

75

PROUD MOMENTS OF
INDEPENDENT INDIA



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INDEPENDENT INDIA



FOREWORD

“ 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav', a hugely appreciated initiative by the Government of India, commenced on **12th March 2021** heralding a 75-week celebration of India's **75th anniversary of Independence**. Over the course of this jubilant period, Indians rejoiced as they recounted and revisited the gems of epic achievements, aspirations and successes that crown our great nation.

Ours is a modern, prosperous nation, governed by the world's most elaborate constitution and powered by prestigious institutions that were established several decades ago. The inherent spirit of self-reliance and resolve drove the nation to establish centres of excellence in science, technology and build industries from the early years after independence. Little wonder that the end of the twentieth century bore witness to India taking up a distinct position among the ranks of the world's leading countries in new age sectors like Information Technology, Pharmaceuticals, Space Science and Nuclear Energy.

Today, India's commitment to transformative reforms and expertise in emerging technologies, innovation and research & development commands great respect and recognition across the globe. Its remarkable growth in the recent decades has catapulted it to become the world's fifth-largest economy. And yet again, India finds itself poised, readying itself to become a US\$5 trillion economy.

Every foray towards future glory must be strengthened with the solid foundation of the magnificent feats from the past. So, even as India grows in leaps and bounds to become a global superpower, it would indeed be a soul-stirring and an inspirational experience to revisit the seminal accomplishments of our past.

With this vision at heart, we at SBI have collaborated to create this Coffee Table Book which harks back to 75 of India's notable achievements in the last 75 years, spanning important events, successful personalities, prominent milestones and more. I believe this book is a testament to the enduring spirit of greatness that moves India and that it will evoke a sense of pride and patriotism in every heart.

We humbly dedicate this Coffee Table Book to India and to every Indian. ”



DINESH KHARA
Chairman



State Bank Bhavan, Mumbai

1947

OVERTHROWING 200 YEARS OF COLONIAL DOMINANCE, INDIA ATTAINED ITS LONG-AWAITED INDEPENDENCE

India freeing itself from the British rule is perhaps the most significant event in its modern history. Although at its very core this movement was anti-colonial, it was also influenced by several other visionary ideas like rights & liberties, economic development, secular democracy and civil-libertarian political structure, all of which infused the revolution with greater meaning and impetus.



Representative Image

Photo Credit- ©Shutterstock

1948

DETERMINED TO BUILD AN INCLUSIVE ECONOMY, A YOUNG NATION CREATED ITS FIRST INDUSTRIAL RESOLUTION POLICY

Defining the role of the State as an entrepreneur and an authority, India's first industrial policy aimed to advance trade development and create a more inclusive socialistic pattern of economic growth. It propagated the adoption of a mixed economy, with opportunities for private and public sectors and cottage & small scale industries as well.



Representative Image

1950

THE PARLIAMENT ADOPTED THE CONSTITUTION MAKING INDIA THE WORLD'S LARGEST DEMOCRATIC NATION

On 26th January 1950, the Indian Constitution came into effect, making India the world's largest democracy. With this landmark document, our nation pledged to become a sovereign, socialist, secular, and democratic republic, and uphold the values of justice, equality and liberty, while endeavouring to promote fraternity among its citizens.



Dr. B.R. Ambedkar handing over the draft constitution of Republic of India to President Rajendra Prasad on 26th November, 1949.

Photo Credit- ©The Indian Express [P] Limited

1951

INDEPENDENT INDIA TOOK ITS FIRST DEMOCRATIC LEAP, WITH GENERAL ELECTIONS FOR INDEPENDENT LEADERSHIP

In a radically novel move, India opted to adopt universal adult franchise immediately after attaining independence. The first general elections allowed adults to vote regardless of wealth, income, gender, social status, race or ethnicity. This was a bold new milestone in the history of democracy, one that had never been attempted even by the most developed nations before.



The voters waiting in queue to cast their vote at Delisle Road in Bombay.

1951

LAYING DOWN AN EFFECTIVE ROADMAP, TO FILL IN THE ECONOMY GAPS

With the backdrop of the partition and the Second World War, the Indian government adopted the first five-year plan in 1951. Choosing agricultural development as the core focus, the plan attempted to lay down the foundation for industrial development in the country and also attempted to provide affordable healthcare and education.



Representative Image

Photo Credit- @Shutterstock

1952

K.D. JADHAV PROVED HIS METTLE BY WINNING INDIA'S FIRST INDIVIDUAL OLYMPIC MEDAL

Born in Satara district, Maharashtra, to a family renowned for their wrestling history, Khashaba Dadasaheb Jadhav was best known as the wrestler who won the first individual Olympic medal for India. Lean and moderately heighted at 5'5", he was nicknamed 'India's Pocket Dynamo' among the crowd of giants that were a common sight at wrestling arenas. He wrestled his way to the top with a will to conquer and conquer he did. Today K.D. Jadhav is affectionately remembered as India's Olympic Veer.



Khashaba Dadasaheb Jadhav (left) and wrestler Parappa (right) pictured in Madras on 24th December, 1957.



Profile photo of Dr. Homi J. Bhabha.

Photo Credit- ©The Times of India

1955

IMPERIAL BANK TRANSFORMED TO BECOME THE STATE BANK OF INDIA, FINANCIAL FREEDOM FOR ALL WAS THE GRAND IDEA

Nationalising Imperial Bank was part of a wider effort to direct banking funds to certain neglected sectors such as agriculture and take banking to rural areas. Setting the pace for planned economic development through financial inclusion, the new State Bank of India expanded its reach to rural regions. Today it is the country's largest public sector bank.

The Bank of Bombay in Fort, Mumbai.

1954

BY HARNESSING NUCLEAR ENERGY, INDIA ADVANCED TOWARDS STRATEGIC SELF-SUFFICIENCY

At a time when atomic energy was used mainly for military purposes, India had foreseen its potential for peaceful utilisation. This led to the launch of the Department of Atomic Energy as a multidisciplinary R & D program and today India has the scientific and technological ability to design and execute projects from the laboratory stage to an industrial scale.



1956

245 INSURANCE ENTITIES WERE BROUGHT TOGETHER; LIC WAS FORMED TO ASSURE EVERY INDIAN OF SECURITY FOREVER

In an epic move that brought the insurance sector under direct public ownership, the Government of India merged 245 insurance companies giving birth to The Life Insurance Corporation of India. Today LIC's investments in key sectors help drive the Indian economy. It is also the largest life insurer of India and the fifth-largest in the world.



LIC of India building at Churchgate station, Bombay during the 1970s.

Photo Credit- ©The Times of India

1956

AT CINEMA'S GREATEST CELEBRATION, INDIAN FILMMAKING RECEIVED GLOBAL RECOGNITION

With a grand achievement of eleven awards at the 1956 Cannes Film Festival, Satyajit Ray's iconic film, Pather Panchali brought Indian cinema international renown. In 1992, Ray became the first Indian to receive an honorary Oscar for extraordinary distinction in lifetime achievement from the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Science.



Profile photo of Filmmaker Satyajit Ray.

Photo Credit- ©The Times of India

1958

MILKHA SINGH WON THE GOLD IN COMMONWEALTH GAMES AND THE HEART OF EVERY INDIAN

Milkha Singh won first place in the 400m track race, becoming the first ever Indian gold medallist in the history of the Commonwealth Games. His remarkable achievements in Indian sports are reflected in over four decades of national records. Lovingly called as the 'Flying Sikh', Independent India's first individual sports star, passed away on 18th June 2021. He will always be remembered for his grit and spirit.



Milkha Singh hones his skills during a training session.

Photo Credit - ©The Hindu Archives

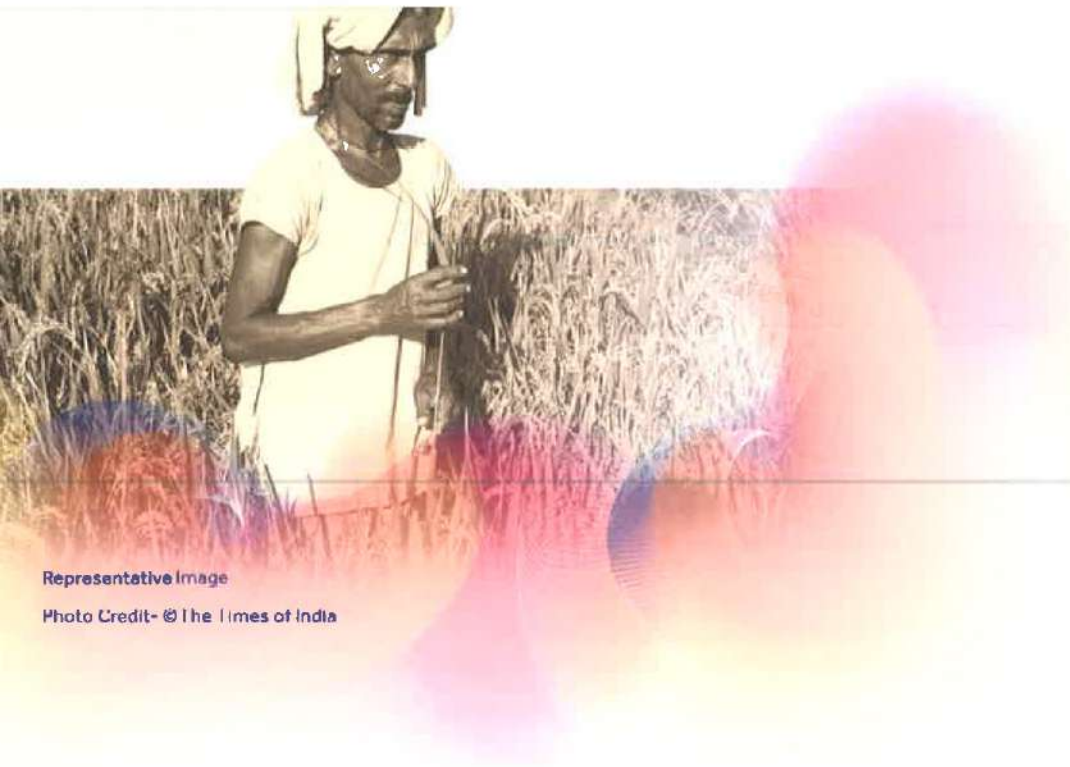
1959

THE FIRST PUBLIC SERVICE BROADCASTING ORGANISATION REVOLUTIONISED ENTERTAINMENT FOR THE ENTIRE NATION

Doordarshan, one of India's largest broadcasting organisations in studio and transmitter infrastructure, was established on 15th September 1959. In time it also broadcasted on digital terrestrial transmitters besides providing television, online and mobile services throughout metropolitan and regional India, as well as overseas, through its satellite network.



First television programme being recorded by Doordarshan, in Delhi on 4th September, 1959.



Representative Image
Photo Credit- © The Times of India

1960

THE GREEN REVOLUTION BOOSTED FOOD PRODUCTION, PAVING THE WAY FOR A SELF-SUFFICIENT NATION

Concerted efforts to improve agricultural output through innovative technology, resulting in an extensive increase in agricultural production began in the 1960s. Some of the major milestones of the Green Revolution were the development of a high-yielding variety of seeds of wheat and rust-resistant strains of wheat. The program has made India self-sufficient in food grains and led to the country becoming one of the world's largest agricultural producers.

1966

THE FIRST ASIAN TO WIN THE MISS WORLD TITLE, REITA FARIA LEFT THE WORLD BEDAZZLED

Reita Faria created history by being the first Asian to win the crown, beating 51 competing delegates from other countries. Capturing the world by her charm and intellect, Reita Faria proved that India is indeed a nation of beauty and brains. A practicing physician, the former Miss World shone the way to many other successes in the future.



Asia's first Miss World, Reita Faria with the winning crown.

1968



Profile photo of Pandit Ravi Shankar.

Photo Credit- ©The Indian Express [P] Limited

EXHIBITING BRILLIANCE, SHOWERED WITH GLOBAL REGARD, PT. RAVI SHANKAR BECAME THE 1ST INDIAN TO WIN THE GRAMMY AWARD

It was indeed a proud moment for India when the late sitarist and composer Pandit Ravi Shankar made history by becoming the first Indian to win a Grammy Award for his album 'West Meets East' in the 'Best Chamber Music Performance' category in 1968 - a collaboration with Yehudi Menuhin. It was only after this that Indian classical / Hindustani music gained world renown.

1968

A PROGRESSIVE POLICY FOR EDUCATION, BOOSTED DEVELOPMENT AND NATIONAL INTEGRATION

The National Policy on Education (NPE) was formulated by the Government of India to promote and regulate education in India. It encompassed elementary to higher education in both rural and urban India and proposed equal educational opportunities in order to achieve national integration and greater cultural and economic development.



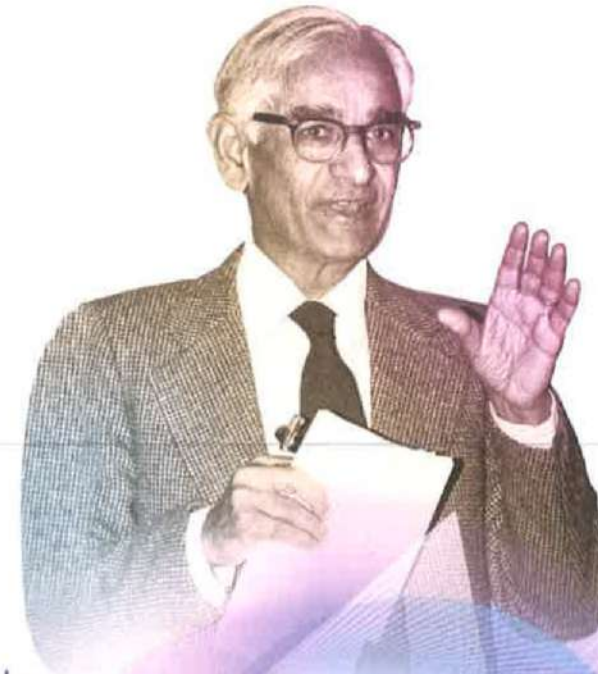
Representative Image

Photo Credit- ©Shutterstock

1968

IMMENSE CONTRIBUTION IN GENETIC ENGINEERING, WON HAR GOBIND KHORANA THE NOBEL PRIZE FOR MEDICINE

Indian born researcher and molecular biologist, Har Gobind Khorana's extraordinary works in genetics won him the prestigious Nobel Prize for Physiology or Medicine, while he was also a member of the University of Wisconsin faculty. He has also been honoured by a scholarship program in his name, the Khorana Program for Scholars, that encourages post-graduate students to take up research as a career. The program has been known to be a road paver for Indian scientists and technologists to interact with their American counterparts towards building long-term sustainable R & D associations.



Profile photo of Professor Har Gobind Khorana.

Photo Credit- ©The Indian Express [P] Limited

1969



Newspaper clippings from 1969, reporting the event of nationalisation of commercial banks.

Photo Credit- ©The Indian Express [P] Limited
©The Times of India

COMMERCIAL BANKS WITNESSED A MAJOR TRANSFORMATION THE INDIAN BANKING SECTOR WAS FORMED WITH NATIONALISATION

19th July 1969 witnessed a tectonic shift in the Indian financial sector. 14 major commercial banks, which between them controlled 85% of bank deposits in the country, were nationalised to promote rapid growth in agriculture, small industries and exports, encourage new entrepreneurs and to develop backward areas.

1969

AN ATTEMPT TO DEVELOP SPACE TECHNOLOGY, PROVED TO BE A GIANT STEP FOR THE NATION'S PROSPERITY

Founded in August 1969, the Indian Space Research Organisation became the country's premier space exploration agency with the vision to harness space technology for national development. ISRO's programs have played a significant role in the country's socio-economic development, supported both civilian and military domains and created crucial innovations for India's engineering and medical industries.



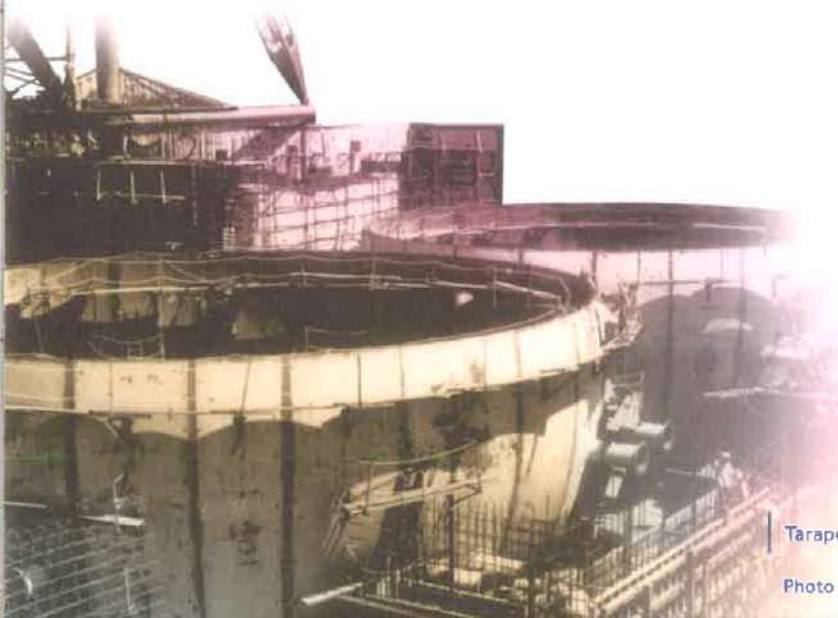
Representative Image

Photo Credit- ©Alamy Stock Photo

1969

INDIA'S FIRST ATOMIC POWER STATION, RENEWED FAITH IN GLOBAL COLLABORATION

Commissioned in 1969, Tarapur Atomic Power Station or TAPS, is India's first commercial nuclear power plant. Starting off with two 120MW boiling water reactor (BWR) units, TAPS was regarded as a pioneering move for two reasons. First, because the technology was new, and second, it was completed with collaboration from the US.



Tarapur Atomic Power Station (T.A.P.S.) in Tarapur, Palghar, India.

Photo Credit- ©The Indian Express [P] Limited

1970

THE FIRST WHILE WHITE REVOLUTION THAT MADE INDIA A WORLD LEADER IN MILK PRODUCTION

Operation Flood is a landmark project of the National Dairy Development Board and the world's largest dairy development program. Conceived and implemented as a catalyst to rural development, employment generation and regular income for millions of rural Indians, it transformed India from a milk deficient nation to a world leader in milk production.



Representative Image
Photo Credit- ©Dinodia Photos

1970

KAMALJEET SANDHU WON THE 400-METER GOLD STORIES OF HER LEGENDARY FEAT ARE STILL BEING TOLD

At a time when women didn't have much role outside the family, Kamaljeet Sandhu was breaking barriers, setting trends and winning fame for the nation. She was a pioneer in her own right, inspiring more and more women to take up sports and represent India on global platforms. She is the first Indian woman athlete to win an individual gold medal at the Asian Games.



Kamaljeet Sandhu with Milkha Singh, jointly holding the torch as they run a three-quarter lap.

1973

A PROGRAMME TO PROTECT THE BENGAL TIGER TURNS INTO A SUCCESSFUL ENDEAVOUR

India is home to 70% of the tiger population globally. A fact which no doubt prompted the launch of "Project Tiger" on 1st April 1973. Aimed at conserving the endangered Bengal Tiger species, it is not only the largest species conservation of its kind anywhere in the world but also a huge success. With the population of tigers and the number of designated reserves both witnessing a healthy increase.

Representative Image
Photo Credit- ©Shutterstock

1973

APPOINTED AS THE FIRST EVER FIELD MARSHAL OF THE INDIAN ARMY, GENERAL SAM MANEKSHAW WAS PROMOTED FOR HIS BRAVERY

Famed as one of the chief architects of India's 1971 victory over Pakistan, Field Marshal Sam Manekshaw was a national hero celebrated for his unrivalled contributions in war times. He served in the Indian Army for 4 decades and was part of five wars. Sam Bahadur, as he was popularly known, was awarded the Military Cross in 1942, the Padma Bhushan in 1968 and the Padma Vibhushan in 1972. On 1st January 1973, he was promoted to the rank of Field Marshal in honour of his outstanding services to the Armed Forces and the nation.



Profile photo of Field Marshal Sam Manekshaw.

1974

FORMALISING EFFORTS TO REDUCE POLLUTION, THE CPCB PROVIDED EFFICIENT SOLUTIONS

The Central Pollution Control Board, CPCB, unified the nation with the drive to protect our environment. Raising awareness and participation towards environment protection, the CPCB plays a multi-faced role in pollution abatement and control.



Representative Image

Photo Credit- ©Getty Images

1974

LATA MANGESHKAR'S SOULFUL MELODIES MADE HER THE MOST RECORDED ARTIST IN HISTORY

Having recorded over 25,000 songs in 20 Indian languages, between 1948 and 1974, Lata Mangeshkar is listed in the Guinness Book of Records as the most recorded artist in history. Her contribution to the Indian music industry has gained her a huge fan base around the world and a few honorific titles such as the 'Queen of Melody', 'Nightingale of India', and 'Voice of the Millennium'. She became a catalyst for Indian playback singers to receive due recognition for their work.

Profile photo of Lata Mangeshkar.

Photo Credit- ©Getty Images

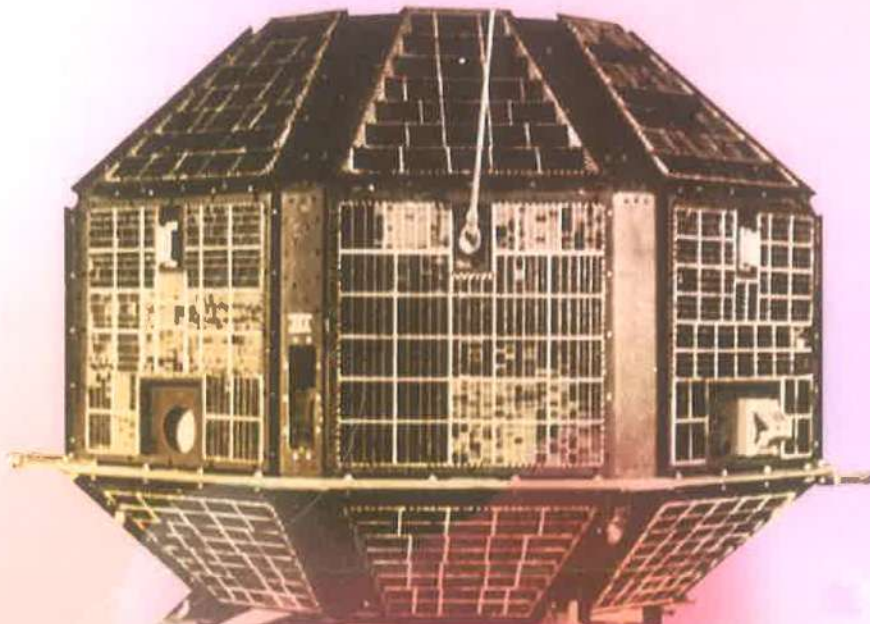
1974

THE BIG SUCCESS OF THE FIRST SET OF NUCLEAR TESTS, AUGMENTED THE NATION'S DEFENCE PROWESS

Codenamed 'Smiling Buddha', the first atomic energy tests conducted at Pokhran constituted a pivotal moment for the country. This peaceful explosion gave India a position among the elite nuclear nations of the world. Later in 1988, India successfully conducted the second nuclear test, Pokhran II establishing the country's indisputable capability to build thermonuclear weapons indigenously.

Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee visits the nuclear test site in Pokhran.

Photo Credit- ©India Today Group



Profile photo of Aryabhata, India's first indigenously built satellite.



1975

AN INDIGENOUS ACHIEVEMENT SET THE PACE, INDIA'S FIRST SATELLITE WAS LAUNCHED INTO SPACE

Named after the famous Indian astronomer, Aryabhata was the first Indian satellite to enter space. It conducted experiments in X-ray astronomy, aeronomics, solar physics to study the upper atmosphere. Completely designed and fabricated in India, its success proved India's indigenous capability in satellite technology.

1977

MICHAEL FERREIRA BAGGED INDIA A FABULOUS WIN, TAKING CENTRE STAGE AS THE WORLD BILLIARDS CHAMPION

In 1977, Michael Ferreira won the World Amateur Billiards Championship title, becoming India's first international billiards star. Nicknamed as 'Bombay Tiger', Michael went on to win the world championship two more times. In addition to the respected Arjuna, Padma Shri Awards, he is also the recipient of the highest civilian award in India, the Padma Bhushan.

Profile photo of Michael Ferreira.

Photo Credit- ©The Hindu Archives

1979

TOUCHING COUNTLESS LIVES THROUGH ACTS OF CHARITY, MOTHER TERESA BECAME AN ICON FOR HUMANITY

Mother Teresa's missionary work with the poor began in 1949, when she left her teaching post at a Roman Catholic girl's school in Kolkata and decided to devote her life to their upliftment. It is here that she built homes for orphans, nursing facilities for lepers and hospices for the terminally ill. Her commitment to the poor has left behind a legacy of good works and was honoured with a Nobel Peace Prize in 1979.


Profile photo of Mother Teresa.

Photo Credit- ©The Hindu Archives

1982

BANKING WAS MADE ACCESSIBLE TO FARMERS, PROMOTING SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE

A turnkey instrument in fostering rural development, the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development was envisioned as the country's apex institution for agricultural finance. Framing the policy for rural credit, NABARD plays a significant role in the socio-economic empowerment of rural India.



Nabard building at Bandra Kurla Complex, Bandra East, Mumbai.

Photo Credit- ©NABARD

1982

LEVERAGING INNOVATIONS IN TECHNOLOGY, EVMs INCREASED ELECTORAL EFFICIENCY

The Election Commission indigenously developed Electronic Voting Machines, making voting procedures precise and efficient. With an assurance of reduced costs and an efficient process, EVMs largely simplified the electoral procedure for the world's largest democracy.



An election official checking the electronic voting machine.

1983

THE LAUNCH OF INDIA'S FIRST DOMESTIC SATELLITE SERIES, USHERED IN A REVOLUTION FOR COMMUNICATION AND BROADCASTING

The Indian National Satellite System (Or INSAT) is a series of multi-purpose geostationary satellites designed to meet telecommunications, broadcasting, meteorology and search & rescue operations needs. It enabled the rapid expansion of TV and modern telecom facilities to even the remotest areas and off-shore islands of the country and continues to be the largest domestic communication system in the Indo-Pacific region.



Newspaper clipping of an article reporting the launch of INSAT-1B.

Photo Credit- ©The Indian Express [P] Limited

1983

TEAM INDIA DELIVERED A THRILLING VICTORY, WINNING AGAINST GREAT ODDS CREATED CRICKETING HISTORY

Before 1983, India had won just one match against East Africa (1975 World Cup). So, come 1983, the Kapil Dev-led Indian team were complete underdogs. In a display of true cricketing showmanship and team play, India defeated two-time world champions - the West Indies, beating 66-1 odds in an epic final to lift the coveted trophy in the 'mecca of cricket', Lords Stadium.



President Zail Singh interacting with the Indian cricket team after they won the World Cup.

1983

FROM AN AMBITIOUS FASHION ILLUSTRATOR, BHANU ATHAIYA BECAME INDIA'S FIRST OSCAR-WINNING DESIGNER

Setting a new milestone for India's talented artists, Bhanu Athaiya won India its first Oscar for best costume design for the movie 'Gandhi'. Her works are distinguished for their authenticity and era-sensibility. She is celebrated for her mastery in design in both period pictures and contemporary stories with a unique skill of combining accurate research with cinematic flair.



Profile photo of Ms. Bhanu Athaiya holding the Oscar.

Photo Credit- ©The Hindu Archives

1984

THE FIRST EVER METRO RAIL IS ROLLED OUT; LOCAL COMMUTE GETS A WHOLE NEW ROUTE

On 24th October, 1984, The Kolkata Metro, India's first planned and operational rapid transit system took off. It revolutionised intercity transportation by offering quick connections between key places and cancelling the city traffic completely. In the news for carrying up to 4.5 lakh passengers a day, the Kolkata Metro remains the pride of Kolkata.



File image of First Metro in India (Kolkata).

Photo Credit- ©Dinodia Photos

1984

WITH SHEER GRIT AND DETERMINATION, BACHENDRI PAL CONQUERED THE WORLD'S HIGHEST MOUNTAIN

In 1984, Bachendri Pal became India's first woman mountaineer to reach the summit of Mount Everest and the fifth in the world to achieve this triumph. Her thirst to be on top of the world began from the young age of 12, when she first scaled a 13,000 feet high peak during a school picnic. A part of the six women, eleven men team selected for India's fourth expedition to the Everest, Bachendri was the only woman to successfully reach the top.

Profile photo of Ms. Bachendri Pal.

Photo Credit- ©The Hindu Archives

1984

A MAIDEN SPACE JOURNEY, LAUNCHED RAKESH SHARMA INTO HISTORY

In 1984, Rakesh Sharma became the first Indian citizen to enter space when he flew aboard the Soviet rocket Soyuz T-11. Sharma spent 7 days, 21 hours, and 40 minutes aboard the Salyut 7 Orbital Station during which his team conducted scientific and technical studies. His research in the fields of bio-medicine and remote sensing, provided scientists with vital insights.



Rakesh Sharma (center) with astronauts Yuri Malyshev (left)

1986



Profile photo of P. T. Usha in action.

Photo Credit- ©The Hindu Archives

FROM A SMALL-TOWN GIRL TO THE QUEEN OF INDIA'S TRACK AND FIELD, P.T. USHA'S TRACK RECORD IS IMPRESSIVE INDEED

A world-class sports icon, P.T. Usha was the glowing inspiration to countless women who wished to excel in sports. She won 4 gold medals and 1 silver medal in the 10th Asian Games held at Seoul in 1986, 5 gold medals and 1 bronze at the 6th Asian Track and Field Championship in Jakarta, which was a record for any single athlete in a single international meet. Usha is also the first Indian woman to reach the final of an Olympic event.

1987

NEERJA BHANOT IS DULY RECOGNISED FOR HER SELFLESS COURAGE AND PRICELESS SACRIFICE

Pan Am flight's head purser Neerja was a real-life superhero like no other. She laid down her life protecting passengers of the hijacked Flight 73. For her bravery, the Government of India posthumously awarded her the Ashoka Chakra Award, India's highest peacetime gallantry award. Neerja's bravery will forever be remembered by every Indian.



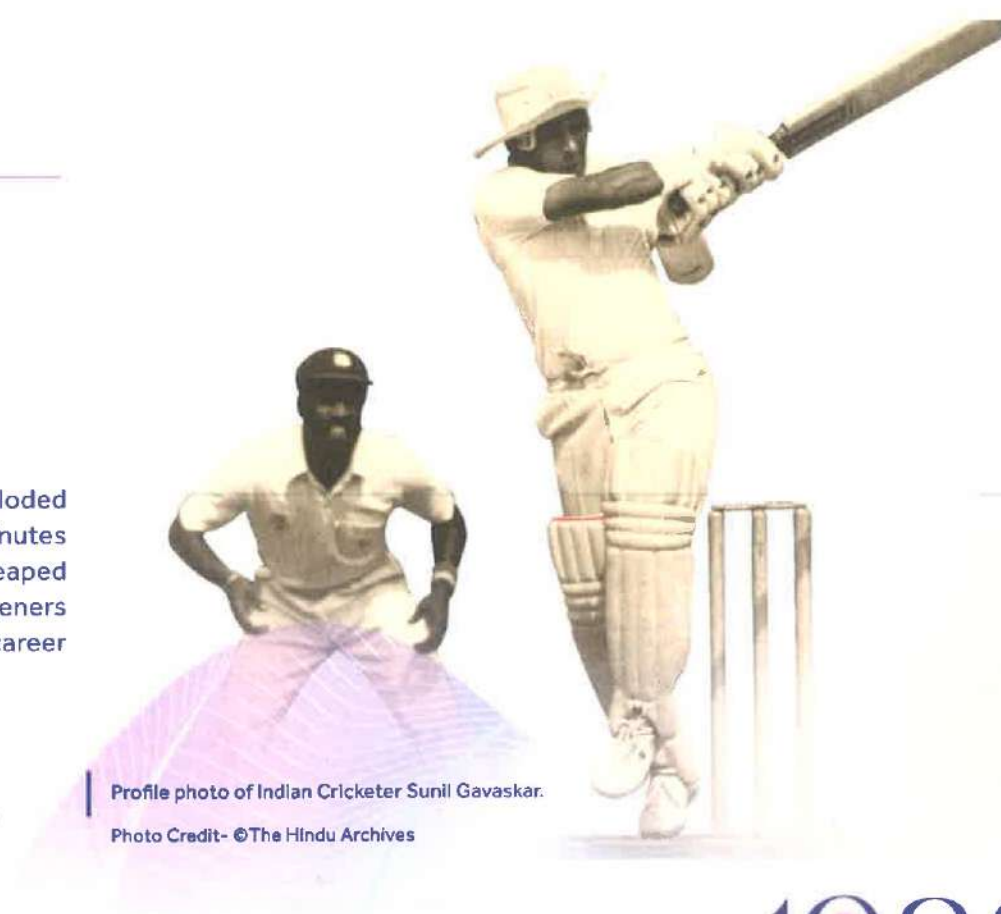
Profile photo of Ms. Neerja Bhanot.

Photo Credit- ©The Indian Express [P] Limited

1987

HIGHEST RUN-SCORER IN TEST CRICKET, SUNIL GAVASKAR WAS AN INTERNATIONAL HIT

When Sunil Gavaskar crossed the 10,000 Test run mark in 1987, the stadium exploded with a thunderous applaud and roaring cheers and the game was halted for 20 minutes to savour his milestone achievement. In a career that spanned 16 years and reaped a plethora of records, Gavaskar is known as one of the greatest Test openers of all time. Several more runs and 34 centuries later, Gavaskar ended his career on a high with a record-breaking tally in the longest format of the game.



Profile photo of Indian Cricketer Sunil Gavaskar.

Photo Credit- ©The Hindu Archives

1988

A LIFETIME OF WORK FOR THE UPLIFTMENT OF SOCIETY'S POOREST REWARDED AMARTYA SEN WITH A NOBEL PRIZE IN ECONOMICS

Sen had done extensive work on the economics of poverty. He was nine when the 1943 Bengal famine killed over three million people in India. Having lived through the tragic events of the time, he devoted his efforts to develop new ways to predict and fight famine, as well as introduced ways to measure poverty that could be used to design more effective social programs. Noted for his contributions to welfare economics, the 1998 Nobel laureate is one of the most decorated economists ever.



Profile photo of Amartya Sen (Indian Economist)

1988

INDIA'S CAPITAL MARKET GOT SEBI, THE REGULATORY AUTHORITY FOR INVESTMENT TRANSPARENCY

Established under the ownership of the Ministry of Finance, the Securities and Exchange Board of India began as a non-autonomous regulator for the securities and commodity market of the country. Today, SEBI is not only a model regulator to the world but also an autonomous regulator of the Indian Securities market, the largest market for stock futures.



Photo Credit- ©Shutterstock

1989

M. FATHIMA BEEVI TOOK OFFICE INDIA'S APEX COURT GETS ITS FIRST WOMAN JUSTICE

It was from a small village in Kerala where honourable justice M. Fathima Beevi began her journey to the Supreme Court. With a quiet efficiency that defined her career, on 6th October 1989, M. Fathima Beevi became the first lady to be appointed as a Supreme Court justice. Her career opened doors for more women legal practitioners in the country.



Profile photo of Justice M. Fathima Beevi.

1989

100% LITERACY BECOMES KOTTAYAM'S PROUD LEGACY

Already renowned as 'Akshara Nagri' or 'The City of Letters' for hosting Kerala's first printing press and for its contribution to print media and literature, 25th June 1989 saw Kottayam crowned with yet another great honor. It became India's first 100% literate town through a unique '100 days, 100% literacy' campaign that opened the world of letters to 2208 people.



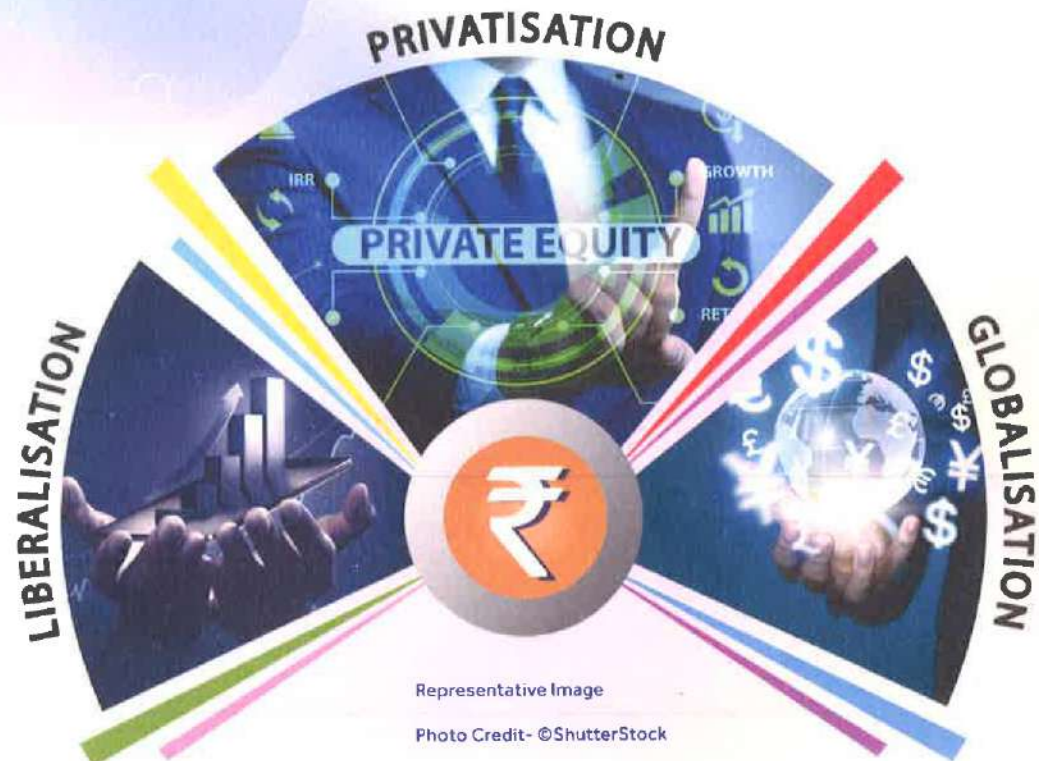
A mass run organized by the Mahatma Gandhi University and the Kottayam Municipality as part of the 100 percent literacy campaign in 1989 in Kerala.

Photo Credit- @The Hindu Archives

1991

A BOLD FINANCIAL POLICY, A NEW DAWN FOR THE ECONOMY

This policy opened the door of the India Economy for global exposure for the first time. Embracing liberalisation, privatisation and globalisation, India entered a new phase of development with major economic reforms which would see the country become self-sufficient in food and establish a strong industrial base.



Representative Image

Photo Credit- @Shutterstock

1992

LIBERALISATION BECAME THE MAGIC KEY TO WIDEN INDIA'S ECONOMY

Liberalisation in the Indian banking sector commenced from 1992. Amongst key changes, the reforms included interest rates deregulation; directed credit rules, statutory pre-emptions and entry deregulation for both domestic and foreign banks. Since then, the structural changes implemented due to liberalisation has set the foundation for banking to make the shift from 'class banking' to 'mass banking'.

1992

INDIA'S FIRST STOCK EXCHANGE UNFURLED ITS WINGS, TRADING TOOK OFF WITH A WHOLE NEW SWING

India's leading financial exchange today, NSE was the first stock exchange to offer a modern, fully automated screen-based electronic trading system facilitating the integration of investors throughout the country into a single base. NSE's sustained leadership in the Indian and global exchange sectors makes it one of the most robust and liquid stock exchanges in the world.



Finance Minister Dr Manmohan Singh inaugurating the National Stock Exchange by pressing a button of a computer at Nehru Centre, Worli, Mumbai.

Photo Credit: ©The Indian Express (P) Limited

1994

PROUDLY ADDING ON MISSILE STRENGTH, BOLSTERING INDIA'S DEFENCE

Under the Integrated Guided Missile Development Program, the first tactical surface-to-surface short-range ballistic missile, Prithvi, was inducted into the Indian Army. India's mission to achieve self-sufficiency in indigenous strategic weapons was thus accomplished. Developed as a battlefield missile, Prithvi can carry a nuclear warhead in its role as a tactical nuclear weapon.



The surface to surface Prithvi missile displayed during the dressed rehearsal of the Republic Day parade in new Delhi on 23rd January, 1994.

Photo Credit- ©The Hindu Archives

1994

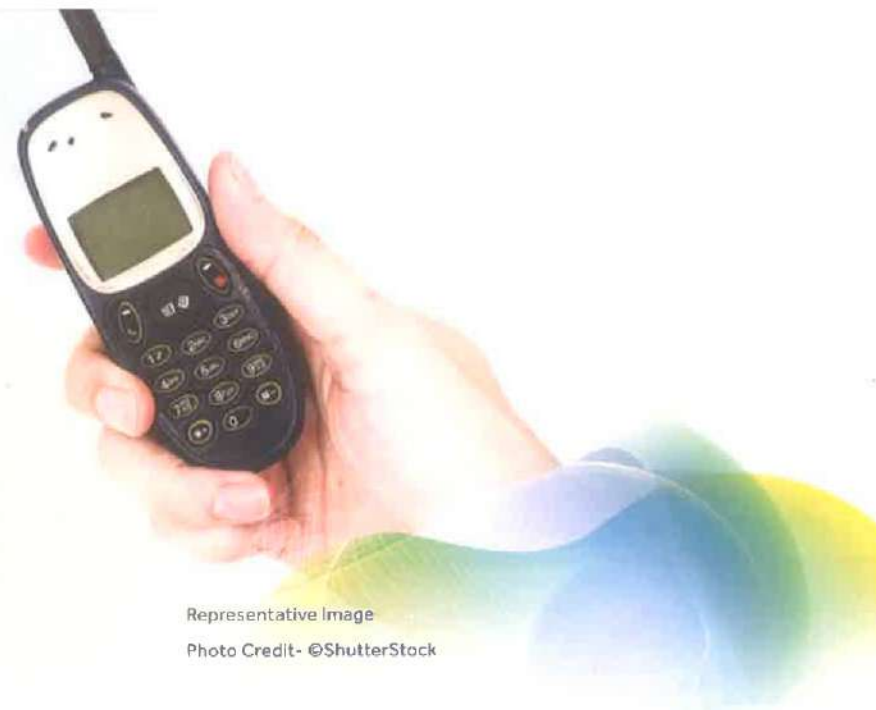
THE EPITOME OF GRACE, INTELLECT AND ELEGANCE SUSHMITA SEN BECOMES INDIA'S FIRST MISS UNIVERSE

On 21st May 1994, Sushmita Sen carved her name in history and became the first Indian woman to win the Miss Universe title. Her poise, confidence and compassionate response in the final round won the hearts of not just the judges but millions of people around the world.

1997

THE TELECOMMUNICATIONS INDUSTRY, BENEFITED FROM AN INDEPENDENT REGULATORY AUTHORITY

The entry of private sector providers compelled the need for independent regulation. The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India was thus born to regulate telecom services and tariffs. TRAI's mission is to create and nurture conditions for growth of telecommunications at a pace which will enable India to play a leading role in the emerging global information society.



Representative Image

Photo Credit- ©Shutterstock

1997

KALPANA CHAWLA'S INCREDIBLE SPACE JOURNEY, BROUGHT MANKIND CLOSER TO UNRAVELLING INFINITY

A young girl from Haryana's Karnal town dared to dream big and fulfilled her mission to reach for the stars as a crew member of the Columbia on its 24th flight into space. The Indian born astronaut with a doctorate in aerospace engineering spent a year in training and served as a mission specialist. On 1st February 2003, Kalpana died in a space mission but her legacy lives on.



Profile photo of astronaut Kalpana Chawla.



Representative Image
Photo Credit- ©Shutterstock

1999

IRDAI'S FORMATION, ASSURES EVERY INSURER PROTECTION

Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority India (IRDAI) is a regulatory body under the jurisdiction of Ministry of Finance and Government of India. It is tasked with regulating, licensing and developing the insurance and re-insurance industries in India. It also seeks to protect insurance holders, foster speedy industry growth and prevent frauds and malpractices.

2001

DESIGNED TO COMPETE WITH THE WORLD'S FASTEST ANTI-SHIP CRUISE MISSILE, BRAHMOS GOES THE EXTRA MILE

A breakthrough in supersonic missiles, BrahMos elevated the calibre and class of missiles in India. The country's self-made seeker is the world's fastest Anti-Ship Cruise Missile currently in operation. Since inception, the missile has undergone a number of test trials and is currently in service with the Indian Army, Indian Navy and Indian Air Force.



Brahmos Missile on display at the India Gate lawns
in New Delhi on 22nd January, 2003.

Photo Credit- ©The Times of India

2005

FREEDOM OF SPEECH AND EXPRESSION, REALISED BY THE RIGHT TO INFORMATION

The Right to Information Act 2005 is a landmark legislation that is derived from every Indian's fundamental right of freedom of speech and expression under Article 19 of the Constitution. It empowers Indian citizens against administrative misconduct, by making the Governmental & Public Institution's functions, programs and process related information accessible to every common man.



Representative Image

2005

RURAL LIVELIHOODS ARE SECURED, WHEN EMPLOYMENT IS ASSURED

The National Rural Employment Guarantee Act is a labour law and social security measure. Running as the world's largest employment guarantee program since inception, it aims to enhance livelihood security in rural areas by providing at least 100 days of wage employment each year, to at least one member of every household where adult members have volunteered to do unskilled manual work.

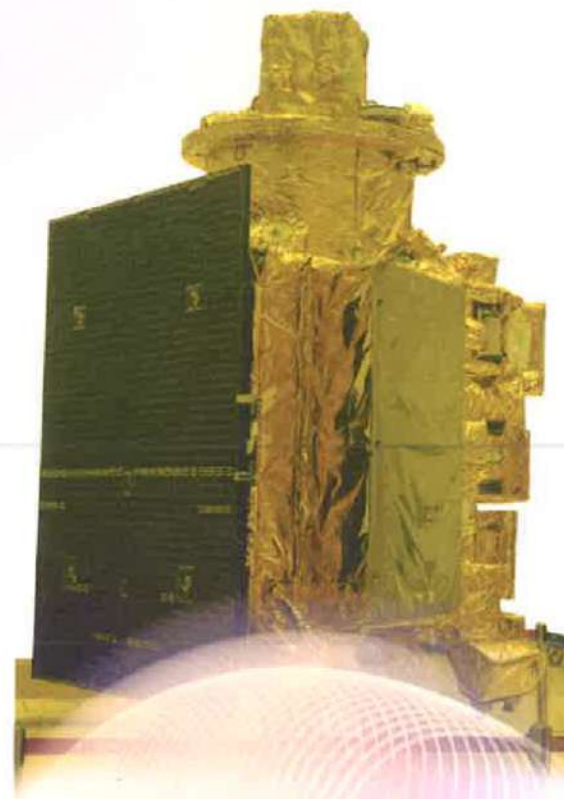


Representative Image

2008

INDIA SUCCESSFULLY INITIATED CHANDRAYAN 1 THE FIRST EVER MOON MISSION

The first lunar probe under the Chandrayan Program, Chandrayan-I made successful landing. The moon mission's discovery of the presence of water molecules in lunar soil and the presence of ice at the polar regions marked a great achievement in space research across the world.



Chandrayaan-1 displayed at ISRO Satellite Centre.

Photo Credit- ©The Times of India



2009

BRIDGING THE GAP BETWEEN CLASSES, THE RIGHT TO EDUCATION ACT EMPOWERS THE MASSES

Moving to a rights-based approach towards implementing education for all citizens, the Right to Education Act made schooling a legal obligation for the state. It mandates reservation for the socio-economically disadvantaged sections furthering the national cause of social inclusion.

2010

A GLORIOUS EVENT IN INDIA'S SPORTING HISTORY, THE COMMONWEALTH GAMES BEING HELD IN DELHI

The Commonwealth Games of 2010 gave Indian sports a much-needed shot in the arm. On 3rd October, the Games were kicked off with an elaborate and extravagant opening ceremony held at the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium and witnessed by around 60,000 spectators on ground, and almost 3 million people worldwide. With a record accomplishment of 101 medals, the games were the perfect showcase to present the country on the world stage.



Commonwealth champions (from left to right) Rifle Shooter Gagan Narang, Table Tennis Men's Double Sharath Kamal, Subhajit Saha and Boxer Manoj Kumar.

Photo Credit- ©The Indian Express (P) Limited & The Hindu Archives

2012

TECH EVOLUTION PAVES THE WAY, FOR ELECTRONIC TRANSACTIONS THROUGH RUPAY

Conceived and launched by the NPCI, RuPay is the first-of-its-kind Global Card payment network from India. It was through RuPay's launch that RBI's vision of establishing a domestic, open and multilateral system of payments was realised. RuPay is now widely accepted at ATMs, POS devices and e-commerce websites across India.



Representative Image

Photo Credit- ©The State Bank of India Archives

2012



Saina Nehwal stands with her Bronze medal.

Photo Credit- ©Getty Images

SAINA NEHWAL BECOMES INDIA'S HEROINE, REVOLUTIONISES INDIAN BADMINTON WITH HER OLYMPIC WIN

With her bronze at the 2012 London Olympics, Saina Nehwal became the first Indian woman shuttler to win an Olympic medal. She made Indian badminton a national news and kickstarted a new era in the sport. Saina is the only player from India to have won at least one medal in every Badminton World Federation major individual event. A decade after her Olympic victory, Saina Nehwal is still the most successful Indian in the Super Series circuit with ten titles to her credit.

2013

A SPACE PROBE BUILT INDIGENOUSLY LAUNCHES MISSION MANGALYAAN SUCCESSFULLY

India became the only country in the world to reach Mars in the first attempt. With this remarkable accomplishment, the Indian Space Research Organisation has carved its name among the ranks of esteemed global space agencies.



Scientists working with the Mars Orbiter Mission Spacecraft which was unveiled at ISRO Satellite Centre (ISAC) in Bengaluru on 11th September, 2013.

2013

DISTRIBUTION OF GOVERNMENT SUBSIDIES MADE EASY, DIRECT BENEFIT TRANSFER SCHEME SUPPORTS THE NEEDY

A radical initiative favouring the common man, the Direct Benefit Transfer program leveraged the power of digital technology to make welfare aid directly accessible to all. The government-initiated subsidies are now reaching people through their linked bank accounts. A move that proved especially beneficial during the pandemic times.



Representative Image

Photo Credit- ©Alamy Stock Photo

2014

JAN DHAN YOJANA IS INTRODUCED TO PROVIDE A BANK ACCOUNT TO EACH HOUSEHOLD

The Government of India opened to citizens, a breakthrough initiative that would produce both transformational and directional change in financial inclusion. Crores of accounts were opened under the Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana, with an aim to give every Indian access to savings and deposits, remittance, credit, insurance and pension.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi at the launch event of the Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana.



2014

FORMATION OF TELANGANA STATE'S BOUNDARY, HELPS ITS PEOPLE UPHOLD THEIR OWN IDENTITY

As a geographical and political entity, Telangana was conferred statehood on 2nd June 2014. Through the years that followed, the youngest state in the country has excelled in all the sectors. Born with the spirit of a 'start-up' state, Telangana is today among the top performing states in India in terms of growth rate of its Per Capita Net State Domestic Product.



Representative Image



Mohana Singh, Avani Chaturvedi and Bhavan Kanth, the first three women fighter pilots in the country.

Photo Credit- ©The Hindu Archives

2016

COMMISSIONED BY THE INDIAN AIR FORCE, WOMEN FIGHTER PILOTS SET OUT ON AN EXEMPLARY COURSE

Under an experimental scheme by the Ministry of Defence, Indian Air Force inducted the first batch of women pilots into its fighter squadron. Marking a revolutionary event in the history of IAF, the three women pilots were formally commissioned at the Air Force Academy in Hyderabad. Giving more power to women officers to fly high is a testimony to the capability of India's 'Nari Shakti' and the country's commitment towards women empowerment.

2017

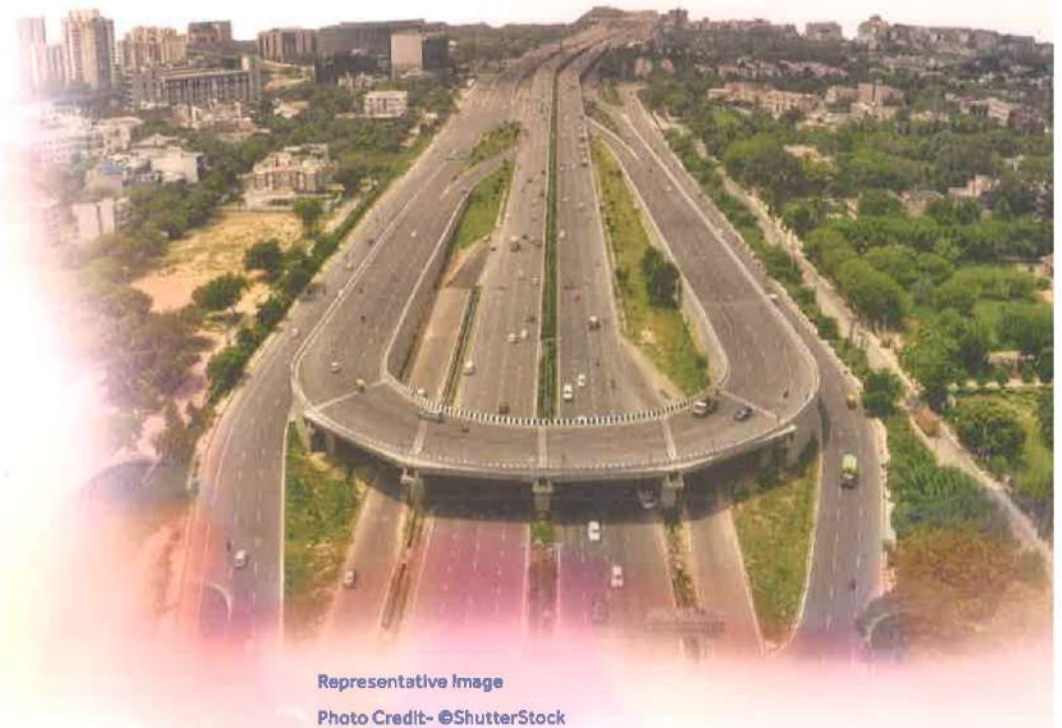
A PROJECT ENVISIONED TO IMPROVE CONNECTIVITY AND PAVE THE PATH TO PROSPERITY

Bharatmala Pariyojana is the second largest highway construction project in India that aims at boosting the economic activity through better connectivity. This ambitious project seeks to bring a new wave of development in the nation.



Representative Image

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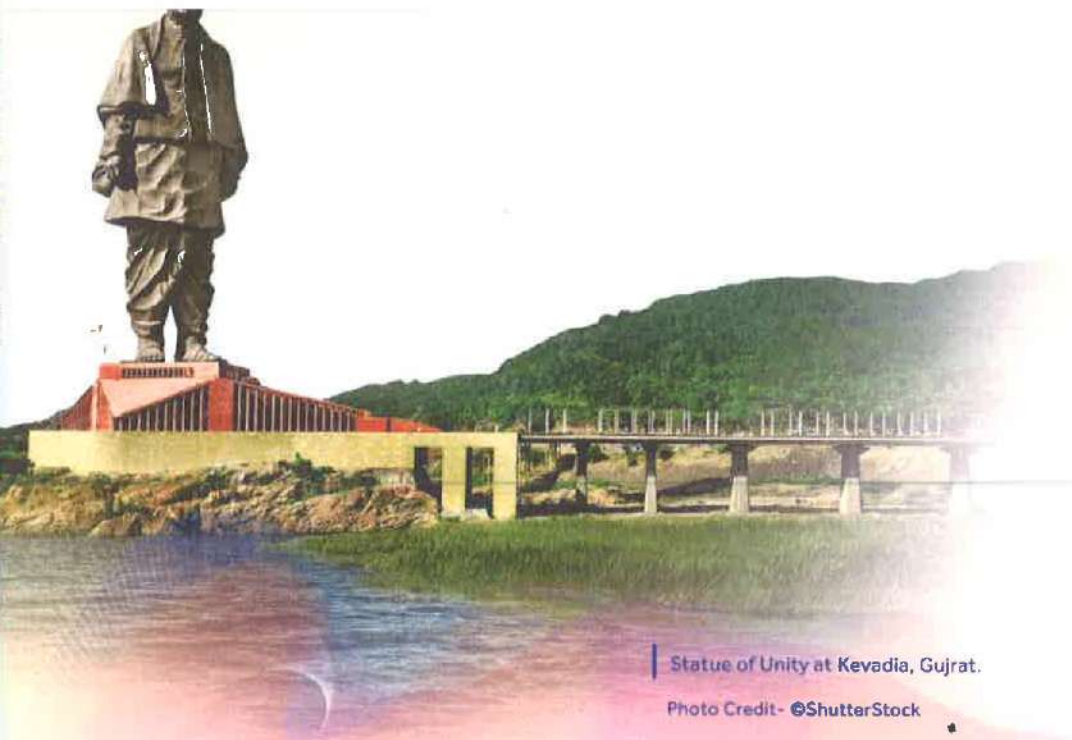
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Photo Credit- ©Shutterstock

2017

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA MAKES A HISTORIC DECISION, UNITING COUNTRY WITH THE ONE-INDIA-ONE-TAXATION

The policy of one indirect tax for the whole nation came into effect at midnight on first July 2017, following a convention of both houses of the parliament. A big step in the reformation of indirect tax regime, GST aims to drive India towards becoming an integrated economy, by eliminating economic barriers.



Statue of Unity at Kevadia, Gujrat.

Photo Credit- ©Shutterstock

2018

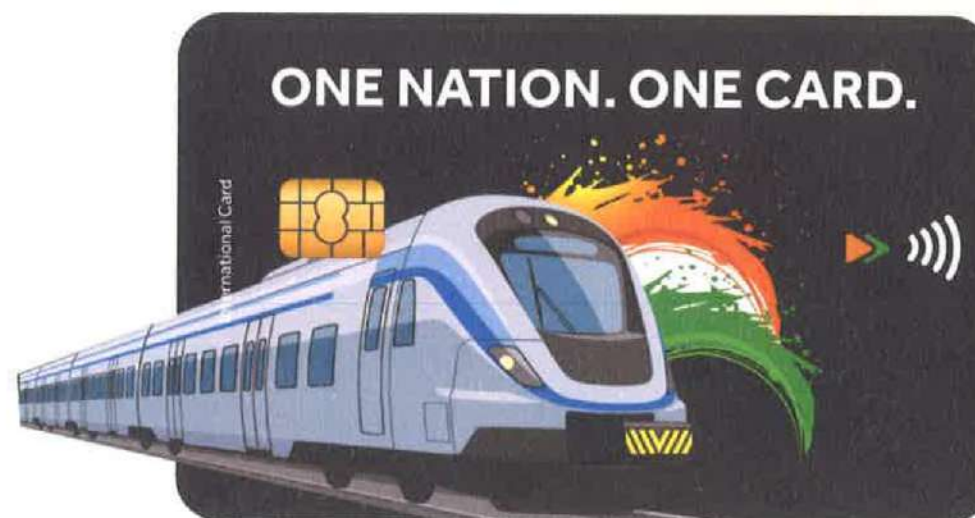
A TALL TRIBUTE TO SALUTE THE CONTRIBUTION OF A HERO WHO BUILT THE NATION

Inspired by the exemplary contribution of the Iron Man of India, Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, The Statue of Unity was established. Recorded as the world's tallest at 182 metres, this colossal creation was constructed in merely 46 months. The monument includes a memorial garden and museum, an exhibition area, and a viewing gallery that can accommodate 200 visitors at a time.

2019

THE NATIONAL COMMON MOBILITY CARD ENCOURAGED CITIZENS TO TRAVEL SMART

The launch of the National Common Mobility Card is a thoughtful move by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, that ensures a seamless travel experience through various modes of transport. The card brings in more convenience by enabling citizens to pay easily for transportation facilities and doubles up as prepaid, debit or credit RuPay card.



Representative Image

Photo Credit- ©ShutterStock

Furthering the Make in India initiative, honourable PM Shri Narendra Modi announced Rs. 20 lakh crores under Aatmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan to provide financial aid to the people worst hit by the COVID-19. The economy opened up to new avenues of trade, investment, and employment empowering India with the armour of self-reliance during the pandemic.

Adhering to the philosophy, "Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam" (the world is one family), the Ministry of External Affairs launched "Vaccine Maitri". Under this initiative, we achieved the milestone of supplying 16.29 crore immunisation doses. Since its inception, the Vaccine Maitri Programme enabled the supply of 723.435 lakh doses of COVID vaccine to 94 countries and 2 UN entities.

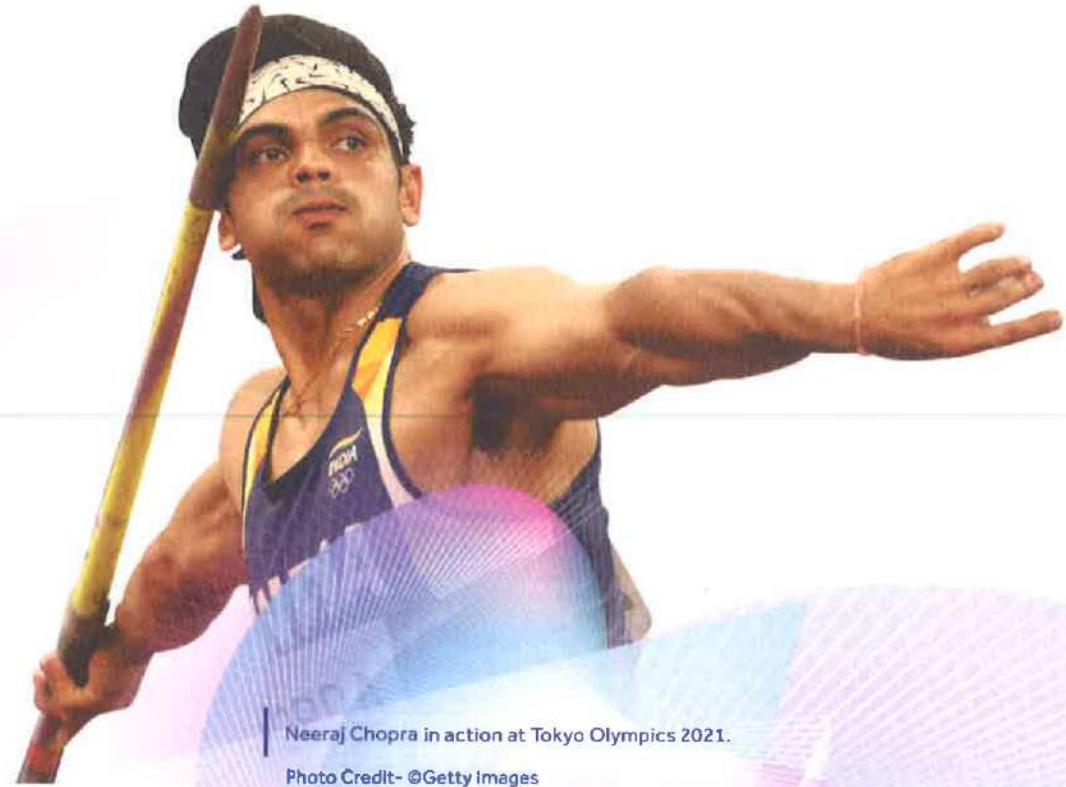


(From left to right) Nepal's Minister for Health and Population Hridayesh Tripathi and Indian ambassador to Nepal Vinay Mohan Kwatra at the vaccine handover ceremony.

2021

NEERAJ CHOPRA OUTRANKED THE WORLD'S BEST MAKING INDIA PROUD AT THE OLYMPIC CONTEST

Setting a record with his performance at the Olympic javelin throw event, Neeraj Chopra brought home the first athletic gold medal for India. He became India's second individual Olympic champion. His historic victory at Tokyo, made Neeraj Chopra the pride of 1.4 billion Indians and made this the best Olympics event for the country till date.



Neeraj Chopra in action at Tokyo Olympics 2021.

Photo Credit- ©Getty images

2021

A MEGA COVID VACCINATION DRIVE HELPS THE ENTIRE NATION REVIVE

On 16th January 2021, India rolled out the world's largest COVID-19 vaccination drive. The campaign spanning all its states and union territories focussed on testing, tracking, treating its citizens and has provided 1.82 billion doses of vaccines till date. Among the vaccines administered across the nation is COVAXIN, India's indigenous COVID-19 vaccine developed by Bharat Biotech in collaboration with Indian Council of Medical Research.

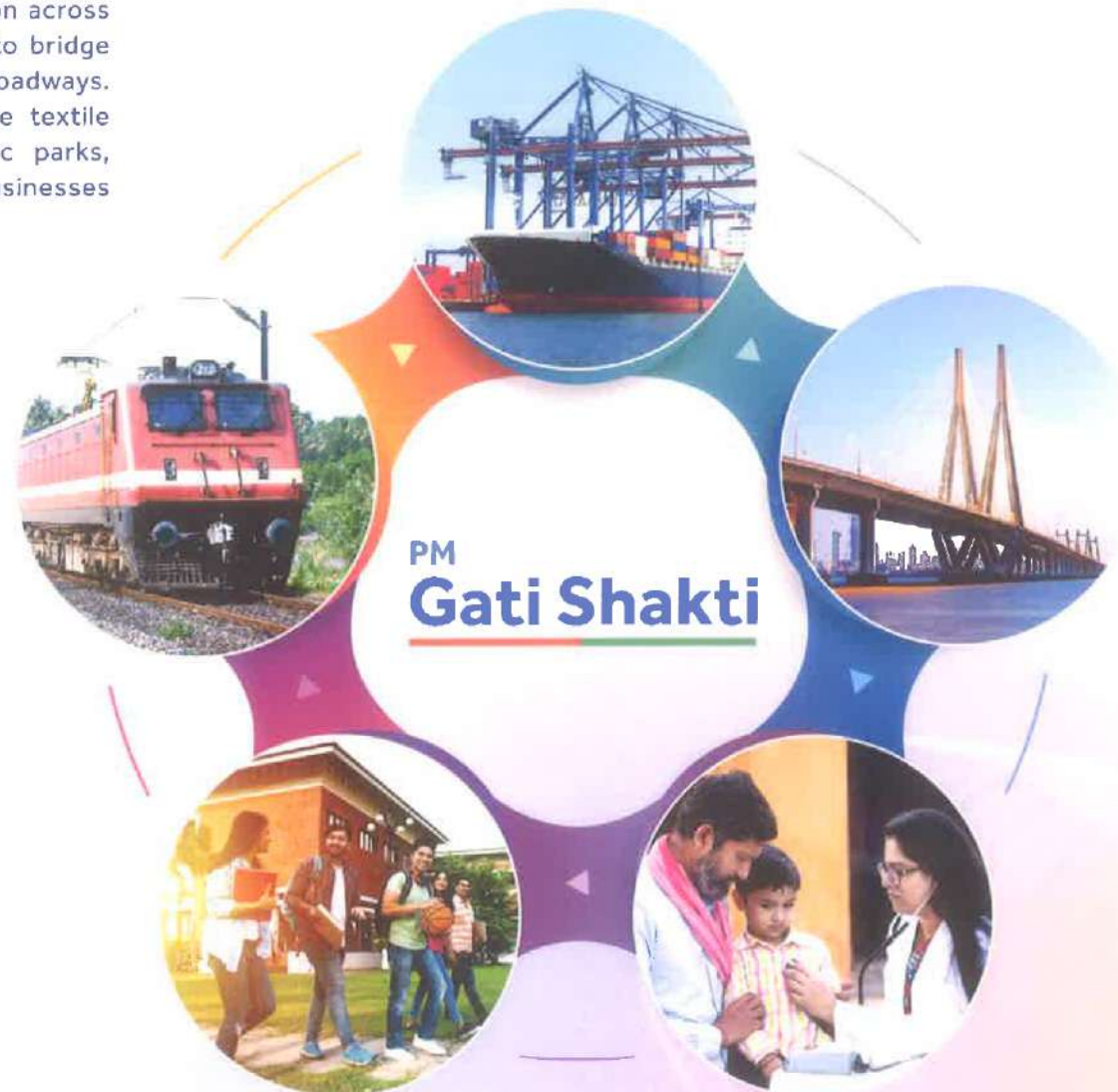


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2021

A NATIONAL MASTER PLAN CALLED PM GATI SHAKTI POWERS MULTI-MODAL CONNECTIVITY

PM Gati Shakti Plan was actioned to make seamless transportation across the nation possible for every citizen. The digital platform aims to bridge the functional gap between the 16 Ministries of Railways and Roadways. The plan will improve connectivity among Economic Zones like textile clusters, pharmaceutical clusters, defence corridors, electronic parks, industrial corridors, fishing clusters, agri zones to make Indian businesses more competitive.



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INDIA SAW SEVERAL
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WE AT **SBI** WISH EVERY INDIAN,
ANOTHER **75** YEARS OF
PROGRESS AND **PROSPERITY**

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