

## #SPACE

### Earth has caught a 'second moon'

After its brief stay around Earth, the asteroid 2024 PT5 will continue to orbit the sun as part of the Arjuna family of asteroids.



Earth has a new, temporary companion in space: a "mini moon" named Asteroid 2024 PT5. This small space rock, about the size of a bus, was caught by Earth's gravity on Sunday. But don't expect to see it in the night sky from India - or anywhere else - unless you have advanced telescopes.

NASA scientists calculated that Earth captured the "second moon" on Sunday (Sept. 29). The "mini-moon" is actually the tiny asteroid 2024 PT5, which usually orbits the sun as part of a small asteroid belt that follows Earth.

While Earth's primary companion, the moon, has lingered around our planet for around 4 billion years since its formation in the solar system's infancy, this asteroid will be a temporary fixture that won't even see the year out. Asteroid 2024 PT5 is about 10 metres wide and was first spotted by scientists in Spain this August. It's expected to orbit Earth for about two months, circling our planet until it breaks free on November 25. Unlike our main Moon, this mini moon won't complete a full orbit around Earth before heading back into space.

This space rock is part of a group of asteroids called the Arjuna asteroid belt, which travels in a similar path around the Sun as Earth does. Mini moons like this aren't as rare as you might think - there was another one spotted in 2020, but they are small and hard to detect.

Can you see the 'second moon from India? No, you can't be able to see this mini moon with the naked eye. In fact, even regular telescopes are not able to spot it. Only large, professional-grade telescopes can catch a glimpse of 2024 PT5 due to its size and dim appearance. So, unless you're working with major space equipment, you'll have to rely on online images from observatories. Scientists aren't exactly sure whether this asteroid is just a piece of space rock or possibly a chunk of the Moon that was knocked off long ago. Interestingly, this mini moon is expected to pass by Earth again in 2025, making it a rare, but not unheard-of, visitor.

Though this mini moon will only be around for a short time, it's a reminder of how many objects are out there, flying near Earth. With thousands of space rocks passing by, scientists keep a close watch on these cosmic visitors to better understand our dynamic solar system.



# The Return of Global Terror!



From Afghanistan as a base, Islamic terrorists have been able to strike Pakistan, Turkey and Iran. Afghanistan's Taliban government appears to be taking on the mantle once donned by Zia ul Haq and the ISI to be one of the lead sponsors of terrorism through motivation using the radical route. The Taliban is using its surrogate, the Tehreek e Taliban Pakistan (TTP) as the sword arm of this attempt to revive militant Islam and have greater control over it.



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Al Qaeda has been quieter in comparison and is yet trying to re-establish its significance in the new strategic matrix that global revival of terrorism is trying to create. In the strange world of global terrorism, although there is little or no coordination, a live and let live norm seems to have come into existence, at least for now. The Af-Pak region, where the terror footprint is increasing by the day will find state response increasingly weak and easy to overcome, given Pakistan's utter downturn in its security capability; that is a nation that fought terror through the conventional mode during Operation Zarb e Azb.

Conclusion With the display of brazen capability to establish networks in Central Asia, execute acts in Russia's capital and remain capable of targeting the Iranian city of Kerman, even during an event in memory of national hero General Ghassem Soleimani, the ISKP is demonstrating a creeping expansion. Recent exposes in India reflect the tip of the possible iceberg. The nation that should be most worried is China. Its counter terrorism experience is next to nil, except for the string of some very harsh measures in Xinjiang from where many of the fighters of the ISKP hail.

after the US withdrawal from Afghanistan, took away a lot of attention from the likely threats of international terrorism. The rise of the Afghan Taliban, the encouragement it has given to the Tehreek e Taliban Pakistan (TTP), and in the last five months the atrocities across Gaza after an equally obnoxious display of terrorism by Hamas against innocents in Southern Israel have all given rise to the sentiments that have gone into the making of fresh triggers. These have the potential to take the world back to the days of 9/11 and thereafter, Islamic radicalism is back and flourishing.

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decline of the first witnessed during the pandemic. This was something anticipated for long; the recent historical legacy is important to understand.

Return of Global Terror We have believed that global terrorism incubated in Afghanistan after ISIS lost the battle of Mosul in 2018. The latter led to it attempting a failed revival in Marawi in the Philippines and a last-ditch attempt in Sri Lanka with the Easter bombings in April 2019. With the coming of the pandemic in 2020, terrorism went into a shell but with all networks intact; a phenomenon that takes place when terror groups temporarily withdraw to regroup. ISIS gravitated to Northern Afghanistan in an area where neither the Taliban nor the coalition forces had presence or control. The US withdrawal from Afghanistan in August 2021 offered the greatest opportunities to terrorist groups to break their shackles and emerge as before. The situation in the Middle East was yet in the middle of the follow-up to the Abraham Accords. The outbreak of the Ukraine war in February 2022, six months

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Ukraine, that it was a Ukraine-initiated event to take the war into Russia's interior. This was vehemently denied by Ukraine, which, despite bearing the brunt of Russian assaults on its cities and civil populations, has not attempted to target the Russian civilian population. The action appeared to be aimed at embarrassing President Putin either during the election or immediately afterwards.

The Evidence Claims and investigations involving body cam clips of the incident ultimately point towards the Afghanistan-based Islamic State of Khorasan Province (ISKP), which accuses Russia of having Muslim blood on its hands in Afghanistan, Chechnya and Syria. If the ISKP claim is true, then it

signifies an attempt to signal that it has finally established itself in the vicinity of the near abroad region in sufficient measure to target Russia and its interests, including those in and around Central Asia.

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## #FOCUS MOSCOW



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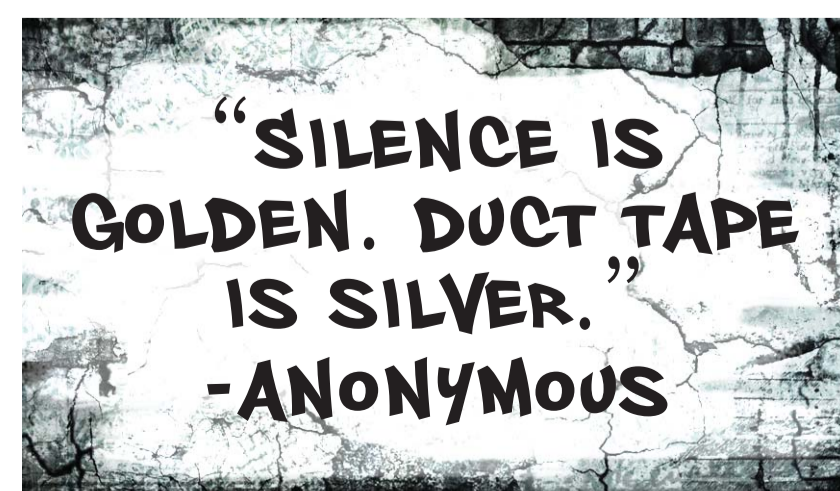
Lt Gen Syed Ata Hasnain PVS.M, PVS.M, AVSM, SM, VSM (Retd)

In March 22, a terrorist attack killed at least 137 people at the Crocus City Hall in Krasnogorsk at the edge of Moscow city during a rock concert. The incident had echoes of Moscow's Nord-Ost theatre siege in 2002, where more than 170 people died, and the 2004 seizure of a school in Beslan in which 334 people, including 186 children, perished. Those attacks were carried out by Chechen militants fighting a separatist war against Russia. They had ties to Al Qaeda-related groups at the height of the early years of the first cycle of global terror.

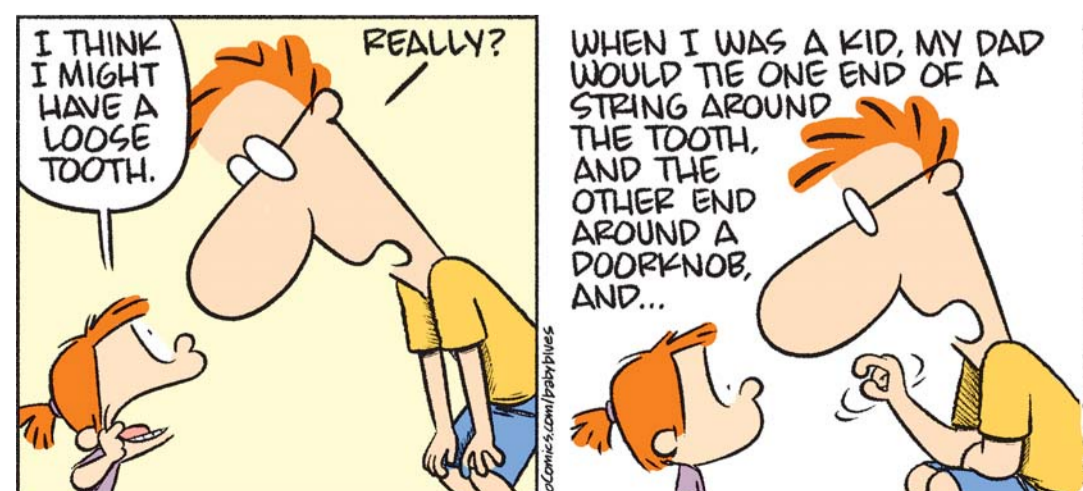
The Krasnogorsk incident, which seemed to suggest a pattern akin to earlier incidents in Russia, initially threw up a few possibilities. First that it was related to and an outcome of the Russian involvement in the war against



## THE WALL



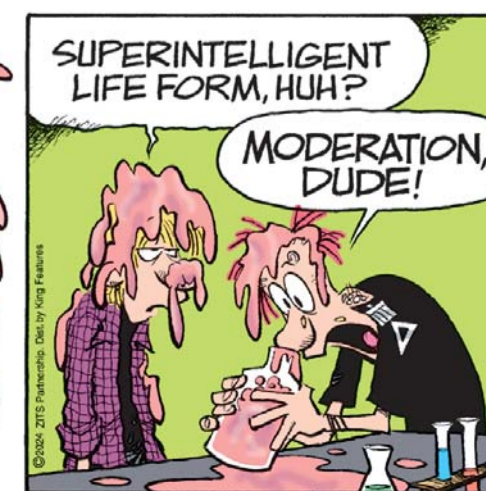
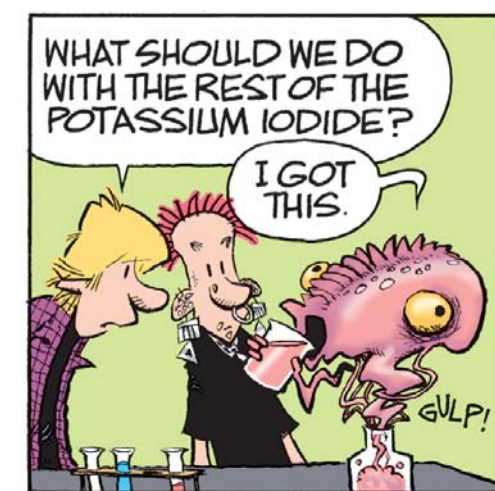
## BABY BLUES



By Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott



## ZITS



By Jerry Scott & Jim Borgman

## #TETE-A-TETE VISUAL POETRY IN MOTION

Stereoptik's Antichambre presented a magical blend of art, imagination, and emotion in the Pink City recently. With simple materials and profound creativity, they took audiences on an imaginative journey, highlighting the power of observation and the transformative beauty of simplicity.



Tusharika Singh Freelancer writer and city blogger

In a mesmerizing showcase of innovation and artistry, Antichambre by the French duo Stereoptik left audiences spellbound at the Rajasthan International Center in Jaipur. Presented as part of a nationwide tour organized by the French Embassy in India, Alliance Française, and the French Institute, this performance blended live animation, visual poetry, and music into a unique sensory experience.

Romain Bermond and Jean-Baptiste Maillet, the creative forces behind Stereoptik, took viewers on a journey of imagination, where art transcended boundaries and language. From introspective storytelling to live demonstrations of their creative process, Antichambre immersed audiences in the beauty of transformation, creativity, and wonder. They performed in Kochi, Pune, Bangalore, Mumbai, Kolkata and Bhopal, in addition to Jaipur. In an exclusive conversation, Bermond and Maillet share insights into their work, their inspiration, and the artistic magic that fuels Antichambre.



Romain Bermond and Jean-Baptiste Maillet.

### What is the central theme of Antichambre?

In Antichambre, we explore the journey of a student who, while isolated in his room working on his thesis, stumbles upon a childhood photograph of himself holding a butterfly. This small discovery reawakens a sense of wonder and curiosity that he had long forgotten. From that moment, he begins to reconnect with the world around him, feeling the wind, watching the clouds, and allowing himself to dream. His imagination takes him on extraordinary journeys, from soaring over the Amazon to exploring the depths of the ocean and encountering fantastical creatures. These experiences not only move

and intrigue him but ultimately transform him. At its core, Antichambre is about rediscovering the magic of observation and how moments of reflection can spark profound personal change.



### Where did you draw inspiration for Antichambre, and what was the creative process like?

The inspiration for Antichambre came from many sources, including the solitude brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic, which made us more comfortable with being alone. We wanted to show that art can emerge from the simplest

materials-pencil, paper, plastic, and paint-things you find easily at home. The creative process involved combining these everyday items with a mix of simple techniques, showing how much beauty can be created with minimal resources.

### Was this your first time performing in India? How was the response?

Yes, this was our first time in India, and the response has been incredible. Because the show doesn't use any language-relying instead on visual imagery, music, and animation-it resonates with audiences of all ages, cultures, and backgrounds.

It was a new kind of experience for many, and we received standing ovations at every performance. The audience's engagement was heartwarming, with people asking thoughtful questions and sharing how they connected with the show.



### What is the message you hope to convey through Antichambre?

The message is simple yet profound: when we get too absorbed in work, we often overlook the simple wonders of life, like nature. You don't need much to create something beautiful-just simple materials, creativity, and a sensitivity to emotions. It's a reminder to slow down and appreciate the world around us.

### What challenges did you face in producing the show?

The biggest challenge is the live nature of the performance. With elements like live painting and music, everything needs to be executed with precision-it's not improvisation. There's a lot of technique involved, and while performing, we're always thinking ahead to the technical requirements of the next scene. It demands a high level of focus and coordination.