

**भारतीय उच्चायोग**  
**High Commission of India**

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**स्वामी विवेकानन्द सांस्कृतिक केन्द्र, जॉर्जटाउन, गयाना**  
**Swami Vivekananda Cultural Centre, Georgetown, Guyana**

**Report of Activities from December 2025 to February 2026**

The list of events and celebrations organized on the premises of the Swami Vivekananda Cultural Centre, along with the participation of SVCC staff in various outreach programmes, is as follows:

**Celebration of UNESCO's inscription of Deepavali**

To celebrate the UNESCO inscription of Deepavali as Intangible Cultural Heritage, the Indian community and diaspora in Guyana gathered at the Swami Vivekananda Cultural Centre. The Hon'ble Minister for Human Services & Social Security, Dr. Vindhya Vasini Persaud graced the event alongside prominent diaspora supporters. The event featured several videographic presentations, including a message from the Honourable Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi. Delivering her remarks, the Hon. Minister emphasized that Diwali is a milan (meeting) of jeevatma (the individual soul) with parmatma (the supreme soul). She stated it is a celebration of humanity and expressed her privilege in celebrating the momentous occasion of Deepavali's inscription by UNESCO as an Intangible Cultural Heritage with the diaspora. In his address, the Honourable High Commissioner, Dr. Amit Telang, emphasized that the significance of Diwali is not merely a celebration of light's triumph over darkness; it is also a light that connects hearts with the utmost love. On the occasion, the High Commissioner also read a message from His Excellency, Dr. Mohamed Irfaan Ali.



# Celebration of UNESCO's inscription of Deepavali



## Commemoration of Pravasi Bharatiya Diwas and Vishwa Hindi Diwas

Highlights of the commemoration of Pravasi Bharatiya Diwas and Vishwa Hindi Diwas, organised by the High Commission of India and the Swami Vivekananda Cultural Centre held at SVCC, Georgetown on January 9, 2026. The event featured the felicitation of seven prominent Indo-Guyanese dignitaries who have significantly contributed to strengthening India-Guyana friendship and fostering closer cultural and people-to-people ties through their work in various fields. The Vishwa Hindi Diwas segment included short performances by young children and an engaging Hindi quiz, which saw enthusiastic participation from the audience. In his address, High Commissioner Dr. Amit Telang expressed his appreciation for all Indo-Guyanese brothers and sisters who selflessly work towards stronger India-Guyana relations through commendable community efforts and the promotion of Indian culture, heritage, and traditions. He emphasized the importance of Indian languages—especially Hindi—for a deeper appreciation of our shared culture and announced the initiative to reintroduce Hindi classes through the Indian Cultural Centre in Guyana. He also appealed to socio-cultural organizations across Guyana to join this initiative to help preserve and promote our shared heritage.



## Prarthana Sabha of Shri Purshottam Persaud Shivraj

In loving memory of Shri Purshottam Persaud Shivraj- a steadfast pillar in the preservation and promotion of Indian languages, particularly Hindi and Sanskrit, in Guyana, a Prarthana Sabha was organised by his bereaved family this morning, allowing his well-wishers and followers to pay tribute to his eternal soul. Representing the High Commissioner Dr Amit Telang, the Director of the Swami Vivekananda Cultural Centre Shri Rudra Jayanta Bhagawati, paid homage to this humble soul.



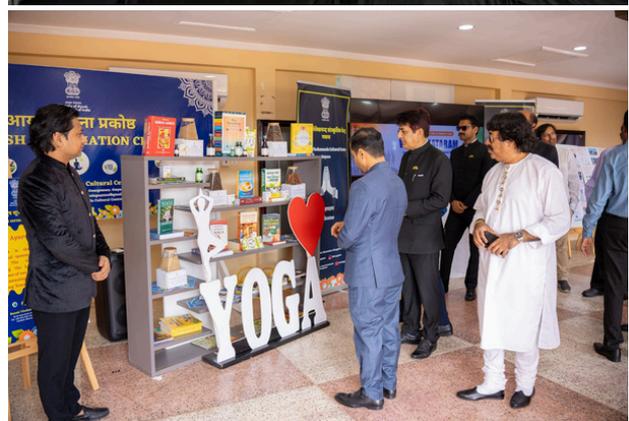
## Celebration of Basant Panchami

The vibrant hues of spring and the spirit of divine wisdom filled the air at the Swami Vivekananda Cultural Centre (SVCC) as the High Commission of India, Georgetown, joyously celebrated Basant Panchami on January 23, 2026. The event was enlightened by the soulful musical presentation of Dr. Ashish Kumar Mishra, the vocal Guru of SVCC, along with his talented disciples. They captivated the audience with a special performance of Basant Raag – a classical melody intrinsically linked to the spring season – and devotional bhajans, creating an atmosphere of serene devotion and cultural richness. The celebration at the SVCC premises provided a beautiful confluence of seasonal festivity, spiritual reverence, and India's profound classical heritage, fostering cultural connections and welcoming the new season with traditional fervour.



## Celebration of 77th Republic day of India

Celebrated flag hoisting and a reception to mark the 77th Republic day of India on 26th January 2026 at SVCC and Pegasus Corporate Suites respectively. Hon'ble Mr. Mohabir Anil Nandlall, Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs represented His Excellency the President of Guyana at the event. Amongst other prominent dignitaries included Hon'ble Foreign Minister Mr Hugh Hilton Todd, Dr. Carla Barnett, Secretary General of CARICOM, various representatives from the Government of Guyana, members of the National Assembly of Guyana and the Diplomatic Corps. Around 250 people attended the Reception including members of the Indian community and diaspora, members of the media, business community and Friends of India in Guyana. The High Commissioner, Dr. Amit Telang, in his address, highlighted the significance of Constitution of India and outlined the developmental journey over the last 77 years. Hon'ble Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs Mr. Mohabir Anil Nandlall commended the longstanding partnership between India and Guyana. The event included cultural performances by Ms. Meena Bisht (Yoga Teacher), Dr. Ashish Kumar Mishra (Hindustani Vocal Music Teacher) and Mr. Abhishek Khichi (Kathak Teacher) from Swami Vivekananda Cultural Centre in Guyana. An exhibition on One District One Product (ODOP), showcasing Indian handicrafts from different states of India, along with displays on Yoga, AYUSH and Tourism was also appreciated by the audience. Members of the Indian community and diaspora, including students, enthralled the gathering through cultural performances in the day time at the flag hoisting ceremony at SVCC. The event also included photo-exhibitions on 150th anniversary celebrations of India's national song "Vande Mataram" and AYUSH, showcasing Ayurvedic products and informative material on Yoga along with various public diplomacy initiatives implemented by the High Commission of India and Swami Vivekananda Cultural Centre, Georgetown. The event was live streamed on the YouTube of the Mission.



# Celebration of 77th Republic day of India



# Celebration of 77th Republic day of India



## Outreach classes under the Sanskriti Sahayog

Glimpses of the outreach classes under the Sanskriti Sahayog programme, organized in collaboration with several organizations in Guyana. These classes were held at the Radha Krishna Foundation, Berbice; the Edward Temple, Berbice; the Swami Dayanand Saraswati Gurukul, West Coast; and the Tribeni Mandir, Bartica.



## Farewell ceremony for High Commissioner Dr. Amit Telang

A farewell ceremony for High Commissioner Dr. Amit Telang and his wife, Dr. Deepali Telang, was organized at SVCC as an expression of gratitude and deep appreciation for his exemplary leadership, steadfast guidance, and remarkable achievements.



## Observance of Maha Shivratri

In observance of Maha Shivratri, the team from the High Commission of India and the Swami Vivekananda Cultural Centre including Acting High Commissioner Shri Manoj Kumar, Ms. Suman Singh, Head of Chancery; Shri Rudra Jayanta Bhagawati, Director of SVCC; and teachers from SVCC visited the Cove and John Ashram on the East Coast, Badrinath Ashram on the Essequibo Coast, and Kailash Yatra Ashram on the West Coast, respectively.

On this sacred occasion, the Acting High Commissioner of India to Guyana Shri Manoj Kumar attended the religious observances at the historic Cove and John Ashram, joining devotees in prayers and celebrations dedicated to Lord Shiva. The participation of the Acting High Commissioner reaffirmed the strong cultural and civilizational bonds between India and Guyana, and the shared commitment to preserving and promoting our spiritual heritage.

The Head of Chancery, Ms. Suman Singh, shared her thoughts beautifully on the occasion at Essequibo, invoking several names of Lord Shiva. She also highlighted the various programmes and scholarships offered by the High Commission and the Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) for the people of Guyana.

Director Shri Rudra Jayanta Bhagawati addressed the gatherings at Badrinath Ashram on the Essequibo Coast and Kailash Yatra Ashram on the West Coast, elaborating on the spiritual significance of Maha Shivratri and chanting a few lines from the Shiva Tandava Stotram.

As a symbol of love and cultural connection, the High Commission and SVCC presented several books, including the Bhagavad Gita, and texts on the Ramayan and the Vedas, to the custodian of the Ashram, Pandit Deodat Dhanrajh.

The Dance and Vocal Gurus of SVCC, Shri Abhishek Khichi and Dr. Ashish Kumar Mishra, mesmerized the audience with their soulful dancing and bhajan recitals on the occasion at Badrinath Ashram.



# Observance of Maha Shivratri

