

Modi, Putin To Hold An Informal Summit

US Apologized After Navdeep Bains Told To Remove His Turban

NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi will visit Russia on May 21 for an informal summit with Russian President Vladimir Putin in Sochi.

Modi will be travelling to Russia at Putin's invitation.

This comes after the informal summit between Modi and Chinese President Xi Jinping in China last month.

An External Affairs Ministry release on Monday said Modi's visit to Russia will be an important occasion for him and Putin to exchange views on international matters in a broad and long-term perspective in order to further strengthen the special and privileged strategic partnership.

"Both leaders will discuss their

respective national developmental priorities and bilateral matters," a press release said. It said that the informal summit was in keeping with the tradition of regular consultations between India and Russia at the highest level.

The Sochi meeting comes in the wake of Washington pulling out of the nuclear deal signed between Iran and six world powers (Britain, China, France, Germany, Russia and the US).

Putin is also expected to visit India later this year for the annual bilateral summit.

Russia and Japan are the only two countries with which India holds annual bilateral summits.

Putin won a fourth term in office in March this year.

OTTAWA: US security officials have apologised after a Sikh minister of Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's Cabinet was asked to remove his turban at a US airport before boarding a flight last year.

Minister of Innovation, Science and Economic Development Navdeep Bains said the incident happened at Detroit Metro Airport on his way back to Canada in April 2017. He said airport staff had behaved inappropriately.

Bains said the security guards asked him to undergo special screening because of his turban, despite passing through the metal detector. But the test malfunctioned. That is when a security official asked him to remove his turban for inspection. Bains said



Canada to complain to US officials. The US Transportation Security Administration (TSA) and the Department of Homeland Security apologised to Canada on behalf of the US government.

"It was an experience that made me uncomfortable," Bains told Quebec newspaper La Presse. "I never told them who I was, because I wanted to know how things would go for people who are not ministers or lawmakers."

US' TSA spokesman Michael McCarthy said: "We regret the screening experience did not meet the expectations of Bains. Upon review of CCTV, we determined that the officer the screening did not follow standard operating procedures."

Royal Wedding Will Inspire Future Nuptial Trends

LONDON: For those who harbour Disney-themed fantasies for their pending nuptials, the union of Prince Harry and Meghan Markle promises to be a feast of regal inspiration, wedding watchers say.

In keeping with a long history of royal trend-setting, the matrimony on May 19 could dictate styles for seasons to come - from the cut of the wedding dress, to the floral arrangements, to the length of the guest list, said Molly Lux, a Saskatoon-based wedding planner. "They're royalty. They're kind of the epitome of trends and what's hot in the wedding world," said Lux.

"They just do everything so big and grand, and everyone kind of stops and watches."

The 2011 wedding of Prince William and the now Duchess of Cambridge, formerly Kate Middleton, had a noticeable influence on what Lux's clientele envisioned for their big day.

After the bride's sister, Pippa

Middleton, made jaws drop in a form-fitting ivory gown as a maid of honour, Lux said she saw a spike in demand for white bridesmaid dresses.

As Kensington Palace scrupulously doles out details about Prince Harry and Markle's nuptials, Lux said the information that has been made public reflects current bridal trends as much as it looks to set future fashions.

The couple's florist is harvesting in-season foliage from the gardens surrounding Windsor Castle to arrange designs that reflect the wild and natural landscape of the wedding locale, palace officials said.

An untamed, "picked off the road" floral esthetic has also been popular among engaged couples Lux has worked with this season.

Prince Harry and Markle could also help bring back the cake-cutting tradition, which has been sidelined for years in favour of bite-sized dessert tables, said Lux. For Halifax bride-to-be



Royal fans wait to watch a rehearsal of the royal wedding of Prince Harry and Meghan Markle. (AP Photo/Frank Augstein)

Maggie-Jane Parker, there's an allure surrounding the royal wedding for both practical and aspirational reasons. "As a young girl, you dream of that princess wedding and finding prince charming, and it's still very much in the narrative of romantic stories, even today," she said.

A former actress and divorcee, Markle's very inclusion in the

royal family signals a break from stuffy notions that your true love has to be your first, Parker said.

She and her fiancé have drawn inspiration from the couple's politician-averse guest list, which she said has helped relieve some of the pressure when it comes inviting divisive figures to her own nuptials.

If Harry and Markle can snub

global leaders like U.K. Prime Minister Theresa May, U.S. President Donald Trump and Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, Parker said "maybe not inviting that uncle isn't going to be the end of the world."

One of the most hotly anticipated reveals in the wedding world will come when Markle steps out in her wedding dress, said Kim Ironmonger, designer and owner of Toronto's Valencienne Bridal.

"The minute the dress is coming out of the carriage, designers are very rapidly taking inspiration from that dress, or even actually copying that dress as close as possible," she said. "Whatever look they're going for, they could set a trend."

Toronto-based royal watcher Patricia Treble, who runs Write-Royalty.com, said whichever designer Markle chooses, the dress will likely be preserved for posterity. She said many royal wedding dresses are treated as "works of art". - CP

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