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PEOPLE AND UN



UN DAY AT AHMEDABAD GUJARAT UNA INAUGURATED

SPEAKER OF GUJARAT LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
HON'BLE SRI RAJENDRA TRIVEDI, DELIVERING INAUGURAL ADDRESS

SITTING (L To R) : SRI ASHRAF A. SHEIKH, SECRETARY, MAHARASHTRA UNA, SRI DEEPAK PARVATIYAR, MEDIA ADVISOR, IFUNA, SRI SUDESH VERMA, NATIONAL SPOKESPERSON, BJP AND THE NEWLY APPOINTED PRESIDENT OF GUJARAT UNA, SRI BHARAT PANDYA (FORMER MLA, GUJARAT)



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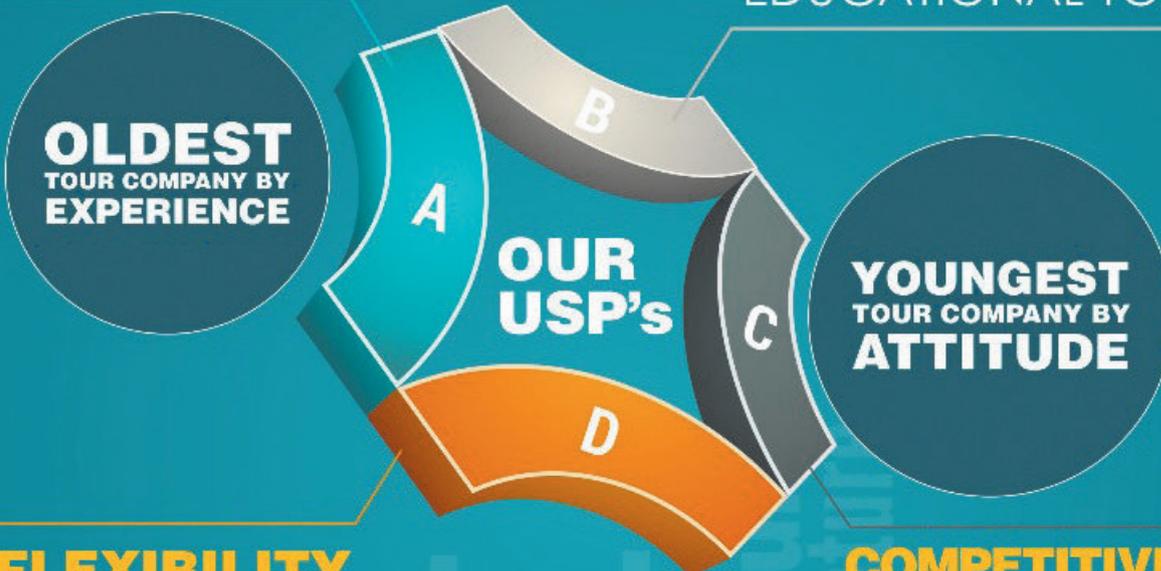
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IFUNA Secretary General Mr. Suresh Srivastava and Media Advisor Mr. Deepak Parvatiyar meet Mr. V. Muraleedharan, Hon'ble Minister of State for External Affairs, Government of India. Various issues, projects and programs were discussed.

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UN REFORMS

WE HAVE been continuously raising the issue of 'UN Reforms' in this column. We are glad that recently Indian Government has raised this issue in a very strong manner at various fora. During a question answer session at the third 'Future Investment Initiative (FII) forum' in Riyadh (Saudi Arabia), Prime Minister Narendra Modi said that "Some strong countries have not allowed the UN to develop as an institution. Instead, they have used the UN as an instrument (to serve their goals) due to which the UN has not been able to contribute towards creating a rules-based global order," He observed that when the UN was created in 1945, it was expected that it would play a catalytic role in conflict resolution. But unfortunately the UN could not grow into this role. India has been advocating reforms at the UN, including the powerful UN Security Council so that it reflects the current global realities and not that of 1945 when the UN was formed. He made a strong pitch for reforms of the United Nations stating that like-minded countries should come together and push for reform of the world body in 2020 when the UN completes 75 years of its existence.

"Some countries that are big and strong, do not obey international laws while smaller countries seem burdened by the international rules. If we have to have a stable world order, we need rules that we all have to observe, we should all oppose those who do not observe these rules so that they stand isolated," Pushing for reform in UN's structure, PM Modi has rightly pointed out that "UN as an institution for conflict resolution hasn't developed as desired; nations should look to reform UN structure." Earlier few days back during the NAM Summit (25-26 October) at Baku, Azerbaijan, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar also called for early and meaningful reform of the United Nations, and in particular its powerful security council. A majority of UN members, including most NAM members supported the demand that the time has come now to move on to the next phase to provide concrete reform in its 75th anniversary year. It is a significant move. We hope that this will create an environment to build an affective pressure on the comity of Nations for whom UN reforms matters.

— Pran Mohan Parvatiyar
pmparvatiyar@gmail.com



Indian's Minister for External Affairs Mr. S.Jaishankar (5th from left, front row) at the meeting of the foreign ministers of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) member countries 2019 in Baku (Azerbaijan)

UN DAY AT AHMEDABAD GUJARAT UNA

THE INDIAN Federation of United Nations Associations (IFUNA), New Delhi observed and celebrated the 74th anniversary of United Nations this year on Wednesday, the 23rd October, 2019 at the Gloria hall of YMCA Club at Ahmadabad, Gujarat. the land of our beloved father of nation Shri M.K. Gandhi, on the theme “UN Ideals and Mahatma Gandhi” ,

The event started with the prayer “Vaishnav Jan to tene Kahiye...” Followed by a skit on Mahatma Gandhi depicting sacrifice, honor, dedication and love for the nation during the turmoil days nearing independence of India and the struggle faced by Pandit Nehru, Sardar Patel, Maulana Abul Kalam Azad and Gandhiji. A cultural programme in the form Gujarati Folk dance “Garba” was presented by the students of J.J. School of arts, which was mesmerizing and admirable. Traditional lighting of the lamp was done to formally begin the programme by the dignitaries and organisers and a ceremonial felicitation of guests was done with flowers and with replica of famous statue of unity as a respect and tribute to the iron man of India Shri Sardar Vallabh bhai Patel, the first Home Minister of India.

At the outset, Dr. Mayuri Pandya welcome and introduced the audience about the programme and theme. Prof. Payal Mehta compeered the function.

The later part of the event was flagged off by induction ceremony and inauguration of United Nations Association of Gujarat by Shri Deepak Parvatiyar, the



Media Advisor of Indian Federation of United Nations Associations and one of the key persons behind the installation and building of United Nations Association of Gujarat (UNAG).

Shri Deepak Parvatiyar at first read the following Message received from UN Secretary-General Mr. António Guterres :-

“United Nations Day highlights the enduring ideals of the Charter, which

entered into force on this date 74 years ago. Amid stormy global seas, the Charter remains our shared moral anchor. At this time of turbo-charged change, the United Nations remains focused on the real problems of real people. We are working for a fair globalization and bold climate action. We are pushing for human rights and gender equality -- and saying “no” to hatred of any kind. And we are striving to maintain peace – while bringing life-saving aid to millions caught up in armed conflict. The United Nations itself is becoming ever more agile and accountable as we enhance support to countries. Next year marks the Organization’s 75th anniversary. This milestone is a critical moment to shape our future, together. I invite you to join the conversation. Together, let us advance the well-being of “we the peoples”.

Shri Deepak Parvatiyar further explained the aims, objectives and activities of Indian Federation of United Nations Associations (IFUNA) since its inception before the installation ceremony of United Nations Association of Gujarat (UNAG).

Former legislator and Gujarat BJP spokesperson Bharat Pandya was appointed as the President of United Nations Association of Gujarat and Dhanraj Nathwani, the head of the Reliance Group and Mr. Jayesh Desai were appointed as the Vice Presidents of UNAG. Dr. Parimal Desai, Dr.M.P.Chandran, Vaibhaviben Nanavati, Dr. Hemant Bhatt, Chiranjeev Patel and Dr. Mayuriben Pandya, were inducted as member of Executive Committee of the United Nations Association of Gujarat (UNAG). Shree Laxmanbhai Patel, national



Chief Guest Mr. Rajendra Trivedi, Hon'ble Speaker of Gujarat Legislative Assembly, Mr. Deepak Parvatiyar, Media Advisor, IFUNA, Mr. Ashraf Sheikh, Secretary of Maharashtra UNA, and BJP National Spokesperson Shri Sudesh Verma with the Executive Committee members of the newly formed UNA Gujarat at the observance of UN Day and inauguration of UNA Gujarat in Ahmedabad on 23rd October 2019



L to R: Mr. Ashraf Sheikh, Secretary MUNA, Mr. Deepak Parvatiyar, Media Advisor, IFUNA, Mr. Rajendra Trivedi, Honourable Speaker of Gujarat Legislative Assembly, Mr. Bharat Pandya, the newly elected President of UNA Gujarat.



Mr. Deepak Parvatiyar, Media Advisor, IFUNA, felicitating Chief Guest Mr. Rajendra Trivedi, Honourable Speaker of Gujarat Legislative Assembly as the new President of UNA Gujarat Mr. Bharat Pandya looks on.



Inaugurating Gujarat UNA by lighting of Lamp

General Secretary of Federation of Small and Medium Newspapers, Dr Bilal Hidayat, eminent cardiologist from Surat, and Ms. Khushbu Pujara, an educationist from Ahmadabad were designated as "friends of UNA Gujarat". In recognition of the efforts of Shri Deepak Parvatiyar, the newly formed UNA Gujarat invited him to join its executive committee member and Advisor, which he graciously accepted.

Adv. Ashraf Ahmed Shaikh, Hon. Secretary of Maharashtra United Nations Association, founder President of its youth wing and Executive Committee member of IFUNA, warmly congratulated the organizers and audience, he applauded the efforts rendered by Shri Deepak Parvatiyar for being instrumental in getting the installa-

tion of United Nations Association of Gujarat (UNAG). In his address Adv. Ashraf Ahmed Shaikh said, "The soil of Gujarat is very fertile, Gujarat has given many leaders and prominent personalities not only to India but also to the entire world e.g. Mahatma Gandhi, Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, Present PM Shri Narendra Modi and Home Minister Shri Amit Shah." Adv. Ashraf Ahmed Shaikh further added that, "today is a historical day for the people of Gujarat as with the celebration of Birth of United Nations, the United Nations Association of Gujarat is also being formed and installed, which generations will remember for years and every one present in this hall will be witness of this historical moment."

Shri Bharat Pandya, former MLA and the present Gujarat State spokesperson of BJP in his address said, "the United Nations is working to connect people and nations. From Gujarat Mahatma Gandhi and Sardar Patel had worked together to advance ideas and actions of UN." He further added that, "Gujarat has always been the leader in the battle of Swarajya, whether in the country or in the state. Sardar Patel made a concerted effort to unite 562 princely states of the country. At that time, Kashmir was not fully integrated into India as it had sections 370 and 35-A. Two Gujaratis have done the task of fully integrating Kashmir into India. The UN has always been neutral and helped India on the Kashmir issue. Narendra Bhai has



The newly elected UNA Gujarat president Mr. Bharat Pandya addressing the distinguished audience and elites of Gujarat who attended the meeting.



L to R: Mr. MP Chandran, Dr. Hemant Bhatt, Mr. Sudesh Verma, Mr. Rajendra Trivedi, Mr. Deepak Parvatiyar, Mr. Bharat Pandya, Mr. Ashraf Sheikh and Dr. Bilal Hidayat



BJP national spokesperson Mr. Sudesh Verma delivering his keynote address on 'UN Ideals and Mahatma Gandhi'



Artists performing Garba dance at the function

endorsed the fight against terrorism and allowed Indian culture to celebrate yoga as World Yoga Day on June 21" Shri Pandya Congratulated the United Nations on proclaiming 21 June as International yoga Day.

Another distinguished speaker Shri Sudesh Verma, National Spokesperson of BJP, who travelled all the way to Gujarat from New Delhi for this event enthusiastically thanked the organisers and addressed the august gathering highlighting legacy of Indian independence and pivotal role played by Mahatma Gandhi, Shri Verma in his address said that, "Gandhi has three weapons which he used for getting independence and to

resolve any kinds of conflicts, we should also follow the same path. The Gandhian strategy is the combination of truth, sacrifice, non- violence, selfless service and cooperation. According to Gandhi one should be brave and not a coward. He should present his views, suggestions and thoughts without being violent. One should fight a war with the weapons of truth and nonviolence. Gandhi said that "There is no god higher than truth." According to Gandhi's thoughts, non-violence is ultimate solution of every kind of problem in the world."

Shri Sudesh Verma further added that, "the views of the late Mahatma Gandhi have been given priority by the

Prime Minister of the country, Shri Narendra Modi. Moving the country in that direction which was visualized by Gandhi is always in the action plan of our PM." Shri Verma gave a detailed information about the development works of the country under the leadership of Prime Minister Shri Modi like Swachh Bharat Abhiyaan and construction of Sauchalayas in India.

The Chief Guest for the occasion was Shri RajendraS. Trivedi, MLA and the Hon'ble Speaker of Gujarat Legislative Assembly. Shri Trivedi explained few interesting incidents during his career as an Advocate and Chairman of Bar Council as well as Vice Chairman. He further said



A skit on Mahatma Gandhi at the function

UNITED NATIONS WHICH INCLUDES SARDAR SWARN SINGH, SHRI KRISHNA MENON, MRS. INDIRA GANDHI AS PRIME MINISTER OF INDIA, SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE, SHRI S.M. KRISHNA , SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE AND LAST BUT NOT THE LEAST SHRI NARENDRAMODI, PRIME MINISTER OF INDIA.

that, “150th birth anniversary of Gandhiji is being celebrated across the country, if we imbibe Mahatma Gandhi’s ideas as a permanent habit, it would be considered as a true tribute to Gandhi.”

Referring to his experience during his visit to Switzerland, Shri Trivedi said, “that no local political leader was seen in Switzerland, but only one statue of Mahatma Gandhi was in Switzerland. In Switzerland, Gandhi’s ideas are preferred. After Mahaveer Swami or Buddha, Gandhiji, is the priest of non-violence and peace.” He congratulated IFUNA for selecting Gujarat for observance of UN Day 2019 and also congratulated everyone for starting UNA Chapter of Gujarat on this auspicious day

Vote of thanks was proposed by Dr. Hemant Bhatt. He thanked all the office bearers of UNA Gujarat, IFUNA team members specially Shri Deepak Parvatiyar, Dr. Mayuri Pandya, Dr. Udit

Bharatbhai Pandya and everyone who contributed for grand success of UN Day observance 2019 And successful installation of United Nations Association of Gujarat (UNAG).

The program was concluded with a National Anthem by Amitabh Bachchan in the sign language, followed by lunch at the beautiful well-manicured lawns of YMCA

The event was extensively covered by the local Print, Electronic and Social Media, Ahmedabad, Gujarat.

I sincerely thank everyone at IFUNA specially our leader and guide Shri Suresh Srivastava, Secretary General of IFUNA, for his continuous faith, encouragement and support, without him it would have not been possible.

Advocate. Ashraf Ahmed Shaikh
Secretary, Maharashtra UNA

Mahatma Gandhi is the icon of peace

UNITED NATIONS Associations (UNAs) are the extended arms of the United Nations Organisation with the primary mission of supporting the principles and purposes of the UN through the engagement of people who share a global mindset and support international cooperation.

On the 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi, I was privileged to set up the UNA chapter in the Mahatma's home state Gujarat on the eve of the 74th UN Day, on October 23, 2019.

If United Nations is all about peace, then Mahatma Gandhi is the icon of peace. The theme of the day was UN ideals and Mahatma Gandhi on which my old journalist friend Sudesh Verma (who is now enjoying his stint as National Spokesperson of Bharatiya Janata Party), delivered a thought provoking lecture and the ruling political outfit's perspective on UN and Gandhi.

It is rather surprising that UNA was not active in Mahatma's home state. But as our chief guest of the day, the honourable speaker of Gujarat Legislative Assembly, Rajendra S. Trivedi, said in his speech, it's better late than never.

It was a grand inauguration where I inducted the members to this new chapter, being the Media Advisor of Indian Federation of United Nations Associations. The function aptly started with the screening of newly launched video on Gandhi's signature bhajan, Vaishnav Jan, produced by ETV Bharat and I thank my friend Braj Mohan Singh, Regional Editor of ETV Bharat who conceptualised the video, for providing me the video for the function. The skit on Mahatma and thereafter the Garba dance performed by local artists were splendid and the programme ended with the screening of



Deepak Parvatiyar, IFUNA Media advisor addressing the august gathering.

national anthem in sign language performed by Amitabh Bachchan and children with disabilities. For this I thank my friend Satish Kapoor and We Care Film Festival on disability issues (of which also I am the media advisor), which had produced this video.

I congratulate former two term Gujarat legislator (who was the youngest to defeat a sitting chief minister in an assembly election) Bharat Pandya but who has now decided against contesting elections, on becoming the president of UNA, Gujarat. He has pledged to build bridges not walls. Dhanraj Nathwani, a corporate honcho who is the president, corporate affairs of Reliance Industries and Mr. Jayesh Desai have been inducted at the ceremony as vice presidents of Gujarat UNA. The other members inducted during the ceremony were eminent professionals Dr. Parimal Desai, Dr. M.P. Chandran, Vaibhavi-

Nanavati, Dr. Hemant Bhatt, Chiranjeev Patel and Dr. Mayuriben Pandya. While Laxmanbhai Patel, national General Secretary of Federation of Small and Medium Newspapers, Dr. Bilal Hidayat, eminent cardiologist from Surat, and Khushbu Pujara, an educationist from Ahmedabad were inducted as "friends of UNA Gujarat", this scribe was privileged again to be invited to the state executive as Advisor, UNA Gujarat. I thank IFUNA and its dynamic secretary general Mr. Suresh Srivastava for reposing faith in me and giving me this responsibility to organize this function. A special thanks to my colleague and secretary of Maharashtra UNA, Ashraf Ahmed Shaikh for extending all support during the programme.

Shri Deepak Parvatiyar,
Media Adviser, Indian Federation of
United Nations Associations.

FORMATION OF GUJARAT UNITED NATIONS ASSOCIATION



Plastic Surgery & Director PG Studies and Research, Civil Hospital, Ahmedabad; Justice Prabhakar Dholakia, former state election commissioner, Gujarat; Wing Commander (Retd.) Arun Kaul, HR Head, Arvind Mills; Dr. Harshad Shah, Former Dean and Patron, BJ Medical College Alumni; Mr. Shailesh Goyal, Founder Director Simulations Public Affairs Management Services P Ltd.; Mr. Jatin Trivedi, IPR Attorney; Mr. Laxman Patel, General Secy. All India Small & Medium Newspaper Owners Association; Mr. Aviram Keshav, Senior General Manager, EXIM at Arvind Mills and an expert on foreign trade at CII; Mr. Anil Desai, Trustee, Rajpath Club; Mrs. Meena Srivastava, former director, Institute of Constitutional and Parliamentary Studies, New Delhi; Dr. Bilal Hidayat, Cardiologist, Surat; Mr. Amit Srivastava, Proprietor of Gold Flute. Mr. Deepak Parvatiyar initiated the proceedings and The IFUNA Secretary General Mr. Suresh Srivastava explained the movement of United Nations Associations in India and all over the world. He suggested that a new Chapter of UNA Gujarat may be formed and as we observe UN Day every year in different part of India and this year we can observe UN Day on 23/24 October 2019 in Ahmedabad followed by formation and inauguration of UNA Gujarat. The Members present showed their keen interest in the proposal of Mr. Srivastava and it was decided to form UNA Gujarat with the support of Mr. Bharat Pandya and other eminent personalities of Gujarat. The meeting ended with a vote of thanks by Mr. Amit Srivastava, Proprietor of Gold Flute and the Members were requested to join over Dinner which was hosted by Rajpath Club Management courtesy Mr. Amit Srivastava.

With the efforts of Mr. Deepak Parvatiyar, Media Advisor and Director, Programme of IFUNA, a meeting with some very prominent citizens personalities of Gujarat could be made possible on 6th September 2019 at Rajpath Club, Ahmedabad. The meeting was scheduled to be held at 7.00 pm and on that day heaven opened up with non stop rain for more than two hours causing a total jam on the SG Road leading to Rajpath Club. In spite of such an inclement weather and water logging, all distinguished invitees reached the venue on time, participated enthusiastically in the deliberations, made invaluable suggestions that laid the foundation for setting up UNA Gujarat.

Dr. S. Shanthakumar, Director Gujarat National Law University & Vice Chancellor, Gujarat Maritime University; Dr. Himanshu Pandya, Vice Chancellor, Gujarat University; Dr. MP Chandran, Trustee and Executive Director, JA University; Dr. MF Sheikh, HOD, Burns and



Secretary General, IFUNA Mr. Suresh Srivastava (sitting L) discussing with audience about structure of UNA



MODI-XI summit

New mechanism to discuss trade Investment and mutual interest

-P.M.Parvatiyar

INDIA AND CHINA at their second informal summit held at Mamallapuram (Tamil Nadu) at the highest level discussed Confidence-building measures (CBMs) to address outstanding issues including boundary question, terrorism and trade deficit as the two sides decided to set up Minister level mechanism for trade partnership and visit by Defence Minister to China. President Xi Jinping briefed PM Narendra Modi on Pak PM Imran Khan's recent visit to Beijing and the Kashmir issue is understood to have figured in the summit in that context. The dialogue on terror financing was important ahead of FATF plenary in Paris

In pursuit of their efforts to further deepen economic cooperation and to enhance their closer development partnership, the two Leaders have decided to establish a High-Level Economic and Trade Dialogue mechanism with the objective of achieving enhanced trade and commercial relations, as well as to better balance the trade between the two countries, according to MEA statement

They have also agreed to encourage mutual investments in identified sectors through the development of a Manufacturing Partnership and tasked their officials to develop this idea at the first meeting of the High-Level Economic and Trade Dialogue. India is seeking investments in China in IT and pharmaceutical sectors

They also agreed on the importance of concluding negotiations for a mutually-beneficial and balanced Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership.

Both Leaders are concerned that terrorism continues to pose a common threat. As



Modi-Xi informal summit: India, China agree to set up new mechanism for issues relating to trade and investment

countries that are large and diverse, they recognized the importance of continuing to make joint efforts to ensure that the international community strengthens the framework against training, financing and supporting terrorist groups throughout the world and on a non-discriminatory basis

They shared the view that an open, inclusive, prosperous and stable environment in the region is important to ensure the prosperity and stability of the region. Both Leaders shared the view that the international situation is witnessing significant readjustment. They were of the view that India and China share the common objective of working for a peaceful, secure and prosperous world in which all countries can pursue their development within a rules-based international order.. This is important in the context of China's BRI which is considered to chal-

THEY HAVE ALSO AGREED TO ENCOURAGE MUTUAL INVESTMENTS IN IDENTIFIED SECTORS THROUGH THE DEVELOPMENT OF A MANUFACTURING PARTNERSHIP AND TASKED THEIR OFFICIALS TO DEVELOP THIS IDEA AT THE FIRST MEETING OF THE HIGH-LEVEL ECONOMIC AND TRADE DIALOGUE. INDIA IS SEEKING INVESTMENTS IN CHINA IN IT AND PHARMACEUTICAL SECTORS THEY ALSO AGREED ON THE IMPORTANCE OF CONCLUDING NEGOTIATIONS FOR A MUTUALLY-BENEFICIAL AND BALANCED REGIONAL COMPREHENSIVE ECONOMIC PARTNERSHIP.

Xi-Modi informal meeting achieves fruitful results: Chinese vice FM

THE JUST-concluded informal meeting between Chinese President Xi Jinping and Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi has achieved fruitful outcomes, a senior Chinese diplomat said here on Saturday. During the second informal meeting in the southern Indian city of Chennai, Xi and Modi exchanged in-depth views on overarching, long-term and strategic issues of global and regional importance, and agreed to enhance the closer development partnership of the two countries, Chinese Vice Foreign Minister Luo Zhaohui told reporters after the two-day meeting. The two leaders reaffirmed the consensus reached during their first informal meeting in China's central city of Wuhan last year that China and India offer each other chances for development, Luo said. Xi and Modi spoke highly of the development of bilateral ties, agreed to enhance communication in experience of state governance and strengthen synergy of development strategies, and discussed how to deepen bilateral exchanges so as to demonstrate the increasingly important



THE TWO LEADERS HAVE EXCHANGED VIEWS ON OUTSTANDING ISSUES, INCLUDING ON THE BOUNDARY QUESTION. THEY HAVE WELCOMED THE WORK OF THE SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVES AND URGED THEM TO CONTINUE THEIR EFFORTS TO ARRIVE AT A MUTUALLY-AGREED FRAMEWORK FOR A FAIR, REASONABLE AND MUTUALLY ACCEPTABLE SETTLEMENT BASED ON POLITICAL PARAMETERS AND GUIDING PRINCIPLES THAT WERE AGREED BY THE TWO SIDES IN 2005.

challenge current rules based order. The Leaders recognized that India and China have a common interest in preserving and advancing a rules-based and inclusive international order, including through reforms that reflect the new realities of the 21st Century. Both agreed that it is important to support and strengthen the rules-based multilateral trading system at a time when globally agreed trade practices and norms are being selectively questioned. India and China will continue to work together for open and inclusive trade arrangement that will benefit all countries

The two Leaders have exchanged views on outstanding issues, including on the boundary question. They have welcomed the work of the Special Represent-

tatives and urged them to continue their efforts to arrive at a mutually-agreed framework for a fair, reasonable and mutually acceptable settlement based on Political Parameters and Guiding Principles that were agreed by the two sides in 2005. They reiterated their understanding that efforts will continue to be made to ensure peace and tranquility in the border areas, and that both sides will continue to work on additional Confidence Building Measures in pursuit of this objective.

The leaders agreed to establish a high-level economic and trade dialogue mechanism between China and India, in a bid to further strengthen bilateral trade and investment cooperation and to promote a balanced development of their



roles of both countries on the world stage, Luo said. The two leaders agreed that both China and India are committed to building a peaceful, secure and prosperous world, in which all countries can seek development in a world order based on international law, according to Luo. Xi and Modi agreed that a rules-based multilateral trading system should be supported and strengthened, and the two countries will continue to work for open and inclusive trade arrangements that will bring benefits to all countries, Luo said. They said that both countries are committed to combating terrorism in all forms, and called on the international community to strengthen counter-terrorism cooperation, according to Luo. The two leaders agreed that China and India, both important contemporary civilizations with long traditions, should strengthen dialogue, enhance mutual understanding and jointly promote exchanges and understanding among different cultures and civilizations, the Chinese diplomat said. Luo said that the two leaders agreed to designate 2020 as the China-India year of cultural and people-to-people exchanges, and hold 70 events next year to mark the 70th anniversary of the China-India diplomatic relations.

economic and trade relations, Luo said. Xi and Modi reaffirmed that both sides will continue to maintain peace and tranquility in border areas and will work on additional confidence building measures through consultation, while urging the special representatives of the two countries to figure out a fair, reasonable and mutually acceptable solution to the border issue, according to Luo. They also agreed that informal meetings have provided an important opportunity for the two sides to deepen dialogue and enhance mutual understanding, and that they will maintain such kind of meetings as well as other forms of strategic communication, Luo said.

China has revised its drug laws to reduce penalties for the sale and import of unapproved drugs, sending a signal that the country may take an open mind toward cheaper

generic drugs, especially those from India, to give poor and critically ill patients greater opportunities to extend their lives.

The strategy of the balance of power is generated from the diplomacy of Western countries. In today's globalized world, Asian countries are supposed to have better choices. This is a test for not only for India, but also China. Both need work together to walk out of this strategic trap.

Mutual trust between China and India can not only promote cooperation between the two countries, but also avoid the dilemma of neighboring countries sandwiched between China and India, which is conducive to the harmonious development of regional international relations, and will create better conditions for Sino-Indian cooperation in global affairs.

THE STRATEGY OF THE BALANCE OF POWER IS GENERATED FROM THE DIPLOMACY OF WESTERN COUNTRIES. IN TODAY'S GLOBALIZED WORLD, ASIAN COUNTRIES ARE SUPPOSED TO HAVE BETTER CHOICES. THIS IS A TEST FOR NOT ONLY FOR INDIA, BUT ALSO CHINA.

Resurgent identity in ascendant India

Ding Gang is a senior editor with People's Daily, and currently a senior fellow with the Chongyang Institute for Financial Studies at Renmin University of China. He was Senior Reporter of People's Daily. From 1990 onwards, Ding Gang has served as People's Daily in Sweden, Belgium and the United Nations correspondent, deputy director of the International Department, the Asia Pacific Center branch (Thailand) chief reporter, and Central branch in Latin America (Brazil) chief reporter. Hired as a Senior Consultant by Global Times in 2006

Over the past more than 70 years since its independence in 1947, India has been facing the challenge of building national identity. It's widely believed that the move to revoke India-administered Jammu and Kashmir's autonomy by the government of Prime Minister Narendra Modi through constitutional amendments is a means of consolidating national identity.



almost all cultures of Southeast Asian countries. The main channel through which India spread its civilization was religion, such as Buddhism and Hinduism.

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Many other Asian countries, in fact, are facing the same challenge. Although countries in the region have their mainstream religions, they are multi-religious and multi-ethnic societies. For instance, according to Singaporean sinologist Leo Suryadinata, ethnic Chinese only account for about 4.05 percent of the population of Southeast Asia. The group is a small minority, but has played an important and indispensable role in the fields of economy, technology and science, and education.

Multi-religious and multi-ethnic countries actually have two options to build their national identity. One is to build it upon the mainstream religion. India, which tries to consolidate Hinduism as the basis of national identity, is an example. The other is to establish a political, economic and legal system to promote the harmonious coexistence of religions.

However, the reality is much more complicated than what such a rational analysis shows. Like most Southeast Asian countries, India had opted to establish a pluralist and secular system, but it was hard to pull it off.

So far, it seems harmonious coexistence among multiple ethnic groups and religions remains a utopia in many countries. Few countries in Asia have succeeded in making it come true.

There are varied reasons, both internal and external. It needs to be pointed out that at a time of accelerating globalization, resurgence of nationalism and religion has become a worldwide phenomenon. No country is an exception.

India has had a bigger influence on Southeast Asia than China in history. An Indian element pervades

ancient India.

However, Buddhism, which was born in India and spread to the world, was actually elbowed out from the country by Hinduism in history. This is different from the development of Indian civilization, which is believed to have been brought into the country by Aryan invaders from the north — specifically the area around the Caspian Sea comprising modern Georgia, Armenia and parts of Iran.

After Buddhism came to Southeast Asia, it integrated with the local culture rather than overpower it. It then developed into a rival of Hinduism and even confronted the Brahmanical fate in some places. Islam had a similar experience with Buddhism in India.

The growing strength of Hinduism in India made the Indian subcontinent a curtain that blocked the spread of Islam and other religions to the east. This has given India more geopolitical importance, but made it harder for multiple faiths to exist peacefully.

Many countries in the region are striving to build a multiethnic and multi-religious structure, but religious and national awareness have strongly rebounded under the pressure of globalization. It is not an easy call for these countries' leaders to make.

We would like to regard Modi's decision on Kashmir as a trial, which will greatly impact global geopolitics. Neighboring countries of India will therefore keep an eye on what the future holds for Modi's decision and the socioeconomic consequences it brings.

By Ding Gang

Courtesy Global Times

MULTI-RELIGIOUS AND MULTI-ETHNIC COUNTRIES ACTUALLY HAVE TWO OPTIONS TO BUILD THEIR NATIONAL IDENTITY. ONE IS TO BUILD IT UPON THE MAINSTREAM RELIGION. INDIA, WHICH TRIES TO CONSOLIDATE HINDUISM AS THE BASIS OF NATIONAL IDENTITY, IS AN EXAMPLE. THE OTHER IS TO ESTABLISH A POLITICAL, ECONOMIC AND LEGAL SYSTEM TO PROMOTE THE HARMONIOUS COEXISTENCE OF RELIGIONS.

PM Modi underlines India's push for \$5 trillion economy at FII in Riyadh



P rime Minister Modi said he saw 5 major trends as the keys to future prosperity. He listed them as the impact of technology, the importance of infrastructure, human resources, care for the environment and business-friendly governance.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, on a two-day visit to Saudi Arabia, on Tuesday 29th October delivering the keynote address at the high-profile financial summit 'Future Investment Initiative', dubbed "Davos in the desert"

He underlined his government's resolve to double India's economy to \$5 trillion in the next five years.

"India has set a target of doubling its economy to \$5 trillion in the next five years. Today in

India, if we want to speed up development, then we have to understand the emerging trends," Modi said in his address to Future Investment Initiative (FII) in Riyadh.

"The purpose of this forum is not just to discuss the economy here but also to understand the emerging trends in the world and find ways for world welfare in it, and added that he saw five major trends as the keys to future prosperity." He listed them as the impact of technology, the importance of infrastructure, human resources, care for the environment and business-friendly governance.

He further said that the FII forum has "come a long way", and hard work of people of Kingdom has converted "sands of the desert into

**17TH APRIL 2019
LAUNCHING OF 5.50
LAKH TREE PLANTATION DRIVE WORLD-
WIDE STARTING
FROM KENYA AND
DIFFERENT VILLAGES
OF PUNJAB (INDIA)
AND SPREADING
THROUGHOUT THE
GLOBE (LAUNCHED
IN EAST AFRICA).**

gold”

“Our ancient relations have built a strong foundation for our strategic partnership,” he said in his address.

Describing infrastructure as an opportunity multiplier, he said, “Infrastructure gives businesses huge investment opportunities. So for the growth of business and other infrastructure is necessary.”

The Prime Minister stressed India’s strength as a start-up ecosystem and invited global investors to be part of a growth story.

“Today India has become world’s third largest start-up ecosystem. Even in tier-2 and 3 cities of India startups have come up. Our start-ups have started investing at global scale. I invite global investors to benefit from our start-up ecosystem,” he said.

He also cautioned that climate change cannot be ignored. “Importance of climate change is visible, we cannot ignore it. It is very important to conserve energy and we are increasing investment in gas and oil industry, and unveiled his government’s plans to invest \$100 billion in the oil and gas sector.

“By 2024, we aim to invest \$100 billion in refining, pipelines, gas terminals. I am happy that Saudi Aramco has decided to invest in West Coast Refinery Project - which will be the largest refinery of Asia.”

He also said that the NDA government’s Skill India initiative, 400 million people will be trained with different skills within the next four years which will provide assured skilled manpower to companies investing in India.

Modi said his government was clear about its policies as he committed support to Saudi Arabia in its quest to diversify its economy.

“There is clarity in our policies. Our aim is to increase the living standard of all Indians, because of political stability and diverse market, your investment in India will be beneficial for you. Saudi’s vision 2030 and to diversify their economy we will support them,” said PM Modi.



Modi in Saudi Arabia

Modi who held a bilateral meeting with King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud ahead of the FII? engagement, began his speech by hailing India’s ties with Saudi Arabia which he said laid the foundation for a strategic partnership.

“It is always a delight to meet His Royal Highness Prince Mohammed bin Salman bin Abdulaziz. His vision for Saudi Arabia is remarkable. We had an extensive meeting during which we discussed numerous issues. Stronger friendship between our nations augurs well for our people,” PM Modi tweeted after the Crown Prince hosted him for dinner.

During PM Modi’s talks with King Salman bin Abdulaziz and the Crown Prince, a Strategic Partnership Council was established for New Delhi and Riyadh to coordinate on important issues. Two leaders exchanged views on working closely to strengthen the bilateral ties. The two leaders condemned terrorism in all its forms, and agreed to step up bilateral security cooperation. India and Saudi Arabia signed memorandum of understanding (MoU) to roll out RuPay card in the Kingdom - making Saudi Arabia the third country in the Persian Gulf after the UAE and Bahrain to introduce India’s digital payment system. “India became a good destination for foreign investment,” PM Modi said, outlining big pluses like infrastructure growth and skill development. “India is the third biggest start-up ecosystem. There has been a lot of investment, from food delivery, hospitality, tourism and medical treatment. I request world investors to take advantage of it,” he said. Twelve MoUs were signed

between the two countries in defence industries collaboration, renewable energy, security cooperation and civil aviation sectors.

India and Saudi Arabia on Tuesday launched a Strategic Partnership Council to guide their ties in areas ranging from trade to energy security, even as Prime Minister Narendra Modi called for a new conflict resolution mechanism in an increasingly multipolar world.

PM Modi and Crown Prince

Mohammed bin Salman signed the agreement for the Strategic Partnership Council following their delegation-level talks that capped the Prime Minister’s day-long visit to the kingdom. The council was first mooted during the crown prince’s visit to India in February.

The council, to be chaired by the Indian premier and the Saudi crown prince, will monitor and guide the strategic partnership and projects taken

up by the two sides. The body will have two mechanisms - one under the foreign ministers of the two sides to oversee political and diplomatic relations, and another under the commerce ministers to guide trade and energy ties. Both mechanisms will report to the Indian PM and the Saudi crown prince.

The Indian Prime Minister and Saudi King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud condemned terrorism in all its forms and manifestations and appreciated the close cooperation on security matters between the two countries. The discussion was held during a bilateral between King Salman and PM Modi.

“Called on His Majesty King Salman. He is one of the most widely respected leaders. We discussed multiple aspects relating to further boosting cooperation with Saudi Arabia,” Modi tweeted.

ASSAM UNA

International literacy day Observed



ASSAM UNA of The Indian Federation of UN Associations observed the international literacy day on 9th September, 2019 in collaboration with pragjyotish College, Guwahati at the auditorium of Pragjyotish College. A presentation on the literacy was displayed on the projector by the professors of the pragjyotish college. Chief Guest Dr. Ramesh Chandra Barpatragohain, Advocate General of Assam. In his keynote speech stressed on the literacy and its relation with personal as well as social development. Dr. Manoj Mahanta, principal of the Pragjyotish College in his address said that literacy is the key factor for any development of a nation. The meeting was attended by large nos. of students, faculties and distinguished guests. Earlier, Dr. Aswini Sarma, Secretary General of UNA-Assam read out the message of Director General of UNESCO on the occasion. Prof. Biswajyoti Mahanta proposed a Vote of thanks.



ODISHA UNA United Nations Foundation Day

United Nations Foundation Day was celebrated at Dhenkanal Odisha under the chairmanship of state UFUNA president, advocate Manoranjan Pattanaik. Former union minister Bhajaman Behera was chief guest. He said that due to establishment of UN third war has been avoided and there is existence of peace and solidarity in the world. In spite of dominating character of some countries, United Nations is promoting constructive activities through WHO, UNICEF, IMF, WFMA. United Nations is also working for climate change and environment. Prof. Dilip Nanda, Eng. Ak Sathapathy, Poet Bahadur Patsani, Environmentalist Upendra Tout, Daitari Parida, Soubhgya Biswel also expressed their views in the meeting. Joint Secretary Soumya Ranjan Pattanaik proposed Vote of thanks

DISASTER REDUCTION DAY

International Day For Disaster Reduction was organized by UFUNA under the chairmanship of its state president Manoranjan Pattanaik, Advocate. Former Dist Judge Durga Charan Mishra was chief guest. He said that uncontrolled climate change & environment is bringing cyclone, flood and draught. Every body was of the opinion that international awareness should be built to protect environment in the world. Among others Er A K Satapathy, Er Damburudhar Panda, Upendra Rout, Daitatar Parida also spoke on the occasion. Poet Bahadur Patsani welcomed guests and vote of thanks proposed by Bichitrananda Mohanty

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main channel through which India spread its civilization was religion, such as Buddhism and Hinduism.

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CHHATTISGARH UNA Organised heritage lecture Series

Chhattisgarh UN Association and Rotary Club of Raipur Heritage jointly organised Heritage lectures series which was inaugurated by Chief Minister Shri Bhupesh Baghel. The 2nd lecture of this series was delivered by Prime Minister think tank Shri Zafar Sareshwala. The subject was Clash of civilizations..I don't believe that there is a unrest due to clash of civilizations but it arises due to difference of opinion said sareshwala .He also rejected the theory of world famous social scientist Samuel Hartington. In our country Hindus are liberal and so called Religious Gurus of both sides are the cause of unrest and in the same time



Shri Zafar Sareshwala



The Distinguished audience



politicians are also responsible for this unrest.. Shri Sanat Jain Secretary General CG UNA presided the function Shri Pankaj Shar-

ma conducted the proceeding and Vice President Shri Magan Agrawal proposed vote of thanks.



WITH GOVERNOR

Mr. Sanat Jain (L) Chattisgarh UNA Secy.General and President Rotary Clubv called on a courtesy visit to H.E. Governor of Chattisgarh MS Anusuya Uike along with Secy. Pankaj Sharma

‘Jammu Kashmir’, ‘Ladakh’ and the ‘Crane’



Chander P Mahajan

WHILE THE Government of India repealed the special status accorded to Jammu and Kashmir under Article 370 of the Indian constitution, through ‘Kashmir Reorganization Act 2019’; the legacy of ‘black necked crane’, the ‘State Bird’ of Jammu and Kashmir, is hanging fire. Is it likely that the bird jumps its position from being the ‘State Bird’ of Jammu and Kashmir to the ‘UT’s National Bird’ of its native Ladakh?

In India, Eastern Ladakh is the only known breeding ground of the ‘black-necked crane’ outside of China. Amongst the tallest of the flying birds, it is the last of the world’s cranes to be discovered by the scientific community. WWF-India in collaboration with the Department of Wildlife Protection, Government of Jammu and Kashmir has been working actively for conservation of the species at various wetlands in Ladakh. It is revered in Buddhist traditions and culturally protected across much of its range. They return south again in late October and are able to fly over the Himalaya at incredibly high altitudes. Adult ‘black-necked cranes’ typically stand about 1.3 m tall and weigh 5-5.5 kg.

Jammu and Kashmir, consisting of three divisions: the Jammu Division, the Kashmir Division and Ladakh, is a region administered by India as a state since 1954, which has been the subject of a dispute between



The endangered black-necked crane, breeds in Ladakh.

India, Pakistan and China since the mid-20th century.

After the Indo-Pakistan War of 1947–1948, the princely state of Jammu and Kashmir was divided between India (who controlled the regions of Jammu, Kashmir Valley and Ladakh) and Pakistan (who controlled Gilgit–Baltistan and POK). The Indian-administered territories became the state of Jammu and Kashmir in 1954, with the presidential order of 1954. The Aksai Chin region in the east, bordering Tibet, has been under Chinese control since 1962.

In October 1947, the then Maharaja of Kashmir, Hari Singh, signed an Instrument of Accession that specified three subjects on which Jammu & Kashmir would transfer its power to the government of India: 1. Foreign affairs 2. Defence 3. Communications.



In March 1948, the Maharaja appointed an interim government in the state, with Sheikh Abdullah as prime minister. In July 1949, Sheikh Abdullah and three other colleagues joined the Indian Constituent Assembly and negotiated the special status of J&K, leading to the adoption of Article 370.

Jammu and Kashmir was the only state in India which had special autonomy under Article 370 of the Constitution of India. The state was able to define the permanent residents of the state who alone had the privilege to vote in state elections, the right to seek government jobs and the ability to own land or property in the state. Jammu and Kashmir was the only Indian state to have its own official state flag, along with India's national flag, in addition to a separate constitution.

Jammu which besides being the winter capital of the state, located in Jammu District, is known as the city of temples.

Srinagar: The capital city of Kashmir has long been considered the ultimate summer destination from the time of the Mughals. Located in the Kashmir Valley, Srinagar is famous for its natural environments, water-fronts, houseboats and gardens.

Ladakh Scant makes Ladakh a high-altitude desert. It is picturesque. There has been a long pending demand from a section of people of Ladakh to turn it into a union territory. China is, however, objecting to the formation of Ladakh as Union Territory by India.

Tensions over Kashmir, split between India and Pakistan since 1947, have sparked two major wars and countless clashes between the

two nuclear-armed arch-rivals. Following the Indo-Pakistani War of 1971, India and Pakistan signed the Simla (now Shimla) Agreement, recognizing a Line of Control in Kashmir, and committing to a peaceful resolution of the dispute through bilateral negotiations.

Whereas Pakistan has now warned that the situation in Indian Kashmir risked sparking an "accidental war"; scars of Mirpur Massacre haven't yet healed among the survivors of the holocaust.

Dr. Kulvir Gupta, of Jammu expresses in his book 'EMBERS THE BEGINNING AND EMBERS THE END' OF MIRPUR'

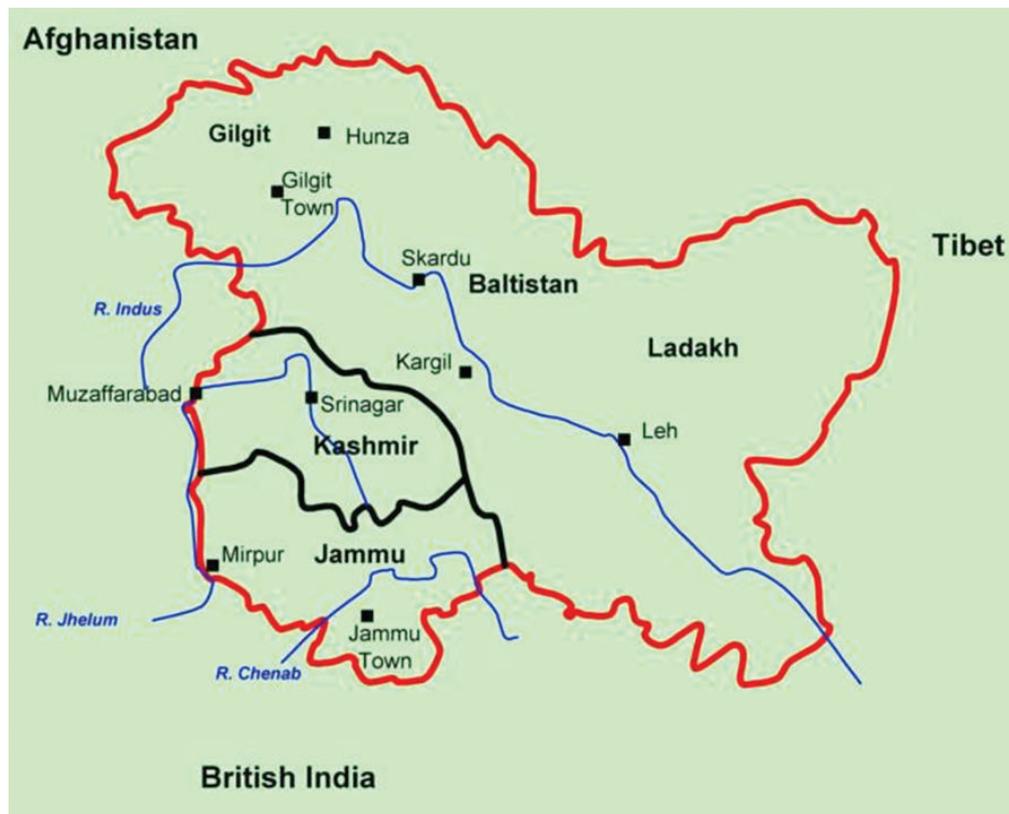
"The dream-like childhood was snatched away with a rude jolt. The inhabitants of the town had to flee under uninterrupted showers of bullets, leaving behind the dear ones struck with the deadly fireballs or captured and slaughtered by the invaders."

Dr. Avinash Gupta of America sheds tears "My home town Mirpur in Pakistan now, annihilation..just sharing the scars of partition ,these memories of childhood started to haunt now at my present age and stage.. In my terminal life cycle, thinking and crying for all those who are gone..This has started to an indication that I may not be alive too long .. I dig all those in the Internet." His friend Johns Thampans consoles:- "The vivid memories as a 6 year old... You have known the evil and corrupt heart of men through your own experience .. We can't erase history but you have known Christ who won the victory over every evil of the world."

Mr. Bal K Gupta in his book 'Forgotten

DR. AVINASH GUPTA OF AMERICA SHEDS TEARS "MY HOME TOWN MIRPUR IN PAKISTAN NOW, ANNIHILATION..JUST SHARING THE SCARS OF PARTITION ,THESE MEMORIES OF CHILDHOOD STARTED TO HAUNT NOW AT MY PRESENT AGE AND STAGE.. IN MY TERMINAL LIFE CYCLE, THINKING AND CRYING FOR ALL THOSE WHO ARE GONE..THIS HAS STARTED TO AN INDICATION THAT I MAY NOT BE ALIVE TOO LONG .. I DIG ALL THOSE IN THE INTERNET." HIS FRIEND JOHNS THAMPAN CONSOLES:- "THE VIVID MEMORIES AS A 6 YEAR OLD... YOU HAVE KNOWN THE EVIL AND CORRUPT HEART OF MEN THROUGH YOUR OWN EXPERIENCE .. WE CAN'T ERASE HISTORY BUT YOU HAVE KNOWN CHRIST WHO WON THE VICTORY OVER EVERY EVIL OF THE WORLD."

DR. RAM CHANDER SHARMA WRITES: "AFTER THE TIMUR MASSACRE OF DELHI IN 1358, THE MASSACRE OF MIRPUR A BUSTLING TRADE CENTRE AND HISTORIC WALLED CITY OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR NOW IN 'PAK OCCUPIED KASHMIR' ON 25TH OF NOV. 1947 WAS THE WORST MASSACRE OF INDIAN HISTORY...THE DECISION OF ACCESSION OF J&K WITH INDIA AND ITS COMPLETE MERGER WITH INDIA AS ITS INTEGRAL PART WAS CELEBRATED LIKE "DIWALI" IN MIRPUR WITH LIGHTING OF CANDLES AND BURSTING OF CRACKERS..."



Atrocities': memoirs of a survivor of the 1947 Partition of India remembers: "On November 25, Mirpur city caught fire due to nonstop Pakistani artillery and torching of houses by Pathans. Many of the elderly and children did not get a chance to leave and were burned alive inside their homes."

Dr. Ram Chander Sharma writes: "After the Timur massacre of Delhi in 1358, the massacre of Mirpur a bustling trade centre and historic walled city of Jammu and Kashmir now in 'Pak Occupied Kashmir' on 25th of Nov. 1947 was the worst massacre of Indian history...The decision of accession of J&K with India and its complete merger with India as its integral part was celebrated like "Diwali" in Mirpur with lighting of candles and bursting of crackers.. Soon after the independence, Pakistan conceived a military plan to attack Jammu and Kashmir.. Code named "Gulmarg" it was placed under the close guidance of British military officers.. But, the recently declassified

British Government documents reveal that..The creation of Pakistan was itself for the strategic reasons to counter the growing military influence of Soviet Union after World War II. Due to its proximity with China and Russia, presence of warm water sea port of Karachi and the interests of western oil companies in central Asia made Pakistan important the PoK Refugees still are labelled as DPs of J&K and are not given the benefits of UN Refugee Status of 1951 or other benefits extended to Tibetan Refugees or migrants from Kashmir valley after 1989. ..."

The date of 25 November is remembered as the Mirpur Day in the Kashmir.

"POK mein jald lehraiga Tringa" says Jatinder Singh, Union Minister; Amar Ujala 25 October, 2019

'Praja Parishad zindabad'

'Dafa 370 tod do'

'Dr. Shyama Prasad Mukerjee zindabad'

Are the slogans still echoing in my mind



Guddu (author) with his mother Panjtirthi house backdrop Gadadhar temple, Jammu early 1950

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Jammu and Kashmir: Raises in markets despite threats, jam on Lal Chowk gave answer to terrorists.

THE JAMMU 'PRA-JAPARISHAD' WAS A POLITICAL PARTY ACTIVE IN THE JAMMU DIVISION OF THE JAMMU AND KASHMIR. DR. SHYAMA PARSAD MUKHERJEE, FOUNDER OF BHARTIYA JAN SANGH WAS STRONGLY OPPOSED TO ARTICLE 370 SEEING IT AS A THREAT TO THE UNITY OF THE COUNTRY AND FOUGHT AGAINST IT INSIDE AND OUTSIDE THE PARLIAMENT. HIS DREAM TO REPEAL ARTICLE 370 SAW THE LIGHT OF DAY ON 5 AUGUST 2019 WITH THE BILL BEING TABLED IN RAJYA SABHA. JUST BEFORE DECLARING JAMMU AND KASHMIR A U T, THE LONGEST 'CHUNANI-NASHRI' TUNNEL IS NOW NAMED AFTER MUKERJEE.

that I often heard in my early childhood in the beginning of the Fifties of the last century; at times I also witnessed piling up of brickbats by the agitators on our roof top.

The Jammu 'PrajaParishad' was a political party active in the Jammu Division of the Jammu and Kashmir. Dr. Shyama Parsad Mukherjee, founder of Bhartiya Jan Sangh was strongly opposed to Article 370 seeing it as a threat to the unity of the country and fought against it inside and outside the parliament. His dream to repeal Article 370 saw the light of day on 5 August 2019 with the bill being tabled in Rajya Sabha. Just before declaring Jammu and Kashmir a U T, The longest 'Chunani-Nashri' tunnel is now named after Mukerjee.

What are the provisions of Article 370?

'Parliament needs the Jammu & Kashmir government's approval for applying laws in the state – except in cases of defence, foreign affairs, finance, and communications.'

The 'reorganization act' which seeks to dis-

solve the state and reorganize it into two union territories – Jammu and Kashmir in the west and Ladakh in the east, will come into effect on 31 October 2019. Jammu and Kashmir will be the largest union territory (UT) in the country in terms of area once it is carved out and Ladakh the second large. Prior to these measures, the union government locked down the Kashmir Valley, increased security forces; Internet and phone services were also blocked. A spokesman asserted that the curbs were necessary to prevent "externally-aided terrorists" from disturbing peace in Jammu & Kashmir.

"This issue is a legacy of history between India and Pakistan, which is also the consensus of the international community. The parties concerned should exercise restraint and act with caution..." said a Chinese spokes person.

New Delhi, meanwhile, has insisted that the situation in Kashmir is an internal Indian affair, rejecting all international interference in the region.

Spiritual Fulfilment in Modern Life

Sant Rajinder Singh Ji Maharaj



THE CHALLENGE TO ADDRESS IS: HOW CAN WE PURSUE SPIRITUALITY IN THE SETTING OF MODERN LIFE? HOW CAN WE SEARCH FOR GOD IN A WAY THAT IS SOCIALLY ACCEPTABLE AND SOCIALLY RESPONSIBLE? HOW CAN WE ATTAIN SPIRITUAL HEIGHTS WITHOUT SACRIFICING OUR INTELLECTUAL AND PHYSICAL GROWTH? AND HOW CAN WE DO SO IN THE CONTEXT OF OUR FAMILY AND COMMUNITY LIFE?

People all over the world are searching for solutions to the mysteries of life and death to find out what lies beyond this physical world. Current books, magazine articles, and conferences show that interest in spiritual pursuits is growing. More and more people want to learn how to achieve inner peace through spiritual experiences.

In modern life we find it hard to strike a happy medium in the development of our spiritual, intellectual, and physical sides. The pressures of life force us to give more weight to our intellectual growth, for that is what counts in our school career and in finding a good job. Our physical side is considered to be important for good health. We value exercise and sports for our physical and mental well-being. Health experts today are pointing out how physical exercise also relieves stress.

Thus, modern society as a whole values intellectual and physical growth. Unfortunately, it does not place a high value on spiritual development. We are brought up to associate spirituality with the rites and rituals of our religious institutions. If people tell us they are searching for God, we equate them with monks in a monastery sitting on wooden benches and praying day and night. In the past, people would leave their homes and their families to search for God in the forests or deserts. But the industrial and technological ages have made such demands upon humanity that people cannot abandon the world to pursue spirituality.

The challenge to address is: How can we pursue spirituality in the setting of modern life? How can we search for God in a way that is socially acceptable and socially responsible? How can we attain spiritual heights without sacrificing our intellectual and physical growth? And how can we do so in the context of our family and community life?

Many people in the West are under the misconception that those who search for God must leave their homes and society and live in the jungles or on the mountaintops. Perhaps it was pos-

sible in the past, before we had such an interdependent economic system. But in today's world who can support themselves, not to mention their families, without holding jobs and contributing to society?

We can attain self-knowledge and God-realization in the context of modern life. We can lead a productive, fulfilling life in the world while working towards spiritual ends. Sant Darshan Singh called this approach "positive mysticism." This was opposed to "negative mysticism" which required one to give up the world in order to find God. The path of positive mysticism enables one to achieve the best of both the worlds. The concept of positive mysticism can give us an understanding of how we can achieve spiritual growth while meeting the challenges of the age.

Spiritual development is a process by which we attain self-knowledge and God-realization. We have a physical body, and we have a mind and intellect. Spiritual growth involves the realization that we are not the body and the mind, but in reality we are soul. Throughout our lives we have become so identified with our body and mind that on our own we cannot separate our true self from them. In fact, the great teachers of ancient Greece exhorted us to do so with the words "Know Thyself." This expression is written on the entrance to the temple of the Delphic Oracle.

Spiritual teachers who have mastered the art of knowing themselves can teach others how to achieve this goal. If we look at the various methods used throughout history, we find that the most effective way to realize our self is through meditation. Saints, seers, and mystics have told us that God is within. They further explain that soul is a part of God. If we can turn our attention from the world outside to the inside we will find that we are soul and will realize God who is within us. We will experience ourselves as soul, separate from the body. We will experience the exhilaration of being free from the bodily cage, and we will soar like a bird through higher and higher realms of consciousness.



Words are inadequate to describe the intoxication and thrill of the higher realms. We see vistas of beauty beyond any we can dream of in this world. But nothing can compare with the absolute bliss our soul experiences when it reunites with the Creator. When our soul reaches its ultimate goal, it merges back into its source. God is the source of all love, the source of all bliss. When the soul merges back in Him, the two become one. We enter a state of eternal and lasting happiness and love. This is the highest goal of our meditations. The beauty of the meditation process is that these experiences stay with us forever. After meditation, the soul returns to the body and it carries with it the intoxication and bliss from its sojourn in the beyond.

This process of meditation can be practiced in the comfort of our own home, while sitting in a train on the way to work, or in any moment of solitude. It involves no difficult practice, no rigorous postures. We can meditate when sitting in any pose that is most convenient and in which we can sit still for a period of time. Meditation on the inner Light and Sound is so simple that it can be practiced by a young child or an elderly

person, by those who are healthy and those who have physical disabilities.

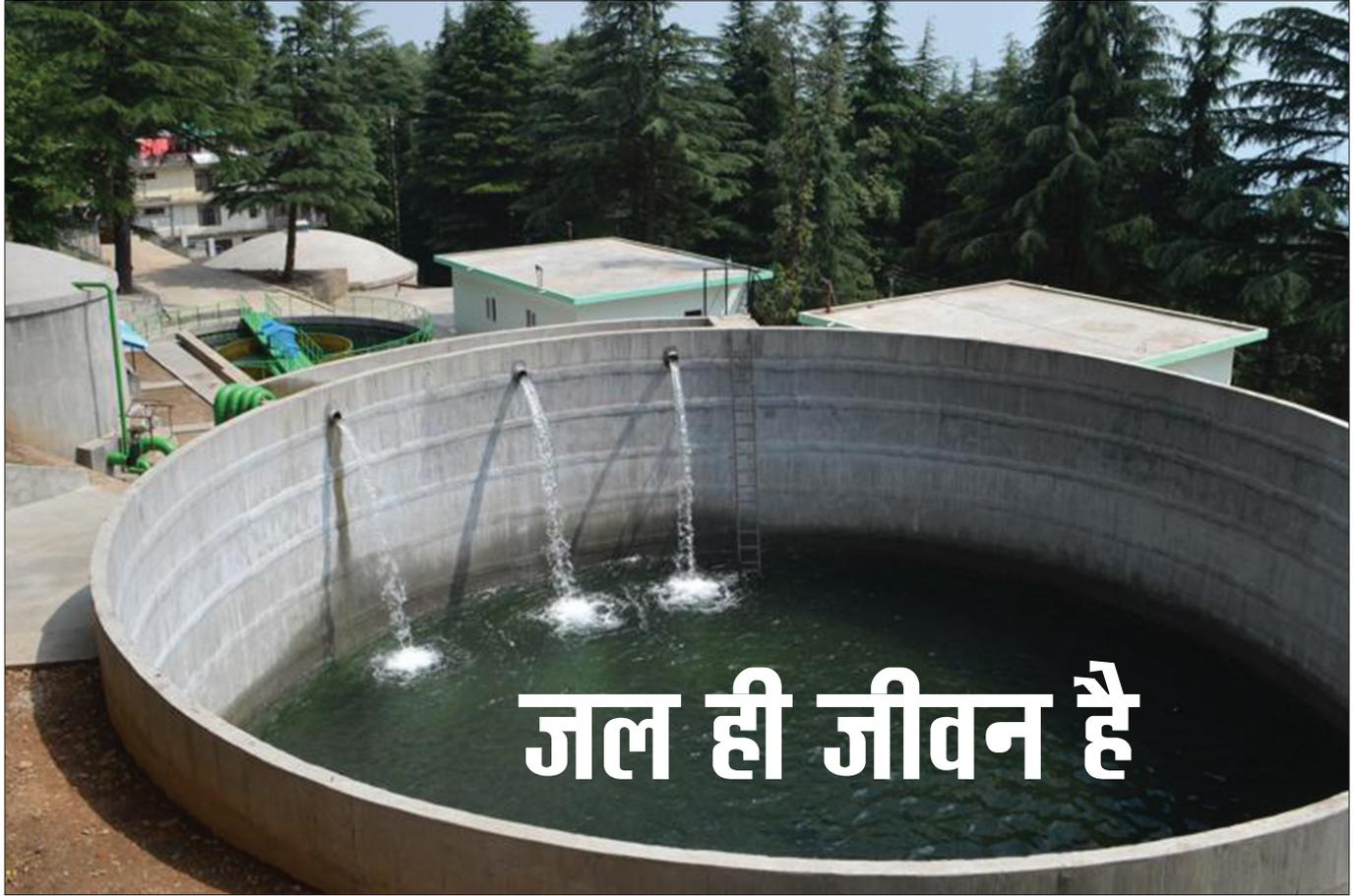
After finding a comfortable position, one closes one's eyes, gazes within, and experiences, through the help of a teacher, the divine Light and Sound. As we can see, this process does not require us to sit on a mountaintop or in a jungle. It can be done in our home and society.

Spirituality is an active path. We become more involved in the betterment of our world. Positive mysticism means that while pursuing spiritual progress, we also make a positive contribution to our family, society, and the world at large.

If we are sincerely interested in knowing our selves, the means of doing so are available. We will be performing the greatest service to our own self by developing spiritually, and we will become a positive force in the lives of our family, friends, co-workers, and the world. We will find the perfect balance in our lives as we develop body, mind, and spirit. By practicing positive mysticism we can successfully meet the challenge of the age.

-Dharam Vir Bhakoo
Public Relations Officer

IF WE ARE SINCERELY INTERESTED IN KNOWING OUR SELVES, THE MEANS OF DOING SO ARE AVAILABLE. WE WILL BE PERFORMING THE GREATEST SERVICE TO OUR OWN SELF BY DEVELOPING SPIRITUALLY, AND WE WILL BECOME A POSITIVE FORCE IN THE LIVES OF OUR FAMILY, FRIENDS, CO-WORKERS, AND THE WORLD.



जल ही जीवन है



कैलाश खोसला

जल जीवन के लिए अनिवार्य है। जल मनुष्य की जीवनी है एवं दैनिक क्रियाकलापों के लिए प्रकृति की ओर से प्रदान किया गया अनिवार्य तत्व है। पृथ्वी, वायु, अग्नि, आकाश एवं जल इन पाँचों तत्वों से ही सृष्टि का निर्माण, पालन एवं संहार होता है। चूंकि जल के बिना हम जीवन की कल्पना भी नहीं कर सकते, अतएव जल का संरक्षण एवं सदुपयोग न केवल वर्तमान के लिए अपितु भावी पीढ़ी के लिए भी हमारे लिए अनिवार्य दायित्व है। यद्यपि प्रकृति में पृथ्वी का 70% भाग जल से ही प्लावित है, तथापि मानव के उपयोग के

लिए इसका केवल 2.7% स्वच्छ जल से परिपूरित है। उसका भी केवल 1% भाग पीने एवं अन्य उपयोग के लिए है, क्योंकि शेष भाग या तो बर्फ के टीलों के रूप में हमारी पहुँच से दूर है या फिर नदियों में बहकर समुद्र में मिल जाता है।

हम जानते हैं कि पानी प्रवाहमान तत्व है। अपार जल उपलब्ध है और यह इतना अनिवार्य है कि इसके बिना जीवन की कल्पना भी नहीं की जा सकती। हमारी असावधानी के कारण जल घटता जा रहा है। भू-जल का स्तर नीचे ही नीचे जा रहा है और उसकी गुणवत्ता भी घटती जा रही है। भारत में सरकार द्वारा गठित राष्ट्रीय जल आयोग के अनुसार हमारे पास इस समय केवल 1086 बी.सी.एम. बिलियन क्यूबिक मीटर जल उपलब्ध है जबकि सन् 2050 तक हमारी आवश्यकता



1187 बी.सी.एम. होगी। यह दर्शाता है कि जल हमारी आवश्यकता की पूर्ति तो कर सकता है, यदि इसे सावधानी से प्रयोग में लाया जाए अन्यथा हमारे सामने बहुत बड़ी विपदा खड़ी हो सकती है।

सौभाग्य से प्रयोग में लाए जा चुके जल का 1 भाग हमें पुनः प्रयोग के लिए उपयोगी बनाने के लिए उपलब्ध है, लेकिन इसके लिए आवश्यकता है जल-प्रबन्धन के लिए उचित और ठोस कार्यक्रम बनाने की। जल का शोधन करके, इसका संग्रह करने एवं घरों तक पहुँचाने के लिए नीति बनाकर सरकारी स्तर पर कार्य करने की आवश्यकता है।

भारत में हमने स्वाधीनता के बाद, हरित-क्रान्ति व दुग्ध क्रान्ति के द्वारा खाद्य मोर्चे पर विजय पायी है। जल के क्षेत्र में भी हमें युद्ध स्तर पर कठोर श्रम करने की आवश्यकता है, ताकि हमें लम्बे समय तक पीने के लिए शुद्ध जल मिलता रहे, जो न केवल हमारे स्वास्थ्य की रक्षा करेगा अपितु जीवन के लिए की अनिवार्य है।

यह अत्यन्त खेद व चिन्ता का विषय है कि विश्व में बड़े स्तर पर जल का दुरुपयोग एवं नदियों

में प्रदूषण हो रहा है। औद्योगिकरण की अन्धी दौड़ में हम उद्योगों का कचरा लगातार नदियों में बहा रहे हैं। खेती में भी जल का दुरुपयोग हो रहा है। हम जहाँ 8-10 से सिंचाई हो सकती है वही 20 तक जल प्रयोग कर रहे हैं। हम यदि नहरों व टंकियों का प्रयोग करके जल का उचित प्रबन्धन करें तो जल का दुरुपयोग घट सकता है। भू-जल के तीव्रगति से दोहन के कारण जल-स्तर भी निरन्तर नीचे की ओर ही जा रहा है। कोई सन्देह नहीं कि हमने जल के प्रबन्धन के क्षेत्र में कुछ कार्य किया है लेकिन अभी बहुत बड़े स्तर पर कार्य करने की आवश्यकता है।

हमें जल प्रबन्धन की दिशा में निम्नांकित क्षेत्रों में तीव्रगति से कार्य करने की आवश्यकता है—

1. जल-संचयन, 2. वृक्षारोपण, 3. बान्धों के निर्माण से जल-प्रबन्धन, 4. कुएं, तालाब, बावलियों को पुनः जीवित किया जाना चाहिए, 5. जल को पुनः शोधित करके इसे उपयोग में लाया जा सकता है। इन उपायों को हम सरकारी स्तर पर एवं व्यक्तिगत स्तर पर सामूहिक रूप से जन-जागृति

सौभाग्य से प्रयोग में लाए जा चुके जल का 1 भाग हमें पुनः प्रयोग के लिए उपयोगी बनाने के लिए उपलब्ध है, लेकिन इसके लिए आवश्यकता है जल-प्रबन्धन के लिए उचित और ठोस कार्यक्रम बनाने की। जल का शोधन करके, इसका संग्रह करने एवं घरों तक पहुँचाने के लिए नीति बनाकर सरकारी स्तर पर कार्य करने की आवश्यकता है।



पानी की बचत के लिए विश्वव्यापी जागरूकता की अत्यन्त आवश्यकता है। भारत के प्रधानमंत्री श्री नरेन्द्र मोदी जी ने भी इसकी आवश्यकता का अनुभव किया है और संयुक्त राष्ट्र संघ में अपने उद्घोषण में विश्व के देशों का ध्यान इस ओर आकर्षित किया है।

करके जल को पुन प्रयोग में ला सकते हैं।

जल की बचत के लिए कुछ सुझाव—

1. हमें वाहन की सफाई के लिए पाईप से जल नहीं छोड़ना चाहिए, अपितु गीले कपड़े का प्रयोग करके कार आदि की सफाई करनी चाहिए।
2. फर्श इत्यादि की खुले जल से धुलाई के बदले केवल पोचा मारकर सफाई करनी चाहिए।
3. आर.ओ. (ऋह.) मशीन का इस्तेमाल वहीं करना चाहिए जहाँ, बहुत ऊँचा हो। ऋह. के प्रयोग के समय जो जल बह रहा होता है उसका उपयोग सफाई एवं पौधों में छिड़काव के लिए किया जाना चाहिए।
4. वाशिंग मशीनों का प्रयोग कम से कम करना चाहिए, उसी दशा में जब अनिवार्य हो।
5. हमें मेहमानों को घर में या रेस्तराओं में जल से भरा हुआ ग्लास प्रस्तुत करने की बजाए एक बोतल में परोसना चाहिए।
6. नहाते हुए फव्वारे के स्थान पर बाल्टी भर कर जल-स्नान करना चाहिए।
7. हम प्रायः बर्तन आदि धोते समय नल खुला छोड़ देते हैं, इसके स्थान पर बाल्टी जैसे बर्तन में पानी एकत्र करके धोने का कार्य करना चाहिए।

इन उपायों से हम पानी की बर्बादी रोक सकते हैं। विश्व के अनेक देशों में जैसे लेटिन अमेरिका, अफ्रीका, भारत व पाकिस्तान आदि में गर्मियों के मौसम में पानी की कमी हो जाती है। इन स्थानों पर पानी पहुँचाने के लिए ट्रेन आदि को प्रयोग करना चाहिए।

पानी की बचत के लिए विश्वव्यापी जागरूकता की अत्यन्त आवश्यकता है। भारत के प्रधानमंत्री श्री नरेन्द्र मोदी जी ने भी इसकी आवश्यकता का अनुभव किया है और संयुक्त राष्ट्र संघ में अपने उद्घोषण में विश्व के देशों का ध्यान इस ओर आकर्षित किया है।

भारत में कई सदियों पूर्व पानी की उपयोगिता को रेखांकित करते हुए कविवर रहीम ने एक दोहे में इसके त्रिआयामी महत्व को प्रकट किया है—

रहिमन पानी राखिये, बिन पानी सब सून।
पानी गए न ऊबरे, मोती, मानुष, चून॥

पानी के उतर जाने से सब सूना हो जाएगा। पानी अर्थात् चमक के बिना मोती, पानी अर्थात् मान-सम्मान के बिना मनुष्य एवं पानी के बिना आटे से रोटी भी नहीं बन सकती।

दो प्रेरक कथाएं

सत्य कथाएं

पहली

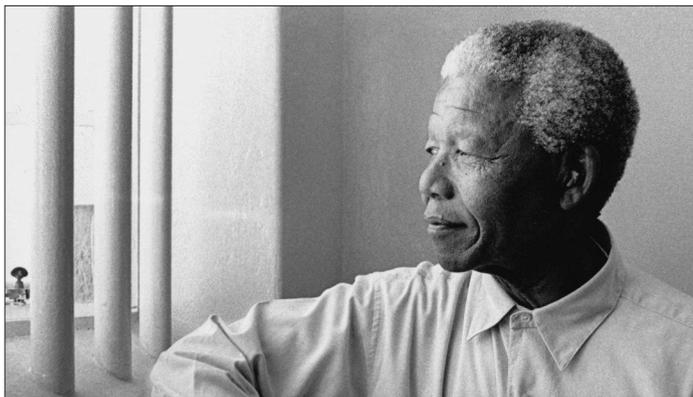
दक्षिण अफ्रीका के राष्ट्रपति बनने के बाद एक बार नेल्सन मंडेला अपने सुरक्षा कर्मियों के साथ एक रेस्तरां में खाना खाने गए। सबने अपनी-अपनी पसंद का खाना आर्डर किया और खाना आने का इंतजार करने लगे।

उसी समय मंडेला की सीट के सामने वाली सीट पर एक व्यक्ति अपने खाने का इंतजार कर रहा था। मंडेला ने अपने सुरक्षा कर्मी से कहा कि उसे भी अपनी टेबल पर बुला लो। ऐसा ही हुआ। खाना आने के बाद सभी खाने लगे, वो आदमी भी अपना खाना खाने लगा, पर उसके हाथ खाते हुए कांप रहे थे।

खाना खत्म कर वो आदमी सिर झुका कर रेस्तरां से बाहर निकल गया। उस आदमी के जाने के बाद मंडेला के सुरक्षा अधिकारी ने मंडेला से कहा कि वो व्यक्ति शायद बहुत बीमार था, खाते वक़्त उसके हाथ लगातार कांप रहे थे और खुद भी कांप रहा था।

मंडेला ने कहा, नहीं ऐसा नहीं है। वह उस जेल का जेलर था, जिसमें मुझे कैद रखा गया था। जब कभी मुझे यातनाएं दी जाती थीं और मैं कराहते हुए पानी मांगता था तो ये मेरे ऊपर पेशाब करता था।

मंडेला ने कहा मैं अब राष्ट्रपति बन गया हूँ, उसने समझा कि मैं भी उसके साथ शायद वैसा ही व्यवहार करूंगा। पर मेरा चरित्र ऐसा नहीं है। मुझे लगता है बदले की भावना से काम करना विनाश की ओर ले जाता है। वहीं धैर्य और सहिष्णुता की मानसिकता हमें विकास की ओर ले जाती है।



मुंबई से बैंगलुरु जा रही ट्रेन में सर के दौरान टी.सी. ने सीट के नीचे छिपी लगभग तेरह/चौदह साल की एक लडकी से कहा—

टीसी- टिकट कहाँ है ?

काँपती हुई लडकी नहीं है साहब।

टीस तो गाड़ी से उतरो।

इसका टिकट मैं दे रही हूँ।.....पीछे से ऐक सह यात्री ऊषा भट्टाचार्य की आवाज आई जो पेशे से प्रोफेसर थी।

ऊषा जी- तुम्हें कहाँ जाना है ?

लडकी पता नहीं मैम!

ऊषा जी- तब मेरे साथ चलो, बैंगलोर तक!

ऊषा जी- तुम्हारा नाम क्या है ?

लडकी चित्रा

बैंगलुरु पहुँच कर ऊषाजी ने चित्रा को अपनी जान पहचान की ऐक स्वयंसेवी संस्था को सौंप दिया और एक अच्छे स्कूल में एडमिशन भी करवा दिया। जल्द ही ऊषा जी का ट्रांसफर दिल्ली हो गया जिसके कारण चित्रा से संपर्क टूट गया, कभी-कभार केवल फोन पर बात हो जाया करती थी।

करीब बीस साल बाद ऊषाजी को एक लेकर के लिए सेन फ्रांसिस्को (अमरीका) बुलाया गया। लेकर के बाद जब वह होटल का बिल देने रिसेप्शन पर गई तो पता चला पीछे खड़े एक खूबसूरत दंपति ने बिल चुका दिया था।

ऊषाजी- तुमने मेरा बिल क्यों भरा ?

मैम, यह मुम्बई से बैंगलुरु तक के रेल टिकट के सामने कुछ भी नहीं है ।

ऊषाजी- अरे चित्रा! ...

चित्रा और कोई नहीं बल्कि इंफोसिस फाउंडेशन की चेयरमैन सुधा मूर्ति थीं जो इंफोसिस के संस्थापक श्री नारायण मूर्ति की पत्नी हैं।

यह लघु कथा उन्हीं की लिखी पुस्तक *द डे आई स्टॉपड ड्रिंकिंग मिल्क* से ली गई है।

कभी कभी आपके द्वारा की गई किसी की सहायता, किसी का जीवन बदल सकती है।

यदि जीवन में कुछ कमाना है तो पुण्य अर्जित कीजिये, क्योंकि यही वो मार्ग है जो स्वर्ग तक जाता है....

खाने-पीने के आयुर्वेदिक नुस्खे

सब्जियों को पकाने में अधिक समय न लगाएं। ध्यान रखें, सब्जियां न तो ज्यादा पकी हों और न ही कम।

चीनी की जगह शहद, गुड़, मैदे की जगह चोकरयुक्त आटा और दलिया खाएं।

अदरक का एक छोटा-सा टुकड़ा लें और उसे तवे पर भून लें। इस टुकड़े के ठंडा होने के बाद इस पर थोड़ा-सा सेंधा नमक लगाएं। अब इस टुकड़े को खाना खाने से करीब पांच मिनट पहले खा लें। इससे भूख बढ़ती है और पाचन सही रहता है।

जंक फूड में सोडियम, ट्रांसफैट और शर्करा की भरमार होती है। इसलिए इन्हें खाने से परहेज करें। मार्केट में मिलने वाले सॉफ्ट ड्रिंक्स से दूरी बनाकर रखें।

खाना हमेशा ताजा और गर्म होना चाहिए। यह पाचन के लिए बेहतर होता है।

हमेशा भूख का आधा खाना चाहिए।

इससे वह आसानी से पच जाता है और शरीर में जरूरी पोषक तत्व अच्छे से घुल जाते हैं।



जरा मुस्करा लें

पुलिस सोनू के घर का दरवाजा खटखटा रही थी।

सोनू- कौन दरवाजा खटखटा रहा है ?

पुलिस- हम पुलिस हैं। दरवाजा खोलो।

सोनू- क्यों खोलूँ ?

पुलिस- कुछ बात करनी है।

सोनू- तुम कितने लोग हो ?

पुलिस- हम तीन हैं।

सोनू- तो आपस में बात कर लो, मेरे पास टाईम नहीं है।

एक महिला कपड़ों की दुकान पर साड़ियाँ देख रही थी। एक घन्टा साड़ियाँ देखते रहने के बाद वह जाने लगी तो दुकानदार ने कहा कि मुझे अफसोस है कि मैं आपको कोई भी साड़ी पसन्द नहीं करवा सका। महिला बोली, कोई बात नहीं, मैं तो वैसे भी सब्जी लेने आई थी। वहाँ भीड़ ज्यादा देखकर टाईम पास करने के लिए यहाँ चली आई।

समुद्र किनारे एक फर्म के मैनेजर, सेल्स मैनेजर और कलर्क बातें करते हुए घूम रहे थे। लंच टाईम था। समय बिताने रहे थे। फर्म में आने वाले दिनों में बहुत बड़ा आर्डर सप्लाय करना था जिसकी तैयारी में तीनों चिंतामग्न थे। इतने में वहाँ एक जिन्न प्रकट हुआ। उसने कहा, मैं तुम्हारी एक-एक इच्छा पूरी कर सकता हूँ। बोलो क्या मांगते हो। कलर्क ? आने वाले काम के बोझ से आजादी चाहता था, इसलिए उसने कहा, मुझे अगले 15 दिनों के लिए छुट्टी दिलवाकर परिवार सहित हिल-स्टेशन पहुँचा दो। जिन्न ने फौरन उसे पहुँचा दिया। अब सेल्स मैनेजर बोला, मुझे परिवार सहित लन्दन पहुँचा दो। जिन्न ने फौरन उसे पहुँचा दिया। अब मैनेजर दुखी हो गया कि इनके बिना काम कैसे पूरा होगा। अतः उसने जिन्न से कहा कि इन दोनों को पकड़ कर कल सुबह फैक्ट्री में हाज़िर कर दो। जिन्न ने ऐसा ही किया।



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