



PEOPLE AND UN

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Mahakumbh 'Holy Sangam Water' being received by H.E. Dharambeer Gokhool, President of The Republic of Mauritius with his wife Mrs. Brinda Gokhool from India's Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi at Port Louis.

FORM IV

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"JARA HAT KE"
by Sanat Jain



On 75th anniversary of India-China diplomatic relations Chinese President Xi Jinping, in a congratulatory message to India's President Droupadi Murmu, called for closer ties between the two countries. He described the relationship as a 'cooperative *pas de deux* of the dragon and the elephant,' which would serve the fundamental interests of both nations and their peoples

Chinese Premier Li Qiang also sent a congratulatory message to Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

In his message, Xi said that both nations should view and handle bilateral ties from a "strategic and long-term perspective" and seek ways for neighboring major countries to coexist peacefully, building mutual trust, mutual benefit, and common development. Terming China and India "ancient civilizations, major developing countries, and important members of the Global South," Xi noted that both countries are at a critical stage in their respective modernization drives.

In a message to her Chinese counterpart, President Murmu said that "stable, predictable, and amicable" bilateral relations will bring significant benefits to both nations and the world.

Over the past few decades, the two ancient Asian civilizations, each with modern global visions, have navigated a complex relationship. At this pivotal moment, both sides should seize the opportunity to strengthen their relationship. The development of China-India relations demonstrates that it is the right choice for both sides to become partners for mutual success and realize a cooperative *pas de deux* of the dragon and the elephant, which fully serves the fundamental interests of both countries and their peoples. Both sides should view and handle China-India relations from a strategic and long-term perspective, seeking ways for neighboring major countries to coexist peacefully, fostering mutual trust, mutual benefit, and common development. Together, they can push forward world multipolarization and democracy in international relations. China, India have the potential to redefine the global narrative for emerging economies. As leaders of the Global South, China and India are driving a historic shift in the balance of international power. In this process, if the two countries join forces, they will not only better safeguard the overall interests of developing nations but also create a more favorable external environment for their own development.

— **Pran Mohan Parvatiyar**
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Chinese President Xi Jinping (L) talks with Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi as they visit a riverside park development project in Gujarat, India, Sept 17, 2014.



IFUNA Observed International Women's Day At Assam Women's University, Jorhat in Assam



The Indian Federation of UN Association (IFUNA), New Delhi, Observed The International Women's Day On 8th March, , Assam. In Collaboration With The Assam Women's University, Jorhat : Assam

The Indian federation of United Nations Associations (IFUNA) New Delhi observed the International Women's Day on 8th March, 2025 at Assam Women's University in Jorhat, in collaboration with the Assam Women's University, Jorhat : Assam

Dr.(Prof) Ajanta Borgohain Rajkonwar - Hon'ble Vice Chancellor of Assam Women's University - Jorhat speaking on the occasion stressed on the women's empowerment . Dr. Borgohain said that women's are playing a vital role in the progress and development of the society.

Dr. Tapan Gohain - Registrar of Assam Women's University in his speech said that Women and Girls are advancing in science, technology, culture, education, etc., now -a - days and they are also taking a leading role in all the above mentioned fields.

Dr. (Mrs.) R. Gohain - HOD of the Dibrugarh University, Assam was the Chief Guest, who laid stressed on the literacy of the women and girls in the villages and towns. She said that without literacy a women is lacking behind in all fields and she should be given awareness and knowledge on health & hygiene, nutrition, etc.

Earlier, Mrs. Marami Goswami - academic officer of United Nations Association- Assam read out the message of UN Secretary General Mr. Antonnio Guetterus on the occasion.

Dr. Aswini Sarma - Secretary General of UNA-Assam congratulated the Assam Women's University for giving an opportunity to



hold the International Women's Day at their esteemed University.

The meeting was also attended by Mrs. Purabi Devi - Official of UNA- Assam , Distinguished guests & invitees faculties & students of the esteemed University.



UN INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF COOPERATIVES



PROF. V.B. KHANAPURI, DEAN, SRIC, INDIAN INSTITUTE OF MANAGEMENT, IIM, MUMBAI (CHAIR) WITH MR. ASHRAF AHMED SHAIKH, SECRETARY GENERAL, MAHARASHTRA UNITED NATIONS ASSOCIATION (MUNA) (CO-CHAIR) IN THE PLENARY SESSION TITLE : GLOBAL COOPERATION, KEY TAKEAWAYS AND ACTIONABLE INSIGHTS. AT THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE.

Mr. Ashraf Ahmed Shaikh, Secretary General, Maharashtra United Nations Association (MUNA) was invited to Co-Chair the session on showcasing best practices of cooperatives by CICTAB (Centre for International Cooperation & Training in Agricultural Banking) and VAMNICOM (Vaikunth Mehta National Institute of Cooperative Management) in a three days international conference on unleashing prosperity through cooperatives. It had participation from 12 countries of Africa and Asia at Pune, Maharashtra.

Shri Murlidhar Mohol, State Minister of Cooperation and civil aviation was the chief guest and Dr. Hema Yadav - Director Vamnicom along with her team had successfully and meticulously planned this International conference.

Around 36 delegates from 12 countries, namely, Nepal, Bhutan, Bangladesh, Lao PDR, Cambodia, Gambia, Kenya, Liberia, Mauritius, Namibia, Sri Lanka and Zambia attended the conference. The United Nations General Assembly has proclaimed 2025 as the International Year of Cooperatives (IYC2025). The year's theme is "Cooperatives Build a Better World".

PROF. V. B. KHANAPURI, DEAN, SRIC, INDIAN INSTITUTE OF MANAGEMENT - IIM, MUMBAI (CHAIR) WITH MR. ASHRAF AHMED SHAIKH, SECRETARY GENERAL - MAHARASHTRA UNITED NATIONS ASSOCIATION (MUNA) (CO-CHAIR) IN THE PLENARY SESSION TITLE : GLOBAL COOPERATION- KEY TAKEAWAYS AND ACTIONABLE INSIGHTS. AT THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE .



International Women's Day 2025

The International Women's Day-2025 was celebrated by the Indian Federation of United Nations Associations (IFUNA) and Utkal Federation of United Nations Association (UFUNA) at Hotel Devkanya Conference Hall on 8th March 2025. Suresh Srivastava, Secretary General, IFUNA and Vice-Chairman, World Federation of United Nations Associations, inaugurated the event virtually. The meeting was presided over by UFUNA State president and IFUNA national vice president, Advocate Manoranjan Patnaik. Speaking as the chief guest, former Union Minister Bhajaman Behera said that 2025 should be the year of all-round development of women. Men and women are two sides of the same coin.

Former Member of Parliament from Dhenkanal and Editor of 'Ageiba' Daily, Mahesh Sahu, one of the distinguished guests, strongly opined that the progress of society is possible only through the upliftment of women. Brahma Kumaris Usha Sister joined as one of the main speakers and expressed the strong hope that if women in a family are educated, they will be able to create a message of revolutionary change in the society like Indira Gandhi, the first woman Prime Minister of India, Nandini Satpathy, the first woman Chief Minister of Odisha, Kalpana Dash, the conqueror of Mount Everest, to name a few.



He stressed that the message of women empowerment should be accepted all over the world today. Former CBI judge Bhikhari Charan Rout, former chief engineer Akshay Kumar Satpathy, educationist Dr Debi Prasad Mishra, feminist leader Smitarani Samal, advocate Upama Samal, Romena Begum, social activist Saroj Satpathy, environmentalist Upendra Kumar Rout asserted that only all-round development of women can bring due respect to women across the world. Advocate Manoranjan Patnaik said that since 2010, UN Women has been working towards gender equality and empowerment of women. In his welcome address and guest introduction, poet Bahadur Patsahani, who has been appointed as the new State Coordinator of UNESCO, said that UFUNA has been continuously promoting various programs of the United Nations as well as

programs for women.

Among others, the guests on the dais and the distinguished speakers made a strong call for equating women with men and discussed in detail about the multi-faceted programs of the United Nations. Among the dignitaries present were educationist Dr. Debi Prasad Mishra, Dr. Pramod Nayak, Dr. Samir Kumar Sahu, social worker Saroj Satpathy, Binod Sethi on behalf of Odisha Gopabandhu Bichar Mancha, Rabinarayan Sethi, Basanta Biswal, Pitabas Sahu.

UFUNA Secretary General Dr. Dipayan Patnaik proposed the vote of thanks. Poets Bahadur Patsahani, Dr. Debi Prasad Mishra, Dr. Annupama Mishra, Advocate Nirmala Mohapatra, Kabi Kadambari Mahakud, Dr. Manasi Kar, Dr. Kabita Mohanty, Maitreyi Shubhada, Advocate Nivedita Rath, Sukanti Sahu, Dr. Pramod Parida, Linku Pati, Kanhu Charan Barik and others recited poems on the occasion. Senior educationist, life member of UNESCO and media in-charge of UFUNA, Dr. Debi Prasad Mishra recited one English and one Odia sonnet for women and conducted the programme. Environmentalists Upendra Rout, Lalit Behera, Premananda Satpathy, social worker Antaryami Rath, Chandramani Nayak, Basanta Biswal, Chitta Ranjan Mohanty, Tarun Kumar Biswal and hundreds of members of IFUNA coordinated the programme. A large number of people from different parts of the district participated in the meeting.



Distinguished Guests



MINORITIES—UNDEFINED

PROTECTION OF ARTICLE 28 OF THE CONSTITUTION TO HINDUS



By **Vinayak Srivastava**

Advocate, Delhi High Court, Former Standing Counsel, National Minority Commission, Additional Secretary General, IFUNA

Article 28 of the Constitution of India provides special rights to minorities to establish and administer educational institutions in India. The purpose of this article is to provide autonomy to minorities, allowing them to preserve their identity and provide education that reflects their values and traditions.

The word "minority" is nowhere defined in the Indian Constitution. The Central Government notifies minority communities at the national level in consultation with various stakeholders under Section 2 (c) of the National Commission for Minorities (NCM), Act, 1992. The six communities notified as minority communities under Section 2(c) of the NCM Act, 1992, are Christians, Sikhs, Muslims, Buddhists, Parsis, and Jains. Accordingly, only the notified minority

communities in India can seek benefit and protection under Article 28. The benefit is not granted to other communities.

Recent demographic changes in population due to migration and other issues have led to a growing call for similar protection to the Hindu community as granted to notified minority communities under the Constitution. In states such as Jammu and Kashmir, Mizoram, Punjab, Nagaland, and certain districts in West Bengal and Kerala, Hindus are outnumbered by other religious communities. For example, Hindus constitute 1% of the population in Ladakh, 2.75% in Mizoram, 2.77% in Lakshadweep. As per the 2011 census, Hindus in six states and two Union Territories are minorities. The need for preservation and culture arises in these states. Hindus have also often faced persecution in states like Jammu &



SUPREME COURT OF INDIA





Kashmir, which has seen large-scale exodus of the minority Hindu community and places of worship being attacked.

The right to form one's own educational institution, especially in states/districts where Hindus are in the minority, will empower the Hindu community to preserve their culture, tradition, and own values. It would also serve to create an environment where they can engage with the broader educational landscape while ensuring that their unique cultural identity is preserved. Denial of rights and protections to Hindus vis-à-vis other minorities is a violation of the right to equality and non-discrimination enshrined under the Constitution. The framers of the Constitution envisioned a pluralistic society where diverse communities could thrive. To deny Hindus the same protections afforded to other minorities would not only be inconsistent with this vision but could also exacerbate feelings of marginalization and disenfranchisement among Hindu communities in these states.

Granting protection to establish one's own educational institutions is not uncommon but rather prevalent in developed countries such as the United States and several European nations. Despite Christians being the majority in many countries, Christian missionary educational institutions have flourished. For instance, institutions like Liberty University and Wheaton College in the United States embody a long-standing tradition of religious-based education, upheld by the First Amendment, which guarantees freedom of religion. Similarly, in the United Kingdom, numerous faith schools affiliated with the Church of England coexist with public education, supported by policies that permit a combination of secular and religious education. Germany also acknowledges the right of religious communities to establish schools, as affirmed by its Federal Constitutional Court. In France, while maintaining a secular framework, many private Catholic schools receive state support, demonstrating a nuanced approach to religious education.

Grant of similar protection to Hindus



as that of minorities will make the society more just and inclusive. Such protection will not hinder any rights of minorities; rather, it will be instrumental in bringing communal harmony between communities.

It is pertinent to note that the issue of whether Hindus should be granted minority status is also pending for adjudication in the Supreme Court in the case of *Ashwini Kumar Upadhyay v Union of India*. The Supreme Court will decide if Section 2(f) of The National Commission for Minority Educational Institutions Act, 2004 and Section 2(c) of The National Commission for Minorities Act, 1992 is constitutionally valid. This case will determine if minority status should be granted according to national population or on a state-wise basis.

The above-mentioned case is, however, pending for almost a decade for a conclusive decision. The Central Government of India, instead of waiting or being a passive observer, may bring appropriate legislation to notify Hindus as a minority at least on a state-wise basis. Such a grant of status is the need of the hour, especially for Hindus who have suffered religious-based persecution in India. Such action would be in line with the objectives of the Constitution, which grants equity and justice to all communities in India.

GRANTING PROTECTION TO ESTABLISH ONE'S OWN EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS IS NOT UNCOMMON BUT RATHER PREVALENT IN DEVELOPED COUNTRIES SUCH AS THE UNITED STATES AND SEVERAL EUROPEAN NATIONS. DESPITE CHRISTIANS BEING THE MAJORITY IN MANY COUNTRIES, CHRISTIAN MISSIONARY EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS HAVE FLOURISHED. FOR INSTANCE, INSTITUTIONS LIKE LIBERTY UNIVERSITY AND WHEATON COLLEGE IN THE UNITED STATES EMBODY A LONG-STANDING TRADITION OF RELIGIOUS-BASED EDUCATION, UPHELD BY THE FIRST AMENDMENT, WHICH GUARANTEES FREEDOM OF RELIGION.



NARENDRA MODI PODCAST

In The Chat With Lex Fridman He Highlighted India-China Ties, Stressing Dialogue Over Discord. He Acknowledged 2020 Border Tensions But Said Talks With President Xi Are Restoring Normalcy. Modi Urged Diplomacy, Cooperation, And Healthy Competition Over Conflict.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi Appeared In The Second Podcast Of His Decades-Long Political Career – This Time With Us-Based Podcaster And Ai Researcher Lex Fridman



focus on making life meaningful. He noted that while death is certain, what truly matters is how life is lived. Urging people not to waste time in worry, he encouraged them to channel their energy into enriching their lives and contributing positively to the world. He stressed that since life is uncertain, every moment should be spent with purpose, continuous learning, and a commitment to making a difference.

In response to on being called the World's Most Powerful Leader: Prime Minister Narendra Modi reaffirmed his commitment to public service, describing himself as a 'Pradhan Sevak' rather than a politician seeking power. He emphasized that his focus has never been on political power games but on meaningful work that directly benefits the people. With a clear vision for governance, he stated that his goal is to be

Pro-workful, not powerful. He underscored that true leadership is not about authority but about dedication to service, ensuring that every action contributes to the nation's progress and the well-being of its citizens.

To the question about artificial intelligence vs human intelligence: PM Modi noted that throughout history, technology has often been seen as humanity's biggest challenge. However, time and again, both technology and humanity have advanced together, with humans always staying one step ahead. He emphasized that while AI is powerful, it may never match the depth of human imagination. He emphasized that no matter how much the world advances in AI, it remains incomplete without India.

HIGHLIGHTS

At the outset of podcast, Lex Fridman recited the Gayatri Mantra and turned to Prime Minister Narendra Modi to confirm his pronunciation. In response, PM Modi recited the mantra himself and shared its deeper significance. He explained that the Gayatri Mantra is deeply rooted in Surya Upasana and carries profound spiritual essence. The Prime Minister further emphasized that every mantra is more than just a set of words—it has a scientific connection, reflecting different aspects of life and the universe. He highlighted how ancient Indian traditions seamlessly blend spirituality and science, offering timeless wisdom to humanity.

To the Question Whether He Fears Death:

Prime Minister Narendra Modi reflected on the inevitability of death, emphasizing that instead of fearing it, one should

PRIME MINISTER NARENDRA MODI REFLECTED ON THE INEVITABILITY OF DEATH, EMPHASIZING THAT INSTEAD OF FEARING IT, ONE SHOULD FOCUS ON MAKING LIFE MEANINGFUL. HE NOTED THAT WHILE DEATH IS CERTAIN, WHAT TRULY MATTERS IS HOW LIFE IS LIVED.



He highlighted that AI is fundamentally about collaboration, and India is playing a significant role in its development. Beyond innovation, India is actively creating AI tools tailored to specific use cases. He pointed out that India's problem-solving skills and analytical thinking capabilities are globally competitive, positioning the country as a key player in the AI revolution.

In reply to those who are working with propaganda against national interest?

Prime Minister Narendra Modi expressed concern over the decline of constructive criticism in public discourse, stating that meaningful debate is increasingly being replaced by baseless allegations made without research or facts. He emphasized that criticism, when backed by logic and evidence, plays a crucial role in shaping policies and strengthening democracy. However, instead of engaging in thoughtful analysis, much resort to shortcuts, making random accusations driven by hidden propaganda. PM Modi underscored that well-directed and specific criticism is essential for effective policymaking but cautioned that some individuals operate with specific agendas and wrongful intent, using misinformation as a tool to mislead people.

Strong Worded Advice To Pakistan:

PM Modi, in a firm and resolute tone, called out Pakistan's long-standing role in fostering terrorism, emphasizing that the world no longer has any doubts about where the roots of terror lie. He expressed deep concern over Pakistan repeatedly becoming the epicenter of terrorism, causing immense suffering not just to India but to the entire world. Highlighting India's sincere efforts to establish peace, he recalled his visit to Lahore and Pakistan's invitation to his swearing-in ceremony—both met with hostility. Despite these setbacks, he stressed that the people of Pakistan deserve a future free from violence and fear, hoping that the country learns from its mistakes and chooses the right path.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, while speaking on the tense India-Pakistan relations, said the situation was not a result of

Lex Fridman Fasted For 45 Hours before Podcast with PM Modi



PM Modi Surprised By Lex Fridman's 45-Hour Fast; 'Wanted Right Spiritual Level for Interview'

Prime Minister Narendra Modi had a wide-ranging conversation with American scientist Lex Fridman in a podcast that was released on Sunday, March 16. Mr. Fridman said that he fasted for 45 hours before the podcast "in honour of this conversation". "I am fasting right now. It has been almost two days, 45 hours. So, just water, no food, in honour of this conversation, just to get in the right mindset, get into the spiritual level," he said.

The Prime Minister Modi said that he was "pleasantly surprised" to know that Mr Fridman was fasting: "All the more because it feels like you're fasting as a tribute of respect for me. So, I express my deepest gratitude to you for doing this".

PM Modi emphasized the benefits of fasting in sharpening the senses, enhancing mental clarity, and instilling discipline.

"Fasting is a way to cultivate discipline... It is a powerful tool to bring both the inner and outer self into balance. It shapes life in profound ways. When you fast, every single one of your senses, especially smell, touch, and taste, becomes highly sensitive. Another thing I've experienced is that fasting can greatly accelerate the thinking process and can, uh, give a

fresh perspective. You start thinking outside the box," he said.

When PM Met Obama While Fasting

PM Modi also shared an episode when he met former US President Barack Obama while fasting. "After I became Prime Minister, I had a bilateral meeting at the White House with President Obama, and he had also arranged a formal dinner. Then, as discussions between the two governments progressed, someone said, "Please, join us for dinner." To which another replied, "But the Prime Minister doesn't eat." This left them a bit concerned. How do you host the leader of such a major nation at the White House without serving food?"

He recalled that he was then served a glass of hot water. "When we sat down, they brought me a glass of hot water. I turned to President Obama and jokingly said, 'Look, my dinner has arrived!' as I placed the glass in front of me."

When he met Mr Obama the next time, PM Modi said, "he remembered I was fasting the last time". "He smiled and said, 'Last time, you were fasting'. This time, we're having lunch. Since you're not fasting, you'll have to eat twice as much".

PRIME MINISTER MODI PLAYED ROLE IN PERSUADING PUTIN AGAINST USING NUCLEAR WEAPONS



Wladyslaw Teofil Bartoszewski

Wladyslaw Teofil Bartoszewski, Poland's Deputy Foreign Minister and Secretary of State, said, "President Putin was threatening to use tactical nuclear weapons on the territory of Ukraine. The Americans sent lots of messages for him to not think about it... That didn't necessarily persuade him at first. He received two phone calls- one from the President of China, Xi Jinping, and one from PM Modi, telling him that neither China nor India independently approve of the war... PM Narendra Modi played a role in it..."

THE PRIME MINISTER CATEGORICALLY EXPLAINED AND TOLD FRIDMAN THAT BETTERING INDIA-PAKISTAN RELATIONS WOULD TAKE A CHANGE IN MINDSET AND FRUITFUL DIALOGUE. THAT ONE MUST NOT CONFUSE STRONG IDEOLOGICAL DIFFERENCES WITH THE TERRORIST MINDSET AND STATE-SPONSORED TERRORISM. HE SHARED THE PAINFUL HISTORY OF THE PARTITION OF THE TWO NATIONS AFTER INDIA'S INDEPENDENCE IN 1947 AND THAT PAKISTAN GOT WHAT IT WANTED.

differences in ideologies but due to the terrorist mindset. He said Pakistan now stands as the epicenter for turmoil, not just for India, but for the entire world. When asked by Fridman, about his perception of the future of India-Pakistan ties. The prime minister categorically explained and told Fridman that bettering India-Pakistan relations would take a change in mindset and fruitful dialogue. that one must not confuse strong ideological differences with the terrorist mindset and state-sponsored terrorism. He shared the painful history of the partition of the two nations after India's Independence in 1947 and that Pakistan got what it wanted. He added that India was not the only victim of this terrorist mindset. "Don't mistake this for ideology. What kind of ideology thrives on bloodshed and the export of terror, and we are not the sole victims of this menace. Whenever terror strikes in the world, the trail somehow leads to Pakistan. Let's take the September 11th attacks, for example. The main mastermind behind it, Osama bin Laden, where did he eventually emerge from? He had taken refuge in Pakistan," PM Modi said. "The world has recognized that in a way terrorism and the terrorist mindset are deeply rooted in Pakistan. Today, it stands as an epicenter of turmoil, not just for India but for the world. And we have repeatedly asked them what good can come from this path? We have urged them

to abandon the path of state-sponsored terrorism for good, "What do you hope to gain by surrendering your nation to lawless forces?" I even personally traveled to Lahore in the pursuit of peace," he said. When he became the Prime Minister, he specially invited Pakistan to his swearing-in ceremony, so the two nations "Yet, every noble attempt at fostering peace was met with hostility and betrayal. We sincerely hope that wisdom prevails upon them and they choose the path of peace. I believe even the people of Pakistan long for peace because even they must be weary of living in strife and unrest, they must have grown weary of relentless terror where even innocent children are killed and countless lives are destroyed." "The very people who once questioned my approach to foreign policy were taken aback when they learned I had invited all SAARC heads of state and our then president, Mr. Pranab Mukherjee beautifully captured that historic gesture in his memoir. This was a testament to how clear and confident India's foreign policy had become. This sent a clear message to the world about India's commitment to peace and harmony, but we didn't get the desired outcome," he shared.

Sharing his first-hand experience with foreign diplomacy when he became prime minister:

He emphasized that his greatest



CHINA'S REACTION



Chinese Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Mao Ning

Prime Minister Modi's recent positive remarks on China-India relations are appreciated and China is willing to work with India to fully implement the consensus reached by the leaders of two countries and promote the healthy and stable development of the relationship, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Mao Ning said.

strength comes from the 140 crore people of India, who serve as the driving force behind the nation's rise on the global stage. Recalling his early days in office, he shared that many doubted his ability to handle India's foreign affairs, given his prior experience was limited to governing a single state. In response, he firmly stated, "India will neither bow down nor threaten others. We will engage with the world with confidence, looking eye to eye."

Why world listens to India:

PM Modi affirmed that India, the land of Buddha and Gandhi, prioritizes peace over conflict and stands as a global advocate for harmony. He emphasized that the world listens to India because of its unwavering commitment to dialogue and stability. Highlighting his strong ties with both Putin and Zelenskyy, he stated that he can urge Russia that war is not the solution while reminding Ukraine that true resolutions are not found on the battlefield. PM Modi clarified that India is not neutral but firmly committed to peace

How philosophy of DOGE is already integrated into governance under his administration

Highlighting key governance reforms, PM Modi stated that after taking office, his government identified and removed 10 crore fake beneficiaries from welfare schemes, ensuring benefits reached the right people through Direct Benefit Trans-

fer (DBT), saving ₹3 lakh crore. Additionally, his administration scrapped 1,500 obsolete laws and eliminated over 45,000 compliances to streamline governance.

Recalling his meeting with Trump's team

: PM Modi observed that Trump appears highly focused in his current term and has built a strong team, with whom he also had the opportunity to meet. Recalling his long association with Elon Musk since his tenure as Chief Minister, PM Modi described their recent meeting as warm and familial, even mentioning their discussion about Musk's excitement for DOGE.

To Donald Trump -calling him tough negotiator

: PM Modi stated that it is Trump's magnanimity to call him a tough negotiator and appreciate him on various platforms. He emphasized that while Trump prioritizes America First, for him, it is always Bharat First. PM Modi affirmed that he consistently upholds India's interests on all platforms without intending harm to others. He added that by keeping the nation's interests as the top priority, he is merely fulfilling the expectations of 140 crore Indians who have entrusted him with this responsibility.

Revealing secret behind his good friendship with Donald Trump

: PM Modi praised Donald Trump for his thoughtful gesture during the Howdy

PM MODI AFFIRMED THAT INDIA, THE LAND OF BUDDHA AND GANDHI, PRIORITIZES PEACE OVER CONFLICT AND STANDS AS A GLOBAL ADVOCATE FOR HARMONY. HE EMPHASIZED THAT THE WORLD LISTENS TO INDIA BECAUSE OF ITS UNWAVERING COMMITMENT TO DIALOGUE AND STABILITY. HIGHLIGHTING HIS STRONG TIES WITH BOTH PUTIN AND ZELENKYY, HE STATED THAT HE CAN URGE RUSSIA THAT WAR IS NOT THE SOLUTION WHILE REMINDING UKRAINE THAT TRUE RESOLUTIONS ARE NOT FOUND ON THE BATTLEFIELD. PM MODI CLARIFIED THAT INDIA IS NOT NEUTRAL BUT FIRMLY COMMITTED TO PEACE.



PM MODI PRAISED DONALD TRUMP FOR HIS THOUGHTFUL GESTURE DURING THE HOWDY MODI EVENT, WHERE HE ATTENTIVELY LISTENED TO THE ENTIRE SPEECH AND, DESPITE SECURITY PROTOCOLS, JOINED HIM IN TAKING A LAP AROUND THE STADIUM TO GREET THE AUDIENCE. HE ALSO APPRECIATED THE TRUST TRUMP HAS IN HIM. SPEAKING ABOUT THEIR STRONG RELATIONSHIP, PM MODI NOTED THAT TRUMP'S AMERICA FIRST APPROACH ALIGNS WITH HIS OWN PHILOSOPHY OF NATION FIRST AND BHARAT FIRST, CREATING A NATURAL SYNERGY BETWEEN THE TWO LEADERS.

Modi event, where he attentively listened to the entire speech and, despite security protocols, joined him in taking a lap around the stadium to greet the audience. He also appreciated the trust Trump has in him. Speaking about their strong relationship, PM Modi noted that Trump's America First approach aligns with his own philosophy of Nation First and Bharat First, creating a natural synergy between the two leaders.

India's foreign policy vision

He asserted that this belief, formed in 2013, still remains at the heart of India's foreign policy. "For me, the country always comes first. However, to belittle someone or speaking ill of others is neither part of my cultural values nor my traditions. Moreover, our culture upholds and advocates for the welfare of mankind," he added.

Global cooperation and shared responsibility

PM Modi stressed India's long-standing philosophy of global peace and brotherhood, citing initiatives he introduced on the world stage.

"For example, I spoke about the environment in one of my speeches. I proposed the concept of One Sun, One World, One Grid. During the COVID pandemic, I delivered a speech at the G20 summit. I put forth the vision of One Health, where humans and nature would live in harmony," he said.

India hosted the G20 Summit under the theme, "One Earth, One Family, One Future." Modi noted, "We have inherited this timeless wisdom and it's our duty to share it with the world."

Global interdependence

Acknowledging the interconnectedness of the modern world, PM Modi stressed, "No country can thrive in isolation. Today we all depend upon one another. No one can make it far by themselves."

The need for a modernized global order

PM Modi also highlighted the challenges posed by outdated global institutions. "We must also understand that the world has become one small village today. No country can thrive in isolation. Today we all depend upon one another," he explained.

He pointed out the limitations of organisations like the United Nations. "Organizations like the United Nations came into being after the First World War, but they failed to evolve with the times, and this inability to adapt has sparked a global debate on their relevance," he said.

Emphasizing dialogue over discord

PM Modi reaffirmed that differences between neighboring nations are inevitable but should be managed through diplomatic means.

"Our relationship should remain just as strong in the future. It should continue to grow. Of course, dif-



US President Donald Trump has shared Prime Minister Narendra Modi's three-hour podcast with U S-based podcaster and AI researcher Lex Fridman on his Truth Social platform. The post, seen as an endorsement of the Indian leader.

ferences are natural. But our focus is to ensure that these differences don't turn into disputes," he stressed.

Instead of discord he advocated for open communication and dialogue, which he sees as the only way to build a stable, cooperative relationship. "Only through dialogue can we build a stable cooperative relationship that serves the best interests of both nations," he stated.

Border issues and progress towards normalcy

A call for cooperation over expansionism

PM Modi urged world leaders to focus on cooperation rather than expansionism, reinforcing the idea that modern conflicts extend beyond territorial disputes.

"In such situations, the prudent choice for everyone is to let go of conflict and move toward cooperation. And a development-driven approach is the way forward. Expansionism will not work," he stated.

Reiterating the interconnected nature of the modern world, he emphasised that no nation can thrive in isolation.

"As I've said before, the world is interdependent and interconnected. Every nation needs one another, no one can stand alone. And from all the different



forums I attend, one thing is clear: Everyone is deeply worried about these conflicts. We can only hope that peace is restored very soon,” he stated.

‘India will now see eye-to-eye with the world’: PM Modi says his 2013 foreign policy vision is now a reality

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, reflecting on his journey in politics and diplomacy, shared insights into the core principles of India’s foreign policy. Speaking about his early days as a prime ministerial candidate in 2013, PM Modi recounted the skepticism he faced regarding his understanding of global geopolitics. Critics, he said, questioned his ability to navigate foreign policy, labeling him as merely a state leader. “My critics often tried to corner me on one point. It became a topic of widespread discussion—Modi is nothing more than a state leader. What does he know of foreign policy? Does he even understand global geopolitics?” he recounted. In response to these doubts, he said he articulated a vision that has since become the cornerstone of his foreign policy approach. He has reaffirmed India’s foreign policy stance, emphasizing that the country will neither look down upon others nor allow itself to be looked down upon. He stated, “India will neither allow itself to be looked down upon, nor will it ever look up to anyone. India will now see eye-to-eye with her counterparts.” This belief, rooted in mutual respect and equality, continues to guide India’s interactions on the global stage, he stressed. He asserted that this belief, formed in 2013, still remains at the heart of India’s foreign policy. “For me, the country always comes first. However, to belittle someone or speaking ill of others is neither part of my cultural values nor my traditions. Moreover, our culture upholds and advocates for the welfare of mankind,” he added.

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world.”

“Our relationship should remain just as strong in the future. It should continue to grow. Of course, differences are natural. But our focus is to ensure that these differences don’t turn into disputes,” he stressed.

Competition is good, conflict is not’: PM Modi told Lex Fridman on India-China relations-

Prime Minister Modi emphasized India and China’s deep-rooted historical ties and the importance of maintaining a cooperative relationship despite occasional disagreements.

“The relationship between India and China isn’t something new. Both nations have ancient cultures and civilizations. Even in the modern world, they play a significant role,” PM Modi stated.

He highlighted the fact that India and China once contributed over 50% of the world’s GDP, showcasing their historical economic and cultural influence. “If we look back centuries, there’s no real history of conflict between us. It has always been about learning from each other and understanding one another,”

Instead of discord, PM Modi advocated for open communication and dialogue, which he sees as the only way to build a stable, cooperative relationship. “Only through dialogue can we build a stable cooperative relationship that serves the best interests of both nations,” he stated.

Addressing border tensions, PM Modi acknowledged the 2020 conflict as a major challenge but expressed optimism about improving relations.

“It is true that there have been ongoing border disputes between us. And in 2020, the incidents along the border created significant tensions between our countries. However, after my recent meeting with President Xi, we have seen a return to normalcy at the border,” he explained.

PM Modi emphasised that trust-building takes time but is necessary for long-term peace and stability. “Slowly but surely, trust, enthusiasm, and energy will return. But of course, it will take some time, since there’s been a five-year gap,” he noted. ‘Competition is good, conflict is not’ he said.

“Our cooperation isn’t just beneficial, it’s also essential for global stability and prosperity. And since the 21st century is Asia’s century, we want India and China to compete in a healthy and natural way. Competition is not a bad thing, but it should never turn into conflict,” he stated.

PRIME MINISTER NARENDRA MODI, REFLECTING ON HIS JOURNEY IN POLITICS AND DIPLOMACY, SHARED INSIGHTS INTO THE CORE PRINCIPLES OF INDIA’S FOREIGN POLICY. SPEAKING ABOUT HIS EARLY DAYS AS A PRIME MINISTERIAL CANDIDATE IN 2013, PM MODI RECOUNTED THE SKEPTICISM HE FACED REGARDING HIS UNDERSTANDING OF GLOBAL GEOPOLITICS. CRITICS, HE SAID, QUESTIONED HIS ABILITY TO NAVIGATE FOREIGN POLICY, LABELING HIM AS MERELY A STATE LEADER. “MY CRITICS OFTEN TRIED TO CORNER ME ON ONE POINT. IT BECAME A TOPIC OF WIDESPREAD DISCUSSION—MODI IS NOTHING MORE THAN A STATE LEADER. WHAT DOES HE KNOW OF FOREIGN POLICY? DOES HE EVEN UNDERSTAND GLOBAL GEOPOLITICS?” HE RECOUNTED.



Newzealad Supports India For UN Security Council Membership: P M Luxon

New Zealand Prime Minister Christopher Luxon said countries like India play such a central role globally and New Zealand supports New Delhi getting a permanent seat in a reformed UN Security Council.



New Zealand Prime Minister Christopher Luxon With Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

India has a significant role to play in the Indo-Pacific as its size and geo-strategic heft is crucial in an increasingly multi-polar world, New Zealand Prime Minister Christopher Luxon said on Monday while backing New Delhi's bid to become a permanent member of the UN Security Council.

In an address at the Raisina Dialogue, Luxon underlined the need to ensure a rules-based order in the Indo-Pacific and asserted that the "might makes right" approach was unacceptable, remarks that came amid China's increasing muscle-flexing in the region. The Kiwi leader said countries like India play such a central role globally and New

Zealand supports New Delhi getting a permanent seat in a reformed UN Security Council. Luxon made the remarks after inaugurating the Raisina Dialogue along with Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

In his remarks, the New Zealand prime minister mostly delved into economic and political aspects of the Indo-Pacific analysing increasing power-play in the region. "We must go forward with great confidence as we live at the heart of the world's most exciting and dynamic region -- the Indo-Pacific," he said in the presence of several foreign ministers, top diplomats and foreign policy experts. "There is no prosperity without security," he added. Luxon also elaborated on New Zealand's approach towards the Indo-Pacific and said his country is looking to "protect and advance" its interests in the fast evolving dynamic region. "As Newzealand looks to protect and advance our interests in the Indo-Pacific, we can only do so alongside partners like India that have a significant role to play in the Indo-Pacific region," he said.

"In an increasingly multi-polar world India's size and geo-strategic heft gives you autonomy," he argued. "We want to live in an Indo-Pacific where the countries are free to choose their own path free from interference, a region where no one country comes to dominate," he said.

Luxon said New Zealand is working alongside other Pacific countries to boost their capacities and help them make "independent choices free from interference". "My government is investing in key relationships -- from traditional partners to deepening our relationships across South-East Asia and in a serious way with India too," he added



The Raisina Dialogue, India's premier geopolitical and strategic conference, is organised in New Delhi from 17th -19th March, 2025. Prime Minister Shri Namenda Modi inaugurated the 10th edition of the Dialogue. Honorable Christopher Luxon, Prime Minister of New Zealand, also joined the inaugural session as the Chief Guest and delivered the keynote address. This year's dialogue featured more than 3,500 attendees from around 125 countries, including foreign ministers, former heads of state, military leaders, business executives, technology pioneers, scholars, journalists, and experts in strategic affairs.



EMERGING A BIPOLAR WORLD LED BY US AND RUSSIA?



by **SITARAM SHARMA**
Chairman, IFUNA

BIPOLARITY, UNDER WHICH THE BULK OF GLOBAL ECONOMIC, MILITARY, AND CULTURAL INFLUENCE IS HELD BETWEEN TWO STATES, SAW ITS CLASSICAL REPRESENTATION IN THE COLD WAR ERA WITH THE US AND SOVIET UNION DOMINATING THE SECOND HALF OF THE 20TH CENTURY IS STILL SOME WAY OFF.

As the world moved from an American unipolar moment after the end of the Cold War, there emerged the idea of multipolar world. Popular though the notion may have been, a truly multipolar world never did materialise. The US became the power with the most consequence with China in a strong second place. Together, as they dwarf other emerging actors, the contours of the world order become more chaotic.

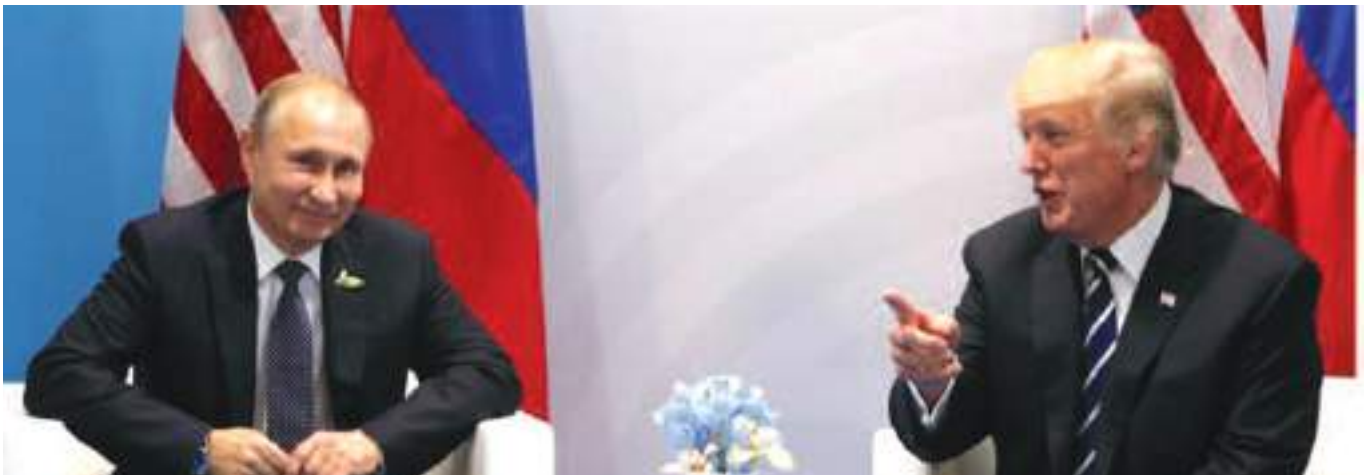
Bipolarity, under which the bulk of global economic, military, and cultural influence is held between two states, saw its classical representation in the Cold War era with the US and Soviet Union dominating the second half of the 20th Century is still some way off. Even multipolarity that, ironically, Russia hoped to usher in, when it invaded Ukraine in an effort to overturn the Kiev government, is nowhere in the offing. Instead, Moscow's failure to achieve a quick and decisive victory diminished Russia's stature in world affairs. In the present bifurcated world order, therefore, the power domination is still heavily tilted in Washington's favour, despite talk about the USA's declining influence. However, the US foreign policy itself is driving into uncertainty with no evidence of any emerging bipolarity in the foreseeable future.

In the economic arena, competition among big

powers threatens to pose far greater dangers than those emerging from the military realm. Money speaks and money counts, even though the United States and Russia maintain critically important and strategic foreign relations. Both countries have shared interests in nuclear safety and security, non-proliferation, counter-terrorism and space exploration despite their historically topsy-turvy relationship. Joe Biden's presidency saw these relations plummet following Russia's invasion of Ukraine in 2022. Conversely, the second presidency of Donald Trump has seen the US quickly moving to normalise relations with Russia.

There have been striking developments during the recent US President's encounter with the French President, Emmanuel Macron. Significantly, Donald Trump refused to call Putin a dictator though he labeled the Ukrainian President, Volodymyr Zelenskyy, as one in recent days. Asked whether he considered Putin a dictator, Trump skirted the issue: "I do not use these words lightly; we will see how it all works out." In fact, in a stark shift from its longstanding foreign policy and in a move that stunned most observers, for the first time the United States voted with Russia against an UN resolution demanding Russia's withdrawal from Ukraine and condemning the war.

Trump's hardening stance towards Ukraine



TRUMP-PUTIN RENDEZVOUS

Vladimir Putin congratulated Donald Trump ahead of inauguration



HISTORICALLY, IT NEEDS TO BE NOTED, THAT THE USA HAS NOT BEEN A RELIABLE ALLY; ABANDONING ITS PARTNERS AT WILL. NOT JUST THE RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN UKRAINE BUT THE MANNER IN WHICH IT HAD EARLIER DITCHED CANADA AND MEXICO ARE CASES IN POINT. THE US ALSO BETRAYED AFGHANISTAN AND PAKISTAN, WHO WERE ITS ALLIES A DECADE AGO. INDIA, ON ITS PART, MUST RECALL THE POLITICAL HISTORY OF THE US BEFORE CONSIDERING IT AS A TRUSTED ALLY.

and overtures to Moscow is surprising and may lead to a US-Russia axis replacing US-China closeness during Joe Biden's era. Indeed, President Trump's cozying up to Russian President Putin is a clear sign of the US changing its approach, prioritizing global strategy over its European strategy as Trump moves away from the long-standing policy of isolating Russia and focusing on China instead. Trump has gone a step further and accused Europe, especially NATO, of failing to maintain its strategic coherence and of European NATO becoming a burden on American global strategy, as he has emerged as the most powerful world leader.

The only country to challenge Trump is France; a nuclear powered and Veto holding power that currently chairs the European Union. The recent open Trump-Macron clash saw the US President make false allegations about funding of the Ukraine war. "Just so you understand, Europe is loaning the money to Ukraine. They are getting their money back," he said. It was for Macron to lean over to touch Trump's arm and interrupt: "No, in fact, to be frank, we paid 60 per cent of the total war efforts. It was like the US: loans, guarantees grants." Trump, on his part, has been negotiating a mineral revenue sharing agreement with Ukraine to recoup the money that the previous administration had sent to Kiev to

repel the Russian advances.

What else can Donald Trump's remarkable victory reshape significantly in the political landscape? US foreign policy is a first and his "America First" stance is being driven harder in his second term with strong impact on the global economy and trade. Deep protectionism alongside growing US-China tension has a special significance for India. New Delhi has a tough balancing task at hand, deepening trade ties with the US while tackling tariff and geopolitical alignments. Analysts argue that the Trump administration's "America First" moves the dismantling of USAID to quitting WHO, IMO and the Paris Agreement have raised concerns about whether the USA is ceding its global influence to its rivals.

Historically, it needs to be noted, that the USA has not been a reliable ally; abandoning its partners at will. Not just the recent developments in Ukraine but the manner in which it had earlier ditched Canada and Mexico are cases in point. The US also betrayed Afghanistan and Pakistan, who were its allies a decade ago. India, on its part, must recall the political history of the US before considering it as a trusted ally.

Businessman Donald Trump, currently worth \$7.08 billion as per Bloomberg estimates, is more

concerned about the economy and USA's looming trade deficit disaster, which has for long incurred his ire. The USA's ever widening trade deficit has reached \$45.7 billion in 2024. The United States is India's largest trading partner and most important export market. USA is 3rd largest investor in India with cumulative FDI inflows of \$67.76 billion from April 2000 to September 2024.

Trump holds this to be a sign of economic weakness and evidence that the world is taking advantage of America. "We have deficits with almost every country, not every country but almost - and we are going to change it," said Trump justifying recent trade action against Canada, Mexico and China. He was particularly harsh on USA's closest ally, the European Union, calling the bloc an "atrocious" on trade as he unleashed a tariff plan on a world economy that was already grappling with a perplexing assortment of variables. Trump just increased the volatility and uncertainly indices for the international economy.

India not spared

Where does India feature in this evolving US-Russia relations drama? India could certainly benefit by creating a more balanced Eurasian geopolitical environment. On its part, India must avoid over-reliance on foreign powers for military and strategic needs, learning from Ukraine situation and Europe's challenges with the NATO. The point, however, is that Trump has spared no one - neither enemies nor allies - signalling an end of all existing trade rules and announcing a reciprocal tariff on trading partners. This could hardly have come at a tougher time for India, which is feeling stressed by a slowing economy and sluggish demands. While signing the order Trump specifically mentioned India saying, "India has more tariffs than nearly any other country."

India runs a large trade surplus of \$36.8 billion with the USA that is likely to impose a 25 per cent tariff on automobiles, semiconductor and pharmaceuticals imports from New Delhi. It faces losses of up to \$7 billion a year over Trump's reciprocal tariff threat. However, the US reciprocal tariff is expected to impact between 10 and 30 points on India's GDP, which may be a manageable hit. India's direct exports to the US account for about two per cent of India's GDP. Given India's large and relatively closed economy, mostly domestically driven, it is argued that this will not derail India from its growth trajectory.

What else does one read between the lines of the United States and Russia head-spinning resetting of relationship? The two parties meeting in



Trump Greet Modi in White House

Saudi Arabia was, of course, a striking display of bonhomie after three years of American efforts to isolate Moscow for its 2022 invasion. It obviously signalled Trump's intention to roll back the Biden's policy towards Russia, which focused on sanctions, isolation and sending weapons to Ukraine. It may be recalled that Russia had interfered in the 2016 US election to Trump's benefit, with Trump reciprocating with only a few Russia-friendly policies during his first presidency. This time it is very different with both the superpowers, United States and Russia, inching towards working closely and taking the international arena back to bipolar world. It is hoped that talks with Trump and a peace deal in Ukraine could pave the way for the US to lift the severe sanctions imposed by the Biden Administration against Moscow. It may also lead to the Nobel Peace Prize, jointly for Trump and Putin for their efforts to end the Ukraine war.

USA, European Union and France

The USA's relations with France have always been close and peaceful, except for a few aberrations in 2024. Donald Trump has described France as "our oldest ally and one of our greatest," though differences have emerged between the two over the Ukraine war. France has unwaveringly supplied arms to Ukraine since the war began. Four days after it was invaded by Russia, Ukraine applied for membership of the EU -European Union. French President Macron bluntly told the US President that a peace deal with Russia must not mean a surrender of Ukraine. Even so, the world order is changing and changing fast in Donald Trump's era with a fair possibility of Trump unleashing a far-right, semi-autocratic regime and an assault on what remains of representative democracy in the United States of America.

THE USA'S RELATIONS WITH FRANCE HAVE ALWAYS BEEN CLOSE AND PEACEFUL, EXCEPT FOR A FEW ABERRATIONS IN 2024. DONALD TRUMP HAS DESCRIBED FRANCE AS "OUR OLDEST ALLY AND ONE OF OUR GREATEST," THOUGH DIFFERENCES HAVE EMERGED BETWEEN THE TWO OVER THE UKRAINE WAR.



Responsible tourism climate change and a circular economy



by Dr. Purnima Chauhan
IAS (Retd)



THIS BREAKTHROUGH WILL ECLIPSE THE HISTORIC MOON LANDING OF 1967 THAT MARKED THE LIMITS OF HUMAN IMAGINATION. TODAY LEAPFROGGING BEYOND THIS "ONE SMALL STEP FOR MAN AND A GIANT LEAP FOR MANKIND" IS FEASIBLE DUE TO THE EXTRAORDINARY GROWTH IN TECHNOLOGY.

Since the 1st c AD when travel was tentatively initiated by Sir Thomas More the quest for "going where no man has gone before" has increased exponentially beyond imagination. Over a century ago when the Poles were conquered by Scott and Peary and Magellan circumnavigated the globe even 20,000 Leagues under the Sea became possible with advances in science and technology. Fiction rapidly became reality. As communication improved the world shrunk to a global village. Wanderlust whetted the demand and supply of

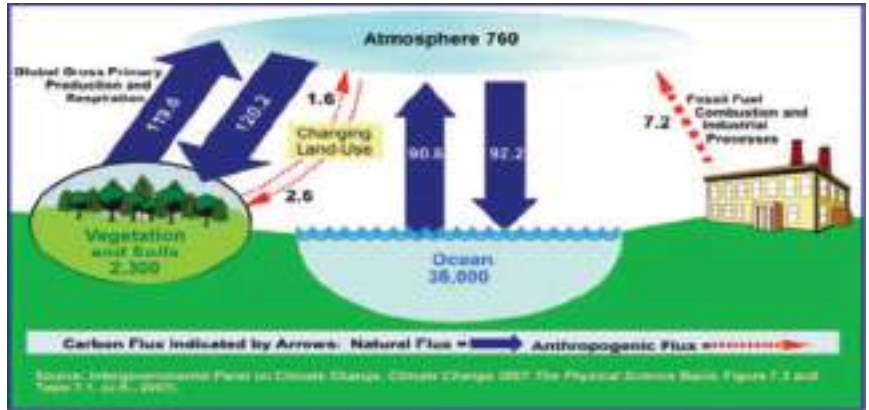
the tourism product until even the most exotic or bizarre desire for travel could be customised and delivered as 'experiential' tourism. Space Travel for tourists is the new promise made today by billionaires like Richard Branson, Elon Musk and Jeff Bezos making science fiction a reality. This breakthrough will eclipse the historic moon landing of 1967 that marked the limits of human imagination. Today leapfrogging beyond this "one small step for Man and a giant leap for Mankind" is feasible due to the extraordinary growth in technology.



Tourism grew by leaps and bounds becoming the fastest revenue multiplier until the pandemic sent it into a steep tailspin. The environmental boomerang of COVID shaved 90% off global tourism flows leading to "under-tourism". The pandemic fear briefly compelled everyone to rethink our resource consumption and waste generation habits in every sector. But public memory is short. Post the lockdown tourism again boomed in its new avatar of Revenge Tourism before it normalised. The Earth today is guzzling resources at four times the normal rate. Irresponsible human action has already breached 6 out of the 9 planetary boundaries namely- Climate, Biosphere integrity, Air Pollution, Ocean Acidification, Ozone Depletion, Freshwater availability, Land use, nutrient pollution and Human Pollution (John Rockstrom). These boundaries indicate limits within which humans can continue to thrive for future generations. But breaching them risks irreversible environmental change and damage. The Hamletian dilemma of tourism sector "to be or not to be" - a boon or bane- confronts us today.

Human ravages have compelled closure of fragile tourism destinations like the Galapagos Islands that inspired Charles Darwin's seminal work "Origin of the Species" based on its incredible biodiversity. How to contain such destructive human footprint and replace it with responsible tourism? This question has no easy answers. But some examples may help appreciate the need for us to progress from the current linear to a sustainable but difficult circular economy (CE) model of development which advocates reducing consumerism and optimal use of the depleting finite resources.

Nearly 28000 trees are cut daily to manufacture toilet paper! As per Global Forest Watch India has lost 2.33m hectares of its vital green forest cover since 2000! Each hectare of this vital carbon sink can capture 147MT of CO₂. Such profligate resource use has deprived us of 300MT of natural carbon sequestration capacity each year. This comprises one third of the additional green lung capacity creation that we had promised in the last COP meet but blissfully reneged on our global promise. Between 2015-2021 an estimated 3.13m hectares of dense forest has been degraded to open scrubland; 9.4m trees felled for mining, road construction, power projects etc. in Delhi



alone 77000 trees were cut between 2019-21. Such ravages have left India with 28 trees per capita versus a global average of 422. Recently approval has been accorded for a green massacre of 8 lac trees for the Great Nicobar Island Development Project in the Andaman. Nearly 60,000 trees are to be felled to lay a road for the kanwariyas and 1.2 lacs in the Hasdeo forest despite widespread tribal protest by people who innately understand the oneness of life and its environment. As India breaches this delicate balance the Global Nature Conservation Index has reduced its ranking to a low of 176 among 180 countries. To reach the \$35 trillion economy target by 2050 can we continue with this Business As Usual Linear Development (BAU-LD) model that overlooks the more sustainable Circular Economy (CE) option based on the virtue of adopting the 3Rs- Reduce, Reuse and Recycle?

CE originated in the 1920s with Leontief describing "the Economy as a circular flow". Unfortunately, even a century later CE is missing today in most government policies despite being vital for the survival of the species. CE finds mention in Goals 8 and 13 of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) that emphasise inclusive and sustainable economic growth. Resources like water have no substitute and hence are the most critical. Energy consumption has increased exponentially with the expanding use of AI (Artificial Intelligence). Innovative reuse can ensure that more value is retrieved from the produced resources expanding their lifespan as their quantity reduces on the planet. But for this to have any significant impact all individuals must act cohesively. Man must find

HUMAN RAVAGES HAVE COMPELLED CLOSURE OF FRAGILE TOURISM DESTINATIONS LIKE THE GALAPAGOS ISLANDS THAT INSPIRED CHARLES DARWIN'S SEMINAL WORK "ORIGIN OF THE SPECIES" BASED ON ITS INCREDIBLE BIODIVERSITY. HOW TO CONTAIN SUCH DESTRUCTIVE HUMAN FOOTPRINT AND REPLACE IT WITH RESPONSIBLE TOURISM? THIS QUESTION HAS NO EASY ANSWERS. BUT SOME EXAMPLES MAY HELP APPRECIATE THE NEED FOR US TO PROGRESS FROM THE CURRENT LINEAR TO A SUSTAINABLE BUT DIFFICULT CIRCULAR ECONOMY (CE) MODEL OF DEVELOPMENT WHICH ADVOCATES REDUCING CONSUMERISM AND OPTIMAL USE OF THE DEPLETING FINITE RESOURCES.



FLOATING TOURIST POPULATIONS OFTEN DO NOT FEEL THIS SENSE OF OWNERSHIP OR CARE TO PREVENT THE NEGATIVE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS THEY LEAVE IN THEIR WAKE. TOURISM CONSUMPTION OF ENERGY AND WATER MAKES IT A RESOURCE GUZZLER.

CALCULATING AND OFF SETTING OUR LETHAL CARBON FOOTPRINT.: AN EASY CARBON FOOTPRINT CALCULATOR YOU CAN TRY IS [HTTPS://WWW.CARBONFOOTPRINT.COM/CALCULATOR.ASPX](https://www.carbonfootprint.com/calculator.aspx)

his way in a cyclical ecological system which is capable of continuous reproduction of material form even though it cannot escape having inputs of energy. Scarce resources need processing and reprocessing continuously by society or by using biogeochemical processes. Otherwise, the global economy and healthcare are both jeopardised. Our "take-make and dispose" system must be replaced with a "cradle to cradle" approach for the greatest good of the greatest number.

Rapid linear development models bypass sustainability concerns in the quest for leapfrogging to higher GDPs. Yet it seems impossible to instil a sense of ownership of resources in each tourist so that he uses them carefully leaving enough for the next generation. Nearly 2 decades ago as I was travelling with my 6-year-old niece, Arzu, in Delhi she rolled down the car window and quickly threw out her empty plastic packet of "Uncle Chips". Coming from the fragile mountains of Himachal I was horrified by her action and stopped the car to pick the packet. She was non plussed and asked me why I had picked the trash. I told her that this packet was "non-biodegradable" deliberately using this unpronounceable term to arouse her curiosity. She struggled to repeat the word asking me for its meaning. Now that was not easy to describe. So, I told her that something which perishes and becomes dust (the biblical DUST TO DUST) is good and that which doesn't become dust is a threat to the Earth and to us. Pat came the question "how do we know it is dusty"? Then I gave her the analogy of a wrinkled old face to say that even after 80 years this plastic packet will not become old like us or reduce to dust while a piece of paper or a banana peel will decompose - and hence they are good or "biodegradable". Her silence made me feel that the point was well driven home. Next day as we were going to her school in the car, she rolled down the window and threw out the peel of the banana she was having. When I objected, she countered me saying that I had told her this is good waste as it turns to dust! I had no easy answer. Yet I felt the need to prevent her habit of littering. So, I told her that she was dirtying her Delhi by her action. Her prompt reply was, "It is not MY Delhi". I asked, "then whose is it". She confidently replied, "it is the Prime Minister's Delhi". Her answer led me to understand that seeing elders' actions of wilful garbage disposal had left 6-year-old Arzu with no sense of ownership of her city. Then why would she be concerned with anything beyond her immediate surroundings? She was a classic free rider on the city's public areas. Keeping them clean was not her job. This apathy for our environment that plagues tourism has made it a ban rather than a boon.

Floating tourist populations often do not feel this sense of ownership or care to prevent the negative environmental impacts they leave in their wake. Tourism consumption of energy and water makes it a resource guzzler. Yet we turn a blind eye



to this impact as tourism propels countries to rapid economic growth. But at what cost? Habitat destruction? The natural bounty that created tourism becomes its victim! The recent growth of tourism has unleashed a Frankenstein that needs to be reigned in before we kill Nature- the goose that laid the golden egg. Oceans and trees are Carbon sinks. Nearly 300MT of plastic waste is produced globally and the majority becomes marine litter. Most of this debris contamination is in summer tourist months. Marine litter is endangering, among other creatures, the very corals and plankton that have the capacity to absorb excess carbon. European Environment Agency held tourism responsible for 6.8% of waste generation as tourists generate double the waste compared to host populations. In a BAU scenario by 2050 tourism would lead to 154% energy consumption, 131% GHG emission, 152% water consumption and 251% solid waste disposal. Mushrooming hotels, resorts, recreation, homestays generate construction and demolition waste that is indiscriminately disposed endangering other natural resources like water bodies and trees. Poor septage disposal is a health hazard and in situ stand alone septage management is the need of the hour especially in remote locations.

Himachal population clusters are small and linear. Hence garbage disposal needs to be clustered for improved viability of collection, disposal and processing. As Director Urban Development I was directed by the NGT (National Green Tribunal) to examine the progress and report possibility of more efficient waste management in the Mandi-Kullu Manali areas. Each town had the same tale of woe. Inadequate garbage segregation, low quantities, landfills filling up quickly, dead return mileage of transport increasing the cost of collection thereby making it a nonviable activity that needed subsidies. Towards the end of my tour, I reached Manali which is an international tourist destination and has to contend with at least 6 times the influx of tourist numbers as compared to its host population. Based on my experience with the previous municipalities I was sure the situation in Manali would be even worse. But to my surprise the Executive Officer, Mohinder, had displayed extraordinary resourcefulness in implementing the Municipal Solid Waste Act and Rules, 2000. When the landfill was overflowing with inert garbage, he entered into an agreement with the Roads Department to excavate his landfill and use

that waste in bunding the banks of the turbulent Beas River. This allowed him to reuse his landfill and prevent sudden fires that often result when combustible methane is released from accumulated waste. Transporting small quantities of waste in a linear route was non-viable. But undaunted Mohinder found a solution to this problem too. His jurisdiction was confined to the urban area whereas large quantities of waste were being generated in the adjoining rural area across river Beas. That area was under the Pollution Control Board (PCB) and their regulation were enforceable. Mohinder collaborated with his PCB counterpart to extend his waste collection into the rural area thereby creating a circular route, optimal truckloads and bringing those hotel defaulters into the PCB ambit who were indiscriminately disposing waste into Beas River. He even negotiated a monthly rate of waste collection that was linked pro rata to the room tariff of each hotel. He did not just stop at this. He also ensured that the recyclable waste was reused while the biodegradable waste was used to generate energy that was pooled into the local renewable energy grid. This end-to-end resource use is perhaps the best example of circular thinking, innovative circular resource usage and how lowering our consumption can reduce the need for 3Rs.

Recently one homestay caught my eye. Apart from groceries and absolute essentials the owners had not purchased any other consumables in 30 years! How could that be possible was my instant reaction. Instead, they actively reused whatever they owned and encouraged their guests to help generate new reuse ideas and participate in this parsimonious exercise. Their lifestyle cutback has become their marketing USP that is attracting deep ecotourists to patronise and volunteer for them. Just as Longfellow says in his poem 'A Psalm of Life' can we too take a step in becoming a small cog in this circular economy where we take stewardship of the Planet knowing that we have borrowed it from our future generations and cannot be profligate in using its resources :-

*"Lives of great men all remind us,
We can make our life sublime,
And departing leave behind us,
Footprints n the sands of time!
Footprints, that perhaps another,
Sailing o'er life's solemn main,
A forlorn and shipwrecked brother,
Seeing, shall take heart again."*

Email drpurnimachauhan@gmail.com

HIMACHAL POPULATION CLUSTERS ARE SMALL AND LINEAR. HENCE GARBAGE DISPOSAL NEEDS TO BE CLUSTERED FOR IMPROVED VIABILITY OF COLLECTION, DISPOSAL AND PROCESSING. AS DIRECTOR URBAN DEVELOPMENT I WAS DIRECTED BY THE NGT (NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL) TO EXAMINE THE PROGRESS AND REPORT POSSIBILITY OF MORE EFFICIENT WASTE MANAGEMENT IN THE MANDI-KULLU MANALI AREAS. EACH TOWN HAD THE SAME TALE OF WOE. INADEQUATE GARBAGE SEGREGATION, LOW QUANTITIES, LANDFILLS FILLING UP QUICKLY, DEAD RETURN MILEAGE OF TRANSPORT INCREASING THE COST OF COLLECTION THEREBY MAKING IT A NONVAILABLE ACTIVITY THAT NEEDED SUBSIDIES.



**I HAD MY DNA TEST,
WHICH DETERMINED I HAVE
INDIAN DNA: INDONESIAN PREZ**

REPUBLIC DAY 2025

At a dinner hosted in his honour by President Droupadi Murmu, Indonesian President Prabowo Subianto joked about his recent discovery of Indian ancestry, revealing that a DNA test had shown his connection to India.

disappeared from the complex long ago. HT South Delhi had also reported the issue of artworks languishing in the open at the studio.

■ In October 2010, 'Regional Painting Camp' at Dalhousie, was inaugurated by Mr Devesh Kumar IAS, the then Deputy Commissioner, Chamba where I was the 'Guest of Honour.' It was a pleasure meeting Rajan Fulari and his team of artists.

■ The Shimla Centre is a part of the Gaiety Theatre complex. The artists' workplace, the makeshift studios and the guest house are at Craig Garden. I enjoyed being there at the 'Wood Sculpture' event of 2015.

On 17 May 2018, President Ram Nath Kovind appointed Uttam Pacharne, an artist and sculptor, as chairman of Lalit Kala Academy. On his visit to Shimla, he chaired the 'painting' tournament; and to my great honour launched my 'male torso' exhibit at Gaiety Theatre.

■ India's National Academy of Art, the Lalit Kala Akademi at Rabindra Bhawan with its various 'centres' is an autonomous organization funded by the Union Ministry of Culture.

The National Art Award is one of the awards and honours in India and Asia awarded by Lalit Kala Akademi. Besides, identifying and showcasing visual art, the institution widens the sphere of interaction where art would further the cause of national unity. The Akademi supports all forms of art - studio, experimental, developmental, 'folk', and 'tribal'. National heritage of India - ancient, medieval, as well as present trends are all encouraged. Modernity is amalgamated with inherited, indigenous past. Art is the act of creating something unique that fascinates our visual or auditory senses. Fine art may also go by "high art" and stands as an artistic expression over functionality. The aesthetics set fine art apart from "low art", which is crafted with utility in mind.

In the present-day scenario of 'free art', I am not sure if any 'art form' excels the other. The creation, however, is adored for its feel and get-up. Artists are recognized for their exceptional skills and something different, they come out with.

Garhi Artist Studios, also known as 'Garhi Artists Village', offers a multidisciplinary art space in East of Kailash, Delhi. I learned it was named 'Kala Kuteer' to begin with.

A community studio space for artists is carved out on a Mughal heritage site known as 'Garhi Jharia Maria'. Some eighteenth-century structures still stand within the campus. The entry gate is part of the boundary wall enclosing the remains of a Chaupal (community space).

While it became well-known for printmaking in its early years, it offers facilities for various mediums, including sculpture, ceramics, graphics and painting. Legendary artists Manjeet Bawa, SMS Jawed and Rajan Fulari are synonymous with Garhi. Budding artists like me flock to the campus to learn the techniques from senior artists.

■ I remember having given the finishing touches to my 'male torso in bronze' with Sayed Jawed in his studio- no 5; shaped out in clay with Ms. Saro Jain at Triveni.

The rural charm of the complex provides a peaceful and green space where I could work in liberty and give shape to my creativity. Of late, I ventured into 'stone sculpting'. The last I was there was with Jawed on Jan, 25. We barged into Mukul Panwar's studio. His latest works on 'Aluminum castings' and 'The Cat in Stone' are attractive. Behind his studio, Harkesh was busy in his casting pursuits. Through the haphazard display of statues and murals, we walked into another studio; I liked 'Dancer in the Long Boots'. I wonder how clay is camouflaged to look like leather! It is the FIMO effect, perhaps. Maybe, the alphabetical patterns over the attire aim at literacy. Amid heaps of waste in the complex, I could not trace the 'red stone'; I had once been working on in the open- next to the parking space. I feel the academy must ensure the safety and maintenance of the artworks. My artist friend Bhola Kumar has the same views. Perhaps, some works of "M.F. Husain" had



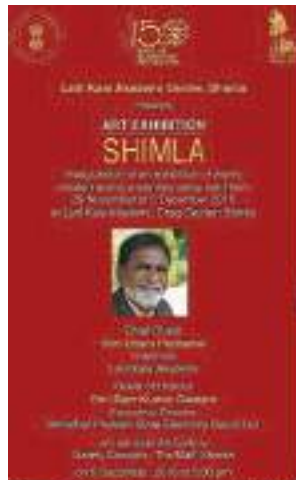
THIS IS A MAHISASURMARDINI HINDU GODDESS STATUE JUST RETURNED TO INDONESIA BY DUTCH COLONIAL POWER



LALIT KALA AT 'GARHI JHARIA MARIA'



CHANDER P MAHAJAN
Was a former student of Electrical Engineering at Regional Engineering College, Naseem Bagh, Srinagar, Kashmir (J&K).



From Right - Author with Babli(Vimaljeet), Rajan Fulari and other artists
Collections - Chander P Mahajan

A COMMUNITY STUDIO SPACE FOR ARTISTS IS CARVED OUT ON A MUGHAL HERITAGE SITE KNOWN AS 'GARHI JHARIA MARIA'. SOME EIGHTEENTH-CENTURY STRUCTURES STILL STAND WITHIN THE CAMPUS. THE ENTRY GATE IS PART OF THE BOUNDARY WALL ENCLOSING THE REMAINS OF A CHAUPAL (COMMUNITY SPACE).

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NATIONAL WOOD CARVING CAMP SHIMLA

- SEP, 2015

Collections - Chander P Mahajan

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Top: Mukul Panwar - Aluminum Figurines, 'CAT in Stone' (Left Below) Harkesh Gaur, Metal & Fibre Casting Artist (Below Right) Garhi Complex, New Delhi - Jan, 2025 Collections - Chander P Mahajan



'Untitled' Oil on Canvas 90cm x 45cm - Manjit Bawa :
The original painting is with the Author



'Vishakanya' Sayed Jawed with his Sculpture

'Untitled' Rajan Fulari with his painting

Collections - Chander P Mahajan

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Top: Uday Kumar Tekam with his 'Dancer in LONG BOOTS'
Below: Author sculpting in red stone with Sayed Jawed - Garhi Artists Village Collections - Chander P Mahajan



महाकुंभ युग परिवर्तन की आहट, इसने भारत की विकास यात्रा के नए अध्याय का संदेश दिया



■ पीएम, मोदी

प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी ने प्रयागराज में संपन्न हुए महाकुंभ को लेकर एक ब्लॉग लिखा। प्रधानमंत्री ने इस भव्य आयोजन को युग परिवर्तन की आहट करार दिया। उन्होंने कहा कि इस आयोजन ने भारत की विकास यात्रा के नए अध्याय का संदेश दिया है और यह संदेश है श्रिकसित भारतश् का। उन्होंने इस आयोजन को एकता का महाकुंभ करार देते हुए कहा कि समाज के हर वर्ग और हर क्षेत्र के लोग इस महाकुंभ में एक हो गए। इस आयोजन को सफल बनाने के लिए देशवासियों की ओर से किए परिश्रम से अभीभूत पीएम मोदी सोमनाथ के दर्शन के लिए जाएंगे और हर भारतीय के लिए प्रार्थना करेंगे।

पीएम मोदी ने अपने ब्लॉग में लिखा, श्महाकुंभ संपन्न हुआ। एकता का महायज्ञ संपन्न हुआ। प्रयागराज में एकता के महाकुंभ में पूरे 4.5 दिनों तक जिस प्रकार 1.40 करोड़ देशवासियों की आस्था एक साथ, एक समय में इस एक पर्व से आकर जुड़ी, वो अभीभूत करता है! महाकुंभ के पूर्ण होने पर जो विचार मन में आए, उन्हें मैंने कलमबद्ध करने का प्रयास किया है।

उन्होंने आगे लिखा, समाज के हर वर्ग और हर क्षेत्र के लोग इस महाकुंभ में एक हो गए। ये एक भारत-श्रेष्ठ भारत का चिर स्मरणीय दृश्य करोड़ों देशवासियों में आत्मविश्वास के साक्षात्कार का महापर्व बन गया। एकता के महाकुंभ को सफल बनाने के लिए देशवासियों के परिश्रम, उनके प्रयास, उनके संकल्प से अभीभूत मैं द्वादश ज्योतिर्लिंग में से प्रथम ज्योतिर्लिंग, श्री सोमनाथ के दर्शन करने जाऊंगा। मैं श्रद्धा रूपी संकल्प पुष्प को समर्पित करते हुए हर भारतीय के लिए प्रार्थना करूंगा। मैं कामना करूंगा कि देशवासियों में एकता की ये अविरल धारा, ऐसे ही बहती रहे।

पीएम मोदी ने लिखा, श्महाकुंभ संपन्न हुआ। एकता का महायज्ञ संपन्न हुआ। जब एक राष्ट्र

की चेतना जागृत होती है, जब वो सैकड़ों साल की गुलामी की मानसिकता के सारे बंधनों को तोड़कर नव चैतन्य के साथ हवा में सांस लेने लगता है, तो ऐसा ही दृश्य उपस्थित होता है, जैसा हमने 13 जनवरी के बाद से प्रयागराज में एकता के महाकुंभ में देखा।

22 जनवरी, 2024 को अयोध्या में राम मंदिर के प्राण प्रतिष्ठा समारोह में मैंने देवभक्ति से देशभक्ति की बात कही थी। प्रयागराज में महाकुंभ के दौरान सभी देवी-देवता जुटे, संत-महात्मा जुटे, बाल-वृद्ध जुटे, महिलाएं-युवा जुटे, और हमने देश की जागृत चेतना का साक्षात्कार किया। ये महाकुंभ एकता का महाकुंभ था, जहां 1.40 करोड़ देशवासियों की आस्था एक साथ एक समय में इस एक पर्व से आकर जुड़ गई थी। तीर्थराज प्रयाग के इसी क्षेत्र में एकता, समरसता और प्रेम का पवित्र क्षेत्र श्रृंगवेरपुर भी है, जहां प्रभु श्रीराम और निषादराज का मिलन हुआ था। उनके मिलन का वो प्रसंग भी हमारे इतिहास में भक्ति और सद्भाव के संगम की तरह ही है। प्रयागराज का ये तीर्थ आज भी हमें एकता और समरसता की वो प्रेरणा देता है।

बीते 45 दिन, प्रतिदिन, मैंने देखा, कैसे देश के कोने-कोने से लाखों-लाख लोग संगम तट की ओर बढ़े जा रहे हैं। संगम पर स्नान की भावनाओं का ज्वार, लगातार बढ़ता ही रहा। हर श्रद्धालु बस एक ही धुन में था- संगम में स्नान। मां गंगा, यमुना, सरस्वती की त्रिवेणी हर श्रद्धालु को उमंग, ऊर्जा और विश्वास के भाव से भर रही थी। प्रयागराज में हुआ महाकुंभ का ये आयोजन, आधुनिक युग के मैनेजमेंट प्रोफेशनल्स के लिए, प्लानिंग और पॉलिसी एक्सपर्ट्स के लिए, नए सिरे से अध्ययन का विषय बना है। आज पूरे विश्व में इस तरह के विराट आयोजन की कोई दूसरी तुलना नहीं है, ऐसा कोई दूसरा उदाहरण भी नहीं है। पूरी दुनिया हैरान है कि कैसे एक नदी तट पर, त्रिवेणी संगम पर इतनी बड़ी संख्या में करोड़ों की संख्या में लोग जुटे। इन करोड़ों लोगों को ना औपचारिक निमंत्रण था, ना ही किस समय पहुंचना है, उसकी कोई पूर्व सूचना थी। बस, लोग महाकुंभ चल पड़े...और पवित्र संगम में डुबकी लगाकर धन्य हो गए।

मैं वो तस्वीरें भूल नहीं सकता...स्नान के बाद असीम आनंद और संतोष से भरे वो चेहरे नहीं भूल सकता। महिलाएं हों, बुजुर्ग हों, हमारे दिव्यांग जन हों, जिससे जो बन पड़ा, वो साधन करके संगम तक पहुंचा। मेरे लिए ये देखना बहुत ही सुखद रहा कि बहुत बड़ी संख्या में भारत की आज की युवा पीढ़ी प्रयागराज पहुंची। भारत के युवाओं का इस तरह महाकुंभ में हिस्सा लेने के लिए आगे आना, एक बहुत बड़ा संदेश है। इससे ये विश्वास दृढ़ होता है कि भारत की युवा पीढ़ी हमारे संस्कार और संस्कृति की वाहक है और इसे आगे ले जाने का दायित्व समझती है और इसे लेकर संकल्पित भी है, समर्पित भी है। इस महाकुंभ में प्रयागराज पहुंचने वालों की संख्या ने निश्चित तौर पर एक नया रिकॉर्ड बनाया है, लेकिन इस महाकुंभ में हमने ये भी देखा कि जो प्रयाग नहीं पहुंच पाए, वो भी इस आयोजन से भाव-विभोर होकर जुड़े। कुंभ से लौटते हुए जो लोग त्रिवेणी तीर्थ का जल अपने साथ लेकर गए, उस जल की कुछ बूंदों ने भी करोड़ों भक्तों को कुंभ स्नान जैसा ही पुण्य दिया। कितने ही लोगों का कुंभ से वापसी के बाद गांव-गांव में जो सत्कार हुआ, जिस तरह पूरे समाज ने उनके प्रति श्रद्धा से सिर झुकाया, वो अविस्मरणीय है।

शुभ जल की कुछ बूंदों ने भी करोड़ों भक्तों को कुंभ स्नान जैसा ही पुण्य दिया। कितने ही लोगों का कुंभ से वापसी के बाद गांव-गांव में जो सत्कार हुआ, जिस तरह पूरे समाज ने



उनके प्रति श्रद्धा से सिर झुकाया, वो अविस्मरणीय है। ये कुछ ऐसा हुआ है, जो बीते कुछ दशकों में पहले कभी नहीं हुआ। ये कुछ ऐसा हुआ है, जो आने वाली कई-कई शताब्दियों की एक नींव रख गया है। प्रयागराज में जितनी कल्पना की गई थी, उससे कहीं अधिक संख्या में श्रद्धालु वहां पहुंचे। इसकी एक वजह ये भी थी कि प्रशासन ने भी पुराने कुंभ के अनुभवों को देखते हुए ही अंदाजा लगाया था। लेकिन अमेरिका की आबादी के करीब दोगुने लोगों ने एकता के महाकुंभ में हिस्सा लिया, डुबकी लगाई। आध्यात्मिक क्षेत्र में रिसर्च करने वाले लोग करोड़ों भारतवासियों के इस उत्साह पर अध्ययन करेंगे तो पाएंगे कि अपनी विरासत पर गौरव करने वाला भारत अब एक नई ऊर्जा के साथ आगे बढ़ रहा है। मैं मानता हूँ, ये युग परिवर्तन की वो आहट है, जो भारत का नया भविष्य लिखने जा रही है।

पीएम मोदी ने लिखा, श्साथियों, महाकुंभ की इस परंपरा से, हजारों वर्षों से भारत की राष्ट्रीय चेतना को बल मिलता रहा है। हर पूर्णकुंभ में समाज की उस समय की परिस्थितियों पर ऋषियों-मुनियों, विद्वत् जनों द्वारा 45 दिनों तक मंथन होता था। इस मंथन में देश को, समाज को नए दिशा-निर्देश मिलते थे। इसके बाद हर 6 वर्ष में अर्धकुंभ में परिस्थितियों और दिशा-निर्देशों की समीक्षा होती थी। 12 पूर्णकुंभ होते-होते, यानि 144 साल के अंतराल पर जो दिशा-निर्देश, जो परंपराएं पुरानी पड़ चुकी होती थीं, उन्हें त्याग दिया जाता था, आधुनिकता को स्वीकार किया जाता था और युगानुकूल परिवर्तन करके नए सिरे से नई परंपराओं को गढ़ा जाता था। 144 वर्षों के बाद होने वाले महाकुंभ में ऋषियों-मुनियों द्वारा, उस समय-काल और परिस्थितियों को देखते हुए नए संदेश भी दिए जाते थे। अब इस बार 144 वर्षों के बाद पड़े इस तरह के पूर्ण महाकुंभ ने भी हमें भारत की विकासयात्रा के नए अध्याय का संदेश दिया है। ये संदेश है- विकसित भारत का।

शुनिस तरह एकता के महाकुंभ में हर श्रद्धालु, चाहे वो गरीब हों या संपन्न हों, बाल हो या वृद्ध हो, देश से आया हो या विदेश से आया हो, गांव का हो या शहर का हो, पूर्व से हो या पश्चिम से हो, उत्तर से हो दक्षिण से हो, किसी भी जाति का हो, किसी भी विचारधारा का हो, सब एक महायज्ञ के लिए एकता के महाकुंभ में एक हो गए। एक भारत-श्रेष्ठ भारत का ये चिर स्मरणीय दृश्य, करोड़ों देशवासियों में आत्मविश्वास के साक्षात्कार का महापर्व बन गया। अब इसी तरह हमें एक होकर विकसित भारत के महायज्ञ के लिए जुट जाना है।

, साथियों, आज मुझे वो प्रसंग भी याद आ रहा है जब बालक रूप में श्रीकृष्ण ने माता यशोदा को अपने मुख में ब्रह्मांड के दर्शन कराए थे। वैसे ही इस महाकुंभ में भारतवासियों ने और विश्व ने भारत के सामर्थ्य के विराट स्वरूप के दर्शन किए हैं। हमें अब इसी आत्मविश्वास से एक निष्ठ होकर, विकसित भारत के संकल्प को पूरा करने के लिए आगे बढ़ना है। भारत की ये एक ऐसी शक्ति है, जिसके बारे में भक्ति आंदोलन में हमारे संतों ने राष्ट्र के हर कोने में अलख जगाई थी। विवेकानंद हों या श्री आर्योबिंदो हों, हर किसी ने हमें इसके बारे में जागरूक किया था। इसकी अनुभूति गांधी जी ने भी आजादी के आंदोलन के समय की थी। आजादी के बाद भारत की इस शक्ति के विराट स्वरूप को यदि हमने जाना होता, और इस शक्ति को सर्वजन हिताय, सर्वजन सुखाय की ओर मोड़ा होता, तो ये गुलामी के प्रभावों से बाहर निकलते भारत की बहुत बड़ी शक्ति बन जाती। लेकिन हम तब ये नहीं कर पाए। अब मुझे संतोष है, खुशी है कि जनता जनार्दन की यही शक्ति, विकसित भारत के लिए एकजुट हो रही है।

श्रेद से विवेकानंद तक और उपनिषद से उपग्रह तक, भारत की महान परंपराओं ने इस राष्ट्र को गढ़ा है। मेरी कामना है, एक नागरिक के नाते, अनन्य भक्ति भाव से, अपने पूर्वजों का, हमारे ऋषियों-मुनियों का पुण्य स्मरण करते हुए, एकता के महाकुंभ से हम नई प्रेरणा लेते हुए, नए संकल्पों को साथ लेकर चलें। हम एकता के महामंत्र को जीवन मंत्र बनाएं, देश सेवा में ही देव सेवा, जीव सेवा में ही शिव सेवा के भाव से स्वयं को समर्पित करें।

साथियों, जब मैं काशी चुनाव के लिए गया था, तो मेरे अंतरमन के भाव शब्दों में प्रकट



हुए थे, और मैंने कहा था- मां गंगा ने मुझे बुलाया है। इसमें एक दायित्व बोध भी था, हमारी मां स्वरूपा नदियों की पवित्रता को लेकर, स्वच्छता को लेकर। प्रयागराज में भी गंगा-यमुना-सरस्वती के संगम पर मेरा ये संकल्प और दृढ़ हुआ है। गंगा जी, यमुना जी, हमारी नदियों की स्वच्छता हमारी जीवन यात्रा से जुड़ी है। हमारी जिम्मेदारी बनती है कि नदी चाहे छोटी हो या बड़ी, हर नदी को जीवनदायिनी मां का प्रतिरूप मानते हुए हम अपने यहां सुविधा के अनुसार, नदी उत्सव जरूर मनाएं। ये एकता का महाकुंभ हमें इस बात की प्रेरणा देकर गया है कि हम अपनी नदियों को निरंतर स्वच्छ रखें, इस अभियान को निरंतर मजबूत करते रहें।

मैं जानता हूँ, इतना विशाल आयोजन आसान नहीं था। मैं प्रार्थना करता हूँ मां गंगा से...मां यमुना से...मां सरस्वती से...हे मां हमारी आराधना में कुछ कमी रह गई हो तो क्षमा करिएगा...। जनता जनार्दन, जो मेरे लिए ईश्वर का ही स्वरूप है, श्रद्धालुओं की सेवा में भी अगर हमसे कुछ कमी रह गई हो, तो मैं जनता जनार्दन का भी क्षमाप्रार्थी हूँ।

साथियों, श्रद्धा से भरे जो करोड़ों लोग प्रयाग पहुंचकर इस एकता के महाकुंभ का हिस्सा बने, उनकी सेवा का दायित्व भी श्रद्धा के सामर्थ्य से ही पूरा हुआ है। यूपी का सांसद होने के नाते मैं गर्व से कह सकता हूँ कि योगी जी के नेतृत्व में शासन, प्रशासन और जनता ने मिलकर, इस एकता के महाकुंभ को सफल बनाया। केंद्र हो या राज्य हो, यहां ना कोई शासक था, ना कोई प्रशासक था, हर कोई श्रद्धा भाव से भरा सेवक था। हमारे सफाईकर्मी, हमारे पुलिसकर्मी, नाविक साथी, वाहन चालक, भोजन बनाने वाले, सभी ने पूरी श्रद्धा और सेवा भाव से निरंतर काम करके इस महाकुंभ को सफल बनाया। विशेषकर, प्रयागराज के निवासियों ने इन 45 दिनों में तमाम परेशानियों को उठाकर भी जिस तरह श्रद्धालुओं की सेवा की है, वह अतुलनीय है। मैं प्रयागराज के सभी निवासियों का, यूपी की जनता का आभार व्यक्त करता हूँ, अभिनंदन करता हूँ।

अंत में पीएम मोदी ने लिखा, श्साथियों, महाकुंभ के दृश्यों को देखकर, बहुत प्रारंभ से ही मेरे मन में जो भाव जगे, जो पिछले 45 दिनों में और अधिक पुष्ट हुए हैं, राष्ट्र के उज्वल भविष्य को लेकर मेरी आस्था, अनेक गुना मजबूत हुई है। 140 करोड़ देशवासियों ने जिस तरह प्रयागराज में एकता के महाकुंभ को आज के विश्व की एक महान पहचान बना दिया, वो अद्भुत है। देशवासियों के इस परिश्रम से, उनके प्रयास से, उनके संकल्प से अभीभूत मैं जल्द ही द्वादश ज्योतिर्लिंग में से प्रथम ज्योतिर्लिंग, श्री सोमनाथ के दर्शन करने जाऊंगा और श्रद्धा रूपी संकल्प पुष्प को समर्पित करते हुए हर भारतीय के लिए प्रार्थना करूंगा। महाकुंभ का स्थूल स्वरूप महाशिवरात्रि को पूर्णता प्राप्त कर गया है। लेकिन मुझे विश्वास है, मां गंगा की अविरोध धारा की तरह, महाकुंभ की आध्यात्मिक चेतना की धारा और एकता की धारा निरंतर बहती रहेगी।



दस्ताने मुगले आजम



SANAT JAIN,
Secretary General, Chhattisgarh
United Nations Association, Raipur

भारत के सिनेमा इतिहास में 5 अगस्त 1960 स्वर्णिम अक्षरों में लिखा गया। इस दिन वर्षों से इंतजार था वह मुगले आजम भारत के सिनेमा घरों में 5 अगस्त 1960 को प्रदर्शित हुई। यह फिल्म ब्लैक एंड वाइट बनी थी पर कुछ दृश्य जैसे शीशमहल कलर थे। 2004 में इसे कलर में रिलीज किया गया जिसे तीन भाषाओं हिंदी, तमिल एवं इंग्लिश में बनाई गई थी।

इस फिल्म के डायरेक्टर के आसिफ इटावा उत्तर प्रदेश के थे इनमें एक जुनून सा सवार हो गया था कि फिल्म को भव्य से भव्य बनाया जाए। 1.5 करोड़ फिल्म पर खर्च आज के लगभग 1000 से 5000 करोड़ के बराबर है।

इस फिल्म के किरदार थे पृथ्वी राजकपूर, दिलीप कुमार एवं मधुवाला।

पहिले आसिफ नर्गिस को लेना चाहते थे बात नहीं बनी और फिर मधुवाला को लिया गया। संगीतकार नौशाद भी व्यस्त थे बड़ी मुश्किल से इस फिल्म में म्यूजिक देने तैयार हुए और उनका 1 लाख मेहनताना तय हुआ। आसिफ में ऐसा जुनून था कि फिल्म सभी तरह से अद्वितीय बने। बेल्जियम से कांच बुलवाया इसी तरह लेंस और कैमरा जीज कंपनी जर्मन से बुलवाया फिरोजाबाद के कारीगरों ने कांच का काम किया था।

इस फिल्म की शूटिंग देखने वाले होड़ सी मची थी। चाइना से वहां के प्रेसिडेंट चाउ एन लाई जुल्फिकार अली भुट्टो तो कई बार शूटिंग देखने आए थे। भुट्टो ने मधुवाला से शादी करने की इच्छा जताई थी लेकिन मधुवाला दिलीप कुमार के गिरफ्त में थी। फिल्म का प्रीमियर शो बम्बई के मराठा मंदिर में हुआ था जिसमें दिलीप कुमार एवं मधुवाला नहीं आसके थे क्योंकि आसिफने उनकी छोटी बहन से शादी कर ली थी इसका उनको सदमा था।

पोस्टर



ALWAYS CORDIAL IFUNA-UNA CHINA



The Fourth Regional Conference of the UNAs of the Asia and the Pacific held in New Delhi (27th April-30th April, 1993) Dr. Shankar Dayal Sharma, President of India received the delegates at a reception in Rashtrapati Bhavan. The picture shows Mr. M. M. Aggarwal introducing delegates of UNA China.



A goodwill delegation of UN Associations of China visited India as a Bilateral Exchange. The Chinese delegates are seen with Mr. Suresh Srivastava (third from left) Additional Secretary General, IFUNA, at Agra



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