



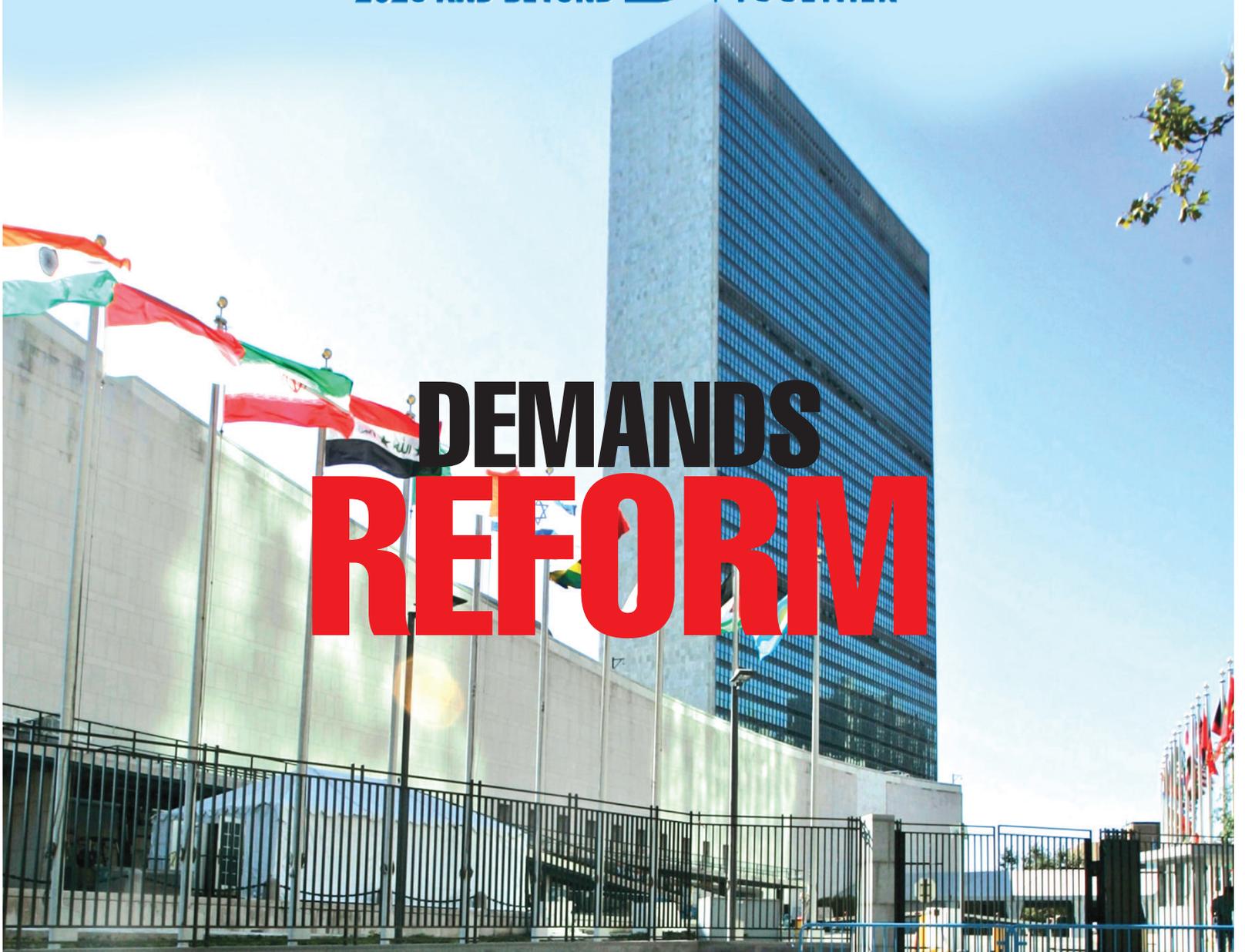
PEOPLE AND UN

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TOGETHER
2020 AND BEYOND

**DEMANDS
REFORM**



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IFUNA DELEGATION IN CHINA 1992

Left to right Chinese Government Diplomat, P.M. Parvatiyar (Bihar UNA), N.G. Bangur (West Bengal UNA), Suresh Srivastava, Abdul Halim (then Speaker West Bengal Assembly), S. Mohan (Kerala UNA), Ms Praveen Contractor (Maharashtra UNA)

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BHARAT PANDYA
GUJARAT UNA PRESIDENT
ON P.M. NARENDRA MODI

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A PPEASE China and Humiliate India' policy of Prime Minister KP Sharma Oli has brought Nepal not only in deep political crisis but also to some extent have mess up the traditional socio –cultural fabric and economic activities of that country.

On 20th December 2020,overstepping his executive authority, Prime Minister Oli dissolved the 275-member House of Representatives as he apprehended that he no more enjoys the majority support of Mr.Prachanda's Communist Party –Maoist Centre. Nepal's entire political classes and social activists including constitutional experts opposed it overwhelmingly, believing that the move was unconstitutional and illegitimate.

P M Oli's move also set the stage for a formal split of the ruling NCP that was formed in 2018 by the merger of his Communist Party of Nepal (Unified Marxist–Leninist) and Prachanda's Communist Party of Nepal- Maoist Centre facilitated by China's Guo Yezhou, vice-minister of the International Department of the Communist Party of China's central committee.

Alarmed with the development, a four member Chinese delegation under Guo Yezhou was deputed and rushed to Kathmandu by President Xi Jinping to unite the faction-ridden ruling Nepal Communist Party (NCP). But this 'China's Mission Nepal' failed and suffered a huge setback. Many political leaders as well as social activists of Nepal have protested against this Chinese 'mediation', terming it to interference in domestic affairs of their country.

Meanwhile in an interesting development, the streets of Kathmandu is witnessing demonstrations and mass protest demanding restoration of constitutional monarchy in Nepal. They are chanting slogans in favor of monarchy system.

The question of dissolution of House of representative is pending with Supreme Court of Nepal. But the new demand for restoration of constitutional monarchy has no doubt open a lively debate for serious consideration by political and social activists of Nepal about the type of government the people of their country wants.

Nevertheless it also speaks in volumes about the traditional value and belief of people of Nepal and also its choice for a socio-cultural and politico relation with its neighbors in general and India in particular..

– **Pran Mohan Parvatiyar**
pmparvatiyar@gmail.com



A view of people demonstration in Kathmandu demanding constitutional monarchy, on 1st January 2021 (Photo curtsey ANI)



REFORM IN UNITED NATIONS IS NEED OF HOUR



FOUR COUNTRIES, I.E., UNITED STATES, RUSSIA, BRITAIN AND FRANCE, OUT OF THE FIVE PERMANENT MEMBERS OF THE UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL (UNSC) ARE WILLING TO EXPAND THE SECURITY COUNCIL TO INCLUDE INDIA, BUT THE DOGGED SPOKE IN THE WHEEL IS CHINA.

ON THE 75TH anniversary of the United Nations, Prime Minister of India Narendra Modi reiterated a question that has been anguished for years: "For how long will India be kept out of the decision-making structures of the United Nations?"

Four countries, i.e., United States, Russia, Britain and France, out of the five permanent members of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) are willing to expand the Security Council to include India, but the dogged spoke in the wheel is China.

Germany is another successful narrative of a more 'moral' dimension, despite not having a permanent seat in the United Nations. The genealogical logic underpinning the

United Nations as the bastion of victorious 'allies' notwithstanding, Germany (like India) qualifies all necessary sovereign instincts, presuppositions and behaviours, which when contextualized to its scale and impact, makes it worthy of a permanent seat in the United Nations Security Council. Germany contributes more to the United Nations budget than Great Britain, France or Russia (whereas, Japan does the second highest contribution, after the United States), yet it is denied its rightful place.

Similarly, Japan too evolved from the rubbles, sanctions and continued denials of a permanent seat in the United Nations to emerge as an economic powerhouse, with a GDP that is only lower to that of United States and China.

On the occasion of the United Nation's 75th anniversary, German Chancellor Angela Merkel also called for reforms to the organization and for greater unity between its members. "In the end, the United Nations can only be as good as its members are united," Merkel said in a video message delivered at a ceremony marking the anniversary. "Too often the UN Security Council is blocked when clear decisions are needed," the chancellor said, referring to the branch of the UN tasked with ensuring international peace and security. "We need reform."

Russian foreign minister called for reforming the United Nations Security Council. Speaking at "International Cooperation in



a Troubled World” conference in Vietnamese city of Ho Chi Minh, Sergey Lavrov said the developing regions are inadequately represented in the decision-making body of the international organization. “The reform of the UN Security Council is definitely overdue, as it under represents the developing regions of the world – Asia, Africa and Latin America.

Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, this year’s UN General Assembly was held virtually, as almost all world leaders delivered their speeches in a pre-recorded video format. The annual UN General Assembly debate was held at the United Nations office in New York, to mark the 75th year of the United Nations General Assembly, which was started in 1945, after the end of World War II

In his address to the members of United Nations General Assembly(UNGA) Prime Minister Modi asked: “Till when we have to wait? Till when India will be kept away from the UN’s decision-making process?”

P M Narendra Modi reminded the UN that 130 crore Indians still believed in its ideals, but said the global body needed to adapt and change to stay relevant in current times.

“Reform is needed at the United Nations and India is waiting for that reform,” the Prime Minister said. “India is proud of the fact that it is the founding member of UN. The world was significantly different in 1945. The problems, solutions were all different. The challenges of our present and future are now different. The international community is faced with an important question. Is the UN of 1945 still relevant?” Modi quipped. The Security Council the UN’s highest-decision making forum is still having only the five permanent members since its inception - the United States, the United Kingdom, China, Russia and France.

Mr.Modi further said, it is true that the Third World War did not happen to say, but it cannot be denied that there have been many wars; many civil wars have also taken place. How many terror attacks kept the rivers of blood flowing. In these wars, in these attacks, the people who were killed were human beings like you. Changes in UN reactions, changes in arrangements, and change in appearance- today is the need of the hour. The



people of India have been waiting for a long time to complete the process that is going on with the reforms of the United Nations. People of India are worried whether this process will ever reach the logical end. After all, how long India will be kept separate from the decision making structures of the United Nations.

When we were weak, we didn’t trouble the world. When we became strong, we didn’t become a burden on the world. Till when do we have to wait? The ideals of UN and the India’s main principles are similar. Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam has echoed in the UN halls many a time.India has always stressed on vishwakalyan in the UN. India is looking at an extended role in the UN. The International Day of Non-Violence and Yoga was given by India. India has always thought about the welfare of the world. From our neighborhood first policy to look-east policy, are all guided by these principles.

Over 150 countries were sent medical supplies by Indian Pharma during pandemic. Our vaccine production will help in bringing the world out of the pandemic. We are moving towards Phase 3 of clinical trials. We are increasing infra and will help others increase it.

India stands for Shanti, Suraksha and Samridhi. We will always oppose drugs, illegal weapons, etc. India’s experience will strength-

"REFORM IS NEEDED AT THE UNITED NATIONS AND INDIA IS WAITING FOR THAT REFORM," THE PRIME MINISTER SAID."INDIA IS PROUD OF THE FACT THAT IT IS THE FOUNDING MEMBER OF UN. THE WORLD WAS SIGNIFICANTLY DIFFERENT IN 1945. THE PROBLEMS, SOLUTIONS WERE ALL DIFFERENT. THE CHALLENGES OF OUR PRESENT AND FUTURE ARE NOW DIFFERENT. THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY IS FACED WITH AN IMPORTANT QUESTION. IS THE UN OF 1945 STILL RELEVANT?" MODI QUIPPED. THE SECURITY COUNCIL THE UN'S HIGHEST-DECISION MAKING FORUM IS STILL HAVING ONLY THE FIVE PERMANENT MEMBERS SINCE ITS INCEPTION - THE UNITED STATES, THE UNITED KINGDOM, CHINA, RUSSIA AND FRANCE.



en the way for vishwa kalyan. India brought changes through Reform-Perform-Transform process.

In 4-5 years, linking 400-500 million with the banking system was not easy. India is one of the leaders in digital transactions globally. We are working on making country TB-free by 2025. India has also initiated a huge process of connecting villages with optical fiber. Atmanirbhar Bharat programme will be a force-multiplier for the world economy.

We are promoting women enterprises. India is one of the countries where women get 26 weeks' paid maternity leave. India has brought legal reforms for security of transgender community. On the occasion of 75th anniversary, let us all dedicate ourselves for welfare of the world.

The international community must ask if the UN is still relevant 75 years after its founding, said Mr. Modi, noting that despite the Organization's achievements, including the avoidance of a Third World War, there have since been many conflicts, and today's challenges are vastly different from those of the past.

The Indian leader went on to question whether the Organization has been effective in tackling COVID-19, asking "where is the United Nations in this joint fight against the pandemic? Where is its effective response?"

"How long would a country have to wait, par-

ticularly when the transformational changes happening in that country affect a large part of the world?", he asked.

Mr. Modi painted a picture of India as an outward-looking country, with a commitment to multilateralism, and fundamental philosophy that is aligned with that of the UN, declaring, "we treat the whole world as one family".

As examples of this ethos, he noted the country's presence in some 50 UN peace-keeping missions, and international initiatives launched by India, such as the International Day of Non-Violence, and the International Day of Yoga.

India's journey towards development will help to strengthen the path to global welfare, he continued, listing some of the country's successes, in terms of transforming the lives of its citizens. These, he said, include bringing some 400 million people into the formal financial sector, and leading the world in digital transactions over the last four to five years. Over the same period, added Mr. Modi, India has freed around 600 million people freed from open defecation. Other advances in the health sector include providing access to free health care facilities for some 500 million people over the last two to three years, a campaign to rid India of tuberculosis by 2025, and a programme to bring piped drinking water to 250 million households.

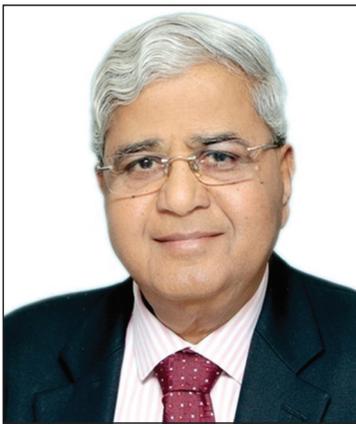
India's premier announced that, in the post-pandemic era, the country will advance its vision of a self-reliant future, and that all of its programmes and initiatives are designed to benefit all of its citizens, without discrimination. For example, women entrepreneurs and leaders are being promoted, he said, and are the main beneficiaries of the world's largest micro-financing scheme; and the rights of transgender people are being secured through legal reforms.

Whilst India's respect for the Organization is "unparalleled", that Indians have long waited for reform and called for the country to be included in the UN's decision-making structures. India, , wants to learn from the world, and share its experience with the world, and he exhorted and expressed his confidence that, in its seventy-fifth year, the UN will maintain its relevance by reform, because "stability in the United Nations and empowerment of the United Nations are essential for the welfare of the world".

INDIA'S PREMIER ANNOUNCED THAT, IN THE POST-PANDEMIC ERA, THE COUNTRY WILL ADVANCE ITS VISION OF A SELF-RELIANT FUTURE, AND THAT ALL OF ITS PROGRAMMES AND INITIATIVES ARE DESIGNED TO BENEFIT ALL OF ITS CITIZENS, WITHOUT DISCRIMINATION. FOR EXAMPLE, WOMEN ENTREPRENEURS AND LEADERS ARE BEING PROMOTED, HE SAID, AND ARE THE MAIN BENEFICIARIES OF THE WORLD'S LARGEST MICRO-FINANCING SCHEME; AND THE RIGHTS OF TRANSGENDER PEOPLE ARE BEING SECURED THROUGH LEGAL REFORMS.

On 75th Anniversary

Inadequacy of Security Council: *Damaging UN Brand*



By Sitaram Sharma,
Vice President, IFUNA

The United Nations Security Council (UNSC) is the premium forum in International Politics. Through its decisions, mandated operations and enforcement actions, the UNSC directly influences the present and future state of international peace and security. Under the UN Charter, the UNSC is designated as the custodian of International Peace and Security. The founders envisaged that “Five Policeman” in the post-war era should be enabled to act as the net-provider of security, while the members of international community would be the consumers of security.

Chapter VII of the Charter set out a very clear logical progression or escalation in a possible Council response varying from Article 40 to the final stage along the line of escalation with the use of force, the basis for which is provided in Article 42. However, the envisaged process of response of the Council was done away of sheer practicality. And since the end of Cold War, the previously under-utilized Council became hyperactive - dealing with multiple situations across four continents.

The World has changed beyond recognition since the founding of the United Nations in 1945. But the United Nations refuses to reform or more aptly the P5 – Permanent five members of the Security Council: China, France, Russia, the United Kingdom and the United States, for it will always argue for the retention of their prerogative veto, thus blocking any major reforms.

However UN Reform does not start and end with expansion of Security Council membership and the addition of new categories of membership or additional permanent members with or without veto power. It should be remembered that

each and every member-state of the UN signed onto the Charter has tacitly accepted the inequality embedded in the design of the Security Council. The World was presented with a stark choice at San Francisco in 1945 between “an organization with great power privilege” and “no organization at all”. Thus, 70 years later, the abolition of the Veto still remains a flight of fantasy.

Since the end of the Cold War, these reform debates, concocted by politics, have circled endlessly without any prospect of conclusion. With the creation of the “Open-ended Working Group, the debate became formalized and plans

THE WORLD HAS CHANGED BEYOND RECOGNITION SINCE THE FOUNDING OF THE UNITED NATIONS IN 1945. BUT THE UNITED NATIONS REFUSES TO REFORM OR MORE APTLY THE P5 – PERMANENT FIVE MEMBERS OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL: CHINA, FRANCE, RUSSIA, THE UNITED KINGDOM AND THE UNITED STATES, FOR IT WILL ALWAYS ARGUE FOR THE RETENTION OF THEIR PREROGATIVE VETO, THUS BLOCKING ANY MAJOR REFORMS.



for reforms subsequently proliferated. In general terms, reform is aimed at improving performance. Perhaps the most well recited arguments for an expanded UNSC is the argument that the Council does not reflect contemporary power realities and should therefore be reformed to reflect the so-called new realities of the 21st Century. The old adage “Whether elephants make love or make war, the grass gets trampled” is an expression that applies to the concern held by many smaller countries. Their fear is that even if six new permanent seats are created; they will be cut out of decision-making. Moreover Power in international politics is not a constant. The rise and fall of emperors throughout history is testament to this fact. The once powerful are no longer powerful and once weak are now strong. A Reformed Council will not represent the end of history. In 20–30 year time, new emerging countries such as Indonesia, Mexico, South Korea and Turkey will ask the question: Why are not we in the Council?

In this context, an alternative proposal proposed by the Secretary General in 2005, although unattractive to the membership is

considered to be more effective – a four year renewable membership, as the wider membership of the UN has the opportunity to assess each elected Council member’s performance – as favourably or unfavourably.

Let us be clear that we do not live in an ideal world. Let us also understand the reality- the Council cannot be expected to be impartial, apolitical and democratic. This is not to say these expectations are not good or worthy, but they are based on an idea of the Council that does not exist in reality. During the 1990s, the Council began to intervene in a particularly traumatic and complex series of internal conflicts.

Over the past 75 years the Council has proven it to be remarkably innovative, but at the same time also made significant blunders failing to learn from its past mistakes. In Rwanda, Bosnia and Somalia, the Council adopted responses that were later proved to be wholly inadequate. But it still remains the go-to forum in a time of crisis and is likely to remain so well into the future. These abject failures has damaged the creditability of the Council and tarnished the UN brand. At the heart of criticism is the notion that UNSC has failed to act swiftly and effectively and occasionally failed to act at all to contain international crisis of which Syria is an example. These criticisms are valid. The UNSC is hyperactive, reactive, selective and imperfect.

Since the late 1990s, there have been many calls for reforms of the United Nations. However there is little clarity or consensus about what reforms might mean in practice. The range of opinion extends from these who want to eliminate the UN entirely, to those who want to make it a full-fledged World Government.

United to Reform – the United Nations

The United Nations is marking 75 years of its existence in 2020. This landmark year is the most opportune one for undertaking decisive action on the Security Council reforms. The case for reform is overwhelming. Nobody should think that designing a new UN would be easy. But the alternative is a declining UN in a messy interconnected world. An increasingly unrepresentative, anachronistic Security Council speaks with diminishing authority. It is able to debate the issues that matter only because important actors are missing. A better Security



IN THIS CONTEXT, AN ALTERNATIVE PROPOSAL PROPOSED BY THE SECRETARY GENERAL IN 2005, ALTHOUGH UNATTRACTIVE TO THE MEMBERSHIP IS CONSIDERED TO BE MORE EFFECTIVE – A FOUR YEAR RENEWABLE MEMBERSHIP, AS THE WIDER MEMBERSHIP OF THE UN HAS THE OPPORTUNITY TO ASSESS EACH ELECTED COUNCIL MEMBER’S PERFORMANCE – AS FAVOURABLY OR UNFAVOURABLY.



PRIME MINISTER NARENDRA MODI HAS FORTHRIGHTLY AND EVEN IN HARSH WORDS, WHICH CAN HARDLY BE FAULTED, EXPRESSED INDIA'S FRUSTRATION ON THAT DESPITE DYSFUNCTIONAL POWER BALANCE THAT PREVAILS, THE UN'S REFORM PROCESS HAS NOT MADE PROGRESS OVER DECADES, DESPITE COMMITMENTS. THE UN HAS CHOSEN TO ROLLOVER THE DISCUSSIONS.

Council would be able to get more done. Alas! the consensus ends there.

Need for Reforms suggests in itself that there is something wrong with the UN which needs correction and fixing. It is fair to say that UN does a lot of things which are right of which one can be proud like peace keeping operations, formation of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Criminal Court and the Kyoto Protocol and so on. At the same time there are moments of powerlessness when the UN is dysfunctional, crippled and cannot resolve situations. People have increasingly beginning to question its effectiveness in fulfilling its duties. The perception is that UN is ineffective at peace-keeping. Former UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan famously called the UN, "the only fire brigade in the World that has to acquire a fire engine after the fire has started."

Let us make 21st Century less violent than the one before and the UN should be equipped with necessary tools by reforming it, to achieve it. There is a need to mobilize international civil society and global public opinion to carry forward a vision for a just and fairer world. Its strength is evident from the fact that when the United Nations passes a Resolution, it is seen as speaking for humanity as whole, thus giving it unique legitimacy. 192 member states should embark on a reform agenda for Security Council which will make the UN an accountable, transparent and democratic decision-making body, an organization fit for

facing challenges and threats of 21st Century successfully.

India & Security Council

Here, I would like to quote Ambassador Krishnan Srinivasan, former Foreign Secretary of India, who as a co-panelist with me as a symposium on "UN Needs Restructuring" held on 25 June 2010 at Kolkata made following striking and interesting observations, "In India, whether the UN needs Restructuring or Reform is always a loaded question. In India, any discussion on UN reforms and restructuring however turns exclusively on one question only and that is of expanding the UN Security Council to include India as a permanent member because of its population, its democracy, contribution to UN Peace keeping etc. I was the Indian Foreign Secretary in 1994 when India for the first time formally proposed its inclusion as a permanent member.We in India see our case as self-evident but I frankly think when it comes it will come when our stature as an essential country, whose voice is required, respected and is recognized by everyone."

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has forthrightly and even in harsh words, which can hardly be faulted, expressed India's frustration on that despite dysfunctional power balance that prevails, the UN's reform process has not made progress over decades, despite commitments. The UN has chosen to rollover the discussions. Addressing a special session marking 75 years of the UN, PM Modi called for reform of its outdated structure pointing out that in the absence of comprehensive changes, the world body faces a "crisis of confidence". India has been at the forefront of demanding reform of the UN, particularly its principal organ, the Security Council for decades, staking its claim as one of the World's largest economy and most populous country with a track record in promoting a rule-based international order. However any structural reform can be realized only if the UNSC's five permanent member recognize the deep peril the UN faces and support the reform process, an act that will require looking beyond their own interests for the greater good of the world and its peace building architecture.

The writer is Ex-Chairman, MAKAIAS, an autonomous body under Ministry of Culture, Govt. of India.



12TH BRICS SUMMIT 2020



An Analysis By Deepak Parvatiyar

IT WILL only be apt to refer to the BRICS summits of 2015 and 2017 in particular to evaluate the just concluded 2020 summit in the right perspective. This is also important because of the prevailing situation when the entire world has been held hostage by the COVID19 virus, and there is an uneasy relationship too between India and China highlighted by the troops buildup along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in Eastern Ladakh region. Hosted by Russia, the 12th BRICS summit was a virtual event against the backdrop of the Corona pandemic, and this obviously did not offer any opportunity of the customary one on one meetings between the leaders at the sidelines of such an event.

The 2015 BRICS summit at Ufa in Russia had marked the arrival of the New Development Bank (NDB) or the BRICS Bank, and the Contingent Reserves Arrangement (CRA). However, the summit had taken place when BRICS nations – Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa – were facing difficult times. Hence, the underlying theme of the summit that year was –“BRICS Partnership – A Powerful Factor of Global Development”. The very first paragraph of the Ufa Declaration had stressed on the discussions on “issues of common interest in respect of the international agenda as well as key priorities in respect of further strengthening and broadening our intra-BRICS cooperation”. This was significant because the very foundation of BRICS was based on the perception that the BRICS countries were the emerging dynamos of growth and hence a

promising destination for investors. However, things were not looking that rosy and therefore there was ubiquitous stress on the word, ‘partnership’.

In the 2017 summit at Xiamen in China, when the stress was once again on ‘partnership’, with the theme being “BRICS: Stronger Partnership for a Brighter Future”, the situation was not much different than what it is today. Much akin to the the 2020 summit when two BRICS members, India and China, have been engaged in unprecedented troops build up along the Line of Actual Control and have witnessed the first fatalities on the Sino-India borders since 1975, the 2017 summit was held against the backdrop of the 73-day standoff between the two countries in the Doklam area near the Bhutan tri-junction, lying between China’s Chumbi Valley, Bhutan’s Ha Valley and India’s Sikkim state’s Nathang Valley, in the Himalayas. However, unlike the 2020 summit which was a comparatively smooth affair as it was hosted by Russia, the Doklam issue had cast a shadow over the very possibility of a successful summit in 2017 till the Indian Ministry of External Affairs issued a statement announcing “expeditious disengagement of border personnel at the face-off site at Doklam”, to ensure the standoff came to an end days before the BRICS summit, which was hosted by China then.

The Xiamen Declaration signed by the members during the summit had emphasised that BRICS members had “fostered the spirit of mutual respect and understanding, equality, solidarity, openness, inclusiveness and mutually beneficial cooperation” among themselves. The declaration had reiterated the shared desire for “peace,

IN THE 2017 SUMMIT AT XIAMEN IN CHINA, WHEN THE STRESS WAS ONCE AGAIN ON ‘PARTNERSHIP’, WITH THE THEME BEING “BRICS: STRONGER PARTNERSHIP FOR A BRIGHTER FUTURE”, THE SITUATION WAS NOT MUCH DIFFERENT THAN WHAT IT IS TODAY.

**THE DIFFERENCES ARE FAR MORE PRO-
NOUNCED WITHIN BRICS MEMBERS IN
2020. THIS YEAR THE THEME CHOSEN WAS
- 'BRICS PARTNERSHIP FOR GLOBAL
STABILITY, SHARED SECURITY AND INNO-
VATIVE GROWTH'. BUT THE FACT IS THAT
EACH OF THE BRICS NATIONS IS FACING
THEIR OWN INTERNAL CRISIS AND THE
DIFFERENCES ARE DISCONCERTINGLY
DISTINCT. NO DOUBT THOUGH
THAT THERE IS MUCH HEADWAY SINCE 2015
BUT MUCH MORE IS STILL REQUIRED FOR
BRICS MEMBERS TO EMERGE AS A COHE-
SIVE UNIT. THE DIFFERENCES ARE FAR
TOO VARIED AND STRAINED RELATION-
SHIPS PARTICULARLY BETWEEN INDIA AND
CHINA POSE A GREAT CHALLENGE BEFORE
THE BRICS GROUPING.**

security, development and cooperation.” As for India, the inclusion of JeM and LeT in the Xiamen Joint declaration was a significant diplomatic success for India. This was the first time that China has signed such a statement which had named Pakistan-based terrorist groups, and could be termed as a smooth progression from the Goa summit of 2016 wherein the member states had “strongly” condemned terrorism in all its forms and manifestations and stressed that “there can be no justification whatsoever”. This was further carried forward to the 2019 BRICS summit that was held in Brazil’s capital, Brasilia. Here the members had decided to constitute five sub-working groups on counterterrorism in areas like terrorist financing, use of the internet for terrorism purposes, countering radicalisation and foreign terrorist fighters, even as the theme then was ‘Economic Growth for an Innovative Future’. Yet, without much progress seen on the ground, Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi had to again raise the issue of terrorism in the 2020 summit, saying terrorism continued to be the biggest problem today. “We have to make sure that countries that shelter terrorists and support them are also held responsible,” he said, even as he expressed satisfaction that under Russia’s chairmanship BRICS’ Counter Terror Strategy has been given the final shape.

The differences are far more pronounced within BRICS members in 2020. This year the theme chosen was – ‘BRICS Partnership for Global Stability, Shared Security and Innovative Growth’. But the fact is that each of the BRICS nations is facing their own internal crisis and the differences are disconcertingly distinct.

No doubt though that there is much headway since 2015 but much more is still required for BRICS members to emerge as a cohesive unit. The differences are far too varied and strained relationships particularly between India and China pose a great challenge before the BRICS grouping.

The BRICS summit 2020 was the second event this month after their virtual meeting at the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, where Indian Prime Minister Modi and Chinese President Xi Jinping came face to face again ever since the tensions broke between the two countries along the LAC. Like SCO, there was no bilateral meeting



2TH BRICS SUMMIT VIRTUALLY HOSTED BY RUSSIAN PRESIDENT PUTIN

this time too because of the online nature of the summit. Yet these occasions did at least offer an opportunity for the two to share the web space together. But is that enough to break the ice between the two countries?

There is no surprise that respective geopolitical constraints did emerge as major impediment to deliberations at the just concluded BRICS summit which was the first ever virtual summit at the backdrop of the COVID-19 pandemic. There were different voices within the grouping even on the handling of the pandemic. While Chinese President Xi Jinping was all praise for the World Health Organisation’s role in handling the situation and stressed the need to support “WHO’s crucial leadership role in this endeavour”, Brazil’s far-right President Jair Bolsonaro criticized “the politicization of the coronavirus and the alleged monopoly of knowledge on the part of the WHO”, and was of the view that the World Health Organization (WHO) “urgently needed reform”.

Indian Prime Minister Modi too called for reforms in WHO as well as in United Nations Security Council where India eyes a permanent seat, International Monetary Fund, and World



Trade Organization.

Of course the role of WHO in handling the situation has come under scrutiny. The US administration decided to sever ties and terminate WHO funding and on July 6, 2020, officially notified UN Secretary-General António Guterres about its decision to withdraw from WHO membership. A New York Times report was more scathing in its attack – “The WHO’s staunchest defenders note that, by the nature of its constitution, it is beholden to the countries that finance it. And it is hardly the only international body bending to China’s might. But even many of its supporters have been frustrated by the organization’s secrecy, its public praise for China and its quiet concessions. Those decisions have indirectly helped Beijing to whitewash its early failures in handling the outbreak.”

Jinping used the BRICS forum to launch a veiled attack on the USA, as he said “Flouting rules and laws, treading the path of unilateralism and bullying, and withdrawing from international organizations and agreements run counter to the will of the general public and trample on the legitimate rights and dignity of all nations...We need to oppose interference in others’ internal affairs, as well as unilateral sanctions and long-arm jurisdiction.”

Such assertions and varied opinions, in any normal situation, could be called a regular feature of a multilateral forum. But in a charged atmosphere, its nuances can be interpreted differently. Modi said multilateralism today was passing through a difficult phase as the credibility of the institutions of global governance was being questioned. He asserted the need to reform the United Nations Security Council which he said was very essential. Bolsonaro, on his part, launched an attack on multilateral forums. As it is, he is facing the heat back home and is also threatened by the US President-elect Joe Biden – whom Bolsonaro has still not congratulated on his victory – that Brazil might face “significant economic consequences” if the deforestation of the Amazon continued. The Brazilian President is facing criticism over the alarming figures of fires and deforested areas in the Amazon, 60% of which is in Brazilian territory. Targeted by conservationists who accuse Bolsonaro of openly promoting illegal mining, ranching and logging, he used BRICS forum to declare – “In the next few days, we will reveal the names of the countries that have illegally imported timber from the Amazon.”

Yet, undoubtedly in the last few five years, the member countries, as Russian President Vladimir Putin noted, have increased cooperation in science, technology and innovation, but the complexities of the issues transcending BRICS are far more grave and could be reflected in China’s President Xi Jinping’s views that today international environment was extremely turbulent considering the evident trend of “de-globalization processes and prevailing economic uncertainty”.

Jinping himself is in the eye of the storm following his aggression in South China Sea, Hong Kong, India. As mentioned, over a lakh soldiers from both India and China are eyeballing each other along the LAC and this is likely to continue even during the harsh winter season when the temperature in those regions come down to such lows as minus 30-40 degree Celsius! In September, Taiwan too had called for a global coalition against China, fearing a “real possibility of war”.

It may be noted that in the 2018 BRICS summit at Johannesburg in South Africa, the members had talked about strengthening

OF COURSE THE ROLE OF WHO IN HANDLING THE SITUATION HAS COME UNDER SCRUTINY. THE US ADMINISTRATION DECIDED TO SEVER TIES AND TERMINATE WHO FUNDING AND ON JULY 6, 2020, OFFICIALLY NOTIFIED UN SECRETARY-GENERAL ANTÓNIO GUTERRES ABOUT ITS DECISION TO WITHDRAW FROM WHO MEMBERSHIP. A NEW YORK TIMES REPORT WAS MORE SCATHING IN ITS ATTACK – “THE WHO’S STAUCHEST DEFENDERS NOTE THAT, BY THE NATURE OF ITS CONSTITUTION, IT IS BEHOLDEN TO THE COUNTRIES THAT FINANCE IT. AND IT IS HARDLY THE ONLY INTERNATIONAL BODY BENDING TO CHINA’S MIGHT. BUT EVEN MANY OF ITS SUPPORTERS HAVE BEEN FRUSTRATED BY THE ORGANIZATION’S SECRECY, ITS PUBLIC PRAISE FOR CHINA AND ITS QUIET CONCESSIONS.



THE PARTICIPATING HEADS OF BRICS NATIONS

STATISTICS SHOW THAT OVER THE PAST FIVE YEARS, INTRA-BRICS EXPORTS GREW BY 45% AND THE SHARE OF INTRA-BRICS EXPORTS IN TOTAL BRICS INTERNATIONAL TRADE INCREASED FROM 7.7% TO 10%. THE GDP OF THE FIVE COUNTRIES ALSO GREW FASTER THAN GLOBAL AND G7 GDP AT AN AVERAGE ANNUAL RATE OF 5.31% ACCORDING TO THE IMF.

multilateralism and the rule of international relations, and to promote a fair, just, equitable, democratic and representative international order. “We recommit our support for multilateralism and the central role of the United Nations in international affairs and uphold fair, just and equitable international order based on the purposes and principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations, respect for international law, promoting democracy and the rule of law in international relations, and to address common traditional and non-traditional security challenges,” the BRICS members had declared then.

However, this very idea of multilateralism faces a challenge as was mentioned above. But there are quite a few positives too. Jinping’s offer to work with India and other member countries on COVID vaccines could be seen in this light. “As we speak, Chinese companies are working with their Russian and Brazilian partners on phase-III clinical trials of vaccines, and we are prepared to have cooperation with South Africa and India as

well...We will actively consider providing vaccines to BRICS countries where there is a need,” Jinping said at the summit and reports suggest that soon Indian and Chinese officials will sit together to work out the modalities of cooperation to develop COVID-19 vaccine.

The biggest strength of BRICS is that today its members have emerged as the driving engine of global economy with 25% share (US\$21 trillion) in global GDP. Modi sounded more optimistic of the prospects of BRICS mutual institutions and systems – such as BRICS Inter-Bank Cooperation Mechanism, New Development Bank, Contingent Reserve Arrangement and Customs Cooperation – facilitating effective contribution in post-COVID global recovery. Russian President Putin too, attached significance to the direct contribution of the BRICS countries toward a comprehensive package of G20 measures aimed at overcoming the negative consequences of the pandemic. President Cyril Ramaphosa of South Africa pointed out that the New Development Bank serving BRICS nations had approved US\$4 billion in COVID emergency assistance and appeared likely to add \$10 billion more in COVID assistance and economic recovery funds. South Africa had received \$1 billion of the original funding. Ramaphosa, who is also the current African Union chairman, even expressed his gratefulness to the BRICS partners “for the solidarity we have received from our BRICS partners, both through bilateral assistance and support for our continental response”.

Statistics show that over the past five years, intra-BRICS exports grew by 45% and the share of intra-BRICS exports in total BRICS international trade increased from 7.7% to 10%. The GDP of the five countries also grew faster than global and G7 GDP at an average annual rate of 5.31% according to the IMF.

Not ignoring the fact that BRICS nations also constitute 42% of the world’s population, there indeed is ample scope for scaling up mutual trade between BRICS countries. But this can be done only when the BRICS nations overcome the prevailing trust deficit and hostility. With challenges abound, BRICS has a long way to go.

(curtsey:GlobalBihari.com)

Deepak Parvatiyar is Chief Editor of Global Bihari and Honorary Media Advisor of IFUNA .The views expressed are his own.

ODISHA UNA RESOLVES FOR UN REFORM



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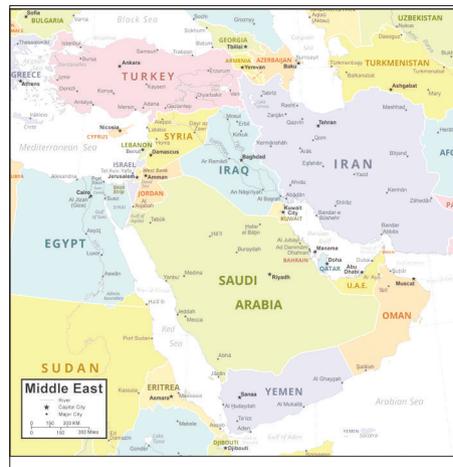
N 75TH years of United Nations Foundation Day Utkal Federation of United Nations Association (UFUNA) unanimously resolved that it is high time that the UN must reform. BC Rout former CBI Judge was the chief guest in the meeting. Enviornist Upendra Rout, poet Bahadur Patsani, Engineer DD Panda. Socialist leader Saroj Satapathy, Dharani Mohanty, Manoj Manmay also actively participated in the deliberation. Secretary General, Utkal Federation of United Nations Association Dr.Dipayan Pattanaik proposed a vote of thanks to the guests and members. Meeting was attended by all walks of life. At the outset Additional Secy. General Soumya Ranjan Pattanaik welcomed the guests and members. The meeting was presided by UFUNA President Manoranjan Pattnaik, Advocate.

UAE-ISRAEL PEACE DEAL OPPORTUNITY FOR INDIA TO ACQUIRE A GREATER ROLE IN MIDDLE EAST

THE DEAL HAS BEEN A WHILE IN THE MAKING, SAID NAVDEEP SURI, FORMER INDIAN ENVOY TO THE UAE. SEVERAL PROPOSALS HAVE BEEN MADE IN THE PAST COUPLE OF YEARS. THE ISRAELI MINISTER OF CULTURE VISITED ABU DHABI AND WROTE A MESSAGE IN HEBREW IN THE VISITORS' BOOK AT THE SHEIKH ZAYED GRAND MOSQUE. THAT WAS A SIGN. IN JUNE, YOUSEF AL OTAIBA, MBZ'S CLOSE ADVISER AND UAE AMBASSADOR TO WASHINGTON, WROTE AN OP-ED IN HEBREW IN THE ISRAELI NEWSPAPER, YEDIOTH AHRONOTH, OFFERING NORMALIZATION IN RETURN FOR SHELIVING ANNEXATION. TRUMP EARNED A DIPLOMATIC FEATHER. EVEN JOE BIDEN HAS WELCOMED THE DEAL. AND WITH US ASKING ALLIES TO STEP UP ON BURDEN-SHARING, IT GIVES UAE AND ISRAEL AN OPENING TO BECOME BIGGER PLAYERS IN THE REGION, CONCERNS ABOUT IRAN IS AN OBVIOUS STARTING POINT FOR UAE AND ISRAEL.

IN THE middle of a pandemic, the geopolitics of the world's most troubled region took a historic turn recently, when the UAE and Israel, under the benevolent gaze of US, signed an agreement to “normalise” relations. The deal opens up new opportunities for India to play a much larger role in the regional security and stability in the Gulf region, where New Delhi enjoys special relations with both Abu Dhabi and Jerusalem besides Oman, Bahrain and Saudi Arabia. The barebones of the deal envisages establishing regular diplomatic relations between the United Arab Emirates, the rising influential power in the Gulf, and Israel, the “Incredible Hulk” of the region, but a country officially not on speaking terms with most of its Arab neighbors. In his first tweet, Crown Prince Mohammed bin Zayed said: “During a call with President Trump and Prime Minister Netanyahu, an agreement was reached to stop further Israeli annexation of Palestinian territories. The UAE and Israel also agreed to cooperation and setting a roadmap towards establishing a bilateral relationship.” In return, Israel agreed to “suspend” its annexation plans for West Bank that would have been deeply destabilizing. Benjamin Netanyahu gets a diplomatic victory. Israel gets a diplomatic and economic opening with the big power in the Gulf that could open other doors, give its security interests legitimacy and perhaps, open the door to Middle East peace. Many of the other Arab powers, such as Oman, Bahrain, Egypt and Jordan, apart from the big global powers, and India, have welcomed the deal. Iran has slammed it, as have Turkey and Syria. Saudi Arabia has been very quiet.

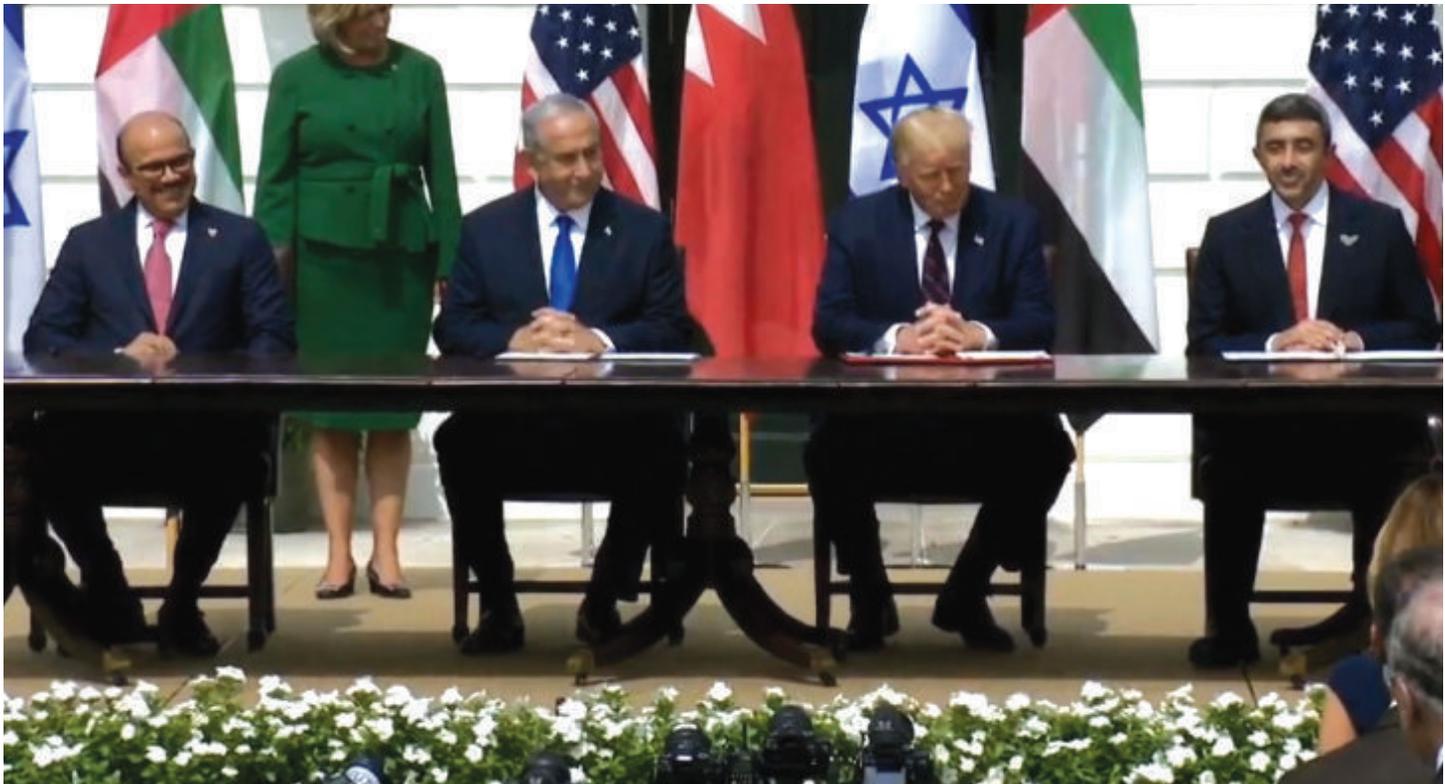
Given the close ties between Mohammed bin Zayed of UAE and Mohammed bin Salman of Saudi Arabia, it is unthinkable that Kingdom of Saudi Arabia was not consulted, particularly when the US is the third pole in this agree-



ment. The deal gives UAE pole position as the premier Gulf Arab power, with diplomatic leverage with Israel and the US. “This deal is about positioning in Washington, DC,” said James Dorsey, Gulf and Middle East expert.

The deal has been a while in the making, said Navdeep Suri, former Indian envoy to the UAE. Several proposals have been made in the past couple of years. The Israeli minister of culture visited Abu Dhabi and wrote a message in Hebrew in the visitors’ book at the Sheikh Zayed Grand Mosque. That was a sign. In June, Yousef Al Otaiba, MBZ’s close adviser and UAE ambassador to Washington, wrote an op-ed in Hebrew in the Israeli newspaper, Yedioth Ahronoth, offering normalization in return for shelving annexation. Trump earned a diplomatic feather. Even Joe Biden has welcomed the deal. And with US asking allies to step up on burden-sharing, it gives UAE and Israel an opening to become bigger players in the region, concerns about Iran is an obvious starting point for UAE and Israel. Iran has been the reason for a quiet thaw between Saudi Arabia and Israel in recent years as well.

Israel takes a very hard-line view of Iran, but the UAE has nuanced its position in recent



UAE Signs historic peace accord with Israel at white house,Washington

months — the Fujairah and Abqaiq attacks in 2019 convinced Abu Dhabi that some engagement with Tehran might be necessary. From the Arab point of view, Iran has to be tamed, but no viable security architecture for the region can be framed without Iran. This means some sophisticated diplomacy and tough steps may be called for. India should use this unexpected opportunity to give itself a bigger role in a region which is its strategic backyard. The first step should be to ramp up defence and security relations with UAE. Israel is already a very close defence partner. But India should restart joint exercises with UAE, and even Saudi Arabia.

While some work has already happened, India should leverage its economy for a bigger opening in this region. Importantly, India can use its good offices to ensure that any future deal on a regional security framework gives adequate space to Iran, which may be weak but not so weak that it cannot be a hugely disruptive power if it so chooses.. And a balance between Shia and Sunni, between Persian

and Arab, is key to any sustainable peace. The US may be a pre-eminent power in the Gulf-Middle East, but Russia has made a space for itself, spending a lot less money. In recent years, China has indicated its willingness to play a larger role in this region, and is close to both UAE and Israel and, increasingly, Saudi Arabia. India should make its moves fast before this market and this extended neighbourhood comes under the Chinese sphere of influence.

Pakistan could be collateral damage "Islamabad has allowed its stand on Kashmir to alienate its friends in the Gulf. As Suri says, "They don't seem to realise that playing the Muslim card and seeking political support in the name of pan-Islamic solidarity no longer works." On terrorism and extremism, Pakistan is part of the problem, not the solution. It's no longer seen as a factor of peace in Afghanistan. Hence a deal that could, if played right; open the doors for a changed geopolitical arrangement in the Middle East to have a stronger Indian footprint.

WHILE SOME WORK HAS ALREADY HAPPENED, INDIA SHOULD LEVERAGE ITS ECONOMY FOR A BIGGER OPENING IN THIS REGION. IMPORTANTLY, INDIA CAN USE ITS GOOD OFFICES TO ENSURE THAT ANY FUTURE DEAL ON A REGIONAL SECURITY FRAMEWORK GIVES ADEQUATE SPACE TO IRAN, WHICH MAY BE WEAK BUT NOT SO WEAK THAT IT CANNOT BE A HUGE DISRUPTIVE POWER IF IT SO CHOOSES..

Of Angelic Gardens of Shimla



By Chander P Mahajan

In the biggest hill city of the world, sprawling out are the Angelic Gardens at the mitigated lawns of a heritage lodge in Shimla. Thickly wooded surroundings blend a feel of jungle life in to the backdrop of tall elevations of the partitioned buildings to merge out a picturesque view.

■ Fences along the driveway give a feel of a vast landscape ahead till a horizontal line of the gated entrance, besides curves of layered potted plantations bordered by spider grass on the left; indicative of informal garden beds.

■ Live hedges of the dwarf plants in tiny pots, catch the eye at first sight. The perennials need no pruning, look as if embroidered in to the tiled flooring; dividing tiered potted beds from the paths and the walks.

■ Tall walls lend height and define boundaries with edges. The curves and cuts of the whole structure delineate portions of the gardens along the contours with walls against them in hedges.

■ Wood of the door, in its natural grain and texture, shows an artful contrast against distempered brick and stone wall. The swinging furniture in the porch promises a feeling of smug comforts in the offing.

■ Beyond the entrance, the vertical lines, lead the eyes up and out of the gardens in to the deep and dark woods. Around is a mix of straight line plantings and those staggered in to layers, make sense of visual balance' though with informal symmetry.

■ Clusters of tall trees with clinging creepers, hanging climbers; and the abundance of bloom are fascinating. In effect, a hazy line is

FENCES ALONG THE DRIVEWAY GIVE A FEEL OF A VAST LANDSCAPE AHEAD TILL A HORIZONTAL LINE OF THE GATED ENTRANCE, BESIDES CURVES OF LAYERED POTTED PLANTATIONS BORDERED BY SPIDER GRASS ON THE LEFT; INDICATIVE OF INFORMAL GARDEN BEDS.





created where the lawns end and the forest covers takeover.

■ The midway walk over the red stone patches on the greens is a sought after exercise, come true.

■ On the left, the masonry of the protruding steps offers benches for the display of the creative art. The murals, an artful mix of the wholesome miniature boulders; stand a contrast against artifacts of ornamental brassware. The dancing dolls* swing to the tunes of cool breeze from the horizon.

■ Orange with a greenish tinge and a dash of lemon, the lamp shade, on the drift wood pedestal resting on a tree stub, is the fulcrum. Skillfully crafted, multicoloured foliage, pierced in to the pots, leveled up with tiny pebbles gives it a decorative pop. A collection of adornments makes it more enjoyable. The textures of various plants and artifacts are relative to one another; and reflects the seasons.

■ At a step out of the porch is the 'Angel of Gardens', dazed, on a lazy rise; with the lower back yet to come out of the greens. Ever on the guard as it is, well turned out, bare footed; as if to maintain the grand design of the garden, ensuring that no one alters it unnaturally. 'Angels' are actually allusions; & in art are shaped like humans of extraordinary beauty, manifest God's energy. The statue, is a unique specimen of sculptured art.

■ There is a mix of growing flowers - begonias, petunias, dahlias, chrysanthemums, marigold. lo! the lonely roses stand out distinct and scanty. Sun flowers show up majestically while geraniums sit quite at one side.

Young bushy mini ornamental trees from the family of araucarias adore the lawns. Beautiful leafy plants add to the foliage.

■ The simplicity gives a sense of completeness to the hardscaping. Various elements of form, colour and texture are merged together to a moderate contrast.



■ Different shapes and designs as also the custom flower beds, bring a creative edge to the garden. The real fun comes in by combining colors. Some colors compete for attention; others harmonize. Patches of Shrubs and Shrubbery add to the get up.

■ To provide continual refreshments to the gardens is a green house built on the terrace below. It is a refuge to the shade loving and moisture loving plants and seasonal containers. As different plants come into bloom and then recede, to be replaced by others, there will still be a satisfying sense of visual rhythm. The process of gardening, growing and maintaining plants thus goes on and on.

■ Yet another Sun House could see the light of the day.

In order to break the monotony and to enhance the beauty, the garden contains components of varying nature.

A dash of hardscaping dubbing the landscape gives the garden a chubby fluff. Someone says-it is 'The Retreat'. I say it is haven with a green aesthetic appeal.

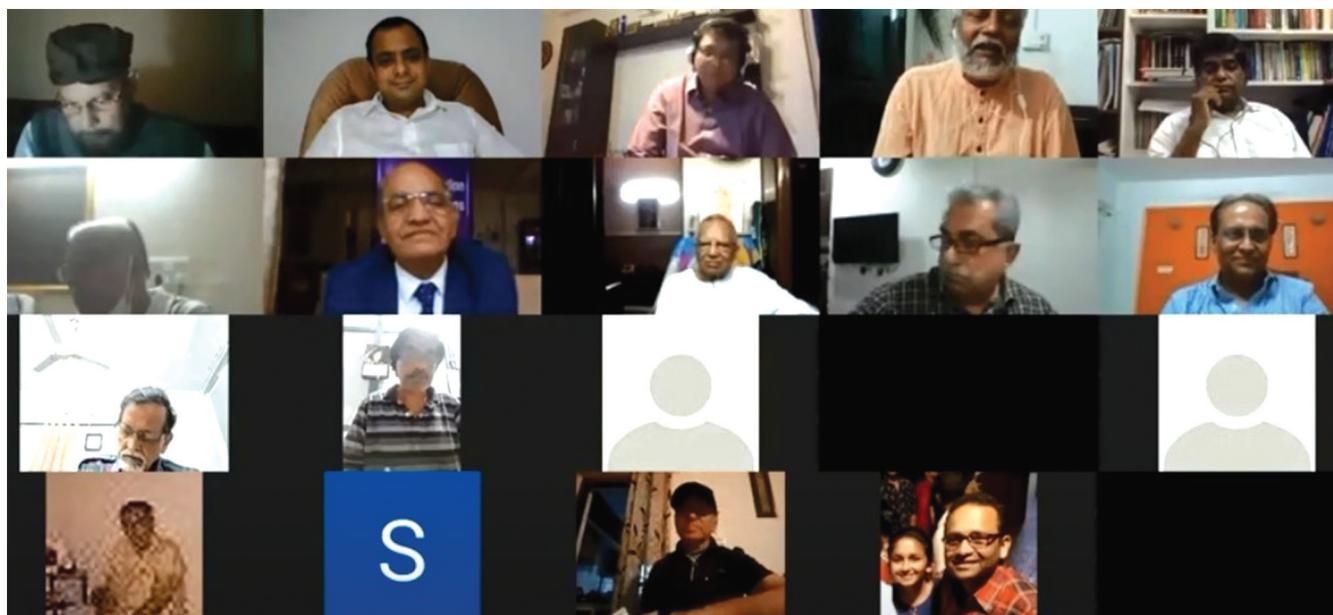
Final plant and landscape selections are personal decisions, however, there are many ways in which the local environment can be enhanced.

ORANGE WITH A GREENISH TINGE AND A DASH OF LEMON, THE LAMP SHADE, ON THE DRIFT WOOD PEDESTAL RESTING ON A TREE STUB, IS THE FULCRUM. SKILLFULLY CRAFTED, MULTI-COLOURED FOLIAGE, PIERCED IN TO THE POTS, LEVELED UP WITH TINY PEBBLES GIVES IT A DECORATIVE POP. A COLLECTION OF ADORNMENTS MAKES IT MORE ENJOYABLE. THE TEXTURES OF VARIOUS PLANTS AND ARTIFACTS ARE RELATIVE TO ONE ANOTHER; AND REFLECTS THE SEASONS.





WORLD RIVERS DAY 2020 REJUVENATION OF INDIAN RIVERS



Suresh Srivastava,
Secretary General, IFUNA

**UNITED NATIONS
TO BE OBSERVED
EVERY YEAR ON
27TH SEPTEMBER.
THE TOPIC TODAY
IS REJUVENATION
OF INDIAN RIVERS.
IT HAS BEEN A
GREAT HONOUR
AND PRIVILEGE TO
RECEIVE OUR
HONOURABLE
CHIEF GUEST HER
EXCELLENCY...**

Welcoming the distinguished participants and guests in the webinar said that we are here today to observe World Rivers Day which has been assigned by the United Nations to be observed every year on 27th September. The topic today is Rejuvenation of Indian Rivers. It has been a great honour and privilege to receive our Honourable Chief Guest Her Excellency, Dr. Mridula Sinha, Former Governor of Goa; Shri Shashi Shekhar, I.A.S Former Secretary, Ministry of Water Resources, Government of India; Mr. G Ahsok Kumar, IAS, Mission Director, National Water Mission, Government of India; Mr. Veeramalla Prakash Rao, Chairman, Telangana Water Resources Development Corporation; Professor Vijay Paranjape, Chairman, Gomukh Environment Trust for Sustainable Development, Pune; Dr. Ravindra Vora, Eminent Medical Practitioner

and Water Conservationist; Mr. Mahendra Singh, Journalist , working to save River Rambha in Rishikesh; Dr. Ravindra Vora, Eminent Medical Practitioner and Water Conservationist , Mr. Narendra Chugh, President, Jal Biradari, Maharashtra. And then we have with us Dr. Rajendra Singh, the “Waterman of India”. A Magsaysay Awardees who is credited with reviving 11 rivers in this country and not only that, he is instrumental in reviving 11000 water bodies, Johads which we used to have in our villages covering around 11000 kms of the area. He has devoted his whole life to the cause of water. We are proud to have him amongst us. We also have with us . Mr. C P Mahajan, President of Himachal Pradesh UN Association who has been instrumental in reviving many water bodies in Himachal Pradesh. He is a retired chief engineer from Himachal Pradesh .We then have our state UNAs from all over India joining us from Kerala to Punjab, from Assam to Gujarat. I welcome all the UN Associations across the country. I also welcome students of our Institute of UN Studies where

thousands of students have been benefited by the course on United Nations. I am glad many students are joining today's programme. I also welcome the distinguished guests who have come to attend this.

Earth is 4.5 billion years old. Civilization known of human beings is 10000 years old. Industrial revolution took place only 200 years back. What have we done in these 200 years? we have ruined the earth; Mother earth which gives us everything, our lives, water is life. We who once worshipped the rivers are instrumental in spoiling the rivers. Are we going to give these dirty rivers to our next generation? No. We must sit and think and that is the reason we have today called for this webinar.

With this, I request Mr. Deepak Parvatiyar who is Moderator of this webinar and also Media Advisor of IFUNA to conduct the proceedings.



Deepak Parvatiyar:

Thank you Mr. Srivastava. I welcome all the distinguished speakers, guests and participants in the webinar and invite our Chief Guest Dr. Mridula Sinha former Governor of Goa to deliberate her views and bless us.



Dr. Mridula Sinha, Former Governor of Goa

Mr. Deepak Parvatiyar had called and invited me to attend this webinar. The issue is a very useful one. , I thought this webinar also needs to be represented by a woman who plays an important role in conserving water, stores water and prudently uses the water. As Mr. Srivastava also mentioned that still women villages have to travel far to fetch water in pitchers on their heads and maybe, that was the reason I was being called to attend this webinar. We have reservoirs, rivers in the country and they are considered as deities and goddesses in India and you can understand its importance since they are worshipped by the people of the country. As you are aware, human body is made up of five elements - But even there, after earth, water takes the second position. All the five elements are equally important but water is of utmost importance as it is said, water is life.

While inviting Mr. Shashi Shekhar, IAS, Former Secretary, Government of India, Deepak Parvatiyar

said he is also on the Drafting Committee of National Water Policy.



Shashi Shekhar, Former Secretary, Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation, Government of India

Thank you Deepak very much for inviting me to this particular webinar and requesting me to give my thoughts on river rejuvenation.

let me start that river rejuvenation is a very current topic. We have not been discussing river and as to how we need to and why should we rejuvenate our rivers, why we should restore our rivers and why should we bring them back to their pristine glory. What economic benefits would it provide? What kind of livelihood support that it had been providing to those who were associated with it since historical times. With almost dying of most of the rivers, how these people have been impacted. I would like to start by dispelling one doubt. We need to answer this question. Is river only water? The current governance since the last 200 years, since the advent of the British Raj in this country, a river is seen as water only. Is river only water is the first question that we need to ask or is river an ecosystem which is very vibrant, very dynamic and which through its ecosystem services have allowed millions of people to live on it? Our forefathers treated rivers as their mothers. Almost all the rivers are after different female names, Ganga, Yamuna, and Cauvery and so on. You name any river. They are all names after females. Our forefathers treated rivers as mothers. But unfortunately, with the advent of British period, we treated river as water, only as an economic resource to be exploited for economic gains.

During the summer season, non-monsoon season, the Ganga almost dries up. Practically, every river other than Brahmaputra dries up during the non-monsoon season today. But it was not so decades back. River used to have water round the year. We need to understand how the river used to have water round the year. What are the features or rivers' own ecosystem that allowed it to have base flow during the non-monsoon season and major flow during the monsoon season? The three months of rainfall that allows water to percolate down, ultimately, when the water through the gravitational force underground reach the

MR. DEEPAK PARVATIYAR HAD CALLED AND INVITED ME TO ATTEND THIS WEBINAR. THE ISSUE IS A VERY USEFUL ONE. , I THOUGHT THIS WEBINAR ALSO NEEDS TO BE REPRESENTED BY A WOMAN WHO PLAYS AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN CONSERVING WATER, STORES WATER AND PRUDENTLY USES THE WATER. AS MR. SRIVASTAVA ALSO MENTIONED THAT STILL WOMEN VILLAGES HAVE TO TRAVEL FAR TO FETCH WATER IN PITCHERS ON THEIR HEADS AND MAYBE, THAT WAS THE REASON I WAS BEING CALLED TO ATTEND THIS WEBINAR. WE HAVE RESERVOIRS, RIVERS IN THE COUNTRY AND THEY ARE CONSIDERED AS DEITIES AND GODDESSES IN INDIA AND YOU CAN UNDERSTAND ITS IMPORTANCE SINCE THEY ARE WORSHIPPED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE COUNTRY

OTHERWISE, THE RIVER WOULD REMAIN FRAGMENTED. ITS ORIGINAL BIOTA, ITS ORIGINAL FLORA AND FAUNA WILL UNDERGO SERIOUS CHANGES; ITS CHARACTERISTICS WILL UNDERGO SERIOUS CHANGES. I THOUGHT LET ME GIVE AN ECOLOGICAL PERSPECTIVE OF RIVER REJUVENATION BY MAKING RIVER AS A DYNAMIC ECOSYSTEM, MAKING YOU UNDERSTAND THAT RIVER IS A DYNAMIC, VIBRANT ECOSYSTEM AND WHEN WE TALK ABOUT REJUVENATION, IT HAS TO BE ENSURING THAT ALL ITS INFRASTRUCTURE IN THE FORM OF CATCHMENT AREA, FLOODPLAIN,,,

plain, they ooze out and start meeting the river and it is the groundwater which provides the base flow. River during the monsoon period swells and recharges the aquifers. During the non-monsoon period, it is the aquifer through the influent action provides base flow to the river. Therefore, the rivers used to have water round the year. For this, we need to understand, as I said, first, the upper catchment thick vegetation is important. The root zones allow the water to percolate down the subsoil system. When we talk about river rejuvenation, we need to restore its ecosystem. The complete ecosystem restoration alone will help river to rejuvenate. Otherwise, the river would remain fragmented. Its original biota, its original flora and fauna will undergo serious changes; its characteristics will undergo serious changes. I thought let me give an ecological perspective of river rejuvenation by making river as a dynamic ecosystem, making you understand that river is a dynamic, vibrant ecosystem and when we talk about rejuvenation, it has to be ensuring that all its infrastructure in the form of catchment area, floodplain, wetlands, delta, all are part of one entity. The water in river is a part and product of the riverine ecosystem. If it does not flow, the river will not remain alive.



Veeramalla Prakash Rao, *Chairman, Telangana Water Resources Development Corporation*

Spoke in depth about the developmental activities on the rivers of Telangana. He said after construction of two huge dams in Godavari, Sriram Sagar Project, earlier known as Pochampadu project and the next dam 100 kilometres downstream Yellampalli Barrage., literally, almost 145kms stretch of the river went dead. Since 10 years, there was not a single water drop in the river. WE started constructing barrages on Godavari. After the confluence of Pranahita, we wanted to divert the Pranahita flows towards upstream of Godavari at 100 metres elevation in Medigadda. Barrage was constructed on the Godavari to hold the water of Pranahita. It is just 15km downstream of the confluence of Pranahita Godavari. From there, we stop the flows of Pranahita water and we started reverse pumping into upstream of Godavari River. We have constructed three barrages like that – Medigadda, Annaram and Sundilla. We have named these three barrages as Lakshmi, Saraswathi and Parvati. Because of these three barrages, now 145kms stretch of Godavari River has been rejuvenated..

Just now Deepak Parvatiyar mentioned about Krishna basin. We have to spend Rs. 80000 crores on it. We have almost spent Rs 60000 crores till today and remaining work is pending. We have constructed huge pumping stations to lift this water from 100m elevation to 650m. We have constructed more than 8 pumping stations. In each pumping station, we have put almost 139MW pump. This is a record in the entire world because no country so far has used 139 MW pump to pump in the water. This is the record of Kaleshwaram. There are several other records. We have constructed longest tunnels in Telangana to facilitate water into various reservoirs. The total length of these tunnels that we have constructed is 200+kms



Mahendra Singh, *Journalist working to save River Rambha in Rishikesh*

Thank you Deepak for this opportunity. The legend is that after disturbing the penance of Maharaj Shukhdev Singh, Maa Rambha was sent down to earth and was told that she would flow like black water on the earth. 10-15 years back, the width of River Rambha was around 60-80kms, and its depth was around 10-15m. There were innumerable sources of sweet water also there. But today, the situation is that the length of Rambha River is hardly 5-6kms and it has dried up in most places, due to lot of encroachments and now the situation is nearly 135 families have encroached and settled on the banks of Rambha River constituting almost 46000 vote bank as per the political data. Recently, with the intervention of the High Court, an order was issued subsequent to which the administration has decided to demolish the encroachments up to a stretch of 21m on both sides of the Rambha River. The result was that the people who had encroached on the land started protesting and holding demonstrations and even political leaders started visiting the site. As a result of that, the demolition process has to be postponed and the status quo remains.

Deepak Parvatiyar: I invite Professor Chander P Mahajan from Indian Federation of United Nations Associations. He is from IIT, Roorkee, Uttaranchal and he is a Fellow of IWRS, Indian Water Resources Society, IIT Roorkee. He is a master in water resources development from IIT Roorkee and he was a former Chief Engineer of Himachal Electricity Board and has many commendations to his credit. He was a Former Professor and Head of Electrical and Electronics Engineering in Regency Institute of Technology, Pondicherry University. I invite him to share his experience.



Chander P Mahajan, *President, Himachal Pradesh United Nations Associations*

First of all I thank IFUNA functionaries and chief executive, Mr. Suresh Srivastava and Media Advisor Mr. Deepak Parvatiyar for organising this webinar. The current crisis of water is one of management in my opinion and not that of supply. Rather than linking rivers, it is more important to link people with rivers today. As a matter of fact, I can tell you my own experiences because I had the opportunity to manage two power houses, Girinagar Hydel Project and Andhra Hydel project. As a matter of fact, people and rivers have to go hand in hand in a balanced way. Nature has given water to human beings and this is for humans to be used by humans

Deepak Parvatiyar: We also have Mr. G Ashok Kumar, I.A.S. He is the Mission Director, National Water Mission, Government of India. I welcome him in our programme and I request him to throw some light on the mission that he is heading and where it is leading us to.



G Asok Kumar, *IAS Mission Director, National Water Mission, Government of India*

Let me first of all congratulate the organisers for organising this webinar on the World Rivers Day. I have been working only on water since the past two years. I had worked in water board and lake rejuvenation and since the last thirty years, I am fortunate to have been associated with working around water. Previously, I was with the Namami Gange Project where I had the fortune to meet Dr. Rajendra Singh many times. Actually, I was very much impressed by his idea that a river has to be a living entity and it has to be a flowing entity. Recently, on behalf of the National Water Mission, we have commissioned a study on looking at water use efficiency in agriculture. People say that water use efficiency in agriculture is about 30-35%. But in the study initiated by us to look at water use efficiency in agriculture, we started off with looking what is the usage efficiency of irrigation in agriculture. We have taken up a study for about 24 small irrigation projects all over the country. Starting from the proposal, in the study, we have looked at what has been the delivery so far. It has been given to well-known and reputed institutes. I

have looked at the preliminary report. It is not even 15-20%. a campaign called 'Catch the rain where it falls, when it falls'. Catch and store the rainwater in the place where it falls. The second thing which we did was conserving water in water bodies in your own areas.

Deepak Parvatiyar: I now invite Dr. Ravindra Vora. He is an eminent medical practitioner and water conservationist from Maharashtra. He is a paediatric surgeon and he knows well about the ill effect of polluted water and the river that is flowing.



Dr. Ravindra Vora, *Eminent Medical Practitioner and Water Conservationist, Maharashtra*

I would like to just give a concept of rejuvenation of a river in Sangli district. It has become a model for rejuvenation of small rivers. Agrani River is a small river about 100kms length in Belgaum district in Athani taluk of Karnataka. We sought advice and also directions of Dr. Rajendra Singh on this, because of his work in Rajasthan, he has been visiting this area at least 2-3 times in a year for the last 7 years and we have rejuvenated this river up to 70-80% but a special point about this rejuvenation is we are not restricted only to the river. We have taken the whole river basin for rejuvenation.

Deepak Parvatiyar: I will now come to Dr. Rajendra Singh whom everyone is eagerly waiting to listen to. I will say only a couple of things. I have been fortunate to accompany him to two colleges, one in Patna and one in Delhi where he was addressing the students, after his address was over, the students came and said that they had now got a reason to live as he had inspired them so much. This was my experience at two different places,.



Dr. Rajendra Singh, *Waterman of India*

At the outset, I wish to thank and congratulate Mr. Suresh Srivastava and others for having initiated a dialogue and discussion on such an important issue which is the need of the hour. I have always been saying that the need is not for linking of the rivers but we need to link our heads and hearts to the rivers. When we do this, the young generation will understand that when the river flows freely and incessantly it flows clear and pure, Sun changes its

I WOULD LIKE TO JUST GIVE A CONCEPT OF REJUVENATION OF A RIVER IN SANGLI DISTRICT. IT HAS BECOME A MODEL FOR REJUVENATION OF SMALL RIVERS. AGRANI RIVER IS A SMALL RIVER ABOUT 100KMS LENGTH IN BELGAUM DISTRICT IN ATHANI TALUK OF KARNATAKA. WE SOUGHT ADVICE AND ALSO DIRECTIONS OF DR. RAJENDRA SINGH ON THIS, BECAUSE OF HIS WORK IN RAJASTHAN, HE HAS BEEN VISITING THIS AREA AT LEAST 2-3 TIMES IN A YEAR FOR THE LAST 7 YEARS AND WE HAVE REJUVENATED THIS RIVER UP TO 70-80% BUT A SPECIAL POINT ABOUT THIS REJUVENATION IS WE ARE NOT RESTRICTED ONLY TO THE RIVER. WE HAVE TAKEN THE WHOLE RIVER BASIN FOR REJUVENATION.



hues of the river in the morning, afternoon and in the evening. We have spent our childhood and enjoyed on the banks of the river when we grew up. But we are not giving the same opportunity to our young generation to enjoy the things that we have enjoyed as kids along the banks of the river. I especially want to emphasise on this. UN has a tradition of celebrating the World Rivers Day and would continue doing that. But we need to let the world know that much before the time when we did not even have a written constitution in our country, we used to respect the rivers as human entities. ??? (water), ???? (woman) ?? ??? (river) were treated with respect. That is why we called the river as our Maa (mother). The river provides us nutrition as a mother provides nutrition to the humankind and takes care of our health. One should not prevent assigning a humane status to those who safeguard our health and provide nutrition. We are not lagging behind New Zealand. New Zealand has assigned a humane status to rivers. We should go ahead of New Zealand and we are those who are meant to go ahead of New Zealand. Indians addressed a river as mother even much before the constitution was written in the country. This means that the Indian society had assigned a human status to the rivers. You need to tell the world and make them understand. We shouldn't be left behind in this. If India was considered a global teacher in ecology and conservation of environment, it was the greatest guru as far as the rivers were concerned. Indians are the only people who respects water; Reduce use of water, Re-treat. We are a traditional knowledge-based society as far as

re-treat, recycle and reuse of water is concerned. I have seen my grandparents use the water at least three times. Using the water for three times was the way of our life. Respect of water, reduce use of water, re-treat, recycle and reuse and India knows what the rest of the world does not know, that you can rejuvenate this planet only by water. If we want to rejuvenate this universe, creation, want to revive it and want to keep it eternal and sustainable, then water is the only basis for it. If our water is good and healthy, this planet will remain healthy I have rejuvenated 12 small rivers. Today, I am not speaking on the subject of the process of rejuvenating a river as our other friends have already spoken about it..

Deepak Parvatiyar: I invite Mr. Narendra Chugh who is a very dynamic personality who has been working on rivers in Maharashtra. He is also the President of Jal Biradari Maharashtra. I also request him to propose a vote of Thanks to all the participants of this Webinar.



Narendra Chugh, President, Jal Biradari, Maharashtra

Thank you Mr. Deepak. I am really very grateful to you for giving me this chance to present my thoughts before this august gathering. Agrani River is a tributary of Krishna River. It had completely dried up. Its river basin is located in five tehsils of Sangli district. There are about 107 villages in this river basin. We have been able to rejuvenate it to great extent. For that I specially thank Rajendra Singh Jee. I also take the opportunity to thanks all the dignitaries, guests and members of IFUNA for participating in this webinar.

**DEEPAK PARVATIYAR:
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China's true global ambitions

HOW THE CHINESE COMMUNIST HAS SPREAD ITS TENTACLES THROUGHOUT THE WORLD?

WITH A chilling message, in their recently published remarkable book, 'Hidden Hand' written by Clive Hamilton and Mareike Ohlberg have exposed China's true global ambitions. The Chinese Communist party, for which dominating rural China in order to encircle its cities and win the civil war is part of its historic back story, is now intent on doing the same internationally, says the author. Using whatever lever comes to hand – generously financing a think tank in Washington, owning a part-share of Rotterdam port, encouraging “friendship” clubs like Britain's 48 Group Club – it is aiming to create an international soft “discourse” and hard infrastructure to encircle western power centers so that the dominance of the party at home and abroad becomes unchallengeable. China, as everybody knows, has very different definitions of terrorism, human rights, security and even multilateralism to those accepted internationally. The book spells them out and shows how intent the party is on winning international acceptance for them as vital buttresses to its power. Acts of terrorism include not eating pork or speaking out against one-party “democracy”, as the Uyghurs and denizens of Hong Kong are learning. Human rights should be understood as the people's collective right for Chinese-style economic and social development. Multilateralism means states acting in harmony with China and its view that economic development is the alpha and omega of all international purpose – the vision set out in the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI).

The BRI is well known as President Xi's signature policy, through which China partners with governments to build and enhance ports and the wider transport infrastructure across Asia and Africa. One knew the way the BRI is characterized as representing a “community of common destiny for humankind” is nothing more than a front for China's geopolitical aims,



but one had not realized the stunning scope and reach of it. The BRI is the centerpiece of China's efforts to reorient the world around the interest of the Chinese Communist party. It is breathtaking in its audacity.

Signatories to the BRI – most small states in Asia and Africa and even within the EU Italy and Greece – get access to Chinese grants and loans for developing their infrastructure. The overt quid pro quo is that Chinese civil and military traffic are prioritized in ports and airports, or as People's Liberation Army Navy sources put it, within the BRI they “meticulously select locations, deploy discreetly, priorities cooperation and slowly infiltrate”. But the BRI accreditation process also requires signatories to accept “China's benevolence” – “harmonious” globalization that accepts China's definitions of terrorism, security, human rights and multilateralism. Any signatory had better not recognize Taiwan – or object to events in Hong Kong. As party insiders confirm, the BRI is aimed at delivering the party's geo-strategic dominance.

Integral to the BRI's work is the party's now huge and sophisticated United Front Work

SIGNATORIES TO THE BRI – MOST SMALL STATES IN ASIA AND AFRICA AND EVEN WITHIN THE EU ITALY AND GREECE – GET ACCESS TO CHINESE GRANTS AND LOANS FOR DEVELOPING THEIR INFRASTRUCTURE. THE OVERT QUID PRO QUO IS THAT CHINESE CIVIL AND MILITARY TRAFFIC ARE PRIORITIZED IN PORTS AND AIRPORTS, OR AS PEOPLE'S LIBERATION ARMY NAVY SOURCES PUT IT, WITHIN THE BRI THEY “METICULOUSLY SELECT LOCATIONS, DEPLOY DISCREETLY, PRIORITIES COOPERATION AND SLOWLY INFILTRATE”.



Britain's efforts to cosy up to China reached their peak with Xi's visit in 2015, when the president joined David Cameron for a pint at a pub in Buckinghamshire.

UNDER PRESIDENT XI THE BRI AND UNITED FRONT HAVE BECOME THE TWIN BATTERING RAMS TO PROJECT CHINESE POWER. AS HAMILTON AND OHLBERG SAY, THE PRETENCE THAT PARTY AND STATE ARE TWO DIFFERENT SPHERES HAS BEEN DROPPED UNDER XI. CHINA AND THE CHINESE COMMUNIST PARTY ARE COTERMINOUS – AND EVERY ENTERPRISE IN CHINA, STATE-OWNED OR PRIVATE, IS SURVEILLED BY A COMMUNIST PARTY COMMITTEE.

Department – Mao Zedong described it one of the party's three "magic weapons". Essentially it coordinates the party's "scientific" efforts to win "friends" – in ethnic groups, foreign political parties, western think tanks, overseas Chinese communities, private companies, non-Chinese nationals sitting on the advisory boards of Chinese companies like Huawei. Its methods range from organising sympathetic conferences and writing cheques to occasionally organising the clandestine seduction of foreign dignitaries to steal their secrets and the hacking of foreign computer systems.

Subverting the Hong Kong treaties and breaking international law have triggered the party's first major reverses since Tiananmen Square in 1989.

Under President Xi the BRI and United Front have become the twin battering rams to project Chinese power. As Hamilton and Ohlberg say, the pretence that party and state are two different spheres has been dropped under Xi. China and the Chinese Communist party are coterminous – and every enterprise in China, state-owned or private, is surveilled by a Communist party committee.

All western states have until the last few months chosen to look the other way. After all the Chinese economy is now the world's second biggest – and its huge investment in tech is

conferring leadership in AI and 5G. The consensus has been that you have to engage with it. Britain has been no slouch. Recall George Osborne and Boris Johnson's visit to China in 2013, innocently opening the door to the party's control of part of our new nuclear industry – or David Cameron enjoying a beer with Xi in a Buckinghamshire pub heralding a "new golden era" in Anglo-Chinese relations. The party looks particularly kindly on Britain's 48 Group Club, founded in 1954 to promote Anglo-Chinese trade, whose members include businessmen such as Tom Glocer, former chief executive of Reuters, along with ex-politicians Tony Blair, Michael Heseltine and Peter Mandelson. But its efforts don't stop there. Academics, former ambassadors and even journalists like Martin Jacques, author of *When China Rules the World*, advocate of China's view of globalization and , are all cited as good examples of how the party indulges its friends with privileged access. There are parallel efforts across the EU and in the US.

But Xi and the party's ambitions have begun to be rumbled and challenged – a development that this book underpins. Subverting the Hong Kong treaties and breaking international law to suppress its millions of protesters under an extension of Chinese law, the suppression of the Uyghur's and the growing trade aggression of the Trump administration, particularly on Huawei, have triggered the party's first major reverses since Tiananmen Square in 1989. Boris Johnson may say he won't be pushed into becoming a kneejerk Sinophobe, but Huawei is to be excluded from Britain's 5G networks by 2027. Yet seven years ago, playing to the Europhobe gallery, he set out to charm China as an alternative to the EU. How long will his determination to confront China, post-Brexit, last? This book's convincing message is plain. Don't be gulled by soft talk of global harmony, or the prospect of access to the world's second-biggest market. The Chinese Communist party aims to construct a world in which Enlightenment values are subordinate to its own. The BRI and United Front are subduing criticism and reaction even as I write. Everyone must stay on their guard, caution the authors in the book.



भरत पंड्या
GUJARAT UNA PRESIDENT

प्रधानमंत्री नरेंद्र मोदी के जन्मदिवस पर विशेष

नरेंद्र मोदी के जीवन में पांच 'व' का है महत्त्व

बात 1981-82 की है जब नरेंद्रभाई मोदी राष्ट्रीय स्वयं सेवक संघ के कर्णावती (अहमदाबाद) जिला प्रचारक हुआ करते थे। अपने इस कार्यभार में वे अक्सर धंधुका आते और मेरे घर पर रात्रि निवास करते। उन्होंने एक बार हनुमानजी पर एक लंबी कविता लिखी और मुझे सुवाच्य अक्षर में

लिखने के लिए दी। तब से ही मेरे मन में उनकी कवि के रूप में छवि बनी थी।

36-37 वर्षों के संपर्क-संबंध में उनके साथ अनेक यादें जुड़ी हुई हैं। प्रेम की वर्षा के साथ निरंतर मार्गदर्शन के बीच कभी कभी मैं उनके रोष का भी हकदार था। दिनांक 1-1 दृ 1988 को वे मुझे भारतीय जनता पार्टी में काम करने के



शादी की 20वीं सालगिरह के उपलक्ष्य में लेखक के परिवार के साथ नरेंद्र मोदी

गुजरात संगठन में अपने कार्यकाल के दौरान वर्ष 1987-88 में वंचितों पर होते अन्याय के विरुद्ध 'न्याययात्रा' से लेकर 'कश्मीर हमारा है' सूत्र के साथ देशभक्ति जगाती कन्याकुमारी से कश्मीर तक की 'एकता यात्रा' के संयोजक के रूप में नरेंद्र भाई ने महत्त्वपूर्ण भूमिका निभाई।

लिए धंधुका से कर्णावती ले गए और दस वर्ष के बाद वे 1998 में विधान सभा चुनाव में तत्कालीन मुड़खयमंत्री श्री दिलीप परीख के विरुद्ध चुनाव लड़ने के लिए धंधुका आये और चुनाव सभा में आँख में अश्रु के साथ भावपूर्ण हो कर बोले, दस वर्ष पूर्व मैं जिस को ले गया था ऐसे 'भरत' को फिर से आप के बीच लाया हूँ। उनको आप जिताकर गांधीनगर भेजना। उस समय मैं समग्र देश में पदस्थ मुख्यमंत्री को हराकर सब से युवा विधायक बना था।

नरेंद्र भाई मोदी के जीवन में पांच 'व' का महत्त्व है। जैसे उनकी जन्मभूमि गुजरात का वडनगर है। वाराणसी उनकी कर्मभूमि है। विकास के माध्यम से विजय प्राप्त कर के वे वडा प्रधान (यानी प्रधानमंत्री) बने हैं।

गुजरात संगठन में अपने कार्यकाल के दौरान वर्ष 1987-88 में वंचितों पर होते अन्याय के विरुद्ध 'न्याययात्रा' से लेकर 'कश्मीर हमारा है' सूत्र के साथ देशभक्ति जगाती कन्याकुमारी से कश्मीर तक की 'एकता यात्रा' के संयोजक के रूप



अक्टूबर 2012 में स्वामी विवेकानंद यात्रा के दौरान लेखक और नरेंद्र मोदी

में नरेंद्र भाई ने महत्त्वपूर्ण भूमिका निभाई। गुजरात में कन्या केलवणी (शिक्षण) यात्रा, कृषि यात्रा, वंचितों की विकास यात्रा, स्वामी विवेकानंद विकास यात्रा, वीरांजलि यात्रा, गुजरात गौरव यात्रा, विकास गौरव यात्रा समेत अनेक यात्रा के वे जनक वृ आयोजक वृ संयोजक रहे। देश के इतिहास में संभवतः सब से अधिक प्रवास करनेवाले एक राजकीय महापुरुष 'महायात्रिक' बनने का सौभाग्य नरेंद्र भाई को मिला है। जन

जागृति द्वारा जनशक्ति को देशभक्ति बनाने का सर्वाधिक सबल माध्यम वे 'यात्रा' को मानते हैं। जनमत को समझने के लिए, उनके पश्नों को जानने के लिए, निरंतर लोगों के साथ संपर्क वृ संवाद वृ समन्वय करना चाहिए और इस लिए विश्व इतिहास में जनता के साथ सर्वाधिक संपर्क वृ संवाद करने का श्रेय नरेंद्र भाई को मिलता है।

मैंने टीवी और इंटरनेट

पर अनेक देश के प्रमुखों को कोई टापु पर, बोट में, जंगल में, रिसोर्ट में वेकेशन का आनंद लेते हुए देखा है, पढ़ा है, किन्तु जब से नरेंद्र भाई के संपर्क में आया तब से सर्वाधिक ईश्वरीय आश्चर्य यह है कि उन्होंने कभी भी एक दिन की छुट्टी या वेकेशन नहीं लिया। गुजरात के मुख्यमंत्री थे तब उनको स्वाइन लू हुआ था। तब भी सीएम हाउस में हॉस्पिटल जैसी व्यवस्था खड़ी कर के उन्होंने कामकाज चालू रखा। दाढ़ का ऑपरेशन हुआ तब भी वे देर रात तक बैठक कर के गुजरात की चिंता करते रहे जिस का मैं साक्षी हूँ। वे अक्सर कहते हैं , काम ना करने की थकान लगती है, काम करने का तो संतोष मिलता है।

नरेंद्र भाई की स्मरणशक्ति अद्भुत है। वे यदि किसी को पहली बार मिलेंगे तो भी तब से उनका नाम उनको याद रह जाता है। वे गाँव या शहर, जहां भी जाते हैं, अनेक लोगों को नाम से बुलाते हैं और जन सभा में वे याद कर कर के वर्षों पूर्व के अपने स्मरणों को अवश्य कहते हैं। इस तरह से वे कार्यकर्ताओं और सामान्य व्यक्ति के हृदय को छू लेते हैं और आत्मीय सबन्ध बना लेते हैं। पूर्व आयोजन और पूर्ण आयोजन कृ इन दोनों परिभाषा को उन्होंने मूर्तिमंत की है। किसी भी संगठन कार्य अथवा कार्यक्रम की पूर्व तैयारी के लिए वे परिश्रम करते हैं और कार्यकर्ताओं से भी परिश्रम करवाते हैं। संगठन के पत्रकों और पुस्तकें लिखने के लिए अनेक जिले मि उस समय के बड़े बड़े पदाधिकारियों को भी रात के दो-तीन बजे तक उन्होंने बिठा कर कार्य संपन्न करवा कर के ही दम लिया था। उनकी कार्यशैली ऐसी है कि प्रातरू जल्दी वे काम के सन्दर्भ में फ़ोन करते हैं और देर रात



को 'काम का क्या हुआ?' ऐसा पूछ कर फ़ॉलोअप भी करते हैं। इसी कारण पार्टी ने नरेंद्र भाई को जो भी काम दिया हो उस में जुड़े हरेक लोगों को सतर्क, सक्रीय, रहना ही पड़ता है इस तरह के वे कर्मठ हैं।

उनको पढ़ना बहुत प्रिय है। विवेकानंदजी के विषय में प्रवचन देना हो तो उनके विषय में अनेक पुस्तक वे पढ़ते थे। मुझे स्मरण पड़ता है कि कन्याकुमारी से कश्मीर तक 'एकता यात्रा' में कश्मीर समेत अनेक विषय पर उन्होंने काम से काम 150 से अधिक पुस्तकें पढ़ी होंगी। कर्णावती स्थित शाला संस्कार धाम में उनकी लाइब्रेरी में तमाम क्षेत्र, तमाम विषय की पुस्तकें उन्होंने संग्रह की है।

नरेंद्रभाई ने दुनिया के साथ ताल-मेल बैठने के लिए आधुनिकता का आग्रह हमेशा रखा उसका

उनको पढ़ना बहुत प्रिय है। विवेकानंदजी के विषय में प्रवचन देना हो तो उनके विषय में अनेक पुस्तक वे पढ़ते थे। मुझे स्मरण पड़ता है कि कन्याकुमारी से कश्मीर तक 'एकता यात्रा' में कश्मीर समेत अनेक विषय पर उन्होंने काम से काम 150 से अधिक पुस्तकें पढ़ी होंगी।



वर्ष 2012 में गुजरात विधानसभा चुनाव में उन्होंने श्री डी होलोग्राफिक्स के माध्यम से एक स्थान से अनेक स्थानों पर चुनावी सभाएं संबोधित की थीं। विश्व के नेताओं ने जो तकनीक का उपयोग नहीं किया उस तकनीक का उपयोग नरेन्द्रभाई ने लोकसभा 2014 के चुनाव में भाजपा कार्यालय गांधीनगर से एक स्थान से 50-100 सभाओं को श्री डी लाइव सभा कर के संबोधित किया था।

एक प्रसंग मुझे याद आता है। वर्ष 2013 में गुजरात भाजपा की कारोबारी में समापन सत्र में अपने प्रवचन के दौरान उन्होंने विधायकों, सांसदों और कारोबारी टीम के अन्य सदस्यों को प्रश्न पूछा, आप में से किस के पास अपना ईमेल आई डी है? बहुत ज्यादा लोगों ने अपने हाथ खड़े नहीं किये तब उन्होंने कहा, मैं समस्त प्रवचन बाद में करूंगा, पहले आप सभी बाहर 10 कंप्यूटर ऑपरेटर बैठे हैं उनके पास जा कर अपना ईमेल आई डी बनवाएं। उस के बाद ही मैं प्रवचन करूंगा। इस प्रकार वे प्रदेश की टीम को अधिनिक रखने के लिए निरंतर आग्रह करते।

वर्ष 2012 में गुजरात विधानसभा चुनाव में उन्होंने श्री डी होलोग्राफिक्स के माध्यम से एक स्थान से अनेक स्थानों पर चुनावी सभाएं संबोधित की थीं। विश्व के नेताओं ने जो तकनीक का उपयोग नहीं किया उस तकनीक का उपयोग नरेन्द्रभाई ने लोकसभा 2014 के चुनाव में भाजपा कार्यालय गांधीनगर से एक स्थान से 50-

100 सभाओं को श्री डी लाइव सभा कर के संबोधित किया था।

गोधरा काण्ड में विरोधियों ने निरंतर दस साल तक झूठे आरोप मढ़े। मौत का सौदागर 'से लेकर 'हिटलर' तक की गालियां उनको दीं। पर नरेन्द्र भाई ने धैर्य का परिचय देते हुए दस वर्षों तक विरोधियों के आक्रमण के विरुद्ध एक शब्द तक नहीं बोले। सम्पूर्ण मौन रहे। दस वर्ष के बाद उन्होंने इसका जवाब 'सद्भावना मिशन' द्वारा 33 जिलों में रमाम जाति वृ समाज और वर्ग को जोड़ कर एक एक दिन का उपवास किया। सद्भावना मिशन के संयोजक के रूप में मुझे हरेक जिले जाना होता था। तब मैंने हरेक जिले में आयोजित एक दिन के उपवास समय बालक से लेकर वृद्ध, युवा, महिला, दिव्यांग, सौ वर्ष से उपरान्त के आयु के वृद्धों को नरेन्द्रभाई से हाथ मिलाते, गले लगाते, भावपूर्ण दृश्य देखे।

'लेखक गुजरात भाजपा के वरिष्ठ नेता हैं। प्रकाशित लेख उनके निजी विचार हैं।'



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