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श्रद्धांजलि



पूर्व प्रधानमंत्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी के निधन से भारत ने एक ऐसे राजनेता को खो दिया है जो आजीवन राजनीति में मानवमूल्यों की रक्षा के लिए पूरी निष्ठा और समर्पण भाव से कार्य करता और राजनीति की रपटीली राह साहित्य की सात्विक छाया प्रदान करता रहा।

अटल जी महान राजनेता, सहृदय कवि और श्रेष्ठ विचारक थे। अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय सहयोग परिषद से उनका बहुत ही निकट का संबंध था। परिषद के अनेक अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय समारोहों में उन्होंने मुख्य अतिथि के रूप में उपस्थित होकर हमारे कार्यक्रमों की गरिमा बढ़ाई। सबसे अधिक महत्वपूर्ण बात तो यह है कि उन्होंने अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय सहयोग परिषद के वर्तमान मुख्यालय 'प्रवासी भवन' का शिलान्यास कर इस संस्था को 'वसुधैव कुटुम्बकम्' के लिए कार्य करते रहने की प्रेरणा प्रदान की।

अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय सहयोग परिषद उनको सादर श्रद्धांजलि अर्पित करते हुए उनकी दिवंगत आत्मा की चिर शांति की प्रार्थना करता है। □

PIO, OUR GLOBAL LINK

(Inaugural address by the then Prime Minister Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee in the International Conference on PIOs' Contribution to the development of countries of their domicile organized by Antar-Rashtriya Sahayog Parishad in January 2000 in New Delhi.)

✍ Atal Bihari Vajpayee

" I am happy to be present at this professionals who went to the United conference on the Contribution of States and the United Kingdom in the Persons of Indian Origin. I heartily 60s, 70s and 80s. They were followed congratulate the Antar-Rashtriya in the 90s by software programmers, Sahayog Parishad for organizing it. many of whom have now become This is perhaps the first conference of world beating businessmen. the PIO to be held in the new century.

The credit for this goes to Shri Wherever they have gone, Indians Baleshwar Agrawal and his have always enriched and fertilized associates. their country of adoption. They have contributed to the economic prosperity and cultural heritage of their host countries.

Persons of Indian Origin live in almost every country of the world. They have made their mark in an increasing number of professions and occupations. Wherever they are, they have earned a good name for the Indian population exceeds fifty thousand. There are many more country-India-with their hard work, countries where the Indian population talent and of course, their loyalty to the country that they are citizens of.

Perhaps there is no other nation in the world that has such a widely dispersed diaspora. This is a matter of pride for all of us—for Indians as well as PIO.

The story of the journey of our people to all parts of the world is an amazing one. It is a story of great courage and character. It tells the tale:

Of indentured labourers from Bihar and Uttar Pradesh taken to various British colonies all over the world; Of Gujarati traders who sailed to various parts of Africa; Of Sikh farmers who went to the United States and Canada family. Wherever our sisters and nearly a hundred years back: Of Tamil workers and entrepreneurs who went to Singapore and Malaysia; and Of Sindhi businessmen who went to Thailand and Hong Kong.

It is also the story of bright, young Indian engineers, doctors, and other



Friends, if we look back, there are various forces of history that prompted our people to leave India and settle abroad. This kind of trans-national movement of people will only accelerate in the increasingly inter-dependent and inter-connected world of the 21st century.

The expansion of the Indian diaspora in the new century and the new millennium, however, will follow a very different trajectory. In the past, people left India out of distress or some economic compulsion, because ours was then a country under colonial subjugation. This will no longer be the case in the future.

India is now not only a free country, but is marching ahead confidently to

occupy its rightful place in the comity of developed nations of the world. Never again will any Indian have to leave our shores for distant alien lands out of want and deprivation. Rather, as is already happening it will be because of the legendary knowledge and talent of Indians that they will go in an increasing number to work and to live in foreign lands.

We are seeing yet another difference. In the past, many of the Indians who went abroad had to work in the lower rungs of the economic ladder in their host countries. Now, they are rapidly climbing up the value chain. It is a matter of pride that many Indians are now heading large banks, airlines, consultancy firms and, of course, information technology companies abroad. Persons of Indian origin are among the richest in many countries. I am sure that this phenomenon will only gain momentum in the coming years.

As the PIO and NRIs become more and more prosperous, they are looking to India as an attractive place for investment and doing business. I assure you that the Government will facilitate this process in every possible way.

Friends, now the time has come when your economic strength and professional achievements should begin to be matched by your voice and influence in politics, culture, and the social life of your adopted countries.

You should also participate responsibly and effectively in your country's political life by supporting every worthwhile political cause. It is a matter of happiness that many persons of Indian origin are beginning to play leading roles in governments and political parties abroad. This process, however, is so far slow and needs to be accelerated.

The Government sees the PIO not just as investors, but also as our links with



the rest of the world. We would like you to play the role of our unofficial ambassadors by communicating the reality of a new and resurgent India to the political, cultural, business, and intellectual establishments in your host countries.

Whenever the need and the occasion arise, we would like you to strongly articulate India's case to the various constituencies in your adopted countries. I am happy that this is what you indeed did during the Kargil war and more recently, during the hijack crisis.

I would urge you to do this on a more sustained basis over issues such as India's stand on Kashmir, our strong secular tradition and state-sponsored terrorism, which has actually become a menace to global peace and security.

Today's India is a self confident and India marching ahead to economic prosperity and social justice and equality. Today's India is ready to play its part in shaping a new and equitable international order. While we will not brook interference in our internal affairs or allow others to meddle in our bilateral relations or problems, we are ready to engage with any country in a cooperative framework.

Friends, let me conclude by stating once again that India is proud of your achievements. More and more Indians-both in India and abroad – are succeeding. In the new century that has just begun. Let us together resolve to make India succeed.

Thank you



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MAURITIUS TAKES CHAGOS ISSUE TO I C J – INDIA STANDS BY PRINCIPLES

Mauritius has finally brought the historic question of its sovereignty over the Chagos Archipelago before the International Court of Justice (ICJ) in The Hague. The matter has been referred to the Highest Court through a UNGA resolution adopted in June, 2017 with an overwhelming majority of 94 votes in favour, only 15 votes against and 65 abstentions seeking “an advisory opinion on the legal consequences of the separation of the Chagos Archipelago from Mauritius in 1965”. The court is supposed to adjudicate on two essential aspects: a) whether the process of decolonisation of Mauritius was lawfully completed in 1968 in accordance with international law; and b) what are the consequences of continued administration of the Chagos by the UK under law, including the UNGA resolution of 1960 inter alia prohibiting splitting of any territory of the colonies in the process of decolonisation.

The court has completed public hearings last week going through detailed submissions made by the interested parties covering historic, humanitarian and legal aspects of this long pending dispute over 'the unfinished process of Mauritian decolonisation' and a decision may be pronounced by the Court next year.

In a nutshell, the former colonial ruler, the UK had excised a part of the Mauritian territory, called the Chagos

Archipelago- a group of small islands located some 500 kms south of Maldives, and decided to retain them under their continued control prior to granting independence to Mauritius in March 1968. While negotiations for Mauritian independence were ongoing, in November, 1965, the UK decided to detach the Chagos Archipelago from the rest of the Mauritian territory and establish what was called as the British Indian Ocean Territory (BIOT) covering the Chagos and some other islands of Seychelles (islands belonging to Seychelles were later returned to them after litigation).

This was evidently done with the intention of meeting the needs of the United States to set up a naval base at the largest of these islands called Diego Garcia. This arrangement was formalised between the UK and US in December 1966 and the US naval facilities have been in operation at Diego Garcia ever since. The initial arrangement which was for 50 years has been further extended for 20 years till 2036. This arrangement not only denied full decolonisation of the Mauritian territory but also resulted in forced relocation of the local population of Chagossians in gross violation of their basic human rights.

According to the Mauritian side, they did not agree to such an arrangement and therefore consider this as unlawful and unfinished process of decolonisation. The British Government, on the other hand, has



 **Anup Mudgal**

been arguing that the Chagos are administered by them as BIOT under duly adopted British laws following an explicit understanding with Mauritian side by way of certain undertakings from both sides. The UK had promised to return these territories to Mauritius if they were no more needed for the purpose of defence and security. The Mauritian side had inter-alia sought to protect their full economic rights in the EEZ around these islands. From these records, popularly called as the 'Lancaster House Understanding', it becomes fairly clear that the UK did acknowledge the sovereignty of Mauritius over these islands though the arrangement of its administration as BIOT was sought to perpetuate till their usefulness for security reasons.

This arrangement has been repeatedly challenged not only by Mauritius but also the United Nations.





Responding to the UK decision to detach the Chagos from Mauritius in 1965, the UNGA adopted three resolutions in December, 1965; December, 1966 and December, 1967 condemning the actions of the UK for not completing the process of decolonisation of Mauritius in gross violation of the international law, including their own landmark resolution of 1960 on the larger question of decolonisation.

As Mauritius got busy with its post independence settling down process, the UK continued with the 'unlawful' control of the Chagos. The process was further vitiated when the UK decided to unilaterally establish a Marine Protected Area (MPA) around the Archipelago in December, 2010, which would deny access to Mauritius even for economic resources in its own EEZ and also permanently close the doors on return of Chagossian. This decision of UK was legally challenged at various levels, including a formal arbitration proceedings by Mauritius under the UNCLOS, primarily questioning the status of the UK as a coastal state as essentially required for declaring an MPAs. After careful examination of the facts, the Tribunal declared the decision of UK to establish an MPA around the Archipelago without proper consultations with Mauritius as unlawful. While the larger question of the sovereignty was considered beyond the Tribunal's competence, it declared that the commitment of the UK to return the territory to Mauritius was binding under International law, again implying the eventual

sovereignty of Mauritius.

Bilateral consultations followed but without any mutually agreeable resolution, forcing Mauritius to seek an advice from the International Court of Justice through the UN finally resulting in a decisive adoption of a UNGA resolution in June, 2017 for referring the matter to the ICJ. This was undoubtedly a resounding victory for not only Mauritius but for the very principles of International law.

India has maintained its principled stand both at the UNGA and at the ICJ by supporting the Mauritian claim of sovereignty. Our position is governed by International law, overwhelming global sentiment in favour of decolonisation, fraternal ties with Mauritius, history of power struggle and the emerging security challenges in the region. Mauritius reportedly wanted India to co-sponsor their resolution but we sought to support the Mauritian cause without closing the doors for any future access to all the parties for any future negotiated settlement, which would be essential even if there were to be a favourable ICJ advice.

The parties to the case including India have completed their submissions. Mauritius appears to have a reasonably strong legal case, which has been progressively reinforced by the repeated UNGA resolutions and the decision of the UNCLOS tribunal in 2015. Mauritius would surely press for a clear settlement in favour of their sovereignty over the Chagos, including unfettered access to the

ocean resources and resettlement of Chagossians but they would also be conscientious of the complexities in seeking to get the territory vacated of the US naval facilities. Therefore, while celebrating a possible favourable decision by the ICJ in support of their sovereignty, they would perhaps have to weigh various options to deal with the ground situation. They are also aware that the ICJ advisory is not binding on the parties and the UN has no viable mechanism to enforce execution. Such a scenario may again give Mauritius a very major legal and moral victory but the struggle for any impact on the ground may have to continue.

India would ideally wish the Mauritian sovereignty restored but the follow up on the future of the security arrangements might have to be steered by the parties over time in keeping with the overall security needs and balance of power in the region. So far, India has played well by the rules in keeping with its historic and legally correct stand, without hurting its core regional security interests but future course would need close regular watch. Some parties have argued that the ICJ should refrain from entertaining essentially a bilateral territorial dispute as it could set an unhealthy precedent for future. This appears a bit far fetched as the Chagos question relates to a much larger and fundamental principle of decolonisation and not a typical bilateral territorial dispute. □

(Please see related news on page-10)

BIMSTEC SUMMIT IMPLIED INDIA'S HIGHEST PRIORITY TO ITS NEIGHBOURS

Prime Minister Modi received a red carpet welcome on his arrival to attend the fourth Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) Summit held in Kathmandu on August 30-31.



The summit on 'Towards a peaceful, prosperous and sustainable Bay of Bengal region', witnessed the participation from all member states, comprising Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Myanmar, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Thailand to hold discussion on trade, development and security of the regions.

BIMSTEC summit in Kathmandu implied India's highest priority to its neighbours and an indomitable commitment to continue reinforcing ties with the "extended neighbourhood" in South-East Asia.

In inaugural session, PM Modi said that all countries of BIMSTEC seek peace and prosperity and this will be possible only if there is connectivity in all forms between member states of the regional bloc. But in today's inter-connected world, we cannot achieve this alone. He also called for taking the process forward for BIMSTEC coastal shipping and motor vehicle agreements which came into existence on June 6, 1997, through the Bangkok Declaration.

In his statement, he pointed out "we would establish Centre for Bay of Bengal Studies in Nalanda University for research on arts, culture and maritime laws." He further stated "We are committed to expanding digital connectivity in Sri Lanka, Nepal, Thailand and other countries."

PM Modi said, this summit will enable the member-countries to formulate a collective response to their common aspirations and challenges. He expressed confidence that the 4th BIMSTEC summit would further consolidate the progress made so far under BIMSTEC, and would chart the course for building a peaceful and prosperous Bay of Bengal Region.

The Kathmandu Declaration was issued at the last day of the summit that deplored terror attacks in all parts of the world including in BIMSTEC countries and accentuated that there can be no justification whatsoever for any act of terrorism.

PM Modi met Prime Minister of Nepal Oli on the sidelines of the Summit and

both held a detailed review on all aspects of the bilateral relationship encompassing ways to further deepen economic and trade ties. Modi along with Prime Minister Oli inaugurated the Nepal Bharat Maithri Dharmashala at

the Pashupatinath temple complex. He held discussion with Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and Sri Lankan President Maithripala Sirisena, besides having a series of bilateral meetings including talks with his Thai counterpart Prayut Chan-ocha and Myanmar President Win Myint.

This is Modi's first visit to Nepal since the formation of the new Government in Nepal. Modi described his two-day visit to Nepal as a reflection of his government's commitment to "neighbourhood first" policy. He stated that the Himalayan state entered a new era, India would continue to remain its steadfast partner and add to our age-old, close and friendly ties with Nepal. PM Modi assured that Indian assistance shall always be available for Nepal in its endeavour for growth and prosperity.

Prime Minister Modi wrapped up his visit after offering prayers at the Pashupatinath temple, the most sacred and oldest temple of Shiva (Pashupati) in Nepal. □

TAIWANESE YOUTH AMBASSADORS PROMOTE CULTURAL EXCHANGES

As part of Taiwan's '2018 International Youth Ambassadors Exchange Programme' organised by its Ministry of Foreign Affairs, 25 youth delegates from Taiwan visited India for excursions and exchanges. The exchange programme is a part of the Taiwanese government's efforts to promote public diplomacy. Since 2009, outstanding college students have been selected each year to travel to the country's diplomatic allies and other friendly countries.

During their visit to Delhi, a cultural performance called 'Taiwan's Youth, Citizens of the World' was presented in which images of Taiwanese festivals, folk songs, its traditional entertainments and toys including puppet plays, jump ropes, spinning tops and kites. With picturesque

destinations and food cultures of Taiwan also on display and the energy of the youth was boundless.

Speaking about the exchange programme, Jeffrey Wang, consul general of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs said, "The initiative has been organised to broaden the international vision among the youth delegates and to help them learn about India's social, cultural, economic and human resource development. The aim is to embolden our youth to explore the outside world, let them understand what it means to be responsible global citizens and to encourage them to play a more proactive role on the international stage. The programme also aims to promote future exchanges between India and Taiwan."

The 75 international youth ambassadors selected as this year's cohort were divided into three delegations that visited two countries each—Solomon Islands and Thailand, Palau and the Philippines, Tuvalu and India.

Recounting his experience, Richard Huang, 2018 Youth Ambassador Tuvalu-India Representative, said, "We spent five days in India, and interacted with students from Jamia Millia Islamia University, which might influence us to engage in Hindi learning." The young delegates also visited among other places, the African-Asian Rural Development Organisation, which works to reduce the gap between urban and rural areas. □

U.S. RETURNS TWO ANTIQUE STATUES STOLEN FROM INDIA

Two antique statues worth hundreds of thousands of dollars stolen from India and displayed at two American museums have been repatriated to India by the US. The first statue, 'Lingodhbhavamurti', a 12th century granite sculpture depicting an iconic representation of Lord Shiva, dates back to the Chola dynasty.



Lingodhbhavamurti, A Chola Era Granite Sculpture and painted in gold leaf. Dating back to the 12th century, the statue was stolen from a temple near the Bodhi Tree in Bihar in the late 1980s and has a current approximate value of \$275,000. □

Currently valued at about \$225,000, it was stolen from Tamil Nadu and was on display at the Birmingham Museum in Alabama. The second phyllite sculpture depicts the bodhisattva of wisdom, 'Manjusri', holding a sword

HIGHEST CIVILIAN AWARD IN US PROPOSED FOR MAHATMA GANDHI

During India Day Parade in New York, US Congresswomen Carolyn B. Maloney said, that Gandhi's historic Satyagraha Movement of nonviolent resistance inspired a nation and the world. His impact deserves recognition, which is why I'm introducing legislation to posthumously award him the Congressional Gold Medal, the highest civilian award in the US. Dr Neeta Jain, Chairman International Ahmisa Foundation (IAF)'s along with Federation of Indian Association, US team is working hard to get this legislation passed.

Prasoon Sharma, Director, India Global, who has been selected by Mahatma Gandhi's Alma matter UCL, London & New York University for Global Public policy leadership program Prasoon Sharma said it will be a historic tribute to Mahatma Gandhi on his 150th birth anniversary (Oct 2, 2018). According to him, today's world critically needs Gandhian principles of non-violence and peace. □

NASA NAMED SUNITA WILLIAMS, FOR FIRST SPACE FLIGHTS ON COMMERCIAL SPACECRAFT

Indian origin U.S. astronaut Sunita Williams is among the nine astronauts named by NASA who will fly the first missions into



space on commercially provided rockets and capsules, starting next year. After years of vehicle development and building anticipation, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)

has now put the crew in commercial crew spacecraft.

The space agency announced on 3rd August that the nine astronauts will launch on the first crewed test flights and missions of new commercial spacecraft built and operated by The Boeing Company and SpaceX. The missions will mark the first crewed launches from U.S. soil since the end of the space shuttle programme in 2011. □

JEET SUCHDEV SELECTED FOR KIWI INDIAN COMMUNITY SERVICE EXCELLENCE AWARD 2018



participate and perform, which made these very successful and popular in every age group.

For his service to the community, he was bestowed with Queen's Service Medal in 2004 for his contribution toward the community. In 2005 he received the Hind Rattan Award by International NRI Association of India and Bharat Gaurav Award in 2016 by International Friendship Society. Earlier in May 2018, he was invited to represent the New Zealand Indian Diaspora for a panel discussion on Indian Organisations working for the Indian nationals in New Zealand. □

Pramjit Rai Suchdev or Jeet Suchdev is a person who has taken the initiative to help hundreds of Indian community members in their times of difficulty and distress. He is no stranger to the Kiwi-Indian or the broader multi-ethnic community. For his years of dedication and service to multi-ethnic communities in New Zealand, the jury from a pool of nominations selected Jeet Suchdev for the honour of The Indian Weekender's Community Service Excellence Award 2018.

Mr Suchdev came to New Zealand and started his business in the hospitality and tourism sector, but his passion for social service kept him attached to several community events then. With the growing population, the need arose for a more established community organisation looking after the Asian communities' needs. He established Bhartiya Samaj in 1995 which was later established as a Charitable Trust in 2001.

Jeet Suchdev was instrumental in taking several community initiatives and partnering with different organisations celebrating Indian festivals such as Diwali, Independence Day, Republic Day, Holi, Diwali, Dusshera, Christmas. He encouraged the senior citizens, members of Bhartiya Samaj, to

Bill to Allow Proxy Voting by NRIs PASSED by Lok Sabha

A bill to extend the facility of 'proxy voting' to overseas Indians, on the lines of service voters, was passed by the Lok Sabha. Moving the Representation of the People (Amendment) Bill 2017 for consideration and passage, Law Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad said the provision would help non-resident Indians (NRIs) to participate in the electoral process.

The Bill, which was passed by a voice vote in the Lower House, proposes that overseas Indians, who are entitled to vote in India, could now appoint a proxy voter to cast their votes. As of now, overseas Indians were free to cast their votes in the constituencies where they were registered. The Bill seeks to give them the option of proxy voting, which till now was only available to service personnel. Responding to various objections expressed by members regarding proxy voting, the Minister said "let us trust the NRIs about proxies." According to estimates of

Minsitry of External Affairs, there are about 3.10 crore NRIs living in different countries across the world.

Prasad said that the country needed to respect and recognise the achievements of NRIs who have done well in different spheres of life across the globe.

While framing the rules, the government will ensure that system of proxy voting is not misused by anyone, he said, adding "proxy is not a dirty word. It is a legal word...a defined word."

There are several security concerns, he said, adding that e-voting has not been adopted by even developed countries with a large population.

An expert committee of the Election Commission, working on the issue, had in 2015 forwarded the legal framework to the Law Ministry to amend the electoral laws to allow the overseas Indians to use proxy voting. □

NAIDU CALLS UPON INDIAN DIASPORA TO CONTRIBUTE IN BUILDING 'NEW INDIA'



Vice-president Venkaiah Naidu on Saturday urged the Indian diaspora in the United States not to “forget your mother and the motherland” and participate in the India growth story while abiding by the laws of their adoptive country.

“In America, you must follow American rules, customs, regulations and systems and you have to be loyal citizens of the country where you are living,” the vice-president said to members and representatives of 21 Telugu associations based in the US.

Naidu complimented the community for their achievements in chosen professions and urged them to participate in India's growth. “I would like all of you to join in fast-tracking India's growth story,” he said detailing the impact of reforms and changes.

Enumerating the ways in which overseas Indians could help the

country, he suggested that they could each adopt a village and develop it.

The vice-president urged them to always remain rooted to India's rich cultural heritage and traditions while assimilating the best practices from around the world and we need to celebrate our festivals and uphold our customs,” the vice-president said he is out of politics but not out of public life. And he wants to focus on the youth and know their aspiration and motivate them. And his second “target” is science, research and universities. Vice-President M Venkaiah Naidu has called upon Indian diaspora in US not to forget their spiritual and cultural roots and contribute towards building a new and resurgent India. He asked them to uphold India's core values and beliefs of sharing, caring and treating the entire world as 'One Family'- Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam.

Vice President also appealed the Telugu society in the US not to forget the mother tongue, native village, motherland, parents and the Guru, who is responsible for your success. He said, those who want to move ahead in life should never forget their past.

He complimented the Telugu community for their contribution to the progress of America and observed that it was a matter of pride that many Telugus are occupying high positions in different fields.

Pointing out that India is the spiritual capital of the world, Vice President said India was one of the oldest surviving civilizations. He recalled the invaluable contribution made by Indians over the centuries in different fields from invention of zero to Yoga. □

COMCASA is SIGNED: INDIA SUCCESS GIVES US TRACTION FOR ASIA STRATEGY

The United States and India signed on Thursday the Communications Compatibility and Security Agreement (Comcasa) military cooperation deal. The success for Mike Pompeo brought a positive end to a tricky trip to India and Pakistan where the US secretary of state sought traction for his revamped Indo-Pacific strategy in the face of China's growing strength.



In New Delhi, Pompeo and US defence secretary James Mattis met their counterparts – external affairs minister Sushma Swaraj and defence minister Nirmala Sitharaman – for the so-called “2+2” talks to strengthen the US-India partnership. Sitharaman hailed the Comcasa deal as elevating bilateral relations “to unprecedented heights”, while the US side depicted it as a breakthrough too.

Part of the rationale for the revamped US Indo-Pacific strategy (the Trump team's preferred phrase for the massive geography spreading from the US west coast to India), is that New Delhi could potentially act as a growing regional counterweight to Beijing. Mattis has said that “we see the strengthening of India's democracy, its military, its economy as a stabilising element in the world.”

The deepening of the US-India relationship is centred around promoting a regional agenda of ensuring “freedom of the seas and skies, promoting market economics, supporting good governance, and insulating sovereign nations from coercion.” To this end, Washington declared New Delhi a major US defence partner in 2016, and the new Comcasa will now underpin greater counterterrorism and defence cooperation.

While the New Delhi leg of the US tour was relatively smooth sailing, the

Islamabad stopoff was much more difficult. Pompeo said after the meeting with new Pakistani Prime Minister Imran Khan that he hopes for a “re-set of relations.” While Khan has deployed much anti-US rhetoric over the years, the US secretary of state rightly sought early engagement with him, especially with Chinese foreign minister Wang Yi – who has called Pakistan the “iron brother” of his own nation – due into Islamabad on Saturday.

For strategic and potentially economic reasons, the new Pakistani prime minister is being courted by both Washington and Beijing with the latter having already made commitments of around \$60 billion to Islamabad under its Belt and Road Initiative. Pakistani troops also recently took part in exercises with some 3,000 others from the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO), including the Chinese military.

While Islamabad had for decades been a significant US ally, the relationship has frayed. This was highlighted in August when a transcript of a phone conversation between Pompeo and Khan, released by the US state department which referred to the new government “taking decisive action against all terrorists operating in Pakistan,” was disputed as factually inaccurate by Khan's team.

It was this vexed terrorism issue which was the key issue on the agenda on Wednesday between Khan, Pompeo and Mattis. And this conversation was made no easier by the US military decision last week to cancel \$300 million in aid to Islamabad over what Washington calls its failure to take action against militant groups operating on its soil. Mattis asserted that tough talks were needed and that he and

Pompeo made “very clear what we have to do, all of our nations, in meeting our common foe, the terrorists.”

Pompeo's latest tour, on the back of his visit last month to Indonesia, Singapore, and Malaysia, was designed to see clear movement forward on US agendas in both India and Pakistan to help bring greater energy and credibility to the US Indo-Pacific strategy, which has come under criticism for its perceived (under) ambition vis a vis China. Pompeo announced some \$113 million in regional investments focussed on technology, energy and infrastructure. In the secretary of state's words, this is “just a down payment” on future US commitments to the region.

The added pressure on the White House here is China's monumental ambition as illustrated by the \$1 trillion Belt and Road scheme. In this context, Pompeo faces a tough task in reassuring sometimes sceptical US regional allies that the Trump team is wholly committed – politically, economically and security-wise – to its Indo-Pacific plan. Even with Thursday's success in India, questions will remain about the ambition of the strategy, especially given the scale of China's own plans.

The writer is an Associate at LSE Ideas at the London School of Economics. □

INDIA BACKS MAURITIUS' CLAIM OVER UK-RULED CHAGOS ISLANDS

India weighed in on behalf of Mauritius at the International Court of Justice (ICJ) in The Hague, saying the Chagos archipelago in the Indian Ocean—which is currently ruled by the UK and operates US' Diego Garcia military base—'has been and continues to be with Mauritius.'

After the UN general assembly voted in favour of a legal opinion to the question of sovereignty to the islands, the ICJ had taken up the case to deliver an advisory opinion, which will not be legally binding. Of the 22 countries which are giving their legal opinion, the UK is supported by the US, Australia and Israel, while Mauritius is being supported by 17 countries, including India.

India's ambassador, Venu Rajamony, who presented the Indian opinion,

said the 'historical survey of facts... indicates that the Chagos Archipelago throughout the pre and post colonial era has been part of the Mauritius territory. These islands came under the colonial administration of the United Kingdom as part of Mauritian territory.'

While India stayed true to its commitment to its Indian Ocean neighbour Mauritius, as well as its anti-colonial credentials, there is some irony in the fact that after signing the LEMOA (Logistics Exchange Memorandum of agreement) with the US in 2016, India can actually access Diego Garcia for some of its uses. That itself has led to some interest in India's opinion, particularly as the UK and US have reached out to India for support. The Indian opinion was also publicised the day before the

first high-level dialogue between India and US here.

A statement by the Indian government observed, "The Arbitral Tribunal constituted by agreement between Mauritius and UK in its Award dated 18 March 2015, ruled that the undertakings of the United Kingdom with respect to : the fishing rights of Mauritius in the waters of Chagos Archipelago; the eventual return of the Archipelago to Mauritius and; the benefit of mineral and oil resources in and near the Archipelago, are legally binding undertakings. Further, by declaring as legally binding the undertaking of the United Kingdom to return the Archipelago to Mauritius, the Award has determined the legal obligation of the United Kingdom to return the Archipelago to Mauritius." □

DIPLOMATIC POSTINGS

Ms Ruchi Ghanashyam (IFS:1982), presently Secretary at Headquarters has been appointed as the next High Commissioner of India to the United Kingdom.



Ruchi Ghanashyam

Shri D. Bala Venkatesh Varma (IFS:1988), presently Ambassador of India to Madrid has been appointed as the next Ambassador of India to the Russian Federation.



D. Bala Venkatesh Varma

Shri Rahul Chhabra (IFS:1987), presently Ambassador of India to Budapest has been appointed as the next High Commissioner of India to the Republic of Kenya. □



Rahul Chhabra

Shri Partha Satpathy (IFS:1990), presently Joint Secretary at Headquarters has been appointed as the next Ambassador of India to Ukraine.



Partha Satpathy

INDIAN APPOINTED UN ASSISTANT SECRETARY-GENERAL

Development and environment expert Satya S. Tripathi has been appointed an assistant Secretary-General and will head the UN Environment Programme's New York office. Tripathi is now the third Indian at the senior levels of the UN hierarchy. He has served the UN for 20 years in "Europe, Asia and Africa on strategic assignments in sustainable development, human rights, democratic governance and legal affairs," Dujarric said. Tripathi has been the Senior Adviser on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at the UNEP since 2017. He also chaired the Committees on Laws and Treaties for the UN-mediated Cyprus unification talks in 2004.



Tripathi has commerce and law bachelors degrees and a masters in law from Behrampur University in Odisha. Atul Khare, the Under-Secretary-General who heads the Department of Operational Services, is the senior-most Indian at the UN. □

His Majesty The King ATTENDED THE FUNERAL OF THE FORMER PRIME MINISTER OF INDIA, SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE

His Majesty The King attended the funeral of the former Prime Minister of India, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee, in New Delhi on 17 August 2018. Late Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee passed away on the 16 August 2018 and was accorded a State Funeral.



Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee visited Bhutan as the Foreign Minister of India in 1977. He is fondly remembered in Bhutan for his tremendous goodwill towards the people and the leadership of Bhutan. He provided unstinted support to the realization of Bhutan's national objectives and contributed immensely to strengthening Indo-Bhutan relations and cooperation. He referred to Indo-Bhutan relations as an "example of effective South-South cooperation, and a model worthy of emulation".

His Majesty The King GRANTED A KASHO (ROYAL DECREE) APPOINTING THE INTERIM GOVERNMENT



Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee was a visionary leader and statesman, an inspirational poet, and a good human being. He devoted his life to the service of his nation and contributed to regional and international cooperation and understanding. He was not only loved by the people of India, but enjoyed the respect of the international community.



In accordance with the Constitution of the Kingdom of Bhutan, His Majesty The King appointed the Chief Justice, DashaTshering Wangchuk, as the Chief Advisor of the Interim Government on 9 August 2018. →

His Majesty The King also appointed Dasho Karma Ura, President of Centre for Bhutan Studies; Dasho Penjore, Governor of Royal Monetary Authority; Dasho Ugen Chewang, Chairman of Druk Holding and Investments Ltd.; Dasho Chhewang Rinzin, Managing Director of Druk Green Power Corporation Ltd.; Dasho Karma Tshiteem, Chairperson of Royal Civil Service Commission; Ms. Kinley Yangzom, Chairperson of the

Anti-Corruption Commission; Mr. Nidup Dorji, Vice Chancellor of Royal University of Bhutan; and Mr. Bachu Phub Dorji, Managing Director of Kuensel Corporation as the Advisors who will constitute the Interim Government.

Article 19 of Section 1 of the Constitution of the Kingdom of Bhutan mandates that, "Whenever the National Assembly is dissolved, the

Druk Gyalpo shall appoint an Interim Government to function for a period, which shall not exceed ninety days, to enable the Election Commission to hold free and fair elections."

The Royal Decree directs the Interim Government to ensure uninterrupted continuance of the routine functions of the government until the new Prime Minister enters office after the new National Assembly has been constituted. □

PICTURE STORY:



The Indian community in Thimphu celebrated India's 72nd Independence Day at the Indian Embassy on 15 August 2018.

His Majesty's representative Gyalpoi Zimpon (Chamberlain), Dasho Ugyen K Namgyel, Cabinet Secretary, Foreign Secretary, Chief of Protocol, and senior government officials attended the celebration. □

DAYS TO REMEMBER

IN OCTOBER, 2018

October 01 : China- National Day
 October 01 : Nigeria- National Day
 October 02 : International Day of Non-violence (Birth Anniversaries of Mahatma Gandhi and Lal Bahadur Shastri. The United Nations has declared October 2nd, birthday of Mahatma Gandhi, to be the International Day of Non-Violence.)
 October 03 : Germany-Day of Unity
 October 03 : National Day of Republic of Korea
 October 09 : **Amavasya** ●
 October 09 : Uganda- Independence Day
 October 10 : Fiji -National Day
 October 12 : Spain- National Day
 October 17 : International Day for the Eradication of Poverty
 October 19 : Dussehra(Vijyadashmi)
 October 23 : Hungary- Republic Day

October 24 : **Purnima** ●
 October 24 : United- Nations Day
 (After the 2nd devastating world war, the world in desperate need of some lasting peace, officially founded the U.N. on 24th October, 1945. The purpose : to bring all nations of the world together to work for peace and development, based on the principles of justice, human dignity and the well-being of all people. The U. N. Day is an occasion to highlight, celebrate and reflect on the work of the United Nations and its allied agencies.)
 October 26 : Austria- National Day
 October 27 : Turkmenistan-Independence Day
 October 28 : Croatia -Statehood Day
 (Celebrated in India)
 October 29 : Turkey -National Day □

हमारे हित और अमेरिका की भूमिका

भारत और अमेरिका के बीच हुई 'टू प्लस टू वार्ता' कई आशंकाओं को जन्म देने के बाद भी उम्मीद बंधाती है। अच्छी बात यह है कि अमेरिका ने इस वार्ता के माध्यम से हमें अपने सहयोगी का दर्जा दिया है। 'क्वाड' (चतुष्कोणीय गठबंधन) के सदस्यों के साथ अमेरिका ने टू प्लस टू वार्ता की अनोखी पहल शुरू की है, जिसके दो अन्य सदस्य देश ऑस्ट्रेलिया और जापान के साथ यह होता भी रहा है। मगर ये दोनों उसके सहयोगी देश हैं। इसीलिए यदि अब हमें यह दर्जा हासिल हुआ है, तो इसका स्वागत किया जाना चाहिए।

भारत और अमेरिका में इस तरह की बातचीत जरूरी थी, ताकि दोनों देश एक-दूसरे के विचार और दृष्टिकोण जान सकें। कई बार यह देखा गया है कि भारत के हितों पर अमेरिका उस कदर मुखर नहीं हुआ, जितनी अपेक्षा थी। मसलन, पाकिस्तान प्रायोजित आतंकवाद को लेकर ही वह इस्लामाबाद पर दबाव नहीं बना पा रहा है। अगर वह उस पर थोड़ा-बहुत दबाव बनाता भी है, तो वह अफगानिस्तान में आतंकी घटनाओं को लेकर होता है, उसमें भारत का पक्ष कमोबेश अनसुना ही रहता है। टू प्लस टू वार्ता में शामिल होने के लिए ही अमेरिकी विदेशी मंत्री माइक पोम्पियो पाकिस्तान होकर आए थे, जहां उन्होंने दबाव डालने की बजाय अपनी अपेक्षाएं बताईं। प्रमुख गैर-नाटो सहयोगी देश का उसका दर्जा भी अब तक कायम है। इसका साफ अर्थ है कि पाकिस्तान अब भी अमेरिका के लिए महत्वपूर्ण देश है, और खासतौर से अफगानिस्तान मसले पर उसका एक प्रमुख सहयोगी बना हुआ है। इसी तरह, कई ऐसे उदाहरण भी सामने आए हैं, जब अमेरिकी राष्ट्रपति ने अपने विभाग की सलाह के इतर फैसले लिए और अपनी नीति की घोषणा ट्विटर पर की। लिहाजा यह जरूरी था कि अमेरिका में बन रहे इस नए सिस्टम को भारत समझे।

टू प्लस टू वार्ता में कई ऐसे फैसले हुए हैं, जो भारत के नजरिये से बेहतर माने जाएंगे। रणनीतिक रूप से अहम संचार, संगतता, सुरक्षा समझौता (कॉमकोसा, यानी कम्युनिकेशन, कॉम्पैटिबिलिटी ऐंड सिन्क्रोनिटी एग्रीमेंट) इसमें सबसे महत्वपूर्ण है। अच्छी बात यह है कि इसमें भारत की चिंताओं को शामिल करके इसे 'इंडिया स्पेसिफिक' बनाया गया है। इसके तहत भारत को अपनी सेना के लिए

अमेरिका से कुछ आधुनिक संचार प्रणाली मिलेगी। इसके अलावा, अमेरिका से जो भी रक्षा उपकरण भारत आएंगे, सिर्फ वहीं अमेरिकी प्लेटफॉर्म पर इस्तेमाल किए जाएंगे। भारत में मौजूद अन्य रक्षा उपकरणों पर ऐसी कोई बंधि नहीं होगी। असल में, अमेरिका इस समझौते के तहत सभी रक्षा उपकरणों को अपने प्लेटफॉर्म पर लाने का आग्रही रहा है। अगर ऐसा होता, तो हमें अपना पूरा रक्षा तंत्र अमेरिका के साथ साझा करना पड़ता। चूंकि हमने कई अन्य देशों से भी रक्षा समझौते किए हैं और उनसे सैन्य उपकरण खरीदें हैं, इसीलिए अमेरिकी बंधि को मानने का अर्थ उन तमाम देशों की सुरक्षा तकनीकों की गोपनीयता को भंग करना होता। यह हमारे हित में कतई नहीं था।

दूसरी अच्छी बात यह हुई है कि पाकिस्तान प्रायोजित आतंकी गुटों का नाम लिया गया है और मिलकर उनके खिलाफ कार्यवाही करने पर सहमति बनी है। आतंकवाद से लड़ने के लिए अमेरिका के साथ एक गुप हमने पहले से बना रखा है। उम्मीद है कि अब यह और बेहतर तरीके से काम कर सकेगा। हालांकि अभी यह कहना जल्दबाजी होगी कि हाफिज सईद, मसूद अजहर या दाऊद इब्राहिम जैसे आतंकियों के खिलाफ तुरंत बड़ी कार्यवाही होगी। ऐसा इसलिए, क्योंकि अमेरिका के अपने हित पाकिस्तान के साथ जुड़े हुए हैं। लिहाजा भारत को भी कुछ खास सावाधानी बरतनी होगी। विशेषकर कश्मीर में जिस तरह के आतंकियों के हौसले बढ़े हैं, उसके खिलाफ अपने तई उसे कड़ी कार्यवाही करनी ही होगी।

इंडो-पैसिफिक के मसले पर भी भारत और अमेरिका के रिश्ते आगे बढ़ते हुए दिख रहे हैं। हालांकि यहां भी समझने की बात है कि अमेरिका का चीन के साथ एक जटिल रिश्ता है। लिहाजा भारत को पूरी तरह संभलकर आगे बढ़ना होगा। खासतौर से, कारोबार के मामले में दूसरे तमाम देशों से अच्छे रिश्ते बनाकर चलने में ही हमारी भलाई है। यह इसलिये भी जरूरी है, क्योंकि अमेरिका तमाम तरह के प्रतिबंध आयद करने की बात कहता रहता है। लिहाजा क्षेत्रीय व्यापक आर्थिक साझेदारी (आरसीईपी) पर संजीदगी से आगे बढ़ना हमारे हित में होगा। यह मुक्त व्यापार को लेकर एक ऐसा प्रस्तावित समझौता है, जो आसियान के सभी देशों के साथ ऑस्ट्रेलिया, चीन, जापान, दक्षिण कोरिया,



शशांक, पूर्व विदेश सचिव संरक्षक, अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय सहयोग परिषद

न्यूजीलैंड जैसे देशों को भी एक साथ जोड़ता है। इसमें हम चीन के साथ बेशक सोच-समझकर आगे बढ़ें, पर दूसरे तमाम देशों के साथ हमें तेजी से कदम बढ़ाना होगा।

इसमें कोई दो राय नहीं है कि अमेरिका के साथ आगे बढ़ना हमारे हित में है। मगर हम उसके अधीनस्थ सहयोगी की भूमिका नहीं निभा सकते। अमेरिका जब अपने हितों के मद्देनजर पाकिस्तान के साथ संबंध बनाए हुए है, तो हमें भी उसकी चिंता करते हुए ईरान और रूस के साथ अपने संबंधों की बलि नहीं देनी चाहिए। हालांकि जरूरी यह भी है कि हम तुर्की की तरह अमेरिका की सीधे-सीधे नाराजगी मोल न लें। गंभीर चिंतन के बाद उन मसलों पर आगे बढ़ें, जिसे लेकर ह्वाइट हाऊस का रवैया सख्त है। अमेरिका में अब भी कई ऐसे लोग हैं, जो भारत के नजरिये का समर्थन करते हैं। ऐसे में, उम्मीद यही है कि नवंबर में होने वाले मध्यावधि चुनाव के बाद यदि वहां की कांग्रेस (संसद) की तस्वीर बदलती है, तो अमेरिका की नीतियां कहीं अधिक स्पष्ट रूप से हमारे सामने आ सकती हैं।

हमारा लक्ष्य दुनिया की तीन सबसे बड़ी ताकतों में शुमार होने का है। हमें इसी लक्ष्य के मद्देनजर अपनी नीतियां बनानी चाहिए और इसमें जरूरी है कि हम एक व्यापक और समग्र सोच रखें। हमें चीन के साथ भी संबंध बेहतर बनाने होंगे और रूस के साथ बने रिश्ते की गरमाहट भी बरकरार रखनी है। अमेरिका का साझीदार बनने के लिए हम दूसरे देशों के साथ अपने रिश्ते खराब नहीं कर सकते। □

(दैनिक हिन्दुस्तान से साभार)

हिन्दी को बढ़ाने की जिम्मेदारी भारत की : सुषमा स्वराज

11वां विश्व हिन्दी सम्मेलन मॉरीशस के विवेकानंद सभागार में 18 से 20 जुलाई, 2018 को आयोजित किया गया। इस सम्मेलन के लिए स्थल का नाम गोस्वामी तुलसीदास नगर रखा गया था, जिसके अभिमन्यू अनंत सभागार में विश्व हिन्दी सम्मेलन का उद्घाटन करते हुए मॉरीशस के प्रधानमंत्री श्री



प्रवीण जगन्नाथ ने कहा कि हमें इस बात की प्रसन्नता है कि तीसरी बार मॉरीशस में विश्व हिन्दी सम्मेलन का आयोजन किया जा रहा है। यह मॉरीशस के लिए गौरव और हर्ष का विषय है कि संसारभर के हिन्दी विद्वान आज यहां हिन्दी की वैश्विक स्थिति पर गंभीरतापूर्वक विचार विमर्श करेंगे। उन्होंने बताया कि हिन्दी हमारे पूर्वजों की भाषा है और इस भाषा तथा भारतीय संस्कृति को हम बहुत आदर और सम्मान के साथ संभालकर रखे हुए हैं। उद्घाटन सत्र के आरंभ में भारत के पूर्व प्रधानमंत्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी को श्रद्धांजलि अर्पण करते हुए दो मिनट का मौन रखा गया। उसके बाद सम्मानीय अतिथियों ने दीप जलाकर समारोह का शुभारंभ किया। मॉरीशस की शिक्षा मंत्री श्रीमती लीला देवी दूकन-लछुमन ने अतिथियों का स्वागत करते हुए कहा कि हिन्दी भाषा भले ही आज विश्व भाषा मानी जाती हो लेकिन हम इसे मॉरीशस की भी अपनी भाषा मानते हैं तथा हिन्दी के अनेक लेखक भारत में भी अपनी प्रतिष्ठा और पहचान बना चुके हैं। इसके बाद मॉरीशस के प्रधानमंत्री माननीय प्रवीण जगन्नाथ ने विश्व हिन्दी सम्मेलन के अवसर पर मॉरीशस के डाक विभाग द्वारा जारी दो डाकटिकट जारी किया।

इस अवसर पर भारत की विदेशमंत्री श्रीमती सुषमा स्वराज ने कहा कि आज हमारे मन में दो भाव एक साथ उभर रहे हैं पहला शोक का भाव और दूसरा संतोष का। अटल जी के निधन से इस सम्मेलन पर शोक की छाया विद्यमान है और संतोष का भाव इसलिए है कि समूचा हिन्दी विश्व अटल जी को श्रद्धांजलि देने के लिए यहां एकत्र है। उन्होंने कहा कि पहले के विश्व हिन्दी सम्मेलनों की समीक्षा करने

पर हमने पाया कि सभी सम्मेलन साहित्य की विधाओं पर केन्द्रित थे, इसलिए दसवें विश्व हिन्दी सम्मेलन का विषय भाषा को बनाया गया। विचार यह था कि भाषा और बोली जहां बची हुई है उसे कैसे बढ़ाया जाए और जहां लुप्त हो रही है वहां कैसे बचाया जाए। उन्होंने कहा कि गिरमिटिया देशों में लुप्त हो रही भाषा को बचाने की जिम्मेदारी भारत की है और भारत ने वह जिम्मेदारी संभाली है। हिन्दी को संयुक्त राष्ट्र की आधिकारिक भाषा बनाने के संबंध में श्रीमती सुषमा स्वराज ने कहा कि इसकी मुख्य समस्या यह है कि संयुक्त राष्ट्र के सभी सदस्य देशों

को इससे संबंधित व्यय करना होगा अगर भारत को ही पूरा खर्च उठाना होता तो 400 करोड़ रुपये देकर हिन्दी को संयुक्त राष्ट्र की आधिकारिक भाषा बनाने का प्रयास कर सकते थे। सदस्य देशों का बहुमत जुटाने में हमें कोई समस्या नहीं होगी। बहरहाल संयुक्त राष्ट्र में हर आने वाले विश्व समाचार अब हर शुक्रवार को हिन्दी में भी सुनाये जायेंगे। हमने सोचा कि भाषा के बाद अगला पड़ाव संस्कृति का होता है इसीलिए इस सम्मेलन का मुख्य विषय 'हिन्दी विश्व और भारतीय संस्कृति' रखा गया है। तीन दिनों के सम्मेलन में विश्व के हिन्दी विद्वान भाषा और संस्कृति के विभिन्न पक्षों पर विचार मंथन करेंगे और सम्मेलन के मंतव्य पर भारत सरकार कार्यवाही करेगी।

सम्मेलन में तीन दिनों तक विभिन्न विषयों पर विचार सत्र आयोजित किये गये।

अध्यात्म के साथ स्वास्थ्य लाभ का सुअवसर

श्री कुंज बिहारी हेल्थ रिट्रिट

(वृन्दावन में प्रथम बार यमुना किनारे मिनी रिसोर्ट)

पैकेज उपलब्ध

- पंचकर्म (सौना बाध, शिरोधार, मालिषा इत्यादि)
- मर्म विन्दू चिकित्सा
- योग-आसन, ध्यान, प्राणायाम
- प्राकृतिक चिकित्सा जल, मिट्टी द्वारा
- जीवन-शैली, खान-पान पर व्याख्यान
- नित्य बांकेबिहारीजी / इस्कॉन मंदिर के दर्शन आरामदायक वाहन द्वारा
- वातानुकूलित (AC) कमरे/सुईट

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गोस्वामी तुलसीदास नगर के अभिमन्यु अनत सभागार में 11वें विश्व हिन्दी सम्मेलन का समापन समारोह संपन्न हुआ। इस अवसर पर महामहिम परमशिवम् पिल्लै वायापुरी मॉरीशस गणराज्य के कार्यवाहक राष्ट्रपति मुख्य अतिथि के रूप में तथा मॉरीशस के पूर्व प्रधानमंत्री महामहिम सर अनिरुद्ध जगन्नाथ मार्गदर्शक और रोज़िन्स मंत्री उपस्थित थे। साथ ही सुषमा स्वराज, लीला देवी दूकन-लछूमन व मृदुला सिन्हा, केशरी नाथ त्रिपाठी, एम. जे. अकबर तथा सत्यपाल सिंह मंच पर उपस्थित थे।

अपने संबोधन वक्तव्य में मुख्य अतिथि ने कहा कि इस महान हिन्दी सम्मेलन में भाग लेना उनके लिए अत्यंत गर्व और प्रसन्नता की बात है तथा श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी जी को याद करते हुए उन्होंने कहा कि वे मॉरीशस के अच्छे और सहयोग मित्र के रूप में सदा स्मरणीय रहेंगे। वर्ष 2000 के मॉरीशस के स्वतंत्रता दिवस के वे मुख्य अतिथि थे। श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी जी की अनेक मॉरीशस की यात्राएं हमारे प्रति उनके लगाव का परिचायक हैं। अटल

जी ने भारतीय संसद में अनेकों बार हिन्दी को राष्ट्र संघ की आधिकारिक भाषा का दर्जा दिए जाने का सवाल उठाया था। भारत की ओर से साइबर टावर के निर्माण में उनकी महत्वपूर्ण भूमिका रही। साइबर टावर को उनका नाम दिया जाना उनके प्रति सच्ची श्रद्धांजलि है। संख्या बल और हिन्दी वैश्विक लोकप्रियता के आधार पर हिन्दी को संयुक्त राष्ट्र संघ की आधिकारिक भाषा बनाए जाने की मांग की। उन्होंने 11वें विश्व हिन्दी सम्मेलन के 'लोगो' से प्रेरित होकर हिन्दी की विशेषताओं को भारत के राष्ट्र पक्षी मोर के समान एक बहुत सुन्दर और पवित्र भाषा है और वह अपने पंखों को विश्व के कोने-कोने में फैला रही है। उन्होंने आशा व्यक्त की कि सम्मेलन अपने सभी उद्देश्यों की पूर्ति करेगा। उनका मानना है कि मॉरीशस में हिन्दी डोडो की तरह समाप्त नहीं होगी क्योंकि महात्मा गांधी संस्थान मॉरीशस में हिन्दी का अध्ययन-अध्यापन निरन्तर चल रहा है। मॉरीशस ने अभिमन्यु अनत, सोमदत्त बखोरी और चिन्तामणि जैसे विश्व स्तरीय लेखक दिए हैं। उन्होंने विश्व भर से पधारे प्रतिभागियों की हजारों की संख्या में उपस्थिति के लिए धन्यवाद दिया तथा विश्व हिन्दी सम्मान पाने वाले हिन्दी सेवियों, शिक्षकों व संस्थाओं को बधाई दी। उन्होंने कहा कि 'हिन्दी हमारी पहचान है और हिन्दी ही विश्व को शांति और



शक्ति प्रदान करेगी। जय मॉरीशस, जय भारत और जय हिन्दी के उद्घोष के साथ उन्होंने 11वें हिन्दी सम्मेलन की समाप्ति की घोषणा की। कार्यक्रम के विशिष्ट अतिथि के रूप में बोलते हुए मॉरीशस गणराज्य के मार्गदर्शक मंत्री सर अनिरुद्ध

जगन्नाथ ने कहा कि हिन्दी का यह महाकुम्भ वर्षों तक याद किया जाएगा। उन्होंने याद दिलाया कि उनके कार्यकाल में वे हिन्दी तथा अन्य भारतीय भाषाओं के उन्नयन के लिए लगातार प्रयासरत रहे। उन्होंने हिन्दी विश्व को आश्वस्त किया कि हिन्दी को अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय मंच पर पहचान दिलाने के लिए तथा भारतीय संस्कृति के प्रचार-प्रसार हेतु मॉरीशस की सरकार और मॉरीशस वासी अपना पूरा सहयोग देंगे। हजारों की संख्या में एक स्थान पर हिन्दी-सेवियों की उपस्थिति से वे अभिभूत हुए। सम्मेलन के मुख्य विषय की चर्चा करते हुए उन्होंने कहा कि भाषा और संस्कृति एक दूसरे से अलग नहीं है। हिन्दी भारतीय संस्कृति की आत्मा है। हमारे पूर्वज हिन्दी भाषा और भारतीय संस्कृति लेकर आए थे और आज हम उनके वंशज देश की प्रगति में लगे हुए हैं। हिन्दी ने देश की आजादी दिलाने में महत्वपूर्ण योगदान दिया है तथा इसने देश की आर्थिक और सामाजिक प्रगति में भी योगदान दिया है। उन्होंने जोर देकर कहा कि सम्मेलन से भारत और मॉरीशस के बीच रक्त का संबंध और ज्यादा गहरा हो गया

है। अपने संबोधन में उन्होंने 'विश्व हिन्दी सम्मान' पाने वालों को हार्दिक बधाई दी तथा उम्मीद जताई है कि सम्मानित लोगों से प्रेरित होकर अन्य लोग भी हिन्दी के प्रचार-प्रसार में अधिक कार्य करेंगे और लेखन पर विशेष ध्यान देंगे। □

प्रो. सुरेश ऋतुपर्ण

अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय सहयोग परिषद के आजीवन सदस्य प्रो. सुरेश ऋतुपर्ण को दिनांक 20 जुलाई, 2018 को विश्व हिन्दी सम्मान से सम्मानित किया गया। प्रो. सुरेश ऋतुपर्ण प्रतिभासंपन्न विद्वान हैं। दिल्ली विश्वविद्यालय से विद्यावाचस्पति की उपाधि प्राप्त करने के अतिरिक्त आपने 1971 से 2002 तक हिन्दू कॉलेज में अध्यापन तथा भारतीय उच्चायोग त्रिनिदाद एंव टुबैगो में वरिष्ठ राजनयिक के रूप में भी अविस्मरणीय सेवाएं दी। आप 'विश्व हिन्दी न्यास, न्यूयार्क के अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय समन्वयक और 'हिन्दी जगत' नामक त्रैमासिक पत्रिका के संपादक हैं। आपको त्रिनिदाद हिन्दी भूषण सम्मान, हिन्दी निधि सम्मान, हिन्दी प्रसार सम्मान व साहित्य शिरोमणि सम्मान से भी सम्मानित किया जा चुका है।

हिन्दी की सेवा में उनके उत्कृष्ट कार्यों के लिए विश्व हिन्दी सम्मान से सम्मानित किया गया। □



प्रवासी लेखन : नयी जमीन-नया आसमान पुस्तक का विमोचन



दिनांक 24 अगस्त, 2018 को फीजी उच्चायोग में द्वितीय सचिव श्री अनिल जोशी की पुस्तक 'प्रवासी लेखन : नयी जमीन-नया आसमान' पर अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय सहयोग परिषद और अक्षरम के सौजन्य से प्रवासी भवन में लोकार्पण व गोष्ठी संपन्न हुई। लोकार्पण फीजी के भारत में उच्चायुक्त महामहिम योगेश पुंजा व प्रसिद्ध लेखक व आलोचक डॉ. कमल किशोर गोयनका और अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय सहयोग परिषद के महासचिव श्री श्याम परांडे के हाथों संपन्न हुआ।

इस अवसर पर बोलते हुए फीजी में भारत के उच्चायुक्त श्री योगेश पुंजा ने कहा कि अनिल जोशी और फीजी में भारत का उच्चायोग भारत और फीजी को जोड़ने के लिए प्रशंसनीय प्रयत्न कर रहे हैं। उन्होंने फीजी में विश्व हिन्दी सम्मेलन करने के प्रस्ताव के ऐतिहासिक बताया। उन्होंने इसके लिए पूरे सहयोग का आश्वासन दिया।

डॉ. कमल किशोर गोयनका ने कहा कि पुस्तक के माध्यम से अनिल जोशी प्रवासी साहित्य के महत्वपूर्ण आलोचक के रूप में उभरे हैं। उन्होंने प्रवासी साहित्य पर हरिगंध के संपादकीय में लिखे उनके लेख को अद्भुत बताया। नरेश शांडिल्य ने उनकी आलोचना की प्रक्रिया याने रचना के माध्यम से विश्लेषण की दृष्टि को रेखांकित किया। उन्होंने कहा कि रामदरश मिश्र जैसे वरिष्ठ साहित्यकार उनकी आलोचना दृष्टि के प्रशंसक हैं। अलका सिन्हा ने अनिल शर्मा के कृतित्व की चर्चा करते हुए उनके लेखन को विशेष बताते हुए भारतीय भाषाओं के लिए उनकी प्रतिबद्धता का उल्लेख करते हुए विक्रम सेठ पर लिखे और प्रवासी साहित्य के नामकरण संबंध उनके लेख की चर्चा की। अम्बेडकर विश्वविद्यालय के प्रो. सत्यकेतु ने कहा कि इस पुस्तक से प्रवासी साहित्य में एक महत्वपूर्ण आलोचक की कमी की शिकायत दूर हो गई है। उन्होंने कहा कि पुस्तक की भाषा में गद्य कवितात्मक

है और गहराई लिए हुए है। साहित्य अकादमी की पत्रिका समकालीन साहित्य के संपादक श्री ब्रजेन्द्र त्रिपाठी ने उन्हें एक सेतु बताया। सिंधी अकादमी के श्री रवि टेकचंदानी ने हिन्दी के प्रति उनकी प्रतिबद्धता को असाधारण बताया। प्रवासी संसार के डॉ. राकेश पाण्डेय ने उनकी पुस्तक को महत्वपूर्ण बताया और आधुनिक साहित्य के संपादक श्री आशीष कांधवे ने उनके व्यक्तित्व और कृतित्व को प्रेरणादायक बताया। श्री संतोष तनेजा ने उनके भारतीय भाषा आंदोलन और संघ लोकसेवा आयोग संबंध संघर्ष को याद किया। डॉ. सीतेशा आलोक ने कहा कि फीजी में हिन्दी के विकास के लिए जो प्रयास कर रहे हैं, वह महत्वपूर्ण है। डॉ. प्रमोद शास्त्री ने कहा कि हिन्दी के प्रति अपनी प्रतिबद्धता के कारण उन्होंने बहुत त्याग भी किए हैं। कार्यक्रम के संयोजन में जिंदल ग्लोबल यूनिवर्सिटी में प्राध्यापिका कृति शर्मा और पुत्र अभिनेता संकल्प जोशी का भी योगदान रहा। □