

India-An Emerging Science and Technology Powerhouse – Part 2

By Uday Kumar Varma

Author is a former Secretary, Information and Broadcasting, GOI

Innovation and Start-ups

Innovation has been an integral and unique dimension of Indian entrepreneurship, and thereby, another strength in her endeavour to become the global leader in S&T. The term ‘Jugad’ (जुगाड़) in the contemporary industrial lexicon, stands out as quintessentially an Indian contribution. Jugad, representing a form of innovation that maximizes resourcefulness through lateral thinking and ingenuity, is emblematic of the resilience and inventiveness inherent in Indian entrepreneurship and a fundamental trait and asset.

India has consistently improved its global innovation ranking. It has maintained its 40th rank among 132 economies in the Global Innovation Index 2023, as published by the World Intellectual Property Organization, ascending impressively from its 81st position in 2015.

As of 2023, India boasts over 112,718 government-recognized start-ups, a significant rise from around 50,000 in 2018. This surge highlights India as the third-largest start-up ecosystem globally, with over 100 among them qualifying as unicorns with a valuation of nearly \$350 Bn., with the distinct possibility of some of them becoming decacorns soon. These start-ups spread across 763 districts in the country, clearly underline this spatial significance.

The challenge for India is to formalise as many of these innovation into patents and create IPRs to ensure a legitimate and lasting advantage.

Anusandhan National Research Foundation (ANRF)

‘The world’s most populous democracy and the fifth-largest economy has an opportunity to reimagine its science funding.’, pleads Nature. Around 60% of India’s research spending can be traced to central and state governments and universities, and around 40% to the private sector. In comparable nations, there is often much more private-sector funding. In 2022, the private sector contributed, on average, 74% of OECD nations’ R&D spending and 66% of such funding for the 27 members of the European Union, the Nature Editorial observes. It argues for greater participation of private sector in India’s research spending and refers to the recent initiative of setting up a National Research Foundation.

The Anusandhan National Research Foundation (ANRF) has been established with Anusandhan National Research Foundation (ANRF) 2023 Act. The ANRF aims to seed, grow and promote research and development (R&D) and foster a culture of research and innovation throughout India’s universities, colleges, research institutions, and R&D laboratories.

ANRF will act as an apex body to provide high-level strategic direction of scientific research in the country as per recommendations of the National Education Policy (NEP). With the establishment of ANRF, the Science and Engineering Research Board (SERB) established by an act of Parliament in 2008 has been subsumed into ANRF. ANRF will forge collaborations among the industry, academia, and government departments and research institutions, and create an interface mechanism for participation and contribution of industries and State governments in addition to the scientific and line ministries.

NRF budget envisions a spending of Rs. 50,000 crores over five years, out of which a major share of Rs. 36,000 crores, over 70%, is estimated to come from non-government sources, from industry & philanthropists, from domestic as well as outside sources.

“NRF will catapult us to the league of handful developed nations pioneering new research in new frontiers”: Dr Jitendra Singh

NRF will forge collaborations among the industry, academia, and government departments and research institutions, and create an interface mechanism for participation and contribution of industries and State governments in addition to the scientific and line ministries. It will focus on creating a policy framework and putting in place regulatory processes that can encourage collaboration and increased spending by the Industry on R&D.

The establishment of ANRF marks a significant milestone in India's research and innovation ecosystem. By catalysing collaboration among industry, academia, and government institutions, ANRF is poised to accelerate India's scientific advancements and technological breakthroughs. The substantial budget allocation, with a focus on non-governmental sources, reflects a paradigm shift towards a more robust and sustainable research framework.

Emerging Global Leader

India's ascent as a technological powerhouse is reshaping its diplomatic engagements, driving strategic partnerships, and amplifying its voice in global affairs. With a concerted focus on indigenous innovation, research excellence, and collaborative frameworks, India is poised to enhance its influence and clout on the world stage, alongside established superpowers like the US and China. As the nation continues its trajectory towards scientific excellence, the world is witnessing the rise of a new global powerhouse, propelled by innovation, ingenuity, and a commitment to technological advancement.

Muhammadan Anglo Oriental University – Part 2

By Lt Gen V A Bhat

Gen Bhat served as the Director-General of Quality Assurance (DGQA) at the Department of Defence Production (Ministry of Defence) affairs.

- The then UPA government went in appeal to Supreme Court (S C). The Supreme Court is currently deliberating whether the Aligarh Muslim University should retain its status as a minority educational institution under Article 30 of the Constitution. This Article grants religious and linguistic minority communities the right to establish and administer schools, colleges and universities. In 2016 the GOI withdrew its petition from the S C saying it did not agree with 1981 amendment of AMU being a Minority Institution.

The case was argued over eight hearings in January and February before a seven-judge Constitution bench led by the Chief Justice of India, DY Chandrachud, and comprising Justices Sanjiv Khanna, Surya Kant, JB Pardiwala, Dipankar Dutta, Manoj Misra and SC Sharma The Case was heard recently by the S C of India in February 2024 by 7 Member bench which has the Chief Justice of India heading that bench. The government said that the AMU was not and cannot be a university of any particular religion or religious denomination.

It said a university declared as an institution of national importance cannot be a minority institution. Hence, if it is declared as a minority institution it will not be required to implement the reservation policy of the government. Both sides argued before the court on two main issues: what are the parameters to grant an educational institution minority status under Article 30 and whether an educational institution created by a parliamentary legislation enjoys minority status under Article 30.

The Aligarh Muslim University and other parties on its side argued that the existence of a central law did not negate the university's minority character. They highlighted the university's origin, its predominantly Muslim student body and its management and admission policies to illustrate this point.

They further argued that the university never relinquished its minority status and that there was Muslim control over its administration in spite of the 1920 legislation.

They stated that once a minority community has established an educational institution, it may administer it in any way it deems fit, even by including non-minority groups in its administration. The presence of non-minority groups in the administration by itself would have no bearing on the minority status of the institution.

The university's lawyers underlined that it had played a crucial role in creating an educated Muslim middle class and contributed to India's progress and that its minority character was essential to continue its legacy.

They argued that the Supreme Court's 1967 judgment was incorrectly decided because it set the illogical precedent that any minority educational institution, once recognised by statutory law, would lose its minority status.

They also reaffirmed that the protection of Article 30 was available to institutions established prior to the Constitution being enacted.

On the other hand, the government and those challenging the university's minority status contended that the Supreme Court's 1967 judgment was specific only to the Aligarh Muslim University and the 1920 Act and did not affect any other minority institution.

Their main argument was that the university was neither established nor administered by Muslims. It relinquished its minority status in 1920 when the college was converted into the university, they claimed.

They went on to cite historical data of students at the university to show that while the university was founded by Muslims, it had a diverse student body with representation from all faiths and not just Islam.

They also argued that the university's establishment predated the Constitution – therefore, the university could not claim the protection of minority rights which did not exist before the enactment of the Constitution. Both Hindus and Muslims were considered equal by the colonial government, they said.

They also referred to Constituent Assembly debates to attempt to show that the university was recognised as a “non-communal” institution by the Constitution. Therefore, it could not claim to be a minority institution.

On February 1, the bench reserved its judgment in the matter, which is expected to be delivered sometime in the summer.

An Agenda for The New Indian Government

By Vappala Balachandran

Author is a former Special Secretary, Cabinet Secretariat.

As this is written, official results of 396 Lok Sabha seats are yet to be declared. Contrary to rosy exit poll predictions, the ruling BJP, by itself, has not even reached halfway mark of 543. It was pushed into the second place even in Uttar Pradesh where the electorate chose to ignore its greatest achievement of the decade by building Ayodhya Ram temple. If it can cobble up the numbers with the help of other NDA members, it will be a much weaker government than its 2019 version.

The first reason for this is the rupture of domestic concord due to its vituperative comments against opposition parties by accusations that they were in cahoots with foreign powers. Also, BJP's campaign rhetoric constantly hovered over settled foreign policy issues, to indulge in blame game against the opposition. An example was the questioning the 1974 "Katchatheevu" agreement with Sri Lanka only to sway the electorate in Tamil Nadu which would have created misgivings with Colombo, with which we have friendly relations now.

As regards neighbourhood relations, hopes of a financially beleaguered Pakistan would change its policy and resume bilateral trade with India on our terms arose after their foreign minister Muhammad Ishaq Dar's statement on March 24. This soon dissipated with Pakistan Foreign Office's spokesperson Mumtaz Zahra Baloch's statement on March 28 that the responsibility for improving relations rested with India. This, in other words meant that full diplomatic relations, which were downgraded after we abrogated Article 370 of our constitution affecting Kashmir, would not be considered by them.

This would clearly show that democratically elected representatives in Pakistan do not have the final say in such matters. As against this, threats of capturing "Pakistan Occupied Kashmir" (POK) or motivating its people to "merge" with India, as heard constantly during the electioneering, would only provide an excuse for Pakistan's "Deep state" to unleash further terrorism on us.

The new Indian government could try to improve relationship by taking advantage of Pakistani leader Nawaz Shariff's statement on May 28 accusing General Pervez Musharraf of betraying him by violating his 1999 peace agreement with Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee.

Also, the new government is taking over when our relations with neighbouring countries are less than "friendly", be it Nepal or Maldives. The "elephant" in the room is China which is hovering around us. The outgoing NDA government's policy has been to follow US leadership in resisting China through Quad or American sponsored Indo-Pacific Strategy (IPEF) in 2022, for which India was one of the first supporters. While IPEF seems to have halted its trade component, leaving India nowhere, our PM's proposal during the New Delhi G-20 Summit on India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC) has been grounded due to the Gaza War.

Meanwhile other countries have moved on, in a gravitational shift towards Beijing, even by those considered to be US allies for funding and leadership due to a stalemate in Ukraine war and American inability to restrain Israel's excesses in Gaza. We missed this in the din of election related reports.

Towards the end of May, China hosted the "China-Arab States Cooperation Forum" which was attended by the presidents of China, Egypt, UAE, and Tunisia as well as foreign ministers of Saudi Arabia, Yemen, Sudan, Syria, Iraq, Algeria and Morocco. According to Reuters, Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed Bin Salman was to have attended the meeting for "foreign funding for its ambitious economic transformation" but had to stay back due to King Salman's health.

China announced US\$ 69 million aid to Gaza and US\$ 3 million to UN agency looking after Palestinian refugees.

The new government must take account a BBC report on 15 May 2024 that China has the “edge” in the current “technical war” with the West, represented by the “5 Eyes”. The report said that China employs around 600,000 on intelligence and security “more than any other state in the world”.

Article first published in Lokmat Times Nagpur main on 5th June 2024

Bangladesh in Dragon’s Embrace

By Srikanth Kondapalli

Author is Dean of School of International Studies and Professor in Chinese studies at Jawaharlal Nehru University.

Despite stating that it does not interfere in the internal affairs of other countries, China has made it an art to coerce countries that receive aid from it. Previously, China demanded deference from other countries to the “One China” policy with regard to Taiwan, Tibet and on its South China Sea disputes with South-East Asian nations.

A submarine base, \$5 billion in aid, infrastructure projects close to India’s Siliguri corridor, arms transfers and military exercises with Bangladesh -- Beijing has made clear to India its intentions to structurally alter power in the region.

As a part of its global and regional hegemonic drive, China is making forays into several regions of the world, including South Asia. Apart from its “all-weather” friend Pakistan, Beijing has made concerted moves in Sri Lanka, Afghanistan, Nepal, Maldives and Bhutan. It is extending and tightening its hold on Bangladesh.

China began preparing for Siliguri Corridor contingencies and forced the then Bangladesh President Gen. Ershad to make a statement in Beijing in 1987 that he would not allow Indian troop transit to North-East India through Bangladeshi territory in the backdrop of the looming Samdorong Chu incident when China had mobilised 200 troops there. It signed a defence cooperation agreement with “reliable friend” and former PM Khaleda Zia in December 2002 and has sold more than \$5 billion in arms to Bangladesh, nearly 10% of Beijing’s arms transfers abroad.

Much closer to the Siliguri corridor, which separates Nepal and Bangladesh and provides crucial connectivity to the rest of India to its North-East, China is fishing in troubled waters with a \$1-billion dredging project in the Teesta River. After the 2017 Doklam standoff with India, China went ahead and built a road to Jampheri Ridge, not far from the Siliguri Corridor.

Beijing has spent \$4 billion on its Belt and Road Initiative projects in Bangladesh, with plans for a total of over \$50 billion in the coming years. Bilateral trade between the two countries increased from \$1.2 billion 20 years ago to \$22 billion last year, making China Bangladesh’s largest trading partner, displacing India. Bangladesh’s trade deficit with China is nearly \$21 billion and mounting. Dhaka’s pleas to China to open up its market for Bangladeshi goods – textiles, jute and other products – have fallen on deaf ears in Beijing.

With its forex reserves falling – it was below \$19 billion in May -- Dhaka is looking for a \$5 billion loan from China. It intends to use this to buy raw materials and for budgetary support. However, while Dhaka wants a long-term loan with preferred interest rate of 1%, Beijing is likely to jack up the interest rate and attach strings, as it has done with many other countries. At least 16 countries in the BRI have high debt levels. Dhaka could learn from the financial meltdown in Pakistan and Sri Lanka. China has already extended \$3 billion in loans to Bangladesh, owning currently over 10% of its debt.

Yet another audacious Chinese project is the BNS Sheikh Hasina submarine base at Pekua in Cox's Bazar that was inaugurated this March, with a \$1.21-billion funding from China. It can accommodate six submarines and eight warships. Earlier, in 2016, Bangladesh procured two Ming-class submarines from China for \$205 million. Bangladesh's choice was surprising, given that a Ming-class submarine had suffered a catastrophic accident in April 2003, killing all 70 sailors on board, due to a mechanical failure.

Despite stating that it does not interfere in the internal affairs of other countries, China has made it an art to coerce countries that receive aid from it. Previously, China demanded deference from other countries to the "One China" policy with regard to Taiwan, Tibet and on its South China Sea disputes with South-East Asian nations. Beijing has been lately expanding its demands on other countries' security policies. In May 2021, China's ambassador to Bangladesh, Li Jiming, warned Dhaka against associating with the US-India-Japan-Australia Quad as it would "damage our bilateral relations". Further, China's foreign ministry official Liu Jinsong told Bangladesh's ambassador to Beijing in June 2022 to reject "Cold War mentality" and to not join "bloc politics". Dhaka is now increasingly under China's radar for compliance with these demands. How New Delhi counters Beijing's bid to draw Dhaka even deeper into its embrace remains to be seen.

[Read complete article on website deccanherald.com](https://www.deccanherald.com)

Ten Years of PM Modi's Foreign Policy: An Era of Great Challenges and Greater Achievements

By Ashok Sajjanhar

The author is an executive council member, Manohar Parrikar Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses, president, Institute of Global Studies, Distinguished Fellow, Ananta Aspen Centre, and former Ambassador of India to Kazakhstan, Sweden and Latvia.

It is a little less than 10 years since Prime Minister Narendra Modi took over as the head of the NDA government in New Delhi in May 2014. At that time, it was presumed that foreign policy would be Modi's weakest suit in governance since he had no or little experience in dealing with foreign countries.

Ten years later, however, foreign policy has emerged as one of Prime Minister Modi's biggest strengths. This is particularly commendable since India and the world have experienced challenges of a nature that the global community has not witnessed over several decades. One of the most debilitating of these was the COVID-19 pandemic which was a black swan event occurring after a gap of 100 years. Before the world could come to grips with the pandemic, it was struck in quick succession with two unanticipated conflicts viz., the Russia-Ukraine war and the Israel-Hamas confrontation. Some other unsettling developments during this period included the increasingly aggressive behaviour of China in the East China Sea against Japan and Taiwan. In the South China Sea against several ASEAN (Association of South-East Asian Nations) countries, and against India and Bhutan on the undermarketed and disputed land boundary.

Notwithstanding these and several other challenges on the domestic and international fronts, Prime Minister Modi ably assisted by his former External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj and current EAM S Jaishankar, and by virtue of his bold, visionary and firm leadership, raised the image and profile of India as a partner of choice, a voice of reason and a consensus builder in the world.

Neighbourhood First

One of the first initiatives launched by Prime Minister Modi was the "Neighbourhood First" policy when he invited Heads of State/Government of all SAARC (South Asian Association of Regional Countries) and Mauritius, to his swearing-in ceremony on 26 May 2014.

He invited leaders of BIMSTEC (Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation), Kyrgyzstan and Mauritius to his second oath-taking ceremony on 31 May 2019.

The success of the Neighbourhood First policy is evident from the fact that India's ties with its neighbours (barring Pakistan, China and more recently Maldives) are much stronger and deeper today than they were in 2014. Prime Minister Modi's first visit to Nepal in August 2014 was the first bilateral travel by an Indian prime minister to Nepal in 17 years. Since then, Prime Minister Modi has travelled four more times to Nepal viz. in November 2014 for the SAARC Summit; twice in 2018, once on a bilateral visit and again for the BIMSTEC Summit; and the fourth in 2022 on a visit to Lumbini at the invitation of the Nepalese prime minister. The meeting of the Joint Economic Commission between the two countries in September 2014 took place after a hiatus of 23 years. All these visits as well as interactions with Nepalese leaders on their visits to India have significantly enhanced understanding and cooperation between the two countries.

Similarly, the unanimous ratification of the long-pending Land Boundary Agreement with Bangladesh (Indira-Mujib Accord signed in 1975), sent a strong message that India is keen to strengthen its bilateral ties with Bangladesh, its important eastern neighbour.

With Sri Lanka also, the first visit by Prime Minister Modi in March 2015 was the first bilateral visit by an Indian prime minister after a long gap of 28 years. The decisive and emphatic political and economic support by India to Sri Lanka in its hour of existential crisis and need in 2022 by providing it with \$4.50 billion for meeting its urgent and essential needs, significantly enhanced the confidence in the bilateral partnership and took it to new heights.

The decline in ties with Pakistan, China and Maldives is not on account of any failure or missteps by India but due to actions taken by these countries for domestic political or strategic reasons. India has responded firmly to terrorist attacks from Pakistan as well as incursions into Indian territory by China. The Muizzu-led Maldivian government came recently to power on the back of an "India Out" campaign but India's mature and statesmanlike handling of the situation is contributing to bring the relations on an even keel.

Link West policy

One of the most significant successes of Prime Minister Modi's foreign policy is the deepening and broadening of India's ties with West Asia/Middle East. Earlier these countries used to look at India through the religious prism of Islam created by Pakistan. This is no longer the case today. India has emerged as a significant political, economic and strategic partner of these countries. This is evident from the fact that several of these countries including Saudi Arabia, UAE, Bahrain, Egypt and Palestine have decorated Prime Minister Modi with their highest national awards.

UAE had invited the then EAM Sushma Swaraj to address the foreign ministers of OIC (Organisation of Islamic Countries) in 2019, over-riding the objections by Pakistan. Moreover, none of the West Asian countries took a stand against the abrogation of Articles 370 and 35A by India. On the contrary, UAE has committed to invest \$5 billion in Jammu and Kashmir for the development of hospitality and tourism infrastructure. The success of India's foreign policy in the region can be judged by the fact that India was able to get its eight retired navy personnel who had been awarded death sentences for espionage, pardoned by the Emir of Qatar and set free to return to India.

Act East Policy

India's Act East Policy has been remarkably successful in expanding and diversifying its relations in economic, political, strategic, connectivity and cultural spheres with ASEAN countries as well as Japan, Australia, Republic of Korea, Pacific Island Nations, and others.

India-US Relations

The preceding 10 years have witnessed remarkable growth and strengthening of trust and confidence between India and US. Prime Minister Modi has dealt with three US Presidents viz., Barack Obama, Donald Trump and Joe Biden, and relations have continued to soar in the tenures of all these presidents. This has emerged as the most consequential global relationship for India in political, strategic, economic, commercial, and technology spheres. The two countries engage in 60 dialogue platforms including critical and emergent technologies, renewable energy, connectivity, education, health, agriculture, green hydrogen, defence, semiconductor chips and many more. Prime Minister Modi was accorded the singular honour of being invited for a state visit by President Biden in June 2023, and also to address the Joint Session of the US Congress for the second time (The first time he addressed the US Congress was during Obama's term in 2016). Prime Minister Modi has also been an active participant in the revival of the QUAD in November 2017 and its upgradation to summit level over the last three years.

Russia-Ukraine conflict

India has firmly displayed its strategic autonomy by not only not criticizing Russia for its attack on Ukraine, notwithstanding the huge pressure from the west but also continued to import large quantities of oil and gas at concessional rates to provide affordable and reliable supply of energy to its people.

G20 presidency

Possibly the successful conduct, both logistically and substantively, of its G20 presidency can be considered to be the pinnacle of Prime Minister Modi's achievements over the last decade in the realm of foreign policy. No one had anticipated that India would succeed in crafting a consensus Leaders' Declaration, given the widely divergent positions on the conflict in Ukraine of the West on one side, and Russia and China on the other. But India was able to achieve the unthinkable on the first day itself. Much of this success can be attributed to the leadership of Prime Minister Modi and the personal ties of respect and mutual benefit that he has been able to foster with most world leaders. The World came together to ensure a successful G20 presidency for India. India got the African Union inducted as the 21st member of the Group and emerged as a Voice of the Global South and a Vishwamitra (Friend of the World) as a consequence of the remarkable success of its G20 presidency.

Cultural rebalancing

In addition to the far-reaching initiatives in the political, economic and strategic arenas, Prime Minister Modi has given a push to several cultural themes like yoga, Ayurveda, millets, International Solar Alliance etc. to establish India's leadership in the cultural and spiritual domain. This has sought to actively project Bharat's position as an ancient thought leader focusing on "Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam", the oneness of the global family.

Conclusion

Prime Minister Modi and his foreign policy team have acquired themselves highly creditably to deal with the wide-ranging challenges that have arisen over the last 10 years. Today the world is in transition. The turmoil and turbulence present challenges as well as opportunities for India to enhance its standing and emerge as a more consequential and effective global player in the years to come.

[Read complete article on website firstpost.com](https://www.firstpost.com)

Disclaimer: The opinions expressed in this publication are those of the authors. They do not purport to reflect the opinions or views of the FINS or its members.

India is Proud of:

Syed Abdul Rahim (17 Aug. 1909 – 11 Jun. 1963)

Legendary Coach of Indian Football



Rahim was born in Hyderabad. In his early years, he worked as a schoolteacher. After taking football seriously, Rahim represented the football team of Osmania University, from where he did his graduation.

He was popularly known as Rahim Saab and became Indian football coach and manager of the India national team from 1950 until his death in 1963. He is regarded as the architect of modern Indian football. He was a strong motivator and his tenure as a coach is regarded as the "golden age" of football in India.

Under his stewardship, the India national team earned superiority in both technical qualities and tactical innovations and got the nickname "Brazil of Asia". They went on to win gold medals in Asian Games of— (1951-Delhi and 1962-Jakarta), play semi-finals of the Summer Olympics—(1956-Melbourne) making India the first ever Asian country to achieve this place, win the titles of Colombo Cup for the years of—(1952-Colombo and 1954-Calcutta and came runners-up in Pestabola Merdeka—(1959 Kuala Lumpur)

Rahim also played for the Dutch Amateur League club HSV Hoek in the Netherlands, before going on to become a manager.

A lover of Hyderabad one-touch football, he later scouted young players such as Tulsidas Balaram, from Secundrabad League while visiting local matches as chief guest.

In 1950, Rahim joined Hyderabad City Police Club as coach He managed the team from 1950 until his death in 1963. The Hyderabad club won five consecutive Rovers Cups during his tenure from 1950 to 1955. He also took his team to five Durand Cup finals, winning three of them.

Rahim managed Hyderabad football team in Santosh Trophy, known as the senior national championships. He guided the team clinching two consecutive titles in 1956–57 and 1957–58, defeating the same team, Bombay, in finals.

He became manager of the India national football team in 1950, the same year, India had not gone to the 1950 FIFA World Cup in Brazil. Rahim's first assignment as the coach of India was to train the team that toured Ceylon in 1949. Rahim made the Indian team prominent during the "golden era" of Indian football, became one of the best teams in Asia. In March 1951, at the inaugural 1951 Asian Games in New Delhi, Rahim helped India in winning the gold medal. In 1954, noted British manager Bert Flatley became Rahim's assistant at the 1954 Colombo Cup.

During Rahim's tenure, the Indian football team enjoyed a great deal of success. Apart from winning the Asian games in 1951 and 1962, India also reached the semi-finals of the 1956 Melbourne Olympics which is still considered India's greatest ever achievement in football. Under his coaching at that tournament, players like Neville D'Souza, Samar Banerjee, P. K. Banerjee, and J. Krishnaswamy achieved fame worldwide. Rahim's last success was at the 1962 Asian games in Jakarta, where India won gold, beating South Korea in the finals in front of a crowd of One Lakh.

Rahim is considered to be the greatest coach India has ever produced, he by utilising the available resources made best out of that. In the process to improve one-touch play he conducted non-dribbling and weaker leg-(the players supposedly play with their weaker foot) tournaments. Rahim introduced the classic 4-2-4 formation in Indian football team much before Brazil popularised it in the 1958 World Cup.

The 1962 Asian Games was Rahim's final major tournament, winning a 2-1 victory over South Korea. Before that final, he just said to his players, "Kal aap logon se mujhe ek tohfa chahiye.... kal aap sona jitlo".

When Indian national coach Alberto Fernando had gone to a workshop in Brazil in 1964, he said: What I learnt from Rahim in 1956 is being taught now in Brazil. Verily, he was a football "super genius".

Former Indian international Mohammed Zulfiqaruddin said about Rahim, as: He was a master at work. He made the Indian football team a formidable unit. He had the uncanny ability of spotting talent and turning them into solid players. But he was a strict disciplinarian.

Rahim was popularly known as 'Maulvi Sahib' due to his gentleman gesture and tireless works and dedications in developing football at that time. Rahim's son, Syed Shahid Hakim, was a former professional football player, who represented India at the 1960 Summer Olympics. Hakim also worked as FIFA official, squadron leader of IAF, and referee, later managed the national team like his father, and recipient of the Dhyan Chand Award.

Rahim died from lung cancer on 12 June 1963 after being bed-ridden for six months.

In memory of Rahim, the I-League "Best Coach Award" is renamed as "Syed Abdul Rahim Award", given to the best coach in each season by the All India Football Federation (AIFF).

A biopic on Rahim named Maidaan, with Ajay Devgan as Rahim in lead role, has been made by Netflix.

When the world mostly used a 2-3-2-3 or a 3-3-4 formation, Rahim introduced the 4-2-4 formation to Indian football, few years before Brazil made it popular in the 1958 World Cup. Using a centre-forward to drop in midfield and a defender to overlap into attack were some of the revolutionary tactical changes that were eventually adopted by a few western teams.

In recent times, no Indian coach has displayed the kind of tactical intelligence that Rahim was famous for. Even decades after his death, Indian football can take plenty of cues from his management.

A visionary coach and master tactician, it is fair to say that Syed Abdul Rahim's genius has stood the test of time.

Write to us at:

bulletin@finsindia.org

**OFFICE :4, Belle View, Lakhamsi Nappu
Road, Dadar (East), MUMBAI - 400014
Phone 022 24127274, 98339 24371**

EDITORIAL BOARD

**Shri. Milind Bondale
Col Ravindra Tripathi**