

Evening News Script

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:: THE HEADLINES ::

Former President Ram Nath Kovind says, India will benefit from adopting simultaneous polls toward a Viksit Bharat.

Indian Air Force showcases aerial capabilities in a majestic air show as part of its 92nd anniversary celebrations.

External Affairs Minister Dr. S Jaishankar says, QUAD is one of the key mechanisms in the Indo-Pacific.

Nagaland Governor La Ganesan says, Onam is a unique festival which promotes unity and harmony in social fabric of the Malayalis.

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Former President Ram Nath Kovind who headed the high-level committee on One Nation-One Election, has said that India will greatly benefit from adopting simultaneous elections in its steady march towards a Viksit Bharat. He said this in New Delhi while delivering the 30th Lal Bahadur Shastri Memorial Lecture on Simultaneous Elections.

Mr. Kovind added that Simultaneous Elections will have long-term benefits such as better governance, policy stability, social cohesiveness, economic growth and enhanced global

competitiveness. He said it has the potential to be a foundational reform for a more inclusive and prosperous future.

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The Indian Air Force (IAF) conducted a mega air show on the Marina Beach in Chennai today. The scintillating air show is being held as part of the 92nd anniversary of the IAF observed on 8th of October. Fighter jets including Tejas, Mirage, Sukhoi 30, Jaguar aircraft participated in the thrilling air show.

The Surya Kiran Aerobatic Team and Sarang helicopter display team showcased the operational capabilities during the show. One of the spectators described watching the air show as a wonderful experience.

The show which is held after 21 years has attracted lakhs of spectators to the sands of Marina. The aircrafts were deployed from air bases of Tambaram, Arakkonam, Thanjavur and Sullur.

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External Affairs Minister Dr. S Jaishankar today stated that QUAD defies all conventional models of institutionalised cooperation, and it has been very innovative because of this. In a conversation at the 3rd Kautilya Economic Conference in New Delhi, the Minister pointed out that it is advantageous that QUAD is not a treaty-based organisation. He said QUAD is one of the key mechanisms in the Indo-Pacific. The External Affairs Minister stressed that it is important that India is connected to all major players and seen as a country with a greater sense of responsibility to global politics. He emphasised that in today's day and age, the countries that can make a difference should try and do it. On problems being faced by the world now, Dr. Jaishankar said it is apparent that levels of globalisation have reached a point where it is difficult to contain any serious issue in a region.

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Nagaland Governor La Ganesan said, Onam is a unique festival which promotes unity and harmony in the social fabric of the Malayalis who celebrate Onam without any ill feeling of religion, caste or creed. Speaking at the celebration of Onam today at Raj Bhvan, Mr Ganesan said, though the festival was celebrated about a fortnight back in Kerala, he is thrilled to be a part of this belated Onam celebration as it fills one's hearts with joy and bring a piece of home to those who are far away from home here in Nagaland. He said, in modern times, these kinds of social gatherings cement social bonds and promote cultural heritage. Mr Ganesan said, during the celebration in Kerala, both the rich and the poor together partake in the feast. He said, Onam is a time for celebration and happiness, bringing people from all backgrounds together in a spirit of truth, peace, joy, and prosperity. The Governor further urged everyone to be inspired by the spirit of inclusivity and goodwill, and aim to cultivate a society that embraces its diversity and fosters an environment where everyone can thrive in unity. During the celebration various cultural presentations were displayed by the Malayali Community.

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Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has successfully conducted three flight tests of the 4th Generation Very Short Range Air Defence System at the Pokhran Field Firing Ranges in Rajasthan. The tests, conducted in last two days were carried out against a high-speed target, demonstrating very critical parameters of maximum range and maximum altitude interception. Ministry of Defence said, these development trials showcased repeatability of hit-to-kill capability of the weapon system in various target engagement scenarios covering approaching, receding and crossing modes. Defence Minister Rajnath Singh has congratulated DRDO, the Armed Forces and the Industry involved in successful development trials.

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As tensions escalate in West Asia, French President Emmanuel Macron yesterday called for a halt on its arms deliveries to Israel for use in Gaza, provoking a sharp response from Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. President Macron also criticised Prime Minister Netanyahu's decision to send troops for ground operations into Lebanon. On the other hand, the Israeli Prime Minister in a video message, slammed the French President saying all civilized countries should be standing firmly by Israel's fight against the forces of barbarism led by Iran.

Meanwhile, the Israeli forces bombed a mosque in Deir al-Balah in Gaza, killing at least 21 Palestinians and wounding dozens others. Israel also expanded its strike in Lebanon yesterday. It bombarded deep in the north part of the country for the first time, targeting both armed groups, Hezbollah and Hamas.

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Maldives President Mohamed Muizzu arrived in New Delhi today on a five-day state visit at the invitation of President Droupadi Murmu. This is his first visit to India since assuming office. During the visit, he is scheduled to hold high-level meetings with President Droupadi Murmu, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and other senior officials of the Indian government. Mr. Muizzu will be accorded with a ceremonial reception at the Rashtrapati Bhawan scheduled for Monday.

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World Cerebral Palsy Day is being observed today to raise awareness about the condition and promote inclusivity. The day aims to challenge stereotypes and work towards creating an inclusive society where individuals with cerebral palsy are respected for their identities and talents. The theme for this year is Uniquely CP, which emphasizes that a person's disability does not define their entire identity. Several

events are being held across the country to raise awareness about cerebral palsy and empower those affected by it.

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