



# ROYAL HARBINGER

Reporting Fact of the Matter

Weekly

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Kids' painting exhibition



Udaipur: As many as 600 paintings made by children were showcased in Arwana the Shopping destination at Hathipole. These paintings were done last year on the occasion of Mother's Day. Zaheer Abbas, the manager of Arwana Shopping Destination apprised that last year these 300 kids drew their love for their mother on canvases beautifully. The exhibition has painting by all kids irrespective of their standing in the competition.

Town Planners Congress Held

Udaipur: The sixth national town and country planners congress was inaugurated by Industry minister Rajpal Singh Shekhawat in a resort in Udaipur. The congress is being attended by various planners, experts, and administrative officers. In the inauguration session, Shekhawat stressed upon implementation of town and country planning act in the country. He termed the town planning an important tool for better life. Talking about the current situation of cities in India, the president of Institute of Town Planners Dr. DS Meshwam said that there are about 8000 cities in India and only 2600 have the master plan implemented. He further said that we also lack the number of degree holder planners which is causing a blockage in implementation of the plans. Pradeep Kapoor, the secretary general of Institute of Town Planners India apprised about various technical sessions and outline of the seminar. Ravindra Shrivastava, the UIT chairman and Gopal Khandelwal, the president of Urban Improvement Trust Bhilwara was also present. A Thank you note was delivered by president of Udaipur chapter Mr. BS Kanawat. A discussion on integrated implementations of development plans was also conducted. The second session was basically about the availability of financial resources.

## "Demonetisation"

# A Look Back at the last Two Months

Arun Jaitley: "Two months have passed since the Prime Minister announced the decision that high denominational currency notes would cease to be a legal tender. Subsequently those notes have been demonetised. When 86% of a country's currency constituting 12.2% of its GDP, is squeezed out of the market and sought to be replaced by a new currency, there would obviously be significant consequences of that decision. Now that the queues outside the banks have disappeared and the demonetisation has moved ahead, it would be worthwhile to analyse the rationale behind the decision and its impact.

**1. Steps against Black Money-** The Narendra Modi Government had absolute clarity from day one that it would move against the shadow economy and black money. It's first decision was to constitute SIT under the directions of the Supreme Court. The Prime Minister had proposed to the G-20 at Brisbane that international cooperation in sharing information with regard to base erosion and profit shifting should be expedited. The arrangement with the United States furthered this object. The NDA Government completed its agreement with Switzerland that w.e.f. 2019, details of assets held by Indian citizens in Switzerland and vice versa would be provided to each other. Since 1996, the Double Taxation Avoidance Treaty with Mauritius was being renegotiated. The treaty effectively incentivised round-tripping. It was renegotiated. Similar treaties with Cyprus and Singapore have also been

renegotiated. The Black Money Law dealing with illegal assets outside India opened a window for disclosure with 60% tax and provides a ten year imprisonment. The Income Declaration Scheme (IDS) 2016 was highly successful with a 45% tax. The PAN card requirement for cash transaction beyond rupees two lakhs put hurdles on expenditure through black money. The Benami law legislated in 1988 and never implemented. It was amended and has been put into action. The GST, which is scheduled to be implemented this year, will provide for better indirect tax administration and being a more efficient law will check tax evasion. The demonetisation of high denominational currency notes was the big step in the same direction.

**2. The new normal -** In the year 2015-16, 3.7 crore assesses of the total population of over 125 crores, filed income tax returns. Out of these, 99 lakhs declared income below Rs.2.5 lakhs and paid no taxes; 1.95 crores declared income less than Rs.5 lakhs; 52 lakhs declared income between Rs.5 to 10 lakhs, and only 24 lakhs declared income above Rs.10 lakhs. No better evidence is required to substantiate that both in the matter of direct and indirect taxes India continues to suffer being a hugely tax non-compliant society. Expenditure required for poverty eradication, national security and economic development have to be compromised with on account of tax non-compliances. For seven decades the Indian "normal" has been to undertake transactions partly in cash and partly in cheque.

"Pucca" and "Kachha" accounts are a part of the business language. Tax evasion has been considered as neither unethical nor immoral. It was just a way of life. Several Governments have allowed this "normal" to continue even though this compromised with larger public interest. The Prime Minister's decision is intended to create a new "normal". It seeks to change the expenditure pattern of India and Indians. It is obviously disruptive. All reforms are disruptive. They change the retrograde status quo. The demonetisation puts a premium on honesty and penalises dishonest conduct.

**3. The adverse consequences of Cash -** Paper currency is a zero interest anonymous bearer bond. It has no name or history attached to it. Crime can take place with or without cash but excessive cash as a medium of exchange is favoured by the underground economy. It results in non-compliance in the matters of tax payments which creates an unjust enrichment in favour of the evader as against the poor and the deprived. Mountains of cash money reach tax havens through the hawala route from the original paper currency. Cash facilitates real time untraceable payments. Cash is the medium which funds bribery, corruption, counterfeit currency and terrorism. Ethical and developed societies aided by technology have consistently moved towards banking and digital transactions as against the excessive use of cash. Paper currency opens the doors for many vices. When Governments are able to collect more tax from tax



evaders, they are in a better position to collect less tax from everyone else. Reducing cash may not eliminate crime and terrorism but it can inflict serious blow on them. States have shown that the stores of cash do not disappear on their own till Governments take active steps to reduce the quantum of paper currency.

**4. The magnitude of the decision -** The Prime Minister's decision to replace the high denominational currency and eventually demonetise it required both courage and stamina. The implementation of the decision carried pain. It can lead to short term criticism and inconveniences. Drop in economic activity on account of the currency squeeze during the demonetisation period would have a transient impact on the economy. The decision involves high level of secrecy and printing substantial amounts of paper currency, distribution through banks, post offices, banking mitras and ATMs. The fact that large quantum of high denominational currency has been deposited with the banks does not render this money to be legitimate cash. Black money does not change its colour merely because it is deposited in bank. On the con-

trary, it loses its anonymity and can now be identified with its owner. The Revenue Department would thus be entitled to tax this money. In any case, the amendment to the Income Tax Act itself provides that the said money, if voluntarily declared or if involuntarily detected, would be liable for differential and high rates of taxation and penalty.

**5. The situation today -** The period of pain and inconveniences is getting over. Economic activity is being restored. The banks today admittedly have a lot more money available in order to lend for growth. Since this money constitutes low cost deposits with the banks, it is bound to bring down the rate of interest. Both these things have already happened. Lakhs of crores, which were floating in the market as loose currency, have now entered the banking system. Not only has the money lost its anonymity, it's owners, after being taxed, are entitled to put it to more effective uses. The size of the banking transactions and consequently the size of the economy is bound to increase. In the medium and long run, the GDP would be bigger and cleaner. Money entering into

the banking system and officially transacted would give an ample scope for higher taxation - both direct and indirect. The Centre and the State Governments would both stand to gain. The economy would also be serviced by both cash and highly digitized transactions. **6. The Opposition -** There was no social unrest while implementing such a major decision. All opinion polls conducted by independent media organizations have shown that an overwhelmingly large percentage of people have supported the Government's decision. The opposition disrupted a full Session of Parliament. Their protests have been ineffective. Their exaggerated claims on the disruption of the economy have proved wrong. It is a tragedy that a national party like the Congress decided to adopt a political position, opposing both technology, change and reforms. It sided with black money friendly status quo. **7. The marked difference -** There was a marked difference in the approach of the Prime Minister and his opponents. The Prime Minister was being futuristic, and thinking of a more modern, technology driven cleaner economy. He is now speaking of cleaning the political funding systems. His opponents want a cash dominated, cash generating and cash exchange system to continue. The difference between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Rahul Gandhi was clear - the Prime Minister was thinking of the next generation while Rahul Gandhi was only looking at how to disrupt the next Session of Parliament."

## Q & A with GM Radisson Udaipur Mr Richard Barooah



**RH: - As your hotel completes one year - What are the highlights of the year?**

Richard: - Radisson Udaipur has completed its first year of operations by end of December 2016, so it was fairly easy to measure its performance parameters.

Radisson Udaipur city's being first upscale MNC business hotel managed by Carlson Rezidor, it had to do its positioning very distinctly among all other hotels of the city and it

was very successful exercise. Previously most of the business clientele used to stay scattered mostly in resort properties. As Carlson Rezidor hotel and one of the leading hotel brand we understand the need of today's discerning business travelers as our domain expertise. We mostly focused on business traveler and mid-size MICE business along some share of FIT business segments. This gave a boon to the hotel allowing the hotel to do a higher occupancy and more of repeated business from corporate, hence the hotel never saw any low season which is common in a tourist destination like Udaipur city. Apart from that our main focus was on guest satisfaction which we managed to close on top ten ranking among all Carlson Rezidor hotel in South East Asia along with our employee satisfaction with over 90%. As a business hotel we also focused on Food & Beverage business from the local market, where we inducted various food festival for all dwellers of Udaipur, as most of the property in Udaipur mostly focus only on in-house guest. This dimension has set a new trend among all local people to try world cuisines which different from regular cuisine which we hosted mostly every month calling our specialty chef from our various property. Radisson Udaipur's F3, the 1st night club of the city which host various events with popular DJ from the music world for its guest which was again new concept to the city and it is accepted very well by all kind of travelers along with local young crowd as the city was missing on night life. Overall the hotel closed with the highest occupancy in the city even being the first year of operations, which is really factor to cherish for time to come.

**RH: - What will be different and new in Radisson Udaipur in the New Year?**

Richard: - Well the strategies we adopted this year made us very successful in the first year of operations, so we would follow most of them just tweaking a few only. However will give more exciting options on food festival and hosting bigger events with celebrity DJ and various famous music bands from the country. We would also do few book release from various famous publishers also we will host various art and craft exhibitions to promote local talents into the global market. In terms of food we would do some innovative food festival with alternative healthy and organic food, which would be new concept to Udaipur city.

## Vaishya Society Session & Sarang 2017 Held



Udaipur: Udaipur Women from Vaishya society were felicitated last week during a session of Vaishya Mahasammelan. Bhauri Devi rawat, Kaushlaya Gattani, Sapna Gupta, Neena Agrawal, Reetu Agrawal, Leela Vijaywargiya were among the honored women. The program

was graced by Baburam Gupta, the international general secretary, Rajasthan Vaishya federations president Shalini Rajvanshi, Udaipur's society president Anil Nahar, Yugraj Jain, Prakash Chechani, Pinki Mandawat, Pranita Talesra.

More than 1200 women and girls participated in the program.

On Sunday, Fun fair Sarang 2017 has been organized successfully by women wing of Zila Vaishya Maha sammelan Udaipur cell at Shubh kesar Garden. In this 65 stalls of women apparel, jewellery, bags and many essential items of home décor were staled by participants.

Chair person Pinki Mandawat informed that during the fair various competitions of Rangoli, Hina, dance, face paintings and competitions of haouji were organized. The fair was

inaugurated by the Mayor C S Kothari and the social activists KG Gattani jointly. Fair coordinator Kavita Baldana and the youth president Pankaj Toshniwal informed that under the guidance of Anil Nahar, district president award giving ceremony was organized in which state president Atma ram Gupta, General secretary Arun Gupta and S P Chittor prasanna khamesra distributed prizes from winners for various competitions. vote of thanks was delivered by K S Jindal and the programme was convined by Prakash Chechani.

## Free Camp for Kidney Diseases

Udaipur: A 3-day free medical camp for kidney diseases to start from Monday at GBH American Hospital. Group director DrAnand Jha informed that nephrologist Dr Anurag Jain will provide free consultation to kidney patients in the 3-day free medical camp. In this camp, all kidney patients will be able to get any related information regarding kidney diseases. During this camp, any treatment will be provided with a discount of 20 percent. Free medical camp was organized in MahaveerBhawan situated at Sector 3 from 10 AM to 2:00 PM on Sunday on behalf of GBH American Hospital and Mahaveer Jain Society. In this camp, doctors from urology, cardiology, gynaecology, gastroenterologist and spine surgery will be providing consultation.

## 8-Day Ayurved Camp this week

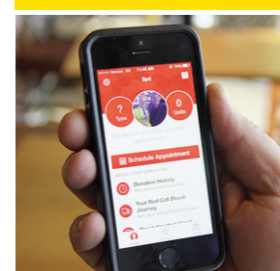
Udaipur: Eight days of this week will provide a golden opportunity to the citizen to get treated for various ailments in natural and ayurvedic way. Municipal Corporation and Ayurved Department jointly are organizing an Ayurved camp of 8 days in the community hall of Shivaji Nagar. Mayor Chandra Singh Kothari told that the corporation has been organizing such camps fare of citizens time to time.

## Khushi 2017 Calendar Released



Udaipur: Hindustan Zinc recently organized "Khushi Creative Workshop" in Udaipur in which 250 school children got together to increase awareness amongst common public of disadvantaged children. These children sent a message with their motive and drew on canvas on 8 topics such as child marriage, child abuse, child begging, child protection, child trafficking, child labor, child malnutrition and child education. 48 art works were selected and made into Khushi 2017 calendar which was revealed recently. These artworks also have the children's names and the name of their schools printed on it.

## Bloodman app will give security cover to blood donation



Udaipur: Mobile app Bloodman for free blood donation was launched at Sukhadiya Circle on Friday. Cafe manager Riddhi Mehta, Harsh Mehta and app expert from Vadodara Anshuman informed that through this mobile app, any person in emergency requiring blood will be able to obtain blood in minutes.

People associated with this app will get an alert as to where blood is required. After this, the blood donor will be contacted directly without a second medium and he will be able to donate blood without any delay. Riddhi said that if we can get a taxi through a phone call, we can also save a life through just one call. Till now 800 people are associated with this app in Gujarat, in Udaipur, too, people can install 'Bloodman' app through Google Play Store and get associated with this mission. The services will be available 24/7. Riddhi urges that more and more youth should get associated with this mission and create a security cover. On this occasion, social worker Dinesh Mehta was also present.