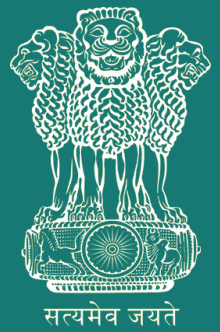


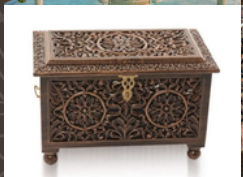
Swalapatra India-Bali

Newsletter of the Consulate General of India, Bali

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Incredible India Uttar Pradesh



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Celebration of the 75th Republic Day of India in New Delhi

On Friday, 26 January, 2024, "Aavaahan" took center stage at Kartavya Path in honor of India's 75th Republic Day. The event, which featured tableaux representing states, Union Territories, and several ministries, was witnessed by dignitaries such as French President Macron, President Murmu, the principal guest, and Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The parade had two themes: "Bharat — Loktantra Ki Matraka" (India — the mother of democracy) and "Visit Bharat" (developed India). A march past honoring "nari shakti" and tableaux of ISRO's Chandrayaan-3 spacecraft and the Ram Mandir in Ayodhya were among the notable entries. Four Mi-17 IV helicopters from the 105 Helicopter Unit also doused the Kartavya Path audience in flower petals. Starting at 10:30 AM, the Republic Day Parade made its way from Vijay Chowk to Kartavya Path.



Consecration of Ram Mandhir in Ayodhya



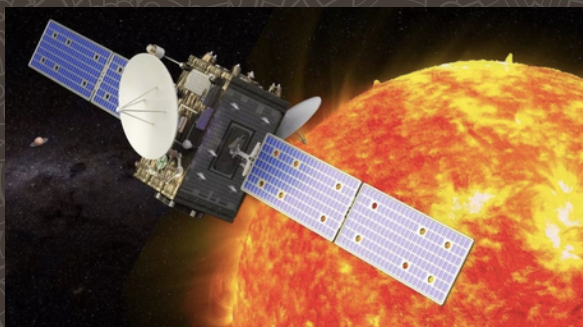
Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi attended the Pran Pratishtha ceremony of Shri Ramlalla at the newly built Shri Ram Janmbhoomi Mandir in Ayodhya, Uttar Pradesh. He announced the arrival of Lord Ram after centuries of patience, sacrifices, and penance. Modi praised the divine consciousness inside the 'Garbh Grih' and emphasized that the event can be experienced by Ram Bhakts worldwide. He emphasized the importance of Shri Ram Katha in memories and traditions, stating that Ram is eternal and eternal. The event was attended by the Governor of Uttar Pradesh, Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh, Sarsanghchalak of Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh, and President of Shri Ram Janmbhoomi Teertha Kshetra Trust.

Vibrant Gujarat Global Summit 2024

The 10th Vibrant Gujarat Global Summit 2024, organized by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, aimed to showcase investment opportunities in the North-Eastern regions. The summit featured 34 partner countries and 16 organizations, with the theme of 'Gateway to the Future'. Industry leaders like Arcelor Mittal Chairman Lakshmi Mittal and Suzuki Motor Corporation President Toshihiro Suzuki praised PM's focus on process continuity, steel, and the Arcelor Mittal Nippon Steel India Hazira Expansion Project. Reliance Group's Shimam Ambani called Vibrant Gujarat the most prestigious investment summit, citing PM's vision and consistency. Micron Technologies CEO Sanjay Mehrotra thanked PM for his vision to open up India to semiconductor manufacturing, stating it will become a significant economic driver as India becomes the third largest economy. Adani Group Chairman Gautam Adani announced an investment of Rs 55,000 crores in Gujarat by 2025, creating 25,000 direct and indirect jobs. Simmtech is preparing another round of colocation investment in India, and DP World Chairman Sultan Ahmed bin Sulayem congratulated the Gujarat Government for organizing the summit.



India Sun's Probe Reached Solar Orbit



and magnetic field. It can monitor the Sun continuously for at least five years, with a possibility of extension.

CONSULATE'S OUTREACH

Ambassador Chakravorty's Visit to Ashram Gandhi Puri

Ambassador Sandeep Chakravorty visited Ashram Gandhi Puri on 18 January and was welcomed by Mr. Agus Indra Udayana, the founder and 2020 Padma Shri recipient. Ambassador met the ashram members and inaugurated self-initiative project. CG Dr. Shashank Vikram and Director SVCC Bali Mr. Naveen Meghwal accompanied the Ambassador for the visit.



Celebration of the 75th Republic Day of India at CGI Bali

75th Republic Day of India was celebrated on 26 January 2024 at the Consulate premises with full enthusiasm, zeal and patriotic fervor, also as a part of the celebration of the 75 years diplomatic relation India-Indonesia. The event which was attended by over hundred people, commenced with the unfurling of the National flag by Consul General Dr. Shashank Vikram, followed by singing of national anthem. Thereafter, the Consul General read out the address of the Hon'ble President of India Smt. Droupadi Murmu to the nation on the eve of the Republic Day.



The celebration was filled with Indian cultural performances, including fusion dances by SVCC Bali dance teacher and students, by India in Bali group, patriotic Hindi songs by students of Gandhi Memorial Intercontinental School (GMIS). At the end of the programme, CG presented token of appreciation of all performers who have performed beautifully and enlivened the gathering. Attendees comprised of members of Indian community, Indonesians, media persons and friends of India, enjoyed the patriotic atmosphere and tasted the traditional Indian refreshments.



Odissi Dance Performance by Gunjan Dance Academy

A memorable Odissi dance performance with high cultural elements was presented by Gunjan Dance Academy from Odisha, India at Ksirarnawa Auditorium, Art Centre, Denpasar, Bali on the evening of 23 January. The program was organised in connection with 75 years of Diplomatic relation between India and Indonesia.

Three main performances; Mangalacharan, Dasavatar, and Rama Prema Bhakti Katha by Gunjan Dance Academy moved the audience into a state of joy and ecstasy. Audience also enjoyed a collaboration between Balinese and Odissi dance performed by Odissi dance teacher, Mr. Pravata Kumar Swain and Ms. Manik, a student from Indonesia Institute of Arts (ISI) Denpasar.

Consul General Dr. Shashank Vikram, Padma Shri Awardee Ida Rsi Putra Manuaba, Head of Culture Department Bali Province - Prof. Dr. I Gede Arya Sugiarta, S.SKar., M.Hum, Director of SVCC Bali Shri Naveen Meghwal, President of BIFA Mrs. Neeta Malhotra, and Owner of Sitara Restaurant Ms. Sonia Kaur graced the occasion.



CONSULATE'S OUTREACH

Live-Streaming of Pariksha Pe Charcha 2024 in Bali

The 7th Edition of Pariksha Pe Charcha which was organised in New Delhi on 29 January 2024 was live-streamed over the world including Bali. The annual programme led by Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi received a positive response to create a stress-free atmosphere among youngsters towards their exams.

In collaboration with Taman Rama Intercultural School Bali, CGI Bali organised the live-streaming of Pariksha Pe Charcha 2024 which was participated by students of grade 6 and above and the teachers of the school. At the same time, the programme was also live-streamed at the Consulate and attended by students, parents, and members of CGI and SVCC Bali. All participants enjoyed the programme as they obtained insightful information outlined a refreshing approach to education and to put exams in the right perspective, rather than making it a life-and-death situation punctuated by undue stress and pressure.



Celebration of World Hindi day

World Hindi Day was celebrated in the Consulate General of India & Swami Vivekananda Cultural Centre, Bali on 10 January 2024 to spread awareness about Hindi among the local and international community.

Hindi is one of the most profound, scientific, and complete languages, it is spoken by millions worldwide. Hindi has played an important part in preserving Indian culture and heritage.

On this occasion, CG Dr. Shashank Vikram addressed the audience and read out the Prime Minister of India's message for World Hindi Day, local Balinese people actively participated and sang Hindi songs, wrote Hindi words, and showed their interest in the Hindi language. Besides, the local Indian community also participated and recited Hindi poems, displayed a painting, and played tabla on Hindi songs.



Celebration of Swami Vivekananda Jayanti



12 January every year is marked as birth anniversary of Swami Vivekananda, an Indian philosopher and author. The celebration of Swami Vivekananda Jayanti was organised by CGI and SVCC Bali at several places. With active participation of elementary school students, ashram members, the programme which included floral tribute and talks on Swami Ji was held at SDN 03 Loddunduh, Ashram Gandhi Puri, and the Consulate.



CONSULATE'S ACTIVITIES

Performance of Balinese Ramayana Troupe in the 7th India-International Ramaya Mela

The 15-member Balinese Ramayana Dance troupe 'Geoks' from Gianyar, Bali, Indonesia invited by ICCR to perform in "7th India-International Ramayana Mela-2024" at Purana Qila, New Delhi from 18-28 January 2024. The group was led by Prof. Dibia (Padma Shree awardee). Apart from the main performance at Purana Qila, New Delhi, they also performed in Lucknow & Ayodhya. The performances were well received by the audiences and covered by national media.



Workshop on Indian Wisdom: How to Live a Happy Life



Workshop on "Indian Wisdom: How to Live a Happy Life" conducted by Shri Naveen Meghwal, Director of SVCC Bali was organised on 30 January at the Consulate. Director talked about the six powers of mind and how to master these powers to live a happy life. Director also suggested some daily yoga and meditation practices to keep the mind focused and balanced.

Celebration of Makar Sankranti

SVCC Bali celebrated Makar Sankranti with Shanti Yoga Community on 12 January. On this occasion Director of SVCC explained the meaning and significance of Makar Sankranti to the audience, program continued with kite flying and concluded with yoga and meditation practice for Sankranti.



Celebration of Swachhata Pakhwada

In observance of Swachhata Pakhwada, Consul General Dr. Shashank Vikram administered Swachhata Pledge on 17 January to the members of CGI and SVCC Bali. Some cleaning activities to maintain cleanliness and sanitation at the Consulate's premises were also organised related to this occasion.



Commemoration of Martyr's Day

On Martyr's Day, Consul General and all officials paid homage to Father of Nation, Mahatma Gandhi. Martyr's Day is celebrated on 30 January every year in India to mark the death anniversary of Gandhi Ji and his contribution to India and his sacrifices during the freedom struggle.



Consular Section at CGI Bali

The number of foreign tourists' visit to India has seen an increase of 166 per cent in January-April 2023 compare to same period in 2022. CGI, Bali receives various queries mainly related to Indian visa. Consular wing responds to all the mails in best possible way. In January, total 46 different consular services were provided to the Indian nationals, OCI card holders, Indonesian and foreign nationals.



KEEP IN TOUCH WITH INDIA

The 7th Edition of Pariksha Pe Charcha



The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi interacted with students, teachers and parents at Bharat Mandapam in New Delhi today during the 7th edition of Pariksha Pe Charcha (PPC) on 29 January. He also took a walkthrough of the art and crafts exhibition showcased on the occasion. PPC is a movement driven by Prime Minister Narendra Modi's efforts to bring together students, parents, teachers and society to foster an environment where each child's unique individuality is celebrated, encouraged and allowed to express itself fully.

Addressing the gathering of students, teachers and parents, the Prime Minister mentioned the creations by the students in the exhibition where they have expressed aspirations and concepts like New National Education Policy in various shapes. He said these exhibits reflect what the new generations think about various topics and what solutions they have for these issues.



PM Modi's interaction with children, parents, and students at PPC 2024 focused on promoting technology use wisely, goal setting, treating all students equally, and ensuring sleep for the health of students. He compared our bodies to mobile phones and stressed the importance of regular writing practice for improving skills and time management during exams. He also recommended deep breathing exercises before exams to help overcome nervousness and perform well. PM Modi also emphasized the benefits of having ambi-

tious friends and focusing on personal development rather than comparing achievements. He also stressed the importance of challenges and healthy competition in life, stating that without them, life becomes dull.

Uttar Pradesh

Rightly called the 'Heartland of India', Uttar Pradesh (UP) is known for boasting a flamboyant cultural heritage. It is a land of rich historical tales, it is a land of varied hues of cultures blending together, it is a land of diverse religions, and it is a land of delectable mix of aromatic food. Traveling to Uttar Pradesh offers an opportunity to explore India's culture and the origin of human beliefs.

How to Reach

Uttar Pradesh, a developing state, is well-connected by road, rail, and air. With over 430 functional railway stations, reaching tourist destinations is easy. The state has international airports in Lucknow and Varanasi, domestic airports in Gorakhpur, Agra, Jhansi, Meerut, Prayagraj (Allahabad), and Kanpur. Roads, including National Highways and expressways, are well-maintained and operated by the Uttar Pradesh State Road Transport Corporation.

Places of Interest

Located in northern India, Uttar Pradesh is a popular tourist destination with numerous historical monuments and religious sites. The state is known for its rich culture and tradition, including the birthplaces of Lord Rama and Lord Krishna. The state also boasts the Taj Mahal, one of the New Seven Wonders of the World. Tourists can visit historical cities like Agra, Ayodhya, Jhansi, Kanpur, and Lucknow, as well as holy Hindu cities like Varanasi and Buddhist sites like Kushinagar and Sarnath.



Festivals

With its 40 grand festivals and about 2,250 fairs, Uttar Pradesh is considered among the most colourful state of the country. Festivals like Dussehra, Deepawali, Holi, Eid, Christmas, Buddha Purnima etc. are celebrated in Uttar Pradesh with warm communal harmony like other parts of India. Apart from these major festivals (national festivals), Uttar Pradesh is visited for several unique fairs and celebrations like Kumbh Mela, Dev Deepawali, Ganga Mahotsav, Kampil Fair etc.



Cuisines

UP is known for its diverse cuisine, influenced by Buddhists, Persians, Mughals, and British. The majority of the population is Hindu, Muslims, Christians, Buddhists, and Jains, enjoying simple vegetarian fare like dal, chawal, roti, and subzi. Non-vegetarian delicacies are also popular, with Mughlai and Awadhi being the chief types. The cuisine is not just about the influences of princely empires; it also features street-food variations and influences from neighboring states. The state's cuisine is vastly diverse and unifying, with dishes like biryanis, koftas, kababs, and chaats regularly featured in restaurants and fine-dining centers worldwide. The people of Uttar Pradesh are warm and hospitable, often feeding guests until they beg for mercy.



Handicrafts

Uttar Pradesh is known for its diverse crafts, including earthen pottery, carpet weaving, chikankari embroidery, and silk saris. The state's regions, such as Varanasi, Mirzapur, Agra, Kanpur, Moradabad, and Lucknow, each produce unique crafts. Other popular crafts include pottery, glass bangles, zardosi, woodenware, textiles, stonework, jewellery, and sculptures.



For further information, please visit: <https://uptourism.gov.in/>

Nihari



Nihari is an authentic dish which means a slow cooked mutton stew, which is said to be originated in the Awadhi kitchen of Lucknow in Uttar Pradesh. Earlier Nihari recipe had myriad variations spices due to

Ingredients

- 1 Kg mutton
- 2 tbsp refined oil
- 3-4 Green cardamoms
- 1 tsp whole cinnamon
- 2 black cardamoms
- 2-3 Bay leaves
- 1 tsp turmeric powder
- 1/4 cup water
- 1 tsp ginger-garlic paste
- 1 tsp coriander powder
- 1 tsp red chilli powder
- 1 tsp garlic (ground), fried
- 1 tsp onion (ground), fried
- 3 tbsp yogurt (beaten)
- 2 tsp gulab jal
- 2 tsp garam masala
- 1/2 tsp nutmeg-cardamom powder
- 1/2 tsp saffron, soaked
- to taste Salt
- Few drops of Ittar
- Wheat dough (for dum)
- for garnishing fresh coriander and ginger juliennes

which it was slow cooked overnight and served the next morning on special occasions and festivals like Eid.

Here is the special royal recipe that you can cook at home with easy steps on festive occasions and dinner parties. Accompany it with naan, paratha or rice.

Methods:

- Heat oil in a pan and add green cardamom, cinnamon, cloves, black cardamom and bay leaves.
- Add the meat and saute till lightly fried.
- Add salt and turmeric and mix well.
- Pour in the water, cover the pan and cook.
- When it starts boiling, add ginger- garlic paste, coriander powder, red chilli, garlic paste and onion paste.
- Mix well and add yoghurt, gulab-jal, garam masala, nutmeg and cinnamon powder and saffron.
- Cover and cook for 2-3 minutes.
- Now transfer the meat in a heavy bottom pan and strain the gravy.
- Add a few drops of itar and cover the pan.
- Seal it with the wheat dough and cook on slow fire.

INDIA FUN FACT

Varanasi Spiritual Capital of India

Varanasi, often referred to as Kashi or Banaras, is an ancient city located on the banks of the holy river Ganges in the northern state of Uttar Pradesh, India. It holds the esteemed title of being the Spiritual Capital of India. Varanasi's history dates back over 3,000 years, making it one of the world's oldest continuously inhabited cities. This sacred city is a revered pilgrimage destination for Hindus and a place of profound spiritual significance.



The name "Varanasi" is derived from the confluence of two rivers, Varuna and Asi, which flow into the Ganges here. The city's spiritual aura, rich cultural heritage, and the presence of countless temples, ashrams, and sacred ghats along the Ganges make it an unparalleled centre of devotion, meditation, and enlightenment. Besides known for its unique things, the city is also home to the largest university in Asia namely Banaras Hindu University With its sprawling campus spread over 1350 acres, BHU accommodates a vast student population of over 30,000.

