

ANTAR RASHTRIYA SAHAYOG PARISHAD BULLETIN

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(16 Pages including Cover)

CONCLUDING CEREMONY OF LATE SHRI BALESHWAR AGRAWAL BIRTH CENTENARY PROGRAMME

Dr Ruchi Verma
Research Fellow
DRRC – ARSP



Antar Rashtriya Sahayog Parishad (ARSP) commemorated the two year long celebrations of the birth centenary of its founding Secretary General Shri Baleshwar Agrawal ji and organised a grand concluding ceremony on 5th August 2022 at the Auditorium of Nehru Memorial Museum and Library, Teen Murti Marg, New Delhi. This event has been organised in collaboration with Hindusthan Samachar and Prabhat Prakshan. More than 200 dignitaries, eminent scholars, journalists, ARSP members participated in this event. Several Delhi based diplomats also attended the event. Prominent among them were- H.E Ambassador Major General Vetsop Namgyel, Embassy of Bhutan, H.E. Ambassador Dr Shankar Prasad Sharma, Embassy of Nepal and Shri Nilesh Kumar, Counsellor, Fiji High Commission.

Shri Baleshwar Agrawal ji was a visionary. ARSP's primary vision for the outreach to the Indian diaspora

community was provided by him. Baleshwar ji linked diaspora with India during the times when the narratives, dimensions and policies were against it. He was a member of the High Level Committee on Indian Diaspora, whose recommendations paved the way for formulation of India's policies towards its diaspora and the hosting of the flagship Pravasi Bharatiya Divas. Baleshwar ji also played a pivotal role in bringing out several programmes like Know Your Roots, Know India Programme to maintain the contacts between PIO's and Indians. He continued to pursue these goals passionately till his demise in 2013.

The program commenced with floral tributes to Late Shri Baleshwar Agrawal ji and a vocal rendition of Saraswati Vandana. The programme was chaired by Amb. Virendra Gupta, President, ARSP and moderated by Prof. Gopal Arora, Secretary, ARSP.

Prof. Arora paid his rich tribute to

Baleshwar ji and also read out the excerpts from the messages send by the eminent personalities paying their humble homage to Baleshwar ji. Prominent among them were- H.E. Mr Prithvirajsing Roopun GSCK, President of the Republic of Mauritius, H.E. Mr Chandrikapersad 'Chan' Santokhi, President, Republic of Suriname, H.E. Mr Irfaan Ali, President, The Co operative Republic of Guyana, Mrs Kamla Persad-Bissessar, Former Prime Minister & Present Leader of Opposition, Republic of Trinidad and Tobago, Shri Basdeo Panday, Former Prime Minister, Republic of Trinidad and Tobago and Mr Mahendra P. Chaudhry, Former Prime Minister of Fiji, Secretary General, Fiji Labour Party.

Shri Shyam Parande, Secretary General, ARSP, welcomed all and spoke about the two organisations having strong connection with Late Shri Baleshwar Agrawal ji - Hindusthan Samachar and ARSP.



'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam' and how he developed ARSP as an effective platform and interface with diverse groups of people in different countries. Amb. Gupta mentioned that Baleshwar ji was very passionately attached with diaspora. He made unparalleled contribution to attach diaspora with India and

Shri Parande also reflected on the saintly and humanitarian qualities of Baleshwar ji. He tirelessly worked towards the organization of Indian diaspora all around the world and tried to sensitize the world towards

India with diaspora during unfavourable times. Amb. Gupta also mentioned about the humanitarian efforts of Indian diaspora worldwide during the difficult time of covid.

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the diaspora and their problems.

Shri Arvind Mardikar, Chairman, Hindusthan Samachar, spoke about the Hindusthan Samachar, a multilingual news agency, established in 1948, with an aim to propagate the news in Indian native languages. He also spoke about the association of Baleshwar Agrawal ji with Hindusthan Samachar, who was the guiding spirit behind it. Amb. Virendra Gupta, President, ARSP, spoke about Shri Baleshwar Agrawal ji commitment to the spirit of

Shri Nand Kishore Garg, Senior Vice President, ARSP and Shri RPN Singh also paid high tribute to Shri Baleshwar ji. The vote of thanks was delivered by Shri Prabhat Kumar, Prabhat Prakashan who thanked the dignitaries, organisers, sponsors and the august audience.

The function ended with rendering of Vande Matram. High tea was served to all the guests and commemorative souvenir distributed to everyone present. ■



The President of the Republic of Mauritius

Message of H.E. Mr Prithvirajsing ROOPUN, G.C.S.K.

It is with immense pleasure that I extend my best wishes to the Antar Rashtriya Sahayog Parishad on the special occasion of the commemoration of the Birth Centenary of Shri Baleshwar Agrawal.

Baleshwar Ji is an acclaimed Goodwill Ambassador who devoted his whole life to the cause of Indian Diaspora. Founder of the Antar Rashtriya Sahayog Parishad and member of the High-Level Committee on Indian Diaspora, he was instrumental in the introduction of groundbreaking initiatives like the Pravasi Bhartiya Diwas, the PIO and OCI Card Scheme, among others.

Baleshwar Ji was a close friend of Mauritius where he has many well-wishers from all walks of life, especially those of Indian origin. He was also a personal friend of the former Prime Minister and former President of the Republic of Mauritius, late Sir Anerood Jugnauth. The latter being himself, the first recipient of the Pravasi Bharatiya Samman Award, in 2003. It is worth highlighting that the Pravasi Bhawan which was the cherished dream of Baleshwar ji was inaugurated by late Sir Anerood Jugnauth in December 2009.

The Republic of Mauritius pays a solemn tribute to Shri Baleshwar Agrawal and wish the Antar Rashtriya Sahayog Parishad greater success in its noble pursuits.

As an ardent believer of the philosophy of *vasudhaiva kutumbakam*, the Parishad has my unconditional support in its noble mission of promoting universal brotherhood and harmony.

Prithvirajsing Roopun, G.C. S. K
President of the Republic of Mauritius

REPUBLIC OF SURINAME



**STATEMENT OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF
SURINAME
H.E. CHANDRIKAPERSAD SANTOKHI
ON
THE OCCASION OF THE CONCLUDING CEREMONY OF THE
LATE SHRI BALESHWAR AGRAWAL'S BIRTH CENTENARY
PROGRAMME**

**My dear fellow Indians,
Members of Indian Diaspora,**

Namaskar,

On behalf of the Government of the Republic of Suriname and on my own behalf, I am honored to extend our sincere and warmest congratulations and well-wishes on the historic occasion of late Shri Baleshwar Agrawal Birth Centenary Year.

Suriname and India share a strong and friendly relationship. India is a strong pillar in our bilateral cooperation and is nurtured through a strong presence of Indian Diaspora.

Therefore, it is such a privilege to pay our tribute to the late Shri Baleshwar Agrawal. Mr. Agrawal was the founder secretary-general of Antar-Rashtriya Sahayog Parishad (Indian Council for International Cooperation).

He kept on working for the welfare of Indian Diaspora and was the guiding spirit for expanding strong Indian Diaspora around the world.

REPUBLIC OF SURINAME



Shri Baleshwar Agrawal was a man who infallibly implemented his vision with a passion. He will be remembered by generations as an icon of outstanding and dynamic social engineering in India.

His dedication and invaluable contribution to the country's sociopolitical fabric, journalistic works and the bond he created between India and its Diaspora cannot easily be duplicated.

The Indian Diaspora is the second largest diaspora in the world, and is counted among the most successful expat communities anywhere in the world.

Indian Diaspora's have emerged as a powerful entity since they are recognized as 'soft power' in the realm of foreign policy strategy and also as an agent or catalyst of economic development of countries of origin besides their active role in the host countries.

Today, they occupy high positions in the fields of politics, economy, industry, technology and education.

The Indian business people who are strengthening trade & economic partnerships. They are residing all across the world and are the true ambassadors of the great culture of their country. The success stories of our diaspora are countless.

We have to create a government-diaspora collaboration for cultural promotion abroad more effective, focused and self-sustaining, with a special emphasis on engaging with the youth. Let the diaspora take a greater ownership of the process.

Diaspora communities can make an enormous contribution to the development of their country of origin. They can fulfill a possible 'bridging function' in bilateral relations.

Finally, the Government and People of the Republic of Suriname profoundly wish to express their gratitude to the Government and People of the Republic of India on the commemoration of Shri Baleshwar Agrawal Ji and his contribution to the Indian Community.

Please accept, the assurances of my highest esteem and consideration.

CHANDRIKAPERSAD SANTOKHI,
PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF SURINAME

Paramaribo, 02 August, 2022



**Message of
His Excellency Dr Mohamed Irfaan All
President of the Co-operative Republic of Guyana
to the Indian Council for International Cooperation**

I am pleased that the Antar Rashtriya Sahayog Perished (ARSP), also known as the Indian Council for International Cooperation, is celebrating the birth centennial of Shri Baleshwar Agrawal. I wish to comment on the ARSP for honoring this outstanding humanitarian and advocate of international cooperation.

On behalf of the Government and people of the Co-operative Republic of Guyana, I join in paying recognition to Shri Baleshwar Agrawal and to herald his many accomplishments.

Shri Baleshwar Agrawal efforts have not gone unnoticed. We in Guyana remember fondly his untiring work in strengthening relations between India and its worldwide diaspora. As Secretary General of ARSP, Shri Baleshwar Agrawal trumpeted the concerns of the Indian Diaspora, including the descendants of Indian indentured immigrants. His advocacy for educational opportunities has become a pillar of cooperation between India and its diaspora.

I offer my sincere tribute to the memory of Shri Baleshwar Agrawal, and convey my country's greatest appreciation for his sterling efforts in the cause of international cooperation. I also extend my best wishes to the ARSP in its endeavours to recognize and acclaim the legacy of Shri Baleshwar and to strengthen ties between Guyana and India.

Mohamed Irfaan All
President of the Co-operative Republic of Guyana



FIJI LABOUR PARTY

Peace Freedom Justice Democracy

1 August 2022

Message to commemorate the birth centenary of Shri Baleshwar Agrawal

It is a privilege to pay homage to Shri Baleshwar Agrawal in this souvenir publication commemorating the centenary of his birth.

We in the Diaspora remember Shri Agrawal for his passionate vision and commitment to bridging the gap between India and its diaspora. He spent the best part of his public career fostering closer relations between the two.

I have had close and cordial relations with Shri Agrawal since he first visited Fiji on a fact-finding mission soon after the 1987 racist coups which deposed a legitimately elected government of which I was Finance Minister. Since then, he has paid several visits to Fiji to keep in touch with the diaspora here.

He is remembered as a friend, advocate and defender of the rights and well-being of Girmitya Pravasi Indians. Baleshwarji identified himself with their struggle for equality and recognition in their adopted homeland and effectively championed their cause with successive Governments of India.

As part of this mission, he played an influential role in the creation of a separate Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs and for the inauguration of the annual Pravasi Bharatiya Divas. He was the founder member and general secretary of the Antar-Rashtriya Sahayog Parishad (ARSP), is credited with influencing the establishment of GOPIO and the recognition given to overseas Indians through the issue of PIO cards. bequeathed

Shri Agrawal left us in May 2013 but the important legacy of his lifetime achievement in forging close relations between India and her Diaspora, lives on.

Mahendra Pal Chaudhry
Former Prime Minister - Fiji
Leader Fiji Labour Party
Suva

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My Dear Shri Gopal Arora,

My humblest apologies for not responding to your request earlier, the reason being that I had been in London for medical reasons, and I have just returned home.

Thank you for the great honour you have bestowed upon me by granting me the privilege of contributing on this auspicious occasion of the celebration of the late Shri Baleshwar Agrawal, founder of **AntarRasthriyaSahayogParishad-Bharat(ARSP)**, on the occasion of the 100th birth centenary of this indefatigable human being in his devotion to the welfare of Indians, not only in India but internationally.

It was a pleasure and privilege to have known and met such an inspiring man who I am happy and proud to have shared a long and cordial friendship. His lifelong dedication to national service will never be forgotten and his pivotal role and work in building a bridge between Mother India and the diaspora was invaluable.

As the grandson of Indians who were brought from India to Trinidad to work on the sugar plantations it was very important for us to maintain our cultural roots with its vast knowledge of the great literary works such as the Vedas, the Ramayan and the Bhagavad Gita.

Had it not been for the work and efforts of Shri Baleshwar Ji I would have lost my culture and would have known nothing of the awe-inspiring deeds of our ancestors. But even more important I would not have known of the Hanuman Chalisa which today I can recite from memory.

The importance of one's cultural identity cannot be underestimated. It helps to build your personal growth and well-being, and most importantly, helps us to connect with each other. In this light Shri Baleshwar, has excelled and achieved what many of us can only dream about.

It is my hope that the present and future members of the ARSP will continue the invaluable work and contributions made by the late Shri Baleshwar Agrawal with the same dedication, love and commitment he showed throughout his life.

Sincerely,
Dr. Basdeo Panday
Former Prime Minister of Trinidad and Tobago.



THE REPUBLIC OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO
LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION
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**GREETINGS FROM THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION, THE HONOURABLE
KAMLA PERSAD-BISSESSAR, SC, MP ON THE OCCASION OF THE CONCLUDING
CEREMONY OF THE LATE SHRI BALESHWAR AGRAWAL'S BIRTH CENTENARY
PROGRAMME**

It is my honour and privilege to bring greetings on the occasion of the concluding ceremony of the Late Shri Baleshwar Agrawal's Birth Centenary Programme.

Over the course of his life, Shri Baleshwar Agrawal played a pivotal role in expanding India's outreach to the diaspora around the world, including here in Trinidad and Tobago.

As Secretary General of Antar Rashtriya Sahayog Parishad (ARSP), and as a member of the High-Level Committee on Indian Diaspora, he was instrumental in essential initiatives like Pravasi Bharatiya Diwas, Know India Program, and Know your Roots programmes. Many young people in Trinidad and Tobago have benefitted from some of these programmes, strengthening our connection to our shared history and cultural traditions.

Baleshwar Ji demonstrated a commitment to service to his country and to his fellow man, seeking always to the relationship between the diaspora and the Motherland. He was also instrumental in building the 'Hindusthan Samachar', India's first multilingual news agency, and remains a strong influence and inspiration to many journalists in India to this day.

I am honoured to have known Shri Baleshwar Agrawal, and when I was Prime Minister of Trinidad and Tobago, I sought to advance the strong and productive relationship between our two countries.

Today, the descendants of the Indian migrants who came to our country one hundred and seventy-seven years ago are successful in every aspect of our society. We have much to be thankful for, and proud of. They have helped to build a nation-state rich in culture and proud of its diversity.

We look to persons like Shri Baleshwar Agrawal for inspiration to work together with strength, determination and resolve to build a bright future for our country.

Kamla Persad-Bissessar, SC, MP
Leader of the Opposition of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago
29th July 2022

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उप सभापति, राज्य सभा
Deputy Chairman, Rajya Sabha

18-07-2022

श्री श्याम परांडे जी

महासचिव, अंतर्राष्ट्रीय सहयोग परिषद

05 अगस्त 2022 को आयोजित होनेवाले बालेश्वर अग्रवाल जन्मशताब्दी समापन समारोह का आमंत्रण पत्र मिला। आमंत्रित करने के लिए सादर आभार।

श्रद्धेय बालेश्वर जी की यश, कीर्ति से हम सब परिचित हैं। प्रवासी विषयों पर उनका काम, उनके नाम और योगदान को हमेशा अमर रखेगा। प्रवासी भारतीय दिवस की शुरुआत करवाने में, दिल्ली में प्रवासी भवन बनवाने में उनकी भूमिका को हम सब जानते हैं।

बालेश्वर अग्रवालजी की स्मृति में होनेवाले आयोजन में शामिल होकर अच्छा लगता। पर, उस समय संसद का सत्र रहने के कारण संभव नहीं हो सकेगा। इसके लिए खेद है।

आयोजन की सफलता के लिए मेरी हार्दिक शुभकामनाएं।

eloy
(हरिवंश)

Book Discussion

“HARNESSING THE TRADE WINDS: THE STORY OF THE CENTURIES OLD INDIAN TRADE WITH EAST AFRICA, USING THE MONSOON WINDS”

Dr Ruchi Verma
Research Fellow
DRRC - ARSP



(L to R) Dr. Ruchi Verma, Prof. Gopal Arora, Shri Narayan Kumar, Amb. Skand Tayal, Amb. Virendra Gupta, Dr. Markandey Rai, Dr. Nivedita Ray and Ruchita Beri

The Diaspora Research and Resource Centre (DRRC) - Antar Rashtriya Sahayog Parishad (ARSP) organised a Book discussion on “Harnessing the Trade Winds: The Story of the Centuries Old Indian Trade with East Africa, using the Monsoon Winds” authored by Blanche Rocha D'Souza on 28th of July 2022. The event was chaired by Dr Markandey Rai, Chairperson, Foreign Affairs Committee (FAC)-ARSP. The book discussion followed with comments by a panel consisting of Ambassador Skand Ranjan Tayal, Former Diplomat and President, India-ROK Friendship Society, Dr Nivedita Ray, Director (Research), ICWA, Ms. Ruchita Beri, Senior Research Associate, MP-IDSA, and Dr Ruchi Verma, Research Fellow, DRRC-ARSP. Ambassador Virendra Gupta, President, ARSP, Shri Shyam Parande, Secretary General, ARSP, Shri Narayan Kumar, Hon. Director, ARSP also presented their views. Smt. Minu Agarwal, British National of Indian origin who has financially supported the reprinting of this important book in India has also graced the event with her presence and shared her views. Prof Gopal Arora, Secretary, ARSP moderated the session.

Shri Shyam Parande highlighted that there is a need for change in the discourse of historiography. Colonisers have written the history the way it has suited them. The time has come to deconstruct and to reconstruct history and this book is a way forward.

Ambassador Virendra Gupta began his presentation by stating that the book was well researched and has highlighted the connection of the Indian diaspora with Africa. He added that the western writers and the Arabs have often downplayed India's linkages with Africa. He argued that the book has been written with good intentions for the Indians in Africa. Also, about the Indian experience with the European colonisers and their actions against Indians. Amb Gupta highlighted that Indians not only contributed to trade between India and Africa but also contributed immensely towards the socio-economic development of Africa. He also commented that the present status of Indians in Africa is a tribute to the values that their forefathers instilled in them.

Ambassador Skand Ranjan Tayal began his presentation by stating that the book is an important contribution

on identifying the role of the Indian diaspora in Africa. Amb Tayal highlighted that people of the Indian sub-continent have often been poor chroniclers of history, leading to the loss of valuable history in time. He stated that the author points out that the Indian traders who went to East Africa were illiterate yet very skilful in mental maths and account keeping. He mentioned that the book has several pages of valuable references, including archival texts, books, official records and gazettes, memoirs, etc, thereby reflecting an arduous and patient work put in by the author. Amb Tayal underlined the fact that the author convincingly establishes that trade existed between the West Indian and East African coast for centuries. Indian merchants dominated the trade until the Europeans advent in the 17th century. The book also showcases how Zanzibar became a centre for the spice trade.

Amb Tayal also highlighted the harmonious relationship shared between the Indians and the Arab diaspora. Indian traders and financiers played a vital role in the rise of Zanzibar as a trade centre, but with the entry of Europeans into Zanzibar-

the role of Indians in trade and administration were gradually reduced. He also commented about the Indian indentured labourers brought to Africa by the European colonialists. Commenting about the politics, he talked about the formation of the first Indian political organisation in Africa i.e. the Mombassa Indian Association in 1900 and the East African Indian national congress in 1914, perhaps inspired by the Indian political movements. Amb Tayal also mentioned about the fuelling of rifts between Indians and Africans by the Europeans to meet their interests. Concluding his remarks, he opined that the book fills a significant gap and explains the role of the Indian diaspora in Africa in trade and other sectors. But further research is required to substantiate analysis undertaken by the author.

Dr Ruchi Verma in her presentation highlighted that this book is important as the author has brought into forefront the story of ancient Indian Trade ties with Eastern Africa that have existed for three millennia. This book is an attempt to kindle in the Indian diaspora a justifiable pride in the achievements of its fore bearers in East Africa. Indeed in African history, the contribution of Indian traders in African civilisation has not been given much importance; rather it appears to be negligible. Dr Verma also mentioned that this book challenges the narrative established by the Western and European writers that the Indians were also the exploiters of Africans. Author claimed that despite all the discrimination, Indians have cordial relations with Africans in every course of time. She also highlighted that a very interesting find in the book is an elaborate list of plants introduced in Africa by Asia at different periods of

history which shows how Asians and particularly Indians have influenced the agricultural system of Africa. An alternative research on how the African agricultural system influenced Indian agriculture would also be an interesting take. In conclusion, Dr Verma mentions that this book fills an important gap in our understanding of Indians role in building prosperity in many African countries.

Ms Ruchita Beri began her presentation by stating the importance of India- Africa ties by giving reference of CII-Exim Bank India-Africa Conclave held in July. She stated that there has been a substantive positive outlook towards Africa as Prime Minister Modi declared the relationship with Africa a priority. She mentioned that the role of history should be acknowledged in showcasing the evolution of India-Africa relations. Ms Beri also highlighted that in the book there is reference that Ethiopian system of vowels represents Sanskrit influence. She underscored the fact that there were many cultural linkages between India and Africa in the ancient times, such as the connection with Ancient Africa through the Rig Veda and the Puranas. She also stated that misinformation was spread by western writers saying that the development of Africa was done more by the Europeans. Ms Beri also point out that despite of the challenges author had to face in terms of sources, rely on diverse sources including some non-academic books and reports, author has managed to done a commendable job. She also highlighted that the author has refuted the claim made by western writers that Indians were also involved in the slave trade. In conclusion, Ms Beri stated that the

book is a welcome edition for people researching on India-Africa studies and diaspora studies.

Dr Nivedita Ray in her presentation pointed out that India-Africa linkage especially with East Africa is special and important due to the people to people connect. She pointed out that Indian scholarship on diaspora usually starts from colonial times but not much reflection has been given on historical background since it depends on European or western writers sources. This book is important in a sense as it has given the discourse from an Indian perspective. This publication has given a certain perspective to the history which is not very well documented but when there is no written evidence, the unscholarly kinds of works also became important. Dr Ray also mentions that this book has very emphatically brought out the fact about India-Africa agricultural ancient roots, thus giving us a peep into the aspect which has more potential and should be intensively studied. She also pointed out that this book raised important questions regarding the involvement of Indians as financiers in slave trade and whether it was the trade links which attracted British towards East Africa. In conclusion, Dr Ray mentions that this book throws light on many aspects which need to be further researched. This book is an important contribution to the study of India-Africa relations and diaspora as a factor in it.

The discussion was followed by questions and answers. In the end, Dr Markandey Rai gave his chair/concluding remarks and thanked the speakers for their presentation. ■

His Majesty GRANTS AUDIENCE TO GENERAL MANOJ PANDE

His Majesty The King granted an Audience to the Indian Chief of Army Staff, General Manoj Pande, at the Throne Room of the Tashichhodzong on 30th July 2022.

General Manoj Pande was on a two-day visit to Bhutan, his first since his appointment as the Indian Army Chief in April 2022.

The General was received with a Chipdrel and Guard of Honour at the Tashichhodzong, where he received an Audience with His Majesty The King, and then called on the Chief

Operations Officer (COO), of the Royal Bhutan Army, Lt. General Batoo Tshering.

In the morning, General Manoj Pande visited the National Memorial Chorten to lay a wreath in memory of His Majesty the Third Druk Gyalpo.

The General also received an Audience with His Majesty the Fourth Druk Gyalpo.

The visit took forward the exceptional relations of friendship and cooperation that exist between India and Bhutan.



His Majesty The King VISITS AREAS AFFECTED BY FLOODING IN PHUENTSHOLING



His Majesty The King visited sites affected by the flooding in Phuentsholing on 18th June 2022.

His Majesty was on a Royal tour of the Southern dzongkhags. The Royal entourage traveling to Samdrup Jongkhar from Gelephu turned back as roads leading to Samdrup Jongkhar were submerged and

washed away by sudden rain and flood.

During the tour which began on 15th June, His Majesty The King granted land Kidu to the people in Tsirang and Sarpang. The visit was part of a Royal Initiative to resolve people's land issues once and for all. Since the start of the exercise, Land

Kidu was granted in 18 dzongkhags in turn before the pandemic. With land Kidu now granted to the people of Tsirang and Sarpang, His Majesty has granted a total of 150 thousand acres of land as Kidu to nearly 150 thousand beneficiaries in all 205 Gewogs of 20 Dzongkhags in the country. Over a total of 56 thousand beneficiaries received 74 thousand

acres of land in Tsirang, and another 57 thousand beneficiaries received almost 900 acres in Sarpang Dzongkhag. As with all other dzongkhags, His Majesty also granted refunds and reprieve of fines, amounting to Nu 140 million in Tsirang and Sarpang.

On the Royal Tour, His Majesty granted Audiences to DeSuups training in the ongoing 50th batch at Tencholing in Wangduephodrang, and in Jigmeling and Pelrithang in

Sarpang.

While in Wangduephodrang, His Majesty visited the Sturgeon Fishery, which was initiated upon Royal Command to explore the potential of Sturgeon fish farming in Bhutan.

His Majesty also met with DeSuups engaged with multiple De-suung initiatives. In Punakha, His Majesty met the De-suups in the Specialized Refresher Course, the De-suung for Gyalsung, which provides hands-on

training in high-level infrastructure construction at Gyalsung Academies, De-suups of the Million Fruit Trees plantation and the Nationwide Accelerated Dog Population Management, and participants of the De-suung Skilling Programmes.

While in Gelephu, His Majesty granted an Audience to the De-suups working at the Landmark Water Project for Gelephu Thromde. ■

DIPLOMATIC POSTINGS

Shri Vikram K. Doraiswami (IFS: 1992), presently High Commissioner of India to the People's Republic of Bangladesh, has been appointed as the **next High Commissioner of India to the United Kingdom**.

Ms. Namgya C. Khampa (IFS: 2000) presently Deputy Chief of Mission in Embassy of India, Kathmandu, has been appointed as the **next High Commissioner of India to the Republic of Kenya**.

Shri Sandeep Arya (IFS: 1994), presently Additional Secretary in the Ministry of External Affairs, has been

appointed as the **next Ambassador of India to the Socialist Republic of Vietnam**.

Shri Pranay Kumar Verma (IFS:1994), presently Ambassador of India to Socialist Republic of Vietnam, has been appointed as the **next High Commissioner of India to the People's Republic of Bangladesh**.

Shri Sudhakar Dalela (IFS : 1993), presently Deputy Chief of Mission in the Embassy of India, Washington, has been appointed as the **next Ambassador of India to the Royal Kingdom of Bhutan**. ■

DAYS TO REMEMBER

in September, 2022

September 01	:	Uzbekistan : Independence Day
September 02	:	Vietnam : National Day
September 05	:	Teachers Day-Birthday of former President of India Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan
September 08	:	International : Literacy Day
September 09	:	Tajikistan : National Day
September 10	:	Purnima ■
September 14	:	Hindi Divas
September 15	:	International Day of Democracy
September 16	:	Mexico : Independence Day
September 23	:	Saudi Arabia : National Day
September 25	:	Amavasya ●
September 27	:	World Tourism Day

कोलकाता में बालेश्वर अग्रवाल शताब्दी समारोह का आयोजन



बालेश्वर अग्रवाल शताब्दी समारोह का आयोजन कोलकाता के हिंदुस्थान क्लब में किया गया। इसमें मुख्य अतिथि सन्मार्ग के प्रमुख संपादक श्री विवेक गुप्त ने हिन्दी पत्रकारिता में उनके योगदान का विस्तार से विवरण किया और कहा कि जब भारतीय भाषाओं के समाचार पत्र अंग्रेजी न्यूज एजेंसी से प्राप्त समाचारों का हिन्दी में अनुवाद कर समाचार छापते थे उस समय स्व. बालेश्वर अग्रवाल जी ने हिन्दुस्थान समाचार के महाप्रबंधक एवं प्रधान संपादक के रूप में हिन्दी तथा अन्य भारतीय भाषाओं में समाचार उपलब्ध कराने का भगीरथ प्रयास किया, जिसमें उन्हें पूर्ण सफलता मिली। विशिष्ट अतिथि नेपाल के डेप्युटी कोंसुल जनरल श्री कर्ण तिमिलसिनाजी ने कहा कि भारत नेपाल मैत्री को सुदृढ़ करने में स्व. बालेश्वर अग्रवाल जी ने अत्यंत महत्वपूर्ण भूमिका निभाई यही कारण है कि पैलेस से लेकर पीपुल्स तक में उनको बहुत आदर की दृष्टि से देखा जाता है। श्री सीताराम शर्मा बेलारूस के कॉन्सल, देहरादून से आयुष के डॉक्टर श्री नवीन जोशी तथा महाराष्ट्र के डॉक्टर श्री रमेश राजगुरु ने भाग लिया। उन लोगों ने बताया कि भारतीय भाषा एवं संस्कृति और आयुर्वेद के वैश्विक प्रचार-प्रसार के लिए उन्होंने अत्यंत सराहनीय कार्य किया। मॉरीशस में आयुर्वेद के अस्पताल की स्थापना उन्हीं के प्रयासों से हुआ। इसके अलावा श्री निर्मल

तेंकरीवाल एवं श्री कैलाश अग्रवाल संयुक्त संयोजक थे।

कार्यक्रम का संचालन अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय सहयोग परिषद की कोलकाता इकाई के सचिव कुंजबिहारी सिंघानिया ने किया। इस अवसर पर श्री सिंघानिया ने माननीय बालेश्वर अग्रवाल जी के बारे में बोलते हुए कहा की बालेश्वरजी एक बहुआयामी प्रतिभा संपन्न व्यक्ति थे, वे भारतीय संस्कृति के प्रबल पक्षधर थे। भारतीय संस्कृति को सिर्फ स्वदेश में ही नहीं अपितु विदेश में भी खासकर मॉरिशस, त्रिनिदाद,

फिजी, सूरीनाम, गुआना आदि देशों में जहां अधिकतर भारतवंशी रहते हैं में भारतीय संस्कृति के प्रचार प्रसार के लिए निरंतर प्रयास किया। भारतवंशियों के विशेष आग्रह पर उनके लिए रामायण, हनुमान चालीसा, झांझ, मंजीरा आदि भिजवाने का कार्य आज से करीब 50 साल पूर्व किया था। बालेश्वर अग्रवाल ने भारतीय भाषाओं की संवाद हिन्दुस्थान समाचार की स्थापना में अपना विशेष योगदान दिया और उसे

अपने समय की सर्वश्रेष्ठ न्यूज एजेंसी बनाने में सफलता प्राप्त की। हिंदी में समाचार संप्रेषित हो इसके लिए उन्होंने सरकार पर दबाव बनाया और सरकार के माध्यम से हिंदी टेलीप्रिंटर की व्यवस्था किया। इस कार्य में उन्हें तत्कालीन संचार मंत्री श्री रफी अहदम किदवई और जगजीवन राम जी का विशेष सहयोग मिला। उनके इस कार्य की प्रशंसा भारत के प्रथम राष्ट्रपति डॉ.राजेन्द्र प्रसाद जी ने भी की थी। बालेश्वर जी कोलकाता के क्रियाकलापों पर विशेष ध्यान देते थे और समय-समय पर कोलकाता आकर हमारा उत्साह बढ़ाते थे। वे व्यक्तिगत रूप से हिंदी के संपादकों से तो अवश्य मिलते थे, जिसमें प्रमुख थे सन्मार्ग के राम अवतार गुप्त, सुदामा सिंह, कृष्ण चंद जी अग्रवाल आदि ऐसे बहु प्रतिभा के धनी को हम सभी



कोलकाता बासी याद करते हैं।

अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय सहयोग परिषद की कोलकाता इकाई के सचिव कुंजबिहारी सिंघानिया ने धन्यवाद ज्ञापन करते हुए बालेश्वर अग्रवाल जी के प्रति भावभीनी श्रद्धांजलि अर्पित की और इस समारोह में भाग लेने वाले अतिथियों के प्रति आभार प्रकट किया।



भारतीय स्वाधीनता के अमृत महोत्सव के अवसर पर विशेष

पन्द्रह अगस्त



गिरिजा कुमार माथुर

(22 अगस्त 1919 - 10 जनवरी 1994)

गिरिजा कुमार माथुर (22 अगस्त 1919 – 10 जनवरी 1994) एक कवि, नाटककार और समालोचक थे। गिरिजा कुमार माथुर का जन्म मध्य प्रदेश में हुआ। उनके पिता देवीचरण माथुर स्कूल अध्यापक थे, माता लक्ष्मीदेवी मालवा की रहने वाली थीं और शिक्षित थीं। गिरिजाकुमार की प्रारम्भिक शिक्षा घर पर ही हुई। उनके पिता ने घर ही अंग्रेजी, इतिहास, भूगोल आदि पढ़ाया। कॉलेज से इण्टरमीडिएट करने के बाद स्नातक की उपाधि के बाद उन्होंने वकालत की परीक्षा भी पास की। 1943 से 'ऑल इंडिया रेडियो' में अनेक महत्वपूर्ण पदों पर रहते हुए अंग्रेजी और उर्दू के वर्चस्व के बीच हिन्दी को पहचान दिलाई। लोकप्रिय रेडियो चैनल 'विविध भारती' उन्हीं की संकल्पना का मूर्त रूप है। माथुर जी दूरदर्शन के उप-महानिदेशक के पद से सेवानिवृत्त हुए। वे विद्रोही काव्य परम्परा के रचनाकार माखनलाल चतुर्वेदी, बालकृष्ण शर्मा नवीन आदि की रचनाओं से अत्यधिक प्रभावित हुए। उनकी रचना का प्रारम्भ द्वितीय विश्वयुद्ध की घटनाओं से उत्पन्न प्रतिक्रियाओं से युक्त है तथा भारत में चल रहे राष्ट्रीय स्वतंत्रता आन्दोलन से प्रभावित है। अज्ञेय द्वारा सम्पादित एवं प्रकाशित 'तारसप्तक' के सात कवियों में से एक कवि गिरिजाकुमार भी हैं। उनका ही लिखा एक भावान्तर गीत "हम होंगे कामयाब" समूह गान के रूप में अत्यंत लोकप्रिय है।



आज जीत की रात
पहरुए! सावधान रहना
खुले देश के द्वार
अचल दीपक समान रहना

प्रथम चरण है नए स्वर्ग का
है मंजिल का छोर
इस जनमंथन से उठ आई
पहली रत्न-हिलोर
अभी शेष है पूरी होना
जीवन-मुक्ता-डोर
क्योंकि नहीं मिट पाई दुख की
विगत साँवली कोर
ले युग की पतवार
बने अम्बुधि समान रहना।

विषम शृंखलाएँ टूटी हैं
खुली समस्त दिशाएँ
आज प्रभंजन बनकर चलतीं
युग-बंदिनी हवाएँ
प्रश्नचिह्न बन खड़ी हो गईं
यह सिमटी सीमाएँ
आज पुराने सिंहासन की
टूट रही प्रतिमाएँ
उठता है तूफान, इन्दु! तुम
दीप्तिमान रहना।

ऊँची हुई मशाल हमारी
आगे कठिन डगर है
शत्रु हट गया, लेकिन उसकी
छायाओं का डर है
शोषण से है मृत समाज
कमजोर हमारा घर है
किन्तु आ रहा नई जिन्दगी