

## HON. KAMLA PERSAD-BISSESSAR HAS AGAIN BECOME PRIME MINISTER OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO



Hon. Kamla Persad-Bissessar has again become Prime Minister of Trinidad and Tobago, marking a significant comeback after her previous tenure from 2010 to 2015. She, the first woman to ever lead Trinidad & Tobago, has emerged victorious in the recent election in April 2025, securing the position of the Prime Minister once again. The snap election was triggered by former Prime Minister Keith Rowley's unexpected resignation amidst public dissatisfaction over rising living costs and crime rates. Her win represents a major shift in the Caribbean nation's political dynamics, as the United National Congress (UNC) ousted the long-standing People's National Movement (PNM).

In 1985, Kamla Persad-Bissessar opted to pursue a career in law and entered the Hugh Wooding Law School, where she was named top student at her graduation two years later. She worked in the chambers of Mr. Ramesh Lawrence Maharaj before practicing on her own from 1988.

Kamla Persad-Bissessar entered politics in 1987 when she became an alderman for the National Alliance for Reconstruction in the St. Patrick County Council. She was appointed as an opposition senator in November 1994. She was also elected parliamentary representative for Siparia in 1995 and 2000. She was sworn in as attorney general under Ramesh Maharaj on November 9, 1995 but relinquished that position when she was appointed minister of legal affairs on February 2, 1996, a post she held until October 1999 when she was appointed minister of education. In October 2001, she was again sworn in as attorney general, serving until December 2001. She served as leader of the opposition from April 2006 to November 2007, and again from February to May 2010. In January 2010, she was an elected political leader of the United National Congress, and in May 2010, she assumed office as prime minister, serving until September 2015.

She was honoured with Pravasi Bhartiya Samman in January 2012 by the President of India at Jaipur, India. She also visited her ancestral village in Buxar, a district town in Bihar State of India in January, 2012.

# VISIT OF PRESIDENT SMT. DRAUPADI MURMU TO PORTUGAL AND SLOVAKIA



From Lisbon to Bratislava, President's four-day tour aimed to deepen strategic, cultural, and diaspora connections. Twenty-seven years after the last presidential visit from India, President Draupadi Murmu visited Portugal from April 7–8, 2025 at the invitation of her counterpart, President Marcelo Rebelo de Sousa. President Murmu also visited Slovakia — the first such visit in 29 years — during the second leg of her four-day tour.

The two-nation visit came amid India's growing engagement with Europe. Just weeks ago, European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen and the College of Commissioners visited India, where it was announced that the India-EU free trade agreement would be finalised this year.

The Portugal leg is historic as it coincides with the 50th anniversary of diplomatic relations between New Delhi and Lisbon. President de Sousa visited India in 2020, while Prime Minister António Costa came in 2019. In Portugal, President Murmu had delegation-level talks with her counterpart and met Prime Minister Luis Montenegro and the Speaker of Parliament, José Pedro Aguiar-Branco. The President also met members of the Indian community in Portugal and interacted with Indian researchers from various universities and academic institutions. Former President K.R. Narayanan had visited Portugal in 1988.

Slovakia hosts a 6,000-strong Indian diaspora and has seen significant bilateral business engagement, especially in automobiles, engineering, and IT. Slovak companies are also investing in India in sectors such as steel manufacturing, IT hardware, and defence.

President Murmu had delegation-level talks with President Peter Pellegrini and met Prime Minister Robert Fico. She also addressed members of the Indian community. During the 2022 evacuation of Indian students from Ukraine, Slovakia provided crucial support. India-Slovakia ties are also gaining significance in the broader India-EU partnership context.

The India-Portugal relationship adds to the strength of the India-EU relationship. The trade is presently at \$1.5 billion, and it has been growing steadily. Portugal was also the first country in Europe with whom India had signed a Migration and Mobility Agreement. It is during the Portuguese Presidency of the EU in 2000 that the first India-EU summit was hosted by Portugal.



# INDIA'S FIRST FOUR-DAYS WAVES 2025 SUMMIT HELD IN MUMBAI



India's first World Audio Visual Entertainment Summit (WAVES) 2025 was organised from 1 to 4 May, 2025 at the Jio World Convention Centre in Mumbai. The four-day summit, was inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The summit witnessed participation from over 90 countries, with more than ten thousand delegates. The summit successfully brought together some of the brightest minds and influential figures from the media and entertainment industry. The event covered a wide range of discussions, focusing on crucial themes such as artificial intelligence in media and entertainment, the globalisation of media, the future of content creation, and the profound impact of emerging technologies.

The WAVES Bazaar saw business deals worth over one thousand three hundred crore rupees with creators and filmmakers from across the country. During the summit, the WAVES declaration was adopted by representatives of 77 countries at the Global Media Dialogue. The cultural programmes during the four-day summit mesmerised the audience, which highlighted India's vast artistic diversity through traditional folk dances, martial arts displays and vibrant drumming performances. The four-day summit was themed "Connecting Creators, Connecting Countries". Prime Minister Narendra Modi said that Indian youths are driving the nations creative economy.

## LIBERAL PARTY OF CANADA CELEBRATES A STUNNING WIN LED BY RULLING PRIME MINISTER MARK CARNEY



Canada's Prime Minister Mark Carney speaks at the Liberal Party election night headquarters in Ottawa, Ontario, Canada on April 29, 2025.

Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney's Liberal Party won Canada's federal election on Monday capping a stunning turnaround in fortunes fueled by U.S. President Donald Trump's annexation threats and trade war.

In a victory speech before supporters in Ottawa, Mr. Carney stressed the importance of Canadian unity in the face of the threats coming from Washington. He also reiterated a belief he shared while campaigning that the mutually beneficial system Canada and the U.S. had shared since World War II had ended.

# **TWO DAY INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON INTER-DISCIPLINARY PERSPECTIVES OF THE INDIAN DIASPORA AT KOLKATA FROM 20-21 MARCH 2025**



(From left to right-C. V Anand Bose, Hon'ble Governor of West Bengal and Prof. Santa Datta, Vice Chancellor of University of Kolkata, and Prof. Dr. Debasis Das, Registrar, University of Kolkata)

The International Conference on 'Interdisciplinary Perspectives on the Indian Diaspora: The Way Forward' was jointly organised by the Diaspora Research and Resource Center (DRRC) of Antar Rashtriya Sahayog Parishad (ARSP) in association with the University of Calcutta on March 20–21, 2025 in the Senate Hall of University of Calcutta, Kolkata. The concept of the conference was inspired by the address of Shri Narendra Modi, Hon'ble Prime Minister of India, delivered at the inaugural session of Pravasi Bharatiya Diwas in Bhubaneswar on January 9, 2025. Hon. Prime Minister had highlighted the rich history and outstanding achievements of the Indian diaspora globally. He acknowledged their vital role in spreading the message of India as Vishwa Bandhu and emphasized on the need to strengthen relationships with the diaspora through initiatives like research and educational programmes, organizing World Girmitya Conference, sharing and preserving diaspora stories (oral histories), as well as documenting and digitizing important records related to the Girmityas.

The conference brought together scholars, policymakers, distinguished members of the Indian diaspora, faculty and students of university to discuss the historical, socio-cultural and economic aspects of the vibrant and diverse Indian diaspora. The conference explored the importance, contribution and the way forward for engagement with Diaspora from an interdisciplinary perspective. The inaugural address was delivered by Dr. C.V. Ananda Bose, Hon'ble Governor of West Bengal and Chancellor of the University of Calcutta. The keynote address was delivered by Prof. Biman Prasad, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance of Fiji. Welcome address was given by Hon'ble Prof. Santa Datta (De), Vice-Chancellor of the University of Calcutta. Introductory remarks were given by Amb. Vinod Kumar, President of ARSP. The background and the objectives of the international conference were outlined by Prof. Gopal Arora, the conference convenor. The first technical session on 'Historical Perspectives' was chaired by Amb. Vinod Kumar, President ARSP. The keynote address was given by Prof. Chandrashekhar Bhat, University of Hyderabad.

Distinguished speakers in the session included: - H. E. Prof. Anil Sooklal, High Commissioner of the Republic of South Africa, - Dr. Sarita Boodhoo, Pravasi Bharatiya Samman Awardee & former Chairperson, Bhojpuri Speaking Union, Mauritius, - Dr. Vishnu Bisram, Journalist and Political Activist-Guyana, - Prof. Maurits S. Hassankhan, Senior Lecturer and Faculty Member, Anton de Kom University in Suriname, - Dr. Ashutosh Kumar, Visiting Professor at Harvard University, - Prof. Naresh Kumar, Chairperson & Professor, Center for Diaspora Studies (Independent Centre), Central University of Gujarat, - Dr. Munnalal Gupta, Assistant Professor, Department of Migration & Diaspora Studies, Mahatma Gandhi Antar Rashtriya Hindi Vishwavidyalaya, Wardha.





The second technical session on 'Regional, Cultural and Linguistic Perspectives' was chaired by Shri Narayan Kumar, Hony Director, ARSP. The keynote address was delivered by Prof. Ajay Kumar Dubey, Centre for African Studies, School of International Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University. The session featured paper presentations by prominent figures including - Pandita Dr. Indrani Rampersad, Visiting Professor, Bharat Adhyayan Kendra, Banaras Hindu University, - Shri Anil Joshi, President Vaishvik Hindi Parivar and Joint Secretary, ARSP, - Dr. Rakesh Pandey, Editor, Pravasi Sansar, - Ms. Sunaina Mohan, High Commission of the Republic of Suriname and - Dr. Jasvinder Kaur Bindra, Eminent Writer.

The third technical session on 'Economic Perspectives' was chaired by Amb Sushil Kumar Singhal, Senior Vice President, ARSP. The keynote address was delivered by Amb. Anup Kumar Mudgal, Former Indian High Commissioner to Mauritius. Distinguished speakers included: - H. E. Mr. Dharamkumar Seeraj, High Commissioner, Cooperative Republic of Guyana, - Prof. Gopal Arora, Secretary ARSP, - Shri Dhruv Arora, Founder, CEO of Syfe, Singapore, - Ms. Aastha Agarwal, Senior Research Fellow, Political Science Baba Mast Nath University Rohtak and - Dr. Komal Chhikara, Assistant Professor, SGND Khalsa College, University of Delhi. Valuable insight was provided by domain experts, academics, participants during the round table discussions chaired by Shri Shyam Parande, Secretary General, ARSP. Prominent speakers included:

- Mr. Kayshav Tiwari, Guyana High Commission,
- Dr. Rajni Sarin, Executive member, ARSP
- Dr. Sunita Pahuja, Former Second Secretary, Indian High Commission to Mauritius,
- Dr. Anita Verma, Retired Professor in Romania (University of Bucharest) and Scholars from the University of Calcutta and other participants.

The valedictory session was chaired by Shri Sarup Prasad Ghosh, Director, MAKAIAS. The conference report was presented by Dr. Kamal Kishor Mishra, Head of Department of Sanskrit, University of Calcutta, Prof. Gopal Arora, Secretary ARSP summarised the recommendations made during the conference and the same were unanimously adopted.

Other prominent speakers in the valedictory session included Prof. Santa Datta (De), Vice Chancellor, University of Calcutta. H. E. Prof. Anil Sooklal, High Commissioner, Republic of South Africa, H. E. Shri Dharam Kumar Seeraj, High Commissioner, Cooperative Republic of Guyana, Dr. Sarita Boodhoo, Pravasi Bharatiya Samman Awardee & former Chairperson, Bhojpuri Speaking Union, Mauritius. The Cultural programme was sponsored by regional office of ICCR on the evening of 20 March 2025 which was followed by dinner hosted by Vice Chancellor of the University of Calcutta. The conference dinner was hosted by ARSP on 21 March, 2025. On 22 March 2025, the delegates visited the Kolkata Memorial and the Mai Baap Memorial at Syama Prasad Mookerjee Port (Kolkata Port Trust), Kolkata. The recommendations adopted in the conference are enclosed herewith.

Following recommendations were adopted unanimously at the International Conference on 'Interdisciplinary Perspectives on the Indian Diaspora: The Way Forward' held in Kolkata during 20-21 March 2025.

I. Digitization of migration record of indentured workers and creation of data base. The migration records of indentured workers are spread over a large number of host countries. India should take the lead role in the project for digitization of migration records. India can facilitate by forming joint working groups of officials and scholars from India and the host countries. Once digitised, this data can be shared for further research and other projects like tracing the roots. India should bear a fair share of funding for this project.

II. The eligibility conditions for issue of OCI cards should be liberalised and uniformly applied among PIOs from different countries. A suitable mechanism should be evolved to deal with Bonafide cases where records have been lost/ destroyed.

III. A Global Girmitiyas Center should be set up in India with the support of the Indian Government.

IV. The indentured labour memorial and Mai Baap memorial in Kolkata should be maintained in a manner befitting their historical importance and emotional connect. Access to visitors, especially tourists from Girmitiyas countries, should be facilitated.

V. World Girmitiyas Conference and regional Girmitiyas conferences should be organised periodically. Organisations like Diaspora Research and Resource Center of Antar Rashtriya Sahayog Parishad should be involved in organising such events.

VI. Presently very few Indian universities are offering courses on diaspora studies. Courses on diaspora studies should be introduced in more Universities. Chairs should be established in universities for this purpose. Short Term Courses on interdisciplinary perspectives of Indian diaspora should be introduced to sensitize students about our diaspora.

VII. Steps should be taken for promotion of Hindi and other Indian languages in foreign educational institutions. Use of digital media to conduct online classes in Indian languages will be helpful. ARSP's initiative of starting online classes to teach Hindi in foreign countries, which has a good response, could be expanded.

VIII. Special programs should be introduced to connect with youth diaspora. KIP is a very good program creating a lot of goodwill, with about 3000 young persons from diaspora benefitting over more than 20 years. Similar programs can be started to connect with youth in the fields of sports and academic Olympiads etc.

IX. Indian products are popular in Girmitiyas countries but the size of these markets is small and therefore government should support MSMEs to promote their products in these markets. Businessmen of many of these countries source Indian products from third countries like Mexico and Panama supply Indian products to Central America and Caribbean market. Trade fairs and Exhibitions should be organised in these countries to give direct access to Indian businessmen in these markets. Government should also facilitate better air connectivity and shipment facilities.

X. Efforts should be made to facilitate MoUs between educational institutions of India and Diasporic countries for Students exchange programs.

XI. First ever high-level committee on Indian diaspora was formed 25 years ago in year 2000. The recommendations of this Committee had far reached implications by starting programs and schemes of engagement with Indian diaspora. It is recommended that a new high-level committee be formed to explore ways and means of engaging with Indian Diaspora for a mutually beneficial relationship towards Viksit Bharat by 2047.



# BOOK ("Ink, Saffron and Freedom") LAUNCH OF SHRI KEDAR NATH GUPTA IN DELHI



"Ink, Saffron and Freedom", an insightful book of Shri Kedar Nath Gupta was launched on 30<sup>th</sup> April, 2025 in the Bhim Auditorium of Dr Ambedkar International Centre at 15 Janpath, New Delhi. The Chief Guest of the function was Dr Krishna Gopal, Sah-Sarkaryavah, Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh. Shri Prem Prakash, Chairman, Asian News International (ANI) was the Guest of Honour. Shri Prabhat Kumar, Managing Director of Prabhat Prakashan was also present.

Manoranjana, known journalist and owner of TV Channels in the North-East and daughter of Shri Kedar Nath Gupta author, moderated the function of the book launch ceremony. She highlighted the fact that book mirrors the journalistic journey of his 93-year-old father who never compromised with truth, reality and facts of the print media. As a daughter, she learnt a lot from his inspiring father.

Dr Krishna Gopal mentioned how Shri Kedar Nath Gupta was put behind bars during emergency era of Indira Gandhi. He recalled the sacrifices made by the author of the book during his life time and setting shining example of fearless writing and portraying truth against the Government and inspiring other journalists of his past and present time. Shri Prem Nath, Guest of Honour shared his experiences of the struggling days of Kedar Nath Gupta as a journalist during emergency era and how his family suffered. The function was well attended by so many journalists, media persons, educationists, politicians, social activists and representatives of International Journalist Associations. Shri Kedar Nath Gupta is associated with ARSP for more than five decades and his son Munish Gupta also runs a PIO TV for the Indian Diaspora.

# Short-Term Course on Indian Diaspora: Interdisciplinary Perspectives



30-hour short-term course titled "Indian Diaspora: Interdisciplinary Perspectives," was initiated by Antar Rashtriya Sahayog Parishad - Diaspora Research and Resource Centre in collaboration with Sri Guru Tegh Bahadur Khalsa College from 9th April to 25th April 2025 at Pravis Bhawan, Delhi. Dr. Sarita Boodhoo from Mauritius, Dr. Kris Rampersaud from Trinidad and Tobago, Prof. Baltej Singh Mann from USA, Shri Narayan Kumar and Shri Gopal Arora from ARSP, Vice Principal of Sri Guru Tegh Bahadur Khalsa College addressed the delegates and participants in the inaugural session on 9th April 2025.

On the very first day, representatives of Mauritius, Suriname, and Trinidad gave a lecture on their shared history of migration and cultural similarities with India, they pointed out that the diaspora was not just about people who left but about those who kept India alive across oceans and generations.

All sessions were informative, productive and engaging. One of the most interesting sessions was with Shri Narayan Kumar, Hon. Director ARSP, who offered a comprehensive overview of the Indian diaspora. It helped set the foundation for understanding not just where Indians have gone but how they have adapted, influenced and thrived in foreign lands.

Another session was on Indian Diaspora as Soft Power with focus on how the Indian diaspora in the United States, now one of the highest-earning Diasporic groups, plays a vital role in enhancing India's global image and the power of identity and influence. Amb. Virendra Gupta touched upon the varied facets of Soft Power of Indian Diaspora and its impact and contribution to the cultural diplomacy.

Dr. Jaswinder Kaur Bindra undertook a session on Indian films, music and diaspora that was both nostalgic and eye-opening. How the diaspora narrates its own stories, struggles and aspirations. Complementing this was Dr. M.K. Pandey who underscored Bollywood's global reach with overseas market and immense popularity of Bollywood films and songs. He further highlighted how Indian films have created cultural bridges and promoted Indian languages, festivals, cuisines and costumes, particularly in countries with large Indian population.

Another session focused on the role of the Indian community in Fiji in preserving their affinity with their motherland. Shri Anil Joshi President Vaishvik Hindi Parivar & Joint Secretary of ARSP stated that How the Ram Charit Manas and Ramayan Mandalis resonate with the old tradition and the passion of Indentured communities (Girmitiyas) with the country of their origin is unfading?

Dr. Mani Ram's contributions to journalism in Mauritius and Fiji was also talked about. His work symbolizes the role of the diaspora in not just adapting to new lands but actively shaping them.

Sessions by Prof. Ajay Dubey, school of international studies at JNU and Associate Prof. Amba Pandey, research officer at JNU offered more analytical insights. Prof. Dubey emphasized how globalization has reshaped diasporic expectations. How the Indian diaspora now demands from India the same support and connection they see from other home countries. Prof. Amba Pandey's session on women in the diaspora was informative. She categorized migrant women across different roles and challenges. From skilled professionals to trafficked individuals and highlighted the urgent need for pre-departure training and empowerment programs.

Prof. Amit Singh's discussion about the Indian diaspora's growing influence in America was striking. He pointed out how Indian-origin Americans are becoming a strong political and economic community. Some even argue that they are replacing the Jewish diaspora in influence.

And lastly, Prof. Gopal Arora's lecture analyzed the evolution of Indian diaspora policy from historical perspective. He mentioned the introduction of OCI cards to the concept of four Cs: Care, Connect, Celebrate and Contribute. He painted a vivid picture of how India is increasingly embracing its global family. Initiatives like the "Know India Program," "Pravasi Tirth Yojana" and scholarships for diaspora children reflect the dynamics of their engagement with Indian Youth Diaspora.

Each session brought a unique perspective but together they painted a rich, interconnected tapestry of history, identity, culture, politics and emotion.

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# Valedictory Session of the Diaspora Interdisciplinary Course



The valedictory session of the 30-hour Diaspora Interdisciplinary Course on "Indian Diaspora in an Interdisciplinary Perspective" marked a moment of pride for ARSP as a key collaborator in this initiative to promote diaspora studies among young scholars. Held at Pravasi Bhavan, the session celebrated the successful culmination of this short-term course sensitizing students to the historical, cultural, economic, and political contributions of the Indian diaspora.

In alignment with ARSP's mission to strengthen ties with the global Indian community and foster academic engagement, the course witnessed the participation of around 45 students representing 21 institutions, including Janki Devi Memorial College, Kalindi College, Gargi College, Hansraj College, Ramjas College, Jamia Millia Islamia, Panjab University, and even Victoria University of New Zealand. Their vibrant involvement and positive feedback reaffirmed the relevance and impact of such interdisciplinary initiatives.

The valedictory ceremony was graced by distinguished guests including Ambassador Anup Kumar Mudgal (Former Chairman, DRRC), Vinod Kumar (President, ARSP), High Commissioner Sunaina Mohan (Suriname Embassy), Justice Asan Pralhad Singh (Netherlands), and Mr. Narayan Kumar. The event also saw active participation from the DRRC team—Professor Gopal Arora, Dr. Jaswinder Kaur Bindra, Dr. Shailja, Dr. Nidhi, and Ms. Komal—whose commitment ensured the academic rigor of the course.

The Principal of Sri Guru Tegh Bahadur Khalsa College, Prof. Gurmohinder Singh, extended warm appreciation to ARSP for its collaboration and suggested that such diaspora-oriented courses be incorporated into regular academic curricula, acknowledging their growing relevance in today's interconnected world. He also praised the college's organizing team and the dedicated student volunteers for the smooth execution of the program.

During the course, various interactive activities—including question-and-answer sessions, student paper presentations, discussions, and essay competitions—enabled active learning and cross-cultural dialogue. The valedictory ceremony concluded with the distribution of prizes and certificates to the participants, acknowledging their outstanding contributions.

Dr. Jaswinder Kaur Bindra, proposed the vote of thanks, appreciating ARSP unwavering support and the active engagement of all participants.

This successful collaboration between ARSP and Sri Guru Tegh Bahadur Khalsa College has paved the way for deeper academic exploration of diaspora studies, furthering ARSP'S mission to build bridges between India and its vibrant diaspora across the world.

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# थाईलैंड में माननीय प्रधानमंत्री श्री नरेन्द्र मोदी का भव्य स्वागत



बैंकॉक, थाईलैंड में प्रवासी भारतीय समुदाय द्वारा माननीय प्रधानमंत्री श्री नरेन्द्र मोदी का भव्य स्वागत शुक्रवार, 3 अप्रैल 2025 बैंकॉक, थाईलैंड बिस्सटेक देशों का छठे शिखर सम्मेलन में प्रवासी भारतीय समुदाय द्वारा माननीय प्रधानमंत्री श्री नरेन्द्र मोदी के बैंकॉक आगमन पर उनका भव्य स्वागत किया गया। जैसे ही वे बैंकॉक अंतरराष्ट्रीय हवाई अड्डे पर पहुँचे, वहाँ पहले से उपस्थित भारतीय प्रवासी समुदाय और स्थानीय लोगों का जनसमूह दर्शन के लिए आतुर था। प्रधानमंत्री जी को देखकर उपस्थित जनसमुदाय भावविभोर हो उठा। उन्होंने आत्मीयता के साथ सबका अभिवादन किया — किसी से हाथ मिलाया, तो किसी के सिर पर स्नेह से हाथ फेरा। प्रधानमंत्री जी का काफिला बैंकॉक के होटल पहुँचा, जहाँ विभिन्न भारतीय समुदायों के लोगों ने उनका पारंपरिक और भावनापूर्ण स्वागत किया। कार्यक्रम स्थल पर विविध सांस्कृतिक प्रस्तुतियाँ और भेंट-स्मृतियाँ देखने को मिलीं, जो भारत की विविधता और एकता को दर्शाती हैं: गुजराती समुदाय ने पारंपरिक गरबा नृत्य से स्वागत किया। थाई समुदाय ने मंत्रोच्चार के माध्यम से आध्यात्मिक वातावरण की रचना की। सिख समुदाय ने उन्हें स्वर्ण मंदिर की प्रतिकृति भेंट की। जैन समुदाय द्वारा नवकार मंत्र की प्रस्तुति दी गई। इस्कॉन समुदाय ने उन्हें श्रीमद्भगवद्गीता भेंट की। साथ ही, थाई रामायण 'रामकियेन' पर आधारित सांस्कृतिक नृत्य प्रदर्शन भी प्रस्तुत किया गया, जिसने भारतीय और थाई सांस्कृतिक संबंधों की गहराई को दर्शाया।





# साहित्य अकादेमी द्वारा कमल किशोर गोयनका की स्मृति में श्रद्धांजलि सभा का आयोजन



सभी ने उन्हें प्रेमचंद, प्रवासी भारतीय साहित्य और हिंदी को वैश्विक भाषा बनाने के प्रयत्नों के लिए याद किया नई दिल्ली। 15 अप्रैल 2025; प्रख्यात साहित्यकार कमल किशोर गोयनका की स्मृति में आज साहित्य अकादेमी द्वारा श्रद्धांजलि सभा का आयोजन किया गया। श्रद्धांजलि सभा में उपस्थित लोगों के अतिरिक्त देश विदेश से कई अन्य लेखक एवं साहित्यकार ऑनलाइन भी जुड़े। सर्वप्रथम साहित्य अकादेमी के सचिव के. श्रीनिवासराव ने गोयनका जी के चित्र पर पुष्प चढ़ा कर उन्हें श्रद्धांजलि देते हुए कहा कि प्रेमचंद और प्रवासी साहित्य के अतिरिक्त उन्होंने अन्य कई विषयों पर उल्लेखनीय कार्य किया। साहित्य अकादेमी से उनका संबंध निरंतर बना रहा और वे अकादेमी के लिए हमेशा कार्य करते रहे। अनिल जोशी ने उन्हें हिंदी को वैश्विक भाषा बनाने के लिए किए गए उल्लेखनीय प्रयासों को याद करते हुए उन्हें अपनी श्रद्धांजलि अर्पित की। सुरेंद्र दुबे ने केंद्रीय हिंदी संस्थान के साथ बिताए समय को याद करते हुए कहा कि उन्हें अपनी सारी उर्जा प्रेमचंद और प्रवासी साहित्य को सबके सामने लाने के लिए लगा दी, लेकिन अपनी वैचारिकी से कभी कोई समझौता नहीं किया। नारायण कुमार ने विश्व हिंदी सम्मेलनों में उनके किए गए कार्य को बड़ी श्रद्धा से याद करते हुए उसे अतुलनीय बताया। लक्ष्मी शंकर वाजपेयी ने उन्हें युवा प्रतिभाओं को आगे लाने के लिए निरंतर सक्रिय रहे उत्साही मार्गदर्शक के रूप में याद किया। ऑनलाइन जुड़ी दिव्या माथुर ने उन्हें प्रवासी लेखकों को सम्मान और पहचान दिलवाने वाले योद्धा के रूप में याद किया। दिविक रमेश ने अपने गुरु को याद करते हुए कहा कि उन्होंने अपनी बात हमेशा रखी लेकिन कभी किसी का अपमान नहीं किया। पद्मेश गुप्त ने उन्हें प्रवासी साहित्य को मुख्य धारा में लाने का श्रेय देते हुए कहा कि वे प्रवासी साहित्यकारों की मुश्किलों और उनकी सुविधाओं के लिए भी हमेशा सजग रहे। साहित्य अकादेमी की उपाध्यक्ष कुमुद शर्मा ने उन्हें प्रवासी साहित्यकारों की रचनाओं को भारत में पहचान दिलाने के संदर्भ के अतिरिक्त प्रेमचंद को राष्ट्रीय चेतना के संवाहक के रूप में स्थापित करने में उनके योगदान को याद करते हुए श्रद्धांजलि दी। साहित्य अकादेमी के अध्यक्ष माधव कौशिक ने उन्हें उनके कठिन श्रम और लगातार सक्रिय रहने के गुणों को याद करते हुए उन्हें नमन किया। रवि शंकर जी ने उन्हें एक प्रेरणादायी व्यक्तित्व के रूप में याद किया। अलका सिन्हा ने उनके अप्रकाशित साहित्य को सामने लाने की इच्छा व्यक्त करते हुए अपने श्रद्धासुमन अर्पित किए। प्रभात कुमार ने उनकी संकल्प शक्ति और जिजीविषा को याद किया। प्रवीण आर्य ने साहित्य परिषद् का उल्लेख करते हुए उन्हें उसका सच्चा मार्गदर्शक कहा। राकेश पांडेय ने उनकी गाँधी और पत्रकारिता पुस्तक का उल्लेख करते हुए उनको नए संदर्भों में याद किया। शैलजा सक्सेना ने कनाडा-प्रवासी साहित्य को आगे लाने में उनकी भूमिका को नमन किया। अंत में रीता रानी पालीवाल ने कहा कि उन्हें हमें प्रेमचंद को भारतीय साहित्यकार के रूप में प्रतिष्ठित करने के लिए हमेशा याद करना होगा। कार्यक्रम का संचालन अकादेमी के उपसचिव देवेन्द्र कुमार देवेश ने किया। सभा का समापनसंयुक्त रूप से डॉ. गोयनका और डॉ. निर्मला जैन की आत्माओं की शांति के लिए दो मिनट की मौन प्रार्थना से हुआ।

# श्रद्धांजलि



## जय वर्मा

काव्यरंग की अध्यक्ष 75 वर्षीय श्रीमती जय वर्मा का दिनांक 23 अप्रैल, 2025 को निधन हो गया। जय वर्मा ने नॉटिंघम को City of Literature घोषित करवाने में महत्वपूर्ण भूमिका निभाई थी। उन्होंने कविता, संस्मरण एवं कहानी के क्षेत्र में सक्रियता से योगदान दिया था। ब्रिटेन के हिन्दी जगत में वे विशिष्ट स्थान रखती थी। जय वर्मा का जन्म भारत के मेरठ के जिवाना में हुआ था। रूद्रपुर नैनीताल में अपनी प्राथमिक शिक्षा के बाद, उन्होंने मेरठ विश्वविद्यालय से अंग्रेजी साहित्य, अर्थशास्त्र और ड्राईंग और पेंटिंग में बीए की डिग्री प्राप्त की। वह 1971 में अपने परिवार के साथ यूके चली गईं और नॉटिंघम के ब्रोक्सटो कॉलेज से बिजनेस एंड फाइनेंस में बीटीईसी की अपनी शिक्षा जारी रखी। उन्हें अभ्यास प्रबंधन में उन्नत डिप्लोमा से सम्मानित किया गया और 1994 में नॉटिंघम टेन्ट विश्वविद्यालय से सेवा प्रबंधन में स्नातकोत्तर प्रमाणपत्र मिला। उनकी कविता पुस्तक 'सहयात्री है हम' 2009 में प्रकाशित हुई थी, 2012 में दक्षिण अफ्रीका के जोहान्सबर्ग में 9वें अंतर्राष्ट्रीय विश्व हिन्दी सम्मेलन में ईबुक लॉन्च की गई थी। मार्च 2006 में, गेडलिंग के लॉर्ड मेयर, नॉटिंघम ने उन्हें समुदाय के लिए निस्वार्थ सेवा और हिन्दी कविता में विशिष्ट योगदान के लिए मेयर पुरस्कार प्रदान किया। उन्होंने हिन्दी साहित्य और भाषा में अपने काम के लिए भारत और ब्रिटेन दोनों देशों में कई पुरस्कार प्राप्त किए, उनकी कविताएं, कहानियां और लेख ब्रिटेन, भारत और दुनिया भर की पत्रिकाओं और संकलनों में प्रकाशित हुए हैं। उन्होंने बच्चों की किताबों का अंग्रेजी से हिन्दी में अनुवाद किया है और नॉटिंघम में एक पूरक हिन्दी स्कूल, कला निकेतन में हिन्दी शिक्षक के रूप में काम करते हुए हिन्दी पाठ्यक्रम के लिए शिक्षण सामग्री विकसित की थी। वह 2003 से नॉटिंघम में हर साल विभिन्न साहित्यिक कार्यों और अंतर्राष्ट्रीय कवि सम्मेलनों का आयोजन करती रही।

काव्य रंग के संस्थापक सदस्यों में से वे एक थी, जो बहुभाषी साहित्यिक गतिविधियों का समर्थन, प्रचार और प्रसार करती रही।

उनके जीवन पर लिखित कॉफी बुक का लोकार्पण गत वर्ष 'वातायन, लन्दन' द्वारा किया गया। श्रीमती जय वर्मा ने अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय सहयोग परिषद द्वारा गदर आन्दोलन पर आयोजित अंतर्राष्ट्रीय सम्मेलन में 'भगत सिंह' शीर्षक पर अपनी कविता सुनाकर श्रोताओं को मंत्रमुग्ध कर दिया था। अंतर्राष्ट्रीय सहयोग परिषद उनको भावभीनी श्रद्धांजलि अर्पित करती है।



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