

'Assure Indian Science Congress will revive, there's room for more meets': K Vijay Raghavan

ANURADHA MASCARENHAS PUNE, JANUARY 18

ON A year that saw the Indian Science Congress being postponed for the first time in 100 years, Professor K Vijay Raghavan, former principal scientific advisor to the central government, expressed hope about the prestigious event making a comeback and also pointed out the scope for more science festivals, given the significant size of youth population in the country.

over the country. Professor Vijay Raghavan who is the chief scientific advisor of the Indian Science Festival that will be held in Pune on January 20 and 21, said.

The 109th edition of the Indian Science Congress that was scheduled on January 3 was postponed. Barring two pandemic years of Covid-19 in 2021 and 2022, this is the first time an event has been held every year since 1914.

"Looking at the age group of 15-25 in India - there are approximately 250 million people - more than the population of several countries - and here India needs to understand her responsibility globally and take action. This requires a deep understanding of both fundamental science in the context of so-

cieties and what to do about it through technology and application and so on," Prof Vijay Raghavan told The Indian Express, ahead of the festival to be held at the Indian Institute of Science Education and Research (IISER). The science expert said that youngsters through their curiosity can understand the world in an extraordinary way and such understandings are the streams of knowledge that feed into the goals of the nation and world.

"Hence without these streams, all science and technology will be useless," said Prof Vijay Raghavan, stressing on the importance of curiosity-driven work. When asked about the dismal findings of the Annual Status of Education Report that highlighted that most rural chil-



Professor K Vijay Raghavan.

dren aged between 14 and 18 years could not do Class 3-4 math and 25 per cent could not read, the professor said that any one approach taken will not

solve the problem.

"Specific efforts have to be taken that can demonstrate impact at a larger level - like the India Science Festival that will be held on a substantially large level every year. These efforts then can lead to solving countless problems," he said.

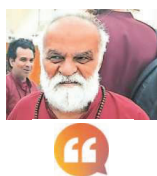
The India Science Festival is the flagship annual event of the Foundation for Advancing Science and Technology (FAST India), a non-profit institution working to enable the transformation of the country's science and technology ecosystem through research and policy, government support and science communication. Varun Aggarwal, founder of FAST India and founder of the India Science Festival, Towards Infinity Mind

machines and the Endless Frontier" told The Indian Express that over 60 talks will be held by scientists from Harvard, MIT, IIT, and IISc at the event.

The speakers include Prof Vijay Raghavan; Dr Soumya Swaminathan, former chief scientist of World Health Organisation; K Kris Gopalakrishnan, co-founder of Infosys; Prof Samir Trivedi from Harvard University, and others. Stunning photography showcasing science and science fiction stories will be hosted in the segment "The Best of Unfounded Science" (BoInSc India) by Rannvijay Singh Singh. "We aim to embed science into the youth and create a cool for them," Aggarwal said.

'Osho - Never Born Never Died: Words given by the mystic for his own samadhi'

SWAMI CHAITANYA KEERTI, a die-hard disciple of Osho, was associated with the Osho International Meditation Resort, better known as Osho Commune or Osho Ashram, from 1974 to 2001. The founding editor of Osho Times International and former spokesperson of the commune, Keerti is now part of the 'rebel' sanshin faction. In an interview with MANOJ MORE, Keerti throws light on the days preceding the death of the mystic on January 19, 1990.



THE EXPRESS INTERVIEW WITH SWAMI CHAITANYA KEERTI OSHO DISCIPLE

Before his death, for how many days was Osho not keeping well?

Osho's health took a severe beating when he was arrested and kept in a US jail for 12 days. The police said he was arrested because he was trying to flee the jail, but it was a ridiculous charge. In the jail, he was made to sleep on a mattress that exposed him to radiation... This came to light after his return from the West in 1987... We came to know about this as Osho spoke about it in his discourses at the Ashram.

When exactly did sanshinis realise that there was something wrong with Osho?

After his return from the US in 1987, Osho's discourses had become infrequent... There were short discourses... We were told that he was not well when he failed to make an appearance... Osho used to deliver his discourses in the Buddha Hall of the Osho Ashram in Pune to a gathering of at least 3,000, sometimes more than that.

Was he admitted to any hospital in Pune?

No, he was not admitted to any hospital. ENT specialist Dr Pramoj was requested to attend to Osho, but he was not called because he was experiencing a ache. Osho mentioned Dr Raj during his discourses.

Did you interact with Osho when he was not keeping well? Nobody was allowed to have

any interaction with Osho except his caretaker, his secretary and personal doctor, and occasionally, Swami Anand Jayesh (Michael O'Byrne), who died last year in the UK.

For how many days was Osho bed-ridden?

Osho stopped speaking on April 10, 1989. Before that, he was giving daily discourses to the audience during the evening satsang. After his death on April 10, he kept coming daily to the Buddha auditorium in the evenings for silent sitting, and gibberish meditation till January 17, 1990. Two days later, he left his body.

Were the sanshinis aware that Osho was nearing his death?

About nine-ten months before he left his body, something happened to his navel. This indicated that after 9-10 months, he would leave the body. This is what he told us. Another point is that a few weeks before he left his body, he himself gave the words to be inscribed on his samadhi: 'Osho - Never Born Never Died. Only Visited This Planet Earth Between 11 Dec, 1931 to Jan 1990!'

FULL REPORT ON www.indianexpress.com

Upsetting to see theatres in country named after politicians and not artists, says Naseeruddin Shah

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE PUNE, JANUARY 18

ACTOR NASEERUDDIN Shah Thursday said that it is upsetting to see that most theatres in the country are not named after artists and instead they are named after politicians.

He was speaking at the formal inauguration of the 'Shreeram Lagoo Rang - Avakash' set up by the Lagoo family and the Maharashtra Cultural Centre. The state-of-the-art Black Box theatre is developed on the first floor of the Jyotsna Bhole Sahagruha Building, Hirabaug, Tilak Road.

While speaking on the occasion, Shah said, "It bothers me as an artist to know that there are theatres named after politicians but not the artists like Shambhu Mitra, Utpal Dutt, Girish Karnad, B V Karnath, Sayadev Dabre or Tanvir Habib. Even a stubble like Maharashtra, which has been the birthplace of theatre plays, does not have theatres in the



Actor Naseeruddin Shah at the inauguration of the 'Shreeram Lagoo Rang - Avakash' in Pune on Thursday. Pawan Khengre

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I saw Dr Lagoo's play 'Aadhe Adhore'. I had already read the Hindi version of it, twice. But the moment I saw Dr Lagoo perform in this play, my heart skipped a beat, and my eyes were wide open. His intonation and the clarity in voice were outstanding and we could hear it till the last row. The way his eyes did the talking, and the way he controlled his emotions, left a craft played on his fingertips," he reminisced.

"I was stunned by Dr. Lagoo's performances in 'Gidhaha', 'Kasturi' and 'Surya Pahilela Manas'. I even asked myself if I could ever perform like him, but the answer was no. But as a young artist, I unknowingly kept learning from him like 'Ekdoya', Shah added.

Dr. Agashe said that today's changing times, Dr Shreeram Lagoo and Naseeruddin Shah can be called 'Theatre Loyalists'. "Because even if they've done anything else worldwide, they've always remained dedicated to theatres," he said.

Worker's hand chopped off from wrist in hydraulic press

PUNE: A worker's hand was chopped off from his wrist while he was working on a hydraulic press machine at a private company in Ambethan village in Khed taluka of Pune district on Tuesday.

An FIR was registered at the Mahalunge MIDC police station of Pimpri Chinchwad police on Wednesday, based on the victim Dinesh Sharma's (29) complaint. Police have booked the company supervisor under Section 338 (Causing grievous hurt by act endangering life or personal safety of others) of the IPC.

According to police, Sharma alleged that even after he completed his work target, the supervisor made him work for two more hours on January 16. The Pramoj was requested to attend to Osho, but he was not called because he was experiencing a ache. Osho mentioned Dr Raj during his discourses.

No arrest has been made yet, but the police have launched a probe into the case. ENS

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Tender Notice -137 (2023-24) Project Implementation Unit, Gandhinagar (Gujarat) (Health & Family Welfare Dept.). Online Tenders for Health Care facilities. Various works of various Districts Gujarat as below are invited by the Superintending Engineer Project Implementation Unit, NRIM/PIU Building 4th floor, Civil Hospital Campus, Gandhinagar-382012. Ph: 07923231434, 23231383.

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA OFFICE OF THE PANCHAYAT SAMITI, PATNA NOTICE INVITING TENDER FOR Procurement Online Bid No. 02 - Patna (JKR/2023-2024) No. 89 Dtd.10.01.2024. The Block Development Officer, Patna, Kowbar on behalf of Government of Odisha invites online percentage rate tender through "P" procurement to be received in online mode for the work as detailed in the Annexure to this bid notice.

OMKARA ASSETS RECONSTRUCTION PVT. LTD. Corporate Office: Kohinor Square, 47th Floor, N.C. Kelkar Marg, R. G. Gadkari Chowk, Dadar (West), Mumbai - 400028. Email: Pratiksha.patel@omkara.com. Appendix - IVA [See proviso to rule 8 (6) Rule 9(1)] PUBLIC NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMovable PROPERTY

PUBLIC NOTICE-AUCTION CUM SALE OF PROPERTIES Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002. E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8 (6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.