



**INTERNATIONAL ROMANI
UNION**
Office of the President of IRU
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RE: Indian project

In its Presidency meeting in Riga 20.08.2016, the IRU welcomed the project of the Indian government (through ICCR) to hold in 2018 in India a Rromani Festival and Scientific session because it will be 1000 years of the Rroms' ancestors transfer from the imperial city of Kannauj (U.P.) to Ghazni (then Zabulistan, today Afghanistan) under Sultan Mahmood's action.

IRU supports this initiative which is concomitant with its own initiative "Perspective 2018" and expresses its will to be an integral, active and standing partner in this project.

This initiative is a significant step toward the recognition of the Rromani nation as the very first (most ancient) historical diaspora of India – a recognition which is awaited by millions of Rroms all over the World, due to their great loving respect to their "Baro Than" (Great Place). The Presidency of the IRU scrutinated the document "A First Draft for Indo-Rromani Cooperation", presented by the commissioner prof. dr. Marcel Courthiade and goives full support to him – as IRU representative for the cooperation with the Indian government, especially with the ICCR.

IRU takes this opportunity to remind that the name of our nation originated from the Sanskrit word ḍomba [डोम्ब] "artist" and therefore the correct spelling includes two Rs as the initial.

Done in Riga, 21 of August 2016

Dr. Normunds Rudevics

The President of IRU