

DIASPORA SAMVAAD

डायस्पोरा संवाद

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

ISSUE 02

Wishing you all a very Happy New Year 2025!

JANUARY 2025

PM MODI PROPOSED ORGANIZING REGULAR WORLD GIRMITIYA CONVENTIONS



PM Modi during address in inauguration of the 18th Pravasi Bharatiya Divas (PBD) convention at Bhubaneswar

The 18th Pravasi Bharatiya Divas Convention (PBD), 2025 was held in partnership with the Government of Odisha in Bhubaneswar, Odisha from 8 to 10 January 2025. This was the first PBD to be held in Eastern India. This approach is in line with Government of India's focus on 'Purvodaya'. Odisha has had historical maritime connections with South East Asia and these ties are being renewed and rekindled in contemporary times. As such, PBD 2025 in Odisha while deepening India's connect with the diaspora also strengthens its 'Act East Policy'. A large gathering of delegates from over 75 countries participated in PBD 2025.

As has been the tradition over the years, the first day of the Convention – 08 January 2025, was dedicated for the Youth Pravasi Bharatiya Divas where the Guest of Honor was Dr. Dev Pragad, CEO, Newsweek. The first plenary of PBD 2025 titled, "Beyond Barriers: Diaspora Youth Leadership in a Globalized World" was chaired by Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya, Minister for Youth Affairs and Sports and Labour and Employment. Other Speakers included diaspora leaders from the areas of politics, business and academia. A joint business session chaired by External Affairs Minister (EAM) Dr. S. Jaishankar and Chief Minister of Odisha Shri Mohan Charan Majhi highlighted the business opportunities in the State and how global investors can take advantage of its economic and technological growth. Further, the Government of Odisha also organized two thematic sessions on Odisha titled: "Unraveling India's Best Kept Secret" and "Viksit Odisha: The Road Ahead". The day ended with a mesmerizing cultural performance showcasing art forms from the State.

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi inaugurated PBD 2025 on 09 January 2025. The Chief Guest for PBD 2025, President of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago, H. E. Christine Carla Kangaloo addressed the gathering virtually. During her address, she remembered with fondness and pride her Indian ancestry as well as the contribution of Indian diaspora in Trinidad and Tobago. She highlighted India's remarkable contribution to global growth and development. Prime Minister in his address, urged the Indian diaspora to contribute towards the goal of Viksit Bharat 2047. He also encouraged the diaspora members to make efforts towards preservation of diaspora history through initiatives such as digitalization of historical documents, films, documentaries and research. The Prime Minister highlighted the example of Girmitya laborers and proposed organizing regular World Girmitya conventions, along with commissioning academic research diaspora history. Further, Prime Minister urged the diaspora to travel within India, particularly to the Maha Kumbh 2025, and contribute towards the 'Chalo India' tourism campaign. Prime Minister as part of PBD 2025, flagged off the Pravasi Bharatiya Express remotely and also inaugurated exhibitions including, Vishwaroop Ram; Recording Diaspora History – Mandvi to Muscat; Diaspora's Contributions to Technology and Viksit Bharat and Odisha's Economic Progress and Heritage. Prime Minister also interacted with the winners of the Pravasi Bharatiya Samman Award and the Bharat Ko Janiye Quiz.

On Day two, plenary sessions titled "Building Bridges, Breaking Barriers: Stories of Migrant Skills" and "Green Connections: Diaspora's Contributions to Sustainable Development" were held. The sessions were chaired by Smt. Shobha Karandlaje, Minister of State for MSME, Labour and Employment and Shri Ashwini Vaishnaw, Minister for Electronics and IT, Information and Broadcasting and Railways respectively. Day two ended with a scintillating gala cultural performance titled "Celebration of Bharat" organized by ICCR.

Day three commenced with plenary sessions titled: "Diaspora Divas: Celebrating Women's Leadership and Influence – Nari Shakti" which was chaired by Dr. S Jaishankar. EAM spoke about the various initiatives of the Government of India which have contributed towards women empowerment and Viksit Bharat vision. The second plenary session of the day was titled, "Diaspora Dialogues: Stories of Culture Connection and Belonginess" Chaired by Shri Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, Minister for Culture and Tourism.

During PBD 2025, EAM and other Union Ministers present interacted with diaspora groups from USA, UK, Qatar, Malaysia, Mauritius, Oman, Saudi Arabia, Myanmar, UAE among others.

The valedictory session of PBD 2025 was presided over by the Hon'ble President of India, Smt. Droupadi Murmu. In her address, President expressed her appreciation for the indomitable spirit of the Indian diaspora. She made a special mention of the contribution made by women, students and the youth who she termed as the torch bearers for the future generations of the diaspora. She also spoke about the various efforts of the Government to enhance consular services and also called on the diaspora to actively participate in initiatives such as 'Know India Program'. Citing recent evacuation operations undertaken by the Government, President emphasized that the Government of India has always prioritized support and protection of the diaspora. President conferred the Pravasi Bharatiya Samman Awards on 27 individuals from 24 countries. PBD 2025 came to a close with a soulful santoor concert by Maestro Shri Abhay Rustum Sopori.

PRESIDENT DRAUPADI MURMU HONORS AWARDEES WITH THE PRESTIGIOUS PRAVASIBHARATIYA SAMMAN 2025



Prof. Ajay Rane, Australia – Community Service, **Dr. Marialena Joan Fernandes**, Austria – Education, **Dr. Philomena Ann Mohini Harris**, Barbados – Medical Science, **Swami Sanyuktanand**, Fiji – Community Service, **Saraswati Vidya Niketan**, Guyana – Community Service, **Dr. Lekh Raj Juneja**, Japan – Science & Technology, **Dr. Prem Kumar**, Kyrgyz Republic – Medical Science, **Soukthavy Chowdhury**, Laos – Business, **Krishna Savjani**, Malawi – Business, **'Tan Sri' Dr. Subramaniam K.V. Sathasivam**, Malaysia – Politics, **Dr. Sarita Boodhoo**, Mauritius – Community Service, **Mr. Abhaya Kumar**, Moldova – Business, **Dr. Ram Niwas @ Hla Tun**, Myanmar – Education, **Jaggannath Shekhar Asthana**, Romania – Business, **Hindustani Samaj**, Russia – Community Service, **Sudha Rani Gupta**, Russia – Education, **Dr. Syed Anwar Khursheed**, Saudi Arabia – Medical Science, **Atul Arvind Temurnikar**, Singapore – Education, **Robert Masih Nahar**, Spain – Community Service, **Dr. Kaushik Laxmidas Ramaiya**, Tanzania – Medicine, **H.E. Christine Carla Kangaloo ORTT**, Trinidad & Tobago – Public Affairs, **Ramakrishnan Sivaswamy Iyer**, UAE – Business, **Bonthala Subbaiah Setty Ramesh Babu**, Uganda – Community Service, **Baroness Usha Kumari Prashar**, UK – Politics, **Dr. Sharad Lakhnarpal**, USA – Medicine, **Dr. Sharmila Ford**, USA – Community Service, **Ravi Kumar S.**, USA – Business (IT & Consulting)

भारतीय भाषाओं का संरक्षण मेरे हृदय के करीब – पूर्व राष्ट्रपति रामनाथ कोविन्द



राष्ट्र गान के दौरान महामहिम पूर्व राष्ट्रपति रामनाथ कोविन्द, पद्मश्री प्रोफेसर तोमिओ मिजोकामि, श्री श्याम परांडे, श्री अनिल जोशी, डॉ प्रमेश गुप्त, डॉ. सच्चिदानंद जोशी

अंतरराष्ट्रीय सहयोग परिषद, वैश्विक हिन्दी परिवार और इंदिरा गांधी राष्ट्रीय कला केंद्र के संयुक्त तत्वावधान में तीन दिवसीय अंतरराष्ट्रीय भारतीय भाषा सम्मेलन - 2025 का आयोजन, 10 से 12 जनवरी 2025 तक इंदिरा गांधी राष्ट्रीय कला केंद्र, जनपथ, नई दिल्ली में किया गया। इस ऐतिहासिक आयोजन में भारतीय भाषाओं के विकास और संरक्षण पर गहरे विचार-विमर्श हुए, साथ ही भारतीय भाषाओं को वैश्विक मंच पर स्थापित करने के लिए ठोस कदमों पर चर्चा की गई।

पूर्व राष्ट्रपति महोदय ने उद्घाटन सत्र में अपने प्रेरक उद्बोधन में कहा कि भारतीय भाषाओं का संरक्षण मेरे हृदय के करीब रहा है। उन्होंने बताया कि उनके कार्यकाल में लागू की गई नई शिक्षा नीति ने भारतीय भाषाओं को समुचित स्थान देने का मार्ग प्रशस्त किया है, जिससे भविष्य में इसका दृढ़गामी प्रभाव होगा। न्यायालयों में अब अधिकतर मुक्किलों को उनकी मातृभाषा में निर्णय की प्रतियां मिल रही हैं और तकनीकी तथा मेडिकल पाठ्यक्रमों की शुरुआत भी भारतीय भाषाओं में हो चुकी है। उन्होंने योग के वैश्विक प्रसार की चर्चा करते हुए क्यूबा के राष्ट्रपति द्वारा स्वयं योग करके दिखाने का भी रोचक संस्मरण साझा किया।

जापान से पधारते पद्मश्री से सम्मानित प्रोफेसर तोमियो मिजोकामि ने भारतीय भाषाओं को एक ही परिवार की बहनों जैसा बताया और कहा कि इन भाषाओं का वैश्विक प्रभाव निरंतर बढ़ रहा है। मध्य प्रदेश के चुनाव आयुक्त डॉ. मनोज श्रीवास्तव ने अपनी अध्यक्षीय भाषण में मातृभाषाओं को 'प्रथम ऊँकार ध्वनि' की संज्ञा दी और भारत की भाषाई विविधता को इसकी ताकत बताया।

इस सम्मेलन के उद्घाटन में भाग लेने वाले प्रमुख अतिथियों में आक्सफोर्ड बिजनेस कालेज, ब्रिटेन के प्रबंध निदेशक डॉ. पद्मेश गुप्त भी थे, जिन्होंने भारतीय भाषाओं और संस्कृति को अंतरराष्ट्रीय स्तर पर बढ़ावा देने की आवश्यकता पर बल दिया। अंतरराष्ट्रीय सहयोग परिषद के महासचिव श्री श्याम परांडे ने सम्मेलन के स्वागत भाषण में आगामी वर्षों में डायस्पोरा के सहयोग से अन्य भाषाओं के साथ अंतरराष्ट्रीय सम्मेलन आयोजित करने की योजना की जानकारी दी।

वैश्विक हिन्दी परिवार के अध्यक्ष श्री अनिल जोशी ने सम्मेलन की उद्देश्यों को स्पष्ट करते हुए कहा कि भारतीय भाषाओं की अंतर्निहित शक्ति को वैश्विक स्तर पर स्थापित कर 'वसुधैव कुटुम्बकम्' की अवधारणा को सशक्त रूप दिया जा सकता है। इंदिरा गांधी राष्ट्रीय कला केंद्र के सचिव डॉ. सच्चिदानंद जोशी ने भारतीय भाषाओं और संस्कृति के संरक्षण एवं संवर्धन पर जोर देते हुए बताया कि भारत में लगभग 2 करोड़ पांडुलिपियां हैं, जो यूरोप की पांडुलिपियों से भी अधिक हैं।

सम्मेलन में भारत के विभिन्न राज्यों के अलावा अमेरिका, ब्रिटेन, नीदरलैंड, सिंगापुर और मॉरीशस जैसे देशों के विद्वान, साहित्यकार, भाषा विशेषज्ञ और शोधार्थी उपस्थित थे। कवयित्री डॉ. अनिता वर्मा ने कार्यक्रम का सुंदर संचालन किया, और डॉ. अशोक बत्रा ने सभी का धन्यवाद ज्ञापित किया।

इस सम्मेलन के कुल 23 सत्रों में प्रमुख सत्र इस प्रकार हैं – वैश्विक हिन्दी: चुनौतियां और संभावनाएं, सूचना प्रौद्योगिकी एवं कृत्रिम बुद्धिमत्ता – भारतीय भाषाएं, उच्च शिक्षा में भारतीय भाषाएं – नई दिशाएं व चुनौतियां, भारतीय भाषा: विशेष संदर्भ राजभाषा एवं देवनागरी लिपि, रचनाकारों की कृतियों पर नाट्यपाठ प्रस्तुति, भारत की ज्ञान परंपरा, विद्यार्थियों एवं शोधार्थियों द्वारा शोध पत्र पाठ, डायस्पोरा पर शोध, भाषा व साहित्य पर शोध, भारतीय भाषा में पत्रकारिता: अस्मिता का प्रश्न, भारतीय भाषा में एकात्मकता, मेरे शब्द संसार, भारतीय भाषाओं में अंतर्संबंध व अनुवाद, विदेशों भारत की भाषा और संस्कृति: विशेष संदर्भ गिरमिटिया देश एवं रचना पाठ, आदि पर गहन विमर्श किया गया।

समापन समारोह में विचार-विमर्श

समापन समारोह की अध्यक्षता पूर्व केंद्रीय शिक्षा मंत्री, सांसद और वरिष्ठ साहित्यकार डॉ. रमेश पोखरियाल 'निशंक' ने की। मुख्य अतिथि के रूप में इंदिरा गांधी राष्ट्रीय कला केंद्र के अध्यक्ष श्री राम बहादुर राय और विशिष्ट अतिथियों में शिक्षा संस्कृति उत्थान न्यास के संयोजक श्री अतुल कोठारी तथा आक्सफोर्ड बिजनेस स्कूल के प्रबंध निदेशक डॉ. पद्मेश गुप्त उपस्थित रहे। इस दौरान श्री श्याम परांडे और श्री अनिल जोशी ने भी अपने विचार व्यक्त किए। कार्यक्रम के अंत में डॉ. रमेश पोखरियाल 'निशंक' ने भारतीय भाषाओं के महत्व पर जोर देते हुए कहा कि हम पहले भारतीय हैं, फिर भाषा-भाषाई हैं। उन्होंने लॉर्ड मैकाले का उदाहरण देते हुए भारतीय भाषाओं की स्थिति पर प्रकाश डाला और 185 वर्षों बाद आई नई शिक्षा नीति को भारतीय विद्यार्थियों के लिए एक ऐतिहासिक कदम बताया।

इस कार्यक्रम के समापन पर श्री विनयशील चतुर्वेदी ने धन्यवाद ज्ञापित किया और आयोजन के सफल संपन्न होने की पुष्टि की। इस ऐतिहासिक सम्मेलन ने भारतीय भाषाओं के महत्व को वैश्विक स्तर पर पुनः स्थापित करने की कोशिश हुई और भविष्य में इनके विस्तार और विकास के लिए नई दिशाओं में आगे बढ़ने को लेकर प्रस्ताव रखे गए एवं उस पर अमल करने हेतु बल दिया गया।

Pravasi Bhartiya Samman Awardees Dr. Sarita Boodhoo honoured at Pravasi Bhawan - Delhi



Group photo after the celebration of Dr. Sarita Boodhoo's Pravasi Bhartiya Samman Award at Pravasi Bhawan

Diaspora Research and Resource Center (DRRC) of Antar Rashtriya Sahayog Parishad (ARSP) organized the 27th episode of its "Dialogue with Diaspora" program on January 15, 2025, at Pravasi Bhawan. The event was a special occasion honoring Dr. Sarita Boodhoo, recipient of the prestigious Pravasi Bhartiya Samman Award 2025, and celebrated her remarkable contributions to Indian culture and the diaspora community.

The gathering was graced by prominent figures, including Yogacharya Shri Dhananjaya Kumar, a renowned cultural activist from the United States, and Mrs. R. Bhatoolaul-Robee, the Second Secretary at the High Commission of the Republic of Mauritius, New Delhi. The event reflected the continued efforts to strengthen cultural ties between India and the global diaspora.

Shri Shyam Prande, Secretary General of ARSP, opened the session by warmly welcoming the attendees. He introduced the distinguished guests and highlighted the enduring legacy of Shri Baleshwar Agrawal Ji, the founding Secretary General of ARSP. Shri Prande also acknowledged Dr. Boodhoo's long-standing relationship with ARSP, noting that her association with the organization dates back nearly 50 years.

He took the opportunity to introduce Dr. Boodhoo's book, *Geet Gawai*, which encapsulates her contributions to cultural and linguistic preservation, and praised Yogacharya Shri Dhananjaya Kumar's work in global education, yoga, and cultural advocacy. In her address, **Dr. Sarita Boodhoo** expressed profound gratitude to the Government of India for bestowing upon her the Pravasi Bhartiya Samman Award 2025. She acknowledged the support of various organizations in India and Mauritius that facilitated her journey and spoke fondly of her ties with ARSP, calling it her "second home." Reflecting on the India-Mauritius connection, Dr. Boodhoo stressed the importance of fostering stronger cultural ties with younger generations of the diaspora, who may not feel as connected to India and its heritage.

Yogacharya Shri Dhananjaya Kumar delivered an engaging speech that redefined the concept of diaspora. Drawing from historical examples, he referenced pre-historic migrations and cultural exchanges between ancient Egypt and India, underscoring the deep-rooted, millennia-old ties between India and the world. Addressing the challenge of youth engagement, he shared his experiences of using yoga, music, and cultural programs to connect with diaspora youth in the USA.

Mrs. R. Bhatoolaul, Second Secretary, High Commission of the Republic of Mauritius, New Delhi, in her congratulatory message to Dr. Boodhoo, emphasized the importance of evolving methods to engage the younger generation of the diaspora. She highlighted the robust bilateral relations between India and Mauritius and expressed support for efforts to preserve cultural connections.

Shri Anil Joshi, President of Vaishvik Hindi Parivar, spoke on the significance of linguistic diaspora and the role of language in maintaining cultural identity.

He stressed the importance of collaboration between organizations like ARSP and Vaishvik Hindi Parivar to preserve and promote Indian languages globally.

The interactive session saw contributions from various thought leaders, including Amb. Anup Mudgal, who emphasized the need to understand the interests of youth before engaging them.

He also commended Dr. Boodhoo's book *Geet Gawai* for bridging cultural gaps between India and Mauritius. Shri Atul Dev, senior ARSP member, pointed out the richness of literature produced by Girmitiya countries, and encouraged Indian metropolitan youth to visit cultural hubs in India to better understand traditions before connecting with the diaspora.

The program concluded with a powerful address by **Amb. Virendra Gupta**, Former President of ARSP, who praised Dr. Boodhoo for her efforts in promoting Indian language, culture, and traditions. He reiterated the importance of emotional and cultural connections between India and its diaspora, emphasizing that these cultural ties are vital components of India's soft power on the global stage.

Moderated by Prof. Gopal Arora, Secretary of ARSP, the event provided valuable insights into the future of diaspora engagement and was attended by retired diplomats, ARSP members, scholars, and cultural advocates, marking a successful celebration of Dr. Boodhoo's outstanding achievements.

The 27th "Dialogue with Diaspora" program served as a reminder of the enduring importance of cultural, educational, and emotional bonds between India and its global community.

India has potential to become skill capital of world - PM Modi



Prime Minister Narendra Modi interacts with Indian workers during his two-day Kuwait visit.

In a historic visit, Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi arrived in Kuwait on December 21, 2024, marking the first visit by an Indian Prime Minister to the Gulf nation in 43 years. Modi's trip is seen as a significant step in reinforcing the longstanding relationship between India and Kuwait, which spans generations and is rooted in trade, culture, and shared history.

Addressing the Indian diaspora at the 'Hala Modi' event at the Sheikh Saad Al-Abdullah Indoor Sports Complex, Modi expressed his admiration for the contributions of the Indian community to Kuwait's development. "Every year, hundreds of Indians come to Kuwait. You have added an Indian touch to Kuwaiti society," he said. Praising the diverse Indian workforce in Kuwait, Modi referred to it as a "mini-Hindustan," highlighting the rich blend of skills, talent, and traditions that Indians bring to the country. He emphasized that India has the potential to become the "skill capital of the world," thanks to its vast human resources and technological prowess.

The Prime Minister's visit comes after more than four decades, with the last Indian Prime Minister to visit Kuwait being Indira Gandhi in 1981. During his speech, Modi remarked, "Today, personally, this moment is very special for me. For you all, coming to India takes four hours, but for the Prime Minister of India, it took four decades."

Modi also spoke about the growing collaboration between India and Kuwait. He pointed out that while Kuwait is working towards building a "New Kuwait," India is focusing on becoming a developed nation by 2047. He expressed optimism about the potential for

the two nations to become partners in prosperity. "India has the skill, technology, innovation, and manpower that 'New Kuwait' needs," he said, underscoring the complementary nature of the two countries' ambitions.

Further strengthening the bonds between the two nations, Modi acknowledged the efforts of two Kuwaiti nationals, Abdullah Al Baroun and Abdul Lateef Al Neseef, who have translated the ancient Indian epics, the Ramayana and the Mahabharata, into Arabic. This initiative, Modi noted, highlights the growing global interest in Indian culture.

Modi also took time to visit the Gulf Spic Labour Camp in Mina Abdullah, which houses approximately 1,500 Indian workers. This visit was particularly symbolic following the tragic fire in June 2024, which claimed the lives of over 45 Indian nationals. Modi interacted with workers, enquired about their well-being, and assured them of the government's support. His visit to the labour camp reflected his commitment to the welfare of Indian workers abroad, a sentiment echoed by the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA).

In a heartwarming moment, Modi met 101-year-old former Indian Foreign Service officer Mangal Sain Handa, praising his contributions to India and his passion for the nation's development.

Kuwait is home to over one million Indians, who make up 21% of the country's population and a significant portion of the workforce, particularly in the private and domestic sectors. This vibrant community has long played a vital role in fostering strong ties between India and Kuwait.

During his visit, Modi also attended the inauguration of the Arabian Gulf Cup football tournament, marking a celebration of sports and cultural exchange. He invited the Indian diaspora to participate in upcoming events in India, including the Pravasi Bharatiya Divas and Maha Kumbh in January 2025, and to return to India to witness the Republic Day celebrations.

As Modi concluded his visit, he reflected on the enduring historical connection between India and Kuwait, one that is based not just on trade and energy but also on a shared commitment to peace, security, and regional stability. With a roadmap for future collaboration, Modi's visit marked a new chapter in the evolving relationship between the two nations.

THE CHALO INDIA CAMPAIGN, LAUNCHED BY PRIME MINISTER NARENDRA MODI



The Chalo India campaign, launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, aims to strengthen tourism by engaging the Indian diaspora to invite foreign friends to experience the grandeur of Incredible India. The initiative, introduced in London, incentivises diaspora members to promote India as a travel destination, with rewards for successfully bringing non-Indian visitors to the country. As part of the program, diaspora members can encourage an unlimited number of foreign friends, though a minimum of five invitations is recommended. Visitors who accept the invitation are entitled to a free visa, facilitated by a unique code provided by the recommender.

As part of the program, diaspora members can encourage an unlimited number of foreign friends, though a minimum of five invitations is recommended. Visitors who accept the invitation are entitled to a free visa, facilitated by a unique code provided by the recommender. Rewards for diaspora members include priority immigration clearance or a ceremonial airport welcome upon their return to India, as per options under consideration by the Ministry of Tourism.

The Chalo India portal serves as a hub for diaspora members to register, track their contributions, and claim rewards. This platform enhances engagement by providing real-time updates and ensuring transparency in the reward process. The program not only incentivises global tourism but also strengthens cultural and emotional ties between the diaspora and their homeland.

With this campaign, India's tourism sector envisions a global boost, leveraging the influence of the Indian diaspora. By showcasing the country's rich heritage, vibrant culture, and incredible landscapes, Chalo India positions India as a top global travel destination, aligning with the government's vision to expand its tourism footprint worldwide.

EAM JAISHANKAR HIGHLIGHTS TRADE, COMMUNITY WELFARE IN BAHRAIN



External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar addressed the Indian diaspora in Manama, Bahrain

External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar addressed the Indian diaspora in Manama, Bahrain on 10 December, highlighting the importance of strengthening India-Bahrain relations through continued engagement at various levels. He emphasized the growing bilateral trade, which has reached USD 1.7 billion, as well as the rise in investments and the welfare of Bahrain's 335,000-strong Indian community.

This is my second visit to Bahrain, but in many ways, it's my first proper visit," Jaishankar said, reflecting on his earlier brief trip in 2020 to offer condolences on the passing of Prime Minister Prince Khalifa.

"He stressed the need for ongoing interactions between both nations' leaderships to ensure a robust relationship.

Jaishankar also spoke about the Modi government's focus on supporting Indian communities abroad. "The welfare of the community is a hallmark of our approach, and Bahrain's local positivity is exceptional," he said.

In addition to his meetings at the 4th India-Bahrain High Joint Commission, Jaishankar visited the Shreenath Ji Temple, symbolizing the cultural and spiritual ties between the two nations. His visit underscored the shared goals of further enhancing economic cooperation and community welfare.

80TH KNOW INDIA PROGRAMME REPORT

The Diaspora Research and Resource Center (DRRC) of Antar Rashtriya Sahayog Parishad (ARSP) hosted the 80th Know India Programme (KIP) delegation on January 6, 2025, at Pravasi Bhawan, New Delhi. The delegation included 40 participants from 12 countries: Fiji, France, Guyana, Italy, Malaysia, Mauritius, Myanmar, New Zealand, South Africa, Suriname, Tanzania, and Trinidad & Tobago. The program focused on the Indian diaspora's cultural heritage and global impact. It featured two sessions aimed at enhancing delegates



From left to right: Mrs. R. Bhatoolaul-Robee, Mr. Hanani Ben Lewi, H. E. Shri Jagmath Sami, Amb. Vinod Kumar, Ms. Sunaina P. R. Mohan

understanding of India's historical, cultural, and economic ties to its diaspora, along with interactive dialogues with diplomats and ARSP members.

Prof. Gopal Arora, Secretary, ARSP, introduced the programme. During his address, he provided a comprehensive journey of ARSP and DRRC, along with elucidating their guiding motto. He underscored the significance of the ARSP motto, 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam' (The World Is One Family), emphasizing its profound ethos. Grounded in the spirit of 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam,' ARSP and DRRC actively foster connections and interactions with the Indian diaspora.

In his welcome address, **Amb. Vinod Kumar**, President welcomed participants and reflected on the historical and cultural ties between India and their ancestral adopted land. He acknowledged the challenges faced by the Girmitiyas, ancestors of many participants. He highlighted the significant contributions of Girmitiyas in the development of their adopted countries. Amb. Kumar emphasized the role of participants as bridges between India and their countries, encouraging them to share their experiences and dispel misconceptions about India. He also appreciated the enthusiasm of participants in engaging with Indian culture and concluded with a call for future visits to India.

Shri Shyam Parande, Secretary General of ARSP, emphasized the historical ties between India and its global communities during his address. He noted ARSP's nearly 50 years of work connecting with the Indian diaspora, especially students from Trinidad, Guyana, and Fiji in the 1960s and 1970s. He acknowledged Shri Baleshwar Agarwal Ji for connecting with Indian diaspora when there was no flight and internet. Shri Parande discussed different phases of Indian migration, highlighting the influx of skilled professionals in the 1990s who embraced their culture. He underscored the global influence of Indian values like Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam and advocated for continued global interactions to foster peace and understanding.

H. E. Shri Jagmath Sami, High Commissioner of Fiji in New Delhi, highlighted the importance of cultural identity, migration, and the preservation of heritage in the global diaspora. He reflected on the historical context of indentured labor, comparing it to slavery, and discussed the ongoing migration patterns of people seeking freedom and better opportunities. H. E. Sami emphasized that while assimilation is important, maintaining one's identity and culture is crucial for community survival. He highlighted the efforts of the Indian government and ARSP to help diaspora members reconnect with their roots and pass on cultural knowledge to younger generations. He illustrated how social barriers were broken by Girmitiyas during migration, forming stronger, united communities beyond caste and religious divisions. He encouraged attendees to return to their home countries as ambassadors, sharing their experiences and promoting Indian culture.

Mrs. R. Bhatoolaul-Robee, Second Secretary at the High Commission of Mauritius in New Delhi, emphasized the strong connection between the Indian diaspora and India. She welcomed attendees aimed at enriching their understanding of India's culture and history. Highlighting India's significance as a medical and educational hub, she noted the influx of patients and students from various countries, including Mauritius. Bhatoolaul-Robee quoted Prime Minister Modi on shared identity and reflected on ancestral struggles, urging the audience to embrace their cultural heritage and foster cooperation for future success.

Mr. Hanani Ben Lewi, Second Secretary at the High Commission of the Co-operative Republic of Guyana in New Delhi, congratulated the ARSP for consistently organizing this event for the young diaspora. He expressed admiration for the participants' opportunity to experience India and encouraged them to make the most of it. Mr. Lewi reminded the KIP delegates that they are dual ambassadors for both India and their home countries. He urged them to share their experiences and knowledge with others and to maintain the connections they have built during this journey, as these relationships could benefit their futures. He concluded by wishing them an enriching and transformative experience.

Ms. Sunaina P. R. Mohan, Second Secretary at the Embassy of Suriname in New Delhi, delivered an inspiring speech to the Indian diaspora, celebrating their ancestors' resilience in migrating to places like Mauritius, Guyana, and Suriname. She urged participants to cherish their cultural heritage through language, attire, and food and shared her positive experience with the Know India Program (KIP). Highlighting the significance of the Pravasi Bharatiya Divas, she called for unity among Indian communities and emphasized the diaspora's role in global development. Ms. Mohan concluded by encouraging the audience to embrace their identity and work collaboratively for a brighter future.

Ms. Komal Chhikara, Assistant Professor, University of Delhi - conducted a workshop focused on India's vision for 2047, aiming to give an idea of how India becomes a developed nation through economic growth, healthcare, space exploration, and rural development. She emphasized the significant contributions of the Indian diaspora, whose involvement in remittances, cultural exchange, and trade is vital for achieving a Viksit Bharat. Meanwhile, **Ms. Aastha Agarwal**, Senior Research Fellow at Baba Mastnath University, led a quiz workshop, "Discover Bharat: A Visual Feast," celebrating India's culture. Participants explored iconic figures, Bollywood, and heritage sites, fostering teamwork and enthusiasm while enjoying culinary delights like Dosa and Litti Chokha, emphasizing cultural pride and education.

Interaction with KIP delegates - In the lively discussion, participants shared their perspectives on India, drawing on their diverse connections. The delegates were impressed with their visit, not only for the opportunity to reconnect with their cultural roots but also to witness India's advancements in Ayurveda, Yoga, architecture, music, films, and IT domains. They expressed a sense of pride in India's achievements, particularly in economic growth, higher education, and technology. Additionally, the delegates discussed the delightful aspects of Indian cuisine, emphasizing that they departed with cherished experiences and memories.

INDIAN AMERICANS APPOINTED TO KEY ROLES IN TRUMP'S NEW ADMINISTRATION



Over the last few weeks, US President-elect Donald Trump has made several appointments to his cabinet before officially taking charge of the White House on January 20, 2025. The appointments, mostly comprising new faces, underpin a strong focus on defense, immigration and economic efficiency. Notably, Trump has picked a handful of Indian-Americans for key roles in the incoming administration, highlighting the increasing influence of the community in US politics.

The US cabinet comprises at least 16 positions – the vice president and the heads of the 15 executive departments. Here are the Indian-Americans who will be part of Trump 2.0:

Jay Bhattacharya, Director of the National Institutes of Health: Dr Jay Bhattacharya is a Stanford physician and economist and serves as a research associate at the National Bureau of Economic Research. He co-authored an anti-lockdown treatise during the Covid-19 pandemic, making him a central figure in a bitter public health debate. Bhattacharya was born in Kolkata in 1968. His parents migrated to the US in the 1970s.

Harmeet K. Dhillon, Assistant Attorney General for Civil Rights: A California lawyer who has long championed Trump in public, in court cases and on social media, is an American attorney and notable figure within the Republican Party. She was born in 1969 in Chandigarh, India, into a Punjabi Sikh family. Dhillon's family relocated to the United States during her childhood to enable her father, Tejpal Singh Dhillon, to pursue a career as an orthopaedic surgeon.

Vivek Ramaswamy, co-lead of Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE): Ramaswamy, a 39-year-old political outsider and an American biotech entrepreneur, initially contested for the Republican nomination against Trump. However, he eventually withdrew and became a staunch Trump supporter.

Over the final year of Trump's campaign, Ramaswamy frequently served as a surrogate, publicly praising Trump and advocating for the conspiracy theories that Trump had long championed, reports The New York Times.

Ramaswamy's campaign centred around advancing Trump's agenda to shrink the government. He proposed using executive orders to dismantle the Department of Education, the FBI, and the IRS. He also called for a 75% reduction in the federal workforce through mass layoffs and vowed to slash foreign aid to nations like Ukraine, Israel, and Taiwan.

Ramaswamy was born in 1985 in Cincinnati, Ohio. His parents moved to the US from Kerala's Palakkad in the 1970s. He will be in charge of ensuring efficiency in the new administration along with his co-lead Elon Musk.

Kash Patel, FBI director: Patel, a staunch Trump supporter, is a lawyer who served as federal prosecutor at the US Department of Justice. He held significant positions during Trump's first term, including overseeing the counterterrorism division at the National Security Council and later serving as chief of staff for the Department of Defense.

Born in 1980 to Indian immigrant parents who had moved from East Africa to Canada in the 1970s before settling in the US, Patel began his professional journey as a public defender in Florida. He later transitioned to the US Justice Department, where he worked as a prosecutor specializing in counterterrorism cases. He is the highest-ranking Indian-American in the Trump cabinet.

Sriram Krishnan, Senior White House policy advisor on artificial intelligence (AI): Krishnan will collaborate with David O. Sacks, the former Chief Operating Officer (COO) of PayPal, who has been appointed as the "White House AI and Crypto Czar."

Originally from Chennai, Krishnan completed his BTech in Information Technology at SRM Engineering College in Kanchipuram, Tamil Nadu. In 2005, at the age of 21, he moved to the United States.

Among the notable honorees is Ranil Malcolm Jayawardena, a Conservative Member of Parliament of Sri Lanka and Indian descent, who has been awarded a Knighthood for his political and public service. He joins other distinguished recipients like Gareth Southgate, former England men's football team manager, who also received a Knighthood for his services to football.

The honours, which recognize more than 1,200 individuals, commend those who have made exceptional contributions to society. UK Prime Minister Keir Starmer expressed that these awards celebrate "unsung heroes" who make a significant impact on their communities. In particular, the list highlights those excelling in sport, healthcare, academia, and voluntary work.

Indian-origin recipients of high honors include Satwant Kaur Deol, Charles Pritam Singh Dhanowa OBE, and Professor Sneh Khemka, who were awarded CBEs for their services to education, competition law, and healthcare respectively. Others recognized include Leena Nair, CEO of Chanel, for her contributions to the retail sector, and Mayank Prakash, President of the British Computing Society, for advancing technology. Additionally, several OBEs were awarded to individuals such as cardiologist Professor Sanjay Arya and Professor Nandini Das for their work in healthcare and academia.

The list also includes a variety of professionals from different sectors, including law, charity, and public service. The 2025 honours system not only celebrates these individuals' hard work but also emphasizes the UK's commitment to recognizing the diverse contributions of people from all backgrounds.

KRISH RAVAL NOMINATED ONE OF THE NEW POLITICAL PEERAGES

Krish Raval, the founder-director of Faith in Leadership, was awarded an OBE in 2018 by Queen Elizabeth II for Services to Leadership Education and Inter-faith Cohesion.



Krish Raval, a prominent London-based professional and chair of the Labour Party

Krish Raval, a prominent London-based professional and chair of the Labour Party's diaspora group, Labour Indians, was nominated by British Prime Minister Keir Starmer as one of 30 new political peerages for the House of Lords on December 20, 2024. The nominations, which include other notable figures such as Sue Gray, Starmer's former chief of staff, and Thangam Debbonnaire, former Labour shadow minister, are now awaiting approval by King Charles III.

Raval, who was honored with an OBE in 2018 by Queen Elizabeth II for his services to leadership education and inter-faith cohesion, is the Founder-Director of Faith in Leadership, a University of Oxford-based initiative promoting inter-faith relations. He is expected to join the Labour benches in the Upper House of the UK Parliament as a life peer.

A statement from Downing Street confirmed, "The King has been graciously pleased to signify his intention of conferring peerages of the United Kingdom for Life," adding that the independent House of Lords Appointments Commission (HOLAC) vets all nominations before the Prime Minister formally recommends them to the King.

OVER 30 INDIAN PROFESSIONALS TO BE HONoured WITH KNIGHTHOOD AWARD

NEW YEAR

Honours List 2025



Ranil Jayawardena
Knighthood



Satwant Kaur Deol
CBE



Nandini Das
OBE



Prof. Bhaskar Dasgupta
MBE

The 2025 New Year Honours List, released in London on Friday, highlights the achievements of over 30 Indian-origin professionals, recognizing their contributions across various fields such as politics, healthcare, academia, and community service.

Following this, legal documents and a writ of summons are issued, along with a Letters Patent by the monarch, allowing new members to take their seats and vote in the House of Lords.

This nomination round is part of an effort to balance the numbers in the Lords, where the Conservative Party currently holds the largest share of peers. Upon approval of the new nominations, including six picks from Conservative Party Leader Kemi Badenoch and two from the Liberal Democrats, the Labour Party will hold 217 peers, the Tories will have 279, and the Liberal Democrats will have 80. Over 180 crossbench peers also sit in the Lords, ensuring no party holds an outright majority.

Notably, Badenoch's nominations include former Deputy Prime Minister Theresa Coffey, while the Liberal Democrats have put forward British Pakistani councillor Shaffaq Mohammed.

Raval's nomination is a significant milestone in his career and highlights the ongoing diversification of the UK's political landscape.

HARROOP SINGH BOLA, CO-FOUNDER OF BRITISH INDIAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION WINS 2024 DIANA AWARD



Harroop Singh Bola, Indian-origin co-founder of the British Indian Medical Association (BIMA)

Harroop Singh Bola, 23, an Indian-origin co-founder of the British Indian Medical Association (BIMA), has been honored with the prestigious 2024 Diana Award for his exceptional work in mentoring Indian-origin medical students.

Bola expressed his gratitude and honor after the announcement on Thursday, sharing on social media, "I am deeply honoured to be recognised as a 2024 Diana Award recipient for our nonprofit work with the British Indian Medical Association. The Diana Award is the highest accolade a young person can achieve for social action or humanitarian efforts."

The Diana Award, launched in 1999 by former UK Prime Minister Gordon Brown in memory of the late Princess Diana, celebrates young individuals whose efforts positively impact the lives of others. The award is now supported by Princess Diana's sons, William, the Prince of Wales, and Prince Harry, the Duke of Sussex.

As a first-generation university student at Imperial College London, Bola has significantly contributed to BIMA's mission. The organization was founded in 2020 during the COVID-19 pandemic to foster a sense of community and provide collective support to bridge gaps faced by medical students. Since its inception, BIMA has hosted over 275 events, reaching more than 7,500 individuals globally and mentoring over 300 students, according to Bola's social media updates.

In a heartfelt message, Prince William congratulated this year's Diana Award recipients, including Bola. He said, "I am so proud of the impact every one of you has had on your communities and beyond.

You are driven by kindness and compassion and through this, you are all changing the world for the better."

Bola's recognition is a testament to the positive influence of youth-driven initiatives, particularly in the realm of mentorship and community building within the medical field.

U.S. A. ISSUED OVER 1 MILLION NON-IMMIGRANT VISAS TO INDIAN NATIONALS IN 2024



The U.S. Mission in India has announced the issuance of over one million non-immigrant visas in 2024, marking a major milestone for the second consecutive year. This achievement reflects a growing demand among Indians for travel to the United States for tourism, business, and education.

From January to November 2024, more than two million Indians visited the U.S., a 26% increase from the previous year. Harroop Singh Bola, 23, an Indian-origin co-founder of the British Indian Medical Association (BIMA), has been honored with the prestigious 2024 Diana Award for his exceptional work in mentoring Indian-origin medical students.

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RBI HIKES RATE CAPS ON DIASPORA'S CURRENCY DEPOSITS TO ATTRACT FLOWS



The Reserve Bank on December 06, 2024 announced a raise in the interest rate caps on the diaspora's foreign currency deposits, in a move aimed at attracting more capital flows amid pressures on the rupee.

Announcing the fifth bi-monthly monetary policy for the current financial year, RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das said it has been decided to increase the interest rate ceilings on Foreign Currency Non-Resident Bank deposits or FCNR (B) deposits as per tenors.

It can be noted that the move comes at a time when rupee has been hitting lifetime lows against the dollar, and the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) seems to be deploying forex reserves to contain the volatilities, as seen in the sharp fall in the kitty over the last few weeks.

Starting from Friday, banks have been now permitted to raise fresh FCNR (B) deposits of 1 year to less than 3 years maturity at rates not exceeding Overnight Alternative Reference Rate (ARR) plus 400 basis points, as against 250 basis points earlier.

Similarly, deposits with maturity between 3 to 5 years can be paid an interest of ARR plus 500 basis points, as against the 350 basis points ceiling earlier, Das said.

The relaxation will be available only till March 31 next year, he said.

It can be noted that India, which is the largest beneficiary of remittances in the world, has introduced sweeter deals to NRI deposits in the past episodes of rupee coming under pressure.

Das said the rupee has depreciated by 1.3 per cent mainly on strengthening of the US dollar and selling pressure from foreign portfolio investors in October and November, and added that the volatility was less when compared to peer emerging markets.

Stressing that the RBI's exchange rate policy has been consistent to let the markets determine the levels, Das said foreign exchange reserves are used judiciously to mitigate undue volatility, maintain market confidence and preserve overall financial stability.

Meanwhile, the Governor also announced an Expansion in the reach of forex-Retail Platform through linkages with Bharat Connect on Friday.

Das said with the objective of bringing greater transparency and fairness in the pricing of foreign exchange for users, especially for individuals and the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises, the Clearing Corporation of India Limited (CCIL) launched the FX-Retail platform in 2019.

Presently, the FX-Retail platform is accessible through an internet-based application, he said, adding that it is proposed to facilitate the linking of the FX-Retail platform with Bharat Connect (earlier known as Bharat Bill Payment System) operated by the NPCI Bharat Connect.

BUDDHA STATUE IN NEW JERSEY DRAWS BUDDHISTS ACROSS THE WORLD



A towering nine-meter-tall Buddha statue, near Princeton

A towering nine-meter-tall Buddha statue, one of the largest in the United States, has become a prominent symbol of peace and unity in the heart of New Jersey. Erected in 2014 in the backyard of the New Jersey Buddhist Vihara and Meditation Center, near Princeton, the statue has quickly become a spiritual and cultural focal point for a diverse range of visitors.

Guided by Sri Lankan Theravada monk, Venerable Hungampola Sirirathana Nakaya Thero, the statue represents a vision of inclusivity, welcoming Buddhists of various traditions, as well as people from other faiths. Visitors, including Hindus, Christians, and curious passersby, have embraced the statue as a space for meditation, reflection, and interfaith dialogue.

Princeton University instructor Daniel Choi, a Tibetan Buddhist, has been visiting the statue since 2015. He sees it as a "nexus" that connects people from different backgrounds. "It feels like a public shrine," Choi said, noting that the open setting of the center makes it accessible to all. He observed that visitors from around the world – including Sri Lankans, Koreans, Chinese, Indians, and Nepalese – come to meditate, chant, or simply enjoy the peaceful atmosphere.

The New Jersey Buddhist Vihara follows the Theravada tradition, yet embraces all Buddhist practices. Choi was pleasantly surprised to find a statue of Guan Yin, a revered figure in Mahayana Buddhism, on the premises. The center's open-minded approach to religious inclusivity is also reflected in local interfaith projects, such as an interfaith mural created by the Nepali community.

For longtime residents like Carol Kuehn, a retired teacher, the statue has played a significant role in their spiritual journeys. Kuehn, who found comfort in Buddhism after the death of her husband, believes that the Buddha symbolizes peace, understanding, and compassion.

The Buddha statue has become more than just a religious icon – it is a powerful symbol of unity in a diverse community, offering a place for reflection and connection across faiths.

हिंदी

विश्व हिंदी दिवस पर साहित्य अकादमी द्वारा प्रवासी हिंदी साहित्यकार सम्मेलन।



विश्व हिंदी दिवस के अवसर पर प्रवासी हिंदी साहित्यकार सम्मेलन में दाएं से बाएं डॉ पद्मेश गुप्त, श्री अनिल जोशी, सुश्री दिव्या माथुर, श्रीनिवास राव, श्री देवेन्द्र कुमार देवेश

साहित्य अकादमी नई दिल्ली 10 जनवरी 2025 को विश्व हिंदी दिवस के अवसर पर प्रवासी हिंदी साहित्यकार सम्मेलन का आयोजन विश्व हिंदी सम्मेलन के स्वर्ण जयंती वर्ष पर किया। प्रथम विश्व हिंदी सम्मेलन का उद्घाटन 10 जनवरी 1975 को नागपुर महाराष्ट्र में तत्कालीन प्रधानमंत्री द्वारा किया गया था। आज ब्रिटेन से आई वरिष्ठ प्रवासी लेखिका दिव्या माथुर की अध्यक्षता में हुए सम्मेलन में ब्रिटेन, अमेरिका, जापान, सिंगापुर, म्यांमार, हॉलैंड, दक्षिण कोरिया के 13 प्रवासी हिंदी साहित्यकारों का अभिनंदन किया गया।

आरंभ में सभी का स्वागत अंगवस्त्रम भेंट करते हुए अकादमी के सचिव के. श्री निवास राव ने अपने स्वागत भाषण में कहा कि प्रवासी साहित्य की विविधता अब किसी से छुपी नहीं है। यह साहित्य अपनी यादों से जुड़े साहित्य का ऐसा समुच्चय है, जिसने अपनी पहचान बना ली है। उन्होंने प्रवासी लेखकों के लिए अकादमी द्वारा चलाई जा रही विभिन्न योजनाओं के बारे में भी बताया। वैश्विक हिंदी परिवार के अनिल जोशी ने सभी प्रवासी साहित्यकारों का परिचय देते हुए विश्व हिंदी दिवस के बारे में विस्तार से बताते हुए कहा कि साहित्य अकादमी का यह मंच प्रवासी भारतीय लेखकों से संवाद और प्रकाशन के लिए सबसे महत्वपूर्ण मंच है। अपने अध्यक्षीय वक्तव्य में दिव्या माथुर ने कहा कि अब हिंदी को वैश्विक भाषा बनाने के लिए अन्य अनेक देशों में इसके प्रचार-प्रसार की अनेक संभावनाओं को देखना होगा।

सम्मेलन में पद्मेश गुप्त ने ब्रिटेन, अनिता कपूर ने अमेरिका, तोमियो मिजोकामी ने जापान, आराधना श्रीवास्तव ने सिंगापुर, चिंतामणि वर्मा ने म्यांमार, रामा तक्षक ने हॉलैंड और सृजन कुमार ने दक्षिण कोरिया में हिंदी की वर्तमान स्थिति और प्रवासी लेखन पर संक्षिप्त टिप्पणियाँ प्रस्तुत कीं। भारत से वरिष्ठ हिंदी सेवी नारायण कुमार ने हिंदी की वैश्विक पहचान के समक्ष आसन्न चुनौतियों पर बात की। कार्यक्रम में दक्षिण भारत में हिंदी के प्रचार-प्रसार से जुड़े अनेक लेखकों ने भी हिस्सा लिया। कार्यक्रम का संचालन अकादमी के उपसचिव देवेन्द्र कुमार देवेश ने किया।

नीदरलैंड में मोहन राकेश की पुण्यतिथि पर 'मोहन राकेश नई कहानी के सशक्त हस्ताक्षर' पर कार्यक्रम का आयोजन

अंतरराष्ट्रीय हिन्दी संगठन नीदरलैंड ने अपनी मासिक हिन्दी साहित्य के कार्यक्रम की शृंखला में 6 दिसंबर 2024 को स्वर्गीय मोहन राकेश की पुण्यतिथि पर 'मोहन राकेश नई कहानी के सशक्त हस्ताक्षर' पर कार्यक्रम का आयोजन किया। इस कार्यक्रम में वरिष्ठ पत्रकार, लेखक व फिल्म निर्माता राजेश बादल, वरिष्ठ साहित्यकार व सदस्य केन्द्रीय संस्थान आगरा, वरिष्ठ साहित्यकार व पूर्व हिन्दी विभागाध्यक्ष बुंदेलखंड विश्वविद्यालय, वरिष्ठ कथाकार एवं पटकथा लेखक डॉ.रवींद्र कात्यायन, प्रोफेसर डॉ. प्रकाश चीकुडेंकर पूर्व प्रधानाचार्य एवं शोध निदेशक यशवंत राव चव्हाण महाविद्यालय वारणा कोल्हापुर, डॉ.अनिल कुमार शर्मा शिक्षा अधिकारी भारतीय विद्या भवन उपस्थित रहे।

कार्यक्रम का संचालन अंतरराष्ट्रीय हिन्दी संगठन नीदरलैंड की अध्यक्ष डॉ ऋतु शर्मा ननन पाँडे ने किया। वरिष्ठ साहित्यकार व लेखक प्रो.राजेश कुमार ने मोहन राकेश के सृजन के तत्कालीन व्यक्तिवादी, अनुभव व सामाजिक परिस्थितियों के विषय में बताते हुए कहा कि जो विषय अभी तक समाज के सामने नहीं आए थे वह उन्होंने अपनी नई कहानी आन्दोलन के माध्यम से पाठकों के समक्ष प्रस्तुत किया जिस कारण इनका लेखन अन्यों से विशेष रहा।

वरिष्ठ पत्रकार व फिल्म निर्माता राजेश बादल ने मोहन राकेश के प्रसिद्ध नाटक 'आधे-अधूरे की तात्कालिक और वर्तमान में प्रासंगिकता के विषय में बताते हुए कहा' मोहन राकेश ने आज़ादी के बाद समाज में आई पारिवारिक चटकन को मध्यम वर्ग की कुंठा, सोच, चिंता को भारतीय समाज के समक्ष पहली बार प्रस्तुत किया। यह लड़ाई उस समय जितनी प्रासंगिक थी आज के समय में भी उतनी ही प्रासंगिक है।

प्रोफेसर डॉ पुनीत बिसारिया जी ने मोहन राकेश के सृजन का हिन्दी साहित्य ममें योगदान के विषय में बताते हुए कहा, "मोहन राकेश, राजेंद्र यादव और कमलेश्वर जी के साथ समानतर कहानी के सशक्त हस्ताक्षर रहे हैं। किन्तु यह विडंबना ही रही कि उन्हें नाटककार के रूप में ही अधिक पहचाना जाता है। उन्होंने आषाढ़ का एक दिन के माध्यम से पौराणिक को आधुनिकता में देखा और समाज को दिखाया जो बहुत ही महत्वपूर्ण बात है। उन्होंने सिर्फ नाटक ही नहीं बल्कि कहानियाँ, बाल साहित्य, उपन्यास भी लिख कर हिन्दी साहित्य को एक नई दिशा प्रदान की।

वरिष्ठ कथानकार और पटकथा लेखक डॉ रवींद्र कात्यायन ने मोहन राकेश के समग्र सृजन में स्त्री पुरुष के संबंधों के विषय पर प्रकाश डालते हुए कहा-आज़ादी के बाद की, सामाजिक, राजनीति और आर्थिक परिस्थितियों के कारण दाम्पत्य जीवन जो बदलाव, पारिवारिक परिस्थितियों से संघर्ष, मानवीय मूल्यों की कमी, एक परिवार इसी मनोवैज्ञानिकता स्त्री-पुरुष के अधूरे पन को मोहन राकेश ने अपने निजी जीवन में भी देखा और यहीं उन्होंने अपने सृजन में देखने को मिलते है।

वरिष्ठ साहित्यकार प्रोफेसर डॉ. प्रकाश चीकुडेंकर ने मोहन राकेश के सृजन में प्रेम तत्व के विषय में विस्तार से बताते हुए कहा कि उन्होंने 'इंसान के खंडहर, फ़ौलाद, कहानी संग्रह और बंद अधूरे कमरे, उपन्यास, उर्मिला कहानी, कबल कहानी, पहचान कहानी आदी में जिसमें पहला पारिवारिक प्रेम और दूसरा राष्ट्र प्रेम, राजनीतिक प्रेम, प्राकृतिक प्रेम, संस्कार और भावनात्मक प्रेम, सौन्दर्य प्रेम, विधवा स्त्री के प्रेम, मानवीय प्रेम को उन्होंने गीतों के माध्यम से पाठकों के समक्ष रखा। इस प्रकार उन्होंने तैतीस प्रकार के प्रेम के विषय में बताया है।

कार्यक्रम के अंत में डॉ ऋतु शर्मा ननन पाँडे ने कार्यक्रम में उपस्थित व आभासी पटल से जुड़े सभी दर्शकों का भी बहुत आभार व्यक्त किया। यह कार्यक्रम एक सफल कार्यक्रम के रूप में संपन्न हुआ।

रिपोर्ट : डॉ ऋतु शर्मा ननन पाँडे नीदरलैंड, अध्यक्ष अंतरराष्ट्रीय हिन्दी संगठन, नीदरलैंड

हिन्दी दिवस के अवसर पर सिंगापुर में तीन पुस्तकों का विमोचन



वाणी प्रकाशन ग्रुप द्वारा प्रकाशित दो महत्वपूर्ण पुस्तकों का विमोचन भारतीय उप उच्चायुक्त श्रीमती पूजा टिल्ल जी के कर्कमलों से नेशनल युनिवर्सिटी ऑफ सिंगापुर (NUS) में संपन्न हुआ।

“सिंहपुरा: द्वीप देश की प्रवासी कविता” - सिंगापुर के प्रवासी कवियों की भावनाओं को समेटे काव्य संग्रह।

“सिंहपुरा: द्वीप देश का प्रवासी गद्य” - सिंगापुर के प्रवासी जीवन और अनुभवों पर आधारित गद्य रचनाओं का संग्रह।

प्रवासी काव्य का संपादन डॉ. संध्या सिंह और चित्रा गुप्ता ने किया है तथा प्रवासी गद्य का संपादन डॉ. संध्या सिंह और दिव्या मार्थर ने किया है।

इस अवसर पर सिंगापुर के चर्चित साहित्यकार श्री रत्नेश पाठक के काव्य संग्रह “ओस सी ज़िंदगी” का विमोचन भी संपन्न हुआ।

कार्यक्रम में सिंगापुर के भारतीय समुदाय के साथ वाणी प्रकाशन के प्रबंध निदेशक श्री अरुण माहेश्वरी, अमितो माहेश्वरी, NUS सेंटर फॉर लैंग्वेज स्टडीज की उप निदेशक डॉ. चियांग ली पेग, हिंदी सोसाइटी के अध्यक्ष श्री एम.पी. राय, महाराष्ट्र मंडल सिंगापुर के श्री सचिन जंगम, भारत से आए भाषा विद प्रो. विमलेश कांति वर्मा, और तबला अखबार के संपादक श्री संतोष कुमार ने अपनी गरिमामयी उपस्थिति दर्ज कराई।

कार्यक्रम का संयोजन NUS के हिंदी व तमिल भाषा कार्यक्रम की प्रमुख, डॉ. संध्या सिंह, ने किया।

प्रवासी दिवस पर इन अनमोल पुस्तकों के माध्यम से प्रवासियों के जीवन, अनुभव, और भावनाओं को जानने का अवसर प्राप्त करें। इन्हें अवश्य पढ़ें और अपनी प्रतिक्रियाएं साझा करें।

रिपोर्ट: संध्या सिंह, सिंगापुर

भारत और बुल्गारिया : संवाद और संस्कृति की ओर एक कदम



सोफिया विश्वविद्यालय के भारत विद्या विभाग, सेंट क्लिमेंट ओहरीडस्की, सोफिया विश्वविद्यालय और अमृतसर के हिंदू कॉलेज के मध्य एक ऐतिहासिक वेबिनार का आयोजन हुआ। इस कार्यक्रम का उद्देश्य भारत और बुल्गारिया के छात्रों के बीच सांस्कृतिक आदान-प्रदान को बढ़ावा देना था। इस वेबिनार का आयोजन डॉ. दीप्ति साहनी (हिंदू कॉलेज) और डॉ. मौना कौशिक (सोफिया विश्वविद्यालय) के संयुक्त प्रयासों से हुआ। यह पहला अवसर था जब इन दो संस्थानों ने एक मंच पर अपने छात्रों को संवाद करने का अवसर दिया।

बुल्गारियाई छात्रों का योगदान:

स्टेफनी ने भारतीय छात्राओं को बुल्गारिया के इतिहास के बारे में रोचक जानकारी दीं। उन्होंने वेबिनार के दौरान बुल्गारिया के इतिहास, संस्कृति और महत्वपूर्ण स्थलों का विस्तृत परिचय दिया। उन्होंने बताया कि बुल्गारिया यूरोप की सबसे प्राचीन भूमि है, जिसकी संस्कृति और परंपराएँ हजारों साल पुरानी हैं। स्टेफनी ने देश की ऐतिहासिक धरोहरों, जैसे प्राचीन रोमन थिएटर और यूनेस्को धरोहर स्थलों का जिक्र करते हुए उनकी ऐतिहासिक महत्ता पर प्रकाश डाला। उन्होंने यह भी साझा किया कि कैसे बुल्गारिया ने विभिन्न सभ्यताओं का स्वागत करते हुए अपनी सांस्कृतिक पहचान को बनाए रखा। स्टेफनी के इस विस्तृत परिचय ने भारतीय छात्रों को बुल्गारिया की सांस्कृतिक और ऐतिहासिक विरासत से परिचित कराया। उनके व्याख्यान ने श्रोताओं को बुल्गारिया की समृद्ध परंपराओं और आधुनिक दृष्टिकोण को समझने का अवसर दिया।

ग्रेटा गोसपोदिनोवा, जिन्हें प्यार से जीजी कहते हैं, ने अपने भारत प्रवास के अनुभव साझा किए, जिसमें अमृतसर और स्वर्ण मंदिर की यात्रा का वर्णन शामिल था।

गेओरगी ने प्लोवदीव, बुल्गारिया की सांस्कृतिक राजधानी की विशेषताओं पर प्रकाश डाला। उन्होंने अपनी स्व-रचित कविता “नगरों का विरोधाभास” भी सुनाई, जिसमें बुल्गारिया की ऐतिहासिक धरोहर और आत्मा का भावपूर्ण चित्रण था।

लौरा ने हिन्दी भाषा और लिपि के प्रति अपने भाव प्रस्तुत किए। “मेरे लिए हिंदी बहुत ही मधुर और लयात्मक भाषा है, इसलिए गाने सुनना या कविता पढ़ना प्रेरणादायक लगता है। देवनागरी लिपि तो अपने आप में भी बहुत सुंदर है। यह इतनी प्रेरणादायक थी कि मैंने हिंदी के अलग-अलग शब्दों को लेकर उनके अक्षरों से चित्र बनाने शुरू कर दिए। उदाहरण के लिए, मैंने ‘बादल’ के अक्षरों से एक बादल का चित्र बनाया।

भारतीय छात्रों का योगदान:

वंशिका, कनिष्का, और अन्य छात्राओं ने अपने अनुभव साझा करते हुए, संवाद को और भी समृद्ध बनाया। उन्होंने बुल्गारिया के पराषिद्ध स्थानों को जानने में रुचि दिखाई। एक नए देश से परिचित होने का उत्साह उनकी बातचीत से झलक रहा था।

संयुक्त विचार और कविताएं:

दोनों देशों के छात्र-छात्राओं ने न केवल अपने देश की विशेषताओं पर चर्चा की, बल्कि आपसी समझ और भाईचारे को बढ़ाने वाले विचारों का आदान-प्रदान भी किया।

गेओरगी की कविता के अंश में प्लोवदीव नगर का भावनात्मक वर्णन किया गया:

“तेरी आत्मा हमारी ही आत्मा है,
तेरे हर पत्थर, हर भवन में वीरों की कथाओं का छिपा है स्मरण।”

बुल्गारियाई छात्र-छात्राओं द्वारा, ज्लाती, और तेमेनुगा ने हिन्दी में अपना परिचय साझा करते हुए भारतीय प्रतिभागियों को प्रभावित किया। इस आयोजन में छात्रों की भागीदारी और उत्साह कार्यक्रम की सफलता का आधार बनी।

इस वेबिनार ने भारत और बुल्गारिया के बीच सांस्कृतिक पुल को और मजबूत किया। आयोजकों ने भविष्य में इस प्रकार के और कार्यक्रम आयोजित करने का संकल्प लिया।

इस ऐतिहासिक पहल के लिए डॉ. दीप्ति साहनी और डॉ. मौना कौशिक का योगदान सराहनीय है। उन्होंने इस संवाद को सफल बनाकर छात्रों के बीच अंतरराष्ट्रीय सहयोग की भावना को प्रोत्साहित किया।

भविष्य में, ऐसे आयोजनों से न केवल छात्रों को बल्कि दोनों देशों के नागरिकों को भी एक-दूसरे की संस्कृति और परंपराओं को बेहतर ढंग से समझने का अवसर मिलेगा।



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