

# ANTAR RASHTRIYA SAHAYOG PARISHAD BULLETIN

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## The Condition of Indians in South Africa



Thus in 1893, I obtained full experience of the condition of Indians in South Africa. But I did nothing beyond occasionally talking with the Indians in Pretoria on the subject. It appeared to me that to look after the firm's case and to take up the question of the Indian grievances in South Africa at the same time was impossible. I could see that trying to do both would be to ruin both. 1894 was thus already upon us. I returned to Durban and prepared to return to India. At the farewell entertainment held by Dada Abdulla, someone put a copy of the *Natal Mercury* in my hands. I read it and found that the detailed report of the proceedings of the Natal Legislative Assembly contained a few lines under the caption 'Indian Franchise'. The local Government was about to introduce a Bill to disfranchise Indians, which could only be the beginning of the end of what little rights they were then enjoying. The speeches made at the time left no doubt about the intention of the Government. I read the report to the traders and others present and explained the situation to them as best I could. I was not in possession of all the facts. I suggested that the Indians should strenuously resist this attack on their rights. They agreed but declared their inability to fight the battle themselves and urged me to stay on. I consented to stay a month or so longer by which time the struggle would be fought out. The same night I drew up a petition to be presented to the Legislative Assembly. A telegram was sent to the Government requesting a delay of proceedings. A committee was appointed at once with Sheth Haji Adam as Chairman and the telegram was sent in his name. The further reading of the Bill was postponed for two days. That petition was the first ever sent by the

Indians to a South African Legislature. It did create an impression although it failed to defeat the Bill, the later history of which I have narrated in Chapter Four. This was the South African Indians' first experience of such agitation, and a new thrill of enthusiasm passed through the community. Meetings were held every day and more and more persons attended them. The requisite funds were oversubscribed. Many volunteers helped in preparing copies, securing signatures and similar work without any remuneration. There were others who both worked and subscribed to the funds. The descendants of the ex-indentured Indians joined the movement with alacrity. They knew English and wrote a fine hand. They did copying and other work ungrudgingly day and night. Within a month, a memorial with ten thousand signatures was forwarded to Lord Ripon, and the immediate task I had set before myself was done.

I asked for leave to return home. But the agitation had aroused such keen interest among the Indians that they would not let me go. They said: "You yourself have explained to us that this is the first step taken with a view to our ultimate extinction. Who knows whether the Colonial Secretary will return a favourable reply to our memorial? You have witnessed our enthusiasm. We are willing and ready to work. We have funds too. But for want of a guide, what little has been done will go for nothing. We therefore think it is your duty to stay on." I also felt that it would be well if a permanent organization was formed to watch Indian interests. But where was I to live and how? They offered me a regular salary, but I expressly declined. One may not receive a large salary for public work. Besides, I was a pioneer. According to my notions at the time, I thought I should live in a style usual for barristers and reflecting credit on the community, and that would mean great expense. It would

be improper to depend for my maintenance upon a body whose activities would necessitate a public appeal for funds, and my power of work would be thereby crippled. For this and similar reasons I flatly refused to accept remuneration for public work. But I suggested that I was prepared to stay if the principal traders among them could see their way to give me legal work and give me retainers for it beforehand. The retainers might be for a year. We might deal with each other for that period, examine the results, and then continue the arrangement if both parties were agreeable. This suggestion was cordially accepted by all.



M. K. Gandhi

I applied for admission as an advocate of the Supreme Court at Natal. The Natal Law Society opposed my application on the sole ground that the law did not contemplate that coloured barristers should be placed on the roll. The late Mr. Escombe, the famous advocate, who was Attorney-General and afterwards also Premier of Natal, was my counsel. The prevailing practice for a long time was that the leading barrister should present such applications without any fees, and Mr. Escombe advocated my cause accordingly. He was also Senior Counsel for my employers. The Senior Court overruled the Law Society's objection, and granted my application. Thus, the Law Society's opposition brought me into further prominence without their wishing it. The newspapers of South Africa ridiculed the Law Society and some of them even congratulated me.

The temporary committee was placed on a permanent footing. I had never



attended a session of the Indian National Congress, but had read about it. I had seen Dadabhai, the Grand Old Man of India and admired him. I was therefore a Congress devotee, and wished to popularize the name. Inexperienced as I was, I did not try to find out a new name. I was also afraid of committing a mistake. So I advised the Indians to call their organization the Natal Indian Congress. I laid before them very imperfectly what meager knowledge I had of the Indian National Congress. Anyhow the Natal Indian Congress was founded about May 1894. There was this difference between the Indian and the Natal Congress, that the latter organization worked throughout the year and those who paid an annual subscription of at least three pounds were admitted to membership. Amounts exceeding that sum were gratefully received. Endeavours were made to obtain the maximum amount from each member. There were about half a dozen

members who paid twenty-four pounds a year. There was a considerable number of those paying twelve pounds. About three hundred members were enrolled in a month. They included Hindus, Musalmans, Parsis and Christians, and came from all Indian States that were represented in Natal. The work proceeded with great vigour throughout the first year. The well-to-do traders went about far off villages in their own conveyances, enrolling new members and collecting subscriptions. Everybody did not pay for the mere asking. Some required to be persuaded. This persuasion was a sort of political training, and made people acquainted with the facts of the situation. Again, a meeting of the Congress was held at least once a month, when detailed accounts were presented and adopted. Current events were explained and recorded in the minute-book. Members asked various questions. Fresh subjects were considered. The advantage of all this was that those who never spoke at such meetings got accustomed to do so. The speeches again must be in proper form. All this was a novel experience. The community was deeply interested. In the meanwhile the welcome news came that Lord Ripon had disallowed the Disfranchising Bill, and this redoubled their zeal and self-confidence.

Side by side with external agitation, the question of internal improvement was also taken up. The Europeans throughout South Africa had been agitating against Indians on the ground of their ways of life. They always argued that the Indians were very dirty and close-fisted. They lived in the same place where they traded. Their houses were mere shanties. They would not spend money even on their own comforts. How could cleanly open-handed Europeans with their multifarious wants compete in trade with such parsimonious and dirty people? Lectures were therefore delivered, debates held, and suggestions made at Congress meetings on subjects such as domestic sanitation, personal hygiene, the necessity of having separate buildings for houses and shops and for well-to-do traders of living in a style befitting their position. The proceedings were conducted in Gujarati.

The reader can see what an amount of practical and political education the Indians thus received. Under the auspices of the Congress, the Natal Indian Educational Association was formed for the benefit of the young Indians, who, being the children of ex-indentured labourers, were born in Natal and spoke English. Its members paid a

nominal fee. The chief objects of the Association were to provide a meeting place for those youths, to create in them a love for the mother country and to give them general information about it. It was also intended to impress upon them that free Indians considered them their own kith and kin, and to create respect for the latter in the minds of the former. The funds of the Congress were large enough to leave a surplus after defraying its expenses. This was devoted to the purchase of land which yields an income to the present day.

I have deliberately entered into all these details, for without them the reader cannot realize how Satyagraha spontaneously sprang into existence and how the Indians went through a natural course of preparation for it. I am compelled to omit the remarkable subsequent history of the Congress, how it was confronted with difficulties, how Government officials attacked it and how it escaped scathe less from their attacks. But one fact must be placed on record. Steps were taken to save the community from the habit of exaggeration. Attempts were always made to draw their attention to their own shortcomings. Whatever force there was in the arguments of the Europeans was duly acknowledged. Every occasion, when it was possible to co-operate with the Europeans on terms of equality and consistent with self-respect, was heartily availed of. The newspapers were supplied with as much information about the Indian movement as they could publish, and whenever Indians were unfairly attacked in the Press replies were sent to the newspapers concerned.

There was an organization in the Transvaal similar to the Natal Indian Congress but quite independent of it. There were likewise differences in the constitutions of the two bodies into which we need to enter. There was a similar body in the Cape Town as well with a constitution different from that of the Natal Congress and the Transvaal Association. Still the activities of all the three bodies were nearly identical.

The Natal Congress completed its first year in the middle of 1895. My work as an advocate met with the approval of my clients, and my stay in Natal was prolonged. In 1896 I went to India for six months with the leave of the community. I had hardly completed that period in India, when I received a cablegram from Natal asking me to return at once, and so did I. The events of 1896-97 demand a fresh chapter for their treatment. □

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## India is A LAND of BILLION IDEAS AND BILLION OPPORTUNITIES—PRESIDENT KOVIND

✍ Md. Zameer Anwar



*Mauritian Premier Pravind Jugnauth delivering keynote address*



*PM Narendra Modi addressing PBD delegates*

The 15th Pravasi Bharatiya Divas Convention, organized in Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh on 21-23 January 2019, focused on the theme of “Role of Indian Diaspora in building New India”. The Prime Minister of Mauritius Mr. Pravind Kumar Jugnauth was the Chief Guest of the Convention. Mr. Himanshu Gulati, the Member of Parliament of Norway, was the Special Guest and New Zealand parliamentarian, Mr. Kanwaljit Singh Bakshi - the Guest of Honor at the Youth Pravasi Bharatiya Divas.

In his inaugural address, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said, love for the soil has pulled you all to PBD conclave and he depicted people of Indian origin, as India's brand ambassadors and the symbols of the country's capabilities.

PM Modi mentioned about the International Solar Alliance (ISA) and “through this medium, we want to take the world towards One World, One Sun, One Grid”. He asserted, India is today in a position to lead the world in many spheres and in the last four years, India has made tremendous progress and left its mark in the world. PM further said that we are in the process of relaxing norms pertaining to both passport and visa, and furthermore we are going to devise the centralized system for passport as well as to issue chip-based e-passports, besides connecting our

Embassies and Consulates across the world with Sewa Project.

Minister for External Affairs, Smt. Sushma Swaraj in her welcome address, said, Indian diaspora is the largest in the world, estimated to be 31 millions, and spread throughout the globe. She said, what marks all of us one is the shared common identity that is Indianess and shared common origin that is India, a land of your forefathers. We gathered here to celebrate this shared bond.

Delivering the keynote address as a chief guest at the inauguration of the 15<sup>th</sup> Pravasi Bhartiya Divas convention, Mauritian Prime Minister, Pravind Jugnauth said, If India is unique; Indianness is universal and applauded India's endeavours in reaching out to the Diaspora. The Mauritian premier announced that Mauritius would host a Bhagwad Gita Mahotsav in partnership with the Haryana Government next month and organize Bhojpuri Festival next year.

Mauritian PM Jugnauth said, many of those from India who first arrived in Mauritius to work as indentured labourers were from Bihar, speaking Bhojpuri. Appreciated Prime Minister Modi's leadership, he said, India had transformed under him and taken various initiatives to facilitate the less fortunate to have better access to opportunities. He further said, the

world admires the remarkable economic performance of India and the transformation of this country under the leadership of PM Modi. PM Jugnauth lauded India's soft power and designated the recognition of the International Day of Yoga as its manifestation. He also thanked India for supporting Mauritius' development through various assistance projects.

The first day of the convention was dedicated to the youth; marked by interactive sessions between Indian Youth and young Indian Diaspora. The Youth Pravasi Bharatiya Divas along with the Uttar Pradesh Youth PBD was jointly inaugurated by the External Affairs Minister Smt. Sushma Swaraj and the Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh Sri Yogi Adityanath.

At the inauguration of Youth PBD, Smt. Swaraj said India will be skill capital of the world by 2022. Sri Yogi Adityanath addressed the Indian overseas delegates and welcomed them to witness the magnificent religious congregation at Kumbh and the grandeurs of the Republic Day at Rajpath, Delhi. The Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Youth Affairs and Sports, Rajyavardhan Singh Rathore said, Indian diaspora has always championed Indian culture in faraway lands and contributed tremendously to India's success story.



This conclave offered an opportunity to young Indian aspirants to connect with young Indian Diaspora who made a brilliant mark in the field of science, technology, politics, business, and education, etc. The 'Young Indian Diaspora' interacted with the students of the Banaras Hindu University (B.H.U.) and exchanged their views on several issues as well as informed of the developments around the world in their respective field of interest.

In the evening, a cultural programme was organised which showcased the majestic cultural heritage of Uttar Pradesh through music and dance.

Indian Council for Cultural Relations organized the spectacular Cultural Programme, performed by Hon'ble Member of Parliament Smt. Hema Malini on 22 January.

On 23 January, delivering the valedictory address, Hon'ble President Sri Ram Nath Kovind said, India has been a land of festivities, celebrations and human excellence for centuries. Its cultural fabric and ethos have been enriched with each passing phase of its history. And to that, we added a new chapter when we embarked on a journey to connect and embrace our brothers and sisters around the world. That was in 2003,

when we held the first Pravasi Bharatiya Divas, and the man behind this vision was our then Prime Minister Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee. We lost him recently but his thought and wisdom continue to guide the nation.

He further said, the Indian Diaspora is among the largest in the world and its history as rich and diverse as the Diaspora itself. In the hoary past, our ancestors travelled to Southeast Asia as merchants and as monks. Much later, many lived and prospered as traders and entrepreneurs along the ancient Silk Route. And more than a century ago, under the indenture system, we witnessed millions of our people crossing the seven seas. The world has moved a long way since for our Diaspora. You are commanding global heights today, while embracing your cultural ethos and diversity. And while you do so, you must also preserve and strengthen your unity as a community.

Hon'ble president also urged Indian overseas community that India, today, is a land of billion ideas. India, today, is a land of billion opportunities. I invite each one of you to become a part of India's growth story which is being

etched by its billion minds.

President Kovind bestowed the Pravasi Bharatiya Samman on 30 members of overseas Indians. He said, we value your committed efforts to promote India and to work for the welfare of Indian community abroad. You have, indeed, been a living bridge between us and the outside world. I congratulate each one of you for this stellar contribution.



*Shri Baleshwar Agrawal Nagar setup for the delegates of PBD*

Besides that the special arrangements were made for the participation of delegates at Kumbh Mela in Prayagraj and Republic day parade in New Delhi. The participants arrived at Prayagraj by road and took holy bath at Sangam on 24 January. And on 26 January, they witnessed the 70th Republic Day Event in New Delhi. □

## **“Indic Identity of Indian Diaspora : Its Historical, Philosophical and Contemporary Contributions to the World and India”**

On the sideline of 15<sup>th</sup> Pravasi Bhartiya Diwas (PBD) 2019, Organisation for Diaspora Initiatives (ODI) organized an International Conference on **“Indic Identity of Indian diaspora: Its Historical, Philosophical and Contemporary Contributions to the World and India”** in collaboration with Jawaharlal Nehru University and Banaras Hindu University on 24-25 January 2019 at Banaras Hindu University (BHU), Varanasi. More than 50 scholars, research students, eminent dignitaries were present. In this two days conference several important issues based on the Indic identity and their contributions were

highlighted, debated and discussed along with the major issues of Indian diaspora and foreign policy. In the Inaugural session many prominent personalities were present. Amb. Virendra Gupta, President of Antar Rashtriya Sahayog Parishad, Mr. Shyam Parande, Secretary General of Antar Rashtriya Sahayog Parishad, Prof. Ajay Dubey Professor of Centre for African Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University, Prof. Kavita Sharma, President of South Asian University, Prof. R.P Pathak Dean of Social Sciences Banaras Hindu University, Mr. Selva Rajusundaram, Chairperson of GOPIO International,

Malaysia to name the few. In the Inaugural session, Prof. Kavita Sharma presented the key note address. Introductory remarks were given by Amb. Virendra Gupta. Mr. Shyam Parande was the Chief Guest of the conference. Conference was based on several themes and divided into several sessions. Mr. Markandey Rai, Chairman of Foreign Affairs Committee, Antar Rashtriya Sahayog Parishad also chaired an important session on the theme of Indian diaspora and Foreign Policy. Several eminent speakers around the globe presented their papers and expressed their view in this two days conference. □

# CULTURAL, ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL EVOLUTION of INDIAN DIASPORA in Fiji

✍ - Shubha Singh

Leader of Fiji's National Federation Party, Prof Biman Chand Prasad visited Pravasi Bhawan on January 12, 2019 for a Distinguished Lecture organized by ARSP's Diaspora Research and Resources Centre (DRRC). Prof Prasad spoke on "Cultural, Economic and Political Evolution of Indian Diaspora in Fiji and their future".

Prof Prasad said that the multiple coups in Fiji had done a lot of damage to the country. In the 1980s, Fiji used to be compared with Singapore and its development was at par with Mauritius. Indians began migrating from Fiji after the first armed coup in 1987 and have continued to leave for Australia, New Zealand, Canada and America. The ethnic Indian population in Fiji has continued to decline and now constitutes about 35 percent of Fiji's population.

Fiji held its last election in November 2018 when Prime Minister Frank Bainimarama's Fiji First party had a narrow victory, the National Federation Party leader said. It was the second election since Mr Bainimarama seized control in an army coup in 2006. The Fiji First party won 50.02 percent of the total votes polled in the November 2018 elections, the Social Democratic Liberal party led by former prime minister Sitiveni Rabuka won 39.85 percent and the National Federation came third. In the previous elections, Fiji First had got more than 60 percent of the votes.

Prof Prasad said that the country should go back to the 1997 constitution which protected the interests of the minorities. Until 2013, Fiji's constitution had reflected the multiracial nature of its society, giving each of the main ethnic groups a fixed number of seats in Parliament. But the Constitution adopted in 2013 removed the community wise seat allocation under a one-man, one-vote principle for a single constituency. In the name of equality, the special protections that existed for minority communities were removed, according to Prof Prasad.



*Amb. Virendra Gupta offering bouquet to Prof. Biman C Prasad*

The opposition leader said that his party was in favour of reviving the constitution that Fiji had adopted in 1997. The 1997 constitution maintained the racial balance in Parliament between the ethnic Fijians and the ethnic Indian community. Former army chief, Bainimarama abrogated the constitution after the Supreme Court held his takeover of the government in 2006 was illegal. A new constitution was adopted in October 2013, which created a single

constituency Parliamentary system with each voter having one vote of equal value to vote for a political party or an independent candidate. Seats in Parliament were given on a proportional basis based on the number of votes received by a political party and not on basis of ethnicity as under the earlier constitutions.

"The 1997 constitution was a good constitution, my party leader, Jairam Reddy made the 1997 Constitution in alliance with coup leader, Rabuka. That constitution ensured that the racial configuration of Parliament remained intact." The 1997 Constitution had ensured that any political party that obtained eight percent of the votes polled would have a place in the government. It also had provision for 40 percent of the Fiji police to be from the Indian community, which does not exist in the present constitution. "Now Indians are getting marginalized, and Indians now constitute only ten percent of the police force."

Prof. Prasad said that Hindi and the Fijian language have been made compulsory in all primary schools in Fiji and elective subjects from middle school to university level. But the provision was not helping in learning Hindi since the language taught in schools was conversational Hindi or Fiji baat, the colloquial Hindi spoken in homes. The schools did not teach standard Hindi and there were no text books available for





conversational Hindi. Prof Biman Prasad recalled his meeting with late Mr. Atal Bihari Vajpayee when he was Prime Minister and had made a request for a PIO (Person of Indian Origin) University in India.

Launching the Distinguished Lecture, Amb Anup Mudgal explained the activities of the Diaspora Research Centre and Centre for Roma Studies and Cultural Relations. Earlier, the ARSP signed a memorandum of understanding with the Global Girit Institute. The Global Girit Institute in an international centre for the study and advancement of Girit diaspora and has branches in all countries with a girit diaspora.

Amb. Virendra Gupta, President of ARSP said that Fiji is one of the five countries having large concentration of people of Indian origin. We therefore have very cordial relations with people and Government of Fiji. Welcoming Dr. Biman Prasad, Amb. Gupta said that he is not only a politician but also an eminent scholar, who has the capability of looking into issues related to Fiji from different perspectives and his insight will help

us immensely to understand political issues being faced by Indian diaspora in Fiji.

Introducing the theme of the Seminar, Shri Narayan Kumar, Hony. Director of ARSP said that Fiji is an important island nation of the south Pacific, small in size but very beautiful, unspoiled and unique, where the sunrise is experienced before anywhere else on the earth. It is unfortunate that the clouds of coups had covered the natural light of sunrise and the beauty of the island is shattered by the racial polarization and tension during last 32 years. He said that the first army coup was staged by Col. Sitiveni Rabuka in May 1987 and since then Fiji has been the victim of political instability as well as racial discrimination. However, only a month after as, Col. Sitiveni Rabuka staged a coup on 14th May 1987 and took out the command of the government after arresting duly elected Prime Minister Dr. Timoci Bavadra in the general election of April 1987 with the massive support of people of Indian origin in Fiji. Thereafter George Speight had proclaimed a civilian 'Coup' removing

Shri Mahendra Chaudhry's government. Since then two more coups were proclaimed and now it is necessary to stop CULTURE OF COUP from Fiji. He said that in the recent general election Fiji has elected Mr. Bainimarama as the Prime Minister and Rabuka is the leader of Opposition both of them are products of army coup. The leader of National Federation Party (NFP), is also supporting. Mr. Kumar opined that Mr. Biman Prasad is an ardent supporter of democracy therefore he should work for a non-racial democratic system and progressive socio-political frame work to ensure sustainable true Parliamentary democracy in Fiji.

Shri Shyam Parande, Secretary General of ARSP, in his closing remarks emphasised the immense role that the Indian diaspora plays in countries like Mauritius, Trinidad & Tobago, Guyana and Fiji. It is also important for the Indian diaspora to avail all the different opportunities in their respective nations. India will support and encourage in whatever capacity it can for the betterment of their lives. □

## DIPLOMATIC POSTINGS

**Shri Harsh Vardhan Shringla** (IFS:1984), presently High Commissioner to the People's Republic of Bangladesh has been appointed as the **next Ambassador of India to the United States of America.**

**Ms Riva Ganguly Das** (IFS:1986), presently Director General, ICCR has been appointed as the **next High Commissioner of India to the People's Republic of Bangladesh.**

**Shri Tanmaya Lal** (IFS:1991), Former Ambassador/Deputy Permanent Representative in the Permanent Mission of India to the United Nations in New York, has been appointed as the **next High Commissioner of India to the Republic of Mauritius.**

**Shri Vanlalhuma** (IFS:1990), presently Additional Secretary in the Ministry has been appointed as the **next Ambassador of India to the Slovak Republic.**

**Shri Sunjay Sudhir** (IFS: 1993), presently Joint Secretary in the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas has been appointed as the **next Ambassador of India to the Republic of Maldives.**

**Shri Sanjiv Ranjan** (IFS: 1993), presently Ambassador of India to Argentina has been appointed as the **next Ambassador of India to the Republic of Colombia.** □

## ROUND TABLE ON “ROLE OF DIASPORA IN INDIA–USA RELATION”

The **Diaspora Resource and Research Centre (DRRC)**, **ARSP**, in collaboration with the American Chapter of the Centre of International Studies of the Indian Institute of Public Administration (**IIPA**), organised a Round Table on the “Role of Diaspora in India-United States Relations” at Malviya Smriti, New Delhi on 28 January, 2019. The half-day Round Table was attended by close to fifteen scholars from India and an equal number of PIO leaders from the US. Most of the US-based participants had also attended the Pravasi Bhartya Diwas (**PBD**), 2019. For facilitating a frank and open discussion, it was decided not to have a structured agenda for the Round Table, which allowed all participants to develop their ideas freely.

**President (ARSP)**, Amb Virendra Gupta opened the event with a statement, broadly covering the activities of the ARSP, its expanding outreach, the setting and role of DRRC and the growing role of Indian diaspora globally. He also highlighted the success story of the Indian diaspora in the US and their rising all round influence, which is a significant factor even for the growing overall bilateral relationship. Other participants developed these themes further in their respective fields of expertise and the outcome of the discussion and comments are summarised as under.

The participants acknowledged and expressed a general sense of pride that the strong **33 million PIO community** spread over hundred countries, and has **excelled exceptionally** well in all major spheres – be it political, economic,



(from L to R) Anup K Mudgal, Virendra Gupta, Shyam Parande, Robinder Sachdeva, Markandey Rai

technology, higher education or cultural adaptation. Their contribution is widely appreciated in the countries of their adoption. The Indian diaspora is known for being hard working, creative, open minded, accommodating, progressive, rule-abiding and entrepreneurial. They add value to their adoptive societies as also create bridges with their ancestral roots.

**Indian diaspora in the US** is like a role model for any immigrant community globally. At close to 5 million, they are among the best educated, prosperous and skilled communities, on many economic and educational parameters, they compare much better than the national average.

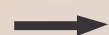
Having established their mark in the economic and educational fields, the Indian diaspora in the US has also started playing an important role in the **political field**. Today, there are Indian Americans holding important political positions, including potential presidential aspirants both on the Democratic and Republican sides. In this regard, the participants recalled some important names like Kamla Harris, Tulsi Gabbard, Nikki Haley. Samosa caucus in the US Congress is a recognition of the growing political influence of Indian American community. One also needs to recall the contribution of the Indian American

community in pushing India to the front line of priority partners in the American approach to global affairs. They played a very useful role in creating a favourable environment in support of the Indo-US nuclear deal, which was essential for graduating India out of the various technology denial regimes.

Indian Americans, being one of the most prosperous groups are also an important source of **political funding** to all parties. This capacity is fast growing and with that their influence on the US policies. Carefully nurtured, this could emerge as a decisive positive influence on the India-US overall relationship.

Indian Americans have made an equally significant progress in economic terms. A story which started with small corner shops and motels has now entered the field of **technology startups**. Indians are investing in several high end technology ventures creating intellectual property and quality employment. This would also grow and the Indian Americans are expected to emerge as major technology generators, holders and providers, which will further add to their global stakes. This resource needs top attention from the Indian side for creating greater synergies. As most of these people are of IIT stock, there already exists deep affinity and familiarity. Extraordinary potential exists in all cutting edge fields of technology.

Another major diaspora strength is the large population of **Indian Students** in all reputable US universities. Most of





these students not only pursue courses in high end technologies (STEMS) but also perform very well, they are considered a major asset in helping the US maintain a leadership role in the global technology ecosystem. Many of these universities would be looking for wider collaboration with top Indian universities and institutions for talent tapping and joint research. We need to attach high priority to engaging diaspora for promoting such collaborations.

GOPIOS and other similar organisations have been engaging in uniting the various Indian American groups but adequate reflection of Indian diversity in local groups is also a good sign. **Diversity of Indian diaspora** offers its own benefits in a pluralistic, open and democratic society.

Even though the Indian diaspora has done well and the Government of India has also taken several land mark initiatives for engaging the diaspora, it was argued that we should also try to learn from the **global best practices** for making the process more effective. Some diaspora communities, especially Jews and Mexicans have also done very well. It may be a good idea to study their systems for benefitting from their experience both for the diaspora as also the government.

A major challenge is to keep the **diaspora youth engaged** with India. Majority of the participants agreed that the youth needs new tools of engagement as their expectations and standards are very different. They are not driven by purely emotions but seek concrete goals and benefits. At the same time, they will be the holders of future knowledge and without their genuine engagement, the intensity of this relationship runs the risk of dilution. Both diaspora and the government need to discuss measures and tools for their closer engagement with India. The principal drivers would be technology, higher education and economy, duly supplemental with cultural affinity. There was a consensus in the group

that the current discussion on **tightening the visa rules** should not have any major adverse impact on India, especially as the Indians were mostly engaged in technology areas, where the US is facing a growing skill deficit.

The participants, especially from the US, were full of praise and appreciation for the importance attached by **Prime Minister Shri Modi** and his Government for much closer and deeper engagement with Indian diaspora and for having taken several key initiatives in this regard.

Following **specific measures** emerged from the discussion for further follow up: i) the KIP should also be extended to the US, ii) more university to university collaborations must be explored, iii) expand student exchanges, including for shorter courses, iv) create more opportunities for internships for diaspora youth, v)

promote tourism including cultural vi) Indian States should play a more active role in engaging with diaspora, going beyond NRI investments, vii) diaspora engagement should be as wide as possible and inclusive, viii) Indian Americans should also network with Indian diaspora in the region, especially The Caribbean, ix) while we need to learn from the global best practices, Indian diaspora, given its strength and diversity, needs to charter its own path for addressing its various needs and challenges.

At the conclusion, the participants appreciated the work being carried out by ARSP and offered to continue with their close relationship with the organisation. They also promised to support the research agenda of the newly created DRRC. The meeting ended with a **vote of thanks** to the chair and all participants. □

*Report-by DRRC*

## O B I T U A R Y



*Devendra Swarup*

**Acclaimed Historian, Thinker, Journalist & Writer Prof. Devendra Swarup passed away on 14 January, 2019 at the age of 93. He was member of ARSP since 2010.**

**Shri Devendra Swarup was a close associate of former Secretary General of ARSP Shri Baleshwar Agrawal since his student days at Banaras Hindu University.** □



*C K Jain*

**Senior member of Antar Rashtriya Sahayog Parishad Shri C K Jain passed away on 03 January, 2019 at the age of 78, after a prolonged illness.**

**He was a Life Member of Antar Rashtriya Sahayog Parishad since 2002 and used to regularly participate in our activities.**

**ARSP pays humble tributes to the departed soul.** □



## Tulsi Gabbard and Kamala Harris Announced Their Candidature for US Presidential Seat

Indian Origin Democratic Senator Kamala Harris, standing outside of Oakland's city hall, formally kicked off her campaign for the White House by presenting herself as the leader who can best unite an America that is at an "inflection point" and facing a critical question. "We are



Tulsi Gabbard



Kamala Harris

them motives without any basis". The 37-year-old on January 11 announced that she would be running for the White House in 2020.

In the hard-hitting piece, Gabbard, the first Hindu elected to the US Congress, noted that she has been accused of being a Hindu

here because the American Dream and our American democracy are under attack and on the line like never before," Harris said " we are here at this moment in time because we must answer a fundamental question: Who are we? Who are we as Americans? So, let's answer that question to the world and each other right here and right now. America, we are better than this."

Harris, a first-term U.S. senator from California who announced her candidacy rallied thousands of supporters at the Frank Ogawa Plaza in Oakland, her hometown and where she served as a prosecutor before becoming the state attorney general.

The daughter of immigrants from Jamaica and India, Harris' campaign is filled with historic possibility. If she wins the White House she would be the first African-American woman and

first person of Indian descent to be president. Harris also did not shy away from taking on Trump directly, saying the US welcomes refugees and calling the wall that Trump wants to build a 'medieval vanity project'. Harris is the child of an Tamilian mother and a Jamaican father.

Congresswoman Tulsi Gabbard has hit back at critics who accuse the Democratic presidential hopeful of being a "Hindu nationalist", saying questioning her commitment to America while not probing non-Hindu leaders creates a "double standard" that can only be rooted in "religious bigotry".

Gabbard, the four-term lawmaker said from Hawaii, wrote an op-ed for the Religious News Services, describing the campaign against her, supporters and donors as "profiling and targeting of Hindu Americans and ascribing to

nationalist. "Tomorrow will it be Muslim or Jewish Americans? Japanese, Hispanic or African Americans?" she asked. "To question my commitment to my country, while not questioning non-Hindu leaders, creates a double standard that can only be rooted in one thing: 'religious bigotry'. I am Hindu and they are not," Gabbard said. "My meetings with Prime Minister Narendra Modi, India's democratically elected leader, have been highlighted as 'proof' of this and portrayed as somehow being out of the ordinary or somehow suspect, even though President (Barack) Obama, Secretary (Hillary) Clinton, President (Donald) Trump and many of my colleagues in Congress have met with and worked with him," Gabbard said. "I am proud to be the first Hindu-American to have been elected to Congress, and now, the first Hindu-American to run for president," she said. □

## Abu Dhabi Includes Hindi as Third Official Court Language

In a landmark decision, Abu Dhabi has included Hindi as the third official language used in its courts, alongside Arabic and English

The Abu Dhabi Judicial Department on Saturday said it has extended the adoption of interactive forms of statement of claims filed before courts by including the Hindi language alongside Arabic and English in labour cases. This is aimed at helping Hindi speakers to learn about litigation procedures, their rights and duties without a language barrier, in addition to facilitating registration procedures via unified forms available through the ADJD website, the judicial body said.



According to official figures, the UAE population is estimated to be around nine million of which 2/3rd are immigrants from foreign countries. The Indian community in the UAE, numbering 2.6 million, constitutes 30 per cent of the total population and is the largest expatriate community in the country.

Yousef Saeed Al Abri, undersecretary of the ADJD, said the adoption of multilingual interactive forms for claim sheets, grievances and requests, aims to promote judicial services in line with the plan to increase the transparency of litigation procedures.

"This is in addition to facilitating registration procedures to the public through simplified and easy forms and raising litigants' legal awareness via interactive forms of the statements of claims, to ensure access to the legal materials related to the subject of the dispute," Al Abri was quoted as saying by the Khaleej Times. □

## KRISHNAMOORTHY TO HEAD CONGRESS PANEL IN US

Raja Krishnamoorthi, a prominent Indian-American Congressman, has been named as the chairman of a panel on economic and consumer policy, making him the first ever member of South Asian descent to chair a congressional committee or subcommittee. As chairman of the House Oversight Committee's Subcommittee on Economic and Consumer Policy, Krishnamoorthi, will have jurisdiction over important pocketbook issues such as education, workforce development, income inequality, health care, consumer protection and data privacy.

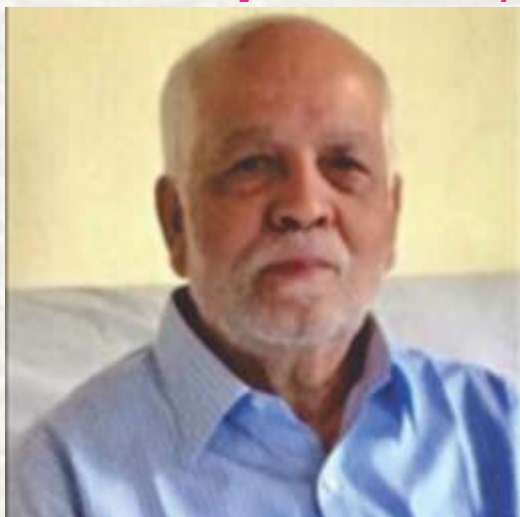


*Raja Krishnamoorthi*

Krishnamoorthi was born in the year 1974 in a Tamil-speaking family in New Delhi. His family moved to Buffalo when he was three months old. Krishnamoorthi attended Princeton

University, where he earned a bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering. He then received a Juris Doctor from Harvard Law School. □

## NILAMBAR ACHARYA APPOINTED NEPAL'S ENVOY TO INDIA



*Nilambar Acharya*

to take oath of office and secrecy from the president under a new provision. Earlier, ambassadors were administered oath of office by Supreme Court chief justice.

A Moscow University graduate, was minister for Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs and Labour and Social Welfare in the interim government of Nepal in 1990. □

Nilambar Acharya, Nepal's former minister, has been appointed as the ambassador to India. The position of the Nepalese ambassador to India was vacant for more than a year after Deep Kumar Upadhyay resigned to join politics.

President of Nepal Bidya Devi Bhandari administered oath of office to Acharya at Rastrapati Bhawan at Sheetal Niwas. Bhandari congratulated Acharya for being an ambassador to a very close neighbour of Nepal. Acharya is the first Nepalese ambassador

## UN LAUNCHES ITS FIRST HINDI NEWS SERVICE WEBSITE

On the occasion of World Hindi Day United Nations Organisation (UNO), launched its first news service website in Hindi, providing some traction to India's global outreach. With the launch of the website, Hindi becomes the first non-UN Asian language to have that honour. The UN is currently also using Hindi on social media platforms like Facebook, Twitter and Instagram to enhance its reach.

The inauguration of the Hindi news website is said to be part of a UN pilot programme to promote global values using languages other than the six official ones-English, Arabic, Spanish, French, Chinese and Russian. The UN had last year launched a weekly news bulletin in Hindi. The launch of the Hindi website is expected to provide a fillip to India's efforts to make Hindi one of the official UN languages. □

## TRUMP NAMES PIO TO ADVISORY COMMITTEE

US President Donald Trump has announced to appoint prominent Indian-American financial expert Prem Parameswaran to a key presidential advisory committee.



*Prem Parameswaran*

Parameswaran, is the only Indian-American among the 12 members the president intends to appoint to the President's Advisory Commission on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders. Based in New York, Parameswaran is the group chief financial officer and president of Eros International's North America operations. □

## SUMAN KUMARI APPOINTED WOMAN JUDGE IN PAKISTAN

Suman Kumari has become the first Hindu woman in Pakistan to be appointed as a civil judge. Suman, passed her LLB. examination from Hyderabad and did her masters in law from Karachi's Szabist University. Her father is an eye specialist while Suman's elder sister is a software engineer and another sister is a chartered accountant.

The country's first judge from the Hindu community was Justice Rana Bhagwandas, who served as the acting Chief Justice for brief periods between 2005 and 2007. Last year, Mahesh Kumar Malani became the

first non-Muslim to be elected on a general seat in the National Assembly while a Thari woman, Krishna Kumari, was elected in Pakistan's Senate elections.

Hindus make up nearly 2 per cent of Pakistan's total population and Hinduism remains the second largest religion in Pakistan after Islam. □



*Suman Kumari*

## INDIA IS WORLD'S TOP RECIPIENT OF REMITTANCES THIS YEAR

India will retain its position as the world's top recipient of remittances this year with its diaspora sending a whopping USD 80 billion back home, the World Bank said in a report on December 8. India has retained its top spot on remittances, according to the latest edition of the World Bank's Migration and Development Brief.

The Bank estimates that officially-recorded remittances to developing countries will increase by 10.8 per cent to reach USD 528 billion in 2018. This new record level follows a robust growth of 7.8 per cent in 2017. □

## INDIAN-ORIGIN BOY BRITAIN'S SMARTEST

An eight-year-old PIO boy is one of the smartest people in Britain having entered Mensa with an IQ of 152 at the age of four.

Arav Ajaykumar, from Leicester, whose parents moved to the UK in 2009 from Mumbai, also just got a gold award and the top marks in his school for the Primary Mathematics Challenge, a logical reasoning test organised by the Mathematical Association. At the age of two Arav could count to 1,000.

Arav, who was born in the UK, told TOI in a northern British accent: "I like maths because there is only one right answer. I was shocked when I got the result and then I was really happy. I was pretty nervous when I sat the Mensa test, but I did not find that one difficult, it was quite easy."

When asked what he did apart from maths, he said: "I like to play chess and ride my bike if the weather is good. I would like to be a chess grandmaster one day."

Arav plays in the U9 Leicestershire county chess team

The secret to being good at maths is "practising a lot" he said, and the secret to being good at chess is "understanding why your opponent does something". The only subject he said he does not excel at at school is sport. "I like playing cricket. I just don't like football or rugby," he said. □



*Arav Ajaykumar*

## FIRST INDIAN AMERICAN MAYOR OF ANAHEIM; TAKES OATH ON GURU GRANTH SAHIB

Harry Sidhu took oath as the mayor of Anaheim, California on Dec 4, 2018 holding the revered Guru Granth Sahib scripture and became the first Indian American to claim the seat in the city, which is the tenth most populous city in California.

Upon completion of the oath administration his hundreds of longtime Indian American community supporters shouted out the Sikh slogan of victory and exultation, "Jo Bole So Nihal, Sat Sri Akal!" Sidhu opened his inaugural speech by announcing "I immigrated to this great country 44 years ago from India, with little more to my name than the hopes



and dreams I brought with me. To now be sworn into office as the 46th mayor of this large, vibrant city is proof the American Dream is alive and well in Anaheim. As your mayor, it will be my mission to enact policies to ensure that Anaheim is the 'City of the American Dream.'" "In Anaheim, the

doors of opportunity will always be open for everyone to participate in the American Dream! Funding the investments, our neighborhoods need and deserve, depends on a rising tide of economic growth and tax revenues. By using the revenues generated by these assets and applying them into putting our residents and neighborhoods first - we can make Anaheim the City of the American Dream," the newly inaugurated mayor said.

At the same time, we have the urgent need to help those living homeless with the cold and wet weather of winter upon us." □

## INDIAN COMMUNITY CELEBRATES 70<sup>TH</sup> REPUBLIC DAY



*Indian Community Celebrates 70<sup>th</sup> Republic Day*

The Indian community in Bhutan commemorated the 70<sup>th</sup> Republic Day of India at the Embassy Residence in Thimphu. The Indian National Flag was unfurled by Ambassador Jaideep Sarkar, Ambassador of India to Bhutan, followed by playing of the National Anthem. The Ambassador read out the President's Address to the Nation and inspected the Guard of Honour.

*Dasho Ugyen K. Namgyel, Gyalpoi Zimpon* to His Majesty The King of Bhutan, presented a scarf to the Ambassador on behalf of the Royal Government of Bhutan. *Dasho Zimpon* along with the Cabinet Secretary, Foreign Secretary and the Chief of Protocol represented Royal Government of Bhutan in the ceremony. Over 500 members of the Indian community were present at the ceremony. □

## INDIAN TEACHERS WHO SERVED IN BHUTAN HONOURED

The Ministry of Education of Bhutan hosted a reception in Kolkata, West Bengal on 6 January 2019 in honour of Indian teachers who previously taught in Bhutanese schools. Close to 80 of them attended the reception.

Last year, some 43 retired Indian teachers who had served in Bhutan joined the Teachers' Day celebrations in Thimphu. The reception in Kolkata was hosted for those teachers who could not make it to the celebrations last year. The event was graced by Bhutan Education Minister Lyonpo Jai Bir Rai.



*Indian Teachers who served in Bhutan honoured*

Currently, there are 121 teachers from India placed in schools across the country. □

## BHUTAN'S FORMER FOREIGN MINISTER AWARDED INDIAN COUNCIL FOR CULTURAL RELATIONS' DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARD 2018



*Bhutan's former Foreign Minister awarded  
Indian Council for Cultural Relations'  
Distinguished Alumni Award 2018*

Lyonpo Damcho Dorji, former Foreign Minister of Bhutan, is one of the five recipients of the Distinguished Alumni Award for 2018 of Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR). Lyonpo Damcho Dorji received the award from Her Excellency Smt. Sushma Swaraj, External Affairs Minister of India, at a ceremony held at the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi, 28 January 2019.

The Distinguished Alumni Award was presented to Lyonpo Damcho Dorji for his contribution in promoting goodwill and friendship between India and Bhutan. He is the first person to receive the ICCR's Distinguished Alumni Award from Bhutan.

The ICCR's Distinguished Alumni Award was instituted in 2015 to recognize foreign students who have studied in various Indian Universities under the ICCR sponsored or supported scholarship schemes and have made exemplary contributions in varied fields, especially towards the promotion of understanding, enhancing goodwill and friendship between India and their country.

A seven-member Jury selects the awardees from the nominations received from Indian Missions and Post abroad for Distinguished Alumni Award every year since 2015. □

### PICTURE STORIES:

On 24 January 2019, His Majesty The King graced the Closing Ceremony of the First Session of the Third Parliament. The Parliamentary session began on 2 January 2019, and deliberated on a number of legislations and issues, including the 12th Five Year Plan. Each session of Parliament commences and concludes in a traditional ceremony graced by His Majesty The King. □



### DAYS TO REMEMBER

IN MARCH, 2019

**March 03 :** Bulgaria - National Day

**March 03 :** World Wildlife Day

(The United Nations General Assembly honoured wild animals plants particularly endangered and protected species, by designating March 3 as World Wildlife Day.)

**March 04 :** Maha Shivratri

**March 06 :** Amavasya ●

**March 06 :** Ghana-Independence Day

**March 08 :** International Women's day

(This day is celebrated as a tribute to the strength and love, that a woman stands for, and the respect, love and appreciation that are rightfully due to her.)

**March 12 :** Mauritius - Republic Day

**March 17 :** Ireland - St. Patrick's Day

**March 20 :** Tunisia - Independence Day

**March 21 :** Holi/Purnima ●

**March 21 :** Namibia-Independence Day

**March 22 :** World Water Day

(Water is very essential for human and animal life as well as for agricultural products. It is one gift of nature which is irreplaceable. Yet we use water carelessly. Our sources of fresh water are limited. We must act fast to save our water resources.)

**March 23 :** Pakistan - National Day

**March 26 :** Bangladesh - National Day □

## अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय सहयोग परिषद वाराणसी द्वारा प्रवासी भारतीयों का सम्मान



अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय सहयोग परिषद के अध्यक्ष पूर्व राजदूत वीरेन्द्र गुप्ता प्रवासी भारतीयों को संबोधित करते हुए



पद्मभूषण पं. छन्नू लाल मिश्र एवं अन्य अतिथि दीप प्रज्वलित करते हुए

अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय सहयोग परिषद वाराणसी ने प्रवासी भारतीयों के स्वागत व सम्मान के लिए आईएमए कैंपस में एक समारोह का आयोजन किया। जिसमें मुख्य अतिथि के रूप में नगर की मेयर मृदुला जायसवाल, अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय सहयोग परिषद के महासचिव श्याम परांडे व समारोह के अध्यक्ष पद्मभूषण पं. छन्नू लाल मिश्र, मिस इंडिया अर्थ डॉ. संगीता सिंह एवं सीएमओ डॉ. वी. बी. सिंह व परिषद वाराणसी के अध्यक्ष पं. राम गोपाल मोहाले, डॉ. के. पी. अग्रवाल, रो. चंद्रशेखर कपूर और विशिष्ट अतिथि अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय सहयोग परिषद के राष्ट्रीय अध्यक्ष पूर्व राजदूत वीरेन्द्र गुप्ता थे।

समारोह का शुभारम्भ दीप प्रज्वलित करके

किया गया, जिसमें अतिथियों के अतिरिक्त गाजीपुर के सीडीओ हरिकेश चौरसिया, डॉ. बेला सैगल, श्री श्याम परांडे उपस्थित रहे। इस कार्यक्रम में दुनिया भर से आये सौ से ज्यादा प्रवासी भारतीयों ने भाग लिया। जिसमें सिंगापुर, मलेशिया, इंडोनेशिया, दुबई, मॉरीशस, संयुक्त राज्य अमेरिका, ऑस्ट्रेलिया, कनाडा एवं ब्रिटेन आदि से उपस्थित थे। जिसमें प्रवासी भारतीय सम्मान विजेता डॉ. मालिनी रंगनाथन (फ्रांस) भी विशेष रूप से उपस्थित थी। कार्यक्रम में सम्मानित अतिथि डॉ. संगीता सिंह (मिस इंडिया अर्थ) ने कहा कि दुनिया भर में नारी का सशक्तिकरण बहुत जरूरी है। यह प्रसन्नता की बात है कि विदेशों में रहने वाली भारतीय मूल की महिलाएं संसार में नया

कीर्तिमान स्थापित कर रही है।

कार्यक्रम के विशिष्ट अतिथि तथा अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय सहयोग परिषद के अध्यक्ष पूर्व राजदूत वीरेन्द्र गुप्ता ने प्रवासी भारतीय दिवस में भाग लेने के लिए विदेशों से आए प्रवासी भारतीयों के सम्मान में स्वागत समारोह आयोजित करने के लिए अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय सहयोग परिषद वाराणसी शाखा को बधाई देते हुए कहा कि प्रवासी भारतीय विश्व भर में भारत की शान बढ़ा रहे हैं। परिषद के महासचिव श्री श्याम परांडे ने प्रवासी भारतीयों के भारत से बढ़ते सम्बन्ध का उल्लेख करते हुए कहा कि अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय सहयोग परिषद भारत और प्रवासी भारतीयों के बीच के सम्बन्धों को बढ़ाने के लिए निरन्तर प्रयास कर रही है। □

### दुनिया के सर्वश्रेष्ठ शिक्षकों में दिल्ली के सरकारी स्कूल की अध्यापिका

दिल्ली के एक सरकारी स्कूल की अध्यापिका आरती कानूनगो ने ग्लोबल टीचर प्राइज के टॉप 50 में अपनी जगह बनाई है। 'ग्लोबल टीचर प्राइज' टीचिंग स्ट्रैटजी और सोसायटी के साथ जुड़कर एजुकेशन पर काम करने वाले टीचर्स को मिलती है। आरती ने लड़कियों की शिक्षा, स्वच्छता और हैपीनेस की तकनीक के बंदौलत यह मुकाम हासिल किया। इस अवॉर्ड के लिए 179 देशों में से दस हजार शिक्षकों ने आवेदन किया था।

आरती कानूनगो का विश्वास है कि इस प्रतियोगिता के जरिए वह अपने देश की शिक्षा

व्यवस्था का उत्कृष्ट नमूना दुनिया को दिखा सकें। गवर्नमेंट गर्ल्स सीनियर सेकेंडरी स्कूल, स्कूल ब्लॉक शकरपुर में इंग्लिश टीचर आरती 17 साल से बच्चों को पढ़ा रही है। पिछले साल आरती को बेस्ट टीचर का स्टेट प्राइज भी मिला था। वह 6वीं से 10वीं क्लास तक पढ़ाती हैं और उनकी पसंदीदा क्लास है—हैपीनेस क्लास। □



आरती कानूनगो

### यू. एस. कांग्रेस कमेटी में भारतीय प्रमुख नामित

भारतीय मूल के अमेरिकी सांसद एमी बेरा (53) को कांग्रेस की एक मुख्य उपसमिति का प्रमुख नामित किया गया है। उन्हें अमेरिका की विदेश नीति पर निगरानी रखने के लिए व्यापक क्षेत्राधिकार दिया जाएगा। चार बार से सांसद एमी विदेश मामलों की निगरानी और जांच से संबंधित उपसमिति के अध्यक्ष होंगे। एमी ने कहा, मेरा हमेशा से मानना रहा है अपने आदर्शों से दुनिया का नेतृत्व करना। राष्ट्रीय सुरक्षा के लिए काम करेंगे। □



एमी बेरा

## जर्मन महिला फ्रेडरिक को गो सेवा के लिए पद्मश्री सम्मान

गोसेवा के लिए ब्रज के संत रमेशबाबा के अलावा जर्मन की सुदेवी दासी (फ्रेडरिक इरिन ब्रूनिंग) को भी भारत सरकार ने पद्मश्री से सम्मानित करने की घोषणा की है। सुदेवी 19 साल की उम्र में भारत घूमने आई थी और ब्रज में बेसहारा गायों को देख वे गो सेवा के कार्य में लग गईं।

सुदेवी मूल रूप से जर्मनी के बर्लिन शहर की रहने वाली हैं। इसी दौरान मथुरा में सड़कों पर बेसहारा घूमती, असहाय और बीमार गायों को देख कर उसने गो सेवा का संकल्प लिया। राधाकुंड में गुरुजी से दीक्षा ली और गोसेवा का प्रकल्प शुरू कर दिया।



गोवर्धन के समीप कोन्हाई गांव में सुदेवी ने श्रीराधा सुरभि गो सेवा निकेतन बनाया है। यहां करीब 1400 के लगभग बेसहारा गोवंश को आसरा मिला हुआ है। घायल हुई गाय या गोवंश के लिए सुदेवी ने विशेष एंबुलेंस की व्यवस्था कर रखी है। इसमें एक बार में 8-10 गायों को आसानी से लाया जा सकता है। इस गोशाला में करीबन 50 लोग काम करते हैं। उनकी मांग है सरकार या तो उन्हें लंबे समय के लिए वीजा दे या फिर भारतीय नागरिकता प्रदान करें, जिससे वे अनवरत रूप से गो सेवा में लगी रहें। □

## पाकिस्तान में सिख यौद्धा नलवा के किले को संग्रहालय बनाया जाएगा

पाकिस्तान के खैबर पख्तूनख्वा प्रांत की सरकार ने एक सिख यौद्धा द्वारा बनाए गये ऐतिहासिक किले को संग्रहालय में तब्दील करने का निर्णय लिया है। हरिपुर जिले के इस किले का नाम सिख साम्राज्य की सेना 'सिख खालसा' के सेनाध्यक्ष हरि सिंह नलवा के नाम पर रखा गया है।

नलवा ने 1822 में 35,420 वर्ग फुट क्षेत्र में इस किले का निर्माण कराया था। अंग्रेजों ने भी इस किले में निर्माण संबंध कुछ काम किया था। खैबर पख्तूनख्वा के पुरातत्व विभाग ने मुख्यमंत्री महमूद खान को किले को नियंत्रण में लेने और इसे पर्यटकों के लिए खोलने के संबंध में एक पत्र भेजा है। हरिपुर के जिला प्रशासन ने पुरातत्व विभाग को किला सौंपने की इच्छा व्यक्त की है। □



## ऑक्सफोर्ड डिक्शनरी में 'नारी शक्ति' 2018 का हिन्दी शब्द चुना गया



ऑक्सफोर्ड डिक्शनरी ने महिलाओं के सशक्तिकरण के लिए हिन्दी के चर्चित शब्द 'नारी शक्ति' को साल 2018 का हिन्दी शब्द चुना गया है। जयपुर में आयोजित साहित्य महोत्सव के पैनल डिस्कशन में लंबी चर्चा के बाद इस शब्द को डिक्शनरी ऑफ 2018 में शामिल कर लिया गया है।

ऑक्सफोर्ड की तरफ से जारी बयान में कहा गया, 'साल का हिन्दी शब्द नारी शक्ति, एक शब्द या भाव है, जिसने काफी ध्यान खींचा है। यह पिछले साल की प्रकृति, मिजाज और विचारमग्नता को जाहिर करता है।' बयान के मुताबिक आज इस शब्द का इस्तेमाल महिलाओं द्वारा अपनी जिंदगी की बागडोर खुद संभालने के लिए किया जाता है। भारत में ऑक्सफोर्ड डिक्शनरी की टीम ने साल के हिन्दी शब्द का चुनाव किया। इसमें भाषा विशेषज्ञों की सलाहकारों की समिति की विशेष राय ली गई।

नारी का मतलब होता है महिला और पावर का मतलब होता है शक्ति। इस शब्द का पूरा मतलब होता है—महिला आज अपनी जिंदगी को स्वतंत्र रूप से जी रही है। □

## चीन की 'समन्वय हिन्दी' पत्रिका का लोकार्पण



चीन में प्रकाशित 'समन्वय हिन्दी' पत्रिका का लोकार्पण

भारतीय गणतंत्र के 70वें गणतंत्र दिवस के अवसर पर चीन के शंघाई स्थित भारतीय कौंसलावास द्वारा आयोजित कार्यक्रम में भारतीय कौंसलावास के प्रमुख अनिल कुमार राय ने 'समन्वय हिन्दी' नामक पत्रिका का लोकार्पण। पत्रिका के संपादक मंडल के सदस्यों नवीन चन्द्र लोहानी, पल्लवी गोरे, अनीता शर्मा के साथ किया। पत्रिका के संबंध में बताते हुए पत्रिका के प्रधान संपादक एवं भारतीय सांस्कृतिक संबंध परिषद पीठ के आचार्य नवीन चन्द्र लोहानी ने कहा कि इस दुनिया में तमाम देशों में हिन्दी भाषी पहुंच रहे हैं और वे अपनी भाषा को अभिव्यक्ति के साथ-साथ रचनात्मक लेखन में भी उतार रहे हैं। पत्रिका ने भारतीयों को ही नहीं बल्कि चीन के हिन्दी प्रेमियों को एक मंच सुलभ कराया है। पत्रिका के प्रवेशांक में 20 चीनी भाषा भाषियों के हिन्दी लेख प्रकाशित हुए हैं यह अपने तरह की पहली पत्रिका है जिसमें संपादक और लेखकों ने अपने अभिव्यक्ति के लिए हिन्दी को माध्यम बनाया है।

कार्यक्रम में अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय अध्ययन विश्वविद्यालय की दो छात्राओं प्रतिभा और लहर ने हिन्दी सीखने और भारत यात्रा के अनुभव सुनाए जिसे सुनकर तमाम भारतीय भावविभोर हो गए। उन्होंने हिन्दी सीखने और लिखने और भारत यात्रा और भारत के प्रति प्रेम को अभिव्यक्त करते हुए कहा कि भारत हमारे दिल में बस गया है। इस अवसर पर देशभक्ति गीत-संगीत के कार्यक्रम भी प्रस्तुत किए गए तथा विद्यार्थियों

दिल्ली में भी इस हिन्दी पत्रिका का जवाहर लाल नेहरू विश्वविद्यालय में लोकार्पण किया गया। इस अवसर पर भारतीय और चीनी विद्यार्थियों और शिक्षकों सहित अनेक गणमान्य नागरिक उपस्थित थे।

जवाहर लाल नेहरू विश्वविद्यालय में आयोजित कार्यक्रम में पूर्वी एशिया अध्ययन केन्द्र के अध्यक्ष प्रो. श्रीकान्त कौंडापल्ली, पेइचिंग विश्वविद्यालय चीन के च्यांग चिंग खेई, चीन अध्ययन केन्द्र के प्रो. बी आर दीपक, शंघाई विश्वविद्यालय के डॉक्टर राजीव रंजन हिन्दी विभाग जवाहर लाल नेहरू विश्वविद्यालय के

डॉक्टर राजेश पासवान संपादक मंडल की सदस्य रीना गुप्ता सहित अनेक शिक्षक शोधार्थी और विद्यार्थी सहित दर्जनों लोग शामिल थे। लगभग दो घंटे चले इस कार्यक्रम में लोगों ने पत्रिका की आवश्यकता और सामग्री पर चर्चा की तथा भविष्य के लिए स्तर के प्रयासों की आवश्यकता ही नहीं बताई बल्कि इस प्रकार प्रयासों को जारी रहने की जरूरत भी बतायी।

की मदद के लिए एप्प पत्रिका में बीजिंग बंगलौर, बनारस, सचऊ, लांच किया गया। होंगकू, लंदन, शिआन, क्वांगचऊ, कुनमिंग, भारतीय कौंसलावास क्वांगतोंग, शाओशिंग, शंघाई आदि अनेक शंघाई के अधिकारियों स्थानों से लेखक जुड़े हैं। भारतीयों के चीन के और कर्मचारियों सहित बारे में अनुभव है तो चीन के लोगों के भारत के भारतीय समुदाय के संदर्भ में अनेक अनुभव संकलित है। पत्रिका में लगभग 4 सौ से चीन में हिन्दी शिक्षण और भारत में चीनी शिक्षा अधिक लोग उपस्थित हिन्दी में उच्च शिक्षा पर भी गंभीर सामग्री थे। कार्यक्रम का प्रस्तुत की गई है। शिक्षा और संस्कृति और चीन संचालन कौंसलावास के विवाह, चीन की सांस्कृतिक परम्पराएं और प्रमुख अपर्णा गणेशन चीनी महिलाओं और महिलाओं पर आलेखों को ने किया और पुरस्कार विशेष तौर पर पत्रिका में स्थान दिया गया है। वितरण हर्षिता राय ने किया।

पत्रिका में भारत-चीन के हिन्दी लेखकों, शिक्षकों, पत्रकारों, शोधार्थियों व विद्यार्थियों की सांस्कृतिक, व्यावसायिक, सामाजिक, विज्ञान, खेल, पर्यावरण, चीन की द्रुतगामी रेल, सी आर आई के इतिहास, भारत-चीन के अनुभव, चीन के अनेक शहरों के संबंध में गंभीर विश्लेषणात्मक लेख, संस्मरण, यात्रा वृत्तांत और सूचनापरक आलेखों के साथ कहानी, मूल व



शंघाई विश्वविद्यालय की छात्रा चीन में हिन्दी की स्थिति पर व्याख्यान देते हुए

अनूदित उपन्यास अंश और चीनी कविताओं के अनुवाद भी हैं तथा भारतीय कौंसलावास सहित शंघाई स्थित कुछ भारतीय संस्थाओं की सांस्कृतिक गतिविधियों पर लेख और चीन के प्रमुख शहरों के हिन्दी नाम, चीन में हिन्दी शिक्षा व हिन्दी मीडिया पर विशेष सामग्री प्रकाशित की गई है। □