

UNICARIBE, 12 OCT 2024  
AMBASSADOR'S SPEECH  
INDIA DAY

**Culture :**

India has been through a turmoil of hardships and still has become successful in almost every field as a phoenix rises from ashes. India is a beautiful country that manifests unconditional love, acceptance, affection and kindness amongst other things.

India is known to be the largest democracy in the world. It also is home to innumerable ethnicities and practices. Smooth work and numerous achievements show the acceptance power of this diverse country.

Since India is the land of cultural diversity, it is only fair that every ethnicity has a safe place to practice and propagate its culture and practices. India consists of 28 states and 8 union territories, all with their own arts, crafts, cultural identity and traditional ways of life, co existing peacefully as one.

**India is called the 'Land of Festivals'** and it shows the plethora of festivals that the people of India celebrate. Festivals of India bring happiness, laughter and joy. It brings people together to celebrate. Every person has a unique way of celebrating whatever festivals they like, for instance, Hindus usually celebrate festivals like Diwali, Holi etc which has a legend behind them that makes the celebrations worth it. Muslims celebrate Eid and Christians celebrate Christmas and Easter. But one of the most essential and celebrated features of Indian festivals is flexibility. Every citizen has the freedom to celebrate whatever festivals they like regardless of any religion they practice.

It is a known fact that **India is widely known for its spices and delicious food.** Cuisines of India consist of a variety of traditional and regional foods that portrays the diversity of culture, climates, taste, ethnicity etc. Regional cuisines are influenced by the local supplies and prevalent practices in the area. Indian cuisines have a history of fusion, from Afghan invasions, Mughals coming into India, colonialism everything has had a role to play in the changing of cuisines. Even globalization plays a major role in the amalgamation of food in today's world. We get to eat the fusion of Chinese and Indian, Italian, continental, and Thai cuisines all because of the Interconnectedness of the world. Food is also a mediator between India and many other countries that facilitates trade and commerce. For instance, the Indo-European spice trade.

**The Art of India** is extremely widespread and known for its variety. It consists of various forms like painting, sculpture, pottery, textile art and much more. Indian art is spread across what was previously known as the Indian sub-continent which included Pakistan, Bangladesh, Nepal, parts of eastern Afghanistan etc. It is also observed in its modern and traditional forms. The origin of art in India can be traced back to the 3rd century BCE and always had cultural significance in the history of the country. Beginning from rock art in the caves of India to the modern-day canvas paintings, Indian art has majorly evolved over the years. Every dynasty and ruler that India saw had its own pieces and way of creating art. Art of India encompasses all the available art beginning from the Indus valley civilisation, numerous dynasties like Cholas, Shunga etc. to modern-day canvas and gallery paintings.

**India is one of the most respected and well-known nations in the world. India is a perfect blend of art, architecture, beliefs, customs, festivals etc. All of these things create a beautiful mix of diversity and intricacy.**

## **Education :**

India is well known as an education hub attracting international students from all over the world. India's robust education system, in the backdrop of its rich diversity and vibrant culture & history, affords a broad range of options for students. And as a rapidly growing country with a leading technological edge, studying in India has much to offer, whether it is Engineering, Computers, Arts, Philosophy, Political Sciences or Classics etc.

**Indian Council for Cultural Relations administers various scholarship programs** annually and awards about 3000+ scholarships under 21 different schemes to foreign students from about 180 countries. Amongst these 21 schemes, six are funded by ICCR from its grant and others are administered on behalf of MEA and Ministry of Ayush. The courses offered for studies are for Under-graduation, Post-graduation and Ph.D. levels. Each academic year, ICCR has about 6000+ of its foreign scholars who are studying at various Central/State Universities, Institutes, NITs, and Agricultural Institutions etc.

In a step forward towards "Digital India" ICCR developed the "Admissions to Alumni (A2A) Portal" to digitize the entire enrollment process. The portal contains all relevant information regarding ICCR sponsored scholarship schemes and other information like names of the Indian Universities, courses offered by them and guidelines of scholarship schemes etc.

The Indian education system has conquered a strong position in international circuit. India is a popular destination for higher education amongst foreign students as the country has an unparalleled variety of academic courses.

A large number of students fly to India every year from all corners of the globe to satisfy their desire for learning more. Studying in India, the second largest higher education network in the World is an enriching experience in itself.

A welcoming atmosphere, non-discriminative approach and an assured educational and career growth is what attracts students from all over the world to India and assured educational and career growth.

There are universities focusing on the study of medicine, arts and language, journalism, social work, business, commerce, planning, architecture, engineering, and other specialised studies. Most Indian universities teach in English Medium and conduct special language classes for those weak in English.

India has an impressive list of universities and colleges sprawled across its major states and cities, which have inducted numerous foreign students from time to time.

Apart from undergraduate, postgraduate and doctoral courses, there are many training and diploma-level institutes and polytechnics that cater to the growing demand for skill-based and vocational education. The quality education that India offers is within the reach of every income-group considering the reasonable fee structure.

So, visit India and be a part of an educational system that lives on the values of quality, growth and truthfulness.

## **A hub of innovation, creativity and leadership -India**

India has been and continues to be home to innovation, creativity and leadership. The strength of India's education system may be gauged from the fact that the world's leading companies are being helmed by products of Indian education system such as Satya Nadella, CEO, Microsoft an alumni of Manipal Academy of Higher Education, Sundar Pichai, CEO, Google Inc studied at Indian Institute of Technology in Kharagpur, Ajaypal Singh Banga President and the CEO, MasterCard has a degree from St Stephen's College, Delhi University, Rajeev Suri, CEO of Nokia has studied in Manipal Academy of Higher Education and Indira Nooyi, CEO of Pepsi Co is an alumnus of Indian Institute of Management-Calcutta.

## **Scholarships Open to Students From the Dominican Republic**

- The ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE GENERAL SCHOLARSHIP SCHEME for various mainstream courses at undergraduate, postgraduate and PhD level.
- LATA MANGESHKAR SCHOLARSHIP SCHEME for courses in performing arts/culture.
- AYUSH SCHOLARSHIP SCHEME for Ayurveda, Yoga and Naturopathy, Sidhha.

For further information on how to apply, please visit the website :  
**<https://a2ascholarships.iccr.gov.in>**

or write to us at the Embassy at : **[pic.sdomingo@mea.gov.in](mailto:pic.sdomingo@mea.gov.in)** to know more.