

# ANTAR RASHTRIYA SAHAYOG PARISHAD BULLETIN

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श्री बालेश्वर अग्रवाल जन्म शताब्दी के अवसर पर

## Importance of the PIO

(A Historical Perspective)



The history of Indian Diaspora is unique in many respects. Only the Jewish and the Chinese Diaspora could be compared with the Indian Diaspora. India has recorded history of 5000 years during which period, the saints and seers of the country went to all the four continents of the world to spread their message of universal brotherhood and tolerance. Emperor Ashoka in particular had sent his son and daughter to spread the message of Buddha. The Indian traders used to travel to far off countries with their merchandise. European markets were full of goods from India; muslin of Dhaka and the spices of India are well known.

The largest migration from India took place in the 19th century when the French and the British organised the migration of Indian workers to their colonies for working in the fields. Skilled workers from Pondicherry were taken to Mauritius more than 200 years ago. After the abolition of slavery by the British Parliament in 1830, the British colonies need workers in their fields and the first group of indentured labourers from India were taken to Mauritius in 1834. Since then and up to 1917 Indian

indentured workers went to South Africa, Fiji, Guyana, Trinidad & Tobago, Suriname and plantation workers went to Mauritius, Burma and Sri Lanka.

During the last 60-70 years professionals from India, especially doctors, engineers, professors, scientists have been going to various countries, particularly to the USA, Canada, U.K. and Europe. They have also gone to Australia and New Zealand. The Gulf countries attracted a large number of Indian workers under contract schemes. According to a rough estimate, the total population of the people of Indian origin outside India is about 20 million. The Antar-Rashtriya Sahayog Parishad, Indian Council for International Cooperation, which is primarily meant for strengthening the social, cultural ties of people of Indian origin with Mother India, decided to organise this conference to project the contribution by the Indian community in the cultural, educational and economic development of the countries in which they are living.

You will be glad to know that 35 representatives from 28 countries which have sizable Indian origin

population have

responded to - *Baleshwar Agrawal*

our invitation to present papers on the work done in different areas of their countries. It is a matter of pride and honour that the people of Indian origin are Prime Minister in Mauritius, Fiji, Trinidad & Tobago. The Presidents of Guyana, Singapore and Mauritius are also from the same stock. There are 68 ministers and about 300 members of parliament from among the people of Indian origin. Their forefathers went in very difficult conditions; they worked hard and made their way up by winning the confidence of the people. Today, they hold important positions in all professions and administration. They have made their contribution in every walk of life, social, cultural, educational and economic and it is recognised by all concerned. The Indian Government has belatedly realised the importance of the PIOs and has decided to set up a separate department in the Ministry of External Affairs for all matters of non-governmental organisations. It will be able to win the confidence of the people of Indian origin outside.

The introduction of PIO card is also a move in the right direction, but the levy



→ of US \$1,000 for each individual as fee for the card has not been appreciated. The fee could be a token amount so as to encourage the PIO to go for the card. Arrangements should be made to have conferences of the PIO at least every two years to enable them to meet each other, discuss their problems and sort out means to solve them. Such conferences are organised by the Chinese. As a result there is a greater interaction among the people of the Chinese diaspora and the contribution therefore, of the overseas Chinese is much more than from the people within China. □

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## Amb. VIRENDRA GUPTA RE-ELECTED AS PRESIDENT OF ARSP

At the Annual General Body Meeting of the Antar Rashtritya Sahayog Parishad held on Friday 22 January, 2021 through digital platform, Ambassador Virendra Gupta was unanimously re-elected President for the next two years term.

Members hailed the election of Amb. Virendra Gupta as President of ARSP. Amb. Virendra Gupta thanked the members and assured his fullest commitment to ARSP's aims and objectives in the coming years.

The following are the office bearers for the year 2020-22.

1. **Amb. Virendra Gupta**  
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Sr. Vice-President
3. **Shri Mukesh Aggarwal**  
Vice-President
4. **Shri Sanjay Bhalla**  
Vice-President
5. **Shri Shyam Parande**  
Secretary General
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7. **Dr. Shashi Bala**  
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8. **Shri Amit Gupta**  
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12. Shri Narayan Kumar

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16. Dr. Rajni Sarin
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18. Amb. Manju Seth
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23. Shri Nirmal Singh
24. Amb. J. S. Sapra
25. Amb. Rajesh Sachdeva
26. Prof. Suresh Rituparna
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28. Shri Chandra Shekhar Randev
29. Shri Vijay Kranti
30. Shri Ajit Kumar
31. Shri Tarun Vijay
32. Smt. Renu Sharma
33. Shri S. N. Gupta
34. Shri Sanjay Ganjoo
35. Shri B.L. Gaur
36. Shri Alok Kumar
37. Shri Gajendra Solanki
38. Shri Ajit Saigal
39. Shri S.S. Kothiyal, I.G.(Rtd.)

#### Ex. Officio-Members

40. Shri Shiv Kumar Gupta
41. Shri T. N. Malhotra
42. Shri Rakesh Pandey
43. Prof. Bharat Bhushan
44. Shri Ajay Patel
45. Dr. Saroja Vaidyanathan
46. Ms. Kamalini
47. Dr. Rajiv Nayan

## “Role of Women in promotion of Culture in Diaspora and Neighbouring Countries”

*Dr. Ruchi Verma*

This year Antar Rashtriya Sahayog Parishad is commemorating the birth centenary of Shri Baleshwar Agrawal and as part of the activities; an international conference on “Role of Women in promotion of Culture in Diaspora and Neighbouring Countries” was organized on 8 March, 2021 by Antar Rashtriya Sahayog Parishad (ARSP), New Delhi. It was also special in a way as 8 March is celebrated as International Women's Day world over. Keeping this in view, this conference was organised to highlight women's contributions towards preserving ethical and moral values, languages, performing arts, customs and traditions.

The conference begins with lighting of lamp and remembering Late Baleshwar Agrawal. Smt Sushma Agrawal, co-convener of the conference, lights the lamp and spoke fondly of Baleshwar ji. She narrates her association with him. The conference was then introduced and chaired by Dr Shashi Bala, Joint Secretary, ARSP. She highlighted that women from almost every corner of the world has participated in the conference primarily from the girmitya and neighbouring countries as Baleshwar ji has special affection towards these countries.

Amb Virendra Gupta, President, ARSP in his welcome address stressed on the fact that true measure of any society progress is how women are treated. In ancient Indian traditions women were highly respected. We must strive to regain that sense of past and restore the dignity of the country and women too. Amb. Gupta mentioned that Baleshwar ji provided the requisite primacy to women and diaspora. He further added that, in transformation of girmitya countries contribution of diaspora and especially the women is incredible. Indeed women play a very imp role in

preservation, propagation and promotion of Indian culture.

Shyam Parande, Secretary General, ARSP while paying tribute to Baleshwar ji recalled that he always planned that involvement of women should be more in ARSP activities. He encouraged women participation in every field. Shri Parande highlighted that women faced the worst hardships in preserving culture during the colonial period but they did a commendable job. Women are the ones who are leading the society, brought up the next generation while keeping the balance. They are the real torch bearers of 'sanskriti'.

Dr Rajni Chand from Fiji recounted the struggles and sufferings faced by the 1st and the 2nd generations of Indian women migrants in Fiji, but because of whom now the situation and conditions have improved especially in the field of education. Women were the ones who realized the importance of education and encouraged the Indian diaspora and Indian women to study. Now, the women are well educated and established in Fiji. She also highlighted the contributions of Indian embassy in Fiji.

Dr Rashmi Chari from India presented that India's most effective soft power is the woman diaspora with particularly emphasizing on Indian women diaspora in Nepal. Most of the Indian women in Nepal are socially committed, educated and successful women. They create ideal situation through their own personalities. She added that Indian women have influenced the socio-cultural scenario world over.

Dr Kavita Sharma from India, while recounting the brighter sides of the situation of women also cautioned not to forget the dark sides faced by women Indian diaspora. She highlighted the gendered experiences

of diaspora like limping marriages and quality wives, issues of women married to NRI's, isolation, transnational children, and courier parents. There is the need to documents the narratives and experiences of the women.

Dr Shovna Narayan from India addressed the issue of discrimination in the other countries in which women are the worst sufferers. We need to look at the measures to improve the situation. She further added that culture is the uniting force and performing arts played a very crucial part in this.

Ms Parveena Balakrishna from Malaysia talked about the conditions of Indian women diaspora in Malaysia particularly highlighting the situation when they were brought there as coolies. Their struggles, discrimination, sufferings were discussed by her.

Prof. Kalpana Hiralal from South Africa discussed the arrival of indentured women to Natal in 1860, their changing status from immigrants to settlers and how their identity changed over a period of time. She also discussed the contributions of Indian women towards the road of democracy which was even recognized by Nelson Mandela.

Ms Nalini and Ms. Kamilini from India stressed on the fact that performing arts the best means to preserve and propagate culture and women are the best medium. Women are the real torch bearers of propagating the sanskriti and culture.

Dr Amba Pande from India takes up the case of Indian women migrants in Myanmar, their problems, experiences and expectations. She particularly discussed the situation in Ziyabari- a small Indian settlement in Myanmar. She shared her experiences and said that she was



amazed to see the survival of Bhojpuri and hindi language over there. She insisted that Government of India should encouraged women from there to come to India and study.

Ms Soojata Ramdharee from Mauritius talked about the contributions of Indian diaspora in Mauritius and how the youth are actively taking part in preservation and propagation of Indian culture.

Dr Farjana Gounder from New Zealand discussed the plight of

coolie's women in Fiji. She insisted that we should not forget the efforts of the women of past who helps to shape the society in which we are living today.

Dr Radica Mahase from Trinidad and Tobago throws light on the women's contribution to chutney music in Trinidad and Tobago. Through videos she showed how well integrated Indian music is with Trinidadian music and how popular it has become.

Ms Subha Singh from India while

presenting the vote of thanks reflected upon the contributions of Indian women diaspora in all sphere of life. They are the nodal points of transnational cultural transmission which is marked by several markers like- religion, language, food etc. Women are the integral part of all these markers. They are the true bearers of culture and their contributions towards preservation and propagation of culture is truly impeccable. □

## INDIAN ENVOY IN SRI LANKA VISITS NORTHERN AND EASTERN PROVINCES; HOLDS TALKS WITH TAMIL LEADERS

India's High Commissioner in Colombo Gopal Baglay held a series of meetings with Tamil party leaders during his visit to the Northern and Eastern Provinces and emphasised that achieving the legitimate aspirations of the minority Tamil community through meaningful devolution within a united Sri Lanka will contribute to peace, inclusive progress and strength of the island nation.

During his visit to the two provinces, High Commissioner Gopal Baglay also highlighted India's long-standing cooperation and commitment to the development of the Northern and Eastern Provinces in accordance with the requirements of the people and priorities set by their elected. Mr Baglay recalled commitments of the Sri Lankan Government on the legitimate aspirations of the Tamil community for equality, justice, peace and dignity.

During his meetings, the Tamil leaders sought further assistance for infrastructural development, more economic investment and additional projects under grant assistance for



development cooperation from India in the Province, which Mr Baglay assured them of. His visit came in the backdrop of the Sri Lanka resolution to be moved at the UN Human Rights Council accusing Sri Lanka of war crimes with threats to take those responsible to the International Courts and impose targeted sanctions against officials allegedly responsible for human rights violations during the country's three decade long civil war.

A UN report has called for drastic measures against those allegedly responsible for rights violations during the last phase of the armed conflict with the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE). The Indian envoy held separate meetings with northern Tamil parties, including the current government ally Eelam People's

Democratic Party (EPDP), which thanked India for its consistent position on the implementation of the 13th Amendment that provides for devolution of power to the Tamil community. India has been pressing Sri Lanka to implement the 13th amendment.

The main Tamil party Tamil National Alliance (TNA), the hardline parties TMTK (Tamil People's National Alliance) and Tamil National People's Front (TNPF) were all engaged in talks and they raised issues concerning the Tamil minority and urged increased Indian assistance under development cooperation.

During External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar's visit to Sri Lanka in January, India underlined backing for Sri Lanka's reconciliation process and an "inclusive political outlook" that encourages ethnic harmony. Jaishankar had met the Tamil leadership and discussed issues pertaining to the development and devolution and the role of provincial councils as part of national reconciliation.

# MEET THE INSPIRING WOMEN

## PADMA AWARDEES OF 2021

Padma Awards — one of the highest civilian awards of the country — were announced on 25th January. 29 women are among the list of 119 Padma awardees this year and below is a glimpse of their rare contributions in Bharat's social, cultural and political landscape.

**KS Chitra:** Renowned Carnatic musician and playback singer. She has recorded more than 25,000 songs in many regional languages including Malayalam, Tamil, Telugu, Bengali, Oriya, and Urdu, as well as foreign languages like French Latin, Arabic, and Sinhalese. **Sumitra Mahajan** started her political career as a corporator at Indore and rose through the ranks to serve as speaker of Lok Sabha. She was the longest-serving female Member of Parliament 1989 to 2019. **Chutni Devi** is known as the 'Tigress' of Saraikela in Jharkhand who single-handedly saved 60 women from witch-hunting. **Anitha Pauldurai** is a former captain of the Bharatiya women's national basketball team and holds a record of 30 medals in national championships in two decades.

**Bhuri Bai** from Madhya Pradesh is a Bhil artist proficient in Pithora paintings and first tribal woman to popularize the art of Pithora painting. Veteran Table Tennis player **Mouma Das** has represented Bharat and won medals in multiple Commonwealth and South Asian Games. **Shanti Devi**, inspired by Vinoba Bave's Bhudan movement worked for the betterment of orphaned children and distressed women by setting up 'ashram' at a tribal-dominated village Khambesu Shankalpadar in Odisha.

**Bombay Jayashri Rammath**, a celebrated Carnatic singer has



performed in several regional languages like Telugu, Malayalam, and Tamil. **Radhe Devi**, 88 is still pursuing the pledge she took when she was 25 — designing bridal wear and has protected Potloi Setpi weaving tradition in Manipur.

**Sindhutai Sapkal** runs orphanages in Pune area and has adopted over 1,000 orphaned children. **Matha B. Manjamma Jogati** is a transgender folk dancer of Jogamma heritage in Karnataka, the only trans woman to win the Padma Shri award this year. **Lakhimi Baruah** started the Konoklota Mahila Urban Cooperative Bank in 1998 in Jorhat, Assam to help women from underprivileged backgrounds become financially independent and secure. **Sangkhumi Bualchhuak**, a social worker from Aizawl, has empowered Mizo women and has played an instrumental role in promoting education, enterprise, and legal reforms for them.

**Anshu Jamsenpa** is a mountaineer from Arunachal Pradesh, who scaled world's highest peak Mount Everest five times — twice in a record shortest time of five days. **Uttar Pradesh's senior litterateur Usha**

**Yadav** has authored more than 100 books, including the story collection 'Khme-piece Sukh', 'Dreams of the Rainbow' and novels 'Prakash Ki Oar' etc. Writer and politician **Mridula Sinha** was posthumously awarded the Padma Shri for her contribution towards literature and education in Bharat. A former leader of the women's wing of the BJP, she became the first woman Governor of Goa.

Bangladeshi musicologist **Sanjida Khatun** has pursued her master's and PhD from Visva Bharati, Shantiniketan. Her literary contributions were recognized with the Ekushey Padak by Bangladesh government in 1990 and Rabindra Award by Bangla Academy in 2010. Entrepreneur **Jaswantiben Jamnadas Popat** bagged the Padma Shri for her simple yet successful business Lijjat Papads which financially empowered many homemakers in South Mumbai — who came to be known as Lijjat Sisters. Eighty-year-old **Rajni Bector** is a well-known entrepreneur from Ludhiana. Her one-woman venture of bakery products and condiments from home has grown into Rs 541 crore business.



# INDIA'S RECOVERING GROWTH, VACCINE LEAD TO HELP WORLD OVERCOME PANDEMIC : IMF Chief GITA GOPINATH

As India recovers from the onslaught of the Covid-19 pandemic, its leadership in vaccine production and its growth projection of 11.5 percent, will have an important role in helping the world overcome the pandemic, Gita Gopinath, the Indian American chief economist of the International Monetary Fund, said on March 8 during an interaction with the permanent representative of the UAE, Lana Zaki Nusseibeh at the Hansa Mehta Memorial Dialogue on the theme, "Women's Economic Empowerment and Inclusive Global Economic Growth: COVID-19 and Beyond," organized by India's Permanent Mission and UN Academic Impact on International Women's Day.

India makes up about 7 percent of the world's gross domestic product based on its purchasing power parity and "when you're that large, what happens



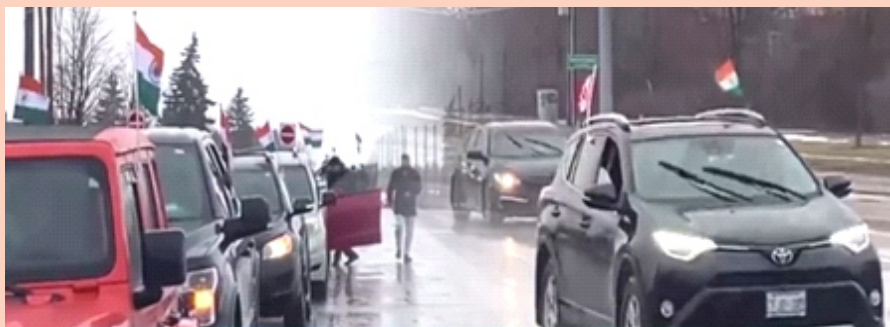
in India has implications for many other countries in the world, especially countries in the region," Gopinath said, "Because of its size, when you have it growing, it increases demand for goods from other parts of the world, and that's a big positive," she said. While there were troubling signs of Covid cases going up, "we're still looking at very low numbers" of Covid-19 infections and India is reopening and activities are coming back,

leading to the IMF growth projection of 11.5 percent for the next fiscal year after a negative growth of 8 percent, she said. India, which is the world's vaccine hub, has "been playing a very important role in helping the world in this crisis through its vaccination policies," she added.

The Serum Institute of India is the world's largest vaccine producer, and a lot of its Covid-19 vaccines are going to the COVAX program of the World Health Organization to provide vaccines to developing countries, she said. The Indian government has also donated vaccines to neighboring countries.

The dialogue honors Hansa Mehta, the Indian freedom fighter and pioneer in the quest for women's rights who was a member of the UN Human Rights Commission and one of the drafters of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. □

## DIASPORA'S TIRANGA CAR RALLY IN CANADA



Tiranga, Maple car rally in Brampton: Bharatiya diaspora in Canada organized a massive 'Tiranga and Maple car rally' to celebrate the growing ties of Canada and Bharat.

Hundreds of cars participated at the 'Tiranga and Maple car rally' in Brampton on 28th February.

Naresh Chavda, a prominent member of Gujarati community and Indo Canadian Chamber of Commerce said that at the time of Covid-19 crisis, Canada Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and Bharat's PM Narendra Modi have come together to save millions of lives by approving and supplying millions of vaccines. □

## **CONSOLIDATING THE RROMANI LANGUAGE: A PIVOTAL REQUIREMENT FOR BOTH LINGUISTIC JUSTICE AND SOCIAL INCLUSION – AND A DUTY FOR SCIENTIST AND POLITICIANS**

Excerpt of Prof. Marcel Courthiade's Speech in The University of Oxford, England on 23-24 January 2020.

Beyond the obvious need to protect and promote the Rromani language, just like any other mother tongue in the world, and this for the same reasons, its protection and promotion play a very significant role in terms of social inclusion of its speakers and therefore social harmony, justice and peace for the entire society. This is true not only for Europe, where the majority of the Rromani people lives – probably 12 to 15 millions, but also for both Americas with a Rromani population of almost 3 millions. In fact, the rejection of these persons from many host societies is intimately linked with the denial of their language – a denial which may take locally various configurations. Conversely some researchers have explored the role of the Rromani people – beyond linguistic considerations – as a bridge between neighbouring (but not always friendly) nations.

**Linguistic and historical background**  
The Rromani language belongs to the Indo-Aryan branch of the Indo-European family. It developed first in Northern India (then Madhyadesh, today's Uttar Pradesh) from the Sauraseni medieval language (Prakrit) and left India in early 1019 when its speakers, mainly inhabitants of the city of Kannauj were taken by sultan Mahmūd (971-1030 AD) to Ghazni and Kabul (in today's Afghanistan). Due to its lack of Indo-Persian borrowings (which are numerous in Hindi) and its archaic verbal system, Rromani is probably, together with Nepali, one of the modern languages closest to Sanskrit. The speakers of Proto-Rromani left eventually the collapsing Ghaznevid Empire together with Seljuk Turks after the battle of Dandanakan (1040 AD) and reached Asia Minor, along with the Proto-Turks who won there



**-Prof. Marcel Courthiade  
Professor, Linguist, Poet & Author**

the battle of Manzikert in August 1071. The Rromani core vocabulary encompasses some 700 Indo-Aryan (mainly Sanskrit) words, but also words borrowed in Asia Minor – where Persian was official between 1100 and 1300 AD: 70 from Persian itself, 220 from Anatolian Greek, 35 from Armenian and a handful from Ossetic, Georgian and Kurdish. The major migration of the Rroms from Asia Minor to the Balkan and further all over Europe dates back to early 14th century.

One may consider that at least 6 to 7 millions of European Rroms are fluent in their mother tongue, whilst some 4-5 millions speak it on a daily basis (others use Rromani mainly on family events, pilgrimages or similar occasional meetings; no estimation is available for American Rroms). Most speakers are to be found in the Balkan but also in Russia. Although the actual number of speakers is much lower than stated by Michael D. Reinhard (1976:iii: 95%) or even more recently in the CIEMEN/Mercator report (Bakker & Rooker 2002:table 2 – 80-90% in most countries), the comparatively high rate of active speakers, especially one thousand years after the departure of their

ancestors from their native soil, is a noteworthy phenomenon, unparalleled in other languages.

Very derogative approach of the Rromani language in European scholarship of the past

Since the very first mentions in European documentation, we may read that the Rroms "have a particular language between them, which [nobody] apart themselves can ever know or learn, while they themselves understand the languages of a very large number of people" (Hildesheim xxxvij) – a statement frequently repeated later. Rromani is often treated as a linguistic fiction, a "counterfeit tongue invented from nothing by themselves" (Conrad Gessner, Jacobus Thomasius, Angelus Rochus, Anton F. Büsching etc.); the same authors refer to the Rroms as an "amazing cesspool of people" (Albrecht Kranz, Rudolf J. Camerarius, Volaterranus) or "surprising piles of garbage" (Sebastian Münster). Others consider Rromani as a Slavic language (Johann Turmayr, Rudolf J. Camerarius, Johannes Pretorius, Thomas Browne, Johann H. Ziedler). Its alleged Egyptian or Coptic origin is discarded by Hiobus Ludolphus as early as 1681 but its real Indian origin, albeit repeatedly mentioned in various documents between 1422 and 1636, is not regarded seriously before Rüdiger's eureka published in 1782.

Surprisingly, the Rroms' Indian origin was denied for long by a handful of authors (Henriette Asseo, Nicole Martinez, Martin Oliveira, Judith Okely, Wim Willems etc.) irrespectively of material facts which substantiate solidly this origin: not only linguistic observation, but also historical records and logical reasoning on their basis. We have to do here with a new avatar of the earlier views, mentioned above, which created through repetition a fecund breeding ground to present day's

prevailing attitudes of "gypsophobia". Misunderstandings about the dialectal structure of Rromani

In terms of dialectal division, one may distinguish on the one hand the main trunk of Rromani, also called "inflectional Rromani" – used by some 90% of the heritage speakers and on the other various alternative forms, which have lost most of the original Indian inflection, and are used by the rest. These forms are called pogadilects – a term coined on the name of the prototype called pagge[r]di chib "broken language" (viz Anglo-Rromani of the British Isles). Local pogadilects exist also in Spain (called there kaló), Hungary and formerly in Greece, Euskadi etc. (Bakker & van der Hort 1991:16 sq).

The main trunk of the Rromani language is divided itself in two "super-dialects" on the basis of a dozen of consistent morpho-phonologic differences (isoglosses) and each "super-dialect" is divided in two dialects separated by a transversal phonetic evolution – resulting in four dialects. Further local divisions arose on the European soil due to various local influences, oblivion over generations and socio-linguistic negligence leading to the underdevelopment of modern terminology – compensated by borrowings from majority languages. The loss of Rromani has increased drastically over the last two decades – one generation or so, due to social and media upheavals all over the world, much more than in two or three centuries. This loss goes hand in hand with the disappearance of Rromani music, oral transmission, social structures and similar wealth – including interest for one's heritage as a whole.

Why double RR ?

One of the features of the Rromani phonemic is the opposition between two rhotic sounds : a rolled r versus a non-rolled rr (ćoripen "theft" = ćoripen "poverty", or bar "hedge" = barr "stone", rani "lady" = rrani "branch" etc.). It happens that this special (non rolled) rr appears at the beginning of the Rroms' ethnonym –

hence the double RR spelling (the double RR was used for the first time in 1890 by Sztojka in his dictionary). The etymology is Sanskrit Romba/Ḍomba "drummer, musician, artist (mainly of sacred theatre)"

The earliest attempts to classify Rromani varieties (19th cent.) relied on lexicon related to objects of everyday's use – often borrowings, and as a result the so-called "dialects" were matching to local languages, to which vocabulary had been borrowed: German Rromani, Polish Rromani, Hungarian Rromani etc. Outsiders could not distinguish these two sounds and as a result many texts have been printed without this distinction. Even when native speakers could perceive it, they could not render it in written form in many countries. On the other hand the Rromani series s/ćh/ś ([s]/[ɕ]/[ʃ] typical for the Kelderaś dialect) was properly written in Poland because Polish has the same series (written s/ś/sz respectively in Polish), but not in other countries.

Misunderstandings arose also from the fact that investigators did not master Rromani since childhood and as a result had acquired only a flat level of the language in synchrony and only in a peculiar variety, not the internal feeling of Rroms, who have grown in contact with various groups, facing inter-dialectal diversity, and had therefore acquired a natural ability to unconsciously understand alien forms through automatic correspondences. The natural dynamic acquisition of Rromani allows speakers of various backgrounds to understand each other, whilst people who have learnt it as a foreign tongue get the erroneous impression of impossible communication and circulate the cliché of dialectal fragmentation or even of the existence of several Rromani languages ("Ethnologue" and SIL – we would have the same reaction of learners vis-à-vis the local varieties of Spanish or English if the postulate of the unity of these languages was not a common belief). Lastly, as it was widely the case in language descriptions, investigators

of Rromani used to search grammar categories familiar to them in their own language or in Latin, English or German – even if irrelevant to Rromani, while conversely they did not even noticed others, specific to Rromani, as for example iterative verbs, specific tenses, postpositional system, some devices of derivation, various lexical features etc. This led clearly to rather poor descriptions, usually superficial and limited to singular vernaculars, while comprehensive high approaches are still very rare. Data ensue often from simplistic fieldwork and do not take on board rich oral literature nor subtleties in intimate speech with all its colourful idioms.

New misunderstandings emerged more recently with the projects of Rromani dialectal atlases, as this language was treated as if it were a territorial language, thus neglecting the historical fact that the earliest isoglosses followed the Rroms during their migration through Europe and beyond. On the contrary later isoglosses, emerging when most Rroms were already settled, do have a geographical character. More recent migratory waves (mainly after the abolition of the Rroms' slavery in 1855 and 1856 and by the end of the 20th century) have turned again the picture upside down. Rroms are by no means "nomads" (only some 2% of them have integrated a mobile way of living) but many groups had to migrate, sometimes repeatedly, due to hostile rejection. Accordingly two or several different dialects may coexist within one settlement but one may encounter similar varieties in very remote from each other places. A strictly geodialectal approach is therefore irrelevant in Rromani to both description and elaboration of teaching material. The mechanical treatment of all isoglosses on a foot of equality can result only in a distorted vision of the dialect system – and inspire inappropriate conclusions. Sensitive judgment is crucially required to avoid formalism and subsequent errors in this respect. □



## LATE ZULU king fostered HARMONY BETWEEN INDIANS AND AFRICANS

Late Zulu King Goodwill Zwelithini, who reigned for five decades, succumbed to complications from diabetes in a Durban hospital in the early hours of March 12. He was 72. He had a history of fostering reconciliation and cultural cooperation between his people and the Indian community of South Africa.

About half of South Africa's 1.4 million citizens of Indian origin—largely descendants of the first indentured labourers who arrived in ships as sugarcane plantation workers in the 17th century—are believed to live in the KwaZulu-Natal province over which the monarch reigned. He frequently referred to the Indians as being part of his loyal subjects, drawing a number of leaders as advisers from the Indian community. The most notable of them was businessman and philanthropist Ishwar Ramlutchman, who the king appointed as a prince of the Zulu Kingdom for the work he had done to uplift the Zulu community.

“When I adopted Ishwar Ramlutchman, I gave him the name of Mabheka Zulu. The name Mabheka means the one who cares for my people. Over the years, Mabheka has become an additional member of our family whom I always refer to as 'indodana yethu', our son. His commitment and promotion of social cohesion, nature conservation and respect for everyone's cultural heritage and religion has earned him our respect,” Zwelithini had said. In recent years, Ramlutchman organised, on behalf of the monarch, an annual Diwali festival at his home in rural Nongoma at which Zulu and Indian artistes performed side by side. Thousands attended these parties. At the 2019 event, Zwelithini highlighted the special relationship between his nation and India. “My association with the people of India and the prime minister, Narendra Modi, goes a long way,” Zwelithini said. “We have been interacting for the past years to see how we can build good relations and transfer of skills to my people. “This is

indeed the best demonstration of what I have stood for in all these years, which is respect, acceptance and social cohesion,” the king said.

In 2017, The king paid a visit for the first time to India House, the official residence of the Indian Consul General in Durban, to meet then High Commissioner Ruchi Ghanashyam, who was accompanied by Deputy High Commissioner Dr S. Janakiraman, Dr Shashank Vikram, Consul General of India in Durban, Dr K J Srinivasa, Consul General of India in Johannesburg, and SKS Rawat from the Consulate of India in Durban, where he told a delegation from the Indian missions in South Africa that Indians and Zulus could work together to make the province of Kwazulu-Natal a better place for all its citizens. “To mark His Majesty the King's first ever visit to India House, His Majesty planted a mango sapling at India House,” Ghanashyam said after discussions on cooperation between the Kingdom and India in a wide ranging meeting. □

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**Phone No. : 011-23234432**

## INTERNATIONAL ACCOLADES FOR TWO INDIAN-ORIGIN SOUTH AFRICAN WOMEN



Two young Indian-origin women from South Africa's Pretoria city have won international accolades for their exemplary leadership. While beauty products entrepreneur, a 21-year-old Rabia Ghoor, received the Forbes

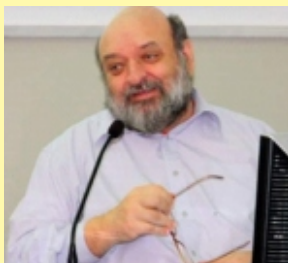
Woman Africa 'Young Achievers' Award for 2021, architect Sumayya Vally, 30, was included in the 2021 Times 100 list that acknowledges leaders who are shaping the future.

Ghoor's award was announced during a virtual Forbes summit to celebrate African women leaders who are committed to economic and social transformation on the continent.

Ghoor started 'SwitchBeauty', her make-up and skincare online beauty store at just 14, dropping out of school two years later to concentrate full-time on the business, which was inspired after she spotted a gap for the African

market.

Vally became the youngest ever architect to make in the Times100 list for her role in the design of the pavilion for London's Serpentine Galleries. She joins such internationally celebrated architects as Frank Gehry and Zaha Hadid. Vally established the company Counterspace five years ago in partnership with a group of friends while still lecturing at the Graduate School of Architecture at the University of Johannesburg. She said the company was formed with the aim of developing a design language that acknowledges and celebrates the African continent. □



**Prof. Marcel Courthiade (1953-2021)**

Centre for Roma Studies and Cultural Relations (CRSCR)- Antar Rashtriya Sahayog Parishad (ARSP) is profoundly sad to inform the demise of Prof. Marcel Courthiade in Tirana, Albania, on 4th March, 2021, who was professor at Institut National des Langues et Civilisations Orientales (INALCO) and was a head of the chair of Rromani studies at INALCO Paris-City Sorbonne (department of Southern Asia and Himalaya). He was the commissioner for language and Linguistic Justice of the International Rromani Union. He was a committed scholar, versatile genius, polyglot, linguist, historian, poet, ethnologist and author.

## CONDOLENCE MESSAGE

Prof. Courthiade made invaluable contributions to the field of Romani Studies and propounded Kannauj theory with regards to the exodus of Roma from Kannauj in 1018. He was an integral part of the two international Roma conferences organized by ARSP and Indian Council for Cultural Relations, Ministry of External Affairs, Gov. of India in New Delhi in 2016 and 2018. Prof. Courthiade dedicated his life and tirelessly worked for scientifically establishing the historical, spiritual, linguistic and cultural link of Roma with India and presented Rromani cultural heritage as world heritage.

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

Centre for Roma Studies and Cultural Relations (CRSCR)- Antar Rashtriya Sahayog Parishad (ARSP) is



**Mr. Arben Kosturi (1967-2021)**

extremely saddened by the untimely death of the dauntless Roma journalist Mr. Arben Kosturi, in Korçë, Albania on 15th March, 2021, who was the executive director of DISUTNI ALBANIA ASSOCIATION, Roma language instructor, Roma Human Rights Champion and fought for educational and cultural emancipation of the community. He always stood up for ethnic and linguistic identity of Roma and upheld Rrom's native land is India and Rrom's spiritual homeland is centuries-old India. We at CRSCR-ARSP extend our wholehearted condolences and deepest sympathies to his family, relatives and friends. We pray to God to let the departed soul Rest in Peace. □



## His Majesty The King ARRIVES in Thimphu AFTER A TOUR OF THE SOUTHERN DZONGKHAGS

His Majesty The King entered 7-day facility quarantine having arrived in Thimphu on 9th March 2021 from a tour of the southern dzongkhags.

During the tour which began on 1st March, His Majesty travelled to Trongsa, Gelephu, Samtse, Tendruk, Tashichhoeling, Gomtu and Phuentsholing, and met with the COVID-19 Task Force teams, government officials, health workers, Desuups and others working in the frontlines.

His Majesty thanked everyone for having worked diligently so far to contain the pandemic and address the issues caused by it to the people. Pointing out that this represents one of the greatest adversities we face as a nation in modern times, His Majesty also encouraged the different



frontline teams to remain vigilant as they continued to serve the nation.

## His Majesty GRANTS DESSUNG PIN TO DESUUP PHUB GYEM



His Majesty The King personally granted Desuup Phub Gyem her Dessung Pins for Druk Thuksey and Service during COVID-19 on 21st February 2021.

His Majesty, accompanied by Her Majesty The Gyaltsuen and His Royal Highness The Gyalsey, visited the Desuung Clubhouse where Desuung was commemorating His Majesty's Birth Anniversary, to meet Desuup

Phub Gyem and Desuup Dechen Tshomo.

Desuup Phub Gyem is recovering after having sustained life-threatening injuries last September, when a pick-up truck hit her and Desuup Dechen Tshomo while they were on duty. Both Desuups were sent to Delhi for treatment on Royal Command. Desuup Dechen returned home after her treatment in October last year, and Desuup Phub Gyem returned home in January 2021, after a series of successful surgeries.

Granting the pins, His Majesty The King said to Desuup Phub Gyem that she has been exceptionally brave and resilient- a true fighter. His Majesty expressed the confidence that she will make a complete recovery. She is receiving physiotherapy treatment to regain full control of her motor abilities. ■



## Launch of the Commemoration of the 50th Anniversary of Bhutan's Membership to the United Nations

It was a proud and solemn moment for Bhutan when the United Nations (UN) formally admitted the country as its 128th member state at the UN Headquarters in New York on 21st September 1971. His Royal Highness Prince Namgyel Wangchuck led the Bhutanese delegation. The historic occasion was marked with three days of jubilant celebrations in Thimphu.

Five decades later, as Bhutan marks the 50th anniversary of its membership to the UN, the occasion is no less special. The partnership between the UN and Bhutan has grown over the decades with collaborations expanding into a diverse range of fields contributing to Bhutan's development goals.

The Royal Government of Bhutan in collaboration with the United Nations (UN) Country Team in Bhutan, will hold a series of activities and events in 2021 to mark this historic milestone. The launch ceremony to commemorate the 50th anniversary of Bhutan's membership to the UN took place on Monday, 22 February 2021 coinciding with the celebrations of His Majesty The King's 41st Birth Anniversary. In keeping with the COVID-19 protocol, the launch was marked amid a simple ceremony attended by a small gathering comprising of senior government officials, Heads of resident UN Agencies and the diplomatic community in Thimphu. Members of Bhutan's diplomatic missions and embassies were invited to attend the event virtually. The launch ceremony was broadcast live through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs' Facebook



page. The launch ceremony began with the offering of prayers and butter lamps at the Memorial Chorten in Thimphu in honour of His Majesty the Third Druk Gyalpo under whose leadership Bhutan's membership to the UN was realised.

Prime Minister Dr. Lotay Tshering graced the launch ceremony as the Chief Guest. Speaking at the event, Hon'ble Prime Minister paid tribute to Their Majesties The Kings for the visibility and goodwill that Bhutan has earned, as a responsible and credible member of the international community. "Their wisdom and foresight have enabled Bhutan to constructively engage with the international community and work for the collective wellbeing of humanity." Hon'ble Prime Minister also took the opportunity to reaffirm the Royal Government's commitment to uphold the values and principles as enshrined in the UN Charter and thanked the UN for their commitment to Bhutan's development.

"As we launch the commemoration of the 50th anniversary of Bhutan as a member state to the United Nations, we are recognizing the history of a unique relationship. The past five decades tell the story of a strong and enduring partnership between the Royal Government of Bhutan and the UN – especially the 31 UN agencies that work for Bhutan. Now is not a time for the UN to rest on any laurels. Today, we reaffirm our commitment to work together for a self-reliant, innovating and sustainable Bhutan," said Mr. Gerald Daly, Resident Coordinator, UN Bhutan.

The launch ceremony saw the unveiling of the official 50th anniversary logo and the commemorative theme song. A national essay competition for the youth was also announced. The competition calls on young people to reflect on the 50 years of partnership between Bhutan and the UN and share their thoughts and perspectives on its future. Social media accounts

for the commemoration were launched at the event. These social media pages will feature content on the 50th anniversary related activities.

The UN-Bhutan Joint Programme on the SDG Fund, 'Building a Bhutan Integrated National Financing Framework for the Sustainable Development Goals and Gross National Happiness' was also launched at the event. The programme is a joint initiative of UNDP and UNICEF under the leadership of the Resident Coordinator's Office (RCO) developed with the Gross National Happiness Commission (GNHC) and the Ministry of Finance. It aims to facilitate the development and implementation of critical building blocks towards an Integrated National

Financing Framework (INFF), a transformative contribution to the way Bhutan finances its development priorities. This includes supporting financing solutions aligned with both responses to COVID-19 and longer-term investments in a sustainable future.

While Bhutan became a member of the UN in September 1971, formal cooperation in development began only in 1973, following the arrival of its first two agencies, the United Nations Development Programme and Food and the Agriculture Organization. The United Nations Children's Fund and the World Food Programme came the following year, followed by other agreements with the United Nations

Population Fund, the World Health Organization, the United Nations Capital Development Fund and other specialized agencies. Today, The UN Country Team comprises eight resident UN agencies and 14 non-resident UN agencies.

As a responsible member of the UN, Bhutan has always worked constructively with other member states to realize the noble objectives of the UN. Among others, Bhutan remains committed towards promoting international peace and security, which is one of the key mandates and objectives of the UN. In September 2014, Bhutan joined the fraternity of nations participating in UN peacekeeping operations. ■

## DAYS TO REMEMBER

in April, 2021

|          |   |          |  |
|----------|---|----------|--|
| April 02 | : International Children's Book Day                   | April 21 | : Ram Navami   |
| April 06 | : International Day of sport for Development & 'Peace | April 21 | : United Kingdom : Her Majesty the Queen's Official Birthday |
| April 06 | : W.H.O. -World Health Day                            | April 22 | : Mother Earth Day   |
| April 08 | : International Roma Day                              | April 26 | : Purnima ●●   |
| April 12 | : Amavasya ●  | April 26 | : Tanzania- Union Day  |
| April 13 | : Baisakhi  | April 27 | : South Africa : Freedom Day                                 |
| April 14 | : Dr. Ambedkar Jayanti                                |          |  |

## DIPLOMATIC POSTINGS

**Shri Rajesh Vaishnav** (IFS:1996), presently High Commissioner of India to Malta, has been appointed as the **next Ambassador of India to Kingdom of Morocco**.

**Shri Manpreet Vohra** (IFS:1988), presently Ambassador of India to Mexico, has been appointed as the **next High Commissioner of India to Australia**.

**Shri Mahender Singh Kanyal**, presently Ambassador of India to the Republic of Suriname, has been

appointed as the **next Ambassador of India to the Syrian Arab Republic**.

**Shri Sanjiv Tandon**, presently Counsellor in the Embassy of India, Lima, has been appointed as the **next Ambassador of India to the Republic of Togo**.

**Shri R. Masakui** (IFS:2001), presently High Commissioner of India to Jamaica, has been concurrently accredited as the **next High Commissioner of India to the Cayman Islands, with residence in**

**Kingston**.

**Shri Raghu Gururaj** (YOA:2006), presently Consul General of India to Medan, has been appointed as the **next Ambassador of India to the Democratic Republic of Sao Tome and Principe**.

**Ms. Sangeeta Bahadur** (IFS:1987), presently Ambassador of India to Belarus, has been appointed as the **next High Commissioner of India to the Republic of Malta**.

# अंतर्राष्ट्रीय मातृभाषा दिवस पर परिचर्चा का आयोजन

केंद्रीय हिंदी संस्थान, विश्व हिंदी सचिवालय और वैश्विक हिंदी परिवार द्वारा 'अंतर्राष्ट्रीय मातृभाषा दिवस' के अवसर पर परिचर्चा का आयोजन किया गया इस पहले सत्र का विषय — 'देश में मातृभाषा संरक्षण की चुनौतियाँ' थी इस कार्यक्रम का संचालन संस्थान के क्षेत्रीय निदेशक गंगाधर वानाडे ने किया। कार्यक्रम के मुख्य वक्ता के रूप में पंजाब के भूतपूर्व मुख्य सचिव निर्मल सिंह कलसी, त्रिपुरा विश्वविद्यालय की डॉ. मिलन रानी, अखिल भारतीय मराठी साहित्य मंडल के पूर्व अध्यक्ष डॉ. श्रीपाद भालचंद्र जोशी, महात्मा गाँधी अंतर्राष्ट्रीय हिंदी विश्वविद्यालय के पूर्व कुलपति प्रो. जी गोपीनाथन, 'संकल्प' के संस्थापक संतोष तनेजा उपस्थित थे। सान्निध्य वरिष्ठ पत्रकार राहुल देव का था।

इस अवसर पर बोलते हुए निर्मल सिंह कलसी ने कहा कि यदि मातृभाषा का आधार मजबूत हो तो अन्य किसी भी भाषा को सीखने में कोई दिक्कत नहीं आती है। उन्होंने कहा कि इस वर्ष 13 भाषाओं में सबसे प्रतिष्ठित जेईई की परीक्षा मातृभाषा में देने का अवसर प्राप्त हुआ है।

भारतीय भाषाओं को परीक्षाओं एवं शिक्षा व्यवस्था में स्थापित करने के विषय में किए जा रहे निरंतर संघर्ष के विषय में संतोष तनेजा के प्रति आभार प्रकट करते हुए संस्थान के उपाध्यक्ष अनिल जोशी ने कहा कि प्रधानमंत्री को इस गंभीर मामले को समझाने में संतोष जी की भूमिका के लिए कोई धन्यवाद नहीं दिया जा सकता, जिसके परिणामस्वरूप राष्ट्रीय शिक्षा नीति 2020 में मातृभाषा एवं भारतीय भाषाओं में शिक्षा संबंधी इन प्रावधानों पर पर्याप्त ध्यान दिया गया है।

संतोष तनेजा ने इस बात पर प्रसन्नता व्यक्त की कि नई शिक्षा नीति में मातृभाषाओं पर पर्याप्त ध्यान दिया गया है किंतु आश्चर्य व्यक्त किया कि समाज में हिंदी एवं मातृभाषाओं के प्रति इतनी उपेक्षा है कि अनेक राज्यों में बारहवीं कक्षा में विज्ञान की पढ़ाई मातृभाषा में

नहीं होती है।

डॉ. मिलन रानी जमातिया ने कहा कि पूर्वोत्तर में 50 से अधिक बोलियाँ हैं और 200 से अधिक जन जातियाँ हैं। उन्होंने गंभीर मुद्दा उठाते हुए कहा कि पूर्वोत्तर में सैकड़ों भाषाएँ विलुप्त हो चुकी हैं और सैकड़ों विलुप्ति के कगार पर हैं क्योंकि इनकी कोई व्यवस्थित लिपि एवं व्याकरण नहीं हैं।

परिचर्चा को आगे बढ़ते हुए प्रो. जी गोपीनाथन ने गाँधी जी को उद्धृत करते हुए कहा कि वे मातृभाषा को माँ के दूध के समान मानते थे। देश के हर विद्यार्थी को अपनी मातृभाषा की जानकारी होनी चाहिए और साथ ही अन्य प्रांतों के साथ वार्तालाप के लिए उन्हें हिंदी सिखाने की भी व्यवस्था होनी चाहिए और इसके लिए आधुनिक तकनीकों का प्रयोग किया जाए।

श्रीपाद भालचंद्र जोशी ने कहा कि पिछले दशकों से वे आंदोलनरत हैं कि मराठी को बारहवीं तक की पढ़ाई में अनिवार्य किया जाए लेकिन सरकारों की मंशा साफ नहीं होती। इस सरकार ने पहली बार क्रांति मैदान के आंदोलन के समक्ष विवश होकर दसवीं तक मराठी शिक्षण की व्यवस्था की है।

कार्यक्रम का समाहार करते हुए वरिष्ठ पत्रकार राहुल देव ने कहा कि वे मानते हैं कि बिना जन आंदोलन बनाए भाषा के प्रश्न को हल नहीं किया जा सकता और उन्होंने भारत के राष्ट्रपति से यह अनुरोध किया है कि वे संसद का विशेष अधिवेशन बुलाएं, जिसमें भारत के भाषाई संकट पर चर्चा हो। डॉ. राजेश कुमार ने सभी का आभार व्यक्त किया। इस कार्यक्रम के दूसरे सत्र का विषय था 'विदेशों में मातृभाषा संरक्षण चुनौतियाँ'। कार्यक्रम का संचालन करते हुए संयोजक डॉ. राजेश कुमार ने सभी भाषा प्रेमियों का स्वागत किया। डॉ. नवेन्दु बाजपेयी ने वक्ताओं का स्वागत करते हुए संक्षिप्त परिचय कराया।

पाकिस्तान में जन्मी डॉ. ताहिरा नकवी ने इस कार्यक्रम से जुड़कर खुशी जाहिर

करते हुए मादरी जुबान को कूदरत की देन बताया। उन्होंने बताया कि उनके विभाग में पंजाबी, बंगला और अंग्रेजी आदि अनेक मातृभाषाओं वाले विद्यार्थी आते हैं जिनके लिए वर्णमाला से शुरू होकर उच्च स्तर तक के पाठ्यक्रम चलते हैं। मिली-जुली कक्षाएं होती हैं। बंगलादेश से भी काफी छात्र आते हैं। हम शायरी में गालिब और इकबाल आदि का सहारा लेकर भी समझाते हैं। बहुत से लोग बालीवुड को समझने के लिए भी उर्दू सीखते हैं।

पेंसिलवेनिया विश्वविद्यालय के मराठी विभाग के प्राध्यापक डॉ. मिलिंद रानडे ने कहा कि पिछले सोलह वर्षों से उनके अनुभव में आया है कि अनेक प्रयोजनों की सिद्धि हेतु विद्यार्थी मराठी और हिन्दी पढ़ने आते हैं और लाभान्वित होते हैं। यहाँ विद्यार्थी न होने पर विभाग के बंद होने का खतरा होता है जैसा कि ग्रीक, वियतनाम और कोरियन भाषा के साथ हुआ है।

पेंसिलवेनिया विश्वविद्यालय अमेरिका में संस्कृत के एसोसिएट प्रोफेसर डॉ. देवेन पटेल ने कहा कि उनकी कक्षाओं में भिन्न-भिन्न मातृभाषा वाले विद्यार्थी आते हैं जिन्हें वे नई तकनीकी का सहारा लेकर समझाते हैं।

शिक्षा संस्कृति उत्थान न्यास के राष्ट्रीय सचिव अतुल कोठारी ने कहा कि बच्चे घर में मातृभाषा नहीं बोलते हैं, तो इसके लिए माता-पिता और परिवार ही दोषी है। उन्होंने अमेरिका के अपने संस्मरण सुनाए, जिसमें माता-पिता द्वारा घर में मातृभाषा का प्रयोग करने पर स्वतः ही वहाँ बच्चे सीख गए। इसके लिए जागरूकता आवश्यक है।

केंद्रीय हिन्दी संस्थान के उपाध्यक्ष अनिल शर्मा जोशी ने कहा कि तकनीकी क्षेत्र में हिन्दी व भारतीय भाषाओं के लिए सरकारी तौर पर कार्य बल या टास्क फोर्स का गठन सहायनीय है। आज के वक्ता डॉ. कलसी, संतोष जी एवं मुझे इस 'टास्क फोर्स' का सदस्य होने के कारण सेवा करने का मौका मिला है।



# नासा के मंगल मिशन में स्वाति मोहन ने निभाई बड़ी भूमिका

मंगल ग्रह पर रोवर लैंड हो चुका है, इस कामयाबी के पीछे जिन लोगों का हाथ है उनमें से एक भारतीय अमेरिकी स्वाति मोहन भी हैं। नासा ने मंगल ग्रह पर रोवर परसिवरेंस भेजा था जो सफलतापूर्वक उसकी सतह पर लैंड कर चुका है। डॉक्टर स्वाति मोहन नासा की जेट प्रोपल्शन लैब में इस प्रोग्राम की नेवीगेशन गाइडेंस और कंट्रोल ऑपरेशन की प्रमुख हैं। यह घटना नासा की इस पूरी टीम के लिए गौरव का पल है। स्वाति मोहन पिछले आठ साल से इस टीम के साथ काम कर रही हैं। डॉ. स्वाति मोहन जब परसिवरेंस के एक-एक कदम की कहानी शेयर कर रही थी तो भारत का सीना भी गर्व से



चौड़ा हो रहा था, वे मंगल पर परसिवरेंस की लैंडिंग के दौरान जेट प्रोपल्शन लैब से लाइव कॉमेंट्री कर रही थीं और पल-पल की जानकारी दुनिया के साथ शेयर कर रही थीं। स्वाति मोहन के ऊपर मार्स रोवर परसिवरेंस को सही जगह पर उतारने और इसके लिए एकदम सही जगह का चयन करने की जिम्मेदारी थी, जिसे

उन्होंने सफलता पूर्वक अंजाम दिया है। इससे पहले शनि ग्रह पर भेजे गए कासिनी यान और नासा के चांद पर भेजे गए ग्रेविटी रिकवरी एंड इंटीरियर लैबोरेटरी (ग्रेल) यान से भी स्वाति मोहन जुड़ी रही हैं। स्वाति कहती हैं कि नासा के जेपीएल में काम करते वक्त हर दिन कुछ न कुछ नई चुनौती आती है। यहां दुनिया को विकसित करने की बातें होती हैं। अंतरिक्ष की यात्राओं की चर्चा होती है। यहां काम करना प्रेरणा देता है। स्वाति ने कहा, इसलिए मैं ब्रह्मांड में उन जगहों को देखना और समझना चाहती हूँ जहां के बारे में आम इंसान कभी सोचता भी नहीं है। □

## सात भारतीय महिलाएं सम्मानित



‘अंतर्राष्ट्रीय महिला दिवस’ के मौके पर अपने-अपने क्षेत्र में योगदान के लिए सात भारतीय महिलाओं को सम्मानित किया गया। न्यूयॉर्क में भारत के महावाणिज्य दूत रणधीर जायसवाल ने महिला दिवस पर इनको सम्मानित करते हुए कहा कि महिला सशक्तिकरण दुनिया में सामाजिक-आर्थिक विकास का एक प्रमुख घटक है।

उन्होंने कहा, ‘भारत महिलाओं को आगे बढ़ाने में महत्वपूर्ण कार्य कर रहा है। हम समाज को आगे बढ़ाने के काम में पचास फीसदी आबादी को नहीं छोड़ सकते हैं।’ वड़ोदरा की नवरचना एजुकेशन सोसायटी की अध्यक्ष तेजल अमीन, हार्टफोर्ड हेल्थकेयर में चिकित्सक डॉ. उमा रानी मधुसूदन, दंत चिकित्सक डॉ. आभा जायसवाल, नर्स रश्मि अग्रवाल, निःशुल्क सेवाएं देने वाली सामुदायिक वकील सबीना ढिल्लों और निर्माता, अभिनेत्री राशना शाह को सम्मानित किया गया। इनके अलावा ‘मास्क स्क्वाड’ को भी सम्मानित किया गया, यह समान विचारधारा वाली महिलाओं का एक समूह है, जिसने वैश्विक महामारी COVID-19 के दौरान जरूरतमंद लोगों को मास्क सिलकर पहुंचाए। □

## सफरनामा के लोकार्पण समारोह का आयोजन

केंद्रीय हिंदी संस्थान और वैश्विक हिंदी परिवार द्वारा संस्थान के सभागार में प्रसिद्ध लेखिका और केंद्रीय हिंदी संस्थान की निदेशक डॉ. बीना शर्मा की पुस्तक 'सफरनामा-4' का लोकार्पण और परिचर्चा का आयोजन किया गया। इस संस्थान के उपाध्यक्ष अनिल शर्मा जोशी के सान्निध्य में हुए इस कार्यक्रम की अध्यक्षता डॉ. कमल किशोर गोयनका ने की। मुख्य अतिथि डॉ. सच्चिदानंद जोशी और मुख्य वक्ता के रूप में डॉ. विमलेश कांति वर्मा तथा अलका सिन्हा थे। इस कार्यक्रम का संयोजन संस्थान के दिल्ली केंद्र के क्षेत्रीय निदेशक डॉ. प्रमोद कुमार शर्मा ने और संचालन प्रसिद्ध लेखिका डॉ. अपर्णा सारस्वत ने किया। पुस्तक का लोकार्पण करते हुए प्रसिद्ध लेखक और इंदिरा गांधी राष्ट्रीय

कला केंद्र के सचिव डॉ. सच्चिदानंद जोशी ने कहा कि इस पुस्तक के सभी निबंध निश्छल, निर्मल और निष्कपट मन से निकले हुए हैं। इन्हें पढ़ते हुए राजेंद्र अवस्थी के 'काल चिंतन' की याद आती है प्रसिद्ध हिंदी विद्वान और भाषाविद डॉ. विमलेश कांति वर्मा ने कहा कि सफरनामा के माध्यम से हमने अपने जीवन को समझ लिया। अपनी बात को आगे बढ़ाते हुए कहा कि इसमें ज्ञान की अंतरकथा के सूत्र हैं। इसे पढ़ लेने का मतलब अपनी परंपरा को समझ लेना है। इनकी रचनाओं को पढ़ते हुए अपनेपन का अहसास होता है। यह डायरी का भी सुख देती हैं और संस्मरण का भी इनकी रचनाओं में भाषा का सौंधपन है, यह बतरस का सुख देती हैं, यह कहना था प्रसिद्ध लेखिका और राष्ट्रीय

संग्रहालय की सहायक निदेशक अलका सिन्हा का। कार्यक्रम के अध्यक्ष प्रसिद्ध समलोचक और प्रेमचंद विशेषज्ञ डॉ. कमल किशोर गोयनका ने इसे 'जिंदगीनामा' कहा, यही नहीं उन्होंने कहा कि सफरनामा मन का संस्कार करता है, यह अमंगल का हरण करके मंगल करने वाली कृति है, इस पुस्तक के लेखों में भारतीय धर्म, दर्शन, कला और संस्कृति का विहंगम दृश्य दिखाई देता है। संस्थान के उपाध्यक्ष और प्रसिद्ध लेखक अनिल शर्मा जोशी ने इसे पवित्रा आत्मा का लेखन बताते हुए कहा कि लेखिका के लेखन की निरंतरता जहां एक और चकित करती है, वही दूसरी और इसकी गहराई दिल को छूती है, रोज लिखे जाने के बावजूद ये डायरी से अलग हैं, इनमें दर्शन अंतर्निहित है।

### Form IV (See Rule-8)

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

March 10, 2021

sd/-  
(Keshav G. Parande)