*At the stroke of the midnight hour, when the world sleeps, India will awake to life and freedom.*
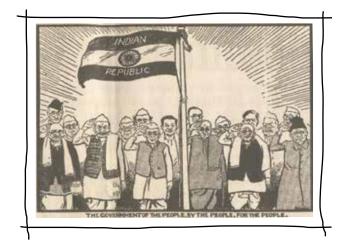
**- Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru (14.8.1947)**





70 years on, we still are not fully awake to the realities of the changing world despite undergoing unearthing surge of political, cultural and social change.
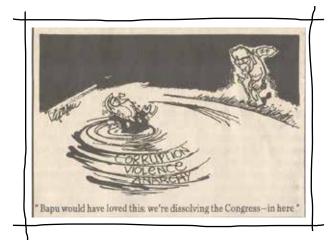
India completes her 70th year as a free nation on 15th August 2017. According to Hindu tradition, the beginning of 70 years is a milestone event in the life of any person. Bhima Ratha Shanti is done as a remedy to overcome the fear of death, loss of memory, relatives etc. It also celebrates the wisdom, maturity, accomplishments and a decade in Vana Prastha since completing Shastiabdapoorthy – a phase of life which marks the renunciation of wordly responsibilities and detachment from power, fame, na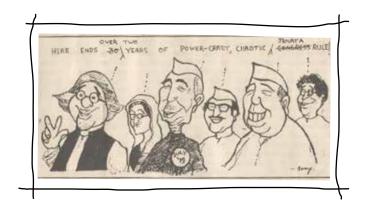me and wealth. 70 years in the life of a nation is a reasonable though not a long period to assess its journey as an independent nation. Any assessment should be generous and optimistic. Anniversaries are rarely the best occasions to make honest assessments. The spirit of the event can make you either indulge in celebration or sink into cynicism.

During these 70 years India has evolved from a conglomeration of more than 500 princely states into the world's biggest and vibrant democracy. This period witnessed three revolutions White, Green and IT. Have these catapulated India to be counted amongst the league of developed / developing nations in the world? Have we graduated from being a fringe, outside ring to a major player in world affairs?

# These cartoons tell it all





" Bapu would have loved this: we're dissolving the Congress—in here "







UPA
SCHOOL OF SCAMS

HOW TO DO CORRUPTION

IPL
ADARSH
NREGA
TAJ CORR.
CASH FOR VOTE
UTI
COAL-GATE
2G
CWG



AB ACHCHE DIN DOOR NAHI !

We were a nation of elders when we secured independence from foreign yoke. Today we stand graduated in the reverse direction as a young nation. Every third person in an Indian city is a youth. By 2020, the median individual in India will be 29 years, making it the youngest country in the world. India is about to usher in a dynamic transformation as the population burden of the past turns into a demographic dividend, but the benefits will be tempered by the social and spatial inequalities unless we as a nation addresses the woes of the youth. The population in the age group of 14-34 is 430 million and expected to rise to 464 million by 2021. By 2020, 64% of India's population would be in the working age group. This demographic potential offers India and its growing economy an unprecedented edge. Today the GDP growth rate is 7%. The Prime Minister is of the opinion that a 8% growth rate for 3 consecutive years will lift India as a developed

nation. The GST is expected to bring about atleast 1% improvement in GDP. This is the most opportune time for India to seize the initiative and convert its youthful population as the engine for change.

From the prism of the world and its great men, India has remained a Nation of opportunities, a destination for every discoverer.

*We owe to the Indians, who taught us how to count, without which no worthwhile scientific discoveries could have been made.*

**- Albert Einstein**

*India is the cradle of human race, the birthplace of human speech, the mother of history, the grandmother of legend, and the great grand mother of tradition. Our most valuable and most constructive materials in the history of man are treasured up in India only.*

**- Mark Twain**

*If there is one place on the face of earth where all the dreams of living men found a home*

*from the very earliest days when man began the dream of existence, it is India.*

**- French Scholar Romain Rolland**

*India conquered and dominated China culturally for 20 centuries without ever having to send a single soldier across her border.*

**- Hu Shih,**
**former Ambassador of Chine to USA**

*Many of the advances in the sciences that we consider today to have been made in Europe were in fact made in India centuries ago".*

**- Grant Duff, British Historian of India**

*India was the motherland of our race and Sanskrit the mother of Europe's languages. India was the mother of our philosophy, of much of our mathematics, of the ideals embodied in Christianity…. Of self-government and democracy In many ways, Mother India is the mother of all".*

**- William Durant,**
**American Historian (1885-1981)**

An occasion like this brings back memories of our glorious past, of our contribution to the world.
Equally so, it allows us to reflect on 70 things India needs to achieve.

## 70 things India has given to the World

1. 1st University – Takshashila (700 BC)
2. Trignometry – Aryabhatta
3. Pentium Chip (Vinod Dhawan)
4. Binary Code
5. Concept of Atom
6. Ayurveda
7. Bhaskaracharya – Time taken by the earth to orbit the Sun
8. Ruler
9. Prefabricated home and movable structure
10. Cotton cultivation
11. Diamond Mining
12. Water on Moon
13. Radio / Wireless communication
14. Ink
15. Steel and metal works
16. Fiber Optics
17. Cultivation of Jute
18. Plastic Surgery
19. Cure for Leprosy
20. Flush toilets
21. Jaipur Foot
22. Yoga
23. Gandhian Philosophy of Non-Violence
24. Languages – Sanskrit
25. Time Keeping - Water Clock
26. City Planning

27. Observatory
28. Sword
29. Cashmere Wool
30. Shampoo
31. Buttons
32. Buddhism and Jainism
33. Fibonacci Pattern of Number
34. C. Rescograph
35. USB (Developed and designed by Ajay U. Bhatt)
36. Card game – Suits
37. Candid Sugar
38. Visceral Leishmaniasis
39. Mysorean rockets
40. Radio broadcasting
41. Weighing Scale
42. Crucible Steel
43. Shearing Interferometer
44. Game of Chess
45. Mokshapit – Snakes and Ladders
46. Diversity
47. Martial Arts
48. Anesthesia
49. Navigation
50. 1st Granite Temple
51. Jallikattu
52. Charkha
53. Cataract Surgery
54. Decimal number system of place value 10
55. Kabbadi
56. Astrology and Cosmology studies
57. Extraction of Zinc from Zinc ore
58. Stepwell (Mohenjodaro)
59. Iron Pillars (Iron Pillar of Delhi – Chandragupta II Vikramaditya (375-413 BC)
60. Stupa Architecture
61. Seamless Celestial Globe
62. Computer and Programming language : Visual J (Jay – Sharp KoJo)
63. Carbon Pigment
64. Calico
65. Carding Devices (Textile Technology)
66. Muslin Fabric
67. Budhayana (6th century) explained Pythagoras Theorem long before Pythagoras was born
68. Incense Clock
69. Wootz Steel
70. Pseudo Monnos Putida (Microbiology – micro organism to break down crude oil)

# 70 things India has to achieve

1. One identity as a nation
2. Health for all
3. Corruption free India
4. Uniform Civil Code
5. Terrorism Free
6. Gender Equality
7. Mass function literacy
8. Untouchability – remove the last traces
9. Swaccha Bharat
10. Less Bureaucracy
11. Less ' Cash' society
12. Electoral Reforms
13. Panchayati Raj
14. Police Reforms
15. Farmers – No suicide; agrarian reforms
16. Judiciary – fast track disposal
17. Research based and innovation driven Indian technology
18. Education Reforms – more 'Indian' in the curriculum
19. A tourist friendly India
20. Compulsory voting – (NOTA) adult suffrage
21. Right of recall of elected representatives
22. More Olympic medals – excellence in sports
23. Rural urban divide to minimize
24. Smart Cities
25. World class universities – atleast 10 in 10 years

26. Police reforms
27. Higher bandwidth highway – better connectivity 'Digital India'
28. Right to services
29. Abolish child labour (particularly cracker/ carpet industry)
30. None below poverty line
31. High GDP growth rate for a decade ahead
32. Social insurance benefits to all
33. No capital punishment
34. All of nature belongs to the state – No interstate disputes
35. Linking of major rivers – Become a major hydro power.
36. Temple entry for all – no caste, creed, gender
37. No war pact with all neighbouring countries
38. Less defence expenditure and more for social welfare
39. Skill India
40. Employment for all eligible
41. Women safety – No crime against women
42. Communal harmony
43. Resolve Kashmir issue
44. More states for effective Governance but not on linguistic basis
45. Hunger Free India
46. TB, Polio, Malaria free India
47. No religious intolerance
48. One India one tax (GST)
49. One India one vote (simultaneous elections to Lok Sabha and the states)
50. Free India of antiquated Laws and simplify all laws
51. Take Indian cuisine the world over
52. Superstition free India.
53. Preservation of Monuments and places of history like the western world.
54. Achieve lunar mission – Chandraayan – II
55. Successful Mars mission – Mangalyaan
56. Population Control
57. Reduced Brain Drain
58. Make it Easy for Entrepreneurs (Ease of doing business)
59. Leader in Robotics, 3d manufacturing and Internet of things (IOT)
60. Tap our Sun – Become world's largest solar power generator
61. Improve Governance
62. Credible Fiscal policy and cap on public debt
63. Improve Environmental Quality – Clean energy, Water Usage
64. Freedom from Cricket centric sports
65. Quota Free India (Reservation based on economic criteria)
66. Permanent Representative of the UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL
67. Save the Tiger
68. Better Disaster Management
69. Single Identity for every Indian for everything (Aadhaar? Or beyond)
70. **'Indianise' the Globe**

For India which is an ancient civilization, one century would not even be a chapter in its history. We do believe that the 21st century is crucial to India. It is upto us to write this chapter. We can make it a golden chapter if we can believe in ourselves. We have to gird up our loins and shake the inertia that has enveloped us if we have to climb on the limitless ladder of excellence. Can we take, even if they are baby steps, one step forward in furthering any one of the 70 things to achieve in the years ahead. There could still be many things beyond these 70 to achieve. Any push to further those causes would be no less important. That would be the best way to celebrate India at 70. May we all Indians be blessed to write this golden chapter of the 21st Century India.