

DIASPORA SAMVAD

डायस्पोरा संवाद

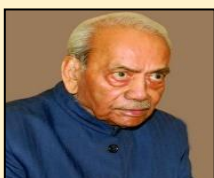
DIASPORA RESEARCH AND RESOURCE CENTRE (DRRC)
ANTAR RASHTRIYA SAHAYOG PARISHAD-BHARAT

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5TH BALESHWAR AGRAWAL MEMORIAL LECTURE

DIASPORA & DEVELOPMENT ARE INTERCONNECTED – DR. SACHIN CHATURVEDI



5th Baleshwar Agrawal Memorial Lecture was organized by Antar Rashtriya Sahayog Parishad in India Habitat Centre on 22 July 2025. The keynote address on “Diaspora and Development” was delivered by Professor Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General, Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS) & Vice Chancellor, Nalanda University.



In keynote speech, Prof. Sachin Chaturvedi gave a detailed presentation on different dimensions of Diaspora, Diplomacy and Development. While covering the central theme, he focused on the linkages of Diaspora, Diplomacy and Development, and related conceptual contours, global experience, Indian story and future projections. In consonance with the exhortation of Hon'ble Prime Minister for more research and publications on issues and challenges with regard to 'Girmitiya Diaspora', Dr. Chaturvedi announced the setting up of Girmitiya Research Centre in RIS.

On this occasion, the Chief Guest H. E. Professor Anil Sooklal, High Commissioner of the Republic of South Africa to India highlighted the position of Indian Diaspora and contributions of Mahatma Gandhi in the historical perspective of South Africa.

Shri Shyam Parande, Secretary General-ARSP said that the **1st Baleshwar Agrawal Memorial Lecture** was delivered by **Hon. Smt. Sushma Swaraj**, Minister for External Affairs and Overseas Indian Affairs on 17 July, 2014 under the Chairmanship of former Deputy Prime Minister of India, Hon. Shri Lal Krishna Advani. The topic of the lecture was 'Diaspora Policy of Government of India'. The **2nd Baleshwar Agrawal Memorial Lecture** was delivered by **Rt. Hon. Sir Anerood Jugnauth**, the then Hon. Prime Minister of Mauritius on 31 October 2015. The topic of the lecture was 'India-Mauritius Relations: Challenges and Prospects'. **3rd Baleshwar Agrawal Memorial Lecture** was delivered by **Dr. Prakash Sharan Mahat**, former Nepalese Foreign Minister on 29 July 2017. The topic of the lecture was 'Indo-Nepal Relations: in the context of Emerging Geopolitical situation in South Asia'. **4th Baleshwar Agrawal**

Memorial Lecture was delivered by **Prof. Dr. Danny Wong Tze Ken**, Dean of the Department of History and Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences at the University of Malaya, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia on 20 July, 2024. The topic of the lecture was 'From Migration to Nationality : Indian and Chinese Diaspora in Malaysia'. Shri Shyam Parande gave comprehensive views on the contribution and milestone journey of Shri Baleshwar Agrawal.

Shri Gopal Arora, Secretary, ARSP moderated the session with opening remarks regarding the remarkable journey of Shri Baleshwar Agrawal and his substantial contribution to the society. He further talked about the commitment of Shri Agrawal to the Indian Diaspora in the indentured countries and his initiatives for connecting them with India. Amb. Vinod Kumar President-ARSP, gave vote of thanks.

Apart from the above session, second session was held on the topic- 'Indian Languages in the Media in Overseas Countries'. The Chief Guest of This session was Shri Ram Bahadur Rai, Chairman-IGNCA. The session was chaired by Shri Navneet Kumar Sehgal, Chairman, Prasar Bharati.

श्री बालेश्वर अग्रवाल स्मृति व्याख्यानमाला का आयोजन

विदेशों में भारतीय भाषायी मीडिया का योगदान एवं चुनौतियां



कार्यक्रम की शुरुआत अंतरराष्ट्रीय सहयोग परिषद के महासचिव श्री श्याम परांडे ने की। उन्होंने कहा कि श्री बालेश्वर अग्रवाल एक ऐसे युगद्रष्टा थे जिन्होंने सीमाओं से परे भारतीयता की चेतना को जीवित रखा। वे प्रवासी भारतीयों के लिए प्रेरणा-स्रोत रहे और उन्होंने उन्हें आत्मगौरव से जोड़ा।

पद्मश्री रामबहादुर राय ने श्री अग्रवाल के योगदान को रेखांकित करते हुए कहा कि उन्होंने हिंदी पत्रकारिता को समाज-निर्माण का औजार बनाया और भारत तथा प्रवासी भारतीयों के बीच संवाद का सेतु रचा।

गाज़ियाबाद के सांसद श्री अतुल गर्ग ने अंतरराष्ट्रीय सहयोग परिषद की भूमिका की सराहना करते हुए कहा कि यह संस्था प्रवासी भारतीयों जोड़ने का सराहनीय कहा कि प्रवासी समाज वाहक हैं, और हमें उनके सामाजिक विकास में राकेश पांडे ने प्रवासी योगदान की सराहना योगदान को उचित स्थान कहा कि भारतीय



की ऊर्जा को भारत की प्रगति में कार्य कर रही है। श्री अनिल जोशी ने भारत की सांस्कृतिक आत्मा के अनुभवों का लाभ नीतिगत और उठाना चाहिए। वरिष्ठ पत्रकार भारतीयों के बौद्धिक और नैतिक करते हुए कहा कि मीडिया को इनके देना चाहिए। डॉ. जवाहर कर्नावट ने डायसपोरा बहुलता, सहिष्णुता और

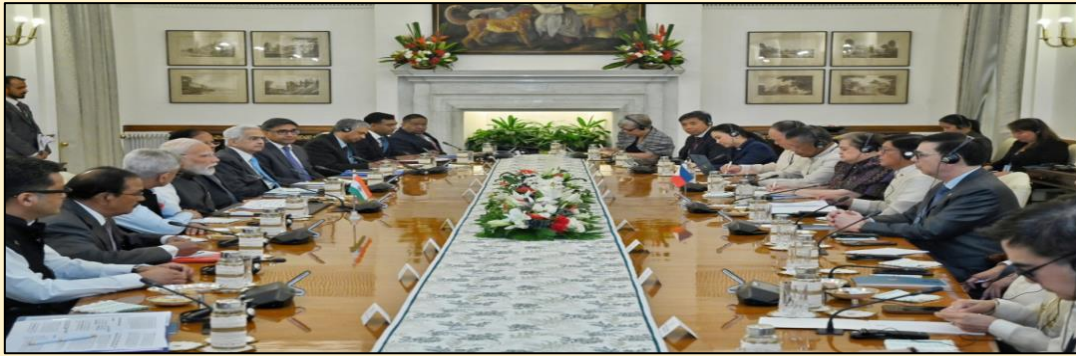
सांस्कृतिक निरंतरता का प्रतीक है और वह एक जीवंत वैश्विक सांस्कृतिक आंदोलन बन चुका है। अंतरराष्ट्रीय सहयोग परिषद के अध्यक्ष श्री विनोद कुमार ने परिषद की गतिविधियों का परिचय देते हुए कहा कि संस्था का उद्देश्य वैश्विक भारतीय समुदाय से सतत संवाद बनाए रखना है।



प्रसार भारती के अध्यक्ष श्री नवनीत सहगल ने मीडिया की भूमिका पर बात करते हुए कहा कि आज मीडिया की जिम्मेदारी केवल सूचनाओं तक सीमित नहीं है, बल्कि वह संस्कृतियों और पीढ़ियों को जोड़ने का एक पुल है। यह आयोजन न केवल विचारों का आदान-प्रदान रहा, बल्कि यह भारत और प्रवासी समाज के बीच गहरे वैचारिक और भावनात्मक संबंधों को भी

उजागर करता है। श्री बालेश्वर अग्रवाल स्मृति व्याख्यानमाला एक बार फिर यह सिद्ध करने में सफल रही कि प्रवासी भारतीय केवल भारत का अतीत नहीं, उसका वर्तमान और भविष्य भी हैं। श्री नारायण कुमार, मानद निदेशक-ए. आर. एस. पी. ने अपने समापन भाषण में विदेशों में भारतीय भाषायी मीडिया की स्थिति को रेखांकित करते हुए कहा कि आज स्वतंत्र एवं निष्पक्ष पत्रकारिता की जरूरत है।

PM MODI VISIT TO PHILIPPINES STRENGTHENED BILATERAL TIES AND RELATIONS WITH INDIAN DIASPORA



India and the Philippines have agreed to elevate bilateral cooperation to the level of strategic partnership. Addressing the media in New Delhi, Ministry of External Affairs Secretary (East) Periasamy Kumaran said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Philippines President Ferdinand Romualdez Marcos adopted the plan of action for the period of 2025 to 2029 to guide cooperation under the elevated strategic partnership during the bilateral talks. Mr Kumaran highlighted that 14 MOUs across various sectors were concluded and exchanged between India and the Philippines. He added that these agreements include mutual legal assistance treaty in criminal matters, a treaty on transfer of sentenced persons, terms of reference on negotiations for the India-Philippines preferential trade agreement, terms of reference for service, staff talks, army, air force and navy, and enhanced cooperation between Coast Guards.

Mr Kumaran underlined that direct flight connectivity between India and the Philippines is likely to be operationalized in the coming months. He said that India has announced gratis e-tourist visa for Philippines nationals. He added that the Philippines has made visa-free entry possible for Indian tourists for up to a period of 14 days. During the bilateral talks both the leaders took note of growing defence collaboration and agreed to strengthen it further. They also appreciated the steady increase in bilateral trade that has crossed the figure of 3 Billion dollars. It was also noted that India is a top exporter of pharmaceutical products to the Philippines. He said, the leaders welcomed progress in cooperation in the agriculture sector, particularly in rice research, since the last visit of the Prime Minister to the Philippines in November 2017. Mr Kumaran mentioned that President Marcos is accompanied by the First Lady Louise Araneta Marcos and a high-level delegation comprising 14 ministers, senior officials and a large business delegation. President Marcos also met President Droupadi Murmu. The President was also hosted a banquet in honour of President Marcos. The state five-day visit of Philippines President Marcos commenced was from 4th to 8th of August, 2025. This is the first visit of President Marcos to India in his official capacity. The visit is significant as it comes when both countries are marking the 75th anniversary of diplomatic relations with the Philippines.

PM MODI CONFERRED GHANA'S HIGHEST HONOUR AND WELCOMED BY INDIAN DIASPORA IN GHANA



Prime Minister Narendra Modi held a bilateral meeting with the President of Ghana, John Mahama, at Jubilee House in Accra held on 2 July 2025. Both leaders discussed various ways to strengthen and deepen bilateral relations. Four MoUs were signed following the talks, including in the areas of cultural exchange and traditional music. In his joint press statement following the talks, Prime Minister Modi announced that they have decided to give the India-Ghana partnership the form of a Comprehensive Partnership. Mr Modi was also conferred with Ghana's highest state honour in recognition of his distinguished statesmanship and influential global leadership. He was accorded a ceremonial welcome by President Mahama, including a Guard of Honour and a 21-Gun Salute at the airport.

PM MODI IN GHANA: INDIAN DIASPORA GREETES WITH SELFIES, AUTOGRAPHS & WARM WELCOME

Prime Minister Narendra Modi from the large Indian diaspora in visit, Modi warmly interacted autographs and clicking selfies, emotional bonds between India reception underscored the to Ghana, the first by an Indian to-people connections alongside diplomatic ties.



received an enthusiastic welcome Ghana's capital, Accra. During his with the community by giving reflecting the deep cultural and and its diaspora. This heartfelt significance of Modi's historic visit PM in 30 years, highlighting people-

MODI'S HISTORIC TRINIDAD VISIT: AWARDED TOP HONOUR, GREETED BY INDIAN ORIGIN COMMUNITY



Prime Minister Narendra Modi, during his visit to Trinidad and Tobago on 4 July 2025, called Prime Minister Kamla Persad-Bissessar "Bihar ki Beti" (daughter of Bihar). Speaking to the Indian community, PM Modi shared that the country's Prime Minister's ancestors were from Buxar in Bihar and she has even visited the place.

Thirty-five million members of the Indian diaspora spread across the world are India's "pride". As I have often said, each one of you is a *Rashtrabhoot* — an ambassador of India's values, culture and heritage," said Mr. Modi.

Addressing the event, PM Modi spelt out various cultural, educational and financial measures that India is undertaking to strengthen links between the homeland and the diasporic Indians and announced that sixth generation Indian-origin citizens of Trinidad and Tobago will receive the Overseas Citizens of India (OCI) card soon.



Prime Minister Narendra Modi presented a replica of the Ram Mandir in Ayodhya and holy water from the Saryu River as well as from the Mahakumbh held in Prayagraj to Trinidad and Tobago Prime Minister Kamla Persad-Bissessar. PM Modi also reflected on his visit 25 years ago, noting how the friendship

between the Caribbean country and India has grown stronger since then. He talked about the cultural connections, pointing out that cities like Banaras, Patna, Kolkata and Delhi are not only in India but also found as street names in Trinidad. All these deeply value the strength and support of our diaspora. PM Modi said the Government of India was working to strengthen ties with the Girmitiyas—the former indentured labourers who were taken from India during the colonial period to Indo-Pacific islands such as Mauritius, Fiji, Southern Africa and the Caribbeans. A ceremonial Guard of Honour was also presented at Piarco International Airport.

EXTREMELY PROUD OF OUR DIASPORA: PM MODI IN NAMIBIA



Prime Minister Narendra Modi on 9 July 2025 expressed deep pride in the Indian diaspora in Namibia, commending their role in preserving Indian culture and fostering stronger ties between India and the Southern African nation. The brief yet heartfelt interaction reflected the deep connection between the diaspora and their homeland. PM Modi's visit marks a key moment in India-Namibia relations, with cultural and diplomatic ties taking center stage during this historic tour.

During his stay, Prime Minister Modi paid tribute to Namibia's founding father, Sam Nujoma, at the National Heroes' Acre in Windhoek—a gesture that underscored the mutual respect between the two nations. In recognition of his efforts to strengthen India-Namibia ties, Prime Minister Modi was also conferred with Namibia's highest civilian award.

JENNIFER SIMONS ELECTED SURINAME'S 1ST WOMAN PRESIDENT AFTER HISTORIC COALITION DEAL



Suriname's Parliament elected Jennifer Simons as the South American country's first woman President, setting the doctor and former Parliamentary Speaker on course to helm a nation on the transition of a predicted oil boom. Surinamese lawmakers backed Simons as President six weeks after the ruling party and its top opposition nearly tied in the race for legislative seats, leading to a coalition deal to install Simons as President.

Simons' opposition National Democratic Party won 18 seats, and the current President Chan Santokhi's Progressive Reform Party won 17 seats in the May 25 parliamentary election. Smaller parties won the remaining 16 seats.

Suriname's President is elected indirectly. Following the general election, members of the National Assembly vote for the president and a candidate must secure a two-thirds majority to win the office.

MICHAEL ASHWIN SATYANDRE ADHIN ELECTED SPEAKER OF THE PARLIAMENT OF SURINAME



Michael Ashwin Satyandre Adhin (born 10 June 1980), former Vice-President of the Republic of Suriname (2015-2020) has become Speaker of the Parliament of Suriname. He is member of National Democratic Party. At the age of 35, he had become the youngest Vice-President in the history of Suriname. He became second leader in Suriname who took oath in Sanskrit. Indian-origin Chandrikapersad Chan Santokhi, former President of Suriname had taken oath in the Sanskrit holding Vedas in his hand on 16 July 2020 during his inauguration ceremony in Suriname.

INDIAN-ORIGIN LAWYER NAMED OHIO'S NEW SOLICITOR GENERAL



Indian-origin lawyer Mathura Sridharan has been named Ohio's 12th Solicitor General, the state's top attorney for appeals in state and federal courts. Attorney General Dave Yost said in a statement last week that he proudly selected Sridharan for the role following the departure of her predecessor, Elliot Gaiser, who President Donald Trump tapped to lead the US Department of Justice's Office of Legal Counsel. "Mathura is a relentless defender of Ohioans, a champion of federalism and legal force to be reckoned with in a courtroom, Yost said. "Her brilliant legal mind and masterful understanding of constitutional law make her the obvious choice to lead the team as Ohio's Solicitor General."

AIR NEW ZEALAND APPOINTS NIKHIL RAVISHANKAR AS NEXT CEO



Nikhil Ravishankar, an Indian-origin executive, has been appointed as the new Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Air New Zealand. Ravishankar, previously the Chief Digital Officer at Air New Zealand, will officially take over as CEO on October 20, 2025. He has been with Air New Zealand for nearly five years, leading advancements in the airline's technology infrastructure, loyalty program, and customer experience. His appointment marks a historic moment as he is the first Indian-origin person to hold this position in New Zealand's national carrier. Before joining Air New Zealand, he held leadership roles at Accenture and served as Chief Digital Officer at Vector.

PM MODI VISIT TO MALDIVES AND UK – VIBRANT INTERACTION WITH INDIAN DIASPORA



Prime Minister Narendra Modi departed for the Maldives on 25 July 2025, concluding the first leg of his two-nation tour. He visited Maldives at the invitation of President Mohamed Muizzu from July 25 to 26. During his visit, the Prime Minister participated as the Guest of Honour at the 60th Independence Day celebrations of the Maldives. His visit also marked the 60th anniversary of India-Maldives diplomatic relations. Earlier, Prime Minister Modi concluded a successful visit to the United Kingdom, where he met with his UK counterpart, Prime Minister Keir Starmer, at Chequers, the official country residence of the British Prime Minister. Both leaders welcomed the signing of the India-UK Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA), which is expected to enhance bilateral trade, investment, and job creation. They also agreed to negotiate a Double Contribution Convention to ease cross-border business and boost competitiveness in the service sector.

The two sides adopted the India-UK Vision 2035, aimed at guiding the Comprehensive Strategic Partnership over the next decade in sectors including technology, education, defence, and climate action. The leaders finalised a Defence Industrial Roadmap to strengthen cooperation in co-design, co-development, and co-production of defence products. They also discussed enhanced collaboration under the Technology and Security Initiative, covering areas such as telecom, critical minerals, semiconductors, and biotechnology. PM Modi and PM Starmer welcomed the growing education partnership under India's New Education Policy (NEP), with six UK universities planning to establish campuses in India. The University of Southampton has already inaugurated its campus in Gurugram. Prime Minister Modi thanked the UK for its support following the Pahalgam terror attack and reiterated the need for strong action against extremism. He also sought cooperation in bringing back economic fugitives facing legal action in India. Global and regional developments, including the Indo-Pacific, West Asia, and the Russia-Ukraine conflict, were also discussed. PM Modi extended an invitation to Prime Minister Starmer to visit India at a mutually convenient time. Following his meeting with the UK Prime Minister, PM Modi called on His Majesty King Charles III at Sandringham Estate. The two leaders discussed shared interests in health, sustainability, and climate change. The Prime Minister presented a sapling under the 'Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam' campaign to be planted in the estate during the upcoming season.

MOUS OF FIVE HICDP PROJECTS SIGNED BETWEEN INDIA & NEPAL IN EDUCATION AND HEALTH SECTORS



The Embassy of India, Kathmandu, Ministry of Federal Affairs and General Administration, Government of Nepal and Project Implementing Agencies of Government of Nepal on 22 July 2025 signed Memorandums of Understandings (MoUs) for undertaking 5 High Impact Community Development Projects (HICDPs) in Nepal under the grant assistance of

Government of India in Education and Health Sectors, at a total estimated cost of NRs. 390 million. These five projects, namely, Construction of Shree Jan Shakti Secondary School Building in Dhanusha; Construction of Shree Mahobani Padam Secondary School in Parsa; Construction of Shree Basuki Secondary School in Achham; Construction of School Building, Hostel and Library of Benga Sah Secondary School in Bara and Construction of 5 Bed Hospital Building in Manang in Nepal shall be implemented through local authorities and institutions of the Government of Nepal including Municipalities and Rural Municipalities. The construction of these facilities will help provide better education and health facilities to the people in Nepal. Since 2003, the Government of India has taken up 579 High Impact Development Projects (HICDPs) in Nepal. Out of these, 496 projects have been completed in the areas of health, education, drinking water, connectivity, sanitation and creation of public utilities across all 7 provinces of Nepal at the grassroots level. The remaining projects are ongoing at various stages. As close neighbours, India and Nepal share wide- ranging and multi-sectoral cooperation.

NATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON BHAGAVAD GITA AND NATYA SHASTRA IN UNESCO'S 'MEMORY OF THE WORLD' CONCLUDES AT IGNCA



To celebrate the Inscription of Bhagavad Gita & Natyashastra in #UNESCO Memory of the World International Register, a two-day national symposium was organised by Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts under the aegis of Ministry of Culture, Government of India. Graced by Shri Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, Hon'ble Minister of Culture & Tourism, the symposium brought together scholars, cultural thinkers, and heritage professionals to reflect

upon their timeless wisdom and to reaffirm their relevance as living texts in contemporary global discourse. The event also saw participation from Shri Vivek Aggarwal, Secretary, Ministry of Culture, Dr. Sonal Mansingh, Padma Vibhushan awardee & former Rajya Sabha Member of Parliament, and Dr. Sachchidanand Joshi, Member Secretary, IGNCA among others.



127 वर्षों बाद वापसी: भगवान बुद्ध के पवित्र पिपरहवा अवशेष भारत लौटे



भारत की सांस्कृतिक धरोहर के संरक्षण में एक ऐतिहासिक उपलब्धि दर्ज करते हुए, 30 जुलाई 2025 को भगवान बुद्ध के पवित्र पिपरहवा अवशेष 127 वर्षों के अंतराल के बाद भारत लौट आए। यह पुनर्प्राप्ति भारत सरकार और गोदरेज इंडस्ट्रीज़ समूह के बीच एक उत्कृष्ट सार्वजनिक-निजी साझेदारी के माध्यम से संभव हो सकी।

पिपरहवा अवशेष: ऐतिहासिक और आध्यात्मिक महत्व

1898 में ब्रिटिश सिविल इंजीनियर विलियम क्लैक्सटन पेप्पे द्वारा उत्तर प्रदेश के पिपरहवा में खोजे गए ये अवशेष तीसरी शताब्दी ईसा पूर्व के माने जाते हैं और बुद्ध के नश्वर अवशेषों से जुड़े हैं। इन अवशेषों में हड्डियों के टुकड़े, साबुन के पत्थर और क्रिस्टल के पात्र, बलुआ पत्थर का संदूक, और सोने तथा रत्नों की भेंटें शामिल हैं। ब्राह्मी लिपि में खुदे शिलालेखों से यह पुष्टि होती है कि ये अवशेष शाक्य कुल द्वारा बुद्ध को समर्पित किए गए थे।

वापसी की प्रक्रिया और सरकारी प्रयास

इन पवित्र अवशेषों की एक छोटी संख्या को मई 2025 में हांगकांग के एक अंतरराष्ट्रीय नीलामी घर में नीलाम करने की योजना बनाई गई थी। भारत सरकार ने 5 मई को Sotheby's Hong Kong को कानूनी नोटिस जारी कर तत्काल नीलामी रोकने की मांग की थी। 7 मई को नीलामी रोक दी गई और इसके बाद भारत सरकार ने इन्हें सुरक्षित रूप से वापस लाने की प्रक्रिया शुरू की।

खबर से जुड़े जीके तथ्य

- पिपरहवा अवशेष 1898 में खोजे गए और 1899 में भारतीय संग्रहालय, कोलकाता में स्थानांतरित किए गए।
- एक हिस्सा थाईलैंड के राजा को उपहार स्वरूप दिया गया था, जबकि पेप्पे के वंशजों के पास कुछ अवशेष रह गए थे।
- ये अवशेष भारतीय पुरावशेष अधिनियम के तहत “AA” श्रेणी में आते हैं, जिससे इनका निर्यात या बिक्री प्रतिबंधित है।
- ब्राह्मी लिपि में शिलालेखों के माध्यम से यह पुष्टि हुई कि यह अवशेष भगवान बुद्ध के हैं।
- प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी ने ट्विटर पर इसकी जानकारी साझा करते हुए इसे भारत की सांस्कृतिक विजय बताया।

साझेदारी और सांस्कृतिक कूटनीति

यह वापसी सांस्कृतिक कूटनीति का एक उत्कृष्ट उदाहरण है, जिसमें सरकारी संस्थानों और निजी उद्यम के बीच सहयोग ने वैश्विक धरोहर की रक्षा की। गोदरेज इंडस्ट्रीज़ समूह के कार्यकारी उपाध्यक्ष पिरोजशा गोदरेज ने कहा, “पिपरहवा रत्न केवल पुरावशेष नहीं, बल्कि शांति, करुणा और मानवता की साझी विरासत के चिह्न हैं।”

नीदरलैंड में 'भोजपुरी फूड एंड कल्चर फेस्टिवल'



बिहार फाउंडेशन नीदरलैंड्स द्वारा 29 जून 2025 को एम्स्टलवीन में भोजपुरी फूड एंड कल्चरल फेस्टिवल 2025 का रंगारंग आयोजन किया गया। इस आयोजन का उद्देश्य विदेश में रह रहे भारतीय व सूरीनामी भारतीय प्रवासी भारतीयों के समुदाय, विशेषकर बच्चों को अपनी संस्कृति व पारंपरिक लोककलाओं से जोड़ने के साथ-साथ डच समाज को भारतीय संस्कृति से अवगत कराना था।

इस उत्सव का आरंभ बच्चों की गणेश वंदना के साथ नीदरलैंड में भारत के राजदूत आदरणीय कुमार तुहीन जी के करकमलों द्वारा दीप प्रज्ज्वलित करके किया गया। कार्यक्रम की शुरुआत बिहार फाउंडेशन नीदरलैंड से दर्शन राज आशुतोष जी ने अपनी कविता 'हमारा प्यारा बिहार' से हुई।

कार्यक्रम में झारखंड, उत्तर प्रदेश तथा प्रमुखता बिहार के पारंपरिक लोकगीतों और संगीतमय बैंड प्रस्तुति, वाल्मिकी रामायण प्रसंग पर आधारित नाट्य मंचन, मिथिला का प्रसिद्ध झिझिया लोक गीत बच्चों द्वारा समाचकवा नृत्य का अद्भुत प्रदर्शन और गीत-संगीत एवं नृत्य कार्यक्रम विशेष आकर्षण रहे। इस अवसर पर हिंदुस्तानी सूरीनामी प्रवासी भारतीय समुदाय ने जो मुल निवासी बिहार से ताल्लुक रखते हैं, ने भी बड़ के हिस्सा लिया, उनके द्वारा बिहार लोक संगीत बैठक गाने की सुंदर प्रस्तुति हुई। बड़े और बच्चों ने पूरे उत्साह और जोश के साथ हिस्सा लिया और अपनी संस्कृति से जुड़ाव का शानदार परिचय दिया।



कार्यक्रम के अंत में मुख्य अतिथि एवं नीदरलैंड्स में भारत के राजदूत श्री कुमार तुहीन ने बच्चों और आयोजकों का उत्साहवर्धन किया तथा समाज के इस प्रयास की सराहना की। उन्होंने कहा कि विदेश में रहकर भारतीय संस्कृति को जीवंत बनाए रखना अत्यंत सराहनीय है। इस अवसर पर बच्चों और प्रतिभागियों को प्रमाण पत्र भी वितरित किए गए।



फेस्टिवल में लगे भारतीय परिधानों, हिन्दी पुस्तकों मधुबनी चित्रकला और विविध पारंपरिक व्यंजनों ने भी सभी का ध्यान आकर्षित किया और पूरे माहौल को एक 'नीदरलैंड में एक छोटे भारत' का स्वरूप दिया। यह आयोजन नीदरलैंड्स में बसे भारतीयों के लिए अपनी जड़ों से जोड़ने और नई पीढ़ी को अपनी सांस्कृतिक विरासत से परिचित कराने का एक प्रेरक मंच बना।

OBITUARY

IN LOVING MEMORY OF
DR. MOHAN KANT GAUTAM



BORN: 24 NOVEMBER 1937
DEPARTED: 06 AUGUST 2025

DR. MOHAN KANT GAUTAM, A PROMINENT ANTHROPOLOGIST AND SCHOLAR WAS KNOWN FOR HIS WORK ON THE TRIBAL SANTAL TRIBES OF NORTHERN INDIA, DIED ON 06 AUGUST 2025 IN THE NETHERLANDS.

HE WAS A LECTURER AT LEIDEN UNIVERSITY STARTING IN 1962 AND EARNED HIS PHD FROM THE SAME UNIVERSITY IN 1977. HIS RESEARCH INTERESTS INCLUDE INDIAN DIASPORA, ANTHROPOLOGY, AND THE LITERARY WRITINGS OF HINDI WRITERS.

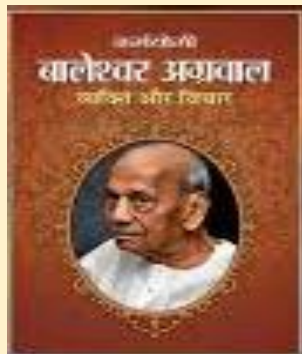
HE IS RECOGNIZED FOR HIS SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE UNDERSTANDING OF TRIBAL LIFE IN SOUTH ASIA, PARTICULARLY THROUGH HIS PUBLICATIONS LIKE "IN SEARCH OF AN IDENTITY: A CASE OF THE SANTAL OF NORTHERN INDIA".

HIS WORK OFTEN INVOLVED ANALYZING HISTORICAL RECORDS AND LIFE HISTORIES, SUCH AS THAT OF MUNSHI RAHMAN KHAN, TO UNDERSTAND THE INDIAN DIASPORA IN SURINAME.

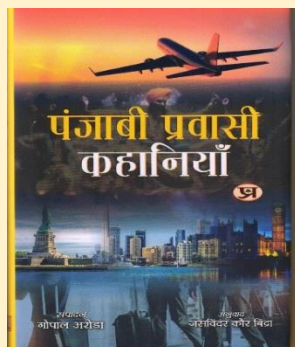
HE WAS ASSOCIATED WITH ARSP FOR MORE THAN FIVE DECADES, PARTICIPATED IN MOST OF THE CONFERENCES OF PRAVASI BHARATIYA DIVAS AND WORLD HINDI CONFERENCES. HIS NAME ALSO APPEARED IN THE LIST OF WORLD'S WHOSE & WHO. HE WAS ALSO PROMINENTLY CONNECTED TO GOPIO AND ATTENDED ITS MAJOR MEETINGS IN USA AND EUROPE. HIS DEATH IS A MAJOR LOSS TO THE ACTIVITIES AND INITIATIVES OF INDIAN DIASPORA-RELATED RESEARCH, CONFERENCES AND ACADEMIC EVENTS. HE IS SURVIVED BY DAUGHTER, MS. TARA GAUTAM WHO IS A PHOTOGRAPHER AND A SHORT FILM MAKER IN THE NETHERLANDS. HEARTFELT ARSP PAYS TRIBUTE TO DR. M. K. GAUTAM.

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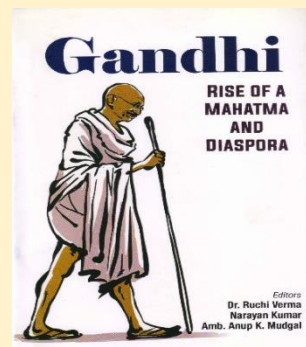
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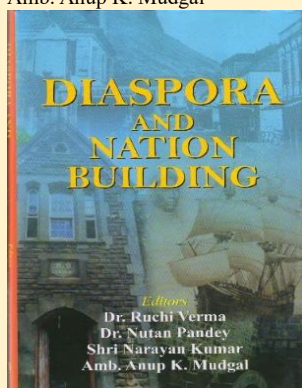
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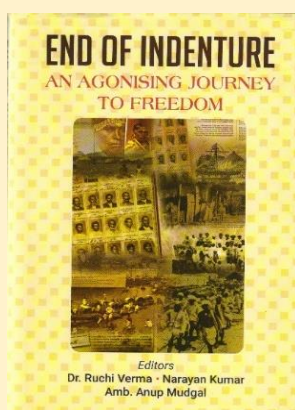
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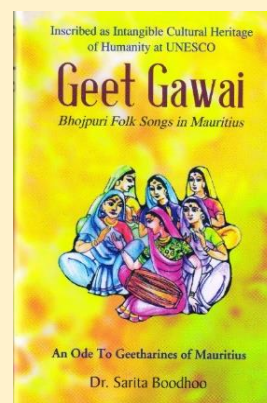
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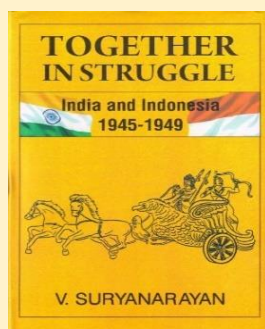
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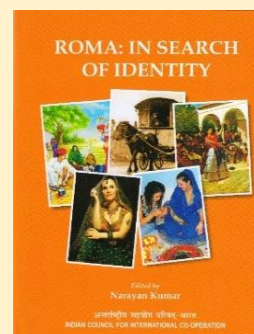
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