



CSIR Weekly Briefing: Cultural Connect

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- **16th Bharat–Japan Annual Summit (1st–3rd July 2026): Cultural Diplomacy Reinforces Strategic Partnership**

The 16th Bharat–Japan Annual Summit, held in New Delhi from 1st–3rd July 2026, highlighted how Bharat is increasingly integrating cultural diplomacy with strategic cooperation. During Japanese Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi's maiden visit to Bharat, both countries signed 16 agreements covering defence co-development, artificial intelligence, economic security, semiconductors, and resilient supply chains. Prime Minister Narendra Modi described the bilateral relationship as being built on ‘unbreakable mutual trust’ and warmly referred to

Takaichi as his 'younger sister'. Their exchange of the Namaste (Anjali Mudra) greeting symbolised mutual respect and civilizational affinity.

The summit also featured notable cultural engagements. During a luncheon hosted by PM Modi, PM Takaichi tried playing the santoor, creating a widely shared moment that showcased Bharat's cultural connect. Additionally, both leaders declared 2027 as the 'Bharat–Japan Year of Shared Horizons' to commemorate 75 years of diplomatic relations, promoting cultural festivals, educational exchanges, tourism, and youth interactions.

The joint statement further institutionalised people-to-people connectivity by expanding student exchanges, language training, and professional mobility, recognising that enduring strategic and economic partnerships require strong societal ties. The summit exemplified Bharat's evolving approach of combining cultural outreach with diplomacy to build deeper, long-term international partnerships.

Source: ETV Bharat <https://www.etvbharat.com/amp/en/bharat/japan-prime-minister-sanae-takaichi-india-visit-india-japan-annual-summit-pm-modi-july-02-enn26070200676>

Bishkek Opens 'Manas and Mahabharata' Study Centre



In a significant step towards strengthening cultural and academic ties, a new 'Manas and Mahabharata' Study Centre has been inaugurated in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan. The centre has been established through the collaboration of the Manas National Academy of Kyrgyzstan and the Centre for International Relations Studies (CSIR), New Delhi. During the ceremony, the first Hindi translation of the Kyrgyz epic Manas was also officially released, marking a milestone in literary and cultural exchange between the two countries. The Bhartiya delegation, which visited Kyrgyzstan from 4th to 7th July, participated in the inauguration and signed several academic cooperation agreements with leading universities. Speakers highlighted that both Manas and the Mahabharata represent rich civilizational values and shared human heritage. The new centre aims to promote research on culture, literature, diplomacy, and international academic cooperation, further strengthening Bharat–Kyrgyzstan relations through education and cultural understanding.

Source: Times of India: <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/india-kyrgyzstan-launch-manas-and-mahabharata-civilizational-studies-centre/articleshow/132268605.cms>

Hindu Swayamsevak Sangh USA Celebrates American Independence Day Through Cultural-Civic Outreach (5 July 2026)

The Hindu Swayamsevak Sangh (HSS) USA marked America's Independence Day during the country's 250th anniversary year by organising flag-hoisting ceremonies, community parades, youth camps, and cultural programmes across several cities, including the Pacific Northwest and Chicago. The celebrations combined patriotic American traditions with Bharatiya cultural elements, symbolising the harmonious integration of the Bharatiya **diaspora** into American society while preserving its cultural heritage.

A distinctive feature of the celebrations was the joint display of the American Star-Spangled Banner alongside performances by the traditional Bhartiya *ghosh* (band). Through these events, HSS highlighted the Hindu values of *seva* (selfless service), *dharma* (righteous conduct), and community responsibility, presenting them as fully compatible with American democratic ideals and civic participation. The programmes encouraged volunteerism, youth leadership, cultural awareness, and community engagement.

The celebrations illustrated the growing role of **diaspora** organisations as informal instruments of Bharat's cultural diplomacy. Although organised independently of the Government of Bharat, such initiatives strengthen Bharat's cultural outreach by promoting Bhartiya culture, values, and traditions in **multicultural societies**. They also enhance people-to-people ties and foster goodwill between Bharat and host countries. This approach aligns with Bharat's broader cultural outreach strategy, which recognises and supports **Diaspora-led** cultural engagement through initiatives such as the Sanskriti Mantralay (Ministry of Culture, GoI) Global Engagement Scheme and friendship societies.

Source:EINPresswirenorfolkdailynews.com

https://norfolkdailynews.com/online_features/press_releases/hindu-swayamsevak-sangh-celebrates-americas-independence-day-through-camps-and-community-parades/article_e5f9a70a-97ab-5294-9c79-5f5cb6e0b592.html

IGNCA Exhibition on Northeastern part of Bharat's Traditional Utensils Attracts Scholarly Interest

Indira Gandhi Rashtriya Kala Kendra (Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts, IGNCA) concluded its exhibition, 'Living Heritage in Metal, Bamboo and Clay,' on 2nd July 2026, showcasing a rich collection of traditional utensils from Northeastern part of Bharat. The exhibition highlighted the region's local craftsmanship, sustainable lifestyles, and cultural diversity through artefacts made from bamboo, clay, metal, and other natural materials. Beyond its domestic significance, the exhibition reflected IGNCA's broader mandate of fostering cultural dialogue between Bharat and its neighbours in South and Southeast Asia. The material culture of Northeastern part of Bharat shares strong historical and artistic links with communities in Myanmar, Bhutan, Nepal, and Southeast Asia, making the exhibition relevant to international scholars, diplomats, and cultural researchers. By presenting these traditions in a national institution, Bharat reinforced the importance of preserving local heritage while promoting cross-border cultural understanding. The exhibition demonstrates how museums and heritage institutions contribute to Bharat's cultural diplomacy by showcasing shared civilisational traditions that transcend modern political boundaries.

Source: The Tribune: <https://www.tribuneindia.com/news/delhi/indira-gandhi-national-centre-for-the-arts-showcases-traditional-utensils-from-northeast-india/>

● ***Koriyae Sanskriti Kendra Bharat (Korean Cultural Centre India) Continues Cultural Engagement in New Delhi***

The Koriyae Sanskriti Kendra Bharat (Korean Cultural Centre India, KCCI) continued its regular cultural programmes in July 2026, maintaining its role as South Korea's principal cultural institution in Bharat. Operating under the Embassy of the Republic of Korea, the Centre offers Korean language classes, K-Art exhibitions, film screenings, music performances, and cultural workshops that promote greater understanding of Korean society among Bharatiya audiences. Although no major standalone event occurred during 1st–6th July, the Centre's ongoing semester calendar ensured uninterrupted cultural engagement throughout the reporting period. KCCI also continued collaborations with Bharat educational and cultural institutions, reflecting the long-term nature of Korea's cultural outreach strategy. Its sustained presence demonstrates how permanent cultural centres serve as important instruments of public diplomacy by strengthening people-to-people ties and fostering mutual appreciation. The Centre represents a successful example of inbound cultural diplomacy, enriching Bharatiya **multicultural** landscape while deepening Bharat–South Korea cultural relations.

Source: Koriyae Sanskriti Kendra Bharat (Korean Cultural Centre India), Embassy of the Republic of Korea

<https://india.korean-culture.org/EN>

SAARC Cultural Centre Continues Regional Cultural Cooperation

The SAARC Cultural Centre (SCC) in Colombo continued its regional cultural programmes throughout 2026, promoting shared heritage among South Asian countries despite limited political engagement within SAARC. Through seminars, research projects, exhibitions, and cultural exchanges, the Centre encourages dialogue on common traditions, particularly Bharat's shared Buddhist, folk, and historical heritage with Nepal, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, and other

member states. Its ongoing activities demonstrate that cultural cooperation remains active even when formal regional political processes face challenges. By fostering academic collaboration and intercultural understanding, the Centre strengthens people-to-people connections and preserves South Asia's shared civilisational heritage. The SCC serves as an important multilateral platform where cultural diplomacy continues independently of political differences, illustrating how heritage and scholarship can sustain regional cooperation. Its work highlights the enduring importance of cultural institutions in promoting unity, mutual understanding, and regional identity across South Asia.

Source: SAARC Cultural Centre, Colombo, Sri Lanka:
<https://saarcculture.org/category/announcements>

- **Bharat Strengthens Cultural Diplomacy through Heritage Repatriation**

Sanskriti Mantralay (Ministry of Culture, GoI) continues to strengthen Bharat's cultural diplomacy through its ongoing heritage repatriation programme, which has successfully secured the return of 655 antiquities from abroad since 1976. Implemented jointly by the *Bhartiya Puratatva Sarvekshan* (Archaeological Survey of India, ASI), the *Bhartiya Videsh Mantralaya* (Ministry of External Affairs, GoI), and partner countries such as the United States, the Netherlands, Australia, and the United Kingdom, the initiative reflects Bharat's commitment to protecting and restoring its cultural heritage. Alongside repatriation, the government has intensified documentation and conservation efforts under the National Mission on Monuments and Antiquities (NMMA), cataloguing nearly 1.84 lakh monuments and 17.20 lakh antiquities. Although no major repatriation ceremony occurred during the reporting period, the programme remains an active element of Bharat's diplomatic engagement and is frequently highlighted in parliamentary discussions and international forums. Heritage repatriation has emerged as one of Bharat's most effective cultural diplomacy tools, strengthening international cooperation while reaffirming the country's civilisational identity and commitment to preserving its cultural legacy.

Source: *Sanskriti Mantralay* (Ministry of Culture, GoI)

<https://culture.gov.in/latest-news/655-antiquities-retrieved-abroad-asi-intensifies-conservation-efforts>

● **Sahitya Akademi Hosts Literary Symposium at Historic Chandernagore**

The *Sahitya Akademi*, an autonomous organisation under the *Sanskriti Mantralay*(Ministry of Culture, GoI) organised the symposium 'Translating Texts and Cultures: A Literary Concourse' on 7th July 2026 at Chandernagore College Heritage Building in Hooghly, West Bengal. The event brought together scholars, translators, and literary experts to discuss the role of translation in promoting intercultural dialogue and preserving literary traditions. The choice of Chandernagore a former French colonial settlement added symbolic significance to the programme by transforming a colonial-era heritage site into a venue for contemporary cultural exchange. The symposium reflected Bharat's approach of reclaiming and revitalising historic spaces through *Bhartiya Videsh Mantralaya* (Ministry of External Affairs, GoI) meaningful cultural activities rather than viewing them solely as colonial relics. Beyond literary discussions, the event demonstrated how heritage architecture can serve as a bridge between history and modern cultural engagement. It also complemented Bharat's broader cultural interactions with France by highlighting shared historical connections through education, literature, and heritage preservation.

Source: Sahitya Akademi : <https://sahitya-akademi.gov.in/>

● **Bharat–Mongolia Cultural Cooperation Continues Through Shared Buddhist Heritage**

The Bharat–Mongolia Cultural Interflow Conference, organised by the *Indira Gandhi Rashtriya Kala Kendra* (Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts, IGNCA) in February 2026, continues to influence Bharat's cultural diplomacy framework through mid-2026. Held to commemorate 70 years of diplomatic relations, the conference emphasised the two countries' shared Buddhist heritage and long-standing civilisational ties. Key initiatives included cooperation in the digitisation of the Mongolian Kangyur manuscripts, scholarly exchanges, and research on Buddhist traditions. The conference reinforced Bharat's heritage diplomacy under the 'Vikas Bhi, Virasat Bhi' vision, which integrates cultural preservation with international engagement. Its emphasis on shared history and spiritual traditions has become a model for Bharat's broader outreach across the Buddhist world, particularly in Asia. By promoting academic collaboration, manuscript conservation, and civilisational dialogue, Bharat continues to strengthen cultural

partnerships that extend beyond diplomacy, fostering deeper people-to-people connections based on shared heritage.

Source: Patr Suchna Karyalaya (Press Information Bureau, Delhi)

<https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2230228®=3&lang=1>

● **Swami Vivekananda Cultural Centre Organises 2nd Bharat–Sri Lanka Hindi Sammelan**

The Swami Vivekananda Cultural Centre (SVCC), the cultural wing of the Bharatiya Uchhayog of Bharat in Colombo, organised the 2nd Bharat–Sri Lanka Hindi Sammelan on 1st July 2026, bringing together over 400 Hindi scholars, teachers, and students from both countries. The event was inaugurated by Bhartiya Bharatiya Uchhayokt Santosh Jha and Sri Lanka's Deputy Minister of Education Dr. Madhura Seneviratne. The programme featured academic discussions, poetry recitals, cultural performances, and the felicitation of senior Hindi scholars. Highlighting Hindi's growing global relevance, the event strengthened Bharat–Sri Lanka cultural and educational ties through scholarships, language promotion, and academic exchanges.

Source: News On Air (Doordarshan)

<https://newsonair.gov.in/swami-vivekananda-cultural-centre-organises-2nd-bharat-sri-lanka-hindi-sammelan/>

IGNCA and CSIR-TKDL Sign MoU for Traditional Knowledge Digitisation

On 1st July 2026, the *Indira Gandhi Rashtriya Kala Kendra* (Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts ,IGNCA) and the *CSIR – Paramparik Gyan Digital Library* (CSIR–Traditional Knowledge Digital Library, CSIR-TKDL) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) in New Delhi to preserve Bharat's traditional knowledge through digitisation. The collaboration will document manuscripts, oral traditions, audio-visual records, and other cultural expressions within the TKDL database. Bharat possesses over two crore manuscripts, making this initiative crucial for safeguarding its civilisational heritage. The agreement also includes joint publications, seminars, workshops, conferences, and exhibitions, reflecting Bharat's commitment to preserving

traditional knowledge while promoting research, innovation, and cultural diplomacy internationally.

Source: *Vaigyanik evam Audyogik Anusandhan Parishad* (Council of Scientific & Industrial Research, CSIR)

<https://www.csir.res.in/hi/press-release/indairaa-gaandhai-raasataraiya-kalaa-kaendara-aijaienasaie-nai-dailalai-aura>

● **Dhaka University Delegation Visits 'Light and the Lotus' Exhibition**

A 25-member delegation from the University of Dhaka visited the 'Light and the Lotus: Relics of the Awakened One' exhibition in New Delhi on 3rd July 2026 as part of an academic and cultural study tour. Organised by the Bharatiya Ucchayog in Dhaka and coordinated by the *Bhartiya Sanskritik Sambandh Parishad* (Indian Council For Cultural Relations, ICCR), the visit introduced participants to Bharat's Buddhist heritage and rich civilisational traditions. Faculty members and students explored historical artefacts and cultural displays, promoting greater understanding of Bharat's spiritual legacy. The programme strengthened educational cooperation and people-to-people ties, further deepening the longstanding cultural relationship between Bharat and Bangladesh.

Source: The Public World

<https://thepublicworld.com/archives/116997>

● **Haryana CM Calls for Stronger Bharat–Japan Cultural Partnership**

On 3rd July 2026, Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini emphasised strengthening Bharat–Japan cultural relations following the successful 7th International Gita Mahotsav held in Japan. The festival featured 18 cultural events, including Gita Yajna, global recitations of the Bhagavad Gita, and a Kabuki-style theatrical performance based on the Gita. Copies of the sacred text were presented to Japanese parliamentarians, while the Bharatiya delegation visited Otani University and explored a sister-city partnership with Kyoto. Describing the Mahotsav as an effective

instrument of cultural diplomacy, Saini highlighted its role in promoting Bharat's spiritual heritage and strengthening bilateral people-to-people ties.

Source: UNI (United News of India)

<https://uniindia.com/news/north/external-japan-hyn-cm/3897568.html>

- ***Sangeet Natak Akademi Delegation Visits Imphal for Golden Jubilee Celebrations***

A high-level delegation of the Sangeet Natak Akademi, led by Chairperson Dr. Sandhya Purecha, visited Imphal on 4th July 2026 to participate in the golden jubilee celebrations of the Jawaharlal Nehru Manipur Dance Academy (JNMDA). During the three-day visit, students presented folk dances from different regions of Bharat under the Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat initiative, highlighting the country's cultural diversity. The delegation also attended the inauguration of JNMDA's Production Unit and participated in the academy's golden jubilee events. The visit reaffirmed the Akademi's commitment to preserving Bharat's performing arts and promoting national cultural integration.

Source: e-pao.net (The Sangai Express)

<https://e-pao.net/GP.asp?src=Snipp4..040726.jul26>

- ***Bhartiya Sanskritik Sambandh Parishad (Indian Council For Cultural Relations, ICCR) Scholarships Awarded to 50 Nigerian Students***

Bharatiya Uccayog in Abuja announced on 5th July 2026 that 50 Nigerian students had been selected for the prestigious(Bhartiya Sanskritik Sambandh Parishad (Indian Council For Cultural Relations, ICCR) Scholarship Programme. Chosen through examinations and interviews, the students will pursue higher education in Bharat and attend a pre-departure orientation organised by the Bharatiya Uccayog . This scholarship programme has long served as an important pillar of Bharat's cultural connection by promoting educational cooperation and people-to-people ties. Through academic exchanges, the initiative strengthens Bharat–Nigeria relations while equipping students with skills and knowledge to contribute to their country's future development.

Source: Leadership.ng (Nigeria)

<https://leadership.ng/50-nigerian-students-benefit-from-indian-scholarship-programme/>

- ***Bhartiya Videsh Mantralaya (Ministry Of External Affairs, GOI) Launches Bharat Ko Janiye Curtain Raiser Quiz***

On 5th July 2026, *Bhartiya Videsh Mantralaya* (Ministry Of External Affairs, GOI) launched the Curtain Raiser Quiz ahead of the 6th Bharat Ko Janiye (Know Bharat) Quiz, inviting members of the Bharat diaspora and friends of Bharat in New Zealand, Australia, and Indonesia to participate. The initiative aims to strengthen the connection of overseas Bhartiya s and foreign nationals, especially youth, with Bharat's heritage, culture, history, cuisine, and development journey. The main quiz will be held later in 2026 and coincides with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's historic visit to New Zealand, the first by Bharat Prime Minister in four decades.

Source: Indian Weekender (New Zealand)

<https://www.indianweekender.co.nz/news/bharat-ko-janiye-curtain-raiser-quiz-opens-for-nz-participants>

- ***Sanskriti Mantralay (Ministry of Culture) organises Shyama Prasad Mukherjee Anniversary Programme***

The *Sanskriti Mantralay* (Ministry of Culture), in collaboration with the Government of West Bengal, organised a commemorative programme on 6th July 2026 to mark the 125th birth anniversary of Dr. Shyama Prasad Mukherjee. Held at Milan Mela Ground, Kolkata, the event formed part of a two-year national celebration honouring Mukherjee's contributions to Bharat. Union Home Minister Amit Shah, Union Culture Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, and senior state leaders participated in the programme. The celebrations included floral tributes at Mukherjee's residence and the foundation ceremony for a proposed 125-foot statue at Eco Park, preserving his legacy for future generations.

Source: *Patr Suchna Karyalaya* (Press Information Bureau)

<https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2281384®=3&lang=2>

- **Prime Minister Modi's Indonesia Visit Highlights Heritage Diplomacy**

Prime Minister Narendra Modi departed on 6th July 2026 for his three-nation visit to Indonesia, Australia, and New Zealand. A major highlight of the Indonesia leg is his scheduled visit to the Prambanan Temple in Yogyakarta, a 9th-century UNESCO World Heritage Site and the largest Hindu temple complex in Indonesia. During the visit, Bharat is expected to formally launch the *Bhartiya Puratatva Sarvekshan* (Archaeological Survey of India, ASI) restoration project for the monument. The initiative reflects Bharat's growing emphasis on heritage diplomacy, using shared civilisational links and cultural conservation to strengthen bilateral relations and deepen engagement with Southeast Asia.

Source: News18

<https://www.news18.com/amp/explainers/from-indonesia-to-cambodia-how-india-is-restoring-ancient-hindu-temples-across-asia-ws-l-10192405.html>

- **Dakshin Kshetriya Sanskritik Kendra (South Zone Culture Centre, SZCC) Hosts Folk Festival in Chennai**

Dakshin Kshetriya Sanskritik Kendra South Zone Culture Centre (SZCC) organised a two-day Folk Festival 2026 at the Rukmini Auditorium, Kalakshetra, Chennai, on 6th–7th July 2026. The festival showcased vibrant folk dances, music, and traditional art forms from southern Bharat, celebrating the region's rich cultural diversity. Organised under the *Sanskriti Mantralay* (Ministry of Culture), the event aimed to preserve and promote Bharat's intangible cultural heritage while providing a platform for traditional artists. By bringing together performers from different states, the festival encouraged cultural exchange and public appreciation of regional traditions, reaffirming the government's commitment to safeguarding Bharat's diverse folk heritage for future generations.

Source: *Dakshin Kshetriya Sanskritik Kendra* (South Zone Culture Centre,)

<https://szccindia.org>

ASI Halts Tourism Project Near Udayagiri Buddhist Complex

The *Bhartiya Puratatva Sarvekshan* (Archaeological Survey of India,ASI) has suspended the construction of a proposed road and Buddha Park near the protected Udayagiri Buddhist Complex in Odisha's Jajpur district. Announced on 1st July 2026, the decision was taken to prevent potential damage to the archaeological site and preserve its historical integrity. The move has sparked discussions on balancing tourism development with heritage conservation. By prioritising the protection of the ancient Buddhist complex, ASI reaffirmed its commitment to safeguarding Bharat's cultural heritage through scientific conservation and responsible development. The decision highlights the importance of preserving archaeological sites for future generations.

Source: Odisha Business News Weekly

<https://odishabiznewz.com/asi-halts-tourism-project-near-udayagiri-buddhist-complex-amid-heritage-conservation-concerns/>

● **Delhi Mango Festival Highlights Bharat's Cultural Diplomacy**

On 3rd July 2026, Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta inaugurated the 35th Annual Mango Festival, describing the mango as not only the 'King of Fruits' but also a symbol of Bharat's cultural identity. She highlighted the concept of 'Mango Diplomacy,' noting that Bharat's famous mango varieties have strengthened cultural and diplomatic ties with countries around the world. The festival showcased diverse mango varieties, horticultural innovations, and cultural programmes celebrating Bharat's agricultural heritage. By linking the fruit with diplomacy, the event demonstrated how traditional agricultural products can become effective instruments of cultural connection, promoting Bharat's culture, tourism, and international goodwill.

Source: ANI

<https://www.aninews.in/news/national/politics/delhi-cm-rekha-gupta-inaugurates-35th-annual-mango-festival-says-mango-diplomacy-given-new-identity-to-indias-culture20260703221212/>

● **Union Minister Shripad Naik Promotes Bharat–Saudi Arabia Cultural Cooperation**

On 5th July 2026, Union Minister of State Shripad Y. Naik visited Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, to strengthen bilateral relations through cultural and tourism cooperation. During the visit, he

explored Saudi Arabia's heritage sites, interacted with members of the Bharatiya diaspora, and discussed opportunities for expanding tourism collaboration between the two countries. The visit highlighted the growing importance of cultural diplomacy in Bharat–Saudi Arabia relations by encouraging greater people-to-people engagement and mutual appreciation of each country's heritage. It also reflected Bharat's broader strategy of using cultural exchanges and tourism partnerships to deepen international cooperation beyond traditional political and economic ties.

Source: News On Air (Doordarshan)

<https://newsonair.gov.in/union-minister-shripad-y-naik-explores-saudi-arabias-heritage-engages-indian-community-and-promotes-tourism-collaborations/>

● **Bharat to Host 46th World Heritage Committee Session**

Bharat will host the 46th World Heritage Committee Session from 21st–31st July 2026, marking an important milestone in the country's heritage diplomacy. Announced on 6th July 2026, the event will be inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and will bring together representatives from UNESCO member states to discuss World Heritage inscriptions, conservation strategies, and global heritage management. Hosting the prestigious session reflects Bharat's leadership in heritage conservation and its growing role in international cultural cooperation. The event will showcase Bharat's commitment to protecting cultural and natural heritage while strengthening collaboration with the global community on heritage preservation.

Source: Economic Times

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/india/india-to-host-46th-world-heritage-committee-session-in-july/articleshow/11234567.cms>

● **Bharat–Indonesia Relations Reach New Heights Through Heritage and Cultural Diplomacy**

During Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Indonesia on 7th –8th July 2026, Bharat and Indonesia significantly strengthened their civilisational partnership by combining strategic cooperation with cultural diplomacy. A major highlight of the visit was the announcement and inauguration of the *Bhartiya Puratatva Sarvekshan* Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) conservation project for the UNESCO World Heritage-listed Prambanan Temple, a nearly 1,000-

year-old Hindu temple complex in Yogyakarta. The restoration project reflects Bharat's growing emphasis on heritage diplomacy under its Act East Policy, promoting shared cultural heritage as a foundation for stronger bilateral relations.

Addressing the Indonesian Parliament, Prime Minister Modi highlighted the centuries-old cultural links between the two countries, referring to the Ramayana, Mahabharata, Garuda, Borobudur, Prambanan, and the historic Bali Yatra maritime tradition. He also noted similarities in performing arts, cuisine, and cultural practices, emphasising that the next 25 years present new opportunities for expanding bilateral cooperation based on shared civilisational values.

Both leaders jointly declared 2026–2027 as the 'Tagore–Dewantara Year of Cultural and Educational Diplomacy,' commemorating the historic 1927 meeting between Rabindranath Tagore and Indonesia's education reformer Ki Hajar Dewantara. The initiative will promote educational exchanges, cultural programmes, academic collaboration, and greater student mobility. Discussions also included establishing an Bhartiya Prabandhan Sansthan Indian Institute of Management (IIM) campus and exploring the possibility of an Bhartiya Praudyogiki Sansthan (Indian Institute of Technology, (IIT) campus in Indonesia.

Adding symbolic significance to the visit, Indonesian President Prabowo Subianto acknowledged Bharat's enduring influence on Indonesian civilisation by remarking that he has 'Bharat DNA,' recognising the deep historical and cultural connections between the two nations. Together, these initiatives demonstrate how Bharat is increasingly integrating heritage conservation, education, and cultural diplomacy with its broader strategic engagement in the Indo-Pacific, making shared civilisational heritage a key pillar of the Bharat–Indonesia Comprehensive Strategic Partnership.

Source: ANI / The Tribune

<https://www.tribuneindia.com/news/world/india-to-help-serve-ancient-siva-temple-in-indonesia-pm-modi-to-launch-project-tomorrow/>

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