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THE ILLUSTRIOUS NATIONALIST'S LEGACY

On the occasion of Lala Lajpat Rai's 158th birth anniversary, we reflect on his struggles and all that he accomplished in his life. Lala

Lajpat Rai (28 January 1865 – 17 November 1928) was a celebrated Indian freedom fighter. His nationalism and zealous patriotism earned him the titles 'Punjab Kesari' and 'Lion of Punjab'. He was a member of the well-known radical trio Lal Bal Pal, who advocated the Swadeshi movement in India, which involved a boycott of all imported goods in favour of Indian-made goods. Rai was also the driving force behind the establishment of the Punjab National Bank. He founded the Hindu Orphan Relief Movement in 1897 to prevent Christian missions from gaining custody of these children. Rai, a prolific writer, leader, politician, and activist, died of a heart attack after failing to recover from injuries sustained during a police lathi-charge during a protest against the arrival of the Simon Commission. On the

occasion of Lala Lajpat Rai's 155th birth anniversary, we reflect on his struggles and all that he accomplished in his life.

A Jain family in Dhudike, Punjab, gave birth to Rai. His parents were Gulab Devi Agrawal and Munshi Radha Krishan Agrawal. His father was a government school teacher who taught Urdu and Persian. He attended primary school in Rewari, Punjab. Rai's liberal views and Hindu beliefs were shaped by his father and deeply religious mother, respectively, and

he used these influences to reform Indian policy and religion through politics and journalism. Rai enrolled in the Government College in Lahore in 1880 to pursue a legal



Lala Lajpat Rai
(28 January 1865 – 17 November 1928)

education. There, he was influenced by Swami Dayanand Saraswati's Hindu reformist movement, joined the already-existing Arya Samaj Lahore (founded 1877), and served as the newspaper's founding editor.

Rai moved to Hisar to practise law in 1886, where he co-founded the Hisar Bar Council with Babu Churamani. Along with Babu Churamani, Chandu Lal Tayal, Hari Lal Tayal, and Balmokand Tayal, as well as Arya Samaj Pandit Murari Lal, Seth Chhaju

Ram Jat, and Dev Raj Sandhir, Rai co-founded the Hisar district branch of the Indian National Congress in the same year. He also worked as a journalist, contributing

to several newspapers on a regular basis. In 1886, he assisted Mahatma Hansraj in establishing the nationalistic Dayananda Anglo-Vedic School, Lahore, which was later renamed Islamia College (Lahore) following the 1947 partition. He soon joined forces with Bal Gangadhar Tilak from Maharashtra, Bipin Chandra Pal and Aurobindo Ghosh from Bengal, in calling for "Purna Swaraj."

During the First World War, Rai moved to the United States and established the

Indian Home Rule League of America in New York. From 1917 to 1920, he lived in the United States. Rai returned to India in 1920 and led the special session of the

Indian Congress Party that launched the non-cooperation movement the following year. He was incarcerated from 1921 to 1923, and after his release, he was chosen to serve in the legislature. The Simon Commission was established in India in 1928 to report on the political situation. The commission was met with nationwide protest and unrest in India because it did not include a single Indian member. The same year, Rai organised a peaceful protest march and put forth a legislative assembly resolution calling for a boycott of the British Simon Commission. "Simon, go back," were the protesters' chants as they waved black flags. During this protest, the police used a lathi against the protesters. After being brutally attacked and suffering severe injuries, Rai stood before the crowd and declared, in now-famous words, "I declare that the blows struck at me today will be the last nails in the coffin of British rule in India." Lala Lajpat Rai left a legacy of nationalism, unity, and strength behind him. He was a staunch supporter of India's independence and dedicated his entire life to the cause.



THE GREATEST ENLIGHTENMENT WARRIOR OF INDIA!

Subhash Chandra Bose, also known as Netaji, was an influential leader of the Indian freedom movement. Though Mahatma Gandhi and Jawaharlal Nehru have received a great deal of credit for the successful outcome of the Indian freedom struggle, Subhash Chandra Bose's participation is not to be overlooked. He has been deprived of his proper position in Indian history. He established the Indian National Army (Azad Hind Fauj) to expel the British Empire from India and became a folk hero among the Indian masses.

Subhash Chandra Bose, the most prominent liberation fighter, possessed outstanding leadership qualities and was a personable speaker. "Delhi Chalo," "tum mujhe khoo do," and "main tumhe azadi dunga" are some of his catchphrases. He made numerous valuable contributions to India's independence movement. He is well-known for his social principles as well as the aggressive methods he used to seek independence.

Subhash Chandra Bose was born on January 23, 1897 in Cuttack, Orissa Division, Bengal Province to Janaki Nath Bose, a renowned lawyer, and Prabhavati Devi. Netaji was always a patriotic person; his initial life consisted of national socialist revelations. Subhash Chandra Bose was the ninth of fourteen children. Subhash Chandra Bose was a high achiever since he was a kid. He exceeded the Calcutta province board examinations and graduated with a First Class in Philosophy from the Scottish Churches College in Calcutta. Swami Vivekananda's principles had a significant influence on him, and he was recognized for his patriotic zeal as a scholar. In 1919, he travelled to England to contend for Indian Civil Services, fulfilling his parents' aspirations. Subhash Chandra

Bose passed his Indian Civil Service competitive examination and earned the fourth position in merit in 1920.

Moreover, the Jallianwala Bagh rampage deeply disturbed Subhash Chandra Bose, who left his Civil Services internship nearly halfway to come back to India in 1921.

When Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose returned to India, he was influenced by

After the Gandhi-Irwin pact was signed in 1931, he was set to release. He objected the Gandhi-Irwin pact and the withdrawal of the civil rights movement, particularly when Bhagat Singh and his affiliates were sentenced to death.

Following the 1937 General Elections, Congress took control in seven states, and Subhash Chandra Bose was

bestowed the designation of Netaji on Bose in Germany. In the years 1942-1943, when World War II was in full swing, Nazi Germany was slowly sliding backward in the west. Japanese forces were closing in on them from the east. In India, both the Bengal Mass starvation and the Quit India protest movement were in full swing. After failing in Germany, Subhash Chandra Bose fled to Japan in 1943.

On October 21, 1943, he announced the formation of the temporary administration of Indian Independence (Azad Hind) in Singapore. Netaji elevated the Indian flag in the Andaman Islands, which had earlier been inhabited by the Japanese.

Three Azad Hind Fauj (INA) units actively participated in the counterattack on northeastern India at the start of 1944 in an attempt to force the British out of the nation.

Subhash Chandra Bose died when his plane crashed on August 18, 1945, as INA forces were being taken prisoner or capitulated and he was ready to travel to Tokyo via

Taiwan.

Every year on January 23rd, Subhash Chandra Bose Jayanti is observed as a special occasion in India to memorialize his birthday. The day is observed in the almost all of Indian state, particularly in Odisha and West Bengal.



Mahatma Gandhi and decided to join the Indian National Congress. On Gandhiji's orders, he started to work for Deshbandhu Chittaranjan Das, whom he later recognized as his ideological expert. He quickly demonstrated his leadership capabilities and rose through the ranks of the Congress. The Congress-appointed Motilal Nehru Found that the specific in best interest of Supremacy Status in 1928, but Subhash Chandra Bose and Jawaharlal Nehru objected it, stating that they would be comfortable with no less than total independence for India. Subhash also declared the establishment of the Independence League. Subhash Chandra Bose was imprisoned in 1930 during the Civil Disobedience rebellion.

released. Soon after, in 1938, he was made President of the Haripura Congress Session. All through his term as Congress President, he spoke of making plans in clear terms, and in October of that year, he established a National Planning Committee.

Bose escaped home detention in 1941 and fled India disguised. Adolf Hitler met with him, and received support from Nazi Germany. He founded the Free India Center in Berlin and hired Indian POWs who had fought wars for the British in North Africa to form the Indian Regiment which has now 45,000 soldiers in total.

In 1942, Indian Regiment soldiers and Special Bureau for India delegates in Berlin

VEERA MANGAI KUYILI: DALIT WOMAN COMMANDER

History has had many stories of leaders, Kings, and Queens shedding their blood on battlefields or being martyred, or being executed at hands of British rule. Some of the sagas remain still unfolded on pages in history and one such saga is of a Kuyili who was a female warrior born in the 18th century belonging to the Dalit (schedule caste) of Arunthathiyar, at Kandanchavadi, near Sivagangai. Kuyili was born to Periyamuthan and Raku, who was well-known for her bravery as Kuyili's mother died in an attempt to save her fields from being destroyed by a wild bull, devastated Periyamuthan by the incident then moved to near Sivagangai with younger girl Kuyili, while the father worked as a cobbler to meet the family ends. It's said that Kuyili, the young girl was raised by her father telling her about many courageous acts of her mother, which inspired the young girl to her core. Soon he was employed as a spy for Queen Velunachiyar, who was then in hiding, and later Kuyili joined his father in the nature Periyamuthans' job from father and daughter became close together. They both fought alongside in wars for Velu Nachiyar and soon father and daughter were unrestrictedly allowed to access to Queen Velu Nachiyar at all times. Which is when Kuyili found a special place in the heart of the exiled Queen.

Kuyilu saved the queen's life on more than one occasion, on one occasion when an intruder tried to murder Velu Nachiyar in sleep, Kuyili saved the queen's life and was deeply injured in the process. On witnessing this Velu Nachiyar immediately tore a piece of cloth of her draped saree to bandage young Kuyili wounds. In another instance, Kuyili discovered that her own Silambamla weapons-based martial art teacher was a spy working against the queen, she immediately sensed the danger he could cause to the queen and took no time in ending his life. This led to the queen making Kuyili her personal bodyguard. When the British tried to coerce Kuyili into

revealing Velu Nachiyar's plans, she refused to open her mouth as a result of which they tormented her community by committing various atrocities on Dalits. To aid the Kuyili resistance, Velu Nachiyar made her the commander-in-chief of the women's army. After the successful formation of alliances with Maruthu Randiyar, Sultan Hyder Ali, and Tipu Sultan, when Velu Nachiyar entered into a war with the British to reclaim her kingdom, though her armies were well-trained and won the initial battles, they faced a lot of

of the location of the storage area where the weapons were kept and she soon formulated another plan in action, She made use of the chaotic surroundings and made her comrades pour ghee and oil all over her which were kept for burning the lamps. She then went inside the storage area and set herself on fire, she destroyed all the weapons and left the British army completely in a vulnerable situation. Her bravery and brilliance not only allowed Velu Nachiyar to win the battle but also to reclaim her fort and kingdom.



Kuyili is considered the first suicide bomber and the first woman martyr in Indian history. Though the chapter in history fails to reveal the valor of her selfless act, her actions had nevertheless helped in restoring the people of Sivagangai to their original identity. Kuyili is the epitome of Nari Shakti (strength) her courage and determination won a war.

The government of Tamilnadu after almost a decade of promises, finally commemorated a memorial to glorify the bravery of Kuyili and it's located in the Sivagangai district of Tamilnadu.

hardships due to the advanced weapons used by the British army. This is when Kuyili put a step forward and formulated her strategy, she gathered all the information about women being allowed into the Sivagangai Kottai (fort) which was against the norms. As it was the 10-day of Navratri (Vijayadashami) women across the kingdom were allowed inside to celebrate the festival which was celebrated in the temple of Rajarajeshwari Amman (Devi) Kuyili took advantage of the golden opportunity and planted a surprise attack on the British. She led the army who were dressed as civilians and were unnoticed by the British army who were swarming around the fort. Having hidden the weapons inside the flowers and fruit baskets the women entered the fort and on the Queen's cue, attacked the British. The British army was taken aback by the surprise attack and had no backup plan but was then forced into a battle as they were mentally unprepared for Kuyili who had already made note

Such valor has been existing in ancient history with commendable spirits of energy that fuelled a kingdom's prosperity back and geared up a revolution that a woman is not docile to the limits of four corners of houses but if determined can move mountains like the Goddess Kali or Durga we worship in our homes these women needs to be saluted for their sacrifices.

It's about time our history needs to be revised to feature them for the current generation to lead and draw inspiration as not many are still unaware of young warriors of the Indian soil.

VASUDEV BALWANT PHADKE - A TRAILBLAZER IN MUCH RESPECT!

A little longer than 20 years well after 1857 rebellion, varyingly referred to as the "first war of Independence" and the "sepoy mutiny," was squashed and the British Crown took over as ruler of India from the East India Company, a new wave of invasions began targeting British interests in the nation. The rebels would trim railway lines and telegraphic interaction, and often completely obstruct the circulation of headlines from one region of the country to the other. Their goal was swaraj, and their strategic approach was to obstruct government operations, expand chaos and destruction and anxiety, and inspire thousands of other Indians to fight colonial control.

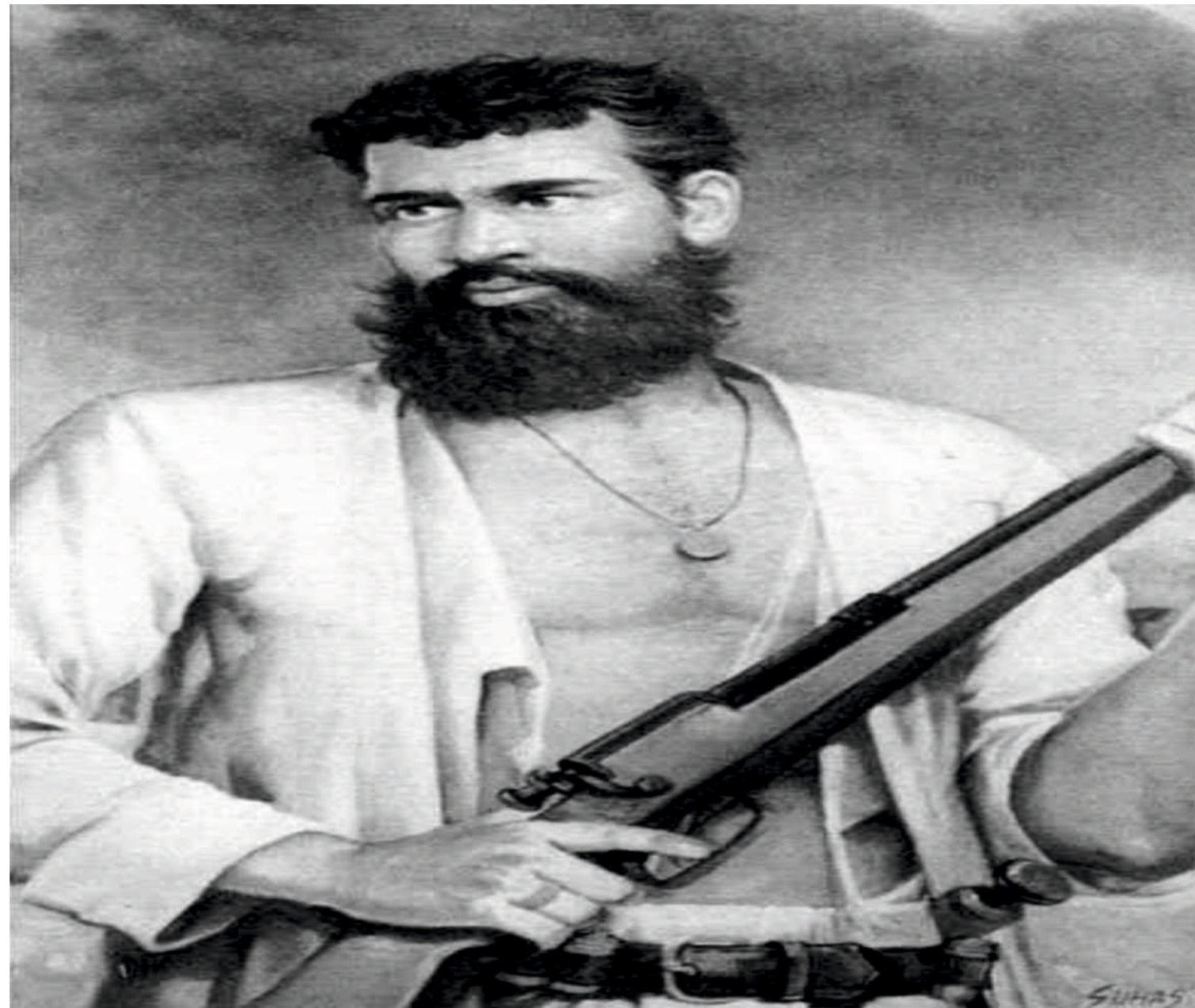
Major Henry William Daniell, District Superintendent of Police in Pune, collected notification that the rebel leader was Vasudev Balwant Phadke. The British government issued a lookout notification for Phadke in 1879 and officially confirmed a gratification of Rs 4,000 for his acquisition. Phadke, strangely, had been "a trustable and privileged clerk" in the Military Finance Department's office until a couple years back.

Phadke's shift can be seen in two locations in Pune: rooms on upper edge of Narsingh Temple at Sadashiv Peth, where he resided as a family man and recite Guru Charitra Pothi underneath a peepal tree, and a remembrance (Vasudev Balwant Phadke Smarak) near Sangam Bridge in Shivajinagar, where he was held captive and attempted. Numerous copies of Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay's Anand Math, motivated by Phadke's revolution, can be found on town shelves.

Vasudev Balwant Phadke was unquestionably one of the initial brigades of Indian revolutionaries and resistance fighters. His life was a debacle of hard work, perspires, blood, and wails, and he served as the model for many martyrs who came after him. Vasudev Balwant openly declared our ideal of total political autonomy when even pundits and great leaders hesitated. He was the first Indian

leader to travel from town to town preaching the mantra of swaraj and exhorting the people to rebel against colonial domination. A Characteristics, published by the Lok Sabha Secretariat in 2004, when his portrait was revealed in Parliament House.

Many portrayals of Vasudev Balwant



Phadke, a late-nineteenth-century freedom fighter, show him with big brooding eyes and a tattered face. His posture indicates a man of fearsome purpose and determination. The stories about Phadke tenaciously combating the British with a group of Ramoshi community members have generated a mythology, cult-like condition all over him: to a certain, he is a contemporary avatar of Shivaji, the forefather of Hindu social and political sovereignty.

Vasudev Balwant Phadke, also recognized as the "Father of the Indian Armed Revolution," was born on November 4, 1845, in Shirdhon, India, to

Balwant Rao and Saraswati Bai (present-day Maharashtra). Well before British took over the Karnala Fort in 1818, his grandfather, Anantrao, was the Commanding officer. Vasudev Phadke married Saibai in 1859, and they had a daughter, Mathutai. Phadke graduated from Bombay University in 1862 and then started working for various government

harshly chastised the officials for their standpoint. He was rejected leave once more a year afterward, and this time he was unable to attend his mother's death anniversary. Phadke was enraged, and his hatred for the British government grew stronger.

Phadke married Gopikabai in 1873, after Saibai died in 1872. He trained Gopikabai to read and write, as well as how to utilize swords, shoot a gun, and horse riding in the nearby forests. Vasudev reasoned that if war broke out with the British, his wife ought to be capable of fighting.

Phadke's loyalty was also fueled by Lahuji Raghoji Salve, who not only provided weapons training but also instilled emotions of patriotism in students. Phadke was the first Indian rebel against British rule in 1879, and he declared India's end objective of an Indian Republic, which became truth 68 years later. In order to captivate young minds, he established the Poona Native Institution in 1874. With exception of British schools, the Poona Native Institution would instill in children an adoration of the homeland.

The Maharashtra Education Society now has 75 institutions with approximately 40,000 students. Phadke was snatched at Devar Navadgi in Bijapur district on the July 20, 1879, and was placed on trial. Phadke told the court that even if he ended his life, he wanted his nation to be independent and his citizens to be glad. With this solitary goal in mind, I have joined the fight, brought up an army, and revolted against the British government. I couldn't do it. But somebody will find success a day. Phadke was detained in the Yemeni city of Aden. He fled once but was apprehended within hours. On February 17, 1883, he passed away in prison.

According to reports, despite having worked for the government for several years, Phadke was refused time off work when he asked to visit his dying mother. This infuriated the young Vasudev, who

NCERT SYLLABUS TO BE INTRODUCED IN UTTAR PRADESH MADRASAS BEGINNING IN MARCH

The National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) curriculum will be introduced during the upcoming academic session, which starts in March of this year, according to plans made by the Uttar Pradesh Madrasa Education Board. Similar to schools, the NCERT curriculum will be gradually incorporated in all state-recognized or -aided madrasas. The challenges with providing uniforms to madrasa students will also soon be resolved. The DBT (Direct Benefit Transfer) programme now provides Rs 1,200 to students attending state-run schools for their uniforms. So, as soon as the government approves the idea, students in madrasas in UP will also receive the same amount for the uniform.

A resolution in this regard was reportedly made at a significant meeting of the UP Madrasa education board on January 18. Members of the

Board talked about the challenges the basic education department faces while distributing uniforms to assisted madrasas during the meeting (Classes 1 to 8). The group even agreed to immediately deposit funds into madrasa students' accounts so they could buy their uniforms. Iftikhar Ahmed Javed, the head of the Uttar Pradesh Madrasa Education Board, recently claimed that students in madrasas will now be able to study science, math, and computers. Furthermore, he added that students will receive both religious instruction and modern education. Javed went on to say that the UP madrasas would begin using the NCERT curriculum in the upcoming academic year. The madrasa students' uniform has not yet been decided, but they are free to choose among the options available, which are a kurta and pyjama for guys and a salwar and kurta for ladies.

RAJASTHANI GOVERNMENT TO COLLABORATE WITH ED-TECH COMPANIES

The Rajasthan government is developing a new legislation that would enable education technology (ED-Tech) firms like Byju's and Unacademy to operate "virtual" online schools with the assistance of current non-government institutions, officials said, providing specifics of the first-of-its-kind policy. According to officials, the rules for virtual schools will only permit live lessons taught by teachers, and they must use the Rajasthan Board of Secondary Education's curriculum. As per the concept note for the proposed guidelines, corporations will need the board's approval before they may affiliate with the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) or any other national board.

An official explained that in order to access their facilities, including

A COMMITTEE IS FORMED BY DELHI UNIVERSITY TO ESTABLISH A CENTRE FOR HINDU STUDIES

According to a university official, Delhi University has formed a 17-person committee to build a centre for "Hindu Studies" that will offer classes on the "history of Hindus" there. The panel will be led by Prakash Singh, the director of DU's South Delhi Campus. However, a member of the educational council questioned whether such a centre was necessary.

He made it clear that the panel's focus will be on determining the feasibility of the centre before proposing courses in line with that. The courses will first be introduced at postgraduate and research, and then it may introduce UG courses. The committee will make decisions regarding how many new courses will be offered and whether they will be offered this year or the following. He added that the group also intended to deliver the framework to the academic council soon.

Other members of the committee includes Prof Payal Mago, Director, Campus of Open Learning; Prof K Ratnabali, Dean, Academic Affairs, Dean, Faculty of Science, Dean, Faculty of Social Science, Dean, Faculty of Arts; Prof Seema Bawa, Head, Department of History; Prof Sangit Kumar Ragi, Head, Department of Political Science and Prof Anil Kumar Aneja, Head, Department of English.

Prof Ranjan Kumar Tripathi, Joint Dean of Colleges; Dr Jaswinder Singh, Principal, SGTB Khalsa College; Prof C Sheela Reddy, Principal, Sri Venkateswara College; Prof A K Singh, Head and Dean, Faculty of Commerce; Prof V S Negi, EC Member, Shaheed Bhagat Singh Evening College; Dr Aditya Gupta, Department of Philosophy; Dr Purna Malhotra, Department of English and Sh Jay Chanda, Joint Registrar (Academic) are also part of the panel.

THE FIRST RESEARCH CENTER FOR G20 STUDIES IN INDIA IS ESTABLISHED BY OP JINDAL UNIVERSITY



The opening of India's first research centre on G20 studies, which will only concentrate on research, thought leadership, and capacity building activities related to the G20, was announced by OP Jindal Global University on Tuesday.

The decision was made against the backdrop of India taking over the G20 presidency in December 2022 and hosting the first G20 Leaders' Summit there in 2023. This recently established center's primary goal is to address challenges pertaining to the world economy, particularly those that concern international financial stability, climate mitigation, and sustainable development.

The Jindal Global Center for G20 Studies will have five main goals, according to a statement released by the university on Tuesday. These goals include developing a strong vision for facilitating academic institutions across the G20 region to establish international collaborations between them; launching new initiatives to promote G20 studies; organising periodic lectures, seminars, and conferences of current interest to India-G20 cooperation in collaboration with other universities; to construct multi-sectoral training and capacity building programmes in close collaboration with higher education institutions in the G20, as well as to build and expand skills for conducting research pertaining to G20 nations within India.

The Center will also host the World Sustainability Forum, which will bring together institutions from the G20 to discuss environmental and climate change-related concerns.



INDIA'S TRADE DEFICIT WITH CHINA REACHES 100 \$BILLION



India is majorly dependent on China for its technical, pharmaceutical, chemical, mechanical machinery and auto components and other intermediate supplies. India's imports from China have increased from \$97.5 billion to \$118.5 which has increased the imports of Chinese goods by more than 21%. India's total imports from China will amount approximately to \$136 billion in 2022. This excess trade from China has resulted in a trade deficit of \$100 billion. However, when we talk about the exports to China, India majorly exports Agricultural and only few medical products, recently India's export to China has depleted from \$28.1 dollars to \$17.48 billion as a result our trade deficit has increased from \$69.4 billion to \$101.02 billion in 2022.

China has been the biggest trade partner of ASEAN with a trade of \$975.34 billion and second largest trade partner of the EU (European Union) with a trade of \$847.32 billion followed by the US having a total trade of \$759.42 billion. India is majorly dependent on China for its raw material and other intermediate goods. The initiative taken by the prime minister of India to promote 'Make in India' despite an increase in the production there's still a huge demand for the Chinese products due to its low cost. Due to democratic

rule in India its easy for the Chinese importers to import their products in our country, whereas in case of China due to its socialist nature it puts certain trade barriers on its trade with our country despite huge demands for Indian products. It would only be fair to say that 'Dying to Survive', a film from 2018, was also quite far sighted in its telling of a future happening. The Chinese comedy-drama starring Xu Zheng, takes inspiration from a true story — of a Chinese leukemia patient Lu Yong who smuggled cheap and generic cancer medicine from India for about 1,000 cancer patients in 2004. Even during covid times the demand for the Indian medicines were growing in China due to its low cost, however no efforts were made by the Chinese government to improve trade with India. Reports say that certain Indian drugs have been given the permission to trade but no market access is provided yet.

Currently our exports to China is only \$17.48 billion but on the other hand our imports amount to \$118.5 which has resulted in such a wide gap of \$101.2 billion which is a serious matter of concern and we need to improve our exports to reduce the deficit amount.

RUSSIA AND BELARUS MILITARY DRILL THREATS UKRAINE



On Monday 16th of January Russia and Belarus started joint air force exercises in Belarus, using every military airfield in the country that served as a launchpad for Moscow's invasion of Ukraine last February. Russia also said that it killed 600 Ukrainian forces in a "mass missile strike" in Kramatorsk in eastern Ukraine in retaliation for a New Year's Day attack that killed dozens of Russian soldiers. Russia rarely acknowledges figures for its casualties and whenever it does figures are very low, even after losing 100 soldiers when Ukraine sank its flagship cruiser Moskva in April Russian announced only one death but recently Russia in a report claimed that it had lost more than 63 soldiers in an airstrike by Ukraine on Makiivka however Ukraine claimed it to be approximately 400 along with some crucial nuclear weapons and now the revenge has been taken by the Russians. The Russian defense minister said that four missiles with high explosive warhead struck a temporary deployment point that resulted in the death of 63 soldiers. The fiery blast destroyed a temporary barracks in a former vocational college in Makiivka, twin City of the Russian occupied regional capital of Donetsk. Kyiv took the responsibility of the deadly strike.

Belarusian leader Aleksandr Lukashenko has said Belarus will not join the war, but the country has been used in Russian President Vladimir Putin's conflicts before. (Last year, it served as the point of origin for an ultimately failed push toward Kyiv, Ukraine's capital.) That such a push failed last year does not mean that Putin will not try again.

After firing dozen of missiles on December 31, it launched Iranian made Shahed drones on January 1-2 but Kyiv said on Monday it has shot all 39 drones in the latest wave it said the new tactic is Russia's desperation as Ukraine's ability to defend its air space has increased. In the recent military drill in Belarus 1400-1600 soldiers arrived at Belarus and this military training which is being exchanged between Russia and Belarus is to build Russia's strength in its war with Ukraine.

MEITY INTRODUCES NEW AIR QUALITY MONITORING TECHNOLOGY AND TRANSFERS IT TO A PRIVATE COMPANY FOR COMMERCIAL DEVELOPMENT

The Union Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (Meity) has unveiled a new technology for the Air Quality Monitoring System (AI-AQMS v1.0) to monitor environmental pollutants such as ed to JM EnviroLab for additional parameters such as PM 1.0, PM 2.5, PM 10.0, Sulfur dioxide (SO₂), nitrogen dioxide (NO₂), carbon monoxide (CO), oxygen (O₂), ambient temperature, relative humidity, and so on for continuous air quality analysis of the environment. The new air system is being developed under Meity-supported projects, according to the Union ministry. In collaboration with TeXMIN, ISM, Dhanbad, the Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC) in Kolkata has developed an outdoor air quality monitoring station. Alkesh Kumar Sharma, Union Secretary, Ministry of Electronics and IT, launched the project funded by the national programme on electronics and ICT applications in agriculture and environment (AgriEnlcs) (Meity). The new Air Quality Monitoring System (AI-AQMS v1.0) will be available to a wider market in the near future, as the new technology has already been transferred to JM EnviroLab for further commercialization and deployment at various mining and cement industries. The Union Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (Meity) has launched biosensing systems for the detection of Endocrine Disrupting Chemicals in aquatic ecosystems (MEAN) developed through Meity-supported projects. The biosensing system was created to detect Endocrine Disrupting Chemicals (EDC) in aquatic ecosystems and to conduct qualitative and quantitative analyses of EDC content in water bodies. The biosensing-based EDC detection system (MEAN) was also transferred to the selected industry for further commercialization of the same technology for deployment in various North-East locations.

ODISHA DEVISES COMPREHENSIVE STRATEGY TO REDUCE HUMAN-ELEPHANT CONFLICT

The Odisha government has developed a "comprehensive action plan for elephant conservation and mitigation of human-elephant conflict," which includes a zonation strategy to maintain a long-term viable population of 1700-1800 elephants in the state. Steps will be taken to reduce the incidence of human-elephant conflict and the subsequent death of humans and elephants, according to the plan, which is part of an affidavit filed with the Orissa High Court. A division bench of the Orissa High Court, consisting of Chief Justice S. Muralidhar and Justice M.S. Raman, has been hearing a number of public interest cases involving elephant deaths. The territory of the state has been divided into four zones. Zone I will be a 'Elephant Conservation Zone,' consisting of three elephant reserves. The State Forest and Environment Department will provide strict protection, ensure no changes in land use, improve habitat quality, and keep the maximum number of elephants within them all year. Zone II will be treated as a co-existence zone, with the goal of increasing habitat quality and viability and reducing conflict through long-term strategies, discouraging destructive land-use practises, promoting scientific eco-restoration of degraded forests, and encouraging wildlife-friendly land-use, thereby enticing elephants to stay within such areas for an entire year. Similarly, Zone III will be a Conflict Mitigation Zone, with steps taken to reduce conflict through short-term strategies, minimise human and elephant deaths, and retain a minimum viable number of elephants in accordance with social carrying capacity. Elephants will be prohibited from entering Zone IV. Jumbos straying in this zone will be apprehended and immediately relocated to designated locations. Odisha has lost nearly 700 elephants in the last nine years, while 860 people have died in human-elephant encounters.

RESEARCHERS ARE DEVELOPING BACTERIA THAT CAN KILL ITS INFECTIOUS COUSINS



For the first time, researchers have successfully designed a living medicine that could be used to treat lung infections in humans in the future. The living medicine targets a type of bacteria that is naturally resistant to many antibiotics and is a common source of infection in the general population. To combat the antibiotic-resistant bacteria *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*, a modified version of the bacterium *Mycoplasma pneumoniae* is used. Researchers have successfully removed *Mycoplasma pneumoniae*'s ability to cause disease and repurposed it to attack *P. aeruginosa*. The new findings were published in *Nature Biotechnology*, and they show that the engineered strain of bacteria has a high efficacy against an acute *P. aeruginosa* lung infection in a mouse model. It is worth noting that respiratory diseases are among the top ten global causes of death. Efforts to develop new therapeutics for respiratory tract infections are increasing, particularly in light of the growing concern about antibiotic-resistant bacteria. The researchers from the Barcelona Institute of Science and Technology's Centre for Genomic Regulation tested the newly designed bacteria on mice, which doubled the mouse survival rate compared to no treatment. They claimed that a single high dose of the treatment had no toxicity in the lungs, and that after the treatment, the immune system cleared the modified bacteria in four days. The new discovery could aid in the better and more effective treatment of *P. aeruginosa* infections, which live in biofilm communities. These biofilms can attach to various surfaces in the body, forming impenetrable structures that are resistant to antibiotics, and they can grow on the surface of endotracheal tubes used by critically ill patients who require mechanical ventilation to breathe. As a result, researchers engineered *M. pneumoniae* to dissolve biofilms by giving it the ability to produce various molecules such as pyocins, toxins naturally produced by bacteria to kill or inhibit the growth of *Pseudomonas* bacterial strains. *M. pneumoniae* is one of the smallest known species of bacteria, and the treatment is expected to be delivered via nebulizer, a device that converts liquid medicine into a mist that is then inhaled through a mouthpiece or a mask.

PRAGGNANANDHAA WINS BIGGEST CLASSICAL CHESS MATCH, DEFEATS WORLD NO. 2 DING LIREN

On Tuesday, Rameshbabu Praggnanandhaa, an Indian teenage Grandmaster, won the highest classical win of his career, grinding out a 72-move endgame against World No. 2 and World Championship 2023 contender GM Ding Liren at the historic Tata Steel Chess Wijk aan Zee Masters. With this victory, he moves up to fourth place with 2.5/4 points, while the Chinese grandmaster drops to ninth place with 2/4 points. More importantly, Pragg's live rating is now 2692, just eight points shy of the elusive 2700. Pragg's tenacity earned him his most

impressive classical chess victory to date against 2800+ Ding with the black pieces. The Italian game provided Ding and Praggnanandhaa with a symmetrical pawn structure, each with doubled pawns on the e-file and an open f-file. The players exchanged positions, resulting in an equal double rook and double knight ending. Despite his level position, Praggnanandhaa planned a pawn break in the center to increase the activity of his pieces. He won a pawn and wore down his opponent for 74 moves. Praggnanandhaa, 17, had been in excellent form in 2022, defeating five-time World Champion Magnus Carlsen five times in internet tournaments, making him the only teen with multiple victories over the Norwegian. With the wins under his belt, he was always going to be closely watched at Wijk, with many hoping to see if he could outwit Carlsen in classical chess. But, with this win over Ding, he has demonstrated that he belongs on the biggest stages and is prepared for the biggest fights. Praggnanandhaa had his sights set on Carlsen before the tournament, but defeating Ding is no easy task. Ding is a three-time Chinese Chess Champion and the highest-rated Chinese chess player in history. He won the 2019 Grand Chess Tour as well as the 2019 Sinquefeld Cup on his way to becoming the first player since 2007 to defeat Carlsen in a playoff. Arjun Erigaisi and D Gukesh, both Indian GMs, drew their games against Vincent Keymar and Jorden Van Foreest, respectively.



INDIA VS NEW ZEALAND : HOCKEY WORLD CUP

On Sunday at 7 p.m., India will face New Zealand in their first knockout round match of the 2023 men's FIH hockey World Cup. India is in this crossover round after finishing second in Pool D (on goal difference behind England), as only the first-place teams advance directly to the quarterfinals. Advance to the quarterfinals, and India will play on January 24. If they lose, they will be dropped into the classification matches to determine places 9-16, which would be considered a failure for the current Olympic bronze medalists. New Zealand qualified for the tournament after finishing third in Pool C, behind the Netherlands and Malaysia: while the Netherlands dominated the competition, the match between Malaysia and New Zealand was a nail-biter decided by a late Malaysian goal. They are a rising team, and Graham Reid, for one, does not underestimate them. Meanwhile, India is dealing with a slew of injuries. Hardik Singh has exited the tournament, and with him goes the unique ability to run out with the ball and force play. To make matters worse, Mandeep Singh left training on Saturday with an injury, complicating matters even more for head coach Graham Reid. There is currently no information on the nature of his injury or his availability for the match on Sunday. Mandeep's absence could also be a major issue; he plays in the final third like no one else on the team, and his experience could be crucial in the pressure cooker of a World Cup knockout match.

VIKTOR AXELSEN GOES THE DISTANCE AT THE INDIA OPEN 2023, REACHING THE QUARTERFINALS

Shi Yu Qi forced Viktor Axelsen to work for his second-round victory at the India Open on Thursday (19 January). The men's world No. 1 dropped a game before defeating the Chinese shuttler 21-16, 16-21, 21-9 in New Delhi. Axelsen, who is now 7-1 against Shi in his career, dominated the first game, and the second appeared to be more of the same, with the Dane taking a 10-6 lead. Shi, however, dug deep to tie the game at 11-all and then took 10 of the next 15 points to force a third and final set. Axelsen, on the other hand, made certain Shi did not have the last laugh. Shi came within 6-5, but the tour's reigning Player of the Year pulled away, opening a 14-6 lead before winning the final six points of the 63-minute contest. Jonatan Christie, the fourth seed, defeated Zhao Jun Peng in a 62-minute marathon 21-19, 15-21, 21-12. In the women's singles, world number one Yamaguchi Akane advanced with a 21-14, 21-17 victory over Han Yue, the two-time defending world champion, never trailing in the 33-minute match. Carolina Marin did the same against Ratchanok Intanon, never trailing and winning 21-16, 21-16. Zheng Si Wei/Huang Ya Qiong, the world number one pair, defeated the Indonesians Rehan Naufal Kusharjanto/Lisa Ayu Kusumawati. In the mixed doubles, Fajar Alfian and Muhammad Rian Ardianto defeated Muhammad Shohibul Fikri/Bagas Maulana 21-16, 21-9, while in the men's doubles, Fajar Alfian and Muhammad Rian Ardianto battled to defeat Muhammad Shohibul Fikri/Bagas Maulana 21-17, 21-18. The world No. 1 in all five disciplines topped the podium at last week's Malaysia Open for only the second time in history, and the first time since the 2018 Denmark Open.

RONALDO AND MESSI GO BACK IN TIME IN A NINE-GOAL THRILLER

Cristiano Ronaldo and Lionel Messi transported fans back to the heyday of their storied rivalry on Thursday, scoring in an exhibition match before Hugo Ekitike earned Paris Saint-Germain (PSG) a 5-4 win over the Riyadh Season Team. While the game may not have long-term significance for the teams involved, football fans around the world got a lot of bang for their buck as a story that had dominated the sport for over a decade appeared to come to an end in a memorable goalfest. Over the last 15 years, Ronaldo and Argentina's Messi have dominated the sport, winning the Ballon d'Or 12 times each. Messi and Marquinhos goals were canceled out by a Ronaldo brace in an action-packed first half at the King Fahd International Stadium in Riyadh, while PSG's Juan Bernat was sent off for a lunging tackle on Saudi international Salem Al-Dawsari. After the break, the game resumed at a frenetic pace, with Sergio Ramos turning in a Kylian Mbappe cross for PSG before South Korean Jang Hyun-soo responded with a near-post header from a corner to tie the game at 3-3. On the hour, Mbappe expertly dispatched a penalty earned by Ali Al-Bulaihi, before Hugo Ekitike extended the lead to 5-3 with a thumping finish after a lung-busting run from the halfway line. Anderson Talisca scored late in added time for the Saudis, but Ekitike's strike was enough to win the game. Despite failing to get his new chapter in Saudi Arabia off to a winning start, Ronaldo, 37, will take heart from his performance as he prepares to make his first competitive appearance for Al Nassr when they host Al Ettifaq on Sunday. According to club sources, this was Ronaldo's first game in the kingdom since signing a contract with Al Nassr that runs until 2025 and is worth more than 200 million euros (\$216 million).



EXPERT



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FAQs ON

Learning and Development through Ancient Indian Wisdom

Q1. How can you say that the Vedic culture was practiced around the globe?

Ans. Yes, there are many references to prove that Vedic culture was practiced around the globe. The word veda is consequential from the root vid which means 'to know'. Vedic culture means living based on the the sacred knowledge confined in the Vedic texts. According to Matsya, Bhagavata Puranas and Brahma Purana the world was divided into 7 dvipas. They are: 1) Jambu dvipa (land of the Indian berries) - Asia 2) Kusha dvipa (land of grass) - Oceania including Indonesia and the Philippines (excl. Australia) 3) Plaksha dvipa (land of the fig trees) - South America 4) Pushkara dvipa (land of lakes) - Africa 5) Shalmali dvipa (land of the silk cotton trees) - Australia 6) Krauncha dvipa (land of the krauncha birds or the demoiselle crane) - North America 7) Shaka dvipa (land of the trees) - Europe or Greater Europe. Throughout the vedic texts you can get references of kings of these places and other effects.

Yes, I strongly believe that the concept of 'Swadesho Bhuvanathrayam' is the proof to substantiate the Vedic culture around the globe. There is many historical evidence to prove the existence of Vedic culture around the globe. Sri Nandanandana dasa (Stephen Knapp) explains how Vedic culture was simply accepted into various cultures around the world in his books "Proof of Vedic Culture's Global Existence" and "Mysteries of the Ancient Vedic Empire. Let me list few explanations from his writings:

- **Africa:** In ancient Vedic tradition, Africa were known as KushaDeep, or Kushadvipa. Two reasons for this is due to the fact massive stretches of land were covered via the tall grass referred to as kusha grass in Sanskrit, and after the conflict among Rama and Ravana, the continent turned into under the management of Rama's son Kush, or Cusha. African faculty text books also describe Africans as Cushites, testifying to the above facts
- **Arabia:** There were many of the Vedic sciences that have been incorporated into the Arab area for the development of the humans. Such might encompass Ayurvedic health facilities (as is basic from the almost equal nature of the Arabic Yunani and Ayurveda systems), colleges, Vedic varieties of irrigation and agriculture, and an orderly and peaceful manner of life.
- **Egypt:** The call Egypt comes from the shortened time period of Ajap, which refers back to the Sanskrit name Ajapati, signifying Lord Rama as the illustrious scion of the extended family of Aja, in view that Aja changed into the grandfather of Lord Rama. And just like the Vedic way of life, the Egyptians also taken into consideration their rulers as being representatives or maybe descendants of God. In an article through Dr. S. Ok. Balasubramanian, Hindu Mythology as Prehistory, he relates that the records of Egypt go thousands of years back to the time of King Yayati.
- **Europe:** The entire of Europe turned into administered in historical instances by means of a Sanskrit-speaking Vedic extended family called the Daityas. Danu and Merk have been two leaders of that historical clan of Daityas. Many early European peoples, particularly the Celts and Germans, viewed themselves as families of Danu, with Danu meaning the Mother Goddess, who was also, like Sarasvati in the Rig Veda. The Celts called themselves "Tuatha De Danaan", while the Germans had alike name. Ancient European River names like the Danube and various rivers called Don in Russia, Scotland, England and France replicate this. The Danube which flows to the Black Sea is their most significant river and could mirror their Vedic culture of eastern roots.
- **Greece:** We will understand that because the Vedic culture moved from India to Egypt to Greece, and so forth., lots of the philosophy stayed the same, although the names and inventive characteristics of the gods modified with time. The fact that Krishna was the God of Greece is shown by the silver coins made by Agathaclose, a Greek ruler of the 2nd century BCE. Greek writers like Pliny referred to Hari Krishna as Heracles.
- **Iraq and Kuwait:** The Sumerians had been the humans of southern Mesopotamia whose civilization flourished among c. 4100-1750 BCE which have been formed on the banks of rivers Tigris and Euphrates, this vicinity is nowadays Iraq and Kuwait.

The Sumerians believed the cosmos and all within it meditated the best mind and supernatural motion. They held that the universe turned into comprised of the primeval sea along with all of the planets, stars, solar, and moon, every of which had its own orbit. After the introduction of the planets came superhuman and invisible beings, who then made human, animal, and vegetation. This Sumerian theology, which could be very much like the Vedic version, can still be discovered in the special texts dating lower back to 1900 BCE. I am certain you need to have heard comparable variations from your grandparents approximately the palazhi mathan and origin of various devi-devathas.

- **Italy:** The name Italy (from Etyl) in Sanskrit indicates a country situated at the lowest of the continent now known as Europe. As the Vedic way of life had crossed thru the mid-jap countries and into Greece and Italy, the Vedic gods had been still a number one element within the worship and legends of the land. But, the names had modified within the neighborhood jargon to emphasize diverse traits that had greater emphasis with the humans of the region. We can recognize this in regard to how the popular Roman god Mithra may be traced to Mitra of the Vedas, who came to the Mediterranean thru Asia Minor by using the army forces who were inspired with the Vedic philosophy.
- **Lithuania:** The Lithuanian language was no longer Slavik but become based totally on Sanskrit. This is why there are such a lot of Sanskritic phrases inside the Lithuanian language. A brief example can be visible in the phrases for God, day, and son, which might be devas, dina, and sunu in Sanskrit, and dievas, diena, and sunus in Lithuanian. The numerals are also very similar. There may be a big Sanskrit department inside the university of Vilnius. For the reason that language has changed much less than others over the centuries, it simply indicates its linguistic link to its Vedic beyond.
- **Persia:** In keeping with E. Pococke on web page forty five of his e book, India in Greece, the land of Persia have become referred to as Paarasika. The name Persia is without a doubt a by-product of the Sanskrit call Parasu, which was the battle awl of Parashurama. Lord Parashurama had led 21 expeditions round the arena to chastise the Kshatriya warriors who had swayed from the Vedic ideas and have become merciless and unruly. This changed into earlier than the time of Lord Ramachandra.

One of the extra obvious signs of Vedic way of life is presence of the Swastika. The Swastika turned into found extensively all over Europe as a significant Vedic symbol within the pre-Christian era. It's far a symbol of the solar and earth and cosmos in a dynamic whirl. It represents karma and movement in consonance with the whirling cosmos. It additionally represents the divine energy which pervades the universe inside the eight directions which might be important in Vedic culture.

It is really awful that the modern-day education system had delinked with our ancient Indian knowledge system which had led the youth to demand proof of presence of our ancient culture around the globe! I sincerely feel the paradigm shift in education will definitely highlight the proud heritage of ours and the skill development will be based on the ancient Indian wisdom. Stay blessed.

QUIZ TIME

1. What group published the "Global Risks Report 2023"?
2. Which nation in Europe signed a reciprocal access agreement with Japan first?
3. The book "Revolutionaries- The Other Story of How India Won Its Freedom" is written by who?
4. What will be the focus of the 2023 World Economic Forum?
5. Which nation and India have a bilateral naval exercise called "Varuna"?
6. What industry is related to FPGA, which was recently featured in the news?
7. What is the name of the longest river cruise in the world, which the prime minister signalled off?
8. Which state recently reinstated the Old Pension Scheme (OPS) for government employees, following Chhattisgarh, Rajasthan, and Punjab?
9. Which state is home to the Buxwaha Mine, which was featured in the news?
10. By what organisation was the "Rural Health Statistics report" published?

1. World Economic Forum
2. UK
3. Sanjeev Sanyal
4. Cooperation in a Fragmented World
5. France
6. Electronics
7. MV Ganga Vilas
8. Himachal Pradesh
9. Madhya Pradesh
10. Ministry of Health and Family Welfare

Answers

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DID YOU KNOW?

THE UNITED STATES ELECTS ITS FIRST AFRICAN-AMERICAN PRESIDENT



Barack Obama was inaugurated as the 44th President of the United States on January 20, 2009. The ceremony was held on the West Front of the United States Capitol in Washington, D.C. For several reasons, the inauguration was historic. Obama was the first African-

American president of the United States. His election represented a significant shift in the political landscape of the country, as he campaigned on a platform of change and hope. The inauguration theme was "A New Birth of Freedom," a reference to Abraham Lincoln's Gettysburg Address. The ceremony started with a prayer service at St. John's Episcopal Church, then the traditional parade from the White House to the Capitol. As Obama approached the Capitol, he was greeted by large crowds lining the streets. People were holding signs and American flags, creating a festive atmosphere. Former presidents and their spouses were among the dignitaries who attended the actual inauguration ceremony. Aretha Franklin, Yo-Yo Ma, and Itzhak Perlman performed on the programme. An estimated 1.8 million people attended the inauguration in person, with 38 million watching on television. It was also live-streamed on the internet, making it the most-watched event in internet history at the time.

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