



# FEI DUNIYA

IT'S YOUR WORLD

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## Happy Republic Day!

May the future of our nation  
be shaped by unity, progress, and peace!





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**F E I**



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# Celebrating Zakir Hussain: Lesser known stories about India's Tabla Icon

*Zakir Hussain, India's tabla maestro, passed away on the morning of December 16, 2024, at 73. Here's more about his lesser-known life moments and legacy that have profoundly influenced Indian classical music.*

The story of Zakir Hussain, the 'ustad' who became India's leading tabla icon of his generation, begins with a remarkable initiation. Born in Mumbai on March 9, 1951, his connection to rhythm was almost predestined.

When the tabla maestro was born, his father, the legendary Ustad Alla Rakha, chose an extraordinary way to welcome him into the world. Forget traditional prayers as was the norm he held baby Zakir close and recited the rhythms of the tabla directly into his tiny ears.

Years later, Hussain reminisced about this powerful moment.

It was as though music was imprinted in Hussain's very being from that day forward. Music wasn't just in his blood it was in his cradle. This intimate, rhythmic blessing set the tone for a life that would make him one of the greatest tabla players of all time a maestro whose beats still echo across the globe.

## **THE PRODIGY TAKES THE WORLD BY STORM**

By seven, Hussain had stepped onto the stage, captivating audiences with a confidence rare in someone so young. By teenage, he was already an international sensation.

Touring the globe at just 12, his performances bridged cultural divides, mesmerizing listeners from all walks of life.

Critics and fans alike couldn't help but marvel at his precision and creativity. The tabla became a storyteller in his hands.

## **THE FUSION ERA: WHERE INDIAN CLASSICAL MET THE WORLD**

Zakir Hussain's genius lay in his ability to transcend genres. In 1974, he co-founded the fusion band Shakti alongside legendary guitarist John McLaughlin.

This collaboration was revolutionary. Shakti introduced Indian classical rhythms to Western audiences, marrying jazz with ragas in a way that felt both natural and electrifying.

His collaborations didn't stop there. Over the years, he worked with everyone from George Harrison of The Beatles to Yo-Yo Ma, proving that music, in its purest form, knows no boundaries.

## **A TEACHER, A SCHOLAR, A STORYTELLER**

While Zakir Hussain is celebrated as a performer, his role as a teacher deserves equal recognition. He served as a visiting professor at Stanford University, where he shared not just his skills but also the philosophy of Indian classical music.

For him, music wasn't just sound; it was a spiritual journey, a way to connect with the universe.

## **ZAKIR HUSSAIN ON THE BIG SCREEN**

Not one to be confined by tradition, Hussain ventured into cinema, both as a composer and an actor. His work in the film *Heat and Dust* in 1983 is particularly noteworthy, blending Indian and Western elements seamlessly.

This project further highlighted his ability to adapt and innovate across mediums.

## **GRAMMY GLORY AND GLOBAL RECOGNITION**

Zakir Hussain made history in 2024 by becoming the first Indian artist to win three Grammy Awards in a single year.

This was no small feat. It showed his versatility, creativity, and universal appeal. His music wasn't just Indian—it was global.

## **A LITTLE-KNOWN TALE OF YOGHURT AND FRIENDSHIP**

One charming anecdote from Zakir Hussain's life involves George Harrison. During a recording session, Zakir introduced the Beatles star to a traditional Indian yoghurt drink.

What started as a casual conversation over food blossomed into a friendship that lasted for years, a reminder of how music often builds bridges in unexpected ways.





### **THE LEGACY OF ZAKIR HUSSAIN**

Zakir Hussain's passing away on December 16 from idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis, a chronic lung condition, marks the end of an era. The tabla maestro's life was a masterclass in innovation, dedication, and artistry. While the world mourns his loss, his rhythms will continue to echo in concert halls, classrooms, and hearts everywhere.

For Hussain, the tabla was not just an instrument; it was his voice. And indeed, through his hands, it became a voice that spoke of unity, innovation, and boundless creativity. His legacy is proof that true artistry transcends time, space, and culture.

This project further highlighted his ability to adapt and innovate across mediums.



ZAKIR HUSSAIN  
20

# Manmohan Singh: 10 Lesser-Known Facts About the Former PM

Former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, who passed away at the age of 92, was a pivotal figure in Indian politics. Discover 10 intriguing facts about his life and legacy, from his humble beginnings to his unique habits.

Singh was Prime Minister of the Congress-led UPA government for two terms between 2004 and 2014. He spent five years between 1991 and 1996 as India's finance minister under Prime Minister Narasimha Rao's government.

Singh never won Lok Sabha elections. He was nominated to the Rajya Sabha for the first time by the Congress Party in October 1991, four months after becoming the Union Finance Minister. Singh represented Assam for five terms in the Rajya Sabha and shifted to Rajasthan in 2019, his last term ending in April this year.

## Here are 10 facts that you may not know about the former Prime Minister:

- 1 Two governors of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) went on to become Finance Ministers – one was Manmohan Singh, and the other was CD Deshmukh.
- 2 Four Finance Ministers went on to become Prime Ministers–Morarji Desai, Charan Singh, VP Singh and Manmohan Singh.
- 3 Four top bureaucrats became Finance Ministers–HM Patel, CD Deshmukh, Yashwant Sinha and Manmohan Singh.
- 4 While Manmohan Singh could speak Hindi fluently, his speeches were written in Urdu due to his proficiency in the language.
- 5 Singh's childhood home in Gah (undivided Punjab) lacked electricity, piped water, and schools, requiring him to walk miles to study under a kerosene lamp light.

## Finance Minister of Year

- 6 At 14, his family migrated to Amritsar after partition and started from scratch.
- 7 Singh was named "Finance Minister of the Year" in 1993 by Euromoney and Asiamoney.
- 8 Singh was the first non-Hindu to become Prime Minister of India in 2004.
- 9 In 1962, when India's first Prime Minister, Jawaharlal Nehru, offered Manmohan Singh a position in the government, Singh declined the offer, citing his commitment to teaching at his college in Amritsar.
- 10 Singh had a habit of tuning into the BBC every morning. This routine played a crucial role during the 2004 tsunami crisis, as he was able to respond promptly and effectively.



# Shyam Benegal: Lesser Known Facts About The Trailblazer Of Indian Parallel Cinema

Famous filmmaker Shyam Benegal passed away in Mumbai at the age of 90 on December 23. Benegal was suffering from a kidney disease, which was the cause of his death.

## Lesser Known About Shyam Benegal's Film Career

One of the major milestones behind Shyam Benegal's film career was the direction of the TV series 'Bharat: Ek Khoj', which was depicted from Jawaharlal Nehru's 'Discovery of India'. The series brought the country's freedom struggle to the living rooms and explained about many unknown freedom fighters. Apart from directing the series, Benegal wrote the screenplay and was involved in editing of the project.

Shyam Benegal won various awards throughout his career. This includes 18 National Film Awards, one Filmfare Award, and a Nandi Award. The trailblazer won Padma Shri in 1971, followed by a Padma Bhushan in 1991. He was also honoured with the Dada Saheb Phalke Award in 2005.

The Shyam Benegal Committee was formed in the year 2016 by the Government of India for the key suggestions and improvements that can be made in the Central Board of Film Certification. The major objective behind the formation of the committee was to modernise the film certification and censorship procedures. The other motives included ensuring creative storytelling in the Indian cinema and many more.

Apart from his contributions behind the camera, he collaborated with music composer Vanraj Bhatia, whose music explained the inner soul of his films.

He gave important guidance to veteran actors such as Smita Patil, Naseeruddin Shah, Om Puri, and Amrish Puri. He also played a major role in shaping their careers.

Shyam Benegal's filmography is full of movies that were more related to the ground realities of India rather than modern-day cinema.





## Swara

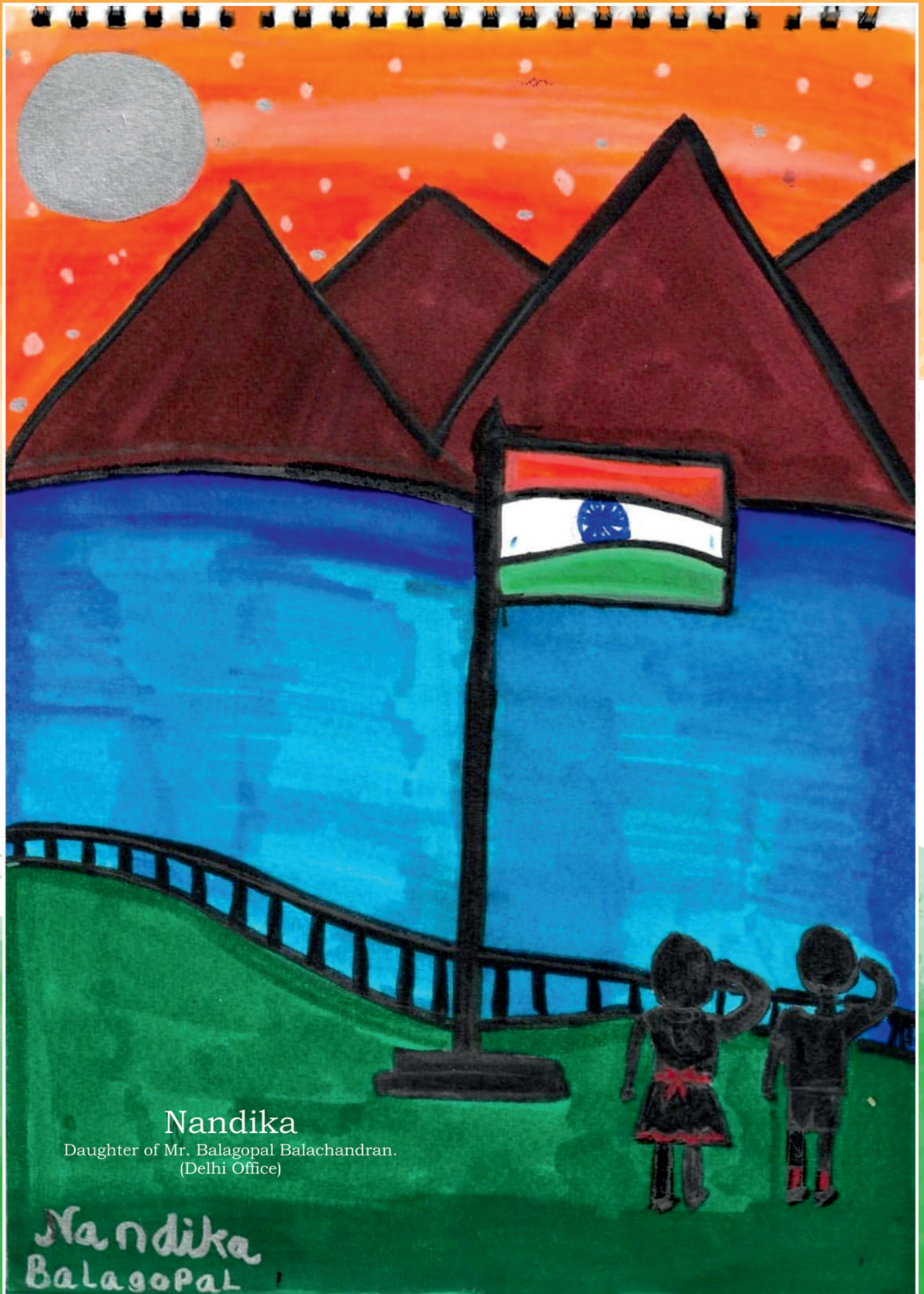
Daughter of Varada Karbhari  
(Intl. Division)

## Jaee

Daughter of Shivraj Chawan  
(Mumbai Office)







Nandika

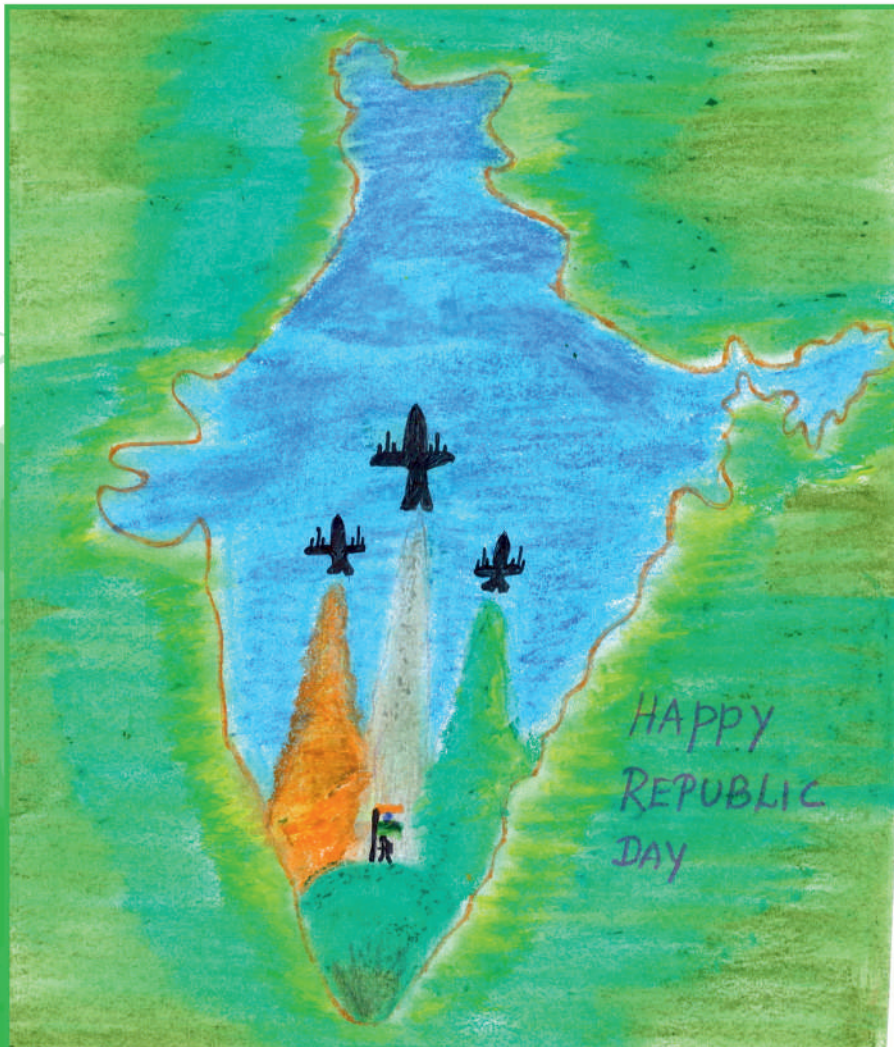
Daughter of Mr. Balagopal Balachandran.  
(Delhi Office)

Nandika  
Balagopal



**Yuvaan**

Son of Mr. Balagopal Balachandran  
(Delhi Office)



**S. Rithika**

Daughter of Mr. R. Suresh Kumatr  
(Bangalore Office)

Name : Patil Abhay Manoj



Abhay

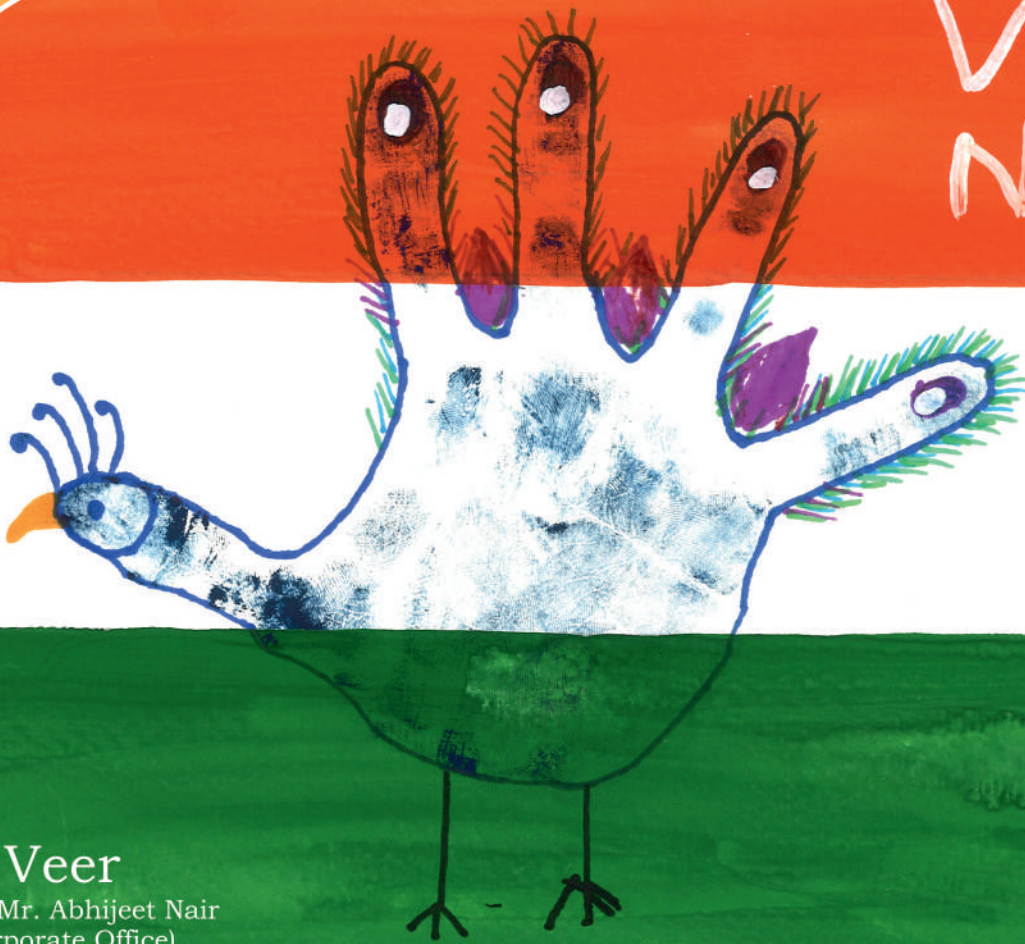
Son of Mr. Manoj Patil  
(Ahmedabad Office)



Anjali

Daughter of Mr. Manoj Patil  
(Ahmedabad Office)

Veer  
Nair



Veer

Son of Mr. Abhijeet Nair  
(Corporate Office)



Aarnav

Son of Mr. Abhijeet Nair  
(Corporate Office)

# The Magic of Santa's Sleigh:

## A Journey Through Time and Tradition

The image of Santa Claus flying through the night sky in his sleigh, pulled by reindeer, is one of the most enduring symbols of Christmas. But have you ever wondered how this iconic sleigh came to be, and what it represents in the spirit of the holiday season?

### Origins of Santa's Sleigh

The concept of Santa's sleigh can be traced back to early European folklore, where figures like Saint Nicholas and Father Christmas were often depicted riding in carriages or sleighs during winter celebrations. However, it was in the early 19th century that the image we recognize today began to take shape.

In 1823, the poem "A Visit from St. Nicholas" (commonly known as *The Night Before Christmas*) by Clement Clarke Moore introduced Santa's magical sleigh being pulled by eight reindeer. This poem not only solidified the image of Santa's sleigh but also provided the names of the reindeer: Dasher, Dancer, Prancer, Vixen, Comet, Cupid, Donder (or Donner), and Blitzen.

### The Sleigh's Symbolism

The sleigh itself is a symbol of travel, magic, and timeless tradition. In many cultures, the idea of a sleigh evokes the winter wonderland that surrounds Christmas, representing a journey from one world to another—much like the spirit of the holiday, where joy, wonder, and hope fill the air. For children, the idea of a magical sleigh soaring through the sky to deliver presents is a reminder that anything is possible during the holiday season.

### The Evolution of Santa's Sleigh

Over time, the design of Santa's sleigh has evolved, adapting to new cultural and technological contexts. In early depictions, it was a simple, wooden sled. Today, it is often imagined as a more elaborate, sparkling vehicle, capable of flying at incredible speeds, even defying the laws of physics to ensure that every child around the world receives their gifts by Christmas morning.

Modern representations also tie in elements of Christmas traditions, with Santa's sleigh often seen laden with toys, cookies, and sometimes even reindeer treats, emphasizing the warmth, joy, and generosity that define the season.

### A Tradition Reinforced by Technology

In recent years, technology has taken Santa's sleigh to new heights. From the NORAD Santa Tracker, which allows children to follow Santa's journey on Christmas Eve, to augmented reality apps that let families visualize Santa's sleigh in their own homes, the magic of the sleigh is being kept alive in exciting new ways.

### The Spirit of Giving

At its heart, the image of Santa's sleigh carries the message of giving and sharing. Whether you are receiving gifts or giving them, the sleigh reminds us of the warmth and joy that comes from generosity. This Christmas, as we gather with loved ones and exchange presents, let us remember that Santa's sleigh is more than just a vehicle—it is a symbol of hope, magic, and the enduring spirit of Christmas.

As you sit by the fireplace or watch for Santa in the sky, think about the joy and wonder his sleigh brings to people of all ages. After all, it is not just the journey that is magical—it is the love and goodwill that travels with it.





# Narasimha Swami Ji

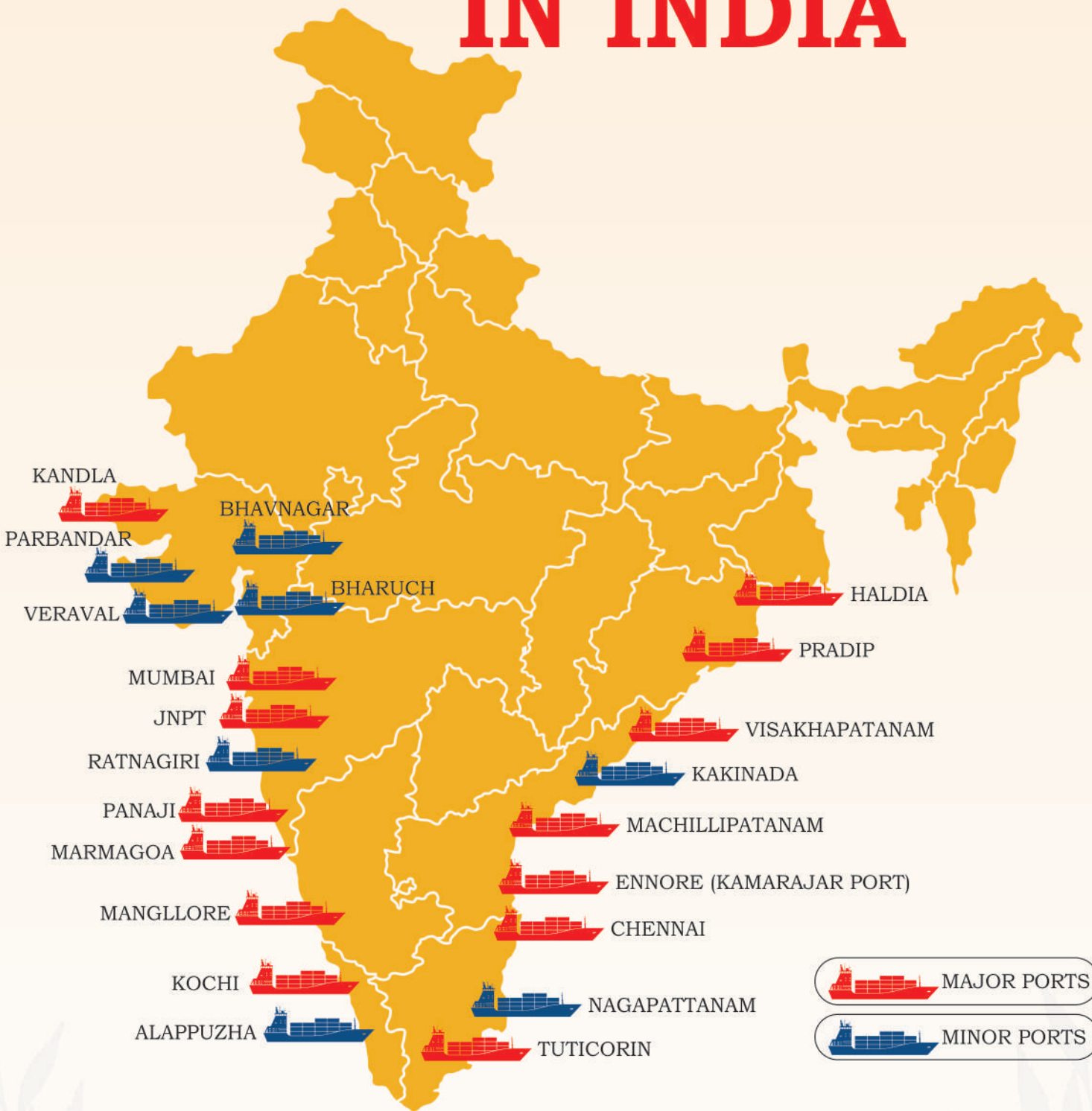
A true pinnacle of Hatha Yoga and Kundalini Sadhana. A man on whom even Potassium Cyanide had no effect. Stories about his life and abilities continue to inspire awe and curiosity among spiritual seekers and scholars alike. Narasimha Swami Ji is revered as a legendary yogi who exemplified the extraordinary potential of human physiology and spiritual mastery through intense Hatha Yoga and Kundalini Sadhana.

potassium cyanide, which is known to be lethal. This feat, performed under controlled circumstances, drew the attention of none other than Nobel laureate Sir C.V. Raman. After witnessing Swami Ji's demonstration, Sir C.V. Raman is said to have remarked, "This demonstration challenges science," signifying that the yogi's achievements transcended conventional scientific understanding. In recognition of his mastery over life and death, symbolized by his survival of substances that could kill an ordinary person, Narasimha Swami Ji was honored with the title "*Mriyunjayi*", meaning "Conqueror of Death," by Sir C.V. Raman. This title reflects not only his immunity to physical harm but also his spiritual attainment in transcending mortal fears and limitations. Narasimha Swami Ji's accomplishments were deeply rooted in his rigorous practice of Hatha Yoga and Kundalini Sadhana. Through these practices, he is said to have attained profound control over his body, mind, and the subtle energies within.

This mastery likely contributed to his resistance to toxins, showcasing the transformative power of disciplined yogic practice. While many of the claims about Narasimha Swami Ji are anecdotal, they underscore the vast, often unexplored potential of the human body and mind when aligned with spiritual discipline. His story continues to inspire generations of practitioners to delve deeper into the mysteries of Hatha yoga and spirituality.



# SEAPORTS IN INDIA



*Congratulations*  
**A NEW JOURNEY OF LOVE AND  
COMPANIONSHIP BEGINS**

**Mr. Dewanshu Mishra** (Intl. Division)  
tied the knot on 07/12/2024  
with **Mrs. Srividya**

## BIRTHDAYS

01st	Ram Charit Yadav	Baroda
02nd	Mithra M	Kochi
03rd	Yogesh Pawar	Navi Mumbai
05th	Sachin Mali	Bangalore
07th	Gemini Ganeshan	Bangalore
09th	Sushant Lad	Corporate
10th	Sankareshwari Esakki	Intl. Division
10th	Raghavendra Kotari	Bangalore
10th	Biswanath Das	Kolkata
11th	Sandhya Kumari	Delhi
11th	Manhar Parmar	Baroda
12th	Rahul A	Kochi
15th	Om Prakash Maurya	Delhi
15th	Manoj Kumar.T	Bangalore
16th	M. Theva Anand Rajesh	Tuticorin
17th	Jeroline Raj Dison	Tuticorin
20th	Mohammed Ameen P M	Kochi
20th	Ritu Dewani	Mundra
20th	Shamal Joshi	Corporate
21st	Jefin Ninan	Pune
24th	Dhruv narayan Mistry	Baroda
24th	Vivek Doshi	Mumbai
28th	Kaushik Sampat	Corporate

## WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

01st	Sheen Ajith Thomas	Intl. Division
16th	Anton Peter Lopes	PCL
23rd	Anindit Guha	Kolkata
26th	Sanjoy Bose	Kolkata
27th	Laxman Madav	JNPT Warehouse
29th	Maruti Thali	Mumbai
29th	Rakesh Pandey	Corporate
30th	Manish Sehrawat	Delhi
31st	Shamal Joshi	Corporate

## NEW ADDITIONS TO THE FEI FAMILY

Hina Parmar	Ahmedabad
Athira Jayarajan	Bangalore
Mano Loganathan	Chennai
Roshan B J	Chennai
Omkar Dhaval	Intl. Division
Adarsh M M	Kochi
Rahul A	Kochi
Sreerag S	Kochi
Malobika Banerjee	Kolkata
Ganesh Gavankar	Mumbai
Mandar Modak	Mumbai
Manish Gupta	Mumbai
Sijil Risal	Mumbai
Yogesh Pawar	Navi Mumbai
Jefin Ninan	Pune

## CELEBRATIONS FOR THE MONTH

Holiday	Date/Day	Branches												
		Ahmedabad	Bangalore	Baroda	Chennai	Delhi	Gandhidham	Hyderabad	Kochi	Kolkata	Mumbai	Pune	Tirupur	Tuticorin
Second Saturday	11th Jan/Sat	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Bihu/Pongal/Lohri/Makar Sankranti	14th Jan/Tue	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

— PAN INDIA CLOSED

— OPTIONAL HOLIDAYS

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