

PARTNERSHIP AZADI KA AMRIT MAHOTSAV INDIA@75



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

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

The past can be a good guide for an innovative future. Coming out of the colonial yoke, India enabled a large number of countries across Asia, Africa and elsewhere to follow suit and in turn, acquired the leadership through non-alignment to become the voice of the developing world. India's involvement in the United



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

Nations (UN), General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT)/ World Trade Organization (WTO) and a plethora of international organisations engineered its adherence to multilateralism which is also implicit in the psyche of Indians at a fundamental level. It was at a time when India was struggling to survive hunger, poverty and under development. Yet it became a beacon of hope and trust for the world. India is an example of unity in diversity and has emerged as an indispensable strategic actor which needs to be factored into all global calculations.

India at 75 is a force to reckon with. With 1.3 billion voices, it can easily traverse the challenges that stare at her and the world. India's developmental model, which has evolved with time, has been of great assistance to more than

160 countries across the world through various capacity-building programmes and efforts in the spirit of "Share and Care". It has helped India to create a tremendous constituency of goodwill across continents. Even during the ensuing Covid-19 pandemic, India was one country which went way beyond her call of duty to help more than 150 countries with medicines and other assistance, and has provided millions of doses of vaccines to over 90 countries. 'Vaccine Maitri' and 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam' became the mantra during this crisis. It was no wonder that when India faced the second wave of Covid-19, many friends extended their assistance. Global solidarity for confronting global challenges is what India practices and prescribes. India, with its continental size, is a kaleidoscope of culture, tradition, languages, art, music, films, food and festivities.

These would be an integral part of the mahotsav (mega event) until August 2023 and beyond.

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi's initiative to seek global support for the International Day of Yoga on June 21 at the UN in 2014 was an astounding and unprecedented success. It is gaining greater acceptability across the world. It was also a stellar achievement of Indian diplomacy. Other major initiatives like International Solar Alliance and Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI) have earned India the right to be at the forefront of fight against climate change.

As India aims to be the third-largest economy, led by talented youth into the Artificial Intelligence (AI)-driven Industrial Revolution 4.0, it has embarked on a journey to become 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat' (self-

reliant India) and an integral part of the global value and supply chains with 'Vocal for Local' facilitating a paradigm shift in the post-Covid era. PM Modi has enthused the nation, saying that, "When an Indian takes one step forward, the nation sprints by 1.3 bn [billion] steps". In the international domain, India is taking the lead as it chairs the BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa) in 2021 and G20 in 2023, and aspires for its rightful place at the high table of UNSC (United Nations Security Council) as it promotes peace and development across the world through the dynamic five 'S' vision for foreign policy, namely Samman (respect), Samvaad (dialogue), Sahyog (cooperation), Shanti (peace) and Samridhhi (global prosperity).

PM Modi, while speaking at the UN, said, "India is a nation that has



On September 27, 2014, when PM Modi addressed the UNGA for the first time, he made his historic and successful proposal for the UN to declare June 21 every year as the International Day of Yoga

given Buddh [in a reference to Lord Gautama Buddha] and not yuddh [war]. That is why we have an abiding commitment against terrorism. Terrorism goes against the founding principle of the United Nations, and for the sake of humanity, it is crucial that the world unites against it. A divided world is in nobody's interest." We can rightly be proud of our achievements in

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



A dance performance from the inaugural event



ANIL TRIGUNAYAT

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

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India : *Murt Amurt*

Art in India began with the philosophy of Buddhism as King Ashoka established 84,000 stupas, as mentioned by Fa Hian. The first murti, a sculpture of any deity which was carved and worshipped was of the Buddha in 1st -2nd C.E. The emergence of the form of Buddha seems to be simultaneously made in Mathura, northern India and in Gandhara - present Afghanistan. Both the forms have prominent stylistic features which tell the tale of their source of origin as indigenous and Greco-Roman respectively.

The Buddhist art was followed by Brahminical art forms such as Vishnu, Siva, Surya, Durga, Kartikeya and many more. The concept of God as a physical being was nonexistent in the pre-Buddhist era. The supreme or the Brahmana as discussed and described in Upanishads is the sole energy (entity). It refers to the non-dualistic philosophy: Advaita which means the absence of the duality between Atman and Brahman. The truth and reality are one and only i.e. the Brahmana and everything else is a mere appearance, projection, formation and

illusion. Thus everything and each being, be it a tree, plant, animal and insect all are mere projection and appearance of the Supreme i.e. the Brahmana. So, in such case creating an image of the Brahmana was unthinkable. The Brahmana is considered to be present in each life form and including the mountains, hills and hillocks. Thus the reverence of the mountains and rivers such as Mt. Kailasha and Ganges continues from time immemorial, in Indian tradition. So, the natural sites are pilgrimages and dwellings of the divine. And all life forms are sacrosanct thus creating anyone forms for veneration seemed, irrelevant and incomplete.

To further explain the Advaita Sidhanta about the illusion, since the only reality is the Brahmana and all rest is an illusion- Maya, so every form ultimately goes back and get absorbed in the Brahmana. Brahmana is real, but the world in which we live is a mere illusion, like a mirage. The Atman, the individual self, has no separate existence of its own. It is but a projection or reflection of Brahmana only in each being. The world as we experience appears in our consciousness because of the activity of the mind and the senses. One can perceive and experience the Brahmana, with fully withdrawn senses achieved through detachment, purity and renunciation, one can see the Supreme Self hidden in oneself.

By

Anamika Biswas



2 to 30

Every Sundays
4.00 pm

Monthly Lecture Series -36, 37, 39,41,42

Online Yoga lecture / workshop sessions for Param Dhamma Chaitya Pirivena, Ratmanala
by Shri Ajay Kumbhar, Yoga expert from India

Monthly Lecture Series -38

Yoga For Hemorrhoids (Piles)
by Shri Ajay Kumbhar, Yoga expert from India

15

Saturday
7.30pm

8

Saturday
6.00pm

Sanskriti Sandhya Series – 13

Violin Recital

by
Dhanushka Prabath Jaymuthuge M.Mus. Banaras Hindu University India

Poya day celebration - 18

Event to mark
Duruthu Full Moon Poya Day

17

Monday

9

Sunday

Pravasi Bharatiya Diwas

Monthly Lecture Series -40

Yoga : With Teachings of Swami vivekananda
by Shri Ajay Kumbhar, Yoga expert from India

22

Saturday
7.30pm

10

Monday
3.00pm

World Hindi Diwas Celebration

Venue: SVCC

Celebrating 73rd Republic Day of India

“Divyanubhuti” - Experience of the divine
Odissi Dance Recital
by Moumita Ghosh and Ensemble
Venue: Bandaranaike Memorial International Conference Hall, Colombo 7
(Admission by Invitation)

28

Friday
6.45 pm

14

Friday
6.00pm

Sanskriti Sandhya Series – 14

Kathampam ‘Makar Sankranti’ (Thai Pongal)

Significance of Makar Sankranti
Lecture cum Festive dance programme
By Dr. Subashini Pathmanathan
Outstanding scholar & Renowned Bhartha Natya artiste

Sanskriti Sandhya Series – 15

Hindustani Vocal Recital
by
Shastapathy Geethika Abeysekara, Lecturer at the University of Sri Jayewardenepura

29

Saturday
6.00 pm

For details in regard to online classes on Bharatha Natyam, Kathak, Sitar, Violin, Tabla, Carnatic vocal, Yoga and Hindi please call on tell no. +94 77 672 6143 or email to iccrcolombo2@gmail.com.

For upcoming facebook live events, visit www.facebook.com/ICCRSriLanka

Free Events. All are cordially invited. Except 28th Event