



# PEOPLE AND UN

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Meeting with Hon'ble President of India Shrimati Droupadi Murmu on March 07, 2024 at Rashtrapati Bhavan, New Delhi. Suresh Srivastava, Secretary General, Indian Federation of United Nations Associations (IFUNA) and Manoranjan Pattanaik, President, Odisha United Nations Association appraised, Hon'ble President about the activities of IFUNA.

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IFUNA Observed U.N Day-2018 on 30th October 2018 to mark the day when India ratified the Charter and joined United Nations. Honorable Gen. (Dr) V.K. Singh, MOS, Ministry of External Affairs was invited as Chief Guest

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**A**DDRESSING a forum recently, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar has said "I get a lot of noises from the Western press. If they criticise our democracy, it's not because they lack information, it is because they think they are also political players in our election." He cited an article by the western media questioning the timing of elections during summer months. "I read an article today where some Western media said, it is so hot in India, why are they holding elections at this time? I read that article and I wanted to say, in that heat my lowest turnout is higher than your highest turnout in the best record," he said, adding "These are the games that are being played with" India.. The minister also accused foreign media of emulating political players in elections and trying to influence them". He added that these are games that are being played. "These are politics. These are our domestic politics which is going global, global politics which feels they must now intrude in India. How can these chaps decide who should be ruling without consulting us?" "They (West) actually think they are part of our electorate... I think it's time today that we disabuse them and the best way that we do that, is by confidence," "They will question your election system, your EVM, your election commission, even the weather,"Mr. jaishankar stressed.

There is a caucus in western media who believes in to belittle and defame India at the first opportunity even on dropping of a hat. These people are trying to influence our elections/Lok Sabha Elections 2024. One should be happy that Dr. Jaishankar has slammed them at right time by highlighting India's capability, strength, courage, might ,and self-confidence. The minister has rightly emphasized the need to stand up to these kinds of attacks and criticisms and rankings and reports because they will question everything.

We applaud this bold and courageous statement of Minister S. Jaishankar and strongly support him. We also condemn the Western media over unfair criticism of India, and warn them not to act as "political players" in our country's elections.

– **Pran Mohan Parvatiyar**  
[pmparvatiyar@gmail.com](mailto:pmparvatiyar@gmail.com)



EAM S Jaishankar roasted the western media for questioning India's democracy. He highlighted how the foreign media has been pointing out India's electoral process, ongoing elections.

## WORLD HEALTH DAY

# INDIAN FEDERATION OF UNITED NATIONS ASSOCIATIONS OBSERVED WORLD HEALTH DAY WITH MNC GIRLS COLLEGE, NALBARI, ASSAM

THE Indian Federation of UN Associations ( IFUNA ) observed the World Health Day in Collaboration with MNC Balika Mahavidyalaya, Nalbari, Assam on 8th April, 2024.

The meeting was presided over by Dr. Gargee Chakraborty - Principal of MNC Balika Mahavidyalaya (MNC Girls College, Nalbari). Dr. Chakraborty in her presidential speech said that it is most important to keep healthy of a person in performing their day to day activities.

Dr. Nitul Gogoi, IGP ( Assam Police ) in his speech stressed the importance of maintaining health and hygiene of a person, keeping the environment healthy and live in a better healthy way of life. He said the theme of the World Health day in this year was " MY HEALTH, MY LIFE"

Earlier, Dr. Aswini Sarma - Secretary General of UNA- Assam read out the message of Director General of WHO on the occasion.

The meeting was attended by Mrs. Marami Goswami - Regional Deputy Director of IUNS- NER ( regional Office ) , Mrs Purabi Devi - officials of UNA- Assam, faculties and students of the MNC Balika Mahavidyalaya , Nalbari, Assam

Dr. Aswini Sarma, Secretary General of UNA-Assam & Secretary of IFUNA, briefed on the significance of observing the International Women's day as declared by UN General Assembly every year.

Earlier, the message of UN secretary General Mr. Antonnio Guetterrus on the occasion of International Women's day was read out by Mrs. Marami Goswami- Academic Secretary of UNA-Assam.

The meeting was moderated by Dr. Bhuban Chetia, a senior faculty of Nowgong



Apr 8, 2024 1:23:59 PM  
Santipur Mukalmua  
Lower Assam Division



Apr 8, 2024 1:20:11 PM  
Santipur Mukalmua

College and a member of UNA-Assam.

The Vote of Thanks was offered by Mrs. Himangshi Kashyap, a faculty of Nowgong College and also a member of UNA-Assam.

The meeting was well-attended by distinguished invitees, faculties and students of the esteemed college, the Nowgong College (an Autonomous College).

**THE MEETING WAS ATTENDED BY MRS. MARAMI GOSWAMI - REGIONAL DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF IUNS- NER ( REGIONAL OFFICE ) , MRS PURABI DEVI - OFFICIALS OF UNA- ASSAM, FACULTIES AND STUDENTS OF THE MNC BALIKA MAHAVIDYALAYA , NALBARI, ASSAM**

## WORLD HEALTH DAY

# Indian Federation of United Nations Associations (IFUNA)

## Observes World Health Day in Odisha



**SPEAKING ON THE OCCASION FORMER CENTRAL MINISTER OBSERVED A CHILD SHOULD BE PROVIDED TREATMENT FROM MOTHER'S WOMB.THE GOVERNMENT SHOULD LOOK IN TO AND INSURE IT. FORMER CBI JUDGE BHIKHARI CHARAN ROUT SPEAKING AS GUEST OF HONOR SAID THAT ODISHA HIGH COURT HAS GIVEN A JUDGMENT THAT MEDICAL PRESCRIPTIONS SHOULD BE WRITTEN CLEARLY .**

IFUNA along with UPFUNA observed World Health Day on 7th April, 2024 in Odisha. Advocate Manorajan Patnaik, President, UPUFNA and Vice President IFUNA presided. Mr. Suresh Srivastava, Secretary General, IFUNA inaugurated the programme by video conference from New Delhi.

Speaking on the occasion former central Minister observed a child should be provided treatment from mother's womb.The government should look in to and insure it. Former CBI Judge Bhikhari Charan Rout speaking as Guest of Honor said that Odisha High Court has given a judgment that medical prescriptions should be written clearly. Dr.Tushar

Naik, who most of the time had training in foreign countries observed our country should also provide health facilities like other advanced countries of the world.He observed out of 800 crores population of the world around 400 crores not getting proper health care.

Advocate Nabid ita Rath, Saroj satpathy, Upendra Rout, Dr.Pramod Naik Prof. Samir Sahu, Pitabna Sahu, Premanand Satpathy, Balanta Biswal, Prof. Bimbadhar Behra, Smitarani Samal,Tarun Biswal, Dr. Animesh Das, Mayadhar Sety, Suryamany Patnayak participated in the program. Poet Bahadur Patsani welcomed the guest.

# Article 370 of the Constitution of India

## Role of:

*Shri Narendra Modi, Late Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee,  
Late Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru and Late Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri*



**SURESH SRIVASTAVA**  
Vice Chair: World  
Federation of United Nations  
Associations and Secretary  
General: IFUNA

**A**RTICLE 370 of the Indian Constitution which granted special autonomous status to the region of Jammu & Kashmir has been a significant aspect of India's political landscape since its inception. The recent events of abrogation of Article 370 and in the ensuing elections became a bone of contention between BJP and Congress. Here is a brief overview of the Role played by some important leaders in relation to Article 370.

Pakistan's entire existence has been based on the theological modus operandi to claim Kashmir at any cost as Kashmir being a Muslim majority state. India with its more than 80% a tolerant Hindu population had decided to keep India as a secular country

and acceptance of the claim of Pakistan based on Islamic fundamentalism would have led to grave and serious consequences in India. Pakistan's raison d'être, meanwhile, has revealed its single mindedness of purpose to maim and destroy India. A theological state imperilled by its own design and fixation, Pakistan is where it is, hamstrung by a toxic credo. Hence, as Sun Tzu says, when we are able to attack, we must seem unable; when using our forces, we must appear inactive; when we are near, we must make the enemy believe we are far away; when far away, we must make him believe we are near. Pakistan's entire construct had been based on this theological modus operandi, to claim Kashmir at





## SHRI NARENDRA MODI

**SHRI NARENDRA MODI, THE CURRENT PRIME MINISTER OF INDIA, AND HIS BJP-LED GOVERNMENT TOOK A DECISIVE STEP REGARDING ARTICLE 370. IN AUGUST 2019, THE GOVERNMENT ABROGATED ARTICLE 370 AND BIFURCATED THE STATE OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR INTO TWO UNION TERRITORIES - JAMMU AND KASHMIR, AND LADAKH.**

all cost.

Shri Narendra Modi was elected Prime Minister of India in the year 2014 and continues till date and hopefully will continue till 2029. He is the beacon of hope for resolving the long standing dispute on Jammu & Kashmir with Pakistan and for the people of Jammu & Kashmir. He is a bold and decisive Prime Minister India has ever seen after Prime Minister late Lal Bahadur Shastri.

Shri Narendra Modi, the current Prime Minister of India, and his BJP-led government took a decisive step regarding Article 370. In August 2019, the government abrogated Article 370 and bifurcated the state of Jammu and Kashmir into two Union Territories - Jammu and Kashmir, and Ladakh.

Shri Modi's government is of firm view that the special status accorded by Article 370 had hindered the development of Jammu and Kashmir and integration with the rest of India. The move was aimed at fostering

development, improving governance, and combating separatism and terrorism in the region, which has seen aggression by Pakistan, Terrorism by Jihadis, exodus of Kashmiri Pandits from valley of Kashmir, loss of income due to restricted tourism and suffering of People of Jammu & Kashmir.

Since the historic abrogation of Article 370 in August 2019, Jammu and Kashmir has witnessed significant developments and transformations across various sectors. The decision, undertaken by the Narendra Modi-led government, aimed to integrate the region more closely with the rest of India and pave the way for its socio-economic development.

Late Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee and BJP came into power in the year 1994 and Vajpayee ji also played a significant role on this issue. J&K's major parties, especially the National Conference whose founder Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah played a key

role in the state's accession in 1947, have been demanding restoration of J&K's autonomy to its original status as agreed during the 1947 negotiations. In 2000, when the NC was in power after having won with a two-thirds majority in 1996, the Legislative Assembly passed a State Autonomy Report, seeking restoration of the state's autonomy to the 1953 position, which would have meant restoration of the Prime Minister and Sadr-e-Riyasat positions. The then Vajpayee government summarily rejected the resolution passed by the Assembly.

Pd. Nehru played a pivotal role in the incorporation of Article 370 into the Indian Constitution granting special autonomy to Jammu & Kashmir. Pd Jawahar Lal Nehru a Foreign educated barrister who was Mahatma Gandhi's chosen political heir unlike Sardar Vallabh Bhai Patel who was the unanimous preference of Congress Party. After the death of Vallabh Bhai Patel in 1950, he towered amongst his colleagues in the congress. He played a main role in incorporating Article 370 in the constitution and as he was holding the portfolio of Minister of External Affairs at that time kept Jammu & Kashmir within the ambit of foreign affairs ministry. The provision was intended to preserve the distinct identity of Kashmir within the Indian Union, but it also fueled tensions and grievances among certain segments of the population and greatly contributed to the ongoing Kashmir conflict.

Pd. Jawahar Lal Nehru believed in the autonomy of Jammu & Kashmir within the Indian framework and wanted to maintain the special status of the Jammu & Kashmir though, in the beginning he was very clear in his mind that Article 370 is a temporary and transitional provision aimed at giving the people of Jammu & Kashmir time to decide their future within the Union of India but with the passage of time Nehru remain obsessed with the provision of Article 370 of the Constitution of India of which he was the creator and till his demise in the year 1964 head of the Jammu & Kashmir was known as Sadr-e- Riasat and head of the Assembly as Prime Minister of Jammu & Kashmir.



**LATE PANDIT JAWAHAR LAL NEHRU**

After the demise of Pd. Nehru, Lal Bahadur Shastri took over as Prime Minister of the country and unfortunately, he mysteriously died in Tashkent in early 1966. But before his demise he did a remarkable act in the year 1965, he revoked the title of Sadr-e- Riasat to Governor and from Prime Minister to Chief Minister in Jammu & Kashmir. The Sixth Amendment to the J&K Constitution, carried out in 1965, made a fundamental change to its basic structure. Under Section 147, an amendment is to be assented by the Sadr-e-Riyasat after a Bill is passed by a two-thirds majority of the House, while Section 147 itself cannot be amended by the state legislature, and neither can an amendment

**AFTER THE DEMISE OF PD. NEHRU, LAL BAHADUR SHASTRI TOOK OVER AS PRIME MINISTER OF THE COUNTRY AND UNFORTUNATELY, HE MYSTERIOUSLY DIED IN TASHKENT IN EARLY 1966. BUT BEFORE HIS DEMISE HE DID A REMARKABLE ACT IN THE YEAR 1965, HE REVOKED THE TITLE OF SADR-E- RIASAT TO GOVERNOR AND FROM PRIME MINISTER TO CHIEF MINISTER IN JAMMU & KASHMIR.**



LATE SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE

**THE ABROGATION OF ARTICLE 370 HAS ALSO HAD A POSITIVE IMPACT ON THE SECURITY SITUATION IN JAMMU AND KASHMIR. WITH THE REMOVAL OF SPECIAL STATUS, THE REGION HAS WITNESSED A DECLINE IN TERRORIST ACTIVITIES AND SEPARATIST SENTIMENTS. THE SECURITY FORCES HAVE BEEN ABLE TO CARRY OUT ANTI-TERROR OPERATIONS MORE EFFECTIVELY, LEADING TO IMPROVED PEACE AND STABILITY IN THE REGION.**

that changes the provisions of Constitution of India as applicable in relation to J&K. Sadr-e-Riyasat, however, was replaced with Governor across the J&K Constitution, except in Section 147 which could not be amended. This has led to the existence of two kinds of heads of state in the Constitution - Sadr-e-Riyasat as well as Governor. In 1975, a Presidential Order issued under Article 370 barred the J&K Legislature from making any change to the J&K Constitution regarding appointment and powers of the Governor.

Let's delve into the progress made in Jammu and Kashmir since the revocation of Article 370.

The abrogation of Article 370 led to the reorganization of the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir into two separate Union Territories - Jammu and Kashmir, and Ladakh. This administrative reorganization has facilitated more efficient governance, better administration, and accelerated development initiatives in the region.

The government has prioritized infrastructure development in Jammu and Kashmir, including road connectivity, bridges, tunnels, and power projects. These infrastructural upgrades aim to improve accessibility, connectivity, and overall quality of life for the residents.

The revocation of Article 370 has opened up Jammu and Kashmir to increased investment opportunities across sectors such as tourism, healthcare, education, and industry. This influx of investment has the potential to generate employment opportunities for the local populace, thereby reducing unemployment and boosting economic growth.

The government has focused on enhancing the education and healthcare infrastructure in Jammu and Kashmir. Initiatives have been launched to upgrade schools, colleges, and healthcare facilities, ensuring better access to quality education and healthcare services for the residents.

The abrogation of Article 370 has also had a positive impact on the security situation in Jammu and Kashmir. With the removal of special status, the region has witnessed a decline in terrorist activities and separatist sentiments. The security forces have been able to carry out anti-terror operations more effectively, leading to improved peace and stability in the region.

The integration of Jammu and Kashmir with mainstream India has been a key objective post the abrogation of Article 370. The



## LATE SHRI LAL BAHADUR SHASTRI

government has undertaken various initiatives to promote cultural exchange, tourism, and people-to-people interactions between Jammu and Kashmir and other parts of the country. This integration not only fosters national unity but also promotes economic growth and social cohesion.

While significant progress has been made in Jammu and Kashmir post the abrogation of Article 370, challenges remain. Issues such as rehabilitation of displaced persons, restoration of internet services, and addressing socio-economic disparities need to be tackled effectively. Additionally, sustained efforts are required to ensure inclusive development and empower the local population.

In conclusion, the abrogation of Article 370 has marked a new chapter in the history of Jammu and Kashmir, ushering in a period of progress, development, and integration with the rest of India. While challenges persist, the concerted efforts of the government, along with the support of the people, hold the promise of a brighter future for the region.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi for his bold and visionary leadership in undertaking the historic abrogation of Article 370. His decisive steps have paved the way for greater integration, progress, and prosperity in Jammu and Kashmir. Thank you, Prime Minister Modi, for your unwavering commitment to the unity and development of our nation.

**IN CONCLUSION, THE ABROGATION OF ARTICLE 370 HAS MARKED A NEW CHAPTER IN THE HISTORY OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR, USHERING IN A PERIOD OF PROGRESS, DEVELOPMENT, AND INTEGRATION WITH THE REST OF INDIA. WHILE CHALLENGES PERSIST, THE CONCERTED EFFORTS OF THE GOVERNMENT, ALONG WITH THE SUPPORT OF THE PEOPLE, HOLD THE PROMISE OF A BRIGHTER FUTURE FOR THE REGION.**

# Climate action ‘cannot trample over the poor’

*"A world powered by renewables is a world hungry for critical minerals,"*

**-UN Secretary General, Antonio Guterres**

*Launches new initiative to protect key minerals for clean energy transition*

**INDIA ALSO INCLUDED IN THE PANEL**

**THE NEWLY ESTABLISHED PANEL ON CRITICAL ENERGY TRANSITION MINERALS BRINGS TOGETHER A DIVERSE GROUP OF GOVERNMENTS, ORGANISATIONS AND UN BODIES TO DEVELOP A SET OF COMMON AND VOLUNTARY PRINCIPLES TO PROTECT ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL STANDARDS AIMED AT EMBEDDING JUSTICE IN THE ENERGY TRANSITION.**



The UN Secretary-General on 26th April launched an initiative focusing on ensuring fairness, sustainability and respect for human rights throughout the entire process of sourcing and using critical minerals needed for the clean energy transition.

The newly established Panel on Critical Energy Transition Minerals brings together a diverse group of governments, organisations and UN bodies to develop a set of common and voluntary principles to protect environmental and social standards aimed at embedding justice



in the energy transition.

*"A world powered by renewables is a world hungry for critical minerals," Secretary-General António Guterres said at the launch of the panel.*

For developing countries, this new demand presents a big opportunity to create new jobs, diversify economies and dramatically boost revenues, he continued, stressing that this requires effective management.

*"The race to net zero cannot trample over the poor," he said. "The renewables revolution is happening, but we must make sure that it is done in a way that moves us towards justice."*

Mr. Guterres had announced his plan to set up the panel at the COP28 climate summit, held in Dubai in early December. It is expected to provide initial recommendations ahead of the General Assembly's high-level week in September.

#### **Skyrocketing demand**

As the climate emergency worsens, demand is soaring for minerals vital for renewable energy technology, such as solar panels, wind turbines and electric vehicles (EV).

For instance, lithium is required to manufacture high efficiency batteries, electronics and EVs, with demand expected to rise by over 1,500 per cent, according to the UN Trade and Development (UNCTAD). Similar increasing demand is anticipated for nickel, cobalt and copper.

The rising demand could be a big boost for

many developing countries, especially in Africa, which boasts over one fifth of the world's reserves for a dozen metals essential to the energy transition.

#### **Cornerstone of UN's response**

Mr. Guterres highlighted that developing countries cannot be relegated to the bottom of the clean energy value chain - merely as suppliers of basic raw materials.

"Little wonder that resource-rich developing countries are calling for urgent action to ensure that they, and their communities, benefit from the production and trade of critical minerals and that people and nature are protected," he said.

The UN chief offered the Organization's full support for the new panel.

"This work is extremely complex, but the world cannot wait," he said.

#### **Panel membership**

The panel is co-chaired by Ambassador Nozipho Joyce Mxakato-Diseko of South Africa and Director-General for Energy Ditte Juul Jørgensen of the European Commission.

Its members include Australia, Botswana, Brazil, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Egypt, India, Indonesia, Japan, Kazakhstan, Namibia, Nigeria, South Africa, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, United States, Viet Nam, Zambia and Zimbabwe alongside the African Union, European Union, UN and intergovernmental entities and non-governmental organisations.

**ITS MEMBERS INCLUDE AUSTRALIA, BOTSWANA, BRAZIL, CANADA, CHILE, CHINA, COLOMBIA, DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO, EGYPT, INDIA, INDONESIA, JAPAN, KAZAKHSTAN, NAMIBIA, NIGERIA, SOUTH AFRICA, UNITED ARAB EMIRATES, UNITED KINGDOM, UNITED STATES, VIET NAM, ZAMBIA AND ZIMBABWE ALONGSIDE THE AFRICAN UNION, EUROPEAN UNION, UN AND INTERGOVERNMENTAL ENTITIES AND NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATIONS.**

## PM Modi jointly inaugurates UPI services with Mauritius PM & Sri Lankan President

# INDIA -SRI LANKA - MAURITIUS JOINS TOGETHER FOR UNITED PAYMENT INTERFACE (UPI) AND RuPay CARD SERVICES



**THE LAUNCH WILL ENABLE THE AVAILABILITY OF UPI SETTLEMENT SERVICES FOR INDIAN NATIONALS TRAVELLING TO SRI LANKA AND MAURITIUS AS WELL AS FOR MAURITIAN NATIONALS TRAVELLING TO INDIA. CARD FOR SETTLEMENTS IN INDIA AND MAURITIUS.**

U.S. Commerce Secretary Gina Raimondo has hailed Prime Minister Narendra Modi as an "unbelievable, visionary" and the most popular world leader with the commitment and desire to move India forward as a global power.

India has emerged as a leader in Fintech innovation and Digital Public Infrastructure. The Prime Minister Modi has strongly emphasized sharing our development experiences and

innovation with partner countries. Given India's robust cultural and people-to-people linkages with Sri Lanka and Mauritius, the launch will benefit a wide cross-section of people through a faster and seamless digital transaction experience and enhance digital connectivity between the countries.

The launch will enable the availability of UPI settlement services for Indian nationals travelling to Sri Lanka and Mauritius as well as for Mauritian

nationals travelling to India. The extension of RuPay card services in Mauritius will enable Mauritian banks to issue cards based on RuPay mechanism in Mauritius and facilitate usage of RuPay Card for settlements in India and Mauritius.

The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi along with the President of Sri Lanka, Mr. Ranil Wickremesinghe and the Prime Minister of Mauritius, Mr. Pravind Jugnauth jointly inaugurated the launch of Unified Payment Interface (UPI) services in Sri Lanka and Mauritius, and also RuPay card services in Mauritius via video conferencing.

Prime Minister of Mauritius, Mr Pravind Jugnauth informed that co-branded Rupay card will be designated as domestic card in Mauritius. Will greatly facilitate the citizens of our countries.

President of Sri Lanka Mr Ranil Wickremesinghe congratulated the Prime Minister for the consecration of Shri Ram Mandir at the Ayodhya Dham. He also emphasized the centuries-old economic relations. The President hoped to maintain the momentum of connectivity and deepening of the relationship between the two countries.

Addressing the occasion, the Prime Minister Modi said that today marks a special day for three friendly nations of India, Sri Lanka and Mauritius when their historic connections take the form of modern digital connect. He said that it is proof of the government's commitment towards the development of the people. He underlined fintech connectivity will further strengthen cross-border transactions and connections. "India's UPI or United Payments Interface comes in a new role today - Uniting Partners with India", the Prime Minister emphasized.

Mr.Mdi underlined that digital public infrastructure has brought about a revolutionary change in India, where the smallest of vendors in the remotest of villages are transacting via UPI and making digital payments. Speaking about the convenience and speed of UPI transactions, he informed that more than 100 billion transactions took place via UPI



*Sri Lankan President conveys greeting on consecration of Shri Ram Mandir*

*India's Unified Payments Interface, i.e. UPI, is now performing a new responsibility - Uniting Partners with India*

*Digital Public Infrastructure has brought a revolutionary change in India*

*By connecting with UPI both Sri Lanka and Mauritius will benefit and digital transformation will get a boost*

*India's policy is 'Neighborhood First'. Our maritime vision is SAGAR i.e. Security And Growth for All in the Region*

*After Nepal, Bhutan, Singapore and UAE in the Gulf in Asia, now from Mauritius, RuPay card is being launched in Africa*

*Be it natural disaster, health-related, economic or supporting on the international stage, India has been the first responder, and will continue to be so*





**REFERRING TO THE VISION DOCUMENT THAT WAS ADOPTED DURING THE LAST VISIT OF THE SRI LANKAN PRESIDENT, MR. MODI HIGHLIGHTED THE STRENGTHENING FINANCIAL CONNECTIVITY AS ITS KEY COMPONENT. WITH PRIME MINISTER PRAVIND JUGNAUTH ALSO, THESE DISCUSSIONS WERE CONDUCTED AS HE WAS THE SPECIAL GUEST DURING THE G20 SUMMIT.**

last year worth Rs 2 lakh crores or 8 trillion Sri Lankan rupees or 1 trillion Mauritius rupees. He also mentioned making last-mile delivery through the GEM Trinity of bank accounts, Aadhar and mobile phones where Rs 34 lakh crores or 400 billion US dollars has been transferred into the bank accounts of beneficiaries. The Prime Minister informed that with CoWin Platform India conducted the world's biggest vaccination programme. "Use of technology is promoting transparency, reducing corruption and increasing inclusivity in society", the Prime Minister said.

The Prime Minister Modi stressed that "India's policy is 'Neighborhood First'. Our maritime vision is SAGAR i.e. Security and growth for all in the region. India does not see its development separately from its neighbors."

Referring to the Vision Document that was adopted during the last visit of the Sri Lankan President, Mr. Modi highlighted the strengthening financial connectivity as its key component. With Prime Minister Pravin Jugnauth also, these discussions were conducted as he was the special guest during the G20 Summit.

The Prime Minister Modi expressed the confidence that connection with UPI will benefit Sri Lanka and Mauritius and digital transformation will get a boost, local economies will witness positive change and tourism will be promoted. "I am confident that Indian tourists will give priority to destinations with UPI. People of Indian origin living in Sri Lanka and Mauritius and students studying there will also get special benefits from it", he added. PM Modi expressed delight that after Nepal, Bhutan, Singapore and UAE in the Gulf in Asia, now from Mauritius RuPay card is being launched in Africa. This will also facilitate the people coming to India from Mauritius. The need to buy hard currency will also reduce. The UPI and RuPay card system will enable real-time, cost-effective and convenient payments in our own currency. In the coming time, we can move towards cross-border remittances i.e. Person to Person (P2P) payment facility, Mr Modi added.

The Prime Minister Modi underlined that today's launch symbolizes the success of Global South cooperation. "Our relations are not just about transactions, it is a historical relation", and emphasized highlighting the strength of people-to-people relations between the three nations. Drawing attention to India supporting its neighboring friends in the last ten years, he said that India stands up for its friends in every hour of crisis, be it natural disasters, health-related issues, economic or support on the international stage. "India has been the first responder and will continue to be so". PM Modi also highlighted the special attention towards the concerns of the Global South Even during India's G20 presidency. He mentioned setting up a Social Impact Fund to extend the benefits of India's digital public infrastructure to countries in the Global South.

Concluding the address, the Prime Minister Modi extended his heartfelt gratitude towards President Ranil Wickremesinghe of Sri Lanka and Prime Minister Pravin Jugnauth of Mauritius who played a vital role in today's launch. He also thanked the central banks and agencies of the three countries for making this launch successful.

# 'Decided I won't allow digital divide in India...took infra to villages': PM Modi.

## *Modi- Bill Gates discuss AI, tech revolution*

*Bill Gates-Narendra Modi meeting will have positive impact on Digital India  
Microsoft Co-Founder has great confidence in Indian  
Techies for AI Development - : Girish Linganna*

**O**N FRIDAY 29th March Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Microsoft co-founder, billionaire philanthropist Bill Gates, came together at the former's residence in Delhi in a free-wheeling and insightful exchange on a range of topics that was as diverse as it was intriguing and thought-provoking-the future of Artificial Intelligence (AI), the importance of Digital Public Infrastructure, and the 'Namo Drone Didi' scheme.

PM Modi articulated his vision for a digitally inclusive India, stressing that he was committed to

preventing a 'digital divide' by bringing even the remotest villages within the digital ambit by extending infrastructure. Modi said India's digital push had been made possible by democratizing technology so that people could value-add according to their needs.

Gates was all praise for India's "digital government". He said, "India's not only adapting to technology, but also leading the way". Speaking of the new frontiers of technology, such as AI, Gates asked Modi what India's vision was. Modi jokingly



BILL GATES MET PRIME MINISTER NARENDRA MODI IN DELHI



**MICROSOFT OWNS SOFTWARE COLLABORATION AND INNOVATION PLATFORM GITHUB. AND INDIA IS THE FASTEST-GROWING MARKET ON THAT PLATFORM, WITH 13.2 MILLION DEVELOPERS. IT WILL LIKELY OVERTAKE THE US AS GITHUB'S BIGGEST DEVELOPER COMMUNITY BY 2027. THE SECOND-HIGHEST NUMBER OF GENERATIVE AI PROJECTS ON GITHUB, AFTER THE US, IS OWNED BY INDIAN FIRMS**

said that, in many states of the country, children call their mothers 'Ai', but these same kids were now also intrigued by the possibilities of Artificial Intelligence. AI should not be perceived as a 'magic wand', or as replacement for laziness of the person wielding the mouse and cursor.

Incidentally, Microsoft is celebrating 25 years of its presence in India. Microsoft chairman and CEO Satya Nadella, on February 8 this year, had highlighted the crucial role that India's developer community was playing in building state-of-the-art products and solutions that solve challenges for the nation, even while being deployed globally. While Nadella addressed 1,100 developers and technology leaders at an event called the Microsoft AI Tour in Bengaluru, he spoke of the impact of Indian developers in accelerating AI innovation globally.

Microsoft owns software collaboration and innovation platform GitHub. And India is the fastest-growing market on that platform, with 13.2 million developers. It will likely overtake the US as GitHub's biggest developer community by 2027. The second-highest number of generative AI projects on GitHub, after the US, is owned by Indian firms. "This next-generation AI is changing the way-and the products-

developers build in any place, even in India," Nadella said. "It's wonderful how India's developers are applying Microsoft tools and technology to build a future for India and the world."

Microsoft would expand its Code; Without Barriers programme to India in February 2024, Nadella had promised. The company spoke the same language as PM Modi: Democratize access to tech skills nationwide. The programme provides support, training and networking opportunities to female developers and coders, especially, to contribute to inclusive economic growth, encourage innovation and reflect the region's social make-up. Microsoft has ambitious plans to enable 75,000 women developers in India with skilling and certification in 2024 through this initiative.

Without Barriers' expansion builds on Microsoft's other recent developer and skilling initiatives in India. Nadella-his visit preceded that of Bill Gates's-also announced new skilling investments by his company in India to empower people and businesses to thrive in the AI regime. Microsoft will invest to up skill 2 million people in India by 2025 through its 'ADVANTAGE INDIA' project. In January 2024, Microsoft empowered 100,000 developers to up skill their AI careers through its 'AI Odyssey'. The initiative allowed those who

# Green GDP



participated to take the first steps towards becoming AI experts by learning new skills and earning Microsoft credentials.

'Gates said that the company's plan was to turn into a more creative and productive entity. "AI is a huge opportunity. But there are a few challenges that come with it," he added. The PM said it would be a travesty of justice to use such an efficient tool simply to save time by drafting an e-mail message; it's needed to be used for the welfare of the masses, he added. "We should use such AI tools as Chat GPT to constantly improve ourselves," the PM said.

An important aspect of the discussion was that it also touched upon the use of AI in translating languages, showcasing India's advancements during such international events as the recently held G20 Summit and the Kashi Tamil Sangamam. The PM said AI was used extensively during the G20 Summit to help drivers and delegates communicate in different languages using an app. He also mentioned how the people listened to him in Tamil as he spoke in Hindi at the Kashi Tamil Sangamam.

Inevitably, the issues of 'deepfakes' generated by AI and of data privacy that is inextricably linked with the use of such technology also came up during the discussion. The PM said there had to be 'do-s' and 'don't-s', including watermarking images as 'AI-generated', to prevent the spread of

misinformation. On the question of data privacy, Modi said the common masses needed to be trained about data quality and the 'owner' of any data should know what that data was being sought for.

Modi highlighted how the mindset of women had changed...how women who, earlier, did not know how to ride a bicycle, were now pilots and could fly drones. Under the 'Namo Drone Didi' scheme, drones are now used to monitor crop, spray fertiliser and sow seeds, besides other uses. The programme, he said, would boost the image of women as change makers in villages.

The discussion also had its lighter moments, for instance when Modi inviting Gates to explore the features of the NaMo App and even suggesting they take a 'selfie' using the app's Photo Booth function.

Bill Gates applauded India's rapid adoption of technology and its spirit of innovation that is now visible in every nook and corner of the country—especially in the context of Green GDP and sustainable development. Modi said the global outlook on development must change. If development is measured only by the tons of steel or the amperes of electricity used, people would continue with that as a yardstick for progress. There had to be a concept of 'Green GDP', Modi stressed.

**MODI HIGHLIGHTED HOW THE MINDSET OF WOMEN HAD CHANGED...HOW WOMEN WHO, EARLIER, DID NOT KNOW HOW TO RIDE A BICYCLE, WERE NOW PILOTS AND COULD FLY DRONES. UNDER THE 'NAMO DRONE DIDI' SCHEME, DRONES ARE NOW USED TO MONITOR CROP, SPRAY FERTILISER AND SOW SEEDS, BESIDES OTHER USES. THE PROGRAMME, HE SAID, WOULD BOOST THE IMAGE OF WOMEN AS CHANGE MAKERS IN VILLAGES.**

# Will Definitely Get It': *S. Jaishankar* Confident about India's United Nations Security Council (UNSC) Seat **-Says Need to Work Harder**

**E**XTERNAL Affairs Minister S Jaishankar said India will definitely get permanent membership of the United Nations Security Council as there is a feeling in the world that it should get the position, but the country will have to work harder this time for it.

On April 3 he was speaking during an interaction with intellectuals in Gujarat's Rajkot city and was asked by the audience on India's chances of becoming the permanent member of the world body.

The United Nations was formed around 80 years ago, five nations -- China, France, Russian Federation, the United Kingdom, and the United

States -- decided among themselves to become permanent members of its security council, Jaishankar said.

At that time, there were a total of around 50 independent countries in the world, which has over time increased to around 193, he said.

"But these five nations have kept their control, and it is strange that you have to ask them to give us their consent for a change. A few agree, a few others put forward their position with honesty, while others do something from behind," he said.

He highlighted the unfairness of allowing the current permanent five members of the UNSC to

**"BUT THESE FIVE NATIONS HAVE KEPT THEIR CONTROL, AND IT IS STRANGE THAT YOU HAVE TO ASK THEM TO GIVE US THEIR CONSENT FOR A CHANGE. A FEW AGREE, A FEW OTHERS PUT FORWARD THEIR POSITION WITH HONESTY, WHILE OTHERS DO SOMETHING FROM BEHIND," HE SAID. HE HIGHLIGHTED THE UNFAIRNESS OF ALLOWING THE CURRENT PERMANENT FIVE MEMBERS OF THE UNSC TO TAKE DECISIONS REGARDING THE EXPANSION OF THE COUNCIL. "THIS SYSTEM SHOULD CHANGE, AND INDIA SHOULD GET A PERMANENT SEAT IN THE UNSC," HE SAID.**



External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar



take decisions regarding the expansion of the council. "This system should change, and India should get a permanent seat in the UNSC," he said.

"These days, a lot of negotiations are going on....multiple ideas have been put forward...some by Arab countries, African countries. We, along with Japan, Germany and Brazil, have also put forward a proposal. I think we should be persistent with this," Jaishankar said.

"There is a feeling across the world that this should change, and India should get a permanent seat. I see this feeling increasing every year," he said. "We will definitely get it. But nothing big is ever achieved without hard work," Jaishankar said.

"We will have to work hard, and this time we will have to work even harder," he added.

The Union minister said India, Japan, Germany and Egypt have put forward a proposal together before the UN and he believes this will take the matter a bit forward.

"But we must build pressure, and when this pressure increases...There is a feeling in the world that the UN has weakened. There was a deadlock in the UN on the Ukraine war and no consensus was reached in the UN regarding Gaza. I think as this feeling increases, our chances of getting a permanent seat will increase," he said.

In his address at the event, Jaishankar said

India has proved in the last 10 years that democracy can deliver.

The world is amazed at India moving towards 7 per cent growth despite the Covid-19 pandemic hampering growth, he said.

World agencies such as the UN understand India's achievements in social sectors like access to water, electricity, roads, health, schooling, etc., the external affairs minister further said.

In his address at the event, Jaishankar said India has proved in the last 10 years that democracy can deliver.

The world is amazed at India moving towards 7 per cent growth despite the COVID-19 pandemic hampering growth, he said. "The world believes that India as the fastest growing large economy can become the engine of global growth," he said. The world understands that India has technological talent, he added.

World agencies such as the UN understand India's achievements in social sectors like access to water, electricity, roads, health, schooling, etc, the external affairs minister further said.

"We should understand that being the fifth largest economy, on the way to becoming the third largest and with the biggest population, the world believes us to be talented people and expects us to contribute to resolving challenges," he added.

**"BUT WE MUST BUILD PRESSURE, AND WHEN THIS PRESSURE INCREASES...THERE IS A FEELING IN THE WORLD THAT THE UN HAS WEAKENED. THERE WAS A DEADLOCK IN THE UN ON THE UKRAINE WAR AND NO CONSENSUS WAS REACHED IN THE UN REGARDING GAZA. I THINK AS THIS FEELING INCREASES, OUR CHANCES OF GETTING A PERMANENT SEAT WILL INCREASE," HE SAID.**

## Time is a continuum



**CHANDER P MAHAJAN**

Prof. (Er.) Chander P Mahajan is an art critic @ a freelance journalist. The Environmentalists stays in Shimla and Dalhousie, Himachal Pradesh India.

A clock strikes while that does not strike the hours audibly is called a timepiece. A watch is a portable timepiece intended to be carried or worn by a person. Big clocks are usually displayed in public places.

Before the invention of accurate clocks, sundials were the timepieces in common use. In addition to their time-telling function, sundials are valued as decorative objects, as well as mathematical study. On any given day, the Sun appears to rotate uniformly about this axis, at about 15° per hour, making a full circuit (360°) in 24 hours.

■ At the Garden sundial of Dehri (Rohtas), Bihar, the shadow is aligned horizontally.

■ 'Sun clock' displayed in inlaid stone on the wall of Christ Church, Shimla is a vertical

Sundial; the gnomon is the triangular blade. The style is its inclined edge.

■ Sundial at Rashterpati Niwas, Mashobra, Shimla displays time with the formula:

Dial time + Equation of time + 21 Minutes = Indian Standard Time.

■ Perhaps, early clock watches were not worn only for timekeeping; accuracy being of less importance. They were made as jewellery and novelties for the nobility, valued for their craftsmanship and fine ornamentation. The technical challenge was- improving accuracy and reliability.

■ The invention of the mechanical clock initiated a change in timekeeping methods; driven by clockwork, powered by winding a mainspring and keeping time with an oscillating balance wheel.

■ The next development in accuracy occurred with the coming up of the pendulum clock, the mechanism of a timepiece with a series of gears driven by a spring or weights came into being.

■ The escapement in particular was an important factor affecting the clock's accuracy to within a minute a day. The jewel craze caused 'jewel inflation' and watches with up to 100 jewels were produced.

■ The first electric movements used a battery as a power source to oscillate the balance wheel. The evolution of 'quartz watch technology' brought in inherent accuracy and low cost of production such watches include timers, chronographs and alarm functions.

■ Radio Wrist watch keeps time with a quartz crystal, but is periodically synchronized to time signals transmitted from dedicated standard time radio stations or satellite navigation signals, which are set by atomic clocks capable of receiving synchronization signals from various time stations worldwide.

■ Currently, atomic clocks are the most accurate clocks in existence. They are considerably more accurate than quartz clocks. This watch contains a tiny caesium atomic clock on a chip. It is reported to keep time to an accuracy of one second in 1000 years.

■ All modern clocks use oscillation. Although the mechanisms they use vary,



Manu Maharaaj & Meenakshi watching Sundial at Dehri, Bihar Collections - Chander P Mahajan

mechanical, digital and atomic, work similarly. In atomic clocks, it is the vibration of electrons in atoms as they emit microwaves.

■ Smartwatches of the 21st century are elaborate computer-like electronic devices designed to be worn on a wrist. These incorporate calculators, GPS and Bluetooth technology or have heart-rate monitoring capabilities, and some of them use radio clock technology to regularly correct the time.

■ However, expensive\* collectable watches, valued more for their elaborate craftsmanship, aesthetic appeal, and glamorous design than for simple timekeeping, often have traditional mechanical movements, even though they are less accurate and more expensive than electronic ones.

■ In the nineties, I fixed a circular wall clock at his hired study at Dharamshala, Kangra. 'TICK-tock TICK-tock' -a pitched note by the 'passing strike clock'; what a melodious resonant, echoing sound, as if from a special gong!

■ I wonder if Apeem Baaba has all along been addicted to those attractive sounds, but he is a great collector. Though it is difficult to gauge, a few pieces are exclusive.

■ Men wore watches with chains up in pockets until the early-20th century. An 'Opened-up pocket watch' brought home from England by my uncle after passing out as an Electrical Engineer, now adorns Apeem Baa's collections. The British maintained high-quality products for the elite, though the plaque of the watch reads Genève.

■ The anniversary clock -the 400-day clock is a spring-wound mantel clock. A decorative wheel with 3 or 4 chrome balls on ornate spokes, suspended by a thin wire



An antique wall clock with decorations An ornamental mantel timepiece

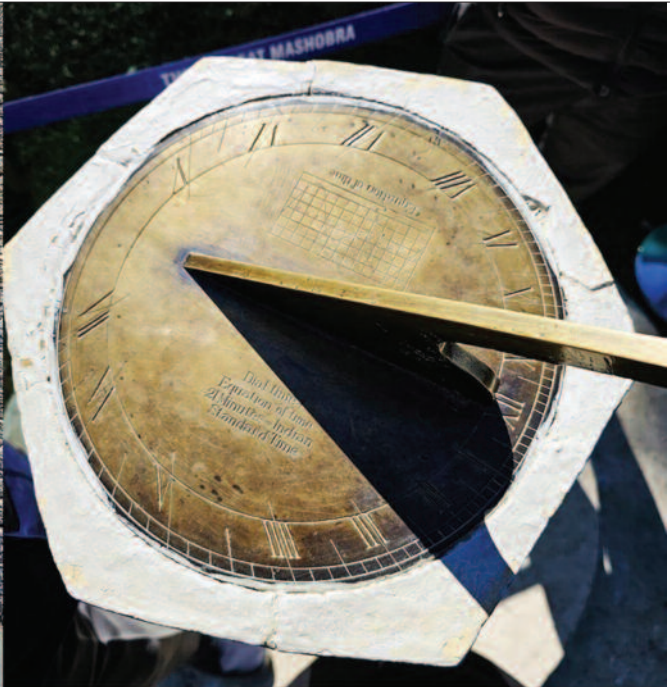


Anniversary Clock

Collections - Chander P Mahajan,  
Aseem Cottage, Shimla



SUNDIAL - CHRIST CHURCH, SHIMLA



SUNDIAL - RASHTRAPATI NIWAS, MASHOBRA SHIMLA

Collections - Chander P Mahajan



Chronometre Temraire Geneve 82908  
Collections - Chander P Mahajan

called a torsion spring. Torsion pendulum oscillates slowly, clockwise and counterclockwise; exposed under a glass dome. It was last corrected by Mr Suresh Kumar from the 'Phool Chand dynasty', the only expert available in Shimla. We had to import-Horolovar 400-day Clock Pendulum Suspension Springs from Lancaster,UK.

■ Pendulums are used to regulate the movement of clocks because the interval of time for each complete oscillation called the period, is constant. Mechanical clocks must be wound periodically, usually by turning a knob or key or by pulling on the free end of the chain, to store energy in the weight or spring to keep the clock running.

■ The long-case clock (grandfather clock) houses the pendulum. The clock case is made of wood and the clock face is a ceramic-like beautiful material.

In the latest trends, Apple's next-generation



Grandfather Clock      Watching the Sundial 28 Feb, 2022  
 Author with Aseem & Manu      Author with Er Anil Vishwas

## Collections - Chander P Mahajan

smartwatch, likely to be called Apple Watch 9, was recently tipped to feature a new sensor to monitor blood sugar levels.

Only a few days back, an Apple Watch was used to stabilise a premature baby born on a Hawaii-bound flight.

Presently, I wear Samsung Galaxy Watch 4 Classic gifted by my son Aseem Raja.

"We should wear something that personifies us and what we like"

*\* The most expensive watch ever sold at auction worldwide is the Patek Philippe Grandmaster Chime Ref. 6300A-010, which fetched 31.19 million US dollars (31,000,000 CHF) in Geneva on November 9, 2019 (by Christie's).*

**IN THE LATEST TRENDS, APPLE'S NEXT-GENERATION SMARTWATCH, LIKELY TO BE CALLED APPLE WATCH 9, WAS RECENTLY TIPPED TO FEATURE A NEW SENSOR TO MONITOR BLOOD SUGAR LEVELS.**

**HEALTH - EXERCISE & FITNESS**

# Is walking enough when it comes to exercise?

■ BY ASHLEY MATEO

**W**ALKING is often thought of as a mere mode of transportation: a way to get from point A to point B. Few of us consider the fact that it's one of the most fundamental, accessible physical activities a person can do.

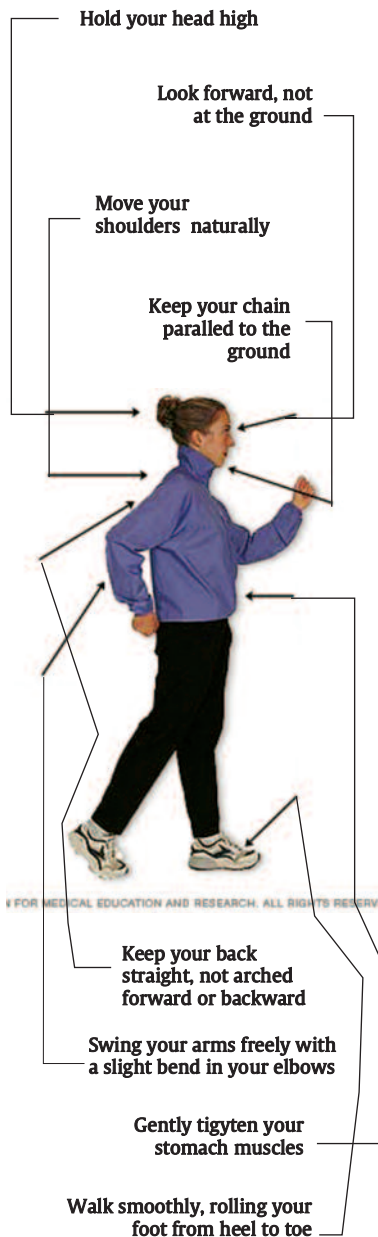
Walking might not be as impressive as holding a plank or doing mountain climbers, but "it's considered a bodyweight exercise, because your large muscle groups are working to move the weight of your body," says Dr. Marie Kanagie-McAleese, a pediatric hospitalist at University of Maryland.

As you walk, "your quadriceps, hamstrings, calves—even your abdominals, biceps, and shoulders—are all using oxygen to contract," says Ali Ball, an exercise physiologist and outpatient cardiac rehab/wellness coordinator at OSF HealthCare in Urbana, Ill. That also makes walking a form of aerobic exercise, she adds, which means it keeps your heart rate elevated for a sustained amount of time. One study published in the *Journal of the American College of Cardiology* found that 15 minutes of walking was as beneficial as five minutes of running.

"First, walking improves the health of our cardiovascular system," says McAleese. "With improved oxygen delivery to our organs, we see a decrease in the risk of heart disease, stroke, obesity, metabolic syndrome, diabetes, high blood pressure, and high cholesterol."

Research bears this out. In a 2021 study published in *JAMA Network Open*, people who logged at least 7,000 steps per day had a 50 to 70% lower risk of early death, compared to those who walked less than 7,000 steps per day. Meanwhile, a 2023 meta-analysis published in the *British Journal of Sports Medicine* concluded that doing moderate-intensity physical activity—like brisk walking—for just 11 minutes a day is enough to lower the risk of diseases such as heart disease, stroke, and a number of cancers.

Plus, it's the easiest way to counter the risk of a sedentary lifestyle, says McAleese. "Walking more throughout the entire day, even if you're not doing it at a moderate-intensity level, is critically important," since sitting too much increases the risk of getting—and dying from—many chronic diseases.



Wearable devices have made mainstream the idea that everyone needs to hit 10,000 steps per day, but "that's an arbitrary number not based in science," says McAleese. A more important metric than steps, she says, is time. When it comes to the recommended 150 weekly minutes of moderate-intensity physical activity, "you can break that up however works for you," she explains. "If you can only fit in 10 minutes here and 10 minutes there, it all counts."

For walking to really qualify as "moderate-intensity" exercise, you need to be moving a little more intentionally than you would during a casual stroll from one meeting to the next. The guidelines consider walking briskly—where you could walk a mile in 15 to 24 minutes—to be moderate-intensity physical activity. That's a purposeful, I-have-somewhere-to-be pace.

The best way to tell if you're in that moderate-intensity range is the talk test. "If you're able to speak in complete sentences and can carry on a conversation—but if you were to try to sing, you would become out of breath—that counts as moderate-intensity aerobic exercise," says McAleese. You can also check your heart rate. An approximate (but easy-to-remember) way to find your maximum heart rate is to subtract your age from the number 220, says Ball. During moderate-intensity exercise, your heart rate should be at about 50 to 70% of that maximum heart rate, according to the American Heart Association.

And to make sure you're getting the most out of this type of physical activity, you also need to think about your form. (Yes, there's proper form for walking.) "Focus on staying upright and keeping your abdominals engaged," says Ball. Squeeze your butt, and let your arms swing naturally rather than exaggeratedly pumping them. Leaning forward, especially if you increase your intensity, can cause back pain. For many people, embracing walking as exercise might just require a slight shift in perspective. "We focus a lot on scheduling exercise as a very specific activity that happens at a certain place at a certain time during our day," says McAleese. "But we really should be expanding our definition of exercise to include all levels and amounts of physical activity that we perform throughout the entire day."

# चंद्रमा पर आपकी सोच से भी ज्यादा है पानी, ISRO को ध्रुवों पर मिले कई गुना ज्यादा अंडरग्राउंड बर्फ के भंडार



कैलाश खोसला

इसरो ने एक बयान में कहा कि इस अध्ययन में चंद्रमा के ध्रुवों में वाटर आइस मिलना चंद्रमा पर इसरो की भविष्य की खोज के लिए एक बड़ा आधार प्रदान करेगी.

नासा-जेपीएल, कानपुर और धनबाद के आईआईटी, दक्षिणी कैलिफोर्निया विश्वविद्यालय के सहयोग से इसरो टीम द्वारा किया गया अध्ययन, जर्नल ऑफ फोटोग्रामेट्री एंड रिमोट सेंसिंग में प्रकाशित हुआ

चंद्रमा पर आपकी सोच से भी ज्यादा है पानी, ISRO को ध्रुवों पर मिले कई गुना ज्यादा अंडरग्राउंड बर्फ के भंडार नासा-जेपीएल, कानपुर और धनबाद के आईआईटी, दक्षिणी कैलिफोर्निया विश्वविद्यालय के सहयोग से इसरो टीम द्वारा किया गया अध्ययन, जर्नल ऑफ फोटोग्रामेट्री एंड रिमोट सेंसिंग में प्रकाशित हुआ.

बेंगलुरु चंद्रमा के दोनों ध्रुवों पर पहले कुछ मीटर की गहराई में उपस्थित भूमिगत बर्फ का भंडार दोनों ध्रुवों की सतह पर मौजूद बर्फ से पांच से आठ गुना ज्यादा है. यह नासा की जेट प्रोपल्शन लेबोरेटरी (जेपीएल), आईआईटी कानपुर, आईआईटी धनबाद और दक्षिणी कैलिफोर्निया विश्वविद्यालय के सहयोग से इसरो के स्पेस एप्लीकेशन सेंटर (एसएसी) के वैज्ञानिकों की एक टीम द्वारा किए गए अध्ययन के

प्रमुख निष्कर्षों में से एक है.

टीम ने चंद्रमा पर बर्फ के वितरण का अध्ययन करने के लिए नासा के लूनर रिकॉनिसेंस ऑर्बिटर (एलआरओ) से एकत्र किए गए उपकरणों और डेटा के साथ काम किया. इससे जो निष्कर्ष निकला उसकी समीक्षा की गई और उसे इस सप्ताह जर्नल ऑफ फोटोग्रामेट्री एंड रिमोट सेंसिंग में प्रकाशित किए गए.

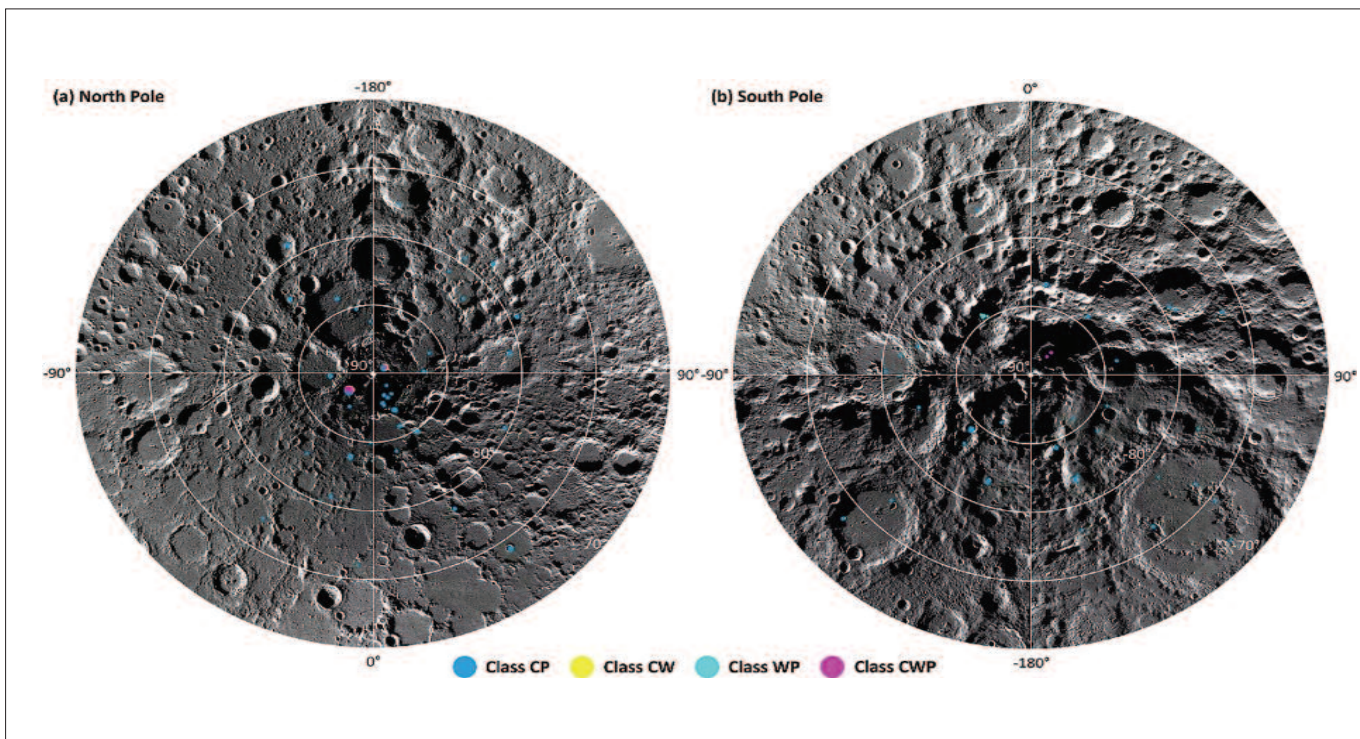
भारत की अंतरिक्ष एजेंसी का नवीनतम अध्ययन ज्यादा उम्मीदें जगाता है. कुछ महीने पहले पीयर-रिव्यू किए गए जर्नल ऑफ जियोफिजिकल रिसर्च में प्रकाशित इसरो के एक अन्य अध्ययन के साथ जब इसे स्टडी किया गया तो पता चला कि चंद्रयान-2 के सतह के नीचे उपस्थित ध्रुवीय बर्फ के सबूत के मुताबिक दृढ़ता से संकेत मिलता है कि चंद्रमा के ध्रुवों पर तीन मीटर गहराई तक मौजूद भूमिगत बर्फ, सतह पर मौजूद बर्फ के भंडार की तुलना में 5 से 8 गुना अधिक है.

दोनों अध्ययन एक साथ बताते हैं कि दोनों ध्रुवों पर बर्फ की मात्रा न केवल पहले की तुलना में बहुत अधिक है, बल्कि ड्रिलिंग और जल संसाधन के रूप में उपयोग करने के लिए पर्याप्त व्यवहार्य भी है.

इसरो ने एक बयान में कहा कि इस अध्ययन में चंद्रमा के ध्रुवों में वाटर आइस मिलना चंद्रमा पर इसरो की भविष्य की खोज के लिए एक बड़ा आधार प्रदान करेगी.

2010 में इसकी खोज के बाद से, चंद्रमा पर वाटर आइस हाल के दिनों के साथ-साथ आने वाले





**पानी का उपयोग इसके अणुओं को तोड़कर और हाइड्रोजन निकालकर, या सांस लेने के लिए ऑक्सीजन निकालकर ईंधन प्रदान करने के लिए भी किया जा सकता है. आइस वॉटर की उपलब्धता के कारण लागत में भारी गिरावट ने वाणिज्यिक, शैक्षिक और वैज्ञानिक उद्देश्यों के लिए चंद्रमा पर सार्वजनिक और निजी मिशनों को गति दी है, साथ ही सतह पर स्थायी मानव उपस्थिति स्थापित करना भी शुरू कर दिया है.**

दशकों में के लिए भी चंद्र मिशन के लिए आकर्षकण का कारण रही है. पिछले दशक में, वैज्ञानिक आगामी चंद्र मिशनों और भविष्य की मानव बस्तियों के लिए यथासंभव अधिक जानकारी इकट्ठा करने के लिए, चंद्र पर उपस्थित आइस वॉटर की मात्रा और प्रसार को समझने के लिए प्रयासरत रहे.

चूंकि चंद्रमा, पृथ्वी का सबसे निकटतम खगोलीय पिंड है, इसलिए भविष्य में खगोल विज्ञान और सौर मंडल की खोज के लिए इसके एक आधार के रूप में कार्य करने की उम्मीद है. इस प्रकार, चाहे तरल हो या जमा हुआ, पानी की उपस्थिति यथास्थान मूल्यवान संसाधन के रूप में काम कर सकता है.

आइस वॉटर की खोज मूल रूप से चंद्रयान 1 मिशन के नासा और इसरो उपकरणों द्वारा स्वतंत्र रूप से चंद्रमा के दक्षिणी ध्रुव (वैज्ञानिक भविष्यवाणियों की पुष्टि) पर की गई थी. ऑर्बिटर एक इम्पैक्टर लेकर गया था जिसे दक्षिणी ध्रुव पर चंद्रमा की

सतह पर फेंका गया था, जिससे मिट्टी की ऊपरी परतें हट गईं और नीचे बर्फ दिखाई देने लगी. यह टकराव भारत के पहले प्रधानमंत्री की जयंती पर हुआ और पूर्व राष्ट्रपति ए.पी.जे. अब्दुल कलाम के सुझाव पर इस स्थल का नाम 'जवाहर स्थल' रखा गया. अब्दुल कलाम ने नेहरू की INCOSPAR की स्थापना का सम्मान किया, जो बाद में इसरो बन गया.

पिछले दशक के अध्ययनों और चंद्रयान सीरीज जैसे मिशनों ने चंद्रमा के दक्षिणी ध्रुव पर ध्यान केंद्रित किया है और सतह पर बड़ी मात्रा में बर्फ की खोज की है. यथास्थान पानी की उपस्थिति से एक बड़ा लाभ है क्योंकि यह उपयोग के लिए स्वतंत्र रूप से उपलब्ध है, जिससे पृथ्वी से प्रक्षेपण की लागत कम हो जाती है.

बर्फ का अध्ययन करने के लिए भविष्य के कई मिशन यहां उतरने वाले हैं, जिनमें भारत (चंद्रयान 4), चीन (चांग'ई), रूस (लूना),

यूएसए (आर्सेमिस) आदि के मिशन शामिल हैं।

पानी का उपयोग इसके अणुओं को तोड़कर और हाइड्रोजन निकालकर, या सांस लेने के लिए ऑक्सीजन निकालकर ईंधन प्रदान करने के लिए भी किया जा सकता है।

आइस वॉटर की उपलब्धता के कारण लागत में भारी गिरावट ने वाणिज्यिक, शैक्षिक और वैज्ञानिक उद्देश्यों के लिए चंद्रमा पर सार्वजनिक और निजी मिशनों को गति दी है, साथ ही सतह पर स्थायी मानव उपस्थिति स्थापित करना भी शुरू कर दिया है।

नवीनतम अध्ययन में आगे जो डेटा मिला है वह बताता है कि कम पता लगाए गए उत्तरी ध्रुव में दक्षिणी ध्रुव की तुलना में दोगुनी बर्फ है।

### अन्य निष्कर्ष

नया अध्ययन चंद्रमा पर बर्फ का निर्माण कैसे हुआ इसके संभावित मैकेनिज्म के बारे में भी बताता है। नासा के एलआरओ पर विभिन्न रिमोट सेंसिंग उपकरणों का उपयोग करके स्थायी रूप से छाया वाले क्षेत्रों (पीएसआर) का अध्ययन करके, टीम सबसे पहले इन गह्वों में आइस वॉटर की उपस्थिति की पुष्टि करने में सक्षम थी जो हर समय सूरज की रोशनी से अछूते रहते हैं।

यह भी पढ़ें चंद्रयान-3 लैंडर चंद्रमा की सतह पर जिस स्थान पर उतरा है, उसका नाम 'शिव-शक्ति पॉइंट' रखा जाएगा मोदी ये क्रेटर दोनों ध्रुवों पर 80ए से 85ए अक्षांश बैंड पर बनते हैं। वैज्ञानिकों ने यह भी पता लगाया कि उत्तरी ध्रुव पर, अधिकांश बर्फ चंद्रमा के उस तरफ थी जो हिस्सा पृथ्वी की तरफ रहता है, जबकि दक्षिणी ध्रुव पर, अधिकांश ध्रुवीय बर्फ उस तरफ था जो पृथ्वी के विपरीत दिशा में होता है। यह एक एंटीपोडल वॉटर आइस वितरण है, और टीम ने पाया कि यह इस बात से मेल खाता है कि छिद्रों के पास ज्वालामुखी कैसे वितरित होता है।

इससे वैज्ञानिक इस नतीजे पर पहुंचे कि लाखों साल पहले जब चंद्रमा विवर्तनिक रूप से सक्रिय हुआ करता था, तब ज्वालामुखियों से निकलने वाली गैस ध्रुवों पर आइस वॉटर का संभावित स्रोत हो सकती है।

चंद्र उत्तरी ध्रुवीय क्षेत्र और दक्षिणी ध्रुवीय क्षेत्र का ध्रुवीय मोजेक विभिन्न वर्गों से संबंधित वॉटर आइस क्षेत्रों के स्थानों को दर्शाता है स्रोत इसरो अध्ययन जर्नल ऑफ फोटोग्रामेट्री एंड रिमोट सेंसिंग

इसके अतिरिक्त, वॉटर आइस भी 90ए से 90एम् तक अनुदैर्ध्य समरूपता में प्रदर्शित होती है, और यह चंद्रमा पर गह्वों के पैटर्न का संकेत दे सकती है। यह पिछले ऑब्जर्वेशन को बढ़ावा देता है जिससे निष्कर्ष निकला है कि अतीत में चंद्रमा पर छोटे टकराव 90ए क्षेत्र में सबसे अधिक बार हुए थे, और 90एम् की ओर छोटे क्रेटर की आवृत्ति में गिरावट आई है।

चंद्रमा पर ऐसी छोटी चट्टानों के लगातार टकराने से हो सकता है कि सतह की सबसे बाहरी परत या क्रस्ट सक्रिय हो, जिससे पूरा मटीरियल एक साथ मिल गया हो। इसे इंपैक्ट गार्डनिंग कहते हैं। इसकी वजह से वॉटर आइस बिखरकर इधर उधर मिल गया होगा जो कि ज्वालामुखीय विस्फोट द्वारा बनी होगी।

दूसरी ओर, बड़े क्रेटर्स ने इसके विपरीत ट्रेंड को फॉलो किया होगा, जो कि 90ए से 90एम् की ओर चलने पर तेजी से बढ़ने लगते हैं। जब ये क्रेटर सतह से टकराते हैं तो रिगोलिथ को अंदर धकेल देते हैं और रिगोलिथ विस्थापन नामक प्रक्रिया में चारों ओर रिगोलिथ के इजेक्टा का निर्माण भी करते हैं। यह उपसतह बर्फ को ऊपर दिखाई देने से रोकते हैं, इस प्रकार 90ए से 90एम् तक जाने पर पानी के स्तर में कमी को समझा जाता है।

लेखकों ने अपने पेपर में कहा है कि प्रस्तुत निष्कर्ष भविष्य में चंद्रमा के ध्रुवों पर पानी के नमूने के लिए महत्वपूर्ण होंगे जो मानव या रोबोटिक मिशनों द्वारा आयोजित किए जाएंगे। यह प्रक्रिया मनुष्यों द्वारा वहां आधार स्थापित करने का प्रयास करने से पहले एक आवश्यक कदम के रूप में की जाएगी।

इसरो ने कहा कि जैसा कि जांच में प्रस्तुत किया गया है, चंद्रमा के ध्रुवों पर आइस वॉटर की वितरण और गहराई का सटीक ज्ञान, भविष्य के मिशन को भेजने में बड़ी भूमिका अदा कर सकता है।

**यह भी पढ़ें चंद्रयान-3 लैंडर चंद्रमा की सतह पर जिस स्थान पर उतरा है, उसका नाम 'शिव-शक्ति पॉइंट' रखा जाएगा मोदी ये क्रेटर दोनों ध्रुवों पर 80ए से 85ए अक्षांश बैंड पर बनते हैं। वैज्ञानिकों ने यह भी पता लगाया कि उत्तरी ध्रुव पर, अधिकांश बर्फ चंद्रमा के उस तरफ थी जो हिस्सा पृथ्वी की तरफ रहता है, जबकि दक्षिणी ध्रुव पर, अधिकांश ध्रुवीय बर्फ उस तरफ था जो पृथ्वी के विपरीत दिशा में होता है। यह एक एंटीपोडल वॉटर आइस वितरण है, और टीम ने पाया कि यह इस बात से मेल खाता है कि छिद्रों के पास ज्वालामुखी कैसे वितरित होता है।**

# बुढ़ापा



सुबह सुबह किसी ने  
द्वार खटखटाया।  
मैं लपककर आया,  
जैसे ही दरवाजा खोला  
तो सामने बुढ़ापा खड़ा था।  
भीतर आने के लिए  
जिद पर अड़ा था.....

मैंने कहा  
'नहीं भाई!  
अभी भाई!!  
अभी तो मेरी उमर ही क्या  
है!!....."

वह हँसा और बोला,  
  
बेकार कि कोशिश ना कर,  
मुझे रोकना नामुमकिन है!!

मैंने कहा  
'.....अभी तो कुछ दिन रहने दे,  
अभी तक  
अपने ही लिए जिया हूँ...  
अब अकल आई है,  
तो कुछ दिन  
दूसरों के लिए और  
दोस्तों के साथ भी जीने दे..."

बुढ़ापा हंस कर बोला  
'अगर ऐसी बात है  
तो चिंता मत कर....  
उम्र भले ही तेरी बढ़ेगी,  
मगर बुढ़ापा नहीं आएगा!!

तू जब तक दूसरों के लिए और  
दोस्तों के साथ जीएगा,  
खुद को जवान ही पाएगा...."

तो दोस्तों!! चलो आजसे ही  
बढ़ती उम्र का लुत्फ उठाइये!  
दूसरों और दोस्तों के लिए  
जीना शुरू करें,  
और अपने बुढ़ापे को  
जवान बनाएं!!

दूसरों की सहायता करें और  
दोस्तों की महफिल सजाते रहें!!

जब तक जिंदा रहें,  
जवान रहें!