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# A Disease-Free and Productive Nation: India by 2047 – Part - 2

**By Uday Kumar Varma**

Author is a former Secretary, Information and Broadcasting, GOI

## **Traditional Health Care**

The integration of traditional medicine systems, including Ayurveda, Unani, and Naturopathy, represents a unique aspect of India's healthcare framework. While efforts under the AYUSH ministry have brought greater visibility to these practices, their systematic integration with allopathic medicine remains limited. China's model of blending Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM) with modern practices provides valuable insights for India to develop a more holistic healthcare system.

Ayurveda, India's oldest medical system, receives recognition for its preventive, curative, and holistic health benefits. With a network of over 25,000 AYUSH hospitals and dispensaries, the government has made significant strides in promoting Ayurveda under its National AYUSH Mission. A recent report highlights that more than 56% of rural households in India have used some form of traditional medicine, reflecting its widespread acceptance. However, to make Ayurveda a cornerstone of healthcare, we must institutionalize its integration with modern systems. Collaborative research initiatives, evidence-based validation of Ayurvedic practices and products, and the creation of hybrid treatment protocols can bridge this gap. Programs like "AYUSH Health and Wellness Centres," part of the Ayushman Bharat scheme, are steps in the right direction, but their scale and impact need significant enhancement.

A deeper analysis of supply and demand dynamics underscores the magnitude of India's healthcare challenges. On the supply side, India's doctor-to-population ratio stands at 1:854, surpassing the WHO-recommended 1:1,000. However, this achievement masks the uneven distribution of healthcare professionals, with 60% concentrated in urban areas. Shortages of paramedics, nurses, and midwives further exacerbate the strain on the system. India's ratio of 2.1 nurses per 1,000 people pales in comparison to the OECD average of 8.8, indicating significant room for improvement.

From a demand perspective, the dual burden of communicable and non-communicable diseases (NCDs) places immense pressure on the healthcare system. While diseases like tuberculosis continue to affect vulnerable populations, the rising prevalence of NCDs such as diabetes and hypertension underscores the need for preventive care. India's increasing life expectancy, currently at 70.3 years, also demands a greater focus on geriatric healthcare services. Factors such as poverty, illiteracy, and lack of awareness, particularly in rural areas, often impede people from seeking healthcare.

India's healthcare expenditure, at 2.1% of GDP in 2023, is significantly lower than the over 10% spent by developed nations such as the United States and Germany. Increased public investment in healthcare is essential to reduce OoPE and improve access. Additionally, developed countries' use of technology, such as telemedicine, offers scalable solutions for bridging the urban-rural divide—a strategy that India has begun to adopt but needs to expand significantly.

Achieving equitable healthcare access by 2047 will require targeted interventions to address these systemic challenges. A holistic approach encompassing increased investment, workforce development, and the integration of technology and traditional medicine is essential. Drawing lessons from developed nations while tailoring solutions to India's unique context will be key to building a resilient and inclusive healthcare system capable of meeting the needs of a growing and aging population.



#### IV. Educating for Preventive Health

Health education stands as the cornerstone of a preventive healthcare strategy, with immense potential for transforming India's health outcomes. However, the current status of preventive health education in India reveals significant gaps in policy implementation, public awareness, and institutional support. The existing focus on curative care has relegated preventive health education to a secondary priority, despite its proven efficacy in reducing disease prevalence and healthcare costs.

Presently, efforts in preventive health education are limited to fragmented campaigns targeting specific health concerns, such as polio eradication, HIV/AIDS awareness, and maternal health. While these initiatives have yielded measurable success, they lack a comprehensive framework to address the broader spectrum of preventive care, including lifestyle-related diseases and mental health. In contrast, countries like Finland and Japan have implemented school-based health education programs that emphasize lifelong healthy habits, setting benchmarks for holistic approaches.

To create a culture of prevention, India must prioritize the following strategies:

1. **Institutionalizing Preventive Health Education:** A national curriculum that integrates health education from primary school onwards is essential. This curriculum should cover topics such as balanced nutrition, physical fitness, mental well-being, hygiene, and the risks of substance abuse. Collaboration with educational boards and the Ministry of Health can ensure standardized implementation.
2. **Community-Based Initiatives:** Leveraging community health workers and local organizations to conduct workshops, campaigns, and screenings can enhance grassroots engagement. Programs like these can particularly benefit rural populations, who often lack access to formal healthcare services.
3. **Policy Reforms and Incentives:** Government policies should mandate workplace wellness programs, urban planning for active living, and subsidies for preventive screenings. Tax incentives for individuals and organizations adopting preventive measures can further drive change.
4. **Leveraging Technology:** Digital platforms and mobile applications offer scalable solutions for health education. Interactive content, teleconsultations, and virtual fitness programs can bridge geographical and resource constraints, empowering individuals to make informed health decisions.
5. **Role of the Private Sector:** Private healthcare providers can play a pivotal role in promoting prevention by offering affordable wellness packages, organizing awareness campaigns, and investing in public-private partnerships for preventive health infrastructure.
6. **Citizen Participation:** Individuals must be encouraged to take ownership of their health through awareness and action. Social media campaigns, peer networks, and incentivized participation in health programs can foster a proactive approach to wellness.

By embracing these strategies, India can shift from a reactive healthcare system to one that emphasizes prevention. Such a transformation will not only alleviate the burden on healthcare infrastructure but also improve the quality of life for millions. A preventive health strategy rooted in education and empowerment is indispensable for achieving the vision of a healthy India by 2047.

**To Be continued in next issue ....**

# Why Israel Failed to Pre-Empt 7 Oct. 2023 Attacks?

**By Vappala Balachandran**

The writer is a former Special Secretary, Cabinet Secretariat

On 27 February Israel Defence Forces (IDF) publicly announced that they had failed to assess advance intelligence on the murderous Hamas attack on 7 October 2023 due to many reasons: misinterpretation of intelligence material, their over-reliance on a system of “Early Warning” to set in motion their defence, and failure in understanding Hamas leaders’ minds.

One needs to admire Israel’s system of transparency in admitting their strategic failures. However, what is disturbing is why their intelligence processing system is repeating the same mistakes as pointed out by the 1974-75 Agranat Commission in the wake of the 6 October 1973 (Yom Kippur day) attacks which killed nearly 2,500 soldiers. To understand this, we need to analyse the subject of intelligence processing.

Collection, collation, interpretation and decision making of strategic security intelligence is not as easy as law & order or “tactical” intelligence which needs to be quickly acted upon. Strategic intelligence which could be long term, undergoes a lot of transformation by the time it reaches the policy making level.

The different stages of “Intelligence Cycle” are collection, collation, assessment, report to the competent levels within the hierarchy of the collecting agency, which will then decide at what level the intelligence report is to be disseminated.

Collection can be from open sources or clandestine channels. It could be human or technical intelligence. If the full picture is not emerging the process undergoes another stage called “intelligence adjudication” by further collection. Then only it is reported to the policy making levels. Any failure in this cycle is called “intelligence failure”.

However there have been several instances when action was not taken promptly despite correct intelligence reaching the policy makers. In common parlance this is also called “intelligence failures,” which is not strictly correct.

In my book “Intelligence Over Centuries” I had given case studies of 6 incidents from 1941 which were described as “intelligence failures,” which were not so. The case studies were: 1941 Pearl Harbor Attack, 1973 Yom Kippur attack on Israel, 1983 Beirut Marine Barracks bombing, 1999 Kargil Attack, 2002 Mombasa Paradise Hotel bombing on Israeli targets and 2021 collapse of Ashraf Ghani government in Afghanistan.

I should have included 2 October 1986 Rajghat attack on our President and Prime Minister, 9/11 Twin Tower attacks and 26/11 Mumbai terror attacks too. In all these cases advance intelligence was available with the policy makers but was not acted upon due to various reasons. These should have been classed as “Intelligence Decision Making Failures” but unfortunately that was not done.

It is noteworthy that 2 of the 9 cases above involved Israel, which is often considered as the epitome of security and intelligence management. However, it is strange that the same mistake of mental unpreparedness which caused the lightening Egypt- Syrian attack on Israel on 6 October 1973 (Yom Kippur day) leading to the resignation of Prime Minister Golda Meir was repeated fifty years later, on 7 October 2023 to face the Hamas attack. The only difference is that this time Prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu has refused to resign.

In 1973 Mossad had correctly forewarned the government that the surprise attack was coming. However, in those days Mossad did not have the power of making strategic analysis, in the Israeli scheme of things -only Aman, the Military Intelligence had, and they rejected it. Aman believed that the Arabs would not go to war because they would lose, therefore “the danger of war was minimal.

Let me quote the Times of Israel on what happened in 2023: “ The perception probe found that the IDF believed, prior to the October 7 onslaught, that the Hamas terror group in Gaza did not pose a significant threat to Israel, that it was uninterested in a large-scale war, that its tunnel networks had been significantly degraded, and that any cross-border threat would be thwarted by Israel’s high-tech border fence”. In other words, they failed to understand Hamas’ deception.

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# China Will Use SCO to Counter Trump's Tariff Missiles

**By Dr. Seshadri Chari**

The author is Former Seshadri Chari is the former editor of 'Organiser'. He is General Secretary of FINS.

*China will soon host the 25th meeting of the SCO Heads of State Council, an opportunity it will use to forge business alliances to counter Trump's tariffs.*

The Chinese spokesperson's post on X, in response to United States President Donald Trump's threat of tariff war, lays down the contours of a long-drawn cold war in the global power positioning. The Trump administration has been cracking its whip on illegal immigrants and the drug menace emanating from its immediate neighbourhood, allegedly aided and abetted by Beijing. This was expected, as the Trump 1.0 administration had also initiated harsh measures on drug trafficking. It officially designated Mexican drug cartels as national security threats and initiated strong legislative and enforcement steps with particular focus on China.

Trump 1.0 also witnessed a prolonged trade and technology war with Beijing. This led to allegations of intellectual property theft and currency manipulation, resulting in punitive actions against Chinese firms such as Huawei. Trump 2.0 may not be any different.

Going by the present mood in the White House, tariffs on Chinese imports could be as high as 25 per cent, especially on electric vehicles (EV) and steel and aluminium. Besides, punitive actions against export of opioids by China to Mexico, already initiated, could be intensified.

The Chinese spokesperson has posted a warning on X in response to these measures.

"The fentanyl issue is a flimsy excuse to raise U.S. tariffs on Chinese imports. Our countermeasures to defend our rights and interests are fully legitimate and necessary... If the U.S. truly wants to solve the fentanyl issue, then the right thing to do is to consult with China by treating each other as equals," the post read.

Beijing appears cautious in its approach, giving the impression that it would like to avoid a confrontational attitude from the get-go. However, by asking to be consulted as an equal on the fentanyl issue, Beijing has revealed what it has sought to conceal all these years, that 'we are equals'.

While the debate on the comparative strength—military, technological, and economic—of the US and China could be inconclusive, there is little doubt that the rivalry is in the open now.

## **Some history**

The disintegration of the Soviet Union and the undeclared conclusion of the Cold War saw the end of bipolarity, albeit briefly, in the international order. It enabled the US to rework its grand strategy in changed geopolitical realities and circumstances. But the euphoria of the new 'American Century', with the US as an indomitable superpower, gradually began to fade as several middle powers, aided by regional institutions, emerged on the leaderless global landscape. China, which was waiting for an opportunity, sought to fill this leadership vacuum.

The rise of China and the emergence of Xi Jinping as its strong and undisputed leader changed the way the world looked at the yet-undefined 'liberal world order'. Many in the US and the West interpreted the emergence of middle powers—and saw the not-so-peaceful rise of China—as a threat to the 'liberal world order'.

Ironically, it was not these middle powers and China that sought to disengage from the world but Trump. His first administration sought to renegotiate the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), quit Trans Pacific Partnership (TPP) and withdrew from Paris Agreement, only to mention a few.

## Old battle lines

At the end of Trump 1.0 in March 2021, then-US Secretary of State Antony Blinken criticised China, claiming that its actions “threaten the rules-based order that maintains global stability”.

Then-leader of the Chinese delegation, Yang Jiechi, retorted that the US “does not have the qualification to say that it wants to speak to China from a position of strength”.

The US-China battle lines were drawn right from the time of Trump 1.0 and continued through the Biden administration. With a stronger Trump during his second term, it is doubtful if the two would settle their differences peacefully.

“If war is what the U.S. wants, be it a tariff war, a trade war or any other type of war, we’re ready to fight till the end”, read the Chinese spokesperson’s X post.

Yet, ground realities in both capitals appear to be far from being conducive for a full-scale confrontation. The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has lowered China’s economic growth to 4.6 per cent from 5 per cent. However, Premier Li Qiang has announced a GDP growth target of 5 per cent, unconcerned about the looming tariff war, deflationary conditions, weak public spending, and glut in the export market.

The US, on the other hand, is a trade deficit economy, with Current Account Deficit (CAD) widening to 4.2 per cent of GDP. This has exposed its domestic economy to external vulnerabilities.

In the emerging global economic scenario, the US, China, and India, as three major economies, will have to look for ways to resolve trade issues rather than create newer ones.

China will soon host the 25th meeting of the SCO Heads of State Council, an opportunity it will use to forge business alliances to counter Trump’s tariffs.

India, as part of the SCO (Shanghai Cooperation Organisation) and other regional economic platforms, will have to use its best balancing act. It must further its regional trade while dodging Trump’s tariff missiles, and increase exports to the US, where New Delhi has a favourable balance of trade.

It is difficult to become competitive with a low or no tariff regime. However, India will have to increase its manufacturing capabilities by adopting massive automation, lower corporate tax, and greater production and export incentives. Challenging times call for greater and speedy reforms.

**[Read complete article on website theprint.in](https://www.theprint.in)**

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# Movies As a Soft Power in Indian context (Era of 1913-1947)

**By Prof. Anand Limaye and Gandhali Bhide**

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Gandhali Bhide M.A. in cultural policy, Relations and Diplomacy from Goldsmiths University, London. She worked as Research Associate with Forum for Integrated National Security (FINS)

Filmmaking is a powerful tool of soft power, shaping global perceptions, influencing culture, and fostering diplomacy. Through compelling storytelling, films can promote national identity, values, and ideologies, reaching audiences beyond political and geographical boundaries. Hollywood, Bollywood, and other film industries have played crucial roles in shaping global narratives, fostering cultural exchange, and even impacting international relations. In an increasingly digital world, cinema continues to be a strategic instrument for nations to project influence and build cultural connections.

The subject and articulation of any topic in a movie depends on the political and socio-cultural aspect of that region. This is because 'movies are stories, people come out with ideas about something they want to say, something they want to tell someone' Observes Mr. Sherak, former President of Oscars. Simply put, movies are a way to convey a narrative/account of a particular place at a particular time which is affected by its socio-political and cultural aspect, creating conversations and debates that have a tendency to seep into the common man's daily life.

Thirty-four years before India's independence, in May 1913, Dadasaheb Phalke released 'Raja Harishchandra' India's first feature film at Bombay's Coronation theater. Rightfully called as the Father of Indian Cinema, Dadasaheb Phalke went on to make over a 100 films in his 19 years of career. He sparked the creation of a new industry inspiring many to take up film making as not only a way of creative expression but also entrepreneurship and livelihood. Hence the history of film making predates the nation-state of India. This is a major reason for Indian cinema to be employed as soft power (without terming it such) by independent India.

First few years after 1913 a majority of films were themed after Indian mythology. Phalke himself made a series of mythological films including Mohini Bhasmasur (1914), Lanka Dahan (1917), Shri Krishna Janma (1918) among others. The 1920s saw a rise in social issues in movies like Savkari Pash (about Indian peasants' exploitation at the hands of money lenders), England Return (a social satire on Indians obsessed with western values) etc. It was also the decade that saw the first film proscribed by the British. The film was Bhakta Vidur (1921), which although revolved around Mahabharata, it showcased through its characters the dissent against colonial government.

With the talkies, dialogue and film music filled the movies in the 1930s. Starting with Alam Ara in 1931. The decade saw the rise of V. Shantaram through his Prabhat Studio with his patriotic themed films of Uday Kal (Thunder on the Hills) having key scenes of Shivaji Maharaj the great Maratha warrior king in 1930, Chatrapati Sambhaji (King Sambhaji) about the son of Shivaji Maharaj and his valor in 1934 among others. By the 1940s film making became a major source of entertainment, livelihood, and expression of creativity. In 1943, the film 'Kismet' although categorized in the genre of drama, featured a song 'Dur Hato Ai Duniyawalo, Hindustan Hamara Hai' (loosely translated to "Go away you invaders! India is ours") reflected the then scenario in India with the 'Quit India' movement launched just a year before in 1942.

During the last three decades of India's independence films through various genres subtly reflected the ongoing freedom struggle and the political consciousness in the country. They had already become a medium of mass consumption, symbolically representing India's freedom struggle and a form of entertainment by the time India gained its independence in 1947. Filmmaking had been used to convey a message. Recognizing the crucial role played by films, the political establishment after independence encouraged film making. Nye argued that – 'popular entertainment often contains subliminal images and messages about individualism, consumer choice, and other values that have important political effects'.

In conclusion, movies serve as a significant tool of soft power, shaping global narratives, fostering cultural diplomacy, and influencing public opinion. Through storytelling, cinema transcends borders, promoting national identity, values, and ideologies in an engaging and accessible way. Whether through Hollywood blockbusters, Bollywood musicals, or independent films, the global film industry continues to shape perceptions, bridge cultural divides, and strengthen international relationships. In an era of digital globalization, movies remain a vital force in shaping the world's cultural and political landscape.

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# Issues Aside, Why Delimitation is Needed

**By Khushboo Srivastava & Ashwani Kumar**

The writers teach at Centre of Electoral Studies, TISS, Mumbai.

*While it raises concerns about gerrymandering, exercise can help devolve power to the margins.*

As India stands on the brink of the “Second Republic”, the proposed delimitation has reignited the debate over the persistent paradox of the imbalance between demography and democracy. Despite its central role in the democratic theory of political equality, the process of delimitation often grapples with a lingering democratic paradox in large republics, which face the challenge of balancing conflicting territorial, demographic, ethnic, and factional political considerations.

Delimitation in India aims to ensure fair representation in Parliament by adjusting constituency boundaries in line with population changes. However, since 1976, the process has been frozen to avoid penalising states that have successfully controlled population growth, particularly in the south. As a result, states like Uttar Pradesh and Bihar, with much larger populations, remain underrepresented compared to southern states like Tamil Nadu and Kerala, which have smaller populations but more parliamentary seats. This imbalance, referred to as malapportionment, has fuelled political tensions, with concerns that the upcoming delimitation exercise in 2029 will shift power toward the politically hegemonic North.

The Indian Constitution mandates delimitation under Article 82, with an independent Delimitation Commission implementing it. Delimitation was conducted in 1952, 1962, and 1972, but was frozen in 1976 through the 42nd Constitutional Amendment and postponed in 2001, extending the freeze until 2026. This delay has created a peculiar situation where states that have successfully controlled population growth may lose seats, while states with higher birth rates will gain more representation.

Opponents of the proposed delimitation argue that the South consistently surpasses the North across various indicators, such as per capita income, contributions to the central treasury, infrastructure, healthcare, and education. Furthermore, the South has higher urbanisation rates, lower infant mortality, and longer life expectancies. These disparities have led to claims that the South is subsidising the North, shouldering the burden of population growth, unemployment, poverty, inadequate infrastructure, and social underdevelopment. The concern is that without addressing these inequalities, delimitation could create distorted forms of intrastate inequalities in India. In this sense, if population growth in the North is not controlled or economic growth matched with the South, the delimitation process could produce a Red Queen effect.

Globally, different countries handle delimitation in various ways. For example, New Zealand and South Africa have clear constitutional provisions, while countries like India and Japan manage the process through ordinary legislation. The role of the courts in reviewing delimitation decisions has been an ongoing debate. In the landmark *Meghraj Kothari v Delimitation Commission* (1966) ruling, the Supreme Court upheld the finality of delimitation orders, arguing that judicial intervention could lead to indefinite election delays. More recently, the Court dismissed a petition challenging the Jammu & Kashmir delimitation, despite claims that it marginalised minority communities.

Another pressing issue is the question of women’s representation. The Women’s Reservation Bill (2023), which aims to reserve one-third of seats in Parliament and state assemblies for women, is directly tied to delimitation. The bill will only take effect after the next delimitation exercise, delaying meaningful gender representation until at least 2029.

Delimitation also affects Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Scheduled Tribes (STs), migrants, and other socio-religious minorities. According to Article 330(2) of the Constitution, reserved seats for SCs and STs should be proportional to their population in each state. However, since the seat allocation still relies on the 2001 Census, communities that have grown significantly since then remain underrepresented. For example, the Bihar Caste-Based Survey (2023) found that the SC population increased from 15.9 per cent to 19.65 per cent and the ST population from 1.2 per cent to 1.68 per cent. Yet, the seat allocation does not reflect these demographic shifts, leaving many SC/ST communities underrepresented.

Notably, a purely population-based seat allocation could drastically shift power toward the Hindi heartland, diminishing representation for southern states. Political scientist Alistair McMillan proposes expanding the Lok Sabha to accommodate demographic shifts without reducing representation for any state. Another proposal, by political scientist Milan Vaishnav, suggests reforming the Rajya Sabha to provide a counterbalance to northern dominance in the Lok Sabha.

The process of delimitation often raises concerns about gerrymandering and the potential establishment of permanent electoral or political majorities. However, we prefer a more optimistic perspective on the expansion of seats in Parliament through delimitation. We propose linking this process to the devolution of power to subnational units, which would enhance the representational and participatory aspects of democracy. Our focus should be on empowering women and lower castes. This approach aligns with Alexis de Tocqueville’s vision of the gradual development of “equality of conditions” in India.

Ultimately, the delimitation exercise in India is a complex interplay of demographic data, constitutional law, and political interests, all of which must be navigated carefully to ensure fair and equitable representation in the electoral system. For India to remain a vibrant and robust democracy, a broad consensus must be built across political parties — both national and regional — regarding the updating of the nation’s electoral infrastructure. The unprecedented political consensus surrounding the 127th Constitutional Amendment Bill suggests that India is rapidly evolving into what Dutch political scientist Arend Lijphart described as a consociational or power-sharing democracy within a majoritarian polity. Delimitation has the potential to enhance the quality of India’s electoral democracy and rejuvenate its democratic longevity in the long term.

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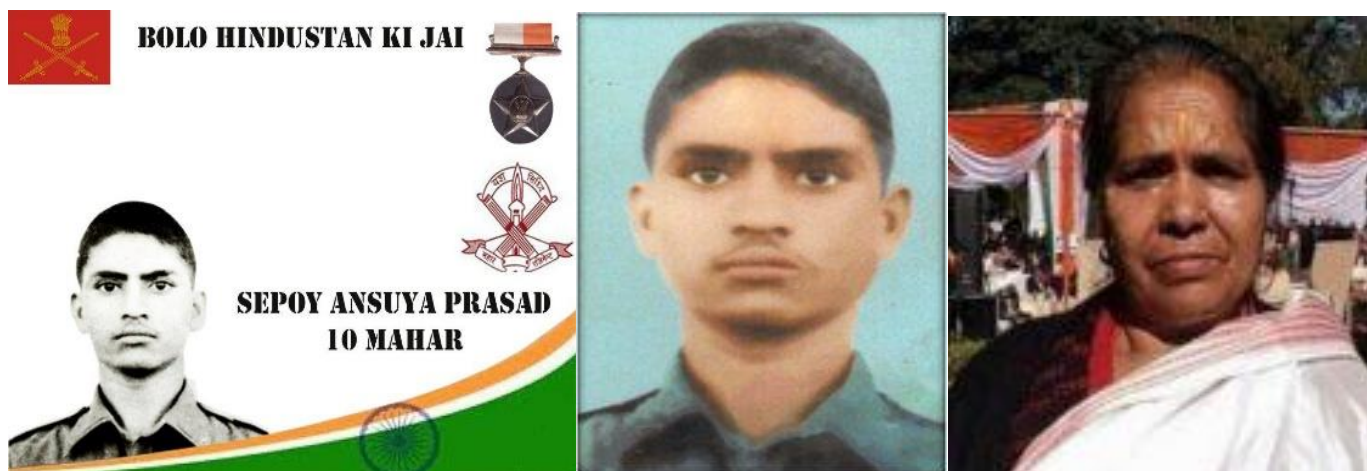
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# India is Proud of:

## Sepoy Anusuya Prasad, MVC

**Youngest brave heart – Whose Heroism and Sacrifice Have Become Part of the Mahar Regimental History**



Sepoy Anusuya Prasad was born on 19th May 1953, in the village of Nanna, Chamoli, in present day Uttarakhand. Son of Shri Dayanand and Smt Ukha Devi, Sep Anusuya Prasad was enrolled in 10 Mahar on 19th May 1971. Sepoy Anusuya Prasad despite being a young soldier of his regiment played an active role during the 1971 Indo-Pak war.

### **Operation Cactus Lily: 1971**

During the 1971 war, for liberation of Bangladesh, the Mahar Regiment was given the task of capturing an enemy position, a tea factory at Chatlapur on the Eastern Front, which was a well-fortified building dominated by machine guns around the entire area. The plan of action, under Commanding officer, Major Gen K V Krishna Rao, was to send a squad to get into the enemy defences and set the building on fire.

Sepoy Anusuya Prasad, with utter disregard for his personal safety, volunteered for the task and crawled towards the enemy position, holding a few phosphorous grenades. During the process, he was shot in both his legs but undaunted, he continued crawling up towards the stock of ammunition in the building. Thereafter, he received a machine gun burst in his shoulder, and still undeterred, though bleeding profusely, he crawled up to the building and lobbed the grenades into it, setting it on fire before succumbing to his wounds and was martyred, that too when he was just 18 years old. His exceptional bravery forced the enemy to abandon the building and enabled the troops to capture the objective and subsequently, the two Pak Brigades which were defending the town, surrendered on 17 December, '71. The daredevil action of Sep Anusuya Prasad changed the course of battle and ensured a decisive victory for Indian forces. In this action Sepoy Anusuya Prasad displayed conspicuous gallantry and made the supreme sacrifice.

Sepoy Anusuya Prasad, with just 11 days of service with the Battalion, displayed outstanding courage with utter disregard to his personal safety. His heroism and sacrifice have become part of the Mahar Regimental history. Sep Anusuya Prasad was awarded nation's second highest award for gallantry, Maha Vir Chakra for making the supreme sacrifice, and became the youngest recipient of the award.

A parade ground at Sagar in Madhya Pradesh has been named after Sepoy Anusuya Prasad. A statue of the brave soldier has been installed in front of the unit, that is today famous as Anusuya Prasad Battalion in honour of the exceptional courage shown by the martyred soldier.



Sep Anusuya Prasad is survived by his wife Chitra Devi. “I was merely around 13 when I got married. I remember that my husband (Sepoy Prasad) had come down during a break from the training for collecting some documents — that is when we got married. Five days and he went back for training and went straight to the battlefield. What I received was a telegram, saying my husband was dead. I could not even read the telegram, forget understanding the severity of it,” said Chitra Devi who, in March 1973 went to Delhi to receive the MVC by then President V V Giri.

In 2002, I started an organisation called Veer Shaheed Anusuya Prasad (MVC) Mahila Samiti in Bhauwala, Dehradun, working for women empowerment. “Now, there are just two things I want to do — empower other women and visit the place where my husband fought bravely, for which I need a passport,” she has said.

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