

ANTAR RASHTRIYA SAHAYOG PARISHAD BULLETIN

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श्री बालेश्वर अग्रवाल जन्म शताब्दी के अवसर पर

MAURITIUS – My SECOND HOME

(Continued from the Previous issue)



150th Anniversary of Indian Immigration to Mauritius

The first batch of the Indian Immigrants arrived in Mauritius in October 1834 and this process continued till 1910. Mauritius decided to celebrate the 150th Anniversary of Indian Immigration in a big way and a National Committee with Shri Uttam Bissoondoyal was constituted for this purpose. The Antar-Rashtriya Sahayog parishad also set up a National Committee in Delhi with Shri Bhisma Narayan Singh as its President in February 1984 to coordinate all the activities in connection with the celebrations in India and Mauritius. Only a month later, Shri Bhisma Narayan Singh was appointed Governor of Assam and he could not continue as the President of the National Committee. Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad, MP (now Chief Minister of Bihar) was elected president of the committee and it started working in the right earnest. The Government of India also extended its full cooperation for all the projects that were undertaken by this committee. It organised an essay competition on Indo-Mauritius Relations 1834-1984 for the college students; and a seminar on the "People of Indian Origin Abroad- Problems and Prospects" on the 11th October, 1984 which was inaugurated by Shri Balram Jakher, Speaker of Lok Sabha. It also organised an exhibition of books, periodicals, maps and photographs in the AIFACS hall. It set up a documentary ballet "Sona Ke Khajanwa" which was directed by Smt. Veena Sharma and it chartered a Boeing flight from Air Indian to take

150 persons of different linguistic groups and walks of life to Mauritius on 22nd October, 1984. All the members of the delegation were guests of the Reception Committee and stayed with Indian families. I stayed with Shri Vissoo Ramphul, Chairman Swastika. A new bond of friendship was developed between the members of the delegation and the families where they stayed. It was a unique experience for all of them. They were strangers when they met but became family members when they parted company on the 29th October. The host families came in full strength and saw us off at the airport with tears in their eyes. Such were the memorable experiences of the delegation members that we decided to publish "Mauritius Me Saat Din" which was released by Smt. Ramdulari Sinha, leader of the delegation as Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad could not go because of personal reasons.

It was during this visit that one lakh "Ganga Jal" bottles were taken to Mauritius and distributed among the Hindu families by the workers of Human Service Trust.

This visit to Mauritius had a profound impact on me. I had retired from the Chief Editorship of Hindustan Samachar in May 1982 and had taken up the social work for the Overseas Indians through the Antar-Rashtriya Sahayog Parishad. Quite naturally in two years time, I tried to study the immigration of Indians to various parts of the world. Mauritius was one country where there were no original inhabitants and the people of Indian origin were about 70 percent of the

total population. It became independent in 1968.

Ever since then it went on having Governments dominated by the Indian community. Quite naturally I was attracted more towards Mauritius and from the next year onwards my visit to Mauritius became more frequent.

Subsequent Visits

Meanwhile, contact with Mauritians had developed so much that anyone coming from that country would contact me. The Mauritian students studying in Delhi colleges would contact me for so many things. My office became almost a meeting point for the Mauritians. Our students' wing organised visits to cultural centres like Badrinath-Kedarnath, Haridwar-Rishikesh, Dehradun from time to time. The Mauritian students participated in these programmes in a big way. The Mauritius High Commission in Delhi was closely associated with our activities and gave its blessings for all our projects. The Africa Division of External Affairs Ministry also realised the good work being done by extending its cooperation from time to time. The Indian Council for Cultural Relations supported us in organising visits to various centres for the foreign students. Many industrialists, who intended to set up some industries in Mauritius, contacted us for all possible information. Thus, our office had become a nerve centre for all activities connected with Mauritius.



Ayurvedic Centre

Vaidraj Pt. Jagdish Prasad Sharma, President of International Institute of Ayurvedic Sciences, has been visiting Mauritius from 1973 for exploring the possibilities of opening an Ayurvedic Centre in Mauritius. It was only in 1984, during the 150th Anniversary Celebrations of the Indian Immigration to Mauritius that he could move ahead in this direction. The Sanatan Dharma Temple Federation, Mauritius assured him to extend full cooperation in this venture. It, however, could not go ahead because of the local problems. Ultimately, I had to go to Mauritius in July 1985 to finalise all local arrangements and it was decided that the Ayurvedic Centre would be started in Calebasses Ashram run by the Human Service Trust.

The Centre was inaugurated on the

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19th November, the birthday of Late Smt. Indira Gandhi, former Prime Minister of India, who had put Ayurved at par with the allopathic system by an Act of Parliament. H.E. Shri Prem Singh, the then Indian High Commissioner in Mauritius, inaugurated it on her birthday. Three days later, H.E. Shri Aneeroodh Jagnauth formally opened this centre, thereby opening the way for Ayurveda to come to this country. Two experienced vaidas and sufficient quantity of Ayurvedic medicines were sent by this Institute for three years. The Mauritius Government had now decided to introduce a Bill on Ayurveda in the Parliament within this year and utilise it for the common man of Mauritius.

My visit to Mauritius in 1985, 1986 and 1987 became so frequent that some of my friends started saying that it had become my second home. I visited Mauritius more than ten times in these three years and actually Mauritius had become my second home. Whenever

I go to Mauritius I do not feel that I have come to a foreign country. I know so many persons in Mauritius and I am so closely attached to them that I am unable to do justice with them in one week of my stay. New acquaintances have developed in the last three years. The Prime Minister, other Ministers, leader of opposition, journalists, businessmen, social workers and people from all walks of life have been closely associated with me. During my last visit to Mauritius in March this year with a group of 32 persons to participate in the 20th Anniversary of its Independence Day celebrations, the Prime Minister declared that I was the unofficial ambassador of Mauritius in India at a reception given to our delegation by the Mauritius Union of Journalists.

Mauritius is neat, clean and very beautiful. Its beaches and gardens are charming and the people very hospitable. Mauritius is indeed my second home. □

(To be Continued)

FAREWELL TO FIJI HIGH COMMISSIONER



Antar Rashtriya Sahayog Parishad has organised the farewell of H.E Yogesh Punja, High Commissioner of Fiji and welcomes H.E Dr Roger Gopaul, newly appointed High Commissioner of Trinidad and Tobago at Pravasi Bhawan on 4 December 2020. Shri Shyam Parande, Secretary General, ARSP welcomed the High Commissioners. In his welcome speech, he highlighted the importance of bilateral relations between India and these countries. He also emphasised on the importance of Indian diaspora in strengthening the same.

H.E. Yogesh Punja, during his tenure in Delhi, participated many programmes of ARSP and interacted

with ARSP for betterment of Indo-Fijian relations.

Dr. Roger Gopaul, who was appointed as H.C. of Trinidad & Tobago just before the lockdown, visited the Pravasi Bhawan for the first time. ARSP wishes him an eventful tenure Delhi.

H.E Yogesh Punja and H.E Dr Roger Gopaul stressed the importance of language and Indian cultural values and heritage. For this, they mentioned that ARSP could play a vital role. On this occasion, Ms Padmaja, Former Indian High Commissioner to Fiji was also present along with several dignitaries and ARSP members. □

India–USA Relations would continue to progress in Biden Presidency

There has been understandable concern in India at the change of guard in USA with the election of Democratic candidate Joe Biden as the new President, particularly since the relations registered remarkable progress under Pres. Trump, given his firm determination to deal with China headlong and his hardline views on Pakistan's complicity and direct involvement in international terrorism. Warm personal chemistry between him and PM Modi also, no doubt, has been seen as a positive contributing factor.

However, it needs to be noted that Biden has been very supportive of strong ties with India. As Chairman of powerful Foreign Affairs Committee of the Senate, he played a pivotal role in getting the India-US civil nuclear cooperation agreement cleared. Later, he served as Vice President in Obama administration when US and India signed LEMOA paving the way for India's recognition by USA as a 'major defence partner' and license free access to a wide range of dual use technologies.

Writing in an ethnic Indian community journal, Biden promised that his administration would "build on the great progress" made in the relationship during Obama years. He also asserted that India and USA "can and should be natural allies." Significantly, Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee had also described India-USA relationship as being that between natural allies.

In geo-political terms, it is widely expected that the firm line against China initiated under Trump presidency would broadly continue because of rather combative stance of China, which seems to be in a hurry to assert its primacy on the global stage. Its aggression against India and other neighbouring countries surrounding South China Sea has also not gone unnoticed by Biden team. In fact, Secretary of State nominee Blinken has been on record as having said that

"strengthening and deepening of relationship with India is going to be a high priority" for the US particularly in the context of its objectives of peace, stability and rules based order in the Indo-Pacific region. Under these circumstances it can be expected that USA under Biden would continue to regard India as a 'key partner.' Notably, India's External Affairs Minister Jaishankar while commenting on this issue, expressed his confidence that Indo-US relations could only move up further in the coming months.

Presence of Kamala Harris as Vice President and likely induction of several PIOs in senior position in the new administration is also a factor which would favourably impact on the relationship. In fact, election of a PIO as the Vice President of the country itself is a landmark development. The credit for it obviously goes to Biden for having chosen Kamala Harris as his running mate, but it also signifies the coming of age of the vast and influential Indian community in USA. It is well recognized that given their large numbers and relatively high income levels, PIOs in USA have begun to play increasingly salient role in the country's politics and in providing a generally positive thrust to furthering India-US ties.

In the last two decades there has been a steady and continuing growth in Indo-US defence and intelligence cooperation despite government changes in both countries indicating a broad bipartisan support on both sides for closer relations. Shared democratic and liberal values and generally positive perception that both countries have about each other have, no doubt, contributed to creation of a positive climate but there is no denying that common threat from China and consequent convergence of geo-political interests has mainly brought the two countries together.

Starting with the 'General security of military information agreement' in 2002, India and USA have now

completed the full spectrum of foundational defence agreements at the recently concluded 2+2 dialogue with the signing of B E C A providing for sharing of geo-spatial intelligence. In the

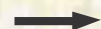


✍️ *Amb. Virendra Gupta
(President, ARSP)*

meanwhile, USA has also eased export restrictions on India for high tech equipment including sensitive defence technologies by designating it as a 'Strategic Trade Authorization-1 (STA-1)' country even though India is yet to gain entry into the NSG club. In fact, USA has emerged as a major arms supplier to India over the last few years. This momentum is bound to continue because both countries face the joint challenge of countering China's growing military weight. India and USA also actively cooperate in countering terrorism, another major threat to the world peace and stability. There are understandable concerns in India about the need to maintain country's strategic autonomy but that does not get compromised by a closer military coordination with USA in order to deal with our existing security threat perception.

India has a massive economic and commercial relationship with USA with trade in goods and services totaling US \$ 150 billion. Unlike China with whom we have a huge deficit, India enjoys considerable trade surplus with USA. Energy partnership has also emerged as an important constituent of that relationship contributing greatly to India's quest to diversify its sources of energy supplies.

Biden has been quite emphatic about bringing USA back into the Paris climate accord and in ensuring greater coordination and alignment with the





allies on global political and economic issues. India's sterling record on promised reduction of emission levels jells quite well with his priorities.

It is widely expected that under Biden USA will seek to reclaim its centre stage role in global affairs which could, inter alia, see it playing a reinvigorated role in Indo-pacific region involving closer coordination with India and traditional allies such as Japan and Australia including military and maritime exercises to enhance interoperability both in bilateral and 'quad' framework.

The onset of Covid-19 pandemic which has affected millions across the world resulting in heavy casualties, would in all likelihood deepen the fissures between China and the

western countries. China's dubious role in the spread of virus and suppression of information in the early stages has already come in for sharp criticism by western leaders and general population alike. Consequently, one could well see the western countries acting in concert to keep China's rise in check and India could play a pivotal role in that effort. They would also move at least some of the manufacturing facilities out of China and India could offer itself as a credible alternative if we were to take further steps to improve the manufacturing climate in India and bring our practices and regulations more in line with the international best practices.

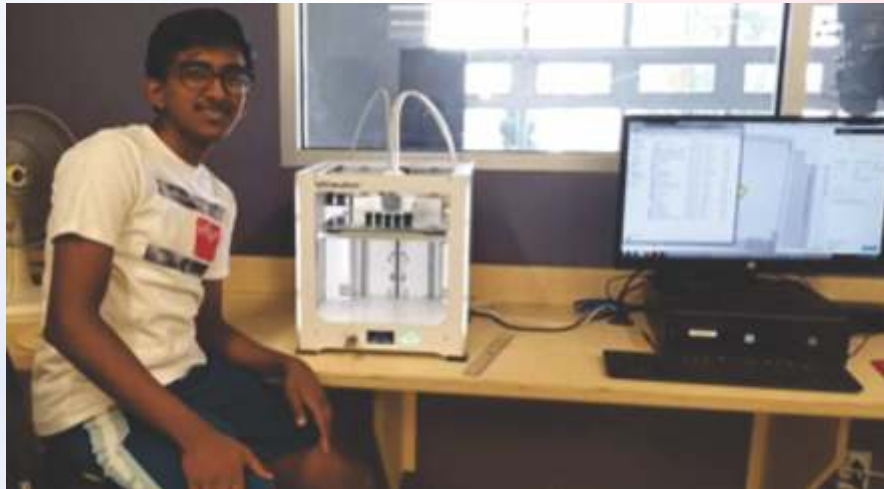
To conclude, the evolution of geo-political dynamics in the Indo-pacific

region and indeed the world at large and emergent threat from China's aggressive posture would require both India and USA to continue to work as close strategic partners. Based on current indications and affirmations on both sides, the cooperation between them at the government level would further solidify.

Amb Virendra Gupta, retired from the Indian Foreign Service a few years ago after having served as Indian Ambassador in several countries and continues to take active interest in foreign policy issues. He is currently President of a well known NGO Antar Rashtriya Sahayog Parishad (ARSP). □

THREE ENTERPRISING INDIAN AMERICAN TEENS NAMED AMONG 2020 'POWER OF CHILDREN' AWARDEES

The Children's Museum of Indianapolis announced the 2020 group of Power of Children Award winners, with three Indian Americans, Abhi Desai, Viraj Jayam and Samyak Shrimali, among the six teenagers honored. The list also includes South Asian American Jahin



Rahman, as well as Benjamin Olshin and Katherine Adams.

Through this award, established by the Deborah Joy Simon Charitable Trust, the museum recognizes and rewards students in grades 6-11 for a selfless commitment to service and the betterment of their local communities and villages and cities around the world, a news release said. Desai, of Phoenix, Arizona, is an 11th grader at Pinnacle High School and is affiliated with the nonprofit LexGen.

Jayam, of Roslyn Heights, New York, is an 11th grader at The Wheatley School, and is part of the Helping Hands Long Island program. During the peak of the spring 2020 COVID-19 crisis in New York, Helping Hands Long Island pivoted to help frontline workers by creating face shields and hands-free door handles for local hospitals, the bio adds.

Shrimali, of Portland, Oregon, is a 9th grader at Jesuit High School, was honored in part for the project,

followed.

Rahman, of New York, is an 11th grader at the Academy of American Studies and was named for the program, "Efforts in Youth Development of Bangladesh." In 2020, Rahman and her cadre of student volunteers quickly changed direction to temporarily direct donations to provide rations for residents of slums affected by COVID-19. □

"Sanjeevani: A Novel Automated System for Hospital-Acquired Infection Prevention." With mentoring from 3M corporate scientist Dr. Mahfuza Ali, Shrimali developed a complex, fully automated, real-time software program that alerts staff when proper hygiene is not

INTERNATIONAL Scientific Colloquium-5 & 6 Nov. 2020 AT INALCO

Rromani Millennium : Results And Prospects (1001 Years in Diaspora)

"To erase history from our minds is to erase all evidences that we can strive for, and achieve, a better life" Rajko Đuriæ

This Colloquium was organised by PLIDAM laboratory in order to celebrate four significant dates:

World Day of the Rromani language (a UNESCO day: 5 November)

O Baro Telîripen – The Great Departure (beginning of 1019 AD)

Six hundred years of attested presence of Rroms in France (August 1419)

Thirty years of the Rromani unified alphabet and spelling (adopted at the Warsaw Congress, April 1990) Nov. 5 (Thursday)

The Colloquium was opened at 9:30 a.m. by the President of the PLIDAM laboratory, Prof. Thomas Szende (Paris and Oxford) who underlined the importance of recent results achieved in Rromani linguistics and History, not only in a scientific perspective but also as to serve the advancement of didactic methods and social justice. On the basis of various examples he reminded that these are precisely the goals of PLIDAM.

His keynote was followed by a very supportive allocution by Mr. **Paul de Sinety**, Delegate general of the **General Delegation for the French Language and the Languages of France (DGLFLF)**, an executive body of the French Ministry of Culture and Communication. He underlined the importance DGLFLF devotes to the recognition and development of Rromani as one of the acknowledged languages of the French Republic. DGLFLF supports the present Colloquium. Commemorating the departure of the Rroms' ancestors from Kannauj (U.P.) one thousand years ago provides a great opportunity

for an assessment of the achievements to date and let us outline the cultural, scientific and social perspectives for the new millennium.

After the reading of the message sent by Mr Xing Qu, number two of UNESCO on behalf of Ms. Audrey Azoulay, Director-General of the UNESCO, Mr. **Siniša Šešum**, Head of the Sarajevo Office of UNESCO, welcomed the participants of the Colloquium and highlighted the need of a universal recognition of Rromani as a well established language, with a rich heritage and a vocation of linking nations as a bridge, mainly within Europe but also between continents. The Sanskrit roots of Rromani are of special significance as a living testimony of this umbilical link of the Rroms with India.

The floor was then given to **Dr. Normunds Rudevîs**, President of the Maœkarthemutni Rromani Unia (International Rromani Union), who underlined the historical ties of the Rromani nation with India, as the very first diaspora from this cradle of a very rich diaspora. He opened then a series of issues of political, cultural, economical, and social and ethical character, as a programme of action for the second millennium of the Rroms in diaspora.

Prof. Marcel Courthiade paid a heartfelt homage to late **Smt. Sushma Swaraj**, former foreign minister of India, mentioning this prominent statesperson's personal involvement in the recognition of the Rroms as an Indian diaspora. He finished his homage with a quotation by late **Sushma Swaraj**, pronounced during a meeting in 2018 at her office with the delegation of 30 Rromani scholars from all over the world.

Another homage was paid by Prof.

Tibor Varady, of the Serbian Academy of Sciences and Arts, to recently deceased member of the same Academy, Dr.



Prof. Marcel Courthiade (INALCO)

Rajko Đuriæ, a Rromani poet and researcher, doctor in sociology, Sanskritist and philosopher, former president of the International Rromani Union (two mandates: 1990-2000), a devoted and proud son of India, prominent fighter for justice for the Rromani people in a context of global justice and peace but also professional journalist.

The first scientific session was devoted to History, with four presentations:

- First Mr. Zameer Anwar, Research Assistant with Centre for Roma Studies and Cultural Relations (CRSCR, ARSP), New Delhi, devoted his paper to a state of art report on Researches in India devoted to the Roma studies. This contribution was very informative and comprehensive because it shed light on a quite unknown chapter of the relations in India between European Roma and India.

- The second speaker, **Me Daniel Vasile**, lawyer and MP as representative of the Rromani minority to the Parliament of Rumania, was unable to attend directly the meeting due to his parliamentary agenda but he had sent 20 min. movie about the fate of the Rroms after the abolition of their 500 year long slavery in Rumania – 1385 up to 1855-1856. His written contribution, more specific in terms of historical research, was also sent for publication.





- **Dr. Darko Tanaskoviæ**, professor emeritus, University of Belgrade, former Ambassador of Serbia to UNESCO and dean of the diplomatic corps presented first an overview of the fate of the Rromani people under Ottoman rule and focused after that on a little known event which occurred during WWI when a Yugoslav Rrom, named Ademoviæ, managed to reverse the course of a major battle between Serbian and Turkish armies.

- The last presentation of the historical session, by **Bernard Mossé**, head of the section of Research and Training at the Camp des Milles Museum-Memorial in Aix-en-Provence and coordinator of the UNESCO chair « Education for Citizenship, Human Sciences and Shared Memories », was devoted to a presently burning issue, namely Samudaripen, Shoah... : for a convergence of the memory of genocides because as he explained only a common approach can build up a firewall against the risk of repetition of such calamities, whereas separate initiatives have resulted too weak in this respect.

The second scientific session, with Dr Mila Dragoviæ as a chairperson, was devoted to Linguistic, also with four presentations:

- the introductory input was delivered by the Rromani poet and teacher from Serbia **Ismet Jašareviæ**, who reminded the first stages of the emergence of a project of common script for diverse dialectal varieties in use in Southern Yugoslavia. His testimony was continued by Dr. **Marcel Courthiade's** presentation. He is the commissioner for language and Linguistic Justice of the International Rromani Union and head of the chair of Rromani studies at INALCO Paris-City Sorbonne (department of Southern Asia and Himalaya). His report covered the evolution of the Affirmation and standardisation of the Rromani language: results and prospects, and attempted to describe the various linguistic, political and epistemological

factors explaining the atypical development of this process. He highlighted that Rroms agree as a rule to the linguistic policy conducted by the IRU but that some amateur outsiders interfere to block any progress, for reasons which are also depicted in the contribution.

- the second presentation, delivered by Dr **Shashi Bala**, professor of Sanskrit, dean of the International Academy of Indian Culture and president of the Centre of Indology Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan in New Delhi was of prospective character: Sanskrit and rromani : setting forth an agenda for further research in diachronic linguistics. **As she underlined there is a lot to do in this field, task force does exist, not only in Europe but also in India. After an overview of research led so far, she itemized some tasks which have not yet been treated properly so far and need more research.**

- Dr. **Ian Hancock**, professor emeritus, University of Texas in Austin, participated with an updated research entitled Comparative grammar in the service of dating historical facts: the neutral gender of substantives in languages from Sanskrit, which is one of the key facts allowing a precise dating of the Proto-Rroms' dislocation from central U. P. – the area identified by Sir Ralph Liley Turner as the cradle of the Rromani language and therefore its speakers.

- the last contribution of this session was produced by **Masako Watabe**, PhD student at INALCO and professor of Japanese language, who is devoting her research to the topic presented here : Developing a NooJ platform for Rromani and computerizing educational material for this language. Her research is really innovative because it is the first time in computational linguistic that a multicentric language is treated as such.

The third session of the day, entitled Educational and

documentary resources, **consisted in three presentations:**

- **Nicolas Pitsos**, of the BULAC (University Library of languages and Cultures, doctor in History and associate member of the Centre of Research in European Studies) gave a rich account of available Documentary Resources on Rroms and Rromani. He underlined that the BULAC is in possession of a copy of the Arabic original of the Kitâb al-Yamînî, the book by Al-'Utbi, which confirmed his patron sultan Mahmud's part in the Proto-Rroms' dislocation from Kannauj. He also mentioned the exhibition organized at BULAC at the beginning of 2019 to commemorate the Millennium of the Exodus – where this rare book was shown.

- Dr. **Mila Dragoviæ** presented a slideshow of the exhibition The Rroms and Rromani: an Asset for Diversity and Education, presented in prestigious places as the Council of Europe in Strasbourg, the Azad Bhawan in New Delhi (where it was inaugurated by late Sushma Swaraj) and the National Museum in New Delhi two years later. This exhibition is the result of cooperation between the INALCO Chair of Rromani and the IRU Foundation Rromani Baxt (Warsaw-Paris-Tirana).

- the last contribution was by publisher **Zlatomir Jovanoviæ**, director of Rrom produkcija publishing house (Belgrade), with a comparatively rich catalogue of Rromani books of literature, science, didactic material and other fields of knowledge.

The Colloquium had after that the privilege of welcoming the Rromani poet Alexandre Bouglione, whose book Of blood and gold was published in French, rromani and Serbian, with many photographs of the author. Large excerpts were read to the audience in these three languages by the author and his translators, who were attending the Colloquium. □

(To be Continued)

London Council Clears Ambedkar House for Operation As Museum

The Inspector oversaw an inquiry into the Indian government's appeal last year and presented his findings to the minister.

Local authorities in north London have formally cleared the operation of Ambedkar House as a museum in honour of the architect of the Constitution of India after it was approved as a landmark associated with "one of the founding fathers of modern India" earlier in the year. Camden Council gave the final go-ahead for the museum after UK Communities Secretary Robert Jenrick had intervened to grant retrospective planning permission for 10 King Henry's Road in Camden, where Dr Babasaheb Ambedkar lived in 1921-22 during his student days at the London School of Economics (LSE).

However, the minister's March order, which came at the end of an inquiry following an appeal against Camden Council's planning refusal, came with a set of conditions. "The Camden Council has now given permission for the cycle stand and approved the Management Plan and therefore the conditions attached with the Secretary of the State [Jenrick] order dated 12th March 2020 stands complied with," Janeevan John, of Singhania & Co Solicitors which dealt with the appeals process for the Indian High Commission in London, said in a statement on Friday. "The long-awaited operation of the Ambedkar Museum is all set to start," he said.

The UK Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government stepping in meant that the government was to decide on the matter based on recommendations from an independent Inspector appointed by the UK's Planning Inspectorate. The Inspector oversaw an inquiry into the Indian government's appeal last year and presented his findings to the minister. "I was pleased to grant planning permission for a museum in London to Dr Ambedkar - one of the founding fathers of modern India and an important figure to many British Indians," said Jenrick.



Dr B R Ambedkar statue

Camden Council, the local authority which had opposed the application, said it accepted the decision based on additional evidence provided by the Indian authorities. "Whilst we are disappointed that the Planning Inspectorate has ruled against the council's original decision for 10 King Henry's Road, we do accept and respect the decision that has been made given the additional evidence presented by the appellant at the Inquiry regarding Dr Ambedkar, who was a major figure in Indian and British History and his association with this property," a Camden Council spokesperson said.

The home was bought by the Maharashtra government for around 3.1 million pounds and refurbished to transform into a memorial-cum-museum, which now houses photographs and belongings of Ambedkar, with the walls adorned with his famous quotations.

It had been an important stop on Narendra Modi's first visit to the UK as Prime Minister in November 2015, but ran into trouble after it emerged that the right clearances for the creation of a museum on the site had not been sought.

The Indian High Commission in London re-filed an appropriate planning application, which was rejected. During an appeal hearing in September 2019, the Indian side

argued that the home holds special significance for a huge section of Indians in the UK and outside because it was where Babasaheb lived during a crucial formative period in his academic life.

The council, on the other hand, presented expert witnesses to try and establish that the Dalit rights activist's association with the particular London house was very brief and any memorial can be moved elsewhere in order to not deprive the local area of crucial residential and housing space.

With all the conditions now being met, the property can resume its operation as a memorial for visitors. December 6 is the 64th death anniversary of Babasaheb Ambedkar, who died on December 6, 1956, at his home in Delhi at the age of 65. □

OBITUARY



Shri Naresh Kumar Gupta
16.02.1950 - 23.11.2020

It is grieved to learn that one of the senior members of ARSP, Shri Naresh Kumar Gupta Ji drew his last breath on 23 November, 2020. He had been actively associated with Antar-Rashtriya Sahayog Parishad and enthusiastically involved in various activities. □

US SENATE PASSES BILL TO NAME POST OFFICE AFTER SLAIN SIKH POLICE OFFICER DHALIWAL

The US House of Representatives has passed the bipartisan legislation in September to rename the post office at 315 Addicks Howell Road in Houston as "Deputy Sandeep Singh Dhaliwal Post Office Building", as a lasting tribute to Deputy Dhaliwal's trailblazing legacy for Sikh Americans and religious minorities in law enforcement. The bill is now headed to the White House for it to sign into law by outgoing President Donald Trump.

The post office named after Dhaliwal in Houston is only the second American post office named after an Indian American. The first one was named after the first Indian American Congressman Dalip Singh Saund in Southern California in 2006. The Senate also passed the bills to



rename another US Postal Office located in Castroville, Texas as the "Lance Corporal Rhonald Dain Rairdan Post Office", as a memorial to Lance Corporal Rairdan and his fellow soldiers who fell in the line of duty."

Born in India, Dhaliwal moved to the US along with his parents to Houston where he grew deep roots. In 2015, Dhaliwal of the Harris County Sheriff's

office, became the first Sikh American in Texas to receive a policy accommodation to serve while wearing his articles of faith, including his turban and beard. On September 27, 2019, Deputy Dhaliwal was killed in the line of duty in service of his community. "We are very glad to see the Senate pass this important resolution and send it to the president's desk" said Sim J Singh, Sikh Coalition Senior Manager of Policy and Advocacy. "Signing this resolution into law and commemorating Deputy Dhaliwal in his city is an important way to affirm both his legacy and the fact that conscious efforts towards diversity and inclusion serve our communities well," he added. □

PM Modi Hails Indian-Origin New Zealand MP for Taking Oath in Sanskrit

Prime Minister Narendra Modi hailed Indian-Origin New Zealand MP Dr Gaurav Sharma, who originally belongs to Hamirpur district in Himachal Pradesh, who created history by becoming the first parliamentarian of Indian origin in the south Pacific nation to take oath in Sanskrit. "One piece of news might have caught your attention. Newly-elected MP in New Zealand Dr Gaurav Sharma took the oath of office in one of the ancient languages of the world - Sanskrit. The dissemination of Indian culture on part of an Indian fills us with pride," PM Modi said while addressing the nation in the 71st edition of his monthly radio programme 'Mann Ki Baat'. "Through the medium of Mann Ki Baat, I extend best wishes to Gaurav Sharma ji. All of us wish he attains newer achievements in the service of the people of New Zealand," he said.

Dr Sharma, who hails from Himachal Pradesh, was recently elected as an MP of Labour Party in New Zealand. A doctor by profession, he won Hamilton West by defeating Tim Macindoe of the National Party by 4,386 votes.

Before that, he had unsuccessfully fought elections in 2017. Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Jai Ram

Thakur also congratulated New Zealand's newly-elected Member of Parliament. □

India as SCO Chair Talks Tough on Terrorism, Trade Transparency

India's Vice President Venkaiah Naidu virtually chaired the 19th meeting of the SCO Council of Heads of Government on Monday. This is the first time that the summit-level meeting was held under India's chairmanship since the country gained full membership of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO). Without naming Pakistan, Venkaiah Naidu slammed India's neighbors for supporting terrorism and misusing international forum to rake up bilateral issues like Kashmir. The biggest concern that India faced is cross-border terrorism. India is opposed to the countries that use terrorism as an instrument of state policy. He emphasized on the need to create conditions for stability and economic sustainability. The Vice President further said "It is unfortunate

to note that deliberate attempts have been made to bring bilateral issues in the SCO forum. Such acts are counterproductive. We should respect each other's territorial integrity and sovereignty, he said. Referring to the novel Coronavirus outbreak, Venkaiah Naidu highlighted the need for a reformed multilateral structure in a post-Covid world. He also said that there is a need for "transparency" if global trade has to succeed and flourish. Without naming China, Naidu said that for trade to be fair, all the members should be transparent. Vice President Venkaiah Naidu also spoke of India's initiative to create resilient supply chains and the need to be self-reliant. He also mentioned the ambitious Atmanirbhar Bharat, a self-reliant India. □

INDIAN WORKERS TO RETURN TO UAE POST-COVID

Many Indians working in the Gulf countries had returned to their homeland during the Coronavirus pandemic. Now, the Indian government is actively working towards their return back to the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Bahrain who had lost their jobs there due to the evacuation. Thousands of Indians had to leave the UAE as businesses closed there and the employees were placed on unpaid leave. According to the Consulate General of India in Dubai in August, more than five hundred thousand Indians had been registered for repatriation to India from Abu Dhabi, Dubai, Sharjah, Ajman, Umm Al-Quwain, Fujairah, and Ras Al



Khaimah since the beginning of the Vande Bharat Mission- a mega exercise to repatriate stranded Indians back to their homeland. Reflecting the close relationship between India and the UAE, the Government there took exceptional measures to take care of the

community through a series of supportive initiatives. Similar steps were also taken in Bahrain and other Gulf kingdoms. This was acknowledged by Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi during his address on the occasion of India's Independence Day at Red Fort. In the last week of November, External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar was in the UAE to discuss the advancement of strategic cooperation between India and the UAE as the Coronavirus crisis seems to ebb away with the imminent roll-out of the COVID vaccine. Earlier, he visited Bahrain on a similar mission. □

INDIAN SCIENTIST IN UK BRINGS QUANTUM INTERNET CLOSER TO REALITY



Representational image

There have been various studies conducted on the topic of quantum internet for the four decades now with many breakthroughs, however, until now, no one was able to successfully connect over two devices on the quantum network

For the first time in history, a team of United Kingdom based scientists led by an Indian has connected eight devices on a quantum network, bringing the quantum internet closer to reality, just like what happens in spy movies. Times of India has reported that a team led by an Indian scientist in Bristol has been able to develop a safe and secure, most likely 'unhackable' quantum network.

Siddharth Joshi, an Indian scientist at the University of Bristol led a team of 15 under the UK National Quantum Communications Hub Project, said, "This is the largest entanglement-based quantum communication network.

Multinodal networks like this have not been built before." There have been various studies conducted on the topic of quantum internet for the four decades now with many breakthroughs, however, until now, no one was able to successfully connect over two devices on the quantum network. Therefore, connecting eight devices to the network is being seen as a big achievement which can open an array of opportunities. "We have been able to show this on a city-wide scale. Think of how we can start connecting cities. Could we link this to a satellite? These are things we want to do," Joshi said, explaining the scale of its success. Quantum internet is built on the laws governing quantum mechanics which promise a secure network, the report said. Just like spy movies, when someone tries to break into the network and intercept the

message, the message is destroyed before someone could hack it, the report said.

Entanglement is the key to make an efficient quantum network, the report said. A quantum network uses light particles called photons, to communicate. It relies on a process called entanglement. Explaining the process, Joshi said, "Say, I have a deck of cards and you have another. You choose a card at random, I do too. These are different decks. The card you choose has no correlation with the one I choose." "But if the decks are 'entangled', the card you choose would be identical to the one I do," he added.

The scientists before him were able to create similar networks but the scale was unmatched. Explaining how complex it can be, he said, "It's like having children's walkie talkies. One set talks to another and if you want to send a message to a third person you have to listen to the message from one walkie talkie and repeat it into the other." Therefore, his team used wavelength multiplexing to solve the issue, the report said. □

RAJA CHARI IS THE ONLY INDIAN-AMERICAN SELECTED FOR NASA'S MISSION TO MOON, NETIZENS CHEER

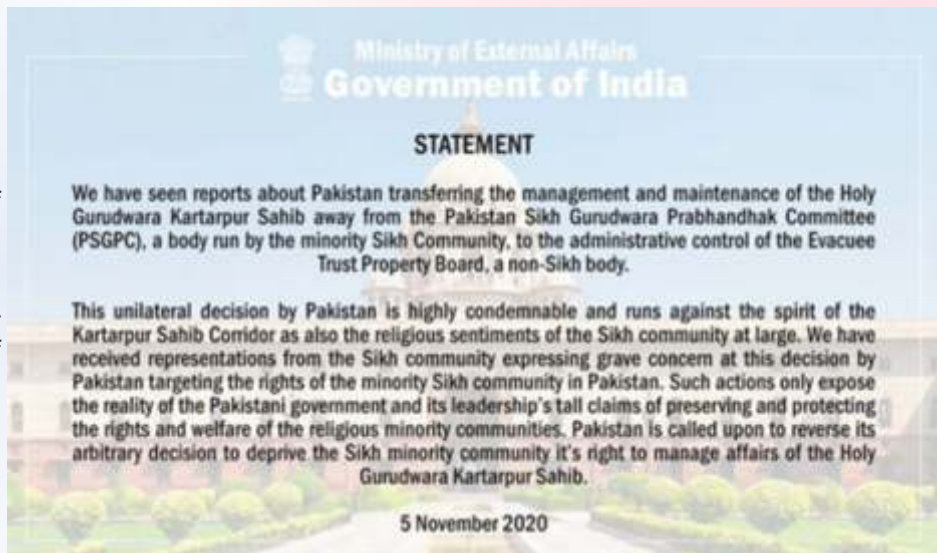
An Indian-American US Air Force colonel, Raja Jon Vurputoor Chari is now among the 18 astronauts who have been selected by NASA for its manned mission to the Moon. The US space agency tweeted that Chari will form the Artemis Team and help pave the way for the next lunar missions, including sending the first woman and next man to walk on the lunar surface in 2024. The 43-year-old was selected by NASA to join the 2017 Astronaut Candidate Class and he is also a graduate of the US Air Force Academy, Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) and US Naval Test Pilot School. According to NASA, the astronauts on the Artemis Team come from a diverse range of backgrounds, expertise and experience. □



INDIA SLAMS PAKISTAN TRANSFER OF KARTARPUR SAHIB MANAGEMENT TO 'NON-SIKH BODY'

The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said India received representations from the Sikh community expressing grave concern over the decision to transfer the management and maintenance of the gurdwara.

Pakistan's decision to transfer the management of the Kartarpur Sahib gurdwara from a Sikh body to a separate trust, described by India as "highly condemnable" saying it runs against the religious sentiments of the Sikh community. The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said India received representations from the Sikh community expressing grave concern over the decision to transfer the management and maintenance of the gurdwara. "We have seen reports about Pakistan transferring the management and maintenance of the Holy Gurudwara Kartarpur Sahib away from the Pakistan Sikh Gurudwara Prabandhak Committee, a body run by the minority Sikh Community, to the administrative control of the Evacuee Trust Property Board, a non-Sikh body," the MEA said.



"This unilateral decision by Pakistan is

highly condemnable and runs against the spirit of the Kartarpur Sahib Corridor as also the religious sentiments of the Sikh community at large," it said. "Such actions only

expose the reality of the Pakistani government and its leadership's tall claims of preserving and protecting the rights and welfare of the religious minority communities," the MEA said. □

DAYS TO REMEMBER

IN JANUARY, 2021

- | | |
|----------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------|
| January 01 : New Year Begins | January 23 : Birth Anniversary of Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose |
| January 04 : Myanmar- Independence Day | January 25 : National Tourism Day |
| January 12 : Amavasya ● | January 26 : Republic Day of India |
| January 12 : National Youth Day | January 26 : Australia- Australia Day |
| January 13 : Lohri | January 27 : International Holocaust Day |
| January 14 : Makar Sankranti + Pongal | January 28 : Paush Purnima ● |
| January 15 : Army Day | |

GIRL SCOUTS HONORS INDIAN AMERICAN CORPORATE SCIENTIST JAYSHREE SETH WITH 2020 WOMEN OF DISTINCTION AWARD

Indian American engineer, Jayshree Seth, corporate scientist and chief science advocate at 3M, a Minnesota-based company, has been honored with the annual Girl Scouts 2020 Women of Distinction Award for exemplary leadership and commitment to the



community. Seth, an MS, PhD from Clarkson University (New York) in Chemical Engineering, joined 3M in 1993 in disposable product division, and is now Corporate Scientist and Chief Scientific Advisor to the company. In 2018, Seth was appointed as 3M's first ever chief

science advocate and is using her scientific knowledge, technical expertise, and professional experience to advance science and communicate its importance and benefits in everyday life. Apart from holding 67 patents for a variety of innovations, she is

also an expert in Six Sigma Black Belt Methodology.

She also uses her personal story and career journey to inspire students to pursue STEM and encourage professionals who aspire to have satisfying STEM-based careers. □

BLUEPRINT FOR HARRIS

It is hoped that in the interest of the USA and the world, President Biden would expose his deputy to foreign affairs with a helpful Secretary of State. The reason is that there have occurred many changes in the equations between nations as well as civilizations.



Kamala Harris

The election of Kamala Harris as Vice-President of the USA is the ideal way to celebrate the centenary of women being given the vote in America. In virtually no democracy in the world did women have a vote before. It is also a proud moment for America to elect a woman as Vice-President, whether she be white or coloured.

Even the distinguished Hillary Clinton could not win as late as 2016. Now, a woman needs to become President to fill the last gap. For us Indians also it is a matter of satisfaction that Harris is of recent Indian origin. In fact, she personifies a several-splendoured combination. Her father is a Jamaican black, her mother was a Tamil Brahmin. Her husband and stepchildren are white Jews. Blacks are the biggest minority in the USA while Jews are a very influential community in the country.

And women are in equal number as men if not a majority by a slight margin. Harris is a successful lawyer; what more can America want for a Vice-President? President Joe Biden, being of a mature age, is likely to let his deputy play a more active role than most other Vice-Presidents hitherto. It is said that when President Franklin Roosevelt passed away in 1945 soon after his fourth election, many Americans knew little of Harry Truman, the Vice-President. □

INDIAN-ORIGIN PHOTOGRAPHER MANISH MAMTANI WINS EPSON DIGITAL ART PRIZE

Epson on Nov. 11 announced that the Epson Digital Art Prize at this year's Epson International Pano Awards was won by Manish Mamtani, an avid nature photographer. He won the award and \$1,000 cash for his work, Dragon Eye



5,859 entries from 1,452 professional and amateur photographers in 96 countries. The judging panel for The Epson International Pano awards includes some of the world's top panoramic photographers and industry professionals, including Abe Blair,

Mamtani's motto is to showcase the unseen beauty of nature through his aerial photography. He also specializes in landscapes, night, astro and infrared photography, the release noted.

This year the competition received

Juan Pablo de Miguel, Paul Hoelen, Lucie Debelkova, Isabella Tabacchi, Aaron Spence, Mieke Boynton, Bill Bailey, Ignacio Palacios, Julie Fletcher, Timothy Poulton, Craig Bill and Carlos Chegado, it said. □

Why World Needs Ayurveda More Than Ever Before

November 13 marked International Ayurveda Day, coinciding with Dhanteras, the birth or manifestation day of Sri Dhanvantari, at the beginning of the Diwali festival of light. There were gatherings, programmes and conferences honouring Ayurveda not just as an ancient Indian system of medicine, but as one of the most transformative systems of natural and yogic healing in the world, helpful to every person, creature and the entire planet.

MEDICINAL AYURVEDA

Ayurveda includes what is ordinarily called medicine as an enduring system of medical treatment with its special doctors and vaidyas. It has its in-depth study of the body and its organic systems, and therapies for all manner of diseases, including powerful herbs and clinical methods like Pancha-Karma. In India, Ayurveda is taught in a six-year BAMS programme that integrates Ayurveda along with modern medicine.

Ayurveda teaches us the right diet, herbs, exercise, work, rest, and lifestyle for the body. Each one of us at



a physical level has a unique mind-body constitution defined according to the three doshas of Vata, Pitta and Kapha, which it addresses.

Ayurveda similarly teaches the way of right living for the mind. It follows the same principles as the Yamas and Niyamas of yoga for purifying the mind and emotions.

AYURVEDA, PANDEMIC & ECOLOGY

Today the world is caught in the throes of a powerful and dangerous pandemic, first of the twenty-first century. Ayurveda warns of collective diseases that can arise from the wrong relationship of the human being with our natural environment, elements and ecosystems. Our individual prana is connected to the prana of the Earth,

starting with other human beings, extending to the animals, plants and the forests, from the soil to the atmosphere. We cannot as individual human beings have strong immune systems to resist disease if the integrity of the biosphere, the Earth's immune system, is disrupted or depleted.

THE GREATER FIELD OF AYURVEDA

As the natural healing tradition that arises from yoga and Vedanta, Ayurveda embraces pranayama, mantra and meditation, and brings in their healing applications. Ayurveda is the medicine of yoga, through which we can integrate ourselves with the whole of life. Ayurvedic study begins with the philosophy and principles of yoga and samkhya as the basis for its approach to body and mind.

At a global level, Ayurveda is being used along with modern medicine, chiropractic, psychology, massage, nutrition, herbal medicine and many other approaches. □

DIPLOMATIC POSTINGS

Shri Gaurav Ahiuwalia (IFS: 2005), presently Deputy High Commissioner in the High Commission of India, Islamabad, has been appointed as the **next Ambassador of India to the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria.**

Shri Anindya Banerjee (YOA: 2006), presently Assistant High Commissioner in the Assistant High Commission of India, Chittagong, has been appointed as the **next Ambassador of India to the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.**

Shri A. Ajay Kumar (IFS: 2001), presently High Commissioner of India to the Republic of Uganda, has been concurrently accredited as the **next**

Ambassador of India to the Republic of Burundi, with residence in Kampala.

Shri Sushil Kumar Singhal, (YOA : 2000), presently High Commissioner of India to the Independent State of Papua New Guinea, has been concurrently accredited as the **next High Commissioner of India to the Solomon Islands, with residence in Port Moresby.**

Dr. Neena Malhotra (IFS: 1992), presently Ambassador of India to the Republic of Italy, has been concurrently accredited as the **next Ambassador of India to the Republic of San Marino, with residence in Rome.**

Shri Vishal V. Sharma has been appointed as the **next Permanent Representative of India to the Permanent Delegation of India to UNESCO, Paris, with the rank of Ambassador, in succession to Shri Jawed Ashraf.**

Shri Rahul Shrivastava, (IFS: 1999), presently Ambassador of India to Romania, has been concurrently accredited as the **next Ambassador of India to the Republic of Albania, with residence in Bucharest**

Shri Manoj Kumar Bharti (IFS: 1988), presently Special Secretary in the Ministry, has been appointed as the **next Ambassador of India to the Republic of Indonesia.** □

PRISCILLA JANA, LAWYER WHO BATTLED APARTHEID, IS DEAD AT 76

Priscilla Jana, a forthright human rights lawyer died on Oct. 10 at a care home in Pretoria. She was 76. Ms. Jana was descended from a family of middle-class Indian immigrants. When she was 28 she heard a speech by the activist leader Steve Biko. "I listened to his definitions and was amazed," she wrote in "Fighting for Mandela," a memoir published in 2016. Ms. Jana felt an emotional turmoil inspired by her friendship with Nelson Mandela and Winnie Madikizela-Mandela, whom she had gotten to know as their lawyer when Mr. Mandela was serving his 27-year imprisonment, as the couple were torn apart in the early years of South Africa's emergence from apartheid. Such were the racial distinctions there that people classified as Indian, like Ms. Jana, were not even permitted to stay overnight. Ms. Jana regarded her role not simply as an attorney but as an activist linked to insurgents seeking the violent overthrow of apartheid. During business hours she worked on human rights cases, she wrote in her memoirs, but at night she joined activists "in an underground cell, plotting to bring down the government



Winnie Madikizela-Mandela carrying the coffin of the activist William Kotoyi in 1986. of the day."

Devikarani Priscilla Sewpal was born on Dec. 5, 1943, in the town of Westville on the fringes of the South African port city of Durban, on the Indian Ocean. She was the second of three children of Hansrani Sewpal and her husband, Hansraj, a high school teacher with a keen sense of the injustices of apartheid. While studying in Mumbai, India - then known as Bombay - she met and later married Reg Jana, a fellow South African student. They divorced in 1989. She was later briefly married to a fellow lawyer, Reagan Jacobus; that marriage, too, ended in divorce, in the

early 1990s. Ms. Jana is survived by a daughter, Albertina Jana Molefe, and a son, Shivesh Sewpal. While her parents had initially wanted her to become a physician, she switched to studying the law in South Africa and graduated in 1974. She then joined a firm run by Ismail Ayob, a lawyer of Indian descent whose clients included the Mandela family. In 1990, Nelson Mandela walked free. Four years later, in the country's first fully democratic elections, he was elected president. Ms. Jana took part in a candlelight vigil in Dublin on Dec. 9, 2008, the eve of International Human Rights Day. She was later a diplomat for nine years, serving as the South African ambassador to the Netherlands and Ireland before joining the South African Human Rights Commission as its deputy chairwoman in 2017. But she seemed dissatisfied with the way the post-apartheid authorities had run the country. "We finally put apartheid, colonialism and slavery behind us after 350 years, but we are not yet reaping the rewards of that great fight," she wrote in her memoir. "It is going to take much longer." □

INDIAN-AMERICAN DOCTOR IDENTIFIES POSSIBLE COVID-19 TREATMENT



An Indian-American Dr. Thirumala-Devi Kanneganti, an Indian-born researcher, vice-chair of the St. Jude Department of Immunology at St.

Jude Children's Research Hospital in Tennessee, has discovered a potential strategy to prevent life-threatening inflammation, lung damage and organ failure in patients diagnosed with COVID-19. She detailed how the inflammatory cell death signalling pathway worked, which led to potential therapies to disrupt the process. "Understanding the pathways and mechanisms driving

this inflammation is critical to develop effective treatment strategies," said Dr. Kanneganti.

Dr. Kanneganti was born and raised in Telangana. She received her undergraduate degree at Kakatiya University in Warangal, and then received her M.Sc. and Ph.D from Osmania University in India. She joined St. Jude, in Memphis, Tennessee, U.S., in 2007. The other researchers were Shraddha Tuladhar, Parimal Samir, Balamurugan Sundaram, Balaji Banoth, R.K. Subbarao Malireddi, to name a few. SARS-CoV-2 virus infection is marked by increased blood levels of multiple cytokines. These small proteins are secreted primarily by immune cells to

ensure a rapid response to restrict the virus. Some cytokines also trigger inflammation and cause hemophagocytic lymphohistiocytosis (HLH), St. Jude's said in a statement.

Dr. Kanneganti's team focused on a select set of the most elevated cytokines in COVID-19 patients. The scientists said. "The findings link inflammatory cell death induced by TNF-alpha and IFN-gamma to COVID-19. The results also suggest that therapies that target this cytokine combination are candidates for rapid clinical trials for treatment of not only COVID-19, but several other often fatal disorders associated with cytokine storm," □

20 INDIAN-AMERICANS NAMED IN BIDEN'S AGENCY REVIEW TEAMS

US President-elect Joe Biden has named more than 20 Indian-Americans as members, including three as team leads, to his agency review teams (ARTs) that are responsible for evaluating the operations of the key federal agencies in the current administration to ensure smooth transfer of power.

Arun Majumdar from the prestigious Stanford University is the team lead for the Department of Energy ART. Rahul Gupta is the team lead for Office of National Drug Control Policy. Kiran Ahuja has been named Team Lead for Office of Personnel Management. Puneet Talwar has been named to the Department of State ART. Pav Singh has been named to two ARTs for National Security Council and Office of Science and Technology.

Similarly, Arun Venkatraman has been named to two ARTs Department of Commerce and USTR. Other prominent Indian-Americans named to ARTs are Pravina Raghavan, Atman



Trivedi for Department of Commerce and Shital Shah for Department of Education; R Ramesh and Rama Zakaria for the Department of Energy; Subhasri Ramanathan for the Department of Homeland Security; Raj De for Department of Justice; and Seema Nanda and Raj Nayak for Department of Labour. Reena Aggarwal, and Satyam Khanna have been named to the Federal Reserve, Banking and Securities Regulators ARTs; Bhavya Lal for NASA; Dilpreet Sidhu for National Security Council, Divya Kumaraiah for Office of Management and Budget; Kumar Chandran for Department of

Agriculture; and Aneesh Chopra to US Postal Service. Almost all of them are volunteers. These teams are composed of highly experienced and talented professionals with deep backgrounds in crucial policy areas across the federal government. "The agency review process will help lay the foundation for meeting these challenges on Day One," said Senator Ted Kaufman, Co-Chair, Biden-Harris Transition. "The work of the agency review teams is critical for protecting national security, addressing the ongoing public health crisis, and demonstrating that America remains the beacon of democracy for the world," he said.

Once the GSA Administrator ascertains the results of the election, the ART members will work directly with staff in federal agencies to ensure that the incoming Biden-Harris administration is able to effectively achieve the policy goals of the President and Vice President-elect. □

INDIAN-ORIGIN HEALTH EXPERT ANIL SONI APPOINTED FIRST CHIEF OF THE WHO FOUNDATION

Indian-origin global health expert Anil Soni has been appointed as the first Chief Executive Officer of the newly launched The WHO Foundation, which works alongside the World Health Organization to address most pressing health challenges across the world. He will assume his charge on January 1.



Anil Soni

The WHO Foundation, an independent grant-making agency headquartered in Geneva, was launched in May 2020 to work alongside the World Health Organization (WHO) and the global health community to address the world's most pressing global health challenges. Mr Soni joins the Foundation from Viatrix, a global healthcare company, where he served as Head of Global Infectious

months of combatting the COVID-19 pandemic, there is hope for several successful vaccine candidates. Beyond this crucial step, the path to recovery necessitates expanded investment in the many health priorities that have been compromised in recent months - from drops in vaccine coverage and HIV treatment to delays in cancer treatment," he said, adding that The WHO Foundation represents a unique new

Diseases.

On his appointment, Mr Soni said the world is at a "critical juncture" for global public health. "After

opportunity for everyone in the world to play their part in tackling these challenges and in promoting global health, through a strong and vibrant WHO.

Mr Soni, an alumnus of McKinsey and Harvard College, was closely involved in the early years of the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, serving as the Advisor to the Executive Director from 2002-2004, the Founding Executive Director of Friends of the Global Fight from 2004-2005 and as the CEO of the Clinton Health Access Initiative, where he worked from 2005-2010, and oversaw the rapid expansion of the organisation. He has been a senior advisor to the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and the MDG Health Alliance. □

ANTAR-RASHTRIYA SAHAYOG PARISHAD

(INDIAN COUNCIL FOR INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATION)

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'Pravasi Bhawan',
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President

AMB.VIRENDRA GUPTA

Secretary General

SHYAM (K.G.) PARANDE

23.12.2020

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF A.R.S.P.

Dear Member,

The **Annual General Meeting** of the Antar-Rashtriya Sahayog Parishad will be held at **04:00 pm on Friday 22nd January, 2021. Please note that the meeting will be held on Cisco Webex digital platform.**

The link for the online AGM will be sent to you separately in due course.

Members are requested to send their mobile contact as well as e-mail id ASAP for smoother communication for the AGM in case these are changed or not registered earlier.

You are requested to kindly attend the meeting.

Awaiting for an early confirmation.

Yours Sincerely,
Shyam Parande

Agenda :-

1. Confirmation of minutes of the last AGM held on 15th October, 2019.
2. Report on the activities of ARSP including DRRC & CRSCR since the last AGM
3. Activity report by ARSP Chapters.
4. Consideration and adoption of Annual Income & Expenditure Account & Balance Sheet for the year 2019-20.
5. Appointment of auditors for the financial year 2020-21.
6. Matters related to Pravasi Bhawan.
7. Baleshwar Agrawal Birth Centenary Program.
8. Discussion on roadmap for year 2021-2022.
9. Election of President of ARSP for the next two year term.
10. Any other matter with the permission of the Chair.

NOTE : "For want of quorum, the meeting may be recalled after half an hour, i.e.04:30 pm, the same day & venue."

टाइम मैगजीन की पहली 'किड ऑफ द ईयर' बनी गीतांजलि



मशहूर टाइम मैगजीन के किड ऑफ द ईयर का खिताब भारतीय मूल की गीतांजलि राव को दिया गया है। टाइम ने अपने कवर पेज में 15 साल की गीतांजलि को जगह दी है। वो एक साइंटिस्ट और इनोवेटर हैं, टाइम मैगजीन के लिए हॉलीवुड की सुपरस्टार एंजेलीना जोली ने गीतांजलि का इंटरव्यू लिया।

टाइम मैगजीन ने पहली बार किड ऑफ द ईयर के लिए नॉमिनेशन मांगे थे। इसके लिये करीब 5 हजार नॉमिनीज को चुना गया था, जिनमें से गीतांजलि ने पहला स्थान हासिल किया और टाइम मैगजीन के कवर पेज पर छा गईं। गीतांजलि ने हाल में अमेरिका का टॉप यंग साइंटिस्ट अवॉर्ड भी अपने नाम किया था।

अभिनेत्री एंजेलीना जोली ने 15 वर्षीय गीतांजलि का इंटरव्यू किया, जिसमें उन्होंने बताया कि कैसे उन्होंने दूषित पानी से लेकर नशीले पदार्थों की लत और साइबरबुलिंग तक के मुद्दों के खिलाफ टेक्नोलॉजी का इस्तेमाल किया। □

रामायण और महाभारत सुनकर बिताए हैं बचपन के साल : बराक ओबामा



अमेरिका के पूर्व राष्ट्रपति बराक ओबामा ने अपनी किताब 'अ प्रोमिस्ट लैंड' में लिखा है कि इंडोनेशिया में गुजारे बचपन के वर्षों में वह रामायण और महाभारत सुना करते थे। उन्होंने लिखा है कि 2010 में बतौर राष्ट्रपति अपने भारतीय दौरे से पहले वह कभी भारत नहीं आए थे लेकिन भारत की 'मेरी कल्पना में हमेशा एक खास जगह थी।' □

बाइडेन ने भारतीय-अमेरिकी नीरा टंडन को नामित किया बजट का प्रमुख



नव-निर्वाचित अमेरिकी राष्ट्रपति जो बाइडेन ने भारतीय-अमेरिकी नीरा टंडन को प्रबंधन एवं बजट कार्यालय (ओ एनबी) के निदेशक के रूप में नामित किया। अगर अमेरिकी सीनेट से इसकी पुष्टि हो जाती है तो वह ओएनबी का नेतृत्व करने वाली पहली अश्वेत महिला व पहली भारतीय-अमेरिकी होंगी। □

जो बाइडेन की पत्नी जिल बाइडेन की नीति निदेशक बनीं भारतीय मूल की माला अडिगा



नव-निर्वाचित अमेरिकी राष्ट्रपति जो बाइडेन ने भारतीय मूल की माला अडिगा को अपनी पत्नी जिल बाइडेन की नीति निदेशक के रूप में नियुक्त किया है। बाइडेन-हैरिस कैंपेन की वरिष्ठ नीति सलाहकार रहें अडिगा इससे पहले बाइडेन फाउंडेशन में उच्च शिक्षा और सैन्य परिवारों की निदेशक रह चुकी हैं। पूर्व राष्ट्रपति बराक ओबामा प्रशासन के दौरान, अडिगा ने शैक्षिक और सांस्कृतिक मामलों के ब्यूरो में शैक्षणिक कार्यक्रमों के लिए राज्य के उप सहायक सचिव, वैश्विक महिला मुद्दों के कार्यालय सचिव और राजदूत के वरिष्ठ सलाहकार के रूप में कार्य किया। □

भारत लौटेगी 18वीं सदी की अन्नपूर्णा की मूर्ति

कनाडा की रेजिना यूनिवर्सिटी ने उसकी आर्ट गैलरी में रखी 18वीं सदी की देवी अन्नपूर्णा की मूर्ति ओटावा में भारतीय उच्चायुक्त अजय बिसारिया को सौंपी है। यूनिवर्सिटी को हाल में पता चला था कि 'मूर्ति संदिग्ध परिस्थितियों में खरीदी गई थी।' इसे नॉर्मन मैकेंजी 1913 में भारत से लाए थे.... मूर्ति किसी ने वाराणसी के मंदिर से चुराई थी। □



दुनियाभर की 100 प्रेरक महिलाओं की बीबीसी की सूची में शामिल भारतीय महिलाएं



बीबीसी ने 2020 के लिए दुनियाभर की 100 प्रेरक और प्रभावशाली महिलाओं की सूची तैयार की है जिसमें भारत की गायिका इसाइवानी, पैरा-एथलीट मानसी जोशी, पर्यावरण कार्यकर्ता रिद्धिमा पांडे और 'शाहीन बाग की दादी' बिल्किस बानो शामिल हैं। □