

# ANTAR RASHTRIYA SAHAYOG PARISHAD BULLETIN

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## BHARAT, CANADA STANDOFF: DEFLECTION, DAMAGE AND DIPLOMACY

*With his focus on short term politics, Trudeau has failed to take cognisance of the long-term potential of Canada's bilateral relations with Bharat.*

The stunning announcement by Prime Minister Justin Trudeau in the Canadian Parliament accusing the government of Bharat of involvement in the murder of a Canadian Sikh extremist H.S. Nijjar sank the bilateral relations between the two countries to unprecedented depths. Nijjar was chief of banned Khalistan Tiger Force with a red corner notice against him – a terrorist involved in assassination and several other criminal activities.

Bharat has been having problems with Canada with regard to its refuge for the Khalistani terrorists. Detailed information and dossiers have been provided to the Canadian authorities but they have continued to disregard Bharat's genuine security concerns allowing known Sikh extremists to roam freely in Canada and conduct their terrorist operations in Bharat from there. Bharat's repeated protests to the Canadian Government on allowing anti-Bharat activities on its soil have gone completely unheeded. In the name of 'freedom of expression' Canada has permitted a free run to the extremists to circulate hate videos and issue open threats against Hindu Indo-Canadians asking them to leave the country. There have also been shocking incidents of defacing of Hindu temples and violent attacks against Bharat's diplomatic establishments. This has been going on for the last several decades and notably no serious action was taken even against the perpetrators of the Air India Kanishka bombing in 1985.

### NO CHANCE TO DIPLOMACY

Trudeau has asserted that the Canadian security agencies were pursuing "credible allegations of a potential link between agents of Bharat's Government and the killing of Canadian citizen Nijjar". It was preposterous for him to make such a

serious allegation against the govt of a friendly country on the basis of a mere 'allegation' as distinct from clear evidence and substantial proof and the fact that investigations were still ongoing. One would have expected such matters to be raised quietly between friendly nations with a view to resolving them through negotiations but quite surprisingly Trudeau chose not to give diplomacy any chance.

It is believed that Trudeau's statement was based on intelligence passed on to Canada by one of the partner countries in the Five Eyes intelligence alliance. It is quite routine for the exchange of intelligence amongst friendly countries but for Trudeau to make a knee-jerk statement levelling such accusations against Bharat was quite unprecedented. A day later, he explained that he was not looking to provoke Bharat and that he was simply laying down 'facts'. But the damage was already done. Some are suggesting that this may have been done to deflect attention from domestic issues on which Trudeau has been receiving increasing flak resulting in his approval ratings having plummeted in the recent times. Some media reports have even speculated that information on the 'intelligence' input had already been leaked to the media and that Trudeau's announcement in parliament was an exercise in damage limitation.

### DOUBLE STANDARDS

From Bharat's point of view, these explanations are quite irrelevant. Trudeau's insinuations amounted to a serious provocation. Bharat's reaction was understandably firm and swift. It strongly rejected the accusation and reciprocated by expelling a senior Canadian diplomat



*Amb. Virendra Gupta  
President - Antar Rashtriya Sahayog Parishad*

based in Delhi apart from suspending visa services for Canadians. Trudeau's audacious and unfounded assertion indeed merited a strong response from the government of Bharat with a view to sending a clear message to Canada and others that Bharat would not allow anyone to bully it.

Canada and some other countries have for long arrogated to themselves the right to lecture us at the slightest excuse, betraying their historic mindset of white supremacy. Canada was also very vocal and strident in its criticism of Bharat after its nuclear tests in 1998. It is time that they are reminded of their double standards and made to see the evolving geo political realities.

Political convenience cannot dictate responses to terrorism, extremism, and violence, said External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar at the United Nations General Assembly in New York.

It should be noted that despite such a grave provocation, Bharat's response has been moderate and measured designed not to completely jeopardise our relations with Canada. In fact, lot of people in Bharat were so enraged at the Canadian accusations and the manner in which it was made that they would have favoured a more robust response such as immediate

withdrawal of our High Commissioner and downgrading of diplomatic relations.

### TRUDEAU'S VOTE BANK

That Trudeau has allowed himself to be driven by short term vote bank politics is quite obvious. What is surprising is that he failed to take cognisance of the long-term potential of Canada's bilateral relation with Bharat. There is sizeable bilateral trade between the two countries exceeding US \$8 billion per annum, but more importantly Bharat accounts for over 40 per cent of foreign students in Canada, contributing US \$10 billion in fees every year. This should have weighed heavily with Trudeau before he indulged in his gaffe, causing precipitous fall in the relations, particularly at a time when Canada is facing the disturbing prospects of economic contraction.

There are reports that Bharatiya students planning to go abroad to pursue higher studies are already beginning to have second thoughts about Canada and are actively exploring alternatives.

Trudeau also does not seem to be mindful of the fact that Khalistan is a dead issue. That Bharat would never allow secession of Khalistan – thank God we have the requisite wherewithal to ensure that – should also have been quite evident to Trudeau. In fact, majority of Sikhs in Bharat as also those living abroad do not care about Khalistan and take pride in being Bharatiyas. It is only certain fringe minority elements in the Sikh community who have continued to whip up the Khalistan bogey by capturing religious institutions by threatening the use of force and violent means. These elements receive material support from ISI in Pakistan as well as other quarters inimical to Bharat's interests.

Why is Trudeau beholden to this tiny minority of Sikh extremists in Canada? Terrorism is one of the biggest problems facing the world and it is imperative that all countries must act in concert to root this out. There cannot be any truck with the terrorists under any pretext. As Bharat's External Affairs Minister reminded all concerned at the United Nations, "political convenience cannot dictate responses to terrorism, extremism and violence". Trudeau would also do well to remind himself that Canada is home to a large number of Bharatiya origin people constituting roughly 5 per cent of the country's population, more than half of whom are non-Sikhs. If they are allowed to be threatened by radical Sikh elements, it would have obvious disastrous consequences for social harmony in the country. That Canada has continued to provide refuge to these elements is a matter of grave concern – not just Khalistanis but also criminals from other nations including Bangladesh. A Baluch activist was assassinated in Canada in 2020 but nobody in Canada seems to have bothered. Is it another Pakistan in making? If it was a non-white nation indulging in such activities it would have been slapped with sanctions. A government spokesman alluded to this prospect pointing out that Canada should be worried about its growing reputation as a safe haven for terrorists and organised crime.

Trudeau miscalculated the extent of support from Canada's western allies for its wild charges against Bharat. USA, UK and Australia were notably tepid in their public reaction not going beyond expression of "deep concern" over Canadian allegations against Bharat. It was by no means akin to a full-throated support that Trudeau might have banked on, as noted in a BBC report. A Washington Post report noted that Canada's allies including USA "refused to be drawn" into some kind of a joint action requested by Canada. In fact, a Canadian journalist even hollered at Trudeau describing him as being alone.

After the incident, US President Joe Biden in New York actually praised Bharat for helping to establish new economic pathway. UK on its part made it clear that its trade talks with Bharat would go on as before. It is quite evident that Bharat, due to its rising global stature, is seen as a credible counterforce to an expansionist and increasingly strident China especially in Indo-Pacific region. West does not seem prepared to disregard that consideration. Indeed, growing partnership between Bharat and USA has obvious strategic significance for both the countries. Just a few days ago, deep embarrassment was caused to Trudeau when Yaroslav Hunka a Ukrainian immigrant, who worked with the Nazis was feted and honoured in the Canadian parliament alongside Ukrainian President Zelensky. So much for the competence of Canadian intelligence whose inputs are cited by Trudeau for lambasting Bharat publicly. Bharat has acquired a certain stature on the global stage. Its rising economic strength coupled with growing soft power have positioned it to play a leading role in the global affairs. The manner in which it discharged its responsibility as G-20 president this year has already been widely appreciated. That it was able to work with every member to steer a consensus at the summit despite deep divisions on several key issues is a testimony to Bharat's conciliatory approach underpinned by non-violence and the principle of Vasudhaiv Kutumbakam. But success also creates envy in certain quarters. Bharat therefore must remain vigilant and work to fiercely safeguard its core interests.

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### MISCALCULATED MOVE

## S. JAISHANKAR CALLED FOR RESPECT FOR TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY AND NON-INTERFERENCE IN INTERNAL AFFAIRS AT 78TH UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Mr. President, the world is witnessing an exceptional period of turmoil. As it is, structural inequities and uneven development have imposed burdens on the Global South. But stresses have been aggravated by the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic and the repercussions of ongoing conflicts, tensions and disputes. As a result, socio-economic gains of recent years have been rolled back.

Resources for sustainable development are severely challenged. Many countries struggle to make ends meet. Navigating the future appears even more daunting today.

At this juncture, it was with a sense of exceptional responsibility that India took up the Presidency of the G20. Our vision of 'One Earth, One Family, One Future' sought to focus on the key concerns of the many, not just the narrow interests of a few.

In the words of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, it was to bridge divides, dismantle barriers and sow seeds of collaboration that nourish a world, where unity prevails over discord and where shared destiny eclipses isolation. The New Delhi G-20 Leaders' Declaration articulates our collective ability to do so.

Excellencies, Friends, at a time when East-West polarization is so sharp and North-South divide so deep, the New Delhi Summit also affirms that diplomacy and dialogue are the only effective solutions. The international order is diverse and we must cater for divergences, if not differences. The days when a few nations set the agenda and expected others to fall in line are over.

As the United Nations itself symbolizes, finding common ground is an imperative. To listen to others and to respect their viewpoints, this is not weakness; it is the basics of cooperation. Only then can collective efforts on global issues be successful.

Recognizing that growth and

development must focus on the most vulnerable, we began the G20 Presidency by convening the 'Voice of the Global South' Summit. This enabled us to hear directly from 125 nations and place their concerns on the G20 agenda.

As a consequence, the issues which deserve global attention got a fair hearing. More than that, the deliberations produced outcomes that have great significance for the international community.

Mr. President, it was also noteworthy that at India's initiative, the African Union was admitted as a permanent member of the G20. By doing so, we gave voice to an entire continent which has long been its due.

This significant step in reform should inspire the United Nations, a much older organization, to also make the Security Council contemporary. Broad representation is, after all, a pre-requisite for both effectiveness and credibility.

The outcomes of the New Delhi G20 Summit will surely resonate for years ahead. Among them is the Action Plan for Sustainable Development Goals, a crucial need of the day. Equally important are the High Principles of LiFE (Lifestyle for Environment) and the Green Development Pact, as they shape our approach to our planet's future.

The transformative role of Digital Public Infrastructure has also finally been recognized. As has the salience of women-led development in building an inclusive and progressive society. The reform of International Financial Institutions (IFI) has been given due weight, as has the resolution of debt vulnerabilities. Friends, the New Delhi G20



*Indian External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar Addressing United Nations General Assembly*

outcomes are expressed both as larger policies and as specific initiatives. They could be about building cities for tomorrow or fighting corruption. Eliminating hunger or delivering quality education. Ending plastic pollution or preserving the ocean-based economy. Or for that matter, enhancing food security or even mapping global skills.

Some address longstanding issues like the gender divide and climate action. Others focus on new concerns such as responsible harnessing of Artificial Intelligence. All in all, we have placed for the world's consideration a set of actionable propositions, constructive solutions and new directions.

Even as we encourage collective endeavours, India also seeks to promote cooperation with diverse partners. From the era of non-alignment, we have now evolved to that of VishwaMitra (a friend to the world). This is reflected in our ability and willingness to engage with a broad range of nations. And, where necessary, harmonize interests.

It is visible in the rapid growth of the Quad, a mechanism today so relevant to the Indo-Pacific. It is equally apparent in the expansion of the BRICS grouping of independent-minded nations. Or in fact, the emergence of the I2U2 combination. Recently, we hosted the creation of the India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC). The forging of the Global Biofuels Alliance was another notable development. This willingness to work in an open-

mindful manner on specific domains is now a defining characteristic of the emerging multipolar order.

Mr. President, all nations pursue their national interests. We, in India, have never seen that as being in contradiction with global good. When we aspire to be a leading power, this is not for self-aggrandizement but to take on greater responsibility and make more contributions. The goals we have set for ourselves will make us different from all those whose rise preceded ours.

India demonstrated this during the Covid through the Vaccine Maitri initiative. Our endeavors like the International Solar Alliance and the Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure have gathered wide support. Our espousing of the International Year of Millets is enhancing global food security today.

We have built development partnerships with 78 nations across geographies. We have also been First Responder in disaster emergency situations. The people of Turkey saw that in February, as did those in Syria.

Our commitment is understandably even greater, closer home. When Sri Lanka experienced a severe economic crisis, it was India that first stepped forward. But even in distant regions, partners such as the Pacific Islands have appreciated our contributions to meet their needs in health, in technology and in climate action.

Mr. President, the most populous nation and the fifth largest economy in the world knows that its progress makes a real difference to the world. Especially when so many nations identify with us for reasons of history, geography and culture. They follow our experiences closely and evaluate our solutions for their larger relevance.

Last week the United Nations assessed progress towards achieving Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The mood here reflected the struggle to overcome challenges, especially those of

resource paucity. It is, therefore, vital at this mid-way, that we expand our capacities and regain our confidence. As the largest contributor to meeting SDG targets, India's achievements should give heart to others on this journey.

After all, the Global Multidimensional Poverty Index records that we have halved the global MPI value in the last 15 years, lifting 415 million people out of poverty. That progress has now moved on to a higher level, with ambitious socio-economic initiatives covering financial inclusion, food and nutrition, health and water supply, as well as energy and housing. We are seeking to demonstrate that social welfare need not be the sole prerogative of the developed world.

Excellencies, programs underway in India highlight the transformational role of digital delivery of public goods. It has facilitated scaling up, it has enhanced efficiency and it has combated corruption. The national objective of Leaving No One Behind is forging ahead in so many dimensions. Moreover, the democratization of technology has opened mindsets, instilled confidence and inspired innovations.

Excellencies, in our deliberations, we often advocate the promotion of a rules-based order. From time to time, respect for the UN Charter is also invoked. But for all the talk, it is still a few nations who shape the agenda and seek to define the norms. This cannot go on indefinitely. Nor will it go unchallenged.

A fair, equitable and democratic order will surely emerge, once we all put our minds to it. And for a start, that means ensuring that rule makers do not subjugate rule takers. After all, rules will work only when they apply equally to all.

Mr. President, we must never again allow an injustice like vaccine apartheid to recur. Climate action too cannot continue to witness an evasion of historical responsibilities. The power of markets should not be utilized to steer food and energy from the needy to the wealthy. Nor must we countenance that

political convenience determines responses to terrorism, extremism and violence. Similarly, respect for territorial integrity and non-interference in internal affairs cannot be exercised in cherry picking.

When reality departs from rhetoric, we must have the courage to call it out. Without genuine solidarity, there can never be real trust. This is very much the sentiment of the Global South.

Next year, the United Nations will be hosting the Summit of the Future. This should serve as a serious opportunity to drive change, champion fairness and reform multilateralism, including the expansion of the Security Council memberships. We must address global challenges imbued with the conviction that we are one earth and one family, with one future.

Excellencies, Friends, India has entered the Amrit Kaal, a quarter century where greater progress and transformation awaits us. We are confident that our talent and creativity, now so visibly unleashed, will power us forward. The world saw a glimpse of what is to come when our Chandrayaan-3 landed on the moon.

Today, our message to the world is in digitally enabled governance and delivery, in the widening ambit of amenities and services, in rapidly growing infrastructure, and in our energetic Start-up culture. It is visible too in vibrant cultural expressions, such as in the arts, yoga, wellness, and lifestyle.

Our latest assertion is in a path-breaking legislation to reserve one-third of the seats for women in our legislatures.

Mr. President, I speak for a society where ancient traditions of democracy have struck deep modern roots. As a result, our thinking, approaches and actions are now more grounded and authentic. As a civilizational polity that embraces modernity, we bring both tradition and technology equally confidently to the table. It is this fusion that today defines India, that is Bharat. ■

# INDIA AND RUSSIA – IN HISTORICAL AND CULTURAL PERSPECTIVE

Indo-Russian cultural linkages go deep down in history. The names of their rivers, cities, words in their language are the earliest evidences. Let me start with the words uttered by Stalin during second World War aiming at being victorious – zivyat rodina mat meaning may the mother earth and the sky live long. Zivyat means may live long, Rodina comes from Sanskrit rodasi, meaning sky and earth and mat is mata meaning mother.

## LINGUISTIC AFFINITY

The Russian language has a lot of similarities with Sanskrit. Thousands of Sanskrit words can be found in the Russian language. For example, names of parts of body and relations- **Brat** is for **bhrata** in Sanskrit, **snokha** for **snusha**, **dever** for brother-in-law, **greeva** for Neck. **Swapiti** in Sanskrit is **Supati** in Russian (sleeps). Russian counting is also similar to that of Sanskrit- **Dwa**, **Tri**, **Chateere**, **Pyach**, and **Shes** are from Sanskrit's **Dwa**, **Tri**, **Chatuh**, **Panch** and **Shat**.

Name of an automobile company and some famous personalities – Bogdan = Bhaga + Dan. The variation in Sanskrit originals for the same semanteme is frequent: like English day > Skt. Dagma (nidagma 'summer'), Russian den > Skt. dina; or Greek polis > Skt. pura, Old English burg > Skt. Bṛhat as in St. Petersburg, Yekaterinburg.

In the ancient Russian language, there were seven declensions (vibhaktis) just like Sanskrit. It also had singular, dual, and plural (i.e. ek-vachan, dwi-vachan, and bahu-vachan) numbers just like in Sanskrit. The grammars of Russian and Sanskrit languages are very similar.

## NAMES OF RIVERS

Indians during the Vedic times must have been traversing towards the west. Hydronyms represent the earliest phase of our linkages when the first phase of Sanskritisation gradually happened sometimes in the sixth or fifth millennium BC. The names of major rivers in Eastern Europe are from the R̥gvedic danu

'river': Don, Dnieper (from danu apara 'river to the rear'), Dniester, Danube. Jan Rozwadowski, Hans Krahe Skomal and Polome gave etymologies for the major rivers in Northern and Eastern Europe. W.P. Schmid explains names of Baltic rivers like Indura, Indra from Sanskrit indu 'drops' (Ma 78, 276). The rivers Op, Indigirka, Angara, Lena, and cities like Krsnador are studied to some extent and need to be studied in the light of Vedic Sanskrit.

**THE WRITTEN RECORDS** The written records of Indo-Russian friendship go back to 12th-13th century, when "The Relations about India" or "The Story of India: the Rich" was written in Russian. The standard epithet for India in Russia was 'rich' or 'bounteous', the land of plenty and splendour. The Russian version passed through numerous manuscript editions over several centuries and remained popular till the 19th century. Arrival of an Indian hero to Russia and the descriptions that he gave about India is the central theme in the ballads of Dyuk Stepanovich. (Kemp 1958:1)

## INDIAN TRADERS IN RUSSIA



In 1615, there was a whole settlement of Indian traders located at the banks of the holy river Volga in the city of Astrakhan in Russia.

A manuscript of *Padmapuran*, which was originally written in Astrakhan, was also discovered.

In the seventeenth century, Baku in Azerbaijan was famous for a volcanic Hindu temple. The volcanic temple of *Jwala ji* in Himachal Pradesh, India, is a smaller temple.



**Prof. Dr. Shashibala,**  
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In 1716, Russian scholars were drawn to Buddhism when Russia had taken over the Buddhist regions of Siberia. Buddhist festivals, sounds of Sanskrit mantras, and the decorated temples fascinated these scholars. They grew more and more curious to learn about Buddhism, the Buddhist literature, and Sanskrit.

## BUDDHISM

Buddhism permeated deeply into the hearts with its perennial and pervasive teachings of active compassion, enlightenment, transcendence and spiritual self-improvement. It connects India and Russia culturally over past four centuries when it attracted the Russians with its ethereal universe of meditation, prayers, towards the luminous space where peoples' hate is stilled by divine powers. It got deeply rooted there. Russian lamas have been working modestly but their world. Russian Prince Ukhtomsky has written that a profound silence came to their land. He has written about the last Czar who was interested in Buddhism, travelled to the Buddhist countries upto Japan. The narrative has beautiful photos of the Buryat monasteries which are lost now. Its English translation should be published.

Buddhism is one of the three main spiritual traditions there. Kalmykia, Buryatia and Tuva are the three main regions where Buddhism is a living tradition. There are 30 temples and monasteries in Buryatia, 22 in Kalmykia and 16 in Tuva are indicative of revival of Buddhism in Russia. Their practices, the monasteries built by them, the mesmerizing cultural heritage created and preserved with extreme

care, and the contributions of lamas, and scholars should be brought forth to India by scholarly presentations and exhibitions.

### CONTRIBUTION OF THE RUSSIAN ACADEMIA AND LOVE FOR SANSKRIT

Classical languages were highly respected in Europe. The Russian Czars used to speak French at home. But when they realized that Russian is more closer to Sanskrit than French they began to respect their own language more. Slava is from Sanskrit Shravas meaning glory.

- In 1784, a Russian Prince, Mikhail Shcherbatov, wrote a novel in which there is a narrative around a courtier who was sent to India to learn Sanskrit.
- In 1787, the Bhagvat Gita was translated into Russian and it had a huge impact on Russian scholars.
- In 1797, Lebedev was able to establish a way to typewrite Sanskrit in St. Petersburg. This marked the beginning of printing of Sanskrit texts in Russia.
- Prof. Lenz was the first professor of Sanskrit in Russia.
- Russia published the biggest Sanskrit-German dictionary by Bohtlink and Roth, between 1852 to 1875. This is a major milestone in the history of Russia's fascination for learning Sanskrit.
- Madame Blavatsky was completely moved by the profoundness of the Hindu-Buddhist philosophy. She established Theosophical society based on the Indian culture. People started turning to vegetarianism. They embraced Hindu values and the essence of Hinduism.
- In 1890, learning Sanskrit was made mandatory in universities for the students of Latin, Greek, and Slavic languages.
- Lebedev's contribution to impart knowledge about India and her language was

almost the first and noteworthy attempt.

- Bayer was the first European scholar to note the similarities between Persian, Greek and Sanskrit. He used to spend all his spare time in studying Sanskrit. He referred to Kāśī as the 'Academia Indorum' and presented general observations about the functions of Indians, Sanskrit literature and science.
- Ivan Pavlovich Minaev (1840-90), a Professor of comparative grammar at the University of St. Petersburg undertook journeys to India, Nepal, Burma and Srilanka, three times with the assistance of Russian Geographical Society.

Tolstoy Leo Nikolayevich (1828-1910) a great novelist and moral philosopher. He advocated a religion that was purely anthropocentric.

### CULTURAL AMBASSADORS – THE ROERICH FAMILY

Prof. Nicholai Roerich - Nicholai Roerich was a great philosopher, painter, thinker, explorer, archaeologist and a cultural activist. Himalayas painted by him are the symbols of India's eternal culture. I compare his paintings with the Great Poet Kalidasa's description of nature in Meghaduta and other poetry and drama. He lived his life here and sleeps eternally in Kullu. When former Prime Minister Sh. Atal Bihari Vajpayee visited there, he said a rishi is sleeping here.

Yelena Roerich - Mother Yelena Roerich is called the mother of Agni Yoga, the teachings of living ethics. Agni proclaimed by the Rishis of the Himalayas. She wrote on ethical and spiritual subjects. She embraced the final rest in Kalimpong in India on Oct. 5, 1955.

YURI ROERICH – A son George Nicholai Roerich, fostered the ties of Indo-Russian cultural friendship through academics. He studied under the eminent Indologists and Sanskritists in Europe and America like Sylvain Levi and P. Pelliot. He authored "Buddhist Painting", compiled Tibetan-Sanskrit-Russian-English dictionary. Outstanding



Indian personalities, great scholars like Prof. Raghuvira, Rabindranath Tagore, Rahul Sankrityayan, S.K.Chatterjee were impressed by his extraordinary abilities.

Yuri's brother, Svyatoslav was a renowned artist who spent most of his time in Bangalore. They were close to Pt. Nehru, Mr. K.P.S. Menon, Dr. Radhakrishnan and several other outstanding public figures of the time. Svyatoslav and his wife Devika Rani saw the last of their lives in 1993 leaving a legacy behind.

### SCHOLARS OF 20TH CENTURY

Prof. Dr. Kalyanov was in Leningrad, a great scholar of Sanskrit. He had translated the entire Mahabharata into Russian. He was fluent in Sanskrit. He said without Sanskrit India would lose her identity and meaning: "Sanskrit Vina Bharatam Abharatamev".

Mr. Baranikov preached humane values of the Ramayana to the Russian youth. He taught Hindi and Indian values in Russia. His father did a poetic translation of *Ramcharitmanas* in Russian.

Mr. Baranikov also brought a *Ramashila* on behalf of the Russian lovers of Hindi to India.

India and Russia have a long history of cultural linkages which requires further research and publications. ■

# ROMA AND ROMANES IN ROMANIA

✉ Zameer Anwar  
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I embarked on the academic visit to varied regions of Romania including Costinesti, Constanta, Bucharest, Brasov, Dobrogea, Gobadin and Calarasi, etc. from 13 August to 3 September, 2023. The first phase of the tour was to attend the International Romani Language Summer Workshop from 16 August to 26 August, 2023 in Costinesti, organized by Institutul pentru Dezvoltarea Evaluarii in Educație (Institute for the Development of Evaluation in Education, Romania). I received the full scholarship from Roma Education Fund (REF), based in Bucharest Romania. The Romani language workshop, designed by Prof. Univ. Emeritus Gheorghe Sarau, was classified in three levels: Beginning, Intermediate and Advanced. The course aims at promoting common Romani language and helps in acquiring and developing the language skill. A renowned philologist Prof. Sarau organized the first edition of Romani language summer course in 1992 and since then he successfully organized 43 editions till 2023. Prof. Gheorghe Sarau assumed a notable role in standardization of Romani language as well as in evolving a comprehensive Romani language teaching program for the students from primary school to university.

The course was attended by Romani language enthusiasts from France, India, Germany, Romania, etc. and Prof. Gheorghe Sarau along with expert team of Romani language comprising Alexandru Zamfir, Buca Alin, Maria Luiza Medeleanu, Cristina Padure and Ciprian Costache conducted the well structured lessons on the grammar, syntax, phonology, etymology and vocabulary of Romani language. The course intends to develop the competence of learners to write and communicate effectively and correctly in Romani language.

The workshop proves to be a stepping stone to further examining

the analogy and relations between Romani language and Old and Middle Indo-Aryan languages especially Sanskrit and Shauraseni Prakrit which brought forth Rajasthani, Gujarati and Modern Indo-Aryan or Hindi languages including both Western and Eastern Hindi. The Romani language workshop also paves the way for comprehending and analyzing the distinct features of ethnic culture as well as historical migration of Roma community from India to Afghanistan, Iran, Iraq, Byzantine, Asia Minor, Balkan and Europe from the linguistic point of views.

## Visit to Roma's population centric areas in different counties of Romania:

Romania is a home to over 3 million people of Roma community contributing 15 per cent to the total population of Romania. According to the Council of Europe estimates, approximately 1.85 million Roma live in Romania, constituting 8.32 percent of the total population of the country. It is estimated to be one million Roma permanently or temporarily residing in different countries such as Spain, Italy, England, Germany and France for work.

There are four main dialects of the Romani Language in Romania, spoken by four groups of Roma community, viz, Roma Bear Tamers (taming bears and employing them to play and dance for the show), Roma Tinsmiths (tanners), Roma coppersmiths (Kalderash Roma) and Carpathian Roma. Roma had been slaves, relegated to subhuman status for 471 years since their arrival in 1385 to the abolition of slavery in 1856. Roma is the part of Romanian history as having made an important contribution to the War of Independence of Romania (1877) as well as participated in the First World War (1914 - 1918) and the Second World War (1939-1945), besides that Roma also assumed a role in the

socio-economic and cultural life of Romania.

I visited a Roma village **Vizuresti**, around 42 km from Bucharest, the capital city of Romania. The village is the home to over 900 Roma people who are impoverished and workless. Some of them work as farm labourers in the same village and nearby areas and as rag pickers and beggars in Bucharest. A few of Roma persons managed to migrate to France, Austria and Germany where they work in the private security agency, restaurants, supermarkets and malls for assuaging the hardship of their family members.

My visit covered different cities and communes like Sacele, Tarlungeni and Zizin in Brasov County with over 20000 Romani people who are usually called **Țigani/Tigan** (Cigan/Cigani). The county lies at the peak of the southern Carpathian Mountain with several massifs and Tarlung River that springs from the Grohotiș Mountains and passes by the communes of Tarlungeni having tributaries of the several important rivers like Zizin River, the Garcin River and etc. and eventually flowing into the Black River. Roma basically live at exterior of the villages or countryside as well as at the secluded dale of the mountain in Brasov.

Sacele: Roma have settled at the outskirts of the city where there is around 12000 Romani people live according to the local Romani persons whom I interviewed. Roma in Sacele have a meager source of income so they go to big cities like Brasov where they work in factories, malls, fabric manufacturing, restaurants and local shops. Some Roma also have knowledge of therapeutic and curative attributes of various plants, weeds and herbs for their medicinal use. They compose effective medicines out the herbs which they not only sale but also use for themselves to cure and treat



various ailments and sickness rather using allopathic medicines. They at the time of autumn collect forest produces like herbs, weeds and wood and sell them in the markets. Romani women also contribute to the household income by dint of fabricating spoons and baskets out of wood as well as working as street cleaners and maids. More than 63% Romani girls get married generally at

according to 2021 census) that is commune of Braşov County consisting of Tarlungeni village where most of the Roma live at dilapidated dwellings and shacks which go without electricity and drinkingwater. In Tarlungeni the Roma community encounters varied challenges: poor living conditions, acute shortage of jobs, large family with many members and high illiteracy and school drop

rate among the community. The chief occupation of Roma is carpentry that is hereditary coming down to the generation. They build and repair wooden structures, construction materials and products like furniture for



the age of 15-16 and become mothers before turning 18 year old.

**Tarlungeni:** The population of Roma is estimated to be about 32% of the total population of Tarlungeni 11024

houses, gardens and yards. There was a Romani origin mayor in the past but now is a councillor of Romani origin. Roma also receive social aid from the local administration. Females also work in construction

( sites, supermarkets, and public facilities like parks.

**Zizin:** a small village in Brasov County where Roma contribute 65 per cent to the total population of the village. Most of the Romani people live with abysmal poverty in shanties and shacks made of some plywood and wood without proper electricity. The village area where Roma live has cobblestone streets littered with mud and dirt on every step in marked contrast to elegant stone mansions and buildings with plaster walls and tiled roofs on the other side of the area. There is 95 per cent unemployment among Roma (not wrong to say 100 per cent unemployment), though a handful of Roma works as laborers in Zizin Mineral Water plant in the same area.

I got off for **Cobadin** that is a commune of Constanta County, about 38 km away from Constant city. There live about 750 Roma who are extremely poor and unemployed, living in shanties, defecating in open areas and cooking over wood fire. The interviews of different people like Ali Elmas, Suleman Ibraim, Ismail Ridvan and so on of different families underpin the Turkish Muslim identity of Roma who belong to sub group 'Spoitori'. They have no job but collecting wood nearby forest area (Oak and Deciduous forest) and indulging in begging and child-begging. Some of them get children social welfare fund that turns out to be their source of livelihood. They use traditional horse carts for carriage of wood and other things and transportation of people from one to another place.

Visit to another county named **Constanta** that is located on the Black Sea and a seat of art and culture, with several cultural centers like museums, galleries and theatres. Roma people in Constanta County number around 12000, living in informal settlements and shanties, devoid of electricity and adequate drinking water at the outskirts of the city. A majority of Roma in Constanta profess to Islam followed by Pentecostal Christianity.



# SANTINIKETAN RECOGNIZED AS INDIA'S 41ST UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE SITE

Santiniketan, a town in West Bengal's Birbhum district, has been recognized by UNESCO as India's 41st World Heritage Site. The decision was announced at the 45th session of the World Heritage Committee, which was held in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, from September 15 to 25, 2023.



Santiniketan was founded by Nobel laureate Rabindranath Tagore in 1901 as a school based on the Brahmacharya Ashram model. This school later evolved into Visva Bharati University, which is now one of India's leading institutions of higher education. ■

## LARGEST HINDU TEMPLE OUTSIDE INDIA INAUGURATED IN NEW JERSEY

A momentous occasion, the largest Hindu temple outside of India was inaugurated today in New Jersey, USA. The grand celebration brought together thousands of devotees, dignitaries, and well-wishers from around the world to witness the consecration of this architectural marvel.

The (Bochasanwasi Shri Akshar Purushottam Swaminarayan Sanstha) BAPS Swaminarayan Akshardham Temple, located in Robbinsville, New Jersey, stands as a testament to the global presence and influence of Hinduism. It encompasses a sprawling complex spanning 162 acres, with the centerpiece being the awe-inspiring temple dedicated to Lord Swaminarayan.

The inauguration ceremony, known as the "Murti Pratishtha Mahotsav," was a week-long affair filled with spiritual fervor and cultural performances. Devotees gathered from across the United States and beyond to participate in the historic event.

The temple's architecture is a harmonious blend of traditional

Indian design and contemporary engineering, featuring intricate stone carvings, domes, and ornate spires that soar into the sky. It is constructed using 12,000 tons of Italian Carrara marble and Turkish limestone, meticulously crafted by skilled artisans.

The BAPS Swaminarayan Akshardham Temple complex also includes an exhibition showcasing Hindu culture and spirituality, lush gardens, and a cultural center that promotes education and interfaith dialogue.

His Holiness Mahant Swami Maharaj, the spiritual leader of BAPS Swaminarayan Sanstha, presided over the inauguration ceremony. He emphasized the temple's significance in promoting universal values and fostering harmony among diverse communities.

Speaking at the event, New Jersey Governor, John Smith, praised the temple as a symbol of religious tolerance and cultural diversity, stating, "This magnificent temple stands as a testament to the rich tapestry of cultures that make up our



*A Grand Celebration Marks the Opening of a Magnificent Symbol of Hindu Spirituality*

great state."

The BAPS Swaminarayan Akshardham Temple is expected to attract visitors and pilgrims from all corners of the globe, further enriching the cultural fabric of New Jersey and promoting the understanding of Hinduism and its teachings.

The inauguration of this grand temple marks a significant milestone in the global Hindu community's efforts to preserve and promote its rich heritage and spiritual values. It also stands as a beacon of cultural diversity and interfaith understanding in an increasingly interconnected world. ■

## DAYS TO REMEMBER

**in November, 2023**

**November 09 : Cambodia - Independence Day**

**November 11 : Poland - Independence Day**

**November 12 : Deepawali**

**November 13 : Amavasya ●**

**November 14 : Children's Day**

**November 15 : Brazil - Republic Day**

**November 20 : Universal Children's Day**

**November 21 : World Television Day**

**November 25 : Suriname - National Day**

**November 27 : Kartik Purnima ■**

# INDIAN AMERICAN CANCER PHYSICIAN CHOSEN AMONG 15 WHITE HOUSE FELLOWS OF 2023

Indian American cancer physician, Dr. Kamal Menghrajani, has been chosen as one of the 15 outstanding individuals for the 2023-2024 class of White House Fellows, a prestigious recognition of her talent and dedication in medicine. President Biden announced her appointment, making her the first oncologist ever selected for this fellowship. Dr. Menghrajani's work in combating cancer, especially leukemia, led her to this role at the Office of Science and Technology Policy, where she'll collaborate with senior White House staff and Cabinet Secretaries. She expressed her excitement on Twitter, emphasizing her commitment to the Cancer Moonshot and Health Outcomes teams. Her focus will align

with her extensive background in oncology and healthcare research, including efforts in early cancer diagnosis, prevention, and promoting health equity globally.

Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center applauded her achievements, and Dr. Menghrajani's entrepreneurial spirit, including co-founding startups and her involvement with Nourish International, further highlights her impact beyond medicine.

Dr. Kamal Menghrajani's selection as a White House Fellow underscores her remarkable contributions to



healthcare and innovation, setting an inspiring example of excellence in the medical field. To learn more about her journey and work, visit her LinkedIn profile and follow her on Twitter for updates on her White House Fellows program involvement. ■

## OBITUARY



**Bindeshwar Pathak**  
(2 April 1943 – 15 August 2023)

The Antar Rashtriya Sahayog Parishad (ARSP) expresses vehement grief and extends its deepest condolences on the sorrowful demise of Dr. Bindeshwar Pathak, a remarkable Indian sociologist and social entrepreneur. Being a senior life member of ARSP, Dr. Pathak got involved in various activities of ARSP. He, widely known for his pioneering work in the promotion of sanitation and hygiene, left a lasting legacy of social progress

and transformation. His significant contribution to the eradication of open defecation in India through Sulabh International won him numerous national and international accolades and awards. He was awarded the Padma Bhushan in 1991, one of India's highest civilian honors. Dr. Pathak served as a Brand Ambassador for the Indian Railways, playing an essential role in promoting cleanliness and sanitation across the railway network. ■



**Saroja Vaidyanathan**  
(19 Sept. 1937 – 21 Sept. 2023)

With heavy hearts and profound sorrow to know the sad demise of the iconic Bharatanatyam exponent, Dr. Saroja Vaidyanathan, who breathed her last on September 21, 2023, in Delhi. Dr. Vaidyanathan's contributions to the world of dance and music are immeasurable, earning her recognition and accolades that will be remembered for generations to come.

She was awarded the Padma Shri in 2002 and the prestigious Padma Bhushan in 2013, a testament to her genius for Indian classical dances. Being a chairperson of Cultural Wing of Antar Rashtriya Sahayog Parishad, Dr. Vaidyanathan actively participated in various national and international cultural activities. Antar Rashtriya Sahayog Parishad extends its deepest condolences to the grieving family. ■

# A PRINCESS FOR BHUTAN

Bhutan rejoices the birth of our Princess, welcoming her with a special sense of elation. We hoped and prayed for a Princess who personifies our current aspirations and emotions. This auspicious event is a blessed outcome of our supplications.

His Holiness the Je Khenpo said that Royal Princesses make important contributions both in terms of dharma and worldly affairs. The Princess is born at a time when Bhutan is busy with activities of profound spiritual significance to overcome the global Covid crisis. We have been building and renovating dzongs and religious institutions and making offerings to the spiritual guardians of the nation – *Yidam (Deities)*, *Khandro (Dakinis)*, and *Chhoechongs (Dharma protectors)*.

For our spiritual advisors, a Princess is a *khandrum* – manifestation of a *dakini*. For the older generation of Bhutanese, she symbolises a comforting balance of gender and completeness in the Royal household. And for today's globalised young Bhutanese, there is also the magic, glamour, and romance of the Princesses of folk tales.

Our beliefs are drawn from the depths of Bhutanese culture. Bhutanese people – young and old, traditional and modern, spiritual and secular – are unanimous in the convictions that the birth of our Princess is good tendrel. The science of tendrel, we have learnt, is not just fortune or providence; it does not just happen. It is the culmination of merit that we earn through our aspirations, devotion, and prayers. Beyond dreams and fairy tales, our beliefs stem from real life – our spiritual, social, and cultural experiences, and our history.

Her Royal Highness the Princess belongs to the sixth generation of the Wangchuck lineage, a dynasty which built and stabilised our Kingdom. The Royal women of the lineage transcended the concept of gender inequities in society. Royal women, through the generations, were not just gracious hostesses for courtly events. As adults, they personified an aura of peace, being a calming influence in the Royal court, sometimes clarifying submissions and actions of people to the Monarch.



The story of Bhutanese women, even as we know it, evolves from Guru Rinpoche to the Wangchuck dynasty and will continue into the future. Even as they navigated the complexities of court life, Queens and Princesses earned their space in Bhutanese history with dignity and respect. As patrons of Bhutan's spiritual heritage, they built institutions and supported practitioners throughout the kingdom. They shaped the cultural, social, and environmental landscape, and often helped ensure political stability.

Bhutanese history is enriched by the likes of Princess Jitsuen Dem who taught the known world that you can achieve spiritual enlightenment as a female. Guru Rinpoche's consort, Moenmo Tashi Khyildon, was his companion during his meditation in Taktshang. Jigme Namgye's yum, Pem Choki, was known to be an influence in his statecraft. His Majesty Ugyen Wangchuck's sister, Ashi Wangmo, composed songs of such meaning and melody that listeners were reduced to tears.

In the era of modernisation and change, Bhutan's Royal women still transcend the concept of gender. Their place and role in the life of the nation does not, and will not, change. But it will evolve with the times.

We remember Yum Phuntsho Choden, with an aura of mythological proportions, patron of country-wide spiritual institutions, and a benign grandmother who personified family values. Yum Kesang Choden is a Royal matriarch and patron of our spiritual heritage with a balance of dignity and grace that makes her a fountain of dignity for her immediate as well as extended family.

Today, Their Majesties the Gyaliums and Their Royal Highnesses are active patrons of our spiritual heritage and culture as well as of GNH, youth, women, rural development, civil society, and the environment.

Her Majesty Gyaltsuen Jetsun Pema is a passionate patron of the environment, supporter of rural communities, and concerned about the wellbeing of people with a focus in recent times on mental health which is emerging as a debilitating health problem.

Her Royal Highness the Princess comes into a society which is in a vibrant debate on female leadership in a new age. Given the rapid transformation of the nation, our Princess will grow in a future that the current generation may not even comprehend.

The science of academia teaches that a personality is shaped by the environment of our upbringing. Eastern wisdom has always maintained that a person's character is determined by the circumstances of birth. Princess is born in the female Year of the Rabbit, defined as a person who is known to be kind and elegant, quick and alert. The Bhutanese dathog emphasises that a person born in the year of the Rabbit is dependable and stable and is always loyal to those around them.

As we celebrate, we are reminded of the good tendrel on the birth of the Royal children. His Holiness the Je Khenpo said that religious institutes and organisations will conduct sangchhoe (a purificatory incense smoke offering) to appease the dralhas (deities) to celebrate the birth

of the Princess. They will offer butter lamps and offer prayers for the peace in the land. Lams, Lopons, and Khenpos will bestow wang (blessings) and provide teachings for the public.

Our older citizens are nostalgic. They recall their excitement when they

heard of the birth of Royal children in the past, by word of mouth, and their eagerness to get a glimpse of Royal children at public events. They appreciate current trends and the modern media because Their Majesties now share with the entire Bhutanese family the news of Royal births in real time.

Besides the profound significance of the Royal birth, we would also like to see our Princess blossom naturally, enjoying childhood, loving life, and bringing joy to the Royal family and the extended Bhutanese family.

## BHUTAN JOINS MEGA REGIONAL CONSERVATION PROJECT

A project that will plant one billion trees and restore one million hectares of land, the Great People's Forest of Eastern Himalayas, was launched on September 2.

India (Northeast), Bhutan, Nepal, and Bangladesh are part of the project which is an outcome of G20 Presidency in New Delhi and has the potential to raise US dollars 1 billion.

Last year, 1.5 million people in the eastern Himalayan region were displaced due to extreme weather events—devastating consequences are projected by 2050 if the situation continues.

Through this initiative, forest conservationists at the local government level will be involved—the initiative is expected to be completed by 2030.

Bhutan Trust Fund for Environmental Conservation (BT FEC) and Bhutan Ecological Society (BES) will lead the project implementation in the country along with other regional implementers.

BT FEC Managing Director, Karma Tshering (Ph.D), said that Bhutan has long played a key role in fighting the climate crisis by putting the environment first, recognising how important the environment is for the wellbeing of its people.

“We are keen to be part of the Great People's Forest initiative and through it, support the scale, expansion and growth of restoration efforts in Bhutan and protect its rich, biodiverse forests,” he said.

Founder and Executive Director of BES, Dr Nawang Norbu, said that the climate crisis needs to be addressed at multiple scales, with urgency, intent and ambition.

“The BES intends to play its part by supporting the plantation of 10 million trees by 2030, the partnership with GPF will enable BES to build rural prosperity while helping Bhutan remain carbon-negative and climate-



positive.”

### The Great People's Forest of the Eastern Himalayas

It is one of the largest restorations and conservation efforts in South Asia—a partnership between Conservation International, USA, and Balipara Foundation, Assam, India.

Around 1 billion inhabitants reside between the mountainous Bhutan and Nepal and the mangrove-growing people from India and Bangladesh.

The four countries share a massive single connected ecosystem—Ganges and Brahmaputra which start from the mountainous peaks of Bhutan and Nepal and reach the delta in Bangladesh.

The initiative is led by the Balipara Foundation, Assam and Conservation International.

Balipara Foundation, President, Ranjit Barthakur, said that this initiative was a movement to protect the region which has come as an

encouragement from India's G20 Presidency.

“This historic effort will put the Eastern Himalayas, and the 1 billion people who rely directly on it, on the international conservation agenda we hope to better the lives of the billion people who rely on the land and water of this beautiful region,” he said.

Conservation International Asia Pacific, Dr Richard Jeo, said that the people of the Eastern Himalayas are some of the most climate-vulnerable on our planet, threatened by melting glaciers, rising sea levels, and ever more frequent and more violent storms.

“The Great People's Forest is the response to this crisis. Its ambition and scale should rightly bring international attention to the ecological importance of this region,” he said.

He said that people in the Eastern Himalayas have contributed only a fraction of the emissions that have caused the climate crisis that they are now on the frontlines of. ■

## ब्रिटेन के हिन्दी विद्यार्थियों का सम्मान

अंतर्राष्ट्रीय सहयोग परिषद और वैश्विक हिन्दी परिवार के संयुक्त तत्वावधान में 'ब्रिटेन के हिन्दी विद्यार्थियों के प्रतिनिधिमण्डल के स्वागत समारोह का आयोजन भारत सरकार के पूर्व शिक्षा मंत्री श्री रमेश पोखरियाल 'निशंक' की अध्यक्षता में संपन्न हुआ। जिसमें मुख्य अतिथि के रूप में थे श्री अशोक बाजपेयी (सांसद राज्यसभा), मुख्य वक्ता सुश्री सुरेखा चोफला (संयोजिका प्रतिनिधिमण्डल, ब्रिटेन), विशिष्ट अतिथि संयुक्त राष्ट्र अमेरिका से पधारे श्री अशोक ओझा (वरिष्ठ पत्रकार, शिक्षक, एवं अध्यक्ष, यु. हिं. सं. और हिं. सं. फा.), श्री श्याम परांडे (महासचिव अंतर्राष्ट्रीय सहयोग परिषद), श्री अनिल जोशी (अध्यक्ष वैश्विक हिन्दी परिवार), विशिष्ट अतिथि श्री नारायण कुमार (मानद निदेशक, अंतर्राष्ट्रीय सहयोग परिषद), एवं संचालन डॉ. राजेश कुमार (वरिष्ठ लेखक) ने किया।



परिषद एवं वैश्विक हिन्दी परिवार के सामूहिक तत्वावधान में आयोजित इस स्वागत समारोह में आप सब से मिलने का अवसर मिला। इतना महत्वपूर्ण काम अंतर्राष्ट्रीय सहयोग परिषद कर रहा है जिसकी जितनी सराहना की जाए उतना कम होगा। उन्होंने अशोक ओझा जी की बात का उदाहरण देते हुए कहा कि जिस तरह से अमेरिका में रहकर हिन्दी के शिक्षण को कितनी गंभीरता से बढ़ाने का काम कर रहे हैं। उससे सरकार की भी अभिरुचि जगी है और हिन्दी प्रेमी विद्यार्थियों में भी जिज्ञासा बढ़ी है। मैं समझता हूँ भाषा किसी भी देश के संस्कृति को आगे बढ़ाने का काम करती है। सिर्फ हम हिंदी भाषा को जगाने का काम नहीं कर करते, भाषा के प्रति प्रेम जगाने का काम नहीं करते, भारतीय संस्कृति के प्रचार-प्रसार का भी काम करते हैं।

आत्मा से जोड़ने का काम है। हिन्दी सिर्फ भारत की भाषा नहीं है, ये पूरी दुनिया की आत्मा है। श्री निशंक ने नई शिक्षा नीति एवं उसके भविष्य के फायदों एवं जी 20 के अध्यक्षता एवं उसके मेजबानी को लेकर ब्रिटेन से आए छात्रों को परिचित कराया।

श्री अशोक ओझा जी ने कहा कि न्यूयार्क में हिन्दी का एक सम्मेलन हो रहा है उसका मैं संयोजक हूँ, इस सम्मेलन का उद्देश्य बताते हुए उन्होंने कहा कि मैं सम्मेलन में सरकार के एजेंसियों को जोड़ने के लिए पिछले कई वर्षों से कार्यरत था। श्री नारायण कुमार जी ने सभी आगंतुकों का अंतर्राष्ट्रीय सहयोग परिषद की ओर से स्वागत किया।

अंतर्राष्ट्रीय सहयोग परिषद के महासचिव श्री श्याम परांडे ने वक्तव्य में ब्रिटेन से आए छात्रों को धन्यवाद ज्ञापित करते हुए कहा कि भारतीय भाषाओं और भारतीय संस्कृति के बारे में यह कहा जाता है कि आप कितना भी पढ़ लें, इसकी संस्कृति और इसकी भाषा समझना है, भारत आकर इसकी गंभीरता का अनुभव करना चाहिए। आप सब आप आप का स्वागत है बहुत-बहुत अच्छा ओर आनंद का ये वातावरण है, मैं धन्यवाद करता हूँ कि आप आए।

श्री अनिल जोशी जी ने अपने वक्तव्य में कहा कि हिन्दी को लेकर हमारा यह प्रयास लगभग बीस वर्ष पूरे हो गए हैं, हमने साहित्य को लेकर काम किया है, अब भाषा और शिक्षण की दृष्टि से भी काम करने की जरूरत है।

भारत के पूर्व शिक्षामंत्री माननीय सांसद श्री रमेश पोखरियाल 'निशंक' जी ने ब्रिटेन से आए सभी विद्यार्थियों को शुभकामना देते हुए कहा कि अंतर्राष्ट्रीय सहयोग परिषद एवं वैश्विक हिन्दी परिवार ब्रिटेन के छात्रों को भारत की धरती से जोड़ना, हिन्दी से जोड़ने का विलक्षण प्रयास कर रहा है जो वस्तुतः, भारत के सांस्कृतिक और परंपराओं से जोड़ना, भारत के

इस अवसर यूरोप से ऑनलाईन जुड़े श्री पद्मेश गुप्त ने अपने विचार प्रकट किए यूरोप में विगत अनेक वर्षों से संचालित हिन्दी ज्ञान प्रतियोगिता के बारे में बताया उन्होंने इस आयोजन के लिए अंतर्राष्ट्रीय सहयोग परिषद और वैश्विक हिन्दी परिवार के प्रति आभार व्यक्त किया।

माननीय श्री अशोक बाजपेयी जी (सांसद सदस्य) ने कहा कि अंतर्राष्ट्रीय सहयोग

## अंतर्राष्ट्रीय सहयोग परिषद, इंदौर शाखा के नए पदाधिकारी निर्वाचित

अंतर्राष्ट्रीय सहयोग परिषद, इंदौर शाखा की साधारण सभा 11 सितंबर, 2023 को आयोजित की गई। बैठक की अध्यक्षता डॉ. सुब्रतो गुहा ने की। बैठक में गत 3-4 वर्षों की संस्था की गतिविधियों की समीक्षा की गई।

अरविंद बंडी, सह-सचिव: श्री मोहिनेश जगवानी, कोषाध्यक्ष: श्री कैलाश गर्ग एवं सदस्य: श्री डॉ. मुकेश मोड़, श्री नरेंद्र सिंघल, श्री रामनिरंजन लोहिया, श्री संजय नाथानी, श्री तरुण मिश्रा, श्रीमती सुनीता जोशी



सितंबर 2022 में निर्वाचित समिति के कई पदाधिकारी स्वास्थ्य एवं अन्य व्यक्तिगत कारणों से संस्था की गतिविधियों में सक्रिय नहीं हो पा रहे थे। कुछ दायित्वधारी इंदौर से स्थानांतरित भी हो गए थे। इस कारण संस्था की गतिविधियां प्रभावित हो रही थीं। इसलिए बैठक में नए सदस्यों को निर्वाचित करने का निर्णय लिया गया। नई समिति में निम्न पदाधिकारियों का चुनाव किया गया:

श्री प्रभु नारायण मिश्र एवं श्री रमेश गुप्ता को संस्था का संरक्षक / परामर्शदाता नियुक्त किया गया। नई समिति ने संस्था की गतिविधियों को सुचारु रूप से चलाने के लिए कई निर्णय लिए। इनमें से प्रमुख निर्णय निम्नलिखित हैं:

अतिथि वक्ताओं को भी आमंत्रित किया जाएगा। 5) केंद्र द्वारा संचालित गतिविधियों की भी जानकारी सदस्यों को दी जाएगी। बैठक में डॉ. प्रभुनारायण मिश्र ने हाल ही में दिल्ली में सपन्न जी-20 सम्मेलन की उपलब्धियों पर प्रकाश डाला एवं जानकारी दी कि इस सम्मेलन से पूरे विश्व में भारत की साख में अप्रत्याशित के अंत में सभी उपस्थित सदस्यों, वक्ता डॉ. प्रभु नारायण मिश्र, एकल भवन एवं श्री नरेंद्र सिंघल का आभार व्यक्त किया गया।

अध्यक्ष: श्री सुमत प्रकाश जैन, उपाध्यक्ष: श्री सुब्रतो गुहा / श्री राकेश जैन, सचिव: श्री

## बापू की त्रयोदशी

✍ मारकण्डेय राय  
कुलाधिपति, इंदिरा गांधी प्रौद्योगिकी  
एवं चिकित्सा विज्ञान विश्वविद्यालय



डॉ. रजनीश कुमार भूतपूर्व सचिव गाँधी समाधि स्थल एवं अखिल भारतीय नशा उन्मूलन परिषद के अध्यक्ष इस साल की बापू की त्रयोदशी समारोह में मुख्य अतिथि के रूप में मुझे आमंत्रित करना चाहते थे। हर साल की भांति इस साल भी 12 फरवरी को इसका आयोजन उस क्षेत्र के जाने माने गाँधी अनुयायी तथा गाँधी सेवा आश्रम के जुड़े लोगों द्वारा आयोजित होना था। गाँधी सेवा आश्रम के प्रबंधक श्री जयसिंह जादौन एवं समाज सेवी कैमर पराशर के नेतृत्व में हो रहा था। मैं इस क्षेत्र में कभी नहीं गया था। यह स्थान त्रिवेणी संगम के पास जहाँ रामेश्वरम मंदिर अवस्थित है के पास होना था, जो श्योपुर जिले में आता है। हम लोग राजधानी से चलकर सवाई माधोपुर पहुंचे तथा वहाँ गाँधी सेवा आश्रम के प्रबंधक श्री जयसिंह जादौन द्वारा स्टेशन पर ही हमारा स्वागत किया तथा वहाँ से सड़क मार्ग द्वारा होटल लाया गया। वहाँ रात्रि विश्राम हुआ एवं सुबह के नाश्ते के बाद पुनः गाड़ी से सड़क मार्ग द्वारा श्योपुर के लिए प्रस्थान हुआ। मार्ग में सभी गाँव के लोगों ने फूलमाला एवं कहीं-कहीं साफा-पगड़ी एवं शॉल द्वारा भी हमारा स्वागत किया गया।

सारा क्षेत्र आदिवासी बहुलक क्षेत्र है तथा प्रायः लोग गरीब ही हैं परन्तु उनका दिल बहुत बड़ा है जो उनके स्वागत एवं मिलने के तरीकों से परिलक्षित हो रहा था। महिलायें थाली में दीपक एवं टीका का सामान तथा फूलमाला से आरती एवं स्वागत करती थीं। ऐसा स्नेह, प्रेम एवं उत्साह भारत में अब दुर्लभ होता जा रहा है। मैं और रजनीश जी ने इसका पूरा आनंद लिया एवं प्रकृति के नजारों को खेतों में लहलहाती रवि की फसलों खासतौर पर गेहूँ, सरसों तथा रेंडी के खेतों को तथा अमरुद के बगीचों को देखते हुए चंबल नदी के किनारे जहाँ बनास एवं सीप नदियों का मिलन होता है

हम लोग वहाँ पहुंचे। वहाँ की व्यवस्था एवं उमड़ते हुए विशाल जनसमूहों को देखकर मन आत्मविभोर हो उठा। भारत की आत्मा गाँव में बसती है यह साक्षात् अनुभव हुआ जो गाँधी कहा करते थे।

पहले मंदिरों के दर्शन का विचार हुआ और जब वहाँ के इतिहास के बारे में अवगत हुआ तो रोमांच एवं अश्रुधार बहना स्वाभाविक था। ऐसा मानना है कि यह प्राचीन शिव मंदिर 'रामेश्वरम' की स्थापना स्वयं श्री राम जी ने किया था। जब अश्वमेघ यज्ञ का घोड़ा लव-कुश ने रोक लिया था तथा उनका युद्ध हुआ था तथा लक्ष्मण को मूर्च्छित एवं हनुमान को दोनों भाइयों ने बांध दिया था तो स्वयं श्री राम वहाँ अपनी सेना लेकर बालकों से लड़ने आये थे। वहीं माता सीता जी ने इन दोनों शेर बालकों का परिचय श्री राम से कराया था। ऐसा सुनने के बाद मैं ही क्या कोई भी रो देगा एवं अश्रु धारा का प्रवाह अविरल बह चलेगा। युद्ध नहीं हुआ और दोनों भाइयों ने घोड़ा लौटा दिया था।

इस दृश्य को देख स्वयं भगवान शिव प्रकट हुए थे तथा सभी देवता गण वहाँ भगवान श्री राम की स्तुति करने उपस्थित हुए थे। श्री राम जी ने वहाँ रामेश्वरम की स्थापना की थी। वहीं मंदिर है जहाँ हर साल जनवरी में मेला भी लगता है तथा हजारों श्रद्धालु गण वहाँ त्रिवेणी में स्नान करने आते हैं। उसी समय परशुराम जी भी वहाँ आये तथा शिव जी की आराधना की तथा उनसे शान्ति का वरदान प्राप्त किया क्योंकि उन्हें अपनी माता जी की हत्या का पाप लगा था तथा चारों ओर भ्रमण करने के पश्चात् उन्हें कहीं शान्ति नहीं मिल पा रही थी। शिव जी ने उन्हें वहाँ तपस्या करने की सलाह दी तथा शान्ति का वरदान दिया।

वहाँ चम्बल नदी के उस पार परशुराम जी का मंदिर बना हुआ है। हम लोग नाव से उस पार वहाँ के विधायक के साथ परशुराम मंदिर दर्शन करने गये। यहाँ अनेक संत महात्माओं ने तपस्या की है। कहा जाता है कि वहाँ एक संत थे जो चम्बल में एक घड़ियाल पर खड़े होकर नदी के उस पार जाया करते थे। उस घड़ियाल की मृत्यु अभी कुछ साल पहले हुई थी तो बहुत धूमधाम से उसकी भी त्रयोदशी मनायी गई थी।

अभी भी लव-कुश की कथा मेरे विचारों में घूमती रहती है और मुझे सोचने के लिए बाध्य करती है कि उस मिट्टी एवं जल में कुछ अद्भुत शक्ति अवश्य है, जो वहाँ के लोगों को

शूरवीर बनाती है। दो छोटे बच्चे इतने बहादुर थे कि राम की सेना सहित लक्ष्मण को मूर्च्छित एवं हनुमान को भी बांध सकते हैं तो वहाँ के लोग कितने पराक्रमी होंगे।

जब हम इस क्षेत्र के डकैतों की बात करते हैं तो मेरा मानना है कि वह भी शूरवीर, क्रान्तिकारी एवं समाज सुधारक थे। अन्याय के खिलाफ उन्होंने हथियार उठाये थे। वहाँ के लोगों से बातचीत करने पर पता चला कि वे कभी भी किसी गरीब को नहीं सताये या किसी स्त्री को नहीं छुआ और आभूषण नहीं उतरवाया। धनी एवं सम्पन्न लोगों को लूटना तथा उसे गरीबों में बांट देना उनका धर्म था। सामाजिक अन्याय, ज्यादतियों एवं उत्पीड़ित लोगों के न्याय के लिए उन्होंने हथियार उठा लिये थे। जब स्वर्गीय जयप्रकाश नारायण जैसे लोगों ने उन्हें हथियार डालने के लिए प्रेरित किया, तो वे हिंसा का रास्ता छोड़ अहिंसा एवं सेवा का बीड़ा उठा लिया। स्वर्गीय जयप्रकाश नारायण जी का भी अस्थि विसर्जन इसी त्रिवेणी संगम पर किया गया था। अभी हाल ही में महान समाज सुधारक श्री सुब्बाराव जी का भी अस्थि विसर्जन यहीं किया गया था।

हाँ इसका एक फायदा हुआ कि डकैती के आतंक से उस क्षेत्र में उद्योग एवं खादी का उत्पादन प्रचुर मात्रा में वहाँ के आदिवासी भाई-बहनों द्वारा किया जाता है। हमें उनकी समस्याओं के तहत जाना चाहिए तथा उनका समाधान ढूँढना चाहिए ना कि उनको दबाने तथा कुचलने का प्रयास होना चाहिए जो तब तक होता रहा है, इससे और भी विरोध बढ़ता है। विकास का कुछ भी कार्य उस क्षेत्र में नहीं होना तथा स्वास्थ्य एवं शिक्षा सेवाओं का विकास ना होना दुर्भाग्यपूर्ण है। भोलेभाले लोगों को डकैत करार देना दुःखद है। मैं पुनः उस क्षेत्र के उत्थान एवं उद्धार के लिए बार-बार जाना चाहूँगा। उस त्रिवेणी संगम पर कुछ समय बिताकर काम करना चाहूँगा ताकि जीवन सार्थक बन सके।

12 फरवरी को त्रिवेणी संगम पर हम पुनः जुटेंगे और गाँधी जनों के साथ गाँधी के विचार धारा की गंगा बहायेंगे। पुराणों में वर्णित रामतीर्थ जो सीप, चम्बल और बनास नदियों के पावन त्रिवेणी संगम अवस्थित है, प्रतिवर्ष बापू के अस्थि विसर्जन दिवस को बड़ी संख्या में गाँधीवादी लोगों सहित जुटेंगे एवं राष्ट्रपिता का पुनः स्मरण करेंगे। गाँधी स्मृति दिवस बार-बार मनाया जाये ऐसी मेरी कामना है।

## विश्व हिंदी सचिवालय, मॉरीशस में हिंदी दिवस समारोह

हिंदी दिवस के अवसर विश्व हिंदी सचिवालय, मॉरीशस ने मॉरीशस सरकार के शिक्षा एवं विज्ञान एवं प्रौद्योगिकी मंत्रालय, भारतीय उच्चायोग, मॉरीशस ब्रॉडकास्टिंग कारपोरेशन, तथा महात्मा गांधी स्थान के सहयोग से 14 एवं 15 सितम्बर 2023 को भव्य समारोह का आयोजन किया। इस अवसर पर 'हिंदी एवं जनसंचार कार्यशाला का आयोजन मॉरीशस के महाविद्यालयों के विद्यार्थियों तथा स्कूल शिक्षकों के लिए किया गया। समारोह के विशिष्ट अतिथि तथा कार्यशाला के संचालन के लिए भारत से डॉ. जवाहर कर्नावट को विषय विशेषज्ञ के रूप में आमंत्रित किया गया था।

सचिवालय के सभागृह में कार्यशाला का उद्घाटन मॉरीशस में भारत के उप उच्चायुक्त श्री निर्देश आर्य ने किया। सचिवालय की महासचिव डॉ. माधुरी रामधारी ने स्वागत वक्तव्य दिया। इस अवसर पर विश्व हिंदी सचिवालय की वेबसाइट का श्री बालेंदु शर्मा 'दाधीच' द्वारा तैयार किया गया नया डिजाइन

लोकार्पित किया गया। कार्यक्रम में मॉरीशस के वरिष्ठ लेखक डॉ. बीरसेन जगासिंह तथा युवा लेखक डॉ. सोम दत्त काशीनाथ द्वारा रचित पुस्तकों का लोकार्पण भी हुआ। कार्यक्रम भारतीय दूतावास की द्वितीय सचिव (हिंदी एवं संस्कृति) श्रीमती सुनीता पाहुजा एवं अनेक वरिष्ठ साहित्यकार उपस्थित रहे।

कार्यशाला के प्रथम दिन भारत से आमंत्रित विशेषज्ञ, विश्व हिंदी सम्मान से सम्मानित डॉ. जवाहर कर्नावट ने 'जनसंचार और हिंदी पत्रकारिता विषय पर अपनी प्रस्तुति के माध्यम से प्रकाश डाला। दूसरे सत्र में मॉरीशस ब्राडकास्टिंग कारपोरेशन की ओर से डॉ. शशि दुकन ने हिंदी कार्यक्रमों के विविध पक्षों पर नाट्य मंचन किया। कार्यशाला के द्वितीय दिवस डॉ. जवाहर कर्नावट ने 'हिंदी के वैश्विक जनसंचार माध्यम' और 'अनुवाद : सिद्धांत एवं व्यवहार' पर विस्तार से प्रकाश डाला और श्रोताओं के प्रश्नों के उत्तर दिए। अंतिम सत्र में



मॉरीशस ब्रॉडकास्टिंग कारपोरेशन के वरिष्ठ डेस्क संयोजक श्री केसन बधू ने हिंदी समाचार की प्रस्तुति को व्याख्यायित किया और अभ्यास भी कराया। अंत में मॉरीशस शिक्षा विभाग के स्थायी सचिव श्री युधिष्ठिर मनबोध ने समापन भाषण दिया। विश्व हिंदी सचिवालय के उपमहासचिव डॉ. शुभंकर मिश्र ने आभार प्रदर्शन किया। डॉ. कर्नावट का साक्षात्कार मारीशस टी.वी. तथा रेडियो पर भी प्रसारित किया गया।

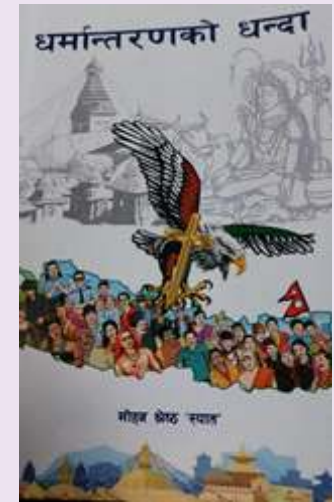
## नेपाल में "धर्मान्तरणको धन्दा" यानी धर्मान्तरण का व्यापार नामक पुस्तक का विमोचन

विश्व हिन्दू परिषद नेपाल द्वारा धर्मान्तरण को धन्दा नामक नेपाली पुस्तक विमोचन का आयोजन किया गया। धर्मान्तरण के संदर्भ में खोज एवं अनुसंधान मूलक पुस्तक "धर्मान्तरणको धन्दा" यानी धर्मान्तरण का व्यापार का लोकार्पण एक भव्य समारोह में किया गया। पुस्तक नेपाली भाषा में लिखी गई है। पुस्तक के लेखक श्री मोहन श्रेष्ठ 'स्पात' तथा प्रकाशक श्री संतोष आचार्य हैं। समारोह के प्रमुख अतिथि प्रज्ञा प्रतिष्ठान के पूर्व उपकुलपति श्री जगमान गुरुंग थे।

पुस्तक के प्रकाशक श्री संतोष आचार्य ने प्रकाशकीय धारणा रखते हुए कहा कि जब जब

दुर्गा पूजा व त्यौहार पर्व नजदीक आता है तब तब हिन्दू विरोधी तत्व विभिन्न प्रकार का आरोप प्रत्यारोप लगाने में सक्रिय हो जाते हैं। वक्ताओं ने कहा कि धर्मान्तरण का धंधा आज से नहीं बल्कि मल्ल काल से चलता आ रहा है। जबसे नेपाल धर्मनिरपेक्ष राष्ट्र हुआ है तब से धर्मान्तरण व्यापार में तेजी आ गयी है। पुस्तक में किस तरह गरीब हिंदुओं को धर्म परिवर्तन कराया जाता है उसकी विस्तृत खोज मूलक जानकारी दी गयी है।

इस अवसर पर पुस्तक के लेखक श्री प्रकाश श्रेष्ठ को संस्था के प्रमुख श्री जितेन्द्र सिंह तथा प्रमुख अतिथि जी ने सम्मानित भी किया।





## भारतीय स्वाधीनता के अमृत महोत्सव के अवसर पर विशेष



सोहन लाल द्विवेदी  
(22 फरवरी, 1906-01 मार्च, 1988)

सोहन लाल द्विवेदी हिन्दी के प्रसिद्ध कवि थे। ऊर्जा और चेतना से भरपूर रचनाओं के इस रचयिता को राष्ट्रकवि की उपाधि से अलंकृत किया गया। महात्मा गांधी के दर्शन से प्रभावित, द्विवेदी जी ने बालोपयोगी रचनाएँ भी लिखीं। 1969 में भारत सरकार ने उन्हें पद्मश्री उपाधि प्रदान कर सम्मानित किया था।

22 फरवरी सन् 1906 को उत्तर प्रदेश के फतेहपुर जिले की तहसील बिन्दकी ग्राम सिजौली नामक स्थान पर जन्मे सोहनलाल द्विवेदी हिंदी काव्य-जगत की अमूल्य निधि थे। उन्होंने हिन्दी में एम०ए० तथा संस्कृत का भी अध्ययन किया है। राष्ट्रीयता से संबन्धित कविताएँ लिखने वालों में इनका स्थान मूर्धन्य है। महात्मा गांधी पर इन्होंने कई भाव पूर्ण रचनाएँ लिखी हैं, जो हिन्दी जगत में अत्यन्त लोकप्रिय हुई हैं। इन्होंने गांधीवाद के भावतत्व को वाणी देने का सार्थक प्रयास किया है तथा अहिंसात्मक क्रान्ति के विद्रोह व सुधारवाद को अत्यन्त सरल, सबल और सफल ढंग से काव्य बनाकर 'जन साहित्य' बनाने के लिए उसे मर्मस्पर्शी और मनोरम बना दिया है।



## युगावतार गांधी

चल पड़े जिधर दो डग मग में, चल पड़े कोटि पग उसी ओर  
गढ़ गई जिधर भी एक दृष्टि, पड़ गये कोटि दृग उसी ओर,  
जिसके सिर पर निज धरा हाथ, उसके शिर-रक्षक कोटि हाथ  
जिस पर निज मस्तक झुका दिया, झुक गये उसी पर कोटि माथ।

हे कोटिचरण, हे कोटिबाहु! हे कोटिरूप, हे कोटिनाम!  
तुम एक मूर्ति, प्रतिमूर्ति कोटि! हे कोटि मूर्ति, तुमको प्रणाम!  
युग बढ़ा तुम्हारी हँसी देख, युग हटा तुम्हारी भृकुटि देख,  
तुम अचल मेखला बन भू की, खींचते काल पर अभिट रेख।

तुम बोल उठे, युग बोल उठा, तुम मौन बने, युग मौन बना  
कुछ कर्म तुम्हारे संचित कर, युग कर्म जगा, युगधर्म तना।  
युग-परिवर्तक, युग-संस्थापक, युग संचालक, हे युगाधार!  
युग-निर्माता, युग-मूर्ति! तुम्हें, युग-युग तक युग का नमस्कार!

तुम युग-युग की रूढ़ियाँ तोड़, रचते रहते नित नई सृष्टि  
उठती नवजीवन की नीवें, ले नवचेतन की दिव्य दृष्टि।  
धर्मांडंबर के खंडहर पर, कर पद-प्रहार, कर धराध्वस्त  
मानवता का पावन मंदिर, निर्माण कर रहे सृजनव्यस्त!

बढ़ते ही जाते दिग्विजयी, गढ़ते तुम अपना रामराज  
आत्माहुति के मणिमाणिक से, मढ़ते जननी का स्वर्ण ताज!  
तुम कालचक्र के रक्त सने, दशनों को कर से पकड़ सुदृढ़  
मानव को दानव के मुँह से, ला रहे खींच बाहर बढ़-बढ़।

पिसती कराहती जगती के, प्राणों में भरते अभय दान  
अधमरे देखते हैं तुमको, किसने आकर यह किया त्राण?  
दृढ़ चरण, सुदृढ़ करसंपुट से, तुम कालचक्र की चाल रोक  
नित महाकाल की छाती पर लिखते करुणा के पुण्य श्लोक!

कँपता असत्य, कँपती मिथ्या, बर्बरता कँपती है थर-थर!  
कँपते सिंहासन, राजमुकुट, कँपते खिसके आते भू पर!  
हैं अस्त्र-शस्त्र कुंठित लुठित सेनायें करती गृह-प्राण!  
रणभेरी तेरी बजती है, उड़ता है तेरा ध्वज निशान!

हे युग-दृष्टा, हे युग-स्रष्टा,  
पढ़ते कैसे यह मोक्ष-मंत्र?  
इस राजतंत्र के खंडहर में  
उगता अभिनव भारत स्वतंत्र