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Remarks By H.E. Arun Kumar Sahu, High Commissioner

at the 3rd International Veda Conference
Hilton Trinidad and Conference Centre
01-03 November,2019

Her Excellency Paula-Mae Weeks, Hon’ble President of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago, Distinguished guests of the evening, Ladies and Gentlemen!

I am honoured to be invited to bring the greetings from India, the home of Vedic theology to this august gathering of the 3rd International Conference on the 'Application of Modern and Vedic Science', organized by the Maharishi Vedic University in collaboration with the Brahma Vidya Peetham International in Port of Spain. I understand, in this two-day long conference, Vedic Scholars and Scientists from around the world are sharing ideas and discussing practical steps on application of Vedic technologies for the benefits of human life. I am also aware that previous such conferences were held in India and Nepal. I commend the organizers for this endeavor.

I am neither a Vedic expert nor a scientist, I represent India, the India that accounts for one-sixth of humanity, a civilizational history of over five thousand years and an intellectual tradition of arguments and counter-arguments, of thesis, antithesis, and synthesis encompassing almost all aspects of human existence. I represent a land where when a young mind, bejeweled looking at millions of bright and dim stars and the moon in the sky asks his mother or grandmother “who are they?” is often told that the moon is the maternal uncle (Chandamama) and the constellations of stars near the moon are the saptarshis (the seven enlightened souls) who spent their lives to understand the mystery of the creation of the universe, the relationship between human being and his surrounding, his nature; the ecosystem, happiness and sufferings; interconnectedness among mind, body, soul and spirit. They explained the comprehensible and tried to find explanation for the incomprehensible.

That is only the beginning; but as the child grows, in a myriad ways, directly or indirectly, along with his own tradition of Veda, Upanishad, Puranas and hundreds of undocumented folklores and folktales, he also gets to know how great minds in other civilizations and societies have tried to and are trying to find explanations to these complex phenomena. He inherits Vashishtha, Viswamitra, Gautama, Bharadwaja, Kapila, Panini, Patanjali, Buddha, Mahavira, Chankaya, Nagarjuna, Thiru Vallavur, Shilabhadra, Charaka, Susruta, Ramanuja, Kabir, Chaitany, Ravidas, Mirabai, Nanak, Dayananda Saraswati, Ramakrishna Paramahansa, Swami Vivekananda, Rabindranath Tagore, Mahatma Gandhi and thousand others and also allows himself to be exposed to Heraclitus, Socrates, Aristotle, Cicero, Ibn Sena, Abelard, Machiavelli, Thomas More, Francis Bacon, Galileo, Rene Descartes, Hobbes, Lock, Rousseau, Newton, Voltaire, Einstein, Stephan Hawkins, Confucius, Xuan Zhang, Faxian, Sun Zhu, Ferdowsi, Rumi and countless others. In the process, today, he has become a cross point for the oriental and the occidental, the rational and the spiritual, the zero (nothingness in Indian tradition) and the infinity. In a sense, a unique global reference point.

Truth is absolute and knowledge is infinite and since time immemorial, the human mind has delved into unveiling the mystery both within him and outside, find scientific explanation to cause and effect, find remedies for pain and sufferings and have made tremendous efforts to work towards creating a peaceful world. As humanity faces new challenges in this century, the Indian tradition of knowledge with its depth and richness has to play a decisive role. I am sure the present conference will contribute immensely to this effort.

I wish the conference a grand success. Thank you.
High Commission of India at the Diwali Nagar 2019

Officials & staff of the High Commission along with some NCIC Executive members & EMA (iCare) representatives at the official opening of the booth.

Performances by Mahatma Gandhi Institute for Cultural Cooperation (MGICC) Teachers & feature address by High Commissioner on the main stage.

MGICC, Khadi India and Himalaya products on display.
Snapshots of Visits to the booth by Officials, Friends of India & General Public

Other Activities: Mehendi, Saree Draping Competition & Know India Quiz
Outreach Initiatives

The Art of Sari Wrapping by The Port of Spain Adult Library in collaboration with the ladies of the High Commission at NALIS

Presentation on Diwali by the High Commission at the Ministry of Trade and Industry

High Commission officials attend Tobago Hindu Society's Diwali Celebrations in Tobago

Diplomatic Dialogue on “India’s Foreign Policy Perspective” at the Diplomatic Academy of the Caribbean
Outreach Initiatives

550th Birth Anniversary Celebrations of Guru Nanak Dev ji at the Gurudwar Sahib Trinidad & Tobago

High Commission of India in collaboration with India Tourism office in New York organized a Know India Seminar in San Fernando

High Commission joined The University of the West Indies in their annual Math Fair

Engaging with Communities: High Commissioner attends a fund-raising concert in Cumuto
India High Commissioner celebrates first Diwali in T&T

LORFEY VINCENT

India’s High Commissioner to Trinidad and Tobago, Arun Kumar Sahu, says he feels very much welcomed in this country.

“I stand with Trinidad and Tobago, and do not feel separated here,” he said as he made remarks at the Diwali celebrations hosted by the Tobago Hindu Society on October 20, at the Gulf Hotel in Port of Spain.

“This is the first time of this country’s Diwali celebrations. As High Commissioner Sahu, I thought it was the right time as this is his first trip to Tobago since his arrival in the country earlier this year.

“In India, we believe that whoever has visited India in the last five thousand years has become part of India and contributed to the richness of that country and all those who have left India for some reason or the other have carried a part of India in their hearts.

“Today all of us here are different cultures, different countries, different religions, and many of us from different backgrounds, it is something we cannot take for granted,” Ali said.

He said diwali is the festival of light and “we can assemble and celebrate to enjoy for many different reasons. However, in many parts of the world, similar celebrations cannot take place.

He said God gave the freedom to choose how we worship, so they should be grateful they can sit together and enjoy each other’s religion.

Marvin Williams spoke on behalf of the Secretary for Tourism, Culture and Sports, Nalini Seewoosagur-Reagon.

She commended the Tobago Hindu Society for keeping the spirit of Diwali alive on the island.

“At one of the longest religious bodies in Trinidad and the oldest religions in the world, you have tremendously enhanced the fabric of this country and certainly Tobago,” Williams said.

Williams said, the vibrant life of the Hindu community, the delicious cuisine and unwavering faith, discipline and generosity, are reflected in Diwali celebrations. According to Williams, the Tobago Hindu Society’s Diwali celebrations are a true reflection of our diversity as a twin island nation.

Indian High Commissioner attends Diwali function

Indian High Commissioner, Arun Kumar Sahu, attends the Diwali function at the Tobago Hindu Society yesterday. (PHOTO COURTESY THE INDIAN HIGH COMMISSION)

Spread message of love, compassion

A message from Indian High Commissioner Arun Kumar Sahu

To our readers, I am privileged to address you on this auspicious occasion of Diwali.

Diwali symbolizes the victory of good over evil, darkness over enlightenment, ignorance, and universal brotherhood. This is an occasion to embrace everyone and spread the message of love and compassion. Diwali is a powerful metaphor for knowledge, enlightenment, and oneness.

On this occasion, I extend my best wishes to you all for happiness, prosperity, and well-being.

Rishi Dixit
First Consular Camp in Grenada in collaboration with the Honorary Consul of Grenada

Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC)

Ms. Calesha Noel, Grenada national & participant in the International Programme on Inclusive Banking & Finance, NIBM, Pune

Mr. Bernard Barrie & Ms. Jermaine Jeanpierre, Dominica nationals & participants in the Investigation of Cyber Crimes course at the Gujarat Forensic Sciences University, Ahmedabad.

Mr. Reginald Lodrick, Dominica national, selected to participate in the Introduction to Cyber Security course at IIT, Kanpur

Mrs. Lesha Haynes & Mrs. Kerisha Horstford, Grenada nationals selected to participate in the Climate Change & Sustainable Development course at EPTRI, Hyderabad.

Mr. Charles Louis, Dominica national & Mr. Kendly Frederick, Grenada national, selected to participate in the Cyber Security and Incident Response course at the Gujarat Forensic Sciences University, Ahmedabad.
(From L-R) Ms. Renuka Ganesh, participant in the 'Gender Issues in the World of Work' course at the V.V. Giri National Labour Institute, Noida, Ms. Elspeth Dade, participant in the 'Performance Audit' course at the International Center for Information Systems and Audit, Noida & Mr. Premchand Jaskaran, participant in the 'International Training Programme on Standardization and Conformity Assessment' course at the National Institute Training for Standardization (BIS), Noida.

Ms. Jayme Hoyte, participating in the ‘International Management Development Programme on Global Strategic Leadership for Growth and Sustainable Development’ at the Indian Institute of Public Administration, New Delhi.

Ms. Judy Rampersad, from Tobago, participating in the ‘Tourism and Hospitality’ (THM) course at the National Institute for Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises, Hyderabad.

(From L-R) Mr. Everson Beeda participant in the 'Formal Solutions to Informal Settlements’ course at the Human Settlement Management Institute (HSMI), New Delhi, Mr. Joseph Fortune, participant in the 'Cyber Security and Incident Response' course at the Gujarat Forensic Sciences University, Ahmedabad & Mr. Davanand Khillawan participant in the ‘Certificate Course in Fertilizer Technology’ at the Rashtriya Chemicals & Fertilizers Limited, Mumbai.
Participants: Ms. Trissie Ali, Mr. Reshard Khan, Mr. Harshan Lal, Ms. Samantha Lalla, Mr. Keshan Lalsingh, Ms. Shivana Latchu & Ms. Nandani Bridglal

Participants: Mr. Rishi Meetoo, Ms. Sujaaji Persad, Ms. Kumarie Kuarsingh, Ms. Shantelle Dan & Mr. Chris Sieuchand

Participants: Mrs. Sacha Latchu, Ms. Ananda Hanooman, Mr. Shankar Ramjattan, Mr. Nicholas Dhanraj & Ms. Karishma Kheerai

Participants: Mrs. Tisha Ramgarib, Mr. Premchan Ramroop, Ms. Avinash Phagoo, Ms. Shanna Ramlogan, Ms. Veeshalla Maharaj, Mr. Jerome Gunness & Mr. Riad Beharry

3rd Pravasi Teerath Darshan Yojana (22 Nov.-08 Dec., 2019).
Participants: Mrs. Satyam Nandalal, Mrs. Tara Bashlal, Mrs. Indra Narinesingh Mahabir, Mrs. Saheelee Sankar, Mr. Roopnarine Siewmarine, Mrs. Kalawati Jaroo & Mr. Ricardo Hansil
Chhau

The Chhau Dance is a popular form of tribal dance in India that incorporates elements of martial arts into its movements and is predominantly performed in three of India's eastern states; West Bengal, Jharkhand, and Odisha by men. The dance technique consists of powerful movements, kicks, and leaps. There are three subtypes of this dance form; namely Purulia Chhau, Mayurbanj Chhau and Seraikella Chhau. Differences between the three are dependent on their regions of origin.

Chhau Performances in Trinidad and Tobago

Visiting Chhau group from Odisha, India with officials from the High Commission of India, MGICC, Ministry of Community Development, Culture and the Arts, Members of the Diplomatic Corp, renowned artistes Johan & Johanna Chuckeree & specially invited guests.

Chhau group pays a visit to the High Commission in Port of Spain.
High Commissioner H. E. Arun Kumar Sahu administered Unity pledge to Indian officials of the Mission on the occasion of Rashtriya Ekta Divas i.e. National Unity Day.

Celebration of Constitution Day. November 26 is celebrated as the anniversary of the adoption of the Indian Constitution.

Importance of Indian Diaspora

Read More:
STUDY IN INDIA: Scholarship Programmes

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INVITATION FOR GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ICCR GENERAL SCHOLARSHIP SCHEME 2020-2021

The Government of India announces scholarships under its ICCR General Scholarship Scheme for the academic session 2020-21 for Undergraduate, Postgraduate and Doctoral Studies in India, in the fields of Science, Technology, Engineering and Performing Arts.

Interested persons may fill application forms online through the A2A Scholarship Portal.
For further information, please visit the ICCR’s website www.a2ascholarships.iccr.gov.in.

The eligibility criteria may be read carefully.

Applications must be of 18 years.
This Scholarship Scheme does not include study in Medical, Paramedical and Fashion.
Airfare costs are not included in the Scholarship.

Selected candidates will be entitled to a small stipend, coverage of Tuition, Hostel & Medical fees and Bank allowance.

The application form, duly filled in with one copy, should be deposited at the MGICC or at the High Commission of India by Friday 21st February, 2020 before 5:00 p.m.

Applications received after this date will not be entertained.
For further information, the Director of MGICC may be contacted.

KAUTILYA FELLOWS PROGRAMME
Leadership - Policy - Strategy
January 24 - February 3, 2020 | New Delhi, India

Scholars, Academicians and Professionals are invited to participate in the Kautilya Fellows Programme (KFP) from January 24 - February 3, 2020 where they will gain a deeper understanding of modern-day India and its growing leadership in the world.

KFP is a unique and comprehensive 10-day workshop on India’s Foreign Policy and Public Policy, coordinated by the India Foundation in association with the Government of India.

The KFP offers a well-rounded curriculum which covers major thematic issues and strategic bilateral relationships in India’s foreign policy. The Programme also provides an in-depth understanding of India’s public institutions and their role in shaping India’s political economy and society. The KFP also provides innovative mechanisms to facilitate detailed analysis and interaction through Field Visits, Foreign Policy Labs and Panel workshops on selected issues.

Limited scholarships are available for deserving candidates which will cover the cost of airfare, accommodation and fees. The scholarship candidates will be selected by the Academic Council after reviewing the completed applications.

Interested candidates are requested to apply via http://indiafoundation.net and send an email to kautilya@iccr.gov.in indicating your submission of the application form.

Please Note: Selection will be conducted on merit bases and the deadline for applications is December 15, 2019.

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INVITATION FOR GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ICCR SCHOLARSHIP SCHEME IN MUSIC AND DANCE 2020-2021

The Government of India announces scholarships under its ICCR Scholarship Scheme 2020-21 in Music and Dance respectively.

Interested persons may fill application forms online through the A2A Scholarship Portal.
For Further information, please visit the ICCR’s website www.a2ascholarships.iccr.gov.in.

The eligibility criteria may be read carefully.

Please Note: Airfare costs are not included in the Scholarship.
Selected candidates will be entitled to a small stipend, coverage of Tuition, Hostel & Medical fees and Book allowance.

The application form, duly filled in with one copy, should be deposited at the MGICC or at the High Commission of India by Friday 21st February, 2020 before 5:00 p.m.

Applications received after this date will not be entertained.
For further Information, the Director of MGICC may be contacted.
Kerala: 'God's Own Country'

Green paradise, exotic, sunkissed beaches, tranquil backwaters...these are just a few ways to describe the beauty of Kerala. Kerala is blessed with a unique set of geographical features that have made it one of the most sought after tourist destinations in Asia. A long shoreline with serene beaches, tranquil stretches of emerald backwaters, lush hill stations and exotic wildlife, are just a few of the wonders. Most of the state is engulfed in rich greenery which ensures a very calming experience at all times. Bestowed with a pleasant and equable climate throughout the year, Kerala is a tropical land where one can relax and be at ease.

Kerala is a tropical paradise where you can paddle in tranquil backwaters, trek the rocky Western Ghats, chase the mists in the hill stations, rejuvenate with pristine Nature and Ayurvedic treatments, hug the unspoiled beaches and so much more. Kerala isn't just a destination; it's a saga of experiences!

Golden beaches, emerald backwaters, lofty mountain ranges, powerful art forms the choices are many and so are the wonders that await you in Kerala. Come and take home what they call 'memories', the kind that makes life worth living.

Kerala is teeming with events and festivals round the year so be sure to keep track of what happens when and where so as to be able to enjoy your trip to the fullest. From Cultural fairs like the Kochi Muziris Biennale to the legendary boat races of Kerala and other ritualistic festivals and celebrations, the list is endless.

Did You Know?

- Malayalam is the official state language
- Kerala is now the only state in India where Ayurveda is still followed as mainstream medicine
- Backwaters, i.e. chain of lagoons & lakes, is one of the key features of Kerala
- The name Kerala is derived from the root word "Keram" which means coconut tree in Malayalam
- Elephant is considered Kerala's state animal
- Kathakali & Mohiniyattam, forms of Indian Classical Dance, originated in Kerala

Snakes boat race in Allapuzha
Kochi: Major port & cosmopolitan city
Munnar: Rolling tea estates

Trinidad & Tobago Youths Visit Kerala under the 56th Know India Programme

"The entire trip was truly memorable and exceeded expectations from beginning to end. Our trip included Alleppey (the houseboat), Munnar and Kochi. Kerala Backwaters are a chain of lagoons and lakes that lie parallel to the Arabian Sea. The boat trip on the backwaters was so comfortable, unique, memorable, with lovely surroundings, and wonderful home cooking. The Kathakali Dance event in Kochi gave an interesting insight into the historical parts of the area and was well worth seeing all the make up as well as the dancing. Our hosts were very welcoming and gave us insight into life in Kerala. The accommodation, the food, the people... all fantastic. Kerala is definitely God's own country which occupies a special place in my heart."

-Mrs. Sacha Mahabal Latchu
चलो हिंदी सीखें

ऋषिकेश तीर्था
(Rishikesh Yatra)

शांति और आसमान के लिए एक जगह, ऋषिकेश वनस्पतियों और जीवों के समृद्ध दृश्य के साथ हिमालय की तलहटी में स्थित है। देवता और आनंद की भावना वातावरण में व्याप्त है। विशाल पहाड़ पहरी की तरह खड़े थे।

चहकने वाली पक्षियों की मधुर आवाज़, पत्तियों की सरसपाहर और गायों की पास स्वर्गीय परिवेश में जुड़ जाती है। इस शानदार वातावरण ने ऋषियों, पतियों, योगियों और आध्यात्मिक साधकों के लिए एक दिव्य आश्रय बनाया जो ध्यान, योग और पूजा में संलग्न हैं।

एक और भी दिव्य अनुभव गंगा नदी के तट पर देखा गया था। गंगा आस्तिक भक्ति का स्थान। पीली धोती पहने हुए ब्राह्मण विनम्रता में खड़े होकर अपनी दैनिक प्रार्थना की दिनचर्या शुरू करने के लिए शुभ घंटी का इंतजार कर रहे थे। गंगा नदी के लयबंध प्रवाह ने पवित्र वनों द्वारा भजन और मंत्रों की मधुर ध्वनियों को नुस्खा किया। पवित्र रेखाओं के लहराते हुए, जलती हुई प्राणसाहिनी छड़ियों की मौठ खुशबू के साथ समाधि के लिए शही वातावरण बनाया गया।

शुभ भक्ति के इस पवित्र कार्य ने विभिन्न रंग, वंश और जाति के सैकड़ों भक्तों को एक साथ लाया। ऋषिकेश की यात्रा का एक अनुभव जिसे आपको खेल नहीं है।

- Mr. Tarun Maharaj from Trinidad and Tobago studying Hindi on 'Propagation of Hindi Abroad' Scholarship 2019-20 at the Kendriya Hindi Sansthan, Agra, India.
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