

Vol. II Issue 01 August, 2022



MAHESHTALA COLLEGE

MEDIAMAG

India@75

A Webzine by
Department of Journalism and Mass Communication

www.maheshtalacollege.ac.in

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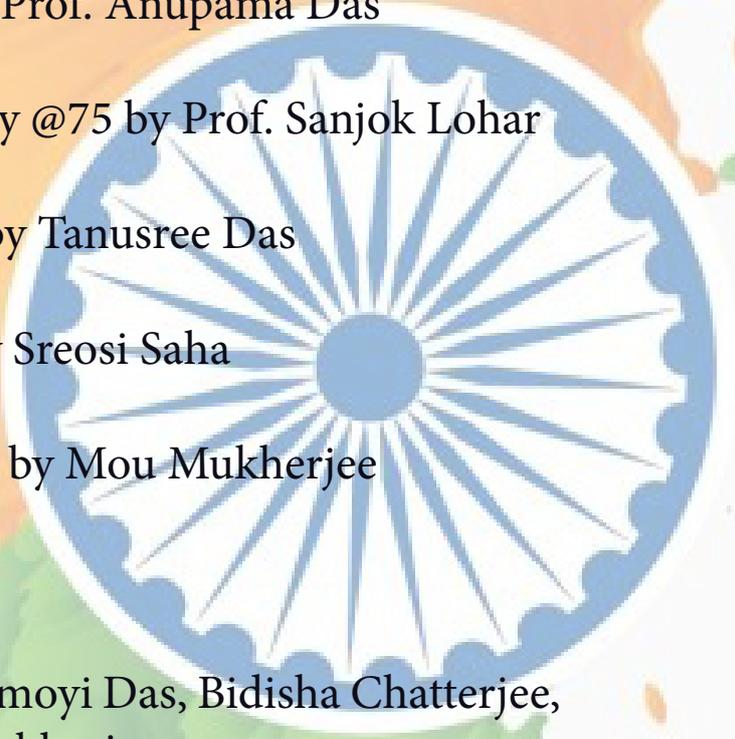
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PREFACE



Dr. Rumpa Das
Principal,
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‘Long years ago we made a tryst with destiny, and now the time comes when we shall redeem our pledge, not wholly or in full measure, but very substantially. At the stroke of the midnight hour, when the world sleeps, India will awake to life and freedom’ .

Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru’s speech on the eve of India’s Independence on 15th August, 1947 reflects a melange of feelings - happiness, hope, anxiety , excitement and euphoria. Pandit Nehru’s historic speech at once connected the struggle of millions of Indians to a global audience, reminding the world of the values and ideals that India has believed for centuries. The dawn of modern India was that particular moment of liberation from British rule . It is significant that Pandit Nehru’s speech - seen by many as a clarion call to the construction of a new India, combined ethos and pathos and logos or logical appeal.

As the first Prime Minister of independent India, Nehru knew that he had a huge burden on his shoulder : beside the expectations of his countrymen to herald in a new chapter in the country’s history, he had to ensure India’s prominence as a leader in the Asian sub continent and to substantiate his spiritual parent, Mahatma Gandhi’s ideals of non violence/ahimsa and truth/ satyagraha. There were a number of political, social and communal tensions in the country which were to be addressed before any progress could be envisaged. Nehru’s speech was, therefore , a clarion call in many important ways.

Seventy five years after the historic ‘tryst with destiny’ speech, one should ruminate on the nuances of the message Nehru wished to convey. India now holds a position of preeminence in the world and has made its mark , although not commensurate with the promises made seventy-five years ago. Progress has been made to a certain extent in the field of science and technology, agriculture, transport, defence and security , sports but the important issues of social equity and governance, health, education and employment still need to be spruced up to ensure holistic growth of the nation.

This issue of MEDIA MAG published by the Department of Journalism and Mass Communication of the college is dedicated to this momentous milestone in the history of the nation and I congratulate the teachers and students of the department for publishing this webzine as a humble offering in the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav.

On behalf of all the students and alumni, teaching and teaching-support staff and management of the college, I pay my heartfelt homage to the freedom fighters who sacrificed their lives to enable us to live a life of liberty today. I pay my respects to the armed forces of our country who work day in and day out to ensure our safety and security. I congratulate each of my fellow-countrymen today and pray for the well-being of one and all. I promise solemnly that I shall always uphold the sovereignty and sanctity of my country and donate the last drop of my blood for the service of my motherland. JAI HIND



DEPARTMENT OF JOURNALISM & MASS COMMUNICATION

The Journalism and Mass Communication Department was started in the year 2003 with Graduate General Program under the University of Calcutta. Presently the total intake capacity of the department is 20. The Department provides the students with extensive theory and practical classes as per the current CBCS (Choice Based Credit System) along with remedial and tutorials classes. The Department also follows the Semester Evaluation System as per the rules and regulations of the University of Calcutta. An extensive Internal Evaluation after each module is also a part of the Department's Testing System. The Department focuses on the students' development and also monitors the students' regularity, punctuality, behaviour, growth,

creativity and leadership qualities. It also organises various co-curricular activities and motivates the students to participate. The Department releases its Webzine 'MediaMag' on a yearly basis. Under the guidance of the HOD, Prof. Mohammed Johaed, the students go out for excursions, study tours and field trips. The students of the Department also participate in various cultural activities such as Independence Day, College Foundation Day, Rabindra Jayanti Celebration, Youth Parliament Competitions, Extempore Speech, Debates, Quiz Programmes, etc.

DEPARTMENTAL NEWS

The total number of teachers in the Department is three - One FTT, Prof. Mohammed Johaed and two SACTs, viz; Dr. Arghya Mukhopadhyay and Prof. Anupama Das. The Department have TAKEN online classes since the first lockdown in India took place IN MARCH, 2020. It had started its Online Classes for Sem II and Sem IV from 18th March, 2020. On an average the students' attendance is 65%. Besides taking regular classes for Journalism students, the teachers of the Department are also taking classes for some of the Add-On Courses in the college. Prof. Mohammed Johaed is engaged with taking Communication Skills, Dr. Arghya Mukhopadhyay with Value Education and Prof. Anupama Das is taking Inclusivity Studies. These courses are Short-Term Certificate Courses offered by the College.

The Infrastructural Strength of the Dept. is as follows –

- a. A fully equipped Air Conditioned Lab with 6 Computer Terminals, Printer cum Scanner.
- b. One Panasonic HD Camera and Tripod.

- c. One Canon DSLR
- d. One portable Pico Projector
- e. One Departmental Laptop
- f. Seating capacity of 20 students at a time.

Under the able guidance and cooperation of the Principal of the College, Dr. Rumpa Das, the Department in collaboration with the Central Library of the College had recently organised a Webinar on Intellectual Property Rights, observing International IPR Day, held on 26th April, 2021. The Distinguished Speaker for the Webinar was Mr. Shantanu Guchhait, IPR Consultant and Advocate, Calcutta High Court, Kolkata. The Department had also organized a State-Level Webinar on “Role of Media during Covid-19 Pandemic” on 29th August, 2020. The keynote speaker for the webinar was Prof. Saikat Majumdar from the Dept. of Journalism and Mass Communication, Sister Nivedita University.





Also, the Department had co-organized with the Dept. of Commerce and Dept. of Economics, a National-Level Webinar on 'The Novel-Coronavirus and the Indian Economy: Implications on Informal and Migrant Workers in India' held on 31st August, 2020. On this very day, the Department had also published the first issue of its webzine, MediaMag. The theme of the issue was Photography.

On August 19, 2019, the Department held an International Seminar on "Representation of Society: New Media, New Trends." Professor Rajib Nandi

from Chittagong University Bangladesh was the Keynote Speaker for the event and Dr. Amrita Basu Roy Choudhury, Research Fellow (RUSA II), Centre for Studies in Cultural Diversity and Well-Being, University of Jadavpur, Visiting Faculty at Diamond Harbour Women's University and Lady Brabourne College was the Chief Guest. The Seminar was organized in the wake of the recent developments seen in the media and all its kinds which is by large affecting the society.



Living in India: the 'Un'conditions

By Prof. Mohammed Johaed

Every day we wake up in the morning and start with our daily chores before going to our offices or workplaces. While we head on through the streets and alleys, we oversee hundreds of little events and incidents which have become a part of our daily lives. A JCB engaged in digging the main road causing jams or people lying naked beside roadsides or someone spitting gutkha on the street or a person swearing in the open has grown into such a habit that many times we oversee or ignore such things in our daily routine lives. It is not that we are not into doing such activities. Maybe we do not swear in the open but now and then we also throw litter on the street consciously or unconsciously. Everyone in this country is into doing something unethical or the other, knowingly and unknowingly.

Despite showing poor performance in economic growth in the recent few years and standing almost first in the queue of hunger index, our country is still quite liveable when it comes to living carelessly and freely. That does not mean we ignore the law and ethics drawn by the state; in this country, or any country for a matter of fact. One must not forget that every time you are spitting on the street or corners of the stairs, or maybe littering the beaches and streets for that matter, you are almost sinning your own country by spoiling the very soul of Mother India. But again, this minute freedom or freedom of choices is what matters when we live in a country. And these choices you will hardly find in any other part of the world.

On the occasion of the 75th anniversary of Indian independence, let us look into some of the perks we enjoy being a citizen of this country which the people of other parts of the world seldom get a chance to, often never. For example, the punishment for driving a bike without a helmet has recently surged to Rs. 1000 in India. It was only Rs. 100 before. Driving a motorcycle without a helmet is considered a compoundable offence with a fine of Rs 1000. In certain states in the US, like Illinois, Iowa and New Hampshire helmets on motorcyclists are not required. However, most states specify age groups for

which helmets are required and depending on the state it can impose a fine of \$30-300 (Rs 2100-21700).



If you're not permitted to drive or are unlicensed to drive, in India the fine for that is Rs 5000. In the US it is considered a misdemeanor which can be punishable by fines that could range from \$100-1000, (Rs 7230-72300).[1]



In India, travelling without a proper ticket is punishable. Punishment:6 months in jail, fine of Rs. 1,000 or both. Anyone caught without a ticket on most UK trains will be asked for payment by the conductor for a standard single or return ticket and if you don't cough up, then you will be issued with an unpaid fare notice (UFN) after having your details taken. You will likely be kicked off of the train at the next station too. In Germany, the conductor will ask for your ID and make a note of your name and address. You will then get a letter asking you to pay a 60€ (Rs. 4800) penalty fare. The procedure in the Netherlands is much the same. There, the penalty fare is 50€ (Rs. 4000), and train conductors have some police powers; if you can't show them your ID, you're liable for prosecution and an additional fine. [2]

Now today, without the internet we cannot imagine a civil society. The Internet has become an integral part of our lives. We often complain of the poor services rendered by the service providers; speed issues, connectivity issues, network lag, etc. We quite often complain about the price structure too. But if we draw a comparison of the prices of the internet with other countries, we find what is given in the following table. The price of 1 GB of data with 4G speed in India is \$0.09 (Roughly Rs. 8 per GB). The table below is showing prices of 1 GB of data in some other countries –

Malawi	\$27.41
Benin	\$27.22
Chad	\$23.33
Yemen	\$15.98
Botswana	\$13.87

In USA it is Rs. 257 per GB. In UK it is Rs. 109 per GB. Germans pay Rs. 258 for 1 GB. In Australia, it is Rs. 53 for 1 GB. Chinese are paying Rs. 40 for using 1 GB. [3]

If you're not permitted to drive or are unlicensed to drive, in India the fine for that is Rs 5000. In the US it is considered a misdemeanor which can be punishable by fines that could range from \$100-1000, (Rs 7230-72300).[1]

In Saudi Arabia, traffic violation fines range from 3000 Saudi Rial to 6000 Saudi Rial (Roughly Rs. 63000 to 127000). In the UK, one has to wear a helmet even if s/he is riding a bicycle. When it comes to spitting on the road, in Saudi Arabia it is an offensive act with a fine of SR150 (Roughly Rs. 3170). For throwing garbage on the road again you have to pay SR150 in Saudi Arabia. Next time you spit or throw a chips packet on the road remember your 3000 bucks are saved. Smoking in public places is banned in Saudi Arabia. Smokers may be fined SR200 every time they are spotted smoking in a prohibited area and repeated violations result in higher fines. In the US, anyone caught smoking in public areas will face a fine of up to \$500. In India, you have to pay Rs. 1000.



Recently inflation has become a topic in the country. There is no doubt that we pay higher rates for petrol and related products in this country comparing other countries. Due to the rise in petrol and diesel prices, the general price of the commodities also goes up, causing a price surge. But still, in comparison to other parts of the world, we are paying quite a low price for many essentials of daily living.

For example, the price of 1 KG Chicken in India is roughly between Rs. 180 to 220 across the country. Here is a list of prices of chicken in some other parts of the world.

Switzerland	\$25.07
Iceland	\$16.24
Norway	\$13.62
United States	\$11.59
Canada	\$11.02



Also, the price of a Newspaper is higher in many parts of the world compared to India. Besides, the cost of medicines and medical equipment is also cheaper in this country compared to other states. The price of 1 litre of cooking oil in Zambia is \$4.80 which is around Rs. 382. In the US, it is about \$3.14, which is Rs. 250 roughly. In most Middle Eastern countries, the price is above \$3. [4]

Apart from these, the country also provides cheaper prices and facilities in the educational, health, agricultural and food sectors. An economist might argue that it all depends on the per capita income and consumer price index and the GDP of the country and whatnot. But the context here is to realize how we Indians are enjoying these liberties while living our daily lives in this country. Even when the world is eyeing India for all its recent controversial events, still this country is one of the cheaper and truly free. Living in this country with all its 'unconditions' is just beautiful.



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A Snapshot of Indian Economy @75

By Prof. Sanjok Lohar

A. Agricultural Sector

The 15th of August 2022 marks India's 75th anniversary of independence. It is a momentous milestone and a matter of great pride for all Indians as we commemorate the nation's illustrious past, its people, culture, and accomplishments. In this context, it is worth looking back at how far the nation has come in such a short span of time.

India was one of the largest economies in the world, for about two and a half millennia starting around the end of 1st millennium BC and ending around the beginning of British rule in India [1]. By the time India had attained independence in 1947; colonial rule had turned the once-proud "bird of gold" into one of the world's poorest nations. Cambridge historian Angus Maddison's work shows that India's share of world income shrank from 22.6% in 1700—almost equal to Europe's share of 23.3%—to 3.8% in 1952 [2]. However, in the last 75 years, India's economic and social standing have improved significantly. India has transformed from being a predominantly agricultural economy to be one of the fastest growing economies in the world. India has a thriving manufacturing, technology, and service sector and is currently the fifth-largest economy in the world. Although the country's growth since 1947 is unquestionably commendable, it has sadly not spread evenly across the entire nation. Let's now review how the key sectors of the Indian economy have fared since the country's independence.

At the time of independence, agriculture was the most important source of national income and employment in India. In 1947, agriculture contributed 54% of the India's GDP and accounted for 72% of the working population. Dependence on agriculture for income and employment is a feature of a backward and agrarian economy. In contrast, the share of agriculture to GDP at present is around 20%. Though the GDP share has decreased considerably the dependency on agriculture for employment has not seen a significant downturn. Agriculture is still a primary source of income for 58% of the India's population. India produced an estimated 314.51 million tonnes of food grains in 2021-22 as compared to about 50 million tonnes in 1947. India had an acute shortage of food grains on the eve of independence and had to import food grains in large quantity to feed its population. In order to achieve self sufficiency in food grains production, New Agricultural Strategy or Green Revolution was initiated in 1966-67. With the introduction of technology and High Yielding Variety (HYV) seeds in Indian agriculture, the production of food grains witnessed a rapid expansion. Presently, India is the largest milk producer in the world and the second largest producer of rice, wheat, sugarcane, groundnut, vegetables, fruit, and cotton. There is no denying that Indian agriculture has advanced significantly during the past 75 years of independence, but there is no room for complacency. Appropriate policy intervention and implementation is needed to address the problems that the agricultural sector is facing currently.





B. Industrial Sector

At the time of independence, India was predominantly an agrarian economy. The state of the industrial sector was in total disarray at that time; it was highly backward with very poor infrastructures. When India declared its independence in 1947, its GDP was a mere 2.7 lakh crore accounting for a paltry 3 per cent of the world's total GDP. The industrial sector contributed only 11.8% to the country's GDP in 1947 as compared to 25.92% in 2020-21. The British Colonial rule in India never gave importance on the development of industries except for the development of railways; which they did to have easy access to the various natural resources from India. The transfer of resources from India to Britain adversely affected the industrial development in India. Cotton and jute production were the only two well-established industries in the country. On the eve of independence, due to a number of structural and economic limitations, authorities took the initiative and looked to industrialisation as a means of strengthening and sustaining the nation's economy. The Industrial Policy of 1945, Industry Policy Resolution, 1948 and Industries Development and Regulation Act, 1951 were different policies framed by contemporary policy makers for the development of industries in India. It was agreed in 1948 that the government would have complete and total control over

all economically significant industries. The state had sole ownership of resources like steel, aircraft, aviation fuel, and coal. India's first five year plan, launched in 1951, focused primarily on agriculture was a success with the economy growing at an annual rate of 3.6 per cent, surpassing the target of 2.1 per cent. Prior to 1980, it was believed that the key to development was to concentrate on big, heavy industries that were subject to state control and central planning. This belief was based on the Soviet Union's perceived success. Along with import substitution, strong price controls, and strict limitations on private ventures, the policy also included these elements. The annual growth rate of the Indian economy had stagnated around 3.5% from the 1950s to 1980s, while per-capita income growth averaged 1.3%. In the 1980's the government followed limited liberalization policy and it is seen that the performance of the industrial sector as a whole coupled with the manufacturing sector has witnessed substantial growth in terms of output after the 1980s. India was still a relatively closed economy on all accounts till 1991. The acute balance of payments crisis in 1991 and the subsequent poor performance of the industrial sector eventually forced the policymakers to change the way they were using policy instruments and switch to a 'outward-oriented open economy model. The post reform period up to 2000-01 was marked by considerable fluctuations and thus showed a total lack of consistency in industrial growth performance. The average annual growth rate of industrial production which was 7.8 per cent in the pre-reform decade (1981-82 to 1990-91) fell to 6.0 per cent during the period 1991-92 to 2000-01. The results of economic reforms were not as fruitful as it was expected but it has created an environment which has helped all the sectors to grow and to be in a better shape than it was at the time of independence. Indian foreign exchange reserve has also seen a continuous jump after the implementation of the economic reforms. Indian forex reserves, which stood at Rs1,029 crore in 1950-51 increased to \$1.2 billion in 1991 and now stands at \$572.7 billion in 2022.



C. Service sector

The services sector's significance in the Indian economy has continued to increase, with the sector now accounting for around 55 per cent of total size of the economy and GVA growth, two-thirds of total FDI inflows into India and about 38 per cent of total exports [3]. The service sector's contribution to the GDP of India in 1950-51 was 36%. Since 1950-51, the service sector has been the fastest growing sector in India. The service sector in India started to grow in the mid-1980 but the growth gained momentum when India initiated various economic reforms in 1991-93. It remains the engine of growth for India's economy and contributed 53% to India's Gross Value Added at current prices in FY22 (until January 2022). In contrast to other nations where economic growth resulted in a transition from agriculture to industry, India's growth history has been distinct; there has been a shift from agricultural to the service sector. Till 2019-2020 the growth trajectory of the service sector in India has been phenomenal as it has been increasing at an annual average growth rate of nearly 8% for the last few decades. It was only during the pandemic period in 2020-21 the service sector witnessed a contraction of 8.4%. Now as the nationwide lockdown has been lifted the service sector is expected to grow at 8.2% in 2021-22.

Table: 1 Percentage share of sectors in India's Gross Domestic Product (from 1950s-2000s)

Sector	1950s	1960s	1970s	1980s	1990s	2000s
Agriculture	55.3	47.6	42.8	37.3	30.9	21.8
Industry	14.8	19.6	21.3	22.3	23.3	24.5
Services	29.8	32.8	35.9	40.3	45.7	53.7

Source: Author's calculation from different official data.

GDP per capita of India has been continuously increasing since 1960s. It was 82.1886027 USD in 1960, which has increased to 2,321.104 USD in Mar 2022. In spite of continuous rise in GDP per capita, India ranked 142nd by GDP (nominal) and 128th by GDP (PPP) on a per capita basis, according to International Monetary Fund (IMF). A GDP per capita of 2,321.104 USD puts India under Lower Middle Income Country (LMIC). The total foreign investment in India in 1949 was Rs 256 crore, at the time of independence. In 2020-21, India received a record US\$ 81.72 billion in Foreign Direct Investment. At the same time, external debt in India increased to 620700 USD Million in the first quarter of 2022 from 614900 USD Million in the fourth quarter of 2021. Despite these contrasting views, the fact that remains is that the India we see today is different than what it was during independence. India has advanced in practically every area, including infrastructure, education, healthcare, research and technology. India's GDP is projected to grow by 8-8.5% in 2022-2023 as a result of extensive vaccination coverage, gains from supply-side reforms and regulatory liberalisation, strong export growth, and the availability of fiscal space to increase capital spending.

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Breaking the Glass Ceiling: Indian Sportswomen

By Prof. Anupama Das

Women are not only the backbone of a family but the society as a whole. They are great achievers who play a major role in empowering the society. Women not only in India but worldwide are under-estimated and their capabilities are undermined in comparison to men yet they seek a way out to outshine men. They are mere watchers who are humiliated in different domains of the profession and are not allowed to pursue their dreams and career. Several Indian women in sports have tried to break free from the shackles of discrimination, social deprivation and cultural biases to establish a promising career for themselves.

Female athletes have occupied an esteemed place in the society by acquiring numerous roles other than being just mothers. Their hard work and passion to prove themselves has helped them attain respect and they are finally acknowledged and appreciated. The mindset of people has revolutionized and they have started considering women as admirable beings who inspire the rest of the world to become the best. Perhaps, the phenomenal growth of women is a remarkable outcome of their dedication and desires.

Sports is a field that unites everyone worldwide, including women. There are several phenomenal

women athletes who are admired and have inspired the young generation to step forward and live their dreams, when it comes to sports for women, things are not very easy for them and they have to undergo hardships to rise above men. Even though men are more celebrated and paid higher in comparison to women yet female athletes seek their way out of all the challenges through their dedication and hard work.

Women have fought their way out and are at present being credited for their outstanding performance at different sports platforms. They surpass all the obstacles and it does not kill their spirit as they are the ultimate game changers. Several players like Sania Mirza, MaryKom, Mithali Raj, PV Sindhu, Saina Nehwal and others have made the nation proud with their glorious victory in different sports domains. They have transcended the dominated sphere of sports that was only limited to men. Female athletes are constantly rising in number and they are equally unrivaled and undefeatable, for instance, more capable than men in not only sports but all domains of life.



A file photo of India's Mirabai Chanu with the gold medal after winning women's 49kg weightlifting category match of the Commonwealth Games 2022 (CWG), in Birmingham, UK, Saturday, July 30, 2022. | Photo Credit: PTI. Source - The Hindu, AUGUST 01, 2022

The history of women's sports can be dated back to the 19th century as upper class women were actively involved in playing game that emerged towards the end of the 19th century like horseback riding, archery, skiing, tennis, golf and skating etc. Women participated in the modern Olympic Games for the first time during the second game of Olympic in 1900 and only free male Greek citizens were allowed to participate in the first modern Olympic as well as ancient Olympic Games. Moreover, women could only participate in sports events that were considered as feminine sports and known as women's sports events.

The Olympic Game and its decisions were operated and dominated by men who considered women as vulnerable beings and not suitable for all the games. Only 12 women participated in the second Olympic Games out of 1066 athletes from 19 countries. Sports is a universally shared human culture that has changed the mindset of people over time and their life style as opportunities provided to men and women also differ. Challenges faced by women in India: Gender Equality is one of the major concerns of Indian society and it is now being looked after by several authorities and women as well. Women are made to face the consequences of buoyant sexism and they are judged in all aspects of life. Women have now excelled and endorsed in their lives. The sports industry has seen an upsurge in the number of women athletes. The first and foremost challenge faced by women in sports is the dip in their pay scale as women athletes are paid either less or half what is paid to their male counterparts. There is a huge discrepancy between the male and female incomes and so in the case with prize money.

Even when both the competitors are equally talented, they are differentiated. Also, female athletes are less represented compared to men. And the former is usually neglected and deprived of the golden opportunities that are secured for men. Women are also commodified on and off the field. They are not seen as entities of potential and talent. Even the successful and accomplished athlete are scrutinized by the



CWG 2022: India Win Historic Gold Medal In Lawn Bowls, Women's Fours Team Beats South Africa In Final. Source: NDTV Sports, August 02, 2022

crowds. The stable income of female athletes seems bleak and there is an uncertainty of job security. It leaves no choice for women to take another job for additional income. Despite these challenges, female athletes are striving to achieve excellence in life and are making history.

1952 a landmark year for women's sports in India: The real success story in Indian sports with the turn of this millennium has been women finally getting their due recognition. Our women are slaying in the world of sports with much aplomb and never been in independent India's history, our sportswomen have been more recognized. Sania Mirza, Mithali Raj, PV Sindhu Hima Das have become household names in India. We boast about our women who are leading on this field breaking barriers and setting fine examples.

But this was not the case earlier. We have all heard of PT Usha, but how many of us remember MD Valsamma who won a gold medal for the 400m hurdles in the 1982 Asian Games. Both Valsamma and Usha were hailed from Kerala who along with their Malayali compatriot Shiny Abraham and Vandana Rao from Karnataka made a memorable early strike at the Los Angeles Olympic in 1984. While the year 1984 would be remembered as the year when Indian women athletes set the stage in Olympics, the 1952 also became a significant year for women sports stars in the country for the unprecedented success of these four athletes particularly.

Mary D'Souza –one of the first women in Olympics: Mary D'Souza was the part of 1952 Helsinki Olympics- the first time India sent women athletes to the quadrennial games. She won Bronze in the 200m and silver in the 4x100m relay at the inaugural Asian Games in 1951 in New Delhi.

The presence of the first Indian women at the Olympics owes a great deal to a dance. She had no coach, no trainer and no funds, the government was only paying air fare. Her neighbours and friends organized a dance program and she managed to raise enough money. D'Souza was one of the four women, the first women from India and one of the first in the world to attend the quadrennial event.

Her days spent with a group of boys, playing hockey, triggered her passion for sports besides hockey and athletics. She played badminton and table tennis

for the Railways. D'Souza studied till high school and then taught and played Hockey at St. Stephen's School. Her introduction to competitive sports happened because of her cousins, Maxi Vaz and Sacru Menezes, both were well known hockey players. They urged her to participate in a sports meet. She ran and came second in her first race. This whetted her appetite. A few years later, D'Souza would become the fastest athlete in India. She was regularly featured in the newspapers for breaking track records at the national games and in the Asian Games. She has met with Jawaharlal Nehru and Indira Gandhi and various heads of states. It was a matter of pride that Mary D'Souza was training herself along with the Olympic legend Jesse Owens in those days.



Mary D'Souza training for the 1952 Helsinki Olympics. | Photo Credit: The Hindu Archives



Nilima Ghosh-Another headway for women in Olympics:A contemporary Mary,Nilima Ghosh became the first ever Indian woman at the Olympics when she was just 17years old. Nilima was track and field athlete and competed in the 100m sprint and the 80m hurdles for India at the 1952 games. She spent most of her childhood training to be a seasoned athlete and her dream of representing India came true when she became the first Indian woman at the Olympics. Nilima finished second last in the 100m heats with a timing of 13.8 seconds and completed the 80m hurdles in fifth position – two seconds behind the first placed athlete. The 17 years old set an example and proved to people that even women of the country can compete with the best in the world and bring laurels to the nation if given an opportunity. While Mary was named in heat number 9 of 100m women's sprint, Nilima competed in the first heat which technically made her first woman to represent India at the Olympics.



Ghose at the 1952 Olympics: Wikipedia



First Queens of Indian tennis and the reign of Rita Davar
Source: <https://thebridge.in/forgotten-heroes/first-queens-in-dian-tennis-reign-rita-davar/>

Rita Davar- finals to Junior Wimbledon: The Wimbledon draw of 1952 for the ladies junior singles category saw 12 girls in the Min draw. 17 years old Rita Davar got a bye in the first round and played her first match as a quarter finalist. She had never won a national championship before and now saw herself competing on the rich lawns of Wimbledon. Being the lone-representative from her country, Davar made a strong start, dropping only three games in the round of eight. She backed this win with another straight sets victory over French opponent Annie Soisbault to seal a berth in the finals. In the finals, Davar began strongly taking the first set 7-5. Davar's opponent Fanny retaliated in the Dutch had to save a few match points to win with a final score line that read 5-7, 6-1, 7-5. Rita Davar became the first ever Indian tennis player to make it the finals of a grand slam in the singles category. She remains the only Indian to achieve this feat. The next four years saw Davar at her prime. She became the No.1 Indian female tennis player for 1953 and 1954. Davar won the Indian Nationals and the All India Hard Court Championships, Davar won the southern counterpart of the tournament of two years later.

Indian women in Tokyo Olympic Games: That no other sporting event unites a country the way the Olympics does is a known fact but what happens when the sportswomen of India make us proud in ways we perhaps did not even see coming? The 2021 Olympic have reinforced the indomitable spirit our women bring to the table. With quiet humility and sheer grit, they have managed to not only win medals but have also shown us that it is possible to dream. They have proved that no sport must be considered the monopoly of a particular country. Below, we take a look at six major moments from this year's Olympics events that had us all rally behind our sportswomen.

Mirabhai Chalu: For this Indian weightlifter who has been representing the country in the 48kg category

since 2014, winning an Olympic medal was a question of when not if. At the Tokyo Games when she successfully lifted 48kgs in the clean lift and jerk section without so much as a flinch, the deal had been sealed in her favour. Viral videos from home town in Manipur showed almost over two dozen family and friends around a single television set, masked and excited, cheering and hugging each other when the 26 years old secured the silver. It is said that her brothers already knew her potential when she would pick up firewood as a child seamlessly and her parents knew their daughter only too well to support her in every way they could. Now with a lifetime supply of pizzas and all the love of India, Chalu is here to stay.



(left to right) Vinesh Phogat, PV Sindhu and Manu Bhaker. Source: <https://www.sportskeeda.com/sports/indian-women-stars-tokyo-olympics-2020>

PV Sindhu: The ace shuttler had already done India proud when she bagged the silver medal at the 2016 Summer Olympics in Rio. She is the first Indian to become the Badminton world Champion and only the second individual athlete from India to win two consecutive medals at the Olympic Games. This year her defeat in the semis to Chinese Taipei's Tai Tzu Ying was not going to dampen her Olympics dreams. In the final chance she had to win the Bronze, she gave it her all. The Bronze match was against China's He Bing Jiao and according to reports, Sindhu and her coach had prepared for almost two months to play against her and indeed what a match-Sindhu hardly gave away points and was barely on the defensive.



PV Sindhu had earlier returned with a silver medal at the Rio Olympics 2016 (Photo: ANI)



India's Lovlina Borgohain in action against Ariane Nicholson of New Zealand during the women's 66-70 (light middleweight) boxing match of the Commonwealth Games 2022 in Birmingham, UK, Saturday, July 30, 2022. PHOTO: PTI.

Lovlina Borgohain: Staying away from her family for almost 8 years was the biggest sacrifice for Borgohain. So when the 23 years old won a Bronze medal at the Tokyo Olympics in the Women's 69kg welter-weight event, becoming only the third Indian boxer to win a medal at the Olympics to do so, it's safe to say the sacrifice paid off. When she defeated Taiwan's Chen Nien-Chin, she was assured a medal. It's said that Borgohain took up boxing when she first held a newspaper cutting of Muhammad Ali. For the 2024: Paris Olympics she has only one goal-Gold.

glass ceiling in more ways than one at the Olympics. The 23 years old from Bengaluru fell narrowly short of finishing on the podium by a whisker. But that did not stop Indians who had no idea of the sports, from Googling the difference between birdies and bogeys. In the 2016 Rio Olympics, she finished 41st and this time she finished 4th – it simply doesn't get any better than this, as Ashok was barely two shots behind Gold medal winner, Nelly Korda of United States. An entire nation was glued to a game often considered the mainstay of the white man and an unassuming sports woman from Bengaluru had managed to do the same.

Aditi Ashok: India's golf star: Aditi Ashok shattered the



Aditi Ashok of India acknowledges the cheers at No. 18 Michael Madrid: USA TODAY Sports

Women's Hockey Team: Scripting history: For the Indian women Hockey Team defeating the seemingly unbeaten world No.2 Australian team and reaching the semis was perhaps the most unprecedented moment in the Olympics. Previously, Team India's best finish at the Olympics was during their debut in Moscow back in 1980, when it ended up at the fourth position among six teams. The match was perhaps the grittiest in all the Hockey games and for all the right reasons. Every member of the team pushed themselves out of their comfort zone, switch-

ing positions, their feet and hands almost working like clockwork. The Clincher of course, was when Gurjit Kaur scored the victory goal from a penalty corner in the 22nd minute of the game.

This time India has acquired her best ever medal tally in the history of the Olympic games and understandably, conversations around better training facilities for our athletes, fairer compensation and consistent patronage have picked up steam like never before. From here, perhaps, there shall be no looking back.



Tokyo Olympics: Indian women's hockey team defeated Australia 1-0 in the quarterfinals. Source: AFP



A Slumberous Night of 1947

Tanusree Das, Content Writer

“Sharmila, wake up! They are approaching! Let’s get moving right now!”

“Right now! What is the time?”, I said sluggishly.

I tried to grab my things hastily when I heard my brother’s upsetting voice saying, “Can’t you listen to the approaching footsteps? We cannot take everything with us. Bring only the essentials and leave the rest behind.”

The village was still slumberous at night when we, along with 20 other families, fled our homes – presuming, never to return! What I was leaving behind, was my forever home and a lifetime of memories.



Prologue

This is 1947. The period that saw massacres and unrest in undivided India.

We lived in a small quiet village near Peshawar that was home to a handful of Hindu families. We knew each other by name. Recalling my childhood days, we were always active - socializing with other children and caring for our village.

But the peace was momentary and our lives were upturned with escalating riots bordering us. I was 14 when finally, we understood that our doomsday was nearing. Threats loomed over us, causing sleepless nights.

The British troops marched through our village roads day in and out tormenting our lives. But the armed men were not the only people stirring up our lives. Our existence became questionable due to the religious riots and unrest surrounding our village. This is when we had to flee our homes to protect our integrity.

Days Beyond Imagination

When I had just begun to believe that happy days were ahead of us after fleeing our village, least did I expect, this was just the beginning of agonies.

Clinging to one another, were hundreds of us, walking towards the unknown. Our bodies were on the verge of collapsing at each step. Even on our path, we had to escape mobs and the military.

“How much more?” I asked my brother for the first time after the second day of perilous walking.

“Little sister, you must be strong not only for yourself but also for your village men. We’ll get through the danger soon and live a good life in Hindustan!”, replied my brother, who was surveying the overall well-being of the group with his friends.

Little did I know, we would be losing people on the way to a worthy life. Seniors were already giving up on life and by the end of day 3, reality had hit me hard.

On Day 3, just as the sun began to rise over the horizon, I lost my best friend, who suffered from stress and hunger. We didn’t have enough food or safe drinking water.

I bid final goodbye to my longtime friend in the middle of nowhere and proceeded with the journey - we needed to get to safety soon!

On reaching the Jhelum river, men began to dive into it to quench their thirst and fight fatigue. Just as we were settling down to take some rest, danger leapt over us from all sides!





The Fateful Day 3

I was still reeling from the loss of my best friend, but that was just the start of the fateful Day 3. A mob attacked us while resting on the riverbank and began manslaughtering. I could only hide behind a rock and watch my loved ones hacked to death. “What did you do, Sharmila?”, exclaimed my brother. It was then that I realised what the riot had made me do! A man in pain, still holding his last breath and squirming in front of me... And I was holding a gun.

Epilogue

It is still fresh as morning jasmine in my mind. It took me a while to finally make a pact with the incident. From the hundred villagers who fled their homes that damned night, the final count of those who were able to cross the border was just over 20.



The New Dawn of progress

Sreosi Saha, Salesian College, Siliguri Campus

On August 15, 2021, India commemorated its 75th year of independence. The Prime Minister of India unfurls the tricolour from the Red Fort in Old Delhi like every year. On this day, Indians pay tribute to all the prominent leaders of India who have heroically fought for the country's freedom in the past. The sacrifices of our brave Indian freedom fighters are remembered on Independence Day. Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, India's first Prime Minister, unfurled the tricolour national flag at Red Fort and Lahori Gate in Delhi when the country became Independent.

From that day, India celebrates Independence Day on this day. Many programmes dedicated at Red Fort, such as 21 gunshots fired for the start of events, a march past by our Indian soldiers, and cultural activities by school kids are held in honour of the soldiers who fought for the nation's independence. Kite flying is also a part of the Independence Day of India's celebration, with kites of various sizes, shapes, and colours filling the sky. From 1974 onwards, the chief ministers of several states unfurled the national flag.





After 75 years of independence, we can proudly say we have successfully eradicated various epidemics and polio from our nation. We have made rapid strides in space technology, information technology, and scientific innovation. The year-long celebrations showcase progressive India's socio-cultural, political and economic identity. The journey of "Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav" began on March 12, 2021, and will continue for 75 weeks leading the nation to the 75th anniversary of Independence and will end post a year on August 15, 2023. But sadly even after our country has achieved so much worldwide, we still lack women's security. Indeed, women's safety is more important. Physically, men are stronger than

women. But in our society, women's safety should be an integral part of it. It should be part of the education system. There was a time when the space agency of India which was constructed after the agency of Pakistan, was shown in animation as standing outside the gate of NASA and today at the urge of 75 years it is the organization which has records like launching more than 100 satellites at a once and launching Mars or orbital missions in the first attempt making it the first to do so.

Chronic Maladies of Partiton

Mou Mukherjee, Amity University, Kolkata

Sip by sip taking coffee on the dark rainy morning, I opened my gate of heart, listening to the silent footsteps of the secret wayfarer. My thought was filled with deep sorrow, getting heart-wrenching scorns from two familiar faces. One of them had me so vehement to feel her presence. How can I forget this-?

“Strawberry red face, shiny brownish hair
Starling eyes she had like a child of dear
A bewitching rosy smile captivates so many eyes
Tranquility embraces her smile like morning- sunrise”

She was in seven years. She was as sweet as her name, ‘Tori’. That little Bengali girl came to my home with her, own grandmother who had left her ‘Desher Mati’ (motherland) in 1970. The seventy years old, wizened lady came to my father. Just crossing the ‘verandah’ suddenly I heard her to say -

“Shobi to Kaira nise sharbonasha katataar
Kintu babu bhag koitte parse ki moner uthan.”



(That means partition had snatched her everything but partition could not wipe out her inner thoughts of her, own motherland). For a moment I was stunned, I was stopped, I was stumbled. What was she talking about? Her pangs with her words had given me a sudden knee-jerk of History. In my home, there were two faces. One was from the east and one was from the west. Both had a sanguinary relationship or we can say “NaadirTaan”. And there was one blood-shaded, tormenting history of the India-Bangladesh Division. How can we segregate them by exasperating demographic boundaries?

Seventy-five years of Independence is already passed. We are enjoying – “Azadi ka Amrit”. India exhumes the deep power of joy of communal harmony. India means the shrine of purity. “OUR” Preamble starts with – “WE THE PEOPLE OF INDIA”. What a picturesque country! Oh! is it? The oral memories of partition still existed and could not have been doused by the distorted truth of freedom.

Go back to the History. In 1947, There were three parts- India, East and, West Pakistan. East and West collided and called ‘Pakistan’. As a result of partition two ‘Bengal’ was born. West Bengal had become a part of independent India. The heartening general migration happened in 1948. Near about 15 million people had been uprooted. But the discrimination based on the language and culture of Pakistani elites set a fire that came into as shimmering widespread protests of millions. The most charismatic leader, ‘Bangabandhu’, Sheikh Mujibur Rahman had galvanized sleeping millions to attain “BENGALI SELF RESPECT” in terms of culture, language, and ethnicity that the dominant Pakistani rulers even the founder of “The Land of The Pure” completely wiped out.



The old lady who came to my home told my father that she has lost her dearest husband in Bangladesh Liberation War. Her husband had been in “MUKTI BAHINI”. The shelter-less woman came with her 7 years old son and with a little bit of hope in India. I heard that my ‘Grandpa’ helped her with her ‘struggle of existence. Her bitter experience had come out with her salty tears. Her tormented past had created the lagoon of darkness, despair, somber mood, and repentance. I could fathom from her scratchy past that ‘Partition, Homelessness, bid adieu to own motherland can not be the boon of the true meaning of Independence’. If the division would not happen the entire geopolitical, cultural, social, economic, and technological scenario could be changed.

Think about it! The old-age woman was not so modernized and not so literate. But she asked a more valuable question than gold to my father “Babuji, kon to dehi Bangali ashoile kara?”. My studious father was silent. He could not answer back her. Even the same question towards you. Who are the original Bengalis? Who are from the east or who are from the west? One language but surprisingly there are two identities. Colonial India got liberated. Truly speaking the teeth and claws of British rulers existed as the form of chronic maladies of partition.

Lastly, I want to say –

“Tomaate Aamaate Nei Kono Bhedabhed
Shudhui Roye Geche Kaataa Taarer Chhed”

(There can be no differentiation between you and me but the intersection of barbed-wire remains between us.)



মা

Ishita Maity, Maheshtala College

ভারতবর্ষকে আমরা মায়ের চোখেই দেখি। তাই এটি শুধু একটি দেশ না ভারতমাতাও বটে। আমরা পৃথিবীর আলো দেখার আগে যেখানে একটি জ্রণ থেকে নয় মাস এর মধ্যে মানুষ রূপ ধারণ করি, সেটা হলো আমাদের মায়ের গর্ভে। ঠিক তেমনিই আমাদের এই বাসস্থান ও খাদ্য উৎপাদন করার মাটি কিংবা ভূমি, ঠিক সেইরকমই ভারতমাতার গর্ভস্থানের মতনই। সে আমাদের আগলে রেখে আসছে আজীবন ধরে।



অনেক দেশ নিজেদের দখলে আনতে চেয়েছে এই ভারতবর্ষকে। কিন্তু নিজেদের মাতৃভূমিকে অন্যের দখলে কেন যেতে দেবে এই ভারতবাসী। তাই দীর্ঘ সময় ধরে চলেছিল স্বাধীনতার লড়াই।

স্বাধীনতার ৭৫ বছর কথাটা শুনে আমাদের মনে অনেক আনন্দ লাগে, কারণ ইতিহাসের পাতায় স্বাধীনতা সংগ্রামীদের যেভাবে লড়াই করে দেশকে স্বাধীনতার ৭৫ বছরে নিয়ে এসেছে তা কিন্তু দুঃখের মধ্যেও বিশাল এক আনন্দ, কারণ পরাধীন থেকে মুক্তি এটাই আমাদের কাম্য। স্বাধীনতার এই ৭৫ বছরে কিছু লিখতে গেলে আমরা অনেকেই হয়তো কিছুটা অনীহা বোধ করব। অবশ্য সেটা আসল কথা নয়, এই ৭৫টি বছর সমাজজীবনে অনেক ওলোটপালটের কথা এবং নানা লেখার মধ্যে দিয়ে বাস্তবটা চোখে



দেখতে পেয়েছি।

কিন্তু তার চেয়ে বড়ো কথা ৭৫ বছরে পৌঁছে আমাদের যে স্বাধীনতার চেহারা দাঁড়িয়েছে সেই চেহারার বিবরণ যতটা কম দেওয়া যায় ততটাই ভালো। তবুও কলম আমাদের চালাতে হবে, বিগত বছর গুলিতে অনেক ঘটনা অনেক মানসিক দৈন্যতা হিংস্রতার কথা আজ আমরা নানা ভাবে জানতে পারি বা আমরা এই বয়সে চোখে দেখি। কিন্তু একটা কথাই আমাদের কাছে সবচেয়ে গুরুত্বপূর্ণ সেটা হচ্ছে মায়াদের কথা। কারণ এক মাকে বাঁচানোর জন্য অনেক মায়াদের নাড়ী চেড়া ধনকে হারাতে হয়েছে।

পিছনের দিকে তাকিয়ে অর্থাৎ পুরোনো দিনের থেকে আজকের দিনের পর্যন্ত মায়াদের কথা যেন আমরা এই সময়কে খুব হীনতার রূপে দেখতে পাই। কারণ এই আধুনিক প্রযুক্তির যুগে জন্মদাত্রী-পালনকর্তী মায়াদের বয়সকালে বেশিরভাগ ক্ষেত্রেই নিজের বাড়িতে ঠাঁই না হয়ে বৃদ্ধাশ্রমে ঠাঁই হয়।

মাঝে মাঝে আবার কাগজ খুললেই মায়েদের স্নেহের সন্তানদের এক অমানবিক অত্যাচারী রূপ ধরা পড়ে। কারণ আধুনিক নগরায়নের যুগে নিজেদের ভালো থাকার জন্য বৃদ্ধ বাবা কিংবা মায়েদের সম্পত্তির নিজের দখলে করার প্রবণতায় খুন করতে বা দূরে কোনো স্টেশানে কিংবা রাস্তার ধারে ফেলে আসতে দু'বারও ভেবে দেখে না।

এটাই কী আধুনিক ভারতের ৭৫ বছরের কাম্য?

সময়ের সাথে মায়েদের বিবর্তন আজও ঘটে চলেছে। আগের যে মায়েদের কথা জানতে পারি তা হল যত্নশীল সব সন্তানদের কাছে স্নেহময়ী মা হিসেবে। কিন্তু এখন আবার তার



উল্টোটাই হচ্ছে, আধুনিক প্রযুক্তির যুগে বেশিরভাগ সন্তানেরা
মায়েদেরকে বুকে আগলে নয় বরং সেই বুক থেকে দূরে ঠেলে
সরিয়ে দেওয়ার পারদর্শী যে স্বরূপ তা ভালো ভাবে প্রকাশ পাচ্ছে।
তাই ভারতের এই ৭৫ বছরের ইতিহাসে অধিকাংশ মায়েরা যেন
কোথাও না কোথাও আজকে অবাঞ্ছিত হয়ে পড়েছে। তাই এই দিকে
মনে হয় বেশি গুরুত্ব দেওয়া উচিত।

তবুও মা শব্দটিতে কিন্তু আলাদা একটি মাধুর্য এনে দেয়।
তাই বলতে হয় মায়েদের উদ্দেশ্যে পুরোনো সেই গানটির কথা -

মধুর আমার মায়ের হাসি চাঁদের মুখে ঝরে,

মাকে মনে পড়ে আমার মাকে মনে পড়ে।

তাই শেষটা ধার করা কথা দিয়ে শেষ করছি -

"অমিতা। অমিত তাঁর মমতা অমিত তাঁর সততা

অমিত তাঁর প্রেরণা অমিত তাঁর উদ্দিপনা,

অমিত তাঁর ভক্তি অমিত তাঁর শক্তি,

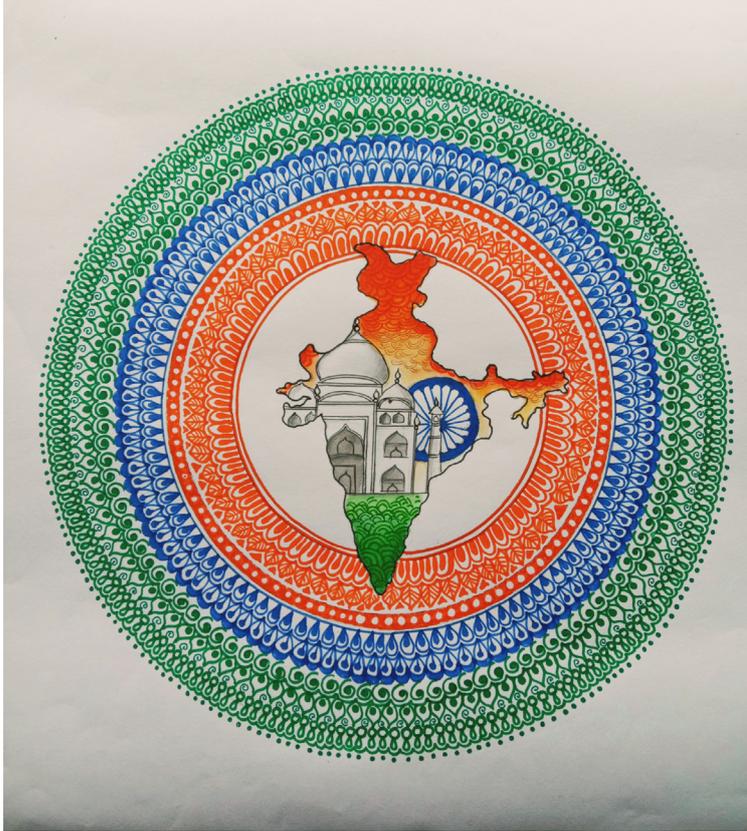
অমিত তাঁর ধৈর্য অমিত তাঁর স্বেচ্ছা,

অমিত তাঁর পঠন অমিত তাঁর মনন।

একধারে তিনি ঘোরতর সংসারী, আবার নিঃস্বার্থ সন্ন্যাসিনীও।।



ARTWORK

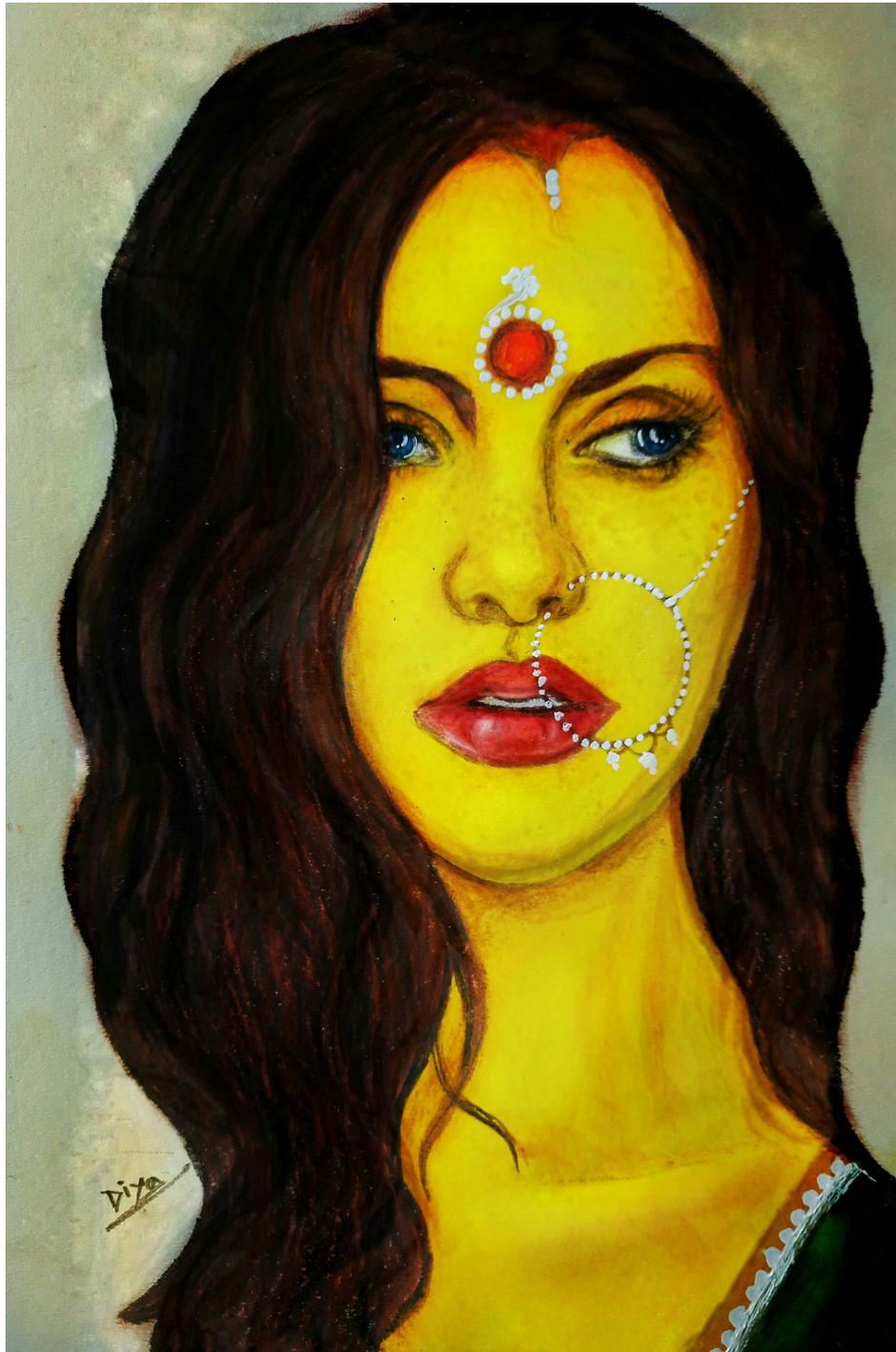


India in Mandala Art
By Sathi Das
Maheshtala College



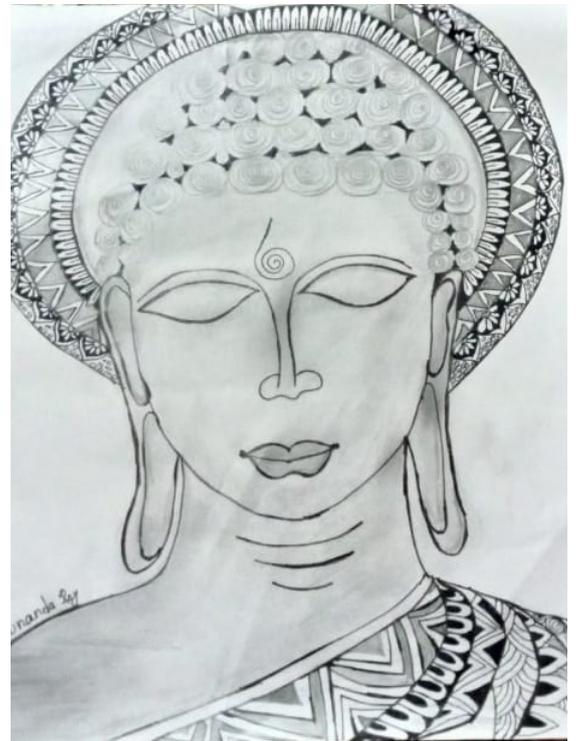
India at 75
By Swarnamoyi Das
Ashutosh College

ARTWORK



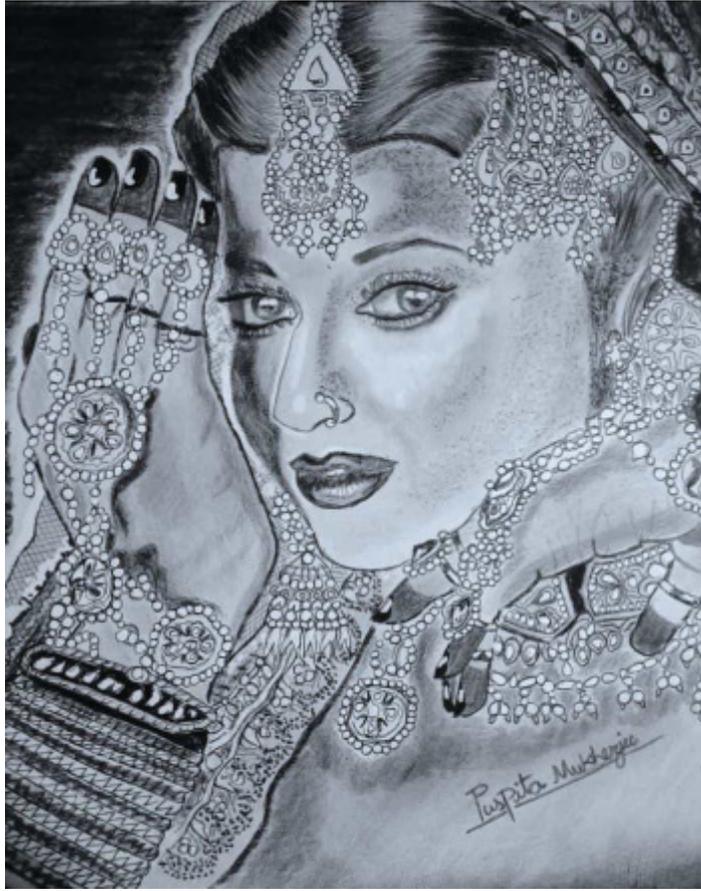
Bidisha Chatterjee
Amity University, Kolkata

ARTWORK



Sunanda Roy, Ramkrishna Sarada
Mission Vivekananda Vidhyavaban

ARTWORK



Puspita Mukherjee
Maheshtala College

THROUGH THE LENS



INDIA AT A GLANCE
By Mayukh Ray
Amity University, Kolkata



PERSPECTIVE
By Taniya Bhattacharjee
iLead College, Kolkata



THROUGH THE LENS



PERSPECTIVE

By Taniya Bhattacharjee
iLead College, Kolkata



THROUGH THE LENS



FREEDOM
By Shamoyita Ghosh
Amity University, Kolkata





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