

# **A IV.2: Dynamics of Indian Diaspora: Migration, Adaptation and Overseas Indian Communities**

## **Introduction**

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**INDIAN INSTITUTE OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION, NEW DELHI**

## Contemporary Governance Issue: Elective

A IV.2:

**Dynamics of Indian Diaspora: Migration, Adaptation  
and Overseas Indian Communities – Introduction**

- **Credit:0.5**
- **Sessions:10**

# INTRODUCTION -THE INDIAN DIASPORA: DYNAMICS OF MIGRATION



*To study a banyan tree, you not only must know its main stem in its own soil, but also must trace the growth of its greatness in the further soil, for then you can know the true nature of its vitality. The civilization of India, like the banyan tree, has shed its beneficent shade away from its own birth place..... India can live and grow by spreading abroad - not the political India, but the ideal India.*

- Rabindranath Tagore (cited in Tinker 1977:iii)

The banyan tree has thrust down roots in soil which is stony, sandy, marshy- and has somehow drawn sustenance from diverse unpromising conditions. Yet the banyan tree itself has changed; its similarity to the original growth is still there, but it has changed in response to its different environment.

- Tinker(1977:19)

**Three events that has further generated interest among the scholars in the study of Dynamics of Indian Diaspora:**

***Pravasi Bharatiya Diwas***(Non-Resident Indian Day) is celebrated in India on 9<sup>th</sup> January each year since 2003 to mark the contribution of the Overseas Indian community to the development of India.

On this day in 1915 that **Mahatma Gandhi, the greatest Pravasi**, returned to India from South Africa & led India's freedom struggle.

**Prime Minister Narendra Modi's** visit to abroad and addressing the Indian Diasporic Communities

**Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR)** in collaboration with Antar Rashtriya Sahayog Parishad-Bharat, conducting the International Conference in 2016 to explore 'Indian origins' of **Roma** people in Europe.

## **DEFINING DIASPORA**

-Origin Greek, from '*diaspeirein*' meaning 'disperse',  
from *dia* 'across'+ *speirein* 'disperse'.

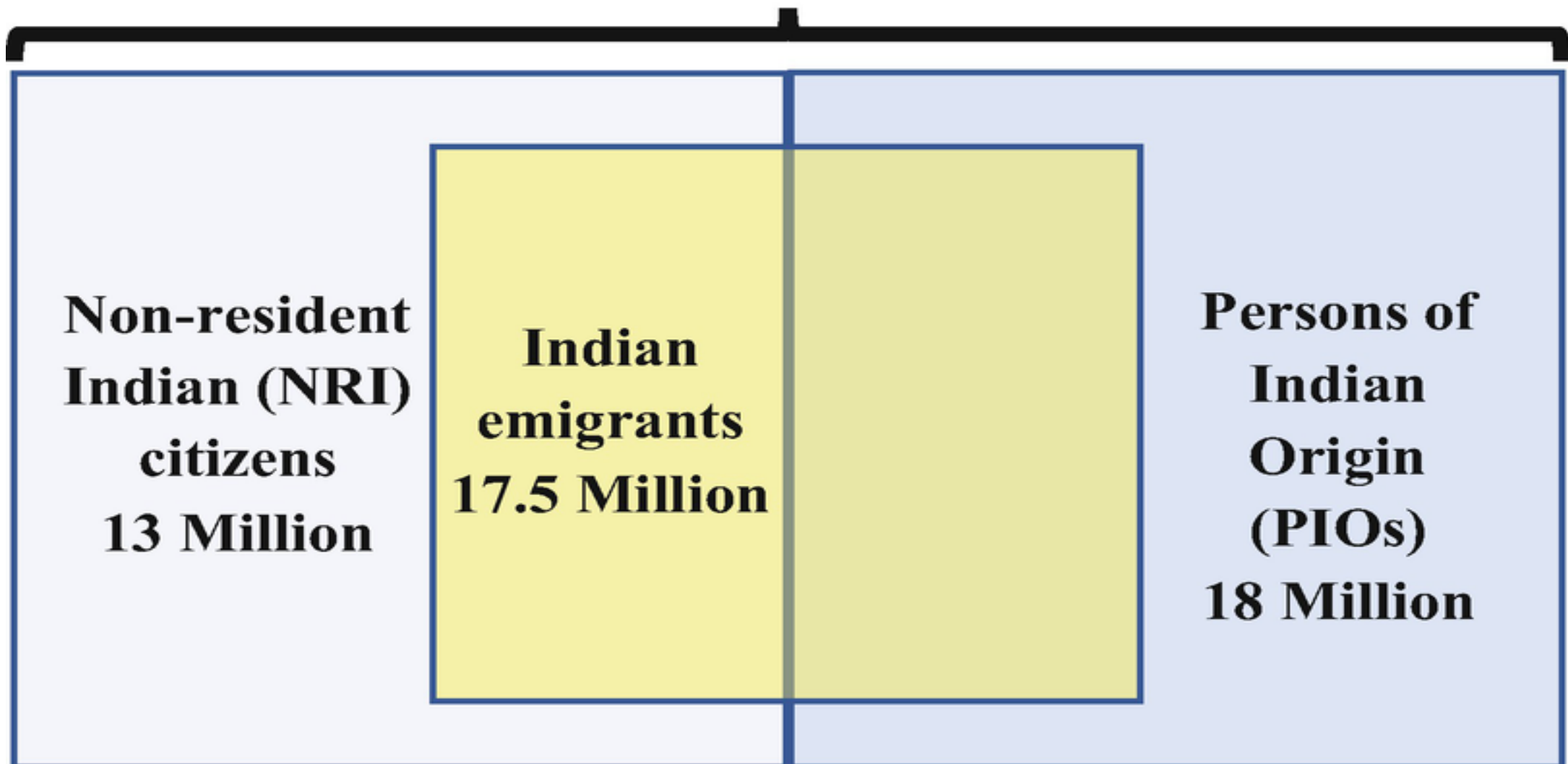
Thus, the term 'diaspora' means the dispersion or spread of any people from their original homeland (Ox. En. Dict).

- Reference to the dispersion of the Jews beyond Israel.
- The diaspora of boat people from Asia

## **INDIAN DIASPORA**

- Modern Indian diaspora consists of non-resident Indians(NRIs) and persons of Indian origin(PIOs), as per GOI categories.
- NRIs comprise Indian citizens who have migrated to another country
- Persons of Indian origin born outside India or residing outside India.
- A PIO is usually a person who is not a citizen of India.
- Anyone of Indian origin up to four generations removed is a PIO.

# Overseas Indians 31 Million



## •**SIZE OF MODERN INDIAN DIASPORA**

- The population of the modern Indian Diaspora is estimated to be about 31 million.
- Six major geographical zones of Indian diaspora are: Africa and Mauritius, West and Southeast Asia, the Pacific, the Caribbean, North America and Europe.

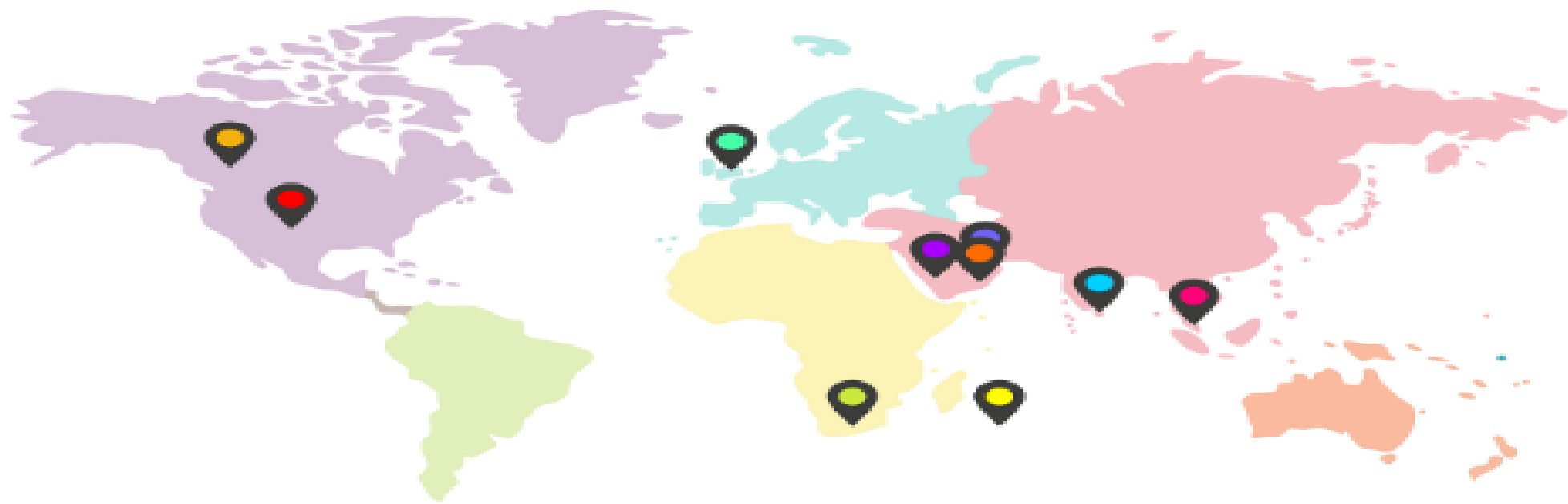
## **MIGRATION STREAMS**

**1. First Migration-The Plantation Diaspora**(Mauritius, South Africa, Malaya, Singapore, Srilanka, Anglophone, Francophone & Dutch Colonies in the Caribbean)  
**In the Pacific**, migration to Fiji started in 1870s, Mid-twentieth century labour migration to the Gulf countries.

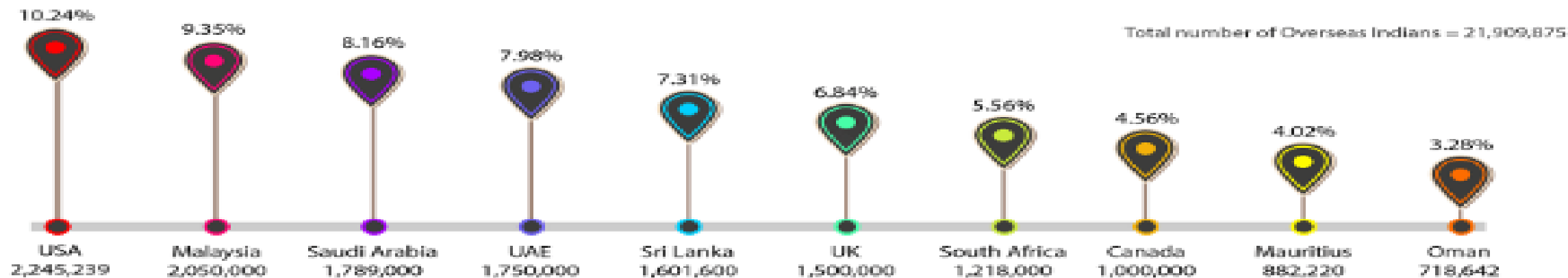
**2. Second Migration**-The migration of mostly free skilled Indians to various parts of the world including Europe, Canada, Australia, and the Americas beginning from the 1950s & 1960s.

**3. Third Migration**-The movement and advancement of second, third and fourth generations of diasporic people to other locations.





## INDIANS SETTLED ABROAD - TOP 10 COUNTRIES



Source: Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs, Data as on 2012

# DIASPORA COUNCIL



- The Indian Diaspora Council, Inc. (New York, USA)
- The Indian Diaspora Council of Trinidad & Tobago
- Global affiliates of Indian Diaspora Council
- The National Council of Indian Culture (Trinidad and Tobago),
- The Sanatan Dharma Maha Sabha of Trinidad and Tobago
- Swaha International, Trinidad and Tobago, West Indies

## **KEY QUESTIONS**

- What is the nature of Indian Diaspora?
- What are the broad themes in the study of the emerging Indian diaspora?
- How far flung the Indian Diaspora is?
- How India's diasporic history is different from transcultural histories?
- What were the circumstances under which Indians left India to the Overseas?
- What is indentured labour?
- What is the relationship between diaspora and the homeland?

*cont'd.....*

- What is the role of digital media in promoting diasporic culture?
- What is the role of Hindi cinema in cementing the Diasporic Hindu identity?
- How historical perspectives have shaped youth and gender identities in the diasporic world, and how diaspora communities could challenge or reinforce gender inequalities in their evolving diasporic centers?
- How does India seek to influence its diasporic population?

## Objectives of the Course

- The course will help us to understand and analyse the Socio-political and economic condition of strong 31 million Indian Diaspora living in different countries of the world.
- It will allow us to analyse social-economic linkages with the Indian Diaspora and mother Country.
- It will help us to understand the issue of brain drain and brain gain in this age of globalisation.
- It will help us in charting out expectations of home nation from Diaspora and vice versa.

# Course Content

## **Module 1: Perspectives on Indian Diaspora**

History, Concepts, Diasporic Linkages and Theoretical Approaches

## **Module 2: Social Institutions**

Caste, Family, Marriage and Kinship, Religion, Political Processes

## **Module 3: Identity and Conflict, Culture and Ethnicity**

Gender, Rituals, Stratification, Inter-Generational Conflict.

## **Module 4: Creativity and Symbolic Capital**

Literature, Films, Television, Diasporic imaginary(Nostalgia)

## **Module 5: Political Economy and Globalization**

Trade, Investments, Skills, and Technology Transfer, Nationalism, Citizenship, Homeland and Host land, Transnationalism, Multiculturalism, Remittances (Economic & Social), Importance of Indian economy, India's Diaspora Policy, Articulation through Public Networks

## **Session Wise Details**

### **Session 1: Migration and Diaspora: Concepts and Theories**

#### **Learning Objectives**

- 1. To understand the concepts in the study of dynamics of Indian diaspora**
- 2. To analyse the various sociological perspectives on diaspora**
- 3. To relate the diasporic situation of Indians to these concepts and analysis**

## ■ Session 2: Understanding Indian Diaspora: Diversity and Identity

### Learning Objectives

1. To provide a framework for understanding Indian diasporas, diversity and identity.
2. To understand the major patterns of migration, the question of Indian identity among various diaspora groups, and the way they fare in the policy priorities of the Government of India.



## ■ Session 3: Migration and Adaptation of Indians Abroad: Emigration, Volume and Destination

### Learning Objectives

1. Understand the basic background to migration of Indian abroad
2. Analyse the main socio-economic reason and historical context of migration; and
3. Illustrate the different pattern of migration

## ▪ Session 4: Indian Emigration During Colonial Rule

### • Learning Objectives

1. Understanding the historical context of emigration from India;
2. Situate indentured labour in the context of the colonial interest of the British Empire
3. Analyse the indentured system of Labour; and
4. Provide an overview of emigration of Indian labour during colonial Times.

# Session 5: Post Independence Patterns of Migration

## Learning Objectives

1. This session will provide an understanding about the patterns of overseas migration which emerged in post-independence India.
2. To deliberate on the diversity in the migration flows in the contemporary era.
3. To discuss the processes and patterns of socio-cultural adaptation of the overseas migrants.

# Session 6: Diaspora, Development and Governance: The Indian Experience

## Learning Objective

1. To understand the major patterns of migration, the question of Indian identity among various diaspora groups, and the way they fare in the policy priorities of the Government of India.

# Session 7: The Migration Cycle

## Learning Objectives

- 1.To provide an understanding on the migration cycle and introduces the key concepts like settlement, integration and return migration and re-integration.
- 2.It provides a brief analysis of some important factors that lead to divergence between the policy objectives of countries of origin and destination.
- 3.It attempts to throw light on some of the stereotypes in migration discourse and suggests a possible win-win framework for all the stakeholders.

# Session 8: Policy Perspective on International Migration

## Learning Objectives

1. This session provides a brief analysis of some important factors that lead to divergence between the policy objectives of countries of origin and destination.
2. It attempts to throw light on some of the stereotypes in migration discourse and suggests a possible win-win framework for all the stakeholders.

# Session 9: India and Indian Diaspora: Images and Perceptions

## Learning Objectives

1. To comprehend the meaning and usage of the term diaspora literature;
2. To explain the circumstances for the formation of diasporic communities;
3. To deliberate on the diasporic writing as cultural identity marker.
3. To understand the patterns of consumption and representation of Bollywood and diaspora
4. To know the representation of diasporic filmmakers and their communities.
5. To know the Indian State's view of Overseas Indians

# Session 10: Migration, Diaspora and Sustainable Development: A Policy Perspective

## Learning Objectives

1. This session provides an overview of the key trends associated with contemporary migration and its impact on the achievement of the SDGs.
2. It also focus on the rise of the diasporic economy and its contribution to trade, investment and entrepreneurship.
3. Finally, it examines the key issue areas identified in the SDGs targets that impact on the development potential of migration and diasporas.



## Session details

- Every session's Power Point will have a quiz of MCQ's and three references at the end of the presentation. The answers to the Quiz are embedded in the PPT.
- Webinars will be organized during the course to discuss topics of contemporary relevance.
- Mode of final evaluation : Group Presentation and Assignment

## ▪ **Suggested Themes for Assignment**

1. Migration and Adaptation: A Textual Analysis of Any Two Selected Documentaries/ Bollywood Diasporic Movies
2. Indian Governments Approach towards its Diaspora: A Public Policy Analysis
3. Socio-economic Linkages between Indian Diaspora & India: Brain Drain or Brain Gain?
4. Country Case Studies on Diaspora- Expectations of/from the Migrants

# **Textual Analysis of the Changing Nature of Diaspora Films**

- Purab Aur Paschim(dir. Manoj Kumar, 1970).
- Sammy and Rosie Get Laid (dir. Stephen Frears, 1987)
- Masala (dir. Srinivas Krishna, 1990)
- Mississippi Masala (dir. Mira Nair,1991)
- Bhaji on the Beach (dir. Gurinder Chadha, 1993)
- DDLJ( dir. Aditya Chopra, 1995)
- My Son the Fanatic (dir. Udayan Prasad, 1997)
- East is East (dir. Damien O'Donnell, 2000)
- Dil Jo Bhi Kahey(dir. Romesh Sharma, 2005)
- Ramji Londonwaley(dir. Sanjay Dayma, 2005)

- Ministry of External Affairs(MEA), Govt. of India has commissioned more than 300 documentaries highlighting on subjects such as art and culture, lifestyles, defense, democracy, development, environment, gender, history, international relations, plurality, portraits, science and technology, innovations, entrepreneurship, social development etc.

- Documentaries on Indian Diaspora**

- Bridging Worlds: From Girmitya to Government: The Story of Indians in Mauritius
- Bridging Worlds- The Story of Indian Diaspora in Malaysia and Singapore
- Bridging Worlds: Know India, Know Yourself A look at Know India of the MOIA
- Bridging Worlds: The Story of Indians in Trinidad and Tobago
- Bridging World: Home is where the heart is- The Story of Indian Diaspora in Canada
- Bridging World: One Thousand and One Nights Indian Diaspora in the Gulf
- Bridging World: Out of many, one people: The Story of Indians in Suriname, Jamaica and Guyana
- Bridging World: Routes to Roots: The Indian Diaspora across the World
- Bridging Worlds: Indians in US
- From the Foot Hills of Kilimanjaro: Indians in Tanzania, Kenya and Uganda



**Thank you**