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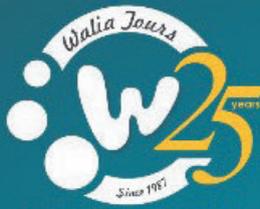
PEOPLE AND UN

People's *Democracy*



Dynastic *Democracy*





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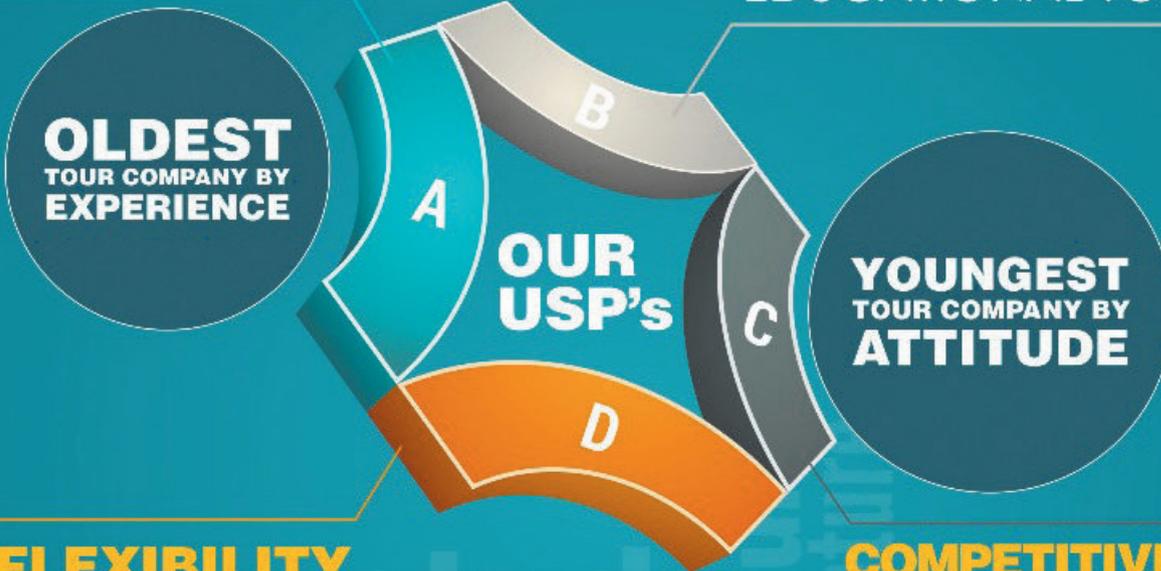
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EDITOR'S PIX



**Prime Minister Narendra Modi receives the Seoul Peace Prize,
at the award ceremony in Seoul (South Korea)**

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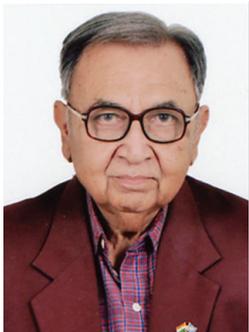
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EDITOR'S COLUMN



INDIA TOPS GLOBAL Remittances

Indian economy growing
expected to accelerate
7.5 percent in 2019-20

India emerging as the most rapidly rising economic and social powerhouse of the world has retained its position as the world's top recipient of remittances with overseas Indians sending a whopping \$79 billion back home in 2018, the World Bank said in a report. India was followed by China (\$67 billion), Mexico (\$36 billion), the Philippines (\$34 billion), and Egypt (\$29 billion), the global lender said. With this, India has retained its top spot on remittances, according to the latest edition of the World Bank's Migration and Development Brief. Over the last three years, India has registered a significant flow of remittances from \$62.7 billion in 2016 to \$65.3 billion in 2017. "Remittances grew by more than 14 percent in India. It speaks in volumes about the confidence of Indian Diaspora about the leadership of the country.

Contrary to serious doubts expressed by former Reserve Bank of India Governor Raghuram Rajan over the Indian economy growing at 7 percent, India's GDP growth is expected to accelerate to 7.5 percent in fiscal year 2019-20, says World Bank. Driven by continued investment strengthening, particularly private-improved export performance and resilient consumption, the World Bank further said in its latest report on South Asia on Sunday ahead of the spring that the real GDP growth is estimated at 7.2 percent in financial year 2018-19.

Former Reserve Bank of India Governor Raghuram Rajan recently had raised doubts over the Indian economy growing at 7 percent, not enough jobs were being created. In response, Commerce and Industry Minister Suresh Prabhu underlined a need to develop a proper matrix to understand changes in the Indian economy and job creation that is happening at a rapid pace. "We have to have proper matrix to be developed to understand this changing profile of India's economy and in which job creation is happening at rapid rate. Despite the fact that only 16 percent of the GDP comes from agriculture, the sector engages over 60 percent of the country's population, he said, adding that "so, what is the relation between GDP and job creation?" He has said that the relation between employment generations to Gross Domestic Product will always undergo a change depending upon the profile of the economy. **Suresh Prabhu** seems to be right.

— **Pran Mohan Parvatiyar**
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India Moves to 77th Spot on World Bank
'Ease of doing business'



Dynastic Democracy Versus people's democracy

by Suresh Srivastava



SURESH SRIVASTAVA
Secretary General
– IFUNA

THE UNITED States of America is known for its Presidential Democracy, Great Britain for its Parliamentary Democracy and India was known for its Dynastic Democracy. In the year 2000 when Mrs. Priyanka Vadra Gandhi was blessed with a son, then Chief Spokesman of Congress Shri Ajit Jogi distributed sweets at the All India Congress Committee headquarter, declaring that 'our future leader has arrived'.

The Dynasty of Nehru Gandhi was established by Moti Lal Nehru in the early 1900 when India was struggling to attain Independence from the yoke of British Imperialism. It was further established by Jawahar Lal Nehru who as a great favourite of Mahatma Gandhi emerged as a prominent political figure in India's movement for Independence. After

Nehru his daughter Indira Gandhi became his political heir. There was only a small gap when Lal Bahadur Shastri became Prime Minister of India on 11th January 1964 and after his unfortunate sudden death Mrs. Indira Gandhi became Prime Minister of the Country on 19th January 1966.

The Nehru Gandhi dynasty remain on the horizon of Indian Politics from 1946-47 to 1989. Mrs. Indira Gandhi was assassinated on 31st October 1984 and Rajiv Gandhi her son was sworn in as Prime Minister by then President of India Gyani Zail Singh, even before he was elected as the Leader of Parliamentary party of Congress. After the assassination of Shri Rajiv Gandhi, Shri P.V. Narsimha Rao took over as the Prime Minister representing as Leader of Congress Party. Even during the period from the year 2004 to 2014 Dr. Manmohan Singh remain Prime Minister of India but it was no secret that he was remote controlled by Mrs. Sonia Gandhi who was not able to become Prime Minister of the Country for various reasons inspite of her best efforts and at the end of the day she was projected by the Congress Party as the person who has sacrificed the post of Prime Minister of India in favour of Dr. Manmohan Singh. The Dynasty is strongly imbedded in the India Politics as now Mr. Rahul Gandhi who has been made President of Congress Party and Mrs. Priyanka Vadra Gandhi as the Secretary General of Congress Party.

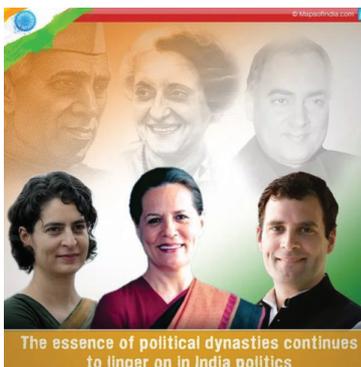
The existence of a large number of political dynasties in India may be un-usual to other countries but it is only an earlier extension of kingship where the right to rule was seen as a birth right for centuries. Erstwhile kingship has now given a way to political dynasties and they continue to thrive in various state of India. The list of political dynasties is



Karuna Nidhi with his political (siblings) heirs



COVER STORY

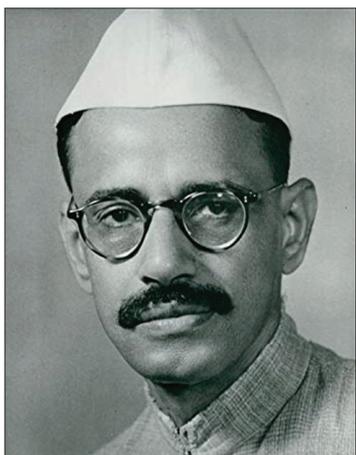


long and therefore I have tried to list only some of the most prominent and politically active families in India.

There is no doubt the Nehru Gandhi family would top our list as the most prominent family in India unmatched by any other political family. In Congress we have Scindia family – from Madhav Rao Scindia to Jotiraditya Madhavrao Scindia, but nothing grows under the shadow of a big Banyan Tree of Nehru Gandhi Dynasty therefore, there is nothing much to talk about any other family in Congress. The other political dynasties such as Abdullah families of Jammu and Kashmir, Deve Gowda family, Badal family, Royal family of Patiala, Captain Amrinder Singh, Biju Patanaik family of Odisha, Karunanidhi family of Tamil Nadu, Bal Uddhav Thackeray family of Maharashtra, Lalu Prasad family of Bihar, Mulayam Singh Yadav family of Uttar Pradesh, Chaudhary Devi Lal – Chautala family of Haryana, Mahendra Karma family of Chhattisgarh. Paswan family of Bihar, Tarun Gogai family of Assam, Telangana Rashtra Samiti of K. Chandrashekhar Rao Family, N.T. Ramarao family including N. Chandrababu Naidu of Telugu Desam, Y.S. Rajshekhar Reddy and his son Y.S. Jaganmohan Reddy of Y.S.R. Congress party of Andhra Pradesh, Sharad Pawar family of National Congress Party and now even Mamta Benerjee of Trinamool Congress is promoting her nephew Abhishek Benerjee and similarly Ms. Mayawati, the Supremo of Bahujan Samaj Party is promoting her nephew Aakash in the party.



Lal Bahadur Shastri



Gulzari Lal Nanda

The BJP may accuse of dynastic rule by the Gandhi family but this party is not averse to promote dynastic rule as many of its members have promoted their offspring's in the party. But certainly there is a great difference between the other political parties barring Communist Party of India as the BJP is a cadre oriented party and most of its leaders have come from the RSS background. RSS is not only a cadre oriented party but also highly disciplined organization therefore; the main leaders of BJP had the opportunity of having training from RSS. So long the influence of RSS is there on BJP it is highly unlikely that this party will become a dynastic party.

In the year 2014 the entire scenario of Indi-

an politics was changed when on the horizon of India a new all India leader by the name of Shri Narendra Modi emerged. He led his Bharatiya Janta Party to victory in elections to the Lok Sabha and was sworn in as Prime Minister of India, prior to that he had served from the year 2001-2014 as Chief Minister of Gujarat. During the campaign of elections Shri Narendra Modi was slurred as 'Chai Wala' who will never become Prime Minister of India by Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar a prominent Congress Leader. Modi was born in a small town in Gujarat. He belongs to a very poor family and also belongs to backward class of India. In spite of all odds in his life he completed an M.A Degree in Political Science from Gujarat University in Ahmedabad, he joined RSS in the early 70's and also setup Akhil Bhartiya Vidyarathi Parishad a unit of RSS in Gujarat. Modi rose steadily in the RSS hierarchy and soon became very popular among Sangh's Swayam Sewaks. He joined the BJP in 1987 and was made General Secretary of the Gujarat Branch of the Party. In October 2001 he became Chief Minister of Gujarat and successfully continued as Chief Minister till 2014 when after a vigorous campaign, he managed to win a clear majority in the Lok Sabha for BJP and was sworn in as Prime Minister on May 26, 2014.

Shri Narendra Modi is not the only example in India politics who rose from the category of poorest of poor to become Chief Minister and now the Prime Minister of the Country. There are other examples – first of all Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri (Bharat Ratana) who was elected Prime Minister of India after the death of Shri Jawahar Lal Nehru in the year 1964. Lal Bahadur Shastri's father who was a school teacher passed away when he was barely two years old and he was brought up by his maternal grandfather. He lived in an abject poverty and in spite of all handicapped he completed his graduation in Varanasi. As the story goes about him, that he was so poor that could not afford to pay to boatman to cross Ganga as his place of living and place of school was between Ganga and he had to cross Ganga every day to attend school, therefore he used to swim across the Ganga to attend the school daily. He played a crucial role during Mahatma Gandhi's 'Salt Satyagrah' and led the campaign urging people not to pay



land revenue and taxes to the British. He was imprisoned in 1942 in 'Quit India Movement' launched by Mahatma Gandhi against the Britishers. Lal Bahadur Shastri had served in various positions before being elected the Prime Minister of India. After Independence, he became the Minister of police in the Ministry of Govind Vallabh Pant in Uttar Pradesh. His recommendations included the directions for using "water-jets" instead of lathis to disperse the unruly mob. Impressed with his efforts in reforming the state police department, Jawaharlal Nehru, invited Shastri to join the Union cabinet as Minister for Railways. He was widely known for his ethics and morality. In 1956, Lal Bahadur Shastri resigned from his post, following a train accident that killed around 150 passengers near Ariyalur in Tamil Nadu. Nehru, had once said, "No one could wish for a better comrade than Lal Bahadur, a man of the highest integrity and devoted to ideas". At the time of his death his bank-balance was in minus as he had taken loan even while he was Prime Minister of India to buy a car and after his death his wife paid this amount piece by piece through working.

The next person Shri Guljari Lal Nanda (Bharat Ratna) who was also twice Prime Minister of India for 13 days each as interim Prime Minister after the death of Jawahar Lal Nehru and Lal Bahadur Shastri. He was Home Minister, Railway Minister and Deputy Chairman of Planning Commission and was honest to the core. In spite of remaining in Government as Minister and Deputy Chairman of Planning Commission, he lived Gandhian life and remained so poor that he lived in a rented Barsati in Defence Colony, New Delhi from which he was evicted since he could not pay its rent and moved to Ahmedabad where he lived till last with his daughter.

Another name comes to our mind of Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam who had great simplicity level and down to earth personality, he came from small village of Rameshwaram and in spite of abject poverty he rose to the position of ISRO Chief and became President of India. He is also known as 'Missile Man' of India.

The dynastic rule in Indian politics is no longer a mission but a profession. The dynastic politicians are here not to serve the country but they are always in the quest for money and power that



Narendra Modi with his Mother

brings them into politics. To hold on to power by any means, by maligning, by spreading falsehood and by using all foul means they find nothing better than promote their own family.

Indian democracy is mature enough not to put up with dynastic politics. The elections of 2019 will test the maturity of Indian people if they wish to be ruled by an elite dynastic family or by the leaders who belong to the grassroots and identify themselves with the aspirations of poorest of poor, working class and all sections of society. Indian politics may be passing through a transition and promoting the family may become anathema for the people of India. The congress will continue to promote and worship one family and may go down in history unless it takes steps to bring in young and new leaders at all levels.

HE WAS IMPRISONED IN 1942 IN 'QUIT INDIA MOVEMENT' LAUNCHED BY MAHATMA GANDHI AGAINST THE BRITISHERS. LAL BAHADUR SHASTRI HAD SERVED IN VARIOUS POSITIONS BEFORE BEING ELECTED THE PRIME MINISTER OF INDIA. AFTER INDEPENDENCE, HE BECAME THE MINISTER OF POLICE IN THE MINISTRY OF GOVIND VALLABH PANTH IN UTTAR PRADESH.



International Day Of Happiness

A **MOST** of us may be aware, the UN General Assembly proclaimed 20 March as 'International Day of Happiness', while recognising the relevance of happiness and well-being as universal goals and aspirations in the lives of human beings around the world. Having defined happiness as a "fundamental human goal", the UN has expressed the need for "a more inclusive, equitable and balanced approach to economic growth that promotes happiness... and recognition of the importance of happiness in public policy objectives". The UN also urges each person "of any age, plus every classroom, business and government" to join in.

With this inspiration, WEBFUNA celebrated the landmark day this year with a SEMINAR on "HAPPINESS IS THE WAY", organized in association with 'Institute of Leadership, Entrepreneurship and Development' (iLEAD) on 20 March 2019 at Kolkata.

The event saw a distinguished panel of Speakers – Mr. Pradip Chopra – Chairman of iLEAD and Chairman of PS Group, Mr. Raghu Nandan Mody – Chairmam of The Rasoi Group, Mr. Ravindra Chamaria – Chairman of Infinity Group, Mrs. Usha Uthup – Artist and Mr. Bobby Chakraborty – Actor, along with participants and delegates from varied walks of life.

It is worthy to mention here that as part of WEBFUNA's signature 'Youth Voice' initiative for school-college-university students, WEBFUNA invites students to most of its events – to hear them and to interact with them, with the genuine belief that we have as much to learn from them as they have from us. This event saw participation of 194 young scholars and 25 teachers from 11 schools-college-universities – Sushila Birla Girls' School, South City International School, BDM International, Silver Point School, St. Xavier's Collegiate School, La Martiniere for Girls, National High School, Mahadevi Birla World Academy, ilead, Jadavpur University and University of Calcutta. The evening began with a Welcome Address by Mr. Rajeev Maheshwari, Secretary General, WEBFUNA, who also read out a Special Message sent by Governor of West Bengal, HE Keshari Nath Triparthi that recognised WEBFUNA's effort in commemorating this International Day of Happiness at Kolkata.

This was followed by the Subject Introduction to the Seminar, given by Ms. Kusum Musaddi, Secretary-General, WEBFUNA. She opened her speech by saying that all great thinkers and philosophers have unanimously said that the purpose of life is "to be happy"; hence emphasizing upon the signifi-

cance of happiness as also the need for all to celebrate the day of happiness. She then evinced the strong connection of city of Kolkata with the genesis of adoption of the International Day of Happiness by the UN in 2012 – Sharing the story of an orphaned Kolkata boy who after adoption by an American lady went on to becoming a philanthropist, activist and a prominent United Nations Special Advisor – name Jayme Illien. She narrated Jayme's unstinted efforts to inspire the essence of happiness through a global movement that eventually ensued in the UN's adoption of Day of Happiness. She also detailed on the 'World Happiness Report 2018' with its various domains and aspects of computation, while making a special mention of Finland, the country that tops the World Happiness Report, and reading out the Letter of appreciation and 'Greetings from the Happiest Country' sent in by HE Ms Nina Vaskunlahti, Ambassador of Finland in India

Mr. Sitaram Sharma, Chairman, WEBFUNA, who also moderated the Seminar, commenced his speech on a humorous note while introducing the dignitaries on stage – giving apposite references to their life stories, Mr Sharma brought out their personal outlooks and essential ability to be happy, no matter what! He said, "Children and stu-



Sitaram Sharma moderating the Seminar



dents are the most happiest people on Earth”, and went on to say that WEBFUNA is the platform that for the first time celebrates International Day of Happiness in this city, and that too the City of Joy! He also opined that only money can never always make anybody a happy person, and that education is a most important key to happiness.

Mr. Pradip Chopra, Chairman, iLEAD in his speech gave insights into the grim realities of pervading unhappiness in India, which is reflected in its poor ranking in the World Happiness Report. He mentioned that one of the reasons behind this scenario is that India has one of the highest number of suicide records, mostly among young students of schools, colleges and even premier educational institutions. He pointed out that the prime cause for suicides is the increase in stress and frustration among people, especially the youth, in today's world. Also, the basic factor behind frustration is in very the act of constant comparison of us with others. Thus, he stressed on the importance of trying to be satisfied with what one has and one has been given. At the end, he gave the example of Steve Jobs and his inspiring struggles as mentioned by Jobs in his lecture at Stanford University under the title 'STAY HUNGRY, STAY FOOLISH'.

Mr. Raghu Nandan Mody, Chairman, The Rasoi Group opened his speech by saying that God has never created unhappiness; rather that unhappiness is created by the human beings. He however emphasised that money is one incontrovertible aspect required to attain happiness. He encouraged the students in the audience to aspire to become employers and not employees; and said that wealth creation is very important as he believes that wealth creates happiness. He stated that as humans our bodies need water, oxygen, sunshine to be on this planet, and happiness is needed for our souls. Also that there are 17000 species in this entire world and God has only given human beings the opportunity to smile and laugh. His last remark – Hence, in any situation don't be unhappy.

Mr. Ravindra Chamaria, Chairman, Infin-



Ms. Kusum Musaddi gives Subject Introduction to the Seminar



Members of the Diplomatic Corps of Kolkata and other eminent personalities in the audience



Student Delegates with Teachers in the audience



Mr Rajeev Maheshwari presents Certificates of Participation

ity Group started his speech by speaking about the various motivations he felt towards taking up his philanthropic work, and how this work has given him constant happiness in life. He 'chooses' to be happy doing this philanthropy, and urged everyone that it is purely our choice as to how and how much we can be happy. According to him, "If anybody says money is not important, he or she can only say it when he/she has a lot of money. At the same time, money is not everything, as there remain certain things that are not enjoyed through money". Lastly, he gave this piece of advice to the audience: In the course of life it is immensely important to bounce back in spite of all

the falls one suffers.

Mrs. Usha Uthup, Artist elucidated the meaning of happiness in her speech by referring to half-filled glass of water and human's observational perspective to it. She said, "If one look for happiness one would find it in every single thing. Again, happiness or unhappiness is one's own choice. It is most imperative that one stays happy by not comparing us with others, as comparison only results in frustration and stress". She asked students to follow the path of inner satisfaction by always questioning oneself, 'Who am I? Where do I come from? Where I am going?' – This is important because it helps to get self-understanding; and as soon as one learns to accept what remains is happiness, happiness with a smile.

Mr. Bobby Chakraborty, Actor said he finds happiness in what he believed himself to be truly good at – in understanding his inner self – so he left his decent marine engineer's job at a MNC and followed his heart that pulled him towards acting and performing. More than setbacks in his new career he always focused upon happiness. He urged students in the audience to realize that addiction is not a means to happiness, and one should stay away from substance abuse. He suggested that reading books can give a lot of happiness, and also that happiness can be got by making others happy, sometimes even by most simple gestures and actions. Lastly, he advised not to think much about what we have not got, but to always focus on what we have got.

The event moved on to an Interactive Session between the Speakers and the Student Delegates conducted by Ms. Kusum Musaddi, Secretary-General, WEBFUNA. This was followed by Presentation of Certificates of Participation to the students. The evening ended with a Vote of Thanks by Mrs Vijaya Chaudhuri, Executive Committee Member, WEBFUNA, and Principal of BDM International school.

Contributed by:

Ms. Kusum Musaddi,

Secretary General, West Bengal

Federation of United Nations Associations



WOMEN'S DAY

UNA ASSAM



IN HIS PRESIDENTIAL SPEECH, DR. MAHANTA URGED THE WOMEN'S AND GIRL'S TO THINK OF THEIR BETTERMENT IN THE FIELD OF EDUCATION, SCIENCE, CULTURE AND HEALTH, ETC. DR. MAHANTA ALSO EMPHASIZED ON THE WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT. EMINENT EDUCATIONIST DR. PRANATI SARMA GOSWAMI IN HER KEYNOTE SPEECH NARRATED ABOUT THE ORIGIN OF FORMATION OF INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY AND PRESENT SCENARIO OF THE WOMEN'S RELATED ISSUES.

THE INDIAN Federation of UN Associations and United Nations Association-Assam in collaboration with Pragjyotish College observed International Women's Day at the conference hall of Pragjyotish college, Guwahati on 8th March, 2019. A meeting was organised on this occasion and was presided by Dr. Manoj Kumar Mahanta, principal, Pragjyotish College. In his Presidential speech, Dr. Mahanta urged the women's and girl's to think of their betterment in the field of education, science, culture and health, etc. Dr. Mahanta also emphasized on the Women's empowerment. Eminent educationist Dr.

Pranati Sarma Goswami in her keynote speech narrated about the origin of formation of International Women's Day and present scenario of the Women's related issues. Dr. Aswini Sarma Secretary General, United Nations Association-Assam read out the message of UN Secretary General Mr. Antonio Guterres on the occasion of International Women's Day. Mrs. Monmoyury Saikia, a member of UNA-Assam proposed the vote of thanks to the attending students, faculties, distinguished Guests, members of UNA-Assam and principal of the college.

Aswini Sarma,
Secretary General, Assam UNA



MAHARASHTRA UNA



**MS. MEGHA PATIL,
MEMBER GOVERNING
COUNCIL OF MUNA
READ OUT THE
EXCERPTS OF MESSAGE
OF UN SECRETARY GEN-
ERAL MR. ANTONIO
GUETERRES, SHE ALSO
HIGHLIGHTED THE ROLE
OF WOMEN IN THE
MODERN ERA WITH
SPECIAL FOCUS ON
EQUAL REMUNERATION
RIGHTS FOR WORKING
WOMEN.**

MAHARASHTRA UNITED Nations Association (MUNA) joined hands with Women Graduates Union (WGU) to celebrate and observe International women's Day 2019 at Colaba, Mumbai on 14 March, 2019.

The event started with National Anthem by Dr. V.S. Rege of MUNA and observance of one minute silence for Martyrs. Welcoming everyone President of WGU Mrs. Bina Thadani also gave an insight about WGU activities.

Mr. A.A. Syed, Secretary General, MUNA elaborated about activities of MUNA and praised the work of women by reciting an Urdu couplet , " Wajud e Zan se hai Kaynat mein rang" which means that the universe is colourful because of women.

Ms. Megha Patil, Member Governing

Council of MUNA read out the excerpts of message of UN Secretary General Mr. Antonio Gueterres, she also highlighted the role of women in the modern era with special focus on equal remuneration rights for working women. She explained that a strong woman is one who has a voice but that's what is missing.

Chief Guest, Smita Godrej Crishna in her address focused on the inclusive growth of women and advocated for equal rights and services for women.

Special guest Adv. Kanchan Pamnani encouraged women to come out and work in the society in spite of all the hurdles, discrimination and any disabilities. She gave her own example that in spite of losing her eyesight at the age of 34, she managed to achieve law degrees and continued her jour-



WOMEN'S DAY



THE EVENING CONCLUDED BY PERFORMANCES OF STUDENTS OF WGU STUDY CENTRE. ON THIS OCCASION AWARDS FOR INNOVATIVE WOMEN OF 21ST CENTURY WAS GIVEN TO THREE WOMEN ACHIEVERS, RADHA KAPOOR KHANNA (CREATIVE ENTREPRENEUR) LINA ASHAR (EDUCATIONIST) AND SHAILI CHOPRA, JOURNALIST AND FOUNDER OF SHETHEPEOPLE.TV ONLINE CHANNEL.

ney as a successful lawyer.

The later part of the evening witnessed a panel discussion based on the UN theme, "Think Equal, Built Smart and Innovative for Change". Adv. Ashraf Ahmed Shaikh, Hon. Secretary, MUNA and President of its Youth Wing introduced the panelists and congratulated all the women on the occasion of women's day which falls on 08th March, every year. In his speech Adv. Ashraf encouraged women by saying that, "every women should strive for equal rights since women contribute about 50% of the world population".

The panelist was, Adv. Nilufer Bhagwat, Zahabiya Khorakiwala, MD Wockhardt Hospitals, Yasmin Saifullah, MD Global Trade Links, Vinay Vasta, Director, NGO SAI, Shubika Bilkha, Partner EdpowerU. The discussion was moderated by Bharti Thakore, CEO, New

Millennium Education Partners.

The evening concluded by performances of students of WGU Study Centre. On this occasion awards for innovative women of 21st century was given to three women achievers, Radha Kapoor Khanna (creative Entrepreneur) Lina Ashar (educationist) and Shaili Chopra, Journalist and founder of SheThePeople.TV Online Channel.

The event succeeded in the providing networking opportunities from the women present in the function from different walks of life like medicine, police, academia, social sector, law, diplomatic corps, student community, journalism, industry and other related fields. They exchanged ideas and explored collaboration opportunities over dinner. Dr. Chainani, Treasurer MUNA proposed a vote of thanks.



Being Girl's Parent "Trepidation or Exuberance"

Arjit Walia @MissionKnowledge

WE REMEMBER the day when our daughter was born, it was the happiest day of our life. The first night she slept with me in my arms on my side bed of the hospital room. With every passing year, the joy multiplies. She made friends at playschool, a guarded and monitored place. She went to the main school and interacted with students belonging to varied family background. She wants to whistle like her father, she wants to comb her hair and do makeup like her mother (though her mother tries best to not to use it in front of her). One day she wants to become a hair stylist, then a doctor, then a pilot, then baker the list is long. Today the child has access to endless information on the internet, YouTube, everything is just a voice away – courtesy 'Alexa' which is good for their cognitive development. We try to give her exposure to different activities like dance, football, cricket, skating etc to help her decide what she likes and follow her passion.

The life would have been sorted, but the news of wrongdoings with girls on every second day, make us concerned for our daughter's safety. It deviates our thinking. On one side where we were planning the ways for her social/emotional development, speech/language development, cognitive development, on the other hand, suddenly we started thinking about the ways to keep her protected. We teach her ways to make her learn the art of judging a person, the ways to make her strong to be able to fight back. The perspective of growth changes, on one side we want our girl to open her wings

and fly as high as she can by sending her to best of the school/college/university, on the other side, we want to protect her by always being around her.

The concern force us to think of how our society perceives women in India – a mother, a daughter, a wife, one who is idolised OR an individual, a career-oriented person, a free-spirited girl, a vagabond, a maverick, one who is free to fulfil her desires(All) OR an object. The answer is as complex as our society is defined by diverse value systems.

For some, family values are a way of life, where women are worshipped, to follow the family rules sacrosanct. For others, it's just a way to get happiness and can be tweaked when needed to make a person happy.

We think the best way to answer this is by realising how we want to see women in India? We want to see a society where a women/man is free to fulfil her desires without any social pressure, where gender is not a barrier in choosing a career, where a women/man is respected, where the society becomes so open to gender acceptance that the concept of women safety becomes redundant, and if needed people (irrespective of gender) should stand to protect the dignity of women and the society.

There are three keywords in this context:- 'Women empowerment', 'Social Acceptability' and 'Women Safety' With time things have changed for good, the society which use to perceive women duty-bound as mother/wife/daughter etc is now treating women as an individual. I think acceptability of women-oriented movies (like 'Veere di Wedding', etc) or web series or TV serials are proof that society is chang-

ing.

The fact that women have outnumbered man in various jobs is proof that women are getting empowered economically and socially. Things have started moving quickly and positively for 'women empowerment' and 'social acceptability' but we are still lagging behind in terms of 'women safety'. In the past governments have taken steps for women safety like toll-free women helplines, recruiting female officers in police services, changing the laws and making them stringent for offenders, but still, there is a lot that needs to be done on the ground level. We believe that the government should deal with the issue of 'Women safety' on a mission mode. A time-bound program like a five-year program is to be defined and rolled out starting from villages to cities to towns to metros. People participation should be the key in this program. TV commercials, nukad nataks, workshops should be performed from school level to corporate levels creating awareness on this topic. Police should be trained to take quick action and special courts should be made to address women safety cases for quick decisions and creating fear among offenders.

With the rapid pace of 'women empowerment', the increased 'social acceptance' and focussed approach on women safety, in years to come 'women's day' will be celebrated as a day to compare the achievements of women vs men. Every parent can focus on the growth of their child without distraction, there will be no time restrictions for women, and they can live freely and safely. The country will get its status back.



IMAGINING INDIA

Making the World's invisible people, visible

by Bill Gates



Nandan Nilekani

ADVANCES IN BIOMETRICS, DATA MANAGEMENT, MOBILE PHONES, AND OTHER TECHNOLOGIES ARE MAKING IT POSSIBLE TO PROVIDE PEOPLE WITH A VERIFIABLE DIGITAL IDENTITY SIMPLY, QUICKLY, AND SECURELY.

HOW DO you prove you really are who you say you are? In the U.S. and many rich countries, that's easy. We have many ways to prove our identity: a birth certificate, a driver's license, a Social Security card, or a passport.

But imagine for a moment that you are one of the estimated one billion people in the world—most of them among the poorest and the most vulnerable—who have no official identification. No birth certificates. No official ID documents. Nothing.

Without a way to prove who you are, you would face huge problems going to school, seeing a doctor, receiving government services, getting a bank account, finding a job, traveling across a border, or having access to many other

rights and services most of us take for granted. Without an ID, you would be nameless in the eyes of the government and largely ignored.

For the last decade, Nandan Nilekani has been working to make these “invisible people,” as he calls them, visible by giving them access to official identification. One of India's leading technology entrepreneurs, Nandan joined the government of India to lead the launch of India's national biometric ID system, which uses fingerprints and other biological traits to verify the identities of the country's more than 1.3 billion residents. This ID system, known as Aadhaar (Hindi for “foundation”), is the world's largest biometric identification system and has become a valuable platform for delivering social welfare programs and other government services.

Now, Nandan is working with the World Bank Group to help other countries build their own digital identification systems. Advances in biometrics, data management, mobile phones, and other technologies are making it possible to provide people with a verifiable digital identity simply, quickly, and securely. At the same time, there is growing awareness in the global community that with a proof of ID, the world's poorest people have a powerful tool to be seen, heard, and improve their lives. Giving everyone access to a legal identity is one of the targets of the Global Goals. And more donors, including the Omidyar Network and our foundation, are supporting efforts to achieve this goal.

I first met Nandan more than 20 years ago when he was working to grow Infosys, a technology and consulting corporation he co-founded. I was impressed by him then and continue to be amazed by how he has lent his entrepreneur-



INDIA TO BE MOST DIGITIZED ECONOMY IN 7 YEARS: BILL GATES



Bill Gates with Narendra Modi

Noting that India has great potential to become the most digitized economy globally in mere seven years, Microsoft founder Bill Gates has dubbed the government's demonetisation measure as a "bold move" that will help in deflating the Indian shadow economy. "The Prime Minister's bold move to demonetise high-denomination notes and replace these with new ones with high-security features is an important step to deflate India's shadow economy," Gates said while delivering the Niti (National Institution for Transforming India) Aayog lecture on 'Transforming India' here on Wednesday. Lauding the Aadhaar Card scheme and Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojna for helping the disadvantaged sections in India to con-

nect to the banking system, Gates said: "India has all the pieces in place for a compelling vision for digital financial inclusion. Aadhaar will convert a cumbersome, paper-based account opening process into a 30-second all-digital system." The Aadhaar Unique ID system will also create a centralised data repository, he added. Speaking of Artificial Intelligence (AI), Gates, who co-chairs the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, said automation, cloud services and AI are poised to eliminate manufacturing jobs. Describing this as an opportunity for the Indian Information Technology sector, the Microsoft leader called for India to embrace these new technologies, despite the fears provoked by such rapid transformation.



OF COURSE, INDIA'S ID SYSTEM HAS NOT BEEN WITHOUT CONTROVERSY. THERE WERE MANY PRIVACY CONCERNS, INCLUDING CRITICISM THAT THE AADHAAR SYSTEM WAS A MASS SURVEILLANCE TOOL AND THAT PERSONAL DATA WOULD BE MISUSED.

ial passion to philanthropy and public service over the years. (With his wife, Rohini, Nandan also co-founded the EkStep Foundation, which seeks to improve education.)

Nandan's early thinking about the importance of identification was sketched out in his bestselling book, *Imagining India*, which explores India's potential to bridge the gap between rich and poor as it undergoes dramatic economic growth. Verifiable IDs, he predicted in 2008, would be transformational for India's poorest people. By acknowledging the existence of all its residents with a national ID, he said, the government would be compelled to improve the access and quality of all its services that can uplift the most vulnerable people.

At the time, the government of India was in the process of planning a unique national ID system. In 2009, Nandan was tapped by the government to turn this vision into reality. No one had ever tried to create a digital identification system on this scale before. His team was tasked with gathering fingerprints, iris scans, and a

photograph for more than one billion residents of India. Each person who signed up was issued a unique 12-digit identification number that could be used along with their biometric information to prove their identity. This system ensured that someone's identity could not be faked or duplicated, which had been a common problem in India's largely paper-based government social welfare programs.

A decade later, Aadhaar has enrolled nearly all residents of India. With a trustworthy system to verify identities of beneficiaries for everything from pensions to food subsidies, the government has been able to save billions of dollars because of reduced fraud and corruption.

Of course, India's ID system has not been without controversy. There were many privacy concerns, including criticism that the Aadhaar system was a mass surveillance tool and that personal data would be misused. Last year, a landmark decision by the Supreme Court of India found that the program did not violate the privacy rights of the country's residents. But in order to prevent misuse use of personal data the court placed tight limits on how the ID system could be used and shared.

Nandan stepped down from his government post in 2014. But he continues to lend his voice, both as a writer and speaker, to improve access to digital identification for the world's poorest people. And as an advisor to the World Bank, Nandan is sharing his experience with Aadhaar to help other countries design and roll out their own digital identification programs.

While progress is being made to launch more identification systems, many people around the world still lack identification of any kind. According to the latest estimates by the World Bank, there are one billion people in the world without an official proof of identity, including 45 percent of the population in sub-Saharan Africa and 17 percent of South Asia's population.

Thanks to the work Nandan is doing the world is moving closer to the day when everyone will have access to an official ID. The sooner we can achieve this goal, the sooner the world's poorest residents will not only be able to prove who they are, but also realize their aspirations for better live



Sustainable Development Goals In India

Contributed by UN in INDIA

ON 21 December 2018: The NITI Aayog released the Baseline Report of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) India Index, which comprehensively documents the progress made by India's States and Union Territories towards implementing the 2030 SDG targets.

The SDG India Index, which was developed in collaboration with the Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation (MoSPI), Global Green Growth Institute and United Nations in India, was launched by NITI Aayog Vice-Chairman Dr Rajiv Kumar, NITI Aayog Members Dr Ramesh Chand, Dr VK Paul and Dr VK Saraswat, CEO Shri Amitabh Kant, UN Resident Coordinator Mr. Yuri Afanasiev and MoSPI Secretary & CSI Shri Pravin Srivastava.

NITI Aayog has the twin mandate to oversee the implementation of SDGs in the country, and also promote Competitive and Cooperative Federalism among States and UTs. The SDG India Index acts as a bridge between these mandates, aligning the SDGs with the Prime Minister's clarion call of SabkaSaath, SabkaVikas, which embodies the five Ps of the global SDG movement – people, planet, prosperity, partnership and peace.

The world is now into the third year of the SDG era. The SDGs are ambitious global development goals that address key aspects of universal wellbeing across different socio-economic, cultural, geographical divisions and integrate the economic, social and environmental dimensions of development.

India's National Development Agenda is mirrored in the SDGs. India's progress in

SDGs is crucial for the world as the country is home to about 17% of the world population.

The SDG India Index tracks progress of all States and UTs on 62 Priority Indicators selected by NITI Aayog, which in turn is guided by MoSPI's National Indicator Framework comprising 306 indicators and based on multiple-round consultations with Union Ministries/Departments and States/UTs.

The Index spans 13 out of 17 SDGs. Progress on SDGs 12, 13 & 14 could not be measured as relevant State/UT level data were not available and SDG 17 was left out as it focuses on international partnerships.

A composite score was computed between the range of 0-100 for each State and UT based on their aggregate performance across 13 SDGs, which indicates average performance of State/UT towards achieving 13 SDGs & their respective targets.

If a State/UT achieves a score of 100, it signifies that it has achieved the 2030 national targets. The higher the score of a State/UT, the greater the distance to target achieved.

Classification Criteria based on SDG India Index Score is as follows:

- Aspirant: 0-49
- Performer: 50-64
- Front Runner: 65-99
- Achiever: 100

The SDG India Index is available via an interactive dashboard which has cross-sectoral relevance across policy, civil society, business and academia. The Index is designed to function as a tool for focussed

policy dialogue, formulation and implementation, moving towards development action pegged to globally recognisable metrics of SDG framework.

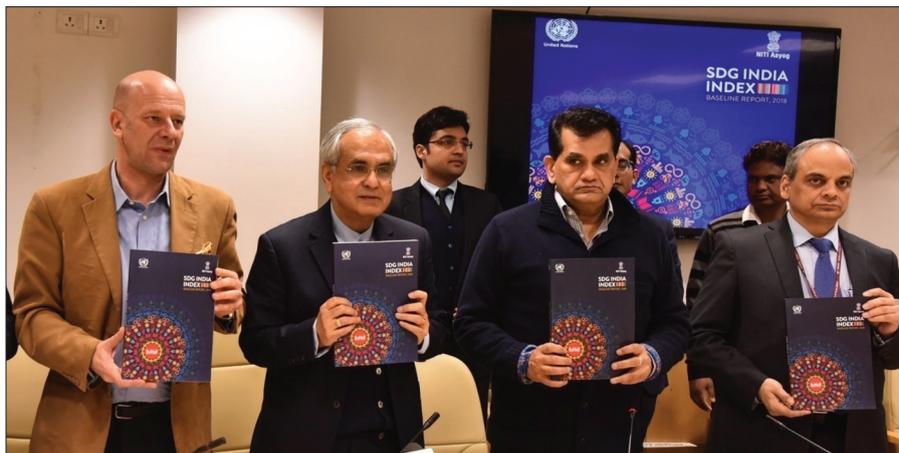
The Index also supplements NITI Aayog's continuous efforts towards encouraging evidence-based policy making by supporting States/UTs to benchmark their progress, identifying priority areas and share best practices.

The SDG India Index will also help highlight crucial gaps related to tracking SDGs and the need for India to develop its statistical systems at National & State/UT levels. This shall lead to the index evolving and becoming more comprehensive over the coming years. The indicators shall be further refined and additional indicators will be added with improvement in data collection, reporting processes & methodology. NITI Aayog is also exploring potential for disaggregating data and developing capacity for real time monitoring and measuring incremental progress.

Himachal Pradesh ranks high on providing clean water & sanitation, in reducing inequalities & preserving mountain ecosystem

Kerala's top rank is attributed to its superior performance in providing good health, reducing hunger, achieving gender equality & providing quality education

Chandigarh leads because of its exemplary performance in providing clean water & sanitation, affordable & clean energy, generating decent work & economic growth, & providing quality education.





A New Era of Global Relations During Five Years of Modi

by Suresh Srivastava

"हज़ारों साल नर्गसि अपनी बे-नूरी पे रोती है बड़ी मुश्कलि से होता है चमन में दीदा-वर पैदा"



SURESH SRIVASTAVA
Secretary General
- IFUNA

INDIA ATTAINED freedom about Seventy-two years back and after remaining under the rules of Muslims and Britishers for more than Twelve-hundred years for the first time a Hindu majority democratic rule was established. Those leaders who wore metal of power were not in favour of declaring India as a Hindu state and preferred to call India as a Secular socialist state. During the passage of time the world secularism was used in such a bellicose manner that anybody calling himself a Hindu was looked-down and immediately branded as communal. This situation continued for a very long time in India. That is the reason why, I have quoted Iqbal above that there was no leader worth name to heal the wounds of Twelve-hundred years of the Hindu community, till the present Prime Minis-

ter Shri Narendra Modi took over in 2014 as Prime Minister having absolute majority in the Parliament. In the present article I am just eulogizing the achievement made by the Prime Minister in our foreign relations during his five year tenure and as of February 2019 Shri Narendra Modi has made 41 Foreign Trips on 6 continents, visiting 59 countries including the visit to USA to attend UN General Assembly, to Asian Countries, following his neighborhood first and act east policies.

Modi made his first foreign visit to Bhutan 15-16 June 2014 following an invitation by King Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck and Tobgay. The visit was called by the media as a "charm offensive" that would also seek to check Bhutan-China relations that had recently been formalised. Modi said that Bhutan was a "natural choice" for his first foreign destination because of the "unique and special relationship" the two countries shared.

In 13-16 July, 2014, he visited Fortaleza, Brasilia, BRAZIL for his first multilateral visit, the 6th BRICS summit was held at the north-eastern beach city of Fortaleza. In the Fortaleza summit the group have agreed to establish a financial institution rivaling the Western-dominated World Bank and IMF, The bank would be named the New Development Bank as suggested by the Indian side.

Narendra Modi visited Nepal in August 2014, marking the first official visit by an Indian prime minister in 17 years. During his visit, Indian government agreed to provide Nepal with USD 1 billion as concessional line of credit for various development purposes





and a HIT formula, but he insisted that Indian immigrants in Nepal don't pose a threat to Nepal's sovereignty and therefore open border between

Shri Narendra Modi visited Japan on a five-day official trip from 30 August to 3 September 2014, which is labelled as his first bilateral state visit outside the subcontinent. His 2014 visit further strengthened the ties between the two countries, and resulted in several key agreements, including the elevating of the already established strategic partnership to the "Special Strategic Global Partnership". During his visit, official negotiations on the sale of US 2 amphibious aircraft for the Indian Navy and the long pending civil nuclear agreements have both progressed.

Shri Modi delivered his maiden speech in the sixty-ninth session of the United Nations General Assembly on 27 September 2014, in which he called for the reform and expansion of the United Nations Security Council, most notably bringing attention to India's long standing demand of a permanent membership. He expressed his concerns over the relevance of a 20th century setup in the 21st century, and stressed the need to evaluate the UN's performance in the past 70 years. He also questioned why the UN should serve as the G-All for global governance, instead of several parallel sub-groupings like the G7 or G20. In the wake of the ISIS threat in West Asia and other similar threats in other parts of the world, Modi urged for the immediate implementation of the 'Comprehensive on International Terrorism' by the UN and offered India's pro-active role in it, citing India as a victim of terrorism for decades.

On 11-13 November visited Naypyidaw, Myanmar Shri Narendra Modi told ASEAN leaders that a new era of economic development, industrialisation and trade has begun in India and they can be "great partners" for each other. "The ASEAN community is India's neighbour. They have ancient relations of trade, religion, culture, art and traditions and have enriched each other. This constitutes a strong foundation of a modern relationship," Modi said in his opening statement in Hindi at the 12th India-ASEAN summit in the Myanmar capital.

On 14-18 November Shri Narendra Modi visited Sydney, Australia, who is the first Indian Prime



Minister to visit Australia in 28 years since Rajiv Gandhi in 1986, on a five-day trip to Australia on the second leg of his 10-day three-nation tour. Ahead of the summit, Modi felt that focusing on transforming the quality of life of people and not just on issues like the health of the financial markets was necessary for creating employment-generating economic growth.

Shri Modi became the first Indian head of government to visit Fiji, Suva on 19th November 2014. After 33 years, since Indira Gandhi's visit in 1981. While there, he also attended a 'Forum for India-Pacific Island cooperation' along with leaders from all 14 Pacific islands nations.

Shri Narendra Modi visited Nepal to attend SAARC Summit which was held from 26-27 November 2014 and made a great Contribution in the Summit.

YEAR 2015

Shri Modi's visit to Seychelles, Victoria on 10-11 March 2015, was part of his "Indian Ocean outreach" program. While there, he held talks with President James Alexis Michelin order to strengthen maritime ties and enhance bilateral development and cooperation.

Shri Narendra Modi visited Mauritius, Port Louis on 11-13 March 2015, he was the chief guest at Mauritius' 47th National Day celebrations today where Indian navy helicopters were part of the impressive parade.

Shri Modi, arrived as part of his three-nation tour of Indian Ocean countries, was welcomed by

SHRI MODI'S VISIT TO SEYCHELLES, VICTORIA ON 10-11 MARCH 2015, WAS PART OF HIS "INDIAN OCEAN OUT-REACH" PROGRAM. WHILE THERE, HE HELD TALKS WITH PRESIDENT JAMES ALEXIS MICHELIN ORDER TO STRENGTHEN MARITIME TIES AND ENHANCE BILATERAL DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION.



his Mauritian counterpart Anerood Jugnauth at Champs de Mars.

On March 13-14, 2015, Shri Narendra Modi, who is the first Indian Prime Minister to visit Lanka in 28 years. Some 20,000 such homes were built in Jaffna described by India as "a flagship cooperation project currently in Sri Lanka". He met leaders of the Tamil National Alliance and other political parties. PM Modi was accompanied by National Security Advisor Ajit Doval and Foreign Secretary S Jaishankar.

During his visit to France, Toulouse, Neuchapelle on 9-12 April 2015, Shri Narendra Modi encouraged French companies to participate in the Make In India programme in defense, civil nuclear power and food processing.

Shri Modi, most notably, visited Hannover, Germany on 12-14 April 2015, where he pitched his Make in India campaign to various German industries.

Shri Narendra Modi visited Canada, Ottawa, Toronto, Vancouver on 14-16 April, a number of prominent federal Conservative MPs, including Defence Minister Jason Kenney and Employment Minister Pierre Poilievre, were on hand to greet the Indian prime minister when his plane touched down in Ottawa.

Shri Narendra Modi made his first visit to the People's Republic of China in May 2015. President Xi Jinping received Modi in Xi'an, his home town (akin to Xi's Ahmedabad trip last September, the home town of Modi), before official talks in Beijing.

Leaders of the two countries reviewed the

progress of bilateral relations. The two sides shared the view that President Xi's visit to India in September 2014 was a significant milestone in the development of bilateral relations. The leaders noted that there is a historic imperative for India and China to enrich their bilateral relations, with the agreement on building closer developmental partnership reached during President Xi's visit to India as a core component.

The leaders agreed that simultaneous re-emergence of India and China as two major powers in the region and the world offers a momentous opportunity for realisation of the Asian Century. They noted that India-China bilateral relations are poised to play a defining role in the 21st Century in Asia and indeed, globally. The leaders agreed that the process of the two countries pursuing their respective national developmental goals and security interests must unfold in a mutually supportive manner with both sides showing mutual respect and sensitivity to each other's concerns, interests and aspirations. This constructive model of relationship between the two largest developing countries, the biggest emerging economies and two major poles in the global architecture provides a new basis for pursuing state-to-state relations to strengthen the international system.

Shri Modi became the first Indian Prime Minister to visit Mongolia, Ulaanbaatar on 16-17 May 2015. During his visit, he boosted talks on the supplying of Mongolian Uranium to India.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi in his speech said ties between India and Mongolia are not driven by competition against others but it is a relationship of immeasurable positive energy that comes from their spiritual links and shared ideals.

Shri Modi's visit to South Korea on 18-19 May 2015, was part of India's East Asia policy and Modi's attempt to promote his Make in India concept to Korean investors.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi paid a State visit to Bangladesh from June 6 - 7, 2015 at the invitation of H.E. Sheikh Hasina, Prime Minister of Bangladesh. This visit, the Prime Minister's first to Bangladesh, reflects the importance of the bilateral relationship between India and Bangladesh. During this visit, the Prime Minister discussed the ratification of the India-Bangladesh

PRIME MINISTER NARENDRA MODI IN HIS SPEECH SAID TIES BETWEEN INDIA AND MONGOLIA ARE NOT DRIVEN BY COMPETITION AGAINST OTHERS BUT IT IS A RELATIONSHIP OF IMMEASURABLE POSITIVE ENERGY THAT COMES FROM THEIR SPIRITUAL LINKS AND SHARED IDEALS.



Land Boundary Agreement - 1974 & Protocol-2011.

Shri Narendra Modi held a meeting with the Prime Minister of Uzbekistan on July 2015. Both the leaders discussed various aspects of cooperation between India and Uzbekistan. Key agreements to further enhance India-Uzbekistan partnership were also inked in their presence. The Prime Minister also complemented Uzbekistan for having nurtured Hindi language and Indian culture.

Shri Narendra Modi Visited Kazakhstan, Astana on 7 July 15. India's relations with Kazakhstan are built on a strong foundation of centuries old historical and cultural ties. Both India and Kazakhstan have developed multifaceted cooperation in all areas of bilateral and multilateral relations and are strategic partners since 2009.

On 10-11 July 2015, Shri Narendra Modi visited Turkmenistan, Ashgabat, during the visit, Modi held extensive discussions with President of Turkmenistan Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov on bilateral relations as well as regional and international issues of mutual interest. The two Leaders expressed satisfaction at the continued development of bilateral relations based on deep-rooted civilizational, historical and cultural linkages and a shared interest in international as well as regional peace and stability.

Shri Narendra Modi visited Kyrgyzstan on July 12, 2015. PM Narendra Modi and President Almazbek Atambaev held profound exchange of views on strengthening bilateral relations as well as regional and international issues of mutual interest, in warm and friendly atmosphere.

On 12-13 July 2015 At Tajikistan, Dushanbe, The President of Tajikistan and the Prime Minister of India held wide-ranging talks on bilateral, regional and international issues. The discussions between the Leaders were warm and cordial and the outcomes of the visit reflected the mutual trust that exists between the two countries.

The Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade, Charlie Flanagan, TD, has described the visit of the Prime Minister of India, Narendra Modi, as "an honour for Ireland". PM Modi will make a short visit to

Ireland on Wednesday 23 September 2015 and meet with the Taoiseach, Minister Flanagan,



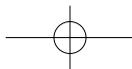
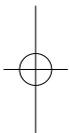
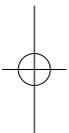
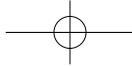
and other Government Ministers at Government Buildings. Discussions will cover opportunities to strengthen trade and investment links, and cooperation in education.

Shri Narendra Modi visited United Nations, United States - New York City, San Francisco on 24-30 September 2015, This was his second visit to the United States as prime minister and third bilateral summit with Obama. In New York, the first meeting was dedicated to business. Prime Minister Modi held a roundtable meeting with top American CEOs from the financial sector. Fruitful discussions were held in the roundtable and the Prime Minister urged the CEOs to invest in various sectors.

Prime Minister Modi held extensive talks with various leaders in New York City. He met PM Sheikh Hasina of Bangladesh. Both the leaders expressed happiness at the progress of implementation of the Land Boundary Agreement. Discussions also focused on connectivity, infrastructure, sustainable development goals, reform of the UN Security Council and other institutions of global governance.

Shri Modi held a meeting with PM of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Mr. Ralph Gonsalves. He thanked Dr. Gonsalves for the support extended by Saint Vincent and the Grenadines towards UNSC reform. The Prime Minister also met President David Arthur Granger of Guyana. President Granger also presented PM Narendra Modi copies of two monographs written by him. The President was appreciative of Indian support for capacity building in the IT sector in Guyana.

SHRI NARENDRA MODI VISITED KAZAKHSTAN, ASTANA ON 7 JULY 15. INDIA'S RELATIONS WITH KAZAKHSTAN ARE BUILT ON A STRONG FOUNDATION OF CENTURIES OLD HISTORICAL AND CULTURAL TIES. BOTH INDIA AND KAZAKHSTAN HAVE DEVELOPED MULTIFACETED COOPERATION IN ALL AREAS OF BILATERAL AND MULTILATERAL RELATIONS AND ARE STRATEGIC PARTNERS SINCE 2009.





Prime Minister Narendra Modi with his Mongolian counterpart Chimediiin Saikhanbileg during the Mini Naadam festival in Ulan Bator, Mongolia on Sunday.

SHRI MODI SAID INDIA-EU SUMMIT AND STRONG ECONOMIC & INVESTMENT TIES WITH BELGIUM WILL BE ON THE AGENDA DURING MY BRUSSELS VISIT ON 30 MARCH 2016. PM MODI ARRIVES IN BRUSSELS, TO HOLD THE 13TH INDIA-EU SUMMIT WITH THE E.U. LEADERSHIP.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Prime Minister David Cameron met in London on 12-13 November 2015. The two Prime Ministers celebrated the growing strength, breadth and depth of the relations between the two countries. They emphasised that this

enduring connection between the UK and India plays a vital role in safeguarding and promoting the security and prosperity of both peoples.

Shri Narendra Modi Visited Turkey on 15 November 2015 to attend G20 Summit. The Group of Twenty (G20) is the premier forum for its members' international economic cooperation and decision-making. Its membership comprises 19 countries plus the European Union. Each G20 president invites several guest countries each year.

At the invitation of The Honourable Dato' Sri Mohd Najib Tun Abdul Razak, Prime Minister of Malaysia, Prime Minister of India Shri Narendra Modi undertook an Official Visit to Malaysia on 23 November 2015.

During the official talks, which was held in a warm and cordial atmosphere, the two Prime Ministers acknowledged that India-Malaysia relations have made impressive strides in recent years. The dialogue mechanisms at Ministerial and Official level, supported by a wide range of agreements have also provided a framework to harness the full potential of the Strategic Partnership, established between the two countries in October 2010.

Singaporean Prime Minister Lee HsienLoong invited Modi to visit Singapore in 23 November 2015 to commemorate the 50th anniversary of India and Singapore's bilateral ties

Prime Minister Modi visited Paris on 29-30 November 2015 to attend the inaugural Leaders' Event at the COP-21 Climate Change Summit. He launched the International Solar Alliance jointly with

President Hollande in the presence of UN Secretary General Ban Ki Moon. Along with President Hollande, US President Obama and Microsoft Chairman Bill Gates, he spoke at the event of "Mission

Innovation" for promoting renewable energy. As the Paris Agreement was reached on the conclusion of COP-21, President Hollande praised India's contribution and Prime Minister Modi's personal leadership in reaching the historic agreement.

On 23 December 2015, Prime Minister Mr. Narendra Modi and President of the Russian Federation Mr. Vladimir V. Putin met for the 19th edition of the Annual Bilateral Summit in New Delhi on October 4-5, 2018. The fundamental pillars of political and strategic cooperation, military and security cooperation, cooperation in the spheres of economy, energy, industry, science and technology, and cultural and humanitarian cooperation was reconfirmed by both leaders.

The Prime Minister of India Shri Narendra Modi paid a visit to Afghanistan on Friday, 25 December 2015. President Ghani and Prime Minister Modi jointly dedicated to the Afghan nation the National Assembly Building constructed under India-Afghanistan development cooperation.

2016 VISITS

Shri Modi said India-EU Summit and strong economic & investment ties with Belgium will be on the agenda during my Brussels visit on 30 March 2016. PM Modi arrives in Brussels, to hold the 13th India-EU Summit with the E.U. leadership. PM Modi's Belgium visit aimed at expanding trade, investment and high technology partnership EU is India's biggest trading partner as a bloc with trade amounting to \$126 billion and it is also India's largest export destination with exports worth \$65 billion. It is the largest source of FDI in India at \$69 billion.

Shri Modi visited United States, Washington, in Nuclear Security Summit on 31 March - 01 April The 2016 Nuclear Security Summit was a summit held in Washington, D.C., United States. It was the fourth edition of the conference, succeeding the 2014 Nuclear Security Summit.

Shri Modi stated that, India looks at nuclear technology and nuclear materials primarily as a resource for meeting a part of its requirements for electricity. It considers nuclear power as safe, reliable, affordable and environmentally friendly and is engaged in developing nuclear technologies for deployment. Continuous evolution of the framework for governance of nuclear power including that for nuclear security has been given equal



importance. Nuclear industry and research centres in India have internalized security practices in their day-to-day working and have created a strong security culture in their respective organizations. In tune with the security requirements as perceived by India, the nuclear security architecture in the country has been strengthened and India has also participated in strengthening security architecture at the global level.

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi is paying an official visit to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia on 2-3 April, 2016 at the invitation of King Salman Bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud. This is the highest-level visit from India to Saudi Arabia after the visit of the then Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh to Riyadh in 2010. During the visit, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi had discussions with King Salman Bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud on bilateral, regional and multilateral issues of mutual interest.

The President of the Islamic Republic of Iran H.E. Dr. Hassan Rouhani, the Prime Minister of the Republic of India H.E. Mr. Narendra Modi paid a state visit to Iran on 22-23 May 2016. Prime Minister Modi called on the Supreme Leader Grand Ayatollah Sayyid Ali Hosseini Khamenei on 23 May and held talks with President Rouhani following his official welcome in an impressive ceremony. President Rouhani hosted a lunch in honour of Prime Minister Modi. Prime Minister Modi and President Rouhani witnessed the signing of the various cooperation documents and jointly addressed media:

Shri Narendra Modi visited Afghanistan on 4th June 2016 and Inaugurated India Friendship Dam in Herat onat Herat. Rs. 1,700 crore Salma Dam, also called the Afghan-India Friendship Dam, accompanied by Afghanistan President Ashraf Ghani in that country's Herat province.

The multipurpose project, undertaken by Indian Government on river Chist-e-Sharif in the province concerned, is expected to irrigate 75,000 hectares of land and generate 42 megawatt of power, besides ensuring water supply and other benefits to local people.

A decision was taken by His Highness Sheikh Tamim Bin Hamad Al-Thani, Amir of the State of Qatar and Shri Narendra Modi, Prime Minister of the Republic of India during the visit of the latter to Doha on 4-5 June 2016 to constitute an inter-ministerial High Level Joint Committee to regular-

ly review all bilateral matters, as well as regional and global issues of mutual interest,

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi visited to Switzerland on June 5-6, 2016. With growing bilateral trade and foreign investment, India and Switzerland enjoy strong economic ties. During the visit, the Prime Minister and the President of the Swiss Confederation Mr. Johann Schneider-Ammann had discussions on bilateral, regional and multilateral issues of mutual interest.

In focus during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to the U.S on 6th June 2016, was his establishment of a personal equation with U.S. President Donald Trump. The result seems to be positive with Mr. Modi saying there was a perfect meeting of minds between the two. There were several other, crucial outcomes of the three-day trip, and here are the top highlights:

At the invitation of His Excellency Mr. Enrique Peña Nieto, President of the United Mexican States, His Excellency Mr. Narendra Modi, Prime Minister of India paid a working visit to Mexico on 8th June 2016, with the objective to continue the dialogue held by the two leaders on the margins of the 70 th regular session of the United Nations General Assembly on 28th September 2015.

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi visited Mozambique, South Africa, Tanzania and Kenya from 7th to 11th July, 2016. In Mozambique, the Prime Minister had bilateral discussions with President Nyusi to strengthen our bilateral ties and enhance our development cooperation.

Shri Modi visited South Africa on 9th July 2016. While interacting with the Indian community in Mozambique, said, "Africa was the land which started shaping the identity of the Indian Diaspora. Even as you assimilate with your local societies, you have managed to conserve the essence of your Indianness."

India is already a substantial economic partner of Tanzania. The whole range of our economic ties are healthy and on upswing. President Magufuli and held detailed discussions on the full spectrum of partnership during visit of Shri Narendra Modi at Tanzania on 10th July 2016.

Narendra Modi, paid a State Visit to Kenya on 10th to 11th July 2016. This was the first at the level of Prime Minister in 35 years. Mr. Uhuru Kenyatta hailed the warm and cordial relations between Kenya and India and agreed that the State Visit

THE PRESIDENT OF THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN H.E. DR. HASSAN ROUHANI, THE PRIME MINISTER OF THE REPUBLIC OF INDIA H.E. MR. NARENDRA MODI PAID A STATE VISIT TO IRAN ON 22-23 MAY 2016. PRIME MINISTER MODI CALLED ON THE SUPREME LEADER GRAND AYATOLLAH SAYYID ALI HOSSEINI KHAMENEI ON 23 MAY AND HELD TALKS WITH PRESIDENT ROUHANI FOLLOWING HIS OFFICIAL WELCOME IN AN IMPRESSIVE CEREMONY. PRESIDENT ROUHANI HOSTED A LUNCH IN HONOUR OF PRIME MINISTER MODI. PRIME MINISTER MODI AND PRESIDENT ROUHANI WITNESSED THE SIGNING OF THE VARIOUS COOPERATION DOCUMENTS AND JOINTLY ADDRESSED MEDIA:



**INDIA AND RUSSIA
ON 1 MAY 2017
SIGNED FIVE MEMO-
RANDUM OF
UNDERSTANDING
(MOUS)/AGREE-
MENTS INCLUDING A
PROGRAM OF CUL-
TURAL EXCHANGES
AND IMPLEMENTA-
TION OF THE HIGH-
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TIONS BETWEEN
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ING PRIME MINIS-
TER NARENDRA MO-
DI'S VISIT TO RUSSIA
BETWEEN 1
MAY AND 2 MAY
2017.**

provided an excellent opportunity to reinvigorate bilateral collaboration and explore new areas with a view to intensify cooperation on bilateral, regional and multilateral issues.

On 02 - 03 September 2016, Shri Narendra Modi was accorded a ceremonial reception. This was followed by bilateral talks between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Prime Minister Nguyen Xuan-Phuc. Thereafter, the two Prime Ministers witnessed the signing of bilateral documents. Prime Minister Narendra Modi met H.E. Mr. Nguyen Phu Trong, General Secretary of Vietnam Communist Party, H.E. Mr. Tran Dai Quang, President of Vietnam, and H.E. Mrs. Nguyen Thi Kim Ngan, Chairperson of the National Assembly of Vietnam. Prime Minister Narendra Modi laid a wreath at the Memorial of National Heroes and Martyrs and Ho Chi Minh Mausoleum, visited the Ho Chi Minh Residential Complex and the Quan Su Pagoda in Ha Noi.

The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi attended 14th ASEAN-India Summit and 11th East Asia Summit at Vientiane, capital city of Laos from 7 September 2016 to 8 September 2016. ASEAN is a key partner for our Act East Policy, which is vital for the economic development of our Northeastern region. Our strategic partnership with ASEAN is also important for safeguarding and promoting our security interests and countering traditional and non-traditional security challenges in the region.

On 10 November 2016 Shri Narendra Modi visited BANGKOK: En route to Japan, Prime Minister Narendra Modi made a surprise stopover in the Thai capital to pay his respects to revered King Bhumibol-Adulyadej, who died last month after a protracted illness. Prime Minister Modi laid a wreath and paid final respects to the late King Bhumibol, whose body is lying in state at the Grand Palace complex here.

Mr. Narendra Modi, Prime Minister visited Japan at the invitation of H.E. Mr. Shinzo Abe, Prime Minister of Japan. The two Prime Ministers held wide-ranging consultations on 11 November 2016, in Tokyo, during which they undertook a comprehensive review of the Special Strategic and Global Partnership as outlined in the "India and Japan Vision 2025" set forth on 12 December 2015.

Visit 2017

Prime Minister Narendra Modi began his foundation visit to Germany, Spain, Russia and France to boost bilateral relations and seek investment. In the

first leg of his six-day trip, he visited Germany on 29th May 2017, where he held talks with Chancellor Angela Merkel under the framework of India-Germany Intergovernmental Consultations. Describing Germany as a valuable partner, the Prime Minister said, "German competencies fit well with my vision for India's transformation."

On 30-31 May 2017 - MADRID: India and Spain signed seven agreements, including on cyber security and technical cooperation in civil aviation, during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to the European country. The agreements were signed after Prime Minister Modi held wide-ranging talks with Spanish President Mariano Rajoy at the Moncloa Palace in the Spanish capital.

India and Russia on 1 May 2017 signed five Memorandum of Understanding (MoUs)/agreements including a program of cultural exchanges and implementation of the high-speed service at the Nagpur-Secunderabad section among others. The agreements were signed with an aim to boost the bilateral relations between the two nations. These agreements were inked during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Russia. Modi was in Russia between 1 May and 2 May 2017.

PM Narendra Modi was in Paris on the last leg of his four-nation tour of Europe and met newly-elected French President Emmanuel Macron with an aim to bolster the bilateral strategic ties and discuss key issues like terrorism and climate change on June 2-3, 2017. PM said Paris Agreement a shared legacy of the world, will benefit posterity.

On 24 June 2017, India Portugal sign 11 pacts to boost bilateral ties; PM Modi says determined to fight terrorism. India and Portugal on announced a four million euros joint fund to bolster research in science and technology as Prime Minister Narendra Modi held in-depth talks with his Portuguese counterpart on cooperation in areas like counter-terrorism, space and climate studies. PM Modi arrived in Lisbon, Portugal as part of his three-nation visit. This was the first-ever bilateral visit by any India PM to Portugal. He later addressed a joint press statement with Portuguese Prime Minister Antonio Costa.

On 27 June 2016 Shri Narendra Modi met his Dutch counterpart Mark Rutte to strengthen bilateral ties between the two countries. The two sides signed three MoUs in the fields of social security, water cooperation and cultural cooperation. PM Modi described Netherlands as India's "natural partner" in



its economic development and predicted that the bilateral ties will grow rapidly between the two sides.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi arrived in Israel on 4-6 July 2017 for his three-day visit. He is the first Indian Prime Minister to visit Israel, making it a historic trip. PM Modi met Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and President Reuven Rivlin in Tel Aviv. The leaders are seeking to strengthen India-Israel relationship on a range of areas including defence and technology. Wide-ranging delegation-level talks have been held between the two countries to enhance India-Israel ties in security, agriculture, water, energy and defence, among others. PM Modi and Prime Minister Netanyahu also discussed measures to counter terrorism and increase cooperation in sharing of intelligence in this regard. Economic, cultural and people-to-people ties are being discussed and a number of agreements have been signed between India and Israel.

At the invitation of H. E. U Htin Kyaw, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, Shri Narendra Modi, Prime Minister of the Republic of India, is paid his first bilateral State visit to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar from 5th to 7th September 2017. The visit was part of the continuing high level interaction between the leaders of the two countries and follows successive State visits to India by H.E. President U Htin Kyaw and H.E. State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi.

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi attended the 15th ASEAN-India Summit and the 12th East Asia Summit held in Manila, Philippines on 14 November 2017, at the invitation of H.E. Mr. Rodrigo Roa Duterte, President of the Republic of the Philippines.

2018 VISITS

The world applauded 1.3 bn people of India at the WEF in Davos appreciating the remarkable transformation in improving the business climate. PM Narendra Modi interacted with the top global CEOs at the International Business Council event. Protectionism is gaining ground and globalisation is losing its appeal, but India is open for business, Prime Minister Narendra Modi told the World Economic Forum on Tuesday. PM Modi is leading a big government and business delegation to the summit in Davos on 23-26 January 2018, the first Indian prime minister do so in 21 years, aiming to showcase India as a fast-growing economic power and a potential driver of

global growth.

Shri Narendra Modi is on a three-nation visit on 9th January. During his visit, PM Modi will visit Palestine, via the Jordanian capital Amman. The prime minister's office expressed gratitude to King Abdullah II of Jordan for facilitating the transit. PM Modi met the King of Jordan before leaving for the city of Ramallah, in the West Bank. This was the first visit to Palestine by an Indian Prime Minister. PM Modi to hold bilateral talks with the Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas, after their last meeting held in New Delhi last year.

During Visit of Shri Narendra Modi to Ramallah, Palestine on 10th February 2018, 6 MoUs were signed between India and Palestine with the value of USD 40 million.

At the invitation of H. H. Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan, President of the United Arab Emirates, Shri Narendra Modi, Prime Minister of the Republic of India paid a State visit to the UAE from 10-11 February, 2018. The visit further enriched the rapport established at the highest political levels between India and the UAE. A Strategic Partnership for the Future - Prime Minister Modi and Crown Prince Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan reaffirmed their abiding commitment to further consolidating the comprehensive strategic partnership and expressed satisfaction at the meticulous follow up on the decisions taken during their previous meetings to achieve the set targets.

In recognition of the growing strategic relations between the Sultanate of Oman and the Republic of India, and at the invitation of His Majesty Sultan Qaboos bin Said, Sultan of Oman, Shri Narendra Modi, paid a State visit to the Sultanate of Oman from 11-12 February.

H.E. The Sultan and Shri Modi exchanged views on bilateral, regional and global issues of common interest. The discussions were held in cordial and friendly atmosphere. The two sides stressed that India and Oman, as maritime neighbours across the Indian Ocean and the Arabian Sea, have enjoyed close, deeply rooted historical relations.

At the invitation of Prime Minister Theresa May, the Prime Minister of India, Mr Narendra Modi visited the United Kingdom (UK) as a Guest of Government on 18 April 2018. The two leaders held wide-ranging and constructive discussions and underlined our strategic partnership and growing convergence on regional and international issues. Prime Minister

INDIA AND RUSSIA ON 1 MAY 2017 SIGNED FIVE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MOUs)/AGREEMENTS INCLUDING A PROGRAM OF CULTURAL EXCHANGES AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE HIGH-SPEED SERVICE AT THE NAGPUR-SECUNDERABAD SECTION AMONG OTHERS. THE AGREEMENTS WERE SIGNED WITH AN AIM TO BOOST THE BILATERAL RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO NATIONS. THESE AGREEMENTS WERE INKED DURING PRIME MINISTER NARENDRA MODI'S VISIT TO RUSSIA. MODI WAS IN RUSSIA BETWEEN 1 MAY AND 2 MAY 2017.



PRIME MINISTER NARENDRA MODI HAD ACCEPTED MALDIVES PRESIDENT-ELECT IBRAHIM MOHAMED SOLIH'S INVITATION TO ATTEND HIS SWEARING-IN CEREMONY IN MALE ON NOVEMBER 17, 2018, MODI ALSO HELD TALKS WITH SOLIH AFTER THE CEREMONY. DURING THEIR MEETING, BOTH LEADERS AGREED ON THE IMPORTANCE OF MAINTAINING PEACE AND SECURITY IN THE INDIAN OCEAN AND BEING MINDFUL OF EACH OTHER'S CONCERNS AND ASPIRATIONS FOR THE STABILITY OF THE REGION.

Modi will also participate in the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting in London from 19-20 April 2018.

At the invitation of the President of the Republic of Indonesia, H. E. Joko Widodo, Prime Minister of the Republic of India, H. E. Shri Narendra Modi paid the first official visit to Indonesia on 29-30 May 2018. The Prime Minister had visited Indonesia on 31st May 2018, where he held a meeting with Indonesian President Joko Widodo and signed a number of MoUs. His visit to the three countries was aimed at boosting India's Act East Policy.

At the invitation of the President of the Republic of Rwanda, H.E. Paul Kagame, Shri Narendra Modi undertook a State visit to the Republic of Rwanda from 23-24th July 2018. He was accompanied by a high-level delegation including senior officials of the Government of India. A large business delegation from India was also present for the visit. This was the first ever visit by an Indian Prime Minister to Rwanda. Shri Narendra Modi visited Uganda, Kampala on 24th July 2018. Both leaders agreed that the terrorism poses a grave threat to global peace and stability and reiterated their strong commitment to combat it in all its forms and manifestations. They stressed that there could be no justification for acts of terror on any grounds whatsoever. Agreed to support collaboration between India and Uganda in the area of Information and Communication Technology. Uganda expressed its desire to replicate some of India's schemes for Digital Inclusion while implementing its Public Key Infrastructure (PKI) project.

The Heads of State and Government of the Federative Republic of Brazil, the Russian Federation, the Republic of India, the People's Republic of China and the Republic of South Africa, met from 25 - 27 July 2018 in Johannesburg, at the 10th BRICS Summit. The 10th BRICS Summit, as a milestone in the history of BRICS, was held under the theme "BRICS in Africa: Collaboration for Inclusive Growth and Shared Prosperity in the 4th Industrial Revolution".

The Prime Minister of the People's Republic of Bangladesh, the Chief Advisor of the Kingdom of Bhutan, the Prime Minister of the Republic of India, the President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, the Prime Minister of Nepal, the President of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka, and the Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Thailand, met in Kathmandu on 30-31 August 2018 for the Fourth BIMSTEC Summit.

During Visit at Japan of Shri Shri Narendra Modi in Japan announced joining the International Solar Alliance (ISA) submitting the instrument of ratification on 29th October 2018. As of now there are 70 countries that have signed the ISA Framework Agreement (ISA FA) and 47 countries that have ratified it. Japan will be the 71st country to sign and 48th country to ratify the ISA FA.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi had accepted Maldives President-elect Ibrahim Mohamed Solih's invitation to attend his swearing-in ceremony in Male on November 17, 2018, Modi also held talks with Solih after the ceremony. During their meeting, both leaders agreed on the importance of maintaining peace and security in the Indian Ocean and being mindful of each other's concerns and aspirations for the stability of the region.

Shri Narendra Modi visited Buenos Aires from 29 November -01 December 2018 to attend the 13th G-20 Summit hosted by Argentina. "The G-20 seeks to promote multi-faceted cooperation among the twenty largest economies of the world. Through the ten years of its existence, G-20 has strived to promote stable and sustainable global growth. This objective is of particular significance for developing countries and emerging economies such as India, which is today the fastest growing large economy in the world. India's contribution to global economic growth and prosperity underlines our commitment to "Building Consensus for Fair and Sustainable Development", which is the theme of the Summit.



The dark side of Media

by P. M. Parvatiyar

WITH DEBATES about public issues play out on social media, people receive their news via digital platforms, and politicians pitch their policies using these same media. Besides social media even traditional Medias have also become victim of this new trend.

Recently a Pakistani media report cited a Chinese state media report as saying that Beijing has decided to sell its only aircraft carrier Liaoning procured from Ukraine to Islamabad. China foreign ministry spokesperson Hua Chunying denied ,saying 'I have not seen the report you mentioned..But China has always followed principles regarding exports its naval ship to other countries .A Chinese military expert, Song Zhongping also told to media "It is a groundless allegation and complete falsehood"

Famous Hollywood actress Scarlett Johansson, who's no stranger to discovering her face in pornographic images and videos, told Washington Post last year that "trying to protect yourself from the internet and its depravity is basically a lost cause... The internet is a vast wormhole of darkness that eats itself." And of course, she isn't the first, or the last, celebrity to be targeted in this manner.

One of the worst victims so far was an Indian investigative journalist, who vomited one day last year as she opened her laptop to discover a deep fake sex video that featured her face on another woman's body, spreading like wildfire through Face book, Twitter and WhatsApp.

In the public square of traditional and old, journalists and editors served as gatekeepers and acted as referees. Human news aggregators set the agenda and provided audiences with credible information and a diversity of views. We trusted them because of the professionalism and integrity of their editorial processes.

In the new public sphere, this model of journalism - and of journalism's role in sustaining democracy - has become obsolete. Fake news can reach multiple jurisdictions at once.

Despite the ominous headlines, the influence of fake news on political decision-making appears to be

limited. According to the Reuters Institute for the Study of Journalism at the University of Oxford, the reach of such content is largely restricted to groups of believers seeking to reinforce their own views and prejudices. But that does not make digital deception any less dangerous. Fake news feeds - and is fed by - polarization, and, paradoxically, the more it is discussed, the more disruptive it becomes.

That is because fake news undermines trust in all forms of media and reinforces the view that it is impossible to discern fact from fiction. When people do not know what they can believe, journalists' ability to police the powerful is weakened. This trend will only worsen as "deep-fake news" - bogus images and morphed videos that appear real - becomes more ubiquitous or found everywhere.

It is high time the vulnerabilities of the digital public sphere must be addressed. Some argue that the solution is to block questionable websites or demote search results. Face book, for example, censors duplicitous posts and has created an election "war room" to fight disinformation. Other global platforms, like Google and Twitter, have considered similar steps, and all three are being pressured to give authorities access to the private data of users who publish fake news or make defamatory statements. But we believe that these steps, while seemingly prudent, are deeply misguided.

At the heart of any strong democracy is a political consensus and arbitration that depends on the public's ability to debate and disagree. It is not up to private entities - or public institutions, for that matter - to censor this process. Rather, we should be working to ensure that citizens have access to a broad array of opinions and ideas and understand what they are reading, viewing, or hearing. Freedom of expression includes the right to receive and impart information without interference, which implies the corollary values of media freedom.

As such professional media must do more to guarantee the veracity of their coverage by developing and adopting a Fact-checking technology. Google and Face book also need to adopt similar method to curb it.



FAMOUS HOLLYWOOD ACTRESS SCARLETT JOHANSSON, WHO'S NO STRANGER TO DISCOVERING HER FACE IN PORNOGRAPHIC IMAGES AND VIDEOS, TOLD WASHINGTON POST LAST YEAR THAT "TRYING TO PROTECT YOURSELF FROM THE INTERNET AND ITS DEPRAVITY IS BASICALLY A LOST CAUSE... THE INTERNET IS A VAST WORMHOLE OF DARKNESS THAT EATS ITSELF." AND OF COURSE, SHE ISN'T THE FIRST, OR THE LAST, CELEBRITY TO BE TARGETED IN THIS MANNER.



Living in a Land Of Love

Sant Rajinder Singh Ji Maharaj



THIS VERSE DESCRIBES HOW A SPIRITUAL DISCIPLE SEEKS A LAND OF LOVE. THE DISCIPLE HAS LIVED COUNTLESS LIVES OF SUFFERING AND HAS SEEN THE PAIN THAT ONE CAN UNDERGO IN THE WORLD. HE OR SHE IS SICK OF GOSSIP AND HEARING THE COMPLAINTS OF OTHERS, EXHAUSTED FROM ARGUMENTS, AND FED UP WITH VIOLENCE AND HATRED. THE DISCIPLE IS TIRED OF BEING IN A LAND OF EGO FIGHTS, POWER STRUGGLES AND TERRITORIAL BATTLES AND WANTS TO LIVE IN A LAND OF LOVE. THE DISCIPLE SEEKS A PLACE IN WHICH THE TALK IS OF PEACE AND KINDNESS.

PEOPLE DO not want a love that is fleeting. They do not want a fleeting glance or a brief meeting. They want an everlasting glance, an everlasting meeting to be in an eternal state of union with their Beloved. They have realized there is no lasting love in this world. Even the best and closest of relationships in this physical world must ultimately end, because that is the nature of this world. Our physical forms are made to fade. Some people live to one month of age, some to one year, some to five years, some to ten years, twenty, fifty, and some to a hundred years or more. However, our physical end is inevitable. When we realize life's impermanence, we seek a love that will not end. , when we choose to love God, we love the one who grants us all the gifts and will never leave us. It is not a temporary love -- God is eternal. When we love God we love a Beloved who is with us even beyond the gate of death. We will go to God's abode and live in eternal wedlock with our true Beloved.

Sant Darshan Singh Ji Maharaj wrote the following verse:

"I am seeking a land of love ,Where there is only talk of peace and kindness."

This verse describes how a spiritual disciple seeks a land of love. The disciple has lived countless lives of suffering and has seen the pain that one can undergo in the world. He or she is sick of gossip and hearing the complaints of others, exhausted from arguments, and fed up with violence and hatred. The disciple is tired of being in a land of ego fights, power struggles and territorial battles and wants to live in a land of love. The disciple seeks a place in which the talk is of peace and kindness. The disciple wants to speak and hear sweet and loving words and to enjoy the company of others in a harmonious state. The disciple wonders, "Is there such a place and where can it be found?" Such a place the disci-

ple is not finding in worldly company. There seems to be nothing but talk of problems. The disciple wants the company of someone filled with peace. He or she can find that in the company of a spiritual Master who has realized God. Such a saint is filled with love, being merged with the source of all love, with God. Thus, in such company only talk of the love of God is taking place. In such company, only kindness is exhibited. When one comes to a gathering with the Master, one only wants to experience a land of love. There are many opportunities or moments in which one can be transported to this land. People come to enjoy the peace of being in the Spiritual Master's presence. They do not come for gossip. When they are sitting in the Master's presence in a gathering such as satsang, or are waiting for Darshan, they do not want to talk about things not loving. In fact, some do not want to talk at all. They remain absorbed within to catch as much of the Master's glances and radiation as they can. They do not want to be distracted by talk of worldly things.

If we want to be in the land of love, we should derive maximum benefit from our time with the Spiritual Master. We need to come as empty cups ready to receive a sip of love. Think of the time with the Spiritual Master as moments in which we enter the temple within. If we clear our mind of thoughts of the past or future or of the world and be in a state of loving receptivity, we would be open to receive the grace pouring out. Instead of being critical, complaining, and filled with anger, greed, violence, and ego, we can act with non-violence, kindness, and selflessness. If we become the empty cup waiting to be filled, in a receptive state, we could swim in divine bliss. The disciple knows there is nothing in the world that will satisfy him or her. There is nothing else in the world that brings lasting intoxication. The disciple has scoured the

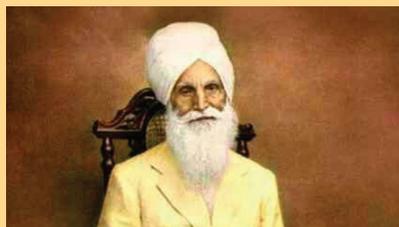


Baba Sawan Singh Ji – The Apostle of Spiritual Awakening

Thousands of seekers gathered at Kirpal Bagh, Sant Kirpal Singh Marg, Delhi, on April 2 to participate in the 71st Barsi Bhandara of the apostle of spiritual awakening, Hazur Baba Sawan Singh Ji Maharaj. Many paid tribute to his sacred memory by rendering soulful hymns and bhajans in his sweet remembrance.

Sant Rajinder Singh Ji Maharaj, head of Sawan Kirpal Ruhani Mission, who is on a world tour at the moment, said in his message this day, "All those who got an opportunity to sit at the feet of a perfect saint such as Hazur Baba Sawan Singh Ji Maharaj are fortunate indeed. Hazur was a true God-man, which means that the power of God worked in him. He helped millions of people connect with God." Sawan Kirpal Ruhani Mission has over 3000 centers all across the globe and its literature is available in more than 55 languages. The Indian headquarters of the organization is in Vijay Nagar, Delhi, and the International headquarters is in Lisle, Illinois, USA

Hazur Baba Sawan Singh Ji Maharaj



was born on July 27, 1858, at village Mahimasinghwala, district Ludhiana, Punjab. After completing Civil Engineering from the Thomson College of Roorkee, he joined the Army Engineering Services

On the occasion of the Barsi Bhandara of Hazur Baba Sawan Singh Ji Maharaj, Sawan Kirpal Ruhani Mission organized various social service events, which included the distribution of medicines, fruits, vegetables, and other things of daily use to the cancer-afflicted patients of Shanti Avedna Sadan, Raj Nagar, New Delhi, by Mission volunteers. They gave out medicines, bed-sheets, and other things of daily use to the blind brothers and sisters at RK Puram, Delhi.

In another event at Gurukul, the temple for orphan children at Sarai Kale Khan, Delhi, Mission volunteers distributed fruits, food, and other things of daily use to the children such as school bags, notebooks, and stationery items to poor and needy kids.

Organized under the aegis of Sant Rajinder Singh Ji Maharaj, Sawan Kirpal Ruhani Mission regularly engages in projects of selfless service, like organizing Free Eye Cataract Operation Camps and Free Medical Check-up Camps, as well as distributing free appliances to physically challenged persons. Apart from this, Mission volunteers personally distributed medicines, food items, blankets, sweaters, foam mattresses, and other things of daily use to thousands of victims of natural disasters in Uttarakhand, Jammu and Kashmir, and Nepal. Also, Mission regularly donates generously to the Prime Minister Relief Fund on a regular basis.

(D.V. Bhakoo)

Public Relations Officer, Sawan Kirpal Ruhani Mission

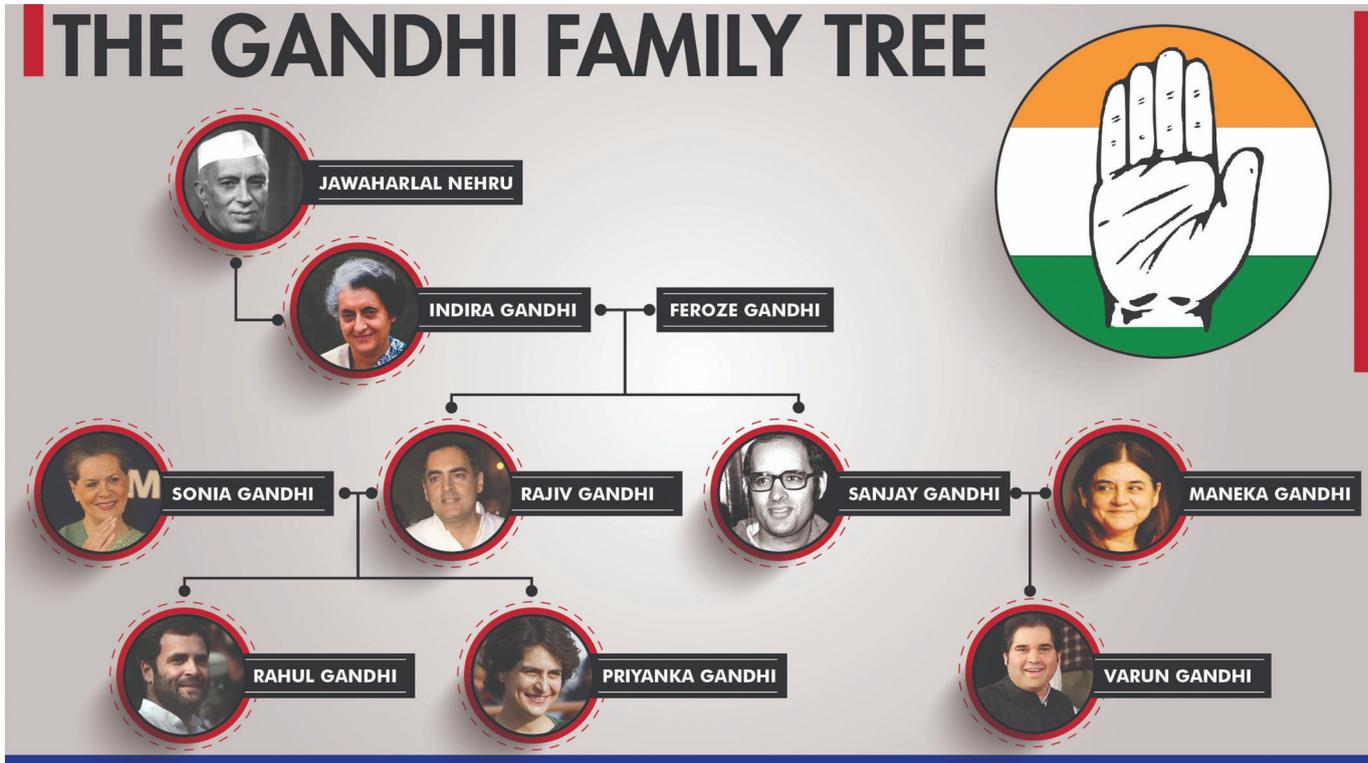
earth looking for happiness but finds it not and knows that the only lasting joy is in divine love. The disciple then seeks out the company of the Master. That is where one sees the glimpses of hope and finds relief from the sufferings of the world. A blissful pool of divine water is within all the time. We can dip into it anytime. When we tap into this pool, we are free from worries. We enter total relaxation. Its soothing waters caress our being, washing away the tensions of the mind and body. When our soul is bathed, bliss also permeates our mind and body. Mind is under control so it does not disturb our tranquility at the level of the soul. Even when we are not meditating, we can be swimming in ecstasy. How? We can keep our attention on the divine Beloved all

hours of the day and night. While driving, while working with our hands or body, while cooking food, while eating, while exercising, or doing any other activities, we can remember God. When we go to satsang, if we are receptive, we can let the waters of divine love flow into us. Swimming with God fills us with love, and we become the abode of nonviolence, truthfulness, purity, humility, and selfless service. By diving into the pool of God we can swim eternally in bliss. The disciple also knows the importance of going within through meditation. The inner journey begins with the inner light. Absorption in the light leads the soul deeper and further within. The Spiritual Master serves as our guide to take us on the inner journey to the eternal Home in the land of love.

THE DISCIPLE THEN SEEKS OUT THE COMPANY OF THE MASTER. THAT IS WHERE ONE SEES THE GLIMPSES OF HOPE AND FINDS RELIEF FROM THE SUFFERINGS OF THE WORLD. A BLISSFUL POOL OF DIVINE WATER IS WITHIN ALL THE TIME. WE CAN DIP INTO IT ANYTIME. WHEN WE TAP INTO THIS POOL, WE ARE FREE FROM WORRIES. WE ENTER TOTAL RELAXATION.



वंशवाद बनाम लोकतंत्र



सुरेश श्रीवास्तवा – कैलाश खोसला

नेहरू-गांधी वंशवाद की स्थापना सन् 1900 के प्रारम्भ में मोती लाल नेहरू ने की थी जब भारत अंग्रेजी साम्राज्य के चंगुल से मुक्त होने का प्रयास कर रहा था।

संयुक्त राज्य अमरीका अपनी राष्ट्रपति प्रणाली के लोकतन्त्र के लिए और ग्रेट ब्रिटेन अपने संसदीय लोकतन्त्र के लिए प्रसिद्ध हैं तो भारत अपने वंशवादी लोकतन्त्र के लिए जाना जाता है। वर्ष 2000 में जब प्रियंका गांधी वाड़ा को पुत्र रत्न की प्राप्ति हुई तो उस समय के कांग्रेस के मुख्य प्रवक्ता श्री अजीत जोगी ने अखिल भारतीय कांग्रेस कमेटी के मुख्यालय में यह घोषणा करते हुए मिठाई बांटी कि हमारे भावी नेता का प्रादुर्भाव हो गया है।

नेहरू-गांधी वंशवाद की स्थापना सन् 1900 के प्रारम्भ में मोती लाल नेहरू ने की थी जब भारत

अंग्रेजी साम्राज्य के चंगुल से मुक्त होने का प्रयास कर रहा था। बाद में इसको पं० जवाहर लाल नेहरू ने मजबूत किया जो भारत के स्वतंत्रता संघर्ष में महात्मा गांधी के अति प्रिय राजनीतिक व्यक्तित्व के रूप में उभर कर सामने आए। नेहरू के बाद उनकी पुत्री इन्दिरा गांधी उनकी राजनीतिक वारिस बन गईं। इन दोनों के बीच एक छोटा सा अन्तराल था, जब 11 जनवरी 64 को लाल बाहदुर शास्त्री प्रधानमंत्री बने और 19 जनवरी 64 को उनका देहावसान हो गया।

नेहरू गांधी परिवार का भारतीय राजनीति के क्षितिज पर 1946-1947 से 1989 तक निरन्तर वर्चस्व रहा। 31 अक्टूबर 1984 को श्रीमती गांधी की हत्या कर दी गई और तत्कालीन राष्ट्रपति ज्ञानी जेल सिंह ने उनके पुत्र राजीव गांधी

को कांग्रेस के संसदीय दल का नेता चुने जाने से पूर्व ही प्रधानमंत्री पद की शपथ दिला दी। श्री राजीव गांधी की हत्या के बाद कांग्रेस संसदीय दल के नेता के रूप में श्री नरसिम्हा राव ने प्रधानमंत्री का पद सम्भाला। 2004 से 2014 के बीच डा0 मनमोहन सिंह प्रधानमंत्री रहे, लेकिन यह किसी से छिपा नहीं है कि वह सोनिया गांधी के रिमोट कन्ट्रोल से काम कर रहे थे, क्योंकि विभिन्न कारणों से सोनिया गांधी स्वयं प्रधानमंत्री बनने के योग्य नहीं थीं और उन्हें कांग्रेस पार्टी द्वारा ऐसे तोते के रूप में प्रदर्शित किया गया जिसने डा0 मनमोहन सिंह के पक्ष में अपने प्रधानमंत्री पद को त्याग दिया जबकि इसके लिए सारे प्रयास किए गये थे, जो असफल रहे। यह परिवार भारतीय राजनीति में पूरी तरह से रचा बसा हुआ है, क्योंकि वर्तमान में राहुल गाँधी को कांग्रेस का अध्यक्ष और प्रियंका गांधी को पार्टी का महासचिव बना दिया गया है।

भारत में राजनीतिक वंशों का अस्तित्व अन्य देशों के लिए असामान्य हो सकता है परन्तु यह पूर्व की राजशाही का विस्तार मात्र है जहाँ सदियों तक राजाओं के लिए शासन करने का अधिकार उनका जन्मसिद्ध अधिकार माना जाता रहा है। आजकल राजशाही का स्थान राजनीतिक वंशों ने ले लिया है और वे भारत के अनेक राज्यों में फल-फूल रहे हैं। भारत के राजनैतिक वंशों की सूची बहुत लम्बी है, इसलिए मैंने कुछ राजनीतिक रूप से सक्रिय परिवारों को ही सूचीबद्ध किया है।

निःसन्देह नेहरूगांधी परिवार हमारी सूची में सबसे ऊपर है व किसी अन्य राजनीतिक परिवार की तुलना में सबसे अधिक चर्चित परिवार है जिसका कोई मुकाबला नहीं। कांग्रेस में हमारे पास सिंधिया परिवार है, जो माधव राव सिंधिया से ज्योतिरादित्य माधव राव सिंधिया तक जाता है, परन्तु गाँधी नेहरू वटवृक्ष की छाया में कुछ भी नहीं पनप सकता। अतः कांग्रेस में किसी अन्य परिवार के बारे में कहने को कुछ अधिक नहीं है। भारत में अन्य राजनीतिक परिवार जैसे जम्मू-काश्मीर में अब्दुल्ला परिवार, पंजाब में कैप्टन अमरिन्दर सिंह, ओडिसा का बीजू पटनायक परिवार, तमिलनाडू का करुणानिधि



परिवार, महाराष्ट्र का बाल ठाकरे परिवार, बिहार का लालू यादव परिवार, उत्तर प्रदेश का मुलायम सिंह यादव परिवार, हरियाणा का चौ0 देवी लाल चैटाला परिवार, छत्तीसगढ़ का महेन्द्र कर्मा परिवार, बिहार का पासवान परिवार, असम का तरुण गोगोई परिवार, तेलंगाना राष्ट्रसमिति का के. चन्द्रशेखर परिवार, तेलुगु देशम का एन. टी. रामाराव परिवार, आन्ध्र प्रदेश का वाई. एस. राजशेखर रैड्डी और उसका पुत्र वाई. एस. जगन्नाथ रेड्डी परिवार, नेशनल कांग्रेस पार्टी का शरद पंवार परिवार और अब तृणमूल कांग्रेस की ममता बनर्जी भी अपने भतीजे अभिषेक बनर्जी को बढावा दे रही है और ठीक इसी प्रकार बहुजन समाज पार्टी की मुखिया सुश्री मायावती अपने भतीजे आकाश को बढावा दे रही है।

भारतीय जनता पार्टी गांधी परिवार पर वंशवादी शासन की आरोप लगा सकती है पर यह स्वयं भी

निःसन्देह नेहरूगांधी परिवार हमारी सूची में सबसे ऊपर है व किसी अन्य राजनीतिक परिवार की तुलना में सबसे अधिक चर्चित परिवार है जिसका कोई मुकाबला नहीं। कांग्रेस में हमारे पास सिंधिया परिवार है, जो माधव राव सिंधिया से ज्योतिरादित्य माधव राव सिंधिया तक जाता है, परन्तु गाँधी नेहरू वटवृक्ष की छाया में कुछ भी नहीं पनप सकता।



2014 में भारतीय राजनीति का समूचा परिदृश्य बदल गया, जब भारत के क्षितिज पर एक नया अखिल भारतीय नेतृत्व श्री नरेन्द्र मोदी के नाम से उभरा, उसने चुनावों में भारतीय जनता पार्टी को जीत दिलाई और भारत के प्रधानमंत्री पद की शपथ ली। इससे पूर्व वह 2001 से 2014 तक गुजरात के मुख्यमंत्री के रूप में प्रभावी सेवा कर चुके थे।

इससे अछूती नहीं है क्योंकि इसके अनेक सदस्यों ने अपने बच्चों को आगे बढ़ाया है। लेकिन निश्चय रूप से सी.पी.आई. को छोड़ कर भाजपा एवं अन्य राजनीतिक दलों में जमीन आसमान का अन्तर है क्योंकि यह केंद्र आधारित पार्टी है जिसके अधिकांश नेताओं की पृष्ठभूमि आर.एस.एस. की रही है। आर.एस.एस. में केवल केंद्र आधारित दल है अपितु यह उच्चस्तरीय अनुशासित संगठन है और भाजपा के प्रमुख नेताओं ने आर.एस.एस. से प्रशिक्षण लिया है। जब तक भाजपा पर आर.एस.एस. का प्रभाव रहेगा तब तक भाजपा का वंशवादी दल बनना असम्भव प्रतीत होता है।

2014 में भारतीय राजनीति का समूचा परिदृश्य बदल गया, जब भारत के क्षितिज पर एक नया अखिल भारतीय नेतृत्व श्री नरेन्द्र मोदी के नाम से उभरा, उसने चुनावों में भारतीय जनता पार्टी को जीत दिलाई और भारत के प्रधानमंत्री पद की शपथ ली। इससे पूर्व वह 2001 से 2014 तक गुजरात के मुख्यमंत्री के रूप में प्रभावी सेवा कर चुके थे। चुनाव अभियान के दौरान कांग्रेस के एक प्रमुख नेता मणिशंकर अय्यर ने उन्हे चाय वाला कह कर अपमानित किया कि वह कभी भी भारत का प्रधानमंत्री नहीं बन सकता। वह बहुत ही

गरीब परिवार और भारत की एक पिछड़ी जाति से सम्बन्ध रखता है। सभी कठिनाईयों के बावजूद, गुजरात के एक छोटे से गांव में पैदा हुए अहमदाबाद की गुजरात यूनिवर्सिटी से उन्होंने एम0ए0 राजनीति शास्त्र की उपाधि प्राप्त की। सत्तर के दशक के प्रारम्भ में गुजरात आर.एस.एस. की एक इकाई अखिल भारतीय विद्यार्थी परिषद में वह शामिल हुए और धीरे-धीरे संघ के पदानुक्रम में ऊपर उठते चले गए और संघ के स्वयंसेवकों में बहुत लोकप्रिय हो गए। 1987 में वह भाजपा में सम्मिलित हुए और पार्टी की गुजरात शाखा के महासचिव बना दिए गए। अक्टूबर 2001 में वह गुजरात के मुख्यमंत्री बने और 2014 में संघर्षशील अभियान के बाद लोकसभा में स्पष्ट बहुमत प्राप्त करने में सफल हुए और 26 मई 2014 को प्रधानमंत्री पद की शपथ ग्रहण की।

श्री नरेन्द्र मोदी सबसे गरीब परिवार के वर्ग से उठ कर मुख्यमंत्री अथवा प्रधानमंत्री बनने वाले एक इकलौता उदाहरण नहीं हैं। कुछ अन्य उदाहरण भी हैं जैसे लाला बहादुर शास्त्री जो जवाहर नेहरू जी की मृत्यु के बाद 1964 में प्रधानमंत्री निर्वाचित किए गए थे।

लाल बहादुर जी के पिता स्कूल अध्यापक थे। और शास्त्री जी की 2 वर्ष की आयु में ही उनका देहान्त हो गया और उन्हें उनके ममेरे नाना ने पाला, वह बहुत गरीबी में जिए और सभी बाधाओं के बावजूद उन्होंने वाराणसी में अपनी स्नातक स्तर की पढ़ाई पूरी की। ऐसा कहा जाता है कि वह इतने निर्धन थे कि अपने गांव से स्कूल जाने के लिए उनके पास नाविक को देने के लिए पैसे नहीं होते थे और अक्सर उन्हें गंगा नदी तैर के पार कर स्कूल जाना होता था। महात्मा गांधी के नमक सत्याग्रह में उन्होंने महत्वपूर्ण भूमिका निभाई और अंग्रेजों को भू-राजस्व न देने का अभियान चलाया। 1942 में उन्हें महात्मा गांधी द्वारा शुरू किए गए 'भारत छोड़ो' आन्दोलन में जेल जाना पड़ा। भारत का प्रधानमंत्री चुने जाने से पूर्व लाल बहादुर शास्त्री जी ने कई पदों पर कार्य किया।



स्वतंत्रता के उपरान्त उत्तर प्रदेश में गोविन्द वल्लभ पंत के मन्त्रिमण्डल में वह पुलिस मन्त्री बने। उनकी सिफारिशों में उपद्रवी भीड़ को तितर-बितर करने के लिए लाठी चार्ज के बजाय पानी की बौछार डालने की सिफारिश की जाती थी। राज्य पुलिस विभाग में सुधार लाने के उनके प्रयासों से प्रभावित होकर जवाहर लाल नेहरू ने उन्हें अपने मन्त्रिमण्डल में रेलमन्त्री के रूप में शामिल होने के लिए आमन्त्रित किया। 1956 में लाल बहादुर शास्त्री ने तमिलनाडू में एक रेल दुर्घटना में 150 यात्रियों की मृत्यु के बाद अपने पद से त्यागपत्र दे दिया। एक बार नेहरू जी ने कहा था कि कोई भी व्यक्ति लाल बहादुर जैसे कामरेड बनने की कामना करेगा जो विचारों के प्रति समर्पित और उच्चतम इमानदारी का प्रतीक व्यक्तित्व था। मृत्यु के समय उनका बैंक बैलेंस ऋणात्मक था। क्योंकि उन्होंने प्रधानमंत्री बनने के बाद कार खरीदने के लिए बैंक से ऋण लिया था जिसे बाद में उनकी पत्नी ने काम करके चुकता किया।

इसके बाद भारत-रत्न गुलजारी लाल नन्दा जी का नाम आता है जो दो बार 13-13 दिन के लिए भारत के अन्तरिम प्रधानमंत्री बने- पहली बार प्रधानमंत्री जवाहर लाल जी की मृत्यु के बाद और दूसरी बार लाल बहादुर शास्त्री जी की मृत्यु के बाद वह भारत के गृह मंत्री, रेल मंत्री और योजना आयोग के उपाध्यक्ष बने और पूरे इमानदार व्यक्ति थे। उन्होंने गांधीवादी की तरह जीवन व्यतीत किया और इतने निर्धन थे कि उन्होंने डिफेंस कॉलानी में एक बरसाती किराये पर ली, परन्तु किराया न दे पाने के कारण उन्हें वहां से निकलना पड़ा, इसके बाद वह अन्तिम समय तक अहमदाबाद में अपनी बेटी के पास रहे।

एक दूसरा नाम जो हमारे दिमाग में आता है - वह डा० ए.पी.जे. अब्दुल कलाम, जिनका व्यक्तित्व सादगी और विनम्रता से भरा हुआ था। उनका सम्बन्ध रामेश्वर के एक छोटे से गांव से था और गरीबी होने के बावजूद वह इसरो के मुखिया और भारत के राष्ट्रपति पद तक पहुँचे। उन्हें भारत के मिसाइल मैन के रूप में भी जाना जाता है।



भारतीय राजनीति में वंशवाद के शासन का अंत कोई मिशन नहीं अपितु व्यवसाय बन चुका है। वंशवादी राजनीतिज्ञ देश की सेवा करने नहीं अपितु पैसे और सत्ता की भूख से आते हैं और राजनीति में बने रहते हैं। सत्ता में बने रहने के लिए वह हर प्रकार के हथकण्डे अपनाते हैं। जिसमें दूसरों की छवि खराब करना, झूठ फैलाना और अपने परिवार को बढ़ावा देने के लिए सभी प्रकार के गलत तरीके अपनाना आदि।

भारतीय लोकतन्त्र वंशवादी राजनीति को न सहने के लिए परिपक्व हो चुका है। 2019 का चुनाव भारतीय जनता की परिपक्वता की परीक्षा लेगा कि वह सभ्रात वंशवादी परिवार के शासन को स्वीकार करती है या फिर ऐसे नेताओं को स्वीकार करती है जो जड़ों से जुड़े हुए हैं और गरीब से गरीब व्यक्ति, कामगार और समाज के प्रत्येक वर्ग की इच्छाओं-अपेक्षाओं को समझते हैं, भारतीय राजनीति परिवर्तन के दौर से गुजर रही है और किसी परिवार को बढ़ावा देना भारतीय जनता के लिए घातक बन सकता है, कांग्रेस एक परिवार को बढ़ावा देने और उसकी पूजा करने में संलग्न रहेगी और इतिहास में खो जाएगी यदि इसने सभी स्तरों पर नया खून और युवा-शक्ति को जोड़ने के लिए कोई प्रयास नहीं किया तो!

भारतीय लोकतन्त्र वंशवादी राजनीति को न सहने के लिए परिपक्व हो चुका है। 2019 का चुनाव भारतीय जनता की परिपक्वता की परीक्षा लेगा कि वह सभ्रात वंशवादी परिवार के शासन को स्वीकार करती है या फिर ऐसे नेताओं को स्वीकार करती है जो जड़ों से जुड़े हुए हैं और गरीब से गरीब व्यक्ति, कामगार और समाज के प्रत्येक वर्ग की इच्छाओं-अपेक्षाओं को समझते हैं



बोध-कथा

एक बार सुकरात एक गाँव में गया और वहाँ के चन्द आदिमियों से मिला। 'राम-राम' के बाद उसने उनसे पूछा कि तुम कौन लोग हो? उन्होंने जवाब दिया कि हम जमींदार हैं। सुकरात ने अपने इर्दगिर्द (आसपास) नजर डाली। उसे गंदगी और गरीबों के सिवा और कुछ दिखाई नहीं दिया। उसने उनसे अपने सवाल करने शुरू कर दिये।

सुकरात 'जमींदार' वह शख्स है, जो जमीन से फायदा उठाता है। है न यही बात?'

देहाती 'बेशक' यही बात है।'

सुकरात 'तो तुम मालदार हो न?'

देहाती 'मुतलक (सर्वथा) नहीं। बुझे! यह तूने कैसी बेवकूफी की बात पूछी!'

सुकरात 'तो तुमने शायद यह भी ठीक नहीं कहा कि तुम 'जमींदार' हो।'

देहाती (शरमाकर) 'ऐ सुकरात! हमें माफ करो। बेशक, हम गलती पर थे, जब हम बेवकूफी से अपने आपको 'जमींदार' बतला रहे थे।'

सुकरात 'इस गाँव में कोई लड़की नहीं है क्या?'

देहाती 'क्यों नहीं? जितने लड़के हैं, उतनी ही लड़कियाँ हैं।'

सुकरात 'फिर इन तीस लड़कों के साथ र?कूल में तीस लड़कियाँ क?यों नहीं पढ़ रही हैं?'

देहाती (हँसकर) 'ऐसा हर्गिज नहीं हो सकता है। लड़कियाँ लिखना-पढ़ना नहीं सीख सकती। यह तो लड़कों का ही काम है।'

सुकरात 'तो तुम लड़के और लड़कियों के साथ जुदागाना सलूक (भिन्न व्यवहार) करते हो?'

देहाती 'बेशक! लड़कियों की किसे ख्वाहिश है? लड़के तो एक जरूरत है, जो वंश को आगे चलाते हैं।'

सुकरात 'और वे तुम्हारे पोतोद्वनवासों की माताएँ होंगी।'

देहाती 'जरूरी बात है।'

सुकरात 'औरत घर की जिम्मेवार है।'

देहाती 'हाँ!'

सुकरात 'जितनी अच्छी औरत हो, उतना ही अच्छा घर रहेगा और उतने ही अच्छे और खुश उसका शौहर और उसके बच्चे होंगे।'

देहाती 'बेशक!'

सुकरात 'तो यकीनन तुमको लड़कों से ज्यादा लड़कियों का ख्याल रखना चाहिये, क्योंकि अपने घरों, अपने शौहरों और बच्चों की बाबत उनके कर्तव्य इस कदर अहम है।'

देहाती 'हाँ साहब! हम मानते हैं कि तुम फिर दुरुस्ती पर हो और हम गलती पर।'

व्यवस्थित जीवन सुखी जीवन

अगर शांत चित्त रहें तो आप ऐसी अवस्था में पहुंच सकते हैं जो भले ही संक्षिप्त हो लेकिन जहां कोई वाकई कुछ जानने की जरूरत नहीं होगी, आप चीजों के मूल स्वरूप में छेड़छाड़ नहीं करेंगे और हर चीज बेहद खूबसूरती से व्यवस्थित कर सकेंगे। इसके लिए इन उपायों पर गौर करके देखें:

1. साथी से बातचीत के दौरान अगर विषय न रह जाए तो उससे कहें कि क्या हम कुछ देर सन्नाटे में रह कर देखें।

2. सोने के लिए जाने से पहले सारी स्क्रीन और इलेक्ट्रॉनिक चीजों को आधे घंटे के लिए बंद कर दें।

3. अगर आप ऑफिस के रास्ते में हों और ड्राइविंग नहीं कर रहे हों तो आंखे बंद करें, गहरी सांस लें, कुछ देर के लिए खुद को ढीला छोड़ दें।

4. जो लोग खामोशी एंजॉय करने लगे हों, उनका अनुभव जानें।

अनुभव जो महसूस करेंगे

1. मन से अनावश्यक डर दूर होगा।

2. अपने पास ज्यादा समय महसूस होगा।

3. ज्यादा अच्छे श्रोता बन सकेंगे।

4. आत्मचित्त के जरिए खुद को बेहतर तरीके से समझेंगे।

5. काम से घर लौटने पर अकेले व शांत रहने के लिए 15 मिनट निकालेंगे।

जरा मुस्करा लें

एक मुशायरा चल रहा था:

अर्ज किया है, तेरी जिंदगी एक जुआ बन कर रह जाएगी,

तेरी जिंदगी एक जुआ बन कर रह जाएगी,

तू जिस से भी प्यार करेगा,

वो तेरे बच्चों की बुआ बन कर रह जाएगी।

.....

विनय: मैं रेश्मा से तलाक चाहता हूँ।

राजेश: क्यों भला?

विनय: क्योंकि पिछले 3 महीने से उसने मुझसे बात तक नहीं की है।

राजेश: यार, तुम तो किस्मत वाले हो, वर्ना आज ऐसी पत्नीयाँ मिलती ही कहां हैं!

.....

भोलू ने ऊँचे उड़ते हुए पक्षी को निशाना लगाया। गोली लगी और पक्षी धरती पर आ गिरा।

कालू दूर खड़ा होकर यह सब देख रहा था।

कालू: ओए, तूने तो अपनी गोली बरबाद कर दी।

भोलू: भला कैसे?

कालू: इतनी ऊँचाई से गिरकर तो यह अपने आप ही मर जाता।

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Sitaram Sharma (centre) Chairman West Bengal UNA along with Ms. Kusum Mussadi, Secy. General leading the Long Line of Marchers with Grief, Remorse and Anger at Kolkata



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