

# ANTAR RASHTRIYA SAHA YOG PARISHAD BULLETIN

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## INDIANS IN SOUTH AFRICA

 Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi

English settled in Natal, where they obtained some concessions from the Zulus. They observed that excellent sugarcane, tea and coffee could be grown in Natal. Thousands of labourers would be needed in order to grow such crops on a large scale, which was clearly beyond the capacity of a handful of colonists. They offered inducements and then threats to the Negroes in order to make them work but in vain, as slavery had been then abolished. The Negro is not used to hard work. He can easily maintain himself by working for six months in the year. Why then should he bind himself to an employer for a long term? The English settlers could make no progress at all with their plantations in the absence of a stable labour force. They therefore opened negotiations with the Government of India and requested their help for the supply of labour. That Government complied with their request, and ***the first batch of indentured labourers from India reached Natal on November 16, 1860, truly a fateful date for this history; had it not been for this, there would have been no Indians and therefore no Satyagraha in South Africa, and this book would have remained unwritten.***

In my opinion, the Government of India were not well advised in taking the action they did. The British officials in India consciously or unconsciously were partial to their brethren in Natal. It is true that as many terms as possible, purporting to safeguard the labourers' interests were entered in the indentures. Fairly good arrangements were made for their board. But adequate consideration was not given to the question as to how these



illiterate labourers who had gone to a distant land were to seek redress if they had any grievance. No thought was given to their religious needs or to the preservation of their morality. The British officials in India did not consider that although slavery had been abolished by law, employers could not be free from a desire to make slaves of their employees. They did not realize, as they ought to have realized, that the labourers who had gone to Natal would in fact become temporary slaves. The late Sir W.W. Hunter, who had deeply studied these labour conditions, used a remarkable phrase about them. Writing about the Indian labourers in Natal, he said that theirs was a state of semi-slavery. On another occasion, in the course of a letter, he described their condition as bordering on slavery. And tendering evidence before a commission in Natal, the most prominent European in that Colony, the late Mr. Harry Escombe, admitted as much. Testimony to the same effect can be readily gathered from the statements of leading Europeans in Natal. Most of these were incorporated in the memorials on the subject submitted to the Government of India. But the fates would have their course. And the

steamer which carried those labourers to Natal carried with them the seed of the great Satyagraha movement.

I do not have the space here in the present volume to narrate how the labourers were deluded by Indian recruiting agents connected with Natal; how under the influence of such delusion they left the mother country; how their eyes were opened on reaching Natal; how still they continued to stay there; how others followed them; how they broke through all the restraints which religion or morality imposes, or to be more accurate, how these restraints gave way, and how the very distinction between a married woman and a concubine ceased to exist among these unfortunate people.

When the news that indentured labourers had gone to Natal reached Mauritius, Indian traders having connection with such labourers were induced to follow them there. Thousands of Indians, labourers as well as traders, have settled in Mauritius which is on the way to Natal from India. An Indian trader in

### Think it Over

Happiness is when  
what you think,  
What you say,  
and What you do  
are in harmony.

-Mahatma Gandhi

→  
Mauritius, the late Sheth Abubakar Ahmad, thought of opening a shop in Natal. The English in Natal had then no idea of what Indian traders were capable of, nor did they care about. They had been able to raise very profitable crops of sugarcane, tea and coffee, with the assistance of indentured labour. They manufactured sugar, and in a surprisingly short time supplied South Africa with a modest quantity of sugar, tea, and coffee. They made so much money that they built palatial mansions for themselves and turned a wilderness into a veritable garden. In such circumstances they naturally did not mind an honest and plucky trader like Abubakar Sheth settling in their midst. Add to this that an Englishman actually joined him as partner. Abubakar Sheth carried on trade and purchased land, and the story of his prosperity reached Porbandar, his native place, and the country around.

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Other Memans consequently reached Natal. Borahs from Surat followed them. These traders needed accountants, and Hindu accountants from Gujarat and Saurashtra accompanied them.

Two classes of Indians thus settled in Natal, first free traders and their free servants, and secondly indentured labourers. In course of time the indentured labourers had children. Although not bound to labour, these children were affected by several stringent provisions of the colonial law. How can the children of slaves escape the brand of slavery? The labourers went to Natal under indenture for a period of five years. They were under no obligation to labour after the expiry of that period, and were entitled to work as free labourers or traders in Natal, and settle there if they wished. Some elected to do so while others returned home. Those who remained in Natal came to be known as 'Free Indians'. It is necessary to understand the peculiar position of this class. They were not admitted to all the rights enjoyed by the entirely free Indians of whom I have first spoken. For instance, they were required to obtain a pass if they wanted to go from one place to another, and if they married and desired the marriage to be recognized as valid in law, they were required to register it with an official known as Protector of Indian Immigrants. They were also subject to other severe restrictions.

The Indians traders saw that they could trade not only with indentured labourers and 'Free Indians', but with the Negroes as well. Indian merchants were a source of great convenience to the Negroes, who very much feared the European traders. The European trader wanted to trade with the Negro, but it would be too much for Negro customers to expect courtesy at his hands. They might think it a good fortune if he gave them full consideration for their money. Some of them had bitter experiences. A man might purchase an article worth four shillings, place a sovereign on the counter, and receive four shillings as balance instead of sixteen, and sometimes even nothing whatever. If the poor Negro asked for the balance or showed how the amount paid him was less than his due, the reply would be gross abuse. He might thank his stars if things stopped there;

otherwise the abuse would be reinforced by a blow or a kick. I do not mean to suggest that all English traders behaved like this. But it can safely be asserted that the number of such cases was fairly large. On the other hand, Indian traders had a good word for the Negroes and even joked with them. The simple Negro would like to enter the shop and handle and examine the goods he wanted to purchase. Indian traders permitted all this. It is true that in this they were not actuated by altruistic motives, it may have had something to do with their self-interest. The Indian might not miss the opportunity, if it offered, of cheating his Negro customer, but his courtesy made him popular with the Negroes. Moreover, the Negro never feared the Indian traders. On the other hand, cases have occurred in which an Indian tried to cheat Negroes, but on being detected, was roughly handled by them. And more often Negro customers have been heard to abuse Indian traders. Thus, so far as Indians and Negroes were concerned, it is the former who feared the latter. The result was that trade with Negroes proved very profitable to Indian traders. And the Negroes were to be found throughout South Africa.

There were Boer republics in the Transvaal and the Orange Free State during the eighties of the last century. I need scarcely say that in these republics the Negro had no power, it was all a white men's affair. Indian traders had heard that they could also trade with the Boers, who, being simple, frank and unassuming, would not think it below their dignity to deal with Indian traders. Several Indian traders therefore proceeded to the Transvaal and the Free State and opened shops there. As there were no railways there at the time, they earned large profits. The expectations of the Indian traders were fulfilled and they carried on considerable trade with the Boers and the Negroes as customers. Similarly, several Indian traders went to the Cape Colony and began to earn fairly well. The Indians were thus distributed in small numbers in all the four colonies.

Absolutely free Indians now number between forty to fifty thousand, while the 'Free Indians' so called, that is, the labourers who are freed from their indentures and their descendants, number about a hundred thousand. □

## Amb. VIRENDRA GUPTA is Re-Elected as President of ARSP



At the Annual General Body Meeting of the Antar Rashtriya Sahayog Parishad in the Pravasi Bhawan, New Delhi held on Saturday, 15 September, 2018. Amb. Virendra Gupta was unanimously re-elected President for the next two year term of 2018-2020.

Members hailed the election of Amb. Virendra Gupta as President of ARSP. Amb. Virendra Gupta thanked the members and assured his fullest commitment to ARSP aims and objectives in the coming years.

### The Following ARE The New Office Bearers for the Years 2018-2020

1. **Amb. Virendra Gupta**  
President
2. **Shri Raj Kumar Bhatia**  
Senior Vice President
3. **Shri Mukesh Aggarwal**  
Vice-President
4. **Shri Sanjay Bhalla**  
Vice-President
5. **Shri Keshav (Shyam) Parande**  
Secretary General
6. **Shri Gopal Arora**  
Secretary
7. **Smt. Shashi Bala**  
Joint Secretary
8. **Shri Amit Gupta**  
Joint Secretary
9. **Shri Suresh Kumar Goyal**  
Treasurer

#### MEMBERS OF MANAGING COMMITTEE

10. Amb. R. Dayakar
11. Amb. Anup Kumar Mudgal
12. Shri Narayan Kumar
13. Ms. Shubha Singh
14. Shri Prabhat Kumar
15. Smt. Sushma Agrawal
16. Dr. Rajni Sarin
17. Prof. Ajay Dubey
18. Amb. Manju Seth
19. Shri Nand Kishore Garg
20. Shri O. P. Goel
21. Smt. Seema Gupta

#### CO-OPTED MEMBERS

22. Shri Gopal Aggarwal
23. Shri Nirmal Singh
24. Amb. J.S. Sapra
25. Smt. Ruchira Jain
26. Dr. Suresh Rituparna
27. Dr. Markandey Rai
28. Shri C.S. Randev
29. Shri Vijay Kranti
30. Shri Ajit Kumar
31. Shri Tarun Vijay
32. Smt. Renu Sharma
33. Shri Sushil Pandit

34. Shri Sanjay Ganjoo
35. Shri B.L. Gaur

#### EX. OFFICIO

36. Shri Shiv Kumar Gupta
37. Shri T.N. Malhotra
38. Shri Rakesh Pandey
39. Shri Bharat Bhushan
40. Shri Ajay Patel
41. Smt. Saroja Vaidyanathan
42. Ms. Kamalini
43. Shri S.P. Mittal
44. Dr. Rajiv Nayan



## US LAWMAKERS MOVE Proposal To Award Bapu Civilian Honour

Half a dozen influential US lawmakers, including four Indian Americans, have moved a resolution in the US House of Representatives to posthumously award the prestigious Congressional Gold Medal to Mahatma Gandhi in recognition of his promotion of peace and non-violence.

Introduced in the US House of Representatives by Congresswoman Carolyn Maloney from New York on September 23, the resolution (H R 6916) is co-sponsored by four Indian American lawmakers in the House - Ami Bera, Raja Krishnamoorthi, Ro Khanna and Pramila Jayapal.

Tulsi Gabbard, who is the current co-chair of the House Congressional Caucus on India and Indian Americans is also one of the co-sponsors of the resolution, which has been sent to the committee on financial services and committee on house administration for necessary action.

The medal is the highest civilian honour given by the US Congress and very few foreigners have been recipients. Prominent among those include Mother Teresa (1997), Nelson Mandela (1998), Pope John Paul II (2000), the Dalai Lama (2006), Aung

San Suu Kyi (2008), Muhammad Yunus (2010) and Shimon Peres (2014).

The announcement was made by Maloney during the India Day Parade in New York in August. "Mahatma Gandhi's historic Satyagraha movement of nonviolent resistance inspired a nation and the world. His example energises us to devote ourselves to the service of others," she said. "His legacy inspired civil rights movements around the globe, from Martin Luther King's movement for racial equality to Nelson Mandela's fight against apartheid," Maloney said. □

# BIRTH CENTENARY OF DR. CHEDDI JAGAN



*Panelists lighting lamp and paying homage to Dr. Cheddi Jagan*

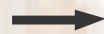
On the occasion of Birth centenary of Dr. Cheddi Jagan, former President of the Cooperative Republic of Guyana, The Diaspora Research & Resource Centre of ARSP organised a Panel discussion on '**Dr. Cheddi Jagan : his Life and Vision**' on **Thursday October 4, 2018 at 4:00 pm., at Malaviya Smriti Bhawan, New Delhi**. The distinguished panelists and speakers included Dr. Dnyaneshwar Mulay Secretary CPV & OIA Ministry of External Affairs, Dr. David Pollard, High Commissioner of Guyana, Amb. Gajanan Wakankar, Amb. Rajgopalan, Amb. Anup Kumar Mudgal, Dr. Ved Pratap Vaidic, Shri Shyam Parande and Shri Narayan Kumar.

A documentary on Dr. Cheddi Jagan was screened on the occasion and an exhibition of books, authored by him was put on display. Welcoming the guests **Shri Shyam Parande** said that ARSP is proud of Dr. Cheddi Jagan an "icon" from the Diaspora who was a 2<sup>nd</sup> generation Indian in Guyana and rose

to become the President of Guyana. A towering personality and a leftist who cared for his society that was being exploited by the colonial powers. He was devout patriot of Guyana who wanted Guyana to be a developed country, well educated and economically progressive. Author of many books and an erudite speaker, he cherished his relationship with Bharat. He was pulled down from

power by the western powers disbanding Guyana's constitution. ARSP pays tributes to Dr. Cheddi Jagan by celebrating his centenary probably the only celebrations outside Guyana. A letter written by Dr. Cheddi Jagan to a veteran ARSP member Shri Rajinder Sethi was also quoted by Shri Shyam Parande in his address.

**Amb. Anup Mudgal** Chairman of Diaspora Resources & Research Centre gave a brief introduction of D.R.R.C., its vision, aims and objectives. He said that DRRC aims at persuing research on Diaspora issues which can provide actionable inputs to the policy planners and also provide academic content to diaspora scholars. He outlined the four pillars of DRRC namely Engaging with youth, preparing a database of Diaspora organizations, post conference publications and documentation and publishing a



*Shri Shyam Parande greeting Amb. Dnyaneshwar Mulay with Angavastram*

→  
quarterly research journal.

**Amb. Gajanan Wakankar**, former Indian High Commissioner to Guyana recalled his association with Dr. Cheddi Jagan during the period 1983 to 1986 when he was the Indian High Commissioner to Guyana. He said that Dr. Cheddi Jagan was a true statesman and rational person. After assuming the office of President in 1992 he pursued an inclusive policy and declared that it is a time for change, time to rebuild and time to embrace each other. Amb. Wakankar also recalled an incident during the elections in Guyana in 1985 when he softened his anti US stand.

**Amb. Raja Gopalan** who was the Indian High Commissioner to Guyana from 1989 to 1992 said that Dr. Jagan was popularly known as Cheddi who was influenced by Leninism. His wife Jannet was a pillar of strength for him. He said that Dr. Cheddi Jagan was a great lover of cricket and was himself a good player, being a member of the Queen college Cricket team during his students life. Amb. Rajgopalan was a member of the International observer team during the 1992 elections in Guyana. Other members of team included Jimmy Carter former US President, Samarendra Kundu former Minister for External Affairs of India.

Paying rich tribute to Cheddi Jagan, the High Commissioner of Guyana **David Pollard** said that Dr. Jagan was a smart and energetic leader who made a lasting influence on Guyanese politics. Speaking about his ideology he said that some people might call him communist and some may

call him a left Leftist social democrat but it is best to describe Dr. Cheddi Jagan as a Patriot to the core.

**Dr. Ved Pratap Vaidik** senior journalist recalled his interaction with Dr. Cheddi Jagan in Polland where both were participating in an International conference. They had accidentally met in a book shop and then travelled together in a bus upto his hotel. Dr. Vaidik said that Dr. Jagan was a true statesman, although he is known all over world a Leftist but his contribution to the freedom of Guyana and his sacrifice for the causes of Guyanese of is praise worthy.

In his Presidential remark **Amb. Dnyaneshwar Mulay**, Secretary (OIA & CPV) Ministry of External Affairs said that the concept of "Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam", a Sanskrit phrase which translates to "the world is one family." India has the largest Diaspora as compared to any other country in the world.

Many of these Indian Diaspora communities are carving out a stellar reputation in the political, social and cultural spheres of their countries of birth. Building relations and understanding between these communities will help India and the world to become one big family. Mr. Muley talked about how it is imperative for India and its citizens to know and appreciate the various works and achievements that the Indian Diaspora are doing across the world.

Amb. Mulay further complimented ARSP & DRRC for organizing this important programme which gave a insight into the life and vision of one of the stalwarts of Indian Diaspora.

The program was very eloquently conducted by Shri Narayan Kumar, Honorary, Director of ARSP who narrated many interesting anecdotes about Dr. Cheddi Jagan.

Shri Raj Kumar Bhatia, Senior Vice President presented the vote of thanks. □



*Amb. Dnyaneshwar Mulay delivering presidential address*

# INITIATIVE OF CELEBRATING THE ELDERERS

The Indian High Commission of Trinidad & Tobago organised a function named "Celebrating the Elders" on 15th September, 2018 to felicitate elders between the ages of 90-105 years by various socio-cultural-religious organisations,



*Mr. Heera Sadhu , PIO with H.E. Bishwadip Dey, High Commissioner of India and Satnarayan Maharaj*

which came forward to honour Elderly Persons of Indian Origin (PIOs). This programme is an ongoing process to reconnect High Commission with the PIOs. The High Commissioner of India, Shri Bishwadip Dey embarked on the initiative to reach out to the

elderly Persons of Indian Origin, above the age of 90 years (as on 01.01.2018). They were the second or third generation PIOs whose parents / grandparents had migrated from India

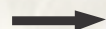
to Trinidad & Tobago (West Indies). So far about 110 Elderly persons are living across the country. The High Commissioner and the officials have met over 55 persons, and spent time with them at their residence. Among them, there are 13

persons who are above the age of 100 years. The Elderly PIOs, their family members and the civil society at large have applauded the High Commission's endeavour.



*Mr. Heera Sadhu , PIO with H.E. Bishwadip Dey, High Commissioner of India*

Generally, successive generations go in search of their roots. But here the High Commission of India comes calling to pay respects to the living Elderly PIOs who have seen tumultuous time in their lives. These Elders worked under most difficult indentured labour laws and faced untold misery. They were under colonial rule and decades later they saw their country become independent in 1962. Despite the difficulties, they raised their children, grand-children and oversaw their great grand-children grow up with qualities of the 'Indianness'. It is this



→ connection that the Government of India through the High Commission of India is trying to acknowledge their contributions in maintaining connections.

The High Commissioner of India, Shri Bishwadip Dey said that when we meet the Elderly PIOs, it is a reflection of 1.3 billion people of India living in another part of the world.

The initiative is to seek blessings from the elders and also to express our gratitude and thanks for maintaining and promoting 'Indianness' in the Caribbean. We heartily acknowledge the fact that the Elders are being taken care of by younger generations; this demonstrates the 'Indianness'.

This activity afforded an opportunity to the High Commission for coming closer to the Elderly PIOs living in all nooks and corners of the country. In

each meeting, we noticed the sparkle of joy in the eyes of the Elderly PIOs and a sense of contentment in the eyes of the accompanying family members.

The High Commissioner of India who has actually followed in the footsteps

of the Indian Prime Minister and the Foreign Minister to engage with the diaspora with special concern for the elderly. Upon assuming office two years ago His Excellency Bishwadip Dey expressed a desire to visit the villages of Trinidad and Tobago and meet the People of Indian Origin. He



*Mrs. Phooljaria Rampersad (PIO) felicitated by H.E. Bishwadip Dey with Pt. Manideo Persad*



*Swami Prakashananda, Spiritual Leader of Chinmaya Mission with with H.E. Bishwadip Dey*

desired to identify elders who had achieved the milestone age of 90 and beyond. He venerated them by visiting them at their homes. There were around 60 such elderlies to an overwhelming response from the PIO population in Trinidad. He listened to their stories and shared meals with them at their homes which have become public knowledge. Thus far the High Commission has identified close to 110 persons in the 90 plus age category. Mr. Dey is planning to felicitate all of them over the next few months. □

# THE TRIUMPH OF DEMOCRACY

*Dr. Nihar R Nayak*

In a major boost to democracy and political rights, the opposition parties' candidate Ibrahim Mohamed Solih was declared as winner in the 2018 presidential elections in the Maldives. The event unbuckled Maldives from eight months of authoritarian regime by former President Abdulla Yameen. Solih won majority by securing 58.3 percent of popular vote, 16 percent more than what the incumbent President Yameen received. Around 88 percent voters turn out indicated that there was massive anti-Yameen sentiment brewing for sometime in the country. There were in fact massive street celebrations as soon as the results were announced. Solih is backed by a united opposition parties' front, which came together to fight the autocratic regime of Yameen.

Yameen's support was considerably weakened due to his government's crackdown against opposition parties -members of judiciary and to some extent arrest of his own party leaders. His tactics of fixing internal problems with Chinese financial support did not yield much result. Meanwhile, frequent political instability adversely affected tourism business in Maldives. Most importantly, Yameen's support base shrunk further as Islamic nationalist based parties were divided over personal and ideological issues. In fact, some parties were annoyed with Yameen's failure at Islamization of Maldives as agreed during 2013 elections.

## History of democracy

Maldives real journey of democracy perhaps began in 2003 when Mohamed Nasheed formed the Maldivian Democratic Party (MDP) in Sri Lanka. The MDP got an



**Ibrahim Mohamed Solih** opportunity to consolidate further when the 2004 Sunami damaged the country's economy and weakened Maumoon Abdul Gayoom politically. Under international and the MDP pressure, Gayoom ratified the newly reformed constitution, paving the way for Maldives' first democratic multiparty elections in October 2008. Mohamed Nasheed won the Presidential elections and became the first democratically elected president of Maldives.

However, the Maldivian democracy witnessed turbulence under multiparty system due to both internal and external factors. Internally, the democracy was challenged by the Islamic nationalists, who found Nasheed's policies pro-western and anti-Islamic. The second set of internal resistance came from business community and contractors who were affected due to Nasheed's economic reforms. Subsequently, the Islamist, business community and contractors joined hands with the anti-Nasheed factions within the MDP.

Meanwhile, the interests of China and Saudi Arabia converged with the internal elements of Maldives during initial phase of democracy. First, China's strategic interests under OBOR-Maritime Silk Route framework were pushed to set up sea lane infrastructures (China-Maldives

Friendship Bridge and the Male International Airport expansion) in Maldives since 2013. China strongly supported anti-western and anti-India political groups in Maldives to get strategic islands on lease. Therefore, China preferred continuation of the Progressive Party of the Maldives (PPM) in power under Yameen's leadership. The second external element was Saudi funded Wahhabism in Maldives. Wahhabism has been supporting Islamisation of Maldives to protect itself against western and Indian influence. It is noteworthy that Yameen government passed a constitutional amendment in 2015 to sell Faafu, one of the 26 atolls, to Saudi Arabia.

## International reactions

India was the first country to send a congratulatory message to the newly elected President. The MEA statement said, "This election marks not only the triumph of democratic forces in the Maldives, but also reflects the firm commitment to the values of democracy and the rule of law." Along with its congratulatory message, the US State Department urged former President Yameen to "respect the will of the people". Earlier, the US had threatened to impose sanctions if the vote is not free and fair. Sri Lanka also congratulated the Maldives over its new development. Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman, Geng Shuang congratulated Maldives on September 25 by stating that "[China respects the Maldives'](#) people's choice and hoped that the country can maintain stability and development". Interestingly, *The Global Times* on September 27 indicated about Chinese proposal of



→ holding '2+1 dialogue' with India for resolving misunderstandings and tensions in the region.

### Is this change going to continue?

Most importantly, in a major relief to the new government, Maldives security forces (the police and military) made statements that they would respect the verdict and are willing to work under the new government. This statement was important because authoritarian regimes in Maldives had thrived with the support of the security forces earlier. Yameen, for instance, extensively used the security agencies to take stringent actions on the opposition leaders.

Like before, this time too Yameen took some time to concede the defeat. Constitutionally, he would continue as President till November 17. His party, Yameen's PPM, in fact, asked the election commission to delay publication of the election results. Therefore, opposition parties suspected that Yameen might use force to reject the political verdict. But Yameen might not take any extreme steps to continue in power due to fear of international sanctions.

### Challenges

First, despite declarations of the election results, Yameen and the Islamic nationalist forces could try to derail the presidential election results either by mobilizing security forces or by judicial means because he would continue in power till November 17. China and Saudi Arabia could tacitly extend support to Yameen in this move.

Second, the PPM might try to split the opposition alliance to destabilize the Solih government. After all, some of the current opposition alliance partners were with Yameen earlier. Most importantly, the alliance finalized

the common candidate only in January 2018 and it has many other tall leaders like Maumoon Abdul Gayoom, Mohamed Nasheed, Jumhoory Party (JP) leader Gasim Ibrahim and religiously conservative Adhaalath Party (AP) leader Sheikh Imran Abdulla, among others. Therefore, the alliance is prone to personality and ideological differences in the near future.

Lastly, often alliances are seen to work only till existence of a common enemy or common goals. Till date, the alliance identified Yameen as their common enemy. In absence of a common enemy, the alliance partners might not work in the same spirit. Significantly, it becomes difficult to hold these parties together if the

alliance is stitched through external powers' support.

### Conclusion

Maldivian elections once again brought victory to the Global Democratic Alliances (GDA) against non-democratic countries. Despite major success to the opposition alliance, democracy in Maldives is yet to free itself from challenges. Therefore, the GDA should continue its further course of actions by extending support to consolidating democratic institutions in Maldives. At the same time, the onus lies equally with citizens of Maldives, civil society, media and the political parties to consolidate and uphold democracy in the right spirit. □

## DIPLOMATIC POSTINGS

**Shri Vikram Misri** (IFS:1989), presently Ambassador of India to Myanmar has been appointed as the **next Ambassador of India to the People's Republic of China.**



*Shri Vikram Misri*

**PR of India to the UN Conference on Disarmament, Geneva.**

**Shri Kumar Tuhin** (IFS:1991), presently High Commissioner of India to Namibia has been appointed as the **next Ambassador of India to the Republic of Hungary.**



*Shri Kumar Tuhin*

**Shri Sanjay Verma** (IFS:1990), presently Additional Secretary in the Ministry has been appointed as the **next Ambassador of India to the Kingdom of Spain.**



*Shri Sanjay Verma*

**Shri Arindam Bagchi** (IFS:1995), formerly Deputy High Commissioner, High Commission of India, Colombo has been appointed as the **next Ambassador of India to the Republic of Croatia.**



*Shri Arindam Bagchi*

**Dr. Pankaj Sharma** (IFS:1991), presently Joint Secretary in Ministry has been appointed as the **next Ambassador/**



*Shri Sanjay Verma*

□

## PM Modi RECEIVES UN's 'Champions of the Earth Award'

Prime Minister Narendra Modi received the United Nation's highest environmental honour, the 'Champions of the Earth Award' from United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres, at a ceremony in Delhi. He is among the six winners who got the award today. "It is an honour for Indians. Indians are committed to saving the environment. Climate and calamity are directly related to culture; if climate is not



*Prime Minister Narendra Modi conferred upon 'Champion of Earth' award by UN Secretary General António Guterres*

the focus of culture, calamity cannot be prevented. When I say 'Sabka Saath,' I also include nature in it," Modi said.

After conferring the award on PM Modi, UN Secretary General Guterres in a tweet said: "The world needs bold leadership on climate action. I thank India for setting an example and was pleased to present Prime Minister Narendra Modi with the Champions of the Earth Award."

The award was announced for his "unprecedented pledge to eliminate all single-use plastic in India by 2022." Modi and French President Emmanuel Macron were recognised

in the 'Policy Leadership Category' for their "pioneering work in championing the International Solar Alliance and "new areas of levels of cooperation on environmental action", the UN Environment Programme said.

The Cochin International Airport took home the 'Entrepreneurial Vision' Award for its leadership in the use of sustainable energy. "Cochin is showing the world that our ever-expanding network of global movement doesn't have to harm the environment. As the pace of society continues to increase, the world's first fully solar-powered airport is proof positive that green business is good business," the UNEP statement said.

The other winners include environmental and indigenous rights defender Joan Carling and the 'Beyond Meat and Impossible Food' in the Science and Innovation category for their popular, plant-based alternative to beef and "their efforts to educate consumers about environmentally conscious alternatives."

China's Zhejiang's Green Rural Revival Programme was

awarded for the Inspiration and Action for the "transformation of a once heavily polluted area of rivers and streams in East China's Zhejiang province."

Past winners have included Afroz Shah, who led the world's largest beach cleanup and won the award in 2016, Rwandan President Paul Kagame also won the same year, while former US Vice-President Al Gore won the award in 2007. Ocean Cleanup CEO Boyan Slat won in 2014, while scientist-explorer Bertrand Piccard, and developer of Google Earth Brian McClendon won the award in 2013. □

## INDIA AND NEPAL SHOULD MOVE FORWARD

Launching a book "Bharat-Nepal Relations: Defense and Security Issues" in Kathmandu Former Prime Minister of Nepal Khil Raj Regmi said understanding and trust is very necessary for any relationship. He said keeping in view the security concern due to long open border mutual trust between India and Nepal will further increase.



Charge'd'affairs of Indian Embassy Ajay Kumar stressed upon the need of increasing expert level dialogue between the two countries. A number of security and defense experts, former diplomats and senior officials attended the function. The book is based on proceeding of a seminar on India-Nepal relations and security issues held in Dehradun last year. □

## Diwali AT NIAGARA FALLS IN CANADA

The first-ever Diwali celebration at this global tourist attraction is being organised by the non-profit Indo-Canadian Arts Council (ICAC), with the support from the Niagara Parks Commission.



ICAC's founder director Ajay Modi said, "We wanted to have a landmark destination for Diwali to be observed in Canada and we wanted an iconic location."

ICAC has been working with local authorities over the past couple of years to make the objective a reality. While Diwali falls on November 7 this year, the celebration will be held on October 14. The reason is that the later it gets, the weather for an outdoor event of this nature is less welcoming.

The celebration will immediately follow the signature Diwali Razzmatazz programme from October 12 to 13 in Mississauga. The event has been drawing nearly 50,000 people in the five years since its launch. Among the highlights of the event, will be differently-abled performers enacting the Ramlila.

Modi's organisation was responsible for the iconic falls being lit in the colours of the Indian tricolour on Independence Day this year. He expects the Diwali celebration to be viewed by a large number of people, not just visitors to the Canadian side, but those across the border in the US, as the waterfall lies between the Canadian province of Ontario and the American state of New York.

The event will commence with a cultural programme in the afternoon before the fireworks display in the evening. This venue plays host to other celebrations with fireworks displays, such as Canada Day and Thanksgiving. □

## Global Voice TO GANDHI'S FAVOURITE BHAJAN

On his 150th birth anniversary, Mahatma Gandhi's favourite bhajan "Vaishnava Jana To..." has been unveiled as a global fusion medley and in the process become a powerful statement of India's soft power. The medley was inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi during the closing ceremony of the Mahatma Gandhi International Sanitation Conference said.

In an unique initiative from the ministry of external affairs, Indian missions in 124 countries sought out musicians and local groups to render the bhajan adding their own flavour. The result is a blend of voices from over 40 countries all singing the 15th century Gujarati Bhajan of Narasi Mehta.

Serving as a reminder of the apostle of peace, around the world, videos of

moments from Gandhi's life and teachings were also set to be projected on iconic buildings. "More than 120 locations have been identified in as many countries - like Piccadilly Circus in London, Burj Khalifa in Dubai, Welt Museum in Vienna, Buda Castle in Budapest, Palazzo Senatorio in Rome, Prambanan Temple in Indonesia, Museo de Arte in Peru among others."

MEA asked its ambassadors to bring these global voices together. "The result is an eclectic, colourful and rich rendition of the hymn infused with the local flavor of the region. From Armenia to Angola, Sri Lanka to Serbia, Iraq to Iceland, prominent local singers/groups have showcased their talent to this favourite hymn of the Mahatma." □

## RITA BARANWAL TO HEAD US N-ENERGY DIVISION

US President Donald Trump has nominated prominent Indian-American nuclear expert Rita Baranwal to head the nuclear energy *Rita Baranwal* division at the Department of Energy.



Baranwal currently serves as the Director of the Gateway for Accelerated Innovation in Nuclear (GAIN) initiative. Previously, she served as Director of Technology Development & Application at Westinghouse and was a manager in Materials Technology at Bechtel Bettis, where she led research and development in nuclear fuel materials for US naval reactors. □

## GITA GOPINATH APPOINTED IMF CHIEF ECONOMIST

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) appointed Delhi School of Economics and Lady Shri Ram College alumna Gita Gopinath as



*Gita Gopinath*

its chief economist, a post once held by former Reserve Bank of India governor Raghuram Rajan. Gopinath will succeed Maurice Obstfeld as economic counsellor and director of the IMF's research department. A top-notch economist, she currently serves as the John Zwaanstra professor of international studies and economics at Harvard University. The 46-year-old India-born economist joins the illustrious list of Rajan and Kaushik Basu who have served as chief economists of the IMF and the World Bank, respectively. Basu also taught at D-School.

Gopinath has also served as a member of the eminent persons' advisory group on G-20 matters for the finance ministry and was appointed as economic adviser to the Kerala CM in 2016.

Gopinath, a US citizen, got her PhD in economics from Princeton University in 2001. Recommended By Colombia. □

## BHUTAN WEEK IN INDIA HELD FROM 23 TO 30 SEPTEMBER 2018

To commemorate the Golden Jubilee of diplomatic relations between Bhutan and India, the Royal Bhutanese Embassy in New Delhi in partnership with the Ministry of External Affairs of India, the Indian Council of Cultural Relations and the Indra Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA) organized a Bhutan Week at the IGNCA Complex, 1, Janpath, New Delhi from 23 to 30 September 2018. Her Majesty the Queen Mother Dorji Wangmo Wangchuck of Bhutan and H.E. Shri Venkaiah Naidu, Vice-President of India, graced the opening ceremony of the Bhutan Week on 23 September 2018 as the Chief Guests.

The Bhutan Week was the largest and most comprehensive event on Bhutan ever held in India. The event had a cross-section of 350 participants from Bhutan who showcased Bhutan's rich culture and the Bhutanese way of life.



*Her Majesty the Queen Mother Dorji Wangmo Wangchuck of Bhutan and H.E. Shri Venkaiah Naidu, Vice-President of India, graced the opening ceremony of the Bhutan Week*

The Bhutan Week depicted 15 themes including Bhutan's 13 forms of arts and crafts, mask and folk dances, living spiritual heritage, Bhutanese films, cuisine, trade (organic and home-grown agricultural produce), contemporary art, tourism, Bhutanese textile and emerging fashion, Bhutanese highland culture, traditional medicine, photo exhibition illustrating more than 50 years of friendship between Bhutan and

India and several other interesting activities.

During the Bhutan Week, thousands of visitors had an opportunity to participate in the events to learn, wear Bhutanese national dress, taste Bhutanese food, and participate in contemporary art competition. It also gave youth and the friendly people of India insights into Bhutan's tangible as well as intangible cultural heritage, creating a platform for exchange of ideas and promotion of friendship.

The Bhutan Week in India was not only befitting for the Golden Jubilee celebrations, but also contributed significantly to further strengthening the special relations between the peoples and governments of Bhutan and India. □

## THE DRUK NYAMRUP TSHOGPA (DNT) AND THE DRUK PHUENSUM TSHOGPA (DPT) TO CONTEST FOR THE THIRD PARLIAMENTARY NATIONAL ASSEMBLY ELECTION SCHEDULED ON 18 OCTOBER 2018

The Druk Nyamrup Tshogpa (DNT) and the Druk Phuensum Tshogpa (DPT) are through to the general round of the Third Parliamentary National Assembly election scheduled on 18 October 2018, after securing highest votes in the Primary round of elections held on 15 September 2018.

Of the four parties who contested the Primary round of elections, DNT gained 92,722 votes and emerged first and DPT came second with 90,020 votes. The People's Democratic Party (PDP) secured



79,883 votes followed by Bhutan Kuen-Nyam Party (BKP) with 28,473 votes.

The DNT also received the highest postal ballots at 37556, while 55166 were Electronic Voting Machine (EVM) votes. The DPT had received 36912 postal and 53108 EVM votes. The PDP secured the highest EVM votes at 56180. As for postal votes, the party received 23703. The BKP secured 10409 postal and EVM 18064 votes.

During the Primary round of elections, the voter turnout was recorded at 66.27 percent with 290,744 voters voting out of the total 438,663 registered voters. □

## Nikki Haley Quits UNITED NATION

Nikki Haley, nee Nimrata Randhawa, the first-ever American cabinet member of Indian-origin, resigned abruptly on Tuesday from the Trump administration in which she served as the United States' Ambassador to the United Nations.

In a joint appearance with President Trump at the White House, Haley said she was leaving simply because it was time to go and it was important for government officials to know when to step aside. President Trump praised her warmly both on personal and



professional fronts, their remarks belying raging speculation in the Washington commentariat that there was something untoward in the development.

Haley also quashed speculation that she would be running for the White House in 2020 and said she would be campaigning for Trump. The President said she could come back any time in a different capacity and have the pick of jobs, so happy was he with her performance at the United Nations.

Both said she would serve at her UN post till the end of the year, by which time the President would pick a replacement in two or three weeks. □

### DAYS TO REMEMBER

IN NOVEMBER, 2018

**November 07 :** Amavasya & Deepawali ●

**November 09 :** Bhaidooj

**November 09 :** Cambodia - Independence Day

**November 10 :** World Science Day

(Science has changed our lives in extraordinary ways. But there are uses and abuses of science. It is necessary to convey to the people that science should be used for peace and development. The first Science Day was celebrated worldwide on 10th November, 2002. Since then this day is used as an occasion to encourage nations to share the benefits of science.)

**November 11 :** Poland - Independence Day

**November 14 :** Children's Day

(It is an acknowledged fact that the children of today are the leaders of tomorrow. So the well-being and proper bringing up of children should be the primary concern of a nation. To highlight these points and focus on the increasing facilities we celebrate this day which is the birthday of India's first Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru.)

**November 15 :** Belgium - Kings Day

**November 15 :** Brazil - Republic Day

**November 16 :** National Press Day

(This day is significant because it was on this day that the Press Council of India started functioning as a moral watchdog to ensure high standards expected from this powerful medium which is known as the "Fourth Pillar of Democracy.")

**November 18 :** Oman - National Day

**November 20 :** Universal Children's Day

(In the world, November 20 each year is celebrated to promote international togetherness and awareness among children worldwide.)

**November 21 :** World Television Day

(Television, a miraculous invention has changed our lives in so many ways. It entertains, educates, broadens our minds and has broken geographical, linguistic and cultural barriers. It brings us news, focuses attention on social, political and military matters with speed and efficiency. It is a great medium for communication. The United Nations General Assembly has declared November 21 to be World Television Day.)

**November 23 :** Kartik Purnima ●

**November 25 :** Suriname - National Day

## 73वीं संयुक्त राष्ट्र महासभा में सितम्बर 29, 2018 विदेश मंत्री के भाषण का सार

**अध्यक्ष जी,** संयुक्त राष्ट्र, विश्व का सबसे बड़ा बहुपक्षीय मंच है :-

जहां दुनिया के सुख: दुःख सांझे किए जाते हैं, जहां अविकसित तथा कम विकसित देशों की सहायता के लिए योजनाएं बनाई जाती हैं। जहां विश्व को बेहतर बनाने के लिए लक्ष्य निर्धारित किए जाते हैं।

वर्ष 2015 में हमने वर्ष 2030 का एजेन्डा निर्धारित करते हुए टिकाऊ विकास के लक्ष्यों 'नेजंपदंड्सम कमअमसवचउमदज ळर्वसेद्ध की रचना की थी। उसी समय से यह कहा जा रहा है यदि भारत इन लक्ष्यों को प्राप्त करेगा, तभी हम सफल हो पायेंगे वरना हम फेल हो जायेंगे।

आज इस मंच से मैं आपको विश्वास दिलाना चाहती हूँ कि भारत आपको कभी फेल नहीं होने देगा। वर्ष 2030 के एजेन्डा तथा टिकाऊ विकास के 17 लक्ष्यों को हासिल करने के लिए भारत पूरी तरह प्रतिबद्ध है। प्रधानमंत्री श्री नरेन्द्र मोदी जी ने जिस गति और जिस पैमाने पर इन लक्ष्यों को प्राप्त करने का कार्य शुरू किया है, हम समयावधि से पहले ही इन लक्ष्यों को प्राप्त कर लेंगे। इस संबंध में भारत में किए जा रहे कार्यों की एक झलक के रूप में मैं आपको बताना चाहूंगी हूँ कि भारत में विश्व की सबसे बड़ी आर्थिक समावेश की योजना चलाई गई है—जन-धन-योजना, जिसके अन्तर्गत 32 करोड़ 61 लाख ऐसे लोगों के बैंक खाते खोले गए हैं, जिन्होंने पहले कभी बैंक का दरवाजा नहीं देखा था। कपतमबज ठमदमपिज ज्तंदेमिात ःवठज्द्ध योजना के माध्यम से सरकार द्वारा उन्हें दी जाने वाली राशि, सीधे उन खातों में डाली जा रही है। जिसके कारण गरीब को पूरा पैसा मिलने लगा है तथा बीच का भ्रष्टाचार समाप्त हो गया है। इसी तरह भारत में विश्व की सबसे बड़ी स्वास्थ्य बीमा योजना चलाई गई है—आयुष्मान भारत योजना। पिछले सप्ताह ही स्वास्थ्य सुविधाएं प्रदान करने के क्षेत्र में यह योजना क्रांतिकारी साबित होगी। अध्यक्ष जी, जब हमारे यहां प्रार्थना की जाती है—'सर्वे सन्तु निरामयाः' यानि सब निरोगी हों। यह योजना उस कामना की पूर्ति करेगी।

इसी तरह बेघरों को घर देने के लिए विश्व की सबसे बड़ी आवास योजना चलाई गई है—प्रधानमंत्री आवास योजना। इस योजना के अन्तर्गत वर्ष 2022 तक 2 करोड़ 95 लाख आवास शहरी तथा ग्रामीण इलाकों में बनाये जायेंगे ताकि 2022 तक हर गरीब के पास अपना घर हों, कोई भी बेघर ना रहे। अभी तक 53 लाख 50 हजार मकान बनाये जा चुके हैं। इसी तरह बेरोजगार लोगों को स्वरोजगारी तथा उद्यमी बनाने की दिशा में कौशल विकास योजना के माध्यम से उन्हें प्रशिक्षण देकर तथा मुद्रा योजना के माध्यम से काम शुरू करने के लिये ऋण देकर, दो प्रभावी योजनायें चलाई जा रही हैं। यहां मैं विशेष रूप से यह उल्लेख करना चाहूंगी कि मुद्रा योजना के अन्तर्गत 14 करोड़ 9 लाख लोगों को ऋण दिया गया है।



जिसका 76 प्रतिशत केवल महिलाओं को दिया गया है। प्रधानमंत्री मोदी जी की सोच है कि यदि गरीबी का उन्मूलन करना है तो सबसे पहले महिलाओं का संशक्तिकरण करना होगा। मैंने जितनी योजनाओं का उल्लेख किया है उसमें महिलाओं को प्राथमिकता दी गई है और कुछ अन्य योजनायें केवल महिलाओं को ही लाभ देने के लिए चलाई जा रही हैं जैसे उज्ज्वला योजना, मातृत्व अवकाश योजना। पिछली बार इसी मंच से मैंने उज्ज्वला योजना के विषय में उल्लेख किया था, मुझे बताते हुए प्रसन्नता है कि उज्ज्वला योजना के अन्तर्गत 5 करोड़ गरीब महिलाओं को मुफ्त गैस सिलेंडर प्रदान किया जा चुका है। मातृत्व अवकाश योजना यानि डजमतदपजल ठमदमपिज बीमउम के अन्तर्गत भारत के कामकाजी महिलाओं को अपने नवजात शिशु को देखभाल के लिए 26 हफ्तों की छुट्टी वेतन सहित दी जाती है। अध्यक्ष जी, एक महिला होने के नाते आप इस योजना से महिलाओं को मिलने वाले लाभ को आसानी से समझ सकती हैं।

इन सबको जानकारी है कि कुछ विकसित देशों में वेतन सहित 6 हफ्तों की छुट्टी प्राप्त करने के लिए महिलाएं संघर्ष कर रही हैं लेकिन भारत ने वेतन सहित 26 हफ्तों का मातृत्व अवकाश देने का निर्णय लागू कर दिया है। अध्यक्ष महोदया, सन् 2022 में आजाद भारत 75 वर्ष का हो जाएगा। आजादी की 75वीं वर्षगांठ मनाने के लिये प्रधानमंत्री मोदी जी ने नए भारत के निर्माण का संकल्प लिया है। वो भारत होगा—स्वच्छ भारत—स्वस्थ भारत, समर्थ भारत—समृद्ध भारत, सुरक्षित भारत—विकसित भारत और ऊर्जावान भारत—शक्तिमान भारत। हम बहुत तेज गति से इस लक्ष्य की ओर आगे बढ़ रहे हैं और वर्ष 2022 तक यह संकल्प, सिर्फ़ में बदल जाये, इसका पुरजोर प्रयास कर रहे हैं।

विश्व आज जिन चुनौतियों से जूझ रहा है, उसमें जलवायु परिवर्तन और आतंकवाद सबसे बड़ी चुनौतियां हैं। जलवायु परिवर्तन की चुनौती के सबसे बुरे परिणाम अविकसित और कम विकसित देश भोग रहे हैं और उनमें अपने बचाव की ना सामर्थ्य है, ना क्षमता। इसलिए जिन विकसित देशों ने प्रकृति का विनाश करके अपना विकास किया है, वो आज अपनी जिम्मेदारी से मुंह नहीं मोड़ सकते। यदि हम विश्व को जलवायु परिवर्तन के दुष्परिणामों से बचाना चाहते हैं तो बड़े देशों को, छोटे देशों की सहायता के लिए आगे आना ही होगा। पेरिस समझौते में **Common but Differentiate**

त्मेचवदेपइपसपजल पूजी त्मेचमबजपअम व्वंडपसपजपमे के सि(ति को दोहराते हुए इसी सत्य को स्वीकार किया गया है। इसीलिए विकसित देशों को छोटे देशों के लिए राशि भी देनी चाहिए और तकनीक भी। जलवायु परिवर्तन की चुनौती का मुकाबला करने के लिए पेरिस समझौते के समय प्रधानमंत्री मोदी जी ने फ्रांस के साथ मिलकर अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय सौर गठबंधन की स्थापना की थी। अब इस गठबंधन में 68 देशों ने सदस्य बनने के लिए हस्ताक्षर कर दिए हैं।

इसी वर्ष 11 मार्च को हमने फ्रांस के राष्ट्रपति मैक्रों की सह-अध्यक्षता में इस गठबंधन की स्थापना सम्मेलन आयोजित किया था, जिसमें 120 देशों के प्रतिनिधियों ने भाग लिया था। मुझे आपको बताते हुए प्रसन्नता है कि संयुक्त राष्ट्र ने प्रधानमंत्री नरेन्द्र मोदी जी को पर्यावरण के क्षेत्र में उत्कृष्ट कार्य करने के लिये बैचपवदे वी जीम म्जी तूक से सम्मानित किया है। प्रधानमंत्री मोदी जी तो श्रद्धमै नद.व्दम ळतपकश की संकल्पना भी कर रहे हैं। उनका मानना है कि यदि हम सबका सूर्य एक है, तो ळतपक भी एक ही क्यों ना हो जाए, यदि यह संकल्पना पूरी हो गई, तो सौर ऊर्जा के क्षेत्र में क्रांति आ जायेगी, जो जलवायु परिवर्तन की चुनौतियों से निपटने का एक प्रभावी माध्यम बनेगी।

मैंने दूसरी प्रमुख चुनौती कही थी—आतंकवाद। बीसवीं शताब्दी की समाप्ति के बाद यह उम्मीद की जा रही थी कि 21वीं सदी में शांति और समृद्धि का युग प्रारम्भ होगा। किन्तु 9/11 की न्यूयार्क की घटना और 26/11 की मुम्बई की घटना ने इन उम्मीदों पर पानी फेर दिया। आज आतंकवाद का राक्षस कहीं धीमी गति से तो कहीं तेज गति से विश्व के हर देश तक पहुंचा है। भारत तो कई दशकों से इसका दंश भोग रहा है और हमारा दुर्भाग्य है कि हमारे यहां आतंकवाद की चुनौती कहीं दूर देश से नहीं बल्कि सीमा पार अपने पड़ोसी देश से ही आई है और वो देश केवल आतंकवाद फैलाने में ही माहिर नहीं है बल्कि अपने किए हुए को नकारने में भी उसने महारत हासिल कर ली है। इसका सबसे बड़ा उदाहरण है ओसामा बिन लादेन का पाकिस्तान में पाया जाना। अमेरिका के इतिहास में 11 सितम्बर, 2001 की घटना सबसे बड़ी आतंकवादी घटना के रूप में देखी जाती है। इसीलिए उस घटना के मास्टरमाइंड ओसामा बिन लादेन को अमेरिका अपना सबसे बड़ा दुश्मन मानता था और पूरी दुनिया में उसे खोजा जा रहा था लेकिन उसे नहीं मालूम था कि खुद को अमेरिका का बहुत बड़ा दोस्त बताने वाले देश पाकिस्तान ने ही अपने यहां पनाह देकर उसे छिपा रखा था। यह तो अमेरिका के खुफिया तंत्र की सफलता है कि उन्होंने ओसामा को वहां खोज निकाला और यह अमेरिका की सैन्य शक्ति की उपलब्धि है कि उन्होंने उसे वहीं मार गिराया। लेकिन पाकिस्तान की हिमाकत देखिये, सारा सच



सामने आ जाने के बाद भी ना चेहरे पर झोंप ना माथे पर शिकन। ऐसे बर्ताव किया जैसे कोई गुनाह किया ही ना हो और यह सिलसिला अभी भी थमा नहीं है, लगातार जारी है। 9/11 वाला मास्टर माइंड तो मारा गया किन्तु 26/11 का मास्टर माइंड हाफिज सईद आज भी खुला घूम रहा है। रैलियां करता है, चुनाव लड़वाता है, सरेआम भारत को धमकियां देता है। लेकिन यह संतोष की बात है कि दुनिया के देशों ने अब पाकिस्तान का सही चेहरा पहचान लिया है और इसीलिए आज ने आतंकवादियों की आर्थिक सहायता करने के लिए ज्ततवत थनदकपदहद्ध उसे निगरानी सूची में रख दिया है।

हम पर यह भी आरोप लगाया जाता है कि हम पाकिस्तान के साथ बातचीत के लिए तैयार नहीं होते। यह पूरी तरह असत्य है। हमारा तो मानना है कि दुनिया के जटिल से जटिल मुद्दे केवल बातचीत से ही सुलझाए जा सकते हैं और सुलझाये जाने चाहिये। इसीलिए पाकिस्तान के साथ अनेक बार वार्ता शुरू की गई है। वार्ताओं के अनेक दौर चले हैं, लेकिन हर बार उनके ही कारण वार्ता रोकनी पड़ी है। भारत में अनेक राजनैतिक दलों की सरकार केन्द्र में बनी है, हर सरकार ने यह कोशिश की, कि बातचीत के द्वारा हमारे विवाद सुलझ जायें। प्रधानमंत्री नरेन्द्र मोदी जी ने तो अपने शपथ ग्रहण समारोह में सार्क के सभी नेताओं को आमंत्रित करके सरकार बनने से पहले ही यह शुरुआत कर दी थी। 9 दिसम्बर, 2016 को स्वयं मैंने इस्लामाबाद जाकर बउचतमीमदेपअम टपसंजमतंस कंसवहनम की शुरुआत की थी किंतु मात्र तीन हफ्ते के बाद 2 जनवरी की रात को पठानकोट एयरबेस पर हमला कर दिया गया। अध्यक्ष जी, आप ही बतायें, उस माहौल में बातचीत आगे कैसे बढ़ सकती थी। अभी भी पाकिस्तान में नई सरकार आने के बाद वहां के प्रधानमंत्री इमरान खान ने प्रधानमंत्री मोदी को पत्र लिखकर यह इच्छा जताई कि न्यूयॉर्क में दोनों देशों के विदेश मंत्रियों की मुलाकात हो जाए तो अच्छा है।

हमने उनका प्रस्ताव मंजूर किया लेकिन चन्द घंटों बाद ही यह खबर आई कि जम्मू और कश्मीर पुलिस के 3 जवानों का अपहरण करके उन्हें मारकर फेंक दिया। क्या यह हरकतें बातचीत की नीयत को दर्शाती हैं, और क्या ऐसे वातावरण में मुलाकात हो सकती है, या होनी चाहिए? आए दिन पाकिस्तान हम पर मानवाधिकार के उल्लंघन का आरोप लगाता है। मानवाधिकारों का सबसे बड़ा उल्लंघन तो आतंकवादी करते हैं, जो निर्दोष लोगों को मारते हैं, बेगुनाह लोगों को मौत के घाट उतारते हैं, लेकिन पाकिस्तान पैरवी करता है मारने वालों की और जो मारे जाते हैं, उन पर चुप्पी साध लेता है। भारत के खिलाफ दुष्प्रचार करना, गलत तस्वीरें दिखाकर मानवाधिकार के उल्लंघन का निराधार आरोप लगाना, पाकिस्तान की आदत बन गई है। यह घटना इसी सभागार में घटी थी, पिछले वर्ष ही घटी थी, जब पाकिस्तान की प्रतिनिधि ने Right to reply का उपयोग करते हुए अपने उत्तर में

एक दूसरे देश की तस्वीर दिखाकर भारत पर मानवाधिकार उल्लंघन का आरोप लगाया था।

पिछले पांच वर्षों से लगातार इस मंच से भारत कहता आ रहा है कि केवल एक सूची या दूसरी सूची में आतंकवादियों या उन्हें शह देने वालों का नाम रख देने से हम आतंकवाद का मुकाबला नहीं कर सकेंगे। जब तक हम उन्हें किसी अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय कानून की गिरफ्त में नहीं लायेंगे, तब तक यह सिलसिला चलता रहेगा। भारत ने 1996 में बज का प्रस्ताव संयुक्त राष्ट्र में पेश किया था। आज तक वह प्रस्ताव अटका हुआ है और अटकने का केवल एक कारण है कि आतंकवादी की परिभाषा पर सर्वसम्मति नहीं बना पा रहे। यह विडंबना है कि हम आतंकवाद से लड़ना भी चाहते हैं लेकिन आतंकवादी कौन है, इसे परिभाषित भी नहीं कर पा रहे। उस बुराई से हम कैसे लड़ेंगे, जिसकी परिभाषा हम तय नहीं कर सकते। इसीलिए विश्व के इनामी आतंकवादी पाकिस्तान में स्वतंत्रता सेनानी कहे जाते हैं और उन आतंकवादियों की क्रूरता, वीरता कहीं जाती है। पाकिस्तान की सरकार उनके सम्मान में डाक टिकटें निकालकर उन्हें महिमा मंडित करती है।

ऐसे कृत्यों को संयुक्त राष्ट्र के सदस्य देश कब तक चुप बैठकर देखते रहेंगे। ऐसी करतूतों की कब तक अनदेखी करते रहेंगे। यदि इन हरकतों को कानून बनाकर अभी नहीं रोका गया तो वो दिन दूर नहीं जिस दिन आतंकवाद का यह दानवपूरी दुनिया को निगल जाएगा और इस दावानल में पूरा विश्व जल जाएगा। इसलिए आज मैं पुनः आपसे अपील करती हूँ कि आतंकवाद की परिभाषा पर सर्वसम्मति बनाकर जल्दी से जल्दी बज को हम पारित करें।

अब मैं संयुक्त राष्ट्र की उपयोगिता के विषय में कुछ कहना चाहूंगी। मैंने प्रारम्भ में कहा था कि संयुक्त राष्ट्र, दुनिया के देशों का सबसे बड़ा मंच है लेकिन अब मैं एक वाक्य इसके आगे और जोड़ना चाहती हूँ कि धीरे-धीरे इस मंच का महत्व, इसका प्रभाव, इसकी गरिमा और इसकी उपयोगिता कम होती जा रही है। हमें इस बात की चिन्ता करनी चाहिए कि इस क्षण के चलते कहीं हमारा हथ्र भी स्मंहनम वछजपवदे जैसा ना हो जाये। लीग का पतन इसलिए हुआ क्योंकि वह सुधार के लिए तैयार नहीं हुआ। हम वो गलती ना करें। संयुक्त राष्ट्र में सुधारों की आवश्यकता है और उसमें भी सबसे पहले सुरक्षा परिषद के सुधार जरूरी हैं और सुधार केवल दिखावे के लिए नहीं बल्कि ऐसे सुधार जो दिल और दिमाग में बदलाव लायें। आज सुरक्षा परिषद दूसरे विश्व यु के पांच विजेताओं तक ही सीमित है क्या इसे आज के युग के अनुकूल माना जा सकता है? जब भारत समेत विश्व का अधिकांश हिस्सा उपनिवेशवाद की गिरफ्त में था, उस समय की बनाई हुई सुरक्षा परिषद क्या आज के विश्व की चुनौतियों को समझ पा रही है? मुकाबला करना तो दूर, वो चुनौतियां भी उसकी समझ से परे है इसलिए मेरी अपील है कि सुरक्षा परिषद में सुधार की

प्रक्रिया शीघ्र शुरू की जानी चाहिए।

इस सत्र में उनसजपसंजमतंसपेउ यानि बहु पक्षीय व्यवस्था के विषय में बहुत चर्चा हो रही है। क्योंकि इस व्यवस्था के सामने जो चुनौतियां खड़ी की जा रही हैं, उससे सभी देश चिन्तित हैं। मैं भी इस विषय में अपनी ओर से भारत का मत रखना चाहूंगी।

भारत वसुधैव कुटुंबकम् के सि(त में विश्वास रखता है, इसलिए उनसजपसंजमतंसपेउ को कमजोर करने का समर्थन कभी नहीं करेगा। वसुधैव कुटुंबकम् की बुनियाद है परिवार और परिवार प्यार से चलता है, व्यापार से नहीं परिवार मोह से चलता है, लोभ से नहीं परिवार संवेदना से चलता है, ईर्ष्या से नहीं परिवार सुलह से चलता है, कलह से नहीं इसीलिए हमें संयुक्त राष्ट्र को परिवार के सि(त पर चलाना होगा। संयुक्त राष्ट्र, मैं, मेरा और मुझको कहकर नहीं चलाया जा सकता। यह मंच, हम-हमारा और सबको के सि(त पर बनाया गया था। इसी आधार पर चलेगा तो जीवित रहेगा। भारत नहीं चाहता कि इस मंच से कुछ देशों के ही हित साधने के लिये निर्णय लिए जायें या कुछ देशों का अहित करने की दृष्टि से ही निर्णय लिए जायें। हमें सबका सहयोग लेकर सबके विकास के लिए निर्णय लेने होंगे।

इस वर्ष भारत महात्मा गांधी जी के जन्म की 150वीं वर्षगांठ मनाने की शुरुआत कर रहा है। गांधी जी का प्रिय भजन था-वैष्णव जन तो तेने कहिए जो पीड़ पराई जाने रे पर दुःखे उपकार करे तो ये मन अभिमान ना आणे रे। इसका अर्थ है कि जो व्यक्ति दूसरों की पीड़ा को अपनी पीड़ा समझकर महसूस करता है, वहीं अच्छा इन्सान है और जो दूसरे के दुःख का निवारण करता है लेकिन नमन में अभिमान की भावना नहीं लाता, वहीं अच्छा इन्सान है।

इस मंच को हमें वैष्णव-जन का मंच बनाना है, जो मंच अविकसित देशों की पीड़ा को समझे और विकसित देशों के माध्यम से उनकी पीड़ा को कम करने का कार्य करे। अभिमान की भावना से नहीं, पीड़ितों के कल्याण की भावना से काम करे। अहंकार की भावना से नहीं उपकार की भावना से काम करे। तभी हम ऐसे विश्व की रचना कर पायेंगे जिसमें सद्भाव हो, सौहार्द हो, शान्ति हो, प्यार हो और जो विश्व हिंसा से मुक्त हो, आतंकवाद से मुक्त हो और तनाव से भी मुक्त हो। ऐसे विश्व की कामना करते हुए संस्कृत के एक श्लोक के साथ मैं अपनी बात समाप्त करूंगी।

**सर्वेशां स्वस्तिर भवतु, सर्वेशां शांति भवतु, सर्वेशां पूर्णम भवतु, सर्वेशा मंगलं भवतु।**

इसका अर्थ है-  
सबका शुभ हो, सबको शांति मिले, सबको पूर्णता प्राप्त हो, सबका मंगल हो, सबका कल्याण हो।  
धन्यवाद, अध्यक्ष महोदया,  
न्यूयॉर्क 29 सितम्बर, 2018

## भारत ने मानवाधिकार परिषद का चुनाव जीता

भारत ने संयुक्त राष्ट्र की सर्वोच्च मानवाधिकार इकाई संयुक्त राष्ट्र मानवाधिकार परिषद ;यूएनएचआरसीडी का चुनाव बहुमत के साथ जीत लिया है जिसका कार्यकाल तीन साल के लिए होगा जो 1 जनवरी 2019 से शुरू होगा। इस चुनाव में एशिया पैसिफिक क्षेत्र कैटिगरी में भारत को 188 वोट मिले।

193 सदस्यों की यूएन जनरल असेंबली ने नए सदस्यों के लिए चुनाव किया था। गुप्त चुनाव के जरिए 18 नए सदस्य पूर्ण बहुमत से चुने गये हैं। किसी भी देश को यूएनएचआरसी का सदस्य बनने के लिए न्यूनतम 97 वोट की जरूरत होती है।

वहीं इस कैटिगरी में भारत के अलावा बहरीन, बांग्लादेश, फिजी और फिलिपींस भी चुनाव में अपना भविष्य आजमा रहे थे। वोटिंग में इन पांच देशों में भारत को सबसे ज्यादा 188 वोट मिले। चूंकि पांच सीटों के लिए पांच देश चुनाव लड़ रहे थे, ऐसे में भारत का चुनाव जीतना तय माना जा रहा था।

यूएन में भारत के राजदूत और स्थाई प्रतिनिधि सैयद अकबरुद्दीन ने बताया कि भारत की जीत अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय समुदाय में उसकी स्वीकार्यता को

प्रदर्शित करता है। चुनाव में भारत की जीत के बाद उन्होंने ट्वीट किया, 'एक अच्छे उद्देश्य के लिए वोटिंग। यूएन में हमारे सभी साथियों का समर्थन के लिए धन्यवाद। भारत ने मानवाधिकार परिषद की सीट सभी कैंडिडेट्स के बीच सबसे ज्यादा वोट हासिल करते हुए जीती है।' □

## महात्मा गांधी का पत्र 4 लाख 60 हजार रुपये में नीलाम

महात्मा गांधी का लिखा गया बिना तारीख वाला एक पत्र 6,358 डॉलर ;4 लाख 60 हजार रुपये में नीलाम हुआ है। गांधी जी ने इस पत्र में चरखे के महत्व पर जोर दिया है। ऑक्शन हाउस ने एक बयान में कहा कि गुजराती भाषा में लिखा यह पत्र यशवंत प्रसाद के नाम के व्यक्ति को संबोधित है। गांधी जी ने पत्र में लिखा है : हमें मिलों से जो उम्मीद थी, वहीं हुआ है। ' उन्होंने लिखा है, 'आप जो कहते हैं वह सही है, सबकुछ करघे पर निर्भर करता है।' उल्लेखनीय है कि महात्मा गांधी आजीवन चरखे से सूत कातते रहे और दूसरों को भी चरखा चलाने की प्रेरणा देते रहे। वे चरखा को स्वावलम्बन और स्वराज को महत्वपूर्ण सूत्र मानते थे। □

## सरकारी फायदे लेने पर अमरिकी नागरिकता नहीं

ट्रंप प्रशासन ने ऐसे नियम सुझाए हैं जिसके तहत अगर प्रवासी नागरिक चिकित्सा सहायता, फूड स्टाम्प, आवास वाउचर्स और अन्य तरह की सरकारी सहायता का फायदा उठाते हैं तो उन्हें ग्रीन कार्ड देने से इनकार किया जा सकता है। इस नए नियम से अमेरिका में रह रहे हजारों भारतीय बुरी तरह प्रभावित हो सकते हैं। गृह सुरक्षा मंत्री ने इन प्रस्तावित नियमों पर 21 सितम्बर को हस्ताक्षर किए हैं और इसे मंत्रालय की वेबसाइट पर डाला गया है। वहीं सिलिकॉन वैली स्थित टेक-इंडस्ट्री और नेताओं ने इसकी आलोचना की है।

नियम के मुताबिक ऐसे प्रवासी जो अपनी स्थिति या वीजा में बदलाव कराना चाहते हैं और जिन्होंने आने के लिए आवेदन दिया है, उन्हें यह सुनिश्चित करना चाहिए कि वे किसी भी वक्त सरकारी सहायता नहीं लेंगे। वहीं फेसबुक, माइक्रोसॉफ्ट, ड्रॉपबॉक्स, याहू और गूगल जैसी कंपनियों का प्रतिनिधित्व करने वाली 'एफडब्ल्यूडीडॉटयूएस' ने इसका विरोध किया है। प्रवासियों पर ऐसा निर्णय उस वक्त आया है जब ट्रंप प्रशासन ने कुछ दिन पहले एक संघीय अदालत को बताया है कि वह एच - 4 वीजा धारकों के वर्क परमिट को रद्द करने पर अगले तीन माह के अंदर कोई निर्णय ले लेगा। इस नीति का सर्वाधिक लाभ भारतीय अमेरिकी समुदाय के लोगों को मिला है। □

## मालदीव में महाराजा अग्रसेन पर डाक टिकट

मालदीव ने ऐतिहासिक अग्रोहा के राजा महाराजा अग्रसेन के सम्मान में एक विशेष डाक टिकट जारी किया है। यह डाक टिकट उनकी जयंती एक अक्टूबर को जारी किया गया। मालदीव और भारत के बीच बढ़ते कारोबारी रिश्ते और देश के मुख्य कारोबारी समुदाय मारवाड़ी समुदाय की अहमियत दर्शाने के लिए डाक टिकट जारी किया गया है।

भारत सरकार ने 1976 में महाराजा अग्रसेन पर डाक टिकट जारी किया था, लेकिन यह संभवतः अकेला ऐसे मामला है जिसमें किसी विदेशी सरकार ने समुदाय के सम्मान में डाक टिकट जारी किया है। महाराजा अग्रसेन को पूरे देश में मारवाड़ी समुदाय का संस्थापक माना जाता है। □

## ऑक्सफोर्ड शब्दकोश में 1400 नए शब्द शामिल

ऑक्सफोर्ड के अंग्रेजी शब्दकोश 1400 नए शब्द, भाव एवं मुहावरे शामिल किए गए हैं। इनमें 'इडियोक्रेसी' शब्द भी शामिल किए गए हैं। इस शब्द का उपयोग अज्ञानी या जड़बुर्ण माने जाने वाले लोगों से बनी सरकार के लिए होता है।

शब्दकोश में यूनानी भाषा के प्रत्यय 'क्रेसी' से बने करीब 100 शब्द हैं जिसका अर्थ शक्ति या शासन होता है। नए शब्द इडियोक्रेसी का मतलब ऐसे समाज या ऐसे शासन से है, जिन पर अज्ञान या जड़बुर्ण माने जाने वाले व्यक्ति शासन करते हैं। उमोक्रेसी एवं अरिस्टोक्रेसी जैसे शब्द प्राचीन यूनानी भाषा से आए, लेकिन 18वीं सदी तक 'ओक्रेसी' को अंग्रेजी शब्दों में शामिल किया जाने लगा मसलन 'स्टेटोक्रेसी' और 'मोबोक्रेसी' जैसे शब्द। ऑक्सफोर्ड के शब्दकोश को समय-समय पर अपडेट किया जाता है और दुनियाभर से नए शब्दों को इसमें शामिल करने की कोशिश की जाती है। इस बार शब्दकोश में 'ट्रेपो' की परिभाषा भी जोड़ी गई है। □

## श्रद्धांजलि

अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय सहयोग परिषद की संयुक्त सचिव डॉ. शशिबाला के पिताजी डॉ. कैलाश चन्द्र जी का देहावसान दिनांक 11 सितम्बर, 2018 को हो गया। डॉ. कैलाश चन्द्र जी भारतीय संस्कृति के प्रति अटूट श्रद्धा रखते थे तथा उन्होंने अपना सम्पूर्ण जीवन राष्ट्र को समर्पित कर दिया था। यद्यपि वे विराट मौन में विलीन हो गये हैं परंतु हमारी स्मृतियों में हमेशा जीवित रहेंगे। अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय सहयोग परिषद दिवंगत आत्मा के प्रति सादर श्रद्धांजलि अर्पित करती है। □

