



Vol.1 Issue #10, April-May 2021

Bimonthly Cultural Newsletter of the
High Commission of India, Trinidad and Tobago
(Concurrent accreditation : Dominica, Grenada & Montserrat)



In This Issue:

- Virtual Indian Arrival day program 2021.
- Interaction with the Know India Programme.
- A tribute to Nobel Laureate Sir V. S. Naipaul.
- Democracy at Work.
- India's Vaccine Maitry.
- Financial Assistance to Cultural Organization - Friends of Mr. Biswas
- Handing over of cheque to Gandhi Seva Sangh
- Media coverage .
- Lotus Temple, New Delhi and A Poem (Light the Candle) in Hindi.
- Focus on Assam .
- Educational Institution in India.

The High Commission of India, T&T in collaborations with the Mahatma Gandhi Institute for Cultural Cooperation invites all to view our virtual 2021 Celebration of Trinidad & Tobago's Indian Arrival Day. The High Commission of India, T&T and the Mahatma Gandhi Institute for Cultural Cooperation (MGICC) would like to wish the citizens of Trinidad & Tobago a Happy Indian Arrival Day.



A lively interaction with the Know India Programme (KIP) Beneficiaries.

My Trip to India The 3rd PTDY

My trip to India could be the greatest opportunity and experience in my life. It was not just a physical journey, but a spiritual and cultural exposure to the land and values that individualized me and blessed me with an identity and value system that will be the most important inheritance my children can get.

Always in contact with interests on Bharat Mata, much of my children and my life were spent on learning of the pre and post-independence activities, and the contributions of the likes of Bhagat Singh, Subhas Chandra Bose, Mahatma Gandhi, Abdul Kalam, and even now in Mohan Bhagwat and Narendra Modi ji. I had to take many reality checks to confirm that I was not dreaming, that I was indeed going to Bharat Mata.

I am sure others will write on the places we visited so I will not repeat. A great personal moment was when I disembarked the plane at Delhi and had the divine experience to actually touch the soil of India. My eyes were tear-filled, my heart was pounding with joy and body shivering from the sanctity of making physical contact with this great land that put meaning to my life.

Everything on that trip was special, and I paid attention to all details. I was impressed by the service and courtesy from the staff at the train and the immaculate hotels we stayed at - service that could match and exceed that from any other country. I was inspired by the professionalism and cordiality of the typically young persons who did a superlative job in ensuring that we were well taken care of. I could never understand how I could eat so much food and yet not have gained any weight.

I was no stranger in India, once I mentioned the names of Sunil Narine, Dwayne Bravo, Kieron Pollard or Brian Lara, I became an instant celebrity. I even got a free box of Chai at a stall at the Airport because of those names. I stood in the midst of 1.3 billion people, and no one could tell the difference between me and any other person - simply because I am also Indian, notwithstanding my country of birth.

As I reflect on that celestial pilgrimage - my Yaatra, it is certainly the greatest gift that I have ever received. The experience was heart-touching and celestial. No activity or privilege in an entire life could even compare with touching the water of the Ganges.

I never imagined that I would have ever had the opportunity to experience the greatness of Bharat Mata. My appreciation goes to the Indian Government and its subsidiaries for this opportunity, to make my dream a reality and for me to walk amongst my family, in land of my ancestors. My appreciation also goes to the others in our group and also from the different countries who bonded, supported and created a family atmosphere during entire trip.

I will never forget the gratitude, and I am forever indebted.

Bharat Mata Ki Jai

Jai Hind.



Roopnarine Siewnarine



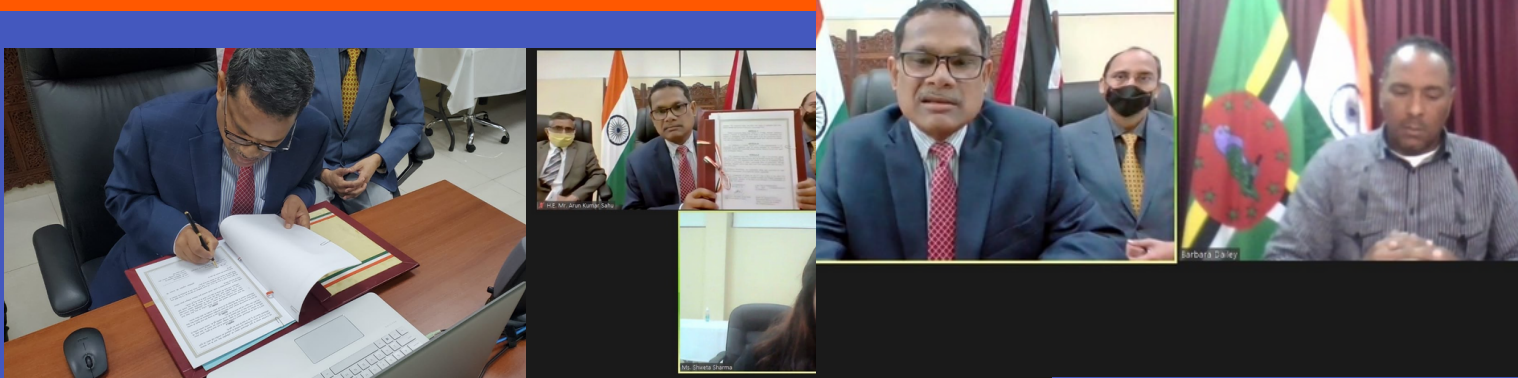
Democracy at Work

'CHALLENGES OF GLOBAL HINDI: SOME LINGUISTIC SOLUTIONS'

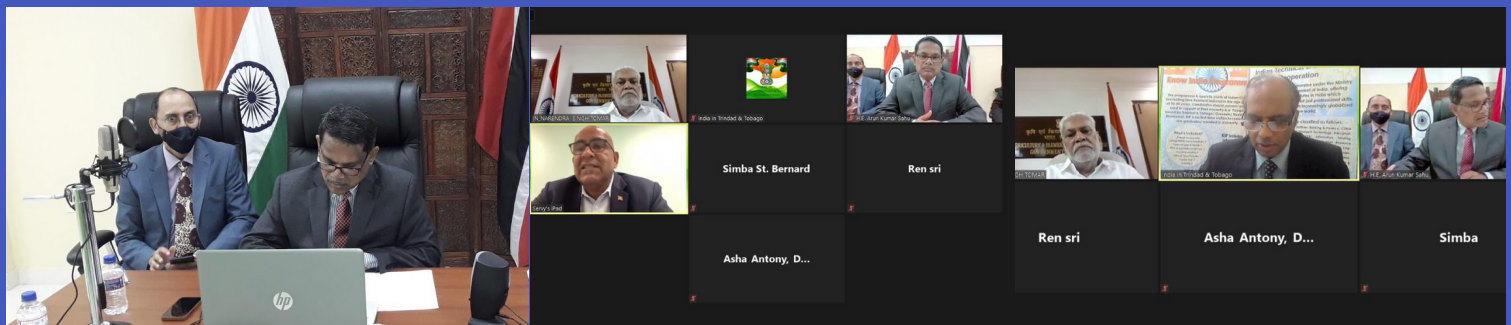


H.E. Mr. Arun Kumar Sahu, High Commissioner of India to Trinidad & Tobago was honored to address a global seminar on 'CHALLENGES OF GLOBAL HINDI: SOME LINGUISTIC SOLUTIONS' as Chief Guest. The webinar was held on the 17th April 2021. Shri Shiv Kumar Nigam, Second Secretary (HEC) delivered vote of thanks. Highly literate audience from different parts of the world including US, UK, Singapore, India, T&T etc. took part in this webinar. This webinar was organized in association with World Hindi Secretariat, Mauritius and Srijan Australia International E-magazine.

India & Commonwealth Dominica signed a bilateral agreement for visa free movement of diplomats and officials, further consolidating the close relationship.

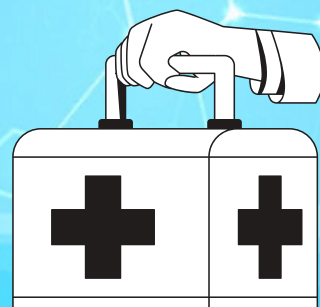


Further strengthening India-Grenada cooperation in Agricultural sector. Ministers of both countries exchanged ideas virtually. Thanks to H.E. Peter David & his team Grenada and Minister Shri Parshottam Rupala & his team.



INDIA's VACCINE MAITRY (VACCINE FREINDSHIP)

Diplomacy in a Pandemic.



The High Commissioner of India H.E Arun Kumar Sahu handed over the Government of India's donation of 40,000 AstraZeneca Covid-19 vaccines last night at the Piarco International Airport. On site were the Minister of Health Dr. Terrance Deyalsingh and the Minister of Foreign and CARICOM Affairs Dr. Amery Browne



राजस्थान सरकार
कार्यालय चिकित्सा अफ़ेयर्स, राज. स्वा. वि. वि. आर्युर्विज्ञान चिकित्सालय
(सवाई मानसिंह चिकित्सालय, जयपुर से संबंधित)
दस्तावेज नंबर- 0111-2795631
0141-279550
0141-279577
Website : www.rjhhs.com
E-mail : rajstgpc@rajstgpc.com

क्रमांक - २२६ (राज. स्वा. वि. वि. - एन.ए.एस. / अफ़ेयर्स - कोविड / २०२१ - २२) दिनांक - १८/०४/२०२१

कोविड पेशेंट सेवा ग्रुप,
मो. नंबर- 8890949494, +1-868-3027821

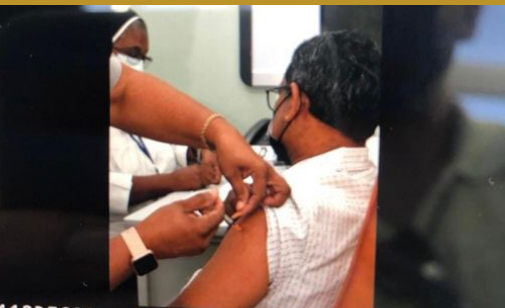
विषय- कोविड-19 अन्तर्गत जीवन रक्षक उपकरण की आपूर्ति बाबत।

उपरोक्त विषयान्तर्गत विवेचन है कि कोविड-19 महामारी से आज पूरा देश जूझ रहा है। इस महामारी में मानव जीवन की रक्षा एवं कोविड के प्रभावी नियंत्रण एवं नती मरीजों के ईलाज में सहायता हेतु आपकी संस्था द्वारा राजस्थान स्वास्थ्य विज्ञान विश्वविद्यालय आर्युर्विज्ञान चिकित्सालय, जयपुर (Raj. S. Hospital, Jaipur) में 03 BIPEP MACHINE ALONG WITH TREE FULL FACE MASK देने का प्रस्ताव भिजवाया है, जिस हेतु आप साधुवीर के पात्र हैं। चिकित्सालय में मरीजों के ईलाज हेतु यह अत्यधिक उपयोगी साबित होगा।

चिकित्सालय परिवार की ओर से आपको कोटि-कोटि धन्यवाद।

(डॉ. अजीत सिंह)
चिकित्सा अधीक्षक

NO:- F/ JR/HS-CMS/HOSPITAL/N/SUPDT_OFF/COVID2020-21/345-17 DATE: 18/4/2021



112D5600 DSC_0608.JPG
18/04/2021 08:13:00

H.E. Mr. Arun Kumar Sahu, High Commissioner of India to Trinidad and Tobago, received his first dose of COVID-19 (AstraZeneca) vaccination at the Diego Martin Health Centre today (18.04.2021)

High Commission of India in Trinidad and Tobago appreciates with thanks the "Covid Patients Seva Group" comprising of friends from T&T and India for donation of 3 BIPEP MACHINES and 3 big boxes full of masks to Government hospitals in Rajasthan, India.



Financial Assistance to Cultural Organization

**Handing over of Cheque to Friends of Mr. Biswas
and a Cultural Program in Memory of
Sir V. S. Naipaul**





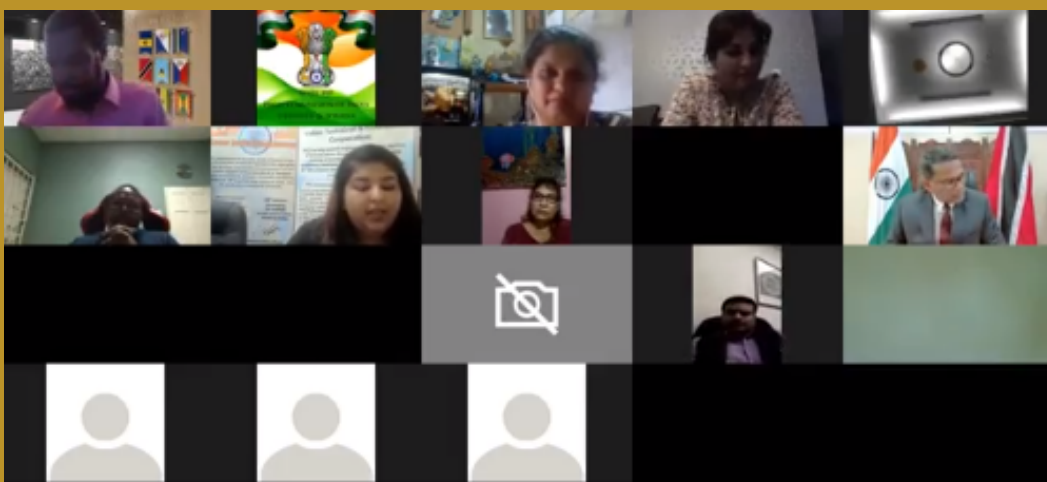
महात्मा गांधी सांस्कृतिक सहयोग संस्थान Mahatma Gandhi Institute for Cultural Cooperation Trinidad & Tobago



Handing over of Cheque to Gandhi Seva Sangh



H.E. Mr. Arun Kumar Sahu, High Commissioner of India to Trinidad and Tobago in a symbolic ceremony at the MGICC, Mt Hope handed over a cheque as a token of financial assistance to the Gandhi Seva Sangh of T&T for the upkeep, beautification and renovation of Gandhi Park in Port of Spain and the Gandhi statue in Harris Promenade, San Fernando in the esteemed presence of His Worship Mr Joel Martinez, Mayor of Port of Spain and His Worship Junia Regrello, the Mayor of San Fernando.



The High Commission of India, Trinidad & Tobago held a virtual seminar to highlight India's Information Technology & Information Technology Enabled Services Sector on the 30th April, 2021.

Media Coverage of the High Commission

Remembering Sir VS Naipaul

ARUN KUMAR SAHU,
High Commissioner of India

In my first official reception address on September 5, 2019, after the presentation of credentials to Trinidad and Tobago's President, I had mentioned three names—Dr Eric Williams, Sir VS Naipaul and Brian Lara. There was a reason. In India, Naipaul is bound to raise his head when one talks of the Caribbean writings and literature in an intellectual circle.

Of relevance for me for today's event are his *A House for Mr Biswas* (1961) and the trilogy on India—*An Area of Darkness* (1964), *India: A Wounded Civilization* (1977) and *India: A Million Mutinies Now* (1990). Let me also add his book *Among the Believers: An Islamic Journey* (1981) since India represents an incredible range of diversity of faiths.

Naipaul evoked strong reactions from various quarters, including the Caribbean and the Indians. Critics have also expressed strong reservation about what he had said (his

societies and faiths. Maybe, this was because he wrote at a time when the readers preferred "clamorous sublimities," as explained by Arthur Clutton-Brock (1868-1924) in his essay "The Defects of English Prose." Clutton-Brock wrote, "If the cardinal virtue of poetry is love, the cardinal virtue of prose is justice; and, whereas love makes you act and speak on the spur of the moment, justice needs inquiry, patience, and a control even of the noblest passions." In this sense, Naipaul's prose, possibly, needed "justice" and hence inquiry, patience and control.

Naipaul himself was aware of it. In his Nobel reception speech in 2001, he was emphatic about his growing up surrounded by "darkness" and continuity of that darkness till the very end.

He said: "In Trinidad, bright boy though I was, I was surrounded by areas of darkness. School elucidated nothing for me." He added: "When I became a writer, those areas of darkness around me as a child

the colony; the history; India; the Muslim world, to which I also felt myself related; Africa; and then England, where I was doing my writing. That was what I meant when I said that my books stand one on the other."

About his writings, he explains: "I am the sum of my books." He goes on: "It's been like this because of my background. My background is at once exceedingly simple and exceedingly confused. I was born in Trinidad. It is a small island in the mouth of the great Orinoco river of Venezuela."

"So Trinidad is not strictly of South America, and not strictly of the Caribbean. It was developed as a New World plantation colony, and when I was born in 1932 it had a population of about 400,000. Of this, about 150,000 were Indians, Hindus and Muslims, nearly all of peasant origin, and nearly all from the Gangetic plain."

He continued: "The world outside existed in a kind of darkness; and we inquired about nothing." He added, "We

had left behind. When our ways of thinking had changed, and we wished to know, it was too late."

He yearned to discover his roots. He travelled to India for the first time in 1962 when he was 29. *An Area of Darkness*, a semi-autobiographical account, was considered a revelation both of his frustration in his ancestral homeland and himself. According to writer Amitav Ghosh, Naipaul's derision in this book stemmed not from what he saw in India but rather from his disillusionment with his uprooted ancestors' myths.

India: A Wounded Civilization was his second book after his third visit to India against the backdrop of promulgation of emergency in 1975. The third, a travelogue, *India: A Million Mutinies Now*, made his grips with India's experience. This time, he travelled around the metropolises including Bombay, Madras, Calcutta and Delhi and focused on post-independence development. In the process, he wrote a dynamic oral history of India. Ever since, he kept

attributes of a great creator is accepting his limitations, and with each creation, Naipaul just did that.

A student of English literature in India is not considered complete if he has not read Naipaul. Moreover, in the modern literary history of the South Asian subcontinent, the study of Caribbean diaspora writings begins with Naipaul's. In that context, Naipaul's writings, especially his *A House for Mr Biswas*, have attended timelessness.

When I visited the house-museum in Nepal Street, St James, it was the book's cinematic experience. For me, it was a lifetime opportunity to discover one of the great creative minds of the 20th century. We Indians are proud of his achievements. I am honoured and privileged that the High Commission of India in Trinidad and Tobago is making a small gesture by a tiny donation for the museum's upkeep and maintenance. I hope Naipaul's legacy will continue to inspire the younger generation of the

NEWSDAY SECTION A MONDAY MAY 3, 2021 PAGE

NEWS

Indian High Commission hosts virtual seminar

The High Commission of India hosted a virtual seminar on India's information technology and information technology-enabled services sector last Friday via Zoom.

The seminar, a press release from the commission stated, featured remarks by prominent speakers and IT-based companies in Trinidad and Tobago.

The virtual IT event

domestic scenario, its global presence, main sub-sectors of India's IT industries, major IT companies of India, GoI IT policy, IT education in India and the significance of the IT industry in the Caribbean region.

The seminar also featured a video message by Kallol Mukherjee, Head of International Business at APTECH (India) Ltd and remarks

FLOW Trinidad and Avinash Ramroop, IT Manager at the Youth Training and Employment Partnership Programme Limited (YT-EPP). The IT event featured a special presentation by Balaji Modhagala, Director of SiviSoft Solutions Pvt. Ltd, India as he highlighted his growing partnership with IT companies in Trinidad and the Caribbean region.

He also mentioned that SiviSoft is working with IT companies in the region in the areas of covid19 monitoring and vaccination management and monitoring.



VIRTUAL TALKS: India's High Commissioner to Trinidad and Tobago, Arun Kumar Sahu, holds a virtual seminar on India's IT last Friday at his office. PHOTO COURTESY INDIA HIGH COMMISSION

HELPING INDIA

DEFEAT THE SECOND WAVE OF COVID-19

UPDATE #1 (4 May 21)



- TT\$112,000.00 contributed by T&T Nationals.
- 2,584 Oxygen Concentrators shipped from Sewa USA.
- 1,298 already arrived at Delhi for distribution on the ground
- Distribution of Essential Kits commenced throughout states in India
- Closing Date for contributions: Monday 10th May, 2021

The World is one Family



For more information contact:
333-SEWA (7392), 796-0942 or 686-6888
Email: admin@sewausa.org



लोटस टेम्पल, नई दिल्ली



लोटस टेम्पल भारत के कुछ प्रसिद्ध मंदिरों में से एक है। यह नई दिल्ली में स्थित है। यह मंदिर शांति के प्रतीक के रूप में माना जाता है। मंदिर के गर्भग्रह का माहौल पूरी तरह से शांत होता है। यह दिल्ली के प्रमुख आकर्षणों में से एक है। नई दिल्ली के नेहरू प्लेस में स्थित लोटस टेम्पल एक बहाई उपासना मंदिर है, जहां न ही कोई मूर्ति है और न ही किसी प्रकार का पूजा पाठ किया जाता है। शांति और सुकून का अनुभव करने के लिए लोग यहां आते हैं। यहां आने वाले पर्यटक मंदिर के गर्भग्रह में बैठ कर शांति प्रार्थना करते हैं। इसका आकार कमल (लोटस) के जैसा है। कमल के समान बने इस मंदिर की आकृति के कारण ही इसे लोटस टेम्पल कहा जाता है। इसका निर्माण सन 1986 में किया गया था। यही वजह है कि इसे 20वीं सदी का ताजमहल भी कहा जाता है।

भारतीय परंपराओं में कमल को शांति और पवित्रता के सूचक और ईश्वर के अवतार के रूप में देखा जाता है। मंदिर का वास्तु पर्शियन आर्किटेक्ट फरीबर्ज सहबा द्वारा तैयार किया गया था। लोटस टेम्पल दुनिया भर में आधुनिक वास्तु कला के नमूनों में से एक है। इसका निर्माण बहा उल्लाह ने करवाया था, जो कि बहाई धर्म के संस्थापक थे। इसलिए इस मंदिर को बहाई मंदिर भी कहा जाता है। बावजूद इसके यह मंदिर किसी एक धर्म के दायरे में सिमटकर नहीं रह गया। यहां सभी धर्म के लोग आते हैं और शांति और सुकून का लाभ प्राप्त करते हैं। इसके निर्माण में करीब 1 करोड़ डॉलर की लागत आई थी। मंदिर आधे खिले कमल की आकृति में संगमरमर की 27 पंखुड़ियों से बनाया गया है, जो कि 3 चक्रों में व्यवस्थित हैं। मंदिर के चारों ओर 9 दरवाजे हैं और बीचों-बीच एक बहुत बड़ा हॉल स्थित है। जिसकी ऊंचाई 40 मीटर है। इस हॉल में करीब 2500 लोग एक साथ बैठ कर प्रार्थना कर सकते हैं। वर्ष 2001 की एक रिपोर्ट के मुताबिक इसे दुनिया की सबसे ज्यादा देखी जाने वाली जगह बताया गया था।

श्री अरुण कुमार साहू, त्रिनिदाद और टोबैगो में भारत के उच्चायुक्त द्वारा लिखी एक कविता और उसका हिंदी अनुवाद

Light the candles

In the veranda, in the courtyard, on the porch,
Around the holy basil chowra,
Under the sacred banyan and peepal tree,
On the head of the banana-bark boat,
On the wings of aeroplanes, and
On the tails of ships.
Light the candles
On the windows, on the doors, and the highways,
In huts, in palaces and refugee camps,
On the rooftop of a laborer's shelter,
In the tents of the migrant workers,
In temples, mosques and churches,
In holy places,
In battlefields, and
In the markets of gunpowder and arms.
This is not the first black night,
Not also the only black night,
Not even a sign of future black nights.
Black nights have existed since eternity,
Because of the imbalance of nature,
Out of man's primal desire.
Day and night and night after day;
Darkness and light and light after dark;
End after beginning and beginning out of the end
The cycle of nature.
The black night is not everlasting;
Implanted in its womb is its ending.
Darkness is inside,
In man's mind, body and soul,
In perpetuation of violence, power and subjugation,
In the pleasure of greed, hatred and lust;
Before time flies by
Light the candles there,
Within.

Poet : Arun Kumar sahu, High Commissioner of India to T&T

दिए जलाओ रोशनी के लिए

दिए जलाओ रोशनी के लिए
बारामदे में, आँगन में, ओसारे पर,
पवित्र तुलसी चौरों के पास,
पावन बरगद और पीपल के पेड़ के नीचे,
हवाई जहाज़ के पंखों पर, समुद्री जहाज़ों के पृष्ठभाग में।
दिए जलाओ रोशनी के लिए
खिड़कियों, दरवाजों और राजमार्गों पर,
कुटिया, महलों, और शरणार्थि शिविरों में,
श्रमिकों के शरणस्थल की छतों पर,
प्रवासी श्रमिकों के तंबूओं में,
मंदिरों, मस्जिदों और गिरजाघरों में,
पुण्यस्थलों में,
रणक्षेत्रों में तथा
बारूद और हथियारों के बाज़ारों में।
यह कोई पहली काली रात नहीं,
इकलौती काली रात भी नहीं,
भविष्य की काली रात का आखिरी संकेत भी नहीं,
चिर काल से चली आ रही है रात काली,
प्रकृति के असंतुलन से,
मनुष्य की जन्मतजात वासना से,
दिन और रात और रात के बाद फिर दिन;
अँधेरा और उजाला और अंधेरे के बाद फिर उजाला;
आरंभ के बाद अंत और अंत से ही उदय,
ये प्रकृति का चक्र,
चिरकालिक नहीं हैं ये रात काली;
इसकी कोख में ही निहित है इसका अंत।
अँधेरा अंतरमन में,
मनुष्य के मस्तिष्क, शरीर और आत्मा में,
हिंसा, शक्ति और दमन की आकांक्ष में,
तृष्णा, अभिलाषा, घृणा और वासना के उन्माद में;
उसके पहले कि समय व्यर्थ बीत जाए,
दिए जलाओ रोशनी के लिए,
अपने अंतरतम में।

हिंदी अनुवाद- शिव कुमार निगम, द्वितीय सचिव (हिंदी, शिक्षा और संस्कृति)

Incredible India Assam India.

The spectacular gateway to North-East India, Assam remains the most beautiful state of India. The state has a wealth of nature which is untouched and unexplored. This nature lover's paradise pampers you with majestic sights of Brahmaputra River and wonderful hills. Tea plantation of Assam can never be missed. They stretch all over the state and look like a never ending emerald blanket. Locals of Assam lead a simple life and are deeply rooted to their cultures and traditions. An interaction with them gives you a clear insight of their active way of living which is simple yet unique in its own way



Agnigarh hill is situated in Tezpur in Assam. As per Hindu mythology, a fortress was built here by King Banasura with a view to isolate his daughter Usha. The legend further goes to say that the place derived the name owing to the fire that surrounded the fortress always to avoid movement in and out of the place. The word Agni means fire.



The park is situated on the northern banks of the river Brahmaputra. It is the only National Park in the country, which was created naturally. The tribes who lived there had abandoned 78.81-sq.km area. Some of the animals found here include royal Bengal tiger, one horned rhinoceros, leopard, elephant and many more. The place offers great delight to bird watchers as one could find various local birds and migratory birds here.



Particulars	Description
 Area	78,438 sq. km
 Population	3,11,69,272 *
 Capital	Dispur
 Principal Languages	Assamese



Asia's first oil refinery, which is the second in world, is in Digboi. The oil town not only has refinery, which is over 100 years old but also has number of tea gardens. The place with misty blue hills offers various attractions including Digboi Oil Refinery, Ridge Point and Digboi Centenary Museum. From Ridge Point, you could have a stunning view of snow-clad mountains of eastern Himalayas. Digboi Centenary Museum gives you an insight into the history of the town.

For more Information

<http://www.incredibleindia-tourism.org/state-in-india/assam.html>



অসম বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় ASSAM UNIVERSITY SILCHAR, ASSAM

Assam University offers a unique environment where the students become empowered through learning and numerous other curricular and co-curricular opportunities.

- Department of Physics
- Department of Chemistry
- Department of Mathematics
- Department of Computer Science
- Department of Statistics
- Department of Political Science
- Department of History
- Department of Sociology
- Department of Social



For more Information visit
<http://www.aus.ac.in/>



Contact Information



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



(868)225-4340
And 1(868)225-4345



<https://www.hcpos.gov.in/>
India in T&T Newsletters:
https://www.hcpos.gov.in/page/cultural_news/



Consular/Visa: cons.pospain@mea.gov.in
Scholarships: itec.pospain@mea.gov.in
Commerce: com.pospain@mea.gov.in
Hindi: hindi.pospain@mea.gov.in
Feedback on Newsletter:

Chief Editor: Mr. Shiv Kumar Nigam, Second Secretary (HEC), HCI, POS, T&T
Editor: Mr. Dhanraj Singh, MGICC (hindi.pospain@mea.gov.in)

Connect with us on Social Media:



IndiaInTnT



@IndiaInTnT
@AmbArunSahu



india_in_tnt



India in Trinidad &
Tobago