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बालेश्वर अग्रवाल जन्म शताब्दी के अवसर पर

MAURITIUS – My SECOND HOME



First Visit

Fifteen years ago in August 1973, along with about 650 passengers, I sailed from Bombay to Mauritius in "Akbar" of the Shipping Corporation of India. The occasion was the 12th International Conference of Arya Samaj being held in Mauritius where, along with three other journalists, I went to cover the historic Conference for the Indian Press.

Till then, I had read some books on Mauritius and heard stories from Mauritians coming to India, who said that it was a jewel in the Indian Ocean. The climate was very good and the people hospitable. They had special love and regard for persons from India, the land from where their forefathers migrated as indentured labourers under very difficult conditions.

A journey by sea was the first and it may be the last for me. It took full eight days to reach Mauritius from Bombay. One could see nothing but water all around. No other ship was in view, and not even a bird was seen anywhere. The ship was chartered by the Sarvadeshik Arya Pratinidhi Sabha (International Aryan League) and they had instructed the captain of the ship not to show any films as it was against their 'Principles.' Sea sickness-vomiting and headache, was the common ailment from which people suffered. One family from Bharatpur was sick all the eight days. We tried to make the best use of the ordeal by organising conferences of poets, poetesses, intellectuals and what not.

It was on the eighth day that some of us sighted the Mauritius island. We were all overjoyed; our suffering was to be over and ultimately we reached Port Louis harbor. The local Arya Samaj leaders came on the ship to welcome us. We were told that we would have to sleep in our cabins in the ship itself during our stay in Mauritius as there was no place in the country at that time to accommodate 650 persons.

Buses were arranged at the port site and we were all taken to the venue of the conference. It was a great surprise to most of us as we could not find any difference between ourselves and the local people participating in the conference. The women folk were mostly in sarees. They were all singing the bhajans, reciting the same Mantras and infact doing everything that we do here in India. It was very exciting. They were very happy to receive us mostly with tears in their eyes. They were meeting 650 persons from different parts of India - the land which most of them had not seen but only had a faint memory of what they had heard from their forefathers, who had migrated to Mauritius in search of "gold".

This was my first visit to this beautiful country. I tried my best to meet as many persons as possible besides covering the conference and sending cable to India. I met Shri Mohanlal Mohit, the father figure of Arya Samaj Movement and many others. The conference was inaugurated by Sir Abdoo Raman Osman, the then Governor-General of Mauritius. The

then Prime Minister Dr. Sir Seewoosagar Ramgoolam was out of the country and in his absence the acting Prime Minister Sir Abdool Razak Mohamad gave his blessings. Shri K. D. Sharma, the then Indian High Commissioner and Sir Gaetan Duval, Lord Mayor of Port Louis, and many others participated in the conference

I could get a good idea of Mauritius as I could visit some of the places in different parts of the country. The beaches were very neat and clean and the sea water very calm with coral reefs all around the island. The white sand on the beaches was also an attraction for the tourists from various countries.

As soon as the conference was over I returned to Delhi by air to save time and circulated a detailed report of the conference.

Second Visit

Mauritius was celebrating its 10th Anniversary of Independence on the 12th March, 1978. The Mahashivratri, the 'National' festival of Mauritius, was also being celebrated in the first week of March that year. The Antar-Rashtriya Sahayog Parishad received an invitation from Mauritius to send a delegation to participate in both Mahashivratri and 10th Anniversary of Independence. When we reached there, we were received at the airport and taken to Continental Hotel in Curepipe. We were fortunate to

participate in the Mahashivratri celebrations, the memory of which we all cherish even today. Ganga Talab, the main attraction, was very crowded. About a hundred thousand people had assembled there to take water from the Ganga Talab for doing Pooja next day in the temples in their own villages. It was a sight to see Late Dr. Seewoosagar Ramgoolam, the then Prime Minister of Mauritius, joining the procession of persons carrying holy water and walking for a few furlongs. The next day Mahashivratri was being celebrated all over the country - the biggest attraction was the famous Shivala in Triolet- Sir Seewoosagar Ramgoolam wearing a dhoti and offering sacred water on the Shivalingam. A few years later Sir Seewoosagar Ramgoolam inaugurated the International Aryan Conference at Alwar in India. In

Mauritius the Arya Samaj and Sanatan Dharam adherents participate in each others' functions. Shri Ramnath Jeetah, former Information Minister of Mauritius, took me round the entire country in his new car. I could complete the 'Pradakshina' (going round the country) by car just in a few hours. The foundation stone of Swastika temple was laid by Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee, the then Foreign Minister of India and who was leading an official delegation to participate in the 10th Anniversary of Independence. I could meet Shri Aneeroodh Jagnauth and Smt. Sarojini Jagnauth in the temple function; I also met Shri Jagnauth later on in his chamber in Port Louis. He was the then leader of opposition and President of MMM (Mauritian Militant Movement). We were all invited to a grand dinner at Maharaja Hotel by Shri Vissoo Ramphul, Chairman Swastika, where we discussed as to how best the ARSP could help the Swastika in the construction of the temple. We offered them marble for the temple floor and some idols, these were duly sent.

Third Visit

After an interval of five years, I visited Mauritius in June 1983. At that time, neither there were any celebrations nor there was any invitation. In fact the political conditions in Mauritius were very fluid. The elections held in June 1982 had upset the political set-up. The Labour Party was completely routed. Even, Sir Seewoosagar Ramgoolam, the then Prime Minister, was defeated at the polls. A United front of MMM and PSM (Party Socialist Mauritius) of Shri Harish Boodhoo swept the polls, capturing all the 60 seats from the mainland. The new Government was headed by Shri Aneeroodh Jagnauth, President of the MMM and Shri Harish Boodhoo of the PSM became the Deputy Prime Minister. Shri Paul Berenger, leader of the MMM was the new Finance Minister. The new team carried on the work of the government for about six months, when differences cropped up between Mr. Paul Berenger and Shri Harish Boodhoo. Paul Berenger resigned as Minister in October. Two days later he was persuaded to take

back his letter of resignation. The matter came to a head in February 1983 and Shri Paul Berenger with his supporters resigned from the Government to put pressure on the Prime Minister to accept their line of action. The Prime Minister on the other hand, because of the support of Shri Harish Boodhoo and on the advice of Dr. Sir Seewoosagar Ramgoolam, stood firm and accepted the resignations and then later on in the month of June, dissolved the House.

My visit was at this critical hour of Mauritius. I stayed with Shri Vijay Madhoo, an old friend of mine (now adviser to the Finance Minister) and in two weeks time interviewed almost all the top political leaders of the country. Dr. Sir Seewoosagar Ramgoolam, Shri Aneeroodh Jagnauth, Shri Gaitan Duval and Shri Harish Boodhoo were coming nearer and ultimately formed the Alliance. Shri Paul Berenger was so sure of his success that he went on threatening directly and indirectly the officials of the government. In the general election of 21st August 1983, the Alliance got 41 seats with 51 per cent votes and the MMM got 19 seats with 46 per cent votes. Shri Harish Boodhoo stuck to his stand and agreed to become the Chief Whip of the ruling Alliance of the three parties MSM, PMSD and the Labour Party.

During this visit of mine, I developed a very close friendship with Shri Dhandev Bahadur, Vijay Madhoo, Suryadev Bisassur, Shri Rajnarayan Gati, all of Human Service Trust and Smt. Sarita Boodho, Shri Harish Boodhoo, Shri Ram Kissoon Jeetah and many others. During the two weeks of my stay in Mauritius, I could hardly have my dinner and lunch at the place I was putting up. Smt. Chinta, the wife of Shri Vijay Madhoo, was so nice and hospitable but my friends arranged my lunch and dinners at different places on different days to enable me to meet a cross-section of the people. This brought me very close to the dedicated band of youths, who were working for the progress of the country selflessly. I started feeling that Mauritius is not a foreign country; this view was further strengthened during my subsequent visit over the following few years.

(To be Continued)

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THE 12,000 PERSONS OF BHARATIYA DESCENT IN BELIZE, CENTRAL AMERICA

✍ *Dr. Kumar Mahabir*

A Pan Caribbean virtual public meeting on the topic “The 12,000 persons of East Indian descent in Belize, Central America: Embracing the challenges of maintaining their ancestral roots in a multi-ethnic society.” was hosted by the Indo-Caribbean Cultural Centre (ICCC) on 20th September, 2020

Curlette Ramclam-Palacio, a resident of Toledo and the President of the Yellow Ginger Festival of Belize; Dr. Albert Williams, an Associate Professor of Finance and Economics at Nova South-eastern University in South Florida; and Sylvia Gilharry Perez, the Founder and President of Corozal Organization of East Indian Cultural Heritage (COEICH) were the speakers.. The discussant was Dr. Kumar Mahabir, an Anthropologist and former Organization of American States (OAS) Fellow. Sylvia Gilharry Perez provided the following overview of the history and present status of the East Indian community in Belize.

The only English-speaking country in Central America

Belize, the only English-speaking country in Central America as well as the only Central American member of CARICOM [Caribbean Community], is an 8,867-square-mile tropical paradise tucked in the heart of Caribbean basin, and bordered by Mexico (North) and Guatemala (South-West). It is home to a multi-ethnic population of over 300,000 people approximately with 3.9% (12,452) persons of East Indian (Bharatiya) descent.

The East Indian population in Belize are indirect descendants of immigrants from Bharat. Many Belizeans mistakenly refer to any one from Bharat as “Hindus” or “Coolies”. Considered a derogatory term, “Coolie” means a paid servant of East Indian descent. The term “Hindu” really refers to a person of the Hindu faith, the dominant religion of Bharat.

In contrast to Trinidad, Guyana, Suriname, Jamaica and other former West Indian British colonies which recruited indentured Bharatiya labourers directly from the then British India, Belize has never made such a request for Bharatiyas. Between 1872 and 1890, over 3,000 Bharatiya labourers from Jamaica voluntarily relocated themselves to Belize to work in the sugarcane, timber and banana industries. East Indian coffee workers from Guatemala also joined them in Belize, formerly called British Honduras.

Queen Charlotte Town was home to Bharatiyas

The first arrivals named one of their villages in Belize, “Calcutta” and later, a football team “Bengals.” East Indians proved to be industrious and thrifty and showed the propensity to save their earnings and invest in entrepreneurial activities.

Queen Charlotte Town (named after the wife of the British King George III) was home to the majority of Bharatiyas until it was destroyed by the historic hurricane in 1931. The survivors were dispersed to other districts. Plantation owners encouraged their workers to use English language for fear that the East Indians would plot against them in their native language. As a result, few Indic words remain, the majority being specific to Bharatiya food.

Bharatiyas were placed to work alongside other ethnic groups, and prejudices were eroded and mixed-marriages ensued with Creoles, Garifuna and Maya Indians. This mixing prevented Bharatiyas in Belize from retaining much of their cultural practices. More Bharatiya men than women were also recruited which led to more out-marrying. Their traditional religion of Hindu Dharma and Islam weakened because of the absence of religious and cultural leaders as well

as the nonexistence of mandirs and mosques. Belize was also too far away from Bharat for travel and spiritual connectivity.

Retentions of culinary dishes, curry and kheesas (folktales)

However, remnants of traditional culture remain in the form of culinary dishes, curry and *kheesas* [folktales]. There is also the retention of the Who-Seh-Me-Seh dance which was part of the Shiite Muslim commemoration of Muharram. However, it has been recreated in a Christian version in commemoration of the Ark of Covenant with the battle of Hassan and Hussein – grandsons of Prophet Muhammed – substituted for the fight between two brothers, Cain and Abel in the Bible.

Bharatiyas still maintain their cultural ties to agriculture for home consumption, with surpluses sold in the market.

People of Indian Origin (PIO) in Belize now face the imminent danger of disappearance as an ethnic group, now numbering just 12,452 or 3.9% of the total population of 300,000. This tragic trend could be stemmed by conducting educational outreach programs to revive and strengthen Bharatiya culture. A dating electronic service with members of the Indian Diaspora in the Caribbean should also be introduced. There is also a need for more networking with other cultural organisations in the region.

In 2014, COEICH was the main convener of a Conference on the Indian Diaspora in Belize and the wider Caribbean. The National Institute of Culture and History (NICH) was one of the sponsors. East Indians continue to embrace the challenges of retracing the footsteps of their ancestors. As they embark on this journey to reclaim and revive their traditions, they cherish the values deeply embedded in their ancestral practices. □

INDIAN IDENTITY OF ROMA COMMUNITY IN THE LIGHT OF HISTORICAL EVIDENCES

✍ Md. Zameer Anwar

I would like to shed updated scientific light on some important studies devoted to the Romani people, as conducted by European scholars since 15th century. After a number of references to this Indian origin from 1422 to 1636, and practically 150 years of hiatus, a systematic linguistic comparison by Johann Christian Christoph Rüdiger, professor at the German university of Halle in 1782, pointed to the undisputable origin of the Romani language back to the languages of East India ("East India" was the name of India in his time, as to distinguish from West Indies – or Antilles Islands). He concluded that the language of the Roma and Indians are the same and Roma together with the Indians constitute one people.

Nonetheless, Indian origin of Roma became widespread and drew due attention following the publication by German Cultural Historian, Heinrich Moritz Gottlieb Grellmann (1783) after one year. In his pioneering work- "**Die Zigeuner**", he proposed the hypothesis that acknowledges the origin of Roma in India. He argued that the language of Roma (gypsies), their names, the constitution of their bodies, their customs and religious practices corroborate that there was no country in the world where these traits and attributes possibly met but with those of India, (*His Dissertation on the Gypsies*). He opined, Roma and the inhabitants of India closely resemble one another in complexion, face and shape. Fortune-telling and premonition particularly by Roma God-men/women, were practiced all over the European countries, but the singular kind of prognostication, professed by Roma for an instance, Chiromancy referring to the presumed prediction of a person's future including happiness or unhappiness in marriage and wealth or destitution in life, etc., is nowhere identical but to that in India.



Two significant steps were assumed in the 1920s:

1. John Sampson established in his seminal book, "The language of the Gypsies of Wales", published in 1923, that Roma have left India and crossed Iranian countries "as a single group and speaking one common language".

2. Four years later, in 1927, Sir Ralph Turner defines the centre of Northern India as the departure point of Roma as well as intimates the close connection of Romani with Braj Hindi in his "The Position of Romani in Indo-Aryan".

Later in 1989, Hancock's new linguistic research postulates a realistic date of the departure of Roma from India. Notwithstanding, the important milestone occurred in 1989 when an Egyptian Scholar, Abdelali Alami translated into French the Kitâb al-Yamîni, a war chronicle, primarily written by Sultan Mahmud's secretary, Abu Naser al-Utbi, which reports the dislocation of proto-Roma from Kannauj in winter 1018-1019. This translation work gave a new direction to the Romani studies, as a result in 1998, Prof. Eric Meyer of the INALCO who suggested a connection between the origin of the Roma and Kannauj by means of French translation of a passage in Kitâb al-Yamîni and accelerated the research in this field, and subsequently led to the publication of Courthiade's article "The Origins of the Rromani People,

Chronicles and Legends" which delineated the circumstances of this exodus on the synthetic and critical basis of all previous researches.

We can even find some allusions to Romani journey from Kannauj as early as the 19th century: Sir Richard Francis Burton (1821-1890) – the Captain of East India Company suggested a possible

link of migration and dispersal of Roma from India in early 11th century during the invasion of Sultan Mahmud Ghazni. The other strong reference to the migration of Roma from north India during the invasion by Mahmud Ghazni appears in the book "The Gypsies" by Charles Godfrey Leland (1882). Earlier references, as those in 1830 by in Colonel John Staples Harriot's "Observations on the Oriental Origin of the Romnichal, or Tribe miscalled Gypsy and Bohemian" p. 531: "Kanoji is another class of Gypsies, who are said to be equally formidable as their brethren".

In fact, some other scholars also had mentioned in their works the possible participation of Mahmud Ghazni to the displacement of the Roma. For example as early as 1984 Adam Bartosz (Polish Researcher) had mentioned Mahmud of Ghazni's possible role in this exodus. In 1987, Dr. Rajko Djuriã wrote, in his book "The Roma's Migration": "Wanting his city to attain the look and splendour of the cities of Central and West Asia, Mahmud, according to historians, brought a large number of skilled craftsmen, artisans and builders from India".

Other Rromani researchers, such as Prof. Ian F. Hancock (in "The Roads of the Roma" – Hatfield: University of Hertfordshire Press, 1998 - p.15-16) also suspected independently a link between this exodus and the terrible Razzias (or raids) perpetrated by



Sultan Mahmūd of Ghaznī into Northern India. He also investigated the chronology of the exodus from the linguistic point of view and his conclusions are a significant step forward in respect of earlier vague references and conjectures.

Independently, the Polish anthropologist Lech Mróz had come intuitively to a similar conclusion: "I

consider it likely that the Roms' ancestors arrived in Iran in the time of Mahmūd of Ghaznī, as a result of his raids upon India" (1992:40). However, in lack of access in a European translation to the whole content of the Kitâb al-Yamīnī – especially the chapter devoted to the capture of Kannauj and the subsequent dislocation of its population, these authors could not substantiate more

precisely their suppositions.

I conclude by saying "Roma are the flowers of India, whose fragrance scattered across the world. Why i say because Kannauj is the Perfume Capital of India, as it had mastered the art of capturing the delicate smell of the fresh rain on dry soil into a perfume many years ago, and this is place, turned out to be the cradle of Roma". □

PRIYANCA RADHAKRISHNAN NEW ZEALAND'S FIRST-EVER KIWI INDIAN MINISTER



Priyanka Radhakrishnan became New Zealand's first-ever Indian-origin minister after Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern inducted five new ministers into her executive on 2 November, 2020.

Born in India, Radhakrishnan, 41, went to school in Singapore before moving to New Zealand to further her education. She has spent her work life advocating on behalf of people, whose voices are often unheard, women

survivors of domestic violence, and migrant workers who have been exploited.

She was elected first as a Member of Parliament belonging to the Labour Party in September 2017. In 2019, she was appointed the Parliamentary Private Secretary to the Minister for Ethnic Communities. Her work in that area has helped her build the base for her new role of Minister for Diversity, Inclusion and Ethnic Communities. In addition to this, she has become the Minister for the Community and Voluntary Sector and Associate Minister for Social Development and

Employment. Radhakrishnan, who is from the 2017 intake of new MPs, is a minister outside of the Cabinet. She lives in Auckland with her husband.

Announcing the names of the new ministers, Prime Minister Ardern said: "I am excited to be bringing in some new talent, with first-hand experience in the areas that they will be working in, and reflecting the New Zealand that elected us on the 17th of October. This is a Cabinet and an executive that is based on merit but also happens to be incredibly diverse". □

INDIAN-ORIGIN ACADEMIC SRIKANT DATAR TO BECOME NEW DEAN OF HARVARD BUSINESS SCHOOL

Indian-origin academic Srikant Datar is set to become the second consecutive dean of Harvard Business School hailing from India. The Arthur Lowes Dickinson Professor of Business Administration and the senior associate Dean for University Affairs at Harvard Business School will lead the prestigious 112-year-old institution from January 1, 2021.

Datar, an alumnus of Mumbai University and IIM Ahmedabad, will succeed Nitin Nohria, another Indian-American. Datar will be the 11th dean of the prestigious school that is counted amongst the top business schools in the US and the world. Since joining the faculty in 1996, Datar has held a series of key positions, as the School's senior associate dean

responsible for faculty recruiting, faculty development, executive education, research, and currently for University affairs.



"I am in equal measure humbled and honored to take on this role," said Datar. "Harvard Business School is an institution with a remarkable legacy of impact in research, education, and practice. Yet the events of the past year have hastened our passage to an unforeseen future."

Datar received his bachelor's degree, with distinction, from the University of Bombay in 1973. A chartered accountant, he went on to receive a

postgraduate diploma in business management from the Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad, before completing a master's degrees in statistics (1983) and economics (1984) and a PhD in business (1985), all from Stanford University.

From 1984 to 1989, he was an assistant professor and then associate professor at the Carnegie Mellon Graduate School of Industrial Administration, where he was honoured with the George Leland Bach Teaching Award. From 1989 to 1996, he served on the faculty of the Stanford Graduate School of Business, where he rose to become the Littlefield Professor of Accounting and Management and was recognised with the school's Distinguished Teaching Award. □

BANGLADESH INVITES INDIAN PM TO JOIN 50TH INDEPENDENCE CELEBRATIONS

India's neighboring country Bangladesh has invited Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi to join the 50 years celebrations of its independence on 26th March 2021. Bangladesh Foreign Minister AK Abdul Momen disclosed this when the newly appointed High Commissioner of India Vikram Doraiswai made a courtesy call on him in Dhaka. Dr. Momen said Bangladesh and India will

celebrate Bangladesh's 50 years of independence together next year. He hoped that Prime Minister Modi will join in the celebrations in Dhaka. A virtual meeting between the Prime Ministers of India and Bangladesh is also likely to take place later this year. Bangladesh's Foreign Minister said the existing relations between Bangladesh and India have set an example for the world by resolving

bilateral issues through dialogue and discussions. He referred to land and maritime boundary issues as an example in this context. Earlier, Prime Minister Modi was scheduled to visit Bangladesh to join the birth centenary celebrations of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. But the visit was canceled due to the Corona pandemic. □

KAMALA HARRIS: THE INSPIRING STORY OF MANY FIRSTS

Known as the "female Obama", the first time Senator Kamala Harris has scripted history by being elected as the Vice President of the United States. Harris is known for many firsts. She has been a county district attorney; the district attorney for San Francisco - the first woman and the first African-American, and also the first person of Indian-origin, to be elected to the position.



researcher and civil rights activist from Chennai. After her parents divorced, Harris was raised primarily by her single mother. She says that her mother adopted the African-American culture and brought up her two daughters - Kamala and her younger sister Maya - in it. Harris grew up embracing her Indian culture, but living a proud African-American life. She often joined her mother on visits to India.

and began her career in the Alameda County District Attorney's Office. She became the top prosecutor for San Francisco in 2003, before being elected as the first woman and the first black person to serve as California's attorney general in 2010, the top lawyer in America's most populous state. In her nearly two terms in office as the attorney general, Harris gained a reputation as one of the rising stars of the Democratic Party. She was elected as California's junior US senator in 2017.

Harris was born to two immigrant parents: a Black father and an Indian mother. Her father, Donald Harris, was from Jamaica, and her mother, Shyamala Gopalan, a cancer

Harris attended college in the US, spending four years at Howard University, which she has described as among the most formative experiences of her life. After Howard, she went on to earn her law degree at the University of California, Hastings,

Kamala Harris has also been actively associated with the ARSP's diaspora outreach and has also attended a conference organised by Antar-Rashtriya Sahayog Parishad. □

CONDOLENCE MESSAGE

Centre for Roma Studies and Cultural Relations (CRSCR) is extremely sad to learn of the demise of Dr. Rajko Djuric on 3rd November, 2020, who was a Serbian Romani Writer, Poet, Philosopher and Academic. He dedicated his life for preservation and promotion of Romani language and culture. He was elected the President of the International Romani Union in the fourth congress of the IRU in Warsaw in 1990. He participated in 2nd World Roma Cultural Festival in Chandigarh, India in 1983. His poetry and writings vividly reflect the close ties of Roma with Indian homeland. We believe that Romani people would remember his rich legacy and illustrious contribution to the betterment of the community.

Given below are excerpts from one of his celebrated poems:

An rromani æhib dikhÒl sar e ile
kætenèar peren
vi sar e raja an æhonutesqi angali
œilesèar roven.
E rromani æhib si æhib e phuvîqi, e
æikaqi
savîèar si kerdo manuœ;
Khanæsèar si e rromani æhib
Devlesèar si e rromani æhib.

English Translation:

In the Romani language, we can see hearts falling from the trees and men sobbing out of the cold in the arms of the moon. The Romani language is the language of the earth, of the mud from which man was created;

Language of nothing
Language of God.

On behalf of the CRSCR-ARSP, we wish to extend our heartfelt condolences and deepest sympathies to his family, relatives and friends. We pray to God to let the departed soul Rest in Peace. □

OBITUARY

It is grieved to learn that one of the senior and active members of ARSP, Shri Roshan Lal Aggarwal Ji drew his last breath on 30th September, 2020. He had cordial relation and long-standing friendship with Shri Baleshwar Agrawal Ji. Both of them together went on several national and international tours. □

INDIAN-ORIGIN ONCOPLASTIC SURGEON NAMED OUTSTANDING YOUNG PERSON 2020



Dr Jajini Varghese, a UK-based Indian-origin plastic surgeon, has been named an 'Outstanding Young Person of the World 2020' by a non-profit NGO for her "incredible" scientific contributions to diagnosing and treating breast cancer.

The 39-year-old Consultant in Oncoplastic Breast Surgery at Royal Free Hospital and University College London is one of 10 nominations from the UK for the international award, which honours outstanding young people under the age of 40 every year from across 110 countries for

extraordinary accomplishments in various fields.

Varghese has been recognised in the "Medical Innovation" category for making it her personal mission to attempt to restore the lives of millions of women affected by breast cancer and will be presented with the award at a ceremony at the 2020 Junior Chamber International (JCI) World Congress in Yokohama, Japan, in early November.

The JCI, a global leadership organisation which provides personal and professional development opportunities to young leaders aged 18 to 40, praised Varghese for adopting strategies to prevent breast

cancer by offering early screening for women in developing countries.

Varghese's work has won her other awards, including the top prize at the Association of Breast Surgery Conference and UK Radiology International Congress.

She currently lectures on the UCL Athena Programme, encouraging women to take up a surgical career, and has mentored several doctors to hold leadership roles in their chosen fields. □

INDIAN-ORIGIN PHILANTHROPIST WINS LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD IN US

Indian-origin philanthropist Harish Kotecha has been awarded the prestigious Sandra Neese Lifetime Achievement Award in recognition of his work in the US for meeting the needs of children and



youth experiencing homelessness.

The lifetime achievement award from the National Association for the Education of Homeless Children and Youth (NAEHCY) was presented to Kotecha, who is founder and president of Hindu Charities for America (HC4A), at its 32nd annual conference on October 9, a statement said.

Sandra Neese Lifetime Achievement Award is presented annually to honour people who have worked tirelessly to ensure that all children may have what most take for granted: safety, shelter,

and a future and that young people without shelter may find the promise of tomorrow.

NAEHCY's Board of Directors were impressed with "your (Kotecha's) ability to transform a

singular movement into a replicable programme that now is established in 4 major cities," the statement said. In her award letter to Kotecha, Jimiyu Evans, president, NAEHCY wrote that, "We are glad to have an advocate like you in the field to meet the needs of children and youth experiencing homelessness - supporting and encouraging academic success - while implementing programme coordination and community collaboration." - PTI □

BURJ KHALIFA DISPLAYS MAHATMA GANDHI'S IMAGE

Images of Mahatma Gandhi, the leader of India's freedom movement, were displayed on Dubai's Burj Khalifa on 2 October, 2020 as a tribute on his 151st birth anniversary.



The Indian Consulate in Dubai telecasted live through its social media pages a special programme on "Relevance of Gandhi's message in the 21st century" followed by a LED projection on Burj Khalifa. The show was jointly organised by the Indian Embassy in Abu Dhabi, the Consulate and Emaar Properties. Images of Gandhi and the Indian flag were beamed on the world's largest LED-illuminated façade.

Meanwhile, Consulate officials are also holding a cleanliness drive in the premises of the mission. With the support from the Indian community, 151 trees will be planted on different sites to mark the occasion. The annual debate for students, held under the patronage of the mission at GEMS Our Own Indian School, will be organised online due to Covid-19. Essay writing and drawing competitions are also being organised for students - IANS □

India No 2 in Readiness for COVID-19 Vaccines

It may take three to four years to manufacture enough vaccines to cover the world's population, but high-income countries and a few middle-income countries with manufacturing capacity such as India, have already purchased nearly 3.8 bn doses of the potential vaccine candidates. India has used its manufacturing capability to pre-order 600 million doses of the Coronavirus disease vaccine and is negotiating for another billion doses, enough to vaccinate at least half the population, according to a new global analysis of

advance market commitments for experimental vaccines till October. Most experimental Covid-19 vaccines require two doses. The figures are second only to the US, which has pre-ordered 810 million confirmed doses and has another 1.6 billion under negotiation. According to the Duke Global Health Innovation Centre, who led the analysis, In terms of numbers of confirmed doses, the USA has pre-ordered the largest number, followed by India, and the European Union. But in terms of percent of the population covered by confirmed

purchases, Canada has pre-purchased enough vaccines to cover 527% of their population, followed by the UK's 277% of their population. According to the Union health ministry, India is producing vaccines to protect the world against Covid-19 and will ensure its own citizens are protected as well. The government is committed to protecting the health of its citizens, so all measures have been taken to ensure that adequate doses of the vaccines are made available. □

PM Modi says India at Forefront of COVID-19 Vaccine Development

In a virtual keynote address at the inaugural function of Grand Challenges Annual Meeting 2020 on 19th October, the Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi said that India is now at the forefront of vaccine development for COVID-19, and that more than 30 indigenous vaccines are being developed in the country and three of them are in an advanced stage. He asserted that India is already working on putting a well-established vaccine delivery system in place. He said, this digitized network

along with digital health ID will be used to ensure the immunization of the citizens, and thanks to a people-powered and people-driven approach, India kept its COVID-19 death rate very low. The Prime Minister said, India is witnessing a decline in the number of cases per day and in the growth rate of cases. He said, India has one of the highest recovery rates of 88 percent. It happened because India was one of the first countries to adopt a flexible lockdown when the total cases were just a few

hundred. He said, beyond COVID too, India is known for its proven capacity to produce quality medicines and vaccines at low cost. The Prime Minister emphasized that more than 60 percent of the Vaccines for Global Immunisation are being manufactured in India, and with India's experience and research talent, we will be at the center of global healthcare efforts. India wants to help other nations enhance their capacities in these sectors. □

Indian American Women Say Kamala Harris Makes Them Feel Accepted, Proud and Hopeful



Nalini Mahadevan

As Democratic U.S. Sen. Kamala Harris became vice president-elect, Nalini Mahadevan, an attorney in Clayton, expressed her joy saying, "finally, here is a woman whose mother came from my part of the world, and reaching the pinnacle is just fantastic."



Mina Kini

Mina Kini, a diversity and inclusion director from Mumbai said Democratic U.S. Sen. Kamala Harris is inspiring women of color to take on positions of power. "Three key barriers were broken. One was the barrier of a glass ceiling because we now have the first woman vice president for the United States. Secondly, the bamboo ceiling as an Asian American and the concrete wall that African Americans and the Black communities face even today, that was broken," Kini said.

Kini came to the U.S. from Mumbai, India, in 1992 to reunite with her husband, who arrived earlier, and to pursue a doctorate at Texas A&M University. After receiving her degree, she worked in the healthcare field for years, moving to St. Louis two years ago to work for SSM Health as director of diversity and inclusion. She said Harris' victory speech made her emotional because Harris could open the door for Indian women and other women of color to be more successful.

Immigration attorney Nalini Mahadevan also sees Harris' win as a game-changer for women of color. She grew up in India when it had a female prime minister, Indira Gandhi, so seeing role models at home was nothing new for her. When she arrived in St. Louis from Mumbai, she quickly noticed that American women did not have that same power.

Mahadevan has been in St. Louis since 1984. She said she is impressed by Harris, who did not come from a political family but ascended on her own merit.



Barnali Gupta

St. Louis University's incoming business school dean, Barnali Gupta, said the election of Democratic U.S. Sen. Kamala Harris will open doors for women of color. "Kamala Harris will be sort of the guiding light of God that will inspire so many generations of leaders," Barnali Gupta said.



Sunitha Thanjavuru

Sunitha Thanjavuru, the only female partner at her anesthesiologist firm, said "I do feel a national belonging more incorporated into the community, by having more of a say so in the community and I feel like we are being accepted, we are being recognized, our voices are being heard." □

PM Modi GREETs RAMKALAWAN ON HIS HISTORIC WIN IN SEYCHELLES PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS

He also congratulated the people of Seychelles for the conduct of free and fair elections

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has congratulated Seychelles' Wavel Ramkalawan on his historic win in the Presidential and Assembly elections and said that he looks forward to strengthening ties with the country.

"Felicitations to H.E. @wavelramkalawan on his historic win in the Presidential and Assembly elections in Seychelles. We look forward to a strengthening of the close and traditional relationship between India and Seychelles under his leadership," PM Modi said in a tweet.

It is the first time since 1977 that the opposition has taken power in Seychelles with incumbent President Danny Faure getting 43 percent votes to 54 percent of Wavel Ramkalawan. "In this election, there are no losers,

there are no winners- our country was given the opportunity as the ultimate winner,"

Ramkalawan said after winning the presidential elections in his seventh attempt.

PM Modi also congratulated the people of Seychelles for the conduct of free, fair, and peaceful election.

"Congratulations to the people of Seychelles for the conduct of free, fair, and peaceful elections. This is a victory for democracy, a common value that binds India and Seychelles," the Prime Minister said in another tweet.



India and Seychelles share a cordial bilateral relationship and the engagement has evolved over the historical contacts and continuous support to Seychelles for its security, even as our bilateral trade remains moderate. Seychelles and India have worked very closely on defense cooperation as the island nation is India's ally in the Indian Ocean. In June 2018, PM Modi had extended \$100 million credit to Seychelles for the development of its defense capabilities.

In 2015, PM Modi visited Seychelles and it was his first visit to any country in the Indian Ocean region. It was seen as a trip reaffirming India's primacy in the Indian Ocean region against the backdrop of growing Chinese aggression. □

VANDE BHARAT MISSION: OVER 633,000 PASSENGERS TRAVEL FROM UAE TO INDIA

Ever since the Indian missions opened an e-registration service on April 29 for Vande Bharat Mission, as many as 635,000 Indians in the UAE registered for repatriation under the Mission and the number of passengers who have traveled from the United Arab Emirates (UAE) to India has reached 633,000 as of October 31. Meanwhile, more than 222,000 travelers have flown to the UAE from India since July 12, as the Indian ambassador to the UAE Pavan Kapoor said.

The daily air traffic between India and UAE has gone up to 10,000 to 12,000 both ways since October, and about 70,000 to 80,000 blue-collar workers with valid visas who had gone home during the pandemic were likely to return when the situation improves, revealed the Consul for Press, Information, and Culture at the Indian Consulate in Dubai Neeraj Agrawal to Gulf News. Flights are being operated



Nearly 222,000 people have travelled to the United Arab Emirates since May 6

under the Air Bubble agreement between the two countries which has been extended from October 31 to December 31.

Dubbed as India's largest repatriation mission, the Vande Bharat Mission to repatriate Indian nationals stranded in various countries after the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic has crossed the 2 million mark. According to details available till Thursday, 20.55 lakh (2.06 million) Indians had been repatriated through different modes under this mission, Ministry of

External Affairs Official Spokesperson Anurag Srivastava said during the weekly media briefing.

"More than 29.1 lakh stranded & distressed citizens facilitated from the time Vande Bharat Mission started on 6 May 2020. Continuing to reach out with more air bubbles, flights & destinations," said Civil Aviation Minister Hardeep Singh Puri in a tweet.

According to the Ministry of External Affairs, under phase 7 of the mission which began on October 1, 1,057 international flights have been operated by the end of that month, repatriating an estimated 1.95 lakh people. These flights are from 24 countries, including 18 with which India has bilateral air bubble arrangements, reaching 22 airports across India. □

MEA Hopeful of 'Positive Resolution' Over Pending Pay for Indian Workers in Saudi Arabia

After, there were media reports of Indian migrant workers from Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, and Odisha approaching the Indian government over the unpaid end of service benefits, the Indian embassy in Riyadh has taken up the matter of Indian workers in Saudi Arabia who were reportedly not paid by the end of the service by a private firm and they are hoping for a positive resolution,

the Ministry of External Affairs said. MEA spokesperson Anurag Srivastava on 23 October, 2020 said all such cases, including the case of 286 Indian workers who were working for a company in Saudi Arabia, are raised by India's missions in these countries with employers as well as local authorities. "In this particular case, this has been followed up by our embassy and we are hopeful for a

positive resolution," he said during the online media briefing. Asked about the steps taken by the government to deal with such cases, Srivastava said, "We have a portal called 'Madad' where all such cases, people who are affected, can register their grievances. Our missions and posts in these areas proactively follow it up with concerned authorities to get a resolution."-PTI □

2 Plus 2 Ministerial Dialogue: India, US Agree To Advance Defence Cooperation

India and the US sign Basic Exchange Cooperation Agreement for Geo-Spatial Cooperation (BECA) on October 27.

US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo and Secretary of Defence Mark Esper landed in New Delhi on 27th October, 2020 for the third edition of two-plus-two ministerial dialogue which is taking place at the time when India and China are facing bitter standoff in eastern Ladakh. The two top officials of the Donald Trump administration soon after arrival in India got engaged in bilateral meetings with their respective Indian counterparts S Jaishankar and Rajnath Singh.

Expressing his happiness in hosting US Secretary of Defence Mark Esper at his South Block office, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh tweeted: "India is delighted to host the US Secretary of Defence, Dr Mark Esper. Our talks today were fruitful, aimed at further deepening defence cooperation in a wide range of areas. Today's discussions will add new vigour to India-US defence relations & mutual cooperation."

Giving details of the meeting between the two ministers, the Ministry of Defence maintained, "The two ministers reviewed bilateral defence cooperation spanning military to military cooperation, secure communication systems and information sharing, defence trade and industrial issues and also discussed ways to take bilateral



cooperation forward."

Both ministers expressed satisfaction at the close engagements between the respective Armed Forces. "They discussed potential new areas of cooperation, both at Service to Service level and at the joint level. They called for continuation of existing defence dialogue mechanisms during the pandemic, at all levels, particularly the Military Cooperation Group (MCG). They also discussed requirements of expanding deployments of liaison officers," the Ministry of Defence said. "The two ministers expressed satisfaction that an agreement of BECA will be signed during the visit. The US Secretary of Defence welcomed Australia's participation in the exercise MALABAR 2020," it added. "The Raksha Mantri elaborated upon the initiatives under the ATMANIRBHAR BHARAT to encourage investments in the defence industry in India and invited US companies to make avail of

the liberalized policies and the favorable Defence Industry ecosystem in India," it further maintained.

On the other hand, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar also held a meeting with Secretary of State Mike Pompeo at Hyderabad House in New Delhi. Tweeting about it, the MEA wrote: "Pleased to welcome Secretary Pompeo. Taking our comprehensive Global Strategic Partnership forward."

Earlier in the day, Foreign Secretary Harsh Vardhan Shringla held a meeting with US Under Secretary of State Brian Bulatao who is part of the Secretary of State's delegation for the two-plus-two ministerial dialogue.

Talking about the meeting, Ministry of External Affairs' spokesperson Anurag Srivastava tweeted: "Foreign Secretary Harsh Vardhan Shringla welcomed US Under Secretary of State Brian Bulatao who is part of Secretary of State Pompeo's delegation for the 2+2 Ministerial Dialogue.

The two countries held their two-plus-two ministerial dialogue on October 27, and signed the fourth and final foundational military pact called Basic Exchange Cooperation Agreement for Geo-Spatial Cooperation. □

AT UNSC, INDIA URGES CONCERNED PARTIES IN MIDDLE EAST TO STOP SUPPORT TO TERRORIST GROUPS

Encouraging peace-building in the Middle East during the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) open debate, India called on the concerned parties in the region to completely stop support to terrorist forces like the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) and others.

In a statement during the debate on 'The Situation in the Middle East', India's permanent representative at the UN, TS Tirumurti, urged all parties to work constructively and in good faith to promote peace, stability and development for the benefit of all the people in the Middle East.

"India has invested much in the peace and stability of the region by deploying its personnel as part of UN peacekeeping forces, through

humanitarian assistance, development cooperation and capacity building, and will continue its contribution towards peace-

building in the Middle East," the statement read. "India calls on concerned parties to completely stop support to terrorist forces like ISIL and others. India also urges all parties in the region to work constructively and in good faith to promote peace, stability and development for the benefit of all people in the Middle East," it added.

Highlighting India's stand on "interlinked and mutually reinforcing challenges" faced by the people of the Middle East, Tirumurti said that the



Covid-19 pandemic has only "exacerbated the threats posed by political instability, long-festered conflicts, sectarian divides, issue of refugees and terrorism".

Tirumurti also said that India urges Israel and Palestine to resume direct negotiations at the earliest. He asked the international community to take concrete steps towards resuming and facilitating these negotiations quickly.

India also welcomed the agreements for normalisation of relations between Israel and UAE and Bahrain. Tirumurti said that India has always supported peace and stability in West Asia, which is its extended neighbourhood. □

INDIAN CHILD POVERTY CHARITY OFFERS FREE SCHOOL MEALS IN ENGLAND

Akshaya Patra, Which Feeds Millions in India, Opens First of Three Planned Kitchens

A charity that feeds millions of poor children in India has joined the drive to end holiday hunger in England and distributed its first meals from a new kitchen in Watford.

Hot vegetarian dishes cooked for less than £2 each using a model developed to feed the hungry in cities such as Mumbai and Ahmedabad were dispatched to a school in north London on Tuesday amid growing pressure on the government to reverse its decision not to fund free school meals this half-term. Trays of hot cauliflower cheese and mixed vegetable pasta cooked by chefs working for the Akshaya Patra charity, which produces 1.8m meals for schools daily in India, were collected by Kate Bass, the headteacher of Mora primary school in Cricklewood, from a purpose-built kitchen designed to cook 9,000 meals a day.

The charity is planning to set up similar kitchens in Leicester and east London and expects to keep delivering free meals to schools in the Christmas



holidays. "It might seem strange to some that this model is imported from India," said Bhawani Singh Shekhawat, the chief executive of Akshaya Patra. "But we are bringing a tested model from a country that has dealt with this problem with speed and at scale."

Campaigners said the expansion of an operation developed to end child food poverty in India in the UK was a sign of how serious the problem had become. "One can scarcely believe the new methods communities are having to deploy to protect children from hunger and this is another example," said Andrew Forsey, the national director of Feeding Britain, which is lobbying the government for a permanent increase

in universal credit payments and to establish universal holiday activities and a food programme.

The Akshaya Patra kitchen uses steam cookery to keep levels of fat low. The project's backers have watched with concern at the contents of some of the lunches being put together by volunteers this week, featuring crisps and sugary drinks. "It solves the hunger problem, but not the nutritional problem," said Shekhawat. "It creates problems like juvenile diabetes and coronaries."

Sonal Sachdev Patel, the chief executive of the GMSP Foundation, the donor which funded the £500,000 kitchen, said: "The way this country has responded is utterly amazing, but [many small operations] isn't the solution. "Hunger in the UK has been a problem for much longer than this. The solution is to bring in the technology and innovation that India is already using. They have a nutrition problem, we have a nutrition problem, but they are doing this already." □

His Majesty GRANTS Dashain Tika



His Majesty The King granted Dashain Tika to representatives of the Hindu Community of Bhutan at the Devi Panchayan Mandir in Thimphu on 28 October 2020. Tika imbued with Royal blessings have been sent to other dzongkhags for the people across the country. His Majesty also offered prayers to the goddess Durga at the Mandir.

Dashain is the most important festival for the Hindu community in Bhutan. On this day, families come together to receive Tika from the head of the family, as a symbol of their blessings and protection. It celebrates the Dharma King Rama's victory over evil, by

invoking the blessings of goddess Durga. Hindus believe that His Majesty, as the Dharma King, is an embodiment of Vishnu, as was King Rama. □

His Majesty Concludes A Royal Tour of the ENTIRE SOUTHERN REGION of BHUTAN

His Majesty The King arrived in Thimphu on 13 October 2020 from Phuentsholing, concluding a Royal Tour of the entire southern region which began on 26th September.

In accordance with the COVID protocol for travel from high risk areas, His Majesty took the COVID test before embarking for Thimphu, and will remain in facility quarantine at Zhiwaling Hotel for a week prior to taking a second test. The Prime Minister, Chairperson of the National Council, and the rest of the entourage accompanying His Majesty will also follow the same protocol.

During the Royal tour, His Majesty visited all the major settlements along the southern border, from Jomotshangkha in the southeast tip of the country, Samdrup Jongkhar, Nganglam, Panbang, Gelephu, Sarpang, Lhamoyzingkha, Phuentsholing, Samtse, Tashi Choling and Tendruk- the southwest end of the country.

His Majesty The King was in Phuentsholing from 11th to 13th October. His Majesty met with the Southern COVID-19 task force based in Phuentsholing, which presented updates and issues related to COVID-19 to His Majesty. His Majesty also granted an Audience to the frontline workers from various agencies working on the ground in Phuentsholing.

On 12th October, His Majesty visited the red-zone areas of Phuentsholing, from where positive cases have



emerged, as well as the Mini Dry Port where transshipment of import goods takes place, and Rinchending, where vehicles carrying goods to other parts of the country are disinfected and assigned a new driver.

While in Samtse from 9th October onwards, His Majesty granted an Audience to the Samtse COVID-19 task force. On 10th October, His Majesty visited Tendruk and Tashi Choling and granted Audiences to DeSuups taking part in the 42nd batch training programme, which started in 8 centres across the country simultaneously from 5th October.

His Majesty expressed appreciation to the trainees for having come forward with great enthusiasm to play a more active role in service of the nation, and outlined the objective of the Desuung programme, and how Desuups would contribute to nation building, during the pandemic and beyond.

Over 2,000 volunteers signed up for the 42nd Batch Desuung training, which includes modules on water resource management in addition to the regular Desuung training programme. This special batch of Desuung especially invited youth who

are currently unemployed.

His Majesty visited the Gyalsung Training Centre site under development in Jamtsholing, and also met with the personnel on duty at various points of entry (POE) along the border in Samtse on 10th October. Many of the frontline workers have been working and living at their places of duty continuously for several months now.

On 11th October, His Majesty visited the Mini Dry Port in Samtse, and later granted an Audience to frontline workers in Samtse before travelling to Phuentsholing. His Majesty thanked the frontline workers for their hard work and endurance while working to combat COVID-19, and encouraged them to remain alert and resilient.

While in Lhamo Zingkha on 7th and 8th October, His Majesty granted Audiences to the Lhamoyzingkha COVID-19 task force, and students of the Lhamoizingkha Central School. His Majesty also visited shops and the hospital in Lhamo Zingkha.

His Majesty visited Gelephu on 4th October, and met with the students of Norbuling Central School. While in Gelephu, His Majesty granted an Audience to the Sarpang COVID-19 task force, and visited the Thromde CCTV surveillance centre, and the Mini Dry Port, gate, and boulder stockyard.

His Majesty also granted Audiences to DeSuups of the 42nd Batch in Jigmeling and Pelrithang. →

Before Gelephu, His Majesty was in Nganglam. His Majesty visited the shops in Dungsam, and Sonamthang Central School in Panbang along the way.

His Majesty granted Audiences to the students of Nganglam Central School and members of the Pemagatshel COVID-19 task force on 3rd October. His Majesty reminded the officials that as we work to combat the spread of COVID-19, the well-being of the people should be foremost in our minds.

His Majesty also advised the local government leaders that it was important for our people living along the border to understand well the security measures in place and their intent, so that communities themselves can be part of our national efforts to protect Bhutan from the worst impacts of the pandemic.

On 1st October, His Majesty arrived in Jomotshangkha, the easternmost dzongkhag in Bhutan. His Majesty met with the dzongkhag COVID-19 task force, and granted an Audience to students of Jomotshangkha Middle Secondary School.

His Majesty visited various POEs along the border in Jomotshangkha patrolled by Armed Forces and DeSuups, and met with people living near the border.

His Majesty also offered prayers at the Bhairav Kund Mandir in Jomotshangkha and visited the Hospital.

Enroute to Jomotshangkha, His Majesty granted Audiences to students of Karmaling School, and the Dungkhag COVID-19 Task Force

members in Samdrup Choling, and visited the Gyalsung Centre site under development in Pemathang.

On 30th September, His Majesty granted an Audience to the Eastern COVID-19 Task force and Dzongkhag Task Force in Samdrup Jongkhar. The team presented an update of the situation and measures in place to address COVID-19 and related issues.

His Majesty visited the Thromde control room which monitors border movement, as well as Samdrup Jongkhar main gate, and various POEs into the country and the Motanga mini dry port site. His Majesty also granted an Audience to students of Jigme Namgyel Engineering College at Deothang.

Before arriving in Samdrup Jongkhar, His Majesty The King granted Audiences to the Task Force members of Mongar and Tashigang and met with students of Gyalpoizing College of Information Technology and Sherubtse College.

During the Audiences to students, His Majesty said that being perceptive about the future and preparing ourselves accordingly will ensure our success as individuals and as a nation. To the younger students, His Majesty described the qualities that are necessary for success: grit, curiosity, and good character. His Majesty also encouraged students to cultivate a habit of reading, and to use the resources available to them to seek knowledge beyond what is taught at school.

His Majesty's greatest concern, conveyed to the COVID task force teams, local leaders, and others

working on the frontlines, is that in high risk areas, where greater restrictions are in place- including the border closure that has significantly affected economic activity and daily life, the people should not suffer undue hardship.

His Majesty the Fourth Druk Gyalpo also visited the southern dzongkhags on a special tour from 25th September to 9th October, and entered a 7-day quarantine in accordance with the COVID-19 protocols, after taking the COVID test and testing negative. His Majesty the Fourth Druk Gyalpo visited Gelephu, Sarpang, Damphu, Lhamoyzingkha, Phuentsholing, and Samtse, and met with frontline workers, COVID-19 task force teams, students, 42nd batch Desuung trainees, hospitals, shopkeepers, and the people. His Majesty expressed appreciation to the frontline workers for their hard work, and encouraged them to continue working relentlessly to fight the pandemic. □

PICTURE STORY

29th October 2020: Her Royal Highness Princess Euphelma Choden Wangchuck married Dasho Thinlay Norbu in a Royal Wedding ceremony.



The Royal Wedding was held at Dechencholing Palace in Thimphu. The Royal Couple received the blessings of His Majesty The King, His Majesty the Fourth Druk Gyalpo and His Holiness the Je Khenpo. □

DAYS TO REMEMBER

IN NOVEMBER, 2020

- | | |
|---|---|
| December 01 : Romania - National Day | December 14 : Amavasya ● |
| December 01 : World AIDS Day | December 16 : Vijay Divas |
| December 02 : International Day of Abolition of Slavery | December 16 : Bahrain - National Day |
| December 02 : LAOS - National Day | December 16 : Kazakhstan - Independence Day |
| December 02 : United Arab Emirates - National Day | December 18 : Qatar - National Day |
| December 04 : Indian Navy Day | December 22 : National Mathematics Day |
| December 10 : Human Rights Day | December 25 : Christmas |
| December 12 : Kenya - National Day | December 30 : Purnima ● |

सोशल मीडिया और पत्रकारिता स्व-नियमन हो या बने कानून, पत्रकारों ने किया मंथन

नई दिल्ली, 30 अक्टूबर (हि.स.)। सोशल मीडिया के युग में पत्रकारिता पर पड़ने वाले प्रभाव और उससे जुड़ी चुनौतियों पर शुक्रवार को देश के जाने-माने पत्रकारों ने अपनी राय रखी जिसमें ज्यादातर ने इसके किसी प्रकार के नियमन का समर्थन किया।

अंतर्राष्ट्रीय सहयोग परिषद और हिन्दुस्थान समाचार की ओर से आयोजित दिवंगत वरिष्ठ पत्रकार बालेश्वर अग्रवाल के जन्मशताब्दी वर्ष पर सोशल मीडिया के युग में पत्रकारिता से जुड़ी अवसर व चुनौतियों पर एक राष्ट्रीय वेबिनार आयोजित किया गया। कार्यक्रम का संचालन हिन्दुस्थान समाचार के कार्यकारी अध्यक्ष अरविंद किया।

वरिष्ठ पत्रकार आलोक मेहता ने इस बात पर चिंता जताई कि दुनिया के देश साइबर क्षेत्र में मजबूत हो रहे हैं और इस दृष्टि से भारत को भी एक ताकत बनना ही होगा। उन्होंने कहा कि सोशल मीडिया के साथ-साथ टीवी मीडिया पर भी अंकुश लगाने की जरूरत है। उन्होंने कहा कि फेक न्यूज का दौर पहले भी रहा है और आज के समय में काफी बढ़ गया है, इस दिशा में काम करने की जरूरत है।

वरिष्ठ पत्रकार अशोक टंडन ने कहा कि भारत की आईटी कंपनियों को सोशल मीडिया पर प्रभावशाली मंच बनाना चाहिए। उन्होंने कहा कि एक समय में आर्थिक प्रवासी भारतीय अब दुनिया में आईटी प्रोफेशनल के तौर पर जाने जाते हैं। इसके बावजूद

दुनिया के ज्यादातर सोशल मीडिया मंचों को विदेशी कंपनियों संचालित कर रही हैं।

अशोक टंडन ने कहा कि पत्रकारिता पर स्वनियमन होना चाहिए या इसके लिए कानून बनना चाहिए यह मंथन का विषय है। उन्होंने कहा कि देश का संविधान अपने अनुच्छेद 19ए के तहत लोगों को अभिव्यक्ति की आजादी का अधिकार देता है लेकिन उसपर कुछ बंधन भी लगाता है जिसे समझने की जरूरत है।

वरिष्ठ पत्रकार राहुल देव ने कहा कि सोशल मीडिया पर नियंत्रण पाना एक कठिन कार्य है और इसका एक व्यापक दायरा भी है। उन्होंने कहा कि डिजिटल युग में हर कही बात सुरक्षित रहती है जिसका परिणाम यह होता है कि एक गलती हमेशा के लिए विवाद का मुद्दा बनी रहती है। पत्रकारों को अभिव्यक्ति से किसी बात कहने पर आज के समय में राज्य सरकारें अपने यहां मामला दर्ज परेशान करने लगी है।

वरिष्ठ पत्रकार तरुण विजय ने कहा कि आज के समय में राष्ट्रवादी विचारों को सोशल मीडिया के माध्यम से प्रखर समर्थन मिल रहा है। इस मंच ने लोगों को आवाज दी है।

पत्रकार आदित्य कौल ने कहा कि फेक न्यूज आज के समय में एक बड़ी चिंता का विषय है। परिस्थितियां कुछ और होती हैं और झूठे प्रचार के माध्यम से उन्हें कुछ और दिखाया जाता है।

अनुच्छेद 370 हटाए जाने के बाद कुछ ऐसी ही स्थिति देश ने देखी है। सोशल मीडिया ने आज के समय में हर व्यक्ति को पत्रकार बना दिया है। वह किसी विषय को देखता, उसे रिकार्ड करता और सोशल मीडिया पर अपलोड कर देता है।

पत्रकार स्वाती गोयल ने कहा कि ज्यादातर बड़े मीडिया संस्थानों में अबतक एक ही प्रकार के कथानक को स्थान दिया जाता था। दूसरी ओर उन्होंने इस बात को भी उजागर किया कि कई बार गैर-जिम्मेदाराना तरीके से की गई रिपोर्टिंग का बाद में गंभीर परिणाम भी देखने को मिले हैं।

इससे पहले वरिष्ठ पत्रकार बालेश्वर अग्रवाल के जन्मशताब्दी वर्ष में हिन्दी पत्रकारिता में उनके योगदान विषय पर प्रथम सत्र में वरिष्ठ पत्रकारों ने अपनी राय रखी। वरिष्ठ पत्रकार व इंदिरा गांधी राष्ट्रीय कला केन्द्र के अध्यक्ष राम बहादुर राय ने कहा कि बालेश्वर अग्रवाल पत्रकारिता के पूर्णावतार थे और उनमें यह प्रतिभा जन्मजात थी। उनमें जीवनकाल में विविध स्वभाव के लोगों का समायोजन, कार्यनियोजन कर उन्हें अपने से जोड़ने की अदभुत प्रतिभा थी।

हिन्दुस्थान समाचार के अध्यक्ष व पूर्व सांसद रविन्द्र किशोर सिन्हा ने संकल्प करते हुए कहा कि हिन्दुस्थान समाचार उनके लेखों का संग्रह प्रकाशित करेगा।

(हिन्दुस्थान समाचार से साभार)

विश्व रंग : अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय साहित्य एवं कला महोत्सव

टैगोर विश्वविद्यालय भोपाल द्वारा आयोजित अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय साहित्य एवं कला महोत्सव 'विश्वरंग-2020' विश्व के 16 देशों में अत्यंत गरिमा के साथ संपन्न हुआ। ब्रिटेन और ऑस्ट्रेलिया में इस महोत्सव में अनेक रंगारंग कार्यक्रम आयोजित किए गए।

विश्व रंग : ब्रिटेन

ब्रिटेन में 'वातायन' की संस्थापिका दिव्या माथुर और अध्यक्ष मीरा मिश्रा-कौशिक, ओ.बी.ई., के नेतृत्व में तथा डॉ. पद्मेश गुप्त के निर्देशन व संचालन में भव्य कार्यक्रम 6-8 नवम्बर तक चला, जिसमें कला और संस्कृति, नृत्य प्रदर्शन, कविता पाठ, कहानी पाठ, विचार-विमर्श और चलचित्र की प्रस्तुति हुई।

6 नवम्बर की सुबह स्टैटफोर्ड-अपॉन-एवन में स्थित शेक्सपियर-निवास में स्थापित रवींद्रनाथ टैगोर की मूर्ति पर पद्मेश जी द्वारा पुष्पांजलि अर्पण से इस कार्यक्रम का शुभारंभ हुआ। तत्पश्चात संतोष चौबे जी ने दीप प्रज्वलित कर विश्वरंग-यूके का विधिवत उद्घाटन करते हुए विश्वरंग की पृष्ठभूमि

के विषय में विस्तार से बताया और वातायन के आयोजकों और सदस्यों को शुभकामना संदेश दिया। उद्घाटन सत्र में यूके में भारत मूल के सांसद श्री वीरेंद्र शर्मा एवं भारतीय विद्या भवन के निर्देशक डॉ. नंदा कुमार ने अपने संदेश में आयोजकों का मनोबल बढ़ाया।

मीरा मिश्रा-कौशिक ने प्रवासी हिंदी साहित्य पर अपने विचार प्रकट करते हुए अपना स्वागत वक्तव्य प्रस्तुत किया। रंगारंग कार्यक्रम में शामिल इस कार्यक्रम में पुलकित और शिवानी शर्मा द्वारा तबला-वादन और कत्थक नृत्य, सोहन राही की लिखी एक गजल पर राधिका चोपड़ा द्वारा निर्मित धुन पर शिवानी सेठिया की अदभुत प्रस्तुति और आशीष मिश्रा द्वारा संचालित कवि गोष्ठी प्रस्तुत की गई, जिसमें तिथि दानी, डॉ. अजय त्रिपाठी, डॉ. निखिल कौशिक, जकिया जुबैरी, डॉ. वंदना मुकेश और डॉ. पद्मेश गुप्त ने कविता-पाठ किया। कवि गोष्ठी के उपरांत, पिछले तीन दशकों से ब्रिटेन में कला और संस्कृति को विश्व-स्तर पर प्रतिष्ठित करने वाली प्याली रे, ओ.बी.ई., और मीरा मिश्रा-कौशिक, ओ.बी.ई., से तृतीया दंड-शाह ने

संवाद किया। समापन वक्तव्य के माध्यम से कैम्ब्रिज विश्वविद्यालय के वरिष्ठ प्राध्यापक प्रो. ऐश्वर्य कुमार ने सभी वक्ताओं के प्रति अपना आभार व्यक्त किया।

7 नवम्बर के कार्यक्रम में इंदु बारौट द्वारा संचालित सत्र में यूके की कुछ प्रतिष्ठित लेखिकाओं की चयनित कहानियों की समीक्षा व पाठ किया गया, जिसमें ऋचा जैन की कविताओं की समीक्षा डॉ. अरुणा अजित सरिया, एम. बी. ई. द्वारा, कादम्बरी मेहरा के उपन्यास 'निष्ठाण गवाह' की समीक्षा शन्नो अग्रवाल द्वारा, शिखा वर्षणय के 'देसी चश्मे से लंदन की डायरी' पर समीक्षा मनीषा कुलश्रेष्ठ और मधु चौरसिया द्वारा की गई। पूनम देव द्वारा शैल अग्रवाल की कहानी 'जिज्जी', प्रतिष्ठित अदाकारा हिना बख्शी द्वारा उषा वर्मा की कहानी 'कॉस्ट इफेक्टिव', सिनेमा के चर्चित कलाकार कृष्ण कांत टंडन द्वारा महेश दवेसर की कहानी 'ईवू', प्रसिद्ध टीवी प्रेजेन्टर सरिता सब्बरवाल द्वारा जय वर्मा की 'सात कदम' और रेडियो की प्रतिष्ठित प्रस्तुतिकर्ता रश्मि खुराना द्वारा अरुणा सब्बरवाल की कहानी 'वे चार परांठे' की नाट्य प्रस्तुतियों की गई। जीवन के

तमाम पहलुओं पर लिखी इन कहानियों ने श्रोताओं को बहुत प्रभावित किया। डॉ. पद्मेश गुप्त ने तरुण कुमार द्वारा संपादित ब्रिटेन के प्रवासी रचनाकारों के नव-प्रकाशित संग्रह 'प्रवासी मन' का दर्शकों से परिचय कराया।

8 नवम्बर के कार्यक्रम का संचालन अंतरीपा ठाकुर-मुखर्जी, एफ.आर.एस.ए. ने किया। उषा राजे सक्सेना के कहानी-संकलन 'वह रात' पर अर्चना पैन्थली ने, तेजेन्द्र शर्मा के साहित्य पर पियूष द्विवेदी ने, दिव्या माथुर के साहित्य और मोहन राणा की कविताओं पर अनिल शर्मा जोशी व तितिक्षा शाह ने, डॉ. अचला शर्मा के रेडियो-नाटकों पर ममता गुप्ता ने, प्रो. श्याम मनोहर पांडे के कृतित्व और शेफाली फ्रास्ट की कविताओं पर सोआस-लंदन यूनिवर्सिटी से फ्रांसेस्का ओरसिनी ने अपने विचार व्यक्त किए।

ललित मोहन जोशी के वृत्तचित्र 'ईस्ट मीट्स वेस्ट : इंडो-ब्रिटिश सिनेमेटिक एनकाउंटर' ने 1930 से लेकर 1951 तक भारत और ब्रिटेन के बीच सिनेमाई सहयोग की परतें खोलीं। विजय राणा के वृत्तचित्र 'काशी की अमर कहानी' दर्शकों को काशी विश्वनाथ मंदिर के गर्भगृह में ले जाती है। समापन समारोह में विश्व प्रसिद्ध गायिका स्वाति नाटेकर के निदा फाजली साहब के गीत की सुन्दर प्रस्तुति के बाद वातायन की संस्थापिका दिव्या माथुर ने आयोजकों को बधाई देते हुए विश्वरंग-भोपाल के पूर्व-आयोजन की स्मृतियां साझा कीं। अंत में, पद्मेश गुप्त ने विश्वरंग के अंतर्राष्ट्रीय संयोजक डॉ. संतोष चौबे के प्रति आभार व्यक्त किया।

विश्व रंग : ऑस्ट्रेलिया

ऑस्ट्रेलिया में विश्वरंग साहित्य और कला उत्सव नवम्बर में 06 से 08 तारीख तक रेखा राजवंशी के निर्देशन में आयोजित किया गया। ऑस्ट्रेलिया की आयोजन समिति में मेलबर्न से डॉ. सुभाष शर्मा, एडिलेड से डॉ. राय कूकना, पर्थ से कुशल कुशलेन्द्र, ब्रिसबेन से मधु खन्ना और सर्वजीत सोही और सिडनी से अनु शिवराम मृणाल शर्मा, विराट नेहरू और अभिषेक टोंगिया थे।

6 नवम्बर को कार्यक्रम का प्रारंभ फेस्टिवल डाइरेक्टर रेखा राजवंशी ने गणेश जी की मूर्ति के समक्ष दीप प्रज्वलित करके श्लोक-वाचन से किया फिर उन्होंने इंद्रनील हलधर के साथ सिडनी की मैक्वारी यूनिवर्सिटी में जाकर टैगोर की मूर्ति के सामने पुष्पांजलि अर्पित की। इंद्रनील ने कहा कि टैगोर की यह मूर्ति हम सबको साहित्य और कला से जुड़े रहने के लिए प्रेरित करती है।

उद्घाटन सत्र में अनेकों गणमान्य व्यक्तियों और राजनीतिज्ञों ने विश्व रंग की सफलता के लिए संदेश दिए, जिसमें मुख्य थे ऑस्ट्रेलिया में भारत के हाई कमिश्नर श्री गीतेश शर्मा, मंबर ऑफ पार्लियामेंट श्री जूलियन लीसर, एम पी और अपोजिशन लीडर सुश्री जोडी मर्के, कौंसल जनरल ऑफ इंडिया, मेलबर्न श्री राज कुमार और पर्थ की कौंसल जनरल सुश्री दांतु चरनदासी। हाई कमिश्नर ने कार्यक्रम

आयोजन पर बधाई दी और कहा कि कोविड के इस कठिन समय में ऐसे कार्यक्रम और उत्सव एक महत्वपूर्ण भूमिका निभाते हैं।

सर्वप्रथम भारतीय कौंसलावास द्वारा निर्मित संगीत सुरसार की प्रस्तुति हुई जिसमें भारतीय तथा ऑस्ट्रेलिया के संगीतकारों ने संगीत वादन किया था। उसके बाद इंडियन लिंक मीडिया ग्रुप के सीईओ पवन लूथरा ने भारत और ऑस्ट्रेलिया के संबंधों को लेकर अपनी बात प्रस्तुत की जिसमें उन्होंने कहा कि कैसे भारतीय यहां आकर बसे और कैसे अब उनकी जनसंख्या बढ़ रही है।

गायिका सृजन दान के बंगला गायन द्वारा सॉट पॉवर को लेकर अगले सत्र का प्रारंभ हुआ। इस बात पर चर्चा हुई कि कैसे सॉट पॉवर भारत और ऑस्ट्रेलिया के मध्य संबंधों को मजबूत करने का काम कर रही है और कैसे इसके द्वारा व्यापार को बढ़ाया दिया जा सकता है। इसमें सिडनी के स्वामी विवेकानंद कल्चरल सेंटर के निर्देशक रामानंद गर्ग, शीबा नंदकियोलयार, दीपेन रुघानी, चार्ल्स थॉमसन, इरफान मालिक ने अपने विचार व्यक्त किए।

रेखा राजवंशी द्वारा संचालित तीसरे सत्र में सिडनी के जाने-माने पत्रकार और लेखक बेन डोहर्टी ने अपने अंग्रेजी उपन्यास 'नागालैंड' के ऊपर बात की और भारत में अपने अनुभवों के बारे में बताया। रूआना गोंसाल्वेस ने अपने सुप्रसिद्ध कहानी संग्रह 'द परमानेंट रेजिडेंट' पर चर्चा की और निम घोलकर ने अपने उपन्यास 'द डायरी ऑफ इमिग्रेंट्स वाइफ' के बारे में बातचीत की। आखिरी सत्र में मेलबर्न के घुघुरु डांस ग्रुप के कथक नृत्य के बाद सिडनी के 12 कवियों का कवि सम्मेलन था, जिसका संचालन रेखा राजवंशी ने किया। इसमें मेलबर्न से सुभाष शर्मा और हरिहर झा, ब्रिसबेन से सोमा नायर, मधु खन्ना, एडिलेड के राय कूकना, पर्थ से कुशल कुशलेन्द्र, केनबरा से किशोर नगरानी और अवधेश प्रसाद और सिडनी से अनिल वर्मा, अब्बास रजा अल्वी, भावना कुंवर, प्रगीत कुंवर ने काव्य पाठ किया।

7 नवंबर को कार्यक्रम का प्रारंभ इंडियन एड्रियन मकनील के सरोद वादन से हुआ। तबले पर संगत बॉबी सिंह ने की। इसके पश्चात कैमरा की ऑस्ट्रेलिया नेशनल यूनिवर्सिटी के हिंदी के प्रोफेसर डॉ. पीटर फ्रीडलैंडर ने हिंदी में अपना वक्तव्य दिया जिसमें उन्होंने हिंदी और भारत के साथ अपने अनुभवों को बताते हुए ऑस्ट्रेलियन नेशनल यूनिवर्सिटी में हिंदी के शिक्षण की रूपरेखा पर भी चर्चा की। अगले सत्र में डॉ. राय कूकना ने एडिलेड यूनिवर्सिटी के प्रोफेसर डॉ. पीटर मेयर और डॉ. पूर्णेंद्र जैन के साथ ऑस्ट्रेलिया के संदर्भ में टैगोर की चर्चा की। बाद के स्तर में सिडनी की गायिका चिरस्मिता चक्रवर्ती दास ने रवींद्रनाथ टैगोर की रचनाओं का गायन किया और सैकत दास ने इन कविताओं को बंगाली में पढ़ा। रीता कौशल द्वारा संचालित अगले सत्र में सिडनी के संतराम बजाज, विजय कुमार सिंह और संजय अग्निहोत्री, पर्थ की लक्ष्मी तिवारी और रीता कौशल ने अपनी रचनाओं

पर बात की। अगले भाग में मेलबर्न के अंग्रेजी के लेखकों क्रिस राजा और किरन भट्ट ने भारत से अपने संबंधों को साझा करते हुए, अपने लेखन पर उसके प्रभाव के बारे में चर्चा की। तीसरे सत्र में बेशरम और बेगम जान फिल्मों में भूमिकाएं निभाने वाली मेलबर्न में पली-बढ़ी कलाकार पल्लवी शारदा के ऊपर छोटे वृत्तचित्र के बाद फिल्म मेकर आना तिवारी का साक्षात्कार था जिसे बॉलीवुड पत्रकार नीरू सलूजा ने जूम पर लिया था। इसमें भारत से आने वाले विद्यार्थियों के ऊपर बनी डाक्यूमेंट्री के भी अंश थे और सिख समुदाय के बारे में अंशों को भी उन्होंने दिखाया। आखिरी सत्र में विराट नेहरू के संचालन में सिडनी के मृणाल शर्मा, अभिषेक टोंगिया, वृषाली जैन और पंकज उपाध्याय, ब्रिसबेन के सर्वजीत सोही और रूपेंद्र सोज और मेलबर्न की पूजाव्रत गुप्ता और संध्या नायर ने काव्य पाठ किया।

8 नवम्बर को कार्यक्रम का प्रारंभ डॉ. जसपाल सिंह के सितार और अमन पाल के तबला वादन से हुआ। मेलबर्न से अनुदीपा और प्रीति शुक्ला, सिडनी से अविजित सरकार, सजीव मेनन, मिट्टू गोपालन और हिरेन पटेल ने अपनी कला तियां प्रदर्शित कीं।

अगले सत्र में इंडियन लिंक के पवन लूथरा ने भूतपूर्व क्रिकेटर स्टीव वॉ की 'इंडिया-द स्पिरिट ऑफ क्रिकेट' किताब और प्रदर्शनी पर चर्चा की। 6.00 बजे के सत्र में बॉम्बे टॉकीज के ऑस्ट्रेलिया से सम्बन्ध के विषय में एक डॉक्यूमेंट्री दिखाई गई, जिसमें मेलबर्न विश्वविद्यालय में फिल्म और टीवी पढ़ाने वाले डॉ. विक्रांत किशोर ने हिमांशु राय के नाती पीटर डिटजे का साक्षात्कार करते हुए आडियो-विजुअल के माध्यम से हिमांशु राय और देविका रानी के साथ अपने संबंधों की चर्चा की।

6.30 बजे (नाट्यशास्त्र का ऑस्ट्रेलियाई मंच) सत्र में ज्योत्सना ज्योति ने ऑस्ट्रेलिया के दो नाटककारों- विपुल व्यास और सबा जैदी आब्दी से बातचीत की। 7.00 बजे के सत्र में मेलबर्न के डॉ. सुभाष शर्मा ने सरोद वादक और संगीत के प्रोफेसर डॉ. अनिल से उनके सरोद वादन और भारत से जुड़े अनुभवों पर बातचीत की। अंतिम सत्र में 7.30 बजे 'श्री हिंदी क्वायर ग्रुप' ने 'हम हैं हिंदुस्तानी' गायन प्रस्तुत करके सबका मनमोह लिया। अंत में सिडनी के जाने-माने उपन्यासकार और शायर अशरफ शाद के संचालन में अशरफ शाद, रेखा राजवंशी, यास्मीन हुसैनी, फरहत इकबाल, यास्मीन शाद और बाकर रजा ने अपनी नज्में और गजलें सुनाईं। मेलबर्न से महेश जानिब ने भी अपने कलाम पेश किये।

कार्यक्रम के मीडिया स्पॉन्सर थे इंडियन लिंक मीडिया ग्रुप। ऑस्ट्रेलिया की इंडियन लिटरेरी और आर्ट सोसायटी की सहायता और अन्य संस्थाओं के सहयोग से इस कार्यक्रम का आयोजन हुआ। अन्य सहायक संस्थाएं थीं साहित्य संध्या मेलबर्न, इप्सा ब्रिस्बेन, हिंदी समाज पर्थ और ऑस्ट्रेलिया का भारतीय विद्या भवन। □

लंदन में 60 लाख रुपये में नीलाम हुए महाराजा रणजीत सिंह की पत्नी के आभूषण



लंदन में एक नीलामी के दौरान महाराजा रणजीत सिंह की पत्नी महारानी जिंदन कौर का चांद टीका समेत सोने, मोतियों और मणि से बने 3 दुर्लभ आभूषण पाउंड 62,563 (करीब 60.44 लाख रुपये) में नीलाम हुए हैं। इसके अलावा स्वर्ण मंदिर की 19वीं सदी की विशाल वॉटर कलर पेंटिंग पाउंड 75,063 (72.52 लाख रुपये) में बिकी। आभूषण और पेंटिंग की अनुमानित कीमत पाउंड 60,000-पाउंड 80,000 थी। □

भारत आतंकवाद के खिलाफ लड़ाई में फ्रांस के साथ खड़ा है : प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी

प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी ने गुरुवार को नीस (फ्रांस) के एक चर्च के अंदर चाकू से 3 लोगों की हत्या समेत हाल में फ्रांस में हुए आतंकी हमलों की निंदा की है। प्रधानमंत्री मोदी ने ट्वीट किया, 'पीड़ित परिवारों और फ्रांस के लोगों के प्रति हमारी गहरी संवेदना है। भारत आतंकवाद के खिलाफ लड़ाई में फ्रांस के साथ खड़ा है।' □

दो साल पहले परसौनी गांव आए थे और अपने पुरखों की मिट्टी को माथे से लगाया था

वैवेल रामकलावन हिंद महासागर में बसे देश सेशेल्स के राष्ट्रपति चुने गए हैं, उनके पूर्वज बिहार के गोपालगंज जिले के बरौली प्रखंड के परसौनी गांव के रहने वाले थे और 135 साल पहले गिरमिटिया मजदूर के रूप में मॉरीशस गए थे। इसके बाद वे सेशेल्स चले गए और वहीं बस गए।

2 साल पहले अपने गांव आए थे रामकलावन

बताया जा रहा है कि वैवेल रामकलावन दो साल पहले परसौनी गांव आए थे और अपने पुरखों की मिट्टी को माथे से लगाया था। तब गांव के लोगों ने उनका जबरदस्त स्वागत किया था। पुरखों के गांव में मिले प्यार से अभिभूत वैवेल रामकलावन ने कहा था कि वे इस नेह-छोह को कभी नहीं भूल पाएंगे। उन्होंने दोबारा परसौनी आने का वादा किया था और यह भी कहा कि अबकी आउंगा तो सेशेल्स का राष्ट्राध्यक्ष बनकर आउंगा। □

अमेरिका के नए राष्ट्रपति जो-बाइडन का भारत से भी संबंध, नागपुर में रहते हैं रिश्तेदार

अमेरिका के नए राष्ट्रपति जो बाइडन का भारत के साथ संबंध सामने आया है। बाइडन के दूरदराज के कुछ रिश्तेदार महाराष्ट्र के नागपुर शहर में 1873 से रह रहे हैं। जो बाइडन ने इनके बारे में 2013 और 2015 में कुछ मौकों पर जिक्र भी किया है। नागपुर में बाइडन परिवार के कुछ लोगों ने मंगलवार को यह दावा किया। बाइडन जब अमेरिका के उपराष्ट्रपति थे और 2013 में मुंबई आए थे तो उस वक्त उन्होंने एक कार्यक्रम में कहा था कि उनके दूर-दराज के कुछ रिश्तेदार भारत की वित्तीय राजधानी में रहते हैं। मुंबई में 2013 में एक कार्यक्रम में और फिर वाशिंगटन में 2015 में एक कार्यक्रम में उन्होंने कहा था कि 1972 में सीनेटर बनने के बाद उन्हें भारत से अपने एक रिश्तेदार का पत्र मिला था और पता चला कि उनके परिवार के एक पूर्वज ईस्ट इंडिया कंपनी में काम करते थे।



हिस्सा लेंगे, इस पर परिवार के लोगों ने कहा कि वे बाइडन को शुभकामनाएं देते हैं।

सोनिया ने कहा, नागपुर, मुंबई, न्यूजीलैंड और अमेरिका में रहने वाले बाइडन वंशज परिवार के लोग लेस्ली के पड़पोते लेस्ली डेविड बाइडन की शादी में जनवरी 2018 में इकट्ठा हुए थे। इस सोनिया ने कहा कि लेस्ली बाइडन के परिवार के लोग नागपुर, मुंबई, अमेरिका, अश्वस्ट्रेलिया और न्यूजीलैंड में रहते हैं। नागपुर में लेस्ली की बहू एंजेलिना बाइडन भी रहती हैं।

बंबई शेयर बाजार में 24 जुलाई 2013 को एक कार्यक्रम में जो बाइडन ने कहा था कि भारत और यहां मुंबई आना सम्मान की बात है। मुझे याद है कि जब मैं 1972 में अमेरिका में सीनेट के लिए निर्वाचित हुआ तो मुझे यहां से पत्र मिला था। मुझे अफसोस है कि मैंने आगे खोज-खबर नहीं ली। बाइडन ने सात साल पहले मुंबई में कहा, श्रोताओं में से कुछ वंशावली विशेषज्ञ इस बारे में पता कर सकते हैं। मुंबई में बाइडन नाम के एक व्यक्ति का मुझे पत्र मिला था।

नागपुर के लेस्ली बाइडन ने यह पत्र लिखा था और उनके पड़पोते नागपुर में रहते हैं। पत्र में दावा किया गया कि उनका परिवार 1873 से ही यहां रह रहा है। लेस्ली की पड़पोती सोनिया बाइडन फ्रांसिस नागपुर में मनोचिकित्सक हैं। उन्होंने पीटीआई-भाषा से कहा कि नागपुर और दूसरी जगहों पर रहने वाले बाइडन परिवार के लोग अमेरिकी राष्ट्रपति चुनाव में जो बाइडन की जीत से काफी खुश हैं।

सोनिया ने कहा कि लेस्ली बाइडन नागपुर में रहते थे और वह भारत लश्चर एंड हथकण्ड, और भारत कैफे के प्रबंधक थे। उनका 1983 में निधन हो गया। सोनिया ने कहा कि इलस्ट्रेटेड वीकली अश्वफ इंडिया के 28 मार्च-चार अप्रैल 1981 के अंक को पढ़कर लेस्ली को तत्कालीन सीनेटर जो बाइडन के बारे में पता चला। सोनिया ने कहा, 15 अप्रैल 1981 को लेस्ली ने जो बाइडन को एक पत्र लिखा। जो बाइडन ने 30 मई 1981 को इसका जवाब दिया जिसमें उन्होंने कहा कि भारत से आए पत्र को देखकर उन्हें काफी खुशी हुई और बाइडन की वंशावली के बारे में पूछा।

सोनिया के बड़े भाई और मर्चेंट नेवी के पूर्व कर्मचारी इयान बाइडन (44) भी नागपुर में रहते हैं। उन्होंने कहा कि लेस्ली और जो बाइडन ने अपने पूर्वज जश्न बाइडन और उनकी पत्नी एनी बीमाउंट के बारे में सूचनाएं साझा की थीं। बाइडन परिवार ने इन पत्रों को दिखाते हुए दावा किया कि ये पत्र व्यवहार लेस्ली और जो बाइडन के बीच हुए थे। क्या नागपुर में रहने वाले बाइडन परिवार के लोग जनवरी में जो बाइडन के राष्ट्रपति पद की शपथ लेने के समारोह में

वशिंगटन में 2015 में अपने संबोधन में बाइडन ने दावा किया कि उनके एक पूर्वज जार्ज बाइडन ईस्ट इंडिया ट्रेडिंग कंपनी में कैप्टन थे और उन्होंने एक भारतीय महिला से शादी की थी। सेवानिवृत्ति के बाद उन्होंने भारत में ही बसने का फैसला किया था। बाइडन ने कहा था, मुंबई में बाइडन परिवार के पांच लोग रहते हैं। जो बाइडन ने कहा था कि किसी ने उन्हें मुंबई में रहने वाले बाइडन परिवार के लोगों के फोन नंबर भी दिए थे। उन्होंने श्रोताओं को बताया था कि अभी उन्होंने बात नहीं की है लेकिन आगे वह ऐसा करने की सोच रहे हैं। □

नेपाल सेना के जनरल पद की मानद उपाधि से सम्मानित किए जाएंगे थलसेना प्रमुख नरवणे

थलसेना प्रमुख जनरल मनोज मुकुंद नरवणे 4-6 नवम्बर के बीच नेपाल की यात्रा की। उनकी यात्रा के दौरान नेपाल की राष्ट्रपति विद्या देवी भंडारी द्वारा उन्हें 'नेपाली सेना के जनरल' पद की मानद उपाधि से सम्मानित किया गया है। गौरतलब है, नए राजनीतिक मानचित्र के कारण कुछ महीनों से भारत-नेपाल के बीच तनाव था। □

