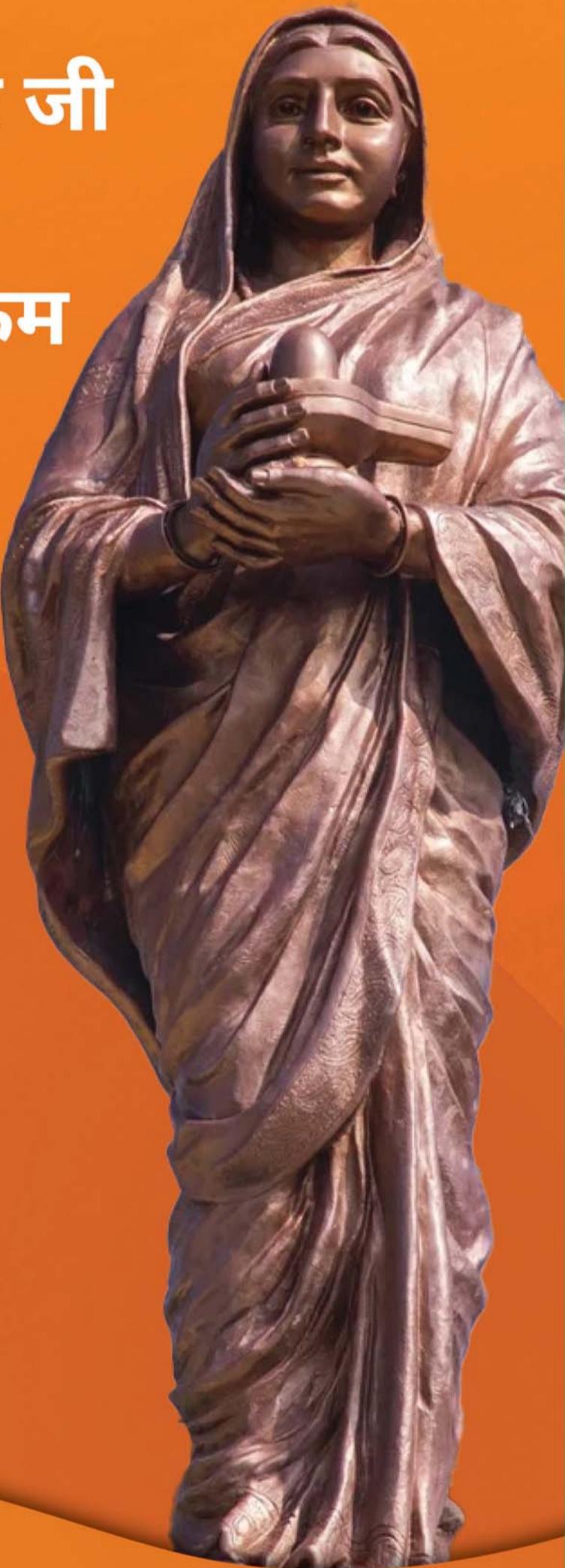


पुण्यश्लोक देवी
रानी अहिल्याबाई होलकर जी
की
त्रिशताब्दी जयंती कार्यक्रम

में जयपुर आगमन पर
भाजपा के राष्ट्रीय अध्यक्ष

श्रीमान जे.पी. नड्डा
का हार्दिक स्वागत व
अभिनंदन



दिनांक: 31.05.2025

कार्यक्रम स्थल: ई. पी. सेंट्रल लॉन, जवाहर सर्किल, जयपुर

आप सभी सादर आमंत्रित हैं



भारतीय जनता पार्टी, राजस्थान



World No Tobacco Day: A Global Call to Quit

Observed annually on May 31, World No Tobacco Day is a global initiative led by the World Health Organization (WHO) to raise awareness about the harmful effects of tobacco use and to advocate for effective policies to reduce consumption. The 2025 theme, 'Protecting Children from Tobacco Industry Interference,' highlights the urgent need to shield youth from misleading marketing and addictive products. Tobacco kills over 8 million people each year, making it a leading cause of preventable deaths. The day urges individuals to quit and governments to enforce stricter control measures for a tobacco-free future.

#COOL-DOWN

'You need servicing'

It just gave up, like a resigned bureaucrat on a Friday afternoon!



Salil Dutt

The AC in my bedroom conked out in the middle of the night. Not sputtered. Not whimpered. It just gave up, like a resigned bureaucrat on a Friday afternoon. One moment, I was wrapped in Himalayan bliss, the next, drenched in Sahara sweat.

So I tossed and turned all night like a chicken before I doozed off. By morning, I looked like I'd spent the night dancing in a steam room, and felt like I'd been at war with a mattress and my melting dignity. The mechanic arrived late morning. Snooty fellow, eyes half shut, with indifference and an air of casual brilliance, like he knew the secrets of the universe, or at least the secrets of split ACs.

"It's a good brand," I told him hopefully, pointing at the machine like it was a pedigree dog that had soiled the carpet.

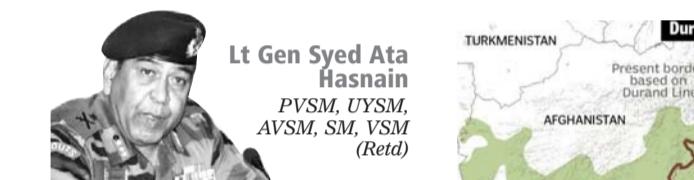
"The best," he nodded solemnly, opening the unit with the reverence of a surgeon unveiling a chest cavity.

"Then what's the problem?" I asked, hoping he wouldn't suggest I replace it with some obscure cousin from a new brand that he'd conveniently be selling on the side.

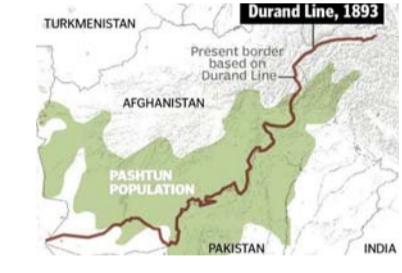
"Air vents clogged. Filters dirty. Fins choked. All jammed with muck. Sir, there's construction going on next door?" "Yes," I said. "It's been going on for the last two

The Afghan Taliban's vision for their country's future is not aligned with Pakistan's interests. Historically, Pakistan has sought to exert influence over Afghanistan through the backing of Islamists groups. That has now come a cropper after the return of the Taliban.

Who Will Be The Khalifa!!



Lt Gen Syed Ata Hasnain PVSM, UYSM, AVSM, SM, VSM (Retd)



Strangely on the Eastern and Western flanks respectively, both India and Pakistan are facing developing situations which were completely unexpected. India has the otherwise-friendly Bangladesh all of a sudden in a meltdown situation, resulting in a change of government, the streets taken up by sullen radical elements and no surety which direction this is going. Similarly, Pakistan is once Talibani-ruled Afghanistan, once its greatest ally, now in a virtual state of war with its own military exchanges all along the Durand Line and the death of several Pakistani soldiers. I intend to discuss both situations, but in separate articles. Here, there is focus on the developments on the Pakistan-Afghanistan border, which was exploited by these players through enhancement of the passions of resistance against the Soviets.



"years!" "All the more reason," he replied, with the wisdom of the Himalayas, "that you should have got it serviced regularly." He tinkered for the next hour while I hovered like a parent outside an operation theatre. Then, like Lazarus from the tomb, the AC sprang back to life. Cold, sweet air whooshed out, almost like a sigh of relief, mine, not the AC's.

And as I sat under the newly sanctified breeze, I couldn't help but think: Aren't we a bit like that air-conditioner?

We go through life with dust collecting in our systems, stress, deadlines, family drama, obnoxious WhatsApp forwards from hatted field friends. Slowly, our vents get clogged, our filters don't work, and our emotional fins seize up. Then, one day we snap. Temps flare. Health breaks down. Relationships stall. Spiritual life flattens.

And someone gently tells us, 'You need servicing.'

Not a vacation to Bali, though that sounds lovely. But simple, quiet servicing, like regular walks, fewer gulab jamuns, annual health check-ups, forgiving that ex-friend, meeting close friends and a little conversation with the Divine each morning, not a rant, not a chat, but a chat.

You see, our lives are surrounded by constant construction, of expectations, responsibilities, ambitions. And in all that dust, we forget to clean ourselves. My AC's working fine now. Who's cool? Just like the soul after a bit of prayer and the body after a morning stretch. Hope your vents aren't clogged. If they are, well, you know what to do. Service due, sir. Service due...!

years without the moral and material support, and the safe heavens provided to the Taliban leadership and fighters, by Pakistan. The US withdrawal from Afghanistan in August 2021 was considered a moment of victory for the Af-Pak combines. By a natural corollary, the results of that should have all gone to the advantage of Pakistan in the post-conflict stage, that is still under way. There are several

reasons why they have not. The Afghan Taliban's vision for their country's future is not aligned with Pakistan's interests. Historically, Pakistan has sought to exert influence over Afghanistan through the backing of Islamists groups. That has now come a cropper after the return of the Taliban. The latter is motivated by its own success over the Soviets and then over the US and NATO, that reinforces the age-old

Another point of contention is Pakistan's expectation of a 'payback,' with the Taliban taking action against the Pakistani terrorist group Tehrik-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP). Instead, the Afghan Taliban has provided it safe sanctuary and permission to operate from within Afghan territory. The Afghan Taliban's relationship with Pakistan has deteriorated due to this combination of factors, including disagreements over the Durand Line, ideological differences and a struggle for supremacy. It has also assumed to assume the leadership of the Islamic movement towards attainment of the legendary caliphate. Pakistan too is a serious contender for that in the global Islamic movement. This competition isn't good for peace between them.

The Afghan Taliban's ambition is driven by belief in its own ideological legitimacy and sense of history, both of which tend to reinforce its perceived mandate to lead the Islamic world. Its willingness to engage with India is based on some legitimate reasons. First is the necessity to win economic support regionally, before aspiring for a larger ambit for its role; and the current scope of economic support from Pakistan is next to nil.

Also, the perception about India remains positive in the minds of the Afghan population, many of whom make a beeline to

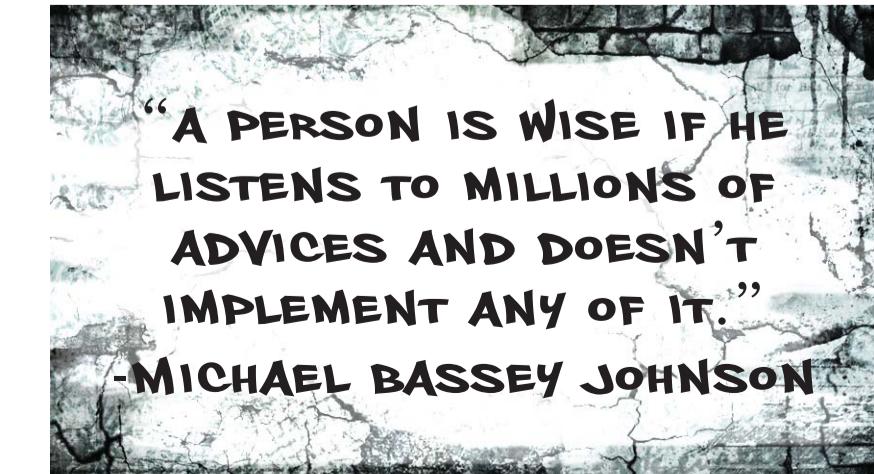
India for medical treatment and the general 'feel good' which comes from India's openness and better quality of life. The Taliban probably also assesses that its control over Afghanistan gives it the strategic ability to exert influence over the broader region of Central Asia, Middle East and South Asia. Being at the crossroads of civilizations perhaps evokes a 'Middle Ages' perception of the ability to spread ideology to the length and

diplomatic recognition. Though India has no truck with the TTP, the combined effect of an active western border between Pakistan and Afghanistan and the deeper involvement of Pakistan's counter-terrorism forces against the TTP create a temporary military advantage for India. Pakistan would need to be conscious of that while formulating its strategy in Jammu and Kashmir. An over-the-top Pakistan sponsored terrorist

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THE WALL



BABY BLUES



By Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott

ZITS

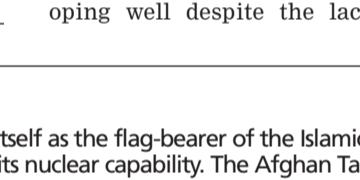


The latter is motivated by its own success over the Soviets and then over the US and NATO, that reinforces the age-old perception about the undefeatability of the Afghan people. This further adds to Taliban pride in not accepting what is perceived as the 'imposed border' called the Durand Line as the Pakistan-Afghanistan land border.

The Pak-Afghan Standoff!!



#STARE-N-DARE



perception about the undefeatability of the Afghan people. This further adds to Taliban pride in not accepting what is perceived as the 'imposed border' called the Durand Line as the Pakistan-Afghanistan land border. This line is viewed as a relic of colonialism and has never been formally recognised.

Pakistan has historically viewed itself as the flag-bearer of the Islamic world, with its large army and its nuclear capability. The Afghan Taliban challenge is from unexpected quarters and is damning even for the abiding Pakistani belief in the doctrine of strategic depth. To top it all for Pakistan, the Afghan Taliban has good relations with both China and Russia. Its relations with India are developing well despite the lack of

attack in J and K, with the intent of exhibiting relevance and commitment could turn into a trigger for a much stronger Indian response than may otherwise be expected.

Pakistan has often treated the turbulent western border region with a degree of contempt. It has never failed to use heavy weaponry and indulged in large-scale human rights violations through mass evacuation of villages and their full destruction through aerial bombing. The war against the Baloch Liberation Army (BLA) has also been intensifying, but without any major gains. The BLA has been targeting the Chinese workers and staff working on BRI projects. Obviously, Pakistan's security forces are overstretched with issues of their own making. Pakistan's military actions inside Afghanistan will fuel anti-Pakistan sentiments among the Afghan population and further alienate Pakistani Pashtuns, adding more fuel to the existing fires.

It's not as if the Afghan fighters will inflict defeat or stand-off with Pakistan, but this kind of disarray tends to perpetuate problems for Pakistan at a time when it must focus on economic issues and development. The developing India-Afghanistan relationship will probably flower faster, given the situation on the Afghan border. Under the circumstances, should India calibrate a quid pro quo threat against Pakistan if something similar builds up on our eastern borders with Bangladesh? There is room for discussion on this subject.

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From Sacred Scrolls to Sweet Celebrations, this Maharashtrian Flatbread has travelled through time!



A Slice from Ancient Scrolls

The Art of Making It Right

The Name Game: Puran + Poli

The Sweet, Savory, or Stuffed with Surprise?

The Art of Nostalgia

ing uncanny resemblance to what we now call puran poli. Even earlier, some believe that its ancestor appears in Vedic literature, used as an offering to deities. In those days, food was deeply spiritual. Dishes like puran poli weren't just fuel, they were symbols of prosperity, purity, and community.

Making puran poli is no joke. Its earliest mention dates back to medieval Sanskrit texts like 'Manasollasa,' a 12th-century encyclopedia compiled by King Somesvara III of the Chalukya dynasty. The text refers to a dish known as 'puranika,' a stuffed flatbread made of sweet lentil batter.

Together, they form a golden disc of goodness, cooked on a tawa and often finished with a lavish smear of ghee. Each region has its twist, but the essence remains the same, comfort food at its best.

Each bite across state lines tells a new story, sometimes sweet, sometimes nuttier, but always rooted in celebration.

Still, the traditionalists mainly, don't mess with perfection.

A Bite of Nostalgia

As anyone who grew up in a Maharashtrian home and they'll likely describe the same memory: the sound of a dal and jaggery boiling on a gas stove, the flour dust floating in the sunlit kitchen, and grandma's expert hands flipping golden discs while humming a bhajan. Puran poli is more than food. It's nostalgia on a plate, a bridge between generations, a recipe whispered between mothers and daughters, and a tradition you don't just taste, you feel.

So, What's the Secret Ingredient?

Some say it's jaggery. Others say it's the ghee. But those who really know will tell you, it's love and patience. Like any heirloom, puran poli isn't just made; it's crafted, with warmth, intention, and a pinch of magic. So, the next time you bite into that golden flatbread, remember: you're not just eating a sweet, you're part of a legacy that's been unfolding for over a thousand years. Isn't that worth celebrating?

Puran Poli and the Festivals of India

The Art of Nostalgia

The Sweet, Savory, or Stuffed with Surprise?

The Art of Nostalgia

