

INSIDE



India this week, P2



Pro@Project, P4



Meet the YP teams, P7

AMITE poll

Do you think RCEP, the 16 country free trade agreement will help revive the Indian economy?

a) Yes b) No c) Can't say

To vote, log on to www.theglobaltimes.in

POLL RESULT
 for GT Edition October 14, 2019

Do you think Vande Bharat Express from Delhi to Katra will boost tourism in the state of J&K?

Yes	No	Can't Say
57%	19%	24%

Results as on October 19, 2019

Coming Next
 Sangathan 2019

a new ramayana

The Trails Of The Indian Epic In Other Southeast Asian Cultures

Navya Das, AIS Saket, VII A

Diwali, being around the corner, has brought that time of the year when lights will adorn every corner and the sound of Ramayana will be echoed from every household. Ramayana, the story of good over evil is a story we've all grown up hearing. But like every other story that is narrated through generations, this one, too, has found too many once-upon-a-time and too many endings. We bring you some of them from different parts of the world.

Cambodia

The Cambodian version of Ramayana, called 'Reamker', means 'Glory of Rama'. Going back to 7th Century, it was recited daily in several parts of Cambodia. Along with changed names for all the characters, this version also has a mermaid princess named Neang Machha. In this version when Hanuman starts building a bridge of stone to reach Lanka, an army of mermaids try to stop him. That is when Hanuman meets Neang Machha and they fall in love. This effectively stops the mermaids from stealing anymore stones. Reamker is celebrated through an all-male masked dance drama and shadow puppet plays in the country.

Thailand

'Ramakien', or the Thai version of Ramayana, is quite close to

the original tale, only altering the topography and culture to suit Thailand. It remains the inspiration behind all *khon* and *nang yai* dramas. One can find several paintings depicting the tale of Ramakien, adorning the Grand Palace. A city in Thailand, Ayutthaya, is named after Ayodhya, the birthplace of Lord Rama.

Malaysia

Ramayana or Hikayat Seri Rama was first introduced to Malaysians through Wayang Kulit (shadow theatre). This version was used for the sake of entertainment and social education. In this extension, minor characters were upgraded to major ones or new characters were invented. Malay writers are also known to give Lakshmana prominence over Rama for his attributes of courage, righteousness and honour. Rama was perceived to be weak and his character is often moved to the background. Ramayana in Malaysia is usually told through puppet shows with gong orchestra giving the music.

Laos

Ramayana in Laos came as late as 16th century under the name Phra Lak Phra Ram. Just like the Malay version, people here consider Lakshmana above Rama due to his dedication to his brother. Rama here is often also considered an avatar of Gautam Buddha, which ex-



plains why the tale is found under Jataka tales. Jataka tales are stories that recount the previous births of Buddha. Phra Lak Phra Ram was a favourite of Lao Royal Ballet until 1975, and the tradition has been revived by the National School for Music and Dance that is in Laotian style.

Myanmar

Ramayana in Myanmar is popularly known as Yamayana, where

Rama is known as Yama and Sita as Thida. Its oldest traces can be seen during King Anawrahta's reign, the founder of Pagan Empire. More literary and artistic evidences show up through the later periods hinting towards the influence of Ramayana in the country. There are as many as nine known variations of Yamayana, collectively called Yama Zatdaw. The plot of this version is quite similar, with a

few adaptations from Ramakien, the Thai version of Ramayana.

India itself has around 300 versions of Ramayana, making it very difficult to pinpoint any one interpretation of the story that is correct. It is simply about choosing a story to base our morals on, after all, every single adaptation of Ramayana promotes the triumph of good over evil, victory of light over darkness.  



Pic courtesy: dreamstime.com



The people's politician

Shri Prahlad Singh Patel On Love For Culture, Country & Its People

Pics: Ravinder Gusain, GT Network

Vidhi Vivek & Nitya Gupta
 AIS Noida, XI G

Prahlad Singh Patel, the incumbent Minister of State for Culture and Tourism, is a name to reckon with in the world of politics. In a political career spanning several decades that saw him serve as the Member of Parliament five times, he has worked relentlessly for the cause of the nation. An advocate by profession, he shared his inspirational

political ventures and beliefs as the chief guest at 15th World Tourism Day programme held at Amity University, Noida.

You have been in the field of politics for many decades, what was your journey like?

It was very challenging, but a fulfilling experience. I started as the leader of the student union and faced a lot of opposition, but decided to never give up. I have always had my ambitions set, which prominently included the welfare of people. During my first election, I was up against a senior Congress leader and had no political background, no money and no prior experience, but I still won, for which I will be forever grateful to the people of India.

You have held several prominent positions in your career, which one was the most challenging?

It would be when I took oath as

Coal Minister under Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee in 1999. I still remember when Atalji, with his infinite wisdom, very subtly remarked that the Coal Ministry looked like a very tantalizing prospect, but it would take immense will power to not give in to its temptations. With this in mind, I worked hard and I do not have a single blip on my record as the Coal Minister.

Politician or advocate - which role do you enjoy more?

I take pride in the fact that I am an advocate; my knowledge of law has helped me whilst running for elections as an MLA, MP and during my tenure as a minister. Both of them are really close to my heart, but serving the public has always been my primary goal, so I believe I will always prefer serving as a politician.

What are the challenges of promoting tourism in India?

The cultural diversity of this nation is such that promoting





Prahlad S Patel & Founder President sir with GT reporters

tourism is no challenge at all. Deserts in the West, Himalayas in the North, seas on either coasts, hill stations in the North East, not to forget the vast and rich reserves of flora and fauna - all make my job easy as India attracts its own audience, evident in the six point jump it received in the latest Tourism Index of 2018. But one thing I am working towards is changing the perception of Indian tourism across the world; we aren't a third world country anymore, we have the capability to compete with top nations

and our tourist destinations must showcase that.

Your message for Amitians?

Never allow obstacles to overwhelm you; it's easy to blame circumstances for our shortcomings but we must own our mistakes, learn from them and work tirelessly to achieve our goals. I would urge all Amitians to take inspiration from my idol, Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya. I have no doubt that by following his footsteps, each and every Amitian will become successful in their endeavours.  

Shri Prahlad Singh Patel, Minister of State for Culture and Tourism