

INDIA PERSPECTIVES

Volume 35 | Issue 03 | 2021

AZADI KA AMRIT MAHOTSAV

India gears up to celebrate its 75th
year of Independence in 2022

GOLDEN WINGS

Beekeeping and how it is
aiding farmers' income

CHASING THE CLOUDS

Picturesque waterfalls from across India during monsoon



12

JULY, 2021

RATHA JATRA

This chariot festival, also known as Gundicha Jatra, Ghosa Jatra, Navadina Jatra and Dasavatara Jatra, marks the annual journey of Lord Jagannatha and his siblings Lord Balarama and Devi Subhadra from their abode, the revered Jagannath Temple in Odisha's Puri district, to the nearby Gundicha temple, their aunt's home. The deities are carried out of the temple and placed in elaborately-decorated chariots that are pulled by thousands of devotees on the grand avenue. A glimpse of Lord Jagannatha on the chariot is considered to be very auspicious.

WHERE: Puri, Odisha

21

JULY, 2021



ID-UL-ZUHA (BAKR-ID)

One of the most important festivals in the Islamic calendar, Id-ul-Zuha is called Bakr-Id in the Indian subcontinent. This festival of sacrifice also marks the completion of Haj (pilgrimage to Mecca, Saudi Arabia). On this occasion, people wear new clothes and attend community prayer meetings.

WHERE: Across the country

24

JULY, 2021

GURU PURNIMA

Celebrated on the full moon day (or *purnima*) in the Hindu month of Ashadha (June-July), this day commemorates the importance of the *guru* (teacher) in one's life. The day is also known as Vyasa Purnima as it marks the birth anniversary of the revered Hindu sage Veda Vyasa. On this day disciples pay respect to their *gurus*.

WHERE: Across the country



A disciple paying respect to his guru Padma Vibhushan recipient flautist Pandit Hariprasad Chaurasia (sitting on right) on Guru Purnima



15 AUGUST, 2021

INDEPENDENCE DAY

Celebrated with great patriotism, this day commemorates India's freedom from the British rule in 1947. Every year, the Prime Minister of India hoists the national flag at New Delhi's Red Fort and makes an address to the nation. To mark the 75th year of India's Independence in 2022, the Government of India recently launched Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav, an initiative that will celebrate 75 years of progressive India and the glorious history of its people, culture and achievements. Commenced on March 12, 2021, which starts a 75-week countdown to the 75th anniversary of Independence (in 2022), it will end on August 15, 2023.

WHERE: Across the country



30 AUGUST, 2021

THIRUVONAM

Celebrated annually at the beginning of the month of Chingam (the first month of the Malayalam calendar), Thiruvonam is a harvest festival. According to legend, the event commemorates the return of the mythical and righteous king, Mahabali. Houses across the state are adorned with exquisite floral carpets (*pookkalam*) and elaborate feasts called *onasadya* are prepared in every home.

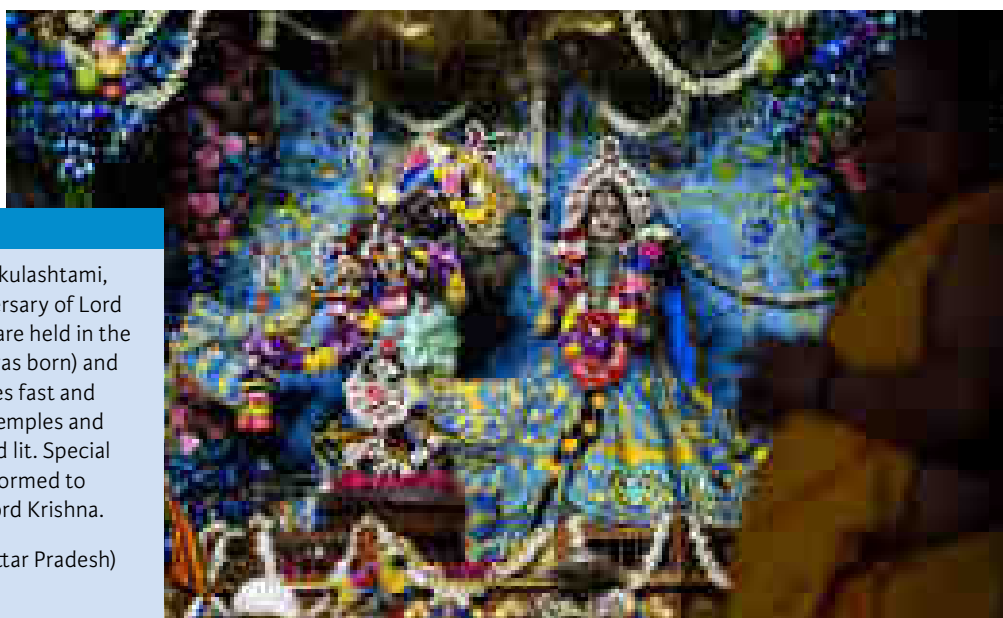
WHERE: Kerala

30 AUGUST, 2021

JANMASHTAMI

Also known as Krishnastami and Gokulashtami, Janmashtami marks the birth anniversary of Lord Krishna. The grandest celebrations are held in the towns of Mathura (where the lord was born) and Vrindavan in Uttar Pradesh. Devotees fast and offer prayers on the occasion, and temples and homes are beautifully decorated and lit. Special performances called Raslila are performed to recreate episodes from the life of Lord Krishna.

WHERE: Mathura and Vrindavan (Uttar Pradesh) and other parts of the country



DISCLAIMER: EVENTS LISTED HERE ARE SUBJECT TO COVID-19 CONDITIONS IN THEIR RESPECTIVE STATES

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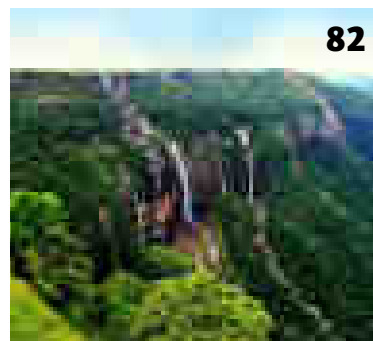
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FOREWORD

As India marches towards its 75th year of Independence (August 15, 2022), the Government of India has geared up for a grand 75-week celebration 'Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav' that pays homage to the country's freedom fighters and draws inspiration from them to help the country stride towards a stronger and more prosperous future, powered by 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat' (self-reliant India). In this issue of *India Perspectives*, we take a look at the various objectives and the themes of Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav celebrations.

Focussing on India's sustained global cooperation during the pandemic, we delve into the key takeaways of the India-EU summit. The virtual meeting marked a watershed moment in India's foreign policy as it was the first-of-its-kind in the EU+27 format hosted by EU with India. At the meet, Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi interacted with leaders of all 27 member States of the EU, along with the Presidents of the European Council and the European Commission.

PM Modi met Prime Minister of the United Kingdom Boris Johnson in the virtual mode in May 2021 and charted out a historic way forward for bilateral relations. Both Prime Ministers reiterated their shared commitment to an enhanced partnership in science, education, research and innovation. The meeting also highlighted the successful collaboration between Oxford University, Astra Zeneca and the Serum Institute of India on an effective Covid-19 vaccine that is 'developed in UK', 'Made in India' and 'distributed globally'.

In 2020, at the beginning of the Covid-19 pandemic, PM Modi, in his address to the nation, had encouraged the consumption of 'kadha', an Ayurvedic immunity boosting drink prepared traditionally with herbs and spices. Ayurveda, which means the science of life, is an age-old system of wellness, and we explore the benefits of this ancient practice.

PM Modi in his monthly radio address to the nation 'Mann ki Baat' hailed Indian cricketer Mithali Raj for becoming the first Indian woman to complete 10,000 runs across all formats of the game. We celebrate her success and along with that highlight the exemplary achievements of seven young Indian women boxers who bagged gold at the recently-held International Boxing Association Men and Women World Championships. Apiculture or beekeeping was another subject highlighted by PM Modi in his radio address. We explore the commercial viability of beekeeping and how, with encouragement from the government, it is gradually becoming a source of additional income for Indian farmers.

In our photo feature section, we bring you glimpses of how the International Day of Yoga, 2021 (held annually on June 21) was celebrated the world over. We also chase the monsoon clouds across some of the most picturesque waterfalls in the country.

In the persona section of the issue, we remember Dr Vikram Sarabhai, widely considered as the father of the Indian space programme. We pay homage to his unparalleled contribution to the propagation of science education in the country as well the numerous institutions and science centres he established, including the Thumba Equatorial Rocket Launching Station (TERLS), India's first rocket launching station.

We honour the extraordinary life and achievements of India's legendary athlete and four-time Asian Games gold medalist Milkha Singh, whose demise has left an irreplaceable void in the country's sporting community. We also pay our tributes to acclaimed Indian actor Dilip Kumar, who passed away recently. The illustrious life and accomplishments of the Dadasaheb Phalke Award recipient, Dilip Kumar continues to inspire actors of succeeding generations.

Arindam Bagchi





AZADI KA AMRIT **Mahotsav** **India @75**

An initiative of the Government of India to commemorate the 75th year of the country's Independence, Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav is an embodiment of all that is progressive about the nation's socio-cultural, political and economic identity. Former Indian Ambassador Anil Trigunayat writes about the various ways India has evolved to become a force to reckon with

A country is not merely a geography or group of people. It is a civilisational heritage. Modern India, drawing from the civilisational ethos of ancient Bharatvarsh, stands out among the comity of nations by virtue of its intellectual achievements, philosophical discourses and universalism in thought and action.

The past can be a good guide for an innovative future. Coming out of the colonial yoke,

India enabled a large number of countries across Asia, Africa and elsewhere to follow suit and in turn, acquired the leadership through non-alignment to become the voice of the developing world. India's involvement in the United Nations (UN), General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT)/ World Trade Organization (WTO) and a plethora of international organisations engineered its adherence to multilateralism which is also implicit in the psyche of Indians at a fundamental



Narendra Modi



Prime Minister

Today's [March 12, 2021]

#AmritMahotsav

programme begins from Sabarmati Ashram, from where the Dandi March began. The March had a key role in furthering a spirit of pride and Aatmanirbharta among India's people. Going #VocalForLocal is a wonderful tribute to Babu and our great freedom fighters.



Image: twitter.com/MinOfCultureGoI

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi flagged off the Padyatra (Freedom March) from Sabarmati Ashram, Ahmedabad, Gujarat, on March 12, 2021, and inaugurated the curtain-raiser activities of the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav (India@75)

ABOUT THE MAHOTSAV

On March 12, 2021, Indian Prime Minister Modi flagged off the 'Padyatra' (Freedom March) from Sabarmati Ashram, Ahmedabad, Gujarat, and inaugurated the curtain-raiser activities of the 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav' (India@75), which starts a 75-week countdown to India's 75th anniversary of Independence in 2022 and will end post a year on August 15, 2023.

The objectives of the mahotsav are as follows:

- **Citizen Campaign: Low Cost, People Intensive** – The event is an intensive, country-wide campaign that will focus on citizen participation, to be converted into a 'Janandolan', where small changes, at the local level, will add up to significant national gains.
- **Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat** – The intent is to further the idea of a sustained and structured framework of connection between people of different regions of India by promoting mutual understanding of cultural activities.
- **Every State, Every Language: Har Rajya, Har Bhasha** – India writes in many languages and speaks in many more voices. To promote deeper inclusivity across the nation, regional languages will be highlighted.
- **Emphasis on India's Glorious History** – India's fabric has been woven by diverse linguistic, cultural and religious threads, held together into a composite national identity. India's shared history is the bedrock of its nationhood. This would be highlighted in the event.
- **Showcasing India's Development** – Over the last 75 years, India has grown significantly across all sectors. From space and technology to healthcare and education, the event will showcase India's impressive and innovative achievements across sectors since 1947.
- **Global Outreach** – "Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav" will be shared and promoted around the world and also with India's diverse diaspora across many continents. These events will highlight India's culture and heritage on a global stage and bring awareness globally to the unique legacy of India.

(Source: amritmahotsav.nic.in)



Above A popular art form of Kerala, theyyam is also an integral part of India's folk tradition. One of the themes of the Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav is 'India's rich cultural heritage' that will showcase the various aspects of the nation's diverse cultural, artistic, linguistic and culinary heritage

Below: A yakshagana artiste prepares for a performance. Yakshagana, a form of dance-drama associated with the state of Karnataka, was traditionally performed in the open air by all-male troupes but today, it is not only held indoors but is also performed by female artistes, a testament to India extending its traditional and artistic boundaries to become all inclusive



“

TODAY IS THE FIRST DAY OF THE AMRIT MAHOTSAV OF INDEPENDENCE. THIS MAHOTSAV HAS STARTED 75 WEEKS BEFORE 15TH AUGUST 2022 AND WILL RUN TILL 15TH AUGUST 2023. FREEDOM STRUGGLE, IDEAS AT 75, ACHIEVEMENTS AT 75, ACTIONS AND RESOLVES AT 75 - THESE FIVE PILLARS WILL INSPIRE THE COUNTRY TO MOVE FORWARD.

Narendra Modi
Prime Minister of India

level. It was at a time when India was struggling to survive hunger, poverty and under development. Yet it became a beacon of hope and trust for the world. India is an example of unity in diversity and has emerged as an indispensable strategic actor which needs to be factored into all global calculations.

India at 75 is a force to reckon with. With 1.3 billion voices, it can easily traverse the challenges that stare at her and the world. India's developmental model, which has evolved with time, has been of great assistance to more than 160 countries across the world through various capacity-building programmes and efforts in the spirit of "Share and Care". It has helped India to create a tremendous constituency of goodwill across continents.

Even during the ensuing Covid-19 pandemic, India was one country which went way beyond her call of duty to help more than 150 countries with medicines and other assistance, and has provided millions of doses of vaccines to over



Image: twitter.com/MinOfCultureGoI

Above: Padma Shri and National Award recipient vocalist Hariharan regales audience during the cultural performance that marked the inaugurating ceremony of the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav

Below: A dance performance from the inaugural event



THEMES OF AZADI KA AMRIT MAHOTSAV

The six themes that will underline the mega festivals are:

Vishva Guru Bharat - Since the beginning of civilisation, India has been the *guru* (teacher) for the whole world. People from all around the globe converged to gain priceless wisdom from the country that showed the world its academic brilliance through Sushruta, Kanad and Aryabhatta. The world has finally adopted 'Namaste' as a way of greeting, thereby establishing the fact that Indian values and beliefs can change the world for the better. From Ayurveda to Indian science, there's more to India than the world needs to know, learn and adopt. India and its people believe in '*Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam*' or the world is one family. It is now time for the world to imbibe the same spirit and India deserves to gain the pedestal of being "Vishva Guru" again.

Ideas, Achievements & Resolve - The idea is to celebrate the notion of India – being the 'best in class' in social, political and economic realm – shared by every Indian. The country has traversed a long way since independence and has a long way to go. Achievements in different spheres, including agriculture, science and technology, will be highlighted during the course of the events. The Aatmanirbhar Bharat Design Centre, being developed as part of the Museum complex at Red Fort (New Delhi), shall focus on indigenous products from all the states and union territories. Furthermore, initiatives igniting the challenger spirit in every citizen will be fostered, such as #RiseUp pledge across social media platforms. Programmes of similar nature will not just devote each individual towards nation-building but will also aid Indians overcome challenges in their everyday life.

Aatmanirbhar Bharat - The idea of a self-reliant nation in every aspect is being achieved by the pioneering vision of Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi. During the pandemic, India has demonstrated that it can cope up with dire situations. *Aatmanirbharta* also gives a financial cushion to several businesses and encourages entrepreneurs to produce maximum goods and services within the country. Within this year, India has not only started the world's largest self-made vaccination drive but it is also exporting vaccines to countries across the world. The whole concept of self-reliance will reduce unemployment at many levels. India is a big and rapidly-growing market for a majority of the product categories and with the mantra of 'vocal for local', the promulgation of local brands, manufacturing and supply chain will provide a big boost to India's economy.

India's Rich Cultural Heritage - The Indian word for culture is '*sanskriti*'. From time immemorial, Indians have described their culture as 'Human Culture' (*manav dharma/ sanskriti*). It has a universal appeal. The principle of 'Unity in Diversity' is the implicit law of nature, the Universe and life. People belonging to diverse communities, speaking different

languages, having different food, performing different customs harmoniously co-exist in India. Thus, the soul of the cultural heritage of India lies in the fact that it's an all-embracing confluence of religions, traditions, customs and beliefs. Over the years, numerous styles of art, architecture, painting, music, dance, festivals and customs have developed in India and this wide variety has made the Indian culture unparalleled, to which the entire world still looks up to.

Celebrating Unsung Heroes - During the 'Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav', events, exhibitions (online and offline), publications and museums, highlighting the unsung or unacknowledged heroes of the Indian freedom struggle, will be planned. Many freedom fighters do not find a place in the conventional freedom movement storyline. One such example is Veer Gundandhur, who led the tribals of Bastar in the freedom struggle. Then there are Velu Nachiyar, Bhikaji Cama, and many more whose contributions are yet to see the light of the day. The ideals of human resolve, kindness and selflessness will be celebrated and promoted during the course of the events. With the element of inclusion in the conventional storyline, local history shall find a place under the "Dekho Apna Desh". Chief secretaries from every state and UT are planning historical events of local importance. The idea of unsung heroes will be intricately linked to the Visit India Year 2022, wherein regional art, culture, heritage, wellness and yoga shall be promoted.

Independence 2.0 - Over the years, the notion of India has largely revolved around the narrative of 'diversity'. Keeping the larger vision for the nation in mind, both for contemporary times and for the future, the emphasis now lies on local manufacturing ('Made in India' and 'vocal' about 'local'). Before the nation approaches the global level, the creation of world-class products promoting investments and value pricing remains the focus. This shall lead to the establishment of a level-playing business ecosystem, keeping the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in mind. Not only will sustainability remain a key, but increased participation of local craftsmen and artisans shall also be witnessed as well.

For a successful Independence 2.0, the sentiments of India's rich cultural heritage will be tapped. All the aforementioned elements (such as Visva Guru Bharat, Aatmanirbhar Bharat) will be imbibed in spirit while implementing this vision. Along with imbining ethos, marketing battles will also have to be fought in the fast-evolving consumer world. Once this is achieved, then the same ethos will be carried at the global stage – with Indian products competing across international categories, thus walking on the path towards the long-awaited aspiration of India as 'Nation of the Future'.

(Source: amritmahotsav.nic.in)

90 countries. ‘Vaccine Maitri’ and ‘Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam’ became the mantra during this crisis. It was no wonder that when India faced the second wave of Covid-19, many friends extended their assistance. Global solidarity for confronting global challenges is what India practices and prescribes.

India, with its continental size, is a kaleidoscope of culture, tradition, languages, art, music, films, food and festivities. These would be an integral part of the *mahotsav* (mega event) until August 2023 and beyond.

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s initiative to seek global support for the International Day of Yoga on June 21 at the UN in 2014 was an astounding



India is a land of vibrant culture and traditions that vary from one state to the other, a theme that will underline the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav festivities.

Above: Gotipua, a dance of devotion, is one of the oldest dance forms of Odisha. It is traditionally performed by young boys dressed as girls. Gotipua is derived from two Odia words – *goti* meaning single and *pua* meaning boy; **Left:** The desert state of Rajasthan is a melting pot of colours, traditions and culture. Here a folk artist (right) in traditional Rajasthani costume performs during a festival in the city of Pushkar, while another performs the *kacchi ghodi* (dummy horse dance), one of the most popular folk dances of the state

PARTNERSHIP



One of the most notable achievements of India's 75-year-long journey since Independence has been popularising yoga internationally. **Above:** On September 27, 2014, when PM Modi addressed the UNGA for the first time, he made his historic and successful proposal for the UN to declare June 21 every year as the International Day of Yoga; **Bottom:** PM Modi performs yoga with the personnel of the Indian Army during the International Day of Yoga celebrations on June 21, 2019, in Ranchi, Jharkhand

and unprecedented success. It is gaining greater acceptability across the world. It was also a stellar achievement of Indian diplomacy. Other major initiatives like International Solar Alliance and Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI) have earned India the right to be at the forefront of fight against climate change.

As India aims to be the third-

largest economy, led by talented youth into the Artificial Intelligence (AI)-driven Industrial Revolution 4.0, it has embarked on a journey to become 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat' (self-reliant India) and an integral part of the global value and supply chains with 'Vocal for Local' facilitating a paradigm shift in the post-Covid era. PM Modi has enthused the nation, saying that, "When an Indian takes one step forward, the nation sprints by 1.3 bn [billion] steps". In the international domain, India is taking the lead as it chairs the BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa) in 2021 and G20 in 2023, and aspires for its rightful place at the high table of UNSC (United Nations Security Council) as it promotes





Since attaining Independence in 1947, India has taken huge strides in its space programmes and missions. **Top:** Mars Orbiter Mission (MOM) or Mangalyaan, the maiden interplanetary mission of the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) to explore and observe Mars, was launched on November 5, 2013, and was inserted into the Martian orbit on September 24, 2014; **Above:** ISRO launched Chandrayaan-2 to explore the south pole of the Moon on July 22, 2019. Here, PM Modi watches the live broadcast of the soft landing of the Vikram Lander of Chandrayaan-2 on the Moon's surface at ISRO Telemetry, Tracking and Command Network centre in Bengaluru on September 7, 2019

peace and development across the world through the dynamic five 'S' vision for foreign policy, namely Samman (respect), Samvaad (dialogue), Sahyog (cooperation), Shanti (peace) and Samridhi (global prosperity).

PM Modi, while speaking at the UN, said, "India is a nation that has given Buddh [in a reference to Lord Gautama Buddha] and not yuddh [war]. That is why we have an abiding commitment against terrorism. Terrorism goes against the founding principle of the

United Nations, and for the sake of humanity, it is crucial that the world unites against it. A divided world is in nobody's interest."

We can rightly be proud of our achievements in the last 75 years, although a lot many challenges remain. But to rise to the dreams of our freedom fighters for a resurgent, resilient, robust and reliant India, we have to be innovative across the spectrum, while dedicating ourselves to the service of the nation.



Anil Trigunayat is India's former ambassador to Jordan, Libya and Malta. He takes keen interest in the Middle East and Africa, and Russia. He is a Distinguished Fellow of Vivekananda International Foundation and the president of Millennial India International Chamber Of Commerce Industry & Agriculture



A screengrab of Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi (right) with UK PM Boris Johnson during their virtual meeting on May 4, 2021

INDIA AND THE UK

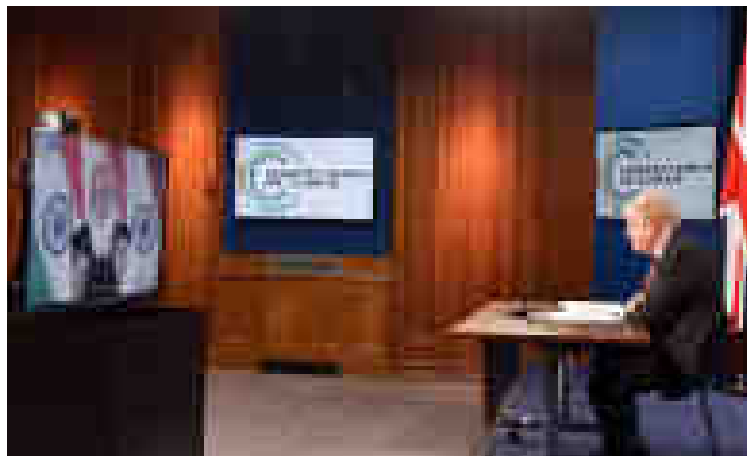
Working together for shared prosperity

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the UK PM Boris Johnson met virtually in May 2021 and emphasised their shared commitment to an enhanced partnership in science, education, research and innovation, says former diplomat Ruchi Ghanashyam

India and the United Kingdom set a historic way forward for bilateral relations during a virtual summit between the prime ministers of the two countries on May 4, 2021.

The Prime Minister of India Narendra Modi and the UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson agreed on a common vision of a new and transformational Comprehensive Strategic Partnership between the UK and India, and adopted an ambitious India-UK 'Roadmap 2030' to steer cooperation for the next 10 years.

The two leaders gave an ambitious blueprint for future relations and the virtual summit, despite the raging global pandemic, indicated the deep desire on both sides to forge ahead with a futuristic vision for bilateral ties. They welcomed the signing of the new UK-India MoU on Telecommunications/ ICT and the Joint Declaration of Intent on cooperation in the fields of Digital Technology, the establishment of new high-level dialogues on tech, new joint rapid research investment into Covid19, a new partnership to support zoonotic research, new investment to advance understanding of weather and climate science, and the continuation of the



UK-India Education and Research Initiative (UKIERI).

Both leaders agreed to expand and enhance the existing UK-India vaccines partnership, highlighting the successful collaboration between Oxford University, Astra Zeneca and the Serum Institute of India on an effective Covid19 vaccine that is 'developed in UK', 'Made in India' and 'distributed globally'. They emphasised that the international community should learn lessons and agreed to work together to reform and strengthen WHO and the global health security architecture to strengthen pandemic resilience. Measures were identified for the coming months and years to increase people-to-people contacts and enhance ties in multiple areas

PM Modi (on the screen) addressed the opening session of the virtual US Leaders Summit on Climate on April 22, 2021. This photograph was taken at the Downing Street Briefing Room, London, the UK, from where UK PM Boris Johnson (right) attended the summit

HAD A PRODUCTIVE VIRTUAL SUMMIT WITH MY FRIEND UK PM @BORISJOHNSON. WE ADOPTED AN AMBITIOUS ROADMAP 2030 FOR ELEVATING INDIA-UK TIES TO A COMPREHENSIVE STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP.

Narendra Modi
Prime Minister of India

PARTNERSHIP

with progress to be monitored through an annual strategic review at foreign ministers level, reporting to the two Prime Ministers.

ECONOMY AND TRADE

India and the UK enjoy a vibrant economic relationship. The two-way merchandise trade amounted to USD 15.4 billion in 2019-20. Trade between the world's fifth and sixth-largest economies has scope to grow much further, especially following the new opportunities created by the UK's withdrawal from the European Union. A declaration on the launch of an Enhanced Trade Partnership (ETP) was signed with the intent to negotiate a comprehensive Free Trade Agreement, including consideration of an Interim Trade Agreement for delivering early

gains. The joint ambition is to more than double bilateral trade by 2030. New measures to achieve this objective were also set out. When implemented, these measures are likely to generate 20-25,000 new direct and indirect jobs in India.

There is an extensive investment relationship between the two countries. Eight-hundred and fifty identified Indian companies in the UK have a combined revenue of £50.8 billion, and employed 116,046 people in 2019-20, while 572 UK companies in India were identified with a combined turnover of around INR 3,390 billion in 2019-20. New and renewable energy, creative industries, advanced engineering, agri-tech, healthcare and life sciences, including pharmaceuticals, infrastructure,

At the COP25 that was held in Madrid, Spain, in December 2019, India had stressed upon the need for fulfilling pre-2020 commitments by developed countries. At the upcoming COP26 that will be held in Glasgow, the UK, later this year, India and the UK will commit to working together and co-lead global climate action





During the India-UK virtual summit, an MoU on migration and mobility partnership was agreed upon by both countries. According to the MoU, the UK will create a new scheme every year for upto 3,000 young Indian professionals to avail employment opportunities in the UK for a period of two years without being subject to labour market test. Here, Indian nationals work at The Selfridges Kitchen, a popular eatery in London

metallurgy, automotive and agricultural engineering, defence and food processing industry were identified as priority areas, with a Production Linked Incentive Scheme to encourage UK companies to invest in India's manufacturing sector.

HELPING HAND IN HEALTH

India and the UK have a strong ongoing cooperation in the health sector. The UK was one of the first to respond to the second Covid-19 wave in India, sending critical medical equipment like oxygen concentrators, cylinders and ventilators. India too had promptly responded to the need for drugs like paracetamol during the UK's first Covid-19 wave. A rare positive outcome of this pandemic is the successful vaccine partnership that emerged through collaboration between Oxford University,

AstraZeneca and Serum Institute of India. Expansion of the partnership on vaccines, therapeutics and diagnostics on Covid-19 and beyond will deepen cooperation.

SHARED INNOVATION

Scientific research and innovation are essential for nations to advance in the modern world. The UK has international-standard universities and is known for its innovative capabilities. It is already India's second largest partner in research and innovation collaborations. A natural corollary to this ongoing collaboration was the

The ambitious 2030 Roadmap on India-UK relations is the first since the formal 'Comprehensive Strategic Partnership', which was agreed upon in 2005

willingness of both countries to enhance regulatory and technical cooperation on new and emerging technologies, including digital and ICT products and work on supply chain resilience. A new co-financed India-UK Global Innovation Partnership was announced with a vision to transfer inclusive Indian innovations to select developing countries. A joint Centre of Excellence on green hydrogen and cooperation in the important area of artificial intelligence (AI) will add depth to ties.

ENVIRONMENT IN FOCUS

Both countries are committed to protect the environment and achieve the goals of the Paris Agreement. In the Roadmap, India and the UK commit to working together and co-lead global

A declaration on the launch of an Enhanced Trade Partnership (ETP) was signed with the intent to negotiate a comprehensive Free Trade Agreement

climate action and outline plans to launch the Global Green Grids Initiative at COP26 later this year to help achieve India's vision of 'One Sun, One World, One Grid', aiming to implement a transnational electricity grid to supply solar power across the world. The two nations will also work together and share best practice on the development of offshore wind energy and electric vehicles and will co-chair the Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure.

The UK will host the COP26 this year in Glasgow where both nations will engage closely.



At the COP26, India and UK will outline plans to launch the Global Green Grids Initiative to help achieve India's vision of 'One Sun, One World, One Grid', aiming to implement a transnational electricity grid to supply solar power across the world. Here, PM Modi (front right) with world leaders and representatives at the founding conference of the International Solar Alliance (ISA) in New Delhi on March 11, 2018. The ISA identifies more than 121 "sunshine" countries, situated between the tropics of Cancer and Capricorn, with the aim of boosting solar energy output in an effort to reduce global dependence on fossil fuels



Prime Minister Narendra Modi (right) with UK PM Boris Johnson on the sidelines of the G-7 Summit in Biarritz, France, on August 25, 2019

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

A new chapter was opened by the two countries in their cooperation on migration matters through an MoU on migration and mobility partnership, following which the UK will create a new scheme every year for upto 3,000 young Indian professionals to avail employment opportunities in the UK for a period of two years without being subject to labour market test. With this, India joins the select list of partners like Australia, Canada, Japan and South Korea. It was also agreed to streamline the procedure for returns.

The ambitious 2030 Roadmap on India-UK relations is the first since the formal 'Comprehensive Strategic Partnership', which was agreed upon in 2005, and offers a much-needed reset

at the time of strategic urgency in a post-Covid world. With a wide ranging agenda for future collaboration, India and the UK are well set for paradigm changing long term partnership. In keeping with this tenor of friendship, Prime Minister Johnson also invited Prime Minister Modi for the G7 meeting in Cornwall in June 2021, which India attended virtually as a guest country.



Ruchi Ghanashyam has served as the High Commissioner to the UK, Ghana and South Africa. She was Secretary (West) in Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), New Delhi from April 2017 to November 2018. She has also served in the Embassy of India Damascus, Kathmandu, Brussels, High Commission of India Islamabad and in the Permanent Mission of India to the UN, New York. She can be reached at twitter.com/RuchiGhanashyam

INDIA-EU TIES

A New Beginning

In May this year, the India-EU summit was held in the first-ever EU+27 Leaders meeting format, where not just the European Commission and Council but also 27 European heads of state interacted with Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi virtually, signalling the importance Brussels attaches to the EU-India partnership, says former Ambassador Ashok Sajjanhar



The 16th Summit of India and European Union (EU), which took place in Porto, Portugal, on May 8, 2021, marked a watershed moment in India's foreign policy. This meeting was different from the earlier India-EU summits as Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi interacted with leaders of all 27 Member States of the EU, 19 of whom spoke at this meet, in addition to conferring with presidents of the European Council and the European Commission. This is the first summit in the EU+27 format

hosted by EU with India. In the past, EU has organised such interaction only with the United States.

It was during the Portuguese presidency of the EU in 2000 that the first ever EU-India summit was held. That decision provided a significant impetus to bilateral ties. Fifteen summits later, the recent interaction provided a fresh direction and momentum to the bilateral partnership between India and EU.

India and EU, with populations of 1.3 billion and 450 million respectively, are the largest democratic spaces in



Facing page: Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi speaks at the IISS Shangri-La Dialogue 2018 in Singapore. In his address at the dialogue, the Prime Minister had spoken extensively on India's outlook on the Indo-Pacific, which was reaffirmed at the recently-held 16th Summit of India and European Union (EU);
Left: PM Modi during the India-EU summit

“TAKING FORWARD THE COMMITMENT TO TRANSFORM INDIA-EU RELATIONSHIP FOR GLOBAL GOOD, I HAD A VIRTUAL INTERACTION WITH ALL LEADERS OF EU MEMBER STATES AND PRESIDENTS @CHARLESMICHEL @EUCOPRESIDENT AND @VONDERLEYEN FOR INDIA-EU LEADERS' MEETING.

Narendra Modi
Prime Minister of India

It was during the Portuguese presidency of the EU in 2000 that the first ever EU-India summit was held

The 16th Summit of India and European Union (EU) was the initiative of the Portuguese Presidency of the Council of the European Union. In a tweet following the meeting, PM Modi thanked his Portuguese counterpart António Costa for according high priority to India. Here, PM Modi (right) with the PM of Portugal during the latter's visit to India on December 19, 2019

the world. They are natural allies and have a common interest in ensuring security, prosperity and sustainable development in a multi-polar world. EU is India's largest trading partner, the second-largest destination for Indian exports and the largest investor in India. The potential of this partnership is enormous.

THE BIG TAKEAWAYS

The biggest takeaway of the summit was the decision to resume

negotiations for a balanced, ambitious, comprehensive and mutually-beneficial trade agreement. It was also agreed to launch negotiations on a stand-alone investment protection agreement as well as a separate agreement on geographical indications. This should facilitate the negotiation process practicable as the earlier format was cumbersome. For the success of the 'Make In India' initiative and to make India a global manufacturing hub, it is essential that India actively engages with the world. For EU, too, it was imperative in the post-Brexit phase, to showcase its openness to the world. A 2020 study by the European Parliament has put





A screengrab of a high-level dialogue on India-EU Bilateral Trade and Investment Agreement (BTIA) between Former Union Minister for Railways and Commerce & Industry (current Union Minister of Commerce & Industry, Consumer Affairs & Food & Public Distribution and Textiles), Piyush Goyal (top left), former Union Minister for Civil Aviation and Housing & Urban Affairs (current Union Minister for Housing & Urban Affairs & Minister for Petroleum and Natural Gas) Hardeep Singh Puri (bottom) and Executive Vice President of the European Commission Valdis Dombrovskis (top right)

the benefits of a trade deal for the EU with India at upto 8.5 billion Euros (USD 10.2 billion).

Negotiations for a Bilateral Trade and Investment Agreement were launched in 2006. Discussions came to a grinding halt in 2013 as positions of the two sides on market access issues in goods and services (for automobiles and alcoholic beverages from EU to India), and temporary movement of skilled professionals from India to EU, could not be reconciled. In July 2020, the two sides decided to set up a ministerial group to break this logjam. Union Commerce Minister of India Piyush Goyal and EU Commissioner for Trade Valdis Dombrovskis met virtually in February 2021 and again

in April 2021. The high-level dialogue has been mandated to ensure progress on market access issues and supervise negotiations.

CONNECTIVITY PARTNERSHIP

Another major outcome of the summit was the launch of “a sustainable and comprehensive Connectivity Partnership, which is focussed on enhancing digital, energy, transport and people-to-people connectivity, and which would uphold international law, conform with international norms and affirm the shared values of democracy, freedom, rule of law and respect for international commitments.” The partnership will uphold principles of social, economic, fiscal, climate and

Points to note

- Trade was the biggest breakthrough of the summit. The language of the joint declaration said: both sides “agreed to resume negotiations for a ... trade agreement which would respond to the current challenges.” It also noted: “We agreed that in order to create the required positive dynamic for negotiations, it is imperative to find solutions to long-standing market access issues.” This statement focussed on an important obstacle that had led to the stalled talks between the two sides.
- Another significant issue was that India agreed to launch negotiations on an accord on geographical indications - famous brand names often linked to the places where they are made, from France’s Champagne to India’s Darjeeling tea. This was a long-standing demand of the Commission.
- Other positive takeaways include work to combat climate change under the India-EU Clean Energy and Climate Partnership. Both sides “welcomed the first meeting of the India-EU High-Level Dialogue on Climate Change, held on April 28, 2021, in preparation for the Leaders’ Meeting.

PARTNERSHIP



Image courtesy: Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India

environmental sustainability. This partnership envisages enhancing cooperation between India and EU through projects, including those with third-world countries and regions, notably in Africa, Central Asia and the Indo-Pacific.

MEDICAL, MULTILATERALISM AND OTHER MEETING POINTS

Being deeply conscious that the hybrid meeting was taking place in the backdrop of the coronavirus pandemic, India and EU committed to work together to better prepare for and respond to global health emergencies. They agreed to cooperate on resilient

medical supply chains, vaccines, Active Pharmaceutical Ingredients (APIs) etc.

On promoting multilateralism, which has received several shocks over the last few years, the two sides agreed to enhance coordination on global economic governance, notably in the World Trade Organization (WTO), World Health Organisation (WHO) and G20. They decided to set up an India-EU Senior Officials' Dialogue to deepen bilateral cooperation on WTO issues under the supervision of the High-Level Dialogue on Trade and Investment.

Decisions to enhance cooperation in areas of space, transport, digital

PM Modi (right) interacts with Charles Michel, President of the European Council (top left), and Ursula von der Leyen, President of the European Commission, during the virtual India-EU summit

A 2020 study by the European Parliament has put the benefits of a trade deal for the EU with India at upto 8.5 billion Euros (USD 10.2 billion)



PM Modi speaks at the
IISS Shangri-La Dialogue
2018 in Singapore

“

I THANK THE LEADERS OF EU AND ITS MEMBER STATES FOR THEIR CONTINUED COMMITMENT TO STRENGTHENING RELATIONSHIP WITH INDIA. I ALSO THANK MY FRIEND PRIME MINISTER @ANTONIOCOSTAPM FOR THIS INITIATIVE AND ACCORDING HIGH PRIORITY TO INDIA DURING PORTUGUESE PRESIDENCY OF THE EU COUNCIL.

Narendra Modi
Prime Minister of India
(post the 16th Summit of India and European
Union held in the virtual format)

“

THE LEADERS [OF THE INDIA-EU LEADERS' MEETING] WELCOMED THE DECISION TO RESUME NEGOTIATIONS FOR BALANCED AND COMPREHENSIVE FREE TRADE AND INVESTMENT AGREEMENTS. NEGOTIATIONS ON BOTH THE TRADE AND INVESTMENT AGREEMENTS WILL BE PURSUED ON PARALLEL TRACKS WITH AN INTENTION TO ACHIEVE EARLY CONCLUSION OF BOTH AGREEMENTS TOGETHER. THIS IS A MAJOR OUTCOME WHICH WILL ENABLE THE TWO SIDES TO REALISE THE FULL POTENTIAL OF THE ECONOMIC PARTNERSHIP

**Official statement from
Prime Minister's Office**

PARTNERSHIP

transformation, Artificial Intelligence (AI), Quantum and High Performance Computing, 5G, protection of personal data and privacy, e-governance solutions, people-to-people exchanges in education, research, science and technology, and professional activities in areas like information technology, environment, climate, healthcare, business and tourism were adopted by the leaders.

On international affairs, both sides affirmed their commitment to a free, open, inclusive and rules-based Indo-Pacific space, underpinned by respect for territorial integrity and sovereignty, democracy and rule of law, transparency, freedom of navigation and overflight, unimpeded lawful commerce, and peaceful resolution of disputes, in accordance with

international law, including the United Nations Convention on Law of the Sea (UNCLOS). This is in total conformity with India's outlook on the Indo-Pacific as articulated by PM Modi at the Shangri-La Dialogue in 2018. In view of the recent enunciation by EU of its Indo-Pacific Strategy, both sides agreed to strengthen their cooperation in this area. The EU appreciated India's Indo-Pacific Oceans Initiative, designed to promote international coordination and cooperation in the Indo-Pacific region.

Both sides reiterated their resolve to strengthen cooperation on international security, including on non-proliferation and disarmament, countering terrorism, radicalisation, violent extremism and maritime security as well as on cyber and other



PM Modi (front left) with the current President of the European Council Charles Michel (front right) during the former's visit to Brussels, Belgium, in March, 2016. In 2016, the latter was serving as the Prime Minister of Belgium

PM Modi during the virtual India-EU summit



Image courtesy: Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India

The biggest takeaway of the summit was the decision to resume negotiations for a balanced, ambitious, comprehensive and mutually-beneficial trade agreement

threats through regular consultations. They reaffirmed their full support for an open, free, stable and secure cyberspace, strongly condemned terrorism and underlined that it was crucial that perpetrators of violence and terrorism are brought to justice.

Climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution were other significant challenges that the leaders committed themselves to confront. They stressed the importance of achieving the goals of the Paris Agreement, including strengthening climate change mitigation as well as adaptation and resilience to the impacts of climate change, providing means of implementation, including finance.

Credit for the initiative to hold the summit in the EU+27 format goes to the Portuguese Presidency of the EU. Portuguese Prime Minister António Costa underlined his warm sentiments for India by simultaneously holding up his Portuguese

passport and his Indian OCI (Overseas Citizen of India) card in his two hands. Through the summit, India and EU decided to enhance their engagement to promote peace, security and prosperity in their own countries as well as the world. The summit can be seen as a fresh beginning that promises to take India and the EU to newer heights in the coming years.



Ambassador **Ashok Sajjanhar** has worked for the Indian Foreign Service for over three decades. He was the Ambassador of India to Kazakhstan, Sweden and Latvia, and has worked in diplomatic positions in Washington DC, Brussels Dhaka and Bangkok, among other nations.

BE(E)ING Useful



Bees are not just great pollinators but also best friends of farmers as they help increase agricultural productivity and consequently the latter's incomes. We take a look at how apiculture practices are not just aiding farmers to double their yield and revenue but also adding to the Prime Minister's visions of Aatmanirbhar Bharat and Make in India

BY BINDU GOPAL RAO

In his monthly radio address *Mann Ki Baat*, Prime Minister Narendra Modi spoke about the importance of bee farming as a part of the Aatmanirbhar Bharat initiative and its potential in achieving the national goal of doubling farmers' income. Calling it the "sweet revolution", he highlighted Gurdum in north (West) Bengal, Banaskantha district of Gujarat and Haryana's Yamuna Nagar, where farmers have seen much success because of bee farming.

BUSY AS A BEE

Beekeeping is the rearing, caring and management of honeybees (*Apis cerana indica*) in boxes that recreate a beehive. It has been observed that low-cost beekeeping can increase the yield of local crops with minimum efforts. Therefore, beekeeping is an alternative and additional source of

“**BEE FARMING IS BECOMING THE FOUNDATION OF A HONEY REVOLUTION OR SWEET REVOLUTION IN THE COUNTRY. HONEY BEE FARMING DO NOT LEAD TO INCOME SOLELY FROM HONEY, BUT BEE WAX IS ALSO A VERY BIG SOURCE OF INCOME. ..OUR COUNTRY CURRENTLY IMPORTS BEE WAX, BUT, OUR FARMERS ARE NOW RAPIDLY TRANSFORMING THIS SITUATION...THAT IS, IN A WAY CONTRIBUTING IN THE ‘AATMANIRBHAR BHARAT’ CAMPAIGN. THIS WILL LEAD TO AN INCREASE IN THE INCOME OF THE FARMERS TOO AND WILL ALSO SWEETEN THEIR LIVES!”**

Narendra Modi
Prime Minister of India



Brijesh Kumar Verma (extreme left), a farmer from the town of Gosaiganj near Lucknow, with his beehive

PROGRESS



income for farmers. With consistent efforts to build awareness and revive the agricultural ecosystem, beekeeping is gradually regaining its place in the ecosystem. Today, it has evolved as a source of additional income for many farmers. It is being adopted by the farmers, as it plays a significant role in increasing the agricultural yields through pollination of oilseeds, pulses, vegetables and fruits.

Sujana Krishnamoorthy, executive director, Under The Mango Tree (UTMT) Society, a Maharashtra-based organisation that promotes beekeeping with indigenous bees says, “The practice [of rearing honeybees] increases the output of fruits, vegetables, oilseeds and pulses – all of which are grown by small farmers who practice subsistence farming. In fact, 10 beekeepers with two bee boxes each can improve crop production for entire villages, as bees pollinate in a two-km radius. Simultaneously, awareness about the importance of bees leads to reduced unsustainable honey hunting practices, which, in turn, improves biodiversity as wild flowering plants and trees also depend on bees for pollination.”

HELPING HANDS

Srinivasan Services Trust (SST), the social arm of TVS Motor Company,



Top: A beekeeper examines a beehive in an apiculture setup on October 13, 2020, on the outskirts of Srinagar, Jammu and Kashmir. According to a news report published by *hindustantimes.com*, Srinagar generated 1,415 quintals of honey in 2020;

Left: Women of the Venkatesa Perumal Tribal Women Self-Help Group (SHG) of the Javadhu Hills in Tamil Nadu with their raw wild honey



Top left: A beekeeper at a bee farm in the Barpeta district of Assam

Top right: GoBuzzR, an IoT-based device invented by a Chennai-based company, studies the condition of a beehive and communicates through a mobile application. It monitors the weight of the beehive through sensors in the device and messages the same to the respective beekeepers.

"The main intention of the app is to increase honey productivity. Rapid inspections on the hives will interrupt the bee's everyday activities, which results in the recession of honey production," says Kapil Dev G, director, Team Tweaks Technologies (P) Ltd. that has developed the app

Bottom: Apiculture process by bee keepers in West Bengal



has collaborated with the Tropical Institute of Ecological Science in Javadhu Hills, Tamil Nadu, to support farmers in tribal belts by providing honeybee boxes to involve them in apiculture and support their livelihood. This project has provided 150 honeybee boxes to 27 farmers. The successful project is earning an additional income of approximately INR 10,000 per annum for the farmers.

"An inspiring model of honey harvesting is the innovative technique adopted by Venkatesa Perumal Tribal Women Self-Help



Image: Dev Beetech India Pvt Ltd

Group (SHG) of the Javadhu Hills in Tamil Nadu. This region is popularly known for its naturally-sourced wild honey. The 12-member SHG has successfully earned a sustainable livelihood by processing and selling Javadhu wild honey. The honey is collected from local honey collectors, who skillfully gather the golden nectar, ensuring the bees are not disturbed," says Swaran Singh, chairman, SST.

The raw honey collected from the wild contain no added sugar, no added flavour and no preservatives. Around 62 honey collectors have benefitted from this, with an average income of INR 8,000 per collector over six months. The SHG has also been a part of the Honeybee Keeping Value Chain Project funded by NABARD and implemented by SST to expand apiculture in Javadhu Hills. The wild honey collectors were given training on scientific wild honey collection by TRIFED that has benefitted over 300 tribals with an income ranging from INR 8,000 to INR 10,000 once in six months, covering two seasons. Such

GOVERNMENT INITIATIVES

Some of the initiatives taken by the National Bee Board (NBB), Department of Agriculture, Cooperation & Farmers Welfare (DAC & FW) towards the promotion of beekeeping in the country include:

- Preparation of National Beekeeping & Honey Mission (NBHM) for overall promotion and development of beekeeping in the country.
- Setting up of Integrated Bee Development Centers (IBDC) in Bihar, Haryana, Delhi, Madhya Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Manipur, Punjab, Uttar Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Jammu and Kashmir, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Tripura, Himachal Pradesh and West Bengal.
- Integrated Development of Scientific Bee Keeping (IDSB) – Remunerative Approach for Agriculture and Allied sector Rejuvenation (RKVY), Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH) and other associated schemes.
- Registration of beekeepers by NBB.
- Involvement of National Dairy Development Board (NDDB)/ Gujarat Co-operative Milk Marketing Federation (GCMMF)/ milk cooperatives/ federations.
- Setting up of honey testing lab by NDDB, Anand, Gujarat.
- Efforts for standardisation of honey and other beehive products.

Source: nbb.gov.in

proactive interventions enabled a turnover of INR 3.75 lakh for the beneficiaries in the FY 2020-21.

CROP BOOST

The bee-farming market has been on the rise for the past few years with more and more farmers venturing into this arena. The rising demand for pure, raw honey has encouraged more farmers to establish bee farms. Although honeybee farming in India can be practised as a stand-alone commercial venture, the integration of apiculture with crop farming does wonders to increase the crop yield while enabling the farmers to generate additional income. Saanwara Khod, founder, Farm to Fellas, a company providing farm fresh and 100 per cent natural food products says, “It would not be wrong to state that we depend on

bees for our survival. More than 70 of the 100 major food crops is a result of their [bee] labour and their role as the chief insect pollinators. Small-scale and low-cost bee farming by small farmers, especially in the states of Maharashtra, Gujarat and Madhya Pradesh, has doubled the yield of local crops with no extra effort. According to the Rapid Impact Assessment Study, 2011, bee farming enhanced the yield of tomatoes by 160 per cent and the production of fruits by around 60 per cent.” Several government organisations like the National Bee Board and the Central Bee Research Training Institute provide training to farmers in apiculture.

NATIONAL BEE BOARD

The National Bee Board (NBB) was reconstituted in 2006. The main



Umed Singh Rana, a farmer, in front of his mustard field with beehive boxes in Qutubgarh village on the outskirts of New Delhi. Rana and his family started honey farming with rows of 100 beehives on their mustard farm in 2018, following a government programme intended to boost the industry by providing subsidies of up to 80 per cent per beehive box and the goal of doubling farmers' incomes by 2022



Top: Gurcharn Singh (extreme left), chairperson of the Tungwali Honey Bee Producer Co-operative Industrial Society, demonstrates how a hive rack in an apiary works, at Tungwali village in Bathinda, Punjab

Above: A policeman who is also an apiarist with his bees in Mon, Nagaland. The Nagaland Beekeeping and Honey Mission, since its launch as a Mission mode programme in 2007, has been committed to promoting and developing the beekeeping activities and honey enterprise of the state

objective of the board is the overall development of beekeeping by promoting scientific beekeeping in India to increase the productivity of crops through pollination and increase honey production so as to improve the income of the beekeepers/ farmers. The board also works towards the overall development of scientific beekeeping in India by popularising state-of-the-art technologies through the governmental schemes of the National Horticulture Mission

and Horticulture Mission for the Northeastern and Himalayan states in the country.

Noted scientist Albert Einstein had once said, "If the bee disappears from the surface of the Earth, man would have no more than four years left to live." The Indian government, led by PM Modi, however, is leaving no stone unturned to provide aid to bee farmers and encourage apiculture. An increase in the production of honey will not only ensure higher crop yields and added income for farmers but also add to PM Modi's mission of 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat', 'Make in India' and 'Vocal for Local'.



Bindu Gopal Rao is a freelance author and photographer based in Bengaluru. Although working full-time with a software major, her passion for the written word allows her to explore various genres spanning human interest, lifestyle, corporate and even finance.



THE FLOWING SUCCESS

Over the past few years, the Indian government has been making sustained and people-centric efforts to promote water conservation and supply. It has launched several schemes, including the ambitious Jal Jeevan Mission, to ensure that water does not become a limiting factor for the nation's socio-economic development, says Bharat Lal

Water conservation is an integral part of India's identity and cultural history.

Water conservation in the form of rainwater harvesting is an ancient Indian tradition that has become more relevant in the present-day scenario. India is home to 18 per cent of the global population and 15 per cent of livestock with only 4 per cent of freshwater resources, the availability of which has been

decreasing over time. The World Economic Forum, in its Global Risk Report, 2020, has recognised water as one of the top five global risks of long-term impact and NITI Aayog's Composite Water Management Index predicts a 6 per cent gross domestic product (GDP) loss due to decreased water availability in India. Therefore, water conservation is essential not only to overcome shortages but also for climate change risk preparedness and socio-economic development. Indian Prime

A village community maps its water resources

(Courtesy: Ministry of Jal Shakti)



“LIKE WE MADE SWATCHHTA ABHIYAN A MASS MOVEMENT, LET'S START A MASS MOVEMENT FOR WATER CONSERVATION. WE SHOULD TOGETHER RESOLVE THE WATER CRISIS BY SAVING EVERY DROP OF WATER. LET'S START AN AWARENESS CAMPAIGN TO SAVE WATER.”

Narendra Modi
Prime Minister of India



PM Modi, as the former CM of Gujarat, had initiated a very successful people's movement in water conservation in the state

Minister Narendra Modi, through his monthly radio programme *Mann ki Baat*, has appealed to Indians for water conservation and under his leadership, the government is undertaking several initiatives to promote water conservation activities across the country.

VAGARIES OF RAINFALL

Hydrologically, India is not endowed with water equity, both temporally and geographically. From June to September, the South-West monsoon contributes 70 per cent of total rainfall while the North-East monsoon from October to December contributes 30 per cent. But there is an enormous regional disparity as average rainfall varies from more than 2,000 mm in the Western Ghats

Top: A tribal woman at her home in rural Chhattisgarh using tap water

Right: Women in Indian villages are trained in water quality surveillance using Field Test Kit (FTK)

(Images and captions courtesy: Ministry of Jal Shakti)





and Sub-Himalayan areas of the North-East to less than 500 mm in western Rajasthan and the Deccan Plateau. On an average, India has 130 rainy days and more than 50 per cent of annual precipitation takes place in less than 100 hours.

Groundwater use, considered a lifeline in most parts of the country, is also increasing. India's groundwater extraction is over twice as much as the US and China put together. With the dwindling per capita water availability, over-exploitation of groundwater and inadequate storage availability, the Prime Minister's appeal is timely for addressing this critical issue. Unless addressed now, the issue can become an impediment to our rapid socio-economic development.

THE GUJARAT MODEL

Water being a state subject in India, states are empowered to enact laws for its regulation. The reason for the Prime Minister's call for a people's movement in water conservation can be traced back to his pioneering role in integrated water management in Gujarat as the then Chief Minister, who took priority measures to provide safe drinking water in drought-affected areas of the state. After taking over as the state's Chief Minister in October 2001, he had introduced several developmental

Balmuri falls is a small water cascade located at Srirangapatna in Karnataka, India. Though known as a waterfall, it is a check dam over the Kaveri river

(Image and caption courtesy: Ministry of Jal Shakti)

On August 15, 2019, PM Modi launched the ambitious Jal Jeevan Mission (JMM) for providing household piped drinking water supply to every rural home by 2024

Some other initiatives

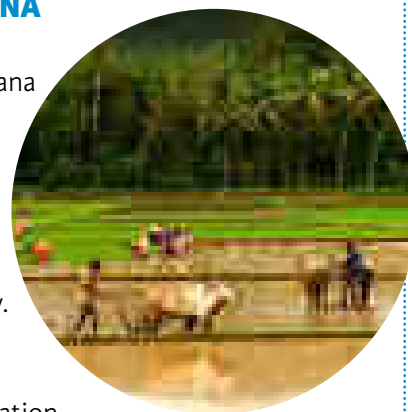
NAMAMI GANGE

Namami Gange was launched in 2014-15 for the rejuvenation of River Ganga and its tributaries with assured funding of INR 20,000 crore to accomplish the twin objective of effective abatement of pollution, and conservation and rejuvenation of the holy river. The approach takes into account all components of the river basin — tributaries, wetlands, flood plains, springs, and rivulets. It is now a model for other rivers in the country.



PRADHAN MANTRI KRISHI SINCHAYEE YOJANA

The Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY) has the vision of 'Har Khet ko Pani (water for every farm)' and aims to improve water-use efficiency. It seeks to offer an end-to-end solution involving source creation, distribution, management, field application and extension activities. The special focus is on micro-irrigation using drip and sprinkler irrigation to enhance water-use efficiency.



JAL SHAKTI ABHIYAN (JSA)

This was implemented from July to December 2019 in two phases, as a time-bound water conservation campaign in 256 districts covering 1,592 blocks classified as water-stressed. In parallel, the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs identified 756 water bodies in urban areas for carrying out the activities under the *abhiyan* (initiative).



SWACHH BHARAT MISSION, PHASE-II

The key objective of the Swachh Bharat Mission Phase-II, is to sustain ODF status and also ensure solid and liquid waste management. In SBM Phase II, visual cleanliness is also defined. The SBM Phase II has an outlay of INR 1.40 lakh crore.



ATAL BHUJAL YOJANA

In December 2019, this programme was launched in 9,000 water-stressed villages across India to augment groundwater management. With an outlay of INR 6,000 crore, the scheme is being implemented in seven states – Gujarat, Haryana, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh.

Water Conservation
under Mahatma
Gandhi National
Rural Employment
Guarantee Act 2005
(MGNREGA) in Rajasthan

*(Image and caption
courtesy: Ministry of
Jal Shakti)*

initiatives to promote integrated water management to meet the increasing water demand of growing economic activities. The measures included people's participation in all water conservation and management efforts like rainwater harvesting, artificial recharge with scientific planning and monitoring, strengthening of existing canal system and building new dams like the Sardar Sarovar dam, and distribution canal network. He also focussed on educating farmers in water conservation and the creation of the Water and Sanitation Management Organisation, to plan and implement decentralised,

demand-driven and community-managed water supply systems in the villages.

The integrated water management approach became very successful in Gujarat. As compared to 2004, by 2017, Gujarat had a 50 per cent increase in the utilisable groundwater recharge and is continuously improving. Since 2001, agriculture production in the state has increased by 255 per cent. Today, more than 83 per cent of rural households in Gujarat have an assured tap water supply and more than 76 per cent of families are regularly paying monthly water service charges.



100-day “catch the rain” campaign

A campaign with the theme "Catch the rain where it falls, when it falls" was launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on March 22, 2021, coinciding with the World Water Day. It aims at tapping rainwater by constructing artificial recharge structures, revitalising existing ponds and water bodies, creating new water bodies, provisioning check dams, and rejuvenating wetlands and rivers before the onset of monsoon. It is also planned to create a database of all water bodies in the country by geo-tagging them and using this data to create scientific and data-based district-level water conservation plans.

BREAKING THE SILO APPROACH

On a national level, in early 2019, PM Modi created the Ministry of Jal Shakti by bringing together all related ministries and departments under one umbrella. Demand and supply, quality and access – water, in all its manifestations, was finally taken up as a whole. This integrated approach to water management focussed on improving surface and groundwater availability; reversing the depletion of groundwater; improving water-use efficiency; improving service delivery in terms of provision of potable water to every household; addressing water quality issues and sustaining the Open-Defecation Free (ODF) status achieved through Swachh Bharat Mission.

On August 15, 2019, PM Modi launched the ambitious Jal

Jeevan Mission (JJM) for providing household piped drinking water supply to every rural home by 2024. The budget allocation for the mission in 2020-21 was INR 50,011 crore. In a short span of 18 months, the percentage of households with tap connections has increased to 7.30 crore (38.15 per cent). “Just 1.5 years ago, 3.5 crore out of 19 crore rural families in the country had piped drinking water connection. After the launch of Jal Jeevan Mission, about 4 crore new families have piped drinking water connections in such a short time”, said PM Modi. JJM has a holistic approach to water supply service delivery and scientifically addresses source sustainability, water supply, grey water treatment and re-use, and water works operation and maintenance. Every village prepares a one-time plan for five years



A check dam near
Ayodhya Hills,
West Bengal

(Image and caption
courtesy: Ministry of
Jal Shakti)



Left: A water treatment plant and clear water reservoir at Dantiwada, Gujarat

Bottom: A farm pond in Karaikal

(Images and captions courtesy: Ministry of Jal Shakti)



called the Village Action Plan (VAP) capturing these details. Funds are dovetailed through the convergence of several rural programmes at a village level. The focus has shifted to the assured supply of potable water to every home rather than mere infrastructure creation.

The global pandemic has made us realise that water is key to public health and productivity.

The Prime Minister's timely call to all citizens for action on water conservation has generated enthusiasm among all key stakeholders to add their strength for the greater good of water security for all. The momentum thus generated from the success of various government initiatives needs to be maintained for ensuring water is both available and not destroyed, as mentioned in Yajurveda (an ancient Vedic Sanskrit text): "*Amirtham vaaapaha; amirthasya aantharithai* (let water be ever-present and not destroyed)".



Bharat Lal is the Additional Secretary & Mission Director, National Jal Jeevan Mission. The article has been co-authored by Manoj Kumar Sahoo, Director, Dept. of Drinking Water & Sanitation, and A Muralidharan, Deputy Advisor, Dept. of Drinking Water & Sanitation, Ministry of Jal Shakti, Government of India.

The science of life

Apart from boosting immunity and replenishing the vital fluids of the body, Ayurveda also promotes and ensures holistic wellbeing. Dr Sanjeev Rastogi elucidates how this traditional Indian practice has become extremely relevant in today's time, especially during the pandemic



Ayurveda is considered India's traditional system of medicine for reasons more than one. To begin with, it is a science of life with a holistic approach to health and medicine. Moreover, Ayurveda is known to be a complete medical system that comprises physical, psychological, philosophical, ethical and spiritual health. Indian Prime

Minister Narendra Modi has always laid tremendous emphasis on the benefits of Ayurveda and has provided great impetus to this traditional science of overall wellbeing. In fact, when the coronavirus pandemic struck the country, and the world at large, last year, PM Modi advised citizens to consume hot water and *kadha* (an Ayurvedic drink that is made with herbs and/ or spices) frequently to

Herbs and spices form an integral part of Ayurvedic treatments. Spices like star anise and turmeric (in picture above) are packed with medicinal properties. While star anise boasts anti-bacterial, anti-fungal and expectorant properties, in Ayurvedic medicine, turmeric is a well-documented treatment for various respiratory ailments

boost immunity and maintain sound health. “To strengthen your immunity system, do adhere to the instructions issued by the AYUSH Mantralaya. Drink hot water and *kadha* frequently,” PM Modi had said during his address to the nation on April 14, 2020.

DEFINING HEALTH

We often hear the saying “health is wealth” but not always do we connect the two. Sound health ensures better productivity which eventually leads to an optimised individual and societal gains. Interestingly, in Ayurveda, health has been defined as a positive state of mind, spirit and body. Ayurveda

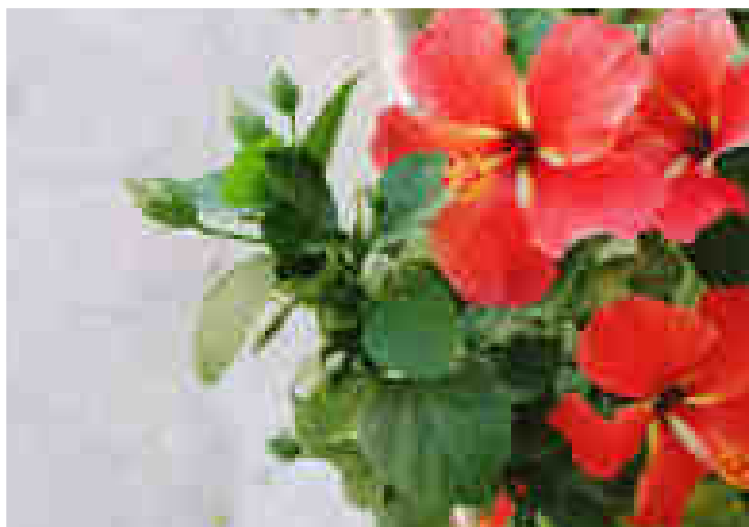
lays greater emphasis on health rather than on disease. This reflects in its fundamental objective, too, where maintaining the health is given the edge over treating the sick.

Ayurveda proposes a few simple health-keeping strategies, which are of proven value. Preventing an illness largely counts upon prevention of the factors that bring illness. This is essentially needed to be supplemented with measures to increase the inner strength. *Ahara* (diet), *nidra* (sleep) and *brahamacharya* (general code of healthy living) are the three core areas that together assure the best result for sustainable health.

Mulethi or liquorice root is prescribed in the Ayurvedic treatments for skin ailments and such respiratory symptoms as bronchitis. Mulethi also aids in boosting immunity and digestion

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has always extolled the benefits of Ayurveda and even formed the Ministry of AYUSH to promote Ayurveda and yoga





Flowers are considered to be extremely important in Ayurveda.

In fact, Kalyanakarakam, a 9th-century text, is the first to mention the use of flowers to cure diseases

Top left: Plumeria is used in Ayurvedic medicine to treat such ailments as skin diseases, wounds and ulcers

Top right: Jasmine tea is beneficial for alleviating digestive problems and inflammation

Above: Hibiscus when brewed with tea aids in lowering blood pressure

(Caption source: indianexpress.com)

QUALITATIVE FOOD INTAKE

Food itself has emerged as one greatest healthcare interventions, if used judiciously. Ayurvedic classics are full of praise for quantitative, qualitative and methodological specifications of food as per the needs of an individual. The Ayurvedic science of food and nutrition is an edge over the conventional nutrition science by providing a dynamic scale for food intake as per the daily requirements. Rather than fixing the energy needs of

an individual on the basis of calories, Ayurveda fixes the quantity as per the instant requirements and the digestive status. Similarly the qualitative food intake is assured by proposing the availability of '*shada rasa*' or six tastes – sweet, sour, salty, pungent (spicy), bitter, astringent – in food. *Kaal bhojan* (taking food at a time when previously consumed food is digested) is another highly valuable contribution of Ayurveda to health promotion. This concept of Ayurveda has caught the attention of nutritionists worldwide and is being adopted as Time Restricted Feeding (TRF) by modern nutrition science.

RASAYANA, THE IDEA OF NUTRITION

Rasayana, an Ayurvedic rejuvenation therapy, essentially means nutrition at all levels from macro to micro-cellular level. It replenishes the vital fluids of the body, and boosts the "*ojas*"



Top left: The importance of betel leaves has been described in ancient books of Ayurveda. It possesses anti-diabetic, anti-inflammatory, anti-ulcer and anti-infective properties

(Caption courtesy: ncbi.nlm.nih.gov)

Top right: Amla or Indian gooseberry is used in both Ayurvedic and Unani medicines. All parts of the plant are used for medicinal purposes, especially the fruit, which is used in Ayurveda as a potent *rasayana* and in traditional medicine for the treatment of diarrhea, jaundice and inflammation

(Caption courtesy: pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov)

(vital force of life) and the immune system, thus keeping an individual away from diseases and ill effects of advanced age. *Rasayana* application was thoroughly explored during the current pandemic and many herbs having *rasayana* effect like *amalaki* (Indian gooseberry), *aswagandha* (Indian ginseng) and *brahmi* (water hyssop) were found to be useful in boosting physical immunity and also in mitigating the post Covid-19 complications in long Covid cases.

Unlike modern/Western medicine that offers quick relief from ailments, Ayurveda takes time as it addresses the root cause of an ailment. This pandemic has given us a great learning in this regard. This would be hard to rewire the brain for some unconventional thinking about health keeping derived from Ayurveda, yoga and Naturopathy. Learning it early, however, will be immensely helpful to ensure overall health.



PM Modi has always extolled the benefits of Ayurveda. In fact, when the Prime Minister took office in 2014, the Ministry of Ayurveda, Yoga, Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha, Sowa-Rigpa and Homoeopathy (AYUSH) was formed, giving the Indian ancient and traditional practices of well-being a major boost. And the properties of Ayurveda that have been tapped into since the outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic and the benefits reaped bear testament to the fact that although it is an ancient and traditional practice, Ayurveda, when incorporated into daily life, ensures overall well-being effectively and efficiently.



Dr Sanjeev Rastogi, MD, PhD is known for his research in the field of Ayurveda. He has published over 100 research papers on the subject and is the chief editor of the *Annals of Ayurvedic Medicine*, a research journal enlisted by the UGC, India.

The golden girls

This year, cricketer Mithali Raj became the first Indian woman to complete 10,000 runs across formats, winning praise from Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi as well. Just like Raj, there are several Indian sportswomen who have been bringing laurels to the country

BY ABHISHEK DUBEY



Indian women's cricket team captain Mithali Raj

In one of his recent monthly radio addresses to the nation *Mann Ki Baat*, Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi drew the listener's attention to the incredible feat achieved by Mithali Raj, captain of the Indian women's cricket team. Not only did Raj become the first Indian female cricketer to complete 10,000 runs in international cricket but also the first female international cricket personality to score 7,000 runs in one day internationals (ODI). Raj touched the first milestone figure on March 12, 2021, during the match versus South Africa and two days later, became the first woman batter to complete 7,000

runs in ODI. Interestingly enough, both these accomplishments were made in March, the month in which International Women's Day is celebrated across the world.

In fact, Wisden, which is regarded as the holy book of cricket by fans of the sport, has named Raj as one of the five great female cricketers of all time. Hyderabad-based Raj shares the space with such international legends as Betty Wilson, Belinda Clark, Cathryn Fitzpatrick (all from Australia) and Enid Bakewell, England.

The Prime Minister, in the address, also highlighted the achievements of ace woman Indian badminton player PV Sindhu who clinched a Silver medal at the Swiss Open in the early March. He said, "It's interesting that in the month of March when we celebrate



[International] Women's Day, many women athletes won medals and created record."

In the International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF) World Cup held in New Delhi in 2021, India stood at the top of the medal tally.

PV Sindhu competes against Mia Blichfeldt of Denmark on day one of the Thailand Open on January 12, 2021, in Bangkok, Thailand

“RECENTLY MITHALI RAJ JI HAS BECOME THE FIRST INDIAN WOMAN CRICKETER TO HAVE MADE 10,000 RUNS. MANY CONGRATULATIONS TO HER ON THIS ACHIEVEMENT. SHE ALSO IS THE ONLY INTERNATIONAL WOMAN PLAYER TO SCORE 7,000 RUNS IN ONE DAY INTERNATIONALS. HER CONTRIBUTION IN THE FIELD OF WOMEN’S CRICKET IS FABULOUS. MITHALI RAJ JI HAS INSPIRED MILLIONS DURING HER MORE THAN TWO DECADES LONG CAREER. THE STORY OF HER PERSEVERANCE AND SUCCESS IS AN INSPIRATION NOT JUST FOR WOMEN CRICKETERS BUT FOR MEN CRICKETERS TOO.

Narendra Modi
Prime Minister of India



Left: Mary Kom won the 51 kg category finals bout of the women's boxing trials for Olympics 2020 qualifiers on December 28, 2019, in New Delhi. The upcoming Tokyo Olympics 2021 will be Kom's last appearance at the quadrennial showpiece event

Above: Sakshi Chaudhary after winning a fight against Nilawan Techasuep of Thailand on March 4, 2020, in a pre-quarterfinal encounter in the women's 57 kg weight category at the Asia & Oceania zone Olympic Boxing Qualification Tournament in Amman, Jordan

In the gold medal tally too, India was at the highest position. The consistency in women's pistol – both 10 m and 25 m – shone throughout the tournament. Manu Bhaker, Yashaswani Singh Deswal, Rahi Sarnobat and Chinki Yadav delivered superb performances, with Bhaker being the winner across disciplines. Ganemat Sekhon became the first Indian woman to win a senior world cup medal in women's skeet adding

to her first junior medal for India in 2018. She added two more medals to that as India excelled in shotgun team events.

As far as the women achievers in Indian sports are concerned, the month of March, 2021, was not an aberration but rather indicative of the larger trend which has almost become an underlying narrative of the Indian sports. In the following month of April, Indian women boxers put up sensational performances and

created history at the 2021 Association Internationale de Boxe Amateur (AIBA), popularly known as International Boxing

The Indian contingent to the Tokyo Olympics 2021 will have an equal number of men and women participants

Manu Bhaker (left),
Rahi Sarnobat
(centre) and Chinki
Yadav pose with
their gold medals
after winning the
25M pistol team
women's final of
the ISSF World Cup
2021, at the Karni
Singh shooting
range in New Delhi
on March 25, 2021

Association Youth Men and Women World Championships. A total of eight Indians made to the finals, in which seven of them were women. And all seven finished on the top of the podium. Gitika (48 kg), Naorem Babyrojisana Chanu (51 kg), Poonam (57 kg), Vinka (60 kg), Arundhati Choudhary (69 kg), T Sanamacha Chanu (75 kg) and Alfiya Pathan (81 kg) registered victories. In the 2017 edition of the same championship held in Guwahati, Indian women had won five gold medals. Some argued then that the performance had come on the back of favorable conditions on account of India being the host nation. But in the 2021 edition held in Poland,

“IN THE MONTH OF MARCH ITSELF, WHEN WE WERE CELEBRATING WOMEN'S DAY, MANY WOMEN PLAYERS SECURED RECORDS AND MEDALS IN THEIR NAME...MEANWHILE PV SINDHU JI HAS WON THE SILVER MEDAL IN THE BWF SWISS OPEN SUPER 300 TOURNAMENT...I AM ESPECIALLY HAPPY THAT DAUGHTERS ARE MAKING A NEW PLACE FOR THEMSELVES IN SPORTS. SPORTS IS COMING UP AS A PREFERRED CHOICE IN PROFESSIONAL CHOICES.

Narendra Modi
Prime Minister of India



Ticket to the Olympics

On April 7, 2021, Nethra Kumanan became the first Indian woman sailor to clinch a historic Tokyo Olympics spot in Sailing. This will, however, not be the first time the 23-year-old will be representing the country. She participated in the Asian Games in both 2014 and 2018, as well as in the 2020 Sailing World Cup, where she won a bronze making her the first Indian women to win a World Cup medal in the sport.

Pranati Nayak is the lone gymnast to qualify for the Tokyo Olympics 2021. Nayak shot to fame after winning a bronze in Women's Vault at the 8th Senior Artistic Gymnastics Asian Championship held in Mongolia in June 2019.



Left: Ace Indian archer Deepika Kumari during the Women's Recurve finals at the Archery World Cup 2021 on April 25, 2020, in Guatemala City, Guatemala.

Below: India players celebrate after winning the Women's Final match against Japan on day four of the Hockey Tokyo 2020 Test Event at Oi Hockey Stadium on August 21, 2019, in Tokyo, Japan



India's women's team finished as the No. 1 team, ahead of Russia, with seven gold medals. The Haryana pugilist, Gitika led the country's dominance story. She knocked down local favorite Natalia Kuczevska 5-0 in the women's 48 kg final. Asian Youth Champion Babyrojisana (51 kg) from Manipur had a flawless victory over European Junior Champion Russian Valeria Linkova.

Poonam, another Indian boxer, hit the aggressive mode from the word go and dominated her experienced French opponent Sthelyne Grosy of France. Her sharp and precise punches did not allow her contender to score any point, thereby leading Poonam to an easy 5-0 victory in the

final bout. Haryana girl Vinka (60 kg) also delivered a spectacular show. Her punches against Kazakhstan boxer Zhuldyz Shayakhmetova packed such power that the referee had to intervene, stop the contest and declare India the winner. Rajasthani boxer Arundhati added one more gold for India when she completed a clean 5-0 win against Polish boxer Barbara Marcinkowska



Indian boxer Arundhati (centre) after bagging gold in the 69 kg category of the AIBA Youth World Boxing Championships held in April 2021 in Poland

in the 69 kg final. Asian Youth Champion Sanamacha, who trains at MC Mary Kom's academy in Imphal, added the historic sixth gold for India when she defeated Kazakhstan's Dana Diday 5-0. Young boxing sensation from Maharashtra, Alfiya clinched the seventh gold for the country when she stunned European Youth Champion Moldova's Daria Kozorez 5-0 in the finals.

If experts of the sport are to be believed, some of these young pugilists have the potential to go a long way and do well at the senior level, provided that they are guided in the right direction

PM Modi has always encouraged the forward march of Indian women

in varied fields, including sports. In his inaugural Independence Day speech on August 15, 2014, he had said that girls are equal partners in India's development and spoke proudly of the "29 medals women athletes have won in the 2014 Commonwealth Games".

In recent years, the Olympics has seen an Indian contingent comprising an almost equal number of women and men, and the upcoming Tokyo Olympics 2021 is not going to be any different.



Abhishek Dubey is among India's leading sports journalists. He has covered international sports for over 15 years now and, at present, is the National Advisor at Prasar Bharati Sports.

An archival image of
Dr Vikram Sarabhai

A MAN AHEAD OF his time

Dr Vikram Ambalal Sarabhai (August 12, 1919 – December 30, 1971) was a visionary physicist and industrialist, who initiated research in space and nuclear technologies in India.

We recall the life, work and achievements of this pioneering Indian scientist

BY DR PADMANABH K JOSHI AND DIVYA ARORA

Widely known as the ‘father of the Indian space programme’ Dr Vikram Ambalal

Sarabhai was an award-winning scientist, industrialist and innovator, who helped establish the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), and led it as chairman. A ‘creative scientist’, as he is popularly referred to, Dr Sarabhai encouraged the advancement of science education in India and changed the face of nuclear technology in the nation. He was honoured with the Padma Bhushan and the Padma Vibhushan

(posthumous), the country’s third and second-highest civilian award, respectively.

EARLY LIFE

Born in Ahmedabad, Gujarat, on August 12, 1919, Dr Sarabhai earned his doctorate from Cambridge University. During his time at Cambridge, he studied cosmic rays and published many research papers on it. After returning to India, he founded the Physical Research Laboratory (PRL) in Ahmedabad in 1947, when he was just 28 years old. After PRL, he set up the Space Applications Centre

Renowned Mumbai-based concept artist Chetan Raut (standing on right) along with children from Ujjwal Future Foundation created a 10x12 ft portrait of Dr Vikram Sarabhai using over 5,000 paper planes on the occasion of India’s 73rd Independence Day celebrations at Powai (Mumbai), on August 15, 2019



PERSONALITY



Kartikeya Sarabhai, son of Dr Vikram Sarabhai, is the founder and director of the Centre for Environment Education (CEE) headquartered in Ahmedabad. He is also a member of the Board of Governors of the Vikram A Sarabhai Community Science Centre, Ahmedabad

“THERE ARE SOME WHO QUESTION THE RELEVANCE OF SPACE ACTIVITIES IN A DEVELOPING NATION. TO US, THERE IS NO AMBIGUITY OF PURPOSE.... WE ARE CONVINCED THAT IF WE ARE TO PLAY A MEANINGFUL ROLE NATIONALLY, AND IN THE COMMUNITY OF NATIONS, WE MUST BE SECOND TO NONE IN THE APPLICATION OF ADVANCED TECHNOLOGIES TO THE REAL PROBLEMS OF MAN AND SOCIETY”

Dr Vikram Sarabhai
Indian physicist

Mallika Sarabhai, a renowned classical dancer and daughter of Dr Vikram Sarabhai, interacts with late Dr Shashikumar Madhusudan Chitre, one of India's most celebrated scientists, during the National Conference on India in Space & Nuclear Energy, which was held as a part of a centenary tribute to Dr Vikram Sarabhai, at Nehru Science Centre, Mumbai, in September 2019





A bust of Dr Vikram Sarabhai unveiled by Dr K Sivan, Chairman of the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), in the atrium of the head office of the organisation in Bengaluru, Karnataka

in Ahmedabad and guided the establishment of ISRO. He was also responsible for setting up multiple other institutions in the country, including the Indian Institute of Management (IIM), Ahmedabad; the Variable Energy Cyclotron Project in Kolkata; the Operations Research Group (ORG), New Delhi; Nehru Foundation for Development, Ahmedabad; the Community Science Centre, Ahmedabad and the Fast Breeder Test Reactor (FBTR) in Kalpakkam, Tamil Nadu, along with the Ahmedabad Textile Industry's Research Association.

Dr Sarabhai was committed

to the development of India and believed that the development of a nation is intimately linked with the understanding and application of science and technology by its people. He catapulted India to the centre of the advancements at a time when the world looked upon the country as a third-world nation.

SPACE TECHNOLOGY

After the launch of Russia's Sputnik satellite in 1957, Dr Sarabhai felt the need for India to have a space agency as well. He convinced the then Union government to start the Indian National Committee for Space

WELL-KNOWN INSTITUTIONS ESTABLISHED BY DR SARABHAI

Physical Research Laboratory (PRL), Ahmedabad

Indian Institute of Management (IIM), Ahmedabad

Community Science Centre, Ahmedabad

Darpana Academy for Performing Arts, Ahmedabad (along with his wife - noted danseuse late Mrinalini Sarabhai)

Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre, Thiruvananthapuram

Space Applications Centre, Ahmedabad (This institution came into existence after merging six institutions/centres established by Dr Sarabhai)

Variable Energy Cyclotron Project, Calcutta (present-day Kolkata)

Electronics Corporation of India Limited (ECIL), Hyderabad

Uranium Corporation of India Limited (UCIL), Jaduguda, Bihar

(Source: isro.gov.in)

The Thumba Equatorial Rocket Launching Station (TERLS) in Thumba, Kerala, was established by Dr Vikram Sarabhai in 1963

Research (INCOSPAR) programme. He had said: “There are some who question the relevance of space activities in a developing nation. To us, there is no ambiguity of purpose. We do not have the fantasy of competing with the economically advanced nations in the exploration of the moon or the planets or manned space flight. But we are convinced that if we are to play a meaningful role nationally, and in the community of nations, we must be

second to none in the application of advanced technologies to the real problems of man and society.”

In 1963, he established the Thumba Equatorial Rocket Launching Station (TERLS), at Thumba, near Trivandrum, along the Arabian Sea coast. Dr Homi Jehangir Bhabha, widely recognised as the father of India’s nuclear science programme, supported him in setting up the centre. TERLS was the first International Rocket Launching Facility in India from where any country could launch their sounding rockets and conduct experiments. In 1966, after the



In 1972, India Post issued a stamp dedicated to Dr Vikram Sarabhai with an image of a Rohini rocket in the background



Staff members of
Vikram A Sarabhai
Community Science
Centre (VASCSC) in
Ahmedabad, Gujarat

The Vikram A Sarabhai Community Science Centre (VASCSC) aims to stimulate interest, encourage and take ahead the principles of science and scientific method and also to find innovative methods of science education

Indian astronomer Avik
Dasgupta (left) and
Indian cosmologist
Zeel Patel arrange
active rocket models
prepared by students
at the VASCSC on
July 22, 2019



The life and works of Dr Sarabhai

The establishment of the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) was one of Dr Sarabhai's greatest achievements. He successfully convinced the government of the importance of a space programme for a developing country like India after the Russian Sputnik launch.

As a result of Dr Sarabhai's dialogue with the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), the US, in 1966, the Satellite Instructional Television Experiment (SITE) was launched during July 1975 - July 1976 (post Dr Sarabhai's demise).

Dr Sarabhai started a project for the fabrication and launch of an Indian satellite. As a result, the first Indian satellite, Aryabhata, was put in orbit in 1975 from a Russian Cosmodrome.

Dr Sarabhai was very interested in science education and founded a community science centre at Ahmedabad in 1966. Today, the Centre is called the Vikram A Sarabhai Community Science Centre.

(Source: isro.gov.in)

death of Dr Homi J Bhabha, Dr Sarabhai became the Chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission, India. During the period, he voiced some brilliant ideas on linking up atomic power development with industrial development of backward regions, like setting up an agro-industrial complex in the Gangetic plain or in the arid area of Kutch. Dr Sarabhai wanted to use the field of space technology solely to further the development of the nation and not to advance the cause of nuclear development in India for defence. He was an active member of the Pugwash Continuing Committee,

which was initiated by Nobel Award-winning British polymath Lord Bertrand Russell for disarmament in the world.

Dr Sarabhai set up the Indian Pugwash Committee and convened the Pugwash Continuing Committee Meeting in India from January 27 to February 1 in 1964 at Udaipur. There, he presented a paper titled 'Demilitarisation of Space', a pioneering initiative, considering that space exploration had only just begun.

A GOODBYE TOO SOON

Unfortunately, for India, Dr Sarabhai



Unnikrishnan Nair (left), Director of Indian Human Space Flight Center, Bengaluru and Dr S Somanath, Director of the Vikram Sarabhai Space Center in Thiruvananthapuram, with a model of Indian rocket Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle (GSLV) Mk II Human Rated version, on January 24, 2020, in Bengaluru, India. India is gearing up its space programme to launch an Indian astronaut on home soil in a domestic-made rocket by 2022. The USD 1.5 billion Indian human space mission is named Gaganyaan



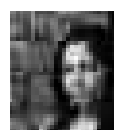
Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) scientists work on the orbiter vehicle of 'Chandrayaan-2', India's first moon lander and rover mission planned and developed by ISRO, in Bengaluru, on June 12, 2019. The Chandrayaan-2 lander is named 'Vikram' (valour), after the pioneer of the Indian space programme Dr Vikram Sarabhai. A crater on the Moon, captured by Chandrayaan-2, has been named Sarabhai after Dr Vikram Sarabhai

left the world too early (December 30, 1971). Ravi J Mathai, educator, professor and the first director of IIM, Ahmedabad, very appropriately wrote: "There are three attributes which set men apart from animals... They are the mind, the heart and the soul. If in these attributes lie the measures of greatness, then Vikram was great. His mind was great. He could see far and in all that he did, he had a vision of the future...He was a physical scientist but the physical sciences could not contain him. His vision demanded the total use of knowledge that blended disciplines of many fields to accomplish changes which no single discipline could encompass. The institutions he founded reflected this..." Other than a brilliant mind, Dr Sarabhai also had the patience and the rare gift of listening and understanding, and always seeing the good in others.

Today, India is known for its scientific prowess in the space and nuclear sphere. The pioneering work of Dr Vikram Sarabhai for the advancement of science and technology for the country's growth and development will always be recalled in glorious words.

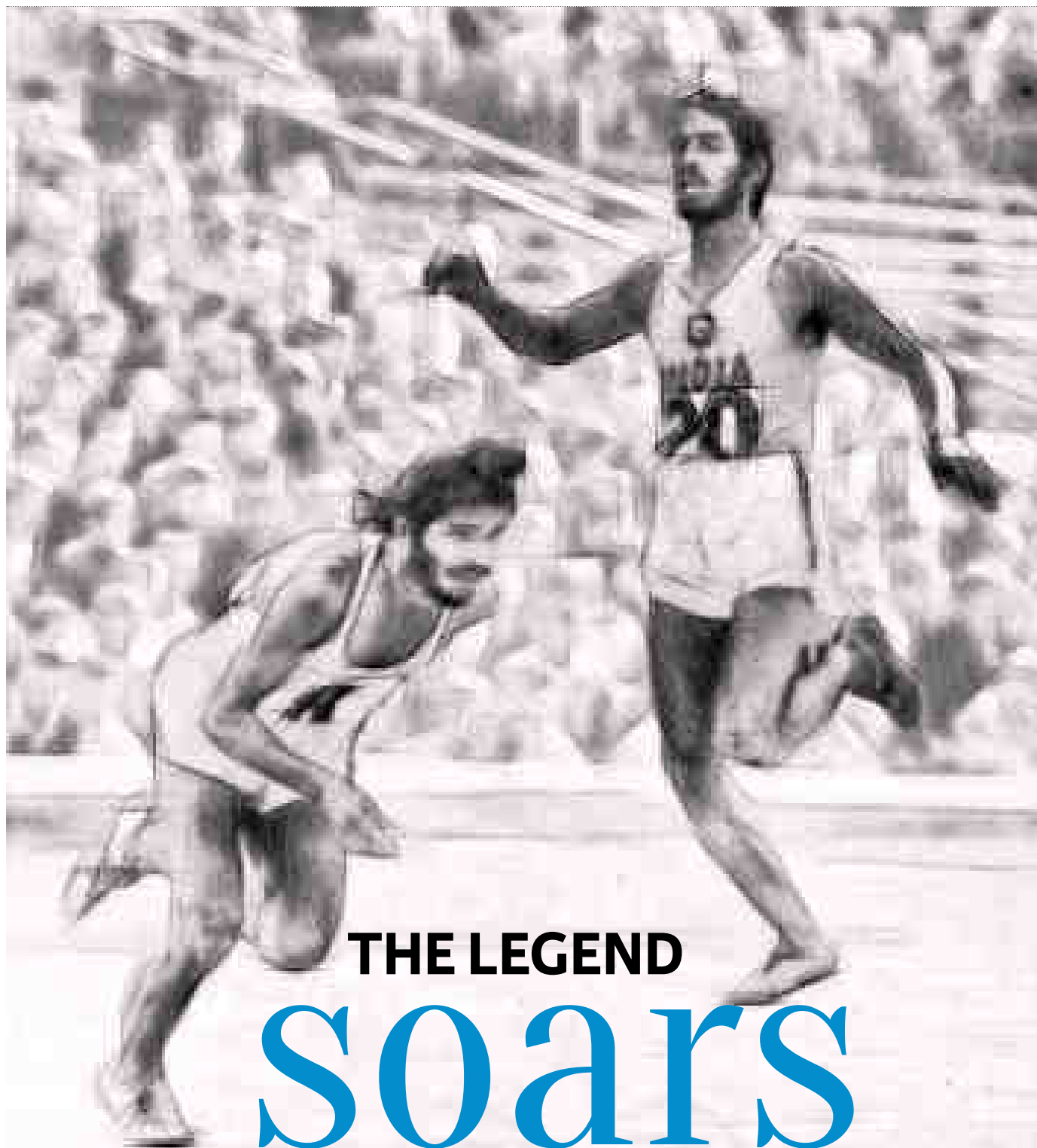


Dr Padmanabh K Joshi heads the Dr Vikram Sarabhai Archives at the Nehru Foundation for Development in Ahmedabad. He completed his post graduation and doctoral studies in Political Science from Gujarat University. His doctoral thesis was also on Dr Sarabhai. His areas of interest include leadership, institution-building and management of scientific organisations.



Divya Arora is a publisher and a bookseller. She was nominated in 2009 for the Young Publishers' Entrepreneur Award. In 2013, she received the prestigious Goldman Sachs 10,000 Women Scholarship at the Indian School of Business, Hyderabad. She takes a keen interest in art and design.

Dr Padmanabh Joshi and Divya Arora have co-authored a book on Dr Sarabhai titled **Vikram Sarabhai India's Space Pioneer**



THE LEGEND soars

Milkha Singh (November 20, 1929 – June 18, 2021) was more than just a sprinter of international repute. He won India's first gold medal at the Commonwealth Games of 1958 in 400 m – the only male Indian sprinter to hold the honour for 56 years – and set a new national record. As India mourns the loss of the 'Flying Sikh' (as Singh was fondly called), we bring you glimpses of the life and achievements of this exemplary sportsperson

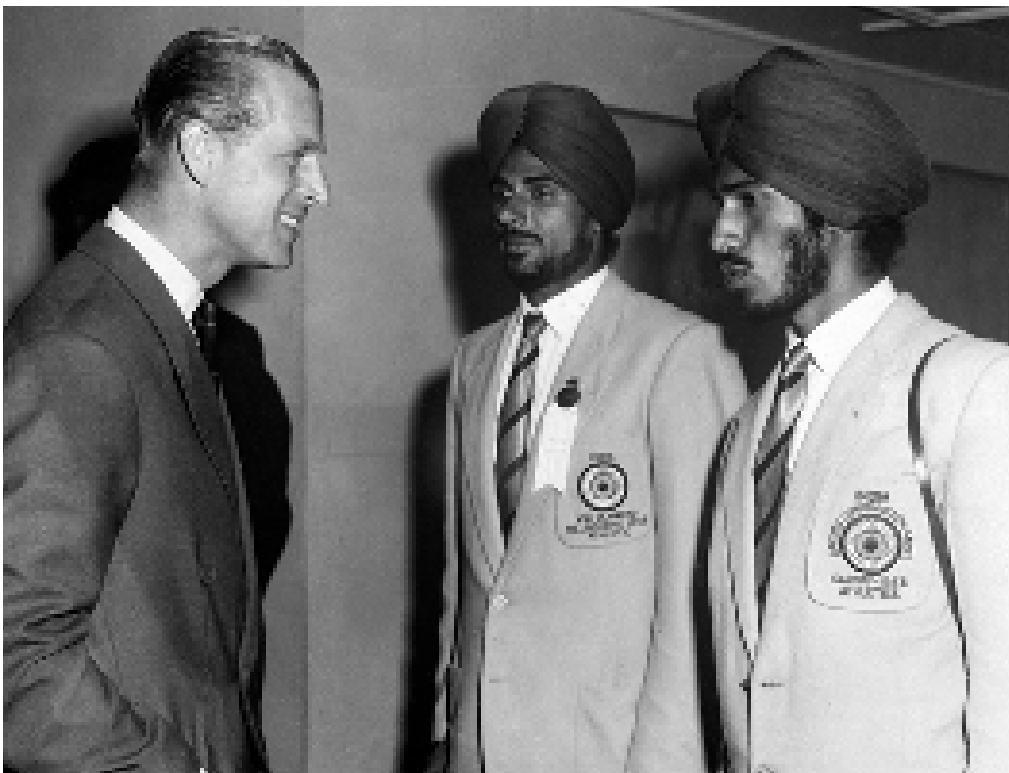
COMPILED BY SHRABASTI ANINDITA MALLIK

Illustration: Dharendra Singh Jethuri



Top: Milkha Singh (second from left) set a British record of 46.5 seconds in the Amateur Athletics Association (AAA) Championships at White City Stadium, London, in 1960

Bottom: Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh (extreme left), with Milkha Singh (extreme right) and Mohinder Singh at the Empire Games Village ahead of the Commonwealth Games in Cardiff, the UK, in 1958. Milkha Singh clocked 46.6 seconds to win a gold medal in the 440-yard athletics category at the event



Ram Nath Kovind



President of India

The passing of sporting icon Milkha Singh fills my heart with grief. The story of his struggles and strength of character will continue to inspire generations of Indians. My deepest condolences to his family members, and countless admirers.

Narendra Modi



Prime Minister

I had spoken to Shri Milkha Singh Ji just a few days ago. Little did I know that it would be our last conversation. Several budding athletes will derive strength from his life journey. My condolences to his family and many admirers all over the world. In the passing away of Shri Milkha Singh Ji, we have lost a colossal sportsperson, who captured the nation's imagination and had a special place in the hearts of countless Indians. His inspiring personality endeared himself to millions. Anguished by his passing away.

Amit Shah



Minister of Home Affairs

India mourns the sad demise of legendary sprinter Shri Milkha Singh Ji, The Flying Sikh. He has left an indelible mark on world athletics. Nation will always remember him as one of the brightest stars of Indian sports. My deepest condolences to his family and countless followers.



Himanta Biswa Sarma

Chief Minister of Assam

Saddened at the demise of 'Flying Sikh' Captain Milkha Singh. His laurels had not only made India swell with pride but also inspired generations of sports enthusiasts. My condolences to his family. Om Shanti!

Virat Kohli

Captain, Indian cricket team

A legacy that inspired a whole nation to aim for excellence. To never give up and chase your dreams. Rest in Peace #MilkhaSingh ji. You will never be forgotten.

Abhinav A Bindra

Shooter, Padma

Bhushan and Arjuna Award recipient, and Olympic gold medallist

Saddened to hear about the passing away of the great Milkha Singh ji. May god give strength to his family to overcome this irreparable loss. @JeevMilkhaSingh



Milkha Singh carries the Olympic Flame during the Athens 2004 Olympic Torch Relay in June 2004, in New Delhi. In celebration of the games being hosted in its country of origin (Greece), a global torch relay was organised. Singh was chosen as he had represented India in the 1956 Summer Olympics in Melbourne, the 1960 Summer Olympics in Rome and the 1964 Summer Olympics in Tokyo



Left: Milkha Singh with his son Jeev Milkha Singh, a four-time European Tour golf champion and two-time Asia number one

Below: An archival photograph of Milkha Singh prior to competing on a grass track at an athletics meeting in Edinburgh, Scotland, 1960. A 1959 Padma Shri awardee, Singh was serving in the Indian Army when he realised his abilities as a sprinter



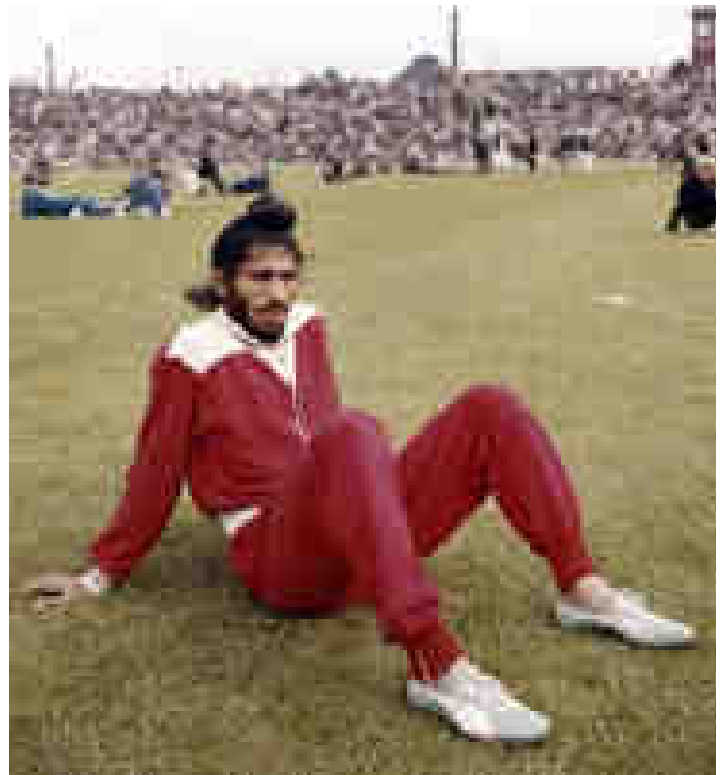
JEEV MILKHA SINGH

Son of Milkha Singh

Ace golfer, Arjuna Award and Padma Shri recipient

Today is Father's Day - another sad reminder of what I've lost. Dad was much more than my father - he was my best friend, my guide, my mentor. I hope I've the same resilience & inner strength to overcome all odds. I really need it now. And I will need it for the rest of my life.

Somehow, I don't remember much of Dad's funeral procession, but one sight I will never forget. A military van coming to a stop and these soldiers getting out and giving dad the salute. The Milkha family has always been grateful of the Indian Army, and I want to thank them again.





Shah Rukh Khan

Indian actor

The Flying Sikh may no longer be with us in person but his presence will always be felt and his legacy will remain unmatched... An inspiration to me... an inspiration to millions. Rest in Peace Milkha Singh sir



Priyanka Chopra

Indian actor

Warm and welcoming, you made our first meeting so so special. I have been inspired by your excellence, touched by your humility, influenced by your contribution to our country. Om Shanti #Milkha ji. Sending love and prayers to the family. #MilkhaSingh."



Akshay Kumar

Indian actor

Incredibly sad to hear about the demise of #MilkhaSingh ji. The one character I forever regret not playing on-screen! May you have a golden run in heaven, Flying Sikh. Om shanti, Sir



Athletics Federation of India

A Titan who lifted the profile of athletics in a young nation, his sharp observations on Indian sport will be missed. His towering legacy will continue to inspire generations of young Indians. Rest in peace legend.

Sports Authority of India (SAI)

SAI learns with immense sadness of the demise of one of India's greatest ever sportspersons "The Flying Sikh" Milkha Singh. A gold medalist at the CWG & Asian Games, he held the 400 m National record for 38 years. Condolences to his family & the millions whom he inspired.

Legendary athlete Milkha Singh at the unveiling of his wax statue in September 2017, in Chandigarh. The statue is displayed at Madame Tussauds museum in New Delhi





Top: Milkha Singh interacts with children fighting against thalassemia and blood cancer during a special screening of *Bhaag Milkha Bhaag* (a Bollywood film based on the life of Milkha Singh), organised by an NGO on August 10, 2013, in Mumbai

Bottom: (left to right in jerseys) Milkha Singh, Misha Soni (five-times national ladies squash champion), Abhinav Bindra (Olympic Gold medallist shooter), the world's most-capped hockey player Dilip Tirkey (former captain of the Indian hockey team), Kelly Holmes (British Olympian), Monty Panesar (British cricket player), Lord Sebastian Coe (British Olympian) and Gurbachan Singh Randhawa (former decathlete and current selection committee chairman of the Athletics Federation of India) during the launch of the XIX Commonwealth Games Queen's Baton Relay for the Delhi 2010 Commonwealth Games outside Buckingham Palace in London on October 29, 2009



Anju Bobby George
Indian athlete (long jump)

A huge loss for the sport of athletics today. Rest well #MilkhaSingh ji.

Dilip Kumar Tirkey
Former captain, Indian hockey team

India has lost a worthy son. My heartfelt condolences on demise of 'Flying Sikh' Sardar #MilkhaSingh. The Nation salutes the great sporting hero. May his soul rest in peace.

Muhammed Anas Yahiya
Indian sprinter, Olympian

Really shocked by the demise of the legend Milkha sir. You will forever have a very special place in my heart. The Flying Sikh will live forever. RIP

Harbhajan Singh
Indian cricketer

Very sad, heartbreaking to hear flying sikh Sardar Milkha Singh ji is no more.. waheguru #RIPMilkhaSinghji

Sania Mirza
Indian professional tennis player

Had the honour of meeting you and you blessed me so many times .. the kindest and warmest RIP Milkha Singh sir .. the world will miss a legend like you .. #MilkhaSingh

REMEMBERING DILIP KUMAR,

a peerless
actor and
a defining
voice

The actor (December 11, 1922 - July 7, 2021) was often referred to as Hindi film's 'tragedy king' for his iconic roles in tragic movies like *Devdas* and *Mughal-e-Azam*, but his most significant contribution was his effortlessly organic acting prowess that set the tone for a new era in Indian film industry, says Dr Aarti Kapur Singh

When a shy 22-year-old son of a Pathan fruit merchant was selected by Devika Rani, the doyen of Hindi cinema in the 1930s, to star in her film *Jwar Bhata* in 1944, it was more than just a change of name for the young man. Muhammad Yousuff Khan not only became Dilip Kumar, but it was the start of a new era in the Hindi film industry. It was the beginning of the arrival of a new legend and Hindi cinema's first definitive method actor was born.

As normally happens, this change was not very welcome. Baburao Patel, a leading film critic from the time, described the new hero as "an anaemic addition" who needed "lots of vitamins and a prolonged treatment of proteins before another picture can be risked with him ... His acting effort in this picture amounts to nil". When the young hero's next film, *Andaz* released in 1949, the same Baburao Patel congratulated Dilip Kumar for his "understated performance that steals the show".

A DEFINING VOICE

During that time Indian cinema was facing a tough challenge - the studio system was collapsing, the World War II (1939 to 1945) and its aftermath had made film stock a rare commodity and India as a country was engulfed in many changes as it



Dilip Kumar (left) with wife Saira Banu photographed at their residence in Bandra, Mumbai in 2012



Ram Nath Kovind

President of India

Dilip Kumar summarised in himself a history of emerging India. The thespian's charm transcended all boundaries, and he was loved across the subcontinent. With his demise, an era ends. Dilip Saab will live forever in the heart of India. Condolences to family and countless fans



Narendra Modi

Prime Minister

Dilip Kumar ji will be remembered as a cinematic legend. He was blessed with unparalleled brilliance, due to which audiences across generations were enthralled. His passing away is a loss to our cultural world. Condolences to his family, friends and innumerable admirers. RIP





Amit Shah

Minister of Home Affairs

Shri Dilip Kumar Ji was a veritable legend of the silver screen, in him, Indian Cinema has lost one of the greatest actors. He has entertained generations of cinema lovers with his incredible acting and iconic roles. My sincerest condolences to Dilip Ji's family and followers

Hansal Mehta

Indian film director

The greatest. There will never be another Dilip Kumar

Akshay Kumar

Indian actor

To the world many others may be heroes. To us actors, he was The Hero. #DilipKumar Sir has taken an entire era of Indian cinema away with him. My thoughts and prayers are with his family. ...

Ajay Devgn

Indian actor

Shared many moments with the legend...some very personal, some on stage. Yet, nothing really prepared me for his passing away. An institution, a timeless actor. Heartbroken. Deepest condolences to Sairaji. ...

Manoj Bajpayee

Indian actor

No One like you !!! Have a great Journey from here on Master . Rest in Peace

marched towards its independence from the British Raj. It was in this era of change that such talent as Dilip Kumar, Raj Kapoor, Dev Anand, Majrooh Sultanpuri, Sahir Ludhianvi, Naushad Ali, Mohammed Rafi, Kishore Kumar, Lata Mangeshkar, Meena Kumari, Madhubala and Nargis, to name just a few, began to appear and soon became the mainstay of Hindi films.

Dilip Kumar, with his pre-Partition memories and post-Independence experience, epitomised the changes that were taking place in a newly-Independent India. He became the defining voice of the new nation through his films, which told the stories of rebellion, hope and love. Through his impeccable acting, he

poignantly captured the dilemma and dreams of Indian society in the late 1940s and 1950s, most notably in the films *Shaheed* (1948) and *Naya Daur* (1957).

INIMITABLE MAESTRO OF METHOD

From the wolf-whistles of frontbenchers to the accolades of critics and admiration of contemporaries (and several generations to follow), Dilip Kumar's genre of acting led him to have fans the world over.

It was perhaps this fame that led British film director and actor Sir David Lean to approach the thespian to play the titular role in his legendary movie *Lawrence of Arabia*



Bollywood actor Shah Rukh Khan (extreme left) with Dilip Kumar (second from left) and Saira Banu (third from left) at a music release event in October 2006



Dilip Kumar (centre) was honoured with the Dadasaheb Phalke Award, India's highest award in the field of cinema, in 1994. Here, the actor is seen receiving the award from Yash Chopra, a noted Indian film director

(Kumar was offered the role of Prince Ali, which made Egyptian actor Omar Sharif a global name). It was also perhaps Dilip Sahab's (as Dilip Kumar was popularly known) idiosyncratic ideal to "act in only one film at a time" that made him refuse the role, considering he had already signed *Shakti* (1982) at the time.

A self-confessed admirer of Ingrid Bergman, one of Hollywood's greatest actresses, and American actor James Stewart, known for his refined portrayal of morally-strong characters, Dilip Kumar developed a style of acting that was natural and minimalistic, focussing on nuances that seemed to highlight the trauma of the characters he portrayed. Often choosing to play troubled characters, the actor came to be known as the 'tragedy king' of Indian cinema.

Immersing himself in his characters, Kumar learnt to play the sitar to do justice to a classical song in the film *Kohinoor* (1960), and stayed up all night when his iconic movie *Devdas* (1955) was being shot so that he would be ready to portray the exhausted and unshaven character the next day.

In his range, depth and commitment to a role, Dilip Kumar is often compared to the likes of Hollywood great Marlon Brando, Japanese star Toshiro Mifune or Italian legend Marcello Mastroianni. Such was his commitment to his craft that his methods often took a toll on his personal life. So harsh was his immersive method, that he fell prey to depression after portraying a series of tragic characters and was advised by a psychologist to take



Devendra Fadnavis
Former Chief
Minister of
Maharashtra

Saddened to hear about Dilip Kumar sahab. We lost a great versatile person & a legendary actor. We grew up watching his films. His patriotic roles in 'Kranti' & 'Karma' can never be forgotten



Subhash Ghai
Indian film director

Saddest day of my life. Dilip sahib Yusuf bhai gone. My personal loss of my most precious idol. No words.



Amitabh Bachchan
Indian actor

T 3958 - An institution has gone .. whenever the history of Indian Cinema will be written , it shall always be 'before Dilip Kumar, and after Dilip Kumar' .. My duas for peace of his soul and the strength to the family to bear this loss .. Deeply saddened ..



Aamir Khan
Indian actor

Thank you Yusuf Sahab for the invaluable, priceless and unique gift you have given all of us through your work. For me you have always been and always will be the greatest ever. ...

on fewer such roles. This explains his conscious effort to act in light-hearted movies such as *Ram Aur Shyam* and *Azaad*, among others, which showcased his versatility and spontaneity.

Dilip Kumar and Saira Banu at the red carpet premiere of the Hindi film *Jab Tak Hai Jaan* in Mumbai in November 2012. This film was Yash Chopra's last directorial venture before his demise. Kumar and Chopra had worked together in the 1984 film *Mashaal*

THE LIGHTHOUSE THAT INSPIRED

By his own admission, Dilip Kumar's "varied experiences shaped his approach to the portrayal of life on screen". Born in Peshawar (now in Pakistan), he was one of the 12 children of Lala Ghulam Sarwar, a

fruit merchant, and his wife Ayesha Begum. The family lived in the city's Qissa Khwani bazaar (Market of the Storytellers) and as a boy, the actor was among those who gathered to hear the local storyteller. Later in life he would say that it was there that he learnt the art of the story.

The family moved to Bombay (now Mumbai) when Kumar's father set up his fruit business in Crawford Market, and then to Nashik. Kumar attended the Barnes School in Deolali, then started assisting his father in his business, while also

A self-confessed admirer of Ingrid Bergman and James Stewart, Dilip Kumar developed a style of acting that was natural and minimalistic





(Left to right):
Bollywood actors
Dharmendra, Aamir
Khan, Dilip Kumar,
Saira Banu and
Amitabh Bachchan
during the launch
of Dilip Kumar's
autobiography *The
Substance and The
Shadow* in June 2014
in Mumbai

running a British Army club canteen in Pune, till a chance meeting with Devika Rani.

Throughout his career, for more than half a century – from his debut in 1944 to his last film, *Qila*, in 1998, Dilip Kumar's craft was a textbook for contemporaries as well as several youngsters who came to Mumbai inspired by him. Both Amitabh Bachchan and Shah Rukh Khan, superstars of the decades that followed, acknowledged Kumar's impact on them, with Khan acting in various remakes of Dilip Kumar hits, including *Devdas*.

He may not have been prolific, starring in only 60 films in his five decade-long career, but a tour de force he definitely was.

From the Padma Bhushan (1991)

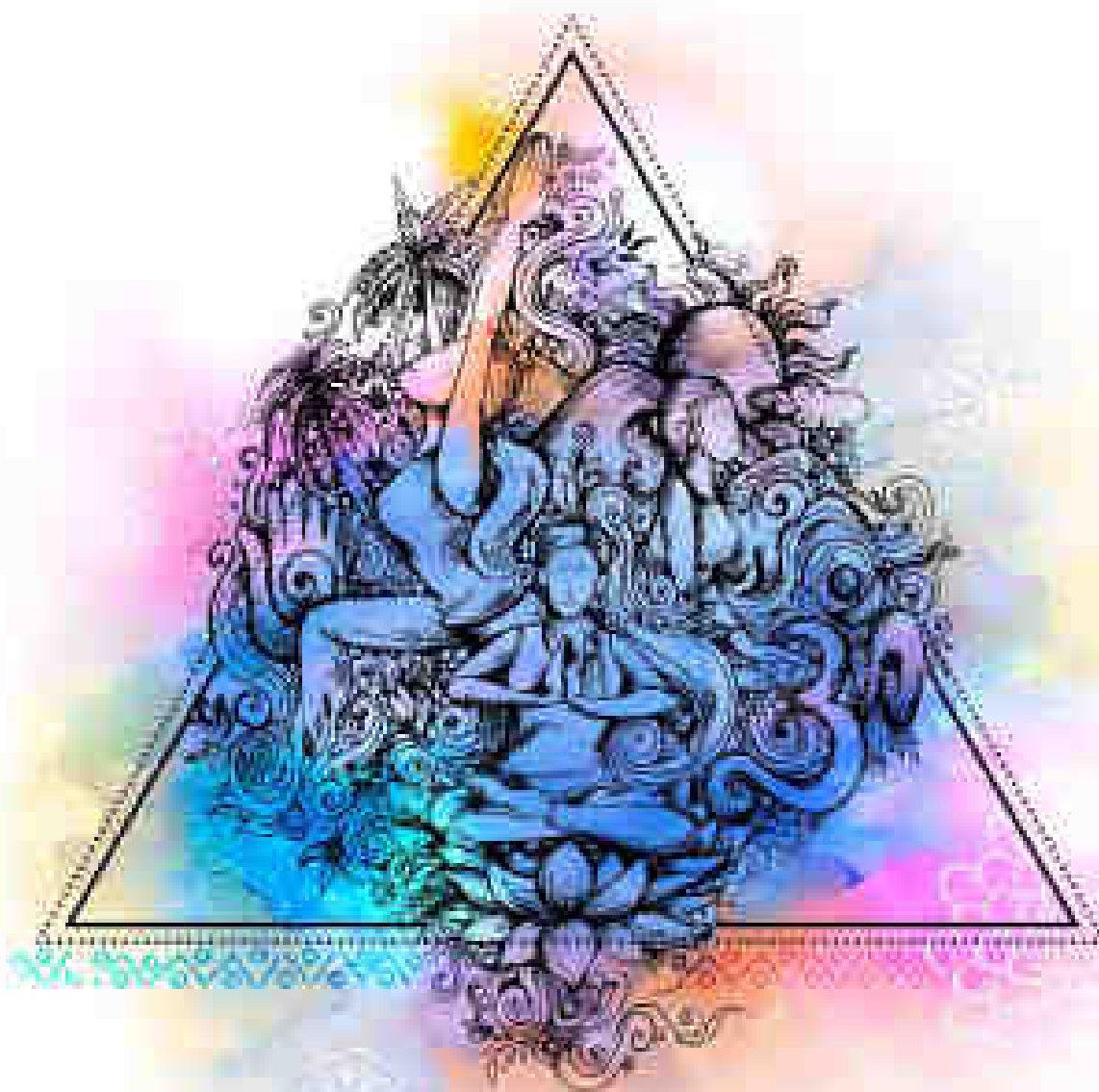
to Padma Vibhushan (2015) as well as the Dadasaheb Phalke Award (1994) for his contribution to Indian cinema, Dilip Kumar received resounding accolades for his craft. He also received a Filmfare Lifetime Achievement Award in 1993, and a total of eight Filmfare Awards for Best Actor over the course of his career. Kumar will be remembered for the peerless legacy he left behind as an actor, which continues to shape the craft of countless successors even today.



Dr Aarti Kapur Singh is an independent writer with close to two decades' experience in various media. After securing a doctorate in film studies, she is now indulging in her passion to discover the world. She writes on food, luxury, films, travel, wellness and celebrities.

BEND IT WITH yoga

The 7th International Day of Yoga (June 21) 2021 was celebrated across the world in the hybrid mode following all Covid-19 protocols. We bring you glimpses of how Indian embassies and consulate generals the world over marked the day



“

TODAY THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE WHO ARE CURIOUS ABOUT YOGA IS INCREASING VERY MUCH IN THE WORLD. THE NUMBER OF YOGA ESTABLISHMENTS IN THE COUNTRY AND ABROAD IS ALSO INCREASING. IN SUCH A SITUATION, IT IS NECESSARY THAT THE BASIC PHILOSOPHY OF YOGA SHOULD REACH EVERY PERSON WHILE KEEPING INTACT ITS FOUNDATION AND CORE.

Narendra Modi
Prime Minister of India



To mark the International Day of Yoga 2021, the Embassy of India, Rome, Italy, organised a large-scale yoga session on June 19, 2021, in a stunning and historical part of the city, Castel Sant'Angelo, with a spectacular backdrop of the Castel and with the Tiber river flowing on the side. Hundreds of participants gathered to perform the yoga protocol guided by representatives of 10 yoga associations

On September 27, 2014, when Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi addressed the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) for the first time, he made his historic and successful proposal for the UN to declare June 21 every year as the International Day of Yoga



On June 19, 2021, the Indian embassy in Paris organised an exceptional morning of yoga at the Invalides to mark the International Day of Yoga 2021. For its 7th edition, the event, which was free and open to all, invited participants to discover and perfect the practice of traditional yoga

The 7th International Day of Yoga 2021, was celebrated with great enthusiasm in Copenhagen, Denmark, on June 21, 2020, in hybrid mode. The main event was held at the Embassy of India premises with select Danish and Indian dignitaries participating in person and thousands of yoga enthusiasts joining through live streaming. The participants were guided through demonstrations of asanas, pranayama and meditation during the event



International Day of Yoga 2021 celebrations at Consulate General of India, Sao Paulo, Brazil. For the celebrations, the consulate, along with the Swami Vivekananda Cultural Centre, Sao Paulo, had partnered with prominent yoga and Ayurveda schools from Brazil and India to spread the message of yoga and Ayurveda, and to ensure widespread participation in 34 virtual events organised between June 1- 30. These events were in partnership with 21 yoga and Ayurveda professionals/ institutions from the five states under the jurisdiction of the consulate

SNAPSHOTS



Above: International Day of Yoga (IDY) 2021 celebrations at Embassy of India, Kuwait. The 7th International Day of Yoga (IDY) - 2021, on the theme 'Yoga For Wellness', was celebrated at the Embassy of India premises on June 18, 2021, in a hybrid format. The event, which marks the Government of India's initiative to spread awareness about Yoga and its benefits around the world, also witnessed a live demo of yogasanas, while following Covid-19 protocols

Left: IDY 2021 celebrations at Consulate General of India, Toronto. To mark the event, the Consulate General of India, Toronto, organised hour-long yoga sessions everyday from June 1-21 in various centres across Toronto

Right: The Indian embassy in Athens, Greece, kick-started International Yoga Week in Athens on June 19, 2021. Here is a glimpse of the inaugural function that was held at the iconic Zappeion Megaron in Athens

Below: The Embassy Of India, Caracas, Venezuela, marked IDY 2021, with a yoga session at the iconic La Casona Cultural Complex in Caracas on June 21, 2021. The IDY celebrations in Caracas also provided an occasion for discussion on strengthening cooperation in the field of yoga and also making yoga popular in various states of Venezuela



SNAPSHOTS



The Embassy of India in Paramaribo, Suriname, celebrated the 7th edition of the International Day of Yoga with the theme 'Be with Yoga, Be at Home' on June 21, 2021



International Day of Yoga 2021 celebrations at Consulate General of India in Chicago, the US, was marked by yoga and pranayama sessions along with an engaging online quiz contest on June 21, 2021. Here, a yoga session being conducted at Grant Park in Chicago on June 19, 2021



International Day of Yoga 2021 celebrations at the Consulate
General Of India, Hong Kong and Macau

SNAPSHOTS



Above: As a part of celebrations of International Day of Yoga, the Consulate General of India in New York organised a day-long event to showcase yoga, holistic health, Ayurveda and wellness at New York's iconic Times Square. The event was attended by over 3,000 people

Left: The Embassy of India in Cairo had organised two events (offline) - one at India House and another at The Children's Civilization and Creativity Center (The Child Museum), Heliopolis, Cairo, on June 21, 2021, which was attended by over 200 people



The 7th International Day of Yoga programme, organised by ChiroSabuj Sangha Akhaura, was supported by the Assistant High Commission of India, Chittagong, Bangladesh



In China, the 7th International Day of Yoga was celebrated at the Indian embassy in Beijing with great fervour on June 20, 2021. More than 500 people, including many yoga enthusiasts and diplomats, gathered at India House to participate in the event

SIGHTS TO behold

Monsoon provides not just relief from the scorching heat but also breathes life into nature and all her elements. As India welcomes the first showers of the year, we take a trip to some of the most stunning waterfalls across the country

BY SHRABASTI ANINDITA MALLIK



DUDHSAGAR FALLS, GOA

One of India's most mesmeric waterfalls is the astounding Dudhsagar Falls. Located in the Sanguem taluka of Goa, this stunning cascade of the Mandovi river plunges 1,017 ft (309.9 m) creating a magical sight. Dropping from such an incredible height, the water of the fall creates an illusion of white spray and foam almost like milk, which has earned it the name Dudhsagar (*dudh* or *doodh* in Hindi means milk).

Falling in the jurisdiction of the Goa Forest Department, this waterfall is a part of the Bhagwan Mahavir Wildlife Sanctuary. The roads to the falls are maintained by the forest department, who charge fees for entry and cameras.

The fall can be reached either by foot or by rail. There is also an off-road track that is suitable only for off-road vehicles, but even then visitors have to trek about a kilometre to reach the base of the falls.



◆ **DHUADHAR (DHUANDHAR) FALLS, MADHYA PRADESH**

The pride and joy of the state's Jabalpur district, the Dhuadhar Falls is so called because the 98.4 ft (30 m) cascade creates a smoky appearance (*dhuan* in Hindi means smoke and *dhar* means flow). Located in the district's Bhedaghat town, this waterfall originates from River Narmada and its roar can be heard from a great distance. Although it is a year-round destination, it is best visited during the Narmada Mahotsava festival (around September-October). The area surrounding the fall is ideal for picnics and there are provisions for boating too. The waterfall can be accessed from both the eastern and western bank of the Narmada river.



◆ **GIRA WATERFALLS, GUJARAT**

Situated in Gujarat's Dang district, the Gira Waterfalls is seasonal, i.e, it comes to life after the onset of the rains. One of the most picturesque sites of the district, this waterfall drops into the Ambica river from a height of 98.4 ft (30 m). The vicinity around the falls is ideal for picnics and there are several small shops that offer delicious snacks. Located about three km away from the town of Waghai, it can be accessed by roads.

◆ JOG FALLS, KARNATAKA

A major attraction of the Shimoga district of Karnataka, the Jog Falls plunges 830 feet (253 m) into a chasm, making it one of the highest waterfalls in India. Also known as Gerusoppe Falls, Gersoppa Falls and Jogada Gundi, this stunning waterfall originates from River Sharavathi and is surrounded by dense evergreen forests. Rainbows are a pretty common sight around the waterfall during monsoon. There are two viewing decks for visitors – one near the main entrance and

parking area, and the other near the inspection bungalow. Thrill-seekers can also hike down 1,400 steps to the base of waterfalls and soak in the surrounding natural beauty.

According to news reports in October 2020, the Jog Management Authority (JMA) is setting up a zipline along the waterfalls, as a part of the Jog Falls Comprehensive Management Plan. The zipline is expected to be Karnataka's longest and the country's second-longest.





◆ **SOOCHIPARA WATERFALLS, KERALA**

Soochipara Waterfalls, which is also known as Sentinel Rock, is termed as a natural masterpiece of the state's Wayanad district. This 650-ft-high (198.12 m) waterfall is surrounded by dense forests, enhancing the viewing experience. The name of the waterfall in Malayalam means needle-like rocks, indicating the pointed-shaped rocks at the base of the fall. The cascading water has created a natural pool where visitors can take a dip or splash in its cool waters. To reach the summit of the falls, visitors have to drive across moderately difficult terrains and walk a rocky pathway.

BHIM NALA (BHIMNALA) FALLS, SIKKIM

Also known as Bhewma Falls, and colloquially as Amitabh Bachchan Fall (in reference to its height, which is about 900 ft or 275 m), it is one of the highest and most spectacular of its kind in Sikkim. This fall is located halfway on the road connecting Chungthang to Yumthang valley in north Sikkim and can be best viewed from a quaint wooden bridge in front of it.



CHITRAKOTE WATERFALL, CHHATTISGARH

A cascade of River Indravati in the Bastar district of the state, the Chitrakote Waterfall is one of the most magical falls in India, literally. During rainy days, the water of the fall appears reddish while on moonlit summer nights it appears sparkling white. Spanning 300 m in width, it is touted as the broadest of its kind in India. It plunges 90 ft (27.3 m) and is also called the Niagara of India because of its shape, which is similar to a horseshoe just like the famous Niagara Falls of the US. The area around the falls is a popular picnic spot. Surrounded by dense forests, this waterfall attracts nature lovers and photographers alike. Although this fall is at its roaring best during monsoon, it charms visitors all year round.



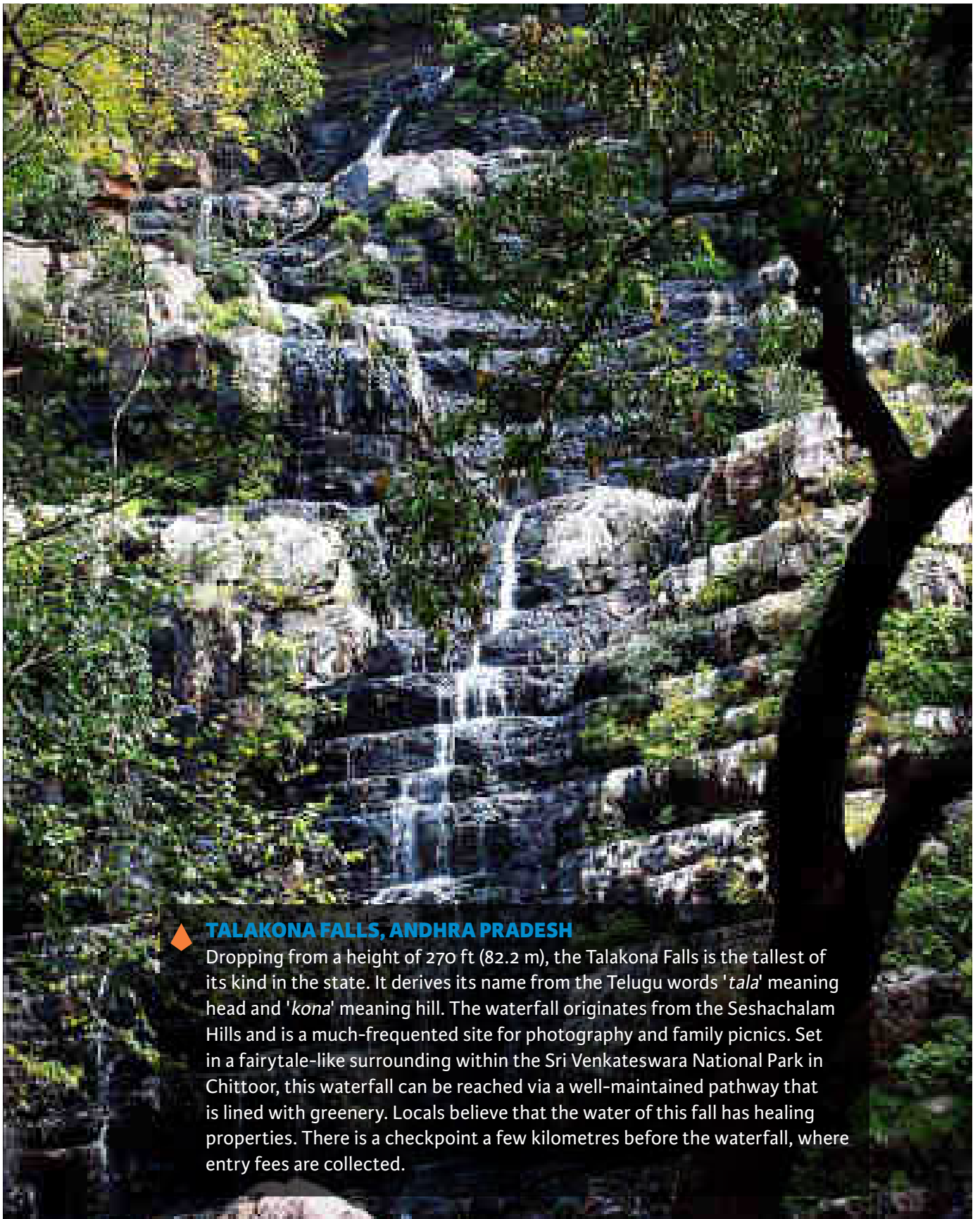
◆ **NOH SNGI THIANG (NOH SNGITHIANG) FALLS, MEGHALAYA**

Although the high-altitude town of Sohra (previously known as Cherrapunjee) is counted as one of the wettest places in India, it is also home to one of the most breathtaking cascades in the country - Noh Sngi Thiang. This waterfall, which drops from a height of over 983 ft (300 m), appears like a jewel draped over limestone cliffs in the evergreen forest of Khasi hills. It is segmented into seven parts, which is why it is also known as the Seven Sisters Falls. Often claimed as the third-highest of its kind in India, this waterfall is a haven for

photographers who spend hours capturing the myriad hues the sunlight creates on the cascade. Sunset at the waterfall is often termed as a spectacular sight. It is, however, during the monsoon that the waterfall is most gorgeous with all its curtains filled out.

The best vantage points of the waterfall are the nearby Mawsmai village and the Sohra Eco Park located close by. The park, along with views of the fall, also offers beautiful vistas of Sohra's verdant canyons and lush slopes.





◆ TALAKONA FALLS, ANDHRA PRADESH

Dropping from a height of 270 ft (82.2 m), the Talakona Falls is the tallest of its kind in the state. It derives its name from the Telugu words '*tala*' meaning head and '*kona*' meaning hill. The waterfall originates from the Seshachalam Hills and is a much-frequented site for photography and family picnics. Set in a fairytale-like surrounding within the Sri Venkateswara National Park in Chittoor, this waterfall can be reached via a well-maintained pathway that is lined with greenery. Locals believe that the water of this fall has healing properties. There is a checkpoint a few kilometres before the waterfall, where entry fees are collected.

Image courtesy: flickr.com/jagadeesh SJ



HOGENAKKAL FALLS, TAMIL NADU-KARNATAKA

- ◆ A treat for the eyes, the Hogenakkal Falls is a breathtaking amalgamation of rocks, water, mist and natural beauty. It is located on the Karnataka-Tamil Nadu border and originates from the Kaveri (Cauvery) river. The name of this waterfall in Kannada means
- ◆ 'smoky rocks' as the force with which the water hits the base creates a misty sight resembling smoke emanating from the rocks. Although this waterfall mesmerises visitors throughout the year, it is the most picturesque post monsoon. Adventurous rides on country made dinghies called *parisal* or coracle is a must-have experience here.



INDIAN IMPRESSIONS

Know India a little more with these interesting facts

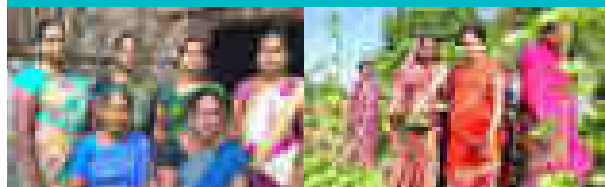


THE COUNTRY'S FIRST CRYPTOGAMIC GARDEN

The town of Chakrata in Uttarakhand's Dehradun district is now home to India's first cryptogamic garden. A cryptogam is a plant that has no true flowers or seeds; examples include ferns, mosses, liverworts, lichens, algae and fungi. The garden, with around 50 species of lichens, ferns and fungi, is located at Deoban in Chakrata at a height of 9,000 ft.

SHE HAS THE POWER

- Six fisherwomen from Tamil Nadu's Poompuhar village set up a small restaurant, earning them not only the respect they deserved but also a stable source of income. Named Dolphin, the restaurant is the first-of-its-kind in the village to be run completely by women. The menu boasts such local delicacies as *idli*, *puri*, *pongal* and *vada* for breakfast and fish curry, *sambhar*, *rasam* and vegetable curry for lunch.
- What Santoshi Survase, a farmer from Maharashtra's Latur district, began as an experiment in 2018 has today, reaped bountiful benefits. She implemented the 'One Acre Model' of organic farming, which yielded *jowar*, tomatoes, *moong* and brinjals in the first year. Under the model, multiple crops are grown in one acre of land to boost nutritional security, soil fertility, agro-biodiversity and income viability. At present, close to 1,38,000 women farmers in the region are reaping the benefits of this method.



L to R: The six women behind Dolphin restaurant; Women farmers from Maharashtra's Latur district who are reaping the benefits of the one-acre model of farming

Images: betterindia.com



THE LAND OF THE BIG CATS

Madhya Pradesh is all set to welcome 20 cheetahs from Africa in November this year. Vijay Shah, Madhya Pradesh forest minister, has announced, "Ten male and 10 female cheetahs will be flown from South Africa to Gwalior in two phases in November. From there, they will be sent by road to Kuno [Kuno National Park] in Sheopur district [about 150 km away]." Shah also released a mascot named Chintu Cheetah to raise awareness on the Kuno National Park Cheetah Restoration Project.



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