



Mumbai Münster Institute of Advanced Studies – MMIAS
University of Mumbai & University of Münster
and
Indian Council of Social Science Research – ICSSR
Western Regional Centre, Mumbai
Present
A Joint International Interdisciplinary Online/Offline Conference
India 75: Reflections On and From the Indian Diaspora

24th - 26th August 2022

India and her Diaspora have a very long history that goes back thousands of years. Indian merchants, sailors, travellers, monks, teachers and scholars have traversed the globe over land and sea for eons. In the European colonial period Indians had been taken as indentured labour to distant British and French colonies spread across the planet, from Fiji in the East to the Caribbean islands in the West. Free Indian traders and professionals had followed in the wake of the indentured labour to almost all these locations. In the postcolonial period the Indian diaspora has been augmented in these old and newer spaces by students, academics and now transnationals.

The diaspora is now seen as politically, socially and economically beneficial to India. In 2003 the Government of India instituted the Pravasi Bhartiya Divas (PBD) which is celebrated every year on 15 January, this being the date in 1915 when India's most celebrated diasporic, Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi, had returned to India. The Overseas Citizen of India (OCI) card issued by India enables diasporics to travel to and fro from their new countries to India without having to each time get a visa. The OCIs also have economic benefits such as ownership of property and foreign direct investments in India.

Independent from 15 August 1947, India is now in the 75th year of its free existence. This Jubilee of India's independence is being celebrated in various ways to mark its journey across 7.5 decades. These 75 years have seen India develop from a country impoverished by colonisation to one that is today a regional power and forays into space.

This conference seeks to explore what this 75th anniversary of independent India means to her diaspora and also how the academic discipline of diaspora studies considers the role of the diaspora over the 75 years of India's existence as a free country. Presentations with a focus on 75 years of Indian freedom will be made by eminent speakers in the following areas: Socio-cultural, Economic, Political, Historical Overviews on India at 75, Responses of the double and triple Indian diasporics to India at 75, Diaspora and Global India, Economic Impact of the Diaspora, Scientific Contributions of the Diaspora, the Indian Navy and the Diaspora, Diaspora and International and Indian Laws, Sociological Aspects of the Diaspora and so on.

Some of the eminent speakers at the conference include **Vijay Mishra**, Postcolonial Theorist (Fiji/Australia); **Vaidyanathan Ramaswami**, Scientist and Author (USA); **Robert Dygas**, Economist (Poland); **Kumar Mahabir**, Academic (Trinidad & Tobago); **Pheroze Nowrojee**, Advocate, Senior Counsel and Author (Kenya); **Khyati Joshi**, Educationist and Activist (USA); **Nalini Iyer**, Academic (USA); **Farzana Doctor**, Writer and Activist (Canada); **Nandi Bhatia**, Academic (Canada); **Roxana Marinescu**, Academic (Romania); **Elleke Boehmer**, Postcolonial Theorist and Author (U.K.); **Kanya Padayachee**, Researcher and Social Activist (South Africa); **Sooshilla Gopaul**, Academic (Mauritius); **Soorya Gayan**, Independent Researcher (Mauritius); **Cmde Srikant Kesnur** (Retd), Naval Historian, Indian Navy (India); **Armin Wandrewala**, Lawyer Bombay High Court and Author (India); **Somdatta Mandal**, Academic (India); **Renu Modi**, Academic (India); **Vidya Vencatesan**, Academic (India); **Swati Rautela**, Academic and Lawyer (India); **Rajeshri Varhadi**, Academic and Lawyer (India); **Smita Shukla**, Academic and Administrator (India); **Sridhar Rajeswaran**, Academic and Author (India).

For updates on the conference see the MMIAS and ICSSR (WRC) websites –
<https://mu.ac.in/mumbai-munster-institute-of-advanced-studies>
<https://mu.ac.in/department-of-icssr-wrc#>

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4th July 2022

For registrations, fill the Google Form on the link given below:
<https://forms.gle/pQPmMzWk3kDEoKLi7>

In case of difficulty in accessing the Google Form, please write to office.mmias@mu.ac.in.