing smartphone tools to guide farmers on irrigation, crop choices, and climate risks. The award places Jain among a select group of scientists bridging cutting-edge research with real-world decision-making at a time when climate change increasingly threatens global food systems.

INDIA'S BUDGET 2026: WHAT'S IN FOR NRIS?



India's Union Budget 2026 introduces several measures aimed at strengthening engagement with Non-Resident Indians (NRIs) by prioritising simplicity, access, and financial parity. Presented by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, the budget signals a shift toward treating overseas Indians as long-term economic stakeholders rather than just remittance contributors. One key reform doubles the individual NRI investment limit in listed Indian companies from 5% to 10%, while raising the aggregate overseas cap to 24%, enabling greater

participation in India's growth sectors. Property transactions are also set to become smoother, with the removal of the Tax Deduction and Collection Account Number (TAN) requirement for buyers purchasing property from NRIs from October 2026, replacing it with PAN-based compliance to reduce paperwork and delays. The budget further proposes a time-bound foreign asset disclosure scheme that allows voluntary reporting with tax payment while offering protection from penalties in specific cases, acknowledging that cross-border lives can create compliance gaps. Additional relief comes through the exclusion of certain presumptive-tax businesses from Minimum Alternate Tax and extended income tax filing deadlines, providing clarity for small NRI-run ventures and professionals managing obligations across jurisdictions. Taken together, these measures aim to reduce friction, build confidence, and encourage the diaspora to remain financially connected to India.

ACTIVITIES OF ARSP CHAPTERS

ARSP DEHRADUN CHAPTER



An interactive Seminar was organised for a brain storming session on the burning issues which are prevalent and relevant by the ARSP, Dehradun Chapter, on 10 January 2026 at the B S Negi Mahila Pravidhik Prashikshan Sansthan, Dehradun. The Seminar was attended by 147 members. After the formal inauguration, Shri. S. S. Kothiyal, President, ARSP Dehradun Chapter, presented the welcome speech and expressed his gratitude to the audience for their participation in the seminar. He explained the ambit of the vast selfless social activities of ARSP and briefed about the vision of ARSP Pariwar and the umbrella of patronage provided by the executives of the ARSP Uttarakhand Chapter in all the endeavours. The Guest of Honour Shri T. N. Malhotra elucidated the origin of ARSP, the work done by the founder stalwarts its aim and objectives and the goal to aspire and achieve “Vasudev Kutumbakam “. He quoted many incidents and experiences regarding the working of ARSP for the welfare and benefit Indian diaspora in foreign countries especially the students and the working professionals abroad. The Chief Guest of the event was Dr. Surekha Dangwal, Vice Chancellor of Doon University, Dehradun. She is a recipient of DAAD Fellowship in the year 2000 from International Women University (IFU) in Kassel and was a visiting exchange faculty in Tarleton State University, Stephenville, Texas, USA. She was the member of Uniform Civil Code Committee (Drafting and Policy making) of Uttarakhand. The other distinguished guests were Col Ajay Kothiyal, KC, SC, VSM (Retd.), Chairman, Uttarakhand Rajya Poorva Sainik and Shri J P Mavgain, IRS – Retired Chief Information Commissioner, Uttarakhand.



The Seminar started by the presentation by Padma Shri Kalyan Singh Rawat on the topic- “Human and Wild life conflict. Shri. Rawat, is an educationist, dedicated environmentalist as well as social activist. He is the recipient of the prestigious Padma Shri award in the year 2020 for outstanding contributions to Environmental Conservation and is highly decorated with multiple awards. In order to make the plantation meaningful and effective he laid the foundation of the “Maiti Movement” by giving emotional form which became popular and since 1995 more than 5 lakh plants have been planted. The talk was highly informative

and elaborated on the impending Climate change in the Himalayas and the terror of wild animals in the villages with scanty households. He emphasised that the youth should awaken and work to protect the environment. The second very current and relevant topic was, “Cyber Sheild -Protecting India’s digital future” and was presented by Shri Rajeev Semwal who is a Sub-Inspector in the Cyber-Crime cell Uttarakhand Police. He is the Master Trainer of Cyber-Crime Investigation. He has been the organizer of state level training programme Suraksha Chakra for Uttarakhand police for awareness in cybercrime and conducted seminars at the various educational institutions, ONGC, CISF, ITBP, IMA Dehradun, ATC Haridwar etc. The presentation was aptly targeted towards the age group of the audience and elaborated on the eminent risks of the internet and social media in the present context. He explained the essential dos and don’ts with regards to the extensive use of the internet, websites, apps and financial frauds with live examples of cyber-crime. He provided the solutions and the helpline numbers. It was an informative, invigorating and an interactive session. The third topic, “Decoding the changing Geo-political Landscape of India” was presented by Professor Harsh Dobhal, who is a distinguished academician, author, editor, reporter, senior journalist and political analyst with a substantial career spanning over 30 years of national and international experience. He has held prestigious research positions, Post-Doctoral Fellowships at the Rothberg International School and at Hebrew University of Jerusalem. He is the author or editor of 12 books and has published numerous papers at national and international publications. Currently, Professor Dobhal holds the esteemed position of Dr. Ambedkar Chair Professor in the School of Social Sciences at Doon University. The session was extremely meaningful and had covered almost all major foreign relations and policies of India. The speaker emphasised the strengths of India as a nation and emphatically opined that the traditional social values of India shall uphold in times to come. He broadly covered all the aspects of India’s present status vis-vis the world order -the SAARC countries, the QUAD and the upcoming G20 meeting in India in February 2026. The session was interesting and full of information and knowledge. The audience put the questions which were aptly answered. The distinguished guest Col Ajay Kothiyal, KC, SC, VSM (Retd.) was called upon to address the gathering. He seamlessly put forward his opinion and observation regarding the sessions of the seminar. He also shared his personal experiences and appreciated the democratic and one-family approach of the ARSP Pariwar. He added that the ARSP should extend its arms across India and the transcending of values from the experienced veterans to the youth of the ARSP Pariwar would be a brilliant composition for mission VIKSIT Bharat 2047. This was followed by the speech of the Patron Er. Rakesh Oberai. He appreciated the selection of the topics of the seminar and the sessions of each speaker, who were masters in their own field. He expressed that the time slot for each speaker was less and for the future seminars, the time limit of the presentations and interaction should be for a longer duration to be more effective. He appreciated the efforts of the President ARSP -Dehradun Chapter Shri S S Kothiyal, anchoring by Shri Adesh Shukla Secretary & Smt. Namita Mangain Jt. Secretary and the working team and reiterated that we should all work towards the goal of **‘Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam’**. The Chief Guest Prof. Surekha Dangwal mesmerised the audience by her address. She adequately summed up each session by interwinding the relation of one with the other. She quoted numerous examples and experiences out of her vast knowledge of literature, history, language, foreign policies, environment, academics and administration. She was also of the opinion that, such seminars, which are full of abundant wisdom should be for a longer duration. She praised Shri S S Kothiyal for his leadership acumen and his energy and zeal like a youth. She expressed that, the world has become boundaryless with the advent of internet and as guardians of the youth, the challenge to contain the value system and culture amongst the youth, it is extremely important to protect the social fabric and the family structure of the country, which has been the strength of our nation since times immemorial. She concluded by emphasising that the next century belongs to India and we have to strive hard in all directions to achieve and attain our position in the global arena. The President Uttarakhand Chapter Shri Rajiv Berry, who was presiding the chair of the interactive seminar expressed briefly his opinion regarding the three sessions and expressed gratitude to the Chief Guest and others. He appreciated that under the leadership of Shri S S Kothiyal and his dedicated team of Executive Committee, the Dehradun Chapter ARSP is doing commendable work. The vote of thanks was delivered by the Vice President ARSP Shri D K Bhatt, IPS. The interactive seminar was attended by all the members of ARSP and the students of B S Negi Mahila Pravidhik Prashikshan Sansthan.

ARSP GURUGRAM CHAPTER



An outing was organised on February, 2026, at Yaduvanshi Farms, Sector 95, Gurgaon, where 22 people attended the programme. Mr Rakesh Sachdev shared his experience of his adventures and assignment in Sri Lanka during the LTTE disturbance. Mr Malhotra and Mr Mannan also highlighted the ARSP activities and shared their experience with the “Know India” program. Mr Harit Sharma introduced “Bio-Science” environmentally friendly products, cleaning and disinfecting, used for domestic and commercial purposes, developed by his team. Mr Kamal Kaushik and Mr Thukral discussed the budget and current affairs. Mr Mannan shared his Middle East experience of the humanitarian help rendered by the Kuwait group to help the Pathankot Martyrs. The program was a nice day out and very refreshing. Thanks to Nomita ji for organising the interesting game on various product brands we used during our childhood and now also.

INDIAN DIASPORA IN THE UAE: FROM MIGRATION TO STRATEGIC INFLUENCE

The Indian diaspora has emerged as a defining force in the United Arab Emirates’ socio-economic transformation, according to a report released by Indiaspora in partnership with the Boston Consulting Group at the **Forum for Good conference in Abu Dhabi**. Numbering nearly **3.9 million, about 30% of the UAE’s population**, the community has expanded dramatically from roughly 5,000 residents in 1975 to one of the largest expatriate groups shaping the country’s global standing. Their contributions span technology, healthcare, education, entrepreneurship, and business, positioning them as key stakeholders in the UAE’s growing international influence. The report underscores the diaspora’s role in supporting the UAE’s transition from an oil-dependent economy toward a knowledge-driven model powered by sectors such as **AI, fintech, and advanced technology**. Indian-founded firms are innovating in areas including blockchain and crypto, while trade ties between India and the UAE continue to generate substantial economic value built on mutual trust. Human capital remains central to this partnership: more than **400,000 students study in Indian-run schools**, and the healthcare ecosystem includes approximately **25,000 Indian doctors and 55,000 nurses**. Major business groups such as Lulu Group, Landmark Group, Joyalukkas, and Nikai rank among leading investors, further strengthening bilateral economic linkages. While improved visa pathways and business-friendly policies have attracted professionals and entrepreneurs, challenges persist for blue-collar workers, including workplace safety concerns, long hours, and high living costs. Viewed against rapid geopolitical and technological shifts, the diaspora’s evolving role is increasingly seen as pivotal to the next phase of India-UAE relations, demonstrating how migrant communities can shape not only economies but also regional influence.

CARNIVAL AND CIVILISATIONAL MEMORY: INDIAN DIASPORA TRADITIONS ON THE GLOBAL STAGE



Carnival, widely regarded as one of the world’s grandest public festivals, will be celebrated in **Trinidad and Tobago on February 16-17, 2026** drawing attention to the enduring cultural imprint of the Bhartiya diaspora. Rooted in the migration of indentured labourers to regions such as Trinidad, Guyana, and Mauritius, the festival today reflects a layered history in which Indian traditions intersect with Caribbean celebratory culture. Diaspora communities have helped shape Carnival through **music, masquerades, elaborate costumes, tassa drumming, chutney and soca**, as well as Bollywood-inspired performances, forms that illustrate a creative fusion of inherited and local traditions. Speakers noted that the Indian presence in Carnival carries philosophical and spiritual resonances. Observers highlighted that **Shivratri often falls on or near Carnival**, invoking Shiva as Nataraja, the cosmic dancer, while parallels emerge between Hindu concepts of divine energy and the festival’s expressive dynamism. Today, Carnival functions not merely as entertainment but as a space for **creativity, resistance, and cultural pride**, demonstrating how diasporic memory adapts across geographies while preserving civilisational depth.

UGANDA'S MUSEVENI PRAISES INDIA'S DIASPORA FOR ROLE IN UGANDA'S GROWTH



Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni has praised the Indian community for its vital role in the country’s economic growth. Hosting a Diwali dinner at State House, Museveni commended the community’s entrepreneurship, saying Indian businesses have created jobs, developed skills, and boosted government revenue. He recalled the 1972 expulsion of Asians under Idi Amin and said Uganda had since corrected that “historic mistake” by welcoming Indians back. Around 35,000 people of Indian origin live in Uganda, contributing significantly to sectors like manufacturing, banking, and agriculture. Museveni’s remarks underscored the enduring partnership between Uganda and its Indian diaspora.

अंतरिक्ष से दिखने वाला नजारा मेरे जीवन में एक अद्भुत छाप छोड़ गया है : सुनीता विलियम्स



लगभग तीन दशकों के अपने करियर में भारतीय मूल की नासा अंतरिक्ष यात्री सुनीता 'सुनी' विलियम्स के लिए अंतरिक्ष से दिखने वाला नजारा एक अद्भुत छाप छोड़ गया है। एक ऐसी छाप जो मानवता, तकनीक और पृथ्वी के प्रति उनके दृष्टिकोण को लगातार आकार दे रही है। सुनीता विलियम्स नासा में 27 साल काम करने के बाद दिसंबर में रिटायर हुईं। वह हाल ही में कोझिकोड में संपन्न हुए केरल साहित्य महोत्सव में भाग लेने के लिए भारत में थीं। करीब एक दशक के बाद वो भारत आई थीं। दिल्ली और केरल की अपनी यात्रा के दौरान उन्होंने छात्रों, वैज्ञानिकों और फेस्टिवल में मौजूद रहे लोगों से मुलाकात की। इस दौरान उन्होंने अंतरिक्ष में बिताए अपने जीवन और अपने करियर के अप्रत्याशित आखिरी चैप्टर के बारे में बताया। अंतरराष्ट्रीय अंतरिक्ष स्टेशन (आईएसएस) पर तीन लंबी अवधि के मिशनों के दौरान विलियम्स ने ऑर्बिट में 600 से अधिक दिन बिताए। उन्होंने एक महिला के रूप में सबसे ज्यादा स्पेसवाक का रिकॉर्ड बनाया। उन्होंने कहा, "मैंने नासा में नौकरी करने के बारे में कभी नहीं सोचा था। मैंने अंतरिक्ष में जाने की बिल्कुल भी कल्पना नहीं की थी"। पीछे मुड़कर देखने पर वह कहती हैं कि केवल मिशन ही यादगार नहीं हैं। सुनीता कहती हैं, "मैं उन सभी अद्भुत लोगों के बारे में सोचती हूँ जिन्होंने मेरा मार्गदर्शन किया। मुझे सलाह दी और मुझे उस मुकाम तक पहुंचाया।" "मेरी सबसे बड़ी याद वास्तव में उन सभी लोगों से जुड़ी है जिनके साथ मुझे काम करने का मौका मिला"। 2024 में विलियम्स को अंतरिक्ष में कुछ ही दिन गुजारने थे। लेकिन बोइंग स्टारलाइनर अंतरिक्ष यान में तकनीकी दिक्कत की वजह से उन्हें आईएसएस में नौ महीने गुजारने पड़े। उन्होंने इसे सहजता से स्वीकार कर लिया। उन्होंने कहा, "मुझे अंतरिक्ष में रहना बहुत पसंद है। इसलिए वहां होना ही मेरे लिए काफी था"। "मुझे वो सब करने का मौका मिला जो मुझे बहुत पसंद हैं। जैसे खिड़की से बाहर देखना, डायरी लिखना, एक्सपेरिमेंट करना। यह एक अद्भुत लैबोरेट्री है"। उनके दिन साइंस के एक्सपेरिमेंट्स, रोबोटिक आर्म ट्रेनिंग, उपकरणों की मरम्मत, ग्राउंड पर मौजूद टीमों के साथ कॉन्फ्रेंस और घंटों-घंटों की एक्सरसाइज में गुजरते थे। उन्होंने कहा, "हर दिन अलग होता है, और यही इसे बेहद मजेदार बनाता है"। भावनात्मक तौर पर हालांकि वहां लंबे समय तक रहने से कुछ मुश्किलें पैदा हुईं। विलियम्स ने कहा, "मैंने अपने परिवार के साथ कुछ प्लान बनाए थे। जिसमें मेरी 80 वर्षीय मां के साथ बनाया प्लान भी शामिल था"। "मुझे ऐसा लग रहा था जैसे मेरा समय बर्बाद हो गया हो क्योंकि मैं उनके साथ नहीं थी। मैं अपने भतीजे और भतीजी के

साथ भी कई काम नहीं कर पा रही थी।” उन्होंने कहा कि उनके परिवार के सहयोग ने उन्हें हिम्मत दी। “उन्होंने मुझसे कहा, 'जाओ, ऊपर खूब मजे करो, हमें भी साथ ले जाओ और किसी दिन सुरक्षित अंतरिक्ष यान से वापस आ जाना, इससे मुझे बहुत तसल्ली मिली’। विलियम्स ने बताया कि उनकी भारत की हर यात्रा पिछली यात्रा से बिल्कुल अलग होती है। उन्होंने कहा, “मैं यहां कई बार आ चुकी हूं। हर बार मुझे बदलाव देखने को मिला है। सड़कें, फ्लाईओवर, एक जगह से दूसरी जगह जाना अब पहले से कहीं ज्यादा आसन लगता है। हर जगह तकनीक पहुंच चुकी है। वह साइंस और इनोवेशन के फील्ड में भारत की बढ़ती महत्वाकांक्षा से खासतौर पर प्रभावित हुई। उन्होंने कहा, “लोग तकनीक के क्षेत्र में हर तरह की चुनौतियों का सामना करने के लिए तैयार हैं। इसमें अंतरिक्ष के क्षेत्र भी शामिल हैं’। भारत से उनका गहरा जुड़ाव है। गुजरात के उनके पैतृक गांव झुलासन के लोग लंबे समय से उनकी उपलब्धियों को अपनी उपलब्धियों की तरह मनाते आए हैं। उन्होंने कहा, “यह सचमुच बहुत सम्मान की बात है। बेशक मैं अपने पिता और परिवार के साथ वहां जा चुकी हूं। इससे यह जुड़ाव और भी गहरा हो जाता है। मैं वहां के लोगों को जानती हूं’। वह जल्द ही अपनी बहन और परिवार के साथ वहां लौटने की उम्मीद करती हैं। उन्होंने कहा, “केरल में आकर अच्छा लगा। मेरे पिता यहां के बारे में बहुत तारीफ करते थे। भारत के एक अलग हिस्से को देखने का मौका मिला। लेकिन मुझे झुलासन स्थित अपने घर वापस जाना ही होगा’। विलियम्स कहती हैं कि ऑर्बिट से देखने पर सीमाओं और संघर्ष का कोई महत्व नहीं रह जाता है। उन्होंने कहा, “जब आप (अंतरिक्ष से) नीचे अपने ग्रह को देखते हैं तो आपको एहसास होता है कि हम सब एक ही जगह पर साथ हैं। एक ही पानी, एक ही हवा, एक ही ज़मीन’। उनका मानना है कि यह दृष्टिकोण इंसानों के बीच के बंटवारे को अजीब तरह से छोटा महसूस कराता है। वह कहती हैं, “जब हम यहां इतनी सारी चीजों के बीच होते हैं तो इतनी सारी बातों से हमारा ध्यान भटकता रहता है। लेकिन अंतरिक्ष में लोगों से झगड़ने की कल्पना भी नहीं कर सकते’। उन्होंने कहा, “लोगों का बहस करना और लड़ना बहुत ही अजीब लगता है’। ये अनुभव विलियम्स को सहानुभूति के महत्व के और ज्यादा करीब ले गया। उन्होंने कहा, “शायद हम सभी को बस एक पल रुककर प्रकृति की गोद में कहीं जाना चाहिए। एक-दूसरे की बात सुननी चाहिए, क्योंकि शायद हर किसी की बात में कुछ अच्छा होता है’। विलियम्स एआई को विज्ञान और अंतरिक्ष अभियानों में एक शक्तिशाली उपकरण बताती हैं, लेकिन वो मानती हैं कि इसकी भी कुछ सीमाएं हैं। उन्होंने कहा, “एआई डेटा को बहुत तेजी से प्रोसेस कर लेता है, नंबरर्स को एनालाइज कर सकता है और जानकारियों को जमा कर सकता है। रोबोट रिपीट होने वाले काम कर सकता है जबकि इंसान डिसेजन पर फोकस कर सकते हैं’। लेकिन उन्होंने इस बात पर जोर दिया कि एआई को एक उपकरण ही रहना चाहिए, ये विकल्प नहीं होना चाहिए। उन्होंने कहा, “यह सब कुछ नहीं है. यह सिर्फ हमें आगे के लिए मदद करने वाला एक उपकरण मात्र है’। “भारत के लिए इमेजिनेशन ही लिमिट है। भारत के पास मानव शक्ति और बहुत से प्रतिभाशाली लोग हैं जो अद्भुत काम कर सकते हैं’। रिटायर हो चुकीं विलियम्स ने बताया कि उनके जीवन का अगला पड़ाव यात्रा, परिवार और नई चुनौतियों से भरा होगा। वह केरल के समुद्र तटों से लेकर लद्दाख के पहाड़ों तक, भारत के और अधिक हिस्सों को देखना चाहती हैं। उन्होंने कहा, “मुझे पहाड़ बहुत पसंद हैं। मुझे कभी न कभी वहां जाना ही होगा’। अंतरिक्ष से मिली सीख पर विचार करते हुए, वह कुछ पल रुकीं और बोलीं, “धैर्य रखें और एक-दूसरे की बात सुनें’। और जब उनसे पूछा गया कि रिटायरमेंट के बाद उन्हें सबसे ज्यादा क्या उत्साहित करता है, तो उनका जवाब तुरंत था, “पहाड़ों पर चढ़ना’।

रविंद्र भवन में प्रवासी भारतीय लेखकों से संवाद कार्यक्रम संपन्न



अंतरराष्ट्रीय सहयोग परिषद एवं वैश्विक हिंदी परिवार के संयुक्त तत्वावधान में डालौगे विथ दिस्पोरा कार्यक्रम के अंतरगत एक साहित्यिक संवाद कार्यक्रम का आयोजन शनिवार, 7 फरवरी 2026 को रविंद्र भवन, के सभागार में किया गया। कार्यक्रम में देश-विदेश से जुड़े प्रतिष्ठित साहित्यकारों, शिक्षाविदों एवं हिंदी सेवी संस्थाओं के प्रतिनिधियों की उपस्थिति रही। कार्यक्रम का शुभारंभ कार्यक्रम संचालक ऋषि कुमार शर्मा द्वारा रूपरेखा प्रस्तुत करने एवं अतिथियों के परिचय के साथ हुआ। इसके पश्चात संस्था एवं कार्यक्रम की भूमिका पर प्रकाश डालते हुए जीतेन्द्र वीर कालरा ने वैश्विक हिंदी परिवार के कार्यों और उद्देश्यों से श्रोताओं को अवगत कराया। स्वागत उद्घाटन में अंतरराष्ट्रीय सहयोग परिषद के मानद निदेशक श्री नारायण कुमार ने अंतरराष्ट्रीय सहयोग परिषद के क्रियाकलापों का उल्लेख करते हुए बताया की अंतरराष्ट्रीय सहयोग परिषद भारत सरकार के विदेश मंत्रालय के सहयोग से गठित डायस्पोरा रिसर्च एंड रिसोर्स सेंटर "डायलॉग्स विथ डायस्पोरा" (Dialogue with Diaspora) कार्यक्रम नियमित रूप से आयोजित करता है। उन्होंने हिंदी के वैश्विक विस्तार में प्रवासी लेखकों की भूमिका को रेखांकित करते हुए कहा कि प्रवासी साहित्यकारों का सृजन हिंदी को अंतरराष्ट्रीय पहचान दिलाने में महत्वपूर्ण योगदान दे रहा है। कवयित्री एवं शिक्षाविद डॉ. अनीता वर्मा ने वैश्विक हिंदी परिवार की अंतरराष्ट्रीय संयोजिका डॉ. शैलजा सक्सेना के व्यक्तित्व और कृतित्व पर विस्तार से चर्चा की। उन्होंने वैश्विक हिंदी डॉट कॉम पर उनकी रचनात्मक सक्रियता का उल्लेख करते हुए अपनी चर्चित कविता "तमकमा उठती है" का पाठ किया। सुप्रसिद्ध साहित्यकार श्री नरेश शांडिल्य ने साहित्य की सामाजिक आवश्यकता पर बल देते हुए डॉ. अजय त्रिपाठी के साहित्यिक योगदान को रेखांकित किया। सुप्रसिद्ध लेखिका डॉ. अलका सिन्हा ने डॉ. अजय त्रिपाठी की कविताओं एवं गज़लों तथा डॉ. शैलजा सक्सेना की रचनात्मक यात्रा पर प्रकाश डाला। ब्रिटेन से आए सुप्रसिद्ध गज़लकार डॉ. अजय त्रिपाठी ने अपनी चर्चित कविताओं और गज़लों का पाठ किया, जिनमें "मैं अपने नाम से डरने लगा हूँ", "सोच समझ कर बोलो तुम अलफ़ाज़ यहाँ" और "है दुनिया की रानी दिल्ली" सहित अनेक रचनाएँ शामिल रहीं, जिन्हें श्रोताओं ने खूब सराहा। कनाडा की प्रख्यात प्रवासी लेखिका डॉ. शैलजा सक्सेना ने प्रवासी साहित्य के विविध आयामों पर प्रकाश डालते हुए अपने साहित्यिक कार्यों की जानकारी दी। उन्होंने "लेबनान की एक रात" सहित अपनी कहानियों और कविताओं का पाठ किया। उन्होंने बताया कि हिंदी राइटर गिल्ड को 18 वर्ष पूरे हो चुके हैं तथा प्रवासी लेखकों द्वारा निरंतर साहित्य सृजन किया जा रहा है। दोनों साहित्यकारों से प्रश्नोत्तर सत्र के बाद मुख्य अतिथि, साहित्य अकादमी के संपादक (हिंदी) श्री कुमार अनुपम ने कहा कि "प्रवासी लेखक भारत से गए नहीं, बल्कि भारत को अपने साथ लेकर गए हैं। संस्थागत प्रयासों से हिंदी को वैश्विक विस्तार मिला है।" वैश्विक हिंदी परिवार के अध्यक्ष श्री अनिल जोशी ने वैश्विक हिंदी के परिपेक्ष्य में प्रवासी साहित्य पर चर्चा करते हुए कहा कि प्रवासी लेखन ने हिंदी साहित्य के भंडार को समृद्ध किया है। इस कार्यक्रम के संयोजक श्री मनोज कुमार श्रीवास्तव 'आनाम' ने धन्यवाद ज्ञापन किया।

अमेरिका में बौद्ध भिक्षुओं की शांति यात्रा



अमेरिका में बौद्ध भिक्षुओं की शांति यात्रा एक प्रेरणादायक घटना है, जहाँ भिक्षु टेक्सास से वाशिंगटन डीसी तक 3700 किमी की पादयात्रा कर शांति का संदेश फैला रहे हैं। यात्रा का प्रारंभ यह "वॉक फॉर पीस"(Walk for peace) नामक यात्रा 26 अक्टूबर 2025 को फोर्ट वर्थ, टेक्सास से शुरू हुई, जिसमें ह्युंग डाओ विपश्यना भवना सेंटर के थेरवाद बौद्ध भिक्षु शामिल थे। लगभग 108 दिनों में उन्होंने 2300 मील (3700 किमी)की दूरी तय की, जो बौद्ध परंपरा में आध्यात्मिक पूर्णता का प्रतीक है। उनके साथ आलोका नाम का एक 'श्वान' भी चला, जो यात्रा का प्रतीक बन गया। मार्ग और स्वागत: भिक्षुओं ने दक्षिणी राज्यों से गुजरते हुए बर्फीली ठंड और कठिन परिस्थितियों का सामना किया, फिर भी प्रतिदिन 20 मील पैदल चले। वाशिंगटन डीसी पहुँचने पर हजारों लोगों ने उनका स्वागत किया—महिलाएँ फूल भेंट कर रही थीं, पुलिस बैच पहनकर सम्मान दे रही थी, और अमेरिकन यूनिवर्सिटी के एरिना में भव्य आयोजन हुआ। कैथेड्रल स्टेप्स पर इंटरफेथ इवेंट में वेनरेबल भिक्षु पन्नकारा ने कहा, "यह जीवन भर याद रहने वाला क्षण है।" शांति का संदेश: यह यात्रा शांति, करुणा, अहिंसा और विपश्यना ध्यान को बढ़ावा देने वाली थी, जो राजनीतिक कलह वाली अमेरिका में एकता का प्रतीक बनी। स्थानीय समुदायों ने मौन में उनका स्वागत किया। भिक्षुओं ने लिंकन मेमोरियल पर समारोह के बाद टेक्सास लौटने की योजना बनाई।

प्रथम अफ्रीकी क्षेत्रीय हिंदी सम्मेलन का आयोजन सम्पन्न



मिस्र (Egypt) की राजधानी काहिरा में भारत के विदेश मंत्रालय द्वारा प्रथम अफ्रीकी क्षेत्रीय हिंदी सम्मेलन का आयोजन 8-9 फरवरी 2026 को सम्पन्न हुआ। मिस्र के अलावा दक्षिण अफ्रीका, नाइजीरिया, जाम्बिया, केन्या, तंजानिया, मॉरीशस आदि देशों के हिंदी लेखकों एवं शिक्षकों की भागीदारी रही। सम्मेलन के शुभारंभ अवसर पर विदेश सचिव (दक्षिण) श्रीमती नीना मल्होत्रा, मिस्र में भारत के राजदूत श्री सुरेश के रेड्डी, ऐन शेम्स विश्वविद्यालय, मिस्र के अध्यक्ष तथा नेपाल के राजदूत श्री सुशील कुमार लम्साल की विशिष्ट उपस्थिति रही। इस सम्मेलन का संयोजन मौलाना अबुल कलाम आजाद, सांस्कृतिक केंद्र के निदेशक श्री प्रकाश चौधरी ने किया। इस अवसर पर आईसेक्ट प्रकाशन द्वारा प्रकाशित पुस्तक 'विश्व में हिंदी' (70 देशों में हिंदी) के संपादक श्री जवाहर कर्नावट ने विदेश सचिव (दक्षिण) श्रीमती नीना मल्होत्रा तथा भारतीय राजदूत श्री रेड्डी को भेंट की। सम्मेलन में मिस्र के विश्वविद्यालय तथा संस्थाओं में अध्ययनरत सौ से अधिक विद्यार्थियों, शिक्षकों तथा लेखकों की भी भागीदारी रही।

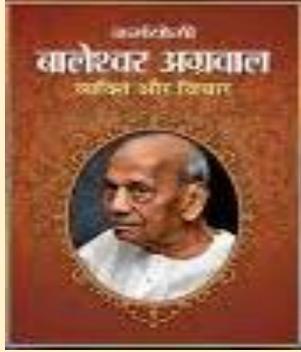
कला एवं संस्कृति को संवर्धित करने का सर्वश्रेष्ठ विधा नाटक है : श्री श्याम परांडे



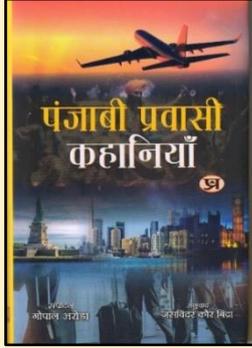
अंतरराष्ट्रीय सहयोग परिषद्, डायसपोरा रिसर्च एंड रिसोर्स सेंटर एवं वैश्विक हिंदी परिवार द्वारा वाक्का रंगभूमि कला मंदिर थियेटर ग्रुप, मॉरीशस के निदेशक श्री राजेश्वर सीतोहल और उनकी रंग मण्डली के कलाकारों के साथ संवाद एवं उनके अभिनंदन का कार्यक्रम आयोजित किया गया। यह कार्यक्रम अंतरराष्ट्रीय सहयोग परिषद् के महासचिव श्री श्याम परांडे जी की अध्यक्षता में 13 फरवरी 2026 को प्रवासी भवन में संपन्न हुआ। कार्यक्रम के प्रारंभ में मुख्य अतिथि श्री राजेश्वर सीतोहल और उनके थिएटर ग्रुप के 23 कलाकारों को अंगवस्त्रम से सम्मानित किया गया। श्री राजेश्वर सीतोहल ने अपने वक्तव्य में बताया कि किस तरह उनके दादा जी और पिता जी द्वारा मॉरीशस में नाटकों का मंचन शुरू किया गया और फिर धीरे-धीरे उनके परिवार के सभी सदस्य इसमें रुचि लेने लगे। 1977 में इस थिएटर ग्रुप की स्थापना की गई। उनके साथ जुड़े सभी कलाकार अलग-अलग कार्य क्षेत्रों में सेवारत हैं परंतु फिर भी रंगमंच से जुड़ने का समय निकाल लेते हैं। उनके लिए यह मात्र मनोरंजन का साधन न होकर अपनी जड़ों से जुड़े रहने का माध्यम है। इस अवसर पर अनेक कलाकारों ने भी अपनी नाट्य यात्रा और भारत के बारे में अपने अनुभव साझा किए। कार्यक्रम के अध्यक्ष श्री श्याम परांडे ने कहा कि भारत से अपनी भाषा और संस्कृति लेकर गए शर्तबंद मज़दूरों के वंशजों ने आज भी इन्हें अक्षुण्ण बनाए रखा है और यही संस्कृति हमारे संबंधों का आधार है। अंतरराष्ट्रीय सहयोग परिषद् के मानद निदेशक, श्री नारायण कुमार ने इस अवसर पर मॉरीशस में नाटकों की समृद्ध परंपरा पर प्रकाश डालते हुए बताया कि प्रथम विश्व हिंदी सम्मेलन में मॉरीशस के कलाकारों द्वारा अंधा युग नाटक की प्रस्तुति की गई थी। उन्होंने यह भी बताया कि मॉरीशस की बैटकाओ में रामायण के साथ-साथ इन्द्रसभा इत्यादि नाटकों का भी वाचन किया जाता था। उन्होंने डॉ. सरिता बुद्धु जी की पुस्तक 'गीत गवई' की प्रति मुख्य अतिथि को भेंट की। कार्यक्रम में बोलते हुए वैश्विक हिंदी परिवार के अध्यक्ष श्री अनिल जोशी ने कहा कि नाटकों को मॉरीशस में भाषा शिक्षण का सशक्त माध्यम बनाया जाना चाहिए। उन्होंने सांस्कृतिक क्षेत्र विशेष रूप से नाटकों के क्षेत्र में दोनों देशों में पारस्परिक संबंध विकसित करने पर जोर दिया। कार्यक्रम का संचालन श्रीमती सुनीता पाहूजा ने किया। उन्होंने कहा कि मॉरीशस में नाटक मंचन ने भाषा, संस्कृति और कला को जीवंत रखा है। अंतरराष्ट्रीय सहयोग परिषद् के सचिव प्रोफेसर गोपाल अरोड़ा ने अपने स्वागत भाषण में अन्य महत्वपूर्ण बातों के साथ ही कलाकारों को सुझाव दिया कि वे भरत मुनि कृत नाट्य शास्त्र में देवासुर संग्राम का भी उल्लेख है। आपकी रंगमंडली को इसका भी मंचन करना चाहिए। अंतरराष्ट्रीय सहयोग परिषद् के विदेशी मामलों के अध्यक्ष डॉ. मार्कडेय राय ने भारत और मॉरीशस के बीच प्रगाढ़ संबंधों के बारे में भोजपुरी भाषा में बोलकर मॉरीशस में भोजपुरी भाषा के प्रयोग की प्रशंसा की। परिषद् के सदस्य श्री आलोक कुमार ने प्रतिनिधि मंडल के सदस्यों को हिंदी में नाटक प्रस्तुत करने के लिए बधाई दी। श्री लंका से दिल्ली में आकर भाषा विज्ञान में अनुसंधान कर रही सुश्री सुगंधी ने भी मॉरीशस के कलाकारों के महत्वपूर्ण कार्यों की सराहना की। श्री हर्षवर्धन आर्य, श्री शिव कुमार निगम, डॉ. सुमित शर्मा, डॉ. गुप्ता, श्री शिवम व अन्य उपस्थित अतिथियों ने भी अपने विचार साझा किए। डॉ. नीलम वर्मा ने इस अवसर पर अपनी कृति अंतरंगिनी भेंट की।

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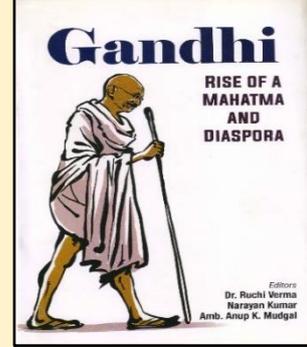
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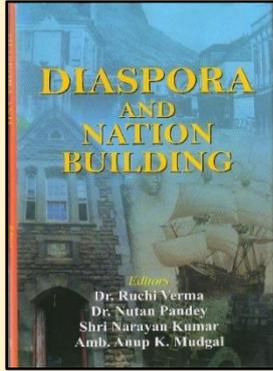
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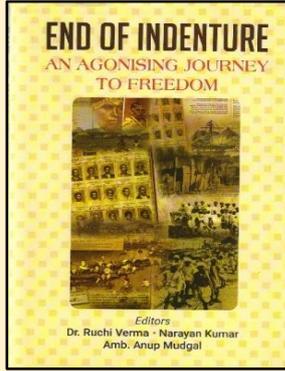
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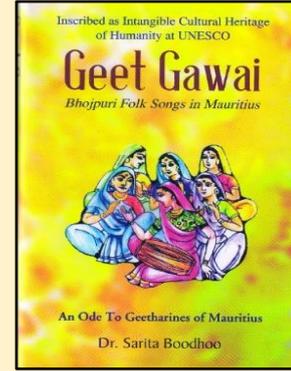
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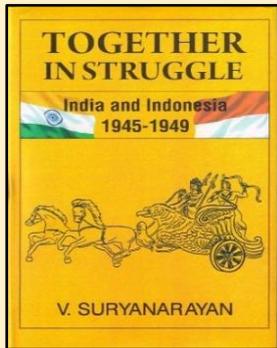
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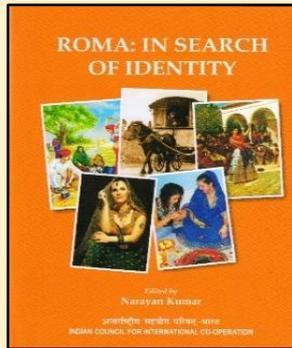
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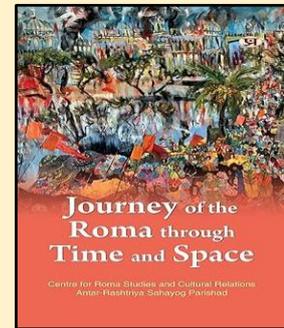
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