

# ANTAR RASHTRIYA SAHAYOG PARISHAD BULLETIN

Monthly Newsletter of Indian Council for International Co-operation

Vol. 36 No. 3

MARCH, 2023

(16 Pages including Cover)

## OVER 200 people of INDIAN-ORIGIN OCCUPY LEADERSHIP POSITIONS IN AT LEAST 15 COUNTRIES

Rishi Sunak recently made history by becoming UK's first Indian-origin prime minister. But Sunak isn't the only person of India origin holding a powerful position.

The 2021 Indiaspora Government Leaders List released by a US-based organisation working among the Indian diaspora stated that more than 200 Indian-origin people occupy leadership positions in as many as 15 countries – over 60 of them hold Cabinet positions.

Representing the interests of more than 550 million citizens, this powerful group demonstrates the rise of the diaspora as leaders in the political and government space.

### Heads of government

Six countries are currently being led by men that can trace their ancestry to India:



### Rishi Sunak, Prime Minister of UK

Sunak assumed office in October 2022. He previously served as Chancellor of the Exchequer from 2020 to 2022 and chief secretary to the Treasury from 2019 to 2020. He has been a Member of Parliament for Richmond (Yorks) since 2015. Sunak was born in 1980 in Southampton to parents of Indian descent who migrated to Britain from East Africa in the 1960s. He is a practicing Hindu.

Sunak's grandfather was born in Punjab province, British India.



### Mohamed Irfaan Ali, President of Guyana

He is the first Muslim president elected in Guyana. He assumed office in August 2020. He was born on April 25, 1980, into a Muslim, Indo-Guyanese family at Leonora, West Coast Demarara.



### Antonio Costa, Prime Minister of Portugal

Costa assumed office in November 2015. Costa was born in 1961 in São Sebastião da Pedreira, Lisbon. Costa is half Portuguese and half Indian; his father was born in Maputo, Mozambique, to a Goan family.



### Pravind Jugnauth, Prime Minister of Mauritius

He was elected in 2017. Jugnauth was born into a Hindu family on December 25, 1961, in La Caverne, a suburb area in Vacoas-Phoenix, Mauritius. He is the son of Anerood Jugnauth, who served as former president and prime minister of Mauritius, and Sarojini Ballah, a schoolteacher.



### Prithvirajsing Roopun, President of Mauritius

Roopun is the seventh president of Mauritius and assumed office in December 2019. He was born in 1959 into an Indian Arya Samaji Hindu family and grew up in Morcellement St. Jean, a suburb of Quatre Bornes. Roopun served in the capacity of a minister in several ministries before being elected as the President.



### Chandrikapersad Santokhi, President of Suriname

In May 2020, Santokhi led his party to its biggest victory and was sworn into office on July 16 as the ninth

president of Suriname. India awarded him the 'Pravasi Bharatiya Samman Award' in 2021. Santokhi was born in 1959, into an Indo-Surinamese Hindu family in Lelydorp, a district in Suriname.

### Deputy heads of governments

There are three countries where the deputy head is a person of Indian origin:



### Kamala Harris, Vice President of the US

She is the first female, Indian and Black American vice president of the United States. She assumed office in 2021. Harris was born in California in 1964 to immigrant parents: Shyamala Gopalan Harris, a breast cancer researcher from Chennai; and Donald Harris, an economist from Jamaica. Kamala grew up with an influence for public advocacy from her parents who were student activists at UC Berkeley. In 2016, Kamala Harris became the first Indian-American to serve as a US Senator.



### Bharrat Jagdeo, Vice President of Guyana

Bharrat has an extensive political career in Guyana, having previously served as president from 1999 to 2011. Prior to this, he served as vice president from 1997 to 1999. His current term started in August 2020. Jagdeo was born in Unity Village in Demerara-Mahaica, in then British Guiana in 1964 to Hindu-Indian parents. In 1912, his grandfather, Ram Jiyawan had immigrated to British Guiana from Uttar Pradesh.



### Leo Varadkar, Tanaiste of Ireland

The Tanaiste is the deputy head of the government of Ireland and thus holder of its second-most senior office. The Tanaiste is appointed by the President of Ireland on the advice of senior politicians, including the prime minister. Varadkar has been serving as Tanaiste and minister for

Enterprise, Trade and Employment since June 2020. He was born in 1979 in Dublin. Varadkar is the third child of Ashok and Miriam (née Howell) Varadkar. His father was born in Mumbai.

### Other top positions

Besides being the heads or deputy heads of other countries, persons of Indian origin are also serving as members of a government's cabinet and ministers, diplomats, ambassadors, and consuls general. A total of 55 Indian-origin persons are serving as cabinet ministers in nearly a dozen countries. Four more serve as additional ministers.

Another 63 people of Indian origin are members of parliament or federal legislators. A total of 10 people of Indian descent serve as ambassadors of their respective countries, while another 2 represent their nations as consul generals. Besides politics, people of Indian origin have also climbed to the highest ranks in judiciary systems across the globe. Four countries (Mauritius, Fiji, Singapore and Suriname) have Chief Justices of Indian origin.

Persons of Indian origin have also made their mark in the financial systems of various countries. Four nations (Fiji, Guyana, Singapore and Mauritius) have appointed Indian origin men to head their central banking system.

### In America

In the US alone, a total of 112 people of Indian origin are at top positions in the administration, including Neera Tanden who is a senior adviser to President Joe Biden.

In politics, 26 Indian-origin leaders have been elected as state leaders while another six have been elected as local leaders. Three people of Indian descent serve as judges in the US circuit courts of appeals.

(Courtesy : The Times of India)

## A.R.S.P. Bulletin

A NEWS & VIEWS MONTHLY  
Published Since 1987

### EDITOR

Keshav G. Parande  
(M): 98113 92777

### PRINTER

**Avon Printers**  
D-6, Ranjit Nagar Comm. Complex,  
New Delhi-110008  
(M): 93123 05230  
E-mail: a1printers@gmail.com

### PUBLISHER

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

### CONTACT

Phone (O) : 011 - 2323 4432

### E-MAIL

arspindia@gmail.com

### WEBSITE

www.arspindia.org

### PRICE

Rs. 5/- per copy  
Rs. 500/- for Life

# PM ADDRESSES FIRST MEETING OF FINANCE MINISTERS AND CENTRAL BANK GOVERNORS UNDER INDIA'S G20 PRESIDENCY



*"It is up to the custodians of the leading economies and monetary systems of the world to bring back stability, confidence and growth to the global economy"*

*"Focus your discussions on the most vulnerable citizens of the world"*

*"Global economic leadership can win back the confidence of the world only by creating an inclusive agenda"*

*"The theme of our G20 Presidency promotes an inclusive vision - One Earth, One Family, One Future"*

*"India has created a highly secure, highly trusted, and highly efficient public digital infrastructure in its digital payments ecosystem"*

*"Our digital payments ecosystem has been developed as a free public good"*

*"Examples like UPI can be templates for many other countries too"*

The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi addressed the first meeting of Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors under India's G20 Presidency via video message today.

Addressing the gathering, the Prime Minister underlined that this is the first Minister-level dialogue under India's G20 Presidency and conveyed his best wishes for a productive meeting. Taking note of the challenges faced by the world in the present day, the

Prime Minister said that the participants of today's meeting are representing the leadership of global finance and economy at a time when the world is facing serious economic difficulties. The Prime Minister gave examples of covid pandemic and its after-effects on the global economy, rising geopolitical tensions, disruptions in global supply chains, rising prices, food and energy security, unsustainable debt levels affecting the viability of many countries, and the erosion of trust in international financial institutions due to their inability to reform quickly. Shri Modi pointed out that it is now up to the custodians of the leading economies and monetary systems of the world to bring back stability, confidence and growth to the global economy.

Casting the spotlight on the vibrancy of the Indian economy, the Prime Minister highlighted the optimism of the Indian consumers and producers about the future of India's economy and hoped that the member participants would draw inspiration while transmitting the same positive spirit to the global level. The Prime Minister urged the members to focus their discussions on the most vulnerable citizens of the world and stressed that global economic leadership can win back the confidence of the world only by creating an inclusive agenda. "The theme of our G20 Presidency promotes this inclusive vision - One Earth, One Family, One Future", the Prime Minister said.

The Prime Minister observed that

progress on Sustainable Development Goals seems to be slowing down even though the world population has crossed 8 billion. He emphasized the need to strengthen Multilateral Development Banks for meeting global challenges like climate change and high debt levels

Highlighting the growing dominance of technology in the world of finance, the Prime Minister recalled how digital payments enabled contactless and seamless transactions during the pandemic. He urged the member participants to explore and harness the power of technology while developing standards to regulate its possible risk of destabilization and misuse in digital finance. The Prime Minister noted that India has created a highly secure, highly trusted, and highly efficient public digital infrastructure in its digital payments ecosystem over the past few years. "Our digital payments ecosystem has been developed as a free public good", the Prime Minister remarked as he underlined that it has radically transformed governance, financial inclusion, and ease of living in the country. Noting that the meeting is taking place in Bengaluru, the technology capital of India, the Prime Minister said that participants can get first-hand experience of how Indian consumers have embraced digital payments. He also informed about the new system created during India's G-20 Presidency that allows G20 guests to use India's path-breaking digital payments platform, UPI. "Examples like UPI can be templates for many other countries too. We would be happy to share our experience with the world and the G20 can be a vehicle for this", the Prime Minister concluded.

February 24, 2023. ■

# ASSESSING Ali's India Trip

✍ Dr Vishnu Bisram



It was the most impressive and productive trip of a Guyanese head of government to India -- as per my assessment. The President deserves accolades for his accomplishment during this short stint as head of government in India. And he was well received. It is probably one of the most productive visits (in terms of achievements) of any head of government (state) to India by Guyana's President Irfaan Ali. He visited so many cities and engaged so many people (government officials and businesspersons) and accomplished so much in this trip in terms of signed agreements. No other world leader was able to pull off such a feat. (Credit goes to Indian High Commissioner Dr. KJ Srinivasa who pulled all stops to facilitate the President's compact program that included honor, celebration, business, and visits to historic places).

It was not an easy trip for the President with available counsel or expertise (of any Guyanese) on India. Absent a Guyana High Commissioner in India made it difficult and challenging for the President. But he, himself, is sort of an expert on India's society and politics given his long stay in the capital as a student during the early 2000s. (He spoke about his student days) He excelled, handling himself well with assistance from High Commissioner Dr. KJ Srinivasa, meeting highest officials in government, head of state, MEA and other Ministers, Governors and Chief Ministers of States, captains of industry, engineers, and educators.

I have been a student of contemporary Indian politics ever since in high school in the 1970s in Guyana. Indian politics and history

was also among my minors in college. I read voluminously on India -- books and major newspapers and magazines on a regular basis going back to 1977 when I first entered college. In my countless visits to India and in all of my readings and studies of foreign heads of government (state) visiting India, I would rate the Ali's trip as the most productive of all time in terms of agreements signed, places visited, officials engaged, and the reception he received. He has accomplished more for Guyana, at least on paper, than his predecessors who went on official visits -- Dr. Jagan, Bharrat Jagdeo, Donald Ramotar, and David Granger. I was there for some of these Presidential visits going back to the 1990s, present at some of Ali's events, and religiously read Indian media daily. Ali received more media attention (coverage), all positive, than all his predecessors combined. He excelled in his interviews.

Everyday, there was a flurry of stories in the written press as well as TV coverage. The President grabbed a lot of media attention, including TV interviews, much more than President Santokie of Surinam who held separate meetings (bilateral greetings) with Prime Minister Narendra Modi, President Droupadi Murmu, and Foreign Minister (MEA) Dr. S Jaishankar. Santokie and Ali were together at PBD events and Madya Pradesh Investment Summit where they were accorded red carpet welcome by the Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan. (Probably not aware of the history, Chouhan never mentioned that MP has historic connection with Surinam and Guyana; indentured laborers from MP went to both colonies). After PBD, the two Presidents ventured on their own to woo investment to Guyana.

The President was honored everywhere by his hosts in Delhi, Indore, Agra, Kanpur, Mumbai, and Bangalore -- garlanded, 'shawled', and presented with bouquet of flowers. He responded appropriately with the traditional 'namaste' which he would have learned growing up in Guyana and during his stay in India as a foreign student on scholarship.

He had knowledge of the society and used appropriate language in conversing with his hosts. He repeatedly referred to the PM as Shri Narendra Modi-ji (Pradhan Mantri -- PM).

At all times, Ali was well attired and appropriately in traditional Indian outfit which is also the outfit of his ancestors, the pioneering indentured laborers and his hosts. He even dressed with the popular traditional 'Modi wear' at one function.

Ali had professional and productive exchanges and was very successful with several signed agreements. In his speeches, he came across as smart and knowledgeable about the issues. At PBD, he read from a prepared speech with some deviations to pay tribute to Modi and the government. At all other times, he spoke extemporaneously, perhaps with some prepared points.

His speech at the PBD was among his best I heard. It was well received and praised by everyone (100% ratings) who listened to or read remarks in the press. Throughout the speech, Modi steadily acknowledged some of Ali's remarks with a namaste as a gesture of appreciation or agreement. It was one of the finest speeches I heard by a Chief Guest at PBD (and I was at almost all) and it was relevant (on point) to Guyana, the diaspora, and the Caribbean. He praised India for its Covid 19 vaccine policy (Vaccine Maitri) that saved lives not only in Guyana but globally. No nation was as generous as India in making vaccines available to the world. He made a pitch for investment in and transfer of technology to Guyana. And with assistance from Ambassador Srinivasa, the President successfully tackled a bewildering variety of issues -- economic developmental, energy, education, funding or loans, agriculture, security, transfer of technology, among others.

President Ali has earned high grades in assessing his overall presence in India. He deserves laurels in this foreign trip which augurs well for India-Guyana relations. If agreements are transferred into action, Guyana will grow exponentially. ■

# MAURITIUS INDEPENDENCE DAY



**MAURITIUS**  
INDEPENDENCE DAY  
— MARCH 12 —

Mauritius celebrates its independence day on March 12 every year. On this day Mauritius became an independent state within the

Commonwealth, the day honours the island nation of Mauritius and its people, culture, and traditions.

East of Madagascar in the Indian Ocean, Mauritius is a nation made up of four separate islands, the largest of which is the island with the same name. Before becoming an independent country in the Commonwealth, Mauritius was a colony of Great Britain. The nation, which is situated along Africa's southeast coast and is east of Madagascar, is thought to be a part of the continent of Africa.

## History of Mauritius Independence Day

Mauritius observes Independence Day on March 12 every year. The island nation of Mauritius has a public holiday on this day to commemorate the day the country gained independence from the Commonwealth.

The Republic of Mauritius, also known as Mauritius, is made up of the four islands of Mauritius, Rodrigues, Agalega, and St. Brandon. Mauritius is the main island, and Port Louis, the nation's capital, is situated there. The island nation's capital is also its most populated metropolis.

The Portuguese initially settled in Mauritius, but they quickly left the islands because they were unhappy there. The Dutch then took control of the islands and built towns there. Yet because the settlements were unsuccessful, the Dutch quickly left the islands.

Following the Dutch, the French took control of the Mauritius islands and set up plantations there, employing slaves from India and Africa. As the

British acquired the islands during the Napoleonic Wars, Mauritius became a plantation colony within the British Empire.

Slavery was finally outlawed, but the British government brought indentured slaves from around the world to the islands to work as labour on the plantations. After the World Wars, the people of Mauritius were awarded universal suffrage.

As the island became more tense, Britain realised how crucial it was to give up its former possessions. While the English monarch continued to serve as the country's head of state, Mauritius approved a new constitution with a newly elected Prime Minister.

India-Mauritius Bilateral and Commercial Relations Mauritius was one of a few of key countries with which independent India established diplomatic relations in 1948, even before the independence of Mauritius. In Mauritius, which was governed by the British until 1968, India was represented by an Indian Commissioner, and then, when Mauritius gained independence, by a High Commissioner. The continuing high-level political engagement is an evidence of the two countries' leaders' strong sense of mutual respect and trust. These unique connections have also led to very tight collaboration in capacity-building, marine security. The myriad development initiatives supported by India that dot the Mauritius landscape and also reflect the strong ties between the two countries. The International Hindi Secretariat, a bilateral organisation for the promotion of Hindi, and the Indian Cultural Centre in Mauritius, India's largest cultural centre in the world, cultivate the long-lasting cultural and people-to-people links between Mauritius and India. India has frequently provided emergency assistance to Mauritius, most notably during the Covid-19 and Wakashio oil disaster crises.

India sent 13 tonnes of medications (including 0.5 million HCQ tablets), 10 tonnes of Ayurveda medications, and an Indian Quick Response Medical Team at Mauritius' request to assist fight Covid-19 in April-May 2020. With the gift of 1 lakh doses of Covishield vaccine to Mauritius on January 22, 2021, India was also the first country to provide Mauritius with Covid-19 vaccinations. On February 22, 2021, Mauritius commercially acquired 1 lakh doses of Covishield. On March 18, 2021, it commercially acquired 2 lakh doses of COVAXIN. On April 28, 2021, during the second phase of COVID-19 in India, 200 oxygen concentrators were donated by Mauritius to India. Between March 5 and March 12, 2022, a ten-person medical delegation from India visited Mauritius to exchange best practices for handling COVID-19. India has been one of Mauritius's top trading partners since 2005. In 2020-21, bilateral trade increased by 125%, from USD 206.76 million in 2005-06 to USD 465.51 million, with an India trade surplus of USD 380.3 million. Bilateral trade has been expanded by an additional 69% in 2021-2022 to reach USD 786.72 mn. For India, petroleum products have been its main export. Pharmaceuticals, cereals, cotton, prawns, and beef are among the other goods that India exports to Mauritius. Vanilla, medical equipment, needles, aluminium alloys, scrap paper, refined copper, men's cotton shirts, and other items are among the main exports from Mauritius to India.

The Double Taxation Avoidance Treaty had a significant role in the cumulative USD 161 billion in FDI from Mauritius to India between the years 2000 and 2022, accounting for 26% of all FDI inflows into India (DTAC). When the DTAC amendment was signed in 2016, Mauritius became India's third-largest source of FDI, with inflows ranging from USD 15.72 billion in 2016-17 to USD 9.39 billion in 2021-22. Over the past five years, Indian businesses have spent more than \$200 million in Mauritius.

## VASUDHAIVA KUTUMBAKAM

# 135 STUDENTS FROM 31 COUNTRIES PARTICIPATED IN CHALO BHARAT KO SAMJHE PROGRAMME BY ARSP



The international students' community in India represents a special group of people who have the capacity and potential to develop as India's best unpaid, voluntary ambassadors for life, in their respective countries. These students arrive in India with lots of hopes, dreams and expectations from their life in India. However, due to different reasons and situations, often these students' expectations are shattered by different types of experiences they face during their day-to-day lives. Often the house owners, taxi drivers, shop keepers who often tend to seek extra income from these students, fail to understand the difference between these students and other foreigners who visit India as tourists.

This situation needs to be addressed in a sensible and effective manner, so that these students carry back positive and beautiful memories when they return to their countries after finishing their courses in India. It is with this goal, the Antar Rashtriya Sahayog Parishad (ARSP) plans, designs and executes different types of events. Through these events, these students come in touch with some experienced individuals and volunteers who are capable of handling different issues they may

face during their period of stay in India.

These events include Freshers Welcome Social for new students arriving in India to take up different courses in different colleges/ institutes/ universities in Delhi- NCR, celebration of prominent festivals like Deepawali and organizing Tours to Heritage sites like Rishikesh- Haridwar etc. These activities ensure that students develop a bonding of trust and care with us and as a result, whenever they face any problem, challenge or need any suggestion/ advice for multiple purposes; they know whom to call and ask for support during their entire duration of stay in India. Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam : the world is a family

This year, 135 students from 31 countries attended the annual Heritage Tour to Rishikesh- Haridwar. The tour program names as "Chalo Bharat ko Samjhe" attracted the participation of students from different colleges of University of Delhi, Jawaharlal Nehru University, Kendriya Hindi Sanstha – Delhi, Sharda University- Greater Noida, Kurukshetra University, Kendriya Hindi Sansthan – Agra and few students from the Lucknow

University. While all the students of Kendriya Hindi Sansthan – Agra were Scholarship holders of the Ministry of Education, most of the other students (except students of Sharda University) were ICCR scholars.

The students from Delhi traveled in two buses provided by the ICCR, one from North Campus of University of Delhi and the other from the Kendriya Hindi Sansthan (KHS- Delhi) at Katwaria Sarai (South Delhi). The students from Lucknow University had traveled to Delhi on their own and joined the bus from the Delhi University. The students of Sharda University joined the other bus, on the way to Rishikesh. The students from Kendriya Hindi Sansthan – Agra managed their own transportation while the students from Kurukshetra University were forced to travel via regular Govt. buses to Rishikesh, due to lack of seats in our buses from Delhi. All the students arrived at the Parmarth Niketan in the evening/ night of 23rd February 2023.

On the following day, the event was inaugurated by Param Pujya Swami Chidananda Saraswati and Sadhvi Bhagawati on the special stage of the Ashram built on the beautiful banks of the Ganga, at about 9:30 AM through

lighting of the lamps; in the presence of officials of ARSP – Dehradun Chapter and many other dignitaries. Both Swami Ji and Sadhvi Ji welcomed the students and addressed them signifying the importance of such heritage trips to understand the basic philosophies and beliefs of Indian culture and society at large. The students were mesmerized by the beauty of the ambience at the Ashram and were happy to click many photographs for their memories.



The 3 days event invited lectures on Indian philosophy by two other monks, Brahmachari Shri Chaitanya Leela Prabhu ji from the ISKCON Temple - Rishikesh and Swami Shrimohanand ji Maharaj from the Ramakrishna Sewashram - Haridwar. Both the lectures presented two different approaches on the Basic Question of Hindu Philosophy – “WHO AM I” and the students were impressed to listen to this subject which was new for most of the students.

On the 2nd day, the students were taken on a Tree Plantation Drive in the Rajaji Tiger Reserve in the presence of officials of the local Forest Department as well as officials from the General Administration. Swami Chidananda Saraswati ji led the students to plant a good number of Rudraksh samplings and he explained the challenge and need of mass level tree plantation across the globe. The students were thrilled to

be a part of this event and enjoyed the tracking inside the forest, on the foothills of the Himalayas.

Besides these events, a Cultural evening with performances of Indian Classical dance (Kathak) and few other Folk dances of Uttarakhand marked a memorable evening. The students also sang, danced and enjoyed the rhythm of the Folk music along with the local artists, arranged by the Haridwar unit of the 'Sanskar Bharati'. The local artists and their

accompanists were also surprised to witness an international student Zhuldus from Kazakhstan singing a Bhajan – 'ACHYUTAM KESHAVAM KRISHNA DAMODARAM', a student from Uzbekistan – Begzod reciting a 'Sanskrit Mantras on Lord Shiva', and two other students - Wazir from Nigeria and Raja from Bangladesh singing a popular Hindi song 'Zindegi Ek Safar Hain Suhana'. Due to lack of time, many students even didn't get the chance to participate in these celebratory moments but were extremely happy singing and dancing with the other students. This cultural exchange made the gathering rejoice with one another inside the hall, creating a memorable environment to be cherished for a lifetime.

As a part of the event schedule, the students were also taken for sight-seeing to different picturesque locations of Rishikesh and they got enough time to socialize and interact with each other as well as with the organizers, during the tour. Swami Chidananda Saraswati ji before

bidding good bye to the students, expressed his willingness to hold such events on a more regular basis, with smaller groups of students for proper and better arrangements and management of the program.

As a final activity on the concluding day on their way back, the students visited the Patanjali Yogpeeth in Haridwar where they were taken on a tour to see the large number of medicinal trees at the Patanjali Herbal garden. Thereafter, they got a chance to meet and interact with respected Baba Ramdev ji who addressed them and shared his knowledge and wisdom with the students.

While the students from Delhi and Agra reached back to their hostels/ place of stay on the night of 26th February, the students from Lucknow and Kurukshetra arrived at their locations the next morning. Ashram and food to the participants free of cost for all these years. We also thank Baba Ramdev ji for his valuable time and the Administration of Patanjali Yogpeeth for welcoming the students to their centre and for offering a delicious lunch to all the participants.

Last but not the least, we thank Sanskar Bharati – Haridwar Unit for arranging the beautiful cultural performances, Swami Shrimohanand ji Maharaj, Brahmachari Chaitanya Leela Prabhu ji and all other dignitaries who attended our event and contributed in making the event a great success.

We hope the ICCR, the participating institutions, supporting organization and other dignitaries would continue to support such benevolent efforts of our organization to create a feeling of oneness among these students highlighting the motto of our organization: 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam'.

# RAM CHANDRA POUDEL ELECTED AS NEPAL'S NEW PRESIDENT



Ram Chandra Poudel of Nepali Congress with the support of eight political parties was elected as the new president of Nepal, amid increasing political instability in the country ruled by a fragile coalition headed by Prime Minister Pushpa Kamal Dahal Prachanda. His rival Subas Chandra Nebmang had support of former prime minister KP Sharma-led CPN-UML.

Poudel, a common candidate of the eight-party alliance that included Nepali Congress and Prime Minister Prachanda-led CPN (Maoist Center), received the vote of 214 lawmakers of parliament and 352 provincial assembly members.

This is the third presidential election in Nepal since the country became a republic in 2008. The tenure of the current president, Bidya Devi Bhandari, will end on March 12. Oli-led CPN-UML, Nepal second largest party in Parliament, withdrew its support to Prime Minister Prachanda-led government following a rift over backing Poudel for the presidential poll.

The total number of voters for the election of the President is 882, consisting of 332 Members of the

Parliament and 550 members of the provincial assemblies of the seven provinces. Election Commission spokesperson Shaligram said 518 provincial assembly members and 313 members of parliament cast their votes in the presidential election.

The term of office of the President will be five years from the date of election

and an individual can be elected for the post for only two terms. Although the post of President is largely ceremonial, Nepal political parties have lately shown a growing interest in the post owing to the discretionary powers the Constitution accords to the post.

The Rastriya Prajatantra Party (RPP), which has 14 lawmakers in the House of Representatives and 28 lawmakers in the provincial assemblies, decided to stay neutral in the presidential election. The Nepal Workers and Peasants Party also did not participate in the presidential election.

Born on October 14, 1944, in Bahunpokhari in a middle-class farmers family, Poudel joined politics at the age of 16. He became the founding central member of Nepal Students Union, the student wing of Nepali Congress, in 1970.

Poudel was appointed Vice president of the Nepali Congress (banned) Tanhu district committee in 1980. He was elevated to the party central working committee in 1987 and headed its publicity committee. He

became General Secretary in 2005, Vice President in 2007 and acting president of the party in 2015.

He played an active role in Satyagraha of 1985, People Movement part I of 1990 and People Movement part II of 2006. He spent 12 years in jail fighting against the autocratic Panchayat regime. Poudel was elected to the House of Representatives from Tanhu district for the first time in 1991. Thereafter, he was continuously elected from Tanhu for six consecutive terms.

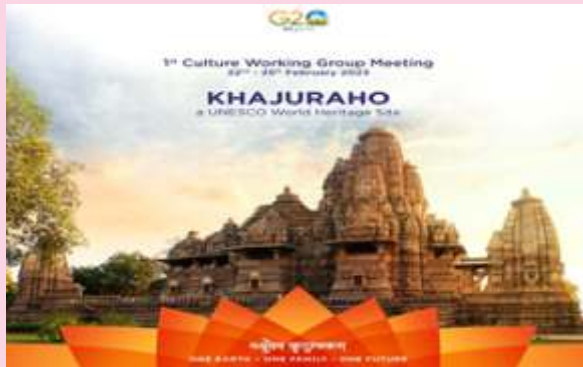
He was appointed Minister for Local Development in May 1991 and became Agriculture Minister in 1992. Poudel served as Speaker from December 1994 to March 1999. He served as Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Home and Minister for Information and Communication from 1999 to 2002.

Poudel served as Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Peace and Reconstruction from 2007 to 2008. He was elected Parliamentary Party leader of Nepali Congress and leader of the main Opposition in Parliament from 2008 to 2013.

He was honoured with the Order of the Rising Sun award from the Government of Japan in 2020. He has authored over a dozen books mainly about democracy, socialism and agriculture. He has also written dozens of articles in different newspapers and served as a journalist for a brief period. Poudel has received Masters' Degree in Arts with Nepali language as major subject and has also completed Shastri or Bachelors' Degree in Sanskrit. ■



# 1st G20 CULTURE WORKING GROUP MEETING HELD IN KHAJURAHO, MP



The Ministry of Culture, Gov. of India, organized the 1st G20 Culture Working Group (CWG) meet in Khajuraho, Madhya Pradesh from 22nd to 25th February 2023. The Union Minister for Culture, Tourism, Shri G.K Reddy along with Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh Shri Shivraj Singh Chauhan, Minister for Social Justice and Empowerment Dr. Virendra Kumar and Minister of State for Culture Smt. Meenakshi Lekhi inaugurated an exhibition titled "Re(ad)dress: Return of Treasures" at the Maharaja Chhatrasal Convention Centre (MCCC).

On arrival at the Khajuraho Airport, the delegates were welcomed with folk performances - Badhai and Rai as well as provided with traditional arts and cultural experiences besides their participation in DIY activities like papier mache, block printing, henna art during the meeting. The first day of the meeting Padam Shri Mr. Nek Ram known as the Millet man has been invited to celebrate the International Year of Millets (IYM) 2023 and following days several cultural programs were organised including the Khajuraho Dance Festival

Cultural performances.

creating a pro-people planet.

More than 125 delegates have attend the meeting and they visited the Western Group of Temples, which is a UNESCO World Heritage Site. They were also taken to Panna Tiger Reserve. During the meet four working group sessions were planned at Maharaja Chhatrasal Convention Centre, in which G20 member states, international organisations along with officials from Ministry of Culture participated. The inaugural session was addressed by Minister for Social Justice and Empowerment Dr. Virendra Kumar and Minister of State for Culture Smt Meenakshi Lekhi.

India assumed the G20 presidency on 1 December 2022, articulating the theme of 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam' – 'One Earth One Family One Future'. The philosophy draws from the Maha Upanishad, an ancient Indian Sanskrit text, affirming the value of all life – human, animal, and plant – and their interconnectedness on the planet Earth and in the wider universe. With its spirit rooted in the idea of inclusiveness, universal welfare, and harmony among all beings, it is premised on the belief that all individuals are collectively responsible towards each other and their shared future. 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam' aims to foster, celebrate, and incorporate the diversity of cultural traditions amongst the member states while striving towards holistic living and

The Culture Working Group evolves through four meetings in four historic cities of India and steer the G20 discourse on four priority areas. India's CWG will reflect the emergence of Culture as a prominent theme on the global stage, it adopts 'Culture' to renew multilateral and multicultural cooperation at all levels and aims to forward this ideal and inform future global cultural policies and initiatives. Four priority areas of India's CWG include Protection and Restitution of Cultural Property; Harnessing Living Heritage for a Sustainable Future; Promotion of Cultural and Creative Industries, and Creative Economy; Leveraging Digital Technologies for Protection and Promotion of Culture. To engage with these priorities further, the CWG has also developed a robust year-long program of cultural projects such as exhibitions, immersive experiences, symposiums, seminars, art residencies, workshops, publications, etc.

Briefing media about the First G20 CWG meeting, Secretary Culture Shri Govind Mohan said, "India is so rich and diverse in culture that the cultural engagements acquire their own significance and importance. Shri Govind Mohan also said that the CWG will have four meetings and they will be held in Khajuraho, Bhubaneshwar, Hampi and the final location, is yet to be decided. He also informed that for Khajuraho, the theme is "Protection and Restitution of Cultural Property".



Dr.Saroja Vaidyanathan receiving SNA Akademi Ratna Award from Hon'ble President of India Smt. Droupadi Murmu ji which was held in 23rd February, 2023 at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi

## India, Singapore to launch cross-border linkage between UPI and PayNow today

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Singapore counterpart Lee Hsien Loong the launch and linkage of cross-border connectivity between the Unified Payments Interface (UPI) of India and PayNow of Singapore. Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnav informed that India had signed memoranda of understanding (MoUs) with 13 countries for adopting the Unified Payments Interface (UPI) for digital payments. Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Governor Shaktikanta Das and Ravi Menon, Managing Director, Monetary Authority of Singapore (MAS), kicked off the linkage through a video conferencing. In September 2021, the MAS and the RBI had signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to link Singapore's PayNow and India's UPI real-time payment systems. Monetary Authority of Singapore (MAS) and the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to link Singapore's PayNow and India's UPI real-time payment systems.

As per ministry of external affairs,

there are approximately 6.5 lakh non-resident Indians and persons of Indian origin currently residing in Singapore. The PayNow-UPI linkage will enable users to make instant, low-cost fund transfers directly from one bank account to another between Singapore and India. The fund transfers can be made from India to Singapore using mobile phone numbers and from Singapore to India using UPI virtual payment addresses (VPA). MAS chief Fintech Officer Sopnendu Mohanty, on the sidelines of the G20 First Working Group's meeting on financial inclusion in Kolkata, said that the implementation of the project will bring down the cost of sending remittances by as much as 10 percent. He also added that data-sharing regulations, cost barriers for adoption, and legal hurdles are bigger than technological challenges.

“By reducing the cost and inefficiencies of remittances between Singapore and India, the PayNow-UPI linkage will directly benefit individuals and businesses in Singapore and India that greatly rely

on this mode of payment. Given that PayNow and UPI are integral components of their national digital infrastructures, the link between the two systems also paves the way for establishing more comprehensive digital connectivity and interoperability between the two countries,” Mohanty said while announcing the MoU in the press statement.

India's UPI system is steadily becoming attractive globally. The facility is seeing international extension to inbound foreign travelers from G20 countries for making merchant payments and non-resident Indians (NRIs) in selected international countries. The global partnerships for UPI adoption have come through as the NIPL (NPCI International Payments Limited). NIPL was incorporated in April 2020 as a wholly owned subsidiary of the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI), devoted to the deployment of RuPay and UPI outside of India. ■

## PRESIDENT BIDEN ANNOUNCES U.S. NOMINATION OF AJAY BANGA TO LEAD WORLD BANK



President Biden announced that the United States is nominating Ajay

Banga to be President of the World Bank. Mr. Banga is a business leader with extensive experience leading successful organizations in developing countries and forging public-private partnerships to address financial inclusion and climate change.

Statement from President Biden: “Ajay is uniquely equipped to lead the World Bank at this critical moment in history. He has spent more than three decades building and managing

successful, global companies that create jobs and bring investment to developing economies, and guiding organizations through periods of fundamental change. Mr. Banga has a proven track record managing people and systems, and partnering with global leaders around the world to deliver results.

He also has critical experience in mobilizing public-private resources to tackle the most urgent challenges of

our time, including climate change. Raised in India, Ajay has a unique perspective on the opportunities and challenges facing developing countries and how the World Bank can deliver on its ambitious agenda to reduce poverty and expand prosperity.”

Ajay Banga currently serves as Vice Chairman at General Atlantic. Previously, he was President and CEO of Mastercard, leading the company through a strategic, technological and cultural transformation.

Over the course of his career, Ajay has become a global leader in technology, data, financial services and innovating for inclusion. He is

Honorary Chairman of the International Chamber of Commerce, serving as Chairman from 2020-2022. He is also Chairman of Exor and Independent Director at Temasek. He became an advisor to General Atlantic's climate-focused fund, Beyond Net Zero, at its inception in 2021. He previously served on the Boards of the American Red Cross, Kraft Foods and Dow Inc. Ajay has worked closely with Vice President Harris as the Co- Chair of the Partnership for Central America. He is a member of the Trilateral Commission, a founding trustee of the U.S.-India Strategic Partnership Forum, a former member of the National Committee on United States-China Relations, and Chairman Emeritus of the American

India Foundation.

He is a co-founder of The Cyber Readiness Institute, Vice Chair of the Economic Club of New York and served as a member of President Obama's Commission on Enhancing National Cyber security. He is a past member of the U.S. President's Advisory Committee for Trade Policy and Negotiations.

Banga 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. ■

#### Form IV (See Rule-8)

1. Place of Publication : **New Delhi**
2. Periodicity of Publication : Monthly
3. Printer & Publisher's Name : **Keshav G. Parande**
4. Whether citizen of Indian : Indian  
Address : 'Pravasi Bhawan', 50, Deendayal Upadhyaya Marg,  
New Delhi-110 002
5. Editor's Name : **Keshav G. Parande**  
Whether citizen of Indian : Indian  
Address : 'Pravasi Bhawan', 50, Deendayal Upadhyaya Marg,  
New Delhi-110 002
6. Name and address of the individuals : Antar Rashtriya Sahayog Parishad,  
who own the newspaper and are : 'Pravasi Bhawan', 50, Deendayal Upadhyaya Marg,  
partner or share-holders : New Delhi-110 002

I, Keshav G. Parande, on behalf of the Antar Rashtriya Sahayog Parishad, declare, that the particulars given above are true to the best of my knowledge and belief.

March 10, 2023

sd/-  
(Keshav G. Parande)

## INDIA PLEDGES NU 2BN FOR GYALSUNG INFRA PROJECT



As a longstanding and committed development partner of Bhutan, the Government of India (GoI) has extended grant assistance of Nu 2bn for the Gyalsung Infra Project. During a special ceremony to mark the GoI's support for the Gyalsung Infra Project on 25 February, the Ambassador of India to Bhutan, H.E. Mr. Sudhakar Dalela, presented the first tranche of grant assistance of Nu 1bn to the

Project Director of Gyalsung Infra at the Semtokh Dzong, Thimphu.

The first tranche of the grant will be used for the DeSuung for Gyalsung (DFG) programme as a special India-Bhutan Friendship Project.

The grant assistance of Nu 2bn is in addition to GoI's commitment of plan assistance of Nu 50bn to the Royal Government. This support will ensure that regular bilateral development

programs of the Royal Government are not impacted.

Gyalsung is an important national initiative envisioned by His Majesty The King to build a strong foundation for the future of Bhutan. Its main objective is to build the capabilities of Bhutan's youth, enabling them to participate in the process of nation-building and empowering them to realize their potential as competent and productive citizens in service of the Tsa-Wa-Sum.

Gyalsung has been designed as a 1-year integrated training program, which includes three months of Basic Military Training followed by eight months of technical skills training in ICT, construction, agriculture, and community security. About 13,000 boys and girls will participate annually in national service training in the five Gyalsung Academies currently being built by Gyalsung Infra.

## HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS THE GYALSEY LAUNCHES BHUTAN NDI



His Royal Highness The Gyalsey graced a special event to launch Bhutan NDI, held on the auspicious occasion of His Majesty The King's Birth Anniversary on 21 February. Bhutan NDI is Bhutan's new National Identity System, developed by Druk Holding and Investments (DHI) for GovTech Bhutan.

During the launch, His Royal Highness The Gyalsey became Bhutan's first digital citizen by

onboarding with the Bhutan NDI mobile wallet.

Bhutan NDI uses cutting-edge technology to provide citizens with secure and verifiable identity credentials, ensuring the privacy and protection of their personal information.

The system uses the "self-sovereign identity" model based on Decentralised Identity (DID)

technology, which gives people more control over their personal information and who can access it.

The launch of Bhutan's National Digital Identity based on the Self-Sovereign Identity model, is a major step forward in transforming the way services are delivered in both the public and private sectors. This flagship initiative of GovTech will provide secure and verifiable digital identities to citizens, laying a strong foundation for our digital future.

## BHUTANESE PARLIAMENTARY DELEGATION IN INDIA



At the invitation of Lok Sabha, Government of India, a 14-member Parliamentary Delegation led by H.E. Mr. Wangchuk Namgyel, Speaker of the National Assembly of Bhutan visited India from 5 to 11 February 2023.



During the visit, the Parliamentary delegation called on H.E. Droupadi Murmu, the President of India at the Rashtrapati Bhavan and H.E. Jagdeep Dhankhar, Vice President of India, and met with the Minister for External Affairs Dr. S Jaishankar. The delegation also met with Shri Om Birla, Speaker of Lok Sabha and witnessed the proceedings of the sessions in Rajya Sabha and Lok Sabha.



The Parliamentary delegation paid tributes to Mahatma Gandhi, father of the Indian nation at Rajghat.



The delegation signed the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the National Assembly of Bhutan and the Lok Sabha of India on strengthening parliamentary relations. The MoU is aimed to provide a framework for enhanced partnership, cooperation, and continuous interaction between the National Assembly of Bhutan and the Lok Sabha of India.



The delegation visited Bodh Gaya in Bihar and Maharashtra. In Maharashtra, the delegation met with the Principal Secretary of Skills, Employment and Innovation Department Government of Maharashtra. They also visited Maharashtra State Skills University, Biomedical Engineering & Technology Innovation Centre, Mumbai Sea Port and Aurangabad. The delegation interacted with several business startups. ■

## DAYS TO REMEMBER

in April, 2023

April 02 : International Children's Book Day

April 05 : **Purnima** ■

April 06 : International Day of sport for  
Development & Peace

April 08 : International Roma Day

April 14 : Vaisakhi

April 14 : Dr. Ambedkar Jayanti

April 19 : **Amavasya** ●

April 22 : Mother Earth Day

April 23 : World Books & Copyright Day

April 26 : Tanzania- Union Day

April 27 : South Africa : Freedom Day

## श्रद्धांजलि



**राजेन्द्र अग्रवाल**  
02 फरवरी, 1936 – 07 फरवरी, 2023

अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय सहयोग परिषद के आजीवन सदस्य स्व. राजेन्द्र अग्रवाल ने आकाशवाणी में हिन्दी न्यूज रीडर के रूप में विशेष ख्याति अर्जित की थी। वे विभिन्न पत्र-पत्रिकाओं में भी सम-सामयिक विषयों पर लिखते थे।

स्व. अग्रवाल परिषद के पूर्व महासचिव और संस्थापक स्व. बालेश्वर अग्रवाल के अभिन्न मित्र एवं सहयोगियों में थे और अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय

सहयोग परिषद के विभिन्न गतिविधियों में सक्रिय रूप से भाग लेते रहे। सेवानिवृत्त के बाद भी पिछले कुछ वर्षों से अस्वस्थ रहने के बावजूद परिषद के कार्यक्रमों में उपस्थित रहते थे। उनके निधन से परिषद ने अपने एक वरिष्ठ सदस्य को खो दिया है। हम उनके दिवंगत आत्मा के प्रति सादर श्रद्धांजलि प्रकट करते हैं तथा उनके परिवार के सदस्यों को इस शोक को सहने की शक्ति प्रदान करें।



**मनोहर पुरी**  
02 अक्टूबर, 1944 – 26 फरवरी, 2023

अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय सहयोग परिषद के अत्यधिक कर्मठ एवं वरिष्ठ सदस्य श्री मनोहर पुरी अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय सहयोग न्यास के अध्यक्ष भी थे, इससे पहले उन्होंने परिषद के सचिव और परिषद द्वारा प्रकाशित न्यूज लेटर युगवार्ता के संपादक भी थे।

श्री पुरी हिन्दी के वरिष्ठ पत्रकार तथा रचनाकार थे। उन्होंने साहित्य की विविध विधाओं में 100 से भी अधिक पुस्तकें लिखी थी। जिसके लिए उन्हें दिल्ली हिन्दी अकादमी

और विश्व हिन्दी सचिवालय सहित अन्य अनेक संस्थानों से पुरस्कृत किया गया था। उन्होंने बाली (इंडोनेशिया) आई.सी.सी.आर. द्वारा स्थापित स्वामी विवेकानंद कल्चरल सेंटर में 3 वर्षों तक निदेशक के पद पर भी कार्य किया।

अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय सहयोग परिषद के सभी महत्वपूर्ण कार्यों, सम्मेलनों, समारोहों में उन्होंने आजीवन सक्रियतापूर्वक भाग लिया। परिषद स्व. मनोहर पुरी की आत्मा को चिरशांति की प्रार्थना करती है और उनके परिवार के सदस्यों के शोक में भी भागीदार है।



**सतप्रकाश मि्तल**

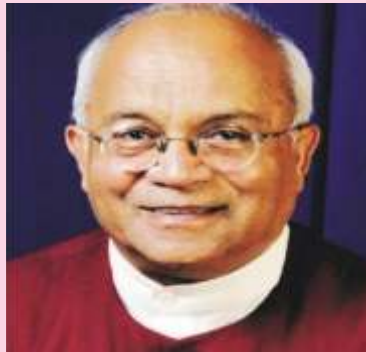
अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय सहयोग परिषद के वरिष्ठ आजीवन सदस्य सतप्रकाश मि्तल भारतीय पर्यटन विकास निगम के महाप्रबंधक के रूप में देश में पर्यटन के विकास के लिए अनेक महत्वपूर्ण कार्य किये थे। श्री मि्तल ने अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय सहयोग परिषद में विभिन्न महत्वपूर्ण दायित्वों का अत्यंत सफलतापूर्वक निर्वहन किया विशेष रूप से सदस्यों के लिए विदेशों में गुडविल मिशन के अंतर्गत अनेक देशों के भ्रमण के कार्यक्रम आयोजित कर

भारत से उन देशों के सांस्कृतिक संबंधों को सुदृढ़ किया। वे अत्यंत सक्रियतापूर्वक आजीवन सामाजिक सेवा में लगे रहे। अचानक उनका स्वर्गवास से परिषद को गहरा आघाट पहुंचा है। परिषद की ओर से हम सब दिवंगत आत्मा के प्रति सादर श्रद्धांजलि प्रकट करते हैं और शोक की इस घड़ी में उनके परिवार के प्रति भी संवेदना प्रकट करते हैं।

### डॉ. वेदप्रताप वैदिक

30 दिसम्बर, 1944 – 14 मार्च, 2023

डॉ. वेदप्रताप वैदिक का जन्म 20 दिसम्बर, 1944 को इंदौर में हुआ था। डॉ. वैदिक ने पत्रकारिता, राजनीतिक चिंतन, अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय राजनीति और हिन्दी के क्षेत्र में लंबे समय तक काम किया। अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय मामलों में जानकार होने के साथ ही उनकी रूसी, फारसी, जर्मन और संस्कृत भाषा पर पकड़ रही। डॉ. वैदिक ने जवाहरलाल नेहरू विश्वविद्यालय के 'स्कूल ऑफ इंटरनेशनल स्टडी' से अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय राजनीति में पीएचडी कर उपाधि प्राप्त की। वे भारत के ऐसे पहले विद्वान हैं जिन्होंने अपना अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय राजनीति का शोध-ग्रंथ हिन्दी में लिखा। डॉ. वैदिक पीटीआई भाषा (हिन्दी समचार समिति) के सस्थापक संपादक और नवभारत टाइम्स के संपादक (विचारक) रहे। डॉ. वैदिक को मीडिया और भाषा के क्षेत्र में काम करने के लिए कई सम्मान दिए गए जिनमें विश्व हिन्दी सम्मान (2003), महात्मा



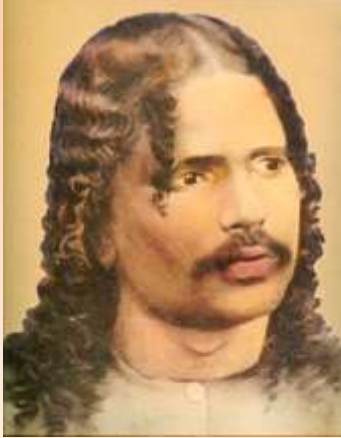
गांधी सम्मान (2008), दिनकर शिखर सम्मान, पुरुषोत्तम टंडन स्वर्ण-पदक, गोविंदवल्लभ पंत पुरस्कार, हिन्दी अकादमी सम्मान, लोहिया सम्मान, लाला लाजपतराय सम्मान आदि प्रमुख हैं। हिन्दी पत्रकारिता पर उनकी पुस्तक हिन्दी पत्र-पत्रिकाओं के लिए अत्यंत प्रामाणिक दस्तावेज है-भारत की विदेशनीति और महत्वपूर्ण अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय विषयों पर उनकी

रचनायें अनवरत प्रकाशित होती रही। हिन्दी सहित भारतीय भाषाओं को देश में न्यायोचित स्थान दिलाने के लिए वे सतत संघर्ष करते रहे। अभी हाल ही में प्रवासी भारतीय दिवस में उन्होंने अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय सहयोग परिषद के पूर्व महासचिव और संस्थापक स्व. बालेश्वर अग्रवाल द्वारा प्रवासी भारतीयों के लिए किये गये कार्यों पर एक महत्वपूर्ण लेख लिखा था वे आजीवन अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय सहयोग परिषद के क्रियाकलापों से जुड़े रहे तथा मॉरीशस में आयोजित चतुर्थ विश्व हिन्दी सम्मेलन में परिषद के प्रतिनिधिमंडल के प्रमुख सदस्य रहे।

भारतीय विदेश नीति के विशिष्ट व्याख्याता और भारतीय भाषाओं के संरक्षण एवं संवर्धन के लिए एक वीर सेनानी की भांति सतत संघर्ष करने वाले स्व. वेदप्रताप वैदिक के दिवंगत आत्मा की चिरशांति के लिए हम सादर प्रार्थना करते हैं और शोक संतप्त परिवार के प्रति हार्दिक संवेदना प्रकट करते हैं।



## भारतीय स्वाधीनता के अमृत महोत्सव के अवसर पर विशेष



भारतेन्दु हरिश्चन्द्र  
(9 सितंबर 1850 - 6 जनवरी 1885)

भारतेन्दु हरिश्चन्द्र आधुनिक हिंदी साहित्य के पितामह कहे जाते हैं। वे हिन्दी में आधुनिकता के पहले रचनाकार थे। इनका मूल नाम 'हरिश्चन्द्र' था, 'भारतेन्दु' उनकी उपाधि थी। उनका कार्यकाल युग की सन्धि पर खड़ा है। उन्होंने रीतिकाल की विकृत सामन्ती संस्कृति की पोषक वृत्तियों को छोड़कर स्वस्थ परम्परा की भूमि अपनाई और नवीनता के बीज बोये। हिन्दी साहित्य में आधुनिक काल का प्रारम्भ भारतेन्दु हरिश्चन्द्र से माना जाता है। भारतीय नवजागरण के अग्रदूत के रूप में प्रसिद्ध भारतेन्दु जी ने देश की गरीबी, पराधीनता, शासकों के अमानवीय शोषण का चित्रण को ही अपने साहित्य का लक्ष्य बनाया। हिन्दी को राष्ट्र-भाषा के रूप में प्रतिष्ठित करने की दिशा में उन्होंने अपनी प्रतिभा का उपयोग किया। ब्रिटिश राज की शोषक प्रकृति का चित्रण करने वाले उनके लेखन के लिए उन्हें युग चारण माना जाता है।

भारतेन्दु बहुमुखी प्रतिभा के धनी थे। हिन्दी पत्रकारिता, नाटक और काव्य के क्षेत्र में उनका बहुमूल्य योगदान रहा। हिन्दी में नाटकों का प्रारम्भ भारतेन्दु हरिश्चन्द्र से माना जाता है। उन्होंने 'हरिश्चन्द्र चन्द्रिका', 'कविवचनसुधा' और 'बाला बोधिनी' पत्रिकाओं का संपादन भी किया। वे एक उत्कृष्ट कवि, सशक्त व्यंग्यकार, सफल नाटककार, जागरूक पत्रकार तथा ओजस्वी गद्यकार थे। इसके अलावा वे लेखक, कवि, सम्पादक, निबन्धकार, एवं कुशल वक्ता भी थे। पंद्रह वर्ष की अवस्था से ही भारतेन्दु ने साहित्य सेवा प्रारम्भ कर दी थी। अठारह वर्ष की अवस्था में उन्होंने 'कविवचनसुधा' नामक पत्रिका निकाली, जिसमें उस समय के बड़े-बड़े विद्वानों की रचनाएं छपती थीं। वे बीस वर्ष की अवस्था में ऑनरेरी मैजिस्ट्रेट बनाए गए और आधुनिक हिन्दी साहित्य के जनक के रूप में प्रतिष्ठित हुए।



### भारत जय

चलहु वीर उठि तुरत सबै जय-ध्वजहि उड़ाओ।  
लेहु म्यान सों खड़ग खींचि रनरंग जमाओ।।  
परिकर कसि कठि उठो धनुषि पै धरि सर साधौ।  
केसरिया बानो सजि-सजि रन कंकन बाँधो।।  
जौ आरजगन एक होइ निज रूप सम्हारैं।  
तजि गृह कलहहिं अपनी कुल-मरजाद विचारैं।।  
तौ ये कितने नीच कहा इनको बल भारी।  
सिंह आगे कहूँ स्वान ठहरिहैं समर मझारी।।  
चिउँटिहु पदतल दबे डसत हवै तुच्छ जंतु इक।  
ये प्रतच्छ अरि इनहिं उपेछै जौन ताहि धिक।।  
उठहु वीर तरवार खींचि मारहु धन संगर।  
लोह-लेखिनी लिखहु आर्य-बल सत्रु हृदय पर।।  
मारु बाजे बजैं कहो घौंसा घह राहीं।  
उड़हिं पताका सत्रु हृदय लखि-लिख थहराहीं।।  
चारन बोलहिं आर्य-सुजस बेदी गुन गावै।  
छुटहिं तोप घनघोर सबै बंदूक चलावैं।।  
चमकहि असि भाले दमकहिं उनकहि तन बरवतर।  
हींसहिं हल ज्ञनकहिं रथ गज चिंकरहिं समर थर।।  
छन महुँ नासहिं आर्य नीच शत्रुन कहूँ करि छय।  
कहहु सबै भारत जय भारत जय भारत जय।।