



## Press Release

### International Mother Language Day (MATARAM)

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High Commission of India, Pretoria organized MATARAM (International Mother Language Day) in Chancery premises on 28 February 2026. The event was organized to honour the linguistic diversity of India and as a tribute to its rich cultural heritage and art forms.

In his welcome remarks, the High Commissioner of India HE Prabhat Kumar stressed on the importance of preserving the languages which represents the identity, culture and tradition, a legacy that gets passed from generation to generation. He also spoke about draft Overseas Mobility Facilitation and Welfare bill, the new Diaspora policy. He urged the community to record oral history, utilize scholarship programme for diaspora children for graduate and post graduate studies and scholarships under Indian Council for Cultural relations and participate in Know India Programme, organized by Government of India.

10 Diaspora organizations representing 10 provinces of India and 4 dance academies based in South Africa participated in the event. 100 participants including children performed in 19 programmes which included various classical dances, folk dances, songs, poem etc. The programmes were organized in various regional languages of India. Also, sitar maestro and practitioner of Imdadkhani kharana Pt. Rajeev Janardhan (A graded artist of All India Radio & Doordarshan) and his team performed Jugalbandi as part of the event. Kathak dance on Vande Mataram and live performance by artists on Vande Mataram song was also included in the programme. More than 275 diaspora members attended the event. The event witnessed enthusiasm and active participation from the diaspora associations and community members.

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Pretoria

March 2, 2026