

## **A REPORT ON THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE: "GLOBAL CONNECTIONS: UNVEILING THE INDIAN DIASPORA'S TRANSNATIONAL IMPACT"**

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On 09<sup>th</sup> November, 2023, an International Conference on "Global Connections: Unveiling the Indian Diaspora's Transnational Impact", was organised at Maharaja Bijli Pasi Government P.G. College, Ashiana, Lucknow (Uttar Pradesh), India.

The Indian diaspora is one of the largest in the world and this widespread presence contributes to the global influence of Indian culture, traditions and values. Members of the Indian diaspora have made substantial contributions in various fields like medicine, technology, academia and business. Their excellence has led to tremendous growth and economic rise in both their host countries and India. Indian culture, arts, music and cuisine has been made popular worldwide by the Indian diaspora and many more Indian practices, traditions, and festivals are now celebrated in several countries. Indian diaspora has in a big way promoted multiculturalism. Indian diaspora communities have been actively involved in educational initiatives and knowledge exchange programs, in diplomatic and political activities, and in various philanthropic activities and all this have fostered educational collaborations, better integration of Indian communities, stronger ties and development initiatives between the host countries of the diaspora and India. Even in technological innovations and entrepreneurship the Indian diaspora has made a mark globally, thereby changing the face of technological landscape and inspiring advancements in industrial sector as well.

This conference was organised in the hybrid mode and several speakers from different states of India connected with their online videos to speak on the theme of the conference, as well as offline delegates who travelled to physically present their research papers in the technical sessions allotted to them. We also had the privilege of listening to some of the most well-established personalities in their respective fields who connected with us from beyond India, and it was not only apt and suited the subject under scrutiny, but also provided us with first hand information about diaspora. The conference began with the invocation of the blessings of Goddess Saraswati, the lighting of the lamp and garlanding of the idol of Goddess Saraswati. After the welcome address of the Principal, Prof. Suman Gupta, and the reading of the concept note by the convenor of the conference, Dr Shweta Mishra, the address of the online keynote speaker, Prof. Manjula O'Connor's video was played. The same was viewed by the august gathering of academicians. We also had the honour of having Prof. R.P. Singh, Department of English and Modern European Languages, University of Lucknow, who joined us as the offline keynote speaker. He is renowned as a learned scholar with an enormous command over his subject. Mrs. Penny Doure was the Special Guest in the inaugural ceremony. She works in Australia for special children. We also had overseas dignitaries joining us online as Guests of Honour to present their views on the Indian Diaspora. Their deliberations on the theme of the conference definitely proved exceedingly useful for our purpose.

Professor Manjula Datta O'Connor was introduced as a psychiatrist, an author, clinician in private practice with clinical and research interest in migrant women's mental health, family violence and complex trauma and trauma therapy, as the Guest of Honour in the Inaugural

Ceremony. There were other renowned speakers as well like Prof. Primnath Goptar, Chairman of the NCIC Heritage Center and an executive member of the NCIC, is a writer, biographer, social worker, cultural promoter, Hindi film scholar, lecturer in Indian Cinema, UWI, former school principal and School Supervisor. He is also a member of the Editorial Board of the Publications Committee of the Global Girit Institute (Fiji). We also had Ms Soma Vyas, an Educator from New Jersey and Ms. Anisha Tomar, IFS officer, currently posted at Iceland to share their relevant views on the subject. There were resource persons to enlighten the delegates with their skill and expertise in the subject knowledge, and in all technical sessions the delegates, who had volunteered and expressed their willingness to join the seminar from across the country, presented their research papers at the venue.

Dr Shweta Mishra, Assistant Professor, Department of English was the convenor, Dr Sarita Singh, Assistant Professor, Department of English was the co-convenor, Dr Sanobar Haider, Assistant Professor, Department of History, and Mr Abhishek Bhardwaj, Assistant Professor, Department of English were the organising secretaries. The conference steered successfully under the able stewardship of our venerated Principal, Prof. Suman Gupta.

The purpose of the conference, to have scholarly discussions and exchange of ideas on the theme to further contribute to global progress and mutual understanding, was well achieved.

