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The world saw the largest celebration of democracy in 2019. India held elections for her seventeenth parliament. 543 seats, 900 million registered voters, voting in seven phases over five weeks. More than one million polling stations managed by about five million polling personnel. 67% of the registered electorate voted using electronic voting machines (EVMs) to elect their representatives to form a new government.

2. The seeds of this celebration were sown even before India got its independence in 1947. The Constituent Assembly elected in 1946, by the provincial assemblies by a single, transferable-vote system of proportional representation was entrusted with the herculean task of framing a constitution that will guide India and her people to a stable governance system ensuring equality of all and protecting the rights of each individual irrespective of caste, creed, religion, ethnicity and gender. As Jawaharlal Nehru, the first Prime Minister of independent India put it, “to free India through a new constitution, to feed the starving people, and to clothe the naked masses, and to give every Indian the fullest opportunity to develop himself according to his capacity.”

3. The drafting committee headed by Dr. Bhim Rao Ambedkar undertook the arduous task and after two years, eleven months and seventeen days, on 26th January 1950 made operational for the people of India the longest written constitution in the world which resolved to ensure social, economic and political justice, liberty and equality of status and opportunity. It provided constitutional guarantees and protections for a wide range of civil liberties for individual citizens, equal political and social rights for women and protective discrimination for the weaker section of the society. India then was emerging out of the blood and tears of partition. It was a nation of 330 million people with diverse languages, faiths and traditions, famished and impoverished with a life expectancy of only 32 years, many questioning her very stability.

4. Seventy years have passed. India has established herself as a robust democratic republic, the biggest in the world, resilient in times of challenges, fulfilling old dreams and aspirations and inspiring new ones. Today it is 1.3 billion strong with half of her children under 25 years of age. The fifth largest economy of the world with a life expectancy of 69 years.

5. Grounded on her civilizational wisdom of over 5,000 years, she has achieved numerous successes in the last seventy years. She has lifted 271 million of her children out of poverty in the last decade alone. Today India is an inalienable force in connecting the globe through information technology and artificial intelligence. Her achievements in the fields of new sciences such as biotechnology, genetic engineering, material sciences, nano-technology and clean energy are contributing immensely for a better future. Her exploration of the space including the moon and mars have been an extension of the tradition of quest for knowledge followed by ancient Indian mathematicians and astronomers like Aryabhatta, Barahamihira and Brahmagupta of the fifth and sixth century C.E.

6. The history of India’s relation with Trinidad and Tobago traverses over a century. Even before the formal establishment of diplomatic relations in 1962, leaders of both countries shared a personal bonding. As a student, Dr. Eric Williams had met Jawaharlal Nehru in an Oxford tearoom in 1935 where the latter was lecturing a group of undergraduate students. He met him again in New Delhi in July 1961. Nehru, then, was India’s Prime Minister. On Saturday, November 14, 1964, Dr. Williams had also delivered an address at a function held in Port of Spain to mark the 75th birth anniversary of Prime Minister Nehru.

7. Even before this bonding of leaders who led their respective independent democratic nations to development and progress, Fath Al Razak the first ship from Calcutta carrying 225 indentured labourers from India had docked in the gulf of Paria on 30th May 1845. With nothing but a piece of India in their heart, they not only rebuilt their lives; but also became an integral part in building this rainbow nation of Trinidad and Tobago. Theirs is an amazing tale of human struggle, tenacity and resolve. We are proud of their successes. We wish them even bigger successes in taking their nation to greater heights. This year marks the 175th anniversary of this amazing journey.
As independent nations, both India and Trinidad & Tobago have stood the test of time in forging a strong bilateral relation by establishing robust institutional mechanisms. Travelling between the two nations has been made easier through visa free regime and e-visa facilities. Institutional mechanisms such as cooperation in science and technology, culture, protection and promotion of investments have been put in place for mutually beneficial cooperation and synergies. The presence of New India Assurance Company in Trinidad since 1976 and that of the Bank of Baroda since 2007 are only two such testimonies.

Trinidad and Tobago have played an active role in India’s development partnership initiative. About 450 Trini professionals have been imparted training in India under the Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) programme. Trinidad and Tobago have also announced to join the International Solar Alliance, an Indian initiative emerging out of the 2015 Paris Declaration to address the critical issue of climate change and environmental protection.

People-to-people contacts have been in the centre of our relationship. Indian music, dance, art, films, festivals, Diwali, yoga, Ramleela and cricket have played a seminal role in binding people of the two nations together. Brian Lara is as popular in India as Sachin Tendulkar is. The Know India Programme is helping Trinis to visit India and reconnect with their ancestral roots.

Last year in September, we added a new chapter to our relationship. The first ever India-CARICOM Summit was held in New York on the side-lines of the United Nations General Assembly and India announced a grant of 1 million USD for community development projects in Trinidad & Tobago and another 10 million USD Line of Credit for solar, renewable energy and climate-change-related projects.

My Experience

I, along with my wife Sasmita and our 11-year-old son are here in Port of Spain for the last four and a half months. We enjoy the warm Trinidadian weather. More so, since this time we came from Canada. We are among warm people. We are enjoying doubles and waiting for the carnival. Steelpan has been added to our repertoire of musical instruments and my son has even started learning to play it in his school. Tonight, we will showcase a musical fusion of the Indian instrument Tabla with Steelpan, African drum and Tasha. Our Tabla teacher at the Mahatma Gandhi Institute of Cultural Cooperation (MGICC), Mr Ashad Khan has executed an idea that I had after watching a steel pan performance for the very first time. I believe that rhythm connects people across geographical boundaries.

I am aware that for the last many years you have been eagerly waiting for the completion of the new Mahatma Gandhi Institute of Cultural Cooperation building at Mount Hope. We hope to complete the project in the first half of this year and open it to the people of all social, cultural, religious and ethnic background in Trinidad and Tobago.

Since my arrival, I have been receiving unstinted support from our colleagues in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and other government departments. Without their cooperation we would not be able to reap the fruits of our endeavour. On behalf of the High Commission, I place on record our deepest appreciation.

Friends!

India’s civilisational existence rests on her strength of diversity and pluralism. Its philosophical underpinning has been the age-old adage of “Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam” (The world is one family). It is the land of Guru Nanak Devji, the founder of Sikhism, who propagated the values of equality, liberty and compassion. We are celebrating his 550th birth anniversary. It is the land of the Mahatma (Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi) who gave the world the methodology of truth and non-violence for establishing peace. We are celebrating his 150th birth anniversary.

We believe in togetherness. Together we build and together we prosper. In this spirit of togetherness and friendship, as we celebrate the 71st Republic Day of India, I invite all of you to be part of our incredible journey.

Thank you! Jai Hind!
India's 71st Republic Day Celebrations in Trinidad & Tobago

Flag Hoisting Ceremony at India House

Flag Hoisting by H.E. Mr. Arun Kumar Sahu onlooked by Officials of the HCI, Indian Nationals & Friends of India

Evening Reception at Radisson Hotel

Distinguished guests looking at displays on Uttar Pradesh & Bihar

H.E. Mr. Arun Kumar Sahu & Ms. Rita Toussaint, Permanent Secretary, (Ag.), Ministry of Foreign Affairs raising a toast

Reading of the President's Address on the Eve of Republic Day by H.E. Mr. Arun Kumar Sahu

Performances by visiting Odissi Group from India led by Ms. Jytosnarani Sahoo

Students of Parvati Girls Hindu College & SWAHA Hindu College performing Indian Patriotic songs

H.E. Mr. Arun Kumar Sahu with students & teachers of the Chinmaya Vidyalaya

Officials & Staff of the High Commission of India
Thank you for your 71st Republic Day Greetings
The State of Odisha situated in the eastern seaboard of Indian subcontinent is endowed with amazing array of incredible tourism products. Traditionally, famous as a hub of cultural destination, but of late has emerged as one of the beautiful state in the country with rapid progress in all front including travel & tourism sector. Odisha offer something that is very unique and a tourist visiting to the state get everything on a platter what they wants from Odisha. It has a chequered history of temple constructions with stunning temples and monuments, long coastlines of 480 kms, 35% of thick & dense forest cover, Buddhist heritage, 62 ethnic tribes, scintillating classical dance of Odissi, largest brackish water lake of Asia-Chilika, the criss-crossed mangrove forest of Bhitarkanika, so many and so forth.

The historical monuments of Odisha stand testament to the glorious architectural heritage of the state. The Kalinga Architecture as it is known came into existence in the 6th century AD and continued unabated till the 16th Century AD. The Kings or Gajapati’s of Kalinga irrespective of dynasty encouraged the architects to express their creativity by infusing life into stone. What makes the Kalinga Architecture so distinctive and pleasing to the eye is its, structural details, plan, elevation and skillfully crafted figurines which adorns the outer walls of the monuments. The other notable thing about the monuments of Odisha is that the architectural style wasn’t rigid and throughout its history it continued to evolve incorporating new styles and aspects which added to their legend.

Interesting Facts:
- In 2011, the state’s name was changed from Orissa to Odisha, and the name of its language from Oriya to Odia.
- Odia, an Indo-Aryan language, is the official state language.
- The capital city, Bhubaneshwar, is known as the ‘City of Temples’ with over 600 temples.
- The oldest rocks in Mayurbhanj dates back to 3 billion years!
- Jagannath Temple in Puri has one of the world’s largest kitchens, has daily offerings of over 56 different types of food items & feeds approx. 40,000 people per day.

Visit Odisha | Travel & Tourism | Official Site
odishatourism.gov.in

https://odishatourism.gov.in/content/tourism/en.html/#immersiveOdisha

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The High Commission of India is Hosting a “Discover Odisha” Programme, where the Eastern State of Odisha will be showcased, allowing potential visitors from Trinidad & Tobago to know all about the Trade & Tourism opportunities available.
The High Commission of India & Mahatma Gandhi Institute of Cultural Co-operation partnered with the Art Society of Trinidad & Tobago to showcase 50 images of the Balmiki (Valmiki) Ramayana of the Rampur Raza Library in India. The manuscript has been transliterated from Sanskrit to Persian by Sumir Chand in 1715 and written with gold water adorned with intricate and detailed illustrations. For more information on the collection: http://razalibrary.gov.in/

(From L-R) Remarks by H.E. Mr. Arun Kumar Sahu (High Commissioner), Hon. Mr. Rohan Sinanan, Minister of Works & Transport, His Worship Joel Martinez, Mayor of Port of Spain & Pandita Indrani Rampersad.

Opening of the Exhibition by (L-R) Hon. Mr. Rohan Sinanan, Mr. Sieunarine Persad- Coosal, H.E. Mr. Arun Kumar Sahu, Mr. Peter Shepperd (Pres. of the Art Society of T&T), Her Worship Vandana Mohit, His Worship Joel Martinez & Mr. Ashok Jajoria, Director of MGICC

Instrumental fusion performances by Mr. Arshad Khan, Tabla Instructor at MGICC, accompanied by Mr. Hanif Goodridge & Mr. Obadele Allick on Steelpan, Mr. Everalds Watson on African Drum & Mr. Deepak Manohar on Tassa drum.

Distinguished Guests viewing the Exhibition
World Hindi Day or 'Vishwa Hindi Divas' is celebrated annually on January 10 to promote Hindi globally. On this day in 1975, the First World Hindi Conference was organized in Nagpur by then Prime Minister Indira Gandhi. Its objective is to create a platform for the promotion of Hindi worldwide and to present Hindi as a prevalent language of the world. Apart from World Hindi Day, Hindi Divas is celebrated annually on September 14. On that day in 1949, the Constituent assembly adopted Hindi, written in Devanagari script, as the official language of the Union.
Odissi Recitals Led by Guru Jytosnarani Sahoo
(26-29 January, 2020)

Group Photo with the Odissi dance delegation, HCI & MGICC Officials & Malick Folk Company after the Recital at NAPA, Port of Spain
As part of the promotion of Conversational Hindi, an informal interactive session with Hindi Teachers, Students of the High Commission as well as Hindi Enthusiasts was held on Sunday 09 February, 2020 at the NCIC Diwali Nagar, Chaguanas.

**Where are you from? : आप कहाँ से हैं।**
(Aap kahaan se hein?)

**I am from India/Trinidad: मैं भारत/ त्रिनिदाद से हूँ।**
(Main Bhārat/ Trinidad se hoon)

**I am Indian : मैं भारतीय हूँ।**
(Main bhaarateey hoon)

**Where do you live? : आप कहाँ रहते हैं।**
(Aap kahaan rahate hein?)

**I live in____: मैं ____ में रहता / रहती हूँ।**
(Main ____ mein rehtaa/ rehtee (female) hoon)
"Participating in the 58th KIP has been a life changing experience! Through the Ministry of External Affairs, I was able to gain the experience of a lifetime; to explore the rich culture, rapidly growing economy, astounding hospitality and marveling architecture of the motherland. This was definitely a life changing experience since I was able to interact with the Indian Diaspora from 5 different countries and build friendships that would last a lifetime. To everyone involved in the planning process, a sincere thank you for making my dream come through.”

-Ms. Chandini Deonarine

58th KIP (01-25 December, 2019) with Partner State: Odisha.
Participants from T&T included: Ms. Chandini Deonarine, Mr. Dukharan Jaggernath, Ms. Angenie Sookdeo, Ms. Anjali Williams, Mr. Israel Khan & Ms. Saleemah Chankerdial.

"Without any fear of exaggeration, the 59th KIP has been the best experience of my life. It was 25 days filled with authentic Indian food & exploration of marvellous sites across India. The 59th KIP also provided a fully immersive cultural experience through various events such as Makar Sankranti, Pongal festival & the massive Republic Day celebration. However, the unique factor that makes this trip truly a once in a lifetime experience, is the amazing lifelong friends we made from 8 different countries which made the experience unforgettable.”

-Mr. Shane Musai
Mr. Premchand Jaskaran from T&T participated in the 52nd International Training Programme on Standardization & Conformity Assessment at the Bureau of Indian Standards, New Delhi.

Dominica national, Mr. Kemuel Lodrick, participated in the Introduction to Cyber Security course at GFSU, Ahmedabad.

Grenada nationals, Mrs. Kerisha Horsford & Mrs. Lesha Haynes participating in the Climate Change & Sustainable Development course at the EPTRI, Hyderabad.

Public Health Officials from T&T; Mr. Mitra Sooklal, Ms. Fanta Pierre Sandy & Ms. Natasha Hernandez, participating in the 7th Int’l Public Health Programme at PGIMER, Chandigarh.

Attorneys from T&T; Mrs Sydelle Marchan-Jairam & Mr. Aneil Joseph, participating in the 35th Int’l Programme on Legislative Drafting at the Bureau of Parliamentary Studies & Training, New Delhi.

Mr. Shannon Bedminister, Dominica national, visited Port of Spain before participating in the Budgeting, Accounting & Financial Management course at NIFM, Faridabad.

Ms. Natasha Registe, Dominica national, participated in the International Programme on Inclusive Banking & Finance at NIBM, Pune.
H.E. Mr. Arun Kumar Sahu, Mr. Rentala Srinivas, Attache & Mr. M.C. Bhagat, Second Secretary, meeting with Ms. Shadel Compton, Honorary Consul of India to Grenada at the Belmont Estate, Grenada (18 December, 2019)

A new beginning: Signing of an MOU with Grenada for visa free travel for Diplomats & Officials on the eve of Grenada’s 46th Independence Day (06 Feb., 2020)

High Commissioner attending Grenada’s 46th Independence Day Celebrations
MISSION'S ENGAGEMENTS

From L-R: H.E. Mr. Arun Kumar Sahu met with Ms. Marina Walter, UN Resident Coordinator, Ms. Randi Davis, UNDP Resident Representative & H.E. Mr. Kumar Gupta, High Commissioner of Canada to T&T

From L-R: H.E. Mr. Arun Kumar Sahu paid visits to H.E. Mr. Roger Gopaul, High Commissioner of T&T to India & Mrs. Gopaul before they left for India, Her Worship Vandana Mohit, Mayor of Chaguanas & ITEC Alumnus & Prof. Brian Copeland, Pro-Vice Chancellor & Campus Principal of UWI, St. Augustine Campus.

India means Business: H.E. Mr. Arun Kumar Sahu presented at the Confederation of Business Chambers of T&T

High Commissioner attends the re-opening ceremony of T&T’s Parliament

Magnificent Red House: Parliament house of T&T, privileged to be invited to this ceremony @IndiaInTandT @MEAIndia
Live Stream of the Pravasi Bharatiya Divas 2020 at the High Commission
Recycle Initiative in collaboration with iCare as part of the Swacchh Bharat Mission
High Commission in the Headlines

India HC attends Tobago Day Awards

India’s High Commissioner to TT, Kamal Farooq, attended Tobago Day Awards last Friday, held at the Band Stand, Queen’s Park Savannah, Port of Spain.

India’s Climate Change Policy: Towards a Better Future

India’s Climate Change Policy: Towards a Better Future

TT celebrates World Hindi Day

INDIA HC ATTENDS TCB DAY AWARDS

Mr. Farooq congratulated those who received Tobago Day Awards. He said the awards were not only a celebration of Tobago Day but also a reminder of the importance of cultural heritage.

India dreams of a ‘formidable future’

India’s High Commissioner to TT, Kamal Farooq, has offered a glimpse of India’s dreams of a ‘formidable future’.

Balmiki Ramayan photographic images in TT

Balmiki Ramayan photographic images in TT

India’s Republic Day

India’s Republic Day celebrations were held at the High Commission of India in Port of Spain, attended by the High Commissioner, Kamal Farooq, and other dignitaries.

Business chambers told of opportunities in India

Business chambers told of opportunities in India

Notice

Notice from the Government of the Republic of India

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HIGH COMMISSION OF INDIA
TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

Is pleased to announce the commencement of

SPEAK HINDI CLASSES

(Free of Charge)

Interested Persons can contact:
Mr. M.G. Bhagat, Second Secretary (Hindi)
Email: hindi.pospain@mea.gov.in | Tel.: 225-4340

Consular Camp
Grenada

28th February, 2020 / 8:00 am to 4:00pm
True Blue Bay Resort, Grenada.
Contact Information

#6, Victoria Avenue,
Port of Spain
Trinidad and Tobago

(868)225-4340

https://www.hcipos.gov.in/
India in T&T Newsletters:
https://www.hcipos.gov.in/page/cultural_news/

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