



Indian Council for Cultural Relations
भारतीय सांस्कृतिक सम्बन्ध परिषद्



सत्यमेव जयते

भारतीय उच्चायोग

High Commission of India

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स्वामी विवेकानन्द सांस्कृतिक केन्द्र, जॉर्जटाउन, गयाना

Swami Vivekananda Cultural Centre, Georgetown, Guyana



Celebrations of

NAVRATRI & DUSSHERA

a report

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ICCR in Guyana-Swami Vivekananda Cultural
Centre, Georgetown



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CELEBRATIONS OF NAVRATRI AND GARBA

The High Commission of India, in collaboration with the Swami Vivekananda Cultural Centre, Surabhi (an Indian community ladies' group affiliated with the High Commission), and members of the Indian community and diaspora, celebrated Navratri and Dussehra on the premises of the SVCC in Georgetown from September 22 to October 2, 2025.

Navratri and Dandia have been celebrated on the premises of the SVCC since 2023 in collaboration with the Maa Ambe Indian community. Since then, this event has grown to gather and connect thousands of people to celebrate this sacred occasion. This year, Navratri was also celebrated with great enthusiasm on the premises, with every night attracting huge crowds who marked the occasion with deep devotion.



CELEBRATIONS OF NAVRATRI AND GARBA



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CELEBRATIONS OF DUSSHERA WITH RAMALEELA & RAVAN DAHAN

Ramaleela & Ravan Dahan in Georgetown revitalizes the living bridge of shared culture and traditions connecting India with its diaspora

Coinciding with Dussehra, the High Commission of India in collaboration with the Swami Vivekananda Cultural Centre, Surabhi- an Indian community ladies group affiliated to the High Commission, and members of the Indian community and diaspora underlined the rich cultural connect between India and Guyana through a magnificent portrayal of Ram Leela- an artistic depiction of scenes from the Indian epic Ramayana.

Based on the Ramcharitmanas, a treatise by Goswami Tulsidasa, Ramleela is well-known folk-tradition across northern India. Incidentally the tradition has its roots in India where many from the Indo-Guyanese and the wider Ind-Caribbean community trace their ancestral roots. The performance of Ramleela, although has undergone modifications over the years, continues to be widely practiced in many countries like Fiji, Guyana, Mauritius, Suriname and Trinidad & Tobago that witnessed significant migration of Indian indentured workers under the British colonial rule in the 18th and 19th century. It was with an intention to preserve this tradition and recognize its undeniable significance as a folk-tradition, Ramleela was inscribed as the Intangible Cultural Heritage of the Humanity by UNESCO in 2008.

Along with the depiction of Ramleela, by members of the High Commission, the Swami Vivekananda Cultural Centre and enthusiastic members of the Indian community and diaspora, one of the highlights of the event was an equally interesting tradition of Ravan Dahan- burning of an effigy of demon-king Ravana, that culminates the Ramleela and Dussehra celebration.

The event received jubilant response from members of the Indian community and diaspora, besides presence of diplomats and international community in Georgetown, Guyana encouraging the performers. Hon'ble Gail Teixeira, Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and Governance, performing the duties of Hon'ble Prime Minister of Guyana, H.E. Brig Retd Mark Anthony Phillips, presided over the event and commended the efforts made by the High Commission and the Indian Cultural Center in reviving and preserving these folk-traditions, shared by India and Guyana.

The High Commission of India and the Swami Vivekananda Cultural Centre express their heartfelt gratitude to members of the Indian community and diaspora for their support to this community endeavor strengthening people to people ties and celebrating our common roots and shared heritage. In particular, the High Commission would like to thank its sponsors M/s Bank of Baroda, Shamdas Kirpalani, Broadway Fashions and Shri Maa Ambe Indian Cultural Organization for their support in making the event a big success.

The High Commission also thanks members of the media and members of the Indian diaspora for their steadfast support to the initiative. It will be our constant endeavour to work with members of the Indian community and diaspora to forge closer people to people links and strengthen the deep bonds of friendship between India and Guyana through such community-oriented cultural activities.

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