

# ANTAR RASHTRIYA SAHAYOG PARISHAD BULLETIN

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(16 Pages including Cover)

ON THE OCCASION OF BIRTH CENTENARY OF DR. JAGAN

## DR. CHEDDI JAGAN AND HIS FIGHT FOR GUYANA'S FREEDOM

The year 2018 marks the 100th birth anniversary of Dr. Cheddi Jagan, who was born on March 22, 1918 in a rural village in Guyana. The remarkable life of an ordinary sugar worker's son had changed the course of his country's history by first struggling to liberate it from British colonial domination then by waging a 28 year long struggle for the restoration of freedom and democracy, and finally by ascending to the presidency as Guyana's first democratically elected Head of State.

He was the founder of the country's first mass political movement and unquestionably the leading political figure in the history of Guyana. He was elected as a Member of the Legislative Council in 1947 and served in every parliament until his election as president in 1992.

By 1953 Guyana saw the birth of a truly multi-racial government, led by Dr. Cheddi Jagan who with the support of African leader Linden Forbes Sampson Burnham, formed the first independent government. The colonialists, who were fearful of communist uprisings in South America and Caribbean, did not cherish the prospect of the changing status quo in their colonies, particularly a government formed by a grand alliance of Indians and Africans. Quickly, the government of Jagan was dismissed and colonial rule restored. One of the main tools used to checkmate the opposition was to divide the Africans and Indians along racial lines. From April -October 1953, Dr. Jagan headed the first PPP (People's Progressive Party) Government. His party also won the 1957 and 1961



*Dr. Cheddi Jagan  
(22 March, 1918–06 March, 1997)*

elections. He headed the third elected PPP Government as Premier and Minister of Development and Planning. In October 1992 election PP/Civic won the majority of the votes and Dr. Jagan was sworn in as Executive President of Guyana on October 9th, 1992.

Cheddi Jagan was born in Port Mourant in a sugar plantation on March 22, 1918 to the plantation workers Bachoni and Jagan whose parents had emigrated to Guyana as indentured workers 1901.

The grandparents of Dr. Jagan came as indentured immigrants in 1901 on the sailing vessel Elbe. They were "bound" by five-year contracts to different sugar plantations, or "estates" as they were called, in the country of Berbice, the most eastern of the three countries which make up British Guiana. His grand-mother went

to Albion and maternal grandmother to the Port Mourant, three miles away. Women were required to work during the first three years, but for the rest of the period, during which they were required to reside on the plantations, they were under no legal obligation to work. His grandmothers, however, like all the other women who came to British Guiana during the 79 years of Indian indentured immigration, from 1838 to 1917, had no choice but to work throughout the five years. Every penny was needed.

His early life was one of hardships and scarcities with his father unable to earn enough to support his education. So, he had to work to earn some money while attending the school. His primary and secondary schooling took place close to the plantation. He later went to the country's capital, George Town, to complete the secondary education. Facing limited avenues in Guyana for further education following the school, he went to USA in 1936 and obtained a degree in dental surgery. While in USA, he married

### Think it Over

*The test of first-rate intelligence is the ability to hold two opposed ideas and still retain the ability to function. One should, for example, be able to see that things are hopeless and yet be determined to make them otherwise.*

*F Scott Fitzgerald*

Janet Rosenberg in 1943 who remained his life-long companion in his professional and political work. On return to Guyana in 1943, he began to practice dentistry and also began to articulate the cause of the working class. He founded the Political Affairs Committee or PAC that championed the rights of the plantation workers. PAC later became People's Progressive Party (PPP) through merger with another party British Guyana Labour Party (BGLP).

The India immigrants were brought to Guyana as indentured labourers from 1838 to 1917 worked for the capitalist class. The system of indenturedship was a euphemism for slavery. The Indians were given logies or barracks to live in, which were once occupied by



*Dr. Cheddi Jagan addressing the Indian Parliament in 1953 with P M Jawahar Lal Nehru and Forbes Burnham (Guyana) on the dias.*

African slaves. The living and working conditions of these Indians on the plantations were abysmal and attracted wide spread criticism from Indian nationalist leaders, which eventually led to the abolition of labour recruitment in 1917.

Narrating the inhuman and pitiable condition of Indian Indentured Labours Dr. Cheddi Jagan has written in his book **THE WEST ON TRIAL**. *"The plantation was indeed a world of its own. Or rather it was two worlds: the world of exploiters and the world of the exploited; the world of whites and the world of non-whites. One was the world of managers and the European staff in their splendid mansions; the other, the world of the labourers in their logies in the "niggeryard" and the "bound-coolie-yard". The mansains were electrically lit; the logies had kerosene lamps. It was not unusual to hear it said that the mules were batter treated than human beings, for the stable had electric light. It was not that electricity could not have been taken to the workers' quarters and residences. The owners could easily have generated more electricity at very little extra cost to satisfy the needs of all. But electricity, like so many other things, was a status symbol"*.

Clinton Collymore has rightly said that Dr. Cheddi Jagan, former President and Leader of the People's Progressive Party was a statesman of exceptional vision. He could be said to have appeared at a time when a person of his caliber was direly

needed and also to have appeared well in advance of his time. This is a duality that baffles many persons, mainly his detractors. Navin Chandarpal also said that While Dr. Jagan was alive, there were many who rejected his ideas and considered him to be irrelevant. Ten years after his death many have turned around and now recognize the wisdom of his ideas. Today, he stands like a colossus as leaders across the political divide bring to life the positions he had taken on a wide range of national and global issues.

As an international figure he is well Known for his fight for peace around the globe and in his later year for his proposals for a New Global Human order which were adopted by the United Nations General Assembly on November 14, 2002. As such he deserves credit as a major figure in modern history. President Jagan died on March 6, 1997. □

## DEATH TO IMPERIALISM

Today we strive to end our humanity's pains,  
To extract your oppression's painful tooth,  
To cut your vicious circle of our lives,  
No work, no land, crime, punishment, crime -  
But you tread with savage fascist steps,  
With quislings and hired mercenaries  
Willing and unwilling slaves and sharers of your  
loot,  
You keep your bayonets at our throats and shout,  
Law and Order must prevail,  
Don't read that!  
Don't do that!  
Don't go there!  
Our beautiful country a vast prison you have made  
And fences built to wrench us from our beloved -  
Our homes  
Our children  
Our Comrades -  
You beat us on our heads in the name of peace.  
While in cleric robes you call for peace.  
For you, peace is our grave and life hereafter  
For us peace is joy and life and laughter  
For this we march tomorrow  
We march to extract your oppression's painful  
tooth  
To end our humanity's pains.

*Dr. Jagan wrote this poem "Death to Imperialism" in 1954, while in prison. This is the only poem he ever wrote.* □

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## **MAURITIUS AND INDIA HAVE A SHARED DESTINY PRESIDENT RAMNATH KOVIND**



The President of the Republic of India, Shri Ram Nath Kovind, who is the chief Guest of the Government on the occasion of celebrations marking the 50th anniversary of the Independence of the Republic of Mauritius, during a State Banquet hosted in his honour by the Prime Minister of Mauritius Mr Pravind Kumar Jugnauth, at the Swami Vivekananda International Convention Centre in Pailles, said that Mauritius and India have a shared destiny and future.

In his address, Shri Kovind highlighted that from the days of supporting the Mauritian political and social emancipation in a bid to have sustained major priority projects, India has always been on Mauritius's side to work for the development and prosperity of all sections of society. He pointed out that India-Mauritius relations are very special as both countries have ancestral and familiar links that go back in time and that are still present.

President Kovind underlined that Mauritius is a gateway to the Indian Ocean region and to Africa before adding that our island can serve as a hub for Indian companies looking to reach out the African continent. India sees in Mauritius a trusted partner in realising the shared vision of stability, peace and prosperity in the Indian

Ocean region, he stated. In a view to foster closer people to people ties, all Mauritians of Indian descent became eligible for Indian citizenship under specific provision under the Overseas Citizen of India card scheme since last year, he said.

Prime Minister of Mauritius Mr Pravind Kumar Jugnauth underscored that what makes Mauritius unique is the creation of a rainbow nation that necessitated adjustment, tolerance and respect for different faiths and cultures. He stressed that it is therefore apt that the theme for this year's celebration is *Lame dan lame*, as all citizens have walked and continue to walk hand in hand to build the country as one people and one nation.

Mr Jugnauth also acknowledged the support of the country's development partners and the solidarity of many sister nations without whom Mauritius would not have been able to achieve all its objectives. Mauritius will continue to work actively with other friendly countries in the fight against climate change, human and drug trafficking, organised crime and corruption, and piracy, and will also pursue our advocacy on the need for a stronger presence of Africa on the Security Council and a permanent seat for India, he added.

Mr Jugnauth further underpinned that Mauritius values the heritage it has from India, which has given the country core values such as integrity, self-respect, discipline, empathy, selflessness, and respect for elders and for family. This invaluable inheritance from India also constitutes the fundamental Mauritian spirit and as our island turns towards the future, we are poised to create a still more prosperous, unified and equitable nation, he stated.

Our people will join hands to propel the country to greater heights. We have done so before and we are doing it again, concluded the Prime Minister.

President Shri Ram Nath Kovind addressing the youth of Mauritius at the Mahatma Gandhi Institute in Moka said that Mauritius and India have a shared destiny and future as they both cherish the values of freedom, transparency, democracy and human dignity. These values have inspired both countries to a common struggle against colonial rule. India's aspiration is for Mauritius to rise as a leading economy and a voice for peace and stability in the entire Indian Ocean Region.

He also paid a tribute to the great Indian Leader Mahatma Gandhi. The

→ Vice-Prime Minister, Minister of Local Government and Outer Islands, Mrs Fazila Jeewa-Daureeawoo, the Minister of Youth and Sports, Mr Stephan Toussaint, and other eminent personalities were present on the occasion. President Kovind is on a four-day State Visit to Mauritius from 11 to 14 March 2018 and is leading a high-level delegation comprising, his Spouse, first lady Smt. Savita Kovind; the Minister of State in the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Shri Ashwini Kumar Choubey; and other eminent officials.



*President Kovind offering tribute to Mahatma Gandhi at MGI, Mauritius*

In his address to the youth, the President of India said he was honoured to be in Mauritius for a milestone moment in the country's history, which is the golden jubilee of its independence and also its 26th anniversary of the Republic. He underscored that the values that Mauritius and India share, have inspired the two countries through the ideals of Mahatma Gandhi.

The youth of a country, the President underlined, plays an integral part and contributes significantly to its progression. On this score, he called upon the Mauritian youth to strive for success so as to make their country proud and at the same time promote peace, harmony and unity among the population. He rejoiced that the citizens of diverse background of Mauritius have built this nation as a prosperous one and which stands a model for the Indian Ocean region.

Speaking of the sanitation records of Mauritius, he stated that it is a model for India's Swachh Bharat mission which is a key programme making progress in India to achieve cleanliness coverage across the country.

Referring to the collaboration between Mauritius and India, the President pointed out that Mauritius is one of the largest participating countries in the Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation programme, with over 300 young people from Mauritius who undergo civilian and defence related training in India every year.

Under India's Africa Scholarships programme which is part of the India

Africa Forum Summit initiative, the President pointed out that every year 97 scholarships are offered to Mauritian students for higher education. In addition, some 200 students enrol in Indian universities on a self-financing basis.

President Kovind further highlighted that the laying of the foundation stones of the social housing project and the ENT hospital that will be effected during his visit and the construction of the Metro rail in the country are clear indicators of the close existing bilateral relations between Mauritius and India.

In respect of the prevailing era of connectivity and the blue economy, President Kovind said that the waters and resources of the ocean should be used intelligently and humanely for uniting cultures and people in a collaborative manner adding that institutions and platforms should be built to anticipate and prepare for common challenges, related to security or humanitarian disasters.

The President of India emphasised that India's vision for the Indian Ocean region is to cooperate in developmental programmes that are sustainable, mutually-beneficial and which contribute to employment and well-being of the local community. India's close relationship with Mauritius is symbolic of the shared aspirations for Africa as well as for the Indian Ocean region, added the President.

In the spirit of a further revitalisation of the Indo-Mauritian relationship, various Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) and Agreements were exchanged. These are:

- a renewed programme for cultural cooperation for another four years, until 2021. The Agreement will ensure exchanges in the field of culture, arts, literature and languages

- an MoU between the Ministry of Ayush in India and University of Mauritius (UOM) pertaining to the establishment of an academic chair in Ayurveda. This will help UOM to undertake academic and research activities in Ayurveda in Mauritius.

- an MoU between the Public Service Commission of Mauritius and the Union Public Service Commission of India. It pertains to an exchange of experience on modern approach to public service recruitment and selection including the use of IT infrastructure for the expeditious scrutiny and speedy disposal of applications.

- an MoU for the establishment of the Nalanda University, an international institution, to be located in the Rajgir, Nalanda district in the State of Bihar. It aims at fostering regional networking and collaboration with existing centres of excellence in East Asia. It also seeks to contribute to regional peace and imparting education and capacity in the domains of philosophy, language and other areas.

Prior to the exchange of MoUs and agreements, the Indian President had a delegation-level meeting with Prime Minister Jugnauth at the Government House. Both leaders exchanged views on a range of global and regional issues and agreed to continue supporting each other and cooperate closely on common challenges and interest. □

## INDO-KOREAN EMOTIONAL CONNECT

*Gimhae is an eco friendly happy city where nature and human being live in harmony*



 **Markandey Rai**

I was reading and listening to story of Kim Suro, King of Gaya in the first century AD in the Southern state of South Korea before the Shilla dynasty. The famous King Suro united and expanded to make a very strong kingdom and lived for more than 158 years. Most important thing, which I am telling now, is that he married with queen Heo who went from Bharat (India) by boat. Now the historians and scientists believe that she went from Ayodhya in UP from Rama family. Both had 12 children together. Two sons agreed to keep the sir name Heo and they believe that they are brother and sisters so they do not marry among themselves. Even the Kim also did not marry with Heos with the same belief. More than six million Koreans trace their lineage to Queen Heo. Queen Heo died at the age of 157.

Koreans have now erected a monument in the memory of Queen Heo Hwang -ok at the other side of Sarayu River and both Koreas believe that their great grandmother came from this place. This was inaugurated in the presence of over hundred of historians and government representatives including both the ambassadors from North and South Korea. In 2016 a Korean delegation proposed to develop the memorial.

That was the reason when President Roh Moo-Hyun visited to Delhi, he said "we are cousins."

When both Koreas are on loggerhead, and having very bitter relation, India can play a crucial role as the mediator. Keeping this in my mind, this time when I happened to go to Incheon and Seoul to address several meetings and International IT exhibitions, I decided to sneak out to go to Gimhae, which is a town close to the second largest city in South Korea, called Bussan.

It was indeed a very nice experience; I took a bullet train and reached from Seoul to Gimhae. I had booked my hotel on the Internet, and I reached there by car. It was evening by that time so I went around having my dinner and slept comfortably with planning to go to the tomb of Kim Suro, King of Gaya and Queen Heo in the morning. Initially I wished to take a taxi to save time but on enquiry I was told that it is not very far and can go by bus or on foot. On further enquiry I decided to walk on foot. I reached after walking for 20 minutes. First was the King's tomb. I was given support by the tourist office of Gimhae and explained the surroundings. The office was very friendly and they assured to inform the tour guide at the Queen's tomb to take me around. It was lunchtime so I went to a nearby restaurant and ordered pizza for my lunch. The lady was very friendly and served me nice pizza of sweet potato and assigned a table near window, which can oversee the tomb of King. She explained the route to go to Queen's tomb as well. The tour office had reopened by that time after lunch break, so I walked to that place

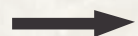
where they guided me and informed the tour guide there as promised.

I reached to Queen tomb in less than 10 minutes walking by lanes. A lady received me and took me around. She explained me about the pagoda which queen had carried with her to protect her from any bad weather and sea storm on her sea route from India to Gimhae. The stone of pagoda has worn out due to belief among the sailors that if you keep a piece of stone with you on your voyage, it will protect you from any calamity.

The stone is a peculiar sand stone with some reddish line here and there but unique fact is that such stones are not available in Korea anywhere. It is available in India only. This confirms that this relic was from India.

Queen Heo carried with her a herb which is very popular still, and their belief is that the leaf and flower can be used as tea for curing any sickness. This is called Tangun Tea. Both the king and queen lived more than a century.

Gimhae is a happy city with beautiful nature. This is an eco friendly city where nature and human being live in harmony. It has a great history and a very cultured city with nice and helpful people. Gaya, the fourth empire, despite its unknown history, was a tremendous empire and was famous for ironware and earthenware, difficult to find in the world. The Gaya Dynasty Period usually refers to the history of more than 600 years from the 1st century BC to the 532 or 562 AD.





Royal Tomb of King Suro is the symbolic cultural relic. King Suro of Gimhae is the progenitor of Garakguk (42 to 532 AD). Royal tomb of King Suro, founder of Garak and founder of the Gimhae Kim clan, the Gimhae Heo Clan and Incheon Yi clan. As King Suro first came from eggs, they say that he was called "Suro". He died in 199 at the age of 158.

Queen Heo, the wife of King Suro was the Princess of the Indian Ayuta Kingdom and her full name was Heo Hwang-OK. In 48 AD when the Princess Suriratna of Ayodhya was 16 years old, she sailed to Garak Kingdom and married King Suro, the founder of the Garak Kingdom. In 189 AD she passed away. Queen Heo made her two sons of her 10 sons follow her last name just before she died, the Heos of Gimhae was created and they say that the marriage of the Kim's of Gimhae with the Heos of Gimhae has been prohibited. At the tomb of Queen Heo there is an emblem with a pair of fish called Ssangeomun. It was the national

emblem of Garakguk and a symbol of religious belief as auspicious and fish is considered as the intelligent existence that protects men.

Ssangeomun are still found in Buddhist shrines of Gyeongnam, which was an old land of Gaya. Both the Tomb of King Suro and Queen Heo are of the same round shape coved with soil and height is about five meters. They are the largest tomb in Gimhae region. It is well maintained, and rituals are performed on the specific dates by the caretaker.

When both the Koreans have agreed to go for talk next week in January 2018, India can use its position of trust by both countries to bring them closure. Both were same country and families have suffered a lot by this division after Korean war in 1950. It was not their choice to divide; rather it was imposed on them by two super powers. Today geopolitics has changed and Koreans should decide their fate. Ministry of Foreign Affairs of India should work closely with the

Ministry of Unification of South Korea and also KOIKA as well as with the Korean Foundation and other partners from NGO's to pave the way for the Unification of the Korean Peninsula.

We should support Korea Unification. There are several initiatives and action groups, which are active. However, there is no leader like Gandhi, Mandela or Martin Luther King who can lead this civil right movement. It is a Korean dream so the leader should come from among them. The person should be acceptable by majority in both North and South Korea to lead this movement. The Family Peace Association of Dr. Hyun Jin Moon can play a very strategic role in uniting families both side of the boarder. This is a unique opportunity and India can assist in that process through empowering Korean people to bring change from inside.

*(Author is a Member, Management Committee at ARSP.)* □

#### Form IV (See Rule-8)

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I, Keshav G. Parande, on behalf of the Antar Rashtriya Sahayog Parishad, declare, that the particulars given above are true to the best of my knowledge and belief.

March 10, 2018

sd/-  
**(Keshav G. Parande)**

## KRISHNA KOLHI—PAK'S 1ST DALIT WOMAN SENATOR

In a historic first for Pakistan, a Dalit woman from the country's marginalised Hindu community has been elected to the Senate, the upper house of the parliament.

Krishna Kumari Kolhi, a 39-year old Hindu Dalit woman, was elected senator on a women's seat from Sindh. She is a member of Bilawal Bhutto Zardari-led Pakistan People's Party (PPP).

Her election represents a major milestone for women and minority rights in Pakistan. Earlier, PPP had elected first Hindu woman named Ratna Bhagwandas Chawla as a senator.

Dalits, too, have been elected on PPP tickets from Sindh in the past but Kolhi is the first woman from the scheduled caste to become a senator. The first non-Muslim Dalit senator in Pakistan was Dr Khatumal Jeewan. He was also elected by PPP on a general seat in 2009. Engineer Gianchand was the

second Dalit to be elected as senator on a general seat by PPP in 2015.

Kolhi hails from Nagarparkar village in Tharparkar district of Sindh province, where women are deprived of basic fundamental rights. Being a victim of bonded labour along with her parents, a common practice in Tharparkar, Kolhi fought hunger and poverty in her early life.

She was married to Lal Chand at the age of 16, when she was studying in 9th grade. However, she pursued her studies, and in 2013, she completed masters in sociology from the Sindh University. "Fortunately my husband and in-laws were extremely supportive and encouraged me to continue my education," she told a local news channel. "We didn't have electricity so I used to study with the help of an oil lantern," she added.

While at university, she actively worked against bonded labour, sexual harassment at workplaces, and for the



rights of women and poor people of her village. "I will not only represent women of Tharparkar but act as a representative for women across the country and speak for their rights,"

Kolhi said while highlighting child marriages and forced conversions as major issues faced by the people of Tharparkar.

"I will struggle for implementation of the laws in constitution drafted for the rights of women. There are laws for rights of women but none of them have been implemented," she said. □

## 20TH CONFERENCE OF COMMONWEALTH EDUCATION MINISTERS IN FIJI

Dr. Satya Pal Singh, Minister of State, Ministry of Human Resource Development; and Ministry of Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation, Government of India led the Indian delegation to the 20th Conference of the Commonwealth Education Ministers (20CEM) held in Nadi, Fiji during 19-23 February 2018. The theme of the Conference was "Sustainability and Resilience: Can Education Deliver?"

The Minister had also given a statement on "Adult Education and Learning" during deliberations on Sustainable Development Goal-4 (SDG4) on 23 February 2018. Dr. Singh conveyed to the participating Commonwealth members about various schemes that Government of India started in adult education like 'National Literacy Mission', 'Saakshar Bharat (Literate India)', Government's various initiatives for electoral literacy (to enhance voting percentage),



financial literacy (Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojna), legal literacy for marginalized sections and vocational training (skill development) courses for adults, ICT-enabled learning transformation [Massive Open Online Learning Courses (MOOCs)/ Swayam], National Digital Library, etc. He reiterated that no child grows as an adult without education. Statements and comments of the Minister were

very well appreciated by all participating countries.

Dr. Singh had an excellent meeting with Ms. Patricia Scotland, Secretary General of Commonwealth to discuss multilateral cooperation on 21 February 2018.

Dr. Singh visited Vivekanand College run by Ramakrishna Mission where he

interacted with teachers / students of the College. On 22 February 2018, the Minister travelled to Suva to interact with representatives of India Diaspora at the Indian High Commission where 'World Hindi Diwas' was celebrated. He presented awards to three Fijians, who are contributing immensely in promoting and propagating Hindi Language in Fiji. Dr. Singh's speech on 'Hindi Language and Culture' touched hearts of Indian Diaspora.

Dr. Singh visited Girit Centre in Lautoka, where he gifted 100 books to the Centre's Library and interacted with Girit Centre authorities on 23 February 2018.

Thereafter, the Minister visited the Rabindranath Tagore Centre at the University of Fiji in Lautoka, where he donated 100 books to the centre and had an excellent interaction with Indian diaspora during the presentation of a book "The Subaltern Indian Women" (on Girit women) edited by Prof. Prem Misir, Vice Chancellor, University of Fiji.

Mrs. Leela Devi Lachchman, Mauritian Minister of Education was also present during these community

interactions and appealed the diaspora to participate in big number in 'World Hindi Conference' to be held in Mauritius in August 2018. Dr. Singh spoke on 'role of women in

nurturing culture, society and civilization' as well as on 'preserving health, language and culture', which Indian Diaspora found very much inspirational. □

### PIO in UK Gets BRAVERY AWARD

An Indian-origin Birmingham man, who risked his life to help a fatally injured young boy in the last year's Barcelona terror attack, has been selected for this year's 'Pride of Birmingham' award.

Harry Athwal, a project manager from Great Barr area of north-west Birmingham, was in Spain on holiday with a group of friends and family,

including his sister Kinde Dehr, when a terrorist drove a van into pedestrians on Barcelona's famous Las Ramblas tourist spot, killing 13 people and injuring hundreds. He ran to help 7-year-old Julian Alessandro Cadman, who was among those hit, and defied police orders to evacuate the area to keep holding on to him until the emergency services came. □

### PIO is Scotland Yard's New Anti-Terror Chief

Neil Basu, a senior Indian-origin Scotland Yard officer, was on Monday appointed as the counter-terrorism chief, a job viewed by many as the toughest in British policing.

Basu, 49, currently the Metropolitan Police Deputy Assistant Commissioner, will be promoted to the rank of Assistant Commissioner for

Specialist Operations, according to an official announcement.

He will take charge as the force's National Lead for Counter Terrorism (CT) and the Head of the Met Police's Specialist Operations after the resignation of incumbent Mark Rowley on March 21. □

## DAYS TO REMEMBER

in April, 2018

#### April 02 : International Children's Book Day

(This day is the birthday of Hans Christian Anderson who is the author of many famous children's stories. Children are inspired to pick up a book and start reading. The aim is to increase children's access to books.)

#### April 06 : International Day of sport for Development & Peace

(Sport builds up healthy body and mind. It brings people closer together, erases cultural, linguistic and geographic barriers and promotes personal integrity, fair play and honorable competition.)

#### April 07 : W.H.O. -World Health Day

(Each year, a theme is selected for World Health Day that highlights an important area of public health concern in the world. In 2017 the theme is Depression.)

#### April 13 : Baisakhi

#### April 14 : Dr. Ambedkar Jayanti

#### April 16 : Amavasya ☉

#### April 21 : United Kingdom : Her Majesty the Queen's Official Birthday

#### April 22 : Mother Earth Day

(Earth and its ecosystems provide life and sustenance to everything. This day aims to raise awareness that we have a responsibility to promote harmony with nature.)

#### April 23 : World Books & Copyright Day

(This day which happens to be the birthday of William Shakespeare, is celebrated as a worldwide tribute to books and authors to encourage everyone to discover the pleasure of reading.)

#### April 26 : Israel- National Day

#### April 26 : Tanzania- Union Day

#### April 26 : World Intellectual Property Day

(The term 'intellectual property' refers to the right of creative people to 'own' whatever they produce, such as literary or artistic works, short stories, novels, films which others should not copy. Intellectual property rights of others should be respected and not violated.)

#### April 27 : South Africa : Freedom Day

#### April 30 : Purnima ☾

#### April 30 : Netherlands : Queen's Birthday



## 45th & 46th Know India Programme



During the month, ARSP hosted 45th and 46th editions of Know India Programme (KIP) on 19th and 28th February, 2018. At the 45th KIP, 40 Indian Diaspora Youth were felicitated at Pravasi Bhawan. These included 5 each from Fiji, Guyana, Mauritius, South Africa, and Trinidad & Tobago, 4 from Suriname, 3 each from Israel, Sri Lanka and Netherlands and one each from France and Malaysia. The event was chaired by Amb. R. Dayakara, Senior Vice President, ARSP with Dr. Markandey Rai, Senior Advisor UN-Habitat & member of ARSP Managing Committee as a Chief Guest. Other distinguished speakers included Her Excellency Ms. Aashna Kanhai, Ambassador of Suriname, Mr. Nor'Azam Mohd Idrus, Deputy High Commissioner of Malaysia, Mr. Nilesh Roneel Kumar, Charge d' Affaires of Fiji, and Shri Manoj Kumar, US (OIA-II) Ministry of External Affairs. Mr. Amit Gupta, Convener ARSP's Foreign Students & Youth Affairs Committee (FS&YA Committee) conducted the proceedings. Amb. Dayakara in his address spoke about the spirit behind KIP and ARSP's role in shaping the Diaspora policy of India. He mentioned that India was the pioneer in engaging the diaspora which was emulated by other countries. India has always followed an open and transparent policy in dealing with its diaspora.

Dr. Markandey Rai explained that a harmonious society can promote the

ancient Indian philosophy of Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam which meant that the world is a family. In Indian philosophy, God is one but addressed by different names. It creates an atmosphere to unite the humanity in one family. Amb. Aashna Kanhai spoke about cultural bonds between India and its diaspora, highlighting the role of Bhojpur language played in cultural diplomacy. Mr. Nor'Azam Mohd Idrus, Deputy High Commissioner of Malaysia, appreciated the relevance of KIP and praised its contribution to intercultural understanding. Shri Manoj Kumar, US (OIA-II), gave details of the three-week KIP programme. This was followed by interactive exchanges with KIP delegates giving expression to their feeling and experiences during the visit to various parts of India. Delegates from Fiji, Guyana, Malaysia, Sri Lanka, Suriname and Trinidad & Tobago regaled the audience with musical performance. Mr. Rajmohan, an Indo-Surinamese singer of repute living in Holland, whose presence at the event was arranged by H. E. Aashna Kanhai, sang his own compositions

accompanied by guitar to the applause of the audience. The meeting ended with a vote of thanks by Shri Narayan Kumar, Hony. Director ARSP.

At the 46th KIP on 28th February, 2018 Amb. Manju Seth presided with H. E. Amb. Dave Persad, High Commissioner of T & T as Chief Guest. Other dignitaries included CDA of Fiji and US (OIA-II), MEA. Prof. Bharat Bhushan, Chairman (FS&YA Committee) ARSP with Shri Amit Gupta, Convener (FS&YA Committee) ARSP conducted the proceedings.

There were 40 youth drawn from Fiji (9), Guyana (7), Mauritius (7), South Africa (3), T & T (5), Suriname (3), Sri Lanka (3), Israel (2) and Grenada (1). The lively discussions included an inspiring address by Amb. Manju Seth followed by observations by Amb. Dave Persad, Shri Nilesh R. Kumar and Shri Manoj Kumar. Shri Mukesh



Aggarwal, Vice President, ARSP intervened with his robust clarification for certain remarks from the dias. The KIP delegates shared their impressions gathered during the visit to various places in India and entertained the audience with songs. The KIP delegates were given glimpses of India's Festival of Colours - Holi with gulal, sweets and fun as the KIP event coincided with Holi. Prof. Bharat Bhushan delivered the vote of thanks.

Both the events were attended by ARSP members, media, diplomatic community, intellectuals, academicians and etc. The meetings concluded with High Tea. □

## VICE PRESIDENT VENKAIAH NAIDU RELEASES Book By Shubha Singh



*Shubha Singh*



*Vice President Venkaiah Naidu, Shri Nalin Surie, Director General ICWA, Shubha Singh*

Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu released the book 'Media and Foreign Policy in India' authored by Smt Shubha Singh at the Indian Council of World Affairs. The media-foreign policy interaction is a complex and variable one, said Shri Venkaiah Naidu, adding that the author had succinctly established the cross linkages between the media, diplomacy and foreign policy in a democracy.

According to the author, prime time television debates on Indian news channels have built up an impression that television coverage can influence government policies. "When television anchors thunder that the government should "act now" on a particular issue, it appears as though the media has a considerable influence on government actions. Television can whip up popular sentiment and utterly complicate the functioning of the government in a crisis situation." But the question was whether the media actually influenced government or not.

In a short presentation on her work, Shubha Singh explained that visiting Chinese leaders had occasionally complained that the Indian media's coverage of India-China relations vitiated the atmosphere. External Affairs Ministers and Foreign

Secretaries have occasionally requested journalists to tone down the rhetoric.

In the present day world, almost every sphere of work and activity has an interface with the media. Democratic governments are acutely conscious of public opinion and actively seek to build public support in favour of their policies. Diplomacy is no longer conducted behind closed doors, it is now out in the open with high profile visits and high powered summits, all played out in the full glare of the media. The success of a high-level visit or conference is measured in newspaper headlines and television time.

The most obvious media-foreign policy interaction is the exchange of information. It is through the media that information about government policies, events, and initiatives are conveyed to the public while the media brings out public opinion and views of experts to readers.

Many policymakers maintain that the media has become an "undeniable factor" in diplomacy and foreign policy; others contend that the media's impact is "superficial" and mainly restricted to the "outward appearance" of foreign policy.

Undoubtedly, the media wields a large amount of influence on the public perception of foreign policy. Media reports can kill a proposal through premature publicity, and intense media coverage can cause policies to be reappraised, tweaked, put on hold or even abandoned. However the political leadership has the capacity and often does respond to media pressure by developing cosmetic policy responses that effectively deflect media pressure.

Shubha Singh is a journalist and author, having worked at two prominent national newspapers, the Telegraph and the Pioneer. She has been writing a weekly column on foreign affairs for more than 25 years. She has written three books on the Indian diaspora; they include: Fiji: A Precarious Coalition', 'Overseas Indians - The Global Family', 'Journey of Discovery: Ancestral Searches in India' and has co-edited a book of essays by Indian women journalists 'Making News, Breaking News, Her Own Way'.

Shubha Singh has been a part of the ARSP family for many years. Her father, late Shri Bhagwan Singh was one of the founders of the ARSP. □

## CELEBRATION OF HIS MAJESTY THE KING'S 38TH BIRTHDAY AS A SPECIAL EVENT TO COMMEMORATE THE GOLDEN JUBILEE OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS BETWEEN INDIA AND BHUTAN

The 38th Birth Anniversary of His Majesty The King on 21 February 2018 was celebrated at the Royal Bhutanese Embassy in New Delhi as a special event to commemorate the Golden Jubilee celebrations of the establishment of formal diplomatic relations between Bhutan and India. H.E. Shrimati Sushma Swaraj, Hon'ble Minister for External Affairs of India, graced the occasion as the Chief Guest. H.E. Lyonpo Damcho Dorji, Hon'ble Minister for Foreign Affairs of Bhutan, also graced the event. The event was attended by senior officials of the Government of India, members of the diplomatic corps in Delhi, Indian friends and well-wishers of Bhutan and the Bhutanese community in New Delhi including Bhutanese students studying in and around New Delhi.

In her remarks, H.E. Shrimati Sushma Swaraj on behalf of the Government and the people of India, extended warmest greetings to His Majesty The King on the joyous occasion of His Majesty's birthday and wished His Majesty good health, happiness and continued success in His pursuit of peace and prosperity for the friendly people of Bhutan. H.E. Shrimati Sushma Swaraj stated that India is proud of the special and exemplary ties of friendship and cooperation between the two countries, which are built on shared values and aspirations, utmost trust and mutual respect. Her Excellency said that relations between India and Bhutan is a unique partnership built on the historical and cultural linkages and stated that 2018 is a milestone moment for India - Bhutan partnership as the two countries celebrate the accomplishments of the last five



decades of our time-tested and special ties. H.E. Shrimati Sushma Swaraj, on behalf of the Government and the people of India, also reaffirmed India's abiding commitment to nurture and advance the special and privileged partnership with Bhutan.



H.E. Lyonpo Damcho Dorji in his remarks said the firm foundations that were laid for India-Bhutan relations 50 years ago have grown, blossomed and flourished. He said that India-Bhutan relations is a relationship that has since been carefully nurtured and strengthened under the wise leadership of our visionary Monarchs and successive dynamic leaders of India cutting across party lines. On behalf of the people and the Royal Government of Bhutan, Lyonpo also expressed appreciation to the people and Government of India, for India's generous and unstinted support, friendship and cooperation in Bhutan socio-economic development. Lyonpo

stated that the people and the Royal Government of Bhutan attach the highest importance to its relations with India.

During the event, the Hon'ble Chief Guest Smt. Sushma Swaraj and Lyonpo Damcho Dorji jointly launched Commemorative Bhutanese Stamps published by Bhutan Post specially for the Golden Jubilee celebrations and the Special Issue of 'Bhutan Panorama' magazine published by the India-Bhutan Friendship Association in coordination with the Royal Bhutanese Embassy. The Hon'ble Chief Guest also awarded prizes for the top three winners of an essay competition organized by the Embassy amongst all Bhutanese students studying in India on the theme of 'India-Bhutan relations'.

Artistes from the Royal Academy of Performing Arts, popular Bhutanese actors, singers and comedians as well as Bhutanese students in India presented cultural performances. Cultural performances were also presented from the Indian side.

The Golden Jubilee will be celebrated throughout the year with a series of cultural events, exhibitions, seminars, commemorative events that have been planned both in Bhutan and India.

## Visit to New Delhi by His Excellency Lyonpo Damcho Dorji, Hon'ble Foreign Minister

His Excellency Lyonpo Damcho Dorji, Minister for Foreign Affairs, paid an official visit to New Delhi to participate in the celebration of the 38th Birth Anniversary of His Majesty The King on 21st February 2018 at the Royal Bhutanese Embassy to commemorate the Golden Jubilee celebrations on the establishment of formal diplomatic relations between Bhutan and India. The event was graced by Her Excellency Shrimati Sushma Swaraj, Hon'ble Minister of External Affairs of India as the Chief Guest.

While in New Delhi, Lyonpo Damcho Dorji had a bilateral meeting with Her Excellency Shrimati Sushma Swaraj, Hon'ble Minister for External Affairs of India. During the meeting, the two Foreign Ministers held discussions on a range of matters of bilateral interest between Bhutan and India. External Affairs Minister Shrimati Sushma Swaraj hosted a dinner in honour of Lyonpo Damcho Dorji.

The visit by Lyonpo Damcho Dorji to India has further strengthened the very close ties of friendship and



understanding between the two countries. Lyonpo was also accompanied to New Delhi by the Foreign Secretary, Mr. Sonam Tshong. □

## Visit to Guwahati, Assam by Dasho Tshering Tobgay, Hon'ble Prime Minister of Bhutan from 1 to 4 February 2018.

H.E. *Dasho* Tshering Tobgay, Prime Minister of Bhutan, visited Guwahati, Assam from 1 to 4 February 2018. He was accompanied by H.E. Lyonpo Damcho Dorji, Minister of Foreign Affairs, H.E. Lyonpo Lheky Dorji, Minister of Economic Affairs, Government officials and business representatives.

Prime Minister *Dasho* Tshering Tobgay was warmly received by Shri Rihon Daimary, Minister of Public Health Engineering and Food Supplies on arrival at Lokpriya Bordoloi Airport on 1 February 2018. In the evening, H.E. Sarbananda Sonowal, Chief Minister of Assam, hosted a dinner reception for Prime Minister *Dasho* Tshering Tobgay and his delegation.

Prime Minister *Dasho* Tshering Tobgay graced the inauguration of the Royal Bhutanese Consulate by Lyonpo Damcho Dorji and the Chief Minister of Assam on 2 February 2018. The opening of the Consulate was attended by Cabinet Ministers and officials of the Government of Assam, the members of the Legislative Assembly, business houses, media luminaries and distinguished citizens of Assam. The opening of the Consulate was a milestone event to celebrate the golden jubilee of the



establishment of diplomatic relations between Bhutan and India.

While in Guwahati, Prime Minister *Dasho* Tshering Tobgay attended the inauguration of the Advantage Assam summit and addressed the inaugural summit along with Prime Minister Narendra Modi on 3 February 2018. In his address, Prime Minister *Dasho* Tshering Tobgay praised the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi with his Act East Policy. He also congratulated the Chief Minister for hosting this innovative summit which will attract investments for Assam and the region. Prime Minister *Dasho*

Tshering Tobgay highlighted the FDI policy of Bhutan, which also makes it as an attractive investment destination.

A number of dignitaries called on Prime Minister *Dasho* Tshering Tobgay including the Chief Minister of Assam, Chief Minister of Arunachal Pradesh, and Union Home Minister of India, H.E. Mr. Kiren Rijju.

Prime Minister *Dasho* Tshering Tobgay also met with Prime Minister Narendra Modi and held discussions on a range of issues of bilateral interest between Bhutan and India including the revision of the Chukha tariff and a visit by Prime Minister Modi to Bhutan later this year.



The visit of Prime Minister *Dasho* Tshering Tobgay was appreciated by the government and the people of Assam and it also received wide media coverage. □

# ROMA NEED INDIA'S SUPPORT

ARSP organized an interactive session/talk by Hon'ble Mr. Veljko Kajtazi, Member of Parliament from Croatia. He is the representative of the Roma minority in Croatian Parliament, President of India-Croatia Friendship Group and Vice President of the Committee of Representatives of National Minorities. He is also the member of the Committee for Human Rights and Rights of National Minorities, as well as the Committee for Information and Media in Croatian Parliament. Mr Kajtazi has been invited by ICCR Under 'Distinguished Visitors Programme'. He was accompanied by his Advisor Mr. Emir Grbic. The programme was organized on 9th March 2018 at Malviya Smriti Bhawan and was attended by distinguished Roma scholars, Human Rights Activist and senior members of ARSP.

ARSP President Amb. Virendra Gupta welcomed and introduced the Guests. He gave a brief account of ARSP activities and its engagement with Roma community. ARSP Joint Secretary Dr. Shashi Bala spoke about the cultural and linguistic similarities between Roma community and India. She said Croatia is a beautiful country and India and Croatia share warm and cordial relations.

In his address Mr. Kajtazi spoke about the Roma minority in Croatia. Roma is one of 22 National minorities in Croatia and they are less than 1% of the total population of about 4.2 millions in Croatia. He said that condition of Roma community in Croatia is far from satisfactory. Representation of Roma in public institutions is very negligible and they face discrimination. There are misconceptions in the society about their activities. The critical issues which impact them are Employment, Health Care, Education and Housing.

The European community has prepared some action plan and programmes for the Roma community believed to be about 15 million in Europe and about 25 million worldwide. Some of the countries in

Europe have undertaken programmes for integration of Roma community but these steps are not enough. Mr. Kajtazi said that Croatia observes three National Holidays for Roma. 8th April (Flag Day) 2nd August (Roma Genocide Remembrance Day) and 5th November (Romanai Language Day). He concluded by expressing gratitude to the External Affairs Minister Smt. Sushma Swaraj for her support to the Roma community by declaring Roma to be the children of India during the International Roma Conference organized by ARSP in February 2016. He sought the support of India for the cause of Roma.

During the interaction, veteran Roma scholar Prof. Shyam Singh Shashi observed that there are several factions of Roma community and they are not united. There is a need to unite Roma community around the world.

Advocate Rajesh Gogana, General Secretary of HRDI (Human Right Defense International) offered his full support to Roma people in the matter of Human rights.

Shri Mohan Singh Dabas, Special Metropolitan Majistrate recalled his visit to Kosovska in Kosovo where he



*Mr. Veljko Kajtazi discussing with Amb. Virendra Gupta during the interactive session.*

was serving as a United Nations police officer. Amb. Surendra Dutta shared his experience in engaging with Roma Community during his posting in Slovenia.

ARSP Secretary Shri Gopal Arora informed the members that a mega programme to commemorate the millennium anniversary of exodus of Roma from India will be celebrated later this year. He suggested Mr. Kajtazi to mobilize participation from his country for this programme. Shri Gopal Arora also informed that Antar Rashtriya Sahayog Parishad is starting a Roma Research Centre where Study and Research projects of Roma will be undertaken. Hon'y. Director of ARSP Shri Narayan Kumar stressed on the need for preservation and promotion of Roma language and culture. He assured full support of ARSP in this matter.

In his concluding remarks President Virendra Gupta expressed the hope that, with the support of Government of India and NGOs like ARSP, there will be more awareness about Roma issues in India and this extended Indian Diaspora community will have greater engagement with India and also a better future.

The programme ended with high tea. □



*Mr. Veljko Kajtazi presenting a book on Roma to ARSP President for Roma Research Centre.*

## मातृभाषा से खोलें दुनिया की खिड़की

हमारे देश के प्राण हिंदी या अन्यान्य क्षेत्रीय भाषाओं में धड़कते हैं। ऐसे में हमें दुनिया से अपनी मातृभाषा में ही संवाद करना चाहिये।

अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय मातृभाषा दिवस के अवसर पर मैं सभी नागरिकों को बधाई देने के साथ ही निवेदन करता हूँ कि आप अपनी मातृभाषा को सीखने के साथ ही अधिकाधिक भाषाओं को सीखने का प्रयास करें। अपने बच्चों को पहले मातृभाषा और बाद में दूसरी भाषाओं से जोड़कर हमें अपनी बहुभाषी और सांस्कृतिक जड़ों को मजबूत करना चाहिए। एम. बेंकैया नायडू, उपराष्ट्रपति

संयुक्त राष्ट्र शैक्षिक, वैज्ञानिक एवं सांस्कृतिक संगठन यानी यूनेस्को ने नवंबर, 1999 में घोषित किया था कि प्रत्येक 21 फरवरी को अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय मातृभाषा दिवस मनाया जाएगा। यह तारीख बांग्लादेश में भाषा आंदोलन दिवस से मेल खाती है। बांग्लादेश के गठन में मातृभाषा बांग्ला का मुद्दा अहम था, क्योंकि तत्कालीन पूर्वी पाकिस्तान में उर्दू को थोपा जाना यहां के लोगों को रास नहीं आया। 21 फरवरी, 1952 को ढाका विश्वविद्यालय के छात्रों ने भाषा को लेकर विद्रोह का विगुल फूंक दिया। इसके बाद हुए आंदोलन की परिणति में ही बांग्लादेश का निर्माण हुआ। तबसे बांग्लादेश में 21 फरवरी को भाषा आंदोलन दिवस या 'शोहिद दिवोश' मनाया जाने लगा। आज पूरी दुनिया 19वां अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय मातृभाषा दिवस मना रही है। इस अवसर पर यूनेस्को की महानिदेशक ने अपने संदेश से हमें स्मरण कराया है कि 'भाषा संवाद के माध्यम से कहीं बढ़कर मानवता का एक बेहद जरूरी बुनियाद है। हमारे मूल्य, हमारी मान्यताएं व हमारी पहचान इसमें सन्निहित हैं।' भाषा स्पष्ट रूप से एक भावनात्मक मुद्दा है, क्योंकि यह हमारे सामाजिक जीवन से जुड़ी है। यह भावनाओं और विचारों की अभिव्यक्ति में हमें सशक्त बनाती है। यह सामूहिक पहचान और बंधुता की भावना को बढ़ाती है। हम अपने विचारों को अपनी मातृभाषा में कहीं बेहतर तरीके से व्यक्त कर सकते हैं। यदि बच्चों को उनकी मातृभाषा में पढ़ाया जाए तो उसके कहीं बेहतर नतीजे हासिल होते हैं।

पहले उपनिवेशवाद और बाद में भूमंडलीकरण के चलते तमाम भाषाएं दबाव में आ गई हैं। हर एक पखवाड़े में दुनिया की कोई न कोई भाषा दम तोड़ रही है। इस पर संयुक्त राष्ट्र महासभा ने 16 मई, 2007 को एक संकल्प पारित कर सभी देशों का आह्वान किया कि ये दुनियाभर में लोगों द्वारा प्रयुक्त की जाने वाली भाषाओं के संरक्षण को प्रोत्साहन दें। उसी संकल्प से विविध भाषाओं और बहुसंस्कृतियों के माध्यम से विविधता में एकता और अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय समझ को बढ़ावा देने के लिए वर्ष 2008 को 'अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय भाषा वर्ष' के तौर पर मनाने का फैसला किया गया।

हम बहुसांस्कृतिक एवं बहुभाषी दुनिया में रह रहे हैं। हमें दुनिया की इस बहुभाषी संस्कृति को सहेजने की दरकार है और इसका सबसे बेहतर तरीका यही है कि प्रत्येक भाषा को संरक्षित करने के साथ ही उसे

समुचित रूप से उन्नत बनाया जाए। महात्मा गांधी ने भी इसकी हिमायत की थी। भारत ने हमेशा विविधता और बहुलता में विश्वास किया है। हमने सभी भाषाओं को सम्मान दिया है। चूंकि भाषा और संस्कृति दोनों से अंतर्संबंध है, लिहाजा हमें अपनी देशज भाषाओं को भी मजबूत बनाने की जरूरत है। इनमें वे तमाम भाषा-बोलियां भी शामिल हैं, जो देश में कई आदिवासी समूहों द्वारा प्रयोग की जाती हैं।

भाषा किसी संस्कृति की जीवनरेखा होती है और एक तरह से समाज के व्यापक परिवेश को परिभाषित भी करती है। भाषा सिर्फ संवाद-संचार में ही अहम भूमिका नहीं निभाती, बल्कि सहभागियों को एक धागे में पिरोने का भी काम करती है। यह एक सामूहिक पहचान देने के साथ ही सांस्कृतिक मूल्यों के एक जरूरी तत्व का निर्माण करती है। किसी भाषा की कहावतें जब एक पीढ़ी से दूसरी पीढ़ी को हस्तांतरित होती हैं तो वे उस समाज की रस्मों, रिवाजों और मूल्यों को प्रतिध्वनि करती हैं। इस वर्ष की थीम भले ही 'सतत विकास के लिए लैंगिक विविधता और बहुभाषिक गणना' हो, लेकिन जो विषय मेरे दिल के करीब है और जिसकी अरसे से हिमायत करता आया हूँ, वह थी 2012 की थीम 'मातृभाषा शिक्षण एवं समावेशी शिक्षा'।

'भारत विविध भाषाओं और संस्कृतियों का संगम स्थल है। चूंकि अधिसंख्य भारतीय हिंदी बोलते हैं तो इसे देश की लिंगुआ फ्रैंका यानी आम भाषा कह सकते हैं। वहीं तेलुगु और बंगाली भी व्यापक स्तर पर बोली जाने वाली भाषाएं हैं, लेकिन संभवतः तमिल दुनिया की सबसे प्राचीन भाषाओं में से एक है। इसी तरह देश के तमाम इलाकों में विविध तरह की भाषाएं एवं बोलियां उस इलाके की भाषायी समृद्धि को व्यक्त करती हैं। मातृभाषा को प्रोत्साहन देना सबसे अहम है। कोई बच्चा किसी अन्य भाषा की तुलना में अपनी मातृभाषा में बेहतर तरीके से सीख सकता है। वह अपने विचारों को भी मातृभाषा में प्रभावी तरीके से व्यक्त कर सकता है। मैं इस पर जोर देता आया हूँ कि सभी राज्य सरकारें कम से कम स्कूल स्तर पर मातृभाषा विषय को अनिवार्य बनाएं। मुझे खुशी है कि आंध्र प्रदेश और तेलंगाना के अलावा कुछ अन्य राज्यों ने भी आगामी अकादमिक वर्ष से तेलुगु को स्कूल में अनिवार्य विषय के तौर पर शामिल करने का फैसला किया है। मैं आशा करता हूँ कि अन्य राज्य भी इसका अनुसरण करेंगे।

विविधता और समावेशन को बढ़ावा देने के लिए अन्य भाषाओं को भी प्रोत्साहन दिया जा सकता है।

भारत में अभी साक्षात्कार दर 74 प्रतिशत है। मातृभाषा का वृहद स्तर प्रोत्साहन साक्षरता के विस्तार का सर्वोत्तम विकल्प हो सकता है। मातृभाषा में शिक्षा निरक्षरता की समस्या को दूर करने में मददगार होगी। यदि मातृभाषा में क्षमताएं निखरती हैं तो किसी छात्र द्वारा अन्य भाषाओं को सीखने की संभावनाएं भी बढ़ती हैं। ब्रिटिश राज के चलते शिक्षा के माध्यम के रूप में अंग्रेजी के चलने ने जोर पकड़ा और यह प्रमुख संस्थानों से लेकर सरकारी दफ्तरों और कई महत्वपूर्ण प्रतिष्ठानों की भाषा बन गई। अफसोस की बात यह है कि तमाम लोग, विशेषकर वे जो शहरी खांचे में शिक्षित और अभिजात्य संस्थानों से निकले हैं, अपनी मातृभाषा को लिखने-पढ़ने में भी सक्षम नहीं हैं। इस अवांछित रुझान की धारा को पलटना होगा और लोगों को अपनी मातृभाषा में व्यवहार करने पर गर्व महसूस होना ही चाहिए।

दुनियाभर में लोग न केवल अपनी मातृभाषा बोलने में गर्व की अनुभूति करते हैं, बल्कि उसके प्रचार-प्रसार की कोशिश भी करते हैं। मैं खुद ऐसे विदेशी गणमान्य लोगों के संपर्क में रहता हूँ जो धाराप्रवाह अंग्रेजी में दक्ष होने के बावजूद अपनी मातृभाषा में संवाद को वरीयता देते हैं। रूस, फ्रांस, स्विट्जरलैंड, चीन, जर्मनी और ईरान जैसे तमाम देशों के राष्ट्राध्यक्ष अपनी राष्ट्रीय भाषा में ही संवाद करते हैं। ऐसा इसीलिए, क्योंकि उन्हें अपनी भाषा में बात करने पर गर्व होता है। वे भाषा को राष्ट्रीय पहचान से जोड़कर देखते हैं।

हमें यह समझने की जरूरत है कि बहुभाषी एवं बहुसांस्कृतिक विश्व की संकल्पना केवल मातृभाषाओं को मजबूत करने से ही साकार हो सकती है। हमें ऐसा ढांचा चाहिए, जहां मातृभाषा में शिक्षा दी जाए, भारतीय भाषाओं को प्रोत्साहन देने वाला प्रकाशन उद्योग हो और ऐसा इंटरनेट तंत्र हो जो विविध भारतीय भाषाओं में संचार और ज्ञान के हस्तांतरण को संभव बनाए। इसके लिए व्यक्ति और समूह को कंधे से कंधा मिलाकर काम करना होगा। यही भारतीय दर्शन का मूल भी है यहीं हमें अखिल भारतीय और वैश्विक नागरिक बनाने में मददगार साबित होगा। □

(नई दुनिया 21 फरवरी, इन्दौर से सभार)

## आलिया के श्लोकों की गूंज अमेरिका तक पहुंची

श्रीकृष्ण का रूप धारण कर गीता के श्लोक सुनाने पर विरोध का सामना कर रही मेरठ की रहने वाली मुस्लिम छात्रा आलिया खान को पढ़ाई के लिए सात समंदर पार से मदद को हाथ बढ़े हैं। अमेरिका में भारतीय मूल के लोगों ने आलिया को सम्मानित किया। फिलहाल 51 हजार रुपये का चेक सौंपा। आलिया के आगे पढ़ने की इच्छा पर अमेरिकियों ने उसकी पढ़ाई का सारा खर्च उठाने का भी भरोसा दिया। सम्मान और मदद से अभिभूत आलिया ने विदेशी मेहमानों को थैंक्स बोला और अमेरिकी भी कह उठे—वेलकम आलिया। आगे बढ़ो। मजबूत हुई आलिया

आलिख खान सेठ वीके माहेश्वरी बालिका इंटर कॉलेज में 10वीं की छात्रा है। लखनऊ में पिछले दिनों ग्राम स्वरोजगार कार्यक्रम के दौरान आलिया ने भगवान श्रीकृष्ण का रूप बनाकर गीता के श्लोक पढ़े थे। कृष्ण बनकर गीता के श्लोक सुनाने पर वह राज्य में दूसरे नंबर की विजेता बनी थी। आलिया

को सीएम योगी आदित्यनाथ ने सम्मानित किया था।

हालांकि, ऐसा करने पर वह देवबंद के उलेमाओं के निशाने पर भी आ गई थी। उसकी आलोचनाएं हुईं और उलेमाओं ने उसे नसीहत भी दी। लेकिन आलिया कमजोर नहीं पड़ी। आलिया के साहस और पहल की तारीफ करते हुए अमेरिका में विश्व हिन्दू स्वयंसेवक संघ के अध्यक्ष दिग्विजय सिंह और उनकी टीम ने मेरठ आकर उसका सम्मान किया। दिग्विजय सिंह दो वर्ष से टेक्सास के हॉस्टन शहर में शोध कर रहे हैं। उन्होंने आलिया को आगे की पढ़ाई के लिए 51 हजार रुपये का बैंक स्कॉलरशिप के तौर पर दिया। आलिया को संस्कृत में गीत तैयार करवाने वाली शिक्षिका आराधना शर्मा को भी 11 हजार रुपये प्रदान किए। आलिया जब तक पढ़ेगी, तब तक उसकी मदद का भरोसा भी दिया। सेवानिवृत्त इंजिनियर सुभाष गुप्ता, उनकी पत्नी मुकुल जैन ने आलिया को सम्मान में प्रतीक चिन्ह सौंपा।



ज्ञान के लिए पढ़ती हूँ गीता - आलिया

आलिया का कहना है कि मैं गीता किसी धर्म के कारण नहीं पढ़ती हूँ। मैं गीता ज्ञान लेने के लिए पढ़ती हूँ। □

## भारतवंशियों ने हिन्दी को सारे विश्व में फैलाया है : डॉ. पुष्पिता अवस्थी

बैंक ऑफ बड़ौदा के मुंबई स्थित कॉर्पोरेट कार्यालय में पिछले दिनों विश्व हिन्दी दिवस के उपलक्ष्य में नीदरलैंड की प्रख्यात साहित्यकार एवं हिन्दी यूनिवर्सिटी फाउंडेशन की निदेशक डॉ. पुष्पिता अवस्थी का व्याख्यान आयोजित किया गया। इस अवसर पर बैंक के कार्यपालक निदेशक श्री मयंक के. मेहता, श्री अशोक कुमार गर्ग एवं अन्य कार्यपालकगण उपस्थित थे। समारोह में डॉ. अवस्थी ने विश्व में हिन्दी भाषा के प्रसार तथा प्रवासी भारतीयों में हिन्दी भाषा के प्रति प्रेम एवं लगाव से सभी को अवगत कराया। अपने संबोधन में उन्होंने कहा कि 'भारतवंशी विश्व के सारे देशों में फैले हैं और अपने प्रयासों से हिन्दी को भी वैश्विक बना दिया है। भाषा वास्तव में संस्कृति का पासपोर्ट होती है और हिन्दी के माध्यम से हमारी संस्कृति की जड़ें भी दुनिया के अनेक देशों में मजबूत हुई हैं।

कार्यक्रम में उपस्थित कार्यपालक निदेशक श्री गर्ग ने कहा कि 'आज हिन्दी का स्वरूप वैश्विक हो चुका है। विश्व के 175 से अधिक देशों में हिन्दी भाषा बोली जाती है। चूंकि आज विश्व भारत को विभिन्न संभावनाओं वाले देश के रूप में देख रहा है इसलिए भारत के साथ-साथ हिन्दी का भविष्य भी उज्ज्वल हैं।' कार्यपालक निदेशक श्री मयंक के. मेहता ने कहा कि विश्व के 23 देशों में हमारे बैंक की शाखाएं फैली हैं और अपनी शाखाओं के माध्यम से भी विश्व में हिन्दी के प्रचार-प्रसार में योगदान दे रहे हैं।

कार्यक्रम का संयोजन एवं संचालन उप महाप्रबंधक, डॉ. जवाहर कर्नावट ने किया। □



## मातृभाषा से बुद्धि ही नहीं समझदारी भी बढ़ती है

40 साल में खत्म हो जाएंगी 4 हजार भाषाएं  
50 साल में खत्म हुई 20 फीसदी भाषाएं

मातृभाषा में शिक्षा न होने के कारण भारत में लोगों की बौद्धिक क्षमता (आईक्यू) तो बढ़ी है लेकिन भावनात्मक संतुलन (ईक्यू) तेजी से गड़बड़ा रहा है। भारतीय भाषा लोक सर्वेक्षण की रिपोर्ट के अनुसार दूसरी भाषाओं में शिक्षा से बुद्धिमत्ता तो बढ़ी है लेकिन समझदारी का विकास नहीं हो पाता है।

रिपोर्ट के मुताबिक, मातृभाषा में पढ़ाई करने वाले बच्चों की ज्ञान ग्रहण करने की क्षमता अन्य से करीब 40 फीसदी अधिक होती है। भारत में 780 में से महज 35 मातृभाषाएं ऐसी हैं जिसमें शिक्षा दी जा रही है। सर्वे के अनुसार मातृभाषा में पढ़ाई न करने वाले बच्चे का ईक्यू 50 फीसदी ही विकसित हो पाता है। इस कारण समाज में असंतुलित मानसिकता के लोगों के साथ-साथ हिंसा की खतरे भी बढ़ते हैं। □

## भारत से 8 महिलाएं अरबपतियों की लिस्ट में



सावित्री जिंदल



स्मिता कृष्णा गोदरेज



किरन मजूमदार शाह



लीना तिवारी



विनोद और अनिल गुप्ता



शीला गौतम



अनु आगा



मधु कपूर

फोर्ब्स मैगजीन ने साल 2018 की वर्ल्ड्स बिलियनेयर लिस्ट जारी की जिसमें से बिजनेस मैगजीन फोर्ब्स की अरबपतियों की ताजा सूची से पीएनबी घोटाले के आरोपी नीरव मोदी को हटा दिया गया है। इसमें कुल 256 महिलाओं को जगह मिली है। इतनी बड़ी तादाद पहली बार देखी गई है। दुनिया के सबसे धनी लोगों में इस बार भारत की निम्नलिखित आठ महिलाएं भी शामिल हैं।

**सावित्री जिंदल**—8.8 अरब डॉलर (जिंदल स्टील एंड पावर लि. की चेरयपर्सन) **ए किरन मजूमदार शाह**—3.6 अरब डॉलर (जेनरिक दवाओं की निर्माता बायोकॉन कंपनी की चीफ), **स्मिता कृष्णा गोदरेज**—2.9 अरब डॉलर (गोदरेज परिवार की संपत्ति में 1/5 हिस्सेदारी), **लीना तिवारी**—2.4 अरब डॉलर (डायबीटीज आदि की दवा बनाने वाली यूएसबी इंडिया कंपनी की चेरयपर्सन), **विनोद और अनिल गुप्ता**—2.2 अरब डॉलर (इन माँ-बेटे की हेवल्स इंडिया में 43 पर्सेंट हिस्सेदारी है), **अनु आगा**—1.4 अरब डॉलर (इंजिनियरिंग फर्म थरमेक्स में 62 पर्सेंट हिस्सेदारी), **शीला गौतम**—1.1 अरब डॉलर (स्लीपवेल मैट्रेस बनाने वाली कंपनी शीला फोम की संस्थापक), **मधु कपूर**—1.1 अरब डॉलर (यस बैंक में 9.3 पर्सेंट हिस्सेदारी) □

## फीजी में अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय मातृभाषा दिवस



बायें से दायें फीजी में भारत के उच्चायुक्त श्री विश्वास सपकाल, भारत के मानव संसाधन राज्यमंत्री डॉ. सत्यपाल सिंह, फीजी के पूर्व प्रधानमंत्री श्री महेन्द्र चौधरी और फीजी उच्चायुक्त में द्वितीय सचिव श्री अनिल शर्मा



फीजी के पूर्व प्रधानमंत्री श्री महेन्द्र चौधरी और भारत सरकार के शिक्षा राज्यमंत्री डॉ. सत्यपाल सिंह के साथ समारोह में भाग लेने वाले विशिष्टजन

फीजी स्थित भारतीय उच्चायोग में आयोजित मातृभाषा दिवस के अवसर पर आयोजित विचार गोष्ठी का उद्घाटन करते हुए भारत सरकार के शिक्षा राज्यमंत्री डॉ. सत्यपाल सिंह ने कहा कि मातृभाषा व्यक्ति के सामाजिक एवं सांस्कृतिक विकास में महत्वपूर्ण भूमिका निभाती है। उन्होंने इस बात पर प्रसन्नता व्यक्त की कि फीजी के विद्यालयों में अनिवार्य रूप से हिन्दी पढ़ाई जाती है। उन्होंने वैश्विक स्तर पर हिन्दी के प्रचार-प्रसार में भारत सरकार की भूमिका पर प्रकाश डालते हुए फीजी वासियों से अनुरोध किया कि अगस्त 2018 में मॉरीशस में होने वाले विश्व हिन्दी सम्मेलन में बड़ी संख्या में अपने देश का प्रतिनिधित्व करें।

इस अवसर पर फीजी के पूर्व प्रधानमंत्री श्री महेन्द्र चौधरी, सहायक मंत्री श्री विजयनाथ भी उपस्थित

थे। मंत्री महोदय ने हिन्दी के तीन विद्वानों वीरेन लाल (हिन्दी मीडिया), विमल चंद (हिन्दी अध्यापन, साईमोने (हिन्दी गायन) को सम्मानित किया। फीजी के ईताऊकी गायक साईमोने के गीत को लोग मंत्रमुग्ध होकर सुनते रहे। श्री नेमानी की हिन्दी-ई-ताऊकेई पुस्तक के लिये हाई कमीशन ने अनुदान की घोषणा की। श्री भुवनदत्त जी ने फीजीवासियों की तरफ से अगला विश्व हिन्दी सम्मेलन फीजी में करने की अपील की। मंत्री महोदय ने दिल्ली में इस बात को रखने का आश्वासन दिया। फीजी में भारतीय उच्चायुक्त ने भारतीय भाषाओं में हिन्दी के स्थान पर बोलते हुए हिन्दी को भारत की राष्ट्रभाषा, राजभाषा और सम्पर्क भाषा बताया। □

## बैंक ऑफ बड़ौदा में अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय मातृभाषा दिवस का आयोजन

बैंक ऑफ बड़ौदा के अंचल एवं क्षेत्रीय कार्यालय, भोपाल द्वारा दिनांक 21 फरवरी, 2018 को अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय मातृभाषा दिवस के अवसर पर भव्य कार्यक्रम का आयोजन किया गया। इस अवसर पर मुख्य अतिथि के रूप में लंदन में हिन्दी की प्रसिद्ध विदुषी श्रीमती उषा राजे सक्सेना एवं हिन्दी प्रचारिणी सभा मॉरीशस के अध्यक्ष श्री यंतुदेव बुधु उपस्थित थे। प्रारंभ में बैंक के कॉर्पोरेट कार्यालय, मुंबई के उप महाप्रबंधक (राजभाषा) डॉ. जवाहर कर्नावट ने बैंक में हिन्दी एवं भारतीय भाषाओं के प्रयोग की विस्तृत रूपरेखा प्रस्तुत की। अपने उद्बोधन में श्रीमती उषा राजे एवं श्री बुधु ने इंग्लैण्ड एवं मॉरीशस में हिन्दी एवं भारतीय भाषाओं के प्रशिक्षण एवं प्रचार-प्रसार के लिए किए जा रहे कार्यों की विस्तार से जानकारी



दी। बैंक के सहायक महाप्रबंधक श्री आर. एल. चौहान ने अतिथियों का स्वागत किया एवं श्री लोकेन्द्र महाजन, मुख्य प्रबंधक, ऋण निगरानी विभाग, अंचल कार्यालय, भोपाल ने धन्यवाद ज्ञापित किया। कार्यक्रम का संचालन श्री सोमेन्द्र यादव, वरिष्ठ प्रबंधक (राजभाषा) ने किया। □