

ANTAR RASHTRIYA SAHAYOG PARISHAD BULLETIN

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JUNE, 2020

The First Satyagrahi Prisoner (Continued from the Previous issue)



✍ M K Gandhi

When the Asiatic Department found, that notwithstanding all their exertions, they could not get more than 500 Indians to register, they decided to arrest someone. In Germiston there lived many Indians, one of whom was Pandit Rama Sundara. This man had a brave look and was endowed with some gift of the gab. He knew a few Sanskrit verses by heart. Hailing from North India as he did, he naturally knew a few *dobas* and *chopais* from the Tulsī Ramayana, and owing to his designation Pandit, he also enjoyed some reputation among the people.

He delivered a number of spirited speeches in various places. Some malevolent Indians in Germiston suggested to the Asiatic Department that many Indians there would take out permits if Rama Sundara was arrested, and the officers concerned could scarcely resist the temptation thus offered. So Rama Sundara was put under arrest and this being the first case of its kind, the Government as well as the Indians were much agitated over it. Rama Sundara, who was till yesterday known only to the good people of Germiston, became in one moment famous all over South Africa. He became the cynosure of all eyes as if he were a great man put upon his trial. Government need not have taken, but it did take, special measures for the preservation of peace. In the court too Rama Sundara was accorded due respect as no ordinary prisoner but a representative of his community. Eager Indian spectators filled the Court-room. Rama Sundara was sentenced to a month's simple

imprisonment, and kept in a separate cell in the European ward in Johannesburg goal. People were allowed to meet him freely. He was permitted to receive food from outside, and was entertained everyday with delicacies prepared on behalf of the community. He was provided with everything he wanted. The day on which he was sentenced was depression with great éclat. There was no trace of depression, but on the other hand there was exultation and rejoicing. Hundreds were ready to go to jail. The officers of the Asiatic Department were disappointed in their hope of a bumper crop of registrants. They did not get a single registrant even from Germiston.

The only gainer was the Indian Community. The month was soon over. Rama Sundara was released and was taken in a procession to the place where a meeting had been arranged. Vigorous speeches were made. Rama Sundara was smothered with garlands of flowers. The volunteers held a feast in his honour, and hundreds of Indians envied Rama Sundara's luck and were sorry that they had not the chance of suffering imprisonment.

But Rama Sundara turned out to be a false coin. There was no escape from the months' imprisonment, as his arrest came as a surprise. In jail he had enjoyed luxuries to which he had been a stranger outside. Still accustomed as he was to license, and addicted as he was to bad habits, the loneliness and the restraints of jail life were too much for him. In spite of all the attention showered upon him by the jail authorities as well as by the community, jail appeared irksome to him and he bid a final good-bye to the Transvaal and to the movement. There are cunning men in every community and in every movement and so there were in ours. These knew Rama Sundara through and through, but from an idea that even he might become an instrument of the community's providence, they never let me know his secret history until his bubble had finally burst. I subsequently found that he was an indentured labourer who had deserted before completing his term. There was nothing discreditable in his having been an indentured labourer. The reader will see towards the end how indentured labourers proved to be a most valuable acquisition to the movement, and what a large contribution they made towards winning the final victory. It was certainly wrong for him not to have finished his period of indenture.

I have thus detailed the whole history of Rama Sundara not in order to expose his faults, but to point a moral. The leaders of every clean movement are bound to see that they admit only clean fighters to it. But all their caution notwithstanding, undesirable elements cannot be kept out. And yet if the leaders are fearless and true, the entry of undesirable persons into the movement without their knowing them to be so does not ultimately harm the cause. When Rama Sundara was found out, he became a man of straw. The community forgot him, but the movement gathered fresh strength even through him. Imprisonment suffered by him for the cause stood to our credit, the enthusiasm created by his trial came to stay, and profiting by his example, weaklings slipped away out of the movement of their own accord. There were some more cases of such weakness besides this but I do not propose to deal with them in any detail, as it would not serve any useful purpose. In order that the reader may appreciate the strength and the weakness of the community at their real worth, it will be enough to say that there was not one Rama Sundara but several and yet I observed that the movement reaped pure advantage from all of them.

Let not the reader point the finger of scorn at Rama Sundara. All men are imperfect, and when imperfection is observed in someone in a larger measure than in others, people are

apt to blame him. But that is not fair. Rama Sundara did not become weak intentionally. Man can change his temperament, can control it, but cannot eradicate it. God has not given him so much liberty. If the leopard can change his spots then only can man modify the peculiarities of his spiritual constitution. Although Rama Sundara fled away, who can tell how he might have repented of his weakness? Or rather was not his very flight a powerful proof of his repentance? There was no need for him to flee if he was shameless. He could have taken out a permit and steered clear of jail by submission to the Black Act. Further, if at all so minded, he could have become a tool of the Asiatic Department, misguided his friends and become *persona grata* with the Government. Why should we not judge him charitably and say that instead of doing anything of the kind, he being ashamed of his weakness hid his face from the community and even did it a service?

(To be Continued)

**Antar-Rashtriya Sahayog Parishad Diaspora Research and Resource Centre
New Delhi**

Virtual Conference

COVID 19: Impact on Indian Diaspora in the Gulf

Saturday, 16 May, 2020

Outcomes Report

Diaspora Research and Resource Centre (DRRC), established at the Antar-Rashtriya Sahayog Parishad (ARSP), New Delhi, organised a virtual international conference on the topic, “Impact of Covid 19 on Indian Diaspora in the Gulf” on 16 May, 2020. This was a part of a series of such conferences being organized for various regions with significant presence of Indian Diaspora. The next session will be on North America and Caribbean, followed by two more sessions on Africa and South East Asia respectively.

A dozen experts from UAE, Saudi Arabia, Qatar and Oman participated, representing a whole range of sectors- employers, labour side, technology providers, banking and financial services, energy, manufacturing, education, media and culture. This was a very rich mix matched by an equally qualified Indian counterpart.

Amb Anup Mudgal briefed the participants about the precise objectives of the conference that seeks unrestricted views and assessment. He called upon the speakers to provide objective and frank views to help the DRRC generate some actionable outcomes, which could also be used for making necessary recommendations for policy and procedural adaptations to mitigate the harm.

Amb Virendra Gupta, President, ARSP recalled the important role of Indian diaspora not only by way of supporting the soft power but some very tangible

contributions by way of building bridges of good will, economy, technology and higher education including skills. He also laid out a detailed assessment of the possible impact of Covid, which needs careful planning for an effective road map to emerge from this crisis and to limit the damage through fast and smooth recovery.

Amb Navdeep Suri, former Indian Ambassador to the UAE delivered a key note address to set the agenda. He provided a comprehensive view of what Covid could entail for the Indian diaspora in the Gulf region. He offered an objective and fact based assessment of the challenges as also the opportunities the pandemic brings to the table for the concerned stakeholders in this complex partnership viz members of diaspora, Government and society in India and the Gulf States.

The panelists provided very frank and clear views on the serious implications of the pandemic for diaspora and possible way forward. Salient elements of the assessment are captured in the following brief conclusions.

There are some 9 million Indians working or living in various Gulf States, mainly UAE, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Oman, Bahrain and Kuwait. The Indian diaspora is engaged in diverse fields- investors, high-end service providers, technocrats but the largest and most vulnerable segment are the skilled and semi skilled workers. While all categories would be hit by the pandemic, the most affected would be the workers and they would need highest attention through mitigation measures.

Covid will cause serious damage to the economy at all levels: global, regional and national by way of supply chains disruptions, freeze on transport and travel, complete closure of hospitality and tourism, severely hurt education sector, and for the Gulf region by falling oil and gas demand and prices. This will result in massive job losses and a significant majority of the victims would be Indian workers. Many of them may have to return back home and a conservative estimate puts the figure at half a million.

Depending on the speed of finding a reliable treatment for the pandemic, some of the jobs may be restored but many could be completely lost in the current form. India should expect many workers to permanently return and seek livelihoods here.

Post Covid work environment may be very different requiring different or upgraded skills. We need to carry out a systematic analyses of the needed new skills and start imparting them asap to stay ahead of the curve.

The returnees also have some useful skills which the Indian industry may need. Rather than losing them in the crises, we need to immediately create online portals to list out the available skills for facilitating right and timely match-making.

Some high income workers may potentially become entrepreneurs but they would need some hand holding for negotiating complex Indian market and regulations. This exercise needs to start early before the momentum is lost. India also needs to look after these workers for the interim and assist their rehabilitation. They are expecting some special provisions for the Gulf returnees in the economic package of 20 lac crores by way of loans, capacity building and rehabilitation.

The Indians in Gulf are thankful for the Vande-Bharat initiative to bring back the interested Indians from the region. However, they expected this facility to be available much earlier and at a larger scale. For a while they felt abandoned. The pandemic may also provide

some opportunities by way of attracting sovereign funds, shifting of investments from China or substituting some traditional supply chains to promote make in India possibilities.

The economic crisis would result in business failures and it would be useful to keep an eye on such developments for M&A possibilities on both sides. India could also take advantage of falling oil and gas prices through long term supply arrangements.

A large part of the diaspora is the school going student population. They attend schools run on the CBSE system. Many schools may close and students return to India. This could be a large population of students and it would be good to keep some seats for them in Indian schools.

India has very good and close multi-dimensional ties with the countries of the Gulf. They have special good will and preference for Indian workers over other ethnicities for their qualities of hard work, open mindedness, tolerance and peace. Indian leadership has worked over time to nurture these important but also delicate ties. This came under avoidable strain because of some ill-advised communal campaign in the society and social media. This must stop lest it starts hurting these important relationships.

The conference ended with a clear conclusion: while the challenges of the pandemic are grave, we could surely take measures to mitigate their impact. There are also some opportunities we can take advantage of. However, much will depend on the quality and speed of such measures.

**Antar-Rashtriya Sahayog Parishad Diaspora Research and Resource Centre
New Delhi**

Virtual Conference

COVID: Impact on Indian Diaspora

**(Session on the United States of America)
23 May, 2020 *Outcomes Report***

Diaspora Research and Resource Centre (DRRC), established at the Antar-Rashtriya Sahayog Parishad (ARSP), New Delhi, organised a virtual international conference on the topic, “Impact of Covid 19 on Indian Diaspora in US” on 23 May, 2020. A total of twelve experts dealing with diaspora matters, six from various parts of the US and six academics and experts from India, made presentations on the various aspects of the impact of Covid 19 on the Indian diaspora in the US. They covered such major issues as students, professionals, businessmen, visa restrictions, anti-immigrant sentiments, measures needed to mitigate the impact as also the new opportunities which the crisis may bring to the table for India to take advantage.

Amb Anup Mudgal, Chairperson, DRRC introduced the theme of the conference and laid the blue print for the proceedings, seeking the experts to provide their frank assessment of the projected risks for the diaspora in the US based on their ground reading and suggest

mitigating measures which could soften the impact and assist faster rehabilitation and recovery.

Amb Virendra Gupta, President, ARSP in his opening statement provided a broad view of the growth of Indian diaspora world over and its immense contribution to the growing soft power. He recalled their expanding influence in all spheres and its positive impact on India's reach with many societies. The unprecedented and unpredictable Covid crisis may affect them in many ways and hurt their prospects, which could perhaps be somewhat mitigated by appropriate support and policy interventions.

In his keynote address, Amb Dyneshwar Mulay, Member, NHRC and former Secretary, Overseas Indian Affairs, provided a comprehensive assessment of how the Covid crisis could play out both as a challenge and new possibilities for diaspora and India.

The presentations were followed by an active discussion segment. The following broad aspects emerged as priority areas which need close attention not only for addressing the immediate difficulties of diaspora but also for medium and long term planning for ensuring that there are minimum losses in the long run.

i) **Indian Students:** the US has been the top destination for higher studies for the Indian students. This has created a significant pool of very influential business and tech leaders of Indian origin in the US. Indian diaspora is amongst the most successful and prosperous non-American communities in the US. They are in the forefront of generating broad-based goodwill and positive image, important factors in the enabling environment for the growing India-US ties. This resource needs to be nurtured carefully.

Unfortunately, in the Covid context, the Indian students are also the most vulnerable part of the community. The following concerns were highlighted along with possible solutions.

Student accommodation: with the universities closing, students were also asked to vacate hostels. In the absence of flights to travel back home, a very large number of these students got stuck without a place to live. Many have run out of money. In some cases, the Indian hotel/motel owners' associations have offered rooms to these students free of cost. This may work for some time but the GOI would need to assist them to avoid more serious consequences. Till, they are able to return to India or rejoin classes, some financial support to the needy, even if as a loan, must be explored.

Student loans: many of these students have taken heavy loans from banks. If the universities stay closed causing longer term disruption, these students will not be able to repay these loans. GOI must include them as potential beneficiaries under the economic package, by way of loan waivers or interest subsidisation.

Difficulty of work permits: for the foreseeable future, the US will face growing unemployment that would force the leadership to curtail job opportunities for foreigners. This would imply more students returning to India and seeking jobs there. While, this would bring more pressure on the job market, their skills must be put to effective use in India. These are exceptional assets and should not be lost under any circumstances.

(ii) **Education Reforms:** Covid has exposed the vulnerability of studying abroad. Indian students would surely rethink this wisdom and seek more secure sources of higher education. Even though India has produced an exceptionally talented pool of trained manpower through a series of world class educational institutions like IITs, IIMs and many

more, a large segment of our very bright students still go abroad for higher education and in many cases they stay there. According to the latest data, Indian students spend about USD 30 billion annually abroad, an amount larger than our annual budget allocation for higher education. These resources should be better used for improving the higher education infrastructure in India.

(iii) **Foreign Students In India:** Sudden lockdown and its repeated prolongations has caused serious difficulties for foreign students in India. They also had to vacate their hostels and had no place to go. Even the growing ethnic biases in India have hurt many foreign students. They need immediate help. If our systems are not improved to respond to the specific needs of these students, India's vision to develop as a global hub for higher education could suffer.

(iv) **Diaspora Business May Suffer:** The hotel and motel industry, which has a majority share of Indian community, will suffer very serious losses. These wide spread losses would hurt the prosperity of the PIOs. Other related vulnerable sectors are: restaurants, general services, small retail, which would also harm the community interests. On the other hand, Industry 4.0, especially health care will need more Indian experts. We need to pay attention to the future demand for skills and impart them with focus and quality. This will add value to the Indian work force as also their resilience to such shocks.

(v) **China-Vs-India- Handling Political Sensitivities:** The current state of anger against China can open new opportunities for India for diverting FDI as well as some crucial supply chain components. However, it would need immediate steps for making a real ground level improvement in the ease of doing business- infrastructure, enabling legal regime, taxation and skills. The opportunity is real but not necessarily easy.

(vi) **Greater Opportunities for Capturing Key Global Supply Chains:** Covid has exposed the vulnerability of over-dependence on China centric supply chains even in essential sectors. The US is seriously looking for more reliable alternatives where India could be a good candidate. Greater opportunities lie in sectors like IT services and health care. However, we need to prepare an attractive ground to convince the investor of our quality, capacity and reliability. Money does not always follow emotions.

(vii) **Remote Working Culture May Benefit India:** While physical relocation of Indian experts to the US may face growing visa and work restrictions, India would continue to be a preferred partner for remote work practices. India already has a long and happy experience of supporting BPO systems and this strength could be expanded to other services, including higher education and health care. We need to develop new business models based on remote working. Sooner we carry out this transformations better prepared we shall be to capture these opportunities.

(viii) **Sustainability and AYUSH:** Post Covid society may seek greater sustainability in development and India has a moral advantage in this regard. We should keep our lead, including the underlying strengths of Indian philosophy of respecting the nature and environment. It may also open space for AYUSH practices.

(ix) **Greater Cooperation In Spite Of Visa Restrictions:** Anti-foreign workers sentiment would surely grow at least in the medium term and visa restrictions would tighten. If the restrictions continue for too long, it may damage the US image as the so called "promised land". However, this may not mean dilution of partnerships and cooperation.

This will demand new work culture through digital connectivity. In a way, it would be more effective in reducing the sources of emotional resistance of hyper nationalism- working together without necessarily stepping on each others' toes. We need to facilitate this transformation in the least disruptive manner.

(x) **Consular Problems:** Lockdowns and flight disruptions have caused massive problems for many by way of expiring visas, job losses, OCI restrictions, lack of enough capacity for evacuation, dependent visa restrictions. The Indian Missions and Posts are doing their best to help but in many cases they also depend on Delhi for decisions. GOI needs to set up a single window for quickly resolving these issues in real time, including counseling. This could be done through an online platform.

Mr Shyam Parande, Secretary General, ARSP summed up: Indian diaspora in the US will be very seriously impacted through a range of channels- visa restrictions, business bankruptcies, job losses, anti-foreigner sentiments. However, the post Covid world will also open new opportunities by way of reforms in the Indian education system for emerging as a global hub for higher education; attracting higher FDI and greater role in global supply chains; front role in the Industry 4.0 technologies, further building on advantage of remote work culture; lead role in SDGs etc. However, these advantages would not accrue in absence of an effective enabling environment. We need to stay ahead and not wait for the situation to fully resolve, as by then most players would have already positioned themselves for hedging risks and staying in a state of readiness.

The webinar ended with vote of thanks.

**Antar-Rashtriya Sahayog Parishad Diaspora Research and Resource Centre
New Delhi**

Virtual Conference

Impact of Covid-19 on the Indenture Route Countries

Saturday, 6 June, 2020

OUTCOMES REPORT

Diaspora Research and Resource Centre (DRRC), established at the Antar-Rashtriya Sahayog Parishad (ARSP), New Delhi, organised a virtual international conference on the topic, "Impact of Covid 19 on the Indenture Route Countries" on 6 June, 2020. This was a part of a series of such conferences being organized for various regions with significant presence of Indian Diaspora. Sessions on Gulf region and US have already been organized. Several important outcomes came out during the last two conferences. These reports have been shared with concerned authorities for consideration. The recommendations were appreciated for being precise and practical. Many similar issues are already under action and many more are worth a close follow up. These are encouraging developments.

The session on the indenture route countries will be followed by two more sessions on Africa and South East Asia respectively.

At the current session, there were nine experts from Mauritius, Reunion, South Africa, Trinidad and Tobago and Guyana, with an equal number of experts from various Indian institutions dealing with diaspora matters representing a whole range of sectors-policy makers, business, technology, banking and financial services, judiciary, education, media and culture.

Amb Anup Mudgal, Chairperson, DRRC briefed the participants about the objectives of these conferences. The ARSP with its experience of dealing with diaspora matters for over forty years considers this as a duty to make a fact based assessment of the impact of this unprecedented crisis on diaspora and identify possible mitigation measures to soften its adversity to the extent possible, including through the available bilateral mechanisms.

Amb. Virendra Gupta, President, ARSP recounted the community work done by Indian diaspora which has added credibility to their values. They are the first one to help during the time of crisis. He stressed that Indian diaspora remains attached to their cultural values which believes in humanity. He also laid out a detailed assessment of the possible impact of Covid, which needs careful planning for an effective road map to emerge from this crisis and to limit the damage through fast and smooth recovery.

Each expert covered the expected impact of Covid on their respective countries, as also the measures adopted by their countries to mitigate the gravity of the pandemic's adversity. The presentations touched upon socio-economic implications and the need for support both through internal measures and external cooperation, including through bilateral mechanisms. The presentations were followed by an extensive discussion and the following conclusions emerged, including actionable outcomes.

a) Epidemic relatively mild: all the participants felt that thanks to various factors, including the mitigation measures adopted by their governments, the health impact of the pandemic has been relatively mild, especially by way of mortality. Most of the Girmitia countries being islands, are more vulnerable. Therefore, timely action by the authorities was essential to stop the virus at the entry level and within the containment zones. Most of these countries have been quite successful in controlling the spread so far, though, there is no scope for lowering their guard to avoid subsequent waves.

b) The economic impact would be much more serious: As all these countries are heavily globalised, their economies are likely to suffer heavy losses because of the disruptions to tourism, financial services and supply chains. In spite of significant economic packages announced by their respective governments, all of them fear major dampening of economic activity and loss of jobs.

c) Covid has impacted the poorer people harder: As is the case globally, there is a direct relationship between poverty and severity of Covid's impact. Poorer populations are more prone to infections, lack of access to health care and mortality. This applies to Indian origin communities in many Girmitia countries as well. The pandemic could also become a reason for denial of basic rights for minority PIO communities.

d) Post Covid situation would need major and large scale retooling of their working: All of them felt that in the post Covid period, their economies and societies would need major readjustment by way of skills, technology, capacities and behaviour. They are

concerned about the growing anti-globalisation tendencies. Any barriers to movement of people or materials would need to be compensated by greater digital connectivity. They would also need to rework their product lines to adapt to any changes to the existing supply chains. These may need new skills, technologies and management capabilities.

e)India could help: India already has a very strong development partnership programme for other developing countries, including G7 countries. These mechanisms might need further strengthening and expansion to meet new challenges. It would be useful to have a joint mechanism to identify the needs of these societies and specific Indian capabilities for effective and quick match making. New opportunities may arise in such areas as: health care (materials and training); AYUSH, ITES, Agriculture (technology and practices), Higher education. They also appreciated immediate Indian support to their countries by way of essential medicines and other supplies.

f)Diaspora Strategy 2020: An interesting idea that emerged at the conference was the need to set up some mechanism to develop a new strategy for engaging the diaspora more effectively by integrating more contemporary needs, priorities and challenges with more effective solutions. Covid has created unprecedented situation for everyone and it is nearly impossible to precisely foresee its impact on diaspora. Therefore, the situation would need careful and closer monitoring and to be ready with necessary tools to adapt to the new situation.

Mr Shyam Parande, Secretary General, ARSP summed up the webinar very adequately with these words: Indian society is a benevolent community which helps others in the times of distress. Indians believe in the ideology of 'Vasudhaiva kutumbakam'. He also emphasized on the ARSP's overwhelming sense of association with g7 countries. He stated that while the challenges of the pandemic are grave, we could surely take measures to mitigate their impact. There are also some opportunities like in the field of agriculture which we can take advantage of. However, much will depend on the quality and speed of such measures.

The webinar ends with a vote of thanks.

China Face off: time to reinvent India China Ties

Stressing that it is time to reinvent India China Ties, former Foreign Secretary Amb. Shashank said that India needs to have a long term vision to respond to China which is aggressively working on becoming the largest economy and most powerful nation by 2050.

He was speaking in the virtual conference on the current India China standoff organised jointly by ARSP and Bhartiya Vitta Salahakar Samiti (BVSS), an organization of financial experts & Chartered Accountants, on 25 June 2020.

Amb Virendra Gupta, ARSP president and former DDG of IDSA, dismissed the scepticism expressed by some 'China Experts' that India will not be able to contain China. He said that China is behaving like an 'adversary' and India needs to adopt a sustained assertive approach towards China. India should also effectively use the non-military leverages available with it.

Both the experts were of the view that India, being a large country with trained manpower, has the potential to replace China. Countries like Japan, South Korea, Taiwan,

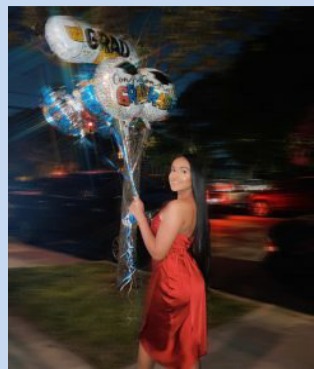
Singapore and Israel will be more comfortable working with India. The current global sentiment against China provides an opportunity and India can offer itself as an alternate manufacturing hub but India will need to act fast on addressing concerns of foreign investors on issues like land acquisition, taxation and procedural delays.

Following important points emerged during the panel discussion-

- China has generally regarded India's cooperation and friendly gestures as her weakness
- China has frequently taken steps against India's interests. To illustrate a few-
 - a. BRI going through POK, despite India's objections
 - b. India's appeal for action on Masood Azhar was constantly thwarted by China's opposition in the security council
 - c. China blocked entry of India in the Nuclear Supply Group
 - d. China opposed India's entry as permanent member in UNSC
 - e. Frequent skirmishes and border aggressions on Line of Actual Control.
 - f. China's clandestine role in development of nuclear weapons by Pakistan.
 - g. Exporting Chinese goods through Hong Kong route by manipulating rules of origin
 - h. Propaganda warfare by instigating neighbours against India.
- The adverse Balance of Trade, currently around 50 billion USD, needs to be checked by using legitimate means including tariff and non tariff barriers like-
 - a. Enforcing strict Quality controls for imports from China
 - b. Levy of Anti-dumping duty wherever applicable
 - c. Exhaustive examination of import cargo from China.
- Promoting manufacturing Industry by :
 - a. land reforms, low interest rates, easier tax regime, labour and judicial reforms.
 - b. Collaboration with other Asian powers and promoting regional cooperation.
- Need to instil confidence in foreign investors by ensuring that change of Government at Centre or State does not affect the agreements already concluded with foreign investors. The case of Japanese Bullet Train project was highlighted which was shelved by the new state government in Maharashtra.
- We need to change our Mindset and be confident. This is not 1962 and today we are a nuclear power. We are much stronger and major world powers support and respect our perspective.
- During the deliberations, Amb Shashank gave very interesting account of events and developments during initial decades following Indian independence which set the stage for disintegration of USSR and rise of China. He also hinted at the lapses of Indian leadership during 50's and 60's.
- A reference was also made to the millennia old cultural relations between India and China including Visit of Chinese scholars to India for education, Spread of Buddhism, The Silk Route etc.

The panel discussion was moderated by senior journalist N C Bipindra. ARSP Secretary Prof. Gopal Arora introduced the panellists. BVSS President CA Rohit Vaswani welcomed the panellists and participants. Viewers questions were addressed by the panellists. Adv. Puneet Agrawal of BVSS presented the formal vote of thanks. The conference was streamed live on YouTube and Facebook. More than 1300 viewers participated online in the conference which included senior diplomats, Army men, journalists and scholars

Teen of Guyanese parentage accepted to 30 US colleges



Saniya Gajadhar was accepted by thirty colleges across the United States

A 17-year-old Saniya Gajadhar, a New Yorker born to Guyanese parents, was accepted by several top schools in the United States including University of Michigan, University of Kansas, Michigan State University, Arizona State University, Pennsylvania University and Syracuse University, and St. John's University.

She is the proud daughter of Christina Ramrattan and Roopnarine Gajadhar and has been born and brought up in a joint family comprising her grandparents, Rajindrah and Vadewattie Ramrattan, who were the first to achieve the American dream. "I think, it's a cultural thing because most kids at school only live with their parents. As a kid, I never understood this but I wouldn't have it any other way," she said. "My maternal grandfather was born in Fyrish Village (Corentyne, Berbice) and came to this country with just little to his name. Together with my grandmother, he worked to establish a successful electrical contracting company," Gajadhar explained. Her family left Guyana long ago, but they remain close-knitted.



Saniya Gajadhar and members of the boys' basketball team

Gajadhar is already committed to studying at St. John's University, where she completed her High School from. She explained that the school is not just closer to her family, it also offers courses in sports management and business—two subjects for which she aims to have a career. “My dream is to become a sports lawyer or agent but I definitely want a career in sport management and I also want a law degree so that’s what I am aiming for,” she said. Gajadhar has worked with the boys’ basketball team at school that boosted her confidence and helped her decide on a career path early on. She also sees the need for more female representation in the sports industry. “I would advise other little girls, to follow their dreams no matter how big or small.” She said.

Harvard awards IAS officer who had scored 171 out of 170 in Macroeconomics last year wins Raymond Vernon Award



Ankur Garg, a 2002-batch IAS officer from the Arunachal Pradesh, Goa, Mizoram and Union Territories (AGMUT) cadre, and an Indian Institute of Technology (IIT)-Delhi alumnus, who had made headlines last year for scoring 171/170 in macroeconomics at Harvard University in the US, has now won the Raymond Vernon Award from the prestigious Ivy League university on finishing his graduation. The award is given to a graduating student for dedication to international development, good citizenship, academic excellence and strong potential to lead and contribute to the field. Another recipient of the

award is Homa Taheri. “It is special to me since it assessed the dedication to international development and the future potential to contribute to the field. But more importantly, it adds value because I was representing India at the top international university,” he said.

On 27 May, Arunachal Pradesh Chief Minister Pema Khandu congratulated Garg for the award, calling his work in the state “inspiration” for young officers.

Garg has got the award after a challenging period that saw the Covid-19 pandemic wreaking havoc on lives and livelihoods across the world, that he could do by making the most out of their online classes besides the constant stress of the Covid pandemic and uncertainty created anxiety.

Ankur Garg has been in the US for two years to study international development — an economics-oriented course that deals with advanced economic and financial models to solve contemporary problems in international development, including education, health and poverty alleviation, through examples of international best practices. “The lessons from this course will help develop better solutions to several social sector issues in India,” he said. “Learning from the best international practices and the latest technologies will be a significant value addition.”

Ankur Garg also held a record for being India’s youngest civil service entrance exam topper in 2002. His last assignment before he left for Harvard in 2018 was his stint as the private secretary to former civil aviation minister Suresh Prabhu. During his career, he has also held several important positions in Delhi, Arunachal Pradesh and Chandigarh. He has been recognised for successfully implementing a district-wide project to move farmers away from environmentally damaging ‘shifting cultivation’ to more sustainable ‘terrace cultivation’ during his tenure in Arunachal Pradesh’s Tirap district. He is also known to have brought in several information technology interventions to improve public services under an e-district project in his stint in south-west Delhi for digitising land records.

Nepal schools make Mandarin compulsory after China offers to pay teachers' salaries



A Chinese government's proposal of covering salaries of teachers in Nepal who teach Mandarin have prompted many private schools in the Himalayan nation to make it mandatory for students to learn the language, according to a media report. Many schools

across Nepal have made it mandatory for students to learn Chinese lured by the Chinese government's offer.

The move came at a time when the Chinese involvement in Nepal is surging, largely on the back of Beijing's ambitious Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), a project boycotted by India as it comprises the \$60 billion China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) being laid through the Pakistan-occupied Kashmir.

However, as per the guidelines laid down by the Curriculum Development Centre (CDC), a government body which designs school-level academic curriculum, schools in Nepal are allowed to teach foreign languages, but they cannot make those subjects mandatory for students.

The schools were aware of the provision, but they overlooked it as they are getting Mandarin teachers for free, a media report said. Also, as per the CDC rules, schools are not allowed to teach any foreign language within school hours, but none of the schools has obliged despite being aware of the provision, it said.

Philanthropists Making Donations to Help During Pandemic; Sewa Hits \$1 Million Fundraising Mark



The City of La Palma, in Orange County, posted this image on Facebook thanking HSS and Sewa International. (photo provided)

ARTESIA, Calif. – Sewa International and the Hindu Swayamsevak Sangh have been working to provide support to the community at large during the pandemic, engaging in several humanitarian projects.

On June 1, during the city of La Palma's "Community Appreciation Week," the city acknowledged the support of the two groups, posting on its official Facebook handle, "We are recognizing organizations and individuals that have supported the La Palma community during these challenging times. Today's shout-out goes to Dr. Amit Desai and volunteers of Sewa International and Hindu Swayamsevak Sangh for donating 500 surgical and 250 KN95 masks. Thank you for your generosity in supporting the La Palma community!" The two

organizations said it was possible to do all this effectively because of the dedication of volunteers and generous donors.

In the latter category in Southern California, the organizations said, they count on the unwavering support of Indian Americans Avadesh and Uma Agarwal, who have pledged \$50,000 to support their humanitarian activities. Well-known philanthropist couple Bhikubhai and Pushpa Patel of the Tarsadia Foundation have pledged \$25,000 for activities in the greater LA area. Pravin Patel, who recently spearheaded a huge grocery drive, continues to offer support financially. In related news from Houston, Texas, Sewa International's COO and vice president Arun Kankani announced June 7 that the organization had crossed the \$1 million mark in fundraising over the past 10 weeks since Sewa International took on the challenge to battle the pandemic.

In their ongoing effort to help support communities across the country during this unprecedented pandemic, Sewa International has distributed more than 625,000 masks, 63,000 hot meals and food kits, donated more than \$100,000 to food pantries, and engaged and coordinated the work of more than 200 professionals including doctors, attorneys, financial and employment specialists to offer more than 90 webinars to provide expert guidance.

This work carried out through its 43 chapters in 198 cities across the country, with more than 3000 volunteers involved in various relief activities unremittingly, has made an impact across communities, said a press release. Nearly 1,000 Sewa volunteers are engaged in making homemade masks. Sewa International is also running 10 helplines in different metropolitan areas to provide non-medical advice and assistance. Sewa has also helped hundreds of stranded international students and travelers so far, coordinating the work with foreign consulates.

Forget English, go vernacular says Niti Aayog CEO to fintech firms



Forget English and go vernacular to expand your reach, Niti Aayog CEO Amitabh Kant advised financial technology (fintech) firms on Friday.

He said the fintech companies risk alienating audiences and losing steam if they ignore India's diverse set of languages and dialects while helping increase the coverage of formal financial services. "Vernacular is the way forward. Financial integration efforts will need to localise their offerings and allow for dialects and languages as opposed to delivering services only in English," Kant said while addressing a virtual summit organised by industry

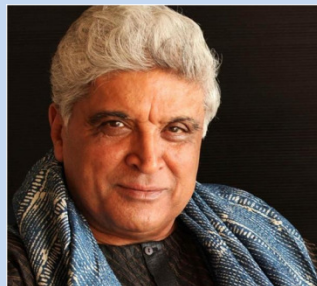
body CII. "Forget English and go vernacular," the career bureaucrat, who now heads the government's think-tank, added.

If the financial sector firms do not adopt vernacular languages, all the previous efforts risk losing steam as people will get "alienated", he warned.

He further said India has taken long strides on the financial inclusion front since 2011 by increasing the number of citizens who have bank accounts to 80 per cent now from 36 per cent. Kant said in the aftermath of the COVID-19 outbreak, while India has been able to send money to targeted segments through the direct benefit transfer scheme, countries like the US are struggling with the task.

He said the 39 crore zero balance, no-frills Jan Dhan accounts have average balance of Rs 3,400 at present. There is a need to go beyond account opening and savings products, and look at micro lending and micro insurance as well, he said. On the capital markets side, he blamed the concentration of marketing activities in the cities for rural markets missing out. "Capital market participation is low because of lack of awareness... in India. Most investor camps are concentrated in urban areas whereas rural participation is necessary in order to democratise capital markets," he said. He reiterated the importance of vernacular languages in making it possible for more people to access capital markets. Kant also said India has a target to take digital payment transactions to 1 billion a day from the present rate of 3 billion a month.

Lyricist Javed Akhtar became the first Indian to receive Richard Dawkins Award 2020



Popular writer-lyricist Javed Akhtar is honoured to receive the Richard Dawkins Award 2020. The award has been presented since 2003 and is named after English evolutionary biologist Richard Dawkins.

Akhtar received the honour for critical thinking, holding religious dogma upto scrutiny, advancing human progress and humanist values. The citation states that recipient will be a distinguished individual from the worlds of science, scholarship, education or entertainment, who publicly proclaims the values of secularism and rationalism, upholding scientific truth wherever it may lead.

"I am deeply honoured to receive the Richard Dawkins Award 2020. I have admired Richard Dawkins ever since I read his first book 'The Selfish Gene'. I have since then read

every book of his and “The God Delusion’ is my absolute favourite,” said Akhtar. “To have my name included in the distinguished list of the previous recipients such as Bill Maher and Christopher Hitchens is the fulfilment of a dream I had not even seen,” he added.

Every year, the award recognises a distinguished individual from the field of science, scholarship, education, or entertainment, who publicly proclaims the values of secularism and rationalism and upholding scientific truth.

Indian-American aerospace expert Vivek Lall appointed General Atomics Chief Executive



Vivek Lall, a prominent Indian-American aerospace and defence expert who played key roles in some of the major defence deals between India and the US, has been appointed as the Chief Executive of General Atomics Global Corporation at its headquarters in San Diego, California.

For the Jakarta-born, Lall, this is his second stint with General Atomics, which produces a series of unmanned aircraft and provides electro-optical, radar, signals intelligence, and automated airborne surveillance systems.

In his capacity as Chief Executive of Strategic Development at General Atomics from 2014 to 2018, Lall played key role in the decision of the Trump Administration to sell category 1 unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) to India, a non-NATO country. For over a decade now, Lall has been instrumental in major bilateral defense deals worth around USD 18 billion. This includes the procurement of 24 MH-60R Multi-Role Helicopters from Lockheed Martin for the Indian Navy worth USD 2.6 billion, which was announced during the India visit of President Donald Trump in February.

He was appointed to the US Federal Aviation Advisory Committee two years ago and has overseen multiple campaigns as well as pan India strategic industrial tie-ups.

10-year-old Indian-origin girl scout honoured by Trump for donations to COVID-19 frontline workers



A 10-year-old Indian-American girl scout was honoured, along with two others, by US President Donald Trump on 17 May Friday for their efforts to help people on the frontlines of the battle against COVID-19.

At a ceremony at the White House Rose Garden to honour coronavirus crisis heroes, **Sravya Annappareddy**, along with Laila Khan and Lauren Matney, from Troop 744 based out of Elkridge, Maryland, were lauded for their donation of 100 boxes of Girl Scouts cookies to local firefighters, doctors and nurses.

The honour for Annappareddy, a Telugu girl born in the US, drew praise from Indian Vice-President Venkaiah Naidu as well who tweeted, “Happy that her parents raised her with Indian values epitomising the age-old philosophy of Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam.”

OBITUARY

Former ARSP Vice President Ajay Singh Passes Away



Ajay Singh
(15 August, 1950- 09 June, 2020)

Former Union Minister, Kisan Leader, Diplomat, Journalist and ex Vice President of ARSP Ajay Singh passed away, after a brief illness, in Gurugram on 9 June 2020. He was 70.

Coming from an illustrious family, Ajay Singh was the son of Captain Bhagwan Singh, ex Army man and a senior civil servant. Both, the father and son, had the rare distinction of serving as the Indian High Commissioner to Fiji. Captain Bhagwan Singh was ARSP President during 1982 to 1990 and Shri Ajay Singh was ARSP Vice President during 2010 to 2014.

The family had strong roots in Fiji. Ram Chandar, the great grandfather of Ajay Singh, was a Girmitya (indentured worker) who had migrated to Fiji with his wife in 1885. After serving his Girmitya Ram Chandar was appointed a jail warden at the Korovou Goal in Fiji. Bere Singh, the grandfather of Ajay Singh worked as a civil servant in Fiji for 17 years. His intimate relations with Fijian leadership and indepth understanding of political & social fabric of Fiji connected ARSP to Fiji in a better way.

He was married to Shiromani Tiwari Singh, an Indo Fijian who was the daughter of Shreedhar and Sumitra Maharaj of Fiji. His sister Shubha Singh is a renowned columnist and author.

The political career of Ajay Singh started as a member of UP Legislative Council. He was elected as Member of Parliament in 1989 and rose to become a Union Minister.

In Ajay Singh, we have lost a statesman who was very compassionate and a great human being. ARSP pays its respectful tributes to the noble soul.

Diplomatic Postings

Shri Santosh Jha (IFS: 1993), presently Ambassador of India to the Republic of Uzbekistan has been appointed as the **next Ambassador of India to the Kingdom of Belgium. He will also be accredited as Ambassador of India to the European Union.**

Shri Shambhu S. Kumaran (IFS: 1995), presently Ambassador of India to the Kingdom of Morocco, has been appointed as the **next Ambassador of India to the Republic of Philippines.**

Ms. Monika Kapil Mohta (IFS: 1985), presently Ambassador of India to Sweden, has been appointed as the **next Ambassador of India to Switzerland.**

Shri Rahul Shrivastava (IFS: 1999), presently Joint Secretary in the Ministry, has been appointed as the **next Ambassador of India to Romania.**

Shri Sushil Kumar Singhal, presently Joint Secretary in the Ministry, has been appointed as the **next High Commissioner of India to the Independent State of Papua New Guinea.**

Shri Raveesh Kumar (IFS: 1995), presently Joint Secretary in the Ministry, has been appointed as the **next Ambassador of India to Finland.**

Ms. Gaitri I. Kumar (IFS: 1986), presently Ambassador of India to the Kingdom of Belgium, the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg and the European Union has been appointed as the **next High Commissioner of India to the United Kingdom.**

Mr. Sibi George (IFS: 1993), presently Ambassador of India to Switzerland, has been appointed as the **next Ambassador of India to the State of Kuwait**.

Ms. Pratibha Parkar (IFS: 2000), presently Consul General of India in Frankfurt, has been appointed as the **next Ambassador of India to the Republic of Angola**.

Shri Periasamy Kumaran (IFS: 1992), presently Ambassador of India to Qatar, has been appointed as the **next High Commissioner of India to the Republic of Singapore**.

Bhutan News



On the auspicious occasion of the Birth Anniversary of Guru Rinpoche (TreldeTsechu), His Royal Highness the Second Gyalsey to His Majesty The King and Her Majesty The Gyaltsuen has been named JigmeUgyenWangchuck.

His Royal Highness will be referred to as GyalseyUgyenWangchuck.

His Majesty The King and Her Majesty The Gyaltsuen graced the TreldeTsechu prayer ceremony at ThimphuTashichodzong, and offered prayers along with Their Royal Highnesses Gyalsey Jigme Namgyel and Gyalsey UgyenWangchuck.

The Trelde Tsechu prayers are performed annually for the benefit of all sentient beings.

Led by the Prime Minister, representatives of the Dratshang, Government and Armed Forces offered Mendrel Ku Sung Thukten to His Royal Highness the Gyalsey on behalf of the people of Bhutan.

Prime Minister Dr.LotayTshering's Message on the International Day of Yoga

Wishing Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the people of India on the International Day of Yoga, Lyonchhen Dr LotayTshering said it was rejuvenating to pause and celebrate a day that expounded meaning of emotional, mental and physical wellbeing during the pandemic.

In response to the letter received from the Indian prime minister on the significance of the day, Lyonchhen said it was even more heart-warming to receive correspondence from the person who actually designed and propagated the meaningful day. "This personal initiative of Your Excellency, the idea of yoga that transcended beyond India to the rest of the world under your leadership, purports more significance today than ever before," Lyonchhen said.

He said the world is in anticipation of a vaccine that will respond to this disease, in order to move on with life. But for persons who are into yoga and healthy living, that would be the last thought on their minds.

He said as a medical professional as well as a fitness enthusiast, he was consoled in the fact that the pandemic has reiterated importance of public health and personal immunity. "And we have days such as this that reinforce our efforts," he said.

On behalf of the people of Bhutan, Lyonchhen offered sincere prayers for the peace and happiness of the people of India and beyond.

Picture Stories :-



17 June 2020: His Majesty The King graced the closing ceremony of the third session of the Third Parliament of Bhutan. The conclusion of the third session of Parliament, which was scheduled on March 6, was postponed with the report of the first case of COVID-19 in the country. The Session resumed on June 1.

Days to Remember in July, 2020

July 01	:	Canada Day (National Day of Canada)
July 04	:	Purnima
July 04	:	U.S.A. : National Day
July 05	:	Venezuela : National Day
July 11	:	Mongolia : National Day
July 11	:	World Population Day
July 14	:	France : National Day
July 20	:	Amavasya
July 21	:	Belgium : National Day
July 26	:	Maldives : Independence Day

शांति की दरकार दोनों को है



शशांक, पूर्व विदेश सचिव
अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय सहयोग परिषद के पूर्व अध्यक्ष

यह बेहद अफसोस की बात है कि लद्दाख में वास्तविक नियंत्रण रेखा (एलएसी) पर पीपुल्स लिबरेशन आर्मी (चीन की सेना) की शर्मनाक हरकत में कमांडिंग अफसर सहित हमारे तीन जवान शहीद हो गए। दशकों बाद एलएसी पर ऐसी जानलेवा झड़प हुई है। हाल के वर्षों में दोनों देशों के फौजी सीमा पर धक्का-मुक्की या मारपीट ही करते रहे हैं, क्योंकि उन्हें हथियार न

चलाने के निर्देश मिले हुए हैं। भारत और चीन के द्विपक्षीय समझौतों के प्रावधान भी यही हैं कि दोनों देशों के बीच बातचीत का रास्ता हमेशा खुला रहेगा और हिंसक घटनाओं पर लगाम लगाई जाएगी। मगर पिछले कुछ दिनों से लद्दाख में चीनी सेना की तरफ से हिंसक घटनाओं में तेजी आ रही थी। सोमवार-मंगलवार रात की यह घटना उसी हिंसा की अगली कड़ी है।

सवाल यह है कि हमें चीन के सैनिकों के अतिक्रमण से पीछे हटने और सीमा पर झड़प खत्म होने की गलतफहमी कैसे हो गई? साफ है, ताजा झड़पों को संभालने के निर्देश सैनिकों को अभी तक नहीं मिले हैं। पहले चीन के सैनिक कुछ मीटर तक घुसपैठ किया करते थे, लेकिन अब वे कुछ किलोमीटर तक ऐसा करने लगे हैं। इसकी बड़ी वजह यही है कि मैकमोहन रेखा पर दोनों देशों की अब तक सहमति नहीं बन सकी है। तिब्बत और अरुणाचल प्रदेश के बीच बीजिंग इसे नहीं मानता, जबकि अक्सार्ड चीन को हम अपना हिस्सा मानते हैं। फिर भी, द्विपक्षीय समझौतों के तहत सैनिक सीमा पर हर हाल में शांति बनाकर रखते रहे हैं। भारत और चीन के शीर्ष नेतृत्व यह मानते हैं कि एशिया में दोनों देशों के उभरने की पूरी संभावना है, इसलिए तनातनी से बेहतर है, आपसी रिश्तों को मधुर बनाना। लिहाजा इस जानलेवा टकराव पर चिंता करने के साथ-साथ हमें चिंतन भी करना चाहिए।

चीन की इस नई रणनीति के पीछे कई कारण हो सकते हैं, लेकिन सभी के तार कहीं न कहीं कोरोना वायरस से जुड़े दिखते हैं। दरअसल, महामारी ने चीन की प्रतिष्ठा को काफी चोट पहुंचाई है। एक तरफ पश्चिमी देश कोरोना को 'वुहान वायरस' कहने लगे हैं, तो दूसरी तरफ उन राष्ट्रों ने चीन से राहत-पैकेज की मांग की है, जहां 'बेल्ट रोड इनीशिएटिव' के तहत विभिन्न परियोजनाओं पर काम चल रहा है। ऐसा इसलिए, क्योंकि उन देशों में कोरोना संक्रमण से जान-माल का अपेक्षाकृत अधिक नुकसान हुआ है। नतीजतन, उन देशों पर चीन का कर्ज बढ़ता चला गया है, और अब वे मुआवजे के लिए चीन पर दबाव बना रहे हैं। चूंकि विश्व स्वास्थ्य संगठन के कार्यकारी बोर्ड (जिसके मुखिया भारत के स्वास्थ्य मंत्री हैं) ने कोरोना वायरस के जन्म का सच जानने के लिए स्वतंत्र जांच कमेटी बनाई है, इसलिए चीन सीमा-विवाद को हवा देकर भारत पर दबाव बनाने की कोशिश कर रहा है। इसी रणनीति के तहत उसने पाकिस्तान को लगातार उकसाने का काम किया है और इन दिनों नेपाल के नेताओं को अपनी तरफ मिलाने की जुगत में है।

सवाल यह है कि अब हम क्या करें? 1962 की गलतियों का एक सबक यह है कि हम चीन को उसी की भाषा में जवाब दें। हमारे सैनिकों ने लद्दाख की घटना के बाद ऐसा किया भी है। खबर है कि चीन के पांच सैनिक इस झड़प में मारे गए हैं। लेकिन अभी सैन्य टकराव की ओर बढ़ना किसी के लिए भी सुखद नहीं है। अपनी-अपनी क्षमता बढ़ाने की कोशिशें सभी राष्ट्रों की रणनीति का हिस्सा होती हैं। भारत और चीन भी ऐसा करते रहे हैं। भारत की बढ़ती हैसियत के कारण ही चीन ने हमसे कई तरह के तार जोड़े हैं। फिर चाहे वह रूस के साथ मिलकर त्रिपक्षीय गुट आरआईसी (रूस, भारत और चीन) बनाना हो, या शंघाई सहयोग संगठन में भारत को शामिल करना, या फिर ब्रिक्स (ब्राजील, रूस, भारत, चीन और दक्षिण अफ्रीका का संगठन) को मूर्त रूप देना। इसलिए अभी भी हमें अपनी क्षमता बढ़ाने पर ही ध्यान देना चाहिए। वास्तविक नियंत्रण रेखा के आसपास बुनियादी ढांचे का जो निर्माण-कार्य चल रहा है, उसे जारी रखना होगा। जरूरत अपनी सैन्य ताकत बढ़ाने की भी है।

चीन इसलिए भी नाराज है, क्योंकि भारत और अमेरिका हाल के वर्षों में काफी करीब आए हैं। बीजिंग को लगता है कि उसके आंतरिक उथल-पुथल और मौजूदा वैश्विक परिस्थितियों का

भारत फायदा उठाना चाहता है। हमें उसका यह भ्रम दूर करना होगा। उसे यह एहसास दिलाना होगा कि अमेरिका या अन्य देशों से बेहतर संबंध हमारी जरूरत हैं। अपनी ताकत का बेजा इस्तेमाल न करना भारत की बुनियादी रणनीति रही है, और आगे भी वह इसी नीति पर अमल करता रहेगा। मगर इसके साथ-साथ हमारी अन्य जरूरतें भी हैं। एशिया में आतंकवाद का अंत भी ऐसा ही एक काम है। चीन ने कभी मध्य-पूर्व और अफगानिस्तान के आतंकी गुटों से हाथ मिलाकर एशियाई देशों को अस्थिर करने की कोशिश की थी। आज भी वह पाकिस्तान को शह देता रहता है। इसलिए यह लाजिमी है कि हम अपनी ताकत इतनी बढ़ा लें कि चीन की ऐसी हरकतों का मुंहतोड़ जवाब दे सकें या फिर वह ऐसा कोई कदम उठाने की सोच भी न सके।

श्याम सरन कमेटी ने बताया था कि चीन कई सौ किलोमीटर तक हमारी सीमा में दाखिल हो चुका है। साफ है, शांतिप्रियता को उसने हमारी कमजोरी समझा है, जिसका एक परिणाम 1962 का युद्ध भी है। लेकिन आज का भारत उस दौर से काफी आगे निकल चुका है। हिंसक झड़प होने के बाद भी हमारी मंशा उन समझौतों पर कायम रहने की है, जो द्विपक्षीय या बहुपक्षीय हुए हैं। राजनीतिक और कूटनीतिक तरीके से ही हम ऐसा कर सकेंगे। चीन को यह समझाना होगा कि सीमा पर शांति दोनों देशों के हित में है। भारत और चीन एशिया की दो बड़ी ताकतें हैं, इसलिए अगर वे आपस में उलझेंगी, तो इससे पूरे महाद्वीप में अस्थिरता फैलेगी और इसका नुकसान जाहिर तौर पर दोनों देशों को होगा।

(ये लेखक के अपने विचार हैं)

(साभार – दैनिक हिन्दुस्तान, 17 जून, 2020)

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