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# PEOPLE AND UN

## JAI HO

**G20 Summit 2018 at Argentina**  
**INDIA HOLDS FIRST TRILATERAL MEETING WITH US AND JAPAN**



### **JAPAN-AMERICA-INDIA (JAI)**

Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, United States President Donald Trump and Prime Minister Narendra Modi at the sideline of G20 summit in Buenos Aires



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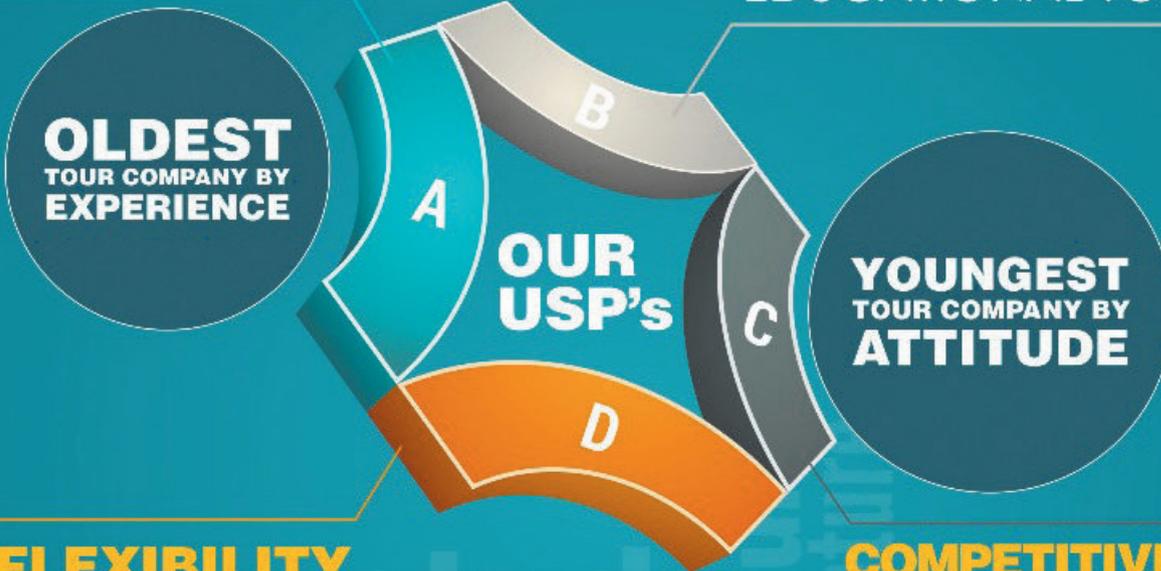
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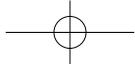
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## EDITOR'S PIX



Contents

■ Late Ram Niwas Mirdha the then President of IFUNA welcoming Kofi Atta Annan, the 7th Secretary-General of the United Nations in New Delhi. Looking on Suresh Srivastava, Secretary-General, IFUNA

**PAGE 5**

**TRILATERAL ALLIANCE  
JAPAN-AMERICA-INDIA (JAI HO)**

**PAGE 8**

**GENERAL V.K. SINGH  
AT IFUNA UN DAY**

**PAGE 16**

**"SWACHH HARIT BHARAT" AWARD**

**PAGE 20**

**WEST BENGAL UNA**

**PAGE 23**

**UTKAL UNA**

**PAGE 24**

**SWISS ALPS' HIKES OF 3GS**

**PAGE 26**

**LANDMARK JUDGEMENT,  
DELHI HIGH COURT**

**PAGE 27**

**HINDI SECTION**

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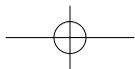
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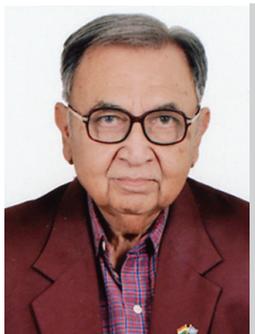
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## EDITOR'S COLUMN



# D

URING HER recent visit to Abu Dhabi Ms. Sushma Swaraj, external affairs minister, successfully executed currency swap agreement between India and UAE. India's FDI into the UAE last year was \$6.6 billion while the UAE's investment in India stood at \$5.8 billion. Currently there are strong economic and trade ties between India and the UAE with bilateral trade standing at \$52 billion (Dirham 190.8 billion) in 2017, with non-oil trade accounting for \$34 billion. There are strong economic and trade ties between India and the UAE with bilateral trade standing at \$52 billion (Dh190.8 billion) in 2017, with non-oil trade accounting for \$34 billion. Through the currency swap agreement, both India and the UAE can make payments in their respective currency without the involvement of a third currency like dollar. It will give a push for the local currencies of the two nations and may reduce the impact of volatility in exchange rate arising from the dependency on a third currency. It is also expected to reduce the transmission costs arising from exchange rate risk. This bilateral currency swap agreement between India and UAE will no doubt reduce the dependency on hard currencies like US dollar or Euro. It is also expected to reduce the transmission costs arising from exchange rate risk and thus will reduce the pressure on the country's foreign exchange reserve.

Abu Dhabi National Oil Company (ADNOC) and an Indian consortium led by the Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) signed a 10 per cent offshore concession agreement giving Indian companies an opportunity to develop Abu Dhabi's lucrative offshore oilfields, which produce about 1.4 million barrels of oil per day. ADNOC is also investing in India's \$44 billion Ratnagiri petrochemical complex in cooperation with Saudi ARAMCO and is exploring the possibility of storing its crude oil at Indian Strategic Petroleum Reserves Ltd (ISPRL)'s underground oil storage facility at Padur in Karnataka. Thus this currency swap agreement is expected to go a long way to boost further trade and investment ties between India and UAE. It is a remarkable achievement.

— **Pran Mohan Parvatiyar**  
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■ **Sushma Swaraj with Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan**



# JAPAN-AMERICA-INDIA JAI HO

by **Suresh Srivastava**

*“There is some self-interest behind every friendship. There is no friendship without self-interest. This is a bitter truth.” —Chanakya*

*‘This is quite a game, politics. There are no permanent enemies, and no permanent friends, only permanent interests.’ —William Clay*



**T**HE CLOCK of the history has taken a full circle. On 30 November 2018 our Prime Minister Shri Narandra Modi gave a unique call of 'JAI HO'. A trilateral conclave of Japan, America and India to join hands with each others for strengthening business relations, world peace and to keep Chinese Ocean a conflict free zone. The move is undoubtedly good from the point of JAI but it is yet to be seen if such move will bring prosperity, stability, peace and conflict free zone in Chinese ocean. India, Japan & US agree on rules-based order to maintain peace and prosperity in Indo-Pacific region. India, Japan and the US have agreed that a free, open, inclusive and rules based order is essential for the Indo-Pacific's peace and prosperity as the leaders from the three countries held a first ever trilateral meeting.

Shri Narendra Modi said that when you look at the acronym of our three countries Japan, America, and India it is 'JAI', which stands for success in Hindi. The prime minister said the JAI meeting was a convergence of vision between the three nations.

India is today one of the fastest growing large economies in the world. Its growing presence in recent decades indicates an increasing focus of

Indian companies, investors and the present government in increasing and strengthening relations on a bilateral and multilateral stage.

When we talk of historical relations of India with Japan, historical events of second world war comes to our mind. We all Indians are proud of Shri Subash Chandra Bose who parted company with Congress and decided to go on his own way to get India freed from the yoke of British Imperialism. He formed a government in exile with the help of Japan and formed Azad Hind Fauz (Indian National Army) in 1942 and enrolled many POW of second world war into his army and Army of Japan invaded Andaman & Nicobar Island. On December 29, 1943, political control of the islands was passed to the Azad Hind Government of Subhas Chandra Bose. Bose visited Port Blair to raise the tricolour flag of the Indian National Army. During this, his only visit to the Andamans, he was kept carefully screened from the local population by the Japanese authorities. Various attempts were made to inform him of the sufferings of the people of the Andaman, and the fact that many local Indian Nationalists were at that time being tortured in the Cellular Jail. Bose does not seem to have been aware of this, and the judgment of some is that he "failed his people". After Bose's departure the Japanese remained in effective control of the Andamans. An important fact to be noted about nationalism in any colonised country, is that it was never a



■ **NETAJI SUBHAS CHANDRA BOSE**



## COVER STORY



### ■ PEARL HARBOR

**THE JAPANESE OCCUPATION OF THE ANDAMANS IS PERHAPS ONE OF THE LEAST TALKED ABOUT EPISODES OF THE SECOND WORLD WAR. JAPANESE FORCES LANDED IN SOUTH ANDAMANS ON MARCH 23, 1942 AND IN THE NEXT THREE TO FOUR HOURS GAINED COMPLETE CONTROL OVER THE AREA. THE ANDAMAN AND NICOBAR ISLANDS IN THE EASTERN SHORES OF THE COUNTRY IS THE ONLY PART OF INDIA TO HAVE BEEN OCCUPIED BY A NON-EUROPEAN POWER, THAT BEING THE JAPANESE.**

monolithic force. Internal divisions and disagreements among the nationalist leaders was a general feature of the anti-colonial uprisings anywhere in the world. In India, the Gandhi-Bose dichotomy is the best example of the conflicts present among the leaders regarding the precise route to be taken for achieving independence. While for Mahatma Gandhi, non-violence was the necessary strategy that would lead the country to the doors of freedom, for Subhas Chandra Bose, independence could never be achieved without resorting to revolutionary forces. The other aspect in which Bose differed from Gandhi, was in the faith he held in acquiring help from international powers for expelling the British from Indian soil.

The Japanese occupation of the Andamans is perhaps one of the least talked about episodes of the Second World War. Japanese forces landed in South Andamans on March 23, 1942 and in the next three to four hours gained complete control over the area. The Andaman and Nicobar islands in the Eastern shores of the country is the only part of India to have been occupied by a non-European power, that being the Japanese.

After the fall of Singapore on February 15, 1942, 40,000 men of the Indian Army became

prisoners of war (PoWs). Some 30,000 of them joined the INA. But those who refused were destined for torture in the Japanese concentration camps. They were first sent to transit camps in Batavia (now Jakarta) and Surabaya from where they were packed off to New Guinea, New Britain, and Bougainvillea.

The occupation of the islands by the Japanese is thus a dark period in the history of this region.

This is the only bad patch of relationship of Japan with India. But it can't be forgotten that India was under the occupation of Britain and was not capable of taking any independent decision. The invasion of Andaman & Nicobar could be attributed to the invasion of British Empire by Japanese forces in a full fledged II World War therefore, now it has to be forgotten as bad dream.

In 'JAI HO' the history of bitterness of Japan and America cannot be easily forgotten. In II World War when Germany, Italy and Japan were on one side and the allied forces were on another side. The deteriorated relations of Japan and America have a long history when America was supporting China and Japan considered China as its arch enemy. In the late 1930s, American foreign policy in the Pacific hinged on support for China, and aggression against China by Japan therefore necessarily would bring Japan into conflict with the United States. On December 7, 1941 Pearl Harbor surprise aerial attack on the U.S. naval base at Pearl Harbor on Oahu Island, Hawaii, by the Japanese that precipitated the entry of the United States into World War II. The strike climaxed a decade of worsening relations between the United States and Japan.

Although Japan continued to negotiate with the United States up to the day of the Pearl Harbor attack, the government of Prime Minister Tojo Hideki decided on war. Adm. Yamamoto Isoroku, the commander in chief of Japan's Combined Fleet, had planned the attack against the U.S. Pacific Fleet with great care. Once the U.S. fleet was out of action, the way for the unhindered Japanese conquest of all of Southeast Asia and the Indonesian archipelago would be open.

Pearl Harbor was atoned for in four and a half years of war, but the blunders of Japanese militarists resulted in utter and total defeat.

Hiroshima and Nagasaki in Japan are the only



cities in the world that have experienced an atomic bomb attack. According to information provided by the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum, 7 the first atomic bomb, which was dropped on Hiroshima on August 6, 1945. The bomb created a high-temperature, high-pressure fireball that grew to a diameter of approximately 410 meters one second after detonation. Large amounts of radioactive material fell as black rain, and a total of 350,000 people suffered the direct effects of the bombing. About 140,000 people were estimated to have died by the end of 1945 alone. All buildings in the area where the bomb was dropped were completely burnt down. After the Hiroshima bombing, on August 9, 1945 a second atomic bomb was dropped, this time on Nagasaki. In total, 73,884 people were dead and 74,909 people were injured. Japan surrendered on 15th August 1945 and signed Treaty of Surrender on 2nd September 1945. As a prudent Nation, Japan started having commercial relations with USA, though its a long history but at the end of the day both nations have forgotten the past and moved forward.

In JAI HO now we talk about India relationship with USA. After Independence India under the foreign policy of then Prime Minister Jawahar Lal Nehru declared as non-aligned. The policy of non-aligned had not damaged the reputation of India in the western Europe and USA but the Nehru's ideology of being romantically wedded to socialism brought India at par with the soviet block. Though, the confused ideology of having state control of permit, licence and inspector-raj on one hand and on the other hand allowing the monopoly of Birla Empire in the country. India and USA were often not found on the same page during Nehru - Gandhhi era. When India was faced with the influx of more than one million refugees from erstwhile East Pakistan now Bangladesh and faced hostility of war on Eastern and Western borders and USA decided to back Pakistan. The US Task Force 74 was a US Navy task force of the United States Seventh Fleet that was deployed to the Bay of Bengal by Nixon administration in December 1971, at the height of the Bangladesh War of Independence. Led by the Aircraft carrier USS Enterprise, the deployment of the task force was seen as a show of force by USA in support of Pakistan, and was claimed by India as an indication of US "tilt" towards Pakistan. On 5 December, United States began attempts for a UN-



#### ■ SUBASH BOSE WITH MAHATMA GANDHI

sponsored ceasefire, which were twice vetoed by the USSR in the security council. India extended her recognition of Bangladesh on 6 December. Thus, we see conflicts and war between JAI NATIONS not only in World War-II but as late as 1971.

India for nearly 45 years after its independence embraced a socialist ethos which was reflected in its economic policy formulation and implementation which ultimately resulted in a debt crisis when India had to pledge National Gold reserves in lieu of loans from IMF. Late Shri Rajiv Gandhi, then Prime Minister taking a cue from the Mr. Deng Xiaoping, (Leader of China, who was instrumental of reforms in his country) opted to open Indian Economy or so called liberalization. Unlike, Economic reform in China India lacked any political conviction with a strong basis in the reform. Mr. P.V. Narsimha Rao should be given the maximum credit for liberalization and reforms in the Indian economy. Followed by Shri Atal Bihari Vajapaye, Dr. Manmohan Singh and now Shri Narendra Modi. Over the past 15-20 years India has transformed it self significantly. One of the significant outcomes of the changes was the birth of a neo middle class and nou veau riche who scripted India's economic success story that the world is finding so compelling.

The whole world is watching with keen interest the new alignments of Japan, America and India and hopefully it may bring peace and prosperity.

.....Let us all say 'JAI HO'.

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**IN JAI HO NOW WE TALK ABOUT INDIA RELATIONSHIP WITH USA. AFTER INDEPENDENCE INDIA UNDER THE FOREIGN POLICY OF THEN PRIME MINISTER JAWAHAR LAL NEHRU DECLARED AS NON-ALIGNED. THE POLICY OF NON-ALIGNED HAD NOT DAMAGED THE REPUTATION OF INDIA IN THE WESTERN EUROPE AND USA BUT THE NEHRU'S IDEOLOGY OF BEING ROMANTICALLY WEDDED TO SOCIALISM BROUGHT INDIA AT PAR WITH THE SOVIET BLOCK. THOUGH, THE CONFUSED IDEOLOGY OF HAVING STATE CONTROL OF PERMIT, LICENCE AND INSPECTOR-RAJ ON ONE HAND AND ON THE OTHER HAND ALLOWING THE MONOPOLY OF BIRLA EMPIRE IN THE COUNTRY.**



# UN DAY

## IFUNA CELEBRATES UN DAY OCTOBER 30, 2018

**“OUR COMMITMENT TO UNITED NATIONS HAS BEEN QUITE SIGNIFICANT”**

**General Dr. V K Singh, Union Minister of State for External Affairs,**



■ **Members and Office Bearers of IFUNA at the meeting**

**THE PRIME MINISTER SHRI NARANDRA MODI IN HIS ADDRESS BEFORE THE UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY TALKED ABOUT THE YOGA DAY AND 170 COUNTRIES STOOD UP TO SUPPORT IT. WHEN JUSTICE DALVEER BHANDARI WAS APPOINTED AS A JUDGE AT THE INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE, HE WON WITH MAJORITY AS A PERMANENT MEMBER OF ICJ.**

Addressing members of IFUNA and distinguished guests, General Dr. V K Singh, Minister of State for External Affairs, Government of India said that as a nation, we were under colonial power, but after the First World War, we were invited under the Treaty of Versailles. We were members of the League of Nations. When UN was formed on October 24 in 1945, India which was not independent at that time became the Founding Member of UN on 30th October. It is a very great thing. It rarely happens that despite not being independent, you become a member of an international organisation. That is why our commitment to the United Nations has been quite significant. We have been following the United Nations in its ideals and policies and we have honoured our commitment. The Prime Minister Shri Narandra Modi in his address before the

UN General Assembly talked about the Yoga Day and 170 countries stood up to support it. When Justice Dalveer Bhandari was appointed as a Judge at the International Court of Justice, he won with majority as a permanent member of ICJ. Our representative contested in elections for the Human Rights Council and he secured the maximum number of votes which has not been won by anyone so far. We have extended our hand of friendship to the members of the United Nations and strengthened our relations with them. India supplies the maximum troops for peacekeeping missions. The Indian troops have earned a great name since the very beginning. For those who are not aware, if you ask any military personnel who has taken part in the peacekeeping mission would tell you that the forces from the Indian Army who have served in the peacekeeping mis-



■ Chief Guest General Dr. V K Singh, PVS, AVSM, YSM (Retd.), Minister of State for External Affairs, Government of India addressing the gathering

sion as advisors or are in the troops are considered the best in the world. I would also like to compliment IFUNA for dedicating Swachha Bharat Mission for the UN Day. As you are all aware, Swachha Bharat Mission has been undertaken in a big way and it has been given a target to be completed by 2030 in the Sustainable Development Goals of the United Nations. I am hopeful that we will be able to complete it much before than the stipulated time whether it is in the form of free from open defecation or keen interest in cleanliness drive in the country or citizens participation. No mission can be successful unless there is a wholehearted participation by the citizens of the country. For instance, under the Swachha Mission, Ghaziabad has leaped forward from 394th position. It is open defecation free now both the rural and urban areas. Twitter and Social Media

are a great medium to put forth your problems before government. Prime Minister invoked Mahatma Gandhi who was concerned about cleanliness and wanted cleanliness to be there everywhere and he himself was involved in the mission of cleanliness and wanted cleanliness to be there everywhere and himself was involved in the mission in order to motivate others to do the same. I congratulate IFUNA for having dedicated the UN Day to Swachha.

There have been many events that have taken place which the UN have praised and looked upon them as a guide. One was the top most priority given to the renewable energy. Our Prime Minister has set a target of installing 175 GW by 2022 and the repercussion it had was the cost of renewable energy which was Rs6 earlier came down to Rs2. In competition, the prices of wind

**I AM HOPEFUL THAT WE WILL BE ABLE TO COMPLETE IT MUCH BEFORE THAN THE STIPULATED TIME WHETHER IT IS IN THE FORM OF FREE FROM OPEN DEFECATION OR KEEN INTEREST IN CLEANLINESS DRIVE IN THE COUNTRY OR CITIZENS PARTICIPATION.**



# UN DAY

**THIS INITIATIVE OF OUR PRIME MINISTER WAS WELL APPRECIATED BY THE UN SECRETARY GENERAL, MR. ANTÓNIO GUTERRES WHEN HE VISITED INDIA AND HE REFERRED TO ISA AND COMPLIMENTED AND PRAISED THE PRIME MINISTER FOR THAT. THE WORK DONE ON RENEWABLE ENERGY WAS VERY MUCH APPRECIATED. THE FOCUS HAS BEEN ON LAST MILE CONNECTIVELY IN WHATEVER PROGRAMMES THAT HAVE BEEN UNDERTAKEN BY THIS GOVERNMENT. THE FOCUS HAS BEEN ON PEOPLE BELOW THE POVERTY LINE WHICH HAS BEEN APPRECIATED ALL OVER THE WORLD MAINLY BECAUSE IT IS ONE OF THE BEST WAYS TO FULFILL THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS OF THE UNITED NATIONS. IF YOU TAKE ANY PROGRAMME OF THE GOVERNMENT, YOU CAN SEE FOR YOURSELF HOW IT HAS BEEN LINKED TO THE SUSTAINABLE GOALS PROGRAMME.**



energy also came down. He initiated another activity which has been the International Solar Alliance among the countries which lie completely or partly between the Tropic of Cancer and Tropic of Capricorn so that more work could be done on solar energy and renewable energy which will have a bearing on the climate change. This initiative of our Prime Minister was well appreciated by the UN Secretary General, Mr. António Guterres when he visited India and he referred to ISA and complimented and praised the Prime Minister for that. The work done on renewable energy was very much appreciated. The focus has been on last mile connectively in whatever programmes that have been undertaken by this government. The focus has been on people below the poverty line which has been appreciated all over the world mainly because it is one of the best ways to fulfill the sustainable development goals of the United Nations. If you take any programme of

the government, you can see for yourself how it has been linked to the sustainable goals programme.

I congratulate IFUNA that it has spread the awareness amongst all of you and we need to disseminate the information all over the country and include the whole country. I believe that this contribution of yours will take the country to the next level which in turn will make you happy and will also bring happiness to the citizens of the country. I am sure that with these efforts, your profile and respect in the United Nations will be enhanced. With these words, I thank you very much.

Earlier Welcoming the Chief Guest, members and distinguished invitees, Mr. Suresh Srivastava, Secretary General, IFUNA said that we observe anniversary every year. Anniversaries are the occasions when you look back with nostalgia about our past shortcomings, our mistakes and our determination to carry forward



the ideology of the United Nations. You are all aware that the United Nations was formed 26th June 1945. India along with 50 other Nations was the original signatory to the UN Charter. UN was born on 24th October and on 30th October; India ratified the UN Charter and formally joined the United Nations. That is the reason we observe UN Day on the 30th October every year.

It is a matter of great pride for us that the United Nations has given 'Champions of the Earth' Award to our Honourable Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi. The award was given by Mr. António Guterres, Secretary General of the United Nations for the contribution made by India towards the environment, towards our commitment to make this world a better place to live in. We are really indebted to the United Nations for this honour bestowed upon India and the commitment made by our Honourable Prime Minister that by 2022, we will eradicate the one time use of plastic which is unparallel in

the world because the whole world is standing at the crossroads for saving this world, our rivers, our seas, our environment from the climate change.

We know that in 2015 in Paris, the whole world made a commitment that we will not allow the temperature to go beyond 1.5°Celsius, well below 2°C. I would like to go a little bit back. For the first time in the year 1992, when the first Climate Change Conference took place in Rio de Janeiro which was presided by Dr. Hans Blix who happened to be President of World Federation of United Nations Associations. The whole world asked what was there to talk about climate change. But within a short period of time people started realising where we were headed. IFUNA is a very old organisation and we have in our archive, photographs of International Labour Organisation's delegation coming to India teaching the workers how to tan the skin of leopard, how to tan the skin of bear, how to tan the skin of Chinkara. It is not that far behind. In 1950s, people did not realise that if wild animals were killed, there will be no jungle, there will be no rain and there will be no life. Even today, I was seeing on the TV that we have already annihilated, killed or finished 60% of our wildlife in 44 years. Many students are sitting here and they know that our earth is 4.5 billion year old and the known history of human being does not go beyond 10000 years which includes Olmec Civilization, Yellow River Valley Civilization, Mesopotamia, Mohenjo-Daro; all civilizations do not go beyond 10000 years. The Industrial Revolution started in 18th century, about 300 years back. In 300 years, which is a very short period in the life of the earth of 4.5 billion, what have we done to our earth? We have totally spoiled our earth and today, we are staring at what is happening to climate change. That also reminds me and since many students are sitting here, they might have seen the movie, Interstellar where astronauts go to some planet and get stuck up there for a few hours and when they come back, almost 30 years have passed. Now I will refer to Chapter 3 of Bhagavata Pura?a. You will be surprised as to what relation Interstellar Hollywood movie and Bhagavata Pura?a is. There is a story in Chapter 3 of Bhagavata Pura?a. The story

**WE KNOW THAT IN 2015 IN PARIS, THE WHOLE WORLD MADE A COMMITMENT THAT WE WILL NOT ALLOW THE TEMPERATURE TO GO BEYOND 1.5°Celsius, WELL BELOW 2°C. I WOULD LIKE TO GO A LITTLE BIT BACK. FOR THE FIRST TIME IN THE YEAR 1992, WHEN THE FIRST CLIMATE CHANGE CONFERENCE TOOK PLACE IN RIO DE JANEIRO WHICH WAS PRESIDED BY DR. HANS BLIX WHO HAPPENED TO BE PRESIDENT OF WORLD FEDERATION OF UNITED NATIONS ASSOCIATIONS. THE WHOLE WORLD ASKED WHAT WAS THERE TO TALK ABOUT CLIMATE CHANGE. BUT WITHIN A SHORT PERIOD OF TIME PEOPLE STARTED REALISING WHERE WE WERE HEADED.**



# UN DAY



■ **The distinguished audience**

goes like this. There used to be a king called Kakudmi. He had a beautiful daughter by the name of Revati. She was so beautiful and so accomplished that Kakudmi thought that there was no one in the earth who could be his bridegroom. He took his daughter to Brahmaloaka and went to Brahma. When he reached Brahmaloaka,

Brahma was busy listening to a musical performance by the Gandharvas. He had to wait for some time. Then Brahma came out and then the king bowed before Brahma and said that he had the most beautiful and most accomplished daughter and he had got a list of few would be son-in-laws and sought his advice as to whom he should mar-



■ Mr. Y.S. Walia, coordinator 'Mission Knowledge Programme' welcoming the Chief Guest General (retired) Dr. V.K. Singh

ry his daughter to. Brahma had a very hearty hard laugh; he laughed like anything. He said that the timeline on different planets was different. By the time, he had waited here when Brahma was busy hearing the Gandharvas, 108 eras had already passed and not only his would be son-in-laws or their sons, great grandsons, all of them had vanished from the earth and there was nothing remaining for him, not even his kingdom. He suggested that he go back to earth and get his daughter married off to a husband. That is a long story. If you read the book by Stephen Hawking, he says that different planets have different timelines. What I am saying that we are only 4.5 billion year old and in 300 years after the Industrial Revolution, what have we done to our earth? That is why there is a great responsibility now on our shoulders to see that we are able to at least do something and we are very happy that our country's efforts by the Prime Minister are being recognised.

Recently, our Honourable Minister for External Affairs, Mrs. Sushma Swaraj has given her speech in UN General Assembly wherein she has categorically stated before the entire world that the United Nations was formed at that time 70 years back when it had relevance but now the time has come to have reforms in the United Nations. 70 years is a very long period and much

water has flown in the rivers and there is a sea change in the scenario of the world. Five countries are the masters. We say that world is a global village and in that global village, there are few masters who dominate and we are being dominated. They have the right to give veto and they can change anything. It looks very strange after 70 years because this possibly cannot be democratic and there is a call given by our country and even by countries like Germany, South Africa, Brazil and Japan saying that the time has now come. 70 years is enough period for the United Nations and at that time, they may have had relevance but now the time has come for the United Nations to reform itself.

Justice Shambhu Nath Srivastava, Former Judge, Allahabad High Court and Former Lokayukta of Chhattisgarh Chairing the function said that many important events have taken place since this government came into power. Yoga which originated in India and the Prime Minister Narendra Modi in his UN address suggested the date of June 21 as it is the longest day of the year in the Northern Hemisphere and shares a special significance in many parts of the world and International Day of Yoga was unanimously declared by the United Nations and accepted by the entire world which was a great achievement and today, International Day of Yoga is being observed all

**THEN BRAHMA CAME OUT AND THEN THE KING BOWED BEFORE BRAHMA AND SAID THAT HE HAD THE MOST BEAUTIFUL AND MOST ACCOMPLISHED DAUGHTER AND HE HAD GOT A LIST OF FEW WOULD BE SON-IN-LAWS AND SOUGHT HIS ADVICE AS TO WHOM HE SHOULD MARRY HIS DAUGHTER TO. BRAHMA HAD A VERY HEARTY HARD LAUGH; HE LAUGHED LIKE ANYTHING. HE SAID THAT THE TIMELINE ON DIFFERENT PLANETS WAS DIFFERENT. BY THE TIME, HE HAD WAITED HERE WHEN BRAHMA WAS BUSY HEARING THE GANDHARVAS, 108 ERAS HAD ALREADY PASSED AND NOT ONLY HIS WOULD BE SON-IN-LAWS OR THEIR SONS, GREAT GRANDSONS, ALL OF THEM HAD VANISHED FROM THE EARTH AND THERE WAS NOTHING REMAINING FOR HIM, NOT EVEN HIS KINGDOM.**



# UN DAY



■ Mrs. Mohini Mathur , Vice President, IFUNA Welcoming General Dr. V.K. Singh .

**JUSTICE SHAMBU NATH SRIVASTAVA, FORMER JUDGE, ALLAHABAD HIGH COURT AND FORMER LOKAYUKTA OF CHHATTISGARH CHAIRING THE FUNCTION SAID THAT MANY IMPORTANT EVENTS HAVE TAKEN PLACE SINCE THIS GOVERNMENT CAME INTO POWER.**

over on June 21. Many great things are happening all over the world but at the same time, we also need to keep in mind that the mistakes that we have done in the past are not repeated. History tells us that India twice got the offer to become permanent member of the United Nations Security Council with veto power but the then prime minister declined that offer and instead asked China to become the member. You can imagine the kind of situation that was being built. But with the policies of the present government, I think we are very soon heading towards that. With the kind of support that India is getting from the African and other countries from the world, we are hopeful that the mistakes that were committed in the past would not get repeated. Today, we also need to give a thought as to how we can achieve the purpose for which we became the member of the United Nations and how India can become one.

Rajiv Chandran, National Information Officer, UN Information Centre for India and Bhutan said

that Whether it is visionary initiatives on sanitation, housing, financial and digital inclusion, health protection and renewable energy or progress on the rights of women and vulnerable groups or innovations in IT and Smart Cities, India has demonstrated a remarkable entrepreneurial ability to catalyse change and its lessons are indispensable for other parts of the world. But it isn't only India's example of the unique scale of its opportunity that makes it a leading force for good. India's strength also lies in its moral leadership or soft power in the International Order. Its role in the United Nations has always been in support of the Global South. As has been said, it is the largest cumulative contributor of troops to United Nations Peacekeeping operations standing resolutely between civilians and war around the world and India's support to developing countries has been critical through mechanisms like the \$150 million dollar UN India Development Partnership Fund. On this UN Day, we are celebrating the foundations of that moral leadership. The UN



stands with India in this defining moment not only for India's own progress but because we know that if India achieves the Sustainable Development Goals, only then will the world achieve the SDGs. Hence, the critical importance of India to the United Nations and the SDG agenda. With those words, I congratulate IFUNA for organising this marvellous event with members from all over the country coming here to strengthen Suresh's hands, the honourable Minister making his wonderful statement. UNIC and IFUNA have had a very long and fruitful partnership. In fact, in our book marking 70 years of India and the UN, we have dedicated an entire chapter to the close relationship that IFUNA shares with the United Nations. Once again, I congratulate each one of you because UN Day belongs to each individual. UN Day belongs to all of us. Congratulations.

Sitaram Sharma, Vice President, IFUNA and Honorary Consul of the Republic of Belarus in Kolkata observed that The United Nations must accept that it needs fundamental reform. Reform cannot be cosmetic. We need change the institution's head and heart to make both compatible to contemporary reality.

He said. The history of the United Nations to date has been marked the ability of a few powerful countries to exercise an overwhelming influence over the UN's institutional framework and policy direction. The mood of optimism that prevailed at the UN with the end of the Cold War has since waned. Threats to peace and security have persisted and the UN has struggled with them. Huge gap exists between the needs of the global system and the capacity of the United Nations. Historically, the United Nations has been often marginalized in mediating conflicts. More and more peace and security decisions at the regional levels are being taken by the emerging new regional powers on the basis of their self interest and mostly without any reference to the United Nations. Admittedly, the UN has so far not succeeded in maintaining international peace and security. Since 1945, more than 100 major conflicts have taken place around the world leaving 20 million dead. The UN was rendered powerless to deal with many of them because of the vetoes, 279 of them being used in first 40 years of existence. Although the world has recently made some progress in moving towards a more repre-

sented mechanism to manage global financial affairs but this is not true of the political and the security order. The Security Council as anyone you all know sits at the pinnacle of the global power structure. Permanent members exercise extraordinary powers through their right to veto. The existing composition of the Security Council which does not represent the prevailing international relations needs to be changed. No change is possible without amending the Charter and the Charter cannot be amended unless there is an agreement of all the veto powers and this self appointed directorate of the big P5 are averse to disturb the existing arrangement. In recent years, India has consistently voiced the demand for the UN to reflect on current realities. India has made it clear that it is essential for the UN to play the appointed role in terms of global governance and maintenance of the world peace.

Dr. Ramesh Chandra Borpatragohain, Advocate General of Assam said I am feeling privileged that I have been given this opportunity by IFUNA to be present over here and express my views in relation to events, system. Being an Indian, I always feel proud that God has given me the chance to be born in India. The basic reason is India is the first country in the world which is the torch-bearer nation to educate the people around the world. When Vedas were created and the spirit of Vedas is still continuing because of which India is maintaining its pride and privileges around the world and if you look at the development in the different corners of the world, we find that all the nations have got the inspiration from India and the Vedas. Since time is very limited, I will be very precise to this. One German philosopher said long back that one day, Vedas will be the religion of the world and that prediction materialised in 1945 when the United Nations was formed. The scars of the world have posed a threat to human civilization and India had the solution. ■

अयं निजः परो वेति गणना लघुचेतासम

उदारचरितानाम तु वसुधैव कुटुम्बकम्

*(The thought that, this is mine and that is somebody else's, appear only to those with a narrow mind. For noble people, the entire world is a family.) Top of Form*

**HE SAID. THE HISTORY OF THE UNITED NATIONS TO DATE HAS BEEN MARKED THE ABILITY OF A FEW POWERFUL COUNTRIES TO EXERCISE AN OVERWHELMING INFLUENCE OVER THE UN'S INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK AND POLICY DIRECTION. THE MOOD OF OPTIMISM THAT PREVAILED AT THE UN WITH THE END OF THE COLD WAR HAS SINCE WANED. THREATS TO PEACE AND SECURITY HAVE PERSISTED AND THE UN HAS STRUGGLED WITH THEM. HUGE GAP EXISTS BETWEEN THE NEEDS OF THE GLOBAL SYSTEM AND THE CAPACITY OF THE UNITED NATIONS. HISTORICALLY, THE UNITED NATIONS HAS BEEN OFTEN MARGINALIZED IN MEDIATING CONFLICTS. MORE AND MORE PEACE AND SECURITY DECISIONS AT THE REGIONAL LEVELS ARE BEING TAKEN BY THE EMERGING NEW REGIONAL POWERS ON THE BASIS OF THEIR SELF INTEREST AND MOSTLY WITHOUT ANY REFERENCE TO THE UNITED NATIONS. ADMITTEDLY, THE UN HAS SO FAR NOT SUCCEEDED IN MAINTAINING INTERNATIONAL PEACE AND SECURITY. SINCE 1945, MORE THAN 100 MAJOR CONFLICTS HAVE TAKEN PLACE AROUND THE WORLD LEAVING 20 MILLION DEAD.**



# UN DAY

## "AMBASSADOR - Swachh Harit Bharat" AWARD WAS GIVEN BY IFUNA ON UN DAY FUNCTION

Dr. General V.K. Singh, Union State Minister for External Affairs along with former Lokayukta of Chattisgarh Justice (rtd) Shambhu Nath Srivastava presented "AMBASSADOR - Swachh Harit Bharat" award on behalf of IFUNA to the following eminent educationists of the country for their splendid works in their institutional arena.



### UNITED NATIONS DAY - 2018

#### LIST OF AWARDEE

S. NO	NAME OF AWARDEE	DESIGNATION	SCHOOL/ORG. NAME
1.	Mr. Devesh Gupta	Chairman	Ramjas Public Schools, Delhi
2.	Col. R.S. Sambial	Head of the Institute	BAL Bharati School, Solan
3.	Dr. Ram Singh	Principal	Delhi Public School, Ranchi
4.	Ms. Urvashi Kakkar	Principal	Gurukul Globe School, Chandigarh
5.	Dr. Akhauri Shankar	Environmentalist	New Delhi
6.	Dr. Upendra Kaushik	Chairman	Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan's, V.M. Public School Vadodara
7.	Ms. Pratima Sharma	Principal	Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan's, Vidya Ashram, Jaipur
8.	Ms. Gulshan Kaur	Principal	Bhavan Vidyalaya, Panchkula, Chandigarh
9.	Ms. Renu Jain	Principal	St. Margaret Sr. Secondary School, Rohini, Delhi
10.	Mr. L.V. Seghal	Principal	Bal Bharati Public School, Sir Gangaram, New Delhi
11.	Ms. Gita Gangwani	Principal	Bal Bharati Public School, Rohini, New Delhi
12.	Ms. Meenu Goswami	Principal	Bal Bharati Public School, Pitampura, New Delhi
13.	Mr. Arvind Bhatia	Principal	Bal Bharati Public School, Brij Vihar, Ghaziabad.
14.	Ms. Anju Puri	Principal	D.A.V. Public School, Vasant Kunj, New Delhi
15.	Ms. Rashmi Raj Biswal	Principal	D.A.V. Public School, Pushpanjali, Pitampura, New Delhi.
16.	Mr. Sanjay Bhartiya	Principal	Nav Bharati Public School, Pitampura, New Delhi
17.	Ms. Neeta Rastogi	Principal	Sadhu Vaswani International School for Girls, Shanti Niketan, New Delhi
18.	Sister Jyoti Thomas	Principal	Presentation Convent Sr. Sec. School, Red Fort, New Delhi
19.	Ms. Sushma Khurana	Principal	Lilawati Vidya Mandir Sr. Sec. School, Shakti Nagar, New Delhi
20.	Ms. Rashmi Malik	Principal	Salwan Public School, Gurugram, Haryana
21.	Ms. Monika Mehan	Principal	DAV Public School, Dwarka, New Delhi
22.	Ms. K. Sudha	Principal	St. Martin Diocesan School, Delhi Cantt.
23.	Dr. Rishi Khurana	Principal	Shanti Gyan International Sr. Secondary School, Dwarka, New Delhi
24.	Mr. N.K. Sharma	Director Sports	L.B.S. Public School, R.K Puram, New Delhi
25.	Ms. Alka Kapur	Principal	Modern School, Shalimar Bagh, New Delhi
26.	Dr. G.P. Pandey	Principal	Delhi Public School, Mathura Refinery Nagar, Mathura
27.	Mrs. Deepa Jindal	Director	Shri S.D. Saraswati Bal Mandir Group, New Delhi
28.	Mrs. Suman Gandhi	Principal	S.D. Public School, Punjabi Bagh, New Delhi
29.	Maj. (Dr.) Vidhu Nath Saxena	Assistant Professor	ICFAI Business School, Dehradun
30.	Mr. Sandeep Marwah	Chancellor	AAFT University, Chhattisgarh
31.	Ms. Vaneeta Arora	Principal	Bhartia Vidya Bhawan, Chandigarh
32.	Ms. Seema Bhel	Principal	Brain International School, Vikas Puri, Delhi
33.	Ms. Kusum Bhardwaj	Principal	DAV Public School, Ashok Vihar, Delhi





# UN DAY







## WEST BENGAL UNA United Nations Day 2018 at Kolkata



■ **Front: (L – R) Ms. Kusum Musaddi, HE Mr. Kasemsan Thongsiri, HE Mr. Masayuki Taga, Mr. Sitaram Sharma, Prof. (Dr.) Suranjan Das, HE Mr. Mikhail Gusev, Mr. Rajeev Maheshwari. Back: Nine School Student Speakers**

**CHAIRD BY MR. SITARAM SHARMA (CHAIRMAN, WEBFUNA), THE OTHER EMINENT SPEAKERS AT THE SYMPOSIUM WERE – PROF. (DR.) SURANJAN DAS (VICE CHANCELLOR, JADAVPUR UNIVERSITY), HE MR. MASAYUKI TAGA (CONSUL GENERAL OF JAPAN), HE MR. MIKHAIL GUSEV (DEPUTY CONSUL GENERAL OF RUSSIA), AND HE MR. KASEMSAN THONGSIRI (ACTING CONSUL-GENERAL OF THAILAND).**

**M**arking the 73rd Foundation Day of the United Nations West Bengal Federation of United Nations Associations (WEBFUNA) on 25th October 2018 organised a Symposium – Theme: “DOES UNITED NATIONS HAVE RELEVANCE IN TODAY’S WORLD AFFAIRS”. at the prestigious ICCR Auditorium in Kolkata.

Chaired by Mr. Sitaram Sharma (Chairman, WEBFUNA), the other eminent speakers at the Symposium were – Prof. (Dr.) Suranjan Das (Vice Chancellor, Jadavpur University), HE Mr. Masayuki Taga (Consul General of Japan), HE Mr. Mikhail Gusev (Deputy Consul General of Russia), and HE Mr.

Kasemsan Thongsiri (Acting Consul-General of Thailand).

The audience was an encouraging mix of personalities – ex army personnel, educationists, industrialists, corporate executives, professionals and others. Notably, the Symposium saw representations from nine noted schools of Kolkata – Apeejay School, B D M International, Indus Valley World School, La Martiniere for Girls, Modern High School for Girls, Sri Sri Academy, St. Xavier’s Collegiate School, Sushila Birla Girls’ School, and The Heritage School – with 141 Student Delegates, accompanied by 15 teachers. Most of them had made it possible to participate in spite of the ongoing Durga Puja Vacations!



The seminar began with a Welcome Address by Mr. Rajeev Maheshwari, Secretary General, WEBFUNA, who also read out the UN Day 2018 message from Mr. Antonio Guterres, UN Secretary General, followed by the Subject Introduction to the Symposium, by Sitaram Sharma, Chairman, WEBFUNA. Mr Sharma stated that “UN today is in grave danger of declining into irrelevance as did the League of Nations... Although new mechanisms have been developed to tackle social, economic and political issues, even in matters of peacekeeping the relevance of UNSC is declining. Excessive use of Veto power is also reducing its relevance.” However, he also opined that “Since the inception of the UN, the world has changed beyond recognition. The UN of 1945 doesn’t meet the requirements of the present century. Fundamental reforms in the structure of UN are required. In the Indian context this means permanent membership... Any change in the structure of the UN requires change in the Charter. The obstacle lies in the five veto holding powers. Until they agree on something no change occurs.” He concluded saying, “as long as the people support the UN, the UN will survive.”

This was followed by the powerful ‘Youth Voice’ segment – one of WEBFUNA’s several initiatives – conducted by Ms. Kusum Musaddi, Additional Secretary General, WEBFUNA. As its name implies, at a ‘Youth Voice’ event/sub-event, WEBFUNA invites school and college students. With the belief that we have as much to learn from these scholars as they could learn from us, WEBFUNA refrains from, as much as possible, having these students as passive participants at its events – Instead they are invited as active contributors in its discussions, discourses, debates and deliberations. At this Symposium too, the gathering heard the views of nine Student Speakers, one each from the nine participating schools. These Student Speakers – each speaking for about four minutes – were all phenomenal: pithy, while being precise; articulate, without any assault, and most of all, they all maintained objectivity by seeing varied sides of the issue.



■ A section of the audience

Importantly, while student Mahima Hazarika stated that “UN is a work in progress... It is the only international organisation that includes 99.9% of the world population... It has intervened to prevent various atrocities”, another student Komolkoli Ghosh said, “The five permanent members are not in-sync regarding the current geo-political scenario, and national interests of the veto powers have constantly hindered peacekeeping”. Student speakers were near-unanimous in that the world does need a platform such as UN – where the voices of all small and big countries are heard together; and that in spite of its declining relevance, they all felt that there is no available alternative at hand to this world body ‘Youth Voice’ over, the event moved on to the addresses by the eminent speakers on the dais.

Academic Prof Suranjan Das began saying that “UN day should be a day for introspection.” He further stated that, “The relevance of the UN depends on the voice of the young... Looking at the working of the UN makes us doubt the relevance of the UN; yet the UN will remain relevant due to its work on development issues... Now, a democratic restructuring is required... the powers of the Big 5 need to be reduced. Membership must

**THE UN OF 1945 DOESN'T MEET THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE PRESENT CENTURY. FUNDAMENTAL REFORMS IN THE STRUCTURE OF UN ARE REQUIRED. IN THE INDIAN CONTEXT THIS MEANS PERMANENT MEMBERSHIP... ANY CHANGE IN THE STRUCTURE OF THE UN REQUIRES CHANGE IN THE CHARTER. THE OBSTACLE LIES IN THE FIVE VETO HOLDING POWERS. UNTIL THEY AGREE ON SOMETHING NO CHANGE OCCURS.” HE CONCLUDED SAYING, “AS LONG AS THE PEOPLE SUPPORT THE UN, THE UN WILL SURVIVE.”**



# UN DAY



■ Subject Introduction by Mr. Sitaram Sharma, Chairman, WEBFUNA.



■ At the High Tea (Back: Interns & Volunteers)

**MR. KASEMSAN THONGSIRI SAID THAT "UN EMERGED THROUGH WORLD COMMITMENT TOWARDS PEACEKEEPING AFTER WW II, AND HAS SUCCESSFULLY MANAGED TO PROVIDE VARIOUS FACILITIES FOR THE BETTERMENT OF THE WORLD... TOPICS OF DISCUSSION ARE ON GLOBAL ISSUES THAT CAN'T BE SOLVED BY A SINGLE SOVEREIGN STATE.**

increase from Latin countries like Brazil." He also opined that "small and middle sized countries like India will henceforth surely have increasingly important roles in strengthening the UN system".

Mr Masayuki Taga stated, "Today we face global issues like cross border terrorism. This makes us question the relevance of UN... Japan has contributed actively to the maintenance of peace and development, right from the time it joined the UN.... A lot could have been done by the UN regarding environment and cyber terrorism." Mr Taga summed up by commenting that "UN is still relevant but will face irrelevance if not reformed" – to which Mr Sitaram Sharma commented, "I am not very hopeful of

the big-five permanent members agreeing to any basic restructuring, particularly expansion of Security Council."

The only speaker at the event from a veto power – Russia, Mr Mikhail Gusev chose to read from Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov's remarks at the 73rd session of the UN General Assembly at New York on 28 September 2018. Excerpts: "The priority of collective work in the interest of coordinating solutions acceptable for everyone was enshrined in the foundations of the UN. This potential was left unrealised due to the bipolar confrontation of the Cold War era... To be worthy of their legacy, we should recall the art of negotiating.... Dictate and coercion typical of the colonial era should be relegated to the archives once and for all... I hope the culture of mutually respectful dialogue will ultimately prevail. Russia will do its best to promote it".

Mr. Kasemsan Thongsiri said that "UN emerged through world commitment towards peacekeeping after WW II, and has successfully managed to provide various facilities for the betterment of the world... Topics of discussion are on global issues that can't be solved by a single sovereign state. The UN needs to be financially independent... Thailand has contributed actively to the maintenance of the UN and has ratified in the UN to make South Asia nuclear weapon-free."

The event moved on to an Interactive Session between the Speakers and the audience, followed by presentation of Certificates of Participation to student speakers and delegates.

The evening ended with a Vote of Thanks proffered by Ms. Kusum Musaddi, Additional Secretary General, WEBFUNA, after which the guests moved to the High Tea.

It must be also mentioned that the Symposium, a highly successful event on Kolkata's academic-intellectual calendar that was well-covered by the Media, was organised by a very dedicated organising team that included WEBFUNA's interns and student volunteers from post-graduate departments of Jadavpur University. ■

**Contributed by: Ms. Kusum Musaddi, Additional Secretary General, West Bengal Federation of United Nations Associations (WEBFUNA)**

# ODISHA UNA Celebrates UN Day

Deepayan Pattnaik



Utkal Federation of United Nations Association celebrated UN Day at Dhenkanal Synergy Eng. College, Odisha. Former Chief Minister Hemananda Biswal was chief guest. Former central minister Mr. B K Tripathy was Guest of Honour.

They appreciated the development work of UN in the field of health, & environment. Mr. B.C.Rout (former CBI judge), Er. A.K Satapathy, Dr S.K. Tamotia (ex CMD NALCO), Binod Dash, Chair man Synergy, Dr Itisri Mohanty, Prof Dilip Nanda, Upen-dra Rout, Bahadur Patasahani also spoke to mark the celebration.

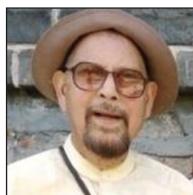
Earlier Mr. Dipayan Pattanaik, Secretary General, UFUNA welcomed the guests. The meeting was presided by UFUNA president Mr. Manoranjan Patnaik. Dr Abhayananda Patanaik proposed a vote of thanks. Around 250 people from various sectors were present in the event.



# SWISS ALPS' HIKES OF 3Gs



Amb. Raja Aseem hiking the Alps Switzerland 8<sup>th</sup> July, 2017



By Chander P Mahajan

Alps are the highest and most extensive mountain range system that lies entirely in Europe, stretching approximately 1,200 km across eight Alpine countries (from west to east): France, Switzerland, Italy, Monaco, Liechtenstein, Austria, Germany, and Slovenia. The mountains were formed over tens of millions of years as the African and Eurasian tectonic plates collided. The Himalayas form a mountain range in Asia, separating the plains of the Indian subcontinent from the Tibetan Plateau. The Himalayan range has many of the Earth's highest peaks, including the highest, Mount Everest.

Khajjiar, situated in the foothills of Dhauladhar ranges of the western Himalayas, about 24 km from Dalhousie (Chamba), is among the 160 locations in the world that bear topographical resemblance with Switzerland. With a small lake in the middle that has been covered over with weeds, it

is part of the Kalatop Khajjiar Sanctuary.

On July 7, 1992, I accompanied Willy T Blazer, vice counsellor and head of Chancery of Switzerland in India, who brought Khajjiar on the world tourism map by christening it as "Mini Switzerland". He put a signboard of a yellow Swiss hiking footpath showing Khajjiar's distance from the Swiss capital Berne – 6,194 km.

I wished I could; and I made it to Switzerland twice; in 1997 and subsequently in 2017. I have pleasant memories of Ice 'Palace of Jungfrauoch', from where I posted a picture post card back home to my wife, Bua Jee.

My second visit was to be with my son, Amb. Raja Aseem and my grand son Madhav, in Geneva. While I was preparing, yet; I received many calls & mails, proposing me to join them in 'Hiking Alps'. I was delighted over the invite to be among three generations- going 'mountaineering in Swiss Alps'. I sensed a great pleasure embedded with a warmth of kinship; & enthused, I happily said 'Yes'. Having done a lot in Himachal, especially in Pangi Vally, Himalayas, where once I trekked a stretch of 25 KMs out of 150 in a day in one of the most difficult terrains in Distt., Chamba.

With 'Go ahead, Hike Swiss Alps' as the theme and Robert Prochazka of Austria as the team leader, we were supposed to commence our journey, in just a day after my arrival in Geneva. It all, of course, depended on the weather forecast; we made the final decision 24 hours in advance, as we could cancel the rooms until the day before. However, 'Weather bulletin' of 7th forecast: 'In foehn valleys gusts around 75km/h locally possible'.

## ITINERARY

The meeting point was the Railway station in Kandersteg 9:30 sharp.

WE had to leave Geneva in time to catch the bus to the Gondola at 9:44.

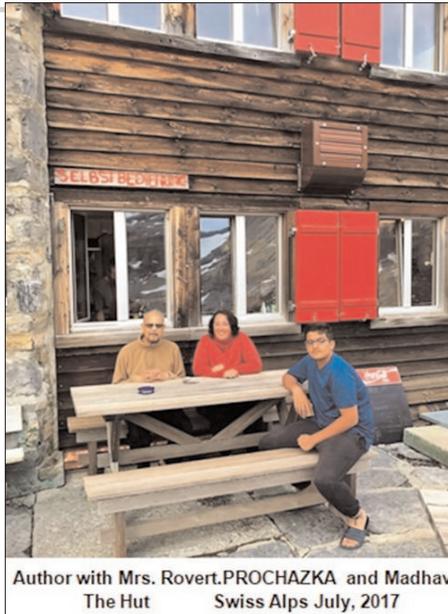
**By car:** Geneva – Kandersteg it takes 2hours 40 minutes

From Leukerbad to Kandersteg or vice versa with an overnight stay in Lämmerenhütte from Saturday 8 to Sunday 9 July.

THE HIKES



Author with Willy T Blazer Head of Chancery of Switzerland in India, Khajjiar, Chamba HP 7th July, 1992



Author with Mrs. ROBERT PROCHAZKA and Madhav  
The Hut Swiss Alps July, 2017

The hike is around 7 hours plus 3 hours (detour to overnight place); up to 10 hours hiking in two days.

The hike, 1. day:

Kandersteg: 1174m Sunnbüchel: 1934m Lämmerenhütte: 2502m

From Sunnbüchel to Lämmererhütte it is 4 to 5 hours or around 700 m up and around 150 down.

\*That night, only Aseem, with a few more, hiked to and fro, perhaps, Gemini Pass. I and Madhav went to bed, early.

The hike, 2. day:

We could go to the Wildstrubel glacier, and back to Lämmerenhütte (1h30 both ways), from there to Gemmi Pass (1,5 hours) and then down to Leukerbad either on foot or by cable car. We might be in Leukerbad around 1 o'clock. The spa in Leukerbad offers a ticket for 3 hours for 26 CHF.

Robert had an idea:- climbing Wildstrubel Mountain (3.250) Sunday morning, but you need a guide for that, this is a really alpin tour.

\*We skipped all that and came straight down to Leukerbad where we had good lunch and a round of the town.

THE HUT

We had 18 beds for us; males slept in one with 10 beds; and ladies and children adjusted in the one with 12 bedded room. We had not opted for special rooms.

Robert cited a sentence from the homepage: "The use of a mountain hut sleeping bag is not obligatory!!!"

The price for overnight stay plus dinner and breakfast was around 80 CHF

FOOD: Saturday evening they served pork and a veggie dish.

Madhav trekked much faster, even carrying an added baggage of his Dada jee and was at the Hut, at least, an hour before we could make it. Aseem and I were trailing behind in the incessant rain, thanks, being considerate, he pulled out a rain coat for me. Despite sparse sign boards, we lost the track, at

least, once. Robert's 'How to get lost in the Swiss mountains' kept echoing in my mind.

Last stretch was the 'Rock climbing' and that was scaring and risky; looking back -instills confidence in me.

For those for whom simply hiking in the mountains is not enough, there are trails to Switzerland's high Alpine glaciers. Above the tree line is the area defined as "alpine" where in the meadows, plants are found that have adapted well to harsh conditions of cold temperatures, aridity, and high altitudes. On the high rocky ledges the spring flowers bloom in the summer. Perhaps the best known of the alpine plants is Edelweiss which grows in rocky areas. The plants that grow at the high altitudes have adapted to conditions by specialization such as growing in rock crevices that give protection from winds (depicted in this write-up in the title photo 'Mother Nature's beauty')

For our own safety, it is advisable to take a guided hiking tour. In spite of the fact that the hiking trails are signposted, one shouldn't venture unprepared into the Swiss mountains. Preparation should certainly include planning (weather, route, level of difficulty), checks and assessment of one's own fitness on the day, as well as the right equipment.

Must-haves:-water bottle, provisions, protection from the sun and rain, headgear, empty bag for rubbish, blister plasters, wet wipes/tissues. If you wish to sleep well in a 'shelter hut' after the day's tiredness, do not forget ear buds to guard against the snorting and grunting sounds in breathing of the team mates while they are asleep. Better to carry a map with the hiking route (one can do without internet) ■



Dr. Avinash Chander, an Indo American and Dr. Vishav Kirti Khajjiar lake, April, 198



From left Father, Grand Father & Grand Son Swiss Alps July, 2017



## LANDMARK JUDGEMENT BY HON'BLE JUSTICE VIBHU BAKHRU DELHI HIGH COURT

by **Vinayak Srivastava, Advocate**

**THE HON'BLE DELHI HIGH COURT WHILE ACCEPTING THE PLEA OF PETITIONER OBSERVED THAT PROVISIONS OF SECTION 4 OF THE CITIZENSHIP ACT, SECTION 8 (2) OF THE CITIZENSHIP ACT ENABLES A MINOR WHO HAS CEASED TO BE A CITIZEN OF INDIA ON ACCOUNT OF HIS/HER PARENTS RENOUNCING INDIAN CITIZENSHIP, TO RESUME CITIZENSHIP OF THIS COUNTRY BY ELECTING TO DO SO WITHIN A PERIOD OF ONE YEAR AFTER ATTAINING THE FULL AGE OF MAJORITY.**

In a unique case the Hon'ble Justice Vibhu Bakhru of Delhi High Court created an history of reversing of brain-drain from America to India. A girl born in USA from Indian citizen and becoming automatically a citizen of USA as per their law. She opted on attaining majority to become an Indian citizen and renouncing her USA citizenship. The Indian consulate in USA were not prepared to receive such an application as according to them it is a first case where an Indian origin born in USA seeking Indian citizenship.

Even after a prolonged procedure the Indian consulate were not able to come to any decision therefore the girl knocked the door of Hon'ble High Court of Delhi by way of writ petition seeking her right to be a citizen of India u/s 8(2) and u/s 4 of Citizenship Act.

Case Note- HON'BLE JUSTICE VIBHU BAKHRU passed landmark ruling on Citizenship Act by observing that Minor born outside India on becoming Major have right to elect to become a citizen of India u/s 4 as well as section 8 of the Indian Citizenship Act.

In the facts of this case, the Petitioner, a USA Passport Holder was born outside India and at the time of her birth, both her parents were Indian Citizens. The parents subsequently renounced Indian Citizenship in the year 2012.

The Petitioner who is sports Athlete, wanted to represent India at the Olympics and other sports events. On becoming Full Age of 18 years, the Petitioner claimed Indian Citizenship on the premise that since both her parents were Indian Citizen at the time of her birth, she is entitled to Indian Citizenship. The Petitioner also stated that



she will renounce her USA Passport on gaining Indian Citizenship.

The USA Consulate failed to dispose the application for resumption of Indian Citizenship.

Accordingly, the Petitioner filed writ petition u/s 226 of Constitution inter alia praying for early disposal of her citizenship application and grant of Indian Citizenship.

Vinayak Srivastava, Advocates appearing on behalf of the Petitioner submitted that the Petitioner is eligible for resumption of her Indian Citizenship under section 8 (2) as well as Section 4 of the Citizenship Act since the Petitioner has filled application for resumption of Indian Citizenship within the period of six months after attaining the full age of majority.

The Hon'ble Delhi High Court while accepting the plea of Petitioner observed that provisions of Section 4 of the Citizenship Act, Section 8 (2) of the Citizenship Act enables a minor who has ceased to be a citizen of India on account of his/her parents renouncing Indian citizenship, to resume citizenship of this country by electing to do so within a period of one year after attaining the full age of majority.

Since in the present case, the Petitioner has filed application for resumption of Indian Citizenship within the period of six months after attaining the full age of majority, therefore, the petitioner would have the right to elect to become a citizen of this country.

The Hon'ble Delhi High Court while allowing the Petition, directed the Respondents to dispose the application for resumption of Indian Citizenship within six weeks. ■



## भारत के प्रथम राष्ट्रपति डॉ. राजेन्द्र प्रसाद जी के जन्म-दिवस (3 दिसम्बर) के अवसर पर महान विभूति को शत शत नमन और श्रद्धांजलि आत्मविश्वास के धनी राजेन्द्र बाबू के बाल्यकाल की प्रेरक घटना

बिहार के एक विद्यालय में परीक्षा समाप्ति के बाद कक्षाध्यापक महोदय सबको परीक्षाफल सुना रहे थे। उनमें एक प्रतिभाशाली छात्र राजेन्द्र भी था। उसका नाम जब उच्चीर्ण हुए छात्रों की सूची में नहीं आया, तो वह अध्यापक से बोला – गुरुजी, आपने मेरा नाम तो पढ़ा ही नहीं।

अध्यापक ने हँसकर कहा – तुम्हारा नाम नहीं है, इसका साफ अर्थ है कि तुम इस वर्ष फेल हो गये हो। ऐसे में मैं तुम्हारा नाम कैसे पढ़ता? अध्यापक को मालूम था कि वह छात्र कई महीने मलेरिया बुखार के कारण बीमार रहा था। इस कारण वह लम्बे समय तक विद्यालय भी नहीं आ पाया था। अतः छात्र का अनुत्तीर्ण हो जाना स्वाभाविक ही था।

लेकिन वह छात्र साहस से बोला – नहीं गुरुजी, कृपया आप सूची को दुबारा देख लें। मेरा नाम इसमें अवश्य होगा।

अध्यापक ने कहा – नहीं राजेन्द्र, तुम्हारा नाम सूची में नहीं है। तुम इस बार फेल हो गए हो।

बालक राजेन्द्र ने खड़े होकर ऊँचे स्वर में विश्वास के साथ कहा – ऐसा नहीं हो सकता कि मैं फेल हो जाऊँ।

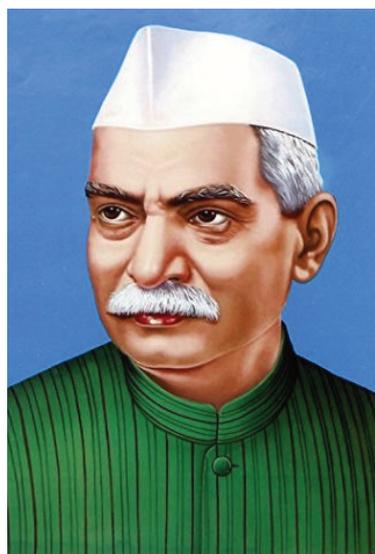
इस पर अध्यापक को भी क्रोध आ गया। क्रोध में भर कर वे बोले – बको मत, और बैठ जाओ। अगले वर्ष और परिश्रम करो तभी पास हो सकोगे।

लेकिन राजेन्द्र तनिक भी घबराया नहीं और चुप नहीं हुआ – नहीं गुरुजी, आप अपनी सूची एक बार और जाँच लें। मेरा नाम अवश्य होगा। हो सकता है किसी भूलवश मेरा नाम पढ़ा न गया हो।

अध्यापक ने झुंझलाकर क्रोध में आकर कहा – यदि तुम नीचे नहीं बैठे तो मैं तुम पर जुर्माना कर दूँगा।

लेकिन वह छात्र भी अपनी बात से पीछे हटने को तैयार नहीं था। अतः अध्यापक ने उस पर एक रु. का जुर्माना कर दिया। लेकिन राजेन्द्र बार-बार यही कहता रहा – मैं फेल नहीं हो सकता।

अध्यापक ने अब बढ़ा कर जुर्माना दो रु. कर दिया। बात बढ़ती ही



चली गयी। धीरे-धीरे जुर्माने की राशि पाँच रु. तक पहुँच गयी। उन दिनों पाँच रु. की कीमत बहुत थी। सरकारी अध्यापकों के वेतन भी 15-20 रु. से अधिक नहीं होते थे; लेकिन आत्मविश्वास का धनी वह छात्र किसी भी तरह दबने का नाम नहीं ले रहा था।

तभी एक चपरासी दौड़ता हुआ प्राचार्य जी के पास से कोई कागज लेकर आया। जब वह कागज अध्यापक ने देखा, तो वे चकित रह गये। परीक्षा में सर्वाधिक अंक उस छात्र ने ही पाये थे। उसका अंकपत्र फाइल में सबसे ऊपर रखा था; पर भूल से वह प्राचार्य जी के कमरे में ही रह गया।

अब तो अध्यापक ने उस छात्र की पीठ थपथपाई और कहा होनहार बिरवान के होत चिकने पात, सब छात्रों ने भी ताली बजाकर उसका

अभिनन्दन किया। अध्यापक ने भविष्यवाणी करते हुए कहा कि तुम अवश्य महान व्यक्ति बनोगे। यही बालक आगे चलकर भारत का पहला राष्ट्रपति बना। उनका जन्म ग्राम जीरादेई (जिला छपरा, बिहार) में 3 दिसम्बर, 1884 को श्री महादेव सहाय के घर में हुआ था। छात्र जीवन से ही मेधावी राजेन्द्र बाबू ने कानून की परीक्षा उत्तीर्णकर कुछ समय तक वकालत की; लेकिन 33 वर्ष की अवस्था में गांधी जी के आह्वान पर वे वकालत छोड़कर देश की स्वतन्त्रता के लिए हो रहे चम्पारण आन्दोलन में कूद पड़े।

सादा जीवन, उच्च विचार के धनी डा. राजेन्द्र प्रसाद को 'भारत रत्न' से विभूषित किया गया। राष्ट्रपति पद से मुक्त होने के बाद वे दिल्ली के सरकारी आवास की बजाय पटना में अपने निजी आवास 'सदाकत आश्रम' में ही जाकर रहे। 28 फरवरी, 1963 को वहीं उनका स्वर्गवास हुआ। उनके जन्म दिवस तीन दिसम्बर को देश में अधिवक्ता दिवस के रूप में मनाया जाता है। राष्ट्रपति के रूप में वे प्रधानमन्त्री नेहरू जी के विरोध के बाद भी सोमनाथ मन्दिर की पुनर्प्रतिष्ठा समारोह में सोत्साह शामिल हुए। यह उनकी दृढ़निश्चयता का ही प्रतीक है। ऐसे महापुरुष को शशत् नमन।

– डॉ. माधुरी खोसला



## बोध कथा

रामकृष्ण परमहंस ने एक बार अपने शिष्यों से कहा कि आप सभी अपने-अपने घर से चावल चुरा कर लाएं, लेकिन ध्यान रखें, कि कोई देख न सके। परमहंस के सभी शिष्य अपने-अपने घर से थोड़े-थोड़े चावल चुरा कर ले आए। लेकिन एक शिष्य मुंह लटकाए बैठा रहा। वह चावल चुरा कर नहीं लाया। उस शिष्य का नाम था— नरेन्द्र। वह परमहंस जी का सबसे प्रिय शिष्य था। गुरुजी ने पूछा कि क्यों नरेन्द्र तुम को एकान्त में चोरी करने का अवसर नहीं मिला क्या? आज फिर कोशिश करो और कल चावल अवश्य लेकर आना, लेकिन ध्यान रहे, तुम्हें चोरी करते हुए कोई देख न रहा हो। नरेन्द्र अगले भी की खाली हाथ आया, तो गुरु जी ने जरा क्रोध से पूछा, क्यों नरेन्द्र क्या तुम्हारे घर में चावल नहीं है या फिर तुम्हें एकान्त का अवसर नहीं मिलता कि तुम चावल चुरा सको। नहीं ऐसा नहीं है, मुझे कई अवसर मिले लेकिन हर बार कोई दूसरा नहीं बल्कि मैं स्वयं को देख रहा होता हूँ। ऐसा अवसर कभी नहीं मिला कि चोरी करते हुए, मैं स्वयं को न देख सकूँ। इसलिए मैं चावल नहीं ला पाया। गुरु जी प्रसन्न हो गए और वे बोले कि हर काम करते हुए स्वयं तो स्वयं को देख रहे होते हैं। दूसरा कोई देखे या न देखे। अतः स्वयं को सदैव देखते रहना ही साधना है। यही शिष्य स्वामी विवेकानंद के नाम से प्रसिद्ध हुआ जिसने समस्त विश्व में भारतीय संस्कृति एवं धर्म का डंका बजाया।



## सेहत रहे चुस्त और जेब भी दुरुस्त

**आ**ज लोगों का ऐसा सोचना गलत है कि भरपूर पोषण पाने के लिए ढेर सारा पैसा चाहिए क्योंकि इसके लिए महंगे फन, ड्राई-फरूट्स या फिर महंगी सब्जियों की जरूरत होती है। लेकिन ऐसा सोचना गलत पाया गया है। बाजार में प्रकृति ने तमाम ऐसी चीजें प्रदान की हैं, जो हमें स्वस्थ तो रखती ही हैं और जेब पर भी भारी नहीं पड़ती। आम आदमी इनको खरीद सकता है और अपनी सेहत ठीक रख सकता है। हम यहाँ महंगे फलों के विकल्प के रूप में कुछ सस्ते दामों में

मार्केट में उपलब्ध फलों का विवरण दे रहे हैं।

सस्ते फलों में भी बड़े गुण होते हैं। नीचे हम कुछ एक महंगे-सस्ते फलों का विवरण दे रहे हैं— सस्ता ऑफ़शन मौसमी— मौसमी नींबू प्रजाति का एक फल है। यह श्वसन तंत्र को सही रखता है और इम्यून सिस्टम मजबूत करता है।

हानि— एक दिन में 500 ग्राम से ज्यादा मौसमी के सेवन से बचें। गर्भावस्था में ज्यादा सेवन से नुकसान है।

महंगा ऑफ़शन अनार— यह सेहत के लिहाज

से अच्छा फल है, लेकिन कीमत कुछ ज्यादा है।

सस्ता ऑफ़शन चकंदर— ब्लड शुगर का स्तर कम करता है। इससे कालेस्ट्रॉल कम होता है। डायबीटीज़ पर नियंत्रण और एनीमिया से लड़ने में सहायक है। थकान दूर करने और कब्ज़ से राहत दिलाने वाला माना जाता है। चकंदर को सलाद, जूस या किसी भी रूप में ले सकते हैं।

हानि—अगर किसी को लो बीपी की शिकायत है, तो एक दिन में 50-100 ग्राम से ज्यादा चकंदर का सेवन न करें।



**सफाई से जरूरतमंदों की सहायता**  
घर की साफ-सफाई के दौरान पुराने कपड़े या पुस्तकें अथवा ऐसी वस्तुएं जो हमारे काम नहीं आ रही हैं लेकिन किसी अन्य के लिए वे जीवन-यापन के लिए आवश्यक हो सकती हैं, उन्हें बाहर कूड़े में, फेंकने का मन भी नहीं करता तो हम उन्हें जरूरतमंदों तक पहुंचा सकते हैं। इस कार्य में अनेक संस्थाएं संलग्न हैं जिनमें से कुछ का विवरण नीचे दे रहे हैं। इससे आप मनचाही वस्तुओं से छुटकारा पाकर किसी का उपकार भी कर सकेंगे—

#### क्लॉथ्स बॉक्स फाउंडेशन

गूज

टॉय बैंक

सफाई से पुण्य की कमाई

क्लॉथ्स बॉक्स फाउंडेशन

यह ऐसा एनजीओ है, जो आपसे पुराने कपड़े लेकर उन्हें जरूरतमंदों तक पहुंचाता है। खास- बॉलिवुड स्टार अमिताभ बच्चन ने फिल्म सिलसिला में जो जैकेट पहनी थी, उसे उन्होंने क्लॉथ्स बॉक्स के जरिए ही एक जरूरतमंद को दान की थी।

#### ऐसे कर सकते हैं दान

अगर आप क्लॉथ्स बॉक्स फाउंडेशन के जरिए कपड़े (पुराने या नए) दान करना चाहते हैं, तो आपको वट्सएप (78383-71356) या फेसबुकपेज (facebook.com/clothesbo&foundation) पर मैसेज कर इसकी जानकारी देनी होगी।

यह फाउंडेशन आपके घर के पास के कलेक्शन सेंटर के बारे में बताएगा, जहां जाकर आप कपड़े देकर आ सकते हैं। हालांकि फिलहाल फाउंडेशन कपड़े नहीं ले रहा है क्योंकि स्टॉक होने की वजह से कुछ समय के लिए इन्होंने कलेक्शन बंद किया हुआ है।

अगर आप कलेक्शन सेंटर नहीं पहुंच सकते, तो फाउंडेशन की ओर से होम

पिकअप सर्विस की सुविधा भी दिसंबर से फिर से शुरू हो रही है। हालांकि इसके लिए आपके थोड़ी-सी जेब ढीली करनी होगी।

**ऐसे संपर्क करें—** पता- 48, पारस ट्रेड सेंटर, ग्वाल पहाड़ी, गुड़गांव वेबसाइट- clothesbo&foundation.org, फेसबुक पेज- facebook.com/clothesbo&foundation ई-मेल- info@clothesbo&foundation.org फोन नंबर- 78383-71356 (सप्ताह के सातों दिन सुबह 11 बजे से शाम 6 बजे तक)

#### गूज

गूज ऐसा एनजीओ है, जो दुनिया भर में जरूरतमंदों की सेवा करता रहता है। यह न सिर्फ कपड़े, बल्कि किसी भी तरह की आपदा में राहत सामग्री जरूरतमंदों को मुहैया कराता है। गूज समय-समय पर देशभर में कैम्प लगाता है।

#### ऐसे कर सकते हैं दान

गूज की ऑफिशल वेबसाइट दृश्यश्रवण-श्रवण से अपने नजदीकी कलेक्शन सेंटर का पता जानें।

जो चीज दान करना चाहते हैं, उसे अच्छी तरह पैक कर लें। इसके बारे में गूज की वेबसाइट (<https://goonj.org/dropping-centres>) दी गई गाइडलाइंस की जरूर पढ़ें। फिर कलेक्शन सेंटर पहुंचें।

आपके नजदीक कोई कलेक्शन सेंटर नहीं है, तो गूज ऑफिस के फोन नंबर (011-4140-1216, 2697-2351) पर कॉल कर लें।

खास- इसके संस्थापक अंशु गुप्ता को साल 2015 में मैगसायरसस अवॉर्ड से नवाजा गया है।

#### ऐसे संपर्क करें—

पता- छ-93, सरिता विहार, नई दिल्ली वेबसाइट- goonj.org फेसबुक पेज- facebook.com/goonj.org



## अब जरा मुस्करा लें।

**पति:** आज मैं तुम्हारे मनपसन्द मिठाई ठन्डे रसगुल्ले लेकर आया हूँ। खालो, कलेजे में ठण्डक पड़ जाएगी।

**पत्नी:** चाहे जितने रसगुल्ले खिला दो। ठण्डक तो पीयर जाकर ही पड़ेगी।

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युवक पहले भिखारी को हर बार जब भी मन्दिर आता 50/- रूपये देता था। अब जब अपनी नयी नवेली दुल्हन के साथ आता है तो केवल 10/- रूपये देता है। भिखारी ने युवक से पूछा कि अब हमारे पैसे कम क्यों कर दिए। युवक बोला— अब शादी हो गई है न। भिखारी ने तणक से कहा कि वाह! हमारे पैसे से बीवी को ऐश करा रहे हो ?

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दो पागल छत पर सो रहे थे। वर्षा शुरू हो गई। एक बोला आकाश में छेद हो गया है पानी टपक रहा है, चल अन्दर चलते हैं। इतने में बिजली कड़की। दूसरा खुश होकर बोला, चुपचाप सोता रह, वेल्डिंग करने वाले आ गए हैं।

\*\*\*

मन्नत की गाँठ बान्धते-बान्धते पत्नी रुक गई। पति ने पूछा क्यों रुक ? या सोच कर रुक गई ? पत्नी बोली मैं मन्नत मांग रही थी कि आपकी सारी दिक्कते, तकलीफें दूर हो जाएं फिर सोचा कहीं मैं ही न निबट जाऊँ ?



ई-मेल- mail@goonj.org

फोन नंबर- 011-4140-1216] 2697-2351 (सोम से शनि सुबह 10 से शाम 5 बजे तक)

**टॉय बैंक**

यह ऐसा एनजीओ है, जो आपके द्वारा दिए गए पुराने या नए खिलौनों को जरूरतमंद बच्चों तक पहुंचाता है। यह देशभर में कैंप भी लगाता है, जहां आप पुराने या नए खिलौने देकर आ सकते हैं। इसके बाद यह एनजीओ जरूरतमंद बच्चों तक पहुंचकर उन्हें खिलौने बना कर देता है। पिछले 15 बरसों में टॉय बैंक देश के 22 राज्यों तक पहुंच चुका है।

खास- टॉय बैंक एनजीओ केन्द्रीय मंत्री श्री विजय गोयल का है और उनकी टीम इसे संभालती है।

**ऐसे कर सकते हैं दान**

टॉय बैंक समय-समय पर स्कूलों और कार्पोरेट हाउस में कैंपेन चलाता है।

यहां आप पुराने या नए खिलौने टॉय बैंक के वॉलंटियरों को दे सकते हैं।

इसके अलावा टॉय बैंक की ओर से दिल्ली एनसीआर समेत काफी जगह कलेक्शन सेंटर बनाए गए हैं। आप इन कलेक्शन सेंटर के बारे में जानकारी टॉय बैंक की ऑफिशल वेबसाइट [www.toybank.in](http://www.toybank.in) पर जाकर ले सकते हैं। इन सेंटरों पर टॉय देने के बाद टॉय बैंक इन्हें जरूरतमंद बच्चों तक पहुंचा देता है।

**ऐसे संपर्क करें-**

पता- 74, बाबर रोड, बंगाली मार्केट, नई दिल्ली वेबसाइट- [toybank.in](http://toybank.in)  
फेसबुक [facebook.com/TheToyBankPage](https://www.facebook.com/TheToyBankPage) ई-मेल- [info@toybank.in](mailto:info@toybank.in)

फोन नंबर- 011-2378-2233/2020 (सोमवार से शनिवार सुबह 10 बजे से शाम 7 बजे तक)



## स्वच्छ भारत

स्वच्छ भारत माननीय प्रधानमंत्री नरेन्द्र मोदी द्वारा 2 अक्टूबर 2014 को राजघाट से चलाया गया भारत सरकार का एक सफाई अभियान है। यह महत्वपूर्ण विषय है और हमारे बच्चे व नवयुवकों को इसकी जानकारी होना आवश्यक है। इस अभियान में शौचालयों का निर्माण, ग्रामीण क्षेत्रों में स्वच्छता कार्यक्रमों को बढ़ावा देना, गलियों व सड़कों की सफाई, देश के बुनियादी ढांचे को बदलना आदि सम्मिलित हैं। भारत सरकार का 2 अक्टूबर

2019 तक भारत को स्वच्छ बनाने का संकल्प एवं उद्देश्य है। यह एक राजनीति से मुक्त अभियान है और देशभक्ति से प्रेरित है। प्रत्येक भारतीय नागरिक की इसमें भागीदारी आवश्यक है। इसके अन्तर्गत मार्च 2017 में उत्तर प्रदेश के मुख्यमंत्री योगी आदित्यनाथ ने एक और स्वच्छता पहल की शुरुआत की। उन्होंने उत्तर प्रदेश के सभी कार्यालयों में चबाने वाले पान, गुटका और अन्य तम्बाकू उत्पादों पर प्रतिबन्ध लगा दिया है। इससे तम्बाकू की पीक फेंक कर मन्दी होने वाली दीवारों एवं फर्श पर पड़ने वाले दुर्गन्धयुक्त दागों से मुक्ति मिल सकेगी। इसी तरह देश के लगभग सभी राज्यों में स्वच्छता अभियान पूरे उत्साह के साथ चलाया जा रहा है।

भारत में जोर-शोर से चल रहे स्वच्छता अभियान का ही सुपरिणाम है कि इसके प्रेरक प्रधानमंत्री श्री नरेन्द्र मोदी जी को इस वर्ष संयुक्त राष्ट्र संघ द्वारा सर्वोच्च एवार्ड से सम्मानित किया गया, जिससे विश्व में भारत गौरवान्वित हुआ। इफ्यूना के तत्वावधान में भी इस वर्ष 30 अक्टूबर को संयुक्त राष्ट्र दिवस के अवसर पर स्वच्छता अभियान में महत्वपूर्ण योगदान के लिए विद्यार्थियों के लिए एक महत्वपूर्ण कार्यक्रम का शुभारंभ किया गया। वास्तव में युवक ही देश की नींव होते हैं। वे पूरे कटिबद्ध हो जाए तो कोई भी लक्ष्य प्राप्त किया जा सकता है। इस अवसर पर आयोजित समारोह में विदेश राज्यमंत्री जनरल एस.के. सिंह ने नवयुवकों को प्रोत्साहित करने के लिए सोत्साह भाग लिया और देश भर से पधारे लगभग 30 विद्यालयों के प्राचार्यों को इफ्यूना की ओर से स्वच्छ हरित भारत का अवार्ड प्रदान कर छात्रों को स्वच्छता के लिए कार्यक्रमों में सम्मिलित होने के लिए प्रोत्साहित करने का आहवाह किया।

स्वच्छता से तात्पर्य केवल साफ-सफाई या गन्दगी से छुटकारा मात्र ही नहीं है, अपितु बाहरी सफाई के साथ-साथ हमारे तन एवं मन की सफाई भी सम्बद्ध है। बाहर का परिवेश स्वच्छ रखने की हमारी प्रकृति बनेगी तो हम अपने तन एवं मन को भी स्वच्छ एवं प्रेरक विचारों से परिपूर्ण कर पाएंगे।

संयुक्त राष्ट्र संघ का उद्देश्य विश्व शानति, सामाजिक सौहार्द, स्वस्थ जीवन एवं सभी की आर्थिक दशा में सुधार व शिक्षा का विस्तार जैसे लक्ष्य प्राप्त करने के लिए पहली सीढ़ी के रूप में स्वच्छता अभियान का महत्वपूर्ण योगदान होगा।

—कैलाश खोसला

## SPIRITUAL TALK

# Removing the coverings of the soul

Sant Rajinder Singh Ji Maharaj

A mountain climbing team ascending a Himalayan peak has to remain focused to achieve its goal. Similarly, when we try to rise above bodily consciousness, our soul must be focused on the goal. To withdraw our attention to the sixth chakra, we cannot have any interference from our mind or body. If we move our body, our concentration is disturbed. If we have thoughts, our mind disturbs the concentration of our attention.

One blockage that is the root cause of slowing our progress is distraction during meditation caused by our negative thoughts, words, and deeds throughout the day.

Distracting thoughts due to anger, falsehood, lust, greed, attachment, and ego swirl about in our mind like a tornado during the time we are trying to meditate. If we can eliminate these negative traits, or learn to control them, our mind will be more balanced and calm, and our meditation will improve.

If we can eliminate this blockage, our mind will be in the calm and peaceful state necessary for successful meditation, and we will put an end to the layers of anger that add dark spots and hide the luminosity of our soul.

### Becoming Aware of Our Blockages

The first step in removing the blockages that cover our soul is to become aware of them. When we go to a doctor, we cannot be cured until a proper diagnosis is made. When we go to a teacher, an evaluation must be made of our current abilities before it is known what skills we need to be taught. When we go to a sports coach, our abilities must be analyzed before we can be guided on how to improve. Similarly, we must know what blockages we have in order to begin the work removing them.

Many saints, mystics, and philosophers of the past made a systematic effort to analyze their own blockages. Each day, they would review their thoughts, words, and deeds committed throughout that day. If they found they failed in the various ethical virtues, they made a resolution to improve the following day. Khwaja Hafiz, a Persian mystic, would drop a small pebble into an earthen pitcher for each of his failures. After several days, he would be distressed if he found the pitcher had completely filled up. In India, some of the wise ones would throw small kernels of grain into a pitcher each time they failed in virtuous behaviour, or they would tie a knot in their clothing for each failure and at the end of the day count the knots. The Christian saint, St. Ignatius Loyola, suggested that every day people should analyze their faults. He recommended that we ask God to help us recall how many times we committed a certain fault each day and ask God's forgiveness. Then, we should try to guard against committing that fault the following day. Reviewing our failures is like looking in a mirror to see what blemishes we have. If we list the various categories,



such as nonviolence, truthfulness, purity, humility, and selfless service, and each day count the number of failures we have in each category in thought, word, and deed, we would have a profile of what blockages are keeping us from empowering our soul. We should not do this self-analysis with an eye to chastise ourselves, however, but to improve on the following day. This should not serve as food for depression and low self-esteem; rather the analysis should be a tool to help us see what areas we need to work on in order to meet our spiritual goal.

Once we know where we stand as far as our current blockages go, we can then take steps to eliminate them. We may wish to keep a record and follow our progress over time. We can aim for

zero failures in the various categories of virtues, but we should not expect to eliminate them all at once. Change takes time. Old habits die hard. Our progress may be gradual, and that is all right. We may start out with incremental changes, such as one, two, three, or four improvements in a category each day. Or we may wish to start with one category at a time and concentrate on only improving in that area first before going on to other areas. It does not matter how we improve, as long as each day sees some incremental progress. The climb up a mountain takes place one step at a time. If we think we are going to fly to the top in an instant, we may become disappointed and discouraged because we have set unrealistic goals. Rather than becoming disheartened and giving up, it is better to take small steps at a time and find that we are progressing gradually. Before we know it, a day will come when we will find we have reduced failures in many categories.

So let us begin by analyzing where we stand. Let us be honest in looking at ourselves. If we try to cover up our shortcomings, no one but ourselves will be hurt in the process. We delay our own progress by ignoring our blemishes. The more honest we can be in looking at ourselves, the sooner we can take action to rectify our failures and start to eliminate them.

By spending time daily in introspection about our thoughts, words, and deeds, we can see where we stand. We will find what blemishes mar our face and can then take steps to remove them. If we see that we have weaknesses in certain areas, we can focus on overcoming them. Being conscious of our blockages is the first step. Then we can take steps to be aware of our thoughts, words, and deeds and try to control them. Slowly and steadily we will be able to remove each blockage, one by one. Through meditation, we can speed up the process by coming in contact with the source of all goodness. The cleansing power of the Light and Sound of God helps us eliminate negative qualities. In this way, our soul can shine with all its beauty, light, and love.



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