

# ANTAR RASHTRIYA SAHAYOG PARISHAD BULLETIN

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श्री बालेश्वर अग्रवाल जन्मशताब्दी के अवसर पर

## REMINISCENCING BALESHWARJI

✍ J.S.Sapra

Former Secretary, MEA



My contact with Baleshwarji despite the age difference was as a friend .I could well imagine the reasons for his interest in the welfare of Indian community living abroad. He embarked on setting up of the ARSP in 1978 knowing fully well that the Indian community went abroad primarily for economic reasons and craved for news on India and wanting to have cultural connectivity.

Having done postings as a Foreign Service officer in several countries where Indian community is settled

—be it as Non Resident Indians or as Person of Indian origin I could sense Baleshwarji thinking and feelings for them . Whenever he contacted me to get information or to provide value to the organisation I did my best not to disappoint him. During my career in the Foreign Service before I retired in December 2008,I did postings in Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Spain, Angola, South Korea, Kuwait, North Korea, UK and Trinidad and Tobago. In most of the countries where I was posted a fairly large Indian community is settled. It was an honour and privilege provided by the Government of India to serve in these countries for not only promoting India,s interest and friendship but also for the interest of the Indian community. Baeshwarji often remembered me and saw to it that when posted to countries with large Indian community like UK and Trinidad and Tobago his organisation ARSP felicitated me. On retirement

when I joined the ARSP and was assigned the task as Chairman of Foreign Cell Committee I did my best to promote this non political organization and engage in its activities.

Several meetings and seminars were organised which were attended by Indian and Foreign diplomats amongst other eminent persons. They all carried words of praise for the efforts of Baleshwarji to raise and nurture the ARSP.

Baleshwarji till he fell sick provided the guidance His strictness and flexibility in running the ARSP was admirable. He remained mentally fit till very late stage of his life .He could recall important developments and works of the organization .

I wish him a peaceful abode and feel that he will be always watching from above the development of ARSP. ■

# INDIAN ARRIVAL 2022 OBSERVED IN TRINIDAD



Indian Arrival was observed all over Trinidad and Tobago on Monday May 30 with religious services, cultural programs, skits and re-enactments of

the first landing of Indian indentured laborers on May 30, 1845. Programs were held in several parts of the country. Meals were served and hampers distributed to the less fortunate. Indians account for nearly 40% of the population of T&T.

Some 148,000 Indians came to Trinidad to work on varied types of agricultural plantations. Recruitment of laborers ended in March 1917 and indentureship was abolished on January 1, 1920. Commemorative activities were held in March 2017 and in 2021 (delayed by a year because of Covid). Indian Arrival has been a holiday in T&T since 1995. Indian Arrival has been observed over the last one hundred years. Petitions for a holiday in recognition of the Indian contribution to the nation was ignored until 1995, the 150th anniversary of Indian arrival.

This year marks the 177th anniversary of Indian arrival. It is a day to connect with the Indian diaspora throughout the Caribbean and worldwide. The first set of Indians arrived in Caribbean territories in May

and June. Almost every territory (English, Dutch, French) commemorates Indian Arrival. The Indians were

brought by the then colonial government to rescue the dying agricultural economy of Trinidad following the end of slavery by the British Parliament in 1834. Indians resuscitated the T&T and other economies.

The commemorative activities in T&T reminded the nation of the horrific experience of the indentured laborers on board the ship as well as their experience in T&T.

As many commented, the Indians experienced trauma, dislocation, and anguish as they crossed the Kala Paani (dark water).

Delivering remarks on the occasion of the 177th Indian Arrival were the President Paula Meekes, PM Dr. Keith Rowley, Opposition Leader Kamla Persad Bissessar, and various other elected officials.

Indian have helped to shape the multi-cultural identity of T&T. They have also contributed significantly in a variety of areas to the development of the nation. ■

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## INDIAN ARRIVAL DAY COMMEMORATIONS

Trinidad and Tobago celebrated Indian Arrival Day on May 30 with a variety of events and activities throughout the country. Indian Arrival Day, which is a public holiday in Trinidad, marks the arrival of the first group of Indians to the Caribbean islands. Trinidad was the first country to observe Indian Arrival Day and in the past decade other countries which have Indian origin communities whose ancestors were brought there to work on sugarcane plantations have begun to celebrate the arrival of Indians to the countries.

Over a million Indians sailed across the seas in the 19th century and early decades of the 20th century to work on sugarcane plantations in the imperial colonies. They were indentured – that is, they were bound by an indenture contract to work for an estate owner for a period of five years, and were known as – girmityas, the term derived from gimit for agreement. The descendants of the girmityas mark the arrival of their ancestors in several of the former colonies by celebrating Indian Arrival Day or Gimit Day in the month of May and early June.

People of Indian descent take pride in their ancestors' for overcoming the adverse conditions that they had faced and making a new life for themselves. Indian Arrival Day honours those ancestors and asserts the Indian identity in the countries of their residence. Indian Arrival Day commemorations have gained in importance as a public recognition of the contribution of the early Indian arrivals to the revival of the sugarcane and cocoa economies of the host countries. They also emphasise the integral role of the Indian communities in the development of the former colonies and their integration in the social fabric of the host societies.

Most of the sailing ships left Calcutta (Kolkata) port and later Madras (Chennai) port, reaching their destinations after a three month long voyage. The ships sailed in the winter months to take advantage of the sea winds and reached the Caribbean colonies and Fiji Islands in the month of May and early June. The process of taking Indians as indentured workers to the colonies began when the first sailing ship, the Atlas docked at Port Louis harbour in Mauritius with its passenger load of 36 indentured workers in November 1834. Mauritius holds its Indian Arrival Day on November 2. The tiny island nation of St Vincent and the Grenadines observes Indian Arrival Day on June 1 while Suriname celebrates the arrival of Indians to the country on June 5.

After Indian indentured workers began working in Mauritius, other British colonies like British Guiana (Guyana) and Trinidad and Tobago also recruited Indian workers for their sugar plantations. The first group of indentured workers from India reached British Guiana on May 5, 1838. Over the next few decades, indentured workers were taken to the other Caribbean islands, from Reunion Island, Jamaica, St Lucia, St Vincent and Grenadines to Grenada and Belize on the eastern coast of Central America. The British colonial government allowed the Dutch and French government to recruit indentured workers for their colonies in Suriname, Reunion Island and Guadeloupe. Fiji Islands in the South Pacific were colonised in 1874 and received the Leonidas, the first ship carrying indentured workers on May 15, 1879.

The indenture system lasted from 1834 to 1920 when the last indenture contracts lapsed. The indenture system lasted eight decades and there are now substantial Indian origin populations in Mauritius, Trinidad, Guyana, Suriname and Fiji

and small diasporic communities spread through the tiny, exotic Caribbean islands. The indentured workers had little idea of their destination and the conditions they would face in new land. Most of them had been lured or even deceived by the glowing tales of the recruiters; many did not know that they were being taken to a foreign country. Conditions on the plantations were harsh and after ending the indenture period, the Indians faced discrimination and other challenges in the colonies, with their culture and traditions derided as alien and uncivilised.



✉ Shubha Singh

In the decades after indenture ended, the Indian communities tried to forget the days of adversity; slowly the the indenture period was pushed to the background. Younger generations of Indians had little knowledge of their ancestors' history; indenture found no place in the school books. Concerned, public spirited Indians sought to revive the Indian culture and traditions that had faded from memory and create awareness of the Indian heritage. They held small festivals of Indian culture and history.

There are now Indian Arrival Day commemorations throughout the month of May and early June beginning with Guyana which holds its official function on May 5. The ceremony takes place at the Monument Garden in Georgetown, which has a replica of the barque three-mast sailing ship, the Whitby that brought the first group of Indians to what was then British Guiana. Arrival Day function begin with presenting floral tributes to honour the ancestors followed by cultural functions that showcase Indian music, dances and cuisine. Among the memorial events in Guyana is a pilgrimage to Berbice, the Highbury

plantation where the first batch of Indians were sent to work.

Grenada with its tiny population of people of Indian origin held its first commemorative function in 2007 on May 1 while Martinique holds its Arrival Day functions on the first weekend of May. St Lucia and Jamaica mark Indian Arrival on May 6 and May 10. Fiji's 'Girmit Day' melas are held after the official May 15th function and Trinidad holds a week-long celebrations of melas, cultural programmes and seminars around May 30. St Vincent and Grenadiers holds its Memorial Day function for their Indian ancestors on June 1. Suriname's Indian Arrival Day ceremonies begin on June 10 with the laying of flowers at the "Baba and Mai" (Father and Mother) statues in Parimaribo where Indians first landed in Suriname.

Addressing an Arrival Day event on May 30, former Prime Minister of Trinidad Kamala Persaud Bissessar recalled that when she was elected Member of Parliament for the first time from in 1995, she attended a function at President's House wearing a sari. She later learnt that it was the first time anyone had visited President's House wearing Indian attire. "Our culture is no longer strange or foreign," she said. It was part of Trinidad culture whether it was roti and chicken curry that was a popular food in Trinidad or chutney music that incorporated elements of calypso with Indian folk music

St Lucia, the tiny island nation in the eastern Caribbean held its first Indian Arrival Day in 2016. Dr Leonard Surage, one of the founders of the Indian Diaspora association of St Lucia had explained at that time that

many St Lucians of Indian descent knew very little of their origins and roots. The few who do were quickly passing on. The Indian Diaspora association was formed by a group of people to keep the Indian heritage and culture alive. The first group of 318 Indians arrived in St Lucia on the ship, Palmyra on 6 May 1859. The last ship to bring Indian indentured workers to St Lucia was Volga, which met a tragic fate. The Volga, carrying on board 156 Indian workers, had just reached within sight of St Lucia's capital, Castries, when it capsized and sank just outside Castries Harbour on 10 December 1893. That is part of St Lucia's Indian history. The arrival day ceremonies serve to emotionally connect with the story of our forebears and revive the old cultural practices, he said. ■

## NEW INDIAN ENVOY TO UKRAINE PRESENTS CREDENTIALS TO ZELENSKY

The new Indian ambassador to Ukraine, Harsh Jain, presented his credentials to President Volodymyr Zelensky earlier this week. India had last month decided to reopen its embassy in Kyiv.

According to Ukraine, Zelensky noted that Ukraine and India are united by the belief in freedom and independence. "The President quoted the words of the national hero of India Mahatma Gandhi that aptly describe Ukraine and Ukrainians: 'Strength is in the absence of fear, not in the number of muscles in our body. First they ignore you, then they laugh at you, then they fight you, then you win,'" said the President's office in a press release.

According to the Ukrainian President, relations with India are very important for Ukraine, and he appreciates contacts with the leadership of this country. ■

## INDIAN-AMERICAN 8TH-GRADER HARINI LOGAN CROWNED 2022 SCRIPPS NATIONAL SPELLING BEE CHAMPION



Harini Logan, a 14-year-old Indian-American eighth-grader from Texas, spelled 21 words correctly to win the prestigious 2022 Scripps National Spelling Bee, beating Vikram Raju in

a marathon, first-of-its-kind spell-off, a format that tested the contestants on how many words they could correctly spell within 90 seconds.

Logan, who took home the USD 50,000 cash prize and Scripps Cup trophy on top of awards from Merriam-Webster and Encyclopedia Britannica, spelled 21 out of 26 words correctly.

The Spelling Bee features elementary and middle school

students spelling words that would cause most adults to stumble. The National Spelling Bee was launched in 1925.

"Our 2022 Scripps National Spelling Bee Champion Speller 231 Harini Logan draws inspiration from VP @KamalaHarris. After tonight, Harini is inspiring a new generation of spellers everywhere. She says it takes a village to build up a speller. Her's is happy tonight," Scripps National Spelling Bee said in a tweet. ■



# INDIAN EMBASSY IN GUYANA OBSERVES INTERNATIONAL DAY OF YOGA WITH POLICE FORCE



The Indian High Commission (Embassy) to Guyana participated in an international day of yoga with members of the Guyana Police Force in Georgetown, the capital city.

The yoga session is a run up to the 8th International Day of Yoga (IDY2022) celebrations. The United Nations officially declared June 21 as International Yoga Day, an event that was first observed in 2015 globally.

A release from the Indian High Commission stated that the High Commission of India led by High Commissioner Dr KJ Srinivasa organized a Curtain Raiser Yoga Session event for IDY 2022 with the Ranks of the Guyana Police Force (GPF) on 28th May 2022 in the Police Officers' Mess Annex, Eve Leary, Georgetown. Some 80 officers from GPF attended the Yoga session. High Commissioner of India H.E. Dr. K. J. Srinivasa, Deputy Commissioner of Police Calvin Brutus and Head of Special Branch Errol Watts from GPF, were present during the Yoga session.

The release stated: "While addressing the GPF officers at the

Yoga session, the High Commissioner shared information about Yoga, its benefits for mental, spiritual and physical wellbeing and its relevance, and how several people especially frontline workers including police officers across the globe have benefited by practicing Yoga during the COVID-19 pandemic. The Yoga Session was organised with the aim of extending benefits of Yoga to the Ranks in these testing times. Yoga helps immensely in controlling mental stress and tension as well as to keep them healthy and fit. Thus, India's gift of Yoga to humankind all over the globe has truly been a life saver.

In December 2014, the United Nations General Assembly adopted a resolution sponsored by 177 member nations unanimously proclaiming 21st June, the longest day in the northern-hemisphere, as International Day of Yoga. Since then, 21st June is being celebrated as International Day of Yoga every year. Yoga is a system of holistic living, having its roots in Indian tradition and culture. Yoga has transcended the barrier of race, religion and culture and has become a global movement.

Yoga is essentially a mental and physical discipline based on an extremely subtle science which focuses on bringing harmony between mind and body. It is an art and science for healthy living.

The High Commission of India will also be organizing one more curtain-raiser event for the IDY 22 with the Guyanese Defence Forces (GDF) on Wednesday, 8th June 2022. The main event will be held on Sunday, 19th June, 2022 from 1000 hrs onwards at the Everest Cricket Ground in Georgetown where Guyanese dignitaries are expected to join along with Diplomatic Corps, students, etc. On 21st June 2022, starting at 0830 hrs a Yoga event will be held at the Indian Arrival Monument in Palmyra, Berbice. This event has been selected to be telecast live across the world as part of an initiative of the Government of India to ensure live broadcast of 24 hours of Yoga on IDY 2022 from iconic locations from across the globe and is denoted as "Yoga Ring". The High Commission of India invites all Guyanese to join these celebrations. These events will be live broadcast on the Facebook pages of the High Commission of India and the Swami Vivekananda Cultural Center as well as in prominent Guyanese TV channels.

Apart from the above, the IDY22 celebrations will be conducted on 19th June 2022 in Antigua & Barbuda (at the residence of His Excellency the Governor General), St. Kitts & Nevis and Anguilla at iconic locations where various dignitaries will grace the occasion". ■

# Dialogue with Diaspora

## Indian Diaspora in Caribbean Countries

Dr Ruchi Verma  
Research Fellow  
DRRC-ARSP

Diaspora Research and Resource Centre (DRRC), Antar Rashtriya Sahayog Parishad (ARSP), New Delhi has started a fortnightly virtual programme, 'Dialogue with Diaspora' in which, important members of Indian diaspora from different countries and relevant Indian experts are invited to share their ideas and experiences for deepening their engagement with India and for networking with global PIOs.

As part of this series, ninth session on Indian Diaspora in Caribbean countries was organised on Monday, 18 April 2022. Dr Vishnu Bisram, who is a renowned Journalist, Academician, and Writer and also holds the position of Director of Indian Diaspora International Center in New York, was the key speaker. The programme was moderated by Shri Narayan Kumar, Hon. Director, ARSP. Shri Shyam Parande, Secretary General, Shri Mukesh Aggarwal, Vice President, Prof. Gopal Arora, Secretary, ARSP and Dr Rakesh Pandey joined in the discussion.

Dr Bisram shared his experiences in Caribbean countries especially in Guyana as a member of the Indian diaspora. He shed lights on the opportunities and challenges they faced in these countries as a member of Indo-Caribbean community. He mentioned that a major challenge faced by the Indian diaspora in the Caribbean countries is their declining population. For better education and livelihood, Indian community is moving to North America with no desire to move back, resulting in considerable reduction of population of Indo-Caribbean community over the years. Though with the new found wealth (oil discovery), reverse migration is seen in Guyana, but they are mostly coming back to invest not

to settle there.

Dr Bisram pointed out that Indian diaspora in Caribbean countries donned multiple identities but still they are proud of their Indian identity and their Indian connect is very strong. He urged the GOI and ARSP to take measures and play a greater role in enhancing and promoting the diaspora role as a soft power as it will help in strengthening the relationship between India and Caribbean countries. He also urged to build relationship with small Caribbean islands and the Indian population living there.

Dr Bisram mentioned that Indian foods, music and bollywood is extremely popular in the Caribbean countries, efforts should be made to familiarise the population with these cultural tools effectively. He also highlighted and appreciated the good will efforts of government of India during the Covid times towards the Caribbean countries especially for smaller islands of the Caribbean.

On the question of oil discovery and rising GDP of Guyana, Dr Bisram emphasized that local population is yet to get the full advantage but the efforts are now being made to percolate these benefits to them. Guyanese government is making efforts to diversify the economy. He also mentioned that Guyana is the largest recipient of aid from India under LOC's. He suggested that India should use this oil relationship for mutual benefits.

While discussing about the issue of language, Dr Bisram stressed that most Indian people in Caribbean countries have interest in learning the Hindi language but the opportunities provided are limited. He was happy to announce that through his and his

group efforts, Guyana government has agreed to introduce Hindi in the regional CSE, so now there will be a curriculum and textbooks in Hindi language.

Some important suggestions emerged during the discussion are given below:

- Indo-Caribbean youth is migrating to United States for better education. Heightened efforts should be made by India via e-teaching and e-learning to provide opportunity to them to study in the higher educational institutions of India. More scholarships should be provided to them. Skill development facility should also be given to them.
- For the promotion of Hindi, it was suggested that High Commission of India in these Caribbean countries can provide classes in conversational Hindi, which then shifts to rural areas, as Indians are mostly spread in rural areas due to agricultural occupation.
- India should make conscious efforts to provide sessions of Indian cultural aspects like-music, food, language etc. in rural areas of these Caribbean countries. Various kinds of EXPO's of Indian products can also be organised in order to create awareness about them.

The participants praised this dialogue with diaspora initiative and suggested to have more such sessions with PIOs in Caribbean countries to address their needs and expectations.

\*\* The full recording of the event is available at the link given below:  
<https://youtube.com/watch?v=aGSqyYZIEZw&feature=share>

## High Level Guests felicitate Mysuru based Swami Ganapathi Sachchidananda



Hanuman Chalisa and Dattatreya Aradhane, Sri Ganapathy Swamiji has given mental peace to the people. He stated: "Despite our country having a population of 135 Crore of divergent communities, has more peace than other countries".

High-level political guests (Governors, Chief Ministers, Ministers, MPs, State legislators), Police Commissioners from around the India, swamis and other famed religious figures, business leaders, and university scholars descended on Mysuru at the ashram of Ganapathi Sachchidananda Swami of Avadootha Datta Peeta on various dates between May 22 and 31 to mark his 80th birthday. Guests were greeted with 'Jai Gurudatta', the customary greeting adopted by the Swami and members of his several ashrams globally in the Caribbean and the rest of the diaspora. Devotees traditionally greet each other accordingly 'Jai Gurudatta'. The many swamis, too many to list here, were present for the festivities and rituals relating to the 80th anniversary. These swami made enormous contributions to the ashram and the work of Swamiji..

The political guests spent some time at the Ashram, wished the Swami well and long life on his birthday, received blessings, and took part in activities. There was a heavy police presence for the many dignitaries during the several days of celebrations.

Swamiji is enormously popular in India and in the diaspora having ashrams in several countries including Trinidad. Caribbean nationals and members of the Indian diaspora of several countries, including from the USA, partook in the

festivities to commemorate Swamiji's 80th birthday. Prime Minister Narendra Modi delivered felicitations and remarks virtually video a live video link. Thousands of devotees were present daily for the religious programs from May 22 to 31. There were also events held prior to May 22. The Swami has millions of followers, many of who tuned in virtually to watch the proceedings from every corner of the globe.

The guests, including Governors, CMs, and Ministers of government, came to pay obeisance and also listened to the divine bhajans. Their heartfelt wish for darshan from Sri Swamiji has been fulfilled. The high-level guests and swamis and other special guests were honoured by Sri Swamiji and the ashram committee.

Various cultural and social events were held including the distribution of aid to especially abled citizens as part of the celebrations. Chief minister Basavaraj Bommai of Karnataka state inaugurated one of the programs.

Also gracing one of the programs was Union Minister of Parliamentary Affairs, Coal and Mines Pralhad Joshi. He is the most senior member of Parliament, Union Minister of Parliamentary affairs. He came to bring best wishes to Sri Swamiji. He urged listeners and attendees to maintain their traditional form of worship. By propagating

The Chief Justice of India was also present on one of the days.

Her Excellency Anandiben Patel, Governor of Uttar Pradesh, honoured the Swami. She said Sr Ganapathy Swamiji is simultaneously propagating religion and music to the world. She said she had never seen a better Bonsai garden anywhere in the world than the one in the ashram. She is in the process of having a bonsai garden in Raj Bhajan. She invited Sri Swamiji to come to UP. She also assisted the ashram in locating a plot in Ayodha to build an ashram on the Suru River. Sri Swamiji said he will be going to Ayodha in the near future to lay the foundation stone for that ashram.

Mysuru-Kodagu MP Pratap Sinha expresses gratitude to Sri Swamiji for the development of Mysuru. Announced that PM Modiji will participate in Yoga day on June 21 at the Mysuru Palace in honour of Sri Swamiji's birthday.

The Chief Minister of Goa Pramod Sawant also inaugurated one of the programs.

All the political guests expressed gratitude to Sri Swamiji for the development of Mysuru and surrounding areas and for his social workaroud. They praise him for encouraging Indians to maintain their culture and faith. ■



## CANADA: Six Punjabis win ONTARIO polls



(L-R) Hardeep Grewal



Deepak Anand



Amarjot Sandhu



Nina Tangri



Parm Gill



P Sarkaria

Six Punjabis have been elected to the provincial legislature of Ontario in elections held on Thursday. The Progressive Conservative Party (PC) has again got mandate from the people. As many as 20 Punjabis had contested the poll in the Brampton and Mississauga areas in Ontario.

Six Punjabis who won are: Hardeep Grewal from Brampton East, Prabmeet Sarkaria from Brampton South, Amarjot Sandhu from Brampton West, Nina Tangri from Mississauga Streetville, Deepak Anand from Mississauga Malton and Parm Gill from Milton.

In 2018, seven Punjabis had won in the provincial polls in Ontario. This time a major upset was witnessed with NDP president Jagmeet Singh's brother Gurrattan Singh losing to Hardeep Grewal in Brampton East Riding. Gurrattan was defeated at the seat considered Jagmeet family's political base in the Greater Toronto area.

Two sitting MLAs Sara Singh and Harinder Malhi lost from Brampton Central and Brampton North, respectively. Malhi was the lawmaker behind the 1984 genocide motion in the Ontario provincial parliament in 2016.

Expectedly, the PC headed by Doug Ford fared well, winning 83 of the 124 seats. The NDP headed by Jagmeet Singh bagged the second spot with 31 seats followed by Liberal Party which won eight seats, while Greens and Independents won one seat each.

## DAYS TO REMEMBER

in July, 2022

July 01 : Canada Day (National Day of Canada)

July 04 : U.S.A. National Day

July 05 : Venezuela National Day

July 11 : Mongolia National Day

July 11 : World Population Day

July 13 : Purnima

July 14 : France National Day

July 21 : Belgium National Day

July 26 : Maldives Independence Day

July 27 : Amavasya

## CHANDIGARH-BORN CHARU SOOD IS DEPUTY MAYOR IN UK



Chandigarh-born Charu Sood has been elected Deputy Mayor of Elmbridge (UK). She retained her councillor's seat for the second consecutive term in the Elmbridge Borough Council in the recent elections.

She was first elected from the same seat in 2018 and made a name for herself. The win was even special as Charu was one of the star candidates for the Conservatives in Elmbridge and one of the few who managed to retain their seats.

"She won with a clear majority despite Conservatives' downfall in the elections. She is perhaps the only

one from the city to be elected as the Deputy Mayor of Elmbridge," said Shashi Bhushan Sood, Charu's father, who lives in Chandigarh. He said, "She is also among the youngest to be elected for the second consecutive term. She did her schooling from Chandigarh before moving to Barcelona and later to the UK."



## GUYANA PM VISITS GUYANESE STORE IN MARYLAND TO PROMOTE GUYANESE PRODUCTS



*Guyana PM Visits Guyanese Store in Maryland to promote Guyanese Products*

Guyana's Prime Minister, Mr. Mark Phillips, unexpectedly made a courtesy visit to the Caribbean Market, a Guyanese owned West Indian Store in Maryland. The PM, his wife, and delegation were in nearby Washington for the gala affair on June

1 to commemorate the 56th anniversary of Guyana's independence organized by the Guyana Embassy.

Mr. Philip and delegation visited the shop that sells a variety of West Indian products on Thursday June 2.

The shop is owned by New Yorker Dave Narine of Dave West Indian products. The PM visited the store to promote Guyanese products and to encourage the diaspora to use Guyanese products so as to increase trade between America and Guyana. Over three quarter million individuals in America are of Guyanese descent with thousands settled in the greater Washington DC area. They patronize the Caribbean Market. The

Caribbean Market prides itself as the lone West Indian store in the area.

The PM interacted with the store's manager Mr. Narine, Dave's father, who is a retired headmaster of Number 59 government school, on the Corentyne.

The PM also met shoppers and posed for photos. This is the first visit by a Guyanese VIP to the Caribbean Market. The store manager and the public graciously welcomed the PM and his delegation. The PM, the President, Vice President, and members of the cabinet in earlier trips visited Guyanese stores on Liberty Avenue, Richmond Hill. ■

## GUYANA FOREIGN MINISTER & INDIAN Amb. Hold Discussions



India's High Commissioner to Guyana and Guyana's Foreign Minister Hon. Hugh Todd, engaged in wide ranging discussion on relations between the two countries.

The High Commissioner made a courtesy visit to the Foreign Minister at his office in Georgetown, Guyana last Monday May 30. The visit and the exchange come after the Minister's visit to India in late April.

The Minister and the High Commissioner held discussions on issues arising out of the former's India

visit. That was the Minister's first visit to India.

The High Commission issued a release:

"Following the successful visit of the Honourable Hugh Hilton Todd, Minister of Foreign Affairs

and International Cooperation of Guyana to India in April 2022, His Excellency Dr. K.J. Srinivasa, today called on Hon'ble Minister Todd and discussed several points in follow up to the meeting held between Honourable Minister Todd and His Excellency Subrahmanyam Jaishankar, Minister of External Affairs of India, to further advance the cooperation agenda between Guyana and India including agriculture, infrastructure, renewable energy, education, healthcare, oil and gas, dairy farming/cattle rearing,

capacity building & training, cooperation in multilateral fora including UN & related agencies and CARICOM. Both sides discussed the furtherance of the high agenda discussed at the Multilateral Strategic Dialogue "Raisina Dialogue" in New Delhi especially on matters concerning climate change, renewable energy and Small Island Developing states.

High Commissioner Srinivasa also lauded the initiative undertaken by the Government of Guyana to host the Agri-Investment Forum and Expo towards advancing the CARICOM Food Systems Agenda and reducing the regional food import bill to 25% by the year 2025. He also apprised the Hon'ble Minister on the active participation of Indian companies – Mahindra, Farmtrac, Sonalika tractor manufacturing companies as well as UPL in the event". ■

## INDIAN DIASPORA IN JAPAN GREETES PRIME MINISTER OF INDIA



Indian Prime Minister has visited Japan in May to take part in the Quad 2022 Summit and dialogue with other global leaders, received a warm welcome from the Indian diaspora. Indian community members welcomed him with placards and messages written in different languages. The children accompanied by their parents interacted with PM Modi and received his autograph.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi told the Indian community members that the goals set up by his government for celebrating 100 years of India's Independence are ambitious and challenging but the teachings and

values he has received have helped him develop a habit to face challenges with great courage. As per a statement issued by the Prime Minister's Office, over 700 members of Indian diaspora participated in the event on the first day of his two-day visit. There are over 40,000 Indians in Japan, it said.

Observing that India and Japan are natural partners, Modi said, "Japan has played an important role in India's development journey...our relationship with Japan is of spirituality, of cooperation, of belongingness." Stating that India's focus on creation of infrastructure and institutional capacity building is

"unprecedented", Modi said, "I am happy that Japan is an important partner in our capacity building. Be it Mumbai-Ahmedabad high speed rail; be it Delhi-Mumbai Industrial Corridor; be it Dedicated Freight Corridor — these are big examples of cooperation between India and Japan."

Highlighting the WHO has honoured India's ASHA sisters with the Director General's Global Health Leaders Award, the PM said "millions of ASHA sisters of India are giving impetus to the country's health programme from maternal care to vaccination; from nutrition to cleanliness".

"Prime Minister also met Pravasi Bharatiya Samman Awardees in Japan," a statement from the PMO said. "He appreciated the Indian community members and invited them to join and take forward the campaign of 'Bharat Chalo, Bharat se Judo'."

## INAUGURATION OF SPECIAL INDIA@75 TRAM IN WROCLAW, POLAND



To launch the celebrations of Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav in Poland, Mr. Jacek Sutryk, Mayor of Wroclaw and Ambassador Nagma M. Mallick flagged off a special tram in Wroclaw on 30th May, 2022.

The vibrantly-coloured tram was decorated with the Azadi ka Amrit

Mahotsav logo on the outside and had photographs of Indian leaders, monuments and symbols on the inside. The tram bears the name 'Dobry Maharaja' or the good Maharajas as it is named after the Maharajas of Jamnagar and Kolhapur who, during the 2nd World War, gave refuge to around 6000 Polish people.

In his remarks, Mayor Sutryk recalled fondly the support given by the two Maharajas to Poland. Ambassador Mallick thanked the Mayor of Wroclaw and the President of the MPK (Public Transport Authority),

Wroclaw, for their support to India and the Indian community in Poland and for implementing the unique idea of a tram to commemorate this important milestone for India.

The tram was inaugurated in the presence of Mr. Karthikey Johri, Honorary Consul of India in Wroclaw, members of the Indian community and Polish school children. Polish artists played the Indian Dhol and struck a festive note on the streets of Wroclaw while the school children added colour to the event with their cheering and waving balloons and Indian flags.

## STRENGTHENING THE INDO-US RELATIONSHIP FOR PEACE AND SECURITY WITH THE GUIDING PRINCIPLES OF VASUDHAIVA KUTUMBAKAM”

Mr. David Caprara



Mr. David Caprara, the Vice-President for Strategic Partnerships with the Global Peace Foundation in Washington, D.C while addressing ARSP said that, “Indo-US relationship has the potential to bring peace and prosperity to Indo Pacific region”. He is also a Nonresident Fellow at the Brookings Institution. He has previously served as a Deputy Assistant Secretary for the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

He was visiting India in connection with the preparation for the Global Peace Leadership Convention (GPLC) to be held in February 2023 in New Delhi. He was invited to deliver a lecture in ARSP on the topic of “Strengthening the Indo-US relationship for peace and security with the guiding principles of Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam”. The Foreign Affairs Committee of the ARSP organized this lecture on Tuesday 7th June 2022 from 4:30 to 5:30 PM at Pravasi Bhawan 50-DDU Marg, New Delhi.

The President of ARSP, Amb. Virendra Gupta chaired the meeting and gave the opening remarks. The Secretary General Mr. Shayam Parande gave introductory remarks about ARSP where as the welcome address was delivered by the Chairman of the Foreign Affairs

Committee Dr. Markandey Rai.

Mr. Caprara every eloquently presented the strengthened relationship between USA and India during current President of America Mr. Biden and Prime Minister of India Mr. Narendra Modi. He emphasized the role of Indian diaspora in building USA through their contribution in science, technology, business and education. The launching of Indo-Pacific Economic Framework (IPEF) by the American President in the presence of our PM Modi with 13 countries joining including India on 23rd May in Tokyo with the aim to strengthen their economy is a major step. The Framework is expected to help the US and Asian economies work more closely on issues including supply chains, digital trade, clean energy, and worker protections and anti corruption efforts.

He repeatedly underscored that; Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam is India's gift to the world that has been highlighted at the United Nations, by your many spiritual leaders, and through the mass popularization of yoga and other forms of soft power throughout the world.

He thanked the ARSP for inviting him for sharing the perspectives on the importance of the guiding principles of Vasudhaiv Kukumbakam for the

India -USA Alliance for Global Peace and Security. He further argued that with over 4.5 million Indian diaspora in the US, the role of universal values shared from the rich heritage of Vedanta and Vasudhav Kutumbakam is more apparent than ever as a binding factor deepening robust US-India relations. He counted on many Indian-American playing very important role in nation building from the Vice President Kamala to former UN Ambassador Nikki Haley from Republican Party. Many Indians are holding top position as CEO of several companies and other major corporations as well as in SME's and public sectors including NASA.

He briefly outlined the activities of Global Peace Foundation (GPF) in various continents and countries in the past and mentioned to hold GPLC 2023 in February in New Delhi, which will engage people from Indo-Pacific promoting universal shared values of Vasudhav Kutumbakam with this alliance for peace and security. He invited ARSP for their partnership in organizing the convention.

Several questions were asked and responded by the speakers. Dr. Rajiv Nayan, Coordinator, and Foreign Affairs committee of ARSP gave vote of thanks. ■



# HRH The Gyalsey INAUGURATES THE JIGME NAMGYEL WANGCHUCK SUPER FAB LAB



His Royal Highness The Gyalsey inaugurated the Jigme Namgyel Wangchuck Super Fab Lab (SFL) at the Tech Park in Thimphu, and the FabLab network in Bhutan on 4th June 2022.

The JNW SFL is only the third of its kind in the world. The SFL network consists of three additional Fab Labs located at Druk Gyalpo's Institute in Pangbisa, Paro, Jigme Wangchuck

Power Training Institute (JWPTI) in Gelephu and the Bio Fab Lab at the College of Natural Resources (CNR) in Lobeysa.

The SFL and Fab Lab network in Bhutan were established as part of a series of initiatives in line with the Royal Vision to build platforms that will foster a culture of innovation and creativity.

## PICTURE STORY:



*His Majesty The King graced the opening ceremony of the 7th Session of the Third Parliament on 2nd June 2022.*

# HIS MAJESTY THE KING GRANTS DHAR TO THE CHAIRPERSONS OF DZONGKHA TSHOGDU



His Majesty The King granted Dhar to the Chairpersons of the Dzongkhag Tshogdu of twenty dzongkhags at Lingkana Palace in Punakha on 11th May 2022.

The Chairpersons (Thrizin) of the Dzongkhag Tshogdu, which is the highest decision making body in the dzongkhag, are elected from among the local government leaders of the dzongkhag.

Elaborating on the Royal Vision for Bhutan and concerns for our future shared during the National Day Address last year, His Majesty reminded the Thrizins that their every initiative must be guided by how best it would benefit the people and help them prosper. ■

## फिजी और भारत का संबंध गर्भनाल का है

भारतीय डायसपोरा का भारत से गहरे संबंध है और उसमें भी भारत और फीजी के दीर्घकालिक, घनिष्ठ और आत्मीय संबंध हैं। दूर फीजी में भारत से गिरमिट मजदूरों का जाना एक महत्वपूर्ण अवसर था। उनके माध्यम से भारतीय संस्कृति और भारतीयता की गंध फीजी पहुँची। एक समृद्ध और सशक्त फीजी के निर्माण में उन्होंने अपना महत्वपूर्ण योगदान किया। इस अवसर पर केंद्रीय हिंदी संस्थान, अंतरराष्ट्रीय सहयोग परिषद तथा विश्व हिंदी सचिवालय के तत्वावधान में वैश्विक हिंदी परिवार की ओर से रविवार 15 मई, 2022 को दिन में 11.00 बजे (भारतीय समय) आयोजित वेब संगोष्ठी में 'फीजी गिरमिट दिवस समारोह' का आयोजन किया गया।

तुमने दिया देश को जीवन, देश तुम्हें क्या देगा, अपनी आग तेज रखने को, नाम तुम्हारा लेगा— रामधारी सिंह दिनकर के इस भाव की अनुभूति जब स्वाधीनता के अमृत महोत्सव में संपूर्ण भारत कर रहा है, ठीक उसी समय दुनिया के कई देश अपने अपने यहां भारतवंशियों के आगमन और उनके योगदान का स्मरण उत्सव मना रहे हैं। कार्यक्रम के प्रारम्भ में प्रो. राजेश कुमार ने भूमिका देते हुए इतिहास से परिचित कराया। प्रशांत महासागर के रमणीक देश फीजी ने 14 मई 2022 को 143वां गिरमिट स्मरण दिवस मनाया है। फीजी के लोग आज अपने उन गिरमिटिया पुरखों का पुण्य स्मरण कर रहे हैं जिन्होंने अपने संघर्ष, श्रम और साधना के बूते फीजी को प्रशांत का स्वर्ग बनाया। इस देश के साथ भारत के आधुनिक संबंधों की शुरुआत 14 मई 1879 को हुई थी। यही वह तिथि है जब भारतवंशी गिरमितियों का पहला समूह फीजी की धरती पर उतारा गया था। इस समूह में लगभग 500 गिरमितिया थी। दिनांक 03 मार्च 1879 को कलकत्ता (अब कोलकाता) से गिरमितियों को लेकर चले 'लेवनीडास' नामक जहाज को उस समय फीजी पहुंचने में लगभग ढाई माह का समय लगा था। वर्ष 1879 में शुरू हुआ गिरमितियों का यह सफर वर्ष 1916 में गिरमिट के खत्म होने तक बदस्तूर जारी रहा। फीजी में गिरमिट काल के लगभग 37 वर्षों के दौरान 42 जहाजों के माध्यम से

60 हजार से अधिक गिरमितियों को फीजी भेजा गया था। 'सतलज पांच' वह आखिरी जहाज था जिसने गिरमितियों की अंतिम खेप साल 1916 में फीजी पहुंचाई थी। फीजी का गिरमितिया स्मरण दिवस वास्तव में उन पुरखों के स्मरण का उत्सव है जिन्हें ब्रिटिश सरकार और उसके कारिंदों ने बहला-फुसलाकर और धमकाकर विदेश भेज दिया था। विदेश में उन पर किए गए अत्याचार के बावजूद गिरमितियों का भारत भाव उनके आचार-विचार और व्यवहार में हमेशा बना रहा। दो पीढ़ियों तक जबरन निरक्षर रखे गए गिरमितियों ने वाचिक परंपरा के माध्यम से अपनी भाषा, बोली, अपनी परंपरा, पूजा पद्धति, उत्सव, गीत, भजन आदि को न केवल अक्षुण्ण रखा, बल्कि अपनी अगली पीढ़ी को जस का तस हस्तगत भी करते गए। भारत की संस्कृति से फीजी को समृद्ध करने वाले गिरमितियों ने अपमान और यातना को भूलकर फीजी की स्वाधीनता का अभियान शुरू किया। भारतीय मूल के तमाम फीजी निवासी नायकों के नेतृत्व में चले लंबे संघर्ष के बाद आखिरकार 10 अक्टूबर 1970 को यह देश स्वाधीन हुआ। विजयादशमी के दिन फीजी की स्वाधीनता का प्रथम उत्सव भगवान राम के विजय उत्सव के साथ मनाया गया था। इससे वहां भारतीय संस्कृति का प्रभाव और गहराता गया।

कार्यक्रम में वक्ताओं ने स्मरण कराया कि अतीत की गाथाओं से दशकों और पीढ़ियों की दूरी तय कर चुके फीजी के वर्तमान गिरमितियावंशी आज इस देश की सत्ता में महत्वपूर्ण भूमिका में हैं। सरकार से शासन तक और व्यापार जगत से लेकर समाज तक, फीजी की हर व्यवस्था में गिरमितिया पुरखों की संतति आज शीर्ष पर है। भारतीय संस्कृति और वंश की जड़ों से फीजी के जुड़ाव के कारण भारत फीजी संबंधों में नए और सुखद अध्यायों का जुड़ाव अभी निरंतर जारी है। वहां के बच्चों के लिए स्वास्थ्य संबंधी गंभीर समस्याओं का निदान करने के लिए हाल ही में भारत के सहयोग से फीजी की राजधानी सुवा में एक चिल्ड्रेन हार्ट अस्पताल का निर्माण किया गया। इसी वर्ष 27 अप्रैल को भारतीय प्रधानमंत्री नरेन्द्र मोदी ने वीडियो कान्फ्रेंसिंग के माध्यम से इस अस्पताल का

उद्घाटन किया। इस अवसर पर उन्होंने कहा था, 'भारत और फीजी के बीच विशाल समुद्र जरूर है जिससे हमारे बीच लंबी भौगोलिक दूरी है, लेकिन हमारी संस्कृति ने हमें आपस में जोड़कर रखा है। भारत का यह सौभाग्य है कि हमें फीजी के सामाजिक-आर्थिक विकास में भूमिका निभाने और योगदान करने का अवसर मिलता रहा है। बीते दशकों में भारत और फीजी के रिश्ते हर क्षेत्र में लगातार आगे बढ़े हैं, मजबूत हुए हैं।'

कार्यक्रम में विशिष्ट वक्ता के रूप में श्री श्याम परांडे, महासचिव, अंतरराष्ट्रीय सहयोग परिषद ने कहा कि दोनों देशों के बीच संबंधों की गहराई के लिए गंभीर प्रयास किए जाने चाहिए। अखिलेश प्रसाद, अध्यक्ष, श्री सत संग रामायण मंडली, लामी, फीजी ने अपने अनुभवों साझा करते हुए कहा कि दोनों देशों के संबंधों में एक आनंद दायक परिवर्तन हुआ है कि दोनों देशों की नई पीढ़ी अपने इतिहास को रुचिपूर्वक जानना चाहती है और संबंधों को और प्रगाढ़ करने में रुचि ले रही है। श्री अखिलेश प्रसाद अपनी रामलीलाओं के लिए पूरे देश में पूज्य हैं। अपनी पावन उपस्थिति से सार्थक किया। भारत के उच्चायुक्त श्री कार्तिकेयन जी ने अपने संबोधन में कहा कि फीजी का स्वाधीनता दिवस हमारे अपने भारत के आजादी का अमृत महोत्सव श्रृंखला का भी महत्वपूर्ण आयोजन है और उन्होंने इस अवसर पर डाक टिकिट जारी की और विस्मृत इतिहास को प्रकाश में लाने की आवश्यकता पर बल दिया। डॉ. जवाहर करनावट ने फीजी की शांति दूत पत्रिका के इतिहास पर चर्चा की और आशा व्यक्त की कि शायद हम उसे फिर से शुरू कर सकें।

अध्यक्षता कर रहे श्री नारायण कुमार, मानद निदेशक, अंतरराष्ट्रीय सहयोग परिषद ने फीजी इतिहास की भूली बिसरी यादों को कुरेदा और समुद्र में डूब चुके सीरिया जहाज की चर्चा की और मांग की कि यूनेस्को को धरोहर घोषित करना चाहिए। फीजी की अनेक विशेषताओं की ओर नारायण प्रसाद जी ने ध्यान खींचा कि वहां एक तैरता हुआ द्वीप है, सूरज की पहली किरण वहां पड़ती है और भौगोलिक

आश्चर्य ऐसा है कि एक ओर जाओ तो रविवार होता है और दूसरी ओर जाओ तो सोमवार होता है। वहां हुए कवि सम्मेलन जिसमें स्वयं डॉ राजेन्द्र प्रसाद जी ने सहभागिता की एवं अनेक आयोजनों एवं व्यक्तियों यथा तोताराम जी, कमलापति जी आदि की उन्होंने चर्चा की।

वैश्विक हिंदी परिवार के तत्वावधान में इस कार्यक्रम श्रृंखला के प्रणेता और फिजी में विशिष्ट सेवा दे चुके श्री अनिल जोशी, उपाध्यक्ष, केंद्रीय हिंदी शिक्षण मंडल, शिक्षा मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार का विशेष सानिध्य महत्वपूर्ण बातों को विमर्श के केन्द्र में लाने वाला रहा। आपने गाँधी जी एवं उनके पुत्र मणिलाल जी तथा दीनबंधु एंड्रज की भूमिका के विषय कहा कि फिजी की आजादी को भारत का दूसरा स्वतंत्रता संग्राम कहा जा सकता है। फिजी के इतिहास से अनेक गुमनाम लोगों के नाम का उल्लेख करते हुए उन्होंने अपने कृतज्ञ भाव व्यक्त किए और दोनों देशों के दूतावासों के प्रयासों की सराहना की। अतीत की गाथाओं से दशकों और पीढ़ियों की दूरी तय कर चुके फिजी के वर्तमान गिरमिटियावंशी आज इस देश की सत्ता में महत्वपूर्ण भूमिका में हैं। सरकार से शासन तक और व्यापार जगत से लेकर समाज

तक, फिजी की हर व्यवस्था में गिरमिटिया पुरखों की संतति आज शीर्ष पर है। भारतीय संस्कृति और वंश की जड़ों से फिजी के जुड़ाव के कारण भारत फिजी संबंधों में नए और सुखद अध्यायों का जुड़ाव अभी निरंतर जारी है और हमारा गर्भनाल का संबंध है।

आज हनुमान चालीसा काफी प्रासंगिक है जिसे हमारे पूर्वज वहां लेकर गए थे, अब यह मुक्ति का गायन और संबल बन गया है और आश्वस्त है हमारे धर्म ध्वजा के सनातन फहराते रहना, आपने कहा कि फिजी से गिरमिट दंश का मिटना और इसमें लगे लोगों की त्याग तपस्या का फलीभूत होना, आजाद होना, भारत का दूसरा स्वतंत्रता संग्राम कहा जा सकता है। नमन है उन पूर्वजों को जिनके बलिदान ने यह संभव कर दिखाया है।

यहां यह ध्यात्वय है कि फिजी के बच्चों के लिए स्वास्थ्य संबंधी गंभीर समस्याओं का निदान करने के लिए हाल ही में भारत के सहयोग से फिजी की राजधानी सुवा में एक चिल्ड्रेन हार्ट अस्पताल का निर्माण किया गया। इसी वर्ष 27 अप्रैल को भारतीय प्रधानमंत्री नरेन्द्र मोदी ने वीडियो कान्फ्रेंसिंग के माध्यम से इस अस्पताल का उद्घाटन किया। इस अवसर पर उन्होंने

कहा था, 'भारत और फिजी के बीच विशाल समुद्र जरूर है जिससे हमारे बीच लंबी भौगोलिक दूरी है, लेकिन हमारी संस्कृति ने हमें आपस में जोड़कर रखा है। भारत का यह सौभाग्य है कि हमें फिजी के सामाजिक-आर्थिक विकास में भूमिका निभाने और योगदान करने का अवसर मिलता रहा है। बीते दशकों में भारत और फिजी के रिश्ते हर क्षेत्र में लगातार आगे बढ़े हैं, मजबूत हुए हैं।

कार्यक्रम का सफल संचालन श्री संतोष कुमार मिश्र, पूर्व निदेशक, स्वामी विवेकानन्द सांस्कृतिक केंद्र, फीजी ने किया जिन्होंने अपने व्यवहारिक अनुभवों एवं फिजी प्रवास की वास्तविकताओं के साथ विशिष्ट वक्ताओं से वार्तालाप किया और फिजी तथा भारत के संबंधों के आलोक में इतिहास, परंपराओं, वर्तमान की चुनौतियों एवं अपेक्षाओं को समेटते हुए उच्चाधिकारियों को संबोधन हेतु आमंत्रित किया। कार्यक्रम का संयोजन जवाहर कर्नावट, सुहाषिनी सरीन लता (फीजी) के सहयोग से हुआ। श्री वीरेन्द्र गुप्ता, संध्या सिंह, दिव्या माथुर, मीरा सिंह, प्रो. बीना शर्मा, आदि सभी अतिथियों के प्रति आभारव्यक्त करते हुए कार्यक्रम का समापन हुआ।

## भारत-बांग्लादेश के बीच शुरू हुई तीसरी ट्रेन सेवा



भारत-बांग्ला देश के बीच तीसरी ट्रेन सेवा से शुरु हो गई है। यह ट्रेन पश्चिम बंगाल के न्यू जलपाईगुड़ी और ढाका के बीच शुरू हुई है—इस ट्रेन का नाम है—मिताली एक्सप्रेस—बंधन एक्सप्रेस (कोलकाता—खुलना—कोलकाता) और मैत्री एक्सप्रेस (कोलकाता ढाका—कोलकाता) के बाद भारत और बांग्लादेश के बीच यह तीसरी ट्रेन है। मिताली एक्सप्रेस को न्यू जलपाईगुड़ी से ढाका छावनी के लिये नई दिल्ली से रिमोट के माध्यम से रवाना किया गया।

## यू एस कोस्ट गार्ड की पहली महिला कमान्डेंट बनी लिंडा



राष्ट्रपति जो बाइडन ने यूएस कोस्ट गार्ड की नई कमान्डेंट और सशस्त्र बलों की महिला सेवा प्रमुख एडमिरल लिंडा फागन को सम्मानित किया।

कोस्ट गार्ड की कमान संभालने वाली लिंडा पहली महिला हैं।

बाइडन ने तटरक्षक मुख्यालय में आयोजित कार्यक्रम में मौजूद 2 हजार लोगों के बीच कहा कि एडमिरल फागन का करियर युवाओं को प्रेरित करता है। अक्सर हम कहते हैं कि महिलाओं को इस क्षेत्र में प्रवेश करने के लिए कम अवसर है, तो फागन इसका एक अच्छा उदाहरण हैं।

फागन की तारीफ करते हुए बाइडन ने कहा कि फागन अमेरिका के सशस्त्रों बलों में से एक एडमिरल और सेवा प्रमुख हैं। उन्होंने फागन को धन्यवाद दिया। फागन को एडमिरल कार्ल एल शुल्स के स्थान पर नया कमान्डेंट नियुक्त किया गया है। बाइडन ने कहा कि जलवायु परिवर्तनों के खतरे से निपटने के लिए तटरक्षक को चौकन्ना रहना होगा।





## बालेश्वर अग्रवाल जी की पुण्यतिथि के अवसर पर भजन संध्या एवम श्रद्धांजलि सभा का आयोजन

अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय सहयोग परिषद के संस्थापक और पूर्व महासचिव स्व. बालेश्वर अग्रवाल जी की 9वीं पुण्यतिथि पर प्रवासी भवन में भजन संध्या और श्रद्धांजलि सभा का आयोजन किया गया। भजन के कार्यक्रम से पूर्व परिषद के वरिष्ठ सदस्यों ने उनकी प्रतिमा पर पुष्पांजलि अर्पित की। भारत के सुप्रसिद्ध भजन गायक और आकाशवाणी के वरिष्ठ कलाकार श्री रवि पंडित जी और उनके सहयोगी संगीतकारों ने अनेक उत्कृष्ट भजन प्रस्तुत किए। श्रद्धांजलि सभा में उपस्थित महानुभावों ने इन भजनों एवं उनके गायन की सराहना की।

इस अवसर पर स्व. बालेश्वर अग्रवाल जी की चित्र पर श्रद्धा सुमन अर्पित करने के बाद उन्हें भावभीनी श्रद्धांजलि अर्पित की गई। सभी वक्ताओं ने बालेश्वर जी के जीवन की महानताओं, विशिष्टताओं और सरलता की चर्चा करते हुए बताया कि

यद्यपि बालेश्वर जी ने एक समृद्ध परिवार में जन्म लिया था और बनारस हिन्दू यूनिवर्सिटी से इंजीनियरिंग की डिग्री प्राप्त की थी लेकिन उन्होंने अपना संपूर्ण जीवन समाज की सेवा के लिए अर्पित कर दिया। राष्ट्रीय स्वयं सेवक संघ के प्रचारक के बाद उन्हें भारतीय भाषाओं की एकमात्र न्यूज एजेंसी हिन्दूस्थान समाचार को चलाने का दायित्व सौंपा गया। उन्होंने इस संवाद समिति को अपने घोर परिश्रम और अद्वितीय प्रतिभा के बल पर भारत की एक महत्वपूर्ण संवाद एजेंसी बनाने में सफलता प्राप्त की। उन्हीं के प्रयासों के कारण सर्वप्रथम हिन्दी में टेलीप्रिन्टर का निर्माण भारत सरकार ने करवाया।

अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय सहयोग परिषद के अध्यक्ष श्री वीरेन्द्र गुप्ता ने प्रवासी भारतीयों को एकजुट करने और उनके भारत के साथ संबंध सुदृढ़ करने में बालेश्वर जी के

योगदान को अत्यंत महत्वपूर्ण बताया और कहा कि जब भारत सरकार ने प्रवासी भारतीयों के लिए समुचित स्तर पर कोई संस्थानिक व्यवस्था नहीं की थी, उस समय बालेश्वर जी ने अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय सहयोग परिषद की स्थापना कर भारत के पड़ोसी देशों और प्रवासी भारतीयों के साथ भारत के संबंधों को सुदृढ़ बनाने में महत्वपूर्ण भूमिका निभाई। परिषद के महासचिव श्री श्याम परांडे ने विदेशों में भारतीय भाषा और संस्कृति के प्रचार में बालेश्वर जी की भूमिका को रेखांकित करते हुए कहा कि वे सर्वदा जीवन के उच्च आदर्शों पर चलते रहे। समय पालन और जीवन में अनुशासन उनकी विशिष्टता रही है। इस अवसर पर परिषद के वरिष्ठ सदस्यों ने अपने वक्तव्य के द्वारा बालेश्वर जी के जीवन के आदर्शों पर प्रकाश डाला और भावभीनी श्रद्धांजलि अर्पित किया।





## भारतीय स्वाधीनता के अमृत महोत्सव के अवसर पर विशेष

सुब्रह्मण्य भारती (11 दिसम्बर 1882 –11 सितम्बर 1921) एक तमिल कवि थे। उनको 'महाकवि भारतियार' के नाम से भी जाना जाता है। उनकी कविताओं में राष्ट्रभक्ति कूट-कूट कर भरी हुई है। वह एक कवि होने के साथ-साथ भारतीय स्वतंत्रता संग्राम में शामिल सेनानी, समाज सुधारक, पत्रकार तथा उत्तर भारत व दक्षिण भारत के मध्य एकता के सेतु समान थे।

भारती जी का जन्म भारत के दक्षिणी प्रान्त तमिलनाडु के एक गांव एट्टायपुरम् में एक तमिल ब्राह्मण परिवार में हुआ था। उनकी प्रारम्भिक शिक्षा स्थानीय विद्यालय में ही हुई। मेधावी छात्र होने के नाते वहां के राजा ने उन्हें 'भारती' की उपाधि दी। जब वे किशोरावस्था में ही थे तभी उनके माता-पिता का निधन हो गया। उन्होंने सन् 1897 में अपनी चचेरी बहन चेल्लमल के साथ विवाह किया। वे बाहरी दुनिया को देखने के बड़े उत्सुक थे। विवाह के बाद सन् 1898 में वे उच्च शिक्षा के लिये बनारस चले गये। अगले चार वर्ष उनके जीवन में "खोज" के वर्ष थे।

बनारस प्रवास की अवधि में उनका हिन्दू अध्यात्म व राष्ट्रप्रेम से साक्षात्कार हुआ। सन् 1900 तक वे भारत के राष्ट्रीय आन्दोलन में पूरी तरह जुड़ चुके थे और उन्होंने पूरे भारत में होने वाली कांग्रेस की सभाओं में भाग लेना आरम्भ कर दिया था। भगिनी निवेदिता, अरविन्द और वंदे मातरम् के गीत ने भारती के भीतर आजादी की भावना को और पल्लवित किया।

### यह है भारत देश हमारा सुब्रह्मण्य भारती

चमक रहा उत्तुंग हिमालय, यह नगराज हमारा ही है।  
जोड़ नहीं धरती पर जिसका, वह नगराज हमारा ही है।  
नदी हमारी ही है गंगा, प्लावित करती मधुरस धारा,  
बहती है क्या कहीं और भी, ऐसी पावन कल-कल धारा?

सम्मानित जो सकल विश्व में, महिमा जिनकी बहुत रही है  
अमर ग्रन्थ वे सभी हमारे, उपनिषदों का देश यही है।  
गाएँगे यश हम सब इसका, यह है स्वर्णिम देश हमारा,  
आगे कौन जगत में हमसे, यह है भारत देश हमारा।

यह है भारत देश हमारा, महारथी कई हुए जहाँ पर,  
यह है देश मही का स्वर्णिम, ऋषियों ने तप किए जहाँ पर,  
यह है देश जहाँ नारद के, गूँजे मधुमय गान कभी थे,  
यह है देश जहाँ पर बनते, सर्वोत्तम सामान सभी थे।

यह है देश हमारा भारत, पूर्ण ज्ञान का शुभ्र निकेतन,  
यह है देश जहाँ पर बरसी, बुद्धदेव की करुणा चेतन,  
है महान, अति भव्य पुरातन, गूँजेगा यह गान हमारा,  
है क्या हम-सा कोई जग में, यह है भारत देश हमारा।

विघ्नों का दल चढ़ आए तो, उन्हें देख भयभीत न होंगे,  
अब न रहेंगे दलित-दीन हम, कहीं किसी से हीन न होंगे,  
क्षुद्र स्वार्थ की खातिर हम तो, कभी न ओछे कर्म करेंगे,  
पुण्यभूमि यह भारत माता, जग की हम तो भीख न लेंगे।

मिसरी-मधु-मेवा-फल सारे, देती हमको सदा यही है,  
कदली, चावल, अन्न विविध अरु क्षीर सुधामय लुटा रही है,  
आर्य-भूमि उत्कर्षमयी यह, गूँजेगा यह गान हमारा,  
कौन करेगा समता इसकी, महिमामय यह देश हमारा।



सुब्रह्मण्य भारती (11 दिसम्बर 1882 - 11 सितम्बर 1921)