



MINISTRY OF
AYUSH



सत्यमेव जयते



Indian Council for Cultural Relations
भारतीय सांस्कृतिक सम्बन्ध परिषद्

भारतीय उच्चायोग
High Commission of India

&

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

भारत संदेश - Bharat Sandesh

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Newsletter

High Commission of India
307 Church & Peter Rose Street Georgetown, Guyana

Swami Vivekananda Cultural Centre
50-52 Anira Street, Queenstown, Georgetown, Guyana



ICCR_GUYANA



ICCR in Guyana-Swami Vivekananda Cultural
Centre, Georgetown



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ICCRINGUYANA



FROM THE DESK OF HIGH COMMISSIONER

Namaste!

The Swami Vivekananda Cultural Centre is delighted to present the third and fourth edition of its periodic newsletter, 'Bharat-Sandesh', covering various developments related to India-Guyana relations.

This edition covers some recent events including:

- Visit of an eight-member Bhojpuri dance group from India to Guyana sponsored by the ICCR, to celebrate Holi.
- An art exhibition titled "SITA – The Daughter of Bihar", held in collaboration with the Bihar Museum.
- Visit of a Multi-party delegation of Members of Parliament from India.
- The 10th-anniversary celebrations of the International Day of Yoga.

This edition also carries a section covering various scholarships and other diaspora initiatives offered by Government of India. These initiatives would facilitate closer people to people ties and enable Guyanese students and citizens of Indian origin to discover the land of their ancestors.

I would like to congratulate the team at the Swami Vivekananda Cultural Centre led by Shri Rudra Jayanta Bhagawati, Director for their valauble efforts in bringing out this publication.

Dhanyavaad!



(Amit Telang)



THE INDIAN TECHNICAL AND ECONOMIC COOPERATION (ITEC) PROGRAM IS AN INITIATIVE BY THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA TO PROVIDE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND COOPERATION TO DEVELOPING COUNTRIES AROUND THE WORLD. ESTABLISHED IN 1964, THE ITEC PROGRAM IS DESIGNED TO PROMOTE CAPACITY-BUILDING AND HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT IN VARIOUS SECTORS.



THE KNOW INDIA PROGRAM (KIP) IS AN INITIATIVE BY THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (MEA), GOVERNMENT OF INDIA IN COLLABORATION WITH THE INDIAN COUNCIL FOR CULTURAL RELATIONS (ICCR). IT IS DESIGNED FOR YOUNG PEOPLE OF INDIAN ORIGIN (TYPICALLY BETWEEN 18 AND 30 YEARS OLD) LIVING OUTSIDE INDIA. THE GOAL OF THE PROGRAM IS TO FAMILIARIZE THE PARTICIPANTS WITH INDIA'S CULTURE, HERITAGE, HISTORY, AND SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENTS.



The Indian Council for
Cultural Relations

THE INDIAN COUNCIL OF CULTURAL RELATIONS (ICCR) IS AN ORGANIZATION IN INDIA THAT AIMS TO PROMOTE CULTURAL EXCHANGE AND STRENGTHEN THE COUNTRY'S INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS THROUGH VARIOUS CULTURAL PROGRAMS. ESTABLISHED IN 1950 BY MAULANA ABUL KALAM AZAD, THE ICCR OFFERS A VARIETY OF PROGRAMS, GRANTS, AND SCHOLARSHIPS TO ENCOURAGE GLOBAL UNDERSTANDING OF INDIA'S CULTURE AND TO FOSTER GOODWILL BETWEEN INDIA AND OTHER COUNTRIES.

Ministry of External Affairs and Ministry of AYUSH, Government of India, along with ICCR, New Delhi, offer several scholarship schemes to foreign nationals for pursuing higher education and training in multiple disciplines. Below are the details of the schemes for the Academic Year 2024-2025.



Scholarship

Scheme-wise Allocation of Scholarship Slots - Academic Year 2024-25

S.NO.	Scholarship Scheme	Slots	Courses Offered
1	Atal Bihari Vajpayee General Scholarship Scheme (ICCR) (formerly General Scholarship Scheme)	638	UG, PG, Ph.D. Courses
2	Suborno Jayanti Scholarship Scheme for the nationals of Bangladesh (ICCR)	500	UG, PG, Ph.D. Courses
3	Dr. A.P.J Abdul Kalam Commonwealth Scholarship Scheme (ICCR) (formerly Commonwealth Scholarship Scheme)	24	UG, PG, Ph.D. Courses
4	Nehru Memorial Scholarship Scheme for the nationals of Sri Lanka (ICCR)	60	UG Courses
5	Dr. S. Radhakrishnan Cultural Exchange Scholarship Scheme (ICCR) (formerly CEP/EEP Scholarship Scheme)	152	UG, PG, Ph.D. Courses
6	Lata Mangeshkar Dance & Music Scholarship Scheme (ICCR) (formerly ICCR Scholarship Scheme for Dance & Music)	100	Indian Dance, Music, Sculpture making, Indian Theatre, Cuisine
7	Sushma Swaraj Silver Jubilee Scholarship Scheme (formerly Silver Jubilee Scholarship Scheme for the nationals of Nepal) (MEA)	64	PG, Ph.D. Courses
8	B.R. Ambedkar Scholarship Scheme (formerly Aid to Bhutan Scholarship Scheme) (MEA)	25	BE, B.Tech. Courses
9	Aid to Maldives Scholarship Scheme (MEA)	20	UG including Engineering
10	Kushok Bakula Rinpoche Scholarship Scheme (formerly Aid to Mongolia Scholarship Scheme) (MEA)	20	UG, PG, Ph.D. Courses
11	Mekong Ganga Co-operation (MGC) Scholarship Scheme (MEA)	50	UG, PG, Ph.D. Courses
12	The India - Africa Maitri Scholarship Scheme (formerly Africa Scholarship Scheme) (MEA)	940	UG, PG, Ph.D. Courses
13	Nehru Memorial Scholarship Scheme for the nationals of Sri Lanka (MEA)	60	UG Courses
14	Maulana Azad Scholarship Scheme for the nationals of Sri Lanka (MEA)	50	PG in Agriculture Science & Engg. Courses
15	Rajiv Gandhi Scholarship Scheme for the nationals of Sri Lanka (MEA)	25	BE, B.Tech. Courses
16	Scholarship (Online) for Afghan Nationals (MEA)	1000	UG, PG, Ph.D. Courses (Online)
17	AYUSH Scholarship Scheme for BIMSTEC Countries (MEA)	30	UG, PG, Ph.D. Courses in Ayurveda, Yoga and Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha, Homoeopathy
18	AYUSH Scholarship Scheme for Non-BIMSTEC Countries (Ministry of AYUSH)	25	UG, PG, Ph.D. Courses in Ayurveda, Yoga and Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha, Homoeopathy
19	AYUSH Scholarship Scheme for Malaysia (Ministry of AYUSH)	20	UG, PG, Ph.D. Courses in Ayurveda, Yoga and Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha, Homoeopathy
20	AYUSH Scholarship Scheme for South East Asian Region (SEAR) Countries (Ministry of AYUSH)	29	UG, PG, Ph.D. Courses in Ayurveda, Yoga and Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha, Homoeopathy

Scholarship Schemes

Atal Bihari Vajpayee General Scholarship Scheme (ICCR) (formerly General Scholarship Scheme)

For the nationals of 123 countries namely: Albania, Andorra, Antigua & Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Barbados, Belarus, Belize, Belgium, Bhutan, Bolivia, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Brazil, Brunei, Cambodia, Cook Islands, Colombia, Costa Rica, Croatia, Czech Republic, Dominican Republic, Denmark, Ecuador, El Salvador, Estonia, Fiji, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Haiti, Holy See, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Jamaica, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kiribati, Kyrgyzstan, Lao PDR, Latvia, Lebanon, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Malaysia, Maldives, Marshall Islands, Micronesia, Moldova, Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Myanmar, Nauru, Nepal, Netherlands, Nicaragua, Niue, North Macedonia, Oman, Palau, Palestine, San Marino, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Reunion Island (France), Paraguay, Peru, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Russia, Saint Kitts & Nevis, Saint Lucia, Samoa, Saudi Arabia, Serbia, Slovak Republic, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, Spain, St. Vincent & Grenadines, Sweden, Switzerland, Syria, Tajikistan, Thailand, Tonga, Turkmenistan, Timor-Leste, Trinidad & Tobago, Turkey, Tuvalu, UAE, Ukraine, United Kingdom, United States of America, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Venezuela, Vietnam and Yemen.

Suborno Jayanti Scholarship Scheme (ICCR)

The scholarships to Bangladesh nationals will be offered under one scheme "Suborno Jayanti Scholarship Scheme" subsuming all other schemes under which scholarships were being offered till now.

Dr. A.P.J Abdul Kalam Commonwealth Scholarship Scheme (ICCR) (formerly Commonwealth Scholarship Scheme)

For the nationals of Commonwealth countries.

Nehru Memorial Scholarship Scheme (ICCR)

For the nationals of Sri Lanka.

Dr. S. Radhakrishnan Cultural Exchange Scholarship Scheme (ICCR) (formerly CEP/EEP Scholarship Scheme)

For the nationals of 29 countries namely: Australia, Belarus, Brazil, Cambodia, Canada, China, Colombia, Cuba, France, Guyana, Hungary, Indonesia, Israel, Kuwait, Laos, Malaysia, Mexico, Mongolia, Myanmar, Norway, Romania, Russia, Slovenia, Spain, Syria, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, Vietnam and Yemen.

Lata Mangeshkar Dance & Music Scholarship Scheme (ICCR) (formerly ICCR Scholarship Scheme for Dance & Music)

For the nationals of all the countries to pursue courses in Indian dance, music, sculpture making, Indian theatre, cuisine etc.

Sushma Swaraj Silver Jubilee Scholarship Scheme (formerly Silver Jubilee Scholarship Scheme) (MEA)

For the nationals of Nepal.

B.R. Ambedkar Scholarship Scheme (formerly Aid to Bhutan Scholarship Scheme) (MEA)

For the nationals of Bhutan.

Aid to Maldives Scholarship Scheme (MEA)

For the nationals of Maldives.



Kushok Bakula Rinpoche Scholarship Scheme (formerly Aid to Mongolia Scholarship Scheme) (MEA)

For the nationals of Mongolia.

Mekong Ganga Co-operation Scholarship Scheme (MEA)

For the nationals of 5 Mekong Ganga countries namely, Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, Thailand and Vietnam.

Online Scholarship Scheme for Afghan National (MEA)

For the nationals of Afghanistan.

The India - Africa Maitri Scholarship Scheme (formerly Africa Scholarship Scheme) (MEA)

For the nationals of 54 countries in the African continent namely, Algeria, Angola, Benin, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chad, Comoros, Congo, Cote d'Ivoire, Djibouti, DRC Congo, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Gabon, The Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Kenya, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Niger, Nigeria, South Sudan, Rwanda, Sao Tome & Principe, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Somalia, South Africa, Sudan, Swaziland, Tanzania, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

Nehru Memorial Scholarship Scheme, Maulana Azad Scholarship Scheme and Rajiv Gandhi Scholarship Scheme (MEA)

For the nationals of Sri Lanka.

AYUSH Scholarship Scheme for BIMSTEC Countries (MEA)

For the nationals of 6 countries namely, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Myanmar, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Thailand to pursue courses in Indian traditional medical systems AYUSH (Ayurveda, Yoga & Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homeopathy).

AYUSH Scholarship Scheme for Non-BIMSTEC Countries (Ministry of AYUSH)

For the nationals of 102 countries namely, Afghanistan, Algeria, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Belarus, Bhutan, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Cambodia, Canada, Chile, PR of China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cuba, Czech Republic, Dominican Republic, Egypt, Ethiopia, Fiji, France, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Hungary, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Israel, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao PDR, Latvia, Lebanon, Lithuania, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Oman, Palestine, Peru, Philippines, Portugal, Poland, Qatar, Romania, Russia, Rwanda, Saudi Arabia, Serbia, Singapore, Slovenia, South Africa, South Korea, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Sweden, Switzerland, Syria, Tajikistan, Tanzania, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Togo, Trinidad & Tobago, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, USA, Uzbekistan, Vietnam, Yemen, Zambia and Zimbabwe to pursue courses in Indian traditional medical systems AYUSH (Ayurveda, Yoga & Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homeopathy).

AYUSH Scholarship Scheme for Malaysia (Ministry of AYUSH)

For the nationals of Malaysia to pursue courses in Indian traditional medical systems AYUSH (Ayurveda, Yoga & Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homeopathy).

AYUSH Scholarship Scheme for South East Asian Region (SEAR) Countries (Ministry of AYUSH)

For nationals of selected SEAR countries namely, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Republic of Korea, Indonesia, Maldives, Myanmar, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Timor-Leste to pursue courses in Indian traditional medical systems AYUSH (Ayurveda, Yoga & Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homeopathy).





NALANDA UNIVERSITY

“This university can be a place for meeting of minds from the national and international arena to do research on unity of minds with focus on philosophy linking science, technologies, economy and spirituality with reference to ancient and modern thinking. The focus of this university can be the evolution of world, free from crime, terrorism and war. Above all this institute will engage in research in the role of human values and ethics for universal development and peace. This university should work for creation of enlightened citizens.” - **Former President APJ Abdul Kalam, Address at the Bihar Legislative Assembly, Patna:**

Establishment of an international institution for pursuit of intellectual, philosophical, historical and spiritual studies and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

Admissions Helpline:

(Monday to Friday, 9:30 am to 6:30 pm IST)

06112-255330

+91 7033291552

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Short Term Programmes

9031027489

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New Delhi – 110001, India
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VASANTOTSAV 2025

A newly launched Spring Film Festival, titled Vasantotsav 2025, inaugurated at Giftland Mall in Georgetown, Guyana

This marks the first-ever edition of this cultural film festival in Guyana, showcasing Indian movies to local audiences gifting of cricket kits by M/s Ashoka Buildcon, one of the prominent Indian companies with ongoing projects in Guyana, to the Georgetown Cricket Club tracing back the history of Bourda Cricket Ground and remembering legendary Indian and West Indian cricketers.

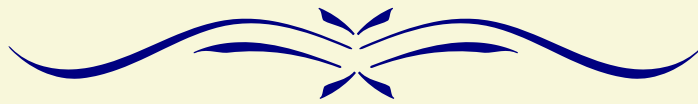
Indian cinema and cricket fans attended the finale of the Spring Film Festival, where the importance of culture and sports—especially cricket—in connecting people was underlined. It was also noted that this was a promising beginning, and that film festivals would become a regular feature in forging closer people-to-people ties. An invitation was extended to the Georgetown Film Festival to join hands in future initiatives celebrating films from both India and the Caribbean.

President of the Georgetown Cricket Club, Mr. Jonathan Yearwood; noted West Indian cricketer, Mr. Travis Dowlin; President of the Georgetown Film Festival, Mr. Rae Wiltshire; and Project Manager, Mr. Ram Chandra Rao, representing M/s Ashoka Buildcon, were among those present at the event.

It was a full house, with both film and cricket fans coming together to watch the historic 1983 World Cup experience through the movie 83.







HOLI CELEBRATION IN GUYANA

VISIT OF RAJASTHANI DANCE GROUP

SPONSORED BY THE ICCR, NEW DELHI

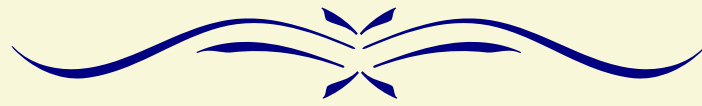
The High Commission of India, Swami Vivekananda Cultural Centre (SVCC), and Surabhi Sisters hosted a grand Holi celebration on March 14, 2025, at the Georgetown Cricket Club, attended by H.E. President Dr. Mohamed Irfaan Ali, Honb'le Prime Minister Brigadier (Ret'd) Mark Anthony Phillips, government officials, diplomats, and the Indian diaspora.

A 10-member Rajasthani dance group (ICCR) mesmerized the crowd with Ghoomar, Kalbelia, and Fire Dance, while Surabhi Sisters served traditional Gujyas and Thandai. Local artists also performed, adding to the festive spirit.

Pre-Holi events (March 9-14) were held across Guyana in collaboration with local organizations, featuring vibrant colors, dance, and cultural unity. The Rajasthani troupe also performed for International Women's Day in Georgetown. The celebrations reinforced India-Guyana ties, following PM Modi's historic 2024 visit, highlighting shared heritage and enduring friendship. More than just a festival of colours, it symbolised unity and mutual respect.



His Excellency Dr. Mohammed Irfaan Ali, President of Guyana, and the Honourable Brigadier (Ret'd) Mark Anthony Phillips, Prime Minister of Guyana, are celebrating the festival of Phagwah in 2025.



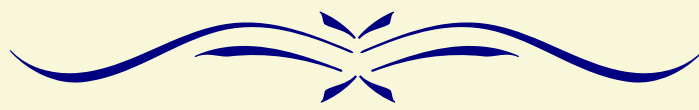
Holi Celebration in Guyana



The High Commission of India, the Swami Vivekananda Cultural Centre (SVCC) in Georgetown and the Surabhi Sisters, celebrated HOLI 2025 in grand style at the Georgetown Cricket Club on March 14, 2025.



The event was graced by the esteemed presence of H.E. President Irfaan Ali, the Hon'ble Prime Minister Brigadier Mark Phillips, members of the Government of Guyana, the Indian community and diaspora, and the diplomatic corps. Their participation and support added immense joy and significance to the festivities, making it a truly memorable occasion.



The celebrations were brought to life by a 10-member Rajasthani Dance Group, deputed by the Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR), who captivated the audience with mesmerizing performances showcasing India's rich cultural heritage.



The artists presented traditional Rajasthani dances such as Ghoomar, Kalbelia, Chakri, Falgun, Kachi Ghodi, Bhavai, and Fire Dance, leaving the audience spellbound.



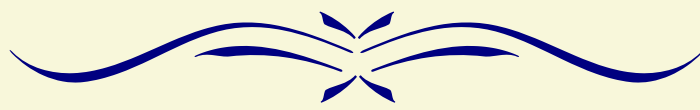


Adding a flavorful touch to the event, Team Surabhi delighted attendees with authentic homemade Gujiyas (a traditional sweet), Thandai, and other traditional Holi delicacies.



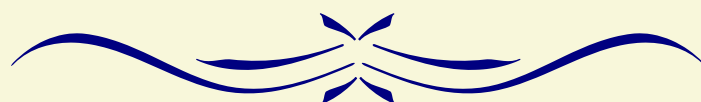
The festivities were further enriched by performances from local artists, who showcased their exceptional talent, adding to the vibrant atmosphere.

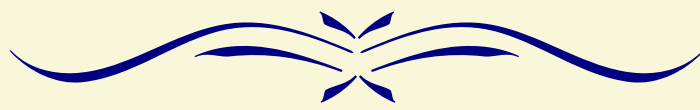




In the lead-up to the main Holi celebration, the High Commission of India and SVCC, in partnership with several Guyanese organizations, celebrated Phagwah (Holi) across multiple regions of Guyana from March 9 to March 14.

The festivities, marked by vibrant colors, dance, and cultural unity, were organized in collaboration with Badrinath Aashram Essequibo, Bartica, the Hindu Dharmic Sabha (Georgetown and Berbice East & West Prant), Shri Krishna Temple (New Amsterdam, Berbice), and Saraswati Vidya Niketan (West Coast). The Rajasthani Folk Dance Group enthralled audiences at every location, fostering a deep appreciation for Indian traditions among Guyanese communities.





The dance group also commemorated International Women's Day on March 8 with a special performance at Hotel Pegasus in Georgetown, celebrating the spirit of women's empowerment. Across all locations, Guyanese attendees warmly welcomed the artists, immersing themselves in the lively cultural evenings that symbolized unity, joy, and the triumph of good over evil. These events not only highlighted the shared cultural heritage but also reinforced the enduring bond between India and Guyana.



The celebrations held added significance following Honorable Prime Minister of India Shri Narendra Modi's historic visit to Guyana in 2024, which strengthened bilateral cooperation and people-to-people connections. The successful collaboration underscored a shared commitment to preserving cultural heritage while deepening the ties between the two nations. The vibrant hues and rhythmic beats of Phagwah served as a testament to the timeless friendship and mutual respect between India and Guyana, paving the way for continued cultural synergy in the years to come.









Folk Art Exhibition

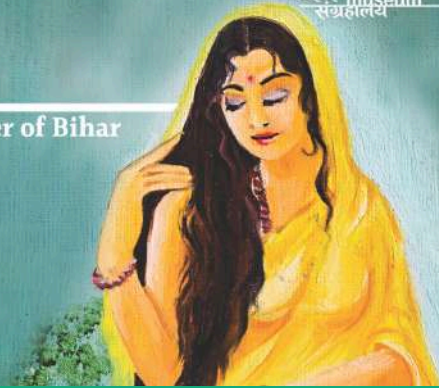
Sita

सीता

The Daughter of Bihar

5th May – 4th June 2025

Venue
Guyana National Museum
Company Path



The High Commission of India and Swami Vivekananda Cultural Centre, Guyana in collaboration with Bihar Museum, and Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sport, Guyana, proudly inaugurated “Sita: The Daughter of Bihar”—a captivating folk art exhibition celebrating India’s rich cultural heritage. Showcasing the vibrant traditions of Madhubani, Manjusha, and Tikuli art forms, the exhibition brings to life timeless folklore through intricate and colorful masterpieces. Curated by the Bihar Museum, this event also highlights the enduring cultural and historical ties between the people of Bihar and Guyana. The exhibition stands as a testament to India’s diverse artistic legacy while fostering deeper cultural connections between the two nations. Purpose of the event Held under the aegis of the Cultural Exchange Programme established during the historic visit of Hon’ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi to Guyana and his discussions with His Excellency Dr. Mohamed Irfaan Ali, President of Guyana, the exhibition "Sita: The Daughter of Bihar" was inaugurated on 5th May 2025 by Hon’ble Minister of Culture, Youth, and Sport, Guyana, Mr. Charles Ramson. The date of inauguration of the exhibition i.e. May 5th holds special significance, coinciding with Indian Arrival Day and Sita Navami—festivals celebrated with great enthusiasm across Guyana. In his address, Minister Ramson emphasized the deep-rooted cultural bonds between India and Guyana and underscored the importance of such exchanges in strengthening people-to-people ties. This month-long exhibition also offers a profound insight into the shared culture, customs, and traditions that unite the two nations. Key dignitaries, participants and performances. The inauguration ceremony was graced by the presence of Honourable Charles Ramson, Minister of Culture, Youth and Sport, Guyana, His Excellency Dr. Amit Telang, High Commissioner of India to Guyana, members of the diplomatic corps and representatives of the Indian and Guyanese diaspora. The event featured a captivating cultural performance by renowned Guyanese artists, showcasing the rich artistic traditions that bind our nations together. The programme added a vibrant dimension to the evening, celebrating the enduring cultural connection between India and Guyana.



Folk Art Exhibition

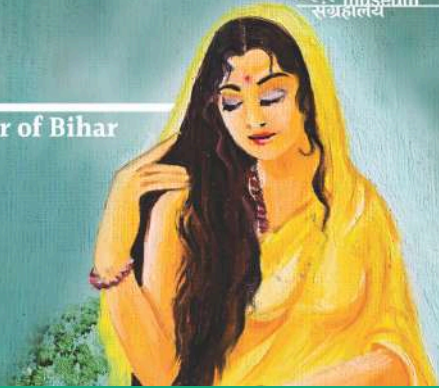
Sita

सीता

The Daughter of Bihar

5th May – 4th June 2025

Venue
Guyana National Museum
Company Path



High Commissioner of India to Guyana Dr. Amit Telang and Honorable Charles Ramson Minister of Culture Youth and Sports curated the opening of Folk Art Exhibition -Sita - The Daughter of Bihar

Folk Art Exhibition

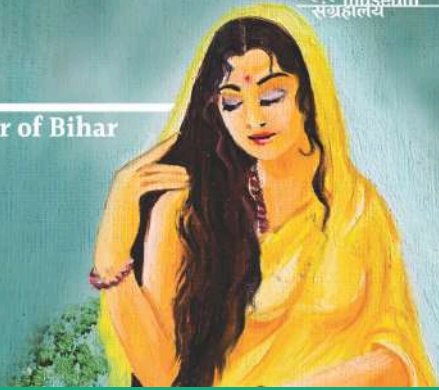
Sita

सीता

The Daughter of Bihar

5th May – 4th June 2025

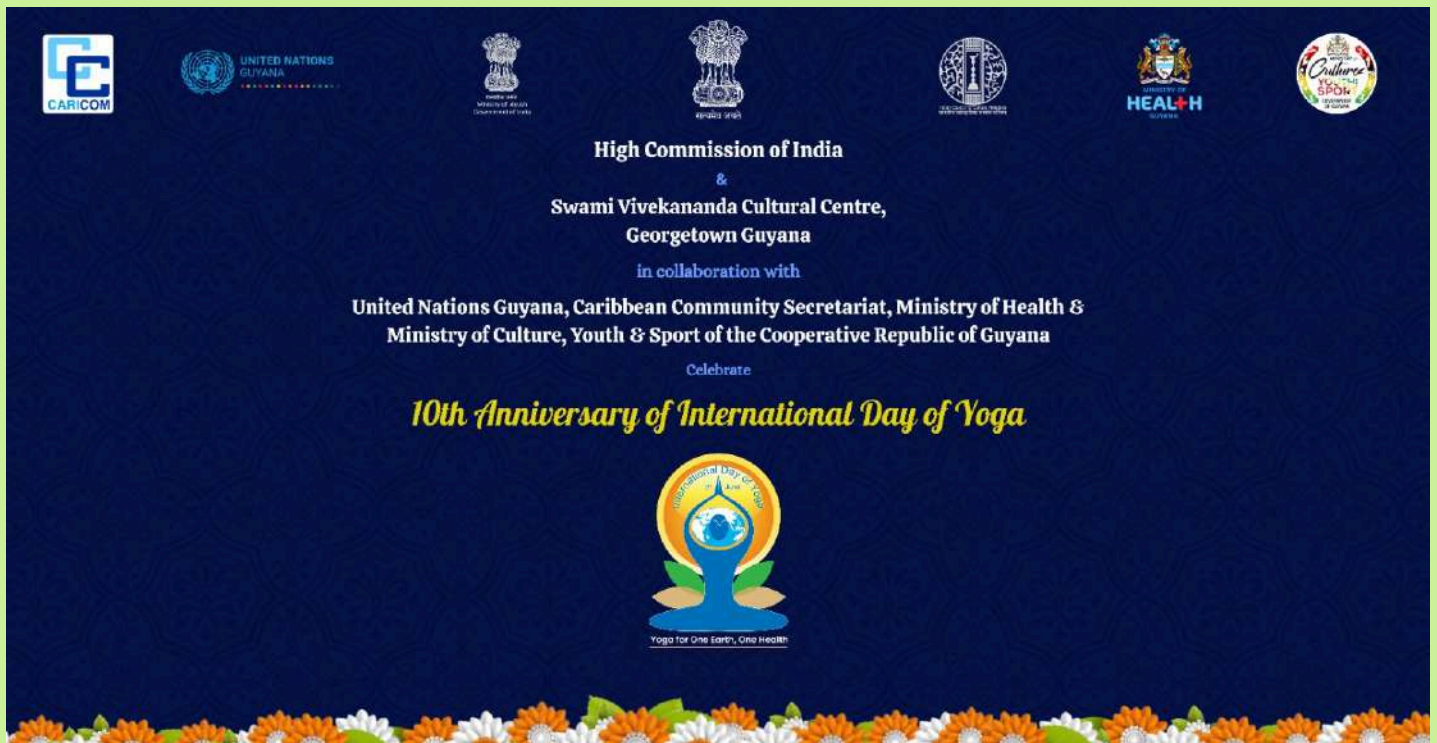
Venue
Guyana National Museum
Company Path



CELEBRATION OF 10TH ANNIVERSARY OF INTERNATIONAL DAY OF YOGA



June 21, 2025



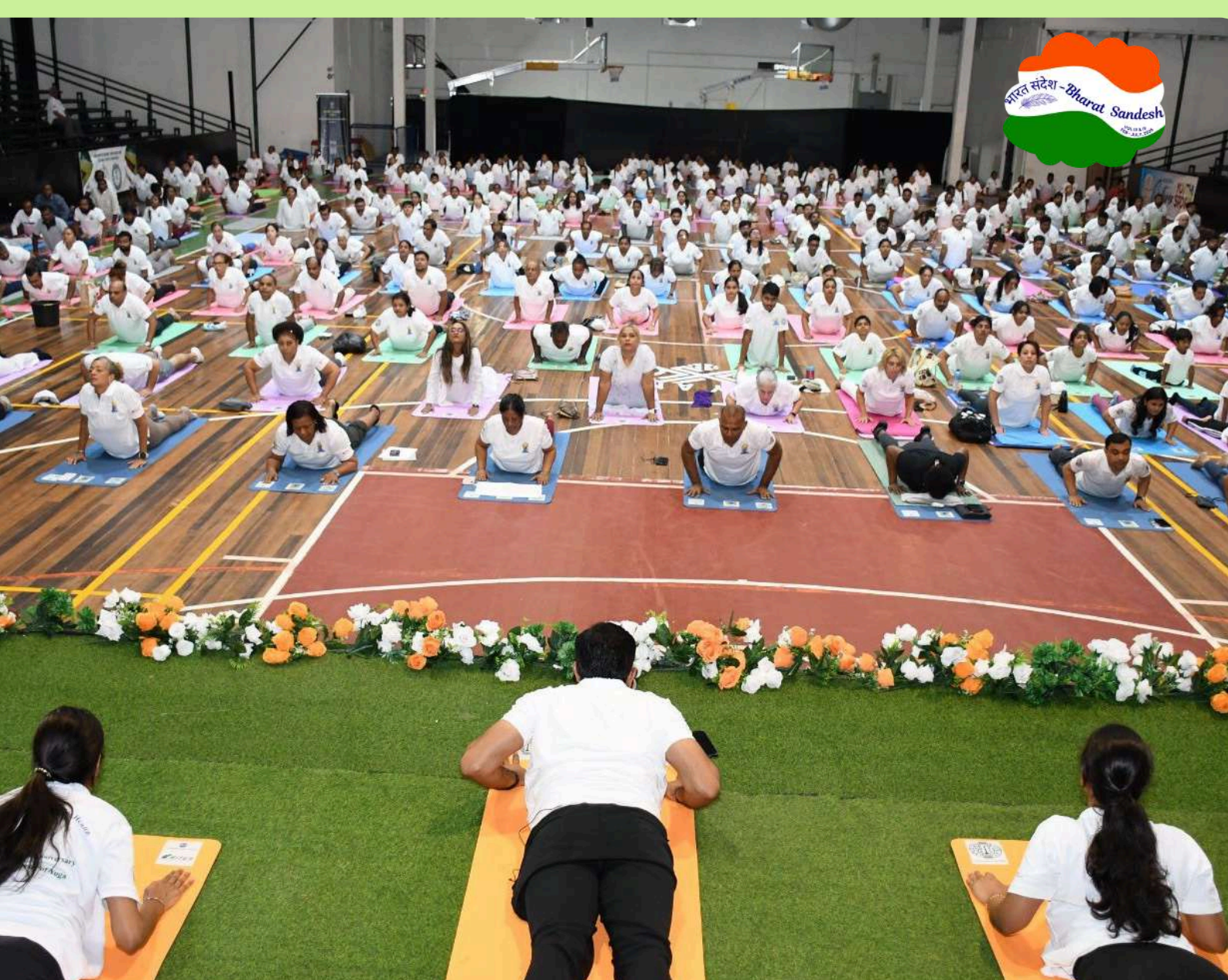
High Commission of India and Swami Vivekananda Cultural Centre in collaboration with United Nations Guyana, CARICOM Secretariat and Government of Guyana celebrated the 10th anniversary of International Yoga Day at the state-of-the-art Cliff Anderson Sports Hall in Georgetown facilitated by the Ministry of Culture, Sports & Youth of Guyana.

The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from Yoga practitioners and fitness experts. Dr Frank Anthony, Hon'ble Minister of Health representing the Government of Guyana underlined the importance of Yoga in mental, physical as well as environmental health. Hon'ble Dr Carla Natalie Barnett, Secretary General of the CARICOM Secretariat in Georgetown and Ambassador Jean Kamau, Country Representative of the United Nations Guyana appreciated the joint celebration emphasizing the spirit of IDY2025 especially this year's theme – Yoga For One Earth One Health. Some of the highlights of the event included an invocation dance by renowned Kathak exponent Smt Pranamee Bhagawati joined by her daughter Ms Wamiel Pranaame Kashyap with reverberating message of universal well-being enshrined in Yoga and Indian philosophy.

On the sidelines of the Yoga event, Ministry of Health of Guyana facilitated health check-up including blood and eye testing along with informative display on nutrition and related disciplines. An interesting and informative display on ayurveda organized under the aegis of AYUSH Information Cell, Ministry of Ministry of Ayush, Government of India was also one of the highlights of the event. A fascinating display by Department of Tourism, Government of Bihar and an exhibition on the life of Mata Sita- the daughter of Bihar, facilitated by Bihar Museum also attracted attention as the audience appreciated Bihar's rich historical and cultural heritage. It is noteworthy that Bihar and Guyana share a strong link as many Indo-Guyanese trace their ancestral roots to bhojpuri speaking areas of Bihar and Eastern Uttar Pradesh. The exhibition and display were facilitated through Government of Bihar and the States Division of the Ministry of External Affairs.

11th International Day of Yoga was celebrated with great fervour and enthusiasm in Guyana, Antigua & Barbuda and St. Kitts & Nevis. The 10th anniversary milestone was marked by large number of partners including Government Ministries, Multilateral & Regional Organizations, cultural and religious organizations and unprecedented number of Yoga enthusiasts who came together.

The High Commission and the Cultural Centre have also pre and post celebrations of IDY 2025 across Guyana and other regions under our jurisdictions. Glimpses are here:-





Curtain Raiser Event, 75 Days to Go



April 06, 2025

The High Commission of India, Ayush Information Cell, in collaboration with The Swami Vivekananda Cultural Center, Georgetown, hosted a curtain-raiser event in Georgetown, Guyana, on April 6, 2025. This special gathering marked the countdown to the 10th anniversary of the International Day of Yoga, celebrating this year's theme: "Yoga for One Earth, One Health." The event featured guided meditation sessions by representatives from Brahma Kumaris and The Art of Living, honoring their contributions to wellness and mindfulness.

A highlight of the event was the showcase of Ayurveda-based Indian homemade recipes, promoting holistic health. Attendees enjoyed nutritious dishes such as sprout cutlets and millet idlis, all prepared with natural ingredients. This initiative underscored the timeless relevance of yoga and Ayurveda in fostering global well-being and harmony.



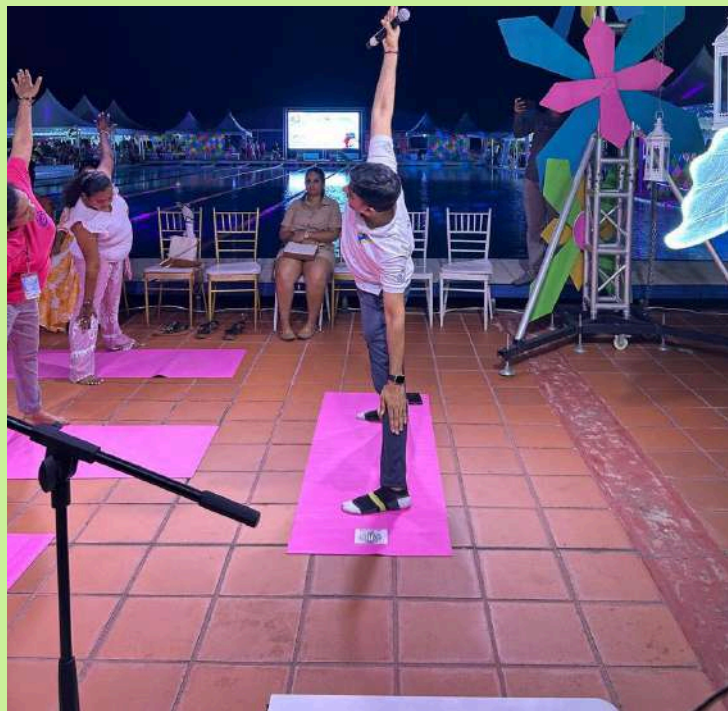
Pre IDY Celebration at Ministry of Human Services & Social Security



April 13, 2025

The High Commission of India and the Swami Vivekananda Cultural Centre, Georgetown, participated in "We LIFT", a women's entrepreneurship initiative organized by the Ministry of Human Services & Social Security, Government of Guyana.

As part of this unique program, a special Yoga session was conducted, which saw enthusiastic participation. Shri Mohit Mann, Yoga Guru from the Swami Vivekananda Cultural Centre, Georgetown, led the session and highlighted upcoming activities in celebration of the 10th anniversary of International Yoga Day. He also shared insights on the benefits of Yoga, Meditation, and Ayurveda, further promoting awareness of these ancient Indian wellness practices.



Pre IDY Celebration at Recover Guyana

April 22, 2025



In celebration of Earth Day 2025, the event was organized in collaboration with Recover Guyana, embracing the theme "Konnnect with Earth"—a perfect alignment with the global Earth Day theme: "Our Power, Our Planet." Held at the serene Indian Monument Garden, a highlight of the event was a peaceful and reflective yoga session. This session beautifully underscored the profound connection between personal well-being and planetary health, serving as a powerful reminder of balance, unity, and harmony with nature. Through yoga, participants embodied the essence of Earth Day—celebrating our shared responsibility to nurture both ourselves and the planet.



Pre IDY Celebration at Ministry of Health



April 27, 2025

The Ministry of Health, in collaboration with the High Commission of India and the Swami Vivekananda Cultural Centre, hosted a vibrant 6:00 AM yoga session on April 27, 2025 at the National Park. This initiative was part of ongoing efforts to promote physical wellness, mental health, and holistic living among Guyanese citizens.

Beyond its health benefits, the session underscored the strong cultural and diplomatic ties between Guyana and India, celebrating yoga as a universal practice of unity and well-being.



Pre IDY Celebration at Guyana Defense Force



May 30, 2025

As we prepare to commemorate the 10th anniversary of International Day of Yoga 2025, the High Commission of India and Swami Vivekananda Cultural Centre, Georgetown, in partnership with the Guyana Defense Force, organized a special Yoga and Meditation session for GDF personnel.

We extend our sincere gratitude to the Guyana Defense Force for their valuable support of this initiative, which highlighted yoga's significant benefits for fitness, stress relief, and relaxation. This collaboration underscores yoga's vital role in enhancing the physical and mental wellbeing of our brave soldiers.



Pre IDY Celebration at World Environment Day

June 05, 2025



To mark World Environment Day 2025, the High Commission of India, in collaboration with the Swami Vivekananda Cultural Center, organized a tree plantation drive and cleanliness campaign. The event also featured a special yoga session in preparation for the upcoming 10th anniversary of the International Day of Yoga, to be celebrated on 21 June 2025.



Pre IDY Celebration at St.Kitts and Nevis

June 14, 2025



10th Anniversary of IDY 2025 celebrated in the beautiful islands of St. Kitts & Nevis. We thank Hon'ble Governor General of St.Kitts H.E. Dame Marcela Liburd and the Government of St. Kitts & Nevis for their support in organizing Yoga session at the Government House in St. Kitts and the prestigious Malcolm Guishard Recreational Park in Nevis.



Pre IDY Celebration at Saraswati Vidya Niketan School

June 20, 2025



As we prepare to celebrate the 10th anniversary of International Day of Yoga on 21st June 2025 in Georgetown, a special yoga session was organized at Saraswati Vidya Niketan School on West Coast Demerara, Guyana. The event was conducted in collaboration with Yoga Hub and HSS Guyana, with support from the High Commission of India and Swami Vivekananda Cultural Center, Georgetown.

The session saw enthusiastic participation from members of the Indian diaspora, with attendees ranging from 4 to 75 years old. Highlights included a special presentation on Ayurveda's benefits and an exhibition showcasing Yoga, Ayurveda, and traditional medicine.



Pre IDY Celebration at Saraswati Vidya Niketan School

June 20, 2025



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June 21, 2025

The 10th anniversary of International Day of Yoga was celebrated in Antigua & Barbuda on 21 June 2025. The High Commission of India, represented by Hon. Consul of India in Antigua & Barbuda, Shri Vijay Tewani, organised the celebration in collaboration with Heart & Stroke Foundation and Cricket West Indies.

The event at the prestigious Coolidge Cricket Ground witnessed enthusiastic participation from Government of Antigua & Barbuda.



June 27, 2025



International Yoga Day 2025 was celebrated in Anguilla on 27 June in collaboration with the Government of Guyana. Some memories





The 10th International Day of Yoga has been celebrated in Guyana and its jurisdictions are as follows:

CURTAIN RAISER

APRIL 06, 2025	75 Day to Go at Swami Vivekananda Cultural Centre Georgetown, Guyana
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APRIL 13, 2025	Ministry of Human Services & Social Security at National Aquatic Center in Georgetown, Guyana
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APRIL 22, 2025	Recover Guyana at Indian Monument Garden in Georgetown, Guyana
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APRIL 27, 2025	Ministry of Health at Guyana National Park in Georgetown, Guyana
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MAY 30, 2025	Guyana Defense Force in Georgetown, Guyana
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JUNE 05, 2025	World Environment Day in Georgetown, Guyana
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JUNE 14, 2025	St. Kitts and Nevis in St. Kitts and Nevis
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JUNE 20, 2025	Saraswati Vidya Niketan School in West Coast Demerara, Guyana
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10TH ANNIVERSARY INTERNATIONAL DAY OF YOGA

JUNE 21, 2025	United Nations Guyana, CARICOM Secretariat and the Government of Guyana In Georgetown, Guyana
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JUNE 21, 2025	Heart & Stroke Foundation and Cricket West Indies In Antigua and Barbuda
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POST CELEBRATION

JUNE 27, 2025	Government of Anguilla In Anguilla
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ALL-PARTY INDIAN PARLIAMENTARY DELEGATION VISIT TO GUYANA

An All-Party Indian Parliamentary Delegation, led by Honourable Member of Parliament Dr. Shashi Tharoor, is visited Guyana. The delegation has arrived to convey India's unequivocal message of zero tolerance for terrorism, demonstrating that the nation stands resolute and united in its fight against this global threat.



Welcoming the Indian Parliamentary Delegation to the State House, H.E. Dr. Mohamed Irfaan Ali, President of Guyana underscored that the India-Guyana partnership is not just about friendship and cordial relations, but also about the bonds of blood shared over generations. He assured the Indian delegation of Guyana's unwavering support in India's fight against terrorism and underlined that there is no place for terrorism and extremism in the civilized world, adding that such actions deserve a befitting response. Thereafter, the delegation interacted with a high-level Guyanese delegation comprising Foreign Minister, the Honourable Hugh Hilton Todd; the National Security Advisor; the Chief of Defence Staff; the Commissioner of Police; and other senior officials from Guyana's national security establishment.

ALL-PARTY INDIAN PARLIAMENTARY DELEGATION VISIT TO GUYANA



Called on H.E. Dr Bharrat Jagdeo, Hon'ble Vice President of Guyana, the delegation elaborated India's position and underscored that India stands united against terrorism and there will be a firm and resolute response to terrorism. Hon'ble Vice President reiterated Guyana's unequivocal support for India in the fight against terrorism underlining that the perpetrators of such heinous terrorist attacks must be brought to justice.



Hon'ble Prime Minister of Guyana, H.E. Brig (Retd.) Mark Anthony, hosted the All-Party Indian Delegation in Berbice, Guyana over dinner, coinciding with Guyana's 59th Independence Day. The Parliamentarians witnessed Guyana's 59th Independence Day celebrations in Berbice.

ALL-PARTY INDIAN PARLIAMENTARY DELEGATION VISIT TO GUYANA



Underlining India and Guyana's historic connection including our respective freedom struggles and fight against colonialism, as a powerful gesture of solidarity and support and deep-rooted people to people bonds, H.E. Mr Manzoor Nadir, Hon'ble Speaker of the National Assembly of Guyana welcomed the Indian Parliamentary Delegation at the historic Parliament building in Guyana.



The delegation briefed members of the media and the "Friends of India" group in Guyana. The audience included leading business figures, political thinkers, think tanks, and socio-cultural organizations. The briefing focused on India's response to the Pahalgam terror attack and Operation Sindoor, which demonstrated India's resolve to punish the perpetrators of this heinous act.

ALL-PARTY INDIAN PARLIAMENTARY DELEGATION VISIT TO GUYANA

The Delegation visited the Promenade Garden and paid floral tribute to the statue of Father of the Nation- Mahatma Gandhi and visited the Monument Garden to paid tribute at the Indian Arrival Monument.



Masala Chai Receptipe



A Cup of Comfort & Culture

Masala Chai is more than just a beverage in India; it's a daily ritual, a welcome gesture, and a moment of connection. The word "chai" simply means "tea," and "masala" refers to a blend of warming spices. This fragrant, spiced tea, brewed strong with milk and sugar, is enjoyed in millions of homes and on every street corner.



Ingredients

1 ½ cups water
½ cup whole milk (or your preferred milk for a richer taste)
2 tsp loose-leaf black tea (like Assam or CTC - strong varieties are best)
2-3 tsp sugar, jaggery, or honey (adjust to taste)
Whole Spices (lightly crushed):
2-3 green cardamom pods
3-4 whole cloves
½ inch piece of fresh ginger, sliced or crushed
1 small cinnamon stick
4-5 black peppercorns (optional, for a spicy kick)
1 star anise (optional)

Instructions

- **Crush the Spices:** Lightly crush the cardamom pods, cloves, peppercorns, and ginger in a mortar and pestle to release their oils and aromas. This is the secret to a flavorful chai!
- **Boil the Water & Spices:** In a small saucepan, bring the water to a boil. Add all the crushed spices and the cinnamon stick. Let it boil for 3-4 minutes so the water becomes infused with the spice flavors.
- **Add the Tea:** Add the loose-leaf black tea. Boil for another 1-2 minutes. You should smell the rich aroma of the tea and spices mingling.
- **Add Milk & Sweeten:** Add the milk and your chosen sweetener (sugar, jaggery, etc.). Bring the mixture to a boil again. Keep a close eye on it, as it can foam and overflow easily!
- **Simmer & Brew:** Once it comes to a boil, reduce the heat and let it simmer for 2-3 minutes. This allows the milk to blend perfectly with the spiced tea.
- **Strain and Serve:** Turn off the heat. Using a fine mesh strainer, pour the chai into your cups or a teapot, straining out the tea leaves and whole spices.
- **Enjoy Immediately:** Serve your homemade masala chai hot alongside biscuits, snacks, or good conversation.





EDITOR'S NOTE



नास्ति विद्यासमं चक्षुर्नास्ति सत्यसमं तपः।
नास्ति रागसमं दुःखं नास्ति त्यागसमं सुखम्॥

"There is no eye greater than knowledge, no austerity greater than truth.
There is no sorrow greater than attachment, and no happiness greater than selflessness."

This timeless Sanskrit verse reminds us of the profound importance of knowledge, truth, and selfless service—values that lie at the heart of our cultural ethos. Culture is the soul of a nation, and at the Swami Vivekananda Cultural Centre (SVCC), we are deeply committed to preserving, promoting, and celebrating the rich tapestry of India's diverse heritage.

Since its inception, SVCC has served as a vibrant hub for cultural exchange, education, and community engagement. We collaborate with local institutions, artists, and thinkers to create dialogues that celebrate shared values and promote mutual understanding. SVCC offers classes in yoga, meditation, Indian languages, and traditional performing arts, empowering individuals with skills that nurture both mind and spirit. By documenting and disseminating knowledge about ancient and contemporary cultural practices, we ensure that future generations remain connected to their roots.

As we move forward, SVCC remains dedicated to serving as a beacon of light—inspired by Swami Vivekananda's teachings of strength, fearlessness, and service to humanity. We believe that culture is not just a reflection of the past but a powerful force for shaping a harmonious and prosperous future.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to everyone who has been part of this journey. Your support and participation have enabled us to touch countless lives and contribute meaningfully to Guyana's cultural landscape.

We are proud that the Guyanese people consider the Centre as a hub of harmony and nodal agency of Indian culture and SVCC offers them an opportunity to continue the traditions of their Motherland. Let us continue to work together to build a society rooted in knowledge, compassion, and unity.

Rudra Jayanta Bhagawati

Director

Swami Vivekananda Cultural Centre

Georgetown, Guyana