



Beginning of a new Era of

Indo-Baltic Relations

7th August, 2016

It was historic moment in the sacred premises of Dev Sanskriti Vishwavidyalaya (DSVV), where 1st ever Center for Baltic Culture and Studies (BCS) in Asia was established in the gracious presence of Governor of Uttarakhand state, Dr. Krishna Kant Paul, Mrs. Omata Paul special secretary to President of India, Ambassadors of Estonia, Lithuania, Latvia and Vice Rector, University of Latvia. Addressing the august gathering Governor Dr. Krishna Kant Paul welcomed all. He called the event another feather in the hat of DSVV. It would enrich cultural exchange between both regions. He also complimented the Baltic states for choosing Dev Sanskriti Vishwavidyalaya for this cultural and academic tie-up. Dr. Paul expressed his pleasure to see the University doing wonder under the leadership of Dr. Pranav Pandya. He gave a bird's

eye view of Indian civilization down 5000 years and its spiritual tradition. He said the greatest need of today is to establish harmony, goodwill and mutual respect. DSVV is an ideal place to encourage these type of feelings and higher researches.

Giving Chairperson's address, Dr. Pranav Pandya, Chancellor, DSVV expressed his sorrows about the present condition of the world, full of hatred, jealousy and growing terrorism. He expressed his desire to learn Baltic languages and visit three countries. Dr. Pandya appreciated the Pro-VC's tireless labor in making this initiative work. He wished that "egos, hatred will go away and gradually the world will become a better place for the next generation."

Delivering keynote address, Prof. Ina Druviete, Vice Rector, University of Latvia said, Baltic states have close affinity with India. She called

India as 'Eternal Friend' and said Latvia and India share common history and Latvians have great interest about India, Indian Culture and Language. As the symbol of friendship she presented three gifts. 1) Book about Latvia. 2) Sign of Latvian Flag and 3) Latvian Bread made from Latvian water and grains.

Mr. Riho Kruuv, H.E Ambassador, Embassy of Estonia in India called his visit an educational and cultural more than commercial. He promised Estonia's best possible support to this center.

Mr. Laimonas Talat-Kelpsa, H.E Ambassador, Embassy of Lithuania, in India won each and

every heart in the audience by greeting audience in Hindi. He also gifted the University library a treasure which showcased the similarity between the two countries.

Mr. Aivars Groza, H.E Ambassador, Embassy of Latvia in India called this event as dream fulfilled. He said this collaboration will take our relation to the next level. He said that there are similarities between Latvian and Sanskrit

language. He stated that DSVV is the first centre in Asia for Baltic culture and Studies.

The inauguration began with the welcome address by Mr. Sharad Pardy, Vice Chancellor, DSVV. Setting the vision and the mission of CBCS Dr. Chinmay Pandya, Pro VC, DSVV clarified the three objectives behind the Center. The initiative he said to be the beginning of a new era of Indo-Baltic friendship and global solidarity. Also seated on the dias were Prof. Sigma Ankrava & Registrar Sandeep Kumar.



Inauguration of Baltic Center is indeed a historic moment. There are very noble objectives behind this center. Similarities between our culture and languages especially Sanskrit and Baltic languages is a very interesting fact. With the establishment of this center mutual contacts will increase, there will be cultural exchange and we march towards world peace.

- Dr. Krishna Kant Paul, H.E Governor of Uttarakhand



Center will encourage joint researches, publications, seminars, conferences and cultural programs, thus bringing academic closeness between scholars and promoting cultural activities between India and Baltic countries. I applaud the tireless effort by Pro VC in building up a bridge and bringing three Baltic countries together.

- Dr. Pranav Pandya, Chancellor, Dev Sanskriti Vishwavidyalaya

Mission & Vision behind

Center for Baltic Culture & Studies

1. THE JOINT ACADEMIC EXCHANGE PROGRAMMES, which includes exchange of faculty members, exchange of students, exchange of administrative managers/coordinators, exchange of academic materials and other information, distinct short-term academic programmes and joint academic programmes etc.

2. RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT which includes joint research activities, joint publications, joint development of learning resources etc.

3. JOINT SEMINARS/CONFERENCES/WORKSHOPS. The first such initiative had already taken place when DSVV was given the status of the joint organizer of the international conference organized at the Riga, Latvia in between may 28-may 30, 2015

4. JOINT CULTURAL PROGRAMMES to foster and promote the cultural

activities of both India and Baltic countries in respective nations through this center.

The CBCS shall function administratively as a sub-unit of the Pt. Shriram Sharma Shodh Peeth (Pt. Shriram Sharma research Foundation) of the DSVV and aims at developing International Education and Research activities at the DSVV offering aforementioned research activities as well as the Baltic Sea region studies for exchange as well as visiting students.

The center aims to develop dual degree programmes as well necessary cooperation networks through its partner institutions to support its underlying objectives.

The proposed CBCS shall aim to furnish following projects:

1. Generating Learning Resources
2. Offering Scholarships to Regular/Gap Year Students
3. Publishing of Journal and undertaking a Joint Research Project
4. Organization of Joint Conference/Seminar/Workshop etc.





Inaugural Ceremony Centre for Baltic Culture & Studies

7 August, 2016

Guests: Hon'ble, Rajiv Gandhi



This Relation is an Historic event

Mr. Alvars Groux, Ambassador, Embassy of Latvia in India. We are grateful towards Dr. Chinmay Pandya and Prof. Anandara for their continuous efforts that has led to the multi-faceted Baltic co-operation. The number of Indian students studying in Latvian Universities are increasing and the count estimates around 1000. This relation is a historical event between India and Latvia. It was my first visit of Haridwar. I should definitely say this is not just one, I found here very nice environment and kind people and spiritual personalities. I am convinced that this historic event will be like gold mine for our future relations and definitely help India and Latvia students study in the center. In future it will attract more young people, not only from Latvia but also from Europe to come here for study and be a partners to enhance our cooperation. Wonderful place, wonderful environment and very spiritual place.

With a coastline of 531km along the Baltic Sea, Latvia is bordered by Estonia, Lithuania, Russia and Belarus, country also counts more than 3,000 lakes and 12,000 rivers. It has a long tradition of conservation with rich history and culture. The Republic of Latvia was founded on 18 November 1918 and restored its independence on 21 August 1991. The Capital State and the largest city of Latvia is Riga. Latvia is unitary and democratic parliamentary republic which is divided into 118 administrative divisions, 109 municipalities and 9 cities.

CULTURE - Over a thousand years, traditional Latvian folk, the dance of the folk songs are famous. More than 1.2



Latvia

million texts and 30,000 melodies of folk songs have been identified. Latvian Song and Dance Festival is an important event in Latvian culture and social life. Religious beliefs: The largest religion in Latvia is Christianity (79%). About 21% of the total population is not affiliated with a specific religion. LANGUAGE - Latvian is the official language of Latvia with Lithuanian as Baltic language group of the Indo-European language family.

India-Latvia Relations - Relations between India and Latvia are warm and friendly, based on shared commitment to democracy. Popular interest in Indian culture among the Latvian people has strengthened ties. Bilateral contacts

date back to the time when Latvia was part of the Soviet Union and had a twinned status with Rajasthan, India recognized Latvia as a sovereign and independent state on September 7, 1991 and established diplomatic relations on February 25, 1992. The Latvian Government opened its Embassy in New Delhi in January 2015.

Most interesting facts - 1. The Latvia has the 5th highest internet speed in the world. 2. With over 50% of forest it's one of the most environmentally friendly countries on the planet, ranking 2nd. 3. The country has higher number of patented inventions in the branch of chemical industry.

humany, solidarity and betterment of society. The main reason is to remind us the center most belief of Vedic tradition-Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam for those who have got the big heart, the whole is nothing but the big family. Centre would serve as a symbol of Union, Universal brotherhood. The third vision is to translate the 4 founding principles of P.P. Gurudev for global unity. Ekta - solidarity for the cause, 'Senta' - equality of all the participating members, 'Duchita' - sacredness as the driving force, 'Mamta' - compassion as binding force. Doing it through joint academic programs. The outlook



The first and foremost the Centre for Baltic Culture and Studies is going to establish the philological and cultural continuity, similarity, lineages heritage connection between India and Baltic nations. The Centre will provide a space where people can talk about

may appear academic, scholarly, linguistic, cultural & social but the real purpose of the center it is to set a new revolution. In Sanskrit, it is said, "one should not measure the distance traveled alone, instead look for the ones travelled together." If one tries to find that distance covered together today, we would find the history pages soaked in the cascade of blood. We are living in the time where greed and decline rule the world. The meaningless race to acquire the wealth at any cost has become the norm and the chasms of contentment is being forgotten. In such times, which we can call the crucial time in the history of the mankind, we as scholars and thinkers are being summoned by our children and next generation to come forth and provide a global, resolute and determined response and this Centre is the response. Latvian author Malmbergs in 1856 wrote, "people from Baltic region came from the banks of Ganga." These words are like reading a letter from a long lost brother or sister. 5000 km

away from home, what better gift one could get than finding another home. Baltic nations are our home in Europe and India is home for Baltic nations. Words such as 'Agni', 'Gayatri', 'Mata', 'Pir', 'Haathi', 'Padi', 'Chakshu', 'deva', 'saural' and around 400 more are common among us. With common Healing tradition, value system and spiritual belief we've so much in common that it is impossible to ignore the connection. Paul Watson when somebody asked how long would like to live said, "It does not matter how long I live, it matters what I live for." Today I'm very sure we are standing for right cause & better future. Today is the start of new era of global solidarity, greatness, unity and absolute harmony in this world that we all seek to have.



Time to Revive the lost connection - Dr. Chinmay Pandya

Estonia

Estonia is a developed country with an advanced, high-income economy among the fastest growing in the European Union. Estonia is named after the "Eesti" which inhabited the region in the first Century AD. Estonia is located in the Eastern Europe, bordering the Baltic Sea and Gulf of Finland. Estonia is a democratic parliamentary republic which is divided into fifteen counties, its capital is Tallinn. Estonia is a home to 1,257,921 people according to 2014 estimated in the least populous member states of the European Union, with different ethnic

groups that are Estonian, Russian, Ukrainian, Belorussian, Finn, other. Estonian is the official language of Estonia. Cultural Traditions- Estonian culture as an identity is very strong. Oral traditions especially have played a key role in preserving Estonian history and customs during Soviet administration. Estonia-Latvia relations are the bilateral diplomatic relations. India first recognised Estonia on 22 September 1912 and re-recognised again on 9 September 1991 and diplomatic relations were established on 2 December of the same year in Helsinki.

Estonia is represented in India by its embassy in New Delhi and India is represented in Estonia through its embassy in Helsinki (Finland). Some interesting facts about Estonia - Estonia was the first country in the world to use online political voting. Estonia has the biggest collection of folk songs in the world with written records of 133,000 folk songs.

Will Do our Best for Mutual exchange

Mr. Krut, Ambassador, Embassy of Estonia in India. Indeed it is great honor for us to be here and see the inauguration of Center for Baltic and Cultural Studies dedicated specially for Baltic countries. We are very excited about it. Estonia language is not very easy to Sanskrit, nevertheless we will do our best to bring better knowledge about Baltic countries and cultural languages to India and particularly to the students of this fabulous University. Vice versa we will hard to get Indian students to come and visit Estonia and other Baltic states to make this cultural exchange and better understanding

possible between people. And also we hope that it will be good for all sorts of communication between the people and also for business relation between our countries. I hope this make this center and program interesting one and facilitate student-faculty exchange a great success.



Lithuania

We have 400 identical words

Mr. Kelpius, Ambassador, Embassy of Lithuania in India. Lithuanian language is currently being studied in 47 academic centres across the world and proudly introducing DSVN as the 4th member in that distinguished family. It is an important day for Lithuania. Lithuanian language is believed to be the closest survival sister of Sanskrit. Rightly said the renowned French Linguist, "Anyone who wants to know the old Indo-European bonding should go and listen to Lithuanian farmer". No wonder Sanskrit and Lithuanian languages contain 400 words that are identical. At present, there are more than 600 students from India and the number is increasing every year. We hope that CBC will further nurture this bonding to new heights by promoting students to know more about Baltic Culture and Languages.



Lithuania is a country in northern Europe. Which is the southernmost of the three Baltic States and the largest and most populous of them. Its capital and largest city is Vilnius. The United Nations Human Index Development lists Lithuania as a "very high human development" country. Lithuania has been among the fastest growing economies in the European Union and is ranked 20th in the world in the Ease of Doing Business. Republic of Lithuania was found on 16 February 1918 and restored its independence on 11 March 1990, a year before the formal dissolution of the

Soviet Union. Lithuania is an independent democratic republic with a multi-party parliament. CULTURE - The culture of Lithuania combines an indigenous heritage, represented by the unique Lithuanian language, with Nordic cultural aspects and Christian traditions resulting from historical ties with Poland. Religious Beliefs- Lithuania is mainly Christianity, with the largest confession being Roman Catholicism (90 percent), with some Lutherans and a few members of other churches. The Lithuanians language is the official

state language of Lithuania and is recognized as one of the official languages of the European Union. India and Lithuania Relation - India's first contact with Lithuania was through Lithuanian Christian Missionaries as in the 16th century Lithuanian interest in India grew in the 19th century after the similarity between Sanskrit and the Lithuanian languages was discovered. Among European languages, Lithuanian is grammatically closest to Sanskrit. Lithuanians regard their language to be the oldest living Indo-European language.

U.S.N.V.- Vision, Mission & Accomplishments

Dev Sanskriti Vishwavidyalaya is a non-conventional center of higher learning, education and research. It is an exceptional creation, which has born out of unique vision of the groundbreaking scholar and visionary, Pt. Shriram Sharma Acharya (1911-1990). He was a renowned social reformer and a celebrated freedom fighter, honored by the government of India for his meritorious services by a postal stamp released in his memory in the year 1991. He had a vision to establish a University devoted to the preservation and propagation of the Indian culture, which to him was Dev Sanskriti, that could combine the percepts of practical knowledge (shiksha) and spiritual education (vidya) to create truly enlightened individuals. The University is quickly gaining an international renown for its dynamic blend of ancient and modern as well as due to its unique approach to the personal and intellectual developments of its students.

The lush 90-acre campus of the University is set in the Himalayan surroundings and is both beautiful and state-of-the-art. In and amongst herbal gardens, and a functioning dairy farm, the fully Wi-Fi campus includes computer labs, state of the art libraries, laboratories, and a multi-modal Poly-Link. The university is also the proud host of world famous annual International Festival on Yoga, Culture and Spirituality, the details of which can be seen on the websites: www.yogaculturefestival.com and www.yogaculturefestival.com. The university is offering undergraduate, post-graduate and post-doctoral programs in a wide array of subjects such as Journalism and Mass Communication, Computer Science and Applications, Animation and Visual Effects, Yoga and Human Consciousness, Holistic Health, History and Culture, Tourism Studies, Rural Entrepreneurship and Development, Environmental Science, Linguistics, Education, Clinical Psychology etc., DSVN specializes in the character development of its students through fostering an enriched lifestyle based on the spiritual practice of east and the west.

The result is well-rounded and dynamic graduates eager to channel their skills towards serving the needs of society. The University has International partnerships, understandings and collaboration with many esteemed international institutions and Universities of Latvia, Lithuania, Indonesia, UK, Germany, Italy, Russia, Poland, Korea and Greece. The University is also a member of the Association Commonwealth Universities (in process) and proudly host high number of international students in variety of course programmes. The Universities is funded solely by an International socio-spiritual organization, All World Gayatri Pariwar (AWGP), which includes over 4000 social reforms and social services training centers and an International research institute dedicated to the study of spiritual science. Hundreds of programs are being conducted by more than 500,000 volunteers worldwide in one of seven major areas of social reforms. These include rural development, women's empowerment, marriage reforms, village autonomy, cultural revitalization, self-employment and education for all.

The movement as a whole is fueled by the active participation of over 110 million

members and has branches in more than 100 countries. Two of the last convocations of the famous annual International Festival on Yoga, Culture and Spirituality, the details of which can be seen on the websites: www.yogaculturefestival.com and www.yogaculturefestival.com. The University is offering undergraduate, post-graduate and post-doctoral programs in a wide array of subjects such as Journalism and Mass Communication, Computer Science and Applications, Animation and Visual Effects, Yoga and Human Consciousness, Holistic Health, History and Culture, Tourism Studies, Rural Entrepreneurship and Development, Environmental Science, Linguistics, Education, Clinical Psychology etc., DSVN specializes in the character development of its students through fostering an enriched lifestyle based on the spiritual practice of east and the west.



Reporting Team - Charu, Shradha, Durgesh, Himanshu, Ishi, Rajshri, Shruti, Tuskar, Siddhidhanti, Vaishali, Mridul, Sneha, Yukti, Urvak, Upul, Ritashah, Mritunjay, Bhavika, Ria, Uerasha, Rasmita, Sweta, Himanshu.

THE INDO-BALTIC RELATIONS



The Indians and Baltic states have similarities in culture, language, custom and ancestry. Revitalizing the civilization ties of the past seems to be relevant, as reflected in speeches of Indian and Baltic Dignitaries and Representatives in order to further strengthen current relations.

Lithuanian-Indian relations are cultural. It is widely acknowledged that there is a close similarity between the Lithuanian and Sanskrit languages, **Lithuanian being the Indo-European language grammatically closest to Sanskrit**, signifying possible close ancient links. The people in Lithuania worshipped nature and had a trinity of gods - Perkunas, Patrimpas, and Pikuolis. Vydunas (real name Vilhelmas Storost, 1868-1953; also known as the **Mahatma Gandhi of Lithuania**) was extremely interested in Indian philosophy and he even created his own philosophical system closely based on the Vedanta. He practiced Ayurveda. **Lithuanian spiritual culture had a lot of similarities with Hinduism, including the concept of Trinity.**

Study of Indian languages (mainly Hindi and Sanskrit) has been carried out at the **Vilnius University** for several decades. A separate centre of Indian studies, under the **Department of Oriental Studies**, was set up in the Vilnius University in 1996. Lithuanians have great interest in Indian cultural traditions, including Yoga. **More than 70% Lithuanians visiting India have spiritual and yogic**

interests. There is special interest in Ayurveda. The Kaunas Ayurveda Centre arranges lectures on Ayurveda. The ISKON Movement has a very active temple in Kaunas.

Estonia-India relations - The first person from Estonia to visit India at the end of the 17th century was the cleric Eberhard Eckhold (Eckholz). The fact that Krusenstern's library contained around forty items on the history and geography of India and on the Sanskrit literature shows his great interest towards the country. **The first Estonian textbooks to mention India** were written by Georg Gottfried Marpur (1805) and Karl Ernst Berg (1811). The book contained a hundred-page description of the nature and society of India. Sanskrit language publications were printed at the **University of Tartu** and from 1837, **Sanskrit teaching classes** commenced, taught by professor Karl Friedrich Keil. One of his successors Leopold Alexander von Schroeder became an outstanding indologist, known for his translations and original studies on the early Indian literature. **The Estonian-Indian Cultural Society** was established in 2004 and since then has made regular donations to the Estonian Institute of Humanities, the National Library of Estonia and the **University of Tartu**.

Relations between India and Latvia are warm and friendly, based on shared commitment to democracy. Popular interest in Indian culture among the Latvian people has strengthened ties. Bilateral



contracts date back to the time when Latvia was part of the Soviet Union and had a twinned status with Rajasthan. **The Latvian Government opened Embassy in New Delhi in January 2014.** The Indian Mission in Stockholm is concurrently accredited to Latvia. **The University of Latvia** has established a "Centre on Indian Studies and Culture" which was formally inaugurated on 9th September, 2013. It is organizing Yoga classes and Hindi classes as well as other activities to promote India. The University of Latvia and several other Latvian Universities are keen to establish collaborative relations with Indian Universities as well as to receive students from India. There is a small Indian community in Latvia mostly engaged in business activities. This includes around 1000 Indian students studying in Latvian Universities. And the number is increasing every year.

The inauguration of Baltic center in DSVV is a step ahead to revive and strengthen the relations between India and Baltic states. This center will boost the cultural and academic relation of India and Baltic Nations.



Today is the day of dream coming to being. This Centre will be an island for Baltic states in India. We have very great interest about Indian culture, Indian language, Indian traditions in our countries. On behalf of the University of Latvia I wish all the very best for this centre of DSVV and its devoted people. And I hope this event would be a symbol not only of friendship among our Universities but would be a symbol of friendship among our countries and among our nations.

Ina Druviete, Vice Rector, Latvia University.



Centre for Baltic Culture and Studies will further develop the cultural relations of the Baltic countries like Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia in India, which has its own rich culture and spiritual heritage. We at Dev Sanskriti Vishwavidhyala are honoured to have this first centre in Asia for Baltic culture and studies. The study and research in this centre will further strengthen all our relations among the nations to make the world a better place to live in.

Shree Sharad Pardhi, Vice Chancellor, DSU.

