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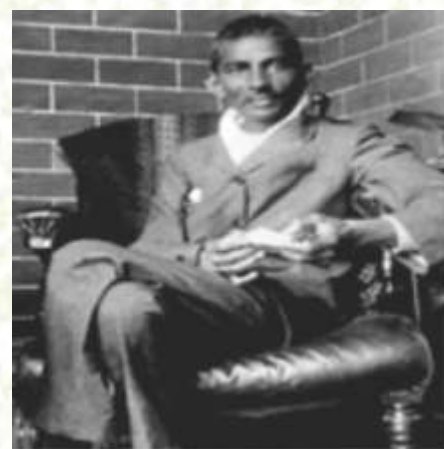
LEGAL HURDLES FOR THE INDIANS IN SOUTH AFRICA

(Continued from the previous issue)



I soon applied for admission to practice in the Transvaal. There was some apprehension that the Law Society here too would oppose my application, but it proved here groundless. I was enrolled as an attorney of the Supreme Court, and opened an office in Johannesburg. Of all places in the Transvaal, Johannesburg had the largest population of Indians and was therefore well suited for me to settle in, from the standpoint of public work as well as of my own maintenance. I was daily gaining bitter experience of the corruptness of the Asiatic Department, and the best efforts of the Transvaal British Indian Association were directed to finding a remedy for this disease. The repeal of Act 3 of 1885 now receded in the background as a distant objective. The immediate aim was limited to saving ourselves from the on-rushing flood in the shape of this Asiatic Department. Indian deputations waited upon Lord Milner, upon Lord Selborne who had come there, upon Sir Arthur Lawley who was

the Lieutenant Governor of the Transvaal and who subsequently became Governor of Madras, and upon officers of lesser dignity. I often used to see Government officers. We obtained some slight relief here and there, but it was all patchwork. We used to receive some such satisfaction as is experienced by a man who has been deprived of his all by robbers and who by beseeching the robbers induces them to return something of very small value. It was in consequence of this agitation that the officers whose dismissal I have referred to above were prosecuted. Our misgivings as regards the restrictions on Indian immigration proved correct. Permits were no longer required from Europeans, while they continued to be demanded from Indians. The late Boer Government never strictly enforced their drastic anti Asiatic legislation, not because they were generous but because their administration was lax. A good officer has not under the British Government as much scope for the exercise of his goodness as he had under the Boer regime. The British Constitution is old and stereotyped, and officers under it have to work like machines. Their liberty of action is restricted by a system of progressive checks. Under the British Constitution, therefore, if the policy of the Government is liberal, the subjects receive the utmost



✍ M. K. Gandhi

advantage of its liberality. On the other hand if their policy is oppressive or niggardly, the subjects feel the maximum weight of their heavy hand. The reverse is the case under constitutions such as that of the late Boer republic. Whether or not the subjects reap full advantage from a liberal law largely depends upon the officers who are charged with its administration. Thus, when British power was established in the Transvaal, all laws adversely affecting the Indians began to be more and more strictly enforced day by day. Loopholes, whether they existed, were carefully closed. We have already seen that the Asiatic Department was bound to be harsh in its operations. The repeal of the old laws was therefore out of the question. It only remained for the Indians to try



and see how their rigours might be mitigated in practice.

Our principle must be discussed sooner or later, and if we discuss it at this stage, it will perhaps facilitate an understanding of the Indian point of view and of the situation as it developed hereafter. Soon after the establishment of British rule in the Transvaal and the Free State, Lord Milner appointed a committee whose terms of reference were to prepare a list of such of the old laws of both the republics as placed restrictions on the liberty of the subject or were opposed to the spirit of the British Constitution. The anti-Indian laws could clearly have been included in this description.

But Lord Milner's object in appointing the committee was not to redress the grievances of Indians but those of Britishers. He wanted to repeal at the earliest opportunity those laws which indirectly pressed hard upon Britishers. The committee submitted their report in a very short time, and many acts, large and small, which affected Britishers prejudicially, were, it can be said, repealed by a stroke of the pen.

The same committee prepared a list of anti-Indian acts. There were published in the form of a book which served as a handy manual easily used or from our standpoint abused by the Asiatic Department.

Now, if the anti Indian laws did not mention the Indians by name and were not thus made expressly applicable to them alone but to all subjects, and if their enforcement had been left to the discretion of administrators; or had the laws imposed general restrictions which could have been enforced against Indians in a specially rigorous manner, the object of the legislators would all the same have been achieved by such laws, and yet the laws would have been general laws. None would have felt insulted by their enactment, and when the existing bitterness was softened by time, there would be no need to modify the laws, but only a more liberal administration of the laws would have sufficed to relieve the aggrieved community. Just as I have called laws of the second kind general laws, those of the first kind can be described as particular or racial, and establish what is known as the 'colour bar', as on the specific ground of colour they impose greater restrictions on members of the dark or brown races than on Europeans.

To take one instance from the laws which were already in force. The

reader will remember that the first disfranchising Act which was enacted in Natal but was subsequently disallowed by the Imperial Government provided for the disqualifications as voters of all Asiatics as such. Now if such a law were to be altered public opinion should be far educated that the majority be not only not hostile but actually friendly to Asiatics. The colour bar it set up could only be removed when such cordial feelings were established. This is an illustration of racial or class legislation. The act referred to was withdrawn and a second was enacted in its place which nearly achieved an identical object yet was of a general nature, the sting of racial distinction being removed. The substance of one of its clauses is as follows: 'No person can be placed on the voters' roll in Natal who is a native of countries which have not hitherto possessed elective representative institutions based on the parliamentary franchise.' No reference is made here to Indians or Asiatics. The opinions of counsels could differ as to whether or not India possesses representative institutions based on the parliamentary franchise. But assuming for the sake of argument that India did not in 1894 and does not even now enjoy the parliamentary franchise, no one can say off hand that the officer in charge of voters' lists in Natal has done an illegal act if he includes the names of Indians in the lists. There is always a general presumption in favour of the right of the subject. So long therefore as the government of the day does not become positively hostile, the names of Indians and others could be included in the electoral roll, the above law notwithstanding. That is to say, if the dislike for Indians became less marked and if the local Government was unwilling to injure the Indians, their names could be entered in the

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→ voters' lists without the slightest modification of the law. This is the advantage of a general law. Other instances of the same kind can be cited from among the laws in force in South Africa which have been referred to in previous chapters. The wise policy, therefore, is to enact as little class legislation as possible; and it would be wiser still to avoid it altogether. Once law is enacted, many difficulties must be encountered before it can be reversed. It is only when public opinion is highly educated that the laws in force in a country can be repealed. A constitution under which laws are modified or repealed every now and then cannot be said to be stable or well organized.

We can now better appreciate the poison which was present in the anti-Asiatic laws in the Transvaal. They were all racial in character. The Asiatics as such could not vote; nor could they own land outside the locations set apart for them by the Government. The administration could do nothing for the Indians so long as these laws were not removed

from the statute-book. Lord Milner's committee could make a separate list of such laws only as were not general in character. Had they been general laws, all laws, enforced only against the Asiatics though not expressly directed against them, would have been repealed along with the rest. The officers in charge could never have argued their helplessness and said that they had no alternative but to enforce the laws so long as the new legislatures did not abrogate them.

When these laws passed into the hands of the Asiatic Department it began to enforce them strictly. If the laws were at all worthy of being enforced, Government must arm itself with further powers in order to close the loopholes intentionally kept or left by inadvertence in favour of Asiatics. This looks quite simple and straight. Either the laws are bad in which case they should be repealed, or they are proper in which case their deficiencies should be remedied. The ministers had adopted the policy of enforcing the laws. The Indians had stood shoulder to shoulder with the British

and risked their lives during the late war, but that was now a story three or four years old. The British Agent at Pretoria had put up a fight on behalf of the Indians, but that was during the old regime. The grievances of the Indians figured as one of the declared causes of the war, but that declaration was made by short-sighted statesmen who had no knowledge of local conditions. The local officials clearly observed that the anti-Asiatic laws enacted by the late Boer Government were neither adequately severe nor systematic. If the Indians could enter the Transvaal at will and carry on trade wherever they chose, British traders would suffer great loss. All these and similar arguments carried greater weight with the Europeans and their representatives in the ministry. They were all out to amass the maximum of wealth in a minimum of time; how could they stand the Indians becoming co-sharers with them? Hypocrisy pressed political theory into service in order to make out a plausible case. A bare-faced selfish or mercantile argument would not satisfy the intelligent Europeans of South Africa.

BIMSTEC ATTENDS PM Modi's OATH TAKING CEREMONY

President of Bangladesh Abdul Hamid, Sri Lankan President Maithripala Sirisena, Nepal Prime Minister KP Sharma Oli and Bhutanese Prime Minister Lotay Tshering were among the foreign leaders who attended Prime Minister Narendra Modi's swearing-in ceremony on Thursday. President of Myanmar U Win Myint and Special Envoy of



Thailand Grisada Boonrach also graced the ceremony at the majestic forecourt of Rashtrapati Bhavan. Mauritius PM Pravind Kumar Jugnauth and Kyrgyz President Jeenbekov, the current chair of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation also attended the ceremony.

India invited leaders of the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) countries as well as Jeenbekov and Jugnauth. Besides India, BIMSTEC comprises Bangladesh, Myanmar, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Nepal and Bhutan.

Prime Minister Modi and a team of 57 ministers were sworn-in by President Ram Nath Kovind at a glittering ceremony attended by around 8,000 guests. In 2014, Modi had invited all SAARC leaders, including the then Pakistan Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif for his swearing-in ceremony, in a major initiative to reach out to the neighbourhood. However, this time, the BIMSTEC leaders were invited, seen as an attempt to avoid inviting Pakistan for the event.

Founded in 1997, BIMSTEC currently represents over 1.5 billion people and having a combined gross domestic product of USD 3.5 trillion.

(To be Continued)

FOUR ARSP MEMBERS SWORN IN AS UNION MINISTERS

The moment of pride for ARSP was repeated, when the four of its life-members made a comeback as ministers in the second Council of Ministers of BJP-led NDA government. The four ARSP life-members appointed as ministers for the second time are Dr. Harsh Vardhan, Sh. Piyush Goyal, Sh. Santosh Gangwar and Sh. Shripad Yesso Naik.



Dr. Harsh Vardhan has been appointed as the Minister of Health and Family Welfare, Minister of

Science & Technology and Minister of Earth Sciences. His multifaceted personality can be seen from the fact that he actively participates in activities of various organisations not only in the medical field, but also culture, diplomacy, media and many other diversified areas.

Dr. Harsh Varshan has won many prestigious awards and recognitions, such as: IMA President's Special Award of Appreciation by the Indian Medical Association in 1994, Director-General's Polio Eradication Champion Award Commendation Medal by the World Health Organization in 1998, Polio Eradication Champion Award by the Rotary International in 2001, and

Doctor of the last Decade (Swasthya Ratna) by Indian Medical Association's New Delhi branch in 2002. Another of his pioneering initiatives was his act of implementing WHO's Essential Drug Programme, which revolutionized government's attitude on public health care.



Sh. Piyush Goyal has been appointed as the Minister of Railways, and Minister of Commerce and Industry. He is a

Member of Rajya Sabha from the state of Maharashtra.

During his 28-year-long political career, he has served on the National Executive and held several important positions in the BJP including the national treasurer. He was awarded the 2018 Carnot Prize for distinguished contributions to energy policy and work in village electrification by the University of Pennsylvania's Kleinman Center for Energy Policy.



Sh. Santosh Gangwar has been appointed as the Minister of State (Independent

Charge) for Labour and Employment. Before joining politics, Gangwar was actively involved in the establishment of the Urban Cooperative Bank in Bareilly and held the position of its chairman since its beginning in the year 1996.

He served as a member of the Uttar Pradesh State BJP Working Committee and held the position of General Secretary of the Uttar Pradesh BJP Unit in 1996. Santosh Gangwar was elected for the first time to the 9th Lok Sabha in 1989 from the Bareilly constituency. He represented that constituency continuously until 2009 as a BJP Member of Parliament, which involved six successive terms. He again got elected from Bareilly in 2014 and then in 2019.



Sh. Shripad Yesso Naik has been appointed as the Minister of State (Independent Charge) for

Ayurveda, Yoga and Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homoeopathy (AYUSH), and Minister of State for Defence.

Rising from the humble position of the Sarpanch of Durbhat village panchayat in 1984, he became General Secretary, B.J.P. Goa Pradesh in 1988. He became President of B.J.P. (Goa) in 1988, and was elected to the Goa Legislative Assembly in 1994. He first became member of the 13th Lok Sabha in 1999. Sh. Shripad was bestowed upon the Samaraj Ratna Award on 18 August 2016. Shri Shripad Yesso Naik has propogated and promoted Yoga & alternate medical system all over the world. □

FORMER FOREIGN SECRETARY S. JAISHANKAR IS NEW EXTERNAL AFFAIRS MINISTER

Sh. Subrahmanyam Jaishankar took charge of External Affairs Minister in the cabinet of Prime Minister Narendra Modi on 2nd June 2019. Jaishankar served as Foreign Secretary from January 2015 to January 2018, and is the first former foreign secretary to head the Ministry of External Affairs. During his education at Delhi's Jawaharlal Nehru University, Jaishankar had been part of the 'Free Thinkers', which was not affiliated to any political party but was a forum to debate all ideologies. □



POPE FRANCIS APOLOGISES TO ROMA COMMUNITY IN EUROPE, ASKS FOR FORGIVENESS FOR CHRISTIAN ATROCITIES

✍️ *Samyak Jain*

The Pope on Sunday, the 2nd of June 2019, formally apologized to the Roma community for the atrocities caused upon them by the Catholics at an event held in Bucharest, Romania.



Pope Francis, on the last day of his trip to Romania, asked for forgiveness on behalf of his church for the suffering endured by the Roma people, saying his heart was “weighed down by the many experiences of discrimination, segregation and mistreatment” they have experienced. “History tells us that Christians too, including Catholics, are not strangers to such evil,” Francis said. “I would like to ask your forgiveness for this. I ask forgiveness — in the name of the church and of the Lord — and I ask forgiveness of you, for all those times in history when we have discriminated, mistreated or looked askance at you.”

This statement comes in the light of the recently concluded elections to the European Parliament, in which far right parties, including Italy's Matteo Salvini scored large gains in the heart of Western Europe. This can be seen as a setback for the Papacy in Europe. The Pope recently has reached out to the Eastern Orthodox Church, in order to bring it closer to the Western Catholic Church. This ultimately helps him in achieving his goal of containing far right ideology in Europe. The European far right, including Salvini, has been critical of the Church's practices, maintaining that it is no longer traditional enough. The far right runs a campaign of hyper and aggressive nationalism. The rise of nationalism in Europe also poses a threat to the power and influence of the Pope himself.

Mr. Salvini, Italy's interior minister, has made the Roma a target. He has called for a census of Italy's Roma to expel those without citizenship, raising alarms for critics who call it ethnic profiling and say it is

unconstitutional. “We'll have to keep the ones who are Italian,” Mr. Salvini said last year. “But everyone else will have to go.”

The Roma is an ethnic group primarily having its roots in Northern India. Historically, the ancestors of these tribes lived in northern regions of India, ranging from Jammu and Kashmir to Punjab, Haryana, Rajasthan, Gujarat and even in Sindh in present day Pakistan. Due to repeated Islamic invasions in India beginning from the 11th century, they are said to have been forced to flee from their native land. They reached Persia by the 11th and 12th century, central Europe by the 14th century and Western Europe by the 15th century. Since that time, they adapted a nomadic lifestyle and never settled in a single country for very long. By the 20th century, they had a presence on every continent on Earth.

Romas speak a language called Romany along with the dominant language of the region they reside in. Although these tribes are present in every part of the world, the largest section of these people can be found in European countries. Due to their nomadic nature, it has been difficult to count the exact numbers of Roma living in any country in any census. According to estimates, around 12 million Roma are currently present in Europe. Together, these form the largest minority group in Europe.

The Roma have been subjected to racial discrimination and oppression for centuries. From being denied basic

human rights to social out-casting, the list is long, probably endless. They are generally eyed with mistrust and doubt. For example, even today in France, Roma are not allowed camping sites and are subjected to strict police surveillance. But, that does not stop the French authorities to tax them and draw them for military service. In the 20th century during the second world war, it is estimated that the Nazis killed around 400,000 Roma people in their concentration camps. All in all, the European community has for long refused to accept and acknowledge these people. Hence, an apology from the Pope was long over-due and is seen by welcoming eyes by the Roma community within Europe.

Florin Botonogu, president of the Policy Center for Roma and Minorities, speaking from an office in Bucharest, said he hoped attention from the pope would generate momentum to support Roma. “We need this support, especially when the rightist movement is growing in Europe,” he said, noting the recent violence and discrimination against Roma, particularly in Italy. “It's important that the pope says, 'Look, this issue is important to me.'” Other advocates for Roma community also expressed hope that Francis' visit would help their cause. The right wing movements in Europe have generally been anti-gypsy in nature and rightists are very critical of the Roma.

Damian Draghici, a Roma musician who became an adviser to the Romanian government on Roma affairs and who was later elected to the European Parliament, said the pope's words of encouragement “can make a difference of 10 years of work for someone in the European Parliament or somewhere else, because he is such a huge personality.” “We are still the most oppressed minority in Europe,” he said. □

INDIAN ARRIVAL MONUMENT Officially COMMISSIONED IN GUYANA

Indian Arrival monument was officially commissioned and unveiled on 5th May 2019, as Guyana commemorates it as the Indian Arrival Day, in the memory of Indian indentured immigrants whose exertions contributed to building the nation. After approximately two years of construction, the Indian Arrival monument was officially unveiled in Palmyra, East Berbice-Corentyne.



Amb. Akhilesh Mishra DG, ICCR addressing at Indian Arrival Day

At the grand unveiling ceremony, President of Republic of Guyana David Granger stated that Indians have made indelible contributions to the nation's cultural, economic, political and social development. These contributions have ensured the community's progress and have advanced the nation's development. "We are richer for their arrival and for their remaining here," said President Granger as he also thanked the Government of India for its contribution and collaboration on the project, and the donation of the sculptures, he added, "India's continued concern for its diaspora is reflected in its decision to support the construction of "this magnificent memorial." It was a collaborative effort between the Governments of Guyana and India.

Indian indentured immigrants first arrived in the East Berbice-Corentyne Region 181 years ago on 5th May 1838 in search of a good life. It was through the abolition of Indian indentured immigration intensified migrants' efforts to integrate more fully into Guyana's multi-ethnic society.

The President referred that the

monument will also serve as a reminder "of the journeys of arrival and the continuing journey towards a society characterised by human dignity and material progress. The protection and preservation of the family, as the monument depicts, are central to that continuing journey". He



The impressive Indian Arrival Day Monument

said the Indian Immigration Monument symbolises the ties of blood and history between Guyana and India.

The President noted that the Indian Arrival Monument recalls the Indian indentured experience, celebrates the migrants' resistance, resilience and resourcefulness and attests to the immigrants' sacrifices, struggle and the pursuit of a good life. He added that, "Indians served as the main source of labour in the sugar and rice

industries. They have helped to sustain these pillars of our economy for more than 180 years". The resourcefulness of the East Indians, he said, contributed to the diversification of the rural, economic and social landscape of the country with many excelling in agriculture, accounting, the arts, business, diplomacy, education, engineering, law enforcement, legal services, medicine, military service, politics, the public service, sports and trade unionism.

Indian High Commissioner to Guyana, Venkatachalam Mahalingam said he is pleased that the Indian Arrival Monument was unveiled on Indian Arrival Day. He stated, "India is proud of the Indo-Guyanese achievements and the role in the development of Guyana. It is India's endeavour to continuously strengthen its engagement with the Indian Diaspora".

Director General of the Indian Council for Cultural Relations in India, Shri Akhilesh Mishra, underscored that the installation of the monument is a great example of working together and the contributions made by the government and the artists who designed the monument itself. He said

the site now serves as a symbol of the connection between Guyana and India.

There were two dance items and renditions of the national songs by the Guyana Police Force Band. The six statues have a value of \$31 million (US\$150,000). It was a donation made by the Government of India to Guyana in 2017 while the Government of Guyana's contribution amounted to \$160M. □

140th ANNIVERSARY of ARRIVAL of INDIANS in Fiji

To commemorate Fiji Girmit 140th anniversary Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama held a ceremony at the Albert Park. In that gathering about 200 people were present including students and officials. President stated that the stories of Girmitya suffering serve as a permanent reminder of the scars of colonialism that we must never forget, they are also a beacon of hope. While addressing the students in the ceremony, he added, "Girmitya saw education as the best way to ensure that they, and their children and grandchildren, would never endure the same oppression that they did which was why so many of our schools throughout Fiji that still exist to this day where founded by Girmitya forefathers". Mr. Bainimarama asked the teachers who were present at the event to carry the universal lessons of Girmit with them to their students with renewed passion in the years ahead. And to the students he said: "I implore you to become ambassadors for preserving and spreading the stories of the Girmitya for years to come".

While in an another event held at Nausori Town Council, India's High Commissioner to Fiji, Padmaja says "any day which is celebrated is done so to remember the history associated with it and by doing so we can learn from it to make our future better".



Indian HE Padmaja Lighting Lamp on 140th Indian Arrival Day in Fiji

Padmaja stated Indians faced so many difficulties in life but inspite of this they were mindful of creating a good future of their children and family, as well as of their community. She added that their descendants are now living a good life and have good jobs and are making their country a beautiful nation.

Exactly 108 years ago, on May 14, 1879 the first batch of 498 Indians Indentured labourers were taken to Fiji

on a ship called LEONIDAS during the colonial rule. However, nearly 60 thousands Indians Indentured labourers came in between 1879 and 1915 and stayed back to settle down in the country.



Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama addressing on the occasion of Fiji Girmit 140th Anniversary

At the 140th Girmit day celebrations booklet of pictures of Girmityas were provided by the National Archives of Fiji. It was an emotional moment for some as many of these families do not have a picture of their grandparents. This display by the National Archives of Fiji was a good initiative as it will enable children to understand their identity and culture and know what their forefathers have been through. □

THREE ROMA ELECTED TO EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

The European parliamentary election was held between 23 and 26 May 2019, and the representation of Europe's biggest minority, the Roma, has dropped. Only three Romani people have been elected as members to the European Parliament while five served in the last mandate.

Romeo Franz of Germany and Livia Jaroka of Hungary were re-elected to their seats, while Peter Pollak managed to secure a seat in Slovakia. All three ran as candidates for majority parties. The first Roma MEP, from 1986 - 1999, was Juan de Dios Ramirez of Spain, followed by the 2005 election of Lívia Járóka and the 2006 election of Viktória Mohácsi, both from Hungary.

Born in 1974 Komárom-Esztergom and Szabolcs-Szatmár-Bereg, Hungary, Livia Jaroka is a doctorate in Social Anthropology from University



Livia Jaroka

College of London. She was a member of Young Global Leaders (Forum of Young Global Leaders and the World Economic Forum), Board Member of Roma Education Fund, Member of High Level Group of Roma Diplomacy Program, Board Member of European Roma Information Office. She was awarded with Presidential Order of Merit of Hungary in 2011.



Romeo Franz

Born on 28 October 1966 in Kaiserslautern, Germany, Romeo Franz is a professional violinist, has been a member of The Greens and served as chairman of the Central Council of German Sinti and Roma. Since 1997 he has been involved in the association work for the rights of people with Roma background and in the European Parliament, he works in the areas of minority protection, home affairs and culture.



Peter Pollak

Peter Pollák is the first Slovak Roma MEP. In 2012 - 2016 he worked as the Government's Proxy for Roma Communities (under the Smer government). Pollak grew up in a Roma settlement but defied his fate and managed to complete his studies at a university. He has become an invaluable positive role model, particularly for other children from settlements, He is a university lecturer, project manager and comes from Levoča. □
(Report by Md. Zameer Anwar)

ARSP DELEGATION MEETS BHUTANESE PRIME MINISTER

A high-level ARSP delegation led by ARSP President Amb. Virendra Gupta met the Prime Minister of Bhutan H.E. Mr. Lotay Tshering on 31st May 2019 at Hotel Leela in New Delhi. The Prime Minister was here on a special invitation on the occasion of swearing-in ceremony of Indian Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi. Amb. Virendra Gupta introduced Members of ARSP delegation and apprised the Bhutanese Prime Minister about ARSP activities and its focus on strengthening people to people relations with the Indian Diaspora and the neighbouring countries. He stated that by inviting the leaders from the BIMSTEC countries, PM Modi has outlined his policy of 'Neighbourhood First'. Amb. Gupta said that improving economic ties between India and Bhutan can play an important role and it will further consolidate the relations between the two countries.

Welcoming the delegates, the Bhutanese Prime Minister said that India and Bhutan share warm and cordial relations. Both the countries have collaborated successfully in Hydro Power projects in Bhutan. There



(L to R) Dr. Shashibala, Narayan Kumar, H.E. V. Namgyel, Amb., Virendra Gupta, PM of Bhutan Mr. Lotay Tshering, Shyam Parande, Gopal Arora and Amit Gupta

are several areas in economic and educational fields in which we are working together. Stressing on the importance of education the Prime Minister affirmed his Government's commitment to improve educational infra structure in Bhutan so that more Bhutanese students qualify for studying in foreign countries including India. He said that we will welcome the initiative by educationists to strengthen the educational system in Bhutan. He further said we look forward to strengthen the relations at all levels-Government to Government, Business to Business and people to people.

During the interaction ARSP Secretary General Shri Shyam Parane, recalled ARSP's long association with Bhutanese Government and its people. ARSP Secretary Prof. Gopal Arora brought to the PM's notice the various ARSP delegations that visited Bhutan on their Governments invitation. He also mentioned about the possibility of organizing sports events between of youth of both the countries. ARSP Joint Secretary Dr. Shashi Bala presented two books, authored by her, to the Prime Minister. ARSP Joint Secretary Shri Amit Gupta mentioned that there is good scope of Bhutanese youth benefitting from the Indian Government's ITEC programme. Hon'ble Director of ARSP Shri Narayan Kumar said India and Bhutan have very cordial relations and our efforts will further consolidate our friendly relations.

Diplomats from the Bhutanese Embassy including Ambassador of Bhutan H.E. Major General Vetsop Namgyel were present in the meeting. □

ARSP DELEGATION MEETS SECRETARY (CPV & OIA) SANJIV ARORA



(L to R) Dr. Manoj Mohapatra, Shyam Parande, Amb. Virendra Gupta, Amb. Sanjiv Arora, Narayan Kumar, Gopal Arora & Amit Gupta

A High Level ARSP delegation led by President ARSP Amb. Virendra Gupta called on Secretary (CPV & OIA) Shri Sanjiv Arora in his office on 28th May 2019. Amb. Gupta apprised the Secretary about ARSP activities. He said that ARSP has been working for the past 50 years to promote international co-operation and people to people relations.

The traditional focus of ARSP has been on Indian Diaspora and in recent years it has expanded its outreach to neighboring countries.

Amb. Gupta briefly explained about the activities of recently launched Diaspora Research & Resource Centre and Centre for Roma studies and Cultural Relations at Pravasi Bhawan with the support of MEA and ICCR respectively.

Shri Sanjiv Arora welcomed the delegates and applauded the contribution of ARSP

as a think tank and as a socio cultural organization. He said that the large, vibrant and highly regarded Indian Diaspora has emerged as a very important dimension of our Foreign Policy. He suggested that there is a need to conduct studies in various issues concerning Diaspora. ARSP should short list 2-3 topics at a time and come out with substantive recommendations which will help the policy planners. He made a special mention of the interest shown by Indian Diaspora in recent general elections in India. To begin with ARSP could publish research papers on 'Indian Democracy' and the 'Indian Diaspora Youth'. He stressed on the need to synchronize various activities and programmes undertaken by Ministry of External Affairs, ICCR and ARSP related to Indian Diaspora. He particularly mentioned KIP programme, ITEC and Scholarships to foreign students.

Shri Shyam Parande, pointed out that there is a need to expand the scope of KIP so that a larger number of Indian Diaspora youth engage with India. Joint Secretary (OIA-II) Dr. Manoj Mohapatra informed that the Government is already working on this aspect and a self financing scheme has also been introduced to encourage Diaspora youth to visit India and acquaint themselves with various facets of Indian

culture, economy and polity. Shri Sanjiv Arora agreed to ARSP's request to incorporate a full day's programme at Pravasi Bhawan for each batch of KIP delegates.

ARSP Secretary Prof. Gopal Arora informed about the programmes ARSP organizes during the visit of KIP delegation at Pravasi Bhawan. He also mentioned the KIP delegates visits organized by ARSP to Delhi University, National Science Museum and Akshardham Temple. Joint Secretary Amit Gupta informed that ARSP invites students from Delhi University and youth from Vision Indian Foundation to engage with KIP delegates. Hony. Director Shri Narayan Kumar informed that 2019 is the 150th birth anniversary year of Mahatma Gandhi. Gandhi's contribution to Indian Diaspora is very significant and ARSP will organize special programmes on Gandhi & Diaspora during the year.

Other issues concerning workers in GCC countries and Indian women abroad in distress were also discussed during the meeting.

Shri Sanjiv Arora assured his full co-operation to ARSP and also promised that we will soon visit Pravasi Bhawan to interact with ARSP members. □

US Varsity Signs MoUs With Hyd Institutes



The University of Pittsburgh signed Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) to collaborate with IIT-Hyderabad, Telangana State Council of Higher Education (TSCHE), MediCiti Institute of Medical Science (MIMS) and Indian School of Business, among others. "These collaborations will help establish a cooperative relationship in the areas of education and research. Under the MoUs, the partners will plan joint research projects, exchange academic reports, share innovative teaching methods and course designs, create joint symposia and conferences, organise faculty development and exchange and plan student exchanges," says Armony. These partnerships will help establish Hyderabad as a hub for university research and education, he adds.

PREVIOUS COLLABORATIONS

The University of Pittsburgh had also signed a Memorandum of Understanding in 2017 with the Government of India's Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) to create the ICCR chair of Indian Studies at the University of Pittsburgh - the second such ICCR chair in the United States. The ICCR now works with the University annually to appoint a scholar from the Social Sciences or Humanities from a leading Indian university to the position.

The institute presently offers signature programmes at the Hanifl Centre to bring students from the US to Himalaya to learn about the global importance of the region. Students from the University's Kenneth P Dietrich School of Arts and Sciences, College of Business Administration, and School of Nursing arrive in Mussoorie each year to study at the Centre and contribute to the local service projects. □

CLIMATE CHANGE

INDIA GETS RE-ELECTED AS OBSERVER TO ARCTIC COUNCIL

India has been re-elected as an observer to the Arctic Council, as per a tweet of Madhavan Rajeevan, secretary to the Union Ministry of Earth Sciences. The Arctic Council is a high-level inter-governmental forum that addresses issues faced by the Arctic governments and the indigenous people of the Arctic. It is an eight-member grouping of nations that have territories in the Arctic. The Arctic Council is formed of Russia, the United States, Canada, Norway, Denmark, Sweden, Iceland and Finland. "India was an Observer at the Council from 2013 onwards," Rajeevan told Down To Earth on the phone from Rovaniemi, Finland.

Besides India, China, South Korea, Singapore, Italy and Japan also have Observer status at the Council. The two-day meeting began on May 6, 2019. At the culmination, the member countries released a joint statement in which they pledged a number of measures to preserve the Arctic.

Among the important decisions, they "reaffirmed their commitment to maintain peace, stability and constructive cooperation in the Arctic". They also committed to the well-being of the Arctic's inhabitants and the region's sustainable development and the protection of its environment. Most importantly, the joint statement recognised the rights of Arctic indigenous peoples and to consult and cooperate with them.

Intergovernmental and Inter-Parliamentary Organizations like International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES) and International Maritime Organization (IMO), and Non-governmental Organizations like International Arctic Science Committee (IASC) and International Arctic Social Sciences Association (IASSA) also are the members of this Council. □

INDIAN-ORIGIN ANITA BHATIA APPOINTED AS UN-WOMEN'S DEPUTY

Anita Bhatia has had a distinguished career at the World Bank Group, serving in various senior leadership and management positions, both at the headquarters and in the field.

UNITED NATIONS: Indian-origin Anita Bhatia, a veteran in strategic partnerships, resource mobilisation and management, has been appointed by UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres as the Deputy Executive Director in the global body's agency focussed on women empowerment and gender equality.

Bhatia holds a Bachelor of Arts in History from Calcutta University, a

Master of Arts in Political Science from Yale University and a Juris Doctor in Law from Georgetown University.



Anita Bhatia

She has been appointed the Deputy Executive Director of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) for Resource Management, Sustainability and Partnerships. □

(Source : ET 31 May 2019)

AMARTYA SEN CHAIR AT LONDON SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS

London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE) has created Amartya Sen Chair in Inequality Studies, named after Indian-origin Nobel Laureate



Amartya Sen

Amartya Sen, who was the Economics professor at LSE from 1971-82. According to the South Asia Centre at LSE, this is only the second time that an LSE chair has been named in honour of an eminent Indian, and the first LSE chair to honour a living Indian. "Lord Nicholas Stern is the IG Patel Chair of Economics and Government, which was instituted in 2007 in memory of the Indian economist and civil servant IG Patel (1924-2005), who served as the director of LSE," Savage says.

It is noteworthy that the III had not

been formed when Sen worked as a professor at the LSE. He remains a regular visitor at LSE which also had Dr BR Ambedkar as its alumnus who completed his doctoral thesis there in 1923 and former President KR Narayanan.

"There is an open search for an outstanding global scholar currently taking place for the Amartya Sen Chair," says Savage.

As the III's new director, the eminent scholar will take over the leadership of the Institute from Savage, who will return full-time to the Martin White Chair in Sociology at LSE.

The post holder will have oversight of the International Inequalities Institute's (III's) teaching programmes, including the MSc Inequalities and Social Science (which includes expertise drawn from diverse fields

such as Anthropology, Economics, Gender and Geography) and the III doctoral programme, besides contributing to the institute's Atlantic Fellows for Social and Economic Equity programme (AFSEE)

"The holder of this Chair will be director of the LSE's International Inequalities Institute (III) which was launched in 2015 to provide co-ordination and strategic leadership on the inter-disciplinary analysis of inequalities. The Chair will also allow its incumbent to champion new developments in inequality studies with global relevance, and to influence debates and interventions in this crucial area," Savage explains. He adds, "The Sen Chair will be a dynamic and compelling leader who will apply intellectual vision and expertise in shaping the III and its future." □

INDIA ELECTED TO EXECUTIVE BOARD OF FIRST UN-HABITAT ASSEMBLY

India has been elected to the Executive Board of the first UN-Habitat Assembly, announced Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs on Monday. "The nation's global clout continues to grow significantly. In an extremely proud development, India has been elected today to the Executive Board of the first UN-Habitat Assembly at the Plenary Session of the Assembly being held in Nairobi," read a post on the ministry's official Twitter handle.

The first session of the UN-Habitat Assembly started on May 27 at the headquarters of UN-Habitat in Nairobi and will go on till May 31.

The special theme for the UN-Habitat Assembly is "Innovation for Better Quality of Life in Cities and Communities".

This story has not been edited by Business Standard staff and is auto-generated from a syndicated feed.) □

(Source : Business Standard-28 May, 2019)

3 INDO-CANADIANS MAKE IT TO ALBERTA CABINET



Rajan Sawhney



Leela Aheer



Prasad Panda

Alberta has set a record for the maximum number of Indian-canadians in a provincial cabinet in Canada with as many as three sworn in on Tuesday. The cabinet of Alberta's premier Jason Kenney includes three Indian-canadians - Rajan Sawhney, Leela Aheer and Prasad Panda.

Cabinets in others provinces of Canada have fewer IndianCanadian ministers, with British Columbia featuring two and Ontario none.

The federal cabinet, of course, has four ministers of Indian-origin.

Kenney, who was Canada's minister of national defence prior to incumbent Harjit Sajjan, is known for his proximity

to the Indian-canadian community and for his work on strengthening ties between India and Canada.

When Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi visited Canada in April 2015, Kenney was the point man in the cabinet, tasked with ensuring a successful visit. Kenney visited India in September last year, soon after becoming the leader of the UCP.

In a statement accompanying the announcement of the new cabinet, Kenney described it as a "young, energetic and diverse team."

The new administration was elected on April 16. □

(Source : HT 2 May, 2019)

H.E. Ms. RUCHIRA KAMBOJ, AMBASSADOR OF INDIA TO BHUTAN PRESENTED CREDENTIALS TO HIS MAJESTY THE KING

The new Ambassador of India to Bhutan, Her Excellency Ruchira Kamboj presented credentials to His Majesty The King at Tashichhoedzong on 17 May 2019.

Ambassador Ruchira Kamboj was appointed as the 18th Indian Ambassador to Bhutan in February this year. She is also the first woman Indian Ambassador to Bhutan.

The new Ambassador, who succeeds Jaideep Sarkar as India's ambassador to Bhutan, was formerly the High Commissioner of India to South Africa. She has worked closely with the government of Bhutan and facilitated state visits of His Majesty The King during her tenure as India's Chief of Protocol from 2011 to 2014. She joined the Indian Foreign Service in 1987.

Upon arriving in Bhutan, Ambassador Ruchira Kamboj tweeted that she was immensely happy to be back in Bhutan, referring to the relations between Bhutan and India as 'Indeed special.'



H.E. Ms. Ruchira Kamboj, Ambassador of India to Bhutan Presented Credentials to His Majesty The King

LEADERS OF BHUTAN FELICITATED PRIME MINISTER SHRI NARENDRA MODI ON THE BHARATIYA JANATA PARTY'S VICTORY IN THE 17TH LOK SABHA ELECTIONS

His Majesty the King of Bhutan, Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck called Prime Minister Narendra Modi on 23rd May 2019 and congratulated him on his victory in the 17th Lok Sabha elections in India. His Majesty the King also conveyed his good wishes for the progress and prosperity of the people of India under the leadership of Prime Minister Shri Modi.



Dr. Lotay Tshering called Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi on May 23, 2019 and offered his congratulations his victory in the general elections in India. Dr. Lotay Tshering lauded the strong leadership provided by PM Shri Modi in India and hoped that India achieved great success under his vision and leadership. Prime Minister Modi thanked PM Dr. Lotay Tshering for his felicitations. He reiterated his commitment to continue working with Prime

Minister Shri Modi thanked H.M. the King for his greetings and warm wishes. He conveyed that the Government of India accords highest importance to its unique and special friendship with Bhutan. Prime Minister Narendra Modi also reiterated that the Government of India's commitment to

continue working closely with the Royal Government of Bhutan in taking this partnership to even greater heights.

Prime Minister of Bhutan, Lyonchhen

Minister Dr. Lotay Tshering and the Royal Government of Bhutan for deepening and further strengthening our special and exemplary bilateral relationship.



HER MAJESTY THE GYALTSUEN GRANTED AUDIENCE TO PARTICIPANTS OF THE BRCS TRAINING PROGRAM



Her Majesty The Gyaltsuen Granted Audience to Participants of the BRCS Training Program

Her Majesty The Gyaltsuen met with the participants of a training for first responders during disasters, held by Bhutan Red Cross Society (BRCS) to commemorate its 2nd Foundation Day and the International Red Cross and

Red Crescent Day on 8th May 2019.

The 'Emergency Safety and First Responder During Disaster' Training was for Taxi Drivers and Bus Drivers. 25 Taxi Drivers were trained, alongside of BCRS dzongkhag coordinators. The training will continue on 9th May, with 25 bus drivers.

The secretary general of BRCS, Dragyel Tenzin, said that the rationale behind training taxi and bus drivers is because they are often the first on the scene during accidents, and therefore it was useful for them to be mentally prepared and equipped

with basic skills, which would enable them to be of help. The drivers received training on emergency safety, search and rescue, and non-medical first aid.

The BRCS intends to hold additional sessions to train a larger number of drivers, as well as follow-up intermediate and advanced trainings once the basic sessions have been completed.

Her Majesty The Gyaltsuen is the President of the Bhutan Red Cross Society. Bhutan Red Cross Society was launched in 2017, as a non-profit, autonomous agency that would support the government and other organizations in disaster management, health, and social services. □

PICTURE STORY:



His Majesty The King graced the Opening Ceremony of the Second Session of the Third Parliament of Bhutan on 23 May 2019 at the Gyalyong Tshokang in Thimphu. □



Prime Minister Dr. Lotay Tshering attended the Swearing-in-Ceremony of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi along with leaders of BIMSTEC, Mauritius and Kyrgyzstan on 30 May 2019 at Rashtrapati Bhawan. □

DAYS TO REMEMBER

in July, 2019

July 01 : Canada Day
(National Day of Canada)
July 03 : **Amavasya** ●
July 04 : U.S.A. : National Day
July 05 : Venezuela : National Day
July 11 : Mongolia : National Day

July 11 : World Population Day
July 14 : France : National Day
July 16 : **Purnima** ●
July 21 : Belgium : National Day
July 26 : Maldives : Independence Day

पंजाबी प्रवासी कहानीकार : नये विषय-नये रंग

दरका ग्लोब का पात्र सिकंदर काम के सिलसिले में खाड़ी के देशों में जाकर अत्यंत खार हुआ। सऊदी अरब जाकर उसका यह भ्रम टूट गया कि मुसलमानों का आदर्श मुल्क कहलाने वाला देश वास्तव में अंधकार और गुलामी का देश है। मुसलमान होने के बावजूद उसे वहां कोई लाभ नहीं हुआ था। तब एजेंटों के चक्कर लगाते हुये, उन्हें दो लाख देकर उसे स्वीडन का वीजा प्राप्त हुआ। स्वीडन में भी पहले ढाई वर्षों तक कच्चे रहने के पश्चात, वहां पक्के तौर पर स्थापित होने के लिये उसे सोफिया के साथ विवाह करना पड़ा। इसी विषय से संबंधित उसकी दूसरी कहानी **सैंट होने के लिये** की सारी कहानी भारत से गये नौजवान को स्वीडन में सेंट करवाने के लिये कई पापड़ बेलने की कथा सुनाती है। जहां उसे अपने से दुगुनी उम्र की गुनीला, जो शराब व ड्रग्स की आदी है को नापसंद करते हुये अपने भतीजे का ब्याह उससे करवाकर स्वीडन में सेंट होने करवाने वाली एक बुआ की कहानी है। गुनीला जैसी शराबी औरत से वह अपने जवान उम्र के भतीजे को बचाकर भी रखना चाहती है कि कहीं वह औरत जवान लड़के की जवानी को बर्बाद कर, भटका ना दें। यहां समस्या केवल स्वीडनवासी गुनीला के साथ ब्याह करने की नहीं है, इसके साथ उसका रोजाना का शराब का खर्च, ड्रग की आदत को सहन करने के साथ उसके शराबी दोस्तों का हो-हल्ला और जवान पति की मांग भी शामिल होती। इन सब खर्चों के कारण बुआ रानी के घर का आर्थिक संतुलन तक बिगड़ने लगा। कई बार तो वह शराबी गुनीला के पास रात बिताने के लिये अपने पति को ही भेज देती। इस कहानी में एक और समस्या ध्यानाकर्षित करती है कि स्वीडन में सेंट होने के लिये और नौकरी प्राप्त करने के लिये स्वीडिश भाषा आना भी अनिवार्य है। यहां नौकरी के समय अन्य कई संकटों से जूझना पड़ता है। ऐसी कहानियां उस सच्चाई से पाठकों को अवगत करवाती है कि प्रवास में स्थापित होना कतई सरल नहीं। ऐसी परिस्थितियों के चलते यदि प्रवासी अपने आर्थिक संतुलन के बिगड़ने के एहसास के कारण देश में बैठे भाई-बंधुओं और संबंधियों से पल्ला छुड़ाना चाहे तो उन्हें फिर इनकी नाराजगी और ईर्ष्या को भी सहन करना पड़ता है।

इस सच्चाई को हरजीत अटवाल की कहानी

नये गीत का मुखड़ा में और भी बेहतर ढंग से पेश किया गया है। अपनी दोस्ती के कारण शमशीर ने अपने दोस्त बलराम को लुधियाना से लंदन घुमने के लिये बुला लिया। लेकिन लंदन पहुंचकर बलराम ने उंगुली पकड़ने की बजाय पैर को ही पकड़ना आरंभ कर दिया। शमशीर की परेशानी इतनी बढ़ गयी कि उसके घर की प्राइवेट सी खत्म होने लगी। दोस्त की ऐश भरी, सुख-सुविधाओं भरी जिन्दगी को देखते हुये बलराम अब दोस्त से पैसे भी मांगने लगा। यहां तक कि टाल-मटोल करने पर दोस्त ने उसके बैंक की कापियों को भी उलट-पलट करके देख लिया। ऐसी हरकतों के कारण वर्षों की मित्रता कुछ ही महीनों में उड़ गयी। यह कहानी ऐसी कड़वी सच्चाई को पेश करती है कि देश या विदेश में बैठे मित्र-दोस्तों को ऐसी सूचनाओं और अनुभवों से लाभ उठाना चाहिये, क्योंकि ऐसी कहानियों के कथानक का ताना-बाना कल्पना पर कम, निजी अनुभवों पर अधिक आधारित होते हैं।

प्रवासी कहानियों में अब मोहपाश का स्थान मोहभंग ने ले लिया है। पीछे रह गये अपने परिवारों के लिये प्रवास में जहां जान अटकी रहती थी। अपनी जमीन, संपत्ति, गांव, वहां की मिट्टी-हवा, सभ्यता, बहन-भाईयों से मोहभंग के कई कारण हैं। आपसी भ्रम, एक-दूसरे की मजबूरी को ना जानने-समझने के कारण दोनों पक्षों में दूरी आने लगी है। इस सारी सच्चाई को निंदर गिल की कहानी **दरका ग्लोब** के माध्यम से अच्छे से समझा जा सकता है। स्वीडन रहते हुये सिकंदर का मन हरदम अपने घर, माँ और गांव में ही अटका रहता। वह हर पल यहां के सपने देखता रहता। लेकिन जब वह अपने गांव, अपने घर में पहुंचा तो उसे पहली बुरी खबर यह मिली कि उसकी माँ का रात में ही इंतकाल हो गया और वह अल्लाह को प्यारी हो गयी। दूसरा, अपने सगे भाई से गले मिलने पर उसे उस गर्मजोशी का एहसास नहीं होता, जो पहले महसूस हुआ करता था। फिर धीरे-धीरे जब माँ को दफनाये जाने की घटना तूल पकड़कर गांव से बाहर होती सियासत, धर्म, कौम, नेताओं, पुलिस व आतंकवाद तक के दायरे तक जा पहुंचती है तो सिकंदर का अपने देश, गांव व घर-रिश्ते-नातों से पूर्णतय मोहभंग हो जाता है। तब वह सोचता है, स्वीडन छोड़ वह क्यों बैठे-बिठाये भारत में मरने आ पहुंचा।

जरनैल सिंह की कहानी **पानी** भी मोहभंग की कहानी है। जिस जमीन को सुखजीत कौर किसी कीमत पर बेचने के लिये इसलिये तैयार नहीं होती,



डॉ. जसविन्दर कौर बिन्दा

क्योंकि वह उसकी जड़ों की अंतिम निशानी है। यह जमीन ही उसके लिये भारत से बंधे अटूट रिश्ते का प्रतीक है। लेकिन उसका चचेरा भाई बार-बार उस पर पंजाब की जमीन बेच देने के लिये जोर डालता है। उसके कहा अनुसार, अब जमीन संभालकर रखने का कोई लाभ नहीं रहा, क्योंकि धरती के नीचे पानी ही सूख चुका है। जब सुखजीत के लिये धरती तले पानी सूख जाना समस्या नहीं बनता, बल्कि भारत में उसके रिश्ते, सगे-संबंधियों से जुड़ी जड़े सूख जाने का प्रतीक बनकर सामने आता है। यदि जड़ ही सूख गयी फिर वहां कुछ भी पनप नहीं पायेगा। जिस जमीन पर गर्व करते हुये वह कनाडा में अपने पति, पुत्र व बहू पर रौब डालती रही थी, वह जमीन अब भारत में ही नहीं, कनाडा में रहते हुए भी उसके पैरों तले से निकल गयी थी।

नये गीत का मुखड़ा कहानी भी मोहभंग की कहानी है, इसमें शमशीर व बलराम दोनों पक्षों का मोहभंग होता है। बलराम जो सपने व उम्मीदें लेकर लंदन पहुंचता है, उसमें से कुछ भी पूरा नहीं होता। उसके शब्दों में 'भाई, दिल कैसे लगेगा। ड्रीम लेकर आया था कि जाते ही वहां काम करके पैसे कमाऊंगा'। प्रवास में जाते ही पौंड-डॉलर कमाने की खाहिश लेकर जाने वालों के सपने बहुत जल्दी टूट जाते हैं।

प्रवासी कहानियों में स्त्री-विमर्श से संबंधी अनेक कहानियां देखने को मिलती हैं। वीना वर्मा की कहानियों **सूखी कुईयां, बंद दरवाजा और फिरंगियों की बहू** का जिक्र विशेष तौर पर किया जा सकता है। वीना वर्मा द्वारा रचित स्त्री यूरोपियन सभ्यता में रहने, वहां की जीवन शैली को निकट से देखने के कारण हर तरह से अपनी स्वतंत्रता का उपभोग करने वाली है। **सूखी कुईयां** की शैली को ऐमी से अब इतनी भी मुहब्बत नहीं रही कि वह उसके





कारण अपनी स्वतंत्रता को दांव पर लगा दे। इसी एवज में वह अपने गर्भ में पल रहे भ्रूण को भी निकलवा देती है। **बंद दरवाजे** की माँ अपने जवान पुत्र के समकक्ष ही अपार्टमेंट के एकमात्र बैडरूम में अपने प्रेमी के साथ कई-कई घंटे बंद रहती है। पुत्र अपनी गर्लफ्रेंड के साथ जब कमरे पर कब्जा कर लेता है तो माँ इस बात को बर्दाशत नहीं कर पाती। उसे कमरा अपने प्रेमी के साथ वक्त बिताने के लिये चाहिये। पुत्र द्वारा जल्दी कमरा खाली ना करने पर वह अक्सर उसे और उसकी दोस्त को बहुत बुरा-भला कहती है। माँ के लिये प्रेमी के साथ अपनी शारीरिक भूख को संतुष्ट करना माँ-पुत्र के निकट संबंध से अधिक महत्व रखता है। भारत में ऐसा व्यवहार करने की हिम्मत अभी भी किसी माँ में बहुत कम होगी, परन्तु प्रवास की आबो-हवा में रहकर भारतीय स्त्रियाँ ऐसा करने की हिम्मत करने लगी हैं। इस प्रकार वे यूरोपियन जीवन शैली को खुले दिल से अपना रही है। **फिरंगियों की बहू** की पात्र शांति अत्यन्त धाकड़ और दबंग औरत रही, जिसने जीवन में आयी सभी कठिनाइयों का सामना प्रसन्नता से कर, अपनी बेटियों की जिन्दगी को संवारा। उनके ब्याह के पश्चात स्वयं भी अधेड़ उम्र में जॉन से विवाह रचाकर अपने बाकी जीवन को सुख बिताने का निश्चय करती हैं। जॉन से ब्याह करने के बाद ही वह स्वयं को **फिरंगियों की बहू** कहती है।

हरजीत अटवाल की कहानियां **खाल, जंड और गोम** भी स्त्री की सोच और जीवनशैली में आते परिवर्तनों को प्रगट करती हैं। **खाल** की चन्नी पति के सिगरेट, शराब के ऐब से बच्चों को बचाने के लिये उससे अलग रहने का निश्चय करती हैं सप्ताह बाद बाप से मिलने की इजाजत देते समय भी वह उस पर अनेक प्रकार शर्तें लगाती है। एक-एक ईंट जोड़कर बनाये घर पर कब्जा कर वह सरलता से पति को बाहर का रास्ता दिखा देती है। ऐसे में पति का कथन कि 'इस कंट्री की गौरमिंट भी इस प्रकार व्यवहार करती हैं जैसे ये औरते उसकी सगी बेटियां हों। कहीं होती ना इंडिया में तो । सारे कानून मर्दों के खिलाफ..... । विदेशों में रहने वाली भारतीय स्त्रियां भी अपने अधिकारों को बखूबी जानती हैं और उसी प्रकार व्यवहार करने लगती हैं। **जंड** में भी पत्नी पुत्रों की इच्छायें पूरे करते-करते पति से दूरी बना लेती है परन्तु जब वही पुत्र उसे काटने को दौड़ते हैं तो वह अधिकार से अपने पति के कमरे में जा घुसती है।

निंदर गिल की कहानियां स्वीडिश औरतों के स्वभाव, उनके तौर-तरीके, कब्जा करने की प्रवृत्ति, शककी स्वभाव आदि को **सहमति के बाद, सैंट होने के लिये, दरका ग्लोब** आदि कहानियों में स्पष्टता से देखा जा सकता है। इसी प्रकार जरनैल सिंह विदेशी स्त्रियों, वहां की पत्नी-बढ़ी यूरोपियन व भारतीय मूल की लड़कियों व स्त्रियों का जिक्र अपनी कई कहानियों में करता है। **पानी की शौरन, बर्फ व दरिया की लीजा और गुम हुये लोग की जुली आदि लड़कियां स्वभाव से मौज-मस्ती को तरजीह** देने वाली होती है। लीजा जैसी पात्र अपनी छोटी उम्र में ही धनी परिवार के लड़के के साथ शादी करने की इच्छा रखती है ताकि उसकी सारी ख्वाहिशें आसानी से पूरी हो सके। इसी कारण वह सच्चे प्रेमी को दुकराकर किसी दूसरे से प्यार में धोखा खाती है और सारी उम्र बदला लेने के लिये तरसती रहती है। **गुम हुये लोग** की लीजा थोड़ी सी जान-पहचान के बाद ही शमशीर से मिलने-जुलने लगती है। उसके बार-बार घर आने के कारण शमशीर का घर टूट जाता है।

दूसरे शब्दों में कहा जाये तो यूरोप में स्त्रियों का अपना अलग स्थान है। भले वह औरत घरेलू हों या कामकाजी, नाजायज ढंग से दबाये जाने का वह खुलकर विरोध करना सीख चुकी है। उसे यूरोपियन कानूनों द्वारा दिये जाने वाले अपने अधिकारों की पूरी जानकारी है। वह इनके प्रति पूर्णतः जागरूक है परन्तु कई बार स्वतंत्रता के अतिरेक में इन अधिकारों का गलत उपयोग करने से भी चूकती नहीं है। इन कहानियों के माध्यम से यह स्पष्ट है कि प्रवास में रहने वाली स्त्री अत्यन्त चौकन्नी व स्वविश्वास से भरी हुई हैं। स्त्री विमर्श से संबंधित ऐसी अनेक कहानियों को देखा जा सकता है।

प्रवासी कहानियों में विदेशी पात्र अब सरलता से पंजाबी कहानियों में दिखायी देने लगे हैं। जिससे प्रतीत होता है कि पंजाबी कहानी वास्तव में ग्लोबल युग में प्रवेश कर गयी है। हरजीत अटवाल की कहानियों **गोम, अपना कुआं और खाल** आदि में शीरिन, जरीना, पादरी आदि यूरोपियन पात्र दिखायी देते हैं। निंदर गिल की प्रत्येक कहानी में विदेशी स्त्री-मर्द पात्रों का बोलबाला है। **दरका ग्लोब की सोनिया, ठहराव की विक्टोरिया, सहमति के बाद की मारिया, मैना और मार्टिन आदि, सैंट होने के लिये में गुनीला** आदि अनेक विदेशी पात्रों ने अपना स्थान निश्चित किया है।

जरनैल सिंह की **टॉवर्ज और बर्फ व दरिया** कहानियां विदेशी पात्रों को लेकर ही रची गयी हैं। टॉवर्ज कहानी उस अमेरिकी दंपति की कहानी है, जिसके पुत्र व पुत्री देश में होने वाले आतंकी हमलों का शिकार हो जाते हैं। पढ़ी-लिखी जवान बेटा वर्ल्ड ट्रेड सेंटर में हुये घातक हादसे का शिकार हो जाती है और सरकारी तौर पर ईराक के युद्ध में गया जवान लड़का लापता हो जाता है। उस दंपति के दिल पर क्या बीतती है, जब उनका भरापूरा परिवार एकदम सूना हो जाता है। उस दंपति के दुःख-दर्द को जरनैल सिंह अत्यन्त शिद्दत से प्रगट करता है। यह कहानी पंजाबी साहित्य में मील का पत्थर मानी जाती है। इसी प्रकार **बर्फ व दरिया लीजा, शौन की प्रेम कहानी व डीन से मिले धोखे और बदले** की कहानी है। भारतीयों द्वारा सख्त परिश्रम करने की भावना देखने के कारण विदेशी लोग उनके साथ काम करना पसंद करते हैं। **सड़के** जिसमें जैक एक भारतीय के साथ पार्टनरशिप करता है और उसमें उन्हें सफलता भी प्राप्त होती है।

प्रवासी कहानियों के संदर्भ में प्रायः देखा गया है कि कथाकार प्रत्यक्ष या अप्रत्यक्ष रूप से भारतीय व विदेशी दोनों सभ्यताओं व आचार-विचार की तुलना करने से बच नहीं पाते। ऐसा होना स्वाभाविक भी है। सभी प्रवासी कथाकार इस प्रभाव से अछूते नहीं। वीना वर्मा की कहानी **खुंड खड़ीसणी** निंदर गिल की **दरका ग्लोब, सहमति के बाद, जरनैल सिंह की पानी, हरजीत अटवाल की अपना कुआं, खाल** आदि कहानियों को उदाहरणार्थ देखा जा सकता है। इन कहानियों की विशेषता यह है कि लेखक किसी भी सभ्यता व आचार-विचार का पक्षपात नहीं करते, केवल कथानक द्वारा उनके सकारात्मक और नकारात्मक पक्षों की चर्चा करते हैं।

इस आलेख में पंजाबी के केवल चार कहानी-संग्रहों का विश्लेषण कर, इस बात को प्रमाणित करने का यत्न किया है कि प्रवासी कहानी में विषयों का चयन कितना व्यापक हो गया है। विदेशी पात्रों, वहां की परिस्थितियों और समस्याओं के ताने-बाने से पंजाबी कहानी का क्षेत्र विशाल हो गया है और इसमें नित नये विषय वे कथानक जुड़कर इसे और भी व्यापक और संभावना भरपूर बना रहे हैं। संक्षेप में कहा जाये तो प्रवासी कथाकारों ने कहानी को विशाल मानस पटल पर ले जाकर इसे नये आयाम दिये है।

भारतीय मूल का छात्र ग्लोबल साइंस फेयर के फाइनल में

दुबई में रहने वाले एक भारतीय किशोर ने एक प्रतिष्ठित अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय विज्ञान मेला प्रतियोगिता के फाइनल में जगह बनाने वाले 100 प्रतियोगियों की लिस्ट में पहला स्थान मिला है। बिजली की बर्बादी पर लगाम लगाने और स्ट्रीट लाइटें 'स्मार्ट' बनाने की उसकी परियोजना के लिए उसे पहला स्थान मिला। एक रिपोर्ट के मुताबिक दुबई के इंडियन हाई स्कूल में 11वीं के छात्र शामिल करीम को ग्लोबल साइंस फेयर ग्लोबल कॉन्टेस्ट के लिए चुना गया। शामिल ने अपनी परियोजना के जरिए बताया कि यदि



शामिल करीम

कोई कार या व्यक्ति किसी रास्ते से गुजर रहा है तो उसके आगे के रास्ते पर रोशनी खुद ही तेज हो जाती है और उसके पीछे की रोशनी खुद ही महिम पड़ जाती है, जिससे बिजली की बचत होती है। मूल रूप से चेन्नै के रहने वाले 15 साल के शामिल ने महंगे इंफ्रारेड आधारित

मोशन डिटेक्टरों का इस्तेमाल करने की बजाय फोटो-रेजिस्टरों का इस्तेमाल किया ताकि गुजरती हुई कारों या लोगों की परछाई का पता चल सके। जब कोई परछाई नजर आएगी तो आगे के रास्ते में रोशनी तेज हो जाएगी जबकि पिछले रास्ते की रोशनी महिम हो जाएगी। □

विश्व धरोहर बनने की राह पर कैलाश मानसरोवर मार्ग, ये हैं खास बातें

कैलाश मानसरोवर के यात्रा मार्ग को विश्व धरोहर की सूची में शामिल करने की प्रक्रिया चल रही है। इससे हम समझ सकते हैं कि यह यात्रा अपने आप में कितनी खूबसूरत होगी! अपनी किन खूबियों के कारण यह मार्ग विश्व धरोहर बनने की राह पर है, यहां जाने।



कैलाश मानसरोवर जाने वाले रास्ते और इस पवित्र पर्वतीय क्षेत्र के भारतीय इलाके को वर्ल्ड हैरिटेज सूची में शामिल करने का एक प्रस्ताव यूनेस्को के पास भेजा गया था, जिसे अंतरिम सूची में शामिल कर लिया गया है। भारतीय पुरातत्व सर्वेक्षण (एएसआइ) के एक अधिकारी ने बताया कि एएसआई ने यूनेस्को को 15 अप्रैल, 2019 को यह प्रस्ताव सौंपा था। अब इस दिशा में आगे की प्रक्रिया पर काम चल रहा है। प्रयास अगर सही दिशा में जाते हैं तो कैलाश मानसरोवर यात्रा मार्ग विश्व धरोहर की सूची में शामिल हो जाएगा। अब अंतरिम सूची में स्थान मिलने के बाद, नियमानुसार विभिन्न प्रक्रियाओं के बाद एक मुख्य प्रस्ताव बनाकर यूनेस्को को भेजा जाना है और फिर इसे विश्व धरोहर का दर्जा दिलाने की कार्यवाही को अंतिम रूप दिया जा सकेगा। इसी प्रक्रिया के आधार पर विश्व धरोहर का चयन किया जाता है। कैलाश मानसरोवर के लिये भारत में कुल यात्रा मार्ग 1433 किलोमीटर का है। कैलाश यात्रा के लिये भारत में परंपरागत मार्ग ब्रह्मदेव (टनकपुर) से शुरू होकर सेनापति, चंपावत, रामेश्वर, गंगोलीहाट और पिथौराघाट से लिपुलेख तक जाता है।

प्रतिकूल मौसम में ऊबड़-खाबड़ रास्ते से होते हुए 19,500 फुट की चढ़ाई के दौरान श्रद्धालुओं का उत्साह इस यात्रा में देखते ही बनता है, जो बड़ी संख्या में कैलाश मानसरोवर की यात्रा पर जाते हैं। अपने धार्मिक मूल्य और सांस्कृतिक महत्व के लिए जानी जाने वाली कैलाश यात्रा का आयोजन विदेश मंत्रालय हर साल जून से सितम्बर के दौरान दो अलग-अलग मार्गों-लिपुलेख दर्रा (उत्तराखंड) और नाथू ला दर्रा (सिक्किम) से करता है। पवित्र कैलाश भूक्षेत्र भारत, चीन एवं नेपाल की संयुक्त धरोहर है। इसे यूनेस्को संरक्षित विश्व धरोहर का दर्जा दिलाने के लिए चीन एवं नेपाल पहले ही अपने-अपने प्रस्ताव यूनेस्को को भेज चुके थे। इस पवित्र इलाके के दायरे में भारत का 6,836 वर्ग किलोमीटर क्षेत्र आता है। □

भारत से राजनयिक संबंध के 70 साल/ इंडोनेशिया ने रामायण पर डाक टिकट जारी किए

डाक टिकट में सीता को बचाने के लिये लड़ते जटायु को दिखाया गया इन विशेष डाक टिकटों को जकार्ता के फिलाटेली संग्राहलय में प्रदर्शनी के लिए रखा जाएगा

भारत के साथ राजनयिक संबंधों के 70 साल पूरे होने पर इंडोनेशिया ने रामायण की थीम पर बने विशेष डाक टिकट जारी किए। इन्हें इंडोनेशिया के शिल्पकार पद्मश्री बपक न्योमन नौरता ने डिजाइन किया है।



डाक टिकट को संग्राहलय में प्रदर्शनी के लिए रखा जाएगा

जकार्ता में भारतीय दूतावास ने बताया कि डाक टिकट में रामायण के एक दृश्य को दर्शाया गया है। इसमें सीता को बचाने के लिए जटायु को बहादुरी से लड़ते दिखाया गया है। इन विशेष डाक टिकटों को जकार्ता के फिलाटेली संग्राहलय में प्रदर्शनी के लिए रखा जाएगा।

भारत के साथ राजनयिक संबंधों के 70 साल

होने के मौके पर एक कार्यक्रम का आयोजन किया गया। इसमें भारत के राजदूत प्रदीप कुमार रावत और इंडोनेशिया के उप विदेश मंत्री अब्दुर्रहमान मोहम्मद फकीर शामिल हुए। कार्यक्रम के दौरान 1949 से 2019 तक भारत और इंडोनेशिया के संबंधों से जुड़े ऐतिहासिक पलों को तस्वीरों के माध्यम से दिखाया गया। □

स्व. बालेश्वर अग्रवाल जी की छठीं पुण्यतिथि का आयोजन



स्व. बालेश्वर अग्रवाल जी की प्रतिमा पर पुष्पांजलि

अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय सहयोग परिषद के पूर्व महासचिव स्व. बालेश्वर अग्रवाल की छठीं पुण्यतिथि पर 22 मई, 2019 को प्रवासी भवन में आयोजित भजन संध्या के अवसर पर बालेश्वर जी को श्रद्धांजलि देते हुये राज्यसभा के वरिष्ठ सदस्य डॉ. सुब्रह्मण्यम स्वामी ने कहा कि बालेश्वर जी का पूरा जीवन भारतीय समाज और भारतीय संस्कृति के लिए समर्पित था। उन्होंने भारतीय भाषाओं की पहली समाचार एजेंसी हिन्दुस्थान समाचार के प्रधान सम्पादक के रूप में पत्रकारिता के क्षेत्र में नये मानदंड स्थापित किये। उन्हीं के प्रयास से हिन्दी का पहला टेलीप्रिन्टर बना। स्व. बालेश्वर जी प्रवासी भारतीयों की समस्या के प्रति सदैव सजग रहे और प्रवासी भारतीयों के लिए गठित उच्चस्तरीय समिति के सदस्य के रूप में उनके सुझावों के फलस्वरूप ही भारत सरकार के विदेश मंत्रालय में प्रवासी भारतीय विभाग बनाया गया और सरकार ने प्रवासी भारतीय दिवस का आयोजन प्रारंभ किया। मॉरीशस के पूर्व मंत्री श्री महेन उचाना ने भारत-मॉरीशस मैत्री को सुदृढ़ बनाने में बालेश्वर जी के योगदान की सराहना करते हुए कहा कि बालेश्वर जी मॉरीशस को अपना दूसरा घर मानते थे तथा मॉरीशस के लोग उन्हें भारत का सांस्कृतिक राजदूत के रूप में सम्मान देते थे।

इस अवसर पर आयोजित भजन संध्या में सुप्रसिद्ध संगीत-मर्मज्ञ श्री अजय याज्ञनिक

और श्रीमती वीना गुप्ता ने अपने मधुर भजनों से कार्यक्रम की गरिमा बढ़ाई। कार्यक्रम के प्रारंभ में परिषद के अध्यक्ष श्री वीरेन्द्र गुप्ता ने प्रवासी भारतीयों के साथ भारत के संबंधों को सुदृढ़ एवं सद्भावपूर्ण बनाने में बालेश्वर अग्रवाल जी की भूमिका उल्लेख करते हुए कहा कि अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय सहयोग परिषद के माध्यम से बालेश्वर जी ने डायस्पोरा को भारत के साथ जोड़ने में अभूतपूर्व भूमिका निभाई है। परिषद के महासचिव श्री श्याम परांडे ने पत्रकारिता के क्षेत्र में तथा विश्व



भजन संध्या प्रस्तुत करते हुये
अजय याज्ञनिक और श्रीमती वीना गुप्ता

के कोने-कोने में फैले भारतवंशियों को एकसूत्र में बांधने में बालेश्वर जी के कार्यों को चिरस्मरणीय बताया। इस अवसर पर दूधेश्वर मठ के स्वामी महंत नारायण गिरी ने बालेश्वर जी के कार्यों की प्रशंसा करते हुये उन्हें श्रद्धांजलि अर्पित की।

भजन संध्या का संचालन करते हुए श्रीमती सुषमा अग्रवाल ने बालेश्वर अग्रवाल जी को श्रद्धांजलि अर्पित करते हुये कहा कि वे त्याग और तपस्या की प्रतिमूर्ति थे। उन्होंने कार्यक्रम में उपस्थित राजनेतओं और वरिष्ठ जनों के प्रतिआभार प्रकट किया।

इस कार्यक्रम से पहले डॉ. सुब्रह्मण्यम स्वामी और अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय सहयोग परिषद के वरिष्ठ सदस्यों ने बालेश्वर जी की प्रतिमा पर पुष्पांजलि अर्पित की। □

ओरछा की ऐतिहासिक धरोहरें अब बनेंगी विश्व धरोहर

मध्य प्रदेश स्थित ओरछा की ऐतिहासिक धरोहरें यूनेस्को की विश्व धरोहरों की अस्थायी सूची में शामिल किया गया है। भारतीय पुरातत्व सर्वेक्षण (एएसआई) के एक अधिकारी ने बताया कि एएसआई ने इस विषय में यूनेस्को को 15 अप्रैल, 2019 को प्रस्ताव भेजा था। किसी ऐतिहासिक विरासत या स्थल का विश्व धरोहर स्थलों की सूची में जगह पाने से पहले अस्थायी सूची में शामिल होना जरूरी है। अस्थायी सूची में शामिल होने के बाद अब एक मुख्य प्रस्ताव यूनेस्को को भेजा जाएगा। ओरछा अपने राजा महल, रामराजा मन्दिर, शीश महल, जहांगीर महल, राम मन्दिर, उद्यानों और मंडप आदि के लिये प्रसिद्ध है। कहा जाता है कि ओरछा की स्थापना 16वीं सदी के बुंदेला राजा रुद्र प्रताप सिंह ने की थी। बुंदेला शासकों के दौरान ही ओरछा में बुंदेली स्थापत्य के उदाहरण स्पष्ट तौर पर देखे जा सकते हैं जिसमें यहां की



जहांगीर महल-ओरछा

इमारतें, मन्दिर, महल, बगीचे इत्यादि शामिल हैं। इनमें से कुछ में राजपूत और मुगल स्थापत्य का मिश्रण भी देखने को मिलता है। ओरछा में वायु यन्त्र के नाम से प्रसिद्ध दो ऊंची मीनारें लोगों के आकर्षण का केन्द्र हैं जिन्हें सावन-भादों कहा जाता है। यहां का राय प्रवीन महल बगीचों के बीच बने महल के लिये प्रसिद्ध है। □