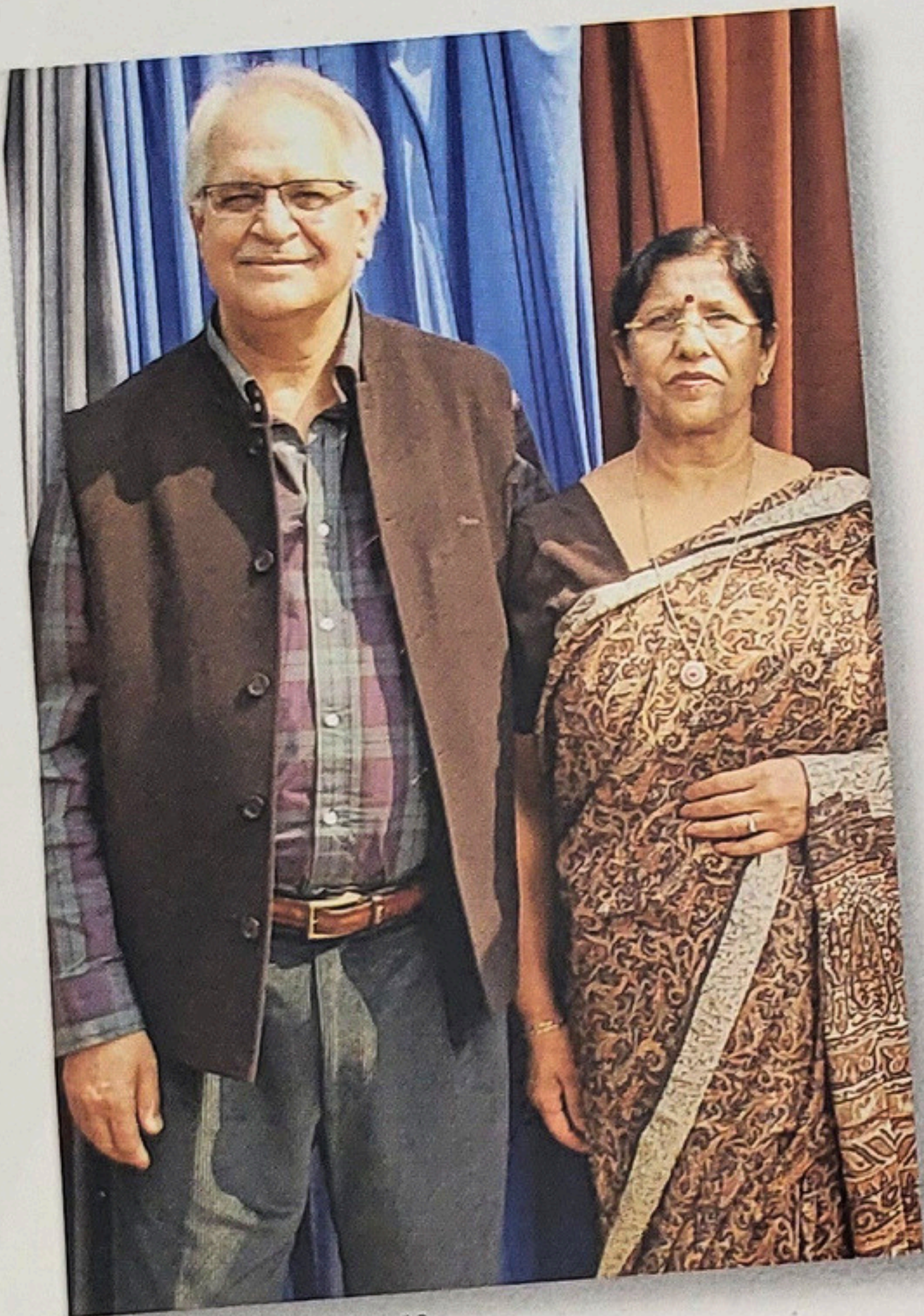


Close Up with Vijay Thakur

Under his able and focussed guidance, the Indian tour operators' association flourished and was effective in seeking solutions to many worrying issues. Now that the associations' 27th annual convention is about to roll, Vijay Thakur, President, Indian Association of Tour Operators (IATO) is on his toes and busy in preparations to host a successful event.



Vijay Thakur with his wife



IATO members enjoying at the annual day celebrations

❖ PRIYANKA SAXENA

Q. What, according to you, is the major concern for the In-bound Tourism today?

A. The major concern at this point in time is over taxation, visa issues, lack of basic infrastructure at all levels in tourism sector, lack of cleanliness in the country and dearth of basic facilities in the city and monuments visited by tourists, among others.

Q. What inspire you?

A. It is not people but Mother Nature that inspires me most. I think it is nature that teaches us lessons of perseverance, care and bountifulness. If we have the desire, there is a lot we can learn from it.

Q. What is your mantra for success?

A. We all may have a different route that leads us to it, but the fact remains that there is no short cut to success. To achieve it, one needs sincerity, hard work and complete integrity. The mantra is to never stop trying till you have seen all your objectives being fulfilled. Complacency has no place in your route to success.

Q. How do you view life?

A. "We make a living by what we get. We make a life by what we give", said Winston Churchill, and I completely agree with it. I personally feel that life is too short to have regrets or complaints. We must make the best use of it. For me, we should all live life king size!

Q. Your proud moment in life, professionally and personally?

A. Professionally, my proud moment was when I was elected as the President of the IATO, and got a chance to represent the tourism industry and contribute for the betterment of the industry. Personally, when the almighty blessed us with a grand daughter

Q. Your message to the younger generation?

A. Work hard, dream big, love all, be positive in your attitude and success will follow.

Q. Which is your favourite travel destination?

A. Of course the colourful state of Rajasthan – Its uniqueness in its food, palaces, festivals, artifacts, customs and traditions, costumes – It is an experience of a completely different world. I have always been enchanted by the colourful and diverse beauty of the state and it never fails to mesmerise me.