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DEPUTATION TO ENGLAND

(Continued from the Previous issue)



In the Transvaal itself we took all necessary measures for resisting the Black Act such as approaching the Local Government with memorials, etc. The legislative Council deleted the clause affecting women but the rest of the ordinance was passed practically in the shape in which it was first drafted. The spirit of the community was then high and having closed its ranks it was unanimous in opposition to the Ordinance. No one therefore was despondent. We however still adhered to the resolution to exhaust all appropriate constitutional remedies in the first instance. The Transvaal was yet a Crown Colony, so that the Imperial Government was responsible for its legislation as well as its administration. Therefore the royal assent to measures passed by its legislature was not a mere formality, but very often it might so happen that the King, as advised by his ministers, might withhold his assent to such measures if they were found to be in conflict with the spirit of the British Constitution. On the other hand, in the case of a Colony enjoying responsible government the royal assent to measures passed by its legislature is more often than not a matter of course.

I submitted to the community that if a deputation was to go England, it was

as well that they realized their responsibility in the matter still more fully, and with this end in view I placed three suggestions before our Association. First, although we had taken pledges at the meeting in the Empire Theatre, we should once again obtain individual pledges from leading Indians, so that if they had given way to doubt our weakness, they would be found out. One of the reasons advances by me in support of this suggestion was, that if the deputation was backed up by Satyagraha, they would then have no fears and could boldly inform the Secretary of the State for the Colonies about the resolution of the community. Secondly, arrangements for meeting the expenses of the deputation must be made in advance. And thirdly, the maximum number of members should be fixed. I made this last suggestion in order to correct the current misapprehension that a large number of members would be able to put in more work, and to bring this idea into relief that the members should join the deputation not because it was an honour to them but with a single-minded devotion to the cause. The three suggestions were accepted. Signatures were taken. Many signed the pledge, but still I saw even among those who had orally pledged themselves at the meeting, there were some who hesitated to sign it. When once a man has pledged himself he need hesitate to pledge himself a hundred times. But yet it is no uncommon experience to find men weakening in regard to pledges deliberately taken and getting perplexed when asked to put down a verbal pledge in black and white. The necessary funds, too, were found. The

greatest difficulty however was encountered in selecting the personnel of the deputation. I was to go, but who would go with me? The Committee took much time in arriving at a decision. Many a night passed, and we had a full experience of the bad habits which are generally prevalent in association. Some proposed to cut the Gordian knot by asking me to go alone, but I flatly declined. There was for all practical purposes no Hindu-Muslim problem in South Africa. But it could not be claimed that there were no differences between the two sections and if these differences never assumed an acute form, that may have been to some extent due to the peculiar conditions in South Africa, but was largely and definitely due to the leaders having worked with devotion and frankness and thus given a fine lead to the community. My advice was that there must be a Musalman gentleman going with me, and that the personnel should be limited to two. But the Hindus at once said that as I represented the Indian community as a whole, there should be a representative of Hindu interests. Some even said that there should be one Konkani Musalman, one Meman, one Patidar, and one Anavala and so on. At least, all understood the real position and only two of us, Mr. H. O. Ali and myself were duly elected.



✍ M.K. Gandhi

H.O. Ali could be considered semi-



Malay. His father was an Indian Musalman and his mother Malay. His mother tongue, we might say, was Dutch. But he had been so well educated in English that he could speak Dutch and English equally well. He had also cultivated the art of writing to the newspapers. He was a member of the Transvaal British Indian Association and he had long been taking part in public affairs. He spoke Hindustani, too, freely.

We set to work as soon as we reached England. We got printed the memorial to be submitted to the Secretary of the State which we had drafted in the steamer on our way to England. Lord Elgin was Secretary of State for the Colonies and Lord (then Mr) Morley Secretary of State for India. We met Dadabhai and through him the British Committee of the Indian National Congress. We placed our case before

it and signified our intention to seek the co-operation of all the parties, as advised by Dadabhai. The Committee approved of our policy. Similarly we met Sir Muncherjee Bhowanugree, who also was of much help. He as well as Dadabhai advised us to secure the co-operation of some impartial and well known Anglo-Indian who should introduce our deputation to Lord Elgin. Sir Muncherjee suggested some names, too, one of which was that of Sir Lepel Griffin. Sir W. W. Hunter was now no longer alive; or else on account of his deep knowledge of the condition of Indians in South Africa he would have led the deputation himself or induced some influential member of the House of Lords to do so.

We met Sir Lepel Griffin. He was opposed to current political movements in India, but he was much interested in this question and agreed to lead the deputation not for the sake of courtesy but for the justice and righteousness of our cause. He read all the papers and became familiar with the problem. We likewise interviewed other Anglo-Indians, Members of Parliament, and as many others of any importance as were within our reach. The deputation waited upon Lord Elgin who heard everything with attention, expressed his sympathy, referred to his own difficulties and yet promised to do for us all he could. The same deputation met Mr. Morley who also declared his sympathy and whose observations in replying to the deputation I have already summarized. Sir William Wedderburn was instrumental in calling a meeting of the Committee of the House of Commons for Indian Affairs in the drawing room of the House and we placed our case before them too as best we could. We met Mr. Redmond, the then leader of the Irish Party. In short, we met as many members of Parliament as we could, irrespective of the party to which they belonged. The British Committee of the Indian National Congress was of course very helpful. But according to English customs men belonging to a certain party and holding certain views only would join it, while there were many others who had nothing to do with the Committee but yet rendered us all possible assistance. We determined to organize a standing committee upon which all these could

come together and thus be even more useful in watching over our interests and men of all parties liked our idea.

The burden of carrying on the work of an institution chiefly falls upon its secretary. The secretary should be such, that not only does he have full faith in the aims and the objects of the institution, but he should be able to devote nearly all his time to the achievement of these aims and has great capacity for work. Mr. L. W. Ritch, who belonged to South Africa, was formerly articled to me and was now a student for the bar in London, satisfied all the requirements. He was there in England and was also desirous of taking up the work. We therefore ventured to form the South Africa British Indian Committee.

In England and other Western countries there is one, in my view, barbarous custom of inaugurating movements at dinners. The British Premier delivers in the Mansion House on the ninth of November an important speech in which he adumbrates his programme for the year and publishes his own forecast of the future, and which therefore attracts universal notice. Cabinet ministers among others are invited to dinner by the Lord Mayor of London, and when the dinner is over, bottles of wine are uncorked, all present drink to the health of the host and the guest, and speeches too are made while this merry business is in progress. The toast for the British Cabinet is proposed, and the Premier makes the important speech referred to in reply to it. And as in public, so in private, the person with whom some important conversations are to be held is, as a matter of custom, invited to dinner, and the topic of the day is broached either at or after dinner. We too had to observe this custom not once but quite a number of times, although of course we never touched meat or liquor. We thus invite our principal supporters to lunch. About a hundred covers were laid. The idea was to tender our thanks to our friends, to bid them goodbye and at the same time to constitute the Standing Committee. Here too, speeches were made, as usual, after dinner, and the Committee was also organized. We thus obtained greater publicity for our movement. □

(To be Continued)

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BORIS JOHNSON WINS HUGE MAJORITY IN UK ELECTION: 15 INDIAN-ORIGIN MPs REGISTER STRONG VICTORY



Boris Johnson



From left to Priti Patel, Rishi Sunak, Preet Kaur Gill, Tanmanjeet Singh Dhesi, Virendra Sharma, Valerie Vaz, Suella Braverman & Munira Wilson



From left to Seema Malhotra, Alok Sharma, Gagan Mohindra, Navendu Mishra, Claire Coutinho, Shailesh Vara & Lisa Nandy

Prime Minister Boris Johnson clinched an emphatic victory in election held on 12 December, 2019. Indian-origin candidates across both the Conservative and Labour parties registered strong results in the UK's general election, with around a dozen MPs retaining their seats alongside some new faces. All the Indian-origin MPs from the previous Parliament were successful in clinching their seats, with Gagan Mohindra and Claire Coutinho for the Conservative Party and Navendu Mishra for Labour among the first-timers.

"Time to Get Brexit Done and get on with investing in our schools, hospitals and police to keep our streets safe," said Goan-origin Coutinho, in reference to the central Conservative Party message which clearly resonated with the voters in the polls.

She won the Surrey East Tory-held seat polling 35,624 votes, with an impressive majority of 24,040 for the party. Mohindra also won his Hertfordshire South West seat decisively with 30,327 votes and a majority of 14,408. The other Tories to return to the Commons with comfortable wins include Priti Patel, the former UK homes secretary who is likely to remain in Johnson's top team in the new Cabinet as well.

This has been a hard-fought election in a very cold time of the year because we needed a functioning Conservative

majority, said Patel, who polled 32,876 votes at her Witham constituency in Essex and held on to a majority of 24,082 for the party. We are committed to deliver on priorities and getting Brexit done is a priority. The deal is there, we want to move forward, she said.

Her fellow Cabinet colleagues in the previous Johnson-led government also had a good night, with Rishi Sunak the son-in-law of Infosys co-founder Narayana Murthy clinching 36,693 votes, marking a majority for the Tories of 27,210. Alok Sharma, the former international development minister, polled 24,393 votes to win from Reading West.

Shailesh Vara won his North West Cambridgeshire seat with a solid majority of 25,983, polling 40,307 votes and Goan-origin Suella Braverman clinched Fareham with 36,459 votes, registering a majority of 26,086. The pro-Brexit MP thanked her constituency team for its unstinting support and hard work.

Great teamwork in the rain, the cold and the dark! All patriots who want to Get Brexit Done with Boris Johnson, she tweeted soon after the result was declared.

The Opposition Labour Party had a disastrous night overall, losing key seats in its heartlands in the north, but for all the Indian-origin MPs from the

last Parliament there was a reason to celebrate.

Navendru Mishra bagged 21,695 votes to clinch the Stockport seat and become a first-time MP for the party. Preet Kaur Gill, who had made history in the last election as the first British Sikh female MP, was re-elected from Birmingham Edgbaston with 21,217 votes. Tanmanjeet Singh Dhesi, the first turbaned Sikh MP, will also return to the Commons with an impressive 13,640 majority, having polled 29,421 votes from Slough in south-east England and beating Tory Indian-origin rival Kanwal Toor Gill.

Veteran MP Virendra Sharma, who had been under pressure by forces within his own party, had a comfortable win from Ealing Southall with 25,678 votes. The others holding on to their seats included Lisa Nandy who won Wigan with 21,042 votes and Seema Malhotra clinched Feltham and Heston with 24,876 votes.

Valerie Vaz, the sister of scandal-hit former MP Keith Vaz held on to her Walsall South seat with 20,872 votes, beating Indian-origin Tory candidate Gurjit Bains.

The far-right Brexit Party, which had fielded a number of Indian-origin candidates, failed to make a dent in the election, which marked the biggest win for the Conservatives since the 1980s. □

SRI LANKAN PRESIDENT'S INDIA VISIT: AGENDA FOR STRENGTHENING THE EXISTING TIES



Nihar R Nayak

At the invitation of PM Modi, Sri Lanka's newly elected President Gotabaya Rajapaksa paid a three-day state visit to India from November 28, 2019. He was accompanied by a high-level delegation which included Foreign Secretary Ravinatha Aryasinha and treasury secretary SR Attygalle. This was his maiden official foreign visit after taking charge as President on November 18, 2019. The visit happened while both the countries have been trying to improve diplomatic relations given the changing geopolitical scenario in the Indian Ocean and this year May terrorist attacks in the Church and hotels. PM Modi, in fact, was the first world leader who congratulated Gotabaya over SLPF's electoral success and over the successful completion of the Presidential elections in November 2019.

Neighborhood first

In line with India's "Neighborhood First" policy and SAGAR doctrine, Sri Lanka assumes a special place in India's foreign policy. The frequency of high-level visits has consolidated the special relationship further between the two countries. Immediately after the formation of the new government in Colombo, India's external affairs minister S. Jaishankar had paid a visit to Sri Lanka. President Gotabaya was received at the airport by Union Minister of State for Road Transport and Highways, V. K. Singh. According to MEA, Rajapaksa was accorded a ceremonial reception at Rashtrapati Bhawan and visited Rajghat. He had both one-on-one and delegation-level meetings with Prime Minister Narendra Modi at the Hyderabad House. He also met President Ram Nath Kovind. External affairs minister S. Jaishankar had called on President Gotabaya and discussed a wide range of bilateral and regional issues.

Earlier, as part of the neighborhood first policy, Prime Minister Modi chose the Maldives and Sri Lanka as his first visit abroad after the assumption of office in May 2019. Similarly, PM Ranil Wickremesinghe undertook a first overseas visit to India in September

2015 after assuming office. After that PM Wickremesinghe visited four times India on different occasions. President Sirisena visited six times to India, including one private and attending BRICS-BIMSTEC outreach summit, from February 2015 to March 2018.



President of Sri Lanka Gotabaya Rajapaksa with PM Narendra Modi

During this visit, both sides deliberated upon a wide range of bilateral and regional issues. Since this was the first high-level visit from Sri Lanka after change of guard in Colombo, New Delhi felt that the visit could provide an opportunity to advance the exemplary ties of friendship between the two countries. Special Relationship

India-Sri Lanka relationship is more than 2,500 years old. The formal diplomatic relationship was established in 1948 between Sri Lanka and Republic of India, it has emerged as one of the most successful neighbourhood stories in South Asia, which is characterized by mutual trust, understanding and maturity. Despite many asymmetries, both the countries feel dependent on each other and acknowledge as an equal partner in their endeavor towards economic growth, consolidation of democracy and regional peace.

There are a number of bilateral institutional arrangements between both the countries in areas like maritime cooperation, trade, economic cooperation, security and disaster management. India has been the largest trading partner with US\$ 4.93 billion and investors of Sri Lanka with cumulative investments of around US\$ 1.239 billion. However, this is not one-sided. It has been seen off late that a large number of Sri Lankan

investors invest in India. Some of the important Sri Lankan companies like Brandix, MAS holdings and John Keels and others having operations in India.

Sri Lanka is also one of the major recipients of official development assistance from India. As of 2018, annual official assistance from India could have been around US\$ 3 billion. The Indian Housing project is one of the major developmental projects in Sri Lanka. India is committed to construct 50,000 houses for the war-affected as well as houses for Tamils of Indian origin in the Up-Country region. Besides this, India continues to assist in education, health, connectivity, skill development programmes across country under grant assistance. Annually, India proved 710 scholarship to Sri Lankan students to study both in India and Sri Lanka. Since 2017-18, Sri Lankan students are allowed to appear for entrance exams for MBBS/BDS and IIT JEE. Most importantly, India offers 400 seats to Sri Lankan government officials to attend training courses in India.

Take Away

The purpose of the visit was to reassure each other on emerging security challenges in the Indian Ocean and further, consolidate the existing ties between both countries. It is believed that both the prime ministers discussed on wide range of issues and new mechanisms to advance the bilateral relations further. India announced a new US\$400 million line of credit, which would give a boost to infrastructure and development in Sri Lanka. Both the leaders agreed to use the previously announced US\$100 million credit line for solar projects in Sri Lanka. During the meetings both leaders discussed on 20 community development projects and other people-centric projects, cooperation on trade and economic issues, energy, climate change, infrastructure, security and strategic issues, and regional issues. □

ROUND TABLE ON GULF DIASPORA

Diaspora Research and Resource Centre (DRRC), Antar Rashtriya Sahayog Parishad, New Delhi has launched a major initiative to strengthen its outreach with various specialized diaspora groups, and has been carrying out regular interaction with the Indian diaspora associations and institutions dealing with the countries of the indenture route, US, Africa and neighbouring countries. In line with India's overall priorities, the DRRC has been preparing to expand its outreach in the Gulf region, another very important constituent of Indian diaspora abroad. As a first step toward this initiative, the DRRC organised a round table discussion on "**Gulf Diaspora: Issues, Opportunities, Challenges and way forward**" to develop this important resource and asset, on 19 November, 2019 at Pravasi Bhawan, New Delhi.

The round table was addressed by **Amb. Navdeep Suri**, who has recently retired as India's Ambassador to UAE., and the session was Chaired by Amb Virender GUPTA, President, ARSP.

The objective of this round table was to examine all the relevant aspects of Indian diaspora in the Gulf and draw up a comprehensive road map for making ARSP's engagement with them more focused, meaningful and result oriented.

Amb. Suri made a frank and succinct presentation on the overall and growing importance of the Indian diaspora in the Gulf, which numbers close to 10 million, most of them being blue collar workers and NRIs. This was followed by an active discussion during the Q and R session and the following broad views and assessment emerged.

The contribution of Gulf diaspora in terms of employment and repatriation is quite well known. They send back home annually over USD 30 billion, over 40% of the total remittances. This has brought some prosperity to their families back home but has caused some challenges in terms of quality of

investment of these savings. These funds need much better deployment for better and more sustainable returns for these workers.

Over the years, the composition of Indian diaspora in the Gulf has changed. While the blue collar work force still numerically dominates, Indian professionals in the fields of management, medicine, engineering, accounting, law and hospitality have assumed much greater salience. Indians have also emerged as important investors and many of them are gradually climbing up the professional scales to the top as CEOs of big groups. Many Gulf NRIs are now investing in India and other countries and this resource needs greater attention.

Changes in India, especially the rapid economic growth and development as



Amb. Virender Gupta, President ARSP welcoming participants of the Round Table

also our growing trade and investment ties with the countries of the Gulf, have had a very positive impact on our relationship with the region. These developments have also been supported by greater opening up on the part of the Gulf States for broadening their global linkages. The two way goodwill which was growing for decades received a much needed and focussed attention by the current Indian government at the highest level, resulting in a significant convergence of views on regional priorities, challenges and approaches. Today, the India-Gulf relationship qualifies to be strategic and supported by multi-faceted linkages.

Diaspora has been both an important cause and beneficiary of these changes. Their contributions are



Amb. Navdeep Suri addressing Round Table on Gulf Diaspora

valued both in India and in the region. Given their liberal, open minded and accommodating qualities, the Indian diaspora is emerging as a preferred source of skills in the Gulf region. These countries are also introducing reforms for better protection of labour welfare and rights. The Indian Government and Missions are also much more engaged in protecting these workers against exploitation. A lot has improved but much still need to be done on both sides.

Some important aspects which need careful and closer attention for carrying forward the various initiatives for further strengthening and widening

this important relationship, including diaspora issues, could be: i) continuation of the current multilayered engagement, including regional security and stability, ii) promoting structural economic ties driven through joint ventures and investment routes, iii)

better aligning of India's skill development with the needs of the region for better positioning in the labour value chains, iv) better contract enforcement by employers including through bilateral engagement, v) closer monitoring and regulation of Indian agents to address illegal emigration and trafficking, vi) educating the Indian labour, especially the domestic women workers, against unscrupulous means of employment and exploitation, vii) carefully crafted schemes for investments by blue collar workers, viii) tapping into the needs of big NRI investors.

ARSP would carry out necessary follow up on these suggestions including in collaboration with other Indian institutions and Government Departments. □

KENYA CELEBRATES JAMHURI DAY ON 12TH DECEMBER



Markandey Rai

Kenya got independence on 12th December 1963 and became a republic after one year on the same day, hence the Independence Day and Republic Day, which is also called Jamhuri Day, both are celebrated on the 12th December every year. This year, Kenya is celebrating its 56th Jamhuri Day, which is one of the most important holidays due to its historical significance.

India and Kenya have a very friendly relation from memorial times. India played a very significant role in Kenya's independence from British colonial rule, as well as in nation building. India's independence in 1947 opened the floodgate for de-colonization all over the world including in Africa. India established the office of Commissioner for British East Africa resident in Nairobi in 1948. Following Kenyan independence in December 1963, a High Commission was established.

Indians came to Kenya in the 19th century to build the Mombasa - Kampala railway line and to work in agricultural fields. Later, many of them, mostly from Gujarat, set up their businesses in different parts of the country. India's support for the Kenyan freedom struggle laid the foundations of a close and co-operative relationship. Apa Saheb Pant was India's first Commissioner to East Africa in Nairobi [1948-54]. The Commission of India was raised to the status of High Commission on 12 December 1963 when Kenya attained independence.

For the first Independence Day celebration of Kenya, Smt. Indira Gandhi who attended the Kenyan Independence celebrations in 1963 represented India and she visited Kenya in 1970 and 1981 as the Prime Minister of India. PM Morarji Desai also visited Kenya in 1978. Dr. S. Radhakrishnan, the then Vice President of India, visited Kenya in July 1956. President Neelam Sanjeeva Reddy visited Kenya in 1981. President Moi of Kenya visited India for a bilateral visit in 1981 and for the NAM Summit in 1983. Current President of Kenya Uhuru Kenyatta, accompanied by several Ministers, senior officials and a high-level business delegation, paid a State Visit to India from 10-12 January 2017 on an invitation extended by Indian PM Narendra Modi. This indicates the close relationship between the two nations.

Many Indians contributed to the struggle for independence of Kenya. Some of the prominent figures of the Kenyan Indian community in Kenya's pre-independence period include the labour leader Makhan Singh. M. A. Desai and Pio Gama Pinto who participated actively in Kenya's independence struggle. Indian MP Diwan Chaman Lall joined Jomo Kenyatta's defence team, which included two other persons of Indian origin, F R S DeSouza (later Kenya's Deputy Speaker) and AR Kapila, at his 1953 trial. A vibrant community of persons of Indian origin presently numbers around 80,000 including an estimated 20,000 Indian citizens. Several Kenyans of Indian origin have distinguished themselves as lawyers, judges, doctors and academics. Five persons of Indian origin have been awarded

the Pravasi Bharatiya Samman: Mr. Manilal Premchand Chandaria, Mr. Pheroze Nowrojee, Dr. FRS De Souza, Mr.P.V.Sambasiva Rao and Dr. Prakash M. Heda. The Kenya-India Friendship Association (KIFA) was set up in 1981. 'Bharatwallah Alumni Association' (an alumni association of Kenyan students who had studied in India for the last over 50 years) was formally launched in May 2016.

Our relation is further strengthened and gave new dimensions to our bilateral relationship after P.M. Narendra Modi's visit to Kenya in July 2016. Several bilateral issues were discussed between Narendra Modi and President Uhuru Kenyatta and both the leaders witnessed signing of seven (MOUs)/Agreements in the fields of defense, trade etc. During his visit, PM addressed a gathering of over 20,000 Indian community members in Nairobi in which President Kenyatta joined him. India announced gifting of a state-of-the-art made in India cancer therapy machine - Bhabhatron II - to Kenyatta National Hospital, grant of US\$ 1 million for the refurbishment of the Mahatma Gandhi graduate library of the University of Nairobi and holding of the first ever Festival of India in Kenya.

India is a favorite country for Kenyans especially for education and health services. Kenyan prefers to come to India for health care and higher education. There are about 3500 Kenyan students currently studying in 50 institutions throughout India. In 2018-19 over 400 Kenyan nationals availed training and scholarships programs in various fields under the Indian Technical & Economic Cooperation (ITEC) Program; India-Africa Forum Summit and Aid to Africa Program. An MOU on establishment of an ICCR Chair on Indian Studies between ICCR and the University of Nairobi was signed in March 2015. DR. Seepana Prakasam served as the first ICCR Chair of Indian Studies at the University of Nairobi, from September 2016-July 2017. Late Kenya Noble Prize winner and well-known environmentalist Prof. Wangari Maathai had been conferred the 2005 Jawaharlal Nehru Award for International Understanding as well as the 2006 Indira Gandhi Award for Peace, Disarmament and Development.

There are over 75,000 people of Indian origin, including Indian passport holders, whose hold on the economic levers in Kenya is estimated to be between 30-35%. Of these, about 75% are Kenyans citizens, 10% are British overseas citizens and about 15% are Indian citizens.

According to the Kenya investment Authority (KenInvest), India is the second largest investor in Kenya. Over 60 major Indian companies have invested in various sectors including manufacturing, real estate, pharmaceuticals, telecom, IT & ITES, banking and agro-based industries. India investments have resulted in creation of thousands of direct jobs to Kenyans. Indian pharmaceutical companies have a substantial presence in Kenya. A bilateral Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement

(DTAA) was signed in 1989, which was revised in 2016 and came in force on 30 August 2017. A joint Business Council (JBC) was set up in 1985 by the Federation of India Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FICCI) and Kenya National Chamber of Commerce & Industry (KNCCI). The two chambers signed a fresh MOU during the state visit of President Kenyatta in January 2017.

Kenya is a wonderful country in East Africa with Nairobi as a unique capital. Kenya is the location of some of the earliest human settlement. Sites such as Koobi Fora, near Lake Turkana, indicate hominid habitation dating back 2.5 million Years. It is known for its parks and safari in the world. Nairobi, the capital city is hub of eastern Africa. It is called Paris of Africa but it is unique because of its climate and greenery. Nairobi is located at the height of 1670 meter and very near to the equator. Both combined makes the weather throughout the year very pleasant neither very cold nor very hot. No need of cooling or heating. There are two rainy seasons, and plenty of fruits and vegetation available through out the year. Nairobi encompasses a national park within the city and tourists who have a short visit to the capital can see all big five animals. Nairobi also hosts the only UN Headquarters based in any developing countries which is called United Nations office at Nairobi (UNON). This Headquarter hosts two important UN agencies namely the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the United Nations Human Settlements Programme, which is called in short UN-HABITAT also. This is an honour to host a UN Headquarter and it had happened with a full support of India from its inception. Kenyans are also known for their sporting endeavors, being renowned for their short and long distance running races. Kenya is number one in horticulture and floriculture. Kenyan tea and coffee is also very popular and exported in many countries.

There are more than 40 tribes and largest Christian majority and strong Muslim minority and with largest tribe called Kikuyu. According to the latest population census data Kenya Population is 48 million. Life Expectancy at birth is 59.5 years. Literacy rate is 78% whereas Literacy rate for adult male is 81% and for adult female is 75%. In Kenya the word Asian refers to the people of South Asian ancestry (Pakistan, Indians, Bangladeshis and Sri Lanka). Indian migrants to modern day Kenya began with the construction of Uganda Railway between 1896 and 1901 when some 320000 indentured labours were recruited from British India. The 2009 Kenyan Census recorded total population of Asia is 81791 of which 46782 are Kenyan Citizens of Asian origin and Asians without Kenyan Citizenship numbered 35009 individuals. Indian are officially recognized as the 44th tribe of Kenya in 2017. □

REPORT ON 57TH KNOW INDIA PROGRAMME

Diaspora Research and Resource Centre (DRRC) - Antar Rashtriya Sahayog Parishad (ARSP) hosted participants of 57th KIP batch on 20th November



High Commissioner of the Republic of Mauritius, H.E. Jagdishwar Goberdhun addressing the delegates of KIP

2019. The batch had some thirty participants from Mauritius, Fiji, Surinam, Guyana, South Africa, Trinidad and Tobago, Myanmar, Israel and Sri Lanka. The theme of the session was Development Partnership- the Indian Experience.

The Opening session was Chaired by Amb. Anup Mudgal (Chairperson-DRRC). The High Commissioner of the Republic of Mauritius, H.E. Jagdishwar Goberdhun and Second Secretary from the High Commission of The Republic of Suriname, (Ms) Ria Sital were Guests of Honour. Shri Narayan Kumar (Hony. Director) and Shri Amit Gupta (Jt. Secretary) represented ARSP on the occasion.

Amb. Mudgal introduced the theme by explaining the various geopolitical, economic, cultural, social and finally technological channels which connect the world community in an ever growing interdependent world. Over one-third of the global GDP is driven by the external sector, international tourism exceeds one billion, nearly three hundred million people live as immigrants world over, and millions more are traveling across continents for higher education. The cross border investments and technology applications have connected the world as never before and this convergence will further grow. This growing interdependence also needs greater global cooperative tools for ensuring a better world living in a win-win situation, as any situation of

mistrust could be very harmful for peace, stability and shared prosperity.

Amb. Mudgal also explained as to how Development Partnership could play an important role is strengthening mutual goodwill and trust. Recognising the importance of such cooperation, in spite of being a developing country India has a very comprehensive development partnership programme which entails concessional credits and grants, capacity building, project assistance, market access, disaster relief with a cumulative commitment exceeding USD 35 billion since 2012.

Amb. Goburdhun and Ms Sital used this occasion to brief the participants about the importance of the KIP to better understand the strengths of India, the country of their forefathers' origins, and the potential areas of future cooperation between India and the countries of their adoption. There



Audience with KIP delegates

are big possibilities of cooperation in the fields of trade, investments, technology, higher education, etc. They also shared the development experience of their own countries and societies.

The Vision India Foundation organised a special workshop on Development Partnership in an interactive session with the participants.

The valedictory session was addressed by the acting High Commissioner of the Republic of Trinidad & Tobago, (Ms) Stacy Hinds and Second Secretary from the High Commission of The Republic of Fiji, Ms Elia Sevutia, Shri Narayan Kumar, Hon. Director, ARSP and Dr. Shashi Bala, Joint Secretary, ARSP, Dr. Ragini Sarin and Prof. S. N. Gupta. This session was devoted to feedback and discussion.

Ms. Hinds and Ms Sevutia appreciated the value of the KIP and the usefulness of the various development partnership initiatives. They also called upon the participants to take full advantage of this programme to our mutual advantage. Sh Narayan Kumar briefed the group on the history of the Indenture System and the cultural connect of these countries with India. Similarly, Dr Shashi Bala spoke about our culture linkages, which provide a foundation for greater mutual trust and cooperation.

Shri Amit Gupta, Joint Secretary moderated the opening and closing sessions as well as the interactive discussion. The participants shared their experiences, lessons from their KIP attachment and their suggestions for making such initiatives

more effective. They also expressed interest in staying in touch with the DRRC as a platform for continued cooperation. □

SAT MAHARAJ LEGEND

SHRADHANJALI

Mukesh Aggarwal
Vice President, ARSP

"You never know how strong you are until being strong is the only choice you have". These words Quoted by Sat Maharaj were of great inspiration.

Trinidadians describe Sat Maharaj as the "Godfather of the Hindu Community", but his reach spanned well beyond the Hindu community alone.

Those who worked with him over the years admired his sense of fair play. He never wanted the Hindu community to receive more than its appropriate share of national resources. He only expressed an opinion when injustice was absolutely glaring.

Sat Maharaj also known as Hanooman, (88 years), Secretary General of Sanatan Dharma Mahasabha, carved out a legacy for himself as a fighter.

He was awarded the Chaconia Medal (Gold) the nation's Second highest award, in 2010. Antar Rashtriya Sahayog Parishad conferred 2nd Bharatvanshi Gaurav Samman in the year 2006. (presented by Shri I.K.Gujral, former P.M. of India) on him.



Sat Maharaj
(17 April, 1931-16 Nov., 2019)

centres.

Sat Maharaj also revived the observance of Phagwa (Holi festival of colours) and was instrumental in the creation of the Indian Arrival Day.

Sat Maharaj was also a long standing columnist with the Trinidad Guardian Newspaper. He led former weekly newspaper, the Bomb and the Blast and fought in the court for a Radio license purely dedicated to the Hindu faith.

Radio JAAGRITI & TV JAAGRITI

became operational and enjoy wide popularity in the Caribbean region.

In 2011, Sat Maharaj was hailed as the most powerful Hindu outside of India by the then Government Minister Shri Chandresh Sharma.

Another minister Rudranath Indarsingh expressed that Maharaj gives voice to not only Hindu's but to a

vast cross section of the national community and said that he reshaped socio-economic and political thinking in the country.

"Government fears this man in this country, its a good sign", Chandresh Sharma said of Sat Maharaj in 2011. Sat Maharaj fought a legal battle in 2006 to change the name of nations highest award from the Trinity Cross, because, he argued, it symbolizes christianity & cross did not represent the country's multi-religious nature.

It was later changed to 'The Order of the Republic of Trinidad & Tobago.'

History will record the contribution of Satnarayan Maharaj as an outstanding citizen of his soil in their post-independence era.



His lifetime achievements will resonate for countless years in the future as scholars and citizens alike assess, examine and analyse his extraordinary contribution to the land of his birth which he cherished until his death at a very advanced age.

Sat Maharaj shared the story of struggle that Trinidadians of India origin passed through while addressing the August gathering in 2006 in New Delhi.

"The death of Sat Maharaj leaves an indelible voice the heroes" landscape of Trinidad & Tobago.

ARSP pays rich tribute to Sat Maharaj. □



(L to R) Baleshwar Agrawal, Sat Maharaj and former PM I.K. Gujral

Under the Secretary General Sat Maharaj, the Mahasabha modernised 42 schools, built 5 Secondary Schools as well and 12 primary education

Bihar Boy Bags BRICS Young Innovator Prize

Ravi Prakash, a PhD scholar from Bihar has won the USD 25,000 BRICS-Young Innovator Prize for inventing an affordable indigenous milk chilling unit for smaller and marginal rural dairy farmers. Prakash, PhD scholar of ICAR-National Dairy Research Institute (NDRI), Bengaluru, was a part of a 21-member delegation sent to Brazil. Bharat won 1st prize of #BRICS -Young scientist forum's



conclave during November 6-8, in Brazil.

The technology can be used for chilling milk from the point of production by bringing down the temperature of raw milk from 37C to 7C within 30 minutes using nano-fluid based phase change materials.

BRICS is the acronym coined for an association of five emerging national economies -- Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa. □

562 Pilgrims Visit Kartarpur Gurdwara on First Day

A total of 562 pilgrims were part of the first 'jatha' who visited Gurdwara Darbar Sahib on the first day of the pilgrimage, a Home Ministry official said. It was an emotional and spiritual moment for the devotees who paid obeisance at Gurdwara Darbar Sahib in Pakistan's Kartarpur on the inaugural day, 9th November, of the cross-border passage, and they hoped it will become a "peace corridor" in future.

Pradhan Mantri Narendra Modi, while inaugurating the much-awaited

Kartarpur corridor said that he was feeling blessed like any other Sikh devotee on this historic day as they will now be able to visit the Gurdwara Darbar Sahib in Kartarpur Pakistan which a day earlier had to be viewed using a binocular. He described Guru Nanak Dev as an inspiration not only to Bharat but also to the whole world. Describing Kartarpur as a holy place filled with the divine aura of Nanak Dev, Pradhan Mantri also released a



commemorative coin celebrating 550th Birth Anniversary of Guru Nanak Dev. □

First Hindu Woman MP Among 4 PIOs in Justin Trudeau's Cabinet

Canadian PM Justin Trudeau's 37-member new cabinet, includes four Indian-Canadians. While Trudeau has retained his earlier three Sikh ministers, he has also inducted first-time MP Anita Anand, making her the first Hindu woman lawmaker to be made a minister in Canada.

Harjit Singh Sajjan (49), the most prominent Sikh face of the Trudeau government had railed continues to be defence minister. Navdeep Singh Bains (42), who represents the Ontario riding (electoral district) of Mississauga-Malton, has been given charge of innovation and science and

industry. Waterloo MP Bardish Chagger (39) has been given the inclusion and diversity and youth ministry.

In his previous government, Trudeau had four Sikh ministers, but Amarjit Sohi lost the election this time.

Anita Anand, who is in her early 50s, has been made minister of public services and procurement. Born to Indian origin parents in Kentville, Nova



Anita Anand

Scotia, Anand has served as a law professor at the University of Toronto and specialises in corporate governance and shareholder rights. Anand takes on the role of minister of public services and procurement at a time when the government is finalising a multi-billion-dollar purchase of new fighter jets.

Trudeau has inducted nearly all his re-elected ministers from the last government to signal continuity. Half of the ministers in Trudeau's government are women. □



Harjit Sajjan, Navdeep Bains, Bardish Chagger and Amarjeet Sohi

70 EVENTS TO CELEBRATE 70TH ANNIVERSARY OF INDO-CHINA TIES

India and China will participate in 70 activities to commemorate the 70th anniversary of establishment of diplomatic ties between them. These include a visit to China by a mid-level tri-service delegation of the Indian armed forces and researching maritime links between the two countries.

The Indian side will also send its naval ships to China. PM Narendra Modi and President Xi Jinping had agreed during their second informal summit in Chennai to organise 70 celebratory activities in India and China.

"These activities will demonstrate the historic connect between the two

civilisations as well as their growing bilateral relationship over the years. They will further deepen people-to-people exchanges between the two countries at all levels, between their respective legislatures, businesses, academics, cultural and youth organisations as well as the defence forces," the government said in a statement.

Other activities include the two sides holding joint cultural performances at various border posts, visits of Indian naval ships as well as mid-level tri-service delegation of the Indian armed forces to China.

On the business and trade front, China

will hold a China-India Trade and Investment Cooperation Forum in India and organise the second China-India



Drug Regulation meeting. The first forum was held in China. Besides hosting parliamentary exchanges, the two countries will also conduct activities to trace civilisational links. □

INDIANS ACCOUNT FOR 93% OF US H-4 VISA, SAYS S JAISHANKAR

Foreign minister S Jaishankar told Rajya Sabha that the United States wanted to review its 2015 decision to make work visas available to spouses of H-1B visa holders and that Indians accounted for 93% of what is officially known as H-4 visa. The foreign minister also said that India was trying to convince the US that tapping into the Indian talent pool was important for mutual benefit.

"There was some controversy whether H-4 visa programme will be continued but right now it is continuing...There is a court order to the effect that it should be continued but the Trump administration has indicated that it may review it," he said, replying to a query on spouses of H-1B holders. "We are constantly in touch with the US system, the US government, members of the

Congress to convince them that tapping into the Indian talent pool is for our mutual benefit," he said.

"With regard to seven major Indian employers there is no disqualification on any of them. The number of visas for which they have applied to has come down in the last two years. Denial rates have also gone up," he said. □

OVERSEAS CITIZENS OF INDIA CAN INVEST IN NPS

The Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA) has added one more category of investors who can invest in the National Pension System. Through a circular issued on October 29, PFRDA has stated that now Overseas Citizen of India (OCIs) can enrol to invest in NPS tier-1 accounts. This is good news for OCIs as NPS offers various tax benefits.

According to the circular, "Considering the requests received from different sections, the Authority has decided to permit Overseas Citizen of India (OCI) to enrol in National Pension System at par with Non-Resident Indians (NRI) subscribing to NPS. However, the option of NPS Tier-II account will not be available for both NRI and OCI subscribers." Prior to this, OCIs could not invest in NPS. In a PFRDA circular from May, 2015, it was stated that Hindu Undivided Family (HUFs), OCIs

and Persons of Indian Origin were not allowed to invest in NPS.

Alok Agarwal, Partner, Deloitte India says, "Overseas Citizens of India (OCI) will now be allowed to invest into NPS-Tier-1 account (which was already allowed for Non-resident Indians). This is a welcome move for OCIs as there are many individuals of Indian origin who have taken up foreign citizenship while working overseas and may prefer to continue investing in India from their local income sources. Some OCIs have also returned to India permanently while continuing to maintain their foreign citizenship. As these individuals did not retain India citizenship and therefore did not qualify as NRIs, they were not allowed to invest in NPS. With this relaxation, such OCIs will be able to take advantage of the NPS investment avenue and associated income tax

benefits. Repatriation of the accumulated savings/annuity from the NPS Tier-I account to a bank account outside India will be governed by the relevant provisions of the Foreign Exchange Management Act."

PFRDA's most recent circular follows a government notification dated October 17, 2019 which said: "A NRI or an OCI may subscribe to the National Pension System governed and administered by Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA), provided such person is eligible to invest as per the provisions of the Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority Act. The annuity / accumulated saving will be repatriable' (Schedule III (4) of Foreign Exchange Management (Non-Debt Instruments) Rules, 2019." □

STATUE OF MAHATMA GANDHI UNVEILED AT MANCHESTER

The 9ft (2.75m) bronze tribute was designed by artist Ram V Sutar and revealed in front of political and religious leaders on November 22. The



statue marks the 150th anniversary of Gandhi's birth in 1869 and was installed outside the city's cathedral. It is also intended to celebrate Manchester's "multi-cultural and multi-faith" society, organizers said. Gandhi

had visited Manchester on his way to see mill workers in Lancashire in 1931. A service at the cathedral also featured readings, poetry and songs. The statue was given to the city by the Shrimad Rajchandra Mission Dharampur (SRMD), a worldwide spiritual movement. □

PAKISTAN SHOULD VACATE POK AS IT'S PART OF SOVEREIGN INDIA : BOB BLACKMAN

British MP Bob Blackman said that Pakistan should vacate Pakistan occupied Kashmir (PoK) as it's part of sovereign India. "The entirety of the state of Jammu and Kashmir is part of sovereign India, and people that ask for UN



resolution to be implemented ignore the first resolution, which is that Pakistani military forces should leave

Kashmir to re-unite the state," Blackman was quoted as saying at the "Balidan Divas" or Day of Sacrifice event held in London on November 14. The North London MP Blackman has been vocal about his support for India since the decision to revoke Article 370 found echoes among Britain's MPs. □

PAKISTAN FORMS PANEL TO CURB FORCED CONVERSION OF MINORITIES

Faced with frequent instances of forced conversions of Hindu and Sikh girls, the Pakistan government has constituted a parliamentary committee to look into the reasons behind such cases. The committee will also give recommendations for forming a law to prevent forced conversions in future.

Keshoo Mal Kheeral Das Kohistani, a Hindu member of the national assembly from Sindh, told that additional secretary (committees) of senate secretariat, Muhammad Tahir Khan, on November 21 issued a list of 22 members of the 'Parliamentary Committee to Protect Minorities from Forced Conversions'. Kohistani said apart from him, the committee had seven other Hindu members. The committee also includes federal minister for religious and interfaith harmony Noor-ul Haq Qadri and federal minister for human rights Shireen M Mazari

Kohistani said the parliamentary committee would set its 'terms of reference' in its soon-to-be convened first meeting. □

MR. PRITHVIRAJ SING ROOPUN ELECTED PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF MAURITIUS

The National Assembly of Mauritius elected Mr Prithvirajsing Roopun, as President of the Republic of Mauritius. The motion for the election of the new President was presented by the Prime Minister, Minister of Defence, Home Affairs and External Communications, Minister for Rodrigues, Outer Islands and Territorial Integrity, Mr Pravind Kumar Jugnauth.



Newly Elected Mauritiuss President Prithvirajsing Roopun (R) and Vice-President Marie Cyril Eddy Boissezon (L)

The Prime Minister also presented the motion for the election of Mr Marie Cyril Eddy Boissezon, as the new Vice-President of the Republic of Mauritius. The swearing-in ceremony of the President and Vice-President of the Republic will be held this evening at the State House, Le Réduit.

Mr Roopun started his career in 1978 as secondary school teacher and in 1986, he was admitted to practice as Attorney-at-Law. Between 1990 and 1996, he served as Part time Lecturer

in Law at the University of Mauritius and was Member of the Board of Examiners Council of Legal Education from 1990 to 2005.

Mr Roopun was also Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly from May 2010 to October 2014. Mr Roopun acted as Deputy Chief Government Whip, and in 2005, he was appointed Minister of Local Government. After being elected 3rd Member of

Constituency No. 9 (Flacq and Bon Accueil) in the December 2014 General Elections, he was Minister of Social Integration and Economic Empowerment as from 15 December 2014 to 24 January 2017. Mr Roopun was also Minister of Arts and Culture as from 24 January 2017 to 12 November 2019.

Mr Marie Cyril Eddy Boissezon, started his political career as Councillor Municipality Vacoas Phoenix in 1991. He was Member of Parliament between 1995 and 2000.

For the 2014 General Elections, he was elected Member of Parliament and acted as Parliamentary Private Secretary from December 2014 to 24 January 2017. Mr Boissezon was also Minister of Civil Service and Administrative Reforms as from January 2017 to November 2019. □

FOREIGN MINISTER OF BHUTAN DR. TANDI DORJI VISITS INDIA

H.E. Lyonpo (Dr.) Tandi Dorji, Minister for Foreign Affairs, visited India from 17 to 23 November 2019 at the invitation of H.E. Dr. S. Jaishankar, Minister for External Affairs, Government of India. This was Lyonpo's first bilateral visit to India.

In their meeting in New Delhi on 18 November, Lyonpo and H.E. Dr. S. Jaishankar discussed the entire range of Bhutan-India relations and reaffirmed their commitment to further strengthen the special friendship that exists between the two countries. They reviewed the progress of cooperation in Bhutan's 12th Five Year Plan and cooperation in other areas, including hydropower development, establishment of the Multi-disciplinary Super-specialty Hospital and enhancing connectivity through railway links. Lyonpo briefed Dr. Jaishankar about Bhutan's plans to implement a revised tourism policy, particularly in regard to regional tourism, and sought the Government of India's understanding and support in its implementation.



*Foreign Minister of Bhutan
Dr. Tandi Dorji with Dr. S. Jaishankar,
Minister for External Affairs, GOI*



Dr. Tandi Dorji with Amit Shah

Lyonpo also held meetings in New Delhi with H.E. Shri. Amit Shah, Union Minister for Home Affairs and H.E. Shri. Vijay Gokhale, Foreign Secretary of India.

Lyonpo also visited Bodh Gaya, Rajgir and Kolkata. He visited the Bhutanese Monastery in Bodh Gaya and the site of the ongoing construction of the Bhutanese temple in Rajgir. He also met with the Bhutanese students who are currently studying at the Nalanda University in Rajgir. In Kolkata, Lyonpo called on H.E. Jagdeep Dhankhar, Governor of West Bengal and had meetings with H.E. Shri Rajiva Sinha, Chief Secretary of West Bengal and Mr. S.B. Chakrabarti, General Secretary of the Asiatic Society.

The visit was in keeping with the well-established tradition of regular exchange of high-level visits between Bhutan and India. It helped further strengthen the friendship, trust, understanding and mutual respect that exist between the two countries. □

SECOND PLAN TALKS BETWEEN RGOB AND THE GOI HELD IN NEW DELHI ON 29TH NOVEMBER 2019

The Second Bhutan-India Development Cooperation Talks for the 12th Five Year Plan (FYP) was held in New Delhi on Friday, 29th November 2019. The Bhutanese delegation was led by Mr. Kinga Singye, Foreign Secretary, and included senior officials from Ministries of Foreign Affairs, Finance, Health, Works & Human Settlement, Education; the Gross National Happiness Commission Secretariat and the Royal Bhutanese Embassy, Delhi. The Indian delegation was led by H.E. Shri T.S. Tirumurti, Secretary, Economic Relations, the Ambassador of India to Bhutan, Joint Secretary, North and other officials of the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India.

During the talks, the two sides reviewed the status of the ongoing 51 Project Tied Assistance (PTA) projects and



approved 21 new project proposals. They also discussed cooperation outside of the 12th Plan, including the establishment of the Super Specialty Hospital.

The Bhutanese side expressed appreciation to the Government of India for its generous support to Bhutan's 12th FYP. The Indian side reiterated its commitment to support Bhutan's 12th FYP. The two sides agreed to hold the next Development Cooperation Talks in Thimphu at a mutually convenient date.

The Talks were held in a friendly and cordial atmosphere in keeping with the excellent ties of friendship and cooperation between the two countries. □



DAYS TO REMEMBER

in January, 2020

January 01 : New Year Begins

January 04 : Myanmar- Independence Day

January 10 : Paush Purnima ●

January 12 : National Youth Day

(National Youth Day is celebrated every year in India since 1984 on the birthday of Swami Vivekananda, whose teachings dealt with religion, character building and social issues. He believed that your was the best period of a person's life, and the way in which this period was utilised would shape his or her future.)

January 13 : Lohri

January 14 : Makar Sankranti

(The winter harvest festival celebrated throughout India)

+ Pongal

(A Tamil Harvest Festival mainly celebrated to convey appreciation to the Sun God for providing energy for agriculture.)

January 15 : Army Day

(On Jan 15, 1949, the Indian Army became independent of British control. Field Marshall KM Cariappa took over as the first Indian Commander in Chief.

January 23 : Birth Anniversary of Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose

January 24 : Amavasya ●

January 25 : National Tourism Day

("The Incredible India" is one of the most fascination places a tourist can visit. From the Sun-kissed beaches to snow-capped

mountains, India offers a breath taking variety of landscapes. Cultural heritage, colourful history, its art, mountains, cuisine all make it a dream destination. Tourism as an industry contributes to the growth story. This day highlights its importance.)

January 26 : Republic Day of India

(January 26 is a day dear to the heart of every Indian, because it was on this day in 1950 that India declared herself to be a sovereign independent republic. India celebrates this day show-casing its military might, cultural diversity, economic growth and social progress.)

January 26 : Australia- Australia Day

January 27 : International Holocaust Day

(It is the remembrance day of the sufferings, courage and determination of millions of people who died in the death camps run by the Nazis some 78 years ago. The Soviet Army had liberated the biggest death camp of the Nazis on January 27, 1945. This day is therefore important.)

January 28 : Birth Anniversary of Lala Lajpat Rai

January 30 : Martyrs' Day

(Mahatma Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi, Father of the Nation, was assassinated on January 30, 1948. To pay tribute to Mahatma Gandhi and to other martyrs this day is observed as Martyrs Day. Great solemnity and silent tributes and bhajan singing make the day.) □

चलो भारत को समझो कार्यक्रम का आयोजन

ऋषिकेश स्थित परमार्थ निकेतन में अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय सहयोग परिषद के तत्वाधान में 'चलो भारत को समझो' कार्यक्रम का आयोजन किया गया, जिसमें विश्व के 33 देशों के 125 विद्यार्थियों ने भाग लिया। इस कार्यक्रम का



लिये बहुत कुछ है।

अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय सहयोग परिषद के अध्यक्ष पूर्व राजदूत श्री वीरेन्द्र गुप्ता जी ने बताया कि भारत में विभिन्न देशों के विद्यार्थी आकर शिक्षा ग्रहण करते हैं, उन विद्यार्थियों को वास्तविक भारत के दर्शन

कराना, भारतीय संस्कृति और दर्शन के बारे में जानकारी देना अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय सहयोग परिषद के कार्यक्रमों में महत्वपूर्ण स्थान रखता है। हमारा उद्देश्य है कि भारत में पढ़ने वाले विदेशी छात्र शिक्षा के साथ भारतीय संस्कृति को भी आत्मसात कर सकें। हमारी संस्था 50 वर्षों से प्रवासी और विदेशी विद्यार्थियों को भारतीय संस्कृति से जोड़ने का कार्य कर रही है। उन्होंने कहा कि अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय सहयोग परिषद का उद्देश्य 'वसुधैव कुटुम्बकम्' का है। हमारा यह प्रयास होता है कि विदेशों से जो भी अतिथि भारत आते हैं वे यहां की संस्कृति को जान सकें। हमारे देश में लगभग 20 हजार से अधिक विदेशी छात्र शिक्षा ग्रहण करते हैं हमारा यह भी

तो वह है दिव्य जीवन जीने की है। इन्डिया केवल एक कन्ट्री नहीं बल्कि कल्चर हैं स्वामी जी ने कहा कि आप सभी छात्र हिमालय की तरह अपार शक्ति सम्पन्न युवा हैं। हिमालय हमें साधना, सुरक्षा और संजीवनी प्रदान करता है। जीवन में अपने प्रत्येक कर्म साधना की तरह पूरा करें, यही साधना हो कि मेरा टाइम, टेक्नोलॉजी, टेनासीटी और टैलेंट समाज के लिये हो, अपने लिये नहीं, सब के लिये हो, अपने वतन के लिये हो, अपनी कर्मभूमि और अपनी जन्मभूमि के लिये हो। अपनी बहनों को सुरक्षा प्रदान करें, अपने संस्कारों को प्रज्वलित करें तथा ऐसा कर्म करें कि हमारा जीवन संजीवनी बूटी की तरह कार्य करे। उन्होंने कहा कि

कराना, भारतीय संस्कृति और दर्शन के बारे में जानकारी देना अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय सहयोग परिषद के कार्यक्रमों में महत्वपूर्ण स्थान रखता है। हमारा उद्देश्य है कि भारत में पढ़ने वाले विदेशी छात्र शिक्षा के साथ भारतीय संस्कृति को भी आत्मसात कर सकें। हमारी संस्था 50 वर्षों से प्रवासी और विदेशी विद्यार्थियों को भारतीय संस्कृति से जोड़ने का कार्य कर रही है। उन्होंने कहा कि अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय सहयोग परिषद का उद्देश्य 'वसुधैव कुटुम्बकम्' का है। हमारा यह प्रयास होता है कि विदेशों से जो भी अतिथि भारत आते हैं वे यहां की संस्कृति को जान सकें। हमारे देश में लगभग 20 हजार से अधिक विदेशी छात्र शिक्षा ग्रहण करते हैं हमारा यह भी



संयोजन अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय सहयोग परिषद के विदेशी छात्र विभाग के प्रभारी श्री अजय पटेल और भास्कर छेतिया ने किया। स्वामी चिदानन्द सरस्वती जी ने विभिन्न देशों से आये छात्रों का अभिनन्दन करते हुये कहा कि भारत की यात्रा बाहर की यात्रा नहीं है भीतर की यात्रा है, स्वयं की यात्रा है। जिसने स्वयं को जीत लिया, उसने संसार को जीत लिया। स्वामी जी ने कहा कि जीवन की यात्रा में न किसी को जीतने की जरूरत है न जताने की जरूरत है बल्कि स्वयं को जानने की जरूरत है, अगर कुछ जरूरत है

हिमालय में तो जड़ी-बूटियां होती हैं लेकिन युवा शक्ति तो अपने-आप में संजीवनी है। जीवा की अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय महासचिव साध्वी भगवती सरस्वती जी ने कहा कि भारत एक श्रेष्ठ और सुन्दर देश है, इसका इतिहास अद्भुत है यहां पर देखने और जानने के लिये बहुत कुछ है। परन्तु मेरा मानना है कि भारत को समझने के लिये पहले स्वयं को समझो। भारत केवल एक देश नहीं है बल्कि यह तो जीवंत राष्ट्र है जहां पर गंगा, हिमालय, तुलसी और गाय की पूजा की जाती है। यहां के कण-कण में जानने के

प्रयास है कि उन्हें भारत में भी घर जैसा माहौल मिले। स्वामी चिदानन्द सरस्वती जी महाराज ने अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय सहयोग परिषद के पदाधिकारियों को रूद्राक्ष का पौधे भेंट किया तथा विश्व के अनेक देशों से आये विद्यार्थियों के साथ विश्व स्तर पर स्वच्छ जल की आपूर्ति हेतु विश्व ग्लोब का जलाभिषेक किया। स्वामी जी ने कि प्लास्टिक आज विश्व स्तर की सबसे बड़ी समस्या है आज हम सभी संकल्प लें कि एकल उपयोग प्लास्टिक का उपयोग नहीं करेंगे, सभी ने हाथ उठाकर संकल्प लिया। □

ब्रिटेन और भारत की लोकतांत्रिक प्रणाली

आज दिनांक 7 दिसम्बर, 2019 को नोएडा सेक्टर-62 के प्रेरणा मीडिया सेंटर में अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय सहयोग परिषद, (नोएडा ईकाई) एवं चिंतना के तत्वाधन में 'ब्रिटिश संसदीय प्रणाली में जकड़ा भारत' विषय पर एक गोष्ठी का आयोजन किया गया, जिसमें मुख्य वक्ता ब्रिटेन से आए पत्रकार एवं लेखक श्री कृष्ण त्यागी पूर्व आईईएस ने अपने वक्तव्य में बताया कि औपनिवेशिक मानसिकता के तहत भारत ने ब्रिटेन की संसदीय प्रणाली को अपना लिया। यह प्रणाली किसी भी राजनीतिक दल को बहुमत नहीं मिलने पर सरकार के गठन में अनिश्चितता और भ्रष्टाचार को जन्म देती है। पिछले दिनों हरियाणा, कर्नाटक और महाराष्ट्र में जो हुआ उससे स्पष्ट है कि यह पद्धति लोकतंत्र के नाम पर जनता के साथ क्रूर मजाक है। भारत ही नहीं, इस संसदीय प्रणाली ने इजराइल, इटली और स्पेन सहित विश्व के कई देशों में तांडव मचाया है। कृष्ण त्यागी के अनुसार यह पद्धति भारत जैसे



नारायण कुमार एवं एस.एन. गुप्ता द्वीप प्रज्वलित करते हुये तथा पूर्व विदेश सचिव शशांक समापन वक्तव्य देते हुये।

विविधतापूर्ण देश के लिए उपयुक्त नहीं है। भारत को चाहिए कि केंद्रीय एवं राज्यों के स्तर पर अमेरिका में प्रयुक्त राष्ट्रपति पद्धति को, कुछ संशोधनों के साथ अपनाये और अपने प्रतिनिधियों के चुनाव के लिए सिंगल ट्रांसफरेबल वोट सिस्टम की पद्धति का प्रयोग करें। कार्यक्रम की अध्यक्षता श्री मधुसूदन दादू ने की। मंच संचालन डॉ. एस. एन. गुप्ता ने

किया। अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय सहयोग परिषद के मानद निदेशक श्री नारायण कुमार ने परिषद की गतिविधियों पर प्रकाश डाला।

अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय सहयोग परिषद के संरक्षक पूर्व विदेश सचिव शशांक ने गोष्ठी का समापन करते हुए कहा कि आज भारत की अर्थव्यवस्था प्रगति पथ पर अग्रसर है और विश्व के बड़े देश भारत से अपने सम्बन्ध बढ़ाना चाहते हैं। भारत को अपनी सांस्कृतिक विरासत के आधार पर विश्व में सम्मानजनक स्थान मिलेगा, अतः अपनी भाषा व संस्कृति को सुरक्षित रखते हुए देश को आगे बढ़ना होगा। गोष्ठी में प्रवासी संसार के संपादक श्री राकेश पाण्डे, श्री अरुण कुमार सदस्य जीएसटी ट्रिब्यूनल और चिन्तना के श्री कृष्णानंद सागर, श्री परेश गुप्ता, डॉ. अखिलेश मिश्र, श्री प्रमोद कामत सहित कई अन्य लोग मौजूद थे। बैठक का संचालन डॉ. एस. एन. गुप्ता ने किया।

भारतीय-अमेरिकी जीवविज्ञानी अंकुर जैन पैकार्ड फाउंडेशन फेलोशिप से सम्मानित

भारतीय-अमेरिकी जीव विज्ञानी एवं शिक्षाविद् अंकुर जैन को पैकार्ड फाउंडेशन फेलोशिप से सम्मानित किया गया है। जैन, उन 22 शोधकर्ताओं में से एक हैं जिन्हें पैकार्ड फेलो के रूप में नामित किया गया है। इस प्रतिष्ठित फेलोशिप के तहत वैज्ञानिकों को पांच वर्षों के लिए अपने शोध कार्य को आगे बढ़ाने के लिये 875,000 अमेरिकी डॉलर मिलते हैं। जैन 'व्हाइटहेड इंस्टीट्यूट बायोमेडिकल रिसर्च' के सदस्य हैं और प्रतिष्ठित मैसाचुसेट्स

प्रौद्योगिकी संस्थान में जीव विज्ञान के सहायक प्रोफेसर हैं। डेविड और ल्यूसिल पैकार्ड फाउंडेशन ने न्यूरोलॉजिकल रोगों से संबंधित उनके शोध कार्यों को लेकर उन्हें न्यूरोलाइस फेलोशिप के लिए चुना है। उनका अनुसंधान



इस बात पर आधारित था कि आरएनए एकत्रीकरण इस बीमारी के संबंध में कितनी भूमिका निभाता है। जैन ने 2007 में भारतीय प्रौद्योगिकी संस्थान खड़गपुर से बायोटेक्नोलॉजी इंजीनियरिंग में अपनी स्नातक की डिग्री प्राप्त की थी और 2013 में इलिनॉय विश्वविद्यालय, उरबाना-चैम्पेन में बायोफिजिक्स और कम्प्यूटेशनल बायोलॉजी में डॉक्टरेट की उपाधि प्राप्त की थी। □

भारतीय मूल के पुलिसकर्मी के सम्मान में ह्यूस्टन पुलिस ने ड्रेस कोड नीति बदली

भारतीय मूल के अमेरिकी सिख पुलिस अधिकारी संदीप सिंह धलीवाल की शहादत के सम्मान में ह्यूस्टन पुलिस विभाग ने अपनी ड्रेस कोड नीति को बदल दिया, जिसके तहत अल्पसंख्यक समुदाय के सदस्यों को ड्यूटी पर रहते हुए अपनी धार्मिक पहचान को बनाए रखने की इजाजत दी गई है। हैरिस काउंटी शेरिफ कार्यालय में दस वर्षों से कार्यरत धलीवाल की ह्यूस्टन में यातायात ड्यूटी के दौरान 28 सितम्बर को गोली मारकर हत्या कर दी गई थी। 42 वर्षीय पुलिस अधिकारी उस वक्त राष्ट्रीय सुर्खियों में आए थे जब उन्हें कार्य के दौरान दाढ़ी रखने और पगड़ी पहनने की अनुमति दी गई थी। सिटी ऑफ ह्यूस्टन ने



ट्वीट किया, 'ह्यूस्टन पुलिस टेक्सास में कानून लागू करने वाली सबसे बड़ी एजेंसी है जिसने अधिकारियों को ड्यूटी के दौरान अपनी आस्था की चीजों को पहनने की अनुमति दी है।' ह्यूस्टन के महापौर सिल्वेस्टर टर्नर ने ट्वीट किया, 'यह घोषणा करते हुए गर्व हो रहा है कि एचपीडी (ह्यूस्टन पुलिस विभाग) सिख अधिकारियों को ड्यूटी पर अपनी आस्था की चीजें पहनने की अनुमति देगा-देश सबसे बड़े पुलिस विभागों में शामिल ह्यूस्टन पुलिस ऐसा करेगी। डिप्टी धालीवाल ने हमें समग्रता का महत्वपूर्ण सबक सिखाया है। उन्हें समझना सम्मान की बात है।' □

फीजी तो लघु भारत है-महामहिम पुंजा

अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय सहयोग परिषद और अक्षरम् की ओर से दिनांक 9 दिसम्बर, 2019 को भारत-फीजी मैत्री संघ के महासचिव श्री सुमंत राउत के सम्मान में प्रवासी भवन में एक कार्यक्रम आयोजित किया गया। कार्यक्रम के मुख्य अतिथि फीजी में भारत के हाई कमिश्नर श्री योगेश पुंजा थे तथा कार्यक्रम की अध्यक्षता फीजी में भारत के पूर्व हाई कमिश्नर श्री विनोद कुमार ने की। इस अवसर पर गृह मंत्रालय में वित्त सलाहकार श्रीमती धृति पांडा जी और सुमंत जी का परिवार भी उपस्थित था।



(बायें से दायें) भारत-फीजी मैत्री संघ के महासचिव श्री सुमंत राउत, अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय सहयोग परिषद के महासचिव श्री श्याम परांडे, फीजी के उच्चायुक्त महामहिम श्री योगेश पुंजा को पुष्पगुच्छ भेंट करते हुए श्री नारायण कुमार, फीजी में भारत के पूर्व उच्चायुक्त श्री विनोद कुमार को पुष्पगुच्छ भेंट करते हुए प्रो. महावीर सिंह, अक्षरम् के अध्यक्ष श्री अनिल शर्मा जोशी

कार्यक्रम के प्रारम्भ में अतिथियों का स्वागत करते हुए अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय सहयोग परिषद के महासचिव श्री श्याम परांडे ने कहा कि भारत और फीजी के बीच के द्विपक्षीय सम्बंधों में भाषा एवं संस्कृति की भूमिका को महत्वपूर्ण बताया। उन्होंने कहा कि राजनयिक, आर्थिक एवं सांस्कृतिक आधार पर हमारे संबंध निरंतर सुदृढ़ होते रहे हैं और भविष्य में भी सद्भावपूर्ण बने रहेंगे। इस अवसर पर फीजी के हाई

कमिश्नर श्री योगेश पुंजा ने कहा कि फीजी तो लघु भारत है। उन्होंने फीजी और भारत के संबंधों को मजबूत करने वाली अपनी योजनाओं के बारे में जानकारी दी जिसमें कोलकाता के गिरमिट मैमोरियल में आवाजाही को आसान करना और भारत के संगीत वाद्यों का संग्रह लाटुका गिरमिट सेंटर में बनाना है। उन्होंने संबंधों की मजबूती की दृष्टि से आर्थिक एवं व्यावसायिक संबंधों की

मजबूती पर बल दिया। फीजी में भारत के पूर्व हाई कमिश्नर श्री विनोद कुमार ने फीजी के अपने कार्यकाल के आलोक में भारत-फीजी के संबंधों का विवेचन किया। श्री सुमंत राउत ने अपने भाषण में भारत-फीजी मैत्री संघ की स्थापना के संबंध में तत्कालीन हाई कमिश्नर और हाई कमीशन के अधिकारी श्री अनिल शर्मा के योगदान के बारे में बताया। उन्होंने कहा कि अब मैत्री संघ बिजनेस काउंसिल के गठन पर तेजी से काम कर रहा है। उन्होंने भारत में इस तरह के संगठन की जरूरत बतायी। इस अवसर पर अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय सहयोग परिषद के मानद निदेशक श्री नारायण कुमार, अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय सहयोग परिषद-नोएडा के प्रभारी प्रो. एस. एन. गुप्ता, अक्षरम् के अध्यक्ष श्री अनिल शर्मा जोशी, फीजी में सांस्कृतिक केंद्र के निदेशक रहे श्री महावीर सिंह, बिरला फाउंडेशन के निदेशक श्री सुरेश तुपुर्ण, प्रवासी संसार के संपादक श्री राकेश पांडे आदि ने भी अपने विचार रखे। □

फीजी के हिन्दी लेखक सुब्रमनी की पुस्तक 'फीजी माँ' का लोकार्पण

दिनांक 16 नवम्बर, 2019 को अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय सहयोग परिषद और अक्षरम् के संयुक्त आयोजन में प्रख्यात लेखक डॉ. सुब्रमनी की पुस्तक 'फीजी माँ' का लोकार्पण सम्पन्न हुआ। लोकार्पण कार्यक्रम के मुख्य अतिथि फीजी के भारत में उच्चायुक्त श्री योगेश पुंजा थे। कार्यक्रम की अध्यक्षता अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय सहयोग परिषद के महासचिव श्री श्याम परांडे ने की। इस अवसर पर मॉरीशस के प्रसिद्ध लेखक श्री रामदेव धुरंधर, ब्रिटेन की लेखिका श्रीमती दिव्या माथुर, फीजी में भारत के उच्चायुक्त रहे श्री अजय सिंह, प्रसिद्ध विद्वान डॉ. विमलेश कांति वर्मा, प्रवासी संसार के संपादक श्री राकेश पांडे और अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय सहयोग परिषद के मानद निदेशक श्री नारायण कुमार ने भी अपने विचार रखे अक्षरम् के अध्यक्ष और लेखक श्री अनिल जोशी ने कार्यक्रम का संचालन किया।

पुस्तक पर बोलते हुए डॉ. सुब्रमनी ने फीजी में लुप्त होती फीजी हिन्दी की स्थिति पर चिंता प्रकट की। उन्होंने बताया कि पुस्तक लिखने में उन्हें 14 वर्ष लगे तथा यह पुस्तक फीजी हिन्दी का आर्काइव भी है, उन्होंने पुस्तक के कई अंशों को पढ़ा जो श्रोताओं ने बहुत पसंद किया। भारत में फीजी के उच्चायुक्त श्री योगेश पुंजा ने कहा कि फीजी में हिन्दी को सुरक्षित रखना बहुत महत्वपूर्ण है और उस मामले में भारत के विद्वानों को मार्गदर्शन करना चाहिए।

अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय सहयोग परिषद के महासचिव श्री श्याम परांडे ने अपने अध्यक्षीय भाषण में कहा



कि फीजी में मानक हिन्दी और फीजी-बात दोनों भाषायी रूपों में समन्वय की आवश्यकता है। उन्होंने आज के कार्यक्रम को गौरव का क्षण बताया। मॉरीशस के साहित्यकार श्री रामदेव धुरंधर ने अपनी और डॉ. सुब्रमनी की लेखन यात्रा की समानता और संघर्ष की चर्चा करते हुए कहा कि डायस्पोरा लेखन हिन्दी को समृद्ध कर रहा है। ब्रिटेन की लेखिका दिव्या माथुर ने पुस्तक के अन्य भाषाओं में अनुवाद की आवश्यकता बताया।

श्री राकेश पांडे ने फीजी में 'फीजी हिन्दी' की उपेक्षा पर सवाल उठाए और भारत सरकार से इस संबंध में कदम उठाने का आग्रह किया। प्रसिद्ध विद्वान डॉ. विमलेश कांति वर्मा ने फीजी में अपने कार्यकाल के संस्मरण सुनाते हुए फीजी हिन्दी को यथोचित सम्मान देने की बात की। अनिल जोशी ने अपने वक्तव्य में कहा कि फीजी में भाषा की स्थिति जटिल है। यह मानक हिन्दी और फीजी हिन्दी में प्रतिद्वंद्विता का मामला नहीं है। दोनों का विकास एक दूसरे से जुड़ा हुआ है। उन्होंने कहा यह उपन्यास गंभीर स्थितियों का पूरे व्यंग्य और खिलंदड़ेपन से वर्णन करता है। इस अर्थ में यह श्रीलाल शुक्ल के उपन्यास 'राग दरबारी' और अमेरिका के

लेखक अखिल शर्मा की पुस्तक 'द फैमिली' की याद दिलाता है। श्री नारायण कुमार ने कहा कि आज अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय सहयोग परिषद और प्रवासी भवन के लिए एक अभूतपूर्व ऐतिहासिक अवसर है कि जबकि प्रवासी हिन्दी लेखन के दो शिखर-पुरुष डॉ. सुब्रमनी और श्री रामदेव धुरंधर उपस्थित हैं। प्रवासी हिन्दी लेखन में इन दोनों लेखकों का योगदान चिरस्मरणीय रहेगा। इस अवसर पर सुप्रसिद्ध कथाकार और कवियत्री दिव्या माथुर की उपस्थिति आज के इस कार्यक्रम को सम्पूर्णता प्रदान करती है। उन्होंने सुब्रमनी की 'फीजी माँ' और रामदेव धुरंधर के पथरीला सोना की साहित्यिक उत्कृष्टता पर प्रकाश डालते हुए कहा कि इन दोनों पुस्तकों में क्रमशः अवधी और भोजपुरी भाषा का प्रयोग हिन्दी को समृद्ध करता है। हिन्दी और फीजी हिन्दी के अंतर संबंधों पर उन्होंने कहा कि तुलसी और प्रेमचंद दोनों ही अपने हैं। अतिथियों का स्वागत अक्षरम् की महासचिव और लेखिका श्रीमती अल्का सिन्हा ने किया।

कार्यक्रम में अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय सहयोग परिषद के उपाध्यक्ष श्री मुकेश अग्रवाल, सचिव श्री गोपाल अरोड़ा, श्री नवीन लोहनी, विनोद संदलेश, अनिल मीत, तारा चंद, डॉ. हरि सिंह पाल, बाबा कानपुरी, दीपक पांडे, नूतन पांडे, विनयशील, किरण शुक्ल, श्रीमती धीरा वर्मा, विजय मिश्रा, श्री महावीर, निर्मल वैद्य आदि गणमान्य व्यक्ति उपस्थित थे। □