

## If codeine-based medicines are banned than.....

**Udaipur:** The Indian agriculture sector which used to be the backbone of the country's economy, is cracking. The incompetency of the government in providing solutions is further worsening the condition of the farmers, agricultural laborers and those dependent on farming. Increase in farmers' agitations and suicides over the last few years is a mirror to this sad reality. The latest dent can come in the shape of a proposed ban on medically safe codeine-based cough syrups prepared from opium alkaloids, which will directly affect opium poppy farmers in Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan.

A special expert committee formed under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW) is reviewing the safety, efficacy and therapeutic justification of codeine-based medicines and is all set to submit a report with its decision on the ban, early July.

A committee set-up by the Ministry of Health is contemplating banning codeine-based cough syrups, that are medically proven, clinically safe and were approved by the Drug Control General of India (DCGI) in 1995. Potential abuse of these cough syrups is purported as one of the reasons, said a reliable source in the Ministry of Health who did want to be identified. In fact, codeine-based cough syrups are considered a gold standard for decades for management of dry cough, across the globe. A potential ban would deny patients of an effective treatment option.

Devesh Malladi, Chairman of Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Committee of Indian Drug Manufacturers Association (IDMA), said "Data from a study conducted at NIMHANS showed that codeine abuse is 0.7% of the study sample compared to 21% related to alcohol. The seizure data of Narcotics Control Bureau, the nodal agency responsible for enforcement of NDPS, also showed a seizure of only 0.053% of the total codeine produced and consumed in the country, in 2016 Vs 0.08% in 2014. Both indicating the relatively marginal nature of the abuse problem in the country which is on a decline. Moreover, abuse cannot be considered a criterion for banning a clinically effective and safe product".

A source in the Central Bureau of Narcotics, responsible for giving out licenses to farmers said that any ban on Codeine based cough syrup would deprive the livelihoods of thousands of farmers in the states of MP and Rajasthan.

Currently, opium alkaloids are extracted in just two government factories in India – Neemuch and Ghazipur and codeine phosphate comprises more than 90% of its sales revenue. There would be no option but to close shutters if the ban on codeine cough syrups is implemented by the government. About 1,000 employees work in these two factories. This may ultimately lead to closure of the Government Opium Alkaloid Factory (GOAF) at Neemuch.

Over the last 10 years, the cultivated area under poppy in India has declined drastically, from 26,000 hectares to 1,050 hectares in 2016. The number of farmers shrunk from 1.60 lakh farmers 10 years ago, to 50,000 currently. While opium farming is shrinking in India, the need of opium for medical use has increased multifold globally.

Hukumchand Patidar, Organic Farming Chief, Rajasthan & an Opium Farmer said, "The crop we produce has proven medical value, we are not growing drugs. We are doing noble work by helping millions of patients across the globe but our government's attitude towards poppy farming is worrisome. We strongly oppose the government's plan to ban Codeine based drugs. Opium is mostly used in India to manufacture Codeine Phosphate, which is the key ingredient used in many cough syrups. If the government's motive is to put a stop on illegal drug trafficking in the country, then the government should provide a deserving cost for the local opium yield. We appeal to the government to provide 10,000 per kg for the opium yield, so the illegal trade could be made unattractive in the country. If the government bans Codeine-based medicines, we will lose our source of income. In case the government still chose to buy the produce from us, in absence of a requirement for the finished product it would lose value over the years and will also increase the incidence of abuse through the black market."

Poppy seeds or Khas-Khas, a popular condiment and additive in foods across the world, is also a byproduct of the opium farming. The white Indian variant of the poppy seeds are quite popular and demand for it, is increasing in global cuisines. In addition to opium alkaloids and poppy seeds, poppy straws also a source of revenue for these farmers. But, the government's decisions to stop purchasing poppy straws, and start importing poppy seeds have further exacerbated the situation, which is depriving the Indian farmers of the various advantages of the opium plant.

Despite being the largest derivative from the Indian opium poppy, in order to meet the legitimate domestic demand for codeine phosphate, India has to also import the high value finished bulk product, mainly for usage in cough medicines. As per the United Nations' International Narcotics Control Board (INCB) Report 2016 'the main countries importing codeine in 2016 were India (25.9 tonnes), Germany (17.5 tons) and Canada (14.6 tons).

## YOUTH FROM KASHMIR VALLEY AIM TO BECOME PROFESSIONALS

**Kota:** (K.Abbasy) in spite of notorious tag for stone pelt-ing on Kashmir youth, several youngsters from the Valley are converging to Kota for attending coaching classes with the dream of becoming professionals like doctors and engineers.

Currently, more than 1000 students from Kashmir that includes over 300 girls are estimated to be studying in various coaching institutes in Kota - the hub of coaching centres.

According to Naveen Maheshwari, director of Allen Career Institute, there are about 850 students from the valley admitted to his centre here wanting to succeed in various national competitive exams.

"It is a matter of pride as well as happiness that the number of students coming into Kota from Kashmir for coaching is rising every year and we are committed to providing them the best environment for study here," he said.

With inclination towards education, the youths in J&K are playing significant role in nation building and for offering a bright tomorrow for their state, he added. Around 500 of them appeared at NEET, JEE – mains and JEE – Advance and notably around 200 of them qualified for counseling in any of the three 'considered to be toughest' of the entrance tests, he claimed.

# UDAIPUR EDUCATION AWARDS 2018 ORGANIZED



Udaipur Education Awards 2018 was organized on Saturday at Udaipur by Radio City in association with Arth Diagnostics and supported by various organisations like Volkswagen JSG-Samta, Frozen Apple Events, My Gurukul, Crossword Stationers, Udaipur Blog, The City Angle, Prateek Power Industries,

Prompt Infracom and DNA being the Print Media Partner. In the Introduction Speech about the function by Dr. Arvinder Singh, Director Arth Diagnostics Udaipur, It was told that the award ceremony is being organized to celebrate and felicitate excellence, reputation and exemplary work in the Education Sector in a spec-



tacular style.

The Education Awards showcase the high academic goals and outstanding achievements through innovation, leadership, dedication and commitment towards learning.

According to the Chief Guest of the event Shri Uma Shankar Sharma, VC-MPUAT, Udaipur,

quently the companies that employ them.

List of awardees are as under: - PRACHI MEHTA, LAKSHI KOTHARI, DILIP YADAV, PRADEEP NAGDA, YATINDRA KUMAWAT, GIRISH SHARMA, KAMAL RATHORE, MANJU MANDOT, ANIL KOTHARI, RS VYAS &



the best performers and greatest innovators in the industry were vouching for the fact that success comes only by determination, devotion and creating exceptional customer/client experience i.e. the experience of its students and subse-

MEERARANAWAT, M.K. JAIN, MAHENDRA SOJATIA, MANOJ BISARTHI, INDRAJEET SINGHVI, RAHUL BADALA & B.P. SHARMA. These awards intend to inspire others towards bigger and better achievements.

## Lakecity kids walk 729kms in 32 days

**Udaipur:** Two kids from Udaipur, Tanya Rathi (14) and Aryan Rathi (16) walked the Camino de Santiago route covering 450 miles (i.e. ~729 kms). The kids, accompanied by their father Vinay Rathi covered the distance in 32 days.

The kids along with their father started the walk from Pamplona and reached Santiago de Compostela after 32 days. The route also known as "Way of Saint James" in English (amongst many other names), is a network of pilgrims' ways serving pilgrimage to the shrine of the apostle Saint James the Great in the cathedral of Santiago de Compostela in Galicia in northwestern Spain.

Vinay Rathi said that he had been training his kids about the path for quite some time and was very excited on the completion. This place is often crowded in summers with a large number of people taking up the walk during this time. On an average, walking a distance of about 25kms daily helps in covering the path in about 32-35 days.

Vinay Rathi further informed that the route starts from Saint-Jean-Pied-de-Port and passes through Pamplona, Burgos, Lyon and other smaller cities.

## Jogi Talab to turn into a tourist spot

**Udaipur:** A tree plantation programme was organized at Jogi Talab, Gulab Chand Kataria participated among others as a Chief Guest. The periphery of the entire Jogi Talab is all set for plantation in this monsoon session with the objective to develop it as new tourist spot.

UIT Chairman Ravindra Shrivastava informed Kataria on the plantation motive in and around.

Recently, an 840 mtr long and 40 ft wide ring road has been constructed around the lake costing Rs 43 Lakhs. Plans are also on for greening the small hills around the lake with the objective of converting this into a tourist spot in times of come.

During the programme, Kataria visited affordable housing units for which lottery for house allocation has already been carried out.

## Language and culture museum in Rajasthan Vidyapeeth

**Udaipur:** A language and culture museum is likely soon to be opened in Rajasthan Vidyapeeth. This decision was taken as a major in a meeting of Academic Council was held in Janardan Rai Nagar Rajasthan Vidyapeeth on Thursday. The meeting was chaired by VC Prof. SS Sarangdevot.

In the meeting of Academic Council, it was decided that a language and culture museum should be opened to connect students and common public with Indian languages and culture. The museum will be opened in Pratap Nagar campus.

Prof. GM Mehta, Dr. Manju Mandot, Prof. Jeevan Singh Kharakwal, Prof. Sunita Singh, Prof. Saroj Garg, Dr. Yuvraj Singh Rathore and many other educationists were present on this occasion.

## CII awards Hindustan Zinc for Best Environmental Practices – Year 2018

**Udaipur:** Hindustan Zinc's Central Research and Development Laboratory (CRDL) won the "5th CII Environmental Best Practices Award 2018" under the category – "Innovative Environmental Project" at the 7th Greenco Summit 2018.



Summit organized by CII.

Summit was held in Chennai on 27th June 2018 to fur-

ther advance the need & importance of green initiatives in Indian industry and share the latest green concepts & technologies.

The award was presented to Hindustan Zinc for the CRDL project – "Utilizing Lead-Zinc Industry Wastes in Construction Sector (Paver Blocks)".

On behalf of Hindustan Zinc, Ashish Kumar, Sheeba Mashruwala and Kiran Rokkam represented Hindustan Zinc, presented the case study and addressed a thorough Q&A session.

Pavan Kaushik, Head – Corporate Communication, Hindustan Zinc said, "We are very glad to receive the CII Environmental Best Practices Award. Hindustan Zinc has strong focus on energy & water conservation and uses environment friendly technologies in all its operations. The award recognizes the efforts of Hindustan Zinc towards zero discharge and zero waste."

Over 70 companies participated in the CII Environmental Best Practices Award 2018 with 158 case studies, out of which 18 case studies were selected for the final round of CII Environment Best Practices Award 2018 competition.

## 10000 plus skaters will roll together on 28th June

**Udaipur:** An open district level skating competition was held in Sector-3 in MDS School Hiranmagri. 90 children participated in this skating competition held by Skates India club, Jaipur and Sahil Skating College. A record will be created on international level on 28th June when more than 10000 skaters of India will perform together.

Coach Sahil informed that more than 10000 children of India will perform together on 28th June and create a world record in skating. 100 skaters from Udaipur will be in a non-stop action on 28th June in MDS School from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Competitions were held in the category of under-4 to under-16. Priyanshi, Tanzim, Yash, Farhan, Onil, Virat, Dennis, Rudra, Daksh, Saumya, Bhaavi, Saanchi, Rudraa, Arvi, Yashi, Kamy, Divanshi, Nandini, Dhairya and Khushi stood first. Among those who stood second are Divyanshi, Raj, Ishaan, Ahramb, Harun, Bhavy, Saksham, Mishu, Yash, Ayushi, Gauri, Garvita and Lakshana. Nihar, Lakshya, Harshil, Sarthak, Nimit, Devdeep, Heer and Navya stood 3rd.

Winners were rewarded by Dinesh Shrivastava, MDS Director Shailendra Somani and Surya Prakash Suhalka. Out of the skaters who stood first, some will be selected for State level competition to be held in Jaipur.

## Yoga on Skates – non stop 60 minutes by Advit

**Udaipur:** Advit Porwal, student of Pre-Nursery at Seedling School Nursery Branch has been an avid skater for more than a year and has attempted and won few competitions in speed roller skating since then. This summer vacation has been spent in many practices to meet new challenges in an unusual category which culminated on International yoga day with "Yoga on skates".

Advit along with 90 other children made the first record of Yoga on Skates at the National, Asian & global level, by performing yoga for 60 minutes non-stop on skates. This event was organized by Shree Ram skating club.

Apart from these laurels he has won a silver medal in "Summer Race" organized by Udaipur Amateur Roller Skating Association held on 3rd June 2018 & a Bronze medal in 500 meter race in speed roller skating.

## HINDUSTAN ZINC DIGITIZES 100 RURAL GOVERNMENT SCHOOLS OF GWALIOR, MADHYA PRADESH

**Udaipur:** Hindustan Zinc, India's only and world's leading integrated producer of Zinc-Lead-Silver has come forward to support the initiative of Muskaan Dreams, a youth-driven Non-profit social start-up to transform 100 rural government schools of Madhya Pradesh through E-learning content and virtual classrooms via Internet. E-learning provides students a chance to grasp the knowledge through online communities. This initiative by converting basic infra into

digitization, will help students in better understanding of subjects, especially Math, Science, and English with the help of audio-visual content and internet support. This will create a significant impact on 15000 rural students, 300 Teachers and 100 villages across India through Digital classes and will connect them with Skype for online lessons.

Mr. Sunil Duggal – CEO, HZL said "Hindustan Zinc has a strong focus towards uplifting the communities. A school is the cornerstone in any student's life to cultivate healthy thought process and groom intellectual abilities. With an objective to provide quality education, this initiative is a platform to empower rural students to pursue their dream and further contribute in nation building."

Mr. Pavan Kaushik – Head Corporate Communication, HZL said "Hindustan Zinc has a strong focus towards providing quality education for the inclusive growth of students from rural background through its educational programs like Shiksha Sambal, Unchi Udaan and Yashad Sumedha Scholarship program. With this initiative, we have gone a step ahead to address the problem of lack of teachers in rural schools through E-learning."

Schools in rural areas have their own challenges in terms of providing education to students. There are government schools in rural areas but the point is, do these schools have adequate number of teachers to provide quality education? While India has made a significant progress in increasing enrolment rates for primary education, schools have been less successful at preventing dropouts during this critical learning phase. One of the reasons cited has been non availability of teachers in schools. UNICEF report suggests that there are, 27% of children drop out between Class 1 and 5, 41% before reaching Class 8, and 49% before reaching Class 10. Government schools are urgently in need of 1 million teachers, especially for Math and Science.

Mr. Abhishek Dubey, Founder & CEO, Muskaan Dreams said, "I would like to thank Hindustan Zinc for this great stride taken for a better India as it will help Muskaan Dreams to take the initiative to the next level. I have always wanted to support and dedicate my life serving the children from rural areas from a very early age. I believe that education in the rural segment should be promoted as it has a more significant role to play in the growth of the country."

## Apurvi Chandela gets selected for Asian Games

**Udaipur:** Olympian shooter Apurvi Chandela has been selected for Asian Games. Apurvi Chandela are going to take place in Jakarta from 18th August to 5th September.

Teams were finalised on Wednesday night where Apurvi was selected to represent the Indian team in rifle shooting. Apurvi is on the top in Air rifle shooting team. She is also to participate in mixed doubles with Ravi Kumar. Ravi Kumar is also on the top in male category.

After Asian Games, Apurvi will head to Changwon in South Korea and represent India in World Championships. These two major tournaments happen once in 4 years. Apurvi feels pride in representing India in Asian games. At present she is busy practicing for these two tournaments.

## Udaipur: Weather forecast & Agricultural Advisories

**Udaipur:** There is possibility of moderate rain and cloudy weather during next five days. South westerly winds with the speed of 8 to 12 kmph are expected during next five days. The expected maximum temperature will be 30 to 31°C and expected minimum temperature will be 22 to 24°C during next five days. The maximum relative humidity will be in between 95 to 97 and minimum relative humidity 37 to 41%.

**Agricultural Advisories** - General After leveling the fields, one ploughing should be done to mix manure properly in soil. Farmers are advised to conserve rainwater in the field judiciously by proper bund making. Bunds should be higher and broader.

Farmers are advised to do proper arrangement for storing rain water at one portion in the field. This water can be used for irrigation in the crops at suitable time during dry spell. Maize Keeping in view of rain farmers are advised for sowing of maize. Maize varieties are Arawali maize-1, Pratap maize-3, Pratap maize-5 and Bio-9637.

It is also advised to maintain row to row spacing of 60-75 cm. and plant to plant 18-25 cm.