

COHESIVENESS OF GLOBAL COMMUNITY

In today's interconnected world, the cohesiveness of the global community has become a cornerstone for addressing the complex challenges that transcend national borders. Whether it's dealing with climate change, economic disparities, political instability, or public health crises, no country can function in isolation. The ability of nations, cultures, and societies to collaborate, communicate, and cooperate is increasingly crucial for the well-being of all of humanity. This concept of global cohesiveness is not merely about sharing common interests but also about embracing our differences, understanding each other's needs, and working together for the collective good. One of the key factors contributing to the cohesiveness of the global community is technology. The advent of the internet, social media, and digital platforms has made it easier for people to connect, share ideas, and raise awareness on issues affecting different parts of the world. In a matter of seconds, information can travel across continents, mobilizing communities to act, advocate, and support each other. For instance, when natural disasters strike, global solidarity is evident through instant donations, rescue operations, and humanitarian support from countries around the world. The ability to communicate and share resources in real-time exemplifies the potential of a united global community. Moreover, international organizations such as the United Nations, the World Health Organization (WHO), and the World Trade Organization (WTO) play a vital role in fostering cooperation. These entities create frameworks for addressing global issues and ensure that nations are held accountable for their actions. For example, the WHO has been instrumental in coordinating responses to global health emergencies like the COVID-19 pandemic. Similarly, the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) serve as a blueprint for all nations to work together towards creating a more just, equitable, and sustainable world. These global partnerships highlight the importance of a collective approach to solving shared problems. Cultural exchanges and diplomatic relations also enhance the cohesiveness of the global community. As people from different backgrounds come together, they bring diverse perspectives and experiences that enrich our understanding of each other. Educational exchanges, travel, and cultural programs help break down stereotypes, fostering tolerance and empathy. Countries that embrace multiculturalism and diversity, such as Canada and the United States, often find that their inclusive policies lead to stronger international relations and a greater sense of unity among people. However, despite the significant strides made toward global cohesion, challenges remain. Economic inequality, armed conflicts, environmental degradation, and rising nationalism threaten to undermine efforts for global unity. Political leaders who prioritize national interests over international cooperation often create divisions, making it harder to address common challenges. The increasing spread of misinformation and xenophobia on digital platforms can erode trust and hinder meaningful collaboration. To overcome these obstacles, it is essential to reaffirm our commitment to multilateralism, open dialogue, and collective action. Nations must invest in promoting peace to ensure the continued strength of the global community.

OMKAR DATTATRAY

Let me begin the write up about Vishwa Hindi Divas with a couplet which reads as-Kab Yovan Se Jag Uthage yah Hindi Ke Bala, Kab Sara Jag Isse Ho Jaye Ga Matwala. Every year 10 January is celebrated as the world Hindi Divas. On this occasion people worldwide arrange programmes such as symposiums, debates, workshops, talks, essay writing competitions etc to popularize Hindi and to throw light on the importance of Hindi language and resolve to make people aware about the use of Hindi in day to day life. This year this important day was celebrated on 10 January 2025 Friday with great enthusiasm and with the resolve to make people especially the young generation aware and familiarize them with the use of Hindi language so that they make use of this sweet and fine language and communicate in Hindi. Hindi ranks as the third most spoken language, having over 600 million speakers worldwide. Vishwa Hindi Divas, or World Hindi Day, is an annual observance aimed at expanding Hindi's presence in international forums and encouraging its use as a tool for global communication. This annual observance highlights the significance of the Hindi language and its role in connecting people across the globe. As the world celebrated the day on 10th January let us resolve to communicate in Hindi language. While this day aims to promote Hindi on global scale, it is distinct from Hindi Divas celebrated annually on September 14 in India to honor the recognition of Hindi within the country. World Hindi Day commemorates the historic moment in 1949 when Hindi was first spoken in the United Nations General Assembly-UNGA, followed by the first World Hindi Conference inaugurated in 1975 by the then Prime Minister Indira Gandhi. Since then, various conferences have been held worldwide to further Hindi's reach, culminating in the official designation of January 10, 2006, as World Hindi Day by the former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh. World Hindi Day is observed across the world to raise awareness about the Hindi language and promote its status as a global means of communication. Along similar lines, World Hindi Divas 2025 was marked under the theme, "Global Voice of Unity and Cultural Pride" which aimed to encourage

linguistic and global interchange by using the Hindi language. It sheds light on the challenges surrounding the use and promotion of Hindi, aiming to foster a greater understanding of the language worldwide. Since its official recognition in 2006, the Indian Ministry of External Affairs has organized various events and celebrated this day, while Indian Postal Department has issued special stamps to honor the occasion, further enhancing the significance of Hindi on a global stage. The date marks the occasion when Hindi was recognized as one of the official languages of India on January 10, 1950, by the Indian constitution. The idea of celebrating Hindi day internationally came into being in 2006 when the Indian decided to commemorate the languages global importance. However, it was on January 10, 2006, when World Hindi Day was celebrated for the first time. This decision was announced by the then Prime Minister of India, Dr Manmohan Singh. On this occasion storytelling sessions are organized and students are encouraged to participate in fascinating Hindi storytelling sessions. Language games and puzzles are also held in order to make the experience of learning Hindi enjoyable with language - focused games and puzzles. On this day art and craft is encourage to familiarize Hindi among children. The other activities organized on this day to holding of Cultural workshops. Besides, language competitions among students are encourage to the children to use Hindi and communicate in Hindi. By observing Hindi Divas, we are made aware of the various linguistic communities present around us. This also brings out the diversity of languages that India has to offer, as well as the rich culture that the Hindi language has carried through the centuries. Though Hindi is not the official national language of India, it is recognized as one of the 22 languages of India. Vishwa Hindi Divas holds immense importance as it honors the Hindi language, is one of the most widely spoken languages in the world. The day emphasizes the cultural and linguistic richness and cultural beauty of Hindi and its role in uniting people across India and beyond. While World Hindi Day is celebrated every year on 10th January, the

National Hindi Day is celebrated annually on 14th September. While the former focuses on promoting Hindi internationally, the latter commemorates its adoption as an official language of India. The theme for World Hindi Day 2025 is "The Global Voice of Unity and Cultural Pride". This theme highlights the importance of Hindi as a tool for global communication and cultural exchange. It aims to encourage the use of Hindi in international forums and celebrated its potential to foster unity across diverse cultures. World Hindi Day was first celebrated on January 10, 2006, following an initiative by the government of India. The date marks the anniversary of the first World Hindi Conference held in Nagpur in 1975, which brought Hindi to global stage. Hindi Divas serves as a reminder of the linguistic and cultural heritage of India. It emphasizes the role of Hindi in preserving and promoting India's rich traditions and also in fostering the cultural exchange and unity in the world. On World Hindi Day, efforts are made to promote Hindi as an international language. Events and conferences are organized worldwide to showcase the beauty, richness and versatility of Hindi. Schools, colleges and universities across India and the world organize competitions, debates, and cultural events to encourage students to embrace and appreciate the Hindi language. World Hindi Day fosters cultural unity not within the country but fosters it in the world as well and so there is great need to familiarize the students and others with the Hindi language. The annual observance highlights the significance of the Hindi language and its role in connecting people across the world. World Hindi Day commemorates the historic moment in 1949 when Hindi was first spoken in UNGA, followed by the first World Hindi Conference inaugurated in 1975 by then Prime Minister Indira Gandhi. Since then, various conferences have been held globally to further Hindi's reach, culminating in the official designation of January 10, 2006, as World Hindi Day by the former PM Manmohan Singh. This day aims to encourage linguistic and global interchange by using the Hindi language. It sheds light on the challenges surrounding the use and promotion of Hindi, aiming to foster a greater understanding of the language worldwide. World Hindi Day promotes Hindi as a

global language. It is one of the most spoken languages in the world and the tongue of many in India. It is not just a language but an emotion. Hindi, which has incorporated words from many languages, has become refined and a very simple and understandable language. From the media to today's writers, everyone is writing in the same language. The MEA celebrates this day globally by organizing various events and activities through Indian embassies and cultural centres in different countries. These events typically include cultural programs, language workshops, seminars, and discussions. This year's theme of World Hindi Divas, mentioned above aims to highlight the usage of the Hindi language for linguistic and international exchanges. Among the other languages of India, Hindi is one of the most widely spoken languages of the world, so the reason behind this is that it is more flexible than other languages in adopting the words of other languages. And most impact able on the other language, because these words are in use among the Sanskrit languages. There are many such words of Urdu and English which have been adopted by Hindi. Hindi changes with the time. Perhaps today's teenagers and youth are getting the benefit of digital media and it is true, the social media also gives a forceful and destructive bond. There is increased influence of Hindi language on the internet so this language is globally accepted, recognized and spoken. Hindi is an Indo-European language. It is said to be a descendant of the Sanskrit language which is the mother of all languages. Even English has borrowed a great number of words from Hindi. The term "Hindi" is actually derived from the Persian language. Around 4.46 percent people of total world population speak Hindi. In short Hindi has the distinction of being called as the global language and its importance in the cultural exchange and cultural unity of the world cannot be overlooked. The observance of this year's World Hindi Day should lead to the expansion and usage of the Hindi language worldwide and for promotion and familiarization of Hindi language this year's Hindi day was celebrated with gaiety. (The author is a columnist, social & freelance writer)

Inspire Social Change through simplicity and humanity

ABDUL QUDDIR KUNDRIA

In today's fast-paced world, despite significant advancements, many communities remain entangled in outdated customs and social pressures that cause more harm than good. Among the most pressing issues is the excessive spending on weddings and related ceremonies, particularly within underprivileged families. This burden of societal expectations forces many to take loans and make financial sacrifices they cannot afford, leading to long-term distress and suffering. Many families feel compelled to organize grand weddings and elaborate pre-wedding rituals, often beyond their financial means. Traditions like the distribution of expensive sweets, lavish Chunni Chadana ceremonies, and other extravagant customs have transformed into opportunities for people to showcase wealth and status. These customs, once rooted in cultural significance, have unfortunately become a measure of social standing rather than a celebration of union. This pressure to conform to societal norms has severe consequences for underprivileged families. In their desire to match societal expectations, they take loans to finance grand celebrations, plunging themselves into debt. The stress of repaying these loans often leads to mental anguish and, in some tragic cases, irreversible decisions like self-harm. This reality is far removed from the joy that weddings are meant to

bring. The notion that an extravagant wedding equates to respect and honor in society is deeply flawed. Renting luxury cars, hosting lavish functions, and wearing expensive clothing may offer a temporary sense of prestige, but these displays do not define a person's value. Once the celebration ends, the financial strain remains. Families struggle for months or even years to repay debts, with some facing poverty and others bearing the emotional toll of these pressures. The practice of dowry further deepens this crisis. Under the guise of cultural traditions, families are expected to give costly gifts to the groom's family. This often forces the bride's family to take out loans, further entangling them in financial hardship. When the groom's family makes demands that cannot be fulfilled, the bride's family, fearing societal judgment, feels pressured to meet these expectations. This cycle of burden and sacrifice perpetuates suffering across generations. It is important to reflect on whether marriage should be about fulfilling social expectations or about celebrating the union of two individuals. Should love and commitment be overshadowed by material displays and financial burdens? We must reconsider the purpose of marriage and focus on fostering relationships built on mutual respect and understanding. Beyond the financial strain of weddings, society also faces the growing issue of substance abuse, especially among the youth. This alarming trend threatens the well-being of individuals and the stability of families. Addiction not only destroys lives but also erodes the fabric of soci-

ety. It is our shared responsibility to guide our youth away from harmful behaviors and provide them with support, education, and positive environments. A healthy and responsible generation is vital for the progress of our communities. To address these challenges, it is crucial for us to rethink and simplify our traditions. Weddings should be joyful and meaningful, not a cause of financial hardship. Reducing the scale of celebrations and focusing on the essence of marriage can bring genuine happiness without the weight of debt. Families must prioritize their well-being over societal approval. It is not the grandeur of a wedding that earns respect but the love and harmony within the family. Communities should come together to reject outdated customs that cause harm, such as extravagant rituals and dowry practices. By promoting modest celebrations and discouraging financial showmanship, we can create a more compassionate and supportive society. Let us encourage families to celebrate within their means and embrace simplicity as a virtue. This change must begin at the individual and family level. Each one of us has a role to play in reshaping societal norms. When we choose simplicity and discourage harmful practices, we inspire others to do the same. By leading through example, we can gradually shift societal expectations and free future generations from the burdens we face today. Additionally, families and community leaders must prioritize guiding the youth away from harmful habits, such as substance abuse. This

requires collective effort, open conversations, and creating opportunities for positive engagement. Protecting our youth from addiction is as important as freeing families from financial stress. Every individual, regardless of social or economic status, deserves to live with dignity and peace of mind. Taking loans to fulfill societal expectations robs families of this peace. It is our moral responsibility to support each other in breaking free from these harmful practices. Society must evolve in ways that uplift and empower its members, rather than weigh them down with unnecessary burdens. The time for change is now. We must begin this transformation within our own families and extend it to our communities. By rejecting extravagant customs and embracing simplicity, we can pave the way for a society where joy is not measured by wealth, but by love, respect, and mutual support. Let us commit to freeing our society from the chains of debt and outdated traditions. Let us guide our youth toward a brighter future, free from harmful influences. In doing so, we will build a stronger, more compassionate community where every individual can thrive. True humanity lies in kindness, understanding, and supporting one another. By embracing these values, we can create a society that is not only happier but also more united and prosperous. It is with great hope and sincerity that this humble message is shared, in the belief that together, we can bring about meaningful change. (The writer is an eminent Dogri Poet/Writer of Jammu and Kashmir)

Celebrating International Thank-You Day A Gesture of Gratitude in the Heart of Jammu & Kashmir

AARYAN SHARMA

As the New Year sets in, January 11 brings with it a global opportunity to express gratitude-International Thank-You Day. This day, celebrated worldwide, serves as a gentle reminder of the transformative power of two simple words: "Thank you." In a world often consumed by haste and distractions, pausing to appreciate the kindness and contributions of others can foster stronger connections and deepen a sense of community. For the picturesque region of Jammu & Kashmir, steeped in its unique cultural ethos, this day offers a chance to embrace and celebrate the time-honored traditions of gratitude and hospitality. The Spirit of Gratitude in J&K's Culture Jammu & Kashmir, known as the crown of India, is celebrated not just for its natural beauty but also for its rich traditions of warmth and hospitality. From the valleys of Kashmir to the plains of Jammu, the culture emphasizes heartfelt connections, often expressed through gestures of gratitude. Whether it's sharing a cup of kahwa with a guest or offering a warm embrace during festive gatherings, the people of J&K embody the ethos of being thankful. International Thank-You Day aligns perfectly with these traditions, encouraging individuals to express their appreciation openly-be it to family, friends, or strangers. A heartfelt "Shukriya" or "Dhanyavaad" can bridge divides and foster harmony in a region that thrives on mutual respect and coexistence. Thankfulness in Times of Resilience Jammu & Kashmir has shown remarkable resilience and unity through its challenges. The people here have faced natural disasters, political shifts, and socioeconomic struggles with unwavering strength. In such times, gratitude has served as a source of hope and healing. From neighbors helping each other during floods to communities coming together to celebrate small joys, the region is a testament to how thankfulness can uplift spirits and create solidarity. On this International Thank-You Day, it is vital to honor not only personal relationships but also the unsung heroes who contribute to the region's growth and harmony. This includes the local artisans who keep Kashmiri crafts alive, the farmers who nurture the land, and the armed forces and first responders who ensure safety and security. Ways to Celebrate International Thank-You Day in J&K 1. Appreciate Local Heroes: Take a moment to thank teachers, healthcare workers, and community leaders who make a difference. A simple note or gesture can mean a lot. 2. Express Gratitude for Nature: In the lap of the Himalayas, nature's gifts are abundant. Engage in activities like plantation drives or clean-up initiatives to show appreciation for the environment. 3. Strengthen Bonds Through Festivals: Celebrate the spirit of Lohri and Makar Sankranti, coinciding with this season, by expressing gratitude to family and friends for their support. 4. Support Local Crafts: Thank the artisans of J&K by purchasing their products, ensuring the preservation of their heritage and livelihoods. A Timeless Message Gratitude transcends boundaries and connects humanity. For Jammu & Kashmir, International Thank-You Day is more than a date on the calendar-it is a reflection of the region's intrinsic values. By adopting a culture of gratitude, the people of J&K can inspire the rest of the world to embrace kindness, strengthen relationships, and build a more compassionate society. As the snow blankets the valleys and the warmth of human connections fills the air, let this International Thank-You Day serve as a beacon of hope and harmony in the paradise that is Jammu & Kashmir. After all, the simplest "Thank you" can create ripples of goodwill that extend far beyond borders. (The writer is student of BA LLB) email: imaaryan1212@gmail.com

Empowering Yuva Shakti: The Viksit Bharat Young Leaders Dialogue 2025

DR. MANSUKH MANDAVIYA

As India approaches its centenary of independence in 2047, our youth stand at the forefront of our mission to build a Viksit Bharat. Guided by the Honble Prime Minister's clarion call to engage one lakh youth in politics with no political background, we have reimagined the National Youth Festival into something extraordinary "The Viksit Bharat Young Leaders Dialogue 2025." This dialogue is not just an event, it's a movement, a vibrant celebration of youth empowerment, leadership, and actionable ideas that align with India's vision for "Viksit Bharat." Reimagining National Youth Festival For over two decades, the National Youth Festival has been a symbol of cultural exchange and youthful energy. This year, however, we dared to think differently. On November 18, 2024, we announced a groundbreaking transformation of the festival, placing leadership, innovation, and nation-building at its core. Central to this reimagining is the Viksit Bharat Challenge, a three-stage competition meticulously designed to identify and nurture India's brightest minds. The challenge is rooted in merit, inclusivity, and transparency, ensuring every young Indian, regardless of geography or background, has an equal opportunity to contribute. The first stage, the Viksit Bharat Quiz, saw participation from around 3 million youth across the nation. Conducted in 12 languages, it tested their knowledge of India's progress over the past decades, ensuring inclusivity and accessibility. The second stage, the Viksit Bharat Essay Competition, encouraged participants to delve deeper into pressing issues. Over two lakh essays were submitted, exploring ten thematic areas such as leveraging technology for development, embracing sustainability, preserving cultural heritage, and making India a global sporting powerhouse. These essays, evaluated by expert panels, provided profound insights into the creativity, analytical thinking, and originality of our youth.

The final stage, the Viksit Bharat Vision Deck Competition, brought top participants to state-level championships. Here, young leaders presented innovative ideas to panels of domain experts and leadership moderators. This stage emphasized grassroots perspectives and regional diversity, showcasing the ability of young Indians to think globally while acting locally. The journey through these stages has been marked by inspiring stories of resilience and determination. From the hills of the Northeast to the villages of Rajasthan and Gujarat to the coastal towns of Tamil Nadu, we witnessed young leaders overcoming societal barriers, logistical challenges, and personal hardships to present their visions for Viksit Bharat- A Bharat that they envision for. The Grand Dialogue: A Historic Gathering On January 10, 2025, the Viksit Bharat Young Leaders Dialogue will officially begin at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi, bringing together 3,000 participants in a historic gathering. The event comprises 1,500 participants from the Viksit Bharat challenge track, representing the top 500 teams from state championships, 1,000 participants from the traditional track, showcasing India's cultural diversity through performances selected from state-level youth festivals and 500 Pathbreakers, trailblazers chosen for their groundbreaking contributions across thematic tracks. Participants will engage in cultural and thematic presentations, competitions, and excursions to iconic sites like the Pradhanmantri Sangrahalaya and the National War Memorial. An exclusive dinner with various Union Ministers and Members of Parliament will provide a rare platform for informal dialogue, bridging the aspirations of youth with policymaking insights. The dialogue will gain momentum on January 11th with a grand inaugural session featuring national icons, thought leaders, and innovators. This high-profile discussion will set the stage for thematic deliberations across ten critical tracks, led by mentors and domain experts.

The evening will come alive with "Colours of Viksit Bharat" cultural show, showcasing India's artistic heritage, and symbolizing the limitless potential of our youth. The day strikes a perfect balance between intellectual stimulation and cultural celebration, inspiring participants to dream big and act decisively. National Youth Day: A Vision for Viksit Bharat The final day, January 12, celebrated as National Youth Day to honour the birth anniversary of Swami Vivekananda and his enduring legacy of youth empowerment, will be a defining moment for every participant. The top ten ideas from thematic tracks will be presented directly to the Honble Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, providing an inspiring platform for innovative minds to shine. This interaction emphasizes India's commitment to involving youth in governance and decision-making. Following this, participants will also have the opportunity to interact with the Honble Prime Minister and other eminent leaders, over lunch, fostering meaningful conversations and leaving them with lasting memories and a sense of empowerment. The day will also feature a grand plenary session led by the Prime Minister himself. This session will reinforce the transformative potential of India's youth in shaping a developed India, leaving participants empowered and motivated to act as catalysts for change. The Viksit Bharat Young Leaders Dialogue stands out for its scale, inclusivity, and impact. From its transparent selection process to its focus on actionable ideas, this initiative exemplifies our government's commitment to youth empowerment. By providing a platform for innovative ideas and direct interaction with PM Narendra Modi along with national and global icons, this dialogue sets a new benchmark for youth engagement in governance. (The writer is Union Minister of Youth Affairs & Sports and Labour & Employment)