



# CALL FOR PAPERS

First Circular



## **The Global Indian Diaspora, Transnationalism and Sustainable Development**

**(Three Day Interdisciplinary International Conference)**

**27, 28, 29 April 2026**

**Centre for Diaspora Studies (Independent Centre)  
Central University of Gujarat,  
New Permanent Campus: Kundhela, Vadodara (Gujarat) India**

**CONCEPT NOTE:** According to the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA, 2024), there are approximately 304 million international migrants, representing 3.7% of the global population. In India, rapid globalization, an evolving transportation system and advancements in ICTs promote the growth of International Migration and the strongest Diaspora connection and strengthening network between home and host countries. The contemporary presence of the Indian diaspora in socio-cultural and political engagement have increased attention from economists, politicians, demographers, sociologists, policymakers, and scholars from various disciplines (including Humanities and Social Sciences, and Sciences) to study the details in subject matter for study, research and policy level. The discourse around migration and diaspora has shifted to emphasize their impact on India's development trajectory, which is closely tied to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The 17 SDGs represent a universal call to action with a fundamental commitment to "leave no one behind," placing migrants, refugees, and diaspora communities at the center of global development discussions. International Migrants and Diasporic communities significantly contribute to various SDGs, including SDG 10 (Reduced Inequality), SDG 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities), and SDG 17 (Partnerships for the Goals). Other relevant goals include SDG 1 (No Poverty), SDG 3 (Good Health and Well-being), and SDG 4 (Quality Education). Diaspora play a crucial role through funding, knowledge transfer, and community support. By investing in projects, sharing expertise, promoting inclusive governance, and fostering partnerships, diasporas can help achieve these goals, particularly in their countries of origin.

This conference provides a vital platform to explore this complex relationship, focusing on India, a key player in the global migration narrative. The first official attempt by the High-Level Committee on the Indian Diaspora to comprehensively map this community

estimated 20 million (2001) spread across 134 countries in the world. Nowadays, the Indian diaspora includes Overseas Citizens of India (OCIs), Persons of Indian Origin (PIOs), and Non-Resident Indians (NRIs). It is one of the largest and most diverse global communities. As of January 2024, the estimated population of the Indian diaspora is 35.42 million, comprising about 15.85 million NRIs and 19.57 million PIOs and OCIs. Major countries with significant Indian populations include the United States, the United Kingdom, Canada, various Gulf countries, Australia, Southeast Asia, and the Caribbean. The Indian diaspora has created a unique identity, making substantial contributions in politics, business, science, technology, music, and literature (6<sup>th</sup> MEA Report, April 2024-25).

Notably, India received the highest remittances in the world, totalling USD 111 billion in 2022, which supports SDGs like poverty reduction (SDG 1) and economic growth (SDG 8). The Indian diaspora has established influential networks that can be leveraged for India's growth and the achievement of SDG ambitions. By fostering transnational connections, philanthropic initiatives, circular and return migration, knowledge transfers, and advocacy, migration and diaspora can address crucial SDG targets both directly and indirectly when guided by well-crafted programs, policies, and collaborative ecosystem development.

It is important to note here that in his inaugural address at the Pravasi Bharatiya Diwas 2025 in Bhubaneswar (Odisha), the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi, acknowledged the profound contributions of the 35-million-strong Indian diaspora and emphasized the need for initiatives aimed at strengthening these relationships. He talked about the Indian government's projects, including digitizing documents and recording oral histories. Prime Minister Modi pointed out three important steps: 1) Create a database to document the history of the Girmitiya community; 2) Organize a Regional Girmitiya Conference; 3) Encourage universities research on the history of Girmitiya migration.

*This conference will pay special attention to the state of Gujarat and its international migration and diaspora. It is worth noting that the Gujarati diaspora constitutes approximately 33% of the total Indian diaspora population worldwide. The "Chaurasia Bandar" symbolizes Gujarat's rich maritime tradition and historical connections. Regions such as western Gujarat (Kutch district), Central Gujarat (Anand, Kheda Districts) are historically known as outmigration districts even during the British Period and modern districts are from Northern Gujarat (Ex: Gandhinagar, Mehsana). The social communities such as Patels (who often operate motels in the U.S.), Bohras, and Jains have built and maintain extensive global social networks and transnational ties at their destination and place of origin. They continue to experience significant outflows of migration to North America, the UK, Africa, and Southeast Asia. The Gujaratis are recognized for maintaining*

*cross-border networks, identities, and resource flows (including remittances, philanthropy, knowledge, culture, and investment) that transcend national boundaries.*

### **Important Objectives:**

1. To explore how the Indian diaspora can support and advance the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly in areas such as poverty reduction, diaspora engagement, emerging transnational practices, sustainable villages /cities, and partnerships.
2. To identify barriers and enabling factors for diaspora contributions including philanthropic giving, investments, knowledge transfer, and cultural diplomacy toward advancing SDGs
3. To evaluate the existing policies, programme and welfare approaches adopted time to time by the Indian government to promote and strengthen international migration and Indian Diaspora.
4. To create a platform for economists, policymakers, scholars, and diaspora representatives to engage in discussions about mutual benefits and collaborative pathways for development.
5. To highlight contributions made by Persons of Indian Origin and Non-Resident Gujaratis (NRGs) in the development process of the state of Gujarat.
6. To address challenges like irregular/undocumented migration, human rights, and climate-induced displacement in the SDG framework.
7. To propose actionable strategies and policies that leverage diaspora contributions for sustainable development in India and globally.

### **Conference Themes**

1. Migration Patterns and Diasporic Trajectories
2. Sociology, Social Demography, Culture and Diaspora
3. Diaspora and Identity Formation
4. Skilled Migration and Diaspora: Prospects and New Challenges
5. Transnational Practices and Networks
6. Transnationalism and Community Resilience
7. Policy Frameworks, Development Outcomes and Diaspora
8. Indian Traditional Knowledge and Diaspora
9. Data Sources, Methodology and Emerging Approaches to Migration and Diaspora in India
10. Representation and the Significance of Indian Diaspora across States (Gujarati, Bengali, Malayali, Punjabi, Odia, Bhojpuri, Marathi and others)
11. Labour Migration, Diaspora and Economic Growth
12. Migration/Diaspora Crisis and Role of Government Missions (e.g., Pandemics, Ethnic Conflicts, Vande Bharat Mission, Ukraine Crisis, etc.)
13. Transnationalism in Social Spheres
14. Migration, Diaspora and Citizenship
15. Climate Change, Migration, Policies and Diaspora
16. Impact of Immigration, Emigration and Legislative Laws on Migrants and Diaspora
17. Youth Diaspora and Engagement
18. Diaspora and Soft Power
19. Brain Drain vs. Brain Gain and Brain Circulation
20. Gender, Equity, Migration and Diaspora
21. NRI Marriages and Diaspora
22. Vulnerabilities, Migration and Diaspora
23. Old and New Diaspora
24. Indian Diaspora and Entrepreneurship

25. Policies, Immigration/Emigration Acts and Governance
26. Pandemic and Diaspora: Role of Agencies
27. Significance of Digital Documents and Oral History in the Indian Diaspora
28. Migrants and Diasporic Voices: Representation
29. Regional Girmitiya Diaspora and Preservation of History
30. Social Remittances and Cultural Sustainability
31. Transnational Practices, Networks and Diaspora
32. Special Focused Themes: Migration, Diaspora and Development of Gujarat – Opportunities and Global-to-Local Engagement (Remittances and Social Philanthropy, Business Networks, “Vibrant Gujarat” and Community Engagement, etc.)
33. Diasporic Literature and Indian Diaspora
34. Demographic Dividend, International Migration and Diaspora
35. Role of Indian Diaspora in the Freedom Struggle and Beyond
36. Role of Diaspora Associations across the World
37. Dalits and Minorities in the Indian Diaspora: Issues and Voices of Representation
38. Religious and Regional Diaspora and Identity Formation
39. International Relations and Diaspora
40. Role of Indian Diaspora in Achieving @2047 “Viksit Bharat”
41. Geography, Population Dynamics and Internal Diaspora
42. Migration and Diasporic Security
43. Maritime Diaspora
44. Refugees, Undocumented Migration and Diaspora
45. Social and Ethnic Media and the Indian Diaspora
46. Global Compact for Migration (GCM) and Indian Diaspora
47. Digital Diaspora and Innovation
48. Return Migration and Diaspora
49. Social Geography of World Diaspora

**Note: Any other important associated sub-themes may be incorporated as per requirement.**

#### **Important Dates (Tentative)**

- Last date of Abstract Submission: **15<sup>th</sup> February 2026**
- Send your Abstract to:  
[cdscugint2026@gmail.com](mailto:cdscugint2026@gmail.com)
- Abstract selection: **28<sup>th</sup> February 2026**
- Full Paper Submission: **15<sup>th</sup> March 2026**
- Registration Deadline: **5<sup>th</sup> March 2026**

#### **Registration and Fees (Tentative)**

- Indian Participants: INR 1000 (Faculty/Professionals), INR 750 (Research Students/Research Scholars).
- International Participants: 100 (USD \$) (Faculty/Professionals), USD 50 (Students).
- **Inclusions:** Conference kit, meals, and certificate.
- **Payment Mode:** will be sent by candidate by email/others.

#### **Submission Guidelines**

- **Abstract Length:** 250-300 words, including keywords (up to 5).
- **Full Paper Length** (if selected): 5,000-8,000 words.
- **Format:** MS Word, Times New Roman, 12-point font, 1.5 spacing.
- **Language:** English (with options for Hindi/Gujarati abstracts if needed).
- **Review Process:** Blind peer review.
- **Publication:** Unpublished selected abstract/papers may be published in a conference abstract book, proceedings edited book/volume or a special journal issue (e.g., peer reviewed/ indexed etc).

#### **Contact Information:** **Prof. Naresh Kumar**

(Coordinator and Convenor)  
Professor & Chairperson-CDS  
E-mail- [cdscugint2026@gmail.com](mailto:cdscugint2026@gmail.com)

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### Chief Patron

**Prof. Atanu Bhattacharya**

Hon'ble Vice Chancellor (I/c)  
Central University of Gujarat, Vadodara

### Patron

**Prof. H.B. Patel** (Officiating Registrar)  
Registrar, Central University of Gujarat, Vadodara

### Contact Information:

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For Detailed Call for Paper and Concept Note, kindly Scan/Follow the link:

