

MAURITIUS IS FAMILY FOR US! THIS BOND IS DEEP AND STRONGLY ROOTED IN HISTORY, HERITAGE, AND THE HUMAN SPIRIT – PM MODI



Prime Minister Narendra Modi is conferred Mauritius's highest civilian award, the Grand Commander of the Order of the Star and Key of the Indian Ocean, by President of Mauritius Dharam Gokhool, at Port Louis in Mauritius

Prime Minister Narendra Modi visited Mauritius on March 11 and 12, 2025, where he presented India's ambitious vision for the Global South while reinforcing the historic ties between India and Mauritius. In his speeches at various events, PM Modi highlighted India's commitment to promoting security, development, and mutual cooperation with Mauritius and other nations in the Global South.

Addressing the Indian diaspora at a community event in Port Louis, Prime Minister Modi described Mauritius not merely as a partner but as a part of India's family. He said, "For us, Mauritius is family! This bond is deep and strongly rooted in history, heritage, and the human spirit." He went on to state that Mauritius serves as a bridge connecting India to the wider Global South.

Recalling his visit to Mauritius in 2015, PM Modi highlighted his announcement of India's SAGAR (Security and Growth for All in the Region) vision. "Today, Mauritius is still at the heart of this vision," he added, reaffirming India's commitment to fostering peace, security, and growth across the Indian Ocean region.

In a special gesture of goodwill, PM Modi presented Overseas Citizen of India (OCI) cards to Mauritius Prime Minister Navinchandra Ramgoolam and his wife, Veena Ramgoolam. This move was hailed by members of the Mauritius Parliament, including Mahend Gungapersad and Ajay Gunness, who described the gesture as “a proof of friendship” between the two nations.

The OCI cards extended to the Ramgoolam family are symbolic of the long-standing cultural and familial ties between India and Mauritius, with Gungapersad noting that “70 percent of our population has your DNA.” Gunness echoed this sentiment, emphasizing the deep, unbreakable relationship between India and Mauritius.

PM Modi was conferred with the highest national honour of Mauritius, further cementing the cultural and historical ties between the two nations. This recognition was a testament to the strong and growing bilateral relationship, with the PM’s visit being marked by warm and sincere exchanges.

In a display of India’s strategic cooperation with Mauritius, the Indian Navy’s advanced destroyer, INS Imphal, opened its decks to the public as part of the Mauritius National Day celebrations. Captain Kamal K. Chaudhury, Commanding Officer of INS Imphal, spoke of the pride and honour of representing India at the National Day parade.

INS Imphal, a state-of-the-art warship built by the Indian Navy, is part of India’s growing maritime engagement with Mauritius, which is also a key player in the Indian Ocean region’s security.

One of the most significant announcements of the visit came as PM Modi unveiled India’s vision for the Global South, termed “MAHASAGAR” (Mutual and Holistic Advancement for Security and Growth Across Regions). The vision focuses on fostering trade for development, capacity building for sustainable growth, and ensuring mutual security for a shared future.

“This vision of MAHASAGAR is aimed at promoting growth, security, and prosperity in the Global South,” said PM Modi. His remarks come against the backdrop of growing competition and strategic rivalries in the Indian Ocean and broader Indo-Pacific regions, particularly as China seeks to expand its influence in these areas.

During the visit, India and Mauritius signed several key agreements, including those focusing on maritime security, trade in national currencies, and capacity building in emerging sectors like space research, AI, digital health, and cybersecurity.

In a joint statement with PM Modi, Mauritius Prime Minister Navinchandra Ramgoolam expressed his pleasure at the constructive discussions held during the visit. He emphasized that the two leaders agreed to strengthen their countries’ bilateral relations, with a particular focus on emerging sectors such as space, pharmaceuticals, ICT, and FinTech.

“We have agreed to strengthen our relations further through the Mauritius-India Joint Vision Document for an Enhanced Strategic Partnership,” said Ramgoolam, underscoring the shared commitment to advancing cooperation in these critical sectors.

Former High Commissioner of Mauritius to India, Mookhesswur Choonee, lauded PM Modi for promoting the philosophy of “Vasudhev Kutumbakam” (the world is one family) and praised his unwavering focus on the global good. Choonee remarked, “If there is any leader who thinks about the world and not just his country, it is PM Modi. He is second to none.”

In a gesture symbolizing the spiritual connection between India and Mauritius, PM Modi brought holy water from the Sangam at Prayagraj, which was recently a site for the Maha Kumbh Mela. This sacred water, brought as a gift for the people of Mauritius, reflects the deep cultural and religious ties shared between the two nations. PM Modi expressed his hope that the water would bring prosperity and blessings to Mauritius.

PM Modi also met with former Mauritius Prime Minister Pravind Kumar Jugnauth and Leader of the Opposition Georges Pierre Lesjongard to discuss strengthening bilateral ties. The discussions focused on enhancing the India-Mauritius partnership and collaborating on regional security issues.

PM Modi in Mauritius was marked by key announcements, symbolic gestures, and a reaffirmation of the deep, historical ties between India and Mauritius. His visit not only showcased India’s commitment to the development and security of the Global South but also underscored the importance of mutual cooperation between India and Mauritius in facing emerging global challenges.

As PM Modi aptly put it, “Mauritius is family, and together, we will continue to build a brighter, more secure future for the Global South.”

ARSP ORGANIZED A FAREWELL PROGRAM OF H. E. DR. ROGER GOPAUL, HIGH COMMISSIONER OF THE REPUBLIC OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO



Felicitation of H.E. Dr. Roger Gopaul - From Right to Left: Prof. Gopal Arora, Shri Shyam Parande, Amb. Vinod Kumar, H. E. Dr. Roger Gopaul, Amb. J. S. Sapra and Amb. Sushil Singh

international relations, offering a nuanced perspective on the dynamics between the Caribbean and South Asia.

The event featured inspiring addresses from two distinguished speakers. Amb. J. S. Sapra, the Former High Commissioner of India to Trinidad and Tobago, spoke eloquently about the longstanding and multifaceted relationship between the two countries. His reflections on the cultural, political, and economic exchanges between India and Trinidad & Tobago were well-received, underscoring the important role of individuals like Dr. Gopaul in strengthening those ties.

Mr. Hanani Ben Lewi, the Second Secretary of the Co-operative Republic of Guyana, also delivered a thought-provoking speech, focusing on the broader context of South-South cooperation and the significance of shared diasporic bonds in enhancing diplomatic relations. His address provided an insightful perspective on the role of Caribbean nations in global diplomacy, further complementing the theme of the event.

The event was further enriched by the warm and heartfelt remarks of Amb. Vinod Kumar, the President of ARSP, expressed his gratitude to Dr. Gopaul for his contributions to strengthening India-Trinidad & Tobago relations. Amb. Kumar praised Dr. Gopaul's efforts in bringing the two nations closer together, fostering mutual respect, and advancing cooperation in various fields.

The program was attended by several notable individuals, including Shri Vishnu Vishram, Dr. Markandey Rai, Shri Laxman, Shri Shiv Kumar Nigam, Shri Mukesh Aggarwal, Dr. Deepti Agrwal, Shri Narayan Kumar, Dr. Raghuvansh, Shri Anil Joshi, and Shri T. N. Malhotra. These esteemed guests contributed to the event's success through their active participation and support. Their presence added to the occasion's significance, demonstrating the strong community bonds that exist within the Indian diaspora and their commitment to international diplomacy.

The event provides a platform for deep and meaningful dialogue about the evolving relationship between India and Trinidad & Tobago. It was a moment to recognize the invaluable work of H.E. Dr. Roger Gopaul in nurturing this relationship and to reflect on the importance of diplomacy in a globalized world.

ARSP's tribute to Dr. Gopaul not only honored his personal achievements but also reaffirmed the organization's commitment to fostering stronger ties between India and the Caribbean nations. The evening concluded with a warm and heartfelt vote of thanks to all the attendees for their engaging participation and contributions.

The gathering was a testament to the power of diplomacy, cultural exchange, and the continued strengthening of ties between nations that share common values and history. The DRRC of ARSP has once again demonstrated its dedication to promoting meaningful interactions and supporting global collaboration.

Diaspora Research and Resource Center (DRRC) of Antar Rashtriya Sahayog Parishad (ARSP) organized an event at Paravasi Bhawan on Saturday, 22nd February 2025, to honor H.E. Dr. Roger Gopaul, who had recently completed his distinguished tenure as the High Commissioner of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago to India. The event brought together a diverse gathering of esteemed office-bearers, members of ARSP, diplomats, and guests to celebrate Dr. Gopaul's remarkable contributions to the strengthening of bilateral ties between India and Trinidad & Tobago.

The occasion commenced with a warm welcome and opening remarks from the event's moderator, Prof. Gopal Arora. Prof. Arora set the tone for the gathering, emphasizing the importance of international diplomacy and the role of figures like Dr. Gopaul in fostering stronger relationships between countries.

Dr. Gopaul addressed the gathering with great enthusiasm, offering a personal reflection on his tenure as High Commissioner and sharing insights from his experiences in India. His speech was rich in cultural, philosophical, and political observations, discussing how the historical ties between India and Trinidad & Tobago had evolved over time and the profound significance of cultural exchanges in deepening bilateral relations. He also delved into the shared values and aspirations of the two nations and highlighted key areas of collaboration during his time in India.

Dr. Gopaul's engaging speech was a testimony to his dedication to diplomacy and the Indo-Trinidadian relationship. He also reflected on the challenges and opportunities that arise in

EAM S JAISHANKAR AND AMBASSADORS OF 45 COUNTRIES TAKE ELEPHANT SAFARI IN KAZIRANGA NATIONAL PARK



EAM S. Jaishankar Leads Elephant Safari at Kaziranga National Park with Heads of Mission and Ambassadors
Kaziranga National Park, Assam – In a remarkable display of India's growing appeal as a global tourism and investment destination, External Affairs Minister (EAM) Dr. S. Jaishankar, accompanied by Heads of Mission and Ambassadors from 45 countries, participated in an exhilarating elephant safari at Kaziranga National Park on February 24. This visit, ahead of the Advantage Assam summit scheduled to take place in Guwahati on February 25, marks a significant effort to highlight Assam's natural beauty and tourism potential.

Dr. Jaishankar, addressing the group after the safari, expressed his delight in seeing the increasing number of tourists visiting the region. "I am very happy to see the growing number of tourists here. We are here for Advantage Assam, and after this, we are heading to Guwahati. Our aim is to enhance the profile of Assam and the northeastern states, attract more tourists, generate international interest, and bring in more investors. It's a step in the right direction, and experiencing this early morning safari is a great start to the day," Jaishankar said.

The safari allowed the distinguished visitors a rare opportunity to witness the park's incredible wildlife, including the famed one-horned rhinoceros, elephants, and tigers in their natural habitat. Commenting on the park's increasing tourism figures, Jaishankar shared, "Yes, I know. I was informed that the park has already crossed three lakh visitors. It's a positive trend. Even the Prime Minister encourages everyone to explore different states because India offers an abundance of natural and cultural tourism experiences."

A delegate from Timor-Leste shared his thoughts on the experience, saying, "It was a privilege to visit Kaziranga National Park and witness wild animals like elephants, rhinos, and tigers. Assam has immense potential to offer such experiences to the world. This visit has been truly enjoyable. Nature and wild animals teach us valuable lessons about peace. Even though rhinos and elephants are both known for their aggressive nature, they coexist side

by side." Another delegate expressed heartfelt gratitude, stating, "I thank the Minister of External Affairs and the authorities of Assam for offering us an experience that will remain a lifelong memory. Being based in New Delhi, it is wonderful to have this opportunity to see Assam's natural beauty and immerse ourselves in its serene environment. I wish the animals here a long and healthy life."

The elephant safari was part of a broader effort to promote Assam's geostrategic advantages ahead of the Advantage Assam summit. This initiative, launched by the Government of Assam, is the largest investment promotion and facilitation project in the region. It seeks to position Assam as a key investment destination and a gateway to both Northeast India and Southeast Asia.

Known for its lush tea gardens, rich biodiversity, and vast petroleum resources, Assam is now diversifying into emerging sectors such as agriculture, food processing, handicrafts, tourism, and information technology. The Advantage Assam summit will further highlight the state's unique potential and encourage both domestic and international investment in these promising industries.

As the delegation prepares for the next phase of their visit in Guwahati, it is clear that the combination of Assam's natural beauty and its growing economic prospects is setting the stage for a prosperous future for the region.

DR. S. JAISHANKAR HIGHLIGHTS FOREIGN POLICY THROUGH RAMAYAN ANALOGY



External Affairs Minister (EAM) S. Jaishankar at Literature Festival, University of Delhi

At the Delhi University Literature Festival on February 23, External Affairs Minister (EAM) S. Jaishankar captivated the audience with an insightful analogy, drawing parallels between foreign policy diplomacy and the epic Ramayan. He shared an intriguing perspective on international relations through the lens of Hanuman's mission to Lanka.

Jaishankar began his address by narrating the iconic moment when Lord Ram sends Hanuman to Ravana's court: "Hanumanji, just look at it, he is being sent by Prabhu Shri Ram to a hostile territory. Say, go there, kind of figure out the lay of the land... The most difficult part of it is actually going and meeting her and keeping up her morale."

He continued, emphasizing how Hanuman's actions demonstrated key principles of diplomacy: "He is able to actually get into Ravana's court by surrendering himself. He is able to understand the dynamics of the court." Jaishankar likened Hanuman's ability to navigate a complex political environment to the challenges faced by modern-day diplomats. The EAM expanded on the analogy, suggesting that foreign policy and diplomacy are essentially exercises in common sense. "How do you maximize your friends? How do you propose them for a job or a task at hand? How do you manage, because sometimes you have a large group of people, how do you manage all of them to create a coalition?" Jaishankar tied these insights to India's current diplomatic endeavors, noting that the nation is focused on strengthening its global alliances. "What are we trying to do today at Bharat? We are trying to increase our number of friends. We are trying to get different countries, all of whom may be a little bit, you know, they may not all be on the same page, but we are trying to get them all together and work towards an end." He concluded by emphasizing the importance of coalition-building in modern diplomacy, highlighting it as a crucial component of India's foreign policy strategy. His words resonated with the audience, showcasing a unique and relatable perspective on complex international relations. The event proved to be a thought-provoking exploration of how ancient wisdom can offer valuable lessons for contemporary political and diplomatic practices.

INDIAN COUNCIL FOR CULTURAL RELATIONS (ICCR) INTERNATIONAL CULTURAL MAHA KUMBH KICKS OFF WITH A GRAND CEREMONY



Mayor of Prayagraj, Ganesh Kesarwani, Mrs. K. Nandini Singla, Director General of the Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR), and Subhash Yadav, the nodal officer for cultural events

The 10th Edition of the much-awaited India-International Dance & Music Festival, a prominent feature of the International Cultural Maha Kumbh, began with the ceremonial lighting of the lamp, marking the beginning of a vibrant cultural journey on 24th February 2025.

The inaugural ceremony, held in the presence of dignitaries including the Mayor of Prayagraj, Ganesh Kesarwani, Mrs. K. Nandini Singla, Director General of the Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR), and Subhash Yadav, the nodal officer for cultural events at the Mahakumbh Mela in Prayagraj, set the stage for an unforgettable celebration of art, culture, and unity.

This two-day festival is a spectacular confluence of talent, bringing together 127 performers from 11 nations. The event promises to immerse audiences in the rhythms, melodies, and dance forms of diverse cultures, with India taking center stage, showcasing its artistic prowess. The 13 mesmerizing troupes, representing Vietnam, South Africa, Rwanda, Maldives, Malaysia, Fiji, Bangladesh, Mongolia, Russia, Kyrgyzstan, and India, will present a beautiful fusion of their rich cultural heritage and artistic excellence.

The India-International Dance & Music Festival, a flagship event of ICCR, is a testament to the spirit of the Maha Kumbh—where cultures unite, and the world comes together to celebrate creativity, harmony, and shared artistic expression. Over the last decade, this vibrant festival has grown into a grand celebration, uniting artists, performers, and audiences in a joyous display of the global community's shared love for music and dance.

ICCR, a proud promoter of cultural diplomacy, has once again brought together nations, creating an unparalleled platform for collaboration, cultural exchange, and global unity through the power of art. The 10th Edition of the festival is a fitting tribute to the success and longevity of this cherished event, celebrating its journey of promoting creativity, diversity, and artistic excellence.

GLOBAL INDIAN LEADERS UNITE AT INDIASPORA FORUM IN ABU DHABI, STRENGTHENING INDIA'S GLOBAL CULTURAL BRIDGE



A landmark event took place in the UAE: the inaugural Indiaspora Forum for Good 2025.

A landmark event took place in the UAE, where the inaugural Indiaspora Forum for Good 2025 brought together over 100 distinguished leaders from around the world. Hosted from February 23 to 26, the four-day summit united global leaders of Indian origin to address pressing global challenges and explore impactful solutions across various sectors.

A Gathering of Global Leaders

The forum attracted over 100 influential figures from more than 30 countries, spanning a diverse spectrum of industries. Among the attendees were Fortune 500 CEOs, political leaders, philanthropists, social entrepreneurs, academics, healthcare professionals, climate advocates, artists, and young innovators. Their collective vision emphasized the power of unity and collaboration in solving global problems.

Key Focus Areas

Discussions and sessions centered on critical issues that are shaping the future of our world. Key themes included:

- **Ethical AI Development:** Harnessing artificial intelligence responsibly while managing its risks.
- **Climate Resilience:** Identifying sustainable solutions to tackle climate change.
- **Global Public Infrastructure:** Enhancing connectivity and equitable development across nations.
- **Philanthropy & Social Entrepreneurship:** Exploring innovative partnerships to drive social impact.
- **Diaspora Trade & Investment:** Unlocking the potential for economic collaboration within the Indian global community.
- **Cultural Heritage & Identity:** Promoting Indian heritage through cultural exchanges worldwide.

Insights from Industry Pioneers

The event kicked off in Abu Dhabi with cultural tours that included visits to iconic landmarks such as the Grand Mosque, BAPS Temple, and the Louvre Museum. These experiences highlighted the region's rich heritage before the official program began with a welcome dinner at the Pearl Lounge, Grand Hyatt Abu Dhabi. High-level discussions followed at the Al Bateen Ballroom.

Notable speakers included Nobel laureate Kailash Satyarthi, Ola CEO Bhavish Aggarwal, FedEx CEO Raj Subramaniam, Infosys Co-Founder Kris Gopalakrishnan, and former tennis star Vijay Amritraj. Their speeches covered a wide range of topics, from social justice and technological disruption to global commerce and cultural diplomacy.

Cultural & Networking Experiences

While the forum offered profound discussions, it also embraced immersive experiences that encouraged deeper connections among participants. A grand dinner at the Emirates Palace Mandarin Oriental Hotel provided an exclusive networking platform, while a desert safari gave attendees an opportunity to bond over regional traditions beneath the stars.

The Grand Finale: Global AI Summit in Dubai

The forum concluded with the highly anticipated Global AI Summit at Dubai's iconic Museum of the Future. Organized in collaboration with the Dubai Future Foundation, the summit explored AI's rapid evolution and its transformative effects across various industries.

A standout moment was a fireside chat between Indiaspora Founder MR Rangaswami and Mayfield Fund Managing Partner Navin Chaddha. Chaddha shared his vision for AI, emphasizing its potential to revolutionize human collaboration: "Machines and

humans will collaborate, elevating human potential to new heights," he stated, underscoring the need for continued investment in people to drive technological innovation.

Other distinguished speakers included:

- **Anurag Banerjee** (Founder & CEO, Quilt.AI) – Discussed AI's role in analyzing human behavior.
- **Radha Ramaswami Basu** (Founder & CEO, iMerit) – Focused on AI applications in data enrichment.
- **Anurag Jain** (Co-founder, Perot Jain) – Explored emerging tech investment opportunities.
- **Sindhu Gangadharan** (SVP & MD, SAP Labs India) – Shared insights on integrating AI in business.

A Vision for the Future

The Indiaspora Forum for Good 2025 underscored the transformative potential of the Indian diaspora in shaping global progress. By facilitating meaningful dialogue, building strategic partnerships, and encouraging cultural exchanges, the event has set the stage for future initiatives aimed at creating positive change across the world. As participants return to their respective fields, the spirit of collaboration continues to inspire, reinforcing the belief that the world is one family.

INDIA-UAE CEPA ANNIVERSARY EVENT HIGHLIGHTS DEEPENING ECONOMIC TIES



Dignitaries, industry leaders and government officials graced in the event

Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) and the second anniversary of the UAE Chapter of the UAE-India Business Council (UIBC) on February 28. The event saw the participation of key dignitaries, industry leaders, and government officials, reflecting the significance of the growing bilateral ties between the two nations.

The gathering was graced by Dr. Thani bin Ahmed Al Zeyoudi, UAE Minister for Foreign Trade, Indian Ambassador to the UAE Sunjay Sudhir, Consul General of India in Dubai, Faisal Kottikolon, Chairman of the UIBC UAE Chapter, and members of the UIBC Board of Governors.

Dr. Thani Al Zeyoudi's Address: CEPA's Global Trade Impact

In his keynote speech, Dr. Thani emphasized the crucial role that CEPA has played in reshaping the UAE's global trade landscape. He highlighted that the UAE's non-oil trade with India had surged by 20.5% year-on-year,

reaching AED 240.3 billion, a direct reflection of the partnership's success. Dr. Thani also pointed out that CEPA has been instrumental in paving the way for the UAE to establish trade agreements with 25 other countries, reinforcing its position as a global trade hub.

Ambassador Sudhir: A Stronger Economic and Cultural Partnership

Indian Ambassador Sunjay Sudhir reiterated that CEPA goes beyond trade agreements, fostering stronger investment flows and closer people-to-people connections between India and the UAE. He highlighted the introduction of the Local Currency Settlement mechanism and the progress on the India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC), noting the rapid growth of Indian businesses in the UAE. Major Indian companies such as Ashok Leyland, Dabur, and Motherson have expanded their operations in Ras Al Khaimah, capitalizing on the UAE's favorable investment climate.

Ambassador Sudhir also recognized the UAE's commitment to enhancing human capital and educational ties, mentioning the forthcoming campuses of Indian institutions, including the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Delhi's Abu Dhabi branch, Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Ahmedabad, and the Indian Institute of Foreign Trade (IIFT) in Dubai.

Bilateral Trade Surge and Future Prospects

The Consul General of India in Dubai underscored the remarkable growth in bilateral trade since the signing of CEPA in February 2022, noting that the trade between India and the UAE had reached nearly \$84 billion by March 2024. He expressed confidence that the two countries are on track to meet their ambitious target of \$100 billion in non-oil trade and \$15 billion in services trade by 2030.

The Consul General also highlighted key initiatives such as the Local Currency Settlement mechanism, the IMEC corridor, and the Virtual Trade Corridor (VTC), which are expected to further streamline and reduce the cost of trade.

Faisal Kottikolon: Commitment to Strengthening Bilateral Cooperation

Faisal Kottikolon, Chairman of the UIBC UAE Chapter, reaffirmed the Council's dedication to enhancing trade and investment between the two nations. During the event, the UIBC also released reports on India's renewable energy sector, an investment roadmap for India, and a comprehensive guide to doing business in the UAE for Indian investors, developed in collaboration with SBI Capital Markets. A coffee table book titled Opening New Gateways: Tourism Opportunities was unveiled, highlighting the vast tourism potential between India and the UAE. The event also featured a panel discussion focusing on the India-UAE growth story, with industry leaders discussing future opportunities for cooperation and growth.

A Model of Global Trade and Investment Collaboration

As the India-UAE partnership continues to deepen, both nations are on a path toward even greater economic collaboration. The event marked a reaffirmation of the shared vision to further strengthen economic ties and unlock new opportunities for businesses and investors in both countries. This growing relationship is emerging as a model for global trade and investment cooperation.

BUDDHIST WAY OF LIFE MANAGEMENT, SHARED CULTURAL AND HERITAGE



Antar Rashtriya Sahayog Parishad (ARSP) hosted a thought-provoking event on 15th February 2025 at Pravasi Bhawan, New Delhi, titled 'Buddhist Way of Life Management, Shared Cultural and Heritage of Bharat and Sri Lanka'. The event was followed by a guided meditation session and aimed to explore the relevance of Buddhist philosophy in modern life, its cultural ties between Bharat (India) and Sri Lanka, and its role in fostering peace and understanding in today's world.

The session began with welcoming remarks by Shri Sanjay Bhalla, Vice President of ARSP, who provided an overview of the organization's work and its ongoing initiatives. He highlighted two key projects, the Diaspora Research and Resource Center (DRRC) and the Center for Roma Culture and Relation (CRCR). He further emphasized ARSP's guiding motto, "Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam" – "The world is one family," setting the tone for the gathering's theme of shared values, cultural heritage, and universal peace.

Shri Markhande Rai, Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee at ARSP, introduced the esteemed guest, Venerable Bhante Y. Wimala, a renowned spiritual teacher, and set the stage for a discussion on Buddha's philosophy, meditation, and its application in today's fast-paced world. Shri Rai underlined the need to integrate the timeless wisdom of Buddha into modern society and its potential to foster global peace.

Venerable Bhante Y. Wimala, the Guest of Honour, took the stage to share insights into Buddha's philosophy, meditation, and its life-changing benefits. He began with a profound introduction to the core tenets of Buddhism and how meditation can be an essential tool for self-realization and inner peace.

He elaborated on Buddha's three pillars: Manas (Mind), Chitta (Heart), and Manayna (Consciousness), explaining how understanding and mastering these elements help practitioners control and understand their body and mind. The Venerable's address underscored the importance of meditation in achieving balance, self-awareness, and harmony in everyday life. His words resonated deeply with the audience, inspiring many to consider the transformative power of Buddhist teachings in dealing with the challenges of contemporary life.

The session concluded with remarks by Ambassador Sushil Kumar Singhal, Senior Vice President of ARSP. Ambassador Singhal emphasized the significance of Buddha's philosophy in addressing the contemporary world's complex issues, particularly in resolving conflicts and fostering understanding between cultures and nations. He highlighted the importance of embracing the teachings of Buddha and integrating meditation into daily practices to promote peace and mindfulness globally.

The event was brought to a close with a vote of thanks by Shri Narayan Kumar, Honorary Director of ARSP. Shri Kumar shared his thoughts on Buddha's detachment from materialism, contrasting the teachings of Buddha with the conflicts seen in epics like the Ramayana and Mahabharata. He reflected on how Buddha's quest for enlightenment, away from material desires and worldly conflicts, led to his deeper understanding of human nature, animal instincts, and the essence of peaceful coexistence. Following the talks, attendees participated in a guided meditation session, where they were gently led into a state of deep relaxation and mindfulness. The session provided participants with practical tools for incorporating meditation into their daily lives, helping them align their minds and bodies for greater peace and clarity.

In summary, the event hosted by ARSP was a meaningful exploration of Buddhist teachings, providing valuable insights into the philosophy and practices that can lead to a more peaceful, mindful, and balanced life. The dialogue fostered a deeper understanding of the shared cultural heritage between Bharat and Sri Lanka, while promoting the global relevance of Buddhist teachings in today's world.

MARGHERITA INTERACTS WITH INDIAN DIASPORA IN THE BAHAMAS



Union Minister of State for External Affairs, Pabitra Margherita at a diaspora event

Union Minister of State for External Affairs, Pabitra Margherita, engaged with the Indian diaspora in the Bahamas on March 3rd during his first-ever bilateral visit to the Caribbean nation. In a vibrant event celebrating the growing people-to-people (P2P) and cultural ties between India and the Bahamas, Margherita expressed his delight in connecting with the Indian community.

Delighted to connect with the vibrant and closely connected Indian community in The Bahamas! A lively evening celebrating the growing P2P and cultural linkages between the two nations. Our increasing diaspora plays a key role in strengthening India-Bahamas cultural ties," Margherita said.

Earlier that day, Margherita was warmly received by the Parliamentary Secretary of the Bahamas, Jamahl Strachan. Margherita shared his excitement for the visit and his anticipation for future collaborations, stating, "Happy to arrive in The Bahamas for the first-ever bilateral visit. Pleased to be received by MP & Parliamentary Secretary Jamahl Strachan. Looking forward to engaging with the leadership and the Indian community to explore new opportunities and strengthen our growing partnership and P2P ties."

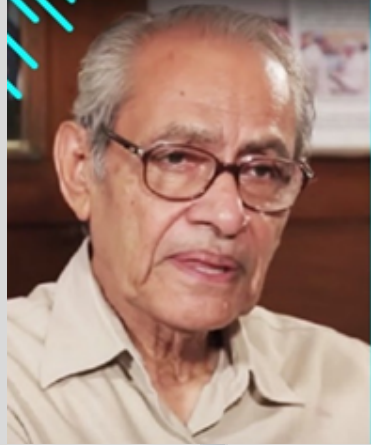
In addition to his visit to the Bahamas, Margherita also conveyed greetings from Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi to the new government of Uruguay. He attended the swearing-in ceremony of President H.E. Yamandu Orsi and Vice President Carolina Cosse and conveyed warm wishes on behalf of India. Margherita stated, "Honored to represent India at the swearing-in ceremony of President H.E. Yamandu Orsi and Vice President Carolina Cosse. Conveyed warm greetings and felicitations from the Prime Minister of India to the new government of Uruguay. Congratulations to the people of Uruguay on this historic occasion. Look forward to collaborating with the new government to further strengthen the India-Uruguay partnership."

Minister Margherita's official trip spans multiple countries, with his visit to Uruguay from February 28 to March 2, followed by the Bahamas from March 2 to March 4. He is set to visit Barbados from March 4 to March 6 and Nicaragua from March 6 to March 8. This visit highlights India's commitment to strengthening diplomatic and cultural relationships globally, especially with countries like the Bahamas, where the Indian community plays an important role in fostering deeper bilateral ties.



हिंदी

डॉ. श्याम सिंह शशि की याद किया गया



प्रख्यात साहित्यकार और समाजशास्त्री पद्मश्री डॉ. श्याम सिंह शशि

प्रख्यात साहित्यकार और समाजशास्त्री पद्मश्री डॉ. श्याम सिंह शशि के निधन पर प्रवासी भवन सभागार में अंतर्राष्ट्रीय सहयोग परिषद, आर्थर्स गिल्ड आफ इंडिया, नागरी लिपि परिषद, आर्य लेखक परिषद, देशज फाउंडेशन और पर्वतीय विकास समिति की ओर से एक शोक सभा का आयोजन 05 मार्च 2025 को किया। सर्व प्रथम सभी अभ्यागतों ने डॉ. शशि जी के चित्र पर पुष्पांजलि अर्पित कर अपना श्रद्धा भाव प्रकट किया।

इस अवसर पर उनके दोनों सुपुत्र - डॉ. आलोक कुमार सिंह और डॉ. अनिल कुमार सिंह, सुपुत्री डॉ. ऋचा सिंह, पुत्रवधू डॉ. ममता सिंह और पौत्री संस्कृति उपस्थित थीं। परिवार की ओर से डॉ. शशि के ज्येष्ठ सुपुत्र आलोक कुमार सिंह ने उनकी एक कविता के साथ अपनी भावांजलि अर्पित की।

ARSP के पूर्व अध्यक्ष राजदूत वीरेंद्र गुप्ता ने डॉ. श्याम सिंह शशि को श्रद्धांजलि अर्पित करते हुए, रोमा समुदाय के जीवन की समस्याओं को उजागर करने में उनकी भूमिका को याद किया और कहा कि उनके निधन से बौद्धिक जगत को महान क्षति हुई है। परिषद के श्री मार्कंडेय राय ने डॉ. शशि के प्रशासनिक क्षमता एवं साहित्यिक उपलब्धियों पर प्रकाश डाला। परिषद के मानद निदेशक श्री नारायण कुमार ने कहा कि 40 वर्षों से अधिक से डॉ. शशि से मेरा परिचय था। उन्होंने दैनिक समाचार के संपादक व प्रकाशन विभाग में महानिदेशक के रूप में देश की अतुल्य सेवा की तथा बंजारा एवं रोमा समुदायों पर अनुसंधान भी किया।

सभागार में उपस्थित महानुभावों ने डॉ. शशि को याद करते हुए श्रद्धांजलि अर्पित की।

मॉरीशस महाशिवरात्रि 2025



25 फरवरी 2025 को मॉरीशस में चक्रवात (साइक्लोन) के दूसरे दर्जे की चेतावनी जारी रही। 24 को पहले दर्जे की चेतावनी थी। लोग हर हर महादेव के नारे लगाते जा रहे थे आज भी आलम तो वही है, क्योंकि भक्तों को अपनी श्रद्धा और विश्वास के साथ गंगातलाब जाकर अपने आराध्य के लिए जल लेकर अपने अपने क्षेत्रीय मंदिर में जा कर शिवरात्री के दिन जल अर्पित कर भोलेनाथ को प्रसन्न जो करना है।

यह सच्ची आस्था ही है जो सब सम्भव करवा रही है। महाशिवरात्रि एक महत्वपूर्ण हिन्दू त्यौहार है जो मॉरीशस में शिव पूजा, अभिषेक रात्रि जागरण, चार पहर की पूजा के साथ-साथ राष्ट्रीय एकता का भी प्रतीक है। स्थानीय तमिल, तेलुगु, मराठी, बंगाली भाषा-भाषी क्या, अब तो विदेश में बसे हिंदू भी इस छोटे से टापू के महाशिवरात्रि पर्व पर आकर, पदयात्रा में भाग लेते हैं।

न केवल हिन्दू समुदाय अपितु अन्य देशों से आये पर्यटक भी सकरात्मकता और ऊर्जा के भाव से अपने आप को धन्य पाते हैं। यह शिव भक्ति के वैश्विक प्रसार और आध्यात्मिक ऊर्जा को बढ़ाने का सुअवसर भी माना जा सकता है।

सरकार की ओर से 'टास्क फोर्स' की टीम के सदस्य दो महीने पहले से ही सब तैयारियों को करीब से देख रहे थे। गंगातलाब पर फायर ब्रिगेड, स्वास्थ्य सेवाएं, साफ सफाई, एम्बुलेंस की सुविधाएं पुलिस सेवाएं और ट्रैफिक में इमरजेंसी को देख हेलीकॉप्टर सेवा जैसी सुविधाओं पर ध्यान दिया गया।

स्वयं सेवी संस्थाओं एवं टोलियों ने भी अपनी श्रद्धा का परिचय देते हुए भोजन, जल, फल व व्यंजनों से भक्तों का स्वागत सत्कार किया। सभी रास्तों पर भी सेवाएं दी जा रही थीं। गंगातलाब पर तो व्यवस्था देखते ही बन रही थी सभी नियमों का पालन कर रहे थे। पदयात्रियों के लिए पुलिस का सहयोग हो या फिर गाड़ी चालकों द्वारा उन्हें देख स्पीड कम कर लेना, यह भी तो संवेदनशीलता का परिचय है। रास्तों और मंदिरों में भी सेवा शिविरों का प्रबंध किया गया है जिनमें पदयात्रियों के भोजन से लेकर आराम तथा अन्य सुविधाओं का पूरा ध्यान रखा जा रहा है। भक्तों द्वारा कावड़ तो दो महीने पहले से ही धीरे धीरे बनाने की विधि आरम्भ हो जाती है। कुछ कंधों पर ले जाते हैं तो कुछ संगी साथियों के साथ उठाते हैं। कोई चार तो कोई बारह कंधों तक की टोली रहती हैं। कुछ कावड़ पहियों पर भी सजते हैं। बहुत ही बड़े आकार के होते हैं और भव्य रूप में झाल ढोलक की टोलियों के द्वारा साथ में भजन कीर्तन भी होता है। कुछ टोलियों के साथ म्यूजिक सिस्टम भी साथ चलता है। रंग बिरंगी रोशनी के साथ आदि योगी के झंडे, प्रभु श्री राम एवं हनुमानजी के ध्वज भी खूब देखने को मिलते हैं। जूलूस में महिलाओं, पुरुषों, बच्चों, युवाओं से लेकर वयोवृद्ध भक्तों में भजन कीर्तन का अलग ही आनंद देखने को मिलता है।

गंगा तालाब पर एक सप्ताह पूर्व से ही सांस्कृतिक कार्यक्रम शुरू हो जाते हैं। भव्य पंडालों में हवन, मंत्र-उच्चारण आदि होता रहता है। पवित्र सरोवर के चारों ओर भी पूजन विधियां चलती रहती हैं। गंगातलाब के आस पास बने मंदिरों में सभी देवी देवताओं की मूर्तियां पाई जाती हैं। सबसे बड़ी एवं भव्य मूर्ति मंगल महादेव की है जो एक सौ आठ फुट ऊंची है और पर्व के दिन हेलीकॉप्टर से अभिषेक विधि सम्पन्न की जाती है। दुर्गा माता की भी मूर्ति कार पार्किंग के पास ही अपनी अद्भुत भव्यता से भक्तों का मन मोह लेती है।

पर्व से पांच दिन पूर्व संस्थाओं जैसे हिन्दू महा सभा, सनातन धर्म टेम्पलज़ फेडरेशन, शिव शक्ति सेना, ह्यूमन सर्विस ट्रस्ट, रामायण सेंटर आदि द्वारा अनेक सांस्कृतिक आयोजन होते हैं जिनमें देश के प्रधानमंत्री, अन्य मंत्रालयों के मंत्रीगण साथ ही भारतीय उच्चायुक्त और अन्य संस्थाओं के उच्चाधिकारियों का स्वागत, सब के विचारों के आदान प्रदान से भक्ति एवं संस्कृति के निर्वहण की जड़ों को सींचा जाता है। इसमें आचार्य, स्वामी एवं पंडितों का भी भरपूर सहयोग रहता है।

अपनी धरती से अलग हुए पूर्वज औपनिवेशिक काल में कुलीडिपो पर उतारे गए आप्रवासी थे। उनकी संताने अपनी भाषा, पूजा पाठ, त्यौहार, परिधान, भोजन हो या संस्कृति सब को संजोते हुए समृद्ध कर जय मॉरीशस, जय भारत का गुणगान करते हैं। यह सब भोलेनाथ की कृपा का ही परिणाम है। तभी तो बनता है सत्यम शिवम सुंदरम!

कल, 26 फरवरी को महाशिवरात्रि का पर्व चक्रवात साइक्लोन दर्जे तीन की चेतावनी में हमारे द्वीप पर मनाया जाएगा, जिसमें न घर से बाहर जाना, न वाहन चलाना न सरकारी परिवहन सेवा, मेट्रो आदि की सेवाएं भी नहीं होंगी पर भोले बाबा की पूजा अर्चना तो सभी करेंगे क्योंकि भक्ति के लिए केवल आस्था और विश्वास चाहिए हमारी ओर से भी यह पर्व पूरे विश्व के लिए मंगलमय हो।

विष को कंठ में रख वे नीलकंठ आज धुंध में घिरकर मंगलमहादेव का यह रूप हमारे अंदर के अंधरी को साफ कर सब के दुःखों को दूर करने की चेष्टा में हमारे सामने इस रूप में खड़े हैं।

-अंजू घरभरन, मॉरीशस

लंदन स्थित नेहरू सेंटर में भारतीय उच्चायोग द्वारा अंतरराष्ट्रीय मातृभाषा दिवस के उपलक्ष्य में एक भव्य समारोह का आयोजन



लंदन स्थित नेहरू सेंटर में भारतीय उच्चायोग द्वारा अंतरराष्ट्रीय मातृभाषा दिवस के उपलक्ष्य में एक भव्य समारोह का आयोजन किया गया जिसका संचालन भारतीय उच्चायोग के अताशे (समन्वयक) अजय ठाकुर जी ने कुशलतापूर्वक किया। कार्यक्रम में भारतीय उच्चायोग के मंत्री समन्वयक श्री दीपक चौधरी एवं प्रख्यात साहित्यकार तेजेंद्र शर्मा विशेष रूप से उपस्थित रहे। उन्होंने अपने संबोधन में भाषाई विविधता, मातृभाषाओं के संरक्षण एवं उनके प्रचार-प्रसार की महत्ता पर बल दिया।

कार्यक्रम के दौरान लैंग्वेज अवेयरनेस बोर्ड यूके से जुड़े विभिन्न भारतीय भाषाओं के अध्यक्षों ने अपनी-अपनी मातृभाषाओं में काव्य प्रस्तुतियाँ दीं, मेरे लिए यह विशेष हर्ष का विषय रहा कि मैंने भी अपनी मातृभाषा मिथला के अध्यक्ष के रूप में इस कार्यक्रम में भाग लिया तथा एक मिथला कविता प्रस्तुत की। श्रोताओं की सकारात्मक प्रतिक्रिया ने यह विश्वास और मजबूत किया कि भाषा न केवल हमारी पहचान का प्रतीक है, बल्कि यह हमारे संस्कारों और परंपराओं का जीवंत स्वरूप भी है। कार्यक्रम की एक महत्वपूर्ण उपलब्धि यह रही कि राजस्थानी, हिमाचली, भोजपुरी, टुल्लू आदि भाषाओं को संवैधानिक मान्यता दिलाने हेतु भारतीय उच्चायोग के मंत्री समन्वयक दीपक चौधरी जी को एक आधिकारिक जापन सौंपा गया।

रिपोर्ट : चंदा झा

कुवैत में 'भारत मेला' का भव्य आयोजन

"भारत मेला आयोजन ने गढ़ी नई इक रीत है।
भारत और कुवैत देश में बढ़ी अनोखी प्रीत है।"

कुवैत एक ऐसा खाड़ी देश जहाँ प्रवासियों के रूप में भारतीय समुदाय की संख्या सबसे अधिक है, जो कि अपने गरिमामय व्यक्तित्व और विश्वसनीयता के लिए विश्व भर में जाने जाते हैं और ऐसे देश में "भारत मेला" आयोजन ने न केवल विभिन्न भारतीय प्रदेशों के निवासियों के बीच में मित्रता और संबंध को मजबूती प्रदान की अपितु भारत और कुवैत के बीच के संबंधों में प्रगाढ़ता लाने का महत्वपूर्ण कार्य किया है।



कुवैत में बुलीवर्ड क्रिकेट स्टेडियम, सालमिया में "भारत मेला" का आयोजन

भारत के विदेश मंत्रालय की प्रवासियों के साथ सांस्कृतिक गठबंधन को बढ़ावा देने की योजना के तहत 15 फरवरी 2025 को कुवैत में बुलीवर्ड क्रिकेट स्टेडियम, सालमिया में "भारत मेला" का आयोजन कुवैत में स्थित भारतीय दूतावास द्वारा किया गया, जिसका उद्घाटन कुवैत में भारतीय राजदूत माननीय डॉ. आदर्श स्विका और पूर्व भारतीय क्रिकेट खिलाड़ी एम.एस.के. प्रसाद और वी. राजू द्वारा भव्य समारोह में किया गया, जो प्रातः काल 11:00 बजे से रात्रि 10:00 बजे तक लगातार जारी रहा, जिसमें लगभग 700 भारतीयों ने पारंपरिक वेशभूषा में अनवरत अपनी सांस्कृतिक प्रतिभा की अनूठी और कालजर्ई प्रस्तुतियाँ प्रस्तुत कर कुवैत में भारतीय कला और संस्कृति को फैलाने का अभूतपूर्व कार्य किया, जिसमें नृत्य, नृत्य- नाटिका, गीत, संगीत और पाक व्यंजन सम्मिलित थे। इस भारत मेला को नाम दिया गया "भारतीय स्वाद संगीत और रीतियों का पर्व" जिसमें 700 से अधिक कलाकारों ने विभिन्न कलाओं की रोचक और संगीतमय प्रस्तुति देकर लगभग 7000 दशकगण को मंत्रमुग्ध कर दिया।

भारत मेला स्थल पर 25 भिन्न-भिन्न प्रकार के स्टाल लगे थे जिसमें विभिन्न भारतीय व्यंजन को पारंपरिक तरीके में बनाया और परोसा जा रहा था और साथ ही भारतीय प्राकृतिक, आयुर्वेद तथा हस्त निर्मित वस्तुओं और वस्त्र का भी प्रदर्शन शामिल था। अनेक कार्यकर्ताओं के अलावा भारतीय मूल की निवासी राइटर फोरम, कुवैत की सदस्य कवयित्री, लेखिका, समीक्षक सुश्री संगीता चौबे पंखुड़ी का कार्यक्रम संयोजक के रूप में महत्वपूर्ण योगदान रहा।

भारत मेला को उत्साही भारतीय प्रवासियों, राजदूत, राजनीतिक प्रतिनिधियों एवं भारतीयों के मित्र जो कुवैत में रह रहे हैं, द्वारा बहुत सराहा गया।

यह महोत्सव कुवैत एवं भारत दोनों देशों के बीच सांस्कृतिक संबंधों की प्रगाढ़ता का ठोस संकेत देता है।

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