

#PREMBANAN TEMPLE

Restored

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Indian Ambassador to Indonesia Shri Sandeep Chakravorty on the occasion of Maha Shivratri was in Prembanan Temple Complex near Java on 15 Feb 2026. The event featured the Shiva Garha Dance, midnight to 3 AM, and aimed to restore the historic site as a global center for Shiva worship and spiritual, cultural tourism. Only 16 of the 224 ancillary temples have been completely reconstructed as of recent reports. In 2025, India pledged international support for the complex's ongoing conservation efforts.



Prembanan temple is also known as Mahashivagharh and is the most magnificent temple to the glory of Shiva and Mahesh in the world. Festival mood is around the corner and people have gathered here from all of Indonesia to celebrate Maha Shivratri. The event was amazing. The Deputy or Vice Minister of Tourism spoke about the need to develop the temple to attract tourists from all over the world. Today is a historic day in the history and culture of Indonesia. 1008 lamps were lit in the evening and Maha Abhishek of Shivji took place around midnight. In the Prembanan temple complex, there are 240 temples, out of which only 16 have been restored. 224 temples need to be restored. We will be making humble beginning soon. As such it is so magnificent. Once all the temples are restored, this will be one of the most beautiful historical, archeological and spiritual sites in the world.



And When The Story Was Finished She Wrote The Ending



Bulbul Joshi
She was born a Russian princess. The Bolsheviks executed her father and she fled across frozen lakes with nothing. Then, she became the face that launched modern fashion.

Paris, 1905. Natalia Pavlovna Paley entered the world draped in imperial privilege, the granddaughter of a czar, daughter of Grand Duke Paul Alexandrovich, uncle to Tsar Nicholas II himself. Fourteen years later, everything shattered.

The Bolshevik Revolution didn't just topple thrones, it hunted down everyone connected to them. In 1918, her brother Vladimir died. In 1919, her father was executed by firing squad in the Peter and Paul Fortress.

Natalia, her sister Irina, and their mother had one choice: run or die. They escaped across the frozen surface of Lake Ladoga into Finland, aristocrats transformed into refugees, carrying nothing but their lives. Around the time of her 13th birthday, Princess Natalia Pavlovna Paley embarked on a dangerous journey west, from war-torn Russia to freedom in Finland. Masquerading as the daughters of a laundress, Paley and her older sister Irina traveled via train, cattle car, horse-drawn sledge and on foot, collapsing from exhaustion at multiple points on the more than 200-mile trek in December 1918.

When the group reached a small stream, a Swedish traveling companion laid down and made a bridge out of his body, which he kept stiff, and the women walked over on their improvised bridge, wrote the sisters' mother, Olga, in

her memoir. "A flickering light in the distance gave them hope that they were nearly at the end of their arduous journey."

Paley and Irina arrived in Terjoki, on the Finnish frontier, 32 hours after they had set out from Petrograd. Olga joined her daughters the following year, becoming the last member of the Paley family to escape the bloodshed of the Russian Revolution. The sisters' father and brother were both executed by the Bolsheviks as part of the party's purge of the Romanov dynasty. In total, at least 18 members of the royal house, including Paley's cousins, the deposed czar Nicholas II and his daughter Anastasia, met violent ends during the conflict.

They eventually reached France, where the Paley name meant nothing except survival in a country that didn't owe them anything. By her mid-teens, Natalia found herself in Paris. No fortune. No palace. No future mapped out by dynasty. Just beauty. And it turned out, that was enough.

Someone introduced her to Coco Chanel. Chanel saw something, that ethereal elegance, that aristocratic bearing that couldn't be taught or faked.

She connected Natalia to Lucien Lelong, one of Paris's most celebrated couturiers. Lelong didn't just hire her. He made her the face of his entire house. Suddenly, Natalia Paley was everywhere, Vogue covers, fashion magazines across Europe, photographed by legends like Edward Steichen and Horst P. Horst. Her delicate features and regal poise revolutionized fashion photography. She didn't just wear clothes, she embodied an entire aesthetic.

In 1927, Lucien Lelong married her. The princess had become the

Cocteau fell so completely under her spell that he couldn't function when intimacy was required. Their affair, which included a pregnancy that ended in abortion, collapsed under the weight of his idolization of her. He wanted the muse, not the woman. Saint-Exupéry cherished her friendship for years. Erich Maria Remarque, author of *All Quiet on the Western Front*, loved her for over a decade, immortalizing her as 'Natascha' in his novel *Shadows in Paradise*.

#PRINCESS



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She tried acting, appearing in French films like *L'Épervier*, then in Hollywood alongside Katharine Hepburn in *Sylvia Scarlett*. But acting never defined her. The way fashion and art did.

In 1937, she divorced Lelong and married John 'Jack' Wilson, an American theater producer. It was a marriage of companionship, not passion. Wilson was homosexual, and she valued his wit and aesthetic sensibility more than romance. They understood each other in ways that didn't require conventional love.

They moved to Manhattan, where Natalia became a fixture of New York's creative elite. She worked in public relations for Main Bocher, hosted salons that brought



together artists, writers, and designers. She was the bridge between old-world refinement and new-world creativity.

For decades, she thrived in this world she'd built from nothing. But exile leaves scars that never fully heal.

When Wilson died in 1961 from cirrhosis, something in Natalia broke. She began drinking heavily. She retreated from the world that had once embraced her. She stopped answering calls, refused correspondence, withdrew into isolation.

Diabetes took her eyesight. Mobility issues confined her. The woman who had once glided through Paris fashion shows and New York salons became trapped in her own body.

In late 1961, after a fall left her



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bedridden with a broken hip, Natalia made her final decision.

On December 27, 1961, she died at Roosevelt Hospital in New York from an overdose of sleeping pills. She was 76 years old.

She is buried in Ewing, New Jersey, an ocean away from the Russia she fled as a child. Think about the trajectory of this life. Born in a palace. Fled across frozen lakes to survive. Became one of the most photographed faces of the 1930s. Befriended some of the greatest artists of the 20th century. Built an entire identity from ruins.

Natalia Paley proved that reinvention isn't just possible, it's an art form. She lost everything the Bolsheviks could take: family, fortune, homeland, title.

What they couldn't take was her ability to transform survival into elegance, exile into influence, loss into legacy.

The fashion world remembers her as the aristocrat who brought



Russian refinement to Western style. Artists remember her as the muse who inspired some of their greatest works. History remembers her as the princess who became something more interesting than royalty.

She became herself. But here's what haunts me about her story: she escaped death in Russia, built an extraordinary life from nothing, influenced fashion and art for decades, and still ended her life alone, in pain, choosing her own exit. Even the most dazzling reinventions can't erase every wound. Natalia Pavlovna Paley: born a princess, died having lived a thousand lives in between. The girl who crossed frozen lakes became the woman...

And when she decided her story was finished, she wrote the ending herself.

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#THE TRUTH

Polar Bears Are Not Really White

At first glance, a polar bear's fur appears white, but the reality is much different. The fur itself is actually translucent

Polar bears are one of the most iconic animals of the Arctic, often recognized for their pure white fur. However, there's much more to their appearance than meets the eye. Despite their seemingly white coat, polar bears aren't actually white at all. Their fur and skin reveal surprising truths about their adaptation to life in the coldest regions of the planet.



The Fur Isn't White, But Transparent

At first glance, a polar bear's fur appears white, but the reality is much different. The fur itself is actually translucent, meaning it's clear and colorless. Polar bear hairs are hollow, and this transparency is what creates the illusion of whiteness. The structure of the hair allows light to reflect and scatter in such a way that it appears very much like how snow looks white even though it's made up of colorless ice crystals.

This hollow fur plays a key role in the bear's survival. It traps air within the fur, creating an insulating layer that helps retain body heat. In the freezing Arctic environment, where temperatures can drop well below freezing, this insulation is critical for the bear's ability to maintain warmth. Essentially, the polar bear's fur acts like a thick coat that helps protect it from the cold, much like how a winter jacket keeps humans warm in cold weather.

Polar Bears Have Black Skin

Beneath their thick, insulating fur, polar bears have black skin. This black skin serves an important function, absorbing heat. While the translucent fur reflects the sun's light and provides camouflage against the snowy backdrop, the black skin underneath helps the bear soak up as much sunlight as possible. In the Arctic, sunlight is a precious resource, and by absorbing the sun's warmth, polar bears can conserve energy and stay warmer in the frigid environment.

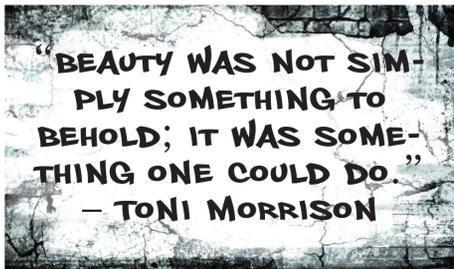
This black skin is especially beneficial during the brief Arctic summer, when the sun is out for longer periods. Despite the cold temperatures, the black skin allows the polar bear to maximize its exposure to the sun's rays, helping it to stay warm enough to hunt and forage.

How Hollow Fur Helps With Insulation

The hollow structure of polar bear fur also serves another important purpose. It acts as an effective barrier against the cold. These hollow hairs trap heat close to the bear's body, insulating the bear and keeping the cold air at bay. This unique fur structure helps polar bears survive the freezing temperatures they encounter in their Arctic home, where wind chill and subzero temperatures are common. Moreover, the air trapped in the fur also gives the polar bear a sort of 'buoyancy' when it swims in the icy waters. The fur traps air bubbles and helps the bear stay afloat while swimming in search of food, such as seals. Polar bears are excellent swimmers and can travel long distances in the sea, thanks to the insulating properties of their fur.



THE WALL



BABY BLUES



By Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott

ZITS



By Jerry Scott & Jim Borgman