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LEGAL HURDLES FOR THE INDIANS IN SOUTH AFRICA

(Continued from the previous issue)



too late for them now to chalk out a new path for themselves. Thus considered, the Indian question cannot be resolved into one trade jealousy or race hatred. The problem is simply one of preserving one's own civilization, that is of enjoying the supreme right of self-preservation and discharging the



M. K. Gandhi

The human intellect delights in inventing specious arguments in order to support injustice itself, and the South African Europeans were no exception to this general rule. These were the arguments advanced by General Smuts and others:

“South Africa is a representative of Western civilization while India is the centre of Oriental culture. Thinkers of the present generation hold that these two civilizations cannot go together. If nations representing these rival cultures meet even in small groups, the result will only be an explosion. The West is opposed to simplicity while Orientals consider that virtue to be of primary importance. How can these opposite views be reconciled? It is not the business of statesmen, practical men as they are, to adjudicate upon their relative merits. Western civilization may or may not be good, but Westerners wish to stick to it. They have made tireless endeavours to save that civilization. They have shed rivers of blood for its sake. They have suffered great hardships in its cause. It is therefore

corresponding duty. Some public speakers may like to inflame the Europeans by finding fault with Indians, but political thinkers believe and say that the very qualities of Indians count for defects in South Africa. The Indians are disliked in South Africa for their simplicity, patience, perseverance, frugality and other worldliness. Westerners are enterprising, impatient, engrossed in multiplying their material wants and in satisfying them, fond of good cheer, anxious to save physical labour and prodigal in habits. They are therefore afraid that if thousands of Orientals settled in South Africa, the Westerners must go to the wall. Westerners in South Africa are not prepared to commit suicide and their leaders will not permit them to be reduced to such straits.”

I believe I have impartially recapitulated the arguments urged by men of the highest character among the Europeans. I have characterized their arguments as pseudo-philosophical, but I do not thereby wish to suggest that they are

groundless. From a practical point of view, that is to say, from the standpoint of immediate self-interest they have much force. But from the philosophical point of view, they are hypocrisy pure and simple. In my humble opinion, no impartial person could accept such conclusions and no reformer would place his civilization in the position of helplessness in which those who urge these arguments have placed theirs. So far as I am aware, no Eastern thinker fears that if Western nations came in free contact with Orientals, Oriental culture would be swept away like sand by the onrushing tide of Western civilization. So far as I have a grasp of Eastern thought it seems to me that Oriental civilization not only does not fear but would positively welcome free contact with Western civilization. If contrary instances can be met with in the East, they do not affect the principle I have laid down, for a number of illustrations can be cited in its support. However that may be, Western thinkers claim that the



foundation of Western civilization is the predominance of might over right. Therefore it is that the protagonists of that civilization devote most of their time to the conservation of brute force. These thinkers likewise assert that the nations which do not increase their material wants are doomed to destruction. It is in pursuance of these principles that Western nations have settled in South Africa and subdued the numerically overwhelmingly superior races of South Africa. It is absurd to imagine that they would fear the harmless population of India. The best proof of the statement that the Europeans have nothing to fear from the Asiatics is provided by the fact that had the Indians continued to work in South Africa for all time as mere labourers, no agitation would have been started against Indian immigration.

The only remaining factors are trade and colour. Thousands of Europeans have admitted in their writings that trade by Indians hits petty British traders hard, and that the dislike of the brown races has at present become part and parcel of the mentality of Europeans. Even in the United States of America, where the principle of statutory equality has been established, a man like Booker T. Washington who has received the best Western education, is a Christian of high character and has fully assimilated Western civilization, was not considered fit for admission to the court of President Roosevelt, and probably would not be so considered even today. The Negroes of the United States have accepted Western civilization. They have embraced Christianity. But the black pigment of their skin constitutes their crime, and if in the Northern States they are socially despised, they are lynched in the Southern States on the slightest suspicion of wrongdoing.

The reader will thus see that there is not much substance in the 'philosophical' arguments discussed above. But he must not therefore conclude that all those who urge them do so in a hypocritical spirit. Many of them honestly hold these views to be sound. It is possible that if we were placed in their position, we too would advance similar arguments. We have a saying in India that as is a man's conduct, such is his understanding. Who is there but has observed that our arguments are but a reflection of our mentality, and that if they do not commend themselves to others, we become dissatisfied, impatient and even indignant?

I have deliberately discussed this question with much minuteness, as I wish the reader to understand different points of view and in order that the reader, who has so far not done so, may acquire the habit of appreciating and respecting varieties of standpoint. Such large-mindedness and such patience are essential to the understanding of Satyagraha and above all to its practice. Satyagraha is impossible in the absence of these qualities. I do not write this book merely for the writing of it. Nor is it my object to place one phase of the

history of South Africa before the public. My object in writing the present volume is that the nation might know how Satyagraha, for which I live, for which I desire to live and for which I believe I am equally prepared to die, originated and how it was practiced on a large scale; and knowing this, it may understand and carry it out to the extent that it is willing and able to do so.

To resume our narrative. We have seen that the British administrators decided to prevent fresh Indian immigrants from entering the Transvaal, and to render the position of the old Indian settlers so uncomfortable that they would feel compelled to leave the country in sheer disgust, and even if they did not leave it, they would be reduced to a state bordering on serfdom. Some men looked upon as great statesmen in South Africa had declared more than once that they could afford to keep the Indians only as hewers of wood and drawers of water. On the staff of the Asiatic Department was among others Mr. Lionel Curtis who is now known to fame as the missionary for diarchy in India. This young man, as he then was, enjoyed the confidence of Lord Milner. He claimed to do everything according to scientific method, but he was capable of committing serious blunders. The Municipality of Johannesburg had suffered a loss of 14,000 pound in consequence of one such blunder committed by him. He suggested that if fresh Indian immigration was to be stopped, the first step to be taken to that end was the effective registration of the old Indian residents in South Africa. That done, no one could smuggle himself into the country by practising personation, and if anyone did, he could be easily detected. The permits which were issued to Indians after the establishment of British rule in the Transvaal contained the signature of the holder or his thumb-impression if he was illiterate. Later on someone suggested the inclusion besides of a photograph of the holder, and this suggestion was carried out by administrative action, legislation being unnecessary. The Indian leaders therefore did not come to know of this innovation at once. When in course of

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time these novel features came to their notice, they sent memorials to the authorities, and waited upon them in deputations on behalf of the community. The official argument was that Government could not permit Indians to enter the country without regulation of some sort, and that therefore all Indians should provide themselves with uniform permits containing such details as might render it impossible for anyone but the rightful holders to enter the country. It was my opinion that although we were not bound by law to take out such permits, the Government could insist on requiring them so long as the Peace Preservation Ordinance was in force. The Peace Preservation Ordinance in South Africa was something like the Defence of India Act in India. Just as the Defence of India Act was kept on the statute-book in India longer than necessary in order to harass the people, so was this ordinance allowed to remain in force long after the necessity for it had

passed in order to harass Indians in South Africa. As for the Europeans, it was a dead letter for all practical purposes. Now if permits must be taken out, they should contain some mark of identification. There was nothing wrong therefore that those who were illiterate should allow their thumb-impression to be taken. I did not at all like the inclusion of photographs in the permits. Musalmans again had religious objections to such a course.

The final upshot of the negotiations between the Indian community and the authorities was that the Indians consented to change their permits for new once and agreed that fresh Indian immigrants should take out permits in the new form. Although the Indians were not bound in law, they voluntarily agreed to re-registration in the hope that new restrictions might not be imposed upon them, it might be clear to all concerned that the Indians did not wish to bring in fresh immigrants

by unfair means, and the Peace Preservation Ordinance might no longer be used to harass new-comers. Almost all Indians thus changed their old permits for new ones. This was no small thing. The community completed like one man with the greatest promptitude this re-registration, which they were not legally bound to carry out. This was a proof of their veracity, tact, large-mindedness, common sense and humility. It also showed that the community had no desire to violate in any way any law in force in the Transvaal. The Indians believed that if they behaved towards the Government with such courtesy, it would treat them well, show regard to them and confer fresh rights upon them. We shall see in the next chapter how the British Government in the Transvaal rewarded them for this great act of courtesy.

(To be continued)

PM NARENDRA Modi Hails Sri Lanka Indian Diaspora

Prime Minister visited Indian diaspora in Colombo on 9 June 2019. He said that India's image has tremendously transformed in the last five years as he hailed the contribution made by the Indian diaspora to project a good image of the country through their hard work.

He expressed his pleasure at meeting the Indian community during his address, along with speaking on the recently culminated Lok Sabha elections which propelled him to power for the second consecutive term. "I thank the Indian community for coming to meet us here. It is always a delight to interact with the Indian diaspora," he said during his address.

"Today, India's position in the world is getting stronger and a large part of that credit goes to the Indian diaspora. I've been to many countries in these last five years, and everyone has always praised the Indian community's contribution. Wherever I go, I'm told



Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Sri Lankan President Maithripala Sirisena

about the successes and accomplishments of the Indian diaspora," he stated appreciatively.

Highlighting the relationship shared between the Indian government and the country's expatriates, he said, "I am happy to share that the Indian community overseas and the

Government of India are on the same page when it comes to several issues."

He said that Indians were contributing to the change happening in every nation due to which the way the natives of the nation look at them is changing. □

THE BRITISH INDIAN DIASPORA IS MORE ENGAGED WITH INDIA THAN EVER BEFORE

A few weeks ago at the Scottish National Party's Spring Conference, something quite unusual happened. It was not the focus on liberal and social issues. It wasn't that the thousands of party members gathered clapped in unison whenever a speaker mentioned Scottish independence. Instead, it was that a fringe event was organised to explore deeper Scotland-India relations.

It was the first time SNP had formally explored party interest in establishing a special interest group focused on developing relations with India. The seminar competed with concurrent events on the environment, social security, refugees, domestic abuse and other policy-led discussion forums, but a committed core of SNP members turned up to discuss closer cultural, civic, education and business links.

This follows on from the re-establishment of the Labour Friends of India group earlier this year, led by Rajesh Agrawal, deputy mayor for business of London, and Darren Jones MP. LFI had its heyday more than 15 years ago when its chair at the time, Barry Gardiner MP, presented then chief minister Narendra Modi with a cheque for £1m raised by British charity Sewa International for victims of the Gujarat earthquake.

Once the Conservative government of PM David Cameron came into power in 2010, LFI's foothold in the Indian community fell precipitously, and the Indian vote transferred away from Labour. Conservative Friends of India was established and steadily grew its membership. Cameron coined the phrase 'phir ek baar, Cameron sarkar' a few years later in a temple in northwest London.

For the first time in Britain, all three major political partners today have a special interest group for India. This

shows the increasing importance of India to Britain. There are subtle differences in approach from each of them. The narrative at the SNP conference was about shared liberal values, civic and educational exchanges. The Conservatives have a consistent focus on business and providing mentorship to younger candidates running for election. The membership base is largely upwardly-mobile entrepreneurs and professionals. LFI is just getting started, but seems to focus on grassroots engagement on business and community issues. The senior buy-in that earlier iterations of LFI enjoyed has yet provided elusive.

The latest Grant Thornton India Tracker shows that Indian companies employ 105,000 people in Britain, generating £48bn in revenues. India remains the country's third-largest job creator and M&A transactions involving Indian companies hit a record level in 2018. Some of the big transactions included Indian government-owned Energy Efficiency Services Limited acquiring Edina Power Services for £57m and Bharat Forge's investment of £10m into Tevva Motors. Oyo rooms entered the UK hotel market in its first expansion outside Asia, as did Ola, entering South Wales and Manchester.

London is the European hub of activity for UK-India economic opportunities. New Indian diaspora think tank Bridge India chose London as its first European office, ahead of Germany and Netherlands and there are at least three India-focused tech events during London Tech Week this month. There are almost daily stories of Indian-origin tech businesses flourishing in London, such as blockchain identity management startup MyEarthID or venture capital fund Pontaq, which has signed an agreement with Chinese developers ABP to create a designated co-

working space for Indian tech right next to London City Airport.

The tag of 'India-UK' has become a sub-industry in its own right.  *Pratik Dattani* London abounds with consultants and new initiatives claiming to be channelling success in this bilateral corridor. Middlemen see an opportunity for India-UK themed awards ceremonies where the level of sponsorship drives the accolade received. We seem to be at the peak of a cyclical market for such entrepreneurial ventures.

But other initiatives that are bottom-up and entrepreneur-led have seen the most growth, primarily because they have a clearer purpose. Network Capital, the global community of change-makers and entrepreneurs that is a partner for the Atal Innovation Mission, has a flourishing London chapter. The six-month old Bridge India, where I am an advisor, has generated remarkable interest in connecting diaspora Indians to public policy issues in India. There are several community-led WhatsApp groups in the Tamil, Maharashtrian, Gujarati and other communities that have shown similar patterns of growth with a mantra of being membership-led, focusing on no politics, just business. Each of these are communities that have grown through diligent growth hacking and with the assistance of social media.

As the political parties try to grow their India special interest groups and Indian government affiliated organisations continue to flourish in the UK, they are engaged in a battle for eyeballs, engagement and therefore relevance in a world of new, social media led communities. It is an exciting time to be an OCI in the UK. □

(Courtsey : TOI- June 15, 2019)

PROJECT ROMANISATAN—ITALIAN DELEGATION TRAVELS TO INDIA BY ROAD IN SEARCH OF ROOTS & ROUTES

✍ *Md. Zameer Anwar*

6 members of the Italian delegation is associated with the project - Romanistan, founded and sponsored by Italian Cultural Council, called at Pravasi Bhawan on 2 July 2019 to meet ARSP's office bearers and team engaged in serving Roma causes and working on Roma related issues, moreover an interview with Secretary General of ARSP Shri Shyam Parande, Joint Secretary Dr. Shashibala and Dr. Shyam Singh Shashi to discuss about the relations between Roma community and India as well as migration of proto Roma from India.



(L to R) Jugalbandi Trio - Gennaro Spinelli, Pt. Ravi Shankar Upadhyay & Ustad Rauf Mohammad

besides the publication of book.

The project is proposed to be exhibited in the month of November this year in Centre D Arte Contempronea Luigi Pecci (Prato), in Florence, San Paolo, London, New York, Geneva and etc.

During the meeting, Luca Vitone, Project Director, introduced his team mates including Pietro De Tilla - Director of Creative Photography, Daniele Caspar - Project Producer, Elvio Manuzzi - Sound Artist, Giovanni Oberti - Assistant Director and Gennaro Spinelli - Violinist.

Luca Vitone gave an elaborate account of the project - Romanistan that aims at retracing the migratory routes of Roma community as well as highlighting their identity and their relations with other populations.

The project constitutes the expedition through cars, starting from Bologna, Italy, via Croatia, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Serbia, Montenegro, Albania, Greece, Macedonia, Bulgaria, Romania, Turkey, Georgia, Armenia, Iraq, Iran and Pakistan (Lahore) to India. This arduous journey lasted for five weeks and 5th July was the end of this expedition.

Under this project, a documentary film will be produced and the collection of artifacts and ephemera for exhibition during the journey will be made up,

Subsequent to the meeting, Centre for Roma Studies and Cultural Relations - ARSP in collaboration with Kathak Kendra organized a cultural programme in honour of Italian delegation on 5th July 2019 at Kathak Kendra—Chanakyapuri, New Delhi.

The program began with lighting of lamp and honouring the delegates with Angvastram.

In his introductory remarks, Shri Shyam Parande spoke about Indian origin of Roma community and their migration from India in different points in time and from different geographical locations. He opined, ancestors of Roma belong not to a particular caste but to various Indian Communities viz. Banjara, Gadia Lohars, Gujjar, Pastoral communities, Kshatria and Chauhan. Mr. Parande further said, Roma are born artists, musicians and dancers who contributed immensely to the world music. He also asserted

that ARSP is unwaveringly committed to giving a voice to the problems faced by the community and carrying out the research study in order to further reinforce their linkage with India.

Amb. Rajesh Sachdeva - Chairman of Centre for Roma Studies and Cultural Relations, welcomed the Italian delegates and talked about his first encounter with Roma community in Bulgaria when he was serving as an ambassador there. He enunciated, the penchant of Romani people for music has made them acclaimed artists around the world.



Kathak Kendra - Chairperson Dr. Kamalini, Director B. B. Chugh, ARSP Secretary General Shyam Parande, Secretary Gopal Arora and ARSP members with Italian Delegates

The program saw the mesmerizing Indian classical dances performed by the students of Kathak Kendra as well as Jugalbandi trio with Sitar and Pakhawaj played by renowned Indian artists and violin played by celebrated Italian violinist Mr. Gennaro Spinelli that gave a subtle mix between two great classes of Indian and Italian music that bedazzled the spectators.

In her concluding remarks, Ms. Kamalini Asthana – Chairperson Advisory Committee of Kathak Kendra said, Roma are like fragrance of India permeating all over the world. Director of Kathak Kendra Shri B. B. Chugh proposed the vote of thanks. □

THE INDIAN–AMERICAN COMMUNITY: SIBLINGS ON OPPOSITE SIDES OF THE GLOBE

✉ Anant Singh (Intern DRRC, ARSP)

In recent years, the number of Indians immigrating to the United States has increased significantly as more and more Indians come to the US to seek new opportunities. However, the immigration of Indians to the United States is not a new phenomenon. Often regarded as the land of immigrants, the first wave of migration from the Indian subcontinent to the United States was reported to be in the 19th century, as many Punjabi Sikhs sought to escape the hardships of the British land tenure system as well as a severe drought and food shortage in the 1890's that adversely affected many farmers. This new group of immigrants settled in agricultural intensive areas in California and it is estimated that there were approximately 2,000 Indians Sikhs in the United States by 1900 (Rangaswamy, 2000)¹. This steady flow of immigration of Indians to the US continued till 1917 when the United States legislature passed the Asiatic Barred Zone Act which virtually halted all Asian immigration to the United States. The legislation drastically lowered the flow of Indian immigrants to the United States. Immigration from India remained minimal until 1965 when the United States government started to open America's borders to groups other than the already allowed Northern European immigrants (U.S. Immigration Legislation: 1917 Immigration Act)². Ever since, Indian immigration to the United States has

steadily been increasing and still continues to grow to this very day. With approximately 3 million first- and second-generation Indian immigrants currently residing in the United States (Migration Policy Institute, 2014)³ the Indian-American community has progressed a long way since the first wave of Indian immigration. With many immigrating in recent years due to growth in the IT industry, many of these high-skilled Indian immigrants have found themselves to be well assimilated into the United States. With a median household income in the top ten-percent of American household incomes as well as the emergence of people of Indian origin in high-ranking positions at many multinational companies (Google, Facebook, Microsoft, Cisco, Oracle, Pepsi, etc.), the Indian diaspora community has risen as a prominent and influential ethnic group in the context of American society despite their numbers representing merely one-percent of the entire US population. Additionally, the Indian diaspora community in the United States stands to be one of the highest educated groups in America, with approximately 80% of Indian-Americans over the age of twenty-five holding at least a bachelor's degree (Migration Policy Institute, 2014)⁴. Furthermore, in recent years, there has been an increase in political advocacy and participation by the

Indian-American community. Through a variety of political organizations, ranging from Indo-specific organizations, such as the India Political Action Committee and the Indian-American Leadership Initiatives, to pan-ethnic groups, such as the South Asian Americans Leading Together and Desis Rising Up & Moving, the diaspora community has been active in voicing the concerns of Indian-Americans to the United States government. Furthermore, many Indian American lobbying groups have played an important role in pushing legislative officials to promote good relations between India and the United States, particularly in the field of civil nuclear trade and commerce (Sharma, 2017)⁵. Groups such as the National Federation of Indian American Associations have successfully lobbied to relax sanctions imposed on India by the United States and help push the US government to pressure the Nuclear Suppliers Groups to remove sanction imposed on India due to the 1974 nuclear tests carried out under the Indira Gandhi administration. Additionally, lobbying efforts by the diaspora community helped solidify a "123 agreement" between the United States and India. This agreement, officially known as the India-United States Civil Nuclear Agreement, allowed for the trade of civil nuclear material, such as nuclear fuel, between the two countries.





These lobbying efforts by the Indian American community help establish India as one of the only non-signatories to the NPT allowed to engage in the trade of nuclear material. The affluent position of the Indian diaspora community as well as their active participation in American politics displays the illustrious position they hold in American society.

While the Indian-American community, for the most part, has assimilated well in the United States, the community has maintained close ties with India at the same time. A variety of diaspora organizations, both pan-Indian as well as region-specific, have helped maintain cultural ties of the Indian diaspora community through hosting a variety of cultural events. Through public showcases and recitals of both traditional Indian art forms (Kathak, Bharatanatyam, Hindustani Music and Carnatic Music) and contemporary Indian music and dance as well as language and culture classes for the diaspora youth, the Indian diaspora community in the United States has maintained strong cultural ties to their homeland

Additionally, the Indian diaspora community has maintained strong economic ties with India. Through ease-of-travel schemes by the Government of India, such as the Overseas Citizen of India (OCI) and Persons of Indian Origins (PIO) card programs, many Indian Americans have been able to travel to India without obstacles and thus facilitate easier economic and information flow between the United States and India

(MEA Report)⁶. Furthermore, the PIO/OCI schemes allows holders of these cards to enjoy greater rights in India, such as no visa requirements for employment or education opportunities in India, ability to apply for an Indian driver's license and a PAN card as well as have rights in parity with NRIs. These rights include acquiring, holding, transferring and selling non-agricultural properties, open rupee bank accounts, admission of their children through the NRI quota at educational institutes, and access to various housing schemes provided by LIC and State governments. While the PIO/OCI scheme is available for most Indian with the increased digitization of business and lower airfare costs, alongside with the OCI and PIO programs offered by the Government of India, Indian diaspora businessmen have been able to maintain entrepreneurial and professional ties as well as engage directly with Indian businesses. Organizations such as the Persons of Indian Origin Chamber of Commerce (PIOCCI) have also helped maintain such close business ties between the Indian diaspora community and Indian markets by facilitating dialogue between the two business worlds (PIOCCI Report)⁷. Additionally, a variety of charity organizations have been founded by the Indian diaspora community with mandates on providing economic development in India. Organizations such as the American India Foundation and Pratham U.S.A. have set up philanthropic projects to improve health and education in underdeveloped areas (Migration

Policy Institute, 2014)⁸.

End notes:

¹ Padma Rangaswamy, *Namasté America: Indian Immigrants in an American Metropolis*, 2000.

² U.S. Immigration Legislation: 1917 Immigration Act," accessed June 29, 2019, http://library.uwb.edu/Static/USimmigration/1917_immigration_act.html.

³ Migration Policy Institute, "The Indian Diaspora Community in the United States," *RAD Diaspora Profile*, July 2014.

⁴ Migration Policy Institute, "The Indian Diaspora Community in the United States," *RAD Diaspora Profile*, July 2014.

⁵ Ashok Sharma, *Indian Lobbying and Its Influence in US Decision Making*, 1st ed. (SAGE Publications Pvt. Ltd., 2017).

⁶ Ministry of External Affairs, "PIO/OCI CARD," accessed June 29, 2019, https://www.mea.gov.in/Portal/CountryQuickLink/703_PIO-OCI.pdf.

⁷ Who Are We?," *People of Indian Origin Chamber of Commerce and Industry*, accessed June 29, 2019, <http://www.piocci.org/>.

⁸ Migration Policy Institute, "The Indian Diaspora Community in the United States," *RAD Diaspora Profile*, July 2014. □

(To be continued in the next issue)

ASIAN BUDDHIST CONFERENCE FOR PEACE MARKS 50TH ANNIVERSARY IN MONGOLIA

By Lyudmila Klasanova (Buddhistdoor Global - 2019-06-24)

The 11th General Assembly of the Asian Buddhist Conference for Peace (ABCP) was held in the Mongolian capital Ulaanbaatar on 21-23 June, with delegates from Mongolia, as well as Cambodia, India, Nepal, Russia, South Korea, Sri Lanka, and Vietnam, with a Tibetan delegation led by Venerable Thupten Ngodup, the Nechung Kuten, with representatives from all of the major Buddhist traditions.



Group Photo During The 11th General Assembly of the ABCP.
the Tuvan people, Lopsan Chamzy.

The conference, titled "Buddhist Heritage and Values in the 21st Century," marked the 50th anniversary of the ABCP, first convened under the aspiration of Asian countries to preserve their cultural heritage through spreading the teachings of the Buddha and valuing wisdom and compassion in ensuring peace.

The event was hosted by Mongolia's foremost monastery, Gandan Tegchenling, founded in 1809 by the Gelug

His Holiness the Dalai Lama delivered a video message for the assembly, which was presented during the opening ceremony by Telo Tulku Rinpoche. His Holiness remarked that the Sakya tradition of Tibetan Buddhism first became known in Mongolia in the time of Drogon Chogyal Phagpa (the fifth leader of the Sakya school). Then, following the Omniscient

Sonam Gyatso (the third dalai lama), the tradition of Je Tsongkhapa spread throughout the country.

The Dalai Lama stressed that over subsequent centuries a great number of Mongolian scholars and accomplished masters had emerged, noting that during his own life many top Mongolians scholars and geshes in the three



(L to R) Shri Ashok Wangdi, Shri Suresh Soni, Dr. Shashibala & Shri Shyam Parande during the inauguration of the conference

school of Vajrayana Buddhism, and the institutional and cultural center of Mongolian Buddhism. The monastery's abbot, His Eminence the Khamba Lama Gabju Choijamts Demberel, is the highest-ranking Buddhist leader in the country. He is also president of the Asian Buddhist Conference for Peace and head of the Centre of Mongolian Buddhists.

Among the leaders who participated in the conference was the most senior Buddhist in the Russian Federation and in the Republic of Buryatia, the 24th Pandito Khambo Lama Damba Badmayevich Ayusheev; the head lama of the Kalmyk people, Telo Tulku Rinpoche, who is also the honorary representative of the Dalai Lama for Russia, Mongolia, and the members of the Commonwealth of Independent States; and the head lama of

monastic universities (Drepung, Gaden, and Sera) have made remarkable contributions to the Buddhadharma. His Holiness expressed appreciation that the ABCP assembly was being held in Mongolia, and urged Mongolians to study Buddhist philosophy as even modern Western scientists are paying attention to Buddhist philosophy.

Among the distinguished guests was the president of Mongolia, Khaltmaagiin Battulga. During the opening ceremony he remarked: "Mongolia has always supported the Asian Buddhist Conference for Peace, and it has been seen as valuable contribution of Mongolians not only to ensuring peace throughout the world but to maintaining its values, which are still valid to this day. Guided by the teachings of the compassionate Buddha,

during the difficult times of Cold War, the Asian Buddhist Conference for Peace made its voice heard not only in Asia but throughout the whole world. Moreover, it has presented new opportunities in cultural, educational, and economic long-term cooperation where human rights, freedom, and unity are upheld. Therefore, the conference was registered as an observer to the UN's Economic and Social Council in 1988 in recognition of its contribution to the well-being of humanity through its actions for peace." (Office of the President of Mongolia)

The Asian Buddhist Conference for Peace is a voluntary mass movement of Asian Buddhists reflecting their sincere aspirations to realize the ideals of peace, justice, and human dignity. Its aim is to bring together efforts of Buddhists in support of consolidating universal peace, harmony and cooperation among people of Asia.

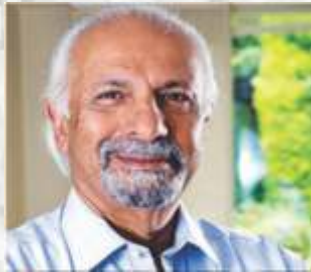
The history of the organization dates to 1968, when three eminent Buddhist monks-Ven. Khamba Lama Samagiin Gombojav (Mongolia), Ven. Khamba Lama Jambaldorj Gomboev (USSR) and Ven. Kushok Bakula Rinpoche (India)-met in Buryatia to discuss the state of Buddhism in the region and to explore the possibility of setting up Buddhist organization. In July 1969, Ven. Sumanatissa and Ven. Wipulasara (Sri Lanka), Ven. Jinaratana (India) and Ven. Amritananda (Nepal) visited Ulaanbaatar at the invitation of Khamba Lama Gombojav. Over the course of their meeting they agreed to establish an international Buddhist organization in the Mongolian capital.

On 13 June 1970, another meeting was held in Ulaanbaatar, setting a resolution to establish an international organization called the Asian Buddhist Committee for Promoting Peace. The first general assembly was held in the city and Ven. Gombojav was elected president. During the third general assembly in New Delhi in 1974, the organization's current name was adopted, and in the same year His Holiness the Dalai Lama participated in the forum and became an ABCP member.

There were good number of Indian delegates attending the ABCP in Ulaanbaatar. Prominent among them were Shri Suresh Soni, Shyam Parande and Dr. Shashibala. □

3 PIOs ELECTED TO EU PARLIAMENT FROM BRITAIN

Anil Goel



Dinesh Dhamija

Three Indian-origin candidates were elected as new Members of the European Parliament, elections to which took place in the beginning of May: Dinesh Dhamija (Liberal Democrats, London), Claude Ajit Moraes (Labour, London) and Neena Gill (Labour, West Midlands).

Claude Ajit Moraes has been a Member of the European Parliament (MEP) for London since 1999. He is Chair of the Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs Committee and former Deputy Leader of the Labour Party in the European Parliament. He studied law at the University of Dundee, and international law at the London School of Economics and Political Science.

He was one of the first Asian origin MEPs elected to the European



Claude Ajit Moraes

Parliament in 1999, and London's first ethnic minority MEP and has been re-elected continuously since then.

In July 2014 Moraes was elected Chairman of the European Parliament Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs (LIBE Committee).

Claude was previously Director of JCWI, the national migration and refugee charity and Chief Executive of the Immigrants' Aid Trust.

Neena Gill CBE (Commander of the Order of the British Empire) was born in Ludhiana, and emigrated to the UK with her family at a young age. During her time at university, she was Deputy President of the Students Union. She later gained a postgraduate qualification from the Chartered Institute of Housing and completed



Neena Gill

senior executive programme at the London Business School.

She was the rapporteur for the 2015 European Money Market Funds (MMF) Regulation.

In 1999, she was elected as the first female Asian MEP in the European Parliament. Gill currently holds several positions within the European Parliament.

Dinesh Dhamija, the son of an Indian diplomat and founder, former Chairman and CEO of ebookers.com, one of Europe's most successful internet travel companies, was born in Australia. He attained an MA in law. □

INDIANS DRIVE RISE IN STUDENT FLOW TO UK IN 2018-19

Indian students have powered an increase in student migration to the UK in 2018-2019, according to an official report.

The UK government's Office of Migration Statistics released its latest report on international migration on Friday, indicating that in the year ending March 2019, there was an 10% increase in the number of sponsored applications for higher education institutions to 1,96,350. This is the highest level on record.

Chinese students were the biggest beneficiaries with 41% of the visas, while Indians took 9%, the report said. In 2018, an estimated 2,11,000 people arrived in the UK long-term for formal study, remaining amongst the highest

levels recorded since 2011. The overwhelming number of non-EU nationals coming to the UK went to universities for higher education, the report observed.

Since 2016 (Brexit referendum), long-term immigration to the UK has fallen largely because of EU nationals avoiding coming to the UK. Non-EU student immigration rose in 2018. "Non-EU student immigration has recently risen, after remaining broadly stable between 2013 and 2017. The most comparable Home Office visa data for the year ending December 2018 showed that the number of Tier 4 (Sponsored Study) visas issued for 12 months or more was also at the highest level since 2011," the report said.

For non-EU citizens, since 2015, UK has increased the number of skilled work visas. "Since 2016, the pattern of migration to the UK for work has been changing. Long-term immigration for work has fallen. But there seems to be a turnaround, driven by non-EU movement of people. An estimated 2,16,000 people came to UK to work in the year ending December 2018, a level last seen in 2013," the report said.

In March 2019, the UK, which was losing out on Indian students after they withdrew the post study work visa in 2010, announced they would reintroduce it to attract them once again as part of the new "International Education Strategy". □

(Source- TOI-25 May, 2019)

US SENATE PASSES LEGISLATIVE PROVISION TO GIVE INDIA NATO ALLY-LIKE STATUS

The US Senate has passed a legislative provision that brings India at par with America's Nato allies and countries like Israel and South Korea for increasing defence cooperation.

The National Defense Authorisation Act or NDAA for the fiscal year 2020, that contained such a proposal was passed by the US Senate last week.

Introduced by Senate India Caucus Co-Chair Senator John Cornyn with the support of Senate India Caucus Co-Chair Senator Mark Warner, the amendment provides for increased US-India defence cooperation in the Indian Ocean in the areas of humanitarian assistance, counterterrorism, counter-piracy and maritime security.

Last week, House India Caucus Co-Chair Brad Sherman, along with

Congressmen Joe Wilson, Ami Bera, Ted Yoho, George Holding Ed Case and Raja Krishnamoorthi introduced a similar legislative proposal to the House FY2020 NDAA that would greatly enhance the US-India relationship.

The bill would be signed into law after both the chambers of the US Congress - the House of Representatives and the Senate - passes it. The House is expected to take up its version of the NDAA sometime in July before legislators adjourn for the month-long August recess on July 29.

In a statement, the Hindu American Foundation commended Senators Cornyn and Warner for their efforts in advancing the US-India strategic partnership. "Elevating India to non-NATO status is vital, now more than

ever, for the US, for India, and for the entire region," said HAF managing director Samir Kalra. "Whether we do that with free standing legislation or whether we do that with an amendment to the National Defense Authorization Act matters, I think, very little. What matters is that we recognise the importance, in a tangible way, of the US-India alliance," Congressman Sherman said at the HAF Capitol Hill Reception last week.

The US recognised India as a "Major Defence Partner" in 2016, a designation that allows India to buy more advanced and sensitive technologies from America at par with that of the US' closest allies and partners, and ensures enduring cooperation into the future. □

(Courtesy- TOI-Jul 2, 2019)

VIETNAMESE INDIAN EXPERTS COMPLETE UPGRADE OF TOWERS AT MY SON SANCTUARY

After three years of renovations, Vietnamese and Indian experts have completed the upgrade of Towers K and H - rare buildings that have remained as part of the complex of temples at My Son Sanctuary in the central province of Quang Nam. The upgrade work to restore Towers K, H, and A is being carried out over five years from 2016 to 2021, costing over 60 billion VND (2.58 million USD), including over 50 billion VND sponsored by the Indian government and the remaining from the Vietnamese Government's corresponding capital. While



Vietnamese, Indian Experts Complete Upgrade of Towers at My Son Sanctuary

excavating Towers K and H, experts discovered many valuable artefacts such as stone statues of the human form and lion heads, tower spiers, and other architectural objects dating back to the 11th and 12th centuries. The

management board of the My Son world cultural heritage site is coordinating with Indian experts to prepare all necessary procedures for the excavation and restoration of Tower A.

Once the religious and political capital of the Champa Kingdom, My Son Sanctuary is located within a hilly landscape in Duy Phu commune, Duy Xuyen district, about 43 miles southwest of central Da Nang city and 25 miles from Hoi An city. It is comprised of eight groups of 71 monuments built throughout the 7th to 13th centuries. □

UNITED IN THEIR DEVOTION

The Chitraparuvam Festival in Penang, Malaysia has been a yearly affair for devotees Kenny Lim and Shasha Wong. Seen wearing traditional Indian attire during the mini Thaipusam parade on April 19 at Waterfall Road, Lim and Wong even brought a Bhajan cart which played devotional music. Wong, 45, who designed the cart carrying Lord Ganesha, said she has been paying her respects during Thaipusam and Chitraparuvam for over 20 years. "More than 20 years ago, my friend brought me to a Hindu temple and after that, I felt destined to become a Hindu devotee," she added.

Lim, 44, who is a childhood friend of

Wong, has also been a firm believer of Hinduism for about 20 years. "I go to India each year to pay my respects at the temples there," he said.



The Chitraparuvam Festival in Penang, Malaysia

Hindu Mahajana Sangam president Dr. Chandra Malairaja said the procession was held to mark the first full moon of the Tamil New Year. The festival drew more than 20,000 devotees who flocked to various panthal (refreshment stalls) along the way. □

EX-ISRO CHAIRMAN KIRAN KUMAR GETS FRANCE'S HIGHEST CIVILIAN AWARD

Former ISRO chairman AS Kiran Kumar was conferred with France's highest civilian award-Chevalier de l'Ordre national de la Legion d'Honneur- on May 2 for his contribution to India-France space cooperation. On behalf of the President of France, Ambassador of France to India, Alexandre Ziegler conferred Kumar with the highest

civilian honour of France. Jean-Yves Le Gall, Chairman of CNES, the French space agency, was present at the special investiture ceremony held at the Residence of France in New Delhi. □



Former ISRO Chairman AS Kiran Kumar

DAVE SHARMA IS FIRST INDIAN-ORIGIN LAWMAKER IN AUSTRALIA PARLIAMENT

Dave Sharma, the Liberal candidate and former Australian ambassador to Israel, has scripted history by becoming the first Indian-origin lawmaker in the country's Parliament after winning a seat in Sydney suburb in the federal election.

Australian PM Scott Morrison is close to securing a majority government as the election's final results are being counted.

His conservative coalition has defied polls and is leading with 77 seats, the Australian Electoral Commission says. Only 76 seats are needed for a majority. Sharma, 43, defeated independent candidate Kerryn Phelps for the eastern suburb seat of Wentworthin district. Sharma, who had lost to Phelps in a by-election six months ago, claimed the seat of Wentworth with 51% of the vote.

"Very humbled by the trust placed in me by the people of Wentworth. Look forward to being a voice for them in Parliament and the party room," Sharma tweeted.



Dave Sharma,

He said the three main issues he wanted to focus on were national security, female workforce participation and making sure Australia remains at the high end of the value chain. Sharma, who was Australia's ambassador to Israel from 2013 to 2017, brushed aside questions as to whether he will be given a position in Morrison's new Cabinet. □

ASI DIGS OUT 4,000-YR-OLD SACRED CHAMBERS



ASI DIGS

Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) has unearthed underground 'sacred chamber', decorated 'legged coffins' and fascinating artefacts in what is being claimed to be a first in the Indian subcontinent. Sanauli, the site of excavations, is located on the left bank of River Yamuna, 68 km north-east of Delhi which brought to light the largest necropolis of late Harappan period datable to around early part of second millennium BCE. Three chariots, some coffins, shields, swords and helmets had been unearthed, pointing towards the existence of a 'warrior class in the area around 2,000 BCE,' said an official from the ASI. These findings are being considered important to understand the culture pattern of the Upper Ganga-Yamuna doab. □

JASBIR SCRIPTS UK COUNCIL HISTORY



Jasbir Jaspal

Jasbir Jaspal, who was elected from Heath Town in Wolverhampton in the May 2 local elections, has been appointed to the council's cabinet by the new leader, Labour's Ian Brookfield, making her the first Sikh woman to hold the post.

Jasbir, who has been a councillor in the City of Wolverhampton Council since 2012, is responsible for policy areas that include resilience and business continuity, community safety, healthy ageing and healthy life expectancy.

She said, "This is a big step up for me and I am ready for the challenge, having done health scrutiny for three years. It is a proud moment for the Sikh community to have a female member of the cabinet." □

(Source : H T 19 May 2019)

Official Visit of Minister for External Affairs of India to Bhutan from 7–8 June 2019

H.E. Dr. Subrahmanyam Jaishankar, Minister of External Affairs of India paid an official visit to Bhutan from 7 to 8 June 2019. The Minister of External Affairs was received at Paro International Airport by Lyonpo Dr. Tandi Dorji, Minister for Foreign Affairs; Maj. Gen. V. Namgyal, Ambassador of Bhutan to India; Ms. Ruchira Kamboj, Ambassador of India to Bhutan; and other senior officials of the Royal Government.



7 June 2019: His Majesty The King granted an Audience to India's External Affairs Minister, H.E. S. Jaishankar, at the Lingkana Palace. His Excellency was on a 2-day official visit to Bhutan- his first visit abroad as minister.

While in the country, the Minister of External Affairs received an Audience with His Majesty The King. In the afternoon of 7th June, he called on Lyonchhen (Dr.) Lotay Tshering, Prime Minister, and met with Lyonpo (Dr.) Tandi Dorji, Minister of Foreign Affairs. The two sides discussed various areas of cooperation between the two countries and exchange of high-level visits.

Lyonpo (Dr.) Tandi Dorji hosted a reception in honour of the Minister of External Affairs in the evening at the Hotel Taj Tashi. In his welcome

remarks, Lyonpo thanked H.E. Dr. Jaishankar for making Bhutan his first official foreign visit barely a week after assuming Office. Lyonpo also offered warm felicitations on his appointment as the Minister of External Affairs of India. Lyonpo underscored that the special friendship that exists between Bhutan and India continue to flourish and strengthen, and assured the Royal Government's continued commitment to further strengthen it in

the years ahead.

In his remarks at the reception, H.E. Dr. Jaishankar conveyed the good wishes of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi to the people of Bhutan. He said that the people and Government of India are grateful to Their Majesties The Kings for their vision in providing guidance to the relations between our two countries. He also assured that he will do whatever is possible to take Bhutan-India relations to even greater heights.



The visit is in keeping with the tradition of regular high-level exchange of visits between Bhutan and India. □

The Coronation of His Majesty The Fourth Druk Gyalpo

Her Majesty The Gyaltsuen graced an event to commemorate 2nd June, which marks the Coronation of His Majesty the Fourth Druk Gyalpo, and has been traditionally celebrated in Bhutan with an environment theme.



Addressing the event, Her Majesty expressed concerns about the increase in waste generation, and said that Her Majesty is aware of and disheartened by the growing scale of garbage that we find on the roads, in drains and along footpaths in urban areas.

Her Majesty reminded the gathering that our natural heritage has been

protected due to the carefully thought out policies under the leadership of His Majesty the Fourth Druk Gyalpo, and His Majesty The King, and that by failing to consider the consequences of our behaviour and ignoring our civic duties, we would fail the ideals upon

which our country has been built.

Her Majesty urged those present to renew our pledge to fulfil our individual duties to keep our surroundings clean and aesthetically pleasing, and said that it was integral to act now.

"... any delay will be too late and the damage to our environment would be irreversible," Her Majesty said.

Her Majesty reiterated that "consistency remains key in ensuring the success of our endeavours, and our activities should not be limited to events such as these."





Four programmes were launched to mark the day:

The Prime Minister's Office launched the Waste Management Flagship Programme. The National Environment Commission launched National Waste Management Strategy, and Zero Waste Hour, and the



Thimphu Thromde launched the Household Compost Product.

The Prime Minister and senior government officials attended the event. At the end of the programme, Her Majesty joined the participants and volunteers in a cleaning campaign to pick up trash around Sangaygangarea. □

BHUTAN OBSERVED BIMSTEC DAY ON 6TH JUNE 2019 **PICTURE STORY:**



The Ministry of Foreign Affairs observed the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) Day 2019 with a thousand butter lamp lighting ceremony at Dechenphodrang monastery on 6th June 2019. Hon'ble Foreign Minister graced the event as the Chief Guest. Members of the diplomatic corps, international organizations and regional offices based in Thimphu and RGoB officials attended the event.



27 June 2019: His Majesty The King graced the Closing Ceremony of the 2nd Session of the Third Parliament.

BIMSTEC Day is observed on 6th June every year to mark the establishment of BIMSTEC through the Bangkok Declaration, as a regional organization. Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Myanmar, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Thailand are the seven BIMSTEC member countries.

DAYS TO REMEMBER

IN AUGUST, 2019

- | | |
|--|---|
| August 01 : Amavasya ● | August 19 : World Humanitarian Day |
| August 01 : Switzerland National day | August 19 : Afghanistan : Independence Day |
| August 06 : Jamaica : Independence Day | August 20 : Hungary : National Day |
| August 08 : 'Quit India' Day | August 24 : Ukraine : Independence Day |
| August 09 : Singapore : National Day | August 31 : Kyrgyzstan : Independence Day |
| August 12 : International Youth Day | August 31 : Malaysia : National Day |
| August 15 : Purnima ● : Raksha Bandhan | August 31 : Trinidad & Tobago |
| August 15 : India : 73rd Independence Day | : Independence Day |
| August 17 : Indonesia : Independence Day | |

नई विदेश नीति की धुरी है 'पड़ोसी प्रथम'

✍ श्रीश पाठक

लोकसभा चुनावों में लगातार दूसरी जीत के बाद पीएम नरेंद्र मोदी अपनी पहली विदेश यात्रा में मालदीव और श्रीलंका गए। इस तरह उन्होंने जाहिर किया कि पड़ोस उनके लिए ग्लोबल गेम से ज्यादा अहम है। सत्ता में वापसी का सबसे बड़ा लाभ यह होता है कि पिछले अनुभव से सबक लेते हुए बेहतर नीति बनाई जा सकती है। यह सुनहरा मौका मोदी सरकार के सामने बदलती वैश्विक परिस्थितियों को ध्यान में रखते हुए एक दूरदर्शी विदेश नीति बनाने की चुनौती है। जैसे उसके पहले कार्यकाल की विदेश नीति को भी खूब सराहा गया था। कुछेक अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय मंचों पर पहली बार भारत की धमक महसूस की गई। लेकिन दुनिया के हालात बदलते रहते हैं और हर बार बदलाव को भांपकर नए कदम उठाने होते हैं। हमारा पड़ोस भी काफी बदला है। इस लिहाज से श्रीलंका और मालदीव का चयन महत्वपूर्ण है।

तीन तरफ से हिंद महासागर से घिरा भारत, मालदीव की अवहेलना कभी नहीं कर सकता। पारंपरिक रूप से भारत-मालदीव रिश्ते हमेशा मैत्रीपूर्ण रहे हैं। लेकिन पिछले कुछ वर्षों में चीन की ओबोर नीति इन रिश्तों के आड़े आ गई। मालदीव का सत्ता पक्ष चीन की ओर झुकता चला गया और अपने देश को उसकी ऋण संरचना और सामरिक असुरक्षा के घेरे में फंसाता चला गया। मालदीव के चीनी झुकाव ने हिन्द महासागर में भारत की स्थिति को कमजोर कर दिया था। बगल में श्रीलंका की राजपक्षे सरकार भी चीन के कूटनीतिक मोहरे का शिकार हो गई। पर आखिरकार श्रीलंका ने मैत्रीपाल सिरिसेना के गठबंधन दलों ने महिंदा राजपक्षे को हरा दिया और मालदीव में भी पिछले वर्ष हुए आम चुनावों में इब्राहीम सोलिह ने अब्दुल्ला यामीन को पटखनी दे दी। अभी श्रीलंका में मैत्रीपाल सिरिसेना और मालदीव में इब्राहीम सोलिह, दोनों की ही सरकारें चीन की अपेक्षा भारत को अधिक महत्व दे रही है।

आर्थिक रूप से चर्चित महासागरों पर आधारित ब्लू इकॉनामी और भारत सरकार द्वारा घोषित 'सागर डॉक्ट्रिन' की अहमियत को देखते हुए यह बिल्कुल प्रासंगिक लगता है कि सत्ता संभालने के बाद प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी का पहला दौरा मालदीव और श्रीलंका का हो। अभी अप्रैल के महीने में श्रीलंका को एक भीषण त्रासदी से गुजराना पड़ा जब ईस्टर के दिन सेंट एंथनी चर्च पर फिदायीन हमला हुआ और ढाई सौ से अधिक लोग इसमें मारे गए। यह घटना भारत सहित पूरे क्षेत्र की सुरक्षा पर एक गहरा आघात थी। इस घटना के बाद से श्रीलंका में

मुसलमानों के प्रति एक विशेष राजनीतिक-सामाजिक प्रतिक्रिया भी हो रही है। निश्चय ही श्रीलंका के लिए यह कठिन समय है।

चीन की ऋण योजना के दुष्परिणाम दक्षिण एशिया के किसी भी देश के लिए अनजाने नहीं है फिर भी मालदीव में भारत ने वे सारे जतन किए जिनसे चीन को इस देश में प्रभावी होने का कोई मौका न मिले आर्थिक मदद, सामाजिक संरचना के लिए पैकेज, सुरक्षा संरचना के लिए मदद, ऊर्जा जरूरतें, प्रशिक्षण प्रक्रियाएं आदि ढेरों योजनाओं को पूरा करने के लिये समझ बनी। मूंगे से बनी संसार की एकमात्र जुमा मस्जिद हुकुरु मिस्की के पुनरुद्धार का जिम्मा आर्कियोलॉजिकल सर्वे ऑफ इंडिया को देने का आश्वासन भारत द्वारा दिया गया। मालदीव ने प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी को अपने सर्वोच्च नागरिक सम्मान निशान इज्जुदीन से नवाजा तो मोदी ने भी उनकी दिवही भाषा के शब्दों के हिन्दी-संस्कृत शब्दों के साथ साम्य की चर्चा कर यह कहा कि हम एक ही गुलशन के फूल हैं। भारत-मालदीव संबंधों का निर्णायक हिस्सा अब आर्थिक सहयोग पर आधारित है जिसमें भारत बदले में बस सुरक्षा और कूटनीतिक सहयोग की अपेक्षा रखता है।

मालदीव के बाद श्रीलंका पहुंचे प्रधानमंत्री मोदी सबसे पहले सेंट एंथनी चर्च गए। इसके पहले मालदीव संसद में उन्होंने आतंकवाद की कड़ी भर्त्सना की थी और आतंकवाद पर ग्लोबल कॉन्फ्रेंस करने की जरूरत बताई थी। श्रीलंका में इस वर्ष आम चुनाव होने वाले हैं। इसलिए मोदी की मुलाकात वहां राष्ट्रपति, प्रधानमंत्री, विदेश मंत्री सहित सत्ताधारी गठबंधन के कई महत्वपूर्ण नेताओं से हुई। इसके अलावा भारतीय समुदाय और तमिल नेशनल अलायंस के नेताओं से भी मुलाकात हुई। कुल मिलाकर प्रधानमंत्री की इस पहली यात्रा में हिंद महासागर के इन दोनों महत्वपूर्ण देशों को यह संदेश देने में भारत सफल रहा कि अपनी प्रतिबद्धताओं को लेकर वह जागरूक है और क्षेत्र में किसी बाहरी शक्ति का हस्तक्षेप किसी के लिए भी ठीक नहीं होगा।

मोदी सरकार के शपथ ग्रहण समारोह में बिस्मटेक देशों को काफी तवज्जों दी गई। दक्षिण एशिया के बाद भारत के लिए सबसे महत्वपूर्ण क्षेत्र दक्षिण-पूर्व है। मोदी सरकार इस क्षेत्र में भारत की उपस्थिति सुनिश्चित करने के लिए 'एक्ट ईस्ट नीति' का अनुसरण

करती है जिसमें भारत के पूर्वोत्तर राज्यों से म्यांमार और थाईलैंड की संबद्धता बेहद महत्वपूर्ण भूमिका निभाती है। हालांकि एक समय पड़ोस को साथ लेकर चलने में सार्क ने एक अहम भूमिका निभाई, लेकिन आतंकवाद को लेकर पाकिस्तान के अड़ियल रवैये ने भारत ही नहीं अन्य देशों के लिए भी परेशानी खड़ी की। ज्यादातर देश उसकी उपस्थिति से असहज महसूस करने लगे। इससे आपसी सहयोग और क्षेत्रीय व्यापार बुरी तरह प्रभावित होने लगा।

ऐसे में क्षेत्रीय संबंधों की दृष्टि से बिस्मटेक एक नई उम्मीद जगाता है। मोदी सरकार की दूसरी पारी में इसकी भूमिका और बढ़ाने की योजना है। इसी को लक्ष्य कर इस संगठन के देशों को सरकार के शपथ ग्रहण समारोह में विशेष रूप से आमंत्रित किया गया। डोकलाम प्रकरण और वूहान में हुई भारत-चीन अनौपचारिक बैठक की रोशनी में चीन के साथ किसी भी प्रकार के सीधे टकराव से बचते हुए इस बार तिब्बत और ताइवान के कार्यकारी प्रतिनिधियों को आमंत्रण नहीं भेजा गया। आशा है, भारत की नई क्षेत्रीय नीति से दुनिया में दक्षिण एशिया की एक नई छवि बनेगी। □

(सामार : नवभारत टाइम्स-11 जून, 2019)

ऑस्ट्रेलिया में भारतीय मूल के सात लोगों को शीर्ष सम्मान

ऑस्ट्रेलिया में भारतीय मूल के सात लोगों को चिकित्सा, संगीत, शिक्षा और वित्त के क्षेत्र में उल्लेखनीय योगदान के लिए ऑस्ट्रेलिया का शीर्ष सम्मान प्रदान किया गया है। इनमें तीन महिलाएं भी शामिल हैं। ये पुरस्कार सोमवार रात एक कार्यक्रम में प्रदान किए गये। मोनाश अल्फ्रेड साइक्रेटी रिसर्च सेंटर की निदेशक जयश्री कुलकर्णी को चिकित्सा के क्षेत्र में योगदान के लिए मेडल ऑफ द ऑर्डर ऑफ ऑस्ट्रेलिया (ओएएम), जयश्री रामचंद्रन को परफॉर्मिंग आर्ट के लिए जबकि, विनीता हार्दिकर को चिकित्सा के क्षेत्र में योगदान के लिए ओएएम से सम्मानित किया गया। इसके अलावा शशिकांत कोचर को परमार्थ कार्यों के लिए, अरुण कुमार को वित्त क्षेत्र, कृष्णा धना नदीमपल्ली को बहुसंस्कृति और महा सिन्नाथंबी को संपत्ति उद्योग के क्षेत्र में उनके योगदान के लिए ओएएम से सम्मानित किया गया। महारानी एलिजाबेथ के जन्मदिन के अवसर पर दिया जाने वाला यह सम्मान एक हजार से अधिक ऑस्ट्रेलियाई लोगों को दिया गया है और इसमें 40 प्रतिशत महिलाएं हैं। □

जयपुर को यूनेस्को ने वर्ल्ड हेरिटेज घोषित किया

भारत की गुलाबी नगरी जयपुर को यूनेस्को ने वर्ल्ड हेरिटेज सिटी घोषित किया है। जयपुर शौर्य और संस्कृति की विरासत सहेजे एक शहर है।

जयपुर शहर एक सुनियोजित विकास की मिसाल है, जो परकोटे की चारदीवारी से घिरी हुई है और इसमें सात दरवाजे हैं। जयपुर बसने से पहले कछवाहों की राजधानी आमेर हुआ करती थी, मगर साल 1727 में पूर्व महाराज जयसिंह ने जयपुर का निर्माण शुरू करवाया। यह शहर अलग-अलग कालखंडों में बनकर तैयार हुआ। जयपुर के पूर्व राजघराने के ठीक सामने पुराने शहर में गोविंद देव जी का मंदिर

है। जयपुर के बारे में कहा जाता है कि नगर नियोजन यहां परंपरा रही हैं। साल 1896 में जब प्रिंस ऑफ वेल्स जयपुर आए थे तो उनके स्वागत में जयपुर के पूर्व महाराज ने पूरे शहर को गुलाबी रंग से रंगवा दिया था, तब से इस शहर की पहचान गुलाबी नगरी के रूप में होती है। यहां के प्रमुख स्मारकों में आमेर, नाहरगढ़, जल महल, हवा महल, जंतर मंतर सिटी पैलेस और अल्बर्ट हॉल शामिल है। यहां के प्रमुख बाजारों में जोहरी बाजार, किशनपोल बाजार, बड़ी चौपड़, छोटी चौपड़ और चांदपोल शामिल है। □



गोविंद देव जी का मंदिर

बुद्ध को समझने के लिए गौतमबुद्ध यूनिवर्सिटी आ रहे विदेशी छात्र

ग्रेटर नोएडा में कासना स्थित गौतमबुद्ध यूनिवर्सिटी (जीबीयू) में इस बार पिछले साल की अपेक्षा ज्यादा विदेशी स्टूडेंट्स के एडमिशन हुए हैं। जीबीयू में वर्ष 2019-2020 सत्र के लिये 29 देशों के स्टूडेंट्स ने एडमिशन कराया है, जबकि पिछले साल 17 देशों के स्टूडेंट्स यहां आए थे। विदेशी स्टूडेंट्स का रुझान सबसे ज्यादा, बुद्ध स्टीज की ओर देखा गया है। इस बार उसमें 119 एडमिशन हुए हैं। इसके साथ ही बीटेक कोर्स के लिए आए आवेदन को लेकर शुक्रवार को काउंसलिंग की जाएगी। इसके लिए वेबसाइट में आवेदन का विकल्प खुला रखा गया है।



रहते अपडेट कर दी थी। आवेदन करने वाले सभी छात्र-छात्राओं के लिए ऑनलाइन टेस्ट की सुविधा दी। जिसके बेहतर परिणाम देखने को मिले है।

जीबीयू के इंटरनेशनल अफेयर के डायरेक्टर प्रो. डॉ. अरविंद कुमार सिंह ने बताया कि यूनिवर्सिटी में वर्ष 2019-20 से 33 नए कोर्स में शुरू किए गए हैं। इसके साथ-साथ देसी और विदेशी सभी छात्र-छात्राओं की सुविधा के लिए पहली बार दाखिले के लिए वेबसाइट से समय

यूनिवर्सिटी में सभी पाठ्यक्रम में पिछले बार की अपेक्षा इस बार ज्यादा विदेशी स्टूडेंट के आवेदन आए हैं। वर्ष 2018-2019 में सभी कोर्स

में कुछ 17 देशों के 151 स्टूडेंट्स आए थे। जबकि इस बार वर्ष 2019-20 में 29 देशों के 168 स्टूडेंट्स ने दाखिले लिए हैं इस बार भूटान, कम्बोडिया, अल्जीरिया, श्रीलंका, अंगोला, मिडू, फिजी, गैम्बिया, केन्या, इजराइल, मोरक्को, मेक्सिको, नामीबिया, नाइजीरिया, तुर्किस्तान आदि देशों के बच्चे आए हैं। विदेशी स्टूडेंट्स ने बुद्ध स्टीज में करीब 119 आवेदन किए हैं। इनके अलावा स्कूल ऑफ बुद्धिस्ट एंड सिविलाइजेशन, स्कूल ऑफ इन्फोर्मेशन एंड कम्युनिकेशन एंड टेक्नोलॉजी, स्कूल ऑफ इंजीनियरिंग, स्कूल ऑफ बायोटेक्नोलॉजी, स्कूल ऑफ लॉ जस्टिस एंड गवर्नेंस, स्कूल ऑफ ह्यूमनिटीज सोशल साइंस, स्कूल ऑफ मैनेजमेंट, स्कूल ऑफ वोकेशनल स्टीज एंड सप्लाइड साइंस आदि कोर्स में भी एडमिशन हुए हैं। □

(संभार : नवभारत टाइम्स-21 जून, 2019)

भारत-नेपाल के बीच रेल सेवा

बिहार के मधुबनी जिला स्थित जयनगर से नेपाल के कुर्था (जनकपुर) तक दुर्गा-पूजा व दीपावली के बीच ट्रेन परिचालन शुरू करने की तैयारी शुरू हो गई है।

इसके लिए नेपाल के विदेश मंत्रालय ने भारतीय दूतावास के माध्यम से प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी को आमंत्रण भी भेज दिया है। बताया जा रहा है कि दोनों देशों के प्रधानमंत्री संयुक्त रूप से हरी झंडी दिखाकर मैत्री ट्रेन सेवा की शुरुआत

करेंगे।

नेपाली रेलवे सूत्रों से मिली जानकारी के अनुसार नेपाल रेलवे परिचालन को लेकर पुरजोर तैयारी कर रही है। कर्मचारियों की बहाली की प्रक्रिया शुरू हो चुकी है। बता दें कि नेपाल रेलवे ने दो ट्रेनों के लिए कोंकण रेलवे को 84.6 करोड़ रुपये का भुगतान भी कर दिया है। इसमें 1600 एचपी का इंजन तथा पांच बोगियों वाली दो डीजल ट्रेन यहां आनी है।

इंडो-नेपाल आमान परिवर्तन परियोजना सात अरब की

भारत-नेपाल मैत्री के तहत जयनगर से वर्दीवास तक 59 किलोमीटर तक ब्रॉडगेज रेल निर्माण में सात अरब भारतीय रुपए खर्च होने का अनुमान है। सन् 1999 में भारत सरकार ने नेपाल रेलवे को दो डीजल इंजन व एक दर्जन बोगियां उपलब्ध करायी थी। इससे पहले जयनगर से बिजलपुरा तक स्टीम इंजन से रेल संचालन होता था। □

छोटी मुलाकात के बड़े संकेत



शशांक
पूर्व विदेश सचिव

संरक्षक-अन्तरराष्ट्रीय सहयोग परिषद

जी-20 सम्मेलन से पहले अमेरिकी राष्ट्रपति डोनाल्ड ट्रंप ने ट्वीट करके जब बड़े हुए टैरिफ यानी सीमा शुल्क का मसला उठाया, तो आशंका यहीं गहराने लगी थी कि भारत और अमेरिका के शासनाध्यक्ष एक विफल बातचीत के गवाह बनने वाले हैं। मगर शुक्रवार को वार्ता की मेज से जो खबर आई, वह कई मायनों में महत्वपूर्ण मानी जाएगी। दोनों शासनाध्यक्षों ने न सिर्फ अपने-अपने अधिकारियों से भारत और अमेरिका के व्यापारिक मसलों को सुलझाने के निर्देश दिए, बल्कि ईरान मामले में भी दोनों पक्षों ने एक-दूसरे के हितों को देखते हुए समाधान निकालने की बात कही। 5जी तकनीक, द्विपक्षीय रिश्ते और रक्षा मसलों पर तो चर्चा हुई ही। मोदी और ट्रंप द्विपक्षीय रिश्तों को मजबूत बनाने के बाद प्रगाढ़ व्यक्तिगत संबंध के हिमायती हैं, इसलिए उम्मीद यह भी है कि भारत की मेक इन इंडिया या डिजिटल इंडिया जैसी महत्वाकांक्षी योजनाओं को अमेरिका का सहयोग मिला। आने वाले दिनों में इनसे जुड़ी तकनीक भारत ट्रांसफर होगी और यहां निवेश भी बढ़ेगा।

इस बातचीत में सबसे बड़ा मुद्दा बढ़ा हुआ टैरिफ था, जबकि यह विवाद खुद अमेरिका की देन है। उसने बीते दिनों जनरलाइज्ड सिस्टम ऑफ प्रेफरेंसेज (जीएसपी) के तहत भारत को हासिल तरजीही विकासशील देश का दर्जा हटा दिया। इस तरजीही की वजह से भारत को बिना टैक्स चुकाए अमेरिका में सामान निर्यात करने की सुविधा मिल रही थी। इसके तहत वहां 'बेसिक प्रोडक्ट' आयात होते हैं, जिसका फायदा भारत के लघु व मध्यम उद्योगों को मिलता था। जाहिर है, अमेरिकी कदम हमारे स्थानीय उद्योगों के लिए ठीक ही है, जबकि भारत ने तब भी अपने टैरिफ नहीं बढ़ाए थे, जब अमेरिका ने आयातित अल्युमिनियम और स्टील पर टैरिफ लगाने शुरू किए थे और प्रतिक्रिया में दुनिया भर के देशों ने अमेरिकी उत्पादों पर तुरंत टैरिफ बढ़ा दिए थे।

विकसित देशों के साथ जब विकासशील देश कारोबार करते हैं, तो उसका एक खास पैटर्न होता है। विकासशील देश आमतौर पर 'प्राइमरी गुड्स' यानी प्राथमिक उत्पाद सप्लाई करते हैं या फिर मामूली रूप से परिष्कृत करके सामान भेजते हैं। इनकी वहां के स्थानीय उत्पादों से कोई स्पर्धा नहीं होती, बल्कि ऐसे उत्पाद वहां की उत्पादन श्रृंखला का हिस्सा बन जाते हैं यहीं वजह है कि इन उत्पादों को विकसित देश बिना किसी सीमा-शुल्क के अपने यहां मंगवाते

हैं या फिर इन पर बहुत मामूली शुल्क लेते हैं। विकासशील देश अगर पूरी तरह परिष्कृत उत्पाद निर्यात करेंगे, तो अबल टैरिफ ज्यादा होने से वह उपभोक्ताओं को बहुत महंगा मिलेगा, और फिर उसे बाजार भी नहीं मिल पाएगा। इसके उलट, विकसित देशों से यदि कोई उत्पादक विकासशील देशों में आता है, तो वह शायद ही आम लोगों के लिए होता है। वह अमीरों के लिए होता है, इसलिए स्थानीय सरकारें उस पर बहुत ज्यादा टैरिफ लगाती हैं। इससे विकासशील देशों को अपना इन्फ्रास्ट्रक्चर सुधारने के लिए जरूरी पैसा भी मिल जाता है। आम लोग इन उत्पादों का खरीद नहीं सकते और अमीरों की संख्या गिनी-चुनी होती है। इसलिए इन उत्पादों की बिक्री पर बड़े टैरिफ का बहुत ज्यादा असर नहीं पड़ता। यही वजह है कि अमेरिका का भारत पर

उल्लेखनीय भूमिका निभा सकता है, जो भारत और अमेरिका, दोनों के हित में है। हमारे लिए सुखद स्थिति यह भी है कि एशिया-प्रशांत व्यापार समझौता (एटीपीए/आप्टा) के प्रावधानों को अंतिम रूप देने की कोशिशें लगातार चल रही हैं। पश्चिम देश हालांकि यहीं मानते हैं कि भारत को इससे कोई फायदा नहीं होगा, लेकिन सच्चाई यह है कि ऐसा कोई समझौता पूरे एशिया के बाजार को एक बना सकता है, जिसका अंततः हमें फायदा ही होगा। इसलिए 5जी तकनीक पर अमेरिका हमारी चिंताओं को नजरअंदाज नहीं कर सकता।



टैरिफ घटाने का दबाव बनाना उचित नहीं जान पड़ता। लेकिन यह मसला इसलिए उलझता दिख रहा है, क्योंकि दोनों देशों के शासनाध्यक्ष इस पर चर्चा कर रहे हैं यदि यह बातचीत वाणिज्य मंत्री के स्तर पर हो, तो इसे सुलझाना आसान होगा। ये मंत्रिगण विश्व व्यापार संगठन जैसे मंचों पर सक्रिय रहते हैं, इसलिए वे परिस्थिति बेहतर समझ सकते हैं। सुखद है कि मोदी और ट्रंप दोनों ने इस मसले को अब अपने अधिकारियों के हवाले कर दिया है।

रही बात 5जी तकनीक की, तो बड़ी आबादी होने के कारण भारत इस तकनीक का दूसरा सबसे बड़ा बाजार है। चीन पहले से ही अपने उत्पादों को भारत में प्रोसेस करने और यहीं डाटा रखने की सुविधा दे रहा है। इससे सुरक्षा और डाटा चोरी की हमारी चिंता काफी हद तक कम हो जाती है। लेकिन अमेरिका ऐसी कोई सुविधा देने के लिए फिलहाल तैयार नहीं। इसीलिए प्रधानमंत्री ने बातचीत में यह उचित ही कहा कि उपभोक्ताओं की बड़ी संख्या और तकनीक विकास व स्टार्ट अप की क्षमता के कारण भारत 5जी तकनीक के विकास में

भारत तमाम देशों से शांतिपूर्ण संबंध का हिमायती रहा है, ईरान से भी ऊर्जा जरूरतों को लेकर बने रिश्ते के अलावा ईरान और अफगानिस्तान के साथ हमारे सामरिक संबंध भी हैं। खाड़ी देशों में लगभग 8 लाख भारतीय बसते हैं, जो अपनी कमाई यहां अपने घरवालों को भेजकर भारत सरकार की झोली भरते हैं। इसीलिए अगर पश्चिम या मध्य एशिया में अस्थिरता आएगी, तो उसका हमें नुकसान होगा। प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी इसे बखूबी समझ रहे होंगे। उनके सामने दिवंगत प्रधानमंत्री इंदिरा गांधी का भी उदाहरण है, जिन्होंने 1971 के आम चुनाव में बड़ा जनादेश हासिल किया था, लेकिन चंद दिनों के भीतर देश की अर्थव्यवस्था के कमजोर होने के कारण उनके खिलाफ नकारात्मक माहौल बनने लगा था। यहीं वजह है कि मोदी सरकार ईरान के मसले पर अमेरिकी शर्त न मानने की बात कह चुकी है। अपने हितों का पोषण हमारी सर्वोच्च प्राथमिकता है। इसीलिए अमेरिका ने भी भविष्य में विचार विमर्श करने की बात बैठक में कही।

जब चीन और अमेरिका कारोबारी जंग में उलझे हों, चीन का दक्षिण चीन सागर में सीमा-संबंधी विवाद हो, कई यूरोपीय देश चीन की महत्वाकांक्षी योजना 'बेल्ट एंड रोड इनीशिएटिव' को मंजूर का चुके हैं, तब जरूरी है कि भारत न सिर्फ अपने हितों का पोषण करे, बल्कि सामरिक समझदारी के बूते अपनी समस्याओं का हल भी निकाले। मोदी-ट्रंप मुलाकात भारत के इसी दिशा में आगे बढ़ाने का भी संकेत है। □