

Happy New Year

नव वर्ष की शुभकामनाएं

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PRESIDENT INAUGURATES INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE of PIO PARLIAMENTARIANS



The President H. E. Shri Ram Nath Kovind



PIO Parliamentarians & Mayors

The President of India, Shri Ram Nath Kovind, inaugurated the International Conference of PIO Parliamentarians organised by Antar Rashtriya Sahayog Parishad - Bharat in association with the PIO Chamber of Commerce and Industry and the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, in New Delhi on January 10, 2018.

Speaking on the occasion, the President said that the Indian diaspora has climbed to appreciable heights in almost all the countries where it has found a home. It has contributed to the well-being of that country and of that society - enriching the economy and adding to intellectual wealth and local culture. Members of the Indian

diaspora work hard on farms in countries as far apart as Italy, Bolivia and Tanzania. They are instrumental to the tech start-up ecosystem of Silicon Valley. They form the backbone of the economy of Dubai and other major business cities in the Gulf region. The global financial centres of New York, London and Singapore would simply not be the same without the Indian diaspora.

The President said that as a country, we are very proud of what our Pravasi Bharatiya brothers and sisters have done. They have embellished the identity of India and of the Indian people all over the world. They have also remained true to Indian culture and retained a strong and

commendable bond with their roots, even when living thousands of miles away. If Indian cuisine and Indian films have a global market today, it is because the diaspora has taken them to distant lands.

Appreciating the role of ARSP to organize International Conference of

Think it Over **Three Methods**

Life is really simple, but we insist on making it complicated...
By three methods we may learn wisdom : First, by reflection, which is noblest; second, by imitation, which is easiest, and third, by experience, which is the bitterest.

Confucius



President H. E. Shri Ram Nath Kovind shares his views with Amb. Virendra Gupta, President of ARSP

PIO Parliamentarians conference the President said that this event is a milestone. It brings together parliamentarians and public representatives of Indian origin from countries across the globe. It is a new and welcome addition to the commemoration of Pravasi Bharatiya Divas. The Divas itself marks the

return of Mahatma Gandhi to India from South Africa on January 9, 1915. Pravasi Bharatiya Divas is not merely the remembrance of a historical anniversary. It is the celebration of a very contemporary, very accomplished and very high-achieving community - the Indian diaspora. It is a tribute to the estimated 30 million strong Pravasi Bharatiya community that can be found in over 100 countries - from Trinidad to Fiji, from Argentina to Australia, and from the United States to the United Arab Emirates. Of these people, about 13 million are People of Indian Origin or PIOs as we know them, and some 17 million are Non-Resident Indians or NRIs.

He said that we Indians are proud of our democracy, fabric of pluralism and diversity. This is our greatest strength. And the Indian diaspora has carried such liberal and civic-minded values with it. Instinctively, this has made members of the Indian diaspora contribute to public life in countries that they are citizens of. I am told that there are around 300 PIO parliamentarians. Among them are those who have risen to become heads of state, heads of government and senior ministers.

Regular contact and outreach with the Indian diaspora, in various countries, is a cornerstone of the Ministry of External Affairs of the government of India. Our consulates and embassies have a special place in their hearts for Pravasi Bharatiyas and are making efforts to provide prompt services and support to members of the Indian diaspora. Regular interaction with PIO parliamentarians and public representatives is a part of this process.

The President said that for the Government of India, engagement with PIO parliamentarians - or indeed with the wider Indian diaspora community - is not a transactional relationship or a zero-sum game. Rather, we look upon the community and look upon PIO parliamentarians



MoS for finance Shri. Shiv Pratap Shukla, H.E. Ram Nath Kovind-Amb. Virendra Gupta, Prof. Rajkumar Bhatia on dias and Shri. Shyam Parande on the podium.

and elected and public representatives as a living bridge. They have a role in enhancing understanding between their countries and the country of their parents and ancestors. And in helping build economic, people-to-people and strategic connections that will be of benefit to both countries and to all of us.

Honorable **Minister of Finance Shri Shiv Pratap Shukla** stated that the presence of a large number of PIO Parliamentarians, who are all pioneers in their respective fields, is in itself praiseworthy. Government of India has taken this initiative where a platform is provided for the PIOs and Indians to share their experiences. Hon'ble Minister also talked about the accelerating growth rate of India which is expected to reach 7.4% in 2018. At the same time, the Indian Government has been taking important initiatives in this regard like Smart City, Digital India, Skill India, Startup India, Swatchch Bharat etc. which are helping the Indian economy to reach new heights. With the emphasis on simplifying the Tax Structure, the government is doing everything it can to improve its ranking on Ease to do Business.

The Inaugural Session started with the Welcome Address by **Amb. Virendra Gupta**, who stressed the importance and role of this wonderful initiative by the Government of India to connect and enhance the ties of India with its 30 million strong Diaspora. He also highlighted that the role of PIO Parliamentarians is to enhance people to people connect and India

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MoS for Finance Shri. Shiv Pratap Shukla can definitely work with them to take this friendship forward.

Amb. Virendra Gupta said that ARSP has been regularly organizing International and National Conferences and Seminars to deliberate on issues concerning Indian Diaspora and India's International Relations. First International Conference of PIO Parliamentarians was held in November 1998 which was inaugurated by then Prime Minister of India Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee and attended by 34 Parliamentarians from 8 countries including the Speaker of Mauritius and eight Ministers.

Second International Conference of PIO Parliamentarians was held in January 2003. It was inaugurated by then Vice President Shri Bhairon Singh Shekhawat with Rt. Hon. Sir Anerood Jugnauth then Prime Minister of Mauritius as Chief Guest. 59 Parliamentarians from different countries participated in this conference. These conferences created and enhanced awareness of diaspora's importance, strengths and weaknesses, and their actual and potential role in promoting global harmony, peace and development, consistent with the aims and objectives of ARSP.

Proposing vote of thanks **Shri Shyam Parande**, Secretary General of Antar

Rashtriya Sahayog Parishad said that is a matter of great pride for us that Mahamahim Rashtrapatiji had inaugurated the conference. At this conference itself some 140 elected public representatives – from MPs to mayors – from 23 countries are participating. This is a very substantial number. In November 1998, **Antar Rashtriya Sahayog Parishad – Bharat** had hosted the first such get-together of PIO parliamentarians that saw the participation of 34 PIO parliamentarians from eight countries. In two decades, the event has grown four-fold. This is a matter of happiness and satisfaction for all of us.

He said that this conference would open a new chapter in the connectivity of Diaspora by bringing together for the first time Parliamentarians of Indian origin, underscoring importance of Democracy and Democratic values in global Governance and adding a new dimension to the Diaspora identity.

The **Valedictory Address** was given by **Shri Ram Madhav** who drew attention on how the conference had been bestowed by the attendance of both the Prime Minister and the President of India which manifests the importance and the interest in the Indian diaspora. Shri Ram Madhav also emphasized India's growing power and presence internationally and the need for the Indian diaspora especially the public leadership who need to play more pro active role in India's expanding foreign policy. Shri Ram Madhav also explained the Five pillars of Indian Foreign Policy as **PANCHAMRIT**:

- 1) Samman- It means to protect the integrity of Indians who are settled anywhere around the world.
- 2) Samvaad- This means greater engagement with the Indian Diaspora which is being done by initiatives like these as well as that of PBD.



From Right : Sh. Ram Madhav, Sh. Shyam Parande, Prof. Gopal Arora

- 3) Samriddhi- This means increasing trade and investment with other nations.
- 4) Suraksha- This means providing for the security of the Indian territory
- 5) Sanskriti- This means Cultural Diplomacy or protecting the cultural wealth of our nation and try to shift the focus towards this culture.

These pillars he stated are the new approaches of a more proactive India and although challenges and competition will be faced with other new emerging powers India's rise is pertinent for the world. He concluded by expressing that the Indian diaspora is going to be an active partner in the larger scheme of things and in India becoming a global power.

Amb. Virendra Gupta welcomed distinguished guests and said that the conference has evoked good interest which was reflected in the interactive sessions.

The conference was brought to a conclusion by a formal vote of thanks by Shri Shyam Parande, Secretary General ARSP. Prof. Gopal Arora conducted this programme. □

"WE WORK ON THE PRINCIPLE, REFORM TO TRANSFORM" PM Modi

Prime Minister Narendra Modi delivered keynote address to over 100 parliamentarians of Indian-origin at the Pravasi Bharatiya Kendra at Delhi's Chanakyapuri. "We are increasingly focusing on the world, our perception of the world is changing, its main reason is that India is transforming itself, it is being transformed. Reforms to transform is our guiding principle," PM Modi said in his address.

Welcoming the delegates to the Conference, the Prime Minister said : Welcome to India. Welcome home. I welcome you on behalf of 130 crore Indians. Some of you went abroad to study, some of you were born when your parents or grand parents migrated abroad, some were even sent forcefully or were persuaded to go, but one thing is common for you all, you may be physically present in some other country or some remote corner of the globe, but from your heart you all are Indians... you left behind a piece of your heart in India. That while many people may have left India over the course of hundreds of years, India continues to have a place in their minds and hearts.

He said it is not surprising that people of Indian origin have integrated themselves fully with their adopted lands. He added that while they kept the Indian-ness alive in themselves, they also imbibed the language, food, and dress of those countries.

The Prime Minister said that it appears as if a Mini World Parliament of Indian origin is gathered in Delhi today. He noted that persons of Indian origin are today Prime Ministers of Mauritius,

Portugal and Ireland. He added that persons of Indian origin have also been Heads of State and Heads of Government in many other countries.

The Prime Minister said that the global impression about India has changed over the last three to four years. He said the reason for this is that India is transforming itself and the hopes and aspirations of India are at an all time high, therefore signs of irreversible



Prime Minister Narendra Modi addressing the PIO Parliamentarians

change are visible in every sector.

The Prime Minister praised External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj for continuously keeping an eye on issues being faced by Indian citizens abroad. In this context, he mentioned the "MADAD" portal for real time monitoring and response of consular grievances.

The Prime Minister said that the Government believes that NRIs are

partners for India's development. He said that NRIs have an important position in the Action Agenda till 2020, drafted by the NITI Aayog. The Prime Minister said that PIOs are like permanent ambassadors of India, wherever they reside, and he always attempts to meet them when he is travelling abroad.

The Prime Minister said that the values of Indian civilization and culture can provide guidance to the entire world, in an era of instability.

The Prime Minister said that India has very close ties with ASEAN countries, which will be showcased during Republic Day, a few days from now. He added that we want to work together to become a 'New India'. We have strong ties with ASEAN nations. You play a very important role in India's improvement and India's development . You should encourage all other Indians as well. Gandhiji's thoughts should be followed by all. We do not focus on any country's territories. We believe in walking with all other countries. We want India to spread peace, stability and

harmony. When the global society is divided in different levels and ideologies, you can provide the example of India's 'sabka saath sabka vikas'. (Collective Efforts Inclusive Growth).

While there is a growing concern about extremism and radicalisation across the world, you can spread the message of "respect for all religions"... something that is at the root of our rich and diverse Indian culture.

The thoughts that, 'nothing will change... things will be how they used to be... nothing can be done about it,' are a thing of the past.

Today's India, a young India, a new India, has come a long way from such thoughts. The hopes and aspirations of the people of India are at the highest level at this time. The result of an irreversible change in their mindset will result in an overall change in the system, across all sectors.

The focus on India is changing across the world. The reason for this is that India is transforming. In the last three-four years, the perception of India has changed. We are increasingly focusing on the world, our perception of the world is changing, its main reason is that India is transforming itself, it is being transformed. Reforms to transform is our guiding principle. When there is news about how you all are influencing the geo-politics of where you live and how you are making policies, we feel proud. Today the World Bank and IMF look at India in a positive way.

Whatever change has happened, it has happened in the past three years. This is because we are using the principle, reform to transform. There is no sector that we haven't brought reform into. Our aim is to end corruption. Along with societal transformation, we are bringing in economical changes as well. On the matter of climate change, I spoke to France President to work together with solar rich countries. We are aiming to make a global platform. During tragedies in countries across the world, India provides all its help and security to these countries. We should be proud of holistic living. 171 countries sponsored our Yoga Diwas plan.

In her opening remarks Smt. Sushma Swaraj, Minister of External Affairs said that Today India, as a country, is deciding the global agenda. When the Prime Minister went to the G-20

summit, he brought up the issue of black money to the center stage and did not only talk about it but also acted upon it by making bold decisions like Demonetization and GST and proved the world that we do what we say.

When he went to Hamburg, he gave an 11-point formula on how to fight terrorism. He worked with the United Nations to include things like poverty alleviation in the list of Sustainable Development Goals. There are so many things in the Global Agenda which have been initiated by our Prime Minister. I can talk about the International Solar Alliance or the International Yoga Day, have been so many initiatives by India. But in this emerging India, as parliamentarians,

what role you have played and what role you can play, is the theme of our second plenary session.

So in the first session, we will know about your past and in the second session your present shall come to us. What is your roadmap for the future, what role you could play to make this emerging India more prominent in the world? Our today's conference will be based on the combination of these two things.

I once again welcome you all from the bottom of my heart and I thank the Prime Minister for accepting our invitation, although it was his idea only. □

DR. VINAY PRABHAKAR SAHASRABUDDHE— NEW PRESIDENT OF ICCR



President Ram Nath Kovind has appointed Dr. Vinay Sahasrabuddhe as the President of Indian Council of Cultural Relations.

Dr. Vinay Sahasrabuddhe Member of Parliament, Rajya Sabha is the National Vice President of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP). An activist-researcher at the core, Dr. Sahasrabuddhe happens to be the Vice President of Rambhau Mhalgi Prabodhini as well. RMP is South Asia's only training and research academy for elected representatives and voluntary social workers.

As a student activist, he had offered satyagraha and was behind bars during the Emergency of 1975. He was also National Secretary of the Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad (ABVP) while being whole-timer of the Organisation. He has also worked as member on Senate and Management Council of the University of Mumbai for several years. He has also served on Boards of Governors of academies like YASHADA, (academy of development administration, Pune)

and Sardar Patel Institute of Public Administration (SPIPA) as member. Between 2013-15, he was the as Vice-President of the Asiatic Society of Mumbai, a 208 year old prestigious society.

A freelance journalist since his college days, Sahasrabuddhe is a regular contributor to several Marathi and English language dailies and weeklies and a blogger as well. The University of Mumbai awarded him a doctorate in Politics in 2009 for his thesis 'Political Parties as Victims of Populism and Electoral Compulsions: A Quest for systemic Solutions.' His research was later published in the form of a book, entitled 'Beyond a Billion Ballots.' His latest book 'The Innovation Republic' captures 17 key Governance Innovations made by the Narendra Modi Government.

Dr. Sahasrabuddhe has been an active participant in Rajya Sabha with almost 100% attendance. Over last two years Parliament has appointed him to the court of Delhi University, to Indian Council of World Affairs as well as a member to the Press Council of India. □

OUR DIASPORA PROVIDES STRONGER RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN INDIA AND ASEAN COUNTRIES-SMT. SUSHMA SWARAJ

External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj inaugurated the Pravasi Bhartiya Divas (PBD) of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) countries. During her visit to Singapore she had bilateral meetings with the leaders in Singapore and interacted with People of Indian Origin (PIO) delegations from ASEAN countries, who participated in the PBD.

Addressing the Indian diaspora at the ASEAN-India Pravasi Bharatiya Divas, Swaraj reaffirmed India's commitment to ASEAN.

"We are here to reaffirm our commitment and to share the course of our journey ahead to the future of India and ASEAN in the world," Swaraj told some 3,000 delegates.

"Our diaspora provides a platform for a stronger relationship between India and ASEAN countries," she said.

Noting the 25-year milestone of ASEAN-India partnership, she said, "Our dialogue partnership has evolved into a strategic partnership."

"India's engagement with the ASEAN region lies in the clarity of the principles that we share. We believe that when all nations adhere to international rules and norms and when we conduct on the basis of sovereign equality and mutual respect, our nations feel secure and our economies prosper," Swaraj said.

"As India's economy grows its ties will deepen, its trade and investment flow will grow," she said, emphasising that ASEAN was a part of India's Act East Policy.



Opening address at ASEAN India Pravasi Bharatiya Divas by EAM Smt.Sushma Swaraj

She said states play a vital role in India's progress and advancing the country's economic ties with the world.

She highlighted the presence of Assam chief minister Sarbananda Sonowal at the gathering and underlined that the North East will grow and become a bridge to South East Asia.

"Our North East region will prosper when it is better connected to South East Asia and when the North East becomes our bridge to South East Asia, we will be closer to realising our hopes for India and ASEAN ties," she said.

She called for addressing the common challenges in the region like creating skills for the digital age, generating jobs in the age of disruption, meeting the need of rapid urbanisation, protecting the bio-diversity and making the energy sources cleaner.

"We are moving from industrial age to information age. The global power balance is shifting, and the relation between nations are changing," said Swaraj.

"There is interesting new technology but unsettled question of history still divides us. At the same time, we see progress and opportunities as never before," said the minister.

India's dialogue partnership with ASEAN has evolved into a strategic partnership and the Indian diaspora provides a platform for stronger ties with the grouping, External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj said.

PIO delegations from all the ASEAN countries, including ministers, eminent personalities, business and socio-political leaders participated in the event.

The PBD of ASEAN countries has been themed 'Ancient Route, New Journey: Diaspora in the Dynamic ASEAN-India Partnership.'

On the minister inaugurated the 5th Round Table of Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) India Network of Think Tanks in Indonesia.

Speaking at the inaugural session of The Association of Southeast

Asian Nations (ASEAN), Smt. Swaraj said, "The 5th Round Table meeting taking place at a very important juncture as in less than three weeks from now, India will host the ASEAN-India commemorative summit to mark the 25 years of India-ASEAN relations."

"Therefore, the discussions are timely and opportunely. It will provide useful inputs to our leaders, when they will meet on 25th January in New Delhi for the summit," she added.

Swaraj urged the Think-Tanks to strengthen consultation and suggest ways to enhance maritime,

commercial, educational and cultural co-operation.

"I look forward to new India where both India and ASEAN can work together to bring development and prosperity to the region," she said. □

SUSHMA SWARAJ CONCLUDES 'PRODUCTIVE' THREE-NATION VISIT

External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj's visit to Thailand, Indonesia and Singapore to deepen India's ties with key ASEAN countries has been productive, an official said.

Sushma Swaraj was in Singapore on the last leg of the 5-day tour.

"Bidding farewell to the Lion City Singapore. EAM Sushma Swaraj emplanes for Delhi after a productive 5-day visit to Thailand, Indonesia and Singapore to deepen our relationship with key ASEAN countries," external affairs ministry spokesperson Raveesh Kumar tweeted.

Her three-nation visit was the part of New Delhi's efforts to hold bilateral interactions in various sectors with the countries of South East Asian region within the framework of India's Act East Policy.

During her visit, Sushma Swaraj addressed the Indian diaspora at the ASEAN-India Pravasi Bharatiya Divas (PBD) in Singapore and reaffirmed India's commitment to the ASEAN.

The Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) is India's 4th largest trading partner, accounting for 10.2 per cent of its total trade. India is the ASEAN's 7th largest trading partner.

The ASEAN comprises Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam.

Singapore's Deputy Prime Minister Teo Chee Hean yesterday said his country could provide a good base for Indian companies as a civil aviation, trading and financial hub. □

VIJAY GOKHALE TO REPLACE JAISHANKAR AS FOREIGN SECRETARY

Amb. Vijay Gokhale, who was India's envoy to China till September previous year, is now posted at the headquarters of the Ministry of External Affairs as secretary (Economic Relations).

Former ambassador to China Vijay K Gokhale, who played a key role in resolving the Doklam row, has been appointed as the new Foreign Secretary replacing J Jaishankar, who retires this month. He succeeds S Jaishankar who completes his tenure on January 28.

Shri Gokhale, a 1981-batch officer, now Secretary (Economic Relations) in the Ministry of External Affairs, will take over from Dr. S. Jaishankar when he demits office on January 28, a notification issued by the Ministry of Personnel.

Gokhale is said to be well versed in China affairs. As per rules, the posts of foreign secretary, defence and home secretaries, CBI and IB chiefs are for a two-year term.

His previous diplomatic assignments included postings in Hong Kong, Hanoi, Beijing and NY. He also served as deputy secretary (Finance), director (China & East Asia) and joint secretary (East Asia) at the MEA headquarters. He was appointed as India's envoy to China in September 2015. Her two-year tenure was cut short by the Modi government to pave way for Jaishankar. He was given a one-year extension in January last year. □



DIPLOMATIC POSTINGS

Shri Rajesh Ranjan, (IFS:2001), presently Director in the Ministry of External Affairs has been appointed as the **next High Commissioner of India to Botswana**.

Shri M. Subbarayudu, (IFS: 1994), presently Joint Secretary in the Ministry of External Affairs has been appointed as the **next Ambassador of India to the Republic of Peru**.

Shri Ravindra Jaiswal (IFS: 1999), presently Deputy Chief of Mission, Berne has been appointed as the **next Ambassador of India to Sudan**.

Shri Pradeep Kumar Gupta, presently Counsellor, High Commission of India, Accra has been appointed as the **next Ambassador of India to the Republic of Mali**.

Shri K. Jeeva Sagar (IFS: 1991), presently Joint Secretary in the Ministry of External Affairs has been appointed as the **next Ambassador of India to the State of Kuwait**.

Shri Azar A. H. Khan, presently Consul General in the Consulate General of India, Istanbul has been appointed as the **next Ambassador of India to Turkmenistan**. □

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE OF PIO PARLIAMENTARIANS

A Brief Presentation by UP Government on Trade & Investment Opportunities in Uttar Pradesh



Amb. Shashank on the podium, addressing PIO Parliamentarians

Hon'ble Minister of Industrial Development of Uttar Pradesh **Shri Satish Mahana** in his inaugural speech highlighted the strong potential that Uttar Pradesh has as one of the most attractive state for Trade and Investment today. Various sectors for investment were highlighted during the presentation and contribution of Uttar Pradesh to the GDP of India was talked about. It was explained by the Hon'ble Minister how reforms have been introduced by the Government in Uttar Pradesh to accelerate trade and investment. He said that everyone can today agree that there is a change now in the perspective of looking at Uttar Pradesh. Recently, the Government has taken up many new initiatives like establishment of new airport, upcoming expressways and highways and improving law and order situation.

Another presentation by **Dr. Debolina Chakravarty, Managing Director of Artemis Hospital, Gurgaon** talked about the attractive healthcare system in India which is also focusing on capacity-building of people in other countries. She said that healthcare is the sunshine industry today and Indian manages to get the best of doctors here. India is being able to provide the best medications to diseases at 1/10th of price as compared with other countries.

Amb. Shashank tried to highlight the role that Indian has played a pivotal role in engaging its Diaspora scattered around the world. He emphasized that Indian approach has always been

different from other Asian giants as it tries to engage with nations as per the need of the host country. He cast focus on the socio-cultural connect for strengthening people to people relations.

Dr. Rajni Sarin Chaired the session and invited all of delegates for UP-Investors summit 2018 in Lucknow on 21 & 22 February. and said UP is a land of Rama, a land of Krishna, a land full of rich history, she further added that many of you may have roots in UP so come to care for your land and support for its development.

Shri Sanjay Bhalla moderated the programme and in his introductory remarks highlighted the role of Antar Rashtriya Sahayog Parishad in consolidating people to people relations between India and Indian Diaspora.

Socio cultural connect for strengthening people to people relations



R to L: Amb. Pavan Varma,

Dr. Vinay Sahashrabuddhe, Dr. Shashi Bala
Amb. Pavan Varma in his keynote address, highlighted the importance of Indian culture which is the soul of India. He said that people from different parts of the world are connected with 'Indianness'. Amb. Varma also stressed the image of India as a young republic with great ancient civilisation which is known for its antiquity as well as continuity.

Chairperson, **Dr. Vinay Sahasrabuddhe**, talked about the role of not only elected representatives but others also in building friendships. He condemned the discrimination that takes place because of the caste system. He also talked about the problem of gender-

discrimination which is not only related to women but also to men. Dr. Sahasrabuddhe talked about the importance of Indian family and how it needs to be sustained as an institution. He concluded by saying that the essence of Indian knowledge system should be explored further and how it can be beneficial for engaging diaspora.

Role of PIO Parliamentarians in building bridges of Friendship and Understanding



L to R: H.E. Bharrat Jagdeo, Smt. Meenakshi Lekhi, Amb. Anup Mudgal, Sh. Narayan Kumar

As part of the conference, a session was held on the very theme of the conference, "Role of PIO Parliamentarians in Building Bridges of Friendship and Understanding".

This full-house session was chaired by former President of Guyana and MP **Dr. Bharrat Jagdeo**, Hon'ble MP Smt Meenakshi Lekhi was the keynote speaker and the session was moderated by **Amb. (Retd) Anup Mudgal**.

The session was characterised by frank and intense discussion on a wide range of issues covering both policy and procedures, some of the key elements of discussion and suggestions are summarised as under. Wide appreciation for this initiative of GOI to engage the PIO As part of the conference, a session was held on the very theme of the conference, "Role of PIO Parliamentarians in Building Bridges of Friendship and Understanding".

Parliamentarians and a call for further widening of these consultations at regional and multilateral Parliamentary fora where India and other diaspora countries participate.



A need to set-up a permanent digital platform for continued engagement and networking amongst PIO Parliamentarians. Relevant Parliamentarians' groups from diaspora countries must be contacted for exploring more reliable and institutional links.

Further measures need to be taken for facilitating easy and seamless engagement of diaspora with India in all fields of their interest. There is a need for further adaptation in the OCI system, which leaves no diaspora member out.

There is much greater need for engaging the youth through education, skills and culture. Many of the diaspora countries are seeking to set up institutions of higher learning and healthcare and looking for international cooperation. India should come forward and partner with these countries.

The overall goodwill must be enriched by matching economic ties and much greater attention needs to be paid to promote trade, investment and development partnership. Shri Narayan Kumar proposed vote of thanks.

In this session the keynote speaker Smt. Meenakshi Lekhi stressed on the important role of the parliamentarians as representatives of people and in facilitating policy execution. She also highlighted on the need to emphasize the immense role and implications of the indentureship period in Indian history. The 'why' and 'how' Parliamentarians are better positioned to be harbingers of change were also highlighted as they are less bound by formalities that bureaucrats and government leaders are subjected to.

Former President of Republic of Guyana and the chairperson of the session H.E. Bharrat Jagdeo spoke on the important role played by the parliamentarians from the Indian Diaspora, as promoters of advocacy, multi-culturalism and economic alliances. The comments round elucidated various points such as 1) fostering better understanding and partnership 2) need for proper

recognition of the Indian Diaspora and 3) issues of institutionalised discrimination that the Indian diaspora face in their adopted countries. The session ended on the note that it is the responsibility of both Diaspora and the home country to put in equal efforts for enhancing bridges of friendship and understanding.

Engaging the Diaspora Youth- the way forward



L to R : Sh. Saumitra Gokhale, Dr. Bhoendradatt Tewarie, Amit Gupta

"Notes from the keynote speech and discussion in the session "Engaging Diaspora Youth" at the PIO parliamentarians' conference organized by ARSP".

In a Landmark event of "The PIO-Parliamentarians' Conference, organized by ARSP, various meaningful sessions were conducted where brains and souls were actually making bridges of friendship and understanding by exchanging their thoughts and affections.

After Inaugural session, The session focused on 'Engaging the diaspora YOUTH- the way forward' was Chaired by Dr Mr. Bhoendradatt Tewarie, who served as Pro Vice Chancellor and Principal of the St. Augustine Campus of the University of the West Indies (UWI). He is elected to the House of Representatives in Trinidad and Tobago. Previously, he served as Minister of Industry, Enterprise and Tourism as well as, Leader of the House.

Keynote address was delivered by Shri Saumitra Gokhale (USA), who is international Coordinator of Hindu Swayam Sevak Sangh (HSS) and has been working with Indian Diaspora for the past 15 years and has been extensively traveling through Carrabin countries.

The Chairman, in his remarks, expressed the importance of sustainable development, globally. He

took a serious note on the values for youth and next generation in relating to the culture. He admired Indian civilization and its importance with regard to diaspora network along with ethical and moral values for youth in context of Indian civilization, which we can start from our own homes. He concluded with a thankful note regarding this conference, which brought the diaspora together from different countries of the world to work together for making a difference for the entire generations.

Shri Saumitra Gokhale, delivered his Key note address in a very polite and knowledgeable manner with the depth of topic by giving live examples of life. He emphasized upon that:

- The ties and feelings for India continue to exist in the diaspora. The immigrant generation has strong ties, then there may be some ambivalence in the next generation youth but it seems to revive again in their adulthood and the ensuing generations.

- Strengthening the cultural roots while allowing enough flexibility to adapt to the new country is the key to maintaining the identity.

- To engage youth in the diaspora beyond just emotional bond there should be efforts to educate them in the culture, history and current affairs of India.

- Use of technology and social media should be effectively done to give access to information as well as networking amongst the diaspora youth.

- More hands on and immersion programs (internships) in India should be developed for youth from various segments of the diaspora"- Apart from culture and seva related programs there is a growing interest among the youth to contribute in the spheres of social entrepreneurship, technology, governance etc.

- They would also like to be part of the story of the new India emerging as a major world power.

Ms. Indranie Chandarpal from Guyana, who is Member of Parliament since 1992 and is serving as the inaugural Chairperson of the Women and Gender Equality Commission since 2010 shared her views about the

problems and empowerment of women, which they are facing in Guyana.

Dr. Vindhya Vasini Persaud, Member of Parliament, National Assembly of Guyana, raised her concern about the lack of availability of the "Pujari's" (Hindu Priest's) and Scholars from India to share the rich tradition and knowledge with the Diaspora Youth. She also shared about the rise in Domestic violence and drug abuse, due to decline in the moral values in the younger generation.

Dr. Rajeev Gupta from UK tries to encourage the audience in a poetic way.

Among the other prominent participants; Amb Shashank (former FS & past President of ARSP), The Lord Suri of Ealing, Cllr Bhagwanji Chohan, Mayor of Brent (UK), also shared their thoughts and experiences on the said subject.

Mr. Amit Gupta who was moderator of the programme proposed vote of thanks. He thanks The Chair and Key note speaker for sharing their thoughts for roots and strengthening them, as well as for different projects worldwide.

Emerging Opportunities in Trade and Economic Relations in the context of India's Economic Rise



L to R: Ms. Preeti Patel, Sushil Pandit, Ashish Kumar Chauhan

In this session, the Keynote Speaker, **Mr. Ashish Kumar Chauhan**, MD & CEO of Bombay Stock Exchange highlighted the economic growth and development of India by speaking on the economic reforms introduced in India like Demonetisation, PM Jan Dhan Yojana, UID Aadhaar etc. He hailed the Government's initiative to accelerate the growth rate of India and how important the role of Diaspora has been in this regard. He

explained further that India presents a single door of opportunity for various countries and that has led India to become one of the largest growing countries in the field of economy, job creation and investment. It was reiterated that since India has moved up thirty places on the index of Ease of doing Business, this is the most opportune time for investing in India.

The Chairperson, **Ms. Preeti Patel** spoke about the endless opportunities for countries to invest in India especially after the initiatives by the Government like Smart City, Digital India, Make in India etc. The other issues highlighted during the discussion were trade barriers, quality of goods, labour costs and medical tourism. □

RASHTRAPATIJI ADDRESSES WORLD TELUGU CONFERENCE

Speaking on the occasion, Rashtrapati **Shri Ram Nath Kovind** said on December 19 that today Telugu is a global language. It can be heard and read and cherished across continents. It is the language of enterprise and technology. He congratulated all the delegates and

particularly those who have come from abroad. Shri Kovind also said, 'I am happy to learn that my colleague and the Vice-President of our country, M. Venkaiah Naidu - who is a proud Telugu - inaugurated this Conference. -GoTop. □

REMAINS OF WORLD'S OLDEST SLEEPING



In November, the remains of a 1,700-year-old reclining Buddha were unveiled in the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province of Pakistan. The statue measures 48 feet long and is located near Bhamala Stupa, a ruined Buddhist stupa and National Heritage Site. Carbon dating places the statue in the 3rd century AD, reportedly making it the oldest sleeping Buddha remains discovered so far. The unveiling was attended by Pakistan's opposition leader, Imran Khan, who called the archaeological site "an asset for our country." □

OBITUARY



Veteran Journalist and Former President of National Union of Journalists, **Dr. Nand Kishore Tripathi** passed away on 5th January at the age of 82.

He was a close associate of late Shri Baleshwar Agrawal at Hindusthan Samaachar News Agency.

Treating journalism as a mission, he served for a long period as editor of Navbharat Times, Lucknow edition.

One more pillar who valued the principles above anything else goes away but he will continue to inspire younger generations.

In him, we have lost a great human being and well wisher. ARSP pays its heartfelt tributes to the departed soul. □

PICTURE STORIES:



Her Majesty The Gyaltsuen graced the closing ceremony of Camp Raven, and awarded prizes to winners of various competitions held during the camp on 31 December 2017.



His Majesty The King, Her Majesty The Gyaltsuen, and His Royal Highness the Gyalsey graced the Silver Jubilee celebration of Gasa as a Dzongkhag (District). Gasa used to be a part of Puna Kha Dzongkhag until 1992.

KINGDOM OF BHUTAN CELEBRATES ITS 110TH NATIONAL DAY

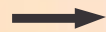


His Majesty The King, His Majesty the Fourth Druk Gyalpo and HRH The Gyalsey during the 110th National Day celebration in Haa.

Thousands of people gathered at the courtyard of *Lhakhang Karpo* to partake in the celebration.

In His address to the Nation, His Majesty highlighted the external and internal elements that could undermine the country's sovereignty and security.

"In today's interconnected world, any event in a distant part of the world has repercussions in our own country," His Majesty The King said.



The Kingdom of Bhutan celebrated its 110th National Day on 17th December 2017.

Their Majesties The King and Queen, His Majesty the Fourth King, His Royal Highness The Gyalsey (Prince) and Their Majesties the Queen Mothers along with other members of the Royal Family celebrated the 110th National Day with the people of Haa District at the courtyard of the newly rebuilt

Lhakhang Karpo. The Haa *rabdey*, district and local government officials, and the people escorted His Majesty in a *Chipdre* procession where His Majesty was offered a guard of honour.





"For us, it is most important that no matter how grave the external threats, nothing can harm us if we are united like members of a closely bonded family. Our society, as small as it is, cannot be threatened if we are conscious of the potential threats and remain steadfast in protecting our common interests," His Majesty The King said. "But more than external factors, we can become more vulnerable with internal instability."

Bhutan has been most fortunate to be a close-knit community, His Majesty The King said. "We must safeguard the integrity of our mutual relationships. It is vital that this fidelity is preserved because it is the quintessential strength of our sovereignty and security, well-being, and happiness."

His Majesty The King also pointed out that the country's greatest achievement in the evolution of governance has been the establishment of democracy.

His Majesty also expressed his optimism about the future and positive outcomes of the 12th Plan. "If we continue to be resilient, intelligent, conscientious, and work hard, guided by the philosophy and shared national vision of Gross National Happiness, we will not lose our direction.

"We cannot afford to be complacent. We are a small and vulnerable landlocked country between two large neighbours. India and China together have more than two and a half billion people. A large proportion of their populations are young and capable, highly-educated, and skilled. They do not shirk from hardship and they work hard. And there are hundreds of thousands of them for each one of us. So, for us to achieve equal standards of living, we have no choice but to work harder and become more capable," His Majesty The King said.

His Majesty The King also told the youth not to wait for government initiatives and for parents to push them forward. "In a fast-moving high-tech world where the only limit is your imagination, you must learn to take charge of the transition and inevitable evolution. You must take the first step."

His Majesty commended the government's effort in implementing the developmental activities and reminded the people of the challenges

that a developing nation like Bhutan may face in the future.

In Delhi, the Royal Bhutanese Embassy hosted a delightful reception at the Ambassador's residence to celebrate the 110th National Day on 15 December 2017. His Excellency, Shri Dharmendra Pradhan, Hon'ble Minister for Petroleum & Natural Gas,



and Skill Development & Entrepreneurship of the Government of India, graced the occasion as the Chief Guest. The reception was attended by senior officials of the Government of India, members of the diplomatic corps in Delhi, and many Indian friends and well-wishers of Bhutan. Guests enjoyed the musical renditions by the popular Bhutanese band "Misty Terrace". □

ENGAGING AN EXPANSIONIST CHINA: OPTIONS FOR INDIA

Antar-Rashtriya Sahayog Parishad (ARSP) organized a two day conference on 'Engaging an Expansionist China: Options for India' in collaboration with Nehru Memorial Museum & Library (NMML) and University of Delhi on 18-19 December, 2017 at Nehru Memorial Museum and Library, Teen Murti Bhawan, New Delhi.

The President of ARSP **Ambassador Virendra Gupta** welcoming the guests noted that national interest should indeed be the sole hallmark to determine our foreign policy approaches. Earlier our engagement with China was heavily predicated on protecting the Chinese sensitivities rather than our own. But, the government of the day under the leadership of Prime Minister Modi took very strong and resolute stand during Doklam stand-off as well as Government's position on OBOR that marked off from the past anachronistic stance. Despite the sulk arose from China's invasion and occupation of our part of territory in 1962, we have shown great courage and maturity to build constructive engagement with China, putting behind our differences. We have been exploring the area of convergences rather than differences, notwithstanding China has been repeatedly ignoring and hurting our sensitivities on all fronts.

The Secretary General of ARSP **Shri Shyam Parande** said, we need to redefine Indian diaspora outreach strategies in African countries in order to counter china's foray in African countries. We are not satisfactorily reaching out to them in spite of their presence in a considerable number. It is imperatively crucial for us to reinforce diasporic engagements through reclamation of Indian cultural and ethnic identities. As Africans themselves are expressing their concern towards Chinese domination. He brought to the notice that in the fifth Congress of the International Confucian Association, Chinese premier Mr. Xi Jinping talked about fusion of Marxism with Confucianism which exhorts to have amicable relationship with neighbors, but in reality, it is otherwise, china is always very aggressive and assertive.

The first session was focused to security issues in the context of engaging an expansionist China. The chairperson of the session **Ambassador Kanwal Sibal** articulated, we are forced to be realistic, as China will continue to expand because of its huge economy success and its growing military strength and colossal financial resources it commands. They have a stated ambition to become increasingly a global power and by 2049 it is disposed to be at the center stage internationally. They



R to L : Dr. Rajiv Nayan, Amb. Virendra Gupta, Dr. Shakti Sinha, Sh. Shyam Parande, Dr. Vijay Kumar Kaul

have a clear method and political support in notching it up. So the reality of an expansionist China cannot be wished away.

Dr. C. Raja Mohan has unequivocally opined, our perception of china is so tied-down by the past baggage, so we become reluctant to even acknowledge the reality. De facto, it is hard to come to the terms that the fellow Asian power in neighbour is a great power in the international system. China's GDP is 12 trillion dollars, second only to America's around 18 trillion dollars, and its military budget is about 150 billion dollars, these two indicators clearly tell that the weight of China in the international systems and within the regions is dramatically augmenting. China is a great power now and it will do what all other great powers before it had done.

Admiral Anil Chopra began by saying that China has worst maritime geography that needs to be prudently exploited. It is fact that there is huge gap between India and China in terms of economy and military power and on other fronts, but there are several fault lines and vulnerability in Chinese economy, China's internal state, China's military and even in Chinese initiatives like BRI and OBOR.

The second session was premised on the theme of Defence Preparedness, chaired by former army chief, **General J.J. Singh** who made a point that relation between India and China has overarching impact on peace, prosperity and stability of the region or perhaps of the world too. He laid stress on streamlining the weapons' procurement system and procurement cycle should be brought down to 5 years from ten years. He further said, the vital component of the national defence is the indigenous capability to research, develop and produce critical high-tech defence systems straddling combat Aircrafts, Submarines, Ships, Tanks, Missiles, Rockets, Unmanned Aerial Vehicles, Electronic Warfare Systems, Radars, and Strategic weapons.

Shri Vijay Kumar Kaul noted that we should make all out efforts to understand China, its society, governance system,

capabilities and intents for developing better strategy to contain China, instead of believing that China will collapse because of its inherent contradiction and problem. Professor Kaul said, there are three dimensions of Chinese competition- China indulges in illegal practices like thefts of patents, gross violation of IPR (Intellectual Property Rights), greasing the palm of officials in the international markets.

China poses fair and fierce competition through producing good-quality products at comparatively less price and shifting fast from low to high technology. China gets into the unfair competition through restricting access of international players to lucrative sectors and its national markets.

Dr. Rajiv Nayan said China should not be taken granted for words it utters. The functional foreign policy of China is contradictory to the stated policy. China projects itself as a responsible stakeholder of the international system and global non-proliferation order, but it acts as if it has little interest in making contribution to counter non-proliferation issue. Dr. A.Q. Khan's nuclear confessional statement substantiates its double-dealing.

Ambassador Ranjit Gupta delineated the micro dimension pertaining to the diplomatic implication of strong economy and cautioned against the most serious challenge posed by china is its economic prowess that is affecting India far more adversely than military matters, therefore it commands rattling focused attention. It is true that India is posting almost fastest annual economy growth rate and sooner than later we will become world's third largest economy. However there is an enormous difference between Indian and Chinese economies and it will remain for the foreseeable future because of huge base.

Delivering the valedictory speech, Amb. Virendra Gupta articulated, the best way to deal with China is to stand firm and strong, besides redefining the terms of bilateral engagement strictly on reciprocity. It is imperative for us to maneuver strategically for propelling a Multipolar Asia architecture to check China's designs. □

आयुर्वेद पर अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय संगोष्ठ



अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय सहयोग परिषद की कोलकाता शाखा और आयुष दर्पण फाउंडेशन के संयुक्त तत्वाधान में कोलकाता स्थित भारतीय भाषा परिषद के आडिटोरियम में आयुर्वेद विषय पर अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय कांफ्रेंस का उद्घाटन पश्चिम बंगाल के राज्यपाल श्री केशरीनाथ त्रिपाठी ने किया। इस अवसर पर बोलते हुये श्री त्रिपाठी ने आयुर्वेद को विश्व की सबसे सटीक चिकित्सा पद्धति बताया। राज्यपाल श्री त्रिपाठी ने आयुर्वेद पर शोध को बढ़ाये जाने की दिशा में जोर दिये जाने पर बल दिये जाने की बात की। उन्होंने नाड़ी विज्ञान का जिज्ञा करते हुये इस विज्ञान के चमत्कारिक अनुभवों को भी बताया। श्री त्रिपाठी ने आयुर्वेद को भविष्य की चिकित्सा पद्धति बताया। इस अवसर पर भारत सरकार की ओर से उप सलाहकार आयुर्वेद डॉ. एस. रघु ने आयुर्वेदिक चिकित्सा पद्धति के और अधिक लाभ आम जनता तक पहुंचाने की दिशा में भारत सरकार के आयुष मंत्रालय द्वारा की जा रही योजनाओं के बारे में विस्तार से जानकारी दी। एनबीआरआई-सीएसआईआर के पूर्व वरिष्ठ वैज्ञानिक डॉ. ए. के. एस. रावत ने आयुर्वेद के और अधिक फार्म्युलेशन को जनता के समक्ष रिसर्च द्वारा पहुंचाये जाने पर जोर दिया। तिब्बती चिकित्सा पद्धति की जानकार चिकित्सक डॉ. जामयाग डोलमा ने आयुष विध के अंतर्गत आने वाली तिब्बती चिकित्सा पद्धति सोया-रिंगपा के बारे में जानकारी दी तथा चीन एवं तिब्बत में इसके व्यापक प्रयोग के अनुभव साझा किये।

मॉरीशस से आए ह्यूमन सर्विस ट्रस्ट एवं महात्मा गांधी आयुर्वेदिक अस्पताल के संस्थापक श्री प्रेमचन्द्र बुझावन ने मॉरीशस में आयुर्वेद के स्थापित

होने पर अपने अनुभव साझा किये। इस अवसर पर आधुनिक चिकित्सा पद्धति की चिकित्सक एवं अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय सहयोग परिषद की सदस्या डॉ. रजनी सरीन ने आयुर्वेद एवं योग को स्वयं द्वारा अपनाकर जीवन को रोगमुक्त और दवामुक्त करने पर व्याख्यान दिया। उद्घाटन सत्र का आकर्षण प्रख्यात मर्म चिकित्सा विशेषज्ञ प्रोफेसर सुनील जोशी का मर्म चिकित्सा पर दिया प्रस्तुतीकरण रहा, जिसने राज्यपाल सहित दर्शक दीर्घा में उपस्थित लोगों को भी इस चिकित्सा पद्धति की ओर ध्यानाकृष्ट किया। प्रोफेसर सुनील जोशी ने मर्म विन्दुओं के महत्व पर विस्तार से प्रकाश डाला और गुप्त रूप से प्रयोग की जाती रही इस विध को एक मिशन के रूप में लोगों तक पहुंचाने का लक्ष्य सभी के सामने रखा। उन्होंने इस अवसर पर पश्चिम बंगाल के राज्यपाल को मर्म चिकित्सा की पुस्तकें भेंट की। इस अवसर पर अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय सहयोग परिषद के पश्चिम बंगाल शाखा के सचिव श्री कुंजबिहारी सिंघानिया ने सभी अतिथियों एवं भारत के पश्चिमोत्तर राज्य सहित विदेशों से आये प्रतिनिधियों का स्वागत स्मृति चिन्ह, रुद्राक्ष की माला एवं शाल ओढाकर किया। कांफ्रेंस के सफल आयोजन में सक्रिय भूमिका निभाने के कारण आयुष दर्पण फाउंडेशन एवं वेबपोर्टल के संस्थापक डॉ. नवीन जोशी को राज्यपाल श्री केशरीनाथ त्रिपाठी द्वारा अवार्ड ऑफ एकसीलेंस प्रदान किया गया। उद्घाटन सत्र में कोलकाता चेम्बर ऑफ कॉमर्स, नेपाल के कांउंसलेट जनरल के कार्यालय प्रतिनिधि एवं एडीएफ फाउंडेशन के पंडित मनीष उप्रेती भी मौजूद रहे। कांफ्रेंस का अगले चरण मर्म चिकित्सा शिविर एवं वर्कशाप के रूप में आयोजित होगा। □

अमेरिका के हार्ट स्पेशलिस्ट का बलिया में बसा दिल



सात समंदर पार जाने के बाद देश और घर-परिवार को भूल जाने वालों की कतार बहुत लंबी है। परंतु कैलिफोर्निया में रहने वाले डॉ. विजय तिवारी, का दिल बलिया में बसता है। वह बलिया के गरीब लोगों के इलाज के लिए हेल्थ कैंप लगाने और उनके बच्चों के लिए स्कूल खोलने के लिए हर छह महीने में एक बार बलिया आते हैं।

इंजीनियर विजय की प्रारंभिक शिक्षा बनारस में हुई। उसके बाद लखनऊ और दिल्ली में पढ़ाई करने के बाद एमबीबीएस के लिए केरल (त्रिवेंद्रम) गए और साल 2004 में अमेरिका के कैलिफोर्निया प्रांत में काम करने लगे। मां-बाप की असामयिक निधन के बाद भी अपनी पढ़ाई पूरी करके बलिया के छोटे से गांव से यूएस पहुंचे डॉ. विजय तिवारी ने फैसला किया वह गरीब बच्चों के लिए कुछ करेंगे इसके लिए अपने गांव को चुना। यहां पर उन्होंने डीएसईटी यानी दया-सुमित्रा एजुकेशनल ट्रस्ट पब्लिक स्कूल खोला। गांव पर माता-पिता के नाम से खुलवाए इस विद्यालय में गरीब बच्चों को मुफ्त शिक्षा प्रारंभ करवायी। गांव के गरीब लोगों की सेहत दुरुस्त करने के लिये वह हर छह महीने पर हेल्थकैंप में बलिया के डॉ. अजीत सिंह बाल रोग विशेषज्ञ, गाजीपुर से विवेकानंद राय सर्जन और हृदयरोग विशेषज्ञ डॉ. संतोष कुमार ने भी सहयोग दिया। उन्होंने गांव में गरीब बच्चों के विद्यालय खुलवाने के साथ साल में दो बार हेल्थ कैंप लगवाने का संकल्प भी कर रखा है। डॉ. विजय तिवारी ने बताया कि उनकी कोशिश होगी इस स्कूल में पढ़ने वाले बच्चे आगे चलकर अमेरिका तक पहुंचकर अपनी योग्यता साबित करें। □

अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय सहयोग परिषद और रोटरी वाराणसी का नव वर्ष मिलन समारोह-2018

अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय सहयोग परिषद और रोटरी वाराणसी का नववर्ष 2018 मिलन समारोह 07 जनवरी, 2018 को डॉ. अजीत सैगल के निवास स्थान मंगलम क्लिनिक एवं ट्रामा सेंटर, सिद्धगिरी बाग, वाराणसी में संपन्न हुआ। जिसमें अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय सहयोग परिषद और रोटरी वाराणसी के 100 से ज्यादा सदस्य उपस्थित थे। अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय सहयोग परिषद के अध्यक्ष पंडित रामगोपाल मोहाले ने अतिथियों का स्वागत



किया, इसके बाद अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय सहयोग परिषद के उपाध्यक्ष डॉ. के. पी. अग्रवाल ने अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय सहयोग परिषद के उपलब्धियों के बारे में लोगों को बताया तथा रोटरी वाराणसी के सचिव रोटेरियन नीलेश भुवालका जी ने रोटरी के सदस्यों द्वारा किये गये कार्यों और रोटरी द्वारा पोलियो मुक्त भारत के सपने को साकार करने के विषय में लोगों को बताया। कार्यक्रम में वाराणसी की वर्तमान महापौर श्रीमती मृदुला जयसवाल मुख्य अतिथि के रूप में उपस्थित थी उन्होंने कहा की वे भी अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय सहयोग परिषद और रोटरी वाराणसी के साथ मिलकर वाराणसी को स्वच्छ काशी और स्वस्थ

काशी बनाने के लिए सदैव तैयार है और अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय सहयोग परिषद तथा रोटरी वाराणसी के सदस्यों की सहायता से काम करने के लिए भी कहा तथा उन्हें अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय सहयोग परिषद और रोटरी वाराणसी की मानस सदस्यता प्रदान की गयी तथा उन्हें सदस्यता पीन अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय सहयोग परिषद के सदस्य डॉ. संजय मेहता और रोटेरियन डॉ. कुसुम चन्द्रा ने लगाया। अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय सहयोग परिषद के सचिव और रोटरी वाराणसी के अध्यक्ष डॉ. अजीत सैगल ने बी. एच. यू. के प्रोफेसर डॉ. रतन श्रीवास्तव जी के विषय में बताते हुए कहा कि उन्होंने जैसे सूरत में लोगों को साफ-सफाई के

बारे में बताकर प्लेग जैसी बीमारी को वहां पर कम किया वैसे ही वो वाराणसी में भी हम लोगों के साथ मिलकर वाराणसी की साफ सफाई के बारे में लोगों को बताकर उन्हें जागरूक करने में सहभागिता निभाएंगे। अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय सहयोग परिषद की सदस्य डॉ. बेला सैगल ने महापौर को अंगवस्त्र प्रदान किया, श्री विवेक टंडन जी ने उपहार देकर पंडित रामगोपाल मोहाले जी का अभिवादन किया। कार्यक्रम में

शिल्पयन के देवाशीष डे और डॉ. रागिनी सरना को सम्मानित किया गया। विवेक मेहरा जी ने श्री राध किसन जी को अंगवस्त्र प्रदान किया। कार्यक्रम के अंत में अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय सहयोग परिषद के कोषाध्यक्ष श्री आशीष बसाक जी ने धन्यवाद प्रकाश किया। कार्यक्रम में डॉ. अनिल ओहरी, पवन अग्रवाल, डॉ. संजय मेहता, डॉ. के. चंद्र, डॉ. सुधीर सिंह, डॉ. पी. पी. त्रिपाठी, डॉ. रीता त्रिपाठी, रोटेरियन अभय अग्रवाल, राजेश जायसवाल, अनिमेश कपूर, डॉ. कुमकुम अग्रवाल, डॉ. अनंत और डॉ. सौम्या आदि उपस्थित थे।

मॉरीशस का भारत से रिश्ता

डॉ. सरिता बूधू ने बलिया में खोज लिया पुरखों का गांव

बोला वतन का प्रेम

• 872 में सबसे पहले 18 वर्ष की उम्र में डॉ. सरिता बूधू के परदादा माखन सिंह गए थे मॉरीशस

• पूर्वांचल के जिलों से है विशेष लगाव, भोजपुरी के प्रचार व प्रसार को आती रहती है।

भोजपुरी स्पीकिंग यूनिजन मॉरीशस की चेयरमैन डॉ. सरिता बूधू बलिया के देवरामपुर गांव में अपने 300 साल पुराने परिजनों से मिलकर फूल नहीं समा रही है। वहीं मॉरीशस में रह रहे गिरमिटिया मजदूरों को ओसीआई (ओवरसीज सिटीजन ऑफ इंडिया) कार्ड जारी किए जाने के लिए प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी की तारीफ की।

मॉरीशस में पिछले 40 साल से भोजपुरी भाषा के प्रचार-प्रसार में जुटी डॉ. सरिता बूधू मॉरीशस में रहने वाले उत्तर प्रदेश के बनारस, जौनपुर,

आजमगढ़, गोरखपुर, फैजाबाद, बलिया, देवरिया समेत पूर्वांचल के अन्य जिलों के गिरमिटिया मजदूरों की खोज कर रही है। इसी बीच उन्हें जब मॉरीशस में यह जानकारी हुई कि उनके पुरखों की जन्मभूमि बलिया के देवरामपुर में है तो उन्हें बड़ी खुशी हुई। चार दिन पूर्व अपने पूर्वजों के गांव पहुंची और वहां की मिट्टी का तिलक लगाया। बताया कि अपनी चौथी पीढ़ी से मिलकर खुशी की जो अनुभूति हुई उसको बयान नहीं कर सकती। पिछले 15 साल से जिले में भोजपुरी भाषा के प्रचार-प्रसार के लिए आ रही डॉ. सरिता गुरुवार को देर शाम जौनपुर से शहर के हीरापट्टी मोहल्ले निवासी पवन उपाध्याय के आवास पहुंची। प्रेस प्रतिनिधियों से वार्ता में उन्होंने बताया कि उनके पूर्वज माखन सिंह 18 वर्ष की उम्र में 21 सितंबर, 1872 को वतन छोड़कर पानी के जहाज से गिरमिटिया मजदूर से रूप में मॉरीशस चले गये थे, जबकि वे खानदानी जमींदार थे। उसके बाद से वे गांव नहीं गए और वहीं अपना घर बसा लिया। बताया कि वे उनकी चौथी पीढ़ी की हैं।

बचपन से ही अपने पुरखों के गांव की तलाश थी। मॉरीशस स्थित महात्मा गांधी लाइब्रेरी से पता निकाल कर खोज शुरू की।



इसी दौरान आजमगढ़ के हरिहर गांव में बलिया के रामनिवास यादव से मुलाकात हुई। उन्होंने बलिया के राजस्व कार्यालय से पूरा रिकार्ड निकाला और उसे उपलब्ध कराया। उसके बाद पता चला कि उनका मूल गांव भारत के ही उत्तर प्रदेश के बलिया जनपद के देवरामपुर में है। बताया कि मॉरीशस भले ही जन्मभूमि हो लेकिन भारत पुण्यभूमि है। आजमगढ़ के बारे में बताया कि यह ऋषि-मुनियों व साहित्यकारों की धरती है। यहां की मिट्टी हर क्षेत्र में उर्वरा है। उन्होंने बताया कि वे लोग मॉरीशस में भारत की सभ्यता, संस्कृति व कला को सहेज कर रखे हैं।

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