



Media Release

5 September 2020

Teachers' Day Celebrations: Honoring Indian Teachers in Brazil

Consulate General of India, Sao Paulo and Swami Vivekananda Cultural Centre celebrated Teachers' Day on 5 September 2020, with a virtual event with participation of teachers and professors from Indian community in Brazil.

2. Teacher's Day is celebrated every year in India on 5 September to mark the birth anniversary of renowned scholar, philosopher, academic and Bharat Ratna awardee, Dr. S. Radhakrishnan, who was also the first Vice President and second President of India. In the online event organized in collaboration with the Indian community, prominent members of community, who have been teaching in academic and research institutions in Brazil, were invited to share their experiences.

3. Consul General, Mr. Amit Kumar Mishra addressed the participants and spoke on the significance of the day. He emphasized on the role of the teachers in our lives and also the significant role that the Indian teachers are playing in Brazil, be it in the field of Science, Mathematics or the creative arts. He congratulated and thanked them for their valuable contribution in making India proud in Brazil. President of Indian Association of Sao Paulo, Mr. Shobhan Saxena also attended the event. Apart from being a journalist, Mr. Saxena has also worked as visiting faculty at the University of Sao Paulo for few years, and was associated with some interesting projects at the University.

4. The community of Indian-origin academicians in Brazil is vast ranging from scientists and physicists who have been teaching and mentoring students for decades to Professors who have recently joined in business schools in Sao Paulo. All the speakers shared their journey of being teachers and mentors in Brazil. A brief introduction about teachers and Professors who participated in the event is shared below:

- i. Prof. Hanumant Shankar Sawant has played a significant role in Brazil in the field of space research. He is a radio astronomer and one of the pioneers of the Brazilian solar radio astronomy. Under his leadership, an outstanding group in radio astrophysics has been built at National Institute of Space Research (INPE) in Brazil. He has mentored many students who are now doing outstanding work in the field of astronomy.
- ii. Sadhan Kumar Adhikari is a Brazilian-Indian professor of physics since 1991, at the Institute of Theoretical Physics (IFT) of the Sao Paulo University (UNESP).
- iii. Dr. Lalgudi V. Ramanathan is a senior scientist with the Brazilian Nuclear Energy Commission since 1978. With a Ph.D in Corrosion Science and Engineering from the University of London, Dr. Ramanathan has been associated with the International Atomic Energy Agency since 1996, representing Brazil. He has been teaching the post-graduate students of University of Sao Paulo on an honorary basis since 1979.
- iv. Prof. Umesh Mukhi teaches at the prestigious São Paulo School of Business Administration of Fundação Getulio Vargas (FGV EAESP). He is also a recipient for Tesla Silver Coin Award in 2014 for youth empowerment and holds the title of Honorary Cross-Cultural Ambassador of UNESCO Club, Sorbonne University, Paris for his educational and inter-cultural contribution.
- v. Prof. Sanjay Lanka is also teaching International Business at the São Paulo School of Business Administration of Fundação Getulio Vargas (FGV EAESP). His research has contributed to the development of a new sub-area of accounting called Agroecology Accounting, which focuses on the relationship between Livelihoods and Biodiversity.
- vi. Smt. Meeta Ravindran is a singer and instrumentalist born in India. She established herself in Brazil several years ago, making Indian classical music known and appreciated through theater, radio and television presentations. She teaches music and runs courses and workshops on a variety of subjects to promote Indian culture.
- vii. Smt. Gyaneshree Karahe is a trained Kathak dancer who has been teaching Kathak at SVCC Sao Paulo since 2011. She also has a dance group called `Namaste India`.
- viii. Dr. Raju Roychowdhury is a Physicist who obtained his PhD in mathematical aspects of quantum gravity in 2011. In 2014 he moved to Brazil with a FAPESP postdoctoral fellowship at

the University of São Paulo. He is presently teaching at the Federal University of Parana in Curitiba and in the Mathematics and Computation division of the Federal University of Itajuba in the state of Minas Gerais.

- ix. Ms. Seema Patel is an Educationist and Social Worker who taught the primary and middle grade students in Brazil.
- x. Dr. Manjulata Sharma has a Masters in French and she is a research scholar of Portuguese in PUC-Rio. She is presently working as a translator/ interpreter.

5. The event was first of its kind organized as part of the Government of India initiative to reach out and honor the contributions of teachers of Indian origin across the world. The participant teachers thanked the Consulate for the recognition and will work with the Consulate to help widen and strengthen the academic collaboration between the two countries. The event concluded with a vote of thanks by Ms. Puja Kaushik, Director, Swami Vivekananda Cultural Centre.

Some photographs of the event are shared below:











