



India ON THE Horizon



CONSUMER CONNECT INITIATIVE

THE PAST AND THE PRESENT

Before we look at the future of India, let's retrace our steps and study her evolution over the last 69 years. For beginners, one can't forget the fact that India tried to adopt a welfare model—one wherein all the industries and sectors were to be governed by the government—after attaining independence. However, gradually the exigency of economics made us realise that capitalism was not an evil but instead a vehicle for faster growth. Finally today, we are living in a liberalised economy—one where the sectors have opened up and both, the public as well as the private sector are playing an equally important part in driving the growth of the economy.

We mustn't forget that when we started out, a Licence Raj was in effect. However, now, with everything being streamlined, the 'Ease of Doing Business' has been given the highest priority.

Speaking about the present, we mustn't forget the importance of education and the stupendous performance of the service sector, both of which have helped India reach great heights. Today, our millennials are stamping their authority across the globe; earning money and sending it back home—which is, in a way, driving our economy.

The focus of women has changed, too. Today, women are encouraged to study, learn and live their lives on their own terms. The definition of 'being a woman' has changed, which for me, personally, is one of the significant landmarks for our country.



On the occasion of Republic Day, we shed light on India's democratic journey, its importance in the current day context and why preserving it should be of utmost importance

DOCUMENTING DEMOCRACY

By Abha Singh

INDIA IS A SOCIALIST DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC AND IS COUNTED AMONG THE MOST ROBUST DEMOCRACIES IN THE WORLD. WHAT'S MORE, WE ARE MANAGING OUR STATE OF AFFAIRS IN A FAR MORE EFFICIENT MANNER THAN OUR NEIGHBOURING COUNTRIES.

THE BATTLE FOR DEMOCRACY

Article 21 of the Indian constitution aptly mentions that each and every individual has the right to life, to live with dignity and

personal liberty. In fact, the freedom to express and speak distinguishes us from animals. Hence, in order for our democracy to survive, be preserved and flourish, it is of utmost importance that all the pillars of democracy are respected and no constitutional

right is breached. A democracy gives us the right to voice our opinion and dissent; so we must fight for the survival of our democracy at each and every step of the way.

THE RIGHT TO VOTE

I run an NGO which recently conducted a survey in Lucknow. Through this survey we found that many college students, who qualified as first-time voters this year, had not registered themselves on the voter list. Even in Mumbai, it was found that Colaba records the lowest voter turnout year after year. In short, it is a fallacy to believe that the more literate you are, the more involved you would be in a democracy.

Keeping this in mind, I urge all the voters, especially the youth of today, to be aware of the political narrative of the country, get themselves registered and cast their vote judiciously.



THE COUNTRY OF THE FUTURE

There is a famous slogan: if you educate a boy, you educate an individual, but if you educate a girl, you educate a family, an entire community and the whole nation. Hence, as we march ahead as a nation, I want to see two significant changes in our country:

→ Democracy depends on enlightened citizens and enlightened citizens are a result of education. Having said that, I want the education of the girl child to reach the 100 per cent mark. Proactive steps will ensure that the dropout rates among girls, especially during mid-school, come to a halt.

→ Women's Reservation Bill (which reserves 33 per cent of seats for women in Parliament) should be passed. After all, positive discrimination for women of our country will only be healthy for our democracy.

The author is an advocate and former bureaucrat

- As told to Shehzaad Shaikh @timesgroup.com

MADRAS SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS
Gandhi Mandapam Road, Kottur, Chennai - 600 025
Post Graduate Diploma in Management
(Approved by AICTE, Ministry of HRD, Govt. of India)

ADMISSION OPEN FOR 2 YEARS FULL TIME

PGDM Finance
Research and Business Analytics

Last Date for Applications: **February 15, 2019**
For eligibility and other details, visit **www.mse.ac.in**
HOSTEL FACILITIES AVAILABLE
For Further Queries, Contact:
044 2235 4846, 98406 86927
Email: **ganga@mse.ac.in**

VATTIKUTI FOUNDATION

Announcing

Vattikuti Fellowship Program 2019-2020

Fellowships Presented by the Vattikuti Foundation

Vattikuti Fellowship Awards Ceremony, 2018

The Vattikuti Foundation, a charitable organization recognized for advancing the minimally invasive treatment of Cancers by promoting Robotic Surgery throughout India and the World, invites applications from eligible candidates for the following Vattikuti Robotic Surgery Fellowships for the year 2019-2020:

- Vattikuti International Robotic Surgery Fellowship:** To be served at the Vattikuti Urology Institute, Henry Ford Hospital, Detroit, Michigan, USA (one available, to commence January 1, 2020).
- Vattikuti Foundation One-Year Fellowships in India:** Six Fellowships available in these specialties at various Foundation accredited Indian Robotic Surgery centers:
 - Robotic Urologic Oncology Surgery
 - Robotic Gynecologic Oncology Surgery
 - Robotic Surgical Oncology Surgery
 - Robotic Kidney Transplant Surgery
- Vattikuti Roswell Park ATLAS Program Two-Week International Fellowship:** For advanced training in Robotic Surgery (two available).
- Vattikuti Foundation Research Grants:** To support Surgical Innovation and Research (two available).

Last Date for Applications: February 7, 2019.
For complete details, visit our website:
<https://vrsi.vattikutifoundation.com/2019-vf-fellowships>
Dr. Mahendra Bhandari, CEO, Vattikuti Foundation
(Inquiries: scholar@vattikutifoundation.com)

zomato NO COOKING JANUARY

Order food on **zomato**

UP TO 50% OFF* ALL MONTH

USE CODE **TASTY**

*T&Cs Apply

LIFE SPAN™
DIABETES CLINICS

For Sweet People

Are you a **Doctor** with passion to build a Diabetes Clinic, then we are the right partner to reach out.

You

Lifespan is India's largest chain of Diabetes clinic caring more than 1,00,000 Diabetics in India.

Complete care and Health@Home is our commitment.

Grow your practice through our Partnership

For a Win Win Association :

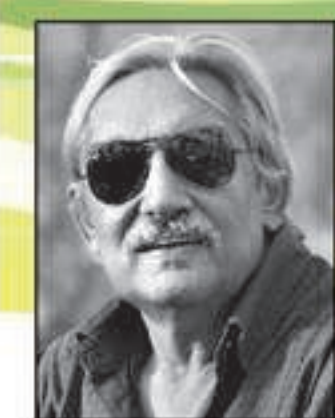
Send a mail to : franchise@lifespanindia.com
Send a message : 9167 781 149
Give a missed call : 8742 992 992

Our Presence - Mumbai | Delhi | Bangalore | Hyderabad | Kolkata | Pune | Gujarat | Indore | Lucknow | Rajasthan | Imphal

United Inc.

WE MIGHT HAVE ESTABLISHED DEMOCRACY YEARS AGO BUT THERE ARE STILL A NUMBER OF ISSUES THAT NEED ATTENTION. HERE'S A LOOK AT TWO OF INDIA'S BONA FIDE CRUSADERS AND THE CAUSES THEY HAVE BEEN TIRELESSLY FIGHTING FOR

Leena.Mudbidri@timesgroup.com



BITTU SANGAL
Environmental activist and writer

MISSION POSSIBLE

My mission is to convey to the public

and to the leaders they select that natural ecosystems and biodiversity are more valuable than any man-made infrastructure. Forests, coasts, wetlands, rivers, lakes and mountains have financial value, as they are the natural infrastructure that provide us with food and water, without which no creature, including Homo sapiens, can possibly survive.

SCOPE FOR HOPE

We shouldn't have to fight to

protect nature. The economy, for instance, is a wholly owned subsidiary of the environment and the only way we can survive the challenges of human-induced climate change is to work collectively to regenerate ecosystems, which will harvest water, control floods and droughts, add fertility to our farms and supply us with pure water all through the year. By working at the tri-junction of biodiversity, economics and climate change, we have some hope. If we allow economic objectives to destroy biodiversity, we stand no chance of survival on our climate-wounded planet.



FLAVIA AGNES
Indian women's rights lawyer

MISSION POSSIBLE

My mission is to help victims of sexual and domestic

violence to access the legal mechanisms, which are available and clearly laid down in the laws of this country. We have had some success stories, but this is not even a drop in the ocean.

SCOPE FOR HOPE

The main purpose is to spread the message about rights among common

people, especially the poor and needy who are afraid of courts, the police and legal structures. The second part is to lead the way and also demonstrate how the law can come to their aid. We need to create paralegal professionals and make social workers aware of the laws in effect to help women and children secure their rights. Only when the knowledge about rights and laws percolates down to the masses, will we be able to bring about social and cultural reforms.