



CSIR Weekly Briefing: Cultural Connect: Volume: 1, Issue: 15| 21st August 2026

Bharat–Kazakhstan: Days of Bharat in Astana



The *Bhartiya Dootavas* (Embassy of India) in Astana, in association with the Swami Vivekananda Cultural Centre, organised the “Days of India” programme in Astana on 15th and 16th August 2026 as part of the celebrations marking the 80th Independence Day of Bharat. The initiative provided an important platform for presenting Bhartiya cultural traditions to audiences in Kazakhstan and strengthening people-to-people connections between the two countries. The second day of the programme was held on 16th August at Arbat Heritage Street in Astana, a public cultural space that enabled Bhartiya traditions to be displayed publicly. The Swami Vivekananda Cultural Centre (SVCC) played a significant role in the organisation of the “Days of Bharat” programme in Kazakhstan, contributing to the cultural engagement between Bharat and Kazakhstan. The programme featured activities highlighting various aspects of Bharatiya cultural heritage, including languages, performing arts, music, dance and other traditional practices. Through its activities, the SVCC facilitates programmes related to language learning, music, dance, yoga, performing arts and other elements of Bharat’s cultural heritage. Its participation in the “Days of Bharat” programme added to the range of cultural activities organised as part of the event. The “Days of Bharat” programme showcased the cultural diversity of Bharat through performances and cultural activities. Bharat and Kazakhstan have maintained cultural exchanges in several areas, including dance, music, yoga, cinema, education and people-to-people contacts. The programme further brought these areas of cultural interaction into public

participation through performances and related activities. The event formed part of the continuing cultural exchanges between the two countries and provided a platform for audiences in Kazakhstan to experience and learn about different aspects of Bharatiya cultural traditions.

Source: Swami Vivekananda Cultural Centre, Kazakhstan / Embassy of India, Astana
[Source – Swami Vivekananda Cultural Centre, Kazakhstan](#)

Bharat–Denmark: Vande Mataram Concert in Copenhagen



The *Bhartiya Dootavas* (Embassy of India) in Copenhagen organised a “Vande Mataram” concert on 16th August 2026 in association with the Denmark Telugu Association. *Bhartiya Dootavas* (Embassy of India), Copenhagen, in association with the Denmark Telugu Association (DTA), organised “Vande Bharat” concert on 16 August 2026 to commemorate the 150th anniversary of Vande Mataram, Bharat’s National Song. Ambassador Manish Prabhat, Mayor of Gladsaxe Kommune Mr. Serdal Benli, and Founder of the Denmark Telugu Association, Mr. Amarnadh Potluri, lit the ceremonial traditional lamp to inaugurate the event. Ambassador shared his thoughts on the occasion, highlighting the rich history and cultural significance of Vande Mataram. Mayor Benli spoke about the important role played by the Bhartiya community in Gladsaxe and assured his support for the community’s cultural activities. One District One Product product was presented to the Mayor by Ambassador.

The cultural programme commenced with the mass singing of Vande Mataram. Documentaries on Vande Mataram including on the life and legacy of Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay were also screened. The event also featured the launch of Dr. Sapna Bhat’s book, “The Book That

Saved Me'', a visually illustrated story based on her grandparents' tragic experiences in Jammu and Kashmir during and after the Partition of Bharat. The programme showcased a vibrant array of cultural performances, including patriotic songs, dances and instrumental presentations representing different cultures of Bharat, presented Bhartiya cultural groups based in Denmark. Certificates were presented to participants in appreciation of their valuable contributions.

The programme showcased Bharat's rich cultural traditions and brought the Bhartiya community in Denmark together in a spirit of celebration and unity towards the national goal of Viksit Bharat 2047. The concert brought together the Embassy, a diaspora organisation and audiences in Copenhagen through a cultural programme centred on Vande Mataram. The Vande Mataram concert was held on 16th August 2026 as part of the August cultural programme of the Embassy and added a musical component to the celebrations marking Bharat's Independence Day in Denmark.

Source: Embassy of India, Copenhagen

[Source – Embassy of India, Copenhagen](#)

Bharat–Iceland: Kuchipudi Dance Performances in Akureyri and Selfoss



The Bhartiya Dootavas (Embassy of India) in Reykjavík, in collaboration with the Bhartiya Sanskritik Sambandh Parishad (Indian Council for Cultural Relations), organised Kuchipudi dance performances in Akureyri and Selfoss, Iceland, on 16th and 17th August 2026. Renowned Kuchipudi artist Ms Bhavana Reddy, accompanied by talented musicians from Bharat, captivated the audience with an exquisite performance showcasing the grace, rhythm, storytelling and rich cultural heritage of this centuries-old Bhartiya classical dance tradition.

The evening was honoured by the presence of Ms Þórunn Sveinbjarnardóttir, Speaker of the Althingi, Mr Pawel Bartoszek, Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee, Mr Rúnar Freyr Gíslason, Chairman of the Cultural Council at Reykjavík City Council, members of the Diplomatic Corps and distinguished guests.

An unforgettable evening celebrating the enduring cultural connections and growing people-to-people ties between Bharat and Iceland through the universal language of art and culture. Kuchipudi performances incorporate music, movement, expressions and storytelling as part of their presentation. The programme in Iceland therefore presented audiences with different artistic elements associated with Bharat's classical performing-arts traditions.

The performances were organised during the period of Bharat's 80th Independence Day celebrations and formed part of the cultural activities undertaken by the Bhartiya Dootavas (Embassy of India) in Iceland. The events brought Bharatiya classical performing arts into cultural venues in Akureyri and Selfoss. The programme also involved cultural presentation beyond the capital city of Reykjavík. By holding performances in Akureyri and Selfoss, the organisers extended the programme to audiences in two other Icelandic locations.

Source: Embassy of India, Reykjavík
[Source – Embassy of India, Reykjavík](#)

Bharat–Algeria: Independence Day Reception and Bhartiya Handicrafts



The *Bhartiya Dootavas* (Embassy of India) in Algiers hosted a reception at Algeria's Ministry of Culture on 16th August 2026 to commemorate Bharat's 80th Independence Day. The event was

graced by H.E. Ms. Karima Bakir Tafer, Secretary of State-in Charge of Mines in the Ministry of Hydrocarbons and Mines, as the Chief Guest. The event saw distinguished presence of H.E. Mr. Mohamed Larbi Slimani, Vice-President of the Council of the Nation and H.E. Mr. Slimane Smaili, Vice-President of the People's National Assembly. The event was also attended by dignitaries including Algerian Government officials, distinguished members of the diplomatic corps, business community, academia, media fraternity, civil society and members of Bhartiya diaspora came together to mark this momentous occasion. Welcoming the dignitaries, Ambassador Dr. Swati Vijay Kulkarni noted that Algeria remains a key and critical partner for Bharat and highlighted deepening and vibrant bilateral ties including trade, culture and defence sectors. She also expressed confidence that people-to-people ties will impart further momentum to the bilateral relationship. The Bhartiya and Algerian national Anthem was sung by four Algerian nationals, Ms. Kamila, Ms. Yasmine, Ms. Raina and Ms. Filali Hadjer. Bharat's handicraft items, showcased at the stall set up under 'One District One Product' (ODOP) initiative, captivated visitors who appreciated intricate craftsmanship. Dinner with Bhartiya delicacies was served at the conclusion of the formal ceremony. A display of Bhartiya handicrafts was also organised at the reception under the One District One Product (ODOP) initiative. The stall presented traditional products and handicrafts representing different regions of Bharat. The ODOP display featured handicrafts and products associated with different districts of Bharat. The initiative links locally produced goods with their respective districts and provides a platform for showcasing traditional products and crafts. The handicraft stall at the Algiers reception brought these products into the setting of an international diplomatic event. The participation of Algerian nationals in the performance of the two national anthems also formed part of the cultural programme.

Source: Embassy of India, Algiers
[Source – Embassy of India, Algiers](#)

Bharat–Cyprus: Rhythms of Rajasthan



The *Bhartiya Uchchayog* (High Commission of India) in Nicosia organised “Rhythms of Rajasthan” in Nicosia and Limassol on 18th and 19th August 2026 respectively. The programme featured Rakhi Sapera and Troupe, a ten-member cultural group from Jaipur empanelled with the *Bhartiya Sanskritik Sambandh Parishad* (Indian Council for Cultural Relations). The troupe presented traditional Rajasthani folk dance forms including Kalbeliya, Ghoomar, Chari and Bhavai. The performances included elements of Rajasthani folk music, dance, costumes and traditional performance practices. The programme was organised as part of the cultural activities

of the Bhartiya Uchchayog (High Commission of India) in Cyprus and was also connected with celebrations marking Bharat's 80th Independence Day.

The Nicosia performance was held at the historic Pallas Theatre on 18th August. More than 230 guests attended the programme, including members of the diplomatic community, Cypriot dignitaries, members of the Bharatiya community and friends of Bharat. Dr Clea Hadjistephanou Papaellina, Deputy Minister of Culture of the Republic of Cyprus, attended the event as the Chief Guest. The second performance was organised in Limassol on 19th August. The two-city programme brought the Rajasthani cultural troupe to audiences in both Nicosia and Limassol. The organisation of performances in both Nicosia and Limassol also extended the programme beyond the capital city. The two events provided audiences in different parts of Cyprus with an opportunity to attend performances by a Bharatiya folk troupe.

Source: Embassy of India, Berlin / Tagore Centre
[Source – Embassy of India, Berlin](#)

Bharat–Chile: Ayurveda Cultural Engagement



The *Bhartiya Dootavas* (Embassy of India) in Santiago held discussions with representatives of Universidad Ayurveda (UNIAYU) on 19th August 2026 regarding the forthcoming Ayurveda Day celebrations scheduled for September 2026.

The discussions focused on preparations for the Ayurveda Day celebrations and the promotion of awareness about Ayurveda and its approach to health and well-being in Chile. Representatives of the Embassy and Universidad Ayurveda exchanged ideas concerning the organisation of activities planned for the September celebrations. Ayurveda, a traditional knowledge system originating in Bharat, formed the central theme of the proposed programme. The discussions covered ways to present Ayurveda and its principles to audiences in Chile as part of the forthcoming celebrations. The involvement of Universidad Ayurveda provided an academic and institutional component to the preparations. The university participated in discussions with the

Bhartiya Dootavas (Embassy of India) regarding the organisation and promotion of the Ayurveda Day programme. Ayurveda encompasses traditional approaches relating to health, lifestyle, diet and well-being. The planned activities in Chile were intended to provide information about these aspects and increase awareness of Ayurveda among local audiences.

The engagement also added a traditional knowledge component to the cultural activities being undertaken by the *Bhartiya Dootavas* (Embassy of India) in Chile. While cultural programmes often feature performing arts, music and other artistic traditions, the proposed Ayurveda Day activities focused on Bharat's traditional knowledge and wellness practices. The planned September celebrations are expected to provide a platform for presenting Ayurveda to audiences in Chile and for further interaction between Bharatiya and Chilean institutions interested in traditional knowledge and wellness. The discussions held on 19 August 2026 between the *Bhartiya Dootavas* (Embassy of India) in Santiago and Universidad Ayurveda marked the preparatory stage for the Ayurveda Day celebrations scheduled for September and focused on increasing awareness of Ayurveda and its traditional knowledge practices in Chile.

Source: *Bhartiya Dootavas* (Embassy of India), Santiago
[Source – Embassy of India, Santiago](#)

Bharat–Chile: Raksha Bandhan Celebration in Santiago



Members of Brahma Kumaris Chile visited the *Bhartiya Dootavas* (Embassy of India) in Santiago on 20th August 2026 and tied Rakhis to Ambassador Abhilasha Joshi and members of the Embassy team. The interaction was organised in connection with the festival of Raksha Bandhan. During the visit, members of Brahma Kumaris Chile participated in the traditional Rakhi ceremony at the Embassy. Rakhis were tied to the Ambassador and members of the Embassy team as part of the observance of the festival. The participation of Brahma Kumaris Chile brought a local organisation into the Embassy's Raksha Bandhan programme. Members of the organisation visited the Embassy premises and took part in the festival-related interaction with the Ambassador and Embassy officials. The programme provided an opportunity for members of the Chilean organisation and representatives of the Bharatiya diplomatic mission to participate together in a Bharatiya festival. The Rakhi ceremony was conducted as part of the interaction between the visiting members and the Embassy team. The Raksha Bandhan programme on 20 August 2026 formed part of the cultural activities of the *Bhartiya Dootavas* (Embassy of India) in Santiago and involved members of Brahma Kumaris Chile in a traditional Rakhi ceremony with the Ambassador and Embassy officials.

Source: Embassy of India, Santiago
[Source – Embassy of India, Santiago](#)

ICCR: Bringing Living Traditions to the World



The *Bhartiya Sanskritik Sambandh Parishad* (Indian Council for Cultural Relations) highlighted an initiative titled “Bringing Living Traditions to the World” on 21st August 2026 as part of its cultural activities. The initiative focused on the international presentation of living Bharatiya cultural traditions and their interaction with audiences outside Bharat. The initiative featured the concept of “living traditions”, referring to cultural practices that continue to be practised,

transmitted and maintained by communities. The programme highlighted the presentation of such traditions to audiences in different countries. The “Bringing Living Traditions to the World” initiative was highlighted during a period that also included several Bharatiya cultural programmes overseas. These included Rajasthani folk performances in Cyprus, Kuchipudi performances in Germany and Iceland, a ghazal programme in the Netherlands and the “Days of Bharat” programme in Kazakhstan. The initiative highlighted different forms of Bharatiya cultural expression being presented internationally. Folk dance, classical dance, music, poetry and other traditional practices have featured in cultural programmes organised through Bharatiya diplomatic missions and cultural institutions abroad. The initiative was highlighted by ICCR on 21 August 2026 and focused on bringing continuing cultural practices to audiences outside Bharat. It formed part of the organisation’s wider cultural activities involving the international presentation of Bharatiya artistic and cultural traditions.

Source: *Bhartiya Sanskritik Sambandh Parishad* (Indian Council for Cultural Relations)
[Source – ICCR: Bringing Living Traditions to the World](#)

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