



High Commission of India Suva

Visit of Suravi Dance Group, led by Guru Dr. Pitambar Biswal to Fiji

Press Release

The High Commission of India and Swami Vivekananda Cultural Centre (SVCC), with the support of the Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) are proud to present a cultural tour of the renowned Suravi Dance Group, led by Guru Dr. Pitambar Biswal, across multiple cities in Fiji from 27th June to 6th July 2025.

This 7-member Odissi Dance group, representing the vibrant classical and folk traditions of India, has been invited to share the rich tapestry of Indian performing arts with audiences throughout Fiji. The Suravi Dance Group has already performed at the following venues:

- 28th June – Singh's Supermarket Upper Hall, Nausori
- 29th June – Sai Hall, Sigatoka
- 30th June – Jai Narayan College, Rewa Street, Suva
- 01st July – Vishnu Laxmi Narayan Mandir, Savusavu

The cultural tour is organized by SVCC in collaboration with Shree Satsang Ramayan Mandali, Fiji Sevashram Sangha, and Vanualevu Shree Sanatan Dharm Sabha, Labasa. The remaining schedule for the Suravi Dance Group includes:

- 2nd July – Seaqaqa
- 3rd July – Labasa
- 4th July – Lautoka
- 5th July – Ba
- The troupe will depart Fiji on 6th July 2025.

Hon. Viliame Rogoibulu Gavoka, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Tourism and Civil Aviation, Government of Fiji, graced the event in Suva (on 30 June) as the Chief Guest. In his address, he expressed his deep appreciation for the ICCR's efforts in promoting cultural diplomacy and conveyed gratitude to the ICCR for sponsoring the 7-member Suravi Dance Group, led by the esteemed Guru Dr. Pitambar Biswal. Hon. DPM Gavoka said that their performances vividly bring to life the rich and vibrant folk traditions of India and that the Indo-Fijian community serves as a bridge between our two countries. He also, highlighted the growing strength of India-Fiji relations, referencing recent high-level exchanges, including the historic State Visit of Her Excellency, Smt. Droupadi Murmu, President of India, in August 2024, the visit of Hon. Minister of State for External

Affairs & Textiles, Shri Pabitra Margherita, during the 146th Anniversary of Girmit Day in May 2025. 21 visits of Ministers between India and Fiji have reinforced deep bilateral engagement.

H.E. Mr. Suneet Mehta, High Commissioner of India to Fiji, warmly welcomed the distinguished guests and emphasized the cultural and spiritual depth of the Suravi Dance Group's performances. The group's tour during Jagannath Rath Yatra 2025 is spiritually significant, as Odissi dance is deeply rooted in the Jagannath tradition of Odisha. The performances serve as a cultural bridge, symbolizing India's profound commitment to people-to-people engagement and diaspora connections. India and Fiji share a unique historical bond, particularly marked by the 146th anniversary of Girmitiya arrival this year. He praised the contributions of the Indo-Fijian community in preserving Indian traditions such as language, dance, and religious festivals, including Phagwa and Chautal. The High Commissioner further outlined the growing bilateral cooperation, highlighting the State Visit of President Smt. Droupadi Murmu to Fiji in August 2024. The recent visit of MoS Shri Pabitra Margherita, which included the signing of an MoU on Pharmacopeial Cooperation and inauguration of a new Yoga Centre in Seaqaqa. A landmark moment in sports diplomacy is realised with Fijian Rugby sevens players participating in India's inaugural Rugby Premier League. He concluded by affirming that these engagements, from cultural performances to healthcare collaboration, represent India's enduring commitment to nurturing the Indo-Fijian connection. These are not just isolated events—they are symbols of unity, shared values, and a stronger Indo-Fiji partnership through culture, diplomacy, and development. The High Commissioner of India extended a warm welcome to the group and expressed appreciation to the Fijian community for embracing India's cultural heritage with such enthusiasm.

Hon. Gavoka also presented Yoga Appreciation Certificates to Yoga enthusiasts in recognition of their active participation in the International Day of Yoga 2025 celebrations held in Suva. The awards celebrated the growing enthusiasm for holistic wellness and yoga in Fiji, further boosted by the Government of India's support for Yoga Centres across the country, including new centres in Labasa and Seaqaqa.

This cultural initiative is part of the ever-deepening partnership between India and Fiji. India's development cooperation in Fiji now spans critical areas such as healthcare, renewable energy, agriculture, ICT, and capacity building. Notably, the prepratory work for construction of a 100-bedded Super Speciality Hospital—the largest Indian-supported development project in the Pacific—announced by Hon'ble Prime Minister of India, Mr. Narendra Modi during the FIPIC III Summit in 2023, is currently underway.

The event in Suva was also attended by Assistant Minister of Health and Medical Services Hon. Penioni Ravunawa, members of diplomatic corps and around 250 members of the community.
