

DIASPORA SAMVAD

डायस्पोरा संवाद

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

ISSUE-16

APRIL-2026

GIRMITIYA EXPERIENCE IS A JOURNEY FROM DECULTURALIZATION AND EXPLOITATION OF RESILIENCE AND ACHIEVEMENT - BHARRAT JAGDEO, VICE-PRESIDENT OF GUYANA



A two-day international conference on 'Rediscovering Girmitiya identity : Past, Present and Future' was jointly organised by the Antar-Rashtriya Sahayog Parishad (ARSP)- Diaspora Research and Resource Centre (DRRC) in collaboration with Nalanda University from 28 to 29 March 2026 in the Sushma Swaraj Auditorium of the Nalanda University, Rajgir -Bihar

The conference focusing on the history and evolving identity of the **Girmitiya diaspora**, bringing together scholars, diplomats and policymakers from across the world.

The inaugural session was set in motion with a welcome address by Shri **Shyam Parande**, secretary general of the Antar-Rashtriya Sahayog Parishad, emphasised the need to reconnect with the heritage of indentured labourers and strengthen academic engagement on diaspora studies.

Prof. Gopal Arora, secretary of ARSP, outlined the conference theme, highlighting the historical, cultural and political dimensions of Girmitiya identity.

In a special message for the conference **H. E. Dr. Bharrat Jagdeo, Vice-President of the Co-operative Republic of Guyana**, described the Girmitiya experience has a journey from deculturalization and exploitation of resilience and achievement.

Addressing the gathering, **Guyana's high commissioner to India, Shri Dharam Kumar Seeraj**, spoke about the enduring legacy of indentured labourers and the contributions of their descendants in shaping contemporary societies. He described Guyana as an example of cultural resilience and diversity.



In his keynote address, **Professor Ajay Dubey**, former rector of **Jawaharlal Nehru University**, reflected on leadership within the Indian diaspora, noting the growing global influence of Girmitiya communities. **Professor Biman Prasad**, former deputy prime minister of Fiji, and H.E. **Dr. Chandradath Singh**, High Commissioner of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago joined the conference virtually, highlighting the global relevance of Girmitiya heritage and India's evolving engagement with its diaspora. **Dr. Sarita Boodhoo**, former president of Bhojपुरी Speaking Union, Mauritius and recipient of the Pravasi Bharatiya Samman Award, spoke about the symbolic significance of Nalanda University's revival in reconnecting global communities with shared histories of migration and identity. **Amb. Vinod Kumar**, President ARSP highlighted the role of diaspora institutions and academic collaboration in preserving Girmitiyas history globally. The session was chaired by **Professor Sachin Chaturvedi**, vice-chancellor of **Nalanda University**, who stressed the importance of research on diaspora identity and the role of technology in tracing genealogical links.

Dr. Satyanarayan Shashtri, Dean, School of Ecology and Environment Studies, Nalanda University presented the Vote of thanks. The conference aims to explore the historical trajectories and future directions of Girmitiya communities worldwide, with discussions on cultural memory, identity and contemporary challenges.

Deliberations continued on the second day with thematic sessions focusing on history, cultural continuity and the evolving nature of diaspora identity in a globalised world.

A BRIEF REPORT ON REDISCOVERING GIRMITIYA IDENTITY: PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE

✍️ **Aastha Agarwal**

Day 1 – Inaugural Session

Shri Shyam Parande, Secretary General, ARSP, stated that the revival of Nalanda represents civilizational continuity and reflects the resilience of Girmitiya Indians who preserved their identity despite displacement and hardship. **Prof. Gopal Arora**, Secretary, ARSP, explained the structure and scale of the conference, noting strong global participation and growing academic interest in Girmitiya history and identity. **H.E. Dharam Kumar Seeraj**, High Commissioner of Guyana, bringing us message of **Dr. Bharrat Jagdeo**, the Vice-President of Guyana described the Girmitiya experience as a journey from deculturalization and exploitation to resilience and achievement, and emphasized the need for archives and research. **Prof. Ajay Dubey**, former Rector of Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, argued that Girmitiyas should be seen not merely as victims but as skilled contributors and agents of economic transformation in plantation economies. **Prof. Biman Prasad**, former Deputy Prime Minister, Fiji, highlighted the importance of institutional recognition such as Gimit Day in Fiji and called for stronger cooperation among Girmitiya diaspora countries. **H.E. Chandradath Singh**, High Commissioner, Trinidad & Tobago, emphasized the need for unity between older Girmitiya diaspora and newer Indian migrants and stressed the importance of cultural institutions. **Dr. Sarita Boodhoo**, GOSK, Recipient of Pravasi

Bhartiya Samman Award, and former chairperson of Bhojpuri Speaking Union, Mauritius, described Nalanda as a global civilizational knowledge centre and emphasized connecting Girmitiya history with grassroots communities. **Ambassador Vinod Kumar**, President, ARSP, highlighted the role of diaspora institutions and academic collaboration in preserving Girmitiya history globally. The Chair of the session, **Prof. Sachin Chaturvedi**, Vice-Chancellor, Nalanda University, outlined a comprehensive institutional roadmap to decolonize the study of Girmitiya history and integrate it into the Nalanda Spirit. He announced that Nalanda University will establish a dedicated research centre to study the multiple facets of the Girmitiya community. He also proposed the creation of the Nalanda University Press (NUP) to collate and publish the scattered works of Nalanda masters and diaspora scholars and using technology and specialized software to help the diaspora find familial linkages and locate their ancestral cities and past cultural dimensions

Plenary Session 1 – Theme: Rediscovering Girmitiya Identity

Amb. Anup K. Mudgal (Chair) stated that Girmitiya identity is layered and complex and that unity should not mean uniformity. **Prof. Ashutosh Kumar (keynote address)** explained that the Girmit system replaced slavery but continued exploitation in new forms. **Prof. Maurice Hassankhan** discussed how Girmitiya communities preserved culture, religion, and language while also creating new hybrid identities. **Dr. Sarita Boodhoo** highlighted the importance of Pravasi Bharatiya Divas in connecting Girmitiya and non-Girmitiya diaspora communities. **Dr. Indrani Rampersad** compared Girmitiya migration to the exile of Lord Ram and described Ram as the moral axis of Girmitiya identity. **Shri Narayan Kumar** explained that Girmitias carried traditions of Satyagraha and eventually rose from plantation labourers to political leaders and professionals. **Dr. Shardhanand Harinandan Singh** from Zurich, joining online emphasized the need for international academic collaboration in Girmitiya studies. **Dr. Munna Lal Gupta** described India as a “mayka” for the diaspora and highlighted folk songs and literature as archives of Girmitiya resistance.

Day 2 – Parallel Sessions

Parallel Session 1 – Youth and Women

Prof. Naresh Kumar emphasized that women are the cultural and social backbone of diaspora communities and must be central to diaspora studies. **Raghuvansh Sinha** highlighted the economic and philanthropic contributions of the diaspora and stressed the need to retell Girmitiya history to inspire youth. **Anita Verma** discussed the condition of Girmitiya women and highlighted literary works such as *Coolie Woman* to understand their experiences. **Dr. Sushmita Rajwar** spoke about youth culture and the digital diaspora in the South African Indian community. **Aarya Sardesai** explained how Gen Z is reviving Girmitiya identity through social media and proposed a Girmit Bharat digital app and curriculum inclusion. **4 Online Speakers** discussed digital memory, narrative authority, gender, caste, and identity among diaspora youth and women.

Parallel Session 2 – Gender and Diaspora

Prof. Ashutosh Kumar (Chair) emphasized that gender and youth participation are now central to Girmitiya discourse. **Prof. Amba Pande** spoke about the feminisation of indenture and the economic and social contributions of women in plantation societies. **Prof. Gopal Arora** highlighted diaspora as global ambassadors and stressed the need for exchanges and collaboration between governments and diaspora organisations. **Prof. Sanjay Kumar** discussed the identity crisis among diaspora youth and linked it to India’s global standing. **6 Other Speakers** discussed patriarchy, jahaji sisterhood, intersectionality, hybridity, and changing gender roles in diaspora communities.

Parallel Session 3 – Cultural Expressions

Anil Joshi (Chair) proposed the creation of an institutional forum for Girmitiya countries similar to BRICS or OPEC. **Jawahar Karnavat** emphasized the emotional connection of diaspora to their motherland and suggested the term Bharatvanshi instead of Girmitiya. **Sunita Pahuja** highlighted the Ramayan Centre in Mauritius, Apravasi Ghat as a UNESCO site, and the importance of archive

digitisation. **Virendra Yadav** emphasized that Girmitiyas carried scriptures with them and contributed to the global spread of Hindi and Indian culture. **Sirsha Gupta** discussed culinary traditions as an important part of Girmitiya cultural identity and hybridity. **7 Other Speakers** discussed Bhojpuri literature, folklore, festivals, migration historiography, and diaspora cultural memory.

Parallel Session 4 – Culture, Identity and Literature

Sandhya Singh (Chair) guided discussions on Girmitiya history, identity, and cultural continuity. **Dr. Bashabi Gupta** described theatre as a living archive and emphasized cultural decolonisation and transnational solidarity. **Prof. Deen Dayal** explained that indenture led not only to displacement but also to the creation of new languages and evolving identities. **Prof. Satish Kumar (IGNOU)** spoke about Chhath Puja as a form of cultural soft power and emphasized the global potential of Hindi. **6 Other Speakers** discussed oral histories, environmental exploitation, diaspora literature, and transnational identity.

Parallel Session 5 – Interdisciplinary Session

Sh. Sanjay Bhalla (Chair) emphasized the need to study the Girmitiya diaspora through a multidisciplinary framework linking past, present, and future. **Dr. Chetan Tokas** discussed diaspora, climate change, and sustainable tourism with special reference to Mauritius. **Amb. Anup Mudgal** described diaspora as a strategic actor in international relations and a bridge of soft power. **Dr. Bijay Ketan Pratihari** explained the shift from globalization to digital globalization and the diaspora's role in investment and innovation. **5 Online Speakers** discussed migration history, entrepreneurial networks, climate challenges, and diaspora issues in West Asia and Europe.

Parallel Session 6 – Soft Power and Political Leadership

Amb. Sushil K. Singhal (Chair) emphasized the collective bargaining power and growing global influence of the Indian diaspora. **H.E. Seeraj** spoke about India's soft power and the global achievements of the Indian diaspora. **Dr. Aastha Agarwal** discussed the Indian diaspora in the United States and emphasized opportunities beyond H1B politics in the changing geopolitical context. **Mr. Bharat Chaudhary** explained how the Girmitiya diaspora acts as an important source of India's soft power. **Mr. Navnit Kumar** discussed political leadership and governance in Girmitiya-origin countries. **6 Other Speakers** discussed labour migration, demographic change, identity formation, and archival memory.

Round Table and Valedictory Session

Shri Shyam Parande emphasized the importance of global diaspora conferences and sustained engagement platforms. **Pandita Indrani Rampersad** called for greater South Indian diaspora representation and urgent digitisation of Caribbean records. **Prof. Ajay Dubey** proposed a dedicated policy and research group to work with government and diaspora organisations. **Prof. Naresh Kumar** suggested a structured diaspora policy, archival collation, and more academic programs. **Prof. Ashutosh Kumar** proposed a Girmitiya diaspora council and a global indenture database. **Shri Jawahar Karnavat** emphasized urgent digitisation of Girmitiya newspapers and archives. **Shri Narayan Kumar** stressed government coordination, more research, and documentation from Indian sources. **Dr. Anita Verma** proposed the development of digital apps for diaspora engagement. **Prof. Amba Pande** highlighted the need for institutional mechanisms to support new migrants facing exploitation. **Mr. Robert Drepaal** proposed establishing a cultural academy in Guyana and highlighted the Bihar Museum diaspora exhibition. **H.E. Seeraj** emphasized continued collaboration among diaspora countries. **Dr. Munna Lal Gupta** proposed fellowships and promotion of diaspora Hindi literature. **Shri Sanjay Bhalla** emphasized youth engagement programs. **Dr. Raghvendra Kumar** called for case studies of successful diaspora as well as attention to struggling subaltern groups. **Sirsha Gupta** emphasized meaningful youth inclusion in diaspora conferences. **Prof. Shastri** proposed training and travel programs for PIO students at Nalanda University. **Amb. Anup Mudgal** highlighted the lack of migrant data and the need for balanced diaspora policy. **Shri Anil Joshi** emphasized language as civilizational identity and inclusivity as India's core value. **Shri Rakesh Pandey** spoke about other language that are

prevalent among Girmitiya diaspora other than Bhojpuri. The conference concluded on an optimistic note, reaffirming a strong commitment to advancing academic discourse on diaspora issues. The discussions emphasized moving beyond a purely historical lens to embrace a forward-looking perspective, one that can meaningfully contribute to the aspirations of youth and the development of nations.

ANTAR RASHTRIYA SAHAYOG PARISHAD (ARSP) ORGANISED A MEMORIAL SERVICE ON THE OCCASION OF 125TH BIRTH ANNIVERSARY OF SIR SEEWOOSAGUR RAMGOOLAM



Antar Rashtriya Sahayog Parishad (Indian Council for International Co-operation), New Delhi, organised a memorial ceremony on the occasion of the 125th birth anniversary of Rt. Hon'ble Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolam, the first Prime Minister and the founding father of Mauritius, who led the country to independence in 1968, and had ancestral roots in Bihar, on March 30, 2026, at Ramgulam Chowk in Patna's Gandhi Maidan.

Shri Samrat Choudhary, the then Deputy Chief Minister and Presently Chief Minister of Bihar, Shri Vijay Sinha, the then Deputy Chief Minister of Bihar, and Smt. Sita Sahu, Mayor, Patna Municipal Corporation along with many high dignitaries of Patna paid high tribute and praised his life of sacrifice and public service. Ramgoolam ji's ancestral roots are linked to Bihar, a connection he often recalled during his lifetime. His life, inspired by the soil of Bihar, stood as a symbol of sacrifice, service and dedication to public welfare.

Along with the senior office bearers of the Antar Rashtriya Sahayog Parishad, Smt. Sarita Boodhoo, GOSK, Pravasi Bhartiya Samman Awardee & former Chairperson of Bhojpuri Speaking Union, Mauritius, and Dr. Sandhya Singh, Dean, Centre for Language Studies, University of Singapore, attended the event.

CONTRIBUTION OF THE INDIAN DIASPORA IN THE MAKING OF GIRMITIYA COUNTRIES



The Diaspora Research and Resource Centre (DRRC)-Antar Rashtriya Sahayog Parishad (ARSP), New Delhi in collaboration with Department of Political Science, A.N.College, Patna, organised a seminar on the topic “Girmitiya Deshon ke Rashtra Nirman mein Bharat-wasiyon ki Bhumika” (Contribution of Indian Diaspora in the Nation Building of Girmitiya Countries) on the occasion of the 125th birth anniversary of Rt. Hon’ble Sir Seewoosagar Ramgoolam, on 30th March 2026. Academicians, diplomats, policy makers from many universities of India and abroad participated the event.

After the formal welcoming of the guests and lightening of the lamp, Shri Shyam Parande, Secretary General, ARSP, delivered the welcome address, in which he emphasized on much needed dialogue and discourse about Girmitiya Identity. Shri Narayan Kumar, Honorary Director, ARSP, threw light on historical engagement of India with the Girmitiya diaspora. Shri Gopal Arora, Secretary, ARSP, talked about the need of the hour to change our perspectives and formulate a policy that can be fruitful to the youths of these nations.

H.E. Dharamkumar Seeraj, High Commissioner of the Republic of Guyana, discussed India’s soft power, India’s growing global engagement and investments in Latin America, and the global achievements of the Indian diaspora.

Dr Sarita Boodhoo, GOSK, Recipient of Pravasi Bhartiya Samman Award, and former Chairperson of Bhojpuri Speaking Union, Mauritius, spoke about the long-standing relationship between India and Girmitiya countries, which needs to be cherished as well as strengthened. She also mentioned ‘Geet Gawai’, which is a traditional Bhojpuri pre-wedding musical ritual, mainly performed by women, featuring songs, dance, and rhythmic clapping. It celebrates community bonding and preserves ancestral cultural heritage, especially among diaspora communities like those in Mauritius. It is also recognised by UNESCO as Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity in December 2016. Prof. Rekha Rani, Principal, A. N. College, Patna paid tribute to Rt. Hon’ble Sir Seewoosagar Ramgoolam and called for creation of a memorial in Bihar dedicated to all the unsung heroes of Bihar. The coordinator of the seminar was Shri Rajiv Nayan.

BIHAR FESTIVAL - 2026



High Commission of India, Port Luis, organised Bihar Festival 2026 from 20 to 22 March at the Indira Gandhi Centre for Indian Culture, marking Bihar Diwas and celebrating the shared cultural heritage between India and Mauritius.

The festival was inaugurated by H.E. Mr. Dharambeer Gokhool, President of Mauritius, and concluded in the presence of Dr Rt Hon. Navinchandra Ramgoolam, Prime Minister of Mauritius, reflecting the enduring strength of bilateral ties. The festival highlighted the historical connection rooted in the migration of Bhojpuri-speaking indentured labourers from Bihar. Their traditions, language, cuisine, and arts continue to shape Mauritius' vibrant cultural identity. Through music, dance, literature, art, films, and cuisine, Bihar Festival 2026 showcased the rich cultural heritage of Bihar. High Commissioner Anurag Srivastava noted that Mauritius holds one of the deepest connections with Bihar. The festival celebrates shared histories, living traditions, and enduring cultural bonds across generations and continents. Bihar's legacy as the cradle of learning, spirituality, and values was emphasised.

The High Commissioner also highlighted common cultural elements like the Bhojpuri language, Geet Gawai, Chhath festival, and traditional cuisine like dhal puri, thekua, and malpua, and praised Mauritius' role in preserving these cultural expressions. In his closing remarks, he observed that the festival is not an end but a beginning of deeper diaspora engagement, greater cultural exchanges, and renewed curiosity, particularly among younger generations, to rediscover their roots and ancestral heritage.

A delegation from the Government of Bihar led by Shri Pranav Kumar, Secretary (Art and Culture) and Shri Nand Kishore, MD, Bihar Tourism Development Corporation, participated in the celebrations, reinforcing cultural and tourism linkages between Bihar and Mauritius. The celebrations reaffirmed the enduring people-to-people ties and shared heritage between India and Mauritius, while promoting greater cultural exchange and engagement with the Indian diaspora.

REPORT – 87TH KNOW INDIA PROGRAM



Diaspora Research and Resource Centre (DRRC)-Antar Rashtriya Sahayog Parishad (ARSP) hosted the 87th batch of Know India Program (KIP), a flagship initiative of the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) to connect with the Indian Diaspora across the globe, on 25 February 2026 at Pravasi Bhawan, New Delhi. This batch brought together thirty-seven delegates from fifteen countries: Denmark, Fiji, Guyana, Israel, Malawi, Malaysia, Mauritius, Myanmar, Portugal, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, the United Kingdom, and the United States of America. After a formal welcome of the delegates, Mr. Navnit Kumar, Senior Research Fellow at DRRC-ARSP, presented all the milestones achieved by the DRRC-ARSP in the recent past. Prof. Gopal Arora, Secretary, ARSP, presented introductory and welcome remarks. He traced the journey of Giritiya countries through the lenses of the youth and remembered the dreams of their founding fathers about being connected to the roots. A workshop on ‘Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam’ was presented by Dr. Bharat Choudhary, Assistant Professor, Hansraj College, University of Delhi, in which he explained the concept from philosophical to the practical aspects, i.e., “*sva se sarva tak*” (from only one to the all). Another workshop, titled ‘Discover Bharat: A Visual Feast’, was conducted by Dr. Astha Agarwal. This was purely an activity-based moment. The delegates were divided into teams, and a quiz was conducted. This activity helped delegates identify culturally significant personalities and monuments, listen to songs from the film soundtrack, and recognise them. The winning team was also awarded. The quiz fostered teamwork and knowledge-sharing, and left a lasting impression on the participants.

Amb Sushil Singhal, Sr. Vice President, ARSP, chaired the second session of the event. In his welcome address, he said that India’s relationship with its diaspora is not only sentimental, but it is a structured engagement, and we see our overseas community as a partner in development, innovation, culture and global dialogues. H. E. Mr. Chandradath Singh, High Commissioner of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago in India, praised India’s initiative of the AI summit, 2026, calling it ‘unprecedented’. He also praised the ARSP for its good work in connecting the diaspora. H.E. Mr. Jagnnath Sami, High Commissioner of the Republic of Fiji in India, mentioned the 37% of Indian-Fiji who are a living bridge between India and Fiji. Madam Sharifah Ezneeda Wafa, Deputy High Commissioner of Malaysia in India, talked about the two waves of Indians that have come to Malaysia; one was around 2000 years ago in the form of sailors, traders and philosophers, and another was during the British era and after the Independence of Malaysia. Ms. Sandiyakoemarie Mangre, Commercial Attache of the Republic of Suriname in India, said that she is a proud daughter of the Indian diaspora, deeply rooted in culture, tradition and identity. “We are still called as ‘Hindustani’, and not Surinamese. It is not just a name, but an identity,” she added.

Mr Mahesh Mahakumarage, First Secretary, High Commission of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka in India, talked about the importance of lifelong learning. He gave an example of India to show how this country embraced the British Institutions and made them work in the development of India and its citizens. This was followed by an interactive session, in which participants provided their views about India based on their various attachments. The participants were quite impressed with their visit, not only to reconnect with their ancestral land but also to witness what India had achieved in various spheres of socio-economic and technological development. They said that they felt very proud of the management of a complex and pluralistic democracy by the Government of India and expressed their rich experience and lessons learned during this visit. Dr. Vishnu Bisram presented the Vote of thanks, and the program ended with the distribution of certificates to the delegates of KIP for their active participation.

KALA MANJARI: A COMPETITION TO RESONATE HINDU CULTURAL HERITAGE ACROSS NORTH AMERICA & STRENGTHEN DIASPORA ROOTS



Kala Manjari performing arts competition was organised by the World Hindu Council of America across the North American continent. The aim was to espouse the cultural heritage of India among the oversee community and strengthen the Hindu roots of the diaspora. The participants in the competition resonated Hindu cultural ethos through dance, music, shloka chanting etc.

Kala Manjari is a performing arts competition organised by the World Hindu Council of America (VHPA) to connect with the Indian diaspora and strengthen their cultural roots who are residing across North America. The competition was organised in association with Hindu Mandir Empowerment Council (HMEC). The competition brought together more than 125 participants. In this 2026 edition of the Kala Manjari performing arts competition contestants were categorised into three age groups which is 5 to 9 group, 10 to 14 age group and the participants belonging to the age category of 15 to 20 years. The events organised included solo bhajan singing, solo dance and shloka chanting. The chanting competition included recitation of Hanuman Chalisa and Ganapati Atharvashirsha. The organisers of Kala Manjari Performing Arts Competition asserted that the event was aimed to provide a platform to the young artists to present their skills. It was also intended to strengthen their cultural roots and give more exposure to the richness of the traditional heritage of India and the Hindu practices.

Kala Manjari acted as a platform and an opportunity for the young participants to connect with India and its rich cultural ethos. Also, such platforms help young people to build life skills such as connect with India and its rich cultural ethos. Also, such platforms help young people to build life skills such as confidence, stress management, public speaking ability, competitive approach in life etc. Such opportunities indeed mould the personality of an individual, the organisers of Kala Manjari affirmed. It also provided a common platform for the members of the Indian community across North America to connect, relive and cherish their Hindu roots along with transferring it to the next generations.

INDIAN AMERICAN RESEARCHER TEJAL DESAI ELECTED AMERICAN ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF SCIENCE FELLOW



Tejal Desai, the dean of the Brown University School of Engineering, has been elected as a fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS). The honour recognizes Desai for her transformative contributions to biomaterials and her leadership in the field of bioengineering. The election to the AAAS is a lifetime distinction, placing Desai among a select group of global innovators. For the renowned scientist, the achievement is a validation of a career dedicated to merging high-tech engineering with human biology to solve complex

medical challenges. As the daughter of Indian immigrants, Desai's journey is deeply rooted in a legacy of academic excellence and cultural heritage. Her father was a chemical engineer who moved to the U.S. in the 1960s. She has frequently cited her family's emphasis on education as a cornerstone of her success. Her path reflects the immense impact of the Indian diaspora on American scientific innovation, and she remains a vocal advocate for increasing representation for South Asians in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics). Returning to Brown University in 2022. She earned her undergraduate degree from the same institution in 1994 before completing her doctorate at the University of California, San Francisco and Berkeley. Her research focuses on the microscopic using micro and nanoscale systems to deliver medicine directly to diseased tissues. "Being named a fellow of the AAAS is incredibly meaningful," Desai said, noting that the recognition reflects the collective efforts of her lab members. Her work has resulted in over 30 patents and nearly 300 research papers, cited more than 27,000 times by peers worldwide. Beyond the laboratory, Desai is a visible leader for women and minorities. At Brown, she has focused on expanding the research enterprise of the Ivy League's oldest engineering program, ensuring that academic breakthroughs translate into real-world medical solutions, such as improved tissue regeneration and immune system modulation. Her election follows a string of high-profile accolades, including memberships in the National Academy of Engineering and the National Academy of Medicine. By bridging the gap between intricate engineering and patient care, Desai continues to push the boundaries of how technology can heal the human body while inspiring the next generation of Indian American innovators.

CHESS SENSATION BODHANA SIVANANDAN BECOMES ENGLAND'S TOP FEMALE PLAYER



Former UK Prime Minister Rishi Sunak congratulated Indian-origin chess prodigy Bodhana Sivanandan after she became England's top-rated female chess player at just 11 years of age. Her remarkable rise has drawn widespread admiration across the UK chess community, highlighting her exceptional talent and rapid progress at a very young age.

Indian-origin chess prodigy Bodhana Sivanandan has made headlines after becoming England's top-rated female chess player at just 11 years old. The London-based schoolgirl achieved the milestone with an impressive FIDE (International Chess Foundation) rating, overtaking established competitors and rapidly rising through national and international rankings. Her achievement places her among the world's leading young talents and

marks a remarkable moment in English chess. Bodhana's journey began only a few years ago, yet her growth has been extraordinary. She quickly progressed from learning the basics to competing in high-level tournaments, defeating experienced opponents and earning recognition for her calm decision-making and tactical precision. Her playing style, marked by maturity and confidence beyond her age, has drawn praise from coaches and chess enthusiasts alike. Her accomplishment also earned admiration from former UK Prime Minister Rishi Sunak, who congratulated her and recalled her impressive skills during an earlier friendly chess encounter. The recognition further highlighted the young player's growing reputation and the excitement surrounding her future in the sport. With her rapid rise, Bodhana is now seen as one of the most promising young chess players in the world. Her success at such an early age not only reflects exceptional talent but also inspires many young players, especially girls, to pursue competitive chess. As she continues to compete internationally, expectations are high that she will achieve even greater milestones in the years ahead.

MANGALA KUPPA: INDIAN-ORIGIN TECH LEADER APPOINTED CIO OF US DEPARTMENT OF LABOUR



Mangala Kuppa is an Indian-origin technology executive who has been appointed Chief Information Officer (CIO) of the U.S. Department of Labour, marking a significant milestone in her distinguished career in public-sector technology leadership. She had been serving in the role in an acting capacity since October 2025 before her appointment was formally confirmed in March 2026. With over 25

years of experience across public and private sectors, Kuppa has built a reputation for driving large-scale digital transformation initiatives. In her new role, she will oversee the department's information technology strategy, cybersecurity, and adoption of emerging technologies, including artificial intelligence, to enhance public service delivery and workforce systems. Kuppa has been closely associated with the Department of Labour for years, joining the agency in 2010 and steadily rising through key leadership positions such as Chief Technology Officer and Director of Business Application Services. Before that, she spent more than a decade at the Bureau of Labor Statistics, where she handled multiple technical and managerial responsibilities. Known for her focus on innovation, she played a crucial role in developing the department's enterprise AI strategy, strengthening cybersecurity systems, and expanding data platforms. Her leadership has been instrumental in modernising digital infrastructure and promoting data-driven decision-making within the agency. Originally from India, Kuppa pursued her education at SNDT Women's University in Mumbai, which laid the foundation for her career in technology. Over the years, she has emerged as a prominent Indian-origin professional in the U.S. government, reflecting the growing presence of diaspora talent in high-level technology leadership roles. Her appointment as CIO is seen as both a recognition of her extensive experience and a forward-looking move aimed at accelerating digital transformation, strengthening cybersecurity, and expanding AI-driven solutions across the U.S. Department of Labour.

FORMER SURINAME PREZ CHANDRIKAPERSAD SANTOKHI PASSES AWAY; PM MODI EXPRESSES GRIEF



Chandrikapersad Santokhi, former President of Suriname, has passed away at the age of 67, local media reported on Tuesday (Indian time). The cause of his death was not immediately disclosed. Santokhi, who served as President from 2020 to 2025, was also the leader of the Progressive Reform Party and had earlier held the position of justice minister in the country. Prime Minister Narendra Modi condoled his demise, recalling their personal rapport and Santokhi's role in strengthening bilateral ties between India and Suriname. "Deeply shocked and saddened by the sudden demise of my friend and the former President of Suriname, Mr. Chandrikapersad Santokhi Ji. This is not only an irreparable loss to Suriname but also to the global Indian diaspora," PM Modi said in a post on X.

Reflecting on their interactions, the Prime Minister added, "I fondly recall my many meetings with him. His tireless service for Suriname and his efforts in strengthening India-Suriname relations were clearly reflected in our interactions. He had a special fondness for Indian culture. He won several hearts when he took oath in Sanskrit." "I extend my heartfelt condolences to his family and the people of Suriname in this hour of grief. Om Shanti," he added. The Prime Minister also shared photographs from his previous meetings with the late leader.

Born in Lelydorp in the Wanica district of Suriname, Santokhi hailed from an Indo-Surinamese Hindu family and was the youngest among nine siblings. His grandparents had migrated from Bihar as indentured labourers in the 19th century. His father worked at the harbour in Paramaribo, while his mother was employed as a shop assistant. Owing to his early career in law enforcement, he earned the nickname 'Sheriff'. As a leader of Indian origin in a country where nearly 27 per cent of the population traces its roots to Indian indentured labourers, Santokhi played a key role in deepening ties with India across sectors such as trade, energy and culture. He was conferred the Pravasi Bharatiya Samman and had also attended the Pravasi Bharatiya Divas as a chief guest. Of Indo-Surinamese heritage, Santokhi's oath-taking ceremony in 2020, delivered in Sanskrit, a first for a Surinamese President, symbolised the strong cultural connection with India and celebrated the country's significant Indian-origin population descended from 19th-century indentured labourers.

On behalf of Antar Rashtriya Sahayog Parishad (ARSP), New Delhi, Shri Shyam Parande, Sec. General, ARSP, visited Suriname embassy to express his condolences.

FIJI TO INTRODUCE CARDS FOR CHILDREN OF DIASPORA

The government is exploring a system similar to India's Overseas Citizens of India cards for the children of the Fijian diaspora. Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Finance Professor Biman Prasad revealed this at the opening of the new Sarada Medical Centre in Nadi, largely funded by Fijians in the United States through the South Pacific Relief Fund. Prasad highlighted the significant contributions of the diaspora to Fiji's growth. He noted that the government has reduced the cost of passports for returning diaspora from \$4,500 to \$1,500 to acknowledge their role. He added that efforts are now underway to assist their children through the development of Overseas Citizens of Fiji cards.

"We are also making sure that the children of our diaspora, if they want to come back to Fiji, don't even have to claim a Fijian passport. We are looking at developing a system like India, where you have the OCI card, we want to bring something like OCF, Overseas Citizens of Fiji."

The Deputy Prime Minister stated that the government aims to recognise the diaspora's contributions and has created an environment that encourages further investment, thereby boosting confidence in Fiji's economy.

INDIA-FIJI CULTURAL TIES HIGHLIGHTED AT ICCR 77TH FOUNDATION DAY IN SUVA



The 77th foundation day of the Indian Council for Cultural Relations was celebrated in Suva with a cultural evening highlighting the strong ties between India and Fiji. The event, organised by the High Commission of India in Suva and ICCR, was attended by Fiji's Minister for Foreign Affairs and External Trade Sakiasi Ditoka as chief guest. Deputy Speaker and Assistant Minister for Foreign Affairs and External Trade Lenora Qereqeretabua was also present, along with members of the diplomatic corps, academics, ICCR alumni and representatives of the Indian diaspora. The programme featured testimonials from ICCR alumni reflecting on their academic and cultural experiences in India, alongside classical dance performances by students of ICCR Suva, including Bharatanatyam and Kathak presentations.

Cricket coach Sanjeev Sharma was also recognised for his contribution to strengthening sporting links between the two countries. The event highlighted ongoing cultural collaboration and people-to-people connections between India and Fiji, with organisers noting the role of ICCR in promoting cultural exchange and educational opportunities.

OCI CARD FEE REVISED: FRESH APPLICATION NOW COSTS MORE: FULL FEE STRUCTURE HERE

Bureau of Immigration of India has announced that the revised fee structure for OCI services in India is now in effect. The new fresh application fee is USD 275, payable in its equivalent Indian Rupee (INR). In case of OCI application is submitted in India, a fee of Rs 15,000 by way of Demand Draft drawn in favour of “Pay and Accounts Officer (Secretariat), Ministry of Home Affairs” payable at New Delhi. In case of OCI application to be submitted outside India, by way of Demand Draft for US \$ 275 for each applicant or equivalent in local currency. This fee structure will be in place till the online payment system is introduced. A fresh application for an OCI card costs \$275 while for reissuance of the OCI card — whether due to a change in personal particulars or upon the OCI cardholder completing 20 years of age — is priced at \$25 each. In case of loss of the OCI card, reissuance costs \$100. Passport details must be updated within 3 months of a new passport being issued; updates made after this window attract a late fee of \$25. Renunciation of the OCI card also costs \$25. An amount of US \$ 250 or equivalent in local currency shall be refunded, if registration is refused. US \$ 25 is the processing fees, which is non-refundable. In case application filled in India, Rs.1,400 will be nonrefundable being processing fees.

Documents

The following documents have to be enclosed for each applicant:

1. Proof of present citizenship
2. Evidence of self or parents or grandparents
 - (a) being eligible to become a citizen of India at the time of commencement of the Constitution; or (b) belonging to a territory that became a part of India after 15th August, 1947; or (c) being a citizen of India on or after 26th January, 1950.

These could be:

- (i) Copy of the passport: or (ii) Copy of the domicile certificate issued by the Competent authority; or (iii) Any other proof substantiating the request. Usually, applicants are able to submit a certificate of residence or place of birth of self/parents/grandparents from First Class Magistrate/District Magistrate (DM) of the concerned place. Any documentary evidence like a school certificate, Agricultural land ownership certificate, birth certificate etc. by which eligibility may be reasonably ascertained.
3. Evidence of relationship as parent/grandparent, if their Indian origin is claimed as basis for grant of OCI such as birth certificate or Educational Certificate etc.
4. Application fee by way of Demand Draft
5. PIO card holders should submit a copy of his/her PIO card

Where to Submit

Application can be sent by post either by Speed post or Registered post only and not through Courier to the Indian Mission/ Post of the country of citizenship of the applicant. If the applicant is not in the country of citizenship, to the Indian Mission/Post of the country where he is ordinarily residing.

If the applicant is in India, then send to the FRRO Amritsar, Bangalore, Kozhikode, Chennai, Kochi, Delhi, Goa, Hyderabad, Lucknow, Mumbai, Kolkata, and Thiruvananthapuram as per specified Jurisdiction of the FRRO concerned.

नेपाल के प्रधानमंत्री बालेन शाह ने भारत आने के लिए पीएम मोदी के निमंत्रण को स्वीकार किया



नेपाल में नई सरकार बनते ही सुधारों के साथ विदेश नीति में भी तेजी दिखने लगी है। ऐसे में नवनिर्वाचित प्रधानमंत्री बालेन शाह जल्द ही भारत के दौरे पर आने वाले हैं। उन्होंने भारत के प्रधानमंत्री श्री नरेन्द्र मोदी के भारत आने के निमंत्रण को स्वीकार कर लिया है, जिसे दोनों देशों के रिश्तों में नई दिशा की उम्मीद के तौर पर देखा जा रहा है। नेपाल में नई सरकार बनने के बाद एक तरफ जहां बड़े सुधारों की शुरुआत हो गई है। वहीं अब दूसरी ओर विदेश

नीति के स्तर पर भी हलचल तेज हो गई है। इस बात को ऐसे समझिए कि नेपाल के नवनिर्वाचित प्रधानमंत्री बालेन शाह ने नरेन्द्र मोदी के भारत आने के निमंत्रण को स्वीकार कर लिया है। नेपाल के विदेश मंत्री शिशिर खनाल ने इस बात की जानकारी दी।

उन्होंने बताया कि दोनों देशों के विदेश मंत्रालय इस दौरे की तैयारी में जुट गए हैं। यह दौरा बालेन शाह के प्रधानमंत्री बनने के बाद उनका पहला बड़ा अंतरराष्ट्रीय दौरा माना जा रहा है। इससे पहले जून 2023 में पुष्प कमल दहल भारत की आधिकारिक यात्रा पर आए थे।

दक्षिण अफ्रीका में गूंजती रही आशा भोंसले की अमर आवाज



दक्षिण अफ्रीका में बसे भारतीय मूल के लोगों के लिए आशा भोंसले केवल एक महान गायिका नहीं थीं, बल्कि वे यादों, भावनाओं और सांस्कृतिक जुड़ाव की एक सजीव पहचान थीं। उनके निधन के बाद वहां के प्रवासी भारतीय समुदाय ने उनकी 2016 की ऐतिहासिक और एकमात्र प्रस्तुति को भावुक होकर याद किया। करीब 25 वर्षों तक उनका दक्षिण अफ्रीका जाना संभव नहीं हो पाया था। इसका मुख्य कारण रंगभेद (अपार्थाइड) के खिलाफ भारत का विरोध था, जिसके चलते सांस्कृतिक आदान-प्रदान भी सीमित हो गया था। ऐसे में उनका वहां जाकर मंच पर प्रस्तुति देना केवल एक संगीत

कार्यक्रम नहीं, बल्कि इतिहास का एक भावनात्मक क्षण बन गया। अक्टूबर 2016 में, जब वे 83 वर्ष की थीं, उन्होंने जोहान्सबर्ग और डरबन में अपने जीवन का यादगार प्रदर्शन दिया। यह उनका पहला और अंतिम दक्षिण अफ्रीका दौरा था। हजारों दर्शक सिर्फ उनके गीत सुनने नहीं, बल्कि उस आवाज़ को महसूस करने पहुंचे थे, जो दशकों से उनके जीवन का हिस्सा बनी हुई थी। दक्षिण अफ्रीका के भारतीय समुदाय के लिए उनके गीत सिर्फ मनोरंजन नहीं थे, वे कठिन दौर, विशेषकर रंगभेद के समय, एक मानसिक और सांस्कृतिक सहारा थीं। रेडियो, कैसेट और वीडियो टेप के माध्यम से उनके गीत घर-घर में गूंजते थे और लोगों को अपनी जड़ों से जोड़े रखते थे। उनकी उस प्रस्तुति को याद करते हुए कई प्रशंसकों ने कहा कि उनकी आवाज़ "कालातीत" थी, एक ऐसी ध्वनि जो हर पीढ़ी को जोड़ने की क्षमता रखती थी। मंच पर उनकी ऊर्जा, सहजता और भावनात्मक अभिव्यक्ति ने उस रात को अविस्मरणीय बना दिया। आज जब वह स्वर हमेशा के लिए शांत हो गया है, दक्षिण अफ्रीका का प्रवासी भारतीय समुदाय न केवल उनके गीतों को, बल्कि उस ऐतिहासिक शाम को भी याद कर रहा है। सुप्रसिद्ध गायिका आशा भोंसले का निधन १२ अप्रैल २०२६ को हो गया, दिवंगत आत्मा को हमारी सादर श्रद्धांजलि 🙏

सिएटल (यू एस) में स्वामी विवेकानंद की प्रतिमा: भारतीय प्रवासियों के लिए गर्व का ऐतिहासिक क्षण



अमेरिका के सिएटल शहर में 11 अप्रैल 2026 को स्वामी विवेकानंद की पहली जीवन-आकार (लाइफ-साइज) प्रतिमा का अनावरण एक ऐतिहासिक और भावनात्मक अवसर बन गया। यह सिर्फ एक प्रतिमा का उद्घाटन नहीं था, बल्कि भारतीय संस्कृति, आध्यात्मिकता और प्रवासी भारतीयों की पहचान का वैश्विक सम्मान भी था। यह प्रतिमा सिएटल के व्यस्त और प्रमुख सार्वजनिक स्थल वेस्टलेक स्क्वायर में स्थापित की गई है, जहाँ हर दिन हजारों लोग आते हैं। इस तरह यह स्थान भारतीय दर्शन और विरासत को दुनिया के सामने प्रस्तुत करने का एक सशक्त माध्यम बन गया है। इस ऐतिहासिक उपलब्धि की खास बात यह है कि यह अमेरिका में पहली बार है जब किसी स्थानीय प्रशासन ने स्वामी विवेकानंद की जीवन-आकार प्रतिमा स्थापित की है। यह कदम भारत और अमेरिका के बीच सांस्कृतिक संबंधों को और मजबूत करने की दिशा में एक महत्वपूर्ण प्रयास है। प्रतिमा का निर्माण प्रसिद्ध भारतीय मूर्तिकार नरेश कुमार कुमावत ने किया। उनकी बनाई यह प्रतिमा स्वामी विवेकानंद के व्यक्तित्व, आत्मविश्वास और दूरदर्शिता, को जीवंत रूप में दर्शाती है। इस अवसर पर आयोजित समारोह में स्थानीय नेताओं, भारतीय मूल के लोगों और सांस्कृतिक कलाकारों की बड़ी भागीदारी रही। पारंपरिक भारतीय नृत्य और सांस्कृतिक कार्यक्रमों ने इसे एक उत्सव का रूप दे दिया, जो भारतीय विरासत की समृद्धि को दर्शाता है। यह प्रतिमा भारतीय सांस्कृतिक संबंध परिषद (ICCR) द्वारा सिएटल शहर को उपहार स्वरूप दी गई है। यह पहल भारत की सांस्कृतिक कूटनीति का भी एक महत्वपूर्ण हिस्सा है। सिएटल में रहने वाले भारतीय समुदाय के लिए यह प्रतिमा गर्व और पहचान का प्रतीक बन गई है। तकनीक, शिक्षा और व्यवसाय के क्षेत्र में सक्रिय यह समुदाय अब अपनी सांस्कृतिक जड़ों को भी इस वैश्विक मंच पर मजबूती से देख पा रहा है।

अज़रबैजान में गूज़ा बाबा साहेब का सम्मान: भारतीय दूतावास ने मनाई अंबेडकर जयंती



अज़रबैजान की राजधानी बाकू में स्थित भारतीय दूतावास में डॉ. भीमराव अंबेडकर की जयंती एक गरिमामय और भावनात्मक माहौल में मनाई गई। यह अवसर न केवल भारत के महान संविधान निर्माता को श्रद्धांजलि देने का था, बल्कि उनके विचारों, समानता, न्याय और मानव गरिमा, को वैश्विक स्तर पर पुनः स्मरण करने का भी प्रतीक बना। 14 अप्रैल को आयोजित इस कार्यक्रम में भारतीय दूतावास परिसर में स्थापित डॉ. अंबेडकर की प्रतिमा पर पुष्पांजलि अर्पित की गई। भारत के राजदूत अभय कुमार ने अपने संबोधन में बाबा साहेब को भारतीय संविधान का शिल्पकार बताते हुए उनके विचारों की

आज के समय में उनकी प्रासंगिकता पर जोर दिया। उन्होंने ने कहा कि डॉ. अंबेडकर का जीवन सामाजिक असमानताओं के खिलाफ संघर्ष और न्यायपूर्ण समाज के निर्माण का प्रेरक उदाहरण है। उन्होंने यह भी रेखांकित किया कि अंबेडकर के सिद्धांत, समानता, स्वतंत्रता और बंधुत्व, आज भी भारत की लोकतांत्रिक संरचना की आधारशिला हैं। इस अवसर पर अज़रबैजान में रहने वाले भारतीय समुदाय के लोग भी बड़ी संख्या में शामिल हुए। उन्होंने बाबा साहेब के जीवन, उनके संघर्ष और समाज सुधार में उनके योगदान को याद किया। अज़रबैजान में आयोजित यह कार्यक्रम इस बात का प्रमाण है कि डॉ. भीमराव अंबेडकर के विचार और आदर्श केवल भारत तक सीमित नहीं हैं, बल्कि वे पूरी दुनिया में मानवता को दिशा देने वाली प्रेरणा बन चुके हैं।

कैनबरा हिंदी स्कूल ने भाषा और समुदाय के 20 वर्ष पूरे किए



कार्यवाहक उच्चायुक्त इरीना ठाकुर स्कूल की 20 वीं वर्षगांठ समारोह के दौरान सीनेटर कैटी गैलाघर, सांसद डेविड स्मिथ, चियाका बैरी और कैनबरा हिंदी स्कूल के छात्रों के साथ

कैनबरा हिंदी स्कूल ने अपनी 20वीं वर्षगांठ एक विशेष समारोह के साथ मनाई, जिसमें राजनयिकों, राजनेताओं और सामुदायिक नेताओं ने भाग लिया। इस अवसर पर स्कूल की उस भूमिका को रेखांकित किया गया, जिसके माध्यम से उसने ऑस्ट्रेलिया में हिंदी भाषा और भारतीय संस्कृति को बढ़ावा दिया है। कार्यक्रम में कार्यवाहक उच्चायुक्त इरीना ठाकुर ने भाग लिया और भाषा, शिक्षा तथा सांस्कृतिक जुड़ाव के माध्यम से भारत-ऑस्ट्रेलिया संबंधों को मजबूत करने में स्कूल के योगदान को सराहा। समुदाय द्वारा स्थापित इस पहल के रूप में शुरू हुआ कैनबरा हिंदी स्कूल पिछले दो दशकों से बच्चों और परिवारों को हिंदी सीखने में मदद कर रहा है और उन्हें सांस्कृतिक परंपराओं से जुड़े रहने का अवसर प्रदान कर रहा है। यह स्कूल कैनबरा में कई भारतीय-ऑस्ट्रेलियाई परिवारों के लिए सामुदायिक जीवन का महत्वपूर्ण हिस्सा बन गया है, जहां कक्षाएं, कार्यक्रम और उत्सव लोगों को एक साथ लाते हैं। समारोह में वित्त मंत्री सीनेटर कैटी गैलाघर, संघीय सांसद डेविड स्मिथ, नेपाल के राजदूत, एसीटी शैडो मंत्री (बहुसांस्कृतिक मामलों) चियाका बैरी, भारतीय प्रवासी समुदाय के सदस्य और अन्य गणमान्य व्यक्ति उपस्थित रहे। कार्यक्रम में वक्ताओं ने बहुसांस्कृतिक ऑस्ट्रेलिया में भाषा स्कूलों के महत्व पर प्रकाश डाला। कई परिवारों के लिए ऐसे स्कूल बच्चों को अपने माता-पिता और दादा-दादी की भाषा सीखने का अवसर देते हैं और पहचान व जुड़ाव की भावना को मजबूत करते हैं। इस आयोजन में भारत-ऑस्ट्रेलिया संबंधों के व्यापक परिप्रेक्ष्य को भी रेखांकित किया गया, जो शिक्षा, व्यापार, प्रवासन और सामुदायिक सहभागिता के क्षेत्रों में लगातार बढ़ रहे हैं। हिंदी भाषा स्कूलों को इन संबंधों का एक महत्वपूर्ण हिस्सा बताया गया, जो संस्कृतियों के बीच दैनिक संपर्क स्थापित करते हैं और नई पीढ़ियों को अपनी विरासत से जुड़े रहने में मदद करते हैं। समारोह के दौरान पिछले 20 वर्षों में योगदान देने वाले शिक्षकों, स्वयंसेवकों और परिवारों का भी सम्मान किया गया, जबकि सांस्कृतिक प्रस्तुतियां और सामुदायिक गतिविधियां कार्यक्रम का हिस्सा रहीं।

श्रीलंका, ऑस्ट्रेलिया तथा डेनमार्क के विद्वानों के साथ संवाद



अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय सहयोग परिषद्-डायस्पोरा रिसर्च एण्ड रिसोर्स सेंटर और वैश्विक हिंदी परिवार के संयुक्त तत्वावधान में 'डायस्पोरा से संवाद' कार्यक्रम का आयोजन "प्रवासी भवन" में आयोजित किया गया। कार्यक्रम का मुख्य उद्देश्य वैश्विक परिदृश्य में हिंदी की वर्तमान स्थिति, चुनौतियाँ, अवसर और भविष्य की संभावनाओं पर विचार-विमर्श रहा। कार्यक्रम में विभिन्न देशों से आए प्रतिष्ठित वक्ताओं ने हिंदी भाषा एवं साहित्य के वैश्विक प्रसार पर अपने विचार साझा किए। सबसे पहले नीलांति राजपक्ष (श्रीलंका) ने श्रीलंका से हिंदी की स्थिति, स्थानीय समुदाय में हिंदी की भूमिका और सांस्कृतिक आदान-प्रदान पर प्रकाश डाला।

कथाकार रीता कौशल (सिंगापुर /ऑस्ट्रेलिया से जुड़ी प्रवासी लेखिका) ने प्रवासी साहित्य में हिंदी कहानी और उपन्यास की भूमिका, विदेशों में हिंदी लेखन की सफलताओं पर विस्तार से चर्चा की। डेनमार्क के हिन्दी विद्वान डेविड एल्मर जी ने विदेशी दृष्टिकोण से हिंदी भाषा के वैश्विक महत्व, और हिन्दी शिक्षण तथा चुनौतियों पर प्रकाश डाला। कार्यक्रम में मुख्य अतिथि श्री वीरेंद्र गुप्ता (पूर्व अध्यक्ष, एआरएसपी तथा पूर्व राजदूत) ने हिंदी को भारत की सांस्कृतिक कूटनीति का महत्वपूर्ण माध्यम बताते हुए डायस्पोरा की भूमिका पर जोर दिया। श्री श्याम परांडे (महासचिव, एआरएसपी) ने वैश्विक हिंदी प्रसार के संस्थागत पहलुओं पर प्रकाश डाला। श्री नारायण कुमार (मानद निदेशक, एआरएसपी) ने हिंदी की अंतरराष्ट्रीय पहचान पर अपने विचार प्रस्तुत किए। कार्यक्रम की अध्यक्षता प्रो. दर्शन पांडेय (प्राचार्य, राजधानी कॉलेज, दिल्ली विश्वविद्यालय) ने की। उन्होंने अपनी अध्यक्षीय टिप्पणी में हिंदी शिक्षा, साहित्य और डायस्पोरा के बीच मजबूत सेतु बनाने की आवश्यकता पर बल दिया। धन्यवाद ज्ञापन श्री अनिल जोशी (अध्यक्ष, वैश्विक हिंदी परिवार) ने किया तथा हिंदी को वैश्विक मंच पर सशक्त बनाने का सुझाव दिया।

कनाडा के हिन्दी विद्वान श्री सुमन घई के साथ हिन्दी के प्रचार-प्रसार पर बातचीत



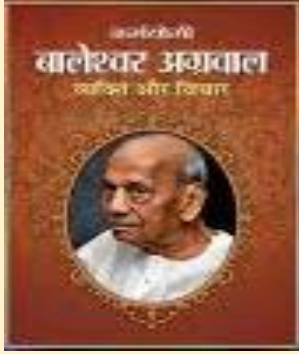
अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय सहयोग परिषद-डायस्पोरा रिसर्च एण्ड रिसोर्स सेंटर और वैश्विक हिंदी परिवार के संयुक्त तत्वावधान में 'डायस्पोरा से संवाद' कार्यक्रम के अंतर्गत के मुख्य अतिथि कनाडा के वरिष्ठ लेखक एवं संपादक श्री सुमन घई -राइटर्स ग्रिड ऑफ़ इंडिया के अध्यक्ष व साहित्य कुंज वेब पत्रिका के संपादक थे। उनकी कहानियों को पढ़ते हुए अन्यास ही निर्मल वर्मा, मंटो, यू आर अनंत मूर्ति जैसे साहित्यकारों की स्मृति कौंध जाती है। कार्यक्रम में स्वागत भाषण श्री नारायण कुमार, (मानद निदेशक, अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय सहयोग परिषद) ने दिया, इसके पश्चात सुमन घई जी ने अपनी रचनात्मक और संपादकीय यात्रा के विषय में विस्तार से चर्चा की। तत्पश्चात रचनाकार से संवाद के क्रम में श्री राजेश कुमार (संयुक्त संचिव, एन सी ई आर टी) श्री ऋषि कुमार शर्मा (पूर्व उप सचिव, हिन्दी अकादमी) आदि ने अपने विचार व्यक्त किए। कार्यक्रम का धन्यवाद ज्ञापन श्री अनिल जोशी (अध्यक्ष, वैश्विक हिंदी परिवार) ने लेखक के रचनात्मक कर्म पर चर्चा करते हुए किया।

जयशंकर ने संयुक्त अरब अमीरात के राष्ट्रपति से मुलाकात की, संघर्ष के दौरान प्रवासी भारतीयों का समर्थन करने के लिए प्रधानमंत्री मोदी का आभार व्यक्त किया

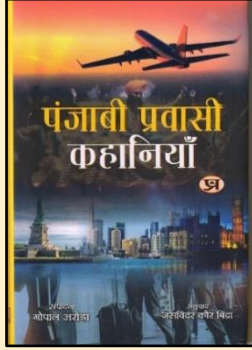
भारत के विदेश मंत्री एस. जयशंकर ने संयुक्त अरब अमीरात की अपनी हालिया यात्रा के दौरान शेख मोहम्मद बिन जायद अल नाहयान से मुलाकात की, जिसमें पश्चिम एशिया में चल रहे क्षेत्रीय संघर्ष के बीच भारतीय प्रवासियों को देश के समर्थन के लिए आभार व्यक्त किया। यह बैठक अबू धाबी में हुई, जहां जयशंकर ने व्यक्तिगत रूप से नरेंद्र मोदी की ओर से प्रशंसा का संदेश दिया। उन्होंने क्षेत्र में अस्थिरता के कारण चिह्नित एक चुनौतीपूर्ण अवधि के दौरान भारतीय समुदाय की सुरक्षा और कल्याण सुनिश्चित करने में यूएई नेतृत्व की सक्रिय भूमिका को स्वीकार किया। चर्चा के दौरान, दोनों पक्षों ने भारत-यूएई व्यापक रणनीतिक साझेदारी को मजबूत करने के लिए अपनी प्रतिबद्धता की पुष्टि की। जयशंकर ने इस बात पर जोर दिया कि दोनों देशों के बीच संबंध गहरे हो रहे हैं, जो न केवल आर्थिक और रणनीतिक हितों से प्रेरित हैं, बल्कि लोगों से लोगों के बीच मजबूत संबंधों, विशेष रूप से संयुक्त अरब अमीरात में रहने वाले बड़े भारतीय प्रवासियों से भी प्रेरित हैं। इस यात्रा में संयुक्त अरब अमीरात के अन्य वरिष्ठ नेताओं के साथ बातचीत भी शामिल थी, जहां प्रमुख क्षेत्रीय विकास, द्विपक्षीय सहयोग और प्रवासी भारतीयों से संबंधित मुद्दों पर चर्चा की गई। जयशंकर ने भारतीय समुदाय के सदस्यों के साथ बातचीत की, संयुक्त अरब अमीरात के विकास में उनके बहुमूल्य योगदान और दोनों देशों के बीच संबंधों को बढ़ाने में उनकी भूमिका को मान्यता दी। यह उच्च-स्तरीय जुड़ाव भारत-यूएई संबंधों के लचीलेपन और महत्व को रेखांकित करता है, इस बात पर प्रकाश डालता है कि कैसे आपसी समर्थन और सहयोग केंद्रीय बने हुए हैं, खासकर क्षेत्रीय अनिश्चितता के समय में।

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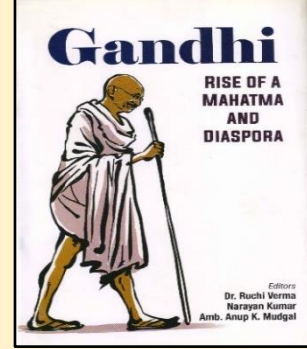
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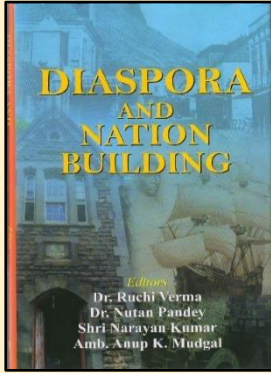
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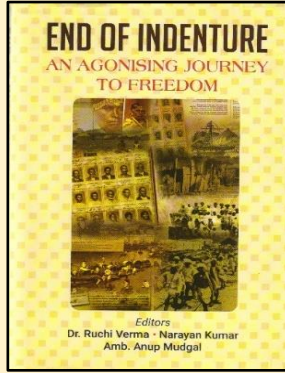
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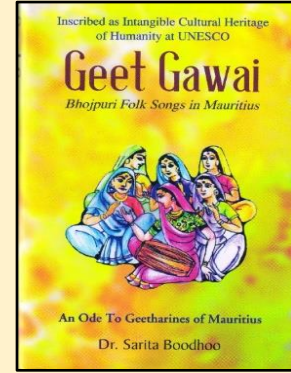
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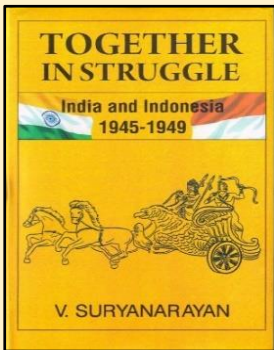
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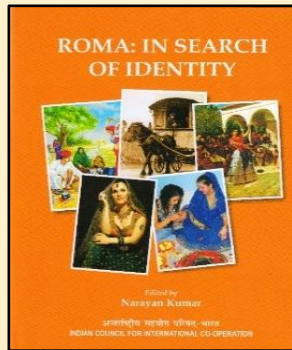
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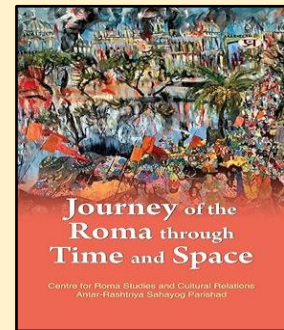
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