

ANTAR RASHTRIYA SAHAYOG PARISHAD BULLETIN

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ASIATIC REGISTRATION ACT—A CROOKED POLICY

(Continued from the Previous issue)



As soon as we landed at Cape Town, and more so when we reached Johannesburg, we saw that we had overrated the Madeira cablegram. Mr. Ritch who sent it was not responsible for this. He cabled only what he had heard about the measure being disallowed. As we have already observed, the Transvaal was then, that is to say in 1906, a Crown colony. Crown Colonies are represented in England by agents one of whose duties it is to instruct the Secretary of State for the Colonies in all matters affecting Colonial interests. The Transvaal was then represented by Sir Richard Solomon, the noted lawyer of South Africa. Lord Elgin had disallowed the Black Act in consultation with him. Responsible government was to be conferred on the Transvaal on January 1, 1907. Lord Elgin therefore assured Sir Richard that if an identical measure was passed by the Transvaal legislature constituted after the grant of responsible government, it would not be refused the royal assent. But so long as the Transvaal was a Crown Colony, the Imperial Government would be held directly responsible for such class legislation, and as racial discrimination was a departure from the fundamental principles of the British Empire, he could not but advise

His Majesty to disallow the measure in question.

If the measure was to be thus disallowed only in name and if the Transvaal Europeans could at the same time have their own way, Sir Richard Solomon had no reason to object to such an excellent arrangement. I have characterized this as crooked policy, but I believe it could be given a still harsher name with perfect justice. The Imperial Government is directly responsible for the legislation of Crown Colonies, and there is no place in its constitution for discrimination on the ground of race or colour. So far so good. One can also understand that the Imperial Government could not all at once disallow measures passed by the legislatures of Colonies enjoying responsible government. But to hold private conferences with Colonial agents and in advance to promise the royal assent to legislation which is in open violation of the Imperial Constitution,—what is this if it is not a breach of faith and an injustice to those whose rights are thus pilfered? Really speaking Lord Elgin by his assurance encouraged the Transvaal Europeans in their anti-Indian activities. If he wanted to do this, he ought to have told the Indian deputation so in plain terms. As a matter of fact the Empire cannot escape responsibility even for the legislation of Colonies enjoying responsible government. Even such Colonies are bound to accept the fundamental principles of the British Constitution. As for example no such colony can revive the institution of legalized slavery. If Lord Elgin

disallowed the Black Act because it was an improper piece of legislation, and he could disallow it only on this ground, it was his clean duty privately to have



✍ M K Gandhi

warned Sir Richard Solomon that the Transvaal could not enact such an iniquitous law after the grant of responsible government, and if it had any intention of doing so, the Imperial Government would be constrained to reconsider the advisability of granting it any such superior status. Or he should have told Sir Richard that responsible government could be conferred only on the condition that the rights of the Indians were fully safeguarded. Instead of following such straightforward procedure, Lord Elgin made an outward show of friendliness to the Indians, while at the same time he really and secretly supported the Transvaal Government and encouraged it to pass once more the very law which he had vetoed himself. This is not the only or the first case of such tortuous policy followed by the British Empire. Even an indifferent student of its history will easily recall similar incidents.

In Johannesburg, therefore, the sole topic of conversation was the trick played upon us by Lord Elgin and the Imperial Government. Our disappointment in South Africa was as deep as had been our joy in Madeira. Yet the immediate consequence of this deception was that the community

became even more enthusiastic than before. Everyone said that we must never fear as our struggle was independent of any help from the Imperial Government. We must look for assistance only to our own selves and to that God in Whose name we had pledged ourselves to resistance. And even crooked policy would in time turn straight if only we were true to ourselves.

Responsible government was established in the Transvaal. The first measure passed by the new Parliament was the budget; the second was the Asiatic Registration Act, which was, except for an alteration in the date specified in one of its clauses, which lapse of time made necessary, and exact replica of the original Ordinance, and was rushed through all its stages at a

single sitting on March 21, 1907. The disallowance of the Ordinance, therefore, was forgotten as if it was a dream. The Indians submitted memorials etc., as usual, but who would listen to them? The Act was proclaimed to take effect from July 1, 1907 and Indians were called upon to apply for registration under it before July 31. The delay in enforcing the Act was due not to any desire to oblige the

Indians, but to the exigencies of the case. Some time must elapse before the formal sanction of the Crown to the measure was signified, and the preparation of the forms set forth in schedules and the opening of permit offices at various centres would also take time. The delay therefore was intended solely for the Transvaal Government's own convenience.

(To be Continued)

PRAVASI BHARTIYA KENDRA, FOREIGN SERVICE INSTITUTE RENAMED IN HONOUR OF FORMER EAM SUSHMA SWARAJ

Central government has renamed the Pravasi Bhartiya Kendra as "Sushma Swaraj Bhawan" and Foreign Service Institute as "Sushma Swaraj Institute of Foreign Service" in honour of former external affairs minister Sushma Swaraj.



in its efforts at building bridges of friendship and cooperation with countries around the world and courses of interest to staff and officers at all levels of the ministry of external affairs as well as other civil Services. In 2007, SSIFS moved to its present location at Baba Gangnath Marg, Old JNU

Campus, New Delhi.

The announcement was made on the occasion of her birth anniversary falling on 14th February in honour of the legacy and decades of public service of the erstwhile External Affairs Minister.

The official press release by the External Affairs Ministry reads as follows, *"In a solemn tribute to the invaluable contribution of former External Affairs Minister late Smt. Sushma Swaraj to Indian diplomacy, the cause of the Indian diaspora and the ethos of public service, it has been decided to rename the Pravasi Bhartiya Kendra in New Delhi as Sushma Swaraj Bhawan and Foreign Service Institute also in New Delhi, as Sushma Swaraj Institute of Foreign Service."*

Institute of Foreign Service now renamed as Sushma Swaraj Institute of Foreign Service (SSIFS) was established in 1986 by the government of India primarily to cater to the professional training needs of the Indian Foreign Service and the Ministry of External Affairs, New Delhi. SSIFS has diversified its activities to include courses for foreign diplomats

Pravasi Bharatiya Kendra located at the heart of the capital Dr. Rizal Marg, Chanakyapuri, New Delhi is a tribute to the overseas Indian community; and commemorates their migration to various parts of the world, the challenges they faced abroad, their achievements and contributions. The Museum in the Kendra depict the history of migration of the overseas Indian community; their experiences and contributions. The Kendra also house the autonomous bodies India Centre for Migration, a think-tank working on issues pertaining to Indian migrant workers and the India Development Foundation for Overseas Indians, a not-for-profit Trust promoting contributions to flagship programmes in India. The Library in PBK is a valuable repository of material about the Indian Diaspora including books written by overseas Indians in different languages. With an emphasis on digital material, the library will provide access to online journals and prestigious library resources. □

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EDITOR

Keshav G. Parande
(M): 98113 92777

PRINTER

Avon Printers

D-6, Ranjit Nagar Comm. Complex,
New Delhi-110008
(M): 93123 05230
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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INDIA–BHUTAN RELATIONS

- Dr. Ruchi Verma

Antar Rashtriya Sahayog Parishad-Bharat (ARSP) organised a day long bilateral Conference in New Delhi on 17 January 2020 on India-Bhutan relations in partnership with Bharatiya Vidhya Bhawan at the auditorium of Bhartiya Vidhya Bhawan. The main idea of this conference was to highlight the relationship between India and Bhutan in all its aspects including political, economical and cultural dimensions with particular focus on examining the manner in which this relationship has evolved during the last few decades with extensive economic and developmental linkages which had created huge mutual benefit for people of both the countries.



(L to R) Ambassador of Bhutan V. Namgyel on the podium, Prof. Gopal Arora, Amb. Virendra Gupta, Shri Ashok Pradhan & Dr. Shashibala

The Inaugural session at the Auditorium of Bhartiya Vidhya Bhawan, packed to capacity, was chaired by Amb. Virendra Gupta, President of ARSP. Ambassador of Bhutan to India Major General Vetsop Namgyel was the guest of honour. Director of Bhartiya Vidhya Bhawan Shri Ashok Pradhan was also present. Prof. Gopal Arora ARSP Secretary delivered the welcome address.

Amb. Major General Vetsop Namgyel in his keynote address illustrated that India and Bhutan share a unique and time tested bilateral relationship, characterised by utmost trust, goodwill and mutual understanding. This special relationship has been sustained by a tradition of regular high level visits and dialogues between the two countries. The fact that Bhutan was the first country visited by Prime Minister Modi after taking office is indicative of the importance attached by him towards relationship with Bhutan. Government of India has consistently supported the socio-economic development of Bhutan. Hydro-power cooperation between the two countries is an example of win-win cooperation. India is Bhutan's largest trading partner and in 2018, total bilateral trade between the two countries crossed Rs. 9000 crores.

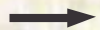
Amb. Gupta noted that founder Secretary General of ARSP late Sh. Baleshwar Agrawal had a great affection for Bhutan and ARSP had developed a tradition of sending goodwill missions to Bhutan. Holding a bilateral conference, for the first time, was being done with a view to carrying forward that engagement and to supplement the g-to-g ties through dialogue between academics, opinion makers and civil society organizations that would provide requisite resilience to our relations and create a better environment and wherewithal to deal with any irritants or misunderstandings that might arise from time to time, while India had excellent relationship with Bhutan, this should not be taken for granted and both sides should take adequate care to show sensitivity to each other concerns.

Dr. Shashibala ARSP Joint Secretary presented the vote of thanks.

Besides the formal opening and closing sessions, the conference had three technical sessions to develop separate themes namely i) Political and security relations ii) Economic and commercial relations and iii) Cultural and religious relations. Many renowned Bhutanese scholars like Amb. Kesang Wangdi, Former

Cabinet Secretary, Dasho Kinley Dorji, Former Secretary for Ministry of Information and Communications, Dasho Kunzang Wangdi, Former Chief Election Commissioner, Lyonpo Thakur Singh Powdyel, Former Minister for Education, Royal Government of Bhutan, along with eminent Indian scholars and diplomats presented their papers. Shri Bhupinder Singh Bhalla, Additional Secretary, Department of Commerce, Ministry of Commerce & Industry, GOI also graced the conference. In addition, Intellectuals from esteemed Universities and think tanks- Prof. Sanjay K. Bhardwaj, Jawaharlal Nehru University, Dr. Madhuri Sukhija, Dr. Medha Bisht, Delhi University, Dr. Ashok K. Behuria, IDSA Dr. Markandey Rai-Chariman Foreign Affair Committee, Shri. Amit Gupta Joint Secretary ARSP also added value to the discussion. Over 30 scholars and experts from India and Bhutan deliberated on these themes. In addition, several members from Bhutanese Embassy, Bhutanese students in various colleges in NCR and local scholars attended the various sessions of their interest.

The three technical sessions deliberated on the relevant themes





ARSP Members with Bhutanese Delegates and Students

with greater depth and full frankness. The conference generated serious interest not only amongst the academicians and scholars but equally among the political/diplomatic community and media. Several important issues like- shared vision to prosperity (B2B), hydro power cooperation, civil society

engagement, trade agreements, cultural identities, tourism, Gross National Happiness etc were discussed.

Participants explained in details what makes India-Bhutan relationship so unique. It is based on several factors. Bhutan is linked to India by geography

and culture. For Bhutan, India is the land of Lord Buddha. Buddhism is the faith which has added meaning and substance in Bhutanese life. Bhutan is a land locked country with China and India as neighbours and the key to Bhutan's prosperity lies in having close relationship with India. □

AMBASSADOR TARANJIT SINGH SANDHU PRESENTS CREDENTIALS TO US PRESIDENT

Taranjit Singh Sandhu, India's ambassador designate to the United States, has presented his credentials to President Donald Trump at the White House on February 13, 2020. Taranjit succeeds Ambassador Harsh Vardhan Shringla, who has been promoted as the Foreign Secretary. He has also been at the Permanent Mission of India to United Nations, New York from July 2005 to February 2009. He is married to Reenat Sandhu, who is Ambassador of India to Italy. In his successful career of over 30 years in the Indian Foreign Service since 1988, Sandhu started his diplomatic career from former Soviet Union (Russia) where he worked as Third Secretary (Political) /Second Secretary (Commercial) in the Indian Mission from 1990 to 1992. After the breakup of Soviet Union, he was sent to open a new embassy in Ukraine. He has also been an Officer on Special Duty (Press Relations), Ministry of External Affairs from December 1995 to March 1997, and was responsible for liaison with foreign media in India. □



DIPLOMATIC POSTINGS

Shri Gopal Baglay (IFS:1992) has been appointed as the next High Commissioner of India to the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka.

Shri Ajay Bisaria (IFS:1987), High Commissioner of India to Pakistan,

has been appointed as the next High Commissioner of India to Canada.

Shri Vinay Mohan Kwatra (IFS:1988), presently Ambassador, Embassy of India, Paris, has been appointed as the next Ambassador of India to Nepal. □

ROLE OF ROMA IN STRENGTHENING RELATIONSHIP WITH INDIA

Centre for Roma Studies and Cultural Relations-ARSP organized a Round-Table Deliberation on the Role and Contribution of Roma Community in fostering relationship and friendship between India and their respective native countries on 5 February 2020 at Pravasi Bhavan. The discussion was graced by the participation of Ambassadors and Representatives of the diplomatic corps along with ARSP office bearers, Roma experts and other dignitaries. The deliberation broached various aspects of Roma community including socio-economic conditions, political representation, identity crisis and health-education status in the countries where there is a large concentration of Romani populations.

The theme of discussion was introduced by Zameer Anwar who said, India connection of Romani people appears axiomatic from considerable cultural and linguistic similarities and is further substantiated based on anthropological, ethnological and genetic findings. There are empirical evidences to believe that Romani language and a considerable part of core Romani culture are readily identified as the direct transmission from India.

The discussion was moderated by Sri ShyamParande, Secretary General of ARSP. In his welcome remarks, he asserted that the identity crisis and rootlessness of Roma community may be resolved through recognizing them of Indian origin that is already acceptable globally. Romani people are spread throughout the world including Brazil, Latin American countries, USA, Russia and Europe. He said, the mindset of people is to be changed and stereotyped projection of Roma is to be shed off for betterment of the community. Sri Parande further added that we wish to engage with every section of Roma community, residing anywhere in the world. Keeping in mind our limitations, we try to communicate and collaborate with Romani organizations and NGOs having democratic and wider representation of the community.

In his speech, Serbian Ambassador H.E. Vladimir Mariæ said, he has personal connection with Roma community because his grandfather, father and he himself grew up in the area that is in proximity with Roma



Roma Delegates and ARSP Members

settlements. Therefore, he knows and understands them better. H.E. Vladimir Mariæ emphasized on establishing people to people contact with Roma belonging to different spheres of life. Roma are consummate musicians, so they should be invited to participate in the musical workshops or perform at cultural festivals and that what they expect from India. Through this way the sense of Indianness will grow amongst them. Earlier, the condition of Roma in Serbia was not well off, but now things are changing, because Serbia is developing as a result the condition of Roma is improving as well. Ambassador appreciated CRSCR - ARSP for invitation for participating in substantial and fruitful discussion about Roma community.

Mr. Frantisek Jirasek, Counsellor at Embassy of Czech Republic in New Delhi, shared his experiences of meeting and interacting with Romani people. He said, there are a sizable number of Romani people living with us for many years. Mr. Jirasek further said there is no doubt that anti Roma feeling prevailing among white people, but it is up to Roma for improving their conditions. If they want to work and send their children to school, there is no restriction.

Mr. Bodogh Szabo Pal, Cultural Counsellor at Embassy of Hungary in New Delhi, spoke about the success story of integration of Roma in Hungarian societies, consequently the unemployment is diminishing among Roma community. He pointed out the contribution of Roma in literature, art, music, painting, sculpting and so on and so forth is notable and very significant. Romani people are now working and taking part in both primary and higher education. Mr. Szabo Pal further added that it is also true that Romani populations are

overrepresented in crime.

Mr. Mihail Munteanu, Counsellor at Embassy of Romania in New Delhi apprised that every colleges and university in Romania offers scholarship to Roma people every year, besides that many locally based NGOs are also providing free education service to Roma. The integration of Roma in mainstream is very hard, though sociologists are working for facilitating the integration process. Romani theatre in Romania is playing an important role in keeping their culture alive. Mr. Munteanu further marked that there was no political representation of Roma in Romania.

During the Question & Answer Session, Prof. Prassannasu at National Law University remarked, crime is not something inherent or racial reason, but it is because of deprivation, therefore it is symptom that requires our help rather than accusation. Roma face discrimination in schools. As far as ethnic origin of Roma is concerned, it is not important. If Roma feel some connection with India, that is important. Such connect is eloquent in form of language and culture. Dr. S.S. Shashi talked about discrimination against Roma that is widespread as well as false projection of poor Roma as criminals and thieves is commonplace in different countries of the world. Dr. Punita Singh and Dr. Shashi Bala also raised the question of policy for their integration. They said, not only governmental policy but intention and good faith are also significant in the amicable integration of Roma community.

Serbian ambassador said CRSCR-ARSP can count on his embassy for concrete help in terms of exchange and selection of Romani musicians, while he replied to the question, asked by Amb. Sachdeva, Chairperson of CRSCR, pertaining to help in organizing cultural festival, workshop, conference and exchange with its own budget.

In concluding remarks, Amb. Sachdeva emphasized on reinforcing the bond with Romani institutions and intensifying people to people connection by the virtue of academic, social and cultural engagement with the community. □

Report By Zameer Anwar

ARSP New Life Members

- | | | | | |
|-----|---|--|---|----------------------------------|
| 1. | Shri K. L. Nathani
C-102, Emerald Court,
Essel Towers, Gurugram-122 002 | Retd. Vice President KIRLOSKAR
9711103355
klnathani@gmail.com |  | K. L. Nathani |
| 2. | Shri Shiv Kumar Sharma
F-1803, Adani Oyster Grande,
Sector-102, Gurugram-122 001 | Chartered Accountant
9891909073
casks63@gmail.com |  | Shiv Kumar Sharma |
| 3. | Shri Paresh Gupta
P-40, Sector-12,
Noida | Retd. Officer Central Govt.
8130158291
paresh_hwr@rediffmail.com |  | Paresh Gupta |
| 4. | Shri Vivek Mittal
A1-405, Krishna Apra Garden,
Indirapuram, Ghaziabad | IT Advisor
9810975692
vivek.mittal@yahoo.co.in |  | Vivek Mittal |
| 5. | Dr. J. K. Mittal
A-1/405, Krishna Apra Gardern,
Vaibhav Khand, Indirapuram, Ghaziabad | Retd. Principal
9358916283
drjkmittal@rediffmail.com |  | J. K. Mittal |
| 6. | Shri Mahesh Kumar Aggarwal
D-251, Sector-47,
Noida | Self Employee & Professional
9810158934
mkaggarwal@hotmail.com |  | Mahesh Kumar Aggarwal |
| 7. | Shri Virender Kumar Srivastava
A8/12, Sulabh Awas, Sector-6,
Gomti Nagar Vistar, Lucknow-226 010 | Business
8210858955
vk1792532@gmail.com |  | Virender Kumar Srivastava |
| 8. | Smt. Deepti Aggarwal
E-127, Phase-I,
Ashok Vihar, Delhi-110 052 | Pursuing Ph.D on Indian Diaspora
9818521188
deeptiaggarwalmail@gmail.com |  | Deepti Aggarwal |
| 9. | Shri Kamal Kumar Kaushik
H.No.69, 2nd Floor, Woodstock,
Nirvana Country, Gurugram | Chartered Accountant
9717890317
kkkindia_ca@rediffmail.com |  | Kamal Kumar Kaushik |
| 10. | Shri Abhishek Singhal
E-21, Westend Heights,
DLF, Phase-5, Gurugram | Business
9818425752
abhishek@luxaddi.com |  | Abhishek Singhal |
| 11. | Smt. Shweta Singhal
E-21, Westend Heights,
DLF, Phase-5, Gurugram | Business
9810026243
shweta@luxaddi.com |  | Shweta Singhal |
| 12. | Shri Pawan Kumar
685, Sector-52, 1st Floor,
Gurugram | Business
9958885341
pawankharb@gmail.com |  | Pawan Kumar |
| 13. | Shri Lalit Mohan Sharma
685, Sector-52,
Gurugram | Tourism
9910038075
lalitsharma@adionatravels.com |  | Lalit Mohan Sharma |
| 14. | Smt. Geetika Dhawan
A-201, Connoisseur Twin Tower,
Sector-43, Gurugram | Entrepreneur
9818379973
sgdhawan12@rediffmail.com |  | Geetika Dhawan |
| 15. | Shri Nikhil Sharma
T4/001, Parsvnath Greenville,
Sector-48, Gurugram-122 018 | Entrepreneur
955550650
me@nikhilsharma.com |  | Nikhil Sharma |
| 16. | Shri Kartikay Sharma
B-001, Raheja Atlantis
Sector-31, Gurugram-122 001 | Student
9811297200
sharma85kartikay@gmail.com |  | Kartikay Sharma |

ARSP FELICITATED 40 DELEGATES OF 59TH KIP



(From L to R) Prof. S.N. Gupta, Er. R.D. Gupta, Elia Sevutia, Narayan Kumar, Ms. T.S. Chitram and Pawan Jain

Diaspora Research and Resource Centre (DRRC)-Antar Rashtriya Sahayog Parishad (ARSP) organized Felicitation and Interaction Program for PIO youth delegates of 59th Know India Programme (KIP) at Pravasi Bhawan, Delhi on 21st of January 2020.

KIP is a flagship initiative of the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India for engaging Indian Diaspora youth aged between 18 and 30 in knowing their roots and contemporary India. The forty delegates of 59th KIP representing eight countries including Guyana, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, Mauritius, Sri Lanka, Myanmar, South Africa, and Fiji were on the trip to India for the duration of three weeks. They visited Himachal Pradesh, besides National Capital Region of India, New Delhi where they called upon places of historical, cultural and religious importance and interacted with Non-profit organizations, senior leaders and officials, besides comprehending Indian economy and society.

Amb. Anup Mudgal, Chairperson of DRRC welcomed the delegates, guests and the other dignitaries. He provided a bird's-eye view to the delegates on the contemporary developments in India as well as the latest development pertaining to Diaspora activities and performances. He said, Indian Diaspora have performed exceedingly well in all

aspects of political, social, economic and technology fields and they act as a bridge to connect India with their respective countries where they are residing.

The program was graced by Taramatee Sabrina Chitram, First Secretary of the Republic of Guyana and Elia Sevutia, Second Secretary of Fiji, besides other guests. Senior Members of ARSP Prof. S.N Gupta, Sri Pawan Jain, Er. R. D. Gupta and Dr. Raghubans briefed the participants about the strength of Indian Economy, education, technology, democratic values and vision of PM Modi about New India.

Ms. Taramatee Sabrina Chitram said, this kind of interaction was greatly enlightening and uplifting and we the people of Guyana refer India as Mother Land and take delight in its extensive and glorious civilization. She exhorted Guyanaian delegates to use their observation and experience acquired on the trip as a basis to educate and inform the people of their country about India.

Mr. Elia Sevutia stated that, India and Fiji enjoyed special relations and KIP

is a wonderful platform to engage and connect with the youths of Indian Diaspora who act as a true agent of effecting strong relation and friendship between India and their home countries.

Workshop was conducted by Ms. Arunima Gupta of Vision India Foundation on the theme "Engaging Diaspora: Connecting Across Generations". Apart from her presentation on the alive subject she also informed the delegates about policies and social welfare programs launched by the Government of India and acquainting them with a slew of opportunities such as higher education through ICCR and short-term capacity building programmes under The Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) Programme, MEA, Govt. of India. The workshop was interactive in nature in order to know aspirations and expectations of delegates from India.



KIP Delegates and Guests in Interactive Session

The programme was concluded with the vote of thank by Sri Narayan Kumar and quality interaction between KIP delegates and guests, sharing their experiences and expedition to Himachal Pradesh. The delegates were emotional and happy with warm welcome and the magnificent hospitality they received wherever they went to. □

Balmiki Ramayan Photographic Exhibition in Trinidad and Tobago



One of the images of the Balmiki Ramayan from the Rampur Raza Library

Fifty images of the Balmiki Ramayan from the Rampur Raza Library in India are here in TT on exhibition at the Art Society, Federation Park, Port of Spain.

Each piece was translated into English for the local audience.

The Balmiki Ramayan is a centuries-old treasure of 17,000 ancient manuscripts preserved in their natural splendour.

The Persian manuscript is invaluable in its contributions as the 258 photographic images contained within it depict the art, architecture and culture of that period, according to Arun Kumar Sahu, High Commissioner of India.

The society has partnered with the Mahatma Gandhi Institute of Cultural Co-operation and the High



His excellency, Arun Kumar Sahu, High Commissioner of India to TT, centre, alongside Amit Misra, managing director of New India Insurance and Aniruddha Das, second secretary at the High Commission of India

Commission of India to host the exhibition.

Speaking at the official launch, Ambassador Sahu told that Ramayana, originally written by Valmiki, tells the story of a prince, Rama of the city of Ayodhya, and is one of the two major Sanskrit epics of ancient India, the other being the Mahabharata and the story has been told and retold in various forms for generations in India and in several countries around the world, including TT.

He said it gave him immense pleasure to bring one of the treasures of India, an exhibition of Balmiki (Valmiki) Ramayan transliterated from Sanskrit to Persian by Sumir Chand in 1715, during the reign of Farrukhsiyar, a Mughal emperor. "The Rampur Raza Library in Rampur, Uttar Pradesh owns the original manuscript. This manuscript is in the Persian Nasta'liq script written with gold water and like other manuscripts of that period, is beautifully illustrated.



In this picture, Lord Rama and Laxmana are sitting, while Sugreev and Hanuman standing respectfully with others.

"The three volumes of this Persian version have also been translated into Hindi and edited by Prof Shah Abdus Salam and Dr Waqarul Hasan Siddiqui," Kumar Sahu said.

Kumar Sahu said the exhibition of Sumir Chand's Balmiki Ramayana is for art lovers, patrons, academics and art historians in TT.

He thanked the society for partnering with the Mahatma Gandhi institute. Works and Transport Minister Rohan Sinanan said the occasion is one of the most memorable time for TT.

"If you truly understand the Balmiki Ramayana it tells you all about the life of Lord Ram, how he lived, his exile and his return. I think most of the indentured labourers who came to Trinidad, if it's one thing we are sure every family had was a copy of the Ramayana." Sinanan urged guests to understand what the message is all about within the book and respect the manuscript.



Arshad Khan, tabla instructor of Mahatma Gandhi Institute for Cultural Co-operation, alongside Deepack Manohar, Everald "Redman" Watson, Hanif Goodridge and Obadele Allick, shortly after performing their musical collaboration using the steelpan, tabla drum and african drum.

Also in attendance was Port of Spain mayor Joel Martinez, president of the Art Society Peter Sheppard, chairman of the Coosal Group of Companies Sieunarine Coosal, among others. □

GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCES PADMA AWARDS TO PIOs/INDOLOGISTS OF FOREIGNERS COUNTRIES

Padma Vibhushan



Sir Anerood Jugnauth GCSK

Fourteen foreigners, majority of them of the Indian origin, including Mauritian politician Anerood Jugnauth, have been named for the Padma Awards on the eve of 71st Republic Day. Jugnauth has been named for Padma Vibhushan, the second highest civilian award, in the field of public affairs. Jugnauth, who served as the President and the Prime Minister of Mauritius, was a central figure in the Mauritian politics in the 1980s and 1990s. Jagdish Sheth, based in the USA, will be receiving Padma Bhushan in the field of literature and education. Twelve foreigners have been named for Padma Shri. It included late Indra Dassanayake, a well-known Hindi literary personality who taught Hindi at the University of Kelaniya, Sri Lanka. Dassanayake strived for emergence of Hindi as a world language. Another awardee is Barry Strachan Gardiner, British Labour Party leader who has served as Shadow Secretary of State for International Trade since 2016. Another notable foreign personality in the list is late Tetsu Nakamura for his social work in Afghanistan. A Japanese physician and honorary Afghan, Nakamura headed the Peace Japan Medical Services (PMS). Devoted to the Kunar river canal projects in eastern Afghanistan, he was credited for transforming the desert of Gamberi, on the outskirts of Jalalabad, into a lush forest and wheat farmlands. He also helped build two hospitals and two mosques. The Padma Awards are given in three categories - Padma Vibhushan, Padma Bhushan and Padma Shri - in various fields of activities like art, social work, public affairs, science and engineering, trade and industry, medicine, literature and education, sports, civil service. Padma Vibhushan is awarded for exceptional and distinguished service, Padma Bhushan for distinguished service of high order and Padma Shri for distinguished service in any field.

Padma Bhushan



Dr. Jagdish Sheth

Dr. Jagdish Sheth of the Goizueta Business School at Emory University has been awarded the Padma Bhushan Award for literature and education in recognition of his contributions to academia, industry, government, and communities around the world.

Padma Shri



MP Bob Blackman

British Conservative Party MP Bob Blackman has been conferred with the Padma Shri award for his contribution to the field of Public Affairs. He took his oath on both the Bible and the Bhagavad Gita during the swearing-in at the House of Commons becoming the first British MP to do so.



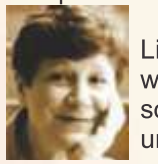
Dr. Vajira Chitrasena

Deshbandhu Dr Vajira Chitrasena at 87 is considered a living legend in Sri Lanka. She has been honoured with the Padma Shri for her contribution to Indo-Sri Lankan ties through dance. She has fused Sri Lanka's Kandyan dance form with Odissi.



Late Prof. Indra Dassanayake

Late Prof. Indra Dassanayake has contributed to the spread of Hindi literature in the island nation. An alumnus of the University of Lucknow, she was a renowned professor of Hindi at Kelaniya University. Born in India in 1943, she is instrumental in introducing and promoting Hindi in educational institutions in Sri Lanka. She passed away in September 2019.



Lia Diskin

Lia Diskin, a Gandhian, was honoured for her social work that she has undertaken for over three

decades. She has been actively involved in disseminating Gandhian philosophy and values of peace and non-violence in Latin America.



Gloria Azeria

Gloria Azeria was awarded for her contribution to literature and education. A pioneer in Sanskrit and Vedanta, she has dedicated most of her time to teaching and promoting Advaita Vedanta in Portuguese language.



Barry Gardiner

Barry Gardiner has been awarded Padma Shri for his contribution for propagation of Indian culture. The award of the Padma Shri is a singular honour which I will humbly accept on behalf of Labour Friends of India for the work it has done with the Indian diaspora in the U.K. for the past 21 years.



Dr. Prithwindra Mukherjee

Dr. Prithwindra Mukherjee, Paris-based legendary researcher, author, musicologist, grandson of illustrious revolutionary Jatindranath Mukherjee alias 'Bagha Jatin' and respected member of Overman Foundation, Dr. Prithwindra Mukherjee has been conferred with the prestigious 'Padma Shri' for his contribution in the field of literature and education.



Prof S.P. Kothari

Prof S.P. Kothari, Distinguished Alumnus awardee, BITS Pilani has been elevated to the position of Chief Economist and Director of the Division of Economic and Risk Analysis (DERA) of U S Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC). He is professor of accounting and finance and recently ended a six-year term as Deputy Dean of MIT Sloan School of Management. He brings with him a wide-reaching insight from his decades of contributions as a leader in applying sophisticated research to the operation of financial markets.





Tetsu Nakamura

Tetsu Nakamura (Nakamura Tetsu, Pashto), also known as Kaka Murad (15 September 1946 - 4 December 2019), was a Japanese physician and honorary Afghan citizen who headed Peace Japan Medical Services (PMS), an aid group known as Peshawar-kai in Japanese. Nakamura devoted to building canal projects, from the Kunar River in eastern Afghanistan and was credited for transforming the desert of Gamberi, on the outskirts of Jalalabad, into lush forests and productive wheat farmlands. He also constructed two hospitals and two mosques. In October 2019, Afghan president Ashraf Ghani granted him honorary Afghan citizenship. On 4 December 2019, as Nakamura was heading to work in his aid vehicle in Jalalabad, Afghanistan, he was assassinated by gunmen along with his bodyguards and driver.

Amartya Sen and Kenneth Arrow, Pattanaik is an advisory editor for Social Choice and Welfare. Padma Shri awardee Pattanaik is emeritus professor at the Department of Economics at the University of California.



Rsi Agus Indra Udayana

Rsi Udayana has been awarded Padma Shri for his consistent contribution in the social and cultural fields through the development of Gandhian values in Indonesia. He is the founder and chairman of Ashram Gandhi Puri in Bali who actively spreads the values of non-violence, honesty and humanitarianism. Rsi Udayana is also actively involved in international inter-faith dialogue forums and currently serves as the Sarvodaya Trustee International Trust President of Gandhi Global Family Indonesia.

recognises Mr. Watsa's significant contributions, including the initiatives of the Fairfax India Charitable Foundation (FICF), in delivering measurable social impact among India's poorest and towards creating a sustainable ecosystem for the local community.



Romesh T. Wadhvani

Romesh T. Wadhvani founded the Symphony Technology Group in 2002, which now has a revenue of \$2.5 billion annually. Last year, Wadhvani ranked at number 261 of the Forbes list of 400 richest Americans and at number 667 in Forbes list billionaires. Wadhvani moved from Karachi to India during India's partition with his family at young age. He received a bachelor's degree from the Indian Institute of Technology, Bombay, and master's and Ph.D degrees in electrical engineering from Carnegie Mellon University. He established the Wadhvani Foundation for economic development in emerging economies, with an initial focus on India. In 2012, he inaugurated a new research centre at the National Centre for Biological Sciences (NCBS) in Bangalore, named after his late mother, Shanta Wadhvani. □



Prof. Prasanta Kumar Pattanaik

Prof Prasanta Pattanaik of University of California is a pioneer of the alternative methods of measuring social and cultural deprivation. Along with



Prem Watsa

Mr. Prem Watsa, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Fairfax, has been honoured with the Padma Shri, in recognition of his contributions to transforming India. The Padma Shri

NOVELIST AMITABHA BAGCHI WINS SOUTH ASIAN LIT PRIZE

Amitabha Bagchi's novel, *Half The Night Is Gone*, has won the DSC Prize for South Asian Literature 2019. He takes home a cash prize of 25,000 US dollars. The announcement was made at the Nepal Literature Festival in the panoramic city of Pokhara on 16 December 2019. Bagchi is the author of three novels: *Above Average*, *The Householder* and *This Place*. His latest novel is a post-colonial narrative which unfolds over three generations and maps the intertwining of fates and cultures.

The jury citation read, "This novel, written in English, feels like a book written in an Indian language, and has the authenticity and the interiority of a work in translation without in fact being a translation... It is epic in scope, profound in its exploration of class and gender, and elegantly assured in the way it infuses English with Indian wit and wisdom to achieve an unprecedented commingling of different literatures and cultures."

Jury Chair Harish Trivedi, speaking on

behalf of the jury said, "For the five jury members located in five different countries, reading 90 novels in 90 days was a transformative experience. Over the months, we arrived at a diverse and inclusive longlist of 15 and a shortlist of 6 novels, representing the polyphonic richness of the region. It is out of this collective literary churning that there has emerged a winner whose work subsumes many languages and sensibilities." □



TRUMP NOMINATES PIO TO HEAD NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION

US President Donald Trump has nominated Indian-American engineer-scientist Dr Sethuraman Panchanathan as Director of the National Science Foundation, the White House announced on 19 December 2019.



supports fundamental research and education in all the nonmedical fields of science and engineering, backed by a budget of nearly \$8 billion.

Dr Panchanathan is the second Indian-American to head the prestigious 70-year old foundation after Dr Subra Suresh, like him a Chennai-born IIT-ian, who was nominated to lead it in 2010. Although the directorship is for a six-year team, Dr Suresh had left after three years. The outgoing NSF director Dr. France A. Cordova, also an Obama appointee, is just concluding her six-year term. □

Panchanathan, a graduate of Indian Institute of Science (1984) and Indian Institute of Technology (1986), will have to be confirmed by the Senate before he can lead the US government's foremost agency that

The founding director of the Centre for Cognitive Ubiquitous Computing at Arizona State University, he is currently the university's executive vice-president and the Chief research and innovation officer.

SINO-INDIA PUBLISHING CONFERENCE

A Conference on Sino-India Publishing followed by the launch of 20 books, translated from Chinese to Hindi, Tamil, Urdu and English, was held at the International Events Corner in the presence of Prof. Govind Prasad Sharma, Chairman, National Book Trust India.

Prof. Govind Prasad Sharma said that the India and China are the two oldest civilizations and the two, also being neighbours, have strengthened their relations over the years. In continuation, he recalled the memories of the famous slogan, *Hindi-Cheeni Bhai Bhai*, wherein he also noted the fact that Buddhism has successfully influenced the views of the Chinese Society. Simultaneously, Confucianism has also made its impact on the Indian society.

Prof. Baldev Bhai Sharma of Central University of Dharamshala, mentioned books as a source to preserve and protect humanity and wished that the flame of humanity remain ignited in the hearts of the people of both the countries.

Mr. Zhang Jianxin, Chinese Culture Counsellor, who spoke in Hindi and English, talked about Indo-China

cultural exchanges. He said that he used to study Indian books and continues to do so and expressed that it is his responsibility to promote friendly relationship through cultural exchanges between the two countries.

Prof. Zhang Zhiqian, Dean, Nanjing University, China, presented a brief status of published books in China. Ms. Gong Haiyan, Vice President, east China Normal University Press, observed that the press serves the development of research, teaching and academics in their country. She pointed out, that unlike such presses abroad, the University Presses in China are commercial ventures.

The session was followed by the launch of the books: Hindi (10 titles), English (7 titles), Urdu (2 titles) and Tamil (1 title). Some of the titles that were launched included *Cheen Mein Garibi Unmulan* by Faing Yunjhong; *Cheen Ka Bauddh Darshan Aur Paramparik Sanskriti* by Faing Litian; *Dodo, Pehli Kaksha Mein* by Miss Fox; *Pran Bachae Prem Apaar* by Guo Luo; *Bhoomi Mukti* by Shiyen Pu; *Teen Nadiyon Ke Srot Ka Bachaav* by He Vei; *Cheen Mein Chintan Aur Sanskriti*, and *Shanti Ke Rakhwale* :

Neele Top Wale by Vei Hechu; An Ideological History of the Communist Party of China (Three Volumes) and Solar Grid-Connected Photovoltaic Power Generation Technology by Sun Xiangdong; Tom-Honored Brands by Lili Du; Qomolangma and The development and application of China's Remote Sensing Satellites by Hu Ruzhong and others; The Rooster Crows by Wang Ronghua; and Smart Cities by Xu Jing and Tan Zhanglu.

Prof. Rajendra, the translator of the books from Chinese to Hindi and English, expressed that books are the key element to accelerate friendship between the two neighbouring nations.

The programme was organised at the International Event Corner by Royal Collins Publishing Group. The Royal Collins Group is a global publisher and distributor based in Montreal, Canada. Besides, they also offer publishing solutions, print and e-book distribution, print-on-demand and digital services. They have published over 400 books from China in English, Spanish, French, Hindi, Arabic, Tamil and other languages. □

PIOs in 'GREAT OFFICE OF STATE' in UK

UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson has appointed Indian-origin Rishi Sunak as his new Chancellor of the Exchequer (finance minister), Priti Patel as the Home Secretary and Alok Sharma as the Secretary of State for business, energy and industrial strategy, during recent ministerial reshuffle.

Rishi Sunak replaced Sajid Javid who resigned from the post. Sunak is married to the daughter of Infosys co-founder Narayana Murthy, Akshata Murthy. He is affiliated with the British



Conservative Party and has been a Member of Parliament for Richmond (Yorks) since October 2014. Before being appointed as the Chancellor of

the Exchequer, Sunak was the second in command to the finance minister as the Chief Secretary to the Treasury and oversaw public spending.

Ms. Priti Patel is the Indian origin MP. She was born in UK to Gujarati parents moving from Uganda. Alok Sharma, is an Agra born ex-banker is also minister for 26th session of the Conference of the Parties (COP26), UN's next big Climate Summit in Glasgow from 9-19 November 2020. □

His Majesty The King Grants An Audience To Participants of the 13th Scouts Leadership Training Programme

His Majesty The King granted an Audience to the participants of the 13th Scouts Leadership Training at Tencholing, Wangduephodrang on 12 January 2020.

63 girls and 62 boys participated in the three-week training programme, which started on 23rd December 2019. The scouts were class 10 students selected from their various Dzongkhags across Bhutan. The programme included physical training, rescue, aid, and disaster management skills training, and classes on values, team work, etc.

His Majesty The King congratulated the participants for being selected, and expressed appreciation that they chose to spend their vacation in the programme.



The Scouts Leadership Programme, which includes one in summer for class 12 students, was initiated as part of an overall exercise to revitalise and strengthen scouting in Bhutan, by the Department of Youth and Sports,

following Royal Command, so that the large number of scouts and their spirit of voluntarism, created fertile opportunity to equip and empower children to strengthen themselves and serve their communities and country.



The top 5 Class 12 Scouts who participate in the summer leadership programme are recipients of His Majesty's Scholarships. So far, 25 students have received scholarships and are pursuing their tertiary education in various colleges overseas. □

PICTURE STORIES:



15 January 2020: His Majesty The King graced the Opening Ceremony of the 3rd Session of the Third Parliament.



25 January 2020: His Majesty The King celebrated Daw Chunipai Losar (*Traditional Day of Offering*) with the Royal Bhutan Army personnel and their families in Dewathang.

Daw Chunipai Losar is the first day on the 12th month of the Bhutanese Lunar calendar, and celebrated as the start of a new year in Eastern Bhutan.

His Majesty The King is on a tour of the south and east to inspect sites proposed for Gyalsung training centres.

His Majesty is accompanied by HRH Gyaltshab Jigme Dorji Wangchuck, His Majesty's representative for Eastern Bhutan.

His Majesty GRANTS AN AUDIENCE TO ICT TEACHERS FROM ACROSS THE COUNTRY

His Majesty The King granted an Audience to ICT teachers from across the country who attended the 12-day coding training in Gelephu on 23 January 2020.

Addressing the teachers, His Majesty said, "We have always steered our country in the right direction. We have successfully navigated through

great geo-political and socio-economic changes of the past. This decade requires us to yet again skilfully navigate the new digital and technological landscape."

The training was intended to prepare ICT teachers to teach coding to students. Ministry of Education, Department of Information Technology and Telecom and Royal Education Council are working with LeapLearner to introduce coding in schools from classes PP to XII from



On 21 January 2020, His Majesty granted an audience to teachers and facilitators conducting the Class XII exam paper evaluation in Samtse.

His Majesty began this Royal Tour of the southern dzongkhags on 18th January, to inspect proposed sites where the training centres for Gyalsung will be built.

2020 academic session, as part of the Education Flagship Programme. LeapLearner is a successful edutech start-up with a global presence, that works to teach children coding. During this course, LeapLearner will teach Python, PyLeap, and Scratch.

His Majesty The King also granted an audience to teachers attending a workshop on Continuous Formative Assessment as an Alternative to Examinations, organised by the REC and MoE.

On the 19th of January, His Majesty granted an audience to participants of the 8th Bhutan Executive Service Training at RIGSS in Phuentsholing. During the visit, His Majesty also granted an audience to RBA officers in various Wings in the south, and to Dzongkhag Officials of Samtse and Sarpang. His Majesty will visit SamdrupJongkharnext and continue the Royal Tour through the eastern dzongkhags. □

DAYS TO REMEMBER

in March, 2020

March 03 : Bulgaria - National Day

March 03 : World Wildlife Day

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

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 09 : Purnima ●

March 10 : Holi

March 12 : Mauritius - Republic Day

March 17 : Ireland - St. Patrick's Day

March 20 : Tunisia - 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 : Amavasya ●

March 26 : Bangladesh - National Day

भारतीय उपमहाद्वीप और दक्षिण-पूर्व एशिया में सारस्वत संस्कृति के निशान

सुनील कुमार श्रीवास्तव

आज से लगभग सात हजार वर्ष पूर्व के भारतवर्ष पर नजर डालें तो उसके अत्यंत विशाल और दैवी स्वरूप के दर्शन होते हैं। भारतवर्ष की कल्पना एक जीवंत सत्व की तरह की गई है। उस समय के भारतवर्ष का वैदिक समाज पर्वत को पिता और नदी को पयस्विनी (दूध पिलाने वाली) माँ कहकर संबोधित करता है। भारतवर्ष की उत्तरी सीमा में कैलाश शिखर के रूप में बर्फ की सफेद भस्म रमाए अचल योगी की तरह परम-पिता शिव विराजमान हैं। भगवान शिव के हृदय-सिंधु से लिपटी माँ पार्वती (पर्वत से प्रवाहित जलराशि) का जीवनदायी विस्तार नीचे के पश्चिमी और पूर्वी सागर पर्यन्त सारे अंचल में है। पार्वती की दो बाँहों में पांच-पांच उंगलियों की तरह दो पंचनद प्रदेश हैं। पश्चिमी पंचनद प्रदेश में सिंधु (सिन्ध), वितस्ता (झेलम), अस्किनी (चंद्रभागा या चिनाव), परुष्णी (ऐरावती या रावी) और विपाशा-शतद्रु (व्यास-सतलज) दक्षिण-पश्चिमी अंचल को सिक्त करते हुए एक साथ पश्चिम सागर (अरब सागर) में मिलती हैं। पूर्वी पंचनद प्रदेश में यमुना, गंगा, गोमती, शर्यु (सरयू या घाघरा) और सदानरी (गंडक) नदियाँ हैं जो दक्षिण-पूर्वी अंचल को अपनी ममता से सींचते हुए एक साथ पूर्वी सागर (हिंद महासागर) में मिलती हैं।

भगवान शिव के चरणों में कैलाश की घाटियों से होते हुए पर्वत-खंडों से टकराती उग्र श्यामला काली का विस्तार है जो आगे दक्षिणी मैदानों में शांत सुरम्य शारदा में विलीन हो जाती है। शारदा अपने पूर्वी विस्तार में मैदानों में उतर कर शर्यु से जा मिलती है।

इन दोनों पंचनद बाँहों के मध्य में माँ पार्वती के हृदय भाग में सरस्वती और दृषद्वती दो पयस्विनी धाराएँ

प्रवाहित हैं। इन दोनों के बीच का सुपोषित अंचल है ब्रह्मावर्त, जिसे वैवस्वत मनु ने समृद्ध किया था। उत्तर काल में पूर्वी पंचनद प्रदेश में आर्यावर्त का विस्तार हुआ।

लगभग 15 हजार वर्ष पूर्व हिमयुग के अंतिम दौर में मनु के पूर्वज आर्याणाम (वर्तमान ईरान) और उसके पश्चिमी अंचल (वर्तमान फ़ारस की खाड़ी के पूर्वी तटीय प्रदेश) में निवास करते थे। सहस्रों वर्षों में आर्य जनों ने वर्तमान अफ़्रीका, लाल सागर के तटीय प्रदेश, वर्तमान अरब देश आदि की यात्राएँ करते हुए फारस की खाड़ी और आर्याणाम के इस अंचल की यात्राएँ की थीं। जब हिमयुग बीता तो सागर का जलस्तर तेजी से बढ़ा जिससे महाजलप्लावन में वह फारस की खाड़ी का सारा तटीय अंचल डूब गया और मनु अपने समाज के कुछ लोगों के साथ किसी तरह बच कर पूर्व दिशा में चलते हुए जंबूद्वीप के इस सरस्वती-दृषद्वती के बीच की सुंदर शांत सुपोषित भूमि पर आए और उन्होंने यहाँ ब्रह्मावर्त की सारस्वत सभ्यता और संस्कृति की स्थापना की। उनकी संतान मानव इक्ष्वाकु ने इसका पूर्वी पंचनद प्रदेशों तक विस्तार किया। उत्तर काल में दक्षिण के द्वीपीय अंचलों से होते हुए यह विस्तार सुदूर ताम्रपर्णी (वर्तमान श्रीलंका), स्वर्णद्वीप (वर्तमान सुमात्रा), यवद्वीप (वर्तमान जावा), चंपा द्वीप (वर्तमान वियतनाम) आदि में और इस प्रकार पूरे कंबोज द्वीप (वर्तमान कंबोडिया) में और उत्तर के पूर्वी-यूरोपीय अंचलों में सघन रूप से फैल गया।

सरस्वती भारतवर्ष का हृदय-हार है। वसंत आते-आते जब जल-धारा की काटने वाली ठंडी धार नर्म हो जाती है, इसके तटों पर हंसों की पाँत का

अद्भुत संगीतमय कलरव सुनाई देता है, इसलिए यह हंसवाहिनी है। इसका कल-कल निनाद एक सुमधुर संगीत की तरह सुनाई पड़ता है इसलिए यह वीणावादिनी है। इसके तटों पर सैकड़ों वर्षों से आर्य मनीषियों के नानाविध ज्ञान-अनुसंधान के अनेकानेक केंद्र विकसित हो रहे हैं, इसलिए यह ज्ञान, कला और संगीत की देवी है। शीत ऋतु के बाद वसंत के आगमन पर ब्रह्मावर्त के तटीय निवासी स्त्री-पुरुष पीले उत्तरीय धारण कर इसके जल में पुष्पराशि अर्पित करते हैं और प्रार्थना के स्वर में गा उठते हैं-

अम्बितमे नदीतमे देवितमे सरस्वति। अप्रशस्ताइव स्मसि प्रशस्तिमम्ब नस्कृधि। (ऋग्वेद 2.41.16)

ओ माँ सरस्वती! तुम माताओं में सर्वश्रेष्ठ, नदियों में सर्वश्रेष्ठ, देवियों में सर्वश्रेष्ठ हो। यद्यपि हम तुम्हारे योग्य नहीं, फिर भी हे कृपालु माँ, तुम हमें श्रेष्ठता प्रदान करो।

कालांतर में, इस अंचल के बीच की उन्नत भूमि (अरावली श्रृंखला की उठानों) के दोनों ओर बँट कर सरस्वती की पावन जलराशि पश्चिम में शतद्रु और पूर्व में यमुना और गंगा की धाराओं में विलीन हो गई और इस प्रकार यह आज भी इन जलराशियों में घुल-मिलकर पूरे भारतवर्ष के कण-कण को जीवन से सींच रही है।

इस पूरे भारतीय उपमहाद्वीप, दक्षिण-पूर्व एशिया और पूर्वी यूरोप के देशों में इस सारस्वत संस्कृति के भूगर्भीय, पुरातात्विक, साहित्यिक और समाज-सांस्कृतिक साक्ष्य बिखरे हुए मिलते हैं। □

बिहार के छात्र का 30 देशों के वैज्ञानिकों ने माना लोहा, प्लास्टिक से पेट्रोल व एलपीजी बना रहे विनीत

16 साल की उम्र में औरंगाबाद के विनीत ने एक ऐसा आविष्कार किया है, जिससे देश ही नहीं, बल्कि दूसरे देशों का भी ध्यान उनकी ओर आकर्षित हुआ है। शहर के सच्चिदानंद सिन्हा कॉलेज के इंटर साइंस में पढ़ने वाले औरंगाबाद प्रखंड के देवहरा गांव निवासी धनेश प्रजापति व सुनीता देवी के पुत्र विनीत कुमार ने प्लास्टिक से पेट्रोल, एलपीजी व टाइल्स बनाने की तरकीब निकाली है। फिलहाल वे बेकार पड़े प्लास्टिक से पेट्रोल व एलपीजी बना रहे हैं। विनीत ने बताया कि एक किलो प्लास्टिक से 800 ग्राम पेट्रोल, 200 ग्राम एलपीजी तैयार होती है और जो अवशेष बच जाता है, उससे टाइल्स बनता है। वह अपने इस आविष्कार को बड़ा रूप देना चाहते हैं।

सबसे पहले प्लास्टिक को जमा कर उसे उच्च



तापमान पर रसायन की मदद से गलाया जाता है। जहाँ प्लास्टिक गलता है, वहाँ ऑक्सीजन की मात्रा न के बराबर होती है। प्लास्टिक गलने के बाद गैस के रूप में परिवर्तित हो जाता है। फिर मशीन के अंदर गैस के साथ केटेलाइटिक रिडक्शन की प्रक्रिया होती है। उत्प्रेरक के साथ गैस को रिएक्ट कराकर हाई नाइट्रोजन से पास किया जाता है। जिसके बाद वह

लिक्विड में बदल जाता है। इसके बाद ये इथेन बन जाता है, जिससे पेट्रोल व डीजल तैयार होता है। जो पेट्रोल नहीं बन पाता, उसे एलपीजी के रूप में प्राप्त किया जाता है। अवशेष के रूप में मिलने वाले फ्लाइ ऐश से टाइल्स व ईंटें बनती हैं।

विनीत को कई देशों ने सम्मानित किया है। हैदराबाद में हुए इंटरनेशनल इनोवेटिव फेयर में दुनिया के 30 देशों ने भाग लिया था। विनीत ने बिहार का नेतृत्व किया था। इन देशों के वैज्ञानिक विनीत की प्रतिभा देखकर दंग रह गये। इनमें से छह देश पोलैंड, चाइना, पुर्तगाल, क्रोएशिया, ब्राजील व साउथ अफ्रीका ने उन्हें अपने यहाँ रिसर्च के लिए आमंत्रित किया है। यूरोप, पुर्तगाल जैसे देशों ने उन्हें बेस्ट इनोवेटर का पुरस्कार दिया है। पीएमओ व इसरो ने भी विनीत की सराहना की है। □

अंकोरवाट-कम्बुज देश का राष्ट्र मंदिर



डॉ. शशिबाला
सह सचिव

सूर्यवर्मन द्वितीय ने भगवान विष्णु को समर्पित अंकोरवाट नामक मन्दिर की स्थापना राष्ट्र मन्दिर के रूप में की थी। आज यह अंकोरवाट मन्दिर कम्बुज देश की अस्मिता है। विश्व में केवल अंकोरवाट ऐसा मन्दिर है जो किसी देश के राष्ट्रीय ध्वज में विराजमान है। अर्ध शताब्दी पूर्व जब मेरे पिताजी ने अंकोरवाट के चित्र दिखाए और बताया कि यह संसार का सबसे बड़ा विष्णु मन्दिर है जो कंबोडिया में स्थित है, और आज मानव और प्रकृति दोनों कारणों से यह जीर्ण-शीर्ण अवस्था में है तो मन में एक ही प्रश्न उठा कि कब इसमें श्रद्धा के दीप जलेंगे। आज वह दिन आ गया है। हृदय हर्ष एवं भाव से विभोर हो उठा है भारत और कंबोडिया के संबंधों में एक नया इतिहास अंकित होने जा रहा है। धन्य है वे सभी जो यह पुण्य कार्य करने में जुटे हुए हैं।



बारहवीं और तेरहवीं शताब्दी के लगभग संपूर्ण दक्षिण पूर्व एशिया में विष्णु भक्ति जन-जन के हृदय में स्थान बना चुकी थी। एक राज के लिए विष्णु से बड़ा कोई आदर्श नहीं हो सकता। अतः वहां के राजा विष्णु के अवतार के रूप में राज्य करते रहे। कम्बुज के शिलालेख इन सभी राजाओं की कथा सुनाते हैं। एक शिलालेख में स्पष्ट वर्णन मिलता है कि मन्दिरों में पाठ हेतु भारत से रामायण, महाभारत एवं पुराण मंगवाए जाते थे। इन ग्रंथों के स्वर शताब्दियों तक भव्य मन्दिरों में गुंजायमान होते रहे। इन महाकाव्यों से लिए गए कथानक एक ओर ऐतिहासिक घटनाओं के प्रतिमान बने रहे तो दूसरी ओर मन्दिर आने वाले राजा और राज-परिवारों तथा श्रद्धालुओं के लिए जीवन में उच्च आदर्शों का पालन करने हेतु प्रेरणा के स्रोत बने रहे। अंकोरवाट मन्दिर भगवान विष्णु का बैकुंठ धाम है। अतः इसका निर्माण मानव निर्मित सुमेरु पर्वत पर किया गया। राजा सूर्यवर्मन द्वितीय को मरणोपरांत विष्णु लोक में स्थान मिला। उनकी मूर्ति भगवान विष्णु रूप में स्थापित की गई। इसी में उनका राज्याभिषेक हुआ था। वे सारा जीवन विष्णु भगवान के आदर्शों से प्रेरणा प्राप्त राष्ट्र की उन्नति के कार्यों में जुटे रहे।

अंकोरवाट जिस नगर में स्थापित है उस नगर का प्राचीन नाम था अंकोर अर्थात् नगर अर्थात् राष्ट्रीय राजधानी जिसकी अस्मिता अंकोरवाट में स्थापित हुई। पन्द्रहवीं शताब्दी में थाई आक्रमण के उपरांत यह अंतरराष्ट्रीय सहयोग परिषद मन्दिर व इसके चारों ओर का स्थान, यह नगर सभी कुछ निर्जन हो गए, विस्मृति के गर्भ में लीन हो गए, इन्हें प्रकृति के भरोसे छोड़ दिया गया। अंकोरवाट 1860 तक शांत खड़ा रहा। अचानक हेनरी मूहो नामक एक प्रकृति प्रेमी फ्रांसीसी को इसके शिखरों ने निमंत्रण दे डाला। वन में खड़े विशालकाय वृक्षों की जड़ें लगभग 4 शताब्दियों से इसे समूल उखाड़ने में समर्थ होती रहीं। अंकोरवाट तथा उसके आसपास बने भव्य मन्दिरों की खोज ने विश्व को आश्चर्यचकित कर डाला। एक गौरवमय इतिहास उद्घाटित होने लगा, विद्वान और पुरातत्ववेत्ता इस विषय पर कार्य करने लगे। अंकोरवाट के हर कोने से, चारों ओर भारतीय धर्म, दर्शन, कला, राज्य व्यवस्था तथा सामाजिकता आदि के दर्शन होने लगे। कहीं कंबोडिया के राजा स्वयं की भगवान कृष्ण से तुलना करने लगे। इस हेतु से नंद ग्राम की रक्षा करते सभी मित्रों व ग्वालों के सहयोग से गोवर्धन पर्वत उठाते भगवान कृष्ण की मूर्तियां उत्कीर्ण की गईं। कृष्ण रूप में विष्णु महाभारत के समय पांडवों की सहायता हेतु अवतरित हुए। अतः महाभारत युद्ध उनके लिए एक आदर्श बन गया। महाभारत युद्ध के दृश्य का विश्व का सबसे बड़ा 49 मीटर लंबा पैनल आज कम्बुज लोगों की शूरता और वीरता से परिपूर्ण राष्ट्रीयता के स्मारक रूप में खड़ा है। अंकोरवाट के उत्कीर्ण चित्रों में कहीं बाली सुग्रीव युद्ध है तो कहीं राम विभीषण का मिलन, कहीं राम रावण युद्ध है, तो कहीं देवी सीता की अग्नि परीक्षा, कहीं गरुड़ वाहन विष्णु तो कहीं समुद्र मंथन से रत्न निकालते देव और असुर, कहीं कैलाश उत्तोलन करता रावण तो कहीं बाणासुर का वध करते भीम। चहुं ओर सशक्त राष्ट्र अपनी सैन्य शक्ति के साथ चरम उत्कर्ष प्राप्त करता दिखाई देता है। यह अंकोरवाट का भव्य मन्दिर कम्बुज लोगों के लिए केवल धर्म का स्थान ही नहीं था, यहां धर्मोदय के साथ-साथ राष्ट्रोदय और ज्ञानोदय भी सतत् चलता रहा। अंकोरवाट में खड़ी लगभग 16 से अधिक मूर्तियां, जिन्हें अप्सराएं माना गया है, वे निरंतर इतिहासकारों के लिए अनुसंधान का विषय बनी हुई हैं। इनकी वेशभूषा, आभूषण और मुकुटों से उनकी सामाजिक स्थिति का अनुमान अनायास ही लग जाता है। इनमें कोई अप्सराएं हैं तो कोई प्रवेश-द्वारों के दोनों ओर खड़ी हैं, कोई नृत्य भंगिमा में हैं तो कोई आनंद की अनुभूति में। उनके मुखों से अलग-अलग प्रकार की जातियों का अनुमान भी हो जाता है। सूर्यवर्मन द्वितीय अपने जीवन के 50 वर्ष तक युद्धों में जुटे रहे और एक सशक्त राष्ट्र को स्थापित करने में सफल हुए। 1980 के दशक में हमारे शासन का इस ओर ध्यान आकर्षित हुआ तो उन्होंने अंकोरवाट के जीर्णोद्धार में एक महत्वपूर्ण भूमिका निभाई। आज पुनः देश में इस दिशा में अभूतपूर्व कार्य किया जा रहा है जो भारत और कम्बुज के संबंधों में नीवशिला का कार्य करेगा। □

अंकोरवाट विश्व का सबसे बड़ा विष्णु मन्दिर था जहां से शेषषायी भगवान विष्णु की विशाल मूर्ति के खंड प्राप्त हुए हैं। इस मन्दिर से प्राप्त संस्कृत के शिलालेखों से उसका इतिहास ज्ञात होता है। मन्दिर की दीवारों पर रामायण और महाभारत के कथानक उत्कीर्ण हैं। यह वही अंकोरवाट मन्दिर है जिसमें 49 मीटर लंबा महाभारत के युद्ध का दृश्य अंकित है।

अंकोरवाट का यह मन्दिर एक वर्ग किलोमीटर में निर्मित है। इसके चारों ओर एक तड़ाग बनाया गया था क्योंकि इस मन्दिर में जाने का अर्थ है विष्णु लोक में जाना, विष्णु लोक में जाने के लिए भवसागर को पार करना आवश्यक है। उसी दर्शन के आधार पर इस तड़ाग का निर्माण किया गया था, परंतु आज यहां का जल सूख चुका है।

कम्बुज देश के साथ हमारे संबंधों का इतिहास दूसरी शताब्दी में आरंभ हो जाता है। ग्यारहवीं और बारहवीं शताब्दी के आते-आते कम्बुज देश भारत-मय हो गया था। जब वहां भारतीय लोग गए तो सबसे पहले उन्होंने भारतीय लिपि के आधार पर कम्बुज लिपि का निर्माण किया। एक नई लिपि का निर्माण होते ही एक नवीन पथ उद्घाटित हुआ। कम्बुज लोगों ने लिखना और पढ़ना आरम्भ किया। इसका प्रमाण हमें स्थान-स्थान पर उपलब्ध हुए 12000 से अधिक संस्कृत के शिलालेखों से होता है। यहां के राजाओं ने अपनी राज्य व्यवस्था को भारतीय धर्म आधारित नियमों से सुदृढ़ किया। अपने महान कार्यों को शिलालेखों पर उत्कीर्ण किया। एक ओर वे अपनी विजय यात्राओं की रामायण और महाभारत से तुलना कर उन्हें मन्दिरों की भित्तियों पर उत्कीर्ण कर शाश्वत करते रहे तो दूसरी ओर अपने स्वर्णिम इतिहास को संस्कृत भाषा में लिखते रहे। भव्य मन्दिरों का निर्माण कर स्वयं को धन्य मानते रहे। जब किसी राजा का राज्याभिषेक होता था तो राज्याभिषेक के हेतु से एक भव्य मन्दिर का निर्माण किया जाता था, उसमें उस देवता की प्रतिमा की स्थापना होती थी जिसका वह राजा भक्त होता था और अंत में उसके मरणोपरांत उसी मन्दिर में उस राजा की उसी देवता के रूप में मूर्ति स्थापित कर दी जाती थी।

आज इन मन्दिरों से बड़ी संख्या में मूर्तियां उपलब्ध हुई हैं। जो इनकी श्रद्धा के प्रतीक स्वरूप हमारे समक्ष खड़ी

विश्व में केवल कम्बुज ही एक ऐसा देश है जहां चौदहवीं शताब्दी तक संस्कृत राजभाषा के रूप में प्रयुक्त होती रही। संस्कृत ने कम्बुज भाषा को प्राणवायु दी। उसे भावाभिव्यक्ति के उच्च स्तर तक पहुंचा दिया। आज तक भी उनकी भाषा में लगभग 60 प्रतिशत शब्द संस्कृत की देन हैं। उदाहरण के लिए कहा जाए तो वे आज भी महीनों के नाम चैत्र, वैशाख आदि प्रयुक्त करते हैं। जब वहां से उपलब्ध 1200 से अधिक संस्कृत के शिलालेखों में लिखित राजाओं के सब सत्कर्मा के विवरण पढ़ते हैं तो ज्ञात होता है कि वहां के लोग कितनी सुललित एवं उच्च स्तर की संस्कृत लिखने की योग्यता रखते थे। इन कृतियों में अनेक प्रकार के छंद प्रयोग किए गए हैं, जैसे-वसन्ततिलका, शार्दूल, मालिनी आदि। वहां के राजाओं ने बड़े गर्व से भारतीय नाम धारण किए, जैसे-सूर्यवर्मन, इंद्रवर्मन, ईशानवर्मन, राजेन्द्रवर्मन आदि। यह परंपरा शताब्दियों तक चलती रही, उन्होंने अपने नगरों के नाम यशोधरपुर, ताम्रपुर, ध्रुवपुर, विक्रमपुर आदि रखे।

मन्दिरों के साथ ब्राह्मणों के लिए आश्रम बनवाए गए। यहां के राजा हिन्दु राज्य व्यवस्था के अनुसार राज्य चलाते रहे। इनमें मनुस्मृति का सबसे बड़ा स्थान है। एक शिलालेख में पता चलता है कि उन्होंने भारत से मनुस्मृति भी मंगवाई थी। मेरे अनुसंधान के अनुसार अंकोरवाट को दार्शनिक आधार देने वाला ग्रंथ मनुस्मृति ही है।

विश्व हिन्दी सचिवालय, मॉरीशस द्वारा विश्व हिन्दी दिवस 2020 का आयोजन



आयोजन के प्रारंभ में दीप प्रज्ज्वलित करती हुई-
माननीया श्रीमती लीला देवी दुकन-लछुमन

10 जनवरी, 2020 को विश्व हिन्दी सचिवालय ने शिक्षा, तृतीयक शिक्षा, विज्ञान व प्रौद्योगिकी मंत्रालय तथा भारतीय उच्चायोग, मॉरीशस के संयुक्त तत्वाधान में इंदिरा गांधी भारतीय सांस्कृतिक केन्द्र, फेनिक्स (मॉरीशस) में विश्व हिन्दी दिवस समारोह का भव्य आयोजन किया। समारोह का आरंभ दीप प्रज्ज्वलन के साथ हुआ। समारोह की मुख्य अतिथि मॉरीशस की शिक्षा, तृतीयक शिक्षा, विज्ञान एवं प्रौद्योगिकी मंत्री, माननीया श्रीमती लीला देवी दुकन-लछुमन थीं। इस अवसर पर मॉरीशस में भारतीय उच्चायुक्त महामहिम श्री तन्मय लाल तथा मॉरीशस के कला एवं सांस्कृतिक धरोहर मंत्री माननीय श्री अविनाश तिलक के साथ आवास और भूमि उपयोग योजना मंत्री माननीय श्री लुई स्टीवन ओबिगादु, औद्योगिक विकास, एस.एम.ई. और सहकारिता मंत्री माननीय श्री सुमिलदत्त भोला तथा राष्ट्रीय मूल ढांचा और समुदाय विकास मंत्री माननीय श्री महेंद्रनाथ शर्मा हरिराम भी उपस्थित थे।

इस वर्ष विश्व हिन्दी दिवस के अवसर पर अतिथि वक्ता के रूप में यू.के. के प्राच्य अध्ययन संकाय, ऑक्सफोर्ड विश्वविद्यालय से एसोसिएट प्रोफेसर (हिन्दी) डॉ. इमरे बंधा की उपस्थिति विशेष रूप से उल्लेखनीय है।

इस समारोह की मुख्य अतिथि माननीया श्रीमती लीला देवी दुकन-लछुमन ने विश्व हिन्दी दिवस की शुभकामनाएं देते हुए विश्व हिन्दी सचिवालय की गतिविधियों की सराहना की। उन्होंने कहा 'हिन्दी अब किसी एक देश या समुदाय तक सीमित न होकर पूरे विश्व में छा गई है। बोलचाल और लिखित दोनों ही रूपों में यह भाषा विश्व में प्रचलित होती जा रही है। कई देशों को और असंख्य लोगों को जोड़ने वाली इस भाषा की कीर्ति को आज उत्सव के रूप में मनाना हर प्रकार से उचित है। प्रथम विश्व हिन्दी सम्मेलन से उपजा विश्व हिन्दी दिवस किसी भी पर्व या त्योहार से कम महत्व का नहीं है। उन्होंने यह भी कहा 'नए साल के अवसर पर और विश्व हिन्दी दिवस 2020 के उपलक्ष्य में, मैं यह कामना करती

हूँ कि विश्व में हिन्दी की कीर्ति सभी दिशाओं में फैले। हिन्दी के सेवकों की मेहनत दुगुना फल लाए और हिन्दी को वह प्रतिष्ठा मिले, जो हम सब चाहते हैं।'



विश्व हिन्दी दिवस के विशिष्ट अतिथिगण

डॉ. इमरे बंधा ने 21वीं सदी में यूरोप में हिन्दी-शिक्षण की चुनौतियां विषय पर वक्तव्य देते हुए कहा कि 'ब्रिटेन और हिन्दी का गहरा ऐतिहासिक संबंध है, फिर भी हिन्दी की पढ़ाई के इतिहास के बारे में हमें कम जानकारी मिलती है। उपनिवेशी प्रशासन के लिए ब्रिटेन में हिन्दुस्तानी भाषा जरूर पढ़ाई जाती थी, लेकिन उस समय नागरी लिपि में हिन्दी की पढ़ाई के बारे में हमें जानकारी बहुत कम है।' उन्होंने यह भी कहा कि 'हिन्दी सीखने से रोजगार न भी मिले, फिर भी भाषा का साहित्य जैसा महत्व होता है ही। शिक्षकों को यहां स्पष्ट करना चाहिए कि भाषा सीखने से कोई समय बर्बाद नहीं करता, बल्कि अपनी मानवता की भावना को विस्तार करता है और दूसरे देशों में परस्पर सम्मान व समझौता को बढ़ावा देता है। जो लोग कई भाषाओं में साहित्य पढ़ते हैं उनको मालूम है कि हरेक भाषा का रस अलग है और हरेक भाषा का व्यक्तित्व अलग है। यह हमारा दायित्व है कि भविष्य में हमारे बच्चे भी इन रसों और भावनाओं का आस्वादन कर सकें।

भारत के उच्चायुक्त महामहिम श्री तन्मय लाल ने इस अवसर पर भारत गणराज्य के प्रधानमंत्री, महामहिम श्री नरेंद्र मोदी का संदेश पढ़कर सुनाया। अपने उद्बोधन में महामहिम ने सभी को विश्व हिन्दी दिवस 2020 की शुभकामनाएं देते हुए कहा कि 'हिन्दी विश्व में सर्वाधिक बोली जाने वाली भाषाओं में से एक है। हिन्दी आज भारत, मॉरीशस तथा कुछ अन्य देशों में ही सीमित नहीं है, बल्कि हिन्दी भाषी लोग दुनिया भर के देशों में बसे हैं या कार्यरत हैं। आज विश्व में लगभग तिहत्तर देशों में, 300 संस्थानों में हिन्दी की व्यवस्था है। संयुक्त राष्ट्रसंघ द्वारा भी हिन्दी के प्रयोग को बढ़ावा दिया जा रहा है। उनके द्वारा सोशल मीडिया पर हिन्दी में पोस्ट और हिन्दी में समाचार बुलेटिन का प्रसारण गत वर्ष से आरम्भ हुआ है। विश्व हिन्दी सचिवालय भारत और मॉरीशस के अत्यंत घनिष्ठ संबंधों का प्रतीक तो है ही, यह कई मायनों में एक अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय संस्थान जैसा है, जो हिन्दी भाषा के प्रचार की दिशा में

महत्वपूर्ण काम कर रहा है। यह सचिवालय हिन्दी भाषा की हमारी साझी धरोहर को सुरक्षित रखने और उसे बढ़ावा देने में महत्वपूर्ण योगदान दे रहा है।'

मॉरीशस के कला एवं सांस्कृतिक धरोहर मंत्री, माननीय श्री अविनाश तिलक ने कहा 'विश्व हिन्दी सचिवालय अपनी स्थापना से लेकर आज तक का सफर बड़ी अच्छी तरह से तय किया है और अपने विविध कार्यों द्वारा धीरे-धीरे हिन्दी भाषा को संयुक्त राष्ट्र संघ तक ले जाने के अपने लक्ष्य की ओर बढ़ता जा रहा है। मुझे पूरा यकीन है कि हम उस मंजिल तक जरूर पहुंचेंगे, क्योंकि हिन्दी आज एक अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय भाषा बन चुकी है। वास्तव में विश्व की सबसे ज्यादा बोली जाने वाली भाषाओं में हिन्दी भाषा का महत्वपूर्ण स्थान है। हिन्दी सबसे पुरानी भाषाओं में से एक है और जितनी ही पुरानी है उतनी ही आज प्रभावशाली है। हिन्दी केवल हिन्दुस्तानियों के लिए नहीं है, हिन्दी केवल भारत के लिए नहीं है, आज हिन्दी पूरे विश्व की है और ऐसे देश में हैं जैसे दक्षिण अफ्रीका, यू.एस., जर्मनी, न्यूजीलैंड, सिंगापुर, यू.के., कनाडा, ऑस्ट्रेलिया आदि। हिन्दी 175 विश्वविद्यालयों में भी पढ़ाई जाती है। हमारे लिए गर्व की बात है कि मॉरीशस के लोग कई भाषाएं बोलते हैं और उनमें हिन्दी प्रमुख है।'

समारोह के आरम्भ में सचिवालय के महासचिव, प्रो. विनोद कुमार मिश्र ने उपस्थित महानुभावों व सभी अतिथियों का स्वागत किया और सभी को विश्व हिन्दी दिवस की शुभकामनाएं देते हुए सचिवालय द्वारा आयोजित अन्तरराष्ट्रीय हिन्दी कहानी-लेखन प्रतियोगिता के परिणामों की घोषणा की। इस आयोजन का मंच संचालन सचिवालय की उपमहासचिव डॉ. माधुरी रामधारी ने किया।



रामजन्म नृत्य-नाटिका केन्द्र के कलाकार

विश्व हिन्दी पत्रिका के 11वें अंक का लोकार्पण

इस अवसर पर सचिवालय ने अपने वार्षिक प्रकाशन 'विश्व हिन्दी पत्रिका' के 11वें अंक (मुद्रित व वेब प्रारूपों) का लोकार्पण किया। इस अंक में विश्व के विभिन्न प्रदेशों के हिन्दी विद्वानों एवं लेखकों द्वारा प्रणीत 34 ज्ञानवर्धक आलेख हैं। इंदिरा गांधी भारतीय सांस्कृतिक केन्द्र के कलाकारों द्वारा प्रस्तुत नृत्य-नाटिका 'रामजन्म' का दर्शकों ने मुक्त कंठ और करतल ध्वनि से स्वागत किया। □