

ANTAR RASHTRIYA SAHA YOG PARISHAD BULLETIN

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(16 Pages including Cover)

The Advent of SATYAGRAHA

(Continued from the Previous issue)



The meeting was duly held in September 11, 1906. But I must confess that even I myself had not then understood all the implications of the resolutions I had helped to frame; nor had I gauged all the possible conclusions to which they might lead. I could read in every face the expectation of something strange to be done or to happen. Mr. Abdul Gani, Chairman of the Transvaal British Indian Association, presided. He was one of the oldest Indian residents of the Transvaal, and partner and manager of the Johannesburg branch of the well-known firm of Mamad Kasam Kamrudin. The most important among the resolutions passed by the meeting was the famous Fourth Resolution by which the Indians solemnly determined not to submit to the Ordinance in the event of its becoming law in the teeth of their opposition and to suffer all the penalties attaching to such non-submission.

I fully explained this resolution to the meeting. The resolution was duly proposed, seconded and supported by several speakers one of whom was Sheth Haji Habib. He made an impassioned speech. He was deeply moved and went so far as to say that we must pass this resolution with God as witness and must never yield a cowardly submission to such degrading legislation. He then went on solemnly to declare in the name of God that he would never submit to that law, and

advised all present to do likewise. When in the course of his speech Sheth Haji Habib came to the solemn declaration, I was at once startled and put on my guard. Only then did I fully realize my own responsibility and the responsibility of the community. The community had passed many a resolution before and amended such resolutions in the light of further reflection or fresh experience. There were cases in which resolutions passed had not been observed by all concerned. Amendments in resolutions and failure to observe resolutions on the part of persons agreeing thereto are ordinary experiences of public life all the world over. But no one ever imports the name of God into such resolutions. In the abstract there should not be any distinction between a resolution and an oath taken in the name of God. When an intelligent man makes a resolution deliberately he never swerves from it by a hair's breadth. With him, his resolution carries as much weight as a declaration made with God as witness does. But the world takes no note of abstract principles and imagines an ordinary resolution and an oath in the name of God to be poles asunder. A man who makes an ordinary resolution is not ashamed of himself when he deviates from it, but a man who violates an oath administered to him is not only ashamed of himself, but is also looked upon by society as a sinner. This imaginary distinction has struck such a deep root in the human mind that a person making a statement on oath before a judge is held to have committed an offence in law if the statement is proved to be false and receives drastic punishment.

Full of these thoughts as I was, possessing as I did much experience of solemn pledges, having profited by them, I was taken

aback by Sheth Haji Habib's suggestion of an oath. I thought out the possible consequences of it in a moment. My perplexity gave place to enthusiasm. And although I had no intention of taking an oath or inviting others to do so when I went to the meeting, I warmly approved of the Sheth's suggestion. But at the same time it seemed to me that the people should be told of all the consequences and should have explained to them clearly the meaning of a pledge. And if even then they were prepared to pledge themselves, they should be encouraged to do so; otherwise I must understand that they were not still ready to stand the final test. I therefore asked the President for permission to explain to the meeting the implications of Sheth Haji Habib's suggestion. The President readily granted it and I rose to address the meeting. I give below a summary of my remarks just as I can recall them now:

"I wish to explain to this meeting that there is a vast difference between this resolution and every other resolution we have passed up to date and that there is a wide divergence also in the manner of making it. It is very grave resolution we are making, as our existence in South Africa depends upon our fully observing it. The manner of making the resolution suggested by our friend is as much of a novelty as of a



M K Gandhi

solemnity. I did not come to the meeting with a view to getting the resolution passed in that manner, which redounds to the credit of Sheth Haji Habib as well as it lays a burden of responsibility upon him. I tender my congratulations to him. I deeply appreciate his suggestion, but if you adopt it, you too will share his responsibility. You must understand what is this responsibility, and as an adviser and servant of the community, it is my duty fully to explain it to you.

"We all believe in one and the same God, the differences of nomenclature in Hinduism and Islam notwithstanding. To pledge ourselves or to take an oath in the name of that God or with Him as witness is not something to be trifled with. If having taken such an oath we violate our pledge, we are guilty before God and man.

Personally I hold that a man, who deliberately and intelligently takes a pledge and then breaks it, forfeits his manhood. And just as a copper coin treated with mercury not only becomes valueless when detected but also makes its owner liable to punishment, in the same way a man who lightly pledges his word and then breaks it becomes a man of straw and fits himself for punishment here as well as hereafter. Sheth Haji Habib is proposing to administer an oath of a very serious character. There is no one in this meeting who can be classed as an infant or as wanting in understanding. You are all well advanced in age and have seen the world; many of you are delegates and have discharged responsibility in a greater or lesser measure. No one present, therefore, can ever hope to excuse himself by saying that he did not know what he was about when he took the oath.

"I know that pledged and vows are, and should be, taken on rare occasions. A man who takes a vow every now and then is sure to stumble. But if I can imagine a crisis in the history of the Indian community of South Africa when it would be in the fitness of things to take pledges that crisis is surely now. There is wisdom in taking serious steps with great caution and hesitation. The caution and hesitation have their limits, and we have now passed them. The Government has taken leave of all sense of decency. We would only be betraying our unworthiness and cowardice, if we cannot stake our all in the face of the conflagration which envelopes us and sit watching it with folded hands. There is no doubt, therefore, that the present is a proper occasion for taking pledges. But every one of us must think out for himself if he has the will and the ability to pledge himself. Resolutions of this nature cannot be passed by a majority vote. Only those who take a pledge can be bound by it. This pledge must not be taken with a view to produce an effect on outsiders. No one should trouble to consider what impression it might have upon the Local Government, the Imperial Government, or the Government of India. Everyone must only search his own heart, and if the inner voice assures him that he has the requisite strength to carry him through, then only should he pledge himself and then only will

his pledge bear fruit.

"A few words now as to the consequences. Hoping for the best, we may say that if a majority of the Indians pledge themselves to resistance and if all who take the pledge prove true to themselves, the Ordinance may not be passed and, if passed, may be soon repealed. It may be that we may not be called upon to suffer at all. But if on the one hand a man who takes a pledge must be a robust optimist, on the other hand he must be prepared for the worst. Therefore I want to give you an idea of the worst that might happen to us in the present struggle. Imagine that all of us present here numbering 3,000 at the most pledge ourselves. Imagine again that the remaining 10,000 Indians take no such pledge. We will only provoke ridicule in the beginning. Again, it is quite possible that in spite of the present warning some or many of those who pledge themselves may weaken at the very first trial. We may have to go to jail, where we may be insulted. We may have to go hungry and suffer extreme heat or cold. Hard labour may be imposed upon us. We may be flogged by rude wardens. We may be fined heavily and our property may be attached and held up to auction if there are only a few resisters left. Opulent today, we may be reduced to abject poverty tomorrow. We may be deported. Suffering from starvation and similar hardships in jail, some of us may fall ill and even die. In short, therefore, it is not at all impossible that we may have to endure every hardship that we can imagine, and wisdom lies in pleading ourselves on the understanding that we shall have to suffer all that and worse. If someone asks me when and how the struggle may end, I may say that if the entire community manfully stands the test, the end will be near. If many of us fall back under storm and stress, the struggle will be prolonged. But I can boldly declare, and with certainty, that so long as there is even a handful of men true to their pledge, there can only be one end to the struggle, and that is victory.

"A word about my personal responsibility. If I am warning you of the risks attendant upon the pledge, I am at the same time inviting you to pledge yourselves, and I am fully conscious of my responsibility in the

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EDITOR

Keshav G. Parande
(M): 98113 92777

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E-mail: a1printers@gmail.com

PUBLISHER

Keshav G. Parande
Pravasi Bhawan
50, Deendayal Upadhyay Marg,
New Delhi-110002
(M): 98113 92777

CONTACT

Phone (O) : 011 - 2323 4432

E-MAIL

arspindia@gmail.com
arspind@bol.net.in

WEBSITE

www.arspindia.org

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matter. It is possible that a majority of those present here may take the pledge in a fit of enthusiasm or indignation but may weaken under the ordeal, and only a handful may be left to face the final test. Even then there is only one course open to someone like me, to die but not to submit to the law. It is quite unlikely but even if everyone else flinched leaving me alone to face the music, I am confident that I would never violate my pledge. Please do not misunderstand me. I am not saying this out of vanity, but I wish to put you, especially the leaders upon the platform, on your guard. I wish respectfully to suggest it to you that if you have not the will or the ability to stand firm even when you are perfectly isolated, you must not only not take the pledge yourselves but you must declare your opposition before the resolution is put to the meeting and before its members begin to take pledges and you must not make yourselves parties to the resolution. Although we are going to take the pledge in a body, no one should imagine that default on the part of one or many can absolve the rest from their obligation. Everyone should fully realize his responsibility, then only pledge himself independently of others and understand that he himself must be true to his pledge even unto death, no matter what others do."

The meeting heard me word by word in perfect quite. Other leaders too spoke. All

dwelt upon their own responsibility and the responsibility of the audience. The president rose. He too made the situation clear, and at last all present, standing with upraised hands, took an oath with God as witness not to submit to the Ordinance if it became law. I can never forget the scene, which is present before my mind's eye as I write. The community's enthusiasm knew no bounds.

The workers did not let the grass grow under their feet after this great meeting. Meetings were held everywhere and pledges of resistance were taken in every place. The Principal topic of discussion in *Indian Opinion* now was the Black Ordinance.

At the other end, steps were taken in order to meet the Local Government. A deputation waited upon Mr Duncan, the Colonial Secretary, and told him among other things about the pledges. Sheth Haji Habib, who was a member of the deputation, said, 'I cannot possibly restrain myself if any officer comes and proceeds to take my wife's finger prints. I will kill him there and then and die myself. The Minister stared at the Sheth's face for a while and said, 'Government is reconsidering the advisability of making the Ordinance applicable to women, and I can assure you at once that the clauses relating to women will be deleted.

Government has understood you feeling in the matter and desire to respect it. But as for the other provisions, I am sorry to inform you that Government is and will remain adamant. General Botha wants you to agree to this legislation after due deliberation. Government deems it to be essential to the existence of the Europeans. They will certainly consider any suggestions about details which you may make consistently with the objects of the Ordinance, and my advice to the deputation is that your interest lies in agreeing to the legislation and proposing changes only as regards the details.' The deputation withdrew, after informing him that his advice notwithstanding, acquiescence in the proposed legislation was out of question, and after thanking Government for its intention of exempting women from its provisions. It is difficult to say whether the exemption of women was the first fruit of the community's agitation, or whether the Government as an afterthought made a concession to practical considerations which Mr. Curtis had ruled out of his scientific methods. Government claimed that it had decided to exempt women independently of the Indian agitation. Be that as it might, the community established to their own satisfaction a cause and effect relation between the agitation and the exemption and their fighting spirit rose accordingly. □

SRI LANKA RELEASES STAMP ON MAHATMA GANDHI

Event held to strengthen friendly ties between countries

In a warm gesture, the Department of Posts, Sri Lanka, recently released a stamp and first day cover to commemorate the 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi.

The Department of Posts, Tamil Nadu circle, was presented with an album of the articles at an event held in the city.

Organised by the Sri Lanka Deputy High Commission, Chennai, the event saw an exchange of stamps and first day covers released by Sri Lanka and India. One of the stamps depicts the picture of Mahatma Gandhi in his youth.



Chief Postmaster General M. Sampath presenting an album to Sri Lanka Deputy High Commissioner V. Krishnamoorthy, right, in Chennai

Sri Lanka Deputy High Commissioner, Chennai, V. Krishnamoorthy presented the album consisting of the

first day cover and stamps released by the Philatelic Bureau, Department of Posts, Sri Lanka to M. Sampath, Chief Postmaster General, Tamil Nadu Circle.

Mr. Sampath said it was an occasion organised to strengthen the friendly ties between the countries. About 40 countries have issued stamps to commemorate Gandhi's birth anniversary and 33 more countries are likely to release stamps. He, in turn, presented an album of stamps released by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on October 2. □

Howdy, Modi : PM NARENDRA Modi–DONALD TRUMP EVENT IN HOUSTON

✍️ Anil Goel

Prime Minister Narendra Modi addresses 50,000 Indian-Americans at the 'Howdy, Modi' event where US President Donald Trump joined him to address a mega rally at the NRG Stadium in Houston.

Thousands cheered Prime Minister Narendra Modi with the chant “Modi... Modi... Modi... Modi...” as he rose to address the 50,000 Indian-Americans at the 'Howdy, Modi' event.

Howdy Modi was hosted by Texas India Forum (TIF) for Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the President of the United States Donald Trump on Sunday, September 22nd at the NRG Stadium in Houston, Texas. Over 50,000 attended the sold-out event, making it the largest gathering for an invited foreign leader visiting the United States other than the Pope.

The “Howdy Modi” summit was organized with the support of more than 1,000 volunteers and 650 Texas-based Welcome Partner organizations. More than a 1,000 people from Houston presented a mega 'dandiya' on this occasion.

PM Modi also met members of many Indian communities living in Houston, including a delegation of the Kashmiri Pundits.

The Texas India Forum, Inc. (TIF) is a not-for-profit organization that encourages cooperation between the United States and India, advancing the shared values of democracy, inclusive economic development, and mutual respect. TIF brings together Indian-American organizations and institutions to encourage collaboration within the region and expand



opportunities for engagement with India.

The Houston gathering of the Indian diaspora in the U.S. on Sunday addressed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and U.S. President Donald Trump was a resounding success in meeting its stated and implied objectives. Mr. Modi has drafted Indian diaspora communities in several countries for advancing his strategic objectives. The diaspora in the U.S. is of pre-eminent significance given its increasing political heft and the centrality of the U.S. in India's strategic architecture. Mr. Trump's appearance at the rally and his effusive support for India were a reflection of the community's influence in U.S. politics. He named fighting “radical Islamic terrorism” as a key common interest of the two

countries, spurring a standing ovation by the audience, including Mr. Modi. Mr. Trump also emphasised border security, a controversial topic in both democracies. Mr. Modi presented the ending of autonomy for Jammu and Kashmir to the cheering crowd as a significant achievement of this government. The rally galvanised the diaspora in support for Mr. Modi's politics in India, and enticed Mr. Trump.

Later on in the week, Prime Minister Narendra Modi presented to US President Donald Trump a framed photograph from the mega 'Howdy Modi' event in Houston. The photograph was presented as the two leaders met in New York on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly session.

“Memories from Houston, where history was made! PM @narendramodi presented a framed photograph from the #HowdyModi event to @POTUS @realDonaldTrump,” Prime Minister's Office tweeted.

The photo shows both the leaders standing on the stage with thousands of Indian-Americans in the background.

President Trump thanked Prime Minister Modi for this gesture. □

TERRORISM THE GREATEST THREAT TO HUMANITY AND THE BIGGEST GLOBAL CHALLENGE – PRIME MINISTER NARENDRA MODI ADDRESSES THE UNGA

✍ Anil Goel

Prime Minister Narendra Modi in his address at the 74th session of the UN General Assembly (UNGA) on 27th September in New York urged all the world's nations to unite in the fight against terrorism, saying that it was the greatest threat to humanity and the biggest global challenge. "And that is why, for the sake of humanity, I firmly believe, that it is absolutely imperative, that the world unites against terrorism, and that the world stands as one against terrorism," he asserted.



focus on climate and environment, also dedicated a large part of his speech to India's environmental sustainability, including a campaign to rid the country of single-use plastic.

Modi's star shone high among the world's political and business leaders. He was among the first to speak at the UN's special summits on climate change and universal healthcare. He gave the keynote address to CEOs at the Bloomberg Global Business Forum, and was honored for his development work at the Gates

The speech also highlighted the reform agenda of his government, as the PM spoke at length about actions taken to tackle climate change, as well as health and cleanliness initiatives.

UN General Assembly.

Foundation's Global Goalkeeper Awards.

"All our endeavors, are centered on 1.3 billion Indians," Modi said. "But the dreams that these efforts are trying to fulfill, are the same dreams that the entire world has, that every country has, and that every society has," said Modi. "We belong to all places, and to everyone. This sense of belonging beyond border is unique to India," he added, quoting an ancient Tamil poem.

"There are many pressing challenges for the international community - a still fragile global economy, turbulence and tension in many parts of the world, growth and spread of terrorism, climate change and the endemic global challenge of poverty. They require stronger global commitment and concerted multilateral action. I will reiterate our commitment to reformed multilateralism, which is responsive, effective and inclusive, and in which India plays her due role," Modi had said in his departure statement last week.

Modi's schedule at UNGA included meetings with 75 different heads of

His address capped an eventful week for Prime Minister Modi in the United States, during which he held a number of bilateral meetings with top world leaders like US President Donald Trump and German Chancellor Angela Merkel.



The Prime Minister addressed the General Assembly in Hindi. "Galvanising multilateral efforts for poverty eradication, quality education, climate action and inclusion" is this year's theme at the 74th session of the

Narendra Modi spoke of a message of "harmony and peace" with emphasis on India's development achievements and multiple calls to fight terrorism. The Indian Prime Minister, who has embraced the UN's

states or foreign ministers, which was indicative of more nations looking to form strong "south-south" relations with Modi's India. □

MAHATMA GANDHI REMEMBERED IN DIFFERENT WAYS ALL OVER THE WORLD

✍ Anil Goel

"The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others" Gandhi had said. And today, those whom he serves, remembered him in different ways all over world, from the United States to Ramallah in Palestine, on the occasion of his hundred and fifty years birth celebrations.

In Washington D.C., US House of Representatives speaker Nancy Pelosi said that her country was in debt to India for the strength and inspiration its civil rights movement against racial discrimination and especially its iconic leader, Martin Luther King, drew from Mahatma Gandhi.

"Mahatma Gandhi made all the difference in the world in our country," Pelosi said at a Gandhi anniversary event. She said King was inspired by Gandhi's concept of satyagraha and non-violent struggle that he brought back from a visit to India in 1959. "That is a debt we owe to India," Pelosi added.

Pelosi called the anniversary event, co-hosted by the Indian Embassy, "very personal to me" recounting her own introduction to Mahatma Gandhi's beliefs and ideals when she was a "little girl" in school in the 1950s.

The speaker, who is second in line to the US presidency after the vice-president, spoke at length about Gandhi's influence on King and the relevance of his ideals to the present world and one of the gravest of all challenges facing it now, climate change. "Just as the torch passed from Gandhi to Dr King... the torch now belongs to all of us."

South Africa, on the other hand, chose to celebrate this occasion with the beginning of the India-South Africa Freedom series cricket match, also known as Gandhi-Mandela series between India and South Africa. The trophy is dedicated to Mahatma Gandhi and Nelson Mandela, two figures who were pivotal in securing freedom in their respective countries.

Talking about the influence of Nelson Mandela and Mahatma Gandhi in his life while growing up, South African fielding legend Jonty Rhodes said, "Both Mandela and Gandhi were great messengers of peace who taught us important values of equality, kindness and humanity which have a place in cricket too."

The Indian and the South African teams paid their tribute to Gandhi when they started the series on such a momentous day. "For the people of both our countries there is no greater duty than to uphold the ideals of both Mahatma Gandhi and Nelson Mandela. As cricket-loving people we must fight hard to win on the field of play

but never forget to do battle in the spirit of these two great men," said CSA chief executive Haroon Lorgat.

UK, on the other hand, celebrated it with singing Mahatma Gandhi's favourite Bhajans at various locations across Britain. The central focus of the celebration was on the Gandhi statues at Tavistock Square and Parliament Square in London as the Indian High Commissioner to the UK, Ruchi Ghanashyam, led tributes to the Mahatma.

"We are here today to remind ourselves and remind the world about the message of this great man, who was small in stature but absolutely immense in his impact," she said, during the traditional Gandhi Jayanti celebrations at Tavistock Square and Parliament Square. Similar floral and musical tributes were paid across the country at the Gandhi statues in Leicester, Wales and Scotland.

Another voice in London came from Philip Jackson, the award-winning Scottish artist behind the iconic sculpture of Mahatma Gandhi at Parliament Square in London. He believes that the apostle of peace is the most revered of world leaders who occupy that historic site opposite the Palace of Westminster, which houses the UK Parliament.

"Gandhi showed that you could win your argument and impose your will by peaceful means and in this troubled world that is an example to be followed," said Jackson, who describes feeling "doubly honoured" at being the one to execute the project in 2015 at Parliament Square.

"He is visited by hundreds of people every day and although I have no way of proving it, I believe he is the most revered in Parliament Square. Bearing in mind he was a thorn in the flesh of the British government during most of his life, it says a great deal about his legacy that he has been honoured in sight of Parliament and says a lot about Britain that they should place his sculpture where it is," he noted.

The Indian national movement leader has inspired a number of projects across the UK to commemorate his work in the form of sculpture, including one in the city of Leicester which captures him in his characteristic marching mode. Recently, Scotland got its own Gandhi statue when a 6-foot 4-inch bronze statue was unveiled at Ayr Town Hall to commemorate the 150th anniversary earlier this month. That sculpture, gifted to South Ayrshire by the Indian Council for Cultural Relations, was at the heart of Scotland's celebrations for Gandhi Jayanti on October 2 this year. The statue was unveiled in the Ayr town hall this week by the consul-general of

India Anju Ranjan and Helen Moonie, provost of the South Ayrshire in an event attended by MPs, councillors, academics, leaders of community organisations and representatives of the army and police.

A bust of Gandhi was unveiled in Edinburgh's Saughton Park by former Prime Minister I K Gujral in 1997, but the statue in Ayr produced by sculptor Gautam Pal is the first full statue in a part of the UK that sent several Scots to colonial India as soldiers and bureaucrats.

A plaque near the statue bears Gandhi's words: 'There is no way to peace, peace is the way'.

Moonie recalled links between Gandhi and Robert Burns, Scotland's national poet born in Ayrshire: "We are proud of many similarities between South Ayrshire and India and a special link between Mahatma Gandhi and Robert Burns. Both fought against social injustice and used their unique gifts to carve out their place in world history".

In France, Mahatma Gandhi figured on postage stamp on his 150th birthday. A postage stamp bearing the image of Mahatma Gandhi was issued by French postal service company La Poste on Wednesday to commemorate the 150th birth anniversary of the Mahatma. "Indian Embassy partnered LaPoste of France in launching a postage stamp today with image of Mahatma Gandhi to commemorate 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi" the Indian embassy in France tweeted.

Similar postage stamps were issued in Uzbekistan, Turkey, Palestine and many other countries around the globe on Gandhi Jayanti. Palestine released commemorative stamp honouring his "legacy and values", Mahatma Gandhi on his 150th Birth Anniversary. The Indian mission in Ramallah had organised several events over the past one year to commemorate the 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi, drawing a huge response from all sections of the Palestinian society, especially the youths. Underlining the Mahatma's principles of nonviolence, values, wisdom and vision, Seder said, "Palestine's issuance of the commemorative stamp comes in honour of Gandhi's memory, legacy, and values that guided and shall continue to guide the humanity."

At a cycling event organised in the historic city of Jericho in June, the Governor of the city, Jihad Abu al-Asal, had said Gandhi is a "real source of inspiration" for the Palestinian society whose messages "will continue to inspire millions of human beings" around the world. □

Fifty-Fifth Know India Programme (KIP) AND FELICITATION OF FOREIGN STUDENTS

On Monday, 23 September 2019 Diaspora Research and Resource Centre (DRRC) - Antar Rashtriya Sahayog Parishad (ARSP) hosted 40 participants of 55th KIP batch from Guyana, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, Mauritius, Netherlands, Sri Lanka, Myanmar, South Africa, and Fiji. This time the programme was divided into two parts: In first part, KIP participants had an interactive session at Pravasi Bhawan and in the later half they were taken for an interactive session with the international students perusing their higher studies at the Delhi University. This function was organised at the auditorium of Hansraj College.

In the interactive session held at Pravasi Bhawan, the participants were briefed on the status of SDG's in India and at the global stage. They were also informed about the efforts being made by India in reducing the carbon intensity of the developmental process and also the measures introduced for pollution mitigation. They were also given a brief introduction to the future of blue economy for economic growth and employment generation, as this was a subject of priority for the coastal states, especially Small Island Developing States (SIDS) from where the majority of KIP batch came. The participants not only appreciated such a comprehensive discussion on sustainable development but also actively participated in the discussion. The batch was also informed about the core priorities and activities of DRRC and were encouraged to participate in these efforts through online channels.

There was also a workshop conducted by the representatives of Vision India Foundation in which they talked about I-generation and how they contribute in sustainable development. Participants also learned a lot about the ways the Indian developmental processes were being carried out with significant opportunities and challenges. Some of these experiences would also be very useful



in their own countries and societies. The programme at Pravasi Bhawan ended with a vote of thanks and high tea.

The KIP batch was then taken to Hansraj College, University of Delhi, where they were enthusiastically received and felicitated by ARSP's committee on foreign students and a large number of foreign students studying at Delhi University. Around 400 students from different nationalities and different universities were gathered there. The main objective of this function was to offer a wider networking opportunity to the KIP batch. President of South Asian University was the guest of honour in this function.

Heads of mission of Vietnam, Guyana, Ghana, South Korea and Iran were present to grace the occasion. Several

diplomatic representatives from several countries like- Sweden, Russia, Fiji, Bulgaria, Zimbabwe, Congo were also present there to give their blessings and advice to the students and KIP delegates. They briefed the participants especially from their respective countries about the strengths of Indian economy, higher education, technology and the democratic institutions. India is a source of inspiration as it shows the world how to maintain unity in diversity. They advised students to travel as extensively as possible to learn from other societies and strengthen people to people linkages.

As part of culture exposure, the participating students gave performances from their respective countries. The programme ended with vote of thanks and dinner. □



INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON "MAHATMA GANDHI AND DIASPORA"

Dr. Ruchi Verma

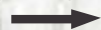


As far as Delhi conference was concerned, besides the formal opening and closing sessions, the conference had four technical sessions to develop various themes namely i) Mahatma Gandhi and Indian diaspora I & II ii) Mahatma Gandhi and Inclusive Development and iii) Core values of peace and non violence in contemporary times. Over 30 scholars and experts from India and Abroad mostly from Mauritius, Suriname,

Netherlands and United States of America deliberated on these themes. In addition, several members of GSDS and local scholars attended the various sessions of their interest.

The Inaugural session at the Satyagraha Mandap of Gandhi Darshan, packed to capacity, was chaired by Amb. Virendra Gupta, President of ARSP. Hon'ble Minister of Culture and Tourism, Shri Prahlad Singh Patel was the Chief Guest. Eminent Gandhian Prof. Ramjee Singh was the guest of honour. Director of GSDS Shri Dipanker Shri Gyan was also present along with Chairperson of DRRRC, Amb. Anup Mudgal and Hon Director of ARSP, Shri Narayan Kumar.

The conference culminated with an equally impressive valedictory which was presided over by Shri Shyam Parande, Secretary General of ARSP whereas Dr. Vinay Sahsrabudhe, President of Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) was the chief guest of the occasion. Shri Ram



Diaspora Research and Resource Centre (DRRC) , Antar Rashtriya Sahayog Parishad-Bharat (ARSP) organised a two-day International Conference in New Delhi on 17-18 September, 2019 on the topic: "Mahatma Gandhi and Diaspora" in partnership with the Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti (GSDS), New Delhi. The conference was organised in commemoration of 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi.

The conference discussed the influence of Mahatma Gandhi's principle of "Satyagraha" on the thought process of diaspora, first in South Africa and girmitiya countries followed by a global foot print, which in turn characterises the Indian diaspora world over in the contemporary times. The Gandhian principles of peace and non-violence have left a deep impression on the larger national character of Indians, including the diaspora. Today, the Indian society and diaspora are valued as much for their skills as for their commitment to peace and tolerance. In the same manner, Gandhiji's own personality,

thoughts and tools were directly influenced by the hardships faced by the Indiana diaspora in South Africa and Mauritius. It may be recalled that all these tools of gandhian philosophy were first experimented with and within diaspora. This has been an important two-way stream, the diaspora influencing Gandhiji's political thoughts, which in turn shaped their larger character and image. Any efforts to study Indian diaspora would seem impossible without getting intertwined with the life and message of Mahatma Gandhi.

Considering that the ARSP has been dealing with diaspora matters for over 50 years, it was but natural for the organisation to organise an interactive event to remember and appreciate Gandhiji relationship with diaspora. It is in this context that the ARSP has organised a series of conferences on the theme Mahatma Gandhi and diaspora, which includes the International conference in Delhi, an upcoming conference in Durban followed by a purely academic session at Wardha/BHU.



disapora. A very rich literature and scholarship has globally evolved on Gandhiji's leadership of the Indian national movement for independence and his pioneering contribution to the mainstreaming of truth and non-violence as effective tools for peaceful struggle and resistance, better known as "Satyagraha". The participants also recognise that the influence of the hardships faced by the

Bahadur Rai, President of Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA) attended as the guest of honour.

The four technical sessions deliberated on the relevant themes with greater depth and full frankness. The conference generated serious

Indian diaspora in Africa and elsewhere on Gandhiji's political thoughts is equally impressive.

Another highlight of the conference

The participants explained in detail as to how Mahatma Gandhi touched



upon every important aspect of human society- political, social, economic, gender, cultural, international relations, sustainability, technology and faith. They also made out a convincing case that Gandhiji's philosophy was not limited only to the realm of philosophy or history but was equally relevant in contemporary times if the humanity was genuinely interested in creating a society

was a special session with Smt. Tara Gandhi Bhattacharjee, Gandhiji's granddaughter and former Chairperson of Gandhi Smriti. Smt. Tara Gandhi shared her personal experiences with Gandhiji, which added a very special feature to the proceedings and outcomes of the

interest not only amongst the academicians and scholars but equally among the political/diplomatic community and media, as such a wide ranging and contemporary theme was seen in full sync with the recognition of Mahatma Gandhi contribution towards the

based on the principles of peace, non violence, justice and equity. Indeed, the idea of Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam (The Whole World is One Family) is not possible without the Gandhian values of peace, non violence and open mindedness.



INDIAN AMERICAN HONORED WITH UNDER-40 INNOVATORS AWARD AT DESIGN AUTOMATION CONFERENCE

Vijay Raghunathan, Professor of Electrical and Computer Engineering, Purdue University has recently been conferred the Under-40 Innovators Award, sponsored by Association for Computing Machinery (ACM) and the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE). The award recognizes the top young innovators, who have made a significant impact in the field of design and automation of electronics. Raghunathan, along with four others was honored at 56th Design Automation Conference at the Las Vegas Convention Center, Las Vegas.

Vijay Raghunathan is a professor of electrical and computer engineering at Purdue University and the director of the Embedded Systems and IoT Lab, which he founded in 2006. He received his M.S. and Ph.D. degrees

in electrical engineering from UCLA and his B. Tech. degree in electrical engineering from IIT Madras, India. At Purdue University, his team investigates the design of new hardware and software architectures for next-generation embedded systems, IoT edge devices, and wearable/implantable electronics, with an emphasis on ultra-low power design, micro-scale energy harvesting, edge analytics, and reliable/secure system design. Vijay also holds an appointment as the Anand Rajaraman and Venky Harinarayan Visiting Chair Professor of Computer Science and Engineering at the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Madras.

Several of the technologies and systems developed in his lab have been used in academia and industry.

He serves as an associate editor of two leading research journals, the ACM Transactions on Embedded Computing Systems (TECS) and the ACM Transactions on Sensor Networks (TOSN). He also serves as an alternate steering committee member of the Industrial Internet Consortium (IIC), one of the largest international consortia on industrial IoT, fog, and edge computing, which has over 250 member organizations. At Purdue, he serves as the founding director of the Professional MS program in the School of ECE. □



Vijay Raghunathan

TWO INDIANS IN UAE DEVELOP APP TO HELP VISUALLY IMPAIRED

The project which has two parts, the smartphone app and a special glove, was one of the winning projects in the Ma'an Social Incubator programme of Abu Dhabi.

Two UAE-based Indian nationals developed a smartphone app that can help visually impaired people. The app developed by Nandujit Prathap and Visakh G.S is called loptyc. It uses distance sensors and visual recognition technology to assist people with visual impairments, the Khaleej Times reported.

The project which has two parts, the smartphone app and a special glove, was one of the winning projects in the Ma'an Social Incubator programme of Abu Dhabi on Wednesday, that aims to support people of determination.

"loptyc utilises the power of Google Tensorflow Lite for visual recognition



of objects in front of the user, who may be visually impaired," Prathap told Khaleej Times. Once the object in front of the person is detected, the app sends an alert and announces the name of the object over the user's headphone, with the help of Google natural languages package," he

explained.

The glove, on the other hand, notifies the user through vibrations from the buzzer. The glove's sensors are capable of detecting objects as far as two metres away, and the intensity of vibrations varies depending on how far the object is from the user."

For Prathap and Visakh, what started as a concept will soon be an actual

product that can help those who need it most.

As one of the social incubator winners, they will receive 200,000 dirhams in funds, along with training, mentorship and business development. □

INDIAN AMERICAN SASHA AHUJA NAMED TO COMMISSION OF GENDER EQUITY BY MAYOR DE BLASIO

Indian origin Sasha Ahuja has been named Chief of Staff at 'Girls for Gender Equity' and Chair of New York City's Equal Employment Practices Commission. New York Mayor Bill de Blasio announced on September 17 the appointment of six new Commissioners to the Commission on Gender Equity (CGE), an agency tasked with supporting City agencies in dismantling institutional barriers for women, girls, transgender and gender non-binary New Yorkers.

"New York City is committed to using every tool we have to create a truly equal city for all New Yorkers, no

matter their gender," said Mayor Bill de Blasio. "These new members bring invaluable expertise to the Commission and will continue our work in the fight for gender equity."

"New York City's mandate to promote gender equity - especially through a racial justice lens - could not be more urgent. I am eager to use my role as a Commissioner on New York City's Commission on Gender Equity to ensure that folks most directly



impacted by systemic inequity in our city have a seat at the decision making table to influence policy that impacts their lives," said CGE Commissioner Sasha Ahuja, Chief of Staff at Girls for Gender Equity and Chair of New York City's Equal Employment Practices Commission.

Ahuja pursued her bachelors' study from the Macaulay Honors College at Hunter College and an M.S. in Social Work from Columbia University. She currently serves as Chief of Staff at Girls for Gender Equity, a Brooklyn-based organization that led the New York City Young Women's Initiative. □

NRIs CAN NOW APPLY FOR AADHAAR ON ARRIVAL WITHOUT 182-DAY WAIT

Non-resident Indians (NRIs) with valid Indian passport can apply for Aadhaar on arrival, without the 182-day waiting period, with the government issuing a notification in this regard. Following the notification, the Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) has also come out with a circular stating that "NRI shall be entitled to obtain Aadhaar number after his arrival in India."

The modalities for application remain more or less unchanged, a UIDAI

source said, adding that NRIs with Indian passport can now apply for biometric ID on arrival or by scheduling a prior appointment, thus doing away with the requirement for a mandatory 182-day waiting period.

UIDAI circular said valid Indian passport will be accepted as proof of identity, proof of address (PoA) and date of birth document.

"In case NRI's passport does not have Indian address, he shall be allowed to

submit any of the other UIDAI-approved PoA documents as proof of address," said the circular.

It may be recalled that in her Budget speech on July 5, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman had said, "I propose to consider issuing Aadhaar card for non-resident Indians with Indian passports after their arrival in India," without the stipulated waiting period. □

RUSSIA EXTENDS E-VISA FOR INDIANS TO VISIT SAINT PETERSBURG AND LENINGRAD REGION

Russia will give e-visas to Indians visiting its cultural capital Saint Petersburg and the Leningrad Region and extend the facility for the rest of the country by 2021, a Russian official said.

The facility started from 1st October and can be availed by filling an electronic application form and uploading a digital photo at least four days before the expected date of arrival in the Russian Federation.

Indians will be able to obtain single business, humanitarian and tourist visas in the form of an electronic document, which will be valid 30 days from the date of issuance and the maximum period of stay in the Russian Federation should not

exceed eight days.

The e-visa is valid only for arrival and departure via border crossing points located in the territory of Saint Petersburg and the Leningrad Region - air border crossing point Pulkovo (the local airport), sea border crossing points Vysotsk, Big Port Saint Petersburg (Marine Station), Passenger Port of Saint Petersburg, motor vehicle border crossing points Ivangorod, Torfyanovka, Brusnichnoe, Svetogorsk and pedestrian border crossing point Ivangorod.

Due to technical reasons, for now foreign nationals bearing e-visas will not be able to enter and exit Saint Petersburg and the Leningrad Region

via train border crossing points. Foreign nationals with e-visas are not allowed to enter other regions of the Russian Federation (not covered by e-visa service) with any purpose, including transit.

Fedorov, however, warned against misuse of e-visas and said such visas are not employment visas and should not be used as such. Foreign nationals bear personal responsibility for the information they provide while applying for e-visas, officials said.

Russia has issued around 65,000 visas from its offices in New Delhi, Kolkata, Chennai and Mumbai offices between January - September 2019. Last year, they had issued around 55,000 visas. □

His Majesty The King Grants Audience To Thirty-Fifth Batch DeSuung Trainees



His Majesty The King granted an Audience to the 35th Batch DeSuung trainees at Tencholing on 12th September 2019. 104 men and women participated in the 5-week training programme, which began on 19th August 2019. Along with the volunteers of the 35th Batch, 4206 DeSuungs have been trained since the DeSuung Training Programme began in 2011. Volunteers over the years have included graduates, teachers, civil servants, senior level officials, health personnel, tourist guides, members of parliament and local government leaders, with some batches tailored for specific groups. The 35th batch training was organized specifically for volunteers from the six eastern Dzongkhags. □

Prime Minister Dr. Lotay Tshering of Bhutan Meets Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi in New York

A month after the State Visit to Bhutan, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi and Prime Minister Dr. Lotay Tshering met in New York on the sidelines of the 74th United Nations General Assembly on 27th September 2019 in New York.

The two Prime Ministers of Bhutan and India reviewed bilateral relations and expressed satisfaction in progress achieved in diverse sectors including development partnership, hydropower cooperation, people to people ties and recent initiatives taken in the newer areas of space, digital connectivity, the financial sector and tertiary education.

Prime Minister Dr. Lotay Tshering and Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi met four times in the last one year. The warmth and friendliness of the interactions during each meeting reflects the spirit of trust, co-operation and mutual respect that has long characterized the unique and special friendship between Bhutan and India. □



BHUTAN HOSTS THE 10TH EDITION OF 'TOUR OF THE DRAGON' BIKE RACE

Bhutan hosted the 10th Tour of the Dragon mountain bike race on 7th September 2019. Tour of the Dragon is an annual international mountain bike race organized in Bhutan by the Bhutan Olympic Committee. The race is regarded as one of the toughest one-day mountain bike race in the world, the event has attracted daring cyclists from across the globe to participate in this competition of which many have failed to complete the race. This year 53 cyclist including five female participants competed for the title. Mr. Pelden Wangchuk, aged 20, became the youngest to win the Tour of the Dragon competition this year.

The race starts from Bumthang district in central Bhutan and finishes in the capital Thimphu covering a total distance of 268 kilometers. Racers will have to cross four major mountain passes ranging from 2800 meters to 3500 meters in elevation. In the ten to fifteen-hour journey, racers will experience drastic change in elevation, fight tough Himalayan terrains all the while dealing with the thin mountain air.



DAYS TO REMEMBER

in November, 2019

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|---|--|
| November 09 : Cambodia - Independence Day | November 16 : National Press Day |
| November 10 : World Science Day | November 18 : Oman- National Day |
| November 11 : Poland- Independence Day | November 20 : Universal Children's Day |
| November 12 : Kartik Purnima ● | November 21 : World Television Day |
| November 14 : Children's Day | November 25 : Suriname - National Day |
| November 15 : Belgium - Kings Day | November 26 : Amavasya ● <input type="checkbox"/> |
| November 15 : Brazil - Republic Day | |

महात्मा गांधी जयन्ती पर प्रधानमंत्री मोदी ने दिया 'आईस्टाइन चैलेंज'

प्रधानमंत्री मोदी ने गांधी जयन्ती के मौके पर न्यूयॉर्क टाइम्स अखबार में लिखे अपने लेख में कहा, उन्होंने अपने लेख में अल्बर्ट आईस्टाइन का भी जिक्र किया

प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी ने गांधी जयन्ती के मौके पर राष्ट्रपिता को श्रद्धांजलि देते हुए कहा कि गांधी जी ने भारतीय राष्ट्रवाद की जो कल्पना की वह संकीर्ण नहीं थी, बल्कि मानवता की सेवा के लिए काम करने वाली थी। उन्होंने यह बात गांधी जयन्ती के मौके पर न्यूयॉर्क टाइम्स अखबार में लिखे अपने लेख में कही। उन्होंने अपने लेख में अल्बर्ट आईस्टाइन का भी जिक्र किया। प्रधानमंत्री मोदी ने कहा कि मैं आज आप सभी के लिए 'आईस्टाइन चैलेंज' लेकर आया हूँ, ताकि यह सुनिश्चित किया जा सके कि महात्मा गांधी के आदर्शों को भविष्य की पीढ़ियों भी याद रखें।



प्रधानमंत्री मोदी ने आगे कहा कि आज के दिन महात्मा गांधी को श्रद्धांजलि के रूप में आईस्टाइन चैलेंज प्रस्तावित कर रहा हूँ। हमें यह सुनिश्चित करना चाहिए कि गांधी जी के आदर्शों को भविष्य की पीढ़ियों द्वारा याद किया जाना चाहिए। मैं इस मौके पर विचारकों, उद्यमियों और तकनीकी नेताओं से

अनुरोध करता हूँ कि वह अपने माध्यम से महात्मा गांधी के विचारों को आगे बढ़ाएं। प्रधानमंत्री मोदी ने न्यूयॉर्क टाइम्स अखबार में 'व्हाई इंडिया एंड द वर्ल्ड नीड गांधी' के नाम से एक लेख लिखा है। प्रधानमंत्री मोदी ने आगे लिखा कि महात्मा गांधी मानव समाज में कुछ सबसे बड़े विरोधाभासों के बीच एक पुल का काम करते थे। महात्मा गांधी के दांडी मार्च का जिक्र करते हुए प्रधानमंत्री मोदी ने कहा कि नमक की एक चुटकी के माध्यम से और कौन व्यक्ति इतना बड़ा

आंदोलन खड़ा कर सकता था। ऐसा सिर्फ गांधी जी ही कर सकते थे। प्रधानमंत्री मोदी ने इस बार गांधी जयन्ती के मौके पर सरकार की बड़ी स्वच्छता पहल पर भी प्रकाश डाला।

प्रधानमंत्री मोदी ने आगे लिखा कि विश्व के अन्य देशों की सहमति की वजह से घुणा, हिंसा और पीड़ा को समाप्त करने में काफी मदद मिली है। हमें और भी काफी कुछ हासिल करना है। जिस दिन हम इसे पूरी तरह से हासिल कर लेंगे उस दिन ही हम सही मायनों में महात्मा गांधी के सपने को पूरा कर पायेंगे। महात्मा गांधी भी अपने भजनों में हमेशा ही पूरे विश्व को एक साथ लाने की बात करते थे। उनके पसंदीदा भजनों में 'वैष्णव जन तो तेने कहिये' सम्मिलित है, जो कहता है कि एक सच्चा मानव वह है जो दूसरों के दर्द को महसूस करता है, दुख को दूर करता है और कभी अभिमानी नहीं होता है। बता दें कि महात्मा गांधी की एक सौ पचासवीं जयन्ती मनाने के लिए भारत ने विश्व भर में कई कार्यक्रमों का आयोजन किया है। □

ब्रिटेन की अदालत ने साढ़े तीन करोड़ पाउण्ड के पाकिस्तानी दावे को खारिज कर भारत का दावा स्वीकार किया

हैदराबाद के 7वें निज़ाम की संपत्ति को लेकर ब्रिटेन की अदालत में चल रहे मुकदमे में ब्रिटेन की अदालत ने पाकिस्तानी दावे को खारिज कर भारत के पक्ष में निर्णय दिया है। ब्रिटेन और वेल्स की हाईकोर्ट ने बंटवारे के बाद से ही हैदराबाद के सातवें निज़ाम मीर ओसमान अली खान के एक ब्रिटिश बैंक अकाउंट में पड़े 3.5 करोड़ पाउण्ड यानि कि 306 करोड़ रुपये की राशि पर पाकिस्तान का दावा खारिज कर दिया है। निज़ाम ने यह पैसा 20 सितम्बर, 1948 को लन्दन के नेशनल वैस्टमिन्स्टर बैंक में जमा करवाया था। यह सब उस वक्त हो रहा था जब हैदराबाद की रियासत का भारत में विलय की प्रक्रिया चल रही थी। अदालत ने आदेश दिया है कि इस पैसे पर भारत सरकार और निज़ाम के कानूनी उत्तराधिकारियों का अधिकार है।



पाकिस्तान ने हैदराबाद के भारत में विलय के गैर-कानूनी होने का दावा किया था, जिसके आधार पर ही इस पैसे पर भारत के किसी भी दावे को खारिज करने की प्रार्थना की थी। जज ने पाकिस्तान के इस दावे को अस्वीकार कर दिया। सातवें निज़ाम के पोतों-मुकर्रम जाह और उनके छोटे भाई मुफ्फकम जाह ने इस फंड पर दावा ठोकते हुए कहा कि इसे 24 अप्रैल, 1963 को उनके दादा द्वारा स्थापित एक ट्रस्ट को गिफ्ट कर दिया गया है।

पाकिस्तान का तर्क था कि तत्कालीन निज़ाम ने 1948 में दस लाख पाउण्ड हथियार सप्लाई करने के लिये बैंक के खाते में जमा किया था। इन वर्षों में ब्याज लगकर यह पैसे 3.5 करोड़ पाउण्ड यानि कि 306 करोड़ रुपये हो गया है। न्यायमूर्ति मार्क्स स्मिथ ने अपने 166 पृष्ठों के फैसले में पूरे विवाद के इतिहास का विवरण देते हुए यह राशि भारत के राष्ट्रपति को सौंपने का आदेश दिया।

शुरूआती विवाद सातवें निज़ाम मीर ओसमान अली खान और पाकिस्तान के बीच था। लेकिन बाद में भारत ने भी इस संपत्ति पर दावा ठोका, क्योंकि

1965 में निज़ाम इन पैसें पर हक के लिए उसके साथ आ चुके थे। इस पैसे के बंटवारे को लेकर भारत सरकार और निज़ाम के वंशजों के बीच पहले ही एक समझौता हो चुका है। इस मुकदमे में भारत सरकार का पक्ष अदालत के सामने रखने वाले वकील हरीश साल्वे ने कहा, 'इतिहासकारों को इसमें रुचि होगी कि पाकिस्तान ने सार्वजनिक तौर पर स्वीकार किया है कि वह हथियारों की आपूर्ति कर रहा था। हथियारों की आपूर्ति निज़ाम की सेना के लिए हुई या रजाकार मिलिशिया (कासिम राजवी के नेतृत्व में निजी सेना जो हैदराबाद के पाकिस्तान में विलय के पक्ष में थी) के लिए, यह मैं नहीं जानता।' इंटरनेशनल कोर्ट ऑफ जस्टिस में इंडियन नेवी के पूर्व अफसर जाधव से जुड़े मामले में भी हरीश साल्वे भारत के वकील थे।

आठवें निज़ाम की ओर से इस मुकदमे की पैरवी करने वाली फर्म विदर्स एल. एल. पी. के साझेदार पॉल ह्यूइट ने कहा, 'मुकदमा शुरू होने के समय हमारे मुवक्किल एक बालक थे, अब अस्सी वर्ष की आयु में मुकदमे का फैसला आ जाना एक बड़ी राहत की बात है।' □

भारत में बसता है प्रवासियों का मन

अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय सहयोग परिषद की हापुड़ शाखा ने 11 अक्टूबर, 2019 को 'प्रवासी भारतीयों का संसार' विषय पर एक विचार-गोष्ठी आयोजित की।



कार्यक्रम में परिषद के महासचिव श्री श्याम परांडे ने विदेशों में भ्रमण के अपने अनुभवों के आधार पर बताया कि विदेशों में रहने वाले भारतीय मूल के व्यक्तियों में भारतीय संस्कार कम नहीं हो रहे हैं। बल्कि भारतीय संस्कार देश की संस्कृति का विदेशों में भी विस्तार कर रहे हैं। भारतीय मूल के लोग भले ही विदेशों में रह रहे हों, लेकिन उनकी आत्मा और मन भारत में ही बसता है। श्री परांडे ने बताया कि

मॉरीशस आदि देशों में रामायण घर-घर पढ़ी जाती है और भारतीय त्यौहार भी वहां पूरे हर्षोल्लास के साथ मनाये जाते हैं। भारतीयों का योगदान न सिर्फ इन देशों के विकास में बहुत अधिक रहा है बल्कि इन

भारतीयों के द्वारा अपनी आय का काफी हिस्सा भारत भी भेजने से भारतीय अर्थव्यवस्था को भी मजबूत करने में इनका योगदान रहा है।

कार्यक्रम का संचालन श्री बृजमोहन अग्रवाल ने किया। इसमें विभिन्न अन्य वक्ताओं ने भी अपने विचार रखे, जिनमें महिलाओं की भी उत्साहवर्धक भागीदारी रही। इस अवसर पर परिषद की हापुड़ शाखा के पदाधिकारी, सदस्य तथा नगर के अनेक गण्य-मान्य लोग सपरिवार विशाल संख्या में उपस्थित थे। □

रूस में बौद्ध धर्म विषय पर प्रो. विक्टोरिया देमेनोवा के साथ बातचीत



'रूस में बौद्ध धर्म' विषय पर रूस के यूराल फैंडरल विश्वविद्यालय में कलाओं व सांस्कृतिक अध्ययन के इतिहास और डिजाइन विभाग की निदेशक प्रो. विक्टोरिया देमेनोवा के साथ बातचीत आयोजित की गई। यह बातचीत परिषद की सह-सचिव डॉ. शशि बाला के संचालन में 1 अक्टूबर, 2019 को प्रवासी भवन, नई दिल्ली में आयोजित की गई। कार्यक्रम में परिषद के महासचिव श्याम परांडे, भारतीय सामाजिक विज्ञान अनुसंधान परिषद के सदस्य परिषद के सदस्य सचिव प्रो. वीरेन्द्र कुमार मल्होत्रा, परिषद के सचिव प्रो. गोपाल अरोड़ा, कप्तान रघुवीर सिंह ठाकुर, श्रीमती रेनू शर्मा तथा परिषद के अन्य वरिष्ठ सदस्य उपस्थित थे।

बौद्ध मूर्तियों पर डॉक्टरेट की उपाधि प्राप्त प्रो. विक्टोरिया देमेनोवा ने रूस में सामान्य रूप से

धर्मानुयायियों और विशेष तौर पर बौद्ध धर्म के अनुयायियों की स्थिति के बारे में जानकारी दी। रूस में कुल जनसंख्या का लगभग आधा प्रतिशत जनसंख्या बौद्ध धर्म की अनुयायी है। जबकि सैंतालिस प्रतिशत लोग ईसाई हैं और पच्चीस प्रतिशत लोगों ने अपने को आध्यात्मिक घोषित किया है। रूस में साम्यवाद के समाप्त हो जाने पर भी धार्मिक विषयों और धर्म पर विश्वास रखने वाले व्यक्तियों के प्रति प्रशासन के रुख के विषय पर प्रो. देमेनोवा का विशेष बल रहा। उनके वक्तव्य के बाद उपस्थित लोगों की उनके साथ हुई चर्चा विषय पर जानकारी के आदान-प्रदान की दृष्टि अत्यंत महत्वपूर्ण रही।

समारोह के बाद प्रो. देमेनोवा को पुस्तकें और अंगवस्त्र देकर सम्मानित किया गया। □

राजस्थान की पायल 'बिल एंड मेलिंडा गेट्स फाउंडेशन' के चेंजमेकर पुरस्कार से सम्मानित

ग्यारह वर्ष की अवस्था में अपने विवाह के विरुद्ध संघर्ष करने वाली सत्रह वर्षीया पायल जांगिड़ को बिल एंड मेलिंडा गेट्स फाउंडेशन ने चेंजमेकर पुरस्कार से सम्मानित किया है। पायल को यह पुरस्कार गत 24 सितम्बर को न्यूयॉर्क में चौथे वार्षिक गोलकीपर ग्लोबल गोल्स अवार्ड्स समारोह में दिया गया। पायल इस सम्मान को जीतने वाली पहली भारतीय युवती है।

राजस्थान में जयपुर से लगभग सौ किलोमीटर दूर स्थित हांसिल गांव की निवासी पायल जांगिड़ लगातार बाल विवाह के खिलाफ संघर्ष कर रही है। कुछ समय पूर्व वह अपने गांव की बाल पंचायत की प्रमुख चुनी गई थी। उसके प्रयासों से उसका गांव 'बाल-मित्र ग्राम' बन चुका है।

वह लगातार अपने तथा अपने आसपास के गांवों में पोस्टर लगाने, रैलियां करने तथा बच्चों के माता-पिता से सीधे-सीधे बात करने जैसी अनेक गतिविधियों के माध्यम से बाल-सुधार के काम में लगी हुई है। उसके पिता पप्पूराम जांगिड़ के अनुसार पायल के प्रयत्नों से बाल-विवाह में बहुत कमी आई है, और बहुत से बच्चे स्कूल जाने लगे हैं। उनके अनुसार, गांव में पिछले एक दशक में कोई बाल-विवाह नहीं हुआ है। □

अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय सहयोग परिषद की साधारण सभा की रिपोर्ट



अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय सहयोग परिषद की वार्षिक साधारण सभा की बैठक 15 अक्टूबर, 2019 को परिषद के कार्यालय प्रवासी भवन, 50, दीनदयाल उपाध्याय मार्ग, नई दिल्ली में आयोजित हुई। विदेशों में जाकर बस गए भारतीयों के हितों पर चिंतन करने के हेतु अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय सहयोग परिषद का कार्य-प्रारंभ लगभग इक्तालीस वर्ष पूर्व किया गया था, इन चार दशकों में परिषद ने प्रवासी भारतीयों के साथ संपर्क स्थापित करने में महत्वपूर्ण भूमिका निभाई है। परिषद के प्रयासों के ही फलस्वरूप भारत सरकार ने विदेश मंत्रालय में प्रवासियों से सम्बंधित मसलों पर नीति-निर्धारण करने के लिये एक अलग विभाग की स्थापना की है।

साधारण सभा की बैठक परिषद के अध्यक्ष श्री वीरेन्द्र गुप्ता की अध्यक्षता में संपन्न हुई। सभा में परिषद के उपाध्यक्ष श्री मुकेश अग्रवाल एवं श्री संजय भल्ला, महासचिव श्री श्याम परांडे, कोषाध्यक्ष श्री सुरेश गोयल और संयुक्त सचिव श्री अमित गुप्ता उपस्थित थे। परिषद की विभिन्न शाखाओं से वरिष्ठ पदाधिकारी तथा परिषद के सदस्य भी सभा में उपस्थित थे। इसके बाद परिषद के महासचिव श्री श्याम परांडे ने पिछले एक वर्ष में दिवंगत हो गए सभा के सदस्यों का विवरण दिया। सभा ने मौन रखकर अपने दिवंगत सदस्यों को श्रद्धांजलि दी।

इसके बाद श्री अमित गुप्ता ने पिछली वार्षिक सभा की कार्यवाही के मिनट्स सभा के अनुमोदन के लिए रखे, जिन्हें सभा ने ध्वनि-मत से पारित कर दिया। तदुपरांत, पिछले एक वर्ष में हुई परिषद की गतिविधियों का विस्तृत विवरण सभा के समक्ष प्रस्तुत किया गया। इसके बाद श्री टी. एन. मल्होत्रा ने परिषद की विभिन्न शाखाओं की गतिविधियों का विवरण दिया। उन्होंने बताया कि परिषद की उन्नीस शाखाएं हैं, जिनमें से कुछ तो बहुत सक्रिय हैं, जबकि बाकी शाखाओं को भी सक्रिय किये जाने के प्रयास

चल रहे हैं। श्री अनूप मुद्गल ने डायस्पोरा रिसर्च एवं अनुसंधान केन्द्र (डी.आर.आर.सी.) की गतिविधियों का विवरण देते हुए बताया कि डी.आर.आर.सी. ने पिछले वर्ष में बीस गतिविधियों का आयोजन किया। इन गतिविधियों के चार प्रमुख स्तम्भ थे :- कांफ्रेंस, 'भारत को जानिये' (KIP), शोध और डेटाबेस। शोध के क्षेत्र में डी.आर.आर.सी. के अर्धवार्षिक जर्नल का पंजीकरण हो जाना एक उपलब्धि रही और शीघ्र ही इस जर्नल का प्रकाशन प्रारंभ किया जायेगा, जिसे कुछ समय के उपरांत त्रैमासिक करने की योजना है। श्री अजय पटेल ने दिल्ली स्थित विदेशी विद्यार्थियों के स्वागत कार्यक्रम के अंतर्गत हंसराज कॉलेज में किये गये आयोजन तथा वर्तमान वर्ष में आयोजित किये जाने वाले कार्यक्रमों का विवरण दिया। श्री राजेश सचदेवा ने बताया कि सेंटर फॉर रोमा स्टडीज एंड कल्चरल रिलेशंस ने इस वर्ष सात गतिविधियों का आयोजन किया। इनमें से सबसे महत्वपूर्ण गतिविधि थी राष्ट्रीय संग्रहालय के साथ मिलकर अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय रोमा कांफ्रेंस का आयोजन। इस वर्ष 'रोमा इन सर्व ऑफ आइडेंटिटी' पुस्तक भी प्रकाशित की गई और वर्तमान वर्ष में एक और पुस्तक के प्रकाशन की योजना है।

कोषाध्यक्ष श्री सुरेश गोयल ने वार्षिक आय और व्यय तथा बैलेंस शीट सभा के सम्मुख रखे, जिन्हें सभा ने ध्वनि-मत से पारित कर दिया। सभा ने अगले वर्ष के लिए ऑडिटर्स की भी नियुक्ति को स्वीकृति दी।

श्री वीरेन्द्र गुप्ता ने सभा को दिए गए अपने वक्तव्य में सभी उपस्थित सदस्यों का स्वागत किया। उन्होंने सदस्यों से परिषद की गतिविधियों में अपनी भागीदारी को बढ़ाने का अनुरोध किया। उन्होंने चर्चा के दौरान सदस्यों के द्वारा व्यक्त किये गये विचारों तथा उनके सुझावों के लिए उनकी प्रशंसा

की। रोमा के विषय पर बल देते हुए उन्होंने कहा कि इस विषय पर परिषद के बुलेटिन में उन पर लगातार जानकारी देने तथा उन पर अधिक शोध की आवश्यकता सहित विभिन्न स्तरों पर और अधिक प्रयास करने पर बल दिया। परिषद के संस्थापक स्व. श्री बालेश्वर अग्रवाल की जन्म-शताब्दी के निकट आने के अवसर पर उन्होंने 'बालेश्वर अग्रवाल स्मृति व्याख्यानमाला' प्रारंभ करने तथा उन पर डाक टिकट जारी करने के लिए सरकार से अनुरोध करने की योजना प्रकट की। अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय हिन्दी सम्मेलन आयोजित करने की योजना भी प्रस्तुत की। एक महत्वपूर्ण बिंदु जो उन्होंने प्रस्तुत किया, वह था भारत के पड़ोसी देशों के साथ रिश्ते मजबूत करने के लिए इन पड़ोसी देशों से लगने वाली सीमा के अन्दर आने वाले भारतीय राज्यों में रहने वाले लोगों की भूमिका। इस विषय पर विस्तार से बोलते हुए उन्होंने सीमावर्ती राज्यों में स्थित परिषद की शाखाओं के सदस्यों से पड़ोसी देशों के निवासियों के साथ व्यक्तिगत स्तर पर सम्बन्ध प्रगाढ़ करके इन देशों के साथ रिश्ते मजबूत करने में अपना योगदान देने का आह्वान किया। उन्होंने परिषद को अपना ध्यान मध्य-पूर्व, अफ्रीका इत्यादि स्थानों में सदियों से बसे हुए भारतीयों के विषय पर भी विचार करने पर जोर दिया। परिषद द्वारा विभिन्न देशों में सद्भाव यात्राएं आयोजित करने का भी आग्रह किया। जिसमें इजराइल, वियतनाम और बिस्मटेक का उन्होंने विशेष उल्लेख किया।

ओपन फोरम में सदस्यों ने अपने विचार प्रस्तुत किये, और विभिन्न पदाधिकारियों ने परिषद से सम्बंधित विषयों पर जानकारी दी।

अंत में श्री श्याम परांडे ने सदस्यों को सभा में उपस्थित होने के लिए धन्यवाद दिया। □