

ANTAR RASHTRIYA SAHAYOG PARISHAD BULLETIN

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PM's speech at 17th Pravasi Bharatiya Divas Convention



The President of Guyana Dr. Mohamed Irfaan Ali ji, the President of Suriname Shri Chandrikapersad Santokhi ji, the Governor of Madhya Pradesh Shri Mangubhai Patel, Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan, Foreign Minister S. Jaishankar ji, other cabinet colleagues, and my dear brothers and sisters from all over the world gathered at the Pravasi Bharatiya Divas convention!

Best wishes for 2023 to all of you. The Pravasi Bharatiya Divas convention

is being held once again in its original form and with all its grandeur after almost four years. Face-to-face meeting with loved ones has its own unique joy as well as its importance. I greet and welcome all of you on behalf of 130 crore Indians.

Brothers and sisters,

Every NRI present here with extraordinary achievements in their respective fields has come to pay homage to the soil of their country. And this Pravasi Bharatiya Divas convention is being held on the land of Madhya Pradesh, which is called

the heart of the country. There are so many things in MP like the waters of Mother Narmada, the forests, the tribal tradition, the spirituality that will make your visit unforgettable. More recently, a grand and divine expansion of Lord Mahakal's Mahalok has also taken place in nearby Ujjain. I hope all of you will go there and take the blessings of Lord Mahakal and be a part of that wonderful experience.

Friends,

By the way, the city in which we all are now is also wonderful in itself. People say that Indore is a city, but I say that Indore is a period. This is the period, which moves ahead of time and yet keeps the legacy intact. Indore has established a distinct identity in the country in the field of cleanliness. 'Apan ka Indore' is wonderful for food culture not only in the country, but in the whole world. The taste of Indori Namkeen, the passion of the people here for poha, sago khichdi, kachori-samosas-shikanji, is mouth watering. And those who tasted these things did not look for anything else! Similarly, 'Chhappan Bhog' shop and Sarafa Bazar are also very famous. This is the reason why some people call Indore the capital of cleanliness as well as taste. I am sure you will not forget your experience here and will not forget to go back and tell others about it.

Friends,

This Pravasi Bharatiya Divas is special in many ways. We celebrated 75 years of India's independence just a few months ago. A digital exhibition related to our freedom struggle has been organised here. It brings that glorious era in front of you again.

Friends,

The nation has entered the 'Amrit

Kaal' of the next 25 years. Our Pravasi Bharatiyas have a significant place in this journey. India's unique global vision and its important role in the global order will be strengthened by you.

Friends,

There is a saying in our country – 'Swadesho Bhuvantrayam'. That is, 'for us, the whole world is our country and only human beings are our brothers and sisters'. It was on this ideological foundation that our forefathers shaped the cultural expansion of India. We went to different corners of the world. We understood the infinite possibilities of

the amalgamation of civilizations. We started an extraordinary tradition of global trade centuries ago. We crossed the seas that seemed limitless. India and Indians have shown how business relations between different countries and different civilizations can open the way for shared prosperity. Today, when we see our crores of Indian diaspora on the global map, several pictures emerge simultaneously. When the people of India appear to be a common factor in so many different countries of the world, then the spirit of 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam' (The World Is One Family) is visible. When people from different regions of India meet in any country of the world, there is a pleasant feeling of 'Ek Bharat, Shrestha Bharat'. When there is mention of the most peace-loving, democratic and disciplined citizens in different countries of the world, the glory of India being the Mother of Democracy increases manifold. And when the world assesses the contribution of our overseas Indians, it hears the voice of 'strong and capable India'. Therefore, I refer to all of you, all the overseas Indians, the brand ambassadors of India on foreign soil. There are ambassadors in the government system. You are the ambassador of the great heritage of India.

Friends,

Your role as India's brand ambassador is diverse. You are brand ambassadors of Make In India. You are brand ambassadors of Yoga and Ayurveda. You are also brand ambassadors of India's cottage industries and handicrafts. At the same time, you are also brand ambassadors of India's millets. You would already know that 2023 has been declared by the United Nations as the International Year of Millets. I appeal to you to take some millet products with you while returning.

You also have another important role to play in these rapidly changing times. You are the people who will address the world's desire to know more about India. Today, the whole world is waiting and watching India keenly with great interest and curiosity. It is important to understand why I am saying this.

Friends,

The pace of development that India has achieved in the last few years, the achievements it has made are extraordinary and unprecedented. When India develops indigenous vaccines within a few months in the midst of the Covid pandemic, when India makes a record of administering more than 220 crore vaccine doses to its citizens free of cost, when India becomes the emerging economy of the world even in the midst of global instability, when India competes with the world's big economies and joins the top-5 economies, when India becomes the world's third largest start-up ecosystem, when 'Make in India' shines in the field of electronic manufacturing and in areas like mobile manufacturing, when India on its own builds Tejas fighter plane, aircraft carrier INS Vikrant and nuclear submarines like Arihant, it is natural that the world and the people of the world are curious about what India is doing and how it is doing it.

People are curious to know about the speed, scale and future of India. Similarly, when it comes to cashless economy and fintech, the world is surprised to see that 40 percent of the world's real time digital transactions take place in India. When it comes to the future of space, India is discussed among the most advanced countries in space technology. India is making a record of launching 100 satellites in one go. The world is watching our capability in the field of software and digital technology. Many of you are

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EDITOR

Keshav G. Parande
(M): 98113 92777

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D-6, Ranjit Nagar Comm. Complex,
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E-mail: a1printers@gmail.com

PUBLISHER

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

CONTACT

Phone (O) : 011 - 2323 4432

E-mail

arspindia@gmail.com

WEBSITE

www.arspindia.org

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also a great source of this. This increasing power and strength of India swells the chest of every person connected to the roots of India. Today India's voice, India's message and India's words have a different significance on the global arena. This growing power of India is going to increase further in the near future. And therefore, the curiosity towards India will also increase further. And therefore, the responsibility of the people of Indian origin living abroad also increases a lot. The more comprehensive information you have about India today, the more you will be able to tell others about India's growing potential based on facts. I urge that you should have updated information about India's progress along with cultural and spiritual information.

Friends,

All of you are also aware that India is presiding over the G-20 group of the world this year. India is looking at this responsibility as a great opportunity. This is an opportunity for us to tell the world about India. This is an opportunity for the world to learn from India's experiences and to decide the direction of a sustainable future from past experiences. We have to make the G-20 not just a diplomatic event, but a historic event of people's participation. During this time, different countries of the world will see the spirit of 'Atithi Devo Bhava' (Treat your guest as god) in the people of India. You can also meet the representatives coming from your country and tell them about India. This will give them a sense of belonging and welcome even before they reach India.

Friends,

And I would also like to say that when some 200 meetings are going to be held during the G-20 summit, when 200 delegations of the G-20 group

are going to come here and visit different cities of India, the Indian diaspora should call them and listen to their experiences upon their return. I think this will be an opportunity to further strengthen our bond with them.

Friends,

Today, India not only has the potential to become the knowledge center of the world, but the skill capital as well. Today India has a large number of capable youth. Our youth have skills, values, and the necessary passion and honesty to work. This skill capital of India can become the engine of development of the world. Along with the youth in India, India's priority is also the migrant youth who are connected to India. We are also giving many opportunities to our next generation youth, who were born abroad and brought up there, to know and understand our India. The enthusiasm about India is increasing even among the next generation migrant youth. They want to know about the country of their parents, want to connect with their roots. It is the responsibility of all of us to not only brief these youths in depth about the country, but also show them India. With traditional sense and modern outlook, these youth will be able to tell the future world about India more effectively. The more the curiosity among the youth increases, the more tourism related to India will increase, the research related to India will increase and the pride of India will increase. These youth can come during various festivals of India, during famous fairs or can take advantage of Buddha Circuit and Ramayana Circuit. They can also join the programs being organized under the Amrit Mahotsav of Independence.

Friends,

I have one more suggestion. Migrants from India have settled in many countries over the centuries. The

Indian diaspora has made extraordinary contributions to nation building there. We should document their lives, struggles and achievements. Many of our elders will have several memories of those times. I urge that universities should make efforts for audio-video or written documentation on the history of our diaspora in every country.

Friends,

Any nation lives in the heart of every single person who pledges allegiance to it. When a person from India goes abroad and finds even a single person of Indian origin there, he feels that he has found the whole of India. That is, wherever you live, you keep India with you. The country has made every possible effort to give strength to its diaspora in the last eight years. Today it is India's commitment that wherever you live in the world, the country will support your interests and expectations.

I also express my heartfelt gratitude and greetings to the President of Guyana and the President of Suriname. They took out time for this important function and the issues they have put before us today are really very useful. I assure them that India will definitely live up to their suggestions. I am very grateful to the President of Guyana that he shared great memories today, because when I went to Guyana, I was nobody, not even the Chief Minister, and he remembered the relationship of that time. I am very grateful to him. Once again many best wishes to you for the Pravasi Bharatiya Divas that we got to meet after a gap. You will get to meet many people, get to know many things from many people and the memories that you will carry to your respective country upon your return. I am confident that a new era of engagement with India will begin. I wish you the very best. ■

GOVERNMENT CONFERRED 27 OVERSEAS INDIANS WITH PRAVASI BHARATIYA SAMMAN AWARDS-2023

An educationist in Bhutan, a doctor in Brunei and civil society activists in Ethiopia, Israel and Poland were among the 27 people chosen on Monday for the Pravasi Bharatiya Samman Award (PBSA), the highest honour for overseas Indians.

The PBSA is conferred by the President as part of the Pravasi Bharatiya Divas Convention on non-resident Indians (NRIs), persons of Indian origin (PIOs) or organisations established and run by NRIs or PIOs in recognition of their outstanding achievements in India and abroad.

The 17th edition of the Pravasi Bharatiya Divas Convention will be held at Indore in Madhya Pradesh during January 8-10. The awards will be conferred by the President during the valedictory session of the Pravasi Bharatiya Divas celebrations. The recipients were chosen by a jury-cum-awards committee chaired by the vice-president. External affairs minister S Jaishankar is the vice-chair of the panel, whose other

members are drawn from various walks of life. The committee considered nominations for the Pravasi Bharatiya Samman Awards and unanimously selected the awardees, the external affairs ministry said.

The awardees, who represent excellence achieved by the Indian diaspora in different fields, include Jagadish Chennupati of Australia in the field of science and technology and education, Sanjeev Mehta of Bhutan in education, Dilip Loundo of Brazil in art and culture and education, Alexander Maliakel John of Brunei in medicine, Vaikuntam Iyer Lakshmanan of Canada in community welfare, Joginder Singh Nijjar of Croatia in art and culture, Ramjee Prasad of Denmark in IT and Kannan Ambalam of Ethiopia in community welfare. The other awardees are Amal Kumar Mukhopadhyay of Germany in community welfare, Mohamed Irfaan Ali of Guyana in politics and community welfare, Reena Vinod

Pushkarna of Israel in business and community welfare, Maqsooda Sarfi Shiotani of Japan in education, Rajagopal of Mexico in education, Amit Kailash Chandra Lath of Poland in business, Parmanand Sukhumal Daswani of the Republic of Congo in community welfare, Piyush Gupta of Singapore in business, Mohanlal Hira and Sanjaykumar Shivabhai Patel of South Sudan in community welfare. Sivakumar Nadesan of Sri Lanka (community welfare), Dewanchandrebhose Sharman of Suriname (community welfare), Archana Sharma of Switzerland (science and technology), Frank Arthur Seepersad of Trinidad and Tobago (community welfare), Siddharth Balachandran of the UAE (business), Chandrakant Babubhai Patel of the UK (media), Darshan Singh Dhaliwal of the US (business and community welfare), Rajesh Subramaniam of the US (business) and Ashok Kumar Tiwary of Uzbekistan (business) are also among the awardees.

TWO INDIAN-BORN MATHEMATICIANS FROM US, CANADA GET PADMA AWARDS



S.R. Srinivasa Varadhan

Two Indian-born mathematicians are among the 106 recipients of the prestigious Padma Awards, one of the highest civilian honours of the country. Indian-American S.R.

Srinivasa Varadhan has been honoured with the Padma Vibhushan and Indo-Canadian Sujatha Ramdorai received the Padmi Shri for their stellar contributions in the field of science and engineering.

Born in Chennai on January 2, 1940, Srinivasa Varadhan is known for his fundamental contributions to probability theory. The Mathematics professor was awarded the 2007 Abel Prize by the Norwegian Academy of Sciences and Letters "for his fundamental contributions to probability theory and in particular for

creating a unified theory of large deviations". Armed with a master's degree (1960) from the University of Madras, Varadhan earned his doctorate (1963) from the Indian Statistical Institute in Calcutta.

In 1963, Varadhan came from India as a postdoctoral fellow to the Courant Institute in New York and never left. He is currently Professor of Mathematics and Frank J Gould Professor of Science at the Courant Institute of Mathematical Sciences. He was awarded the Birkhoff Prize (1994), the Margaret and Herman Sokol Award of the Faculty of Arts and Sciences, New York University (1995), and the Leroy Steele Prize (1996). In 2008, the Indian government awarded him the Padma



Sujatha Ramdorai

Bhushan.

Associated with the University of British Columbia, Canada, Sujatha Ramdorai is an algebraic number theorist known for her work on the Iwasawa theory. She is the first Indian to win the prestigious International Centre for Theoretical Physics Ramanujan Prize in 2006 and also a winner of the Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar Award in 2004. She is also the recipient of the 2020 Krieger-Nelson Prize for her exceptional contributions to mathematics research. Having served at the National Knowledge Commission from 2007-2009, Ramdorai is currently a Member of the Scientific Advisory Council to the Prime Minister of India and a Member of the National Innovation Council. Ramdorai did her Ph.D in the area of Quadratic forms over function fields and Witt rings of varieties from Tata Institute of Fundamental Research.

63rd Know India Programme (KIP)

✍ Dr. Ruchi Verma
Research Fellow DRRC-ARSP



On 6 of January 2023 (Friday) at the Pravasi Bhawan, Diaspora Research and Resource Centre (DRRC) – Antar Rashtriya Sahayog Parishad (ARSP) hosted an interactive session for the 39 participants of 63rd KIP batch from twelve countries namely- Fiji, Guyana, Mauritius, Myanmar, South Africa, Suriname, Sri Lanka, Trinidad & Tobago, Malaysia, Netherlands, Armenia and the United State of America. **H.E. Mr. Arunkoemar Hardien**, Ambassador of the Republic of Suriname, **Mr. Jaysen K. Ramasamy**, Chargé d' Affaires, Mauritius High Commission, and **Mr. Amizal Fadzli Rajali**, Charge d' Affaires, High Commission of Malaysia, graced the occasion with their presence. **Mr. Amardeep Barnwal**, Under Secretary, OIA-II, MEA also attended the event.

Prof. Gopal Arora, Secretary of ARSP introduced the works of ARSP and its linkages with diaspora for nearly five decades. He also informed them about the diaspora related activities organised by DRRC. He further elaborated on the important role played by civil societies in building bridges between people to people and people to government. He also informed the participants about the short term course on Indian

diaspora initiated by DRRC in collaborations with higher academic institutions.

Dr. Markandey Rai, Chairperson, Foreign Affairs Committee - ARSP briefed the participants about the important theme of 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam'. He highlighted that India has always believed in this philosophy of accepting world as one family and have promoted love, service and peace. India's indulgence in this core idea was also reflected during the covid times, when India selflessly helped the other countries. Dr. Rai also mentioned about the G20 and C20. He further added that youth involvement for the success of any activity is very important. They should be the torch bearers.

Prof. Shashi Bala, Joint Secretary, ARSP, while addressing the delegation emphasized on the social and scientific importance of Indian rituals. She further added that India has always thought of the betterment and upliftment of all and thus truly imbibes the philosophy of 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam'.

Amb Virendra Gupta, President, ARSP provided a broad overview of

the growth of Indian diaspora world over and its immense contribution. He highlighted that the KIP delegation plays a great role in filling the gap in India's outreach with the diaspora youth.

Heads of Mission and diplomatic representatives briefed the participants especially from the view point of their respective countries about the strengths of Indian economy, higher education, technology and the democratic institutions. They encouraged the participants that during the KIP attachment, they should learn about the way the Indian developmental processes were being carried out with significant opportunities and challenges.

H.E. Mr. Arunkoemar Hardien, Ambassador of Suriname, urged the KIP participants to use this KIP platform as a foundation to connect with diaspora youth. This is a great opportunity to engage and connect with India. He asked them to cherish these memories and share their wonderful experiences with others.

Mr. Amizal Fadzli Rajali, Charge d' Affaires, High Commission of Malaysia, added that initiatives such as Know India Programme help the

youth to gain exposure and knowledge. He asked the participants to spread awareness about this programme so that more diaspora youth can benefit from this scheme.

Mr. Jaysen K. Ramasamy, Chargé d' Affaires, Mauritius High Commission, briefed the participants that diaspora can play an important role in every sphere of life. He further added that KIP helps the PIO's youth to connect with their roots and get exposure about the Indian way of life.

During the interactive session the participants provided their views about India based on their various attachments. The participants were quite impressed with their visit not only to reconnect with their roots but also to witness what India had achieved in various spheres of socio,



economic development and technology. They said that they felt proud of these achievements, especially the economic growth, higher education, technology etc. They expressed that they are going back with rich experiences and memories.

Heads of Mission, diplomatic representatives and the participants appreciated the efforts of ARSP and DRRC not only for their outreach

initiatives but also for their campaign for creating an online database of diaspora organisations in India and abroad. They were also happy to learn that DRRC would support in publications of research and other articles by diaspora youth.

In the end, **Shri Narayan Kumar**, Hon. Director, ARSP in his concluding remarks acknowledged the contributions of Indian diaspora all over the world. He further added that youth are important pillar of any society and diaspora youth will play an important role in enhancing the image of India around the world.

The programme ended with a vote of thanks presented by **Dr Ruchi Verma**, Research Fellow, DRRC and distribution of certificates to the KIP batch for their active participation. ■

Amb. VIRENDRA GUPTA is RE-ELECTED AS PRESIDENT OF ARSP

At the Annual General Body Meeting of the Antar Rashtriya Sahayog Parishad was held on Friday 28 October, 2022 in Hybridmode. Ambassador Virendra Gupta was unanimously re-elected President of the next two years term

Members hailed the election of Amb. Virendra Gupta as President of ARSP. Amb. Virendra Gupta thanked the members and assured his fullest commitment to ARSP aims and objectives in the coming years.

The Following are the office bearers for the 2022-24.

1. **Amb. Virendra Gupta**
President
2. **Shri Nand Kishore Garg**
Sr. Vice-President
3. **Shri Mukesh Aggarwal**
Vice-President

- | | |
|---|---------------------------|
| 4. Shri Sanjay Bhalla
Vice-President | 12. Shri Narayan Kumar |
| 5. Shri Shyam Parande
Secretary General | 13. Smt. Shubha Singh |
| 6. Shri Gopal Arora
Secretary | 14. Shri Prabhat Kumar |
| 7. Dr. Shashi Bala
Joint Secretary | 15. Smt. Sushma Agrawal |
| 8. Shri Amit Gupta
Joint Secretary | 16. Dr. Rajni Sarin |
| 9. Shri Vipin Garg
Treasurer | 17. Prof. Ajay Dubey |
| | 18. Amb. Manju Seth |
| | 19. Shri Anil Joshi |
| | 20. Shri Raj Kumar Bhatia |
| | 21. Shri Alok Kumar |

Members of Managing Committee

10. Amb. J. S. Sapra
11. Amb. Anup Kumar Mudgal

64TH KNOW INDIA PROGRAMME (KIP)

✍ Dr. Ruchi Verma
Research Fellow DRRC-ARSP



Diaspora Research and Resource Centre (DRRC) – Antar Rashtriya Sahayog Parishad (ARSP) on 19 January 2023 hosted an interactive session for the 38 participants of 64th KIP batch from thirteen countries namely- Denmark, Fiji, Guyana, Mauritius, Myanmar, South Africa, Suriname, Thailand, Trinidad & Tobago, Malaysia, Netherlands, Israel and the United State of America at the Pravasi Bhawan.

H.E. Mr. Arunkoemar Hardien, Ambassador of the Republic of Suriname, **H.E Kamlesh Shashi Prakash**, High Commissioner of the Republic of Fiji, **Mrs. Tin Tin Htwe Win**, Deputy Chief of Mission, Embassy of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, **Mrs. RONALDA EDWARDS-HORATIO**, Chargé d' Affaires, Embassy of the Republic of Guyana, **Ms. Nuramira Akmal**, Counsellor (Political) & **Mr. Mohd Nazrul Kamarul Ariffin**, Counsellor (Information), High Commission of Malaysia, graced the occasion with their presence. **Mr. Amardeep Barnwal**, Under Secretary, OIA-II, MEA also attended the event.

Dr. Ruchi Verma, Research Fellow, DRRC introduced the works of ARSP

and its linkages with diaspora for nearly five decades. She also informed about the diaspora related activities organised by DRRC. She also informed the participants about the short term course on Indian diaspora initiated by DRRC in collaborations with higher academic institutions.

Amb Virendra Gupta, President, ARSP briefed the participants about the important theme of 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam'. This idea of helping others selflessly considering one as a family member is essential for the betterment of world. He also informed them about G20 and C20.

He then asked the participants to share their views on the topic. Almost all participants expressed their views. They mentioned that world is facing several problems but this concept is the key for uniting people. However, they also raised concern whether should one forsake one's national interests? Would it be considered selfish?

Dr. Shashibala, Joint Secretary, ARSP mentioned that to understand the concept of Vasudhaiva

Kutumbakam, one need to focus on the concept of family. Family is the very important unit of society. A well knitted family leads to well knitted society which leads to a united nation. She also added that India has always thought of the betterment and upliftment of all and thus truly imbibes the philosophy of 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam'.

Dr Sarita Boodhoo, Chairperson, Bhojpuri Speaking Union, Mauritius, termed the KIP group as a prime example of kutumb where youth from all over world are coming together to know about their mother country. She talked about the Indian diaspora in Mauritius and how they have preserved and propagated the Indian culture. One such tradition is 'Geet Gawai'- a musical ensemble that encapsulates the cultural heritage brought to Mauritius by Indian indentured immigrants. It is a combination of rituals, prayers, songs, music and dance. She further mentioned that the significance and importance of Geet Gawai has been recognised by UNESCO and in 2016 it was listed as the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity.

In the second session, Heads of

Mission and diplomatic representatives briefed the participants especially from the view point of their respective countries about the strengths of Indian economy, higher education, technology and the democratic institutions. They encouraged the participants that during the KIP attachment, they should learn about the way the Indian developmental processes were being carried out with significant opportunities and challenges.

H.E. Mr. Arunkoemar Hardien, Ambassador of Suriname encouraged the participants that during the KIP attachment, they should learn about the way the Indian developmental processes were being carried out with significant opportunities and challenges. Some of these experiences would also be very useful in their own countries and societies.

H. E. Kamlesh Shashi Prakash, High Commissioner of Fiji urged the KIP participants to use this KIP platform as a foundation to connect with diaspora youth. This is a great opportunity to engage and connect with India. He asked the participants to spread awareness about this programme so that more diaspora youth can benefit from this scheme.

Mrs. Tin Tin Htwe Win, Deputy Chief of Mission, Embassy of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, highlighted the vibrant relationship between India and Myanmar. She also suggested the KIP participants to use this KIP platform as a foundation to connect with diaspora youth as people to people connections are very important for any country's successful bilateral relations. This is a great opportunity to engage and connect with India.

Mrs. RONALDA EDWARDS-HORATIO, Chargé d' Affaires, Embassy of the

Republic of Guyana, briefed the participants about the thriving India-Guyana relationship. She mentioned about the recently held 17th Pravasi Bharatiya Divas in which the President of Guyana was the Chief Guest and where he was also conferred with the Pravasi Bharatiya

memories.

Mr T.N Malhotra, Senior ARSP member while interacting with the participants highlighted the importance of Yoga and mentioned that the art of yoga is the gift of India to the world. He demonstrated one of



Samman Award. She commended the KIP initiative and added that KIP helps the PIO's youth to connect with their roots and get exposure about the Indian way of life.

Mr. Mohd Nazrul Kamarul Ariffin, Counsellor, High Commission of Malaysia, added that initiatives such as Know India Programme help the youth to gain exposure and knowledge. He asked them to cherish these memories and share their wonderful experiences with others.

During the interactive session the participants provided their views about India based on their various attachments. The participants were quite impressed with their visit not only to reconnect with their roots but also to witness what India had achieved in various spheres of socio, economic development and technology. They said that they felt proud of these achievements, especially the economic growth, higher education, technology etc. They expressed that they are going back with rich experiences and

the asanas of yoga, in which participants also enthusiastically participated.

Heads of Mission, diplomatic representatives and the participants appreciated the efforts of ARSP and DRRC not only for their outreach initiatives but also for their campaign for creating an online database of diaspora organisations in India and abroad. They were also happy to learn that DRRC would support in publications of research and other articles by diaspora youth.

In the end, **Shri Narayan Kumar**, Hon. Director, ARSP in his concluding remarks acknowledged the contributions of Indian diaspora all over the world. He further added that youth are important pillar of any society and diaspora youth will play an important role in enhancing the image of India around the world.

The programme ended with a vote of thanks presented by **Dr Ruchi Verma**, Research Fellow, DRRC and distribution of certificates to the KIP batch for their active participation. ■

RECEPTION & DIALOGUE WITH DIASPORA



Diaspora Research and Resource Centre (DRRC), Antar Rashtriya Sahayog Parishad (ARSP), New Delhi has started a 'Dialogue with Diaspora' series in which, important members of Indian diaspora from different countries and relevant Indian experts are invited to share their ideas and experiences for deepening their engagement with India and for networking with global PIOs. As part of this series, fifteenth session on Indian Diaspora in Fiji was organised on Thursday, 9 February 2023 at Pravasi Bhawan.

The key speaker was Prof. Biman Prasad, Hon'ble Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance of the Republic of Fiji. A grand reception has also been organized in his honour. Hon'ble Deputy Prime Minister was accompanied by Mr. Shiri Krishna Gounder, Permanent Secretary for Ministry of Finance, H.E. Kamlesh Shashi Prakash, High Commissioner of the Republic of Fiji to India and Mr. Nilesh Roneel Kumar, Counselor, High Commission of the Republic of Fiji.

The programme was chaired by Amb. Virendra Gupta, President, ARSP and moderated by Prof. Gopal Arora, Secretary, ARSP. Shri Narayan Kumar, Hon. Director, Shri Sanjay Bhalla, Vice President, Dr Shashi Bala, Joint Secretary, Mr Anil Joshi, Vice President, Central Hindi Institute, Executive committee members of ARSP along with

representatives from various institutions, scholars and students joined in the discussion.

Amb. Virendra Gupta while welcoming the eminent guests, briefed the audience about the importance of Fiji-India relationship. He also mentioned Fiji is among the 5 countries where Indian diaspora population is amounting to 50 percent. He further mentioned that despite the political turmoil, Fiji has acquitted itself quite well. He also added that, with the formation of new government, we hope that India-Fiji relations would go to greater heights and peace and prosperity will be restored. Amb. Gupta also mentioned that the people of Indian origin will become the vehicle to take the nation to the greater heights.

Prof. Biman Prasad, Hon'ble Deputy Prime Minister fondly remembered his association with ARSP since the time of Shri Baleshwar Agrawal. He mentioned that over the past fifteen years, Fiji had not promoted ties with other democracies in the way that it should have been. Now this government is making attempts to focus on developing ties with other like-minded democracies like India. He expressed hope that Fiji and India will cooperate in ensuring common democratic values in the Indo-Pacific region, as the rise of India is a positive development for the Indo-Pacific region. He also highlighted the special link of the Indian community in

Fiji which arrived on the Pacific island in the late 19th century and has over time provided a special bond between the two countries.

Prof. Prasad was elated to announce that the government has recognized Hindi as one of the official language in the Parliament of Fiji. He also added that the 12th World Hindi conference which is hosted by the Fiji this year in February is commencing at a very opportune time. It will help in strengthening the roots of Hindi language in Fiji. He also

announced that the government has decided to commemorate the Indian Arrival Day officially every year in May and it would be called Girit Divas. It would be marked as a National holiday in Fiji in honour of the Indentured Indians. Prof. Prasad concluded by saying that transition in Fiji is not going to be easy but now the course has been set in the right path. Fiji is now on the way to engagement, sustainability and prosperity.

During the interactive session, questions in regard to the Fiji land acquisition system, means to restore the Fijian Hindi, and others were raised, which were appropriately answered. Some suggestions in regards to direct connectivity from Fiji to India and to raise awareness about available scholarships of Hindi for the Fijians were also made which have been taken into account.

The programme ended with the concluding remarks and vote of thanks presented by Shri Narayan Kumar, Hon. Director, ARSP. He praised the efforts of Fiji government for restoring the peace, unity and prosperity in Fiji. He also accolades the efforts of Fiji government in restoring the hindi language. In the end, he mentioned that in the leadership of Prof. Biman Prasad, he is assured that Fiji-India relationship will be strengthened. ■

INDIAN DIASPORA MUST CARRY INDIAN FLAG HIGH

The doors of Indian institutions are always open for the Indian diaspora who will be equal partners in 'Amrit Kaal'. More than three crore Indian origin people, the diaspora, live in all parts of the world. Some of them are heads of the states. Some are driving global tech behemoths. They are the brains in the laboratories world over for solutions to problems faced by humanities. The Indian diaspora is an asset to countries of their residences.

Former prime minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee first thought to connect with the Indian diaspora. Pravasi Bharat was conceptualised by him. The 17th edition of India's dialogue with diaspora took place in the cleanest city of India in Indore, Madhya Pradesh, which saw participation of over 3,000 people of Indian origin.

On January 9, 1915, Mahatma Gandhi had returned to India to serve his country in her struggle against British Rule. Late Vajpayee accorded the highest honour to the Indian diaspora by deciding that January 9 would be the 'Pravasi Bharat Diwas'.

The 17th edition of the Pravasi Bharat Diwas was hosted on the theme of the 'Indian diaspora reliable partner in Amrit Kaal'. The next 25 years will shape the destiny of India, and by the time the country celebrates 100 years of the Indian Independence, it will be a fitting tribute to Mahatma Gandhi and our freedom fighters to reclaim the glory that India was known for in the previous centuries before the Mughals and the British looted the wealth of the country.

The 3,500 participants of the Indian diaspora from 70 countries were joyous at the strides India has made in the recent years under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The vision for the country that late Vajpayee had shown to the Indian diaspora is now visibly taking shape before the eyes of the people of Indian origins.

The Indian Passport now brings global respect. The world has seen the strength of the Indian passport. The Indian diaspora in the previous decades needed the matinee star Manoj Kumar to tell the world what is India, as he hummed—"mein Bharat ka hun, Bharat ki baat sunata hun (I am from India, and tell stories from India)". Now, the sight of Indian passport tells stories of the achievements to the global audience loudly.

The Indian diaspora is no more slotted with the people of Pakistani origin, for even the Pakistan nationals fake even in the Muslim countries such as the UAE that they are Indians. This is on account of the Indian diaspora making firm imprints of their skills in whichever country they reside.

PM Modi was aware of late Vajpayee's vision for Diaspora connect when he made it a point that he would connect with them during each of his foreign visit. Thus, the Indian diaspora has been a companion of the Indian journey in the last eight and a half years since PM Modi took charge of the government at the Centre. PM Modi made no distinction between the

people in India and those who live abroad, as he gave an account of the achievements of the country to the Indian diaspora in full detail. He, thus, showed the commitment that the government is committed to the interests of the Indian diaspora.

The Indian diaspora has also been deeply connected with the country of their origin. They never gave up their roots. They were bound by a strong sense of belonging to the country. The success of the International Yoga Day, Ayurveda, the Indian classical music and dance, history of India, and many others have seen the participation of the Indian diaspora.

Now, Diwali and Holi are international festivals and so is Chatth. The White House in the US too celebrates Diwali and Holi. The tallest buildings in the world capitals celebrate the Indian festivals. India's Independence Day is now celebrated internationally.

PM Modi very deservedly called the Indian diaspora 'Rashtradoots'. He also rightly lauded the Indian diaspora for being the peaceful and disciplined citizens of the countries of their residences. This has indeed been a defining attribute of the Indian diaspora, for they only enrich the countries of the residences with their skills and culture.

Germany and Australia recently signed pacts with India for skills development and easing the migration of the trained manpower from India. The free trade agreements signed by India with



some of the countries such as the UAE, Australia, ASEAN, while the work is in progress in the case of the European Union, the UK and the US, have accorded top priority to the migration. The government under the leadership of PM Modi has ensured that the developed world benefits from the trained manpower of India. Indeed, the developed world is facing the grey tsunami, as they deal with an older population, and their economies would be banking heavily on the Indian manpower. The Indian economy too is transforming, having become the fifth largest economy, and the third big economy status too is within sight, which will be achieved within a few years.

The Indian diaspora will have to play a key role in the fast expansion of the economy, from \$5 trillion within a few

years to \$50 trillion by 2047, which will be incumbent upon rapid skilling. The Indian diaspora is already contributing to the skilling efforts of India and technology sharing. But that would be needed to scale up. A section of the Indian diaspora has deep emotional connections with the Indian institutions such as the IITs, IIMs, NITs and so on. Some of them are already scaling up their connections with these institutions. But many of them may have to decide that the time has come to take the roles of mentors to the students in laboratories and young entrepreneurs of startups to share their knowledge and skills to make the mission of the 'Make in India, Make for World' a grand success.

The global supply chain is undergoing a rejigging of the key

suppliers in the post-pandemic era. India during the pandemic showed that the country is a reliable partner to the world in times of crisis by ensuring that the Indian participation in the global supply chains was never disrupted even while the country went under the national lockdown briefly. The relevant Indian institutions are already considering the remote voting rights to the non-resident Indians. The government has also ensured that the Indian diaspora feels welcomed at places in the country they visit. India has ramped up ease of travel for the Indian diaspora. The doors of Indian institutions are always open for the Indian diaspora. They are equal partners of India in the 'Amrit Kaal'. The next 25 years will be the age of the Indian diaspora as well.

(Curtsey to The Pioneer) ■

REMITTANCES FROM OVERSEAS INDIANS INCREASED BY 12% TO \$100 billion in 2022

Underlining the contribution of non-resident Indians, Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman informed, remittances sent to the country by overseas Indians were about USD 100 billion for the year 2022, an increase of 12 per cent in one year. Speaking at a session during the Pravasi Bharatiya Divas (PBD) convention in Madhya Pradesh's Indore city, she described NRIs as the "real ambassadors of India" and appealed to them to use made in India products and services as far as possible so that the country's individual brand can be promoted across the globe. Sitharaman also said that after the "China plus one" policy, the world is now talking about

the "European Union (EU) plus one" policy. The government is strongly presenting India to multinational companies as a country where they can set up their factories apart from China and the EU, she said.

Sitharaman said the Indian diaspora should also partner with small and big businessmen of the country so that the entrepreneurial skills of NRIs can be harnessed in the next 25 years during the 'Amrit Kaal' of independence. The finance minister said, people thought Indian workers will not go back abroad after pandemic, they have not only gone back but more have gone for very useful employment and the

remittance in 2022 was one of the highest.

Citing the dominance of Indian professionals in information technology, digital technology, automobiles, semiconductor designing, pharmaceutical manufacturing and other fields, she further said the country is becoming a global hub of knowledge and progress."In the Amrit Kaal of independence, an aspirational India will focus on four "I" which include infrastructure, investment, innovation and inclusion," ■

(Curtsey to The Indian Express)

INDIANS SPENT Rs 35,500 CRORE TO OWN DUBAI HOMES IN 2022

The local real estate players say, the affluent India has a new residential address: Business Bay, Dubai. Armed with deep pockets and aspirations for a luxury lifestyle, wealthy Indians – mostly businessmen and entrepreneurs – are flying in, in droves, to pick up homes in this swanky financial district. The 2022 real estate data confirms the trend. The Dubai market earned 16 billion dirhams, or Rs 35,500 crore, from sales to Indians last year – which is almost double of what it netted in 2021, around 9 billion dirhams. A sizeable 40% of homebuyers were from India, the majority being from Delhi-NCR, Ahmedabad, Surat, Hyderabad and Punjab. The remaining were Indians living in the UAE (40%), and global Indians (20%) based in different parts of the world.

There is also a certain percentage of senior executives, with global roles, who are eyeing properties in Dubai because of its connectivity with the world, says the CEO of a real estate consultancy firm with operations in Dubai. He said many rich Indians are moving into highend rented apartments, ditching metro cities back home. The Dubai rental market that had witnessed a dip of 30%

during Covid-19 has now bounced back to 2015-16 levels, which was a peak period for the city's realty.

Vishal Goel, co-founder of JV Ventures says being based out of Dubai allows me to travel seamlessly between Hyderabad, Dubai and London for work. He notes that the fintech ecosystem offered by the Dubai International Financial Centre is another factor attracting several young Indian entrepreneurs to the city. My wife, for instance, was able to set up her fintech venture that allows her to tap into most global markets with ease. It is something she couldn't have done so effectively from India, says Goel, whose venture fund focuses on social assets and life sciences.

While the average cost of houses being bought by Indians ranges between 1.6 and 1.7 million dirhams (Rs 3.6 crore to Rs 3.8 crore), the monthly rents hover in the Rs 3 lakh to Rs 3.5 lakh bracket. Local realtors say that the average rental yield from properties in Dubai varies between 4% and 5%, similar to Mumbai.

Ashrat Chaudhury, director of strategy for Damac Properties, a leading real estate group in Dubai,

agrees. He says this is one of the reasons Damac has been drawingbuyers even from smaller towns of India, especially Punjab. "Our business from Indians grew by 2.5 times in 2022," he says, adding, "What we sold through the year in 2019 is what we sell in a month now." According to him, about 15% to 20% of Dubai's total realty sales is driven by the Indian community, which is one of the top two homebuyers in the city. The other top buyers are the Russians. The British, Chinese and Pakistani nationals are the other prominent international homebuyers in Dubai.

The Golden Visa programme – expanded in 2022 to include more workers, skilled professionals, scientists and researchers – has given an additional thrust to the growth of Dubai's realty, say industry analysts. The programme is a longterm residence visa that allows foreign talent to live, work or study in the UAE while enjoying exclusive benefits. In fact, the increase in demand from international homebuyers has led to more launches of apartment and villa projects in the city. ■

(Curtsey to The Times of India)

DAYS TO REMEMBER

in March, 2023

March 03 : Bulgaria - National Day

March 03 : World Wildlife Day

March 06 : Ghana-Independence Day

March 07 : **Paush Purnima** ■

March 08 : Holi

March 08 : International Women's day

March 12 : Mauritius - Republic Day

March 17 : Ireland - St. Patrick's Day

March 20 : Tunisia - Independence Day

March 21 : **Amavasya** ●

March 22 : World Water Day

March 26 : Bangladesh - Independence Day

विश्व को मां जैसा व्यवहार देकर वसुधैव कुटुम्बकम् को प्रतिष्ठित किया है भारत में - श्याम परांडे



राष्ट्रहित केंद्रित सत्यान्वेषी पुस्तकों की प्रदर्शनी और विषयानुगत ज्वलंत मुद्दों पर आधारित बहु आयामी पुस्तक चर्चाओं के साथ इंद्रप्रस्थ साहित्य महोत्सव -2022 दिनांक 16 दिसंबर से 18 दिसंबर तक दिल्ली के इंदिरा गांधी राष्ट्रीय कला केंद्र में आयोजित किया गया। हिमाचल के माननीय राज्यपाल श्री राजेंद्र विश्वनाथ अर्लेकर, विश्व शांति दूत जैनाचार्य डा. लोकेश मुनि जी महाराज, अखिल भारतीय इतिहास संकलन योजना के सचिव श्री बालमुकुंद पांडे जी, सूचना आयुक्त भारत सरकार श्री उदय माहुरकर, सूचना एवं जनसंचार विभाग भारत सरकार के श्री संजय द्विवेदी, पद्मश्री श्री जवाहर लाल कॉल, राष्ट्रीय अल्पसंख्यक आयोग के पूर्व अध्यक्ष श्री भगवान लाल साहनी, श्री देवेन्द्र सिंह तोमर, लोकेश शर्मा और अजय पंवार के साथ अतिथियों ने दीप जलाकर प्रदर्शनी उदघाटन के साथ स्कूली बच्चों की योगासनो से परिपूर्ण गणेश स्तुति और विकास पांडे के द्वारा सरस्वती वंदना से अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय सहयोग परिषद की सहभागिता में शुरु हुआ इंद्रप्रस्थ साहित्य महोत्सव। कार्यक्रम का शुभारंभ करते हुए माननीय राज्यपाल ने कहा कि पुस्तक ही संस्कृति है और पुस्तक मित्र भी है।

किसी राष्ट्र की संस्कृति उसके साहित्य से ही प्रवाहमान होती है। पुस्तक देवो भव का मंत्र माननीय राज्यपाल जी ने दिया और इंडिया नालेज सेंटर बनाने का आहवान किया। जैनाचार्य डा. लोकेश मुनि जी ने कहा कि जैसे सूर्य से अंधकार समाप्त हो जाता है ठीक वैसे ही साहित्य से अज्ञान दूर हो जाता है और वसुधैव कुटुम्बकम् आधारित भारतीय संस्कृति विश्व को उत्कृष्ट साहित्य देकर चहुंओर ज्ञान का प्रकाश फैलाकर अज्ञान के अंधकार को दूर कर रही है।

वहीं कार्यक्रम में पधारे माननीय संस्कृति राज्यमंत्री श्री अर्जुनराम मेघवाल जी ने विकसित भारत का लक्ष्य भारतीय नारी विषय पर बोलते हुए कहा कि जब विवेकानंद बने विविदिशानंद को शिकागो विश्व धर्म सम्मेलन के लिए खेतड़ी के महाराजा अजीतसिंह ने पगड़ी धारण कराई उस समय विवेकानंद केवल पुरुषों से ही मिलते थे महिलाओं से नहीं लेकिन दासी मैना बाई के दिए भजन बद्ध सूत्र ने विवेकानंद को विवेकानंद बना दिया। विवेकानंद ने उसी दिन समझा कि वह तो मातृशक्ति को बिसराकर ईश्वर की बनाई आधी सृष्टि के प्रति अज्ञानी थे और उसके बाद शिकागो में भाइयों और बहनों शब्द से संबोधन कर उन्होंने पूरी दुनिया में वसुधैव कुटुम्बकम् आधारित भारतीय संस्कृति को प्रतिष्ठित किया।

कार्यक्रम में अंतर्राष्ट्रीय सहयोग परिषद के अध्यक्ष पूर्व राजदूत वीरेन्द्र गुप्ता ने कहा कि सम्पूर्ण विश्व हमारा परिवार है और दुनिया में भारत ही परिवार व्यवस्था को प्रतिष्ठित करता है, पूरे विश्व को एक कुटुम्ब मानता है। परिषद के मानद निदेशक नारायण कुमार ने कहा कि कला, साहित्य और संगीत से भरी भारतीय संस्कृति विश्व के सभी प्राणियों में उल्लास, उत्साह और उर्जा का निरंतर प्रवाह बनाए रखती है उन्होंने कार्यक्रम में बिहार से पधारी प्रसिद्ध युवा गायिका मैथिली ठाकुर का उदाहरण देते हुए कहा कि भारत का युवा वर्ग पूरे विश्व में अपनी प्रतिभा और पुरुषार्थ से हर क्षेत्र में भारत की वसुधैव कुटुम्बकम् संस्कृति को स्थापित कर रहा है।

वसुधैव कुटुम्बकम् पर भारत मां के स्वरूप का वर्णन करते हुए परिषद के महासचिव श्री श्याम परांडे ने कहा कि जैसे मां सभी बच्चों के खान-पान, स्वास्थ्य और विकास का हर संभव

प्रयास करती है, ठीक उसी प्रकार भारत मां भी सम्पूर्ण विश्व की मां की भांति निशुल्क वैक्सीन देकर, खाद्य सामग्री देकर और दो देशों के बीच युद्ध को रुकवा कर छात्रों को सुरक्षित निकालकर विश्व कुटुम्ब की मां का परिचय दे रही है और यही है भारतीय संस्कृति का वसुधैव कुटुम्बकम् स्वरूप। उन्होंने कहा कि विश्व परिवार में शांति, सौहार्द और प्रेम को प्रतिष्ठित करती है भारतीय संस्कृति।

कार्यक्रम का संचालन करते हुए लोकेश शर्मा ने कहा कि भारत और भारतीय संस्कृति विश्व की मां है इसीलिए संसार में वात्सल्य और मानवता से भरा एक परिवार सा व्यवहार है और अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय सहयोग परिषद विश्व में फैले प्रवासी भारतीयों को संजोकर, सूत्रबद्ध कर भारतीयता के मातृ स्वरूप को, वसुधैव कुटुम्बकम् को प्रतिष्ठित कर रही है।

कार्यक्रम का समापन करते हुए संघ प्रचारक माननीय श्री इंद्रेश कुमार जी ने अपने संदेश में कहा कि इंद्रप्रस्थ साहित्य महोत्सव एक शुरुआत है। संस्कृति और साहित्य स्थापत्य के लिए एक बीजारोपण है। जिस दिन यह बीज पौधा बनकर वटवृक्ष बनेगा विश्व पटल पर भारत को श्रेष्ठता के शिखर पर स्थापित होते संसार देखेगा और तब भारत के वसुधैव कुटुम्बकम् सूत्र को विश्व साकार होते देखेगा। परमार्थ निकेतन, ऋषिकेश के परमाध्यक्ष पूज्य स्वामी श्री चिदानंद सरस्वती जी ने अपने संदेश में इंद्रप्रस्थ साहित्य महोत्सव को बधाई दी और कहा कि भारतीय संस्कृति और साहित्य विश्व में सर्वश्रेष्ठ है भारत विश्व गुरु था, विश्व गुरु है और विश्व गुरु रहेगा और इसका मूल मंत्र है वसुधैव कुटुम्बकम्। कार्यक्रम संयोजक देवेन्द्र सिंह तोमर ने अतिथियों, आगंतुकों और आयोजकों का धन्यवाद ज्ञापन कर कार्यक्रम का समापन किया।

‘गीत गवई’ लोकसांस्कृतिक गीतों की व्याख्या है

प्रो. चन्दन कुमार
कला संकाय, दिल्ली विश्वविद्यालय



दो सौ वर्ष पूर्व भोजपुरी क्षेत्र से गिरमिटिया मजदूरों के रूप में गिरमिटिया/अग्रीमेंट मॉरीशस ले जाए गए भोजपुरी भाषी समुदाय की सांस्कृतिक स्मृति का पाठ है यह पुस्तक। देखिये 32 वर्ष पूर्व हमने भी भोजपुरी क्षेत्र छोड़ा है। 200 वर्ष पूर्व सरिता जी के पूर्वजों को भी भोजपुरी क्षेत्र छोड़वाया गया। हमें भी लगभग छोड़ा ही गया था। हमारे कारण राजनीतिक रहे। एक खास किस्म की राजनीति 90 के दशक में बिहार और उत्तर प्रदेश में चली। हमारा प्रवासन उस राजनीति का निष्कर्ष था। खैर विष के दांत अब निकाल दिए गए हैं। उसमें मैं नहीं जाऊंगा पर यह पीड़ा मुझे सरिता जी से जोड़ती रही। धर्मवीर भारती के शब्दों को उधार लूं तो इस पुस्तक को पढ़ना मेरे लिए वैसा ही रहा जैसे पीड़ा के समय में पूरी आस्था से प्रार्थना करना। यह पुस्तक उस पाठ का संकलन है जो सांझा, पराती, सोहर, विवाहगीत, लगनगीत, तिलकगीत, परिछावन, गारी- राम जी से पूछे जनकपुर के नारी, बता द बबुआ लोगवा देत कहे गारी, बता द बबुआ!! तोहरा से पूछूँ मैं ओ धनुषधारी, एक भाई गोर काहे एक काहे कारी, बता द बबुआ लोगवा देत कहे गारी, बता द बबुआ!! में अपने होने को व्याख्यायित करती है, सरिता बुधू जी की यह पुस्तक अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय सहयोग परिषद के सौजन्य से प्रकाशित हुई है, पुस्तक न केवल भोजपुरी लोकसांस्कृतिक गीतों की संकलन और व्याख्या है अपितु UNESCO द्वारा Intangible Cultural Heritage अमूर्त सांस्कृतिक विरासत के रूप में स्वीकृत ‘गीत गवई’ की पृष्ठभूमि और विकास की भी व्याख्या है। आपको पता है कि संयुक्त राष्ट्र संघ की संस्था UNESCO पूरी दुनिया में सांस्कृतिक सातत्यता और दाय में मिली कला और प्रदर्शनकारी कलाओं, वाचिक परम्पराओं, उत्सवों के संरक्षण के लिए Intangible Cultural Heritage की कोटि बनाकर उन्हें

संरक्षित करने का प्रयास करती है। गीत गवई की विधा इसी Intangible Cultural Heritage अमूर्त सांस्कृतिक विरासत की कोटि में है। भोजपुरी क्षेत्र में गीत-गवनी है। गीत-गवनिहारीन है, जो मॉरीशस में गीत-गवई हो गया। यह पुस्तक लगभग दो सौ वर्ष पूर्व भोजपुरी क्षेत्र से बंधुआ मजदूर बनाकर ले जाए गए उन हजारों आप्रवासियों के सामूहिक स्मृति की कथा है। दुश्मन ताकतवर था। उसके राज्य में सूरज डूबता नहीं था। उसकी आस्था सेमेटिक थी। धजा-ध्वजा महाबीर जी-हनुमान जी औपनिवेशिक शक्ति का प्रतिपक्ष बनते थे। एक तरफ भोजपुरी क्षेत्र का मजदूर, उनकी स्त्रियां और दूसरी तरफ ताकत, सत्ता और पूंजी के घोड़े पर सवार सेमेटिक आस्था/सामी मूल्यबोध, गीत-गवई सांस्कृतिक ढाल बन करके आया। बिजली के अभाव में, घर के अभाव में, शिक्षा के अभाव में, भोजपुरी क्षेत्र से ले जाई गयीं गिरमिटिया मजदूर महिलाएं सांझा-पराती गाकर, बिआह गीत गाकर, गारी गाकर अपने होने को सिद्ध करती रहीं। यह पुस्तक उसी सुख-दुःख, हर्ष-विषाद, स्मृति-विस्मृति के अनुभवों का दस्तावेजीकरण है। लगभग 300 पेज की पुस्तक 35 अध्यायों में विभक्त है। 35वां अध्याय तो Bibliography ग्रन्थसूची है। सामान्यतया पुस्तकों की ग्रन्थसूची पढ़ने लायक नहीं होती लेकिन बिना किसी ठकुरसुहाती के कहूँ तो पूरी पुस्तक-Forward से लेकर Acknowledgement तक-प्रस्तावना से लेकर आभार तक मुझे बांधे रही।

कलकतवा से चलत जहजवा से लेकर ओढ़ के गोनी अंगाजे रहल भैया तक यानी A Goni to cover ourselves And slept on chattayi(mats) अंगाजे मारिसियन क्रियोल और मारीसियन भोजपुरी में गिरमिटिया मजदूर

के लिए प्रयुक्त शब्द है। एक बात बताऊँ आपको? जिस मूल्यबोध को हम संस्कृति कहते हैं ना वो कमजोर और गरीब आदमी के बड़प्पन और जिद से बची हुई है। यह वहीं आदमी है जो कथरी में, कमरी में, रजाई में, बोरी में, लेवा में, कलेवा में, कुम्भ में मिलता है, काशी में मिलता है, कार्बी-आबलांग के घोर हिन्दी विरोधी क्षेत्र में हिन्दी-भोजपुरी बोलते हुए मिलता है। मॉरीशस में, सूरीनाम में, त्रिनिदाद में, गुयाना में, फिजी में महादेव गीत गाते मिलता है- पूरइन पात पर सुते ली गरूरा देई, सपना देखे ला अजगूत!! अजगूत Unparallel, आरा से मारीशस की दूरी 4,673 किलोमीटर है। 180 साल पहले 36 भोजपुरी बोलने वाले गिरमिटिया मजदूरों का पहला दल मारीशस की धरती पर उतरा। लगभग 5000 किलोमीटर की यात्रा में सपना देखे ली अजगूत से सपना देखे ला अजगूत बस इतना ही बदला है पर अजगूत सपने देखने की आदत नहीं गयी है। अजगूत- Unparallel- मुकाबलाहीन सपना। मेरे लिए इस पुस्तक को पढ़ना उस Unparallel सपने को भी पढ़ना रहा, सरिता जी की ससुराल पक्ष के लोग आरा से गए हैं और यह सम्बन्ध जोड़ूँ तो मैं ससुराल पक्ष से आता हूँ। सरिता जी के मायके वाले बलिया से गए हैं। ससुराल पक्ष से आने के कारण मैं यह कह सकता हूँ कि Lots of Congratulations to this 80 year young Girl for this book-हीयरा जुड़ा गईल। एक बात बताऊँ आपको? यह कोई पक्षपात नहीं कर रहा हूँ। भोजपुरी क्षेत्र के लोगों में गजब का Survival Instinct होता है। Survival Instinct समझते हैं? अटल जी के शब्दों को उधार लूँ तो-हार नहीं मानूंगा, रार नई ठानूंगा, काल के कपाल पर, लिखता मिटाता हूँ, गीत नया गाता हूँ!!

सरिता जी की यह पुस्तक ‘गीत गवई’ उसी

सांस्कृतिक स्मृति का गीत है, विपरीत परिस्थितियों में अपनी आस्था और सपने की जिद को बचाए रखने का दस्तावेजीकरण है। आप लक्ष्मण श्री कृष्ण भिड़े जी, बालेश्वर अग्रवाल जी के संवाद में रही है। हिन्दू होने के नाते मैं कह सकता हूँ कि इस पुस्तक के प्रकाशन और विमोचन पर्व पर वे महान

आत्माएं भी प्रफुल्लित होंगी। यह पुस्तक मूलतः अंग्रेजी में लिखित है किन्तु गीतों का संग्रह देवनागरी में है, साथ ही साथ उन्हें रोमन में लिखा गया है और अंग्रेजी अनुवाद भी दिया हुआ है। पुस्तक आप सबको पढ़नी चाहिए। आदरणीय रामबहादुर राय जी और श्याम परांडे जी का आभारी हूँ जिन्होंने पुस्तक पर

बोलने के बहाने से इसे पढ़ने का अवसर दिया। यह पुस्तक भूलने के विरुद्ध एक तर्क है। पुस्तक पढ़ते हुए मुझे लगा कि चीजें नहीं भूलती, हम उनकी जगह भूल जाते हैं और भोजपुरी तो मेरा लरिकाई का इश्क है—लरिकाई के प्रेम कहो अली कैसे छूटे!! आप सबको बहुत—बहुत धन्यवाद। प्रणाम।

‘हिंदी विश्व की महत्वपूर्ण भाषा के रूप में स्थापित

✍ जवाहर कर्नावट



हिंदी अंतर्राष्ट्रीय भाषा के रूप में भारत सहित विश्व के कई देशों में बोली जाने वाली एक महत्वपूर्ण भाषा के रूप में स्थापित हो गई है। हिंदी का विस्तार अनवरत जारी है। यहीं सही समय है जब हमें पूरी आधुनिकता के साथ वैश्विक स्तर पर हिंदी को रोजगार की भाषा के रूप में स्थापित करना चाहिए।

उक्त उद्गार लिस्बन विश्वविद्यालय, पुर्तगाल से भारत प्रवास पर आये डॉ. शिवकुमार सिंह ने प्रवासी दिवस एवं विश्व हिंदी दिवस के उपलक्ष्य में प्रवासी भारतीय साहित्य एवं संस्कृति शोध केंद्र, रबीन्द्रनाथ टैगोर विश्वविद्यालय, भोपाल द्वारा ‘विश्व में हिंदी : हिंदी का विश्व’ विषय पर विश्वविद्यालय परिसर में आयोजित ‘परिसंवाद’ को संबोधित करते हुए व्यक्त किए। इस अवसर पर आपने प्रस्तुतीकरण के माध्यम से भाषा के विकास की ऐतिहासिक पृष्ठभूमि को बहुत ही रचनात्मकता के साथ रखा। कार्यक्रम की अध्यक्षता विश्वविद्यालय के कुलाधिपति एवं विश्व रंग के निदेशक श्री संतोष चौबे ने की।

प्रारंभ में प्रवासी साहित्य शोध केंद्र के सलाहकार डॉ. जवाहर कर्नावट ने विषय प्रवर्तन करते हुए प्रवासी दिवस एवं विश्व हिंदी दिवस की महत्ता पर प्रकाश डाला।

कार्यक्रम के मुख्य अतिथि अंतर्राष्ट्रीय सहयोग परिषद, नई दिल्ली के मानद निदेशक श्री नारायण कुमार ने कहा कि आज के समय में हिंदी विश्व के इतने देशों में बोली जा रही हैं कि हम गर्व से कह सकते हैं कि हिंदी के राज में अब सूर्यास्त नहीं होता। आपने आगे कहा कि विश्व में हिंदी का प्रचार-प्रसार भारतीय विद्वानों सहित विदेशी विद्वानों ने भी किया है।

कार्यक्रम की अध्यक्षता करते हुए श्री संतोष चौबे ने कहा कि हिंदी भाषा एवं सभी सहोदर भाषाएँ—बोलियाँ हमारी साझी भारतीय सांस्कृतिक विरासत का संपूर्ण विश्व में प्रतिनिधित्व करती हैं। भाषा ही संस्कृति हैं। भाषा का विस्तार सांस्कृतिक विस्तार से ही संभव है। आपने इस अवसर पर विश्व रंग की आवधारणा पर भी अपने विचार व्यक्त किए।

इस अवसर पर श्री नारायण कुमार एवं डॉ. शिवकुमार सिंह को विश्वविद्यालय की ओर से प्रतीक चिन्ह एवं विश्व रंग की महत्वपूर्ण सामग्री प्रदान कर सम्मानित किया गया।

डॉ. संगीता जौहरी, प्रतिकूलपति, रबीन्द्रनाथ टैगोर विश्वविद्यालय ने स्वागत उद्बोधन दिया। विश्व हिंदी दिवस के अवसर पर माननीय प्रधानमंत्री श्री नरेन्द्र मोदी जी द्वारा दिये गए संदेश का वाचन भी आपके द्वारा किया गया।

डॉ. मौसमी परिहार, समन्वयक, प्रवासी भारतीय साहित्य एवं संस्कृति शोध केंद्र द्वारा कार्यक्रम के अंत में सभी के प्रति आभार व्यक्त किया गया।

उल्लेखनीय है कि इस अवसर पर वरिष्ठ शिक्षाविद, डॉ. वी. के. वर्मा, प्रो. अमिताभ सक्सेना, कुलपति, डॉ. ब्रह्म प्रकाश पेटिया, टैगोर विश्व कला एवं संस्कृति केंद्र के निदेशक, श्री विनय उपाध्याय सहित बड़ी संख्या में रचनाकार, डीन, विभागाध्यक्ष, फ़ैकल्टी मेंबर, विद्यार्थीगण उपस्थित रहें।



भारतीय स्वाधीनता के अमृत महोत्सव के अवसर पर विशेष



खुदीराम बोस
(3 दिसंबर, 1889-11 अगस्त 1908)

इस साल हम ब्रिटिश राज से आजादी का 75वां स्वतंत्रता दिवस मना रहे हैं। इस आजादी के अनेकों देशप्रेमियों ने अपनी जान की बाजी लगाई थी। उन्हीं में एक थे खुदीराम बोस। भारत का वो वीर, जिसने सिर्फ 18 साल की उम्र में हंसते-हंसते फांसी को गले लगाया। खुदीराम बोस का जन्म 3 दिसंबर, 1889 को बंगाल में मिदनापुर जिले के हबीबपुर गांव में हुआ था। अपने स्कूल के दिनों में खुदीराम बोस आजादी के लिए आंदलों में शामिल हो गए थे। अंग्रेजों ने 18 साल के युवा की आंखों में भारत की आजादी का जुनून देखा था। महज 18 साल की उम्र में 11 अगस्त 1908 को क्रांतीकारी खुदीराम बोस को फांसी दे दी गई थी। खुदीराम बोस हंसते-हंसते फांसी चढ़ गए थे।



Ekbaar biday de ma ghure ashi

Ekbaar biday de ma ghure ashi
Hasi hasi porbo phnashi dekhbe bharatbasi
Koler boma toiri kore
Dnariye chhilam rastar dhare Ma go
Borolatke marte giye
Marlam aarek Englandbashi
Haate jodi thakto chhora
Tor Khudi ki porto dhora
Rokte-mangshe ek koritam
Dekhto jagatbashi
Shonibaar bela doshtar pore
Judgecourtete lok na dhore Ma go
Holo Abhiram-er dwip chalan Ma
Khudiram-er phnashi
Baro lokkho tetris koti
Roilo Ma tor beta beti
tader niye ghor koris Ma
Oder koris dasi
Dosh mash dosh din pore
Jonmo nebo mashir ghore Ma go
Tokhon jodi na chinte paris
Dekhbi golay phnashi

एकबार विदाय दे माँ घूमकर आऊँ

एकबार विदाय दे माँ घूमकर आऊँ।
हँसते-हँसते पहनेंगे ' फाँसी देखेंगे भारतवासी।
कल से बम बनाकर
खड़ा था रास्ते किनारे हे माँ,
बड़े लाट को मारने जाकर
मार दिया एक और इंग्लैंडवासी को
हाथ में अगर होती छुरा
क्या तेरा क्षुदी जाता पकड़ा हे मा
रक्त-मांस एक करता
देखते जगतवासी।
शनिवार को रात दसबजे को
हाईकोर्ट में लोगों की भीर में हे माँ
हुई अभिराम का द्वीप-चालान (कालापानी में)
क्षुदीराम को हुआ फाँसी
बारह लाख तैतीस करोड़
रह गए तुम्हारे बेटा-बेटी हे मा
उन्हीं से घर चलाओ माँ
बहुओं को बनाए रखो दासी
दस मास दस दिन बाद
जन्म लुंगा (किसी और) मौसी के घर
तब अगर मुझे पहचान न पाओ
देखोगे गले में फाँसी