



PM Modi Launches Attack against Nepotism and Graft; Calls for a Developed India by 2047



Prime Minister Narendra Modi addresses the nation from the ramparts of the Red Fort on the occasion of the 76th Independence Day, in New Delhi on Aug 15, 2022. Photo / PTI

AUGUST 15, 2022
NEW DELHI (TIP) In line with the "Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav" celebrations, Prime Minister Narendra Modi chose to wear a white safa with tricolor stripes and a long trail for his 76th

Independence Day look. Speaking from the ramparts of the Red Fort on the occasion of the 76th Independence Day, the Prime Minister rolled out five pledges for the country to follow going into the next 25 years of

freedom, the pledge of a developed nation, of shunning the mindset of servitude, of taking pride in roots; of unity and of a sense of duty among citizens.

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Indian Embassy in Guatemala to organize a 3-day "MADE IN INDIA" grand trade exhibition in Guatemala City on 21-23 September 2022



Manoj Mohapatra, India's Ambassador to Guatemala, El Salvador and Honduras, said the 3-day Made in India Trade Exhibition offered an opportunity to witness the presence of Indian companies and their contributions in furthering economic & commercial relations between India and Central America.

Ambassador Mohapatra told the Editor of The Indian Panorama that over the last ten years, Indian exports to Guatemala, El Salvador and Honduras have increased five folds, from USD 199.81 million in 2010-11 (April 2010 to March 2011) to USD 1078.41 million in 2021-22 (April 2021 to March 2022). "In fact, in all three countries of Guatemala, El Salvador and Honduras, we have exceeded the export target given by the Ministry of Commerce," said Ambassador Mohapatra.

"To keep the momentum in our export and to respond to the call of our Hon'ble Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, to look for new export opportunities "In the world that is shrinking due to physical, technological and financial connectivity", the Embassy, in collaboration with 'Beti and Shiksha Foundation' (a Non-Profit, Non-Political Organization that has been playing a catalytic role in economically empowering women and promoting

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IDP USA 2022 Parade Fails to Attract Indian American Community: Waste of Public Money, People say



Dignitaries leading the parade. Seen among others are Shibani Kashyap (5th from the left), Deputy Consul General Varun Jeph (6th from the left), Prachi Tehlan (7th from the left), Prashant Gupta (8th from the left) Vimal Goyal, President IDP USA (9th from the left) and Mukesh Modi, Advisor to the IDP USA (11th from the left).

The IDP parade led by dignitaries and celebs, and IDP officials started from Hicksville Community Center. Photo / IDP USA

I.S. SALUJA
HICKSVILLE, NY (TIP): The claims made in the official press release issued by the Media Coordinator for IDP USA are sharply in contrast with the facts when it comes to the poor response to the much-touted Independence Day parade in Hicksville. What surprised everybody was that a combination of good weather, shorter route of the parade, and the

presence of attractive celebrity marshals on whom, it is said, a large slice of public money was spent, people did not get enthused. The question that many are asking is if the parade was worth the amount of public money spent. Most said it was a foolish waste of public money and blame the organizers who instead of bringing people together,

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SALMAN RUSHDIE SURVIVES A MURDEROUS ATTACK, ON WAY TO SLOW RECOVERY

Rushdie, 75, was set to deliver a lecture at the Chautauqua Institution in western New York when a 24-year-old man rushed the stage and stabbed him

File photo

AUGUST 14
NEW YORK (TIP): Salman Rushdie, the acclaimed author who was stabbed repeatedly at a public appearance in New York state on Friday, August 12 33 years after Iran's then-supreme leader called for him to be killed, is off a ventilator and his health is improving, his agent and a son said on Sunday, August 14.

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Seventy-five years of Independence - progress, prosperity and peace - but not for all

BY PRABHJOT SINGH

Putting behind the traumatic partition that coincided with its Independence, India is fast emerging as a super economic power. It has shed both its initial image of a "Panchsheel" nation and subsequently a leader of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) to carve for itself a new role of a global leader. It, however, continues to grapple with problems like poverty, population explosion, corruption and unemployment.

In celebrating 75th anniversary of its Independence and the glorious history of its people, culture and achievements, it has embarked upon Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav, an initiative of the BJP-led NDA Government.

"This Mahotsav is dedicated to the people of India who have not only been instrumental in bringing India thus far in its evolutionary journey but also hold within them the power and potential to enable Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of activating India 2.0, fueled by the spirit of Atmanirbhar Bharat.

"The official journey of Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav commenced on 12th March 2021 which started a 75-week countdown to our 75th anniversary of independence and will end post a year on 15th August 2023," says an official announcement.

Besides a complete transformation of its political landscape, India has set for itself a target of becoming a self-reliant "manufacturing" hub. Targets are lofty as the country is fighting to control disease, garbage disposal, supply of potable drinking water and delivery of affordable and reliable education and healthcare to its populace. Those who ushered in a food production revolution are a discontented lot. They have been up in arms against intended policies and programs of the Government.

They are convinced that amendments to older laws and promulgation of new laws are all aimed to benefit corporate houses as the nation has put behind its avowed socialist agenda. They allege that Ambanis and Adanis are pulling the strings.

The relentless efforts of the farming community have made the country self-reliant in food. It has at the same time left farmers under heavy debts forcing them to commit suicides. The Union Government was still not ready to give them their due. There was still no guarantee of a Minimum Support Price for their produce.

Farmers claim they have made the country "aatmanirbhar" on the food front but in return they find themselves under heavy debt.

The central and state governments continue to dither over waiving farm loans while huge debts of corporate and big industrial houses were being written off, rue farmers and their bodies.

These socio-economic issues notwithstanding, major problems facing the country are poverty, diseases, corruption, unemployment and cleanliness.

Various schemes launched from time to time, including "Swatch Bharat" were launched with lots of fanfare but have remained in paper only. After 75 years of Independence, the State does not guarantee quality drinking water to its populace what to talk of controlling diseases and eradicating poverty. Women folk in many parts of the country have to walk miles to carry potable water for daily needs.

Corruption has been rampant. Little has been done to control the growing problem of unemployment. Finding little or no job avenues, the country has been witnessing a continuous brain and brawn drain. Quality school and higher education and delivery of basic and primary health care are still beyond the reach of a common man. Freedoms, too, are curbed. Those who speak out against the policies and programs of the ruling class are dubbed as antinational, secessionist or antisocial elements. Minorities often complain of discrimination as the country enshrined as a social welfare state has glaring inequalities among equals.

These issues apart, India after Independence has created a place for itself in various areas, including space research.

It remains the biggest exporter of manpower, both skilled and unskilled. Above all, it is a leader in numbers.

Looking at its political horizon, the country has witnessed the rise and decline of several political parties, including the oldest national party, Congress.

The country also had a taste of emergency in the late 70s when all freedoms and rights were controlled by the State.

It also tasted multi-party or coalition governments, both at center and the provinces.

Debates like autonomy for States and center-State relations have been continuing without reaching any conclusive results.

Inter-State territorial and river water disputes have been rocking the country frequently and repeatedly.

One of the redeeming features of Independent India has been its election process that despite criticisms from time to time has been delivering well. Many credit independent India for introducing the politics of appeasement. This concept has now travelled to the outside world as well. The issue of offering "freebies" to voters by political parties on the eve of elections is the subject of a lively debate going in the Apex Court in the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav year. What could be a more appropriate tribute to a nation that abounds in freedoms?

Of course, India is a world leader!

A Milestone in Suicide Prevention Efforts

BY KEVAN M. ABRAHAMS



If you are experiencing suicidal thoughts, substance abuse or any type of mental health crisis, you are not alone. You matter more than you know - and there are trained, compassionate professionals who want to assist you during these difficult times. By calling or texting 988, you can take the first step toward getting the help that you deserve.

On July 16 of this year, 988 became America's three-digit number for the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline. Individuals who call or text 988 are connected to a trained crisis counselor who can provide access to vital life-sustaining resources and support. Interpretation services are available in more than 150 languages, and a web-chat service is available at 988lifeline.org.

Since being established in 2005, the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline has grown into a network of more than 200 crisis centers for Americans experiencing a mental health crisis. In 2017, the rapper Logic's powerful hit single "1-800-273-8255" - the Lifeline's main line at the time - gained international attention for this indispensable resource and helped to make the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline a household name.

Five years later, America now has a 911 equivalent for mental health emergencies, and that is an important reflection of how the discussion continues to migrate toward a place of greater openness, acceptance, and effectiveness. Statistics cited in a recent New York Times report indicate that 80 percent of calls can be resolved without further intervention by a mobile crisis team or a mental health care facility. It is also important to note how re-directing mental health crisis calls to a specialized, easy-to-remember mental health line can help to improve outcomes for all who seek help

through 988 and 911 alike.

While we have surely come a long way from the days when hushed conversations about mental health and addiction were inhibited by overwhelming shame and stigma, there is still a tremendous amount of work ahead of us and challenges to overcome. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, suicide was the 12th leading cause of death of Americans in all ages in 2020; amongst youth ages 10 to 14 and individuals ages 25 to 34, it was the second leading cause of death.

Those are shocking statistics that must make all of us pause, re-evaluate, and recommit to the work of saving lives in Nassau County and across our nation. In the months and years ahead, Nassau County has a duty to support 988 and the innovations that will follow in its wake with the resources that are necessary to achieve their full life-saving potential.

(Kevan M. Abrahams, of Freeport, represents the First Legislative District and is the leader of the Nassau County Legislature's Minority Caucus.)

हरदीप एस पुरी
HARDEEP S PURI



आवासन और शहरी कार्य मंत्री
पेट्रोलियम एवं प्राकृतिक गैस मंत्री
भारत सरकार
Minister of
Housing and Urban Affairs; and
Petroleum and Natural Gas
Government of India

Message

India is a diverse nation, knit together by a convergence of religions, cultures, languages, and beliefs. Our country has evolved into a modern nation while still respecting its civilisational ethos. India, which is the oldest democracy in the world, has now emerged as one of the leading democracies of the 21st century.

Today, India is the sixth-largest economy and has established itself as a global power. This success is a result of the creative capacities of our workforce. The Indian diaspora has played a pivotal role in that growth story. Not only is it the largest diaspora in the world, it is also perhaps the most well-recognised. Some of the world's biggest corporations are headed by Indians or people of Indian origin. Such achievements are celebrated and cherished. The Indian diaspora is acknowledged as a friendly and innovative people who assimilate into native traditions and add cultural value with their association. Over the years, they have become the face of a confident India globally.

As we are commemorating 75 years of independence through the 'Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav', India is already looking towards the next 25 years and envisioning India@100. In this journey, Aatmanirbharta will be the guiding principle that will propel that vision. The Indian vision is not about global dominance or global hegemony. It is anchored in the sublime philosophy explained in "Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam". 'The world is one family' guided the Government's efforts in providing succour to other countries during the pandemic, be it through vaccines or critical protective gear.

The Amrit Mahotsav, thus, is not only a period of celebration but also a period of reflection on our glorious past as well as the steadfast commitment to the future. As India and Indians commit themselves to the Amrit Kaal, the Indian diaspora will be an integral part of that glorious journey. I convey my greetings to all Indians, and celebrate this Independence Day with them.

New Delhi
10.08.2022

(Hardeep S Puri)

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तरनजीत सिंह संधू
Taranjit Singh Sandhu



भारत का राजदूत
AMBASSADOR OF INDIA
2107 Massachusetts Ave., N.W.
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11 August 2022

MESSAGE

On the momentous occasion of the Independence Day of India, I extend my warm greetings to fellow Indians and the Indian American community. I am happy to see the Indian Panorama bring out a special publication to commemorate this important milestone.

As we enter the Seventy Sixth year since India attained freedom, it is important to redouble our resolve and move forward with renewed vigor to take our country to the peace and prosperity. As we all know, we are commemorating the 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav', which was launched by Prime Minister Modi to celebrate 75 years of India's Independence and the glorious history of its people, culture and achievements.

The 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav' is dedicated to the people of India who have not only been instrumental in bringing India thus far in its evolutionary journey, but also hold within them the power and potential to take India to greater heights in the 21st century. This occasion also presents an opportunity to salute the sacrifices of our freedom fighters and brave heroes who continue to serve day and night in the defense of the nation.

The India-US relationship is a partnership for global good, that is instrumental in delivering peace, prosperity, and development to our people and to the world at large. Bilateral ties have moved from strength to strength under the leadership of Prime Minister Modi and President Biden.

The Indian American community has played a vital role in forging the deep and vibrant ties between the people of both nations, which underpins the special bond between the India and United States and has sustained this partnership for the last 75 years.

Once again, on this special occasion of 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav', I convey my best wishes and greetings.

(Taranjit Singh Sandhu)

Ruchira Kamboj
Ambassador &
Permanent Representative



संयुक्त राष्ट्र स्थित भारत का स्थायी मिशन
न्यू यॉर्क
PERMANENT MISSION OF INDIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS
NEW YORK

August 10, 2022

MESSAGE

I extend my warm greetings to the community and to the readers of 'Indian Panorama' on the occasion of our 75th Independence Anniversary, coinciding with Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav, commemorating 75 years of the glorious history of India. I am delighted that 'Indian Panorama' is bringing out a special issue on this occasion.

The Mahotsav is dedicated to the people of India who have not only been instrumental in bringing India thus far in its evolutionary journey, but also hold within them the power and potential to enable Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi achieve his vision of activating India 2.0, fuelled by the spirit of Aatmanirbhar Bharat or self-reliant India.

India in its 75th year of Independence continues to be a global leader in upholding democratic principles, in adherence to pluralism and tolerance, as well as being a strong voice for international cooperation and development partnerships to promote peace and prosperity.

In the multilateral sphere, India is focused on advancing sustainable development goals, while enhancing overall domestic socio-economic growth, overcoming the impact of the pandemic, combating terrorism, strengthening multilateralism, furthering human rights, combating climate change, and promoting peace and security.

The Indian community has been a strong pillar in taking forward several of our initiatives at the United Nations and I take this opportunity to thank them for their efforts. As I begin my tenure in New York as the Permanent Representative of India to the United Nations, I look forward to your continued support.

Jai Hind!

(Ruchira Kamboj)

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भारत का प्रधान कौंसल
न्यू यॉर्क



CONSUL GENERAL OF INDIA
NEW YORK

6th August, 2022

Message

As we unfurl the tricolor this 15th August, the Indian nation will mark a historic day in its civilizational journey. On this auspicious occasion, I convey my warmest wishes to fellow Indians, members of the Indian American community, and friends of India. It is also a day to pay homage to our founding fathers who won us freedom. Their sacrifice and struggle resonate in our hearts and minds each time we sing our national anthem.

On the eve of the 75th anniversary of India's independence, as we take stock of our nation's progress, a feeling of pride and honor overwhelms us. It has been a journey of success and achievement, of resilience and determination, and above all, of togetherness and unity. We are proud to have built a society based on our age old values and heritage, embellished by our vibrant democracy. We remain committed to meeting the hopes and aspirations of our people and to making the world a better place for one and all. That is our pledge and inspiration as we celebrate 'Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav' and look forward to redoubling efforts to build a new India in the 25 years of Amrit Kal, leading up to the centenary of our freedom.

The marking of India's freedom is also a celebration of India's democracy and our shared democratic ethos with the United States of America. Both our nations have continued to inspire each other in thought and action. And in this endeavor, the Indian American community has played a remarkable role. May we together continue to walk on this nourishing path.

I once again convey my warmest greetings and felicitations to all readers of The Indian Panorama.

(Randhir Jaiswal)

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BUILDING A STRONG INDIA

EACH ORGAN OF CONSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK MUST FUNCTION WITH EFFICIENCY & HONESTY

BY N.N. VOHRA



Unfortunately, the fourth estate has receded to the far corner. Many elements of the media have been pressured or have been bought out. The inability of reputed columnists to fearlessly comment on issues of vital public concern has been a great loss.

India attained freedom 75 years ago. Despite numerous constraints, the best minds in the country worked long hours for over two years to finalize the Constitution of India. We, "the people of India", resolved to establish a Sovereign Socialist Secular Democratic Republic, which would secure Justice, Liberty, Equality to all its citizens, promote Fraternity and safeguard the Unity and Integrity of India. It would be useful to cast a rapid look back to see whether we have remained on the envisioned track.

Our polity can't afford to forget that the potential might of India is deeply rooted in the harmonious co-existence of our very large and highly diverse population.

In 1947, the ghastly communal holocaust left more than a million killed and several millions uprooted and homeless. Countless daunting challenges faced the nascent government: widespread lawlessness; millions of refugees to be settled; extreme scarcity of foodgrains; a grave financial crisis and a horde of other problems.

The splintered administrative apparatus boldly took on all the challenges: dozens of refugee and relief camps and thousands of ration shops were established; law and order was restored and many other tasks carried out.

The British had left behind poverty, illiteracy, large-scale unemployment and an empty treasury. Sardar Patel, our first Home Minister, firmly believed that India's unity and integrity could be best preserved by a federal administrative system run by all-India services which would maintain objectivity and deliver efficient and incorruptible services to people living in all parts of the country. Thus, the IAS and the IPS were born.

In the first about two decades, successive Union Governments pursued visionary policies to lay the foundations for nation-building and placing democracy on a firm footing. This period witnessed the rapid expansion of health, education, agriculture and industry sectors; land reforms and consolidation of holdings; construction of large dams and irrigation systems; establishment of institutions for the advancement of medicine, science and technology, space, atomic energy, management; construction of railways, roads, highways, bridges, tunnels; expansion of shipping and civil aviation; creation of large-scale capacities to meet the growing needs of power, coal, cement, steel, fertilizers, pharmaceuticals and other requirements.

The far-sighted policies followed in the earlier years were largely carried forward by the succeeding governments, along with their own new approaches. However, the achievements of the different regimes varied vastly, corresponding to their stability, commitment and competence to carry the country forward.

In the saga of nation-building, two outstanding achievements must be recalled: first, the phenomenal success of the Green Revolution which enabled India to overcome the recurring cycle of famines and become a food-exporting country; second, the Balance of Payment crisis in the early 1990s: this catastrophe led to liberalization of the economy, paving the way for a remarkable jump in the annual rates of growth in the succeeding years.

In the past 75 years, despite the varied factors which have been pulling us back, India has achieved huge successes on many fronts: life expectancy has increased from 31 years (1947) to 70 years (2020); literacy rate has risen from 12% (1947) to 77.7% (2018); the infant mortality rate has declined from 181 (1950) to 27 (2020); the total fertility rate has decreased from 5.9 (1950) to 2 (2020); per capita income has moved from Rs 265 (1950) to Rs 1,50,326 (2021-22); GDP has grown from \$0.04 trillion (1960) to \$3.8



In our forward march to emerge as a strong and prosperous nation, our polity can't afford to forget, even temporarily, that the potential might of India is deeply rooted in the harmonious co-existence of our very large and highly diverse population.

Photo / PTI

trillion (2021) and India is among the fastest growing major world economies, with comfortable foreign exchange reserves; a net importer of foodgrains till 1981, India is now exporting cereals; there has been a remarkable expansion in the provision of education, health, housing, potable water supply, sanitation and rural electrification, and tremendous improvement in road connectivity. We have 1.16 billion phone users and the second largest pool of scientific and technical manpower in the world; India is a global leader in space, nuclear and information technologies and has the third largest armed forces in the world.

India has a very large and highly diverse population: all the religions in the world; hundreds of languages and thousands of dialects; vastly varying socio-cultural traditions; disparate eating and dressing habits and, in certain regions, even strikingly different physiognomies. As past experience has shown, any inequity in the policies followed by the Union and state governments or lack of sensitivity in dealing with issues relating to tribal, minority and other far-flung communities is bound to create serious problems and the ensuing disturbances would have the costly consequence of adversely affecting the pace of growth and development.

Another issue of grave concern relates to the millions of our people who subsist below the poverty line (BPL). In the 2011 Census, the BPL number stood at 26.9 crore. With the increase in population in the past decade and the adverse effect of Covid-19, the current BPL number is likely to be much larger. Uplifting this huge mass of our neglected population is the foremost challenge. Besides poverty, an equally disturbing problem is inequality. As recently reported, the top 1% in our country hold 22% of the national income and the share of the bottom 50% is only 13%!

For significantly reducing poverty, achieving equitable growth and building a strong and prosperous India, it is imperative that each organ of the constitutional framework functions with speed, efficiency and honesty and, besides, public order and harmony prevail across the land. The functioning of the Executive, both the elected political elements and the appointed bureaucracy, has been on the decline for the past many years, largely because the Cabinet Ministers, most of whom are inexperienced and of vastly varying backgrounds, are indifferent to learning their roles and discharging their responsibilities with due diligence. Worse still, they appoint favored functionaries to gather funds by interfering in the functioning of the

departments under their charge. This has promoted inefficiency and unaccountability among the employees and corruption in the system.

The failures in the working of the Union and State Legislatures are a cause for even greater concern. Over the years, the cost of contesting elections has gone up phenomenally. Huge funds, gathered from unlawful, corrupt and criminal sources, are used to get unworthy candidates elected. This has led to an exponential increase in the number of persons with suspect backgrounds becoming lawmakers and further enlarging the criminal nexus. Laws on issues of seminal public interest are getting approved without any debate whatsoever; the Legislature has also failed in discharging its vital role of holding the functioning of the Executive to account. With both the Executive and the Legislature failing to satisfactorily discharge their respective constitutional duties, it was expected that the superior judiciary would promptly intercede and crack the whip. Sadly, the judicial will and vigor of the higher courts also stands badly eroded.

Unfortunately, the fourth estate has receded to the far corner. Many elements of the media have been pressured or have been bought out. The inability of reputed columnists to fearlessly comment on issues of vital public concern has been a great loss.

The timely conduct of free and fair elections sustains democracy. Our election laws have many serious flaws. Manipulated 'defections' are organized by paying huge bribes to those who 'cross over'. The law must effectively eradicate this deleterious phenomenon and also prevent persons with criminal antecedents from getting into the Legislatures. Side by side, the Election Commission of India, which has lost its teeth, must be urgently enabled to function fearlessly, as per its constitutional mandate.

Despite the claims of successive political regimes that corruption has been eradicated, it continues at all levels. It is most regrettable that the credibility of various institutions for curbing corruption has become suspect. The Lokpal, set up after several decades of fruitless debates, has still to make its presence felt. Unless effectively controlled, corruption will destroy the rule of law and the very foundations of our Republic.

The number of start-ups which have become unicorns in recent years amply demonstrates the very high potential of our innovative youth. Despite various adverse factors, our economy has been doing well and, hopefully, India is on the path of emerging as a major economic and military power. However, if such an aspiration is to be achieved, sustained normalcy must prevail. Sadly, for the past many years now, in several parts of India, the societal environment has been marred by communal discord, divisiveness and growing polarization. Such an atmosphere provides a golden opportunity for enemy agencies to go into action to destabilize our country. Concerted efforts require to be urgently made to restore harmony and ensure against hatred and violence taking root among our widespread communities. It is of crucial importance that an atmosphere of trust, tolerance and accommodation prevails all over the country.

In our forward march to emerge as a strong and prosperous nation, our polity can't afford to forget, even temporarily, that the potential might of India is deeply rooted in the harmonious co-existence of our very large and highly diverse population. Any deviation shall have disastrous consequences.

(The author is a former Jammu & Kashmir Governor and former Principal Secretary to Prime Minister)

Dr. V.K. Raju



and Board of Directors
of Eye foundation of America
on the auspicious occasion of the

75
Azadi Ka
Amrit Mahotsav

75th Anniversary
of India's
Independence

Renew their pledge to work ceaselessly for A world without childhood blindness

Happy
Independence
Day

*“Education is the most powerful
weapon which you can use to
change the world.” Nelson Mandela*

80% OF OUR LEARNING IS THROUGH OUR VISION



A World Without Childhood Blindness
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A WORLD WITHOUT CHILDHOOD BLINDNESS



The Eye Foundation of America's (EFA) and Goutami Eye Institute's mission is to prevent blindness by going where the need is greatest—often rural and remote areas of developing countries where there is no medical care or where the cost of care is prohibitive.

Donating to these blindness prevention funds is helping us get one step closer to achieving A World Without Childhood Blindness.

Through prevention, intervention, and your support we can create a World Without Childhood Blindness.

VISION SCREENINGS

3.5 MILLION

GLASSES GIVEN

18,710

VISION SURGERIES

300,000

RETINOPATHY
PREMATURITY

17,000



A child goes blind every minute. With today's technology and resources most of the blindness in children can either be prevented or treated effectively.



It is reported that over 3.5 million preterm infants are born in India annually. Improved neonatal care increased the survival of these preterm infants and hence increased the incidence of retinopathy of prematurity (ROP). ROP is the leading cause of infant blindness in India. Timely screening and treatment can prevent ROP-related blindness.

As a part of our Community Outreach Programs, we conduct camps in the nooks and corners of the State of Andhra Pradesh and transport the patients to the base hospital in our buses. This Mobile Eye Clinic is meant exclusively for community screening. Patients screened and identified for eye problems at these camps are brought to the Base Hospital for further treatment in our own vehicles. During their stay at Base Hospital, they are provided with free food and accommodation, not only to the patient but also to one attendant. After surgical intervention they are provided with free medication and spectacles. These patients are dropped back at their respective villages. Post-operative care is also provided 'free of cost'.



DELHI SCHOOL SCREENING

Conducted by VK Raju M.D. and Srinivas Reddy MD CMO from Goutami

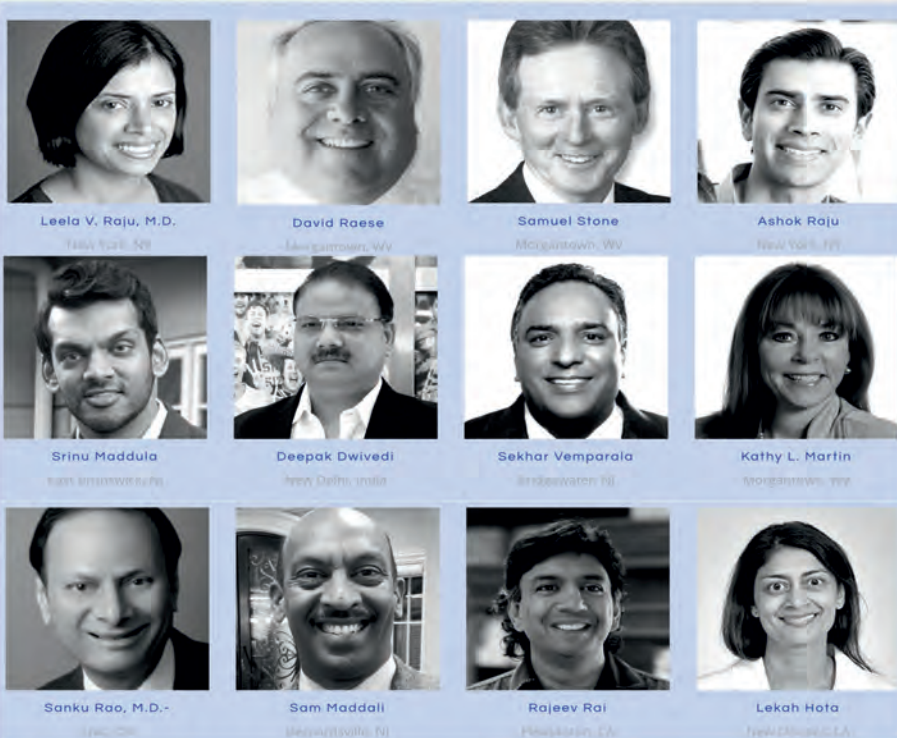


OUR ENSUING PROJECT: GOUTAMI EYE INSTITUTE PROPOSED TO CONSTRUCT A NEW BUILDING AT RAJAHMUNDRY IN ASSOCIATION WITH SRI SRINGERI SHARADA PEETHAM CHARITABLE TRUST, SRINGERI.





A World Without Childhood Blindness



Leela V. Raju, M.D.

David Raese

Samuel Stone

Ashok Raju

Srinu Maddala

Deepak Dwivedi

Sekhar Vemparala

Kathy L. Martin

Sanku Rao, M.D.

Sam Maddali

Rajeev Rai

Lekah Hota

This wouldn't be possible without the support of our doctors, board members, donors and friends.

Thank You



V.V. Kumar
Managing Director



Dr. Y. Srinivas Reddy
Chief Medical Officer



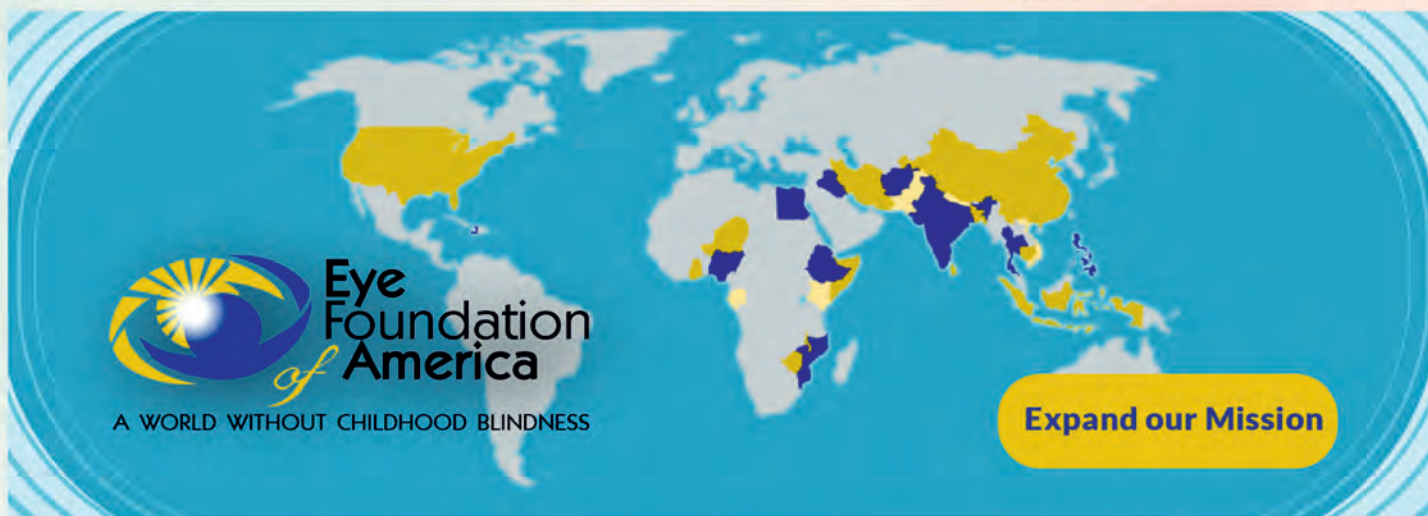
S. Anwar
Head-HR



Ajay Murthy. R
Asst. General Manager
Operations



Jasper Kiran. P
Asst. General Manager
Administration





GRACE MENG
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Washington, D.C. 20515

August 15, 2022

Happy Anniversary India!

As the Vice Chair of the House Appropriations Subcommittee on State and Foreign Operations and a member of the Congressional Caucus on India and Indian Americans, I am proud to convey my warmest wishes and heartfelt congratulations to the people of India and the Indian American community on this very special and historic milestone.

This year, India celebrates 75 years of independence, which is being observed as Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav, an initiative of the Indian government to commemorate the country's 75th Independence Day and the glorious history of its people, culture and achievements.

India continues to make enormous contributions to the world community. The bond that exists between the United States and India continues to grow and thrive, and I look forward to this outstanding friendship – and the cooperation we share on issues of mutual concern – flourishing even further in the years ahead.

I also commend and thank the vibrant Indian American community for all the exceptional and tireless contributions that it continues to make to New York and the nation. It is an honor to represent many Indian Americans in my congressional district in Queens, and it's a privilege to be their voice in the House of Representatives.

Once again, congratulations and best wishes to our friend India. I hope that everybody commemorating this momentous occasion – both in India and the U.S. – has a fun, memorable and safe celebration.

Thank you to the Indian Panorama for publishing this special edition.

Sincerely,

Grace Meng
Member of Congress

TOM SUOZZI

U.S. House of Representatives
New York 3rd Congressional
District



August 15, 2022

MESSAGE

Today, we celebrate the 75th anniversary of Indian Independence Day. Throughout my career in public service, I have worked to elevate the US-India partnership and believe it to be one of our most important relationships for the next 50 years.

Our relationship is driven, in part, by our vibrant Indian American community, one of the most industrious and successful diaspora populations in the world. Today, we also celebrate their contributions to our communities here on Long Island and in Queens.

I wish all my friends in the Indian community happy, healthy, and safe celebrations. Jai Hind!"

Tom Suozzi



THE CITY OF NEW YORK
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
NEW YORK, NY 10007



August 15, 2022

Dear Friends:

It gives me great pleasure to extend greetings to the readers of *The Indian Panorama's* special edition in honor of the occasion of 75th Independence Day of India.

Generations of South Asian Americans have enhanced the rich fabric of New York City, and they will continue to play a key role as we take bold steps to recover from the COVID-19 pandemic, grow our economy, and build a safer, fairer, more prosperous future for all. Established in 2007, *The Indian Panorama* serves as a trusted news resource for Indian Americans and expatriates in the five boroughs and beyond, providing comprehensive coverage about local and international current affairs, business, sports, travel, and more. Its efforts to share health-related news have been especially vital throughout the pandemic. As people in India and its diaspora celebrate that vibrant nation's milestone 75th Independence Day, I commend this wonderful publication for its commitment to engage and connect our dynamic South Asian community. I look forward to the many ways its staff and readers will further strengthen New York as we work together to #GetStuffDone and rebuild, renew, and reinvent our global city.

On behalf of the City of New York, I wish everyone a safe and happy Independence Day celebration.

Sincerely,

Eric Adams
Mayor



THE COUNCIL
OF
THE CITY OF NEW YORK
ADRIENNE E. ADAMS
SPEAKER



August 15, 2022

Dear Friends:

As the Speaker of the New York City Council, I am delighted to extend my personal greetings to everyone reading this special edition of *The Indian Panorama* in celebration of India's 75th Independence Day, "Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav."

Since India achieved its independence in 1947 following a movement inspired by Mahatma Gandhi's commitment to truth, self-determination, and non-violence, this great nation has continued to grow as a proud democracy. Over the last 75 years, its people have strengthened their homeland and the world at large with their diverse skills, talents, and faiths. In New York City alone, Indians and Indian-Americans have enriched all facets of life for generations, and we are forever grateful.

I am particularly proud to represent one of the largest Indian-American populations in our city. District 28 is home to thousands of Indian-American residents who are part of the rich diversity that makes our community vibrant and special. In 2020, we co-named several streets in our district as "Punjab Avenue" and "Gurdwara Street" to honor the contributions of our Punjabi community. As a city, we remain deeply committed and focused on serving New Yorkers of all backgrounds, including our amazing Indian-American community.

The Indian Panorama has chronicled the incredible journey of the Indian people and their contributions for 15 years. With the comprehensive coverage found in its sections on Business, Entertainment and Immigration, this newspaper has provided an important platform for the voices of the Indian people and has earned the highest praise for its work. This special issue celebrates India's 75th Independence with insightful articles and beautiful photographs that reflect this milestone, and I am honored to participate in the "Mahotsav" that is the essence of this event.

To everyone who has made *The Indian Panorama* such a success, including its entire staff and its loyal readers, please accept my heartfelt congratulations for 75th Independence Day and my best wishes for the years ahead.

I hope everyone has a wonderful "Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav"!

Sincerely,

ADRIENNE E. ADAMS
SPEAKER

CITY HALL • NEW YORK, NY 10007 • TELEPHONE (212) 788-7210

डॉ. स्वाती वि. कुलकर्णी
Dr. Swati V. Kulkarni



भारत की प्रधान कौंसल
अटलांटा
Consul General of India
5549 Glenridge Drive NE
Sandy Springs
Atlanta 30342

1 August, 2022



Message

I am happy to learn that 'The Indian Panorama' will be publishing an illustrated special issue on the historic occasion of completion of 75 years of India's Independence. It gives me great pleasure to extend my warm greetings and best wishes to all on this joyous occasion.

Independence Day is a day of special significance – a day which all Indians at home, non-resident Indians and people of Indian origin abroad celebrate with pride and with much fanfare. It is a day on which we reaffirm our commitment to the vision of founding fathers of an India dedicated to the cause of justice, liberty, equality, and fraternity.

Today, India is brimming with self-confidence. The country is scaling new heights by working extremely hard, with a resolve to realize its dreams. This is an India where each and every citizen as well as most successful Indian diaspora have joined hands to pursue the progress of the country.

This year India will cross a milestone when it completes 75 years of Independence on 15th August 2022. The landmark occasion is being celebrated as a 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav'. The grand celebration of glorious history of progressive India and its people, culture, and achievements, commenced on 12th March 2021, which started a 75-week countdown to India's 75th Anniversary of Independence and will end post-a-year on 15th August 2023. Let us commemorate *Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav* with much fanfare.

I wish 'The Indian Panorama' every success in their endeavors.

(Dr. Swati Vijay Kulkarni)
Consul General

Tel : 404-549-8358; Fax : 678-935-7054; E-mail : cg.atlanta@mea.gov.in

भारत का प्रधान कौंसल
शिकागो



CONSUL GENERAL OF INDIA
CHICAGO



MESSAGE

I extend my warm wishes and felicitations to fellow Indians, members of the Indian diaspora and readers of the Indian Panorama on the occasion of 76th Independence Day of India.

Seventy-five years of independence is an important milestone in our journey as a nation. Amrit Mahotsav is the embodiment of our progressive socio-cultural, political and economic initiatives. As we recall and reflect upon the contributions and sacrifices of countless Indians in this journey, and our significant national achievements, we must also commit ourselves to realise the full potential of our nation and people fuelled by the spirit of Atmanirbhar Bharat.

The India-US partnership is wide-ranging, dynamic and today encompasses almost every facet of human endeavour. The vibrant Indian American community has been a valuable link between our two great countries and has enriched our bilateral relations in myriad ways.

I thank the Indian Panorama for being an active bridge in connecting us with the Indian diaspora, and for bringing out this special edition on this momentous occasion. I wish them all success in the future endeavours.

(Amit Kumar)

8 August 2022



भारत का प्रधान कौंसल
ह्यूस्टन
CONSUL GENERAL OF INDIA
HOUSTON

August 9, 2022

Message

I extend my warm greetings to fellow Indians, the Indian American community and to the readers of The Indian Panorama on the occasion of the 76th Independence Day of India.

India is celebrating *Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav* to commemorate 75 years of progressive India and the glorious history of its people, culture and achievements. As India turns 75, Independence Day is an occasion to remember our long and hard freedom struggle and the sacrifices of those who led India to become a free nation.

The Consulate is striving to deepen the close multifaceted ties between India and United States. As part of *Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav* celebrations, we are organizing various events and activities to highlight the immense opportunities in the India-US partnership in areas including trade, investment, technology, innovation, education and culture.

I once again extend my heartiest greetings and wish all good health, happiness and prosperity.

(Aseem R. Mahajan)

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E-mail: cg.houston@mea.gov.in • Website: www.cgihouston.gov.in



CONSUL GENERAL OF INDIA



MESSAGE

I would like to extend my warmest greetings to all Indians, at home and abroad, on this historic occasion of '*Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav*' celebrations on the occasion of 75th anniversary of its Independence. I appreciate *The Indian Panorama* for their efforts in bringing a Special Edition to mark this special moment.

We all share the pride of celebrating '*Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav*' to mark the glorious history of India's people, culture and their achievements. This *Mahotsav* is dedicated to the People of India who have not only been instrumental in bringing India thus far in its evolutionary journey. It's a proud moment for every Indian living anywhere in the world. This special occasion also provides to pay rich tributes to our leaders who led, sacrificed their lives to lay a strong foundation for today's India.

Indians from across the world are marking this milestone in our history through actions and deeds capturing India's indomitable spirit and promising future. Indian diaspora in the United States deserves a special applause for their achievements and contributions in various walks of life. This celebration should also serve as an occasion to rededicate ourselves to the greater glory of *Bharat*!

Once again, I appreciate the initiative by Prof. Indrajit Saluja and wish all the readers of The Indian Panorama a very Happy Independence Day and *Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav*!

(Dr. T.V. Nagendra Prasad)

540, Arguello Boulevard, San Francisco-CA 94118, USA Tel: 001-415-668-0998 Fax: 001-415-668-2073 Email: cg.sff@mea.gov.in



Padma Bhushan Sant Chatwal
New York

August 12, 2022

MESSAGE

As we prepare to celebrate the 75th anniversary of Independence of India, my thoughts go to the Father of the Nation Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi, affectionately known as Bapu. Here was a man pursuing a legal career in South Africa who felt drawn back to India to liberate Indians from the British yoke. We may loosely describe Gandhi as an NRI, though in strict terms, an NRI would be an Indian residing abroad and having citizenship of another country.

It was the vision and the resolve of one frail man who made people of India believe that it was possible to get out of the bloody jaws of the repressive British rule. Gandhi gave a call to Indians to get rid of their fear of the British. In fact, he called upon them not to be afraid of the rulers, their exploiters and oppressors. And, his message impacted the thinking of Indians and gradually more and more people shed their fear and they became the force of the freedom struggle. We are enjoying our freedom today because of people like Gandhi and his fearless followers.

I am a proud NRI myself and have done my bit for the land of my origin when an occasion arose. And I am glad my contribution, though an humble one was recognized, and I was bestowed one of the highest civilian honors of the land- the Padma Bhushan. I have pledged to continue to strive for contributing to the welfare of the country of my origin and the people of India. In fact, NRIs have been doing their bit, and should continue with the good work of repaying the country they originated from, never forgetting that the adopted land should be their first love now.

Happy 75th anniversary of Independence of India!
Sant Chatwal



MESSAGE

I would like to greet all the readers of The Indian Panorama on the historic occasion of the 75th Independence Day of India! The seven and a half decades following 15 August 1947 have marked India's transformation into one of the fastest growing major economies of the world. It is indeed appropriate that as we celebrate this landmark anniversary, India is serving with distinction as an elected member of the UN Security Council, and is poised to take over the chairmanship of the G-20 grouping of the world's major developed and emerging economies from December 2022.

The biggest transformation has been for the people of India during these seventy-five years. India is today the largest democracy in the world, a far cry from the colonial country that got independence from British rule due to a unique campaign of non-violence led by Mahatma Gandhi. By the yardsticks of socio-economic development, the percentage of people living in poverty in India has been reduced from 70% of its total population in 1947 to just over 22% of its total population today. The past three decades after India launched its historic economic reforms in 1991 have unleashed the latent energy of India's skilled and talented people.

Today, India is unique in pro-actively using information and communications technologies (ICTS) to empower its huge population of 1.5 billion people, representing one-fifth of humanity. These technologies have created the digital economy to bridge the several digital divides that challenge India's sustained growth. These include using ICTs to reform the way India is governed. As India stated in the UN in 2020 "In the last six years, we opened 400 million bank accounts for the unbanked, out of which 220 million are owned by women. We have leveraged the power of technology for financial inclusion. This is based on the trinity of a unique identity number, a bank account, and a mobile connection for everyone. It has allowed us to make Direct Benefit Transfers of 150 billion dollars to over 700 million persons."

In international relations, India has carved out a unique role to navigate the growing polarization and disruptions caused by the conflicts between the major powers represented as self-selected permanent members of the UN Security Council, including in Asia. The leitmotif of India's diplomatic engagement has been "diplomacy and dialogue", attempting to recall for the world the vision of 1945 when the UN was created out of the destruction of the Second World War. India has a major stake in the effective role of the multilateral institutions that she helped to create after that catastrophic war, including the IMF, the World Bank, the UN, and the GATT/WTO.

Looking ahead, India's ongoing campaign to "reform multilateralism" is expected to result in creating a network of supporting partnerships across the world, that will support and secure India's objective of ensuring global peace and stability through sustained socio-economic development.

Jai Hind!

Asoke Mukerji
Former Ambassador/PR of India to the United Nations

डॉ. ज्ञानेश्वर म. मुले
सदस्य
Dr. Dnyaneshwar M. Mulay
Member



राष्ट्रीय मानव अधिकार आयोग
मानव अधिकार भवन, सी-ब्लॉक,
जोयोओ कॉम्प्लेक्स, आईएनए, नई दिल्ली-110 023 भारत
NATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION
Manav Adhikar Bhawan, C-Block
GPO Complex, INA, New Delhi-110 023 India

2nd August, 2022



Greeting on 75th Anniversary of India's Independence

I am delighted to greet PIOs, NRIs and other Overseas Indians on this 75th Anniversary of India's Independence. This is an milestone in our nation's life. It's also an important occasion to remember those freedom fighters and patriots who sacrificed their lives for India's Independence.

In the last 75 years India has emerged as a strong Democracy. It's commitment to peace, development and progress is recognized by the Global Community. India has always promoted cordial relations with neighboring countries and international partners.

Besides, India has championed the cause of fighting against terrorism. A country which is known for its unity and diversity is making technology a key word in addressing poverty, unemployment and other developmental issues.

The 75th Anniversary of Independence is being celebrated with enthusiasm. Let's commit ourselves to make India a country that exemplifies the values of humanity, such as love, peace and equality. Let no one be left behind.

My best wishes to the readers of Indian Panorama and compliments to Prof. Saluja for continuing with his committed Journalism.

(Dr. Dnyaneshwar M. Mulay)



QUEENS COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY
125-01 QUEENS BOULEVARD
Kew Gardens, New York 11415-1568



718.286.6000
WWW.QC.DA.NY.GOV

MELINDA KATZ
DISTRICT ATTORNEY

August 15, 2022

Prof. Indrajit S Saluja
Chief Editor
The Indian Panorama
P.O. Box 190067
South Richmond Hill, NY 11419

Dear Professor Saluja:

It gives me great pleasure to write this message of congratulations to the readers of *The Indian Panorama* as you celebrate the auspicious occasion of the historic 75th Independence Day of India!

Thank you to the Editors of *The Indian Panorama* for providing us with yet another opportunity to celebrate the vibrant cultural and political legacy of India's history. The great Borough of Queens is enriched by the beautiful customs and traditions of your readers.

I am proud to have cultivated a great relationship with *The Indian Panorama*, which is a New York based English language digital weekly newspaper with a large readership across the world! Throughout its 16-year journey, *The Indian Panorama* has rapidly come to occupy a central place for all the news and happenings that are pertinent to the existence of the South Asian community in this multicultural, multireligious contemporary American society.

I wish you continued success and prosperity. May your Independence Day celebrations be joyous, safe, and full of meaning.

In Friendship,

Melinda Katz
Queens District Attorney

HEROES OF INDIAN FREEDOM STRUGGLE

Ancient India Celebrates her 75th Independence Day by Enjoying her "Tryst with Destiny!"
- Ravi Batra



Lokmanya Bal Gangadhar Tilak
(1856-1920)



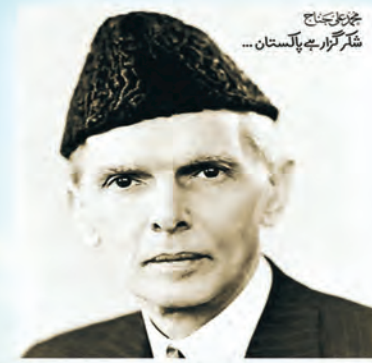
Lala Lajpat Rai
(1865-1928)



Mahatma Gandhi
(1869-1948)



Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel
(1875-1950)



Mohammed Ali Jinnah
(1876-1948)



Vir Savarkar
(1883-1966)



Maulana Abul Kalam Azad
(1888-1958)



Pt Jawaharlal Nehru
(1889-1964)



Dr APJ Abdul Kalam
(1931-2015)



Dr B.R. Ambedkar
(1891 -1956)



'Frontier Gandhi'
Badshah Khan
(1890-1988)



Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose
(1897-1945)



Chandra Shekhar Azad
(1906-1931)



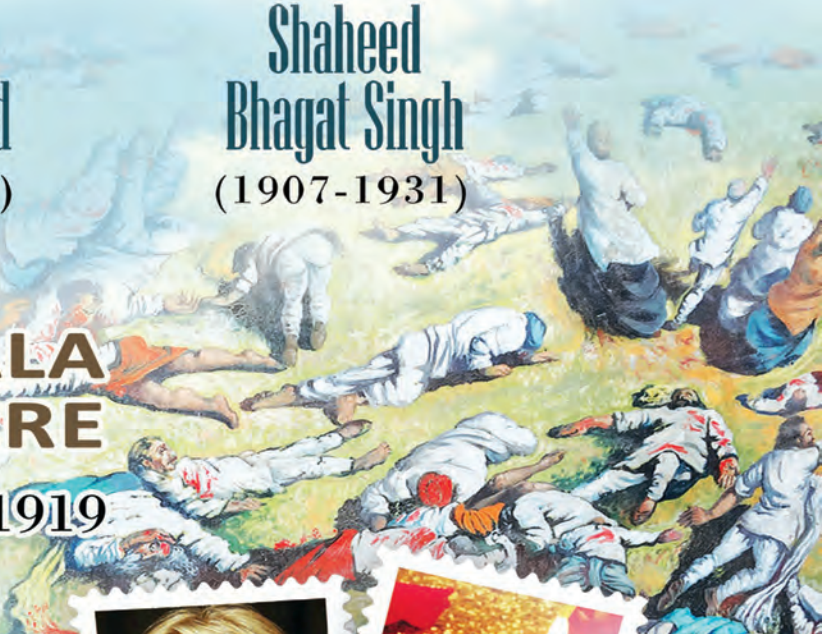
Shaheed Bhagat Singh
(1907-1931)



PM Modi hugs Obama, hugs Trump, hugs Biden, and embraces the Quad

JALLIANWALA BAGH MASSACRE

Amritsar, 13 April 1919



THE LAW FIRM OF RAVI BATRA, P.C.
The Batra Building
142 Lexington Avenue
New York, New York 10016
212-545-1993

Happy 75th Anniversary of Independence





V.K. Raju, MD, FRCS, FACS
President and Founder, Eye Foundation of America



August 12, 2022

We are proud to celebrate the 75th anniversary of Indian Independence. When India became independent from the British rule in 1947 and began a pioneering post-colonial experiment in democratic nation building, many sages had shaken their heads, not giving exciting new experiment any chance to last long. India has defied such dire predictions. In the last election, 750+ million people stood in lines for hours under the hot sun and exercised their right of vote peacefully.

Since the 90s, India has made tremendous economic progress. Though India has achieved the status of a "highly developed country", a "developing country's" problems exist everywhere. It has the potential to be a world class economic juggernaut. After all, India was the richest country when the British came to its shores.

Some say that India is in moral crisis. This crisis is largely political. In the 50s, many eminent men in public life were every inch gentlemen, while the 60s brought us many public figures who were every alternate inch a gentleman, the 70s showed an unacceptable number of politicians who were no inch gentlemen.

Despite the abolition of princely states and privy purses by Indira Gandhi (critics used to call her the only man in the Indian cabinet) the Indian politics have become more and more dynastic. According to a recent publication from election Commission of India the total number of registered parties were 2598, including 8 national parties, 52 state parties, and 2538 unrecognized parties. This would suggest one Indian is highly intelligent, two Indians are one political party, and three Indians are two political parties. We need only one change- to alter our mindset. With a change of mindset, India has a potential of becoming economic juggernaut and find her place in the comity of nations.

With the greatest natural resource of 530+ million young women and men, it's possible for India to once again develop into a country that would make Emperor Ashoka proud.

Let me end this with a quote from Arnold Toynbee, "it is already becoming clear that a chapter which had a western beginning will have to have an Indian ending, if it is not to end in the self-destruction of the human race. At this supremely dangerous moment in human history the only way of salvation for mankind is the Indian way-Emperor Ashoka's and Mahatma Gandhi's principle of non-violence and Sri Ramakrishna's testimony to the harmony of religions. Here, we have an attitude and spirit that can make it possible for the human race to grow together into a single family-and in the Atomic Age, this is the only alternative to destroying ourselves."

On behalf of the Eye Foundation of America, I wish the readers of the Indian Panorama, a Happy Independence Day!

V.K. RAJU

EyeFoundationofAmerica.org
695 Westview Avenue, Morgantown, WV 26505-2417 Phone: 304-288-2080



THE BATRA BUILDING
142 LEXINGTON AVE.
NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10016
212-545-1993



RAVI@RAVIBATRALAW.COM
FAX: 212-545-0967

August 15, 2022

Professor Saluja
The Indian Panorama

Re: India's 75th Independence Day

Dear Professor Saluja,

Ranju joins me in sending our warmest wishes to you, your family, and readers of *The Indian Panorama* on the occasion of celebrating India's 75th Independence Day.

As the world turns and flirts with easier autocracies, democracy - self-rule with individual freedoms - turns to its roots to rediscover and resurrect its passion so that we may have Governments that are "for the people," rather than "people for" autocratic governments.

Like the American Revolution with our Revolutionary Heroes, India too had many to free her from the same colonial yoke. As Americans of Indian ancestry, we can celebrate both sets of Heroes who choose Freedom and Independence, and now look magnanimously at the people of Great Britain as our cousins. That India and United States are joined in history and our people share a collective dream is awesome, and more precious now than ever. From P.M. Nehru who wished a tryst with destiny through non-alignment, P.M. Modi has embraced us, the United States, to reach a better destiny for India. We wish him, and every Indian, freedoms in perpetuity.

To our Indivisible partner: Happy 75th Independence day India!

Warmest regards,

Sincerely,

Ravi Batra



Prem Bhandari
International Convener
Akhil Bharatiya Rajasthani Manyata Sangharsh Samiti

August 12, 2022

MESSAGE

Greetings to the Indian Diaspora on the auspicious occasion of the 75th anniversary of India's Independence!

India has made tremendous progress since August 15, 1947 when she walked into the light of freedom. It has been a long and grim struggle in which thousands of Indians lost their lives. I bow to the martyrs. I also bow to the framers of the Indian Constitution who ensured the free people of India had their rights constitutionally guaranteed.

On this Independence Day, I recall the struggle that my Rajasthani brethren have been waging for decades for recognition of the Rajasthani language in the Eighth Schedule of the Indian Constitution. The Rajasthani language movement at the levels of governments, civil society, and Rajasthani language intellectuals has been campaigning for greater recognition for the Rajasthani language since 1947. The Rajasthan Assembly unanimously passed the resolution in 2003 to include the Rajasthani language in the Eighth Schedule and successive state governments have requested the Center to incorporate the language in the officially recognized list of languages. The struggle continues.

The Rajasthani language has different dialects like Marwari, Mewari, Dundari, Vagadi etc. As per the Constitution of India, if a region has different languages, they should be preserved. The Rajasthani language recognition means recognition of the culture and glorious tradition of the State and people of Rajasthan.

The constitutional recognition for Rajasthani would help further the development of Rajasthani literature, helping Rajasthani language writers and primary education in their mother tongue. Beyond supporting Rajasthani language literature, it will create more job opportunities for the unemployed youth in the State and facilitate the execution of various welfare schemes in the people's own language. On top of it, it will be respecting the dignity of the people of Rajasthan.

I wish and hope the wrong done to the Rajasthani language will be righted in the year of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav.

Jai Hind!

Prem Bhandari

Dr. Satnam Sethi
Madison, MS

August 15, 2022

MESSAGE

From my personal knowledge as a 10-year-old refugee from West Pakistan I often stop and wonder about Dandi March of 1930 and 1931. (Civil Disobedience Movement)

Of course, I never stop thinking about 1919 Jallianwala Bagh Massacre in Amritsar, Panjab, India, in which hundreds of unarmed Indians were killed and many thousand were wounded by merciless British soldiers.

Most of the literature on Indian independence movement and Indian Freedom is devoted to Mohandas Gandhi who was lovingly called Mahatma Gandhi, Sarojini Naidu, Jawaharlal Nehru, Abdul Ghaffar Khan, Vallabhbai Patel and many thousand more freedom fighters who deserve gratitude of all Indians across the Globe including us in Mississippi, USA.

I wish to take this opportunity to pay homage to all Bharatis who were killed in 1919 Jallianwala Bagh Massacre in Amritsar Panjab, India. In my opinion 1919 Jallianwala Bagh Massacre ignited the spark of Freedom Movement in India.

We often fail to pay homage to Shahid Bhagat Singh, Subhash Chandra Bose, Sukhdev, Raj Guru, Chandra Shekhar Azad, General Mohan Singh, Captain Ratan Singh, and many more unnamed freedom fighters who gave their all to keep the Indian Freedom fire burning until Gandhi-Irwin pact was signed on March 4, 1931 to free India from British yoke.

We wish to take this opportunity to congratulate each one of you on this auspicious occasion of August 15, 1947. We pay our deepest heartfelt gratitude to all those who gave their all for us to be free and prosperous across the globe. We thank the Almighty God for resting the departed souls in peace forever in heaven.

JAI HIND

Satnam Sethi



State Bank of India
New York



Virendra Bansal
Country Head, US Operations
State Bank of India,
460 Park Avenue, New York

MESSAGE

Dear Overseas friends of India, wish you a very happy Independence Day 2022. It is my pleasure joining The Indian Panorama in our 75th Independence Day celebrations. We are celebrating "Azadi ka Amrut Mahotsav" to commemorate 75 years of progressive India and its evolutionary journey. On this occasion, remembering our past is extremely important. Not only is India's Independence Day a historic celebration which makes one remember and honor the mighty sacrifices our courageous leaders and freedom fighters put forward for our country, but also a day to take pride, celebrate and respect our country's rich honor, valor, history, culture, and tradition. As Ambassadors of India in US, let us promise to take our country on path of further prosperity and glory.

We at State Bank of India, New York are contributing by helping Indian diaspora and Corporates for their banking needs in the best possible ways in India and US. We are proud to announce that New York branch has completed 50 years of serving its clients here and branch has grown from strength to strength. Looking forward for crossing many more such milestones. We take this opportunity to thank our clients for showing faith and staying invested with us.

I wish all readers a very Happy Independence Day. May the tri-color fly high and higher and touch the sky. Jai Hind!

Virendra Bansal



Bank of India
Relationship beyond banking



C M Kumra
Chief Executive
Bank of India, New York
277, Park Avenue

India is an incredibly diverse nation. Built on a vibrant tapestry of linguistic groups, religions, culture and heritage, India has emerged as one of the leading democracies of the 21st century. Bank of India joins in the celebration of "Azadi ka Amrut Mahotsav" to commemorate 75 glorious years of Independence of India.

The path to freedom was a long cherished dream for Indians. Unfurling the tri color evokes overwhelming respect for our freedom fighters' unmatched sacrifice and struggle. We as Indians stand together united, and echo in our voice for the national anthem to celebrate age old values and heritage that stood firm with resilience and determination.

We at Bank of India, New York are contributing by helping the Indian diaspora and corporates for their banking requirements in India and US. We are pleased to inform you that the New York branch has been thriving in the banking industry for over the past four decades. We would like to thank our numerous happy Clients for their trust in our service and lasting relationship.

As Ambassadors of India in the United States, let us come forward to step on the path of prosperity and glory. The largest democratic nation in the world, India shares democratic ethos with the United States of America. On the auspicious occasion of India's Independence Day celebration, Bank of India extends greetings and felicitations to the Indian diaspora, Indian American Community and friends of India.

May the Tricolour fly high and India reaches the zenith of success. Jai Hind!



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3 Indian American candidates win party primaries

AUGUST 11, 2022

WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP): Three Indian American candidates, Republican Harry Arora and Democrats Kesha Ram Hinsdale and Josh Kaul have advanced to November elections winning party nominations in the Aug 9 primary in Connecticut, Vermont and Wisconsin respectively.

In Connecticut, Republican nominee Harry who ran unopposed for Connecticut treasurer will face attorney Erick Russell who defeated Indian American Dita Bhargava in a three-way race for Democratic nomination.

Russell received 58% of the votes, compared to Bhargava's 23%. New Haven Housing Authority President Karen DuBois-Walton came in third place.

"Democrats have failed CT. As your next State Treasurer, I will fix CT's finances," tweeted Arora, currently a state representative from Connecticut's 151st District and the ranking member of the Labor Committee.

"I have over two decades of experience in finance, investing and the state legislature," he wrote. In contrast, my Democrat opponent has little to no experience in finance, investing or public service.

Arora has 25 years of experience in portfolio management, and "a strong understanding of macro trends and fixed income," according to his website.



Three Indian American candidates, Republican Harry Arora and Democrats Kesha Ram Hinsdale and Josh Kaul have advanced to November elections winning party nominations in the Aug 9 primary in Connecticut, Vermont and Wisconsin respectively.

He has founded and led a successful investment management business for almost two decades. He came to the United States from India as a graduate student 27 years ago and naturalized as an American citizen in 2004. He and his wife Nisha are raising their three kids in Greenwich.

Bhargava took to Facebook to thank her supporters for "an outstanding campaign based on issues most pertinent to the communities of CT."

This was her second attempt at running for state treasurer. She left the Democratic contest for governor in 2018, when Ned Lamont entered the race, and decided to run for treasurer instead. She lost the Democratic primary race to

former Hartford City Council president Shawn Wooden.

In Vermont, state senator Kesha Ram Hinsdale advanced to the November general elections with 27% vote, according to the reports.

"Thank you, @EmergeVT and @EmergeAmerica! So many victories last night were thanks to the incredible network of support we have built. I will forever be proud to be an Emerge co-founder! #PrimaryDay #vtpoli," she tweeted.

Democrat Hinsdale ended her bid for the state's lone seat in the US Congress in May and announced her intent to seek re-election to the State Senate from Chittenden District. She also declared her

support for Becca Balint, who won the Democratic primary for the US Congress seat on Aug 9.

In 2020, Ram Hinsdale became the first woman of color elected to the Vermont Senate. She was 22 when she was first elected to the Vermont House of Representatives in 2008, becoming the youngest person ever elected.

She served in the State House until 2016 when she left her seat to run in the Democratic primary for lieutenant governor. She lost out to David Zuckerman, a Progressive and Democrat who ultimately won the election.

In Wisconsin, Democrat Attorney General Josh Kaul, who ran unopposed, will face Republican candidate Eric Toney, a veteran prosecutor and Fond du Lac County district attorney. Kaul took office in January 2019.

"Kaul's campaign tried to frame the race as being about stark contrasts and hot-button issues, including gun rights and abortion rights," according to a media report.

Kaul is suing to overturn an 1849 state law banning all abortions except to save the life of the mother that Toney supports, the news agency noted. "Kaul also supports universal background checks and a red flag law that would allow judges to take guns away from people determined to be a threat to themselves and others, efforts that Toney opposes."

INDIAN-ORIGIN AMAAN SANDHU FROM NBA ACADEMY INDIA GETS US BASKETBALL SCHOLARSHIP



Amaan Sandhu has become the first player from NBA Academy India to earn a Division I men's basketball scholarship with Monmouth University

AUGUST 12, 2022

WEST LONG BRANCH, NJ (TIP): India born Amaan Sandhu has become the first player from NBA Academy India to earn a Division I men's basketball scholarship with Monmouth University signing him ahead of the 2022-23 season.

"We're so excited to add Amaan to our program," said West Long Branch, New Jersey based university's men's basketball and head coach King Rice announcing the signing of center player.

"His journey to get to where he is now is incredible and we're glad he chose to come with us," he said. "To be one of the first players born in India to ever earn a Division I men's basketball scholarship is major for Amaan and his family and we can't wait to get to work with him."

Sandhu had the ability to play a national schedule, including competing at some of the top showcase events in the country while at First Love Christian Academy under the direction of Nathan Roesing, according to a university press release.

Upon signing at FLCA, he became the third Indian male teenager from the NBA Academy India to receive a high school scholarship in the US. While at First Love, Sandhu posted 12.2 points per game and 8.1 rebounds per contest to go along with nearly two assists. He was a 35% three-point shooter and 62.1% from the field while converting 74.9% from the free throw line.

Sandhu is the first player from the NBA Academy India to earn a Division I men's basketball scholarship. A member of the inaugural class of prospects at the academy in May 2017, Sandhu joins the Hawks at the center position, standing at 7'0".

Sandhu competed at NBA Academy India, one of four NBA Academies around the world, until the fall of 2020, when he enrolled in First Love Christian Academy.

Sandhu is the third player overall from NBA Academy India to earn a Division I basketball scholarship, joining Sanjana Ramesh at Northern Arizona and Harsimran Kaur at San Diego on the women's side.

He has had the opportunity to compete in several high-profile basketball camps and events, including Basketball Without Borders Asia 2018 & 2019, NBA Global Camp 2018 in Italy, the 2018 and 2019 NBA Academy Games, and Basketball Without Borders Global Camp during NBA All-Star 2020 in Chicago.

(Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)

INDIAN AMERICAN KARISHMA MERCHANT JOINS JOBS FOR THE FUTURE AS ASSOCIATE VP

AUGUST 10, 2022

WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP): After serving more than a decade on Capitol Hill, Indian American policy advisor Karishma Merchant has joined Jobs for the Future (JFF), a national nonprofit driving transformation in the American workforce and education systems.

As Associate Vice President of Policy & Advocacy, Merchant would lead JFF's work to advance nonpartisan, practice-informed public policy focused on education, workforce development, and equitable economic advancement for all.

Most recently, Merchant worked as Senior Education and Workforce Policy Advisor for US Senator Tim Kaine, overseeing education, child welfare, and labor policy initiatives.

"Alignment between public policy and practice in the field is essential to create lasting, systemic shifts to ensure all people thrive in the economy and to scale change locally, regionally, and nationally," said JFF President and CEO Maria Flynn in an Aug 9 announcement.

"We are thrilled to welcome Karishma and look forward to leveraging her expertise in convening leaders from both sides of the aisle, leading critical conversations, and driving transformation as we work toward equitable economic advancement for all."

"I was drawn to JFF because my career has focused on expanding access and economic opportunities for all. After working at multiple levels of government



Karishma Merchant has joined Jobs for the Future (JFF), a national nonprofit driving transformation in the American workforce and education systems.

and as a classroom teacher, I am excited to join an organization whose mission is focused on advancing equity and economic mobility," said Merchant.

"I am thrilled to be part of a team that takes an integrated approach to break down silos between K-12, higher education, workforce development systems, and economic development and uses evidence-based practices from the field to inform good policymaking."

Merchant will lead JFF's well-respected, nonpartisan policy team as it engages with federal and state workforce and education policymakers and practitioners from around the country to shape effective policy recommendations to meet the skills needs of America's learners, workers, and the economy, JFF said. (Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)

Indian American litigator Roopali H Desai confirmed to top court by US Senate

AUGUST 6, 2022

WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP): The US Senate has confirmed Indian American litigator Roopali H Desai to the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit, making her the first South Asian judge to serve on this powerful court.

Desai was confirmed by the Senate by a bipartisan vote of 67-29 on Thursday, August 4.

Headquartered in San Francisco, California, the Ninth Circuit is by far the largest of the thirteen courts of appeals, covering a total of 9 states and 2 territories and with 29 active judgeships.

"It comes as no surprise that Ms. Desai's nomination has received high praise across the political and ideological spectrum, as well as from state judges, law enforcement officials, and three different fire fighters' organizations. With 16 years of experience as a litigator, she is an outstanding addition to the Ninth Circuit," said Senate Majority Whip Dick Durbin, Chair of the Senate Judiciary Committee.

Ahead of the Senate vote, Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer said Desai's resume leaves no doubt she merits confirmation: a graduate of Arizona School of Law, a clerk for Judge Mary Schroeder, the first woman to ever serve as a Ninth Circuit Chief Judge, she has excelled at every step of her legal career.



Desai was confirmed by the Senate by a bipartisan vote of 67-29 on Thursday, August 4 to the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit, making her the first South Asian judge to serve on this powerful court.

"She is one of Arizona's top election lawyers, having played a crucial role in protecting her state's elections in 2020, and has fought for everyone from children in foster care to children in public schools during the pandemic," he said.

Desai is a partner at Coppersmith Brockelman where she has practiced since 2007. From 2006 to 2007, Desai was

an associate at Lewis & Roca. She served as a law clerk for Chief Judge Mary Schroeder on the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit from 2005 to 2006. Desai received her Juris Doctor degree in 2005 from the University of Arizona.

"Arizona is proud of Roopali Desai's confirmation to be a US Judge for the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals. Desai is known and respected for her integrity, fairness, and wealth of legal knowledge, and I'm delighted to secure the broad bipartisan votes for her confirmation. As a judge, Ms Desai will make Arizona and America proud," said Arizona senior Senator Kyrsten Sinema.

Neil Makhija, Indian American Impact executive director, said Desai's bold and inspired work as an attorney in Arizona earned her a reputation and career of which she should be immensely proud.

"A fierce defender of democracy, she valiantly represented the Arizona state secretary of state, Katie Hobbs, against a lawsuit by President Donald Trump's campaign that sought to overturn Biden's victory in Arizona," he said.

"As the first South Asian confirmed to the 9th US Circuit Court of Appeals, her historic victory is a win for all of us. We at Impact extend a sincere and warm congratulation to Roopali for not only majorly advancing her illustrious career, but also our entire community," Makhija said.

INDIAN AMERICAN AMIT JANI NAMED ACTING WHITE HOUSE LIAISON AT DHS



Jani worked as national Asian American Pacific Islander (AAPI) director for Joe Biden's presidential campaign

AUGUST 9, 2022

WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP):

Amit Jani, former national Asian American Pacific Islander (AAPI) director for Joe Biden's presidential campaign, has become acting White House liaison at the Department of Homeland Security, according to a Politico West Wing Playbook report.

Indian American Jani, who has worked with several lawmakers including New Jersey Governor

Phil Murphy and Senator Bob Menendez, was director of the chief information officer action group at the Pentagon before taking the Homeland Security post.

Jani left the New Jersey Department of Transportation, where he was legislative liaison, in 2019 to join the Biden campaign as AAPI national director, according to New Jersey Globe.

The onetime Jersey City resident worked as an account executive at Vision Media Marketing, a political consulting firm. He started out as a youth organizer and served as an aide to Rep. Frank Pallone, Jr. and as a member of the Hudson County Schools of Technology Board of Education.

In 2017, he became the director of AAPI Outreach for Phil Murphy's gubernatorial campaign. He held the same post on US Senator Bob Menendez's re-election campaign in 2018.

Jani was the president and co-founder of the New Jersey Leadership Program, which exposes South Asian high school students to government and politics at the state and local level.

Born in Rajkot, Gujarat and arriving in the US at the age of one with his mother, Jani was a long-time resident of New Jersey, a state with one of the largest Indian American populations in the US.

His late father, Suresh Jani, was a community organizer in New Jersey and throughout America, often advocating for new immigrants and helping Indians who recently arrived in the country.

Jani's mother, Deepti Jani, is a businesswoman in New Jersey and New York, owning a deli and several convenience stores.

INDIAN AMERICAN TEENAGER AARYA WALVEKAR FROM VIRGINIA CROWNED MISS INDIA USA 2022

August 7, 2022

EDISON, NJ (TIP):

Indian-American teenager Aarya Walvekar from Virginia has been crowned Miss India USA 2022 at the annual pageant held in New Jersey.

An aspiring actor Aarya, 18, said, "It has been my childhood dream to see myself on the silver screen and work in films and TV."

Her hobbies include exploring new places, cooking and debating, she said.

Saumya Sharma, a second-year premedical student at the University of Virginia, was declared first runner-up and Sanjana Chekuri of New Jersey was the second runner-up.

This year marks the 40th anniversary of the pageant which is the longest running Indian pageant outside of India. It was started by New York-based Indian-Americans Dharmatma and Neelam Saran under the banner of Worldwide Pageants.

"I am very much thankful to Indian community around the world for their support over the years," said Worldwide Pageants Founder and Chairman Dharmatma Saran.

Akshi Jain of Washington State was crowned Mrs. India USA and Tanvi Grover of New York was crowned as Miss Teen India USA.

As many as 74 contestants representing 30 states participated in three different pageants- Miss India USA, Mrs. India USA and Miss Teen India USA.

Winners of all three categories received complimentary tickets to Mumbai early next year to take part in Worldwide Pageants organized by the same group.



Photo caption: Aarya Walvekar is an 18-year-old Indian American teenager from Virginia who has been crowned Miss India USA 2022 at the annual beauty pageant held in New Jersey.

INDIAN AMERICAN 10-YEAR-OLD , NIRVAAN, WINS NATIONAL PETA KIDS AWARD

August 10, 2022

EDISON, NJ (TIP):

1A 0-year-old Indian American boy from New Jersey has recently won top honors in PETA kids 2022 All Star for Animals Contest.

Nirvaan Agarwal has attended county

commissioner meetings to advocate for animals held in a roadside zoo and volunteered to help animals in sanctuaries. A vegan since birth, Nirvaan has been making use of every opportunity to help animals.

The young boy has been sharing his message through a bullhorn during marches and has been decrying the cruel treatment of animals in the fur and leather industries. Apart from that, to create awareness he has also been chalking animal rights messages onto sidewalks.

After flooding from Hurricane Ida affected the Johnson Park Zoo, he attended Middlesex County Board of Commissioners meetings and presented his own research about why the animals there should be moved to reputable sanctuaries.

His efforts paid off as the county plans to place the red fox, raccoon, pythons, and other animals in new facilities. A guardian to three adopted cats, Nirvaan also enjoys building cat castles and plans to become a vegan chef.

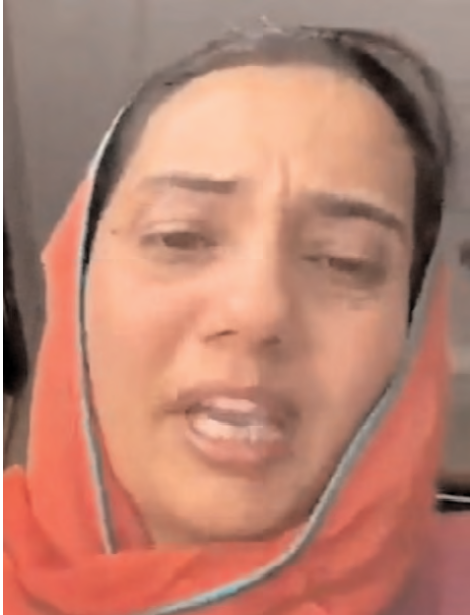
"Whether he's marching in vegan rallies or urging county leaders to help animals languishing in a roadside zoo, Nirvaan is setting a heroic example for young people everywhere," says PETA Senior Director of Youth Programs Marta Holmberg.

(Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)



Nirvaan is a new hero having won top honors in PETA kids 2022 All Star for Animals Contest

Indian American Sikh woman posts abuse video before dying by suicide; Community is outraged



The deceased Mandeep Kaur, mother of two, recorded in her video statement that she could not bear any more the physical violence and the behavior of her husband, and indifference of her in laws to her plight

AUGUST 6, 2022

RICHMOND HILL, NY (TIP): An Indian American Sikh woman's death by suicide, and a viral video detailing her domestic abuse, sparked outrage across social media platforms on Saturday, August 6, with several Indian community groups in New York coming together to seek justice for Mandeep Kaur.

The video posted online by The Kaur Movement, an online portal working to raise awareness regarding violence against South Asian women, has brought

the issue of abuse of NRI women back into focus.

The MEA including Indian Missions and Posts abroad received 3,955 complaints between 2017 and 2019 related to matrimonial disputes from married women of Indian citizenship. The complaints received were 1498 in 2017; 1299 in 2018 and 1158 in 2019.

In the video, Kaur, who hailed from UP's Bijnor, is seen being assaulted by her husband, with her two daughters, aged 4 and 6 years, whimpering in the backdrop.

"I endured my husband's abuse for eight years hoping he would change one day but no," a tearful and despairing Kaur says in the video she recorded before her death by suicide on August 3.

Mandeep Kaur names her husband and in-laws in the video statement saying, "God will watch everyone's actions. I am saying nothing."

She also alleged that her husband once kidnapped and confined her to a truck for six days, assaulting her daily.

"After my father lodged a police complaint, he pleaded for forgiveness, and I forgave him. But he was back to his ways. They forced me to die," says Kaur, crying throughout the recording that has been widely shared.

The New York Police Department is learnt to be probing the case while Kaur's parents, based in Bijnor, have sought the Ministry of External Affairs' help to get their daughter's body back to India.

New York-based social activist Japneet Singh, on August 6, shared on Instagram videos of protests under the banner "Justice for Mandeep Kaur" the local

Punjabi community held in solidarity with the victim.

The appeals for justice reveal that the challenges of NRI women have hardly abated.

Mr. A. K. Vijaykrishnan, Consul, Community Affairs at the Indian Consulate in New York visited the gurdwaras in the neighborhood and spoke with community leaders. Mr. Vijaykrishnan offered condolences on behalf of the Consul General Randhir Jaiswal and offered government of India's assistance to the bereaved family.

Assemblywoman Jenifer Rajkumar in a statement said that she joins with Mandeep Kaur's family, friends, and the entire community in mourning the tragic suicide of the Richmond Hill resident at age 30. "The video testimonial Ms. Kaur recorded days before her suicide tells a horrifying tale of eight years of physical and psychological abuse by her husband. Anyone who commits such morally depraved crimes must face the full consequences of our criminal justice system. I have already spoken with 102nd Precinct Commanding Officer Captain Jeremy Kivlin and he assured me that the NYPD is investigating the alarming accusations of domestic violence against Ms. Kaur", Jenifer said.

Assemblywoman in her statement said: "As the first South Asian woman elected to New York State Office, I view my office as a sanctuary for women who need help, particularly immigrant women whose nearest family may live an ocean away. If you are experiencing

domestic violence, myself and the resources of the State of New York are here for you. You are not alone.

"As the only woman ever elected to this seat, let me also be abundantly clear: There will be zero tolerance for violence against women in my district.

"In response to this tragic event, I have established a task force led by my senior staffer Amrit Kaur to investigate and report on domestic violence within the South Asian American community, including the unique needs of South Asian women in abusive situations. The task force will also provide any assistance needed to coordinate the parallel investigations by the NYPD and the police in Uttar Pradesh, Mandeep Kaur's home before moving to America.

"Until women are free from gender-based violence, our society cannot realize its full potential. That is why I have dedicated my career to advancing the rights of women. I served on the legal advisory council of Sanctuary for Families, one of New York's premier service providers for domestic violence survivors. In the 2022-23 enacted budget, my colleagues in the legislature and I allocated \$34.4 million in financial assistance to domestic violence survivors. This only marks the beginning of my work.

"May Mandeep Kaur's family, including her two young children, be blessed with strength after this unfathomable loss. May we all come together as a community to end the scourge of violence against women once and for all."

Indian American Fox News journalist Uma Pemmaraju dies at 64



Uma Pemmaraju has been with Fox News since its launch on Oct. 7, 1996

AUGUST 11, 2022

NEW YORK (TIP): Fox News has lost one of its original anchors with the sudden death of Indian-American journalist Uma Pemmaraju on Tuesday, August 9. She was 64.

Pemmaraju was on the air when Fox News launched on Oct. 7, 1996. At the time, Pemmaraju was one of the only Indian-American anchors to reach national prominence, and she was beloved by viewers and Fox News colleagues alike, the channel reported.

"We are deeply saddened by the death of Uma Pemmaraju, who was one of Fox News Channel's founding anchors and was on the air the day we launched," Fox News Media CEO Suzanne Scott said.

"Uma was an incredibly talented journalist as well as a warm and lovely person, best known for her kindness to everyone she worked with. We extend our heartfelt condolences to

her entire family," she said.

A cause of death was not immediately made public.

Pemmaraju first anchored "Fox News Now" and "Fox On Trends." She left the network but rejoined in 2003 as an anchor and substitute host across the network.

She also hosted the Sunday edition of "Fox News Live," anchored "The Fox Report" and interviewed newsmakers, celebrities and political figures from all walks of life, including a memorable sit-down with the Dalai Lama.

Pemmaraju also hosted a variety of specials for Fox News, such as "A Special for Young People," which features top newsmakers offering advice on life challenges to young adults.

In 2012, Pemmaraju was surprised on Mother's Day when her daughter appeared live on-air during a Fox News segment.

The award-winning anchor was born in India, raised in Texas and honed her craft at

local stations in Dallas, Baltimore and WBZ-TV in Boston, before relocating to New York to help launch Fox News Channel. Her family told WBZ-TV's David Wade she was a "noble soul and pioneer."

Pemmaraju was named "Boston's Best Anchor" in 1996 and 1997 by Boston Magazine and received several Emmy awards throughout her career for reporting and investigative journalism.

She was named one of Spotlight Magazine's "20 Intriguing Women of 1998." Pemmaraju also won the Texas AP award for reporting in 2002, the Woman of Achievement award from the Big Sisters Organization of America and the Matrix Award from Women in Communications.

Aside from her decorated television career, Pemmaraju served as a reporter for the San Antonio Express News and taught journalism at Emerson College and Harvard University.

Pemmaraju received her degree in political science from Trinity University in Texas.

IDP USA 2022 Parade Fails to Attract Indian American Community: Waste of Public Money, People say



Grand Marshal Dr Varun Jeph, Deputy Consul General exhorted the Indian American community to display tricolor in their homes on the Independence Day of India Photo / IDP USA



Several patriotic dance performances entertained the crowds Photo / IDP USA



The three celebs, Grand Marshal Prachi Tehlan (extreme right), Guests of Honor Shibani Kashyap (left) and Prashantt Guptha were honored by IDP at the meet and greet on Aug 6. Photo / IDP USA

CONTD FROM PAGE 1

played politics and alienated people. The IDP USA Parade boiled down to an Insult India Parade.

There normally is a large group of elected representatives at the parade. Well, there were a couple of them but surely it was clearly a huge decline in numbers. Obviously, the organizers failed to get them to the parade. The Indian Panorama has learnt that a particular elected official from Suffolk County was not even given room in the front row on the stage where the IDP USA organizers were struggling to have a foothold. Is this the Indian way of welcoming our guests? Forget about the Indian way if some Indians have got Americanized, it surely is not the American way to throw protocol to the winds. I am reminded of, probably 2010 when the then Consul General Prabhu Dayal and Mr. Hardeep Singh Puri, then Permanent Representative of India to the United Nations and now a cabinet minister in Modi government, were ignored at the FIA India Day Parade and I had made an issue of it. They represented India, and to ignore them amounted to an insult to India, and that, too at the India Day Parade. The organizers clearly insulted our American friend in ignoring him. They need to apologize to the man, and to all others who were not given due respect and recognition. Their misdeed will visit on the future leadership of the IDP USA.

A gentleman who had paid \$300.00 for a booth told The Indian Panorama that he sat in the booth from 11 AM to 6 PM with any hardly any footfall. He estimated the gathering at about 200, most of whom were parents of children who were performing in the cultural program. Besides, there were IDP USA members and, very few people who have always been seen participating enthusiastically in the parade.

A lady who did not want to be identified and had paid \$300.00 for a booth told The Indian Panorama that she could not make even a penny, with no visitors around. She said she would never ever again lease a booth in the so-called India Day Parade. In a lighter vein, another said, it was not an "India Day Parade", it was a show by a few to project themselves as community leaders.

The Indian Panorama has learnt how the organizers

were dividing the well-knit Indian American community on Long Island was known even to the Consul General of India who was briefed on the situation by one of the founders of the India Day Parade. The Deputy Consul General, Mr. Varun Jeph is learnt to have expressed a shock that not many, and particularly not almost any, from a particular community who normally are present in sizeable numbers, were present.

Who is responsible for the insult to the India Day Parade which never witnessed such a poor response since 2012 when the IDP USA parade was started with the trio of Bobby Kumar Kalotee, Kamlesh Mehta and Harinder Singh as founders. Harinder Singh became ineligible to be a part of the IDPUSA after his conviction in a criminal case. It is reported that Kamlesh Mehta having felt slighted resigned from membership of the IDP USA. And, now Bobby Kumar Kalotee is the lone Founder controlling the reins of power.

Well, the India Day Parade which was hardly any parade is a thing of the past now. However, the bitter memories it has left will trouble the Indian American community here for a long time. The wound inflicted by the organizers who played politics and divided the community will fester for a long time. They will surely not be welcome to lead in future because they have proved beyond an iota of doubt that they are absolutely incapable of leading. Once bitten, twice shy.

Let me get back to the IDP USA press release which I am publishing as received.

"11th India Day Parade celebrated India @ 75 in Hicksville

Hicksville, NY: The landmark 75th anniversary of India's Independence (Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav) was celebrated here at the 11th India Day Parade of Long Island with enthusiastic participation by the community.

Large crowds had assembled at the Hicksville Community Center, the starting point of the parade organized by IDP USA under President Vimal Goyal with Mukesh Modi as Vice Chairperson. Dignitaries and celebrities joined the parade that featured several floats and marching groups. Patriotic songs along with slogans of 'Bharat Mata ki jai' and 'Jai Hind' rang in the air, adding to the patriotic fervor of the tricolor-waving

people despite it being a hot afternoon. At the culmination point near the Hicksville post office, the entertainment stage and 40 booths welcomed India lovers.

India's Deputy Consul General in New York, Dr Varun Jeph, as Grand Marshal, exhorted people to display tricolor in their homes. Film and sports star Prachi Tehlan, the Celebrity Grand Marshal, said she was impressed by the love of India by people here which surpassed that at home.

Well known playback singer Shibani Kashyap, Hollywood / Bollywood actor Prashantt Guptha, who grew up in New York, as well as Naveen Shah of Navika Capital Group were Guests of Honor.

Elected officials who spoke included Supervisor of Town of North Hempstead Jennifer DeSena, New York State Senators Kevin Thomas and Anna Kaplan, and Nassau County legislator Rose Walker. Proclamations and citations from Nassau County and Town of Oyster Bay were presented by their representatives.

IDP Founder Bobby Kalotee and Chairperson Indu Jaiswal welcomed and thanked the dignitaries and celebs for their presence.

IDP Vice Chair Mukesh Modi emceed the proceedings. President Goyal explaining the IDP themes of the year-'Each One Plant One' and 'Unity in Diversity'- said that it was for the first time that banners of all 28 Indian states were displayed at the parade.

Shibani Kashyap belted out patriotic songs and her own hit numbers making people dance to her tunes. Many dance groups, most of them coached by Shilpa Mithaiwala, also performed.

Announcement of winners of raffle prizes, including a return ticket to India, concluded the program.

A day before the parade the 3 celebs Prachi, Prashantt and Shibani were welcomed at a meet and greet.

Main sponsors of the parade included JP Morgan Chase & Co, Omega Storage, Navika Capital Group, Flushing Bank, Vass Pipe & Steel Co, Patel Brothers, Indie Films World, Hum Hindustani and Beena Kothari.

President Goyal & Vice Chair Mukesh Modi especially thanked team members Venus Bhasin (Bobby), Mayur Parekh, Pradeep Tandon, Nimesh Shah, Mitesh Parikh, Neeru Bhambri, Kishore Malik, Sagar Shah, Ashwini Sharma, Shilpa Mithaiwala, Sandhya Bhatia, Purvi Shah, Roopam Maini and Vijay Goswamy. They also thanked all sponsors, vendors, marching group, media, volunteers and the entire IDP Team.

Mukesh Modi expressed special thanks to Town of Oyster Bay's Supervisor Joseph Saladino, James McCaffrey, Brian Nevin and Harry Malhotra, as well as Traffic & Safety - County Police Department Precinct 2, County Police Commissioner Patrick J. Ryder, Hicksville Fire Department, NYS Department of Transportation, Region 10 (Long Island), State Department of Transportation Highway Work Permit for their unconditional support, permits and security.



Grand Marshal Prachi Tehlan is honored. Seen from L to R: Mukesh Modi, Prashantt Guptha, Shibani Kashyap, Vimal Goyal, Prachi Tehlan, Indu Jaiswal, Chairperson, Bobby Kumar Kalotee, Founder IDP USA, Deepak Bansal, former President, Jay Jasbir Singh, former President. Photo / IDP USA

GOPIO-CT Celebrates India's 75th Independence Day with Flag Hoisting, Kite Flying, Cultural Events



Center in Stamford by Mayor Caroline Simmons, State Senator Patricia Billie Miller, 27th District, event Gold sponsor, an investment firm 3Lines Partner, Nandu Kuppaswamy, and Dr. Thomas Abraham, Chairman of GOPIO International.

During the inaugural ceremony, Stamford Mayor Caroline Simmons proclaimed August 15th as India Day to commemorate Indian Independence when Prime Minister Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru raised the Indian flag at the Red Fort in New Delhi on August 15, 1947. In the proclamation presented to GOPIO, Mayor Caroline Simmons said that the Indian Independence was marked largely by non-violent resistance and civil disobedience and the Independence Day is celebrated by the Indian Diaspora worldwide. The proclamation further noted that Stamford City will honor Indian community which is an integral part of city's diversity, success and great future.

Prominent among those who addressed and greeted the Indian American community included: State Senator Patricia Billie Miller, 27th District; Representative Daniel J. Fox, 148th District; Representative Matt Blumenthal, 147th District; Representative David Michel, 146th Dist; Representative Corey P. Paris, 145th District; and, Representative Hubert D. Delany, 144th District.

A citation by the Connecticut General Assembly honoring India's 75th Anniversary of Independence was presented to GOPIO-CT officials. "In Recognition Of: India is celebrating its 75th Anniversary of Independence, also known as Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav. Today, we join you to celebrate the rich history and culture along with freedom and liberty with people of India. We urge all our citizens to join us in publicly acknowledging the many achievements and contributions Indian Americans have made to the economy of Connecticut especially in IT and Technology, Healthcare and Hospitality. Congratulations on your Independence Day!"

"The India Festival is a tribute to a strong and vibrant Indian-American community that has excelled in almost all areas of life in this adopted nation of ours," assemblyman Harry Arora, who shared with the audience his childhood in India and later on, how he continued to cherish the memories of India's non-



violent freedom movement and close partnership between Indian and the United States, the largest democracies of the world.

The program began with the singing of a patriotic songs by children. The cultural programs depicted the diversity of Indian culture and traditions. Among those who portrayed the diverse and cultural traditions of Indian traditions included Lakshmi Sujanan, daughter of Vineetha and Sujanan, former president of MASCONN.

In his welcome address, GOPIO-CT Trustee/Advisor and Chairman of GOPIO International Dr. Thomas Abraham, a veteran community leader instrumental in numerous community and professional organizations said, "The India Festival in Stamford, CT is a tribute to a strong and vibrant Indian-American community that has excelled in almost all areas of life in this adopted nation of ours," Dr. Thomas Abraham, Founder President and chairman of GOPIO International, who is also a Trustee of GOPIO-CT, said. "We are cultivating and developing community networking with all these younger elected officials," he added.

In her address, Executive Vice President Dr. Jaya Daptardar described the many flagship events the organization organizes every year. "Our mission at GOPIO-CT is to be active participants in the local community through involvement in community events and local politics, and by providing services to the Indian community at large here in Connecticut.

(Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)

AJAY GHOSH
AUGUST 8

STAMFORD, CT (TIP): The Mill River Park in Stamford, CT on Saturday, August 6th wore a festive look as Indian Americans gathered in large numbers to celebrate India's 75th Independence Day with an annual India Day Festival. Dressed in colorful traditional Indian attire, with melodious music from the popular Bollywood world, dances depicting the wide variety of Indian culture, kite flying, spicy Indian cuisine, and booths decorated with Indian symbols and face art, the festivities were

a treat to the fast-growing Indian American community in the state of Connecticut.

The City of Stamford led by Mayor Caroline Simmons, along the Mayor of Norwalk, Harry Rilling, and several elected state lawmakers joined hands with the Indian Diaspora in Connecticut for a celebration organized by the Connecticut Chapter of Global Organization of People of Indian Origin (GOPIO-CT).

The day-long celebrations began with the hoisting of the American, Indian, and Connecticut flags at the Government

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India's march to freedom

India is celebrating its 75th Independence Day on August 15 this year with the theme 'Nation First, Always First'. The Indian government is celebrating the 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav' program in view of 75 years of Independence and is dedicated to the people of India. India was under British rule from 1858 to 1947. The British East India Company controlled India from 1757 to 1857. On August 15, 1947, India earned freedom from 200 years of British colonial control. The freedom fighters' huge courage and sacrifice ousted the British to free the nation on August 15, 1947.

India has been unified under many empires in its history like the Mauryan Empire and Mughal empire. A sense of oneness has been there for ages – even though most of the centralised administration in India didn't last long.

With the end of Mughal rule, India broke into hundreds of princely states. The British – which was instrumental in the fall of the Mughal Empire – held control over the princely states and created the British Indian Empire.

However, most Indians were extremely dissatisfied with the exploitative foreign rule.

The educated Indians realised that the British always gave priority to their colonial interests and treated India only as a market. They advocated for the political independence of India.

Revolt of 1857

The Indian Rebellion of 1857 was a major uprising in India in 1857-58 against the rule of the British East India Company, which functioned as a sovereign power on behalf of the British Crown. The rebellion began on 10 May 1857 in the form of a mutiny of sepoys of the Company's army in the garrison town of Meerut, 40 miles (64 km) northeast of Delhi. It then erupted into other mutinies and civilian rebellions chiefly in the upper Gangetic plain and central India, though incidents of revolt also occurred farther north and east. The rebellion posed a considerable threat to British power in that region, and was contained only with the rebels' defeat in Gwalior on 20 June 1858. On 1 November 1858, the British granted amnesty to all rebels not involved in murder, though they did not declare the hostilities to have formally ended until 8 July 1859. Its name is contested, and it is variously described as the Sepoy Mutiny, the Indian Mutiny, the Great Rebellion, the Revolt of 1857, the Indian Insurrection, and the First War of Independence.

Foundation of Indian National Congress (INC) in 1885

The late nineteenth century witnessed the emergence of many political organisations in British India.

Indian National Congress (also known as Congress Party) founded in 1885 was the most prominent one.

Initially, its aim was to create a platform for civic and political dialogue between Indians and the British Raj and thus obtain a greater share in government for educated Indians.

Later, under the leaders like Mahatma Gandhi, Jawarhal Nehru, Subhas Chandra Bose, and Sardar Vallabhai Patel, the Congress party played a central role in organising the mass movements against the British.

Partition of Bengal (1905)

Indian nationalism was gaining in



A scene from the 1857 Indian Rebellion (Bengal Army).

strength and Bengal was the nerve centre of Indian nationalism in the early 1900s. Lord Curzon, the Viceroy (1899-1905), attempted to 'dethrone Calcutta' from its position as the centre from which the Congress Party manipulated throughout Bengal, and indeed, the whole of India. The decision to partition Bengal into two was in the air from December 1903.

Congress party – from 1903 to mid-1905 – tried moderate techniques of petitions, memoranda, speeches, public meetings and press campaigns. The objective was to turn to public opinion in India and England against the partition.

However, Viceroy Curzon 1905 formally announced the British Government's decision for the partition of Bengal on 19 July 1905. The partition took effect on 16 October 1905.

The partition was meant to foster another kind of division – on the basis of religion. The aim was to place Muslim communalists as a counter to the Congress. Curzon promised to make Dacca the new capital.

This resulted in a lot of discontentment among the Indians. Many considered this as a policy of 'Divide and Rule' by the British.

This triggered a self-sufficiency movement popularly known as the Swadeshi movement.

The Swadeshi Movement (1905-1908)

From conservative moderation to



The Swadeshi Movement.

political extremism, from terrorism to incipient socialism, from petitioning and public speeches to passive resistance and boycott, all had their origins in the movement.

Swadeshi is a conjunction of two Sanskrit words: swa ("self") and desh ("country").

The movement popularised the use

and consumption of indigenous products. Indians started ditching British goods for Indian products.

Women, students, and a large section of the urban and rural population of Bengal and other parts of India became actively involved in politics for the first time with Swadeshi Movement.

The message of Swadeshi and the

boycott of foreign goods soon spread to the rest of the country.

The militant nationalists led by Bal Gangadhar Tilak, Bipin Chandra Pal, Lajpat Rai and Aurobindo Ghosh were in favour of extending the movement to the rest of India and carrying it beyond the programme of just Swadeshi and boycott to a full-fledged political mass struggle. For them, the aim was Swaraj.

In 1906, the Indian National Congress at its Calcutta Session presided over by Dadabhai Naoroji, declared that the goal of the Indian National Congress was 'self-government or Swaraj like that of the United Kingdom or the Colonies.

There were differences in the ideologies with the congressmen who were popularly known by the names Moderates and the Extremists. They had differences of opinion regarding the pace of the movement and the techniques of struggle to be adopted. This came to a head in the 1907 Surat session of the Congress where the party split (the two factions re-joined later).

The Ghadar Movement (1914)

The outbreak of the First World War in 1914 gave an impetus to the nationalist feelings in Indians. The Home Rule League by Lokmanya Tilak and Annie Besant were formed during First World War. At the same time, a revolutionary movement gained popularity - The Ghadar Movement. (Note: The word Ghadar means 'revolt')

The Ghadar Movement was an international political movement founded by expatriate Indians to overthrow British rule in India.

The early membership was composed mostly of Punjabi Indians who lived and worked on the West Coast of the United States and Canada. The movement later spread to India and Indian diasporic communities around the world.

The main leader initially was Bhagwan Singh, a Sikh priest who had worked in Hong Kong and the Malay States.

Later Har Dayal took leadership and played a crucial role in the Ghadar movement. He issued a Yugantar Circular praising the attack on the Viceroy. He urged Indians in the USA not to fight against the US but use the freedom in the US to fight the British.

The Ghadar militants toured extensively, visiting mills and farms where most of the Punjabi immigrant labour worked. The Yugantar Ashram became the home and headquarters and refuge of these political workers.

Komagatamaru Incident

The Komagata Maru incident involved the Japanese steamship Komagata Maru, on which a group of people from British India attempted to immigrate to Canada in April 1914. Most of the ship passengers were denied entry and forced to return to Calcutta (present-day Kolkata). There, the Indian Imperial Police attempted to arrest the group leaders. A riot ensued, and they were fired upon by the police, resulting in the deaths of 22 people.

British Government passed orders that no passenger be allowed to disembark anywhere on the way — not even at the places from where they had joined the ship — but only at Calcutta.

It triggered off a wave of resentment and anger among the Indian community and became the occasion for anti-British mobilization.

A number of Ghadar leaders, like



Komagatamaru Incident.



The Ghadar Movement.



Jallianwala Bagh massacre.

Barkatullah and Tarak Nath Das, used the inflammatory passions surrounding the Komagata Maru incident as a rallying point and successfully brought many disaffected Indians in North America into the party's fold.

The Home Rule Movement (1916-1918)

The Home Rule Movement under the leadership of Annie Besant and Bal Gangadhar Tilak was an important political movement that set the stage for India's struggle for independence.

Annie Besant, who was a proponent of Free Thought, Radicalism, Fabianism and Theosophy, had come to India in 1893

to work for the Theosophical Society.

In 1914, she decided to enlarge the sphere of her activities. She started a movement for Home Rule on the lines of the Irish Home Rule League.

She realized that she needs the cooperation of both Moderates and Extremists. In the annual session of the Congress 1915, it was decided that the Extremists be allowed to rejoin the Congress along with the Moderates.

Tilak set up the Home Rule League in the Bombay Province. The two leagues worked in different areas.

Tilak promoted the Home Rule campaign which linked the question of Swaraj with the demand for the formation of linguistic states and education in the vernacular medium.

Members of Gokhale's Servants of India Society, though not permitted to become members of the League, encouraged the demand for Home Rule by undertaking lecture tours and publishing pamphlets.

During the Lucknow session of the Congress in December 1916, the famous Congress-League Pact was declared. Both Tilak and Annie Besant had played a role in bringing about this agreement between the Congress and the League, much against the wishes of many important leaders, including Madan Mohan Malaviya. This pact is popularly known as the Lucknow Pact where separate electorates for Muslims was accepted.

The turning point in the home rule movement came with the decision of the Government of Madras in 1917 to place Mrs Besant and her associates, B.P. Wadia and George Arundale, under arrest.

Montague Declaration was introduced by the British government as a sign of a conciliatory effort. Henceforth, Home Rule or self-government movement was not treated as a seditious activity. However, this did not mean that the British were ready to grant self-government.

In 1920 All India Home Rule League changed its name to Swarajya Sabha.

Champaran movement in Bihar (1917)

Mahatma Gandhi, after his struggle against apartheid in South Africa (racial discrimination against the blacks) for almost twenty years, returned to India in 1915. On Gokhale's advice, he spent a year travelling around British India to understand the problems of Indians.

He initially maintained a distance from political affairs, including the Home Rule Movement that was gathering momentum at this time.

Mahatma Gandhi began his experiments with Satyagraha against the oppressive European indigo planters at Champaran in Bihar in 1917.

Champaran issue had actually begun in the early 19th century when European planters made agreements with Indian farmers that forced them to cultivate indigo on 3/20th of their holdings (known as the Tinkathia system).

Jallianwala Bagh massacre (1919)

The passage of the Rowlatt Act in 1919 resulted in large scale political unrest throughout India. A large peaceful crowd had gathered at the Jallianwala Bagh in Amritsar, Punjab to protest against the arrest of pro-Indian independence leaders Dr. Saifuddin Kitchlew and Dr. Satya Pal.

In response to the public gathering, the British Brigadier-General R. E. H.



Prime Minister Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru hoists the National Flag at Red Fort in Delhi on Independence Day.

Dyer surrounded the Bagh with his soldiers.

General Dyer ordered his troops to open fire on the nationalist meeting killing hundreds. The brutality at Jallianwala Bagh stunned the entire nation.

This event caused many moderate Indians to abandon their previous loyalty to the British and become nationalists distrustful of British rule.

Non-cooperation Movement (1920)

Gandhiji called for a campaign of “non-cooperation” with British rule. Indians who wished colonialism to end were asked to stop attending schools, colleges, and law courts. They were asked to not pay taxes. In sum, they were asked to adhere to a “renunciation of all voluntary association with the British Government”.

Gandhiji said that if non-cooperation was effectively carried out India would win swaraj within a year.

When the Congress met for its annual session at Nagpur, C.R. Das moved the main resolution on non-cooperation. Many groups of revolutionary terrorists, especially in Bengal, also pledged support to the movement.

The goal of the Congress, by this time, changed from the attainment of self-government by constitutional means to the attainment of Swaraj by peaceful means.

Khilafat Movement (1919-24)

The Khilafat movement was a political protest campaign launched by Muslims of British India to restore the caliph of the Ottoman Caliphate, who was considered the leader of the Muslims.

To further broaden the Indian freedom struggle, Gandhiji joined hands with the Khilafat Movement.

Chauri Chaura incident (1922)

On 4 February 1922, at Chauri Chaura (a place in modern Uttar Pradesh), the British police opened fire at a large group of people who were participating in the Non-cooperation movement.

In retaliation, the demonstrators attacked and set fire to a police station, killing all of its occupants. The incident led to the death of three civilians and 22 policemen.

Mahatma Gandhi, who was strictly against violence, halted the non-cooperation movement on the national

level on 12 February 1922, as a direct result of the Chauri Chaura incident.

In spite of Gandhi’s decision, 19 arrested demonstrators were sentenced to death and 14 to imprisonment for life by the British colonial authorities.

The boycott of Simon Commission (1927)

On 8 November 1927, an all-white, Simon Commission was appointed to recommend whether India was ready for further constitutional reforms.

Indian National Congress boycott Simon Commission because no Indian was present in the commission. There were protests in many places.

In Lahore, Lala Lajpat Rai, the hero of the extremist days and the most revered leader of Punjab was hit. He succumbed to the injuries in November 1928.

Bhagat Singh and his comrades sought to avenge the death of Lala Lajpat Rai. They killed the white police official, Saunders, in December 1928.

Jawaharlal Nehru and Subhas Bose emerged as the leaders during the Simon Commission boycott movement.

Purna Swaraj Campaign (1929)

In Lahore session 1929, Jawaharlal Nehru was made the President of INC. He declared ‘Purna Swaraj’ or Complete Independence as the only honourable goal Indians could strive for.

On the banks of the river Ravi, at midnight on 31 December 1929, the tricolour flag of Indian independence was hosted.

The first task that the Congress set itself in the new year was that of organizing all over the country was public meetings at which the Independence Pledge would be read out and collectively affirmed on 26 January.

Civil Disobedience Movement and Dandi March (1930)

The Lahore Session of Congress (1929) authorized the Working Committee to launch a programme of civil disobedience including non-payment of taxes.

Gandhi’s ultimatum to Lord Irwin, stating the minimum demands in the form of 11 points, had been ignored, and there was now only one way out: civil disobedience. Gandhi selected salt as his main tool of disobedience.

In every Indian household, salt was indispensable; yet people were forbidden from making salt even for domestic use,

compelling them to buy it from shops at a high price. The state monopoly over salt was deeply unpopular. By making salt his target, Gandhiji hoped to mobilise a wider discontent against British rule.

Gandhi, along with a band of seventy-eight members of the Sabarmati Ashram started to march from Ahmedabad to the coast at Dandi. There he broke the salt laws by collecting salt from the beach.

On 6 April 1930, by picking up a handful of salt, Gandhi inaugurated the Civil Disobedience Movement – a movement that was to remain unsurpassed in the history of the Indian national movement for the country-wide mass participation it unleashed.

Quit India Movement (1942)

The Quit India Movement was launched at the Bombay session of the All India Congress Committee by Mahatma Gandhi on 8 August 1942, during World War II, demanding an end to British rule in India.

In this struggle, the common people of the country demonstrated unparalleled heroism and militancy.

Simla Conference (1945)

The Simla Conference of 1945 was a meeting between the Viceroy of India (Lord Wavell) and the major political leaders of British India at the Viceregal Lodge in Simla.

Wavell proposed a separate representation of Muslims within a united India. Talks, however, stalled on the issue of the selection of Muslim representatives. The All-India Muslim League claimed to be the sole representative of Indian Muslims. The Indian National Congress opposed this claim as the Congress had more Muslims in its support than the Muslim League.

This scuttled the conference, and perhaps the last viable opportunity for a united, independent India.

On 14 June 1945 Lord Wavell announced a plan for a new Executive Council in which all members except the Viceroy and the Commander in Chief would be Indians. This executive council was to be a temporary measure until a new permanent constitution could be

agreed upon and come into force.

Mountbatten Plan (1947)

The legislature representatives of the Indian National Congress, the Muslim League, and the Sikh community came to an agreement with Lord Mountbatten on what has come to be known as the 3 June Plan or Mountbatten Plan. This plan was the last plan for independence.

The plan announced by the Viceroy Mountbatten on 3 June 1947 included these principles:

The principle of the partition of British India was accepted by the British Government.

- Successor governments would be given dominion status.
- Autonomy and sovereignty to both countries.
- The successor governments could make their own constitution
- The Princely States were given the right to join either Pakistan or India, based on two major factors: Geographical contiguity and the people’s wishes.

The Mountbatten plan led to the enactment of the India Independence Act of 1947.

India Independence Act (1947)

The Indian Independence Act 1947 passed by the Parliament of the United Kingdom divided British India into two new independent dominions; the Dominion of India (later to become the Republic of India) and the Dominion of Pakistan (later to become the Islamic Republic of Pakistan).

This Act received Royal Assent on 18 July 1947.

India and Pakistan became independent on August 15th, 1947.

India continues to celebrate August 15th as her Independence day, while Pakistan chose to celebrate August 14th as her Independence day as per their cabinet decisions.

Source: Clearias.com

Can Indians Explain What They are Celebrating on the 75th Anniversary of India's Independence?

DAVE MAKKAR



THE AUTHOR IS WORRIED ABOUT THE VAST MASSES OF INDIA FACING UNEMPLOYMENT, POVERTY, STARVATION, AND COMMUNAL DIVISIONS THAT THREATEN TO DESTROY THE NATION BUILT WITH SACRIFICES OF THOUSANDS OVER CENTURIES.- EDITOR



The Indian National Flag. Modi has called for a Tricolor atop every home (Ghar mein Tiranga)

What the Indians are celebrating this 15th August, and why they are celebrating; only they can explain. India is celebrating 75 years of its Independence on Aug 15, 2022. Modi government kick started the 75-weeks of festivities by coloring them with RSS/VHP/BJP brand of Hindutva on March 12, 2021 on the 91st anniversary of the historic Dandi Satyagraha/March of March 12, 1930, an act of nonviolent civil disobedience against British colonial government led by Mahatma Gandhi. The irony is that Modi's BJP rather its parent organizations RSS, VHP & Hindu Mahasabha etc. were working for the British and never participated in the freedom struggle of India. Here Modi is pretending to honor Mahatma Gandhi, and the same Modi publicly honors his idol Savarkar who conspired with his follower Nathuram Godse who killed Mahatma Gandhi!

Celebrating 75 years of Gangster Capitalism that Criminalized the Politics of India?

The most disturbing is Modi's BJP MP's and his own Cabinet of Ministers have the most criminals in the current Parliament. Out of 303 BJP MP's, 116 have criminal record including a bomb maker & a terrorism accused and 22 are in Cabinet and out of that 16 ministers have serious criminal cases registered against them. Most pathetic is Home Minister Amit Shah was accused of having orchestrated the extrajudicial killings under CM Modi of Gujarat. Serious criminal cases include terrorism, treason, arson, murder, rape, robbery, burglary, communal disharmony/hate speeches, electoral violations, and kidnapping, among others. Unfortunately, of the 539 winning candidates analyzed by the ADR, as many as 233 MPs or 43% have criminal charges. Nearly 29% of the cases are related to rape, murder, attempt to murder or crime against women. "There is an increase of 109% [in 2019] in the number of MPs with declared serious criminal cases since 2009," it

ASK NOT WHAT YOUR COUNTRY CAN DO FOR YOU



ASK WHAT YOU CAN DO FOR THE RICH PEOPLE AND CORPORATIONS WHO OWN IT AND CONTROL YOUR REPRESENTATIVES

Gangster capitalists call the shots in India

said. If that is the plight of the India's Parliament and government run by criminals; one can for sure say the states must be doing worse than this!

The criminalization of politics is directly related to "Gangster Capitalism" that is being practiced in India since its independence in 1947. In India, politicians are selected & financed by the "New India Company" (NIC) jointly owned by Gangster Capitalists of India; the voters play a part in the charade of voting for them! New India Company has looted more in 75 years than Jewish & Christian East India Company in 200 years of their occupation of India. Obama targeted Indian Billionaires, saying that they have left behind kings & Mughals while Millions are starving & homeless.

Celebrating Rising Hunger and Poverty in India?



Hunger. In the 2021 Global Hunger Index, India ranks 101st out of the 116 countries

In the 2021 Global Hunger Index, India ranks 101st out of the 116 countries with sufficient data to calculate 2021 GHI scores. With a score of 27.5, India has a level of hunger that is serious.

India also added significantly to global poverty in 2020 and 2021, according to research. "More than 46 million Indians...are estimated to have fallen into extreme poverty in 2020 (over 50% of the global new poor according to the UN)," according to the Inequality Kills report released by Oxfam India in January. The

report noted that this was a direct consequence of an "economic system rigged in favor of the super-rich." In 2020 alone, India contributed 60% to the global rise in poverty, according to a January 2021 report from Pew Research.

Celebrating India's rank as one of the most Unequal Country?

The world inequality report ranks India as one of the most unequal countries in the world, with rising poverty and yet an affluent elite. Richest 98 Indians own same wealth as the bottom 552 million (55.2 crore) people. The wealth inequality is so horrendous that the top 10% of the Indian population holds 77% of the total national wealth. The richest 10% of Indians account for 57.1% of all income, compared with only 13.2% for the poorest half.

Celebrating 50 years High Unemployment?

Unemployment rate rose to 45-year high of 6.1% in FY18 as per Modi's own statistics ministry. It further increased to 7.80 percent in April from 7.60 percent in March of 2022 making it 50 years high. India a country of 1.41 billion people, its total employment fell by a massive 13 million to 390 million in June 2022 compared to 403 million in May, the lowest level since July last year. The urban unemployment rate rose to 9.22% in April from 8.28% the previous month, while the rural unemployment rate rose to 7.80% from 7.29%. The highest unemployment rate of 34.5% was recorded in the BJP aka Modi ruled state of Haryana. India's unemployment rate exceeded most emerging economies like Bangladesh (5.3%), Mexico (4.7%) and Vietnam (2.3%),

Pre Covid-19, desperate 2.3 million Indians applied for 368 low-level government jobs in BJP aka Modi ruled state of Uttar Pradesh, paying 16,000 rupees (\$202) a month that involve making tea and passing files between government offices. Requirements for the 368 jobs include having finished primary school and being able to ride a bicycle. The applicants included at least 255 people with doctorates and 150,000 graduates.

But unemployment in India mainly refers to educated young people looking for jobs in the formal economy - although the informal economy employs 90% of the workforce and generates half the economic output. So, unemployment numbers don't reveal much about the total supply of workers in the economy as a whole. Three-quarters of India's workforce is self-employed and casual, with no social security benefits. Only a little over 2% of the workforce have secure formal jobs with access to social security - a retirement savings scheme, health care, maternity benefits - and written contracts of more than three years. A paltry 9% have formal jobs with access to at least one social security source. Earnings are pathetically low, 45% of all salaried workers earn less than 9,750 rupees (\$123) a month. That's less than 375 rupees (\$4.73) a day, the minimum wage proposed by Modi regime in 2019 but later dropped.

According to Dr Radhika Kapoor, a labor economist, "The majority of India's workforce is vulnerable and

CONTD FROM PAGE 24

leads a precarious existence." "Unemployment is a luxury which the educated, relatively well-off can afford. Not the poor, unskilled or semi-skilled people."

Celebrating Low Governance Indicators awarded by World Bank?

The World Bank's World Governance Indicators (WGI) provide a ranking of 215 countries territories based on six dimensions of governance: 'Voice and Accountability'; 'Political Stability and Absence of Violence'; 'Government Effectiveness'; 'Regulatory Quality'; 'Rule of Law' and 'Control of Corruption.'

The presentation noted India's WGI score is much below the BBB Median on all six indicators. While BBB is an investment-grade rating issued by global rating agencies such as S&P and Fitch, a WGI score below BBB Median would suggest that India falls below the middle when the scores of countries are arranged in a descending order. A sovereign credit rating is an independent assessment of the creditworthiness of a country or sovereign entity. It can give investors insights into the level of risk associated with investing in the debt of a particular country, including any political risk.

Celebrating Global Ranking of 46 as "Flawed Democracy" in 2021?

India is ranked 46 on the Global Democracy Index with an overall score of 6.91, lowest since the index was first published in 2006. The score has been continuously declining since 2014, when it was 7.92. It has the lowest score of 5 on political culture and the highest score of 8.67 on electoral process and pluralism. It scores 6.18 on civil liberties, 7.22 on political participation, 7.50 on functioning of government.

The analysis of the Economic Intelligence Unit (EIU) showed India's rank in the EIU's Democracy Index that fell from 27 in 2014 to 46 in 2021 and classified it as 'flawed democracy'. Now India rank along with other flawed democracies like Mongolia, Peru, Romania, Poland, Brazil etc.

Celebrating 66th Rank out of 100 countries in "Freedom in the World 2022 Index"?

India ranked 66 out of 100 countries: Political rights 33/40 and Civil Liberties 33/60. India's status declined from Free to Partly Free. While India is a multiparty democracy, the government led by PM Modi and his Hindu nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has presided over discriminatory policies and a rise in persecution affecting the Muslim population. The constitution guarantees civil liberties including freedom of expression and freedom of religion, but harassment of journalists, nongovernmental organizations (NGOs), and other government critics has increased significantly under Modi. Muslims, scheduled castes (Dalits), and scheduled tribes (Adivasis) remain economically and socially marginalized.

The numerical scores and status listed above do not reflect conditions in Indian Kashmir, which is examined in a separate report. Freedom in the World reports assess the level of political rights and civil liberties in a given geographical area, regardless of whether they are affected by the state, nonstate actors, or foreign powers.

Celebrating 150th Rank out of 180 countries in "World Press Freedom Index 2022"?

As per World Press Freedom Index 2022, India's ranking dropped to



journalists protest against authorities' growing restrictions on media, outside the Press Club of India, New Delhi, India, February 18, 2021.

150th position from last year's 142nd rank among 180 nations. Now India ranked along with countries like Sudan (151), Belarus (153rd), Russia (155th), Afghanistan (156) and Pakistan (157) that are on the Index's red list (indicating "very bad" press freedom situations) on the map.

Celebrating 85th Rank out of 180 countries in Corruption Index by Transparency International ?

"India scores 40 out of 100 in the Corruption Index to win the coveted 85th Rank". The case of India is particularly worrying under Modi rule since 2014, some of the mechanisms that could help reign in corruption have been weakening. There are concerns over the country's democratic status, as fundamental freedoms and institutional checks and balances decay, the report said. In Corruption Index, India now ranks with Columbia, Ethiopia, Guyana, Kosovo etc. "India also scores very low in the transparency index, with a score of 5.5 out of 20.

Celebrating 136th Rank out of 146 countries in "World Happiness Report 2022"?

India was ranked 136 out of 146 countries in the United Nations' World Happiness Report, 2022. The Narendra Modi government has not disputed the survey, which marginally increases India's position by three ranks from 2021. Before Modi in 2013, India ranked 117 in World Happiness Index and now it trails even with its neighbors; China (83), Nepal (85) Bangladesh (99) and Pakistan (103).

Celebrating Rising Islamophobia in India?

"The Gangster Capitalists of India" are financing Islamophobia and Modi that is representing each and every Hindu organization that wants to make India a "Hindu Rashtra". The current top 3 Poster Boys of Gangster Capitalism of India are Gautam Adani, Mukesh Ambani, and Rattan Tata. Their net worth under Modi's 8 years rule has gone up by 175% to 350% and now they own all the major industries, including defense and service sector of India.

"Hindu Rashtra" a communal agenda, the Elites that are financing and promoting it; call it a "Majoritarian Rule" where Upper caste Hindus are more equal even than the lower caste Hindus. No one can ignore how the minorities especially Muslims & Christians along with Dalits and Schedule Tribes are being treated under Modi Rule since 2014. Unfortunately, history tells us that such countries rarely progress much. Retd. Admiral Arun Prakash in an interview has observed that under the current rulers, "India is prone to a Civil War in the very near future".

Celebrating a big majority of Indians becoming communal?



Communalism to the fore

Right now, the problem in India is that people have become communal & have started believing in False Nationalism and fake glorification of Hindu Kings. Since the rise of Modi in 2014, "Freedom of Expression" has been severely curtailed, while traditional media and especially journalists critical of the government have been openly persecuted. Modi regime has contempt for democratic procedure. This is a government with no humanity, no civility, no decency, no transparency. It is committed only to the pursuit of total power. It seeks absolute political, ideological, and personal supremacy. The noble sentiments expressed in the Preamble to the Indian Constitution are being violated everyday by those who took their oaths of office on that document. That is why, when challenged by young minds like 22 yrs. old Disha Ravi a climate activist or 23 yrs. old Nodeep Kaur, a Dalit activist, and lot of other young activist; to honor and uphold those Constitutional values, the response of the state is to put these young minds in jail.

Modi regime fears independent thinking in general. Indians must be obedient, conformist, loyal to the state and the ruling regime, and worshipful towards the Great and Visionary Leader. Ideally, the Indian state would like no critical, objective, detailed, scrutiny of its policies and actions to be permitted at all. Since May 2014, democratic freedoms have been greatly attenuated in India. Religion, as interpreted by the state now plays a significant role in politics and governance. The example of its harmful role can be seen in the deterioration of the rights of Muslims, Christians, Dalit Hindus, Schedule Tribes and other religious minorities being targeted by the state.

"Modi's eminence is due to the surrounding flatness of India".

Unfortunately, here the flatness means; Modi's high reputation is only because the terribly low morals, ethics, honesty and talents left in India these days. Modi led government in the Center & BJP Ruled states are nothing but "Kangaroo Courts" that is "perpetuating political theater, vilifying and destroying political opponents, all the democratic institutions, courts, educational institutions, media and citizen's rights to freedom of expression and demanding any accountability from the governments". Since 2014, India under Modi has become a sad story. Over 60% Indians are gladly willing to pay Islamophobic Tax, participating in False Nationalism, Fake Glorification of Hindu Kings & communal agenda of Hindu Rashtra, even if it begets them unemployment, poverty, starvation and even death! No one can save a nation in death wish mode.

(Compiled by Devendra Makkar from various internet sources & writings of prominent journalists. The author is a US based social activist. He can be reached at davemakkar@yahoo.com)

India - A Vibrant Democracy and A Pluralistic Society

BY AMBASSADOR
A. R. GHANSHYAM



"India is bound together as a great nation by the strength and stability of its democracy, the rule of law and a breath-taking diversity of its populace in terms of religion, language, culture, climate, history, geography and more."

INTRODUCTION

For much of the two thousand years of the Common Era, India was the largest economy contributing a third of the global output. Archaeological evidence traces the origins of ancient India's Indus Valley Civilization to the 5th millennium before the Common Era. During medieval times too India witnessed several glorious empires and great civilizations spread across millions of miles under enlightened emperors.

Towards the last quarter of the last millennium, India came under the influence of East India Company for almost a century during 18th and 19th centuries. Thereafter the Sepoy Mutiny in 1857 compelled the British to place India directly under the British Crown for another ninety years. For almost two centuries, therefore, India was anchored to Great Britain serving the interests of only the British Empire. Of all the colonies the British conquered, controlled and immensely benefited from it was India that was by far the biggest and the wealthiest and was often referred to as the Jewel in the (British) Crown.

Before finally leaving India, the British divided the Indian subcontinent into two countries in three parcels - India, Pakistan West and Pakistan East. India's population then was 330 million and the GDP was INR 2.7 trillion - a paltry 3% of the global GDP. A country which accounted for a third of the global output for much of two millennia before had thus been bled bone dry by the colonial masters.

INDEPENDENT INDIA

Independent India has witnessed seventeen free and fair Parliamentary Elections with fifteen Prime Ministers at the helm - each contributing his/her mite to the growth, stability and development of the Indian Nation, its society and economy. How individual Prime Ministers of India tried to build a modern India from the debris of two centuries' rule by the British Empire is in itself a great story and has been narrated by many authors, Indian and foreign.

In the seventy-five years since independence, India has negotiated a difficult, at times treacherous, journey replete with five wars (1948, 1962, 1965, 1971 and 1999) and facing frequent occurrence of natural calamities i.e., floods, famines, droughts and epidemics. Two of its elected Prime Ministers were brutally assassinated and a third died mysteriously after signing the Ceasefire Agreement in the Soviet city of Tashkent post the India-Pakistan 1965 War. A stretch of 21 months during 1975-77 remains an aberration in India's otherwise uninterrupted democracy when fundamental rights of Indian citizens were suspended during the period of national emergency.

PROGRESS ACHIEVED

Much water has flown in the Ganga since India attained her independence. During 1950-51 the contributions to Indian GDP by agriculture, industry and services sectors were 56%, 15% and 29% respectively. Agriculture employed the largest workforce of 72% with Manufacturing and Services providing 10% and 18% jobs respectively. Today the service sector accounts for 54% of Indian GDP. The industry and agriculture follow with 25.92% and 20.19% respectively.

Life expectancy on the eve of independence was 32 years. It has now gone up to 70 years. In 1950, infant

mortality rate in India was 145.6/1000 live births and maternal mortality ratio in the 1940s was 2000/100,000 live births which declined to 1000 in the 1950s. There were just 50,000 doctors across the entire country and the number of primary healthcare centres was 725. Today, infant mortality is 27.7 per 1000 births and maternal mortality rate is 103 per 100,000. India now has more than 1.2 million doctors. There are 54,618 Sub-Health Centres (SHC), 21,898 Primary Health Centres (PHC) and 4,155 Urban Primary Health Centres (UPHC), as on December 8, 2021. There are as many as 70,000 public and private



hospitals. As of April 5, 2022, there were 117,771 Ayushman Bharat-Health and Wellness Centres (AB-HWCs) are operational in India apart from 748 e-Hospitals established across the country as part of the 'Digital India' initiative of the government.

As for education, when the British left India there were 210,000 primary schools, 13,600 middle schools and 7,416 higher secondary schools in India apart from 498 colleges and 27 Universities. Today there are 1.6 million schools, 42,343 colleges and a thousand Universities. More than 250 million children are going to school today in India and close to 40 million are enrolled in our universities.

India survived a devastating once in a century pandemic of Covid 19 and its economy contracted by 7.3% in the financial year 2020-21. It may be some consolation that this contraction was lower than in other

major economies. As per latest available estimates the growth rate of GDP for 2021-22 is pegged at 8.7% which has to be seen in the context of 7.3% contraction in the preceding year.

India is bound together as a great nation by the strength and stability of its democracy, the rule of law and a breath-taking diversity of its populace in terms of religion, language, culture, climate, history, geography and more. At the time of India's first census in 1951 Hindus were 305 million (84.1%), Muslims 35.4 million (9.8%), Christians 8.3 million and Sikhs 6.86 million (1.9%). In 2022 the estimated population is 1090 million Hindus (79.80%), 200 million Muslims (14.23%), 31.2 million Christians (2.3%), 23.7 million Sikhs (1.72%), 9.6 million Buddhists (0.70%), 5.1 million Jains (0.37%) and 9.1 million (0.66%) other religions and 3.3 million (0.24%) religion not stated. There are two million Hindu temples, 300,000 active mosques, 8,114 Jain temples a few of them abroad, more than 125 Buddhist temples, monasteries, stupas and pagodas, some 35 Jewish synagogues etc. At the time of independence many predicted that India will splinter into pieces based on caste, creed, tribe, language, culture etc., but she has remained in one piece and stronger than ever.

FUTURE PROSPECTS

In the last ten years, despite a sliding down of growth rates since 2016 till the economy picked up this year and a significant unemployment burden haunting policy maker in the country, there is a quiet revolution taking place in the arena of technology, digitization and innovation spearheaded by young Indian companies. The government's Atmanirbharta crusade has given an impetus to it.

Latest research of the Indian economy in the last ten years by analyst Ruchir Sharma has a few exciting revelations. In 2011 India had 55 Billionaires with a cumulative wealth of US \$ 256 billion which was then equivalent to 13.5% of India's GDP. Ten years later in 2021 India hosts 140 billionaires with the cumulative wealth US\$ 596 billion equivalent to 19.6% of the GDP.

Sharma adds that 110 of these are new Billionaires created during the course of just last decade. At the time of independence India was the sixth largest economy in the world. In 2021 it retains the same position which is no mean achievement with India's population having more than quadrupled.

Notwithstanding the above, there is no room for complacency because (a) India still have a large population that lives below the poverty line, estimated by the World Bank at 140 million which is 10% of the population, (b) the formal and informal sectors may not be able to absorb the large number of educated young who are passing out of colleges (2022 estimate is 10.76 million), (c) external and internal factors will keep haunting the policy establishment in its effort to achieve double digit GDP growth rate which is the need of the hour for India. Be that as it may India also has several advantages - (i) a median age of less than 30 years, (ii) a strong and focussed government, (iii) growing market, and, (iv) an innovative Indian youth. If India persists with its pursuit of building and consolidating its infrastructure, keeps the society cohesive and harmonious, stabilizes predictable consistency in policy formulation and implementation, a brighter future can be ensured for its future generations.

(Ambassador A. R. Ghanashyam is a retired Indian diplomat who has served as Ambassador of India to Angola and High Commissioner of India to Nigeria)



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August Kranti

Quit India Movement Day is observed on 8 August, which is also known as August Kranti. It is considered an important movement in the freedom struggle where masses also participated and took charge themselves. Let us read more about Quit India Movement.

The Quit India Movement is also known as August Kranti or August Movement. On 8 August 1942, the Bharat Chhodo Andolan or Quit India movement was launched by Mahatma Gandhi and gave a call 'do or die'.

In April 1942, the Cripps mission failed. Within less than four months, the third great mass struggle of the Indian people for freedom started. This struggle is known as the Quit India movement. On 8 August, 1942 at the Bombay session of the All India Congress Committee by Mahatma Gandhi during World War II passed a resolution of the Quit India Movement.

This resolution declared that the immediate ending of the British rule in India was an urgent necessity for the sake of India and for the success of the cause of freedom and democracy, for which the countries of the United Nations were fighting against fascist Germany, Italy, and Japan. The resolution called for the withdrawal of British power from India. Once free, it said, India with all her resources would join the war on the side of those countries who were struggling against fascist and imperialist aggression.

Quit India Movement resolution

The resolution approved the starting of mass struggle on non-violent lines on the widest possible scale for the independence of the country. After the resolution was passed, Gandhi, in his speech said: "There is a mantra, a short one that I give you. You imprint it in your heart and let every breath of yours give an expression to it. The mantra is do or die. We shall either be free or die in the attempt". "Quit India" and "Do or Die" became the battle cries of the Indian people during the Quit India movement. In the early hours of the morning of 9 August 1942, most of the leaders of the congress were arrested. They were lodged in prisons in different parts of the country. The congress was banned. There were hartals and processions in every part of the country. The government let loose a reign of terror and there were firings, lathi charges, and arrests throughout the country. People in their anger also took to violent activities. The people attacked government property, damaged railway lines, and disrupted posts and telegraphs. There were clashes with the police at many places. The government imposed restrictions on the publication of news about the movement. Many newspapers decided to close down rather than submit to the restrictions.

By the end of 1942, about 60,000 people had been jailed and hundreds were killed. Among the killed were many young children and old women. In Tamluk, in Bengal, 73-year old Matangini Hazra, in Gohpur, in Assam, 13-year old Kanaklata Barua, in Patna, in Bihar, seven young students and hundreds of others were shot dead while taking part in processions. Some parts of the country such as Balia in the U.P., Tamluk in Bengal, Satara in Maharashtra, Dharwar in Karnataka, and Balasore and Talcher in Orissa, were free from the British rule and the people there formed their own governments. Revolutionary activities organized by Jai Prakash Narayan, Aruna Asaf Ali, S.M. Joshi, Ram Manohar Lohia,



The Quit India Movement Day is on August 8, since a resolution drafted by Mahatma Gandhi was passed in Mumbai on this day which commenced the civil disobedience movement in order to make the outsider Britishers quit the native lands of the Indians.

“Quit India” resolution of 8th August, 1942, marked a decisive moment in the history of India’s freedom struggle. Gandhiji found the tenet of Truth and nonviolence put to most severe test.

and others continued almost throughout the period of the war. The war years were a period of terrible suffering for the people of India. Besides the misery caused by the repression by the British army and police, there was a terrible famine in Bengal in which about 30 lakh people died. The government showed little interest in providing relief to the starving people. There is no doubt that the "Quit India Movement", united the Indian people against British rule. Although most of the demonstrations were suppressed by 1944. But after Gandhiji's release in 1944 from the prison, he continued his protest and went on a 21-day fast. By the end of World War II, Britain's position in the world had changed dramatically and the demand for independence could no longer be ignored.

What led to the Quit India Movement?

- To begin with the immediate cause of the movement, it was the collapse of Cripps Mission that was to discuss the British Government's Draft

Quotes

“Do or Die” – National slogan of the Quit India Movement.

“Freedom is never dear at any price; it is the breath of life. What would a man not pay for living?”

“It has always been a mystery to me how men can feel themselves honored by the humiliation of their fellow beings.” – Gandhi

“Our is not a drive for power. But purely, a non-violent fight for India’s independence.”

“In a gentle way, you can shake the world.” – Gandhi

“I believe that in the history of the world, there has not been a more genuinely democratic struggle for freedom than ours.” – Gandhi

“A non-violent soldier fighting for independence won’t covet anything for himself, all the efforts he makes is for the freedom for his country.”

“Truth alone will endure, everything else will be swept away in the tide of time.”

- Declaration on the Constitution of India with representative Indian leaders. The Cripps Mission failed and the issue of India’s constitution was postponed until the end of the war.
- Indian National Congress did not sink in with the assumption of Britishers that India will provide unconditional support in World War II.
- The sentiment of anti-British and full-independence had gained popularity among the Indian masses.
- Due to World War II, the economy of

India was already in shatters. Militant outbursts were taking place across the country and it simply got channelised with the Quit India Movement. Several mass movements were being conducted for over two decades on a radical tone under the leadership of Congress bodies, including All India Kisan Sabha and Forward Bloc. These movements had set the ground for the Bharat Chhodo Andolan.



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India @ 75: Time to celebrate, but also to introspect

Who possibly can put obstacles in India's ambition to emerge as a prosperous, just society which can assure quality education, gender equality, affordable and clean energy, and social justice for all? None else, but anti-India Indians.

In a few days, India completes its 75 years of independence. Surely, an occasion to rejoice, celebrate, but also to introspect, review the past, ponder over the mistakes made and identify elements waiting to ambush us in our resolve to emerge as a strong and prosperous nation.

In this troubled part of the world, we are the only vibrant democracy and a stable polity, resting on twin pillars of secularism and social justice. A casual look at the disturbed neighbourhood, and we realise how blessed we are. However, it was not all that easy. The British, during their two centuries of occupation, had sucked India's economy bone dry, left its society ruptured, polity deeply fractured and the country divided.

After successfully quelling Indians' first attempt for independence in 1857, the British adopted: "Divide et impera" (divide and rule), an old Roman maxim as their guiding principle. As a follow up, the British studied India in depth, marked over half a dozen of its fault lines, focused on possible flash points, theorised on them on the basis of half-truths, phoney research and even completely manufactured 'facts'.

The underlying idea behind this chicanery was to exacerbate differences so as to pit Indians against Indians. Logically, with British departure, this devilish stratagem should have ended. But it didn't. Aliens left India in 1947. The alienated ? marinated and honed in the Marxist-Macaulayn traditions ? immediately stepped into their shoes. Rulers changed; rules, systems and its ethos didn't. The wile has since continued, notwithstanding some efforts to stop it.

The Macaulayns and Communists didn't believe in the intrinsic unity of India. The Communists got the cue from Moscow, their Mecca for decades. In 1925, Stalin told a group of communist trainees, "Now, India is talked about as one entity. But there can be hardly any doubt that in the case of a revolutionary upheaval, many hitherto unknown nationalities, each with its own language and its own distinctive culture, will emerge on the scene." No prizes for guessing the 'revolutionaries' Stalin had in mind while hoping for India's disintegration.

Rajni Palme Dutt, the London-based Communist ideologue wrote, "There are strong grounds for recognizing the multinational character of the Indian people." Another Communist leader, Sajjad Zaheer justified movement for Pakistan saying, "The demand of Muslim self-determination or Pakistan is a just, progressive, and national demand." It was against this background that Indian Communists collaborated with the British and Muslim League, worked for the vivisection of India and creation of Pakistan.

To further complicate matters, the shrewd British allowed 560 odd princely states to remain independent, merge with India or Pakistan. Many a western scholar at that time predicted an inevitable balkanisation of India, given her diversity. One of the first major achievements of independent India, and particularly of indomitable Sardar Patel was, to weave India into one myriad coloured tapestry, and prove prophets of doom wrong.

Another landmark development. Successfully defying the US, India, led by Indira Gandhi, not only broke Pakistan into two (resulting in the birth of Bangladesh) in 1971, but also obtained surrender of over 90,000 Pakistani soldiers. One more glorious moment was in May 1998, when India, led by Atal Behari Vajpayee conducted the Pokhran-II tests, much to the chagrin of the US and Europe?and their Indian side-kicks?Congress and 'left-liberals'. Developing indigenous Covid vaccines, administering over 200



crore doses in a record time, is India's latest achievement.

Till about two decades back, India's over 50 per cent population was below the poverty line. Now the figure is about ten percent ? a remarkable success story. India is now an industrial power ? its world class products range from automobiles, pharmaceuticals, telecommunications to space technology. Once living from ship-to-mouth and surviving on the American PL 480 doles, India is not only self-sufficient in food, but is also its major exporter now.

However, this journey has had its formidable roadblocks. Thanks to misplaced idealism and romantic and unrealistic world-view of Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru, we messed up Kashmir issue and suffered an ignominious defeat at Chinese hands in 1962. Pandit Nehru's flirtation with 'socialism', strangled India's potential for over four decades, resulting in extreme shortages and black marketing of essential commodities. 'Garibi' (poverty) became country's signature tune. There were queues and long waiting periods for cement, steel, milk, vanaspati ghee, sugar, atta, kerosene, phone connection... the list is endless.

In 1978, Prof. Raj Krishna, a leftist economist looking for a scapegoat, used a term, 'Hindu Rate of growth' to explain India's economic disaster. The Indian economy was in a mess because of state controls and inherent bureaucratic inefficiency and political corruption. But the crafty Left attributed India's myriad problems to the tenets of Hinduism! Collapse of Soviet Union in 1991 helped explode myths about Communism and bring out its ugly reality to the fore. This set the pace for economic reforms in beleaguered India under the leadership of PV Narasimha Rao. Otherwise, in 1991, we were heading to, where bedraggled Sri Lanka is today.

Who possibly can put obstacles in India's ambition to emerge as a prosperous, just society which can assure quality education, gender equality, affordable and clean energy, decent housing and social justice for all? None else, but anti-India Indians. Manufactured agitations against NRC, CAA and farm laws are the recent examples of how a minuscule minority - with a highly disproportionately high influence, can derail country's progress.

Broadly, such anti-India Indians, can be termed as jihadis, communists (styling themselves as left-liberals)

and foot soldiers of evangelical forces. These elements, deeply entrenched in the Indian ecosystem, masquerade as journalists, NGO activists, social workers, and hide behind many masks. They are loaded with massive funds, enjoy infrastructural support from abroad, have no emotional connect with India, though they hold Indian passports.

In the recent past, mischief potential of this anti-India pack was glaringly obvious in the BJP leader Nupur Sharma's episode. Within minutes, her video was viral the world over. None questioned or discussed the contents of what she had said. Two words - 'blasphemy and hate speech' were banded about, without any evidence whatsoever by entwined twins - Jihadis and 'left-liberals'. Hapless Nupur was pronounced guilty, sans any trial. Knives (literally) are out for her and those who stand by her. Living under the threat of beheading, she is in hiding. Will she manage to duck her potential killers, and for how long, is any body's guess.

For millenniums, Indian society was a dyad of harmony and diversity, sans hegemony or uniformity, either in life style, food, language or way of worship. And this liberalism once extended from Kabul to Kanyakumari, forming a large cultural landmass - known as Bharat. Thanks to repeated Islamic invasions, values like pluralism are a history in a major part of the Bharat of yore, consisting of Afghanistan, Pakistan, Bangladesh. The spectre of radical Islam looms on residual India as well.

What does residual India stand for? Noted historian AL Basham, in The Wonder That Was India, has described ancient India, in manner; a few have managed to do. He says, "... in no other part of the ancient world were the relations of man and man, and of man and the state, so fair... In all her history of warfare, Hindu India has few tales to tell of cities put to the sword or of the massacre of non-combatants. The ghastly sadism of the kings of Assyria, who flayed their captives alive, is completely without parallel in ancient India."

India's fight, on 75th year of its eventful independent existence, is not only for holding on to a landmass, but also to retain values, intrinsic to a just, open, liberal and happy human society.

(The author, Balbir Punj, is a Former Member of Parliament and a Columnist.)
Source: Oneindia

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Tips for Seeing Well As You Age

It is no secret that your eyes become worse with age but there are ways to slow down the aging process. Here are a few simple tips that are often forgotten:

1. Do not smoke as it is not just bad for the body but also increases the risk of age-related macular degeneration
2. Eat a well balanced diet. Lots of fruits and vegetables keep your eyes healthy and disease free
3. Wear sunglasses to protect from the sun's UV rays

Architects of Independence

Hundreds and thousands left everything, and many sacrificed their life for one common goal - freedom of India from foreign rule! These freedom fighters, activists and revolutionaries came from different backgrounds and philosophies to fight one common enemy - the foreign imperialists. While we are aware of several freedom fighters and revolutionaries, many have remained unsung heroes. Here are some of the most prominent freedom activists and revolutionaries who made immense contribution towards India's struggle for freedom.

Tantia Tope



Tantia Tope was one of the Indian rebellions of 1857. He served as a general and led a group of Indian soldiers against the British. He was an ardent follower of Nana

Sahib of Bithur and continued to fight on his behalf when Nana was forced to retreat by the British army. Tantia even forced General Windham to retreat from Kanpur and helped Rani Lakshmi of Jhansi to retain Gwalior.

Nana Sahib



After leading a group of rebellions during the 1857 uprising, Nana Sahib defeated the British forces in Kanpur. He even killed the survivors, sending a hard-

hitting message to the British camp. Nana Sahib was also known as an able administrator and is said to have led around 15,000 Indian soldiers.

Kunwar Singh



At the age of 80, Kunwar Singh led a group of soldiers against the British in Bihar. Using guerrilla warfare tactics, Kunwar bedazzled the British troops and managed

to defeat the forces of Captain le Grand near Jagdispur. Kunwar Singh is known for his bravery and was fondly called as Veer Kunwar Singh.

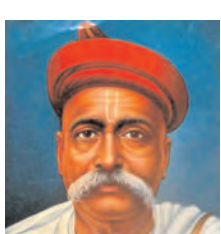
Rani Lakshmi Bai



One of the key members of India's first war of independence, Rani Lakshmi Bai went on to inspire thousands of women to join the fight for freedom. On 23 March, 1858

Lakshmi Bai defended her palace and the entire city of Jhansi when it was threatened to be captured by British troops led by Sir Hugh Rose.

Bal Gangadhar Tilak



Bal Gangadhar Tilak was one of the most prominent freedom fighters of India who inspired thousands with the slogan - "Swaraj is my birthright and I

shall have it". As a form of protest against the British, Tilak established schools and published rebellious newspapers. He was famous as one of the trios - Bal, Pal and Lal. People loved him and accepted him as one of their leaders and so, he was called Lokmanya Tilak.

Mangal Pandey



Mangal Pandey is said to have played a key role in inspiring Indian soldiers to start the great rebellion of 1857. Working as a soldier for the British East

India Company, Pandey started firing at English officials and caught them unawares. His attack is regarded as the first step of the Indian rebellion that started in 1857.

Begum Hazrat Mahal



Working along with leaders like Nana Saheb and Maulavi of Faizabad, Begum Hazrat Mahal rebelled against the British during the revolt of 1857. She was

successful in taking control of Lucknow after leading the troops in her husband's absence. She rebelled against the demolition of temples and mosques before retreating to Nepal.

Ashfaqulla Khan



Ashfaqulla Khan was a firebrand among the young revolutionaries, who sacrificed his life for the sake of his motherland. He was an important member of the

Hindustan Republican Association. Khan, along with his associates, executed the train robbery at Kakori for which he was arrested and executed by the British.

Rani Gaidinliu



Rani Gaidinliu was a political leader who revolted against the British rule. She joined a political movement at the age of 13 and fought for the evacuation of

British rulers from Manipur and the neighbouring areas. Unable to withstand her protests, the British arrested her when she was just 16 years old and sentenced her to life imprisonment.

Bipin Chandra Pal



Bipin Chandra Pal was one of the key members of the Indian National Congress and a prominent freedom fighter. He advocated the abandonment of

foreign goods. He, along with Lala Lajpat Rai and Bal Gangadhar Tilak, spearheaded many revolutionary activities. For this reason, he is called as the 'Father of Revolutionary Thoughts.'

Chandra Shekhar Azad



One of the close associates of Bhagat Singh, Chandra Shekhar Azad is credited for reorganizing Hindustan Republican Association. Azad, as he was popularly

called, is known as one of the bravest freedom fighters of India. At the time of being surrounded by British soldiers, he killed many of them and shot himself to death with the last bullet of his Colt pistol. He did so, as he never wanted to be captured alive.

Hakim Ajmal Khan



A physician by profession, Hakim Ajmal Khan founded the Jamia Millia Islamia University before participating in the fight for freedom. He joined the Khilafat

movement along with other famous Muslim leaders like Shaukat Ali and Maulana Azad. In 1906, Hakim Ajmal Khan led a group of Muslim men and women who gave a memorandum to the Viceroy of India.

Chittaranjan Das



Chittaranjan Das founded the Swaraj Party and was an active participant in the Indian National Movement. A lawyer by profession, Chittaranjan is credited for

successfully defending Aurobindo Ghosh when the latter was charged under a criminal case by the British. Popularly known as Deshbandhu, Chittaranjan Das is best known for mentoring Subhas Chandra Bose.

Sidhu Murmu and Kanhu Murmu

In 1855, Sidhu Murmu and Kanhu Murmu led a group of 10,000 Santal



people in order to revolt against British colonists in eastern India. The movement, which came to be known as the Santal rebellion, took the British by surprise.

The movement was so successful that the British government had no choice but to announce a bounty of Rs. 10,000 to those who were willing to capture Sidhu and his brother Kanhu.

Birsa Munda



Principally a religious leader, Birsa Munda used the religious beliefs of his tribe in order to revolt against the government of British. He implemented

guerrilla warfare techniques to upset the rhythm of the British troops. In 1900, Birsa, along with his army, was arrested by the British soldiers. He was later convicted and was lodged in a jail in Ranchi.

Tilka Manjhi



Approximately 100 years before Mangal Pandey took up arms to fight against the British, Tilka Manjhi gave up his life trying to do exactly the same. Manjhi was the first

rebellion to fight for the Indian independence. He led a group of Adivasis to fight against the exploitation of the British.

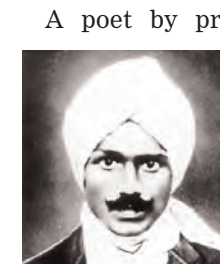
Surya Sen



Surya Sen is credited for planning and executing a raid that aimed at seizing the weapons of police forces from the Chittagong armoury of British India. He

led a battalion of armed Indians to carry out the task. He is known for turning youngsters into firebrand revolutionaries.

Subramania Bharati



A poet by profession, Subramania Bharati used his literary skills to inspire thousands of Indians during the independence movement. His works were often impassioned and

patriotic in nature. In 1908, Bharati had to flee to Puducherry when the British government issued an arrest warrant against him. A prominent member of the Indian National Congress, Bharati continued his revolutionary activities from Puducherry.

Dadabhai Naoroji



Credited with establishing the Indian National Congress, Dadabhai Naoroji is remembered as one of the most prominent members to have participated in the independence movement. In one of the books published by him, he wrote about the colonial rule of the British which was precisely aimed at looting wealth from India.

Jawaharlal Nehru



Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru was one of the most important freedom fighters of India, who went on to become the first Prime Minister of free India. He was also the author of the famous book – ‘Discovery of India’. Nehru was extremely fond of children and was fondly called as ‘Chacha Nehru’. It was under his leadership that India embarked on the planned pattern of economic development.

Khudiram Bose



Khudiram Bose was one of those young revolutionaries and freedom fighters whose deeds of bravery went on to become the subject of folklore. He was one of those brave men who challenged the British rule and gave them a taste of their own medicine. At the age of 19, he was martyred, with ‘Vande Mataram’ being his last words.

Lakshmi Sahgal



A doctor by profession, Lakshmi Sahgal, popularly known as Captain Lakshmi, encouraged women to join the troop led by Subhas Chandra Bose. She took the initiative of forming a women’s regiment and named it ‘Rani of Jhansi regiment’. Lakshmi fought vigorously for the Indian independence before she was arrested by the British government in 1945.

Lala Har Dayal



A revolutionary among Indian nationalists, Lala Har Dayal turned down a lucrative job offer and went on to inspire hundreds of non-resident Indians to fight against the atrocities of the British Empire. In 1909, he served as the editor of *Bande Mataram*, a nationalist publication

founded by the Paris Indian Society.

Lala Lajpat Rai



One of the most important members of the Indian National Congress, Lala Lajpat Rai is often revered for leading a protest against the Simon Commission. During the protest, he was assaulted by James A. Scott, the superintendent of police, which ultimately played a role in his death. He was a part of the famous triumvirate called ‘Lal Bal Pal.’

Mahadev Govind Ranade



Mahadev Govind Ranade was one of the key founding members of Indian National Congress. Apart from serving as Bombay High Court’s judge, Mahadev Govind worked as a social reformer, encouraging women empowerment and widow remarriage. He understood that India’s fight for freedom can never be successful without a social reform which was the need of the hour.

Mahatma Gandhi



Mahatma Gandhi led the Indian independence movement and was successful in freeing India from the clutches of the British. He employed non-violence and engaged in various movements as part of his inspiring protest against the British rule. He went on to become the most significant freedom fighter and hence is called as the ‘Father of the Nation.’

Maulana Abul Kalam Azad



Maulana Abul Kalam Azad was an active member of the Indian National Congress and a great freedom fighter. Maulana Azad took part in most of the important movements. He presided over the special session of Congress in September 1923 and at the age of 35 he became the youngest man to be elected as the President of the Congress.

Ram Manohar Lohia



One of the founding members of the Congress Socialist Party, Ram Manohar Lohia was an active member of the Indian independence movement. Lohia was a key member in organizing the Quit India Movement, for which he was arrested and tortured in 1944. He even worked for the Congress Radio which operated secretly, propagandizing anti-British messages.

Ram Prasad Bismil

Ram Prasad Bismil was one of those young revolutionaries who sacrificed his



life for the sake of his motherland. Bismil was one of the most important members of the Hindustan Republican Association and also a prominent member of the group that was involved in the Kakori train robbery. He was sentenced to death by the British government for his involvement in the famous train robbery.

Ram Singh Kuka



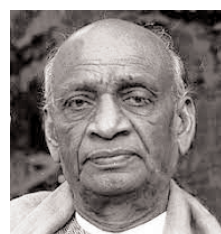
Ram Singh Kuka was a social reformer, who is hailed as the first Indian to have initiated the non-cooperation movement by refusing to use British merchandise and services. Like Mahadev Govind Ranade, he too, understood the importance of social reforms in order to stand strong against the British rule. Hence Ram Singh Kuka gave much importance to social reforms.

Rash Behari Bose



Rash Behari Bose was one of the most important revolutionaries who tried to assassinate Lord Hardinge, the then Viceroy of India. Along with other revolutionaries, Bose is credited for organizing Ghadar Mutiny and the Indian National Army. He was also involved in persuading the Japanese to help the Indians in their struggle for freedom.

Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel



His brave deeds earned Vallabhbhai Patel the title, ‘the iron man of India.’ For his role in the Bardoli Satyagraha, Patel came to be known as Sardar. Though he was a famous lawyer, Sardar Patel gave up his profession in order to fight for the freedom of the country. After the independence, he became the deputy Prime Minister of India and played an important role in the integration of India by merging numerous princely states with the Indian Union.

Bhagat Singh



The name Bhagat Singh is synonymous with sacrifice, courage, bravery and vision. By sacrificing his life at the age of 30, Bhagat Singh became an inspiration and a symbol of heroism. Along with other revolutionaries, Bhagat Singh founded the Hindustan Socialist Republican Association. To remind the British government of its misdeeds, Bhagat Singh hurled a bomb in the Central Legislative Assembly. By embracing death at a young age, Singh became a symbol of sacrifice and

courage, thereby residing forever in the hearts of every Indian.

Shivaram Rajguru



A member of the Hindustan Socialist Republican Association, Shivaram Rajguru was a close associate of Bhagat Singh and Sukhdev. Shivaram is mainly remembered for his involvement in the assassination of John Saunders, a young British police officer. With an intention of killing James Scott, the police superintendent who had assaulted Lala Lajpat Rai just two weeks before his death, Shivaram mistook John for James and shot him to death.

Subhas Chandra Bose



Popularly known as Netaji, Subhas Chandra Bose was a fierce freedom fighter and popular leader on the political horizon of pre-independent India. Bose was elected as the President of the Indian National Congress in 1937 and 1939. He founded the Indian National Army and raised the famous slogans, ‘Delhi Chalo’ and ‘Tum Mujhe Khoon Do main Tumhe Ajadi Doonga.’ For his anti-British remarks and activities, Bose was jailed 11 times between 1920 and 1941. He was the leader of the youth wing of Congress Party.

Sukhdev



One of the key members of Hindustan Socialist Republican Association, Sukhdev was a revolutionary and a close associate of Bhagat Singh and Shivaram Rajguru. He too, was involved in the killing of John Saunders, a British police officer. Sukhdev was captured, along with Bhagat Singh and Shivaram Rajguru, and was martyred at the age of 24.

Surendranath Banerjee



Founder of the Indian National Association and the Indian National Liberation Federation, Surendranath Banerjee is remembered as a pioneer of Indian politics. He founded and published a newspaper called ‘The Bengalee’. In 1883, he was arrested for publishing anti-British remarks. Surendranath was elected as the President of Congress in 1895 and again in 1902.

Sri Alluri Sitarama Raju



Alluri Sitarama Raju was a key revolutionary who killed many British army men. He, along with his followers, also raided several police stations and seized many guns and ammunition. He

also initiated the Rampa Rebellion of 1922, which was aimed at protesting against a law passed by the British government.

Vinayak Damodar Savarkar



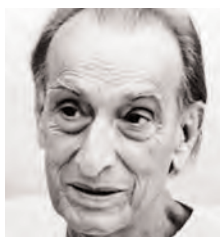
The founder of Abhinav Bharat Society and Free India Society, Vinayak Damodar Savarkar was an activist and was popularly known as Swatantryaveer Savarkar. Also an eminent writer, Savarkar published a book titled 'The Indian War of Independence' that spoke about the struggles of the Indian mutiny of 1857.

Bhim Sen Sachar



A lawyer by profession, Bhim Sen Sachar was inspired by other revolutionaries and freedom fighters and joined the Indian National Congress at a young age. He was subsequently made as the Secretary of Punjab Congress Committee. Interestingly, Bhim Sen's struggle for freedom continued even after 1947 as he got himself into trouble by voicing against the authoritarianism of Indira Gandhi.

Acharya Kripalani



Jivatram Bhagwandas Kripalani, best known as Acharya Kripalani, was a Gandhian socialist and independence activist. He was one of the most ardent followers of Mahatma Gandhi and was actively involved in many protests led by the father of the nation, including Non-Cooperation Movement, Civil Disobedience, Salt Satyagraha and Quit India Movement.

Aruna Asaf Ali



An active independence activist and member of the Congress Party, Aruna Asaf Ali is remembered for her participation in various movements including Salt Satyagraha and Quit India Movement. During the Quit India Movement, she risked being arrested by hoisting the INC flag in Bombay. She was arrested on many occasions for her revolutionary activities and was lodged in jail until 1931 when political prisoners were released under the Gandhi-Irwin Pact.

Jatindra Mohan Sengupta



A lawyer by profession, Jatindra Mohan Sengupta defended and saved many young revolutionaries from being sentenced to death. He even joined the Indian National Congress and went

on to actively take part in the Non-Cooperation Movement. He was arrested on several occasions before he eventually died while being held as a prisoner in Ranchi.

Madan Mohan Malaviya



An important participant of the Non-Cooperation Movement, Madan Mohan Malaviya served as the President of Indian National Congress on two different occasions. On 25 April, 1932, he was arrested for his participation in the Civil Disobedience Movement. Malaviya was also a central figure during the protests against the Simon Commission in 1928.

Nellie Sengupta



Born as Edith Ellen Gray, Nellie Sengupta was a British who fought for the independence of the Indians. She married Jatindra Mohan Sengupta and started living in India post her wedding. During the struggle for freedom, Nellie actively participated in the Non-Cooperation Movement and was also imprisoned on many occasions.

Pandit Bal Krishna Sharma



Pandit Bal Krishna Sharma was an important member of the Indian freedom movement, who was arrested on six different occasions. He was also an important revolutionary as the British government had declared him a 'dangerous prisoner.' A journalist by profession, Pandit Bal Krishna Sharma was responsible in inspiring many Indians to stand up and fight for their independence.

Sucheta Kriplani



The founder of 'All India Mahila Congress', Sucheta Kriplani became an important associate of Gandhi during the Partition riots. Along with other freedom fighters like Aruna Asaf Ali and Usha Mehta, Sucheta became an important member of the Quit India Movement. She was also active in politics post-independence and became the country's first woman Chief Minister.

Rajkumari Amrit Kaur



A co-founder of the All India Women's Conference, Rajkumari Amrit Kaur was one of the most important members of Dandi March in 1930. After being imprisoned for her participation in the Dandi March, Amrit Kaur went on to actively participate in the Quit India Movement

for which she was once again jailed by the British authorities.

E.M.S. Namboodiripad



A co-founder of Congress Socialist Party, Elamkulam Manakkal Sankaran Namboodiripad, simply known as EMS, was a communist who became Kerala's first Chief Minister. He was a close associate of Mahatma Gandhi and called him a Hindu fundamentalist. During his college days, EMS was an active participant in the Indian independence movement and was also affiliated with the Indian National Congress.

Pushpalata Das



An active member of the Indian National Congress, Pushpalata Das started her revolutionary activities right from her childhood. She was even expelled from her school for gathering a group of girls in order to protest against the death sentence of Bhagat Singh. She was later arrested for participating in Civil Disobedience Movement and Quit India Movement.

Sagarmal Gopa



The author of revolutionary books like 'Azadi Ke Diwane' and 'Jaisalmer ka Gundaraj', Sagarmal Gopa was a prominent freedom fighter who took part in the Non Co-operation Movement. For protesting against the rulers of Jaisalmer, he was expelled from Hyderabad and Jaisalmer. At the age of 46, Sagarmal Gopa was torched to death while being lodged in prison.

Madam Bhikaiji Cama



Bhikaiji Rustom Cama was one of the greatest women freedom fighters of India who promoted the cause of Indian freedom movement outside India as well. She was the one who first unfurled India's national flag at an international assembly. She discarded the life of luxury and lived in exile to serve her motherland.

Damodar Hari Chapekar



During the bubonic plague that hit Pune in the year 1896, the British administration came up with a special committee to minimize the damage caused by the dreaded disease. The committee was headed by an officer named W. C. Rand. Damodar Hari Chapekar, along with his brother Balkrishna Hari Chapekar, was arrested and sentenced to death for killing W. C. Rand.

Balkrishna Hari Chapekar



Balkrishna Hari Chapekar and his brother Damodar Hari Chapekar were sentenced to death for killing W. C. Rand, the officer in charge of a special committee that was formed to fight against the spreading of a plague. Rand was killed as he misused his power by force stripping and examining women in public in the name of precautionary measure.

Baba Gurdit Singh



Baba Gurdit Singh understood that India must take its fight for freedom overseas as well in order to truly succeed. But a law prevented the entry of Asians into countries like Canada and the United States. In order to change this law, Baba Gurdit Singh embarked on a journey to Canada and thus became actively involved in the 'Komagata Maru incident'.

Udham Singh



Udham Singh was one of the most important and famous revolutionaries who took part in the Indian independence movement. He is remembered for avenging the Jallianwala Bagh massacre by brutally murdering Sir Michael O'Dwyer on March 13, 1940. For his act, Udham Singh was convicted and was eventually sentenced to death.

Shyamji Krishna Varma



Shyamji Krishna Varma was one of those revolutionaries who truly took the fight for freedom outside India. By establishing 'The Indian Sociologist', 'Indian Home Rule Society' and 'India House' in London, he inspired a bunch of Indian revolutionaries who fought for the freedom of their motherland right in the heart of the United Kingdom.

Ganesh Shankar Vidyarthi



A journalist by profession, Ganesh Shankar Vidyarthi was one of the most important leaders of the Indian National Congress. He was also a prominent member of many important movements including the Non-Cooperation Movement. A close associate of revolutionaries like Chandra Shekhar Azad and Bhagat Singh, Ganesh was imprisoned in 1920 for his revolutionary activities.

Bhulabhai Desai

Bhulabhai Desai was a well-known independence activist. A lawyer by profession, Bhulabhai is widely



remembered and acclaimed for defending three soldiers belonging to the Indian National Army during World War II. He was arrested in the year 1940 for his participation in civil resistance, which was initiated by none other than Mahatma Gandhi.

Vithalbhai Patel



A co-founder of Swarajaya Party, Vithalbhai Patel was a fierce independence activist and elder brother of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel. Vithalbhai became a close associate of Subhas Chandra Bose and even called Gandhi a failure. When his health was fast deteriorating, he bequeathed his property, which amounted to a whopping Rs. 120,000, to Subhas Chandra Bose for his revolutionary activities.

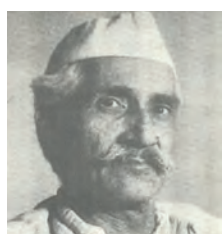
Gopinath Bordoloi



Gopinath Bordoloi's fight for freedom began when he joined the Indian National Congress. He was then arrested for his participation in the Non-Cooperation

Movement and was jailed for more than a year. A firm believer in Gandhi and his principles, Gopinath went on to become the Chief Minister of Assam after the independence.

Acharya Narendra Dev



One of the most prominent members of the Congress Socialist Party, Acharya Narendra Dev embraced non-violence and democratic socialism in his fight

for the freedom of India. A key figure in the Hindi language movement, Narendra Dev was arrested on several occasions throughout his fight for freedom.

Annie Besant



Being a British, Annie Besant advocated Indian self-rule and eventually became a prominent freedom fighter. After becoming a part of the Indian National

Congress, she was made the President of INC in 1917. After acting as one of the key members in establishing 'Home Rule League', she even founded a Hindu school in Benares to achieve her goal of freeing India from the clutches of her countrymen.

C. Rajagopalachari

A lawyer by profession, C. Rajagopalachari joined the Indian National Congress in the year 1906 and then successfully defended a revolutionary named P. Varadarajulu Naidu. He went on to become an ardent



follower of Mahatma Gandhi and actively participated in the Non-Cooperation Movement. Rajagopalachari was an important representative of

Congress in Tamil Nadu.

J. P. Narayan



A close friend of a nationalist named Ganga Sharan Singh, Jayaprakash Narayan joined Indian National Congress in the year 1929 during which Gandhi himself became his mentor.

He then actively participated in Quit India Movement and civil disobedience for which he was jailed by the British government.

Chempakaraman Pillai



Often a forgotten freedom fighter, Chempakaraman Pillai was one of those activists who fought for the freedom of India from a foreign territory. A close

associate of Subhas Chandra Bose, Pillai initiated his struggle for freedom in Germany. It was Chempakaraman Pillai who came up with the famous slogan 'Jai Hind' which is used even today.

Velu Thampi



Velayudhan Chempakaraman Thampi, simply referred as Velu Thampi, was one of the most important and earliest rebels to have objected to the rising supremacy of the British East

India Company. In the famous Battle of Quilon, Velu Thampi led a battalion of 30,000 soldiers and attacked a local garrison of the British.

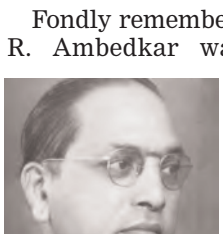
T Kumaran



Tiruppur Kumaran was one of those young revolutionaries who lost his precious life while protesting against the atrocities of the British. Like many

other revolutionaries, Kumaran too, died young when he was assaulted by British soldiers while leading a protest against them. Kumaran refused to let go of the Indian Nationalist flag even at the time of his death.

B. R. Ambedkar



Fondly remembered as Baba Saheb, B. R. Ambedkar was a key figure in empowering Dalits. The British had used the Indian caste system to their advantage and were firm believers in the divide and rule policy. Ambedkar

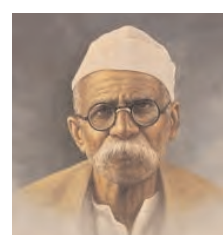
understood this motive of the British and ensured their downfall by inspiring the Dalit Buddhist Movement among many other movements.

V. B. Phadke



Disturbed by the struggle faced by Indian farmers under the British rule, Vasudev Balwant Phadke decided to revolt against the rule by forming a revolutionary group. Apart from launching raids on English businessmen, Phadke also managed to take control of Pune through his surprise attack on British soldiers.

Senapati Bapat



After earning a scholarship to study engineering in Britain, Senapati Bapat focused on bomb-making skills instead of learning engineering. He returned to India

with his newly acquired skill and became one of the members who were involved in the Alipore bombing case. Senapati Bapat is also credited for educating his countrymen about the British rule as many of them hadn't even realized that their country was being ruled by the British.

Rajendra Lahiri



A member of the Hindustan Republican Association, Rajendra Lahiri was a close associate of other revolutionaries, such as Ashfaqulla

Khan and Ram Prasad Bismil. He too, was involved in the Kakori train robbery for which he was later arrested. Lahiri was also involved in the famous Dakshineswar bombing incident. Lahiri was sentenced to death at the age of 26.

Roshan Singh



Yet another member of the Hindustan Republican Association, Roshan Singh was a young revolutionary who too, was sentenced to death by the British

government. Though he was not involved in the Kakori train robbery, he was arrested and was clubbed along with other revolutionaries who had taken part in the robbery.

Jatin Das



Jatindra Nath Das died at the age of 25 after a hunger strike that lasted for 63 days. Jatindra Nath Das, also remembered as Jatin Das, was a

revolutionary and was lodged in jail along with other revolutionaries. He began his hunger strike when the political prisoners had a

strikingly different environment when compared to that of their European counterparts.

Madan Lal Dhingra



One of the earliest revolutionaries who sacrificed his life for the sake of his motherland, Madan Lal Dhingra served as an inspiration to other important

revolutionaries, such as Bhagat Singh and Chandrasekhar Azad. When he was studying Mechanical Engineering in England, Dhingra murdered Sir William Hutt Curzon Wylie for which he was sentenced to death.

Kartar Singh Sarabha



Kartar Singh Sarabha was one of the most famous revolutionaries who sacrificed his life at the age of 19. Sarabha joined the Ghadar Party, an

organization formed to protest against the British rule, at the age of 17. He, along with his men, was arrested when a member of the Ghadar Party betrayed them by informing the police about their hiding place.

V.O. Chidambaram Pillai



A barrister by profession, V.O. Chidambaram Pillai, often referred as V.O.C, was one of the leaders of Indian National Congress. Chidambaram Pillai is remembered for

his bravery as he became the first Indian to start a shipping service, competing against British ships. He was charged with sedition and was sentenced to life imprisonment.

Kittur Chennamma



Kittur Chennamma, the Queen of a princely state in Karnataka, was one of the earliest female revolutionaries. She led a battalion of

armed soldiers to fight against the East India Company. Along with her lieutenant Sangolli Rayanna, Chennamma employed the guerrilla warfare technique and fought fiercely, taking many British soldiers by surprise.

K. M. Munshi



The founder of Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan, Kanhaiyalal Maneklal Munshi was an important

freedom fighter, who took part in Salt Satyagraha and Quit India Movement. He was arrested on several occasions for his protests. An ardent follower of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, Mahatma Gandhi and Maharaja Sayajirao Gaekwad III, Munshi was an active member of Swaraj Party and

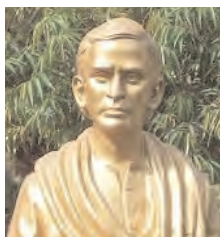
Indian National Congress.

Kamaladevi Chattopadhyay



A social reformer who worked towards the betterment of socio-economic standard of women, Kamaladevi Chattopadhyay was an important member of Congress Socialist Party. She later became the party's president and was arrested for selling contraband salt in Bombay. She was also a prominent member who took part in Salt Satyagraha.

Garimella Satyanarayana



A poet by profession, Garimella Satyanarayana inspired thousands to fight against the atrocities of the British through his songs and poems. He actively participated in the civil disobedience movement by penning down fiery and revolutionary poems for which he was jailed on several occasions by the government of British.

N. G. Ranga



After getting inspired by the freedom movement led by Mahatma Gandhi, Gogineni Ranga Nayukulu, commonly known as N. G. Ranga, started a protest of his own

by leading a group of farmers in an agitation in 1933. He is considered one of the most important freedom fighters to have revolutionized the Indian Peasant Movement.

Abdul Hafiz Mohamed Barakatullah



A co-founder of Ghadar Party that operated from San Francisco, Abdul Hafiz Mohamed Barakatullah was one of those revolutionaries who fought for the freedom of India from overseas. He was associated with a leading daily in England, through which he published fiery articles, propagating the idea of independent India.

Mahadev Desai



Best known as Gandhi's personal secretary, Mahadev Desai was an important independence activist. He accompanied Mahatma Gandhi in

most of his protests, including the Bardoli Satyagraha and Salt Satyagraha for which he was arrested. He was one of the members to have attended the Second Round Table Conference and the only Indian to have accompanied the Mahatma when he met with King George V.

Prafulla Chaki

Prafulla Chaki was a prominent



revolutionary who was a part of the Jugantar group. The group was responsible in assassinating many British officials. Prafulla Chaki was given the responsibility of killing famous British officers like Sir Joseph Bampfylde Fuller and Kingsford. While attempting to kill Kingsford, Prafulla Chaki, along with Khudiram Bose, accidentally killed Kingsford's wife and daughter.

Matangini Hazra



Popularly known as 'Gandhi Buri', Matangini Hazra was a fierce revolutionary who was shot dead by the British soldiers for her indulgence in revolutionary activities. During the Quit India Movement, a 71 year old Matangini famously led a group of 6000 volunteers with most of them being women. At the time of her death, she firmly held the Indian National Congress flag and repeated the words, 'Vande Mataram'.

Bina Das



Bina Das was one of the bravest women revolutionaries who attempted to murder Stanley Jackson, the then Bengal Governor, by firing five rounds at him at the Convocation Hall in the University of Calcutta. Unfortunately, she missed her target and was imprisoned for over nine years. She was once again arrested for participating in the Quit India Movement.

Bhagwati Charan Vohra



An associate of Bhagat Singh, Sukhdev and Chandrashekhar Azad, Bhagwati Charan Vohra too, was an important revolutionary. In 1929, he rented a house in Lahore and turned it into a bomb factory. He planned to assassinate Viceroy Lord Irwin by blowing up the train he was travelling in. Lord Irwin escaped the attack unhurt.

Bhai Balmukund



Bhai Balmukund was involved in the famous Delhi conspiracy case. The conspiracy was a planned assassination of Lord Hardinge. A group of revolutionaries, including Bhai Balmukund, hurled a bomb at the Howdah that was carrying Lord Hardinge. Although Hardinge escaped the attack with injuries, his mahout was killed. Balmukund was later arrested and was sentenced to death.

Sohan Singh Josh

An eminent writer, Sohan Singh Josh



played a critical role in publishing a revolutionary daily called 'Kirti'. The daily was responsible in propagating Bhagat Singh's ideas. Sohan Singh also went on to become the editor of 'Jang-i-Azadi', a communist paper. For his revolutionary activities, Sohan Singh was arrested and imprisoned for three years by the British government.

Sohan Singh Bhakna



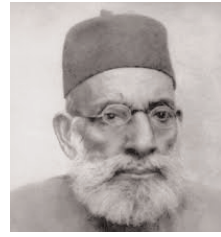
Sohan Singh Bhakna was an important member of the Ghadar Conspiracy and was also the party's founding president. For his involvement in the Ghadar Conspiracy, which was aimed at initiating a pan-Indian attack to end the British rule, he was sentenced to sixteen years of rigorous imprisonment. He also worked closely with the Communist Party of India.

C. F. Andrews



Charles Freer Andrews, who was a British missionary, played a key role in persuading Gandhi to return to India when the latter was fighting for the Indian civil rights in South Africa. He eventually became a close friend of Mahatma Gandhi and played his part in the Indian Independence Movement.

Hasrat Mohani



At the Ahmedabad Session of Indian National Congress, Hasrat Mohani became the first person to raise his voice against the British rule in India. An eminent writer and poet, Hasrat was arrested on multiple occasions for propagating anti-British policies through his articles that were published in the magazine, 'Urdu-e-Mualla'. He was also a co-founder of Communist Party of India.

Tarak Nath Das



Tarak Nath Das was a shrewd freedom fighter, who instead of getting himself involved in revolutionary activities, found a more profound way of fighting for the country's freedom. During a meeting in 1906, Tarak Nath Das, along with Jatindra Nath Mukherjee, decided to fly out to pursue higher education. But the real motive behind his act was to learn military knowledge and to create sympathy among leaders of the Western countries in order to seek their support for a free India.

Bhupendranath Datta

Bhupendranath Datta was arrested in 1907 for his involvement in the Jugantar



Movement and for working as the editor of a revolutionary newspaper called 'Jugantar Patrika'. Post his release, he joined the Ghadar Party and went on to become the secretary of Indian Independence Committee. Bhupendranath Datta fought for Indian independence from outside the country.

Shambhu Dutt Sharma



At the age of 24, Shambhu Dutt Sharma gave up on the respectable post of a gazetted officer to join Mahatma Gandhi in the famous Quit India Movement. Shambhu was immediately arrested and was then jailed for his participation in the movement. Even after the Indian independence, Shambhu continued his fight against corruption among other social evils.

Manmath Nath Gupta



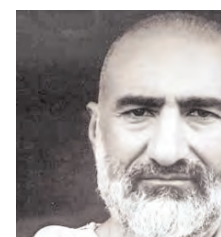
Manmath Nath Gupta was an acclaimed writer who fought for the independence through his revolutionary articles and books. He was also a part of the Hindustan Republican Association and was involved in the Kakori train robbery, for which he was jailed for 14 years. Even after his release, he continued his revolutionary activities and was once again jailed in 1939.

Batukeshwar Dutt



Batukeshwar Dutt was a firebrand revolutionary who is often remembered for his association with Bhagat Singh. Batukeshwar was involved in the serial blast that took place in the Central Legislative Assembly on April 8, 1929. A member of Hindustan Socialist Republican Association, Batukeshwar is also remembered for his hunger strike that secured a few rights for the Indian political prisoners.

Khan Abdul Ghaffar Khan



Khan Abdul Ghaffar Khan was one of those independence activists who opposed the partition of India at the time of its independence. Popularly known as Bacha Khan, he advocated non-violence and wanted a secular country. In 1929, he initiated the 'Khudai Khidmatgar' movement, which gave the British a run for their money. Since his principles were similar to that of Mahatma Gandhi's, he worked closely with Gandhi in all his endeavours.

PRESIDENT MURMU APPROVES 107 GALLANTRY AWARDS

President Droupadi Murmu on Sunday, August 14, approved 107 gallantry awards for soldiers, said a government statement.

Among the recipients are a soldier who went above and beyond the call of duty and killed two wanted terrorists in Kashmir; an Indian Air Force (IAF) pilot who evacuated Indians from Kabul in hostile conditions, a woman pilot who steered a humanitarian assistance mission during flash floods in Madhya Pradesh, and an army dog who saved lives during a counter-terror mission are among those honoured for their bravery and service on the eve of Independence Day.

Among the medals announced on Sunday, there are three Kirti Chakras and 13 Shaurya Chakras – the second and third highest peacetime gallantry honours, the defence ministry said in a statement.

The President has also approved 40 Mention-in-Despatches, including one posthumously for army dog Axel for his role in a recent counter-terror operation in Kashmir.

Group Captain Rahul Singh, the overall mission commander of the three C-17 aircraft tasked with the evacuation of Indian embassy staff and diaspora from Kabul in the face of Taliban's then imminent takeover, was awarded the Vayu Sena Medal (Gallantry), while IAF helicopter pilot Wing Commander Deepika Misra, who was involved in the relief mission in MP, was also awarded the Vayu Sena Medal (Gallantry).

While Axel was Mentioned in Despatches – the highest honour a dog can get for military service in India – another four-legged warrior, Bajaj of 26 Army Dog Unit was among the 408 soldiers honoured with the Army chief's commendation card for their service.

BJP TRYING TO BREAK NON-NDA GOVTS IN STATES, SAYS MAMATA BANERJEE

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Sunday lashed out at the BJP-led Centre, questioning the reason behind the CBI arrest of TMC leader Anubrata Mondal, who is known to enjoy her trust.

Banerjee contended that the BJP was trying to break non-NDA governments in states. "Without evidence, how can you accuse a person," she said, speaking at a function in Behala on the eve of the Independence Day.

Claiming that an agenda has been made to "destroy" her image, the TMC supremo said she was being targeted as the BJP was afraid of her. Asserting that law would take its own course if there was any illegal activity, Banerjee asked, "Why was Keshto (Anubrata Mondal) arrested? What did he do?" Mondal was held by the CBI for allegedly not cooperating with its probe into a cattle smuggling case.

World has seen a new India rising in recent years: President Murmu in her maiden I-Day eve speech

NEW DELHI (TIP)

India has helped the world discover the true potential of democracy and the keyword for the country today is compassion for the downtrodden, needy and those on the margins, President Droupadi Murmu said on Sunday, August 14.

In her maiden address to the nation on the eve of the 76th Independence Day, Murmu said major economic reforms are being accompanied by innovative welfare initiatives and the world has seen "a new India rising in recent years, more so after the outbreak of COVID-19".

The president said when India won independence, there were many international leaders and experts who were sceptical about the success of the democratic form of government in India due to poverty and illiteracy at that time.

"But we Indians proved the sceptics wrong. Democracy not only grew roots in this soil, but it was also enriched too," she said as she asked citizens to pledge to give everything for the sake of the safety, security, progress and prosperity of the country.

The president, in her 17-minute address, also complimented the policymakers for ensuring the growth of the country that has become more inclusive with reduced regional disparities.

"Our response to the pandemic has been appreciated everywhere. We launched the biggest vaccination drive in human history with vaccines manufactured in the country itself. Last month we crossed the 200-crore mark in cumulative vaccine coverage," said Murmu who took over the presidency last month.

She said in combating the pandemic, India's achievements have been better than those of many developed countries. "For this feat, we are grateful to our scientists, doctors, nurses, paramedics and the staff associated with vaccination," she said.

The president said that the pandemic uprooted lives and also economies in the entire world. "When the world has been battling the economic consequences of the great crisis, India got its act together and is now moving forward. India is among the fastest growing major economies in the world," she added.

The president said "our existence will become meaningful only in building a glorious India" and quoted a poem of poet Kuvempu 'I will pass, So will you, But on our bones will arise the great tale of a new India'.

She said this is a clarion call of the nationalist poet for making a complete sacrifice for the motherland and the uplift of fellow citizens. "To follow these ideals is my special appeal to the youth of the country who are going to build the India of 2047," she said.

In most other well-established democracies, women had to wage long-drawn struggles to get the right to vote. But India adopted universal adult franchise rights since the beginning of the Republic, she said.

Thus, the makers of modern India enabled each and every adult citizen to participate in the collective process of nation-building, she said adding India can be credited for helping the world discover the true potential of democracy.

She said the success of start-ups, especially the growing number of unicorns is a shining example of industrial progress and credited the Narendra Modi government and its policymakers for beating the global trend and helping the economy flourish.

"During the last few years, unprecedented progress has been made in the development of physical and digital infrastructure...For the vibrancy of growth visible in our country, credit must also be given to workers and farmers whose hard work has made it possible and entrepreneurs whose business acumen has created wealth," she added.

"What is all the more heartening is that the growth is becoming more inclusive and regional disparities too are reducing. "But this is only the beginning. A series of economic reforms and policy initiatives have been preparing the ground for the long term...the National Education Policy is aimed at preparing the future generation for the next stage of the industrial revolution while also reconnecting it with our heritage," she said.

The President further added that the economic success is leading to an ease in living too as the reforms are rightly



accompanied by innovative welfare initiatives.

"A home of one's own is no longer a dream for the poor, but a reality for more and more people, thanks to the 'Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana'. Similarly, under the 'Jal Jeevan Mission', tap water connection has been provided to every household since the launch of the 'Har Ghar Jal' scheme," she said. She said the aim of these as well as other similar efforts is to provide basic amenities to all, particularly the poor.

"The keyword for India today is compassion; for the downtrodden, for the needy and for those on the margins. Some of our national values have been incorporated in our Constitution as the Fundamental Duties of the citizens. "I appeal to every citizen to know about their Fundamental Duties and follow them in letter and spirit so that our nation reaches new heights," she said.

She said that at the core of the transformation, the country has been witnessing in healthcare, education, economy as well as a number of related areas are the stress on good governance. "When work is done with the spirit of Nation First, it is bound to reflect in every decision and every sector. This is also reflected in India's standing in the world," she said.

India's newfound confidence stems from the spirit of its youth, its farmers, and above all, its women. "Gender inequalities are reducing and women are moving ahead, breaking many glass ceilings. Their increasing participation in social and political processes will prove decisive," she said, adding that at the grassroots level, there were more than 14 lakh elected women representatives in Panchayati Raj Institutions.

"Our daughters are the biggest hope for the nation," she said and referred to the recently held Commonwealth Games in which sports persons especially women have been making the country proud with their performance in international competitions. "A large number of our winners come from underprivileged segments of society. From becoming fighter pilots to space scientists, our daughters are scaling great heights," she said.

She said in celebrating Independence Day, "we are celebrating our 'Bharatiyata'. Our country is full of diversity. But, at the same time, we all have something in common. It is this common thread which binds all of us together and inspires us to walk together with the spirit of Ek Bharat, Shreshtha Bharat."

She also spoke about the environment and said when the world is facing new challenges, India must remain determined to preserve its flora and fauna.

"With our traditional lifestyle, we Indians can show the way to the rest of the world. Yoga and Ayurveda are India's invaluable gifts to the world. Their popularity is on the rise all over the globe," she said.

The president said for 75 weeks now, the nation has been commemorating the noble ideals that won the country freedom. "In March 2021, we began the 'Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav' with the re-enactment of the Dandi March. This way, our celebrations began with a tribute to that watershed event that had put our struggle on the world map. This festival is dedicated to the people of India".

Source: PTI

Maharashtra cabinet

Fadnavis takes finance, home ministry, Shinde holds urban development

MUMBAI (TIP)

Chief minister Eknath Shinde on Sunday, August 14, allocated portfolios to all 20 members of the council of ministers keeping urban development, transport and public works department with himself, while key ministries — home, finance and housing — went to deputy chief minister Devendra Fadnavis.

This development comes five days after the induction of 18 ministers into his cabinet.

The portfolios were distributed five days after the state government, comprising Shinde-led Shiv Sena faction and the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), inducted 18 ministers during the first cabinet expansion on August 9. Prior to that, for the past 41 days, only Shinde and Fadnavis were running the government.

The allocations come days before the monsoon session of the state's legislature begins on August 17. The 23 remaining ministerial berths are likely to be filled in the second cabinet expansion in September, Shinde said on Saturday.

According to the list of portfolios, Shinde kept with himself urban development and 11 other departments — general administration department (GAD), information technology, public works (public projects), transport, marketing, social justice and special assistance, environment and climate change, relief and rehabilitation and disaster management, soil and water conservation, minority affairs, wakf. Besides, he will also look after all those departments that have not yet been allocated.

Shinde, whose rebellion against the Sena leadership led to the collapse of the Thackeray-led Maha Vikas Aghadi government, took oath as the CM on June 30 with the support of the BJP.

In addition to home, finance and housing, deputy CM Fadnavis will also handle planning, law and judiciary, water resources and catchment areas, energy and protocol departments.

BJP leader Radhakrishna Vikhe Patil got the revenue department, which is



considered the third most important portfolio in the state after home and finance. He will also handle the animal husbandry department.

Chandrakant Patil, former state BJP chief who is considered close to Union home minister Amit Shah, was given higher and technical education, parliamentary affairs and textile departments, according to the list shared by the chief minister's office after nod from Governor Bhagat Singh Koshyari. Patil was eyeing either home or revenue department.

Sudhir Mungantiwar will handle forest, fisheries development and cultural affairs portfolios. He was finance minister in the last Fadnavis government from 2014 to 2019.

"Through the state forest, the state government received four awards in the last BJP government. A presentation on the state forest department was also made in Poland at that time. I don't think any department is less important," he told reporters on Sunday.

Girish Mahajan, a close aide of Fadnavis, got rural development, medical education, sports and youth welfare departments. The rural

development is important for the BJP in its outreach programme, party insiders said.

Atul Save has been given cooperation and OBC welfare departments, while Ravindra Chavan has got PWD, food and civil supplies and consumer protection ministries. Another BJP minister Mangal Prabhat Lodha was given tourism, women and child welfare, skill development and entrepreneurship departments. Dr Vijay Kumar Gavit got tribal development and Suresh Khade was allotted the labour department.

Ministers from Shinde-led Sena faction who have got important portfolios are Abdul Sattar (agriculture), Uday Samant (industries), Tanaji Sawant (public health and family welfare), Deepak Kesarkar (school education and Marathi language), Shambhuraj Desai (state excise) and Sanjay Rathod was has been given the responsibility of food and drug administration department. Gulabrao Patil has retained water supply and sanitation department, while Dada Bhuse will handle ports and mining. Sandipan Bhumre was allocated the employment guarantee scheme and horticulture departments.



BIHAR: CONGRESS TO GET THREE BERTHS IN NITISH KUMAR GOVT

The Congress will get three ministerial berths in the new Nitish Kumar government in Bihar, a senior party leader said on Sunday, August 15.

State Congress in-charge Bhakta Charan Das said two party MLAs would take oath as ministers on August 16, and one more legislator would be inducted when the next Cabinet expansion happened after that.

"The number of ministerial berths the Congress will get in the Mahagathbandhan government in Bihar has been finalised. The Congress will get a total of three ministerial berths," he said.

"Two Congress legislators will take oath on August 16, when the Chief Minister is expected to expand his Cabinet. One more party legislator will be inducted in the Nitish Kumar Cabinet when the next expansion takes place after August 16," he added.

Das said the Congress MLAs, who will become the ministers, are yet to be decided.

"We will finalise the names of our legislators who will be part of the Nitsih Kumar Cabinet on Monday," he said.

Earlier, Congress sources had indicated that the party was looking for four ministerial berths in the new government.

The Cabinet, which at present comprises only the Chief Minister and his deputy Tejashwi Yadav, is due for expansion on August 16.

Kumar had taken oath on Wednesday, a day after the JD(U) snapped ties with the BJP-led National Democratic Alliance (NDA) and joined hands with the RJD, the Congress and some other parties to form the Mahagathbandhan government.

Row over video targeting Nehru, his exclusion from Karnataka govt ad

BENGALURU (TIP)

The Bharatiya Janata party (BJP) on Sunday, August 14, shared a seven-minute video blaming the first Indian Prime Minister, Jawahar Lal Nehru, and the Communist party for the Partition of India in 1947. The Congress hit back saying Prime Minister Narendra Modi was using "the most traumatic historical events as fodder for his current political battles".

The seven-minute video, uploaded on the BJP's official handle, describes how the British tried to divide Bengal in 1905 and failed. "The factors that distinguish India in 1947 from Bengal in 1905 are the Congress party [with a close-up shot of Nehru], the Muslim League [showing a photo of Jinnah] and Indian Communists

[with a group photo of founding members of the Communist Party of India (Marxist)]," the narrator states.

"In a span of just three weeks, those having no knowledge of India's cultural heritage, civilisation, values, [and] pilgrimage centres, drew the border between people living together for centuries," he adds.

The party directly launched an attack on the "leaders of the country at the time" for "failing the people of India" that led to nearly a million deaths and even more displacements.

In 2021, Prime Minister Modi had declared August 14 as 'Partition Horrors Remembrance Day'.

Congress' media chief, Jairam Ramesh, criticised the BJP for indulging in politics

over a tragic historic event. In a series of tweets, he said: "The real intent of PM to mark Aug 14 as Partition Horrors Remembrance Day is to use the most traumatic historical events as fodder for his current political battles. Lakhs upon lakhs were dislocated and lost their lives. Their sacrifices must not be forgotten or disrespected."

He added that the "the tragedy of partition, cannot be misused to fuel hate & prejudice. The truth is Savarkar originated 2 nation theory and Jinnah perfected it. Sardar Patel wrote, 'I felt that if we did not accept partition, India would be split into many bits and would be completely ruined'," he added.

Ramesh said that the modern day "Savarkars and Jinnahs" were continuing

their efforts to "divide the nation". "The Indian National Congress will uphold the legacy of Gandhi, Nehru, Patel and many others who were untiring in their efforts to unite the nation. The politics of hate will be defeated," he added. Chhattisgarh chief minister Bhupesh Baghel also hit out at the party saying Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) ideologue V D Savarkar had sown the seed of Partition in 1925. The RSS?is the ideological mentor of the BJP.

He also questioned the BJP's role in the freedom struggle.

"Savarkar had sowed the seed of Partition in 1925. It was Savarkar who gave the two-nation theory, which was supported by Mohammad Ali Jinnah in 1937," Baghel said. *Source: HT*

India in history this Week

AUGUST 12, 2022, TO AUGUST 18, 2022

12 AUGUST

1765 The British East India Company's rule began in India under the Allahabad Treaty.

1919 Vikram Sarabhai, the father of the Indian space program, was born in Ahmedabad.



2009 India's famous economist C. Rangarajan was appointed as the chairman of the Prime Minister's Economic Advisory Council.

2008 Aamir Khan was awarded the Golapudi Srinivas Memorial Award 2008 for his film Taare Zameen Par.



1945 George Sidney Arundel, an Englishman who devoted his life to India, died.

13 AUGUST

1795 Queen Ahilyabai Holkar died.

1936 Famous Indian woman revolutionary Bhikaji Cama died.

1956 The National Highway Bill was passed in the Lok Sabha.

1951 Hindustan Trainer 2, the first aircraft manufactured in India, took its first flight.

1784 Pitt's India Bill introduced in the British Parliament for administrative reforms in India.

2008 Tata Steel, the world's leading steel company, entered into an agreement with two major companies to jointly build a steel complex in Vietnam.

2008 India successfully tested the multi-barrel rocket launcher (MBRL) weapon system Pinak.



1936 The famous Indian cinema actress Vyjayanthi Mala was born on 13 August 1936.

14 AUGUST

1862 Bombay High Court was established.

1924 Birth of renowned writer and journalist Kuldeep Nayyar.



1947 Partition of India, Pakistan became a separate nation.

1968 Morarji Desai honored with Pakistan's highest civilian honor, Nishan-e-Pakistan.

1956 Indian comedian Johnny Lever was born.

15 AUGUST

1772 The East India Company decided to set up separate civil and criminal courts in the districts.

1854 East India Railway ran the first passenger train from Calcutta to Hooghly in a distance of 37 km. However, it was officially inaugurated in 1885.

1872 Writer and litterateur Sri Aurobindo was born.



1947 Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru was sworn in as the first Prime Minister of independent India.

1950 An earthquake of 8.6 magnitude killed 20 to 30 thousand people in India.

1972 Postal index number ie PIN code is implemented.

1982 The national program of nationwide color broadcasting and TV was inaugurated in Delhi.

1990 The ground-to-air missile Akash was successfully launched.

1907 It was founded on 15 August as part of the Indian Bank-Swadeshi movement.

16 AUGUST

1886 Ram Krishna Paramahansa Dev breathed his last at the Twilight Vela.

1946 The Muslim League declared a direct action day, during which around 5000 people were killed and

15,000 were injured in Kolkata during the violence.



2018 Former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee died at the age of 93.

17 AUGUST

1909 Madan Lal Dhingra was hanged in the Pentonvilli prison in connection with the murder of Vayali and Lalkaka.

1947 After the independence of India, the first British troops left home.

1941 Bimal Jalan, the 20th Governor of the Reserve Bank of India, was born on 1941.



2011 Lokpal movement: Anna Hazare continued his fast in Tihar, despite his release in 2011, till he got written permission to continue his fast in JP Park.

2009 On the issue of internal security, the one-day conference of all the Chief Ministers of the country was held in New Delhi on 2009 under the chairmanship of Prime Minister Manmohan Singh.

18 AUGUST

1900 Vijayalakshmi Pandit, sister of former Prime Minister Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, was born.

1934 The film director, lyricist and poet Gulzar was born.

1940 For the first time, the weather map was broadcast on television.

1945 The great freedom fighter Netaji Subhash Chand Bose was badly injured in a plane crash in Taihoku, Taiwan, later died in a military hospital.

1951 Indian Institute of Technology was established in Kharagpur.

1872 Birth of Pandit Vishnu Digambar, the great musician of Maharashtra. Despite being blind, he achieved memorable achievements in the field of music.

1800 Governor General Lord Vallejoli established Fort William College in Calcutta.

1956 Indian cricketer Sandeep Patil was born in Mumbai. He scored 1588 runs in 29 Test matches.

2008 The Mayawati government in Uttar Pradesh announced the implementation of the Sixth Pay Commission recommendations in 2008.

2010 In 2010, TVS Electronics included a rupee symbol just above the tab in its new key board called 'TVS Gold Bharat'.

1700 Bajirao I, the great general of the Maratha Empire, was born on 1700.

India's journey from 1947: Historic events

On August 15, 2022, India celebrates its 75th Independence Day. The number 75 is significant, for it alone indicates how many years India has journeyed as an independent nation after driving out the British colonisers. The journey, of course, was not an easy one. When the Britishers came to India, it was a large undivided land filled with wealth and riches. When they left, the land was no longer undivided, as the colonisers had carved it up into India and Pakistan (Present-day Bangladesh was part of Pakistan then). The country was struggling with poverty, chaos and bewilderment, for it was almost 200 years ago since the country last breathed in the air of freedom.

But India decided to fight. First, it took baby steps with its newfound freedom. It stumbled while trying to overcome the obstacles in its way, but never gave up. Then gradually, it understood the ways of the world (quite literally), and one day, it was found to be taking rapid strides towards development in every sphere. India, today, is one of the most prominent and respected nations in the world. From the status of a colony to becoming a country that is playing an increasingly important role in world politics, India has come a long, long way. A journey which we can count by 75 years.

Let us take a look at the iconic and important moments that shaped the narrative and course of Independent India.

1947: Independence and Partition



India gained its Independence from the long British rule on August 15, 1947. Just before the clock struck 12, on August 14, the first Prime Minister of India, Jawaharlal Nehru delivered the famous 'Tryst with Destiny' speech to the Indian Constituent Assembly in the Parliament. On August 15, he raised the Indian national flag above the Lahori Gate of the Red Fort in Delhi. But the Independence of India came at a painful cost in the form of the Partition, and lakhs and lakhs of people were uprooted from their homes. Many died in the confusion and journey from one country to another, and those who lived narrated its horrors to the subsequent generation.

1948: Mahatma Gandhi was assassinated

Mahatma Gandhi, the great freedom fighter who is lovingly considered the Father of the Nation in India, was assassinated on January 30, 1948, by Nathuram Vinayak Godse in New Delhi. Godse was a member of the Hindu Mahasabha and a former member of RSS



who was of the view that Gandhi was too accommodating to Muslims during the Partition of India.

1949: Constitution of India was adopted



The Constitution of India is the supreme law of India, a document that simply needs no introduction. The date November 26, 1949, holds a significant place in India's history, as it was on that day that the Constituent Assembly of India adopted the Constitution of India.

1950: India became a Republic

In order of importance, 1950 is possibly the most important and epoch-making year in independent India's history after 1947. For it was on January 26, 1950, that the Constitution of India became effective. It replaced the Government of India Act 1935 as the country's fundamental governing document, and the Dominion of India became the Republic of India. Every year, January 26 is celebrated as Republic Day.

1951: First Five-year Plan was launched

Five-Year Plans (FYPs) are centralised and integrated national economic programs, and it was former Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru who presented the First Five-Year Plan to the Parliament of India. It was launched in 1951 and was based on the Harrod-Domar model with few modifications. Its main focus was to develop the primary sector of the country.

1952: First Lok Sabha election

In India, the Lok Sabha election was held for the first time between October 25, 1951, and February 21, 1952. It was a humungous affair, as 1,949 candidates competed for 489 seats in the Lok Sabha. More than 173 million people out of an overall population of about 360 million were eligible to vote, making it the largest election conducted at the time. The voter turnout was 45.7 per cent. Congress bagged a mammoth 364 seats out of the total 489 seats and 45 per cent

of the total votes polled, and Jawaharlal Nehru became the first democratically elected Prime Minister of India.

1953: Air India was nationalised



In 1932, JRD Tata founded Air India as Tata Airlines and himself flew its first single-engine de Havilland Puss Moth, a British three-seater high-wing monoplane aeroplane. After World War II, regular commercial service was restored in India and Tata Airlines became a public limited company in 1946 under the name Air India. In 1953, the Government of India passed the Air Corporations Act and purchased a majority stake in the carrier from Tata Sons. JRD Tata remained its Chairman till 1977. The company was renamed Air India International Limited and the domestic services were transferred to Indian Airlines.

1954: India, China signed the Panchsheel

Panchsheel, or the Five Principles of Peaceful Co-existence, were first formally enunciated in the Agreement on Trade and Intercourse between the Tibet region of China and India or the Sino-Indian Agreement which was signed on April 29, 1954. It stated, in its preamble, that the two governments resolved to enter into the agreement based on the principles of, mutual respect for each other's territorial integrity and sovereignty, mutual non-aggression, mutual non-interference, equality and mutual benefit Peaceful co-existence.

1955: SBI was founded



The State Bank of India was formed from the imperial bank of India in 1955. The three Presidency banks in pre-Independent India, the Bank of Bengal, the Bank of Bombay and the Bank of Madras merged to form the Imperial Bank of India on January 27, 1921. On 1 July 1955, the Imperial Bank of India became the State Bank of India. It is the 43rd largest bank in the world and the

largest bank in India.

1956: LIC was established



The Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC), an Indian statutory insurance and investment corporation was established on September 1, 1956, when the Parliament of India passed the Life Insurance of India Act which nationalised the insurance industry in India. The LIC was created by merging over 245 insurance companies and provident societies.

1957: The decimalisation of the rupee

India decimalised its rupee 10 years after Independence, in 1957. The Indian Coinage Act was amended in September 1955 for the adoption of a decimal system for coinage, and it came into force with effect on April 1, 1957. The rupee remained unchanged in value and nomenclature, but it was now divided into 100 'Paisa' instead of 16 Annas or 64 Pice. For public recognition, the new decimal Paisa was termed 'Naya Paisa' until June 1, 1964, when the term 'Naya' was dropped.

1958: Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act was passed

The Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act, commonly known as AFSPA, was passed in 1958. It is an Act that grants special powers to the Indian Armed Forces to maintain public order in "disturbed areas". According to the Disturbed Areas (Special Courts) Act, 1976, an area, once declared 'disturbed', has to maintain the status quo for at least six months.

1959: Dalai Lama was given political asylum by India



The 1959 Tibetan uprising began on March 10, 1959, in Lhasa, the capital of Tibet. Dalai Lama fearing for his life escaped from Tibet with his followers with the help of the CIA Special and crossed into India on March 30, 1959. He reached Tezpur in Assam on April 18, and later, he set up the Government of Tibet in Exile in Dharamshala, which is

often referred to as "Little Lhasa".

1960: Maharashtra was formed

On May 1, 1960, the state of Maharashtra was formed from the division of the erstwhile Bombay State. Since then, May 1 is celebrated every year as Maharashtra Day or Maharashtra Din in the state.

1961: Liberation of Goa

In 1961, India annexed Goa, Daman and Diu, which were then Portuguese Indian territories. From December 17 to December 19, 1961, the Indian Armed Forces carried out Operation Vijay and ended 451 years of rule by Portugal over its remaining exclaves in India, which is also known as the 'Liberation of Goa'. After Portuguese rule ended, Goa was placed under military administration and on June 9, 1962, military rule was replaced by the civilian government.

1962: India-China War

The India-China War in 1962 began on October 20, and ended when China declared a ceasefire on November 20 and simultaneously announced its withdrawal to its claimed "Line of Actual Control". The main cause of the war was a dispute over the sovereignty of the widely separated Aksai Chin and Arunachal Pradesh border regions.

1963: India's first-ever rocket launch

On November 21, 1963, the launch of the first sounding rocket from Thumba near Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala, marked the beginning of the Indian Space Programme. Sounding rockets made it possible to probe the atmosphere in situ using rocket-borne instrumentation.

1964: Sirima-Shastri Pact was signed

The Sirima-Shastri Pact or Srimavo-Shastri Pact was an agreement that was signed between Sirimavo Bandaranaike, former Prime Minister of Sri Lanka, and Lal Bahadur Shastri, former Prime Minister of India, on October 30, 1964. It was officially called the Agreement on Persons of Indian Origin in Ceylon and was an important agreement in determining the status and future of people of Indian origin in Sri Lanka.

Also, on May 27, 1964, the first Prime Minister of India, Jawaharlal Nehru, breathed his last.

1965: India-Pakistan War

The India-Pakistan War of 1965 or the Second Kashmir War took place between August and September of that year. On August 5, 1965, between 26,000 and 33,000 Pakistan soldiers crossed the Line of Control dressed as Kashmiri locals, aiming to precipitate an insurgency against Indian rule. On August 15, Indian forces crossed the cease-fire line. On September 20, the United Nations Security Council unanimously passed a resolution, demanding an unconditional ceasefire from both nations within 48 hours. While India immediately accepted the demand, Pakistan accepted it on September 23.

1966: The year of notable events

In 1966, three important events took place that shaped the subsequent course of India's narrative:

On January 10, 1966, the Tashkent Declaration, a peace agreement between India and Pakistan, was signed. It



resolved the India-Pakistan War of 1965. The Soviets, represented by Premier Alexey Kosygin, moderated between former Indian Prime Minister Lal Bahadur Shastri and former Pakistan President Muhammad Ayub Khan.

On January 11, 1966, the second Prime Minister of India, Lal Bahadur Shastri breathed his last in Tashkent, Uzbekistan (then in the Soviet Union), one day after signing the peace treaty.

After Shastri's death, Indira Gandhi became the Prime Minister of India on January 24, 1966.

1967: Nathu La, Cho La clashes took place

The Nathu La and Cho La clashes, also referred to as the Sino-Indian War of 1967, was a series of border clashes between India and China alongside the border of the erstwhile Kingdom of Sikkim, then an Indian protectorate. It started on September 11, 1967, when China's People's Liberation Army (PLA) attacked Indian posts at Nathu La, and ended on September 15, 1967. In October 1967, another military clash took place at Cho La and ended on the same day.

1968: 3-language formula was introduced

In 1968, the three-language formula, a language learning policy, was formulated by the Union Ministry of Education. It was adopted by the Indian Parliament and was incorporated into the National Education Policy in the same year. It provided for the study of "Hindi, English and modern Indian language (preferably one of the southern languages) in the Hindi speaking states and Hindi, English and the regional language in the non-Hindi speaking states".

1969: ISRO was formed



The Indian Space Research Organisation, commonly known as the ISRO, was formed on August 15, 1969. ISRO is India's primary agency performing tasks related to space-based applications, space exploration and the development of related technologies.

1970: The Patents Act was passed

The Patents Act was passed in the Indian Parliament in 1970, and to date, it is the legislation that governs patents in India. The Office of the Controller General of Patents, Designs and Trade Marks (CGPDTM) generally known as the Indian Patent Office, is an agency under the Department for Promotion of

Industry and Internal Trade which administers the Indian law of Patents, Designs and Trade Marks.

1971: The India-Pakistan War



The 1971 India-Pakistan War is one of the most significant moments in the history of Independent India. It took place during the Bangladesh Liberation War, from December 3, 1971, to December 16, 1971. On December 3, the Pakistan Air Force carried out Operation Chengiz Khan, the code name assigned to their preemptive strikes on the forward airbases and radar installations of the Indian Air Force. It prompted India to enter into the Bangladesh Liberation War, which was a revolution and armed conflict sparked by the rise of the Bengali nationalist and self-determination movement in erstwhile East Pakistan. India crushed Pakistan in war and forced the Pakistan military to sign the Instrument of Surrender on December 16, 1971, in Dhaka. Pakistan's defeat resulted in the formation of a new country, Bangladesh, which was earlier known as East Pakistan.

1972: The Simla Agreement was signed



On July 2, 1972, the Simla Agreement was signed by Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi and Pakistan President Zulfikar Ali Bhutto. Under the Simla Agreement, both India and Pakistan undertook to abjure conflict and confrontation which had marred relations in the past, and to work towards the establishment of durable peace, friendship and cooperation. It had a set of guiding principles, mutually agreed to by India and Pakistan, which both sides would adhere to while managing relations with each other. The Simla Agreement focused on respect for each other's territorial integrity and sovereignty, non-interference in each other's internal affairs, respect for each other's unity, political independence, sovereign equality, and abjuring hostile propaganda. It also agreed on the fact that every issue would be resolved peacefully through direct bilateral approaches, building the foundations of a cooperative relationship, and the Line of Control in Jammu and Kashmir would not be violated.

1973: Mysore State renamed Karnataka

Mysore State was a state in Independent India. It was formed in 1947 out of the territories of the Kingdom of

Mysore and it existed in that form till 1956, and its capital was Bangalore (currently Bengaluru). In 1956, it was considerably enlarged, when it became a linguistically homogeneous Kannada-speaking state in India. On November 1, 1973, it was renamed Karnataka.

1974: Operation Smiling Buddha took place

Officially known as Pokhran-I, Operation Smiling Buddha was the assigned code name of India's first successful nuclear bomb test which took place on May 18, 1974. The bomb was detonated in Pokhran Test Range (PTR) in Rajasthan, by the Indian Army under the supervision of several key Indian generals. It was the first confirmed nuclear weapons test by a nation outside the five permanent members of the UNSC. In 1975, Homi Sethna, a chemical engineer and the chairman of the Indian Atomic Energy Commission (AECD), Raja Ramanna of BARC, and Basanti Nagchaudhuri of DRDO, were honoured with the Padma Vibhushan, and five other project members received the Padma Shri.

1975: The Emergency was imposed



To date, the Emergency remains one of the darkest periods of India's history post-1947. It was officially issued by President Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed upon the advice of the then Prime Minister of India Indira Gandhi. It was in effect from June 25, 1975, until its withdrawal on March 21, 1977. Elections were cancelled, civil liberties were suspended, most of Indira Gandhi's political opponents were imprisoned and the press was censored. Numerous human rights were violated during that period. Sanjay Gandhi, the son of Indira Gandhi, spearheaded a brutal, ruthless mass campaign for vasectomy. As per reports, in 1976-1977, the program led to 8.3 million sterilizations, most of them forced. Many innocent people were imprisoned and tortured as all kinds of fundamental rights were thrown out of the window. To date, the controversies regarding the Emergency and its nightmarish brutality have stayed alive in the mainstream narrative, and in the subsequent years, it has been heavily criticised for all the right reasons.

1976: Sanjay Gandhi's infamous sterilisation programme

During the period of Emergency in India when fundamental rights did not exist in the country, Sanjay Gandhi, the son of the then Prime Minister of India, allegedly did something heinous. In September 1976, he initiated a widespread compulsory sterilisation programme to limit the growth of the population in India. Experts have debated the exact extent of Gandhi's role in the implementation of the programme. According to some experts, Gandhi was directly responsible for his authoritarianism, while other experts

blame the officials who implemented the programme rather than Gandhi himself. Rukhsana Sultana, one of Gandhi's close associates, received tremendous criticism for the sterilisation campaign in certain areas of old Delhi. The campaign primarily involved getting males to undergo vasectomy, and allegedly, unwilling candidates were also sterilised. In 1976-1977, the programme led to 8.3 million sterilisations, most of them forced. Later, some spine-chilling incidents were reported that showed the true brutality of the programme.

1977: Lok Sabha election and first non-Congress government

On January 18, 1977, amid the Emergency, Indira Gandhi called for fresh elections and released some political prisoners. On January 20, four Opposition parties, the Indian National Congress (Organisation), the Bharatiya Jana Sangh, the Bharatiya Lok Dal and the Praja Socialist Party, decided to fight the elections under a single banner called the Janata Alliance. A defeat looked imminent for the Congress and Indira Gandhi, who came under heavy criticism because of the Emergency. The Lok Sabha elections were held between March 16 and March 20, 1977. The Emergency expired on March 21, shortly before the final results were announced. The Janata Alliance crushed Congress, and incumbent Prime Minister Indira Gandhi lost her seat in Rae Bareilly. On March 24, Morarji Desai was sworn in as the fourth Prime Minister of India, and the first non-Congress government in independent India was formed. At the age of 81, Desai became the oldest man to be elected PM of India.

1978: Indira Gandhi came back to Parliament and was arrested



In the 1977 Lok Sabha elections, Indira Gandhi lost her seat in Rae Bareilly and Congress appointed Yashwantrao Chavan as its Parliamentary party leader. Soon afterwards, the Congress party split again with Gandhi floating her own Congress faction. She won a by-election in the erstwhile Chikkamagaluru Lok Sabha Constituency and took a seat in the Lok Sabha in November 1978. However, the Janata Government's Home Minister, Choudhary Charan Singh, ordered her arrest along with Sanjay Gandhi. They were arrested on several charges, which would be difficult to prove in court. The arrest automatically expelled Gandhi from Parliament. However, this strategy backfired disastrously, and her arrest and long-running trial helped her to gain sympathy from many people.

1979: The Mandal Commission was established

In 1979, the Janata Party Government led by Prime Minister Morarji Desai established the Mandal Commission. It was established to "identify the socially or educationally backward classes" of India. It was headed by BP Mandal, a

parliamentarian, to consider the question of reservations for people to redress caste discrimination and used eleven social, economic, and educational indicators to determine backwardness. The recommendations of the Mandal Commission in its report and its subsequent implementation created widespread controversy in India.

1980: A significant year for Indian politics

The year 1980 is significant in the history of Indian politics.

On April 6, 1980, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) was formed. It is currently the ruling party in the central government led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. As of July 2022, it is the country's largest political party in terms of representation in Parliament and state legislatures. The BJP is a right-wing party and has close ideological and organisational links to the much older Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS). Since January 20, 2022, JP has been serving as the president of the BJP.

The 1980 Lok Sabha election witnessed the strong comeback of Indira Gandhi and her Congress (I) to power. It was held due to the fall of the Janata government, which was formed after the 1977 general elections. Morarji Desai lost a vote of confidence in the Parliament and had to resign from the post of Prime Minister. Charan Singh became the PM in June 1979. Even though Congress promised to support him, it backed out just two days before the government was scheduled to prove its majority in Lok Sabha. Charan Singh was forced to resign and called for elections in January 1980. Indira Gandhi once again became the PM with a thumping victory, with Congress winning 353 seats. Janata Party won just 31 seats, and Charan Singh's Janata Party (Secular) bagged 41 seats.

On June 23, 1980, Sanjay Gandhi, who was widely expected to succeed her mother as the leader of Congress, died in a plane crash near Safdarjung Airport in New Delhi. He was flying a new aircraft of the Delhi Flying Club, and, while performing an aerobatic manoeuvre over his office, lost control and crashed. He died instantly, it reportedly took eight surgeons four hours to stitch up his mutilated body.

1981: Infosys was founded

On July 2, 1981, Infosys, an Indian multinational information technology company that provides business consulting, information technology and outsourcing services was founded. It is one of the largest Indian IT companies in India, and according to Forbes Global 2000 ranking, it was the 602nd largest public company in the world back then. It was founded by seven engineers, NR Narayana Murthy, Nandan Nilekani, S Gopalakrishnan, SD Shibulal, K Dinesh, NS Raghavan and Ashok Arora in 1981 in Pune. On July 2, 1981, it was registered as Infosys Consultants Private Limited, its office was relocated to Bengaluru in 1983. Later, it was renamed Infosys Limited in June 2011. On August 24, 2021, it became the fourth Indian company to cross \$100 billion in market capitalization.

1982: Color television began its journey in India

On August 15, 1982, Doordarshan introduced a national telecast service (DD National) from its own TV studio in Mandi House, New Delhi. In India, colour television began its journey with

the live telecast of the Independence Day speech by former PM Indira Gandhi on August 15 that year, followed by the colour telecast of the 1982 Asian Games in Delhi.

1983: India won the cricket World Cup for the first time



Nobody gave India any real chance of winning the 1983 Cricket World Cup (then known as Prudential Cup) and expected them to be a pushover. But India, led by Kapil Dev and having players like Mohinder Amarnath, Kirti Azad, Roger Binny, Balwinder Sandhu, Krishnamachari Srikkanth and Yashpal Sharma among others, defied all odds to win the World Cup for the first time. In the final of the tournament, India defeated West Indies by 43 runs and scripted one of the most stunning upsets in cricket history. It would change the history of cricket forever and would result in India becoming a powerhouse in the sport.

1984: Indira Gandhi assassination and Bhopal gas tragedy

On October 31, 1984, former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi was assassinated at her residence in Safdarjung Road, New Delhi by her Sikh bodyguards, Satwant Singh and Beant Singh. It took place after Operation Blue Star, an Indian military action which was carried out between June 1 and 8, 1984, on the orders of Gandhi to remove Jarnail Singh Bhindranwale and his followers from the Golden Temple in Amritsar. The assailants had fired 33 bullets at her, of which 30 had hit; 23 had passed through her body, while seven remained inside.

In the same year, arguably the worst industrial disaster in the world took place in India. The Bhopal disaster, also known as the Bhopal gas tragedy, was a chemical accident that occurred on the night of December 2-3, 1984, at the Union Carbide India Limited (UCIL) pesticide plant in Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh. The official immediate death toll was 2,259. In 2006, a government affidavit stated that the leak caused 558,125 injuries, including 38,478 temporary partial injuries and approximately 3,900 severely and permanently disabling injuries.

1985: TADA came into effect

In 1985, the Terrorist and Disruptive Activities (Prevention) Act, commonly known as TADA, came into effect. On May 23, 1985, the President of India gave assent to Act, and on May 24, 1985, it came into effect. TADA was an anti-terrorism law in India which was in force between 1985 and 1995 (modified in 1987). The Act was implemented to thwart the Khalistani Movement, an armed Sikh separatist movement in Punjab, and the Act later expanded to encompass other states as well. It was allowed to lapse in 1995 due to increasing unpopularity after widespread

allegations of abuse. TADA was the first anti-terrorism law legislated by the government to define and counter the activities of terrorists.

1986: First Operation Black Thunder

Operation Black Thunder was the name given to two operations that took place in India in the late 1980s to flush out remaining pro-Khalistan Sikh militants from the Golden Temple. On April 30, 1986, the first Operation Black Thunder took place, and it was commanded by Julio Ribeiro, who was the DGP of Punjab. For three months before the operation took place, about 200 radical Sikh militants had been occupying the temple premises. About 300 National Security Guards commandos stormed the Golden Temple along with 700 Border Security Force troops and captured about 200 Sikh militants. The operation lasted for eight hours and was approved by former Punjab CM Surjit Singh Barnala.

1987: Goa became a state of India

On December 19, 1961, the Indian Army conducted Operation Vijay and annexed Goa, and Daman and Diu islands, ending the Portuguese rule there. Goa, along with Daman and Diu, was organised as a Union Territory of India. On January 16, 1987, a referendum was held in Goa, to decide the future of the Union Territory of Goa, Daman and Diu. On May 30, 1987, the union territory was split, and Goa became the 25th state of India, and Daman and Diu remained a Union Territory.

1988: The SEBI was established

The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) is the regulatory body for the securities and commodity market in India. It is owned by the Union Ministry of Finance and was established on April 12, 1988. Later, it was given Statutory Powers on January 30, 1992, through the SEBI Act, 1992.

1989: Agni was successfully launched



The Agni missile is a family of medium to intercontinental range ballistic missiles developed by India. Agni missiles are long-range, nuclear weapons capable, surface-to-surface ballistic missiles. The first missile of the series, Agni-I was tested at the Interim Test Range in Chandipur in 1989. It was India's first intermediate-range ballistic missile (IRBM), and at that time, elevated India into a prestigious league of only five nations in the world with IRBM strategic capability.

1990: Exodus of Kashmiri Hindus

The Exodus of Kashmiri Hindus or the Exodus of Kashmiri Pandits in 1990 is one of the most significant events in independent India. The migration or flight took place in early 1990 from the Kashmir valley following an extreme rise in violence and insurgency by extremist groups. A series of gruesome

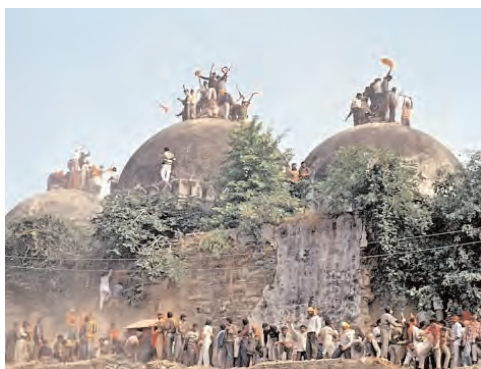
high-profile murders and threats by the terrorists pushed the Kashmiri Pandits into a corner, and lawlessness and chaos took over the Valley. Numerous violent incidents forced thousands of Pandits to flee the Valley for safety. According to Kashmiri Pandit Sangharsh Samiti (KPSS), the local organisation of Hindus in Kashmir, 357 Hindus were killed in Kashmir in 1990.

1991: Assassination of Rajiv Gandhi



On May 21, 1991, a suicide bombing in Sriperumbudur in Tamil Nadu killed former Prime Minister of India Rajiv Gandhi. Apart from Gandhi, at least 14 others were killed in the blast and 43 people were grievously injured. The name of the suicide bomber was Thenmozhi Rajaratnam, also known as Dhanu. She was a member of the Sri Lankan Tamil separatist organisation Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE). The incident sent shockwaves across India and was mourned by prominent personalities all over the world.

1992: Demolition of the Babri Masjid



The demolition of the Babri Masjid is one of the most controversial incidents in the history of independent India. Situated in Uttar Pradesh's Ayodhya, the Babri Masjid was the subject of a lengthy socio-political dispute and was targeted after a political rally organised by Hindu nationalist organisations turned violent. On December 6, 1992, the Vishva Hindu Parishad and the BJP organised a rally at the site involving 1,50,000 volunteers, known as 'kar sevaks'. The rally turned violent, and the infuriated crowd overpowered the security forces and razed the mosque to the ground. This demolition led to communal riots in India, causing the death of at least 2,000 people.

1993: Bombay blasts



On March 12, 1993, Bombay (currently Mumbai), the capital of Maharashtra, was rocked by a series of 12 deadly bombings. The single-day attacks killed 257 people and injured 1,400. The attacks were coordinated by Dawood Ibrahim, the leader of the international organised crime syndicate D-Company. He ordered and organised the bombings through his subordinates, Tiger Memon and Yakub Memon. On March 21, 2013, the Supreme Court of India upheld the death sentence against suspected ringleader Yakub and reduced the previous death sentences against 10 others to life in prison. However, two of the main suspects in the case, Ibrahim and Tiger, are yet to be arrested or tried.

1994: Prithvi missile inducted into the Indian Army

Prithvi is a tactical surface-to-surface short-range ballistic missile (SRBM) developed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) of India. Prithvi I class was a single-stage liquid-fueled surface-to-surface ballistic missile having a maximum warhead mounting capability of 1,000 kg, with a range of 150 km (93 mi). This class of Prithvi missiles was inducted into the Indian Army in 1994.

1995: Delhi Metro Rail Corporation Limited was founded

The Delhi Metro Rail Corporation Limited (DMRC) is a centre-state joint venture that operates the Delhi Metro, and it was founded on May 3, 1995. The DMRC also plans and implements metro rail, monorail, and high-speed rail projects in India and abroad. Elattuvalapil Sreedharan, also known as the 'Metro Man', was the first managing director of DMRC.

1996: Atal Bihari Vajpayee became PM for the first time

Ahead of the 1996 Lok Sabha elections, the then BJP president LK Advani declared that Atal Bihari Vajpayee would be the party's prime ministerial candidate. After the election results were declared, the BJP, with 161 seats, became the single largest party in Parliament. President of India Shankar Dayal Sharma invited Vajpayee to form the government, and he was sworn in as the 10th prime minister of India. But the BJP failed to muster a majority among members of the Lok Sabha, and Vajpayee resigned after a few days when it became clear that he did not have enough support to form a government. His first tenure as the Prime Minister of India lasted from May 16, 1996, to June 1, 1996.

1997: The year of RJD, KR Narayanan and a sorrowful incident

On July 5, 1997, the political spectrum of Bihar changed forever. It was on that day that Lalu Prasad Yadav founded the Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD), a socialist political party. The RJD was formed as a breakaway of the Janata Dal, and Lalu Prasad was elected as the first president of the party.

On July 17, 1997, KR Narayanan was elected to become the President of India with 95 per cent of the votes in the electoral college. It is the only presidential election to have been held with a minority government holding power at the Centre. He was sworn in on July 25 and became the first person from the Dalit community to hold the post.

On September 5, 1997, Mother Teresa, also known as Saint Teresa of Calcutta, passed away in Calcutta (present-day Kolkata) in West Bengal. She was an Albanian-Indian Roman Catholic nun who in 1950 founded the Missionaries of Charity. In 1979, she received the Nobel Peace Prize for the works she undertook in the struggle to overcome poverty and distress in our society.

1998: India conducted Pokhran-II tests



In May 1998, India conducted a series of five nuclear bomb test explosions at the Army's Pokhran Test Range, and it is known as the Pokhran-II tests. It was the second instance of nuclear testing conducted by India, after the Smiling Buddha in May 1974. The tests achieved their main objective of giving India the capability to build fission and thermonuclear weapons with yields up to 200 kilotons.

1999: Atal Bihari Vajpayee became PM for the third time, Kargil War and Air India flight hijacked

In the 1999 Lok Sabha elections, the BJP-led National Democratic Alliance (NDA) won 303 seats out of the 543 seats in the Lok Sabha, securing a comfortable and stable majority. On October 13, 1999, Vajpayee took oath as the Prime Minister of India for the third time. By the time he left the office in 2004, he had become the first non-Congress Prime Minister to serve a full five-year term.

The Kargil War, a significant moment in the history of bilateral relations between India and Pakistan, was an armed conflict between the two countries that took place from May to July 1999 in the Kargil district of Jammu and Kashmir and elsewhere along the Line of Control (LoC). It was caused by the infiltration of Pakistan troops, disguised as Kashmiri militants, into positions on the Indian side of the LoC. The Indian Armed Forces recaptured a majority of the positions on the Indian side of the LoC, and Pakistan, under international political pressure, withdrew its forces from the remaining Indian positions along the LoC.

On December 24, 1999, Harkat-ul-Mujahideen terrorists hijacked Indian Airlines Flight 814 (IC 814). The abducted hostages were released only after the Indian government agreed to the demand of the terrorist group to release jailed terrorists. The flight was travelling from Nepal to Delhi on that day. There were 176 passengers and 15 crew members on the flight.

2000: Jharkhand became India's 26th state and Bill Clinton visited India

Jharkhand is a state in eastern India that shares its border with West Bengal to the east, Chhattisgarh to the west, Uttar Pradesh to the northwest, Bihar to the north and Odisha to the south. The

state was formed on November 15, 2000, after carving out what was previously the southern half of Bihar.

On March 20, 2000, US President Bill Clinton arrived in New Delhi to a warm welcome amidst unprecedented security. It was the first India visit by a US President in 22 years. The visit was immensely important as it rekindled India-US relations, after the slide in the wake of the Pokhran II nuclear tests in May 1998. While the US described the trip as the turning of a new leaf in India-US relations, India described it as the harbinger of "a qualitatively new" relationship.

2001: Gujarat, Narendra Modi and Parliament attack



On January 26, 2001, on India's 52nd Republic Day, tragedy struck Gujarat. An earthquake, known as the Gujarat earthquake or the Bhuj earthquake, shattered the state and destroyed the lives of thousands of people. The epicentre of the earthquake was about 9 km south-southwest of the Chobari village in the Kutch District of Gujarat. The massive earthquake resulted in the death of 13,805 to 20,023 people (including 18 in southeastern Pakistan), injured another 1,67,000 and destroyed nearly 3,40,000 buildings.

It was in 2001 that Narendra Modi truly announced himself in the national political arena for the first time. On October 3, 2001, he replaced a weary Keshubhai Patel as the Chief Minister of Gujarat and was entrusted with the responsibility of preparing the BJP for the 2002 state Assembly elections. He was sworn in as the CM on October 7, 2001.

On December 13, 2001, terrorists belonging to Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) and Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM) attacked the Parliament of India in New Delhi. The attack led to the deaths of six Delhi Police personnel, two Parliament Security Service personnel, and a gardener, and increased the tensions between India and Pakistan, resulting in the 2001-2002 India-Pakistan standoff. The five terrorists who perpetrated the attack were killed outside the Parliament.

2002: Prevention of Terrorism Act, Gujarat riots



The Prevention of Terrorism Act, 2002 (POTA) was an Act passed by the Parliament of India in 2002, to

strengthen the anti-terrorism operations of India's security forces. It replaced the Prevention of Terrorism Ordinance (POTO) of 2001 and the Terrorist and Disruptive Activities (Prevention) Act (TADA). In 2004, the Act was repealed by the United Progressive Alliance coalition in the Centre.

The 2002 Gujarat riots, also known as the 2002 Gujarat violence was three-day communal violence in Gujarat. Reportedly, the riot was a result of the burning of a train in Godhra on February 27, 2002, which caused the deaths of 58 Hindu pilgrims and 'kar sevaks' returning from Ayodhya. According to official figures, 1,044 people died and 2,500 were injured in the riots.

2003: Mumbai bombings



On August 25, 2003, two car bombings took place in Mumbai, that killed 54, and injured 244 people. One of the explosions took place at the Gateway of India and another one took place in a jewellery market Zaveri Bazaar near the Mumbai Devi Temple in central Mumbai. Pakistan-based Lashkar-e-Taiba was blamed for the attack.

2004: Congress came back to power

The 2004 Lok Sabha elections in India were held between April 20 and May 10, 2004, and they were the first elections in India fully carried out with electronic voting machines. The Congress came back to power after eight years, and it led the United Progressive Alliance in forming the government. Congress leader and former Finance Minister Manmohan Singh became the 13th Prime Minister of India.

2005: Delhi bombings, and a landmark judgement

On October 29, 2005, three terrorist-orchestrated explosions took place in Delhi, killing 62 people and injuring at least 210 others. The bombings happened two days before Diwali and were triggered in two markets in central and south Delhi and in a bus in the south of the city. The terrorist outfit Lashkar-e-Taiba was blamed for the attack.

On April 25, 2005, the National Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission, in a landmark judgement, ruled that hospitals are duty bound to accept accident victims, patients in critical condition and that doctors cannot demand fees before agreeing to treat the patient and that a relative's consent is not necessary if there is no family member present at the time.

2006: Former US President George W Bush visited India

In March 2006, former US President George W Bush visited India, and the trip left behind a significant legacy in the narrative of the India-US relationship. Bush reversed decades of US policy during the trip as he focused particularly on areas of nuclear energy, counter-

terrorism cooperation, and discussions that would eventually lead to the India-United States Civil Nuclear Agreement. It was in stark contrast to the stance taken by his predecessor Bill Clinton, whose approach to India after the 1998 nuclear tests have been characterised as "sanctions and hectoring".

2007: Female President and World Cup win



In 2007, India got its first-ever female President in the form of Pratibha Patil. An Indian politician and lawyer, Patil served as the 12th President of India from July 2007 to July 2012.

Against all odds, India won the 2007 ICC World Twenty20, the inaugural T20I world championship which was contested in South Africa from September 11 to 24, 2007. The Men in Blue defeated arch-rivals Pakistan by five runs in the final to clinch the trophy.

2008: Chandrayaan-I launch and the heinous 26/11 attacks



Chandrayaan-1 was the first Indian lunar probe under the Chandrayaan program which was launched by the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) on October 22, 2008. The mission was a major boost to India's space program, as our country researched and developed its own technology to explore the Moon.

The 2008 Mumbai attacks, also known as 26/11, are possibly the most significant and deadly terrorist attacks carried out on Indian soil. A series of terrorist attacks took place in November 2008, when 10 members of the terrorist organisation Lashkar-e-Taiba carried out 12 coordinated shooting and bombing attacks for four days across Mumbai. The attacks, which drew widespread global condemnation, began on November 26 (Wednesday) and lasted until November 29 (Saturday), 2008. A total of 175 people died, including nine attackers, and more than 300 were wounded.

2009: The NIA was formed

The National Investigation Agency (NIA), the primary counter-terrorist task force in India, was formed in 2009. It came into existence with the enactment of the National Investigation Agency Act, 2008 by the Indian Parliament on December 31, 2008. The founding Director-General of NIA was Radha Vinod Raju.

Other events in 2009

The Satyam Computer Services scandal is one of India's largest

corporate frauds that erupted in 2009. It all began on January 7, 2009, when the chairman of Satyam, Byrraju Ramalinga Raju, resigned and confessed in a letter to the SEBI that he had manipulated the accounts of Rs 7,000 crore in several forms.

After the 2009 Lok Sabha elections, the United Progressive Alliance (UPA) led by Congress formed the government after winning a majority of seats, and Manmohan Singh became the first Prime Minister of India since Jawaharlal Nehru in 1962 to be re-elected after completing a full five-year term.

On July 26, 2009, India launched its first nuclear submarine, the INS Arihant.

2010: Education became a fundamental right of children

The Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act or Right to Education Act (RTE) is an Act of the Indian Parliament that was enacted on August 4, 2009. It describes the modalities of the importance of free and compulsory education for children between the age of 6 to 14 years in India under Article 21A of the Indian Constitution. When the Act came into force on April 1, 2010, India became one of the countries in the world to make education a fundamental right.

The 2011 Census of India or the 15th Indian Census was conducted in two phases, house listing and population enumeration. The house listing phase began on April 1, 2010, and involved the collection of information about all buildings.

The 2010 Commonwealth Games were held in Delhi from October 3 to 14, 2010. A total of 4,352 athletes from 71 Commonwealth nations and dependencies competed in 21 sports and 272 events, making it the largest Commonwealth Games to date. It was also the largest international multi-sport event to be staged in India, eclipsing the Asian Games in 1951 and 1982. It was the first time that the Commonwealth Games were held in India and the second time they were held in Asia after Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia in 1998.

2011: India won the World Cup



India won the ICC ODI World Cup for the second time in 2011. On April 2, India won the tournament by defeating Sri Lanka by 6 wickets in the final at Wankhede Stadium in Mumbai. Thus, India became the first country to win the ODI World Cup final on home soil. Mahendra Singh Dhoni was the Man of the Match in the final and Yuvraj Singh was declared the Man of the Tournament.

On April 5, 2011, social activist Anna Hazare started a hunger strike to pressurise the Indian government in enacting a stringent anti-corruption law, The Lokpal Bill, 2011 as envisaged in the Jan Lokpal Bill. His hunger strike

garnered tremendous support from all over the country. It ended on April 9, a day after the government accepted Hazare's demands. The government issued a gazette notification on the formation of a joint committee, consisting of government and civil society representatives, to draft the legislation.

In the 2011 West Bengal Assembly elections, Mamata Banerjee and her party All India Trinamool Congress ended the 34-year-old Left Front regime in the state. She was sworn in as the Chief Minister of West Bengal on May 20, 2011. Thus, she became the first female Chief Minister of the state.

2012: Delhi gangrape and murder



On December 16, 2012, in Delhi, a 22-year-old woman was beaten, gang-raped, and tortured in a private bus in which she was travelling with her friend. Apart from the woman and her friend, there were six other people on the bus, including the driver. The six people raped the woman and beat her friend. Eleven days after the assault, she was transferred to a hospital in Singapore for emergency treatment but died two days later. The incident garnered tremendous coverage and criticism both in India and foreign countries, the victim came to be known as 'Nirbhaya' (fearless). Out of the six perpetrators, one died during the trial period, and four others were executed by hanging on March 20, 2020. Among the six people was a juvenile, who was convicted of rape and murder and given the maximum sentence of three years of imprisonment in a reform facility.

The fourth annual BRICS summit was held at Taj Hotel in New Delhi on March 29, 2012. It was the first time that India had hosted a BRICS summit, and the other member states, Brazil, Russia, China and South Africa took part in it.

After leading a very successful and distinguished political career, Pranab Mukherjee became the President of India on July 25, 2012, becoming the first Bengali to serve in that post.

Ajmal Kasab was a Pakistan terrorist and a member of the Lashkar-e-Taiba terrorist organization, was one of those who executed the 2008 terrorist attacks in Mumbai. He was the only attacker captured alive by police. He was sentenced to death and was hanged on November 21, 2012.

2013: Criminal Law (Amendment) Act was passed

The Criminal Law (Amendment) Act, 2013 (also known as the Nirbhaya Act) is legislation that was passed by the Lok Sabha on March 19, 2013, and by the Rajya Sabha on March 21, 2013. It provides for amendment of the Indian Penal Code, Indian Evidence Act, and Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973 on laws related to sexual offences. On April

2, it received Presidential assent and was deemed to be effective from April 3.

The National Food Security Act (NFSA) 2013 is an Act that aims to provide subsidised food grains to approximately two-thirds of the country's entire population. It converts into legal entitlements for existing food security programmes of the Government of India, including the Midday Meal Scheme, Integrated Child Development Services scheme and the Public Distribution System. Further, the NFSA 2013 recognises maternity entitlements.

The Mars Orbiter Mission (MOM), also called Mangalyaan, is a space probe orbiting Mars since September 24, 2014. It was launched by ISRO on November 5, 2013, and it is India's first interplanetary mission. It made ISRO the fourth space agency to achieve Mars orbit, made India the first Asian nation to reach Martian orbit and the first nation in the world to do so on its maiden attempt.

On October 10, 2013, Sachin Tendulkar announced that he would retire from all cricket after the two-Test series against West Indies in November that year.

The Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act, 2013 is an Act that seeks to protect women from sexual harassment at their workplace. It aims to provide protection against sexual harassment of women in the workplace and for the prevention and redressal of complaints of sexual harassment and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto. The Bill, after being passed by the two Houses of Parliament and getting the Presidential assent, came into force as an Act on December 9, 2013.

2014: Narendra Modi became the PM of India for the first time



In September 2013, Narendra Modi was named the BJP's prime ministerial candidate ahead of the 2014 Lok Sabha election, despite opposition from several BJP leaders, including LK Advani. But Modi led BJP superbly during the election campaign, and the saffron party rode on his charisma to win 282 seats in the election, while its National Democratic Alliance (NDA) won a total of 336 seats. BJP became the first party to win a majority of seats on its own in the general elections since 1984. Modi was sworn in as the Prime Minister of India on May 26, 2014, and he is the first Indian PM to be born after India's Independence in 1947.

The Lokpal and Lokayuktas Act, 2013, commonly known as The Lokpal Act, is an anti-corruption Act in India that "seeks to provide for the establishment of the institution of Lokpal to inquire into allegations of corruption against certain important public functionaries, including the Prime Minister, cabinet ministers, members of parliament, Group A officials of the Central Government and for matters connecting them". It came into force on January 16,

2014.

On June 2, 2014, Telangana was formed by carving out a portion of Andhra Pradesh and became the 29th state of India with Hyderabad.

2015: NITI Aayog was formed

The NITI Aayog, the apex public policy think tank of the Indian government, and the nodal agency tasked with catalyzing economic development, and



fostering cooperative federalism through the involvement of state governments of the country in the economic policy-making process, was established on January 1, 2015.

2016: Uri attack and India's surgical strikes in Pakistan

On September 18, 2016, the Uri attack was carried out by four Jaish-e-Mohammed terrorists against an Indian Army brigade headquarters near the town of Uri in Jammu and Kashmir. The attack led to the death of 19 Indian soldiers, and 19 to 30 others were injured.

On September 29, 2016, India announced that it had conducted surgical strikes against terror launch pads across the Line of Control in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK), and inflicted "significant casualties".

2017: GST was launched by the Indian government

The Goods and Services Tax, popularly known as GST, was launched at midnight on July 1, 2017, by the President of India, and the Government of India. It was marked by a historic midnight (June 30-July 1) session of both the Houses of Parliament convened at the Central Hall, and it was attended by high-profile guests from the business and the entertainment industry.

In 2017, the Supreme Court of India ruled that the practice of instant triple talaq is unconstitutional and a divorce pronounced by uttering talaq three times in one sitting is void and illegal. Following that, the government introduced The Muslim Women (Protection of Rights on Marriage) Bill, 2017.

2018: Supreme Court decriminalised

Section 377 Section 377 is a section of the Indian Penal Code which was introduced in 1861 during the British rule of India. According to the section, sexual activities "against the order of nature" are illegal. On September 6, 2018, the Supreme Court of India ruled that the application of Section 377 to consensual homosexual sex between adults was "unconstitutional, irrational, indefensible and manifestly arbitrary". But it remains in force relating to sex with minors, non-consensual sexual acts, and bestiality.

The Statue of Unity is 597 feet tall and is the highest statue in the world. It is located in Gujarat and depicts Indian statesman and independence activist

Vallabhbhai Patel. It was designed by Indian sculptor Ram V Sutar and was inaugurated by PM Modi on October 31, 2018, on the 143rd birth anniversary of Patel.

Atal Bihari Vajpayee was an Indian politician and founder of the BJP who served three terms as the Prime Minister of India. One of the greatest names in the history of Indian politics, Vajpayee passed away on August 16, 2018, at the age of 93.

2019: Pulwama attack, Balakot airstrike



On February 14, 2019, a convoy of vehicles carrying Indian security personnel on the Jammu-Srinagar National Highway was attacked by a vehicle-borne suicide bomber at Lethapora in the Pulwama district of the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir. The attack, known as the Pulwama attack, killed 40 personnel of the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) as well as the perpetrator, Adil Ahmad Dar, who was a local Kashmiri youth from Pulwama. The terrorist group Jaish-e-Mohammed claimed responsibility for the attack.

On February 26, 2019, the Indian warplanes conducted a bombing raid conducted in Balakot, Pakistan against a terrorist training camp. The airstrike, popularly known as the Balakot airstrike, was conducted by India in the early morning hours of February 26. Its warplanes dropped bombs in the vicinity of the town of Balakot in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province in Pakistan.

On August 5, 2019, Article 370 and Article 35A, which gave special status to Jammu and Kashmir, were revoked from the Indian Constitution. Also, the Government of India bifurcated Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh into separate Union Territories.

In the 2019 Lok Sabha election, the BJP received 37.36 per cent of the total valid votes polled, the highest vote share by a political party since the 1989 general election, and won 303 seats. Overall, the BJP-led National Democratic Alliance (NDA) won 353 seats and Narendra Modi started his second term as the Prime Minister of India.

2020: The nightmare of COVID-19 and lockdown



The year 2020 was sort of a nightmare for the majority of Indians, as the COVID-19 pandemic ravaged the country and people were confined to their homes because of the resultant lockdown. The tale of lockdown began on the evening of March 24, 2020, when the Government of India ordered a nationwide lockdown for 21 days, limiting the movement of the entire population to thwart the outbreak of the pandemic. It came after a 14-hour voluntary public curfew on March 22, followed by enforcement of a series of regulations in the COVID-19-affected regions in the country. When the lockdown was imposed, the number of confirmed COVID-19 cases in India was approximately 500.

2021: Controversy over 3 farm laws



The three new farm laws, which were introduced by the Government of India in 2020, created a great stir in many parts of the country, especially in Punjab. Scores of farmers went to Delhi to protest against the laws and demanded that the government must withdraw the laws. As per reports, the new laws would have deregulated a system of government-run wholesale markets and hence, allowed farmers to sell directly to food processors. But farmers feared that it would lead to an end of the government-guaranteed price floors, thereby reducing the prices they would receive for their crops. On January 12, 2021, the Supreme Court stayed the implementation of the farm laws. On November 19, 2021, PM Narendra Modi announced that the government would repeal the laws in the upcoming Parliamentary session in December. On December 1, 2021, the laws were formally repealed.

2022: India gets its first tribal President



On July 21, 2022, Droupadi Murmu created history by becoming the first tribal person to be elected to the office of President of India. Murmu contested the presidential election as a candidate for the BJP-led National Democratic Alliance and defeated the Opposition's candidate Yashwant Sinha. Also, Murmu is only the second female President of India after Pratibha Patil (2007-2012). Murmu has also served as the ninth Governor of Jharkhand from 2015 to 2021.

Source: News9live



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Enforcement Directorate (E.D.): law enforcement or political witch-hunt?

BY GEORGE
ABRAHAM



"As India celebrates its 75th

Independence Day, there is little doubt that individual liberties guaranteed under the constitution are fast vanishing while the judiciary that is supposed to protect personal freedom and the rule of law is finding common ground with the Executive branch that is increasingly set on a path towards majoritarian authoritarianism. It has been said that "democracy dies in darkness," and the provisions in India's constitution, like the one in the U.S., are like "parchment barriers - fragile bulwarks intended to preserve liberty. To be effective, these barriers need to be respected by government and ordinary citizens alike both in law and custom."

Recent sparring between Mallikarjun Kharge, the opposition leader in Rajya Sabha, and Piyush Goyal, BJP leader of the House, on the Enforcement Directorate's summons to Congress leaders reveals the polarized perspectives on these issues from the opposite ends of the spectrum. Mr. Kharge was aghast over the summons he received when the parliament was in session. He accused the BJP government of deliberately scheduling his appearance when Rajya Sabha was in session to demoralize, destroy and intimidate the opposition. Responding to the charge, Piyush Goyal said, "our government does not in any manner interfere in the functioning of law-enforcement agencies and allows them to do their work." To a keen observer of the current political dynamics in India, nothing could be farther from the truth.

In a significant verdict delivered on Wednesday, 27 July 2022, the Supreme Court declared that the Enforcement Directorate (ED) has the powers conferred under the law to investigate people, conduct searches and raids, and even arrest citizens under the stringent provisions of the Prevention of the Money Laundering Act (PMLA). The verdict was in response to petitions challenging the powers of the ED under PMLA.

The PMLA was enacted in 2002 to curb money laundering, a crime of global concern. However, many legal experts contended that the law violates citizens' right to privacy and right against self-incrimination under Article 20 and Article 21. There were also serious concerns about the unbridled power given to ED and the attempts to convert any offense to money laundering.

If ED truly paid attention to its mandate, it would not have caught off guard about the 2016 Panama or 2021 Pandora papers leading to the detection of Rs. 20,353



The Supreme Court's ruling raises some discomfiting questions. Many see in the ruling the green light to the Central Agency to overstep the boundaries of personal freedom and privacy rights and indulge in political witch hunts targeting only government's adversaries.

crores of unaccounted money from 930 'India linked entities.' However, of late, ED appears to be more focused on pursuing the opposition politicians in search of a crime. The Congress party recently cited over 3000 raids under eight years of the Modi government compared to 112 during the UPA decade. It said that a poor conviction rate of just 0.5 percent showed the alleged "weaponization" of the agency by the ruling BJP.

Abhishek Manu Singhvi, a Congress spokesperson, and a Supreme Court advocate, cited that many cases have been filed against opposition leaders. Still, almost no new cases have been filed against those who are members of the ruling party or bear proximity to the same. "Where cases were initiated against opposition members, they have gone into cold storage or been abandoned once the accused have switched loyalties towards the ruling party. This is also the case with cases pending against BJP leaders," said Singhvi. He also urged the top court to provide safeguards in the application of PMLA.

ED questioned Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi for nearly 60 hours about their association with Associated Journals Limited and details of shares in their names belonging to AJL and the National Herald. Congress has characterized the case as a political vendetta against the Gandhi family. West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, former Punjab Chief Minister Charanjit Singh Channi, Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot, the Abdullahs of Kashmir, left leaders of Kerala, the Thackerays of Maharashtra, the Samajwadis of UP, Arvind Kejriwal of AAP, Hemant Soren of Jharkhand have all complained because of ED investigations against them or their relatives or close political associates. Opposition parties are also concerned with the timings of raids by the ED, and they

feel that it picks up pace before crucial polls.

The case of Sanjay Raut, the Shiv Sena leader, may illustrate the apprehension that has been cast on many independent minds who have a hard time agreeing with Mr. Goyal. Mr. Raut has been a controversial yet effective spokesman for the party. He encountered no inquiry until he engineered the split with BJP and helped Udhav Thackeray create a coalition government with NCP and Congress. His vocal optimism for the coalition and criticism leveled against Prime Minister Modi and BJP might have made him a prime target. As of this writing, he is under detention by ED in connection with a building development scandal.

In Kerala, Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan is willing under mushrooming scandals that involve gold smuggling, money laundering, and protocol violations involving a foreign government. Yet, the Central Agencies dealing with those serious charges seem to be in no hurry to investigate and seek the truth. Political pundits speculated that the Modi government's reluctance to move forward on these inquiries might have a lot to do with the fact that a potential downfall of Pinarayi Vijayan might somehow strengthen the opposition in Kerala in a coalition headed by the Congress. Moreover, it might not fit their narrative or not be consistent with the stated philosophy of "Congress Mukta Bharat." Whether it is the VYPAM scandal in Madhya Pradesh under Chief Minister Shivaraj Singh Chouhan or the illegal mining scam in Karnataka under the former Chief Minister Yeddyurappa, investigations also have a way of disappearing into oblivion.

Only last December, Chief Justice of India Ramana criticized the 'indiscriminate' use of the PMLA to arrest individuals. He implored that PMLA must be used reasonably and that the Act is being used as a "weapon" even in cases where the facts don't require its use. However, the recently rendered verdict on PMLA by a bench of Justices AM Khanwilkar, Dinesh Maheshwari, and CT Ravikumar may have given the green light to the Central Agency to overstep the boundaries of personal freedom and privacy rights in pursuit of their crusade against allegations of corruption and money laundering, that the opposition parties would term it as political witch hunts targeting only government's adversaries.

Those who have chosen public service as a vocation must remain free of graft and corruption. It is incredible to watch the rags to riches story of many of these politicians and bureaucrats flaunting their ill-gotten wealth, mainly stolen from the public. Therefore, there is a sound rationale for establishing an effective law enforcement mechanism to counter this growing threat to the nation's economic wellbeing. However, what we are mainly witnessing across the country today, is a double standard of unequal application of laws.

As India celebrates its 75th Independence Day, there is little doubt that individual liberties guaranteed under the constitution are fast vanishing while the judiciary that is supposed to protect personal freedom and the rule of law is finding common ground with the Executive branch that is increasingly set on a path towards majoritarian authoritarianism. It has been said that "democracy dies in darkness," and the provisions in India's constitution, like the one in the U.S., are like "parchment barriers - fragile bulwarks intended to preserve liberty. To be effective, these barriers need to be respected by government and ordinary citizens alike both in law and custom."

**WISHING THE NATION, A HAPPY 75TH
INDEPENDENCE DAY.**

Important achievements of the country since Independence

India in 2022 and India in 1947 are stark reminders of how a country evolves and survives the test of time. In the last 75 years, India has emerged with new dynamics and has made significant progress in various spheres like the economy, healthcare, education, space, and technology among others.

After freeing itself from the clutches of the British rulers, over the next decades India had taken some crucial steps to improve healthcare accessibility and availability. Post-independence India's most noteworthy achievement, in the public health arena, has been the decrease in death rates (mortality). From launching national-level and ambitious initiatives to reducing and controlling some of the deadly diseases, India has come a long way. Let's have a look at some of the important achievements of India's healthcare system in the last 75 years:

Improved Life Expectancy

In 1947, the expectancy of an average Indian citizen was around 32 years and it has increased to 70.19 years in 2022. The increase in life expectancy in the last 75 years has been over 100 percent. United Nations-World Population Perspective states that the average global life expectancy is 72.98 years. According to the World Health Organization (WHO), India has significantly improved its people's health outcomes. According to experts, life expectancy is one of the most important and most used indicators for human development. Several studies have revealed that India's life expectancy has increased due to the better availability of treatments, medicines, and evolving technology. The current life expectancy for India in 2022 is 70.19 years which is a 0.33 percent increase from 2021. Experts opine that there have been significant enhancements in infant and child mortality along with maternal mortality that has led to the longevity of life in the country.

Decline in Child, maternal mortality Rate

According to United Nation projections, India's current infant mortality rate in 2022 is 27.695 deaths per 1000 live births, a 3.74 percent decline from 2021. The findings of the National Health Family Survey-5 (NHFS-5) revealed that IMR has marginally declined in nearly all states and Assam has seen one of the largest drops in IMR, from 48 deaths (per 1,000 live births) to 32 deaths. Meanwhile, in the 1940s, the Maternal mortality ratio (MMR) was 2000/100,000 live births, which apparently came down to 1000 in the 1950s. Moreover, India is also a signatory to the United Nations (UN) Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which adopted a global maternal mortality ratio (MMR) target of fewer than 70 deaths per 100 000 live births by 2030. In March this year, a special bulletin by the Registrar General of India the MMR has declined by 10 points. It has declined from 113 in 2016-18 to 103 in 2017-19 which is an 8.8 percent decline.

Control of Communicable Diseases:



Since gaining independence, India has launched several national programmes to curb the menace of communicable diseases like Malaria, Tuberculosis, and AIDS, among others. According to a study published in the American Journal of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene, in 1947, 75 million malaria cases in a population of 330 million were estimated in India. During the eradication era in the late 1950s and early 1960s, a spectacular achievement was witnessed on the malaria eradication front because malaria cases significantly declined to just 100,000 in 1964. Despite the reversal which led to around 6.4 million cases in 1976, the cases of malaria have declined significantly over the year. According to the WHO's latest World Malaria Report 2021, of the world's 11 highest burden countries, only India registered progress against malaria. Meanwhile, India's success in Polio has been acclaimed around the globe. Until the early 1990s, Polio was hyperendemic in India, with an average of 500 to 1000 children getting paralysed daily. India was declared Polio free in 2014 and no new case of Polio has been reported in the country since January 2011. With respect to Leprosy, India is running one of the largest leprosy eradication programmes in the world, the National Leprosy Eradication Program (NLEP). India's

performance in smallpox eradication has been commendable too. After years of being one of the countries with the highest number of smallpox cases, the country declared itself smallpox free in 1979. Similarly, India has made significant progress in controlling diseases like Tuberculosis, Cholera, Kala Azhar, and HIV.

Healthcare policies and government schemes:

Since India became independent in 1947, the government has launched various policies and schemes to improve healthcare facilities in the country. Over the decades, the government has launched schemes like National Health Mission (NHM) and National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) to improve child and maternal health. Meanwhile, there are schemes that are launched as a part of these missions including Janani Suraksha Yojana (JSY) enables direct cash transfer to pregnant mothers, Janani Shishu Suraksha Karyakram (JSSK) allows pregnant mothers to deliver in government hospitals for free, Pradhan Mantri Surakshit Matrutva Abhiyan (PMSMA) focuses on providing good antenatal care and specifically identifying and managing high-risk pregnant mothers. In 2018, a centrally-sponsored

Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB PM-JAY) was launched which is the largest Government funded health assurance/insurance scheme in the world. In this scheme, financial risk protection is provided by the government against catastrophic health expenditure that impoverishes an estimated 6 crore people every year. Moreover, the government has launched several other schemes like Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana (PMSSY), enhanced the quality of medical education in the country and the extensive improvement in healthcare infrastructure since independence. With over 92,000 seats, there are now 612 medical colleges in India as compared to 28 in the 1950s.

Educational journey

Institutional and Regulatory Reforms in Independent India

In 1964-66, the education commission made recommendations on different stages of education at national level, which eventually formed the first national education policy of the free-nation in 1968. The policy was revised in 1986, which further emphasised on technology based reforms in educational sectors. Initially the education department functioned under the Ministry of Human Resource and Development, which later in 2020 was named as Ministry of Education under the National Education Policy 2020.

The major bodies of the department of education under MHRD included All-India Council of Technical Education (1945), the University Grants Commission (1953), and the National Council of Educational Research and Training (1961). The first body was meant for advisories of technical education, the second body was in charge of coordination and orders on financial advisories and grant allocations for universities, while the third was significantly responsible for quality of educational contents and their implementation.

Parallely, with the foundation of educational entities, the formation of Indian Institution Technologies (IITs) wrote its own chronicle in the light of upliftment of educational institutions. The first IIT was established in Hijli Detention Camp in Kharagpur, West Bengal in 1951. On September 15, 1956, the parliament passed the Indian Institute of Technology (Kharagpur) Act under the prime ministership of Jawarharlal Nehru, who declared IITs as Institutes of National Importance. Currently India has a total of 23 IITs. With its primary focus on science and technology, IITs have now reformed with the introduction of liberal arts programmes with due course of time.

Journey of Educational Policies

In 1950, a Planning Commission was appointed by the government of India to prepare a blueprint for the development of different aspects of life which included education as well. As a result, the five years plan came into existence with the

aim to achieve universalisation of elementary education, eradicate illiteracy from the country, establish vocational and skill training programmes for mass development and raise the standard of education. Further, it aimed to ensure democratisation of education in every strata of the society.

Under this five years plan came several schemes and policies which changed the face of education in India. First in the line was the formation of National Education Policy (1968) which was based on the recommendations of the Kothari Commission- one of the first commissions assigned the task of formulating a policy for the development of education in India. This policy emphasised on three language formulas to be implemented in secondary schools namely- English, Hindi, and regional language. In 1986, National Policy on Education led by Rajiv Gandhi came into existence with the focus on women, scheduled castes (SC) and scheduled tribes (STs), under which, Operation Blackboard was launched to improve primary schools in the country.

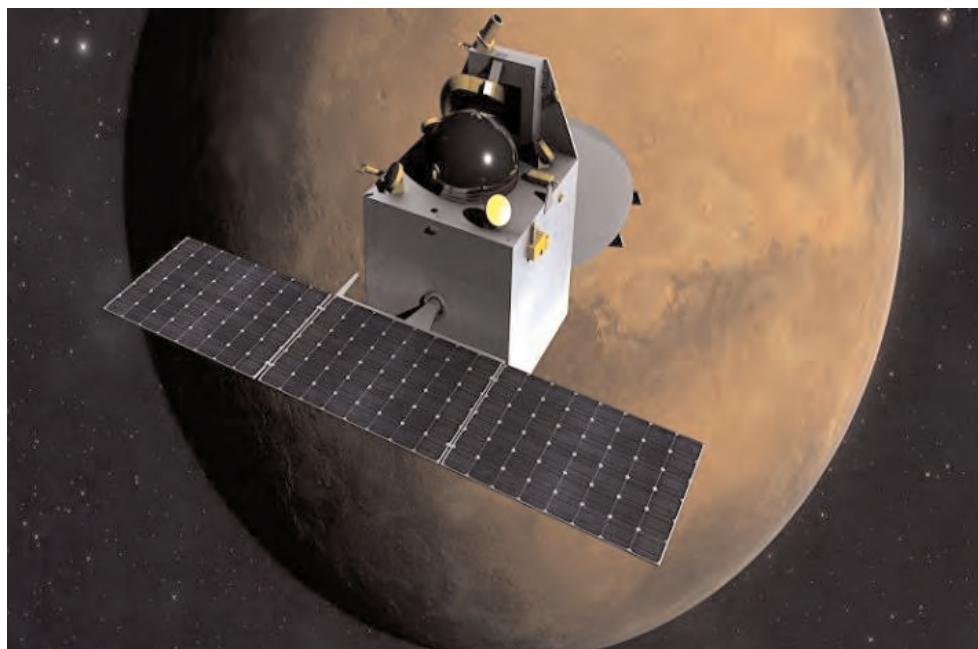
Policies such as the Teacher Education Schemes were also introduced by the commissions to train teachers for better imparting of knowledge. The government also started several centrally funded programmes to achieve the goal of universalisation of primary education. With this came Mid-Day Meal schemes which aimed to improve the nutritional status of primary school children. It also promoted parents who send their children to schools. Similarly, the government launched many target specific programmes such as Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan and Padhe Bharat Badhe Bharat to improve education for certain identified sections of children. The Right to Education Act (2009) was an important milestone in the development of education in India which made it a fundamental right of every child to get education.

As the country readies to celebrate 75 years of independence, it is on the verge of implementation of National Education Policy 2020 which emphasises on digitalisation and internationalisation of education in India. The new policy aims to bring several changes in the education system, among which regional language as medium of instruction in schools, a 5+3+3+4 model to optimise learning and paving way for foreign universities in India mark significant ones among others. It is believed that the NEP 2020 offers several new provisions in the Indian education system, the outcome of which is yet to unfold.

Journey of Science & Technological Development

Modern India is an epitome of Scientific and Technological Development and is one of the key elements for economic growth. Post 15th August 1947, India's journey has become a great example of an impressive growth story. As claimed by the Indian Brand Equity Foundation, India is among the topmost countries in the world in the field of scientific research and has been positioned as one of the top five nations in the field of space exploration. India has continuously undertaken space missions, including missions to the moon and the famed Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV). India also ranks third among the most attractive investment destinations for technology transactions in the world.

Our First Prime Minister, Pandit



Jawahar Lal Nehru said "Science is not merely an individual's search for truth; it is something infinitely more than that if it works for the community". He made efforts to convert India's economy into that of a modern state and to fit her into the nuclear age and do it quickly. As India is celebrating the 75th anniversary of its independence, let's look what were the major Scientific & Technological developments during this period:

Development of Agricultural Technology

As per the official data, the agriculture sector forms only about 18% of India's GDP and employs almost 65% of the total workforce. Technology plays an important

role in the agriculture and sustainable development of India. Advanced technology helps in developing and improving many areas of agriculture, such as fertilizers, pesticides, seed technology, etc. Let's look at some of the major milestones of Agriculture Technological Development in India Post-Independence:

1960: Green Revolution

The Green Revolution was an endeavor initiated by Norman Borlaug in the 1960s. He is known as the 'Father of Green Revolution in the world. It led to him winning the Nobel Peace Prize in 1970 for his work in developing High Yielding Varieties (HYVs) of wheat.

1970: White Revolution

Operation Flood, launched on 13 January 1970, was the world's largest dairy development program and a landmark project of India's National Dairy Development Board.

Development of Defence Technology

Dr. Homi Bhabha has played a major Role in the Development of Defence Technology in India after Independence. India has been attacked many times by its neighbors. India has faced many wars including Indo China War and Indo-Pakistan War and has also won many battles. Let's look at some of the major milestones of Defence Technological Development in India Post-Independence:

1958: DRDO was set up

The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) was set up in 1958 to secure the borders of India with more advanced Defence Technology. Since then, DRDO has developed several large programs and essential technology, including aircraft, small and large arms, artillery systems, electronic warfare (EW) systems, tanks, and armored vehicles, sonar systems, command and control systems, and missile systems.

1989: Agni Missile was successfully launched

Agni-I was first tested at the Interim Test Range in Chandipur at 7:17 AM on 22 May 1989 and was capable of carrying a conventional payload of 1,000 kg (2,200 lb) or a nuclear warhead. Agni missiles consist of one (short range) or two stages (intermediate-range).

1998: India conducted Pokhran-II tests

On 11 and 13 May 1998, twenty-four years after Pokhran-I, the Indian Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) and Atomic Energy Commission (AEC) conducted five further nuclear tests, dubbed "Pokhran-II", at the Pokhran range. The chief scientific adviser and the Director of Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO), Dr. Abdul Kalam, and Dr. R. Chidambaram, the Director of the Department of Atomic Energy (DAE), were the chief coordinators of this test planning.

Development of Space Technology

India has initiated some major space research programs under the vision of some great scientists and leaders like C.V Raman, Dr. Vikram Sarabhai, Dr. A.P.J Abdul Kalam, etc. Let's look at some of the major milestones of Space Technological Development in India Post-Independence:

1963: India's first-ever rocket launch

The launch of the first sounding rocket from Thumba near Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala on 21 November 1963, marked the beginning of the Indian Space Programme. Sounding rockets made it possible to probe the atmosphere in situ using rocket-borne instrumentation. This was the first milestone in modern India's space odyssey. Dr. Vikram Sarabhai and his then accomplice Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam were the brainchild of this achievement.

1975: First Satellite Aryabhata launched

Aryabhata, the first Indian satellite, was launched by the Soviet Union in 1975. The Aryabhata spacecraft, named after the famous Indian astronomer, was India's

first satellite; it was completely designed and fabricated in India and launched by a Soviet Kosmos-3M rocket from Kapustin Yar on April 19, 1975.

1969: Formation of Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)

ISRO was formed in 1969 with a vision to develop and harness space technology in national development while pursuing planetary exploration and space science research. ISRO replaced its predecessor, INCOSPAR (Indian National Committee for Space Research), established in 1962 by India's first Prime Minister Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru and scientist Vikram Sarabhai, are considered among the founding fathers of the Indian space program.

2008: Chandrayaan-1 launch

Chandrayaan-1 was the first Indian lunar probe under the Chandrayaan program which was launched by the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) on October 22, 2008. The mission was a major boost to India's space program, as our country researched and developed its own technology to explore the Moon.

2013: Mangalyaan launched

The Mars Orbiter Mission (MOM), also called Mangalyaan, is a space probe orbiting Mars since 24 September 2014. It was launched on 5 November 2013 by the Indian Space Research Organisation.

The journey highlights India's expansion ranging from agricultural production to nuclear and space technology, from affordable health care to world-class educational institutions, from Ayurveda to biotechnology, from giant steel plants to becoming an IT power, and having the third-largest start-up ecosystem in the world.

Indian military strength

With the world facing constant threat from neighboring countries, where the nuclear power decides the authority, with major peacekeeping organizations failing in its duty, the question about how safe is your country and how powerful it is to fight the enemy might strike your mind. The recent Russian-Ukraine crisis is the live example of the fear the world is experiencing for the potential world war 3. Let's take a look on the report demonstrating India's military strength in the present day.

India is the 7th largest by area with the 2nd most populous country in the world, also the fastest growing economy in the world. India has a strong potential of being the superpower in the future by having one of the most powerful military strength. It is ranked 4th out of 140 countries With the strength of 1.45 lakh active military manpower. PwrIndx gives it a score of 0.0979. The lower the PwrIndx value, the more powerful a nation's potential combat capability is. The country has a powerful allies with the global superpowers such as Russia as well as the US

Missile strength of India

Anti satellite weapon

India is among the few countries in the world which owns anti-satellite missiles including the US, China and Russia. Anti-satellite weapons are space weapons that are designed to disable or destroy satellites for tactical and operational reasons.

Submarine launched ballistic missile



India successfully tested -fired the K-4 submarine-launched ballistic missile, which has a range of 3,500 km. Only a few countries have managed to achieve this scientific advance. It will provide the country the ability to launch nuclear missiles in Indian waters from a safe distance.

Apart from this we have inter continental ballistic missile Agni 5 with the range of 5000-8000 KM, Cruise missile Brahmos with each of them having the latest version with more power in development.

India's Nuclear capacity

The country currently has 150- 160 active nuclear weapons. India has a nuclear policy of "no first use." While the country has never utilized its nuclear weapons, it actually prevents neighboring countries from attacking it. While having the triad capability (Nuclear weapons that can be delivered via aircraft, land-based and submarine-launched missiles.) Only a few countries such as the US, Russia, India, and China have this capacity.

Crucial Events That Transformed India's Economy

As India went through its worst droughts in the 1960s, the nation had to depend on western countries for food and grain supplies. But the crisis led to focus on self sufficiency of food grains and hence, the Green Revolution came into being.

Apart from that, the period holds

significance as, during this phase, Mrs. Indira Gandhi had nationalised 14 biggest commercial banks. The main aim of the move was to accelerate bank lending to agriculture at a time when big businesses cornered large chunks of the credit flow.

1991: Liberalisation, Privatisation and Globalisation

The journey of the Indian economy is incomplete without this chapter. With the devaluation of the currency, rising fiscal deficit of the government (from 9% of GDP in 1980-81 to 10.4% in 1985-86 and 12.7% in 1990-91), India's external debt nearly doubled from some \$35 billion at the end of 1984-85 to \$69 billion by the end of 1990-91.

The country's foreign exchange reserves had dried up to the point that India could barely finance three weeks worth of imports. The situation was so grim that the Indian government had to mortgage some 20 tonnes of gold for \$240 million, just to keep the economy afloat.

On the political front, the Chandra Shekhar government gave way to another Congress government, as the party made a comeback after two years. Enter PV Narsimha Rao as prime minister and Manmohan Singh as finance minister.

Within weeks of assuming power, Rao and Singh announced a series of policies that changed the face of Indian economy—liberalisation, privatisation and globalisation.

These reforms helped the country get freedom from the tough bureaucratic system and opened the doors for more

opportunities and foreign financial inflows. Moreover, it led to the boom in stock markets.

The Global Crisis of 2007-08 and Its Impact on India:

The "Great Recession", an epic financial and economic collapse that brought the whole of Wall Street to its knees was led by the largest bankruptcy in U.S. history—the collapse of Lehman Brothers. While the other countries were facing the worst, economic growth in India during FY2008-09 stood at 6.7%. Reportedly, India was less impacted because the exports accounted for just 15% of the GDP.

But, what came in as a surprise was the stimulus package announced by the Manmohan Singh administration. In December 2008, the government decided to seek approval for an additional plan expenditure of Rs 200 billion. "The government also infused about Rs 3 trillion into the system for public spending through a range of measures such as lowering tax and reduction of key rates by the Reserve Bank of India", stated an Economic Times report.

Moreover, this package did not go well for the government. "My government was punished in the 2014 elections after we spent more money in 2009 as part of a stimulus package. Due to this, we had to violate fiscal consolidation norms. The inflation went up to 14% and the rupee lost its value. Finally, people rejected our government", P Chidambaram, the finance minister at the time, was quoted as saying.

Apart from the economy, the Sensex tumbled from more than 20,000 points in Dec 2007 to a little over 9,000 (lowest) in mid-early 2009, before bouncing back to 17,000 in the same year.

2016: Demonitisation

After eight years, the word "demonitisation" was introduced in the annals of India's economic history. Prime Minister Narendra Modi on November 8 of that year declared that Rs 500 and Rs 1,000 notes would not be legal tender. The announcement shook the country, almost everyone from a small vendor to a high-profile businessman was affected. Sensex crashed nearly 1,689 points and Nifty plunged by over 541 points due to the government's move to withdraw notes of higher denominations.

Just months after demonitisation, the Rajya Sabha (Upper House) passed a crucial bill on Goods and Services Tax (GST). However, at that time, the markets didn't react much and remained mostly flat on the upper side.

2020: Virus hits the economy

But, after nearly three years, the country witnessed another jolt: the coronavirus pandemic. According to a report by Azim Premji University, the first wave of COVID-19 pandemic pushed 23 crore people below the poverty line (below the national minimum wage threshold of Rs. 375 per day as recommended by the Anoop Satpathy Committee). The report said there has been a rise of 15% in poverty in rural India and a rise of 20% in urban India during the last one pandemic year.

However, after the second wave, it is still unclear how deep the impact of the pandemic would be on the country's economy. Despite that, the Sensex touched an all-time high of 55,000 and Nifty at 16,529, giving hopes for better and improved days ahead.

The Indian nation is celebrating the 75th anniversary of Independence on August 15. The period between August 15, 1947 and August 15, 2022 offers a rich history of a people hoping to enjoy the fruits of their struggle for freedom. They dreamed of an India where they would get all that was denied them by the oppressive Mughal and British rulers. After all, the Indian Constitution guaranteed them their fundamental rights, and they hoped they would be treated as equals, something denied to a vast number of people because of the caste system, that they would have equal opportunities to grow, that they would be free from poverty and hunger, that they would be their own masters. Where are they after 75 years of Independence?

We thought we could have the viewpoint of Indian Americans on "India Today and Tomorrow". We reached out to a few readers of The Indian Panorama with the request to share their viewpoint. They have been very kind to send in their comments which we are happy to publish here. We thank them for their contribution and wish them a Happy Independence Day.- EDITOR



PARVEEN CHOPRA
NEW YORK

I AM BULLISH ABOUT INDIA

What India was before the 1991 economic liberalization initiated under PV Narasimha Rao as PM and Manmohan Singh as FM could not have foretold the development in India and its standing in world affairs as of 2022. So, where India is today cannot tell you where it will be in 2050.

I am bullish about India's bright future because of the strength of our millennia old civilization. Given the right conditions Indians rise and shine as shown by the diaspora in IT but now also in other fields.

True, in the near future, unemployment looms like a major problem in India. Unfortunately, population control has been nobody's baby. The much-touted demographic dividend can become a demographic nightmare unless skilling at a massive scale is undertaken.

The swing towards intolerance of minorities is a major concern too. To be charitable, it can be read as a manifestation of Indians - and Hindus are the majority - regaining self-worth and self-confidence after almost a thousand years of subjugation by foreign rulers. But I believe that homeostasis, known in physiological processes, applies at societal level too. In between and after swings, an equilibrium is reached. Note how Joe Biden's presidency brought a semblance of normalcy to America after the excesses of his predecessor.

(Parveen Chopra was till recently editor of The South Asian Times. He is now working on his own wellness and spirituality website, ALotusInTheMud.com)



DR. RENEE MEHARRA
NEW YORK

As we celebrate this year India@75, Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav, India as a multi-cultural, diverse nation has emerged as a significant respected player on the world stage. With its highly successful vaccination program, more than 2 billion doses of vaccines have been administered in the last 18 months. India is the third largest energy consuming country in the world and also ranks third as the world's largest renewable energy producer. It hopes to meet fifty percent of its electricity requirements by 2070 from renewable energy. Like any other country, the pandemic has taken a severe toll on the economy along with rising inflation and unemployment crisis. But there is a silver lining and according to the projections by the economists at Morgan Stanley, India's GDP growth is expected to be at 8%-8.5% for 2022-2023 making it as Asia's strongest economy. However, unless there is gender parity, there can be no sustained economic growth. and India has one of the worlds' lowest female workforce participation.

Fast forward to India 2040 and beyond we will see it as one of the world's largest working age population with growing urbanization. Some of the crucial challenges will be to address gender inequities, sustain the momentum of its economic development and trade, accelerate expansion of higher education and build smart cities with digital technologies. I dream of India that resonates with Mahatma Gandhi's philosophy of Truth and Non-Violence-- where there is peace, harmony and justice for all. Happy 75th anniversary India.

(Renee Mehrra is President of Reenbow Media, and an Anchor/Producer Queens Public Television)



DR. V K RAJU
MORGANTOWN, WV

Though India got its independence in 1947 only in 1990s India woke up and realized the potential of its incredible people. India made spectacular economic progress since 1990s after privatization. Today, India is a highly developed country with developing country problems lingering on everywhere. This is going to change when young people realize their resplendent heritage, capabilities and their potential. In order to develop economically, a country needs mental resources, material resources and the will to progress. India has the first two but not the third. we have the wish to progress; we have yet to develop the will to progress. This change has started to happen. Once it happens, sky is the limit as we have the greatest natural resource of 530 + million young women and men, no other country has. The Indians in future will Stop saying defensively "Rome is not built in one day." Instead, they should remember "The past is our cradle, not our prison and there is a danger as well as appeal in its glamour. The past is for inspiration not imitation, for continuation not repetition Israel Zangwill. Jai Hind.

(Dr. V.K. Raju is an eminent Ophthalmologist and President and Founder, Eye Foundation of America. He is working for a world without Childhood blindness)



MURTAZA ALI
NEW DELHI

75 years after attaining independence from British rule, India currently finds itself at the crossroads. We are witnessing the rise of new narratives that are largely driven by majoritarianism with emphasis on nationalism. Still a young democracy in comparison to the United States of America, India has a long way to go before a certain institutional stability is perpetually attained that's independent of the political leadership of the party in power. Despite the reinforcements owing to the checks and balances provided by the Indian Constitution, the whims of the political leadership of the ruling party can impact the institutional neutrality as evident from what the country witnessed during the Emergency or at other times when a single party has enjoyed absolute majority in Lok Sabha -- the lower house of the Parliament. One hopes that over the course of the next couple of decades as the country marches towards the celebration of 100 years of independence the checks and balances would succeed in further reinforcing the institutional setup against any political change of guard.

(Murtaza Ali Khan is an Indian critic and journalist who has been covering cinema, art and culture for over 10 years)



**GOBIND MUNJAL
NEW YORK**

August 15th, 1947 is etched deep into history and people's collective memory as the day that India achieved independence after a lot of sacrifices by many freedom fighters like Mahatma Gandhi ji and Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose. Both of them had a different ideology but worked for the independence of India in their own way.

We remember the quotes by Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose:

"Freedom is not given, it is taken" and "Give me Blood and I will give you Freedom"

And quotes by Mahatma Gandhi:

"Be the change that you wish to see in the World" and "In a gentle way you can shake the world"

Over the last 75 years, India has channeled her civilizational strengths and cultural diversity into a brand new shared future, and opportunities for achievement, progress, and prosperity for its billion-plus citizens, making our country an inspiration for the rest of the world.

75th Anniversary of Indian Independence or Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav is an ongoing event, in which the 75th Anniversary of the Independence of India is being celebrated in India and abroad.

Modi Government has been doing a great job for the last 8 years and its major achievement and reforms include Demonetization, GST bill, Revoking Article 370, Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA), Muslim Women (Protection of Rights on Marriage) Act, Ram temple in Ayodhya.

With an aim to invoke the feeling of patriotism in the hearts of Indian citizens, the Modi government has kicked off the 'Har Ghar Tiranga' campaign under the aegis of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav to encourage people to hoist the Tiranga at home to mark the 75th anniversary of India's Independence.

As India ushers in its vision for the next 25 years, we're excited to see many millions of Digital Indians today.

My vision for India by 2050 is that it improves the health system by providing good facilities to people. People need also be aware of health to fitness. Everywhere is happiness, people love each other, India free of hunger, poverty & fear, unemployment, malnutrition, corruption, gender inequality and other social evils.

Over the next twenty-five years, India should transform into a powerful nation both internally and externally. With the largest youth population on Earth, and a thriving middle class, we expect to see India as the third largest economy after USA and China.

(Gobind Munjal is the National President of The Association of Indians in America (AIA))



**GEORGE ABRAHAM
NEW YORK**

As India is celebrating its 75th Independence Day, the Diaspora worldwide is joining in the festivity with parades, proclamations, and plays. Undoubtedly, there is so much to celebrate for getting freed from the yoke of colonialism and the clutches of the British. The independence was won under great leaders such as Mahatma Gandhi, Jawaharlal Nehru, Subhash Chandra Bose, and Sardar Valla Bhai Patel. But the freedom struggle also saw contributions from so many unsung heroes whose lives have remained away from the limelight. Some others, such as Bhagat Singh, Sukhdev Thapar, and Shivaram Rajguru, paid the ultimate sacrifice for the nation with their own lives. They all deserve our eternal gratitude for their grit and ceaseless efforts that brought us victory.

However, becoming independent necessarily doesn't mean that one is free. Freedom is, in fact, the autonomy of expressing views in public places against the government and having the right to go everywhere with anyone, wear anything of their own choice, and believe or not to believe in any religion while affording protection from the state for life and property. Are these true in Today's India? If one's answer is negative, they may pay tribute to those warriors for the independence but may have already lost the Freedom or may be on the verge of losing it.

If we have independence and Freedom, we are assured of living in Liberty. Ronald Ragan, the 40th President of the United States, once said, "Freedom is never more than one generation away from extinction. We didn't pass it to our children in the bloodstream. It must be fought for, protected, and handed on for them to do the same, or one day we will spend our sunset years telling our children and our children's children what it was once like in the United States where men were free."

(George Abraham is a former Chief Technology Officer, the United Nations, and the Vice Chairman of Indian Overseas Congress)



**BEENA KOTHARI
NEW YORK**

India's 75th anniversary of Independence Day. Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav is the reflection of India's socio-cultural, political, and economic identity. New India rising like our President Murmu says, India cut the shackles of colonial rule and decided to reshape its destiny.

The Indian tri colors are fluttering in every nook and corner of the country. Great martyrs would have been thrilled to see the spirit of the Independence Movement coming alive again on such a massive scale.

"India Today and Tomorrow" - By another 20 more years we will have fully realized the dreams of our freedom fighters.

India's new-found confidence stems from the spirit of its youth, its farmers, and women. Gender inequalities are reducing.

Women are moving ahead with more job opportunities in villages and cities and breaking many glass ceilings.

The world has seen a new India rising in recent years, more so after the outbreak of COVID-19.

The journey of 75 years after independence reflects the hard work, innovation, and enterprise of Indians. Whether in the country or aboard, we Indians have proved ourselves through hard work. We are proud of our constitutions and of our democratic traditions.

Economic success is leading to an ease in living too. Economic reforms are rightly accompanied by innovative welfare initiatives. At this present time, sports are being showcased by Indian women in the Olympics. In the future we will see more Indian women in sports who will shine.

Information technology has been booming and will continue to rise which will bring many job opportunities across India for youth and women. We hope there will be many Indians in the likes of Warren Buffets, Bill Gates, Elon Musk and Mark Zuckerberg.

(Beena Kothari is a Real Estate ASSOCIATE BROKER and is associate with a number of social organizations. She is President of Global Organization of People of Indian Origin (GOPIO), New York)



**KALEEM KAWAJA
WASHINGTON, D.C.**

Today, on August 15, 2022 we rejoice and celebrate the 75th anniversary of the golden day when India became independent. Surely in these 75 years India has regained much of its past pride by making very remarkable progress in many walks of life, most prominent being the areas of scientific and modern education, high grade careers for both men and women and the mushrooming of modern industries in many parts of the country. In all these years India has continued to be a democracy, albeit often an undisciplined democracy, where quite a few political leaders have flouted laws of the land and the egalitarian constitution of India.

In the early decades of the republic the leaders of the ruling political parties were educated people, guided by the spirit of the secular and democratic constitution of India and the principled leaders of the freedom movement, like Mahatma Gandhi, who paid attention to morality, values and principles in running the government. However, as India's population has continued to grow by leaps and bounds, and the problems have multiplied hugely, the new leaders have adopted opportunistic and deceptive policies and have declined to accept accountability.

Additionally, to gain votes in elections and power. In the last ten years, some political parties and leaders have promoted differences of religion, caste and ethnicity among the very diverse people of the country, indiscipline bordering on lawlessness, in open contravention of the principled constitution of India. Corruption and money power seems to have become the major avenue for getting things done. These leaders are ignoring the massive unemployment among the youth, rapidly increasing prices of all commodities, and basic justice for the dispossessed Indians who are about two-thirds of the population.

I remain hopeful that India's voters will soon bring about changes to remove the parties and leaders who have contributed to the degeneration of the society in India in the last about ten years and replace them with those who restore discipline, respect for law and order, remove corruption and exploitation of religion and caste in the political system and help curb the growth of population.

(Kaleem Kawaja is Executive Director, Association of Indian Muslims of America Washington DC)



JAY MANDAL
NEW YORK

To be honest, India is no more a country of snake charmers, elephants, and Bullock carts as the west perceive it. Burning cow dung still might be the main source of energy for

people in rural India yet, it's the same country that has nuclear power plants. While 70% - 73% of her population are below education levels yet this is the same country that produces maximum numbers of the world's best Doctors, Engineers, and Scientists.

Depending on whom you talk to, India is either all set to become a superpower or is heading towards a civil war. And that the two proclamations are poles apart comes as no surprise for a nation that thrives on its diversity. And therein lies the beauty and the hope for the future of India.

In my view, I feel very fortunate that I was born in Bharat-India. A country I fell in love with after I first left its shores some 48 years ago. Back then I was a young man with dreamy eyes who

wanted to see the world while riding a bicycle with one idea in mind, "Adventure". But as I rode across the length and breadth of 154 countries, it became crystal clear that there was no other country like India, as diversified as it is!

I have learned more about my motherland after leaving it and meeting people dispersed around the world who - I feel - are more Indian at heart than Indians living in India. My work as a photojournalist has also given me the unique opportunity to make numerous yearly trips back to my motherland.

In my view, there is much to celebrate and be hopeful for in the India of today. There is no question that India will continue to become an even more formidable force to reckon with in the

international arena in the years to come. But at the same time, India needs to thread carefully as we are now in times that are getting shaped faster than ever before. When the social change took decades to occur, now each tweet or post is changing our contours as a nation.

Any country is a sum of its people, and it is, therefore, incumbent on us to be the best that we can be if we want an India of tomorrow that generations to come can be proud of. As we celebrate our 75th Independence Day anniversary, we must resolve to uphold our country's value systems based on Tyaga (renunciation), Nishtha (dedication), Dana (giving abundantly), Satya (truth), Upeksha (forbearance) and Ahimsa (non-violence). Jai Hind!

(Jay Mandal is a photojournalist)



DAVE MAKKAR
NEW JERSEY

India was founded as a democratic and secular state with great emphasis on interfaith and inter ethnicity tolerance and utmost respect for human rights. Successive governments have diluted the main principles on which India was founded, Modi has put the last nail on coffin of the ideals of the founders. It is yet to be seen, what the "Ideal of unhindered Hindu extremism" will bring about for India in the next 100

years.

Since May 2014, democratic freedoms have been greatly attenuated in India. Religion, as interpreted by the state now plays a significant role in politics and governance. The example of its harmful role can be seen in the deterioration of the rights of Muslims, Christians, Dalit Hindus, Schedule Tribes and other religious minorities being targeted by the state.

India is called "flawed Democracy with 46th rank on the Global Democracy Index with an overall score of 6.91, lowest since the index was first published in 2006. U.S.-based Freedom House downgraded India from a free democracy to "partially free." The V-Dem Institute classified it as an "electoral autocracy" on par with Russia.

As per World Press Freedom Index 2022, India's ranking dropped to 150th position from last year's 142nd rank among 180 nations.

"India scores 40 out of 100 in the Corruption Index to win the coveted 85th Rank". "India also scores very low in the transparency index, with a score of 5.5 out of 20.

India ranks 136 out of 146 countries in

the United Nations' World Happiness Report, 2022.

Unemployment rate rose to 45-year high of 6.1% in FY18 as per Modi's own statistics ministry. It further increased to 7.80 percent in April from 7.60 percent in March of 2022 making it 50 years high. Three-quarters of India's workforce is self-employed and casual, with no social security benefits. Only a little over 2% of the workforce have secure formal jobs with access to social security - a retirement savings scheme, health care, maternity benefits - and written contracts of more than three years. A paltry 9% have formal jobs with access to at least one social security source. Earnings are pathetically low, 45% of all salaried workers earn less than 9,750 rupees (\$123) a month. That's less than 375 rupees ((\$4.73) a day, the minimum wage proposed by Modi regime in 2019 but later dropped.

In the 2021 Global Hunger Index, India ranks 101st out of the 116 countries with sufficient data to calculate 2021 GHI scores. With a score of 27.5, India has a level of hunger that is serious. "In 2020 alone, India contributed 60% to the global rise in poverty, according to a

January 2021 report from Pew Research.

The world inequality report ranks India as one of the most unequal countries in the world, with rising poverty and yet an affluent elite. Richest 98 Indians own same wealth as the bottom 552 million (55.2 crore) people. The wealth inequality is so horrendous that the top 10% of the Indian population holds 77% of the total national wealth. The richest 10% of Indians account for 57.1% of all income, compared with only 13.2% for the poorest half.

The criminalization of politics is directly related to "Gangster Capitalism" that is being practiced in India since its independence in 1947. In India, politicians are selected & financed by the "New India Company" (NIC) jointly owned by Gangster Capitalists of India; the voters play a part in the charade of voting for them!

India's democracy has taken so many body blows that the future looks increasingly bleak. The damage is too structural, too fundamental that it is being dismantled systematically and in shockingly violent ways that makes it very traumatic for those who love India.

(Dave Makkar is a social activist)

Get to the Point



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Indian economy: Achievements, gaps, and aspirations

In the context of Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav, celebrating India's 75th year of Independence, it is an opportune moment to examine the achievements of the past, identify the remaining gaps, and aspirations for the Indian Centenary that will be celebrated in 2047. Once the largest economy of the world, India emerged from the colonial rule in 1947 as one of the poorest countries. Much has been achieved over the past 75 years in both economic and social terms. However, many challenges remain that need to be addressed over the next quarter century. In this essay, an overview of the key achievements and the gaps in India's socioeconomic development is presented. It also offers a vision of India's global leadership by 2047, not only in economic terms, but also in terms of prosperity that is more inclusive, more sustainable, and more resilient to enable her to celebrate the Centenary with a greater sense of national pride, achievement, and fulfilment, becoming a role model for the developing world.

Key Achievements

India inherited a Shattered Economy at Independence. Economic historian Angus Maddison in his book *The World Economy, a Millennial Perspective* has documented that for much of the human history, India has been one of the largest and most prosperous economies of the world (Maddison, 2001). In the early eighteenth century when the British colonial powers entered and started colonising it, India was the largest economy of the world, accounting for as much as 27 percent of global GDP. India in that period was often described as the bird of gold (sone ki chiriya) and hence it attracted all the colonial powers and invaders in search of wealth. India was also described as the jewel in the British Crown.

The colonisation proved to be a devastating experience for India, destroying its highly developed indigenous industries such as textiles, ship building, steel, among others. Some of these industries were highly sophisticated, as exemplified by superfine Dhaka Malmal or the Qutub Steel Pillar. These highly sophisticated indigenous industries were destroyed by the British in the period of the colonisation of the country to create markets for their own manufactured goods. India was pushed to become an exporter of raw materials to Britain and importer of everything manufactured, in a typical centre-periphery relationship as described by Latin American economist Raul Prebisch. By the time she gained independence, India had been reduced to be one of the poorest countries in the world with just over three percent of global GDP, compared to 27 percent of global GDP in 1700 AD.

Key Economic and Social Achievements

Sustained a rising trend of economic growth Perhaps one of the most



important achievements has been the ability of sustaining a rising trend of economic growth over the past 75 years. Not only that growth has been there all along, but the trend rate is upward moving. The past few years have been challenging as the growth rates have been slowing down even before the onset of COVID pandemic. The pandemic has inflicted a rather heavy cost on the Indian economy, leading to a contraction by 7.4 percent in 2020-21, first time in four decades. However, in 2021-22, the Indian economy has been recovering very robustly and is likely to grow at about 8.5 to 9.5 percent, which will more than make up for the contraction of 2020-21. Hopefully, the Indian economy will again catch up with its rising growth trajectory in the next few years.

The sustained and rising growth trend has helped India to constantly improve her rank in the global economy. India moved up to the fifth place from the ninth between 2010 and 2019, i.e. just in the space of ten years.

Contributor to poverty reduction in Asia

The other important achievement relates to poverty reduction. The head count rate of extreme poverty defined in terms of \$1.9 a day has consistently declined over the years. In 1977, 63 percent of Indians were living in extreme poverty; this proportion declined to around 20 percent by 2011, the latest year for which the international numbers are available. Between 1990 and 2013 alone, 170 million people were lifted out of poverty. By now, India may have lifted over 500 million people out of poverty. However, in the past one and a half years, the pandemic has pushed millions of people who were on the edge of the poverty line into poverty due to widespread job losses. Hopefully, it is a temporary setback and as the pandemic related restrictions are lifted, these new poor would regain jobs and move above the poverty line.

Steady progress has also been made in terms of human development

India has also made sustained progress in terms of human development in terms of indicators of health and education. The adult literacy rate improved steadily to about 75 percent by 2011 from just 40 percent in 1981 when the last census was conducted. This is reflected in terms of enrolment ratios at primary, secondary, and tertiary levels of education. Similar improvement has been achieved in the life expectancy rate, an indicator of healthcare and nutrition. It has improved from 40 years to 70 years between 1960 and 2019. All different indicators of health of people including infant mortality/maternal mortality rates have also shown such similar improvements.

Improvements in access to infrastructure and financial inclusion

Similar improvements have been achieved in the access to infrastructure and financial inclusion. The access to electricity, for instance, has improved strongly in recent years. From only 50 percent of the population covered by access to electricity in 1995 and 76 percent in 2010, now 97 percent of people are covered. The coverage of sanitation has seen a huge jump under Swachh Bharat mission. Similarly, the coverage of financial inclusion has improved sharply under the Jan Dhan scheme under which 400 million accounts were opened, giving the poor easy access to modern financial services like banking. Almost all Indians are linked to world's largest unique biometric identity called Aadhaar. These are important achievements.

Emerging global leadership

India has attained global leadership in several areas. India's global leadership in ICT software and business process outsourcing industry is very well recognised. India has consistently ranked number one in AT Kearney's Global Services Location Index and has been maintaining leadership. It is also exemplified by the growing number of global tech giants, from Microsoft to Twitter, being headed by Indians. India is

also known as the global pharmacy for its leadership in production of affordable generic pharmaceuticals. The COVID pandemic has helped to highlight India's leadership in vaccine production, producing and supplying practically 50 percent of global vaccine requirements. India is also a world leader in production of compact cars and two wheelers. India is the largest milk producer in the world and the second largest producer of rice, wheat, sugarcane, groundnut, vegetables, fruit, and cotton. This is in sharp contrast to the times India has passed through in the early post-independence phase when she faced severe scarcity of food grains and had to sign an agreement with the United States under PL480 for food aid to feed the people.

Key Challenges

The achievements of India since independence in terms of socioeconomic development are truly substantial and impressive. However, there is no room for complacency, as much remains to be done to achieve the status of a developed country and for sustainable prosperity of all people in India. In what follows, we overview the remaining key challenges.

Persisting poverty First of all, despite the fact that India has lifted 500 million people out of poverty over the past years, still over 20 percent of population lives in extreme poverty (\$1.9 a day). If one uses the \$3.2 a day poverty threshold, which is the moderate poverty line, as many as 40 percent of Indians may be living in poverty.

Unfortunately, updated international poverty numbers are not available as they come with a long lag. But clearly a very large proportion of India's population is living in poverty and is deprived. The NITI Aayog (2021) has issued a multidimensional poverty index based on 12 indicators of health, education, and standard of living. The multidimensional poverty headcount rate in rural areas was nearly four times at 32.75 percent compared to 8.81 percent for urban areas. The rural areas that account for over two-thirds of India's population, therefore, continue to face deprivations of basic amenities. This is also evident from an analysis of inequalities of opportunities, discussed later. There are also wide variations across states in terms of multidimensional poverty index with Bihar topping the list.

High incidence of hunger and malnutrition

Similarly, India continues to have high incidence of hunger and food insecurity even compared to other South Asian countries. India's ranking in Global Hunger Index 2021 was 101, having slipped from the 2020 index of 94, out of 116 countries. The Hunger Index measures countries' performance on four component indicators – undernourishment, child wasting, child stunting, and child mortality. The high incidence of hunger in India is enigmatic as there is enough food grain production and the granaries are full of food grains.

Source: ISID

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How India has progressed on major healthcare indicators

After the end of the British rule in India, there was both jubilation and worry. While the people were celebrating throwing off the yoke of colonial rule, there were also concerns about how the nation would find its way amidst all its troubles.

Healthcare was one of the major issues. The lack of trained medical professionals in the country, low life expectancy, high infant mortality rate and inability of the majority of the nation's citizens to access proper healthcare were some of the major problems facing the country.

However, India managed to ensure that a greater percentage of its population could access healthcare. By prioritising healthcare in their Five-Year plans, successive governments ensured that India could improve its Human Development Index (HDI) indicators and make headway with regards to the holistic development of its citizens.

Here is how India has progressed on some health indicators in 75 years of independence:

Infant Mortality Rate

Infant Mortality Rate shows the



number of infant deaths per 1,000 live births. The IMR in the country has gone down from 146 in 1951 to 28 in 2020, according to data by the government. The Maternal Mortality Rate (MMR) in the country has also declined to 7.3 in 2016-18, as per a press release by the

Press Information Bureau.

Life expectancy

The improvement in medical facilities and greater and more equitable access to healthcare has led India's life expectancy to nearly double between 1951 and 2019.

Female life expectancy has risen from 36.2 years in 1951 to 71.1 years in 2019. Life expectancy in males has jumped from 37.2 years to 68.4 years.

More healthcare personnel

One sector where India has progressed significantly is the number of healthcare personnel. The nation had only 61,840 doctors for its entire population in 1951. The number has increased to 13,08,009 in 2022. The present ratio of doctors to patients is 1:834 in India compared to the 1:1000 standard ratio set by the World Health Organization. As for the number of nurses, that has also surged from 16,500 in 1951 to 34.96 lakh in 2022.

Healthcare schemes

Since independence, the Union government has come up with various schemes to make healthcare facilities more accessible to the general population. From the Janani Shishu Suraksha Karyakram (JSSK) for decreasing maternal mortality rate to the Ayushman Bharat scheme, India has taken a number of steps towards making its citizens healthier.

Source: Firstpost

India's journey in the field of education

At the time of independence, India was lagging behind on a number of developmental indicators. The British government had not prioritised educating the general population. It was up to the leaders involved in the freedom struggle to deal with these challenges and come up with a way to make India a modern, educated and developed nation.

Despite several hurdles in their way, our leaders succeeded in their aims to a great extent. It was due to their efforts that India could progress from a mere 27 universities in 1950-51 to 1,043 in 2019-20.

Whether it was primary education, growth of schools and universities or other educational indicators, India has progressed in leaps and bounds since it became independent in 1947.

The establishment of the University Grants Commission, All India Council of Technical Education, Indian Institutes of Technology, Indian Institutes of Management and more in the decades after independence has helped India become a powerhouse of learning.

Here is the data on how the nation has progressed in the field of education in 75 years on independence:

Gender parity and gross enrolment ratio

Female education was not given



much importance at the time of independence. Most people in the country were extremely reluctant to send their girls to school.

However, the situation has changed. According to data by the Press Information Bureau, girls now outnumber boys in school education.

The wide gender gap in the field has been closed off for students in classes I to VIII. For primary school (class I to V) students, there are now 1.02 girls for

every boy, a sharp jump from 0.41 girls in 1950-51. For upper primary (classes VI to VIII) the number is 1.01 girls per boy.

Literacy rate

The literacy rate in India jumped from 18.3 percent in 1951 to 74.4 percent in 2018. Female literacy saw the most remarkable turnaround in the period, surging from 8.9 percent to 65.8 percent in the same period.

Number of schools and colleges

Every government of independent India has focused on making educational facilities more available to the general public. The number of schools has increased to over ten times from 1.4 lakh at the time of independence to 15 lakh in 2020-21.

The number of colleges has also witnessed a steep rise. From 578 colleges in 1950-51, India now has 42,343 colleges. The number of universities in the same period surged from 27 to 1,043.

One significant sector that has seen a surge is medical education. The number of medical colleges has increased over 21 times in the last 70 years. From 28 medical colleges in 1951, the number has gone up to 612 colleges.

Another cornerstone of India's education sector is the National Education Policy 2020 which has been brought out by the current Union government.

The policy aims to revolutionise education in India especially through regional language becoming a medium of instruction in schools.

The policy will also pave the way for an increased role for foreign universities in India.

The benefits of the National Education Policy 2020 will decide where the nation stands in the next few decades.

Source: Firstpost

Here's to a life full of understanding, appreciation and gratitude



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On behalf of the Muslims of India we wish a very happy **75TH INDEPENDENCE DAY** to India and all of its people.

May India grow into a modern, economically advanced nation, with a strong democracy, and with justice and equal rights for all.

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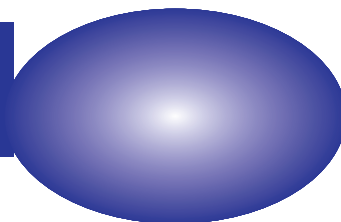


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Homi Bhabha to APJ Abdul Kalam, scientists who made India proud



CV Raman



Homi Bhabha



Vikram Sarabhai



APJ Abdul Kalam

Even more than people realise, science plays a significant role in daily life. It is all a gift of science and technology, from our glitzy devices to the technologies we can't live without, from the simple lightbulb to space missions. How often do we stop to consider those extraordinary brains that make our lives easier?

On the occasion of 75th Independence Day, let us remember some of the sharp minds who made our lives easier.

CV Raman

In 1930, Chandrasekhara Venkata Raman earned the Nobel Prize in Physics for his groundbreaking research on light scattering. On November 7, 1888, he was born in Tiruchirapalli, making him the first Asian and non-White person to ever win a Nobel Prize in a scientific field. Additionally, Raman studied the acoustics of musical instruments. He was the first to look into how Indian drums like the tabla and mridangam produce harmony in their sound.

He found that part of the light that is deflected when it passes through a transparent material changes in wavelength. The Raman effect is what causes this phenomena, which is now known as the Raman scattering.

He passed out in his lab in October 1970. He was taken to a hospital, where the staff estimated that he had four hours to survive. He pulled through and after a few days refused to stay in the hospital, preferring to pass away amid the flower-filled gardens of his institute (the Raman Research Institute in Bangalore). He passed away naturally on November 21, 1970.

Homi Bhabha

Homi Jehangir Bhabha, who was born in Bombay on October 30, 1909, was a significant figure in the development of quantum theory. He was the first person to hold the position of Chairman of India's Atomic Energy Commission. Bhabha began his professional career in nuclear physics in Britain. After moving back to India, he was instrumental in persuading the Congress Party's top officials, most notably Jawaharlal Nehru, to launch the ambitious nuclear programme.

Most people agree that Bhabha is credited with founding Indian nuclear power. Few people are aware that he was adamantly opposed to India producing atomic bombs, even if it had the means to do so. Instead, he advocated using the proceeds from the building of an atomic reactor to decrease poverty and misery in India.

On January 24, 1966, Air India Flight 101 crashed close to Mont Blanc, killing him. There are a number of plausible explanations for the disaster, one of which is a plot by the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) to sabotage India's nuclear programme.

Vikram Sarabhai

Vikram Sarabhai, who is regarded as the founder of India's space programme, was born on August 12, 1919, in the Gujarati city of Ahmedabad. He was instrumental in the setting up of the Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO), when he successfully convinced the Indian government of the importance of a space programme for a developing nation after the launch of the Russian Sputnik.

After his passing in 1972, he received the Padma Vibhushan in addition to the Padma Bhushan in 1966. While everyone is aware of his primary contribution to the founding of ISRO, it's possible that many of us are unaware of his influence on the foundation of numerous other prestigious Indian institutions, including the Nehru Foundation for Development and the Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad (IIM-A).

APJ Abdul Kalam

Avul Pakir Jainulabdeen Abdul Kalam, an Indian scientist who was employed as an aerospace engineer at the Indian Space Research Organization and the Defense Research and Development Organization (DRDO), was born on October 15, 1931. (ISRO).

For the Indian Army, Kalam created a miniature helicopter to launch his professional career. Along with Vikram Sarabhai, a prominent space scientist, Kalam served on the INCOSPAR committee. As the project director of India's first homegrown satellite launch vehicle (SLV-III), which successfully placed the Rohini satellite in a low-Earth orbit in July 1980, Kalam was transferred to the Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) in 1969.

In addition, he presided over India as its 11th president from 2002 to 2007. In his book India 2020, Kalam promoted strategies for turning India become a developed country by that year. He has won several honours, including the Bharat Ratna, the highest civilian award in India.

Source: newsable.asianetnews.com

Saluting the Indian women in science

Indian women have accomplished historic breakthroughs in science since the 1800s. Through their achievements in different scientific fields including physics, astronomy, space, astrophysics, biology, neurobiology, medicine, and computer science, Indian women have earned titles such as the nation's 'missile woman', 'rocket woman', and 'weather woman', among others. From Tessy Thomas to Gagandeep Kang, and Vidita Vaidya to Soumya Swaminathan, women scientists have made India proud with their milestones.

Tessy Thomas



Tessy Thomas, a scientist at the Defence Research and Development (DRDO), served as the project director for the Agni IV and V missiles. In 2011, she became the first woman to lead missile teams in India. Dr Thomas is known as the 'missile woman' of India. The Agni IV and V missiles are intercontinental ballistic missiles (land-based, nuclear-armed ballistic missiles with a range of more than 5,600 kilometres) that have very high ranges and are capable of carrying nuclear warheads (explosive head of a missile or a similar weapon).

Ritu Karidhal



Ritu Karidhal is a senior scientist at the Indian Space Research Organisation. She played an important role in realising the Mars Orbiter Mission (MOM), India's first mission to the Red Planet. MOM, also known as Mangalayaan, reached the Red Planet in the first attempt. Karidhal is often referred to as the 'Rocket Woman' of India. Karidhal obtained her Master of Science degree in Physics from Lucknow University, and subsequently a Master of Technology degree from Indian Institute of Science in Bangalore. She was always fascinated with space, and collected news articles related to space activities conducted by ISRO and NASA during her school days. In November 1997, she joined the Indian space agency.

Vidita Vaidya



Vidita Vaidya is an Indian neuroscientist, whose primary areas of research are neuroscience and molecular psychiatry. She is a Professor at the Department of Biological Sciences, Tata Institute of Fundamental Research (TIFR), Mumbai, and a senior editor at the European Journal of Neuroscience. At TIFR, Vaidya focuses on the neurobiology of emotion. Her laboratory is interested in understanding the neurocircuitry of emotion, the modulation of the neurocircuitry by experiences, and the alterations in emotional neurocircuitry due to complex psychiatric disorders like depression.

Soumya Swaminathan



Soumya Swaminathan is the first Indian to become the World Health Organization's Deputy Director General, and also the UN agency's first chief scientist. She is a paediatrician and globally recognised researcher on tuberculosis and HIV, and has more than 30 years of experience in clinical care and research. Throughout her career, she has worked to translate research into impactful programmes. From 2015 to 2017, Swaminathan was Secretary to the Government of India for Health Research and Director General of the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR).

Source: Abplive

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Wars that tested mettle of our armed forces

What has stood out in the past 75 years is the exceptional role played by India's armed forces and the many acts of valour, often beyond the call of duty. The conflicts brought about the benchmarks that would define India's boundary-related decisions in its neighbourhood, such as the near permanence of the boundary lines with Pakistan and China.

The 75th anniversary of Independence is a good occasion to reflect upon the wars and conflicts that were thrust upon India, their enduring significance for the country and how these have shaped the geopolitical contours of the region. What stood out in all these conflicts was the exceptional role played by India's armed forces and the many acts of valour, often beyond the call of duty. These conflicts also brought to the fore the benchmarks that would define India's boundary-related decisions in its neighbourhood, such as the near permanence of the boundary lines between India and Pakistan (like the Ceasefire Line, now the LoC) and between China and India (like the LAC and the McMahon Line). How these came to be needs to be recalled.

Contrary to the prevailing perception that it was the political elite of the newly created nation of Pakistan that had launched the invasion of Kashmir in October 1947 after they saw that the Maharaja of Jammu & Kashmir was unlikely to join Pakistan, a new narrative has emerged. Iqbal Malhotra's book *Dark Secrets: Politics, Intrigue and Proxy Wars in Kashmir* (2022) explains with well-researched details that it was the British establishment prodding Pakistan's army to launch the invasion of Kashmir in two parts — Operation Gulmarg to capture the Kashmir valley and Operation Dutta Kel to take over Gilgit-Baltistan. The Indian Army and the IAF were thrown into a prolonged campaign — from October 1947 into the summer of 1948 — to 'save Kashmir' for India. They did so with immense resolve. But the British leadership hadn't given up. They managed to get the Pakistani flag hoisted in Gilgit and Lord Mountbatten convinced Pandit Nehru to have the matter debated at the UN and to accept 'plebiscite' as the best option for the Kashmir issue. It led to a ceasefire and the agreement on a 'ceasefire line' that became the de facto Indo-Pak boundary in Jammu & Kashmir.

However, the unsettled Himalayan boundaries with the Chinese drew India into its second major conflict after Independence. The 1962 Sino-Indian conflict was the outcome of many factors — from the increasing US footprint in India with the aim of assisting the Tibetan cause, even though Nehru made every effort to appease Communist China — but above all was the conflicting boundary claims along the Himalayas that led to the Chinese invasion. India's publication of maps in 1954 had shown Aksai Chin as a part of Ladakh (and therefore India) and Nehru's stand that 'map or no map', the McMahon Line was the border in India's northeast with China, upset the Chinese leadership so much that Mao decided to teach him a



India was attacked on October 20, 1962 in what famously came to be known as Sino-India war of 1962. The belief of not ever being attacked by China did not let the Indian army prepare and the result was the standoff between 10,000-20,000 Indian troops and 80,000 Chinese troops. The war continued for about a month and ended on November 21, after China declared a ceasefire.



The Indo-Pakistani War of 1971 was a military confrontation between India and Pakistan that occurred during the Bangladesh Liberation War in East Pakistan from 3 December 1971 until the Pakistani capitulation in Dhaka on 16 December 1971.

lesson. However, what isn't known is that the Chinese were armed and encouraged by Moscow — first for the Korean war in the 1950s — and then, since India was seen to be in the US camp, Peking (now Beijing) received a signal from Soviet leader Nikita Khrushchev to attack India just as the world got busy with the Cuban missile crisis, from October 20 to November 19, 1962.

The Chinese invasion that followed destroyed the illusions that Nehru held about his role as a global statesman and India's standing in Asia. In New Delhi, sadly, India's military commanders surrendered to the will of the civilian leadership — especially Nehru, Krishna Menon and BN Mullick — who ignored all the signs of China's aggressive intent. Thus, when China attacked in October 1962, India's ill-equipped and ill-armed troops were pushed into those high Himalayas to fight Chinese aggression. However, despite the massive odds,

Indian troops put up an impressive fight, both in Ladakh and the NEFA (now Arunachal Pradesh), as was argued by this writer in his book *Contested Lands: India, China and the Boundary Dispute* (2021). And though the 1962 conflict was called a national defeat, the reality is that the bulk of the Indian Army wasn't used and nor was the IAF, for fear of further upsetting the Chinese! Had they been used, the story would've been different.

No wonder, due to India's reverses in 1962 and the findings of a US-based war game — as brought out by Sumit Ganguly in *The Origins of War in South Asia* (1986) — a US-armed Pakistan decided that India's morale was shattered and that they could capture the Kashmir valley if they were to launch a well-organised quasi-guerrilla invasion, unlike their disjointed invasion of 1947. However, Pakistan's plans were once again thwarted by the determined



Longewala, a region in Rajasthan situated nearly 6 kms inside the international border, is famous for the most crucial battle in the Indian history: the Indo Pakistan war of 1971.

response of an IAF-Army combine as a counter-offensive led to our troops standing at the gates of Lahore and Sialkot. Gen Ayub Khan scrambled his forces to save Lahore, while our troops stood at the gates of those cities, waiting for a ceasefire! Pakistan later declared the 1965 war a victory as our political leadership was too shy to claim victory! The 1971 Indo-Pak war was very different from the earlier ones. For once, India's three armed services fought in that war, and it wasn't about Kashmir — but about the liberation of Bangladesh — even though the post-war accord was about the future of Jammu & Kashmir!

The most important outcome of the Simla Agreement was the conversion of the Ceasefire Line into the Line of Control (LoC) as a politico-military boundary. Many of the apologists for the then Congress government would insist that the Simla accord had made the Kashmir issue a bilateral matter. But Pakistan has long since abandoned that commitment, whatever India's official stance on that may be. However, the LoC — a modified version of the Ceasefire Line — has now become the de facto boundary, which even the US urged Pakistan to respect, after Nawaz Sharif rushed to Washington at the height of the Kargil conflict. Interestingly, the primary aim of Gen Musharraf's intrusions across the LoC in 1999 was to challenge its sanctity. But ironically for Pakistan, India's strong military response and the complete eviction of Pakistani soldiers had led then then US President Clinton to acknowledge the sanctity of the LoC!

Thus, much credit must go to the armed forces for having stood up to the challenges to guard the sanctity of India's boundaries. What is often ignored is the fact that since Independence, India's forces have not lost any territory. What is held by our rivals was occupied before India's forces were sent to stall incursions in 1947 and 1962.

By: Maroof Raza (Strategic affairs analyst)

Source: TNS

Pakistanis mark Independence Day with fireworks and fanfare

ISLAMABAD (TIP): Pakistanis celebrated the 75th anniversary (Diamond Jubilee) of Independence with traditional zeal, flag-hoisting, fireworks and fanfare.

The federal and the provincial governments organised activities to reignite the spirit of patriotism among public and make them realise the value of independence.

A change of guard ceremony was also held at the mausoleum of the Founder of the Nation, Quaid-i-Azam Mohammad Ali Jinnah in Karachi.

Earlier, the day dawned with a 31-gun salute in Islamabad and a 21-gun salute in the provincial headquarters.

Prayers were offered for the security



and progress of Pakistan, and the well-being of the people.

PRESIDENT DR ARIF ALVI AND HIS WIFE FIRST LADY SAMINA ARIF ALVI VISITED AN ORPHANAGE FOR GIRLS IN RAWALPINDI AND PARTICIPATED WITH THEM IN INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATIONS.

The president said he wished to spend the Independence Day with orphans and today that wish was fulfilled.

While greeting the girls of Kashana Orphanage on the eve of Independence Day, President Alvi emphasized the education for girls and said their role in nation-building couldn't be overruled. (Gulfnews)

13 KILLED IN ROAD ACCIDENT IN PUNJAB PROVINCE OF PAKISTAN



AUGUST 14

LAHORE (TIP): At least 13 people were killed in a collision between a passenger bus and a truck in the Punjab province of Pakistan, the officials said.

The bus had a head-on collision with a sugarcane-laden truck coming from the opposite direction in Rahim Yar Khan district, some 400 km from Lahore on August 14 evening, according to rescue officials.

There was a total of 18 passengers aboard the bus.

"After the accident, the rescue teams joined the locals to shift the injured to a hospital where 13 of them were pronounced dead while the condition of the remaining five injured is stated to be critical," it said, adding the dead included women as well.

The officials further said the rainwater was accumulated on the road where the accident took place.

"The bus got buried under the sugarcane sacks after the accident and rescue teams took considerable time to move the injured to the hospital," it said.

The driver of the truck reportedly managed to escape from the scene.

Road accidents have become all too frequent in Pakistan, pointing to the fact that shoddy infrastructure, dilapidated vehicles and lack of compliance with traffic rules add to the overall situation.

In 2020, WHO published data which showed that road accident deaths in Pakistan amounted to 1.93% of the total death. (PTI)

Lankan navy rejects reports of holding war games with Pak



COLOMBO (TIP): The Sri Lankan Navy on August 14 rejected as "fallacious" media reports that it would hold war games with a Pakistani warship docked at the Colombo port but confirmed that it would hold a "Passage Exercise" in the western seas with PNS Taimur as it leaves the island nation.

Reports fallacious

Certain media reports circulating about a 'war game' between Sri Lanka navy and Pakistan navy are fallacious. Lankan navy statement

The docking of Pakistan's newly-commissioned Chinese-built frigate at the Colombo port on Friday came amid Sri Lankan Government allowing a high-tech Chinese research ship to visit the southern port of Hambantota from August 16 till 22 for "replenishment purposes" despite India's concern over the vessel's presence in its neighbourhood.

Sri Lanka allowed PNS Taimur to make a port call in Colombo while on its way to join the Pakistan navy fleet after the Bangladesh Government denied it permission to dock at Chattogram port.

The Sri Lankan Navy in a statement on Sunday said the Pakistan Navy Ship (PNS) Taimur, which arrived in Sri

Lanka on Friday on a formal visit, is scheduled to conduct a Passage Exercise with SLNS Sindurala in seas off Colombo as she departs the island nation on August 15 upon completion of her visit. "In this backdrop, certain media reports circulating about a 'war game' between Sri Lanka navy and Pakistan navy are fallacious," the release said.

It said that the Sri Lanka navy, with the concurrence of foreign navies, conducts Passage Exercises as a routine engagement when their visiting naval ships depart the island after making official port calls.

"The prime motive of these efforts is to enhance interoperability, partnerships and goodwill as well as exchange best practices with foreign navies," it said.

It said the Sri Lankan navy had conducted similar Passage Exercises with the navies of countries such as India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Japan, Germany, UK, Russia and Australia on a number of previous occasions.

"Conducting similar naval exercises with regional and extra-regional navies will enable each partner to overcome common maritime challenges in the future, through enhanced cooperation," the statement said. (PTI)



CHINA TO GIVE \$118 MN ASSISTANCE TO NEPAL

AUGUST 11

BEIJING/KATHMANDU (TIP):

Facing headwinds over its South Asia push after Sri Lanka's worst economic crisis, China has warmed up to Nepal by pledging \$118 million in aid and announcing a slew of trade concessions while vowing to speed up work on the stalled Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) projects.

Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi announced the concessions for Nepal in his meeting with his Nepalese counterpart Narayan Khadka in the eastern Chinese city of Qingdao on August 13.

Khadka was on his first visit to China since Sher Bahadur Deuba took over as Prime Minister of Nepal replacing the pro-Beijing KP Sharma Oli last year after which Kathmandu struck a more balanced foreign policy, firming up ties with India and the US.

Early this year, China expressed concern over the Nepal Parliament's ratification of the contentious US-funded \$ 500 million Millennium Challenge Corporation compact, ending months of deadlock between the Nepalese political parties.

Foreign Minister Wang announced \$118 million in aid to Nepal and fund the feasibility study of the China-Nepal cross-border railway through the Himalayas via Tibet over which experts have raised concerns about the likely damage it could cause to the fragile ecosystem. (PTI)

India @ 75: A hope for the world

India, that is India, now moves another milestone to celebrate its 75th year of independence. It is also a milestone to reflect back on as to what all we achieved in these 75 years, and what more we need to achieve. Finally, we need to articulate our vision, firm up a goal and get people, policies and institutions aligned to the future vision.

India has moved fast forward on all fronts, but due to lack of holistic approach, the success of one side is decimated by the ignorance of the other side.

India's longevity has doubled from 33 years during independence to about 70 years now, but we are also the diabetes and CVD capital of the world.

India's GDP has increased from 2.7 lac crore in 1947 to 147.79 lac crore today - India has become the fifth largest economy but India's GDP per capita at less than US\$2000 puts India under a struggling LMIC - Lower Middle-Income Country.

India has become the fastest growing economy but our national debt increased to a whopping 91 lac crore.

India has become a nuclear power but still a percentage of Indians live without electricity and water.

Agriculture is self-sufficient and produces five times more than it produced during independence but farmers are moving out of the profession at an alarming rate and profitability of agriculture is a burning issue.

India's literacy rate increased from about 12 percent in 1947 to 74 percent, but employability is still a major challenge.

Indian education system is the second biggest in the world but still an Indian has not won a Nobel Prize in science and education since independence.

AIIMS, IISc, IITs and IIMs are amongst the world's best education institutions but the rest of the education system is struggling to catch up, leading the bright and the wealthiest moving to the west for education.

India has moved to Mars and is a world leader in space program but the roads, water and electricity are still to reach every household.

India has added a billion more consumers post-independence but not commensurate buying power. So, the supply side has grown but we have not grown so much on the demand side because we have consumers but not the buying power.

India has created a few world-class billion-dollar companies but MSMEs have not been able to catch up.

Due to a few world class healthcare facilities, medical tourists flock to India for treatment, but COVID-19 bared the reality for all of us, when medicines, beds, ventilators and oxygen had to be imported to save lives.

India is the pharmacy of the world but 70 percent of APIs for manufacturing medicines are imported.

We have now moved from a nation with rationing of landlines - to more than 100 % telecom density, but the quality of voice and data is failing to deliver 2G levels, even though we have nationwide 4G and are planning to



launch 5G soon.

Indian Railways is the largest employer in India, but Indians still have to face a long waiting list to getting a reserved seat, and railways still needs a Tatkal scheme.

Indians have powered the world with Indian skills and brains but India has failed to utilize the same brains back home.

India has increased connectivity massively, both in terms of soft and hard infrastructure, but inequity has increased equally.

So, when we look back, India achieved growth but not development, India achieved freedom but not independence. The reasons are clear;

- Instead of promoting meritocracy, we are still living and promoting entitlements and quid pro quo.
- We have programs for sharing freebies, but we are not focussed on creating wealth.

- We have always tried to be politically correct though economically unviable.
- Individual interests come above national interests.
- Rights come before duties.
- While we are upstreaming aspirations, we are lowering the level of national discourse.
- Instead of data and facts, we believe in unverified perceptions.
- Systems have changed, but mindsets are still the same.

In 75 years, Indian democracy has come a long way. India's stature before the world has also grown and we are being looked up as a 'potential superpower' and we can be described aptly as a hope for the world at this stage. But, we still have a long way to go, and we have to recognise that we are still a 'developing country' and that too, in the middle rung of LMICs.

India of today has capitalist's objective, a socialist plan and a communist minded bureaucracy, where profit is considered ill-intentioned and bordering criminality. Bureaucracy has bartered India's development by seeking favours at the cost of the nation's future.

When we complete 100 years of independence, about 20 percent of our population will be senior citizens (about 34 crores), which was India's total population when we achieved freedom. So, we have to serve and care for the population India had when it achieved freedom. Our dependency ratio will undergo a major change and our demographic dividend would have inverted. As we enter the 75th year of independence, India at 75 is a young democracy, aspirational economy and an ageing nation.

I am not much worried of the past 75 years but more about the next 25 years. Five-year planning pursued by India gives me an impression of our short-term thinking, and perhaps why we failed to set a long-term goal. In all my years of research, I have not been able to find a roadmap to make India a developed country. Dr.Kalam attempted something at TIFAC in the 80s, and it was sketchy and more on technology. If we had developed a roadmap for India in the 80's and worked sincerely, India would perhaps have become a developed country by now.

We need an Ecosystems approach and systems thinking. Else we will remain a land of contradictions. Also, the last few decades, India has faced extremism fuelled by vile neighbours, but if we don't pay heed to the climate emergency, we will face internal catastrophes due to ignoring our environment which will decimate development. Already, according to UN, India has lost about 25% of its GDP due to climate change.

It is time to plan meticulously to raise the GDP per capita to USD 20,000 over the next 25 years. Any organization if asked what they want ; they will say, 'Give us the best of people and some resources'. India has plenty of both. What can stop us? This is a question we must ask, and lets come together to make a Viksit Bharat (Developed India) in the next 25 years. When we turn 100, we should celebrate two milestones; one of India having become a developed country and the other of 100 years of freedom! When I was discussing this mission, I was asked, 'Is it achievable?' and I responded, 'Does India have a choice?'

India needs the goal of JRD Tata, vision of Vikram Sarabhai, faith of Vivekanand and values of Buddha to become a 'Ram Rajya'.

Where ever you work, keep in mind that you work for the country, and your employer helps you to take care of your daily needs. Let's decide what is our goal, our priority - If it's a developed India. No one can stop us. As Plato wrote in the 4th century BC, "What is honored in a country will be cultivated there". Time for us to decide on what we will honour in this great country. Choice is ours!

By: Prof. Rajendra Pratap Gupta, a leading public policy expert.
Source: OutlookIndia

Rushdie stood up for universal rights of freedom of expression, freedom of religion: Blinken



"We join those across the country and around the world who are keeping Salman Rushdie in our thoughts in the aftermath of this heinous attack," Blinken said in a statement. File photo

AUGUST 15, 2022

WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP) : Asserting that Salman Rushdie has consistently stood up for the universal rights of freedom of expression, freedom of religion and freedom of the press, US Secretary of State Tony Blinken on Sunday, August 14, said Iranian state institutions have incited violence against the Indian-origin author for generations and state-affiliated media recently gloated about an attempt on his life. (Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)

US joins people of India to honor its democratic journey: Biden

AUGUST 15, 2022

WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP): Joining the people of India to honor the country's democratic journey, US President Joe Biden on Sunday, August 14 said the two nations are indispensable partners.

"As people around the world, including nearly four million (40 lakh) proud Indian-Americans, celebrate the 75th anniversary of India's independence on August 15, the United States joins the people of India to honor its democratic journey, guided by Mahatma Gandhi's enduring message of truth and non-violence," Biden said in a statement.

"This year, we also celebrate the 75th anniversary of diplomatic relations between our great democracies. India and the United States are indispensable partners, and the US-India Strategic Partnership is grounded in our shared commitment to the rule of law and the promotion of human freedom and dignity.

"Our partnership is further strengthened by the deep bonds between



President Joe Biden said the two nations are indispensable partners.

together to defend the rules-based order, foster greater peace, prosperity and security for their people, advance a free and open Indo-Pacific and address the challenges that the world is facing together.

In a separate statement, US Secretary of State Tony Blinken greeted the people of India as they celebrate 75 years of independence on August 15.

"On this important day, we reflect on the democratic values that we share, and we honor the people of India who are, together, building an even brighter future," he said.

"This year is especially meaningful for our two nations as we celebrate a milestone: 75 years of diplomatic relations. Our strategic partnership touches everything from climate to trade to our vibrant people-to-people ties.

I am confident that, as two great democracies, our partnership will continue to contribute to the security and prosperity of our peoples and the global good. Happy Independence Day, India!" Blinken said.

our people. The vibrant Indian-American community in the United States has made us a more innovative, inclusive, and stronger nation," Biden said.

The US president expressed confidence that in the years ahead, the two democracies will continue to stand

Chicago Rowdies VS Chicago Hurricanes: Rowdies muscle their way to prove superiority



Chicago Rowdies and Chicago Hurricanes

CHICAGO, IL (TIP): Rowdies have been victorious in the three prior games that they have played, and Hurricanes came into their third game winning their past two games. This truly looked like a clash of the titans. Both teams have only local players vying for the topmost slot, and both teams are known to put their heart out when they compete.

Rowdies won the toss and decided to bat first. Skokie ground has proven to be favorable to the team batting first fifty percent of the time, which is not something you look past when you want to win. Pruthvish, captain of Hurricanes was not very pleased with the outcome of the toss but nevertheless took the field with his playing 11 to prove their might.

Rowdies' openers Ahsan Syed and Wasim Patel both started off slow but steady. Garv the young gun who is only 17 looked like he was dominating the batters with Pruthvish providing ample support from the other end. But the Rowdies batters couldn't be silenced past the third over. The fourth over yielded ten plus runs while the fifth was a devastating blow to the Hurricanes. Garv conceded 25 runs in the fifth over which accelerated the momentum for Rowdies. The initial partnership between Ahsan and Wasim yielded 59 runs. After Wasim's departure the middle order did not rack up much in terms of partnership or runs. Liyakat Raja came in late but his contribution of 39 runs of mere 18 balls pushed the team

total to 176 runs.

Urvish Desai's spectacular bowling performance was the saving grace for Hurricanes. He hauled 4 wickets in 4 overs at a very economical rate of 3.25. Hardik Patel picked up 2 wickets at only 5.75. Salman Ahmed proved a little expensive but still managed to pick up 2 wickets. Garv and Pruthvish were on the more expensive side, both going for more than 11.00.

With a solid total to chase the Hurricanes sent in Urvish Desai and Sunny Bhati. Urvish succumbed to a slow short ball and got out cheaply. Salman Ahmed who came in next put up a decent partnership with Sunny for 25 runs. Pruthvish and Sunny put together

41 runs but then succumbed to Liyakat. Sargam, Jay, and Jash did not do much damage. Aditya's performance provided a glimmer of hope with his stellar 26 runs of 10 balls which was not enough to swing the game in the Hurricanes' favor.

SCORE:

Chicago Rowdies: 176/9(20.0 Overs)
Chicago Hurricanes: 158/8(20.0 Overs)

RESULT:

Chicago Rowdies won by 18 Run(s)

PLAYER OF THE MATCH:

Liyakat Raja

(Photographs and Press release/ Asian Media USA)



Indian American organization endorses Rishi Sunak

August 9, 2022

WASHINGTON, D.C. (TIP): A US-based Indian organization that caters to the interests of the Hindu-American community endorsed Rishi Sunak to become Britain's first Indian-origin PM.

The Republican Hindu Coalition (RHC), an organization in the US

that was founded in 2015 to be the unique bridge between the Hindu-American community and Republican policymakers and leaders, said it supports Sunak to be the next British PM as he embraces their values and principles.

FIA Chicago marks the beginning of India's 76th Independence Day



At the Flag Hoisting, Consul General of India Amit Kumar, President of FIA Chicago Rakesh Malhotra, Freedom Fighter Mohan Kaka, Past President of FIA Rajesh Patel, Trustee Bhailal Patel, Kanti N Patel, Vice President Amar Upadhyay, 9-year-old Vardan Tiwari and Alderman Raymond Lopez

CHICAGO, IL (TIP): Grand India Day Parade to commemorate Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav CHICAGO - August 6, 2022, Federation of Indian Associations, Chicago organized a stunning parade on Devon Avenue to celebrate India's 75th Independence Day and to mark the beginning of a series of events to Commemorate Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav. Mohan Kaka, an 86-year-old Chicago resident and Khushi Patel, Miss India Worldwide 2022 led the colorful parade at Chicago's Devon Avenue.

Rakesh Malhotra, President of the Federation of Indian Association along with Mr. Amit Kumar, the Consulate General of India in Chicago and Consul Mr. Vinod Gautam hoisted the Indian National Flag, followed by signing of Indian National Anthem by 9-year-old Vardan Tiwari, resident of Illinois.

Highlighting the significance of this year's Parade, Rakesh Malhotra said, "We strive to bring our community together and instill a sense of belonging, thank our freedom fighters, rejoice 75 glorious years of Independent India as well as make a commitment to the younger generation for a peaceful and

prosperous future." He also thanked the city of Chicago Police for their tireless efforts for helping the FIA by ensuring safety of everyone and smooth running of the parade. He appreciated the support from the Alderman Debra Silverstein, participating organizations, supporter, sponsors, and local business community of Devon Avenue.

Addressing the Indian Diaspora CGI, Mr. Amit Kumar said: "I wish India and Indian Community a very Happy Independence Day and congratulate the Federation of India for choosing Devon Ave Chicago as the venue for



Leading the Parade Ms India Worldwide 2022 Khushi Patel, Rakesh Malhotra, FIA President, Consul General of India Amit Kumar, Mrs India Worldwide 2022 RU, Best Talent Aparna Chakravarty, FIA Trustee Bhailal Bhai, Rajesh Patel and Vijender Doma Treasurer FIA

this exceptionally beautiful parade." Star attraction at the parade Miss India

Worldwide 2022 Ms. Khushi Patel was excited to be the Parade Marshal and enjoyed marching along with the patriotic Indian community. "This is the second time in row that I participated in the parade, I feel honored to march with Indian community and celebrate Independence Day." said Khushi Patel.

The parade featured twenty-two decorative floats, four marching groups, and three marching bands that were greeted by thousands of people lining the Devon Avenue. Several Indian American Community organizations including Maharashtra Mandal of Chicago, Gayatri Mandir Parivar, Jalaram Temple, Sri Gurudwara Sahib Devon, United Telugu Christian Community, Metropolitan Asian Family Services (MFAS) & UMAS, Zankar Beads, the State Bank of India, CK Motors, Patel Brothers, Care for Soul, Midwest Malayalam Associations, Sardar Patel Foundation, Hanuman Temple, UDUPI Palace, Tiffin Restaurant, India Saree Palace, and the Karni Sena of Chicago. The floats truly represented the diversity of the Indian American community showcasing their culture heritage, representation of their states and regions of India. "It doesn't matter how different we are. What matters in building a community, is the desire to live in a peaceful, giving, caring and safe environment, despite all our differences." Said Dr Ram Chakraborty founder of Chicago Kali Bari. Mrs India Worldwide 2022 RU, Best Talent, Aparna Chakravarty was the guest of honor on the Chicago's Kali Bari Float. A beautifully decorated float of the Metropolitan Asian Family Services went past the stage chanting "Vande Mataram". The Unity



Indian Community enjoying the Parade

Sardar Patel Foundation float was roaring "Bharat Mata Ki Jai." Several political leaders from Chicago including Illinois State Senator Ram Villivalam, State Representative Kevin OlicKal, and Alderman Raymond Lopez also participated in the parade and congratulated the Indian diaspora. "As we stand firm and united, I have no doubt that we will continue to write many more stories of success and happiness together; said State senator Ram Villivalam. FIA Trustee Iftexhar Shareef also greeted the Indian American Community.

FIA Executive Board members including past President Raj Patel, Executive Vice President Hemant Patel, Vice President Jayesh Patel, Amar Upadhyay, Secretary Jatinder Singh Bedi, Jt. Secretary Chirag Chavda, Treasurer Vijender Doma, Jt. Treasurer Nirmala Reddy and Trustees Bhailal Patel,

Kanti N Patel, Iftexhar Shareef, Babu Marsha Patel, Anil Pillai, Sohan Joshi, and honorary Trustee Sher Rajput also marched with full enthusiasm and spirit. President, Rakesh Malhotra thanked the Trustees and the executive team for their tireless effort over the past several months to organize this Successful event.

Federation of Indian Associations (FIA), Chicago is the largest non-profit Indian American umbrella organization. Established in 1980, FIA was founded to primarily serve the community and promote and educate Indian Cultural Heritage while making meaningful contributions to America's growth through various programs and cultural activities. More than 50 Illinois based community organizations and nonprofits are members of the Federation. FIA takes a lead role in bringing the community together to celebrate various events of historical importance to both the United States and India.

(Photographs /Asian Media USA)
Press release

Bollywood has always promoted cinema of patriotism and the freedom struggle



By B B Nagpal

This year, India completes 75 years of independence, which the country is observing as Azaadi ka Amrit Mahotsav.

And the Indian film industry will do its bit by launching new films on the theme of the freedom struggle and freedom fighters.

Interestingly, though the first major film on the freedom struggle that most people remember was made by a foreigner - Gandhi by Richard Attenborough in 1982 with Ben Kingsley in the title role (apart from some fiction films made even earlier touching on the freedom struggle), filmmakers had attempted even before the country got its freedom to rouse the people against

In fact, the British Government had set up a Censor Board as early as 1916 primarily to prevent filmmakers from making films either speaking the British rulers or encouraging people to rise against the rulers.

But Indian filmmakers found their own ways to awaken the people against British yoke. Films by makers like V Shantaram with 'Sairandhri', Nitin Bose with 'England Returned' (starring K L Saigal as an England-educated Indian who is ridiculed for his British mannerisms) and 'My Sister', Babu Rao Painter with 'Savkari Pash', and K Subrahmanyam whose 'Thyagbhoomi' was banned, are examples of this.

The Censor objected to use of the word 'Swaraj' in the title of Shantaram's film Svarajyache Toran (Thunder of the Hills) and the poster of the film depicting Chhatrapati Shivaji hoisting a flag, But the British Indian Censor Board agreed to removal of a few scenes and Shivaji carrying the flag and the film was released under the title Udaykaal.

Over twenty films were released between 1921 and 1947 that obliquely depicted the British as the villain. The British-Indian censors made every possible attempt to throttle such messages. Even earlier, in the silent era in 1921, the character Vidur's tell-tale 'topi' (cap) and the charkha (referred to as the Wheel of Fortune) in Bhakt Vidur (1921) led the film to be banned.

The British censors interfered once again, ordering the removal of documentary footage of Vallabhbhai Patel making a speech about abstinence. Brandy ki Botal (1939) criticized liquor consumption and exhorted Gandhian morality while Ghar ki Rani (1940) showed the dire consequences of aping western traditions.

Taking advantage of the British's unfamiliarity with Hindi, Apna Ghar (1942), Naya Tarana (1943), Prem Sangeet



and Amar Jyoti (1936) featured lyrics that the British would have termed inflammatory, had they understood. Charkha Chalao Behno (Spin the wheel) in Aaj ka Hindustan (1940) and Kavi Pradeep's fiery Chal re Naujawan from Bandhan (1940) and the cheeky Door Hato ae duniyawaalon Hindustan Hamara hai from Kismet (1943) were directly speaking to the Indian masses. For the Kismet song, arrest warrants were issued against Kavi Pradeep and composer Anil Biswas, though the order was withdrawn when the Censor was told that the song referred to Germany and Japan.

Vijay Bhatt's 'Ram Rajya' (the only film that Mahatma Gandhi is believed to have seen) in 1942 had a song where Luv Kush are relating the story of Sita in the presence of Lord Rama, without knowing he is their father, which starts with "Bharat ki ek sannari ki hum katha sunate hain" with a direct reference to Mother India and the problems heaped on her.

Early in 1940, British censors allowed composer Anil Biswas and lyricist Pradeep to get away with the highly volatile song "Aaj Himalaya ki choti se phir hum ne yeh lalkara hai/Dur hato, dur hato ae duniya walo Hindustan hamara hai..." as the film 'Kismet' made in 1943 was not based on the freedom movement. After independence, there were some fiction films in the early years which touched upon the freedom struggle or partition.

But it was only from the sixties that filmmakers attempted to touch on either the real stories of partition and the freedom struggle or British atrocities. And filmmakers like Manoj Kumar attempted to make films that aimed through stories either to emphasize Indian values or the greatness of Indian values. His film Purab aur Paschim had several songs like 'Dulhan chali, O pahan chali teen rung ki choli' (referring to the Indian tricolour), 'Bharat ka rehne wala who Bharat ki baat sunaata hoon' which also extolled the fact that it was an Indian who first invented 'zero' and 'decimal point', Mahatma Gandhi's favorite 'Raghupati Raghav Raja Ram', and the prayer song 'Om Jai jagdish hare'. He also made Upkar with the song 'mere desh ki dharti sona ugle'. In 1981 he made Kranti starring among others Dilip Kumar and Shashi Kapoor which was partly based on real groups of Indians who were attempting to battle the British.

Earlier in 1954, Kavi Pradeep had



written songs for Jagriti with one song paying tribute to Mahatma Gandhi - 'De di humme azaadi bina khadak bina dhal' - and another about the greatness of India - 'Aao bache tumhe dikhaye jhanki Hindustan ki, is mita se tilak karo yeh dharti hai balidaan ki' and 'Hum laaye hain toofan se kishti nikal ke, iss desh ko rakhna mere bacho sambhal ke'.

Later years brought films like 'Gandhi my father', the film 'Earth 1947' made by Canada-based filmmaker Deepa Mehta, 'Jalianwala Bagh' in 1977 on the tragic mass killing of Indians in Jalianwala Bagh in Amritsar by the British police, five different films in different times on Shaheed Bhagat Singh who had along with other freedom fighters embraced execution for their attempt to rouse Indians by throwing small bombs in Parliament House, Shaheed Udham Singh on the revolutionary who travelled to England to kill the British officer Michael O'Dwyer who had ordered the firing on Indians in Jalianwala Bagh in 1919,

Ketan Mehta made 'Mangal Pandey' starring Aamir Khan who produced the film on the first war of independence in 1857, which were followed by films on Bahadurshah Zafar and Rani Laxmibai of Jhansi who also were victims of British atrocities in the 1857 struggle. Aamir Khan also made the very popular 'Lagaan' which is a fictional film, in 2001, and 'Rang de Basanti' where he attempted to show slices from the historical struggle to relate them to the need to continue the fight against corruption and bad leadership.

Films have also since been made on freedom fighters like 'Sardar' on Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, 'Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose: the forgotten hero', 'Main Khudiram Bose hoon' in 2017, 'Veer Savarkar', Dr Babasaheb Ambedkar, Jawaharlal Nehru by Shyam Benegal who also made 'The Making of the Mahatma' about Gandhi in South Africa and a television series on 'Discovery of India' on a book by Nehru on the 5000-year-old history of India.

Films on patriotism continue to be made,



but these are either aimed against corruption, or against Pakistan or China.



Tirllok Malik, the Emmy nominated filmmaker from New York says "Patriotic movies will always have a special place in the heart of every Indian, no matter where they live. These movies make Indians cry, laugh, and indulge in immense pride. A lot of magic happens with images and songs, a lot more than one can imagine."

The maker of films like 'Lonely in America' and a line producer for many Indian films shot in the United States apart from films like Babasaheb Ambedkar in which he acted, he says: "It's the 75th year now, which is being celebrated in a big way all over the USA, with parades, Flag hoisting events and having the presence of many Indian Film stars from India at these events."

So, he considers films on the independence struggle as a salute to celebrating and showing the history of the independence struggle in Indian Movies.

(The author is an eminent Film and TV critic. A Consultant for some media websites and print publications, he is also a visiting professor in several institutions on journalism, public relations, and cinema studies. He can be reached at bbnagpal@yahoo.com)

'Laal Singh Chaddha' Review: A breath of fresh air



By
Murtaza Ali Khan

The long-awaited Aamir Khan and Kareena Kapoor starrer 'Laal Singh Chaddha,' which has finally hit the theatres this week, is an adaptation of the 1986 novel titled 'Forrest Gump' by the American author Winston Groom. The novel was famously adapted by Eric Roth for the 1994 Hollywood film of the same name, directed by Robert Zemeckis, which bagged 6 Academy Awards. Directed by Advait Chandan, Laal Singh Chaddha also stars Naga Chaitanya (in his Hindi film debut), Manav Vij, Arun Bali, Mona Singh, and Aaryaa Sharma.

Given the narrative's sprawling nature, making a film like 'Laal Singh Chaddha' is like making 15-20 films. That's how Herculean the task would have been for Aamir, Advait, and team. Remaking a film like Forrest Gump is no kid's play. I don't think anyone but Aamir Khan could have delivered a film of this scope and scale. It's heartening to see the kind of respect that the film pays to historical accuracy as well as getting the different aspects of Sikhism right.

Every 10 minutes during the first half, the movie keeps switching its genre, undergoing brilliant tonal shifts with the assurance of a master conductor at work. Credit must also go to Atul Kulkarni for beautifully adapting 'Forrest Gump' to an Indian setting and for seamlessly weaving the important historical events of the last 40 years into it. When it does the Kargil War, it seems to do it better than 'Shershaah.' When it does sports, it seems to match 'Bhaag Milkha Bhaag.' When it does comedy, it seems to do it better than most. And as a drama it really excels in terms of cinematic storytelling for the most part.

'Laal Singh Chaddha' comes across as a breath of fresh air at a time when the Hindi film industry needs the most. Aamir Khan is innocence personified as Laal Singh Chaddha and his chemistry with Kareena Kapoor is the major highlight of the film along with his bromance with Naga Chaitanya and Manav Vij. There are some beautiful segments of magic realism that are beautifully crafted. Like a boy who walks using crutches suddenly starts running like P T Usha when subjected to bullying. The color grading is so good that the movie looks stunning visually and honestly I haven't seen a more beautiful looking period film made in India.

Aamir Khan transforms into 'Laal Singh Chaddha' in no time and brings the character to life like only he can.



performance since 'Jab We Met.' It is a layered performance and we can see the character's dichotomy throughout the film's running time.

It can be said with absolutely certainty that technology has been put into use to de-age Kareena (and Aamir) for this. But the end result is so good and it makes me particularly happy that we have aced the use of this cutting age technology better than what Hollywood did with say 'The Irishman'.

I also would like to praise both Naga Chaitanya and Manav Vij for their wonderful cameos. Both their characters' bromance with Laal Singh Chaddha for me is one of the film's major highlights. It's a masterstroke to make Manav Vij's character a soldier on the enemy ranks as opposed to 'Forrest Gump' where Gary Sinise's Lieutenant character was Gump's compatriot. I would be remiss to not mention Pritam, Arijit Singh, and Amitabh Bhattacharya who have done wonderful work with the film's music, songs, and lyrics.

Overall, I must say that Laal Singh Chaddha has reinstated my faith in Hindi cinema. It's not a perfect film. It suffers from pacing issues in the second half. It's probably not even Aamir's best work. But it is cinematic storytelling at its purest. Here's a sprawling period piece oozing with nostalgia and abundance of love for everything Indian. The naysayers can denounce him but so long as we have stalwarts like Aamir Khan working in the Hindi film industry, Bollywood is here to stay.

Murtaza Ali Khan is an award-winning critic and journalist who has been covering art, culture, and entertainment for over 10 years. He regularly appears on television as a cultural expert and has conducted hundreds of exclusive / tête-à-tête national and international celebrity interviews for leading Indian publications. He regularly conducts workshops on screenwriting, film appreciation, media studies, and film theory. He is the screenplay and dialogue writer of the short film 'To New India with Love' about Government of India's flagship initiative Startup India by Tirllok Malik who is an Emmy-nominated Indian-American filmmaker based out of New York. He has translated the book 'Hindujas and Bollywood,' about the global journey of over 1200 Hindi films from 1950s to 1980s, into English. He can be reached at murtaza.jmi@gmail.com

Chaddha's simplicity, to go with his honesty and a sense of contagious optimism that he carries with him at all times, lights up the screen. Whether he is narrating some story, or trying to save lives on a battlefield, or making an effort to sell undergarments, Aamir's Chaddha always makes us root for him.

Mona Singh is wonderful as Chaddha's loving mother. It's easily the performance that will take away all the accolades. I was in school when 'Jassi Jaisi Koi Nahi' used to air on TV and

having seen Mona Singh all these years I have always known that she is a fine actor but seeing what she achieves in 'Laal Singh Chaddha' made me realize that she is actually one of the finest actors working in the country right now.

But the biggest surprise of the movie is Kareena Kapoor. Who would have thought that a wafer thin character that Robin Wright played in 'Forrest Gump' would become the centrepiece of the Hindi adaptation almost three decades later. This is Kareena Kapoor's finest



Aparshakti Khurana To Play A Kashmiri Terrorist

Bollywood actor Aparshakti Khurana is all set to give 'Dhokha' to his fans! Before readers jump to any conclusion, let's clear the doubt first.

'Dhokha - Round D Corner' is a suspense thriller from director Kookie Gulati with Aparshakti, R Madhavan, Khushali Kumar and Darshan Kumar starring in key roles. Aparshakti, who's mostly seen in comic roles, will be seen in a different avatar in the movie — playing a Kashmiri terrorist.

Aparshakti Khurana is well-known for his comic roles in films such as 'Stree', 'Luka Chuppi', and most recently, 'Hum Do Humare Do'. However, now he will be seen in a negative role in 'Dhokha'.

Speaking exclusively with IANS, Aparshakti Khurana said, "Har tarika ka kaam hona chahiye" (one should do all kinds of work). I think I have many sides to my overall personality. When I was doing theatre in Delhi, I used to get only intense, dark roles and I would tell my director that I think my comic side is really good.

Huma Qureshi says success of 'Maharani' has got her opportunities to shoulder films

The critical acclaim for her OTT show 'Maharani' has opened doors to interesting work opportunities for Huma Qureshi, who believes she can now headline a project.

Known for movies such as 'Gangs of Wasseypur', 'D-Day', 'Dedh Ishqiya' and 'Badlapur', the actress said her work in the digital space has led her to some "cool" characters.

"I am doing a bunch of stuff on OTT and films, which are strong and well-etched characters. Because of the success of 'Maharani', I am getting so many opportunities to shoulder films, which is really cool, fun and exciting," the 36-year-old actor told PTI in a virtual interview.

Her upcoming slate of feature films include a biopic on noted food writer and chef Tarla Dalal; Dinesh Vijan's production 'Pooja Meri Jaan'; the slice-of-life comedy 'Double XL' with Sonakshi Sinha; and Vasan Bala-directed 'Monica Oh My Darling' on Netflix.

"It is a mix of both films and OTT. In films, there is a remarkable change and a lot of great roles are being written for women. And it is happening on OTT as well. There is an influx of great content," Qureshi said.

With projects such as 'Maharani' and 'Tarla', Qureshi said the aim is to celebrate success stories of women from different fields.

The actress said she found the story of Dalal, known for hosting popular cookery TV shows 'Cook It Up With Tarla Dalal' and penning more than 100 cookbooks, quite "fascinating".

"We often think of the kitchen as a place of subjugation for women and that this is your place, but how a woman (Dalal) back in the day, cooked her way out in the national and international scene for me is fascinating.

"She became a role model for so many people. She was like any other ordinary woman next door and was not a glamour



doll. She was her own person and stayed true to who she was. And that resonated with me," said Qureshi.

In the SonyLIV series 'Maharani', the actress essays the role of Rani Bharti, a village woman who is handpicked to become the chief minister of Bihar. *Source: PTI*

Tamannaah Bhatia to play female lead opposite Rajinikanth in 'Jailer'?

If the industry grapevine is to be believed, actress Tamannaah Bhatia has now been roped in for director Nelson Dilipkumar's much-awaited action entertainer 'Jailer', featuring the Tamil superstar Rajinikanth in the lead.

However, there has been no official confirmation in this regard. In fact, the only actress to have confirmed her presence in the project is Ramya Krishnan, who is believed to have told a publication that she had begun working on the film from August 10.

Work on this film is progressing on a specially erected jail set in a Hyderabad studio. Well-known stylist Aalim Hakim has been roped in to create the superstar's look for this film. The film, which will be Rajinikanth's 169th, is being produced by Kalanithi Maran of Sun Pictures and has Anirudh scoring its music. Other members of the cast and crew are yet to be officially announced by the unit.



Ranveer wins Best Actor Award for '83' in Melbourne

Ranveer Singh, who was hailed by many for his performance in '83', has won the Best Actor of the Year award at the prestigious Indian Film Festival of Melbourne (IFFM). The film featured him in the role of the Indian cricket team captain Kapil Dev and was directed by Kabir Khan. It was based on India's legendary and first win in the World Cup Match.

Needless to say, Ranveer Singh expressed his happiness and gratitude for this win adding that '83' will always be one of the most cherished films in his filmography. Speaking about it, Ranveer said, "I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the jury members at IFFM for bestowing me with the Best Actor of the Year Award for my role as Kapil Dev. '83' is one of the most loved films of my career! It'll always be one of the most cherished films in my filmography."





Actor Anne Heche, 53, Dies A Week After Car Crash

Hollywood actor Anne Heche has been declared legally dead, one week after she crashed her car into a Los Angeles building, a spokeswoman said Friday.

Heche, 53, had been comatose in hospital with a severe brain injury since the fiery collision on August 5.

Having lost all brain function, she is "legally dead according to California law," though her heart is still beating as her family keeps her body on life support while exploring organ donations, spokeswoman Holly Baird told AFP.

"Today we lost a bright light, a kind and most joyful soul, a loving mother, and a loyal friend," the family said in a joint statement. "Anne will be deeply missed but she lives on through her beautiful sons, her iconic body of work, and her passionate advocacy. Her bravery for always standing in her truth, spreading her message of love and acceptance, will continue to have a lasting impact."

Heche, best known for 1990s movies "Donnie Brasco" and "Six Days, Seven Nights" as well as a high-profile relationship with talk show host Ellen DeGeneres, crashed her car into a two-story house in the Mar Vista neighborhood of Los Angeles.

Joker 2: Lady Gaga's salary is half of what Joaquin Phoenix is getting

Our minds were blown completely after many of us witnessed Joaquin Phoenix create magic on screen with his version of Joker in the blockbuster 2019 release film Joker. We all are now eagerly waiting for the release of its sequel Joker 2: Folie à Deux playing while it will also star Lady Gaga.

For the unversed, it was earlier revealed that Joker's sequel was on the cards and that the team was preparing for its production. Joaquin will be reprising his role as Arthur/Joker in the film while Lady Gaga would be sharing screen space with him as his crime partner Harley Quinn.

It was also revealed that Joaquin Phoenix was charging a whopping amount of \$20 Million for starring in Joker 2: Folie à Deux, even though fans claimed that the actor deserved way more for his role. The sequel of the film is reportedly being made on the budget of a jaw-dropping price of \$150 million. Now according to fresh scoops, Lady Gaga who is all set to play the role of Harley Quinn too will be charging a whopping amount for her part.

As per the media outlet Variety, Lady Gaga is going to make a huge sum of USD 10 million for Joker: Folie à Deux playing the role of Harley Quinn. Isn't that just insanely amazing!

The first part, which is Joker, was said to be made on a budget of \$55 to \$70 million and Joaquin had charged around \$4.5 million for his role in the film. But if the recent reports of the budget increase and hike in Joaquin's price with Gaga herself charging such a high price, then we definitely are in for a treat. It is also said that the sequel would be a musical and we just can't wait anymore to see the chaotic magic unfold.



Emily Blunt joins Ryan Gosling in Universal's 'The Fall Guy'

Emily Blunt has joined actor Ryan Gosling and director David Leitch in the stuntman action drama The Fall Guy for Universal.

The forthcoming movie is inspired by the classic 1980s series of the same name. Fall Guy was created by Glen A. Larson, the prolific TV producer whose output ranged from Battlestar Galactica to Magnum P.I., and starred Lee Majors as a Hollywood stunt man who, to make ends meet, has a side hustle as a bounty hunter.

Douglas Barr co-starred as his sidekick and Heather Thomas as a fellow stunt actor. The show ran on ABC from 1981 to 1986. Leitch is also producing the Universal pic with partner Kelly McCormick via their 87North shingle, and Entertainment 360, the content production arm of Management 360.

Drew Pearce, who worked with Leitch on Universal's Fast & Furious Presents: Hobbs & Shaw, wrote the script and serves as executive producer. Gosling will also produce along with Guymon Casady.

Geoff Shaevitz and original series creator Glen A. Larson will also executive produce. Production for the film is set to begin in Australia this fall, with the movie set to open in theaters on March 1, 2024.



Scotland Police starts probe after JK Rowling receives death threats

Harry Potter author JK Rowling received a death threat on Twitter after condemning the attack on British writer Salman Rushdie. Salman was stabbed by a 24-year-old New Jersey resident identified as Hadi Matar, during an event in Western New York. He faced Islamist death threats for years after writing The Satanic Verses.

Now J K Rowling who was earlier criticised for her comments on the trans community, reacted to the attack on Salman on Twitter. She wrote, "Horrible news. Feeling very sick right now. Let him be ok." To this, a user commented, "Don't worry you are next."

The author shared a screenshot of the user's comment and asked Twitter to take action. She tagged the Twitter support team and said, "Any chance of some support?" Later, she confirmed that the police were now investigating the matter.

"To all sending supportive messages: thank you. Police are involved (were already involved on other threats)," JK Rowling updated her fans. She also shared Twitter's feedback after she reported the comment, which read "no violations of the Twitter rules in the content you reported". According to Reuters, the Scotland police are currently investigating a report of an "online threat" made to the author JK Rowling.

Legends who conquered Indian Cinema

Indian cinema is known for its culture, tradition, and variety. Every actor has hugely contributed to this industry, be it Tollywood or Bollywood. But some are living legends who are known for their acting and style, and these stars have established their roots in the industry. So, let's have a look at legends who have conquered Indian cinema.

RAJ KAPOOR



Popularly known as the 'Showman of Bollywood' he was the pioneer of Bollywood cinema as he established R.K. Films Studios. He won the hearts of many commoners, because he connected with them through his films. 'Mera Naam Joker', is an epic movie where one can feel the intensity of his acting.

NTR



N.T. Rama Rao; popularly known as NTR, played several mythological characters in his movies. Even today people recall him as the Lord Rama or Krishna onscreen. Some of his famous picks till date are Thodu Dhongalu, Seetharama Kalyanam and his directorial Varakatnam. After movies, his interest moved into politics. NTR was the founder of Telugu Desam Party and served in the office for three terms. He has been voted as the greatest Indian Actor Ever in a poll conducted by CNN-IBN.

DILIP KUMAR



Popularly known as the 'Tragedy King' of Indian Cinema, he was the first actor to receive the Filmfare Best Actor Award. His genre was more towards

drama and this is depicted well in some of his popular movies such as Devdas, Mughal-e- Azam, Ganga Jamuna etc. He has won the Dadasaheb Phalke Award and he was nominated as a Rajya Sabha Member as well.

AMITABH BACHCHAN



Indian Cinema today is personified with the 'Angry Young Man', globally. The popular actor of the 70's had all the elements of a successful actor with the vigorous roles he performed in movies like Sholay, Zanjeer, Deewar and Agneepath, his romcom's such as Amar Akbar Anthony, Silsila and Kabhi Kabhie.

KAMAL HAASAN



This man is a living legend that we have amongst us today. His genre of acting lies in his versatility. Originally a Tamil actor, he has acted in most of the South Indian languages. His multiple talent also adds to it; being a actor, producer, director, screenwriter, choreographer to name amongst the few. He has received the honorable Padmashri and we can say that, an industry lies in him for the versatility present in him.

RAJESH KHANNA



'Anand' was a tailor-made movie for this superstar. His simplicity was not only seen in his kurtas and his smile but it was well depicted in his acting that left a message to the masses in the society.

RAJNIKANTH

Known for his simplicity and humble



nature, Rajinikanth's movies are usually larger than life. His versatility is seen in acting, producing and screenwriting. One of his all time favorite movies is Approova Raagangal, which was his debut movie. He received the Padma Bhushan Award in 2000 for his excellent contribution to the Tamil Industry.

BALRAJ SAHNI



This fabulous actor of yesteryear has a natural instinct to acting. His realistic appeal to deliver his dialogues and his appeal, style and sophisticated presence in his movies can be sought out well. Though his acting was noteworthy; it is surprising that this actor did not receive a single award for the roles essayed by him.

M.G.RAMACHANDRAN



Marudhur Gopalan Ramachandran, was popularly known as MGR, as people referred to him as MGR from his initials. He was an acclaimed actor in the Tamil industry, and a counterpart to NTR. He was a charming hero and won the National award for his movie Rickshawkaran. His movie Ulagam Sutrum Vaalibhan, broke all box office records then being the first film to be shot abroad. He founded the AIADMK, serving in office for three terms as a politician.

PANKAJ KAPUR

Appearing first on the small screen, Kapur was one of the finest actors in Indian Cinema. He is popular for his TV comic series like Karmachand and Office Office. He did not possess ambitious goals but a down to earth nature which is



prevalent event today.

UTPAL DUTT



This Bengali actor has over 100 Bengali and Hindi movies in his 40 years of acting career. His famous movies were Gol Mal, Rang Birangi and Naram Garam. Amongst his Bengali flicks some of Satyajit Ray's unforgettable movies are Agantuk, Jana Aranya and Hirak Rajar Deshe. Because of his theatre background, he could carry out excellent plays such as based on socio-political views such as Kallol, Manusher Adhikar etc.

DR. RAJKUMAR



A pioneer of Kannada movies, whose mark will always stay in the Kannada Industry. This legend has contributed over 220 films to the Kannada Film Industry, upholding the richness of the language. Dr. Rajkumar has some of the finest movies with a social message in it, such as Ondu Mutthna Kathe, Satya Harishchandra and many other films where his acting is tremendous.

NASEERUDDIN SHAH



Another gem from the Hindi Film Industry, who has found success in both art movies and mainstream masala films. He is one such actor who immerses himself into the character. Whether the comic actor of those times or the man behind, A Wednesday or The Dirty Picture has surely explored avenues.

MOHANLAL



Mohanlal started his journey as an actor with a role of a villain, which actors in the present day fear to experiment with. Some of his notable contributions to the Malyalam Film Industry is Manjil Virinja Pookkal, Thiranotham and Iruvar. His roles have crossed from various genres such as romance, tragedy, drama and comic. He has won three awards for the Best Actor Category along with a special jury award.

ASHOK KUMAR



His strength lies in his versatility in portraying various roles from that of a thief, a grandfather or a shabby aged person. He has more than 305 movies to his credit with a career of six decades in the industry. He was one of the sought out actors of the post-independence era.

MAMMOOTTY



Malyalam Matinee idol has more than 360 films in his experience kitty. One of his hit films till date is Athirathram and Oru CBI Diary Kurippu. He has worked in Tamil, Hindi, Telugu, and Kannada films and has also appeared in most number of movies in dual roles.

SANJEEV KUMAR

How can we forget the old man in Sholay who is helpless without any



arms. His anger, grit and dramatic emotion is brought out well in each and every movie he has acted in.

CHIRANJEEVI



Chiranjeevi is another South Indian Actor who has essayed more anti-hero roles and he stood as a style icon in the mid 80's with his chartbuster movies, not only in Tamil Cinema but any lingual he has acted in.

DEV ANAND



'This young man at heart' has a wholesome career of more than six decades. Some of his great performances can be seen in movies such as Jewel Thief, Guide, C.I.D and Kala Pani. He had a signature style of his own with collar necks tied with scarfs, a hat and his hand always held atop his hat with a grin.

SOUMITRA CHATTERJEE



This famous actor was awarded the Dadasahed Phalke Award very recently. He is associated with Bengali director Sayyajit Ray.

SHARMILA TAGORE

Considered one of the best and most beautiful actresses of her time. She started acting in Bengali cinema and then moved to Hindi cinema. Known for



her romantic roles in films, she is called a legendary actress. She has won many National Awards and Filmfare awards for her acting.

PRAN SIKAND



Pran was one of the leading character actors of Indian cinema. He was born on 12 February, 1920 at Delhi. Pran was educated at different places namely Kapurthala, Unnao, Meerut, Dehradun and Rampur as his father late Lala Kewal Krishnan Sikand was a Government Civil Contractor for the construction of roads and bridges. Pran started his career by learning photography in Lahore. A chance meeting with a film producer, got him his first break in 'Yamla Jat' in 1940.

DHARMENDRA



After his commercial success of Sholay, Dharmendra is fondly referred to as 'Dharmender Paaji' and has stormed Bollywood. He has a unique personality which was a charmer to women, with all the qualities of an alpha-man.

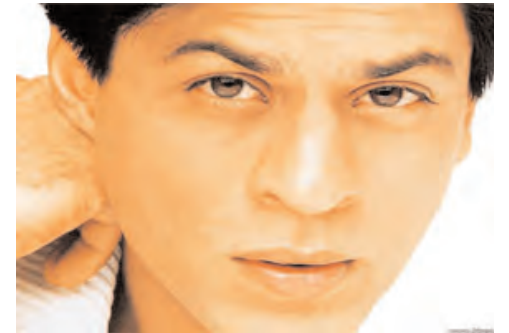
AAMIR KHAN



From the teen faced Qayamat Se Qayamat Tak poster boy, to the serious police inspector who donned the role in Talaash, he is known as the Perfectionist of Bollywood. He has made a mark in playing the role of a chocolate boy in Jo Jeeta Wohi Sikander. Some of his

commercial successes include; Sarfarosh, Lagaan, Dil Chahta Hai and Rang De Basanti, while making an acclaimed debut as director with Taare Zameen Par.

SHAH RUKH KHAN



How can our romantic hero with wide arms lag behind in this list? Whether the lover boy of DDLJ, or the action star of Darr and Baazigar or the coach of Chak De India, we have accepted him awiths open arms.

OM PURI



Om Puri was an Indian actor who has appeared in both mainstream Indian films and art films. His credits also include appearances in British and American films. He has received an honorary OBE. Puri was born in Ambala, Haryana. His father worked on the railways and served in the Indian Army. Puri graduated from the Film and Television Institute of India. He is also an alumnus of the 1973 class of National School of Drama where Naseeruddin Shah was a co-student.

GURU DUTT



Considered to be a man ahead of his time, Guru Dutt was one of the greatest icons of commercial Indian cinema. Although he made less than ten films, they are believed to be the best to come from Bollywood's Golden Age, known both for their ability to reach out to the common man and for their artistic and lyrical content, and they went on to become trend-setters that have influenced Bollywood ever since. But for all his genius, there was a shroud of tragedy that overshadowed his career and life.

NYC BATTERY DANCE FESTIVAL FEATURES INDIA@75

BY MABEL PAIS



Anjali Dance Company

Photo / batterydance.org



Siddhendra Dance
Company &
Academy

Photo /
batterydance.org

Battery Dance celebrates the 41st Anniversary of its FREE summer festival from August 13-20, 2022, in partnership with Battery Park City Authority. The 41st Annual Battery Dance Festival will feature in-person and live-streamed performances, staged at Wagner Park, Battery Park City, New York City at 7PM ET, August 13-19.

A closing night event and VIP reception will be held August 20, 2022, at 6PM at The Schimmel Center. Reaching both local and international audiences, the Festival promotes Battery Dance's mission of connecting the world through dance.

Watch the video youtu.be/nlJQaZLv9Hg

For more information, visit batterydance.org/battery-dance-festival

"Lady Liberty might be tempted to shimmy and shake as dance companies from near and far take the stage at Wagner Park once again this summer. Audiences will have a tough time deciding which performance to attend. So I have a suggestion: keep your entire week free so you don't miss a single one of the great performances that our curators have selected for your delectation!" said Battery Dance Founder Jonathan Hollander.

AUGUST 13, 2022 AT 7PM AT ROBERT F. WAGNER JR. PARK

Young Voices in Dance, celebrating the next generation of choreographers.

SYDNEY BURTIS, THE DIFFERENCE

"The Difference" is a tap dance work that fuses sound and movement to take you on a journey through both jazz and contemporary music.

ZACHARY SETO, NOSTALGIC BEINGS OF SYNESTHESIA - NYC PREMIERE

"Nostalgic Beings of Synesthesia" is the continuation of constant conversations, the dialogue of speaking in a language unknown to humankind.

CAMRYN AND COURTNEY SPERO, DISTANCE

"Distance" investigates what it means to be part of a collective and how to reconcile the fleeting time and space we have to explore the relations within it.

KATE LOUISSAINT, BIRD'S EYE - WORLD PREMIERE

How do we process things we can't see? This piece is an exploration of sisterhood, fear, and learning when to fight versus when to surrender.

LERATO RAGONTSE, IN BETWEEN CHANGE

"In Between Change" focuses on the beauty of technique. The piece emphasizes the importance of allowing yourself to appreciate the journey that leads to success.

ANYA SUSAN, IN CONVERSATION

"In Conversation," created in 2020 and reworked in 2022, is a work about the reflection of the selves.

MYLES KING, THE LAST FOUNDRY

"The Last Foundry" navigates the complex relationship between power and vulnerability.

SHANNON HARKINS, DREAMS AND NIGHTMARES OF A MUTANT PEOPLE - NYC PREMIERE

"Dreams and Nightmares of a Mutant People" explores escapism through character, artistry, and individual oddities.

AUGUST 14, 2022 AT 7PM AT ROBERT F. WAGNER JR. PARK

DANCING WHEELS COMPANY, UNCONQUERED WARRIORS

Nai-Ni Chen employs kung-fu fans and martial arts elements in Unconquered Warriors, her piece based on a Chinese legend about a warrior who spins a loop called the magical wheel of the wind and fire.

BALLET NEPANTLA, LET DOWN AND HUASTECA SUITE - WORLD PREMIERE

"Let Down" is the story of a lost love that confronts gender normative dancing, while providing representation for queer females in dance.

LINOTIP, DIAGONAL & CAIN - WORLD PREMIERE

The duet "Diagonal" is inspired by the famous Romanian sculptor Constantin Brâncuși, one of the most influential sculptors of the 20th-century.

GAUDANSE, NANIBU - NYC PREMIERE

"Nanibu" investigates what it means to be royalty through imagery and movement.

PERIDANCE CONTEMPORARY DANCE COMPANY, JUST ABOVE THE SURFACE

Created as part of a residency program commissioned by Western Michigan University, this piece explores the electric connection of human interaction-the sensations that pull people together or apart.

THE VANAVER CARAVAN, VANAVER CARAVAN RETROSPECTIVE

In celebration of The Vanaver Caravan's 50th anniversary, the troupe's dancers and musicians present excerpts from their legacy of innovative world dance and music.

AUGUST 15, 2022 (75TH ANNIVERSARY OF INDIA'S INDEPENDENCE)

at 7pm at Robert F. Wagner Jr. Park

ANJALI DANCE COMPANY AND SIDDHENDRA KUCHIPUDI ART ACADEMY

Two leading practitioners of the South Indian classical form of Kuchipudi share the Festival stage on August 15th, the 75th Anniversary of India's Independence. Rathna Kumar, the first artist to put Indian dance on the map in Texas, established Anjali Dance Company and School in Houston in 1975. Two of her talented disciples, Isha Parupudi and Sadhana Gollapudi, reveal the intricacies of the form in solo and duet choreography by Ms. Kumar.

Swathi Gundapuneedi-Aturi has kept footholds in her native Hyderabad while also establishing Siddhendra Kuchipudi Dance Company and Academy in New Jersey. Duets and ensemble choreography by Sri Hari Ramamurthy are performed by Siddhendra members Sreeja Paruchuri, Mamta Mathur, Sri Reshmi Ogoti, Gayatri Pratha and Sravya Manasa Sankisa.

AUGUST 16, 2022 AT 7PM AT ROBERT F. WAGNER JR. PARK

CHRISTINA CARMINUCCI, THE SOLIDARITY SERIES IV: FREE SPIRITS SUITE - WORLD PREMIERE

Accompanied by a live jazz band, the fourth original work of the Solidarity Series, is dedicated to presenting tap dance and jazz music together.

LINOTIP, DIAGONAL & CAIN - WORLD PREMIERE

The duet "Diagonal" is inspired by the famous Romanian sculptor Constantin Brâncuși, one of the most influential sculptors of the 20th-century.

FAIRUL ZAHID & LASALLE DANCE SINGAPORE, ALLOCENTRIC, SINGAPORE - WORLD PREMIERE

Hailing from Kuala Lumpur and now based in Singapore, award-winning choreographer Fairul Zahid explores the hierarchy of multiple social identities.

BUGLISI DANCE THEATRE, THREADS

"Threads" takes inspiration from the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, as narrated by people from all over the world, beginning with Eleanor Roosevelt.

BOCA TUYA / OMAR ROMAN DE JESUS, LOS PERROS DEL BARRIO COLOSAL

Through the exaggerated mannerisms of daytime television, the six characters of "Los Perros del Barrio Colosal" take us on a wild romp through the challenges of creative decision-making.

AUGUST 17, 2022 AT 7PM AT ROBERT F. WAGNER JR. PARK

XING DANCE THEATER, CITIZEN

"Citizen" interrogates the labels we receive - foreigner, immigrant, gay, white, black, Asian, poor, old, young.

JULIENNE DOKO, LOST MEMORIES, DENMARK - U.S. PREMIERE

Mémoires Perdues questions the notions of collective memory and progress: Do we really learn from the lessons of the past?

TATI NUÑEZ, TOUCH - RETURNED - WORLD PREMIERE

"Touch - Returned" explores how physical touch can create both an internal and external presence in space around you, exposing both vulnerability and humility as the dancers experience one another.

DOS PROPOSICIONES DANCE THEATRE, PACTO DE FUGA, SPAIN - U.S. PREMIERE

"Pacto de fuga" is the answer to the choreographer's concern for exploring the coexistence between

CONTD ON PAGE 102

OSCAR® WINNERS, FILMMAKING LEGENDS HEADLINE HOLLYSHORTS FEST

BY MABEL PAIS



'Coming Out....'

Photo / hollyshorts.com

FEATURES

NAMAN GUPTA'S 'COMING OUT WITH THE HELP OF A TIME MACHINE'

GAURI ADELKAR'S 'A WOMAN OF NO IMPORTANCE'

ZAHIDA PIRAN'S 'EL CARRITO'

REENA DUTT'S 'FOUND'

DEEPAK RAUNIYAR'S 'FOUR NIGHTS'

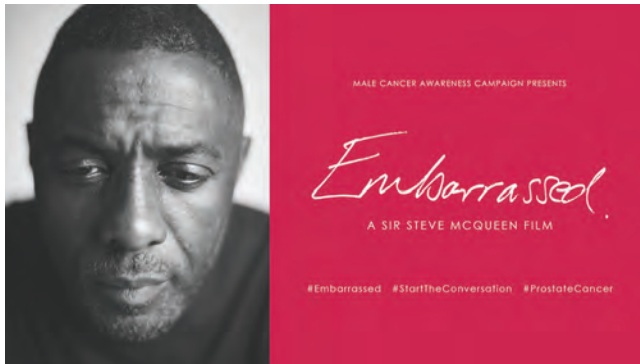
The annual Academy Awards® Qualifying HOLLYSHORTS FILM FESTIVAL (HSFF), co-founded by Theo Dumont & Daniel Sol, celebrates its 18th year, August 11-20, 2022. The HollyShorts Film Festival (HSFF) screenings will take place in-person at the TCL Chinese Theaters in Hollywood, at 6801 Hollywood Blvd. 3rd Level, Hollywood, CA, 90028 and virtually through the official festival streaming platform BITPIX TV; with the annual Awards Gala set to take place on August 20, 2022.

The Oscar® Qualifying HOLLYSHORTS FILM FESTIVAL returns for its much-anticipated 18th edition with a fantastic selection of about 400 films screening this year from an impressive 5000 entries.

RECOGNITION

The winners of HollyShorts' three top prizes, as previously, will be eligible for nomination at the 2023 Oscars®. Six HollyShorts films were nominated for the 2022 Academy Awards® with two wins for Aneil Karia and Riz Ahmed's 'THE LONG GOODBYE' and Ben Proudfoot's 'THE QUEEN OF BASKETBALL.'

HollyShorts (HSFF) brings together top creators, industry leaders, and companies and has launched many filmmakers into the next stages of their careers. HollyShorts, a regular on the MovieMaker Magazine Top 50 Festivals Worth the Entry Fee list, also engages its community and spotlights short films year-round through monthly screenings, panels, and networking events.



'Embarrassed.'

Photo / hollyshorts.com

MESSAGE FROM CO-FOUNDERS & MANAGING DIRECTOR

Nicole Castro (Managing Director), Daniel Sol (Co-Founder, Co-Director) and Theo Dumont (Co-Founder, Co-Director) said in a joint statement: "It's truly a pleasure to announce this year's official selections for HollyShorts as we embark on our 18th anniversary of the Oscar-qualifying festival with 2 Academy Award winners this past year and 6 nominees. This year, we have a record of 41 countries represented in the official selections, which truly speaks to the global impact short films are having. We can't wait to share these incredibly talented short films at this year's festival and thank all the filmmakers who have submitted along with all of our amazing staff and incredible sponsors for supporting us."

JURY

The talented jury members are Adaku Ononogbo, Blair Underwood, Bryan Cranston, David Dastmalchian, Janina Gavankar, Jeremy Swift, Jennifer Morrison, Joanna Quin and Stephanie Laing. Filmmakers and stars include double OSCAR® winner Ben Proudfoot, British legend Sir Steve McQueen, Academy Award® winner Travon Free, Jamie Lee Curtis and Gemma Arterton.

OPENING NIGHT PROGRAM - AUGUST 11, 7:30 PM @ AUDITORIUM #1

- Includes
- Ticket to After Party
- (1) Ticket to Opening Night Screening Block of Films @ TCL Chinese 6 Theatres
- (1) Ticket to the After Party @ Madame Tussauds

MINK!

Double OSCAR® winner Ben Proudfoot's 'MINK!' tells the story of Patsy Takemoto Mink, the first woman of color elected to the U.S. House of Representatives.

EMBARRASSED

Sir Steve McQueen's prostate cancer documentary 'EMBARRASSED' which stars Idris Elba who shares "the stats are shocking", fellow star Morgan Freeman insists "get on your duff, and go and get your exam", and Chiwetel Ejiofor CBE adds "it's really important to get the message out there".

BUMP

Rory Keenan's 'BUMP' stars British fan favorite Gemma Arterton, Frank Chi's 38.

CROSSHAIRS

Coral Amiga's 'CROSSHAIRS' shares the story of two boys whose friendship is derailed

THE PROBLEM WITH TIME TRAVEL

'THE PROBLEM WITH TIME TRAVEL' touches on climate change.

TRIGGERED



'Found.'

Photo / hollyshorts.com

Tara Westwood's 'TRIGGERED' stars Isiah Whitlock Jr. and Law and Order's SVU Robert John Burke.

THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS

'THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS' all-star cast includes Adrienne Palicki and Zachary Levi.

38 AT THE GARDEN

Frank Chi's '38 AND THE GARDEN' is produced by OSCAR® winner Travon Free and revisits an Asian American athlete's story.

COMPLETE FILM LINEUP

To view the full list of films, visit hollyshorts.com/official_selections_2022

Besides the film lineup, to learn more about the other programs and events of the Festival, visit hollyshorts.com

TICKETS

To purchase Tickets, visit Hollyshorts.com or for an All Access Badge, visit Hollyshorts2022.eventive.org/passes/buy

HOLLYSHORTS FILM FESTIVAL (HSFF) #HSFF2022 (HOLLYSHORTS.COM)

The annual Academy Awards® Qualifying HollyShorts Film Festival celebrates its 18th year this month. HollyShorts, regular on MovieMaker Magazine's "Top 50 Festivals Worth the Entry Fee list", also engages its community and spotlights short films year-round through monthly screenings, panels, and networking events. Learn more at hollyshorts.com

BITPIX (BITPIXTV.COM)

Born out of the Oscar® Qualifying HollyShorts Film Festival, Bitpix is a new Premium AVOD platform, featuring the world's best short films. Learn more at bitpixtv.com.

(Mabel Pais writes on The Arts and Entertainment, Social Issues, Health & Wellness, Cuisine and Spirituality)

FILMS REVEAL ASIAN AMERICAN BIAS STILL EXISTS

BY MABEL PAIS

ASIAN AMERICANS, to celebrate ASIAN AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH, was aired as a five-part documentary television series. This was a collaborative production of PBS, WETA and the Center for Asian American Media (CAAM), via the Independent Television Service (ITVS).

The series chronicles the contributions, the history and the challenges of Asian Americans, the fastest-growing ethnic group in America.

Spearheaded by an array of award-winning Asian American filmmakers, including Academy Award®-nominated series producer Renee Tajima-Peña ('Who Killed Vincent Chin?'), 'ASIAN AMERICANS' examines how Asian Americans played a role in defining both U.S. history and American identity. From the first wave of Asian immigrants in the 1850s, to identity politics during the social and cultural turmoil of the twentieth century, and the modern refugee crisis, this series champions the unheard voices of Asian Americans.

This history has long been omitted from the textbooks. Through this groundbreaking series, viewers may discover the compelling untold stories and contributions that Asian Americans have had in shaping America.

'ASIAN AMERICANS' delivers a bold, fresh perspective on a history that matters today more than ever, at a time when themes of immigration, race and xenophobia, inform all facets of the national conversation. As the United States rapidly becomes more diverse, but also more divided, how do we move forward together?

Asian immigrants first arrived in large numbers during the mid-1800s. They were mostly young laborers and full of dreams, but they were met with hostility and hysteria. Branded the "Yellow Peril" and the "Dusky Peril," they were blamed for disease, vice and unfair labor competition. Long considered perpetually foreign and unassimilable, Asians faced exclusionary laws and were barred from becoming citizens. They were America's first "undocumented immigrants."

The series takes audiences through the momentous years since then, and the lives of people who helped to shape this history. 'ASIAN AMERICANS' is about their resilience during extraordinary times, through anti-Asian exclusion, a Great Depression, multiple wars fought in Asia, mass incarceration, and the journeys of countless refugees.

At each of these tipping points, core ideals of equality and justice were constantly tested. Yet Asian Americans built railroads and cyber-highways. They created families and communities, and stood up for their ideals in the courts, at the ballot box, in the fields, on the streets and in the culture.

'ASIAN AMERICANS' illuminates two visions of the American Dream for the nation's fastest growing population: One of opportunity and a better life, but also the pursuit of democracy and equality. It is the story of how a people, long denied citizenship, have come to define what it means to be an American. To watch the series, visit pbs.org/weta/asian-americans

ASIAN AMERICAN FILMS TODAY

Violent acts against the Asian American public continues to plague the community, thus exposing continued systemic racism.

The following two films, one released in 2022, the other restored, remind us that very little progress has been made against Asian American bias.

FREE CHOL SOO LEE



'Free Chol Soo Lee.'

Photo / Courtesy Unity Archive Project

"An enthralling documentary... a powerful indictment of systemic racism and the criminal justice system. - Josh Flanders and Sheri Flanders - Chicago Reader

Dirs: Julie Ha & Eugene Yi | USA | 2022 | Eng, Korean | 1h 26m

Premiering at this year's Sundance Film Festival, Free Chol Soo Lee tells the landmark story of Chol Soo, who was wrongly convicted of murder, and the unprecedented pan-Asian American movement that freed him.

In 1970s San Francisco, 20-year-old Korean immigrant Chol Soo Lee is racially profiled and convicted of a Chinatown gang murder. Sentenced to life, he spends years fighting to survive until investigative journalist K.W. Lee takes a special interest in his case, igniting an unprecedented social justice movement that would unite Asian Americans and inspire a new generation of activists.

Nearly five decades later, Free Chol Soo Lee excavates this largely unknown yet essential history, crafting an intimate portrait of the complex man at its center and serving as an urgent reminder that his legacy is more relevant than ever. Born on August 15th, 1952, this year commemorates what would have been the late Chol Soo Lee's 70th birthday.

Opening - August 12, IFC Center, New York, followed by ONE-NIGHT ONLY NATIONWIDE on August 17.

For more information and more openings, visit mubi.com/freecholsoolee



'Who Killed Vincent Chin.'

WHO KILLED VINCENT CHIN

ACADEMY AWARD®
NOMINATED 1987
DOCUMENTARY RE-RELEASED

The 1982 Hate Crime Galvanized a New

Generation of Asian Americans to Fight for Justice

The film was recently restored by the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences, and also selected for the National Film Registry.

Dirs: Christine Choy & Renee Tajima-Peña | USA | 1987 | 27m

In this current moment of anti-Asian hate in America, the timing of this film is once again significant and important. The organizing of the Asian American communities that rallied against this horrible crime when the murderers were acquitted was incredible, as these dedicated people literally transformed themselves from a grassroots advocacy group into a national movement.

This year marks the 40th anniversary of the racially motivated murder/hate crime of Vincent Chin - a Chinese American - murdered by two white men, Ronald Ebens and Michael Nitz, in Detroit, Michigan on June 19, 1982.

The documentary, which originally aired on POV in March 1987, details the incident from initial eyewitness accounts, the ensuing murder trials to the lenient sentences the assailants received, and the repercussions for the families and community involved.

In addition to the film broadcast in March 2022, there were a number of events and activities organized in the week leading to June 20, 2022.

"I was vaguely aware of the killing of Vincent Chin in 1982. The next year, when I had the opportunity to meet Lily Chin, Vincent's mother in Detroit, Michigan, I knew this was a story that would make an impact. The project started as a short film to help the American Citizens for Justice (ACJ) raise the legal fee but with the support from the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, the film was expanded. It was a privilege to have taken part in the telling of this story nearly forty years ago and still see its relevance and importance today." said 'Who Killed Vincent Chin?' filmmaker Christine Choy.

Who Killed Vincent Chin? represents a critical turning point for Asian Americans with chilling relevance today. Anti-Asian sentiments that were further stoked by the COVID-19 pandemic have contributed to ongoing xenophobia, particularly against Chinese Americans, though they have affected the broader AAPI community. From March 19, 2020, to December 31, 2021, over ten thousand hate crime incidents were reported to Stop AAPI Hate, a nonprofit coalition tracking incidents of hate and discrimination against Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders in the United States. Breaking news headlines about the 2021 Atlanta and Indianapolis shootings, and the recent murders in New York City of Christina Yuna Lee and Michelle Go as well, show that these hate crimes are disproportionately targeted at the elderly and Asian American women.

The encore presentation of the film was done by pbs.org/pov. Watch the film: pbs.org/video/the-black-rodeo-new-detroit-riverfront-park-kris-johnson-govgpk

(Mabel Pais writes on Social Issues, The Arts and Entertainment, Health & Wellness, Cuisine and Spirituality)



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TAIWAN THANKS INDIA, OTHERS FOR PLEA TO MAINTAIN PEACE

AUGUST 14

TAIWAN (TIP): Taiwan has thanked India along with over 50 countries for calling on all sides to exercise restraint, de-escalate tension, avoid unilateral actions to change the status quo and maintain peace and stability in the Taiwan Strait.

Stating that it would maintain close communication with India, US and Japan as also other "like-minded nations" to safeguard security across the Taiwan Strait, the Government of Taiwan conveyed its "sincere gratitude" to the executive branches and parliamentarians of over 50 countries including India.

Taiwan's mention of India came a day after Chinese envoy Sun Weidong hoped that India would reiterate the "One China" policy in light of recent developments in the Taiwan Strait. Sun made the observation after the Ministry of External Affairs at its weekly briefing on Thursday did not explicitly mention the "One China" principle when asked about it by a Xinhua correspondent. "India's relevant policies are well-known and consistent. They do not require reiteration," MEA spokesperson Arindam Bagchi had said. (TNS)

LIZ TRUSS GAINS BIG LEAD OVER RISHI SUNAK IN UK PM RACE

AUGUST 14
LONDON

(TIP): The UK prime ministerial race frontrunner, Foreign Secretary Liz Truss, continues to hold on to a commanding 22-point lead over

former Chancellor Rishi Sunak in the Conservative Party leadership contest, according to a new survey of Tory members on August 14.

In an Opinium poll for "The Observer" newspaper of 570 Conservative members with a vote in the election, Truss is on 61 per cent and the British Indian former minister is on 39 per cent. With under three weeks to go before the September 2 deadline for postal and online votes to be cast by the membership to elect a successor to outgoing Prime Minister Boris Johnson, Sunak seems to have closed the gap only slightly in recent days. "From the moment we knew the final two candidates, it has been clear that Truss has had all the momentum. Our latest poll sets out just how large her lead among the party members has become," Chris Curtis of Opinium told the newspaper.

"With many members having returned their ballot papers, it is now very unlikely Truss won't become PM in September," he said. (PTI)

41 KILLED IN EGYPTIAN CHURCH FIRE, 14 HURT

CAIRO (TIP): A fire ripped through a church in a densely populated neighbourhood of the Egyptian capital of Cairo on August 14 as congregants worshipped, killing at least 41 and injuring 14, the Coptic Church said. It was one of the worst fire tragedies in Egypt in recent years.

The cause of the blaze, which produced huge amounts of smoke in the Abu Sefein church in the working-class neighbourhood of Imbaba, was not immediately known. An initial investigation pointed to an electrical short-circuit, according to a police statement.

The Coptic Church cited health officials in reporting the casualty toll. It said the fire broke out while a service was underway.

Fifteen firefighting vehicles were dispatched to the scene to put out the flames while ambulances ferried casualties to nearby hospitals.

President Abdel Fattah el-Sissi spoke by phone with the Coptic Christian Pope Tawadros II to offer his condolences, the President's office said. "I am closely following the developments of the tragic



accident," el-Sissi wrote on Facebook. "I directed all state agencies and institutions concerned to take all necessary measures, and to immediately deal with this accident and its effects." The Health Ministry said ambulances transferred at least 55 injured people to

local hospitals. It did not give a death toll.

The Interior Ministry said it received a report on the fire at 9 am local time and that they found that the blaze broke out in an air conditioner in the building's second storey. — AP

8 Israelis wounded in a suspected Palestinian attack in Jerusalem

JERUSALEM (TIP): A gunman opened fire at a bus near Jerusalem's Old City early on August 14, wounding eight Israelis in a suspected Palestinian attack that came a week after violence flared up between Israel and militants in Gaza, police and medics said.

Two of the victims were in serious condition, including a pregnant woman with abdominal injuries and a man with gunshot wounds to the head and neck, according to Israeli hospitals treating them.

The shooting occurred as the bus waited in a parking lot near the Western Wall, which is considered the holiest site where Jews can pray.

ISRAELI POLICE SAID FORCES WERE DISPATCHED TO THE SCENE TO INVESTIGATE.

ISRAELI SECURITY FORCES ALSO PUSHED INTO THE NEARBY PALESTINIAN NEIGHBOURHOOD OF SILWAN PURSUING THE SUSPECTED ATTACKER.

The attack in Jerusalem followed a tense week between Israel and Palestinians in Gaza and the West Bank.

Last weekend, Israeli aircraft unleashed an offensive in the Gaza Strip,



targeting the militant group Islamic Jihad and setting off three days of fierce cross-border fighting. Islamic Jihad fired hundreds of rockets during the flare-up to avenge the airstrikes, which killed two of its commanders and other militants. Israel said the attack was meant to thwart threats from the group to respond to the arrest of one of its officials in the occupied West Bank.

Forty-nine Palestinians, including 17 children and 14 militants, were killed, and several hundred were injured in the

fighting, which ended with an Egyptian-brokered cease-fire. No Israeli was killed or seriously injured.

The Islamic militant group Hamas, which controls Gaza, stayed on the sidelines.

A day after the cease-fire halted the worst round of Gaza fighting in more than a year, Israeli troops killed three Palestinian militants and wounded dozens in a shootout that erupted during an arrest raid in the West Bank city of Nablus. (AP)

'CHINA THREAT' EMERGES IN ELECTIONS FROM UK TO AUSTRALIA

AUGUST 14

LONDON (TIP): It's not just the economy. While inflation and recession fears weigh heavily on the minds of voters, another issue is popping up in political campaigns from the UK and Australia to the US and beyond: the "China threat." The two finalists vying to become Britain's next prime minister, Liz Truss and Rishi Sunak, clashed in a televised debate last month over who would be toughest on China.

It's a stark departure from outgoing Prime Minister Boris Johnson's business-focused "Sinophile" approach and part of a hardening of anti-China rhetoric in many Western countries and other democracies, like Japan, that is coming out in election campaigns.

Nations for years have sought to balance promoting trade and investment with the world's second-largest economy with concerns about China's projection of military power, espionage and its human rights record.

The pendulum is swinging toward the latter, as evidenced in US, European, Japanese and Australian opposition to the threatening Chinese military drills that followed US House Speaker Nancy Pelosi's visit to Taiwan last week, and growing warnings from Western intelligence agencies about Beijing's snooping and interference.

That shift has made China a target for vote-seeking politicians as opinion polls show public sentiment in many democracies turning against China. Some candidates blame China for economic woes at home in addition to posing a security threat to its neighbors and the wider world.

China loomed large in Australian's election in May in which the conservatives, who ultimately lost, tried to paint the opposition as being unwilling to stand up to Beijing.

America's growing rival on the global stage is also expected to figure in this fall's U.S. congressional races, particularly in Midwest industrial states, long after former President Donald Trump embraced a fierce anti-China posture.

Many in Europe are also rebalancing their approach to China, though that did not figure significantly in elections in France this year and in Germany in 2021.

Andreas Fulda, a University of Nottingham political scientist specializing in China, said British politicians



"are more clear-eyed about China" than their European neighbors.

"The U.K. has paid close attention to what's happening in Australia, and in many ways the debate here is well ahead of mainland Europe," he said.

Truss, the British foreign secretary and the front-runner in the Conservative Party's leadership race, has spoken of expanding what she calls a "network of liberty" so democracies can counter China and Russia more effectively. She says she will crack down on Chinese tech companies such as the owner of TikTok, the short-video platform.

In her role as Britain's top diplomat, Truss has strongly criticized China's military moves after Pelosi's Taiwan visit, accusing Beijing of an "aggressive and wide-ranging escalation" that "threaten(s) peace and stability in the region." Sunak, Britain's former Treasury chief, has pledged to shutter the partially Chinese-funded Confucius Institutes that promote Chinese culture and language at U.K. universities, lead an international alliance against Chinese cyberthreats, and help British companies and universities counter Chinese spying.

"I had a sense of déjà vu having just moved over from Australia," said Ben Bland, director of the Asia-Pacific program at London's Chatham House think tank, who previously worked at the Lowy Institute in Sydney. "There's a similar atmosphere with some politicians

trying to deploy the China threat as a domestic political tool." Bland described a dramatic shift in how politicians talk about China in both the U.K. and Australia, from a focus on trade and business ties five years ago to viewing China "through the prism of a threat to national security and economic competitiveness." In the Australian election, conservatives broke from a bipartisanship tradition on critical national security issues to accuse the center-left Labor Party of being likely to appease Beijing.

The gambit came up short. Labor, whose victory ended nine years of conservative rule, denied it would shift its China policy and has called China's military drills around Taiwan "disproportionate and destabilizing." "This is not something that solely Australia is calling for," Australian Foreign Minister Penny Wong said, adding the entire region was concerned.

A Lowy Institute survey released in June found Australians increasingly concerned about their nation's largest trading partner. Three-quarters of respondents said it was at least somewhat likely China would become a military threat to Australia in the next 20 years, up 30 percentage points since 2018.

A Pew Research Center poll the same month found negative views of China are at or near historic highs in many of the 19 countries surveyed in North America, Europe and Asia.

Relations between London and Beijing have soured since President Xi Jinping was granted a 2015 state visit the U.K. government hoped would cement deals to give Britain a vast pool of investment and China greater access to European markets.

Johnson, who took power in 2019, always stressed that he was not a "knee-jerk Sinophobe" — but under pressure from the U.S., his government excluded Chinese firms from the U.K.'s 5G communications network. Britain also has welcomed thousands of people from Hong Kong as Beijing squeezes the freedoms in the former British colony.

The head of the MI6 intelligence agency, Richard Moore, said last month that China had overtaken terrorism as its top priority, as British spies try to understand the threats Beijing's growing assertiveness might pose. (AP)

China sending fighter jets to Thailand for joint exercises

AUGUST 13

BANGKOK (TIP): The Chinese air force is sending fighter jets and bombers to Thailand for a joint exercise with the Thai military on August 14.

The training will include air support, strikes on ground targets and small- and large-scale troop deployment, the Chinese Defence Ministry said in a statement posted on its website.

China's expanding military activities in the Asia-Pacific region have alarmed the United States and its allies and form part of a growing strategic and economic competition that has inflamed tensions between the world's two largest economies.

US Defence Secretary Lloyd Austin visited Thailand in June as

part of an effort to strengthen what he called America's "unparalleled network of alliances and partnerships" in the region.

The Falcon Strike exercise will be held at the Udorn Royal Thai Air Force Base in northern Thailand near the border with Laos.

Thai fighter jets and airborne early warning aircraft from both countries will also take part.

The training comes as the US holds combat drills in Indonesia with Indonesia, Australia, Japan and Singapore in the largest iteration of the Super Garuda Shield exercises since they began in 2009.

It also follows China's sending warships, missiles and aircraft into the waters and air around Taiwan in a threatening response to a visit

by US House Speaker Nancy Pelosi to the self-ruled island, which China claims as its territory.

Kurt Campbell, a top advisor to President Joe Biden on the Indo-Pacific, said on Friday that the US would take resolute steps to support Taiwan, including sending warships and aircraft through the 160-kilometres (100-miles) wide waterway that separates Taiwan and China.

"We'll continue to fly, sail and operate where international law allows, consistent with our longstanding commitment to freedom of navigation," he said in a call with reporters.

"And that includes conducting standard air and maritime transits through the Taiwan Strait in the next few weeks." AP

UKRAINE STRIKES KEY BRIDGE IN RUSSIA-OCCUPIED REGION

AUGUST 13

KYIV (UKRAINE) (TIP): Russia's military pounded residential areas across Ukraine overnight, claiming gains, as Ukrainian forces pressed a counteroffensive to try to take back an occupied southern region, striking the last working bridge over a river in the Russian-occupied Kherson region, Ukrainian authorities said on August 13.

A Russian rocket attack on the city of Kramatorsk killed three people and wounded 13 others on Friday night, according to the mayor. Kramatorsk is the headquarters for Ukrainian forces in the country's war-torn east. The attack came less than a day after 11 other rockets were fired at the city, one of the two main Ukrainian-held ones in Donetsk province, the focus of an ongoing Russian offensive to capture eastern Ukraine's Donbas region. The Russian Defence Ministry claimed its forces had taken control of Pisky, a village on the outskirts of Donetsk. — AP

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Keep yourself looking fresh and youthful

Everyone wants to look their best. And your skin is the first thing that people notice about you, so it should be taken care of properly. There are different skin types -- dry, oily, normal and combination. Each type of skin requires special care. However, with the overload of information on beauty today, it's no wonder many of us are left in a state of confusion.

Some are born beautiful and others grow to become beautiful. Looking healthy and attractive is everyone's dream, regardless of age group. Since lifestyle and skincare contribute a lot to your looks, here's some advice to keep in mind.

Wash your face regularly

Wash your face at least twice a day (but no more than thrice) with a cleanser that suits your skin. Select your cleanser depending upon your skin type (dry, oily, normal or combination). You can also choose aloe-vera for cleansing. Be careful not to cleanse too often. Also, never wash your face with water that's hot or too cold, as both can cause broken capillaries.

Exfoliate regularly

Exfoliation helps replenish the required oils of the body and removes dry, dead skin cells and dirt from the face. Try to exfoliate at least once or twice a week. You can also opt to cleanse your face on a regular basis.

Moisturise

A basic law of beauty is that everyone, no matter what skin type, should moisturise. As it is important to maintain the skin's moisture content, you should use a moisturiser daily. Even more special care should be taken in winters, as the skin tends to become dry fast because of the cold. So in winter, you should massage your body twice



or thrice a day with moisturiser.

Don't forget sunscreen

Sunscreen is probably the most essential component of one's skincare regimen. Wrinkles, which are the number one sign of aging, are triggered by sun exposure. So it is essential to make use of sunscreen from your early years. Don't forget sunscreen even in winter and on cloudy days.

Protect your lips

Chapped lips can be your worst nightmare. They hurt a lot and they don't look good. You should apply a lip balm or oil or gel on your lips so that they won't chap out.

Use a humidifier

A humidifier will help regain smoothness of the skin. In winters, the skin becomes drier, so a humidifier becomes necessary.

Get enough sleep

If you are sleep-deprived, your skin will look sallow, dull, tired and saggy. A well-disciplined routine and at least seven to eight hours of sleep every night are important for good skin.

Drink lots of water

Water is of prime importance to maintain good health and overall cleansing. It is recommended that you drink at least seven to eight glasses a day to keep your skin hydrated.

A healthy diet

Your diet also affects the skin, especially the vitamins that you consume. You should eat vitamin-rich food items such as oats, avocado, other fruits and vegetables. Concentrate on vitamins A and E in proper amounts. Stay away from oily, greasy food as it can lead to the onset of pimples.

FOOD

Lamb Makhani

Ingredients

(1 tbsp) Olive oil
(1/2) Yellow or White Onion, chopped
(1) Shallot, finely chopped
(2 tbsp) Butter
(2 tsp) Lemon juice
(1 tbsp) Garlic, pressed or grated
(1 tbsp) Ginger, grated
(1.5 tsp) Garam Masala*
(1.5 tsp) Chili Powder
(1.5 tsp) Ground cumin
(1 tsp) Turmeric (optional)
(1) Bay leaf, (1/4 cup) Plain yogurt
(1 cup) Half-and-Half or heavy cream
(1.5 cups) Tomato puree
(1/4 tsp, or to taste) Cayenne pepper
(1 pinch) Salt
(1 pinch) Black pepper
(2.5 lbs, cut into bite-size pieces) Lamb Boneless Shoulder Roast, (1 tbsp) Butter
(2 tsp) Garam masala, (1 pinch, or to taste) Cayenne pepper

Directions

Heat tablespoon oil in a large saucepan over medium heat. Saute shallot and onion until soft and translucent. Stir in butter, lemon juice, ginger-garlic paste, 1.5 teaspoon garam masala, chili powder, cumin, turmeric and bay leaf. Cook, stirring, for 1 minute. Add tomato puree, and cook for 2 minutes, stirring frequently. Stir in heavy cream and yogurt. Reduce heat to low and simmer for 10 minutes, stirring frequently. Season with salt and pepper. Remove from heat and set aside.

Heat 1 tablespoon butter in a large heavy skillet over medium heat. Fry the lamb cubes until lightly browned, stirring constantly. Reduce heat, and season with 2 tsp garam masala and cayenne. Stir in a few spoonfuls of gravy, and simmer until liquid has reduced. Stir cooked lamb into the sauce. Bring the curry to a simmer and let it cook for at least 1.5 hours, stirring frequently to prevent the sauce from burning on the bottom of the saucepan. Serve with hot rice or naan bread.



Homemade conditioner for damaged hair

Coconut oil + banana + avocado

Step 01: Add one avocado, one ripe banana and two tablespoons of coconut oil in a blender jar. Blend it all together until it forms into a thick, smooth paste.

Step 02: Strain this mixture through a cheesecloth to get rid of any chunks and to allow the hair mask to spread more effectively.

Step 03: Apply this mixture all over your hair and scalp. Cover your hair with a disposable shower cap and leave it on for about 30 minutes.

Step 04: Rinse it off with a gentle shampoo and conditioner.

Why this works – Loaded with essential fatty acids and vitamins, coconut oil is a

great ingredient to infuse moisture into severely dry and damaged hair. Avocados are brimming with vitamin B, which strengthens hair and prevents breakage by improving elasticity. Bananas on the other hand, are full of potassium and natural oils, and provide deep nourishment to chemically processed and dry strands, as well as prevent split ends and breakage.

Milk + honey

Step 01: Heat about a cup of milk in a saucepan until it's lukewarm.

Step 02: Add a teaspoon of honey into the mixture and gently stir until it completely dissolves into the milk.

Step 03: Apply this mixture all over your hair and scalp, concentrating on the areas

that are super dry and frizzy. Let it rest for 20-30 minutes before rinsing it off with some cold water and a gentle shampoo and conditioner.

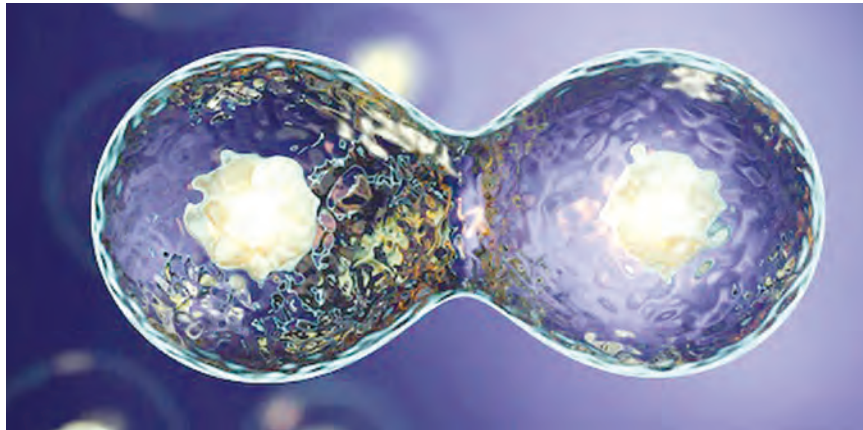
Why this works: Milk is a rich source of protein that helps in repairing damaged hair and adds some much-needed strength. Additionally, simply rinsing your hair with a bit of milk is enough to add incredible shine and lustre to dull and damaged tresses. Honey, on the other hand, is a natural humectant. This means that it draws moisture from the surrounding air and seals it into your hair and scalp to restore and revive damaged hair. This is a great hair mask for anyone with dull, chemically treated hair in need of some quick revival and repair.

Scientists develop world's first-ever 'synthetic embryos' without eggs, sperms

In a groundbreaking scientific development, researchers have created the world's first lab-grown "synthetic embryos" which bypass the need of sperms, eggs, uterus, and even fertilization. A team of stem cell researchers led by molecular geneticist Joseph Hanna from the Weizmann Institute in Israel has created this medical marvel using stem cells from mice. It was found out that they could be self-assembled into early embryo-like structures with an intestinal tract, beginnings of a brain as well as a beating heart. The achievement was published in the journal *Cell*. Stem cells are cells that can develop into any organ or tissue. For this breakthrough, they were taken from mice and grown into an artificial womb for eight days where they developed all the aforementioned formations.

These embryos are called synthetic because they are created without any fertilized eggs. In the near term, this will potentially allow us to get a deeper understanding of how organs and tissues are formed and also, what takes place in the early stages of human pregnancy. Hence, the research could have major implications.

"This is a crucial stage: in humans, many pregnancies are lost around this stage, and we don't really know why. Having models provides a way to better understand



Scientist Joseph Hanna, who led the research, said that the synthetic embryos were not "real" and did not have the potential to develop into live animals. (Representative Image, Credits: Shutterstock)

what can go wrong, and possibly insights into what we may be able to do about it," stem cell researcher Megan Munsie, from the University of Melbourne, wrote in a piece for *The Conversation*.

However, most of the stem cells failed to form embryo-like structures. The embryo model could only survive 8 out of the 20-day mouse embryonic cycle, which is now considered a major disadvantage. Scientist Joseph Hanna, who led the research, said that the synthetic embryos were not "real" and did not have the potential to develop into live animals.

This drove some criticism. "It's absolutely not necessary, so why

would you do it?" Nicolas Rivron, a stem-cell scientist at the Institute of Molecular Biotechnology in Vienna, told *MIT Technology Review* in an interview. He further argued that scientists should only create "the minimal embryonic structure necessary" to yield cells of interest.

Dr James Briscoe, a principal group leader at the Francis Crick Institute in London, told *The Guardian*, "Synthetic human embryos are not an immediate prospect. We know less about human embryos than mouse embryos and the inefficiency of the mouse synthetic embryos suggests that translating the findings to human requires further development."



Vegetarian women more likely to fracture hips in later life

Women who are vegetarian are more likely to experience hip fractures in later life than those who frequently eat meat, a UK study has found.

Researchers analysed health and diet records from more than 26,000 women and found that over a roughly 22-year period, vegetarians were a third more likely to break a hip than those who regularly ate meat, the *Guardian* reported.

The reasons for the greater risk are unclear but researchers suspect some vegetarians may not get sufficient nutrients for good bone and muscle health, leaving them prone to falls and fractures.

"The message for vegetarians is don't give up your diet, because it is healthy for other things and environmentally friendly, but do take care to plan well and don't miss out on nutrients that you exclude when you don't eat meat or fish," said James Webster, a researcher at the University of Leeds.

Vegetarian diets are often considered healthier than the ones that contain meat and they can reduce the risk of diabetes, obesity, heart disease and certain cancers.

But the study published in *BMC Medicine* highlights the importance of a balanced diet whatever people eat, the *Guardian* reported.

"It's likely that vegetarians, for one reason or another, and potentially because of lower intakes of important nutrients, have weaker bones and lower muscle mass and both of those things predispose people to hip fractures," Webster said.

About 90 per cent of hip fractures are linked to falls, which are more common in older people, who tend to be more frail and have weaker bones.

But fractures can often drive further frailty, which increases the risk of more falls and worse frailty.

The researchers suspect vegetarians are more likely to be underweight than meat eaters, and that beyond having weaker bones and muscles may also have less fat, which can act as a cushion when people fall, the *Guardian* reported.

Given the findings, Webster said vegetarians may want to consider eating fortified cereals with added iron and B12 for bone health, and to ensure they are getting enough protein, through foods such as nuts, legumes and beans.

Source: IANS

China confirms outbreak of new Langya virus

A new type of animal-derived Henipavirus has so far infected people in Shandong and Henan provinces of China, official media here reported on Tuesday.

The new type of Henipavirus (also named Langya henipavirus, LayV) was found in throat swab samples from febrile patients in eastern China, state-run *Global Times* quoted media reports.

Scholars who participated in the study pointed out that this newly discovered Henipavirus, which may have come from animals, is associated with some febrile cases, and the infected people have symptoms including fever, fatigue, cough, anorexia, myalgia, and nausea.

There is currently no vaccine or treatment for Henipavirus and the only treatment is supportive care to manage complications.

The cases of Langya henipavirus so far have not been fatal or very serious, so there is no need for panic, Wang Linfa, a Professor in the Programme in Emerging Infectious Diseases at Duke-NUS Medical School who was involved in the study said, adding that it is still a cause for alert as many viruses that exist in nature have unpredictable results when they infect humans.

Further investigation found that 26 out of 35 cases of Langya Henipavirus infection in Shandong and Henan provinces have developed clinical symptoms such as fever, irritability, cough, anorexia, myalgia, nausea,

headache and vomiting, the report said.

Animal origin

To determine the potential animal origin of the virus, the researchers tested goats, dogs, pigs and cattle living in the villages of infected patients for antibodies against LayV, and took tissue and urine samples from 25 species of wild small animals to look for the presence of LayV RNA. They found LayV antibodies in a handful of goats and dogs, and identified LayV viral RNA in 27% of the 262 sampled shrews. This suggested that shrews are a reservoir for the virus, passing LayV between themselves "and somehow infecting people here and there by chance", says Emily Gurley, an infectious-diseases epidemiologist at Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, Maryland.

But it is not clear how people were infected in the first place — whether directly from shrews or an intermediate animal, says Gurley. A lot of research still needs to be done to work out how the virus is spreading in shrews and how people are getting infected, she says.

Holmes says there is an urgent need for a global surveillance system to detect virus spillovers and rapidly communicate those results to avoid more pandemics, such as the one sparked by COVID-19. "These sorts of zoonotic spillover events happen all the time," he says. "The world needs to wake up."

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YouTube plans to launch its own online streaming store

Google-owned YouTube is working on to launch an online store like Apple TV and Amazon Prime Video to let users subscribe to other streaming services and the new platform could be available as early as this fall.

According to a report in Wall Street Journal, the YouTube 'Channel Store' will allow consumers to choose streaming services through the main YouTube app.

The company is already in talks with entertainment companies about participating in the YouTube marketplace.

The YouTube online store "has been in the works for at least 18 months".

YouTube TV already has this capability for HBO, AMC+, Showtime, and many others.

"YouTube is discussing splitting subscription revenue with streaming partners, although the terms may vary widely for each partner," the report mentioned.

The pitch is that the new YouTube channel store would offer great marketing for streaming services because "consumers could watch trailers of shows or movies free on YouTube and then easily pay to subscribe to the service".

YouTube in 2020 for the first time discussed launching an online streaming video store.

Source: IANS

Europe eyes Elon Musk's SpaceX to replace Russian rockets

PARIS (TIP)

The European Space Agency (ESA) has begun preliminary technical discussions with Elon Musk's SpaceX that could lead to the temporary use of its launchers after the Ukraine conflict blocked Western access to Russia's Soyuz rockets.

The private American competitor to Europe's Arianespace has emerged as a key contender to plug a temporary gap alongside Japan and India, but final decisions depend on the still unresolved timetable for Europe's delayed Ariane 6 rocket.

"I would say there are two and a half options that we're discussing. One is SpaceX that is clear. Another one is possibly Japan," ESA Director General Josef Aschbacher told Reuters.

"Japan is waiting for the inaugural flight of its next generation rocket. Another option could be India," he added in an interview.

"SpaceX I would say is the more operational of those and certainly one of the back-up launches we are looking at." Aschbacher said talks remained at an exploratory phase and any back-up solution would be temporary.

"We of course need to make sure that they are suitable. It's not like jumping on a bus," he said. For example, the interface between satellite and launcher must be suitable and the payload must not be compromised by unfamiliar types of launch vibration.

"We are looking into this technical compatibility but we have not asked for a commercial offer yet. We just want to make sure that it would be an option in order to make a decision on asking for a firm commercial offer," Aschbacher said. SpaceX did not reply to a request for comment.

The political fallout from Russia's invasion of Ukraine has already been a boon for SpaceX's Falcon 9, which has swept up other customers severing ties with Moscow's increasingly isolated space sector.

Satellite internet firm OneWeb, a competitor to



SpaceX's Starlink satellite internet venture, booked at least one Falcon 9 launch in March. It has also booked an Indian launch. On Monday, Northrop Grumman booked three Falcon 9 missions to ferry NASA cargo to the International Space Station while it designs a new version of its Antares rocket, whose Russian-made engines were withdrawn by Moscow in response to sanctions.

'WAKE-UP CALL'

Europe has until now depended on the Italian Vega for small payloads, Russia's Soyuz for medium ones and the Ariane 5 for heavy missions. Its next-generation Vega C staged a debut last month and the new Ariane 6 has been delayed until next year. Aschbacher said a more precise Ariane 6 schedule would be clearer in October. Only then would ESA finalise a back-up plan to be presented to ministers of the agency's 22 nations in November.

"But yes, the likelihood of the need for back-up launches is high," he said. "The order of magnitude is certainly a good handful of launches that we would need interim solutions for." Aschbacher said the Ukraine conflict had demonstrated Europe's decade-long cooperation strategy with Russia in gas supplies and other areas including space was no longer working.

Source: Reuters

Exit WhatsApp group privately, choose who can see you online: Zuckerberg

Meta Founder and CEO Mark Zuckerberg announced three key privacy features in WhatsApp, giving users more control over their conversations and added layers of protection when messaging.

New features allow WhatsApp users to exit group chats without notifying everyone, control who can see when you're online and prevent screenshots on view once messages.

"We'll keep building new ways to protect your messages and keep them as private and secure as face-to-face conversations," said Zuckerberg.

WhatsApp users will now be able to exit a group privately without having to notify everyone.

"Now, instead of notifying the full group when leaving, only the admins will be notified. This feature starts to roll out to all users this month," said the social network.

WhatsApp also introduced the ability to select who can and can't see when you're online. The feature will start rolling out to all users this month.

WhatsApp is also enabling screenshot blocking for 'View Once' messages for an added layer of protection.

This feature is being tested and will be rolled out to users soon.

"Over the years, we've added



interlocking layers of protection to help keep their conversations secure, and the new features is one way we continue to deliver on our commitment to keep messages private," said Ami Vora, Head of Product at WhatsApp.

"To spread the word about these new features, we're also kicking off a global campaign, starting with the UK and India, to educate people about how we work to protect their private conversations on WhatsApp," Vora added.

Source: IANS

WhatsApp will now give 2 days to delete messages

NEW DELHI (TIP)

WhatsApp users will no longer have only one hour to delete a message after sending it, but instead get slightly more than two days.

To add the new feature, all recipients must have the most recent version of WhatsApp. Meta-owned WhatsApp is also rolling out a feature to block capturing of a screenshot of 'view once messages', which disappear after the receiver reads them, the company said. Meta founder and CEO Mark Zuckerberg announced new privacy features in WhatsApp giving the option to users to leave a group chat secretly and make the online presence visible to people of their choice.

"New features coming to WhatsApp: exit group chats without notifying everyone, control who can see when you're online, and prevent screenshots on view once messages. We'll keep building new ways to protect your privacy," Zuckerberg said in a statement. WhatsApp has introduced 'view once messages', which self-destruct after the receiver reads them. This gives users the option not to have a permanent digital record of their message but there have been instances when the receiver takes a screenshot of



the message.

"Now, WhatsApp is enabling screenshot blocking for 'view once messages' for an added layer of protection. This feature is being tested and will be rolled out to users soon," the statement said.

According to WhatsApp privacy study, 72 per cent of respondents value being able to speak in an honest, unfiltered way — but more than 47 per cent are only comfortable doing this in a safe, private space.

According to the study, 51 per cent of respondents prefer to stay hidden online to choose who they want to talk to and 91 per cent of people who are aware of blocking features believe they are important.

Source: ANI

INFLATION EASES TO 6.71% IN JULY AS FOOD PRICES SOFTEN

With global prices of crude oil, coal and fertilisers cooling off, inflation based on consumer price index (CPI) slipped below the 7% mark in July but remained above the RBI's upper tolerance level of 6%.

The CPI-based inflation rate was 6.71% in July as against 7.01% in the previous month. Rural inflation at 6.80% was higher than the urban inflation of 6.49%, according to the National Statistical Office (NSO) data released on August 12. The slightly lower inflation rate was also due to the slight softening of food prices, which account for more than half the weight in the CPI. The All India Consumer Price Indices with 2012 as 100 was at 174.9 in July as against 175 in June. The indices for transport and communication were also lower at 161.1 as against 161.6. Meanwhile, industrial production rose 12.3% in June 2022, according to the official data released on Friday. As per the Index of Industrial Production (IIP) data, the manufacturing sector's output grew 12.5% in June 2022. The mining output climbed 7.5%, and power generation increased 16.4% in June 2022. The quick estimates of Index of Industrial Production (IIP) with base 2011-12 for the month of June was at 137.9. The indices of industrial production for the mining, manufacturing and electricity sectors for June stood at 113.4, 136.3 and 196.9, respectively. According to use-based classification, the indices stand at 139.2 for primary goods, 102.4 for capital goods, 147.3 for intermediate goods and 148.9 for infrastructure and construction goods. *Source: TNS*

J&J TO DISCONTINUE SALE OF TALC-BASED BABY POWDER FROM 2023

US pharma giant Johnson & Johnson (J&J) has said that it will "discontinue" sales of its talc-based baby powder around the world from next year and will switch to an all cornstarch-based version of the product. The move comes more than two years after the drug maker ended sales of its baby powder in the US and Canada amid mounting lawsuits accusing it of causing cancer.

"As part of a worldwide portfolio assessment, we have made the commercial decision to transition to an all cornstarch-based baby powder portfolio. As a result of this transition, talc-based JOHNSON'S® Baby Powder will be discontinued globally in 2023," the US healthcare giant said in a statement on August 11. The US-based company, however, reiterated its position that its baby powder is safe to use and noted that it "does not cause cancer".

"Our position on the safety of our cosmetic talc remains unchanged. We stand firmly behind the decades of independent scientific analysis by medical experts around the world that confirms talc-based JOHNSON'S® Baby Powder is safe, does not contain asbestos, and does not cause cancer," J&J asserted.

'There will be blood on streets,' Google executives warn employees about layoffs

SAN FRANCISCO (TIP)

As Big Tech companies begin to lay off employees in the global economic downturn, Google executives have reportedly warned workers to either boost performance or prepare to leave as "there will be blood on the streets" if the next quarterly earnings are not good.

In a company message viewed by Insider, Google Cloud sales leadership has threatened employees with an "overall examination of sales productivity and productivity in general" and that if next quarter results "don't look up, there will be blood on the streets." If third quarter results "don't look up, [then] there will be blood on the streets," according to a message conveyed to the sales team. The warning was first reported by Insider.

Google employees are "fearful of layoffs" after the company quietly extended its hiring freeze this month without making an announcement, reports The New York Post.

The company has now reportedly warned employees with layoffs if they don't produce results.

Google in July put a freeze on hiring for two weeks to review its headcount needs and decide on future course of action. The company earlier announced to slow down hirings for the rest of the year.

According to Pichai, "It's clear we are facing a challenging macro environment with more uncertainty ahead."

Alphabet, the parent company of Google, reported weaker-



than-expected earnings and revenue for the April-June period (Q2).

Revenue growth slowed to 13 per cent from 62 per cent in the same quarter last year.

Other tech companies that have either laid off employees or slowed hiring in the current economic downturn include LinkedIn, Meta, Oracle, Twitter, Nvidia, Snap, Uber, Spotify, Intel and Salesforce, among others.

Source: IANS

Ace stock market investor Rakesh Jhunjunwala dies at 62

MUMBAI (TIP)

Ace stock market investor Rakesh Jhunjunwala, often referred to as India's Warren Buffett, died here Sunday, August 14, morning. He was 62.

Jhunjunwala died early this morning due to a cardiac arrest, a source in his newly set up airline said.

A self-made trader, investor and businessman, he was also known as the 'Big Bull' of Dalal Street. With an estimated net worth of around USD 5.8 billion (about Rs 46,000 crore), Jhunjunwala was the 36th richest billionaire in India, according to Forbes' 2021 listing.

Son of an income tax officer, he is survived by his wife and three children.

A chartered accountant by education, he had not been keeping well for the last few months because of a kidney ailment. He was seen on a wheelchair at recent public events.

Starting off his journey in stock markets while still in college with a capital of just Rs 5,000, he recently teamed up with ex-Jet Airways CEO Vinay Dube and former IndiGo head Aditya Ghosh to launch Akasa Air—India's newest budget carrier. The airline began commercial operations this month with its maiden flight from Mumbai to Ahmedabad.

He began investing with Rs 5,000 in 1985 when the Bombay Stock Exchange's benchmark index Sensex was at 150; it now trades at over 59,000.



He had investments in more than three dozen companies, the most valuable being watch and jewellery maker Titan, part of the Tata conglomerate. His portfolio included companies like Star Health, Rallis India, Escorts, Canara Bank, Indian Hotels Company, Agro Tech Foods, Nazara Technologies and Tata Motors.

He was also the chairman of Hungama Media and Aptech and sat on the board of directors of firms such as Viceroy Hotels, Concord Biotech, Provogue India and Geojit Financial Services.

His 5.05 per cent holding in Titan alone is worth over Rs 11,000 crore. His largest holding is in Aptech Ltd (23.37 per cent), followed by Star Health and Allied Insurance Co Ltd (17.49 per cent), Metro Brands (14.43 per cent), NCC Ltd (2.62 per cent) and Nazara Technologies Ltd (10.03 per cent).

Born on July 5, 1960, in a Rajasthani family, Jhunjunwala grew up in Bombay, where his father worked as a Commissioner of Income Tax. He graduated from Sydenham College and thereafter enrolled at the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India.

He earned his first big profit in 1986 when he bought 5,000 shares of Tata Tea at Rs 43 and the stock rose to Rs 143 within three months. In three years, he earned Rs 20-25 lakh.

His privately-owned stock trading firm Rare Enterprises derived its name from the first two letters of his name and that of his wife Rekha, who is also a stock market investor.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who met Jhunjunwala and his wife last year, described him as indomitable, full of life, witty and insightful.

"He leaves behind an indelible contribution to the financial world. He was also very passionate about India's progress. His passing away is saddening. My condolences to his family and admirers. Om Shanti," Modi tweeted.

Minister of Commerce and Industry Piyush Goyal expressed deep anguish over the passing away of Jhunjunwala. "Deeply anguished at the demise of veteran investor Rakesh Jhunjunwala. He was an inspiration for wealth creation for crores. "My heartfelt condolences to his family, friends and admirers. Om Shanti," he said in a tweet. *Source: PTI*



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Shree Ganeshaya Namah



Horoscope Of India

By Chirag Daruwalla

Son of Astrologer Bejan Daruwalla

According to the horoscope of India, Chirag Bejan Daruwalla says this year also the Mahadasha of the planet will be there. According to the horoscope of India, the planets can be in mighty houses. In such a situation, the administrators of India will work hard to take India towards progress. At present, the people of the country may have to face health-related problems due to the retrograde of planets. Incidents like minor illnesses can trouble the countrymen. But business will improve rapidly. India's growth rate will increase. The country will move forward by balancing import-export. Some problems will come. Some big and developed countries will try to pressure India directly or indirectly according to their advantage, but India will be successful in persuading the world powers and taking forward its work with its diplomatic and understanding. There will be some troubles till April 2023. The country will move faster after April. People will feel relief from the political and social scenario.

From April, Venus will also reach its strong position, that is, it will come in its own zodiac. The number of country lovers and people who uplift India will increase a lot. The administrative class will also try to work actively in taking the country to heights. There will also be a qualitative improvement in the field of religion and work. After April, Saturn will also be retrograde in Aquarius. The country will move towards entrepreneurship. The infrastructure of the country will develop and the country will be able to move forward. Business activities will progress rapidly in the country. However, internal mistrust and accusations, and political upheaval can trouble the country. In the southern parts, where natural calamities will be formed. On the other hand, foreign powers can create some problems in North-West India. Anti-India forces can play an active role in the North-West i.e., Kashmir and Punjab. It can disturb the internal affairs of India. The government will also have to make a special plan of action for these two states so that foreign powers cannot dominate and do not interfere too much in the internal affairs of India.

CHIRAG BEJAN DARUWALLA SAYS THAT THIS YEAR WITH LITTLE UPS AND DOWNS STRIKES A BALANCE BETWEEN DISEASES WHILE SOLVING INTERNAL PROBLEMS ON THE WORLD STAGE. THE COUNTRY WILL BE SUCCESSFUL IN PLAYING ITS IMPORTANT ROLE. INDIA'S CREDIBILITY WILL INCREASE. DIFFERENT COUNTRIES OF THE WORLD WILL GIVE RESPECT TO INDIA. DUE TO THIS, THE PEOPLE OF INDIA WILL GET SUCCESS IN INCREASING JOBS AND BUSINESS IN THE WORLD. INDIA WILL CONTINUE TO HAVE A RESPECTABLE PLACE IN THE WORLD FRATERNITY.



But in the midst of these challenges, India will also be able to play an important role in building its credibility and identity. From the diplomatic perspective, where India will be successful in handling the superpowers, the country may also have to face problems due to over-confidence toward neighbouring countries like China, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, and Nepal. By taking these countries into confidence, they can harm India indirectly by collaborating with foreign powers. In this, special vigilance will have to be maintained from China and Pakistan. India will rapidly increase its GDP. This rock can continue for many years. Anti-social elements of the country who are sitting in various government sectors, social sectors, and political sectors will try to weaken the country with their devious tricks. Although sometimes they will be able to play an important role in the opposition. Will

play the role of aggressive towards the government regarding jobs, and business. For the strength of his party, the government will not hesitate to make attachments with anti-nationals in order to occupy power. Due to this, foreign powers can create some problems in the internal affairs of India. The hold of good people i.e., country lovers will continue. These people will not be able to succeed much in spreading social and religious disparities.

The government will try to run universal schemes for the welfare of the people, with a lot of success, but due to the influence of Ketu and the strong position of Saturn, some anti-social elements can spread confusion. They may try to take political advantage by defaming the government by spreading class or caste conflict. They may also get some success due to the influence of malefic planets. But due to the strong position of Jupiter, Sun, and other

auspicious planets, the public's faith in the government will remain constant. Due to this, the government will be successful in making development and progress in every field. There will be some obstacles, due to which situations of confusion will also arise. Public confidence in the government will start to decrease. Problems like employment and employment can also give stress to the government, but due to the effect of the combination of auspicious planets, the government will be able to clear the misconceptions of the public and maintain its readiness to play a leading role in the proper development of the country. Will be successful.

Chirag Bejan Daruwalla says that this year with little ups and downs strikes a balance between diseases while solving internal problems on the world stage. The country will be successful in playing its important role. India's credibility will increase. Different countries of the world will give respect to India. Due to this, the people of India will get success in increasing jobs and business in the world. India will continue to have a respectable place in the world fraternity.

(Astrologer Chirag Daruwalla is the son of expert astrologer Bejan Daruwalla. He is known for his detailed astrological predictions on love, marriage, career, health, finance, and business. You can visit their website bejandaruwalla.com for guidance on problems related to your life and solve your problem with the help of celebrity astrologer Chirag Daruwalla.)



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The Indian Panorama brings you Weekly and Birthday Horoscope by Nastur Bejan Daruwalla

WEEKLY HOROSCOPE - AUGUST 15 TO AUGUST 21, 2022



ARIES : Ganesha says, you'll be prepared to assist ease the financial strain on your household. The two of you will become stronger as a result of this. You'll think back on and revisit formative memories this week. Everything in your life will make you sense fortunate and grateful. You'll be reminded by your siblings of all the wonderful resources you possess. This week, you'll feel content and certain. This assignment is crucial to your profession and reward; don't let it slide past your grasp. Keep your complaints to yourselves and perform to the best of your abilities. It's not a good idea to start new romantic connection this week. There's a possibility that your life partner will postpone the festive celebrations. You will suffer from minor headaches this week.



TAURUS : Employment this week will be a new and exciting experience. You'll stand out this week as an example of humility and perseverance. Your employees will start to respect and take a respect to you, seeing you as a mentor. You'll experience happiness and serenity this week on an individual basis. The whole week will be filled with laughter and joy. Your former educational acquaintances will get in touch with you to plan a homecoming. This week, you'll be able to recapture your freshness! You'll start by modernizing your methods and integrating innovation into your enterprise. Your life partner will suggest a difficult topic to address this week. Your spouse will support you in addressing your work-related issues. this week, you will sail in pink pot of health.



GEMINI : Dear Gemini, your endeavors will yield off this week in the form of an improved job status. Your efforts to hone your eloquence and interpersonal capabilities will put you in a terrific situation to show off your expertise and win others over. Chances to deliver presentations and lead a team will come your way. Make the most of the chance to showcase your abilities. Your bond seems to be developing and growing. It is advised that you take your time and avoid rushing into everything. Your thoughts and comments will assist you in landing a respectable job. Your financial issues will soon disappear if you labor diligently and maintain your enthusiasm.



CANCER : You will decide to change your regular life this week and divine energies of Shraavana will help you do so. The new path you choose can seem unusual and unsettling, but it's the perfect one for you. It may be challenging to venture outside of your personal bubble. You might be annoyed by some of the effects of your previous actions, but don't fret Brahma

won't let them throw your balance off. The Atmosphere this week is going to be outstanding. This stage will pass fast if you maintain your composure and believe in the underlying power of your connection. If you've been thinking about changing employment, this is a terrific moment to do it. You can purchase properties straight away. Avoid spending and trading throughout this week. You're the sort that seeks for easy solutions.



LEO : You'll be thrilled with the plans God have for you Dear Leo natives. Your prior contributions are already returning dividends. You'll be able to make your loved ones happy. This week, you'll be held back by consciousness. You'll figure out how to accomplish it when you get began on what you desire to accomplish. Don't let your fear prevent you from reaching your ability. It's past time for you to patch up your marriage. The Jupiter Retrograde will make it easier for you to realize how important it is to mend the previous bond and how much you value this intimacy. You should benefit from the opportunity of becoming able to express yourself clearly that has been provided to you. You have a split second.



VIRGO : The family issues will be settled this week, and this will bring you best relief. You'll be capable to get the responses to your questions on interpersonal relationships. Somebody can try to undercut your confidence, and you'll doubt your own consciousness. It is not a smart option to let these people impede your development. This week, you could argue with your partner or overstate a scenario. Don't let minor arguments ruin your connection; instead, make an endeavor to come to terms with your partner. You've been debating terminating your relationship, and you could do so this week. Individuals shouldn't try to create a fortress in the sky but rather be pragmatic about the circumstances they are in.



LIBRA : This week, a coworker will inquire about working with you on a venture. Utilize the opportunity; it will assist you in getting ready to launch your own business. By working together, you will be able to get the money you need to start your own company. The perfect moment to fulfil your ambition of starting your own business is this week. You and your family will argue over certain property-related issues in the first half of the week but the latter half of the week will bring things to peace. Strive to provide out with a decent answer rather than creating it worse. You'll need to make some challenging decisions in this regard this week. Your partner has suddenly ignored and abandoned you, which bothers you about your past connection. But this week, there will be other things that will make you feel better.



SCORPIO : This week, individuals close to you will respect your creative and innovative ideas. You can overcome a variety of obstacles and issues at work thanks to you in understanding and versatility. You'll be supportive of your colleagues and employees who are experiencing difficulties. You'll have a successful and fun week at business. You will draw interest from a number of places this week. You have business travelling this week. Individuals will ask you for assistance on a wide range of subjects, and they'll be quite happy with the improvements they make as a consequence. You will develop as a leadership and a judgement this week. A colleague who nurtures animosity against you will attempt to bring you down but, divine vibes will protect you Dear Scorpio.



SAGITTARIUS : You'll be equipped this week to handle any situation that arises. You'll be the height of vitality this week. Your major goal is accomplishment, and your level of determination will help you finish all of your unfinished business. You will give your goals this week's reign over your life. Distraction hindered your performance last week, but this week you'll put everything aside and get to business. It's important to be persistent and patient. Your workplace tasks will be completed earlier than expected. Do not let your arrogance ruin your prospects of achievement. Be prepared for a sudden expense to throw your face. Prepare wisely since the circumstance would be unavoidable in the upcoming weeks.



CAPRICORN : Every week, your ingenuity becomes better. You'll have fantastic days this week. Your doorway is being knocked by scholastic success, and luck is beaming at you. Your efforts in pursuing and achieving your objective will all have been justified. You'll delight your folks this week. They'll compliment you on your successes and send you good wishes for the future. The beginning of fantastic opportunities and occasions in your life begins this week. Release your mistakes and uncertainties this week and welcome assurance and benefits. There can be issues between you and your lover straight currently. Your mutual attraction may appear remote for a while. If you can, give them some room.



AQUARIUS : You'll start your days of this week with lots of energy Dear Aquarius. Your life is humming along just fine! You will be at ease and happy this week. You'll be in a protected setting this week. This week, your colleagues will look up to you, and you'll feel like forgiving them all. You'll do anything pleasant this

BIRTHDAY HOROSCOPE : AUGUST 15 TO AUGUST 21, 2022
BY ASTRO FRIEND CHIRAG - SON OF ASTROLOGER BEJAN DARUWALLA

AUGUST 15 : In the upcoming year, most of you will travel extensively. You'll be relieved of needless stress as a result. In the coming year, your financial situation will also be fortunate. You have a passion for cleanliness. Your impeccable sense of style in clothing will attract the other sex. However, you are urged to exercise caution in concerns of the heart. Trips for fun with friends are anticipated. You'll be putting significant projects into motion in the upcoming year. You should learn to regulate your restless nature because doing so will not only lead to success but also make you feel satisfied.

AUGUST 16 : In the year ahead, you will engage in volunteer work that benefits the disabled and receive recognition for your good efforts. However, you have a propensity to get a little dogmatic in your beliefs. You'll need to develop self-control over this feature. You can be disturbed by little issues. Relax and let little issues be resolved on their own. You won't experience stress or strain as a result of this. Your character will draw the opposing sex. Many of the individuals around you irritate you. But in the upcoming year, you will be able to meet a few nice buddies.

AUGUST 17 : Those of you in business are probably going to take on significant projects and

succeed in them. In the year ahead, some of you are undoubtedly going to develop feelings for the other sex and maybe make some unique friends. You should strive to avoid making snap decisions or taking the law into your own hands. You are a dependable buddy that people can rely on to keep their secrets safe. In the year ahead, being systematic and sincere will help you achieve greater success on the professional front.

AUGUST 18: In the year ahead, those of you in the writing industry will achieve greater levels of achievement. But you frequently stress over unimportant issues. Both you and your family will feel strain and stress as a result of this. You'll need to develop the ability to unwind and wait for little issues to resolve themselves. You also have a propensity to occasionally behave selfishly. You are naturally diligent, as well as sincere and truthful in your work. Your sincerity and honesty will not be compromised.

AUGUST 19 : Being an introvert by nature, you find it difficult to express your emotions. In fact, you make an effort to keep your distance from talkative people. In the upcoming year, you'll live a lavish existence. It will be a wonderful year for you financially. However, you will need to suppress your tendency to find fault with others. Try to forgive little flaws in your friends and family. Those of you getting

married this year can anticipate a successful and fulfilling marriage. You frequently obsess about little issues. Relax and let little issues resolve themselves. You'll be able to avoid tension and strain as a result of this.

AUGUST 20 : You are the center of attention at every social event thanks to your engaging demeanor. You will be able to amaze the other sex in the year ahead with both your sense of style and your communication abilities. It will be a terrific year for you in terms of relationships. You must exercise caution when it comes to respiratory illnesses. However, exercising caution and attention will enable you to recover quickly from any health issues.

AUGUST 21 : Because of your cooperative nature, you'll do everything in your power to keep things harmonious at work and at home. You have a lot of friends since you don't like to annoy people and are always willing to meet their needs. You will succeed in your business endeavors in the upcoming year because to your great power of observation and your bright intelligence. You are a quiet person who struggles to express your feelings. You will benefit more from this. Those of you who are single can anticipate finding your life companion in the coming year. Marriage will also make you happy.

CONTD FROM PAGE 37

week for the lesser impoverished women and children in your neighborhood. At workplace this week, you'll encounter some fresh faces. On your daily commute, you'll probably definitely encounter gridlock. Get to work early this week. You'll attract someone's attention, gain their understanding, and undergo positive

change. You will have a challenging week, so you need to take extra precautions.



PISCES : Opportunities will start pounding on your doorstep this week Dear Pisces. You'll organize a little gathering in your organization this

week. You can improve your communication skills thanks to it. You'll finish the task with the utmost honesty and passion. If you take benefit of this offer, you'll get a great possibility to network with important potential customers. You'll run across technical issues when making a lecture at work. Create a copy of your speech and thoughts

and carry it with you at all times. Ensure your colleagues are informed of the circumstance. You will make the effort to converse well this week, and your partner will respect your choice and come to an amicable agreement. You're going to have a busy week. This week, you will have to be really careful regarding your health.

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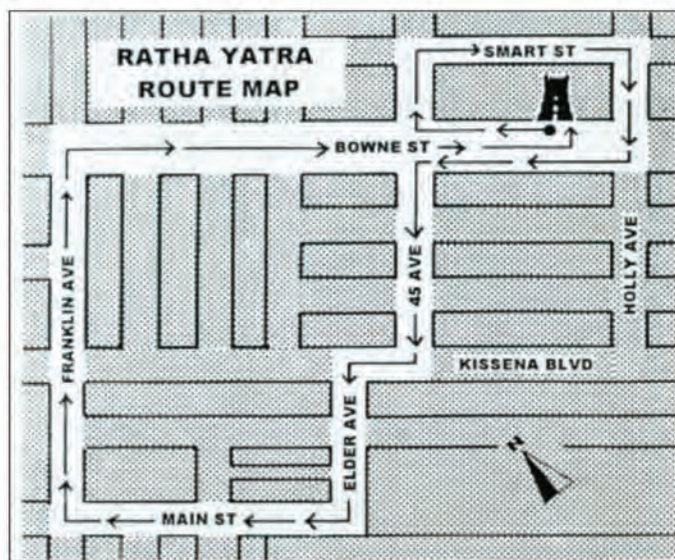
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GRAND RATHA YATRA

Sunday, September 11th, 2022 YATRA ROUTE MAP



The Ratha will start from the Temple at 12:30 PM after the pooja in the Temple, make a full Pradakshina around the temple block (covering 45th Ave, Smart St. and Holly Ave.) and will reach Main Street approximately at 1:45 PM - 2:00 PM. The Ratha will return to the Temple by approximately 2:30 PM.



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Kinner Kailash: The heavenly abode of Lord Shiva

Kinner Kailash is an important religious place for Hindus and Buddhism. Kinner Kailash is a symbol of faith for Hindus. Kinner Kailash is located near the Tibet border in Kinnaur district of Himachal Pradesh. Kinner Kailash is a mountain which is 6050 meters (about 24,000 feet) above sea level. Kinner Kailash is situated on the top of the mountain, whose height is approximately 40 feet and the width is about 16 feet. In Hindu religion, this khand is worshipped as Lord Shiva's natural Shiva Ling. There is also Parikrama of Kinner Kailash, which is one of the pilgrimage pilgrimages to the Himalayas for Hindus.

The Himalaya Mountains are not only related to Hindu mythology, but it also has a deep attachment to the belief of Hindu society. This is the same Himalaya from where the origin of the river Ganges is originated from Ghumukh. Kullu, the valley of the Gods, also comes in the same Himalayan range. There are more than 350 temples in this valley.

Travel to Kinner Kailash is considered as difficult as traveling to Mansarovar and Amarnath. This journey begins every year in the month of Savan. It takes about 2 to 3 days to complete the journey. This visit has been opened for tourists since 1993. During the journey, flowers of Brahma Lotus can be seen in thousands of thousands. This flower is very much like Lord Shiva.

According to Hindu mythology this place is associated with Lord Shiva and Parvati. It is believed that the meeting of Lord Shiva and Parvati has happened in this place.

It has been said in mythology that Lord Shiva organized the Deities and Gods assembly on Kinner Kailash Peak in every winter.

Every year, hundreds of Shiv devotees travel in the month of July and August through the inaccessible route to Kinner Kailash. In order to start the journey of Kinner Kailash, devotees have to cross the Sutlej river and reach Tangling village from Powari, located on National Highway-5, about seven km from the district headquarter. Parvati Kund is about five hundred meters away from Ganesh Park. There is a belief about this Kund that if the coin is cast from reverence, it will be fulfilled. Following the holy bath in this kund, after passing a rough 24-hour hard journey, the Kinner can see the Shiva at Kailash.

One feature of this Shiv Ling of Kinner Kailash is that it changes color several times a day. White before sunrise, yellow after sunrise, red before sunset and it becomes black after sunset.

There is a lack of oxygen during travel. Keep warm clothes, torches, stick, socks, bottles of water, glucose, and the necessary medicines with you. Do not drunk during the trip. Do not harm the herbs and especially the cosmic flowers during the trip.

Religious significance of Kinner Kailash

For the ardent devotees of Lord Shiva, Kinnaur holds utmost religious significance as the place is home to a 79 ft tall shivalinga, which changes colours every second. It is basically a rock pillar neatly balanced on rock slab and also resembles a trident. Close by is Parvati Kund, which is located at an altitude of 14900 ft above sea level.

As per the popular belief, the kund was created by Goddess Parvati herself. Also, it was the meeting point of Lord Shiva and the goddess, so it was also known as 'Aashiqi Park'. As per another mythological belief, every winter, Lord Shiva used to conduct a meeting of gods and goddesses here at Kinner Kailash.

The Legend of the Magical sunrise

This sunrise at Kinner Kailash is no ordinary sunrise. This represents awakening, represents the victory of good over evil, represents the light of divinity.

As per the legend, after a great penance, the deadly demon Bhasmasur received a boon from Lord Shiva



that he could turn any person into ashes by touching his head.

But Bhasmasur tried to turn Lord Shiva into ashes as he wanted to possess his wife, Goddess Parvati. Lord Shiva could have easily killed Bhasmasur immediately by opening his third eye, but that would have also led to mass destruction of the planet, which he did not want.

So, to avoid getting killed, Lord Shiva stayed in hiding and kept changing his locations often. He finally came to Kinner (Kinnaur) Kailash where he meditated and found a way to control the destruction that could

happen when he opens his third eye. And it is here that he eventually killed Bhasmasur by opening his third eye (with controlled aggression).

As per the belief such a sunrise is only witnessed when Lord Shiva opens his third eye, which happens only once in several years.

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"If India's own children don't cling to their faith, who shall guard it?"

"Indians alone can save India, and India and Hinduism are one."



Magical sunrise



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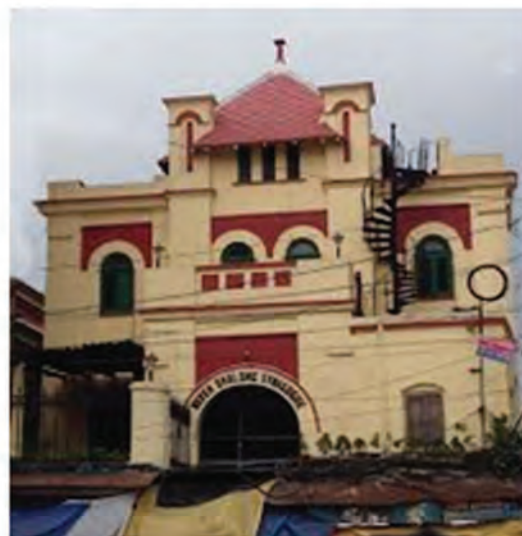
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History This week August 15 August 21

"HISTORY IS A VAST EARLY WARNING SYSTEM." - NORMAN COUSINS

AUGUST 15

August 15, 1969 - Woodstock began in a field near Yasgur's Farm at Bethel, New York. The three-day concert featured 24 rock bands and drew a crowd of more than 300,000 young people. The event came to symbolize the counter-culture movement of the 1960's.



Elvis Presley

3:30 p.m., at age 42.



Napoleon Bonaparte

Birthdays - French Emperor Napoleon Bonaparte (1769-1821) was born on the island of Corsica. Originally an officer in King Louis' Army, he rose to become Emperor amid the political chaos that followed the French Revolution. He built a half-million strong Grand Army which utilized newly invented modern tactics and improvisation in battle to sweep across Europe and acquire an empire for France. However, after defeats in Russia and later by the British, he went into exile on the island of St. Helena off the coast of Africa. On May 5, 1821, he died alone on the tiny island abandoned by everyone.

AUGUST 16

August 16, 1777 - During the American Revolutionary War, the Battle of Bennington, Vermont, occurred as militiamen from Vermont, aided by Massachusetts troops, wiped out a detachment of 800 German-Hessians sent by British General Burgoyne to seize horses.

August 16, 1780 - The Battle of Camden in South Carolina occurred during the American Revolutionary War. The battle was a big defeat for the Americans as forces under General Gates were defeated by troops of British General Charles Cornwallis, resulting in 900 Americans killed and 1,000 captured.

August 16, 1896 - Gold was discovered in Rabbit Creek, a tributary of the Klondike River in Alaska, resulting in the Great Klondike Gold Rush.

August 16, 1977 - Elvis Presley was pronounced dead at the Memphis Baptist Hospital at



T.E. Lawrence of Arabia

Birthdays - T.E. Lawrence 'of Arabia' (1888-1935) was born in Tremadoc, North Wales. He led an Arab revolt against the Turks during World War I and served as a spy for the British. He was killed in a motorcycle accident at Dorset, England, on May 19, 1935.



Menachem Begin

Birthdays - Israeli leader Menachem Begin (1913-1992) was born in Brest-Litovsk, Poland. He fought for the establishment of a Jewish state in Palestine in the 1940's, serving as the leader of a militant Zionist group. In 1977, he became Prime Minister of Israel, and is best known for signing the 1979 Camp David Peace Accord between Israel and Egypt with President Jimmy Carter and President Anwar el Sadat of Egypt.

AUGUST 17

August 17, 1943 - During World War II in Europe, the Allies completed the conquest of the island of Sicily after just 38

days. This gave the Allies control of the Mediterranean and also led to the downfall of Benito Mussolini and Italy's eventual withdrawal from the war. However, the Germans managed to evacuate 39,569 troops, 47 tanks, 94 heavy guns, over 9,000 vehicles and 2,000 tons of ammunition back to the Italian mainland from Sicily.

August 17, 1978 - The first transatlantic balloon trip was completed by three Americans; Max Anderson, Ben Abruzzo, and Larry Newman, all from Albuquerque, New Mexico. Starting from Maine on August 11th, they traveled in Double Eagle II over 3,000 miles in 137 hours, landing about 60 miles west of Paris.



Bill Clinton

August 17, 1998 - Bill Clinton became the first sitting President to give testimony before a grand jury in which he, the President, was the focus of the investigation. This resulted from a sweeping investigation of the President by Independent Counsel Ken Starr as well as a private lawsuit concerning alleged sexual harassment by Clinton before he became President. In the evening, President Clinton appeared on national television and gave a speech admitting he had engaged in an improper relationship with former White House intern Monica Lewinsky. The admission occurred several months after a much-publicized denial.

Birthdays - American frontiersman Davy Crockett (1786-1836) was born in Hawkins County, Tennessee. He was a farmer, scout and politician who perished at age 49 during the final heroic defense of the Alamo in Texas.

AUGUST 18

August 18, 1920 - The 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution was ratified, granting women the right to vote.

Birthdays - American explorer Meriwether Lewis (1774-1809)



Meriwether Lewis

was born near Charlottesville, Virginia. Along with William Clark, he explored the American West, and in 1805, after a journey of over 18 months, reached the Pacific Ocean.

AUGUST 19

August 19, 1934 - In Germany, a plebiscite was held in which 89.9 percent of German voters approved granting Chancellor Adolf Hitler additional powers, including the office of president.

August 19, 1991 - Soviet hardline Communists staged a coup, temporarily removing Mikhail Gorbachev from power. The coup failed within 72 hours as democratic reformer Boris Yeltsin rallied the Russian people. Yeltsin then became the leading power in the country. The Communist Party was soon banned and by December the Soviet Union itself disintegrated.



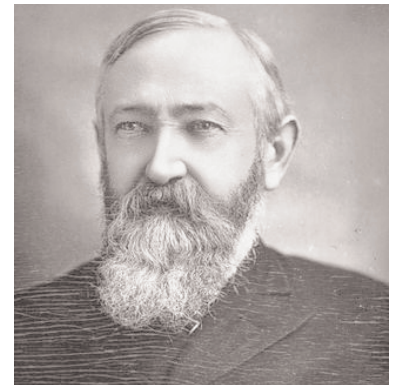
Orville Wright

Birthdays - Aviation pioneer Orville Wright (1871-1948) was born in Dayton, Ohio. In 1903, Orville and his brother Wilbur achieved the world's first successful sustained and controlled flight of a motor-driven aircraft, following years of experimentation with kites and gliders.

Birthdays - Bill Clinton, the 42nd U.S. President was born in Hope, Arkansas, August 19, 1946. He was the first President elected who was not alive during World War II.

AUGUST 20

Birthdays - Benjamin Harrison



Benjamin Harrison

(1833-1901) the 23rd U.S. President was born in North Bend, Ohio. He was the grandson of William Henry Harrison, the 9th President.

AUGUST 21

August 21, 1863 - During the American Civil War, William Quantrill led 450 irregular Confederate raiders on a pre-dawn terrorist raid of Lawrence, Kansas, leaving 150 civilians dead, 30 wounded and much of the town a smoking ruin. In 1862, Quantrill had been denied a Confederate commission by the Confederate Secretary of War, who labeled Quantrill's notions of war as 'barbarism.'



Dwight D. Eisenhower

August 21, 1959 - President Dwight D. Eisenhower signed a proclamation admitting Hawaii to the Union as the 50th state.



Benigno S. Aquino, Jr.,

August 21, 1983 - Filipino opposition leader Benigno S. Aquino, Jr., was assassinated at the Manila airport while leaving his plane. Public outcry over the killing ultimately led to the collapse of the government of Ferdinand E. Marcos and the inauguration of Corazon C. Aquino, widow of the slain man, as president.



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Valley of Flowers



Valley of Flowers is located in Chamoli district (near Badrinath) of Uttarakhand, approximately 300 km to the north of Rishikesh. Valley of flowers is a World Heritage Site for its wild untamed blooms surrounded by white peaks. It is open from June to September every year.

At the meeting point of the Himalayan ranges, Zaskar and Western and Eastern Himalayas, the valley of flowers discovered by Mountaineer Frank S Smith in 1931 has been declared a world heritage site for its wild untamed blooms surrounded by white peaks. Famous for its exotic varieties of medicinal herbs, it is also believed that Hanuman brought Sanjivani to the ailing Lakshmana from the valley of flowers. A perfect place to laze around the umpteen number of Himalayan water-falls, streams and paddocks and let the beauty of the place sink in.

Valley of Flowers National Park

Resting in the Western Himalayas, the Valley of Flowers in Uttarakhand is a lively and beautiful national park famous for its meadows of alpine flowers. Combined with Nanda Devi National Park, the two of them together

constitute the Nanda Devi Biosphere Reserve. It was also included in the list of the World Heritage Sites by UNESCO in 2005. Initially known as Bhyundar Valley, its name was changed to Valley of Flowers by the British mountaineer Frank S Smythe in the year 1931. Gifted with a diverse range of flora and fauna, this picturesque beauty is one of its kind. Situated high in the lofty Himalayas of the Garhwal region, this enchanting valley is also considered as the place from where Hanuman collected Sanjeevani Buti to cure Lakshmana.

The verdant pastures, beautiful mountains, and running streams attract millions of tourists every year from all over the world. No human settlements are present inside the park and grazing is completely banned. Since it is a UNESCO World Heritage Site, many international travellers visit the biosphere reserve. Situated in the transition zone between Eastern and Western Himalayan flora, seven restricted-range bird species are prevalent in this part of the Himalayas. The trek to the valley of flowers is indeed a one to remember for it is lined up with wild rose bushes, perfumed wildflowers and wild strawberries. It is a must-visit

place for all those who love serenity combined with nature's beauty.

Nanda Devi National Park

In proximity to Nanda Devi, which is the second highest peak in India, lies the Nanda Devi National Park in the Chamoli district of Uttarakhand. A UNESCO World Heritage Site, this park is one of the most biodiverse regions in the world and is home to some of the rarest and unique high-altitude flora and fauna in the world. The breathtaking views, coupled with the richness of biosphere, set this national park aside from all others that are located in the country.

The area was given the status of a national park in the year 1982 to protect and conserve the exotic flora and fauna in the region and to save it from further environmental degradation. Today, the Nanda Devi National Park is one of the most important ecological hotspots of the world and is home to a variety of birds, mammals, plants, trees and butterflies.

The Nanda Devi National Park offers marvellous opportunities for trekking and hiking and is indeed an adventure enthusiast's dream come true. In fact, the

trek to the base camp is considered to be one of the most challenging ones. The Nanda Devi National Park is open to visitors for only six months in the entire year, from 1 May to 31 October. There are also countless opportunities here of exploring the beauty and grandeur of nature. The Valley of Flowers, Badrinath Temple and Hemkund Sahib, located in the vicinity of the national park are also famous tourist destinations. This important ecological hotspot of the world is a great place to be at, to be in touch with both, yourself and nature.

Fauna & Flora

This area is home to several rare and endangered species including the Snow leopard, Asiatic black bear, musk deer, flying squirrel, tahr, brown bear, red fox and blue sheep. However, the density of animals is very low. Among the birds, Himalayan Monal Pheasant and other high altitude birds can be sighted in this National Park. Among flowers, orchids, poppies, primulas, marigold, daisies and anemones are very abundant. However, there are more than 500 species of higher plants in this area. Some of these plants also have medicinal values.

Source: Holidify



contd from page 1

PM Modi Launches Attack against Nepotism and Graft; Calls for a Developed India by 2047

The PM hailed the occasion as a major milestone in the journey of aspirational India and launched his most scathing attack ever on corruption and nepotism, seeking people's cooperation to clean up the society.

He described graft, dynastic politics and nepotism as top challenges facing India and said the government was at a decisive stage in the fight against corruption.

The remarks, that came in the midst of active Enforcement Directorate action against a host of politicians, including Congress President Sonia Gandhi and her son Rahul in the National Herald matter, were qualified with even more stringent statements where the PM said corruption was eating into India's vitals like termite and asked for social hatred for perpetrators of graft.

"The country will have to fight corruption. We are trying hard so that those who looted the country are made to pay back. Until society develops a sense of hatred towards corruption and the corrupt, until people learn to start looking down on the corrupt, this mindset is not going to end," said the Prime Minister, flagging nepotism not just in political circles but across all segments of work life.

Laying the roadmap for the future, the Prime Minister said the way ahead for India was through "Jai jawan, jai kisan, jai vigyan and jai anusandhan".

While the first two slogans "Jai Jawan, Jai Kisan" were given by late PM Lal Bahadur Shastri, "Jai Vigyan" was coined by Atal Behari Vajpayee. PM Modi today added "Jai Anusandhan" saying the government was strengthening research frameworks-from the oceans to space-to give wings to the aspirations of India's youth.

Not only did the PM speak of the need to remain aware of the challenges of climate change in times of shock weather events, he called upon all to ensure that the dignity of women was maintained.

Emphasizing Nari Shakti, the PM said, "It is important that in speech and conduct, we do nothing that lowers the dignity of women."

The PM also said that the goal of self-reliance was not a government programme but a collective urge.

"Atmanirbhar India is not a government programme. It is a collective national campaign and we have to together move towards this goal," he said, adding that India can show the world the solution to the problem of global warming because Indians see God in nature, in stones, in trees and treat rivers as mothers.

The thrust of PM's ninth straight address from the Red Fort on August 15 was a focus on making India a

developed country.

Everything else that he stated-from the pledges he gave to his clarion call against corruption and the corrupt-fitted into the larger narrative of developing India.

"India is a ray of hope for the world. The way the world is seeing India is changing. There is hope from India and the reason is the skills of 130 crore Indians," said the PM, noting that in Amrit Kaal (the next 25 years of freedom leading up to 2047), we have to come together and work towards another big goal of a Viksit Bharat (developed India).

India's strengths, the PM said, were diversity and democracy.

"Being the Mother of Democracy gives us the inherent power to scale newer heights," said the PM, describing the day as a pious landmark, an occasion for fresh and loftier resolutions.

The August 15 ceremony is particularly significant this year as it marks the 75th anniversary of India's independence, with the government launching a host of exercises to add to the verve around the celebration. (With inputs from TNS and PTI)

Indian Embassy in Guatemala to organize a 3-day "MADE IN INDIA" grand trade exhibition in Guatemala City on 21-23 September 2022

Indian Industries) would like to organize an immaculate 3-day "MADE IN INDIA" grand trade exhibition in Cayala (with a targeted daily footfall of around 7000 people), Guatemala City, on 21-23 September 2022. The exhibition is aimed at increasing B2B and B2C connectivity between India and Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras, and other countries of the Latin American Region", the Ambassador added.

Ambassador Mohapatra further said that the exhibition would showcase India's strength in Handicrafts, Textiles, Gem & Jewelry, Ayurveda products, Pharmaceuticals, and Automobiles sectors. The event would also focus on promoting India's rich heritage, culture, resilience in supply chain, particularly focusing on Atmanirbhar Bharat. On the sidelines of the main event, the Mission would also like to organize several cultural programs; Indian textile fashion show, showcasing India's rich and vibrant textile sector; yoga & ayurveda workshops; Incredible India tourism shows and Indian culinary. "As there is a big presence of Indian automobiles in the region, we would also take the help of local Indian companies to showcase the sector", Mr. Mohapatra added.

Extending an invitation to all, Ambassador Mohapatra said the Exhibition offered an opportunity to witness the presence of Indian companies and their contributions in furthering economic & commercial

relations between India and Central America.

Salman Rushdie survives a murderous attack, on way to slow recovery

"He's off the ventilator, so the road to recovery has begun," his agent, Andrew Wylie, wrote in an email to Reuters.

"It will be long; the injuries are severe, but his condition is headed in the right direction."

Rushdie, 75, was set to deliver a lecture at the Chautauqua Institution in western New York on the importance of the United States as a haven for targeted artists when police say a 24-year-old man rushed the stage and stabbed him.

The Indian-born writer has lived with a bounty on his head following the publication of his 1988 novel "The Satanic Verses," which is viewed by some Muslims as containing blasphemous passages. In 1989 Iran's supreme leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini issued a fatwa, or edict, calling for his assassination.

Writers and politicians around the world have condemned the attack. U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken said on Sunday that Iranian state institutions had incited violence against Rushdie for generations, and state-affiliated media had gloated about the attempt on his life.

"This is despicable," Blinken said in a statement. "The United States and partners will not waver in our determination to stand up to these threats, using every appropriate tool at our disposal."

The suspect in the stabbing, Hadi Matar of Fairview, New Jersey, pleaded not guilty to charges of attempted murder and assault at a court appearance on Saturday, his court-appointed lawyer, Nathaniel Barone, told Reuters. Neither local nor federal authorities have offered any additional details on the investigation, including a possible motive.

An initial law enforcement review of Matar's social media accounts showed he was sympathetic to Shi'ite extremism and Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC), according to NBC New York. The IRGC is a powerful faction that Washington accuses of carrying out a global extremist campaign.

Rushdie was flown by helicopter to a hospital in Erie, Pennsylvania, for treatment after the attack.

Following hours of surgery, he had been put on a ventilator and was unable to speak as of Friday evening, Wylie had said in a prior health update, adding that he would likely lose an eye and had nerve damage in his arm and wounds to his liver.

One of Rushdie's sons said on Sunday that his father remained in critical condition but was able to say a few words after getting off the ventilator.

"Though his life changing injuries are severe, his usual feisty & defiant sense of humor remains intact," Zafar Rushdie wrote on Twitter.

Efforts on to bring back Nawaz: Imran

AUGUST 14

LAHORE (TIP): Efforts are underway to bring back deposed Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif to the country from London next month, claims Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf chairman Imran Khan.

The cricketer-turned-politician also talked about the pressure (from the establishment) to agree on "nullifying Nawaz's lifetime disqualification" so that he could compete in the next General Election in 2023.

Indirectly referring to the powerful military establishment of the country, Khan said: "A plot is hatched to disqualify me in Toshakhana and the prohibited funding cases to pave way for PML-N supremo Nawaz Sharif's return



from London next month," Imran Khan told a jam-packed party rally at the National Hockey Stadium in Lahore on

Saturday midnight.

The ruling Pakistan Muslim League (Nawaz) (PML-N) has made it almost

official that its supreme leader Nawaz would return to Pakistan ahead of the next General Election for a "real one-on-one bout" with Khan.

Interior Minister Rana Sanaullah recently declared that Nawaz would return ahead of the next General Election to run the party's campaign.

"There has been talk in the party about the return of Nawaz. He is likely to return to Pakistan ahead of the next elections, whenever they take place, to spearhead the PML-N's campaign," Sanaullah said. According to reports, Pakistan's Election Commission is preparing to hold General Election by October, one year ahead of schedule. (PTI)

SHAMBOLIC MANCHESTER UNITED SUFFER HUMILIATING 4-0 LOSS AT BRENTFORD

A shambolic Manchester United side conceded four goals in the opening 35 minutes in a 4-0 drubbing at Brentford on Saturday, August 13, as their woeful start to the Premier League season continued.

United's seventh successive away league defeat was assured long before the interval as Brentford took ruthless advantage of a catalogue of errors by the visitors.

The rout began in the 10th minute when United keeper David de Gea allowed a weak shot by Josh Dasilva to slip past him.

Things got worse for United eight minutes later when De Gea played the ball out to former Brentford player Christian Eriksen who was caught in possession and Mathias Jensen slotted home.

When United's defence failed to deal with a corner and Ben Mee glanced in a close-range header to make it 3-0 the Brentford fans were ecstatic while United's new manager Erik ten Hag looked ashen-faced in his technical area.

Brentford's fourth was a gem as Ivan Toney delivered a diagonal ball to Bryan Mbeumo from a counter-attack and Mbeumo calmly beat De Gea.

PREMIER LEAGUE: VILLA BEATS EVERTON 2-1 AS GERRARD GETS BETTER OF LAMPARD

Steven Gerrard got the better of former England teammate Frank Lampard in their first meeting as managers as Aston Villa beat Everton 2-1 thanks to goals by Danny Ings and Emi Buendia in the Premier League on Saturday, August 13.

Ings turned inside the penalty area after receiving a pass from strike partner Ollie Watkins, took an extra touch to his left and scored with a fierce left-footed strike in the 31st minute.

Watkins, back in the starting team after being a substitute in the 2-0 loss at Bournemouth last weekend, also set up Buendia for the second goal in the 86th. The Argentina playmaker slipped a pass through to Watkins, whose low center across the face of goal was tapped in by Buendia.

While Villa secured its first win of the season, it was a second straight loss for Lampard's Everton, which barely threatened until Lucas Digne bundled the ball into his own net from a cross by substitute Amadou Onana in the 87th.

The closest the visitors came before that was a goal, scored by Anthony Gordon at a corner, that was ruled offside against the winger. There was a late flurry of efforts by Everton in stoppage time but Villa held on.

Gerrard and Lampard were long-time teammates for England — they were brilliant as individual players breaking forward from midfield but struggled to be compatible as a pair in central midfield — and went into senior management around the same time in 2018.

Sania Mirza continues to make waves in her year of retirement



By Prabhjot Singh



Sania Mirza giving an autograph at the National Bank Open Tennis championship in Toronto.

India's greatest woman tennis player Sania Mirza is making waves in her year of retirement. She is the lone Indian woman player competing in the National Open Tennis Championships. And she has already left a mark in Toronto.

It may be a mere coincidence that the ongoing National Bank Open Tennis championship may be the last tournament for a couple of top tennis stars of yesteryears.

Incidentally, one of the greatest women tennis players, Serena Williams (United States), played her last match on Canadian soil on Wednesday, August 10.

After making her first semi-final in mixed doubles in the oldest Grand Slam Wimbledon early this year, Sania created a sensation in Toronto on Wednesday, August 10.

Sania and partner Madison Keys of the United States toppled top seeds Veronika and Elise Mertens of Belgium.

The Indian-American pair won 3-6, 6-4, 10-8 to secure a place in quarterfinals. Earlier, in the first round, Sania and Keys had beaten Alize Cornet and Jil Teichmann 6-4, 3-6, 10-6.

At 35, Olympian Sania played some excellent ground strokes in both the matches in National Bank Open championships in Toronto. She is currently ranked 24th in women's doubles.



Sania Mirza and Madison Keys put together 2 thrilling wins to reach the QF at the WTA 1000 Canadian Masters.

In April 2015, she became the first ever Indian woman to climb to world's number one position in women's doubles.

Sania had announced that after 2022 she would retire from active tennis.

Incidentally, in July it was Sania Mirza's first Wimbledon semi-final in the mixed doubles. Previously, she had made the mixed doubles quarterfinals in 2011, 2013 and 2015.

With Sania Mirza playing her final season of professional tennis, this was her final match at the Wimbledon - the very tournament that helped her leave her first mark on international tennis almost two decades back.

In 2005, she became the first Indian woman to win a singles WTA Tour title, picking up the crown at her hometown event in Hyderabad; also first Indian woman to lift a Grand Slam doubles title (2015 Wimbledon) and first Indian woman to rise to No.1 in either singles or doubles (did so on April 13, 2015). She represented India in 2008, 2012 and 2016 Olympic Games.

In the 2016 Rio Olympic Games, she in partnership with Rohan Bopanna missed her first Olympic medal by a whisker. She and Rohan lost to Rajiv Ram and Venus Williams in the semi-finals.

Both Rohan and Sania are playing the Canadian Open this year. Rohan is competing in men's doubles at Montreal.

In 2003, Sania Mirza, then 17, won the

Wimbledon girl's doubles title with Russia's Alisa Kleybanova, becoming the first Indian female tennis player to win a Grand Slam of any kind.

"This is where it all started for me in 2003. That was the beginning of the big things for me. This is the biggest stage of tennis," Sania Mirza had said.

Twelve years later, Sania Mirza went on to win a senior Wimbledon title. In partnership with Martina Hingis of Switzerland, she won the women's doubles title. That was the only time she won a Wimbledon title after her girls doubles title triumph.

"I am going to miss Wimbledon but I think it is time to move on," an emotional Sania Mirza, mother to a three-year-old son Izhaan, had said after losing in the first round of Wimbledon women's doubles.

"There are things in life that take priority over playing tennis matches and I am at that stage now."

Sania is married to Pakistan Test cricketer Shoaib Malik.

(Prabhjot Singh is a veteran journalist with over three decades of experience covering a wide spectrum of subjects and stories. He has covered Punjab and Sikh affairs for more than three decades besides covering seven Olympics and several major sporting events and hosting TV shows. For more in-depth analysis please visit probingeye.com or follow him on [Twitter.com/probingeye](https://twitter.com/probingeye). He can be reached at prabhjot416@gmail.com)

Overseas Indians do Canada, England proud in CWG

Overseas Indians hold limelight in Commonwealth Games; Canada, India finish third and fourth in medals tally



By
Prabhjot Singh

Overseas Indians did not win many medals in the just concluded Commonwealth Games. They, however, won many hearts.

They brought honors to their new lands of abode. England and Canada. These nations had them among their medal winners.

Amarveer Singh Dhesi, Jasprit Singh Phulka and Nishan Randhawa (wrestling Canada), Bikramjit Gill (3x3 basketball for men, bronze Canada), Priyanka Dhillon (boxing Canada), Kyle Kothari (diving England) and Mandheer Singh Konner (wrestling England) had a podium finish in Birmingham.

Besides, Suraj Singh (wrestling New Zealand) missed the podium by a whisker. In all, 42 athletes of Indian origin represented seven countries in the Games. The countries they represented were Canada, England, Scotland, Australia, New Zealand, Fiji and Kenya. Five of them - four for Canada and one for England - were among medalists.

As expected, Australia remained unsurpassable in the Commonwealth. It retained its leadership title in the 22nd Commonwealth Games by winning 178 medals, including 67 gold, to edge out the hosts England.

Australia's wrap up came with a superb 7-0 win over India in the final of the men's hockey competition.

Host nation England secured its most successful Commonwealth Games ever with a raft of medals on the final day taking it to 176. It was just two medals short of the leaders tally of 178.

England's previous best medal tally was 174 - set at Glasgow 2014. It entered the final day at Birmingham 2022 in 166 and ticked past its previous record with gold and silver in the men's doubles Squash final.

With a number of finalists guaranteeing medals, it was the diving gold and silver for the pairings of Andrea Spendolini-Sirieix and Noah Williams and Lois Toulson and Kyle Kothari which effectively sealed its record haul.

England ended a close second with 173 medals and its tally included 56 gold, 64 silver and 53 bronze medals. And its tally included a silver by Kyle Kothari and a bronze medal won by Mandhir Singh Kooner of Punjab origin.

India finished fourth, behind Canada, with an aggregate of 61 medals, including 22 gold. In the last edition of



Amarveer Singh Dhesi



Nishan Randhawa



Priyanka Dhillon



Kyle Kothari



Mandhir Singh Kooner



Bajrang Punia

the Games at Gold Coast, India had won 66 medals, including 16 medals in shooting. This time, both shooting and archery were excluded from the programme in Birmingham.

India's medal tally saw dominance of athletes of Haryana, especially boxers (both men and women), and wrestling (both men and women).

Incidentally, these two high contact sports gave India 19 medals, including nine gold. Nitu (Boxing), Vinesh Phogat, Sakshi Malik (wrestling) were the women gold medal winners from Haryana.

Bajrang Punia, Deepak Punia, Ravi Kumar, Naveen (wrestling), Amit (boxing) gave India gold in their respective sports.

Athletes from Punjab won honors - silver and bronze medals - in weightlifting. Harjinder Kaur, Vikas Thakur, Lovepreet Singh and Gurdeep Singh were Punjab medalists. Besides, the silver medal winning men's hockey team and bronze medal winner Indian women's hockey team were also represented by Punjab players. Men's team was led by Manpreet Singh of Punjab.

Canada had an impressive haul of 92 medals as it had 26 gold medal winners besides 32 silver and 34 bronze medalists.

The 12-day Games that attracted nearly 4500 athletes from 72 member nations of the Commonwealth witnessed some exciting and interesting competitions with the world javelin throw champion Peterson of Grenada beaten by Pakistani thrower.

Defending champion in javelin, Neeraj Chopra, dropped out at the last minute because of a groin injury he

incurred in the Eugene World Championship.

While Canada won most of its medals - 20 - in aquatics, it also won its first ever silver medal in Squash besides showing strong presence in both Wrestling and Weightlifting.

In Wrestling, Canada won nine medals, including three, one of which came from Amarveer Singh Dhesi, a wrestler of Punjabi origin. And two of bronze medals went to other grapplers of Punjabi origin, Jasprit Singh Phulka and Nishan Randhawa.

In weightlifting Canada won eight medals that included two gold medals.

The Canadian dominance in 3x3 basketball was nearly complete as it won four medals, including two gold, one of which came in wheelchair category.

In the absence of some of its top athletes, including sprinter de Grasse, Canada had an impressive haul of four gold, one silver and two bronze medals in the track and field competitions.

Besides wrestling, in another sport of close contact, Judo, Canada won four gold three silver and one bronze medal.

Of four medals won in Boxing, Priyanka Dhillon of Punjabi origin, contributed a bronze in the 45-48 kg category.

For India, the major scoring areas were wrestling - 12 medals, including six gold and one silver - and weightlifting 10.

In the absence of Neeraj Chopra, India won eight medals in track and field, including its first ever double - a gold and a silver - in triple jump for men.

In Boxing, India did very well by winning seven medals, including three gold. A gold and silver in Lawn Bowls were a pleasant addition to the Indian



Harjinder Kaur

medals tally.

In the maiden competition for women in cricket, India ended with a Silver losing a close match to Australia by nine runs.

In badminton, India made a clean sweep of singles titles for men (Lakshya Sen) and women (PV Sindhu) besides winning the men's doubles title though it had to contend with a silver in the mixed team contest.

Table tennis also gave India, not only the men's team title but also men's singles and mixed doubles title with Sharath Kamal Achanta contributing a lion's share to the Indian tally.

(Prabhjot Singh is a veteran journalist with over three decades of experience covering a wide spectrum of subjects and stories. He has covered Punjab and Sikh affairs for more than three decades besides covering seven Olympics and several major sporting events and hosting TV shows. For more in-depth analysis please visit probingeye.com or follow him on [Twitter.com/probingeye](https://twitter.com/probingeye).

He can be reached at Prabhjot416@gmail.com)

I almost decided to quit wrestling after Tokyo, says Vinesh Phogat

NEW DELHI (TIP)

Vinesh Phogat on Saturday said she nearly quit wrestling after failing a second time to win a medal at the Olympics in Tokyo before Prime Minister Narendra Modi's pep talk rejuvenated her to continue.

While a knee injury in the quarterfinals dashed her hopes in 2016 Rio Olympics, Vinesh again crashed out in the last eight stage in Tokyo, despite entering her weight category as the world No.1.

Vinesh admitted that the two disappointments pushed her to the brink of quitting wrestling, long before she reinvented herself with a gold medal at the just-concluded Commonwealth Games in Birmingham.

"Definitely, you can say that (Vinesh 2.0 reloaded). I have managed to cross a big mental barrier. I almost gave up wrestling because in two Olympics I couldn't win a medal. Olympics is the biggest stage for an athlete. But my family always backed me, they always trust in my abilities," the star wrestler told PTI.

"When I was low, I met Modi ji (Narendra Modi) and he gave me



motivation. He said 'we trust you and you can do it'. That reignited the spark in me."

Vinesh said the support she got from

her family and fans also kept her motivated to keep going.

"Since childhood I like sports. I always

play from my heart, I don't have any pressure from anyone... I feel happy when I win. I always have the passion to win. My family is always supportive of what I am doing," she said.

"After you win everybody is behind you, but when you get the support after losing it matters a lot, and I have got that from my family, fans and well-wishers after Tokyo."

She said for any athlete nothing is bigger than getting rewards for hard work.

"The most important thing for an athlete is to replicate the thing in the mat which you did in training. I couldn't do that in Tokyo and I am still very sad about it.

"But the hard work I have put in the last one year, the way I have managed myself, I wanted to prove myself... The support which I got from all quarters was also at the back of the mind, I can't disappoint myself. "Some people whom I have never met, never knew them, they supported me, backed me, I just thought I have to rise again for them," Vinesh said.

"They are the ones who has been backing my wrestling career and I owe them everything." *Source: PTI*

New Zealand beat West Indies by 90 runs, lead T20 series 2-0

KINGSTON (TIP)

Glenn Phillips struck a half century from 33 balls to propel New Zealand to a 90-run win over the West Indies in the second Twenty20 international, clinching the three-match series with a 2-0 lead.

After reaching his fifth T20 half century, Phillips went on to 76 from 40 balls and led New Zealand to 215-5 as it batted after winning the toss, exceeding the 185-5 that was a winning total in the first match of the series. His innings included six sixes and four fours.

The West Indies managed only 125-9 in reply, lacking the partnerships that underpinned a New Zealand total which was the highest by a visiting team against the West Indies in a T20 in the Caribbean.

Phillips put on 71 for the third wicket with Devon Conway who made 42 from 34 balls and 83 with Daryl Mitchell who made 48 from 20.

The West Indies' best were stands of 35 for the seventh wicket between Romario Shepherd and Rovman Powell which began when the home team was 40-6 and the match probably was already lost. Hayden Walsh (10) and Obed McCoy (23) put on 38 in an unbroken stand for the last wicket.

Phillips put to good use his knowledge of conditions at Sabina Park, which is his home ground in



the Caribbean Premier League.

"Coming back to Sabina Park is amazing. I've got great memories here," Phillips said in a television interview. "Being able to get a 50 for my country over here in front of a crowd which I really love is definitely very special for me.

"Credit to the West Indies for the

way they bowled up front with the new ball which was really, really good in terms of taking the pace off the ball when it was new and harder. As it got older the pitch became a bit nicer to bat on."

Seven West Indies wickets fell to spin bowlers, including the first four of the innings.

PV Sindhu pulls out of World Championships owing to stress, fracture

NEW DELHI (TIP)

India's star shuttler P V Sindhu on Saturday, August 13, pulled out of the upcoming BWF World Championships owing to a stress fracture on her left foot.

In a statement which she shared on Twitter, the double Olympic medallist confirmed that she will be missing the 2022 World Championships.

Sindhu has won the World Championships gold in 2019, along with two silver medals and two bronze.

"While I am on the high of winning a gold medal at the CWG for India. Unfortunately, I have to pull out of the world championships. I felt pain and there was an injury scare at the quarter-finals of the CWG, but with the help of my coach, physio and trainer, I decided to push as far as I could," Sindhu said in the statement.

"The pain was unbearable during and post the finals. Hence I rushed for an MRI as soon as I got back to Hyderabad. The doctors confirmed a stress fracture on my left foot and recommended rest for a few weeks. I should be back to training in a few weeks. Thank you all for your support and love," she added.

The World Championships will be held in Tokyo from August 21 till August 28.

Sindhu has won the gold medal in the women's singles event at the recently-concluded Commonwealth Games and revealed that she had been playing through pain at the multi-sport extravaganza. *Source: PTI*



contd from page 20

GOPIO-CT Celebrates India's 75th Independence Day with Flag Hoisting, Kite Flying, Cultural Events

The activities for 2022 gave an overview of several programs GOPIO-Ct offers to the larger society such as Women's Mentoring Network, Future 5, Children's Learning Center, Building One community, Grassroots of Norwalk/Stamford and Stamford Public Library.

The program included remarks by the honored dignitaries, brief entertainment of music, presenting a community service award and recognition high school graduates who graduated from high School and are on way to prestigious Colleges across the nation\.

Independence Day Liberty Award 2022 Recipient for Service to GOPIO-CT and Community Causes was given to Ashok Nichani, past president of GOPIO-CT,

Following the flag hoisting, an India Festival comprising of colorful Folk and Classical Dances of India, Music, Magic Show and Bollywood Dances were enjoyed by one and all. There were vendors who served delicious Indian food, Indian arts and crafts, Indian clothing and other items were displayed at the Park, giving a glimpse of India's rich and diverse culture.

(Press Release issued by Ajay Ghosh)

contd from page 72

NYC BATTERY DANCE FESTIVAL FEATURES INDIA@75

contemporary dance and urban landscape.

NTRINSIK MOVEMENT, KINDRED SPIRIT

"Kindred Spirit" is an excerpt of a multi-disciplinary production entitled "House of Love" that reflects our culture and

heritage.

Ballet Inc., Touche, - World Premiere

Set to Debussy and Brahms, "Touche" is a contemporary ballet that investigates the idea of the female and male emotive response to difficult decisions.

ALISON CHASE/PERFORMANCE, TSU-KU-TSU

"Tsu-Ku-Tsu" explores the balance and order of a regal procession giving way to full-throttle pandemonium of tumbling, leaps, and rebounds.

AUGUST 18, 2022 AT 7PM AT ROBERT F. WAGNER JR. PARK

Demi Remick & Dancers, That's Entertainment! - World Premiere

"That's Entertainment!" is a rhythmically virtuosic and theatrically driven tap dance work set to the music of Judy Garland.

FLOYD MCLEAN JR., COLD - NYC PREMIERE

"Cold" explores the importance of holding one another up in a world that seems like it has its cards stacked against you.

BATTERY DANCE COMPANY, HOFFMAN DANCES

"Hofmann Dances," is a trio of new dance works inspired by Hans Hofmann, one of the 20th century's most influential painters and teachers.

TEATIME COMPANY, STICK-STOK, NETHERLANDS - U.S. PREMIERE

In "Stick-Stok," TeaTime Company focuses on the blending of Circus and Dance, utilizing juggling, contemporary dance and Chinese pole skills.

FAIRUL ZAHID & LASALLE DANCE SINGAPORE, ALLOCENTRIC, SINGAPORE - WORLD PREMIERE

Hailing from Kuala Lumpur and now based in Singapore, award-winning choreographer Fairul Zahid explores the hierarchy of multiple social identities.

TINA CROLL + COMPANY, BALKAN

BACCHANAL

"Balkan Bacchanal" explores the intricate rhythms and moods found in the music from Bulgaria, Macedonia, and Romania.

AUGUST 19, 2022 AT 7PM AT ROBERT F. WAGNER JR. PARK

DALLAS BLACK DANCE THEATRE, FACE WHAT'S FACING YOU!

Choreographed by company dancer Claude Alexander III, the piece is an honest, soul-stirring work addressing the facing of life's challenges.

LANECOARTS, SWERVE

"Swerve" explores society's deviating, swerving away from the foundational principles of nature.

DOS PROPOSICIONES DANCE THEATRE, PACTO DE FUGA, SPAIN - U.S. PREMIERE

"Pacto de fuga" is the answer to the choreographer's concern for exploring the coexistence between contemporary dance and urban landscape.

IKADA CONTEMPORARY DANCE COMPANY, UNFOLDING

Choreographer Ae-Soon Kim's cultural roots and life journey on three continents weave together the people, places and things encountered to compose the soul.

BATTERY DANCE COMPANY, HOFFMAN DANCES

"Hofmann Dances," is a trio of new dance works inspired by Hans Hofmann, one of the 20th century's most influential painters and teachers.

COMPAGNIE VIRGINIE BRUNELLE, LES CORPS AVALÉS, CANADA - U.S. PREMIERE

Against a backdrop of resilience and hope, "Les Corps Avalés" explores power relations, inequalities and social upheaval.

AUGUST 20, 2022 AT 6PM AT THE SCHIMMEL CENTER AT PACE UNIVERSITY - *RESERVATIONS REQUIRED*

BOCA TUYA / OMAR ROMAN DE JESUS, LOS PERROS DEL BARRIO COLOSAL

Through the exaggerated mannerisms of daytime television, the six characters of "Los Perros del Barrio Colosal" take us on a wild romp through the challenges of creative decision-making.

BATTERY DANCE COMPANY, HOFFMAN DANCES

"Hofmann Dances," is a trio of new dance works inspired by Hans Hofmann, one of the 20th century's most influential painters and teachers.

JULIENNE DOKO, LOST MEMORIES, DENMARK - U.S. PREMIERE

"Mémoires Perdues" questions the notions of collective memory and progress: Do we really learn from the lessons of the past?

TEATIME COMPANY, STICK-STOK, NETHERLANDS - U.S. PREMIERE

In "Stick-Stok," TeaTime Company focuses on the blending of Circus and Dance.

DALLAS BLACK DANCE THEATRE, FACE WHAT'S FACING YOU!

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BATTERY DANCE

To learn about Battery Dance & the Festival, visit batterydance.org

(Mabel Pais writes on The Arts and Entertainment, Social Issues, Health & Wellness, Cuisine and Spirituality)



75 Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav



Happy 75th Years of Indian Independence Day



Mr. H S Panaser, President
Global Indian Trade and Cultural Council USA
Globalindiantradeandculture.com

9:41

The INDIAN PANORAMA
EVER TRUTHFUL

is NOW on APPLE NEWS, too





A World without Childhood Blindness

Only by doing good can one benefit
-Rig Veda



An Eye Institute in Rajahmundry, Andhra Pradesh to prevent avoidable childhood blindness

Vision of Dr. V.K. Raju, the Eye Foundation of America and Goutami Eye Institute

- * 3.5 million + served
- * 350 thousand + surgeries
- * 30 thousand + on children

Message from Peter J. McDonnell, M.D. Director Wilmer Eye Institute, Johns Hopkins University, USA on the occasion of laying the foundation stone on December 10, 2020



"On behalf of all my colleagues of the Wilmer Eye Institute in Baltimore, MO, I send my best wishes and congratulations to our friends in Goutami on this extremely important occasion. This beautiful facility will match the wonderful world class work of your doctors, nurses and staff in preserving and restoring the vision of so many patients. We in the United States are inspired by your dedication and admire your tireless efforts to serve so many who need your skills and compassion. Best wishes, Peter"

"There can be no keener revelation of a society's soul than the way in which it treats its children". - Nelson Mandela



POST SURGERY



PRE SURGERY

Triplets Prasanth, Susanth and Nisanth, who were treated by Goutami Eye Institute three years ago and gifted vision for life, as ROP babies under GEMROP (Goutami Eye tele Medicine Retinopathy Of Prematurity).

Treating disease and vision problems
Performing free cataract surgeries
Screening infants and children
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<https://youtube/B23VvUaloN4> <https://youtube/KiCzqLQe2VE>

To know more about the work of Eye Foundation of America or to donate, visit www.eyefoundationofamerica.org

ॐ सर्वे भवन्तु सुखिनः Sarve Bhavantu Sukhinah,
 सर्वे सन्तु नरिमायाः । Sarve Santu Niramayah
 May all be prosperous and happy!
 May all be healthy!

The Eye Foundation of America
 695, West View Avenue, Morgantown, WV 26505
 Phone: 304-599-0705
www.eyefoundationofamerica.org



ADVT

THE INDIAN PANORAMA

FRIDAY AUGUST 12, 2022

104



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FREE PERFORMANCES

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Madison Ave. from E38ST to E27ST

FOOD FEST & BOOTHS

E26ST from Madison Ave. to Park Ave.
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