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# PEOPLE AND UN

**Putin Claims:**  
ISIS Receives  
Financing From

40  
Countries



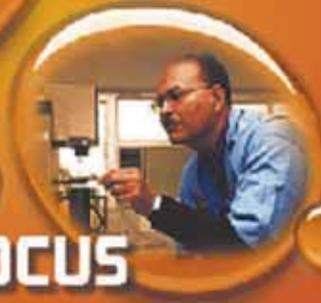
Russian President Putin  
**Sharing Secrets?**



**COMMITMENT**



**INNOVATION**



**FOCUS**

• অঙ্গীকাৰ • উদ্ভাৱন • একাগ্ৰতা – সফলতাৰ বাবে প্ৰয়োজনীয় গুণাবলী

আমাৰ বাহ্যিক পৃথক জাৰ্মি লাভ কৰিছে কিন্তু চমকপ্ৰদ সফলতা। "শ্ৰেষ্ঠ টপ ২৫০ ৰেংকিং ২০১০" অনুসৰি অ'ইলজিটি বিশ্বৰ অন্য অধিকৃত আৰু উৎপাদন কোম্পানী হিচাবে স্বীকৃত। বাগৰাৰা ঘটন মতাবল এই কোম্পানীয়ে প্ৰতিদিনে ১.২৪ মিলিয়ন বেৰেল আঁকৰা তেল আৰু সমতুল্য উৎপাদন কৰে। সময়ৰ সৈতে যোজা মিলাই কোম্পানীয়ে বিস্তৃত শক্তিৰ আহৰণতো সফল হৈছে। দেশৰ শক্তি সত্তৰ সমৃদ্ধ কৰাৰ লক্ষ্যত অ'ইলজিটি অঙ্গীকাৰবদ্ধ।

India's  
**energy**  
anchor



Assam Assol



Queen Elizabeth II invited Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi for lunch at Buckingham Palace on November 13, 2015, in London

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### PAGE 5

#### PM's Surprise Lahore Visit

Modi has acted like a 'statesman' -  
Sushma Swaraj

### PAGE 7

#### ASEAN Business Summit

Most of the ASEAN economies have  
done their bit for Asia's resurgence.  
Now, it is India's turn.

### PAGE 9

#### P.M. Modi has a Clear Vision for India: Obama feels: White House

### PAGE 10

#### China military in sweeping reform:

Xi has said he would cut military  
personnel by 300,000 – twice the  
size of the British armed forces

### PAGE 12

#### Paris Agreement on Climate Change

"The Paris Agreement on climate  
change is a monumental triumph for  
people and planet"-Ban-ki-Moon

### PAGE 22

#### Ratan Tata invests: in digital currency

### PAGE 16

#### Women Power



If India did this, growth  
would rocket

### PAGE 18

#### Putin Claims ISIS Receives Financing From 40 Countries

### PAGE 19

#### Indo-Russia Agreement

### PAGE 20

#### Iran hosts 'We Care' Film Fest on disability issues



### PAGE 23-25

#### UN Day Celebration: Utkal UNA, Assam UNA and Haryana UNA

### PAGE 26

#### Environment (Hindi)



## Editor's Column

**B**REAKFAST IN KABUL—LUNCH  
AT LAHORE - DINNER IN DELHI.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi actually made it a reality. The worlds leading nations including The US as well as the UN welcomed Prime Minister Narendra Modi's surprise visit to Pakistan on 25th December, saying improved ties between the two neighbours will benefit the entire region. The medias round the world also welcomed and appreciated the Prime Minister Narendra Modi's unscheduled bold and courageous visit to Lahore. That speaks of his leadership acumen and statesmanship. His visit, no doubt will go a long way in creating peace, harmony and goodwill between the two neighbouring countries.

The year 2015 has left its inedible mark of terrorism, turmoil and violence in many parts of the world throwing a challenge for 2016. Some security experts are of the opinion that 2015 was nothing. November's attacks in Paris, in which 130 people were killed by Islamic State terrorists,

showed the trauma that could be caused by a group of men with Kalashnikov rifles, but experts fear it could be just the start. "Unfortunately, I think 2015 was nothing", has said a counter-terrorism official. "We are moving towards a European 9/11: simultaneous attacks on the same day in several countries, several places. We know the terrorists are working on this." It is alarming and needs to have surgical action, as forceful as possible and as quickly as possible, though the task is stupendous.

In the April 2015 issue we had predicted that crude prices will be very soon between \$35 to \$40 ranges. We are glad to note that the crude oil prices have plunged over the course of the past one and a half years, falling from a peak of about USD 120 per barrel in June last year to below USD 35. We in India welcome this development as it will reduce the pressure on our foreign exchange and ease our economy.

There is quite simply nowhere on earth like North Korea. Now its 3rd generation hereditary young ruler Kim Jong Un of this nominally communist state has defied all expectations and reported to have successfully conducted a hydrogen bomb test. He claims to have done it as a self defensive step against a US threat of nuclear war. Kim says it is a legitimate sovereign right to do it without being criticized. North Korea fourth nuclear test without prior information has angered both The US and China. Although the US Government and weapon experts doubt the North Korea claim that the device it set off was a hydrogen bomb, the weapon is in the hand of a 32 years young man who is heading a country which the critics regard it as a totalitarian dictatorship. As such the question is how far is North Korea going to listen to the world even including its best allies China in using such weapons, in the event of a crisis?

— Pran Mohan Parvatiyar  
(pmparvatiyar@gmail.com)





## INDO-PAK



# PM's Surprise Lahore Visit: welcomed by all

■ Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Pakistani counterpart Nawaz Sharif at a meeting in Lahore at the latter's residence.

PM Modi has acted like a 'statesman' - Sushma Swaraj

**W**HEN INDIA'S Prime Minister Narendra Modi made a surprise announcement of a stop-over in Lahore as he wrapped up his brief Afghanistan visit, External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj said Prime Minister Narendra Modi has acted like a statesman in deciding to visit Pakistan and this is how relations with neighbours should be.

"That's like a statesman. Padosi se aise hi rishte hone chahiye (This is how it should be with neighbours)," Swaraj said on twitter to the news of Modi's visit to Lahore to meet his Pakistan counterpart Nawaz Sharif.

**THE US AND UN** welcomed Prime Minister Narendra Modi's surprise visit to Pakistan on 25th December, saying improved ties between the two neighbours will benefit the entire region.

"We welcome the December 25 visit between PM Modi and PM (Nawaz) Sharif. Better relations between neighbors India and Pakistan

will benefit the people of the entire region," US State Department spokesman John Kirby said while responding to a question on Modi's surprise visit to Lahore, where he held talks with Sharif.

UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon also welcomed the meeting between the two leaders, hoping that the bilateral dialogue will be maintained and strengthened going forward.

"The Secretary General has long been encouraging both leaders of the two countries to engage in dialogue. He obviously welcomes this visit and this step in the right direction and he hopes that the dialogue will be maintained and strengthened," a UN spokesperson told when asked about the UN chief's response to Modi's visit to Pakistan, the first by an Indian Prime Minister in more than a decade.

Pakistan's major political parties also welcomed Indian Prime Minister Narendra

**"UN Secretary General has long been encouraging both leaders of the two countries to engage in dialogue. He obviously welcomes this visit and this step in the right direction and hopes that the dialogue will be maintained and strengthened,"**



■ **December 25, 2015: Indian Prime Minister, Narendra Modi (R) with the family members of Pakistan Prime Minister, Nawaz Sharif at the latter's residence in Lahore.**

**Separatists welcomed Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Lahore. With moderate Hurriyat Conference chairman Mirwaiz Umar Farooq terming it "a positive move" and hardline faction leader Syed Ali Shah Geelani saying they have no objection to improved relations between India and Pakistan.**

Modi's surprise visit to Lahore, saying it was a "new beginning of relations" and will help improve ties between the two countries.

Modi stayed for over two hours in Lahore on his way back home from Russia and Afghanistan during which he held talks with his counterpart Nawaz Sharif at his Raiwind house.

Opposition leader in the parliament Syed Khurshid Shah said his Pakistan People's Party (PPP) supports Modi's visit.

PPP Chairperson Bilawal Bhutto Zardari had tweeted "Welcome to Pakistan @narendramodi. Constant engagement is the only way to resolve all outstanding issues."

Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf party chief Imran Khan also welcomed Modi's trip and said it would help improve ties between the two countries. Welcoming Modi's visit, Defence Minister Khawaja Asif has said that it would be helpful for peace and stability in the region. He said such contacts should continue for resolving all the issues, including the longstanding Kashmir dispute

Asif said Pakistan wanted good ties with its neighbours.

Radio Pakistan reported that former PPP Information Minister Qamar Zaman Kaira said Modi's trip would help in holding composite dialogue between the two countries.

The Awami National Party leader Zahid Khan said Modi's visit was a "new beginning of rela-

tions between Pakistan and India".

Renowned human rights activist Asma Jehangir said the Indian Prime Minister should play his role in stopping alleged human rights violation in Kashmir as well as reducing visa restrictions between the two countries

Defence expert Air Vice Marshal (Retd) Shahid Latif said the meeting between the two leaders was a positive move and it would pave the way for resolving core issues between the two nuclear powers

**SEPARATISTS** welcomed Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Lahore. With moderate Hurriyat Conference chairman Mirwaiz Umar Farooq terming it "a positive move" and hardline faction leader Syed Ali Shah Geelani saying they have no objection to improved relations between India and Pakistan.

"We do not have any issues with relations improving between India and Pakistan... No right thinking person shall have any reservation on it.

Moderate Hurriyat chairman Mirwaiz Umar Farooq said, "Modi's surprise visit to Pakistan is a positive move. People of Kashmir welcome any opportunity that bring India and Pakistan close."

The Mirwaiz further said, "Political will and vision is needed on all sides to address issues, specially Kashmir."

Meanwhile, Abdul Gani Bhat, head of Muslim Conference, a constituent of the moderate Hurriyat faction, said his party supports the



## ASEAN-SUMMIT



# PM Modi to ASEAN Business Summit: *We must reform to transform*

Most of the ASEAN economies have done their bit for Asia's resurgence. Now, it is India's turn.

**R**EFORM for me is just a way station on the long journey to the destination, said Prime Minister Narendra Modi to ASEAN Business and Investment Summit 2015 in Kuala Lumpur.

"Most of the ASEAN economies have done their bit for Asia's resurgence. Now, it is India's turn. We know that our time has come," he observed. PM Modi sent out a message that India is open for business and his government is intent on transforming the country through reforms. Prime Minister pitched India as an ideal investment destination for ASEAN nations, saying his government had launched a second wave of reforms that would make the

country a "land of immense opportunities"

Describing India and ASEAN as natural partners, he reiterated his message that the 21st century belongs to Asia. "Reform to me is just a way station on the long journey to the destination. The destination is the transformation of India," he told the gathering.

To buttress his argument that India is a "land of immense opportunities", The Prime Minister rolled out a list of the big ticket infrastructure projects that are in the pipeline. He said 50 cities across India were preparing to build metro rail systems while there was also a need to build 50 million affordable houses.



## ASEAN-SUMMIT



■ **Kuala Lumpur: Prime Minister Narendra Modi at the ASEAN Business and Investment Summit 2015, at .**

**Macro-economic stability is good. But to transform India, much more needs to be done. We have begun a series of concerted steps-GDP growth is up and inflation is down. Foreign investment is up and the CAD is down**

The country also has plans to generate 175 GW of renewable energy, he said. The government intends to complete all these projects within a "short span of time" and is also working to make India the "easiest place to do business".

"Our democratic values and an alert judicial system ensure the safety of your investments," he said. India, he added, is also committed to protect the intellectual property rights of all innovators and has launched campaigns like "Make in India" and "Digital India" to make the country friendly to investors.

Modi said his government had launched the second wave of institutional and structural reforms to revitalise the flow of investment. These reforms cover areas such as agriculture, housing, transport and investment.

He also presented several arguments to support his contention that the Indian economy is performing better at a time when the global economy isn't doing well, saying GDP growth, foreign investments, tax revenues are up while inflation, interest rates and current account deficit are down.

"And we know that our time has come, we are at a take-off stage. I invite you to come and see the winds of change in India," he said.

PM Modi exuded confidence about the reforms, saying there is increased confidence in the Indian economy within and outside the country. "Winds do take time to cross the borders. That is why I am here to invite you," he said.-I want to assure you that India is committed to protect IP Rights of innovators. A National IPR policy is expected by end of the year. -To re-vitalize the flow of investments, we have launched 2nd wave of reforms. We are trying to further open up the economy.-IIP in current year shows a distinct improvement over the last year. We are working in all ways to make India a global manufacturing hub -The pace of award of new highway works has increased from 9 km/day in 13-14 to 23 km/day currently-Our major ports witnessed 4.65% growth in traffic and 11.2% increase in operating income in 14-15 despite a global contraction in trade-We have launched a 'Housing for All' program. It involves building 20 million urban houses and 29.5 million rural houses

-Macro-economic stability is good. But to transform India, much more needs to be done. We have begun a series of concerted steps-GDP growth is up and inflation is down. Foreign investment is up and the CAD is down. Tax revenues are up and interest rates are down

■ To re-vitalize the flow of investments, we have launched 2nd wave of reforms. We are trying to further open up the economy

Tax revenues are up and interest rates are down-By almost every major economic indicator, India is doing better than when we took office-We asked ourselves the question - Reforms for what? What is the aim of reform? My answer is clear: we must Reform To Transform.

India and the leaders of the 10 member grouping will review the new Plan of Action (2016-2020) to further enhance ASEAN-India cooperation along the politico-security, economic and socio-cultural pillars.

The two sides will also exchange views on regional and international issues of mutual interest or concern.

The ASEAN-India Strategic Partnership has acquired further momentum after the Act-East Policy by Prime Minister Modi at the 12th ASEAN-India Summit in Myanmar.

India and ASEAN have 30 dialogue mechanisms including a Summit and 7 Ministerial meetings in External Affairs, Commerce, Tourism, Agriculture, Environment, Renewable Energy and Telecommunications. ■



## SPOTLIGHT



**U**NITED STATES President Barack Obama who has held meetings with Prime Minister Narendra Modi on several occasions, has found in him a politician who is honest and has a clear vision for India, the White House has said.

"President Obama has found Prime Minister Modi to be somebody who is honest and direct, somebody who has good command of the facts, somebody who has a clear understanding of the issues that confront his country and our relationship," White House Press Secretary Josh Earnest told the media. Recently, President Obama met PM Modi in Paris on the sidelines of the United Nation's Climate Change Summit. This was the sixth meeting between the two leaders since the met first at the White House last September.

"He (Modi) also is somebody that has a clear vision for where he wants to take his country, and it makes him not just an effective politician, but an effective Prime Minister," Mr Earnest said.

"Obama certainly does respect Prime Minister Modi and has appreciation for his skills and abilities as a politician. He also is somebody who is given a very difficult challenge of sitting atop the world's largest democracy," he said. "That's not easy to work and it's not easy work and the President of the US has special insight into how difficult it is," he added.

Referring to the frequent meetings between the two leaders, Mr Earnest said President Obama had the opportunity to consult with PM Modi on

# President Obama feels PM Modi has a Clear Vision for India: White House

a number of occasions. "I think that isn't just a testament to their good working relationship, it actually is a testament to the important issues that are at stake between our two countries and the ability of the leaders of our two countries to work through those issues and to advance our shared interests is a good thing," Mr Earnest said.

"It's a good thing for the world, it's also a good thing for the citizens of our two countries," he said. Responding to another question, the White House press secretary said he is not aware of any immediate visit of the Prime Minister to the White House, but did not rule it before the end of next year.

"I'm not aware of any meetings that are on the agenda at this point, but I certainly wouldn't rule out another visit by Prime Minister Modi before the end of next year," Mr Earnest said. ■

**"He (Modi) also is somebody that has a clear vision for where he wants to take his country, and it makes him not just an effective politician, but an effective Prime Minister," Mr Earnest said.**



■ Xi has said he would cut military personnel by 300,000 – twice the size of the British armed forces – shortly before presiding over a huge military

# China military in sweeping reform

China has for the first time integrated PLA area commands overseeing India and Pakistan as part of sweeping reforms

**President Xi Jinping who is consolidating his powers over the army through the purges, also made military strictly functioning under the ruling Communist Party of China**

**T**HE reform will establish a three-tier "CMC - battle zone commands - troops" command system and an administration system that runs from CMC through various services to the troops. According to China defence ministry spokesman Yang Yujun the current regional military commands will be regrouped into new battle zone commands under the Central Military Commission (CMC).

President Xi Jinping who is consolidating his powers over the army through the purges, also made military strictly functioning under the ruling Communist Party China (CPC), not under the

government. Xi's September announcement that the military would cut 3 lakh troops "again demonstrated China's resolve to pursue a path of peaceful development," Yang said when asked whether the overhaul means an adjustment to national defence policy. Yang was elaborating on the sweeping reforms at a conference attended by 200 top military Chinese officials.

China has for the first time integrated PLA area commands overseeing India and Pakistan as part of sweeping reforms under which the world's largest army is to junk its Soviet-era model for a US-style joint command system to



## THE FOCUS



fortify the ruling Communist Party's control. Under the new reforms announced by President Xi Jinping, who has shaken up the 1.2 million strong People's Liberation Army (PLA) with a massive anti-corruption drive, redrew the military command system by forming a joint operational command, junking the area military commands.

China has seven military area commands in Beijing, Nanjing, Chengdu, Jinan, Shenyang, Lanzhou and Guangzhou. Of these, Chengdu military command was in charge of security along India's Eastern sector in the Tibet region including Arunachal Pradesh while the Lanzhou military command looked after the Western sector, including Kashmir region and Pakistan. As per the new strategic zone plan unveiled by Xi, also general secretary of the CPC, both Chengdu and Lanzhou gets integrated into a strategic command region, making it perhaps the biggest areas for the PLA.

Lanzhou, which looks after the border with Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK) and Afghanistan, has been active in recent years battling the two-way crossings of Uyghur Islamist militants from the volatile Xinjiang region. Some analysts say that such a sprawling area may make it unwieldy during a conflict without a war zone commander. But at the same time the joint command system will end the army-dominated set-up with more role for the air force and the navy which are on a massive modernisation drive under a USD 145 billion annual defence budget.

The overhaul is aimed at moving away from an army-centric system towards a Western-style joint command in which the army, the navy and the air force are equally represented. The general direction of the overhaul, included plans to reorganise the four headquarters -- General Staff, General Political, General Logistics and General Armaments -- and to consolidate the seven military command regions. ■

■ Xi appears to be saying that China is prepared to postpone resolution of these disputes for the sake of working alongside Southeast Asians to tap the region's natural resources



# Historic Paris Agreement on Climate Change

"The Paris Agreement on climate change is a monumental triumph for people and planet"  
-Ban-ki-Moon

**T**O Keep Temperature Rise Well Below 2 Degrees Celsius 195 Nations Set Path.' A historic agreement to combat climate change and unleash actions and investment towards a low carbon, resilient and sustainable future was agreed by 195 nations in Paris on 12 December 2015.

The Paris Agreement for the first time brings all nations into a common cause based on their historic, current and future responsibilities.

The universal agreement's main aim is to keep a global temperature rise this century well below 2 degrees Celsius and to drive efforts to limit the temperature increase even further to 1.5 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels.

The 1.5 degree Celsius limit is a significantly safer defense line against the worst impacts of a changing climate.

Additionally, the agreement aims to strengthen the ability to deal with the impacts of climate change.



## COP-21

To reach these ambitious and important goals, appropriate financial flows will be put in place, thus making stronger action by developing countries and the most vulnerable possible, in line with their own national objectives.

"The Paris Agreement allows each delegation and group of countries to go back home with their heads held high. Our collective effort is worth more than the sum of our individual effort. Our responsibility to history is immense" said Laurent Fabius, President of the COP 21 UN Climate change conference and French Foreign Minister.

The minister, his emotion showing as delegates started to rise to their feet, brought the final gavel down on the agreement to open and sustained acclamation across the plenary hall.

French President Francois Hollande told the assembled delegates: "You've done it, reached an ambitious agreement, a binding agreement, a universal agreement. Never will I be able to express more gratitude to a conference. You can be proud to stand before your children and grandchildren."

UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon said: "We have entered a new era of global cooperation on one of the most complex issues ever to confront humanity. For the first time, every country in the world has pledged to curb emissions, strengthen resilience and join in common cause to take common climate action. This is a resounding success for multilateralism."

Christiana Figueres, Executive Secretary of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), said: "One planet, one chance to get it right and we did it in Paris. We have made history together. It is an agreement of conviction. It is an agreement of solidarity with the most vulnerable. It is an agreement of long-term vision, for we have to turn this agreement into an engine of safe growth."

"Successive generations will, I am sure, mark the 12 December 2015 as a date when cooperation, vision, responsibility, a shared humanity and a care for our world took centre stage," she said.

"I would like to acknowledge the determination, diplomacy and effort that the Government of France have injected into this remarkable moment and the governments that have supported our shared ambition since COP 17 in Durban, South Africa," she said.

The Paris Agreement and the outcomes of the UN climate conference (COP21) cover all the crucial areas identified as essential for a landmark conclusion:

### Highlights of the Paris Agreement

- The Paris agreement is an ambitious, dynamic and universal agreement. It covers all countries and all emissions, and is designed to last.
  - The Paris Agreement is a landmark agreement. It solidifies international cooperation for climate change. It provides a way forward.
  - This agreement reached here in Paris marks a turning point on how the world will address climate change. It set the world on a pathway toward limiting temperature rise to less than 2 degrees, with an eye on the benefits of achieving the goal of 1.5.
  - The Paris Agreement sends a message to the world that countries are serious about addressing climate change. It is a remarkable triumph that the 196 parties to the Convention have reached this agreement.
  - It sends a signal to markets that now is the time to invest in the low-emission economy.
  - It contains a transparency framework to build mutual trust and confidence.
  - Mitigation - reducing emissions fast enough to achieve the temperature goal
    - A transparency system and global stocktake - accounting for climate action
  - Adaptation - strengthening ability of countries to deal with climate impacts
    - Loss and damage - strengthening ability to recover from climate impacts
    - Support - including finance, for nations to build clean, resilient futures
  - It will serve as an important tool in mobilizing financial, technological support and capacity building for developing countries.
  - It will also help to scale up global efforts to address and minimize loss and damage from climate change.
  - The agreement requires all countries to take action, while recognizing their differing situations and circumstances. Under the Agreement, countries are responsible for taking action on both mitigation and adaptation.
  - Countries have officially submitted their own nationally determined climate actions. They have an obligation to implement these plans, and if they do, it will bend the curve downward in the projected global temperature rise.
  - The agreement not only formalizes the process of developing national plans, it provides a binding requirement to assess and review progress on these plans. This mechanism will require countries to continuously upgrade their commitments and ensure that there will be no backtracking.
- As well as setting a long-term direction, countries will peak their emissions as soon as possible and continue to submit national climate action

**UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon said: "We have entered a new era of global cooperation on one of the most complex issues ever to confront humanity."**



■ States agree key document on route to climate change agreement – UN · Climate Change, COP21 Paris



**"The Paris Agreement also sends a powerful signal to the many thousands of cities, regions, businesses and citizens across the world already committed to climate action that their vision of a low-carbon, resilient future is now the chosen course for humanity this century".**

plans that detail their future objectives to address climate change.

This builds on the momentum of the unprecedented effort which has so far seen 188 countries contribute climate action plans to the new agreement, which will dramatically slow the pace of global greenhouse gas emissions.

The new agreement also establishes the principle that future national plans will be no less ambitious than existing ones, which means these 188 climate action plans provide a firm floor and foundation for higher ambition.

Countries will submit updated climate plans - called nationally determined contributions (NDCs) - every five years, thereby steadily increasing their ambition in the long-term.

Climate action will also be taken forward in the period before 2020. Countries will continue to engage in a process on mitigation opportunities and will put added focus on adaptation opportunities. Additionally, they will work to define a clear roadmap on ratcheting up climate finance to USD 100 billion by 2020.

This is further underlined by the agreement's robust transparency and accounting system,

which will provide clarity on countries' implementation efforts, with flexibility for countries' differing capabilities.

"The Paris Agreement also sends a powerful signal to the many thousands of cities, regions, businesses and citizens across the world already committed to climate action that their vision of a low-carbon, resilient future is now the chosen course for humanity this century".

#### **Agreement Strengthens Support to Developing Nations**

The Paris Agreement underwrites adequate support to developing nations and establishes a global goal to significantly strengthen adaptation to climate change through support and international cooperation.

The already broad and ambitious efforts of developing countries to build their own clean, climate-resilient futures will be supported by scaled-up finance from developed countries and voluntary contributions from other countries. Governments decided that they will work to define a clear roadmap on ratcheting up climate finance to USD 100 billion by 2020 while also



## COP-21



before 2025 setting a new goal on the provision of finance from the USD 100 billion floor. This was an unparalleled announcements of financial support for both mitigation and adaptation from a multitude of sources both before and during the COP. provision of finance from multiple sources will clearly be taken to a new level, which is of critical importance to the most vulnerable."

International cooperation on climate-safe technologies and building capacity in the developing world to address climate change are also significantly strengthened under the new agreement.

### **Cities and Provinces to Companies and Investors Aligning**

The LPAA and NAZCA have already captured climate actions and pledges covering:

- Over 7,000 cities, including the most vulnerable to climate change, from over 100 countries with a combined population with one and a quarter billion people and around 32% of global GDP.

- Sub-national states and regions comprising one fifth of total global land area and combined

## Justice has won, no winners or losers: Narendra Modi

**P**RIME MINISTER Narendra Modi described the landmark climate change deal reached in Paris as the victory of "climate justice" and said there are no winners or losers in the outcome.

In a series of tweets, he appreciated how every country rose to the challenge for reaching the agreement at the Conference of Parties (COP)-21 and said deliberations showed collective wisdom of the world leaders to mitigate climate change.

"Outcome of #ParisAgreement has no winners or losers. Climate justice has won & we are all working towards a greener future," Modi tweeted, commenting on the legally-binding pact which seeks to limit global warming to "well below" 2 degrees Celsius and making developed nations commit USD 100 billion a year from 2020 to help developing countries.

In Paris, Modi had argued that India -- the world's third biggest carbon-emitting country -- needed to continue burning cheap and plentiful coal to rise out of poverty, arguing that richer nations should make deeper and faster cuts in their own emissions.

He applauded joint global

efforts toward the climate pact in another tweet.

"#ClimateChange remains a challenge but #Paris Agreement demonstrates how every nation rose to the challenge, working towards a solution," the Prime Minister said in another tweet.

He added: "Deliberations at #COP21 & #Paris Agreement demonstrates the collective wisdom of world leaders to mitigate climate change."

The historic agreement signed on Saturday on December 12 by 195 countries was reached after tough deliberations for days.

Developing nations, including India, had insisted rich countries must shoulder the lion's share of responsibility for tackling climate change as they emitted most of the greenhouse gases since the Industrial Revolution.

These issues have sparked tension over the years with the United States and other developed nations in the UN climate forum.

But Saturday's adoption of the universal climate pact saw enmities fade, with India's environment minister hailing it as "a new chapter of hope in the lives of seven billion people on the planet"

GDP of \$12.5 trillion.

- Over 5,000 companies from more than 90 countries that together represent the majority of global market capitalisation and over \$38 trillion in revenue.

- Nearly 500 investors with total assets under management of over \$25 trillion. ■



# WOMEN POWER

If India did this, growth would rocket.

**W**OMEN could hold the key to the future growth of Asia's third-largest economy, says economists. Men make up almost half of India's 1.2 billion population, yet their economic potential has been largely ignored. Indian women can add \$2.9 trillion, or 60 percent to annual GDP, by as early as 2025, if allowed to participate in the workforce on an equal basis as men,

according to the 2015 McKinsey Global Institute Report. India's economy grew at an annual rate of 7.4 percent in the September quarter, beating economists' expectations.

According to Christine Lagarde, managing director, International Monetary Fund (IMF) "Women's empowerment is an absolute economic no-brainer...Empowering women boosts economic growth. For example, we have estimates that, if the number of female workers were to increase to the same level as the number of men, GDP would expand by 27 percent in India".

Yet female participation in the labour force is a low 24 percent, according to the McKinsey report, and Indian women's contribution to the economy is the lowest on a global scale, at 17 percent.

"There is an entire population and skill set that is missing from the workforce. Why is it?" asks Ankita Vashistha, CEO of the 1 bil-



## Ciritque Eye

lion rupee (\$15 million) Saha Fund that invests only in ventures run by women or which produce services and products for female consumers.

### Huge leakage of talent

Gender inequality, a lack of education and childcare facilities, social pressures and rising crime in cities are all cited as reasons for women opting out of the workforce.

Experts say limited financial inclusion, with women getting less than 10 percent of all loans granted, along with a preference for a male child and rules such as the ones that mean a woman needs to get her husband's signature for even a car loan, have all contributed to women being left behind in the Indian economy.

"Within the first five years of working there is a huge leakage of talent. We have to bridge the gap there...give girls something to hold on to so that they feel it is worth pursuing a career in spite of the pressure of marriage and child rearing," Ipsita Kathuria, founder and chief executive of Talent Nomics India, an organization committed to building a pool of female leaders, tells CNBC.

In India, 48 percent of women drop out of the workforce before they reach middle management positions, according to Talent-Nomics data.

"Childcare facilities are the biggest push to get women into the work force," says Rashmi Barua, assistant professor of economics at the Jawaharlal Nehru University, Delhi.

Industry body FICCI Ladies Organization (FLO) is lobbying policymakers to allow the school to turn into a day care facility after school hours. This could remove one of the biggest hurdles that prevent women returning to the workforce. Employee benefits such as paternity and childcare leave would also help.

### Double dividend

"Studies across the world have shown that working women's children are better fed, better educated, thus building social capital for the economy. This is called a double dividend," A business processes outsourcing (BPO) firm, looking to generate employment in smaller Indian towns, conducted a survey on how its employees spent their money. The survey found women spent 93 percent of their earnings on the family's nutrition and education, while the men spent only 60 percent on family needs, the rest on their per-

sonal expenditure. Let women spend the money, it will do the economy more good.

While senior managers recognize the merits of hiring women — women are great multi-taskers and work harder to prove themselves, according to managers — in India women make up less than 20 percent of senior managers in listed and privately held mid-market companies. This means that Indian companies are compromising on their profitability.

### Good for the bottom line

According to a series of studies conducted since 2004 by Catalyst, an organization working towards expanding opportunities for women, companies that achieve diversity in their management ranks attain better financial results. For example, companies with the most female board directors outperformed those with the least on return on sales by 16 percent and return on invested capital by 26 percent.

In India the government has mandated that all listed companies have at least one woman on the board, but 500-odd companies had defaulted on that as of October 2015, according to TalentNomics' Kathuria. She adds that gender balanced teams at companies lead to greater innovation and result in more patents.

### What about unpaid work?

While the case for bringing women into the market economy is strong, there is another view that women in India, though not earning money, are still working — at home. Cooking, cleaning and taking care of the elders and children is unpaid work, argue some economists, that should be calculated as part of the country's GDP.

According to the McKinsey report, women perform 9.8 times the amount of unpaid work than men in India. If that unpaid work were to be valued and compensated in the same way as paid work, it would contribute \$300 billion to India's economic output. But the current measure of GDP does not assign value to housework, therefore it becomes imperative to bring women to the workforce to accelerate economic growth, say experts.

As FLO's Gupta says, "The next round of workers is going to come from women. World over, a lot of that demographic dividend we are expecting will come from here." ■

Curtsey -- CNBC



**"There is an entire population and skill set that is missing from the workforce. Why is it ?" asks Ankita Vashistha, CEO of the 1 billion rupee (\$15 million) Saha Fund that invests only in ventures run by women or which produce services and products for female consumers.**



■ Russian President Vladimir Putin.

# Putin Claims ISIS Receives Financing From 40 Countries

**The leaders of the world's top economies gathered for the Group of 20 summit meeting in Antalya, Turkey. While at the two-day summit, the Russian leader warned the other member states about the perils of illegal oil trade with the ISIS.**

**R**USSIAN President Vladimir Putin made the claim that the Islamic State group has received financial support from more than 40 countries, including some in attendance at the G-20 summit in Turkey. Putin told reporters that he shared evidence with other G-20 member states at the meeting, according to a report of Russia Today.

"I provided examples based on our data on the financing of different Islamic State (IS, formerly ISIS/ISIL) units by private individuals. This money, as we have established, comes from 40 countries and, there are some of the G-20 members among them," Putin told journalists.

It has been reported that there are donors in Kuwait, Qatar and Saudi Arabia that sup-

port ISIS, but Putin did not specify the countries he was referring to when speaking with reporters.

The leaders of the world's top economies gathered for the Group of 20 summit meeting in Antalya, Turkey. While at the two-day summit, the Russian leader warned the other member states about the perils of the illegal oil trade with ISIS.

"I have shown our colleagues photos taken from space and from aircraft which clearly demonstrate the scale of the illegal trade in oil and petroleum products," Putin said. He has called for the international community to come together to fight ISIS, but some have raised concerns that Russia's motive is to bolster the regime of Syria's President Bashar Assad. ■



## Cover Story

### List of Agreements/MoUs signed during the visit of Indian Prime Minister to Russia (December 24, 2015)

#### Joint Statement Between India and Russia: Shared Trust, New Horizons

1. Protocol amending the agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Russian Federation on simplification of requirements for mutual travels of certain categories of citizens of the two countries 21 December 2010.

2. Protocol amending agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Russian Federation on mutual travel regime for holders of Diplomatic & Official Passports of 3 December 2004.

3. Agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Russian Federation on Cooperation in the field of Helicopter Engineering.

4. Plan for Cooperation between the Federal Customs Service of the Central Board of Excise and Customs, Department of Revenue, Ministry of Finance, Republic of India and the Russian Federation for combating Customs violations in 2015 - 2017.

5. Programme of Action Agreed Between The Department of Atomic Energy of India And The Russian State Atomic Energy Corporation "Rosatom" for Localization of Manufacturing in India for Russian-Designed Nuclear Reactor Units.

6. Memorandum of Understanding between the Ministry of Railways of the Republic of India and the Joint Stock company "Russian Railways" on technical cooperation in railway sector.

7. MoU between Solar Energy Corporation of India and Russian Energy Agency regarding construction of solar energy plants in the Republic of India.

8. MoU for cooperation between HEC & CNIITMASH for development of Centre of Excellence for heavy engineering design at HEC.

9. MoU for cooperation between HEC & CNIITMASH for upgradation and modernization of HEC's manufacturing facilities.

10. Memorandum of Understanding Between Prasar Bharati and Digital Tele-



vision Russia on Cooperation in the field of Broadcasting.

11. Tripartite Memorandum of Understanding between Centre for Development of Advance Computing (C-DAC), Indian Institute of Science Bangalore (IISc) and Lomonosov Moscow State University (MSU).

12. Tripartite Memorandum of Understanding between Centre for Development of Advance Computing (C-DAC), OJSC "GLONASS" and GLONASS Union

13. MoU in the field of investment cooperation in the Russian Far East between The Tata Power Company Limited and Ministry for Development of the Russian Far East.

14. MoU for Cooperation for geologic survey, exploration and production of hydrocarbons onshore and on the continental shelf of the Russian Federation.

15. Confirmation of successful completion of the first stage pre-completion actions in relation to the creation of a Joint Venture in JSC VankorNefit.

16. MoU for Cooperation for geologic survey, exploration and production of hydrocarbons onshore the Russian Federation between Rosneft oil company, Oil India Limited and Indian Oil Corporation Limited.

■ Russian boost for 'Make In India': Modi, Putin sign 16 deals in defence, nuclear technology and counter-terror

**Protocol amending agreement between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Russian Federation on mutual travel regime for holders of Diplomatic & Official Passports of 3 December 2004**



EVENT

# Iran hosts 'We Care' Film Fest on disability issues



■ IFUNA and We Care Film Fest's Media Advisor Deepak Parvatiyar (5th from right) and We Care Film Fest Founder Director Satish Kapoor (4th from right) with Silver Bear winning Iranian Superstar Shahab Hosseini whose film *Nader and Simin, A Separation* won the Oscar in 2012 (6th from right), eminent director Khosrow Masomi -the best director at the 6th Shanghai Film Festival and Cairo Film Festival ( 3rd from right), Fatameh Amiri, Festival Director of Parvaz International Film Festival (extreme right) and other eminent personalities during the film festival in Tehran.

**The festival in Tehran was a historic occasion for Indo-Iranian people to people cultural interaction through the medium of films in the disability sector, We Care Film Fest's Media Advisor, Deepak Parvatiyar, said. Parvatiyar is also the media advisor of IFUNA.**

**W** E CARE' Film Fest has become the first and only international film festival on disability issues to organize a three day film festival in Teheran in association with Iran's ministry of culture under the aegis of Parvaz International Film Festival, Iran between 15 and 18 December 2015.

'We Care' Film Fest, which recently launched its 13th edition, is the longest travelling film Fest on disability issues in the world. The aim of the Film Fest is to sensitize people on disability issues.

Founded in 2003 by Satish Kapoor, a New Delhi based UN Volunteer and recipient of Acharya VinobaBhave National Volunteer Award, We Care Film Fest was recently recognized as a partner by UNESCO as per its New Delhi declaration signed by 195 member countries and eight associate member countries that UNESCO adopted recently. UNESCO, United Nations Information Centre, India and Bhutan as well as National Trust of the Government of India (under Ministry of Social Jus-



■ We Care Film Fest founder Director Satish Kapoor and Festival Director Fatameh Amiri felicitating Esther Kuisch Laroche, Director, UNESCO cluster office in Tehran



## EVENT



■ Audience at the We Care Film Fest at Azadi Tower, Tehran



■ Deepak Parvatiyar with a specially abled audience in Tehran

tice and Empowerment) are the founding partners of We Care Film Fest which is organized by Kapoor's New Delhi based NGO, Brotherhood.

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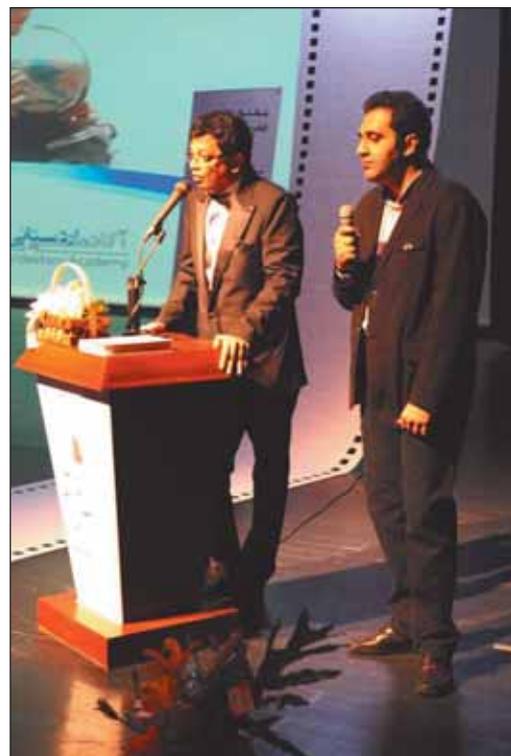
Fatameh Amiri, Festival Director of Parvaz International Film Festival said the We Care Film Fest was

a "huge success and a big media event" in Iran. She thanked Kapoor and Parvatiyar for bringing the festival to Iran. "We have decided to make it an annual event," she said.

Many leading personalities from Iranian film industry, cultural, educational and scientific community and those working in the disability sector in Iran participated in the three day event held at the landmark Azadi Tower in Tehran.

The festival was also invited by UNESCO headquarters, Paris to screen select films on the World Disability Day on 3rd December 2015. Earlier the festival had also traveled to Mauritius and Dubai.

Kapoor said there has been encouraging response from other countries too as they recognize We Care Film Fest's success in sensitizing youth on disability issues through the medium of cinema. "It is a movement and I am happy that more people in different countries are joining it," he said. ■



■ IFUNA and We Care Film Fest's Media Advisor Deepak Parvatiyar delivering his opening address at the We Care Film Fest in Tehran



# Ratan Tata makes investment; in digital currency start-up Abra



**The Abra app provides for storing digital cash, sending that money to any smartphone and using a new network of human ATMs, called Abra Tellers, who are individuals or businesses earning money by buying and selling digital cash to and from any consumer via the app.**

**A**CCORDING to US-based start-up Abra, Tata Group Chairman Emeritus Ratan Tata and credit card player American Express have made an undisclosed investment in the firm – their first such venture involving digital currency.

"Besides, the firm also announced entry into the online, digital cash-based merchant payments. Abra's app will be available to all registered users in the US and Philippines in the coming weeks, with more countries to follow soon," it said in a statement.

"Tata and American Express have made strategic investments in Abra as part of recently announced Series A round. These are the first investments in the crypto currency world for both American Express and Ratan Tata," Abra added.

Crypto currency is a digital or virtual currency, which uses cryptography for security. It is also difficult to counterfeit. One of the first

crypto currency to hog global attention was Bitcoin, which was launched in 2009.

The Abra app provides for storing digital cash, sending that money to any smartphone and using a new network of human ATMs, called Abra Tellers, who are individuals or businesses earning money by buying and selling digital cash to and from any consumer via the app.

"The firm has already been signing up merchants for this new solution. Abra expects to begin the global launch of the Merchant API service later this quarter," it said.

Abra is a digital cash, peer to peer money transfer network, which represents a global network of consumers helping each other easily deposit and withdraw cash from the Abra app anywhere in the world.

Founded in 2014 by serial entrepreneur Bill Barhydt Abra is based in Silicon Valley, California ■



**STATE-UNA**

# Utkal UN Day

Utkal Federation of United Nations Association (UFUNA, Odisha) observed the 70th Foundation Day of United Nations on 30th October 2015 at Govt. Women's College Dhenkanal , Odisha



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2

**S**PEAKING as Chief Guest, Dr.R.K.Sharma, of United Nations Information Centre, New Delhi & Bhutan apprised the audience about the programs undertaken by the UN to improve the living standard of the people throughout the world. The United Nations have initiated so many steps through its principle agencies and its vision for 2030 stressing People, Planet, Prosperity, Peace ,Partnership with sustainable Development Goals. That will take us to the future which is called 5Ps, 17 SDGs / 169 targets. He also praised the role of United Nations Associations (UNA) worldwide which imparts awareness to the people and student community by organizing seminars, MUNs etc.

Dr. Sarat Kar, former Speaker, Odisha and, Advisor , Utkal Federation of UNA in his inaugural address detailed the audience about activities of UN and its Security Council, and its effort to keep international Peace & Security in the World.

Absara Beuria, Ex-Ambassador, Govt.of India in his key note address spoke about the pre amble of the UN and its object to save the succeeding generations from the scourge of war which the world had suffered during the Second World War.

Advocate Manoranjan Patanaik, President,



3

UFUNA presided over the meeting. Guest of Honour Dr.Amya Kumar Rath, Reader in History, Govt.Women's College, also spoke on the occasion. Behadur Patsani, Secretary UFUNA introduced the guests and Ms Barsha Patnaik introduced the conveners of the college .K.V.Ramachandran, Secretary UFUNA proposed the Vote of Thanks.

The programme concluded with a colourful cultural programme by the students of Dhenkanal Women's College. ■

■ 1. I to r PROF DILIP NANDA,PROF AMIYA RATH , DR.R.K. SHARMA, MANORANJAN PATANAİK ,ABASAR BEURIA ,SARAT KAR, A.K.SATAPATHY,

2. Audience and 3. Audience



# ASSAM UNA CELEBRATES UN DAY

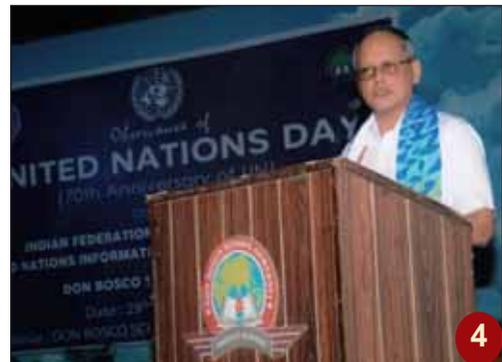


1. Ms. Bijoya Chakroborty, Member of Parliament visited the UNA Assam office at Khanpara, Guwahati. Assam UNA Secretary General Dr. Aswin Sharma is seen next to her.

2, 3 and 6. Distinguished audience and

4. Rajiv Bora, Principal Secretary, Govt. of Assam addressing the audience.

5. Ms. Kiran Mehra Kerpelman, Director UN Information Centre India and Bhutan giving interview to the students.





**STATE-UNA**

# HARYANA UNA UN DAY AT SALWAN PUBLIC SCHOOL GURGAON



1 Suresh Srivastava Secy, General, IFUNA planting a tree to mark the UN Day. Kailash Khoshla of Haryana UNA (2nd from left) is watching.

2. The Distinguished audience.

3. Principal of Salwan Public School raising the award received by her with joy.

4. Award winning students with (l to r) P.M. Parvatiyar Treasurer IFUNA, Ashok Sharma, Mrs Veena Parvatiyar, Suresh Srivastava, Secretary General IFUNA and Ms. Kiran Mehra Kirpelman, Director UN Information Centre, India and Bhutan.

5. Guests with participating blind students.

6. Students performing Music programme.





# पॉल्यूशन से फ़ाइट



**कैलाश खोसला**

**पॉ**ल्यूशन आज वैश्विक खतरा बन चुका है। यह खतरा आकाश से भी बढ़ा हो चला है। पॉल्यूशन का खतरा झेल चुका यूरोप हो या लगातार इसे बढ़ता जाने वाला एशिया, अब नहीं चेते तो स्थिति हाथ से निकल जाएगी। यूरोप भी कभी पॉल्यूशन का बुरी तरह शिकार था और कुछ हद तक आज भी है। लेकिन यूरोप ने सीख लेते हुए अपने हालात पर काबू पा लिया। किस तरह यह जंग लड़ी गई, इसका विवरण प्रस्तुत है:—

**1952 के वे भयानक दिन**

पिछले अंक में हमने 'योग के माध्यम से स्वास्थ्य-वर्द्धन' विषय में भारत के सराहनीय योगदान पर संक्षेप में प्रकाश डाला था। पाठकों ने इसका स्वागत किया है। इस

बार हम पर्यावरण पर उपयोगी सामग्री के साथ यह अंक प्रस्तुत कर रहे हैं। समूचे विश्व का ध्यान इस समस्या की ओर आकृष्ट हुआ है। अभी तक तो यह भी तय नहीं हो रहा था कि इस तरह का कोई संकट वाकई दुनिया के सामने है भी या नहीं। पेरिस सम्मेलन में यह समस्या मुखर हुई है। भारत प्राचीन काल से ही पर्यावरण के प्रति सजग रहा है। हरे-भरे जंगलों की रक्षा के लिए हमने प्रकृति को ईश्वर का ही स्वरूप दे दिया। पीपल की पूजा, तुलसी को देवी की मान्यता, सूर्य को भगवान एवं नदियों की महिमा स्वीकार कर के गंगा को दैवीय पद दिया गया। बढ़ते औद्योगिकरण के साथ हमारे देश में पर्यावरण दूषित होता चला गया। गाँव सिमटते चले गए और नगर फैलते गए। हरियाली भरे उपवनों का स्थान कंक्रीट के जंगलों ने ले लिया। परिणामस्वरूप हम आज की भयावह स्थिति तक पहुँच गए। नदियों का जल दूषित हो गया। शहरों की हवा विषैली हो गयी। यहाँ तक कि कृषि में पैदा होनेवाली सब्जियाँ व फल भी इस ज़हर का शिकार हो रहे हैं। यदि समय रहते इस ओर ध्यान दिया जाता तो स्थिति इतनी भयावह न होती।

हर्ष का विषय है कि संयुक्त राष्ट्रसंघ व भारत में इस ओर केन्द्रीय सरकार एवं राज्य सरकारें आकर्षित हुई हैं और स्थिति को और भयावह बनाने से रोकने के लिए युद्धस्तर पर प्रयास प्रारम्भ हो गया है। नदियों की सफाई व सड़कों पर विषैले धुँए को सीमित करने के लिए प्रयास शुरू हो गए हैं। यूरोप एवं अमेरिका आदि विकासशील देशों को भी इस समस्या का सामना करना पड़ा था। उन्होने कठोर कदम उठा कर समस्या पर नियन्त्रण पा लिया। हम अशावादी हैं, और आशा करते हैं कि इस समस्या के हल के लिए हमारा प्रयास सफल होगा। पेरिस सम्मेलन में हमारे प्रधानमन्त्री श्री नरेन्द्र मोदी के प्रयासों से विकासशील देश सुधार के लिए आर्थिक सहयोग के लिए भी कटिबद्ध हो गए हैं। हम सूर्य से उर्जा प्राप्त कर अपने देश में ही नहीं अपितु विश्व में भी पॉल्यूशन नियन्त्रण में सहयोगी हो सकते हैं। इसी आशा और विश्वास के साथ हम यह अंक आपको प्रस्तुत कर रहे हैं कि इस विश्वव्यापी समस्या का समाधान भी भारतीय प्रयासों में निहित है।

यूरोप की हवा भले ही चीन और भारत की हवा से साफ़ हो लेकिन 1950 तक ऐसा नहीं था। औद्योगिक क्रांति के बाद से ही पूरा यूरोप पॉल्यूशन के भंवर में फँस चुका था। आज चीन की स्मॉग के चलते जो हालात हो रही हैं, कमोबेश वही हालात यू के की 1952 में थी। लंदन बुरी तरह स्मॉग से घिरा हुआ था, जिसे 'ग्रेट स्मॉग' नाम भी दिया गया था। उस समय यह स्थिति थी कि लोगों को दिन में कुछ भी दिखाई नहीं देता था और सड़क के किनारे लगी रेलिंग पकड़ कर अपने घर तक जाना होता था। उस स्मॉग के कारण हजारों लोगों की मौत हो गई। इसके बाद



## पॉल्यूशन-स्वास्थ्य

ही ब्रिटेन ने क्लीन एयर एक्ट 1956 पास किया, जिसके बाद पॉल्यूशन से जट्टोजहद शुरू हुई। उद्योगों की संख्या में गिरावट और स्वस्थ वायु नीतियों के चलते पॉल्यूशन फैलाने वाले तत्व जैसे सल्फर डाइऑक्साइड, धूल के महीन कण, नाइट्रोजन ऑक्साइड की मात्रा काफी हद तक कम हुई है। फिर भी ऐसा अनुमान है कि हर साल 4 लाख यूरोपीय नागरिक पॉल्यूशन के कारण दम तोड़ देते हैं। यूरोपीय पर्यावरण एजेंसी के मुताबिक 2010 में स्वास्थ्य पर खर्च 330 बिलियन यूरो (437 बिलियन डॉलर) और 940 बिलियन यूरो या दूसरे शब्दों में कहें तो यूरोप की जीडीपी का 3 से 7 प्रतिशत खर्च स्वास्थ्य पर किया गया।

### स्थिति फिर भी विकट

कड़े नियम होने के बावजूद शहर की आबोहवा को लेकर काफी काम होना बाकी है। रोजमर्रा के काम पर निकलने वाले 10 में से 9 लोग पॉल्यूशन पर विश्व स्वास्थ्य संगठन (WHO) की तमाम गाइडलाइन्स के बावजूद इसके शिकार होते जा रहे हैं।

### खतरा चहुं ओर

लंदन में नाइट्रोजन डाइऑक्साइड की मात्रा खतरनाक स्तर पर पाई गई। तुर्की के तमाम शहर पीएम 10 (10 मिलीमीटर डायामीटर आकार का पार्टिकुलेट मैटर) के उच्चतम स्तर से घिरे पाए गए। लेकिन पॉल्यूशन का सर्वाधिक शिकार पूर्वी यूरोप के देश हैं। इन देशों में अब भी कोयला आधारित पावर स्टेशन बड़ी संख्या में हैं, और बड़ी मात्रा में दूसरे देशों से पॉल्यूशन हवा के जरिए इन देशों में पहुंच जाता है। 18 सरकारों पर पॉल्यूशन सीमा पर नियंत्रण न करने के चलते मुकदमे भी चल रहे हैं। लंदन के किंग्स कॉलेज के रिसर्चर्स ने पाया कि 2010 में लंदन में जन्मे हर बच्चे का लाइफस्पान पॉल्यूशन के कारण 9 महीने घट जाता है क्योंकि हवा में घुले पी एम 2.5 हर सांस के साथ उसके फेफड़ों को छेद रहे हैं। येल यूनिवर्सिटी के जी छेन के शोध में यह सामने आया कि पीएम 10 के उच्च स्तर के कारण चीन में भ्रूणों का विकास प्रभावित हो रहा है।

### अब भी लापरवाही

हालांकि ऑटोमोबाइल लॉबी के प्रेशर में तमाम सरकारों ने डीजल वाहनों को प्रमोट किया जिससे वातावरण में कार्बन डाइऑक्साइड का स्तर बढ़ता गया। वहां 2001 में केवल 14 फीसद कारें डीजल से चलती थीं, जो 2014 में बढ़कर 36 फीसद हो गईं। शुरू शुरू में ऐसा माना जाता था कि डीजल कारें कम कार्बन डाइऑक्साइड गैस का उत्सर्जन करती हैं बजाय कि पेट्रोल से चलने वाली कारों के। लेकिन बाद में यह सामने आया कि डीजल के जलने से तमाम अन्य घातक प्रदूषण फैलाने वाले तत्व वातावरण में घुलते हैं। इसके अलावा कंपनियां जांचकर्ताओं को बेवकूफ बनाने वाले तरीके भी अपनाती हैं जैसा कि फॉक्सवैगन ने अमेरिका में किया और पकड़ी गई।

### किसानों ने भी की अनदेखी

किसानों का भी नियमों की अनदेखी करना प्रदूषण के लिए जिम्मेदार माना गया। मात्रा से अधिक आमोनिया का

इस्तेमाल वातावरण में जहर बनकर घुलता है। हालांकि ब्रिटेन और फ्रंस की सरकारों ने भी किसानों पर सख्ती नहीं की जिससे पॉल्यूशन बढ़ता गया। इसका नतीजा यह हुआ कि 1990 तक प्रदूषण की मात्रा जहां आधी तक घट गई, अमोनिया से फैलने वाला प्रदूषण महज एक चौथाई ही घट पाया।

### हीलाहवाली कब तक

भले ही पॉल्यूशन एक बड़ा सिरदर्द साबित हो रहा है, लेकिन इसे लेकर राजनीतिक इच्छाशक्ति मजबूत नहीं हो रही और साकारों का लचर रवैया अब भी बरकरार है। भले ही फॉक्सवैगन का घपला सामने आया हो, लेकिन डीजल कारों पर लगाम का फैसला 2019 तक के लिए पेंडिंग में डाल दिया गया है। किसान लॉबी का दबाव इस कदर है कि अक्टूबर में एयर क्वालिटी स्टैंडर्ड को रिवाइज किया जाना था, लेकिन इसमें मीथेन उत्पन्न करने वाले कुछ तत्वों को छोड़ दिया गया। नए स्टैंडर्ड को 'भू' के पैमाने पर हल्का बताया जा रहा है।

### पॉल्यूशन से एकल संघर्ष

एक तरफ जहां सरकारों का लचर रवैया है तो वहीं पॉल्यूशन के खिलाफ एकल जंग भी लोग लड़ रहे हैं। आशा है, इसका सकारात्मक परिणाम निकलेगा।

### पल्यूशन का सल्यूशन

समझें बुरी हवा को प्रदूषित हवा की वजह से होने वाली परेशानी से निपटने के लिए सबसे जरूरी है समस्या को समझना और उसके हिसाब से एक्शन लेना। सबसे पहले तो यह समझना पड़ेगा कि क्या है जो हमारे आसपास की हवा को खराब कर रहा है:-

1. गाड़ियों से निकलता धुआं
2. रिहाइशी इलाकों में इंडस्ट्रियल सेटअप
3. कूड़ा-करकट और फसलों को जलाना
4. बढ़ते शहरों में होने वाला लगातार कंस्ट्रक्शन

कौन हैं हमारी हवा के विलेन? PM10 (पीएम का मतलब होता है पार्टिकल मैटर। इनमें शामिल है हवा में मौजूद धूल, धुआं, नमी, गंदगी जैसे 10 माइक्रोमीटर तक के पार्टिकल। इनसे होने वाला नुकसान ज्यादा परेशान करने वाला नहीं होता)

PM2.5 (2.5 माइक्रोमीटर तक के ये पार्टिकल साइज में बड़े होने की वजह से ज्यादा नुकसान पहुंचाते हैं) NO2 (नाइट्रोजन ऑक्साइड, यह वाहनों के धुएं में पाई जाती है)

SO2 (सल्फर डाई ऑक्साइड गाड़ियों और कारखानों से निकलने वाले धुएं से निकल कर फेफड़ों को काफी नुकसान पहुंचाता है)

CO (कार्बन मोनो ऑक्साइड गाड़ियों से निकल कर फेफड़ों को घातक नुकसान पहुंचाता है)

O3 (ओजोन, दमे के मरीज और बच्चों के लिए बहुत नुकसानदेह)

योग करेगा मुश्किलें आसान

शहरों की खराब होती हवा में शरीर का दमखम बनाए रखने और फेफड़ों को मजबूत रखने के लिए इन आसनों को रेग्युलर करें:-

भले ही पॉल्यूशन एक बड़ा सिरदर्द साबित हो रहा है, लेकिन इसे लेकर राजनीतिक इच्छाशक्ति मजबूत नहीं हो रही और साकारों का लचर रवैया अब भी बरकरार है। भले ही फॉक्सवैगन का घपला सामने आया हो, लेकिन डीजल कारों पर लगाम का फैसला 2019 तक के लिए पेंडिंग में डाल दिया गया है। किसान लॉबी का दबाव इस कदर है कि अक्टूबर में एयर क्वालिटी स्टैंडर्ड को रिवाइज किया जाना था, लेकिन इसमें मीथेन उत्पन्न करने वाले कुछ तत्वों को छोड़ दिया गया। नए स्टैंडर्ड को 'भू' के पैमाने पर हल्का बताया जा रहा है।



‘त्रिकोणासन’ ‘भुजंगासन’ उर्ध्व मुख श्वासासन’  
भस्त्रिका ‘प्राणायाम’ सुखासन एवं

इन आसनों को करने में केवल 30 मिनट बिता कर  
काफी परेशानियों से बचा जा सकता है।

NH3 (अमोनिया, फेफड़ों और पूरे रेस्पिरटरी सिस्टम  
के लिए खतरनाक)

PB (लेड, गाड़ियों से निकलने वाले धुएं के आलावा  
मेटल इंडस्ट्री से भी निकलता है। यह लोगों की सेहत को  
नुकसान पहुंचाने वाला सबसे खतरनाक मेटल है।)

मास्क से बचाव हो सकता है। लेकिन इसके लिए  
निम्नलिखित सावधानी बर्तनी होगी:—

1. ऐसा मास्क लें जिसकी रेटिंग छ95 हो।  
2. मास्क सही साइज़ का हो। ऐसा न होने पर गैस से  
प्रदूषित हवा भीतर जाती रहेगी और मास्क का कोई  
फायदा नहीं होगा। बच्चों के लिए छोटे साइज़ के मास्क भी  
मिल सकते हैं।

3. मास्क को गन्दी हवा बाहर निकालने के लिए अच्छा  
वेंटिलेशन भी होना चाहिए।

4. साधारण हरे या नीले क्लिनिकल मास्क ज्यादा  
काम के नहीं होते और लगभग हर तरह के एयर पल्सूशन  
के सामने बेअसर रहते हैं।

5. मास्क चुनने में डॉक्टर से भी राय ली जा सकती  
है। जैसे मार्केट में टवहउंए छमवउंए ज्वजवइवइवए  
त्मेचतवए टमदने और 3ड जैसी कंपनियों के मास्क अच्छे  
माने जाते हैं। क्रांलटी के हिसाब से इनकी कीमत 150  
रुपये से 5000 रुपये तक हो सकती है।

**पहचानें घर का पल्सूशन**

1. किचन के वेंटिलेशन फैन को देखें। उसकी कालिख  
से पता चल सकता है कि किचन में हवा नुकसानदायक  
स्तर तक बढ़ चुकी है अथवा नहीं।

2. घरों में होने वाले पेंट में मौजूद लेड और हेवी मेटल

## पॉल्यूशन-स्वास्थ्य

के आलावा ऐसे ऑर्गेनिक कम्पाउंड भी होते हैं जो लंबे  
वक्त तक हवा को खराब करते रहते हैं। कम टक्के वाले पेंट  
ही खरीदें।

3. ए सी का फिल्टर और पीछे की तरफकी वेंट में  
ज्यादा धूल या कालिख जमा हो जाती है। सामने की वेंट  
को हर महीने 2 बार और पीछे हर 2 महीने में एक बार  
साफ करवा लें।

**क्या करें**

1. किचन में इलेक्ट्रॉनिक चिमनी लगवाएं  
2. किचन में बेहतर वेंटिलेशन रखें  
3. अगर घर के आसपास बिजी रोड़ या कारखाने हों  
तो खिड़की दरवाजों को हैवी ट्रेफिक के वक्त बंद रखें।  
इससे भले ही पूरा बचाव न हो, लेकिन धूल-मिट्टी कम से  
कम घर में घुस पाएगी।

**इनको जरा बचाकर रखें**

**बच्चे**

1. 5 साल से कम उम्र के बच्चों की इम्युनिटी काफी  
कमजोर होती है इसलिए उन्हें एयर पल्सूशन से रिस्क  
ज्यादा होता है। अतः सर्दियों में उन्हें सुबह वाक के लिए न  
ले जाएं।

2. अगर बच्चे स्कूल जाते हैं तो टीचर से रिक्स्ट कर  
सकते हैं कि बच्चों को मैदान में खिलाने की बजाए इनडोर  
की खिलाएं।

3. धूल भरी और भारी ट्रेफिक वाली मार्केट्स में बच्चों  
को ले जाने से बचें।

4. टू वीलर में बच्चों को लेकर न निकलें।

5. बच्चों को कार में बाहर ले जाते वक्त शीशे बंद  
रखें और ए सी चलाएं।

6. बच्चों को भी थोड़ी-थोड़ी देर पर पानी पिलाते रहें,  
जिससे शरीर हाइड्रेट रहे और इनडोर पल्सूशन से होने  
वाला नुकसान भी कम हो।

**बूढ़े**

1. उम्रदराज लोगों को बिगड़ती हवा काफी परेशान  
कर सकती है।

2. पल्सूशन लेवल बढ़ने पर बाहर जाने से बचें।

3. धूप निकलने के बाद ही घर से बाहर निकलें।

4. अगर किसी बीमारी की दवाएं ले रहे हैं, तो  
रेग्युलर लेते रहें। ऐसा न करने से हालत खराब हो सकती  
है।

5. सर्दी के मौसम में ज्यादा एक्सरसाइज (ब्रिस्क वाक  
या जॉगिंग आदि) न करें। प्राणायाम और योग करना ही  
काफी होगा।

6. टू वीलर या ऑटो में सफर की बजाय टैक्सी या  
कंट्रोल माहौल वाले मेट्रो या ए सी बसों में ही यात्रा करें।

**पर्यावरण पर पैरिस समझौता**

जलवायु परिवर्तन को लेकर हुआ पैरिस समझौता  
कोई बहुत उम्मीद भले न जगाता हो, पर इसके तहत  
ग्लोबल वार्मिंग के खतरे और इसके समाधान को लेकर  
बनी विश्वव्यापी सहमति खुद में एक ऐतिहासिक उपलब्धि  
है। अभी तक विकसित देश अपनी दलीलें देते थे तो  
विकासशाल देश अपनी। इन दोनों से अलग ऑटोमोबाइल  
इंडस्ट्री और तेल उद्योग से जुड़े थिक टैक यह साबित करने



## पॉल्यूशन-स्वास्थ्य

में लगे रहते थे कि ग्लोबल वार्मिंग एक कागजी शेर है। अपने-अपने आंकड़ों के जरिए हर कोई बताना चाहता था कि भरसक तो ऐसा कोई संकट है ही नहीं, और अगर हो भी तो इसके लिए वह नहीं, कोई दूसरा जिम्मेदार है। पैरिस में यह बात साफ हो गई कि आगे की बहस कार्बन उत्सर्जन की मात्रा और उसे रोकने पर ही केंद्रित रहेगी। भारत की अगुआई में विकासशील देशों की यह बात मानी गई कि विकसित देश सिर्फ नसीहत देकर निकल नहीं सकते, अगर उन्हें पृथ्वी की चिंता है तो इसे बचाने का बोझ भी उन्हें बाकी मुल्कों से ज्यादा उठाना होगा। पैरिस समझौते के मुताबिक 'इक्कीसवीं सदी बीतने तक वैश्विक तापमान को औद्योगिक क्रांति से पहले के समय की तुलना में दो डिग्री सेल्सियस से ज्यादा ऊपर नहीं जाने देना है। यह लक्ष्य कानूनी रूप से बाध्यकारी होगा, लेकिन कोशिश यह की जाएगी कि तापमान 1.5 डिग्री सेल्सियस से अधिक न बढ़ने पाए। हर पांच साल पर प्रगति की समीक्षा की जाएगी। कार्बन उत्सर्जन घटाने में विकासशील देशों की मदद के लिए 100 अरब डॉलर का हरित कोष बनाने की कार्ययोजना भी बनी है। विकासशील देशों को दी जाने वाली राशि को दस साल बाद बढ़ाने पर विचार किया जाएगा, हालांकि इसे कानूनी रूप से बाध्यकारी नहीं बनाया गया है। समझौते में बहुत सी बातें महज आदर्श के तौर पर शामिल की गई हैं और ये देशों की सदृच्छा पर निर्भर करती हैं। पर्यावरण सम्मेलनों में बड़ी-बड़ी बातें होती रही हैं, बड़े देश भारी-भरकम वादे भी करते रहे हैं, पर वे पूरे होते नहीं दिखे। देखना है आगे यह माहौल कितना बदलता है। भारत की जिम्मेदारी भी बढ़ गई है। उसे पर्यावरण लक्ष्यों को लेकर अपनी वचनबद्धता दिखानी होगी वरना, विश्व में यही संदेश जाएगा कि हम केवल जबानी जमाखर्च करते हैं। हमारे बिजलीघर मुख्यतः कोयले पर ही आश्रित हैं। उनका कार्बन विमानियों पर ही रोका जा सके, ऐसी तकनीक हमें खोजनी होगी। एनटीपीसी और दूसरी बड़ी ऊर्जा कंपनियों के लिए विश्व बाजार से पूंजी जुटाना कठिन हो सकता है। हमें वैकल्पिक ऊर्जा और उससे जुड़ी तकनीक के विकास के लिए युद्धस्तर पर काम करना होगा और पर्यावरण चिंता को नीति-निर्माण से लेकर क्रियान्वयन तक का हिस्सा बनाना होगा। हमारे राजनेताओं से लेकर ब्यूरोक्रेसी तक को इसके मुताबिक ढालना घरेलू मोर्चे पर सबसे बड़ी चुनौती साबित होने वाली है।

**स्मॉक, फॉग व स्मॉग से कैसे बचे ?**

**स्मोक**

गाड़ियों और कारखानों से निकलता धुआं सुबह होते ही आसपास छाने लगता है और सांस के साथ फेफड़ों में पहुंच कर नुकसान पहुंचाता है। इसके शिकार अक्सर वे लोग होते हैं जो ट्रैफिक में दुपहिया वाहनों या नॉन ए सी पब्लिक ट्रांसपोर्ट में सफर करते हैं।

बिजी ट्रैफिक में टू वीलर में सफर करने वाले भी शिकार बनते हैं। हैल्मेट में स्मोक जाकर रुक जाता है और टेप्रेचर भी बढ़ जाता है जिससे हालात बद से बदतर हो जाते हैं।

**कैसे बचें ?**

शहर में स्मोक कम से कम हो, इसके लिए वाहनों से निकलने वाले धुएँ को कंट्रोल करना पड़ेगा। जब तक ऐसा नहीं होता अपनी तरफसे किए जाने वाले कुछ उपाय ही बचाव कर सकते हैं।

कोशिश करें कि उन इलाकों से न गुजरें जहां हेवी ट्रैफिक रहता है। लंबे, लेकिन कम ट्रैफिक वाले रास्ते से जाने में भले ही वक्त ज्यादा लगे, लेकिन सेहत पर बुरा असर कम होगा।

**फॉग**

घटते टेप्रेचर और बढ़ते स्मोक की वजह से सर्दियों का फॉग परेशानी खड़ी कर देता है। ठंड में सांस लेने में दिक्कत महसूस होने लगती है और बीमार के साथ नॉर्मल लोगों को भी परेशानी हो सकती है।

**कैसे बचें ?**

फॉग अक्सर सुबह या रात के वक्त ही होता है। बेहतर होगा इस वक्त बाहर निकलने से बचें और अगर निकलना पड़े तो मास्क लगा लें। दम के मरीज फॉग वाले दिनों में इन्हेलर साथ लेकर निकलें, जिससे जरूरत पड़ने पर हालात बिगड़ने से पहले एक्शन लिया जा सके।

**स्मॉग**

स्मॉग शब्द स्मोक और फॉग से मिल कर बना है। मतलब यह कि जब वातावरण में मौजूद धुआं फॉग के साथ मिल जाता है, तब स्मॉग कहलाता है।

जहां गर्मियों में वातावरण में पहुंचने वाला स्मोक ऊपर की ओर उठ जाता है वहीं ठंड में ऐसा नहीं हो पाता और धुएँ और धुंध का एक जहरीला मिक्सचर तैयार होकर सांसों में पहुंचने लगता है।

स्मॉग कई मायनों में स्मोक और फॉग दोनों से ज्यादा खतरनाक होता है।

**कैसे बचें ?**

बीमार हों या हेल्दी, हो सके तो स्मॉग में बाहर न निकलें। अगर निकलना ही पड़े तो मास्क लगा कर निकलें। बेहतर होगा सर्दियों में सुबह (5-6 बजे) की बजाय धूप निकलने के बाद (तकरीबन 8 बजे) वाक करें।

**मुस्कान**

एक आदमी ने भागवान की तपस्या करनी शुरू की। एक दिन भागवान उसकी तपस्या से खुश होकर प्रकट हुए और बोले - वर मांगो वत्स। आदमी बोला - आप जैसा सोच रहे हैं मैं वैसा नहीं हूँ। मूझे तो वधू चाहिए।

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पति ने पत्नी से पूछा, घर जल्दी कैसे आ गई? पत्नी बोली आज मेरा बांस गुस्सा हो कर बोला - 'गो टू हेल' - तो मैं सीधा घर आ गई।

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एक बार इंजिनियरिंग के सभी प्रोफेसरों को एक प्लेन में बिठाया गया। फिर अनाऊंस किया गया कि, 'यह प्लेन आपके स्टूडेन्ट्स ने मिल कर बनाया है।' सारे प्रोफेसर प्लेन से नीचे उतर गए। लेकिन प्रिन्सीपल बैठे ही रहे। लोगों ने पूछा आपको डर नहीं लग रहा? प्रिन्सीपल बोला, मुझे अपने छात्रों पर पूरा भरोसा है, यह स्टार्ट ही नहीं होगा।

स्मॉग शब्द स्मोक और फॉग से मिल कर बना है। मतलब यह कि जब वातावरण में मौजूद धुआं फॉग के साथ मिल जाता है, तब स्मॉग कहलाता है। जहां गर्मियों में वातावरण में पहुंचने वाला स्मोक ऊपर की ओर उठ जाता है वहीं ठंड में ऐसा नहीं हो पाता और धुएँ और धुंध का एक जहरीला मिक्सचर तैयार होकर सांसों में पहुंचने लगता है। स्मॉग कई मायनों में स्मोक और फॉग दोनों से ज्यादा खतरनाक होता है।

**कैसे बचें ?**

बीमार हों या हेल्दी, हो सके तो स्मॉग में बाहर न निकलें। अगर निकलना ही पड़े तो मास्क लगा कर निकलें। बेहतर होगा सर्दियों में सुबह (5-6 बजे) की बजाय धूप निकलने के बाद (तकरीबन 8 बजे) वाक करें।



## बोध-कथा

एपीजे अब्दुल कलाम अपनी किशोरावस्था के दिनों में एक दिन सागर के किनारे बैठ लहरों के उतार-चढ़ाव देख रहे थे। वह सागर की लहरों में खोए हुए थे कि तभी उनके मित्र ने उनसे कहा, 'दोस्त, सागर में ऐसा क्या है जिसे तुम इतना गौर से देख रहे हो?' कलाम मुस्कुरा कर बोले, 'सागर का सौंदर्य और उसमें छिपा संदेश मेरे लिए प्रेरणा का केंद्र है और हमेशा रहेगा।' यह सुनकर मित्र बोला, 'अच्छा, फिर तो विस्तार से जरा सागर की उस सुंदरता का बखान करो, जो तुम्हारे लिए प्रेरणा स्रोत बन गई है।' कलाम बोले, 'मेरे लिए सागर ही नहीं, संपूर्ण प्रकृति प्रेरणा का स्रोत है। दूर तक सागर की गहरी जलराशि को देखो, इससे उपजी ध्वनि को महसूस करो।

जरा ध्यान से सुनो, मां है!

एक बार कोई महिला जुड़वां बच्चों को जन्म देने वाली थी। पेट में एक बच्चे ने दूसरे से पूछा, 'क्या तुम डिलिवरी के बाद जिंदगी की उम्मीद रखते हो?' दूसरे ने जवाब दिया, 'हां, क्यों नहीं? डिलिवरी के बाद कुछ तो जरूर होगा। हो सकता है हम इसलिए यहां हैं कि हम आने वाले वक्त के लिए खुद को तैयार कर सकें।'

**पहला बच्चा:** बेकार की बात है। डिलिवरी के बाद लाइफ कैसी होगी?

**दूसरे बच्चे ने कहा:** वो तो मुझे पता नहीं लेकिन मुझे लगता है कि डिलिवरी के बाद हम जहां होंगे, वहां यहां से ज्यादा रोशनी होगी। हो सकता है, हम अपने पैरों के सहारे चल सकें और मुंह से खा सकें। हो सकता है, हम वह सब कुछ कर सकें, जो अभी नहीं कर पा रहे हैं।

**पहला बच्चा:** यह सब बकवास है। चलना-फिरना तो नामुमकिन है। और मुंह से खाना तो पागलपन की बात है। हां, ये जो गर्भनाल हमें मां से जोड़े हुए है, वह छोटी जरूर है, लेकिन हम जरूरत के मुताबिक खुराक तो इसके जरिए पा ही लेते हैं। डिलिवरी के बाद जिंदगी की तो कोई तार्किक संभावना ही नहीं है।

**दूसरा बच्चा:** लेकिन मुझे लगता है डिलिवरी के बाद कुछ तो होगा, भले ही वह यहां से कुछ अलग हो। हो सकता है, हमें इस गर्भनाल की जरूरत न पड़े।

**पहला बच्चा:** अगर तुम्हारे कहे मुताबिक डिलिवरी के बाद जिंदगी है भी, तो वहां से अब तक कोई वापस क्यों नहीं आया? डिलिवरी के बाद जिंदगी की कोई संभावना नहीं है। डिलिवरी के बाद सिर्फ अंधकार, सन्नटा और खालीपन है।

**दूसरा बच्चा:** खैर अभी मैं कुछ कह नहीं सकता, लेकिन हां इतना जरूर है कि हम डिलिवरी के बाद मां से मिलेंगे और वह हमारी देखभाल करेगी।

**दूसरा बच्चा:** वह हमारे आसपास है हम इससे घिरे हुए हैं। हम उसके हिस्से हैं। मां के भीतर ही तो हम सब रहते हैं। उसके बिना न यह दुनिया है और न हम।

**पहला बच्चा:** मैं तो उसे कहीं देखता नहीं, तर्क यही कहता है कि वह कहीं नहीं है।

**दूसरा बच्चा:** कई बार जब खामोशी हो और तुम ध्यान लगा कर सुनो, तब तुम्हें उसके होने का आभास होगा। तुम उसकी प्यार भरी आवाज को ऊपर से नीचे की ओर आते हुए सुन भी सकते हो। बस जरूरत है, मन को एकाग्र करने की।

## प्रेरक प्रसंग

बड़ी उलझन में पड़ जाओ तो छोटी उलझन याद नहीं रहती

कभी-कभी यूं हो जाता है कि बड़ी उलझन में पड़ जाओ तो छोटी उलझन याद नहीं रहती। जैसे डॉक्टर ने कहा, सिरदर्द की फिफ्र छोड़ो, अरे यह कुछ भी नहीं, तुम्हारे पेट में कैंसर है! सिरदर्द एकदम समाप्त हो जाएगा।

जॉर्ज बर्नार्ड शॉ के जीवन का एक प्रसंग है। अस्सी साल की उम्र में उसने आधी रात को अपने चिकित्सक को फोन किया। वह उसका पचास साल पुराना चिकित्सक था। उसकी उम्र कोई पचासी साल थी। खबर की कि जल्दी आओ, मुझे

यूं लगता है कि दिल का दौरा पड़ा है। बचुंगा नहीं! नहीं तो आधी रात में तुम्हें जगाता नहीं। मुझे मालूम है कि तुम मुझसे भी ज्यादा बूढ़े हो, मगर तुम पर ही मेरा भरोसा है। तुम मेरे शरीर को जानते भी हो। मजबूरी है, क्षमा करना, लेकिन आना होगा। बूढ़ा चिकित्सक उठा। किसी तरह पहुंचा। सीढियां चढ़ा। आधी रात, बूढ़ा आदमी, हाथ में डॉक्टर वाला वजनी बैग, लंबी सीढियों की चढ़ाई। जब उपर पहुंचा तो बैग को तो पटक दिया उसने फर्श पर और कुर्सी पर लेट गया, हांफ रहा था और पसीना-पसीना हो रहा था।

बर्नार्ड शॉ घबराकर बैठ गए कि क्या मामला है! उस डॉक्टर ने तो आंखें बंद कर लीं, उसने इतना ही कहा कि मालूम होता है, हृदय का दौरा पड़ रहा है। बर्नार्ड शॉ भागे, ठंडा पानी छिड़का, पंखा किया, हाथ-पैर दबाए, नाडी देखी, जो भी बन सकता था, वह किया। पंद्रह-बीस मिनट में डॉक्टर थोड़ा स्वस्थ हुआ, आंख खोलीं, अपना बैग उठाया और बर्नार्ड शॉ से कहा कि मेरी फीस! बर्नार्ड शॉ ने कहा, क्या मजाक करते हो! फीस मैं तुमसे मांगूं या तुम मुझसे? इलाज तुमने मेरा किया ही नहीं, इलाज तो दूर, आकर और झंझट खड़ी कर दी। मैं तो भूल हो गया कि मुझे हृदय का दौरा पड़ा है। मैं तो तुम्हें बचाने में लग गया।

चिकित्सक ने कहा कि वह मेरा इलाज था। तुम्हें हृदय का दौरा भुलाने के लिए मैंने यह व्यवस्था की थी। बर्नार्ड शॉ ने जिंदगी में बहुत लोगों से मजाक किए हैं, लेकिन उसने लिखा है कि मेरे चिकित्सक ने मुझे मात दे दी। अतः फीस देनी पड़ी।

### प्रकृति से मिली प्रेरणा

एपीजे अब्दुल कलाम अपनी किशोरावस्था के दिनों में एक दिन सागर के किनारे बैठ लहरों के उतार-चढ़ाव देख रहे थे। वह सागर की लहरों में खोए हुए थे कि तभी उनके मित्र ने उनसे कहा, 'दोस्त, सागर में ऐसा क्या है जिसे तुम इतना गौर से देख रहे हो?' कलाम मुस्कुरा कर बोले, 'सागर का सौंदर्य और उसमें छिपा संदेश मेरे लिए प्रेरणा का केंद्र है और हमेशा रहेगा।' यह सुनकर मित्र बोला, 'अच्छा, फिर तो विस्तार से जरा सागर की उस सुंदरता का बखान करो, जो तुम्हारे लिए प्रेरणा स्रोत बन गई है।' कलाम बोले, 'मेरे लिए सागर ही नहीं, संपूर्ण प्रकृति प्रेरणा का स्रोत है। दूर तक सागर की गहरी जलराशि को देखो, इससे उपजी ध्वनि को महसूस करो। सागर की यह ध्वनि मन के तारों को झकझोरती है। मन को एकाग्रता के बिंदु पर पहुंचाती है।' यह सुन कर मित्र बोला, 'अब यह भी बताओ कि समुद्र की सतह पर उठती-गिरती लहरें क्या कहती हैं?' कलाम बोले, 'सागर पर उठती-गिरती अनंत लहरों का अविरल सौंदर्य मन में अनेक भावनाओं का संचार करता है। यही नहीं, तुम समुद्र के ऊपर उड़ते पक्षियों को देखो।' मित्र आसमान में उड़ते पक्षियों की ओर देखने लगा। तभी कलाम बोले, 'क्या तुम्हारा मन नहीं करता कि तुम भी इन पक्षियों की भांति उड़ो।' मित्र बोला, 'तुम तो दार्शनिकों जैसी बातें करते हो। भला आसमान में हम कहीं पक्षियों की तरह उड़ सकते हैं? इसपर कलाम मुस्कुरा दिए, 'पक्षियों की भांति न सही, लेकिन ऐसी कोई वस्तु तो अवश्य बना सकते हैं जो उड़ सके और हमें बादलों के उस पार ले जाए।' कलाम की बातें सुनकर मित्र स्तब्ध रह गया और बोला, 'दोस्त, तुम जरूर एक न एक दिन इतिहास रचोगे।' आगे चलकर मित्र की बात सच साबित हुई और कलाम भारत के मिसाइलमैन के रूप में जाने गए। ■

# Religion of God

**W**E ARE brought up by our parents to believe in one religion or the other. We never think that we could have just as easily been born into another religion and would have been brought up believing as strongly in some other teachings. Thus, people in each religion become dogmatic about what they were taught in their places of worship. Few people have the discrimination to realize that there could not be a God for each religion. There is one God. Few people take the time and effort to make a comparative study of religions. If they did, they would find out that there are certain truths common to all religions. No matter what religious background we come from, we all are taught that God is the Creator. It is from Him that the entire universe came into being. It is He who created humanity and all forms of life. Considering this fact alone should be enough for us to realize that we are but small specks in the entire scheme of creation. He is all, and we are but tiny insignificant beings. Yet few of us realize this. If we examine our thoughts, how many times do we think of God as our Creator? How many times do we thank Him for our life? How many times do we realize He is the giver of everything we have? Few people go through their day-to-day lives remembering Him and His gifts.

We are so absorbed in this panorama of life, we have forgotten all about God. True, we say mechanical prayers to Him either at our places of worship or before eating. True, we remember Him when we want Him to save us from a calamity or from serious illness. But most of the time we hardly give Him a thought. In modern times, forgetting God has become so serious that some people have even denied His existence. There are people who are atheists, who do not believe God exists.

Worth pondering is the question how such a perfectly designed universe and such a complex, well-planned

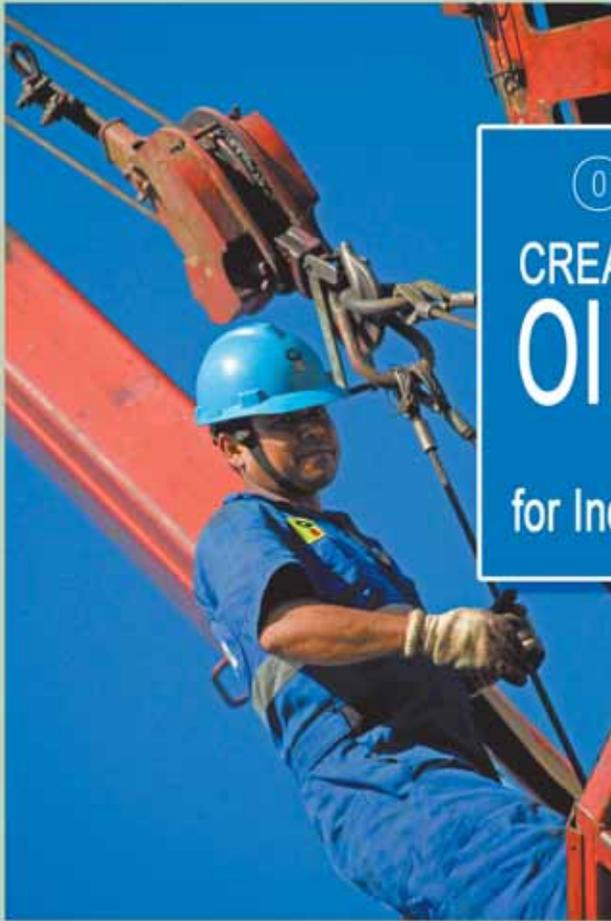
organism as a human being could come about through chance. Only an intelligent Creator could design this universe, nature, and all forms of life, including human beings. Those who delve into the intricacies of nature and are in awe of it have the humility to recognize there is some higher power responsible for the universe. A majority of human beings, though, go through life unaware of the invisible Creator.

For this reason, in every age, enlightened souls come to show humanity that there is one God, and that we are all his children. They come to unite humanity in a common love and brotherhood. They point out that each religion is basically the same and that they are each teaching the same path to God. In each religion, the customs may differ, the language used for the same concepts may vary, but the same basic truths are expressed. When we are caught up in the pride of our own knowledge, we are not prepared to listen to anyone. Thus, instead of finding out the basic truths underlying each religion we close our ears. With the passage of time the esoteric or inner side of the religion was lost, and the exoteric or outside remained. We find ourselves practicing the customs and rites but never finding God. We pride ourselves on the fact that we know the scriptures of our own religion, that we go to the places of worship regularly, and that we observe the outer customs. We think that what we are doing is enough.

But when we open our minds and hearts to learn the basics of our religion, to see what the founders actually taught, and to compare the essence of each religion, we will realize there is only one God and there exists a practical way to find him. The same God is there for everyone, humans from all cultures, castes and religions and even for other living forms coexisting with us on this planet. It is He who created humanity and all forms of life. The greatest religion is to love Him and His creation. ■



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