



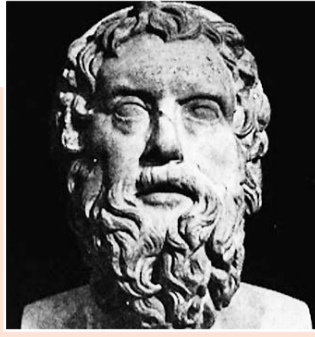
Marking Hindi Diwas: Language That Connects Millions

Hindi Diwas is celebrated every year on September 14 to commemorate the day in 1949 when Hindi, written in the Devanagari script, was adopted as one of the official languages of India. The observance highlights the cultural and linguistic significance of Hindi, spoken by over 40% of the population. Schools, colleges, and government institutions organize debates, poetry recitals, and awareness campaigns to promote the language. More than just a reminder of heritage, Hindi Diwas underscores India's linguistic diversity and the effort to preserve and strengthen a language that connects millions across regions.

#CULTURE

A Forgotten Cultural Encounter

When Greeks Spoke Kannada in Ancient Egypt



Aristophanes.

The ancient world was far more interconnected than most people realize. One of the most intriguing pieces of evidence for this is a little-known Greek play discovered in Egypt that appears to contain dialogue in an Indian language, most likely Kannada, a Dravidian language still spoken today in southern India. This remarkable find suggests the Greek actors may have spoken Kannada on stage in Egypt, offering a unique glimpse into ancient global interactions.



Pliny.

In recent years, great power rivalry has resurfaced. The early months of 2025 have accelerated unfolding geopolitical trends causing tremors far and wide with far-reaching implications, making the world increasingly fragile with growing domestic and economic tensions, rising populist nationalism and fraying international order. The US-China rivalry is reshaping the global landscape, with the re-emergence of the concept of 'sphere of influence.'

The Mystery of the Charition Mime

The play in question, known as the Charition mime, was discovered among the Oxyrhynchus Papyri, a massive trove of ancient manuscripts found in the Egyptian city of Oxyrhynchus. This comedic farce, written in Greek, includes a series of lines that are not in Greek and were long dismissed as gibberish or stylized nonsense meant to sound 'foreign.' However, scholars began to notice patterns in these unusual lines. In the late 19th and early 20th centuries, German Indologist E. Hultsch suggested that the lines may represent a real Indian language. Later, linguistic analysis pointed towards ancient Kannada or related Dravidian language like Tulu.

Why Kannada?

The structure and vocabulary of the non-Greek lines closely resemble features found in early Kannada. For instance, words resembling Kannada verbs and grammatical endings appear in sequences that, when transliterated, seem to convey coherent meaning. While the translation remains debated, some linguists have identified fragments of commands, exclamations, and greetings that match known Kannada roots. This has led to a provocative conclusion: Greek actors in Egypt may have memorized and performed lines in Kannada, possibly for comedic effect or to reflect characters from India.

Historical Context: How Did Kannada Reach Egypt?

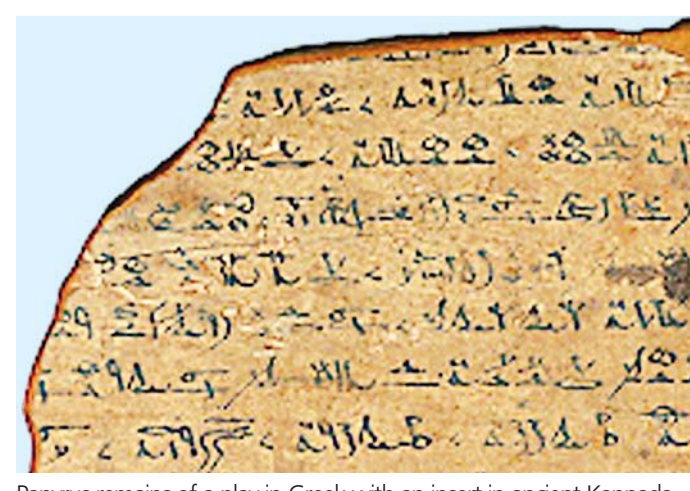
During the Hellenistic period following the conquests of Alexander the Great, the Ptolemaic dynasty ruled Egypt, and Alexandria became a cosmopolitan hub connecting the Mediterranean with Africa and Asia. Indian Ocean trade routes linked the southern Indian coast (Karavali region) with Red Sea ports in Egypt and Arabia. Indian merchants, sailors, and even diplomats traveled to and settled in Egypt. Cultural exchange was inevitable, languages, customs, and stories crossed borders. Given these connections, it is plausible that Egyptian audiences were aware of Indian cultures and that Greek playwrights included Indian elements, such as language, to evoke exoticism, humor, or realism.

A Unique Event in Theatrical History

The Charition mime is the only known Greek play to include actual Indian language dialogue. It's a testament to the cultural blending that characterized much of the ancient world. Greek theatre, usually focused on myth and politics, took a surprisingly global turn with this play, introducing Indian language to the Egyptian stage. We don't know whether the actors understood the words they spoke. It's possible they learned the lines phonetically. But the fact that these lines exist, preserved in papyrus for nearly 2,000 years, is astonishing.

Conclusion

The possibility that Greeks spoke Kannada in Ancient Egypt is more than a historical curiosity; it's a powerful reminder that ancient civilizations were interconnected in ways that still surprise us. Through trade, migration, and art, they shared more than goods; they exchanged languages, stories, and laughter. In an age where cultural boundaries are both respected and redefined, the Charition mime stands as a playful, poignant example of cross-cultural theatre, where even in ancient times, Kannada found its voice on a Greek stage in a land far from home.



Papyrus remains of a play in Greek with an insert in ancient Kannada.

Kshema Jatuhkarna

Nepal and China are civilizational states, enjoying age-old links. These age-old relations were formalized on August 1, 1955 on the basis of Panchsheel, the five principles of peaceful co-existence, namely mutual respect for each other's territorial integrity and sovereignty; non-aggression; non-interference in each other's internal affairs; equality and mutual benefit; and peaceful co-existence. The diversification of Nepal's diplomatic relations was a demonstration of its independent foreign policy, offering choices to Nepal's policy makers to pursue national interests broadly and mobilize resources from multiple sources. Exchange of visits between the two countries at various levels have strengthened the roots of bilateral relations, added new dimensions and introduced new dynamics in Nepal-China relations. To take the full benefits from the vast potential that exist, a number of bilateral mechanisms have been established between the two countries, which meet from time to time to deal with a wide range of issues. These mechanisms have been instrumental in furthering bilateral relations. As a close neighbour, friend, and development partner of Nepal, China has been assisting Nepal in the process of socio-economic transformation. The Chinese financial and technical assistance has

taken over the Nepalese development, especially in the areas of infrastructure building, enhancing connectivity, establishment of industry, human resource development, health, education, water resources, and sports among others. One can see it as a picture perfect depiction of China's helping hand in Pakistan. China has played a humanitarian approach here. As one can see in the aftermath of the 2015 earthquake in Nepal, China sent relief materials, medical supplies and rescue material. Nepal and China share a 1414 km long border. China makes a point to stress that in their shared history, there is undisturbed peace and cooperation at varying levels of development. Both have been appreciative of each other, mutual respect, and understanding, respecting each other's aspirations. Nepal has constantly and unequivocally adhered to one China policy under Olli's direction. True to its word, Kathmandu has time and again made it clear, not to allow its territory to be used by its neighbor. On October 12-13, 2019, Chinese President Xi Jinping visited Nepal. With this, a new advanced phase of elevation in relationship began, from a 'China Nepal Comprehensive Partnership' featuring everlasting friendship to a level of strategic partnership of cooperation featuring everlasting friendship for development and prosperity. They had an agreement to enhance connectivity which means ports, roads, railways, aviation and communications for Nepal.



Pushpa Kamal Dahal with Foreign Minister, Wang Yi, in September 2019, ahead of President Xi's visit.

For Nepal China Is 'Na Khaate Na Nigalte'



India has traditionally considered South Asia as its exclusive sphere of influence. In recent years, China has developed many linkages. It is enjoying over dollar 136 billion trade with South Asia. India-China trade was only Dollar 3 billion in 2001, 95 billion in 2018, and now, it is 127 billion. Indian trade used to be large in these areas, but China has taken over. Analysts suggest that Asian economies, including India, are likely to become 'integrated into the Chinese economic orbit.'

#GEO PRISM



Chinese President Xi Jinping with President, Bidya Devi Bhandari, during his state visit to Nepal in 2019.

China is forging ahead

China is projected to surpass U.S. by 2030. 'Reforms and opening-up process in China have given dramatic results. About this, the Czech President, Vaclav Havel, has a telling comment. He observes that the Chinese 'progress has happened so quickly that we have not yet had time to be astonished.' In just four decades, China has become a manufacturing powerhouse from an agricultural land. Data says that China feeds 22% of the world with only 7% of arable land. After China joined the World Trade Organisation in 2001, trade has been the primary source of its international strength and influence. China's economic strength has altered the global order. The world has become bipolar. India, just as China, has made a presence in the world order; and now, Nepal needs to do some real hard homework to understand its opportunities in this newly emerging order. Nepal's economy is vulnerable to destabilization to any supply disruption. China has so far been the leading supplier of infrastructure, which has made a comfort perception, changing 'China Fear' into 'China Fever.' China calls it a win-win cooperation through economic development.

Contexts have changed now

In recent few years, some power rivalry has entered the two 'friends' domain. The early months of 2025 saw geopolitical trends causing wide tremors, with ramifications at home with serious inputs of domestic and economic tensions, and resurging populist nationalism, also fraying international order. The U.S. China rivalry is in flux, reshaping the world order. The concept of 'sphere of influence' is the first shake-up. The second world war set up a world order, and now is it changing? At least, it seems United States appears in two minds about to continue as before. They don't want to spend time, money and effort in

transnational challenges, problems without passports, as they are now derided. Problems like climate change, terrorism, although they are not going away on their own, in fact, they are multiplying. In the past, only the affected people suffered. Now, developments anywhere can have impact everywhere. Destinies and futures are interconnected, intertwined and interdependent. China-Nepal relations have to be viewed from this prism. The keys being, economic benefits, global influence, and national security. Nepal is geopolitically seated in a sensitive location. The immediate neighbours, India and China, are concerned

about who comes to Nepal and what they do there. Superpower U.S. considers Nepal as a neighbour on the 'other side of the globe.' They are concerned. This was reflected in the sharp remarks made between the U.S. and China on the U.S. Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC) grant of dollar 500 million to Nepal. While the U.S. called it China's hand in 'fermenting propaganda,' and for the delayed ratification of the grant, China called it American 'coercive diplomacy.' This is not all. Nepal is in the midst of maneuvers in the geopolitical ground. It is no more bilateral issues, but a broader global multilateral strategic context.



China and South Asia

India has traditionally considered South Asia as its exclusive sphere of influence. In recent years, China has developed many linkages. It is enjoying over dollar 136 billion trade with South Asia. India-China trade was only Dollar 3 billion in 2001, 95 billion in 2018, and now, it is 127 billion. Indian trade used to be large in these areas, but China has taken over. Analysts suggest that in not much more time, Asian economies, including India, are likely to become 'integrated into the Chinese economic orbit.'

China is strategising to access Indian Ocean through South Asian ports. This is a contest between India and China in this sphere, including the strait of Malacca. President Xi's recent visit to Vietnam, Malaysia, and Cambodia shows how important they are now to China. South Asia has become one of the largest markets for Chinese arms exports. 54% of China's exports of arms were made to South Asia, of this, 40% was to Pakistan alone. According to analysts, nearly two thirds of the world's fifty major ports are either owned or have received some Chinese investment. Nepal stands weak and open to geopolitical maneuverings, counter-maneuverings by great powers, largely because its domestic foundations have become fragile.



Trucks carrying imported Chinese goods cross over from Kerung to Rasuwa, the proposed route for the trans-Himalayan railway under China's Belt Road Initiative.

ZITS



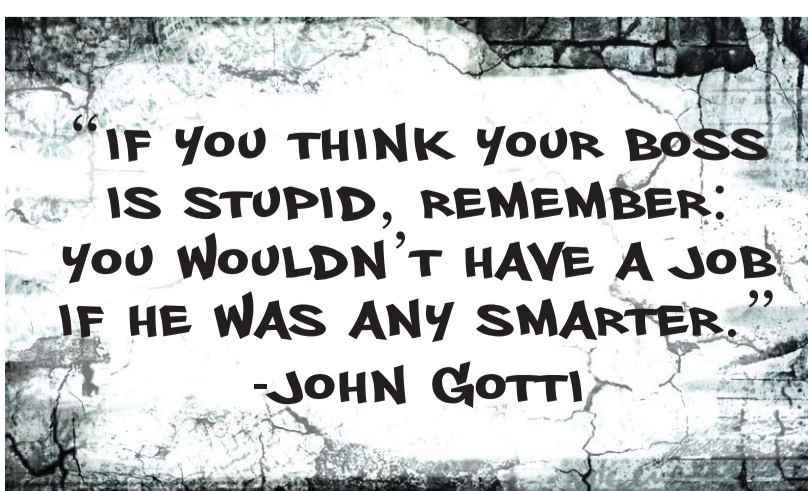
By Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott

BABY BLUES



By Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott

THE WALL



By Jerry Scott & Jim Borgman

#WELLNESS

Got Flu! Stay Put

TIPS FOR GETTING THROUGH THE FLU AT HOME

Approximately 30 million Americans will get the flu this year, but fortunately, most of those cases won't require medical attention. Most cases of the flu can be treated at home with remedies such as over-the-counter (OTC) medication and common kitchen staples. Tuhin Roy, a clinical assistant professor of family medicine at Tufts University School of Medicine and associate medical director at Greater Lawrence Family Health Center, sees many cases of the flu, and other viruses with flu-like symptoms, in adult and child patients at the health center's busy clinics each year. "First, you know when it's appropriate to treat the flu at home



and when to see a doctor," he says. "If someone is short of breath, having difficulty breathing, experiencing chest pain, or unable to eat or drink, it is an indication to seek medical care." Here, Roy shares his best advice for how to relieve flu symptoms while riding out the virus at home.

1. TAKE ACETAMINOPHEN OR IBUPROFEN

Take acetaminophen or ibuprofen two or three times a day unless there's an allergy or other reason not to. These OTC medicine cabinets won't fix everything, but they will lessen muscle aches, headaches, and the overall crummy feeling of the flu.

2. TRY KITCHEN MEDICINE

Studies have shown that honey is effective when it comes to improving respiratory symptoms quickly. "Warm tea with honey and lemon can soothe a sore

throat and help with decongestion, and it's better than most of the medicines out there," he says, but don't give honey to children under 1 year old.

3. USE STEAM FOR STIFFNESS

For heavy congestion, steam showers or holding your head over a hot pot of water can open nasal passages. Saline sprays, saline irrigation, and other OTC nasal decongestants also can reduce symptoms.

Good nutrition can be very helpful, and for people who haven't been eating well, a vitamin supplement like vitamin C might be beneficial, he says. "One thing I don't recommend is zinc," he says. "Over-the-counter zinc nasal sprays and tablets can cause side effects such as nausea, vomiting, and the sprays in particular can reduce the sense of smell for a prolonged period of time."

4. GET SOME REST

Sleep deprivation will make the flu get worse a lot faster, says Roy. Getting a good night's sleep will give your body the best tools possible to fight off the flu.

ommend putting a timer on your phone, and every 15 minutes, take two or three sips. That's all you need to stay hydrated throughout the day."

5. STAY HYDRATED

"Drinking a lot of fluids all at once can be difficult with the flu because it can cause nausea and make people feel worse," Roy says. "I recommend putting a timer on your phone, and every 15 minutes, take two or three sips. That's all you need to stay hydrated throughout the day."

Children often stop eating or drinking much sooner than adults when they feel ill. Acetaminophen or ibuprofen can help reduce fevers, which in turn can help make kids feel like drinking fluids again. "For babies, make sure they're having at least four wet dia-

6. WATCH FOR SYMPTOMS IN CHILDREN

pers a day, and toddlers or older kids should be urinating several times a day," he cautions. Kids often will not want milk or milk-type products, like formula, so Roy recommends just water or a 50/50 mix of apple juice and water, which contains some electrolytes and nutrients.



9. DON'T EXPECT A MAGIC CURE

"There is no medicine for cutting short the flu significantly," says Roy. "The flu is a virus, so antibiotics wouldn't be helpful. For the vast majority of people, I recommend staying home and doing some of these kitchen remedies." In some cases, young children, pregnant people, the elderly, or other people with significant medical issues, a physician may prescribe an antiviral medication specifically for the flu, but Roy stresses that this medication has side effects and is meant only for people who are extremely high risk.

7. GET A FLU SHOT

The best way to prevent the need for any of this is to get a flu shot, Roy says, and there are very few reasons not to get one. They're effective and safe, but because the flu virus changes, people should get an influenza vaccination every year. He recommends them for children starting at six months old.

8. EAT NUTRITIOUSLY

Good nutrition can be very helpful, and for people who haven't been eating well, a vitamin supplement like vitamin C might be beneficial, he says. "One thing I don't recommend is zinc," he says. "Over-the-counter zinc nasal sprays and tablets can cause side effects such as nausea, vomiting, and the sprays in particular can reduce the sense of smell for a prolonged period of time."

By Jerry Scott & Jim Borgman