

Happy New Year

नव वर्ष की शुभकामनाएं

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A REVIEW OF THE EARLY STRUGGLE



While considering the position of Indians in the previous chapters, we have seen to some extent how they withstood the attacks made upon them. In order, however, to give an adequate idea of the origin of Satyagraha, it is necessary to devote special space to the endeavours made with a view to defend Indian interests in the pre-Satyagraha days.

Up till 1893 there were hardly any free and well educated Indians in South Africa capable of espousing the Indian cause. English-knowing Indians were mostly clerks whose knowledge of English was only commensurate with the needs of their occupation and not adequate to drafting representations, and who, again, must give all their time to their employers. A second group of English-educated Indians was composed of such of them as were born in South Africa. They were mostly the descendants of indentured labourers, and if at all qualified for the work, were in Government service as interpreters in law courts. Thus, they were not in a position to help the Indian cause beyond expressing their fellow-feelings.

Again, indentured and ex-indentured labourers hailed mainly from Uttar Pradesh and Madras State, while, as we have already seen, the Musalmans mostly traders and the Hindus mostly clerks, who chiefly represented the class of free Indians, belonged to Gujarat. Besides there were a few Parsi traders and clerks, but the total population of Parsis in South Africa did not probably exceed thirty or forty souls. A fourth group among free Indians was composed of Sindhi traders. There were two hundreds or more Sindhis in South Africa. Wherever the Sindhi has settled outside India he deals in 'fancy goods', namely, silks and brocades, carved boxes and other furniture made of ebony, sandalwood and ivory and similar goods. His customers are mainly Europeans.

Indentured labourers were called 'coolies' by the Europeans. A 'coolie' means a porter. The expression was used so extensively that the indentured labourers began to describe themselves as 'coolies'. Hundreds of Europeans called Indian lawyers and Indian traders 'coolie' lawyers and 'coolie' traders. There were some Europeans who were unable to perceive or believe that the name implied an insult, but many used it as a term of deliberate contempt. Free Indians, therefore, tried to differentiate themselves from the indentured labourers. For this and other reasons peculiar to conditions in



✍ M K Gandhi

India, a distinction was sought to be drawn in South Africa between indentured and freed labourers on the one hand and free Indians on the other. Free Indians and especially the Musalman traders undertook to resist the wrongs detailed above, but no direct attempt was made to seek the cooperation of the indentured and ex-indentured labourers. Probably it did not occur to anyone to enlist their support; if the idea did suggest itself to some, there was in their opinion the risk of making matters worse by allowing them to join the movement. And as it was considered that the free traders were the chief target of attack, the measures for defence were limited to that class. It can be truly said that free Indians fought well against difficulties, seeing that they were thus seriously handicapped, that they were ignorant of English, and that they had no experience of public work in India.



They sought the help of European barristers, had petitions prepared, waited upon the authorities on some occasions in deputations, and did what they could to mend matters. This was the state of things up till 1893.

It will be helpful to the reader to bear some important dates in mind. Before 1893 Indians had been hounded out of the Orange Free State. In the Transvaal, Law 3 of 1885 was in force. In Natal, measures, calculated to enable only indentured labourers to live in the colony and to turn out the rest, were under contemplation, and responsible government had been achieved to that end.

I left India for South Africa in April, 1893. I had no idea of the previous history of the Indian emigrants. I went there on a purely professional visit. A well-known firm of Porbandar Memans then carried on trade in Durban under the name and style of Dada Abdulla. An equally well-known and rival firm traded at Pretoria under the designation of Taib Haji Khanmamad. Unfortunately, an important law-suit was pending between the rivals. A partner of the firm of Dada Abdulla who was in Porbandar thought that it would help their case if they engaged me and sent me to South Africa. I had been just called to the bar and was quite a novice in the profession, but he had no fear of my mishandling their case, as he did not want me to conduct the case in the court but only to instruct the able South African lawyers they had retained. I was fond of novel experiences. I loved to see fresh fields and pastures new. It was disgusting to have to give commission to those who brought me work. The atmosphere of intrigue in Saurashtra was choking to me. The engagement was only for one year. I did not see any objection to my accepting it. I had nothing to lose as Messers Dada Abdulla expressed their willingness to pay my travelling expenses as well as the expenses that would be incurred in South Africa and a fee of one hundred and five pounds. This arrangement had been made through my elder brother, now deceased, who was as father to me. For me his will was a command. He liked the idea of my going to South Africa. So I reached Durban in May 1893.

Being a barrister-at-law, I was well dressed according to my lights and landed at Durban with a due sense of my importance. But I was soon disillusioned. The partner of Dada

Abdulla who had engaged me had given me an account of what things were like in Natal. But what I saw there with my own eyes absolutely belied his misleading picture. My informant was, however, not to blame. He was a frank, simple man, ignorant of the real state of affairs. He had no idea of the hardships to which Indians were subjected in Natal. Conditions which implied grave insult had not appeared to him in that light. I observed on the very first day that the Europeans meted out most insulting treatment to Indians.

I will not describe my bitter experience in the courts within a fortnight of my arrival, the hardships I encountered on railway trains, the thrashings I received on the way and the difficulty in and the practical impossibility of securing accommodation in hotels. Suffice it to say, that all these experiences sank in me. I had gone there only for a single case prompted by self-interest and curiosity. During the first year, therefore, I was merely the witness and the victim of these wrongs. I then awoke to a sense of my duty. I saw that from the standpoint of self-interest South Africa was no good to me. Not only did I not desire but I had a positive aversion to earning money or sojourning in a country where I was insulted. I was on the horns of a dilemma. Two courses were open to me. I might either free myself from the contract with Messrs Dada Abdulla on the ground that circumstances had come to my knowledge which had not been disclosed to me before, and run back to India. Or I might bear all hardships and fulfill my engagement. I was pushed out of the train by a police constable at Maritzburg, and the train having left, was sitting in the waiting room, shivering in the bitter cold. I did not know where my luggage was, nor

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did I dare to inquire of anybody, lest I might be insulted and assaulted once again. Sleep was out of the question. Doubt took possession of my mind. Late at night, I came to the conclusion that to run back to India would be cowardly. I must accomplish what I had undertaken. I must reach Pretoria, without minding insults and even assaults. Pretoria was my goal. The case being fought out there. I made up my mind to take some steps, if that was possible, side by side with my work. This resolution somewhat pacified and strengthened me but I did not get any sleep.

Next morning I wired to the firm of Dada Abdulla and to the General Manager of the Railway. Replies were received from both. Dada Abdulla and his partner Sheth Abdulla Haji Adam Jhaveri who was then in Natal took strong measures. They wired to their Indian agents in various places to look after me. They likewise saw the General Manager. The Indian traders of Maritzburg came to see me in response to the telegram received by the local agent. They tried to comfort me and told me that all of them had had the same bitter experiences as myself, but they did not mind such

things, being habituated to them. Trade and sensitiveness could ill go together. They had therefore made it a principle to pocket insults as they might pocket cash. They told me how Indians could not enter the railway station by the main gate and how difficult it was for them to purchase tickets. I left for Pretoria the same night. The Almighty Searcher of all hearts put my determination to a full test. I suffered further insults and received more beatings on my way to Pretoria. But all this only confirmed me in my determination.

To be Continued

ARSP DELEGATION PAID COURTESY CALL TO BHUTANESE PM

Markandey Rai

27th December 2018, a five member's delegation of ARSP headed by Ambassador Virendra Gupta, President of Antar Rashtriya Sahayog Parishad paid a courtesy call on the Hon. Prime Minister of Bhutan Dr Lotay Tshering in the Taj Palace hotel, Cannought place, New Delhi. The PM is on his visit to India with high level delegation comprised of the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Economic Affairs and other senior officials. Amb. Gupta welcomed the PM of Bhutan and reminded the close relationship between the ARSP and people of Bhutan. He praised the cordial relationship which both countries have been enjoying since time immemorial and have set an example for the other neighbouring countries. He further mentioned that Bhutan is enjoying highest per capita income in South-East Asia and has ranked the highest in the Happiness index. He mentioned strongly that economic relation is the key for closer ties and ARSP believes and promotes the Ancient Indian Philosophy of the 'Vashudhaiv Kutumbakam means the world is a one family. He informed the Bhutan PM that our newsletter has special column on Bhutan and we have published about him in the last issues.



Amb. Virendra Gupta exchanging views with Prime Minister of Bhutan



ARSP delegation with P.M. of Bhutan Dr. Lotay Tshering

Dr. Markandey Rai, Chairman, Foreign Affairs Committee, ARSP elaborated on the close relationship in the area of promoting quality education and health to Bhutan people. It was mentioned that the highest number of students from Bhutan come to India for their studies.

In response, the Hon Prime Minister assured for the warm welcome to any suggestion for closer cooperation with India including in the areas of economic activities, education and health. He encouraged and welcomed the proposal to send goodwill delegation. Quality Tourism is another area where more can be thought of. The PM emphasized for the people to

people ties and relationship. Dr. Gupta presented a copy of book on our founder Secretary General Late Shree Baleshwar Agarwal ji and some copies of newsletters to the Prime Minister. In response, the PM suggested to keep the communication through the Ambassador of Bhutan who is most popular and friendly person and let me know when the delegation from ARSP would like to visit.

The Ambassador of Bhutan to India escorted the ARSP delegation and thanked for the very positive and constructive meeting with the PM who assured of the highest consideration and continued support. □

INDIAN LABOURERS: THE UNSUNG HEROES BEHIND DEATH RAILWAY

A group of volunteers wants to keep alive stories of the Indian Tamils from Malaya who worked on the 415km Railway from Thailand to Burma (popularly known as Death Railway) during the Second World War. About 100,000 Malayan Tamils died building the railway, and the group wants survivors of the project, now in their 80s and 90s, and their families to come forward so that the hardships, disease, malnutrition, abuse, killings and suicides would be recorded for history.

The bodies of those who died lie buried along the length of the railway line, which Japan's Imperial Army used to transport troops and supplies. They were mostly Indian labourers, more than a hundred thousand in number, who constructed the railway. Thousands were forcibly picked up, while some volunteered. Having migrated from British India to work in the rubber plantations of yet another colony, Malaya, the Tamil Indians saw a journey to prosperity as the Japanese promised them three times the wages at the estates. It was the largest construction work undertaken by the Japanese in 1942.

To keep the stories of unsung India heroes behind death railway a group



has been formed under the chairmanship of Shri P. Chandrasekaran in Malaysia, which recently organised a special trip to retrace the journey of the labourers, said, "This was an opportune moment to remember the forgotten Asian victims. Indians, who formed the bulk of the 270,000-strong workforce employed by the Japanese... are reduced to a footnote in history. This must change." "While the ordeal of the POWs is well documented and immortalised in the Hollywood flick "Bridge Over River Kwai," a search in the public domain reveals little about the dead Indians of Malaya," he said. And this is the reason why people like G Balakrishnan, who lost both his grandfathers to the railway, and who joined the commemoration trip, seek some recognition from the Indian government in the form of a statue.

The group's researcher, P. Chandrasekaran, said the gruesome deaths of these "forgotten heroes"

should not go in vain as they remain unknown. He said "today, most survivors have died, or are in their 80s and 90s. They are the only remaining witnesses to the years of hardship, disease, malnutrition, abuse, killings and suicides. For the past few years he and others in the group have been locating and speaking to several former railway labourers, mostly Tamils, and collecting their wartime accounts. He has also spoken to Tamil-language newspapers, asking survivors to contact him through deathrailway.org and the group's Facebook page, The Chronicles of the Death Railway and the Indian National Army.

Many of the labourers were rubber estate workers made jobless by the war. They were told by the Japanese military forces occupying Malaya that the railway would pay them well.

Most of them went voluntarily with a promise that they could return to Malaya in 90 days. "Not knowing what they were getting into, some of them took their families. But they did not return. Most of them died of malnutrition and neglect. At the end of the war, about a thousand children were at the campsite, a quarter of them orphaned," he said. □

AWAMI LEAGUE WINS IN BANGLADESH : OPBN BOYCOTTS OATH

Bangladesh's ruling alliance won virtually every parliamentary seat in the country's general election, giving PM Sheikh Hasina a third straight term despite allegations of intimidation and the opposition disputing the outcome.

The coalition led by Hasina's Awami League party won 288 out of 300 seats, or 96%, polls. The opposition alliance led by lawyer Kamal Hossain won only seven seats. The opposition rejected the outcome, with Hossain calling the election "farcical" and demanding a new one be held under the authority of a "nonpartisan government". But chief election commissioner K M Nurul Huda ruled out any revote, saying there were no reports of irregularities.



Opposition members of Bangladesh's parliament boycotted a swearing-in ceremony on after rejecting results of a general election that they said was rigged to give Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina her third straight term. Hasina's ruling alliance won more than 90% of the seats contested in Sunday's election, which was marred

by accusations of ballot stuffing, voter intimidation and violence that killed at least 17 people.

While newly elected members of parliament from the ruling bloc were sworn in, the seven opposition members stayed away. "Why should we take the oath when we've rejected this election?" asked Mirza Fakhrul Islam, secretary general of the main opposition Bangladesh Nationalist Party.

With Hasina's thumping win, India plans to continue investing in Bangladesh to build on the growing economy of its neighbour and make it the linchpin of India's Act East policy. □

BAINIMARAMA RETURNED AS PRIME MINISTER OF FIJI

The 2018 Fiji elections were finally concluded and Fiji First Party has secured will form Government with 27 seats in the 51-seat parliament Social Democratic Liberal Party (SODELPA) and the National Federation Party (NFP) got 21 and three seats respectively. Accordingly the Fiji First Party had elected Frank Bainimarama its leader who had taken oath as Prime Minister of Fiji.

Much of the reporting by state-inclined media organisations has been emphatic about Fiji First's victory and the Opposition's loss. However, a comparison of the 2014 and 2018 election results reveals a more complex picture of the losses and gains made by the three main parties.

Fiji First's leader, Mr Bainimarama has once again been hailed as the party 'strong man', gathering 167,732 votes out of the total 227,241 Fiji First Party votes (or 74% of his party's total). In 2014, Mr Bainimarama attained 202,459 votes and his party 293,714 votes (he thus received 69% of his party's total). In summary, Mr Bainimarama has solidified his position as the party 'strong man'. However, both he and Fiji First have lost votes: 34,727 votes in his case, and 66,473 votes in the case of the party. Fiji First received 59.2% of all votes cast in 2014 but only 50.02% in 2018.



Mr. Frank Bainimarama

SODELPA made the biggest gains. In 2018 the party received 181,072 votes, an increase of 41,215 votes relative to 2014. SODELPA has been able to increase its number of seats to 21, up from 15 in 2014. The National Federation Party has increased its total votes by 64,49, receiving 33,515 votes. The results see the NFP maintains its three-seat position in Opposition. SODELPA and NFP had formed a United front and both parties will work Jointly as opposition in the parliament. □

Goodwill DELEGATION

Antar Rashtriya Sahayog Parishad is proposing to send a Goodwill delegation to Sri Lanka during 3rd week of February 2019 for exploring Ramayan trail. The details are being worked out and will be finalized soon. Members interested to be part of delegation may register with ARSP office. □

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GUYANA'S GOVERNMENT TO FIGHT NO-CONFIDENCE MOTION

The Opposition Leader of Guyana Bharrat Jagdeo, a former President, has filed a no-confidence motion in Parliament against the new coalition government of Guyana, led by President David Granger. The Granger administration was elected in 2015 with a one-seat majority in Parliament; the government has 33 seats, while Jagdeo's opposition People's Progressive Party (PPP) has 32.



A lawmaker from the ruling coalition in Guyana voted with the opposition for a no-confidence motion, bringing down the administration of President David Granger and forcing fresh elections by March. Prime Minister Moses Nagamootoo today said that the Opposition's motion of no-confidence in the government has no reasonable prospect of success but will nevertheless be debated. After waiting for 18 days, Opposition Leader, Bharrat Jagdeo was finally able to meet with President, David Granger on to discuss several matters, one of which included the Government being in caretaker mode. During a press conference at his Church Street Office yesterday, Jagdeo said that Granger told him in no uncertain terms that the concept of a caretaker government is nowhere in the Constitution.

Jagdeo said he reminded the President that Articles 106 and 107 of the Constitution speak about the resignation of the Government after the passage of the No-Confidence Motion. With this in mind, the Opposition is of the view that the Government is now reduced to a caretaker position. The Opposition Leader said, too, that he reminded the President that the same argument was made by the APNU+AFC(A Partnership for National Unity + Alliance For Change) coalition when it brought the same motion in 2014 against the PPP(Peoples Progressive Party Civic). But the President did not budge. Nevertheless, Jagdeo said that the Opposition maintains its position on this matter. Almost three weeks after a shock no-confidence

vote by Government parliamentarian, Charrandass Persaud, saw the related motion carried, sparking a constitutional crisis, a key meeting was held yesterday in an effort to chart the way forward.

According to President David Granger afterwards, broad agreements have been met that will set the conditions on how the Government and Parliament will continue to function. In the meantime, Government will continue to pursue action in the courts, challenging the validity of the vote, and whether the fact that Persaud's dual citizenship with Canada could have also affected the legality of it. Since the no-confidence vote on the evening of December 21st, both the Government and Opposition have been drawing battle lines, with the latter calling for elections to be announced and for the government to resign. However, there are indications, based on the meeting and statements coming out after, that early elections may not be so early after all.

According to President Granger in a statement, following the meeting, Government officials and representatives of the Opposition of the National Assembly met yesterday at the Ministry of the Presidency to examine two main issues. Granger explained that the first issue is the function of the National Assembly, with the other being the function of the government. He said that it was stressed that neither of these two important institutions, legislative branch and executive branch, could be allowed to fail. "Public services have to be delivered, public order has to be maintained, and therefore the two sides reached broad agreement on how these two institutions—legislative branch and executive

branch—will continue to function."

The President also disclosed that the second important issue discussed was General and Regional Elections. He made it clear that the outcome of the courts will play a major role in what happens next. The President also said that it was agreed that the two sides will continue to work together to engage the Guyana Elections Commission (GECOM) to ensure that polls are held within the "administrative capabilities" of the commission. The Head of State stressed that the meeting was a successful engagement, with both the leader of the Opposition and the President concerned about the situation. "We would like to assure the public of Guyana that we are working to a solution which they will be satisfied with, the public interest is our paramount concern."

The no-confidence vote had been filed by Opposition Leader, Bharrat Jagdeo, who cited poor performance, failure to live up to campaign promises and corruption as some of the reasons. On the evening of December 21, after hours of debate, one lone MP, Charrandass Persaud, shook the house by voting yes with the Opposition. With the one-seat majority, the said to no confidence motion talked by leader of opposition was carried. The passage of the no confidence motion against the Government in the National Assembly cannot be overturned by the Speaker, Dr. Barton Scotland.

This is the view shared by former Speaker, Ralph Ramkarran, in an interview with Kaieteur News on the move by Government to seek to have the decision on the motion overturned through the National Assembly. "A decision has been taken by the National Assembly; the Speaker did not make a decision. The National Assembly did and that decision was announced by the Speaker. The speaker can't change that decision," Ramkarran stated. □

THE CONSTITUTIONAL CRISIS IN SRI LANKA

✍ Md. Zameer Anwar

On the 26th of October 2018, with the appointment of former President Mahinda Rajapaksa as a Prime Minister by President Maithripala Sirisena, the country was plunged into a constitutional frenzy with various arguments presented in favour and opposition of such appointment.

With the appointment of a new Prime Minister and the initiation of the formation of a new Cabinet of Ministers, Sri Lanka lies within the twilight zone and the people need a decision to make.

However, the supreme court of Sri Lanka has rejected an attempt by the president to dismiss parliament. The court ruled that Maithripala Sirisena's order to dismiss parliament was unconstitutional. Then after 51 days, Ranil Wickremesinghe was reinstated as a Prime Minister.

A petition filed by Ranil Wickremesinghe and 121 other Parliamentarians challenging the post of Prime Minister and Ministers was taken up for consideration at the Court of Appeal. The decision was made when the petition was presented before the three-judge bench at the Court of Appeal. The case will be taken up on three consecutive days commencing from the 16th of January 2019.

Sri Lanka's President, Maithripala Sirisena, promulgated the convening of three government conferences devised to better inform the public about the plans to adopt a new Constitution. The special conferences straddle one for all political parties now represented in Parliament, one for religious leaders, and one for scholars interested in national issues.

The President said the country's problems cannot be solved through



President Mahinda Rajapaksa as a Prime Minister by President Maithripala Sirisena

the protests carried out by being separated into parties. "People and the country cannot be progressed through the divisions and separations. Everybody should get together and, work with understanding and find solutions. That is what, required for the country today".

He asserted, it is everyone's duty to make sure that the sound of gunfire is not heard once again. Everybody should take the responsibility to build the economy of all the people in a fair society"

In Sri Lanka, the first legal draft for proposed new constitution has been submitted to Parliamentary steering committee for further discussions by the committee headed Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe.

Parliamentarian and Constitutional expert Dr. Jayampathi Wickramaratna told AIR Colombo correspondent that the legal draft also called zero draft is grounded on recommendations of report of six sub committees which submitted their reports last year.

Mr. Jayampathy affirmed that the draft proposes a unitary constitution for the

country with greater devolution to provinces, containing provisions enable effective powers to provinces so that it cannot be rolled back.

TNA spokesperson and Jaffna District Parliamentarian M.A. Sumanthiran Sampanthan pointed out that "our support to reinstate the Government was on Principle. The country was in distress and there was no Prime Minister or a Government. We had to support to reinstate the Government to avert further damage being done to the economy and for normalcy in the functioning of institutions in this Country."

Member of Parliament Mr. Perera emphasized that the UNP-TNA-JVP-SLMC combine lacked required two-thirds majority in parliament to enact far reaching constitutional reforms.

The UNP claimed it had no role in the new draft Constitution, one of the key elements in it was to better the powers of the Prime Minister in many respects. The President's powers are to be bridled in exercising certain functions. □

ARSP ACTIVITIES 2018 – AT A GLANCE



International Conference of People of Indian Origin (PIO) Parliamentarians Conference was organised at Hotel Ashoka on 10th January 2018. President of India Shri Ram Nath Kovind inaugurated the conference. Hon'ble Union Minister of Finance Shri Shiv Pratap Shukla was also present on the occasion. The valedictory address was given by Shri Ram Madhav of BJP General Secretary. Around 140 Member of Parliament, and Mayor from 23 countries participated in this conference.



ARSP organised a Lecture by H.H. Dalai Lama on the 'Role of Culture & Ethics in promoting Global Peace & Harmony' on 22nd April, 2018' In collaboration with Nehru Memorial Museum & Library. Holiness talked about the revival of Indian tradition which is very relevant in today's world and said that World needs a concept of Ahinsa, Karuna and Secular values which are indispensable. He pointed out that the time has come for serious discussion about ancient knowledge and wisdom in Indian educational system.



An International Conference was organised by ARSP in collaboration with Mahatma Gandhi Institute and Apravasi Ghat Trust Fund in Mauritius on 5th & 6th July on the 'Role of Diaspora in Nation Building.' The conference was inaugurated by Rt. Hon'ble Sir Anerood Jugnauth G.C.S.K.; K.C.M.G.; Q.C.. Minister Mentor, Minister of Defence, Minister of Rodrigues. Shri Prithvirajsing Roopun, Hon'ble Minister for Arts & Culture was the Guest of Honour. Five Academic sessions were held covering political, economic, socio-cultural aspects including a dedicated session on the 'Role of Diaspora in Nation Building the Mauritius experience.' The Chief Guest at the valedictory session was the Acting President of the Republic of Mauritius H.E. Paramasivum Pilay Vyapoor. Shri Anil Kumar Singh Gayan, Hon'ble Minister of Tourism of the Republic of Mauritius was the Guest of Honour.



ARSP also organised a one-day workshop in Reunion island on 7th July, 2018, at the prestigious MOCA venue with enthusiastic participation by the local administration. At the inaugural session Consul General welcomed the holding of this first ever interaction with the diaspora in Reunion island by the ARSP and hoped that this would go a long way in removing the feeling of neglect in the minds of diaspora. Prominent scholars participated in the conference were Amb. Virendra Gupta, Amb. Manju Seth, Amb. Anup Mudgal, Shri Shyam Parande, Prof. Ajay Dubey, from Mauritius Shri Mahen Utchanah & Ms. Sarita Boodhoo, from Reunion side Mr. Jean R e g i s R a m a s a m y , Historian/Journalist, Ms. Sabine Paulic Armoudom, President of ARCC, Reunion Dr. Selvam

Chanemougame, President of the Tamil Sangam, Reunion.

ARSP in association with ICCR organised the First Girmitya Cultural Festival at Kamani Auditorium on 7th February, 2018. 5 members from Indian classical singers and Drummers Association of Trinidad & Tobago and 12 members of Shree Satsang Ramayan Mandali, Fiji gave their performances. The Trinidad troupe also performed at Jaipur & Lucknow. ARSP chapters in Agra, Lucknow, Haridwar felicitated the cultural troupe from Trinidad & Tobago.



ARSP participated in two days ODI (Organisation for Diaspora initiatives) conference organised on A Century of Abolition of Indentureship of Indian Diaspora : Historic Struggles of Girmityas and contemporary engagement options for India on 20-21 March, 2018 at Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi. ARSP President Amb. Virendra Gupta, Sr. Vice President Amb. R.Dayakar, Secretary General Shri Shyam Parande, Secretary Shri Gopal Arora, Hony. Director Shri Narayan Kumar, ARSP deliberated on the various sessions of the conference.



ARSP in collaboration with National Museum, New Delhi organised a two day 'International Roma Conference to Commemorate the Millennium of Migration of Roma' on 29-30th

November, 2018 at national Museum. 30 foreign Roma scholars from 20 countries and scholars from India took part in five academic sessions of the conference. Major focus of the deliberation was on the historical, linguistic and cultural connection of Roma with their homeland, India. In the inaugural session Dr. Vinay Sahasrabudde, President ICCR. said that Roma are the people who do not know the borders. During the valedictory session a book 'Roma : In Search of Identity' edited by Shri Narayan Kumar, published by ARSP was released.



The Valedictory address was delivered by Dr. Lokesh Chandra and Amb. Dnyaneshwar Mulay Guest of Honour and Dr. B. R. Mani DG of National Museum was Chief Guest. A well-structured exhibition of about 46 panels was also put up in the Ajanta Exhibition Hall in the National Museum on Romani Language and their traditions.

On 1st December, 2018 Roma Scholars visited Lucknow and participated in a symposium at held under the Chairmanship of Amb. Virendra Gupta, President, ARSP. Shri Hriday Narayan Dikshit, Hon'ble Speaker, Uttar Pradesh Legislative Assembly was the Chief Guest and Smt. Sanyukta Bhatia, Hon'ble Mayor of Lucknow was the Guests of Honour.

On 2nd December, the Roma Delegates paid a visit to their Ancestral Land-Kannauj and participated in interactive session, organised on the theme of millennium of migration of Roma from Kannauj.

ARSP organised an interactive session on the occasion of World Roma Day on 12th April, 2018 at Pravasi Bhawan Dr. Bajram Haliti, Secretary General World Roma Organisation Rromanipen(WROR) and Mr. Zlatomir Jovanovic,

President-Association of Roma Writers and Bookmakers spoken about Roma people in the process of Globalisation and Economic integration of Roma. A meeting with Marcel Courthiade was held at Pravasi Bhawan on 18th April, 2018. Amb. Virendra Gupta, Shri Shyam Parande, Dr. Shashi Bala were present in the meeting.

Shri Narayan Kumar, Shri Suresh Rituparna, Shri B. L. Gaur & Shri Rakesh Pandey members of the Managing Committee participated in the World Hindi Conference held at Mauritius from 18-20th August, 2018. Baleshwar Agrawal Library and documentation centre of World Hindi Secretariate was inaugurated by Smt. Sushma Swaraj in Mauritius on 20th August, 2018. Dr. Suresh Rituparna was honoured with Vishwa Hindi Sammelan on 20th August, 2018.



Delegates of 45th to 49th Know India Programme (KIP) visited Pravasi Bhawan during the year in which Youth from Fiji, Guyana, Israel, Malaysia, Mauritius, Netherlands, Reunion Island, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Suriname, Trinidad & Tobago etc. participated in interactive programme.



ARSP in association with NMML organised a programme to release the book titled 'Together in Struggle : India and Indonesia, 1945-1949' authored by Prof. V.Suryanarayan and published jointly by ARSP and Prabhat Prakashan on 21st February, 2018.

'Ram Katha Ki Saarbhomikta' authored by Dr. Ramavtar Sharma was released by Shri Tarun Vijay

former Member of Rajya Sabha on 17th March, 2018. Chief Guest on the occasion were Dr. Ram Sharan Gaur, President Delhi Public Library and Dr. Brijendra Tripathi, Editor Samkallin Bhartiya Sahitya of Sahitya Academy.



Pravasi Bharatiyon Mein Hindi Kahani' edited by Prof. Surendra Gambhir, former Head of the Department of Linguistics at Pennsylvania University (USA) at Malviya Smriti Bhawan. Prof. Girishwar Mishra-Vice Chancellor, International Hindi Univeristy Wardha was the Chief Guest of the function and Shri D. P. Sinha, former Vice President, ICCR and renowned playwright presided.

A meeting with Shri Ashook Ramsaran President Indian Diaspora Council International and Mr. Mridul Pathak was held on 6th June, 2018 and discussed about The Joint Partnership with IDCI for Strengthening the Indian Diaspor's Multifacted Engagement with them.

MOU was signed by ARSP and Indian Diaspora Organisations abroad.

ARSP & Global Gimit Institute, Fiji signed the MOU on 29th October, 2018.

ARSP & ARRCC(Reunion) signed the



27th December, 2018 a five members delegation of ARSP headed by Ambassador Virendra Gupta, President of Antar Rashtriya Sahayog Parishad paid a courtesy call on the Hon'ble Prime Minister of Bhutan Dr. Lotay Tshering on 27th December, 2018. in the Taj Palace Hotel, Cannaught Place, New Delhi. □

INDIAN AMERICAN CHOSEN VICE MAYOR OF FREMONT

Indian American Raj Salwan was elected to the City Council of Fremont, California in 2016 and just recently, he was named as the vice mayor of the city. Salwan served on the council from January 2013 to December 2014 and was selected to the post of vice mayor unanimously when it was vacated by Mayor Bill Harrison.

Salwan has lived in Fremont all his life, from living in a one-bedroom apartment with his father, mother, and two siblings, as a child, to owning AllCare Veterinary Hospital in town. He attended U.C. Irvine where he

studied biological sciences, and has a doctorate of veterinary medicine degree from the School of Veterinary Medicine at Tuskegee University. Salwan has served as a Human Relations Commissioner, Planning Commissioner and as a council member, and is also proud to have achieved the American dream. □



HINDU ECONOMIC FORUM IN NEW ZEALAND



Hindu Economic Forum New Zealand (HEFNZ) was officially launched by Swami Vigyananand on Sunday, 18 November 2018 in Auckland, with the vision "Grow Together; Share Together". Hardik Desai and Raj Tyagi will be taking the lead in organizing the HEF New Zealand.

Swami Vigyananda also announced that the first New Zealand Hindu Economic Conference to be organized by Hindu Economic Forum New Zealand in 2019. Prof Guna Magesan will be helping with the first conference. □

AYURVEDA HOSPITAL INAUGURATED AT BALI

The ICCS, Delhi worked for the past 4 years to help the Universitas Hindu Indoneisa (UNHI) to make an Ayurveda Hospital for their Ayurveda and Health care students. This first ever Hospital in Southeast Asia was inaugurated by **Shri Shripad Naik**, Hon'ble Minister of AYUSH



who flew in specially for it. This inauguration was joined by the UNHI Team under **Prof. Dr. I Made Damriyasa**, Rector. The Representative of Bali Governor, Director General, Health Ministry of Indonesia and officials from all parts of Indonesia. As the facilitator of this project, the ICCS Indonesia President **Prof. Dr. I B Yudha Triguna**, Secretary General **Dr. I Made Sutresna** along with General Secretary of ICCS Delhi **Prof. Amarjiva Lochan** and several other dignitaries were present on this auspicious occasion.

On this auspicious occasion, a Two-Day International Seminar cum Workshop was held on the theme,

"Ayurveda and Traditional Helathcare in Southeast Asia : an ASEAN Umbrella of Shared Heritage". The unique feature of the seminar was the display of medicine-making by experts from several countries including India. It was attended by 24 speakers from 10 countries alongwith 150 delegates. Hon. Minister Shripad Naik lauded the efforts of ICCS for facilitating the event of great academic scholarship value. He also stated that the Ministry would work for declaring the UNHI's Faculty of Health and Ayurveda as the Centre of Excellence. An MoU was also signed between Gujarat Ayurveda University and UNHI Bali on this occasion. □

FIRST INDIAN BORN WOMAN TO ENTER UPPER HOUSE IN VICTORIA PARLIAMENT

Kaushalya Vaghela won Victorian State Election for an Upper House seat from Western metropolitan Region of Melbourne.



Kaushalya Vaghela

She contested elections from Australian Labor party. She is the first Indian born Hindu woman to become Member of Legislative council in any Australian state. Earlier, she was adviser to the Minister of Multicultural Affairs-Hon robin Scott and acted as a bridge between community and the minister. She helped Indian diaspora and their organisations in resolving their issues and she also helped to get all possible government support. □

J C BOSE AMONG NOMINEES TO NEW 50-POUND CURRENCY NOTE

Indian physicist and physiologist Sir Jagadish Chandra Bose was recently among the nominated names to become the face of United Kingdom's 50 Pound currency bill.



UK's Bank of England - similar to India's Reserve Bank of India - announced that it will be redesigning the 50 UK Pound currency note, replacing it with a prominent name

from the world of science. Thus, the bank currently inviting suggestions from people to have a fresh new face

on its 50 pound currency note.

To everybody's surprise, on their website, the bank had received close to 175,000 nominations earlier this week, forcing them to publish a list of 114,000 nominations, which featured Sir Jagadish Chandra Bose's name. He is nominated alongside one of the world's best-known physicists, Stephen Hawking. □

INDIAN AMERICANS RECIPIENTS OF 2018 MACARTHUR 'GENIUS GRANTS'

Chicago based The MacArthur Foundation Oct. 4 announced its 2018 cohort of 'Genius Grant' awardees, with Indian Americans Raj Jayadev and Vijay Gupta among the 25 recipients.



Raj Jayadev

Vijay Gupta

The awardees include academics, activists, artists scholars and scientists, who will receive \$625,000 over five years to use as they please.

further the pursuits of people who have shown outstanding talent.

leveraging the potential of community organising to create a model of legal assistance that provides education and criminal defense resources to families in need.

Musician Gupta, of Los Angeles, California, is a violinist and social justice advocate forging effective pathways to bring music to the marginalized and establishing new possibilities for social connection and support. □

The foundation awarded the genius grants each year since 1981 to help

Activist Jayadev, of San Jose, California, is a community organiser

DAYS TO REMEMBER

IN FEBRUARY, 2019

February 04 : Sri Lanka -Independence Commemoration Day

February 04 : Amavasya

February 06 : New Zealand-Waitangi Day

February 11 : Iran-Victory day

February 12 : Deen Bandhu Andrews- Birth Anniversary

February 16 : Lithuania-National Day

February 19 : Purnima

February 21 : Day of Language

(The day is celebrated to promote linguistic diversity and to bring about awareness of the importance of one's mother tongue.)

February 23 : Brunei Darussalam-National Day

February 23 : Guyana-Republic Day

February 25 : Kuwait- National Day

February 28 : Natural Science Day

(This date was chosen because it was on this date(28th February, 1928) that Sir C.V. Raman, the great Indian scientist, discovered the 'Raman Effect'.

The Raman Effect relates to the way that light is scattered when it passes through different materials. Sit Raman earned a Nobel Prize because of this discovery in 1930.) □

STATE VISIT OF PRIME MINISTER OF BHUTAN TO INDIA FROM 27–29 DECEMBER 2018

At the invitation of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, His Excellency Lyonchhen Dr. Lotay Tshering made a State Visit to India from 27–29 December 2018. He was accompanied by Lyonpo Dr. Tandi Dorji, Minister for Foreign Affairs, Lyonpo Loknath Sharma, Minister for Economic Affairs and senior officials from the Royal Government of Bhutan.



cooperation between the two countries.

Prime Minister Dr. Lotay Tshering thanked Prime Minister Shri Modi for the invitation to visit India and for the warm reception accorded to him and his delegation. He recalled the unique and historical ties of friendship and understanding that exist between the two countries and that he looked forward to working with the Government

This was Prime Minister Dr. Lotay Tshering's first visit abroad after assuming the office in November 2018. The visit took place during the Golden Jubilee year of the establishment of formal diplomatic relations between India and Bhutan, and was in keeping with the tradition of regular high-level exchanges between the two countries.

called on PM Dr. Lotay Tshering.

During the visit, he held a delegation level talks with Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, who also hosted a banquet lunch in honor of the visiting dignitary. The two Prime Ministers held detailed discussion on a wide range of bilateral and regional issues of mutual interest. They expressed

satisfaction at the excellent state of bilateral ties of friendship and cooperation, which are marked by utmost trust, mutual understanding, goodwill, respect for each other's interests, and reinforced by robust people to people linkages and close economic and development partnership.

of India to further strengthen bilateral ties.

The two sides discussed the Government of India's development assistance package for Bhutan's 12th Five Year Plan for the period 1 November 2018 to 31 October 2023. Prime Minister Modi conveyed that India will provide grant assistance of INR 4500 Crore towards Bhutan's 12th Five Year Plan, and a transitional Trade Support Facility of INR 400 Crore over a period of five years to strengthen bilateral trade and economic linkages. Prime Minister Dr. Lotay Tshering conveyed the deep appreciation of the people and the Royal Government of Bhutan to the people and Government of India for India's continued support to Bhutan's economic development. The two sides also discussed Bhutan's priorities in the health sector and also the implementation of ongoing bilateral hydro-power projects in Bhutan. They reiterated their commitment to jointly develop 10,000 MWs of hydropower generating capacity in Bhutan and in this regard discussed the Sankosh Hydropower Project. The two Prime Ministers also expressed satisfaction at the progress of the 720 MW Mangdechhu hydro-power project in Bhutan and they welcomed the



The Prime Minister of Bhutan called on the President of India, Shri Ram Nath Kovind and the Vice-President of India, Shri Venkaiah Naidu. The External Affairs Minister Smt. Sushma Swaraj, Finance Minister Shri Arun Jaitley, Minister for Commerce and Industries Shri Suresh Prabhu, Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Power, New and Renewable Energy, Shri Raj Kumar Singh and the National Security Adviser Shri Ajit Kumar Doval also

The two Prime Ministers acknowledged the contribution of commemorative events organized in the Golden Jubilee year to strengthen the close bonds of friendship and understanding between the Governments of peoples of the two countries. In this regard, they recalled the vision and guidance of the Druk Gyalpos of Bhutan and successive political leadership in India and Bhutan in nurturing and enhancing close ties of friendship and

→ mutually beneficial understanding reached between the two sides on the tariff or the export of surplus power from Mangdechhu project in Bhutan to India.

Prime Minister Dr. Lotay Tshering extended an invitation to Prime Minister Modi to visit Bhutan at the earliest convenience. Prime Minister Modi accepted the invitation to visit Bhutan on mutually convenient dates. □



ROYAL BHUTANESE EMBASSY CELEBRATES THE 111TH NATIONAL DAY

The Officers, Staff and the Bhutanese community celebrated the 111th National Day at the Royal Bhutanese Embassy, New Delhi, on 17th December 2018.

The celebration began with the hoisting of the National flag at the Embassy in the morning. During the celebration, Ambassador Maj. General V. Namgyel awarded the civil service medals to two officers for their dedicated service to the Tsa-Wa-Sum for more than 20 years and one officer



Officers and Staff of the Embassy for their hard work in coordinating many celebratory events to commemorate the Golden Jubilee of diplomatic relations between India and Bhutan.

Government of India, graced the occasion as the Chief Guest.

The reception was attended by senior officials of the Government of India, members of the diplomatic corps in Delhi, and many Indian friends and well-wishers of Bhutan. Guests enjoyed the musical renditions performed by one of Bhutan's popular musical bands, The Misty Terrace, along with popular Bhutanese performers Ugyen Pandey and Pinky Yangden.



and ten local staff of the Embassy for their dedicated service to the Tsa-Wa-Sum for more than 10 years. Ambassador Namgyel also awarded the certificates and memento to the

Later in the evening the Royal Bhutanese Embassy hosted a delightful reception at the Ambassador's residence to mark the 111th National Day.

H.E. Shri Arjun Ram Meghwal, Union Minister of State in Ministry of Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation and Parliamentary Affairs of the



Coinciding with the 111th National Day, the Royal Bhutanese Embassy also released its annual magazine 'Window on Bhutan 2018'. □

OBITUARY

Amb. Prem Singh a senior Life Member of Antar Rashtriya Sahayog Parishad, former High Commissioner to Mauritius & Singapore and former Ambassador to Kuwait passed away on 13th December, 2018 . After retirement he also served as foreign investment adviser to Govt. of Haryana.

He had close association with ARSP and former Secretary General Shri Baleshwar Agrawal. ARSP pays respectful homage to departed soul. □



Amb. Prem Singh

बदलती दुनिया में स्थिर विदेश नीति

साल का आखिरी हफ्ता न सिर्फ पूरे वर्ष की पड़ताल करने का मौका होता है, बल्कि यह सोचने का भी समय होता है कि इस पूरी अवधि में देश आखिर किस मुकाम तक पहुंचा? हाल ही में कई राज्यों के विधानसभा चुनावों के नतीजे आए। निश्चय ही इनका एक उल्लेखनीय असर पड़ा है। भले ये नतीजे मौजूदा विमर्श का हिस्सा नहीं हों, लेकिन इनके प्रभाव को नजरअंदाज भी नहीं किया जा सकता। इन्होंने सार्वजनिक बहसों को एक नया मोड़ दिया है। अब जबकि हम नए साल में कदम रखने जा रहे हैं, तो पहले के कई मसले अब भी बदस्तूर कायम हैं और दशकों पुरानी चुनौतियां भी देश के नीति-निर्माताओं को उलझाए हुए हैं।

इस वर्ष पाकिस्तान एक बार फिर हमारी विदेश नीति का प्रमुख हिस्सा रहा। भारत-पाकिस्तान की आपसी तनातनी में कोई ज्यादा सुधार नहीं आया। देखा जाए, तो यह तनाव दोनों देशों के रिश्तों का एक चरित्र-सा बन गया है। हालांकि एक क्षण ऐसा लगा कि पाकिस्तान के नए निजाम इमरान खान नई पहल के इच्छुक हैं, जो आपसी रिश्तों को सकारात्मक दिशा में ले जा सकता है, लेकिन आने वाले दिनों में वह भी शिथिल हो गए और कुछ खास हासिल नहीं हो सका। यह कई लोगों के लिए निराशाजनक था। एक बड़ी आबादी द्वारा यह उम्मीद पाली गई थी कि तमाम अन्य सकारात्मक कवायदों के साथ-साथ तीर्थयात्रियों के लिए सीमा पार करतारपुर गलियारे का भी पुरस्कार हो सकता है। यह मसला तो फिर भी सांसे ले रहा है, लेकिन द्विपक्षीय रिश्तों में जिस मिठास के सपने दिखाए गए थे, उसे हासिल कर पाना तो मुश्किल ही लग रहा है।

दूसरी तरफ, चीन के साथ अपने रिश्तों में उतार-चढ़ाव से भी हमें जूझना पड़ा। वैसे, तमाम मतभेदों के बावजूद दोनों देशों ने विवादास्पद मुद्दों को निपटाने में एक परिपक्व नजरिया दिखाया है। इतना ही नहीं, पिछले दिनों एक हद तक आक्रामक होने के बाद दोनों

देश संबंधों के सामान्य धरातल पर आ गए, जिसकी पुष्टि हाल के महीनों में दोनों के बीच हुई कई उच्च-स्तरीय बैठकों से होती है। फिर भी, कुछ गंभीर मसले अब भी कायम हैं, जो चिंता की वजह हैं। इनमें सबसे बड़ा मुद्दा निश्चित तौर पर चीन और पाकिस्तान का रिश्ता है। चीन की महत्वाकांक्षी परियोजना 'बेल्ट एंड रोड' को लेकर भारत की चिंताओं को अब तक दूर नहीं किया गया है। इस परियोजना के तहत न सिर्फ भारतीय सीमा में दखलंदाजी हुई है, बल्कि इन विकास परियोजनाओं का एक पक्ष सैन्य गतिविधियों से भी जुड़ा है, जिसके कारण यह मसला कहीं ज्यादा जटिल बन जाता है।

भारत और इसके पड़ोसी देशों को परेशान करने वाले कई ऐतिहासिक क्षेत्रीय मसले भी हैं। इनमें से कई तो ऐसे हैं, जो तत्काल समाधान की मांग करते हैं। इनमें से कुछ मुद्दे तो दुनिया की सबसे बड़ी ताकत अमेरिका की नीतियों से जुड़े हैं। यह सही है कि हाल के वर्षों में भारत और अमेरिका करीब आए हैं और उनके आपसी रिश्तों में गरमाहट भी दिखी है, लेकिन अमेरिका और ईरान के आपसी मतभेद भारत के लिए उलझन की स्थिति पैदा कर सकते हैं। अमेरिका की मंशा के बावजूद भारत अपने तेल-हित को देखते हुए ईरान से मुंह नहीं मोड़ सकता। अब भी, जब भारत-अमेरिका संबंध परवान चढ़ रहा है, तो भारत को सावधानी से अपने कदम आगे बढ़ाने होंगे। हाल के दिनों में अमेरिका ने बेशक तत्परता दिखाई है, लेकिन कभी-कभी वह अपने हित में दोस्तों और मित्र-राष्ट्रों की राय को भी तवज्जो नहीं देता।

आने वाले दिनों में विश्व समुदाय को ऐसे मसलों से भी जूझना होगा, जो नए भी होंगे और मुश्किल भी। तमाम देशों को इस पर ध्यान देने की जरूरत होगी। ग्लोबल वार्मिंग का सवाल ऐसा ही है। भारत इस मसले पर आम राय बनाने में अगुवा की भूमिका में भले नहीं रहा हो, लेकिन उसने अपना दायित्व ईमानदारी से निभाया है। देश के स्थानीय नियम-कानून

बताते हैं कि भारत इस मसले को लेकर खासा संवेदनशील है। यही वजह है कि भारत की कोशिशों पर दुनिया भर से अच्छी प्रतिक्रिया मिली है, हालांकि कुछ बड़े देश अब भी मिल-जुलकर वैश्विक तापमान से जंग लड़ने को राजी नहीं हैं।



सलमान हैदर
(पूर्व विदेश सचिव, भारत)

तमाम अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय मुद्दों में ब्रेजिट यानी ब्रिटेन का यूरोपीय संघ से बाहर निकलने का फैसला इस साल भी सुर्खियों में रहा। ब्रिटेन, यूरोप और दुनिया के लिए यह अब भी एक जटिल मसला बना हुआ है और एक लंबी चर्चा के बाद भी संबंधित देशों के नेतागण किसी आखिरी फैसले से दूर हैं। भारत सीधे तौर पर तो इस मसले से नहीं जुड़ा है, लेकिन इस प्रमुख और दूरगामी अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय घटनाक्रम से वह भी कुछ हद तक जरूर प्रभावित हो सकता है।

बहरहाल, भारतीय उपमहाद्वीप और इसके आसपास हुए ऐसे कई घटनाक्रम बताते हैं कि भारत और इसके नजदीकी देश आपस में किस कदर जुड़े हुए हैं। बेशक कई चुनौतियां भी हमारे सामने हैं, लेकिन नई दिल्ली क्षेत्रीय शांति और स्थिरता की एक महत्वपूर्ण धुरी मानी जाती है। अच्छी बात यह है कि इस दरम्यान हम आर्थिक विकास की अपनी तेज गति बनाए रखने में कामयाब रहे हैं। लिहाजा, भारत कुछ संतुष्टि के साथ साल 2018 की उपलब्धियों को साझा कर सकता है। सुखद है कि इस दरम्यान हमारी सामरिक क्षमता में लगातार वृद्धि हुई है, और आर्थिक जगत में भी भारत ने उल्लेखनीय उपलब्धियां दर्ज की हैं। इसीलिए 2019 की तरफ बढ़ता हुआ भारत आज इतने आत्मविश्वास से भरा हुआ है। वह भविष्य की तमाम चुनौतियों से निपटने के लिए तैयार दिख रहा है। □

(दैनिक हिन्दुतान से साभार)

डॉ. सैगल को एचीवर-2018 पुरस्कार

अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय सहयोग परिषद वाराणसी चैप्टर के सचिव और वाराणसी के सीनियर ऑर्थोपेडिक सर्जन डॉ. अजीत सैगल को अस्थि रोग पीड़ितों की सेवा करने के लिए राष्ट्रीय स्तर के वर्ल्ड वाइड एचीवर, हेल्थ केयर समिट-2018 कार्यक्रम में मोस्ट प्रोमिसिंग ऑर्थोपेडिक सर्जन ऑफ ईयर (उत्तर प्रदेश) के सम्मान से सम्मानित किया गया।

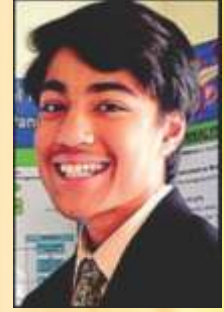


सम्मान समारोह में मुख्य अतिथि के रूप में उपस्थित भारत सरकार के चिकित्सा स्वास्थ्य एवं परिवार कल्याण राज्यमंत्री माननीय श्री अश्विनी चौबे ने डॉ. सैगल को राजधानी दिल्ली के होटल ललित में 19 दिसम्बर, 2018 को

प्रशस्ति पत्र एवं स्मृति चिन्ह प्रदान किया। डॉ. अजीत सैगल द्वारा अस्थि रोग विशेषज्ञ के रूप में किये गये कार्यों को बताया गया। □

टाइम मैगजीन के टॉप 25 किशोरों में ऋषभ

टाइम मैगजीन ने 2018 में विभिन्न क्षेत्रों में उत्कृष्ट कार्य करने वाले 25 टॉप प्रभावी किशोरों की सूची जारी की है, जिसमें नोएडा के ऋषभ जैन भी शामिल हैं। उन्हें यह सम्मान एक ऐलरिदम विकसित करने के लिए मिला है, जिससे कि अग्नाशय कैंसर का इलाज हो सकता है।



ऋषभ जैन को यूएस की कंपनी 3 एम ने उनकी वैज्ञानिक क्षमता को देखते हुए उन्हें यंगस्ट साईटिस्ट ऑफ यूएस का खिताब दिया था। इसके तहत उन्हें 25 हजार डॉलर की नगद राशि भी मिली थी। उसके बाद ही टाइम मैगजीन में उनका नाम शामिल किया गया। ऋषभ जैन के पिता आईटी कंपनी में अधिकारी हैं, जबकि माँ रियल एस्टेट कारोबारी हैं। □

भारतीय ने जीता अमेरिकी जूनियर चैलेंज

बेंगलुरु के 16 साल के समय गोदिका ने अमेरिका का प्रतिष्ठित 4 लाख डॉलर वाला ब्रेकथू जूनियर चैलेंज जीत लिया है। इनमें से समय को 2.5 लाख बतौर कॉलेज स्कॉलरशिप मिलेंगे। वहीं, बेंगलुरु स्थित समय के स्कूल की लैब के लिए 1 लाख डॉलर और 50 हजार डॉलर उनके टीचर को दिए जाएंगे। समय ने लाइफ साईंस कैटिगरी में अपना विडियो बनाया था। यह प्रतियोगिता अमेरिका में पिछले 4 साल से हो रहा है। जिसमें दुनियाभर के स्कूल छात्र हिस्सा लेते हैं। इसे साईंस का ऑस्कर भी कहा जाता है।



गौरतलब है कि तीन भारतीय छात्रों ने ब्रेकथू जूनियर चैलेंज के अंतिम राउंड में जगह बनाई थी। हर साल होने वाली इस ग्लोबल साईंस प्रतियोगिता में गणित और विज्ञान के छात्र हिस्सा लेते हैं। इस साल भी दुनियाभर के करीब 12 हजार छात्रों ने विडियों के जरिए वैज्ञानिकों के जटिल सिद्धांतों को आसान तरीके से समझाया था। इसमें जटिल सिद्धांतों को लोगों को समझाना होता है। इसमें समय के अलावा दिल्ली की काव्या नेगी भी टॉप-15 में पहुंची थी। □

नासा के कैलेंडर 2019 में छाप भारतीय बच्चे

नासा ने इस बार कर्मशाल क्रू प्रोग्राम 2019 के चिल्ड्रन आर्ट वर्क कैलेंडर लॉन्च किया है, जिसके कवर पेज पर उत्तर प्रदेश की नौ साल की दीपशिखा का बनाया चित्र है। इस कैलेंडर में साल के 12 महीनों के लिए बच्चों के द्वारा तैयार आर्ट वर्क का प्रयोग किया है। खास बात है कि कवर पेज पर भारत की दीपशिखा के साथ तीन और बच्चों का आर्ट वर्क है।



महाराष्ट्र के 10 साल के इंद्रयुद्ध और 8 साल के श्रीहन का बनाया आर्ट वर्क भी इस कैलेंडर में शामिल है। इन दोनों ने सम्मिलित रूप से यह आर्ट वर्क तैयार किया। इसके अलावा 12 साल

के तमिलनाडू के थेमुकिलिमन का आर्ट वर्क भी कैलेंडर में शामिल है। 12 महीनों का कैलेंडर एक थीम पर आधारित है जो अंतरिक्ष विज्ञान से जुड़ा है। हर महीने के लिए अंतरिक्ष से जुड़ा कोई मास्टरपीस थीम के तौर पर सिलेक्ट किया गया।

नासा ने कहा, 'बच्चों के बीच अंतरिक्ष विज्ञान को लेकर उत्सुकता जगाने के लिए इस आर्ट वर्क का आयोजन किया गया। भविष्य के अंतरिक्ष वैज्ञानिक, इंजिनियर, वैज्ञानिकों को प्रोत्साहित करने की यह हमारी कोशिश की। हम उन सभी बच्चों के आर्ट वर्क की सराहना करते हैं जिन्होंने इस प्रतियोगिता में हिस्सा लिया'। □

ऑस्ट्रेलिया की सबसे ऊंची चोटी पर तिरंगा

तेलंगाना के महज आठ साल के समन्यु पोतुराजू ने पांच सदस्यों की अपनी टीम के साथ ऑस्ट्रेलिया की सबसे ऊंची चोटी माउंट कॉस्कोसको पर तिरंगा फहराकर भारत का नाम



रोशन किया है। खास बात यह है कि समन्यु की टीम में उसकी माँ और उनकी बहन भी शामिल है। यह सफलता उन्होंने 12 दिसम्बर को प्राप्त की। समन्यु की यह कोई पहली सफलता नहीं है। इससे पहले वह तंजानिया के माउंट किलिमंजारों को भी फतह कर चुके हैं, जिसके साथ ही वे इस पर्वत पर चढ़ने वाले दुनिया के सबसे कम उम्र के पर्वतारोही बन गए हैं। माउंट किलिमंजारों अफ्रीका का सबसे ऊंचा पर्वत है। □

देहरादून और हरिद्वार में

स्वच्छता अभियान एवं सुरमयी शाम



दिनांक 15 दिसम्बर, 2018 को स्वच्छता अभियान के अवसर पर अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय सहयोग परिषद भारत, उत्तराखण्ड चैप्टर द्वारा ओएनजीसी के सहयोग से एक कार्यक्रम का आयोजन किया गया, जिसमें श्री हरक सिंह रावत, माननीय अपर आयुक्त गढ़वाल मंडल ने स्वच्छता अभियान से संबंधित अपने विचार प्रकट किए। श्री वाई. के. श्रीवास्तव और प्रीता पंत व्यास, कार्यकारी निदेशक ओएनजीसी ने बताया कि स्वच्छता हमारे व्यक्तिगत, दैनिक और राष्ट्रीय जीवन के लिए बहुत महत्वपूर्ण है। श्री राजीव बेरी, श्री दयानंद चंदोला, श्री एस. एस. कोठियाल, श्री योगेश अग्रवाल और श्री चंद्रगुप्त विक्रम ने भी स्वच्छता के महत्व पर अपने विचार रखे।



इसके पश्चात अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय सहयोग परिषद भारत के उत्तराखण्ड चैप्टर द्वारा विजय दिवस की पूर्व संध्या पर पूर्व सैनिकों सर्वश्री कैप्टन शैलेंद्र कश्यप, कर्नल बी. डी. डंगवाल, ब्रिगेडियर आर. एस. रावतपुर, कैप्टन एस. एस. कोठियाल को शॉल, तुलसी माला और प्रतीक चिन्ह भेंट कर उनके वीरतापूर्ण कार्यों के लिये सम्मानित किया। इस समारोह के मुख्य अतिथि उत्तराखण्ड विधानसभा अध्यक्ष प्रेमचंद अग्रवाल

ने कहा कि विजय दिवस पर मनाए जाने वाले ऐसे महत्वपूर्ण कार्यक्रम देश के नवयुवकों को सेना में जाने की ओर प्रेरित करने के लिए प्रेरणादीप का कार्य करते हैं साथ ही सैनिकों के मनोबल को बढ़ाते हैं। हमारे इन्हीं सैनिकों के शौर्य एवं बलिदान से हम, हमारा देश और देशवासी सुरक्षित हैं। पूर्व सैनिकों का परिचय श्रीमती डॉली डबराल ने अपनी स्वरचित पंक्तियों से बहुत ही रुचिकर ढंग से प्रस्तुत किया।



इसी अवसर पर मुख्य आकर्षण 'सुरमयी शाम' कार्यक्रम में लंदन से आई अप्रवासी संगीतकार स्वाति नाटेकर जी ने गीत, भजन, गजल, तुमरी की शानदार प्रस्तुति का श्रोता भरपूर आनंद लेते रहे।

इस कार्यक्रम की सफलता का श्रेय सम्मानित श्री श्याम परांडे जी-महासचिव अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय सहयोग परिषद, श्री दयानंद चंदोला जी, श्री टी. एन. मल्होत्रा जी, इं. गोपाल कृष्ण मित्तल, श्री राजीव बेरी जी, श्री एस. एस. कोठियाल जी, कैप्टन सुधांशु कुकरेती, श्री चंद्रगुप्त विक्रम जी, श्री अशोक शर्मा जी, श्री संजय गुप्ता, श्रीमती डॉली डबराल जी, श्री प्रवीण ममगाई जी, श्री राकेश आनंद बौड़ाई जी, शशांक नेगी,

श्रीमती प्रीति गोदियाल जी आदि अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय सहयोग परिषद की पूरी टीम तथा ओएनजीसी के सभी अधिकारियों को जाता है। जिसके लिए सभी हार्दिक बधाई एवं धन्यवाद के पात्र हैं।

अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय सहयोग परिषद के हरिद्वार चैप्टर द्वारा 16 दिसम्बर, 2018 को शौर्य दिवस की संध्या पर देश के अमर शहीदों को याद करते हुए गुरुकुल विश्वविद्यालय में 'सुरमयी शाम' नामक गजल संध्या का आयोजन किया गया जिसमें लंदन से पधारी मशहूर गजल गायिका श्रीमती स्वाति नाटेकर जी ने अपनी सुंदर गजलों एवं गीतों से श्रोताओं को मंत्रमुग्ध किया।



कार्यक्रम के मुख्य अतिथि उत्तराखण्ड सरकार के कैबिनेट मंत्री श्री मदन कौशिक ने आयोजकों का उत्साहवर्धन करते हुए कहा कि आज के व्यस्त माहौल में इस तरह के आयोजन बहुत जरूरी है। उन्होंने कहा कि अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय सहयोग परिषद अपने क्षेत्र में अद्भुत कार्य करती है और भारत देश के लोग जो विदेशों में बस गए हैं वह परिषद के माध्यम से आज भी भारत देश से तन मन धन से जुड़े हुए हैं। परिषद के हरिद्वार चैप्टर के अध्यक्ष श्री ए. सी. ओहरी, एवं महामंत्री संजय चतुर्वेदी ने संयुक्त रूप से मुख्य अतिथि का स्वागत किया। कार्यक्रम में मुख्य रूप से परिषद के प्रधान कार्यालय से श्री टी. एन. मल्होत्रा एवं देहरादून चैप्टर के दयानंद चंदोला जी उपस्थित रहे। हरिद्वार से विशाल गर्ग, ए. के. जैन, प्रशांत खरे, अर्पित मिश्रा, गगन यादव, योगेश विद्यार्थी, संदीप गोयल, मयंक शर्मा, नीरज गुप्ता आदि की उपस्थिति उल्लेखनीय है। □