

ANTAR RASHTRIYA SAHAYOG PARISHAD BULLETIN

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CONTRIBUTION OF DIASPORA IN NATION BUILDING

A two-day international conference, focusing on the contribution of Indian Diaspora in nation building in Mauritius, kicked off on 5th July, 2018 at the Mahatma Gandhi Institute in Moka. The conference was organised as part of the Antar Rashtriya Sahayog Parishad (ARSP) India's commemoration of the centenary of the abolition of indentured system and the celebrations to mark the 50th anniversary of the independence of Mauritius.



The Minister Mentor, Minister of Defence and Minister of Rodrigues, Sir Anerood Jugnauth inaugurating the International Conference

In his keynote address, Minister Mentor, Minister of Defence and Minister of Rodrigues, Sir Anerood Jugnauth highlighted that the depth, strength and uniqueness of the shared relationship between India and Mauritius is unparalleled while adding that it transcends the socio-economic and political sides and is firmly rooted in a common vision.

According to Sir Anerood Jugnauth, the unity and diversity that presently reigns in Mauritius and its people capacity to respond to emerging challenges are the results of the outstanding values such as resilience, tolerance, hard work and sacrifice transmitted to the Mauritians by their forefathers who came mainly from India under the Indentured System.

He recalled that under the colonial rule, over 2 million indentured labourers were taken amongst others

to the lands of South Africa, Mauritius, Trinidad and Tobago and Fiji to address labour shortages in sugarcane plantations. He underlined that they constituted significant majorities and have played important role in nation building process thus contributing to the socio-economic development of their respective countries. Some half million indentured labourers who came to Mauritius have contributed significantly to giving a new identity to the country, he said.

Sir Anerood Jugnauth further expressed his gratitude to the Government of India for its relentless support in the modernisation of Mauritius and helping the country to achieve its set of objectives.

Minister of Arts and Culture, Mr Prithvirajsing Roopun underlined that the arrival of the indentured immigrants is a major milestone in the history of Mauritius. He underpinned that through their toil, sweat, unwavering determination and their struggle for a better life, the indentured

Think it Over

An Illusion

This world is an illusion. Better not let the mind dwell on it. Neither freedom from sorrow nor realisation of one's true status is possible as long as you are not convinced that world appearance is unreal.

Yoga Vasishtha

immigrants have shaped modern Mauritius and contributed in transforming the country into the star and key of the Indian Ocean.

With regard to cultural heritage, he underscored that the country is a multi-ethnic one and that this multi-ethnicity must be seen as a powerful driver of social harmony and economic prosperity and used as an engine to prevent conflicts and maintain peace and unity.

Ambassador Gupta highlighted that the Indian Diaspora is making valuable contributions to the development process of the countries of the Indentured Labour Route. He stated that Mauritius was the first and largest recipient of indentured labour.

He underlined that the arrival of these brave people from India, was much

more than the mere transportation of a group of labourers to an unknown land. He described it as a profound transfusion of the very pluralistic cultural values of India. This heritage is found very much alive today in Mauritius as well as the other countries on the Indentured Labour Route, he said.

This International Conference was organised jointly by the Antar Rashtriya Sahayog Parishad (ARSP) India, Mahatma Gandhi Institute (MGI), Mauritius and Aapravasi Ghat Trust Fund (AGTF), Mauritius in association with People of Indian Origin Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PIOCCI) from 5-6 July, 2018. Indian, international and Mauritian participants presented their views on a vast range of subjects like Independence Movement and Political Developments, Establishment and Working of Democratic Institutions, Economic Development and Modernization, Socio- Cultural Experience, Higher Education and Technology and finally the Role of Diaspora- Mauritian Experience.

Inaugural Session began with the welcome address by **Mr. Jaynarain Meetoo**, Chairman, MGI/RTI. He gave a brief history of the Immigrant population and of MGI/RTI key role in preserving archives and analysing ancestral history. **Mr. Dharam Yash Deo Dhuny**, Chairperson, AGTF recalled the special relations between India and Mauritius. **Amb. Virendra Gupta**, President, ARSP in his welcome address thanked the Right Honorable Minister Sir Anerood Juganauth for his continued support to ARSP. He introduced the theme of the two day International Conference and highlighted the importance of Diaspora as an integral part of the nation-building process. Acting High Commissioner of India, **Shri K.D.Dewal**, spoke about the cultural bonds between India and Mauritius and how well the culture has been preserved by the descendents of the immigrants.

Shri Shyam Parande, Secretary General, ARSP proposed vote of thanks and summing up the key points

highlighted the Role of Late Shri Baleshwar Agrawal former Secretary General of ARSP that ARSP has been working for stablish strong and coordinal relation between Indian and Indian Diaspora since last five decades. He said that there is a strong social and cultural ties between Indian Diaspora and India.

Session One on Independence Movement and Political Developments- Establishment and Working of Democratic Institutions.

This session was chaired by Amb Virendra Gupta. The session focused on the arrival of immigrants in Mauritius and how they transformed the political landscape by bringing in the highest democratic standards, institutions and practices. The main speakers in this sesstion were:-Prof Ajay Dubey from JNU, Dr. Sarita Boodhoo, Amb R. Dayakar, Dr. Amba Pande, Dr Sheetal, Rajesh Gogna, Mr. Dharam Yash Deo Dhuny and Mr Mukesh Jhummun.

Session Two on Economic, Development and Modernization

was chaired by Prof Rajkkumar Bhatia, Patron PIOCCI. It was a vibrant session focusing on the economic aspects of nation-building. The speaker talked about the challenges and opportunities faced by the Indian Diasporas in the global market and the importance of 'Economic diplomacy' and 'Brand India'. The main speakers in this sesstion were:- Mr. Jwala Rambarran, Mr. Dev Chamru, Mr. Nimesh Patel, Amb Manju, Mr James Naidu, Prof Atanu Mohapatra and Prof Gopal Arora. This session was concluded by the address given by Mr. Abhay Kumar, head PIOC

Open House Session was chaired by Mr. Shyam Parande, Mr. Rakesh Pandey and Prof Atanu Mohapatra highlighted the long shared cultural relationship between India and Mauritius and the importance of Hindi and Bhojpuri in Mauritius. Dr. Ramashakar Kushwaha sang a Pravasi geet '*Railiya Bairan*' in the context of male migration movement . This session was concluded by a melodious jhoomer presented by

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EDITOR

Keshav G. Parande

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Keshav G. Parande

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

CONTACT

Phone (O) : 011 - 2323 4432
Fax: 011 - 2323 2751

E-MAIL

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

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Dr. Sarita Bodhoo titled, '*Kehi jala hajpur kehi jala patna.*'

Session Three on Socio- Cultural Experience Including Higher Education and Technology

was chaired by Dr. Santosh Kumar Preedaruth of MGI. In this session the speakers talked about the contributions and challenges faced by Indian diaspora in preserving the Bhartiya socio-cultural fabric in Mauritius. The speakers also stated the importance of culture in the nation-building process and expanding foreign relations. The main speakers in this session were Mr. Surajdeo Mangroo, Dr. Jean Regis Ramasamy, Ms. Sabine Armoody, Dr. Hans Ramduth, Dr. Amit Singh, Dr. Sheila Devi Ramdoo, and Mrs. Kiran Jankee.

Session Four on Role of Diaspora in Nation-Building - The Mauritian Experience

was jointly chaired by Dr. V Koojal and Amb Anup Kumar Mudgal. The session broadly focused on the way Indian Diaspora have maintained and sustained their cultural heritage in Mauritius and contributions made by them in the nation-building process of Mauritius. The main speakers were Prof Vinesh Hookoomsing, Mr. Jay Ganesh Dawosing, Mr. Satyendra Peerthum, Mrs Zareen Beebeejaun-Muslim, and Mr Narayan Kumar.

Valedictory Session: The Chief Guest of Valedictory Session The Acting President of the Republic of Mauritius highlighted the importance of Diaspora. He also appreciated the Indian Government stance to support its Diaspora. He appreciated the Indian Diaspora's very nature to merge and mingle with the native population. He also highlighted the importance of India in the Mauritian nation-building process and emphasised on the role of Sir



Ramgoolam, Sir Aneerood Jugnauth, the current and former Prime Ministers and Presidents in nation-building. He thanked them for their contribution towards Mauritius nation building journey. He ended with the thought of strong cultural connect of Indian Diaspora with not only their home country but of the host as well. Mr. **H.E. Mr Paramasivum Pillay Vyapoory, G.O.S.K** included eminent speakers like ARSP President Amb Virendra Gupta, Director General MGI, Mrs Surya Gayan, Guest of Honour H.E Mr Anil Kumarsingh Gayan , Minister of tourism, Chief Guest, H.E Mr Paramasivum Pillay Vyapoory, GOSK, The Acting President of the Republic of Mauritius, Shri K.D. Deewal, Acting High commissioner of India to Mauritius, Mr Dharam Yash Deo Dhuny, Chairperson of AGTF, Mr. Jaynarain Meetoo, Chairman, MGI/RTI and Mr Shyam Parande, General Secretary, ARSP.

Amb Virendra Gupta summarised the two day conference proceeding. He said that there is a shift in the attitude of Diaspora as it is now coming out of its cognitive shell and gaining confidence. He also stated that nation-building transcends socio- cultural aspects and highlighted the importance of Diaspora. He also emphasised the need for promoting

language and education for smooth sailing of nation building. Mrs Surya Gayan gave a few suggestions like looking upon the migration trends between Reunion Islands, Mauritius and Seychelles. She asked to engage more in Diaspora to understand the cultural baggage it brings and emotional connect it amplifies. She also talked about the preservation of heritage and the associated government policies for the same. Finally she highlighted the role of Bollywood in promoting Indian Diaspora across the globe. H.E. Mr. Anil Gayal began with the idea of Vasudeva Kutumkam. He stated that Diaspora is a very complex and unique phenomenon. He also emphasised on the history and importance of labour Diaspora in the Indian Ocean. He appreciated the PIO/OCI cards. However, he suggested that PIO/OCI card holder should play a crucial role in the legislative like in China and France. He also quoted the Indian Ministers words like 'When Mauritius asks India Cannot Say No'. Finally he also talked about increasing people to people diplomacy. H.E. Mr Paramasivum Pillay Vyapoory, GOSK.

The delegates also visited Reunion to interact with the local PIO organizations. The report will be published in the next issue. □

THE HINDUSTANI COMMUNITY IS A COLOURFUL PART OF THE SURINAMESE FABRIC—PRESIDENT KOVIND



President Ram Nath Kovind garlanding the statue of Mai Baap at Suriname

President Kovind visited Suriname (June 19-21, 2018) to commemorate 145th anniversary celebration of the arrival of first group of Indians as indentured labour. Today, almost 37% of the total population of 5,73,311 is of Indian origin.

On his arrival, President Kovind paid his tributes at the Gandhi statue in the city. President Kovind at the community reception said, “The Hindustani community is a colourful part of the Surinamese fabric. I see them in large numbers here. They carry the stories of the arduous journey of their forefathers, undertaken from Kolkata to Paramaribo, close to their hearts. In the steps of Baba and Mai, they follow their past, their pride and their history. These inspire millions in India as well.

The Baba and Mai monument in Kolkata, an exact replica of the one in Paramaribo, is testimony to our umbilical connect. I am happy that the Hindustani community has beautifully assimilated in the Surinamese society and yet, has preserved and kept their traditions and culture alive. The best of India, be it music, art or language has a place of pride here. And the best of Indian cinema is enjoyed by all. Tomorrow, we will be laying the foundation stone of an Indian Cultural Centre. This would be dedicated to the promotion of Hindustani music and culture. I hope other communities would also join in its journey and success.”

He further said that, “I am delighted that you are celebrating the 145th anniversary of the arrival of Indians in

this country. But what is deeply inspiring for me is that each and every member of the Surinamese society is sharing the festivities. And you are not just living in harmony with your communities, but also in harmony with nature. I am told you are the greenest country in the world. Deep in your forests and river valleys, exist centuries old wisdom and traditional knowledge. We should bring them back into our modern lives. I am happy that you celebrate National Ayurveda Day in Suriname. Today, we have agreed to collaborate in the fields of traditional medicine and plants. I hope we will succeed in bringing the best of Suriname and India together.”

Rashtrapatiji also spoke in Hindi during his address at the community reception,



President Ram Nath Kovind performs 'asanas'

“भाइयों और बहनों”, आप सब से मिलकर मुझे सचमुच बहुत खुशी हो रही है। यह बड़े ही सम्मान की बात है कि आपने यहां हिन्दी को जीवित रखा है। मैं गर्व से कह सकता हूँ कि इस नाते आप सब सूरीनाम में भारत की भाषा और संस्कृति को यहां के विभिन्न समुदायों के बीच फैलाने का काम बखूबी कर रहे हैं। इस प्रकार आपने अपने पूर्वजों की स्मृति को भी जीवित बनाए रखा है। इसके लिये आप सब बधाई के पात्र हैं। मैं आप सबसे आग्रह करता हूँ कि इस कार्य को इसी तरह जारी रखिए। मैं कामना करता हूँ कि यह उत्साहपूर्ण वातावरण सदैव कायम रहे।

On June 21st, on the occasion of International Day of Yoga, he along with President Boutersel and other yoga enthusiasts, performed yoga asanas in Suriname. It was the first time since these celebrations began in 2015 that two Heads of State celebrated yoga together. President Kovind also addressed the people of Suriname and talked about the

benefits of performing yoga asana. **Indian Diaspora–India’s Cultural Ambassador in Greece**

As part of the nine day tour, President Ram Nath Kovind was in Greece from June 18-20, 2018. An India-Greece CEO's meeting was held on 19 June 2018. The business meeting was attended by an Indian business delegation comprising 31 business representatives and a large number of Greek businesspersons representing the sectors of information technology, electronics, real estate, agriculture, tourism, food processing etc. President Kovind addressed the business leaders at a Breakfast Meeting.

While addressing Indian diaspora, President Kovind recognised their role

in strengthening economic and cultural relations between the two countries. He said that “We have an ambassador in Greece. But you are India's cultural ambassador. You play a greater role in establishing relations with India, to strengthen economic relations with India.” He also talked about the range of facilities given to the NRIs, these are: 24-hour helpline in the embassies for the diaspora; Pravasi Bhartiya Kendra which acts as a resource center for diaspora whenever the Indian diaspora visits India; Know India Program to gain more information about their country; introduction of Overseas Citizens of India or Persons of Indian Origin cards. He invited the Indian diaspora to attend the forthcoming Pravasi Bhartiya Divas (PBD) and the Republic Day parade. □

Visit of External Affairs Minister to Italy, France, Luxembourg, and Belgium



The Hon'ble Minister of External Affairs, Smt. Sushma Swaraj, concluded a 4-nation official visit to Italy, France, Luxembourg and Brussels from 17-23 June 2018. Smt. Sushma Swaraj attended the canonisation ceremony of Mother Teresa in Rome and said, "I have come here with a delegation from different parts of India, with those of different faiths to pay respect to life of Mother Teresa." She added that, "For the Indian principle is based on the saying: एकम सत्, विपरा बहुदा वदंथी – the truth is one, the wise call it as many".

In Rome Ms. Swaraj met Indian diaspora and talked about various welfare efforts of the government and assisting the community members in distress abroad. She thanked Indian diaspora for coming, not just from Rome but from Naples, Florence and Milan. Hon'ble Minister talked about the important contributions being made by the Indian diaspora to the Italian economy.

During her visit to France (from June 18 to 19, 2018) Smt Sushma Swaraj announced that India will construct an

Indian Armed Forces Memorial in Villiers Guislain, France, to honour the valour and sacrifice of the thousands of Indian soldiers, sailors and airmen who fought for peace in World War I.

Smt. Sushma Swaraj visited the India House and addressed the residents where she emphasized on the importance attached by India on the links with the Indian diaspora. She handed over certificates of appreciation to Indian community organization and individuals who have contributed to the Swacch Bharat Kosh. She also had a word of advice for the Indian community in France. "Wherever I have visited, I have heard three things about Indians which make me very proud of our diaspora. One Indians are good neighbours, two they are hard working and three they follow the law and order. These three things are the aspects that are most visible about any community and hence it is very important for all of you to consider yourselves as the real ambassadors of India. Your actions will leave a lasting memory for the French and hence it is important that you keep in mind that you are representing India

here and whatever you do will impact India's image in the mind of the ordinary French," Ms. Swaraj said.

She released a publication 'States of India' prepared by Embassy of India which is meant for increasing awareness of the business climate and invest potential of various states of India and would prove to be a handy guide for French investors, chamber of commerce and others.

During her visit to Luxembourg (June 19-20, 2018) EAM called on H.E. Mr. Xavier Bettel, the Prime Minister of Luxembourg. During the call on, the leaders discussed a wide range of issues including enhancing bilateral and India-EU trade and investment ties, digital and space cooperation, fintech and diaspora contribution.

EAM also had an opportunity to interact with the Indian community at an Embassy organised reception. While addressing the diaspora Ms Swaraj said, "Through your diligence and competence, you have won the



admiration of the Luxembourg society. And you have made your homeland proud. I am confident that in the coming years you will play a pivotal role in enhancing India's bilateral relationship with Luxembourg."

Smt. Sushma Swaraj visited Belgium to (June 20 to 22, 2018) The Indian Diaspora in Belgium is estimated at 18,000. Of this, nearly 10,000 are Indian citizens. Around 1,500 Indian IT professionals work for Belgian companies along with around 800 Indian students in various universities.

At the reception in Bozar Brussels, EAM said that, "The Indian Diaspora in Antwerp is a significant pillar of the India-Belgium Friendship. India is extremely proud of these sons and daughters of India who have contributed to the continued success of Belgium as the hub of diamond trade in the world." While talking about the contribution of Indian diaspora on socio-cultural unity Ms Swaraj mentions, "You left Indian shores several decades ago. Yet the flavours and songs of your motherland have not left your heart and hearth. You

have infused the streets of Antwerp with the spirit and energy of India. You celebrate Diwali and Christmas with equal fervour. You make Waffles and Dhoklas with equal expertise. You cheer for Belgium's Red Devils and India's Men in Blue with equal passion. To the Indian origin families in Antwerp and all over Belgium, I would like to say, we count you amongst our best and brightest. So does Belgium. If you have found success in this land, it is because your talents were embraced and welcomed by Belgium's friendly people." □

SMT. SWARAJ PARTICIPATED IN 125TH ANNIVERSARY OF PIETERMARITZBURG RAILWAY STATION (SOUTH AFRICA)

Smt. Sushma Swaraj Minister for External Affairs participated in the commemoration event at Pietermaritzburg Railway Station in South Africa. During her remarked at the Commemoration Dinner for the 125th Anniversary of the historic event at Pietermaritzburg Railway Station in South Africa Smt. Swaraj said, "There are very few places in the world which have such an exalted place in the struggle against discrimination and equality for all, like Pietermaritzburg. The fact that Pietermaritzburg is also the capital of KwaZulu Natal Province, home for the largest Indian origin population in South Africa, adds to its sheen. They were an intrinsic part of South Africa's freedom struggle and are today contributing immensely to the economy, as this rainbow nation marches towards development and prosperity. It is thus my honour to be addressing you at this iconic City Hall where legends like Mahatma Gandhi and Gopal Krishna Gokhale addressed a public meeting on November 8, 1912 against the atrocities of the then colonial government. I am told that this City Hall remains practically unchanged since then. Pietermaritzburg has indeed seen history being made and, in many ways, continues to make history!"

Ms. Swaraj added, "Tomorrow, we will celebrate the memory of our greatest Pravasi, that is Mahatma Gandhi, who came here as a young lawyer and transformed into one of the tallest leaders of all times. One Hundred and Twenty Five years ago, Mahatma Gandhi's eviction from the 1st class compartment of a train at Pietermaritzburg Railway Station was the catalyst to a process, which not only transformed his own life but also shook the very foundations of colonialism across the globe. South Africa was the place where Satyagraha was born. As Mahatma Gandhi explained, a Satyagrahi had to have non-violence of the mind, and seek truth in a spirit of peace and love, so that he encounters truth in the absolute, where he refuses to submit to the wrong or to cooperate with it in any way. Whenever we speak of Peace and Non-violence, let us not forget that the foundation for peace is laid through the relentless search for Truth. That's why Truth and Non-violence are indivisible and Gandhi's life was itself his message. When we see turbulence in some parts of the world around us, we always find that the first casualty is Truth. It was during his 21 long years in South Africa that

Mahatma Gandhi gave the world this new message. The history of South Africa is full of tales of individuals who gave up their today for a better tomorrow. The story of the people of Indian origin is a story of undaunted determination and courage, as they made sacrifices in South Africa's long struggle against colonialism and apartheid. In those long years of struggle, the people of Indian origin stood against the injustices of the regime along with their African brothers, undergoing untold hardships. This is the spirit of Ubuntu that we have come to admire in this beautiful country. This spirit of oneness must be kept alive."

She also attended Youth Summit where African and Indian youths spoke on the relevance of Mahatma Gandhi's message of peace and harmony. External Affairs Minister planted a sapling in the Phoenix settlement where Mahatma Gandhi had developed his philosophy of non-violence during his stay in South Africa. She also interacted with students of the Mahatma Gandhi Institute of Computer Education and Information Technology, a centre established by India. □

IMPARTING VALUES, AND A LANGUAGE, IN THE US THROUGH ANCIENT TEXTS

The students are participating in a Hindi Gurukul class, run by Ajay Jain and Kunjal Harshavat, both MBAs from the University of Chicago's business school. Ajay and Kunjal have been teaching students Hindi since 2008, earlier in association with local temples. Recently they established the Gurukul to include the teaching of Hindi and Indian culture, in addition to yoga and meditation, to school students.

Even in Chicago's bitter winter, the Gurukul attracts enthusiastic students and parents, with only the occasional snowstorm disrupting attendance. The class begins with a 'savdhaan' (attention) from the teacher followed by prayers in Hindi. On Indian festival days, a student is called on to explain the meaning and significance of events like Maha Shivratri, Makar Sakranti et al.

The teachers invoke technology to make things easier. Homework, phonetic lessons and grading are done using Google Classroom.

Mamta Garg, another teacher, puts the students through the basic yoga postures and breathing exercises, explaining that yoga would help them concentrate on their studies and help

them remain serene in the face of stress.

To Indian American students, faced with the prospect of defending their religion and culture, the Gurukul reinforces in them a sense of pride and community in their origin. When explained the significance of events in the Mahabharata and Ramayana, what would otherwise have appeared an inexplicable ritual takes on a new and deeper significance.

One can see this rising awareness among the students, who appear eager to learn about ancient Hindi mythology, and more important, how its lessons can be imbued into their daily lives.

Ajay and Kunjal spend a considerable amount of time devising the curriculum. "I do not expect the students to have any grounding in the language when they come here," says Ajay. His personal experience has helped him shape the curriculum. When he visited the Jain temple here, he found that his young son did not understand the slokas. So, he explains the prayers in class, with the pronunciations in Roman text and the meanings in English.

Ajay's ambition is to see that the Gurukul eventually grows to have nine levels of classes from elementary to intermediate and advanced. "The kids are very smart," says Ajay, "they pick up very quickly."

What motivates two busy professionals to devote so much time to community service? "In our MBA class, one of the lessons is to create an impact. We are impacting the next generation because this is the age when they easily assimilate values," says Kunjal.

Eventually, Kunjal hopes that the study of Hindi would be counted towards school credit along with foreign languages like Spanish and French.

The Hindi Gurukul recently received recognition from the Illinois State Board of Education for having met its ethnic language programme standards. Ajay said this recognition holds great promise.

"This takes us a step closer to get our students recognition for foreign language skills at the high school and college levels in future," he said. □

NRI BROUGHT 18 COMPANIES TO N.J. FROM INDIA

Rushikesh Bhavsar, the founder and chairman of MIG Media Neurons, has brought 18 companies to New Jersey from India in the past two years.



The pipeline, however, is more specific. All 18 of them have come from the western Indian state of Gujarat, which borders the Arabian

Sea and ranks as the country's sixth-largest state in size and ninth-largest in population (60 million).

"Mostly, the companies that are coming are coming from Gujarat, which is a western state in India, they have got their connections here," he said. "The Gujarati gentry here is more in New Jersey, so they select New Jersey, and we help them move to New Jersey."

Others are dispersed throughout Mercer County.

The industries, the companies represent, include engineering, food, consumer products, construction, commodities and real estate.

Bhavsar said his company began its relationship with New Jersey by participating and hosting trade shows, three of which were in the Raritan Center in Edison.

Bhavsar said that, despite New Jersey's reputation of being a high-tax state, they have no problem moving into the state. □

'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam' to be Central Message of India Day Parade 2018 in Manhattan, U.S.A.

With the central message of 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam' (the world is one family), the India Day parade here this year hopes to bring together for the first time communities from other South Asian and Caribbean nations to participate in the largest parade outside India to mark the country's Independence. The 38th India Day Parade, organised by the Federation of Indian Associations (FIA)—New York, New Jersey, Connecticut, will be held on August 19 and run through several streets of Madison Avenue in the heart of Manhattan, featuring tableaux by various Indian-American organisations, marching bands, police contingents and cultural performances by Indian-American children.

India's Consul General in New York, Sandeep Chakravorty, said that the parade has come to reflect and symbolise the strength, vibrancy and diversity of the Indian community in the US. It also highlights the role the community has been playing in strengthening India-US relations. Alluding to the current immigration

environment, Chakravorty said. It is important to showcase to the US as well as to the world that India and the Indian diaspora bring a lot to the table. "It is important to assert our presence, our identity and show that we are united. The golden days of immigration are over, we have to now make this our home and strike roots here. We have to show that we are responsible citizens of this country," he said at a Curtain Raiser ceremony for this year's parade organised yesterday at the Indian Consulate in the city.

Underscoring that the parade will be "inclusive" and invite participation of various ethnic organisations, Chakravorty said he will encourage India's South Asian neighbours and Caribbean nations along with their Consul Generals, Ambassadors and members of the communities to also be part of the parade.

Srujal Parikh, the current President of the FIA, said that FIA has also partnered with UNICEF-USA this year. The parade, which is the world's largest India day parade outside

India, will reach 1.4 million viewers who will watch it live.

Chairman of FIA-NYNJCT, Ramesh Patel, said the parade is a celebration of not just the Indian heritage but also pays tribute to the memory of those who sacrificed their lives for India's independence. "We have to tell their stories of valour to Indian-American children and the younger generation. We have to pass the torch of our heritage to the young generations," Patel said. Every year thousands of people from the Indian diaspora converge in the heart of Manhattan in their traditional finery to celebrate India's Independence Day. The day-long celebration also includes special food stalls, cultural extravaganza and floats by various Indian organisations based in the US.

Popular celebrities and artists from India are invited every year as chief guests and grand marshals for the parade. Actors Arjun Rampal, Abhishek Bachchan, Rana Daggubati, Tamannaah Bhatia, Sunny Deol and Raveena Tandon have attended the parade in previous years. □

Indians in Thailand Connect With Their Roots Through Sports, Events

Fearing that present generation of children of Indians spread across the Southeast Asian countries may forget their cultural roots, Thailand-based Persons of Indian Origin (PIO) are trying to unite them. Umbrella organization Indian Association of Thailand (IAT) is out to make young Indians living in these countries aware of their culture, sports and traditional practices.

An education and charity organization, IAT, apart from holding the cultural event through its Youth Forum and Ladies Forum, has also set up an exclusive helpline for the PIO in distress.

IAT president Sarabjit told TOI on Thursday that the IAT was founded by Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose in 1940. He had spent enough time in Thailand, Burma and Singapore with an object to unite Indian diaspora

living in Thailand irrespective of caste, creed, language, and religion. "We hold several events including Bowling, Futsal etc. during annual 'India Thai Sports Day' in which over 1,000 PIO participate," said Sarabjit.

Youth Forum chairman Nikorn Sachdev, whose Sikh name is Jasmeet Sachdev, said the forum annually held a sports event wherein children of as many as 37 different Indian communities take part. "These events helps us meet, interact and remember our roots," said Nikorn.

Talking about the exclusive helpline, he said that any PIO in distress could call them for help or write to them seeking to resolve his or her issues, including family issues. Nikorn said that IAT was the umbrella organization with whom Thai government interacts on various issues. IAT general secretary Chaun Thakur said that

under their border vision of establishing a 'mini India', they were first in process of making sports teams comprised of children of PIO from all faith to have sports competitions with similar teams from Malaysia, Singapore, and Hong Kong.

Ladies Forum chairman Renu Bhatia said they held events like Miss India Thailand, and debates. "Next month, we are holding an essay competition on 'Meri Ma' subject," she added.

Thai Sikh activist Charanjit Singh Kalra said that the NRIs living in Thailand had high expectations from the IAT since it helped unite Indians irrespective of caste and religion on a single platform. "At present we are divided into Sikhs, Jains, Sindhis and South Indians but IAT brings us together which is the need of the hour and during their functions including sports events we see each other as Indians only," said Kalra. □

INDIAN-ORIGIN WOMAN IS GM CFO

Chennai-Born Suryadevara Was Key In Securing SoftBank Funding

Dhivya Suryadevara, an accomplished Indian-American chartered financial analyst, has been named the chief finance officer (CFO) of the US' largest automaker, General Motors (GM), the first woman to get the position in the auto industry.

Suryadevara, 39, currently the VP of corporate finance, will succeed Chuck Stevens, the GM's present CFO, on September 1, the company said in a statement. Chennai-born Suryadevara will report to CEO Mary Barra, who has been head of the automaker since 2014 and the only woman to run an automobile company.

Barra and Suryadevara are the first women in their respective positions in the auto industry, as no other major global automaker has a female CEO, nor a CEO and a CFO who are both female.

GM will join a very short list of S&P 500 companies, including Hershey and American Water Works, with women who are serving as CEO and CFO. In her role as VP-corporate finance since



July 2017, Suryadevara has been responsible for corporate financial planning, investor relations and special projects.

Earlier this month, she played a role in securing a nearly \$2.3-billion investment in GM Cruise by Japanese tech giant Soft-Bank Group, and GM's investment in San Francisco-based on-demand transportation company Lyft, it added.

Suryadevara served as CEO and chief investment officer for GM Asset Management from 2013 to 2017. □

INDIAN TECHIES GET UK VISA BOOST

Indian techies, engineers and teachers are among foreign professionals who stand to gain from changes announced by the UK home office on Friday and tabled by the Theresa May government in parliament.

The changes in the tier-2 visa category could open up thousands of slots for other professionals now that doctors and nurses have been exempted from the controversial annual cap of 20,700 visas. This would also mean that an unrestricted number of non-EU doctors and nurses can enter the UK to plug the acute shortage of skilled professionals plaguing the country's National Health Service (NHS), which accounts for around 40 per cent of all tier-2 slots.

Before December 2017, the ceiling of 20,700, which was set on the advice of

the Migration Advisory Committee, had only been hit once. However, it has been reached every month since last December. Approximately 1,000 tech workers with job offers were refused visas between December 2017 and March 2018.

The Indian industry welcomed the move. "Coming in the wake of a long-standing demand from Indian professionals, the news is a welcome development," said Rashesh Shah, president of the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (Ficci).

Vinous Ali, head of policy at techUK, the British equivalent of Nasscom, welcomed the move. "The tech sector in the UK is going from strength to strength," he said. □

INDIAN ORIGIN SCHOOLGIRL ACHIEVES TOP SCORE ON MENSA IQ TEST, BEATS EINSTEIN, HAWKING

Snehal Vijay, a schoolgirl aged 11, has achieved the highest possible score in a Mensa IQ test, even surpassing



that of famed scientists Stephen Hawking and Albert Einstein.

The student, from Stanwell, Surrey, shocked her parents by scoring 162 on the Cattell III B paper, something only one per cent of all entrants achieve.

Although her score is higher than Einstein's, there is a catch. Adults can only score a maximum of 161 while children can get 162.

Snehal's parents, Swatantra and Nitika, said they were 'over the moon' when they opened the letter containing her exam score.

It turns out that Snehal has also been accepted into Henrietta Barnett School, one of the country's top-performing grammar schools, where she will begin in September.

Swatantra said he had the idea of entering his daughter for the Mensa test after seeing her revise for the pre-entry exams into Henrietta Barnett.

The Cattell III B test, which examines verbal reasoning, is one of two Mensa use in their entry exams.

The other test, called Culture Fair, is a diagram-only test which is more suitable for people who do not have English as their first language or who are dyslexic. □

PIO WOMAN MAY ENTER US HOUSE

Indian-American civil engineer Aruna Miller, seeking to enter the House of Representatives, is confident of winning from Maryland. If elected, the 53-year-old Hyderabad-born, hopefully would be the second Indian-American woman to enter the House after Pramila Jayapal from Washington State.

Miller, who came to the US in 1972 at the age of seven, is pitted against party colleague David Trone in the Democratic party for the sixth Congressional District of Maryland primary.

Businessman Trone has spent more of his own money on a House race than any other candidate in history. He has spend \$10 million in the race as against Miller's \$1.36 million, which is mostly contributions from her supporters. The winner of the June 26 primary is expected to easily sail through given that it is considered to be a Democratic stronghold. □

INDIAN FARMER IN UAE SETS WORLD RECORD OF DISTRIBUTING SAPLINGS

An Indian farmer in the UAE has set a Guinness World Record by distributing the largest number of curry tree saplings in Sharjah, according to a media report today.

Sudheesh Guruvayoor from Kerala on Tuesday distributed 4,914 saplings of the organic curry tree and broke the record set by the Guru Nanak Darbar Gurudwara in Dubai who had distributed 2,083 saplings of three varieties of trees to students of Delhi Private School in March, Gulf News reported.

Guruvayoor, who had hit headlines with his enthusiasm and accomplishments in farming in the UAE, achieved the new feat as part of the World Environment Day celebrations in the country.

The saplings from his own farm in Sharjah were distributed to the students of two campuses of the Sharjah Indian High School. □

Guruvayoor said the initiative was his attempt to support the green vision of the Father of the Nation, Shaikh Zayed Bin Sultan Al Nahyan, in the Year of Zayed.

With five Limca Book of Records and other awards in his kitty, he said he had been growing curry tree saplings at his farm for almost three months for this dream project.

He said he chose curry tree from India since curry leaves are an essential ingredient in the cuisine.

Curry leaves from India were earlier banned in the UAE due to high levels of pesticides. Through this initiative, Guruvayoor said, families of these students can grow pesticide-free curry leaves at home.

Curry leaves are used for the aroma and flavour in the cuisine of various states in India, especially in the south. □

SHANKAR MAHADEVAN ACADEMY ASSOCIATES WITH MAHARASHTRA MANDAL SINGAPORE

Shankar Mahadevan Academy (SMA), a world renowned music school founded by singer and composer Shankar Mahadevan, today on World Music Day announced a partnership with Maharashtra Mandal Singapore (MMS), to offer Indian music programs to students in Singapore. This association will look at reaching out to Indians based out of Singapore and further enhance their music learning experience.

In a short span of eight years, SMA has built a presence with students from 76 countries with nearly 20000 students across online, schools and corporates and affiliate centres. The Academy operates its online classes 24/7 and has conducted over 95000 virtual classes till date.

MMS is a platform connecting the Maharashtrian diaspora in Singapore where denizens of the most dynamic state in India meet, socialize, exchange notes and celebrate occasions - including festivals - all under one roof. A home away from home, MMS endeavours to connect Maharashtrians sharing the spirit of Maharashtra.

Shankar Mahadevan, Bollywood's most loved singer composer of India, quips, "At Shankar with one another while Mahadevan Academy, our Vision is "To be

the Harvard of Music worldwide" and our Mission is "Joy of Music". We want to make learning Indian music rewarding by making our lovely Indian tradition more modern, more fun and present our valuable traditions in music in a more contemporary way, yet keep a structured way of learning music and reach out to students all across the globe. At Shankar Mahadevan Academy, we provide courses that teach Hindustani & Carnatic Classical, Hindi Movie Songs & Devotional Songs, Grow with Music - a unique course designed for children, Voice Gym and even a Teacher Certification Course. The Academy brings high quality Indian music education online for the first time through it's cloud based platform that allows students from anywhere in the world to have an online, interactive class with a live teacher. You have access to the OM Book which is a treasure chest of audio & video lessons and even an "OM Riyaz" recorder which will help students learn on the go and get instant feedback. We aim to bring the same quality of music education in Singapore and thank MMS for their support in conserving India's music genres."



Ganesh Somwanshi, Founder, Krescendo Communications, Strategic Alliance Partner adds, "We are glad that we could bring two established organisations together on the same platform keeping in mind, a vision of reaching out to music lovers. Music has been close to our heart since inception and we noticed that there is a fair amount of innovation, the basis of Hindustani Music in Singapore remains strongly rooted. MMS and SMA with this association will keep Indian music alive in Singapore which in ASEAN region has one of the strongest traditions of Indian music lovers and learners."

Nalini Thite, President of MMS talking about this association says, "MMS' mission is to cultivate and propagate language and culture via various initiatives. Art forms an important medium to achieve the same. We have great musical and artistic talent in our youth and adult members here. It is a pleasure to bring SMA's courses to our members to hone their talent. Our members will get a special discount from SMA for these digital learning courses. Non-members can sign up with us and avail the discount. We welcome SMA to Singapore and are excited to be associated with it. We would also like to thank Ganesh Somwanshi of Krescendo Communications for introducing us to SMA and helping us in formulating this alliance." □

His Majesty The King Graced The Closing Ceremony of The 11th Session of The Second Parliament

On 29 June 2018, His Majesty The King graced the Closing Ceremony of the 11th Session of the Second Parliament. The ceremony was also graced by the presence of Her Majesty the Gyaltsuen and Members of the Royal Family.



In conclusion, the Speaker offered prayers for the good health and long life of His Majesty The King, His Majesty the Fourth Druk Gyalpo, His Royal Highness the Gyalsey, Members of the Royal Family and perpetuity of the Wangchuck Dynasty.

In his concluding address, Speaker Jigme Zangpo expressed deep gratitude on behalf of the Parliament to His Majesty The King for continued support and wise guidance to the Parliament and for working tirelessly and selflessly for the welfare of the people. The Speaker also highlighted the achievements of the Parliament in

His Majesty with the members of Parliament

the past five years and expressed his gratitude to the Members of Parliament and the people for their support to the Parliament and himself. He also thanked the Government of India and other donor countries for the continued support to the development of the country.

The Ceremony concluded with offering of Trashi Moenlam to His Majesty The King by the Members of Parliament led by Ven. Drabi Lopen of Zhung Dratshang.

The 11th Session was the last Parliamentary Session of the Second Parliament. □

PICTURE STORY:

On 6 June 2018, His Majesty The King granted an audience to the third batch of Foundational Leadership Program participants at the Royal Institute for Governance and Strategic Studies (RIGSS).

The Foundational Leadership Program is a forum to provide professional orientation, skills development and attitudinal transformation, and groom young professionals to become exceptional leaders. 30 young professionals from various backgrounds are participating in the four-week program.

RIGSS, under the patronage of His Majesty The King, was established in October 2013 to promote excellence in governance, leadership and



strategic studies. Over eight hundred participants, including parliamentarians, senior bureaucrats, and armed forces personnel have completed various tailor-made courses offered by RIGSS.

On 25 June 2018, His Majesty The King graced the 13th Convocation of the Royal University of Bhutan, and addressed over 2,100 graduates attending the ceremony. →



The graduates were from the College of Natural Resources, College of Science and Technology, Gaeddu College of Business Studies, College of Language and Culture Studies, Jigme Namgyel Engineering College, Paro College of Education, Sherubtse College, Samtse College of Education, Faculty of Traditional Medicine and Royal Thimphu College. □

DAYS TO REMEMBER

in August, 2018

August 01 : Japan International Cooperation Agency
(JICA Foundation Day)

August 01 : Switzerland
(Foundation of Swiss Confederation)

August 06 : Jamaica : Independence Day

August 09 : 'Quit India' Day
(The 'Quit India' movement launched by Mahatma Gandhi was an important milestone in the long struggle to free India from the British domination. This day was a turning point in 1942 in the freedom struggle. All prominent leaders were arrested, but the movement got more momentum.)

August 09 : Singapore : National Day

August 11 : Amavasya ☐

August 12 : International Youth Day
(The future of the world lies in the hands of the youth. It is very important to ensure that young people are healthy in body and mind. They should get opportunities to learn, earn and grow. International Youth Day is being celebrated since 12th August, 2000.)

August 15 : Independence Day
(On August 15, 1947, the British flag was brought down from the Red Fort in Delhi and the Indian flag was hoisted. India had become independent. Since then the whole of India celebrates this day as Independence Day. On this day the Prime Minister addresses the nation from the red fort. In the states, the chief

Ministers unfurl the national flag and address the people and encourage them in various ways. Martyrs are remembered, national solidarity is emphasised, welfare schemes are announced and people are made aware of internal and external threats.)

August 17 : Indonesia : Independence Day
(Proclamation of Independence Day.)

August 19 : World Humanitarian Day
(The word 'humanitarian' means 'someone concerned about the welfare and happiness of other people'. The U.N. observes this day to honour those who spent time in the service of others, and those who continue to work to bring help and relief to the millions who are suffering.)

August 19 : World Photography Day
(One photograph is worth a thousand words. The past, present and future of photography is discussed. It is also a reminder how wonderful photographs are. When you travel down the memory lane you realize how special a photograph can be.)

August 19 : Afghanistan : Independence Day

August 20 : Hungary : National Day

August 24 : Ukraine : Independence Day

August 26 : Purnima ☐

August 31 : Kyrgyzstan : Independence Day

August 31 : Malaysia : National Day

August 31 : Trinidad & Tobago : National Day □

हम हैं भारतवंशी

श्रद्धांजलि

अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय सहयोग परिषद के आजीवन सदस्य तथा ब्रिटेन में हिन्दी के सुप्रसिद्ध लेखक, पत्रकार और बीबीसी वर्ल्ड सर्विस के हिन्दी विभाग के प्रभारी नरेश भारतीय (नरेश अरोड़ा भारतीय) का देहावसान लंबी अवधि की अस्वस्था के बाद 21 जून, 2018 को लंदन में हो गया। स्व. नरेश भारतीय यू.के. लोकल गर्वनमेंट के प्रभारी थे। उन्होंने फिरोजपुर आर.एस.डी. कॉलेज से बी.ए. आर्नस की उपाधि प्राप्त करने के बाद University of Westminster में DMS MBIM पाठ्यक्रम का अध्ययन किया था। यू.के. में भारतीय भाषा एवं संस्कृति के प्रचार में उन्होंने महत्वपूर्ण भूमिका निभाई थी। अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय सहयोग परिषद के क्रियाकलापों में भी उनका सर्वदा सहयोग मिलता रहा। स्व. नरेश भारतीय अरोड़ा के प्रति अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय सहयोग परिषद सादर श्रद्धांजलि अर्पित करती है।



नरेश भारतीय, लंदन

मैंने लगभग पचास वर्ष पूर्व 1964 में लन्दन में किराए के एक छोटे से अपने कमरे की चहारदीवारी में मात्र एक दीप जला कर पहली दीवाली मनाई थी। उसी दीप के आलोक में पहले से वहां बसे भारतीयों को ढूंढने और भारत के साथ हम सबके जुड़े रहने के लिए अपना संस्कृति ध्वज थामा था। उस एक दीप से अनेक दीप जलाए गये वहाँ दीपावली मनाए जाने की परंपरा को पनपते मैंने देखा है इस प्रकार चलते जाने वाले दीपों की संख्या में अनवरत वृद्धि होती चली गई। माना जाता है कि कलम में तलवार से अधिक ताकत होती है। शुरु के संघर्षकाल में तब के प्रवासी भारतीयों की कलमें भी उठी थीं। उनके लेखन में अपने वतन की यादें थीं और परदेशी भारतीय एकता का आह्वान भी था। जब यह सुनने में आता है कि इन लेखनियों से अपने स्वदेश प्रेम को अभिव्यक्ति देने वाले प्रवासी जीवन सत्यों पर आधारित, साहित्य को भारत के कुछ हिन्दी लेखकों के द्वारा 'नोस्टालजिक' कहकर ठुकरा देना उनके पूर्वाग्रही और संकुचित दृष्टिकोण का परिचय देता है। किसी जमाने में विदेश में सुविधाओं के अभाव के बावजूद हिन्दी में पत्र पत्रिकाओं के प्रकाशन प्रयोगों के प्रारम्भ से लेकर श्रेष्ठ साहित्य रचना करने के अपने अक्षुण्ण उपक्रम में विदेशवासी भारतीयों ने भारत के साथ जुड़े रहने की अपनी अटूट प्रतिबद्धता का परिचय दिया है। विदेशों और भारत के बीच सेतुबंध निर्माण का काम किया है। विश्व के कोने कोने में बसा भारत 'वसुधैव कुटुम्बकम्' की अद्वितीय भारतीय अवधारणा को अर्थ प्रदान कर रहा है। परदेशी सही पर हैं हम भारतवंशी।

अपने देश भारत में प्रवासी भारतीयों के सम्बन्ध में जब कभी यह टिप्पणी देखने सुनने को मिलती है कि 'वे लोग तो अपने सुख के लिए देश छोड़ कर भाग गए थे तो मेरे जैसे अनेक उन भारतवंशियों के मन को चोट पहुंचती है जो बरसों से विदेश में बसे होने पर भारत के साथ अपना नाता पूर्ववत् अटूट बनाए हुए हैं। भले ही वे अपनी योजना से या नियतिवश विदेशवासी बने होंगे पर उनके जीवन का एक बहुत बड़ा सच यही है कि मन से वे अपनी जन्मभूमि से कभी अलग हुए ही नहीं। वे दूर रह कर भी अपने जीवन का हर पल भारत को ही जीते हैं। हजारों ऐसे भारतीय अपने बुद्धिपे में वतन लौट कर शेष बचे श्वासों में उसी प्राणवायु को फिर से भर लेना चाहते हैं जो उसकी धरती पर जन्म लेते ही पहले पहल उन्होंने अपने फेफड़ों में भरी थी। पुनः पुनः उसकी पवित्र माटी की सुगंध से खिंच कर वर्ष में कम से कम एक बार अवश्व भारत पहुंचते हैं। कोई क्या जानेगा कि उनसे ऐसा क्योंकर होता चला जाता है? इसका रहस्य वे लोग कैसे जानेंगे जिन्होंने कभी प्रवासी, अप्रवासी, आप्रवासी, अनिवासी और भी जाने कितने विशेषणों से अलंकृत होने और विदेशी भारतीय तक कहलाए जाने की व्यथा को नहीं सहा।

आज विश्व की एक आर्थिक महाशक्ति बनने की भारत की क्षमता की बखूबी चर्चा के बने रहते भी लाखों भारतवासियों में विदेश जाकर जीवन को बेहतर बनाने की धुन कम नहीं हुई है। भारत में श्रेष्ठ उच्च शिक्षा प्राप्त करने के बावजूद अधिकांश युवा अमरीका जाने का स्वप्न पूरा करने के लिये अक्सर की तलाश में जुट जाते हैं। जो विदेश पहुंच जाते हैं

वहीं रच बस जाते हैं जो चाहते हुए भी विदेश नहीं जा पाते, निराश और व्यथित होते हैं। उन्हें लगता है कि वे अपने देश की अपेक्षा विदेश में अधिक सफल हो सकते हैं। इसके विपरीत निस्संदेह, करोड़ों ऐसे भी हैं जिन्हें भारत को छोड़ कर अन्यत्र कहीं जाने की न तो कोई सम्भावना दिखती है और न ही उन्होंने इसकी कभी कोई आवश्यकता ही समझी है। मैं ऐसे भारतीयों का अभिनंदन करता हूँ जो देश की धरती पर बने रहते और हर दिन उभरने वाली नई चुनौतियों के साथ जूझते हुए भी शान से जीते हैं। समस्याओं के हल खोजते हैं। अपने वोट बल से राजनीतिकों को सावधान, सचेत करते हुए देश में व्यापक भ्रष्टाचार, गरीबी और जाति, वर्ण, वर्ग विभेद से उत्पन्न अनेक गंभीर समस्याओं के समाधान में सही व्यवस्था बिठाने के लिए अनवरत संघर्षरत हैं।

आज के बदलते विश्व परिवेश में किसी का कहीं से भी विदेश जाकर रहना, बसना, जीना और अपने मूल देश के साथ भी सम्बन्ध की निरंतरता को बनाए रखना आम हो गया है। इसे किसी भी दृष्टि से अनैतिक या राष्ट्रहित विरोधी नहीं माना जा सकता। भारतीयों ने तो विदेशों में जाकर न सिर्फ अपने लिए ही धन कमाया है, बल्कि कई तरीकों से भारत का हित साधन भी किया है। यह माँ अपने उन बेटों का विस्मरण नहीं करती जो उसके पास इसलिए नहीं रह पाते क्योंकि उन्हें धनार्जन के लिए परदेस जाना पड़ता है तो उसके परदेशी बेटे बेटियाँ भी हजारों मील दूर रहते हुए अपनी माँ से नाता नहीं तोड़ते। उसके हर सुख दुःख में शरीक होते हैं। कहीं भी हों

अपने भाई बहनों के साथ भी पूर्ववत् सम्बन्ध बनाए रखते हैं। यह स्नेह सम्बन्ध सूत्र अटूट है, अभेद्य है, एक शाश्वत सत्य है। यही सत्य प्रवासी भारतीय समाज और उसकी मूल संस्कृति और राष्ट्र के बीच सम्बन्धों की प्रगाढ़ता को रेखांकित करता है। कोई भी देश इस अवधारणा का अपवाद नहीं है। इस परिप्रेक्ष्य में यह ध्यान देने योग्य तथ्य है कि लाखों ब्रिटिश जो कभी ऑस्ट्रेलिया, न्यूजीलैंड, कनाडा, अमरीका और आसपास के यूरोपीय देशों में जा बसे थे अपने मूल देश ब्रिटेन को नहीं भूले। न ही ब्रिटेन ने आज तक उन्हें भुलाया है। उनके पारिवारिक, सामाजिक और सांस्कृतिक सम्बन्ध अपने मूल देश के साथ पूर्ववत् बने हुए हैं। उनके बीच जोड़क तत्व है उनकी संस्कृति और साहित्य जिनकी संवाहिका है उनके मूल देश ब्रिटेन की भाषा अंग्रेजी।

कोई भी प्रवासी भारतीय भारत से दूर बसे होने पर भी अपने मूल देश की दशा, दिशा, मान, अपमान, उन्नति, अवनति और उस भूखंड पर होने वाली छोटी बड़ी राजनीतिक, सामाजिक एवं सांस्कृतिक हलचल से अप्रभावित नहीं रह सकता। मानसिक दृष्टि से उसने भारत को न तो त्यागा है और न ही उसका बहिष्कार किया है। स्वार्जित संसाधनों से स्वदेश के प्रति अनेक तरीकों से अपना कर्तव्यपालन करने की तत्परता दिखाई है। विदेशवास में भारतवंशियों के संघर्षकाल का एक लम्बा इतिहास है जिसके अध्ययन की आवश्यकता है। भारत में अपने शासन के दौरान अंग्रेजों ने अफ्रीकी देशों से गुलामों को अन्य देशों में ले जाकर अपने साम्राज्यी



लक्ष्यों की पूर्ति का साधन बनाया था। बड़ी संख्या में भारतीयों को भी मजदूर बनाकर अपने अनेक उपनिवेशों में अपनी अनेक योजनाओं को कारगर बनाने के लिये ले गए थे। ब्रिटिश गुआना, सूरीनाम, फिजी, त्रिनिदाद, मॉरीशस इनमें से कुछ देश हैं जहां आज से लगभग सौ डेढ़ सौ वर्ष पूर्व भारतीय जा बसे थे। इन स्थितियों में भी उनके और भारत के बीच सांस्कृतिक सम्बन्ध निरंतर बने रहे। इन देशों में भारतवंशियों के द्वारा हिन्दी भाषा में साहित्य सर्जन हो रहा है इन देशों के भारत के साथ स्नेहिल कूटनीतिक सम्बन्ध हैं।

1947 में, भारत की स्वतंत्रता के बाद से ब्रिटेन, अमरीका और खाड़ी के देशों में जाने वाले भारतीयों के जीवन ने कई मोड़ देखे हैं। साढ़े छह दशकों के

कालखंड में जिन भारतीयों ने अपने निजी कारणों से अपने देश को छोड़कर ब्रिटेन की धरती पर कदम रखे थे, उन्हें प्रारंभिक वर्षों में स्थानीय लोगों से घोर उपेक्षा और अपमान सहना पड़ा। मूलवासी अंग्रेजों की दृष्टि में आप्रवासी भारतीय विजातीय होने के कारण दीन हीन और त्याज्य थे। पूर्व साम्राज्यवादी ब्रिटेन की सरकार को दूसरे विश्वयुद्ध के बाद अति शोचनीय स्थिति में पहुंची अपनी अर्थव्यवस्था को संभालने सुधारने के लिए पूर्व उपनिवेशों के द्वार खटखटाने पड़े थे। अपने उद्योगों के उत्पादन स्तर को उबारने के लिए उसे अपने अभावग्रस्त मानव संसाधनों की आपूर्ति की आवश्यकता थी। ब्रिटेन की सड़कों पर जब विदेशी चेहरों की संख्या में निरंतर वृद्धि होती दिखाई दी तो उस अंग्रेज जनसामान्य का साम्राज्यकालीन गौरव आहत हुआ जो गोरे काले के

बीच भेद की अपनी परम्परागत सोच से अभी मुक्त नहीं हो पाया था। उन्हें लगा कि भिन्न सभ्यता संस्कृति के विदेशी उनके देश में आकर उनकी रोटी रोजी छीन रहे हैं, अपने घर बसा लेते हैं और इस तरह से उनकी संतानों को उनके सुखद भविष्य से वंचित कर रहे हैं। ऐसे प्रतिकूल वातावरण में भी भारतीय डटे रहे। आत्मविश्वास के साथ अपने परिश्रम, ईमानदारी और स्थानीय समाज के साथ मधुर सम्बन्ध कायम करने में जुटे रहे। भारत के प्रति पश्चिम की सोच में आमूल चूल परिवर्तन करने के एक महत्वपूर्ण दौर के प्रारम्भ का माध्यम बन गए। इन प्रवासी भारतीयों ने भारत समर्पित सामाजिकता को विस्तार दिया। अपनी मूल सांस्कृतिक पहचान बनाए रखी, हिन्दी पत्रकारिता एवं साहित्य रचना के लिए भी तत्परता दिखाई। □

21वीं शताब्दी की चुनौतियां का विमोचन

पिछले दिनों दिल्ली में अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय सहयोग परिषद के आजीवन सदस्य डॉ. मार्कण्डेय राय की पुस्तक 21वीं शताब्दी की चुनौतियां शीर्षक का विमोचन केन्द्रीय मंत्री जितेन्द्र सिंह ने किया था। दो खंडों में प्रकाशित इस पुस्तक में इस शताब्दी की प्रमुख चुनौतियों पर परिचर्चा की गई है पुस्तक के अनुसार वैश्विक शांति, युवा सशक्तिकरण, पर्यावरण और सतत शहरीकरण, इस सदी की सबसे बड़ी चुनौतियां हैं।



ले सकता है। यह लगभग हर किसी की इच्छा है कि दुनिया में शांति बहाल होनी चाहिए। संयुक्त राष्ट्र को 1945 में युद्ध के संकट से लगातार पीढ़ी को बचाने के लिए बनाया गया था क्योंकि 20वीं शताब्दी में दो विश्व युद्धों के कारण जीवन और संपत्ति के विनाश और हानि देखी गई थी।

फ्रांस में वॉर मेमोरियल बनाएगा भारत

फ्रांस की आजादी में भारतीय सैनिकों का योगदान बताया जाएगा

यहां से करीब 200 किलोमीटर दूर विलर्स गिस्लेन में प्रथम विश्व युद्ध में फ्रांस की आजादी में अविभाजित भारत के सैनिकों के योगदान को बताने के लिए भारत एक युद्ध स्मारक का निर्माण करेगा। विदेश मंत्री सुषमा स्वराज ने इसकी घोषणा की। उन्होंने कहा कि भारत विलर्स गिस्लेन में भारतीय सशस्त्र बल के स्मारक का निर्माण करेगा। विदेशमंत्री सुषमा स्वराज ने इसकी घोषणा की। उन्होंने कहा कि यह यूरोप में ऐसा दूसरा स्मारक होगा। प्रथम विश्व युद्ध के दौरान विलर्स गिस्लेन में भीषण युद्ध हुआ था जिसमें ब्रिटिश भारत की घुड़सवार फौज ने बढ़ चढ़कर भाग लिया था। चार देशों की यात्रा के दूसरे चरण के तहत रोम से यहां पहुंची सुषमा ने उनके सम्मान में यहां आयोजित समारोह में भारतीय समुदाय को संबोधित किया। □

पहले खंड में तीन चुनौतियों को शामिल किया गया है और पुस्तक के दूसरे खंड में सतत शहरीकरण पर चर्चा की गई है। यह पुस्तक न केवल चुनौतियों पर चर्चा करती है बल्कि कुछ संभावित समाधान भी प्रस्तावित करती है। यह पुस्तक मुख्य रूप से लेखक के विचारों का संग्रह है, संयुक्त राष्ट्र आवास के साथ नैरोबी, केन्या, पूर्वी अफ्रीका के मुख्यालय में दो देशों में अधिक समय तक काम करने के दौरान विभिन्न लेखक को प्राप्त अनुभवों को इस पुस्तक में संकलित किया गया है। तमाम प्रयासों के बावजूद दुनिया के विभिन्न हिस्सों में नागरिक युद्धों सहित कई संघर्ष और युद्ध है, जो किसी भी समय परमाणु युद्ध में बढ़ सकते हैं और यह एक और विश्व युद्ध का आकार

हालांकि, वैश्विक शांति सभी के लिए एक बड़ी चिंता है क्योंकि यह अक्टूबर 1945 में संयुक्त राष्ट्र के निर्माण से पहले भी थी।

आमतौर पर यह कहा जाता है कि यदि हम समस्याएं हैं तो हम ही समाधान हैं। पुस्तक का वर्णन है कि समाधान 'वसुधैव कुटुम्बकम्' के प्राचीन भारतीय दर्शन में निहित है जिसका अर्थ है कि हम ईश्वर का एक परिवार हैं और भगवान एक हैं लेकिन हम विभिन्न नामों से आह्वान करते हैं। पूरी मानवता एक जन जाति है और आध्यात्मिक रूप से हमें एकजुट रखेगी। □

(दैनिक भास्कर से साभार)

भारतवंशी को मिला सिंगापुर में अहम पद

सिंगापुर में भारतीय मूल के एक प्रमुख वकील को राष्ट्रपति हलीमा याकूब ने सुप्रीम कोर्ट में जुडिशल कमिश्नर के रूप में नियुक्त किया है। 59 वर्षीय दीदार सिंह गिल के पास वकील के रूप में 30 साल से ज्यादा का अनुभव है। वह ज्यादातर कारोबारियों का केस लड़ते हैं। प्रधानमंत्री कार्यालय ने बताया कि गिल की नई भूमिका अगस्त से शुरू होगी। □



माँ गंगा को समर्पित रामगंगा



नटराज की नगरी काशी में 'राग गंगा' संतूर के सौ तारों से ठीक वैसे ही बह निकली जैसे शिव की जटाओं से लहराती हुई माँ गंगा निकली होंगी। अवसर था संतूर के सुल्तान पंडित तरुण भट्टाचार्य के द्वारा सृजित 'राग गंगा' का काशी में प्रथम बार माँ गंगा को अर्पित किया गया, जिसमें उनका साथ जिमा पुरस्कार विजेता तबला वादक पंडित प्रद्युत मुखर्जी ने दिया। इस समारोह का आयोजन अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय सहयोग परिषद, रोटरी क्लब वाराणसी द्वारा सुबह-ऐ-बनारस, आई.सी.सी. आर. एवं श्री नगरी नाटक मंडली ट्रस्ट के सहयोग से किया गया। गंगा रक्षा के प्रति लोगों को जागरूक करने के लिए इस राग का निर्माण करने वाले पंडित

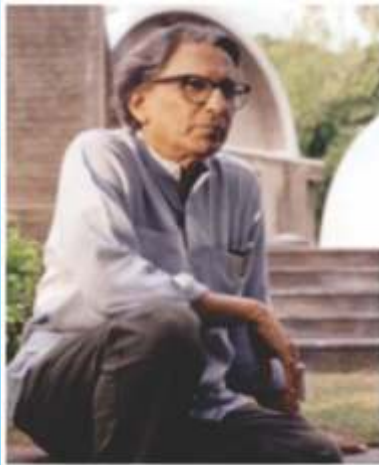
डॉ. अजीत सैगल, सुबह-ऐ-बनारस के सचिव डॉ. रत्नेश वर्मा, नगरी नाटकमंडली के डॉ. संजय मेहता, आई.सी.सी. आर. के रीजनल ऑफिसर अनुराग सिंह एवं अन्य गणमान्य नागरिकों की उपस्थिति में हुआ। कार्यक्रम के मुख्य अतिथि मृदुला जायसवाल महापौर, वाराणसी ने काशी की जनता की ओर से पंडित

तरुण भट्टाचार्य ने राग योगश्वरी और कलावती के खास से उत्तरीय उदाकर डॉ. बेला सैगल, डॉ. रीता हिस्सों को समाहित कर इसे गंगा राग का नाम दिया है। कार्यक्रम का शुभारम्भ द्वीप-प्रज्वलन द्वारा तरुण भट्टाचार्य को स्मृति चिन्ह प्रदान किया। उन्होंने कहा कि यह राग जिन-जिन शहरों में गंगा की धारा प्रवाहित होती है वहां यह कार्यक्रम किया जायेगा और इसका समापन कोलकाता में होगा। □



बालकृष्ण दोशी को मिला प्रित्जकर आर्किटेक्चर पुरस्कार

भारत के मशहूर आर्किटेक्ट बालकृष्ण दोशी को टोरंटो के आगा खां हॉल में प्रित्जकर आर्किटेक्चर प्राइज से सम्मानित किया गया। इस पुरस्कार को नोबल पुरस्कार के बराबर माना जाता है। पुरस्कार पाने के एक दिन पहले वास्तुविद दोशी ने टोरंटो विश्वविद्यालय में यादगार व्याख्यान भी दिया।



बालकृष्ण दोशी



काम किया था।

ये इमारतें डिजाइन की

दोशी ने आईआईएम बंगलुरु और आईआईएम लखनऊ, ने शानल इंस्टीट्यूट ऑफ फैशन टेक्नालॉजी दिल्ली, टैगोर मेमोरियल हॉल, अहमदाबाद का इंस्टीट्यूट ऑफ इंफोर्मेसि के अलावा कई कैम्पस

पुणे में जन्मे 90 साल के दोशी इस सम्मान को प्राप्त करने वाले पहले भारतीय है। प्रित्जकर की ज्यूसी ने कहा कि बालकृष्ण दोशी ने ऐसे आर्किटेक्ट

तैयार किया है जो उच्च गुणवत्ता, प्रमाणिक वास्तुकला का उत्कृष्ट नमूना हैं। दोशी ने ली कार्बूजियर के साथ पेरिस में साल 1950 में

सहित इमारतों को डिजाइन किया है। □