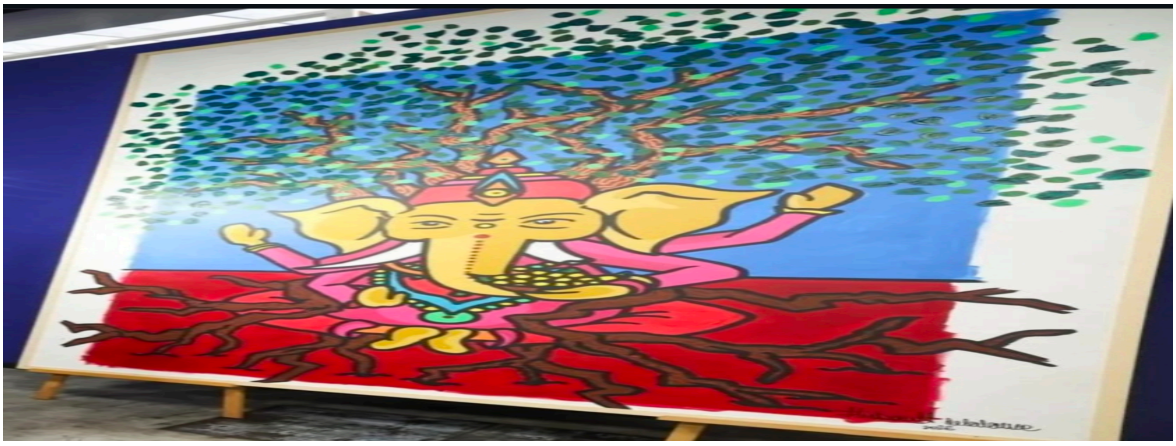


Volume: 1, Issue :6, 15th June 2026

The Indo-French ‘Horizon 2047’ Art Curation Axis



The celebratory convergence between Bharat and France at Villa Kerylos in Nice on 14 June 2026 underscored how deep-rooted people-to-people and cultural exchanges serve as the foundational bedrock of the ‘Horizon 2047’ bilateral roadmap. While high-level discussions systematically touched upon critical geopolitical spheres like supply chain resilience and defense co-production, the purposeful focus on artistic collaboration illuminated a shared civilizational respect that transcends purely transactional diplomacy. Culture, within this framework, acts as a

living bridge, allowing both societies to interpret each other's historic identities through modern creative paradigms.

A profound manifestation of this aesthetic and cultural dialogue was the dedicated viewing by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi and President Emmanuel Macron of the works created by French artists Mr. Thibault De La Lance and Mr. Théophile de Bascher. These fine art pieces were the tangible fruits of a curated 10-day art residency undertaken by the painter and sculptor in the historic city of Jaipur, Rajasthan. Traveling to Bharat for the very first time, these European creators immersed themselves directly within Bharat's living traditions, regional heritage, and distinct visual language. By internalizing local architectures, color theories, and local media, their residency yielded vibrant, highly original artworks that successfully synthesized classical European sensibilities with the intricate ethos of traditional Bhartiya aesthetics.

This specific visual curation exemplifies the core intent of the cultural track under Horizon 2047: transforming passive heritage appreciation into an active, reciprocal laboratory for joint artistic creation. The fusion of French artistic methodologies with the localized spiritual and royal legacy of Jaipur shows how trans-border mobility program frameworks empower global artists to move past superficial exoticism, entering instead into genuine philosophical alignment. By showcasing these works at a prominent diplomatic venue, both leaders signaled that cultural resurgence and creative capital are equal partners alongside tech innovations and strategic trade pacts in cementing long-term international friendships. This art curation axis sets a highly progressive precedent for future institutional and academic mobility between the two nations.

The institutional framework finalized between Bharat and France on 14 June 2026 marks a historic milestone in civilizational diplomacy, enabling French heritage curators to collaborate directly on Bharat's flagship historical project: the National Maritime Heritage Complex (NMHC) in Lothal, Gujarat. During high-level bilateral talks at Villa Kerylos in Nice, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi and French President Emmanuel Macron formally agreed to enhance cooperation among major museums and cultural institutions. By leveraging France's elite institutional expertise in naval museology, this partnership aims to bring the 4,500-year-old maritime legacy of the Indus Valley Civilization to global audiences via immersive, state-of-the-art galleries. From a cultural perspective, this collaboration represents far more than a standard diplomatic agreement, it is a profound cross-cultural effort to reconstruct and interpret humanity's earliest maritime achievements.

Source: PIB
https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2272748

Inaugural Audio-Visual & Cinematic Treaty with Slovakia

The inaugural audio-visual and cinematic treaty at Bratislava Castle on 15 June 2026 marked a profound cultural shift, using the emotive power of storytelling to bridge the geographical and linguistic distance between Bharat and Central Europe. Cinema has long served as Bharat's most vibrant cultural ambassador, carrying its values, family structures, musical heritage, and societal

philosophies across international borders. By formalizing a landmark cultural pact under a newly established Comprehensive Partnership, Bharat and Slovakia have recognized that creative industries are just as vital as technological or defense alliances in fostering deep-rooted, empathetic relationships between societies.

The foundational Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on audio-visual creation acts as a structural canvas for cross-cultural synthesis. By facilitating joint co-productions and granting reciprocal archival rights, the treaty encourages Bhartiya and Slovak filmmakers to step into each other's historical shoes. This framework allows European audiences to experience the nuanced spiritualities, regional diversities, and historical depth of Bhartiya life, moving past superficial portrayals. Simultaneously, it opens up Slovakia's rich folklore, architectural marvels, and Slavic heritage to the expansive imagination of Bhartiya cinema, creating a reciprocal space for artistic fusion and shared human expression. Furthermore, the simplification of cross-border filming locations transforms geography into a shared artistic resource.

This structural easing allows Bharat's cinematic narratives to weave the scenic, historic landscapes of Central Europe directly into its contemporary storytelling fabric, enriching the visual palate of Bhartiya audiences. Beyond the technicalities of media production, this institutional bridge serves as a powerful catalyst for grassroots people-to-people connections. As films and documentaries emerge from this treaty, they will cultivate a shared popular consciousness, driving cultural tourism, linguistic curiosity, and a mutual respect for each other's living traditions. Ultimately, this treaty ensures that as both nations navigate a rapidly changing global landscape, their relationship remains anchored in the timeless human tradition of sharing stories.

Source: PM INDIA
https://www.pmindia.gov.in/en/news_updates/india-slovakia-joint-statement/

Bharat Chair on AI to be set up in a Slovakian University

During the historic State Visit of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi to the Slovak Republic on 15 June 2026, the first-ever visit by a Bhartiya Prime Minister to an independent Slovakia since 1993, the Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) significantly expanded its global academic diplomacy footprint into Central Europe with a highly progressive mandate. As a key component of a comprehensive package of agreements signed at Bratislava Castle, the Bhartiya and Slovakian governments officially finalized the establishment of a specialized, first-ever ICCR Academic Chair in Artificial Intelligence at the Technical University of Košice. Emphasizing that the geopolitical and economic partnership is anchored by deep cultural and people-to-people ties, the Prime Minister highlighted the unique spiritual and literary connection between the two nations.

In a notable nod to this shared heritage, the PM cited the translation of Bharat's ancient Upanishads into the Slovak language as an excellent example of their cultural closeness. "The deep cultural and people-to-people ties between two countries provide a strong foundation for

our relationship. The translation of Bharat's ancient Upanishads into the Slovak language is an excellent example of our cultural closeness" PM Modi said.
Last year, during President Droupadi Murmu's State visit to Slovakia, the country's president Peter Pellegrini presented her with a copy of the first-ever Slovak translation of the Upanishads. The translation published by VEDA, the Slovak Academy of Sciences (SAS) publishing house and the Embassy of Bharat, offers translations of Upanishads from their original Sanskrit. The author of the translation and introduction to the book Upanishads, Robert Gafrik, focused on the understanding of the Vedas and Upanishads**.** In a statement to the publisher, Gafrik said he adhered to the interpretations of Shankara (around the 7th century), one of the most important representatives of Bhartiya philosophy. "The Upanishads deal with self-knowledge. Although they originated in the distant past, their ideas are not far from those of modern man. They speak to people across millennia and cultures" Gafrik was cited by the publisher.

Source : ANI
https://www.aninews.in/news/world/europe/india-chair-on-ai-to-be-set-up-in-a-slovakian-university-pm-modi20260615180735/

Dr. S. Jaishankar's Indological Dialogue in Sofia

External Affairs Minister Dr. S. Jaishankar commenced a dynamic diplomatic tour to Eastern Europe on 10 June 2026, anchoring a significant portion of his visit to Sofia around shared linguistic, academic, and historical studies. High-level bilateral talks were held with Bulgarian leaders, including Prime Minister Rumen Radev and Foreign Minister Velislava Petrova-Chamova. Beyond evaluating standard contemporary components of the Bharat–Bulgaria relationship such as the Bharat-EU Free Trade Agreement, strategic defense cooperation, economic investments, and critical supply chain resilience, the ministerial engagement intentionally prioritized deep civilization and cultural integration.

The dialogue highlighted a profound historical continuity, bridging the distance between the South Asian subcontinent and the Balkan region through the lens of academic reciprocity. Meeting with his Bulgarian counterparts, Dr. Jaishankar celebrated Sofia University's long-standing, globally recognized tradition of Indological studies and its dedicated Indology Department. For over four decades, the university has served as a vital intellectual sanctuary for the rigorous study of classical Bhartiya literature, philology, and civilization in Eastern Europe. This historical affinity traces its roots to foundational cultural milestones, including Nobel Laureate Rabindranath Tagore's landmark visit to Sofia in 1926, which initiated a century-long European fascination with Bhartiya philosophical thought, classical epics, and Vedic traditions.

To institutionalize and expand this legacy for the modern era, the high-level delegation established a progressive new framework. This systematic educational alliance is specifically designed to supply advanced Sanskrit and Hindi educational literature directly to Sofia University and affiliated Eastern European academies. By creating an institutional pathway for authentic academic resources, the agreement addresses a growing demand for the study of

Bhartiya heritage, linguistic roots, and classical texts in the region. This framework transitions cultural diplomacy away from passive consumption, transforming it into an active academic infrastructure where European scholars can interface directly with primary source materials, standardizations, and linguistic paradigms.

Source: MEA
https://www.mea.gov.in/pressreleases?dtl/41277/Visit_of_External_Affairs_Minister_to_Bulgaria_and_Finland_June_10__11_2026

Flag-off of the First Batch of Kailash Manasarovar Yatra 2026



Minister of State for External Affairs, Shri Pabitra Margherita [MoS (PM)], presided over the flagging-off ceremony of the inaugural batch of pilgrims undertaking the Kailash Mansarovar Yatra (KMY) 2026 on 12 June 2026 at Jawaharlal Nehru Bhawan in New Delhi. The first batch will be travelling via Nathu La route, and will commence their onward journey from Delhi on 15th June 2026.

MoS (PM) congratulated the yatris on their selection, and informed them that accommodation for yatris will be provided at new acclimatization centre(s) recently inaugurated (virtually) by Hon'ble Prime Minister of Bharat. MoS (PM) acknowledged the ceaseless efforts of various Government Ministries, Departments, State Governments of Uttarakhand, Sikkim and Uttar Pradesh, who have been striving to provide an enriching and fulfilling experience to our citizens who undertake this pilgrimage.

The Ministry of External Affairs, Government of Bharat, places high priority on the safety, security, and medical well-being of the yatris during the high-altitude pilgrimage. Elaborate administrative arrangements have been systematically institutionalized in close coordination with Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) and local administration. Comprehensive medical check-ups are conducted in New Delhi to ensure the health parameters of all participants before they proceed to higher elevations. The yatra represents a vital axis of civilizational geography and cultural heritage, acting as an enduring bridge between the populations. The route via the Nathu La pass in Sikkim offers improved road infrastructure and safer transit conditions for elderly pilgrims. The launch of the 2026 edition reflects the ongoing commitment of the Ministry of External Affairs to facilitate the smooth execution of the annual pilgrimage. The specialized acclimatization facilities are strategically engineered to mitigate the physiological risks of low oxygen levels, ensuring a structured progression through the high-altitude terrain.

Source: MEA

https://www.mea.gov.in/pressreleases?dtl/41301/Flag_off_of_the_first_batch_of_Kailash_Manasarovar_Yatra_2026

Global Launch Activities for the 12th International Day of Yoga (IDY)

Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Ministry of Ayush, Shri Prataprao Jadhav, launched the official countdown for the 12th International Day of Yoga (IDY 2026) at the National Media Centre in New Delhi on 15 June 2026. The theme for IDY 2026 was officially unveiled as ‘Yoga for Healthy Ageing’. The main national event will be held on 21st June 2026, featuring a mass yoga demonstration led by Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi.

Addressing the media, the Minister highlighted that the Ministry of Ayush, along with Morarji Desai National Institute of Yoga (MDNIY), has developed a specialized Common Yoga Protocol (CYP) tailored for senior citizens. This protocol focuses on improving mobility, mental clarity, and joint flexibility. The Minister called upon all citizens to integrate Yoga into their daily lifestyles to counter the rising global burden of non-communicable diseases and age-related physical challenges.

To ensure global reach, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), in coordination with Bhartiya missions abroad, has scheduled massive mass demonstrations at iconic landmarks worldwide. The Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) has also mobilized International Yoga fellowships to support overseas practitioners. These efforts seek to position classical wellness systems as a universal solution for public health, reinforcing Bharat's role as a major provider of holistic healthcare frameworks on the global stage.

Source: PIB
https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2272997&reg=3&lang=1

Celebration of Shared Cultural Identity at the SCO Conference

Minister of State for External Affairs, Shri Kirti Vardhan Singh, delivered Bharat's intervention at the SCO International Conference titled ‘Central Asia – The Core of SCO: A Space of Peace and Joint Development’ on 12 June 2026 in Dushanbe, Tajikistan. Speaking before distinguished regional delegates, including Mr. Safarzoda Davron Jurakhon, Rector of the Academy of Public Administration under the President of the Republic of Tajikistan, the Minister conveyed greetings on the occasion of the 25th Anniversary of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation.

The Minister emphasized that the SCO region is bound together by a rich history, noting that it has served for centuries as a geographical expanse where civilizations flourished, interacted, competed, learned from one another, and enriched human progress. In his address, he pointed out that the peoples of this space exchanged not only goods but also ideas, knowledge, culture, and social values. For Bharat, he reiterated, the SCO is a link connecting the nation with its historical and civilizational partners across the Eurasian landmass.

The speech detailed that Bharat's vision for cooperation within the SCO remains guided by Prime Minister Narendra Modi's framework of ‘Security, Connectivity, and Opportunity’. Placing Central Asia within this vision, the intervention positioned the region as an extended neighborhood and a key node for enhancing regional connectivity, security, and economic integration. The third pillar, Opportunity, was highlighted as a space of promise, characterized by traditions of social harmony and deep youth alignment.

To turn these links into actionable initiatives, the intervention detailed Bharat's progress in institutional security and regional stabilization. The Minister stated that Bharat is the first country to complete the ratification process for both the Universal Centre in Tashkent and the Anti-Drug Centre in Dushanbe. The operational launch of these institutions will strengthen collective multilateral actions to combat narcotics trafficking, transnational organized crime, safe havens, and the radical networks that threaten regional harmony, thereby reinforcing the role of Central Asia in advancing the SCO's security and human development agendas.

Source: MEA, GoI

https://www.mea.gov.in/press-releases?dtl/41285/Visit_of_Minister_of_State_for_External_Affairs_Shri_Kirti_Vardhan_Singh_to_Tajikistan_June_1213_2026

Reminiscing Civilizational Bond between Bharat and Nepal

External Affairs Minister Dr. S. Jaishankar met with Foreign Minister of Nepal, Mr. Shisir Khanal, in New Delhi on 8 June 2026. The high-level meeting provided an opportunity to comprehensively review the multifaceted bilateral relations and discuss ways to further accelerate the momentum in diverse areas of cooperation between the two close neighbors.

A significant portion of the ministerial review focused on enhancing people-to-people ties, which form the bedrock of the unique civilizational relationship between Bharat and Nepal. The co-chairs actively discussed expanding frameworks for religious tourism and the development of shared heritage networks, particularly emphasizing the structured coordination of the Ramayana Circuit, the Buddhist Circuit, and the historical linkages between the Pashupatinath and Kashi Vishwanath temples. Both delegations agreed to accelerate the upgradation of physical infrastructure along the prominent border entry points to handle the increasing volume of travelers and enhance security protocols.

The Ministers expressed satisfaction at the robust cooperation in the energy sector, specifically noting the long-term power purchase agreements that have established a predictable framework for clean energy trade. Turning to regional developments, the leaders reaffirmed their commitment to working closely within multilateral frameworks such as BBIN (Bangladesh, Bhutan, Bharat, Nepal) and BIMSTEC to foster sustainable economic growth, improve supply chain resilience, and deepen sub-regional integration across the sub-continent.

On the occasion, Dr Jaishankar virtually handed over 72 health facilities and 12 cultural heritage projects under Reconstruction Programme post 2015 Earthquake. Both Ministers jointly launched the linkage between NPCI Bharat and National Payments Interface Nepal for facilitating cross-border personal remittances. An MoU was exchanged between Digital Bharat Bhashini and Kathmandu University for co-creating National Digital Infrastructure for ‘Voice First’ Language Translation platform for Nepal. The scale and scope of such multi-faceted relationship is predicated upon their cultural connect and civilisational bond.

Source: Akashvani News

https://newsonair.gov.in/india-and-nepal-cooperate-closely-on-border-security-eam-dr-s-jaishankar/

Cherishing Shared Geo-cultural Space via Yuva Sangam Phase-VI



On 8th June 2026, The Department of Higher Education, Ministry of Education, Government of Bharat, facilitated the structured implementation of the Yuva Sangam Phase VI initiative under the aegis of the flagship Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat (EBSB) programme. Operating as a crucial mechanism for domestic cultural diplomacy and national integration, this specific cross-regional exchange focused on the institutional pairing of the states of Maharashtra and Andhra Pradesh. To oversee the academic, technical, and experiential execution of the initiative, the Indian Institute of Science Education and Research (IISER) Pune was designated as the Nodal Institution for Maharashtra, while the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Tirupati served as the Nodal Institution for Andhra Pradesh.

As part of the bi-directional protocol, a multi-disciplinary delegation consisting of approximately 50 youth participants from Andhra Pradesh including undergraduate, postgraduate, and doctoral students alongside off-campus youth under the age of 30 embarked on an extensive five-day immersive tour across the cultural and spiritual landscape of Maharashtra from June 5 to June 9, 2026. The structured itinerary was strictly designed around the foundational pillars of the Yuva Sangam framework, popularly known as the '5 Ps': Paryatan (Tourism) , Parampara (Traditions) , Pragati (Development) , Prodyogiki (Technology) , and Paraspar Sampark (People-to-People Connect) .

The cultural and spiritual exploration commenced with the delegation visiting the historic Khandoba Mandir at Jejuri, one of Maharashtra's most prominent architectural and religious landmarks. This visit emphasized the Parampara and Paryatan pillars, allowing the participants from Andhra Pradesh to engage directly with the distinct ritual traditions and historical legacy of the Western Deccan region. Following this, the delegation visited Adachiwadi, a designated

Adarsh Gaon (Model Village). This session enabled the youth to interact directly with the Sarpanch , members of the Gram Panchayat, and local residents, providing practical insights into rural development models, grassroots governance, community participation, and village-led socio-economic transformation.

The focus shifted to environmental sustainability (Paryavaran) and urban history. The day started with a dedicated Bio-diversity Walk and a Tree Plantation Drive hosted at the IISER Pune campus, reinforcing environmental stewardship and conservation among the youth. The participants then conducted an extensive Heritage Walk through the historic precincts of Pune city, which included an exploration of the iconic Shaniwar Wada. This walk provided the delegates with architectural and political contexts regarding the Maratha Empire, further strengthening their cross-regional historical understanding. The day concluded with an institutional dinner featuring traditional Maharashtrian culinary heritage, designed to encourage mutual cultural appreciation and lasting bonds of friendship.

A primary highlight of the exchange occurred on June 8, 2026, when the delegation traveled to Raj Bhavan in Mumbai to call on the Governor of Maharashtra, Shri Jishnu Dev Varma. During this high-level interactive session, the Governor shared perspectives on leadership, public administration, and nation-building. He urged the young participants to act as permanent ambassadors of national unity, noting that understanding the diverse cultural frameworks of paired states is essential to reinforcing the social fabric of a Viksit Bharat . The tour concluded with a formal valedictory session on June 9, 2026, at IISER Pune, marking the successful completion of the Phase VI bilateral exchange layout between the two states.

Source: PIB

https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2271282

Prepared by: Pragya, Anubha, Triloki