

# ANTAR RASHTRIYA SAHAYOG PARISHAD BULLETIN

Monthly Newsletter of Indian Council for International Co-operation

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## 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF ARRIVAL OF INDIA IN SURINAME

### PRESIDENT DROUPADI MURMU LAUDED CONTRIBUTION OF INDIAN DIASPORA IN SURINAME AS AN IMPORTANT PILLAR OF THE DEEPENING PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN INDIA AND SURINAME



*President Droupadi Murmu laid a wreath at the Mama Sranan monument and paid homage at the Baba and Mai monument on June 5 alongwith President of Suriname Chandrikapersad Santokhi*

The President of India, Smt Droupadi Murmu along with President Chandrikapersad Santokhi of Suriname, witnessed the cultural festival on the occasion of the commemoration of 150 years of the arrival of Indians in Suriname (June 5, 2023) in Paramaribo.

Addressing the gathering at the Independence Square in Paramaribo, the President said that

today we are celebrating the 150th anniversary of the arrival of Indians in Suriname which is an important milestone in the history of Suriname. On this day, in the year 1873, the first group of Indians reached the shores of Suriname, on board the ship Lalla Rookh which was the beginning of a new chapter in the history of this country.

The President said that as a multicultural society and as a land of opportunities, Suriname has welcomed all the varied communities that came and settled there. During these years, diverse communities evolved into one family and one country. She appreciated people of Suriname for their dedication and commitment to unity and inclusiveness.

The President was happy to note that despite the vast geographical distances, the different time zones and cultural diversity, the Indian diaspora has always remained attached to their roots. She said that over the last 150 years, not only the Indian community has become an integral part of society in Suriname,



an important link in their 150 year old relationship with India. She urged members of the Indian diaspora to continue to make efforts to maintain their connections with India.

The President said that both Suriname and India have made efforts to rebuild their economies and social systems after a long period of colonial rule. This experience has created a feeling of solidarity between the two countries. She said that India-Suriname bilateral relations are based on shared aspirations for development.



*President Murmu receives Suriname's highest distinction, "Grand Order of the Chain of the Yellow Star."*

Earlier in the day, the President paid homage at the Baba and Mai monument, a symbolic representation of the first Indian man

and woman, who first set foot in Suriname. Subsequently, she paid

her respects at the Mama Sranan monument which represents Mama Sranan (Mother Suriname), the Mother Suriname holding her five children, the five ethnicities that inhabit Suriname with care

underlined India's approach of an inclusive world order that is sensitive to legitimate interests and concerns of every country and region. She said that it is in this spirit of solidarity that India extended a helping hand to more than 100 countries during the Covid-19 Pandemic.

The President said that India holds the Presidency of the G-20, through which it is building stronger bridges with both developing countries and advanced economies. In order to provide a greater voice to the issues of interest to developing countries



*President Droupadi Murmu on reached the Lalla Rookh Museum in Suriname.*



and affection.

At a ceremony held at the Presidential Palace, President Murmu was conferred with the highest civilian honour of Suriname 'Grand Order of the Chain of the Yellow Star' by the President of Suriname. In her acceptance address President Murmu, President thanked President Santokhi and Government of Suriname for bestowing upon her this honour. She said that this recognition holds immense significance, not only for her but also for the more than 1.4 billion people of India. She dedicated the honour to the successive generations of the Indian-Surinamese community, who have played a stellar role in enriching the fraternal ties between the two countries.

The President also attended a lunch on banquet hosted in her honour by the President of Suriname. In her banquet speech, President Murmu

and Global South, India also organised the Voice of South Summit in January this year, with the participation of 125 countries from Global South. She appreciated Suriname for being part of this initiative

The President on the third day of her Suriname tour also visited the Vishnu Mandir and Arya Diwakar in Suriname.

Lalla Rookh Museum is a museum about Indo-Surinamese history and culture. It is located in the Lalla Rookh Complex in Paramaribo, Suriname.

President Droupadi Murmu highlighted the deep-rooted ties between India and Suriname and said that the partnership is grounded in the common historical experience of colonialism and that the two countries' relations have evolved over a period of time and have stood the test of time. ■

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# IMPACT OF VASUDHAIVA KUTUMBAKAM ON INDIAN DIASPORA



Diaspora Research and Resource Centre- Antar Rashtriya Sahayog Parishad in collaboration with Vivekananda Kendra and Chinmaya Mission organized a seminar as part of C20 (G20) on the theme of “Impact of Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam (One Earth: One Family: One Future) on Indian Diaspora” in a hybrid mode on 25 May, 2023. Sri Narayan Kumar, Honorary Director-ARSP, defined the significance and relevance of the workshop and pointed out the pivotal role of Diaspora in promoting Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam. Sri Kumar said, the national interests do not contradict the philosophy and essence of Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam because when one thinks of nation, hence one thinks of globe.

In delivering Welcome Address, Sri Shyam Parande, Secretary General-ARSP told ARSP has been relentlessly committed to promoting the ancient philosophy of Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam as part of its “Motto” for over five decades. He stated, diversity is India's strength so Indian diaspora has a major role in spreading its diverse culture and philosophy. Sri Parande further added, the sun never sets on Indian diaspora settled across the world from Fiji to Hawaii Island.

Amb. Virendra Gupta, President-ARSP & Chair of the Seminar, informed, we at ARSP have organized a series of activities for the deliberation on the relevance of Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam and are

further added, It is tribute to the far-sightedness of Sri Baleshwar Agrawal who thought about it though this term was not in trend.

H.E. Dr. Roger Gopaul, High Commissioner of the Republic of Trinidad & Tobago to India, told being part of Indian Diaspora, it itself means, we carried along the religion, philosophy and traditions of India to a new land around 200 years ago. He believes, India is now politically and culturally closer to its diaspora than ever before due to vision and leadership of Sri Narendra Modi Ji. Dr. Gopaul expressed his view that Diaspora can help India outside its boarder not only in protecting the culture, a way of life and religion of India but also in preserving them.

H.E. Kamlesh Shashi Prakash, High Commissioner of the Republic of Fiji to India, said Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam is a way of life for the individual of Indian Diaspora residing anywhere in the world. He stated that our ancestors and our Rishi & Muni were associated with this profound philosophy that shaped our value system over thousands of years. According to his own understanding, the whole philosophy behind the

committed to promoting peace, cordiality and friendship in the world through people connect in the spirit of Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam.

Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam is the oneness, equality, acceptance, respect and tolerance which embody the idea of universal brotherhood that is not narrow or restricted but spans across all domains and takes care of all global communities as well as non-human beings and environment.

Dr. Vishnu Bisram, Political Activist and Journalist- Guyana, said we as Indian diaspora in Caribbean are proud of India's G20 Presidency so the time is ripe to teach Hinduism globally in general and at South America in particular. Antar-Rashtriya Sahayog Parishad should take this initiative in preparing the curriculum of the history of Girmityas as not many people in India and in Caribbean regions are aware of Girmity experience. A number of participants made valuable remarks during the interactive sessions, a few to mention; Sri Rakesh Pandey, Editor, Pravasi Sansar, pointed out, the works, done by non-



governmental organizations, should also get recognition. Mr Santosh Mishra, Former Director of Indian Culture Centre, Trinidad & Tobago and Fiji, said, Fiji along with Manutius is such a country that has ever been awakened to its language and culture since 1920. And Fijians have been always committed to the preservation of their language and culture. Dr. Dipti Aggarwal, Assistant Professor, the University of Delhi, recited a poignant poem related to the migration and agony of indentured labourers. The seminar ended with a vote of thanks delivered by Sri Amit Gupta, Joint Secretary-ARSP.

✍ Report by- Zameer Anwar,  
Research Fellow, CRSCR- ARSP

## Fiji CELEBRATED GIRMITIYA DAY IN SPLENDID & MAGNIFICENT LEVEL

Minister of State for External Affairs Rajkumar Ranjan Singh conveyed the greetings to Fiji on the special occasion of Girmitya Day to commemorate the day when the first batch of Indian indentured labourers arrived via ship to Fiji on May 14, 1879, under then British colonial rule.

Around 60,000 Indian labourers arrived on the South Pacific archipelago in 42 ships and 87 voyages. The Leonidas was the first ship that brought Indians, which became a historical landmark to remember and commemorate. Minister reaffirmed India's strong commitment to further strengthening our partnership for progress with Fiji.

Prime Minister Sitiveni Rabuka in his address said the social and economic contributions of the Girmityas to Fiji are immeasurable, yet the acknowledgement is long overdue.

"This is a special day for Fiji. We are now coming together as a nation to acknowledge and honour the Girmityas from India to Fiji between 1879 and 1916," he said, during an address at the Girmitya Day celebrations at

Churchill Park in Lautoka.

"We should be aware that millions, not just a few thousand who came to Fiji, millions were indentured as laborers over the British colonies of those days.

"They came to work, some of them did not know that they came to Fiji; today we pay our respects to them and acknowledge the contribution of their descendants who are among us today."

Some of the hardships faced by Girmityas include a lack of employment regulation, labour laws and immigration laws, a report said.

"Many laws were not in place to ensure that they were fairly treated, the official approach was one of exploitation involving physical and mental ill-treatment, terrible working hours and poor pay if any.

"This generation is now reaping the rewards of what was sewn in the colonial days and now the onus is on us to form a solid foundation for the

future.

"I congratulate you all the descendants for the survival of your forebearers, they lived through, what was really similar to what we see in movies of wild west America.

"Those who decided to stay, fled from their oppression and the agreement made new lives for themselves and they became independent farmers well before the colony become independent."

Lautoka City Council chief executive officer Mohammed Anees Khan said: "The organising committee is grateful to the Coalition Government for bestowing this fitting honour in the memory of the girmityas and acknowledges the immense contribution in the economic development of Fiji although it came late, nonetheless, it is a momentous occasion worth celebrating."

While speaking on behalf of the Fiji Girmitya Council, secretary Selwa Nandan said the Girmitya Day was a fitting tribute. ■

## GIRMITIYA DAY : APOLOGY ACCEPTED NEW ERA OF UNITY AND RECONCILIATION IN FIJI

History unfolded live at the Vodafone Arena at Laucala Bay in Suva when the Methodist Church of Fiji and Rotuma and descendants of the Girmitya exchanged apologies and forgiveness in a solemn church service marking the fourth day of the inaugural Girmitya Day celebrations. An emotional Prime Minister Sitiveni Rabuka, fought back tears as he sought forgiveness for the hurt and pain inflicted on Fijians of Indian origin during the colonial era and the political upheavals of 1987 and 2000.

"I am not making this confession as Prime Minister of Fiji, as I do not hold the government accountable for my actions of 1987. I do not claim to be making this confession on behalf of the vanua of Navatu, I am not Tui Navatu and I am just a member of the Yavusa Navatu of Cakaudrove. But I make this confession on behalf of all those that took part with me in the military coup of May 14, 1987," Mr Rabuka said.

"We confess our wrongdoings, we confess that we have hurt so many of



Prime Minister Sitiveni Rabuka with former Prime Minister Mahendra Chaudhry during the Thanksgiving and National Reconciliation church service at the Vodafone Arena in Suva on Sunday, May 14, 2023

our people in Fiji, particularly those of our Indo-Fijian communities at that time and among them were sons and daughters of those that were indentured as labourer from India between 1879 and 1960."

He said they had every right to be angry about what was done to them.

"I stand here to confess and ask for your forgiveness. I have made our confession to some who were affected by our deeds in 1987. To

those I did not reach, I hope coming through for us here, please forgive us. "As you forgive, you release us and you are released. You are released from hatred and from your anger and we begin to feel the peace of God coming to our beings and our lives."

In an emotional response, former prime minister and Fiji Labour Party leader Mahendra Chaudhry said it was a great day for the nation and worth celebrating and that it would go down well in history and everyone must build on it.

"I am deeply honoured by this gesture. Prime Minister Rabuka, I also accept your apology. In your personal capacity you apologised," he said.

"I accept the apologies of the Turaga na Vunivalu na Tui Kaba, Marama Roko Tui Dreketi and the Tui Cakau. Thank you very much for your magnanimity.

"I think the spirit is there now, that we can all work together, may God bless Fiji." ■

# GIRMIT DAY : CELEBRATION AND BELONGING

✍ Dr. Subhash Appanna



Last week (May 14-21, 2023) was filled with activities and festivities that were organised to mark the arrival of the girmitya in Fiji.

There were a number of things that stood out in the organisation of these events that need highlighting. One, government allocated a substantial sum of \$500,000 to the commemoration of girmitya in Fiji.

Two, the occasion was celebrated over four days culminating in a public holiday.

Three, Girmitya Day is an unprecedented public holiday that has brought the significance of girmitya onto the national stage.

Four, the world's largest girmitya conference to date was organised at the University of the South Pacific where girmitya descendants from all

over the world made research presentations and participated in the recording and sharing of knowledge on girmitya.

This conference was organised over two days and presentations were made either in person or via zoom links.

The program did not end there as Sunday brought new developments that need to be highlighted.

This brings us to point number five, a Thanksgiving and Reconciliation Service was organised at the Vodafone Arena on Sunday (May 14) where Prime Minister Sitiveni Rabuka and the Methodist Church in Fiji and Rotuma apologised for their roles in the 1987 and 2000 coups.

Six, all three of our paramount chiefs — na Turaga na Tui Cakau, na Marama bale na Rokotui Dreketi and na Turaga na Vunivalu na Tui Kaba — were there to legitimise and bless the momentous occasion.

All three vanua that make up Fiji were therefore, directly involved in the celebrations. Seven, an official visit was made to Naivilaca Village on May



11 where the Marama Bale na Rokotui Dreketi declared that village, which was involved in the rescue mission when the slave ship Syria capsized on Nasilai Reef on May 11, 1884, a Peace Village.

Eight, many ethnic Fijians openly expressed support and empathy for the descendants of the girmitya — many shared stories of quiet acceptance of the girmitya by chiefs that we had never heard of before.

Nine, a pact was signed to relegate coups to the ashes of the past and to ensure acceptance, belonging, racial and religious tolerance. And ten, the whole five days was silently aimed at healing wounds that may have arisen from cross-cultural conflicts in the past. ■

## DIPLOMATIC POSTINGS

**Shri Mridul Kumar** (IFS: 1992), presently Additional Secretary in the Ministry of External Affairs, has been appointed as the **next Ambassador of India to Switzerland**.

**Shri Vipul** (IFS: 1998) presently Joint Secretary in the Ministry of External Affairs, has been appointed as the **next Ambassador of India to the State of Qatar**.

**Shri Upender Singh Rawat** (IFS: 1998), presently Ambassador of India to the Republic of Panama has been appointed as the **next High Commissioner of India to the Republic of Uganda**.

**Dr. Shilpak N. Ambule** (IFS: 2002) presently Joint Secretary in the Ministry of External Affairs, has been appointed as the **next High Commissioner of India to the Republic of Singapore**.

**Shri Sanjeev Jain** (YOA: 2008), presently Director in the Ministry of External Affairs has been appointed as the **next Ambassador of India to the Republic of Cabo Verde**.

**Ms. Nilakshi Saha Sinha** presently Ambassador of India to the Republic of Armenia, has been concurrently accredited as the **next Ambassador of India to Georgia, with residence in Yerevan**. ■

# PM Modi CONFERRED HIGHEST FIJIAN HONOUR by FIJIAN PM STIVENI RABUKA

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday has been conferred the highest Fijian honour—Companion of the Order of Fiji. Fijian PM Stiveni Rabuka conferred the award on PM Modi in recognition of his global leadership. Only a handful of Non-Fijians have got this recognition so far.

On receiving the highest Fijian honour, Prime Minister Modi said this honour belongs to 140 crore Indians as well as India-Fiji relations, which date back centuries. The Prime Minister said: "This honour is not just mine but that of 140 crore Indians, of centuries-old India-Fiji relations".

Before being conferred the Companion of the Order of Fiji honour, PM Modi shared his picture with PM Rabuka on Twitter and wrote that India-Fiji ties have stood the test of time.

Prime Minister Modi tweeted: "Delighted to meet PM Stiveni Rabuka of Fiji. We had a great conversation on various topics. The relation between India and Fiji has stood the test of time. We look forward to working together to further cement it in the coming years".

The development took place on the sidelines of the third India-Pacific Island summit (FIPIC) summit. During the FIPIC summit, Prime Minister Narendra Modi rolled out a



*Fijian PM Stiveni Rabuka conferred the award on PM Modi in recognition of his global leadership*

12-step action plan to bolster India-Pacific Island nation ties. The 12-step action plan includes a 100-bed regional hospital in Fiji, setting up a regional and cyber security training hub in Papua New Guinea, Sagar Amrut Scholarships—100 scholarships in the next 5 years, and a Jaipur Foot camp in Papua New Guinea.

It also comprises FIPIC SME development project, setting up desalination units for drinking water, supplying sea ambulances, setting up dialysis units and emergency helpline numbers, setting up a solar project for government buildings, Jan Aushadhi kendras and yoga centres.

Meanwhile, Rabuka on Sunday apologised to the Indian-Fijian community for the coup of 1987 ahead of the India-Pacific Island summit (FIPIC). Rabuka admitted he wronged the Girmitiyas descendants

and all Fijians, particularly the Indian-Fijian community, in 1987.

Ethnic Indians were in majority until a military coup in 1987 forced tens of thousands of them to leave the island nation. The coup, staged by Rabuka, overthrew Prime Minister Timoci Bavadra's government. Bavadra was the country's first ethnic Prime Minister supported by Indian political parties of Fiji.

Rabuka was quoted as saying by news agency ANI: "I admit our wrongdoings, you are correct to have blamed us, you have every right to blame us for the difficulties you went through, we do not blame you for being angry with us or even hating us, you are justified in your anger and your hate. I stand here to confess and to ask for your forgiveness. I have made my confession personally to some for my deeds in 1987." ■

# INDIAN DIASPORA NEEDS Psychological, Political Stimulus

The Indian diaspora worldwide was used to enhance British colonialism, imperialism as a deliberate policy in the then British Empire

East Indian immigrants were forced out of India between 1845 and 1917 in order to enhance British interests and plantation owners where ever they went. This initiative was a continuation of the British domination in all its colonies in Asia, Africa and the Caribbean, and whilst these immigrants made an indelible contribution to the economic and socio-cultural contribution to their newly-found homes, they were traumatized, scorned, belittled and were treated in the most inhumane conditions. It was not easy in terms of human civilization.

And whilst, the East Indian diaspora in Trinidad and Tobago triumphed over the decades, they did so under great social, economic and political stress, all of which continue unabated in today's society. The Indian diaspora is not a tribal group, rather it has become functional, and it has contributed immensely to the development of Trinidad and Tobago, and this would continue. Throughout that the diligence, hard work, thrift and sacrifice made over the past 178th, years, May 30,2023 must be construed as footprints for our nation, and for which other ethnic groups should emulate and build upon. Approximately 147,000 East Indians came from such places as Uttar Pradesh and Bihar. They are sited in Asia, Africa, the Caribbean, USA or Europe, they have made a great mark for others to take a pattern, and follow suit.

The University of the West Indies, or for that matter, the University of Trinidad and Tobago should undertake an in depth study of all the ethnic groups for future reference for scholars, researchers and students of world history. It is fitting that as we celebrate the 178th anniversary today, since the first group of our forefathers set foot on this land, that such an undertaking becomes a

reality.

Indian Arrival Day, whilst it is an opportunity for reflection, it should become a monumental occasion for all of us, including the other ethnic groups, to rebrand our own portfolios with the view of promoting the concept of national development and nation building to greater heights than when they came here.

This must be undertaken in a collective and bipartisan effort as all of us are children of Mother Trinidad and Tobago. Let the true spirit of patriotism that the national citizenry flow with the temper of the times, and now. It is about time that celebrations to mark Indian Arrival Day whether in Trinidad and Tobago, Guyana, Suriname, Mauritius and Fiji must take a new format and a more scientific approach. (Fiji, this year celebrated Indian Arrival Day on May 15, and from now on it would be a national holiday)

We must move away from the traditional Carnival-style parades, whether they are on the roads or the oceans, floats, religious services and grandiose speeches by politicians and others. As all these activities are seminal and are quickly forgotten until the next Indian Arrival Day, and this repetition must not continue, or become an integral factor as an Indian Arrival Day functionary. This approach does not provide or offer a new learning process or respect for future generations. We, the leaders of the Diaspora must embark or seek to etch out a new civilizational concept ushering, both a psychological, political and philosophical framework for its continued observance for generations to come.

In the Preface to the seminar held at the University of the West Indies in June 1975, Bridget Brereton and Winston Dookeran, two international scholars in the sciences, wrote: "The symposium on East Indians in the Caribbean was organized in the awareness that issues are central to the future development of the region.

The aim was to provide a forum for research and to bring together these findings in the field. We hope t h a t n e w perspectives on these issues have emerged from



✉ Paras Ramoutar

the deliberations of the symposium and that as a result new areas of research have opened up". Apparently, there were similar parleys but nothing of substance emerged. There must be regular parleys to focus any aspects of positive growth or otherwise.

Nobel Laureate, V.S, Naipaul who gave the introduction: "We forget we have no idea of our past; it is part of the trouble, We, came from a culture that has not been given much to self-examination or to historical inquiry. And it is not only today. After the old culture has been more or less been lost. Its values overthrown; only today that people can begin to look at themselves. This is the first paradox; that self-awareness should come only with this loss. But the self-awareness is revolutionary and I think that this first at self-examination—this first Indian attempt at self-examination—this intellectual response to a cultural loss, this break with the past—makes the community more complex and interesting that it perhaps has been."

This vaunts back to a solution of psychological and political stimulus. Otherwise, the whole concept of the annual Indian Arrival Day trajectory will be blown into the oblivion, and probably forgotten. Other countries will similar ethnic stocks are now given new clout and impetus to recognize, acknowledge and celebrate Indian Arrival Day, with no scorn, no fake. But with jubilation, honour and respect.

We, in Trinidad and Tobago can take a page from similar countries. It is getting late.

# GOVT TO BUILD MEMORIAL FOR ROMA MIGRANTS TO EUROPE WHO TRACE ROOTS TO INDIA

The government of India plans to construct a Roma memorial at Kannauj in Uttar Pradesh to commemorate the exodus of people from the city to the Mediterranean region and Europe. The memorial will also have an amphitheatre to showcase local culture.

Speaking on the World Roma Day, April 18, Uttar Pradesh's Minister of State for Social Welfare, Asim Arun said that it was a surprise to know that such large-scale migration took place from Kannauj to Europe. Arun said: "We will make the Roma memorial a hub of activity for the Roma as well as local people. As part of the memorial, we also plan to make a film".

The government of India is taking the lead in constructing the Roma memorial with support from the state government. Kannauj lies about 400 kms south-east from Delhi.

The Roma community, which is spread in large parts of Europe, faces poverty and discrimination. The Roma people were killed in tens of thousands alongside the Jews by the Nazis during the Second World War. The persecution by the Nazis has come to be acknowledged only recently.

It was widely believed earlier, but now supported by numerous studies, that the Roma people migrated from north-west India. Livia Jaroka, Member of the European Parliament (MEP) and Roma leader from Hungary said that India needs to take up leadership of the Roma community. She added that the Indian government and also the European Union should provide more support for Roma issues. Underlining the difficulties being faced by the community, Jaroka said



*The Roma community during World War-II  
(Photo: Romedia Foundation/Twitter/The Diary of Diana B)*

that the Roma people in Europe are once again facing severe difficulties because of the impact of Covid, the Russia-Ukraine war and rising inflation. She added that the Roma community leaders in Europe can now use technology to network with India for the cause of the Roma people.

Many Roma intellectuals voiced about seeking support from India and restoring historical ties with their country of ancestry. Peter Pollak, Member of the European Parliament (MEP), Slovakia, said: "we need support from India in recognising the Roma people". He added that the Romani people want to have closer and "fruitful cultural cooperation with the country of our fathers and mothers".

Normunds Rudevics, the president of the International Romani Union (IRU) Latvia, also focussed on the idea that India has to do more to support the community.

Highlighting the plight of his people, Rudevics said that even now 85 per cent of the Roma do not have a proper roof over their head. "Our community continues to be a victim of crime and discrimination because of the nationality of origin. We want

India to grant residence permits to members of the community".

Rudevics highlighted that the Roma also want to open up a national bank and set-up a memorial in Europe to commemorate the victims of WW-II. He said that the rich Roma culture and traditions are still not known to the world.

Drawing the close connection between the two cultures, Indian ambassador to Hungary,

Sanjay Rana said that many linguistic, ethnological, genetic and ethno-sociological researches have conclusively proved that the Roma people of Europe hail from India. He highlighted how various Indian politicians have acknowledged the common heritage between the Roma and India.

Rana added that the Roma are believed to have left India between the 5th-10th centuries and reached the Mediterranean and the Balkan regions. In the 12th century they spread out further to other countries in Europe. "Now they are between 20-25 million strong in Europe constituting 10-12 per cent of the population in Romania and Bulgaria. Despite their ancestral roots, they are not a monolithic culture", Rana added.

The Antar Rashtriya Sahayog Parishad (ARSP), the Vivekananda Kendra and the Chinmaya Mission had organised the international conference to highlight the Indian belief in 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam', or the concept of 'one earth, one family, one future'. The conference also saw the participation of well-known Roma professors, researchers and musicians from across Europe.



## PM Modi, NEPALESE COUNTERPART Pushpa Dahal hold bilateral talks at Hyderabad House

Dahal alias Prachanda who assumed office in December last year is on an official visit to India from May 31-June 3. This is his fourth visit to India.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Nepal Prime Minister Pushpa Dahal 'Prachanda' held bilateral talks at Hyderabad House on Thursday.



impart renewed momentum to the close and unique India-Nepal relationship.”

Nepal Prime Minister Pushpa Kamal Dahal, who is on his first overseas visit since assuming office met National Security Advisor (NSA) Ajit Doval on Wednesday.

“Deepening the bonds of friendship and cooperation. PM @narendramodi greets PM @cmprachanda of Nepal as the latter arrives in Hyderabad House for bilateral talks,” Ministry of External Affairs Spokesperson Arindam Bagchi tweeted when PM Modi greeted 'Prachanda' at the Hyderabad House.

The engagement between the two Prime Ministers will be an opportunity to discuss the entire gamut of the multifaceted relationship between India and Nepal.

Earlier in the day, Nepal Prime Minister Pushpa Kamal Dahal 'Prachanda' laid a wreath at Raj Ghat in New Delhi. He also wrote in the visitor's book at Raj Ghat.

“PM @cmprachanda of Nepal paid solemn tribute to Mahatma Gandhi at

Raj Ghat,” tweeted Ministry of External Affairs official spokesperson Arindam Bagchi.

Dahal alias Prachanda who assumed office in December last year is on an official visit to India from May 31-June 3. This is his fourth visit to India.

Nepal Prime Minister Pushpa Kamal Dahal 'Prachanda' arrived in New Delhi on Wednesday. Upon arrival, he received a warm welcome from Union Minister Meenakashi Lekhi.

Informing about his arrival, Ministry of External Affairs official spokesperson Arindam Bagchi tweeted, “Nepal PM Pushpa Kamal Dahal arrives in Delhi, receives warm welcome by MoS Lekhi, PM @cmprachanda of Nepal arrives in New Delhi on his first overseas visit after assumption of office. Warmly welcomed by MoS @M\_Lekhi at the airport. The visit will

In addition to the official engagements, he will also visit Ujjain and Indore as part of his visit.

During the visit, both sides will build on the successes achieved by India and Nepal in the bilateral partnership during previous high-level visits [Prime Minister Deuba to New Delhi (April 2022) and Prime Minister Modi to Lumbini (May 2022)].

During his visit, Nepal Prime Minister Pushpa Kamal Dahal aka 'Prachanda' will call on President Droupadi Murmu and Vice-President Jagdeep Dhankhar.

Nepal ambassador to India Shankar P Sharma on Wednesday called Pushpa Kamal Dahal's trip to India a “goodwill visit” and added that it “will bring Nepal and India's relations to a good height.” ■

### DAYS TO REMEMBER

in July, 2023

July 01 : Canada Day (National Day of Canada)

July 03 : Purnima ■

July 04 : U.S.A. : National Day

July 05 : Venezuela : National Day

July 11 : Mongolia : National Day

July 11 : World Population Day

July 14 : France : National Day

July 17 : Amavasya ●

July 21 : Belgium : National Day

July 26 : Maldives : Independence Day

# PM Modi's visit to JAPAN, PAPUA NEW GUINEA, AUSTRALIA FROM MAY 19-24

Prime Minister Narendra Modi embarked on a six-day visit to three countries - Japan, Papua New Guinea and Australia, to attend multilateral summits, including that of the Group of Seven (G7).

According to the external affairs ministry, the prime minister first visited Hiroshima in Japan from May 19 to 21 to participate in the annual summit of the G7 advanced economies under the Japanese Presidency. He visited Japan at the invitation of Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida.

Firstly, PM Modi participated in the G7 summit in Japan, from where he headed to Papua New Guinea. It was the first visit by an Indian prime minister to Papua New Guinea.

He co-chaired the third Summit of the Forum for India-Pacific Islands Cooperation (FIPIC) in Papua New Guinea.

On the third leg of his visit prime minister Modi visited Sydney in Australia where he held a bilateral meeting with Australian prime minister Anthony Albanese.

At the G7 Summit in Hiroshima, Prime Minister Modi spoke at G7 sessions with partner countries on subjects such as peace, stability and prosperity of a sustainable planet; food, fertiliser and energy security; health; gender equality; climate change and environment; resilient infrastructure; and development cooperation.



The Prime Minister held bilateral meetings with some of the participating leaders on the sidelines of the Summit. In recent years, the economic relationship between Japan and India has steadily expanded and deepened. The volume of trade between the two countries has increased.

Japanese PM Fumio Kishida visited India this March. He arrived in India on March 20 and during his meeting with PM Modi, the two leaders confirmed that India and Japan share the responsibility to maintain and strengthen the international order based on the rule of law. They concurred on the importance of clearly outlining this idea at the G7 and G20 meetings.

The two leaders during a working lunch in Delhi confirmed that the two countries would coordinate closely bilaterally as well as in G4 to achieve concrete results on the Security Council reform, according to an official release.

From Japan, the Prime Minister travelled to Port Moresby in, Papua New Guinea, where he hosted the third Summit of the Forum for India-Pacific Islands Cooperation (FIPIC III Summit) jointly with Prime Minister of Papua New Guinea James Marape

on May 22.

Launched in 2014, the FIPIC involves India and 14 Pacific Island Countries (PICs) - Fiji, Papua New Guinea, Tonga, Tuvalu, Kiribati, Samoa, Vanuatu, Niue, Federated States of Micronesia, Republic of the Marshall Islands, Cook Islands, Palau, Nauru and the Solomon Islands.

A Ministry of External Affairs release said that Prime Minister Modi had bilateral engagements in Papua New Guinea, including meetings with Governor-General Sir Bob Dadae and Prime Minister James Marape.

After concluding his visit to Papua New Guinea, PM Modi travelled to Sydney despite the cancellation of the Quad Leaders' meeting. He arrived in Australia on May 23.

PM Modi had a bilateral meeting with his Australian counterpart Albanese on May 24. He also interacted with Australian CEOs and business leaders, and addressed the Indian diaspora at a community event in Sydney on May 23.

Australian PM Albanese during his recent visit to India in March, earlier this year, said that India and Australia have forged a deeper connection in education, culture, defence and trade. The Australian PM was on an official visit to India from March 8-11. The Australian PM also shared a video showing highlights of his India visit. During the visit, the Australian PM met Prime Minister Narendra Modi at the Hyderabad House in New Delhi to hold bilateral talks. ■

## PRIME MINISTER OF NEPAL CALLS ON THE PRESIDENT



H.E. Mr. Pushpa Kamal Dahal 'Prachanda', the Prime Minister of Nepal called on the President of India, Smt Droupadi Murmu at Rashtrapati Bhavan (June 1, 2023).

The President welcomed Prime Minister Prachanda and congratulated him on his appointment as Prime Minister of Nepal. She said that in view of his old

association with India and his experience, India looks forward to a positive agenda in India-Nepal bilateral relations to take the age-old partnership to new heights. She expressed confidence that this visit would further strengthen the strong bond between the two countries.

The President noted that India-Nepal bilateral cooperation has gone from strength to strength in recent years. Trade between the two countries was maintained even during the difficult times of the COVID-19 pandemic. The President said that the open border between India and Nepal has

encouraged tourism from both sides. She emphasised on the need of reviving the spiritual tourist circuit to promote people to people contact and tourism. She said that Sister City Agreements and improvement in financial connectivity can also boost tourism between our two countries.

The President said that Nepal is a priority for India. She added that India looks forward to furthering our development-partnership, including early completion of important projects. ■

## MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS OF INDIA JAISHANKAR'S VISIT TO SOUTH AFRICA, NAMIBIA CEMENTED INDIA'S STRONG BONDS WITH THESE COUNTRIES

**EAM S JAISHANKAR HAS CONCLUDED HIS VISIT TO SOUTH AFRICA AND NAMIBIA. MEA SAID THAT THE VISIT HAS FURTHER CEMENTED INDIA'S STRONG BONDS WITH THESE NATIONS.**

External Affairs Minister Dr. S. Jaishankar paid official visits to the Republic of South Africa and the Republic of Namibia from June 1-6 cementing India's strong bonds with the nations, said an official release from the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA).



EAM called on H.E. Mr. Hage Geingob, President of Namibia and also co-chaired the inaugural Session of the Joint Commission Meeting with the Namibian Deputy Prime Minister/ Foreign Minister, Ms. Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah (DPM).

The minister visited Cape Town in South Africa from June 1-3 and participated in the BRICS Foreign Ministers' Meeting and the Friends of BRICS Foreign Ministers' Meeting on June 1 and 2 respectively.

MEA said that during the discussions, EAM put forth India's positions on global & regional developments, global economic recovery, working of multilateral institutions including BRICS. The meeting culminated with a Joint BRICS Foreign Ministers Statement on June 1. EAM also held separate interactions with the South African Foreign Minister Ms. Naledi Pandor and some other Foreign

Ministers attending BRICS and Friends of BRICS meetings.

He also called on the President of South Africa with other BRICS Ministers. While in Capetown, EAM also addressed and interacted with the Indian community where he informed them about 30 years of Diplomatic relations with South Africa, 15 years journey of BRICS and the achievements made by the Government in the past nine years, the MEA added.

After this, EAM visited Namibia from June 4-6. This was the first visit by an External Affairs Minister of India to the Republic of Namibia. During the visit,

EAM also addressed the Indian Diaspora based in Namibia besides meeting with the Indian diamond business community. He also formally inaugurated the India-Namibia Centre of Excellence in Information Technology (INCEIT) in Windhoek, in the presence of DPM and Minister of Higher Education Itah Kandjii-Murangi.

MEA said that the visit provided an opportunity for high-level interactions both in South Africa and Namibia, and further cemented the strong bonds of friendship that India enjoys with these countries. ■

## WHITE HOUSE HONOURED PROF. C RADHAKRISHNA RAO



C Radhakrishna Rao retired at the age of sixty and went to live with his daughter in America along with his grandchildren. There, at the age of 62, he became a professor of statistics at the University of Pittsburgh and at the age of 70, he became the head of the department at the University of Pennsylvania. He got the USA citizenship at the age of 75 and was awarded with National Medal For Science at the age of 82, a White House honor. Today, at the age of 102, he received the Nobel Prize in Statistics. In India, the government has already honored him with Padma Bhushan (1968) and Padma Vibhushan (2001). Rao says: No one asks after retirement in India.

Colleagues also respect power and not scholarship. At the age of 102, receiving a Nobel while in good physical condition, it is probably the first example. An event that should be taken into account by all of us! Age is just a number, live gracefully as long as u r fit. ■

## AJAY BANGA SELECTED 14TH PRESIDENT OF THE WORLD BANK

The Executive Directors of the World Bank today selected Ajay Banga as President of the World Bank for a five-year term beginning June 2, 2023.

Ajay Banga most recently served as Vice Chairman at General Atlantic. Previously, he was President and CEO of Mastercard, a global organization with nearly 24,000 employees. Under his leadership, MasterCard launched the Center for Inclusive Growth, which advances equitable and sustainable economic growth and financial inclusion around the world. He was Honorary Chairman of the International Chamber of Commerce, serving as Chairman from 2020-2022. He became an advisor to General Atlantic's climate-focused fund, BeyondNetZero, at its inception in 2021. Banga served as Co-Chair of the Partnership for Central America, a coalition of private organizations that works to advance economic opportunity across underserved populations in El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras. He was previously on the Boards of the American Red Cross, Kraft Foods, and Dow Inc.



Ajay Banga is a co-founder of The Cyber Readiness Institute and was Vice Chair of the Economic Club of New York. He was awarded the Foreign Policy Association Medal in 2012, the Padma Shri Award by the President of India in 2016, the Ellis Island Medal of Honor and the Business Council for International Understanding's Global Leadership Award in 2019, and the Distinguished Friends of Singapore Public Service Star in 2021.

The Executive Directors followed the selection process agreed by shareholders in 2011. The process included an open, merit-based, and transparent nomination where any national of the Bank's membership could be proposed by any Executive Director or Governor through an Executive Director. This was then

followed by thorough due diligence and a comprehensive interview of Mr. Banga by the Executive Directors.

The Board looks forward to working with Mr. Banga on the World Bank Group Evolution process, as discussed at the April 2023 Spring Meetings, and on all the World Bank Group's ambitions and efforts aimed at tackling the toughest development challenges facing developing countries.

The President of the World Bank Group is also the Chair of the Board of the Executive Directors of the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD). The President is also ex officio chair of the Board of Directors of the International Development Association (IDA), International Finance Corporation (IFC), the Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency (MIGA), and of the Administrative Council of the International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes (ICSID). ■

## अंतर्राष्ट्रीय शांति, सुरक्षा के लिए प्रमुख खतरों में आतंकवाद: एस जयशंकर

दक्षिण अफ्रीका में 1 से 2 जून 2023 तक आयोजित ब्रिक्स सम्मेलन में भारत के विदेश मंत्री एस जयशंकर ने आतंकवाद को अंतर्राष्ट्रीय शांति और सुरक्षा के लिए प्रमुख खतरों में से एक बताया और कहा कि पाकिस्तान पर परोक्ष रूप से हमला करते हुए सभी देशों को इसके वित्तपोषण और प्रचार सहित इस खतरे के खिलाफ कड़े कदम उठाने चाहिए।

ब्रिक्स विदेश मंत्रियों की बैठक में अपनी प्रारंभिक टिप्पणी में, श्री जयशंकर ने यह भी कहा कि आतंकवाद का इसके सभी रूपों और अभिव्यक्तियों में मुकाबला किया जाना चाहिए, और किसी भी परिस्थिति में इसे कभी भी माफ नहीं किया जाना चाहिए।

रूसी विदेश मंत्री सर्गेई लावरोव और दक्षिण अफ्रीका के विदेश मंत्री की उपस्थिति वाले मंच पर मंत्री ने कहा, “अंतर्राष्ट्रीय शांति और सुरक्षा के लिए प्रमुख खतरों में आतंकवाद का खतरा है। सभी देशों को इसके वित्तपोषण और प्रचार सहित इस खतरे के खिलाफ दृढ़ कदम उठाने चाहिए।”

श्री जयशंकर ने पाकिस्तान को “आतंकवाद का केंद्र” बताया है जहां हाफिज सईद, मसूद अजहर, साजिद मीर और दाऊद इब्राहिम जैसे आतंकवादी शरण लिए हुए हैं।

यह देखते हुए कि अंतर्राष्ट्रीय स्थिति चुनौतीपूर्ण है, श्री जयशंकर ने कहा कि वैश्विक वातावरण आज मांग करता है कि ब्रिक्स राष्ट्रों को प्रमुख समकालीन मुद्दों पर गंभीरता से, रचनात्मक और सामूहिक रूप से विचार करना चाहिए।

उन्होंने कहा, “हम लोगों को एक मजबूत संदेश देना चाहिए कि दुनिया बहुध्रुवीय है, यह पुनर्संतुलन कर रही है और पुराने तरीके नई स्थितियों को संबोधित नहीं कर सकते हैं। हम परिवर्तन के प्रतीक हैं और तदानुसार कार्य करना चाहिए।”

मंत्री ने यूक्रेन संघर्ष का उल्लेख किए बिना कहा, “यह जिम्मेदारी और भी बड़ी है क्योंकि हम COVID महामारी के विनाशकारी

परिणामों, संघर्ष से उत्पन्न तनाव और वैश्विक दक्षिण के आर्थिक संकट पर विचार करते हैं।”

उन्होंने कहा कि वे मौजूदा अंतर्राष्ट्रीय ढांचे की गहरी कमियों को रेखांकित करते हैं जो आज की राजनीति, अर्थशास्त्र, जनसांख्यिकी या आकांक्षाओं को प्रतिबिंबित नहीं करता है।

मंत्री ने संयुक्त राष्ट्र सुरक्षा परिषद में बहुप्रतीक्षित सुधार का भी आह्वान किया।

“दो दशकों से, हमने बहुपक्षीय संस्थानों में सुधार के लिए चर्चा सुनी है, केवल लगातार निराशा हुए हैं। इसलिए, यह अनिवार्य है कि ब्रिक्स सदस्य संयुक्त राष्ट्र सुरक्षा परिषद सहित वैश्विक निर्णय लेने में सुधार के संबंध में ईमानदारी प्रदर्शित करें।” उन्होंने कहा।

श्री जयशंकर ने कहा कि देश जिन समस्याओं का सामना कर रहे हैं, उनके केंद्र में आर्थिक एकाग्रता है जो बहुत से देशों को बहुत कम लोगों की दया पर छोड़ देती है।

“यह उत्पादन, संसाधनों, सेवाओं या कनेक्टिविटी के संबंध में हो सकता है,” उन्होंने कहा, स्वास्थ्य, ऊर्जा और खाद्य सुरक्षा को प्रभावित करने वाले हालिया अनुभव केवल इस नाजुकता को उजागर करते हैं।

उन्होंने कहा कि जी20 के वर्तमान अध्यक्ष भारत ने इन मुद्दों को समूह के समक्ष रखने के लिए ग्लोबल साउथ एक्सरसाइज की आवाज उठाई।

उन्होंने कहा, “हम आग्रह करते हैं कि ब्रिक्स इस पर विशेष ध्यान दें और आर्थिक विकेंद्रीकरण को बढ़ावा दें जो राजनीतिक लोकतंत्रीकरण के लिए बहुत आवश्यक है।”

उन्होंने कहा कि संयुक्त राष्ट्र ने 2023 को



बाजरा का अंतर्राष्ट्रीय वर्ष घोषित किया है। उन्होंने कहा कि जलवायु-लचीले और पौष्टिक अनाज उत्पादन को प्रोत्साहित करने से निश्चित रूप से वैश्विक खाद्य सुरक्षा में वृद्धि होगी।

उन्होंने कहा, “पर्यावरणीय पहल के लिए भारत द्वारा पेश की गई जीवन शैली स्थिरता की दिशा में एक और महत्वपूर्ण कदम है जिसका ब्रिक्स को समर्थन करना चाहिए। हमारी बैठक में इसके व्यापक संस्थागत विकास पर भी विचार किया जाएगा।”

“हमने उस अभ्यास को सकारात्मक भावना और खुले दिमाग से किया। इस समूह में रुचि का स्तर संतुष्टि का विषय है और हमारे बढ़ते प्रभाव का प्रमाण है। इसी कारण से हम जो निर्णय लेते हैं उनके दूरगामी परिणाम होते हैं। वे करेंगे आने वाले समय में हमारे पारस्परिक रूप से लाभप्रद सहयोग को भी बढ़ाएंगे।”

उन्होंने कहा कि समूह के पास विचार-विमर्श करने के लिए कई महत्वपूर्ण मुद्दे हैं और “हम ऐसा समानता, आपसी सम्मान और पूर्ण सहमति की भावना से करेंगे। यह ब्रिक्स की पहचान है।” पांच देशों का समूह ब्रिक्स (ब्राजील-रूस-भारत-चीन-दक्षिण अफ्रीका) दुनिया के पांच सबसे बड़े विकासशील देशों को एक साथ लाता है, जो वैश्विक आबादी का 41 प्रतिशत, वैश्विक सकल घरेलू उत्पाद का 24 प्रतिशत और 16 प्रतिशत का प्रतिनिधित्व करता है।

## अयोध्या राम मंदिर : 155 देशों की नदियों के जल से हुआ अभिशेक, बाबर के जन्मस्थान से भी लाया गया पानी

दुनिया भर के सात महाद्वीपों की 155 नदियों से लाया गया जल अयोध्या के राम मंदिर में जलाभिषेक के जरिए अर्पित किया गया।

दुनिया भर के सात महाद्वीपों की 155 नदियों से लाया गया जल अयोध्या के राम मंदिर में जलाभिषेक के जरिए अर्पित किया गया। जिन देशों से जल लाया गया उनमें पाकिस्तान भी शामिल है। दिल्ली स्थित गैर सरकारी संगठन 'दिल्ली स्टडी ग्रुप' के सदस्यों ने दिल्ली के पूर्व भाजपा विधायक विजय जॉली के नेतृत्व में अदिवासी भारतीयों के एक समूह और विभिन्न देशों के राजदूतों की उपस्थिति में राम जन्मभूमि में भगवान राम के दरबार के समक्ष 155 कंटेनर पानी चढ़ाया गया। इस दौरान 40 से अधिक देशों के अदिवासी भारतीयों ने बड़ी संख्या में कार्यक्रम में भाग लिया।

फिजी, मंगोलिया, डेनमार्क, भूटान, रोमानिया, हैती, ग्रीस, कोमोरोस, काबो वर्डे, मॉटेनेग्रो, तुवालु, अल्बानिया और तिब्बत के राजनयिकों ने राम मंदिर में इस ऐतिहासिक जलाभिषेक में भाग लिया। इसके अलावा भूटान, सूरीनाम, फिजी, श्रीलंका और कंबोडिया जैसे देशों के प्रमुखों ने भी इस कार्य के लिए शुभकामनाएं



भेजीं।

आयोजन के संयोजक विजय जॉली ने अपने स्वागत भाषण में दावा किया कि मुगल बादशाह बाबर के जन्म स्थान उज्बेकिस्तान के अंदीजान शहर से प्रसिद्ध क एक नदी का पवित्र जल भी जलाभिषेक के लिए पहुंचाया गया है। उन्होंने कहा कि इसके साथ ही इस पवित्र कार्य के लिए युद्धग्रस्त रूस और यूक्रेन का पानी और चीन तथा पाकिस्तान से भी पानी लाया गया था। उन्होंने कहा कि यह कार्यक्रम न केवल भारत के लोगों बल्कि विश्व के नागरिकों की भगवान राम के आदर्शों में आस्था को दर्शाता है। उन्होंने कहा कि कोरोना के

सबसे बुरे दौर में पवित्र जल को इकट्ठा करने में ढाई साल से ज्यादा का वक्त लग गया।

जॉली ने दावा किया कि दुनिया के सभी सात महाद्वीपों के हिंदुओं ने ही नहीं बल्कि मुसलमानों, ईसाइयों, यहूदियों ने भी इस काम में सहयोग किया। उन्होंने इसे ऐतिहासिक और अविस्मरणीय स्मृति बताया। इस दौरान श्रीराम जन्मभूमि तीर्थ क्षेत्र ट्रस्ट के महासचिव चंपत राय, विश्व हिंदू परिशद के संरक्षक दिनेश चंद्रा, राष्ट्रीय स्वयंसेवक संघ के नेता रामलाल और इंद्रेश कुमार, पूर्व सेना प्रमुख जनरल जे. जे. सिंह और जैन आचार्य लोकेश जी उपस्थित थे।

## इजरायल में मिलेगा 42 हजार भारतीयों को रोजगार

आने वाले दिनों में बड़ी संख्या में भारतीय कुशल कामगारों को इजरायल में अस्थाई तौर पर नौकरी मिलने की राह खुल गई है। दोनो देशों के बीच एक समझौते पर हस्ताक्षर हुआ है, जिससे शुरुआत में ही 42,000 भारतीय कामगारों इजरायल में निर्माण और नर्सिंग के क्षेत्र में काम करने का मौका मिलेगा। उम्मीद है कि भारत से कामगारों को जोड़ने से इजरायल में रहने की बढ़ती समस्या से निपटने में मदद मिलेगी और नर्सिंग देखभाल के लिए इंतजार कर रहे हजारों परिवारों को मदद मिलेगी।

इजरायल की तरफ से बताया गया है कि 34 हजार श्रमिकों को निर्माण क्षेत्र में और अन्य आठ हजार को नर्सिंग जरूरतों के लिए लगाया जाएगा। भारत के दौरे पर पहुंचे एलि कोहेन ने पीएम नरेन्द्र मोदी, रक्षा मंत्री राजनाथ सिंह और विदेश मंत्री एस जयशंकर के साथ अलग-अलग मुलाकात की। भारतीय नेताओं के साथ उनकी वार्ता में दोनो देशों ने मौजूदा

द्विपक्षीय रिश्तों की विस्तार से समीक्षा की है और रणनीतिक रिश्तों को ज्यादा प्रगाढ़ बनाने के उपायों पर बात की है। इस क्रम में ही भारतीय मजदूरों को इजरायल में अस्थाई रोजगार देने से जुड़े समझौते पर हस्ताक्षर हुआ है। इसका आगे काफी विस्तार हो सकता है।

अपनी मुलाकात के दौरान इजरायल के विदेश मंत्री भारत के साथ मुक्त व्यापार समझौते करने को लेकर काफी वकालत की। जबकि रक्षा मंत्री सिंह ने कोहेन के माध्यम से इजरायल की रक्षा कंपनियों को भारत में निवेश बढ़ाने व संयुक्त निर्माण शुरू करने की पेशकश की है। उनके एफटीए संबंधी प्रस्ताव को लेकर भारत का रुख काफी सकारात्मक है। कोहेन के साथ बैठक के बारे में जयशंकर ने बताया कि हमने आई2यू2 (भारत, इजरायल, यूएई व अमेरिका का संगठन) में प्रगति और बहुपक्षीय मंचों में परस्पर सहयोग का उल्लेख किया।

हमारे पड़ोसी क्षेत्रों, यूक्रेन और इंडो-पैसिफिक पर विचारों का आदान-प्रदान किया गया है। हमने मोबिलिटी के क्षेत्र में भी समझौते किये हैं। इजरायल के विदेश मंत्री ने इंडिया इजरायल बिजनेस फोरम की बैठक को संबोधित करते हुए भारत को पश्चिमी देशों के लिए पूर्व का रास्ता करार दिया और कहा कि दोनों देशों में आपसी कारोबार को बढ़ाने की अपार संभावनाएं हैं। आज हमने जो फ़ैसले किये हैं उससे मुक्त व्यापार समझौता की राह खुलेगी और दोनों देशों की अर्थव्यवस्था को काफी फायदा होगा। अभी दोनों देशों के बीच द्विपक्षीय कारोबार तकरीबन नौ अरब डालर (रक्षा क्षेत्र के अलावा) का है जो इजरायल के विदेश मंत्री के अनुसार, बहुत ही जल्द 20 अरब डालर का हो सकता है। इजरायल के विदेश मंत्री तीन दिन के दौरे पर आये थे लेकिन अपने देश की कुछ आपातकालीन गतिविधियों का हवाला देते हुए उन्होंने अपने दौरे को संक्षिप्त करने का एलान किया है।

## श्री बी एल गौड़ की गीत पुस्तक -काव्य समग्र-गीत का लोकार्पण

मुख्य वक्ताओं में थे –प्रो रमा, प्राचार्य, हंसराज कालेज, दिल्ली विश्वविद्यालय, डॉ ओम निश्चल, प्रसिद्ध गीतकार व समीक्षक तथा जाने माने वरिष्ठ गीतकार व गजलकार श्री बालस्वरूप राही। तीनों ही विद्वानों ने पुस्तक में समाहित 155 गीतों में से अनेक गीतों पर चर्चा की और डॉ ओम निश्चल ने तो सस्वर गीत पाठ भी किया। उन्हें पुस्तक का परिचय कराने के लिए अध्यक्ष महोदय का आदेश हुआ तो उन्होंने अपने एक गीत – पंखुरी की देह पर ओस के कण देखकर, एक पल को यों लगा ज्यों किसी ने थामकर आंसू किसी के, ला बिखरे फूल पर – सुनाकर पुस्तक में कैसे गीत हैं यह बताया। अपने अध्यक्षीय उद्बोधन में राय साहब ने भी दो गीतों की चर्चा की। सारा कार्यक्रम प्रो रमेश गौड़ जी की देखरेख में लगभग दो घंटे में सम्पन्न हुआ। लगभग 100



काव्य प्रेमियों, साहित्यकारों, गजलकारों ने कार्यक्रम में शामिल होकर उनका और उनकी पुस्तक का मान बढ़ाया।

पद्मश्री राम बहादुर राय ने अपने उद्बोधन में शुभकामनाएं देते हुए कार्यक्रम का समापन किया और अंत में इस भव्य और शालीन कार्यक्रम के लिए श्री बी एल गौड़ जी ने राय

साहब, रमेश गौड़ जी तथा उनके अधिकारियों और कर्मचारियों का हृदय से आभार प्रकट किया। अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय सहयोग परिशद के भूतपूर्व उपाध्यक्ष एवं आजीवन सदस्य श्री बी एल गौड़ जी अभी तक 20 से अधिक पुस्तकें प्रकाशित कर चुके हैं जो की हिंदी साहित्य और कविता पर आधारित है।

## नीदरलैंड्स द्वारा वेबीनार 'प्रवास मेरा नया जन्म' का आयोजन सम्पन्न हुआ



साझा संसार नीदरलैंड्स द्वारा वेबीनार 'प्रवास मेरा नया जन्म' का आयोजन सम्पन्न हुआ। इस आयोजन की अध्यक्षता कनाडा से वरिष्ठ व्यंग्य साहित्यकार धर्मपाल महेंद्र जैन ने की। आयोजन के संयोजक रामा तक्षक ने युवा प्रवासी भारतीय रचनाकारों से आग्रह किया कि वे स्थानीय देश के जीवन व समाज की मुख्यधारा पर अपनी कलम से पकड़ बनावें। इस भांति प्रवास देश के स्थानीय जीवन के बारे में लिखकर अपने लेखन को भारतीय पाठकों तक पहुंचावें।

धर्मपाल महेंद्र जैन ने अपने अध्यक्षीय वक्तव्य में बताया कि प्रवासी लेखन का इतिहास लगभग चार सौ बरस पुराना है। उन्होंने युवा प्रवासी साहित्यकारों से कहा कि वे अपने प्रवास देश की लोक कला, लोक संस्कृति, स्थानीय जीवन की बातों को, स्थानीय जीवन के तथ्यों को अपनी संवेदनाओं का आधार बनाकर सृजन करें। कुछ नया देकर भारतीय साहित्य को समृद्ध करें। इस आयोजन में अमेरिका से डॉ स्वाति सिन्हा, कीनिया से सरिता शर्मा, नीदरलैंड्स से अश्विनी केगांवर व विश्वास

दुबे ने कविता पाठ किया। स्पेन से पूजा अनिल ने मुख्य वक्ता के तौर पर भाग लिया।

मुख्य वक्ता के तौर पर अपने वक्तव्य में हाल में स्पेन निवासी पूजा अनिल ने बताया कि प्रवास सीख की प्रक्रिया से गुजरना है। उन्होंने स्पेन में स्त्री प्रधान परिवार, पुस्तकालय संस्कृति और लोक जीवन में खेलकूद आदि की महत्ता और स्पेनिश आम जनजीवन के बारे में अपने अनुभवों को विस्तार से बताया। इस आयोजन का मंच संचालन विश्वास दुबे ने किया।



## भारतीय स्वाधीनता के अमृत महोत्सव के अवसर पर विशेष



रामनरेश त्रिपाठी

(4 मार्च, 1889 - 16 जनवरी, 1962)

रामनरेश त्रिपाठी (4 मार्च, 1889 - 16 जनवरी, 1962) हिन्दी भाषा के 'पूर्व छायावाद युग' के कवि थे। कविता, कहानी, उपन्यास, जीवनी, संस्मरण, बाल साहित्य सभी पर उन्होंने कलम चलाई। वह गांधी के जीवन और कार्यों से अत्यन्त प्रभावित थे। उनका कहना था कि मेरे साथ गांधी जी का प्रेम 'लरिकाई को प्रेम' है और मेरी पूरी मनोभूमिका को सत्याग्रह युग ने निर्मित किया है। 'बा और बापू' उनके द्वारा लिखा गया हिंदी का पहला एकांकी नाटक है। 'स्वप्न' पर इन्होंने हिंदुस्तानी अकादमी का पुरस्कार मिला।

एक कृषक परिवार में जन्मे रामनरेश त्रिपाठी का व्यक्तित्व एवं कृतित्व अत्यन्त प्रेरणादायी था। उन्होंने "हे प्रभो आनन्ददाता, ज्ञान हमको दीजिये" जैसी बेजोड़ रचना कर डाली जो आज भी अनेक विद्यालयों में प्रार्थना के रूप में गाई जाती है। त्रिपाठी जी पर तुलसीदास व उनकी अमर रचना रामचरित मानस का गहरा प्रभाव था, वह मानस को घर घर तक पहुँचाना चाहते थे।

महात्मा गांधी के निर्देश पर वे हिन्दी साहित्य सम्मेलन के प्रचार मंत्री के रूप में हिन्दी जगत के दूत बनकर दक्षिण भारत गए थे। वह गांधीवादी देशभक्त और राष्ट्र सेवक थे। उन्होंने स्वाधीनता संग्राम और किसान आन्दोलनों में भी भाग लिया।

### स्वदेश गौरव

1)

अतुलनीय जिनके प्रताप का  
साक्षी है प्रत्यक्ष दिवाकर  
घूम-घूमकर देख चुका है  
जिनकी निर्मल कीर्ति निशाकर  
देख चुके है जिनका वैभव  
ये नभ के अनंत तारागण  
अगणित बार सुन चुका है नभ  
जिनकी विजय-घोष रण-गर्जन।

2)

शोभित है सर्वोच्च मुकुट से  
जिनके दिव्य देश का मस्तक  
गूँज रही हैं सकल दिशाएँ  
जिनके जयगीतों से अब तक  
जिनकी महिमा का है अविरल  
साक्षी सत्य-रूप हिम गिरिवर  
उतरा करते थे विमानदल  
जिनके विस्तृत वक्षस्थल पर।

3)

सागर निज छाती पर जिनके  
अगणित अर्णव-पोत उठाकर  
पहुँचाया करता था प्रमुदित  
भूमंडल के सकल तटों पर  
नदियाँ जिनकी यश-धारा-सी  
बहती हैं अब भी निशि-वासर  
दूँढ़ों उनके चरण-चिह्न भी  
पाओगे तुम इनके तट पर।

4)

हे युवकों! तुम उन्हीं पूर्वजों  
के वंशज, उनके ही प्रतिनिधि  
तुम्हीं मान-रक्षक हो उनके  
कीर्ति-तरंगिणियों के वारिधि  
रवि, शशि, उडुगण, गगन दिशाएँ,  
हैं गिरि नदी, मेदिनी जब तक  
निज पैतृक धन स्वतंत्रता को  
क्या तुम तज सकते हो तब तक?

5)

विषुवत-रेखा का वासी जो  
जीता है नित हॉफ-हॉफ कर  
रखता है अनुराग अलौकिक  
वह भी अपनी मातृभूमि पर  
ध्रुव-वासी जो हिम में तम में  
जी लेता है काँप-काँप कर  
वह भी अपनी मातृभूमि पर  
कर देता है प्राण निछावर।

6)

तुम तो हे प्रिय बंधु! स्वर्ग से  
सुखद, सकल विभवों के आकर  
धरा-शिरोमणि मातृभूमि में  
धन्य हुए हो जीवन पाकर  
तुम जिसका जल-अन्न ग्रहण कर  
बड़े हुए लेकर जिसका रज  
तन रहते कैसे तज दोगे?  
उसको हे वीरों के वंशज!

7)

पर-पद-दलित, पर-मुखापेक्षी,  
पराधीन, परतंत्र, पराजित  
होकर कहीं आर्य जीते हैं?  
पामर, पशु-सम पतित, पराजित  
तुम्हीं देश के आशा-स्थल हो  
तुम्हीं शक्ति संपदा तुम्हीं सुख  
जर्जर होकर भी जीवित है  
देश तुम्हारा देख-देख मुख।