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# Antar Rashtriya Sahayog Parishad Bulletin

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### Mauritius and India enjoy special and unique ties President- Smt. Droupadi Murmu



It is a great privilege and honour to be present here today at the prestigious Mahatma Gandhi Institute, Moka on this auspicious day. 12th March is special for both our countries - the day on which the historic Dandi March was led by Mahatma Gandhi in India in 1930, and the date adopted as Mauritius' Independence Day. Allow me to convey my heartfelt wishes and congratulations, as well as from the people of India, to all of you on this joyful occasion .

Mauritius and India enjoy special and unique ties. Nearly 70 percent of its population is of Indian origin, which has continued to maintain strong links in all spheres with India. It gives me a great sense of pride to see that this island, where the first batch of indentured labourers arrived from India nearly 190 years ago, has been transformed into a strong, prosperous, democratic and modern country. Mauritius is one of Africa's most prosperous and secure countries, and a financial powerhouse.

This impressive transformation is a result of immense struggle and hard work by you and your ancestors in a difficult environment. Initially brought as labourers, the aspirational route towards acquiring stakes in the country's polity and its leadership was long, and indeed very remarkable, with very few parallels in history. The political empowerment of the masses, as emphasized by Mahatma Gandhi ji during his historic transit through Mauritius, has brought dividends for Mauritius, which I could see today. The remarkable strides made by Indian diaspora in Mauritius is a matter of pride not only for us in India but is an example worth emulating for Indians around the world.

### **मॉरीशस के मेरे प्यारे भाईयों और बहनों,**

यहां उपस्थित आप सभी लोगों ने, न केवल अपने दिलों में, बल्कि जीवन के हर क्षेत्र में, भारतीय परंपराओं और संस्कृतियों को जीवित रखकर इस सफलता की कहानी में बहुत महत्वपूर्ण भूमिका निभाई है। जिस उत्साह और उल्लास के साथ मॉरीशस के लोग महा शिवरात्रि, कवडी, गणेश चतुर्थी, ईद, होली, दिवाली आदि जैसे त्योहार मनाते हैं, वह देखने लायक है। मुझे बताया गया है कि मॉरीशस के कई लोग चारधाम यात्रा के लिए भारत आते हैं। भारत के साथ-साथ, मॉरीशस में भी लोगों ने राम मंदिर प्राण प्रतिष्ठा समारोह पर उत्सव मनाया।

यह स्वाभाविक ही था, कि जनवरी 2023 में इंदौर में प्रवासी भारतीय दिवस में, 500 से अधिक प्रतिनिधियों के साथ, सबसे बड़े प्रतिनिधिमंडलों में से एक, मॉरीशस से आया। हमारे दोनों देशों के बीच विशेष बंधन को संजोने के लिए, मैं आप सभी के प्रति अपना स्नेह व्यक्त करना चाहती हूँ।

Three-day State Visit to Mauritius, President of India, Smt. Draupadi Murmu spearheaded delegation-level discussions with Prime Minister Pravind Jugnauth of Mauritius. Both leaders reaffirmed their commitment to fortify the longstanding partnership between their nations.

The pivotal moment of their meeting was marked by the exchange of four crucial agreements:

- Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between International Financial Services Centres Authority (GIFT City) and Financial Services Commission, Mauritius.
- MoU between Public Service Commission, Mauritius, and Union Public Service Commission.
- Protocol to amend the India-Mauritius Double Tax Avoidance Agreement (DTAA) to align with Base Erosion and Profit Shifting (BEPS) Minimum Standards.
- MoU between Central Bureau of Investigation, India, and the Independent Commission Against Corruption of Mauritius.

President Murmu and Prime Minister Jugnauth virtually inaugurated 14 community development projects funded by the Government of India and laid the foundation stone for the new Forensic Science Laboratory, another initiative supported by India.

In a gesture of diplomatic warmth, President Prithvirajsing Roopun of Mauritius hosted President Murmu for lunch at State House, Reduit.

Earlier in the day, President Murmu paid homage at Aapravasi Ghat, a site of historical significance for descendants of the first indentured workers from India. She also visited the International Slavery Museum, underlining the shared heritage between the two nations.

Before concluding her visit, President Murmu offered prayers at the sacred Ganga Talao, expressing reverence for the cultural and spiritual ties between India and Mauritius.

Additionally, President Murmu was bestowed with an Honorary Doctorate from the University of Mauritius in recognition of her contributions to bilateral relations and cultural preservation. In her address, she emphasized the importance of preserving cultural heritage and fostering cooperation among the youth of both nations.

The conferment of this prestigious honor underscores the deep-rooted friendship and collaboration between India and Mauritius, transcending geographical boundaries and enriching their cultural landscapes.

# Reflections on the International Conference: Ghadar Movement and the Role of Indian Diaspora in India's Freedom Struggle

📍 Dr. Komal Chhikara



Antar Rashtriya Sahayog Parishad (ARSP) in collaboration with Sri Guru Nanak Dev Khalsa College, University of Delhi, organized an International Conference on Ghadar Movement and the Role of Indian diaspora in India's Freedom Struggle on 23-24 March 2024 at Akashvani Bhawan, New Delhi. Focused on the Ghadar Movement and the Indian diaspora's role in India's freedom struggle, the conference served as a platform for reflection, appreciation, and solidarity, delving deep into historical narratives, contemporary relevance, and global perspectives surrounding this crucial chapter in India's quest for independence.

The inaugural session, graced by esteemed speakers and dignitaries, set the tone for insightful deliberations. In his inaugural address, Hon'ble Minister of State for External Affairs and Parliamentary Affairs, Shri V. Muraleedharan, emphasized the secular nature of the Ghadar movement, noting its diverse membership from across India, albeit predominantly Punjabi diaspora. He underscored the paramount role of the Ghadar movement in shaping history and its enduring impact on the freedom struggle, resonating not only within India but also among the diaspora worldwide. He highlighted the significance of the conference as an opportune moment to reflect on India's journey to independence, drawing lessons from history and charting a roadmap for a strong, resurgent, and united India poised at the threshold of its 'Amrit Kaal'.

In his address, Prof. Gopal Arora (Secretary, ARSP, and Convenor of the Conference), while outlining the conference's objectives, recalled a significant moment during a diaspora delegate meeting, where it became evident to him that the role of Ghadar Movement in India's freedom struggle has been vastly underrepresented, forgotten, and seldom discussed. It is this glaring gap in our understanding and discourse that propelled him to organize the conference and shine a light on the unsung heroes of the Ghadar movement and the Diaspora's remarkable contributions.

Prof. Gurmohinder Singh (Principal, SGND Khalsa College) emphasized the importance of collective dialogue, highlighting the enduring spirit of resistance among the Indian diaspora, echoing sentiments shared by S.Harmeet Singh Kalka, President, Delhi Sikh Gurudwara Management

Committee, who provided invaluable insights into the Sikh community's significant contributions to the Ghadar Movement. Through their collective narratives, both shed light on the rich history and profound impact of the diaspora's involvement in resistance movements, underscoring the need to recognize and commemorate their efforts.

Throughout the conference, diverse perspectives enriched our understanding of this historical epoch. During his address, Prof. Jaspal Singh, Former Vice Chancellor of Punjabi University, underscored the significance of heritage preservation. He articulated that the loss of heritage is equivalent to the loss of history itself. His remarks emphasized the importance of safeguarding cultural and historical legacies, highlighting their intrinsic value in shaping collective identity and understanding. Padma Shri Tomio Mizokami, Prof. Emeritus at Osaka University, Japan, offered a comprehensive global perspective on the Ghadar Movement, highlighting its impact beyond Indian borders. His insightful analysis expressed how the ideals of the Ghadar Movement resonated with broader global struggles for freedom and justice. Dr. Vasudha Gupta, Principal Director General of Akashvani, shed light on the role of media in shaping public opinion during times of political upheaval.

Prof. Neerja Gupta, Vice-Chancellor of Gujarat University, delivered a nuanced exploration of the socio-cultural transformations catalyzed during the Ghadar era. During her address, she went beyond theoretical discourse and proposed concrete action steps and advocated for the establishment of separate funds within her university dedicated to research on the Ghadar Movement. Ambassador Virendra Gupta, President of ARSP, delivered compelling concluding remarks underscoring the enduring relevance of the Ghadar Movement. He emphasized the importance of continued scholarly engagement with its legacy, urging everyone to draw inspiration from its principles to address present-day challenges. In his address, Shri Narayan Kumar, Honorary Director of ARSP, emphasized that this endeavor not only commemorates movements like Ghadar and the Indian National Army but also advocates for their integration into the educational curriculum, igniting the imagination of future generations.

Technical sessions chaired by esteemed academics such as Prof. Naresh Kumar (Centre for Diaspora Studies, Central University of Gujarat) and Prof. Kulvir Gojra (Department of Punjabi, Faculty of Arts, University of Delhi) provided scholarly analysis of the Ghadar era's socio-political and cultural dynamics. Themes ranging from diasporic community mobilization to the socio-cultural conditions of the time were explored in depth, underscoring the movement's significance in fostering national identity and solidarity.

The second day of conference, that is, 24th February 2024 began with the fourth technical session chaired by Shri Anil Joshi (Vice Chairman, Kendriya Hindi Shikshan Mandal). The session featured paper presentations that included examination of prominent figures such as Gadari Bibi Gulab Kaur, analysis of how the Ghadar Movement inspired later Indian community groups for independence and community mobilization, investigations into its impact on the Indian diaspora in Singapore, and assessments of its political ramifications. The conference's concluding session chaired by Dr. Jasvinder Kaur Bindra (Punjabi Speaker and Language Expert) discussed the poetry of Ghadar Lehar and Nationalism, an analysis of the lasting legacy of the Ghadar Movement on Indian poetry, particularly through newspapers like 'Swadheenta Akhbaar'.

After thorough deliberation, the conference put forth the following recommendations aimed at fostering greater awareness and appreciation for the Ghadar Movement and the Indian diaspora's role in India's freedom struggle:

1. Introduce courses on diaspora studies at undergraduate and postgraduate levels in universities to enhance understanding of the Indian diaspora's role in global contexts.

2. Prioritize research on the Ghadar Movement, offering scholarships or grants to support students pursuing studies in diaspora studies and related fields, fostering deeper academic exploration.
3. Ensure the Ghadar Movement is prominently integrated into academic curricula to acknowledge its significance in India's freedom struggle and its enduring impact on national identity.
4. Translate Ghadar literature into Hindi and other Indian languages to make it more accessible to a wider audience.
5. Organize study tours for universities to visit Ghadar memorials, sensitizing younger generations to the sacrifices and contributions of Ghadar activists towards India's independence.
6. Establish annual events dedicated to commemorating the Ghadar Movement, fostering continued remembrance and appreciation of its significance.
7. Develop Short-Term Courses (STCs) on Diaspora studies and encourage the creation of online resources to democratize access to knowledge about the Indian diaspora's history and contributions.
8. Implement quizzes on Ghadar and its icons to engage students and the public in interactive learning about Ghadar Movement.
9. Construct a memorial cum museum in Delhi to honor the legacy of Ghadar activists and provide a space for education and reflection on their contributions.
10. Digitize documents and archives related to the Ghadar Movement to preserve historical records and make them easily accessible for research and education.
11. Stock libraries at institutions like Sri Guru Nanak Dev Khalsa College and ARSP with books on Ghadar-related literature to facilitate scholarly inquiry and public engagement with this topic.
12. Improve the existing Ghadar memorials in the USA and establish similar memorials or museums in other countries where Ghadar activists fought against imperialist powers, ensuring their contributions are recognized globally.
13. Introduce workshops or training programs for educators to deepen their understanding of diaspora studies and the Ghadar Movement, enabling them to deliver comprehensive lessons and perpetuate awareness among their students.

In closing, the conference echoed the timeless words of Kartaar Singh Sarabha, reminding us of the indomitable spirit of the Ghadaris and their unwavering commitment to India's freedom. Reflecting on the insights shared and connections forged during this conference, we are inspired to continue engaging with the Ghadar legacy and its resonance in contemporary times.

# Report on Short Term Course on Indian Diaspora



Sri Guru Nanak Dev Khalsa College, University of Delhi, (IQAC) in association with Antar Rashtriya Sahayog Parishad and Diaspora Research and Resource Centre (under the aegis of Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India) conducted a 30 hours short term course on “Indian Diaspora: Interdisciplinary Perspectives”. This was the second iteration of the course; previously, it was successfully conducted in November 2022.

The inaugural session of the course was organized on 8th February 2024 at the auditorium of Sri Guru Nanak Dev Khalsa College. Hon’ble Mr Charan Jeeth Singh, Minister for Sugar Industry and Multi Ethnic Affairs, Govt of Fiji was the Chief Guest of the occasion. His Excellency Dr Roger Gopaul, High Commissioner of Trinidad and Tobago chaired the session. Dr. Dhananjay Kumar, a linguist and cultural activist, also graced the session with his presence.

The Inaugural gathering was addressed by Dr. Gurmohinder Singh, Principal, SGND Khalsa College, Prof. Gopal Arora, Secretary, ARSP & Convener of the course, and Dr. Vinayneet Kaur, Head, IQAC. The session concluded with the address of Amb Virendra Gupta who in his concluding remarks acknowledged the contributions of the Indian diaspora all over the world. He also mentioned that this course will help the participants to learn about the important role and contributions of the Indian diaspora worldwide.

The first session was held on 10 February 2024 in a hybrid mode, where some of the students and faculties visited Pravasi Bhavan and the others attended through zoom . Shri Narayan Kumar, Honorary Director, ARSP acquainted the participants with the topic of “Gandhi and Diaspora. This was followed by Dr. Dhananjay Kumar’s session on the theme of Indian Education in the Global Context.

On 13 February 2024 , DRRC and Antar Rashtriya Sahyog Parishad (ARSP) hosted an interactive session for 48 participants of 73rd KIP batch from 8 countries - Guyana,

Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, Mauritius, Myanmar, South Africa, and Fiji, to name a few.

This was attended by students and faculties of Sri Guru Nanak Dev Khalsa College, Delhi University. The main highlight of the event was the vibrant interaction between the students and the KIP participants. The session was graced by, H.E. Dr Roger Gopaul, High Commissioner of Trinidad & Tobago, H. E. H. Dillum, High Commissioner of the Republic of Mauritius and Miss Koentala Hardwarsingh, First Secretary from the Embassy of the Republic of Suriname.

In this sessions, the participants were addressed by Prof Ajay Dubey, Jawaharlal Nehru University, who spoke on 'Evolution of India's diaspora policy' and Ambassador Anup Mudgal (former high commissioner to Mauritius and founder chairman of DRRC), who addressed the gathering on Diaspora, Geopolitics and India's soft power.

On February 15th, Ms. Komal Chhhikara, Assistant Professor, University of Delhi, delivered a session on the intersection of diaspora and entrepreneurship. In the second session, Shri Anil Joshi, Vice Chairman of Kendriya Hindi Shikshan Mandal, addressed the audience on the role of Hindi.

On 17th February, The gathering was addressed by Dr Jaswinder Kaur Bindra (Punjabi writer and linguist ) on Influence of Indian Films, Music, creative arts, food, crafts and fashion on Indian diaspora. The second session was taken by By Dr Indrani Rampersad (Indo Trinidadian scholar who studied in India ) on Migration and diaspora during colonial and post independence period

On 19th February , Dr Amba Pande shared her views on Gender aspects of Indian diaspora. Another important session on Migration and Diaspora was taken by Prof Chandrashekhar Bhatt One of the key highlights of this Short term course was a two day International Conference on Ghadar Movement and Indian diaspora's role in India's freedom struggle organized on 23 and 24th February at Rang Bhawan, Akashvani Bhawan, New Delhi.

The inaugural session of the conference was attended by notable dignitaries where Honorable Shri V. Muraleedharan, Minister of State for External Affairs & Parliamentary Affairs was the chief guest and other speakers included- Dr. Vasudha Gupta, Principal Director-General of Akashvani, Prof. Jaspal Singh, Former Vice-Chancellor of Punjabi University, Padma Sri Tomio Mizokami, Prof. at Osaka University, Japan, Prof. Neerja Gupta, Vice-Chancellor of Gujarat University, and Ambassador Virendra Gupta.

The conference was a resounding success, where 4 papers were read across 5 technical sessions, providing a platform for comprehensive exploration of the Ghadar Movement's historical significance and contemporary relevance. The conference was attended by more than 300 participants, in online and offline mode.

The penultimate session of this short-term course was conducted two days back on 26th February. Three STC participants, namely Vasundhara Parashar, Titisha and Astha Agarwal presented their papers on multifaceted aspects of Diaspora, followed by a session on Gender and Diaspora by Ms. Nidhi Sharma, Assistant Professor, SGND Khalsa college. This was followed by an Open house for student interaction, whereby the participants shared their valuable experiences and feedback.

## 74<sup>th</sup> Know India Programme



Diaspora Research and Resource Centre (DRRC) - Antar Rashtriya Sahayog Parishad (ARSP) organized a felicitation and engagement program at Nehru Bhawan, Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India on Wednesday 28 February 2024. This felicitation and engagement program and the culmination of our Short-term Term Course (STC) on 'Indian Diaspora: Interdisciplinary Perspectives' were organized combined. The event brought together 40 guests from nine countries. These delegates were part of the 74th Know India Program (KIP). They came from Fiji, Mauritius, Trinidad and Tobago, Guyana, Myanmar, Suriname, South Africa, Malaysia and Sri Lanka. Additionally, 55 students participated in our Short Term Course (STC) on 'Indian Diaspora: Interdisciplinary Perspective'. This course took place from February 8th to 28th, 2024, and was organized in collaboration with DRRC of ARSP and the Internal Quality Assurance Committee (IQAC) of Sri Guru Nanak Dev Khalsa College, University of Delhi.

The main goal of the combined program was to provide a platform for both the 74th KIP delegates and STC students to come together. They had the opportunity to listen, observe, and interact with each other, as well as with the heads of the mission and other esteemed guests.

**Prof. Gopal Arora**, Secretary of the ARSP, expressed deep gratitude to the Ministry of External Affairs for graciously offering the opportunity to welcome and engage with the KIP delegates. In his remarks, he took the audience on a comprehensive journey through the rich history of ARSP and its affiliated organization, the DRRC, while also elaborating on their guiding principles. Additionally, he provided insights into the background of STC and highlighted the active participation of students, researchers, and faculty members from various universities across India. The course curriculum encompasses a wide range of topics, spanning from historical to contemporary diaspora issues, approached from an interdisciplinary perspective. Both ARSP and DRRC actively cultivate connections and interactions with the Indian diaspora through various events, including virtual platforms and physical gatherings.

**Professor Shashi Bala**, Joint Secretary of ARSP and Dean of K.M. Munshi Centre of Indology at Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan, delivered a profound lecture on Indian culture. She delved into the intricacies of the Panch-Mahabhuta, stone sculptures, and the Pran Pratidhth philosophy from our Veda and Purana. Bala highlighted the depth of Indian culture, emphasizing its tangible and intangible



aspects, portraying it not just as a lifestyle but as an intellectual treasure trove. With reverence, she underscored the vast repository of texts authored by revered figures like Rishis, Munnis, Acharyas, and Gurus. Her discourse also illuminated the significance of festivals, temples, and their underlying philosophies, positioning India as a Vishwa Guru of cultural intellectuality nurtured through centuries of tapasya and dhyana. Moreover, she expounded on the Indian knowledge system, addressing diverse domains such as ecology, health, medicine, and yoga. Bala's discourse extended to the profound impact of Sanskrit on global languages, especially English, as evidenced by its lexical contributions to the first Oxford dictionary. In essence, her lecture encapsulated the multifaceted essence of Indian culture and its enduring influence on the world.

**Ambassador Virendra Gupta**, ARSP President, addressed the event, emphasizing Indian culture's soft power. He welcomed 74th KIP delegates and praised Short Term Course students. Expanding on Prof. Shashi Bala's insights, Gupta explored Indian culture's dynamic aspects. Drawing from Trinidad and Tobago experiences, he illustrated how Indian culture adapts globally. Gupta highlighted encounters with diaspora members embracing cultural evolution. Stressing culture's fluidity, he emphasized its global impact. Gupta underscored Indian philosophy's soft power in international relations, prioritizing diplomacy over force. He accentuated the diaspora's role in shaping global perceptions and fostering cross-cultural understanding.

**Mr. Nilesh R. Kumar**, Charge'd'affaires of the High Commission of the Republic of Fiji, expressed gratitude towards the ARSP and Ministry of External Affairs for their efforts in promoting Indian outreach to the diaspora. Despite hardships, the diaspora preserves Indian culture in Fiji, shaping its modern identity. He highlighted Fiji's deeply entrenched Indian heritage, often called "mini India". Mr. Kumar emphasized bilateral relations, aiming to familiarize with India's culture and global influence. India's milestones include Chandrayaan's success, G20 presidency, and pandemic vaccine supply. Ranked fifth globally, India aspires to second economic position soon, showcasing its democratic and pharmaceutical strengths.

**Ms. Koentala Hardwarsingh**, First Secretary at the Surinamese Embassy in New Delhi, delivered a stirring address, urging engagement in India's developmental processes. She stressed embracing opportunities and confronting challenges, emphasizing people-to-people connections. Encouraging KIP participants and Short Term Course students to utilize the platform for youth engagement, she highlighted their role in bilateral relations. Hardwarsingh praised the KIP program's contribution to fostering connections with India, delving into culture and spirituality in Hindi. Her words resonated, emphasizing cultural exchange's role in international ties. Hardwarsingh's impassioned plea encapsulated the essence of cooperation and understanding between nations, echoing long after her speech.

**Mr. Hanani Ben Lewi**, Second Secretary at the Embassy of Co-operative Republic of Guyana in New Delhi, praised ARSP for their successful KIP program. Since arriving in September, he embraced India's rich culture, expressing gratitude for the immersive experience. During his speech, Mr. Lewi delved into the history of Indian diaspora in Guyana, emphasizing their contributions and the significance of festivals like Deepawali and Eid in fostering diversity. He highlighted India and Guyana's strong diplomatic ties, applauding collaborative efforts across various sectors. Mr. Lewi hailed the KIP program as pivotal in connecting Guyanese youth with India, fostering cultural understanding and cross-cultural exchange.

**Shri Sanjay Bhalla**, Vice President of ARSP, addressed the program and highlighted its uniqueness due to the participation of the 74th KIP attendees and students from various colleges and universities. In his speech, he emphasized the importance of understanding Indian culture, history, philosophy, and civilization, as it holds the solutions to all the world's problems. He mentioned the philosophy of 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam' and other concepts that were addressed by Professor

Shashi Bala. Mr. Bhalla also spoke about India's diaspora and its crucial role in making India a world leader. He contextualized India's past, where our ancestors were taken as laborers to different parts of the world by powerful colonizers, but now, in 2024, India is rapidly heading towards becoming a developed nation. He ended his speech by stating that the world is looking towards India, which has the potential to deal with the challenges, and urged everyone to contribute to making India a world leader.

**Dr. Vishnu Bishram**, a journalist and political activist hailing from Guyana, briefly addressed the event, highlighting India's rapid economic and soft power ascension. He predicted India's forthcoming position as the world's third-largest economy within a few years. Moreover, he referenced Ambassador Virendra Gupta's discourse, noting that Indian cultural centers and embassy initiatives primarily cater to urban areas, neglecting rural Indian communities. Dr. Bishram advocated for increased engagement programs, especially in countries like Guyana, emphasizing the importance of regular initiatives focusing on rural areas, particularly in arts education such as dance and music.

**Professor Baltej Singh Man**, a faculty member at San Jose State University in California, USA, commended ARSP, SGND Khalsa College, and the Ministry of External Affairs for orchestrating such a significant program. He extended his congratulations to STC students and KIP delegates for their participation. Professor Man delved into the subject of the student diaspora and NRIs, drawing from his own experiences as an educator of diaspora students. Reflecting on his teaching methods, he recounted how he used to accompany students to various religious sites after classes, encouraging them to engage in seva (selfless service). His discourse centered on fostering a lasting connection with the Indian diaspora through diverse cultural and religious interactions. Professor Man elucidated on pertinent issues using examples from Bollywood, Punjabi films, and songs.

**Dr. Komal Chikkara**, Assistant Professor at the University of Delhi, hosted an engaging quiz, seamlessly blending online and in-person interaction. Her workshop emphasized the significance of Indian culture, festivals, and knowledge systems, fostering inclusivity. Utilizing thought-provoking questions, she spurred active participation, deepening understanding. This dynamic approach not only educated but also united delegates, fostering companionship. Dr. Chhikara concluded with a presentation on Short Term Courses and an International conference by DRRC of ARSP and IQAC of SGND Khalsa College, University of Delhi. Her multifaceted workshop not only enriched understanding of Indian culture but also provided valuable insights and recommendations for future endeavors.

**Dr. Vinay Neet Kaur**, the Coordinator of the Internal Quality Assurance Cell (IQAC) at SGND Khalsa College, University of Delhi, extended a warm welcome to the KIP and STC delegates. Drawing upon her expertise in diaspora and diaspora studies as a Professor in the Department of Punjabi Literature, she conveyed her excitement for the knowledge exchange during the inaugural session of the program. Dr. Kaur praised the collaborative efforts of ARSP and SGND Khalsa College, with support from the Ministry of External Affairs. She expressed appreciation to the STC students for their consistent engagement and assistance, expressing confidence in their acquisition of valuable insights for future research endeavors and their deepening understanding of the Indian diaspora.

#### **Interaction with KIP delegates and STC students**

In a lively session with delegates from the Knowledge Integration Program (KIP) and Short Term Course (STC) students, Professor Gopal Arora fostered an atmosphere of open exchange. The interaction blossomed into a vibrant tapestry of ideas, where participants shared their diverse perspectives on India. Delegates expressed admiration for India's cultural richness and advancements in various fields, including Ayurveda, technology, and socioeconomic development. Their enthusiasm for India's progress was evident, reflecting a deep sense of pride in the nation's achievements. Discussions also meandered into the realm of Indian cuisine, with delegates reminiscing about the

culinary delights they savored during their visit. The session concluded with delegates expressing gratitude for the enriching experience and the lasting memories they would carry with them. Overall, the interaction between KIP delegates and STC students served as a testament to the power of cultural exchange and mutual learning.

**Shri Narayan Kumar**, Honorary Director of ARSP in his closing remark emphasized the invaluable benefits of Short Term Courses for participating students. He commended both organizations for their successful collaboration in organizing the course and extended congratulations to the 74th KIP delegates for their enriching visit to India. Additionally, Shri Kumar expressed gratitude to the various embassies involved and underscored Guyana's pivotal role in significant historical events, including the French Revolution, the Industrial Revolution, the Cultural Revolution, and the Demerara Revolution, which opposed discrimination and inhumane treatment of African slaves.

**Dr. Jasvinder Kaur Bindra**, renowned language expert and Punjabi writer, delivered the concluding remarks on behalf of ARSP and SGND Khalsa College. She expressed heartfelt appreciation for the substantial contributions made by the Indian diaspora worldwide. Dr. Bindra extended her gratitude to diplomats from various embassies, as well as to the 74th KIP delegates and Short Term Course students for their cooperation. Additionally, she thanked all resource personnel for generously dedicating their time to facilitate the course.

## **Amb. Virendra Gupta, President of ARSP met the former President of Sri Lanka in New Delhi**



Amb. Virendra Gupta, President of ARSP, called on the former President of Sri Lanka, H.E. Mr. Maithripala Yapa Sirisena, on 17 February 2024. H.E. Mr. Sirisena noted that the economic situation in Sri Lanka continued to remain precarious and India's help was much appreciated. He also emphasized the need for full and equitable involvement of the Tamil community in the economic development of the country and noted that requisite political process must be initiated on a priority basis to resolve all outstanding issues.

Amb. Gupta informed H.E. Mr. Sirisena that one of the focus areas of Antar Rashtriya Sahayog Parishad was to promote cordiality and friendship with our neighboring countries, particularly at people-to-people level in the spirit of mutual trust and accommodation. He added that ARSP was proposing to bring a delegation to Colombo shortly for a bilateral dialogue on India-Sri Lanka Relations.

## **Karnataka Announces Plan for NRI Secretariat**

In a bid to enhance engagement with its diaspora, Karnataka has declared its intention to establish a dedicated secretariat for non-resident Indians (NRIs). Home Minister G Parameshwara revealed the decision on Wednesday, February 21, following a warm reception of NRIs from over 15 countries in the state Assembly's visitors' gallery.

"The demand for a separate ministry for NRIs has been voiced, and it aligns with our manifesto. As a response, we will be setting up a distinct secretariat akin to Kerala's initiative," announced Parameshwara.

Health Minister Dinesh Gundu Rao emphasized the significance of the NRI community, particularly from Dakshina Kannada and Udupi districts, stressing their cultural ties and potential for investment. "Their contributions are noteworthy, and nurturing these connections will contribute to the state's progress," remarked Rao.

Arvind Bellad, Deputy Leader of the Opposition, echoed similar sentiments, underscoring the pride NRIs bring to the nation and their role in development. He also acknowledged their appreciation of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's governance.

With this move, Karnataka aims to strengthen its bond with NRIs, recognizing their economic and cultural significance while facilitating avenues for collaboration and investment in the state's development endeavors.

## **Grand Procession Marks Inauguration of BAPS Hindu Temple in Abu Dhabi**



Thousands of devotees, clad in traditional Indian attire, filled the streets of Abu Dhabi for the grand inauguration procession of the BAPS Hindu temple. Known as the "Palkhi Yatra," the procession saw over 1,100 participants singing and dancing joyously to devotional tunes. As part of the 'Festival of Harmony,' the procession displayed idols from the temple's seven main shrines, carried on elaborately decorated palanquins, symbolizing unity within the Hindu community. Brahmviharidas Swami, the project head, expressed gratitude and highlighted the occasion's significance. Community member Lina Barot shared her profound joy, praising the temple's inclusive atmosphere. The temple, inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, welcomed over 5,000 attendees. Spanning 27 acres and built at a cost of Rs 700 crore, it features intricate sandstone sourced from Rajasthan. With its doors open to the public from 9 am to 8 pm daily (except Mondays), the BAPS Hindu temple embodies cultural harmony and spiritual sanctity in Abu Dhabi.

## **India-born Economist Geeta Batra Appointed First Woman Director of World Bank's GEF**



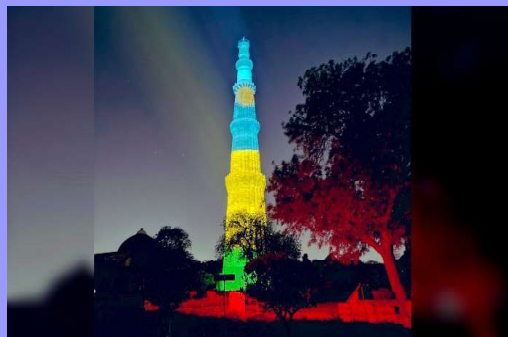
Geeta Batra, a distinguished Indian economist, has been appointed as the Director of the Independent Evaluation Office (IEO) of the World Bank's Global Environment Facility (GEF), marking the first time a woman from a developing country has held this esteemed position. At 57, Batra currently serves as the Chief Evaluator & Deputy Director for Evaluation at the GEF's IEO. Her expertise was unanimously recognized during the 66th GEF Council Meeting in Washington. Batra aims to provide sound evaluative evidence on GEF's performance, ensure leadership in environmental evaluation, and strengthen IEO teams. Based in Virginia, US, she prioritizes partnerships with multilateral agencies to share effective environmental strategies globally. Her appointment highlights the World Bank's commitment to diversity and inclusivity, underscoring Batra's vast experience in environmental economics poised to contribute significantly to GEF's mission of promoting sustainable development and safeguarding the global environment.

## **Ceremonial Launch Marks Milestone in Indian Housing Project: 1300 Houses to be Built in Sri Lanka**



The ceremonial launch of Phase IV of the Indian Housing Project in Colombo marks a significant step towards addressing housing needs and strengthening bilateral ties. With the construction of 1300 houses across 45 plantation estates in 10 Sri Lankan districts, the initiative targets the housing requirements of plantation workers, notably the Indian Origin Tamils. Led by the Government of India, this phase pledges to build 10,000 houses, extending support to communities across six provinces. Prime Minister Narendra Modi's announcement in 2017 laid the groundwork for this endeavor, emphasizing India's commitment to the cause. The project underscores the longstanding partnership between India and Sri Lanka, with a total commitment of 60,000 houses. Beyond housing, grant projects exceeding SLR 30 billion, including a multi-specialty hospital in Dickoya, exemplify the comprehensive cooperation. Prime Minister Modi's announcement of a SLR 3 billion package further commemorates historic ties, reflecting shared dedication to sustainable development and community welfare.

## **Top MEA Officials Join Rwanda in Commemorating 30th Anniversary of 1994 Genocide**



*Qutub Minar, New Delhi was illuminated in Rwandan colours on April 7, 2024 to commemorate the 1994 genocide against the Tutsis*

Senior officials from India's Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) joined Rwanda in commemorating the 30th anniversary of the 1994 Rwanda Genocide, known as Kwibuka 30, in Kigali. New Delhi's iconic Qutub Minar was illuminated in the Rwandan flag's colors on April 7, 2024, marking the International Day of Reflection on the Genocide in Rwanda. High Commissioner Jacqueline Mukangira expressed gratitude for India's solidarity, calling it "a symbol of global unity." Led by President Paul Kagame, the commemorative events saw India's notable representation, including Secretary (Economic Relations) Dammu Ravi and Additional Secretary Puneet Roy Kundal from the MEA. Kundal shared his experience online, emphasizing India's commitment to honoring the genocide victims. India's historical ties with Rwanda, its proactive stance in warning of genocide, and contributions during the crisis underscore its solidarity. Secretary Ravi's visit to Rwanda is part of India's broader efforts to deepen ties with African nations, focusing on economic and agricultural cooperation, signaling a strategic shift in its foreign policy approach.

## **India Inaugurates Educational Infrastructure Project in Nepal's Khotang District**

India recently inaugurated a significant educational infrastructure project in Nepal's Khotang district, showcasing ongoing bilateral cooperation. With a grant of NRs. 36.10 million from the Government of India, new school and hostel buildings were constructed at Shree Sharada Secondary School in Rawa Besi Rural Municipality. The inauguration ceremony on April 4, 2024, witnessed the presence of notable figures including San Bahadur Rai, Chief of the District Coordination Committee; Phatik Kumar Shrestha, Chairman of Rawa Besi Rural Municipality; and Suman Shekhar, First Secretary at the Embassy of India, Kathmandu. This project, categorized as a High Impact Community Development Project (HICDP), symbolizes the enduring collaboration between the two nations. Shree Sharada Secondary School, established in 1952, plays a vital role in regional education, catering to over 365 students, with a notable enrollment of girls. The newly constructed facilities are poised to enhance the educational landscape, providing improved learning environments. This initiative underscores India's commitment to supporting Nepal's development across various sectors, strengthening bilateral ties and advancing infrastructure in priority areas.

## University of Cambridge Launches Manmohan Singh Undergraduate Scholarship

The University of Cambridge has announced the Manmohan Singh Undergraduate Scholarship program, symbolizing a landmark in India-UK academic collaboration. Named after India's former Prime Minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh, the initiative aims to enhance educational opportunities for Indian students at one of the world's premier institutions. Vice-Chancellor Professor Alison Richard unveiled the program in New Delhi, underscoring its role in fortifying educational bonds between the two nations. Scheduled to begin in the forthcoming academic year, the scholarship will cover tuition fees and means-tested maintenance for undergraduate studies. With an initial commitment exceeding £1.5 million, the program plans to support up to ten scholars concurrently. Generous contributions from entities like the Eranda Foundation and Bharti Airtel, led by Sunil Bharti Mittal, have bolstered the scholarship fund. Dr. Manmohan Singh expressed gratitude for the honor and emphasized the scholarships' role in nurturing India's youth. The initiative garnered praise from donors and stakeholders, affirming its significance in fostering socio-economic development. Professor Richard's visit to India underscores Cambridge's dedication to collaboration, further cementing ties between the two nations. The Manmohan Singh Undergraduate Scholarship program symbolizes a lasting partnership, empowering future leaders to effect positive change.

## Labour Party Seizes Holi Festival to Connect with UK's Indian Diaspora Ahead of Elections



*Labour Party leader Keir Starmer, London Mayor Sadiq Khan and members of his Shadow Cabinet to celebrate Holi with the Indian diaspora.*

In a strategic outreach to the Indian diaspora, the UK's Opposition Labour Party, under Keir Starmer's leadership, embraced Holi, the festival of colors. Hosted by the British-Indian think-tank 1928 Institute in London, the event gathered notable figures like Mayor Sadiq Khan and Starmer's Shadow Cabinet members. Starmer highlighted themes of new beginnings and unity, aligning Holi's spirit with the party's vision for national renewal. Stressing inclusiveness ahead of the general election, he praised the British-Indian community's contributions to the UK's cultural and economic fabric. Labour's Wes Streeting emphasized their vital role in the NHS, advocating for UK-India healthcare collaboration. Dr. Nikita Ved discussed healthcare disparities faced by British-Indians, emphasizing community resilience. Attendees from various sectors united to celebrate and strengthen bonds, with a performance by Raageshwari adding vibrancy. The successful event is poised to become an annual fixture, symbolizing Labour's commitment to cultural exchange and minority engagement in the approaching electoral season.

## **Indo-American Satwinder Kaur Elected President of Kent City Council**



In a landmark decision, the Kent City Council unanimously appointed Indo-American leader Satwinder Kaur as its president for a promising two-year term. With seven years of dedicated service to the council, Kaur succeeds Bill Boyce, who graciously nominated her. During the February 6 meeting, Boyce expressed confidence in Kaur, remarking, “You’ve got some little shoes to fill. I’m sure you will do a great job, and we are here to support you.” Acknowledging Boyce’s mentorship, Kaur conveyed gratitude, emphasizing the shared goal of serving the community. The Kent City Council, comprising seven members, plays a crucial legislative role and oversees financial allocations, including the biennial budget. As president, Kaur serves as the council’s official spokesperson, collaborating closely with the mayor. Her vision focuses on innovation and inclusivity, aiming to bring fresh perspectives to the city’s challenges. With a commitment to spotlighting Kent’s potential, Kaur’s leadership signals a future of progress and collaboration for the city.

## **Unity and Diversity Mark Indian New Year Celebrations in Malaysia**

In a vibrant showcase of unity and diversity, Malaysians from diverse sub-ethnicities within the Indian community consecutively celebrated their New Year’s festivities, starting from April 9. The celebrations, marked by prayers and cultural events, emphasized a profound plea for greater unity and harmony among the nation’s varied races.

The Indian New Year began with the Telegu community observing Ugadi on April 9, followed by Vaisakhi celebrated by the Punjabi community on April 13. Subsequently, the Tamil, Malayalee, and Bengali communities welcomed Chithirai Puthandu, Vishu, and Polia Baisakh respectively on April 14.

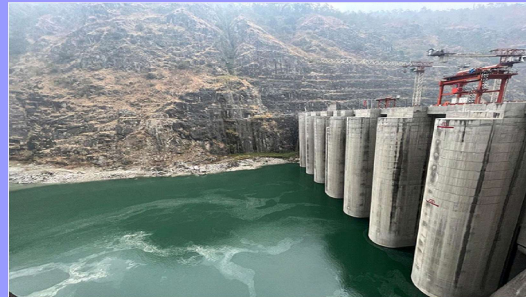
Addressing the cultural significance, Datuk V. Nadarajan emphasized historical ties between India and Southeast Asia, stressing the need for cultural understanding and unity among Malaysians. The convergence of the Indian New Year with Hari Raya Aidilfitri reminded Malaysians to embrace peace and tolerance amidst diversity.

With cross-cultural participation highlighted at events like Vaisakhi celebrations, there’s a growing emphasis on fostering mutual understanding and solidarity. As the festivities concluded, Malaysia’s rich cultural tapestry stands as a testament to its commitment to building a harmonious society.



## Reservoir Filling Ceremony Marks Milestone in PHPA-II Project

✍️ *Source: Kuensel (Chencho Dema)*



Wangdue—In honour of the brave individuals who sacrificed their lives during the construction of the Punatsangchhu-II Hydroelectric Project Authority (PHPA-II), Rajesh Kumar Chandel, the managing director, opened his remarks at the reservoir filling ceremony on February 21, coinciding with the King’s birth anniversary.

The successful completion of the reservoir filling for the 1,020 MW Punatsangchhu-II Hydroelectric Project Authority (PHPA-II) marks a significant milestone, bringing the project closer to its commissioning phase. Over five months, the Punatsangchhu will gradually fill the reservoir, symbolising the project’s advancement toward completion.

Once the dam is fully impounded, it will store approximately 7 million cubic metres of water for power generation, a noteworthy achievement for the nation.



*As of January 31, the project has achieved an overall physical progress of 96.83 percent*

Rajesh Kumar Chandel expressed gratitude, stating, “We have come this far due to the dedication of numerous unsung heroes who have labored tirelessly over the past decade. Many lives have been lost, and countless workers have been injured or disabled during the construction. Today, we honor their contributions to this monumental project.”

Despite the project’s initial commissioning target of 2017, unforeseen geological challenges, flash floods, and the Covid-19 pandemic led to schedule delays and cost overruns, including the

discovery of a major shear zone at the dam foundation. Chandel highlighted the collapse of the downstream surge gallery (DSG) as a significant challenge that once threatened the project's feasibility.

However, with appropriate engineering solutions, the project has persevered toward completion. Various dignitaries including Prime Minister Tshering Tobgay, Minister for Energy and Natural Resources Gyem Tshering, Minister of Health Tandin Wangchuk, Members of Parliament, and Ambassador of India to Bhutan Sudhakar Dalela attended the event. The PHPA-II is a joint project between the governments of Bhutan and India. The foundation stone was laid by the then Prime Minister of Bhutan and the External Affairs Minister of India in 2010.

Ambassador Sudhakar Dalela expressed confidence in meeting project timelines and emphasised the longstanding cooperation between Bhutan and India in the hydropower sector, which has significantly contributed to Bhutan's economic growth. As of January 31, the project has achieved an overall physical progress of 96.83 percent, with major components nearing completion.

The project aims to commission all six generating units by the end of 2024, with a focus on completing major civil works by June 2024. Chandel expressed confidence in surpassing the scheduled commissioning dates for the first two units, emphasising the team's dedication to the mission.

He affirmed: "I assure everyone present that the project will be ready to serve the nation in a matter of months. Our team is united in this mission." The project has incurred expenses of Nu 83 billion (B) to date.

## **H.E. Mr. D. N. Dhungyel participated in Raisina Dialogue 2024**



On his first foreign engagement as foreign minister, Lyonpo D.N. Dhungyel, Minister for Foreign Affairs and External Trade of Bhutan participated in Raisina Dialogue 2024.



## Days to Remember

in April, 2024

April 02	:	International Children's Book Day
April 06	:	International Day of sport for Development & Peace
April 08	:	Amavasya
April 08	:	International Roma Day
April 13	:	Baisakhi
April 14	:	Dr. Ambedkar Jayanti
April 17	:	Ram Navami
April 22	:	Mother Earth Day
April 23	:	Purnima
April 23	:	World Books & Copyright Day
April 26	:	Tanzania- Union Day
April 27	:	South Africa : Freedom Day

साहित्य किसी भी समाज का जीवन है—डॉ. सुरेन्द्र गम्भीर



अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय सहयोग परिषद और वैश्विक हिन्दी परिवार के संयुक्त आयोजन 'प्रवासियों से संवाद' Dialogue with Diaspora श्रृंखला के अंतर्गत अमेरिका के प्रसिद्ध शिक्षाविद डॉ. सुरेन्द्र गंभीर से सम्वाद बृहस्पतिवार 4 अप्रैल 2024 को प्रवासी भवन में आयोजित किया गया।

“साहित्य किसी भी समाज का जीवन है. जब भाषा का द्वास होता है तो पूरा द्वास नहीं होता अपितु बाजारू स्वरूप में भाषा बची रहती है, आज न सिर्फ त्रिनिदाद, गुयाना, मारीशस अपितु भारत में भी हिंदी भाषा की स्थिति अच्छी नहीं है। यदि वर्तमान स्थितियों में सुधार नहीं हुआ तो हिंदी भी साहित्य की भाषा नहीं रह पायेगी। बाजारू भाषा के रूप में बेशक हिंदी बची रहेगी। इस स्थिति से बचने के लिए युवा पीढ़ी को भाषा के प्रयोग के लिए प्रोत्साहित करने की आवश्यकता है। आज हम भारतीय प्रभाव के स्वर्णिम काल से गुजर रहे हैं ऐसे में हमें हिंदी और भारतीय भाषाओं के प्रचार प्रसार को भी बढ़ाने की आवश्यकता है।”

उपरोक्त विचार अमेरिका से आये सुप्रसिद्ध शिक्षाविद एवं भाषा विज्ञानी डॉ सुरेन्द्र गंभीर ने “वैश्विक हिंदी परिवार एवं अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय सहयोग परिषद के संयुक्त तत्वावधान में 'प्रवासियों से संवाद श्रृंखला' के अंतर्गत आयोजित संगोष्ठी में मुख्य अतिथि के रूप में बोलते हुए व्यक्त किये। वैश्विक हिंदी परिवार द्वारा विगत चार वर्षों से भाषा और भाषा से जुड़े विद्वानों के साथ निरंतर संवाद और संगोष्ठियाँ आयोजित करता रहा है. इसी क्रम में आज डॉ. सुरेन्द्र गम्भीर के साथ संवाद का यह कार्यक्रम आयोजित किया गया है.”

एक प्रश्न के उत्तर में डॉ. गम्भीर ने कहा – “भाषा का विकास आवश्यकता पर आधारित होता है. इसलिए प्रवासी भारतीय द्वितीय भाषा के रूप में हिंदी को सीख और अपना सकते हैं पर हिंदी भाषा पर वास्तविक संकट भारत में है, इसलिए विदेशों से अधिक भारत में हिंदी भाषा को बचाने और बढ़ाने की आवश्यकता है। सुरेन्द्र गम्भीर ने भाषा के सामाजिक पक्ष पर कहा – “लोगों के बीच जाए बिना भाषा के सामाजिक पक्ष पर कार्य नहीं हो सकता” भारत विभाजन से जुड़े निजी प्रसंगों तक पर विस्तार से चर्चा की।

अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय सहयोग परिषद के महासचिव श्याम परांडे ने अपने अध्यक्षीय वक्तव्य में कहा – “डॉ सुरेन्द्र गम्भीर ने हिंदी एवं अन्य भारतीय भाषाओं की दुर्दशा पर जो कुछ भी कहा है वह चिंतनीय है, परन्तु पूरा परिवेश नकारात्मक नहीं है। मलेशिया में ‘हेरिटेज सोसाइटी’ ने सभी भाषा दुभाषियों को एक मंच पर लाने का प्रयास किया है फिजी में तमिल समुदाय हिंदी बोलता है। भाषा के क्षेत्र में ऐसे नेतृत्व की आवश्यकता है जो मातृभाषा के प्रयोग को प्रोत्साहित कर सके। हमें यूरोप और अमेरिका से सीखने की आवश्यकता है।”

इसी क्रम में वैश्विक हिंदी परिवार के अध्यक्ष डॉ. अनिल जोशी ने “वैश्विक हिंदी पत्रिका” के प्रकाशन में संपादक डॉ. जयशंकर यादव, प्रो. स्वाति श्वेता, डॉ. बरुण कुमार एवं श्री कृष्ण कुमार द्वारा किये गये प्रयासों को रेखांकित करते हुए पत्रिका के उद्देश्यों एवं उपादेयता पर प्रकाश डाला। अनिल जोशी जी ने डॉ. सुरेन्द्र गम्भीर द्वारा विदेश में भाषा को अपने आचरण से प्रचारित और प्रसारित करने एवं प्रबन्धन के क्षेत्र में हिंदी के प्रयोग में उनके महत्वपूर्ण योगदान का जिक्र करते हुए कहा कि अगर हमें हिंदी के अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय चरित्र को समझना है तो हमें सुरेन्द्र गम्भीर की बातों के निहितार्थ को समझना होगा। हमें हिंदी को ज्ञान की भाषा बनाना होगा। हिंदी भाषा को बचाना है तो भाषा के प्रति समर्पण का भाव रखना होगा।”

इस अवसर पर अपना सान्निध्य प्रदान कर रहे अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय सहयोग परिषद के मानद निदेशक नारायण कुमार ने डॉ सुरेन्द्र गम्भीर के योगदान की चर्चा करते हुए विदेशों में महात्मा गांधी द्वारा भारतीय भाषाओं के विकास में दिए गये कार्यों की चर्चा की।

कार्यक्रम का संचालन मारीशस के भारतीय उच्चायोग में द्वितीय सचिव रही सुनीता पाहुजा ने किया। इस कार्यक्रम में वैश्विक हिंदी परिवार की मासिक पत्रिका ‘वैश्विक हिंदी पत्रिका’ का लोकार्पण भी किया गया। इस अवसर पर पत्रिका के प्रबंध संपादक अरविंद पथिक ने पत्रिका के बारे में संक्षिप्त जानकारी दी।

इस अवसर पर “वैश्विक हिंदी परिवार, दिल्ली के संयोजक विनयशील चतुर्वेदी, अलका सिन्हा, संतोष कुमार मिश्र, प्रमोद त्रिपाठी, सरोज शर्मा, मनोज कुमार सिन्हा, शैलेन्द्र शर्मा, योगेश प्रताप के अतिरिक्त कार्यक्रम में बड़ी संख्या में हिंदी विद्वानों की उपस्थिति एवं सहभागिता रही।

ऑनलाइन माध्यम से जुड़े महत्वपूर्ण व्यक्तित्वों में डॉ. तोमियो मिजोकामी, डॉ. दिव्या माथुर, हरिराम पंसारी, डॉ. बरुण कुमार, डॉ. हरी सिंह पाल, हर्षवर्धन आर्य, युरी बोशोबिका तथा शैलजा अग्रवाल प्रमुख थे।

## परिषद ने मनाई अंतर्राष्ट्रीय नागरी लिपि स्वर्ण जयंती संगोष्ठी



देश विदेश में नागरी लिपि का प्रचार प्रसार करने वाली देश की प्रतिनिधि संस्था नागरी लिपि परिषद ने अपनी स्थापना की स्वर्ण जयंती दिल्ली विश्वविद्यालय के हंसराज महाविद्यालय में बड़ी धूमधाम से मनाई। समारोह की अध्यक्षता पूर्व कुलपति एवं परिषद के अध्यक्ष डॉ प्रेमचंद पातंजलि ने की और केंद्रीय हिंदी संस्थान आगरा के निदेशक डॉ सुनील बाबूराव कुलकर्णी मुख्य अतिथि के रूप में उपस्थित थे। इंदिरा गांधी राष्ट्रीय मुक्त विश्वविद्यालय, नई दिल्ली के समकुलपति डॉ किरण हजारीका और टोरंटो कनाडा से प्रकाशित हिंदी पत्रिका वसुधा की संपादक डॉ श्रीमती स्नेह ठाकुर विशिष्ट अतिथि के रूप में आमंत्रित थे। समारोह का शुभारंभ आचार्य अनमोल के स्वस्त वाचन और वैदिक विद्वान आचार्य अखिलेश आयेंदु की नागरी लिपि वंदना से हुआ। हंसराज महाविद्यालय की प्राचार्या डॉ रमा शर्मा ने अपने स्वागत भाषण में नागरी लिपि परिषद की स्थापना की स्वर्ण जयंती पर परिषद के पदाधिकारियों और कार्यकर्ताओं को हार्दिक बधाई देते हुए राष्ट्रीय एकता में नागरी लिपि के महत्व पर प्रकाश डाला। उन्होंने कहा कि हमें राष्ट्रीय अस्मिता की रक्षा के लिए राष्ट्रभाषा हिन्दी और राष्ट्र लिपि नागरी को बढ़ावा देना ही होगा। नागरी लिपि परिषद के महामंत्री और संस्कृति मंत्रालय भारत सरकार की हिंदी सलाहकार समिति के सदस्य डॉ हरिसिंह पाल ने विषय प्रवर्तन करते हुए नागरी लिपि परिषद की स्थापना देते हुए कहा कि राष्ट्र एकता के सुदृढीकरण के लिए आचार्य विनोबा भावे ने पवनार आश्रम वर्धा में गांधी स्मारक निधि की बैठक में नागरी लिपि का पक्ष रखा था। भारत सरकार के तत्कालीन शिक्षा मंत्री ने सरकारी सहयोग के लिए एक अलग संस्था के गठन का सुझाव दिया था, जिसके फलस्वरूप 10 अप्रैल 1975 को नागरी लिपि परिषद गठित होकर पंजीकृत संस्था के रूप में अस्तित्व में आई। इसमें देशभर के तत्कालीन नागरी हिंदी प्रेमी भाषाविद सम्मिलित हुए। आज यह परिषद देश की प्रतिष्ठित नागरी संस्था है जो विगत 50 वर्षों से देश भर में विशेष रूप से पूर्वोत्तर भारत एवं दक्षिण भारत में अनवरत नागरी लिपि का प्रचार प्रसार कर रही है। जिसके कारण पूर्वोत्तर की अनेक लिपि विहीन बोली भाषाओं ने नागरी लिपि को अंगीकार कर लिया है। मुख्य अतिथि डॉ सुनील कुलकर्णी ने अपने उद्बोधन में नागरी लिपि परिषद के महामंत्री डॉ पाल के नागरी लिपि के प्रचार-प्रसार के लिए किए जा रहे राष्ट्र व्यापी प्रयासों की सराहना करते हुए परिषद की स्थापना की स्वर्ण जयंती पर सभी को बधाई दी। उन्होंने कहा कि नागरी लिपि हमारे देश की राष्ट्रीय एकता की महत्वपूर्ण कड़ी है। डॉ कुलकर्णी ने इस अवसर पर केंद्रीय हिंदी निदेशालय और केंद्रीय हिंदी संस्थान की ओर से परिषद को सभी प्रकार के सहयोग का आश्वासन दिया।

समारोह में नागरी लिपि परिषद की मुख पत्रिका नागरी संगम, डॉ पाल द्वारा संपादित एवं अखिल विश्व हिंदी समिति न्यूयॉर्क अमेरिका द्वारा प्रकाशित वैश्विक हिंदी पत्रिका सौरभ और अखिल विश्व हिंदी समिति टोरंटो, कनाडा द्वारा प्रकाशित एवं डॉ हरिसिंह पाल द्वारा संपादित कृति : हिंदी के पुरोधे डॉ दाऊजी गुप्त का लोकार्पण मंचस्थ अतिथियों द्वारा किया गया। इस अवसर पर डॉ स्नेह ठाकुर, डॉ पूर्ण सिंह डबास, अरुण कुमार पासवान, किरण कुमारी, ललित भूषण, डॉ सोनम वांग्मू, ललित भूषण और डॉ नीलम सिंह की सद्य प्रकाशित पुस्तकों का भी लोकार्पण किया गया। समारोह में अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय सहयोग परिषद के मानद निदेशक श्री नारायण कुमार, बीजिंग विश्वविद्यालय चीन के पूर्व हिंदी प्राध्यापक डॉ पूर्ण सिंह डबास, फीजी और सूरीनाम में भारत पूर्व राजनयिक डॉ विमलेश कांति वर्मा, पूर्व हिंदी प्राध्यापक डॉ सुधांशु शुक्ल, मारीशस एवं ट्रिनिडाड में वहीं पूर्व राजनयिक डॉ सुनीता पाहूजा, बनारस हिन्दू विश्वविद्यालय, वाराणसी के हिंदी प्राध्यापक डॉ अशोक कुमार ज्योति, प्रख्यात बाल साहित्यकार डॉ शकुंतला कालरा, विधि भारती की संपादक श्रीमती संतोष खन्ना, हिंदी प्रेमी मंडली हैदराबाद के अध्यक्ष श्री चवाकुल रामकृष्ण राव, मिर्जापुर के श्री ओमप्रकाश पांडे और दिल्ली विश्वविद्यालय के अनेक प्राध्यापकों की उपस्थिति सराहनीय रही द्वितीय सत्र आभासी माध्यम से नीदरलैंड, अमेरिका, कनाडा, नावें, संयुक्त अरब अमीरात, नेपाल और भारत के तमिलनाडु, केरल, आंध्रप्रदेश, कर्नाटक, महाराष्ट्र, गोवा, असम, नागालैंड, अरुणाचल प्रदेश, छत्तीसगढ़, झारखंड, बिहार, मध्य प्रदेश, गुजरात, राजस्थान, उत्तर प्रदेश, हरियाणा जम्मू-कश्मीर और उत्तराखंड के नागरी लिपि विद्वानों ने नागरी लिपि की महत्ता को प्रतिपादित किया इस सत्र का संचालन डॉ रश्मि चौबे ने किया। तृतीय सत्र में कर्मचारी राज्य बीमा निगम, चेन्नई, तमिलनाडु के संयुक्त निदेशक राजभाषा डॉ श्याम सुन्दर कथूरिया और नगर राजभाषा कार्यान्वयन समिति, गाजियाबाद के सदस्य सचिव श्री ललित भूषण ने सूचना प्रौद्योगिकी में नागरी लिपि की उपयोगिता पर पीपीटी के माध्यम से प्रकाश डाला सत्र का संचालन राज्य व्यापार निगम के पूर्व मुख्य प्रबंधक राजभाषा श्री किशोर कौशल ने किया। समारोह के आयोजन में पूर्व दूरदर्शन अधिकारी डॉ अजय कुमार ओझा, कृषि वैज्ञानिक डॉ संतोष कुमार यादव, एचएससी सी इंडिया लिमिटेड के हिंदी अधिकारी श्री श्रवण कुमार, हंसराज कालेज के डॉ अंशु यादव, डॉ पीयूष द्विवेदी, डॉ राजवीर मीना परिषद के कार्यकर्ता श्री कर्मवीर सिंह, जयशंकर, कु कंचन साहनी का विशेष सहयोग रहा। धन्यवाद ज्ञापन संयोजक और हंसराज महाविद्यालय के हिंदी प्राध्यापक डॉ रवि कुमार गौड़ ने प्रस्तुत किया।

## काव्य रंग के बीस गौरवपूर्ण वर्ष: नॉटिंगम में पुस्तक विमोचन एवं काव्य पाठ



डॉक्टर महिपाल वर्मा ने 20 वर्ष पहले एक सपना देखा था। अपनी साहित्यकार पत्नी जय वर्मा के साथ मिल कर नॉटिंगम में पहली ऐसा संस्था की शुरुआत की जो हिन्दी साहित्य और भारतीय संस्कृति से जुड़े कार्यक्रमों का आयोजन एक बड़े स्तर पर करे। उनके सपने काव्य रंग की बीसवीं वर्षगाँठ हाल ही में नॉटिंगम में मनाई गई। पेश है जय वर्मा जी द्वारा लिखित रिपोर्ट :

काव्य रंग की बीसवीं वर्षगाँठ पर 17 मार्च, 2024 को इंग्लैंड के प्रसिद्ध साहित्यिक शहर नॉटिंगम के हिन्दू मंदिर में कवि सम्मेलन एवं पुस्तक विमोचन का आयोजन सफलतापूर्वक सम्पन्न हुआ। इस अवसर पर 'काव्य रंग स्मारिका' का भी विमोचन किया गया, जिसमें काव्य रंग संस्था के बीस वर्षों की साहित्यिक गतिविधियों के बारे में विस्तार से जानकारी दी गई है। खास बात यह रही कि इसे हिन्दी एवं अंग्रेजी दोनों भाषाओं में प्रस्तुत किया गया। ज्ञातव्य है कि काव्य रंग एक बहुभाषीय संस्था है, जिसमें विविध भाषाओं जैसे— हिन्दी, उर्दू, पंजाबी एवं अंग्रेजी के रचनाकार अपना साहित्य रचते हैं। संस्था का उद्देश्य विषेशकर नए रचनाकारों को प्रोत्साहित करना तथा वरिष्ठ लेखकों के प्रेरणात्मक कार्यों को आगे बढ़ना है। संस्था की सक्रियता का श्रेय इनके सदस्यों के साहित्य समर्पण एवं भाषा—प्रेम को जाता है। काव्य रंग संस्था द्वारा विविध भाषाओं के प्रति अनुराग मानवता का एक विशिष्ट दृष्टांत है।

हिन्दी तथा अन्य भारतीय भाषाओं के प्रचार—प्रसार हेतु इस साहित्यिक संस्था की स्थापना 7 नवम्बर, 2003 को ब्रैनकोट मेमोरियल हॉल, नॉटिंगम में हुई थी। जिसमें गैडलिंग के मेयर डॉ. राज चन्द्रन, भारतीय उच्चायोग, लंदन के हिन्दी एवं संस्कृति अधिकारी श्री अनिल शर्मा, CGI बर्मिंघम से काउंसिल जेनरल श्री एन. पी. शर्मा, गीतांजलि बहुभाषीय समुदाय, बर्मिंघम से डॉ. कृष्ण कुमार, कथा यूके से श्री तेजेन्द्र शर्मा एम.बी.ई., यूके हिन्दी समिति से डॉ. पद्मेश गुप्त, बर्मिंघम की महाकवि जूली बोडन, गीतांजलि समुदाय के कवि, लेखक एवं अन्य विद्वत जन तथा नॉटिंगम की विभिन्न संस्थाओं से गणमान्य व्यक्ति पधारे थे।

काव्य रंग की बीसवीं वर्षगाँठ कार्यक्रम का आरंभ दीप प्रज्वलन तथा पंडित शिव नरेश गौतम के सरस्वती वंदना गायन से हुई। हिन्दू मंदिर के प्रेसिडेंट राजेश शर्मा ने सभी का स्वागत करते हुए काव्य रंग के कार्यों की भूरी—भूरी प्रशंसा की। काव्य रंग की अध्यक्ष जय वर्मा ने मुख्य अतिथि श्री जॉन ऑगल (अध्यक्ष, नॉटिंगम काउंटी काउन्सिल), डेम आशा खेमका OBE, DL, काउन्सिल जेनरल ऑफ इंडिया, बर्मिंघम से श्री अमन बंसल जी, नाथ पुरी CBE, डॉ. पद्मेश गुप्त, मिसिज वेन्डी क्विग्ली एवं वाणी प्रकाशन से अदिति महेश्वरी का अभिनंदन एवं सत्कार किया। उसके बाद उन्होंने काव्य रंग के बीस वर्षों की यात्रा का विवरण दिया। जिसमें उन्होंने बताया कि "नॉटिंगम कला निकेतन की प्रिंसिपल मिसेज सुदर्शन मोहिन्द्रा के 70 वें जनमदिन पर हिन्दी की एक संस्था 'दर्शन हिन्दी समिति' (2001) की स्थापना मैंने पंडित सोमदत्त शर्मा जी के साथ मिलकर की। हिन्दी की गतिविधियों के साथ—साथ काम करते हुए कुछ समय पश्चात् हमने देखा कि केवल हिन्दी के लेखक एवं कवि की संख्या नॉटिंगम में कम ही थी। पं. सोमदत्त शर्मा जी एवं डॉ. श्रीहर्ष शर्मा निरंतर संस्था की मीटिंग में उपस्थित होते थे।

मैं डॉक्टर कृष्ण कुमार की संस्था गीतांजलि बहुभाषीय समुदाय, बर्मिंघम की सदस्य थी। इस संस्था से प्रेरित होकर हम तीनों (हरमिंदर सिंह दुआ, जय वर्मा और जुगनू महाजन) ने गीतांजलि बहुभाषीय समुदाय, ट्रेंट (2003) की स्थापना की। शुरुआत में काव्य रंग संस्था का नाम गीतांजलि बहुभाषीय साहित्यिक समुदाय, ट्रेंट था। आगे चलकर वर्ष 2011 में इस संस्था का नाम काव्य रंग रखा गया। शुरुआत में केवल तीन लोग इसके सदस्य थे और आज का दिन है जब इसके सदस्यों की संख्या 31 हो चुकी है, जो हिन्दी एवं अन्य भारतीय भाषाओं में निरंतर रचनात्मक लेखन कर रहे हैं। संस्था के सदस्यों में अधिकतर मेडिकल डॉक्टर हैं। काव्य रंग के जिस बीज को हमने बीस वर्ष पूर्व बोआ था, वह आज एक बड़े और फलदार वृक्ष का रूप ले चुका है।” कार्यक्रम का संचालन जुगनू महाजन ने किया। इस अवसर पर रवि महाजन ने पीपीटी प्रस्तुति दी, जिसमें उन्होंने चित्रों तथा ऑडियो-वीडियो के माध्यम से काव्य रंग संस्था के बीस वर्षों की यात्रा, जो 7 नवम्बर, 2003 से लेकर अबतक की यात्रा है, उसकी संजोयी हुई यादों को उन्होंने दर्शाया।

इसके बाद 'काव्य रंग स्मारिका' का विमोचन किया गया। काव्य रंग स्मारिका की भूमिका प्रो. हरमिंदर सिंह दुआ ने देते हुए कहा कि "काव्य रंग के गौरवपूर्ण बीस वर्ष कैसे बीत गए यह मालूम नहीं पड़ा।" उन्होंने स्मारिका में समाहित देश-विदेश के विद्वानों और हितैशियों के संदेशों पर भी प्रकाश डाला तथा सदस्यों की प्रकाशित पुस्तकों के संबंध में जानकारी दी।

पुस्तक 'सेवन स्टेप्स' का विमोचन भी इस अवसर पर हुआ। पुस्तक की खास बात यह है कि यह लेखिका जय वर्मा की हिन्दी कहानी संग्रह 'सात कदम' का अंग्रेजी अनुवाद है। डॉ. दुआ ने 'सेवन स्टेप्स' का अर्थ बताते हुए कहा कि सात नम्बर बहुत भाग्यशाली माना जाता है। उन्होंने विश्व की विविध संस्कृतियों में अंक सात के महत्त्व को रेखांकित किया। पुस्तक के अनुवादक श्री विज्ञान व्रत एवं मैट टर्पिन हैं। इस अवसर पर मैट टर्पिन ने पुस्तक के अनुवाद से संबंधित अपने अनुभव साझा किए। उन्होंने बताया कि गत वर्ष जब पहली बार वे भारत गए तो उन्हें भारत जाना-पहचाना लगा क्योंकि उन्होंने 'सात कदम' पुस्तक के माध्यम से भारत को देखा था। उन्हें कुछ भी अजनबी नहीं लगा। विशेषकर उन्होंने जिवाना गाँव (मेरठ) की स्मृतियों को प्रकट किया तथा कहा कि "मैं भारत बार-बार जाना चाहूँगा।"

कार्यक्रम में इस वर्ष 'डॉ. महिपाल वर्मा काव्य रंग साहित्यिक सम्मान' डॉ. निखिल कौशिक, वेल्स को प्रदान किया गया। पेशे से चिकित्सक डॉ. कौशिक कवि और लेखक होने के साथ-साथ फिल्म निर्माता भी हैं। उन्होंने आभार व्यक्त करते हुए कहा कि "काव्य रंग साहित्य को बढ़ावा देने और जीवन के विभिन्न क्षेत्रों के लोगों को एक साथ लाने के लिए निरंतर प्रयासरत है।" लॉर्ड बायरन तथा डी.एच. लॉरेंस के शहर में आकर वे अत्यंत प्रसन्न थे।

इसके बाद कवि सम्मलेन का सत्र शुरू हुआ, जिसका संचालन हरमिंदर सिंह नागी ने किया। सभी सदस्यों ने स्वरचित कविताएँ, गीत, गजल और शायरी आदि आपनी-अपनी भाषाओं में सुनाई। मुख्य अतिथि जॉन ऑगल ने काव्य रंग की प्रशंसा करते हुए स्वरचित कविता का पाठ किया तथा बताया कि उन्होंने यह कविता कार्यक्रम के कवियों से प्रेरित होकर अभी-अभी मंच पर ही रची थी। काउन्सिल जनरल ऑफ इंडिया, बर्मिंघम से आए श्री अमन बंसल जी ने बधाई देते हुए कहा कि हिन्दी एवं अन्य भारतीय भाषाओं के प्रचार-प्रसार करने में काव्य रंग अग्रणी भूमिका निभा रहा है। उन्होंने CGI की तरफ से यथा संभव मदद देने की बात की। डेम आषा खेमका जी ने कहा कि काव्य रंग भारतीय कला-संस्कृति एवं भाषा-साहित्य का अनुपम उदाहरण है। भारतीय शिक्षा परंपरा में उन्होंने विशेषकर भगवान बुद्ध की शिक्षाओं के रेखांकित किया एवं युवाओं को साथ लेकर चलने की बात की तथा हर्षित स्वर में काव्य रंग के भविष्य को लेकर शुभकामनाएँ दी। ऑक्सफर्ड बिजनस कॉलेज से डॉ. पद्मेश गुप्त ने कहा कि काव्य रंग संस्था की विशेष उपलब्धि बीसवीं वर्षगांठ है, वे आरंभ से ही काव्य रंग से जुड़े रहे हैं तथा इस संस्था ने नॉटिंघम शहर को विश्व में हिन्दी के मानचित्र पर महत्त्वपूर्ण प्रतिष्ठा दिलाई है।

कार्यक्रम के अंतिम पड़ाव में डॉ. जसवंत बिलखु ने धन्यवाद ज्ञापित करते हुए संजय सक्सेना, रीटा दुआ, एलिसन, शक्ति सरीन आदि सभागार में उपस्थित सभी लोगों के प्रति आभार व्यक्त किया, संस्थाओं में विशेषकर नॉटिंघम एशियन आर्ट्स काउंसिल, यूनेस्को (UNESCO) सिटी ऑफ लिटरेचर, इंडियन विमेन्स एसोसिएशन एवं अन्य सभी सहयोगी संस्थाओं को धन्यवाद ज्ञापित किया तथा हिन्दू मंदिर के सदस्यों के योगदान को सराहा। कार्यक्रम समापन के बाद वीना शर्मा के नेतृत्व में बने भारतीय स्वादिष्ट व्यंजनों का आनंद लगभग सौ लोगों ने लिया। कार्यक्रम अपने निर्धारित समय पर शुरू एवं समय पर समाप्त हुआ, जिसकी प्रशंसा सभी अतिथियों ने की। काव्य रंग की बीसवीं वर्षगांठ का यह आयोजन सभी की स्मृतियों में सदा के लिए बस गया।

## गदर कविता

सन् 1913 में जब गदर आंदोलन आरंभ हुआ तो उसमें विदेशों में रहने वाले भारतवंशियों ने बढ़चढ़ कर भाग लिया। क्योंकि सभी का एक ही उद्देश्य था भारत माता को अंग्रेजी शासन से मुक्त करावाना। इसके लिए एक गदर अखबार निकाला गया, जिसमें क्रांतिकारी विचारों के लेख और कवितायें छपती थी। इन कविताओं को गदर की होने वाली सभाओं में जोश के साथ-साथ गाया जाता था। उल्लेखनीय यह है कि इन कविताओं की रचना करने वाले सिद्धहस्त साहित्यकार या कवि नहीं थे लेकिन जब भी भारत की आजादी को लेकर उनके भीतर उत्साह उमड़ता तो उनका आक्रोश शब्दों में ढलकर कविता के रूप में अंग्रेजी शासन के खिलाफ उमड़ता। इसमें अधिकतर कवि अज्ञात रहे उनमें से दो कवितायें यहां प्रस्तुत हैं।



गदर पार्टी का चिन्ह

## गदर की विनती

मारो मार पुकार के बोलणा की, कोई मारने वाला तैयार हो जाए  
जिस नूं शौक गुलाल दे खेडणे दा, आवे नाल साडे साडा यार हो जाए  
हिन्दोस्तानियों तुस्सां दा देश साझा, सारे गदर दे लई तैयार हो जाओ  
सारे सूरमे रलो सलाह करके, 'कट्टे सैंकडे कई हज़ार हो जाओ  
मन्नो गल्ल ना मूल हरामियां दी, एक दूसरे दे सारे यार हो जाओ  
सदा पौण उलटे रस्ते पेट पालू, चाल इन्हां दी तो खबरदार हो जाओ  
जड़ों जुल्म फिरंग दा कटणे नूं, तिख्खी तेज़ तलवार दी धार हो जाओ  
सिट्टो तोड़ गुलामी दा जाल झूटठा, गफलत नींद दी छडु बेदार हो जाओ  
मरन वालियां फर्ज अदा कीता, जीउण वालियों खुदमुख्तार हो जाओ  
गदर वास्ते फौज दी करो भर्ती, एक दूसरे दे मददगार हो जाओ  
डरो मूल ना ऐना फिरंगियों तों, मारन मरन नूं जदों तैयार हो जाओ  
मुसलमान, हिन्दू अत्ते खालसा जी, एक दूसरे दे सारे यार हो जाओ  
जीएण वालियां नाल न गल्ल करीये, मरन वालियों तुस्सीं तैयार हो जाओ  
मन्न लो तुस्सीं गदर दी बेनती नूं, गदर करन नूं झट तैयार हो जाओ।

(1916 )



## गदरी / हमदम

गदरी कहणा सौखा बणना बड़ा औखा, जीवन मरन दा भरम चुकाए गदरी  
लख्खां चीर पहाड़ समुद्रां नू वांग तीर निशाने नू जाए गदरी  
आशाय आपणे विच परिपक होवे मंजल कड़ी देख न घबराए गदरी  
दुखी ते गरीबां दे सुख बदले जान आपणी ते खेल जाए गदरी  
हथ्य विच सचाई मशाल फड़ के भुले भटकियां नूं राह वखाये गदरी  
जद तक जुल्म दा खात्मा नहीं हुंदा, भुल के कदे वी चैन न पाए गदरी  
जेहड़ा कौम घाती अपणा पेट पालू, टंटा उस दा झट मुकाए गदरी  
'हमदम' विच दुनिया होर कम्म नहीं वक्त आया कि गदरी मचाए गदरी।

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