

Swalapatra India-Bali

Newsletter of the Consulate General of India, Bali

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Incredible India West Bengal



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PM presents first-ever National Creator's Award

Prime Minister Narendra Modi presented the first-ever National Creators Award Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi on 08 March recognizing excellence in storytelling, social change advocacy, environmental sustainability, education, and gaming. The award aims to use creativity to drive positive change. Noting that the first-ever National Creator Awards took place on the auspicious occasion of Maha Shivratri, PM hailed Lord Shiva as the creator of language, art and creativity. He credited the Digital India campaign for creating a new world for content creators and emphasized the collective capability of content creators. The award received over 1.5 lakh nominations in the first round and 10 lakh votes in the voting round. 23 winners were awarded across twenty categories, including Best Storyteller, Disruptor of the Year, Celebrity Creator of the Year, Green Champion Award, Cultural Ambassador of The Year, International Creator Award, and Heritage Fashion Icon Award.



The 2nd edition of Festival of Manufacturing



The 2nd edition of the Festival of Manufacturing celebrating '10 years of Make in India' was held in New Delhi on 07 March. The Union Minister for Power and New & Renewable Energy Shri R. K. Singh urged the Indian manufacturing industry to compete globally. It was mentioned that government has invested around Rs. 20 lakh crores in the power sector over the past nine years. The country has added 190 GW of power generation capacity, nearly doubling it in the last decade. The government is prioritizing energy security and energy transition, focusing on thermal and storage capacity.

Policy instruments, such as tariff and quality barriers, have been implemented to protect the industry. The country's module and cell manufacturing capacity have increased, and a phased manufacturing program for thermal equipment has been initiated.

Indian Patent Office grants over 1 lakh patents for first time in '23-24

The Indian Patent Office has granted 1,01,311 patents between 15 March 2023 and 14 March 2024, marking the first time the number has crossed one lakh. The highest number of patents were granted in electrical, mechanical, chemical sciences, and biotech fields. The IP office received the highest number of patent applicants in 2023 at 90,300. The financial year 2023-24 saw the highest ever copyright and design registrations at 36,378 and 27,819, respectively. Geographical indications registration also increased by three-fold.



Closing of the International Year of Millets



The Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) held the closing ceremony of the International Year of Millets (IYM) 2023 in Rome, Italy. The event highlighted the importance of India's thriving millet ecosystem and the role of millets in achieving food security and nutrition. The event also highlighted the importance of integrating millet cultivation into sustainable agricultural practices in Nigeria. The event was attended by dignitaries from around the world, including the Additional Secretary of the Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Maninder Kaur Dwivedi, and the Director-General of FAO, QU Dongyu. The event also featured a video showcasing various activities and events organized under the IYM 2023 initiative. The event aimed to identify priorities for future investments and strengthen millets value chains.

CONSULATE'S OUTREACH

Launch of Chalo India - Global Diaspora Campaign

Consulate General of India, Bali organized live streaming on the launch of 'Chalo India - Global Diaspora Campaign' on 07 March. The campaign aimed to request Indian diaspora members to encourage their non-Indian friends to travel to India. The Ministry of Tourism, Government of India launched the Chalo India initiative to enable Indian diaspora members become Incredible India Ambassadors. The programme was live-streamed from Srinagar, Jammu and Kashmir and inaugurated by Hon'ble Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Consul General Dr. Shashank Vikram greeted the audience and highlighted the important role of the Indian diaspora in this matter. Approximately twenty Indian diaspora in Bali enthusiastically attended the programme. It was concluded with authentic Indian refreshments.



Ambassador's Visit to Munduk Village, Buleleng Regency



Ambassador Sandeep Chakravorty accompanied by Consul General Dr. Shashank Vikram visited Naga Loka Foundation, Munduk Village, Buleleng Regency on 17 March. Ambassador paid tribute to Shri Rabindranath Tagore, Indian philosopher and writer who has visited the area in 1927. The programme included donation books to the children's library, Balinese cultural performance, and interaction with children which became the highpoints of the visit.

Celebration of the International Women's Day

The International Women's Day was celebrated at CGI Bali with theme #InspireInclusion. Consul General Dr. Shashank Vikram spoke about women's empowerment & their important role in the society. While Director SVCC Bali Mr. Naveen Meghwal spoke on women's health. Women from different walks of lives in Bali also shared their experiences on the day.



In addition to being held at CGI Bali, the International Women's Day celebrations were also organized in collaboration with other associations. SVCC Bali organised two events that are still part of the International Women's Day event series. These events took place at Pak Oles Yoga Studio and at Narayana Yoga Ashram with the theme "Yoga for Women" and talks on women's health.

CONSULATE'S OUTREACH

Celebration of Holi-Festival of Colours

Consulate General of India and SVCC Bali in collaboration with BIFA organised Gulal-Festival of colours (Holi) at Lapangan Puputan Park, Denpasar on 24 March. Around 500 people including Indians and Friends of India came together to celebrate this vibrant festival of colours. The event started with lighting of lamp by CG, Director, SVCC and local dignitaries. CG, Dr. Shashank Vikram, elaborated the origin of Holi celebration in Hindu mythology in his inaugural speech. He also explained how Holi is a festival of joy, love, enthusiasm and peace as well as its potential to rekindle friendship. The event moved forward with colourful cultural performances by several groups including Indian dance troupe 'Pratibha Kala Kendra', dance teacher and students of SVCC Bali and India in Bali group. The event was concluded with DJ session where everyone played holi with colours and water splashes while dancing on bollywood holi hits.

Holi celebrations were also organised by SVCC Bali in a small scale before the main event in some places like Shanti Yoga Community, Puteri Anugerah Orphanage, and IKIP Saraswati Tabanan.



Inaugural Indigo Flight for Bangalore - Denpasar Sector



The Consul General of India Dr. Shashank Vikram together with the Deputy for Strategic Policy, the Ministry of Tourism and Creative Economy, the Republic of Indonesia Ms. Dessy Ruhati received the inaugural Indigo flight for Bangalore-Denpasar sector on Friday, 29 March at arrival terminal of I Gusti Ngurah Rai International Airport.

The Airbus A320 Neo aircraft number 6E1605 departed from Bangalore at 00.50 IST (Indian time) and arrived in Denpasar (DPS) at 10.20 WITA (Central Indonesian Time) with a duration of 7 hours. The Bangalore - Denpasar route will fly daily with a frequency of once a day.

The Consul General stated that this direct flight by Indigo is the second active non-stop flight between Bali and India after direct flight by Vistara Delhi-Denpasar sector launched in December 2023. It will enhance connectivity, boost number of tourists, and increase trade between India and Indonesia.

India ranks second in tourist arrivals in Bali and ranks sixth in foreign tourist arrivals in Indonesia overall, with 606,439 visits in 2023.

Meeting with Mayor of Denpasar

CG, Dr. Shashank Vikram met with Mayor of Denpasar, Mr. I Gusti Ngurah Jaya Negara on 27 Mar. Denpasar is the capital city and main hub of the Indonesian province of Bali. Both CG and Mayor were engaged in a constructive dialogue on tourism, cultural connect, commerce and education.



CONSULATE'S OUTREACH

Meeting with Head of Customs & Excise Office

A meeting was held between Consul General Dr. Shashank Vikram and Head of Customs & Excise Bali, NTB, NTT, Mr. Susila Brata on 14 March. Matters related to custom procedures in Bali and steps to make it an even better experience for tourists coming from India were discussed.



Meeting with Rector of Udayana University



CG, Dr. Shashank Vikram met with Rector of Udayana University Prof. Ngakan Putu Gede Suardana on 20 March. Udayana University, established on 26 September 1962, is the first and the oldest university in Bali. Both sides discussed the avenues of future cooperation including academic, cultural and technical collaboration.

SVCC Bali Participation in Sabang Marine Festival 2024



SVCC Bali participated in Sabang Marine Festival organised in Aceh from 01-03 March. SVCC dance teacher performed Odissi dance and provided dance workshop. Ancient yoga practice conducted by Director of SVCC Bali was joined by yoga enthusiasts in the region.

India Edu-Cultural Day 2024

SVCC Bali in collaboration with Hindu Institute Gde Pudja Mataram organized Diversity Fest: India Edu-Cultural Day on 20 March. Attended by 100 students and institute management, the programme was filled with scholarship presentation, yoga session, workshop on Indian culture and concluded with Holi celebration.



Drama Performance by Radhika Creations

In connection with Radhika Creations Troupe from India visit to Bali, a cultural program organized by SVCC Bali in collaboration with Ashram Gandhi Puri Klungkung supported by UHN I Gusti Bagus Sugriwa and Premaloka Bali on 27 March at UHN Sugriwa Bangli.

In this program, a drama performance on 'Depiction of Highlights from the Life History of Swami Vivekananda' by Radhika Creations Troupe and Odissi dance by SVCC Dance teacher Mr. Pravata Kumar Swain were presented and well received by the audiences.

On the next day, 28 March, in collaboration with Geoks Arts Space, a drama performance on 'Mythological Story and Life Experiences of Parampurush Ram' was presented in Singapadu, Gianyar and was well received by the audiences.



Consular Section at CGI Bali

In the month of March, total 24 different services were provided to the Indian nationals, OCI card holders, Indonesian and foreign nationals. Consular services are an important part of the work of an Embassy/Consulate. CGI, Bali provides a wide range of consular services to the Indian citizens living or traveling abroad including NRIs (Indian passport holders). For details, please go through our website (<https://www.cgibali.gov.in/page-link/?page=consular-services>). Applicants who wish to avail the services at the Consulate are requested to take an appointment.



Consulate General of India
Bali

KESAMAAN | INDIA-INDONESIA

Patishapta Pitha from West Bengal and Dadar Gulung from Java Sweet Delicacy from Both Regions



Do you know that India and Indonesia have a similar traditional cake? Both of Patishapta Pitha and Dadar Gulung are basically a sweet crepes or pancake with coconut-jaggery (palm sugar) filling.

Patishapta Pitha is a traditional and most popular Bengali sweet recipe made during the auspicious occasion of Poush Parbon (Makar Sankranti). Bengali patishapta pitha is basically an eggless crepe made with rice flour, maida (all purpose flour) semolina and stuffed with coconut-nolen gur (jaggery) filling.

Dadar Gulung is one of the popular snacks in Indonesia, especially in Java. In Indonesian, dadar literally means "omelette" or "pancake" while gulung means "to roll". The pancake usually has a green colour, which is acquired from daun suji or pandan leaves. It is a green-coloured folded pancake made of rice flour, filled with grated coconut and palm sugar.

While both Dadar Gulung and Patishapta Pitha may share similar ingredients, such as coconut and jaggery, they might differ in the specific spices used, the thickness of the batter or pancake, or the method of preparation, reflecting the culinary nuances of their respective regions.



West Bengal

West Bengal, located in eastern India, is the fourth-most populous and thirteenth-largest state in the country. It borders Bangladesh, Nepal, Bhutan, Jharkhand, Odisha, Bihar, Sikkim, and Assam. The state's capital is Kolkata and includes the Darjeeling Himalayan hill region, Ganges delta, Rarh region, Sundarbans, and Bay of Bengal.

How to Reach

West Bengal is well-connected to major destinations across India and the world through air, train, and road. Major airports include Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose International Airport in Kolkata, Balurghat Airport, and Bagdogra Domestic Airport. Railways offer high-speed, express, and passenger trains, with main stations in Kolkata. The state also has an extensive road network, connecting major cities like Bihar, Jharkhand, Orissa, and neighboring states like Bangladesh, Nepal, and Bhutan.

Places of Interest

Known for its rich culture and heritage, West Bengal is a popular tourist destination in India that draws tourists from around the globe. With the natural beauty, serene seashores, spectacular architecture, and mouth-watering delicacies, West Bengal is one of India's best places to visit. The places of interest in this state include Darjeeling, Kolkata, Siliguri, Sunderbans, Kalimpong, Kurseong, etc.

Festivals

Throughout the Bengali calendar, many festivals are celebrated in the state. Durga Puja is solemnized as perhaps the most significant of all celebrations. Since 1947, it has evolved into a glamorous carnival, with people from diverse religious and ethnic backgrounds participating. Other festivals include Dashain, Dusshera, Holi, Diwali, Jamai Sasthi, and Poush Mela. Tarakeswar Yatra, held between July and August, is the longest and largest Mela with nearly 10 million devotees offering holy Ganga water to Lord Shiva.

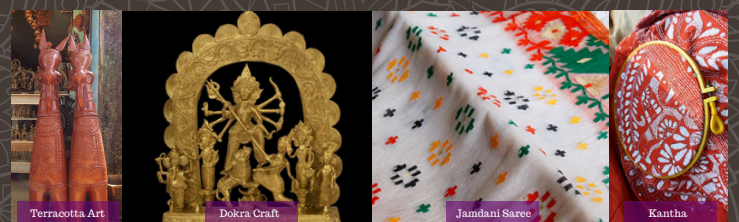


Cuisines

Bengali cuisine is characterized by rice and fish, with a saying stating "fish and rice make a Bengali". Fish-based dishes include hilsa, eggs, chicken, mutton, and shrimp. Rural areas enjoy Panta bhat, rice soaked overnight in water with onion and green chili. Common spices include cumin, ajmoda, bay leaf, mustard, ginger, green chillies, and turmeric. Sweets are a significant part of Bengali diet and social ceremonies. Distinctive sweetmeats from milk products, such as rashogolla, chomchom, kalojam, and sondesh, are made. Specialties like pitha are prepared during winter and festivals. Popular street foods include aloor chop, beguni, kati roll, badam makha, and phuchka.

Handicrafts

West Bengal is renowned globally for its expertise in art and craft, including architectural splendors, woodwork, terracotta, paintings, textiles, pottery, brass, copperware, embroidery, tapestry, hand looms, muslin and silk artistry, wood carving, and cane works. These handicrafts, primarily produced in West Bengal's villages, have been the backbone of the rural economy.



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

INDIAN KITCHEN

Begun Bhaja



Begun Bhaja, also known as Baingan Bhaja, are crispy and tender eggplant fries that are delicious to enjoy as a snack, side or appetizer. Thin slices of aubergines are dusted with seasonings and rice flour, then pan fried in mustard oil and served as a side with dal rice or khichdi or roti.

Here you'll find step-by-step instructions with photos to make this classic Bengali style Begun Bhaja recipe.

Ingredients

- Eggplant
- Mustard oil
- Turmeric powder
- Kashmiri red chili powder
- Rice flour
- Sugar
- Salt

Methods:

- Wash a large eggplant and wipe it dry with a kitchen towel. Discard 1 inch of the top green stalk and cut it into 2 cm thick slices.
- Note – Keep the eggplant slices soaked in water until ready to use; otherwise, they will turn black from oxidation. The best thing to do is to cut the eggplant just before you are ready to cook it.
- Wipe the slices dry with a kitchen towel if they are soaked in water to remove any excess water.
- Mix turmeric powder, Kashmiri red chili powder, rice flour, sugar, and salt on a shallow plate.
- Press the eggplant slices in the rice flour mixture to coat them well from both sides.
- Heat 2-3 tablespoon of mustard oil in a frying pan over medium-high heat.
- Once the oil is hot, arrange the eggplant slices on the pan in a single layer and shallow fry for 2-3 minutes until golden brown.
- Flip and cook for 2-3 minutes on the other side.
- Transfer the fried eggplant to a plate lined with paper tissues to remove the extra oil. Serve hot.
- Fry the remaining slices in the same manner

INDIA FUN FACT

Ghum Railway Station The Highest Railway Station in India

Ghum railway station is largely popular for being home to the highest railway station in India (7,407 ft). The Darjeeling Himalayan Railway, a World Heritage Site, first had its tracks laid in 1879 and reached Ghum by 1881. A ride from either Siliguri or Darjeeling to Ghum, will give you the opportunity to witness an architectural marvel that has stood the test of time.



CGI BALI ON LOCAL MEDIA

