



The

INDIAN



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We Wish Readers A Happy 75th Independence Day Of India

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India Day Parade draws Crowds despite of Inclement Weather

PRO-FARMERS PROTESTERS DEMONSTRATE AND DISRUPT THE ENTERTAINMENT PROGRAM



Dignitaries. Seen, among others (L to R): Nassau County Executive Laura Curran, Grand Marshall Consul General of India Randhir Jaiswal (3rd from left), Grand Marshall Ileana D'Cruz, Grand Marshall Dr. J. Sarkar, IDP USA President Deepak Bansal

I.S. SALUJA

HICKSVILLE, NY (TIP): India Day Parade (IDP) USA drew crowds despite of inclement weather on Sunday, August 8. It was the 7th parade in 10 years of the existence of IDP USA. Last year, because of Covid conditions, the organizers took out a car rally. Earlier, the parade was not taken out for 3 years on account of internal strife among the founders / organizers.

Starting from Patel Brothers Plaza on South Broadway, the parade made it to the entertainment stage at the parking lot near Asa Mai Hindu temple, off North Broadway.

Because of intermittent rain, not many people thronged the sides of the 2-mile route.

On the way, pro-farmers protesters at some places gathered and shouted slogans in favor of protesting farmers in India. They also carried placards saying, "No Farmers, No Food."

CONTD ON PAGE 104

US WARNS 9/11 ANNIVERSARY COULD INSPIRE EXTREMIST ATTACKS



The 9/11 Memorial in New York City - For representation only

WASHINGTON (TIP): The upcoming 20th anniversary of the September 11 attacks as well as approaching religious holidays could inspire extremist attacks, the Department of

Homeland Security said in a terrorism alert issued Friday, August 13.

DHS did not cite any specific threats in the National Terrorism Advisory System Bulletin. But it noted that the US is in a "heightened threat environment," fueled by factors that include violent extremists motivated by racial and ethnic hatred and resentment of restrictions imposed during the pandemic.

DHS issues the warnings to alert the public as well as state and local authorities. They reflect intelligence gathered from other law enforcement agencies.

The bulletin is an extension of a similar one issued in May that expired on the day the new one was issued. DHS says domestic extremists remain a national threat priority for US law enforcement and will for at least the remainder of the year. *contd on page 104*

Ravi Batra's advice to Gov Andrew Cuomo to "heal, enjoy fatherhood fully, and find himself, outside of politics, as a Sphinx of a man."

I.S. SALUJA

NEW YORK (TIP): Attorney Ravi Batra the other day sent a note to The Indian Panorama which clearly carried a friend's concern for another in the wake of the latter's tragic fall from grace in the wake of allegations of sexual misconduct. Cuomo probably did not realize when the allegations flew into his face that he was no Donald Trump. At the same time, he also found, ironically, unlike Donald Trump, his conscience pricking him and finally compelling him to step down.

Cuomo could have saved himself from the disgrace he encountered by stepping down the moment the smoke rose, but he allowed the smoke to choke him.

Ravi Batra who is a friend to Cuomo decided to give him an open friendly advice.

"Ranju & I know Andrew Cuomo as a dear friend when he was New York State Attorney General and supported him fully. I saw in him qualities of a President Teddy Roosevelt - and said so - to reporter Liz Benjamin. He is "blue-blood" to power, which to paraphrase Mark Twain in "The Prince and the Pauper," Andrew is a Prince who would never use the great seal of New York "to crack walnuts." *contd on page 2*



Andrew Cuomo and Ravi Batra

A GOLD MEDAL FOR INDIA AT THE TOKYO OLYMPICS AT LAST



Neeraj Chopra has created history by winning India's first Olympic gold in athletics (Javelin Throw) The 2018 Commonwealth Games champion, 23, registered a best throw of 87.58m on Saturday.

Neeraj Chopra wins historic Olympic gold in athletics India's total medal tally-7 (1 gold, 2 silver, 4 bronze)

TOKYO /NEW YORK (TIP): "It feels unbelievable," said Chopra. "It's a proud moment for me and my country." Neeraj Chopra is only the second Indian to win an individual gold after Abhinav Bindra in the 10m air rifle event at Beijing 2008.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi congratulated Chopra on Twitter, saying that history had been created. Chopra's gold was India's seventh medal - one gold, two silver and four bronze - in Tokyo, their best ever Olympic haul having passed the six they won at London 2012. *Read more Tokyo Olympics reports on page 96.*



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-: COMMENT :-

Happy 75th Independence Day of India



PROF. I.S. SALUJA



We wait for a whole year to say excitedly "Happy Independence Day! Here we are, into the 75th year of Independence on August 15 and celebrate the day as another happy birthday of the free Indian nation.

A birthday is a birthday, an occasion for celebration. Normally, nobody wants to remember any unhappiness of the past or the worry of the present or the apprehensions about the future. It is fun that birthday is meant for. So, we have parades and pageants, music and dances, parties and banquets.

Even the deadly Covid which has claimed thousands of Indian lives cannot dampen our spirits to celebrate the occasion. We will gather together in numbers, at places, fairly large and party on land and on water, and, well, may be, in the air, too. But celebrate we must. After all, it is a day of independence, and we must breathe freedom- a freedom for which

our forefathers made tremendous sacrifices, even laid down their lives.

As I, too, with my compatriots, prepare to celebrate the 75th Independence Day of India, I look back at the journey of the nation which was born on 15th August 1947. It was a birth which came with blood of hundreds upon thousands of Indians who were trying to relocate in the wake of the partition of the country in to two parts- one Pakistan, born on August 14 and the other, India, born a day later, on August 15. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has done well to remember the day, the horrors attached with it, and the lives lost. For the first time, a Prime Minister thought of a 'Vibhajan Vibhishika Smriti Diwas' or Partition Horrors Remembrance Day in the memory of those who lost their lives during the Partition. A kind thought. Thank you, Prime Minister.

I hope I am not a spoilsport recalling the sacrifices of freedom fighters and remembering those who lost their lives in that struggle and during the partition.

Let me come to the rosy side. I look back at the 74 years of Indian Independence and feel happy to see India standing tall in the comity of nations. India speaks. India is heard. As I write this comment, India is presiding over the United Nations Security Council. What an honor!

The Tokyo Olympics haul of a Gold, 2 silver and 4 bronze medals, coming just a few days before the Independence Day, has certainly added to the joy and pride of Indians all over the world. Congratulations to medal winners, Indians and the Diaspora across the world.

As they say, "count your blessings." So, let me count just the blessings in the editorial comment. I leave the analysis of the past, the present and the future of India to the many authors and readers who have been kind enough to express their views in the 108 pages of this Independence Day special edition.

The Indian Panorama family wishes all a Happy 75th Independence Day of India.

Jai hind!

contd from page 1

Ravi Batra's advice to Gov Andrew Cuomo to "heal, enjoy fatherhood fully, and find himself, outside of politics, as a Sphinx of a man."

But, unfortunately, that which made him American royalty or political aristocracy, was also his Achilles' heel: as in a nation of laws, under-pinned by our exceptional "separation of powers" regime, no one can control government. Andrew amazingly did. Indeed, to avoid going to war with my

friend, I quit the powerful New York State Joint Commission on Public Ethics (JCOPE) in September 2012, even as I was one of its founding commissioners warmly supported by my dear friend, the late great District Attorney Robert M. Morgenthau Jr. I even sent him a letter, as both he and I are "blue-blooded" sons of great fathers. But he was surrounded by a tight circle of "yes" men and women, benefitting and roasting warmly in his power.

His accumulation of extra-constitutional control permitted him to act - in public policy or private conduct - as if he was above the law. And just like a car without "brakes" and only an "accelerator," a crash is inevitable as it is unavoidable. Andrew's crash has been happening over 10 years, like a fine Opera taking time to

build to a crescendo: a tragic end of Andrew the Great.

I knew his Dad, Hon. Mario Cuomo, albeit, not as well as Andrew. Still, he was the happy personification of the American Dream, and an orator Mark Anthony would applaud. There is no joy in seeing my old friend Andrew self-destruct like Lazarus flying too close to the sun. In time, his private conduct will have met a full measure of justice, but history will always weep for what he would and could have wrought, as a sensible centrist Democrat worthy of being president of the United States and keeping us all safe from enemies foreign and domestic. I wish Andrew to heal, enjoy fatherhood fully, and find himself, outside of politics, as a Sphinx of a man."

-: LETTER TO THE EDITOR :-

"No Safe Harbor for Hate in Nassau County"

DEAR EDITOR:

On Sunday, July 25, I had the distinct honor and privilege to celebrate the opening of the beautiful Gurudwara Shaheedan of Hicksville and rejoice in the spirit of peace, love and light embraced by our brothers and sisters of the Sikh community.

Last week, we learned that a gurdwara under construction in New Hyde Park was the target of disgusting, racist vandalism. Worse yet, as reported by the Washington Post, the Sikh Coalition noted the vandalism occurred days before the ninth anniversary of the Oak Creek gurdwara mass shooting in

Wisconsin, when on Aug. 5, 2012, a gunman with links to neo-Nazi groups killed six worshippers.

This most recent incident is sadly emblematic of the targeted hatred that so many in the Asian American Pacific Islander (AAPI) community have endured throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. That is why I filed legislation this spring to update County law to specifically outlaw discrimination based on an actual or perceived relationship to the pandemic and empower victims of discrimination to sue for compensatory and punitive damages and other relief deemed appropriate by the court.

Unfortunately, since that time, the measure has languished without a public

hearing. I once again urge my colleagues in the Majority to bring this measure to the floor of the Legislature so that it can be debated, approved, and sent to the County Executive's desk.

Hate has no place in Nassau County, and I proudly stand with the Sikh community today and always. Police are asking anyone with information about the New Hyde Park incident to call Nassau County Crime Stoppers at 1-800-244-TIPS. All callers will remain anonymous.

ARNOLD W. DRUCKER
Nassau County Legislator (LD 16)
Plainview, NY



तरनजीत सिंह संधू
Taranjit Singh Sandhu



भारत का राजदूत
AMBASSADOR OF INDIA
2107 Massachusetts Ave., N.W.
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10 August 2021

MESSAGE

On the occasion of the 75th Independence Day of India, I extend my warm greetings to fellow Indians and the Indian-American community. I would also like to commend the Indian Panorama for bringing out a special publication to commemorate this important milestone.

2. As we celebrate this year's Independence Day, we are also entering into the Seventy Fifth year since attaining freedom. This momentous occasion presents an opportunity to recall the sacrifices of our freedom fighters; reflect on independent India's journey so far; and resolve to build the India of tomorrow, realizing the dreams and aspirations of 1.3 billion people. It is with these objectives that the 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav' has been launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

3. The India-US relationship plays a critical role in delivering peace, prosperity and development to our people and to the world at large. Bilateral ties have become deeper and stronger under the leadership of Prime Minister Modi and President Biden. The helping hand that both the countries extended to each other during the ongoing pandemic is but one example of the immense potential of this partnership.

4. The Indian-American community continues to play a significant role in taking the bilateral ties from strength to strength. I warmly recall the support received from the Community during the pandemic situation in India this year.

5. Once again, I convey my best wishes and greetings on the occasion of India's 75th Independence Day.

Jai Hind.

Taranjit S. Sandhu
(Taranjit Singh Sandhu)



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August 2021

Jai Hind to everyone celebrating Independence Day!

Since India's independence 75 years ago, our two countries have taken pride in our vital partnership and friendship and built upon our shared democratic values and the entrepreneurial spirit of our people. It is my honor and pleasure to represent in Congress one of the largest and most vibrant Indian American communities in the United States, whose advice and counsel has been integral to my advocacy for the Indian people. I am proud of the work we have done together to foster the U.S.-India relationship and fight against the COVID-19 pandemic. Earlier this year, I called on the Biden Administration to further assist the Indian government and its people in the battle against COVID-19 – a request that was heard.

While much of our world's future remains unknown, we can count on the continued friendship between our two great nations. I look forward to continuing to elevate the U.S.-India partnership, which I know will be one of our most important friendships for the next 50 years. I wish all my friends in the Indian community happy, healthy, and safe celebrations. Jai Hind!

Thomas R. Suozzi
Thomas R. Suozzi
Member of Congress



भारत का प्रधान कौंसल
न्यू यॉर्क



CONSUL GENERAL OF INDIA
NEW YORK

August 11, 2021

MESSAGE

On the occasion of India's 75th Independence Day, I convey my warmest wishes to one and all. We are delighted that The Indian Panorama is bringing out a special supplement on the occasion. 15th August, India's Independence Day, is an occasion to remember our founding fathers first and foremost, and I humbly pay my tributes to them. The generations thereafter, have worked tirelessly to build India into a modern nation, standing tall in the comity of nations with its ever-glowing democratic ethos and values. I pay my heartfelt respects to them as well.

I need not emphasize how significant a landmark Independence Day is in a nation's life. Growing up in rural India, I vividly remember celebrating 15th August as a child. Each year a festive celebration was held at the village school, where young and old gathered with flags in their hand, and joy and happiness in their heart. There was a deep sense of pride and passion as we unfurled the Indian Flag and sang the National Anthem. Years have gone by and I have moved from country to country, geography to geography and culture to culture, celebrating our Independence Day. But one thing that has remained unchanged for me, from the celebrations in the village school to those here in New York, is the deep experience of exhilaration, commitment and belonging to my land. As I pen these thoughts, the same sense of well-being and pride runs through my mind.

As part of India@75 celebrations, we have begun our "Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav" to celebrate our Independence Day with joy and fervor. In New York, we will have several programs from now on to 15th August, 2023, with the high point being on 15th August, 2022 when India completes 75 years of Independence. I urge all Indians, Indian-American community members and friends of India to join us in these festivities. And I look forward to their whole-hearted support in making these celebrations a grand success.

We are in the middle of a pandemic. The global community together has come up with solutions to defeat Covid-19. India is playing a significant role in this international endeavor. Even as we work tirelessly to build our nation, we remain steadfast in our commitment to contributing to the progress and prosperity of the world at large. For India, the mantra of *Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam* – the world is one family – is not just an age-old philosophy, but an abiding principle that it lives every moment, every day. I, once again, wish all the readers of The Indian Panorama a happy Independence Day.

(Randhir Jaiswal)
(Randhir Jaiswal)



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ALCOHOLISM AND
SUBSTANCE ABUSE

August 12, 2021

The Indian Panorama
124 Dean Street
Hicksville, NY 11801

Dear Friends,

It is with great pleasure that I extend my warmest greetings and congratulations to the Indian Panorama and the Indian-American Community as we celebrate 75 years of Indian Independence. As one of the first Asian-American in the New York State Senate, along with the first Indian-American, Senator Kevin Thomas, I am proud and honored to be part of this special publication to commemorate this auspicious occasion.

The Indian Panorama is a New York & Dallas based English weekly newspaper serving non-resident Indians & Indian Americans for Asian News, Immigration, Diaspora News in the United States. A vision of Professor Indrajit Singh Saluja, who has been involved in Punjabi and English journalism since 1996, the newspaper was launched in New York in 2006.

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, multi-religious contemporary American society.

What is most comforting about the newspaper is that while it reaches out across the country and adheres to new-age technologies, it does not leave behind the sense of closeness of family and deep traditional values that is so inalienable to South Asian culture.

The editor, Prof. Indrajit S. Saluja is gifted with a superb sense of the South Asian community and its growing place in the complex mosaic of contemporary American society.

On behalf of the New York State Senate, I commend The Indian Panorama for their invaluable and essential services. My sincere thanks to Prof. Indrajit S. Saluja for his hard work and dedicated leadership. I give my heartfelt congratulations to each of you once again as we celebrate this momentous occasion.

Sincerely,

John C. Liu



Asoke Mukerji
Author, Analyst and Former Diplomat

Message

Independence Day celebrations for India this year are very special, since this is our 75th Independence Day. This is also a historic month, as during August 2021, India is the President of the UN Security Council, which has been given the "primary responsibility" by the UN Charter to maintain international peace and security.

India's progress since the first Independence Day in 1947, commemorated by Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru's memorable "tryst with destiny" speech, has been visible. Over the past seven and a half decades, we have ensured our transition from a colonial country into a vibrant modern democracy, anchored in our Constitution that was adopted within three years of our Independence through an open, inclusive, and participatory process. The Constitutional Advisor to the Constituent Assembly of India, Sir Benegal Narsing Rau, CIE became India's Ambassador and Permanent Representative to the United Nations in New York. Our early contributions to establishing a global architecture based on the equality and dignity of mankind are the foundation for continuing this journey.

Our aspirations to accelerate our transformation have been significantly aided by using new technologies and digital platforms, that seek to empower us and bridge the physical and digital divides within our country.

I am delighted to greet the readers of "The Indian Panorama" on 15 August 2021, India's Independence Day!

Asoke Mukerji



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Gale A. Brewer, Borough President



August 12, 2021

Dear Friends:

It is a pleasure to join the people of India and New Yorkers of Indian descent across the five boroughs to celebrate the 75th anniversary of India's independence. Because our nations share this formative aspect of our history—the struggle for freedom and autonomy to establish a democratic nation—we will always be close.

When the new nation's first prime minister, Jawaharlal Nehru, raised the Indian flag in Delhi on August 15, 1947, he celebrated the success of an Independence Movement noted for largely nonviolent resistance and civil disobedience led by the Indian National Congress. We deeply admire and respect the morality and amazing courage of a people who achieved autonomy without compromising their stand against widespread bloodshed and suffering.


There are estimated to be 221,818 Indian Americans residing in New York City—and this robust and vibrant community of Indian New Yorkers is steadily growing. Manhattan is very fortunate to be the home of so many from this intellectually and spiritually rich cultural community.


Again, all best wishes to our Indian friends on this important national holiday!

Sincerely,

Gale A. Brewer
Gale A. Brewer

DONOVAN RICHARDS
President





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August 12, 2021

Dear Friends:

It is my pleasure to wish a Happy Independence Day to the readers of this special edition of *The Indian Panorama* that marks the 75th annual Independence Day of the Republic of India.

Ever since the first Indian Independence Day on August 15, 1947, this annual celebration has given us an opportunity to recognize India's many important accomplishments. From being the world's largest democracy to empowering a growing economy and workforce (especially in the field of technology), India has so much to be proud of.

India is also a true friend of the United States of America. In an often uncertain world, India and the United States have been positive allies in the effort to foster prosperity for all people.

Those of Indian heritage who live in the United States should also take pride in the many contributions they have made to the betterment of the United States and their local communities, especially here in the Borough of Queens, home to more than 140,000 Indian Americans.

In recognition of the important contributions Indian Americans have made to Queens, it will be my honor to host our office's virtual India independence celebration today (Thursday, August 12) at 6 pm EDT.

All are invited to attend what should be a wonderful online celebration of India and Indian Americans. Those who wish to attend can RSVP at www.queensbp.org/rsvp, and the entire event will be livestreamed for viewing at www.queensbp.org.

The nearly 2.4 million residents of Queens, "The World's Borough," join with me today in wishing Indian Americans and those living in India, a very happy Independence Day. May your Independence celebrations be joyous, safe, and full of meaning as we embrace this important milestone.

Sincerely,

Donovan Richards Jr.

Donovan Richards Jr.
President
Borough of Queens



CONSUL GENERAL OF INDIA



MESSAGE

On the momentous occasion of 75th year of India's Independence as Indians at home and abroad celebrate the 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav', I extend my hearty felicitations and warmest greetings to all the readers of 'The Indian Panorama'. I congratulate the publishers for bringing out the special edition to mark the historical landmark.

This is a special year for all of us as it marks the 75th anniversary of its independence from the clutches of colonial rule. It is a proud moment for all the members of Indian community. We share the pride and joy in celebrating this journey of our motherland.

Covid crisis has demonstrated that India continues to be a strong pillar of strength among the global fraternity. From vaccines to CoWin platform, we have helped a number of countries in their fight against the deadly pandemic. It was a reflection of the core value of 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam' – entire humanity is one family – that India stands for.

Our diaspora in United States also deserves a word of appreciation in the way they stood by their motherland during the pandemic. I recall with extreme satisfaction and pride the way we helped each other especially during the early days of the pandemic. People have offered their homes, food, shelter and medicine to the needy during those difficult days. We truly lived by the values that India has cherished over the years.

Once again, I appreciate the initiative by the Indian Panorama and wish all its readers a very Happy Independence Day!

Dr. T.V. Nagendra Prasad

(Dr. T.V. Nagendra Prasad)



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



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August 2, 2021



MESSAGE

I am happy to note that 'The Indian Panorama' is publishing a special issue on the momentous occasion of the "75th Independence Day". My warm felicitations to all of you.

"Independence Day" is an occasion to reaffirm our commitment to all those great men and women who fought for and sacrificed so much for the freedom we enjoy today.

It is also an occasion when we take pride in impressive advances which the country has made. Today, India is a strong, vibrant, multicultural, and secular democracy with a dynamic economy in the world with tremendous human resources and technological skills.

On this occasion we also celebrate the achievements of most successful Indian Diaspora worldwide including Indian American community in this part of the world which has distinguished itself in all fields.

Let us commemorate "Azadi Ka Amrut Mahotsav" and glorious history of progressive India.

I wish all readers of 'The Indian Panorama' success and happiness on this significant occasion. Once again, Happy "75th Independence Day"! Jai Hind!

(Signature)
(Dr. Swati V. Kulkarni)

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भारत का प्रधान कौंसुल
ह्यूस्टन
CONSUL GENERAL OF INDIA
HOUSTON

August 11, 2021

Message

I extend my warm greetings to fellow Indians and to the Indian-American community on the occasion of the 75th Independence Day of India. I am happy to note that *The Indian Panorama* is bringing out a special issue on this occasion.

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 part of these celebrations, the Consulate has drawn out a roadmap of events and activities to deepen the partnership between both countries for promoting trade & investment. We are partnering with multiple stakeholders to plan interactions to highlight the opportunities in the areas of energy, healthcare, information communication technologies, startups, innovation and manufacturing. India's National Education Policy 2020 offers immense potential to strengthen our partnership in the areas of education and knowledge. We are working with educational & research institutions in this part of United States for building institutional linkages, promoting exchanges, joint research and collaborating with institutions in India. We have also planned various seminars, conferences and events to showcase the rich and diverse culture of India and other community initiatives.

We look forward to the continued support of *The Indian Panorama* to strengthen our outreach and promote events which we plan to organize.

The vibrant Indian-American community has been a strong pillar in our bilateral relationship with the United States. I take this opportunity to greet all of them on Independence Day and for their immense contribution for deepening the multifaceted ties between India-United States.

(Signature)
(Aseem R. Mahajan)

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



Message

Dear Overseas friends of India, I wish you a very happy Independence Day 2021. It is my pleasure joining "The Indian Panorama" on our 75th Independence Day and I extend my heartfelt greetings. We celebrate Independence Day every year to remember the sacrifices of the brave Indian freedom fighters.

We, as a nation, are making substantial progress towards betterment of life for our fellow citizens. Whether its battling the Pandemic, counter terrorism, cleanliness, yoga, make in India initiative, bringing to market all new innovations and solutions that will improve people's lives. The Govt. is taking proactive steps and with all these, India is now being seen as emerging Global power.

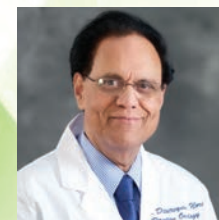
Our Honorable Prime Minister has launched the India@75 celebrations which reflects the need of the three-dimensional development of India to acquire enough economic strength, technological viability and moral leadership. Let us take a pledge to take our country to the greater heights with enthusiastic participation in call given by our Honorable Prime Minister.

My best wishes to all.

Jai Hind!

Virendra Bansal

**Padma Shri Dr. Dattatreyudu Nori MD, MBBS
Radiation Oncologist**



Message

Dear Professor Saluja,

It is a very proud occasion for all of us to celebrate the 75th Independence Day of India. I convey my warmest greetings to all readers of the Indian Panorama. I am also delighted that the Indian Panorama is bringing out a special section on this occasion.

Over the past 75 years, India has boldly taken on the challenges of poverty, illiteracy, social, economic, and healthcare inequality. India is now a world leader in science, medicine, technology, commerce and innovation. This is vividly demonstrated by the presence of non-resident Indians in the top Executive positions in over thirty Global companies. Indian physicians are leading the way in the fight against the Covid-19 pandemic, both at the federal government level as well as in the private sector.

The Indian American community has continuously promoted a bilateral relationship with the United States. Together, we should continue to promote strong family values and democratic principles. We should also seek to preserve Indian culture and heritage in America as we look to the future.

D. Nori



THE BATRA BUILDING
142 LEXINGTON AVE.
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212-545-1993

RAVI@RAVIBATRALAW.COM
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August 15, 2021

Professor Saluja, Publisher & Editor-in-Chief
The Indian Panorama

Dear Professor Saluja,

Ranju joins me in wishing India, Indian-Americans, friends of a secular and democratic India and readers of *The Indian Panorama*: Happy 75th Independence day!

From Pandit Nehru's hopeful "*tryst with destiny*" celebration in 1947 to PM Narendra Modi's bold *Washington Declaration of "Indivisibility"*, on June 9, 2016 between India and United States, India's tryst has succeeded in full measure. Our *Constitution* is largely India's Constitution thanks to Columbia Law graduate **Dr. Ambedkar**. Rule of Law and Freedoms define and underpin both the Oldest and Largest democracies, which the respective citizenry of both cherish to nourish democracy itself. So, even **Benjamin Franklin** joins in wishing India a Happy 75th Independence Day.

Warm regards,

Sincerely,

Ravi Batra



Prem Bhandari
Founder Chairman Jaipur Foot USA

Message

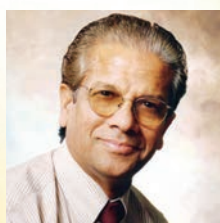
On the occasion of the 75th Independence Day of India, I convey greetings to all the readers of The Indian Panorama. This weekly has served as a communication and information-sharing bridge between India and the Indian diaspora. It is a great pleasure to know that Indian Panorama is bringing out a special issue on occasion.

Independence Day is a special day for all Indians, and we remember the sacrifices of all those who led India to gain freedom from colonial rule. Mahatma Gandhi ji, the Father of our nation, is ingrained in every Indian's memory for his peaceful Satyagraha movement, which led India to freedom and became a shining example to follow for other countries struggling for freedom. The Champaran Satyagraha of 1917 was the first Satyagraha movement led by Gandhi ji and is considered a historically significant rebellion in the Indian Freedom Struggle. The Jaipur Foot/BMVSS organized a first-of-its-kind prosthetics fitment camp in the West Champaran region from July 16th to 20th. Close to 200 differently abled people from remote villages received prosthetics and calipers free of cost.

The COVID's lethal second wave hit India very hard in April and May this year. The Jaipur Foot USA team got involved in the very early days of the pandemic and sent Oxygen Concentrators and Ventilators to various Indian states, including Rajasthan, Delhi, Haryana, Maharashtra, Bihar, Uttarakhand, Kerala, Jharkhand and West Bengal. BMVSS Jaipur played a critical role in timely distributing equipment and supplies to needy people, hospitals, and breath banks. Jaipur Foot USA also launched the 'Oxygen on Wheels Program' and 'Oxygen Bank' to take care of future waves under Padma Bhushan D.R. Mehta, founder and chief patron of BMVSS.

I extend warm greetings to the readers of the Indian Panorama on this occasion and wish them continued success.

Prem Bhandari



V.K. Raju MD, FRCS, FACS
Adjunct Professor, Wilmer Eye Institute, Johns Hopkins University
President and Founder, Eye Foundation of America

Message

Best wishes to all the readers of The Indian Panorama on this 75th Independence Day of India. India can be a world-class economic juggernaut erealong. After all, India was the richest country when British came to its shores in 1700s. It is a free and open society with a viable parliamentary democracy and deep-rooted cultural and social traditions that have weathered the storms of religious and regional tensions and of a volatile polity.

We all know that there is a cavernous gap between India's tremendous potential and depressing reality, such as- air pollution, water pollution, fuel adulteration, lack of sewage treatment operations, environmental degradation, lack of public health, loss of biodiversity, loss of resilience in ecosystems and livelihood insecurity for the poor. I am aware of the incredible strides India had made since 1990s.

If we develop a mind set of "so little done; so much to do", sky is the limit for India as we have the greatest and largest natural resource that no other country has, 530 million of young people below the age of 34.

I often visit India (which gave me stellar medical education almost for free). Our foundation (EYE FOUNDATION OF AMERICA / WORLD WITHOUT CHILDHOOD BLINDNESS) is committed to combat avoidable blindness in India and beyond. People call this charity and I see our work as investment.

During my visits and throughout the year in the social media we hear the incredible past glory of India. (Pushpaka viman, Arya Bhatta, Chanakya, ...and the list goes on). Let us remind ourselves "The Past is our Cradle, not our Prison, and there is danger and as well as appeal in its glamor. The past is for inspiration, not imitation, for continuation, not repetition" (Israel Zangwill)

By change of mindset, sky is the limit for India. Post-second World War Germany and Japan are outstanding examples of the effect of harmonious cooperation. For this harmonious cooperation, may I quote Nani Palkhivala's prescription for India, "When we break our tradition of being collectively foolish, in spite of being individually intelligent."

Jai Hind!
Dr. VK Raju



Dr. Thomas Abraham
Chairman, Global Organization of People of Indian Origin (GOPIO) Intl.

Message

Seventy Four years ago, after a long non-violent struggle called Satyagraha, India got its independence from the British Colonial Rule. At that time many in India and outside doubted whether the new republic will sustain itself, due to widespread ignorance, poverty and divisiveness of our people. However, India made progress under a democratic rule in all the seven decades and now moving forward to become the third largest economy in the world in this decade. As we celebrate 74th anniversary of India's Independence, let us rededicate ourselves to the cause of democracy, freedom, justice and peace not only in India but all over the world.

While India was building up in the last 7 decades, India had also sent large number of its brightest to America who have made substantial contributions in building up the economy of America. Our contributions are noted very well in the Health Care especially our doctors and nurses are frontline workers against Covid. We have also made outstanding contributions in hospitality, science, engineering and technology and education. We are also not behind in political process. Last year we made history in the USA, not only by the election of Indian/African American Senator Kamala Harris as the Vice President and reelecting the four House of Representatives but also a record number of lawmakers to the state houses. That is a tremendous contribution and impact we are making in America. With our professional and financial resources, at this Independence Day, let us commit to join together to help our Motherland and other developing countries.



भारत का प्रधान कौंसल
शिकागो



CONSUL GENERAL OF INDIA
CHICAGO



MESSAGE

I extend my warm greetings and felicitations to fellow Indians, members of the Indian diaspora and readers of The Indian Panorama on the occasion of the 75th Independence Day of India.

As we celebrate *Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav* to commemorate this momentous occasion, it is important to recall the contributions of, and dedicate this festival to the people of India, who have been instrumental in our journey as a nation so far, and who within them hold the power and potential to take our nation to even greater heights, fuelled by the spirit of *Atmanirbhar Bharat*. Amrit Mahotsav aptly embodies our progressive socio-cultural, political and economic initiatives.

The India-US strategic partnership today is wide-ranging and dynamic, covering all almost every facet of human endeavour. Our ever-growing partnership over the past two decades is underpinned by people-to-people contacts. The Indian diaspora has contributed immensely to the growth of our relations. The Consulate is actively engaged with them to further deepen and expand this crucial partnership as well as striving to ensure that our services to the community are rendered in expeditious and smooth manner.

I also thank the Indian Panorama for their initiative in bringing out a Special Edition on this occasion. It has played an important role in connecting us with the Indian Diaspora in USA. I wish them continued success in their future endeavours.

Akumar
(Amit Kumar)

13 August 2021

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QUEENS COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY
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MELINDA KATZ
DISTRICT ATTORNEY

August 12, 2021

Dear Friends,

Greetings to the readers of Indian Panorama on the occasion of the 75th Independence Day of India. The history of India and its people is of great importance around the world and uniquely relevant to Indian Americans here in the borough of Queens.

Thank you to the Editors of the Indian Panorama for once again celebrating the ties that join the Indian Diaspora and reminding us all of the rich cultural and political legacy of India's history. We remain connected to one another not only by our respect for the past but our shared hope for the future.

In Friendship,

Melinda Katz

Melinda Katz
Queens District Attorney



Naveen C Shah CPA
President and Chief Executive Officer
Navika Group of Companies

Message

15th of August is a reminder of the sacrifices of thousands upon thousands of Indians who struggled for decades to win their freedom from the British rule on this day in 1947.

Like the country which is so diverse in geography, culture, language, customs, faiths and religious practices, the people who staked their lives in the freedom struggle came from diverse communities. They waged a relentless struggle as one for their freedom. I bow my head to them.

Over the years, India has given an evidence of this thread of unity in times of neighborly belligerence or internal dissensions. They have stood together to protect the fabric of the free and democratic nation.

It is because of this unity and a unity of purpose that India has made tremendous progress in the last 75 years of its freedom. However, much more needs to be done. The benefits of the growth need to reach the poorest of the poor which is not happening yet in India. It is a lop-sided development one sees and feels concerned about. While a few get richer by the minute, the poor get poorer by the second. This imbalance needs to be corrected.

Let all of Indian origin all over the world pledge on this auspicious 75th Independence Day of India to remain committed to the unity of the great nation and work, as Gandhi dreamed "to wipe every tear from every eye".

I should not forget to wish the Indian Diaspora a happy Independence Day.

I compliment Prof. Indrajit S Saluja for bringing out a special edition of The Indian Panorama to commemorate the historic day.

Jai Hind!



Together Towards Tomorrow



August 11, 2021

To:
Professor Indrajit S. Saluja.
President & Chief Editor: The Indian Panorama
New York

Dear Prof. Saluja,

August 15, 2021, marks the 75th Independence Day of India. While it is a celebratory occasion and a national holiday, wherein people hoist the national flag, wear colors signifying the tricolor and cultural activities. Today we cherish the ones who made our independence possible. Freedom is hard to get, but we were blessed to have it. Let's appreciate everything we have and celebrate the great miracle of freedom. "Happy Independence Day"

It is evident that India is a budding economic superpower, yet all too often it finds itself cast as the poor relation to its neighbor and rival China. At one level, this is understandable. However, India is no slouch. In the past decade it has gone from tenth largest economy to seventh and by 2030 is forecast to be third, behind China and the US. India has made big contribution in Healthcare, Pharmaceuticals, IT, Defense, Automotive, Medical devices, Infrastructure segment and needs more collaborations and ease to do business approach. India is now helping SMEs and MSMEs to enter a new phase of FDI and collaboration. This will bring a great opportunity for youth in employment and start-up of India. Global investors would be excited to work with these young entrepreneurs.

The 75th Independence Day adds to the joy of all Indians in the field of sports and athletics by winning 7 medals in Tokyo Olympics 2021; one Gold, two Silvers and three Bronze medals. We equally appreciate women hockey and all players who represented India in Tokyo Olympics 2020. This is just a beginning as "sky is the limit", the race to compete has just begun.

The Global Indian Trade and Cultural Council, USA appreciates Professor Indrajit S. Saluja's Editor in Chief: The Indian Panorama, in capturing diverse voices and perspectives of Asian Indians in all verticals and values of news media and is worthy of our deepest appreciation, gratitude, and respect. I join all the readers of the Indian Panorama in sharing the spirit of freedom, happiness, and prosperity on 75th Indian Independence Day...

Thanks and regards

H.S Panaser (Harry)
Chair, Global Indian Trade and Cultural Council, USA
Director, International Affairs, C3 Summit LLC
Ex-President, Global Haryana Chamber of Commerce
Ex-Chair, Tri-state, USINPAC
E-mail: gitec.c3@gmail.com
C: +1- 732-266-202



HEROES OF INDIAN FREEDOM STRUGGLE

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



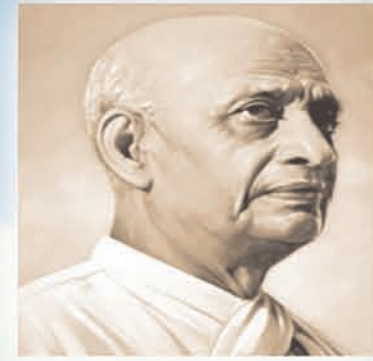
Lokmanya Bal Gangadhar Tilak
(1856-1920)



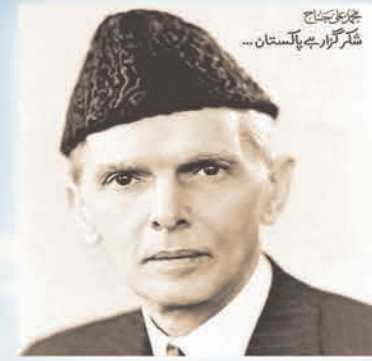
Lala Lajpat Rai
(1865-1928)



Mahatma Gandhi
(1869-1948)



Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel
(1875-1950)



Mohammed Ali Jinnah
(1876-1948)



Vir Savarkar
(1883-1966)



Maulana Abul Kalam Azad
(1888-1958)



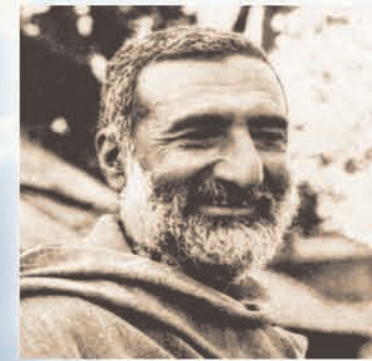
Pt Jawaharlal Nehru
(1889-1964)



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, 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 Independence Day





The Indian Panorama loves its readers and values their views. It has always been our effort to get the readers to express their views on various subjects and issues. This way, The Indian Panorama gets enriched even as readers other than those who commented get the benefit of the perspectives of those who contributed. For the Independence Day special edition, we requested readers to write on India of their dreams. We received an enthusiastic response. We thank the readers who have contributed. Here is what they said.



Anu Jain
Realtor
Long Island, NY

India is a great nation with loving people, and it is a multi-cultural, multi-lingual, and a multi-religious society. I dream of an India that is free from corruption at all levels. It would be a place where the betterment of the country and its people would be the sole agenda of the government. In India, corruption has been at the high side of the Indian politics for years and it has been filled with many greedy politicians whose interest is above the nation's people; The rate of corruption is growing day by day and the common man suffers in the hands of politicians who are only interested in fulfilling their own selfish motives. Once corruption is out of the system many things will fall automatically in place such as the usage of the public fund. The public fund shall be utilized in improving India's infrastructure, education, medical care, agriculture, military, and other sectors. It will also be used to make the atmosphere cleaner and healthier for the citizens of India. My dream India should have no discrimination on castes or religion, we are all Indian. We are not divided into Jain, Sikh, Hindu, Christian, Muslim, or any other religions. Different ethnic groups should be able to live in perfect harmony with each other. I want to see equality in education and employment, a nicely funded education system where the poor and the rich are able to acquire the same opportunity in order to gain the best education.



Dr. Renee Mehrra
President Reenbow Media
Queens, NY

As a proud Indian American who for several years has co emceed India Day Parade in NYC, I salute our freedom fighters and our unsung heroes whose dedication, courage, and sacrifices for their motherland will never be forgotten. Despite these unprecedented and challenging times, our passion to rejoice, celebrate, and revisit India's vibrant history, rich cultural heritage and eternal values remain undiminished. Moving forward from India's 75th year of independence, I envision My India as a country that leads the world in unity in diversity, where the next generation is an ambassador of peace, harmony, and goodwill, where more and more youth script history in the Olympics like our young hero Neeraj Chopra. where the girl child is respected and nurtured, and there is social equity and inclusion in every sphere.



Arish K Sahani
New York Life Agent
Queens, NY

Being born in India, I feel proud to say that I was born in a great civilization. India is one of the few places in the world where different family members are living with your one family and because of that, I feel proud to say that before I attended school and learned from my neighborhood uncles and aunts about the rights and wrongs in life. I was made to realize that - I am a Human and I need to learn HOW TO LIVE LIKE A HUMAN. It is only the humans of this world that need to know and learn how to live like a human. Animals don't have to learn or be educated in a school system to learn the ways of life like we do. No one understands the importance of DNA, place of birth, and the culture you are born in unless you grow up and see the differences in each area.

The importance of good and honest leadership is recognized when you see the working of two different leaders from two different parties. When living in a democracy, if you have not realized and used the power to VOTE in your life, you are not fit to live in a democracy.

In today's world, everyone is running towards money. But no one ever thinks that you come empty handed into this world and you leave empty handed from this world.

Sanatana Dharma teaches life principles. You carry and take with you the load of all your Karmas, and you are reborn again to carry on your desires and wishes.

All Indians who love India should be proud of the present leadership who has made India a world of focus.

It is a surprise for many that one billion Hindus have no Hindu nation as of yet. The world is watching and wondering if India will survive and if the locals of India are free to convert to any enemy culture and the right to destroy India by using political games.

I have been living in the United States for the past 50 years but I wish for myself to be born as a Hindu again in India.

I feel sad when our media and our education system have no programs to teach our young how to live like a human and how to develop the will to fight evil and to learn the non-truth. Millions living with the non-truth have no will to gain freedom from the corrupt systems of the unfortunate education system that we have today.

Arish Sahani
Born Hindu
Grav Se Kaho Main Hindu Hoon.



Gobind Bathija
C.E.O / President
GBN Enterprises, Group of
Companies, Long Island, NY

India's society is divided by Caste, Religion, Region and Gender, however, are unified in Celebration of its' Independence. The Nation has seen substantial progress in many areas including rise in income levels, global growth, and advancement in literacy and life expectancies. The per capita income increased in real terms despite a significant increase in the population of the country.

Sophisticated and modern technology has led to reduced prevalence of diseases leading to longevity. The increase in the gross enrollment ratios in school and rise in the number of recognized educational institutes in the country provided for the advancement of literacy levels. India has emerged as the top exporter of IT services and their IT sills are renowned all over the world. These, as well as significant infrastructure development, booming Agriculture and tremendous advancement in manufacturing, construction, electricity and gas and water supply sectors have positioned India as a Global leader.

India of the future - A Global Superpower with a primary focus on protecting their citizens through continued infrastructure spending in conjunction with:

1. controlling pollution levels,
2. public health care to reduce maternal and childhood deaths,
3. public safety, utility and water supply
4. reducing economic inequality,
5. housing.

No amount of economic growth with outweigh the safety and health of its people.



Harish Thakkar,
President, AIA New York
Chapter
Queens, NY

India enjoys a rich cultural heritage. People belonging to various castes, creeds, and religions live peacefully in this country. I dream of India that progresses at an even greater pace and joins the list of the developed countries in no time. I want the government to provide equal employment opportunities for all so that the youth get deserving jobs and contribute towards the growth of the nation. I want the country to become technologically advanced and see growth in all the sectors.



Readers Write on "India of My Dreams"



Harbachan Singh
Secretary General, Indian
Overseas Congress, USA.
Queens, NY
**Significance of
Independence Day**

We celebrate Independence Day for several reasons. Firstly, to rejoice the Independence from a colonial power who had all this while been siphoning away all the treasures and wealth away from our country and always gave us a raw deal in our lives. They made easy money and enriched themselves, enjoyed luxurious lives and kept us subdued as servants. Independence Day is also to remind us that we must make sure that our own people will not do the same and keep us downtrodden. That they will not be corrupt, will not enrich their own, will not keep us jobless, will not destroy our environment, our children, our seniors and our health and education systems, will not practice rotten demonetization schemes, will not leave black money overseas, will not do Rafael type deals and make tons of corrupt money, will not punish our farmers who demonstrate peacefully against tyranny, who fail to keep campaign promises, who fail to protect us adequately from Corona and Delta Virus, who practice religious divide and exploit devious IT manipulations to win elections etc. and in the end make us more unhappy and desperate than we were under the colonial rulers. Independence is to enjoy a better quality of life, of love and co-exist with mutual respect, built with our sweat. Let us not shortchange ourselves. Everyone, regardless of class or creed must get a fair share of a country's prosperity. We can lose our freedom by making a wrong choice at the ballot box.



Indu Jaiswal RDN
Chair IAF
Long Island, NY

INDIA AT 75

On behalf of Board of trustees, members of Indian American forum and Indian American Community we want to wish everyone Happy Independence Day on August 15. As we celebrate 75th year of independence of the country, we salute the freedom fighters and their sacrifices made. We pay tribute to the martyrs of the country and continue to develop India of their dreams. As we are all still facing the challenges during the pandemic years, India and the whole world is working towards prevention and treatments of the invisible COVID -19 virus. India faces the biggest challenge for providing affordable and quality medical facilities and hospitals for its people. Our children are still suffering from Malnutrition and poverty. We also need to continue to empower and strengthen women in the field of business, politics and other areas. We need to continue to introduce schools and colleges providing quality education in India. We also see that use of Ayurveda, Yoga, and holistic treatments originating from India are benefiting people all over the world. The Green revolution in India is also leading towards high yielding varieties of rice and wheat to increase food production in order to alleviate hunger and poverty. Mahatma Gandhi said that our greatest ability is not to change the world but to change ourselves. Peace is the most powerful weapon of mankind.

Happy Independence Day. JAI HIND! and VANDE MATARAM!



Urmillesh Arya MD FACP
National President, IAF
Long Island, NY

Future of India

This is the 75th Independence Day of India. This is the time to revise, what we have achieved and what we have to achieve. India is recovering from the Covid Crisis and moving to achieve its goals to make the country, strong, peaceful and prosperous. India is progressing in the leadership of a very strong and patriotic leader Prime Minister Narendra Modi who wanted "Sabka Sath and Sabka Vikas."

He said on this 75th celebration of independence the country will reflect "pride of Sanatan India and the glow of modern India ". He titled it Azadi Ka Amrut Mahotsav."

The dream of future India is the developed India. An India free of poverty and illiteracy, where poor are empowered, the bridge between the poor and rich is within acceptable limits. The underprivileged youth succeed. An India which realizes its full potential in every domain and the educated souls understand the importance of giving back what they have taken from the society. People of India should be mobilized towards boundless energy, spirit and strength so that youth of India can carry out activities aimed at the betterment of life. India has won 5 medals this year Olympics should win many more in future. It will be a country where women are respected and people from all religions co-exists and where every citizen is proud to be an Indian.



Tirlok Malik
Filmmaker Emmy Nominated
| Restaurateur | Happy Life
Yoga Speaker
New York City, NY

An NRI's view on India's 75th Independence Day celebrations

My name is Tirlok Malik. I am an Emmy nominated filmmaker, an Ayurveda Restaurateur, and a Happy Life Yoga speaker. I consider myself a world citizen, blessed to be born in India and now living in America. Many major American corporations including Microsoft, Google, IBM, FedEx, Master card, and Vimeo have Indian American CEOs. And many Indian Americans have found major success in diverse fields such as medicine, hospitality industry, real estate, IT as well as other areas. Indian Americans living all over America are

celebrating the 75th Independence Day of India with parades, floats, band, music, dancers, and having Bollywood actors as grand marshals, local politicians and celebrity sponsors as chief guests, etc. in many cities across America. There is a great sense of pride in it. And it's also fun to attend these parades, meet many people, watch actors dance to the music, listen to patriotic speeches about how great India is. The food stalls are always great at these events. When I look around at attendees, I mostly see Indian Americans of all ages, including young people born in America, clapping and cheering. The whole atmosphere makes me remember how much I miss India, love India, it is a part of my DNA till I die and even after that as I believe in reincarnation and a part of me will always want to be born in India.

Now, I also know most people who are attending will not go to live in India permanently. It makes me question and at the same time I know the answer. I have made all my films about the migration conflicts and its effects on human feelings: be it 'Lonely in America,' 'Love Lust and Marriage,' 'Khushiyaan' and 'On Golden Years or my new short film 'To New India with Love'. I remember when I was studying in the 5th grade in a school in Delhi, I was told that once upon a time India used to be a Golden Bird and people from all over the world came there for education, trade, cultural exchange, etc. As a student being raised without much worldly things, I desired more and also saw most students' fathers working very hard to make a living. I used to secretly hope and wish

for India to become the Golden Bird again so that every Indian living in India could have worldly comforts. But as I grew older the reality was very different. I still hope for India to become the Golden Bird again. After finishing college my destiny brought me to America where I have been fortunate enough to realize my American Dream. But, during my emotional moments I have always missed India and hoped for India to have half of the life's comforts which we have in US.

When I visited my folks back in India for the first time, I realized that the country could be the Golden Bird again, but it can only be done only by Indians living in India. Yes, NRIs can also help towards this in many ways but ultimately the onus lies with the resident Indians. Every time I visit India, I see it's getting better but it can do more. I still have that desire to see India become the Golden Bird in my lifetime. It is possible when all citizens of India are truly free from self-created emotional conflicts, greed, laziness, discrimination, intolerance, corruption, lack of trust and be independent and focused towards having true independence.

It is my request to India to celebrate the 75th Independence Day not only as a freedom from the British but as freedom from the negative attitude and thinking. Let's make India again the Golden Bird for the citizens of India, a Guru for the rest of the world. This is my salute to the 75th Independence Day of my beloved India. No matter where I live, India will always be part of me. I love you, India.



The Role of Yoga and Ayurveda in the U.S.-India Strategic Partnership

August 15, 2021. Sunday at 7:30pm IST

Chief Guest



V. Murleedharan
Minister of State
Ministry of External affairs
Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs

Keynote Speaker



Dr. H. R. Nagendra
Chancellor
Swami Vivekananda Yoga
Anusandhan Samsthana

Guest of Honour



Diya Kumari
Member of Parliament
Member, Inter-Parliamentary
Union Standing Committee of
United Nations (UN) Affairs

Guest Speaker



Michael Rosenthal
Director
North India Office
U.S. Embassy, New Delhi

Guest Speaker



Dr. Abhimanyu Kumar
Vice Chancellor
Dr. Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan
Rajasthan Ayurved University

Guest Speaker



Prem Bhandari
Chariman
Jaipur Foot, USA
Founder Director, Vivekanand Yoga
University, Los Angeles



S-VYASA
Swami Vivekananda Yoga
Anusandhana Samsthana



/JaiJaiRajasthani /Maruwani

/jaipurfootusa /Maruwani1

/Rajasthan Ayurved University

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- **India 7:30 pm**
- **USA 10:00 am**
- **UK 3:00 pm**



Indian Americans number over 40 in Indiaspora Philanthropy Leaders List 2021

WASHINGTON (TIP): Over 40 Indian Americans figure in the 2021 Indiaspora Philanthropy Leaders List recognizing one hundred Indian and diaspora leaders who have made a significant impact with their philanthropic contributions and engagement.

Indiaspora, a nonprofit community of global Indian leaders from diverse backgrounds and professions, released their list of those who are making a difference through their giving at two virtual sessions on Thursday.

Both launch sessions, focused on the Diaspora and India, featured conversations with honorees and leaders in the philanthropy ecosystem.

Prominent Indian Americans on the list include Anna and Raj Asava, Founders, HungerMitao USA, Ajay Banga, Executive Chairman, Mastercard, Deepak Chopra Founder and CEO, Freedom Employability Academy USA, Frank Islam and Debbie Driesman, Founders Frank Islam and Debbie Driesman Foundation USA and Vinod Khosla, Founder, Khosla Ventures.

"It is incredibly inspiring to see so many philanthropists from our community who have translated their success into social impact," said Indiaspora Founder MR Rangaswami. "These leaders serve as an example of the importance of generosity and remind us of the many issues that need our attention."

With guidance from nine jurors and drawing from multiple sources, including reputed studies, earlier verified lists, and publicly shared documents, Indiaspora's 2021 Philanthropy Leaders List recognizes Indian and diaspora leaders across the globe for their philanthropic contributions and engagement, according to an Indiaspora media release.

"It was very gratifying to be a part of this effort, and I appreciated the careful consideration given to each honoree by those who were involved," said Sara Kalim, Director of Development at Somerville College and one of the jurors.

"As someone who works in the development space, I see firsthand how philanthropy can transform lives for the better. This list shines a light on the tremendous power of giving."

With more than 32 million people of Indian origin globally, according to India's Ministry of External Affairs, Indians are the largest diaspora population in the world.

Indiaspora's 2021 Philanthropy Leaders List includes philanthropists from India (26) and from geographies with significant diaspora migration, including the United States (43), the United Kingdom (17), Canada (5), the United Arab Emirates (8), Singapore (10), and Australia (2).

Several of these philanthropists stepped forward to give during the Covid-19 crisis.

"Covid-19 taught us that businesses, nonprofits, government, and philanthropy all play a critical role in lifting the communities they serve and operate in during times of crisis," said Prem Watsa, Founder and CEO of Fairfax Financial Holdings and one of the honorees on the List.

"Indiaspora's Philanthropy Leaders List serves as a reminder to the diaspora to continue the important work of giving even once the crisis abates so our communities can meet future challenges."

The List includes names from various industries including technology, entertainment, finance, and the law, among others, who are using their philanthropy to address issues such as access to healthcare, quality education, water and sanitation, arts and culture, food insecurity, and employability.

"I hope the diaspora will continue to give forward, and even more boldly," said Rohini Nilekani, Founder-Chairperson of sustainable water and sanitation nonprofit Arghyam, who is also an honoree on the List.

"It is both inspiring and critical to resolve many old and emerging societal challenges in India."

Indiaspora's 2021 Philanthropy Leaders List is one of several of the organization's philanthropy-focused initiatives.

Other initiatives include ChaloGive, an online giving campaign that raised more than \$3.5 million in 2021 to provide COVID relief in India, and the Philanthropy Summit, an annual event that brings together nonprofits, foundations, philanthropists, and others in the social impact space to share learnings regarding Indian and diaspora philanthropy.

"This is a transformative moment for philanthropy," said Ashish Shah, Senior Director of Philanthropy and Community Engagement at Indiaspora.

"The purpose of our philanthropy work is to galvanize the Indian diaspora to elevate its level of giving in the next decade, and Indiaspora's 2021 Philanthropy Leaders List is an important step towards building a culture of philanthropy."

Indian Americans on 2021 Indiaspora Philanthropy Leaders List

1. Monte Ahuja, Chairman and CEO, MURA Holdings, LLC USA
2. Anna and Raj Asava, Founders, HungerMitao USA
3. Ajay Banga, Executive Chairman, Mastercard
4. Manoj Bhargava, Founder and CEO, Living Essentials,
5. Aneel Bhusri, Co-founder and CEO, Workday
6. Allison Bhusri, Founder, Lemonade Capital USA
7. Sumir Chadha Co-founder and Managing Director, WestBridge Capital Partners USA
8. Deepak Chopra Founder and CEO, Freedom Employability Academy USA
9. Bharat Desai and Neerja Sethi, Co-founders, Syntel, Founders, Desai Sethi Foundation USA
10. Desh Deshpande, President and Chairman, Sparta Group LLC, Co-founder, Deshpande Foundation
11. Jaishree Deshpande, Treasurer, Sparta Group LLC; Co-founder and Trustee, Deshpande Foundation; USA
12. Anil and Gautam Godhwani, Co-founders, Simply Hired, Habitera, and AtWeb; Co-founders, India Community Center



13. Prabhu and Poonam Goel Co-founders, Foundation for Excellence USA
14. Vijay Goradia, Founder, Vinmar International Ltd; Goradia Capital Co-founder, Pratham
15. Marie Goradia, Co-founder, Pratham USA
16. Raj Gupta, Chairman, Aptiv PLC, Avantor Inc, Founder, Ujala Foundation USA
17. Venky Harinarayan, Founder, Jungle & Kosmix, Founding investor, Efficient Frontier Co-founder, Cambrian Ventures USA
18. Frank Islam, Founder, FI Investment Group, Founder, QSS Group
19. Debbie Driesman, Vice President, Frank Islam and Debbie Driesman Foundation USA
20. Vinod Khosla, Founder, Khosla Ventures
21. Neeru Khosla, Co-founder and Executive Director, CK-12 Foundation USA
22. Lata Krishnan, Co-founder, Krishnan-Shah Family Office, Founder & Co-chair, American India Foundation
23. Ajay Shah, Co-founder and Managing Partner, Silver Lake Sumeru USA
24. Dinakar Singh, Founding Partner, TPG-Axon Capital, Co-founder, SMA Foundation
25. Loren Eng, Co-founder, SMA Foundation USA
26. Deepak and Neera Raj, Founder & Managing Director, Raj Associates, Chairman, Pratham USA and Indian Philanthropy Alliance USA
27. Anand Rajaraman and Kaushie Adishesan, Founding Partner, Rocketship.vc, USA
28. Raju Reddy, Founder and former CEO, Sierra Atlantic Co-founder, Kakatiya Sandbox USA
29. Rao and Satya Remala, Founders, Satya and Rao Remala Foundation USA
30. Nalini Saligram Founder and CEO, Arogya World USA
31. Manu and Rika Shah, Co-founders, MSI, Sarva Mangal Family Trust USA
32. Sanjay Shah, Founder, CEO, and Chief Architect of Vistex; Founder, Vistex Foundation USA
33. Ram Shriram Chair and Trustee, Dhanam Foundation USA
34. Chandrika Tandon, Founder and Chair, Tandon Capital Associates
35. Ranjan Tandon, Founder and Chairman, Libra Advisors USA
36. Romesh Wadhvani, Founder and CEO, SymphonyAI Group, Founder and Chairman, Wadhvani Foundation USA
37. Sunil Wadhvani, Managing Partner, SWAT Capital, Founder Donor, WISH Foundation (Wadhvani Initiative for Sustainable Healthcare) USA.

Indian American hoteliers Members of AAHOA contribute \$368.4 billion to US GDP

WASHINGTON (TIP): Members of Asian American Hotel Owners Association (AAHOA) - largely Indian Americans - have a significant impact on US economy, supporting 4.2 million jobs with \$214.6 billion in wages, according to a new study.

As many as 3.5 million guests stay at 34,260 AAHOA hotels, making up 60% of US hotels, each night, according to the study conducted by AAHOA in partnership with Oxford Economics. These guests would fill all 30 NFL stadiums + all 31 MLB stadiums, says the study on the economic impact and industry influence of the

association's nearly 20,000 members. The study analyzed the share of US hotels and rooms owned by AAHOA members, hotel operations, hotel guest ancillary spending, capital investment, and indirect and induced impacts supported by AAHOA hotels in other parts of the US economy.

The study's topline results were presented to AAHOA Members during the general session on the first day of the 2021 AAHOA Convention & Trade Show on Aug 3 at the Kay Bailey Hutchison Convention Center, Dallas.

"This study gives us the clearest picture to date about the



scale, reach, and economic impact that AAHOA Members have in the United States," said AAHOA Chairman Biran Patel. (Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)



Indian Diaspora organization to hoist biggest Tricolor at Times Square to mark India's 75th Independence Day on August 15

NEW YORK (TIP): In commemoration of the 75th anniversary of India's Independence Day, a leading Indian diaspora organization in the US will hoist the biggest Tricolor unfurled at the iconic Times Square here on August 15.

Federation of Indian Associations - New York, New Jersey and Connecticut - will host day-long celebrations on August 15, starting with the unfurling of the Tricolor at iconic Times Square.

The first India Day billboard at Times Square will be displayed for 24 hours, the Empire State Building will be lit in the hues of the Indian tricolor and the day will end with a gala cruise on the Hudson River to be attended by top government officials, special guests and members of the Indian-American community.

FIA had hoisted India's National Flag



at Times Square on the country's Independence Day last year; the first time the Indian tricolor was unfurled at the New York City destination.

FIA Chairman Ankur Vaidya said the organization intends to hoist the tricolor at Times Square every year since the event has its own significance.

"We want to continue this tradition. This year, we are hoisting the biggest tricolor unfurled at Times Square so far,"

Vaidya told PTI.

The tricolor will be 6 feet by 10 feet. The height of the pole is 25 feet.

Consul General of India in New York Randhir Jaiswal will unfurl the tricolor. The event will also honor Indian American sporting icons Abhimanyu Mishra, 12, the youngest grandmaster in chess history, and Samir Banerjee, 17, who created history by winning the Wimbledon boys' singles final last month.

The young sporting talents, both hailing from New Jersey, are expected to be present at the event on Sunday. Artists Jonita Gandhi and Mickey Singh will also be among the guests.

Vaidya said as India marks 75 years of independence, the FIA is launching a campaign focused on 'Unified Diaspora in America'. (Source: PTI)

INDIAN AMERICAN ORGANIZATION IMPACT URGES BIDEN TO REFORM IMMIGRATION LAWS, ABOLISH GREEN CARD CAPS



WASHINGTON (TIP): Indian American community organization IMPACT has urged President Joe Biden to reform US immigration laws by abolishing green card caps and quotas and including 200,000 children of long-term visa holders to protect all Dreamers.

Neil Makhija, IMPACT Executive Director, raised the community's concerns "about the urgent need to expand voting rights and fight for immigration reform" at a meeting with Biden and Vice President Kamala Harris at the White House last Thursday.

Makhija, who met Biden and Harris alongside 13 Asian American civil rights leaders, noted it was the President and Vice President's first in-person meeting with national South Asian and AAPI political leaders.

The meeting, he said in a media release, "was a significant step towards recognizing Indian American and AAPI voices as we work towards building a multi-racial democracy that works for us all."

Makhija said he "discussed the importance of protecting the right to vote, a bedrock issue that affects every other policy impacting our community."

(Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)

Indian American Lawmaker Krishnamoorthi asks Biden to expand US global vaccine aid to India

WASHINGTON (TIP): Ahead of Indian Independence Day, Indian American lawmaker Raja Krishnamoorthi has called upon President Joe Biden and Congress to pass the NOVID act to dramatically expand US global vaccine aid to India and other nations.

"As we approach Indian Independence Day, we need to declare our independence from Covid by creating the global partnership necessary to produce and deliver the billions of vaccines necessary to truly bring this pandemic to an end," he stated.

"Meeting those goals will demand the continued cooperation of the world's leading democracies and producers of these life-saving vaccines, including the United States and India," Krishnamoorthi said.

Noting that the US has so far only allocated 7.5 million vaccine doses for India, Congressman Krishnamoorthi in an August 6 statement said he had secured the support of 116 members of Congress for the legislation.

"I'm once again urging President Biden and my colleagues in Congress to come together and pass the NOVID Act into law to end this pandemic for good because, so long as outbreaks continue in any nation, the entire world faces the threat of new, vaccine-resistant variants."

Under the NOVID Act, Krishnamoorthi and Indian American Congresswoman Pramila Jayapal introduced with Senators Jeff Merkley and Elizabeth Warren, the US would establish the Pandemic Preparedness and Response Program (PanPREP),



Congressman Raja Krishnamoorthi has called upon President Joe Biden and Congress to pass the NOVID act to dramatically expand US global vaccine aid to India and other nations.

which would have oversight and responsibility for the US Government global health response to the Covid-19 pandemic.

The Program would also be responsible for coordinating the US Government response with international non-governmental organizations, development banks and civil society as well as foreign governments.

After the Covid-19 pandemic, the Program would shift to protect against future pandemics by coordinating a global disease surveillance network to identify and stop pandemic-potential pathogens before they spread uncontrollably.

The PanPREP would develop and implement a comprehensive strategy to end the Covid-19 pandemic worldwide through establishing specific, achievable goals, and focus on three primary issues:

Working with manufacturers to rapidly scale up the production of vaccines and vaccine components around the world to ensure there is an

INDIAN AMERICAN ILLINOIS BOY SAHASRAD SATHISH WINS SOUTH ASIAN SPELLING BEE 2021



Sahasrad Sathish, 12, of Grayslake, Illinois is the national champion of the South Asian Spelling Bee 2021

EDISON, NJ (TIP): Sahasrad Sathish, 12, of Grayslake, Illinois is the national champion of the South Asian Spelling Bee 2021 with Akshainie Kamma, 13, of Round Rock, Texas finishing as the first runner up.

The Bee attracted some top talent in the circuit with spellers from across the country participating in six virtual regionals in the past four weeks and the finals in Edison, New Jersey on August 6,

Champion's grand prize of \$3,000 was awarded to the national winner Sahasrad Sathish at the finals.

An initiative of the South Asian Engagement Foundation and managed by leading multicultural marketing firm Touchdown Media, the South Asian Spelling Bee is celebrating its 14th anniversary this year.

"Even with the competition going virtual, the raw talent of these spellers was on full display," said Bee Director Daisy Walia.

"We are happy to provide a veritable platform for these spellers so they can showcase their spelling prowess," she added.

"I applaud the efforts of the team and spellers for yet another successful season despite the odds," said Rahul Walia, founder.

Results:

In Houston, Texas, Ishika Varipilli, 11, of Spring, Texas was the regional champion and Yash Ganesh, 9, of Tulsa, Oklahoma was the first runner up. In Dallas, Texas, Michael Kolagani, 13, of Austin, Texas was the regional champion and Rishi Nemmani, 12, of McKinney, Texas was the first runner up. In Seattle, Washington, Pranav Chandar, 13, of Newburgh, Indiana and Saharsh Vuppala, 13, of Bellevue, Washington were the two co-champions.

In Raleigh, North Carolina, Akshita Balaji, 14, of Herndon, Virginia and Maya Jadhav, 13, of Fitchburg, Wisconsin, were the two co-champions.

In Edison, New Jersey Akshainie Kamma, 13, of Round Rock, Texas was the regional champion and Dev Shah, 12, of Seminole, Florida was the first runner up.

In Fremont, California, Harini Logan, 13, of Shavano Park, Texas was the regional champ and Shradha Rachamreddy, 11, of San Jose, California was the first runner up.

The top two spellers of each regional competition advanced to the finals.



NRIA breaks ground on upscale residential rental community in west New York. Political leaders praise project which will bring jobs, parking

THE GRAND AND THE METRO, SISTER RESIDENTIAL TOWERS, WILL CREATE WEST NEW YORK'S FIRST PARKING GARAGE, WHICH WILL BE OPEN TO THE PUBLIC.



A Groundbreaking Celebration was held on August 2nd at the future site of The Grand, to be built at 51st Street.

WEST NEW YORK, NJ(TIP): National Realty Investment Advisors (NRIA), a leading developer of luxury real estate on the East Coast announced that work on The Grand, one-half of their newest residential rental community in West New York, has officially begun. A Groundbreaking Celebration was held on August 2nd at the future site of The Grand, to be built at 51st Street. The Grand's sister tower, The Metro, is to be located at 52nd Street and will break ground at a later date.

The two 14-story towers will give West New York its first-ever parking garage, the result of a historic partnership between NRIA and the town. "On the campaign trail two years ago, the number one issue was lack of parking in this municipality," said West New York Mayor Gabriel Rodriguez at the groundbreaking. "We are the most densely populated place in the nation, which translates into lack of parking. We are delighted with what is happening here. This is a perfect example of a public-private partnership working for the betterment of the people who live here."

"This is a great day for West New York," said Congressman Albio Sires, also in attendance. "I am proud that this vision [(for additional parking)] that we had years ago has come to fruition..."

Accessible to both the development's residents and the surrounding city dwellers, 60% of the 495 parking spaces in the towers' parking garage aim to benefit the greater community of West New York.

The Grand and The Metro will offer a total of 312

luxury rental units, with each building having 156-units in each building and it will be located in the heart of the town with easy access to public transportation in , which is along New Jersey's famed Gold Coast.

With NRIA's investment in West New York, Mayor Sires sees the spark of a socio-economic renaissance for the town. "This is a project that will benefit the entire community," he said, "and we are very excited for that...It is one of the most important potential economic multipliers of this area."

United States Senator Bob Menendez agrees, calling The Grand and The Metro "ambitious, forward-thinking housing developments" that will surely continue West New York's renaissance. "This apartment complex is exactly what I mean when I talk about transit-oriented development," he said in a statement. "I congratulate all involved in making this groundbreaking possible."

"The Grand and the Metro are ambitious, forward-thinking housing developments that are sure to continue West New York's renaissance," said Sen. Menendez. "This apartment complex is exactly what I mean when I talk about transit-oriented development. I congratulate all involved in making this groundbreaking possible."

Both The Grand and The Metro will provide residents with high-end amenities, including a gym, lounge, and green roof with a walking deck. The rooftop will be designed as a relaxation and entertainment area, with patio seating and barbecue grills.

In addition, a business center with WiFi access and all

the needed business resources to actively work at home a high-speed printer and other work-at-home essentials will be available on-site to residents.

Richard Stabile, NRIA's Senior Vice President of New Acquisitions, anticipates The Grand and The Metro will be an attractive sell to potential renters, with restaurants, stores, and entertainment all within walking distance. More and more people are choosing to rent their homes and not buy them, said Stabile at the event. He explained that NRIA chose to build apartments because of these post-pandemic changes. West New York proved a perfect fit for their new construction, he said, because of its easy access to both Manhattan and public transportation.

"I know this building will be filled very, very quickly because of the access you have to the light rail," added Congressman Sires, who also lauded NRIA's contribution to the economy of West New York. "The other important factor is the number of jobs that (this project) creates for the community," he said. "And where do you think they will get those jobs? They will get them from this community." Construction on The Grand and The Metro is expected to be complete in the summer of 2023.

ABOUT NRIA : With a history of over a decade of delivering the highest quality in construction, NRIA, headquartered in Secaucus, New Jersey, has earned its reputation as one of the leading real estate developers in the nation. For more information about The Grand, The Metro, and NRIA, visit www.nria.net. (Paid content)

Happy 75th Independence Day

Shirdi Baba's Blessings to All

SAI MANDIR

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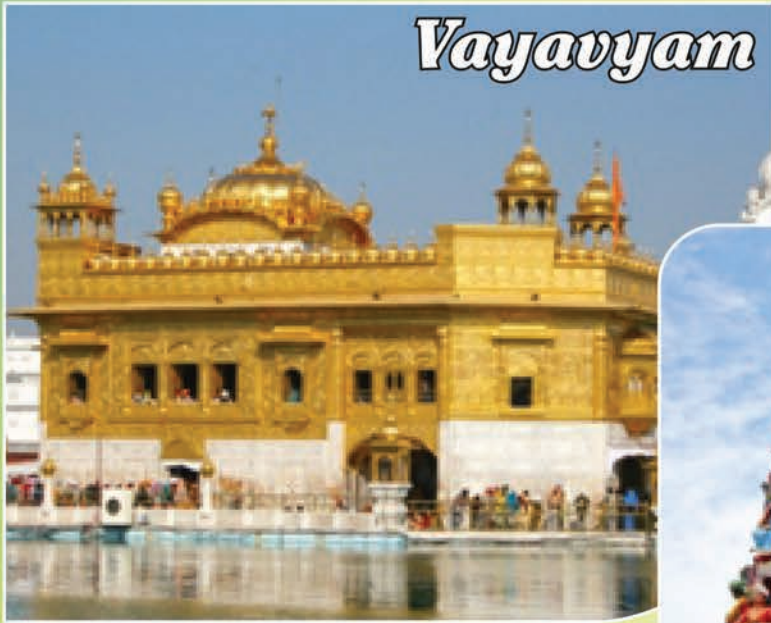
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Vayavyam



Esanyam



Nairuti



Agneyam



Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam



HAPPY 75TH INDEPENDENCE DAY OF INDIA

12 hours before the supreme court verdict on the Babri Masjid / Rama Janma Bhumi controversy, a friend from India suggested that the land under dispute may be divided into 5 equal parts and five temples representing 5 major religions - Hinduism, Islam, Christianity, Sikhism and Buddhism, be built, which will truly reflect the spirit of "Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam" in Maha Upnishad, inscribed in front of India's Parliament.

President of India should inaugurate in the presence of the high priests of all 5 religions and 5 young girls from the 5 faiths. This is important for posterity's understanding. History has a nasty habit of repeating itself.

Dr. Arnold Toynbee, the British historian and philosopher said: "It is already becoming clear that a chapter which has 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".



GOPIO-CT Celebrates Indian Independence Day on Aug. 8th, CT General Assembly Presents Citation

STAMFORD, CT (TIP): The Connecticut Chapter of the Global Organization of People of Indian Origin (GOPIO-CT) celebrated India's democracy and the unity and diversity of India and Indian Americans, their achievements and contributions to India and the United States during the 74th anniversary of India's Independence Day celebrations held at the Mill River Park, Stamford, CT on Sunday, August 8th.

Connecticut General Assembly issued a citation honoring the Indian Day Celebration and GOPIO-CT for its service to the society. It was presented by

Connecticut State Senator Patricia Billie Mille from Stamford.

Mr. A. K. Vijaykrishnan, Consul for Community Affairs at the Indian Consulate was the chief guest who delivered the Independence Day message emphasizing the importance of India's independence and its adoption of democracy. While wishing all a Happy Independence Day, the Consul emphasized the important role played by the Indian diaspora in strengthening India-US relations and helping in greater progress and prosperity of India and the United States. The Consul also thanked



Children from Stamford Tamil School singing American and Indian national anthem at the flag hoisting.



Audience dancing to the Bollywood music



Connecticut State Senator Patricia Billie Miller presenting proclamation from Connecticut State Assembly to GOPIO officials, from l. to r. Rep. Harry Arora, Re. Caroline Simmons, GOPIO Chairman Dr. Thomas Abraham. GOPIO-CT President Ashok Nichani, Senator Miller and Rep. Matt Blumenthal



GOPIO-CT Liberty Award 2021 presented to Shailesh Naik. From l. to r. Dr. Thomas Abraham, Bhavna Juneja, Ashok Nichani and Shailesh Naik

the diaspora for their wholehearted support in providing medical equipment to their motherland during the COVID crisis.

"India in a short span of time has achieved the distinction of competing with the most powerful economies in the world," Vijaykrishnan added.

Stamford Mayor David Martin in his address, praised the contributions of Indian Americans to the city of Stamford, the state of Connecticut and to the whole entire nation. He proclaimed August 8th as India Day at the City of Stamford, to commemorating India's Independence and the rich contributions of Indian Americans. While declaring

that Stamford has the highest rate of Covid vaccination in the state of CT, he urged everyone to get vaccinated and beat the pandemic.

In his proclamation Mayor Martin 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.

Earlier, during the Flag hoisting ceremony at the City Center, he said, "The city is joining 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) by hoisting American, Indian and Connecticut flags at the Government Center in Stamford." Children representing the Stamford Tamil Sangam sang the anthems of both the US and India.

Connecticut Attorney General William Tong spoke strongly about the recent wave of hate crimes against Asians, while promising to do everything possible to honor the rich diversity of peoples of the state, representing diverse cultures and traditions.



GOPIO-CT officials with elected officials and dignitaries at the Indian Independence Day Ceremony, from l. to r. Dr. Beena Ramachandran, Prachi Narayan, Bhavna Juneja, Rep. Caroline Simmons, Rep. Harry Arora, Mill River Park Board Member Dr. Fatima Mawji, Ct State Senator Patricia Billie Miler, GOPIO-CT President Ashok Nichani, Stamford Mayor David Martin, Indian Consul A.K. Balakrishnan, GOPIO Chairman Dr. Thomas Abraham, Miss Connecticut 2021 Sapna Raghavan, Liberty Award recipient Shailesh Naik, Ct. Attorney General William Tong, Rep. Matt Blumenthal, Baseball legend Bobby Valentine, Viresh Sharma, Jaya Daptadar, Shelly Nichani and event sponsor First County Bank VP Brad Lupinacci

Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news



Happy Independence Day India 2021



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2021 Virtual Regionals and Finals Conclude for South Asian Spelling Bee

METUCHEN, NJ (TIP): The South Asian Spelling Bee (www.southasianspellingbee.com) concluded its quest for the best speller in the country, by successfully ending yet another virtual season of the program. Six virtual regionals and finals were conducted within the past four weeks.

Spellers from across the country participated in the Houston, TX, Dallas, TX, Seattle, WA, Raleigh, NC, Edison, NJ, and Fremont, CA virtual regional centers and as usual the Bee attracted some top talent in the circuit.



*Virtual Finals pic: National Champion - Sahasrad Sathish of Grayslake, IL
Runner Up - Akshainie Kamma of Round Rock, TX*

At the 2021 Virtual Finals, Sahasrad Sathish, 12, of Grayslake, IL was the national champion and Akshainie Kamma, 13, of Round Rock, TX was the first runner up.



*Houston pic: Champion - Ishika Varipilli of Spring, TX
Runner Up - Yash Ganesh of Tulsa, OK*

In Houston, Ishika Varipilli, 11, of Spring, TX was the regional champion and Yash Ganesh, 9, of Tulsa, OK was the first runner up.

In Dallas, Michael Kolagani, 13, of Austin, TX was the regional champion and Rishi Nemmani, 12, of McKinney, TX was the first runner up.



*Dallas pic: Champion - Michael Kolagani of Austin, TX
Runner up - Rishi Nemmani of McKinney, TX*

In Seattle, Pranav Chandar, 13, of Newburgh, IN and Saharsh Vuppala, 13, of Bellevue, WA were the two co-champions.



*Seattle pic: Co-Champion - Pranav Chandar of Newburgh, IN
Co-Champion - Saharsh Vuppala of Bellevue, WA*

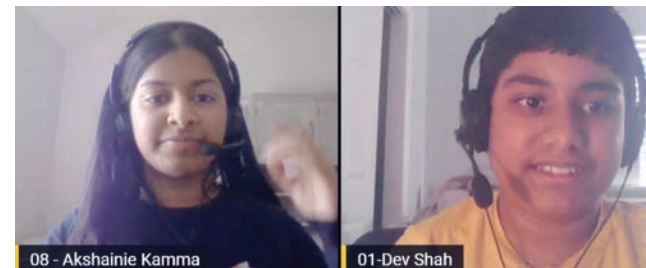
In Raleigh, Akshita Balaji, 14, of Herndon, VA and Maya Jadhav, 13, of Fitchburg, Wisconsin, were the two



*Raleigh pic: Co-Champion - Akshita Balaji of Herndon, VA
Co-Champion - Maya Jadhav of Fitchburg, WI*

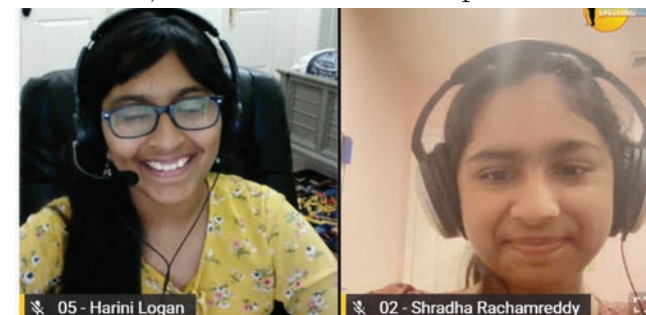
co-champions.

In Edison, Akshainie Kamma, 13, of Round Rock, TX was the regional champ and Dev Shah, 12, of Seminole, FL was the first runner up.



*Edison pic: Regional Champion - Akshainie Kamma of Round Rock, TX
Runner Up - Dev Shah of Seminole, FL*

In Fremont, Harini Logan, 13, of Shavano Park, TX was the regional champ and Shradha Rachamreddy, 11, of San Jose, CA was the first runner up.



*Fremont pic: Regional Champion - Harini Logan of Shavano Park, TX
Runner Up - Shradha Rachamreddy of San Jose, CA*

The top two spellers of each regional competition advanced to the finals that was held virtually in Edison, NJ on August 6. Champion's grand prize of \$3,000 was awarded to the national winner Sahasrad Sathish at the finals. An initiative of the South Asian Engagement Foundation and managed by leading multicultural marketing firm Touchdown Media, the South Asian Spelling Bee is celebrating its 14th anniversary this year.

"Even with the competition going virtual, the raw talent of these spellers was on full display, said Bee Director Daisy Walia. "We are happy to provide a veritable platform for these spellers so they can showcase their spelling prowess", she added.

"I applaud the efforts of the team and spellers for yet another successful season despite the odds, said Rahul Walia, Founder. "We are also very fortunate to have the support of the SAEF and Kawan Foods to help us bring the platform to the community in 2021."

About South Asian Engagement Foundation: SAEF has a mission to increase leadership potential in migrant communities by providing incentives using educational initiatives and civic engagements. SAEF's vision is to continue supporting and organizing educational initiatives and cultural outreach to expand national awareness in migrant communities. To volunteer and donate, please visit www.sae-f.us.org (Press Release)

Array of state and local elected officials inaugurate South Asian Council for Social Services' new Community Center

FLUSHING, NY (TIP): Congressperson Grace Meng, NYS Senators Toby Ann Stavisky and John Liu, Assembly Member Nily Rozic, Queens Borough President Donovan Richards Jr., Deputy Queens Borough President Rhonda Binda, and NYC Councilmembers Peter Koo, Daniel Dromm, and Barry Grodenchik gathered here on August 12, to inaugurate South Asian Council for Social Services' (SACSS) new community center, with a ribbon cutting.

Located in the heart of Flushing, the center is a two-story building with a finished basement from which SACSS, a 20-year-old nonprofit organization dedicated to empowering underserved South Asian and other immigrants, will offer an expanded food pantry, more space for senior immigrants to gather, and increased health access, among other services.

At the ribbon cutting, Congressperson Meng commended SACSS's exceptional work in responding to the needs of the community and said that "The center is for the community, which is not limited to South

Asians, SACSS works for all immigrants who need them." NYS Senator Toby Ann Stavisky echoed these sentiments, and NYS Senator John Liu spoke to SACSS' humble beginnings and the growth of SACSS' work and impact over the last twenty years of its existence.

Council member Peter Koo (District 20, home to Flushing) who was among those who contributed discretionary funding for the building, said, "SACSS has always been there for people in the community, but during the last year and a half, they have gone above and beyond, they have literally been saving people's lives."

Sudha Acharya, executive director and founder, thanked the efforts and generosity of the elected officials, donors, and many others, saying, "It is said that it takes a village to raise a child. We now know that it takes a city to raise a community center, city with a small c, and the one with the big C." She added that it was a dream come true, especially in light of the huge, and continued need for services such as the food pantry



Ribbon cutting ceremony. (Left to Right) Assembly member Nily Rozic, NYC Council Member Daniel Dromm, New York State Senator Toby Ann Stavisky, NYC Council Member Peter Koo, New York State Senator John Liu, SACSS Executive Director Sudha Acharya, Congress Person Grace Meng and, New York City Council Member Barry Grodenchik inaugurating SACSS' new Community Center. Also seen (second row left to right) SACSS Board of directors - Mysore Gandhi (board secretary), Swarna Shah (board treasurer), Devi Ramchandran (board vice-president) and Rekha Gupta (board president).

as a result of the pandemic, and the devastating impact it has had on immigrant communities. (Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)



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Ancient India celebrates her 75th Independent Tryst with Destiny



BY RAVI BATRA

INDIVISIBLE WITH USA, AND PM MODI AS UNSC PRESIDENT

"At the Stroke of the Midnight Hour..."

Pandit Nehru spoke of ancient India being born again on August 15, 1947 and promised a "tryst with destiny." The unanswered question for Nehru and India, as for any individual or nation, is always: what's my destiny. For decades India asserted its non-aligned stance and became its leader, while becoming "inseparable" from the USSR during the Cold War. Not until PM Modi took charge of the Indian Republic did the age-old Greek wisdom of "order is beauty, and beauty is order" get real traction in India (even as the Emergency declared by Indira Gandhi never did).

Indira Gandhi and Rajiv Gandhi flirted with America's Charmer, Ronald Reagan.

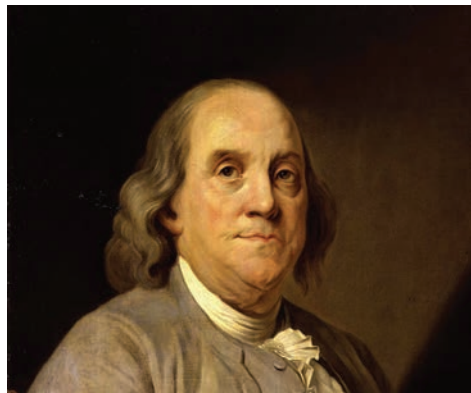
While Indira Gandhi and Rajiv Gandhi flirted with the United States during POTUS Reagan's tenure, no small feat since it was after Indira and India had been subjected to Richard Nixon's one of two structural flaws, love and hate, in his dealings with China and India, respectively, and as to India, he was profane, naturally ignoble, while engaging in wholesale denigration of the largest democracy - and there I was, as member of Speaker Tip O'Neill's Speaker's Club and a then-member of National Advisory Council on South Asian Affairs, along with our ambassador to Delhi, Harry Barnes, at the South Portico of Congress to receive then-Foreign Minister Narasimha Rao while PM Rajiv Gandhi came to address a Joint Session of Congress - it is not until PM Narendra Modi, who in his joint address to Congress on June 9, 2016, which Ranju and I joyously attended, did India declare that her destiny was "Indivisible" for both, her and us.

July 4, 1776 is August 15, 1947, Anew; the American Dream, is the Indian Dream.

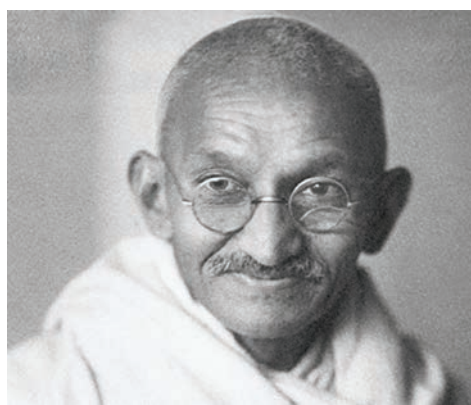
No sweeter declaration has been uttered - save the one penned by the late great Thomas Jefferson on July 4, 1776, memorializing that Government is answerable to the Citizenry - as indivisibility means the "oldest" and "largest" democracies are going to rock & roll together!

Vedic & Western Values Honor Transparency vs Sun Tzu's Recipe of "Deception" to Win.

So, thank you Pandit Nehru - whose lap I sat in as a 5-year-old kid thanks to my late great Dad, Hon. S.N. Batra - for India's "tryst with destiny"; and, thanks to PM Modi, it has resulted in an awesome combination of ancient Vedic wisdom and core Western Values of a Government "of, by and for" the people. Both the Vedic and Western Values



Ben Franklin wishes India "Happy 75th!" Indeed, all of us - Democrats and Republicans, President Biden and former President Trump - wish India well, with peace and security for all her citizens.



Father of the Indian Nation- Mahatma Gandhi



"So, thank you Pandit Nehru - whose lap I sat in as a 5-year-old kid thanks to my late great Dad, Hon. S.N. Batra," says Ravi Batra



PM Narendra Modi, who in his joint address to Congress on June 9, 2016, declared that the destiny of India and the US was "Indivisible".

honor and cherish "transparency" to deliver Freedoms to the individual. Contrasted with the un-matched wisdom of general Sun Tzu, the foundational military genius of great Chinese empires and dynasties through the millennia: "deception," as in basis for winning.

The Quad in the South China Sea to Maintain UNCLOS' Goal of Maritime Security.

Hence, it is in the natural turn of events that India is a critical part of The Quad, and since Freedom of Navigation on the high seas is a high priority in perpetuity - especially in the South China Seas where China's wistful 9-Dashes, imposed by psychedelic domination in violation of UNCLOS and EEZ, irritate (and sometimes kill) - PM

Modi on August 9th served as President of the UNSC to enhance global peace and security, by seeking to enhance maritime security. While Pakistan is an eternal and honest ally of the People's Republic of China since her birth in 1947, thanks to Chairman Mao's century long-vision, and party to the secret bilateral 1949 Karachi Agreement to start creating China's Golan Heights, it was impressive to me as an un-conflicted American that the only UNSC "P5" head of state to attend Modi's Security Council historic participation was Russia's President Vladimir Putin.

India Aids US, Europe and Democracy by Bringing Russia to Our Side vs Wolf Warriors.

In time, we in the United States will see this durable Russia-India relationship to be our operative asset, to solve many an insolvable dispute of territorial integrity of sovereign states in Europe and Middle East, let alone the primary issue now facing us all: how to keep the world free from becoming a collection of vassal states of an un-elected dominating nation, that likes sinking fishing boats of neighboring states, and has repudiated her own core wisdom, from her statecraft-master Confucius, "may you live in boring times" by weaponizing not just SARS-Cov2 viruses, with un-natural gain-of-function that threaten the ecosystem more than Climate Crisis does our survival, but even abandoning diplomatic protocols in favor of Wolf Warrior-commando's: diplomat-Wolf Warriors in mortal combat. One recent appreciable change has taken place - that reflects President Xi's appreciation that general Sun TZU violates the wisdom of Confucius - China's new ambassador Qin Gang since his arrival on American soil has reverted to warm diplomacy, and rejected the prior Wolf Warrior mandate, visible in Anchorage and Wendy Sherman's recent visit to Beijing, as it stunningly violates the wisdom of both general Sun Tzu and Confucius. I hope this change is real, and not merely deceptively warm and fuzzy in honor of the greatest Chinese General.

Even Benjamin Franklin wishes India Happy 75th Independence Day.

Ben Franklin in 1787 famously answered a lady after having achieved our hallowed Constitution, "It's a republic madam, if you can keep it." Thanks to India's PM Modi's Washington Declaration of "Indivisibility," the largest democracy will help the oldest democracy to stay one, and hence, Ben Franklin wishes India "Happy 75th!" Indeed, all of us - Democrats and Republicans, President Biden and former President Trump - wish India well, with peace and security for all her citizens. The land of Mahatma Gandhi deserves no less.

(The author is an eminent attorney. He can be reached at ravi@ravibatralaw.com)

Twitter @RaviBatra



Whose freedom are we celebrating this August 15?



BY GEORGE ABRAHAM

WHAT IS HAPPENING TO THE SOUL OF INDIAN DEMOCRACY? 'THE BASIS FOR DEMOCRACY IS LIBERTY,' SAID ARISTOTLE. HOWEVER, TODAY, THE INSTITUTIONS THAT WERE BUILT TO SAFEGUARD THAT PRINCIPLE ARE UNDER DURESS. LAWS LIKE UAPA WERE USED IN COLONIAL TIMES TO SUPPRESS THE INDEPENDENCE MOVEMENT BY SUSPENDING ORDINARY JURISPRUDENCE. UNDER THESE LAWS, JAIL IS THE RULE, AND BAIL IS AN EXCEPTION.

"MANY OF THE DESI CIVIL RIGHTS ORGANIZATIONS IN THIS COUNTRY WOULD MAKE LOUD PROTESTS, JUSTIFIABLY SO, AT THE SLIGHTEST DISCRIMINATION OR PHYSICAL ATTACK ON AN INDIAN BUT REMAIN LARGELY SILENT TO ANY LEVEL OF ATROCITIES COMMITTED TO VULNERABLE GROUPS IN INDIA. SOME OF THEM ACT AS IF THEY ARE MOUTHPIECES OF THE BJP REGIME, OFTEN DEFENDING ACTIONS THAT VIOLATE THE FUNDAMENTAL VALUES AND PRINCIPLES OF THE DEMOCRACY WE ALL LIVE IN. AS A MINORITY, WE DEMAND EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES AND PROTECTION FROM THE US GOVERNMENT; HOWEVER, WE MOSTLY REMAIN RELUCTANT TO HOLD THE MODI REGIME ACCOUNTABLE TO THE SAME STANDARD! IT IS QUITE A PARADOX!"

As I was sitting at a corner table in a conference room at the Indian Consulate in New York surveying the folks who were busy preparing for a curtain-raiser function to celebrate India's 74th anniversary of Independence with a Parade in Long Island, I wondered whether anyone in that group truly cared whether India is still holding on to that promise of freedom to all its citizens! To some, that question is lost amidst the excitement and pageantry of the upcoming celebration, and to many others, the retrogressive trajectory of India's current path is the real reason for joy and celebration!

As the Diaspora is about to celebrate Independence Day of India once again,



Thousands of farmers have been protesting for months now against the farm laws enacted by the Modi government, but the government showed no respect to democratic obligation of listening to the citizens and redressing their grievances. During the period, more than 400 farmers lost their lives at protest sites around Delhi, the national capital.

one of the questions that arises in minds across the globe is whose freedom is being celebrated on August 15, 2021?



Father Stan Swamy died recently in detention on trumped-up charges of terrorism.

Obviously, it was not the freedom of Father Stan Swamy, who died recently in detention on trumped-up charges of terrorism. He was a man who had devoted his life fighting for the rights of Dalits and Adivasis from the onslaught of corporate interests. And it is not the freedom of Sudha Bharadwaj, who has been languishing in jail now for over three years for defending the rights of the workers and seeking justice for extrajudicial killings by police officers. Of course, it is not the freedom of Asif Iqbal Tanha, Devangana Kalita, and Natasha Narwal who were exercising their constitutional rights to protest CAA. For that alone, they were incarcerated under the draconian UAPA law.

In the case of Stan Swamy, the authorities didn't even show basic civility in providing the man with a straw as this frail 84-year-old with Parkinson's disease had difficulty drinking water from a cup. Upon contacting Covid-19 in prison, it took a court intervention for him to get released to a hospital of his choice, a

delay that may have cost him his life. What happened to his right to life and liberty? Why was Stan Swamy denied the freedom to have a presumption of innocence?



Last February 13, 2021, marks the civil rights lawyer and activist Sudha Bharadwaj's 900 days in detention under the UAPA law.

Last February 13, 2021, marks the civil rights lawyer and activist Sudha Bharadwaj's 900 days in detention under the UAPA law. She took cases that many other attorneys refused to touch and represented workers wrongfully dismissed by companies, illegally evicted villagers from their land, and women who alleged sexual assault by security forces. Born in Boston to a distinguished economist, she went to IIT Kanpur to study Mathematics. Later, she moved to an iron mining ore town in Chhattisgarh and supported worker's rights and safety while challenging land acquisition by major corporations and seeking justice for extrajudicial killings by police officers. Bharadwaj has denied the charges and said it was "totally concocted. Obviously, these arrests appear to be an affront to the rule of law and infringing on the citizen's constitutional rights. It has been said

that a right without a remedy is no right at all. According to press reports, Sudha's health situation continues to deteriorate in prison. The 59-year-old suffers from diabetes, hypertension, and heart disease, making her susceptible to Covid-19 in the cramped prison. Her bail plea is being rejected, and she has been denied books and Newspapers in jail. Michele Bachelet, the UNHCHR commissioner, has expressed concern over using 'vaguely defined laws' to silence activists and government critics. Doesn't Sudha Bharadwaj deserve the freedom to have a hearing on her case without indefinite detention?

According to press reports, the most bizarre incident took place on March 19, 2021, in Jhansi, Uttar Pradesh, when four Nuns from the Delhi province of the Sacred Heart Society were arrested while on the way to Odisha from Delhi. The incident occurred while the train they were traveling stopped at 6.30 PM at Jhansi railway station. A group of religious extremists returning from a pilgrimage accused them of religious conversion and raised religious slogans. Subsequently, police arrived at the spot and arrested the Nuns without paying any heed to their side of the story. Around 150 religious radicals accompanied the women in procession to the police station. The terrified nuns were finally released at 11.30 PM after the intervention of some advocacy groups. Don't these Nuns deserve the freedom of unimpeded travel without harassment anywhere in India?

Mohammed Munazir arrived in Delhi decades ago, escaping poverty in his native Bihar, where his landless father worked on other people's farms for a pittance. In the beginning, like poor migrants, he lived in a tarped hovel on the fringes of sprawling Capital, working in a bookbinding shop. Finally, when the bookbinding shop folded, he started selling home-cooked biryani on a cart. Ultimately, he saved enough money to buy a home, a nondescript building in a narrow lane. "It was a nest I finally built for my wife and six children after a lifetime of struggle," says Mr. Munazir. "It was the only thing I wanted in life; it was my dream come true." It is that dream that ended in flames on a bright sunny Tuesday when the Capital's worst religious riots in decades took place in 2020, leaving 53 people dead and hundreds of wounded languishing in understaffed medical facilities, and corpses were still being discovered in drainage ditches. Doesn't Mr. Munazir have the freedom to dream of building his own nest?

Born to a Dalit family in the slums of Indora, an Ambedkarite hub in Nagpur,



Whose freedom are we celebrating this August 15?

CONTD FROM PAGE 23

fifty-four-year-old Sudhir Dhawale is an activist, editor, and writer. Dhawale was arrested alongside five other activists and professors on June 6, 2018, due to their connection to Elgar Parishad, which was blamed for the violence at Bhima Koregaon, which took place on January 1, 2018. The 1818 Battle of Koregaon is an important milestone for Dalits. On January 1818, eight hundred troops of the East India company's Bombay Presidency army with a large number of Mahars defeated a numerically superior force of the Peshwa Baji Rao II. A victory pillar was erected in Koregaon by the British, and in 1928 B. R. Ambedkar led the first commemoration ceremony there. Since then, on January 1, every year, Ambedkarites gather at Bhima Koregaon to celebrate the victory against the upper castes and highlight the historical oppression they have suffered under the caste system. However, to the powerful establishment, these daring Dalits needed to be taught a lesson! They may have finally succeeded in putting a damper on Edgar Parishad's luster through defamation, linking it to the Maoist and anti-national movements. Doesn't Sudhir Dhawale and other Dalits have a right to celebrate a historical event without interference from the upper castes?

IT SHOULD ALSO BE NOTED THAT MILIND EKBOTE, PRESIDENT OF DHARMAVEER SAMBHAJI MAHARAJ PRATISHTHAN, AND SAMBHAJI BHIDE, A MAN ASSOCIATED WITH RSS AND SHIV PRATISHTHAN, WHO WAS ACCUSED OF CAUSING THE VIOLENCE, NEVER FACED ANY SERIOUS ACTION.

Mr. Rajesh Tikait from Uttar Pradesh, a farm leader and spokesperson of the Bharatiya Kisan Union, could be seen in a video distressed and wailing so loudly that his sobbing drowned out his words. Mr. Tikait said that the BJP was trying to "destroy" farmers and that he would not let it happen. He was indeed referring to how goons have infiltrated the January 26 protests by farmers to discredit their movement that has legitimate grievances against the farm laws passed by the Government in 2020. Harsimrat Kaur Badal, a former Union Minister and erstwhile ally of the BJP government, said, "This anti-farmer attitude of the NDA government is responsible for the plight of farmers who are not only being stonewalled for eight months but even their dead are not being recognized." Why this farming community that is 'annadaata' to the country is being humiliated in this manner and called anti-nationals for exercising freedom to air their grievances?

The alleged snooping by the Indian Government using Israeli spyware

Pegasus on opposition politicians, media personnel, and private citizens indicates that individual freedom and the right to privacy have become a thing of the past. Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, one of the victims of the phone tapping issue, asked, "we want to ask just one question. Has the Government of India bought Pegasus? Yes or No. Did the Government use Pegasus weapon against its own people?" The Indians in the snooping database include over 40 journalists, three major opposition figures, and one constitutional authority. What happened to the freedom of the opposition parties to hold the Government accountable and the freedom of the fourth estate to keep Government, legislators, and big business in check by keeping society or the public informed?

What is happening to the soul of Indian democracy? 'The basis for democracy is Liberty,' said Aristotle. However, today, the Institutions that were built to safeguard that principle are under duress. Laws like UAPA were used in colonial times to suppress the independence movement by suspending ordinary jurisprudence. Under these laws, jail is the rule, and bail is an exception. A polis project statement says 'political prisoner' is a category of criminal offense that sits most egregiously in any civilized society, especially in countries that call themselves liberal democracies. It is a thought crime: the crime of thinking, acting, speaking, probing, reporting, questioning, demanding rights, and, more importantly, exercising one's citizenship. The assault on the fundamental rights has been consistent and ongoing at a global level, and rights-bearing citizens are transformed into consuming subjects of a surveillance state".

Freedom of Conscience is fundamental to all other liberties. It is innate and God-given. It is guaranteed under the Indian Constitution. However, it is open season for those who freely exercise it. Academia has become another favorite target of the Modi Government. BJP and its ilk have always hated Institutions like JNU, where the free flow of ideas flourished, and lively debates on the pros and cons of contemporary issues were the order of the day. Today, the students and faculty in these revered institutions are intimidated, harassed, and called anti-national for failing to toe their Hindutva agenda line and are often charged with sedition. Modi Government has been openly hostile to civil society groups. It repeatedly denounces human rights and environmental activism as "anti-national" - a phrase that carries connotations of treason.

There is also quite an irony in the fact that today's BJP leaders, who mostly come from the RSS ranks, are vocal on the issue of nationalism. The words and deeds of the founders of that organization, from Hedgewar to Veer Savarkar, clearly indicated that they were not only non-participants in the

freedom struggle where hundreds of people were risking their lives daily but also collaborators who supported the British on critical occasions. The British acknowledged that RSS has "scrupulously kept itself within the law and refrained from taking part in the disturbances that broke out in August 1942." Sardar Patel, writing on the assassination of Gandhiji by Nathuram Godse, said, "As regards to RSS and Hindu Mahasabha...our reports do confirm that as a result of the activities of these two bodies, particularly the former (RSS), an atmosphere was created in the country in which such ghastly tragedy became possible."

"Religious freedom in India is taking a drastic turn downward, with national and various state governments tolerating widespread harassment and violence against religious minorities" said United States Commission for International Religious Freedom in its 2020 report. The BJP-led Government enacted the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA), which potentially exposes millions of Muslims to detention, deportation, and statelessness when the Government completes its planned nationwide National Registry of Citizens". USCIRF also recommended to the State Department that India be designated as a 'Country of Particular Concern.' India also slipped into 53rd position in the 2020 Democracy Index's global ranking, dubbed a flawed democracy. The Economic Intelligence Unit (EIU) said that in India, democratic backsliding by the authorities and crackdown on civil liberties led to a further decline in their global rankings.

Christians who constitute around 3% of the population are also under severe stress with many of their places of worship under attack, increased re-conversion efforts by Hindu fundamentalist organizations, removal of Christmas Day and Easter Day from the National Calendar, and the cancellation of FCRA of thousands of Christian charities effectively putting them out of business, the Saffron brigade appears to be questioning the very Indian ness of every Christian in India. In addition, they are engaged in a scathing campaign to link Christianity in India, which has a two-thousand-year history, with the colonial legacy.

Agencies such as India's Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), the Enforcement Directorate of the Finance Ministry, the Tax authorities, and even local police forces are often accused of doing the Government's bidding. The opposition has charged that their leaders have often been targeted for harassment which they consider a political vendetta for expressing their opinions critical of the Government.

In this week, we may witness widespread celebrations of India's Independence that will be held in many cities across the U.S. However, one may hear very little regarding whether the hard-fought freedom won by the founding fathers of modern India is in

danger of being extinguished! The Cultural and Religious organizations that provide forums for these events appear not to be concerned about the ever-diminishing freedom of India's citizens or the weakening of its institutions. The current dispensation favors singing Vande Mataram in place of Jana Gana Mana as parts of that national song are replete with Hindu symbolism that is more gratifying, albeit not the communities in their entirety.

Indians have done well with the open electoral process in the US, having elected four of their own to the House of Representatives and another one as the Vice-President. Although most of them ascribe to policies considered far left of the center and often very strident on issues dealing with Civil Rights, Social Policies, or Immigration, they rarely criticize the Government of India for any similar wrongdoings such as violations of human rights or religious freedom. They seem reluctant even to raise these issues when meeting with the Prime Minister or other Embassy officials.

Many of the Desi civil rights organizations in this country would make loud protests, justifiably so, at the slightest discrimination or physical attack on an Indian but remain largely silent to any level of atrocities committed to vulnerable groups in India. Some of them act as if they are mouthpieces of the BJP regime, often defending actions that violate the fundamental values and principles of the democracy we all live in. As a minority, we demand equal opportunities and protection from the US government; however, we mostly remain reluctant to hold the Modi regime accountable to the same standard! It is quite a paradox!

The Bhartiya Janata Party's victory in the Lok Sabha elections of 2014 and 2019 has ushered in an unprecedented attack on India's democracy and injected new elements of intolerance and authoritarianism into the lives of people living in the country. The anti-democratic actions by the Government have sullied international reputation. Therefore, it is time to ask exactly whose freedom are we celebrating on this 74th anniversary? Is it the hard-fought freedom won under the long struggle by Mahatma Gandhi, Jawaharlal Nehru, Sardar Patel, and Maulana Azad from the British to the benefit of all its citizens in India or the diminishing freedom at the expense of the minorities and Dalits solely to the delight of the feudalists/upper castes elites? Nevertheless, from a vantage point, this celebration may be all about the genuine freedom we enjoy in this land of the free and home of the brave, which includes the right to hold a foreign national flag and walk in a parade under a religious banner of our choice!

(The author is a former Chief Technology Officer of the United Nations and Vice-Chairman of the Indian Overseas Congress, USA)

KIRPAL SINGH SIHOTA,

President, The NRI Sabha Punjab



WISHES THE INDIAN DIASPORA HAPPY 75TH INDEPENDENCE DAY OF INDIA

Punjabis made the greatest sacrifices for the freedom of India.

We are proud of the sacrifices of our forefathers.

In free India, Punjabi soldiers protected the nation's boundaries and the hardworking farmers provided food to the nation.

Abroad, Punjabis achieved spectacular successes in various fields, endearing themselves to the local population.

Today, Punjabis are respected all over the world for what they are and what they do.

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Metro-Washington holds Mushaira-Kavi Sammelan to celebrate the Independence of the subcontinent



Anurag Kumar, Minister for Cultural Affairs, Embassy of India in Washington inaugurated "Azadi ka Mahotsav" celebrating 75 years of Independence



Prof. Majida sad, Keynote speaker



Tributes were paid to the iconic Bollywood actor Dileep Kumar



Afzal Usmani- the gracious host and MC



Zafar Iqbal who thanked the participants

WASHINGTON (TIP): "I am pleased to know that this year's annual Mushaira Kavi Sammelan program, organized by the Washington Aligarh Alumni Association in association with Metro-Washington GOPIO with the support of other reputable associations of

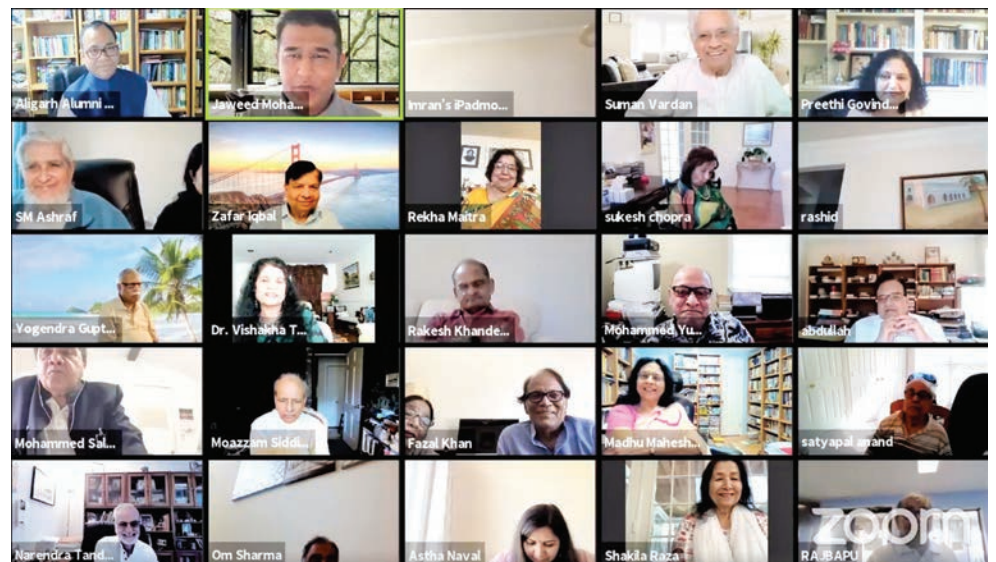
Washington is a part of the Azadi ka Mahotsav celebrating 75 years of Independence" said Mr. Anurag Kumar, Minister for Cultural Affairs, Embassy of India in Washington inaugurating the program. He thanked the organizers for holding such a beautiful program every year and appreciated showcasing of new talents through this program. He also lauded the efforts of the association in providing Covid relief and support for educational programs in India.

Professor Majida Asad-first female receiving a Ph.D. in Hindi from AMU and former head of the Hindi department, Jamia Millia Islamia delivered a keynote address expressing the close relationship between Urdu and Hindi languages. "Both languages are like twin sisters born and matured in India; however, unfortunately, some people gave religion to them," she added. She observed that many Urdu words are used by Hindi poets and writers, and similarly many Hindi words have been incorporated in Urdu literature. It should be noted that the grammar of both languages is the same. She participated in this program from Hawaii.

The Aligarh Alumni Association-Metro DC (AAA-DC), in association with the Global Organization of People of Indian Origin-Metro DC (GOPIO-DC), hosted a successful Mushaira/Kavi Sammelan on Sunday, 8th August 2021, celebrating the Independence Day of the Subcontinent. This annual event has been a part of Washingtonians' literary life for the last several years. AAA-DC and GOPIO-DC are the only organizations that bring local Urdu and Hindi poets under one roof to promote a sense of brotherhood in the best traditions of Sanjhi Virasat and help maintain Ganga-Jamuni culture. These programs also encourage and promote the talents of local poets and writers by releasing their recently published books.

A short video paying tribute to the iconic Bollywood actor Dileep Kumar was shown in the program.

Greeting authors, poets, and the audience, Program Coordinator Dr. Zafar Iqbal said, "The goal of this annual program is to provide a forum where diverse people-transcending political, religious, regional, and geographical boundaries-could assemble under the same umbrella and appreciate the Ganga-Jamuni culture of the Subcontinent." In addition to sharing poetry, this event also recognizes local poets and authors by releasing their recently published books, he added. He recognized five cultural and social community organizations that supported this event. The organizations with their leaders are the Association of Indian Muslims (Mr. Kaleem Kawaja), the National Council of Asian-Indian Associations, Inc. (Mr. Pavan Bezwada and Mr. Shammi Singh), the Center for Pluralism (Dr. Mike Ghouse), the National Council of Asian-Indian



Participating poets

Associations, VA (Mr. Sunil Singh and Mrs. Nayna Desai), and the Hyderabad Association of Washington Metro Area (Mr. Mohsin Alikhan). "We are pleased that the Embassy has been supporting this program from the beginning and it hosted the First Bilingual Poetry recitation program on 10th June 2011 with the help of AAA-DC and Metro GOPIO," Iqbal added.

The program was conducted using Zoom technology and it was simultaneously broadcast on Facebook. Several hundred literary enthusiasts enjoyed the event, and many encouraging and positive comments were posted on the media. A recording of the event is now available on Facebook.

The event brought the diaspora with multiple ethnic backgrounds together using social media. Participating poets (in alphabetical order) included: A. Rehman Siddiqui, A. Abdullah, Astha Naval, Aziz Qureshi, Gulshan Madhur, Madhu Maheshwari, Misbah Uddin, Mohammad Akbar, Mohammed Jaweed, Narendra Tandon, Preethi Govindaraj, Rakesh Khandelwal, Razi Raziuddin, Satyapal Anand, Sukesh Chopra, Suman Vardan, Vandana Singh, Vishakha Thaker, and Yusuf Rahat

Professor Misbah Uddin-a senior Aligarhian and retired professor from Jamia Millia Islamia was invited as a special guest for the event.

Samples of the poetry recited at the event:

*Halat e corona ne ye bura haal kar diya
Begum ki qurbat ne hamein paamal kar diya
Khole jo raaz dil ke samajh ke unhe rafeeq
Badqismati ne hamara jeena muhal kar diya*

Mohammed Akbar

Rising poet Vandana Singh said:
*Khud se jo kabhi mil ana ho usko kiya samjahao ge
Dekh aeena aksar log khud se Dar jaate haiN
Tamaam umr udhaar pe guzri apni PaoN jab qabr meiN laTke, fikr hai udhaar chukani ki*

Narendar Tandon Saahil

*IkkeesviN sadi hooN mein, BaDi beybus baDi beyniyaz; havaoN mein aag hai, inqilab mera raag hai
Andhera haath mein liyae barood, kab tak amn-o-chaen ko nigalta jae gaa
Khuda kab tak apni rahmatoN ko, bahisht ke sandooq mein Chhipaye gaa*

Madhu Maheshwari

Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news



WOMEN LEAD AAPI AN INDEPENDENCE DAY SALUTE TO THEM

CHICAGO, IL (TIP): "It's been truly historic and a very proud moment for American Association of Physicians of Indian Origin (AAPI) to have a majority of the current leadership of this noble organization being held by Women Leaders," Dr. Anupama Gotimukula, President of AAPI, declared here today. "Never has there ever been such a strong representation of women leaders in AAPI's leadership positions. It's been a privilege and a challenge to be lead AAPI as AAPI celebrates 40 years of dedicated service to the United States, India and the world."



Dr. Anupama Gotimukula, President of AAPI

Dr. Gotimukula, the only 4th woman president of AAPI in the 40 years old history of AAPI has a strong and dynamic leadership of women leaders at AAPI for the year 2020-21. Dr. Kusum Punjabi serves as the Chair of AAPI Board of Trustees; Dr. Soumya Neravetla is the President of Young Physicians Section (YPS,)

while Dr. Ayesha Singh is the President is the Medical Student/Residents & Fellows Section (MSRF) Dr. Anjana Samadder, who serves as the Vice President of AAPI is in succession for the top AAPI leadership position in the year 2023-24.

A resident of San Antonio, TX, Dr. Gotimukula is a board-certified Pediatric Anesthesiologist, practicing since 2007, has been an active member and leader of AAPI over a decade.

As a Healthcare Leader, Dr. Gotimukula recognizes that "AAPI has power. We have legitimate respect and trust of our communities in every corner of America. AAPI will leverage that power of our purpose and networks to help address specific challenges related to affordable healthcare delivery."



Dr. Kusum Punjabi, Chair of AAPI Board of Trustees

Dr. Kusum Punjabi, a very young and energetic leader of AAPI, assumed office as the Chair of Board of Trustees of AAPI on July 4th. The youngest to date to be holding this position in AAPI's 40 years long history and the first person to go to medical school in the USA, Dr. Punjabi says, "My goal as Chair of the Board is to

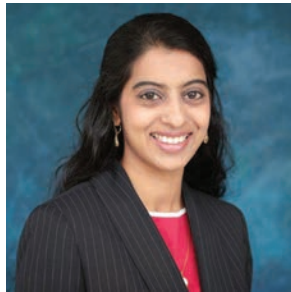
develop long lasting programs within AAPI that promote professionalism, unity, mentorship and inclusivity. I hope to clearly re-define AAPI's mission of service, academic achievement and supporting Indian Physicians working in America through advocacy and leadership. I want patients to know the value of the care they receive from our ethnic group and our mission of promoting the safest and best healthcare practices for our patients."



Dr. Anjana Samadder, Vice President of AAPI

Dr. Anjana Samadder, Vice President of AAPI says, "My journey with AAPI in the past 20 years taught me lots of lessons, skills and molded me to take more responsibility in the organization. I will bring to the organization the level of commitment, hard work, experience and skill set

needed to accomplish the various goals for AAPI and its members." Her vision for AAPI is "to help build an ethically strong, morally straight and fiscally responsible organization. It is also vitally important to bring much needed diversity to keep AAPI thriving."



Dr. Soumya Neravetla, President of Young Physicians Section (YPS,)

A second generation Indian American, born, raised and educated in the US, Dr. Soumya Neravetla, president of YPS, is a Cardiothoracic Surgeon actively engaged in the welfare of physicians of Indian Origin and the general public. She has extensive Trans catheter Aortic Valve Replacement (TAVR) experience including launching and directing TAVR programs. She has also directed and spearheaded Robotic Thoracic Surgery and lung cancer related programs. In spite of her busy work schedule, she collaborates with her father, Dr. Surender Reddy Neravetla (author of Salt Kills), in his mission to spread awareness about prevention of cardiovascular disease, which disproportionately affects physicians and people of Indian Origin. She is a popular medical speaker and has given several talks to medical communities and the general public, including an invitation to personally speak to the Governor of Ohio and the Ohio Department of Health.

By her example, Dr. Neravetla wants to motivate physicians of her generation to engage in their communities and AAPI. She has been an active member of AAPI, serving on many committees over the years with the hope of helping AAPI evolve into a meaningful organization for future generations. "Empowering Indian physicians and fostering career growth have been passions of mine," says the multi-talented dynamic leader of AAPI. In her role, she hopes "to increase career networking and mentorship opportunities, and arm physicians and physicians in training with tools to better navigate their careers. In addition, I am working to amplify AAPI's virtual presence by enhancing website features and introducing an app." Understanding the current challenging situation due to the ongoing pandemic, Dr. Neravetla says, "We hope new activities like virtual job fairs, interactive chat functions and amplifying our social media presence will engage current and future generations."



Dr. Ayesha Singh, President, Medical Student/Residents & Fellows Section (MSRF.)

Ayesha Singh, a 4th year medical student at the University of Louisville (Louisville, KY), had joined AAPI in 2017 and held her first leadership position on the MSRF board as Secretary in 2018. In 2019, she was elected as MSRF Vice President. She is passionate about her clinical research in atherosclerosis and spends most of her free time volunteering as Director of Patient Services for a free cardiovascular specialty clinic in the Louisville area. Ayesha is currently applying for Internal Medicine residency with plans to pursue a career in

Interventional Cardiology. Singh's vision for MSRF is "to connect, inspire, and grow our community. I hope to further our reach to Indian American medical students by developing the mentorship program, providing research and academic opportunities, and hosting student-specific events on Step 1/2/3 prep, residency/fellowship applications, interview workshops and more."

The young and aspiring Medical Professional is grateful to AAPI as "AAPI has enriched my life professionally, socially, and personally. I've found mentors, role models, and friends that share my heritage, passion for medicine and commitment to community service. I believe aggressive outreach that highlights AAPI's vast network, resources, and benefits will inspire membership among young professionals and future leaders that will be dedicated to preserving the legacy of this organization."

Other leaders who constitute the current executive committee include Dr. Ravi Kolli, President-Elect, who will be the President of AAPI in 2022-23; Dr. Satheesh Kathula, Secretary and Dr. Krishan Kumar, Treasurer of AAPI.

Dr. Ravi Kolli is a Board-Certified Psychiatrist with additional qualifications in Addiction, Geriatric and Forensic Psychiatry, and serves as Psychiatric Medical Director of Southwestern Pennsylvania Human Services. Dr. Satheesh Kathula is a clinical professor of medicine at Wright State University- Bonsho School of medicine, Dayton, Ohio. Dr. Krishan Kumar is a pediatric emergency medicine physician in East Meadow, New York and is affiliated with multiple hospitals in the New York region.

"While in the 176 years of American Medical Association (AMA) there have been only five women Presidents," Dr. Ravi Kolli noted. "AAPI, now only in its 40th year, has the 4th female president. Dr. Anupama Gotimukula and a galaxy of women leaders are leading all the sections of AAPI, including BOT, YPS and MSRF. This is a proud moment for AAPI and a testimony of AAPI's commitment to diversity and equality in all aspects of its functioning."

Quoting statistics, Dr. Kolli pointed out that in the United States, women physicians comprise of nearly 37.8 % of all practicing physicians (390,202 of 1,058,628) and their numbers are rising fast. The proportion of female physicians under the age of 35 in the US is 60.6% and in the age group of 35-44, it is 51.5%. So, there will be a welcome sea change in the leadership of Health Care in the USA going forward. The good news is that patients hospitalized under the care of female physicians had better outcome and lower re-hospitalization rate according to a 2016 Harvard study (December 19, 2016, in JAMA Internal Medicine). Dr. Kolli said, "American Health care and its leadership is in safe hands, and I am so proud to support them in any way in my capacity as the President-Elect of AAPI."

Serving 1 in every 7 patients in the US, AAPI members care for millions of patients every day, while several of them have risen to hold high flying jobs, shaping the policies and programs and inventions that shape the landscape of healthcare in the US and around the world.

"Fortunate to be leading AAPI with this amazing group of dedicated women leaders," says Dr. Gotimukula. "We at AAPI have so much more room to grow and serve. I challenge myself, my Executive Committee to rise up to the task of building on our accomplishments and successes over the last several decades. My team, along with the dynamic group of women leaders has defined several goals for this year to further AAPI's mission." For more details, please visit: www.appiusa.org



NEPAL REPORTS 3,260 NEW COVID-19 CASES, TALLY REACHES CLOSE TO 8 LAKH

KATHMANDU (TIP): Nepal detected 3,260 new Covid-19 cases on August 13, taking the total tally to 7,98,651, while the death toll reached 10,212 after 32 fresh fatalities were recorded, the health ministry said.

According to the Ministry of Health and Population, a total of new 10,806 swab samples were tested under the RT-PCR method, of which 2,473 turned out as positive. Likewise, 4,656 people underwent antigen tests for the virus, of which an additional 787 tested positive.

Of the total cases so far, 6,77,377 people have recovered. Likewise, 10,212 corona-infected people have died, it said.

Meanwhile, the Pakistan government has provided medical equipment worth Nepali Rupees 19 million (190 lakh) in grant assistance to the Nepal government to help it fight the Covid-19 pandemic.

Charge d'Affaires of Pakistan to Nepal Adnan Javed Khan handed over the medical equipment to Dr Roshan Pokharel, Secretary at the Ministry of Health and Population, Nepal, according to the ministry.

The medical equipment includes 30 ventilators and as many CPAP breathing equipment.

According to a statement issued by the Embassy of Pakistan in Kathmandu, the gift is part of Pakistan's Covid-19 Emergency Assistance Programme pledged for SAARC member States.

Earlier last month, the embassy handed over a cheque of more than Rs 43 million (430 lakh) to Nepal as part of Covid-19 Emergency Assistance Programme. PTI

MILD EARTHQUAKE HITS EASTERN NEPAL, NO DAMAGE REPORTED

KATHMANDU (TIP): A mild earthquake measuring 4.3 magnitude on the Richter scale hit eastern Nepal on August 13 officials said.

However, there was no report of any damage or casualty due to the tremor, the National Seismological Research Centre said.

The 4.3 magnitude quake with epicentre in Pokhari of Udayapur district in eastern Nepal was recorded at 9:45 am, it said.

It was not yet clear whether this was the aftershock of the 2015 earthquake that hit Gorkha district or a fresh one, officials said. The April 2015 Nepal earthquake, also known as the Gorkha earthquake, had killed nearly 9,000 people and injured over 22,000. The epicentre of the 7.8 magnitude tremor was east of Gorkha district at Barpak. The quake had triggered an avalanche on Mount Everest, killing 22 people and making April 25, 2015 the deadliest day on the mountain in history. PTI

AFGHANISTAN IS SPINNING OUT OF CONTROL, SAYS UN CHIEF

KABUL (TIP): Voicing concern that Afghanistan is "spinning out of control", UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres called on the Taliban to immediately halt the offensive and asserted that seizing power through military force is a "losing proposition" and can only lead to prolonged civil war and the complete isolation of the war-torn nation.

The Taliban has captured Herat and Kandahar, the country's second and third largest cities. As the Taliban insurgents increasingly gain ground in Afghanistan, some accounts state that 60 per cent of the country's territory is under their control.

There is growing concern that Kabul, too, could fall into the hands of the Taliban soon.

"Even for a country that has tragically known generations of conflict, Afghanistan is in the throes of yet another chaotic and desperate chapter – an incredible tragedy for its long-suffering people," Guterres said on August 14.

"Afghanistan is spinning out of control," he said, voicing concern over the "grave situation" in the country.

The UN chief called on the Taliban, which is rapidly taking control over provincial capitals across the country, to immediately halt the offensive and "negotiate in good faith" in the interest of Afghanistan and its people.

"The message from the international



community to those on the warpath must be clear: seizing power through military force is a losing proposition. That can only lead to prolonged civil war or to the complete isolation of Afghanistan," Guterres said.

He asserted that directing attacks against civilians is a serious violation of international humanitarian law and amounts to a war crime, calling for perpetrators to be held accountable.

The UN chief said he is also "deeply disturbed" by early indications that the Taliban are imposing severe restrictions

on human rights in the areas under their control, particularly targeting women and journalists.

"It is particularly horrifying and heartbreaking to see reports of the hard-won rights of Afghan girls and women being ripped away from them."

Guterres expressed hope that discussions in Doha between representatives of Afghanistan and the Taliban—supported by the region and the wider international community—would restore the pathway to a negotiated settlement to the conflict. PTI

Mysterious 'kill list' rattles Pakistan; Parliamentary Panel orders probe

ISLAMABAD (TIP) : A Pakistani parliamentary committee has ordered for a probe into a so-called "kill list" that mentions a number of public figures in the country, days after a former Taliban operative verified its existence and a leading British newspaper reported it.

The Committee, headed by Opposition Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) leader Shazia Marri, has directed the Interior Secretary to have an urgent meeting with senators Farhatullah Babar and Afrasiab Khattak for their inputs in the probe, reported the Dawn newspaper on Friday. The names of both senators figured on the "kill list".

The panel has forwarded a month-old Facebook post of former Taliban spokesperson Ehsanullah Ehsan, in which the "kill list" is clearly mentioned.

In the post, Ehsan said he was asked to lead a "death squad" to eliminate "some individuals".

The "kill list", according to Ehsan, included the names of former senators Farhatullah Babar, Afrasiab Khattak, Syed Alam Mehsud, and Mufti Kifayatullah.

Farhatullah Babar said: "Ehsanullah Ehsan is no ordinary person. He is a former spokesperson for Tehreek-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) who later formed



a splinter group, Jamaatul Ahrar, both designated as terror outfits. He has claimed responsibility for a number of deadly attacks in Pakistan".

The parliamentary committee was informed that in April 2017 Ehsanullah Ehsan turned himself in before the security agencies and transformed from a "terrorist into a confidant of the agencies".

With the freedom to interact with the media, Ehsan recently made some startling disclosures.

In an interview with Al Jazeera news channel, Ehsan details how he left the high-security detention centre.

He claimed that his release was the result of an agreement that granted him full legal immunity, a personal monetary stipend, and a guarantee that he would be allowed to live as a 'peaceful citizen'.

Ehsan said he has provided a list of inputs to the military and civilian authorities, though they are yet to act on them.

Referring to the mysterious death of ex-senator Usman Kakar in Quetta on June 21, Ehsan said Senator Kakar's name was included in the "hit list".

A few days later, through another tweet, Ehsan gave names of other individuals on the list.

"Usman Kakar's family has already alleged foul play and claims that he was murdered. The provincial government (of Balochistan) formed a judicial commission to probe the matter, but disbanded it after the family declined to appear before it for reasons of trust," Farhatullah Babar said.

"In view of this background, we are deeply concerned over the hit list as it contains our names too," he said.

Five United Nations' bodies, in a joint letter to the Pakistan government on May 29, 2019, had mentioned the "kill list".

"This is what makes it far too serious to be taken lightly," said Senator Babar.

The Guardian newspaper of the UK carried a report a few days ago about death threats being made by some Pakistani dissidents living abroad. PTI



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Modi expected to address annual UNGA session in person on Sept 25

Prime Minister Narendra Modi is expected to address the annual high-level UN General Assembly session in person on September 25, according to a provisional list of speakers released by the UN.

The list and schedule are subject to changes and the presence of world leaders in the United Nations headquarters here for the high-level annual session will significantly depend on the global Covid situation, particularly as the highly transmissible Delta variant rages in the US as well as across other UN member nations.

According to the first provisional list of speakers for the General Debate at the 76th session of the UN General Assembly, Modi is scheduled to speak at the high-level session on the morning of September 25, the first leader listed for the day.

In 2019, Modi travelled to New York for the high-level UN General Assembly session.

Last year, world leaders, including Modi, submitted pre-recorded video statements for the United Nations General Assembly session in September, as heads of state and government could not physically attend the annual gathering due to the coronavirus pandemic.

It was the first time in the UN's 75-year history that the high-level session had gone virtual. This year too, the option has been kept open for the world leaders to send in pre-recorded statements since the pandemic continues to rage across several nations around the world.

The General Debate begins on September 21 and US President Joe Biden is scheduled to address the session in person, his first address to the world organisation as the American leader.

Japanese Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga and Australian leader Scott Morrison are also listed to address the General Debate in person on September 24.

With leaders of Australia, India, Japan and the United States expected to attend the General Assembly session in person, it is highly likely that the Quad Leaders' Summit could take place in September around the UNGA.

The US, India, Australia and Japan had in 2017 given shape to the long-pending proposal of setting up the "Quad" or the Quadrilateral coalition to counter China's aggressive actions in the Indo-Pacific region.

Mixing shots a bad idea; India may not meet Dec 31 target: SII founder

PUNE (TIP) : The Serum Institute of India is unlikely to be able to secure a licence for its version of the highly efficacious coronavirus vaccine developed by US-based company Novavax, the Pune-based vaccine maker's chairman said on Friday, when he also urged caution on mixing of doses, said booster shots may be needed for those vaccinated over six months ago, and that the expectation that all Indians will be vaccinated by the end of 2021 was unlikely to be achieved.

Cyrus Poonawalla, 80, who founded SII – now the world's largest vaccine maker by volume – was speaking at an event in Pune, where he credited the Centre for easing regulatory processes for vaccine makers at a difficult time. He, however, stressed that the ideal gap between two doses of Covishield, which his company makes, was two months, and criticised the government for banning the export of doses.

On the vaccination target to reach all Indians by 2021, Poonawalla said: "We are yet to increase our production to 10 crore (100 million) vaccines. No single company in the world can produce 10 crore vaccines in a month. We have promised about 110-120 crore doses annually because we invested in it prior. So you can do the math now. If other manufacturers produce 1-2 crores every month then the production would increase accordingly."

The SII founder also said it was a "bad move by the government" to embargo exports of vaccines. "My son (SII CEO Adar Poonawalla) asked me not to open my mouth. But it is my view that exports ought to be opened," Poonawalla said, citing SII's supply commitments.

Over 150 countries are dependent on SII for vaccines and are blaming the company for stopping the supply during a crucial period, he said, before adding that these countries have paid "crores" in advances. The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and World Health Organisation (WHO) have given it ₹5,000 crore which, Poonawalla said, he offered to return. He hinted that they declined his offer in the hope that the Indian



government will lift the ban soon.

India banned vaccine exports in April when the second wave of the pandemic began to peak and the need to vaccinate people in the country at a greater pace was felt acutely.

Poonawalla, however, credited the Centre for easing regulatory processes. "I must stress that my difficulties are much reduced under the Modi government. Definitely, I am not the one to give lip sympathy to government ministers but certainly, one of the major reasons why we could launch our Covid vaccine so quickly was because of the forthcoming grant of permissions, encouragement to industries and reduction of 'Licencing Raj'. We have now got a drug controller who responds in the evening hours," Poonawalla said.

SII-manufactured Covishield accounts for close to 90% of all coronavirus vaccine doses administered in India. In mid-July, the Union government announced that it had placed orders for 375 million doses of Covishield at a rate of ₹205 per dose. These doses will be supplied between August and December. The Union government recently told Parliament that the company will produce 150 million doses a month beginning next month.

Source: HT

Rape and murder of a 4-year-old girl in Jaipur

700 police personnel helped arrest rape accused within 24 hours

JAIPUR (TIP): Seven hundred police personnel were pressed into service to the arrest the man allegedly involved in rape and murder of a 4-year-old girl in Jaipur, people aware of the matter said. They took 20 hours to solve the case.

Jaipur (rural) police superintendent Shankar Dutt Sharma, who led the team, said it was not an easy task. He added the accused, Suresh Kumar, 25, did not even carry a mobile phone. Sharma added Kumar was on his way home when he saw the girl outside her house. He allegedly picked and took her to an isolated place near a pond, around 5-7 km away, and raped and murdered her. He added there was not even a clue in the beginning.

Sharma said even as they were under a lot of pressure as hundreds of people gathered to protest seeking arrest of the accused, the efforts of 700 personnel paid off in less than 24 hours. He added the accused continued to change his location but they coordinated with local residents via a WhatsApp group and that too helped in arresting him.

The girl went missing on Wednesday,



700 Rajasthan Police personnel were part of the operation to arrest the alleged accused in a case of rape and murder of a 4-yr old girl in Jaipur. Source: PTI

August 11, and her body was found a day later.



Twitter unlocks Rahul Gandhi's handle

A week after temporarily suspending his account, Twitter restored Congress leader Rahul Gandhi's handle on Saturday, but not before the principal opposition party accused it of bias.

Gandhi's account was temporarily suspended last week after he tweeted pictures of the family of a nine-year-old victim of alleged rape and murder in northwest Delhi. Twitter deemed it violation of its rules.

Sources said the Twitter accounts of some of the party leaders who had shared the same pictures had also been restored.

"Rahul Gandhi's Twitter account has been unlocked," a party functionary said, adding that the accounts of some of the leaders had also been restored.

The former Congress chief had made a strong outburst on Friday accusing Twitter of "interfering in the national political process" and said shutting down of his handle amounted to an "attack on the country's democratic structure".

Gandhi, in a YouTube video statement titled 'Twitter's dangerous game', alleged that it was not a neutral and objective platform and was " beholden to the government".

Questioning Twitter's action, Gandhi had said the company was denying millions of his followers the right to an opinion, which was unfair.

"It's obvious now that Twitter is actually not a neutral, objective platform. It is a biased platform. It's something that listens to what the government of the day says," Gandhi had alleged.

In the wake of the friction with the Congress, Twitter has transferred its India head Manish Maheshwari, against whom an FIR was registered in Uttar Pradesh in connection with a probe related to a video of an alleged hate crime, to the US.

Venkaiah considers action against 'unruly' Oppn MPs, seeks advice

NEW DELHI (TIP): Rajya Sabha Chairman M Venkaiah Naidu is said to be actively considering some kind of action against "unruly" members of the Opposition over their conduct in the well of the Rajya Sabha Wednesday when the monsoon session of Parliament ended on a bitter note amid chaotic scenes.

Venkaiah Naidu, it is learnt, has started examining precedents and holding legal consultations with former and serving senior members of the Rajya Sabha secretariat on the next steps for appropriate action against the MPs over their behaviour.

On the table is also the nature of the committee that should look into the matter and recommend action — whether it should be the committee on privileges, ethics or if a special committee has to be constituted.

Any action will be taken after detailed consideration and an appropriate view would be taken at the earliest, sources told The Indian Express Friday, Aug 13.

While the Committee of Privileges of Rajya Sabha can look into issues "involving a breach of privilege either of a member or of the Council or of a Committee thereof", the Committee on Ethics oversees "the moral and ethical conduct of the members and to examine the cases referred to it with reference to the ethical and other misconduct by members".

Another option before the Chairman, sources said, is creation of a special committee for scrutiny of the matter. There is a precedent from UPA-I rule— it was set by Somnath Chatterjee as Lok Sabha Speaker — dealing with the case of cash-for-



After a day of hectic political activity that saw the government and the Opposition blame one another for disruptions during the monsoon session of Parliament that ended abruptly on August 11.

question by members of the Lower House. Based on the recommendations of a special committee headed by Pawan Kumar Bansal, Lok Sabha had passed a resolution to expel 10 of its members.

Their expulsion happened without the matter being referred to the Privileges Committee. A Rajya Sabha member was also expelled by the House, based on the recommendations of the same committee.

Chairman Naidu, sources said, has spoken to V K Agnihotri, Secretary General of Rajya Sabha from October 2007 to September 2012, to seek advice on the subject — Naidu has consulted Agnihotri in the past as well. He has also spoken to senior members of the Rajya Sabha secretariat.

He is said to be keen on consulting Subhash Kashyap who served as Lok

Sabha Secretary General from December 1983 to August 1990.

Meanwhile, Naidu, interacting with reporters Friday, said the Opposition and Treasury benches are his two eyes and are equal for him. A proper vision, he said, is possible with two eyes and that he has equal esteem for the two sides. And the reason why he, on many occasions, said it is the collective responsibility of both sides to enable smooth functioning of the House.

If anybody holds a different view on his handling of proceedings in the House, Naidu said, he will leave it to their wisdom. He said the legislature is meant for debate and discussion, and external political battles should not be fought on the table of the House — he was referring to some members climbing on to the table while sloganeering.

Source: The Indian Express

No single-use plastic goods from next year

NEW DELHI (TIP): Keeping in view their adverse impacts on both terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems, the Centre today notified the Plastic Waste Management Amendment Rules, 2021, prohibiting several single-use plastic items with low utility and high littering potential by July 2022.

According to a gazette notification issued by the Ministry of Environment, Forest, and Climate Change, manufacture, import, stocking, distribution, sale, and use of single-use plastic, including polystyrene and expanded polystyrene commodities have been prohibited with an effect from July 1, 2022.

They include items like earbuds with plastic sticks, plastic sticks for balloons, plastic flags, candy sticks, ice-cream sticks, polystyrene (thermocool) for decoration, plates, cups, glasses, cutlery such as forks, spoons, knives, straw, trays, wrapping or packing films around sweet boxes, invitation cards, and cigarette packets, plastic or PVC banners less than 100 microns, and stirrers.

With effect from September 30, 2021, the thickness of plastic carry bags has been increased from 50 microns to 75 microns and to 120 microns from December 31, 2022. This has been done to stop littering due to



lightweight plastic carry bags and allow reuse of plastic carry due to an increase in thickness, according to officials.

Source: TNS

August 14 to be observed as Partition Horrors Remembrance Day: PM

NEW DELHI (TIP): Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday, August 14, announced that August 14 would be observed as the Partition Horrors Remembrance Day in memory of those who sacrificed their lives to mindless violence. "Partition's pains can never be forgotten. Millions of our sisters and brothers were displaced and many lost their lives due to mindless hate and violence. In memory of the struggles and sacrifices of our people, 14th August will be observed as Partition Horrors Remembrance Day," the PM said in a tweet on Saturday.

He said the day would serve as a reminder to counter divisions and disharmony in society.

"May the #PartitionHorrorRemembranceDay keep reminding us of the need to remove the poison of social divisions, disharmony and further strengthen the spirit of oneness, social harmony and human empowerment," the PM said.

India reports 38,667 new Covid cases, 478 more deaths

NEW DELHI (TIP): India saw a single-day rise of 38,667 new coronavirus infections, taking the total tally of cases to 3,21,56,493, while the death toll rose to 4,30,732 with 478 fresh fatalities, according to the Union Health Ministry data updated on Saturday, August 14.

The ministry said the country had now reported less than 50,000 daily new cases for 48 consecutive days.

The active cases have increased to 3,87,673 (1.21 per cent of the total infections), while the recovery rate was recorded at 97.45 per cent, the data updated at 8 am showed.

An increase of 2,446 cases has been recorded in the active Covid caseload in a span of 24 hours, it showed.

Also, 22,29,798 Covid tests were conducted on Friday, taking the cumulative number of tests conducted so far for the detection of coronavirus in the country to 49,17,00,577, while the daily positivity rate was recorded at 1.73 per cent. It has been less than 3 per cent for the last 19 days.

The weekly positivity rate was recorded at 2.05 per cent, according to the health ministry.

The number of people who have recuperated from the disease rose to



3,13,38,088, while the case fatality rate stands at 1.34 per cent, the data stated.

Cumulatively, 53.61 crore Covid vaccine doses have been administered till Saturday

morning.

The 478 fatalities reported on Saturday include 158 from Maharashtra and 114 from Kerala.

Overall, a total of 4,30,732 deaths have been reported so far in the country, including 1,34,730 from Maharashtra, 36,933 from Karnataka, 34,462 from Tamil Nadu, 25,068 from Delhi, 22,782 from Uttar Pradesh, 18,394 from Kerala and 18,276 from West Bengal.

Demand for hospital beds, ICU goes up in Kerala

As the coronavirus graph continues to shoot up in Kerala for almost two months now, the pressure is visible on the overworked health machinery and demand for beds and ventilators too are on the rise. Hospitalisation has gone up considerably, but there is no shortage of oxygen visible in private and government hospitals.

According to health ministry statistics, ICU occupancy of Covid-19 patients (both private and government) has gone up from 2101 to 2175 on Friday but those on ventilators dropped from 800 to 780. Around 70 per cent of those infected remain in home quarantine and those critical with co-morbid conditions have been approaching hospitals. But increased home isolation invited more trouble- many experts said large families are turning transmission hubs in the state.

Delta Plus advances in Maharashtra: 5 deaths, 66 cases so far

Maharashtra health department has said five people have died from the Delta Plus variant of the coronavirus and as many as 66 cases have been detected in the state so far. The department said on Friday, August 13, that a revision in the state's Covid-19 infection tally was made after a fresh case of the Delta Plus variant was detected from the Thane district a day before.

Of the five deaths from the Delta Plus variant reported in Maharashtra, two are from the Ratnagiri district while one each has been recorded from Mumbai, Beed, and Raigad. Of the 66 patients down with the Delta Plus variant of the virus, seven were aged under 18, the PTI news agency reported.

An 80-year-old woman from Ratnagiri was the first person in the state to succumb to the Delta Plus variant, followed by a 63-year-old fully-vaccinated woman from Mumbai.

Although the Mumbai woman had taken both doses of the Covid-19 vaccine, she tested positive for the coronavirus. A resident of the suburban Ghatkopar area, she died on July 27 in the ICU of a hospital. Authorities detected the Delta Plus variant in her case on August 11, over an entire fortnight after her death.

According to the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC), at least two close contacts of the victim were also found infected with the same variant.

The PTI news agency reports that of all the Delta Plus patients in Maharashtra, the maximum belongs to Jalgaon (13) in the northern part of the state, followed by Ratnagiri (12) and Mumbai (11).



IAF sacks staffer for refusing to get vaccinated against Covid

AHMEDABAD (TIP): The Indian Air Force has sacked one of its personnel from service for refusing to get vaccinated against Covid-19, which has been made a service condition, the Central Government has told the Gujarat High Court.

Additional Solicitor General Devang Vyas, in his submission on Wednesday in the High Court on a plea moved by IAF corporal Yogendra Kumar at Jamnagar in Gujarat, told a Division Bench of Justices A J Desai and A P Thaker that across India, nine personnel had refused to get vaccinated and they were given show-cause notices.

One of them, who did not respond to the notice, was terminated from service, Vyas told the High Court.

He, however, did not give the name or any other details of the staffer against whom the action was taken.

"Across India, only nine personnel have refused to take the vaccine. All of them were given show cause notice...one did not respond, so in view of the lack of response, his service is already terminated," Vyas told the court.

He said as far as the vaccine in general is concerned, it is optional, but so far as the Air Force is concerned, it is now made a service condition, which is in continuation of the oath taken at the time of enrollment in the service.

Also, it is imperative to see to it that the Force is not put in a vulnerable state, and it is required for personnel to mandatorily get vaccinated, he told the court.

Vyas also said since corporal Yogendra Kumar has responded to the show-cause notice, he can either appear before a proper authority or the Armed Forces Tribunal, under provisions of the Armed Forces Tribunal Act.

On the plea of Kumar, challenging the notice after his unwillingness to get vaccinated against Covid-19, the HC on Wednesday directed the IAF to consider his case



afresh.

The court disposed of his plea after ordering that the interim relief granted to the petitioner unwilling to get vaccinated shall continue until his case is decided by the IAF, and the same shall not be implemented for a period of two weeks from the date of service of the order to the petitioner.

Kumar had approached the court, seeking quashing of the show-cause notice, dated May 10, 2021, issued to him by the IAF after he declined to get vaccinated against Covid-19.

The IAF had asked him to show cause why he should not be dismissed for not taking Covid-19 vaccine.

He had also sought the court's direction to direct the IAF to not take coercive action against him in furtherance of the show cause notice.

Kumar also requested the court to direct the IAF to follow the Central Government's order that the vaccine is purely voluntary and not mandatory.



JSW Group announces more than Rs 25 million awards for India's medal winners at Tokyo Olympics 2020 & coaches

NEW YORK (TIP): India based US\$ 13 billion, JSW Group, has announced awards amounting to more than Rs 25 million for all the Indian medal winners at the recently concluded Tokyo Olympics 2020. These cash awards are a goodwill gesture by JSW to all the Indian athletes who brought home an Olympic medal and made India proud. At the recently concluded Tokyo Olympics 2020, India brought home its highest medal tally including one gold. The details of JSW Group's cash awards are as follows:

1. Neeraj Chopra will be awarded Rs 1 crore cash grant while his coach Klaus Bartonietz and Physiotherapist Ishaan Marwaha will be awarded Rs 10 lakhs each. Neeraj Chopra became India's second individual gold medal winner as well as India's first track-and-field medal at an Olympic Games. He threw his javelin 87.58 meters to clinch the gold medal.
2. Bajrang Punia will be awarded Rs 15 lakhs while his coach Emzarios Bentinidis & Physiotherapist Manish Chetri will be awarded Rs 5 lakhs each. Wrestler Bajrang Punia became the third Indian debutant to win a medal at Tokyo 2020.
3. Ravi Dahiya will be awarded Rs 20

- lakhs while his coach Satpal Singh will be awarded Rs 5 lakhs. Ravi won the Silver medal in men's 57kg freestyle wrestling. He is Olympic debutant and a medal winner for India.
4. The Indian Men's Hockey Team members will be awarded Rs 2 lakhs each to all 16 players in the squad as well as Head Coach, Head Physio & Assistant Coach. A grant of Rs 1 lakhs each will also be awarded to 4 other Coaching Staff. After 41-years, the Indian men's hockey team won an Olympic medal since the Gold at Moscow Olympics 1980.
5. P V Sindhu will be awarded Rs 15 lakh while her coach Park Tae-Sang will be awarded Rs 5 lakhs. PV Sindhu brought home a Bronze medal in women's singles badminton. She became the first Indian woman and only the second Indian athlete to win two individual Olympic medals.
6. Lovlina Borgohain will be awarded Rs 15 lakhs while her coaches Raffaele Bergamasco and Sandhya Gurung will be awarded Rs 5 lakhs each. Lovlina Borgohain brought home a Bronze medal in women's welterweight (64-69kg). She is an Olympic debutant winner.

7. Mirabai Chanu will be awarded Rs 20 lakhs while her coach Vijay Sharma will be awarded Rs 5 lakhs. Weightlifter Mirabai Chanu opened India's medal tally at the Tokyo 2020 Olympics with a silver in the women's 49kg. She is an Olympic debutant winner.

According to Mr Parth Jindal, Founder of Inspire Institute of Sport and JSW Sports, "These Indian athletes created history for India at Tokyo Olympics 2020 in more ways than one. JSW Group acknowledges the contribution of each of these athletes and their coaches in ensuring the Indian flag was flying high at Tokyo. While cricket has been India's No. 1 sport, I believe that as a country of 1.4 billion, we have much more space for new sports stars to emerge. This year's performance has been the tipping point for India to acknowledge and recognize our sporting achievement and potential on a global stage. I am confident that we can expect India to perform even better at Paris 2024."

The Cash grants announced by JSW Group will be awarded to the Athletes in September 2021 at a ceremony to be scheduled at Inspire Institute of Sport.

About JSW Group

The US\$ 13 billion JSW Group is ranked among India's leading business



houses. JSW's innovative and sustainable presence in various sectors including Steel, Energy, Infrastructure, Cement, Paints, Venture Capital and Sports is helping the Group play an important role in driving India's economic growth. The Group strives for excellence by leveraging its strengths & capabilities including a successful track-record of executing large capital-intensive & technically complex projects, differentiated product-mix, state-of-the-art manufacturing facilities and greater focus on pursuing sustainable growth. With a culturally diverse workforce spread across India, USA, Europe and Africa, JSW Group directly employs nearly 40,000 people. It also has a strong social development focus aimed at empowering local communities residing around its Plant & Port locations. JSW Group is known to create value for all its stakeholders by combining its growth roadmap, superior execution capabilities and a relentless drive to be #BetterEveryday.

**CONGRATULATES TIRLOK MALIK FOR HIS NEW MOVIE
RELEASING WORLD WIDE THIS MONTH**

"New India can be built only by Indians living in India"

Padma Shri Dr. Sudhir Parikh
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Presents

**TO
NEW INDIA
WITH LOVE**

A Film by EMMY Nominated NRI Tirlok Malik
Cast : TIRLOK MALIK, ARYAN PRATAP SINGH AND DALIP MACCUNE
Screenplay & Dialogue: MURTAZA ALI KHAN | Asst. Director & Editor : RAKESH ZHAROTIA | DOP: VIJAY CHAUHAN
Releasing on the occasion of 75th Independence Day



IAAC FREEDOM CONCERT

BY MABEL PAIS

THE INDO-AMERICAN ARTS COUNCIL (IAAC) CELEBRATES, VIRTUALLY, 75 YEARS OF INDIA'S INDEPENDENCE WITH DR. RADHIKA CHOPRA ON AUGUST 14, 2021, AND WITH AMAAN ALI BANGASH & AYAAN ALI BANGASH ON SUNDAY, AUGUST 15TH AT 8:30 PM.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 14TH @ 8:30 PM



Radhika Chopra. - Photo / radhikachopra.com

DR. RADHIKA CHOPRA is a much sought after composer and singer not only across India and Pakistan, but also in the United Kingdom, the Near East and East Africa where loyal audiences have been enthralled by her melodious & soul stirring renditions. Her impeccable diction of both the Hindi and Urdu languages have won her accolades of the discerning listener right across the globe. Dr. Chopra has been empaneled by the Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) to perform in foreign countries to promote classical Indian music and commissioned by the Indian Ministry of Culture to commemorate legendary figures such as Ghalib, Kundan Lal Saigal, et al. To learn more, visit radhikachopra.com

SUNDAY, AUGUST 15TH @ 8:30 PM
AMAAN ALI BANGASH & AYAAN ALI BANGASH

Amaan Ali Bangash & Ayaan Ali Bangash



(left) Amaan Ali Bangash & Ayaan Ali Bangash. -

Photo / ayaanalibangash.com

AMAAN ALI BANGASH: A "worthy heir to his father's crown" - Songlines Magazine (songlines.co.uk)

AMAAN ALI BANGASH, the older son and disciple of the Sarod Maestro Amjad Ali Khan and grandson of Haafiz Ali Khan, along with his younger brother Ayaan, belongs to the seventh generation in an unbroken chain of the Senia Bangash School. He was initiated by his father into the fine art of Sarod playing and gave his first public performance at age eight.

Amaan's musical style is marked by its precision in tunefulness, bold and resonant strokes, along with tradition and continuity of Indian Classical Music. An inspiration for younger generation musicians, he is considered one of the finest Sarod players in the world and has obtained a very special place for himself among music enthusiasts across continents. He has performed at numerous mainstream venues in India and around the world from 1986 to the present day. He continues to perform internationally, both individually and in collaboration with other artists.

In 2005, Amaan composed music for the film, "American Delight," directed by Academy Award winner Rodger Christian. In 2002, he received the Provogue Society's Young Achievers Award for

Performing.

In addition to playing the Sarod, Amaan co-authored a book with his younger brother Ayaan, titled "Abba - God's greatest gift to us" on his father's life in November 2002 as part of their 'Family Pride' series. In early 2010, he co-authored his second book with Ayaan called '50 Maestros 50 Recordings' for Harper Collins and also released an album called "The Music Room" and "Sarod Symphony" with his father and guru. To learn more, visit amaanalibangash.com

AYAAN ALI BANGASH, the younger son and disciple of the Sarod Maestro Amjad Ali Khan, Ayaan stepped into the world of music and the Sarod, at a very early age, with confidence, clarity, consistency and technical mastery all of which he learnt at his father's knees. He gave his solo debut performance at eight. He has performed in India as well as at venues in countries around the world. He has collaborated with his talented brother Amaan and his illustrious father, Ustad Amjad Ali Khan.

Ayaan collaborated with the noted Cellist Mathew Barley in 2002, in 2005 with Guitarist Dereck Truks of the Allman Brother's band and Evelyn Glennie. In 2006 Ayaan collaborated with Evelyn Glennie at Queen Elisabeth Hall. Bestowed with the MTV's Lycra Award for the Most Stylish person in Music in 2006, Ayaan was honored by the Mayor of the City of Tulsa, Oklahoma with the Keys to the City along with an Honorary Citizenship and the Bharat Shiromani Award for Instrumental music in 2007. To learn more, visit ayaanalibangash.com

LC "BAANDS" TOGETHER DANCE FESTIVAL

BY MABEL PAIS



BAAND Poster - Photo / lincolncenter.org.

LINCOLN CENTER presents the "BAAND Together" Dance Festival, an unprecedented week of outdoor dance performances as part of Restart Stages. At Lincoln Center's Restart Stages, from August 17-21, five of the city's most iconic dance companies share the stage - for the first time ever! Ballet Hispánico, Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, American Ballet Theatre, New York City Ballet, and Dance Theatre of Harlem come together on one stage-with dancers and works from across the companies featured each night at 7:30 pm at Damrosch Park.

New works and repertory favorites offer audiences the unique and exciting experience of an evening of programming curated collaboratively by the artistic directors of each company.

Company Members Lead Outdoor Family Workshops

Before Ballet Hispánico, Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, American Ballet Theatre, New York City Ballet, and Dance Theatre of Harlem take the stage at night, they'll be teaching kids and families how to dance for themselves at 4:00 pm from August 17-21. Join the general admission standby line the day of the event. From Salsa, barre work, West African dance style Kuku, and signature "Swan Lake" choreography, you'll be moving to your own beat in no time.

Program 1 - August 17, 2021

Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater Lazarus (excerpt); Choreographed by Rennie Harris

This excerpt is inspired by the life and times of Alvin Ailey. It addresses racial inequities in America when Mr. Ailey founded his company in 1958 as well as today. Watch the video from Part 1: youtu.be/MIuat0zysb4

New York City Ballet "Ces Noms Que Nous Portons;" Choreographed by Kyle Abraham

A tribute to LGBTQ Pride Month in 2020. The artists revealed their intent to "celebrate our queerness and our color in a way that hopefully stresses its importance, its fragility, and its strength. We create dances for those who have yet to see themselves on a stage." To see the world premiere dance on film performance of "Ces Noms Que Nous Portons," watch the video: youtu.be/DG0o1bjmRIA

Dance Theatre of Harlem Harlem on my Mind (excerpt); Choreographed by Darrell Grand Moultrie

"This work was created to celebrate the memory of my beloved music teacher Ms. Gwendolyn McLoud. She loved Jazz music and made sure her students in Harlem were exposed to its history and brilliance. I would love to keep sharing this great music with the next generation." - Darrell Grand Moultrie

American Ballet Theatre Let Me Sing Forevermore; Choreographed by Jessica Lang

Jessica Lang's spirited and romantic "Let Me Sing Forevermore" is set to a medley of American popular songs as sung by Tony Bennett ("Steppin' Out With My Baby," "Fly Me To The Moon" and "I Got Rhythm").

Ballet Hispánico 18+1; Choreographed by Gustavo Ramirez Sansano

18+1 celebrates Gustavo's 19 years as a choreographer and the vulnerability, care, and hope that comes with each artistic endeavor. In a display of subtle humor and electric choreography, the movement merges with the playful rhythms found in Pérez Prado's mambo music. Sansano draws from his history and memory to take a joyous look at the past, present, and future.

TICKETS

For Tickets, visit TodayTix.com.

To learn more and about events August 18-21, visit lincolncenter.org/lincoln-center-at-home/series/baand-together-dance-festival

(Mabel Pais writes on The Arts and Entertainment, Social Issues, Spirituality, and Health & Wellness)



NYC Mayor Ushers In Cultural Homecoming

BY MABEL PAIS

"Joining our mega-star lineup of NYC Homecoming Week concerts and cultural events, our partnership with Rooftop Films will offer even more ways for New Yorkers to celebrate our comeback". From documentaries to comedies and shorts by acclaimed directors, we're proud to bring these free outdoor screenings to all five boroughs this August." - NYC Mayor de Blasio
"Rooftop Films is proud to have helped keep cinema alive in NYC over the past year and we could not have done it without the help of the people in City Hall," - Dan Nuxoll, President - Rooftop Films."

NYC Mayor Bill de Blasio ushers in NYC Homecoming Week with screenings of six free outdoor film and TV screenings taking place August 14-22. The screenings will be located across all five boroughs of New York City to celebrate New York City's comeback, and will showcase exciting new films and series that capture the vitality and courageous resilience of New Yorkers.



NYC Homecoming/Rooftop Films Poster - Photo / Rooftop Films

Dan Nuxoll, President of Rooftop Films, with the Mayor reveals the programming lineup.

Gates will open for each screening at 6:30 p.m., and films will begin at 8:30 p.m. See the full schedule below for all dates, times and locations. Visit nyc.gov/HomecomingWeek for more information and to RSVP for free tickets.

NYC Homecoming Week screenings will be a part of the 2021 Rooftop Films Summer Series, and other

sponsors.

New Yorkers can experience screenings of the following films and series:

AILEY

DIR: Jamila Wignot | Documentary Feature | USA | 82 mins

Date/Location: August 16, 2021 at Walter Gladwin Park, Bronx

Tickets: Free, RSVP HERE: <https://rooftopfilms.com/event/homecoming-week-ailey>

WHAT WE DO IN THE SHADOWS (Select episodes, Season 2 finale & Season premiere)

Created by Jemaine Clement | Series | USA | 44 mins

Date/Location: August 17, 2021 at Snug Harbor Cultural Center, Staten Island

Tickets: Free, RSVP HERE: rooftopfilms.com/event/homecoming-week-what-we-do-in-the-shadows

BLOOD BROTHERS: MALCOLM X & MUHAMMAD ALI

DIR: Marcus A. Clarke | Documentary Feature | USA | 95 mins

Date/Location: August 18, 2021 at Jackie Robinson Park in Harlem, Manhattan

Tickets: Free, RSVP HERE: rooftopfilms.com/event/homecoming-week-blood-brothers-malcolm-x-muhammad-ali

SUMMER OF SOUL (...Or, When the Revolution Could Not Be Televised)

DIR: Ahmir "Questlove" Thompson | Documentary Feature | USA | 117 mins

Date/Location: August 19, 2021 at Fort Greene Park, Brooklyn

Tickets: Free, RSVP HERE: rooftopfilms.com/event/homecoming-week-summer-of-soul-or-when-the-revolution-could-not-be-televised

Featured Short Films:

How To with John Wilson: How To Cook the Perfect Risotto (dir. John Wilson | USA | 30 mins)

I Know What Pandemic Means (Sé Lo Que Es Pandemia) [dir. Frisly Soberanis | USA | 15 mins]

In Sudden Darkness (dir. Tayler Montague | USA | 13 mins)

Last Stop For Lost Property (dir. Vicente Cueto | USA | 13 mins)

MOVING (dir. Adinah Dancyger | USA | 8 mins)

3,000 Miles (???) [dir. Sean Wang & Breton Vivian | USA | 5 mins]

For all attendees, proof of COVID-19 vaccination is required for entry.

Proof of vaccination includes at least one dose of an approved COVID-19 vaccine, such as Pfizer, Moderna, Johnson & Johnson, or AstraZeneca/Oxford.

Attendees can present proof of vaccination by showing one of the following:

CDC COVID-19 Vaccination Card;

A photo (digital or printout) of their CDC COVID-19 Vaccination Record Card;

New York City COVID SAFE App; or

New York State Excelsior Pass. (Note: You do not have to be a New York State resident to obtain an Excelsior Pass, however, you must be fully vaccinated to use the pass. Examples: Second dose of the Pfizer or Moderna COVID-19 vaccine, the single dose of the Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 vaccine.)

An attendee who is not able to get vaccinated because of a disability will be required to:

Sign an attestation to that effect to enter the event.

Present proof of a negative COVID PCR (Polymerase Chain Reaction) test taken within 72 hours prior to the event; and

If medically able to tolerate a face-covering, wear a mask for the entire duration of the event.

RSVP, required for all events, at rooftopfilms.com/nyc-homecoming-week

In celebration of New York City's comeback, NYC Homecoming Week events, August 14-22, include:

"It's Time for Hip Hop in NYC" concert series produced by New York City, the Universal Hip Hop Museum, and IDEKO;

"WE LOVE NYC: The Homecoming Concert" produced by New York City, Clive Davis, and Live Nation

Cultural activities and public art; and

Iconic events including NYC Restaurant Week and Summer Streets.

For more information, visit nyc.gov/HomecomingWeek. View the NYC Homecoming Week Social Media Toolkit at: on.nyc.gov/HomecomingWeekToolkit.

To learn more about Rooftop Films, visit rooftopfilms.com

SRFF WITH LAU PRESENTS SHATTERED-BUT-UNBROKEN

BY MABEL PAIS

"This series focuses on memory and identity in Lebanese cinema to mark the first anniversary of the terrible explosion that shook Beirut. The shattered pieces are those of a rich cultural heritage and represent far more than the irreparable human and material losses." - Nora Armani, SRFF Founder & Artistic Director



:"UNBROKEN" Poster - Photo/ SRFF/LAU

"Shattered but Unbroken": Spotlight on Lebanese Cinema by SR Socially Relevant™ Film Festival NY and The Lebanese American University - LAU

In-person gala opening screenings at The Elinor Bunin Munroe Film Center at the Lincoln Center on August 17 with VIP reception

Online streaming of films and live panel from August 18 through 21

UN-BROKEN: Memory and Identity in Lebanese Cinema (August 17-21) is organized and presented by SRFF with festival partner The Lebanese American University in New York (LAU - lau.edu.lb/locations/nyc).

The series focuses on memory and identity in Lebanese cinema to mark the first anniversary of the terrible explosion that shook Beirut, and kicks off with an opening at the Lincoln Center's Elinor Bunin Munroe Film Center with two hits from Lebanese Cinema, Ziad Doueiri's Oscar-nominated "The Insult"

and the New York Premiere screening of Oualid Mouaness' debut feature, "1982," with a Q&A, followed by a VIP wine in the presence of participating filmmakers on August 17. A series of films streams online from August 18-21 inclusive.

FILMS screening in person on August 17 at the Lincoln Center are

THE INSULT | ZIAD DOUEIRI | LEBANON, FRANCE, BELGIUM, USA | 2017 | 103' AT 6:00 PM (COURTESY OF THE COHEN MEDIA GROUP).

1982 | OUALID MOUANESS | LEBANON, NORWAY, FRANCE, QATAR | 2019 | 100' AT 8:00 PM Q&A WITH THE DIRECTOR.

There will be a panel discussion on Thursday, August 19 hosted by LAU broadcast live, regular "Meet the Filmmakers" sessions, in addition to the online slate which includes award-winning narrative features by Maroun Baghdadi, Vatche Boulghourjian, Jocelyne Saab, Philippe Aractingi.

To learn more, visit ratedsrffilms.org and lau.edu.lb/locations/nyc

(Mabel Pais writes on Social Issues, The Arts and Entertainment, Spirituality, and Health & Wellness)



Battery Dance Celebrates @ 40

BY MABEL PAIS

56 Performances, 32 Premieres, 14 Countries
AUG 12-20, 2021

FILM: "FALL BACK" by Abhilash Ningappa - AUG 14

DANCES: INDIA INDEPENDENCE DAY PERFORMANCES - AUG 15

"SHIVA PANCHAKSHARA STOTRAM" by RAMYA DURVASULA

"THE UNDERGROUND" by ROHAN BHARGAVA

"Dancing in the open air, with the river and sky in the background, is always a blissful Battery Dance Festival experience," said Jonathan Hollander, President and Artistic Director, Battery Dance. "This year, it will be even more exhilarating as people come out of isolation to witness the entrancing performances at Wagner Park. Before the action starts on stage, three nights of truly riveting dance films from many corners of the globe will be screened. Creativity was running high during the pandemic, and we have harvested a heady mix from voguing on a mountaintop in Lebanon to swing dancing in South Korea; commedia dell'arte in Mexico to birdlike flocking in the Netherlands."

Battery Dance with Battery Park City Authority celebrates the 40th Anniversary of its free summer festival from August 12-20, 2021.

August 13, 2021

"As Part of Lindy Hop Evolution," Team AJC, Andy Seo (South Korea) - World Broadcast Premiere

"WalkINN," Jiva Velázquez (Paraguay) - World Broadcast Premiere

"Downriver," Bollwerkfilm (Switzerland)

"Our Stories," Arabesque Dance Vietnam (Vietnam)

"The Circadian Cycle," Australian Dance Theatre (Australia)

August 14, 2021

"The Bait," Chenglong Tang (China)

"Free Pita & Nilydna," Jill Crovisier (Luxembourg)

"Fall Back," Abhilash Ningappa (India) - World Broadcast Premiere

"Groundworks Alcatraz" (excerpts), Dancing Earth Creations (United States) - World Broadcast Premiere

"Goat & Al Jurd," Hoedy Saad (Lebanon) - World Broadcast Premiere

"Näss (People)" Excerpt, Massala Company, Fouad Boussof (France) - World Broadcast Premiere

IN-PERSON AND LIVE-STREAMED FESTIVAL PERFORMANCES - 7PM ET

August 15, 2021 - India Independence Day

"Kathak": Parul Shah Dance Company, featuring Parul Shah, Mohip Joarder with guest artist, Jin Won - "Yugal", a duet choreographed by Kumudini Lakhia, and a world premiere choreographed by Parul Shah

"Bharatanatyam": Kasi Aysola & SaiSantosh Radhakrishnan, "Water", originally created as a solo by Kasi Aysola and now premiered in its duet form

"Kuchipudi": "Ananda Tandavam", a solo adapted from choreography by Vempati Chinna Satyam in which Swathi Gundapuneedi-Atluri personifies both

"Voila Viola," Company | E - NYC Premiere

"John 4:20," Baye & Asa

"The Underground," Rohan Bhargava/Rovaco Dance Company

"Solstice," Jon Lehrer Dance Company

"Observatory," Battery Dance (2014)

August 18, 2021

"Od:yssey," Dancing Wheels - NYC Premiere

"Donor," Will Ervin - Erv Works Dance - World Premiere

"Radio Days," Demi Remick & Dancers - World Premiere

"On the Waterfront," MorDance

"The Liminal Year," Battery Dance - World Premiere

"Honky Tonk Angels," William Byram - NYC Premiere

August 19, 2021

"Virtuoso," CHR Project - NYC Premiere

"Deliver Us," Christian Warner

"846 (Rite of Spring)," Jamal Jackson Dance Company - World Premiere

"Rondo & Size of the Sky," New York Theatre Ballet

"Full Stop. Start Again." Akira Uchida, Maddy Wright, Joshua Strmic - World Premiere

"The Prayer of Daphnis," Christopher Williams - NYC Premiere

"It will happen again tonight," Dolly Sfeir

"Ode to Yma," Battery Dance, Razvan Stoian & Jillian Linkowski

August 20, 2021

"Alegrías," Flamenco Vivo II

"Maps," Ohiole Dibua - World Premiere

"Michoacán Suite," Ballet Nepantla



The 40th Annual Battery Dance Festival features 16 international dance films from August 12-14 at 7pm ET via YouTube. 40 in-person and live-streamed performances will be staged at Robert F. Wagner, Jr. Park, New York City, from August 15-20 at 7pm ET. In total, 32 premieres by 53 dance companies are offered to international audiences, promoting Battery Dance's mission of connecting the world through dance. To register for live performances or to view virtually, visit batterydance.org/battery-dance-festival

INTERNATIONAL DANCE FILM FESTIVAL (ONLINE ONLY) - 7 PM ET

August 12, 2021

"We Arnhem, Chapter II," - Introdans, Jurriën Schobben & Alberto Villanueva Rodríguez (The Netherlands)

"Uninhabited Island," Dance Troupe Braveman (South Korea) - World Broadcast Premiere

"MI blanco, MI Negro," Chilaquiles Rojos Colectivo, Vladimir Campoy (Mexico) - World Broadcast Premiere

"A Moment - Wakati," Nantea Dance Company (Tanzania) - World Broadcast Premiere

"Los Perros del Barrio Colosal," Boca Tuya, Omar Román De Jesús (Puerto Rico/NYC)

the male and female characters of Shiva and Parvathi in dialogue

"Bharatanatyam": Choreographer Maya Kulkarni presents two world premieres featuring Mesma Belsare, Aishwarya Medhav and Aishwarya Sriram

"Musical Interludes": Eventually Epic, musicians Sachin Premasuthan and Debarun Bhattacharjya perform original and song covers in Hindi and Tamil

"Sutradhar" (Narrator): Rajika Puri

August 16, 2021 - Young Voices in Dance, Tadej Brdnik, Artistic Advisor

"The Stoic Bridge," Kate Louissaint & Nhyira Asante - World Premiere

???? (2:02), Imani Gaudin

"Repentino," Spencer Everett & Isabella Aldridge - NYC Premiere

"This is 22!," Brian Golden - World Premiere

"Shiva Panchakshara Stotram," Ramya Durvasula - World Premiere

"Mine, Yours, Ours," Lily Summer Gee

"Garden Tongues," Grace Yi-Li Tong

"Untitled," Kanyok Arts Initiative, World Premiere

August 17, 2021

"A Little Old, A Little New," Luke Hickey

"Warsaw," Graciano Dance Projects - World Premiere

"Flower," Stasis - World Premiere

"Flexn," a street style from Brooklyn

"Cuesta Abajo," Galletto y Guzmán - World Premiere

"Yemaya: Rebirthing to Existence," Beatrice Capote

"Untitled," Battery Dance - World Premiere

For more information, visit batterydance.org/battery-dance-festival

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(Mabel Pais writes on The Arts and Entertainment, Social Issues, Spirituality, and Health & Wellness)



Psychology of Self Empowerment



LESSONS LEARNT AND FUTURE

In a Conversation with



LIVE on Manav Utsav YouTube and Facebook Channel

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AN INTERVIEW WITH NICOLE LABORDE BY JASKIRAN S BERI

Aiming to provide Quality Home Care and Nursing Training

EDUCATION IS THE KEY. FOLLOW THE DREAM: LABORDE TO YOUNG PEOPLE



Nicole Laborde, founder and CEO of Ideal Home care Services, Ideal School of Allied Healthcare, Ideal Home Care Staffing and Ideal Home Care Franchise LLC

Marie Nicole Laborde, is a Stony Brook University graduate registered nurse, the founder and CEO of Ideal Home care Services, Ideal School of Allied Healthcare, Ideal Home Care Staffing and Ideal Home Care Franchise LLC. Passionate about helping others and empowering young men and women., she began her career working full time overnight at Stony Brook University hospital in 2002 as a bedside staff nurse. Within a short period of time, she was promoted Registered nurse supervisor on the kidney transplant, surgical oncology unit.

She realized that there was a need for home care services in the community due to the overwhelming requests and stress exhibited by family members when their loved ones were being discharged from the hospital. To help solve the problem, in 2009, she founded Ideal Home Care services, a licensed home health care agency. Her company has provided home care to over 1,000 seniors and others throughout Suffolk and Nassau Counties. Her services have allowed seniors to remain in the comfort of their homes for as long as possible. She has created countless job opportunities in her community by hiring people to care for those in need.

She did not stop there, she also realized that was a shortage of healthcare providers which created a negative impact on those in need of care. In 2011, she founded Ideal School of Allied Healthcare which is licensed by the Department of Education. Today, she offers 12 Curricula from home health aide, nursing assistant, medical assistant just to name a few. She has graduated over 1,500 men and women who are gainfully employed in her community.

While she is busy managing and operating her companies, she finds time to teach the home health aide class. She uses that platform to encourage and inspire her students to be the best that they can be.

- In 2014, she received a community leadership award from Councilman Ramos.
- In 2019 and 2020, Ideal school of Allied Healthcare received the Best Adult Training School and Customer Service award
- In 2020, she received she received the top 100 Healthcare Leaders Award and a Recognition Award from Senator Martinez for her dedication and commitment to the prosperity of her community

She is a member of the Long Island African American Chamber of Commerce.

Chief Editor of The Indian Panorama Prof. Indrajit S Saluja spoke with Ms. Laborde in her offices on August 9, with a view to having her comments on the wonderful institutions she is managing and the challenges and prospects she envisages. She was forthright, as can be seen from her responses to questions posed.

Q.What is the motivation behind the Nursing Training School? And do you have enough students coming forward?

A. We have the Pandemic open everybody's mind and especially in the sector of healthcare. A lot of people lost their jobs during Covid, Restaurants went out of business, factories went out of business, so people were left scrambling. While other businesses were closing, healthcare industry was in dire need of healthcare providers, so these shifted their minds.They revamped themselves. So, now we have a tremendous amount of people that are coming, wanting to be healthcare providers. Right now, we do Home healthcare Aide nursing assistance, medical Assistance,Phlebotomy and, in the future, I am hoping to get approved to provide the nursing training for people who want to become Licensed Practitioner Nurse.

Q. On the one hand many people were left jobless due to the pandemic, on the other hand, many were scared and did not want to get closer to anybody. Do you think that hampered your efforts to provide Homecare?

A. That is true for the Home health AIDES because you have this one on one in the home with the client.At the beginning of Covid we had this issue, however, people were coming wanting to become Nursing Assistants because they saw the path of working in a hospital, a nursing home and some of these people their mindset or goal is to become nurses. They saw an open door; these people were not afraid to come in and enroll themselves as Nursing Assistants. And as the world started to open up again, we had an influx of people now coming and wanting to become Home health AIDES. So, the scary part was at the very beginning when we talk March when a lot of people were dying, when the world kind of closed, people were afraid, Home Healthcare AIDES were afraid to go out but when we reopened after 3 months, it was like we were never closed.

Q. So you feel satisfied that the numbers that you expected are there both for Homecare and the Training School?



"Education is the key. Follow the dream" A class in progress at the Ideal School of Allied Health Care.

A. Yes, there has been an increase in the enrollment for students.

Q. Is the increase to your expectation and satisfaction?

A. Yes, but there is always a room for improvement and growth.

Q. Do you think there is an opportunity for Indian community students to come to US and study nursing here and get jobs as nurses?

A. Most definitely.

Q.How could they go about it?

A. Not knowing how the immigration process works,

since one has to go through the immigration process, but if you are already here there are great opportunities. I would suggest the way I started. I was not always a registered nurse. I was a nursing Assistant first and I worked my way up the ladder. So, if people don't have the financial means to go straight to nursing school, I say start from being a nursing Assistant. This will pave the way for you to become a Nurse or even a nurse practitioner or even a doctor or a phlebotomist. All of these are great areas for people who are already here can start with. That would be my advice to someone who is already here and someone who is trying to come here. Try to do it the legal route and once you come here there are great opportunities for all types of healthcare providers.

Q.If someone wants to join your company from India or any other part of the world, outside US, what will be the process? In the first place, are you going to welcome them?

A. Yes absolutely. If they are already here or they are coming here, we would have to go through the student visa process if they are from outside of US, but we are not there yet. But let's say they are already here, they will meet with an advisor, they will teach them, show them the proper route and interview them to see what the best program is to enroll in. We need to know what their long-term goal is. Based upon that information we get to advise them in what direction they should go.

Q. Do you think US has adequate number of nurses at the moment?

A. No

Q. What is the solution?

A. Years back I know some hospitals bring nurses overseas which is great, I don't know if the numbers are still the same. But I would say to continue to bring nurses overseas, teach people who are already here and explain to them how important it is to enroll in those healthcare programs. Not only are you going to have a job, but you are helping those who are in need because this is what it's all about. When you are a nurse, you are touching lives, you are changing lives and it's not just the lives of the patient that you are taking care of but also its tremendous help to the family members who know nothing about how to take care of someone who is sick. So, going out and educating people about how wonderful it is to be a nurse because it truly is.

Q. Do you think this could be a part of the education curriculum right from the elementary stage??

A. Yes, prior to Covid I was invited to go to High school to talk to not just the seniors but the staff more about the opportunities they could have in the healthcare Industry. Some of them wanted to be doctors so they wanted to know the steps, and some were interested in becoming nurses, so I started the work prior to Covid.

Unfortunately, Covid came, schools were closed. Even now the visitors are not allowed to go in to do presentation. During the summer I had someone who came from the High schools to meet me because she wants to bring back those presentations to students who are lost. They are graduating from the High school. They have no idea where to go. They have no idea what to do. So, we will be trying to bring this back again, hopefully in the fall if Covid allows. But the education really starts from the High School.

Q. What are the job opportunities you offer?

A. So, we offer job Assistance, and we say it's for lifetime. Whether you graduated yesterday or years ago, if you need help finding a job, if you need help with your resume, we help you. So, our home health AIDES have first priority through the homecare agency, we have hired about 20-30% of our home health AIDES.

CONTD ON PAGE 39



CONTD FROM PAGE 38



"We offer job Assistance, and we say it's for lifetime."

They don't have to go out to look for jobs, we give them first choice. Obviously, they can go elsewhere if they choose to.

I have connections with other Homecare agencies, they call me all the time if they are looking for Home health AIDES. Again, the Homecare sector has tremendous shortage of home health AIDES, so we are able to place those home health AIDES. We have nurses who are working in hospitals, they hold administrative positions, they call here to hire students. So, there are great job opportunities, we do have them with resumes so if they are looking for help putting a resume and a cover letter together, we help them. We have a board we post jobs at. We have people calling us directly asking for our students who are graduates.

Q. What is the Salary structure for these kinds of jobs?

A. For a Nursing assistant if you are working in a nursing home or a hospital you can make anywhere from \$18.00 and up. They do make more than a minimum wage.

If you are a phlebotomist, you really start up there.

The more marketable a student is, the more opportunities a student will have. What I mean with the more marketable is; you have nursing assistant who completed the program, we encourage them to go and sit for the state exam. So now you become a Certified Nursing Assistant and are more marketable.

If we have a phlebotomist, we encourage them to take their National Certification. With that the employers will be more willing to hire someone who went a step ahead and did the National Certification.

Employers look at these things. So, we encourage students to go that extra mile to become more marketable.

Q. What kind of salary structure can the Homecare givers expect?

A. I wish and hope that they make more than the minimum wage. Their job is so vital, they are truly making a change in the people's lives. They are the ones who are the eyes and the ears of the agencies. They are preventing people from being an institution but yet they are lowest paid workers.

Maybe I shouldn't be saying that, but it is true. So, in my agency I give them above the minimum wage, and I am hoping that other agencies are catching on and realizing how important those Home health AIDES are, and they are also giving them more than the minimum wage. And I know it's not easy when you are getting most of the revenues from Medicaid who pays the lowest rate, coupled with other administrative expenses. It may be very difficult for an agency to do that, but I think it's so important that they too are recognized as essential workers. Giving them a little more than just a name means a lot and with that some of them will take the job more seriously.

Q. Is there any Government Assistance available to your Institution or such institutions who provide such Healthcare services?

A. The Healthcare system needs to change. It needs to put the clients, the patients first. Each time there is change, a Medicaid change, it's not any change that in my opinion, benefits the patients. It makes it harder for them to enroll in the Medicaid Program Assistance.

When the changes are made, they create a domino effect, so the change affects the client, the agency, then it affects the worker. I am hoping that whoever the new Governor is going to be, or the Governor is going to remain that they really sit down and take a look of how those changes are impacting not in such a positive way, impacting those who are truly in need of Medicaid Assistance.

Q. Does your sector has any lobbying company or firms to form reforms in the Healthcare sector?

A. I really hope and wish that one day Healthcare agencies will really get together. Get together and not be afraid that we are competing against each other because I do believe there is business for everyone. We get so many referrals that we can't even fulfill the need, if we get together, we become strong and get great changes to this industry. We need to be more Co-operative than Competitive.

Q. So there is no Government Assistance available to your such agencies?

A. Well there is Medicaid who pays mostly for the Homecare services. However, we are not dealing with them directly as it used to be in the past. We have a middleman, the MLTCs, the government goes to them and then they hire us. There again lies the low wages for the Home health Aides because everybody is trying to survive, everybody has administrative fees, So, the MLTC has to do their parts, agencies have to do their parts. There is the assistance but a lot of times you see a lot of cuts and those cuts are not favorable to the MLTC, Client, Home care agencies and then to the Home Health Aides. The assistance is there but with a lot of cuts most of the time.

Q. What would you like to convey to the young students with regards to the education and career in the Healthcare Industry?



"When you are a nurse, you are touching lives, you are changing lives and it's not just the lives of the patient that you are taking care of but also its tremendous help to the family members who know nothing about how to take care of someone who is sick."

A. It's a great sector. I encourage students to join it. But don't do it for the money. Healthcare providers don't get paid enough for what we do. You truly have to have the passion, the need to help those who are in need because you don't know when you will end up one day. People sometimes think that homecare is for the old, it's for anybody. I have a client who was 19 years old. You could walk out of that door and something happens, you will find yourself in need of a homecare. I had a young coordinator in twenties, she had cancer and she was on the other side of the fence.

So, I encourage the young people to really explore the healthcare field. There are a lot of opportunities. So don't do it just for the money, do it because you want to help somebody. Do it because you want to change the life of somebody else. You want to make a difference in our society.

Q. What would you like to advise the community to do?

A. Sometimes family members or clients in need of help find themselves unable to find an agency because they can't pay for the service. So they go outside of the norm, they hire someone who is not qualified. You don't know who that person truly is. Homecare agencies are here to help either to give advice or to may be obtain

assistance from the government, we are here to protect you. As a homecare agency we do background checks, drug test. We make sure that they are trained, orientation is done, we do supervisory visits-announced and un-announced, any issues that the client might have we have a nurse that handles of these issues and the nurse also reaches out to the physician. Obviously not every single Home health Aide is the best. we do the best that we can, and we ensure that you are safe, and you are receiving the proper care. Please trust the agencies that are in your community.

Q. So the agencies can be a source of ultimate mental health. Is that what you are trying to say?

A. With Covid, it brought out a lot of mental health issues that we actually never really took the time to think about. We see it when the nurses go out to the homes, we see it with some of our workers especially at the height of Covid. We are still a source for these people to talk to. In the first 3 months in 2020, we were on phone with the family members, the Aides ensuring that they were safe, ensuring that there was no other issue going on with them. So, I can say that we are A source for these families as well as Home health aides.

Q. What are your expectations from the State?

A. I am pretty sure they are aware of this Mental health crisis. They are now really talking about Mental Health. Letting people know that there is a 1-800 number. Talk to someone, don't keep it to yourself. So there is great awareness, whether or not they are putting funding out there to help companies deal with mental illness, either providing services, help, education to employees, I am not sure, But if this is not already in place I would love to see the government get involved helping businesses with funding so that they can train and educate staff especially in the Homecare industry of the science that you need to know because if you know the science you will educate and to educate you need the funding, personnel to go out or probably to have services in-house related to mental health.

Q. Do you think the State should emphasize the importance of health and the education on health at the school level?

A. Yes, I think they should have a curriculum.

Q. What kind of a curriculum do you have in your mind?

A. Broadly speaking, discussing different health programs and colleges shouldn't be so expensive. These students not only some of them don't know what direction to take but they start to accumulate debt that they can't even pay.

So, this is why sometimes I advise people that if you are not sure about what you want to do, enroll in a post-secondary training school. That will be the steppingstone to tell you whether or not you would like to become a nurse. Try becoming a nursing Assistant. That will be the path to the nursing program, and it will tell you whether or not you could adapt to be a nurse, not everyone is cut out to be a nurse. So, these are my take on curriculum.

Everyone should be able to afford going to college. I mean we preach education all the time but you find that after high school this is it. But there are other paths than just going to college. My first path was not going to college. After I left High school, I didn't know what I wanted to be. My sister was a nurse and she pushed in and said you should be a nurse. But I didn't know at that time what I wanted to do. So, I enrolled in a nursing Assistance program and the rest is history.

So, I believe these kinds of things need to be instilled in their minds from High School.

Q. Do you think there should be Visiting Health Experts to talk to the High School students to impart them with more knowledge about healthcare sector?

A. It's being done at the local level.

Q. How would you like to conclude?

A. I would just like to tell the young folks that you never give up, follow your dreams, it's not impossible. If I can do it, they can also do it, they just have to remain focused and be persistent. Education is the key. Follow the Dream!



Kangana wraps Dhaakad shoot

Bollywood actor Kangana Ranaut has wrapped the filming of her upcoming actioner *Dhaakad*. Kangana on Thursday took to Instagram to share videos and pictures from her last day on the set of *Dhaakad* in Budapest.

In the video, Kangana is seen asking her producer and director whether they will miss her or not. Both answered in the affirmative and stated they have made an entertaining movie which will hopefully please the audience.

In another video, the *Dhaakad* team is seen cheering for Kangana Ranaut as she bid them goodbye. Kangana also shared a brand new still from *Dhaakad* in her Instagram stories.

Earlier, Kangana Ranaut had shared a post featuring herself as Agent Agni which read, "As the shoot is about to come to an end, she will live in me beyond the film.... She will rise in spite of herself and her inner demons #Agni #Dhaakad."

I love my son to the moon, but I wish I also had a daughter: Malaika Arora

Malaika Arora had revealed that she wanted a daughter during her stint as a judge on *Super Dancer Chapter 4* a while ago. After watching contestant Florina Gogoi perform, Malaika Arora made this particular revelation. Recently, when asked about this statement, Malaika said that while she cherishes her son Arhaan, she misses having a girl child.

In a recent interview with *Times Of India*, Malaika said, "For any mother, it's so beautifully overwhelming to be around kids. Florina tugged at my heartstrings. Her performance and the way she is struck with me deep down. I come from a family full of girls and now, we all have boys, largely. So, I do miss having a girl child. I love my son Arhaan to the moon and back, but I wish I also had a daughter," she said. Arhaan is Malaika Arora's son from her marriage with Arbaaz Khan. Malaika and Arbaaz separated in 2016.

The actor added, "That's a running sentiment in my heart. I have a girl sibling, and we're so typical in the sense that we'll share everything and watch each other's backs. The way Florina danced, it just made me so emotional that day; I wished I had a daughter whom I could dress up and do all those silly things with."

As many of her colleagues have opted for surrogacy and adoption, would she consider the same? Malaika Arora answered that she has discussed the possibility with her son, Arhaan, but



there are no plans as yet. She told TOI, "So many of my dear friends have adopted kids and it's really amazing that kids bring so much joy to their lives," shared Malaika, adding, "I discuss a lot of things with my son

Arhaan, like how we should adopt a child someday and give her a family and a home. We talk about everything, and this is one of the many zillion topics that we have chatted about, but there are no plans."

Tandav controversy didn't delay The Family Man 2: Manoj Bajpayee

Manoj Bajpayee believes it is a great time to be in the content space. The pandemic has changed the way India consumes its entertainment, putting story in the spotlight and making writers and directors with vision its new kings. The 53-year-old actor, who has become a darling of the audience on the OTT space, spoke about the churning in the entertainment space at an online Adda hosted by the Indian Express on Thursday. He was in conversation with Anant Goenka, Executive Director, The Indian Express Group, and film critic Shubhra Gupta.

Manoj spoke how the era of superstars may be over as OTT levels the playing field. He called the streaming a far more democratic medium where talent is thriving. "The system that is based on Friday releases has lost out. You see their desperation and anxiety but they are also trying to tweak themselves to be a part of this new situation."

Calling the big actors, the "real kings of box office", Bajpayee added, "For us, it was always this situation. We were doing everything so that we can be part of such films. But they were the real kings of box office. They will take time to come to terms to this situation and start re-inventing themselves. I see that effort happening from that side also," he added.

However, given the dynamics of Bollywood, Manoj said he saw nothing wrong with stars taking a large



chunk of the film's profit. "If you ask me were stars right in taking 50-60 percent of profit share, I would say yes, because that is how producers and directors were casting. They were not taking Manoj Bajpayee randomly and making him a star. They were going to the stars who can give them numbers at the box office. And those films were star-centric, created around those stars to make profit. So if the main guy is taking that much of profit, I don't see anything wrong there because it's all a commercial preposition. We aren't talking about cinema here," Bajpayee opined. *Source: The Indian Express*

Athiya Shetty cheers for rumoured boyfriend KL Rahul as he scores a century

Actor Athiya Shetty on Thursday, August 12, took to Instagram and celebrated her rumoured boyfriend, cricketer KL Rahul's century against England at Lord's. Athiya is in the UK with Rahul, as Team India plays England in a Test series.

On Instagram Stories, Athiya Shetty posted a video of Rahul celebrating his century. She added a couple of celebratory emojis, including a red heart. The video wasn't taken from the stadium, but was recorded off a television screen.

In recent weeks, several pictures of Athiya and Rahul have emerged online. While they initially didn't appear in any pictures together, they were both included in a photo shared online by Ishant Sharma's wife. Athiya also received photo credits for posts shared by Anushka Sharma, who's also in the UK, with husband Virat Kohli.

Athiya and Rahul, who've been rumoured to be dating for a few years, normally only engage in social media banter. He recently also shared a picture of himself with her brother, Ahan.





Christina Applegate suffers from multiple sclerosis

Emmy award-winning actor Christina Applegate has shared that she has multiple sclerosis and revealed that it has been a “strange journey”.

Applegate announced it in a post on Twitter, reports variety.com.

“Hi friends. A few months ago I was diagnosed with MS. It’s been a strange journey. But I have been so supported by people that I know who also have this condition. It’s been a tough road. But as we all know, the road keeps going. Unless some a***** blocks it,” the Christina Applegate actor wrote.

The “Dead to Me” actor added: “As one of my friends that has MS said aWe wake up and take the indicated action.’ And that’s what I do. So now I ask for privacy. As I go through this thing. Thank you XO.”

Applegate won a Primetime Emmy for an outstanding guest appearance in a comedy series for “Friends” in 2003. She was nominated in the same category for the same show in 2004.

Disney cuts ties with Scarlett Johansson, to not go ahead with any project?

Scarlett Johansson and Disney are at loggerheads, and the legal battle between them is still trending and making news. While there are a lot of speculations in the air about the future of the two together, many new continue to surface. The latest has to do with the question that will Scarlett ever again reprise Black Widow for the Marvel Cinematic Universe. Well, it seems dark.

If you are unaware, Scarlett Johansson sued Disney recently. She accused the studio of breaching her contract in which they promised her an exclusive theatrical release of the Black Widow standalone flick. The studio released the movie simultaneously on their streaming platform Disney Plus. Johansson claimed to have incurred losses in huge numbers. Now if the latest dash of grapevine is to go by, the studio has now made a firm decision to not ever partner with Scarlett, who has been their Natasha Romanoff.

Scarlett Johansson entered the Marvel Cinematic Universe in 2008 as Natasha Romanoff in Iron Man 2. Over the decade, she appeared in multiple projects and won hearts only for the fans to keep asking for a standalone flick. After a massive demand, the actor finally got Black Widow but only to start a war between the studio and Johansson.

Now as per We Got This Covered, Disney has now decided to not ever work again with Scarlett Johansson. The studio who have strongly dissed the lawsuit twice calling it ‘meritless’ and ‘PR Stunt’. They now plan to completely cut ties with their Black Widow and halt everything that they were planning to do with her. This also means that they won’t be going ahead with Tower Of Terror, which started the actor in the lead role.



Courteney Cox drives around tourists on Warner Bros’ set during her free time from shoot



Courteney Cox knows how to utilize her time while on set. A lot of people don’t know that making a film or a series takes a lot of blood, sweat and tears. There can be issues regarding the shooting, the set, lighting, makeup, hair, script and so on. There is a lot of time to kill too when in-between shots changes because the actors have to wait for hours before they can get back to work.

The Friends actor has been in the business for long enough to find clever ways to avoid sitting around, and it sounds nothing but fun to us!

While on the Warner Bros. set for filming the new show ‘Shining Vale’, Courteney Cox posted a video on Instagram. In the video, she tells her fans, “Here I am on the backlot of Warner Bros. filming my show, Shining Vale. There’s definitely a lot of time in between setups, but I don’t get bored. Nope, I see opportunity all around.”

After that, Courteney Cox started to show off her industriousness, filling her time with several activities, including driving around the tourists enjoying the Warner Bros. studio tour in Burbank, California.

Halle Berry continues shooting for ‘Bruised’ despite two broken ribs

Hollywood star Halle Berry cracked two of her ribs on the first day of filming her new movie “Bruised” but that did not stop her from shooting, says her stunt coordinator.

Berry will be seen playing a disgraced MMA fighter in her upcoming directorial. The story revolves around her return to fighting to redeem herself after the son she gave up as an infant re-enters her life unexpectedly, reports aceshowbiz.com.

The role required lots of physical work for Halle Berry and on the very first day of shooting, she ended up with two broken ribs. The actress did not let her injury pause the production and insisted on continuing with the shoot.

“(It was) kind of a crazy injury,” stunt coordinator Eric Brown told Entertainment Weekly. The stunt coordinator added: “But that was just her intensity... Halle’s a special case. I’ve worked with tons of actors, and almost none of them have that kind of work ethic.”

This is not the first time Halle Berry has broken her ribs. She also suffered a rib injury while shooting for “John Wick: Chapter 3 – Parabellum”.

Her experience after that was what encouraged her to keep going with the shoot of “Bruised”.

“I told the director about it (then), they told the insurance,” Berry recalled of her “John Wick” accident.

She added: “We had to shut down for months and it was a big ordeal. On this (Bruised), because it was an independent movie, we didn’t have a big budget. The director in me said, ‘I didn’t come this far and work this hard to go home.’”





AFTER G-7, QUAD INCLUDES TAIWAN STRAIT IN TALKS

TAIWAN (TIP): Taiwan on August 14 irked China further by publicly thanking the members of the Quadrilateral Security Dialogue (Quad) for including peace and stability in the Taiwan Strait during the virtual discussions between their senior officials on August 13.

The Biden administration is focusing on developing the Taiwan Strait as a friction point with China after decades. The US has been successful in mentioning Taiwan Strait in its joint statements with Japan and South Korea. More importantly, it found mention in the recent G-7 summit that was also virtually attended by PM Narendra Modi.

Analysts have noted that the inclusion of language on the Taiwan Strait is the first time it has appeared or reappeared after several years. While the Indian, Japanese and Australian readouts of the Quad meeting of senior officials did not mention Taiwan, the US statement disclosed that it was a topic for discussion besides other regional issues such as North Korea, the East and South China Seas and Myanmar. Taipei further rubbed it in by pointing out that Taiwan "sits at a key point in the first island chain off the Asian mainland" and especially thanked US President Joe Biden for his repeated reaffirmations.

The Quad is seen as a countermeasure against China in the Indo-Pacific region. While Donald Trump had not mentioned Taiwan Strait, his Secretary of State Mike Pompeo had last year mentioned China as an aggressor in "South (China Sea), in the East China Sea, the Mekong, the Himalayas, the Taiwan Straits". — TNS

JAPAN'S DEFENCE MINISTER NOBUO KISHI VISITS WAR SHRINE; SOUTH KOREA UPSET

TOKYO (TIP): Japan's Defence Minister Nobuo Kishi on August 14 visited a Tokyo shrine viewed by China and both Koreas as a symbol of Japanese wartime aggression to pray for the war dead just days before the nation marks the 76th anniversary of its World War II defeat.

Victims of Japanese actions during the first half of the 20th century, especially the Koreans and China, see the shrine as a symbol of Japanese militarism because it honours convicted war criminals among about

2.5 million war dead. S Korea's Foreign Ministry said it summoned the deputy chief of mission at the Japanese Embassy in Seoul against Kishi's visit. — AP

Egypt officials say militant attack kills 8 troops in Sinai

EL-ARISH (EGYPT) (TIP): A roadside bomb exploded late August 13 in the restive northern part of the Sinai Peninsula, killing seven members of Egypt's security forces, security and medical officials said. The dead included an officer, and six others were wounded.

The troops were riding an armoured vehicle when the bomb went off in New Rafah, a town on the border with the Gaza Strip, added the officials, who spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorised to speak to the media.

The wounded, who suffered serious injuries, were transferred to a military hospital in the nearby Mediterranean city of el-Arish, added the officials.

The Islamic State claimed responsibility for the attack in a statement on an IS-affiliated website.

In a similar attack last month, IS militants ambushed a checkpoint in the town of Sheikh Zuweid, killing at least five troops and wounding at least six others.

Egypt has been battling militants in northern Sinai for years. Violence and instability there intensified after the 2013 military ouster of Mohammed Morsi, an elected but divisive Islamist president, amid nationwide protests against his brief rule.

The militants have carried out numerous attacks, mainly targeting



Egyptian security forces, minority Christians and those who they accuse of collaborating with the military and police.

Also on Thursday, the spokesman of Egypt's armed forces, Lt. Col. Gharib Abdel Hafez Gharib issued a statement saying that a total of nine troops were killed and wounded in clashes with militants in Sinai.

However, he did provide the breakdown of the casualties. It also remained unclear which attack he was referring to.

Gharib added that the armed forces had killed 13 militants and confiscated 15 automatic rifles and ammunition in Northern and Central Sinai. He did not specify when exactly these killings happened.

The fight against militants in Sinai has largely taken place hidden from the public eye, with journalists, non-residents and outside observers barred from the area.

The conflict has also been kept at a distance from tourist resorts at the southern end of the peninsula. AP

In rare British mass shooting, gunman kills 5, including 3-year-old girl

PLYMOUTH (ENGLAND) (TIP): A man shot dead five people, including a 3-year-old girl, during a six-minute killing spree with a pump-action shotgun in the southern English city of Plymouth in what police believe was a case of domestic-related violence.

Mass shootings are rare in the United Kingdom, where gun ownership is relatively low, and Thursday's rampage was the worst such incident in more than decade.

Police on Friday named the shooter as Jake Davison, a 22-year-old crane operator. He turned his gun on himself after killing the five victims on Thursday evening, the police said.

Devon and Cornwall Police Chief Constable Shaun Sawyer said police had found no motive but they were not considering terrorism or any far-right associations, although they were trawling through Davison's computer.

"We believe we have an incident that is domestically related, that has spilled into the street and seen several people within Plymouth losing their lives in an extraordinarily tragic circumstance," Sawyer told reporters.

The shooting started at about 6 p.m. on Thursday, first killing a 51-year-old



woman whom Davison knew in a house. He then ran outside and immediately shot dead the young girl in the street along with her 43-year-old male relative.

Davison shot at two other passers-by who were badly injured, then entered a park and shot dead another man before killing another woman.

He then turned the gun on himself before firearms officers could tackle him. The deadly shooting spree was over in just a few minutes.

Sawyer said witnesses described the weapon as a pump-action shotgun. He could not say whether or not Davison had mental health issues. Davison had a firearms licence.

In videos posted on the internet,

Davison had complained of not losing his virginity as a teenager and described himself as an "incel" - or involuntary celibate. He complained in the videos of being beaten down by life, the Times reported. Britain has suffered a number of deadly militant attacks in the past several years, but this was the worst mass killing of its kind since a taxi-driver killed 12 people then shot himself in a rampage in Cumbria, northern England, in June 2010.

The deadliest mass shooting in Britain's modern history is the 1996 massacre in Dunblane, Scotland, when a gunman killed 16 pupils and a teacher at the local school before killing himself. Reuters



Slice of Charles-Diana's wedding cake sells for 1,850 pounds

LONDON (TIP): A slice of cake from Prince Charles and Princess Diana's wedding cake has been sold for 1,850 pounds (US\$ 2,565) at an auction - more than 40 years after the fairy-tale marriage took place.

The generous slice is from one of the 23 official wedding cakes the British royal couple served at their wedding.

The piece of cake icing and marzipan base features a detailed, sugared design of the royal coat of arms in gold, red, blue and silver.

It was given to Moya Smith, a member of the Queen Mother's staff, who preserved it with cling film and dated it July 29, 1981.

Smith kept the slice in an old floral cake tin and taped a handmade label to the lid, reading: "Handle with Care - Prince Charles & Princess Diane's [sic] Wedding Cake", the BBC reported on Wednesday.

Her family sold the cake to a collector in 2008.

After a flurry of bidding from across the world, the cake piece was sold on Wednesday to Gerry Layton.

It was expected to raise just 500 pounds but auctioneers said they were "amazed" at the interest.

Layton, a luxury boat charterer, said



he has put in his will that the cake along with his estate to go to charity after his death.

"I thought I would like to add it to my estate, which will be going to charity after my death," he said.

"I also thought that I could put it up as a raffle prize with some of the money going to Centrepoint, which Princess Diana was the patron of."

"I will have to think of a way to stop myself from trying to eat it though."

Layton said he planned to make the trip from Yorkshire to Gloucestershire to collect the cake next week, as he wanted to ensure it remained in good



condition.

Chris Albury, a royal memorabilia specialist at Dominic Winter Auctioneers in Cirencester, said he was amazed at the number of interested bidders. Most of the inquiries came from the UK, the US and the Middle East, he said.

"This was an irresistible piece of royal memorabilia history for many." Prince Charles married Lady Diana Spencer in St Paul's Cathedral on 29 July 1981. Charles and Diana split 11 years later in 1992 and divorced in 1996. Diana died in a horrific car crash in Paris in 1997. PTI



ALGERIA ORDERS PROBE INTO MOB KILLING LINKED TO WILDFIRES

ALGIERS (TIP): An Algerian prosecutor has ordered an investigation into the death of a man who was killed by a mob after being accused of setting fires that devastated the region, Algeria's official APS news agency said.

Wildfires in Algeria have killed at least 69 people through the mountainous Berber region.

The killing took place in Larbaa Nath Irathen, in the Tizi Ouzou district, one of the worst hit by the fires. The victim was identified as 38-year-old Djamel Ben Ismail.

The local prosecutor issued a statement carried by APS on Thursday "following videos on Wednesday on social media showing the killing of a citizen (burned to death and beaten)."

He ordered an investigation into the case with the aim of identifying the assailants and sending them to trial "so that the odious crime does not go unpunished".

The statement said a crowd violently attacked the police station where the victim was under protection from officers and managed to remove him. They "dragged him outside, beating and burning him, which led to his death".

"Police officers who intervened to protect and help the victim have also been injured," the statement said.

Amnesty International called on Algerian authorities to immediately investigate the death and "send a clear message that this violence won't go unpunished".

Ben Ismail was buried late Thursday evening in his hometown of Khemis Miliana, 115 kilometres (71 miles) west of Algiers.

"Do you realise, even dead they tortured him?" Mohamed Khalfi, Ben Ismail's maternal uncle, told The Associated Press. "And what hurts me is that the people filmed. ... I am his uncle and I ask that justice do its job and that even those who watched without doing anything be judged."

One of Ben Ismail's friends, Rafik, who did not provide his last name, said he was "an artist, a young man who loves the guitar and loves life... not a violent man". AP

China signals crackdown on privacy, data, anti-trust to go on

BEIJING (TIP): China will draft new laws on national security, technology innovation, monopolies and education, as well as in areas involving foreigners, the national leadership said in a document published late on Wednesday.

The announcement signals that a crackdown on industry with regard to privacy, data management, antitrust, and other issues will persist on through the year.

The Chinese Communist Party and the government said in a blueprint for the five years to 2025, published by the state-run Xinhua news agency, that they would also improve legislation around public health by amending the infectious disease law and the "frontier health and quarantine law".

China is working for a return to normal after the coronavirus pandemic, which emerged in its Wuhan city in late 2019.

Regulations dealing with food and medicine, natural resources, industrial safety production, urban governance, transport, would also be strictly



enforced, they said.

Authorities will aim to develop laws consistent with new sectors such as the digital economy, internet finance, artificial intelligence, big data, cloud computing, they said, adding that they would also improve the response to emergencies.

They additionally laid out directives for the prevention and resolution of social conflicts and reiterated an order for officials to "nip conflicts in the bud".

Better legislation for areas including education, race and religion and biosecurity was also on the cards, they said.

The government has in recent months

reined in tech giants with anti-monopoly or data security rules and clamped down on tutoring companies, as the state increases its control of the economy and society.

On Thursday, state-media outlet the Securities Times reported that banking regulators would step up scrutiny of online insurance companies in an effort to "purify the market environment" and "protect the legal interests of consumers".

Authorities used a law aimed at responding to foreign sanctions for the first time last month to sanction former U.S.

Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross and imposed a national security law on the special region of Hong Kong last year, employing legal means to protect interests beyond the mainland border.

The party and the government also asserted that a "rule of law government" must follow the leadership of the party.

President Xi Jinping has made "rule of law governance" a signature of his rule, which will be extended if, as expected, he seeks a third term next year. Reuters



Japan's daily coronavirus cases top 20,000 for 1st time

Japan's daily total of COVID-19 cases surpassed 20,000 on Friday, logging a record figure for the third straight day, while the number of patients with severe symptoms also hit a new high as concerns over a possible collapse of the country's medical system continue to mount.

With the virus spreading rapidly and showing no signs of abating, Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga is set to hold talks with relevant ministers next week on expanding the state of emergency beyond Tokyo and other prefectures where it is currently in place, according to sources close to the matter.

Tokyo, just over a month into its fourth state of emergency, logged a record 5,773 new infections the same day, topping the previous high of 5,042 logged on Aug. 5, the metropolitan government said. The capital's seven-day rolling average of infections has risen to 4,155.7 per day, up 8.8 percent from the previous week.

The number of COVID-19 patients with severe symptoms across Japan rose to a record 1,478 as of Thursday, surpassing the previous high of 1,413 logged in late May, the health ministry said.

Tokyo reported a record 227 patients with severe symptoms on Friday, topping the previous high of 218 logged a day earlier.

Global Covid-19 caseload tops 206 mn

WASHINGTON (TIP): The global coronavirus caseload has topped 206 million, while the deaths have surged to more than 4.34 million and vaccinations soared to over 4.61 billion, according to the Johns Hopkins University.

In its latest update on Saturday morning, the University's Center for Systems Science and Engineering (CSSE) revealed that the current global caseload, death toll and vaccination tally stood at 206,196,367, 4,344,715 and 4,610,658,306, respectively.

The US continues to be the worst-hit country with the world's highest number of cases and deaths at 36,592,398 and 621,005, respectively, according to the CSSE.

In terms of infections, India follows in the second place with 32,117,826 cases.

The other worst countries with over 3 million cases are Brazil (20,319,000), France (6,471,262), Russia (6,468,890), the UK (6,241,443), Turkey (6,039,827), Argentina (5,074,725), Colombia (4,860,622), Spain (4,693,540), Italy (4,427,827), Iran (4,359,385), Germany (3,819,876), Indonesia (3,804,943) and Mexico (3,068,329), the CSSE figures showed.

In terms of deaths, Brazil comes second with 567,862 fatalities.

Nations with a death toll of over 100,000 are India (430,254), Mexico (247,414), Peru (197,279), Russia (165,996), the UK (131,116), Italy (128,379), Colombia (123,221), Indonesia (115,096), France (112,705) and Argentina (108,815).

TRACKING THE VIRUS



GLOBAL

Cases | Deaths
206,196,367 | 4,344,715

INDIA

Cases | Deaths
3,21,56,493 | 4,30,732



Vax mandates in US job listings jump by 34%

WASHINGTON (TIP): Job postings in the US requiring mandatory vaccination against Covid-19 have jumped by 34 per cent this month, according to the latest analysis published by job site Indeed.

"The increase comes as the highly contagious Delta variant has fuelled a surge in virus cases, vaccines have become more broadly available and more businesses mandate vaccination as they bring their workforces back to the office," Xinhua news agency quoted a CNBC report as saying on Friday.

The jump in businesses requiring a vaccine for new hires also coincides with a record number of US job openings in June, said the CNBC report.

Despite big percentage growth, the overall number of job posts mandating applicants to have a vaccine is still relatively small, Ann Elizabeth Konkol, an economist at the Indeed Hiring Lab who authored the analysis, was quoted as saying.

In the software-development sector, for example, about 438 job postings out of every 1 million required a vaccine in July.

But that represents an increase of more than 10,000 per cent from the 3.5 posts per million that did so in February, according to Indeed.

The trend is similar in many other industries and occupations that hadn't mandated vaccination in great numbers, like accounting, retail and marketing, according to the analysis.



Why the delta variant is hitting kids hard in the US

As back-to-school season approaches, many Canadian parents are alarmed by reports of unprecedented cases of COVID-19 among children and teens — as well as increased hospitalizations — in parts of the U.S.

According to the American Academy of Pediatrics, the majority of these illnesses are driven by the delta variant, which it has called "hyper infectious."

Although the delta variant is on the rise in Canada too, pediatric infectious disease specialists and public health experts say we're not in the same boat as U.S. hotspots — and that there are measures we can take to avoid getting there.

"Right now, things are really bad in the southern and southeastern parts of the United States," said Dr. David Kimberlin, with the Children's Hospital of Alabama and a professor of pediatrics at the University of Alabama at Birmingham.

"We have more pediatric cases, more pediatric hospitalizations, more pediatric severe disease cases than we've ever had throughout this pandemic," he said.

"What we're experiencing is much worse than it was even in the dark days



of January and February ... during the wintertime surge."

One reason for that is the dominance of the delta variant, which Kimberlin estimates is about 90 per cent of the COVID-19 cases he's seeing now.

The other big reason, he said, is "abysmal vaccination rates" in COVID hotspots.

"You put a highly, even much more infectious — hyper-infectious, hyper-transmissible — virus that this delta variant represents into a population that's ... a third vaccinated, you got a recipe for disaster," said Kimberlin.



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Indian Independence movement

In ancient times, people from all over the world were keen to come to India. The Persians followed by the Iranians and Parsis immigrated to India. Then came the Moghuls and they too settled down permanently in India. Chengis Khan, the Mongolian, invaded and looted India many times. Alexander the Great too, came to conquer India but went back after a battle with Porus. He-en Tsang from China came in pursuit of knowledge and to visit the ancient Indian universities of Nalanda and Takshila. Columbus wanted to come to India, but instead landed on the shores of America. Vasco da Gama from Portugal came to trade his country's goods in return for Indian spices. The French came and established their colonies in India.

Lastly, the Britishers came and ruled over India for nearly 200 years. After the battle of Plassey in 1757, the British achieved political power in India. And their paramountcy was established during the tenure of Lord Dalhousie, who became the Governor-General in 1848. He annexed Punjab, Peshawar and the Pathan tribes in the north-west of India. And by 1856, the British conquest and its authority were firmly established. And while the British power gained its heights during the middle of the 19th century, the discontent of the local rulers, the peasantry, the intellectuals, common masses as also of the soldiers who became unemployed due to the disbanding of the armies of various states that were annexed by the British, became widespread. This soon broke out into a revolt which assumed the dimensions of the 1857 Mutiny.

The Indian Independence Movement incorporated the efforts by Indians to liberate the region from British, French and Portuguese and form the nation-state of India. It involved a wide spectrum of Indian political organizations, philosophies, and rebellions between 1857 and India's emergence as an unified nation-state on August 15, 1947.

The initial Indian Rebellion of 1857 was sparked when soldiers serving in the British East India Company's British Army and Indian kingdoms rebelled against the British. After the revolt was crushed, the British partitioned the region into British India and the Princely States, focusing on the industrial development of the former region. India developed a class of educated elites whose political organizing sought Indian political rights and representation. However, increasing public disenchantment with the British authority—their curtailing of Indian civil liberties (such as the Rowlatt Act), political rights, and culture as well as alienation from issues facing common Indians — led to an upsurge in revolutionary activities aimed at overthrowing the European colonial powers, particularly the British.

The movement came to a head between 1918 and 1922 when the first series of non-violent campaigns of civil disobedience were launched by the Indian National Congress under the leadership of Mohandas Gandhi—whose methods were inspired to a large extent by the philosophy and methods of Baba



Ram Singh, a Sikh who led the Kuka Movement in the Punjab in the 1870s. Gandhi's movement came to encompass people from across India and across all walks of life. These initial civil-disobedience movements soon came to be the driving force that ultimately shaped the cultural, religious, and political unity of a then still dis-united nation. Committing itself to Purna Swaraj in 1930, the Congress led mass struggles between 1930 and 1932. By the late 1930s, however, with growing disenchantments over the delaying tactics of the Raj and the Congress's failure to extract commitment on self-rule and political independence, a faction within the movement turned towards more radical ideas of Subhash Chandra Bose. Bose's actions proved controversial among the congress party but popular within the Indian populace, when Bose defeated in Gandhi's candidate in leadership elections in the Tripuri Session of the Congress Working Committee. However, this was the parting of ways between the radical and the conservatives. Bose left the Congress to found his own party. During the war, who sought first Soviet and then Axis help to raise a liberation force. The raising of the Indian National Army in 1942 by Subhash Chandra Bose would see a unique military campaign to end British rule. Following the trial of Indian National Army officers at the Red Fort, mutinies broke out in the navy, in the Air Force, and in the army. The congress also led a civil disobedience movement in 1942 demanding that the British leave India (a movement called the Quit India Movement). Following these and widespread communal rioting in Calcutta, the Raj ended on the midnight of 15th August, 1947, but only at the

expense of the Partition of the country into India and Pakistan.

European rule

European traders came to Indian shores with the arrival of Portuguese explorer Vasco da Gama in 1498 at the port of Calicut in search of the lucrative spice trade. After the 1757 Battle of Plassey, during which the British army under Robert Clive defeated the Nawab of Bengal, the British East India Company established itself. This is widely seen as the beginning of the British Raj in India. The Company gained administrative rights over Bengal, Bihar, and Orissa in 1765 after the Battle of Buxar. They then annexed Punjab in 1849 after the death of Maharaja Ranjit Singh in 1839 and the First Anglo-Sikh War (1845–1846) and then Second Anglo-Sikh War (1848–1849).

The British parliament enacted a series of laws to handle the administration of the newly-conquered provinces, including the Regulating Act of 1773, the India Act of 1784, and the Charter Act of 1813; all enhanced the British government's rule. In 1835 English was made the medium of instruction. Western-educated Hindu elites sought to rid Hinduism of controversial social practices, including the varna (caste) system, child marriage, and sati. Literary and debating societies initiated in Bombay and Madras became fora for open political discourse. The Educational attainment and skillful use of the press by these early reformers meant that the possibility grew for effecting broad reforms, all without compromising larger Indian social values and religious practices.

Even while these modernising trends influenced Indian society, Indians increasingly despised British rule. The

memoirs of Henry Ouvry of the 9th Lancers record many "a good thrashing" to careless servants. A spice merchant, Frank Brown, wrote to his nephew that stories of maltreatment of servants had not been exaggerated and that he knew people who kept orderlies "purposely to thrash them". As the British increasingly dominated the continent, they grew increasingly abusive of local customs by, for example, staging parties in mosques, dancing to the music of regimental bands on the terrace of the Taj Mahal, using whips to force their way through crowded bazaars (as recounted by General Henry Blake), and mistreating sepoys. In the years after the annexation of Punjab in 1849, several mutinies among sepoys broke out; these were put down by force.

Movements prior to 1857

Several regional movements against foreign rule were staged in various parts of pre-1857 India. However, they were not united and were easily controlled by the foreign rulers. Examples include the Sannyasi Rebellion in Bengal in the 1770s an 1787 ethnic revolt against Portuguese control of Goa known as the Conspiracy Of The Pintos and uprisings by South Indian local chieftains against British rule. Notable among the latter is Veerapandya Kattabomman, who ruled the present-day Tuticorin district of Tamil Nadu. He questioned the need for native Indians to pay taxes on agricultural produce to foreign rulers and battled the British until the latter, victorious, hanged him. Other movements included the Santal Rebellion and the resistance offered to the British by Titumir in Bengal, the Kittur rebellion led by Rani Chennamma and Sangolli Rayanna in Karnataka.

The Rebellion of 1857

The Indian Rebellion of 1857 was a period of uprising in northern and central India against British rule in 1857–58.

The rebellion was the result of decades of ethnic and cultural differences between Indian soldiers and their British officers. The indifference of the British towards Indian rulers like the Mughals and ex-Peshwas and the annexation of Oudh were political factors triggering dissent amongst Indians. Dalhousie's policy of annexation, the Doctrine of lapse or escheat, and the projected removal of the descendants of the Great Mughal from their ancestral palace to the Qutb, near Delhi also angered some people. The specific reason that triggered the rebellion was the rumoured use of cow and pig fat in .557 calibre Pattern 1853 Enfield (P/53) rifle cartridges. Soldiers had to break the cartridges with their teeth before loading them into their rifles, so if there was cow and pig fat, it would be offensive to Hindu and Muslim soldiers. In February 1857, sepoy (Indian soldiers in the British army) refused to use their new cartridges. The British claimed to have replaced the cartridges with new ones and tried to make sepoy make their own grease from beeswax and vegetable oils, but the rumour persisted.

In March 1857, Mangal Pandey, a soldier of the 34th Native Infantry, attacked his British sergeant and wounded an adjutant. General Hearsay, who said Pandey was in some kind of "religious frenzy," ordered a jemadar to arrest him but the jemadar refused. Mangal Pandey was hanged on 7 April along with the jemadar. The whole regiment was dismissed as a collective punishment. On May 10th, when the 11th and 20th cavalry assembled, they broke rank and turned on their commanding officers. They then liberated the 3rd Regiment, and on 11 May, the sepoy reached Delhi and were joined by other Indians. Soon, the revolt spread throughout the northern India. Some notable leaders were Ahmed Ullah, an advisor of the ex-King of Oudh; Nana Sahib; his nephew Rao Sahib and his retainers, Tantia Topi and Azimullah Khan; the Rani of Jhansi; Kunwar Singh; the Rajput chief of Jagadishpur in Bihar; and Firuz Saha, a relative of the Mughal Emperor, Bahadur Shah.

The Red Fort, the residence of the last Mughal emperor Bahadur, was attacked and captured by the sepoy. They demanded that he reclaim his throne. He was reluctant at first, but eventually agreed to the demands and became the leader of the rebellion.

About the same time in Jhansi, the army rebelled and killed the British army officers. Revolts also broke out in places like Meerut, Kanpur, Lucknow etc. The British were slow to respond, but eventually responded with brute force. British moved regiments from the Crimean War and diverted European regiments headed for China to India. The British fought the main army of the rebels near Delhi in Badli-ke-Serai and drove them back to Delhi before laying a siege on the city. The siege of Delhi lasted roughly from 1 July to 31 August. After a week of street fighting, the



British retook the city. The last significant battle was fought in Gwalior on 20 June 1858. It was during this battle that Rani Lakshmi Bai was killed. Sporadic fighting continued until 1859 but most of the rebels were subdued.

Aftermath

The war of 1857 was a major turning point in the history of modern India. The British abolished the British East India Company and replaced it with direct rule under the British crown. A Viceroy was appointed to represent the Crown. In proclaiming the new direct-rule policy to "the Princes, Chiefs, and Peoples of India," Queen Victoria promised equal treatment under British law, but Indian mistrust of British rule had become a legacy of the 1857 rebellion.

The British embarked on a program of reform, trying to integrate Indian higher castes and rulers into the government. They stopped land grabs, decreed religious tolerance and admitted Indians into civil service, albeit mainly as subordinates. They also increased the number of British soldiers in relation to native ones and allowed only British soldiers to handle artillery.

Bahadur Shah was exiled to Rangoon, Burma where he died in 1862, finally bringing the Mughal dynasty to an end. In 1877, Queen Victoria took the title of Empress of India.

Partition of Bengal

In 1905, Lord Curzon, the Viceroy and Governor-General (1899–1905), ordered the partition of the province of Bengal for improvements in administrative efficiency in that huge and populous region, where the Bengali Hindu intelligentsia exerted considerable influence on local and national politics. The partition created two provinces: Eastern Bengal & Assam, with its capital at Dhaka, and West Bengal, with its

capital at Calcutta (which also served as the capital of British India). An ill-conceived and hastily implemented action, the partition outraged Bengalis. Not only had the government failed to consult Indian public opinion, but the action appeared to reflect the British resolve to divide and rule. Widespread agitation ensued in the streets and in the press, and the Congress advocated boycotting British products under the banner of swadeshi. During this period nationalist poet Rabindranath Tagore penned and composed a song (roughly translated into English as "The soil of Bengal, the water of Bengal be hallowed...") and himself led people to the streets singing the song and tying Rakhi on each other's wrists. The people did not cook any food (Arandhan) on that day.

The Congress-led boycott of British goods was so successful that it unleashed anti-British forces to an extent unknown since the Sepoy Rebellion. A cycle of violence and repression ensued in some parts of the country (see Alipore bomb case). The British tried to mitigate the situation by announcing a series of constitutional reforms in 1909 and by appointing a few moderates to the imperial and provincial councils. A Muslim deputation met with the Viceroy, Lord Minto (1905–10), seeking concessions from the impending constitutional reforms, including special considerations in government service and electorates. The All-India Muslim League was founded the same year to promote loyalty to the British and to advance Muslim political rights, which the British recognized by increasing the number of elective offices reserved for Muslims in the India Councils Act of 1909. The Muslim League insisted on its separateness from the Hindu-dominated Congress, as the voice of a "nation within a nation."

In what the British saw as an additional goodwill gesture, in 1911 King-Emperor George V visited India for a durbar (a traditional court held for subjects to express fealty to their ruler), during which he announced the reversal of the partition of Bengal and the transfer of the capital from Calcutta to a newly planned city to be built immediately south of Delhi, which later became New Delhi.

World War I

World War I began with an unprecedented outpouring of loyalty and goodwill towards the United Kingdom, contrary to initial British fears of an Indian revolt. India contributed massively to the British war effort by providing men and resources. About 1.3 million Indian soldiers and labourers served in Europe, Africa, and the Middle East, while both the Indian government and the princes sent large supplies of food, money, and ammunition. But high casualty rates, soaring inflation compounded by heavy taxation, a widespread influenza epidemic, and the disruption of trade during the war escalated human suffering in India. The prewar nationalist movement revived, as moderate and extremist groups within the Congress submerged their differences in order to stand as a unified front. In 1916, the Congress succeeded in forging the Lucknow Pact, a temporary alliance with the Muslim League over the issues of devolution of political power and the future of Islam in the region.

The British themselves adopted a "carrot and stick" approach in recognition of India's support during the war and in response to renewed nationalist demands. In August 1917, Edwin Montagu, the secretary of state for India, made the historic announcement in Parliament that the

From Page 47

British policy for India was "increasing association of Indians in every branch of the administration and the gradual development of self-governing institutions with a view to the progressive realization of responsible government in India as an integral part of the British Empire." The means of achieving the proposed measure were later enshrined in the Government of India Act of 1919, which introduced the principle of a dual mode of administration, or diarchy, in which both elected Indian legislators and appointed British officials shared power. The act also expanded the central and provincial legislatures and widened the franchise considerably. Diarchy set in motion certain real changes at the provincial level: a number of non-controversial or "transferred" portfolios, such as agriculture, local government, health, education, and public works, were handed over to Indians, while more sensitive matters such as finance, taxation, and maintaining law and order were retained by the provincial British administrators.

The Rowlatt Act and its aftermath

The positive impact of reform was seriously undermined in 1919 by the Rowlatt Act, named after the recommendations made the previous year to the Imperial Legislative Council by the Rowlatt Commission, which had been appointed to investigate "seditious conspiracy." The Rowlatt Act, also known as the Black Act, vested the Viceroy's government with extraordinary powers to quell sedition by silencing the press, detaining political activists without trial, and arresting any individuals suspected of sedition or treason without a warrant. In protest, a nationwide cessation of work (hartal) was called, marking the beginning of widespread, although not nationwide, popular discontent.

The agitation unleashed by the acts culminated on 13 April 1919, in the Amritsar Massacre (also known as the Jallianwala Bagh massacre) in Amritsar, Punjab. The British military commander, Brigadier-General Reginald Dyer, ordered his soldiers to fire into an unarmed and unsuspecting crowd of some 10,000 people. They had assembled at Jallianwala Bagh, a walled garden, to celebrate Baisakhi, a Sikh festival, without prior knowledge of the imposition of martial law. A total of 1,650 rounds were fired, killing 379 people and wounding 1,137 in the episode, which dispelled wartime hopes of home rule and goodwill in a frenzy of post-war reaction.

The Gandhian generation

It can be argued that the movement, even towards the end of First World War, were far removed from the masses of India, focussing essentially on a unified commerce-oriented territory and a far cry from the calls for an united nation, that came in the 1930s. Possibly one of the factors that brought this movement to the masses was the entry of Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi in Indian Politics in 1915.

Gandhi had been a prominent leader of anti apartheid movement in South Africa and had been vocal basic discrimination and abusive labour treatment as well as suppressive police control akin to the Rowlatt Acts. During



these protests Gandhi had perfected the concept of satyagraha, on which he had been inspired by the philosophy of Baba Ram Singh (famous for leading the Kuka Movement in the Punjab in 1872). The end of the protests in the country saw repeal of the legislations and release of political prisoners by Gen. Jan Smuts, head of the South African Government of the time.

However Gandhi, a stranger to India and its politics after twenty years, had initially entered the fray not with calls for a nation-state, but in support of the unified commerce-oriented territory, that the Congress Party had been asking for. Gandhi, however, was of the opinion that the industrial development and educational development that the Europeans brought with them was required to uplift India's problems.

A veteran Congressman and Indian leader Gopal Krishna Gokhale became Gandhi's mentor. Gandhi's ideas and strategies of non-violent civil disobedience initially appeared impractical to some Indians and veteran Congressmen. In Gandhi's own words, "civil disobedience is civil breach of unmoral statutory enactments," but as he viewed it, it had to be carried out non-violently by withdrawing cooperation with the corrupt state. Gandhi's ability to inspire millions of common people was initiated when he used satyagraha during the anti-Rowlatt Act protests in Punjab.

Gandhi's vision would soon bring the population of millions into the movement. In Champaran, Bihar, the Congress Party brought forth the plight of desperately poor sharecroppers, landless farmers who were being forced to grow cash crops at the expense of crops which formed their food supply, and pay oppressive taxes. Neither were they sufficiently paid for sustenance. It was at this time also that the nationalist cause was integrated to the interests and industries that formed the economy of common Indians. The first satyagraha movement urged the use of Khadi and Indian material as alternatives to those

shipped from Britain. It also urged the boycott of British educational institutions, law courts; to resign from government employment; to refuse to pay taxes; and to forsake British titles and honours. Although this came too late to influence the framing of the new Government of India Act of 1919, the magnitude of disorder resulting from the movement was unparalleled and presented a new challenge to foreign rule. These movements found widespread support among a people awakening to a new sense of nationalism. However, the movement was called off by Gandhi following the Chauri Chaura incident, which saw the death of twenty two policemen in the hands of an angry mob.

In 1920, the Congress was reorganized and given a new constitution, whose goal was Swaraj (independence). Membership in the party was opened to anyone prepared to pay a token fee, and a hierarchy of committees was established and made responsible for discipline and control over a hitherto amorphous and diffuse movement. The party was transformed from an elite organization to one of mass national appeal and participation.

Gandhi was imprisoned in 1922 for six years, but was released after serving two. On his release from prison, he set up the Sabarmati Ashram in Ahmedabad, on the banks of river Sabarmati, established the newspaper Young India, and inaugurated a series of reforms aimed at the socially disadvantaged within Hindu society - the rural poor, and the untouchables.

This era saw the emergence of new generation of Indians from within the Congress Party, including C. Rajagopalachari, Jawaharlal Nehru, Vallabhbhai Patel, Subhash Chandra Bose and others- who would later on come to form the prominent voices of the Indian Independence Movement, whether keeping with Gandhian Values, or diverging from it.

The Indian political spectrum was further broadened in the mid-1920s by

the emergence of both moderate and militant parties, such as the Swaraj Party, Hindu Mahasabha, Communist Party of India and the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh. Regional political organizations also continued to represent the interests of non-Brahmins in Madras, Mahars in Maharashtra, and Sikhs in Punjab.

Dandi March and the civil disobedience movement

Following the rejection of the recommendations of the Simon Commission by Indians, an all-party conference was held at Bombay in May 1928. The conference appointed a drafting committee under Motilal Nehru to draw up a constitution for India. The Calcutta session of the Indian National Congress asked the British government to accord dominion status to India by December 1929, or a countrywide civil disobedience movement would be launched. The Indian National Congress, at its historic Lahore session in December 1929, under the presidency of Jawaharlal Nehru, adopted a resolution to gain complete independence from the British. It authorised the Working Committee to launch a civil disobedience movement throughout the country. It was decided that 26 January 1930 should be observed all over India as the Purna Swaraj (complete independence) Day. Many Indian political parties and Indian revolutionaries of a wide spectrum united to observe the day with honour and pride.

Gandhi emerged from his long seclusion by undertaking his most famous campaign, a march of about 400 kilometres from his commune in Ahmedabad to Dandi, on the coast of Gujarat between 12 March and 6 April 1930. The march is usually known as the Dandi March or the Salt Satyagraha. At Dandi, in protest against British taxes on salt, he and thousands of followers broke the law by making their own salt from seawater.

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In April 1930 there were violent police-crowd clashes in Calcutta. Approximately over 100,000 people were imprisoned in the course of the Civil disobedience movement (1930-31), while in Peshawar unarmed demonstrators were fired upon in the Qissa Khwani bazaar massacre. While Gandhi was in jail, the first Round Table Conference was held in London in November 1930, without representation from the Indian National Congress. The ban upon the Congress was removed because of economic hardships caused by the satyagraha. Gandhi, along with other members of the Congress Working Committee, was released from prison in January 1931.

In March of 1931, the Gandhi-Irwin Pact was signed, and the government agreed to set all political prisoners free (Although, some of the key revolutionaries were not set free and the death sentence for Bhagat Singh and his two comrades was not taken back which further intenced the agitation against congress not only outside it but with in the congress it self). In return, Gandhi agreed to discontinue the civil disobedience movement and participate as the sole representative of the Congress in the second Round Table Conference, which was held in London in September 1931. However, the conference ended in failure in December 1931. Gandhi returned to India and decided to resume the civil disobedience movement in January 1932.

For the next few years, the Congress and the government were locked in conflict and negotiations until what became the Government of India Act of 1935 could be hammered out. By then, the rift between the Congress and the Muslim League had become unbridgeable as each pointed the finger at the other acrimoniously. The Muslim League disputed the claim of the Congress to represent all people of India, while the Congress disputed the Muslim League's claim to voice the aspirations of all Muslims.

Lahore resolution

The Government of India Act 1935, the voluminous and final constitutional effort at governing British India, articulated three major goals: establishing a loose federal structure, achieving provincial autonomy, and safeguarding minority interests through separate electorates. The federal provisions, intended to unite princely states and British India at the centre, were not implemented because of ambiguities in safeguarding the existing privileges of princes. In February 1937, however, provincial autonomy became a reality when elections were held; the Congress emerged as the dominant party with a clear majority in five provinces and held an upper hand in two, while the Muslim League performed poorly.

In 1939, the Viceroy Lord Linlithgow declared India's entrance into World War II without consulting provincial governments. In protest, the Congress asked all of its elected representatives to resign from the government. Jinnah, the president of the Muslim League, persuaded participants at the annual Muslim League session at Lahore in 1940 to adopt what later came to be known as the Lahore Resolution, demanding the division of India into two separate sovereign states, one Muslim, the other Hindu; sometimes referred to as Two



Subhas Chandra Bose with Mahatma Gandhi.

Nation Theory. Although the idea of Pakistan had been introduced as early as 1930, very few had responded to it. However, the volatile political climate and hostilities between the Hindus and Muslims transformed the idea of Pakistan into a stronger demand.

Quit India, INA and Post-war revolts

Indians throughout the country were divided over World War II, as the Lord Linlithgow, without consulting the Indian representatives had unilaterally declared India a belligerent on the side of the allies. In opposition to Linlithgow's action, the entire congress leadership resigned from the local government councils. However, many wanted to support the British war effort, and indeed the British Indian Army was one of the largest volunteer force during the war. Especially during the Battle of Britain, Gandhi resisted calls for massive civil disobedience movements that came from within as well as outside his party, stating he did not seek India's freedom out of the ashes of a destroyed Britain. However, like the changing fortunes of the war itself, the movement for freedom saw the rise of two movements that formed the climax of the 100-year struggle for independence.

The first of these, the Azad Hind movement led by Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose, saw its inception early in the war and sought help from the Axis Powers. The second saw its inception in August 1942 led by Gandhi and began following failure of the Cripps' mission to reach a consensus with the Indian political leadership over the transfer of power after the war.

The Indian National Army

The arbitrary entry of India into the

war was strongly opposed by Subhash Chandra Bose, who had been elected President of the Congress twice, in 1937 and 1939. After lobbying against participation in the war, he resigned from Congress in 1939 and started a new party, the All India Forward Bloc. When war broke out, the Raj had put him under house arrest in Calcutta in 1940. However, at the time the war was at its bloodiest in Europe and Asia, he escaped and made his way through Afghanistan to Germany to seek Axis help to raise an army to fight the shackles of the Raj. Here, he raised with Rommel's Indian PoWs what came to be known as the Free India Legion. This came to be the conceptualisation in embryonic form of Bose's dream of raising a liberation Army to fight the Raj. However, the turn of tides in the Battlefields of Europe saw Bose make his way ultimately to Japanese South Asia where he formed what came to be known as the Azad Hind Government as the Provisional Free Indian Government in exile, and organized the Indian National Army with Indian POWs and Indian expatriates at South-East Asia, with the help of the Japanese. Its aim was to reach India as a fighting force that would build on public resentment to inspire revolts among Indian soldiers to defeat the Raj.

The INA was to see action against the allies, including the British Indian Army, in the forests of in Arakan, Burma and Assam, laying siege on Imphal and Kohima with the Japanese 15th Army. During the war, the Andaman and Nicobar islands were captured by the Japanese and handed over by them to the INA; Bose renamed them Shahid (Martyr) and Swaraj (Independence).

The INA would ultimately fail, owing to disrupted logistic, poor arms and supplies from the Japanese, and lack of support and training. The INA's efforts

ended with the surrender of Japan in 1945. The existence of Azad Hind was essentially coterminous with the existence of the Indian National Army. While the government itself continued until the civil administration of the Andaman Islands was returned to the jurisdiction of the British towards the end of the war, the limited power of Azad Hind was effectively ended with the surrender of the last major contingent of INA troops in Rangoon. The supposed death of Bose is seen as culmination of the entire Azad Hind Movement.

Following the surrender of Japan, the troops of the INA were brought to India and a number of them charged with treason. However, Bose's audacious actions and radical initiative had by this time captured the public imagination and also turned the inclination of the native soldiers of the British Indian Forces from one of loyalty to the crown to support for the soldiers that the Raj deemed as collaborators.

After the war, the stories of the Azad Hind movement and its army that came into public limelight during the trials of soldiers of the INA in 1945 were seen as so inflammatory that, fearing mass revolts and uprisings — not just in India, but across its empire —, the British Government forbid the BBC from broadcasting their story. Newspapers reported the summary execution of INA soldiers held at Red Fort. During and after the trial, mutinies broke out in the British Indian Armed forces, most notably in the Royal Indian Navy which found public support throughout India, from Karachi to Bombay and from Vizag to Calcutta.

Many historians have argued that it was the INA and the mutinies it inspired among the British Indian Armed forces that were the true driving force for India's independence.

The Quit India Movement

The Quit India Movement (Bharat Chhodo Andolan) or the August Movement was a civil disobedience movement in India launched in August 1942 in response to Gandhi's call for immediate independence of India. The aim was to bring the British Government to the negotiating table by holding the Allied War Effort hostage. The call for determined but passive resistance that signified the certitude that Gandhi foresaw for the movement is best described by his call to Do or Die, issued on 8 August at the Gowalia Tank Maidan in Bombay, since re-named August Kranti Maidan (August Revolution Ground). However, almost the entire Congress leadership, and not merely at the national level, was put into confinement less than twenty-four hours after Gandhi's speech, and the greater number of the Congress leaders were to spend the rest of the war in jail.

At the outbreak of war, the Congress Party had during the Wardha meeting of the working-committee in September 1939, passed a resolution conditionally supporting the fight against fascism, but were rebuffed when they asked for independence in return. The draft proposed that if the British did not accede to the demands, a massive Civil Disobedience would be launched. However, it was an extremely controversial decision. The Congress had lesser success in rallying other political forces under a single flag and mast.

On August 8, 1942 the Quit India resolution was passed at the Bombay session of the All India Congress Committee (AICC). At Gowalia Tank, Mumbai Gandhi urged Indians to follow a non-violent civil disobedience. Gandhi told the masses to act as an independent nation and not to follow the orders of the British. The British, already alarmed by the advance of the Japanese army to the India-Burma border, responded the next day by imprisoning Gandhi at the Aga Khan Palace in Pune. The Congress Party's Working Committee, or national leadership was arrested all together and imprisoned at the Ahmednagar Fort. They also banned the party altogether. Large-scale protests and demonstrations were held all over the country. Workers remained absent en masse and strikes were called. The movement also saw widespread acts of sabotage, Indian under-ground organisation carried out bomb attacks on allied supply convoys, government buildings were set on fire, electricity lines were disconnected and transport and communication lines were severed.

The British swiftly responded by mass detentions. A total over 100,000 arrests were made nationwide, mass fines were



levied, bombs were airdropped and demonstrators were subjected to public flogging.

The movement soon became a leaderless act of defiance, with a number of acts that deviated from Gandhi's principle of non-violence. In large parts of the country, the local underground organisations took over the movement. However, by 1943, Quit India had petered out.

Independence, 1947 to 1950

On 3 June 1947, Viscount Lord Louis Mountbatten, the last British Governor-General of India, announced the partitioning of the British Indian Empire into a secular India and a Muslim Pakistan. At midnight, on 15 August 1947, India became an independent nation. Violent clashes between Hindus, Muslims, and Sikhs followed. Prime Minister Nehru and Deputy Prime Minister Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel invited Lord Mountbatten to continue as Governor General of India. He was replaced in June 1948 by Chakravarti Rajagopalachari. Patel took on the responsibility of unifying 565 princely states, steering efforts by his "iron fist in a velvet glove" policies, exemplified by the use of military force to integrate Junagadh, Jammu and Kashmir, and Hyderabad state into India.

The Constituent Assembly completed the work of drafting the constitution on 26 November 1949; on 26 January 1950 the Republic of India was officially proclaimed. The Constituent Assembly elected Dr. Rajendra Prasad as the first President of India, taking over from Governor General Rajgopalachari. Subsequently, a free and sovereign India absorbed two other territories: Goa (liberated from Portuguese control in 1961) and Pondicherry (which the French ceded in 1953–1954). In 1952, India held its first general elections, with a voter turnout exceeding 62%; this made it the world's largest democracy.



First Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru addresses the nation from the Red Fort on 15 August, 1947. (Photo: Wikimedia Commons)



Partition

Indian Freedom Fighters

74 years ago, on the historic date of 15th August 1947, India became free from British domination. It was the culmination of numerous movements and struggles that were rife throughout the time of British rule, including the historic revolt of 1857. This independence was achieved through the efforts of many revolutionary freedom fighters, who took the lead in organising the struggle which led to India's independence. Although they were of varied ideologies ranging from moderates to extremists, their contribution to India's freedom struggle has been immortalized in the minds of every Indian.

We have made best efforts to present some of the most prominent freedom activists and revolutionaries who made immense contribution towards India's struggle for freedom.

Tantia Tope (1814-1859)



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 (1824 - 1857)



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 (1777-1858)



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 (1828-1858)



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 (1856-1920)



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 (1827-1857)



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 (1820-1879)



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 (1900-1927)

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

Rani Gaidinliu (1915-1993)



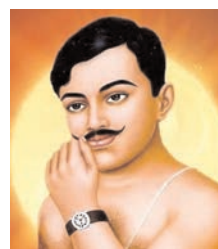
Rani Gaidinliu was a political leader who revolted against the British rule. She joined a political movement at the age of 13 and fought for the evacuation of British rulers from Manipur and the neighbouring areas. Unable to withstand her protests, the British arrested her when she was just 16 years old and sentenced her to life imprisonment.

Bipin Chandra Pal (7 November 1858 - 20 May 1932)



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 (23 July 1906 - 27 February 1931)



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 (11 Feb 1868 - 29 December 1927)



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 (5 November 1869 - 16 June 1925)



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 (15 November 1875 - June 9 1900)



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 (11 February 1750 - 1784)

Approximately 100 years before Mangal Pandey took up arms to fight against the British, Tilka Manjhi gave up

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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 (22 March 1894 - 12 January 1934)



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. Surya Sen is among thousands of young Indians who lost their lives, battling for an independent India.

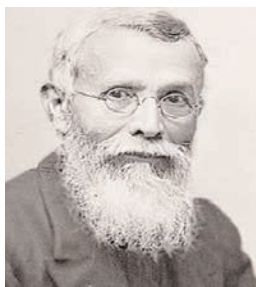
Subramania Bharati (11 December 1882 - 11 Sept 1921)



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 (4 September 1825 - 30 June 1917)



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.

Khudiram Bose (3 December 1889 - 11 August 1908)

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 (24 October 1914 - 23 July 2012)



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 (14 October 1884 - 4 March 1939)



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 (28 January 1865 - 17 November 1928)

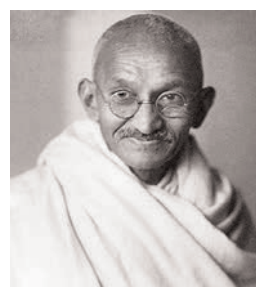


One of the most important members of the Indian National Congress, Lala Lajpat Rai is often revered for leading a protest against the Simon Commission.

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 (18 January 1842 - 16 Jan 1901)

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 (2 October 1869 - 30 January 1948)

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 (11 November 1888 - 22 Feb 1958)



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 (23 March 1910 - 12 October 1967)

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 (11 June 1897 - 19 December 1927)



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 (3 February 1816 - 18 January 1872)



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 (25 May 1886 - 21 January 1945)

Rash Behari Bose was one of the most

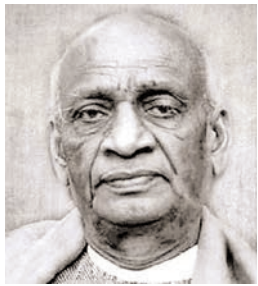
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important revolutionaries who tried to assassinate Lord Hardinge, the then Viceroy of India. Along with other revolutionaries, Bose is credited

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 (31 October 1875 - 15 December 1950)



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 (1907 - 23 March 1931)



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 (26 August 1908 - 23 March 1931)



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 (23 January 1897 - 18 August 1945)



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 (15 May 1907 - 23 March 1931)



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.

Vinayak Damodar Savarkar (28 May 1883 - 26 February 1966)



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.

Aruna Asaf Ali (16 July 1909 - 29 July 1996)



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.

Madan Mohan Malaviya (25 December 1861 - 12 Nov 1946)



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.

Sucheta Kriplani (25 June 1908 - 1 December 1974)



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 (2 February 1889 - 6 Feb 1964)



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.

Udham Singh (26 December 1899 - 31 July 1940)



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.

Madan Lal Dhingra (8 February 1883 - 17 August 1909)



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.

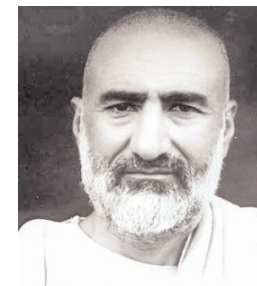
Kartar Singh Sarabha (24 May 1896 - 16 November 1915)



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.

Khan Abdul Ghaffar Khan (6 February 1890 - 20 Jan 1988)



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.



Hindu Mahasabha, RSS stayed away from freedom struggle: Historians

While the entire nation was fighting for a free India, there were some individuals and organizations, especially the Hindu Mahasabha and the RSS, that stayed away from the Independence struggle.

The idea of nationalism in India, as in all third-world countries, is essentially rooted in 'anti-imperialism and anti-colonialism', historian Mridula Mukherjee said, asserting that proponents of Hindutva had nothing to do with it.

"It is ironical that the proponents of Hindutva brand of nationalism, who are presently trying to appropriate the mantle of Indian nationalism had nothing whatsoever to do with the ideas of anti-colonialism and anti-imperialism. The other three essential elements of any sort of nationalism -- equity, civil liberties and democracy -- also have no space whatsoever in the Hindutva brand nationalism," Mukherjee, a former director of Nehru Memorial Museum and Library, had said during a lecture at the Aligarh Muslim University on 'India and the road to nationalism and freedom'.

This uncritical acceptance of the label of "nationalist" -- which the Sangh parivar has conveniently ascribed to themselves -- reflects a poor knowledge of history among many senior journalists. This is being used as an asset by the Hindutva coalition in their attempts to shrug off the burden of historical shame they ought to bear for having betrayed the national struggle for independence. This acceptance of their self-proclamation is being used by the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) to reinvent themselves, falsely, as hyper-patriots who have put the interests of the nation before all other concerns.

The link between nationalism and the struggle for national liberation is inextricable in India. Recounting the role played by the RSS when India was struggling to break free from colonialism can test the credentials of the self-appointed nationalists.

RSS in the Dandi March

On March 18, 1999, the then prime minister, Atal Bihari Vajpayee, issued a postage stamp commemorating K.B. Hedgewar, the founder of the RSS, as a great freedom fighter before an audience that consisted mostly of Sangh cadres. This move, Shamsul Islam wrote, was an attempt "to pass off a pre-independence political trend represented by the RSS as a legacy of the anti-colonial struggle whereas in reality the RSS was never part of the anti-imperialist struggle. On the contrary, since its inception in 1925, the RSS only tried to disrupt the great anti-imperialist struggle of the Indian people against the British colonial rulers."

According to an article by Pavan Kulkarni, a freelance journalist, published in The Wire, Hedgewar, the freedom fighter, was a pre-RSS Congressman, arrested and sentenced for a year's imprisonment for his role in the Khilafat movement (1919-1924) -- and

Throughout India's freedom struggle, the RSS was subservient to the British, with its leadership prohibiting participation in mass movements

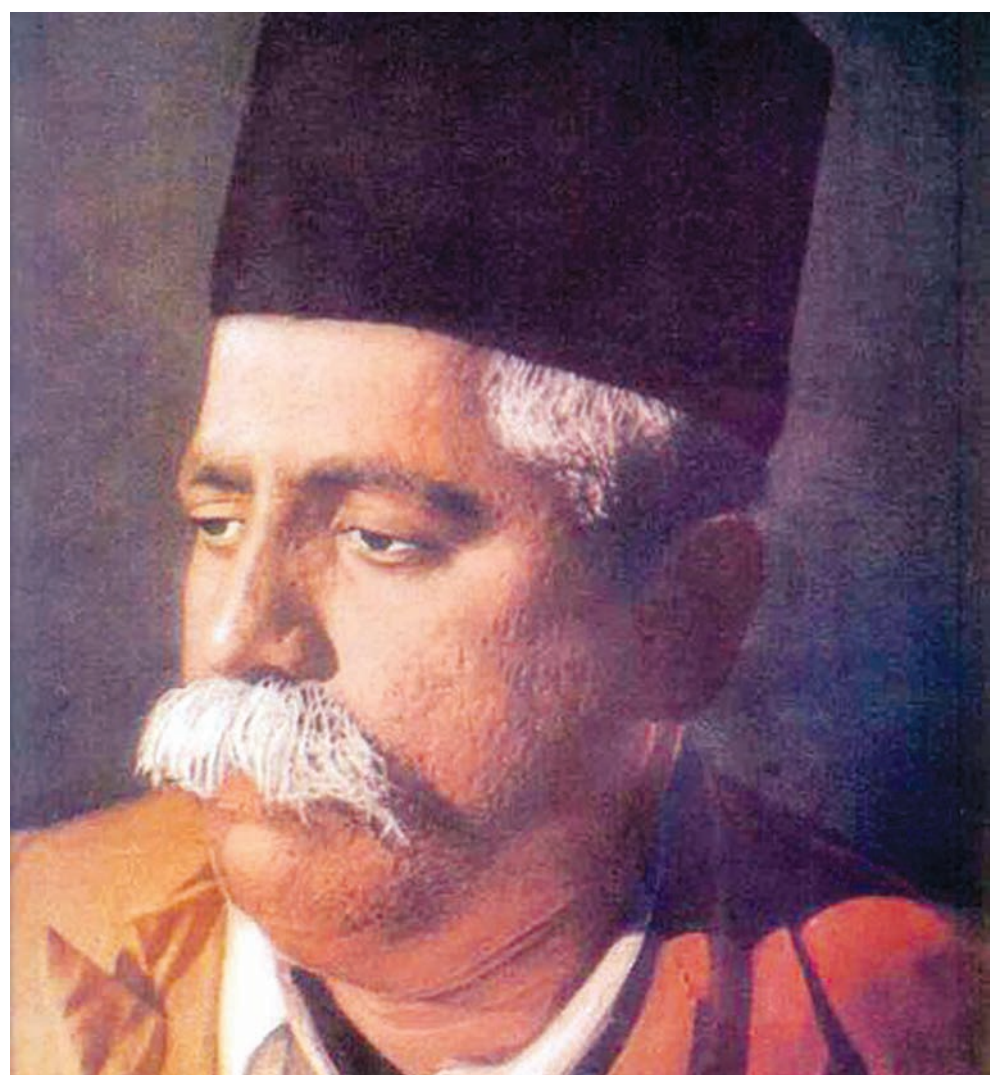


that was his last participation in the freedom struggle. Soon after his release, Hedgewar, inspired by Savarkar's idea of Hindutva, founded the RSS in September 1925. And this organisation, throughout the rest of its life under the British Raj, remained subservient to the colonising power and opposed the mass movements for India's freedom in every phase of the struggle.

According to Hedgewar's biography published by the RSS, when Gandhi launched the Salt Satyagraha in 1930, he "sent information everywhere that the Sangh will not participate in the Satyagraha. However those wishing to participate individually in it were not prohibited. This meant that any responsible worker of the Sangh could not participate in the Satyagraha".

There was, however, no lack of enthusiasm among the cadres to participate in these momentous events. However this enthusiasm was actively discouraged by Hedgewar. M.S. Golwalkar, who succeeded Hedgewar, documented an incident which is insightful about the role of RSS leadership: "...there was the movement in 1930-31. At that time many other people had gone to Doctorji (Hedgewar). This delegation requested Doctorji that this movement will give independence and Sangh should not lag behind. At that time, when a gentleman told Doctorji that he was ready to go to jail, Doctorji said: 'Definitely go. But who will take care of your family then?'

That gentleman replied: 'I have



K.B. Hedgewar, the founder of the RSS.

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sufficiently arranged resources not only to run the family expenses for two years but also to pay fines according to the requirements’.

Then Doctorji told him: ‘If you have fully arranged for the resources then come out to work for the Sangh for two years’. After returning home that gentleman neither went to jail nor came out to work for the Sangh.”

However, Hedgewar himself participated in an individual capacity and went to prison. Although, this time, not with the motives of a freedom fighter. He went to prison, according to his RSS-published biography, with “the confidence that with a freedom-loving, self-sacrificing and reputed group of people inside with him there, he would discuss the Sangh with them and win them over for its work”.

Alarmed by the motivation of both Hindu and Muslim sectarian groups to use Congress cadres for their own disruptive purposes, the All India Congress Committee passed a resolution in 1934 which prohibited members of the Congress party from becoming members of the RSS, the Hindu Mahasabha and the Muslim league.

By the end of the decade in December 1940, when Gandhi had launched the satyagraha for Quit India, a note from the home department of the colonial government reveals that RSS leaders met the secretary of the home department and “promised the secretary to encourage members of the Sangh to join the civic guards in greater numbers.”. The civic guards was set up by the imperial government as one of the “special measures for internal security.”

RSS and its opposition to Quit India movement

A year-and-a-half after the Quit India movement was launched, the Bombay government of the British Raj noted in a memo, with considerable satisfaction, that “the Sangh has scrupulously kept itself within the law, and in particular, has refrained from taking part in the disturbances that broke out in August 1942.”

However, as in the previous case of the Dandi March, the cadres of the RSS were frustrated by their leaders who were holding them back from participating in the movement. “In 1942 also”, Golwalkar himself pointed out, “there was a strong sentiment in the hearts of many... Sangh is an organisation of inactive persons, their talks are useless, not only outsiders but also many of our volunteers did talk like this. They were greatly disgusted too.”

But the RSS leadership had a curious reason for not participating in the struggle for independence. In a speech given on June 1942 – months before an unnecessary, British-made famine was to kill at least three million Indians in Bengal – Golwalkar said that the “Sangh does not want to blame anybody else for the present degraded state of the society. When the people start blaming others, then there is basically weakness in them. It is futile to blame the strong for the injustice done to the weak...Sangh does not want to waste its invaluable time in abusing or criticising others. If we know that large fish eat the smaller ones, it is outright madness to blame the big fish. Law of nature whether good or bad is true all the time. This rule does not change by terming it unjust.”



The trial of persons accused of participation and complicity in Mahatma Gandhi's assassination opened in the Special Court in Red Fort Delhi on May 27, 1948. Left to right: Nathuram Vinayak Godse, Narayan Dattatraya Apte and Vishnu Ramkrishna Karkar.

Credit: Wikimedia Commons.

Even in March 1947, when the decision was already made by the British to finally quit India following the naval mutiny of the previous year, Golwalkar persisted in his criticism of those RSS cadres who wanted to participate in India's struggle for independence.

Post-independence 'anti-nationalism'

In an editorial published in the RSS mouthpiece, the *Organiser*, on the eve of India's independence, the Sangh opposed the tricolour flag, declaring that “it never be respected and owned by the Hindus”. “The word three”, the editorial went on explain, “is in itself an evil, and a flag having three colours will certainly produce a very bad psychological effect and is injurious to a country.”

A few months after independence, Nathuram Godse – who was a member of both the Hindu Mahasabha and the RSS – shot Gandhi three times at point-blank range on January 30, 1948. Historian A.G Noorani, quoting from the records of Pyarelal Nayyar, personal secretary to Gandhi at the time, wrote: “Members of the RSS at some places had been instructed beforehand to tune in to their radio sets on the fateful Friday for the ‘good news’.

“After the news, sweets were distributed in RSS circles at several places”, according to a letter received by Sardar Patel from a young man, “who according to his own statement was gulled into joining the RSS... but was later disillusioned”

A few days later, the RSS leaders were arrested and the organisation was banned.

Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, whom the RSS claim as their own today, wrote to Golwalkar in September that year, explaining his reasons for banning the RSS. Speeches of the RSS, he said, “were full communal poison.. As a final result

of the poison, the country had to suffer the sacrifice of the valuable life of Gandhiji. Even an iota of sympathy of the government or of the people no more remained for the RSS. In fact the opposition grew. Opposition turned more severe, when the RSS men expressed joy and distributed sweets after Gandhiji's death. Under these conditions it became inevitable for the government to take action against the RSS.”

In another letter dated July 18, 1948, Patel said to Hindu Mahasabha leader, Shyama Prasad Mukherjee, “...our reports do confirm that, as a result of the activities of these two bodies (RSS and the Hindu Mahasabha), particularly the former (the RSS), an atmosphere was created in the country in which such a ghastly tragedy became possible.”

However, Godse claimed in the court that he had quit the RSS before assassinating Gandhi, and so did the RSS. This claim, however, could not be verified because “no records of the proceedings.. no membership registers are maintained” by the RSS, as pointed out by Rajendra Prasad in a letter to Patel. Under the circumstances, no evidence could be found to prove that Godse was a continuing member of the RSS.

Nonetheless, Gopal Godse, brother of Nathuram who was also arrested as a co-conspirator and sentenced to imprisonment, said in an interview with *Frontline* magazine, 30 years after his release from prison, that Nathuram had never quit the RSS and had lied in the courts. “All the brothers”, he said, “were in the RSS. Nathuram, Dattatreya, myself and Govind. You can say we grew up in the RSS rather than in our home. It was like a family to us. Nathuram has said in his statement that he left the RSS. He said it because Golwalkar and the RSS were in a lot of trouble after the murder of Gandhi. But he did not leave the RSS.” This claim is also

corroborated by another member of Godse's family in a recent interview with the *Economic Times*.

In the same interview with *Frontline*, Gopal Godse went on to accuse L.K. Advani of “cowardice” for disowning Nathuram. “You can say that RSS did not pass a resolution, saying, ‘go and assassinate Gandhi’. But you do not disown him.” he complained.

But long before Gopal Godse chose to testify that Nathuram had remained a member of RSS at the time of Gandhi's murder, the government, unable to provide any evidence, lifted the ban on the organisation in July 1949, after the RSS, arm-twisted by Sardar Patel, wrote for itself a constitution in which it was made clear that the RSS will be “wedded to purely cultural work” and will have no politics of their own.

Four months later, after the drafting committee had completed the process of drafting the constitution, the RSS raised an objection in an article in the *Organiser*, published on November 30, 1949: “But in our constitution, there is no mention of that unique constitutional development in ancient Bharat... To this day his laws as enunciated in the *Manusmriti* excite the admiration of the world and elicit spontaneous obedience and conformity. But to our constitutional pundits that means nothing.”

Here perhaps the RSS was offering an insight into its – or at least that of its leaders’ – reactionary mindset by regarding as superior to our constitution the *Manusmriti* – a legal code according to which, “[t]he service of Brahmanas alone is declared an excellent occupation for a Shudra; for whatever else besides this he may perform will bear him no fruit”; an oppressive regime which prohibited a Sudra from earning wealth “even though he be able; for a Sudra who has acquired wealth, gives pain to Brahmanas”.

The campaign of the RSS to implement the *Manusmriti* instead of the constitution continued well into the following year, even after the the constitution was officially adopted by the country. In an editorial titled ‘*Manu Rules Our Hearts*’, the RSS asserted in a tone of defiance: “Even though Dr Ambedkar is reported to have recently stated in Bombay that the days of Manu have ended it is nevertheless a fact that the daily lives of Hindus are even at present day affected by the principles and injunctions contained in the *Manusmriti* and other *Smritis*. Even an unorthodox Hindu feels himself bound at least in some matters by the rules contained in the *Smritis* and he feels powerless to give up altogether his adherence to them.”

But now they are patriots

So in conclusion, I ask, what would be a reasonable word to describe a cult which went down on its knees before the colonial government and opposed the mass struggle to create an independent nation; a cult which opposed the national flag and the country's constitution, and whose “men expressed joy and distributed sweets after” the assassination of a person regarded by the masses as the father of our nation? Are they to be branded as traitors? No. In our times when history is becoming increasingly irrelevant for political discourse, they are the “Nationalists”. And everyone else is anti-national.

Source: The wire and HT

India after Independence

When India became independent in August 1947, it faced a series of very great challenges. As a result of Partition, 8 million refugees had come into the country from what was now Pakistan. These people had to be found homes and jobs. Then there was the problem of the princely states, almost 500 of them, each ruled by a maharaja or a nawab, each of whom had to be persuaded to join the new nation.

The problems of the refugees and of the princely states had to be addressed immediately. In the longer term, the new nation had to adopt a political system that would best serve the hopes and expectations of its population.

India's population in 1947 was large, almost 345 million. It was also divided. There were divisions between high castes and low castes, between the majority Hindu community and Indians who practiced other faiths. The citizens of this vast land spoke many different languages, wore many different kinds of dress, ate different kinds of food and practiced different professions. How could they be made to live together in one nation-state? To the problem of unity was added the problem of development. At Independence, the vast majority of Indians lived in the villages.

Farmers and peasants depended on the monsoon for their survival. So did the non-farm sector of the rural economy, for if the crops failed, barbers, carpenters, weavers and other service groups would not get paid for their services either. In the cities, factory workers lived in crowded slums with little access to education or health care. Clearly, the new nation had to lift its masses out of poverty by increasing the productivity of agriculture and by promoting new, job-creating industries. Unity and development had to go hand in hand. If the divisions between different sections of India were not healed, they could result in violent and costly conflicts - high castes fighting with low castes, Hindus with Muslims and so on. At the same time, if the fruits of economic development did not reach the broad masses of the population, it could create fresh divisions - for example, between the rich and the poor, between cities and the countryside, between regions of India that were prosperous and regions that lagged behind.

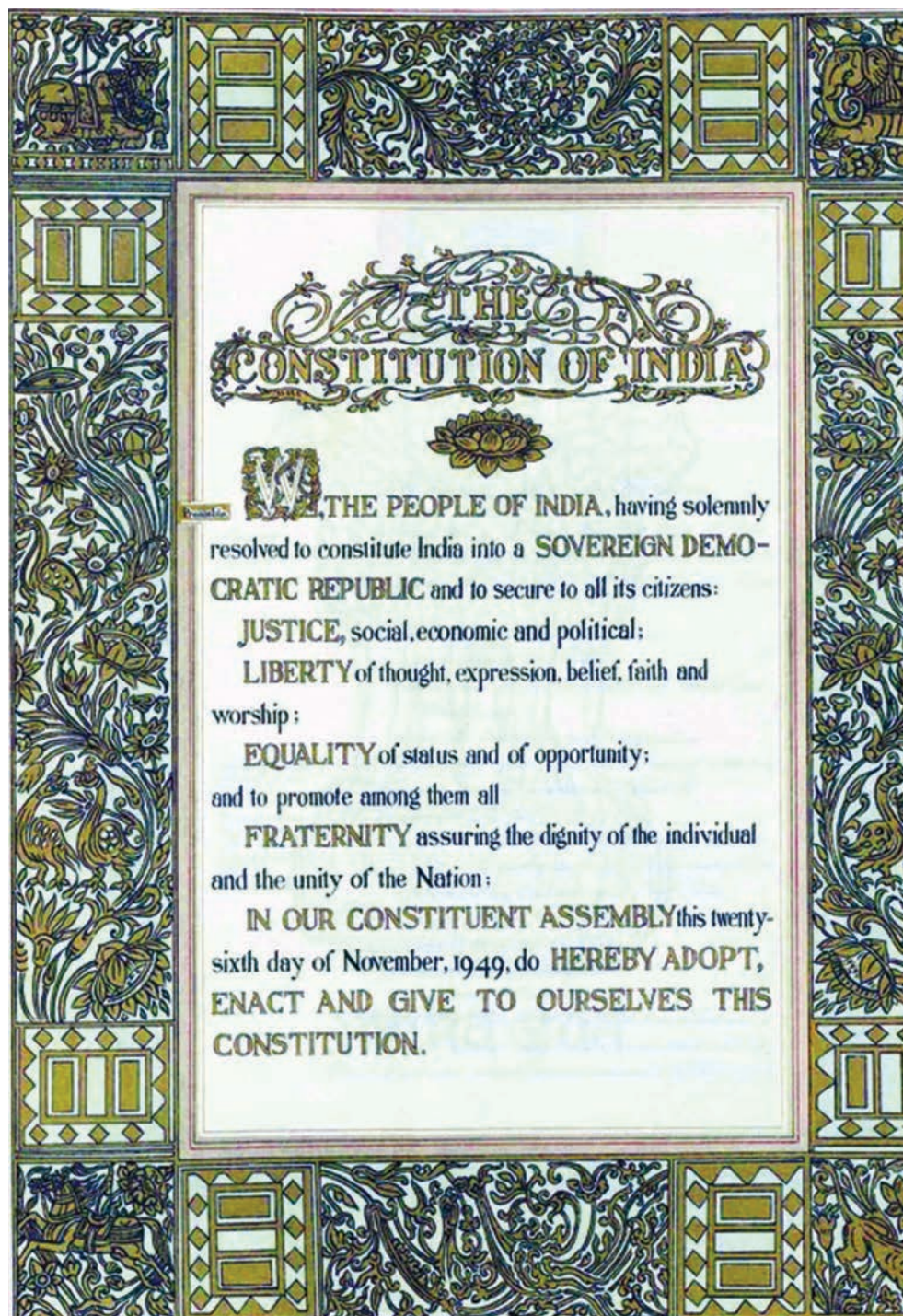
A Constitution is written

Between December 1946 and November 1949, some three hundred Indians had a series of meetings on the country's political future. The meetings of this "Constituent Assembly" were held in New Delhi, but the participants came from all over India, and from different political parties.

These discussions resulted in the framing of the Indian Constitution, which came into effect on 26 January 1950. One feature of the Constitution was its adoption of universal adult franchise. All Indians above the age of 21 would be allowed to vote in state and national elections. This was a



Members of the Union Cabinet signing copies of the new Constitution of India at the final session of the Constituent Assembly on January 24, 1950. From right, Jairamdas Daulatram, Minister for Food and Agriculture; Rajkumari Amrit Kaur, Health Minister; Dr John Mathai, Finance Minister; and Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, Deputy Prime Minister. Labour Minister Jagjivan Ram is behind Patel. Source: The Hindu Archives



revolutionary step - for never before had Indians been allowed to choose

their own leaders. In other countries, such as the United Kingdom and the United States, this right had been granted in stages. First only men of property had the vote. Then men who were educated were also added on. Working-class men got the vote only after a long struggle. Finally, after a bitter struggle of their own, American and British women were granted the vote. On the other hand, soon after Independence, India chose to grant this right to all its citizens regardless of gender, class or education.

A second feature of the Constitution was that it guaranteed equality before the law to all citizens, regardless of their caste or religious affiliation. There were some Indians who wished that the political system of the new nation be based on Hindu ideals, and that India itself be run as a Hindu state. They pointed to the example of Pakistan, a country created explicitly to protect and further the interests of a particular religious community - the Muslims. However, the Indian Prime Minister, Jawaharlal Nehru, was of the opinion that India could not and must not become a "Hindu Pakistan". Besides Muslims, India also had large populations of Sikhs and Christians, as well as many Parsis and Jains. Under the new Constitution, they would have the same rights as Hindus - the same opportunities when it came to seeking jobs in government or the private sector, the same rights before the law.

A third feature of the Constitution was that it offered special privileges for the poorest and most disadvantaged Indians. The practice of untouchability, described as a "slur and a blot" on the "fair name of India", was abolished. Hindu temples, previously open to only the higher castes, were thrown open to all, including the former untouchables. After a long debate, the Constituent Assembly also recommended that a certain percentage of seats in legislatures as well as jobs in government be reserved for members of the lowest castes. It had been argued by some that Untouchable or as they were now known, Harijan, candidates did not have good enough grades to get into the prestigious Indian Administrative Service. But, as one member of the Constituent Assembly, H.J. Khandekar, argued, it was the upper castes who were responsible for the Harijans "being unfit today".

Addressing his more privileged colleagues, Khandekar said: We were suppressed for thousands of years. You engaged us in your service to serve your own ends and suppressed us to such an extent that neither our minds nor our bodies and nor even our hearts work, nor are we able to march forward. Along with the former Untouchables, the adivasis or Scheduled Tribes were also granted reservation in seats and jobs. Like the Scheduled Castes, these Indians too had been deprived and discriminated against. The tribals had been deprived of modern health care and education, while their lands and forests had been taken away by more powerful

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outsiders.

The new privileges granted them by the Constitution were meant to make amends for this. The Constituent Assembly spent many days discussing the powers of the central government versus those of the state governments. Some members thought that the Centre's interests should be foremost. Only a strong Centre, it was argued, "would be in a position to think and plan for the well-being of the country as a whole". Other members felt that the provinces should have greater autonomy and freedom.

A member from Mysore feared that under the present system "democracy is centred in Delhi and it is not allowed to work in the same sense and spirit in the rest of the country". A member from Madras insisted that "the initial responsibility for the well-being of the people of the provinces should rest with the Provincial Governments". The Constitution sought to balance these competing claims by providing three lists of subjects: a Union List, with subjects such as taxes, defence and foreign affairs, which would be the exclusive responsibility of the Centre; a State List of subjects, such as education and health, which would be taken care of principally by the states; a Concurrent List, under which would come subjects such as forests and agriculture, in which the Centre and the states would have joint responsibility. Another major debate in the Constituent Assembly concerned language. Many members believed that the English language should leave India with the British rulers. Its place, they argued, should be taken by Hindi. However, those who did not speak Hindi were of a different opinion. Speaking in the Assembly, T.T. Krishnamachari conveyed "a warning on behalf of people of the South", some of whom threatened to separate from India if Hindi was imposed on them.

A compromise was finally arrived at: namely, that while Hindi would be the "official language" of India, English would be used in the courts, the services, and communications between one state and another. Many Indians contributed to the framing of the Constitution. But perhaps the most important role was played by Dr B.R. Ambedkar, who was Chairman of the Drafting Committee, and under whose supervision the document was finalised. In his final speech to the Constituent Assembly, Dr Ambedkar pointed out that political democracy had to be accompanied by economic and social democracy. Giving the right to vote would not automatically lead to the removal of other inequalities such as between rich and poor, or between upper and lower castes. With the new Constitution, he said, India was going to enter into a life of contradictions. In politics we will have equality and in social and economic life we will have inequality. In politics we will be recognising the principle of one man one vote and one value. In our social and economic life, we shall, by reason of our social and economic structure, continue to deny the principle of one man one value.

How were states to be formed?



Back in the 1920s, the Indian National Congress - the main party of the freedom struggle - had promised that once the country won independence, each major linguistic group would have its own province. However, after independence the Congress did not take any steps to honour this promise. For India had been divided on the basis of religion: despite the wishes and efforts of Mahatma Gandhi, freedom had come not to one nation but to two. As a result of the partition of India, more than a million people had been killed in riots between Hindus and Muslims. Could the country afford further divisions on the basis of language? Both Prime Minister Nehru and Deputy Prime Minister Vallabhbhai Patel were against the creation of linguistic states. After the Partition, Nehru said, "disruptionist tendencies had come to the fore"; to check them, the nation had to be strong and united. Or, as Patel put it: ... the first and last need of India at the present moment is that it should be made a nation ... Everything which helps the growth of nationalism has to go forward and everything which throws obstacles in its way has to be rejected ... We have applied this test to linguistic provinces also, and by this test, in our opinion [they] cannot be supported. That the Congress leaders would now go back on their promise created great disappointment. The Kannada speakers, Malayalam speakers, the Marathi speakers, had all looked forward to having their own state. The strongest protests, however, came from the Telugu-speaking districts of what was the Madras Presidency. When Nehru went to campaign there during the general elections of 1952, he was met with black flags and slogans demanding "We want Andhra". In October of that year, a veteran Gandhian named Potti Sriramulu went on a hunger strike demanding the formation of Andhra state to protect the interests of Telugu speakers. As the fast went on, it attracted much support. Hartals and bandhs were observed in many towns.

On 15 December 1952, fifty-eight days into his fast, Potti Sriramulu died. As a newspaper put it, "the news of the passing away of Sriramulu

engulfed entire Andhra in chaos". The protests were so widespread and intense that the central government was forced to give in to the demand. Thus, on 1 October 1953, the new state of Andhra came into being, which subsequently became Andhra Pradesh.

After the creation of Andhra, other linguistic communities also demanded their own separate states. A States Reorganisation Commission was set up, which submitted its report in 1956, recommending the redrawing of district and provincial boundaries to form compact provinces of Assamese, Bengali, Oriya, Tamil, Malayalam, Kannada and Telugu speakers respectively. The large Hindi-speaking region of north India was also to be broken up into several states. A little later, in 1960, the bilingual state of Bombay was divided into separate states for Marathi and Gujarati speakers. In 1966, the state of Punjab was also divided into Punjab and Haryana, the former for the Punjabi speakers (who were also mostly Sikhs), the latter for the rest (who spoke not Punjabi but versions of Haryanvi or Hindi).

Planning for development

Lifting India and Indians out of poverty, and building a modern technical and industrial base were among the major objectives of the new nation. In 1950, the government set up a Planning Commission to help design and execute suitable policies for economic development. There was a broad agreement on what was called a "mixed economy" model. Here, both the State and the private sector would play important and complementary roles in increasing production and generating jobs. What, specifically, these roles were to be - which industries should be initiated by the state and which by the market, how to achieve a balance between the different regions and states - was to be defined by the Planning Commission.

In 1956, the Second Five Year Plan was formulated. This focused strongly on the development of heavy industries such as steel, and on the building of large dams. These sectors would be under the control of the State. This focus on heavy industry,

and the effort at state regulation of the economy was to guide economic policy for the next few decades. This approach had many strong supporters, but also some vocal critics.

Some felt that it had put inadequate emphasis on agriculture. Others argued that it had neglected primary education. Still others believed that it had not taken account of the environmental implications of economic policies. As Mahatma Gandhi's follower Mira Behn wrote in 1949, by "science and machinery he [mankind] may get huge returns for a time, but ultimately will come desolation. We have got to study Nature's balance, and develop our lives within her laws, if we are to survive as a physically healthy and morally decent species."

The Nation, 75 years on

On 15 August 2021, India celebrates 75 years of its existence as a free nation. How well has the country done in this time? And to what extent has it fulfilled the ideals set out in its Constitution? That India is still united, and that it is still democratic, are achievements that we might justly be proud of. Many foreign observers had felt that India could not survive as a single country, that it would break up into many parts, with each region or linguistic group seeking to form a nation of its own. Others believed that it would come under military rule. However, as many as thirteen general elections have been held since Independence, as well as hundreds of state and local elections. There is a free press, as well as an independent judiciary. Finally, the fact that people speak different languages or practise different faiths has not come in the way of national unity.

On the other hand, deep divisions persist. Despite constitutional guarantees, the Untouchables or, as they are now referred to, the Dalits, face violence and discrimination. In many parts of rural India they are not allowed access to water sources, temples, parks and other public places. And despite the secular ideals enshrined in the Constitution, there have been clashes between different religious groups in many states. Above all, as many observers have noted, the gulf between the rich and the poor has grown over the years. Some parts of India and some groups of Indians have benefited a great deal from economic development. They live in large houses and dine in expensive restaurants, send their children to expensive private schools and take expensive foreign holidays. At the same time many others continue to live below the poverty line. Housed in urban slums, or living in remote villages on lands that yield little, they cannot afford to send their children to school. The Constitution recognises equality before the law, but in real life some Indians are more equal than others. Judged by the standards it set itself at Independence, the Republic of India has not been a great success. But it has not been a failure either.

Red Fort Gears Up To Host 75th Independence Day Celebrations

NEW DELHI (TIP): The historic monument of Red Fort in the national capital is gearing up to host the nation's Independence Day celebrations on August 15. All security arrangements including extra precautionary and preventive measures against Covid-19 are being put in place to ensure a seamless event.

A two-day vaccination camp was organised for all the staff present in the Red Fort in a step towards taking guard against the coronavirus whose first wave last year and the second wave earlier this year went on to create rampage.

The Prime Minister hoists the flag every year on Independence Day and addresses the country from the ramparts of the Red Fort.

The mega celebrations to commemorate the 75th anniversary of India's Independence began on March 12 with the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) identifying 16 sites at which programmes will be held across the country, Union Culture Ministry sources told PTI.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will on Friday inaugurate the 'Azadi Ka Amrut Mahotsav' event by flagging off a 241-mile march from Sabarmati Ashram in Ahmedabad to Dandi in Gujarat's Navsari district to mark the day.

Events on Friday will mark the beginning of the celebrations which will go on every week for 75 weeks till August 15, 2022.

"The ASI has identified 16 sites where celebrations will begin tomorrow to mark the 75th anniversary of India's Independence. This will include cultural programmes and different events," a source said.

The first of the 16 events will begin at Qila Rai Pithora in Delhi which will be attended by Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla and five Union Ministers, including Railway's Piyush Goyal, Tribal Affairs' Renuka Singh Saruta.

Other ministers who will be in attendance include Anurag Singh Thakur, Minister of State in the Ministry of Finance and Minister of State in the Ministry of Corporate Affairs, Kiren Rijiju, Minister of State (Independent Charge) of the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports and Minority Affairs, Dr Harsh Vardhan, Minister of Health and Family Welfare, Minister of Science and Technology and Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank', Hon'ble Minister of Education.

The other 15 ASI sites where the celebrations will begin on Friday include the Gwalior Fort in Gwalior, Humayun's Tomb in Delhi, Fatehpur Sikri, Golconda Fort in Hyderabad, Bhubaneswari Temple in Aizawl, Aga Khan Palace Building in Mumbai and Konark Sun Temple in Odisha.

Other sites where functions will be held are Kangra Fort in Himachal



Tricolour lights up Srinagar's Lal Chowk clock tower.

Pradesh Residency Building in Lucknow, Jhansi Fort in Jhansi, the ancestral Home of Dr Rajendra Prasad in Patna, Chitradurg Fort in Karnataka, Man Mahal Ghat in Varanasi, Sankaram, Amravati and Deeg Palace in Jaipur.

The government has formed a 259-member national committee, under the chairmanship of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, to plan and implement the programmes for the 75th year of India's Independence.

The members of the panel include former president Pratibha Patil, Chief Justice of India S A Bobde, National Security Advisor Ajit Doval, 28 chief ministers, artistes like Lata Mangeshkar, A R Rahman, Nobel laureate Amartya Sen, senior BJP leader L K Advani, almost all Union ministers and several governors.

Opposition leaders like Congress chief Sonia Gandhi, CPI(M) general secretary Sitaram Yechury, NCP leader Sharad Pawar, TMC supreme Mamata Banerjee and former Uttar Pradesh chief ministers Mulayam Singh Yadav and Mayawati are also part of the committee.

Olympic medallists invited to Red Fort

'Nation First, Always First' will be the theme of India's 75th Independence Day celebrations at the Red Fort from where Prime Minister Narendra Modi will address the nation on Sunday.

All the Olympians who won medals at the 2020 Tokyo Games have been sent special invites for the event.

Like 2020, this year's event will be restricted for the public and no cultural performance will be staged by children. A group of NCC cadets will attend the event, said an officer. From paintings to floral arrangements, all aspects of the programme will bear 'Nation First, Always First' theme, said Delhi police sources.

Drone alert

After the recent drone attacks in Jammu, the Union Ministry of Home Affairs has asked the Delhi police to strictly adhere to the Standard Operating Procedures for drone operations.

"We have increased the total number of secured rooftops from which the Red Fort or the potential route of the Prime Minister's cavalcade is remotely visible. Personnel have been told to take down drones or aerial objects in case they see one approaching the Red Fort or to alert higher-ups if they don't have the requisite skills," said a police officer.

A makeshift wall of containers has been erected at the periphery of the Red Fort to rule out any security breach owing to the ongoing farmers' protest. The containers have been painted in hues reflecting the solemnity of the august occasion.

75 years on: Is India's youth skilled enough?

Jawaharlal Nehru in his speech *Tryst with Destiny* said "The achievement we celebrate today is but a step, an opening of opportunity, to the greater triumphs and achievements that await us. Are we brave enough and wise enough to grasp this opportunity and accept the challenge of the future? Today, when we are at the helm of 75 years of Independence, it seems the right time to evaluate and measure the growth and re-imagine where we need to be and what is the path that can take us there.

India is one of the youngest nations in the world with 62% of the Population in the working age group and about 54% of the population below 25 years of age. With millions of youth joining the labour workforce year on year, and industry is looking for a productive and skilled workforce.

Unemployability is a bigger problem than unemployment; 90% of what we learn at our academic institutes is knowledge, whereas 90% of what employers ask for is skills. 58% of India's youth suffer from some skill deprivation and the ones that get employed don't get the right wage. Traditionally, our Education system has been the ones offering degrees and thereby a promise of decent wage employment, however as industries evolved their requirement for a skilled workforce started increasing. A parallel skills development ecosystem was created where students would go to college to get a degree and parallelly to skilling institutes to learn skills and make them employable.

The employment landscape has been rapidly changing, Industry 4.0 is redefining the workforce landscape of India and demanding newer skills. Many jobs give importance to cognitive skills and system skills over other abilities. However, upskilling and reskilling of their workforce had not been an important area of focus for employers, thus leaving the skill development and funding for skilling to the employees themselves. The biggest question that we continuously ask ourselves is who pays for the learning? Job seekers are willing to pay for jobs but not learning, employers are willing to pay for skilled workforce but not for skilling them and the Government has been the one who has been focussing on funding for skilling programs. We had over 19 ministries with skills budgets, however not all was spent on upskilling & reskilling our workforce, NSDC (National Skills Development Corporation) was incorporated in 2008 and an independent Ministry of Skills & Entrepreneurship by the government with an aim to bring adequate focus on Skills Development.

One of the biggest steps towards the direction of developing a highly skilled and productive workforce is the announcement of the New Education Policy (NEP), which aims to universalize education. Obviously we need to think about bringing the implementation cycle from the proposed 15 years to 5 years. There are many ways that can be done to improve the skills of our youth and few of

Today, when we are celebrating 75th Independence Day, it seems the right time to evaluate and measure the growth and re-imagine where we need to be and what is the path that can take us there.



them are:

- Upward mobility and Degree Connectivity: Offering degree connectivity to students having 10+2 from any higher secondary board of education as well as to candidates having 10+2 year ITI in relevant trade. Students should have the option to enrol for regular University programmes, Work Based Learning (hybrid) programmes or Part Time programmes (for working professionals).

The four qualification corridors can be Certificate, Diploma, Advanced Diploma and Degree in one or more vocational skills educational space. Keeping the learner at the centre of our Education System, a degree should be earned anywhere and anytime. Building in flexibility with the Education System to recognise work based learning, OnJob Training, Online learning along with OnCampus and OnSite learning, provide credits leading to degrees on vocational skilling to multiple forms of learning and have skilled and knowledgeable workforce join the labour market.

- Integrated Apprenticeship

Program: Apprentices, while learning on the job, should also be provided OnSite / OnLine learning leading them towards credits and certifications. Work Based Learning will create a higher productive workforce, thereby reducing the attrition and cost of hiring for employers. An Apprenticeship scheme will serve the purpose of both the Government, by providing sustainable jobs and the industry, by providing skilled and productive workforce.

- Continuous Learning for Working Professionals: In order to ensure continuous learning, Education institutes should assess learner performance continuously over the duration of each semester. The examination system should be designed to assess the learner's progress systematically across all the classrooms. Both the Industry and Government should focus on upskilling existing skill sets and reskilling for newer job roles. The industry should identify the upskilling / reskilling needs, provide the necessary resources and the Government should either

subsidize or reimburse some form of learning and certification. By creating a productive workforce, it will improve the overall health of the industry, sector and their economy.

- Digital Infrastructure: The Covid pandemic advanced technology adoption by at least 2 decades in India, however many students do not have access to internet connectivity, laptops / phones and thereby have lost on learning over the last year. The Government has to make investments in setting a digital infrastructure and help learners get access to remote learning and upskilling to ensure there is limited or no delay in learning and making our youth employable.

With its young population, India can and should become the skill capital of the world, however we will need to shift gears and focus on preparing and repairing skills of our youth and making them productive and employable.

Source: Financial Express (The author, Neeti Sharma, is Co-Founder and President, TeamLease EdTech. Views expressed are personal)

75 years on, women's fight for freedom, against injustice continues

As we celebrate 75th Independence Day, let us not forget that somewhere in interior India, women are still fighting for their freedom, liberty, and justice. That they are fighting for not just themselves but also their family and society is what makes them special. And this is why we must pay respect to the unconditional contribution women have made, from raising children to maintaining households; from working in the day to looking after their family in the evening.

Looking at various indicators that define women, such as economic and political empowerment, justice, safety, health and dignity, India has made a leap forward from where it began in 1947. In the last 70 years of Indian history, we have seen a degree of social progress across multiple issues that concern women in India. Indicators such as education, crime, gender equality and women empowerment, have witnessed a marked improvement.

Today, we have more girls enrolled in schools than what it was 75 years ago. As per Unified-District Information System For Education (UDISE), the Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) of girls at the secondary level is 80.97% and at Senior Secondary level is 56.41% respectively. Health wise, the mortality rate has come down. The gender gap has narrowed and women are beginning to play leadership roles in politics and corporate sector.

In spite of the social progress made by women, however, challenges exist. Female labour force participation rate declined from 42.5% in 1987-1988 to 18% in 2011-2012 for rural women and from 25.4% in 1987-88 to 13.4% in 2011-2012 for urban women. At the same time, official data does not reflect the amount of work that women actually do to enable their families to survive, collecting fuel, fodder or water; keeping poultry, working as unpaid labor on family farms.

As our society confronts these challenges towards the greater emancipation of women in India, we list out five key schemes delivered by the government that is playing or have played an important role in delivering empowerment and socio-economic progress for women in India.

National Policy of Women

The policy unveiled by the Government last year will help towards the creation of a society with women working as equal partners in all spheres of life. It envisages developing a framework to ensure equal rights and opportunities for women.

Formation of Central and State Commission for Women

A key statutory and regulatory development, the formation of National Commission for Women and subsequently state commission from 1992 onwards has played a pivotal role to address women's right issues in the highest Government capacity. Formed under the 1990 National Commission for Women's Act, the Commission has represented the rights of women in India and to provide a voice for their issues and concerns. The subjects of their campaigns have included issues that concern the lives of women in India such



as dowry, politics, religion, equal representation for women in jobs, and the exploitation of women for labor.

Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan

The Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, India's first ever nation-wide program for Universal Elementary Education has gone a long way to deliver education for girls in India. The program, pioneered by former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee, has helped educate millions of children across the country and helped raise literacy levels among women in India.

Direct Benefit Transfer

In India, subsidies are paid to rural

households to help them access basic utilities. Leverages and delays, however, are a common phenomenon attached with subsidy transfer that leads to situations where the beneficiaries suffer without access to subsidies. To address this challenge, the Government launched the Direct Benefit Scheme that has now been championed by the present Government as a mechanism to address leakages and prevent delays by directly transferring the money into the account of beneficiaries. Women have benefited the most as they are the ones responsible for maintaining the household activities, and with the advent of this scheme, have been able to access funds and subsequently manage their

expenses.

Beti Bachao Beti Padhao

The trend of declining sex ratio from 945 in 1991 to 918 in 2011 has been a major cause of concern. To address this challenge and to enhance girl child literacy, Prime Minister Modi launched the Beti Bachao Beti Padhao in 2015. Notwithstanding the challenges towards its implementation and delivery, the program has helped increase access to education as a means to empower the girl child.

75 years of Socio-Political Progress

75 years since independence, the Indian woman has surged ahead with great leaps and bounds. Today we have higher levels of consciousness about the plight of women in our country where women have suffered a lot of exploitation and discrimination.

The discourse on women empowerment and gender equality has gone beyond the chores of households into the political arena of policies and development. Violence is spoken about but also women have broken their silence against the crimes. The present generations of men are also more sensitive than their previous generations and this is a welcome trend towards enhancing gender sensitivity in the country.

The realization that women should be treated equally in our society has made considerable progress in light of the social and political challenges that confronted us at the time of independence. We have witnessed a sense of movement that is driving social progress and recognizing the role of women in politics, labor force etc. Over the years, we have seen suffering for women at every level at a workplace.

However, we believe that positive times are here to come and stay to eliminate the suffering of women and enhance their equality in the society. We feel a sense of satisfaction having been able to help women from getting laws amended to raising social issues in public, helping women access to justice and joining forces with institutions to drive women empowerment.

The next 75 years

For the coming 75 years, there is a sense of optimism. Although there is no short cut to embrace equality and gender justice, there is no alternative either. In the future we will have more women in policy making and in Parliament. It is believed that women will play a critical role towards delivering peace and harmony in the world, and through that, We see much more economic justice and equality. We believe this because women care, nurture and rear and they feel pain greater than men.

This is why, we also believe that global women leadership can bring an end to conflicts and war. As women are more sensitive to crisis and wars, We are hopeful that in the coming years, women leadership can deliver tranquility and help humanity evolve from the dark times of conflicts that have engulfed our societies from time to time.

Exports, FDI, startups fire on all cylinders to get Indian economy back on track

Until February 2021, India had only ever had five months where goods exports had surpassed \$30 billion. These five months were spread over the preceding decade. Since March 2021, India has had five straight months where goods exports have exceeded \$30 billion every month. In fact, July 2021 was the first month ever that India crossed \$35 billion in goods exports.

While the goods exports have topped \$130 billion in the first four months of this financial year, services exports have gone past \$55 billion in the first quarter as reported by the Reserve Bank of India. For the first time ever, India may hit \$600 billion in cumulative exports this financial year.

What is noteworthy is that these stupendous increases have in the middle of the COVID-19 pandemic. Global trade has been impacted directly by the pandemic, as well as due to derivative issues like delays and capacity constraints in the shipping industry. And yet, the Indian exports have not just turned a corner, but have shown remarkable strength in a host of sectors. Agriculture, engineering goods, gems and jewelry, petroleum products and textiles – the numbers have been strong in each of these areas this financial year.

It is not just export bounce-back and upward trajectory. It is also the year for India's promising technology sector to shine. The first half of this year has seen fresh investments of \$11 billion in Indian start-ups. Twenty unicorns – firms with a valuation of more than \$1 billion – have flown in the Indian entrepreneurship skies already this year. And these encouraging numbers have come in at a time when the all-pervasive Chinese capital took a break from the Indian markets after investment restrictions were imposed after the Galwan Valley incident in the summer of 2020.

The Indian start-up ecosystem is now the third-largest in the world. The number of start-ups recognised by the Department of Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade has crossed 50,000 and is spread across 623 districts in India. Nearly 1.8 lakh formal jobs have been created by 16,000 start-ups which were recognised in the last financial year. Several times more indirect jobs get created with a formalisation of jobs being created as well as aggregated by the start-up ecosystem.

Once these startups achieve scale, they will be the fuel to power India's growth trajectory. They are the lynchpins of tomorrow's business ecosystem. That several of them have started to consider listing in India is an additional positive. Many of these listed start-ups will eventually create wealth for not just their founders but for their employees and retail investors alike.

Indian start-ups have indeed become a magnet for global investors. But more broadly, the Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) has also been buoyant. FDI is critical for business growth as well as for achieving export competitiveness. By liberalizing the FDI policy in several sectors and improving ease of doing business, India has been able to garner historic inflows.

For the first time ever, India may hit \$600 billion in cumulative exports this financial year



INDIAN ECONOMY GROWTH RATE

India has emerged as the fastest growing major economy in the world and is expected to be one of the top three economic powers in the world over the next 10-15 years, backed by its robust democracy and strong partnerships.

Market size

India's real gross domestic product (GDP) at current prices stood at Rs. 135.13 lakh crore (US\$ 1.82 trillion) in FY21, as per the provisional estimates of annual national income for 2020-21.

India is the fourth-largest unicorn base in the world with over 21 unicorns collectively valued at US\$ 73.2 billion, as per the Hurun Global Unicorn List. By 2025, India is expected to have ~100 unicorns by 2025 and will create ~1.1 million direct jobs according to the Nasscom-Zinnov report 'Indian Tech Start-up'.

India needs to increase its rate of employment growth and create 90 million non-farm jobs between 2023 and 2030's, for productivity and economic growth according to McKinsey Global Institute. Net employment rate needs to grow by 1.5% per year from 2023 to 2030 to achieve 8-8.5% GDP growth between 2023 and 2030.

According to data from the RBI, as of the week ended on June 04, 2021, the foreign exchange reserves in India increased by US\$ 6.842 billion to reach US\$ 605 billion.

Recent Developments

With an improvement in the economic scenario, there have been investments across various sectors of the economy. Private Equity - Venture Capital (PE-VC) sector recorded investments worth US\$ 20 billion in the first five months of 2021,

The highest ever FDI inflow of \$82 billion was clocked in the last financial year. This was 10 percent more than the

registering a 2x growth in value compared with the same period in 2020. Some of the important recent developments in Indian economy are as follows:

- Merchandise exports stood at US\$ 62.89 billion between April 2021 and May 2021, while imports touched US\$ 84.27 billion. The estimated value of service exports and imports between April 2021 and May 2021 stood at US\$ 35.39 billion and US\$ 19.86 billion, respectively.
- In May 2021, the Manufacturing Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) in India stood at 50.8.
- Gross GST collections stood at Rs. 141,384 crore (US\$ 19.41 billion) in April 2021.
- Cumulative FDI equity inflows in India stood at US\$ 763.58 billion between April 2000 and March 2021. Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) inflows in India stood at US\$ 6.24 billion in April 2021, registering an increase of 38% YoY.
- India's Index of Industrial Production (IIP) for April 2021 stood at 126.6 against 143.4 for March 2021.
- Consumer Food Price Index (CFPI) – Combined inflation was 5.01 in May 2021 against 1.96 in April 2021.
- Consumer Price Index (CPI) – Combined inflation was 6.30 in May 2021 against 4.23 in April 2021.
- In June 2021, foreign portfolio investors (FPIs) turned net buyers by investing Rs. 12,714 crore (US\$ 1.71 billion) into the Indian markets. According to depositories data, between June 1, 2021 and June 25, 2021, FPIs invested Rs. 15,282 crore (US\$ 2.06 billion) in equities.

2019-20 figure. The positive momentum on FDI has also continued this financial year. The month of May saw \$10.5 billion

coming in. Again, these figures become doubly critical in the context of the pandemic-led disruptions.

With India focusing on the Production Linked Incentives (PLI) programme for 13 key sectors for five years, this trifecta of forces – Indian entrepreneurship, risk capital and potential for rapid market expansion can further come together in the time to come. The government has made an outlay of Rs 1.97 lakh crore for the PLI program to enhance cost-competitiveness, quality, efficiency and technological maturity of Indian manufacturing and for creating and nurturing global champions.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi had announced the Aatmanirbhar Bharat ambition in the middle of last year as India sought to rebuild the economy after the first wave of the pandemic. The program, expected to reinvigorate the country, after a once in a century crisis with no playbook to tackle, has started in the right earnest. After a series of discussions with the industry captains on Aatmanirbhar Bharat last year, Modi spoke to Indian missions, which can play a pivotal role in attracting capital and projects for India.

Trade and Industry have the power to write the growth story of a nation. As the world learns to live with the virus, India has a key role to play in the global order as a reliable and trusted partner. The Tridevs of the economy – exports, FDI and start-ups – have sent a resounding signal of India's potential and promise to the world.

Road ahead

As indicated by provisional estimates released by the National Statistical Office (NSO), India posted a V-shaped recovery in the second half of FY21. As per these estimates, India registered an increase of 1.1% in the second half of FY21; this was driven by the gradual and phased unlocking of industrial activities, increased investments and growth in government expenditure.

As per the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) estimates, India's real GDP growth is projected at 9.5% in FY22; this includes 18.5% increase in the first quarter of FY22; 7.9% growth in the second quarter of FY22; 7.2% rise in the third quarter of FY22 and 6.6% growth in the fourth quarter of FY22.

India is focusing on renewable sources to generate energy. It is planning to achieve 40% of its energy from non-fossil sources by 2030, which is currently 30% and have plans to increase its renewable energy capacity from 175 gigawatt (GW) by 2022. In line with this, in May 2021, India, along with the UK, jointly launched a 'Roadmap 2030' to collaborate and combat climate change by 2030.

India is expected to be the third largest consumer economy as its consumption may triple to US\$ 4 trillion by 2025, owing to shift in consumer behaviour and expenditure pattern, according to a Boston Consulting Group (BCG) report. It is estimated to surpass USA to become the second largest economy in terms of purchasing power parity (PPP) by 2040 as per a report by PricewaterhouseCoopers.

Strategy for New India @ 75

NITI Aayog has released 'Strategy for New India @ 75' document by replacing five year plans with an aim to accelerate economic growth to 9-10%, make the country a \$4-trillion economy by 2022-23 and to achieve UN Sustainable Development Goals.

Growth

Objectives

- Accelerate gross domestic product (GDP) growth rate in a inclusive and sustainable manner to about 8 per cent during 2018-23.
- Investment rate should be raised from 29 per cent to 36 per cent of GDP by 2022-23.
- Increasing total exports from USD 478 billion in 2017-18 to USD 800 billion by 2022-23.

Current Situation

- The share of manufacturing in India's GDP is low relative to the average in low and middle-income countries.
- Capital intensive sectors have witness higher growth in manufacturing such as automobiles and pharmaceuticals.
- India hasn't been able to capitalize fully on its inherent labor and skill cost advantages to develop large-scale labor intensive manufacturing.
- India is also grappled with complex land and labour laws.
- There is a need of generating good quality jobs to cater to the growing workforce and to absorb out-migration of labour from agriculture.
- India has had strong macroeconomic fundamentals including low and stable rates of inflation and a falling fiscal deficit. However there is a need for structural reforms that address the binding constraints for a more robust supply-side response.

Way Forward

- Raising investment rates to 36 per cent by 2022-23
- India's tax to GDP ratio (17%) is very low and it should aim to increase its tax-GDP ratio to at least 22 per cent of GDP by 2022-23.
- There's a need to rationalize direct taxes for both corporate tax and personal income tax, ease tax compliance burden which along with demonetization and GST will boost India's tax to GDP ratio.
- Higher public investment in housing and infrastructure will create large multiplier effects in the economy.
- Government should exit central public sector enterprises (CPSEs) that are not strategic in nature, which will attract private investment and contribute to the exchequer, enabling higher public investment.

Employment and Labour

Objectives

- Complete codification of central labor laws into four codes by 2019.
- Increase female labor force participation to at least 30 per cent



- Encourage formalization of the labor force by reforming labor laws, easing of industrial relations and ensuring of fair working conditions and social security.

Current Situation

- 49% of total Indian workforce engages in agriculture with a miniscule contribution of 15% to Gross Value Added.
- Indian economy needs to generate nearly 70 lakh jobs annually to absorb the net addition to the workforce.
- MSMEs and informal sector firms dominate the employment landscape in India. As per the National Sample Survey (NSS) 73rd round, 6.34 crore MSMEs in the country engaged in different economic activities provides employment to 11.10 crore workers.
- India also exhibits a low and declining female labor force participation rate which stood at 23.7% in 2011-12 compared to China's 61% and US's 56%.
- Cost of compliance and the complexity generated by various labor laws is high in the country.
- Government has brought in few reforms such as moving licensing and compliance processes online, simplifying procedures and permitting self-certification etc.
- Government has several schemes to help generate employment such as MGNREGS, MUDRA Yojana, and Pradhan Mantri Rojgar Protsahan Yojana etc.

Constraints

- Large share of India's workforce is employed in low productivity activities with low levels of remuneration.
- Workers in unorganized sector are not covered by labor regulations and social security.
- According to the India Skill Report 2018, only 47 per cent of those coming out of higher educational institutions are employable.

Technology and Innovation

Objectives

- Reach in top 50 countries in the Global Innovation Index by 2022-23.
- Five scientific research institutions

- should be amongst the top 100 in the world.
- India should spend at least 2 per cent of gross domestic product (GDP) on Research & Development.

Current Situation

- India has launched various schemes to nurture and retain young researchers and women scientists in the field of scientific research.
- India has become a major destination for outsourced funding in R&D covering areas from Information and Communication Technology, biotechnology, aerospace, and materials technology etc.
- India is amongst handful nations that have credible capabilities in the field of space technology, strategic and defense technologies.
- India ranks third in largest number of startups in the world. Government through the Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) aims to transform radically the innovation, entrepreneurship and start-up ecosystem of the country.

Constraints

- India's expenditure in R&D is a paltry 0.7% of its GDP which stands 1.2% and 2% for Brazil and China respectively. Private sector's contribution in R&D is also miniscule.
- The link between research, higher education and industry is weak and nascent.
- Lack of scientific temperament at both early and later stage of career leads to the diversion of potential researchers to other rewarding sectors.
- "Lab to Land" time is too long i.e. rate of transfer of technologies from lab to industry and for societal benefits is low.
- The public procurement system is heavily biased in favor of experienced and established products and technologies discouraging new and innovative technologies offered by start-ups.

Industry

Objectives

- Double the current growth rate of the manufacturing sector by 2022.
- Gradual adoption of the latest

technology advancements, referred to as 'Industry 4.0'.

Current Situation

- India is the fifth largest manufacturer in the world with a gross value added (GVA) of INR 21,531.47 billion in 2017-18 with a Cumulative Annual Growth Rate of 7.7 per cent between 2012-13 and 2017-18.
- Government has taken multiple initiatives to boost manufacturing such as Make in India, Startup India, and MUDRA. It has also undertaken massive recapitalization of Public Sector Banks to ease availability of credit to MSMEs.
- World Bank ranked India 100th among 190 countries in the Ease of Doing Business (EODB) in 2018 a jump of 34 positions from last year.
- FDI regime has substantially liberalized, improving India's rank in terms of annual FDI inflows from 14 in 2010 to 9 in 2017. FDI inflow in manufacturing is about 35% of total FDI India receives.
- Manufacturing share stands at 16% of GDP.

Constraints

- Regulatory risks and policy uncertainty in the past have dented investor confidence.
- There has been a cyclical slowdown in fresh investment since 2011-12.
- The adoption of new technologies such as artificial intelligence, data analytics, M2M (Machine to Machine) etc.
- Getting construction permits, enforcing contracts, paying taxes, starting a business and trading across borders continue to constrain doing business.

Housing for All

Objectives

- Providing every family with a pucca house, with a water connection, toilet facilities, and 24x7 electricity supply and access.

Current Situation

- Homeless families are provided housing assistance in rural and hilly areas through Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Gramin) launched in 2016.
- The scheme aims at building one crore rural houses in three years between 2016-17 and 2018-19 and has built 32.14 lakh houses in 2016-17.
- Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Urban) looks to achieve target of constructing 1.2 housing units in urban areas.

Constraints

- Lack of access to finance from formal financial institutions.
- Long-drawn out, multi-level approval system in urban areas.
- Predominance of conventional construction practices that result in delayed progress in urban areas and the limited use of prefabricated and pre-engineered materials.
- Capacity constraints in urban local bodies (ULBs) to formulate and design mass housing projects.

COVID-19 crisis and its impact on India

Children orphaned by COVID

The second wave of COVID-19 brought with it unimaginable grief, agony, and frustration. India saw a sharp increase in the number of deaths, especially among younger people, which meant that many children lost one or both parents. Reports of people seeking help for orphaned children as well as requests to 'adopt' these children emerged on social media. Data collected and presented by the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights in the Supreme Court as of June 8th, 2021 revealed that COVID-19 left 3,621 children orphaned. Additionally, more than 26,000 children lost one of their parents and 274 children were abandoned. These numbers, which are likely to be higher, indicate grave protection-related issues for children.

To address this emerging child rights issue, the central government and various state governments announced social protection packages for children orphaned due to COVID-19. These packages mainly include cash transfers (different governments have designed various modalities) and concessions with a preference for the education of children who have been orphaned. Some packages also include health insurance and employment assurance upon completion of education. Though timely, there is a conscious need to design, allocate, and implement these schemes using a child-sensitive lens that responds to gender and age-appropriate needs.

Securing rights for domestic workers

The global COVID-19 pandemic has brought many lives to a standstill. In addition to grave health repercussions, it has resulted in a deluge of socio-economic and humanitarian suffering due to lockdowns and restrictions aimed at curbing transmission. As policymakers grapple with these conflicting pressures, millions of informal workers—domestic workers included—have faced tremendous uncertainty with regard to their work and income. Despite an easing of lockdown restrictions across India after the first wave, 45 percent of domestic workers faced some form of job loss. From those who managed to keep their jobs, many had to accept lower wages and faced working conditions fraught with health and safety risks.

By definition, informal workers are susceptible to exploitation due to the absence of work security and social security. However, within this subset, domestic workers fare far worse than their counterparts in construction work and street vending who benefit from protective legislation. Consequently, street vendors and construction workers significantly out-earn domestic workers in both rural and urban contexts.

In fact, domestic workers were revealed to be the lowest paid amongst all the informal trades studied by WIEGO. This is despite the immense scale of the domestic work sector. Official estimates suggest that there are 4.75 million domestic workers in India; but this is likely to be a gross under-estimation and the real number is actually closer to 50 million. Moreover, domestic work is a trade dominated by vulnerable



individuals such as women—who constitute 80 percent of domestic workers globally—and also includes minors.

Gender inequities prevail in vaccination drive

Just over 20 percent of India's adult population has received their first COVID-19 vaccine dose. During the rollout, clear gender disparities have emerged, and these are of concern for the coming months. In a recent map released by Ashoka University, only around 86 women are receiving vaccine doses for every 100 men. According to data from the government's CoWIN dashboard, in only three states—Chhattisgarh, Himachal Pradesh, and Kerala—are women currently receiving an equal or higher number of vaccine shots compared to men. Union territories including Dadra and Nagar Haveli, Daman and Diu, Jammu and Kashmir, and Chandigarh are the worst-performing regions on vaccine gender parity. As the vaccination programme begins in rural areas, addressing this gender gap early is a priority.

In the initial days of the vaccine rollout, women made up the majority of vaccine recipients given that many frontline jobs are performed by women. In March 2021, when vaccines became available to those over 45 years of age, and then in May 2021 to those between ages 18 to 44 years, the numbers began reversing, with more men being vaccinated than women. In April alone, 2.4 million fewer women than men received a vaccination.

India's COVID-19 response limited by strong urban and tech bias

Economist Jayati Ghosh analyses how



the response strategy during the first wave of the COVID-19 crisis utterly neglected the plight of people from marginalised sections of society. She underlines that the policy actions—ranging from the lockdowns to the economic relief packages—were devised with a parochial view, relying on limited sources of information. Reference points for policymaking were starkly ignorant of ground realities. As a result, these measures disproportionately affected women, people belonging to the working class, and marginalised caste communities. Also, the economic relief packages during these distressing times increased the liquidity in the markets instead of improving the buying capacity of the poor. As a result, the low-income groups and labour-intensive sectors of the economy couldn't be rescued from the crisis.

Steps such as nationwide lockdowns

were made with an assumption that all families across the country live in nicely-built houses and maintain enough savings to survive for days even in the absence of livelihood opportunities. Or, that homes are 'safe' for all people, ignoring ground realities about homes as sites of violence, especially for women and queer people. No wonder then that such measures led to widespread exclusions and added to the innumerable agonies among the weaker sections of society.

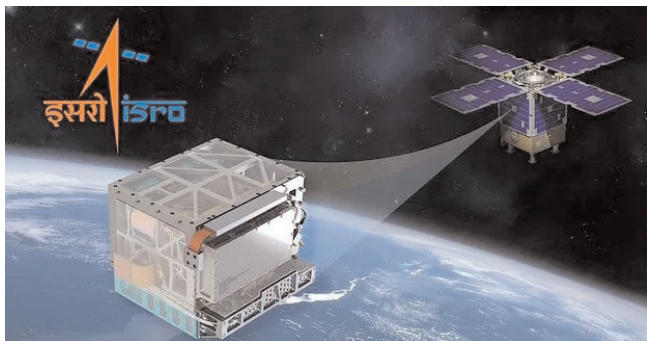
Relief measures and cash transfers, according to Gram Vaani's research, were designed to rule out 'inclusion errors' rather than to prevent vulnerable people from falling through the cracks. This has led to significant exclusion. Other measures, such as ramming through the new labour and farm laws, were designed to benefit corporates, the formal economy, and the upper section of the society.

Indian achievements that helped push technological boundaries the world over

Thanks to the talent and infrastructure in our country, today, India is among the topmost countries in the world in the field of scientific research.

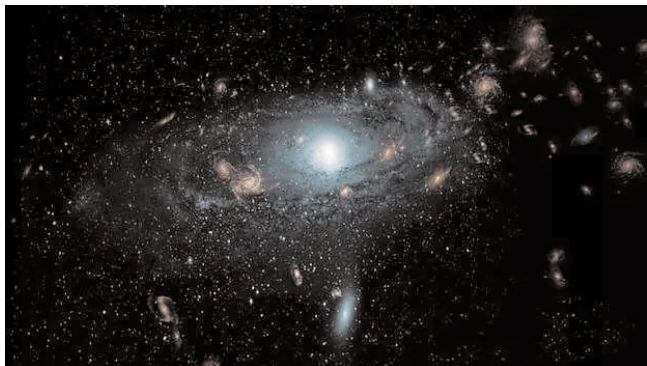
There are so many technological achievements that every Indian should feel proud about.

1. Development of an atomic clock has made ISRO one of the few space organisations in the world to have gained this sophisticated technology.



ISRO has developed an atomic clock that will be used in navigation satellites to measure precise location data. The space agency currently imports atomic clocks from European aerospace manufacturer Astrium.

2. A team of Indian astronomers has discovered an extremely large supercluster of galaxies.



This is one of the largest known structures in the neighbourhood of the universe - as big as 20 million billion suns. It is a path-breaking discovery and the cluster has been named 'Saraswati'.

3. ISRO demonstrated its capability of handling complex missions by successfully launching a record 104 satellites on a single rocket.



This is the highest number of satellites ever launched in a single mission by any other country in the world.

4. ISRO launched the country's heaviest rocket GSLV-Mk III whose cryogenic engine was developed indigenously.



The rocket is described as a "game-changer" in the first of its kind space mission and is yet another major step towards being self-reliant in the country's space programme.



5. Rifath Sharook, an 18-year-old from Karur in Tamil Nadu, scripted history by designing the world's smallest satellite.

The tiny 3D-printed satellite is called Kalamsat, after former President Abdul Kalam, and was flown by NASA into space in one of its missions.

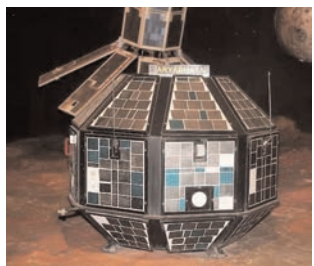
6. PARAM - India's first ever indigenous supercomputer was a major milestone in modern India's technological journey.

India faced a technology-denial regime in the 80s. It was then that the Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC) was set up with the clear mandate to develop an indigenous supercomputer to meet high-speed computational needs.



7. Aryabhata - the first unmanned satellite built by India was a breakthrough achievement in India's space programme.

Aryabhata was built by the Indian Space Research Organization to conduct experiments in X-ray astronomy, aeronomics, and solar physics and opened new possibilities for ISRO.



8. India developed an indigenous seeker for Brahmos for the first time.



Brahmos is the world's fastest and most formidable anti-ship cruise missile. This marks a big achievement and breakthrough for the supersonic missile as this is the first time the country has developed a seeker for a missile of this calibre and class.

9. The Mars Orbiter Mission made India the only nation in the world to reach Mars in its first attempt.

Mangalyaan-1, the indigenously built space probe marked India's first venture into the interplanetary space. It also made India first in Asia, and fourth in the world to reach the surface of Mars.

10. Chandrayaan-1, India's first lunar exploration mission, made it possible for ISRO to go beyond the Geostationary Orbit.

With this mission, India emerged as the fourth



country in the world to hoist its flag on a lunar surface. It also provided the needed thrust to basic science and engineering research in the country.

11. ISRO successfully test-fired its Scramjet Rocket Engine, a breakthrough technology in air-breathing propulsion.

Air-breathing rocket systems use atmospheric oxygen from their surroundings, burn it with the stored fuel to produce a forward thrust in contrast to the conventional chemical rocket systems which carry both the oxygen and the fuel. The development of this high-



technology system will go a big way in meeting India's futuristic space transportation needs.

12. Space Capsule Recovery Experiment Mission established India's technological capability to recover an orbiting satellite.

It was a remarkable achievement and the technology will now be used to develop recovery technologies for future human and robotic missions.

13. The successful demonstration of the use of



cryogenic engine technology put India among a league of only five other such nations.

With the successful launch of GSLV-D5, India has gained the capability to launch heavy satellites without foreign assistance. It will also pave way for sizeable savings for the country's future launch costs.

14. India's INSAT system is one of the largest domestic communication satellite systems owned by any country in the Asia-Pacific region.

It initiated a major revolution in India's communications sector. At present, it is serving several crucial sectors of our economy, including telecommunication, education, and meteorology.

15. Indian Regional Navigation Satellite System (IRNSS) helped India realize its dream of having an independent satellite navigation capability.

It has freed India from its dependence on navigation satellite systems operated by other countries. By all means, a home grown GPS system like IRNSS could serve as a strategic asset of tremendous significance for the military too.



75 years of Indian cinema post-Independence: The past, present and a sneak peek into future



By Murtaza Ali Khan

Post-Independence, Indian cinema started evolving at a breakneck pace. While the film industry did suffer huge losses in terms of actors, writers, and technicians who decided to move to Pakistan, the industry greatly gained from the nation building campaigns helmed by Jawaharlal Nehru. For many of these campaigns revolved around film stars whose mass appeal was leveraged upon by Nehru to give impetus to what came to be known as the Nehruvian idea of India. There is no denying that we have come a long way as a nation over the last 75 years: from bullock carts to jeeps to airplanes to space to the internet. As far as cinematic storytelling is concerned, OTT is the new buzz word, even as the jury is still out on whether cinema the way we know it would survive or not. So, let's take a look at the journey of cinema since independence. But, before we start discussing the journey of Indian cinema after independence, it is important to retrace our rich roots of storytelling.

There is no denying that storytelling is one of the most powerful tools known to mankind. It also happens to be one of the oldest art forms. Storytelling is not merely a means of indulgence but also a great source of learning. Since time immemorial, storytellers have spun yarns with the hope of delighting mankind. Be it the Iliad and the Odyssey of Homer, the Jataka tales, the Mahabharata of Vyasa, the One Thousand and One Nights, or the plays of Shakespeare, each of these sprawling sagas, above all, has proven to be a consummate manifestation of the human expression. Storytelling shares an intimate relationship with performing arts. As far as India is concerned, the history of performing arts can be traced back to Bharatmuni's Natya Shastra, which describes art as the search for truth. Human life too is a pursuit for truth and happiness. It is this connection that makes life and art inseparable. While discussing art in the context of the 20th and the 21st centuries, it is essential that we expatiate upon the notion of cinema as a mass medium of storytelling that's often looked upon as the definitive art form that seamlessly combines elements of storytelling, performing arts, and science.

The origins of the cinematic medium

At the turn of the 19th century, cinema became a phenomenon across Europe thanks to the exploits of the Lumière



A Still from India's First Feature Film Raja Harishchandra.



Amit Khanna with Vijay Anand and Dev Anand.



Indian cinema's leading men Dilip Kumar, Raj Kapoor, and Dev Anand with India's First Prime Minister Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru.

brothers who conducted private screenings of projected motion pictures in the world's major cities such as Paris, London, New York, Montreal, and Buenos Aires. It was in July 1896 that the

Lumière films finally got screened in Bombay (now Mumbai). A couple of years later, an Indian photographer named Hiralal Sen made India's first short film, A Dancing Scene, from the

scenes of a stage show, The Flower of Persia. It was followed up by H S Bhatavdekar's The Wrestlers (1899) - a recording of a wrestling match at the Hanging Gardens in Mumbai - which was also India's first documentary film. In 1912, Dadasaheb Torne made a silent film titled Shree Pundalik - a photographic recording of a popular Marathi play.

A year later in 1913, Dadasaheb Phalke made India's first feature-length motion picture - a silent film in Marathi titled Raja Harishchandra. Phalke, who is often referred to as the Father of Indian Cinema, had mastered the art of integrating centuries old narrative techniques, borrowed from the indigenous epics, with the emerging technique of making motion pictures. In 1916, R Nataraja Mudaliar made Keechaka Vadham, the first silent film in Tamil. Bangla motion pictures soon followed. The year 1931 proved to be a landmark for Indian cinema as it marked the end of the silent era with Ardeshir Irani making India's first sound film Alam Ara, made in Hindi/Urdu. The early commercial success of Phalke's films not only paved the way for more such motion pictures but also set the ball rolling for cinema as a commercial art form. In the years to come, cinema in India evolved further as a potent art form capable of mirroring socio-political and economic issues plaguing India with films like Achhut Kanya (1936) and Sujata (1959). Hindi cinema gained international visibility with Chetan Anand's Neecha Nagar (1946) and Bimal Roy's Do Bigha Zamin (1953), which won the Grand Prix and Prix International awards at the Cannes Film Festival in 1946 and 1954, respectively.

Nehruvian socialism and post-independence Hindi cinema

National Award-winning film critic, M K Raghavendra, highlights in his book, The Politics of Hindi Cinema in the New Millennium: Bollywood and the Anglophone Indian Nation, how Hindi cinema, post-independence, played a big part in helping Indians imagine themselves as an entity binding them together - the Indian nation. Evidently, the first couple of decades after independence saw the influence of Nehruvian socialism on Hindi cinema. It is sometimes argued that popular films of the 1950s failed to capture the prevalent reality of the times owing to the filmmakers' compulsion to fortify the nationalistic myths created by the newly appointed Jawaharlal Nehru government. However, if one tries to closely examine some of the most important films made during this period such as Raj Kapoor's Awaara (1951), Bimal Roy's Do Bigha Zamin (1953), Mehboob Khan's Mother India (1957), and Guru Dutt's Pyaasa (1957), it becomes evident that the Hindi films of this period were not always in harmony with Nehru's vision of India. But, it is also true that other important films from this era like Andaz (1949), Naya Daur (1957), and Howrah Bridge (1958) did succeed in depicting the dichotomy associated with Nehru's ideals of

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modern India - the good side of modernity shown through the doctors, engineers, etc. and the bad side through the caricatures of the gamblers, cabaret dancers, etc.

While these trends continued, Hindi cinema never eschewed from capturing the nerve of the important historical events in post-colonial India such as highlighting the gloomy reality of the Sino-Indian war, the euphoria associated with green revolution of the mid-1960s, Indira Gandhi's meteoric rise in the late 1960s, her growing populism in the late 1970s and her crushing defeat in the 1977 general elections following the 21 dark months of Emergency, emergence of regional conflicts during the 1980s like the Khalistan movement, and the economic liberalization during the early 1990s under the prime ministership of P V Narasimha Rao, ushering in a new era of globalization.

Amitabh Bachchan and the Rise of the Angry Young Man

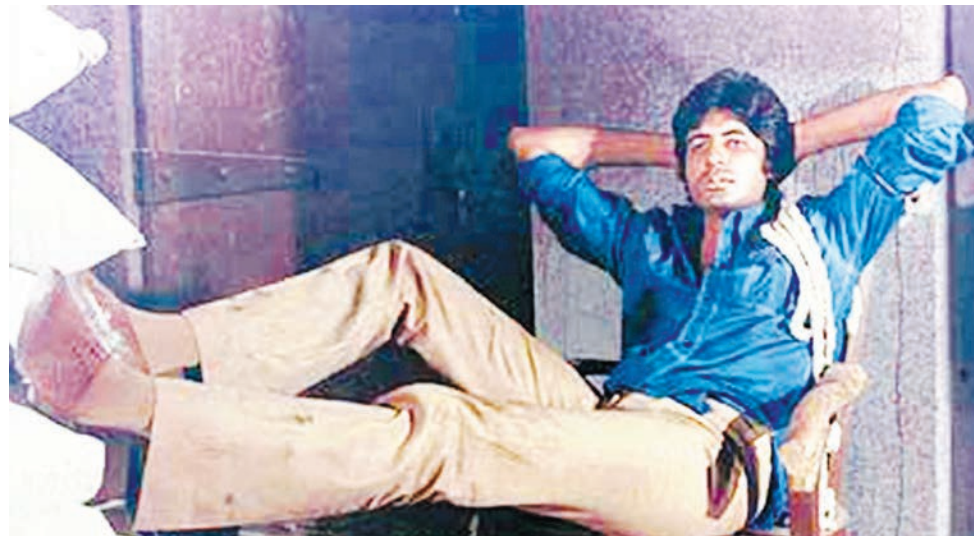
While during the late '60s and early '70s Hindi cinema witnessed the dominance of romantic movies with actors like Rajesh Khanna, Shashi Kapoor, Dharmendra and actresses like Sharmila Tagore and Asha Parekh becoming household names, by the mid-1970s a new kind of hero emerged who was not identified by his chocolate boy image but by his rugged machismo. Popularly described as the 'Angry Young Man', this new protagonist actually represented the anger and frustration of an entire generation exploited by those in power. For, this was a period of political, social, and economic upheaval in India with the issues of poverty, unemployment, and political violence plaguing the common man more than ever. While Amitabh Bachchan made this character his own (with the grand success of films like Zanjeer, Deewaar, and Sholay) through the '70s and the '80s, actors like Anil Kapoor and Sunny Deol carried the mantle forward into the '90s. The '70s and '80s also marked the advent of the Indian New Wave or Parallel Cinema with films like Ankur (1973), Nishant (1975), Manthan (1976), and Saaransh (1984). Mrinal Sen's Bhuvan Shome (1969) is widely considered as the starting point of this movement. Shyam Benegal, Mani Kaul, Ketan Mehta, and Govind Nihalani are some of the prominent names of the Indian New Wave.

The '90s and the Khan Trio

The late '80s and the '90s witnessed commercial Hindi cinema go from strength to strength with blockbusters like Mr. India (1987), Tezaab (1988), Qayamat Se Qayamat Tak (1988), Maine Pyar Kiya (1989), Khiladi (1992), Darr (1993), Mohra (1994), Hum Aapke Hain Koun..! (1994), Karan Arjun (1995), Dilwale Dulhania Le Jayenge (1995), Raja Hindustani (1996), Dil To Pagal Hai (1997), Kuch Kuch Hota Hai (1998), Pyaar To Hona Hi Tha (1998), and Mann (1999) setting new box office records. Many of these films starred Anil Kapoor, Shah Rukh Khan, Salman Khan, Akshay Kumar, Aamir Khan, Ajay Devgan, Madhuri Dixit, Karisma Kapoor, and Kajol. At the turn of the 21st century, parallel cinema underwent a revival of sorts with the arrival of filmmakers like Ram Gopal Varma, Madhur Bhandarkar, and Anurag Kashyap, whose cinema mainly dealt with depiction of organized crime. The success of Satya (1998),



Nargis in a still from Mehboob Khan's Mother India.



Amitabh Bachchan in a still from Yash Chopra's Deewaar.



Kajol and Shah Rukh Khan in Dilwale Dulhania Le Jayenge.



Manoj Bajpayee at Bhiku Matre in Ram Gopal Varma's Satya

Chandni Bar (2001), Company (2002), Black Friday (2004), and Sarkar (2005) proves beyond doubt the changing tastes of the Hindi film audiences during this phase.

The growing influence of the Indian Diaspora on Bollywood filmmakers

If we study Hindi cinema closely, we observe that the 1990s proved to be the tipping point with Nehruvian socialism making way for economic liberalization in India. As the Indian economy gradually opened up to the world, the Hindi cinema underwent an Anglicization of sorts owing to the growing influence of the Indian Diaspora - a trend that is best demonstrated by films like Dilwale Dulhania Le Jayenge (1995), Pardes (1997), Kabhi Khushi Kabhie Gham (2001), and Namaste London (2007). During this period, Bollywood started catering more and more to the English-speaking Indians rather than the whole of India as used to be the norm earlier. In other words, the poor were no longer the subjects of Hindi movies. The trend perpetuated with the continuous expansion of the urban middle class under the Anglophonic cultural influence as well as the multiplex boom.

Subsequently, filmmakers like Vishal Bhardwaj, Anurag Kashyap, and Tigmanshu Dhulia made efforts to bring about a change to this trend by making films such as Matru Ki Bijlee Ka Mandola (2013), Gangs of Wasseypur (2012), Paan Singh Tomar (2012), etc. even as many major production houses remained quite content in sticking to the safe formula of making films that cater to the Anglophonic tastes of the diaspora as well as the urban middle class, as evident from films like Jab Tak Hai Jaan (2013) and Dil Dhadakne Do (2015).

Bollywood and the 100 Crore Club

During this phase, Hindi cinema continued to take new leaps in terms of revenue generation but there appeared to be a stagnation of sorts in terms of creative thinking. The success of a Hindi film started depending on whether it entered the '100 Crore Club' or not. Even the most successful films would run only for a few weeks as opposed to the 'Jubilee Era', when success was measured in terms of the number of weeks a movie ran in the theatres: 25 weeks (Silver Jubilee), 50 weeks (Golden Jubilee), or 75 weeks (Platinum Jubilee).

Hindi cinema and the Hindi heartland

Building on the trend that was started by the likes of Anurag Kashyap, Tigmanshu Dhulia, Vishal Bhardwaj, and Aanand L. Rai, Hindi films subsequently started focusing consciously on stories based in the Hindi heartland. The diaspora no longer remained the primary target of Hindi filmmakers and as a result as the industry witnessed a surge in the number of films that are set in north-central India which enjoys a Hindi-speaking majority. But, a lot of the mainstream Hindi films since Lagaan (2001) seemed to lack the impetus needed to march in the global arena. It is true that there have been Hindi films like Miss Lovely (2012), Titli (2014), and Masaan (2015) which have made it to the Un Certain Regard Section at Cannes. But, our films have consistently found it hard to make it to the competition grade at the world's premier film festivals such as Cannes, Berlin, and Venice? And no

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film since Lagaan has got nominated for the Oscars. Where is Hindi cinema's answer to the Terrence Malicks, the Nuri Bilge Ceylans, the Christopher Nolans, and the Paolo Sorrentinos of the world? Let's not forget that there was a time when stalwarts like Chetan Anand and Bimal Roy competed head and shoulders with some of the world's best filmmakers at the leading cinematic forums across the globe. What Hindi cinema needs today are brave filmmakers with novel and ingenious ideas. Perhaps, Hindi cinema can take the lead from Marathi cinema, which has really come of age during the last few years. Along with the upcoming crop of filmmakers, the onus also lies with the young Hindi film audiences to grow choosier and become more demanding of the filmmakers. As the French author Andre Malraux said: "Great films will be made when we become a great audience."

The rise of web and the OTT platforms

Speaking of the audiences, the rise of various OTT platforms has had a dramatic impact on nature of content produced. Today, we have audiences with such diverse tastes that content creators are forced to create content targeted at different segments of audiences. The COVID-19 pandemic has further given a fillip to OTT platforms. With cinemas indefinitely shut down more and more viewers are forced to shift to one or more of these platforms for their daily dose of entertainment. This has also given rise to what is described as binge-watching. But before we try and examine this in detail, it is first important to decipher the nuances of binge-watching. For the uninitiated, binge-watching is a way of consuming content all in one go as opposed to consuming it in serialized weekly installments. It's an effective way to watch plot-heavy shows. Now that we have a basic understanding of this novelty we will try and analyze its various aspects. For years cinema has been enjoying an undisputed status over its poor cousin television. While one agrees with the classification of cinema and television as two different mediums it cannot be denied that with the advent of new age content the line between the two is fast fading. In fact, today we can easily look at the majority of binge-worthy international television / web series as 8 or 10 hour films and that's primarily because of the topnotch production values and the cinematic grammar associated with them.

The advent of streaming services like Netflix and Amazon Prime has given rise to Indian original shows like The Family Man, Special Ops, Sacred Games, Breathe: Into the Shadows, Inside Edge, and, most recently, Ray. The greatest marker of these shows is the cinematic quality associated with them. Not to mention that these shows mostly star A-list actors in the major roles. Clearly, this rapid emergence of binge-worthy content is proving to be a real game changer for the Indian entertainment industry at large. This is in stark contrast to some of the daily soaps we have grown accustomed to watching on Indian television over the years. But there is interesting flip side to this trend. Often the viewer is in such a hurry to finish off a season that he / she often ends up overlooking some important details. Perhaps, this is a price that most viewers are willing to pay.

The emergence of binge culture is not



Shahid Kapoor set to make his digital debut with Raj and DK's upcoming thriller.



Katrina Kaif and Akshay Kumar Namastey London.



Nawazuddin Siddiqui in a still from Miss Lovely.

just impacting the end consumers it is also pushing the artists to expand their horizons. The rise of binge culture poses

a big challenge for the artists to make themselves platform agnostic. Putting together an 8 to 10 hours of quality

content for every season requires a different level of creative commitment. However, at the same time, it provides them with a wonderful opportunity to reinvent themselves as per the changing needs of time. Now, India's entertainment industry has a great scope for embracing new trends, the rise of binge culture is bound to have a strong impact on cinema viewing in the longer run once normalcy returns post-pandemic. While the opinions surrounding binge culture may widely vary, even the staunchest critics wouldn't deny that the rise of new platforms like Netflix has led to greater accessibility, reach, and creative freedom.

The contribution of NRI filmmakers to Indian cinema

While discussing Indian cinema post-independence one would be remiss to overlook the contributions of NRI filmmakers whose multifaceted work offers a unique blend of cinema that binds the Indian Diaspora with the general populace. Emmy-nominated Indian-American filmmaker, Ayurveda restaurateur, and Happy Life Yoga speaker Tirlok Malik is best known for making films about Indian immigrants in the US. Malik's filmmaking journey started with his pioneering work Lonely in America (1990) which he wrote and produced while also acting in it. The film was shown in over 70 countries and screened at several leading festivals all across the globe. Since then he has made several other films about issues pertaining to the Indian diaspora such as Love Lust and Marriage, On Golden Years, and Khushiyaan which he shot in India with an ensemble cast that featured the likes of Jasbir Jassi, Tisca Chopra, Kulbhushan Kharbanda, and Rama Vij. Malik's new short film project titled To New India with Love is set to release on the nritvfilmclub YouTube channel on the occasion of India's 75th Independence Day. The film is being presented by Padma Shri Dr. Sudhir Parikh, chairman of Parikh Worldwide Media. It explores the subject of youth aspirations through the story of a young college student who asks a visiting NRI professor to help him go to America. Many internationally acclaimed filmmakers have also contributed wholeheartedly to the growth and development of Indian cinema in the global arena-most notably Mira Nair (Salaam Bombay!, Kama Sutra: A Tale of Love, Monsoon Wedding, The Namesake, The Reluctant Fundamentalist, A Suitable Boy), Deepa Mehta (Fire, Earth, Midnight's Children, Leila), and Gurinder Chadha (Bend it Like Beckham, Bride and Prejudice, Viceroy's House, Beecham House). Also, filmmakers Raj & DK deserve a special mention here as they too started their filmmaking journey outside India with their 2003 film Flavors about Indian immigrants living in America. In the recent years, Raj & DK have emerged as two of the most sought after filmmakers in India. Their Amazon Prime Video web show The Family Man starring Manoj Bajpayee in the role of an Indian intelligence officer named Srikant Tiwari has emerged one of the most popular shows in the Indian web space.

Some reflections on the 75 year journey since independence and the way forward

The journey of Indian cinema since 1947 has had its share of ebbs and flows and the path forward is laden with

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difficulties and challenges. While there are opportunities galore, there are also many obstacles. Amit Khanna, the writer, director, and producer who has been an integral part of the Hindi film industry for the last five decades, recalls how he convinced his filmmaker friends to join him for a meeting he had set up with Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FICCI) during the early '90s which proved to be instrumental in helping Bollywood get an industry status. "After our studio system got dismantled around WWII, it took us almost five decades to once again get a little organized and corporatize things. I remember when I took my close friends such as Yash Chopra, Manmohan Shetty, Ramesh Sippy and others to a meeting with FICCI they all questioned the rationale behind it. Then over time the people realized the importance of the corporate connect. Back then I was the lone voice pushing for institutional financing and recognition as an industry. Through repeated representations with the government and relentless efforts we finally succeeded in securing the industry status that paved the way for the entry of the larger corporate players while some of the smaller ones also started getting institutionalized as funding became a lot more transparent," explains Khanna who began his career as an executive producer with actor-producer Dev Anand's Navketan Films in 1971. "In the '70s the video came in and kind of disturbed the equilibrium. There was a lot of resistance from producers and distributors against video. Also, there was a video piracy which continued well into the '80s. From a peak cinema screen count of 13,000 the number went down drastically by the '90s to less than 9,000. It was only towards the end of the 90s with the multiplex boom that things changed," recalls Khanna who is chuffed to see the improving standards of professionalism in the industry in the recent decades.

Noted author Nandita Puri, the chairperson of the Om Puri Foundation and wife of the late actor Om Puri, feels that Indian cinema has come a long way since independence. "The cinema in India since 1947 has undergone a massive change, both technically and content wise. We have sailed from the black and white era gracefully into the color and now the special effects scenario has captured the medium. Also from mythological stories (that's how India got the tag of a country of maharaja and snake charmers and elephants) to the middle of the line cinema of Bimal Roy and Raj Kapoor to the realism of Satyajit Ray (who got us noticed in the West) to the blockbusters of Desai & Co (inane but entertaining) to the parallel cinema of the 1980s and to finally the multiplex filmmakers (sensible, realistic entertainment i.e. infotainment)... we have indeed traversed a long way," explains Puri.

German-born Indian actress Suzanne Bernert is fascinated by the vastness and scope that Indian cinema offers. "Indian Cinema is a giant... and at the same time intricate and detailed... how is that possible? If you see the vastness of India and look at how many regions exist you might get an idea how many 'cinemas' exist. In comparison, Germany has just one language and one audience. My own journey into regional Indian cinema is unlike anything I experienced before.



Saif Ali Khan as Inspector Sartaj Singh in the Netflix series Sacred Games.



Khushiyaan Tirlok Malik Film Official Poster.



Kangana Ranaut and R. Madhavan in Aanand L Rai's Tanu Wed Manu.

You travel in India to a different state and you enter a new World. It's distinctively Indian and at the same time you encounter a new treasure trove of language, culture and the art of shooting a movie. An experience I love and can highly recommend. Watch a regional movie and enter a new corner of India," explains Bernert. Award-winning filmmaker, international entrepreneur, motivational speaker and author Dr. Bhuvan Lall feels that the rich diversity

that the Indian cinema continues to enjoy is seen nowhere else in the world. "A healthy cinema culture with regional flavors can only exist in a democratic setup where the artists are free to speak. India is a striking example of the largest producer of content on earth today. There is no denying that despite all the problems that we face as a country, our film industry is totally secular, totally based on Indian ethos, and capable of producing a vast array of content

ranging from realism to fantasy. Here people love to say what they want to say. In any other country this is not possible as the population size doesn't allow it. At the end of the day, you need to have a market for such diverse content and most countries in the world don't enjoy the same luxury," explains Lall who feels that the superstardom that the Indian actors enjoy is seen nowhere else in the world. "The star system that Indian cinema has created really has no equal. Our superstars such as Rajinikanth, Amitabh Bachchan, Shah Rukh Khan, Aamir Khan, Salman Khan, and Hrithik Roshan, among others stand head and shoulders above the leading names in Hollywood in terms of fandom and craze," opines Lall who is Executive Chairman of Lall Brothers Media and Entertainment which provides strategic advice to the top influencers in Hollywood and Global M&E companies.

Actor-Author Vivaan Shah is fascinated by the richness of Indian cinema, "In the 75 years since Independence, the Indian cinema has had a fascinating trajectory. It has grown from a form of expressionistic extravagance to documenting the sober realities of our society, from the baroque to the naturalistic, from the geographic to the philosophical, and from the real to the surreal. Ours is a cinema of pageantry, a carnival of colours and sensation, and a document of truth and cold hard experience," explains Shah.

Noted Indian critic Ajit Rai throws caution to the wind by reminding that unlike films from Hollywood, the Indian films have very limited global influence outside the Indian Diaspora. "Unfortunately, we haven't been able to establish the film industry in India like the way we have in the US and Europe. For the longest time the bulk of the films made in India have been modeled on the kind of cinema produced in the West and there are very few exceptions. In fact, if you talk to any European you will come to know that they don't know much about Indian cinema beyond the works of Satyajit Ray. In the past, most of our commercial films to have tasted global success outside of the Indian Diaspora actually had a strong melodramatic appeal which greatly worked to their advantage," opines Rai who is currently working on a book on the Hinduja Family and the Indian Cinema. "One of the key advantages of American cinema is that it has continued to enjoy a healthy base of non-American audiences worldwide. That's why their business model is truly global. On the other hand, Indian cinema doesn't have the same luxury. Most of the global business that our films do can be attributed to the diaspora. What we are dearly missing is a healthy budget for good scripting on our films. Our makers are happy to spend millions to shoot a song in exotic locations in the West but when it comes to scripting they are not very keen to spend wholeheartedly. Also, there is a great dearth of good film institutions in the country of almost 140 crore population," sums up Rai.

(Murtaza Ali Khan is an Indian Film & TV Critic / Journalist who has been covering the world of entertainment for over 10 years. He tweets at @MurtazaCritic and can be mailed at: murtaza@apotpourriofvestiges.com. His video essays / commentaries can be watched on his YouTube Channel at: <https://www.youtube.com/c/murtaza19alikhan>.)



India in history this Week

AUGUST 13 - 19, 2021

August 13

1784: Pitt's India Bill was introduced in the British Parliament for improvement of administration in India.

1795: Queen Ahilyabai Holkar died.

1891: The three great defenders of Manipur, Senapati Tikendrajit Singh, his brothers, Agnesh Sena and General Thangal were hanged by the British.

1936: Famous Indian woman revolutionary Bhikaji Cama died.

1936: The famous Indian cinema actress Vyjayanthi Mala was born on 13 August 1936.



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

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

1996: Women's Reservation Bill which had been introduced in was put on the back burner under Prime Minister I.K Gujral's government.

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.

August 14



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.

August 15

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.

August 16

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, poet Heart and the fiery speaker Atal Bihari Vajpayee died at the age of 93.

August 17

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.

August 18

1227: Genghis Khan, ruler of the Mongol Empire, died in 1227.

1700: Bajirao I, the great general of the Maratha Empire, was born on 1700.

1800: Governor General Lord Vallejoli established Fort William College in Calcutta.

1872: Birth of Pandit Vishnu Digambar, the great musician of Maharashtra. Despite being blind, he achieved memorable achievements in the field of music.

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 Subhas Chandra 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.

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'.

August 19

1600: Mughal Emperor Akbar captured Ahmednagar. **1666:** Shivaji escaped from Aurangzeb's captivity by hiding in a fruit basket in Agra.

1757: The first one rupee coin of the East India Company was made in the Calcutta mint.

1907: Hazari Prasad Dwivedi, essayist, novelist, critic, thinker and researcher was born in 1907.

1918: Birth of Dr. Shankardayal Sharma, 9th President of India.

1939: Guruvar Ravindra Nath Tagore laid the foundation stone of Subhash Chandra Bose Mahajati Sadan in Calcutta in 1939.

1964: The communication satellite Cincom 3 was launched.

1949: Bhubaneshwar became the capital of Odisha.

1999: Angered by India's draft nuclear policy, the G8 announced a ban on all kinds of aid.



India's Economic Progress Since Independence and the Role of Dr. Manmohan Singh in its Accelerated Growth



BY RAJENDAR DICHPALLY

"THE THIRD REGIME OF ECONOMIC HISTORY BEGAN WHEN DR. MANMOHAN SINGH BECAME THE PRIME MINISTER IN MAY 2004. THIS HAD BEEN THE PHASE OF FASTEST ECONOMIC PROGRESS AS INDIA ACHIEVED A SOLID COMPOUNDED ANNUAL GDP GROWTH RATE OF 7.74% FOR THE DECADE. FINANCE AND BANKING SECTOR LED THE GROWTH OF THE ECONOMY BY GROWING AT THE RATE OF 11.49% PER ANNUM FOR THE WHOLE DECADE, FOLLOWED BY MANUFACTURING SECTOR'S GROWTH RATE AT 9.34%. FARMERS ALSO SAW PROSPERITY AS AGRICULTURE SECTOR GREW AT THE RATE OF 6.51%. FARMER'S REAL INCOME ALMOST DOUBLED DURING THE DECADE. THE SECTOR THAT RELATIVELY LAGGED WAS THE TRADE, TRANSPORT & COMMUNICATION SECTOR WHICH GREW AT THE RATE OF 4.84%. THIS IS ABSOLUTELY NOT A SLOW ANNUAL GROWTH RATE FOR THE DECADE."

India has been a growing economic since its independence. The earliest systematic data available on India's growth begins from 1950-51. We tried to analyze India's economic progress on the lines of total and sectoral compositions under different regimes. We took the figures of GDP at factor cost which excludes indirect taxes and subsidies.



IT HAS BEEN NOW SEVEN YEARS OF ECONOMIC MANAGEMENT BY PM MODI MARKED BY DISASTROUS ECONOMIC POLICIES LIKE DEMONETIZATION, STIFLING GST, CORONA LOCKDOWNS, AND NEW FARM ACT INSTIGATING FARMERS' PROTEST. ALL THESE BAD ECONOMIC MEASURES SHOWED HIGHLY NEGATIVE RESULTS AND INDIA'S COMPOUNDED ANNUAL GDP GROWTH RATE FELL SIGNIFICANTLY FROM 7.74% ACHIEVED JUST BEFORE TO 4.51% FOR THE LAST SEVEN YEARS.

victory of BJP when Prime Minister Narendra Damodardas Modi come to power in May 2014. This phase is marked by significantly reduced growth rate of the economy. It has been now seven years of economic management by PM Modi marked by disastrous economic policies like demonetization, stifling GST, Corona lockdowns, and new Farm Act instigating farmers' protest. All these bad economic measures showed highly negative results and India's compounded annual GDP growth rate fell significantly from 7.74% achieved just before to 4.51% for the last seven years. Though the slowest growth rate of 2.96% has been in the trade, transport, and communication sector, the biggest downfall fall has been in the manufacturing sector as its growth rate fell from 9.34% to just 3.77%. Looks like high and faulty GST policy has been the

Sectoral Data	At 2004-05 Prices										Sum	Compounded Annual Growth Rate
	Agriculture, forestry, Fish, Mining	Compounded Annual Growth Rate	Manufacturing, Construction, Electricity, Water Supply	Compounded Annual Growth Rate	Trade, Transport, Communication	Compounded Annual Growth Rate	Finance & banking	Compounded Annual Growth Rate	Community Social & Personal Service	Compounded Annual Growth Rate		
Year	150191		40138		30792		23325		28474		272920	
1950-51	444880	2.75%	325450	5.37%	237736	5.24%	155165	4.85%	180564	4.73%	1343795	4.07%
1990-91	643183	2.88%	676833	5.79%	664637	8.23%	406098	7.68%	384998	6.00%	2775749	5.74%
2003-04	1207918	6.51%	1652282	9.34%	1065828	4.84%	1204758	11.49%	716629	6.41%	5847417	7.74%
2013-14	1872305		2561081		1652062		1867407		1110794		9063649	
2020-21	2325548	3.15%	3319280	3.77%	2026128	2.96%	2891811	6.45%	1776408	6.94%	12339175	4.51%

This gives the real picture of economic activity. The source of data has been the Economic Survey 2021 published by Government of India. We found four distinct regimes.

The first regime has been the era of mixed economy starting from fiscal year 1950-51 and ending in fiscal year 1990-91 when Prime Minister Narsimha Rao, with the help of Finance minister Dr. Manmohan Singh started the process of liberalizing the economy. This era was characterized by planning the economy, licensing of productive activities, protecting domestic industries from foreign competition, and public sector undertakings playing the dominant economic role. Clearly this was not the era of pure competition in which there is free entry and exit of firms in the market, and public sector plays a minimal role. Entry was controlled by the Government through licensing of industries, and foreign competition was barred through high tariffs. This strategy achieved compounded annual GDP growth rate of 4.07% for the entire 40 years. As can be seen in the table below, agricultural growth had been the slowest at 2.75% while the manufacturing sector grew fastest at the rate of 5.37%.

The second era was the era of liberalization when licensing of industries was relaxed, and some foreign competition was promoted through reduced tariffs. India became the signing

member of GATT, now called World Trade Organization. The membership required India to reduce tariffs. This kind of gradual liberalization brought good results and India's GDP grew at the compounded rate of 5.74%. This was significantly higher than 4.07% achieved during the previously controlled economic management era. This phase was led by growth in trade, transport & communication sector, which grew at the rate of 8.23%, followed by finance and banking sector which grew at the rate of 7.68%. Agriculture did not benefit as its growth rate of 2.88% remained almost the same as that of the previous era.

The third regime of economic history began when Dr. Man Mohan Singh became the Prime minister in May 2004. This had been the phase of fastest economic progress as India achieved a solid compounded annual GDP growth rate of 7.74% for the decade. Finance and banking sector led the growth of the economy by growing at the rate of 11.49% per annum for the whole decade, followed by manufacturing sector's growth rate at 9.34%. Farmers also saw prosperity as agriculture sector grew at the rate of 6.51%. Farmer's real income almost doubled during the decade. The sector that relatively lagged was the trade, transport & communication sector which grew at the rate of 4.84%. This is absolutely not a slow annual growth rate for the decade.

The fourth regime began with the

main reason for this disaster in manufacturing sector. GST rate on most goods has been 24% which implies that the manufacturer will first pay 24% of its sales revenue as taxes which would be collected after sales have been completed. During this cash collection cycle, the manufacturer will have to pay interest also on that money which was paid as GST. Thus, the real burden of GST on the manufacturer is far more than what the government collects as tax revenue. Clearly no manufacturer can grow under such a burdensome regime. Disaster in manufacturing sector was followed by disaster in finance and banking sector whose growth rate fell from 11.49% to 6.45%. Farmers also saw their growth rate falling by more than 50% from 6.51% to 3.15%. This slower growth had been bringing discontent in them for years and the new Farm Act triggered their burst. That's why they have been protesting against the new Farm Act for about a year, but the government has not been listening to them.

To conclude, we can say that the economy did the best under the regime of Dr Manmohan Singh. There was prosperity all around. The high GDP growth was shared more fairly amongst different sectors of the economy. The present NDA government is undoing the things that was achieved by the previous previous UPA government.

(The author is General Secretary IOC USA.. He can be reached at Dichpally@aol.com)



Are Indians proud of their 75 years Journey since Independence in 1947?



BY DAVE MAKKAR

"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; voters play a part in the charade of voting for them! It was Congress that gave their blessings to the formation of "New India Company" in 1947 to replace "The East India Company" with prominent shareholders of that time like Birlas, Sighania's etc. The current prominent Shareholders of "New India Company" are namely: Ambani, Adani, Tata, Aggarwals, Jindals, Ruia's & Fraud Religious Gurus Ram Dev, Ravi Shankar, Jaggi Vasudev with many other major names. NIC along with the Politicians they select; are the termites that have eaten up the public wealth along with the social and moral fiber of India."

Since my student days every year on Independence Day, I used to look back and compare the gradual deterioration in the functioning of democracy, erosion in moral and social fiber of the society with the previous year in India.

1990 was a turning point in my life when Chandra Shekhar with 37 MP's was installed Proxy PM with the support of 147 Congress MPs under Rajiv Gandhi, with entire operation financed by Dhirubhai Ambani with bribes to every MP. Ambani wanted to run the government with a Proxy PM to get a few legislations and ordinances passed in a hurry to favor his business activities. That forced me to say publicly that from now onward the likes of Ambanis can install any one as Proxy PM in India. That also forced me to think beyond India; where I can raise my family and teach my children that truth, honesty, ethics and service to mankind must be the foundations of your life. After exploring Europe, Middle East, South Asia & Canada; finally, my search ended in 1996 and I permanently migrated to USA.

After Chandra Shekhar, Indians have seen administration after administrations marred in corruption, criminals getting elected to public offices and MLA's & MPs for sale to the highest bidder; all under the facade of democracy. Since 2014 this deterioration has been so fast that India can no longer be called a democracy and the most pathetic: it is inhabited by the world famous rich, highly educated and intelligent people that do not care about social and moral corruption that has infected every institution of their government while majority of their fellow Indians live subhuman lives in the ocean of poverty and hunger with no basic human rights.

What the Indian's are celebrating this year and why they are celebrating; only they can explain. Next year, India is going to celebrate 75th anniversary of its Independence on Aug 15, 2022. Modi government started the 75-week of festivities on March 12, 2021 on the 91st anniversary of the historic Dandi Satyagraha/March of March 12, 1930, an act of nonviolent civil disobedience by Mahatma Gandhi against British colonial government. The irony is that Modi's BJP rather its parent organizations RSS, Hindu Maha Sabha & VHP etc. were working for 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 whose follower Nathuram Godse killed Mahatma Gandhi!

This 75-week long Celebrations has 5 themes "Freedom Struggle, Ideas at 75, Achievements at 75, Actions at 75 and Resolve at 75 that will end on August 15, 2023. Modi who is famous for his Jumla's aka Election Rhetoric, has no specific plans through these celebrations, to end unemployment, hunger, poverty, corruption, communalism, catechism, crimes against women, plans for better healthcare, better education, support to micro industries and to end border disputes with China and Pakistan. These celebrations will be used as Campaign tools for 7 state elections, Vice President, President, Rajya Sabha & Lok Sabha By-Elections in 2022 and 9 state elections in 2023 and off course 2024 General Elections. That tells us Modi is least bothered about the mounting socio economic and border problems. Moreover, these celebrations must be seen in the same context when Modi advanced the Kumbh Mela by one year from usual 12 years to 11 years to manipulate 5 State Elections and UP Panchayat Elections around Kumbh Mela in early 2021. This resulted in humanitarian crisis and almost 5 million covid deaths in India. These deaths are a direct result of Modi's arrogance, complacency, lack of preparation, fake nationalism, and the criminal neglect of his constitutional duties in handling Covid pandemic in India. I leave it to the readers to assess; what these 75 weeklong celebrations rather US Presidential style lavish



*Criminalization of Indian politics
Image / Courtesy Vidhi
For representational purpose only*

political campaign by Modi aka BJP by completely ignoring governance of India and states will bring for common person.

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 those 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 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; voters play a part in the charade of voting for them! It was Congress that gave their blessings to the formation of "New India Company" in 1947 to replace "The East India Company" with prominent shareholders of that time like Birlas, Sighania's etc. The current prominent Shareholders of "New India Company" are namely: Ambani, Adani, Tata, Aggarwals, Jindals, Ruia's & Fraud Religious Gurus Ram Dev, Ravi Shankar, Jaggi Vasudev with many other major names. NIC along with the Politicians they select; are the termites that have eaten up the public wealth along with the social and moral fiber of India. They are also responsible for acute poverty, illiteracy, un-employment, communalism, catechism, lack of basic civic & health care services and massive corruption at all levels of governance including judiciary & media in India. The corruption in Media has reached to new level after 2014 that 99% of the

"The irony is that Modi's BJP rather its parent organizations RSS, Hindu Maha Sabha & VHP etc. were working for 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 whose follower Nathuram Godse killed Mahatma Gandhi!"

Mainstream Media is owned by NIC shareholders and they decide what information is to be released for public consumption and anyone questioning the rulers is an "Anti-National".

The most dangerous part is that NIC shareholders have no relevant experience or expertise or has ever invented any product or an idea. None of them have any vision for a country of over 1.39 billion people with the majority of them being poor. Their expertise is in how to swindle and scam to get bank funding for their highly cost inflated projects. They buy/lease perpetually, public owned natural wealth like land, oil wells, spectrum, mining rights, airports, railway stations, National Monuments and more at highly undervalued cost & terms that is a fraud on the owners/public. The other expertise they do have is in financing criminal, communal & corrupt politicians with no vision for the country; so that these shareholders can govern India through them. The recent example is coronation of Viceroy Modi first as CM of Gujarat and later as PM of India. Adani and Ambani has prospered the most under Modi; Adani from \$70 mil net worth in 1998 is now \$62.7 Bil and Ambani who was Congress Party owner turned BJP owner in 2013, his net worth zoomed from \$23.6 Bil to \$ 84 Bil despite India's GDP falling from 10% growth to -8% in 2021 amid 45 years high unemployment, poverty and hunger that may lead to humanitarian crisis.

Are Indians proud of this journey of 75 years where hard-core criminals are running their country and enriching themselves and their masters? Are Indians happy and proud of this journey that has corrupted the social and moral fiber of the society?

Does Modi and his Masters; the Shareholders of NIC; have the guts to speak and have honest discussions on the issues raised above with solutions, in public forums?

(The author is a social activist. He can be reached at davemakkar@yahoo.com)



REJOICE INDIANS IN INDIA AND 36 MILLION INDIAN DIASPORA!

- INDIA CAN BE PROUD OF ITS ANCIENT AND RICH CIVILIZATION AND ITS ORIGINAL CONTRIBUTION TO SCIENCE. AFTER 1335 YEARS OF FOREIGN RULE INDIA IS INDEPENDENT FOR 74 YEARS.

India became independent from Britain 74 years ago. India should be grateful to Britain for getting rid of Muslim rule for 1145 years. The East India Company and the British ruled India for 190 years. It is important to note that India became independent of foreign rulers, Muslims and the British, after 1,335 years. 562 Princely States were also integrated into India and Pakistan.

Here again, credit should be given to Britain for giving the option to Princely States to accede with India or Pakistan. More credit should be given to Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, Deputy Prime Minister and Home Secretary, V. P. Menon for successful negotiations with the Princely States. The Hindu Maharaja of Kashmir with Muslim majority and the Nizam of Hyderabad with the Hindu majority acceded to India. Thus, for the first time, India was able to gain full and complete sovereignty and independence of all states and territories in one unit. This was indeed a most remarkable achievement of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel.

INDIA CAN BE PROUD OF ITS INVENTIONS AND ANCIENT CIVILIZATION

1. According to Google research, Tamil is the oldest language in the world. Sanskrit is the second oldest.

2. According to Forbes magazine, Sanskrit is the most suitable language for computer software.

3. Chess was invented in India.

4. Sushruta is the father of surgery. Photos of over 125 pieces of surgical equipment that were used in ancient India can be accessed on the internet.

5. The world's first international university was established in Taxshila 700 B.C. More than 10,500 students from all over the world studied more than 60 subjects.

6. The University of Nalanda in Bihar built in the 4th century B.C. was one of the greatest achievements of ancient India in the field of education.

7. In the river Sindh, 5000 years ago. The word "NAVIGATION" is derived from Sanskrit word NAVGATI

8. The earliest reservoir dam was built in Saurashtra, India in 100 B.C.

9. MATHEMATICS

India invented the Number System. Zero was invented by Aryabhata.

The Place Value system, decimal system was developed in India in 100 B.C.

Algebra, Trigonometry and Calculus came from India. The value of Pi, first calculated by Budhayana explained the concept of what is now known as the Pythagorean theorem. Pythagoras of Greece did not invent this theorem! British scholars have officially published in 1999 that Budhayana's works date back to the 6th century, which is long before



India became independent on August 15, 1947, after 1335 years of Muslim and British rule. The First Prime Minister of India Jawaharlal Nehru unfurled the National Flag TIRANGA at the Red Fort, Delhi, with hundreds and thousands thronging the spaces around the Red Fort

any works of European mathematicians including Pythagoras and Archimides.

10. Bhaskaracharya calculated the time taken by the earth to orbit the Sun hundreds of years before the astronomer Smart. Time taken by earth to orbit the Sun was: 365.258756484 days (5th century). Indian astronomers and astrologists mastered the science long before the West.

11. POLITICAL SCIENCE

Kautilya, Prime Minister to Emperor Chandra Gupta Maurya, wrote the first book on Political Science called ARTHASASTRA in Sanskrit, translated into English in 1905 by Shama Sastri. This was before Aristotle of Greece published his book: The Politics. Machiavelli published his book The Prince much later. I wrote a scholarly paper for my doctoral course in Political Theory. I compared the original writings of Kautilya's Arthashastra with the books by Aristotle and Machiavelli. My conclusion that Aristotle and Machiavelli lifted everything from Arthashastra was acclaimed by doctoral adviser, Professor Albert d'Grazia, Ph.D. Princeton University. He also advised me to publish a book on the subject. I was simply humbled and overwhelmed. India can celebrate Independence Day with pride that Aryabhata, Budhayana, Kautilya were the original scientists and scholars. India invented Mathematics, basis of all physical science, and Political Theory basis of all Social Science.

Eminent people the world over have acknowledged India's great contribution and leadership in several sectors of knowledge.

ALBERT EINSTEIN

"We owe a lot to the Indians, who

taught us how to count, without which no worthwhile scientific discovery could have been made."

GRANT DUFF, the British Historian of India

"Many of the advances in the sciences that we consider today to have been made in Europe were in fact made in India centuries ago."

WILL DURANT, American Historian 1885-1981

"India was the motherland of our race and Sanskrit the mother of Europe's languages. India was the mother of philosophy, of much of our mathematics, of the ideals embodied in Christianity...of self-government and democracy (PANCHAYAT). IN MANY WAYS, MOTHER INDIA IS THE MOTHER OF US ALL."

ROMAN ROLLAND, FRENCH PHILOSOPHER 1886-1944

"If there is one place on the face of this Earth where all the dreams of living men have found a home from the very earliest days when Man began the dream of existence, it is India."

MARK TWAIN

"India is the cradle of the human race, the birthplace of human speech, the mother of history, the grandmother of legend, and the great grandmother of tradition. Our most valuable and most constructive materials in the history of man are treasured up in India only."

HU SHIH, FORMER AMBASSADOR OF CHINA TO THE USA

"India conquered and dominated China culturally for 20 centuries without ever having to send a single soldier across her border." Fahiyan and Hu- En Sang visited India and transplanted Buddhism that has flourished in China, Japan and Korea. India never invaded any country in her 10,000 years of



BY VEN
PARAMESWARAN

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WILL DURANT, American Historian 1885-1981

history.

RECOMMENDATION TO UPLIFT AND PROMOTE IMAGE OF INDIA

I truly believe that India must capitalize on its rich history and ancient contributions to science, the basis of human civilization, technology, and modernization. The independent India may be lagging in modernization, but I am confident India can catch up fast once India is determined and make big decisions.

India must capitalize on the high testimonials on India by the world-renowned philosophers from China, England, USA, and France. India must start an aggressive advertising and public relations campaign first within India to educate Indians and later internationally.

I would even suggest that we advertise with large billboards at all the international airports in India to begin with. This will give a very good first impression to all international visitors. India must also advertise using neon signs in all major city centers such as Mumbai, New Delhi, Calcutta, Chennai, Bangalore, Goa, Cochin, Jaipur, Udaipur, etc. May I also suggest that when India celebrates its Republic Day in New Delhi, it should have the most creative display of India's rich civilization and inventions. Such display of India's intrinsic strength will outstrip India's display of fighters and weapons.

INDIANS MUST DISCOVER INDIA: If the media in India including especially TV start discussing what I have listed on a regular basis, Indians will feel proud. This is the only way to kill the present national inferiority complex. LET US CELEBRATE INDIA'S INDEPENDENCE DAY WITH OPTIMISM AND HOPE AND REJOICE. JAI HIND!

(Ven Parameswaran, MBA, Columbia Business School is a Senior Adviser to Imagindia Institute, New Delhi, a think tank. He is also Chairman, Asian American Republican Committee. He lives in Scarsdale, NY. He can be reached at vpwaren@gmail.com)



Myriad connotations of Freedom

Freedom cannot be awarded and attained by mere rhetoric of sloganeering or by guarantees in written constitutions of nations.



BY AMARJIT SINGH
ANAND

Besides political freedom, each and every human has the natural right to their aspirations and expressions. Only then would everyone be empowered to enjoy the bliss of a healthy and productive lifestyle, whose components are emotional, mental, psychological health. Freedom to practice the religion, faith, belief, tradition, custom, rituals of their liking is equally paramount.

Freedom is important for all humans, as it is their birthright. If the person or group at the helm of affairs of a government so decides, then freedom could, easily, be denied under a monarchy, oligarchy, dictatorship, fiefdom, aristocracy, autocracy and dictatorial firms of governance. The dictum of 'Live and let Live' gets thrown to the winds. Domination and discrimination of all varieties becomes rampant, rather it is the order of the day, if I may put it, succinctly. Anarchy rules the roost, in such circumstances.

Freedom could even be denied under the best-known form of government, which is a democracy. However, verily this best form could be transformed into the worst, when a government, duly elected by the people, eventually, turns out to be worse than invading armies.

And, sometimes, the road to power itself could be murky and replete with manipulative mechanisms like rigged elections, in which scenario it is an easy passage or transition to the seat or throne, when all those in the corridors of power become subservient to forces of subversion and subjugation. The bureaucracy, of course, would naturally tend to toe the line, usually, with some rare exceptions, when a dissenting top bureaucrat would resign in protest or he may be subjected to a sudden and remote-region transfer-order or may, even, be penalized with a demotion, or his service may be terminated and he could, even, be jailed. Then, it can, easily be termed as a Democratic Militarized State. The scenario becomes really destructive, when the judiciary and media get aligned with the destructive and corrupt executive and legislature.

The title of Divine Kingship can well be used while discussing Persian Emperor Cyrus the Great and Sikh Emperor Maharaja Ranjit Singh, both of whom stand out amongst the Greatest rulers, who treated their subjects with fair play, equality, justice, respect and benevolence. Wisdom was their hallmark.

Tirthankar Mahavir, Buddha (who was Prince Siddhartha Gautam) Saint Kabir Sahib, Sheikh Farid Sahib all preached fairplay and freedom for all, thereby enabling them to actualize their creative and academic pursuits. Freedom of thought and expression is the natural birthright of all. The practices of amnesty and of diplomatic immunity are really very abhorrent, as these undermine the very premise and concept of human rights.

Besides political freedom, each and every human has the natural right to their aspirations and expressions. Only then would everyone be empowered to enjoy the bliss of a healthy and productive lifestyle, whose components are emotional, mental, psychological health. Freedom to practice the religion, faith, belief, tradition, custom, rituals of their liking is equally paramount.

Guru Nanak Ji, The Enlightened Preceptor traversed various continents, covering 27000 miles in 25 years of his 70-year sojourn on this planet, fostering Goodwill amongst divergent races, traditions, cultures, religions. He was the pioneer, enunciating the cause of Inter-Religious Peace



Guru Nanak reformed several tyrannical rulers, vociferously advocated human rights and women's rights, brought about social revolution, by speaking out against slavish mentality, superstitious beliefs, hollow ritualistic practices, religious bigotry and suppression of the downtrodden social and economic classes.



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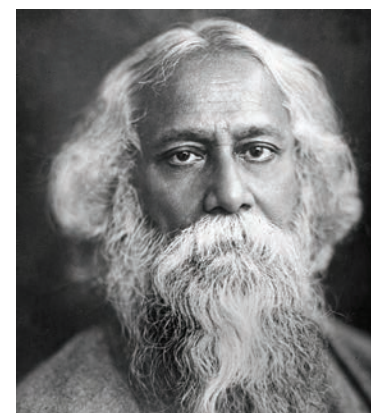
and Harmony. His Tenets emphasize upon truthful living, humility, liberty, equality, justice, compassion, honest earning, serving the needy selflessly and protecting the weak and the meek. All this, he said would be tantamount to a Divine Life and real, true, actual worship and attainment of GOD and fulfillment of the purpose of human-birth. Guru Nanak was on a Divine Mission. He was a Spiritual Maestro, a Renaissance-Man, a Crusader for Interreligious Amity, an extraordinary social-reformist much ahead his era and yet he utters the absolute Truth that "he is, what he is, only because of the Gracious Mercy of The Almighty and he is nothing without GOD." In other words, Divine Guru is teaching humanity to embrace humility,

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Two of the ten Gurus had to take up arms, to protect the masses from the extreme persecution and tyranny of the ruling elite. The sixth Guru Hargobind Sahibji and the tenth Guru Gobind Singhji, with their disciples were the Saint Warriors. The fifth Guru Arjan Sahibji and the ninth Guru Tegh Bahadur Sahibji embraced martyrdom, for refusing to follow the diktat of the barbaric regime. Such events forced the sixth and tenth Gurus to raise a martial force, the army named The Khalsa. Guru Nanak Sahibji enunciated the Divine Tenets thus: "Human interactions must be replete with *Divine-Love & Godly-Light*, Lifelong-Learning, Humanitarian-Service, Spirit-of-Sharing, Peace, Amity, Goodwill, Tolerance, Harmonious Coexistence, Acceptance and Understanding. He traveled far and wide, to have discussions with Saints professing divergent faiths and he collected their spiritual poetry to be included in The Scripture, Guru Granth Sahib Ji, much later, by his fifth embodiment, Guru Arjan Sahib Ji.

Similarly, the Divine teachings of Sree Ram Chandra, Sree Krishna, Moses, Jesus, Hazrat Mohammed, Gautam Buddha, Tirthankar Mahavir and all Prophets are for the entire humanity and not merely for those who say they

Freedom of thought and expression is the natural birthright of all. The practices of amnesty and of diplomatic immunity are really very abhorrent, as these undermine the very premise and concept of human rights.



Nobel-laureate, Sir Rabindranath Tagore prayed: "Where the mind is without fear and the head held high; Where knowledge is free; ... Where the mind is led forward by Thee into ever-widening thought and action; Into that heaven of freedom, my Father, let my country awake".

are the followers of a particular Prophet. All Prophets were expansive in their Vision & Mission, and made concerted endeavors towards fostering Peace, Equality, Liberty, Justice, Compassion, by shunning all varieties of discrimination, domination, bigotry, tyranny, bias and prejudice.

Freedom cannot be awarded and attained by mere rhetoric of sloganeering or by guarantees in written constitutions of nations.

Real, true freedom shall be guaranteed, only when everyone adheres to the Divine Tenets taught by The Exalted Prophets. These teachings include refraining from self-aggrandizement about all intellect, talent, knowledge, education, comfort, luxury, power, authority, beauty, courage, all of which we have received from GOD, as a GIFT. We must, always, be humble and remain 'a learner for a lifetime' and share this knowledge with all, earn honestly, serve selflessly, share compassionately, remember GOD and shun cruelty and domination. We must remember that nothing belongs to us, not even Life, which we have received on lease-basis. We must remember that death could be lurking round the corner, waiting to strike, the very next moment. By cultivating such thought, we would refrain from harming anyone."

Imbibing such attributes would be real service to GOD, worshipping GOD, becoming GOD; not actually GOD, but feeling like GOD and feeling good about the journey. The soul must return to The Origin, in the pristine, sublime form, just as it was, when it attained this human Body-Temple. By living and loving thus, The Soul (Aatma) would enjoy eternal communion with 'The Parent-Soul,' GOD (Param-aatma). Living thus, is the Real, True Purpose of life. This is Mukti, Moksha, Nirvaan, Liberation, Salvation, Redemption, Emancipation. This is what can be termed as the Final, Absolute, Ultimate and True Destination, to arrive at which this Soul donned this human body-attire. Humans have the heart, with the emotion of empathy and compassion or hatred and violence, and the brain decides accordingly, asking the hands to take action and implement, execute the plan, either compassionate or evil-minded.

As Nobel-laureate, Sir Rabindranath Tagore prayed: "Where the mind is without fear and the head held high; Where knowledge is free; ... Where the mind is led forward by Thee into ever-widening thought and action; Into that heaven of freedom, my Father, let my country awake".

(The author is a recipient of the Ambassador For Peace Award, from the Interreligious International Federation for World Peace, New York, Affiliated to United Nations Organization. He may be reached at Amar1Ujagar1Pritam@gmail.com)



India-China Relations During Last 75 years



DR. A. ADITYANJEE

CHINA IS HISTORICALLY AN EXPANSIONIST POWER IRRESPECTIVE OF THE RULERS. THE COMMUNIST PARTY OF CHINA WHICH LEADS THE CHINESE GOVERNMENT MAKES MAXIMAL CLAIMS AGAINST ALL ITS NEIGHBORS' TERRITORIES AND AGREED FOR A "MUTUAL COMPROMISE" SETTling EVENTUALLY FOR A SLICE OF EACH NEIGHBOR'S LAND. BE IT MYANMAR, THAILAND OR MONGOLIA, CHINA HAS DICTATED BORDER AGREEMENTS TO MUCH SMALLER AND WEAKER NEIGHBORS AND HAS GAINED TERRITORIES.



India- China confrontation at the border

Both India and China are two ancient civilizational states in Asia with rich history and culture. However, China and India, the two Asian giants were never immediate neighbors till 1949. After the fall of the last Manchu (tang dynasty) emperor, from 1912 till 1949, China was ruled by a democratic administration, commonly known as Republic of China (ROC) initially by Dr. Sun Yat-Sen and later by Chiang Kai-Shek of the Kuomintang (KMT) party. In 1949, the victory of communist PLA under Mao led to retreat of Chiang Kai-Shek government to Taiwan. Communist China's PLA (Peoples' Liberation Army) invaded Tibet in 1949, occupied it under the garb of liberating Tibetan masses from the "serfdom of Dalai Lama". Soon after the invasion of Tibet and its annexation into the mainland China by the use of military force; a cultural genocide and ethnic cleansing of Tibet ensued. As a policy, Han Chinese was made to settle in occupied Tibet which was trifurcated by the communist authorities. Active military presence and infrastructure development were speedily done in the Tibetan regions to keep it under close surveillance. As China never considered Tibet to be an independent state, it has rejected any border treaties signed by Tibetan officials and, therefore, the McMahon line. The communist revolution has pretty much put an end to any possible hope for democratic institutions, freedom of speech and freedom of religion in China.

Since the transfer of power in 1947, the government of India tried to have good relations with China. With Communist revolution in that country in 1949, the then Prime Minister of India JL Nehru was very positive towards the China's role in the post-colonial world and essentially started playing second fiddle to that communist country that was in an expansionist mode. There was some rivalry between India and communist China about the leadership of the non-aligned movement in the early fifties as reflected in the Bandung Conference. Derisively, the Chinese communist party considered Jawahar Lal Nehru as a "useful idiot."

Relations between democratic India and communist China have been strained since the early fifties. Disputes culminated in the Sino-Indian war of 1962 when communist China invaded India ostensibly to "teach India a lesson". In recent years, multiple contrived events were staged on the Indo-Tibet (China) border by the communist China leading to worsening of the bilateral relations. The incidences in Doklam, Pangong lake (eastern Ladakh) and Galwan valley drive the attention to the perennial unresolved border dispute between two countries. A critical analysis suggests that the geo-political disagreements between two most populous countries in the world are far more subtle and more fundamental in nature.

India and China share approximately 2167 miles of a land border: India recognizes the "McMahon Line" to be the international border between two countries inclusive of Occupied Tibet. However, China does not accept the

McMahon line as the international border between India and China. Henri McMahon was the foreign secretary of the British India and chief negotiator of the de facto quadrilateral Shimla conference in 1914 attended by the Imperial Britain, British India, Tibet and China. This conference was organized by the Imperial Britain to determine the official border between the Sovereign state of Tibet and the British India (including Myanmar or Burma). British officials had recognized Tibet to be a sovereign state & therefore, independent Tibetan delegation separate from the one from China attended the Shimla conference. After long deliberations, the border proposal was accepted & signed by the Tibetan & British authorities. Chinese delegation walked away from the border agreement at the very last-minute questioning the sovereignty of Tibet.

China is historically an expansionist power irrespective of the rulers. The communist Party of China which leads the Chinese government makes maximal claims against all its neighbors' territories and agreed for a "mutual compromise" settling eventually for a slice of each neighbor's land. Be it Myanmar, Thailand or Mongolia, China has dictated border agreements to much smaller and weaker neighbors and has gained territories. In the mid 1960's China reexamined & renegotiated its borders with twelve out of fourteen neighboring countries such as Myanmar, Nepal, Mongolia etc. However, it never did so with India and Bhutan. China has thrived on the border conflict with India. The 1962 war between India & China is a good example of this. Chinese aggression in 1962 was not only about grabbing land, but also "teaching India a lesson" and putting her in her place. China & its leader Mao Ze-Dong wanted to replace India as the leader of the developing world. Before 1962, India was seen as the leader of developing countries due to the non-alignment policy it had openly rooted for. During the 1962 war, India had to give up its non-alignment stance & called upon the West for the military aid. India was humiliated because of defeat in the war. Both the defeat and the move on India's part to seek assistance from the West largely benefitted China which subsequently became a new leader of the developing countries. Sixty years later, the power game between India & China is still on. India continues to be the main opponent to the Chinese aggression, politics in Asiatic region as well as in the UN. China keeps on needling India so as to box her continuously in regional conflicts. Chinese aim is to prevent India's emergence as a global power.

Successive Indian governments have mishandled the bilateral relationship with China since 1947 onwards under the mistaken belief that the two Asian giants should live in peace. Nehru signed the Panchsheel agreement and sought Chinese friendship at any cost. Nehru was a Fabian socialist who had the delusions that communist China will never attack India, a fellow Asian country. Nehru was afraid of military coups in the post-colonial third world and deliberately starved the Indian armed forces of funds and equipment as a policy out of fear of being toppled. He placated and appeased China in every possible way. He gave away Tibet on a platter to China relinquishing the Indian trade-posts in Tibet and the office of the Indian political agent in Lhasa. Nehru effectively gave away Aksai Chin in Ladakh sector to China by saying that not a blade of grass grows there! During his tenure as PM, China built the Karakoram highway through the Pak-Occupied J&K. Nehru also refused to accede to the request of Nepal's King to join the Indian union as one of the states. Nehru also rejected the offer by the Oman Government to transfer (after Indian independence) the Gwadar port to India which has now been developed into a

Chinese naval base under Pakistan's sovereignty. Nehru gifted the Coco islands in the Andaman Sea to Burma (currently Myanmar) which is now used a SIGINT listening post by the communist China with Myanmar's permission. Nehru twice refused to accept the membership of the UNSC as a permanent member in the 1950s taking the lofty position that communist China deserves it more and he did not wish to antagonize that country. During Nehru's time, India did have the nuclear know-how to conduct its own nuclear tests, but it was not done by the messiah of peace! China conducted its first nuclear test in 1964, thereby, being grandfathered into the five nuclear weapons states recognized by the Non-proliferation treaty (NPT).

Lal Bahadur Shastri's tenure was too brief. International intelligence agencies conspired to get him eliminated in January 1966 followed within two weeks by death of Dr. Homi Bhabha in a plane crash because of fear of India conducting a nuclear test. Indira Gandhi did not carry out a nuclear test prior to entry into the force of NPT in 1967 though India had the technical capability. India would not have faced multiple sets of economic and technological sanctions if Indira Gandhi had the foresight to conduct India's nuclear tests before the signing and entry into the force of the NPT. It would have balanced China's military threat to India. Finally, when Indira Gandhi allowed a nuclear test in 1974 in Pokhran, it was a dubbed as "peaceful nuclear explosion". There was no follow-up for weaponization of the capability giving China a head-start. Indira Gandhi did distinguish herself with a stellar achievement in the form of merger of Sikkim with India on the northern border. This was a tight slap on the face of communist China. China still questions Sikkim's merger with the Indian union. During her come back years of 1980-1984 also Indira Gandhi failed to conduct a second series of nuclear tests. India's permanent representative at the UN, Samar Sen, under Indira Gandhi government, voted in favor of communist China's entry in the UN in 1971 by thumping the table in the UNGA.

India-China relationship during the tenure of Morarji Desai did not improve because of Chinese machinations. Atal Bihari Vajpayee, as foreign minister, wanted to make a fresh start with China. He visited China from February 12 to 18, 1979; his visit had to be cut short because China invaded Vietnam, a friendly country to India during his China visit. There were border tensions with China during Rajiv Gandhi's tenure. Rajiv Gandhi attempted to normalize the relationship with China by downgrading the border dispute & visiting China in 1988. Without resolving the border dispute, he unilaterally reiterated that Tibet is a part of China. Rajiv Gandhi did a whole "song and dance show" in the 1988 Delhi Declaration with the Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev calling for universal nuclear disarmament and presented the "Rajiv Gandhi plan" for universal nuclear disarmament in 25 years to the UN General Assembly. It stifled India's development of an Indian nuclear deterrent, demoralized our nuclear scientists while China leapfrogged its weapons capability and also proliferated nuclear weapons to Pakistan. Narsimha Rao visited China in 1993 and fell for the Chinese ploy and trapped India into a military disadvantage. The Narsimha Rao Government signed the Border Peace and Tranquility Agreement with China during his China visit in September 1993. With a stroke of the pen, the entire disputed border was renamed the line of Actual Control. Narsimha Rao bullied into submission by the US regime as it got wind off imminent nuclear tests by India in 1995. Atal Bihari Vajpayee resumed his outreach to China when he became the prime minister for the



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second time. Under Vajpayee's leadership India finally proclaimed herself to be a nuclear power after the 1998 Pokhran-2 nuclear tests. However, it was short-sighted to unilaterally commit to a "no-first use" (NFU) nuclear doctrine as it tied the nation's hands despite having the weapons capability. China was allowed to join the WTO in December 2001 during Vajpayee's leadership without any serious objections from India although China has blocked India's membership of the UNSC. Vajpayee, as PM, visited China in June 2003 and again reiterated that Tibet is a part of China without getting anything in return in writing from China about accepting merger of Sikkim with India.

During the 10 years of the UPA rule, China was given a free pass to develop a massive trade deficit with India, decimating Indian manufacturing sector. The secret agreement signed by Rahul Gandhi on behalf of the Congress party and Xi Jinping for Communist Party of China in 2008 needs to be made public. India literally served a subservient role to China during those 10 years while China made monetary donations to the Rajiv Gandhi Foundation. The UPA government failed to develop roads and border infra-structure on the Indian side of the LAC during the 10 years of its rule. China continued to nibble Indian territory in all the sectors across the LAC during those ten years. Meanwhile, the UPA government did not allocate adequate budgetary allocations for defense and the defense acquisition process came to a grinding halt under Dr. Man Mohan Singh. The armed forces of India wanted to raise a mountain strike corps of 100,000 soldiers on the northern borders, but the government of Dr. Manmohan Singh caved in and could never find budgetary allocation for the same. China was given observer status in the SAARC during the tenure of the UPA government. This gave China a carte blanche to interfere in India's near abroad region without impunity. Under Chinese pressure, the UPA government cold-shouldered the concept of the "Quadrilateral Security Dialogue" in the Indo-pacific region. China conducted its first ASAT test in 2011 during the second term of the UPA government. Both, the nominated PM Dr. Manmohan Singh and his NSA Shiv Shankar Menon refused to conduct India's ASAT test during the tenure of that government giving China again a head-start in space warfare capability. Incidentally, this author had consistently highlighted the need for India to acquire the ASAT capability since 2011 onwards.

What has happened since 2014 is too obvious to comment upon. We must laud the current PM for some pragmatic containment efforts directed towards China. India has not allowed SAARC meetings to be held because of Pakistani sponsorship of terrorism in India. However, with this one brilliant stroke, India checkmated Chinese infiltration and manipulation of that entity (SAARC). India under Narendra Modi has focused on fostering regional cooperation and connectivity through BIMSTEC instead of SAARC. Sub-regional cooperation is also being promoted. And that helps contain the China-Pakistan axis as Pakistan is not a part of the BIMSTEC and other sub-regional groupings. We also credit the NDA/BJP government led by PM Modi to finally take the decision to conduct India's ASAT test balancing the space warfare capabilities of India and China. Modi government has shown the spine and the anatomical fortitude to resist Chinese pressure and actively support the QUAD alliance and the concept of the Indo-Pacific. The Indian government is recapitalizing the naval fleet of ships, building 45 new ships. India must have the plan to develop and construct indigenously at least six aircraft carriers if we have to safeguard India strategic interests in the long run.

However, the "Dhokla Diplomacy" in Ahmedabad and "Serenading Xi Jinping on a Swing" in 2014 eventually resulted in the Doklam crisis of 2018! Our policy establishment and the political leadership got seduced by the high-flown Chinese rhetoric about the "Wuhan Spirit," the "Chennai Connect" in Mahabalipuram and the "Wisdom of the two Leaders" in solving border problems peacefully! Optics and flattery should be cast aside while dealing with China. It has to be acknowledged honestly that there have been acts of omission and acts of commission while dealing with China by every successive



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Indian PM since independence. There is no character (word) for transparency in the Mandarin language. Chinese strategists from the time of Sun Tzu have advocated surprise and deception as a way of conquering the enemy. China, per Sun Tzu's philosophy, believes in winning the war without fighting any battles. It has been our monumental mistake that none of the successive Indian governments have understood Chinese national character and Chinese psyche in strategic policy formulations. There was a process of internal democratization of the Communist Party of China with two terms limit but the experiment came to end with the current Paramount leader Xi Jinping who is emulating Mao.

China has refused to allow India's entry into UNSC as a permanent member since 1995 when the UNGA first brought the issue of UN reforms. China built Karakoram highway in the Pak-occupied J&K and Ladakh violating India's sovereignty. China has proliferated nuclear technology and nuclear weapons know-how to Pakistan. All the Pakistani missiles directed against India are of Chinese and North Korean origin. China has become all-weather friend of Pakistan and an iron-brother. Over the last decade, China has created unnecessary controversy about the "stapled visas" and not allowing Indian athletes and politicians from Arunachal Pradesh to enter China for sport events. China has consistently refused to allow India's entry into the Nuclear Suppliers' Group (NSG). China has been an obstacle to India's status as a participating economy in the APEC. China has been shielding its client state Pakistan from international sanctions for its fomenting of Jihadi terrorism worldwide. China has spread its tentacles in the Indian subcontinent bribing leaders of the smaller countries as seen in case of Maldives and Sri Lanka. China started increasing its influence in the Indian ocean region by building military assets under the "String of Pearls" strategy. China is doing the same under its Belt and Road Initiative. China's investment of \$64 billion into the CPEC (China Pakistan Economic Corridor), a part of the BRI violates Indian sovereignty as it passes through the Pak Occupied Kashmir. China is putting undue military pressure on Bhutan to sever special ties with India and asking for Bhutan to establish bilateral diplomatic relations with China. China is interfering in the domestic politics of Nepal and is instigating Nepalese government to take anti-India postures over the last 15 years. China got India kicked out of Maldives and Sri Lanka from developmental and commercial projects. China has done everything possible in its power to contain India and her influence while professing the mantra of friendship and peace. India must develop strategic relations with Vietnam, Taiwan, North Korea and Japan in order to balance China.

China is flush with funds and has foreign exchange reserve of \$3.214 trillion as of June 2021. Compared to this, in India we gloat over the fact Indian foreign exchange reserves are all time high at \$611.112 billion in July 2021. Without increasing our exports related to a strong revival of domestic manufacturing industry, we can't compete with China. If India offers to be the viable alternative to China in the manufacturing sector; India must undertake further domestic reforms on a fast track and cut down the

red tape. Both Atmanirbhar Bharat and "Make-in-India" policies will help India bridge the economic gap with China. Modi government has set a target for \$5 trillion economy by 2024. From our perspective, it would be better not to set any caps or ceilings while setting long-term targets. Instead, we should aim for a double-digit growth of Indian economy over the next ten years to catch up with China. Chinese economy is definitely overhyped, and their economic data is unreliable. China is facing an internal debt crisis. China is facing the 4-2-1-paradox owing to its one child policy in the past and an ageing workforce. India does have an advantage of comparatively young working population while China is greying and ageing leaving very few workers. India has started attracting investments that otherwise would have gone to China. More importantly, India has to neutralize the internal saboteurs from the Chinese agents as seen in recent vandalism and damage to the Foxconn factory that manufactures Apple products (Taiwanese investment) in Bengaluru by the leftist unions and fire (arson) in the Serum Institute of India campus causing damage worth Rs 1000 crores. More importantly, Indian market must continue to attract foreign investments. India took \$57 billion in 2020 in FDI, a 13% increase. In contrast, China was the single largest recipient of the FDI in 2020 despite the Wuhan China virus pandemic having brought \$163 billion in inflows.

China's GDP is estimated to be \$13.4 trillion in 2021 whereas India's GDP is \$2.72 trillion. This is four-fold asymmetry in the GDPs of the two countries. Bottomline is that India has a lot of catch-up growth to do in order to balance China economically. Without economic strength, there will be no strategic balancing. The asymmetry in the two respective economies must not be allowed to grow bigger than what it is. Rolling in fast-track economic reforms, though painful in short-term, is the need of the hour.

India has not been able to safeguard her strategic interests vis-a-vis China by engaging China positively. Excessive use of soft-power rhetoric and playing second fiddle to China will not help resolve the border dispute. China has no intention of solving the border dispute. It has insisted on delinking the border issues with other bilateral relations. In essence, China wants to continue to exploit India economically while nibbling India's territory in a "salami slicing" approach. China is a rising hegemon. Hu Shi-sheng, a Chinese analyst, in Global Times, accused India of a negative and obstructionist approach towards China. The article asserted that "India tends to disrupt China's agenda in multilateral mechanisms" to prevent China's rise and accused India of not promoting internal unity in the BRICS and SCO but trying to dismantle them from within. He bluntly warns that as the gap between India and China widens, differences on regional and global governance issues would grow and "the favorable atmosphere for China-India cooperation" would fade.

Recently, the Minister for External Affairs Dr. S Jaishankar has enunciated a set of eight broad principles to repair the bilateral relations. He further propounded that the three mutuals - mutual respect, mutual sensitivity and mutual interests - are the determining factors for guiding the bilateral relationship. That is enough Diplomatic jargon to guide the bilateral relationship with China. However, China is used to flowery prose and melodious diction from the time of Panchsheel and is unlikely change its hegemonic behavior towards India. The only way to manage China's behavior is by displaying India's strength. Unfortunately, we have allowed the economic and strategic asymmetry between the two countries to increase by many folds while China has become a super-power. India must reform her economy on a fast footing, strengthen the manufacturing sector, encourage exports, build a domestic military-industrial complex, strengthen our armed forces and strategic capabilities and increase India's comprehensive national strength (CNP). India should continue to build strategic alliances with other democratic nations like the QUAD 3.0 and IPCO (Indo-Pacific Cooperation Organization) in order to balance China. Without boosting India's CNP in the next 5-10 years, India will not be able to shift the balance of power between the two Asian giants.

(The author is President, Council for Strategic Affairs)



HISTORY THIS WEEK AUGUST 13 TO AUGUST 19

"A PEOPLE WITHOUT THE KNOWLEDGE OF THEIR HISTORY, ORIGIN AND CULTURE IS LIKE A TREE WITHOUT ROOTS." -MARCUS GARVEY

August 13



AUGUST 13, 1961 - The Berlin Wall came into existence after the East German government closed the border between east and west sectors of Berlin with barbed wire to discourage emigration to the West. The barbed wire was replaced by a 12-foot-high concrete wall eventually extending 103 miles (166 km) around the perimeter of West Berlin. The wall included electrified fences, fortifications, and guard posts. It became a notorious symbol of the Cold War. Presidents Kennedy and Reagan made notable appearances at the wall accompanied by speeches denouncing Communism. The wall was finally opened by an East German governmental decree in November 1989 and torn down by the end of 1990.

BIRTHDAY - Women's rights pioneer Lucy Stone (1818-1893) was born near West Brookfield, Massachusetts. She dedicated her life to the abolition of slavery and the emancipation of women and aided in the founding of the American Suffrage Association.

BIRTHDAY - Wild West performer Annie Oakley (1860-1926) was born in Darke County, Ohio. Famous for her shooting ability, she joined Buffalo Bill's Wild West Show in 1885 and was one of the star attractions for 17 years.



BIRTHDAY - British film director Alfred Hitchcock (1899-1980) was born in London. His suspenseful films included classics such as *The 39 Steps*, *Rebecca*, *Suspicion*, *Notorious*, *Rear Window*, *The Birds*, *Psycho* and *Frenzy*, in addition to his American TV series *Alfred Hitchcock Presents*.

BIRTHDAY - Cuban President Fidel Castro was born in Mayari, Oriente Province, Cuba, August 13, 1927. He led a rebellion in 1959 that drove out Dictator

Fulgencio Batista, and remains one of the last outspoken advocates of Communism.

August 14

AUGUST 14, 1935 - President Roosevelt signed the Social Security Act establishing the system which guarantees pensions to those who retire at age 65. The Social Security system also aids states in providing financial aid to dependent children, the blind and others, as well as administering a system of unemployment insurance.

AUGUST 14, 1941 - After three days of secret meetings aboard warships off the coast of Newfoundland, the Atlantic Charter was issued by President Franklin D. Roosevelt and British Prime Minister Winston Churchill. The Charter, a foundation stone for the later establishment of the United Nations, set forth eight goals for the nations of the world, including the renunciation of all aggression, right to self-government, access to raw materials, freedom from want and fear, freedom of the seas, and disarmament of aggressor nations. By September, fifteen anti-Axis nations signed the Charter.

AUGUST 14, 1945 - Following the two Atomic Bomb drops and believing that continuation of the war would only result in further loss of Japanese lives, delegates of Emperor Hirohito accepted Allied surrender terms originally issued at Potsdam on July 26, 1945, with the exception that the Japanese Emperor's sovereignty would be maintained. Japanese Emperor Hirohito, who had never spoken on radio, then recorded an announcement admitting Japan's surrender, without actually using the word. The announcement was broadcast via radio to the Japanese people at noon the next day. The formal surrender ceremony occurred later, on September 2, 1945, on board the USS Missouri in Tokyo Bay.

AUGUST 14, 1945 - V-J Day, commemorating President Truman's announcement that Japan had surrendered to the Allies.

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.

BIRTHDAY - 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 3:30 p.m., at age 42.

BIRTHDAY - 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.



BIRTHDAY - 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.

BIRTHDAY - 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.

BIRTHDAY - American explorer Meriwether Lewis (1774-1809) 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.



BIRTHDAY - 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.



India at the United Nations during the last 75 years



BY ASOKE MUKERJI

THE ACCEPTED INTERLINKAGE BETWEEN PEACE, SECURITY, AND DEVELOPMENT IN AGENDA 2030 IS NOW THE FRAMEWORK FOR INDIA'S CALL FOR "REFORMED MULTILATERALISM", WHICH SEEKS TO MAKE THE UN RESPONSIVE AND EFFECTIVE IN IMPLEMENTING AGENDA 2030. AT THE HEART OF "REFORMED MULTILATERALISM" IS THE REFORM OF THE UNSC.



The UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres's recent report titled "Sustainable Development Goals Report 2021", gives a worrying overall picture of the main preoccupation of the UN today, which is the implementation of Agenda 2030 on Sustainable Development by ensuring a supportive environment of peace, security, and development.

The UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres released a significant report recently, titled "Sustainable Development Goals Report 2021", it gives a worrying overall picture of the main preoccupation of the UN today, which is the implementation of Agenda 2030 on Sustainable Development by ensuring a supportive environment of peace, security, and development. The impact of the Covid-19 pandemic has been especially harsh on some of the objectives of the UN's Agenda 2030 on sustainable development, the overarching objective of which is the eradication of poverty worldwide by 2030. Since the 1972 first UN Conference on the Environment, India has steadfastly pursued this objective through the UN, based on her vision that "poverty is the biggest polluter".

This Report is important for India. When India joined 50 other countries 76 years ago in June 1945 to negotiate and establish the UN, her primary concern was how the UN would support her rapid socio-economic transformation. The Cold War, launched on 5 March 1946 with British Prime Minister Sir Winston Churchill's seminal "Iron Curtain" speech at Fulton, Missouri in the United States, augured ill for a consolidated process within the UN to enable this objective, dividing the unity of the original founding members of the UN.



"We cannot eat an ideology; we cannot brandish an ideology and feel that we are clothed and housed..." said Vijayalakshmi Pandit, the leader of Independent India's delegation to the UN General Assembly said on 17 September 1947

As Vijayalakshmi Pandit, the leader of Independent India's delegation to the UN General Assembly said on 17 September 1947, "We cannot eat an ideology; we cannot brandish an ideology and feel that we are clothed and housed. Food, clothing, shelter, education, medical services? these are the things we need. We know that we can only obtain them by our joint efforts as a people, and with the help and co-operation of those who are in more fortunate circumstances than ourselves."

The role of India in spearheading the historic movement to democratize international relations by seeking equal participation of all its member-states is widely acknowledged. This enabled the UN to unanimously adopt its Decolonization Resolution in December 1960. Scores of newly independent former colonial countries joined the UN General Assembly without their applications to join being vetoed by the permanent members of the UN Security Council (UNSC).

In retrospect, the significance of the Decolonization Resolution lies in consolidating the formation of the Group of 77 (G-77) developing country grouping in 1964 (of which India was the first Chairman). The UN General Assembly created the UN Development Programme (UNDP) in 1965 to catalyze the demands of the G-77 for accelerated socio-economic development. Today, the G-77 consists of 134 members out of the 193 member-states represented in the UN General Assembly.

The convergence of the socio-economic development goals of the UN with the priority for environmental protection resulted in the mandate for sustainable development given by the UN's 1992 "Earth Summit" held in Rio de Janeiro in Brazil. This was the first watershed moment for reorienting the UN after the end of the Cold War in 1989. India joined other developing countries in discussing and negotiating the contours of sustainable development, which were adopted by the 2012 Summit held again at Rio de Janeiro and became the mandate for Agenda 2030 on Sustainable Development adopted by world leaders (including Prime Minister Narendra Modi of India) in September 2015.

The accepted interlinkage between peace, security, and development in Agenda 2030 is now the framework for India's call for "reformed multilateralism", which seeks to make the UN responsive and effective in implementing Agenda 2030. At the heart of "reformed multilateralism" is the reform of the UNSC. In 2005, world leaders (including those representing all the five permanent members of the UNSC or P5) had agreed to UNSC reform to "make it more broadly representative, efficient and transparent and thus to further enhance its effectiveness and the legitimacy and implementation of its decisions".

At the very first session of the UN General Assembly on 18 January 1946, Sir Ramaswami Mudaliar, representing India, had said that India, along with several other UN member-states, had opposed the provision of the veto power of the five self-selected P5 of the UN Security Council. However, the clear commitment in the Charter itself was that "at the end of the ten years' period when we re-examine the Charter, there will be unanimity again, and that this United Nations Charter will not require all the safeguards which big nations sometimes claim and small nations so unwillingly give."

This review provision contained in Article 109 of the Charter was never implemented, leading to the ineffectiveness of the UN Security Council and the UN itself. India's call for "reformed multilateralism" addresses this issue squarely.

How is the issue of UNSC reform relevant to the functioning of the UN today? Leading commentators in the P5 countries continue to advocate persevering with an outdated and increasingly irrelevant UNSC which preserves the status quo of 1945, when the world was dominated by colonial powers. Yet, as the ongoing crises in Asia, Africa, Europe, and Latin America demonstrate, the impact of an ineffective UNSC is felt most directly on the implementation of Agenda 2030 on sustainable development. This represents a "wake-up call" for the UN.



India presides over the Security Council in August 2021. India's permanent representative to the UN T.S. Tirumurti said the Security Council will organize meetings focused on key areas of maritime security, peacekeeping and counterterrorism

The UN's Sustainable Development Report 2021 highlights that between 119-124 million people were pushed back into extreme poverty in 2020 due to the pandemic. An additional 70-161 million people experienced hunger in 2020 due to the pandemic, which has disrupted essential health services globally, aggravating mitigation measures such as universal vaccination. 20 years of educational gains have been wiped out by the pandemic, with an additional 110 million children in grades 1 through 8 falling below minimum reading proficiency levels in 2020. The pandemic has aggravated the burden of unpaid domestic or care work, taking women out of the labor force. It has set back infrastructural development to meet the goals of sanitation and clean water, with 129 countries not on track today to reach this objective by 2030. The pandemic has obstructed 2.6 billion people from moving towards the renewable energy targets of Agenda 2030, while causing a loss of 255 million full-time jobs and impacting on 1.6 billion "informal economy" workers. Exploitation of child labor for the first time in two decades increased to 160 million in 2020. Due to the pandemic global manufacturing production fell by 6.8% in 2020, while the Gini gauge of economic inequality in emerging markets and developing economies increased by 6%. The worst impact of the pandemic has been felt by 1 billion slum dwellers in Asia and Africa. In areas of Agenda 2030 dealing with environmental goals, the picture is equally dire, with global warming on the rise, and increasing threats to endangered species and the degradation of natural resources. Even Foreign Direct Investment dropped by up to 40% from \$1.5 trillion in 2019 to \$1 trillion in 2020.

This represents a "wake-up call" for the UN 75 years after its founding in 1945. Unless it urgently responds to the global crisis by reforming itself, the first three words of the UN Charter, "we the peoples," will remain meaningless.

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Ambassador Asoke Mukerji served for over 37 years in India's Foreign Service, retiring in December 2015 as Ambassador and Permanent Representative of India to the UN in New York. He is a member of the International Institute of Strategic Studies, London, and a Distinguished Fellow at India's oldest think-tank, the United Service Institution (USI) of India and at the Vivekananda International Foundation, New Delhi. Since 2019 he is on the faculty of the Geneva-based Diplo Foundation teaching diplomacy. He was awarded a Doctor of Civil Laws (honoris causa) degree by the University of East Anglia (UK) in July 2018 for his contributions to diplomacy. He has authored 7 books, of which the first copy of "India and the United Nations 1945-2015: a Photo Journey" was presented by Prime Minister Narendra Modi to then UN Secretary-General Ban Ki Moon in New York in September 2015.

Ambassador Mukerji can be reached at 1955pram@gmail.com



REVISITING INDIAN HEROES



BY DR. BHUVAN LALL



Har Dayal, 'the greatest man of India', one of the founders of Ghadar Party

Har Dayal, the gentleman revolutionary and the architect of the Ghadar Party who was recognized in 1912 in America as 'the greatest man of India' and the New York Times termed him the 'brainiest man in the Indian revolutionary party' in 1919 remains absent in the popular narratives of our nation's history. Sadly, most Indians do not even know he even existed though Stanford where he taught in 1912 has preserved his letters, and Oxford where he outshined everyone maintains a record of his contributions to debates of the day as well as his admission card. No wonder the Hukumat-i-Britannia feared Har Dayal the most and exiled him from India for most of his life. After living in America, Britain, France, Switzerland, Germany, Algeria, Turkey, and Sweden for 30 years he died on 4 March 1939 in Philadelphia while on a lecture tour. He was 54. Hukumat-i-Britannia purposefully censored all the news and information relating to the immeasurably popular Har Dayal in the Indian media as it suited their imperialistic ambition. All this changed with WW2 when Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose went on the air on the Azad Hind Radio from Berlin in 1942. Netaji was our only hope in those dark hours and the most beloved leader across India. At the end of WW2 during the INA trials in December 1945, the victorious Hukumat-i-Britannia that had defeated the Axis powers lost to one man - Subhas Chandra Bose. Hukumat-i-Britannia finally decided to 'Quit India' having lost the support of the armed forces.

However, after independence, our recorders of history imposed the Hukumat-i-Britannia's version of events and intentionally ignored the multilayered story of our freedom movement. They discounted the achievements of 1857, Ghadar Party, and the Indian National Army - the three events that unmistakably displayed India's belief in gender parity and eternal philosophy of religious coexistence. The brave Indians who followed the ancient military doctrine of India to wage a war were rubbished as quickly as possible. Subsequently, their arduous struggles were simply painted out first from the newspapers and then

FOUNDERS OF GHADAR



Maulvi Barkatt-Ullah



Pandit Kanshi Ram Marauli



Baba Sohan Singh Bhakna



Lala Hardyal



Baba Kesar Singh Thathgarh



Jagat Ram



Nidhan Singh



Prof. Paermanand



Jowala Singh



Kesar Singh



Paritbvi Singh



Piyara Singh



Sohan Singh



Beas Kha Singh



Inder Singh



Udabans Singh



Mangal Singh

The above are among the 5000 who have been imprisoned for life during 1915 and 1916.

PHOTOS COURTESY: NANI CHANDRA 1916

our nation's history books. Not only were their contributions erased, but extraordinary efforts were also made to distort their characters in the media with both editorial material and stupid cartoons. Today almost no one in the present generation has heard about the amazing triumphs of countless Indian revolutionaries such as Ajit Singh, Bhikaji Cama, Chidambaram Pillai, Gulab Kaur, Gurdit Singh, Kartar Singh Sarabha, Har Dayal, M.N. Roy, Mahendra Pratap Singh, Maulvi Barkatullah, Pandurang Khankhoje, Rash Behari Bose, Shyamji Krishna Varma, S.R. Rana, or the revolutionary life of one of the most brilliant students of the British school and university system - Aurobindo Ghosh. Journalists and historians of that period wiped out thousands of such names as if they never existed. Not a single major street, college, university, public building, neighborhood, town, or city in India is named after Lala Har Dayal whose lifelong contribution to India as an intellectual, spiritual, and revolutionary leader is far greater than most prominent leaders of India. Similarly, the fact that the lifework of Subhas Bose has been deliberately removed from the school and college textbooks and erased from our history is well known. Both these men have been brushed aside to favor several others.

On the eve of the 75th anniversary of independence, we must accept that the real heroes of our nation's struggle for freedom were those who fought in the first war of Indian independence (1857-1858), the second war of Indian independence- Ghadar Party (1912-1919) and the final and decisive third of war of Indian independence fought under the leadership of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose and the Indian National Army (1943-46) that crushed British imperialism and led us to a free nation. There should not be any doubt that these three wars along with the patriotic sacrifices of our nation's revolutionaries who spent years in the torture chambers of the Cellular Jail and happily kissed the noose ended Hukumat-i-Britannia's rule over India. All the national archives in Britain, America, Canada, Germany, and Sweden conclusively prove this fact.

At this juncture of human history, we must always be inspired by the fact that we the people of India destroyed Hukumat-i-Britannia, the greatest empire the world had ever known, and then built the largest democracy in history of human civilization. Marching forward as we master the fourth industrial revolution in the 21st century we must set our minds to emulate the ideals of our thought leaders Har Dayal and Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose and firmly imitate their belief in self-discipline, hard work, personal sacrifice, honesty, merit and love for India.

Dr. Bhuvan Lall, based between Los Angeles and India is the author of The Great Indian Genius Har Dayal and The Man India Missed the Most Subhas Chandra Bose.

(The author is a writer, director and producer. He is Executive Chairman at Lall Brothers Media & Entertainment)



Let's Work Together to Uplift Our Women



DR. MANJEET KAUR

"In a country where we had a women prime minister for years, we still are years behind in understanding and respecting our women and giving them equal social status as compared to their male counterparts. Despite continuous efforts made to uplift the status of women in India, there are still huge gender equality gaps related to education, expectations, health, labor force, wages, unemployment, and underemployment. As compared to men, women continuously face different kinds of violence in the form of domestic violence, verbal abuse, mental torture, emotional distress, and physical assault which leads to psychological problems such as stress and tension which further leads to physical problems, leaving women unable to keep up to the demands of family and society."

Every human being needs to be treated with respect and dignity. If the creator did not discriminate between men and women, why do we fellow humans discriminate between the two sexes? If a fetus is growing inside a mother's womb, the growth of the fetus is not different for a girl or a boy. Only after we come into this world, we are labeled as males or females. "Beti hui hai," "beta hua hai," these short sentences have different meanings for different individuals.

Our Indian scriptures show great reverence for women in all roles but when we look at the state of women in India, I am very disheartened to see the treatment of women in today's society. Women all over the world are treated relatively inferior to males, let's look at a few differentiating factors:

Age Discrimination:

"Feminism isn't about making women stronger. Women are already strong; it's about changing the way the world perceives that strength." -G.D. Anderson

Newborn girls are killed at birth in some communities, child marriage is still prevalent in some societies, and girls are raped at any age. Women are treated as the weaker and inferior sex as they grow up and neglected as they grow old. Our culture has always respected women to the extent of giving them the status of Goddesses, then why this disparity?

Work Roles and Household Duties:

We live with a female stereotype in India, and many other parts of the world, that women are the weaker sex and can only perform certain kinds of jobs. Despite spending hours working outside the home to earn money and support the family financially, women are still expected to make time to complete all household chores and fulfill demands of all family members at home; whereas men have the freedom to just provide financially and not be subjected to other household commitments. Even though a woman might be the bread winner for the family and work outside the whole day, when she returns home, she is still expected to cook, clean, do laundry, and take care of other family members.

Education: "Beti Bachao Beti Padhao"

While there is still a growing awareness to educate women in India, the Beti Bachao Beti Padhao initiative focuses on bringing more awareness to women's issues by attempting to improve the status of women in society by making them more mentally, physically, and financially independent.

Wage Inequality:

Working at the same job, women are compensated way less than their male counterparts. This is not only related to underprivileged women or women who are working in poverty but also women in professional and high-level jobs.

A study on "Gender-Based Wage Discrimination in Indian Urban Labour Market: An Assessment" observed "...that there is a male bias in wages in both the categories, namely, regular and casual workers. Female workers are also at a disadvantaged position vis-a-vis male counterparts, and there is considerable disparity exists with regards to employment and earning standard between sexes." (Padhi, Mishra, & Pattanayak, 2019)¹

"Although India has certainly come a long way in addressing the issue of pay equity, there is lots more to do. The principle of equal pay for equal work needs to be strongly advocated and promoted by the government, starting with itself!" (Shroff & Mohapatra, 2020)²

Mental Health:

According to a paper published by Usha Ram (2014)³ in International Journal of Population Research on Gender Socialization: Differences between Male and Female Youth in India

and Associations with Mental Health, "...female youth experienced more mental health problems when their households engaged in practices that favored males over females...family violence and restrictions to independence were associated with mental health problems for both male and female youth...these findings suggest that gender inequality permeates family life in India."

An article on "Women and mental health in India: An overview" written by Malhotra & Shah (2015)⁴ states "Gender is a critical determinant of mental health and mental illness... Social factors and gender specific factors determine the prevalence and course of mental disorders in female sufferers... Around two-thirds of married women in India were victims of domestic violence... Concerted efforts at social, political, economic, and legal levels can bring change in the lives of Indian women and contribute to the improvement of the mental health of these women."

Domestic Violence:

Women are stepping outside the house to work shoulder to shoulder with their male counterparts, but domestic violence is still prevalent and a threat to the happiness, health, integrity, and life of many women. There are more cases of domestic violence against women than men.

Findings from A study of Domestic Violence among Currently Married Females of Haryana, India concluded "Awareness regarding domestic violence needs to be made, and law enforcement regarding it needs to be made stringent. Rehabilitation of victims of domestic/spousal violence should also be considered on priority." (Nadda et. al., 2018)⁵

I, like all my fellow immigrants, am fortunate to be able to experience both the Indian culture and Western culture. I know and have seen numerous women as the bread winners for their families. In many cases, it is the women who take up jobs to support their families and are the initial building blocks of financial and emotional support.

In a country where we had a women prime minister for years, we still are years behind in understanding and respecting our women and giving them equal social status as compared to their male counterparts. Despite continuous efforts made to uplift the status of women in India, there are still huge gender equality gaps related to education, expectations, health, labor force, wages, unemployment, and underemployment. As compared to men, women continuously face different kinds of violence in the form of domestic violence, verbal abuse, mental torture, emotional distress, and physical assault which leads to psychological problems such as stress and tension which further



leads to physical problems, leaving women unable to keep up to the demands of family and society. I use the word "society" because collectively as a culture, more often than not, the solution to a woman's problems' is more influenced by the concern of "Log kya kehengey?" instead of what is the right decision for her wellbeing. Such remarks made by her own loved ones, makes a woman feel that her issues and concerns are of a lesser value than a man's.

Growing up I have heard stories of strong women who have brought big changes to this world, from all different walks of life. The unfair practices against women are not only prevalent in Indian culture, but all over the world. This can be seen in a plethora of different movements such as "me too," "pink tax" and "breaking the glass ceiling." As great as it is to see these issues coming to light, simply discussing, and advocating for change is not the same as society and policy makers evoking those changes. Many women openly discuss the need to be treated equal to men in whatever they do. Our world needs to wake up to the fact that the only difference between men and women is physical composition. Apart from that, both sexes are relatively similar. There needs to be more awareness and discussion to shine a light on the struggles and challenges that many women face in the hopes to ignite social change for future generations of women.

"There is no limit to what we, as women, can accomplish."

Michelle Obama

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Paul Chhabra (President & CEO)



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INDIAN DEFENSE FORCES: PROGRESSING AHEAD



**BRIG AKHILESH
BHARGAVA**

They have been permitted to enter into strategic partnership, both with Indian DPSUs and with Foreign Original Equipment Manufacturers (FOEMs). Thus, the Indian private industry is able to target global markets and in bargain



The tri - services contingent of the Army, Navy & Air force doing march past during Independence Day celebrations at Red Fort 15 August

File photo /Twitter- MAHA INFO CENTRE

India has the second largest standing army, the fourth largest Air Force and the seventh largest Navy in the world. It is among the top five countries in military spending, the highest being in 2019. As per the Union Budget for the financial year 2020-21, the total allocation for defense was USD 71.1 Bn and India ranked second in defense spending. Around one-fourth of the amount was allocated for capital expenditure. India's requirements in defense have been largely met through imports (9.2% of global arms import). Therefore, India has embarked upon a sustained defense procurement plan.

The Government of India (GoI) has made it a priority to create a robust defense industrial base under its 'Make in India' initiative. A self-reliant Indian Aerospace and Defense Sector is also crucial for the success of 'Make in India' initiative.

Just few years back 80% of the domestic defense industry was represented by government owned public sector, to include 50 Defense Research and Development Organization (DRDO), nine Defense Public Sector Undertakings (DPSUs) and 41 Ordnance Factories (OF). However, the scene has changed very rapidly in the last few years. The defense sector has been opened for the private sector in a big way.

will be able to bolster exports in the long term.

The silver lining for India has been its entry into the global arms exporters list, making it to 23 ranked in 2019. The ranking is likely to rise sharply over the coming years with the GoI focus on encouraging weapons sales abroad. India has a target to increase its defense exports to USD 5 Bn by 2025.

The GoI since mid-2020 has begun sweeping changes in the defense sector under its 'Atmanirbhar' (self-reliant). The defense ministry unveiled a series of reforms ranging from a decision to convert 41 OF into seven DPSUs, to getting the ministry to release a negative list of over 200 items banned for import. Some thrust areas of the Government are: -

- Streamlining procurement procedures.
- Carry out a focused resource allocation, even during pandemic and perceived economic slowdown.
- Encouraging R&D and innovation.
- Handhold the defense industry through establishment of 'Defense Corridors.'
- Boosting defense exports by boosting private sector.

To promote indigenization, reduce



The fearsome Brahmos

imports, increase self-reliance and upgrade technology, research and production, DRDO has taken steps for more collaboration with the industry, private sector, research and education institutes. Simultaneously, the Government has embarked upon many schemes proactively. Some of these are:

- The Indigenous Defense Equipment Exporters Association (IDEEA) is the government's nodal-agency tasked with processing all export inquiries from global customers and handling exports of Indian military equipment.
- The MoD has formulated a Defense Production and Export Promotion Policy 2020 (DPEPP-2020) to provide a significant thrust to the defense production.
- The government has gradually raised the cap from 26 to 49 and finally to 74 percent through automatic route and 100% through

- Five new Defense Young Scientist Laboratories (DYSLs) led by young directors have been created to drive the country's war technologies of the future under the DRDO. Each one has been assigned research in cutting edge technology.

- The private players have finally been permitted to use the test facilities of the Government and the Services to include testing, trials, proof firing, field firing and more.

- The defense minister has launched the Defense Testing Infrastructure Scheme (DTIS) and eight greenfield ranges for defense and aerospace related production.

- The Government has announced Trade Receivables Discounting System (TReDS), a scheme for setting up and operating the institutional mechanism for facilitating the financing of trade



The old pal Vikrant

MoD's approval, whereby the investing foreign entity can have ownership up to 100% in the defense manufacturing.

- DRDO has identified military systems and subsystems like navigation radars, tank transporters and missile canisters for the domestic private industry.
- Government has decided to use diplomatic channels to promote the indigenously developed military platforms and weapons in overseas markets.

receivables of MSMEs from corporate and other buyers through multiple financiers.

It is heartening to see the GoI taking a top-down approach; a continuous interaction with the user and defense sector manufacturers (both public and private). It has a clear picture of the steps that need to be implemented. The pace is much faster as compared to say five years back. India has realized that it is time to make the best out of reforms and take steps in the positive direction with a positive mindset.



The mighty Tejas



REFLECTIONS



BY BINDU

Bindu is pen name of Vandana Sharma. She is a retired General Manager of Air India.

STORY

A story ends. A story starts,
What stories these? And who the stars?
Some stories are documentaries,
Some short essays in history.
Some novels with subplots galore.
I prefer comic romance more.

No book we need, for eyes to read,
Thousands of stories each unique.
Tales told untold, they fold unfold,
The roles are live, the script who wrote?
We live the role, we are the role,
Unwritten scripts, life's not retold.

Each story has an end we know.
The actor feels immortal though.
The best by date, expiry date,
Is packaged with each one's own fate.

So let us all live life our own size.
All energy consumed in style.
When our expiry date is passed,
A life well spent, be epitaph.



Baby Mangoes: The Fallen Ones

Oh Ye! beloved fallen ones!
You left my branches early!
What greener lawn awaits you?
What is your destiny!

Left home in haste, didn't fall from grace!
We have no grouse or anger!
Adventure called, it's pull is strong,
We could not wait! No longer!

Life may pickle us, stew us slow,
Savory or sweet, for young and old.
We may even lie still on the road,
A feast for birds and ants and more!

Destiny new, future, who knew?
Now home, we left, has more for you.
Enticing breeze which changed life's
course.
Unseen God's hand, our fate rewrote.

Joy unbound



Who stole her smile? Where did it go?
It decked her face, it made it glow!
Smiling her lips yet pensive eyes,
A disconnect, which is the lie!

Her soul reached out to all around,
Known and unknown, brought joy
unbound.

Invariably, her magic smile,
Enchanted all, each passerby.

Her smile is gone. And no one knows.
Where did it go? We miss it so.

Our cares forgot, momentarily,
Our sun shone bright, temporarily.
Her smile caressed, soulful connect,
Strangers they were, seemed family.

Who stole her smile? Aah! no one knows.
It decked her face. We miss it so.

How does she smile so joyously?
She knows not sorrows we all feel!
Her laugh is childlike ringing clear,
Is there some pain, we cannot hear?

Her smile is now perfunctory.
The eyes reflect a mystery.

Each one will ask, remarks, they smart,
Yet none will pause, to hear her heart.
Her silent voice, yet whispering eyes,
Unfold soul's story, eyes don't lie.

Life's blow was harsh, my wounds are
raw,
A crustiness mars my facade.
My soul feels old, a child no more,
My feelings caged, locked up, in store.

Eternal time, eddies, slows, flows,
Some rest, life's zest, they heal my soul.
Though cares depress, none can suppress,
Phoenix like smile will rise once more.

My soul still feels, my smile will heal.
Connect with all, put them at ease.
A childlike joy uplifts the gloom,
Let's reconnect, a smile the tool.

Cacophony Silence Love

Faces, faces all around,
Crushed together, yet no sound,
Eyes which see, yet are still blank,
Dearest please, don't leave my hand!

Encased, alone, this tomb's my own.
You see it not, my mind's the stone.
Brick, brick, brick, brick,
Stones, rocks, pebbles, sticks
Inch, inch, inch, inch,
Wall was laboriously built.



Some walls have doors,
some windows too.
My wall just doesn't let anyone through.

Scar, scar, scar, scar
Each one left indelible mark.
Day, day, one more day,
I cease in space, just scars remain.

The voice of strangers echoes around!
Noise, noise, deafeningly loud.
Fingers entwined, I cling in faith,
Your voice, it pierces through the haze.

Love, love, love, love,
Gently enfolds, a healing hug.
A crack, a break, love chips away,
My wall it breaks, disintegrates.

What? Where? How?



Questions, questions crowd the mind,
My path shrouded in mental grime.
The cake I bake, is hard, no taste,
The song I sing, is flat, off scale.

Life's hill seems climbed, now downward slide,
Is this what is midlife crisis?
Think, .. think, .. think, .. think, ...
Frozen are thoughts, paralyzing.

No work is fun. I've missed the bus.
Now fifty plus, new doors are shut.
The past is mine, future is thine.
Body past prime, a duller mind.

Think, .. think, .. think, ..think, ...
Log-jammed can't think.
Mind creaks and groans, my bones too moan
Who is to rate, my whole life's score.

Questions, questions, mental crowd,
Unlocked they jam, physical lockdown.
Is life's game fastest finger first?
100 yard dash, fastest comes first.

No answers to these questions mine,
Dam overflows, tears seep from eyes.
Dear God please show the path that's right,
Let great debate be put aside.

It could be yours; it could be mine.
This great debate twixt soul and mind.
Eternal as the breath that flows,
Halts when body's bereft of soul.

Ducks & Geese



The lonely garden beckons me.
Grass beneath, caressing my feet.
Ducks and geese, they waddle around,
Longing for peace. Where is it found?

Sun o'erhead, orange and mellow.
Warm moist air; steams, forming a halo.
Swing, swing! Don't let me down.
Is this peace? Where none abound?

Grass and flowers, birds and trees,
Gently swaying in the breeze.
Peace swirls 'round, my soul cools down.
No word was said, moment profound.

What language do you think and speak?
I know no word, yet you bring peace.
Your silence is more comforting
Than spoken words of any man's speech.

Glass Cocoon



The world goes by, I watch, no sound,
Glass walls, invisible, all around,
Is it rain? down the pane?
Or my tears, flowing down.

You sit beside me, skin to skin
I feel you not, I live within.
The party dances on, all night,
My music is of years gone by.

The drama of the world unfolds,
I see it not; the past holds forth.
Joys of today, beckon stridently.
Yet I am bound and cannot feel!

A glass cocoon envelops me,
Who formed it? How to break free?
My past is my glass edifice,
Unbreakable and shatter-free.

Encased I am, I wait, wait, wait.
Who will come forth and change my fate?
The caterpillar strives and molts,
It metamorphs, its strength its own.

I too must strive to molt and grow.
No outward force can change me so.
The past is me, today is me,
My soul is strong, I will break free.

This glass cocoon, which kept me safe,
Its task all done, begins to break.
Life comes, life goes, but I live on,
I cry, I feel, I love, move on.
Am living now, not just alive.
Cocoon has shattered, I can fly.



*Happy 75th Independence Day
From
Gobind & Sonia Bathija*

*Wish you a
Happy Independence Day*



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Will Tokyo gold be a catalyst for sports Perestroika in India?



BY PRABHJOT SINGH

India is in celebration mode. An Olympic medal in athletics - the first in 93 years - and return to the podium of the men's hockey team after 41 years may be prime provocations for the sports lovers of this one of largest populated liberal democracies to go overboard to rejoice over accomplishments in playing arenas. Never has the country had medals of all three colors in its tally from one Olympic game.



Never has the country had medals of all three colors in its tally from one Olympic game.

But is the 7-medal tally - the highest ever - in the Tokyo 2020 Olympic games reason enough for one of the emerging economic powers to tell the world that it has its second individual gold medal winner in its 93-year history of Olympic participation?

Incidentally, the US has taken its gold medal tally in Olympics past the 1060 mark while India has touched the double digit. Of 10 gold medals, eight have come from hockey alone. Fifteen of the 35 Olympic medals won by India have come from hockey alone.

Are we happy or satisfied with what we have achieved in sports since Independence 75 years ago? Fortunately, celebrations that followed Tokyo games have come on the eve of the 75th anniversary of our Independence.



Neeraj Chopra won for India a Gold medal in Javelin Throw in the just concluded Tokyo Olympics.

Olympics are a vital parameter to judge a nation's progress in sports. There are still 70-odd nations who are still without an Olympic medal. But those are the nations torn by strife, poverty, corruption, and natural calamities.

India started well. A year after Independence, it won its first gold medal in hockey in London and four years later, wrestler KD Jadhav got first individual medal, a bronze, in Helsinki. In 1960, we were close to winning our first medal in athletics as Flying Sikh Milkha Singh not only created a new Olympic record but missed a possible bronze by a whisker. In Tokyo, hurdler Gurbachan Singh Randhawa was also well within the reach of an Olympic medal at Tokyo.

The pace was, however, lost. After 1964, we lost our

guaranteed gold in hockey apart from silver in Rome, 1960) and then came 1972, we got our second successive bronze in hockey before getting blanked out of the medals tally. The golden return to the medals tally was restricted to the boycotted 1980 Moscow Olympic games where we got hockey gold back.



India Won their only Hockey world cup in 1975

Subsequently, we got in the habit of returning home empty handed - 1984, 1988, and 1992 - before a bronze in tennis (Leander Paes) put us back in the medals tally. K. Malleshwari maintained the tradition with a bronze in weightlifting in Sydney (2000) before Major Rajyavardhan Singh Rathore shot for the country's first individual Silver in Athens in 2004.

It appears we are now back in the year 2008. The Olympic games had returned to Asia and India got its first ever individual gold medal in shooting. Abhinav Bindra shot well to finish at top in 10 m Air Pistol event to make up for his loss of concentration in the final of the same event four years earlier in Athens. India had multiple medals for the first time since 1952. Boxer Vijayender Singh and wrestler Sushil Kumar (bronze) were the other winners.

London was perhaps the previous best where India got six - two silver and four bronze medals. Shooter Vijay Kumar and wrestler Sushil Kumar with silver medals gave Indians every reason to cheer about as they were joined by Saina Nahewal (badminton), Mary Kom (boxing), Yogeshwar Dutt (wrestling) and Gagan Narang (shooting).

There was a huge drop in Rio where India ended up with a silver in badminton (PV Sindhu) and a bronze in wrestling (Sakshi Malik).

On careful analysis of India's progress in Olympic games, it appears uneven, lopsided, and least indicative of a representative India. Why is it so? Why is India still among those who ran? Why does India not have many world champions reflecting its huge human resource base?

Let us analyze Indian sports. What is India's national sport?

In 2009 as a journalist working in The Tribune, I conducted an investigation that had startling revelations. A black and white picture of a basketball hoop

Description automatically generated with low confidence If you believe cricket is the most popular sport in India and hockey has been our national sport, you are wrong and misinformed. India's number one sport is golf.

Golf takes the highest share of public funds as three hockey or equal number of cricket stadiums can be made from the money needed to raise a new 18-hole 72-par international standard golf course. Already the number of international golf courses is three times more than the equivalent hockey or cricket centers that can hold international events in the country.

The number of golf courses has multiplied four to five times during the last 20 to 25 years with a few private players chipping with their expertise in south

IS THE 7-MEDAL TALLY - THE HIGHEST EVER - IN THE TOKYO 2020 OLYMPIC GAMES REASON ENOUGH FOR ONE OF THE EMERGING ECONOMIC POWERS TO TELL THE WORLD THAT IT HAS ITS SECOND INDIVIDUAL GOLD MEDAL WINNER IN ITS 93-YEAR HISTORY OF OLYMPIC PARTICIPATION?

India. International standard facilities in no other sport have ever doubled during the same period.

There are more facilities for golf than for any of the Olympic sports in the country. Athletics, football, badminton, boxing, wrestling, shooting, tennis come nowhere near hockey or cricket, what to talk of golf. For the ardent golfers, 2016 was a big year as the sport was included in the 2016 Olympic games.

Aditi Ashok, who finished an impressive fourth in Tokyo, had competed in the inaugural event in Rio as an 18-year-old budding golfer. At 23, she is already a veteran of two Olympic games. Also in Tokyo was another special golfer Diksha Dagar.

Though a game of the rich and affluent, especially those belonging to higher echelons of civil services, defense forces and captains of business and industry, golf remains far from a common man sport. Interestingly, the percentage of those seeking a career in golf does not run beyond a few thousands in a country of 1.4 billion people.

Even the laurels won by golfers in international competitions, including world championships, continental championship, professional circuits, Commonwealth Games and Asian Games, are too little to be comparable to those of common man sports like hockey, football, track and field, boxing, wrestling, weightlifting, badminton and even elite sports like tennis and squash.

The British basically introduced hockey, cricket and golf. They all had their origin in Army Cantonments. While the British generally encouraged the local people's participation in hockey and cricket, golf was restricted only to the officers' category. Since then, it has remained an elite and status sport.

Hockey, cricket and football were patronized by lower middle and middle class and as such had phenomenal rise in following. But the facilities did not match their growing popularity. Even after Independence, the government did little to bridge the gap between the popularity of these sports with the demand for levelled playfields.

This is one reason that one finds cricket matches going on in streets, all available even uneven open spaces, growth of golf courses has been satiating the demand from golfers. An average golf course with a club house and a bar has 800 to 1,000 members to make the number of golf enthusiasts reach about 5,00,000 to a million. This is perhaps the highest per capita availability of golf courses compared to the per capita availability of equivalent infrastructure in hockey, football, cricket or track and field.

Football, volleyball and basketball, in spite of being the cheapest ball sports, are far low on the per capita playing facilities list. Even if the facilities have been created, they are either out of reach of a common man or are not maintained properly for want of funds and government patronage.

Significantly, new towns and cities have ambitious plans for developing golf courses, both in private and public sector, but none of the new colonies coming up



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throughout the country have any provision for basic level playfields. Though India dreams of "sports for all," the neglect of common sports indicates otherwise.

It is money that works. Since returns from golf courses can be expected together with adequate hefty membership fee, the private sector has joined in. But this is not the case with similar infrastructure or stadia of hockey, football, track and field.

Hoshiarpur may have produced several international football stars (Manipal is world known football nursery) including Jarnail Singh (he was from a nearby village Panam), but it does not have a football stadium of international specifications. It has an 18-hole golf course at the Police Recruitment Training Centre at Jahan Khelan.

Phillaur's Punjab Police Academy also has a golf course. In Jalandhar, while the police have 18 greens in its golf course, the only recognized golf course in this sports city is that of the Army.

Chandigarh and its periphery are now dotted with golf courses at Panchkula, Chandi Mandir and the Sector 6 golf courses. Besides, it has in its immediate Punjab periphery a private golf course. There is a golf Range in Mohali.

Panchkula also has its own golf course in addition to the one Army has at Chand Mandir cantonment.

Going by numbers and popularity, no sport can come anywhere near cricket. This sport with its latest hit, instant 20-20 version, may have made it the Number One entertainer in the country. Yet it comes nowhere near golf in infrastructure.

There are only 30-odd international level cricket centers of which at least 20 can hold Test matches in the country. A rough estimate reveals that 20-30 per cent of the population must have enjoyed playing this sport. It has pushed behind hockey, once acknowledged as India's national sport. It is only hockey that has given eight Olympic gold medals since 1928. And the number of hockey stadia with synthetic surfaces or astro-turf, after installation of 12 new artificial playfields by the next year-end, will swell to 29.

The number of international centers for cricket and hockey may be just around 30 each. Though Tokyo marked the return of hockey to podium in Olympics as earlier in 1928 India won the World Cup for juniors.

In 2008, India failed to qualify for Olympic Hockey competition in Beijing for the first time in 80 years and in 2006, it failed to make the medal round in the Asian Games.

Though there are 18-hole golf courses in the country, not even 0.01 per cent people of the country play golf. There are as many as 80 golf courses of 18-hole 72-par specifications and an equal number of nine-hole courses.

The defense forces that have lost out in most of the sports in which they used to dominate at national level have at least 15 full-fledged 18-hole 72-par golf courses. The police, the Border Security Force, the Oil and Natural Gas Commission and other public sector undertakings, too, have their own golf courses.

Golf architects maintain that given the present market parameters, a new 18-hole golf course will cost at least three to four times an international standard cricket or hockey stadium. Of recent hockey stadia built worldwide, the cost hovers between \$1.8 million and \$2.5 million. The maintenance cost of a golf course is five to 10 times that of a hockey or cricket stadium.

One of the biggest cricket stadiums of the world was inaugurated some years ago when the US President Donald Trump visited Ahmedabad in Gujarat.

While the number of privately owned golf courses is not very large, the remaining are all on public or government land. Beneficiaries, mostly senior civil servants and defense officers, basically come from the service class.

Industrialists, businessmen and technocrats make up for only 15 to 20 per cent of the total membership of these clubs. Intriguingly, sports in the country are controlled at the district, state and national level by



India has had a fairly great record in Cricket. India, under Kapil Dev's captaincy, won World cup in 1983

those who are themselves golf addicts.

The progress of golf looks impressive. But what about sports common people play?

For the purpose of analysis and to facilitate understanding of Indian scenario, sports can safely be segregated into three groups - team games and sports, sports of the elite and sports for the common man.

As mentioned earlier, the British were intelligent in choosing sports and their target groups of acceptance. Hockey, for example, was chosen for lower middle class. They chose villages around their cantonments in Calcutta (Kolkata), Madras (Chennai), Jhansi, Bhopal, Jalandhar, Meerut and a few other places. The game had instant acceptance and within a few years the results were startling. Players of Indian origin started dominating all hockey teams.

It was this phase that threw up on Indian horizon hockey greats like Major Dhyani Chand, his brother Rupa Singh, Adivasi leader Jaipal Singh, Thakur Singh, and Col Gurdev Singh, besides several others. They were so skillful and talented that they easily walked into Indian teams that left the shores of the country to participate in Olympic games for the first time in 1928 and subsequently in 1932 and 1936. British were so envious of them that they withdrew their teams from the Olympic games saying that they were not to face their own colony on playfields during 1928, 1932 and 1936 Olympic games.

What the British did was provide even playfields, cheap and affordable hockey sticks and balls. While many played the sport barefoot, others had normal canvas shoes that were given to army jawans for their normal exercise and fatigue.

After Independence, things changed rapidly. Hockey base started shrinking and India's supremacy was seriously challenged, first by Pakistan, and then Europe followed by Australia and New Zealand. In 1960, India lost its hockey supremacy to Pakistan and could win gold only twice afterwards - 1964 Tokyo and 1980 Moscow. Now in Tokyo India won a Bronze, its last one in Munich in 1972.

Same has been the story of women's hockey. One family of a college peon producing five internationals, including captain of the country's first Olympic team in 1980, Rupa Saini, is unprecedented. Besides Rupa, Prema, Krishna, Swarna all played for India. That was the time we had great hockey players like Geeta Sarin, Rekha, Margaret Toscano, Harpreet Shergill, Baljit Bhatti, Lata Chinana, Kiran Malhotra, Kiran Mehta, Chanchal Randhawa, Balwinder Kaur Bhatia, Varsha Soni, Nazleen Madraswala and tallest of them all Ajinder Gurcharan Singh.

Schools and colleges used to pride in their strong teams, not only in men and women's hockey, but also in volleyball, basketball, football, handball, besides good players in badminton, table tennis, track and field, boxing, weightlifting, wrestling and swimming.

In Football, India not only remained Asian champion but also played in Olympics soccer, both in 1956 and again in 1960. But where is India in soccer now. Some great footballers like Jarnail Singh, Chuni Goswami, S. Banerjee, Inder Singh, Gurdev Singh Gill, Peter Thyagarajan, Parminder Singh, Sukhwinder Singh,

ARE WE HAPPY OR SATISFIED WITH WHAT WE HAVE ACHIEVED IN SPORTS SINCE INDEPENDENCE 75 YEARS AGO? FORTUNATELY, CELEBRATIONS THAT FOLLOWED TOKYO GAMES HAVE COME ON THE EVE OF THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF OUR INDEPENDENCE.

Lehmber Singh, Ravi Kumar, Manjit Singh, Narinder Gurung, Bal Gurung, Harjinder Singh, are some names that dominated Indian landscape in 70s and 80s.

Though some of the famous football clubs like East Bengal, Mohun Bagan, Mohammedan Sporting still dot the Kolkata dateline, yet they have been losing fast their star appeal in the rest of the country. Punjab's famous football teams - Leaders Club (of Mr DD Sehgal), JCT Mills, Phagwara, and even teams like Border Security Force, Punjab Police and Punjab State Electricity Board have either faded into history or are just a skeleton of their healthy past.

The story is no different in volleyball and basketball.

Great names like Khushi Ram, Hanuman Singh, Manmohan Singh, TS Sandhu, Sajjan Cheema, Parminder Singh Cheema and several others were the national heroes in Basketball in which India used to hold a respectable place in Asian Basketball Federation's annual events.

India was once a superpower in Asian athletics with some outstanding track and field stars, including Flying Sikh Milkha Singh, Makhan Singh, Ajaib Singh, Leo Pinto, Sriram Singh, Shivnath Singh, Hari Chand, Charles Borromeo, Mohinder Singh, Mohinder Gill, Labh Singh, Parduman Singh, Parveen Kumar, Jugraj Singh, Bahadur Singh, Baba Gurdip Singh, Geeta Zutshi, Manjit Walia, Kamaljit Sandhu, PT Usha, Shiny Abraham, Valsamma,

Badminton had some of stalwarts like Dinesh Khanna, Satish Bhatia, Devinder Ahuja, Partho Ganguly, PG Chengappa, Ami Ghia, Kanwal Thakur Singh, Madhumita Ghosh, Amita Kulkarni before Parkash Padukone, Syed Modi, and P. Gopichand emerged on the horizon.

Parkash Padukone became the first Indian player to win an all-England title in 1981. Later on, Syed Modi also won this prestigious grand slam event.

Manjit Dua, Manmeet Singh, Vilas Menon, G. Jagan Nath, Indu Puri, Veenu Bhushan were once upon Indian Table Tennis stars.

Admittedly, they did not win many medals in big or prestigious sporting events like Asian Games, Commonwealth Games or Olympic Games but they were mostly self-made sports stars. They worked hard and very limited facilities did not deter them from working hard and maintaining a consistent performance.

Of course, those were the days, when the country had some good sports schools, sports colleges and institutes specializing in Physical Education.

Unfortunately, they got phased out and were replaced by sports wings, sports hostels and centers of



Milkha Singh who died recently is a sporting legend. He was the one to introduce India to "track and field."

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In Badminton, Parkash Padukone became the first Indian player to win an all-England title in 1981

excellence. That was the time, when the participation dropped rapidly. Schools and colleges with wings and hostels had all low level of professionalism as the institutions lured good players with certain concessions, perks. Other intuitions with no wings and hostels lost interest in raising their teams as they found themselves adequately unequal to compete against "professional outfits of hostels and wings".

The 1996 Atlanta Olympic games was a turning point.

Though India had excellent track record in tennis with players like Ramanathan Krishnan, Jaideep Mukherjee, Premjit Lall, S. Mishra and Jasjit Singh, followed by Amritraj brothers - Ashok and Vijay - and Ramesh Krishnan donning colors with excellent track record in not only great grand slams but also in Davis Cup.

Tradition set in motion by them was followed by equally talented Leander Paes and Mahesh Bhupathi as they had many grand slam titles under their belt. They defeated the world's best doubles teams and put India at top. And Leander capped it with a bronze medal in men's singles in 1996 Atlanta Olympic games, the year the games were thrown open to professionals. Leander lost in the semis to the ultimate winner Andre Agassi of the US.



In Tennis, Leander Paes and Sania Mirza are better known names

Sania Mirza was the first Indian woman tennis player to win grand slams and get the highest ranking in women's doubles. She missed a bronze. Medal in Rio (in partnership with Rohan Bopanna) and made a first round exit in Tokyo in partnership with Ankita Raina.

A strong message went down the line.



Indian Men's Hockey Team won a Bronze in the just concluded Tokyo Olympics

Parents keen on getting their wards to sports got inspired by the Leander's feat. After a gap of 44 years, Leander became only the second Indian to win an individual medal in Olympics. It was the beginning and since then individual medalists have started dotting Indian sports scene.

This change took first turn for gold in 2008 (Beijing, 10 m Air Rifle shooting Abhinav Bindra) and again now (Tokyo 2020, Javelin throw for men, Neeraj Chopra).

When Abhinav won first individual gold in shooting in 2008, it was the country's second medal in shooting. Four years earlier, Major Rajyavardhan Singh Rathore had won a silver in Athens.

Shooting was not new to Indians competing in Olympic games. For a long time, India had been sending shooters, mostly from Royal families, to try luck and get the country a place among medalists.

Raja Karni Singh, a trap shooter, participated in five consecutive Olympics, starting with Rome (1960) and Moscow (1980) as his last.

To date only four Indian shooters - Rajyavardhan Singh Rathore, Abhinav Bindra, Vijay Kumar and Gagan Narang - have been successful in winning Olympic medals.

One possible reason for India's down slide in sports had been the diminishing role of sportsmen from defense forces (Services). Milkha Singh hawked headlines in late 50s and early 60s, he was part of Indian Army.

If Rajyavardhan Singh Rathore won the country's first ever individual medal (Silver) in shooting, he was from Indian Army. Vijay Kumar was also from the Army when he took the Olympic silver in London.

Now when Neeraj Chopra has become the new national hero with an Olympic gold, he comes from Indian Army. Two other sportsmen from the Army who competed in Tokyo 2020 had every reason to feel satisfied with their performances.

THE BRITISH BASICALLY INTRODUCED HOCKEY, CRICKET AND GOLF. THEY ALL HAD THEIR ORIGIN IN ARMY CANTONMENTS. WHILE THE BRITISH GENERALLY ENCOURAGED THE LOCAL PEOPLE'S PARTICIPATION IN HOCKEY AND CRICKET, GOLF WAS RESTRICTED ONLY TO THE OFFICERS' CATEGORY. SINCE THEN, IT HAS REMAINED AN ELITE AND STATUS SPORT.

Boxer Satish Kumar became the first Indian boxer to clear the first round in the super heavyweight category while Deepak Punia lost the battle for bronze in 86 kg freestyle wrestling.

Looking back, if Indian boxers did well in Olympic games, they mostly came from Services. The last medal hopeful Gurcharan Singh lost a controversial bout to get denied a possible medal. Kaur Singh and Jaspal Singh had been other boxers from Services to do well.

It is pertinent to point out that Services need to play the role it had been playing in promoting and developing sports. There used to be a time when the best hockey goalkeepers used to come from Services. Boxers, wrestlers, athletes and hockey players coming from the defense forces always occupied a respectable position in Indian contingents competing in prestigious international events. This has to be restored for the larger interest of Indian sports.

Golf is alright but other sports must not be ignored. Let Services once again take upon itself the onerous responsibility of giving sports its due.

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Overseas Indians in sports

- **Wrestler Amar Dhesi, water polo player Gurpreet Sohi and hockey players Sukhpal Panesar, Brandon Pereira, and Kegan Pereira were chosen to don Canadian colors in Tokyo.**
- **Gurpreet, incidentally became the first ever woman athlete of Indian origin to represent Canada in Olympic games.**
- **Tennis duo of Kanak Jha and Nikhil Kumar have been chosen to play for the USA in the Tokyo Olympic games.**
- **Though none of these Indians could make a podium finish in Tokyo 2020 still they did enough to prove their credentials.**
- **Samir Banerjee won the boys singles title in the 2021 Wimbledon**

The year 1984 was a tumultuous year for the Punjabi community in general, and the Sikhs in particular. It may not be easy for anyone to put behind the dastardly and tragic events in the union capital that rocked not only Punjab but also the entire Sikh community elsewhere. As this minute minority was drowning in gloom, two overseas Punjabis - Alexi Singh Grewal and Kulbir Singh Bhaura - provided the silver lining by telling the world how enterprising they were. Not only they entered the history annals as first overseas Indians to win Olympic medals, but they also set a new trend in motion that has been kept afloat by enterprising Indian diaspora ever since.

Their heroic deeds scripted a new chapter of "Brand India". Before the year 2016 ended, yet another overseas Indian - Rajeev Ram - kept the "Brand India" flame alive by winning an Olympic medal, a Silver, in the Rio Olympic games.

Contribution by the overseas Indian community cannot be undermined for its diminutive size as it has won the cockles of many a heart in the contemporary sports world.

In December 2016 when a field hockey team from Canada went to play in the Junior World Cup Hockey Tournament in Lucknow, 11 of its 16 members were of Indian origin.

These players -Brandon Pereira, Harbir Sidhu, Parmeet Gill, Rohan Chopra, Rajan Kahlon, Kabir Aujla, Balraj Panesar (captain), Ganga Singh, Gavin Bains, Arshjit Sidhu and Iqwwinder Gill - need to be complimented as they self-financed their participation in the prestigious Lucknow tournament.

And the Australian team, too, had one player of Indian origin, Kiran Arunasalam. It is after a long time that any player of Indian origin played for Australia in hockey.

Overall, the overseas Indian community has done exceedingly well in the world of sports, including Olympic games, Commonwealth games and cricket.

You name any sport in which the overseas Indian community has not won laurels for the countries of its present abode. There are 17 countries, including Canada, the US, Australia, Malaysia, England, Kenya, Uganda, and Hong Kong, that have been represented by overseas Indians in Olympic games. It is no mean achievement.

Kulbir Bhaura, who represented Great Britain in field hockey, has been the only overseas Indian to have two Olympic medals to his credit, a bronze in Los Angeles and a gold in Seoul.

Then there is Shiv Jagday. A former Indian Universities color holder: he had the distinction of working as National Coach of Field Hockey Canada. He also coached the US national team besides being on the panel of the select FIH coaches. His son Ronnie Jagday played for Canada in the Sydney Olympic games.

One must not forget the contribution of Malkiat Singh Saund who was one of the best forwards of the 1972 Munich Olympic games. Malkiat represented Uganda. Now he is settled in England.

Sutinder had the distinction of leading England in one match in the Mumbai World Cup Hockey Tournament in 1981-82. He played for England and Great Britain for several years.

If Australia is a world power in field hockey, it is all because of efforts of Pearce brothers who immigrated to Australia from India and represented their new country of abode in the Olympic games.

Hardial Singh Kular, besides playing for Kenya, also rose to be the Vice-President of the International Hockey Federation (FIH). He was one of many Indian expatriates who represented Kenya in 60s and 70s of the last century. He stands tall in sports administration.

Avtar Singh Sohal is the only player to have played in four Olympic games and captained his national team - Kenya - in two. A great deep defender, He has been a pillar behind the Kampala's Sikh Union Club that has recently acquired a floodlit synthetic surface for hockey.

Alexi Grewal, the first overseas Indian, to win an individual Olympic gold medal. In the 1984 Olympic

games, he won the road race event in cycling in style. His father, Jasjit Singh, a Sikh, had migrated to the US. Interestingly, Alexi Grewal's individual gold, though for the US, came 24 years before Abhinav Bindra won India's first ever-individual gold medal in Olympic games.

The latest from the overseas Indian community to get on to the Olympic medalist list was tennis player Rajeev Ram who won a silver medal in mixed doubles in the 2016 Olympic games in Rio.

While the overseas Indians have done the country and the overseas Indian community proud, the Indian government is yet to reciprocate. Though it started organizing Pravasi Bharatiya Divas (PBD) where outstanding members of the overseas Indian community were felicitated, sportsmen and women did not get their due. The PBH celebrations have been largely discontinued. Covid 19 pandemic may be a contributing factor for the cancellation of the event for the last two years.

Besides Alexi Singh Grewal, Kulbir Singh Bhaura and Rajeev Ram, there are many other sportsmen and women, who have done the overseas community and India proud.

Rajeev Ram has to his credit a silver medal. In partnership with Venus Williams,

Rajeev Ram finished runners-up in the mixed doubles event in Tennis. Thirty-two- year-old Rajeev is first generation American. His parents moved to the States in 1981 and Rajeev was born in 1984.

Rajeev won his first major Tennis title in Chennai in 2009. Rated as one of the top doubles players in tennis, silver in Olympics has been his highest achievement. In the semi-finals, Rajeev and Venus Williams defeated Sania Mirza and Rohan Bopanna.

After Rajeev Ram, another athlete of Indian origin doing well for a country other than India is shuttler Rajiv Ousef. Born in an Indians dominated Hounslow area in England, Rajiv qualified for quarterfinals of men's singles in Rio. On his way to the last eight, Rajiv had beaten Tommy Sugiarto of Indonesia, Sasaki Sho of Japan and Koukel Petr of Czech. At 30, this was perhaps best performance in a major sporting event. He had won a silver medal in the 2010 Commonwealth games in New Delhi.

Cricket is a game that every person of Indian origin follows. Monty Panesar scripted a new chapter when he became the first turban-wearing player to represent a country other than India in Test cricket. Monty played for England. Ravi Bopara followed him.

(The author is a senior journalist. He can be reached at prabhjot416@gmail.com)

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Say goodbye to wrinkles

Generally speaking, by the age of fifty, the tell-tale signs of age become visible, like lines and wrinkles, loss of skin elasticity and resilience and so on. Heredity also plays a role in determining the rate at which one ages, but I believe that it is regular and preventive skin care that goes a long way in delaying ageing signs. Our diet and lifestyle also play important roles.

How do wrinkles form on the skin? The skin cells become dry and lose their ability to retain moisture. This can happen due to habitual dryness and lack of moisture. The skin loses moisture to the atmosphere, which needs to be replaced. Sun-exposure also causes loss of moisture. Dryness becomes apparent on the outer layer of the skin, which develops fine lines. With age and decrease in oil production, the dryness and dehydration are aggravated. Another important change that takes place is a loss of elasticity and resilience. So, the stage is set for lines, wrinkles and ageing skin. Dry skins are more vulnerable to premature manifestation of skin aging.

Dermatologists and cosmetologists agree that the skin that has been properly cared for stays youthful for a longer time. It is also true that neglected skins develop symptoms of ageing prematurely. A regular skin-care routine, according to skin type and problems, helps to delay aging signs. Moreover, when physical and seasonal changes occur, the skin-care routine should be adjusted, according to one's needs.

From the age of thirty, begin to protect the skin from drying up. Your daily routine should lay more emphasis on moisturising the skin and prevention of moisture loss. Begin to protect the skin from the factors that cause dryness, like



exposure to the sun, to air conditioning, chemical air pollutants, make-up cosmetics and so on. A suitable sunscreen, along with a moisturizer, should be used during the day, 20 minutes before going out.

Somewhere within the living cell is locked the fascinating mystery of the aging process. Till we find the key to it, I believe that appropriate external care is an important way of preserving youthful skin and delaying visible ageing signs.

Many anti-ageing ingredients are easily available at home:

Green tea is a powerful antioxidant. Take half cup water and 2 teaspoons green tea. Bring the water to a boil. Put tea leaves in a ceramic bowl. Pour the hot water over it and keep for 2 minutes. Strain and cool the liquid. Apply on face with cotton wool to tone the skin. Leave on.

For an anti-ageing face mask that also adds radiance, take half-teaspoon wheatgerm oil and 2 DROPS geranium oil. Add 2

teaspoons oatmeal, one teaspoon almond meal and orange juice. The pack is rich in antioxidants and Vitamin E, with powerful anti-ageing benefits.

The hands begin to show neglect and ageing sooner than most other parts of the body. Take 2 tablespoons sunflower oil and 3 tablespoon coarse sugar. Mix together till it becomes a paste. Apply and rub into skin of hands. Rinse off after 15 minutes.

Professional salon treatments and specialized products go a long way in rejuvenating the skin and preserving its youthful properties, making it look soft, smooth, resilient and youthful. Many ingredients, like plant stem cells, have potent anti-ageing properties. Helena Rubinstein once said, "The skin has a tremendous capacity for self-rejuvenation if properly cared for and it's never too late to start." Indeed, with the skin, you have one major advantage.....it will respond to the right kind of care.

Source: Pinkvilla

FOOD CORNER

Kesar Peda



Ingredients

- 500g Soft white milk fudge (khoya)
- 300gms sugar powdered
- ½ tsp cardamom powder
- 1tsp cardamom seeds semi crushed
- 1tbsp slivered or crushed pistachios
- A few strands of saffron
- 1tbsp warm milk
- 2 drops saffron color (optional)

Recipe Method

- Soak the saffron in warm milk.
- Crumble the milk fudge. If very hard, grate the fudge.
- Add powdered sugar and mix well.
- Put mixture in a large heavy or nonstick pan. Heat on medium high for few minutes. Reduce the flame and cook till soft and gooey.
- Make sure to stir continuously, while on heat. When mixture is thick and gooey, add cardamom and saffron. Add the color if desired.
- Mix well, and take off fire. Allow to cool, gently turning occasionally.
- Use cookie molds, or shape pedas with palms into patty rounds. Mix pistachios and cardamom seeds and press a bit on top of each.
- If using molds, first sprinkle some at bottom. Take some mixture and press into mold. When set well, invert and carefully, unmold.

Steam

This is the easiest and most effective treatment and is a great option when your skin is lacking lustre. Simply pour steaming water into a bowl, place a towel over your head and slowly lower your face toward the water. You can also simply use a face steamer if you have one at home. For a much more effective experience, add a few drops of peppermint or green tea to the water. If you have oily and acne-prone skin, several drops of tea tree oil will work wonders. Steam for 10 to 15 minutes.

Make a honey/lemon mask

Honey is a major ingredient in almost every DIY mask because of its healing properties, as well as helping to tighten your pores. The simplest mask is to apply a few tablespoons of raw honey right to your face, you can also add a tablespoon of cinnamon or a tablespoon of yogurt with a teaspoon of olive oil to smooth out the impurities in your skin.

Lemon is another miracle ingredient because the acid is a natural exfoliant. You can add it to the above masks or simply apply a few drops directly on to your face. Leave it on for 10 minutes and then wash your face with

Ways to deep clean pores at home



warm water. You can apply these masks thrice a week as needed. Avoid the lemon mask if you have extremely dry skin.

Parsley

Parsley is not only a great ingredient to

diminish dark spots, but it is also a great pore cleanser. It can be used every other day on its own or twice a week when mixed with lemon and honey.

Soak a small head of parsley in warm water and then dip a washcloth in the water and apply it to your face for 10 to 15 minutes. To make a mask, finely chop a small head of parsley (after you have soaked it in warm water) and combine it with a tablespoon of honey. Apply it on your face for 10 to 15 minutes.

Sugar scrub

Using scrubs on a regular basis is always a must, but sometimes certain scrubs can be a little bit harsh on sensitive skin so another great option is sugar. Simply take two tablespoons of sugar, mixed with half a lemon (juice) and a little bit of water. Crush it all together until you get a thick paste and gently massage it into your skin, then wash it off.



Weight loss foods to include in your diet

Breakfast is the most important meal of the day. Starting your day with a healthy breakfast will help you to maintain energy, feed off hunger attacks and in the process, also lose weight.

“Skipping breakfast may cause you to not consume adequate amounts of fibre and nutrients. Not eating breakfast can also cause increased bouts of acidity. Lack of fuel such as glucose will go to the brain and lead to decrease in the functioning of the brain cells—which is why you may experience headaches and dizziness when you haven’t eaten in a while,” said Dt Gauri Anand, a clinical nutritionist and diabetic educator.

But many people tend to skip breakfast or not have one properly fearing to put on extra kilos. However, you can always add some top foods for weight loss in your breakfast!

Nut butter

Nut butter is delicious, creamy, and nutritious butter made from nuts like almonds, peanuts, or walnuts. Filled with the goodness of heart-healthy saturated fats and protein, tree nuts, in general, have been linked with weight loss and reducing the risk of chronic diseases. It is a great way to include protein in your diet.

Egg

Egg has six grams of protein and 70 calories. Eggs are high in protein and iron. “Nutritious, filling, tasty and easily available, they can also be paired up with sweet potatoes or ground turkey for a wholesome breakfast,” she told



indianexpress.com.

Unsweetened plain Greek yogurt

Yogurt is the great starter for the day. Adding yogurt to your breakfast is a good idea, especially for anyone looking to lose a couple of pounds. The nutritional content will keep you energised throughout the day while maintaining digestive health. Rich in calcium and packed with probiotics.

Chia seeds

Chia seeds is one of the healthiest seeds in the world. The antioxidants, fiber, calcium, and a host of other vital nutrients protect your body from the attacks of toxins, Sprinkling some on a bowl of yogurt with fruit or salad will give your meal the right amount of

nutritional benefits along with a delicious crunch.

Banana

Banana is the unopposed superstar of potassium. It is packed with filling fiber and other valuable nutrients. Tossing some diced bananas in your fruit bowl/smoothie will lift up your mood and make you feel energetic. Including them in breakfast also means lowering blood pressure levels that keep the heart in good shape.

Berries- Berries win the title for being one of the healthiest breakfast foods on the planet. Strawberry, raspberry, blueberry and others are not only rich in heart-friendly antioxidants but adding them to your breakfast also gives you a boost of energy.

Source: The Indian Express



Flu shot may protect against severe effects of Covid-19: Study

The annual influenza vaccine may reduce the risk of stroke, sepsis, blood clots and several other severe effects in patients with COVID-19, according to the largest study of its kind.

The researchers from the University of Miami Miller School of Medicine, US, also found that patients with COVID-19 who had been vaccinated against the flu were significantly less likely to visit the emergency department (ED) and be admitted to the intensive care unit.

“Only a small fraction of the world has been fully vaccinated against COVID-19 to date, and with all the devastation that has occurred due to the pandemic, the global community still needs to find solutions to reduce morbidity and mortality,” said senior study author Devinder Singh, professor at the Miller School.

“My team has been able to observe an association between the flu vaccine and reduced morbidity in COVID-19 patients,” said Singh, who conducted the study with lead authors Susan Taghioff and Benjamin Slavin.

The study, published in the journal PLoS One on August 3, analysed patient records from a number of countries, including the US, the UK, Germany, Italy, Israel and Singapore.

The researchers screened de-identified electronic health records on the TriNetX research database for more than 70 million patients to identify two groups of 37,377 patients.

Members of the first study group had received the flu vaccine two weeks and six months prior to being diagnosed with COVID-19.

Those in the second group also had a positive COVID-19 diagnosis but were not vaccinated against the flu.

The incidence of 15 adverse outcomes, including sepsis, strokes, deep vein thrombosis (DVT), emergency department visits and death, within 30, 60, 90 and 120 days of testing positive for COVID-19 were then compared between the two groups.

The analysis revealed that those who had not had the flu shot were significantly more likely (up to 20 per cent) to have been admitted to the ICU.

Source: PTI

Beware, you could be damaging your ears with prolonged use of earphones

In the work-from-home situation, the time spent in front of a computer screen has increased for many people. With it, the usage of other paraphernalia, such as earphones, has also gone up. Back-to-back meetings, work calls, some respite in the form of music, staying connected with loved ones, etc., has made people more dependent on earphones than ever before.

Dr Jafferhusein Sura, consultant ENT surgeon at Masina Hospital, however, warns that in the last one year, there has been a rise in the number of patients with ear infections, itchy skin of the ears, and hearing loss. “Earlier, only teenagers and young adults were using earphones or ear plugs for entertainment. Now, even children and the elderly are using them, with increased frequency for basic communication and learning,” he says.



The doctor answers some commonly-asked questions.

The ear plugs which fit tightly into the canal lead to abrasions and dryness of the skin, which may lead to itching. The itching can damage the skin and lead to bacterial and fungal infection. Furthermore, if the earphones are kept unclean, we may be infecting the ear.

Prolonged use of earphones at high volumes may lead to hearing loss. This may occur at any age, and no one is immune to the harsh effect of sudden exposure to a very loud sound, or constant exposure to loud sounds. Exposure to sounds above 90 dB which is equivalent to operating a lawn mower, should be maximum 8 hours a day. The average level of sound of personal devices is 80-90 dB. For loud music above 100 dB, one should limit the usage to less than 15 minutes. (WHO recommendations of noise exposure)

The one thing to remember is that these are essentially preventable complications. If the use of earphones is unavoidable, and is required for prolonged periods, it is better to use over-the-head earphones rather than the ear plugs. This will prevent the dryness and itchy skin of the ears. It may reduce the risk of infections, too.

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Twitter Spaces adds co-hosts feature to help moderate, manage rooms

Micro-blogging site Twitter has announced that it is now rolling out a new update to Spaces to allow hosts to designate up to two co-hosts for its social audio rooms.

The new update will make it easier for hosts of the audio space to help manage and moderate conversations.

Once invited, co-hosts have almost all the same moderation and managing privileges as the main host, they can speak, invite other members of the room to speak, pin tweets, boot people from the room and more, reports The Verge.

There are a few limitations, though as only the main host can invite or remove other users as co-hosts -- one co-host can't invite a second one, for example.

Co-hosts also can't end the room; only the original host can.

The co-host feature also expands the number of participants that can talk at once in a Space, the report said.

Now you can have one host, two co-hosts and ten speakers all active in a room at once, up from the previous ten-speaker limit, it added.

The new addition has started rolling out now and should be a useful part in helping hosts keep spaces under control, especially for larger conversations.

A recent report said that Twitter users will now be able to compose a new tweet directly from the Space, which will link to the audio chat and any accompanying hashtags.

Nasa scientists spot unusual set of rings around black hole with companion star

Astronomers have spotted a spectacular set of rings around a black hole in an image captured using Nasa's Chandra X-ray Observatory and Neil Gehrels Swift Observatory. Nasa said that the X-ray images of the giant ring reveal information about the black hole, its companion star, and the intervening dust clouds.

"The black hole is part of a binary system called V404 Cygni, located about 7,800 light-years away from Earth. The black hole is actively pulling material away from a companion star — with about half the mass of the Sun — into a disk around the invisible object. This material glows in X-rays, so astronomers refer to these systems as "X-ray binaries," the US space agency said.

In 2015, Neil Gehrels Swift Observatory discovered a burst of X-rays from V404 Cygni creating high energy rings. These rings were generated when a burst of X-rays from the black hole system bounced off of dust clouds between V404 Cygni and Earth, a phenomenon called light echoes. Cosmic dust consists of tiny, solid particles.

The rings tell astronomers about the landscape between V404 Cygni and Earth. According to Nasa, the diameter of the rings reveals the distances to the intervening dust clouds the light ricocheted off. When the cloud is closer to Earth, the high energy ring appears larger and vice versa.

"The light echoes appear as narrow rings rather than wide rings or haloes because the X-ray burst lasted only a relatively short period of time," said Nasa.

NASA Mars rover fails to collect rock in search of alien life

NASA's Perseverance drilled into the



surface of Mars but failed in its initial attempt to collect rock samples that would be picked up by future missions for analysis by scientists on Earth.

The US space agency published images Friday of a small mound with a hole in its center next to the rover -- the first ever dug into the Red Planet by a robot.

But data sent to Earth by the rover after its first attempt to collect a sample and seal it in a tube indicated no rock had been gathered.

"While this is not the 'hole-in-one' we hoped for, there is always risk with breaking new ground," said Thomas Zurbuchen, associate administrator for NASA's science mission directorate, in a statement.

"I'm confident we have the right team working this, and we will persevere toward a solution to ensure future success."

The drill hole is the first step of a sampling process that is expected to take about 11 days, with the aim of looking for signs of ancient microbial life that may have been preserved in ancient lakebed deposits.

Scientists also hope to better understand Martian geology.

The mission took off from Florida a little over a year ago and Perseverance, which is the size of a large family car, landed on February 18 in the Jezero Crater.

Scientists believe the crater contained a deep lake 3.5 billion years ago, where the conditions may have been able to support extraterrestrial life.

NASA plans a mission to bring around 30 samples back to Earth in the 2030s, to be analyzed by instruments that are much more sophisticated than those that can be brought to Mars at present.

Google unveils new next-gen Nest cameras, doorbell

SAN FRANCISCO (TIP): With an aim to offer more security and privacy to its users, Google on Thursday unveiled a new line of home security cameras and a doorbell under its Nest brand.

The new Google Nest Cam, a battery-powered camera, is priced at \$179.99, and Google Nest Doorbell (battery) is priced at \$179.99.

There's Google Nest Cam with a floodlight priced at \$279.99 and the second-generation Google Nest Cam (wired) at \$99.99.

"Google Nest's mission is to create a home that takes care of the people inside it and the world around it... All of this starts with helping you understand what's happening within the walls of your home and outside of it," the company said in a blogpost.

"Because we're all overloaded with notifications every day, our next-generation cameras and doorbell are made to send you the most helpful



alerts," it added.

With the new Nest Cams and a display, users can keep an eye on the backyard from their kitchen and get alerts when the doorbell rings.

They can detect important events that happen in and around the home, including alerts for people, animals and vehicles—and in Nest Doorbell's case, also packages.

How AI can help choose your next career and stay ahead of automation

SYDNEY (TIP): The typical Australian will change careers five to seven times during their professional lifetime, by some estimates. And this is likely to increase as new technologies automate labour, production is moved abroad, and economic crises unfold.

Jobs disappearing is not a new phenomenon – have you seen an elevator operator recently? – but the pace of change is picking up, threatening to leave large numbers of workers unemployed and unemployable.

New technologies also create new jobs, but the skills they require do not always match the old jobs. Successfully moving between jobs requires making the most of your current skills and acquiring new ones, but these transitions can falter if the gap between old and new skills is too large.

We have built a system to recommend career transitions, using machine learning to analyse more than 8 million online job ads to see what moves are



likely to be successful. The details are published in PLOS ONE.

Our system starts by measuring similarities between the skills required by each occupation. For example, an accountant could become a financial analyst because the required skills are similar, but a speech therapist might find it harder to become a financial analyst as the skill sets are quite different.



Passenger vehicle sales up 45% in July

Passenger vehicle wholesales in India rose significantly year-on-year in July, as Covid-led restrictions eased across states and companies pushed stocks to dealers to build up inventories for the upcoming festive season, SIAM said on Thursday, August 12.

The total passenger vehicle sales, including dispatches of cars, utility vehicles and vans, from OEMs to dealerships increased by 45% to 2,64,442 units in July against 1,82,779 units in the same month last year.

As per latest data by the Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers, two-wheeler dispatches, however, declined by 2% to 12,53,937 units in July, compared to 12,81,354 units in the year-ago period.



SoftBank pauses China investing as crackdown roils portfolio

TOKYO (TIP): SoftBank Group Corp will pause its investing in China as it waits for regulatory action against the country's tech firms to play out, Chief Executive Masayoshi Son said.

"Until the situation is clearer we want to wait and see," Son told a news conference. "In a year or two I believe new rules will create a new situation."

When the Japanese conglomerate posted record annual profit in May executives pointed to further upside from Vision Fund investments such as Chinese ride-hailing firm Didi Global Inc (DIDI.N) and "Uber for trucks" startup Full Truck Alliance Co Ltd.

Those companies listed in New York but Chinese regulatory action has subsequently hammered valuations, underscoring SoftBank's China risk even as the group seeks to reduce dependence on its largest asset, a stake in Chinese e-commerce giant Alibaba Group Holding Ltd.

The shift has cast a chill on SoftBank's investing in China, which makes up about a quarter of its funds' portfolio.

While the crackdown has affected returns expectations, "our broader thesis in China is unchanged: It's still a large, growing and compelling economic opportunity," said Navneet Govil, the chief



financial officer of Vision Fund.

The Vision Fund unit on Tuesday posted a first quarter profit of 236 billion yen (\$2.14 billion) as gains from listings were offset by falling shares in firms like South Korean e-retailer Coupang Inc.

The China turmoil is clouding the outlook for the group, shares of which have slipped a third from two-decade highs in March amid the completion of a record 2.5 trillion yen buyback. Shares closed up 0.9% ahead of earnings.

"Having a large public portfolio introduces volatility but at the same time it allows us to continue to monetise in a very

disciplined manner," said Govil.

Share price weakness and sell-side analyst speculation have driven expectation that a buyback may be imminent.

"Until now we have sold assets and announced a buyback. This time there was no event like that," Son said.

Given the gap between the group's share price and the value of its assets, he added, "I guess we will do a buyback sometime. The timing and size is something we consider daily."

VISION FUND UPSIDE

More than two-thirds of the portfolio of the first \$100 billion Vision Fund is listed or exited. SoftBank has distributed \$27 billion to its limited partners since inception.

Further upside will come from listings by Indian payments firm Paytm and insurance aggregator Policybazaar as well as southeast Asian ridehailer Grab, which is due go public via a blank-cheque company merger, Govil said.

SoftBank is also ramping up investing through Vision Fund 2, to which it has committed \$40 billion of capital, with the unit making 47 new investments worth \$14.2 billion in the April-June quarter alone. *Source: Reuters*

Best time for Corporate India to step up risk taking, says Nirmala Sitharaman

NEW DELHI (TIP): Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Thursday, August 12, said the government is doing everything required to support the economy, and urged industry leaders to step up investments and build capacity in domestic chip manufacturing and renewable energy.

The government is pursuing key economic reforms, and doing "rigorous work" to achieve the privatisation plan outlined in the Budget and hope to complete strategic sale of Air India, BPCL, among others, within this fiscal year, she stressed.

Speaking at the CII annual session through a video link, she said the four engines of economic growth — net exports, government expenditure, consumption and investment — are starting to work well to aid the recovery process. The economy is buoyant, in terms of the buoyancy to be seen during recovery-time. "Government is committed to doing everything that it is required to be done for the economy," she said.

"Growth will have its priority, growth will be given importance and growth will be pushed both by the Reserve Bank and by the government," she said. While the central bank will take measures to contain inflation, growth is what will make all the difference to economic revival, she said. The minister indicated that the RBI will continue to maintain its accommodative and growth supportive policy. "I am glad that the RBI has been voicing that understanding that too quick a retrieval or sucking out of liquidity from the economy may not be the necessary stimulus that is required and have not given any indication of sucking out the liquidity that is available," she said, adding that the government and RBI has been working in close coordination.

Boosting sentiment

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman saying



that the government and the RBI will continue to support the economy is aimed at encouraging industrialists to step up investments.

Exports of steel and many others have grown recently, while the Centre has stepped up infrastructure investments. Consumption also has been given the necessary push through various government policies, she argued.

She said the nature of investments has changed, with citizens now more open to invest in the stock markets. It's the best time for Corporate India to step up risk taking as corporate tax rate has been among the lowest, and there is an opportunity to build capacity for domestic chip manufacturing and in the renewable energy field, she added. Foreign direct investment has been "flowing into India non-stop" due to the belief in sound macroeconomic fundamentals, she said, adding the government was always in agreement with industry on retrospective tax, and once the arbitration verdicts came out, the government was ready with the necessary legal changes to end retrospective tax. *Source: The Indian Express*

RIL enters lithium battery biz via stake buy in US firm

NEW DELHI (TIP): Reliance New Energy Solar Ltd (RNESL), the newly floated renewable energy unit of Reliance Industries Ltd, along with Bill Gates and other investors have invested \$144 million in Massachusetts-based Ambri Inc, which makes batteries for power grids.

RNESL would be investing \$50 million in the \$144 million financing round, which Ambri will use to build a manufacturing facility and commercialise its technology, the company said.

The investment, which will give RNESL 42.3 million shares of preferred stock in Ambri, adds another piece to billionaire Mukesh Ambani's energy transition jigsaw.

In June, Ambani had announced a Rs 75,000-crore investment into clean energy, including four Giga factories.

Ambri, which can supply energy storage systems between 10 megawatt-hours to more than 2-gigawatt hours, will make calcium and antimony electrode-based cells that can last over 20 years with minimal degradation and are considered more economical than lithium-ion batteries. *Source: PTI*





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Tulsidas Jayanti

Tulsidas (1497-1623 C.E.) was a Hindu saint and the poet. Tulsidas is renowned for his great devotion towards Lord Rama. Tulsidas composed several works but he is best known as the author of the epic Ramcharitmanas, a retelling of the Sanskrit Ramayana in the vernacular Awadhi language.

Tulsidas was acclaimed to be a reincarnation of Maharishi Valmiki, the composer of the original Ramayana in Sanskrit. He is also considered to be the composer of Hanuman Chalisa, a popular devotional hymn in Awadhi dedicated to Lord Hanuman.

Tulsidas spent most of his life in the city of Varanasi. The famous Tulsi Ghat on the Ganges River in Varanasi is named after him. The famous Sankatmochan Temple dedicated to God Hanuman is believed to be founded by Tulsidas.

According to Hindu lunar calendar, Tulsidas was born on Shrawana, Shukla Paksha Saptami and this day is observed as birth anniversary of Poet Tulsidas. Tulsidas is also known as Goswami Tulsidas.

This year, the birth anniversary of the saint-poet falls on August 15.

Tulsidas was born on the 7th day in the month of Shraavana (July or August), in the bright half of the lunar. His birthplace is identified at the Rajapur (also known as the Chitrakuta) at the bank of the Yamuna river in UP. The name of his parents is Hushi and Atmaram Dubey. The exact birth date of Tulsidas is not clear and different people have different opinions regarding his birth year. According to some scholars he was born in 1554 as per Vikrami Samvat and others say it was 1532. He lived his life around 126 years.

According to a legend, Tulsidas took 12 months to come out in this world, till then he stayed in the womb of his mother. He had 32 teeth from his birth and looked like a five-year-old boy. After his birth, he started enchanting the name of Rama instead of crying. That's why he was named Rambola, he himself stated in Vinayapatrika. At the fourth night after his birth, his father had passed away. Tulsidas had stated in his works Kavitavali and Vinayapatrika about how his parents' abandonment him after his birth.

Chuniya (the female maid of his mother Hushi) took Tulsidas to her town, Haripur, and took care of him. She died after caring for him for just five and a half years. After that event, Rambola lived as a poor orphan and walked door to door begging for alms. It is assumed that the Goddess Parvati took up the form of a Brahmin for taking care of the Rambola.

He himself had given some of the facts and events of his life in his various works. Two ancient sources of his life are the Bhaktamal and Bhaktirasbodhini composed by the Nabhadass and Priyadas respectively. Nabhadass had written in his writing about Tulsidas and described him as an incarnation of the Valmiki. Priyadas composed his writing 100 years after the death of Tulsidas and described the seven miracles and spiritual experiences of the Tulsidas. Two other biographies of Tulsidas are Mula Gosain Charit and Gosain Charit composed by Veni Madhav Das in 1630 and Dasanidas (or Bhavanidas) around 1770 respectively.

The Incarnation of the Valmiki

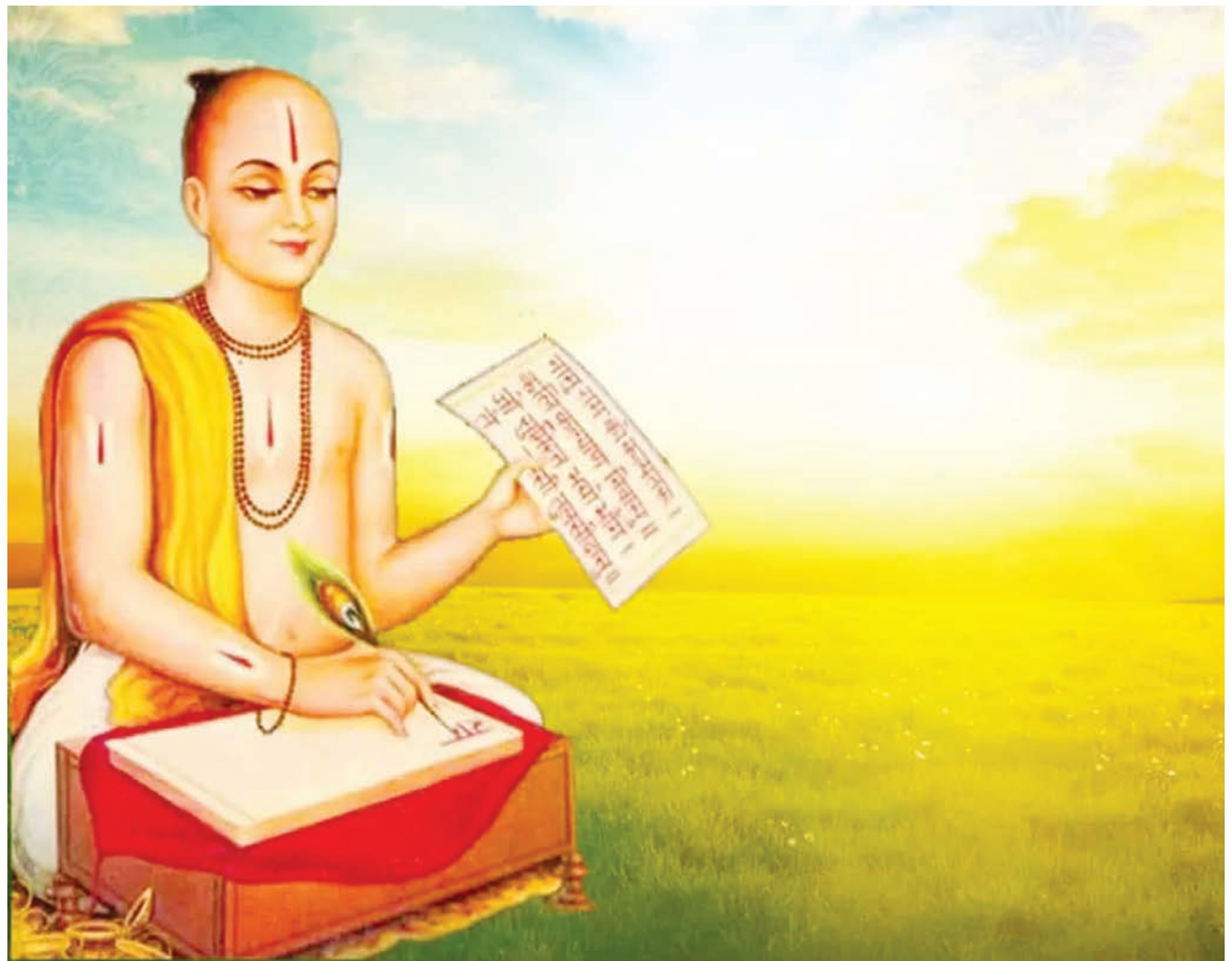
It is believed that Tulsidas was the reincarnation of Valmiki. According to the Hindu scripture Bhavishyottar Purana, Lord Shiva had described to his wife Parvati that how Valmiki will incarnate in the Kal Yuga.

According to the sources, it is considered that the Hanuman use to go to Valmiki to hear him singing the Ramayana. After the triumph of Lord Rama over Ravana, Hanuman continued to worship the Rama in the Himalayas.

Learning

Rambola (Tulsidas) was given the Virakta Diksha (known as Vairagi initiation) and got the new name, Tulsidas. His Upanayana was performed by the Narharidas at Ayodhya when he was just of 7 years old. He started his first learning at the Ayodhya. He mentioned in his epic the Ramcharitmanas that his guru narrated him the Ramayana over and over again. He came to the sacred city Varanasi when he was just 15-16 years old and got the knowledge of Sanskrit grammar, Hindu literature and philosophy, four Vedas, six Vedangas, Jyotisha from his guru Shesha Sanatana at the Panchaganga Ghat in Varanasi.

After study, he came back to his birthplace,



Chitrakuta by the permission of his Guru. He started to live in his family home and narrating the story of Ramayana.

Marriage History

He was married to Ratnavali (the daughter of Dinbandhu Pathak of Mahewa village and Kaushambi district) on the 13th of Jyeshtha month (May or June) in the year 1583. After some years of marriage, he had a son named Tarak who died in his toddler state. Once upon a time, his wife went to her father's home when Tulsidas had gone to the Hanuman temple. When he returned home and did not see his wife, he swam along River Yamuna in order to meet his wife. Ratnavali was very upset with his activity and blamed him. She remarked that he should become a true devotee and should focus on God. He then left her wife and went to the holy city of Prayag (where he renounced the stages of Grihastha's life and became a Sadhu). According to some authors, he was unmarried and Sadhu from birth.

How He Met the Lord Hanuman

Tulsidas meet Hanuman at his own Katha, he fell at lord Hanuman's feet and shouted 'I know who you are so you cannot get away leaving me' and lord Hanuman blessed him. Tulsidas expressed his feeling in front of lord Hanuman that he wants to see Rama confronting each other. Hanuman guided him and told him that go to the Chitrakuta where you would really see the Rama.

How He Met the Lord Rama

As per Lord Hanuman instructions, he started to live in the Ashram at Ramghat in Chitrakuta. One day when he went on Parikrama of the Kamadgiri Mountain, he saw two princes on the horsebacks. But he could not distinguish them. Later when he acknowledged that they were Rama and Lakshman by the lord Hanuman, he got disappointed. All these events were described by himself in his writing Gitavali. On the next morning, he met Rama again when he was making sandalwood paste. Rama came to him and asked for a Tilaka of sandalwood paste, in this way he saw Rama clearly. Tulsidas was so happy and he forgot about the sandalwood paste, then Rama took the tilak himself and

applied it on his forehead and also on the Tulsidas's forehead.

In the Vinayapatrika, Tulsidas had mentioned the miracles at Chitrakuta and lot of thanks to the Rama. He got darshan of the Yajnavalkya (speaker) and Bharadvaja (listener) in the Magha Mela under a banyan tree.

Composition of the Epic, Ramcharitmanas

He started to write the Ramcharitmanas in Ayodhya on the Ramnavami of the Chaitra month in the year 1631. He completed his writing of the Ramcharitmanas in two years, seven months and twenty six days in the year 1633 at the Vivaha Panchami (marriage day of the Rama and Sita) of the month Margashirsha.

He came to the Varanasi and delivered the epic Ramcharitmanas to the Lord Shiva and Mata Parvati at the Kashi Vishwanath Temple.

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"If Hindus don't maintain Hinduism, who shall save it?"

"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."



Shree Ganeshaya Namah



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Chirag Bejan Daruwalla with his father late Bejan Daruwalla

**TIP brings you Weekly and Birthday Horoscope by
Astro Friend Chirag - Blessed Son of Astrologer Bejan Daruwalla**

WEEKLY HOROSCOPE - August 16 to August 22, 2021

Aries

You will enjoy this week as it is less stressful for you than usual. You will have a lot of fun because you will get time to enjoy being with your family, going for long walks and just simply being free and living a slow life instead of always rushing to do something or do somewhere. You will be able to make some huge investments in this week. You're likely to rush the process and skip the analyzing and strategizing part, which can ruin all the profit you have made from the new prospect. You need to listen to your financial advisor and take your time.

Taurus

Financial struggles will shake you to the core this week. Even though you will receive a lot of love, support and even help from your loved ones this week. Take all the help that is offered to you, creating unrealistic goals will make you even more upset. Your relationship with your partner will get extremely strong this week; you will realize that this is the person you would want to spend the rest of your life with. All of this stress will take a toll on your health by mid-week; you'll start having constant headaches and feel dizzy due to lack of sleep.

Gemini

This week is bringing you a lot of better things. As you foresee the upcoming seven days, the losses incurred in last few weeks will be revived. You will earn trust of everyone in your life. The last three days of the week will be a little bit challenging but this adventure of hardship will bring you growth. Income is going to increase and your family will support you in whatever you do. Your love life is expecting some challenges as there will be some misunderstandings between your partner and you.

Cancer

You have been through lot of challenges and become the strongest person you have ever been. Allow yourself time and space to relax and rest this week. A mini vacation will do you good this week, as you have been ignoring your health by staying busy. Your business and finances will work out on its own this week, without you having to pay much time and attention. Although you need to do something to show your appreciation and gratitude towards your friends and family by giving them your time.

Leo

This is an amazing week for you. You will be provided with ample opportunities to prove yourself at work which, in turn, may also lead to your promotion this week. If you're single, Venus is in your favor this week. You will have wonderful adventures this week with your partner. You will move on to the next level with your partner. You will experience a positive shift in your feelings, the world has never seemed this beautiful to you before and you will simply be high on life.

Virgo

This week is quite easy and relaxing for you. Although not every aspect of your life will work out as you would have liked it to be, you'll come through struggles stronger and smarter. You will need to update yourself in terms of your skillset as people junior to you are trying to take over your position. You will have immense support from your business partner, they will understand your struggles and won't be in your way, they have skill or expertise in your business they will help you by managing things better today. Mid-week you'll realize that things worked out even better than you expected financially. You're likely to take an unconventional break this week to spend some much needed time with your loved one.

Libra

This week you're very likely to embark on a spiritual journey. You'll find a very good mentor who will give you valuable advice that'll forge ahead in life with a purpose. Do a lot of relaxing activities this week like going for a spa or reading a novel you like. You'll feel very loved today as your partner will be very supportive of you. You are able to communicate your feelings and emotions with your partner hence both of you are on the same page as of this week.

Scorpio

You will work hard and hard work will reward you with very satisfying returns in this week itself. In the start of a week, you will feel really better the level of happiness will keep increasing. And because of that you will get very generous throughout the week. So, you are advised to control your spending and manage your money. Your good deeds can convert into overspending and because of that you can end up with creating problems with your family.

Sagittarius

You have always been an independent personality, and you job has been making you unhappy since quite some time now. If you've been meaning to follow your passion, now is the timewhen it comes to your personal life this week. You'll be in a particularly romantic mood resulting in a week full of sweet moments for you and your loved ones filled with gifts and gestures alike. Those who are single may also be in luck as they say, love will strike when you least expect it. Be more social this week if you're looking for a life partner.

Capricorn

Once you decide to achieve a goal, nothing stands in your way. This power that you will carry throughout the week can make you or break you. The ball is in your court but you will have to choose between being kind and considerate or being revengeful. Reflect on the consequences first. When it comes to your health you will start having minor issues like fatigue and lethargy every now and then, you need not seek any professional help the only cure to your ailments this week is rest.

Aquarius

You will make great business decisions this week. Your analysis and strategies will work out in your favor. Take five minutes off to meditate daily which will help you focus on your work and get it done faster. Take all the help that is offered to you, creating unrealistic goals will make you even more upset. Your relationship with your partner will get extremely strong this week, you will realize that this is the person you would want to spend the rest of your life with.

Pisces

This week will bring you revival of losses incurred recently. Your savings will be improved. You will be able to make some rigid decisions of some complicated business mess with the help of right guidance. Your cooperation and convincing skills will be appreciated by your clients. You will make some investments which will bring you good gains later. You will not be able to spend more time with your family due to the burden of work. You are likely to feel dull by the end of the week as your competitors will poke you and try to ruin your efforts and on the other hand you will have to deal with domestic dispute too.

**BIRTHDAY HOROSCOPE : AUGUST 16 TO AUGUST 22, 2021**By Astro Friend Chirag - Blessed Son of Astrologer Bejan Daruwalla : www.bejandaruwalla.com

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August 16

You will have the best day ever today. You will understand how beautiful it is to be loved by so many people. You will feel a profound sense of pride in yourself because you have always put in a lot of efforts in your relationship. The events of this day will motivate you to be more kind and giving.

August 17

You seem to be going on a positive streak today as today will be a perfect day for you. Relish the positive energy you have been experiencing and be as productive as you can be. If you want to start a new project now is a perfect time. You will feel at a very safe place in your relationship today and it will progressively get better. Although things will go way too fast for you today, it will all feel surreal and magical to you.

August 18

Today would be filled with happiness and loads of love for you. Express your true feelings in front of your partner with ease as it will go well for you today. You will realize that after doing this, everything fits into place. You're likely to take the next step in your relationship today and it will all work out great for you.

August 19

Today you will learn how to deal with different personalities and how to easily get any problem be it at work or in your personal life to a resolution. You will realize today that your relationships will only get better from this point. You will feel amazing and very confident.

August 20

You are in the pink of your health today. You will be an agile person today as you go through the day full of energy and enthusiasm. Your health has finally healed, and it is very likely to stay better. You will love your work today. Try to spend as much time

as you can do what you can to be productive. Enrolling in dance or art classes will consistently keep you happy. That would be a good decision you make today.

August 21

You will have a day full of love and surprises today. You will receive a lot of attention from your favorite people that will have you feeling like you're on cloud nine today, if that wasn't enough, you're very likely to make a profit from a new prospect that you worked with even though your business partner was against it.

August 22

Today you will be very organized and at ease and everything will work out for you which is a positive thing. Taking time to relax and unwind will prove beneficial for your business as well as your personal life. If you do not get the stress and anxiety of the busy life get on to you, you have improved a lot in life.

|| SHREE GANESHAY NAMA ||



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TOKYO 2020: USA gets back to top as the Olympic games of hope come to an end

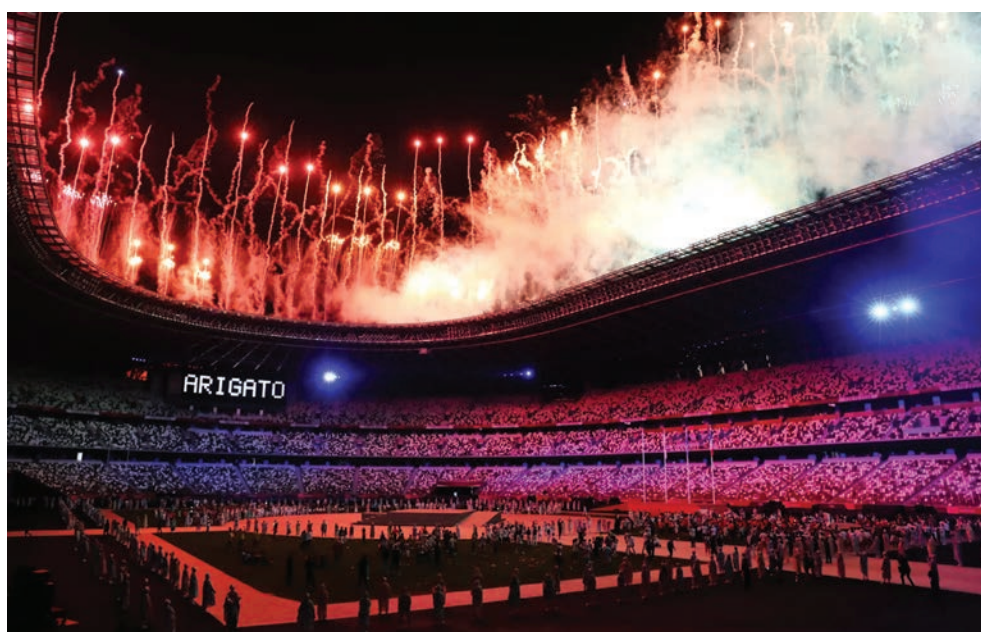


BY PRABHJOT SINGH

INDIA HAD ITS BEST EVER MEDALS TALLY IN 93 YEARS, WITH 7 MEDALS, INCLUDING A GOLD



- The United States wrested back its number one position in the medals tally as curtain was rung down on the 32nd Olympic games following a spectacular evening full of color, dance and swirling rings on Sunday, August 8.
- The Olympic Games have come to an end after a stunning closing ceremony at the Tokyo Olympic Stadium.



Fireworks are set off to end the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games - photo / Courtesy Getty Images

THE OLYMPIC FLAME, WHICH HAD CONTINUED TO BURN BRIGHT EVER SINCE THE OPENING CEREMONY, WAS EXTINGUISHED AND AS FIREWORKS SPARKLED OVERHEAD, THE WORD 'ARIGATO' (THANK YOU) WAS DISPLAYED ON LED SCREENS INSIDE THE STADIUM IN THE SAME FONT THAT WAS USED TO SPELL OUT 'SAYONARA' (GOODBYE) AT THE CONCLUSION OF THE TOKYO 1964 OLYMPIC GAMES.



Entertainers perform Photo / Courtesy Getty Images

The world leader in sports, the USA, was back at the top of the medals tally on the last day pushing its new rival China to a close second spot. The US won 39 gold, one more than China, to head the table with an aggregate of 113 medals. This tally included 41 silver and 33 bronze medals.

summer team sport. It is also the first Canadian gold medal for a summer team sport in 113 years, dating back to the men's lacrosse team's triumph at London 1908.

And the triumph of the soccer team had another feather to its cap. Its player Quinn became the first openly



Members of Team USA celebrates during the Closing Ceremony of the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games at Olympic Stadium on Aug. 8, 2021 in Tokyo, Japan

Photo / Courtesy Getty Images

China on the other hand had 38 gold, 32 silver and 18 bronze medals to total 88 medals.

Canada also had its highest medal tally since the 1984 LA games as it won seven gold, six silver and 11 bronze medals.

India had its best ever medals tally in 93 years. It won for the first-time medals of all three colors - gold, silver and bronze - by aggregating seven.

In fact, almost all participating nations were returning home on a cheerful note. The Philippines and Bermuda got their first ever gold medals in the Olympic games.

Women athletes have once again done Canada proud. They not only won 17 of 23 medals the country won at the 2020 Tokyo Olympic games but also sent a very strong message that they are second to none.

It is Canada's largest number of medals at an Olympic Summer Games since Los Angeles 1984

The women's soccer team won Canada's first gold medal in a women's

transgender, non-binary athlete to win an Olympic medal.

In Tokyo, Canada had a record participation in eight team sports. Canada also won its ever medal in softball, a bronze.

India, on a new high

Javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra has emerged as a new star on Indian sports horizon as he gave a golden finish to the country's engagements in the 32nd Olympic games in Tokyo on Saturday.

His superb first two throws of 87.03 and 87.58 m were sufficient for India to wrest its first ever Olympic medal in athletics and end its campaign on a golden note, giving the country its only second individual gold medal in 93 years. The last time India won an individual gold was in Beijing in 2008 where shooter Abhinav Bindra finished at top in 10 m air pistol shooting.

Besides Neeraj Chopra's gold, India had a fruitful day. Wrestler Bajrang

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Punia recorded an excellent points win over his Kazakhstan rival Daulet Niayazbekov for the country's fourth bronze medal. With a little luck, India could have got its first Olympic medal in golf but young Aditi finished just a shot behind.

Neeraj feat provided a golden cap to earlier efforts of an Olympic medal in athletics. Quarter mile runner Flying Sikh Milkha Singh missed it in Rome (1960) while hurdler Gurbachan Randhawa in Tokyo (1964). PT Usha was another athlete to finish among the top four.

medals of Mirabai Chanu and Ravi Kumar Dahiya besides bronze medals by Bajrang Punia, men's hockey team, PV Sindhu and boxer Lovlina.

India's previous highest medal tally was six in London 2012 where the country had won two Silver and four bronze medals.

The Tokyo Olympic games, however, turned out to be very special for India.

Not only did the country win its first ever medal in athletics, it also returned to the podium in men's hockey after a long gap of 41 years. Last time India won a medal in hockey was a gold in Moscow in 1980 and now the team ended with a bronze medal.

first throw of 87.03 m gave a strong message to all his 11 rivals, including Nadeem Ashraf of Pakistan who finished fifth with 84.62 m.

His main rivals were javelin throwers from Czech and Germany. While Czech throwers ended with silver and bronze medals with throws of 86.67 and 85.44 m, German thrower Julian Webber cleared 85.30 m.

Seven in a row for US women cagers

The US women's basketball team has capped its dominant run at the Olympics with a rout of Japan 90-75 for its seventh consecutive gold medal thus overtaking

lost a game in this tournament was in 1992.

Team USA's women's basketball team have extended their gold-winning run to seven straight Olympic Games after a 90-75 win over Japan.

The USA dominated from the start, building a 23-14 lead in the first quarter that they never relinquished. To put their record at the Olympic Games into perspective, the team has not lost a game in Olympic competition since Barcelona 1992.

The game was the second time the USA and Japan have met at Tokyo 2020, with the USA beating their opponents by 17 points in the first game compared to 15 today.

Brittney Griner had an excellent final, scoring 30 points as the USA surged ahead, while A'ja Wilson netted 19. For Japan, TAKADA Maki scored 17 points, with MOTOHASHI Nako adding a further 16.

For Japan, a silver on home soil represents an excellent achievement, with a fifth-place finish at Montreal 1976 their best until today. It is their second silver medal at an international tournament after they took second place at the Women's Basketball World Cup, all the way back in 1975.

"Seven in a row, I mean that's just amazing. That just goes to show everything USA basketball's about," Griner said.

However, she tipped her hat to her Japanese opponents.

"Japan's hard to guard. They can shoot it anywhere on the court. They're a tough guard, they're a really good team. I'm just glad we've got this gold."

And Diana Taurasi, who has now won a total of five Olympic Games basketball gold medals since Athens 2004, said: "What can you say? It's 20 years of sacrifice, of putting everything aside and just wanting to win. It's never easy playing on this team (with) the pressure, but this group found a way to win and I'm just happy this group got to enjoy it."



India's Medal winners at Tokyo Olympics : Neeraj Chopra (Gold), Mirabai Chanu (Silver), Raj Kumar Dahiya (Silver), Bajrang Punia (Bronze), P.V. Sindhu (Bronze), Lovlina (Bronze), Men's Hockey team (bronze)

Photo / Courtesy Indian Express

(Photo T 4 here)

India ended its campaign with its highest ever medal tally of seven, including Neeraj Chopra's gold, silver

Neeraj Chopra, who had qualified for the finals with his sole throw of 86.53 m in the preliminaries, was in full command from the start of the final. His

India's record of six gold medals in a row in field hockey.

The team has now won 55 consecutive games at the Olympics. The last time it



India's hockey players celebrate Bronze Medal win - Photo / Courtesy Rediff Sports

Canada wins gold in women's soccer

Canada claimed a first-ever gold medal in women's Olympic football with a penalty shootout win over the Swedes after 120 minutes of regular and extra-time finished deadlocked at 1-1. The game, from the International Stadium Yokohama on 6 August, was a classic final and Canadian goalkeeper Stephanie Labbe was the hero on the day, sending her country to the top of the podium for the first time after a pair of bronzes in 2012 and 2016.

For the losing Swedes, it's their second straight silver medal after winning the same prize in Rio in 2016.

"It even looks prettier," Canada's veteran captain Christine Sinclair said about her first gold medal, which will slot right into the trophy cabinet beside her pair of bronzes. "I honestly can't believe what just happened. We had a goal coming here to change the color of the medal and we landed on the top of

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Bayern held 1-1 by Gladbach in Bundesliga season opener

Bayern Munich opened the Bundesliga season with a 1-1 draw at Borussia Mönchengladbach, with the hosts incensed at the referee for denying them a late penalty.

Dayot Upamecano twice looked like he conceded a penalty in the late stages of his Bayern debut, but referee Marco Fritz waved play on and received no contradiction from the video referee despite clear contact from the French defender on compatriot Markus Thuram on both occasions.

Gladbach coach Adi Hütter was booked for his protests in his first league game in charge of the home team. Counterpart Julian Nagelsmann was making his debut as Bayern coach.

Alassane Plea gave the hosts the lead in the 10th minute but Robert Lewandowski equalized in the 42nd.

Hütter's call to start American teenager Joe Scally on the left of defense for his Bundesliga debut paid off as the 18-year-old again impressed following his fine performance in the German Cup last weekend.

Some 23,000 supporters were allowed at the game under new regulations that permit up to 25,000 or half capacity, whichever is greater. Few fans were allowed at any games last season due to the risk of coronavirus infections.

Gladbach's Patrick Herrmann flashed a good chance just wide early on and the hosts missed an even better opportunity shortly afterward, when Herrmann opted to pass to Lars Stindl instead of shooting. Bayern's disorganized defense cleared the danger. Serge Gnabry missed when he only had the goalkeeper to beat, but otherwise it was all Gladbach and Stindl set up Plea for the opener.

INDIA VS ENGLAND 2ND TEST, DAY 2

Hosts reach 119/3 in reply to India's 364 at stumps

LONDON (TIP): Skipper Joe Root and Rory Burns helped England recover from early setbacks to reach 119 for three in their first innings in reply to India's 364 all out at stumps on the second day of the second Test against England.

Root (48 batting) and Burns (49) shared a crucial 85-run stand for the third wicket after Mohammed Siraj (2/34) dismissed Dom Sibley (11) and Haseeb Hameed (0) in successive deliveries in the 15th over.

Root joined hands with Burns to resurrect the home team's innings with their vital partnership.

Burns, however, departed a run short of his fifty, trapped in front of the wicket by Mohammed Shami (1/22).

Thereafter, Root and Jonny Bairstow (6 batting) played cautiously to end England's day without any further damage.

Earlier, resuming their first innings at the overnight score of 276 for three, India added just 88 runs for the loss of seven wickets.

Veteran seamer James Anderson was the pick of the bowlers for England with figures of five for 62.

The five-match series is levelled at 0-0 after the rain-marred opener ended in a draw at Nottingham.

India's famed middle order has some glaring issues

India haven't gone on a tour of England with the kind of man-to-man advantage over the home side in a very long time. A lot of it has to do with England's flaky batting pitted against India's fast bowling arsenal. But few would have thought India's own middle-order, comprising Cheteshwar Pujara, Virat Kohli and Ajinkya Rahane - all having played over 75 Test matches - would become grounds for conceding some of that advantage. That's how meagre their returns have



India's Ishant Sharma reacts as England's Joe Root runs between the wickets during the second Test. Source: AP

been for the last year-and-a-half.

In the ongoing Lord's Test for example, where KL Rahul and Rohit Sharma gave a masterclass of scoring in seam-friendly English conditions, India's middle order crumbled yet again. It was down to Rishabh Pant and Ravindra Jadeja to do the rescue act, an all-so-familiar pattern by now. In 2020-21 India have played in some tough batting conditions, in a diverse spread from New Zealand to Australia, England and at home on dusty turning tracks. But they have found batsmen who have discovered ways to score runs.

From Sharma (avg 47.78), who until three years ago didn't know if he was ever going to crack Test cricket, to Pant (41.82) who continues to redesign Test match batting modules and from Jadeja (45.60) batting at No 7 to Rahul (79.66) who wasn't even going to start the series, India have found runs from unexpected

quarters.

The famed middle order's scoring graph has nosedived in 2020-21, and 13 Test matches give a fair idea if that's just a blip in form or something more technical and mental. Pujara is averaging 25.09 during this period, Kohli 24.18 and Rahane 25.76. That's a sharp decline from where they were before 2020—Pujara averaged close to 50, Kohli 54.97 and Rahane 43.74. These numbers suggest Kohli's struggles are just as acute as the other two. But in Kohli's case, not only is he the captain and foremost batsman of the side, but he has also played some innings with high batting control percentage. Like the first innings of the Adelaide Test (74), two Tests in Chennai (72 and 62) against England and in the first innings of the World Test Championship final (44) against New Zealand. At Lord's too, he was shaping up well with his 42. Source: PTI and HTC

It feels like a dream, says Gurdaspur's Princepal Singh on his NBA journey

NEW DELHI (TIP): Only the second Indian to debut in the NBA Summer League, young basketball player Princepal Singh says his journey has been nothing short of a "dream" and he is working on his fitness and skills to achieve his next goal of playing in the NBA.

Singh, who hails from Gurdaspur, Punjab, followed his Ludhiana basketball academy teammate Satnam Singh in making his debut at the summer league when he turned up for Sacramento Kings against Washington Wizards at Las Vegas on Tuesday night.

"It's amazing to play in the Summer League. I am very happy with my progress as a player. I played G league first and now am playing in summer league, and I am working towards the NBA. I didn't think I will reach this far. It sometimes feels like a dream," Singh

said during a virtual press conference.

"My next goal is playing at NBA. Satnam Singh was the first Indian to play and I want to play for long time in NBA, so my focus is on taking care of my body and keeping myself fit."

Satnam had played in the Summer League in 2016 after being first drafted in the NBA by Dallas Mavericks in 2015.

The 20-year-old Singh, whose first professional stint was with the NBA Academy's Ignite team in the G-League, made a brief appearance of just a minute and 22 seconds during the match, which they won 89-75.

"It is a great experience to play against the top players in Summer League. They are all NBA players, who have been drafted. A lot of learning and my game is improving," said Singh, the first-ever NBA Academy India graduate to feature in a Summer

League game.

"My coach (Bobby Jackson) asked me to play hard, said I should focus on my game and I will get more time. He asked me to focus on strong rebounding and defence and look to score.

"There is no pressure on me. I have played one game so far. It is just that now getting less game time. So hopefully I will get more time in future. I want to just focus on giving my 100 percent and prove myself."

Asked what he learnt from his stint in 'G League Ignite', he said: "I learnt how the pro players conduct themselves off the court, how hard they play, how they help each other."

On the basketball scene in India, Singh said: "The sport is growing in India but due to the lockdowns no one has been able to play basketball.

Source: PTI





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PROFESSOR | MOTIVATIONAL SPEAKER | AUTHOR | WELLNESS | CORPORATE TRAINER

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Manjeet has a Doctorate in Psychology with over 20 years' experience in teaching, career counseling, health, and wellness development programs. Presently working with State of New Jersey in Civil Service Commission, earlier Manjeet was with Department of Labor. Dr. Kaur is teaching and has taught as a faculty member with Kean, Rutgers, and Monmouth University.

Dr. Kaur has extensive experience in training, course development, and teaching graduate and undergraduate level students at various colleges and universities. She provides individual

counseling sessions and group training programs in optimal wellness and is a motivational speaker on stress management, positive thinking, relaxation, performance, motivation, happy living, personality development, and understanding self and others to corporate and government organizations. Manjeet has authored two books: Positive Thinking and Happiness and The Power of Meditation and Breathing Techniques

She is actively involved in researching, designing, and writing innovative courses with an emphasis on e-learning. She has developed to help people in their

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Mahabalipuram

Famous for its intricately carved temples and rock-cut caves, Mamallapuram or Mahabalipuram as it is famously known, is a historically important and well-loved tourist location situated on the Coromandel Coast along the Bay of Bengal, in the state of Tamil Nadu. Once the abode of the famous demon king Mahabali, Mahabalipuram was later renamed Mamallapuram.

The serenity, the alluring atmosphere and the impressive setting with many beautiful white sandy beaches dotted with casuarina trees are all reasons as to why one would want to visit this wonderful town. Some famous tourist spots include the UNESCO world heritage site Group of Monuments like the Shore Temple and the Five Rathas, the Crocodile Bank which is home to some exquisite species of crocodiles and alligators, and the beach resorts in Kovalam and Sadras.

Places To Visit

Shore Temple

Built during the 7th century, Shore Temple is one of the oldest South Indian temples constructed in the Dravidian style and depicts the royal taste of the Pallava dynasty. The work of the temple has been listed amongst the World Heritage Sites by UNESCO. It is located in Mahabalipuram and is one of the most photographed monuments in India situated on the shores of Bay of Bengal.

Mahabalipuram Beach

Also known as Mamallapuram by locals, the Mahabalipuram Beach is situated at a distance of 58 km from the Chennai city in Tamil Nadu. The beach lies on the shore of Bay of Bengal and comprises of some rock-cut sculptures which are pleasing to the eyes. It is also famous for caves, massive rathas, chariots and temples which offer a great spot for holiday. The Mahabalipuram beach is a perfect place to relax and give yourself a break from the deadlines and work pressure on a daily basis. People from near and far flock to the beach especially to enjoy the natural sunbathing offered by the beach. The windsurfers and swimming lovers are bound to have an amazing time at the beach for they are seen doing just that on the shores of the beach.

So as to attract tourists, the beach

also has interesting places to offer including a crocodile bank with about 5000 crocodiles belonging to 6 different species, a school of art & sculpture and a snake venom extracting centre. There are also numerous resorts along the beach offering delicious food joints to fill the empty bellies of visitors. The scintillating beach has golden sand all along the stretch surrounded by rising hills and the sparkling sea.

Five Rathas

The Five Rathas, also known as Panch Rathas, is an exemplary set of rock temples. They are excellent examples of the evolution of Dravidian style architecture.

These temples are built in the same shape as pagodas, and greatly resemble Buddhist shrines and monasteries. The rathas are associated with the great epic Mahabharata. The first ratha that is located right by the entrance gate is Draupadi's Ratha. It is shaped like a hut and is dedicated to the goddess Durga. Next comes Arjuna's Rath. This one has a small portico and carved pillar stones and is dedicated to Lord Shiva. There are no carvings inside this temple, but many are on the outside. Directly in front of Arjuna's Rath is the Nakula Sahadev Rath. This ratha has some huge elephant sculptures included that are a huge draw for the Five Rathas. It is dedicated to the God of Rain, Lord Indra. The Bhima Rath is huge. It measures 42 ft in length, 24ft in width, and 25ft in height. The pillars there do contain lion carvings even though the ratha as a whole is incomplete. The largest of the Five Rathas is the Dharamraja Yudhishthira's Rath.

Arjuna's Penance

The Arjuna's Penance is an enormous rock-cut relief, one of the largest in the whole world, situated in Mahabalipuram of Kanchipuram district, Tamil Nadu. It is also known by the name 'Descent of the Ganges' because the structure depicts either or both of these two significant and symbolic events of Hindu mythology; thus making this attraction spot a favourite among historians, scholars,



academics as well as tourists who are enthusiastic about the cultural past of India.

Alamparai Fort

Many do not know the significance of the captivating fort as this long forgotten trading post is spoken about quite infrequently. In fact, the fort was listed in the International Tourism Fair in Berlin as one of the twenty lesser known tourist attractions in Tamil

Nadu by The Tamil Nadu Tourism Development Corporation (TTDC). No matter what the present condition of the Alamparai fort is, the view is sure to take your breath away. As you walk across the enthralling fort, you'll find surprising traces of life in the form of shrubs, creepers, bushes and trees even on the walls. It almost looks like they are supporting those parts of the structure and help them stand strong even today.





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His future plans are to support the upcoming chefs & entrepreneurs in the industry including the vegan trend and cloud kitchen trend with his experience. He plans to build a support ecosystem for ambitious professionals providing them with A to Z services for opening and running a 21st century food outlet and taking benefits from his experience. The details can be found below.

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contd from page 1

India Day Parade draws Crowds despite of Inclement Weather



Braving the weather, dignitaries ride a float. Seen, among others, Guest of honor Dr. D. Nori (extreme left), Indu Jaiswal (3rd from left), Guest of Honor Ranju Batra, Grans Marshall Consul General of India, Randhir Jaiswal, Nassau County Executive Laura Curran (extreme right)



A group of protesters demanding justice for agitating farmers in India

At the entertainment venue, a larger group of pro-farmers protesters carrying placards, shouted anti-India government and anti-Modi slogans, and demanded that the government talk to protesting farmers to resolve their issues. Some of the representatives who addressed the gathering from the



Organizers and volunteers celebrate

stage said they were protesting peacefully in favor of the farmers who have been protesting for over a year now. They held the Modi government responsible for the loss of life of more than 400 farmers during their agitation, Terming the Modi government's attitude as callous, they demanded that the government talk with them and resolve the issues. They said that Indians abroad fully supported the protesting farmers and would continue to give them all support until the anti-farmers laws are annulled.

Indian Overseas Congress group which was to march in the parade took a decision not to join the parade in view of the avowed support of their Party in India. Mr. Mohinder Singh Gilzian, IOC USA president said that their support for farmers will continue until justice is done to them. He called upon Modi government to take a step forward and meet with the protesting farmers and resolve the issue in the interest of the Indian nation. "There can be no better occasion than the Independence Day of India to take a bold initiative," he said.

Consul General of India Randhir Jaiswal, Bollywood star Ileana D'Cruz, and Dr Jay Sarkar, philanthropist, entrepreneur, and life consultant were the Grand Marshalls

An exultant IDP USA President Deepak Bansal, said a record number of dignitaries participated which included elected officials, lawmakers, and community leaders. New York State Comptroller Thoams DiNapoli, Nassau County Executive Laura Curran, State Senator Kevin Thomas, Supervisor of Town of Oyster Bay Joseph Saladino, Town of Hempstead Clerk Kate Murray, New York State Senator Todd Kaminsky, and County legislator Rose Walker graced the occasion with their presence.

The Guests of Honor included internationally renowned oncologist Padma Shri Dr Dattatreya Nuri, Diwali Foundation USA Chair Ranju Batra, Navika Group CEO/President Naveen Shah and young guru and motivational speaker Ishan Shivanand. Other

notable guests included Farah Mozawalla, director of minority affairs of Nassau County and Ragini Srivastava, an upcoming politician.

The comely Ileana D'Cruz, wearing a floor length crème colored dress, was quite a sport, posing with fans. She is an Indian-born Portuguese actress who predominantly appears in Telugu and Hindi language films.

The entertainment stage saw a few scintillating song and dance numbers and 37 performances by kids, and the program finished around dusk. Facing the stage were 45 stalls selling ethnic clothes and jewelry and food of course. For kids there were free rides and free popcorn. Most stalls did not have customers and folded up because of inclement weather.

A Nissan car sponsored by DP Singh of Meetu Magic was the first prize of the raffle. He was there to take out the draw and the lucky winner turned out to be Suhag Mehta, impresario, and part of the founding team of IDP. Other raffle prizes included an Apple watch, a 50-inch TV set, and 2 air tickets courtesy CheapOair.

President Bansal said the parade represents our motherland and people who come out to support make India proud. He thanked the IDP USA office bearers and committee chairs for working tirelessly over 3 months to prepare for the massive parade.

According to the press release sent to The Indian Panorama, the parade was supported by top brands including Phalguni-Chintu Patel, Navika Group, The South Asian Times, CheapOair, , Patel Brothers, Vass Pipe, The Portables Choice Corp, PICC, Flushing Bank, STI Consultants, Maharaja, Badshah, Property Professionals, Commercial Capital Funding Group, Elevator the movie, Indian Visa Center, BCB Bank, Omni Mortgage, HAB Bank, No Limit Auto Body and Shiv Yog. Several media organizations also supported the parade by promoting it.

IDP plans to celebrate the success of the 2021 Parade at a Gala at Antun's by Minar on Thursday, August 19, 2021. A souvenir will be released at the gala, the press release said. (With inputs from IDP USA press release)

US WARNS 9/11 ANNIVERSARY COULD INSPIRE EXTREMIST ATTACKS

The agency noted that al-Qaida in the Arabian Peninsula recently released the first English-language edition of its Inspire magazine in four years, apparently to mark the upcoming anniversary of the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks.

The anniversary and the approaching holidays "could serve as a catalyst for acts of targeted violence," it said.

DHS also noted that domestic extremists motivated by religious and ethnic hatred have in the past attacked houses of worships and other gatherings, but it said there aren't any "credible or imminent threats identified to these locations."

As in previous bulletins, DHS expressed concern about both domestic extremists, motivated by "personal grievances and extremist ideological beliefs," and foreign influences.

The agency said Russian, Chinese and Iranian government-linked media outlets have helped spread conspiracy theories about the origins of Covid-19 and the effectiveness of vaccines and have in some cases amplified calls for violence against people of Asian descent. (Agencies)



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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



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