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SMT. SUSHMA SWARAJ'S PERSONALITY AND CHARISMA Will CONTINUE TO INSPIRE US

Senior BJP leader and former Foreign Minister Smt. Sushma Swaraj passed away on the night of 6th August following a sudden cardiac arrest. In her death, Indian politics has lost a leader who was not just a powerful orator but also one who was humane, sensitive and approachable as she took diplomacy to the common people. In many ways, Smt. Sushma Swaraj's political journey is the journey of a woman who broke glass ceilings, one by one, to exemplify how women too can excel in politics - an arena traditionally dominated by men.

Born in a middle-class family in Haryana, Smt. Sushma Swaraj, at the age of 25, became the youngest State Cabinet Minister in India. At 27, she became the state president of her party (Janata Party). Later in her career, she became the first woman Chief Minister of Delhi, the second woman to become the Leader of opposition in the Lok Sabha and the first full-time woman External Affairs Minister of India.

Smt. Sushma Swaraj was a well recognized face for Indian Diaspora worldwide who connected with her very fondly as she made herself easily accessible to solve their problems.

She made the Indian Foreign Ministry - otherwise seen as elitist, bureaucratic, distant and indifferent - people friendly, accessible and



(14 February, 1952 – 06 August, 2019)

responsive to the needs of the common people. Be it reuniting families, providing safe passage back home to trafficking victims or helping citizens with their passport woes requests were answered with

unprecedented promptness. Quick to respond and intervene when issues were brought to her notice, Smt. Swaraj was approached for help not only by Indians abroad but people of other nationalities as well. She had intervened on many occasions to grant visas to Pakistan nationals wanting to visit India for medical treatment earning her the title of "Mother Teresa".

ARSP had very cordial relationship with Smt. Swaraj and she was very sympathetic to our requests for strengthening the diaspora connect. During PBD 2015 at Gandhi Nagar she readily agreed to have a special session on 'Girmitiyas' in which ARSP played an important role.



From L to R on Chair-Amb. Virendra Gupta, Smt. Sushma Swaraj & Shyam Parande alongwith Roma Delegates & Office Bearers of ARSP

She delivered the Key note address on 17 July, 2014 on the occasion of First Baleshwar Agrawal Memorial Lecture in which she outlined Indian government's Diaspora Policy.

She took keen interest in expanding the diaspora footprint as she delivered the inaugural address at International Roma Conference and Cultural Festival organized by ARSP in collaboration by ICCR in February 2016.

She was the Chief Guest at ARSP's programme to felicitate and interact with Nepalese Parliamentary Delegation in July 2016.



Smt. Sushma Swaraj delivering First Baleshwar Agrawal Memorial Lecture in July 2014

She conferred the 5th Bharatvanshi Gaurav Samman, instituted by Antar Rashtriya Sahayog Nyas, on Shri Shivnath Rai Bajaj, Thailand in January 2010.

“Sushmaji Swaraj's departure came suddenly & shockingly. We met her same day morning 6th August and had a very lively discussion on various issues. Asked about her health, she smiled to inform that she travelled to



Smt. Sushma Swaraj delivering inaugural address at International Roma Conference and Cultural Festival 12 February, 2016

She encouraged the Diaspora Youth to connect with India and be a part of India's growth story. During her speech in the recent youth PBD held in January, 2019 she called upon the diaspora youth to *come, connect, celebrate* and contribute to be part of the *momentous transformation taking place in the country* and urged the diaspora youth to contribute to the country's development.

44 countries post her surgery and keeping well. When asked about her plans after giving up on electoral politics, she quickly responded, "Whatever the party decides. The decision is left to the party. Her dedication to the party and ideology always motivated others.

Sushmaji was most loving & caring to all and was well respected across party lines while she never compromised on national issues and ideology. She even used to take stubborn positions when it mattered. No words to express the loss. ARSP most humbly pays tributes in her memory.” □

-Shyam Parande

The passing away of Smt. Sushma Swaraj is an irreparable loss to the nation and Indian Diaspora. ARSP pays heartfelt tributes to the noble soul.

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THE REWARD OF GENTLENESS – THE BLACK ACT

(Continued from the Previous Issue)



community while Mr. Curtis was keen upon lowering it. He would not care to carry Indian opinion with him but would frighten us into submission to external restrictions backed up by rigorous legal sanctions. He therefore drafted an

bearer Corps for service with the troops. The offer was accepted. I therefore broke up my Johannesburg home



M K Gandhi

The year 1906 was well under way when this re-registration was completed. I had re-entered the Transvaal in 1903 and opened my office in Johannesburg about the middle of that year. Two years had thus passed in merely resisting the inroads of the Asiatic Department. We all expected now that re-registration would satisfy the Government and confidently looked forward to a period of comparative peace for the community. But that was not to be. The reader has been already introduced to Mr. Lionel Curtis. This gentleman held, that the Europeans had not attained their objective simply because the Indian changed their old permits for new certificated of registration. It was not enough in his eyes, that great measures were achieved by mutual understanding. He was of opinion that these should have the force of law behind them, and that thus only could the principles underlying them be secured for all time. Mr. Curtis wanted some such restrictions to be placed upon Indians as would produce a striking impression all over South Africa and ultimately serve as a model for the other Dominions of the Empire to imitate. He would not consider the Transvaal to be safe so long as even a single point in South Africa was open to Indians. Again, re-registration by mutual consent was calculated to increase the prestige of the Indian

Asiatic Bill and advised the Government that so long as his Bill was not passed, there was no provision in the laws already in force to prevent the Indians from surreptitiously entering the Transvaal or to remove unauthorized residents from the country. Mr Curtis' arguments met with a ready response from the Government, and a draft Asiatic Law Amendment Ordinance to be introduced into the Legislative Council was published in the Transvaal Government Gazette.

Before dealing with this Ordinance in detail, it would be well to dispose of an important event in a few words. As I was the author of the Satyagraha movement, it is necessary to enable the reader fully to understand some events of my life. The Zulu 'rebellion' broke out in Natal just while attempts were thus being made to impose further disabilities upon Indians in the Transvaal. I doubted then and doubt even now if the outbreak could be described as a rebellion, but it has always been thus described in Natal. Now as in the Boer War, many European residents of Natal joined the army as volunteers. As I too was considered a resident of Natal, I thought I must do my bit in the war. With the community's permission, therefore, I made an offer to the Government to raise a Stretcher-

and sent my family to Phoenix in Natal where my co-workers had settled and from where Indian Opinion was published. I did not close the office as I knew I would not be away for long.

I joined the army with a small corps of twenty or twenty-five men. Most of the provinces of India were represented even on this small body of men. The corps was on active service for a month. I have always been thankful to God for the work which then fell to our lot. We found that the wounded Zulus would have been left uncared for, unless we had attended to them. No Europeans would help to dress their wounds. Dr. Savage, who was in charge of the ambulance, was himself a very humane person. It was no part of our duty to nurse the wounded after we had taken them to the hospital. But we had joined the war with a desire to do all we could, no matter whether it did or did not fall within the scope of our work. The good Doctor told us that he could not induce Europeans to nurse the Zulus, that it was beyond his power to compel them and that he would feel obliged if we undertook this mission of mercy. We were only too glad to do this. We had to cleanse the wounds of several Zulus which had not been attended to for as many as five or six days and were therefore stinking horribly. We liked the work.





The Zulus could not talk to us, but from their gestures and the expression of their eyes they seemed to feel as if God had sent us to their succor.

The work for which we had enlisted was fairly heavy, for sometimes during the month we had to perform a march of as many as forty miles a day.

The Corps was disbanded in a month. Its work was mentioned in despatches. Each member of the Corps was awarded the medal especially struck for the occasion. The Governor wrote a letter of thanks. The three sergeants of the Corps were Gujaratis, Shri Umiashankar Manchharam Shelat, Surendra Bapubhai Medh, and Harishankar Ishvar Joshi. All the three had a fine physique and worked very hard. I cannot just now recall the names of the other Indians, but I well remember that one of these was a Pathan, who used to express his astonishment on finding us carrying as large a load as, and marching abreast of, himself.

While I was working with the Corps, two ideas which had long been floating in my mind became firmly fixed. First, an aspirant after a life exclusively devoted to service must lead a life of celibacy. Secondly, he must accept poverty as a constant companion through life. He may not take up any occupation which would prevent him or make him shrink from undertaking the lowliest of duties or largest risks.

Letters and telegrams, asking me to proceed to the Transvaal at once, had poured in, even while I was serving with the Corps. On return from the war, therefore, I just met the friends at Phoenix and at once reached Johannesburg. There I read the draft Ordinance referred to above. I took the

Transvaal Government Gazette Extraordinary of August 22, 1906 in which the Ordinance was published, home from the office. I went up a hill near the house in the company of a friend and began to translate the draft Ordinance into Gujarati for Indian Opinion. I shuddered as I read the sections of the Ordinance one after another. I saw nothing in it except hatred of Indians. It seemed to me that if the Ordinance was passed and the Indians meekly accepted it, that would spell absolute ruins for the Indians in South Africa. I clearly saw that this was a question of life and death for them. I further saw that even in the case of memorials and representations proving fruitless, the community must not sit with folded hands. Better die than submit to such a law. But how were we to die? What should we dare and do so that there would be nothing before us except a choice of victory or death? An impenetrable wall was before me, as it were and I could not see my way through it. I must acquaint the reader with the details of the proposed measure, which shocked me so violently. Here is a brief summary of it.

Every Indian, man, woman or child of eight years or upwards, entitled to reside in the Transvaal, must register his or her name with the Registrar of Asiatics and take out a certificate of registration.

The applicants for registration must surrender their old permits to the Registrar, and state in their applications their name, residence, caste, age, etc. The registrar was to note down the important marks of identification upon the applicant's person, and take his finger and thumb impressions. Every Indian who failed thus to apply for registration before a

certain date was to forfeit his right of residence in the Transvaal. Failure to apply would be held to be an offence in law for which the defaulter could be fined, sent to prison or even deported within the discretion of the court. Parents must apply on behalf of their minor children and bring them to the Registrar in order to give their finger impressions, etc. In case of parents failing to discharge this responsibility laid upon them, the minor on attaining the age of sixteen years must discharge it himself, and if he defaulted, he made himself liable to the same punishments as could be awarded to his parents. The certificate of registration issued to an applicant must be produced before any police officer whenever and wherever he may be required to do so. Failure thus to produce the certificate would be held to be an offence for which the defaulter could be fined or sent to prison. Even a person walking on public thoroughfares could be required to produce his certificate. Police officers could enter private houses in order to inspect certificates. Indians entering the Transvaal from some place outside it must produce their certificates before the inspector on duty. Certificates must be produced on demand in courts which the holder attended on business, and in revenue offices which issued to him a trading or bicycle licence. That is to say, if an Indian wanted any Government office to do for him something within its competence, the officer could ask to see his certificates before granting his request. Refusal to produce the certificate or to supply such particulars or means of identification as may be prescribed by regulation would be also held to be an offence for which the person refusing could be fined or sent to prison. □

(To be Continued)

THE INDIAN–AMERICAN COMMUNITY: Siblings on Opposite Sides of the Globe

(Continued from the Previous Issue)

✍ Anant Singh (Intern DRRC, ARSP)

Information exchanges between Indian Americans and Indians have helped establish a bigger pool of knowledge to be utilized by both India and the United States. Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs) between American and Indian educational and research institutes have facilitated such transfers of technical and institutional knowledge. In fact, the first example of information exchange between educational institutes in the two countries was seen under the Kanpur Indo-American Program between 1962 and 1972 in which 9 American universities (California Institute of Technology, Carnegie Mellon University, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, University of California, Ohio State University, Princeton, Case Western Reserve and Purdue University) alongside the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) helped develop academic programs and research laboratories at IIT Kanpur. Ever since, many additional organizations such as The Indus Entrepreneurs (TiE), a San Francisco based organization composed of businessmen with Indus roots, has advocated and allowed for financial information exchange between Indian American entrepreneurs and Indian entrepreneurs through workshops and conventions in both the United States and India¹ (TiE, Mission of Tie Global Entrepreneurship). While developmental aid, entrepreneurial connections, and information exchange showcase some examples of economic exchange between Indian Americans and Indians, the largest source of economic exchange would be remittance, with approximately \$13 billion USD flowing annually from the United States to India (Migration Policy Institute, 2014)² These various economic exchanges between the Indian American community and India showcase the deep-rooted connection of the Indian diaspora community in the United States with India.

Finally, in addition to such cultural and economic connections between the two countries, there also seems to be growing political connection of the Indian diaspora community to Indian politics. While the Government of India does not recognize dual citizenship and

thus prevents the diaspora community from directly participating in Indian politics, NRI schemes have allowed for the Indian diaspora community to achieve more rights in India in terms of holding non-agricultural property and other financial assets as well as guarantee unrestricted movement to and within India (MEA Report)³. Additionally, the Indian community in the United States has been active in Indian political advocacy through organizations, such as the Friends of the Bharatiya Janta Party and the Indian National Overseas Congress, which voice the concerns of the Indian diaspora community in the Indian political context (Migration Policy Institute, 2014)⁴. With the Indian American community holding a rather affluent position in American society alongside with their strong cultural, economic and political connection with India, the Indian diaspora community in the United States has the potential in helping address many of the issues faced by the Indian government and society alike.

However, one of the major obstacles that has prevented the diaspora community from investing in Indian markets as well as contributing to programs such as Swachh Bharat, Smart Cities, Make in India and other economic development schemes of the government is the lack of knowledge held by the diaspora community about such opportunities. A 2013 study by the India Centre for Migration indicated the much of the diaspora community viewed the PIO and OCI schemes as a means to ease mobility to and within India and that the economic benefits provided by the scheme were not being pursued by most PIO and OCI card holders (Verma, 2013)⁵. So, the issue arises not in the lack of economic incentives for PIO and OCI cardholders but rather in the lack of information, or even misinformation, about the rights they hold. Without accurate information available to the diaspora community in investing in both the Indian private market and the Government of India's development schemes, a lack of trust generates in the diaspora's confidence in investing in India. Therefore, it is important that the Government of India, through the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) gets

directly engage with the community and convey to Indian Americans, particularly POI and OCI cardholders, of the wide-range of opportunities available to them to invest in India. MEA should engage more with the diaspora community by attending cultural events and discussing possible avenues of investment as well as holding more forums for increased dissemination of information. Through such direct connections, the Indian-American community can receive accurate information and learn about the opportunities available to them to invest in India. Furthermore, the Indian American community can use their affluent position in American society to promote investments in India by not only the diaspora community but other sectors of American society as well. This proactive method of engaging with the diaspora community would allow for the Indian-American community to develop a closer connection with India as they would see the Government making an increased effort to directly engage with them and thus increase the motivation of Indian-Americans to invest in India. Simply put, the community has the tools to help India in an impactful and beneficial way, they simply need to be shown how to utilize them and be motivated to do so.

(The opinion expressed in the article is that of the Author)

End notes:

- 1 TiE | Mission of Tie Global Entrepreneurship," *TiE - Global Entrepreneurship Organization* (blog), accessed June 29, 2019, <https://tie.org/about/>.
- 2 Migration Policy Institute, "The Indian Diaspora Community in the United States," *RAD Diaspora Profile*, July 2014.
- 3 Ministry of External Affairs, "PIO/OCI CARD," accessed June 29, 2019, https://www.mea.gov.in/Portal/Count ryQuickLink/703_PIO-OCI.pdf.
- 4 Migration Policy Institute, "The Indian Diaspora Community in the United States," *RAD Diaspora Profile*, July 2014.
- 5 Sohali Verma, "Instruments of Engagement: Assessing India's PIO and OCI Schemes," *India Centre for Migration*, 2013. □

REPORT ON INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP ON INDIA–BANGLADESH RELATIONS

Kolkata, 8–9, June, 2019

Antar Rashtriya Sahayog Parishad (ARSP) organised a two day international workshop on India-Bangladesh relations in Kolkata from 8-9 June, 2019 with the support of MAKAIAS, Kolkata and ICSSR. Several scholars from Bangladesh participated in this event. This conference intended to analyse the future direction of the bilateral India-Bangladesh relationship. The synergy between security forces of the two countries, the economic potential of India's North East and the crucial role the two countries can play in regional politics were the focus of the symposium.

Key Recommendations

Past decade has seen bilateral ties scaling new heights. This momentum needs to be maintained. With the presence of favourably disposed and dynamic political leadership in both countries, there was a unique opportunity to accelerate economic cooperation further. Both countries needed to approach the relations with the sense of self assurance keeping the long term perspective in mind.

Security and Defense

- Need to expand intelligence cooperation with the focus on dealing with rising religious radicalism.
- Stricter monitoring and clamp down on human trafficking, illegal migration, trade in contraband and other border management issues.



Amb. Virendra Gupta presenting bouquet to HE Keshri Nath Tripathi, Governor of West Bengal

- Expand defence sector cooperation with continued focus on capacity building through training courses. More frequent engagement for joint military exercises including Maritime exercises. India should consider supply of military hardware under concessional lines of credit (Loc)



Members of ARSP delegation with HE Keshri Nath Tripathi, Governor of West Bengal at Raj Bhawan

in order to reduce Bangladeshi dependence on China for military hardware.

- Joint operations against militants and establishment of a joint intelligence cell.

Economic operations

- Expedite connectivity infrastructure - railways & highways, expansion of waterways routes, more ICPs to facilitate border trade and bypass

roads near border ICPs.

- Expand transit routes via Bangladesh to North Eastern Indian states.
- Focus on lowering of Non-Tariff Barriers (NTBs). Build more testing centres near border ICPs for phyto sanitary certification.
- Harmonising of standards of traded goods and greater cooperation between Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) and Bangladesh Standards and Testing Institution (BSTI).
- On time project implementation needs to be according high priority.
- Efforts to promote greater Indian investments in Bangladesh. Readymade garments, higher education, tourism and power generations were identified as promising areas.

Other Areas

- Climate change issues. Special focus to be given to the Sundarban delta which is the largest Mangrove region of the world.
- Maritime connectivity through waterways
- Intensify BIMSTEC engagement and upgrade secretariat resources
- Need to expand people to people connectivity through easier access to people from Bangladesh.
- There are considerable civilization and cultural commonalties between the two countries. Both governments must support projects including joint literary and cultural festivals to promote greater awareness about each other. □

REPORT ON INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON FORCED LABOUR & MIGRATION IN FIJI

A three-member ARSP delegation comprising of Shri Narayan Kumar, Shri Gopal Arora and Shri Rakesh Pandey visited Fiji to participate in an 'International Conference on Forced Labour & Migration: Indentured & Pacific Labour Trades' from 15 to 17 July 2019.



Prof. Biman Prasad Releasing Hindi Novel 'FIJI MAA' of Dr. Subramani

"I certainly do not see myself as a 'vulagi' (visitor) in my own home, in my own country where my grandparents, my father were born and buried" she said.

In his keynote address Sir Anand Satyanand, who is himself a descendant of a girmitya,

The conference was organised by the Global Girmit Institute in collaboration with University of Fiji in Lautoka. Shri Narayan Kumar presented his paper on 'Forced Labour in Literature and Popular Culture'. Shri Rakesh Pandey spoke on 'गिरमिटिया देशों में सांस्कृतिक एवं भाषाई विकास एवं वर्तमान संकट'.

Shri Gopal Arora made his presentation in the valedictory session on 'Descendents of Forced Labour Migrants-The Way Ahead'.

The chief guest at the inaugural session was the minister of education in the Government of Fiji Smt Rosy Akbar. The keynote address was delivered by the former governor general of New Zealand Sir Anand Satyanand. Indian High Commissioner to Fiji Her Excellency Smt Padmaja gave the concluding remarks during the valedictory session.

Smt. Rosy Akbar highlighted the contribution of the migrants from India brought to Fiji under indenture ship system and from Pacific islands under the black birding practice. Black birding involved kidnapping of Pacific Islanders and transporting them to work in plantations in countries like Fiji and Australia as forced labour. The first batch of indentured workers from India landed in Fiji in May 1879 on ship Leonidas. They came to be known as

Girmityas.

Smt Akbar said that the descendants of these migrants have fully assimilated in the Fijian society and should not be considered as outsiders or guests. She was referring to the controversy over the use of term 'vulagi', meaning 'outsider' or 'guest', used by a politician from the Nationalist party in opposition.

highlighted four key reasons for the necessity to organise such conferences : Respect of the Migrants of the past, Sharing knowledge between scholars, Change of viewpoint by Governments of the past and applying lessons learnt and the results. He said that we have the obligation to the new generations. We need to acknowledge that the Indian origin people despite the years



L to R Narayan Kumar, Indian High Commissioner in Fiji H.E. Smt. Padmaja, Prof. Gopal Arora & Rakesh Pandey

→ of advancement are still in struggling circumstances. He also stressed on the need to pay attention on gender issues.

He quoted from the work of a renowned prominent author "Girmit history is in the danger of passing from the domain of reasoned discourse into the realm of heritage studies, as a subject for veneration and reverence Girmityas are gone. We honour their memory, but we must steadfastly continue the search for the fundamental truth of their experience. We owe them at least that much".

During the conference three books were launched. The book "Fiji Ma" authored by Prof Subramani in Devnagri script was released by Member of Parliament Dr. Biman Prasad. Shri Rakesh Pandey editor, Pravasi Sansar presented his comments on the book.

On the concluding day Ro Teimumu Vuikaba Kepa, a Fijian chief and Member of Parliament, stressed on the need to work together for the common good. "It is because we have a common destiny and we must therefore sit-down, resolve our common need and do it for the common good" she said.

The Indian High Commissioner to Fiji Her Excellency Smt Padmaja participated in the proceedings on last day. During the roundtable session on language and culture she said that debate and discussion on vital issues should be encouraged as this helps in deciding the future course of action.

Later in the evening Smt. Padmaja inaugurated a Girmit Mela of Indian folk music and Cuisine.

More than 40 International and Fijian scholars and experts made their presentations in 10 Sessions during the three day conference. Prominent among them included MP Dr Biman Chand Prasad, Author and Vice Chancellor of University of Fiji Dr. Subramani, Vice Chancellor of University of South Pacific in Solomon Islands Dr Ganesh Chand, Dr.

Farzana Gounder, historian and former minister of Suriname professor Maurits S. Hassankhan, former governor of Central bank of Trinidad and Tobago Dr. Jwala Rambarran, Prof Crispin Bates, Dr. Vishnu Bisram, Shri Pawan K. Upadhaya, Sherry-Ann Singh, and Dr. Anjali Singh.

During the Fiji visit ARSP delegation also met office bearers and members of prominent socio-cultural organisations and other activists in Suva, Nadi, Lautoka and Ba. These included Indo Fiji Friendship Forum, Fiji Hindi Parishad, Ramayan Mandli, FIJI Sevashram Sangh, Ramakrishna Mission, Gayatri Parivar, Family of famous Hindi author Late Sr J S Kanwal, Dr. Brij Lal and Hanuman Chalisa Parivaar Fiji.

The delegation also visited National Archives, office of Hindi weekly

'Shantidoot', and the Indian Mission in Suva.

Indian Diaspora constitutes about 38% of the population of Fiji of 900,000.

The Gujarati community is well established in business.

Elections to the Parliament of Fiji were held in 2018. The Fiji First party led by Prime Minister Bainimarama retained power by winning 27 seats out of 51.

The opposition alliance won the remaining 24 seats out of which 21 went to Robuka led Social Democratic Liberal Party and remaining three went to National Federation Party led by Dr Biman Prasad. There are 17 members of Indian origin in the Parliament of Fiji. □

CENTRE FOR ROMA STUDIES AND CULTURAL RELATIONS-ARSP ENTERED INTO MOU WITH INDIAN COUNCIL FOR CULTURAL RELATIONS

A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was signed from ICCR side by Dr. Akhilesh Mishra, Director General of Indian Council for Cultural Relations and from the side of CRSCR by Shri Shyam Parande, *Shri Shyam Parande, Secretary General - ARSP & Dr. Akhilesh Mishra, DG - ICCR exchanging MOU*



In order to carry forward the strategic vision and unwavering commitment to strengthening the relationship between India and Roma Community, ARSP is officially partnering with ICCR. Centre for Roma Studies and Cultural

Relations has taken up responsibility to initiate academic and research work on migration of Roma and its culture including language, folklore and traditions.

The MOU on supporting the establishment of Centre for Roma Studies and Cultural Relations (CRSCR) to understand, study and document the significance of Roma community and its cultural, linguistic, socio-economic conditions between the Antar-Rashtriya Sahayog Parishad (Indian Council of International Cooperation) and Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) was signed today on 24 July 2019 in New Delhi.

Relations has taken up responsibility to initiate academic and research work on migration of Roma and its culture including language, folklore and traditions.

The MOU will pave the way for the cooperation in the areas of research, exchange of Romani scholars and researchers, organizing of Conferences / Seminars and Cultural Events as well as setting up of Library and Documentation Centre. □

The Life AND LEGACY of KUMARAJIVA



Dr. Shashibala

Indians have always been great adventurers, traders, acharyas, and travellers. There is a known history of their travels abroad for two millennia. They have contributed immensely to making India the cultural leader of the world- vishva-guru. After ARSP took the initiative of connecting Indians abroad with the land of their origin, there have been continuous efforts to re-establish linkages of NRIs, PIOs, Roma and those who were taken abroad as indentured laborers. But those Indians - NRIs and PIOs who crossed the boundaries of India spreading its knowledge across the oceans and the Himalayas in the first millennium or before, are not much under the lens of researchers in India. One such PIO was the great scholar Kumarajiva of 4th-5th century.

Kumarajiva, the father of Kumarajiva was a Kashmiri Brahmana. He became a monk and left Kashmir to disseminate Buddhism abroad. Travelling along the Silk Route, on his way he was stopped at a Kingdom Kucha. He was forced to leave the monk's robes and marry the princess because the king of Kucha found him the most suitable match for her, being brilliant, knowledgeable, devoted and belonging to an aristocratic family.



Kumarajiva

Kumarajiva is acknowledged as a luminous star among more than 250 known Indian acharyas who went to China to spread the Indian wisdom. He was taken as war booty by the Chinese but appointed as Rajaguru. His parentage, vision, knowledge, mission, wisdom and legacy in the East Asian countries should be known to us. He had the blood of Indian father.

Kumarajiva, a philosopher and seer, had a long cherished mission-propagation of the true spirit of Buddhism. He broke political, geographical, cultural and linguistic barriers; traveled through barren lands and rivers, mountains and forbidding terrains to bequeath a casket of sacred sutras as the most authoritative presentations by translating them from Sanskrit into Chinese. He created pure, boundless and unthinkable versions of the sutras as an obeisance to the sacred voice so

that one could bathe in the pure pond of Dharma.

Kumarajiva is one of the three masters - Dharmaraksha, Kumarajiva and Hsüan-tsang who stand out by their preeminence virtue and for spreading the subtle philosophical systems of Buddhism. The history began with the two Sanskrit Acharyas - Dharmaraksha and Kashyapa Matanga who carried Sanskrit texts to China and began their translations. They are followed by a continuous flow of Indians scholars going to China.

The credit of full flowering Indian culture in China goes to Kumarajiva. He remains central to practical Buddhism in East Asia. He represents an international personality. As a son of a Kuchean mother he spoke a European language while as a son of a Kashmiri Brahmana he could he was proficient in Sanskrit. He could read and discuss in Sanskrit which was the medium of instruction also.

Kumarajiva traveled from Kucha upto Kashmir with his mother at a tender age. He studied Vedas at Kashgar which is called Kashi in modern Chinese political maps. When he went back his fame reached far and wide. The Chinese Emperor of Former Qin dynasty- Fu Jian sent 70,000 soldiers in AD 382 to capture him when he found that he was not successful in nudging the emperor of Kucha to send Kumarajiva. He was forced to stay in prison for seventeen years under harsh circumstances.

Finally he reached Changan, the then capital of China and undertook translation of a number of important and popular Sanskrit texts. Till date his works are used in most of Asia. In Japan 65,000 temples and monasteries out of total 75,000, are based on the philosophy of the texts translated and recreated by him. Devotees pay homage to him when they go to temples and chant sutras translated by him. In Japan he is popularly known as Kumaraju.

Till date Kumarajiva is famed in East Asian countries for his encyclopedic knowledge of Buddhism and Vedic learning, for fluency and proficiency in Sanskrit and Chinese languages and for excellence of translations couched in powerful and compelling language. His sensitivity to both the languages was remarkable. For his comprehension of the words of the Buddha, he is

recognized as the most prominent among around 250 great translators of Buddhist scriptures, who were active from 2nd to 13th century.

Fifty-four texts that he translated in a distinctive style possessing a flowing smoothness, run into 6000-7000 fascicles. They reflect prioritization of conveying the meaning as opposed to precise literal rendering. Generations after generations acknowledge his brilliance. The impact of his works can still be felt in almost all the schools/sects of Mahayana Buddhism in East Asia.

Kumarajiva based himself upon the philosophy of Nagarjuna, one of the most renowned Buddhist teachers whose teachings represent the Mahayana doctrine. His dedication resulted in reverence for sutras like Saddharma-pundarika Sutra, Prajnaparamita and Vimalakrttinirdesa which are widely studied throughout East Asia and have a great impact on their cultural development. People adore him as a true disciple of the Buddha, a pure mirror, who never made any claim about his special insight. He never offered interpretations bearing shades of his personal bias or polemical judgments. He is compared to a lotus flower in the muddy swamp who was responsible for the great waves of Buddhist thought which flowed across China over a thousand years ago. □

OBITUARY



Senior ARSP member and General Secretary of Antar Rashtriya Sahayog Nyas Shri Vijendra Mittal breathed his last on 27 July, 2019 after a brief illness. He was 65. ARSP pays humble tributes to the departed soul. □

3 INDIANS IN NEWLY ELECTED BRITAIN'S PRIME MINISTER'S CABINET

From the first Indians elected to the House of Commons in the 1890s to as many as three ministers at the cabinet table now: the Indian community has come a long way, reflecting its

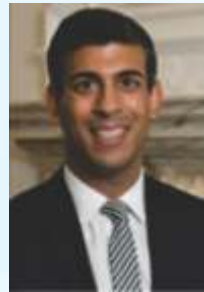


Priti Patel

growing influence as well as the way Britain is more accepting of non-whites in positions of power. The appointments of Patel, Sharma and Sunak mean it will be the first time the UK prime minister's cabinet table will have three ministers from the 1.5 million-strong Indian community.

Prime Minister Boris Johnson appointed Priti Patel as the home secretary and Alok Sharma as the international development secretary. Rishi Sunak does not have cabinet rank but as the chief secretary to the treasury, will attend cabinet meetings. Priti Patel is English-born to Indian parents. In the EU referendum campaign she launched an appeal to "Save the British Curry" which argued

that a post-Brexit immigration system would be fairer to those from outside the EU and ease a shortage of chefs for Indian restaurants in Britain. The 51-year-old Conservative Party



Rishi Sunak

MP, Alok Sharma, who was serving as employment minister has been promoted to a full-fledged cabinet post in the department for international development (DfID), where he will be in charge of the UK's aid budget and partnerships. Rishi Sunak, son-in-law of Infosys co-founder NR Narayana Murthy, has been appointed to Johnson's cabinet as the chief secretary to the treasury. Sunak was elected as the MP for Richmond in North Yorkshire in 2015 and re-elected in 2017. He was parliamentary private secretary at the department for business, energy and industrial strategy from June 2017 and parliamentary under-secretary of state at the ministry of housing, communities and local government

from January 9, 2018.

The appointments are also seen as the inevitable outcome of the Conservative party increasing its vote share from the Indian community in recent elections, mainly driven by the professional, aspirational children of earlier migrants born and brought up in the UK.



Alok Sharma

Mr Johnson, who has in the past described himself as a "son-in-law of India" by virtue of his now estranged wife Marina Wheeler's Indian mother - Dip Kaur, has stressed that the UK's relationship with India must run deeper than just trade. In reference to India-UK relations, Mr Johnson is on the record saying he wants to pursue a new trade deal and is expected to build on his self-confessed "personal relationship" with Prime Minister Narendra Modi to deliver a truly special bilateral relationship. □

23-YEAR-OLD INDIAN-ORIGIN DOCTOR CROWNED MISS ENGLAND

A 23-year-old Indian-origin doctor has been crowned Miss England after fending off competition from dozens of other models.

Mukherjee was born in India. Her family relocated to the UK when she was nine. She went onto complete two bachelor degrees: one in medical sciences and one in medicine and surgery from the University of Nottingham.

Bhasha Mukherjee, 23, from Derby, holds two different medical degrees, has an IQ of 146, making her officially a 'genius' and is fluent in five languages.

"Some people might think pageant girls are airheads, but we all stand for a cause," she said before the contest. "My pageant career all started to happen while I was in the middle of studying at medical school - it took a lot of convincing for me to do it, but eventually I decided to do it to balance out my studying and give me a break." □



Miss England Bhasha Mukherjee

UNSW TO OFFER SCHOLARSHIPS TO INDIAN STATE UNIVERSITY STUDENTS

University of New South Wales (UNSW), Sydney, has expressed an interest to partner with Indian universities to foster a strong research culture in the country. The aim is to address some of India's developmental challenges and also provide quality online education in the homes of millions, says Ian Jacobs, president and vice chancellor of UNSW.

Jacobs is enthusiastic about the government's keen interest in allowing 100 high-quality international universities to partner with the best institutions in India.

"We would like to play a big role as part of the changing education landscape in the country, offering high-quality

education at scale," he emphasised.

The Australian university has recently announced a PhD scholarship programme for students from state universities in Maharashtra. As part of a MoU signed with the Maharashtra government, UNSW will offer 20 PhD scholarships every year to high-achieving students from the state universities to advance joint research and knowledge exchange. The university has seen a steady flow of enrolments from meritorious Indian students over the past few years, with several of them availing the Future of Change scholarships. □

PIO-LED TEAM DEVELOPS EARLY VERSION VACCINE FOR ALZHEIMER'S

A team led by an Indian-American scientist at the University of New Mexico (UNM) have made a key breakthrough in the drive to find a vaccine cure for Alzheimer's disease, a malady that affects nearly 50 million people worldwide.



Dr. Kiran Bhaskar

In a paper published last week in NPJ Vaccines, a team led by Dr Kiran Bhaskar, associate professor in UNM's Department of Molecular Genetics & Microbiology, reported it had engineered a vaccine using virus-like particles (VLPs, for short) that eliminated the "tau tangles" in mice that had been bred to develop symptoms like those affecting human Alzheimer's patients.

Normally a stabilizing structure inside of neurons, Tau is a protein that when it occurs in tangled formations in the brain of Alzheimer patients, disrupt the ability of neurons to communicate with one another in the brain.

Bhaskar and his team found that when the vaccine they have developed was given to Alzheimer-affected mice, they developed antibodies that cleared the tau protein from their brains - and the response lasted for months. MRI scans also showed that the vaccinated animals had less brain shrinkage, suggesting that the vaccine prevented neurons from dying. □

INDIAN CAG RAJIV MEHRISHI MADE EXTERNAL WHO AUDITOR

Comptroller and auditor general Rajiv Mehrishi has been elected the external auditor of World Health Organisation for a four-year term from 2020 to 2023, beating auditors of the UK, France, Northern Ireland, Tunisia, Ghana and Congo who competed for the position.

The election was held at the 72nd World Health Assembly in Geneva on May 23, where the CAG was elected with a majority (90 out of 162 votes) in the first round of voting itself.

This is the second major international audit assignment for the CAG this year following his selection as the external auditor for Food and Agriculture Organisation in Rome in March. The

CAG is also on the Board of Auditors of the United Nations and vice-chair of the UN panel of external auditors.



Rajiv Mehrishi

The CAG has been playing an important role internationally. Recently, Mehrishi had attended the 6th Global Audit Leadership Forum in Shanghai, a select group of national auditors from 24 countries, who meet annually to discuss current and emerging issues of concern and explore opportunities to share information and work. □

NANDAN'S "GANDHIANJALI" BOOK LAUNCHED AT AUSTRALIA TO CELEBRATE GANDHI'S 150TH BIRTH ANNIVERSARY

Professor Satendra Nandan's new volume "Gandhianjali" was launched on 23 July, 2019 at an International Gandhi Symposium in



Prof. Satendra Nandan's

Charles Stuart University, Australia to commemorate the 150th birth anniversary of Gandhiji.

This book is a collection of Prof. Nandan's work with the underlying theme of Gandhi's experiences and ethics from South Africa to South Pacific. Gandhi showed by his life, work, writings, how one may counter the violence against empires and individuals through the powers of 'ahimsa' and 'satyagraha' embedded in the human spirit of love and faith in God.

Several pieces of this book explores the poetics and politics of Fijian Indian indenture experience. Essays on Gandhi and C F Andrews, poems on Hiroshima and Nagasaki and several

contemporary issues like the killings in Christchurch mosque are discussed in the book. It also includes Prof. Nandan's much acclaimed keynote



Public lecture at the National Press Club in Canberra on the United Nations Non Violence Day observed internationally. Prof. Nandan's own reading and writing narrations through Commonwealth Literature are given expression in a personal essay titled 'An Uncommon Literary Journey' in the book.

Prof. Nandan is former Cabinet Minister in the Government of Fiji. He is a Fijian of Indian origin. He is currently writing a novel set in Fiji, India and Australia as a Visiting Fellow at the Humanities Research Centre, Australian National University, and as an Adjunct Research Professor at the Australian Centre for Christianity and Culture, Barton Campus, Charles Stuart University. □

His Majesty The King GRANTED AN AUDIENCE TO THE SCOUTS WHO ATTENDED THE 12TH LEADERSHIP TRAINING PROGRAMME IN WANGDUEPHODRANG ON 16TH July 2019.



His Majesty The King granted an audience to the Scouts who attended the 12th Leadership Training Programme in Wangduephodrang on 16th July 2019.

121 boys and girls of class 12 students from the 20 Dzongkhags and four Thromdes, were selected to attend the 3-week training programme, which began from July 8 2019.

The leadership camp was initiated upon Royal Command in 2013. More than 1400 scouts have participated in it so far. The training is conducted for physical and personal development and to develop the intellectual powers of the participants. Likewise, it is to learn and develop social services, volunteerism and civic responsibilities among the youth. □

BEFIT 2019: CATALYSING THE COTTAGE AND SMALL INDUSTRIES SECTOR TO DRIVE BHUTAN'S ECONOMIC DIVERSIFICATION



from 16 to 18 July 2019 in Thimphu. The three-day conference was organized to create partnership between the cottage and small industries (CSIs) and foreign investors. BEFIT 2019 was designed and developed to strengthen and expand CSIs by instituting policy reforms and addressing various challenges faced by the CSI sector.

"The CSI sector is key to economic diversification and boosting economic activities in villages and local communities. CSIs have the potential to address one of the most crucial economic challenges related to youth unemployment, which stands at 15 % today. Being a small country, largely based on natural resources, agriculture and forest, CSIs also have immense potential to expand the production base and contribute to exports if the ecosystem is strengthened," said Dasho Penjore the Governor of RMA. He added that elements such as nurturing an entrepreneurial culture, furthering innovation and technology, enhancing market access and improving excess

To drive Bhutan's Economic diversification by catalysing cottage and small industries, the Royal Monetary Authority (RMA) and the Royal Institute for Governance and Strategic Studies (RIGSS) organized the second international conference, Bhutan Economic Forum for Innovative Transformation (BEFIT)





to finance and mitigating risks are crucial to boost CSI ecosystem.

Coinciding with the conference, the government-led national marketplace called bhutanmade.com was also launched. The portal will let Bhutanese producers and sellers sell their local 'Made in Bhutan' products in the international markets. Aligning with the BEFIT 2019 theme, the portal aims to nurture entrepreneurial culture



through innovative technology and enhance market access for the

cottage and small industries of Bhutan.

The conference also hosted the national CSI expo which saw participation by 52 entrepreneurs. The expo was a useful platform for the entrepreneurs to link their businesses with potential investors, markets and technology partners. □

PICTURE STORY:



4th July 2019: His Excellency Mr. Vijay Keshav Gokhale, Foreign Secretary of the Government of India called on Lyonchen Dr. Lotay Tshering at Gyalong Tshokhang. □

DAYS TO REMEMBER

IN SEPTEMBER, 2019

September 01 : Uzbekistan : Independence Day

September 02 : Vietnam : National Day

September 04 : Canonisation Ceremony of Mother Teresa in Vatican City

September 05 : Teachers Day
(Birthday of Dr. S. Radhakrishnan, former President of India)

September 08 : International : Literacy Day
(To raise people's awareness and concern for Literacy issues in the world)

September 09 : Tajikistan : National Day

September 13 : Purnima ●

September 14 : Hindi Divas

September 15 : International Day of Democracy
(To raise public awareness and strengthen the idea of democracy around the world)

September 16 : Mexico : Independence Day

September 23 : Saudi Arabia : National Day

September 26 : World Maritime Day
(To focus attention on the importance of shipping safety)

September 27 : World Tourism Day

September 28 : Amavasya ● □

फिजी के पहले गिरमिटिया

✍ प्रवीण कुमार झा

फिजी में गिरमिटिया लोगों को बुलाने का विचार सर आर्थर गॉर्डन का था, जो उन दिनों फिजी के गवर्नर थे। सन् 1879 में रियूनियन द्वीप से 31 मजदूर फ्रांस के दूसरे द्वीप 'न्यू कैलिडोनिया' लाये गये और वहां से ब्रिटिश लोग उन्हें फिजी ले आये। पह ये मजदूर अब कच्चे खिलाड़ी नहीं थे। वो कई वर्ष गिरमिटिया रूप में बिता चुके थे। उन्हें एग्रीमेण्ट की शर्तों का अन्दाजा हो गया



था। उन्होंने फिजी में काम करने से इंकार कर दिया, यह कहकर कि यहां काम ज्यादा है। आखिर उन्हें वापस भेजना पड़ा। 1881 ई. में फिर से 38 मजदूर इसी रास्ते लाये गये, और उनमें भी कुछ लोग वापस लौट गये। पर कुछ लोग घूम-घूम कर थक गये थे तो वहीं जम गये। कुछ ने फिजी की महिलाओं से विवाह भी कर लिया। उनका वापस 'रियूनियन' से कभी रियूनियन नहीं हुआ।

फिजी में उन दिनों गन्ने की खेती ब्रिटिश सरकार ने शुरू की, पह वहां के आदिवासी काम करने को तैयार नहीं थे। फिर सोलोमन द्वीप-समूह (अब वनुआतु) से मजदूर लाये गये, पर वो भी भाग गये। आखिर सर गॉर्डन ने कलकत्ता की 'रिक्रूटमेण्ट एजेंसियों' से सम्पर्क किया।



14 मई, 1879 ई को 'लियोनिडास' जहाज पर कलकत्ता से 463 मजदूर लाये गये और यह सिलसिला ऐसा चला कि अगले 40 वर्षों में लगभग साठ हजार भारतीय मजदूर आ गये। उन दिनों फिजी पहुंचने में साधारण जहाज 73 दिन लेते, पर बाद में स्टीमर जहां एक महीने में पहुंचाने लगे। शुरूआती जहाजों में खासकर एक जहाज गिरमिटिया इतिहास में अविस्मरणीय है।

1884 ई. में जहाज 'सीरिया' कलकत्ता से कुल 479 मजदूरों को लेकर चला। जहां भारत से काफी तेज गति से बस 58 दिन के सफर में फिजी पहुंचने वाला था। यह एक उत्साहित मजदूरों का दल था, और उन्हें आखिर उस रात

फिजी द्वीप नजर भी आने लगा था। पर द्वीप के करीब आते ही जहाज में कुछ हलचल हुई। जहां द्वीप से बस चार मील दूर 'नसीलाई रीफ' पत्थर से टकरा गया, और उसमें छेद हो गया। जहां डूबने लगा। फिजी के गवर्नर आर्थर गॉर्डन

जहां द्वीप नजर भी आने लगा था। पर द्वीप के करीब आते ही जहाज में कुछ हलचल हुई। जहां द्वीप से बस चार मील दूर 'नसीलाई रीफ' पत्थर से टकरा गया, और उसमें छेद हो गया। जहां डूबने लगा। फिजी के गवर्नर आर्थर गॉर्डन 'अनफिट' होते, उनको कम काम और कम पैसे मिलते जब तक वो 'फिट' नहीं हो पाते। इस द्वीप से भी भागने की कोशिश होती। दो दक्षिण भारतीयों ने जब नुकुलाऊ द्वीप से विटी लेवु द्वीप देखा, उन्हें लगा कि वही भारत है। वो छलांग लगा गये, और कुछ दूर तैर कर डूब कर मर गये। फिर किसी ने हिम्मत नहीं की। बाद में इस टापू पर पहुंचते ही पुलिस चारों ओर से घेर लेती, ताकि कोई भाग न सके।

'सीरिया' जहाज के डूबने को फिजी की यह मार्मिक कविता खूब बया करती है : **राज अंधेरी हवा सनसनी, पाल फड़फड़ाते थे ऊपर, सीरिया आगे बढ़ा चला था, फिजी सागर की छाती पर। तूफ़ों का एक हुआ धड़ाका, सीरिया टकराया चट्टानों से, एक तरफ वही सीधे डूबा, मची कोलाहल सब लोगों में, डूब मरे मल्लाह यात्री, समा गये सागर के अन्दर।**

जब यह मजदूर जहाज से उतरते, उनको अक्सर एक वीराने नुकुलाऊ द्वीप पर महीने भर रखा जाता। यह इसलिए कि ये अगर भारत से कोई बीमारी लाये हों तो फिजी में न फैलायें। यह एक तरह का 'क्वारेन्टाइन' था। इनकी मेडिकल जांच होती और जो बिल्कुल ही 'अनफिट' निकलते, उनको वापस भारत भेज दिया जाता। बलि पर वहीं चढ़ते जो 'फिट' होते। जो थोड़े

नुकुलाऊ द्वीप से 'जहाजी भाई' अब विभाजित हो जायेंगे। कई फिर कभी नहीं मिलेंगे। सब अलग-अलग बागार जायेंगे। 'हेल्मेट' पहने साहिब इन्हें मालगाड़ी में भर कर ले जायेंगे। कुछ तो भाई-भाई भी बिछड़ जायेंगे। उन्हें लगेगा कि कहीं आसपास ही जाना है, और वो एक-दूसरे को अलविदा भी नहीं कह पायेंगे। पांच साल बाद मिलें, न मिलें, क्या पता? भाई-भाई तो छोड़िए, कई पति-पत्नी तक अलग हो गये।

गुरुमूर्ति और उनके भाई 1911 ई. में आन्ध्र के उत्तरी आरकोट इलाके से एक ही जहाज पर फिजी आये। पर फिजी में उन्हें अलग-अलग द्वीपों में भेज दिया गया। अगले 68 वर्ष तक गुरुमूर्ति दूढ़ते रहे, पर वह नहीं मिले। 1979 ई. में गुरुमूर्ति मर गये।

वेंकटवा रेड्डी नकावाई एस्टेट में काम करते थे। पत्नी से बिछड़ गये थे। एक दिन मैनेजर से अस्पताल जाने की छुट्टी ली। वहां से 18 मील दूर लॉटाका तक पैदल चलते रहे, और लटौका



के चीनी मिल के 'श्रेडर' में कूद पड़े। उनकी शरीर के चिथड़े-चिथड़े मशीन के कलपुर्जों में बिखर गये।

इसी सन्दर्भ में ललिया नाम एक मुस्लिम महिला का जिक्र आता है, जो अपने पति इस्माइल को ढूँढती रहीं। पांच वर्ष वह फिजी में एक-दूसरे की खोज में भटकते रहे और आखिर उनको

एक-दूसरे का पता मिल गयापर बागान-मालिक न मिलने की छुट्टी नहीं दी। और तो और इस्माइल को जबरदस्ती हिन्दुस्तान भेज दिया। इस दुःख से इस्माइल कलकत्ता पहुंचते ही मर गये। ललिया को जब इस मृत्यु की खबर हुई, वह पूरी तरह टूट गयी। कई दिनों तक बीमार रही। पर इस हालत में भी उसका मालिक उससे काम करवाते रहे।

ललिया और इस्माइल की यह मार्मिक प्रेम-कहानी तोताराम जी ने अपनी किताब में दर्ज की, और सम्भव है कि इन्हीं कथाओं को पढ़ कर हिन्दुस्तान में गिरमिट-प्रथा समाप्त के लिए माहैल बनना शुरू हुआ हो। □

(‘कुली लाइन्स’ पुस्तक से साभार)

अमेरिका में भारतीय मूल के 38 प्रतिशत लोग बड़े

अमेरिका में भारतीय मूल के लोगों की आबादी साल 2010 से 2017 के बीच सात वर्षों में 38 प्रतिशत तक बढ़ गई। दक्षिण एशियाई पैराकार समूह दक्षिण एशियन अमेरिकन्स लीडिंग टूगेदर (साल्ट) ने अपनी रिपोर्ट में कहा कि कम से कम 630,000 भारतीय हैं, जिनका दस्तावेजों में रिकार्ड नहीं है। यह 2010 के बाद 72 प्रतिशत बढ़ोत्तरी है। बढ़ोत्तरी वीजा अवधि के बाद भी यहां रह रहे भारतीय प्रवासियों की वजह से हो सकती है। □

नासा का हिन्दी में धरोहरों पर विडियो

अमेरिकी स्पेस एजेंसी नासा के एक कार्यक्रम के लिए भारत के मशहूर धरोहरों का विडियो बनाया गया है। इन विडियो में तमाम जानकारी का माध्यम हिन्दी रखा गया है। हिन्दी की सीख और उसे बढ़ावा देने वाले ये विडियो आमेर के किले, हवा महल, कुतुब मीनार आदि पर केन्द्रित हैं। □

जार्ज वॉशिंगटन विश्वविद्यालय में निःशुल्क हिन्दी कक्षाएं

अमेरिका में हिन्दी को प्रोत्साहित करने के लिए यहां स्थित भारतीय दूतावास लोगों की मांग पर प्रतिष्ठित जॉर्ज वॉशिंगटन विश्वविद्यालय में छात्रों के लिए निःशुल्क हिन्दी की कक्षाएं संचालित करेगा। छह हफ्ते का गैर क्रेडिट हिन्दी भाषा का परिचयात्मक पाठ्यक्रम 28 अगस्त से शुरू होगा और दूतावास में भारतीय संस्कृति विषय के शिक्षक डॉ. मोक्षराज छात्रों को पढ़ाएंगे। इस साल के शुरुआत में दूतावास ने अपने परिसर में एक घंटे की निःशुल्क साप्ताहिक कक्षाएं संचालित की थी।



इस पाठ्यक्रम को उत्साहजनक प्रतिक्रिया मिली और बहुत कम समय में सात देशों के 87 छात्रों ने नामांकन कराया। विश्वविद्यालय स्थित सिगुर सेंटर फॉर एशियन स्टडीज के निदेशक बेंजामिन डी हॉपकिंस और एसोसिएट निदेशक दीपा एम ओल्लापल्ली ने हाल में अमेरिका स्थित भारतीय राजदूत को लिखे पत्र में कहा

था, 'यह इंगित करता है कि छात्रों में हिन्दी भाषा पढ़ने के लिये भारी रूचि है... इसने हमें सफलतापूर्वक परिचयात्मक पाठ्यक्रम बनाने के लिये प्रोत्साहित किया।' इस परिचयात्मक हिन्दी भाषा पाठ्यक्रम में छात्र वर्तनी सहित भाषा के विभिन्न पहलुओं को जानेंगे। वे हिन्दी भाषा बोलना भी सीखेंगे। □

पाकिस्तान में बंटवारे के बाद पहली बार खुला 1,000 साल पुराना मंदिर

पाकिस्तान के सियालकोट में 1,000 साल पुराना मंदिर बंटवारे के बाद पहली बार 'पूजा' के लिए खोला गया। पाकिस्तान के अधिकारियों ने बताया कि स्थानीय लोगों की मांग के बाद इसे खोला गया है। दिवंगत लेखक राशिद नियाज के द्वारा लिखी गई 'हिस्ट्री ऑफ सियालकोट' के मुताबिक यह मंदिर 1,000 साल पुराना है और लाहौर से 100 किलोमीटर की दूरी पर शहर के धरोवाल क्षेत्र में है। इसे शवाला (शिवाल) तेज सिंह मंदिर के नाम से जाना जाता है और इसका निर्माण सरदार तेजा सिंह ने करवाया था।



शवाला तेज सिंह मंदिर ए पाकिस्तान

मंदिर का दरवाजा खोला है। उन्होंने कहा कि पहले इस क्षेत्र में हिन्दू धर्म से ताल्लुक रखने वाले लोग नहीं रहते थे इसलिए यह मंदिर बंद था।

पाकिस्तान में अल्पसंख्यकों के पवित्र स्थलों की देखरेख करने वाली इवेक्यू ट्रस्ट प्रॉपर्टी बोर्ड ने स्थानीय हिन्दू समुदाय की मांग पर भारत-पाकिस्तान बंटवारे के बाद पहली बार

पाकिस्तान सरकार ने कहा है कि इस मंदिर के जीर्णोद्धार और संरक्षण का काम जल्द ही शुरू

कर दिया जाएगा। शवाला तेज सिंह मंदिर के 72 साल बाद खुलने से इलाके का हिन्दू समुदाय खुश है। पाकिस्तान में हिन्दू समुदाय सबसे बड़ा अल्पसंख्यक समुदाय है। आधिकारिक आंकड़ों के मुताबिक यहां करीब 75 लाख हिन्दू रहते हैं, लेकिन इस समुदाय का कहना है कि यहां 90 लाख से ज्यादा हिन्दू है। हिन्दू समुदाय की यह भी शिकायत है कि जबरन यहां हिन्दू महिलाओं का धर्मपरिवर्तन कराया जा रहा है तथा ऐसी अन्य कई हिन्दू मंदिर है जो तोड़फोड़ के कारण क्षतिग्रस्त हुये है। पाकिस्तान सरकार को इस संबंध में तत्काल कार्यवाही कर हिंदुओं के धर्मपरिवर्तन और हिन्दू मंदिरों के तोड़फोड़ को रोकने के लिये आवश्यक कार्यवाही करनी चाहिए। □

उज्बेकिस्तान के हिन्दी अध्यापकों का सम्मान

अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय सहयोग परिषद द्वारा 27 जुलाई को उज्बेकिस्तान की इंस्टीट्यूट ऑफ ओरियेंटल स्टडीज की विभागाध्यक्ष प्रो. उल्फत मुखीबोवा के नेतृत्व में लाल बहादुर शास्त्री हिन्दी विद्यालय ताशकंद की 13 अध्यापिकाओं के सम्मान में आयोजित समारोह में प्रतिनिधिमंडल के सदस्यों का स्वागत करते हुये परिषद के



प्रो. उल्फत मुखीबोवा उज्बेकिस्तान में हिन्दी शिक्षण पर व्याख्यान देते हुए

महासचिव श्री श्याम परांडे ने कहा कि भारत और उज्बेकिस्तान के संबंध अत्यंत प्राचीन और सौहार्दपूर्ण है। दोनों देशों के लोग जीवन में नैतिक एवं सांस्कृतिक मूल्यों को प्राथमिकता देते हैं। उन्होंने अपनी हाल ही की उज्बेकिस्तान यात्रा की चर्चा करते हुए कहा कि वहां के विश्वविद्यालय में व्यापक स्तर पर हिन्दी का अध्ययन-अध्यापन होता है और लाल बहादुर शास्त्री हिन्दी विद्यालय में पढ़ने वाले छात्र अत्यंत शुद्ध और धरा प्रवाह हिन्दी बोलते हैं।

इस समारोह की अध्यक्षता केन्द्रीय हिन्दी संस्थान के उपाध्यक्ष डॉ. कमल किशोर गोयनका ने की। उन्होंने अपने अध्यक्षीय भाषण में गिरमिटिया देशों के अलावा रूस, चीन, जापान, जर्मनी आदि देशों में हिन्दी के अध्ययन-अध्यापन की स्थिति बताते हुए कहा कि आज संसार भर के अधिकांश देशों में उच्च स्तर पर हिन्दी की पढ़ाई हो रही है तथा केन्द्रीय हिन्दी संस्थान न सिर्फ विदेशी छात्रों को हिन्दी की कक्षाओं का आयोजन करता है बल्कि हिन्दी विद्यालय और विश्वविद्यालय के लिये पाठ्यक्रम का भी निर्माण कर रहा है। इसके अतिरिक्त संस्थान विभिन्न भाषाओं के शब्दकोश भी तैयार कर रहा है।

समारोह के मुख्य अतिथि केन्द्रीय हिन्दी निदेशालय के अध्यक्ष तथा वैज्ञानिक एवं तकनीकी आयोग के अध्यक्ष प्रो. अवनीश शर्मा ने कहा कि उनकी संस्था ने हिन्दी अध्यापन के लिए डिजिटल उपकरण तैयार करवाये हैं जिनकी सहायता से किसी भी देश के दूर दराज क्षेत्रों में भी सरलता और सुगमता से हिन्दी की पढ़ाई की जा सकती है। ताशकंद इंस्टीट्यूट ऑफ ओरियेंटल स्टडीज में एशियाई भाषाओं के अध्यक्ष प्रो. उल्फत मुखीबोवा ने उनके प्रतिनिधिमंडल के स्वागत में समारोह आयोजित करने के लिये अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय सहयोग परिषद के

प्रति धन्यवाद ज्ञापित करते हुये उज्बेकिस्तान में हिन्दी के अध्ययन और अध्यापन के बारे में विस्तारपूर्वक बताया उन्होंने यह भी कहा कि उज्बेकिस्तान में उच्च स्तर तक हिन्दी पढ़ाई जाती है तथा हिन्दी के आदि एवं मध्यकाल के साहित्य के अतिरिक्त आधुनिक काल के वरिष्ठ



उज्बेकिस्तान के हिन्दी अध्यापकों के प्रतिनिधिमंडल के साथ बाएं से दाएं मुकेश अग्रवाल, श्याम परांडे, प्रो. उल्फत मुखीबोवा, प्रो. कमल किशोर गोयनका, प्रो. अवनीश शर्मा, नारायण कुमार एवं गोपाल अरोड़ा

साहित्यकार प्रेमचंद, यशपाल, महादेवी, निराला, विष्णु प्रभाकर जैसे वरिष्ठ साहित्यकारों पर भी अनुसंधान कार्य हो रहे हैं, प्रो. मुर्तजा ने बताया कि उज्बेकिस्तान में पूर्ण रूप से वैज्ञानिक पद्धति के अनुसार हिन्दी पढ़ाई जाती है और हम अपने हिन्दी छात्रों को न सिर्फ हिन्दी भाषा और साहित्य बल्कि भारतीय समाज और साहित्य के बारे में भी जानकारी देते हैं। भारतीय उच्चायोग फिजी में पूर्व द्वितीय सचिव (हिन्दी एवं संस्कृत) श्री अनिल जोशी ने उज्बेकिस्तान से आये प्रतिनिधिमंडल का स्वागत करते हुए कहा कि विदेशों में हिन्दी न सिर्फ अध्ययन-अध्यापन तक सीमित है बल्कि फिजी, मॉरीशस, सूरीनाम, इंग्लैंड, अमरीका, कनाडा, आस्ट्रेलिया आदि देशों में बड़े पैमाने पर हिन्दी का सृजनात्मक साहित्य भी लिखा जा रहा है। उन्होंने इंग्लैंड और फिजी में हिन्दी के

अध्ययन-अध्यापन एवं सृजनात्मक साहित्य पर अपने अनुभव साझा करते हुए कहा कि विदेशों में व्यापक स्तर पर हिन्दी का प्रचार-प्रसार, अध्ययन-अध्यापन और साहित्य सृजन हो रहा है।

कार्यक्रम का संचालन परिषद के मानद निदेशक श्री नारायण कुमार ने किया जिन्होंने अपने आरंभिक

वक्तव्य में कहा कि उज्बेकिस्तान में विगत 70 वर्षों से हिन्दी का अध्यापन हो रहा है और वहां के विश्वविद्यालय में पढ़ने वाले छात्र हिन्दी बोलते भी हैं हिन्दी में काम भी करते हैं। उज्बेकिस्तान में भारत सहित अमरीका, इंग्लैंड और अन्य देशों में हिन्दी के विद्वानों को राजदूत

के रूप में नियुक्त किया क्योंकि उन देशों में भारतवंशी लोग रहते हैं। श्री कुमार ने बताया कि वहां के हिन्दी विद्वानों को भारत विश्व हिन्दी सम्मान, केन्द्र हिन्दी संस्थान आदि के सम्मान से सम्मानित कर चुका है। प्रो. मुखीबोवा को भी मॉरीशस में आधुनिक विश्व हिन्दी सम्मेलन में सम्मानित किया गया था, जिससे ज्ञात होता है कि उज्बेकिस्तान में हिन्दी अध्ययन-अध्यापन की परंपरा निरंतर पुष्पित और पल्लवित हो रही है। परिषद के उपाध्यक्ष श्री मुकेश अग्रवाल ने धन्यवाद ज्ञापित करते हुए विदेशियों द्वारा सहज और स्वाभावित रूप से हिन्दी बोलने वालों के बारे में बोलते हुए बताया कि अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय सहयोग परिषद आप सभी विद्वानों से अनुरोध करती है कि जब कभी आप भारत आए तो हमें इसी प्रकार स्वागत-सत्कार करने का अवसर दें। □