

# Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam

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Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam (Sanskrit: वासुधावैव कुटुम्बकम्. from “vasudha”, the earth; “iva”, is ; and “kutumbakam”, family) is a Sanskrit phrase that means that the **whole world is one single family**. So here the Vedic sages are saying that the entire world is truly just one family. The world is like a small, tightly knit, nuclear family.

## More on Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam

- The words come from the **mantra in Maha Upanishad which belongs to the Samaveda tradition**.
- From Jawaharlal Nehru to Narendra Modi, India’s leaders have often evoked the phrase vasudhaiva kutumbakam (the world is one family), to **elucidate the country’s global outlook**.

## Examples of Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam in Indian culture

- The **diversity in India is unique**. It is the land of many languages and people profess all the major religions of the world. India is a land of diversity in race, region, caste, language, landform, flora and fauna and so on. It continues to thrive as a democracy.
- Bangalore is a city where people from all over the country reside. At every nook and corner, there is a person who migrated in search of a better job, city life or for personal reasons. With such wide ranging cultures under one roof, one would expect little skirmishes. However, **people try to get to know each other and make an effort to be part of another’s cultural celebrations**.
- In 1989, Rajiv Gandhi cited vasudhaiva kutumbakam to **challenge the concept of first, second and third worlds** and revive the idea of ‘One World’.
- In 2007, Manmohan Singh deployed the term to defend **India’s approach to climate change and global warming**

**while accepting its global responsibility** at the  
Heiligendamm G8 summit.