

ANTAR RASHTRIYA SAHAYOG PARISHAD BULLETIN

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HAPPY NEW YEAR PRIME MINISTER MODI AND OTHER LEADERS EXPRESSED GRATITUDE TO INDIAN DIASPORA ON PBD

In a show of appreciation, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and key government figures expressed gratitude to the Indian diaspora on Pravasi Bharatiya Diwas, acknowledging their pivotal role in preserving India's rich heritage and strengthening global connections.

PM Modi took to social media, stating, "Greetings on Pravasi Bharatiya Diwas. This is a day to celebrate the contributions and achievements of the Indian diaspora worldwide. Their dedication towards preserving our rich heritage and strengthening global ties is commendable. They embody the spirit of India across the globe, fostering a sense of unity and diversity."

Greetings on Pravasi Bharatiya Diwas. This is a day to celebrate the contributions and achievements of the Indian diaspora worldwide. Their dedication towards preserving our rich heritage and strengthening global ties is commendable. They embody the spirit of India across the globe, fostering a sense of unity and diversity. - MP Narendra Modi

Minister of External Affairs S Jaishankar echoed these sentiments, recognizing the significant accomplishments of the Indian diaspora and their crucial role in enhancing India's global standing. He shared his message on social media, saying, "On Pravasi Bharatiya Diwas, greetings to the Indian Diaspora across the world. We take immense

pride in your achievements. Your outstanding contributions play a crucial role in enhancing India's global standing."

Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan joined in conveying his greetings, praising the diaspora as ambassadors of Indian culture and values. He noted their lasting impact worldwide, with their talent and hard work contributing not only to the countries they reside in but also elevating India's global prominence. Minister Pradhan shared his wishes on social media, saying, "Greetings to the vibrant Indian diaspora across the globe on #PravasiBharatiyaDivas. As ambassadors of our rich culture and values, they have made a lasting impact worldwide."

Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla extended his wishes, expressing happiness on Pravasi Bharatiya Diwas. He commended the expatriates for strengthening the Indian culture of "Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam" worldwide and wished for their continued significant role in India's all-round development. Speaker Birla shared his wishes on social media, stating, "Happy Pravasi Bharatiya Diwas to the expatriate brothers and sisters who are strengthening the Indian culture of 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam' all over the world. Despite living away from the country, India resides in his heart. It is our wish that they continue to play an important role in the all-round



development of India."

Pravasi Bharatiya Divas, celebrated on January 9 every year, commemorates the Overseas Indian community's contribution to India's development. The date holds significance as Mahatma Gandhi, a prominent Pravasi, returned to India from South Africa on January 9, 1915. The event is sponsored by the Ministry of External Affairs.

The importance of Pravasi Bharatiya Divas

The Government of India has started locating and establishing networks since 1999, when two new visa status cards, were launched for PIOS and OCIS. The basic reason behind this was to facilitate the diaspora population to travel across the home country, invest in business, property, and hold bank accounts. But in 2000, the government commissioned a high-level committee under the chairmanship of Dr. L.M. Singhvi to write a report on the diaspora. On 8th January 2002, the India's Prime Minister Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee

accepted the High-Level L.M. Singvi Committees' recommendations on the Indian Diaspora. The committee proposed to establish or formation of an organization on the subject of the Planning Commission to see the affairs of overseas Indians and Indian diaspora population.

Based on the recommendations, the government under Prime Minister Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee had announced to celebrate Pravasi Bharatiya Divas (PBD) in India and abroad on the 9th January every year. January 9 was chosen as the day to celebrate this occasion since it was on this day in 1915 that Mahatma Gandhi, the greatest Pravasi, returned to India from South Africa,

led India's freedom struggle and changed the lives of Indians forever. Since 2015, its format has been revised to celebrate the PBD once every two years and to hold theme-based PBD Conferences during the intervening period with participation from overseas diaspora experts, policymakers and stakeholders. These conventions provide a platform for the overseas Indian community to engage with the government and people of the land of their ancestors for mutually beneficial activities. These conventions are also very useful in networking among the overseas Indian community residing in various parts of the world and enable them to share their experiences in various fields.

Chief Guest, H.E. Dr. Mohamed Irfaan Ali, the President of Cooperative Republic of Guyana, and the Special Guest of Honour, H.E. Mr. Chandrikapersad Santokhi, Hon'ble President of the Republic of Suriname.

During the event, Hon'ble Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi released a Commemorative Postal Stamp named "Surakshit Jaayen, Prashikshit Jaayen" emphasizing the importance of safe, legal, orderly and skilled migration. Hon'ble Prime Minister also inaugurated the first-ever digital PBD Exhibition on the theme "Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav - Contribution of Diaspora in Indian Freedom Struggle" highlighting the contribution of diaspora freedom fighters in India's Independence.

Hon'ble Rashtrapati ji, Smt. Droupadi Murmu presided over the Valedictory Session and conferred Pravasi Bharatiya Samman Awards 2023 to select Indian diaspora members to recognize their achievements and honor their contributions to various fields, both in India and abroad.

The 17th PBD Convention had five thematic Plenary sessions with participation of diaspora experts. The Plenary sessions were chaired at Ministerial level and discussed developments in the fields of innovation, new technology, healthcare, mobility of the workforce, entrepreneurship and envisaged how diaspora can be an active partner in their sector.

The other elements of the 17th Pravasi Bharatiya Divas included a Youth segment and a State segment, which were organized on January 8, 2023. H.E. Ms. Zaneta Mascarenhas, Member of Parliament of Australia, was the Guest of Honour at the Youth Pravasi Bharatiya Divas, which provided a platform for youth from all over India to interact and engage with the Diaspora Youth. The State of Madhya Pradesh showcased its culture, tourism, trade, and investment opportunities to the Diaspora participating in the PBD Convention.

Seventeen PBDs

The Ministry of External Affairs organizes an annual event called the PBD Convention from the 7th to 9th of January to connect India to its overseas diaspora and provide a platform for their knowledge, expertise, and skills. This flagship event has been held seventeen times in various locations throughout India since its inception in 2003.

Year	Dates	Venue
2003	9-11 January, 2003	New Delhi
2004	9-11 January, 2004	New Delhi
2005	7-9 January, 2005	Mumbai
2006	7-9 January, 2006	Hyderabad
2007	7-9 January, 2007	New Delhi
2008	7-9 January, 2008	New Delhi
2009	7-9 January, 2009	Chennai
2010	7-9 January, 2010	New Delhi
2011	7-9 January, 2011	New Delhi
2012	7-9 January, 2012	Jaipur
2013	7-9 January, 2013	Kochi
2014	7-9 January, 2014	New Delhi
2015	7-9 January, 2015	Gandhinagar
2017	7-9 January, 2017	Bengaluru
2019	21-23 January, 2019	Varanasi
2021	9 January, 2021	Virtual
2023	8-10 January, 2023	Indore
2024	6 January, 2024	Lier (Oslo)

The 17th PBD Convention was held from January 8 to 10, 2023 in Indore, Madhya Pradesh as a Partner State. The theme for the 17th PBD was "Diaspora: Reliable Partners for India's Progress in Amrit Kaal". The PBD Convention was inaugurated by the Hon'ble Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, in the presence of

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TELUGU DIASPORA : A DIALOGUE WITH DISTINGUISHED TELUGU SCHOLARS ACROSS THE GLOBE

✍ Dr. Sanjeev Panchal

Diaspora Research and Resource Centre (DRRC) of Antar Rashtriya Sahayog Parishad (ARSP) organized a hybrid-mode session with the Telugu Diaspora that took place on Sunday, 17 December 2023, at Pravasi Bhawan, New Delhi. Distinguished scholars and personalities from various fields, both in India and abroad, graced the event with their presence. The meeting aimed to explore the background, activities, achievements, and challenges faced by the Telugu Diaspora.

Shri Narayan Kumar, Honorary Director, ARSP gives an overview of Antar Rashtriya Sahayog Parishad (ARSP) (Indian Council for International Co-operation) where he said ARSP has done pioneering work over the last 50 years in promoting and expanding India's outreach with its diaspora and in further facilitating contacts and engagements at different levels. In recognition of the diaspora as an important source of goodwill through people to people contacts, Diaspora Research and Resource Centre (DRRC) of ARSP has been established in the year 2017 with the support of the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India. In this meaningful journey to engage with various diaspora communities. As part of our ongoing initiative, we have already organized dialogue with Punjabi Diaspora and Gujarati Diaspora, the Tamil-speaking and Marathi diaspora are in the pipeline.

The objective of the Dialogue :



The primary objective of the "Dialogue with Diaspora" initiative is to foster understanding, connectivity, and interaction with different diaspora communities. The focus of this report is on the Telugu Diaspora, a vibrant and widespread community contributing significantly to the global landscape.

Distinguished Scholars in Attendance :

Shri Sada Shiva Murthy Rani (Vice Chancellor, Vedic University, Tirupathi), Tanikella Bharani (Indian Actor, Director, Screenwriter, and Playwright), Ram Dokka, Smt Hymavathi Bhimanna Garu, Prasad Rani, Vijaya Saradhi Jeedigunta Garu, Vijay Bhaskar Rayavarapu Garu, Dr. Ragasudha Vinjamuri, Phani Dokka, Bhavaraju Padmini Priyadarshini, Visali Kothuri (Peri), Akella Raghavendra, Prof. C. Upendara Rao, Sri Shyam Parande, Shri Narayan Kumar, Dr. Sanjeev Panchal

Proceedings of the Meeting :

The event commenced with the welcome address by the Amb. Virendra Gupta, President of ARSP, who emphasized the significance of the dialogue and encouraged

scholars to share their insights. Shyam Parande ji facilitated discussions on the Telugu Diaspora's future prospects and benefits arising from collaborative efforts.

Key Highlights:

Insights from Shri Sada Shiva Murthy Rani:

Shri Sada Shiva Murthy Rani, serving as the Vice Chancellor of Vedic University in Tirupathi, initiated the meeting by sharing his insights. Grounded in the principle of Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam, this eminent scholar of Sanskrit Shastra has been motivated to work towards realizing the essence of universal brotherhood through the medium of the Telugu language. Reciting the Vedic mantra "ॐ पूरणमदः पूरणमदिं पूरणात् पूरणमुदच्यते। पूरणस्य पूरणमादाय पूरणमेवावशष्यते॥" he conveyed that, in this context, "Adah" symbolizes the Telugu language, and "Idam" represents Bharatiyata. Telugu is an integral part of Bharatiyata, and the essence of Bharatiyata can be expressed through the Telugu language—an idea he presented with clarity, making it accessible to a layman.

Further, he introduced the concept of "Nava Bandha" (Nine Bonds) for the Telugu diaspora, highlighting various facets that bind them together:

Historical bond (ऐतहासिकबन्धः), Cultural bond (सांस्कृतिकबन्धः), Communal bond (साम्प्रदायबन्धः), Language bond (भाषाबन्धः), Vidya Bandha (वदियाबन्धः), Rhyme bond (छन्दोबन्धः), Grammar bond (व्याकरणबन्धः), Poetry essay (काव्यबन्धः), Behavior bond (व्यवहारबन्धः)

In addition, he emphasized the crucial role of preserving manuscripts and disseminating knowledge to ensure a legacy for future generations.

Tanikella Bharani's Perspective :

Tanikella Bharani, a renowned Indian actor, director, screenwriter, and playwright, recognized for his significant contributions to Telugu cinema, expressed the importance of taking pride in speaking the Telugu language. He emphasized the need to embrace linguistic diversity by learning other languages without harboring any animosity towards them. Bharani quoted numerous poems that eloquently captured the beauty of the Telugu language.

In his discussion, he applauded the art of Shatavadhan and illustrated the linguistic and poetic finesse of poets through compelling examples. One notable instance involved a poet spontaneously composing a devotional verse incorporating the phrase "Meri Siluva Church" during a Shatavadhan. Bharani highlighted the musical cadence of the language through various examples, emphasizing the need for collective appreciation.

Encouraging the study of Sanskrit, Bharani provided an introduction to the extensive Sanskrit literature, citing an intriguing example from the book 'Hans Vimshati' discussing 108

types of rice. He recited melodious verses from renowned poems like Meghdoot, inspiring everyone to delve into the profound world of Sanskrit literature. Additionally, he supported Shiv Murthy ji's manuscript issue, urging everyone to safeguard and preserve available manuscripts.

Subsequently, Mr. Vijaya Saradhi Jeedigunta, residing in Orlando, Florida, and serving as a principal consultant at Infosys, shared insights into his endeavors. He highlighted his involvement in broadcasting music, movies, cricket, and entertainment content through All India Radio in the Telugu language, providing a glimpse of the diverse topics being disseminated. Presently, he actively contributes to promoting the Telugu language via the "Padya Lahari" program on the B+ YouTube channel.

With a dedicated effort, Mr. Jeedigunta has created approximately 75 videos delving into the history of Telugu literature on his YouTube channel titled "Rojuko Telugu Padyam." His commitment extends to active participation in various Telugu literary events in the United States, further contributing to the promotion and enrichment of the Telugu language.

Following this, Mr. Vijay Bhaskar Raivarapu, hailing from Dallas, shared his experiences. He serves as the Vice President and a strategic team member at SiliconAndhra Manabadi, overseeing programs like Balanandam, Telugu Matalatha, Initinta Manabadi, and more. Mr. Raivarapu manages a YouTube channel called "BeePlus with Bhaskar," featuring 900+ videos dedicated to promoting and disseminating the Telugu language while spreading positivity globally.

Subsequently, scholars from various parts of the world expressed their perspectives and quoted Telugu verses, highlighting the uniqueness

of the language. They also commended the initiatives of Antar Rashtriya Sahayog Parishad (ARSP) or the Indian Council for International Co-operation in establishing the Diaspora Research and Resource Centre (DRRC) and organizing the Telugu diaspora event.

Following this, Dr. Sanjeev Panchal quoted the line "Endaro Mahanubhavulu" and expressed that the collective efforts aim to bring Bharatiyas from every corner of the world together on a common platform. Today, with the Telugu Diaspora event, it appears that this objective is progressing in the right direction. We aspire for continued unity in the future, urging everyone to come together as one and contribute to the betterment of the world through the Telugu language.

Subsequently, Professor. Upendra Rao extended his gratitude to everyone and delivered a vote of thanks. The program concluded with expressions of gratitude from all participants.

The dialogue with the Telugu Diaspora provided a platform for scholars and personalities to share their perspectives, experiences, and efforts in promoting Telugu language, culture, and literature worldwide. The event celebrated the rich heritage and contributions of the Telugu community, reinforcing the importance of cultural preservation and global collaboration.

The DRRC, through such dialogues, continues to act as a bridge between the diaspora and the Indian government, amplifying the diaspora's voice and fostering a deeper connection with their roots. The success of this Telugu Diaspora dialogue sets a promising precedent for future engagements, creating a global network united by the essence of Telugu heritage. ■

DRRC - ARSP Hosted 69th KIP Delegates at Pravasi Bhavan



On November 29th, 2023, the Diaspora Research and Resource Centre (DRRC)-Antar Rashtriya Sahayog Parishad (ARSP) orchestrated an enlightening interactive session and workshop at Pravasi Bhavan, bringing together 38 participants from nine countries as part of the 69th Know India Program (KIP) batch. This diverse group hailed from Malaysia, Fiji, Guyana, Mauritius, Myanmar, South Africa, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, and New Zealand, showcasing the global reach and significance of the Indian diaspora.

Shri Shyam Parande, Secretary General of ARSP, extended gratitude to the Ministry of External Affairs for facilitating the connection with KIP delegates. ARSP, dedicated to engaging the Indian diaspora through various events, recently organized 'Sun Never Sets on Indian Diaspora,' drawing 165 scholars and performers from 107 countries. The diaspora, spanning more than 180 countries, underscores the widespread connection facilitated by ARSP.

H.E. Arunkoemar Hardien, Ambassador of the Republic of Suriname, expressed appreciation for India's efforts in fostering opportunities for the youth of the Indian diaspora through initiatives like the Know India Program. He emphasized the program's role in preserving cultural heritage and values, encouraging participants to

cherish their experiences and contribute to bilateral relations. Ambassador Hardien underlined the cultural and religious parallels between India and Suriname, emphasizing the need to uphold and promote these connections.

H. E Kamlesh Shashi Prakash, High Commissioner of the Republic of Fiji, extended gratitude to the Government of India, Ministry of External Affairs, and Indian Council for International Relations for the 69th program run. He highlighted the cross-cultural interaction provided by KIP, delving into a 150-year heritage and ancestral roots. Recognizing India's cultural and historical significance, he stressed the program's role in offering insights into India's diverse culture, economic prowess, and global influence, especially during the pandemic.

Reflecting on his association with ARSP, H. E. H. Dillum, High Commissioner of the Republic of Mauritius, spoke nostalgically about his student days and the warm reception Mauritius received at ARSP. He stressed the program's significance in fortifying friendships among Indian cultural institutions and fostering cooperation with diverse nations. Acknowledging India's substantial economic contributions globally, he highlighted its profound cultural impact through scriptures like Gita, Ramayana, and Mahabharata, as well as gifts like Ayurveda and

Yoga. H. E. H. Dillum urged participants to explore India firsthand and disclosed plans for a Diaspora House, exemplifying a commendable step towards fostering global Indian connections.

Mr. Amizal Fadzil Rajali, Deputy High Commissioner of Malaysia, expressed gratitude to ARSP for fostering cultural ties between Malaysians and India. Recognizing their historical connection, he highlighted Indian influences in Malaysia's temples and language. Mr. Rajali praised India's Chandrayaan-3 mission and acknowledged the vital role of the Indian diaspora in preserving cultural ties globally. He emphasized the significance of programs like KIP in reconnecting youth to their roots, urging collaboration in our interconnected world.

Miss Tin Tin Htwe Win, Deputy Chief of Mission/Minister Counsellor at the Myanmar Embassy, highlighted robust diplomatic ties between India and Myanmar, spanning culture, religion, and economy. Expressing a desire for intensified cooperation in culture, religion, and economy, she affirmed Myanmar's ongoing support for India. India's global economic growth and cultural influence were recognized, signaling a promising foundation for future bilateral relations.

Shri Narayan Kumar, the Honorary Director of ARSP, provided a detailed overview of both ARSP and DRRC, highlighting their connections with the diaspora over the past six decades. He expressed appreciation for the commendable efforts of both organizations.

Professor Shashi Bala, Joint Secretary of ARSP and Dean of K.M. Munshi Centre of Indology at Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan, delivered a compelling lecture on Indian culture. Focusing on the historical plight of Indian indentured migrants, she highlighted their resilience and prosperity. Professor Shashi Bala elucidated the integral role of cultural artifacts like Ramayana, Gita, and Hanuman Chalisa in the migrants' survival, underscoring the portability of Indian culture. Distinguishing tangible and intangible aspects, she emphasized that Indian culture encompasses not only a way of life but also an intellectual legacy, boasting texts by revered figures like Rishis and Gurus. The lecture underscored the imperative of preserving diverse facets of Indian culture, ranging from physical and intellectual to ethical, artistic, and medical aspects.

Miss Komal Chhikara, Assistant Professor at the University of Delhi, conducted a vibrant workshop on

'Indian Festivals and Traditions.' Using colorful PowerPoint slides, she highlighted the rich tapestry of festivals celebrated throughout India. Post-presentation, she orchestrated a lively activity, crafting twenty questions based on the session's content, and employing a Google questionnaire for responses. Participants eagerly submitted answers online, competing for prizes like books, pens, and souvenirs. Winners emerged based on the precision and speed of their responses, creating an engaging and rewarding learning experience for all involved.

Mr. Zameer Anwar, a Research Scholar at the Centre for Roma Studies and Cultural Relations - ARSP, outlined the CRSCR's mission to foster research on the Roma community. Touching on historical, cultural, and theoretical dimensions, he emphasized the enduring connection between the Roma and India.

During an engaging session with KIP delegates, Professor Shashi Bala motivated them to share diverse experiences. The lively discussion



showcased participants' perspectives on India, highlighting cultural connections. Impressed by India's strides in Ayurveda, Yoga, socioeconomic factors, music, films, technology, and IT, delegates expressed pride in the nation's achievements. Economic growth, higher education, and technology were focal points. Delightful discussions on Indian cuisine added to the positive experience, and delegates departed with cherished memories, emphasizing the enriching visit.

Shri Amit Gupta, Joint Secretary of ARSP, thanked the global Indian diaspora for their impactful contributions. Emphasizing youth's pivotal role, he highlighted their influence in enhancing India's global standing, particularly in the ABC sectors. The event concluded with certificates presented to the KIP batch, recognizing their enthusiasm and potential.

MEA's Flagship 'Know India Programme' for Youth Diaspora Completes 20 Years

At the Ministry of External Affairs, Secretary (CPV & OIA) Shri Muktesh K. Pardeshi marked a significant moment by addressing the Valedictory Session of the 70th Know India Programme (KIP). Running from December 11 to 29, 2023, the 70th KIP brought together 34 participants from diverse nations like Fiji, Mauritius, Trinidad & Tobago, Suriname, Sri Lanka, South Africa, Myanmar, Malaysia, and Colombia. Launched in 2003, the Know India Programme celebrated its 20th anniversary, having successfully connected 2513 Persons of Indian Origin (PIO) youth from 53 countries with their ancestral homeland. The

program's global impact is evident, with notable contributors hailing from countries like South Africa, Fiji, Mauritius, and beyond. Open to individuals aged 21-35 worldwide, the KIP offers comprehensive support, including return air tickets, local hospitality, and transportation. Over three weeks, participants immerse themselves in India's history, culture, and modern developments. Key program elements encompass visits to historically and culturally significant sites, exposure to



democratic institutions, and insights into flagship economic schemes like Digital India and Make in India. As the 70th edition concludes, anticipation builds for the 71st KIP, scheduled for January 3 to 19, 2024, promising yet another enriching experience for participants.

INDIA-NEPAL JOINT COMMISSION MEETING IN KATHMANDU STRENGTHENS

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar with Nepal's Foreign Minister Narayan Prakash Saud in Kathmandu on January 4, 2023.

On January 4, 2023, India's External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar and Nepal's Foreign Minister NP Saud co-chaired the 7th India-Nepal Joint Commission meeting in Kathmandu, solidifying their robust developmental partnership. Discussions covered vital areas, including trade, economic relations, connectivity projects, and defense cooperation. Crucial agreements were signed, spanning High Impact Community Development Projects, long-term power trade, renewable energy cooperation, Munal Satellite, and the transfer of the 5th tranche of post-

Jajarkot earthquake relief supplies. EAM Jaishankar highlighted the meeting's productivity on social media platform X, emphasizing its broad focus on agriculture, energy, disaster management, tourism, civil aviation, and cultural exchanges. Three cross-border transmission lines were inaugurated, enhancing connectivity. EAM Jaishankar's engagements included meetings with Nepal Prime Minister Prachanda and President Paudel, solidifying the enduring bond between the nations. The visit reaffirmed Nepal's significance under India's



'Neighbourhood First' policy, sustaining the tradition of high-level engagements and reinforcing the strong relationship between these close neighbors. ■

MoS EXTERNAL AFFAIRS V. MURALEEDHARAN ADDRESSES INDIAN DIASPORA CONCERNS AT FUJAIRAH EVENT IN UAE

Minister of State for External Affairs, V. Muraleedharan, participated in a community event in Fujairah, UAE, addressing challenges faced by the Indian diaspora. Teaming up with Consul General of India at UAE, Satish Kumar Sivan, the Minister tackled issues like degree equivalence, healthcare challenges, chartered accountants' recognition in the UAE, passport tatkal problems, and Aadhar card implementation for Non-Resident Indians (NRIs). Muraleedharan emphasized recent legislative changes as crucial steps towards India's development, drawing parallels with Mahatma Gandhi's vision of Swaraj. He

acknowledged technological integration, citing AI in the Evidence Act amendments. Discussing legal reforms, the Minister highlighted the shift to a justice-centric approach and stressed the need for a swift legal system. Encouraging diaspora involvement in India's progress, he called for active contributions, especially in education. During his UAE visit, Muraleedharan reviewed consular issues at the Indian Consulate in Dubai, emphasizing a humanitarian perspective. The Minister urged the diaspora to play a vital role in India's transformation towards a developed and just nation.



V. Muraleedharan, the Minister of State for External Affairs, participated in a recent community event in Fujairah, UAE, where he addressed and evaluated the diverse challenges encountered by the Indian diaspora. ■

BJP PRESIDENT J.P. NADDA RELEASES COMMEMORATIVE STAMP MARKING 200 YEARS OF INDIAN-ORIGIN TAMILS IN SRI LANKA

Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) President J.P. Nadda showcased solidarity with Indian-origin Tamils in Sri Lanka by releasing a commemorative stamp at the BJP headquarters in New Delhi, marking the 200th anniversary of their arrival. Nadda, recalling his tenure as Health Minister, shared experiences and acknowledged the community's historical struggles. Emphasizing India's commitment, he pledged continued support. BJP's Tamil Nadu Chief, K. Annamalai, lauded Prime Minister Narendra Modi's view of Sri

Lanka as a "civilizational twin" and commended Modi's aid during challenges. The stamp symbolizes BJP's unwavering backing for Indian-origin Tamils in Sri Lanka. Senthil Thondaman, Sri Lanka's Eastern Province Governor, received the stamp, expressing gratitude for India's recognition and citing initiatives enhancing Tamil welfare. The BJP highlighted Modi's projects, including housing and facilities, demonstrating India's ongoing dedication to uplift Indian-origin Tamils in Sri Lanka.



BJP National President J.P. Nadda along with Sri Lanka's Governor of the Eastern Province, Senthil Thondaman, during release of a stamp at BJP Headquarters in Delhi on December 30, 2023. ■

INDIA LEADS GLOBAL REMITTANCE CHARTS

In a groundbreaking achievement, India has ascended to the summit of global remittances in 2023, securing its position as the world leader, according to the latest data from the World Bank. The Migration and Development Brief, released on December 18, 2023, reveals that India has garnered an astonishing \$125 billion in remittances, surpassing all other nations. This significant milestone underscores the nation's robust economic ties with its diaspora worldwide, making a substantial contribution to India's financial landscape.

The report highlights the substantial impact of the Indian workforce across various countries, particularly in the United States, the United Kingdom, Singapore, and Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) nations. India's share in remittances to South Asia rose to

66% in 2023 from 63% in the previous year, solidifying its dominance in the region.

The surge in remittances can be attributed to strategic government initiatives, including the integration of India's Unified Payments Interface (UPI) with Singapore's payment systems and collaborative efforts with the UAE for cross-border transactions in local currencies. India's successful implementation of non-residential deposit programs has also played a pivotal role, attracting significant foreign currency, with non-residential deposits reaching \$143 billion as of September 2023.

However, the World Bank cautions about potential risks, such as a forecasted decline in real income for migrants in 2024 due to global inflation and low growth prospects.



The World Bank released its latest Migration and Development Brief on December 18, 2023.

Despite these concerns, remittances to low- and middle-income countries are anticipated to grow, albeit at a slower pace, in the coming years. The report emphasizes the multifaceted impact of these financial inflows on the Indian economy, showcasing the intricate interplay of global migration, economic policy, and the indispensable role played by the Indian diaspora in shaping the country's economic landscape. ■

INDIAN-BORN ENTREPRENEUR FIRDAUS KHARAS GETS ONE OF CANADA'S HIGHEST HONORS

In a remarkable recognition of his outstanding contributions to advancing social change through human-centred media, Firdaus Kharas, a distinguished India-born entrepreneur, has been appointed as an Officer of the Order of Canada. The announcement was made as part of the annual list of 2023 appointees to the prestigious Order, one of the highest honours in the country.

Governor General of Canada Mary Simon unveiled the list of appointees on Thursday, which included three new "companions," the highest level of the Order, 15 officers, including one honorary officer, and 59 members. Firdaus Kharas, 68, was appointed as an officer "for advancing social change through human-centred media as a social entrepreneur, humanitarian, and mass communications media producer."

Expressing his gratitude for the honor, Kharas stated, "I am deeply moved to receive this high honour,

which is especially meaningful to me as an immigrant. Although a high-achieving community, Parsis are a minuscule community numbering only 3,600 in Canada, so it is extremely satisfying to be noticed in this way."

Firdaus Kharas is renowned for his work as a producer of social and behavioural change communications, impacting over a billion people globally. In 1995, he founded Chocolate Moose Media, a social enterprise dedicated to creating mass communications to enhance the human condition. His impactful work has been disseminated in 198 countries, reaching diverse audiences in various languages, including India.

Among his numerous accolades, Kharas has received 125 awards, including the prestigious Peabody Award, and has been conferred with several honorary doctorates from esteemed universities. The Order of Canada recognizes individuals who



have made extraordinary and sustained contributions to Canada across all sectors of society.

Appointees, including Firdaus Kharas, will be invited to an investiture ceremony at a later date to receive their insignia. The dates for these ceremonies will be announced in due course, celebrating the remarkable achievements of those who have left an indelible mark on Canadian society. ■

हिन्दुस्थान
Hindusthan



समाचार
Samachar

परिचय

- ❖ हिन्दुस्थान समाचार भारत की पहली और वर्तमान तक एकमात्र बहुभाषी न्यूज एजेंसी है।
- ❖ 10 अप्रैल, 1948 को स्थापित।
- ❖ यह एक को-ऑपरेटिव सोसाइटी द्वारा संचालित है।
- ❖ इसका प्रशासनिक कार्यालय दिल्ली में है। देशभर में 21 ब्यूरो कार्यरत हैं।

हमारी ताकत

- ❖ देश भर में 600 स्थानों पर संवाद सूत्रों का बड़ा नेटवर्क। हिन्दुस्थान समाचार देश में सर्वाधिक ग्राहक संख्या वाली न्यूज एजेंसी है। हिन्दी, अंग्रेजी, उर्दू, बांग्ला, असमिया, ओडिया, मराठी, गुजराती, कन्नड़, तेलुगु, पंजाबी और नेपाली भाषा में सबसे प्रभावी न्यूज एजेंसी।
- ❖ मीडिया जगत में समाचारों और विचारों की प्रमुख और विश्वसनीय संवाद समिति।
- ❖ हिन्दुस्थान समाचार न्यूज एजेंसी दैनिक समाचार पत्रों, साप्ताहिक पत्रिकाओं, न्यूज चैनल्स व पोर्टल्स को त्वरित गति से समाचार उपलब्ध कराती है।
- ❖ देश के सर्वाधिक प्रसार संख्या वाले प्रतिष्ठित डीडी न्यूज और आकाशवाणी को भी प्रसार भारती के माध्यम से हिन्दुस्थान समाचार 12 भाषाओं की सेवा प्रदान करता है।

विविधता

- ❖ समाचार सेवा के साथ ही हिन्दुस्थान समाचार लेख व फीचर सेवा, फोटो सेवा भी प्रदान करता है।
- ❖ आधुनिक प्रौद्योगिकी को ध्यान में रखते हुए हिन्दुस्थान समाचार न्यूज स्कैन सेवा का संचालन भी करता है।
- ❖ हिन्दुस्थान समाचार समूह के द्वारा युगवार्ता (पाक्षिक), नवोत्थान (मासिक) का भी प्रकाशन किया जाता है।
- ❖ भारतीय नववर्ष (चैत्र शुक्ल प्रतिपदा) के अवसर पर प्रतिवर्ष हिन्दुस्थान समाचार द्वारा दैनन्दिनी का प्रकाशन किया जाता है। इसमें भारतीय तिथि के साथ-साथ अंग्रेजी दिनांक भी होते हैं। भारतीय काल-क्रम पर आधारित यह दैनन्दिनी बहुपयोगी है।
- ❖ समय-समय पर हिन्दुस्थान समाचार द्वारा वार्षिकी का भी प्रकाशन किया जाता है। यह प्रतिवर्ष की महत्वपूर्ण जानकारी समेटते हुए इतिहास की दृष्टि विकसित करने के लिए प्रतिष्ठित है।

मार्गदर्शक एवं लक्ष्य

- ❖ राष्ट्रीय विचारों के प्रखर तपस्वी (स्व.) शिवराम आप्टे उपाख्य दादा साहेब आप्टे ने इसकी स्थापना की।
- ❖ देवनागरी लिपि में 'टेलीप्रिन्टर' से समाचार भेजने का श्रेय इस एजेंसी के माध्यम से हमारे संस्थापक दादा साहेब आप्टे को जाता है।
- ❖ पत्रकारिता के लिए जीवन समर्पित करने के साथ ही भारतवंशियों को राष्ट्रीय भाव-भूमि से जोड़ने वाले बालेश्वर अग्रवालजी (अब स्व.) के यशस्वी संपादन व प्रबंधन में हिन्दुस्थान समाचार देश की सबसे प्रामाणिक व प्रतिष्ठित न्यूज एजेंसी के रूप में स्थापित हुई।
- ❖ निर्भीक और निष्पक्ष पत्रकारिता के चलते हिन्दुस्थान समाचार एक सत्ता प्रतिष्ठान का कोपभाजन बना और इसका प्रवाह बाधित करने का निरंतर प्रयास किया गया।
- ❖ राष्ट्र कार्य के लिए समर्पित श्रीकांत जी जोशी (अब स्व.) ने हिन्दुस्थान समाचार को पुनरुज्जीवन प्रदान किया।
- ❖ हमारा लक्ष्य समाचारों का व्यापार करना नहीं बल्कि संवाद समिति को एक सामाजिक कार्य के रूप में खड़ा करना है।
- ❖ सत्य, संवाद, सेवा और सहकार के मूल मंत्र से प्रेरित।

हिन्दुस्थान समाचार का आधार
सत्य, संवाद, सेवा और सहकार

नवोत्थान नवोत्थान युगवार्ता वार्षिकी

मासिक पत्रिका

बांग्ला मासिक पत्रिका

पाक्षिक पत्रिका

एम-6, भगत सिंह मार्केट, गोल मार्केट, नई दिल्ली - 110001

Obituary



**Shri Basdeo Panday
(1933 –2024)**

It is with profound sadness that we announce the passing of Basdeo Panday, former Prime Minister of Trinidad and Tobago, on New Year's Day 2024. Surrounded by his family, he succumbed to the challenges of a prolonged illness while undergoing medical treatment at a hospital in Jacksonville, Florida. The announcement was made by his daughter, Mickela Panday.

Born on May 25, 1933, Basdeo Panday dedicated his life to public

service, leaving an indelible mark on the political landscape of Trinidad and Tobago. A stalwart figure in the realm of politics, he served as the Prime Minister from October 1995 to December 2001, leading the nation through a crucial period of its history.

His political journey began in 1971 when he entered Parliament, representing the people with passion and unwavering dedication. Basdeo Panday's commitment to public service extended beyond his role as Prime Minister; he served as the Opposition Leader from 1976 through 1995 and again from 2002 to 2010, with brief interruptions in 1977 and from 1987 to 1988.

Senator since 1971, he assumed the position following the opposition's boycott of elections in protest of fraudulent practices. A man of conviction, Panday played a pivotal role in shaping the political discourse of Trinidad and Tobago for nearly four decades until his retirement in May 2010.

Basdeo Panday's legacy is one of remarkable statesmanship, marked by his tireless efforts to enhance the lives of the citizens he served. A staunch advocate for social justice, his principles and dedication will undoubtedly serve as an inspiration for generations to come.

In addition to his social endeavors, Basdeo Panday was a senior member of the jury of ARS Nyas of ARSP, honored with the Bharat Vansi Gaurav Award. His multifaceted contributions to society exemplified his commitment to excellence and service.

As we mourn the loss of a distinguished leader, the Antar Rashtriya Sahayog Parishad (ARSP) extends its deepest condolences to the family, friends, and the people of Trinidad and Tobago. May Basdeo Panday's legacy of service and unwavering commitment to the nation continue to shine brightly as a guiding light for the future. ■



**Professor Ved Prakash Nanda
(1934-2024)**

With immense sadness and profound grief, we announce the passing of Professor Ved Prakash Nanda Ji on January 2, 2024. A luminary in the field of law, an esteemed academic, and a passionate advocate for India-USA relations, Professor Nanda's departure leaves an irreplaceable void in the realms of academia, diplomacy, and the Indian-American community.

At the time of his passing, Professor Nanda held the distinguished position of John Evans Distinguished University Professor at the University

of Denver, Colorado, USA. His commitment to legal education was unparalleled, and his legacy extended far beyond the confines of his academic roles. As the Founding Director and Director Emeritus of the International Legal Studies Program and the Director of the Ved Nanda Center for International and Comparative Law at the University Of Denver Sturm College Of Law, Professor Nanda played a pivotal role in shaping the intellectual landscape in the field.

For over four decades, Professor Nanda served as a prominent figure in the Indian diaspora in the USA. His tireless efforts significantly contributed to fostering strong diplomatic ties between India and the United States. Recognizing his exceptional contributions, he was awarded the prestigious Padma Bhushan in 2018 for outstanding contributions to literature and education.

In 2006, Professor Nanda received a significant honor when University of Denver alumni Doug and Mary Scrivner presented a \$1 million founding gift to establish the Ved

Nanda Center for International and Comparative Law. The Center, inaugurated in 2007, stands as a testament to Professor Nanda's enduring influence, actively promoting scholarship in international law and hosting various programs for lawyers, students, and community participants.

Professor Nanda awarded the prestigious Bharat Vanshi Gaurav Award on 14th May, 2011 by Antar Rashtriya Sahayog Nyas. His remarkable legacy as a diplomatic bridge-builder and advocate for enduring friendship between India and the United States will be remembered for generations to come.

During this time of mourning, we extend our heartfelt condolences to his family, friends, and the people of the USA and India. May Professor Ved Prakash Nanda's legacy of service and commitment to the nation serve as a guiding light for the future. May his soul rest in eternal peace. ■



**Yanktesh Permal Reddy
(YP Reddy)**

It is with heavy hearts that we announce the passing of Yanktesh Permal Reddy, affectionately known as YP Reddy, a revered Indian diaspora personality, Fijian entrepreneur, and the visionary founder and chairman of the Reddy Group. YP Reddy also held the esteemed position of being the owner of the Tanoa Group. He peacefully departed this world at the age of 89 in Auckland, New Zealand, on January

4, 2024.

Born into a legacy of resilience and determination, YP Reddy emerged as a stalwart leader and a driving force in the business world. His entrepreneurial spirit, coupled with a deep commitment to community development, made him a beloved figure not only among the Indian diaspora but also in the hearts of those he touched around the globe.

Under his astute guidance, the Reddy Group flourished into a conglomerate known for its innovation and social responsibility. YP Reddy's unwavering dedication to excellence and ethical business practices set a standard for others to follow. His imprint on the business landscape will endure as a testament to his foresight and leadership.

Beyond his business acumen, YP Reddy was a philanthropist, contributing to numerous charitable causes and community initiatives. His

generosity touched the lives of many, leaving an indelible mark on the communities he served.

As we bid farewell to this luminary, the Antar Rashtriya Sahayog Parishad (ARSP) expresses its deepest condolences to the bereaved family, friends, and the people of Fiji. YP Reddy's impact was not confined to borders; it resonated globally, fostering connections and goodwill.

In honoring his memory, let us reflect on the legacy of YP Reddy. May his vision, integrity, and commitment to uplifting communities serve as an inspiration for generations to come. In the face of this loss, we find solace in the enduring spirit of service that YP Reddy embodied throughout his remarkable life.

May his soul rest in eternal peace, and may his legacy continue to shine brightly, much like the guiding light he was for so many. ■



**Vinod Shankarbhaj Patel
(1939 – 2024)**

It is with heavy hearts that we announce the passing of Vinod Shankarbhaj Patel, a distinguished Fiji Indian businessman, football administrator, and politician. Mr. Patel, born on 28 February 1939, left an indelible mark on Fiji's business and political landscape during his remarkable life. He peacefully departed from this world on 5 January 2024.

Vinod S. Patel's enduring legacy is

epitomized by the Vinod S. Patel Group, a widely recognized hardware business in Fiji. The success of the enterprise stands as a testament to his unwavering dedication, tenacity, and tireless work ethic. His contributions to the business sector have not only shaped the local economy but have also inspired aspiring entrepreneurs.

Beyond his achievements in business, Mr. Patel was a notable figure in the realm of football administration and politics. His leadership extended far beyond borders, resonating globally and fostering connections that transcended geographical boundaries. The Antar Rashtriya Sahayog Parishad (ARSP) extends its deepest condolences to the bereaved family, friends, and the people of Fiji during this difficult time.

Vinod Shankarbhaj Patel's impact was not confined to the material realm; his philanthropic endeavors

and commitment to community development were exemplary. The void left by his passing is deeply felt, not only in Fiji but also in the hearts of those who were touched by his benevolence and leadership.

In honoring his memory, let us reflect on the legacy of Vinod Shankarbhaj Patel. May his vision, integrity, and commitment to uplifting communities serve as an enduring inspiration for generations to come. As we grapple with the loss of a luminary, we find solace in the enduring spirit of service that he embodied throughout his remarkable life.

As we bid farewell to this remarkable individual, may Vinod Shankarbhaj Patel's soul rest in eternal peace. May his legacy continue to shine brightly, much like the guiding light he was for so many. In our collective memory, he will forever remain a beacon of inspiration, reminding us of the profound impact one person can have on the world. ■



स्व. जीतेन्द्र गर्ग जी

अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय सहयोग परिषद के कोशाध्यक्ष विपिन गर्ग के पिताजी का देहांत 24 दिसम्बर, 2023 को हो गया। उनका जीवन अत्यंत सुखद और भातिपूर्ण रहा।

उन्होंने अपने परिवार के सदस्यों को उच्च शिक्षा प्राप्त करने के लिए सर्वदा प्रोत्साहित किया। स्व. जीतेन्द्र गर्ग जी का सामाजिक जीवन भी अत्यंत प्रशंसनीय था उन्होंने अपने परिवार और समाज की प्रगति के लिए बहुमूल्य

योगदान दिया। अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय सहयोग परिषद उनके निधन पर हार्दिक भोक, सादर श्रद्धांजलि प्रकट करती है और इस दुःखद घड़ी में उनके परिवार के सदस्यों के प्रति भावभिनी संवेदना व्यक्त करती है। ■

BHUTAN GRADUATED FROM THE LDC CATEGORY

✍ Ministry of Foreign Affairs and External Trade, Bhutan

The 46th Plenary Meeting of the 78th United Nations General Assembly held on 18 December 2023 adopted by consensus the resolution (A/78/L.27) titled 'Graduation of Bhutan from the least developed country category'. 162 member states of the UN co-sponsored the resolution.

The resolution commends the commitment of Bhutan to graduate from the LDC category and invites bilateral, regional and multilateral development and trading partners to

provide full support to the implementation of Bhutan's 13th National Development Plan and Long-Term Plan spanning up to 2034, including by extending all the international support measures particularly those related to trade, as per the Doha Programme of Action, until 13 December 2028.

Bhutan graduated from the LDC category on 13 December 2023 after a five year preparatory period in line with the UN resolution 73/133 passed on 13 December 2018.

Bhutan was recommended for graduation after meeting graduation thresholds in the GNI per capita and Human Assets Index criteria during two consecutive triennial reviews of 2015 and 2018. During the 2021 triennial review, Bhutan met graduation thresholds for all three criteria, including the Economic and Environmental Vulnerability Index.

Bhutan was among the first group of LDCs listed by the United Nations in 1971 and is the seventh country to graduate from the category. ■

MHPA'S FORMER MD CONFERRED WITH DRUK THUKSEY MEDAL

✍ Thukten Zangpo, Kuensel

His Majesty The King conferred the Druk Thuksey (Heart Son of Bhutan) medal to Arvind Kumar Mishra, former Managing Director of Mangdechhu Hydropower Authority (MHPA), during the 116th National Day celebrations in Thimphu.

The award recognises his exceptional services to Bhutan's hydropower development.

In his role as MHPA's Managing Director, Arvind Kumar Mishra oversaw the project's entire lifecycle, from its inception to successful commissioning in seven years.

His innovative approach and unconventional strategies led to the project's rapid progress and completion at an optimal cost, making it a benchmark project in the SAARC region.

AK Mishra's association with Bhutan's hydropower sector spans over 12 years, working at Kurichhu and then at Mangdechhu projects.

Expressing his gratitude, AK Mishra said that the award is a testament to the Bhutanese government's recognition, particularly from the highest level. "I feel deeply satisfied."

He acknowledged the logistical challenges of the MHPA project, despite that the project was completed in seven years with optimum cost.

...I am committed to applying my expertise to give back to society and serve Bhutan for as long as I am able.



"The project's total cost was Nu 50.2 billion, which translated to Nu 70 million per megawatt (MW) capacity of total capacity of 720 MW," AK Mishra said, "With our dedicated team's unwavering efforts, the MHPA stands as a benchmark project." In the next 10 years, nobody can break this record considering per MW cost, he added.

He said that the project has already generated Nu 40 billion in revenue, with complete cost recovery within the next year. The interest during construction (IDC) was about Nu 12 billion which would be also recovered later, AK Mishra added.

He also said that the project was implemented with innovative solutions, an example could be

bringing in a new contract system, a standard bidding document that effectively reduced contractual disputes.

"I am committed to applying my expertise to give back to society and serve Bhutan for as long as I am able," AK Mishra said.

In 2020, the project was awarded the prestigious Brunel Medal by the Institute of Civil Engineers, London as a recognition of excellence in civil engineering and the project's social and environmental credentials.

The project is expected to reduce about 2.4 million tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions each year.

DR POONAM KHETRAPAL SINGH HONOURED

✍️ Kuensel

Dr Poonam Khetrupal Singh was awarded the National Order of Merit (Gold) in recognition of her distinguished services to Bhutan.

Dr Poonam Khetrupal Singh, the first Indian Regional Director for WHO's South-East Asia Region, played a pivotal role in supporting transformative healthcare leadership in Bhutan from 2014 to 2024. Her tenure witnessed remarkable strides, including Bhutan becoming one of the first countries to eliminate measles

and rubella ahead of schedule. She made significant contributions to help Bhutan excel in COVID-19 vaccination. Dr Khetrupal Singh's impactful strategies extended across communicable diseases, noncommunicable diseases, reproductive health, health systems, and social determinants, have had a lasting positive impact on Bhutan's public health services.



THE MONK AND THE GUN AT THE OSCARS

✍️ Chencho Dema, Kuensel

The Bhutanese film "The Monk and the Gun" by Director Pawo Choyning Dorji has been shortlisted for Best International Film at the 96th Academy Awards to be held on March 10.

The 96th Academy Awards will be held at the Dolby Theatre at Ovation Hollywood in Los Angeles.

The Monk and the Gun is among the 15 films in the category of International feature film shortlisted by the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences.

Director Pawo Choyning Dorji rose to international fame when his 2022 film Lunana: A Yak in the Classroom, was nominated for Oscars in the Best International Film category in 2022. The film did not win an award.

But at home his contributions to Bhutanese films and achievements at the international stage was recognised with the country's most prestigious and honourable Druk Thuksey medal.

"I am so honored and grateful to the Academy of Motion Pictures Arts and Sciences for giving me this precious opportunity to represent my country and my culture," Pawo Choyning Dorji posted on his Facebook page.

"Thankful to all the crew, the cast, the producers and the entire team for

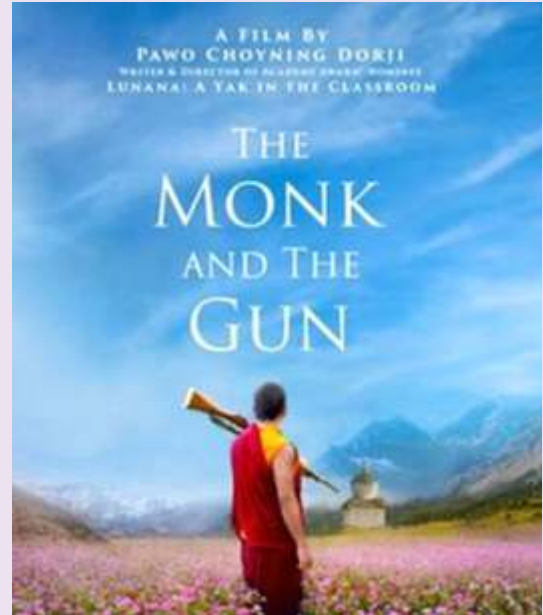
helping make all this possible," he posted.

The BICMA announced on September 8 that the film "The Monk and the Gun" has been selected as Bhutan's submission for the Best International Feature Film category at the 96th Academy Awards.

"The Monk And The Gun stood out as the unanimous choice of the Selection Committee. The film has garnered acclaim for its innovative storytelling, unique thematic elements, strong narrative, and exceptional performances by the cast. It was seen as a true reflection of Bhutan, both in terms of its narrative and technical craftsmanship," said BICMA.

The film has received several awards across the globe – the Best Original Screenplay at the Stars Asian International Film Festival in Los Angeles, USA, Director's Choice Award at the 10th Illuminate Film Festival in Santa Barbara, California, won IMDb Audience Award at Jio Mumbai film festival, the Special Jury Prize at the Rome Film Festival in Rome, Italy.

In Vancouver International Film Festival, the film won the Audience Choice Award for the Showcase



category, at the Woodstock Film Festival in New York the film got the honorable mention in both the Gigantic Pictures Award for Best Feature Film and the Haskell Wexler Award for Best Cinematography.

The film had its world premiere on September 1, 2023, at the 50th Telluride Film Festival.

The Monk and the Gun is the third Bhutanese film to be nominated for an Oscar. Kyentse Norbu's 'The Cup' was nominated in 1999, and Pawo Choyning Dorji's Lunana: A Yak in the Classroom, in 2022.

भोपाल में अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय महोत्सव “विश्वरंग” का आयोजन

रबींद्रनाथ टैगोर विश्वविद्यालय, भोपाल द्वारा आयोजित 5वां अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय ‘विश्वरंग’ महोत्सव 21 से 24 दिसम्बर, 2023 तक विश्वविद्यालय परिसर में सम्पन्न हुआ। विश्वरंग भारतीय भाषाओं, कला, साहित्य और संस्कृति के क्षेत्र में एक महत्वपूर्ण वैश्विक आयोजन है। इस वर्ष के विश्वरंग में देश-विदेश के 500 से अधिक विद्वान, साहित्यकार, शिक्षाविद, कलाकार सम्मिलित हुए और सभी को अपनी विशेषज्ञता के अनुरूप 50 से अधिक सत्रों में अपने विचार प्रस्तुत किए।

विश्वरंग की शुरुआत 21 दिसम्बर की शाम को विश्व हिंदी सचिवालय की महासचिव डॉ. माधुरी रामधारी एवं विश्वरंग के निदेशक श्री संतोष चौबे के करकमलों द्वारा टैगोर प्रतिमा पर पुष्पांजलि, लोककलाओं और लोकनृत्यों के मनभावन प्रदर्शन और पुस्तकों के लोकार्पण से हुई। विश्वरंग सचिवालय और प्रवासी भारतीय साहित्य एवं संस्कृति शोध केन्द्र द्वारा 7 देशों (ब्रिटेन, सिंगापुर, रूस, कनाडा, फिजी, यूएई, नीदरलैंड) के चयनित रचनाकारों की पृथक-पृथक पुस्तकें लोकार्पित की गईं, जिसका संयोजन श्री संजय सिंह राठौड़ ने किया। इस अवसर पर वनमाली सृजन पीठ के निदेशक श्री मुकेश वर्मा, विश्वरंग के सह निदेशक श्री लीलाधर मंडलोई, डॉक्टर सिद्धार्थ चतुर्वेदी, संयोजक डॉक्टर जवाहर कर्णावट, कुलपति प्रो. रजनीकांत, यूएसए से श्री इंद्रजीत, श्री अनूप भार्गव, नीदरलैंड से रामा तक्षक, पुर्तगाल से शिवकुमार सिंह विशेष रूप से उपस्थित थे।



विश्व रंग के उद्घाटन समारोह में 22 दिसंबर 2023 में मुख्य अतिथि पूर्व शिक्षा मंत्री श्री रमेश पोखरियाल निशंक थे और डॉक्टर राधावल्लभ त्रिपाठी पूर्व कुलपति केंद्रीय संस्कृत विश्वविद्यालय, श्री अतुल कोठारी राष्ट्रीय सचिव शिक्षा संस्कृति उत्थान न्यास, डॉ माधुरी रामधारी महासचिव विश्व हिंदी सचिवालय

मौरीशस तथा श्री अनिल जोशी अध्यक्ष वैश्विक हिंदी परिवार के विशिष्ट अतिथि के रूप में उपस्थित थे। इस समारोह में डॉक्टर जवाहर कर्णावट द्वारा संपादित 55 देश में हिंदी की रिपोर्ट विश्व रंग कैटलॉग तथा विश्वरंग पत्रिका का लोकार्पण भी किया गया।

समारोह में भारतीय भाषाओं के सात विद्वानों डॉक्टर धनंजय वर्मा (हिंदी) डॉक्टर जानकी प्रसाद शर्मा (उर्दू) श्री मनोरंजन व्योपारी (बांग्ला) श्री वसंत आबा डहाके (मराठी) सुश्री सुजाता चौधरी (उड़िया) प्रो. कोलकपुरी एजाक (तेलुगु) एवं श्री महादेव टोप्पो (हिंदी एवं कुडुख) को विश्व रंग सम्मान 2023 से सम्मानित किया गया। इस अवसर पर मुख्य अतिथि श्री निशंक ने टैगोर अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय हिंदी केंद्र का शुभारंभ भी किया। कार्यक्रम का प्रभावी संचालन श्री विनय उपाध्याय ने किया।

इस अवसर पर भारतीय सांस्कृतिक संबंध परिषद (ICCR) के पूर्व महानिदेशक और प्रसिद्ध विचारक श्री पवन वर्मा और श्री अनिल जोशी का “हमारा भाषाई वैविध्य हमारी ताकत” विषय पर व्याख्यान हुआ। इसी दिन देश-विदेश के विद्वान वक्ताओं ने विभिन्न सत्रों में हिंदी शिक्षण के अनुभव को साझा करने के साथ ही ऑनलाइन शिक्षण की आवश्यकता, शिक्षण में साहित्य, कला और सिनेमा की भूमिका, सामाजिक संस्थाओं द्वारा हिंदी शिक्षण, शिक्षण में अधुनातन टेक्नोलॉजी, यूनिवर्सल हिंदी टेक्स्ट जैसे महत्वपूर्ण विषयों पर विचार-विमर्श किया। इस विमर्श में भारत

से डॉक्टर सुरेश ऋतुपर्णा, श्री राकेश दुबे, श्री नारायण कुमार, श्रीमती कुमुद शर्मा, डॉ. रेखा सेठी, डॉ. खेम सिंह डेहरिया, श्री बालेंदु दाधीच, डॉ. ज्ञान चतुर्वेदी, श्री वरुण कुमार, डॉ. गरिमा श्रीवास्तव, श्री रविंद्र कात्यायन, श्री विजय मिश्रा, प्रो. अमिताभ सक्सेना, डॉक्टर जितेंद्र श्रीवास्तव, प्रो. सत्यकेतु सांकृत, श्री राजेश कुमार के अलावा श्रीमती जय वर्मा (यूके), शिवानी भारद्वाज (स्वीटजरलैंड), डॉ. पुष्पिता अवस्थी (नीदरलैंड), अनूप भार्गव (यू एसए), प्रो. उल्फत मुखीबोआ (उज्बेकिस्तान), श्री शिव कुमार सिंह (पुर्तगाल), सुश्री प्रगति टिपनीस (रूस) की सक्रिय भूमिका रही। इसके अलावा वनमाली सभागार में डॉ. दिव्या माथुर की पुस्तक “तिलिस्म”, डॉ. पुष्पिता अवस्थी की

पुस्तक “से परे टे ड इमोशंस” और डॉ जवाहर कर्णावट की “विदेश में हिंदी पत्रकारिता” फिल्म पर भी चर्चा हुई।



डॉ. जवाहर कर्णावट

23 दिसंबर, 2023 की शुरुआत श्री देवेन्द्र मेवाड़ी के व्याख्यान “हमारी धरती का भविष्य” से हुई। सिनेमा और ओटीटी के लिए लेखन, एशियाई कहानी का परिदृश्य, कहानी लिखने की कला, अनुवाद का वर्तमान परिदृश्य, समकालीन प्रवासी साहित्य, उपन्यास की वैश्विक अवधारणा, लोकप्रिय साहित्य पदावली स्वर आदि विषयों पर विस्तार से विचार-विमर्श हुआ। इस बातचीत में देश के प्रख्यात लेखक श्री अजय ब्रह्मत्मज, निलेश मिश्रा (पॉड कास्टर), श्री विनोद तिवारी, श्री हरि भटनागर, श्रीमती सोमा बंदोपाध्याय, श्री ओम शर्मा, श्री विजय कुमार, उषा किरण खान आदि ने अपने विचार व्यक्त किये। संध्या को प्रतिभा सिंह बघेल एवं समूह के गायन ने समा बांधा।

विश्वरंग के अंतिम दिन 24 दिसंबर, 2023 की शुरुआत “भारतीय चित्रकला का सच” विषय पर श्री अशोक भौमिक के व्याख्यान से हुई। समानांतर सत्रों में “भारतीय भाषा में अनुवाद”, “लोक वाचिक परंपरा का सांस्कृतिक पक्ष”, “कथेतर गद्य का भविष्य”, “समकालीन कविता” आदि महत्वपूर्ण विषयों पर चर्चा हुई। प्रवासी भारतीय रचना पाठ का आयोजन श्री मनोज श्रीवास्तव की अध्यक्षता में हुआ जिसमें अतिला कोतलावाला (श्रीलंका), वंदना मुकेश (ब्रिटेन), स्नेह ठाकुर (कनाडा), रमा शर्मा (जापान), मृदुल कीर्ति (ऑस्ट्रेलिया), अभिषेक त्रिपाठी (आयरलैंड), विनोद दुबे (सिंगापुर), ऋचा जैन (लंदन), रामा तक्षक (नीदरलैंड), जय वर्मा (यूके), अनूप भार्गव (यूएसए) आदि ने अपने वक्तव्य से श्रोताओं को मंत्र मुग्ध कर दिया। विश्वरंग का समापन साधौ बैड की प्रभावी प्रस्तुति से हुआ।

इस प्रकार विश्व रंग महोत्सव 2023 देश-विदेश के भाषा साहित्य कला और संगीत प्रेमियों के लिए एक अविस्मरणीय आयोजन रहा। इस उत्सव में न केवल प्रतिभाओं को मंच प्रदान किया अपितु सांस्कृतिक विरासत के संरक्षण और वैश्विक समझ को बढ़ावा देने में भी महत्वपूर्ण भूमिका निभाई। विश्वरंग के निदेशक श्री संतोष चौबे की परिकल्पना और मार्गदर्शन तथा उनकी टीम के अथक परिश्रम से विश्वरंग के आयोजन ने नई ऊंचाइयों को प्राप्त किया।

भोपाल में 21-24 दिसंबर, 2023 को आयोजित विश्व रंग के अंतर्राष्ट्रीय हिंदी सम्मेलन के मायने

✍ अजित जोशी

विश्व रंग का अंतर्राष्ट्रीय हिंदी सम्मेलन 21-24 दिसंबर, 2023 को संपन्न हुआ। देश-विदेश से आए महत्वपूर्ण विद्वानों-लेखकों का यह संगम कई दृष्टियों से महत्वपूर्ण था। आज जब प्रतिभागी सम्मेलन की महत्वपूर्ण यादों के साथ वापस अपने घर लौट रहे हैं और धूल छंट रही है तो यह जानना जरूरी है कि इस सम्मेलन से कुल मिला कर हासिल क्या हुआ ?

यह श्री संतोष चौबे के नेतृत्व में भोपाल में निजी संसाधनों से आयोजित एक विराट सम्मेलन था। इसके उद्घाटन में पूर्व केन्द्रीय शिक्षा मंत्री डॉ रमेश पोखरियाल निशंक जैसे हिंदी के लोकप्रिय नेतृत्वकर्ता, श्री अतुल कोठारी जैसे भाषा प्रेमी, प्रसिद्ध विचारक राधा वल्लभ त्रिपाठी जैसे हिंदी के महत्वपूर्ण प्रतिबद्ध हिंदी विचारक थे। इस सम्मेलन में गहरे रूप से विश्व हिंदी पटल से जुड़ी विश्व हिंदी सचिवालय की महासचिव श्रीमती माधुरी रामधारी थी। इसके विचार पक्ष के प्राथमिक सत्र में प्रसिद्ध विचारक पवन वर्मा के साथ मुझे भी भाषा पर विस्तार से विचार रखने का मौका मिला। यह असाधारण अवसर था और मैंने भाषा समस्या के विविध आयामों को रखा और कहा कि यह मानवाधिकार भी है, इसके आर्थिक पहलू हैं, यह हमारी जीवन शैली और समाज को गहरे से प्रभावित करता है। इस आयोजन में दिव्या माथुर, अनूप भार्गव, रामा तक्षक, डा मृदुल कीर्ति, पुष्पिता अवस्थी, प्रगति टिपनिस, जय वर्मा, इंद्रजीत, रमा शर्मा, वंदना मुकेश, ऋचा शर्मा जैसे प्रमुख प्रवासी लेखक थे। भारत से ज्ञान चतुर्वेदी, प्रो कुमुद शर्मा, मनोज श्रीवास्तव, नासिरा शर्मा, अखिलेश, सुरेश ऋतुपर्ण, नारायण कुमार, प्रो. सोमा बंधोपाध्याय, बालेदु दाधीच, रेखा सेठी, जितेन्द्र श्रीवास्तव, राकेश पांडे, नवीन लोहानी, डॉ. सत्यकाम, राजेश कुमार, वरुण कुमार, जयशंकर यादव जैसे प्रबुद्ध विद्वान, हिंदी सेवी और लेखक। इस आयोजन में साहित्य और शिक्षा के लक्ष्य प्रतिष्ठित विद्वानों की महत्वपूर्ण सहभागिता थी। इसमें लोक कलाओं के मनोहर रूपों की छटा बिखरते लोक गायक थे। इसमें युवाओं के मनपसन्द थिरकने और थिरकाने वाले बैंड थे। इसमें चित्रकला के कलाकारों की प्रस्तुतियाँ थी। याने कुल मिलाकर एक बहु आयामी, बहुरूपी, शिक्षा और कला के विभिन्न पक्षों को समेटता आयोजन। इसकी पृष्ठभूमि में निरंतर कार्यरत सिद्धार्थ चतुर्वेदी और अदिति चतुर्वेदी। जवाहर कर्नावट, लीलाधर मंडलोई, मुकेश वर्मा, अरविंद चतुर्वेदी व विभिन्न कुलपतियों की समर्पित टीम।

इस आयोजन में से कई बिंदु निकल कर आ रहे हैं। पहला यह केवल शिक्षण, साहित्य, चित्रकला, संगीत, जन-जागरण, का सम्मेलन नहीं था। इसमें बहुत कुछ शारीक था। एक दिन कई सत्रों में केवल शिक्षण पर चर्चा थी। देश-विदेश के अनुभवों का सम्मिश्रण, ऑनलाइन शिक्षण की आवश्यकता, विशेषता, तरीके और अनुभव, शिक्षण में साहित्य, शिक्षा नीति की सम्यक मीमांसा। उसी तरह साहित्य में प्रवासी साहित्य की वर्तमान स्थिति, हिंदी में पटकथा लेखन, प्रमुख पुस्तकों का लोकार्पण, भारत की विभिन्न भाषाओं के लेखकों का सम्मान, हिंदी कविता की आलोचनात्मक समीक्षा आदि आदि संगीत के कलाकारों की छटा निराली थी। आवाज में और संगीत में ऐसी विविधता, ऐसी खनक, ऐसी दिलकश आवाज की लोग मंत्रमुग्ध हो सुनते रहें। युवाओं की रुचि के लोकप्रिय बैंड। चित्रकला की अनुपम प्रस्तुतियाँ। ऐसे व्यापक, विविध, समग्र दृष्टि वाले सम्मेलन कहीं मिलते हैं !

हम भी पिछले 30 सालों से कई सम्मेलन देख चुके हैं। कई विश्व हिंदी सम्मेलनों और दसियों राष्ट्रीय-अंतर्राष्ट्रीय हिंदी सम्मेलनों में भागीदारी की है। निजी प्रयासों से ऐसे सम्मेलन जिसमें प्रतिभागियों के आने-जाने और शीर्षस्थ होटलों में रहने की व्यवस्था हो और उसका खर्चा कोई निजी संस्थान उठा रहा हो यह क्यों हैं! क्या कोई लेखक, साहित्यकार, जो कुलाधिपति भी हो, ऐसा हो सकता है जो अपनी धुन और लगन में देश-विदेश और कई तरह की विधाओं के कलाकारों को स्नेह के बंधन में जोड़ ले और एक व्यापक चित्र का निर्माण कर प्रस्तुत करे। जिसमें राजनीतिक महत्वाकांक्षा न हो और जिसके व्यक्तित्व का पिलपिलापन उसे स्वार्थों का रास्ता न दिखाए। साहित्य जिसमें विवेक दृष्टि दे और जो सम्यक चिंतन और अभिव्यक्ति में दक्ष हो। साहित्य जिसके डीएनए में हो। जो स्वयं एक स्थापित साहित्यकार-आलोचक हो। जिसकी दृष्टि दूरगामी और व्यापक हो।

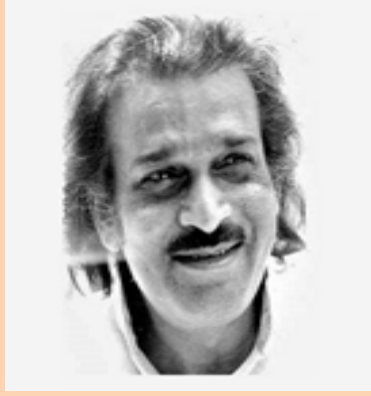
यह सम्मेलन एक बार का चमत्कार नहीं था। वर्ष 2019 से श्री संतोष चौबे यही करतब कर रहे हैं। वैश्विक स्तर पर उनकी यह यात्रा वहीं से शुरू होती है। मुझे प्रसन्नता है कि उनकी इस पहल में मुझे 2019 से जुड़ने का मौका मिला। सुषम बेदी, राहुल देव, कमल किशोर



गोयनका और पचास से अधिक विदेशी प्रतिनिधियों की उपस्थिति में वह आयोजन सुखद आश्चर्य था। पर वह एक बार की बात नहीं था। उन्होंने वर्ष 2020 में उसे दोहराया और फिर तो यह क्रम चालू हो गया। यह निरंतरता चकित करने वाली थी। यह किसी शुभ संकल्प या किसी विराट उद्देश्य की परिचायक थी।

वास्तव में यह हिंदी के वैश्विक समाज को एक सूत्र में जोड़ने का प्रयत्न था। इसमें संकल्प के साथ उदारता भी थी और विनम्रता भी। सबको साथ लेकर चलने का भाव था। मुझे बड़ी प्रसन्नता है कि वातायन और आक्सफोर्ड बिजनेस कालेज द्वारा आयोजित अंतर्राष्ट्रीय हिंदी सम्मेलन में हिंदी के लिए निरंतर कार्य करने और नीति और इरादों को जमीन पर उतारने की सहमति बनी। विश्व हिंदी सचिवालय, वैश्विक हिंदी परिवार, डॉ रमेश पोखरियाल निशंक, डॉ सच्चिदानंद जोशी, भारतीय भाषा मंच के श्री अतुल कोठारी, अंतर्राष्ट्रीय सहयोग परिषद जैसे व्यक्तियों और संस्थाओं ने हाथ बढ़ाया और आयोजनों ही नहीं उद्देश्यों और ठोस परिणामों पर बल देने का निर्णय हुआ। गुजरात - लंदन - भोपाल और दिल्ली उसी प्रयास के पड़ाव हैं। हमारी दृष्टि और उद्देश्य स्पष्ट होने चाहिए।

अंतर्राष्ट्रीय हिंदी केन्द्रों का निर्माण इस आयोजन की सबसे बड़ी सफलता है। प्रवासी साहित्य शोध केन्द्र, अनुवाद, नाटक, लोक साहित्य आदि के केन्द्रों का निर्माण और उनका माननीय पूर्व शिक्षा मंत्री द्वारा उद्घाटन यह स्पष्ट करता है कि यह आयोजन एक नींव गढ़ने का प्रयत्न कर रहा है जो अपनी परिणिती में हिंदी की सुगंध को हर तरफ ले जाए। जो हिंदी को अच्छे इरादों नहीं ठोस निर्णयों और उपलब्धियों की भाषा बनाए। इस भव्य आयोजन के लिए श्री संतोष चौबे और उनकी समर्पित टीम का हार्दिक अभिनंदन।



सर्वेश्वर दयाल सक्सेना
(15 सितंबर, 1927 - 23 सितंबर, 1983)

हिन्दी के सुप्रसिद्ध कवि, साहित्यकार, विचारक और पत्रकार सर्वेश्वर दयाल सक्सेना हिन्दी साहित्य के एक प्रमुख हस्ताक्षर माने जाते हैं। उन्होंने हिन्दी पत्रकारिता के क्षेत्र में भी अपना अमूल्य योगदान दिया। जब उन्होंने दिनमान का कार्यभार संभाला तब समकालीन पत्रकारिता के समक्ष उपस्थित चुनौतियों को समझा और सामाजिक चेतना जगाने में अपना अनुकरणीय योगदान दिया। सर्वेश्वर मानते थे कि जिस देश के पास समृद्ध बाल साहित्य नहीं है, उसका भविष्य उज्ज्वल नहीं रह सकता। सर्वेश्वर की यह अग्रगामी सोच उन्हें एक बाल पत्रिका के सम्पादक के नाते प्रतिष्ठित और सम्मानित करती है। हिन्दी नाटक के क्षेत्र में भी उनका विशिष्ट स्थान है। उनके नाटक 'बकरी' का मंचन देश-विदेश में हो चुका है।

नये साल की शुभकामनाएं!

नये साल की शुभकामनाएं!
खेतों की मेड़ों पर धूल-भरे पांव को,
कुहरे में लिपटे उस छोटे-से गांव को,
नए साल की शुभकामनाएं!

जाँते के गीतों को, बैलों की चाल को,
करघे को, कोल्हू को, मछुओं के जाल को,
नए साल की शुभकामनाएं!

इस पकती रोटी को, बच्चों के शोर को,
चौंके की गुनगुन को, चूल्हे की भोर को,
नए साल की शुभकामनाएं!

वीराने जंगल को, तारों को, रात को,
ठण्डी दो बन्दूकों में घर की बात को,
नए साल की शुभकामनाएं!

इस चलती आंधी में हर बिखरे बाल को,
सिगरेट की लाशों पर फूलों-से ख्याल को,
नए साल की शुभकामनाएं!

कोट के गुलाब और जूड़े के फूल को,
हर नन्ही याद को, हर छोटी भूल को,
नये साल की शुभकामनाएं!

उनको जिनने चुन-चुनकर ग्रीटिंग कार्ड लिखे,
उनको जो अपने गमले में चुपचाप दिखे,
नये साल की शुभकामनाएं!