

ROYAL HARBINGER

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PAGE 2 :
Radisson Blu Palace Resort & Spa, Udaipur, Elevates ...

PAGE 3 :
NSS : 41st Mass Wedding for Differently-Abled Individuals ...



UDAIPUR | MONDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 2024 | PAGE 1 - 4 | PRICE : 5.00* (Vol. 09, No. 43)

Union Minister Nitin Gadkari Announces Rs 5,000 Crore for Jaipur Ring Road Phase-2 : Jodhpur Elevated Road Gets Green Signal



Udaipur: Union Road Transport and Highways Minister, Nitin Gadkari, announced the approval of Rs 5,000 crore for the second phase of Jaipur Ring Road dur-

ing the inauguration and foundation stone-laying ceremony of 17 road projects in Udaipur. The 92-kilometer 6-lane green-field highway under the Ring Road project is set to com-

mence within three months. Shri Gadkari also granted approval for the Jodhpur Elevated Road Project. Addressing various programs, Shri Gadkari empha-

sized that the development of the national highways in Rajasthan would significantly boost the growth of cement, marble, and other industries, propelling the state towards new heights of progress. He urged the State Government to plan for a railway gate-free Rajasthan, assuring full support from the Central Government.

Shri Gadkari highlighted the need to transition from traditional fuels to alternative fuels like bio-diesel, revealing plans for electric buses on the Delhi-Mumbai Expressway Highway. He emphasized the convenience and cost-effectiveness of traveling in these buses, with fares expected to be 30 percent less than diesel buses. The minister also updat-

ed on the repair work on the Jaipur-Delhi National Highway, Jaipur-Dholpur road, and Jodhpur Ring Road, all slated for completion by mid-2024.

The Chief Minister, Shri Bhajan Lal Sharma, expressed gratitude for the approval of Jaipur Ring Road's second phase, recognizing its positive impact on the state's development. He thanked Shri Gadkari for endorsing Railway Over Bridges (ROBs) in Alwar, Bharatpur, Santhore, and Tonk districts.

Shri Sharma highlighted the reduction in distance due to the Delhi-Mumbai Expressway, fostering industrial development and employment opportunities in Rajasthan. The event wit-

nessed the inauguration of 17 road projects worth over Rs 2,500 crore, focusing on the enhancement and development of the state's road network. The projects include the

Key Road Projects Inaugurated:

1. 6-laning of 93 km Chittorgarh-Udaipur section - Rs 1100 crore
2. 2-lane paved shoulder of 44 km Beawar-Asind section - Rs 206 crore
3. 2-lane paved shoulder of 43 km Asind-Mandal section - Rs 186 crore
4. 4-lane 14 km Beawar-Gomti section (Baghana to Mada ki Bassi) - Rs 107 crore
5. Widening work of 16 km Bhamarasia to Modi-Kurabar road MDR-150 - Rs 14 crore

Foundation Stone Laid for Projects Worth:

1. 2-lane paved shoulder of 56 km Gagaria-Munabav section - Rs 235 crore
2. 6 km long elevated highway in Santhore city - Rs 363 crore
3. Widening and strengthening work of 18 km Sakroda-Menar road - Rs 20 crore
4. Widening work of 11 km Balukhal to Amlawada-Ali-Moukhpura road - Rs 13 crore
5. Widening and strengthening work of 13 km Ghanoli-Delwara road - Rs 17 crore
6. Construction of 7 bridges on railway crossing under Setubandhan Project - Rs 329 crore

construction and widening of various roads, bridges, and expressways. Deputy Chief Minister Smt. Diya Kumari and Tribal Regional Development Minister Shri Babulal Kharadi

were also present, among other dignitaries. The works are expected to contribute significantly to the state's connectivity, economic progress, and overall development.

Empowering Innovation : 5G Workshop

In a significant stride towards embracing the transformative potential of 5G technology, the National



Telecommunications Institute for Policy Research, Innovation, and Training (NTIPRIT), under the aegis of the Department of Telecommunications (DoT), organized a two-day workshop on "5G Use Case Labs: Awareness and Pre-Commissioning Readiness." The workshop, inaugurated by Dr. Neeraj Mittal, Secretary (Telecom), Department of Telecommunications, Government of India, took place at the esteemed Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Guwahati on February 12, 2024.

The primary objective of the workshop was to create awareness about the implementation and utilization of 5G technology use cases, with a particular focus on the establishment of 5G Use Case Labs in educational institutions. Over 100 participants from approximately 30 institutions in the east-

ern region actively engaged in discussions and deliberations during the event.

One of the key highlights of the workshop was the emphasis on fostering innovation in 5G technology use cases. The DoT, under the visionary leadership of the Prime Minister, has undertaken a significant initiative to set up 100 5G Use Case Labs across the country. The eastern region, including institutions like IIT Guwahati, has been earmarked for special attention, with 30 institutions being included in this pioneering venture.

Dr. Neeraj Mittal, in his address, urged academic institutions to maximize the potential of the 5G Use Case Lab. He emphasized the importance of creating new use cases that can extend the benefits of 5G technology to every corner of society, ultimately contributing to India's journey towards becoming a developed nation.

Secretary NEC, Shri K. Moses Chalai, addressed the faculties and industry participants, underscoring the need to leverage 5G use cases for the development of the North Eastern Region (NER).

The workshop saw presentations from various industries showcasing potential 5G use cases in areas such as government services, education,

agriculture, healthcare, and entertainment.

Notable presentations included Nayan Technologies' solution for capturing civic amenity-related data, Nimbal Vision's innovative water monitoring product, Perkant Technology's patented health solution named "Abhayparimit," and TechXR's low-cost augmented reality-virtual reality (AR-VR) solution with diverse applications in training, academics, and pilgrimage.

Deliberations during the workshop involved faculty members from prestigious institutions such as IIT Madras and IIT Guwahati, industry representatives, startups, researchers, students, and DoT officers. The event also included a visit to the IoT Lab at IIT Guwahati, providing participants with hands-on insights into cutting-edge technologies.

The workshop not only facilitated knowledge exchange but also laid the foundation for the effective implementation of 5G technology use cases in educational institutions, furthering India's progress in the digital realm. The active involvement of diverse stakeholders showcased the collective commitment towards harnessing the potential of 5G for the nation's growth and development.

Opposition Grows Strong Against Pre-Wedding and Entry Fees at Manjhi Temple

Shyamji Manjhi Temple Save Struggle Committee Leads the Protest

In a steadfast resistance against the imposition of pre-wedding and entry fees at Manjhi Temple, the Shyamji Manjhi Temple Save Struggle Committee, along with various religious organizations and the Department of Devasthan, conducted a collective intelligence initiative and launched a signature campaign. The protest has gained momentum over the past two years, with the local community expressing significant discontent over the persistent imposition of fees despite their objections.

Workshop and Signature Campaign - In a unified effort to combat the challenges posed by the Department of Devasthan, a two-day workshop titled "Pre-Wedding and Entry Fee Opposition: Building Awareness and Readiness for Action" was inaugurated on February 12, 2024. Dr. Neeraj Mittal, Secretary (Telecom), Department of Telecommunications, Government of India, addressed over 100 participants from approximately 30 institutions in the eastern region.

Opposition and Community Involvement - The workshop, organized by the National Telecommunications Institute for Policy Research, Innovation, and Training (NTIPRIT), focused on fostering innovation in combating the imposition of fees at Manjhi Temple. The Department of Telecommunications (DoT) has undertaken the initiative to set up 100 5G Use Case Labs across India, with a special focus on the eastern region, where 30 institutions, including IIT Guwahati, are actively participating.

Calls for Abolishing Fees - Shyamji Manjhi Temple Save Struggle Committee, in collaboration with the World Hindu Council, Udaipur, and Udaipur News, organized a sunrise event of Surya Namaskar (Sun Salutation) as part of the ongoing protest. The committee emphasized the need for academic institutions to maximize the potential of the 5G Use Case Lab, creating new use cases to benefit society and contribute to India's development.

Community Unity and Signature Campaign - Various

religious and social organizations, including Chandpol Seva Samiti, Shri Ram Sena, Shri Kshatriya Kumawat Navayuvak Mandal, Chandpol, Gorwal Samaj, Chaubisa Samaj, joined the protest. The collective effort included a signature campaign, symbolizing widespread opposition to the imposition of pre-wedding and entry fees. The campaign involved a symbolic display of discontent, including a photo exhibition showcasing the alleged exploitation of the temple premises for pre-wedding photography.

Intelligence Hawan and Collective Protest - As a part of the protest, an intelligence havan (fire ritual) was conducted at 5 a.m. to provide divine intervention and guidance in the fight against the imposed fees. Following the havan, a formal inauguration of the signature campaign took place, with participants from various social and religious groups contributing their signatures. In a show of solidarity, a collective recitation of Hanuman Chalisa, Shri Ram Stuti, and Aarti was performed.

Illuminating the Protest: A Symbolic Gesture - As the day concluded, at 7 p.m., a symbolic diya was lit at the temple premises, signifying the collective intelligence initiative aimed at the Department of Devasthan. The gesture underscored the community's commitment to fighting against the fees imposed on Manjhi Temple by the Department of Devasthan. In conclusion, the opposition against pre-wedding and entry fees at Manjhi Temple has gained considerable momentum, with a diverse group of stakeholders actively participating in the protest. The workshop, signature campaign, and symbolic gestures exemplify the unity and determination of the community in their quest to abolish the contested fees and preserve the sanctity of the temple.

- Dr Munesh Arora



Rajasthan's Visionary Interim Budget 2024: Empowering Communities and Fostering Growth

In a landmark move, Rajasthan Finance Minister Diya Kumari unveiled a dynamic interim budget for the state, placing a strong emphasis on holistic development and addressing long-standing disparities. The budget, presented on Thursday, outlined key initiatives totaling Rs 1,000 crore, aimed at establishing and upgrading essential infrastructure such as schools, colleges, hospitals, and administrative buildings across assembly constituencies.



One of the flagship programs announced is the "Mukhyamantri Jal Swavlamban Abhiyan," a visionary initiative to create 5 lakh water harvesting structures in 20,000 villages over the next four years. This ambitious project, backed by a substantial provision of Rs 11,200 crore, reflects the government's commitment to sustainable water management and rural develop-

ment.

Finance Minister Diya Kumari highlighted the neglect of certain constituencies by the previous administration, citing areas like Ladpura, Nasirabad, Siwana, Ahor, Dag, and Malpura. To rectify this imbalance, the budget allocates funds to set up and upgrade additional educational institutions, health-care facilities, and administrative buildings in these overlooked regions. Addressing the pressing issue of traffic congestion in Jaipur city, Kumari announced the preparation of a Detailed Project Report for the expansion of the Jaipur Metro from Sitapura to Ambabari. This strategic move aims to enhance transportation infrastructure and alleviate the challenges posed by increasing urban traffic. Furthermore, the budget revealed plans for the second phase of the "Mukhyamantri Jal Swavlamban Abhiyan," which seeks to amplify its impact by creating additional water harvesting structures in villages, fostering sustainability and resilience in rural communities. In a bid to address unemployment, the budget unveiled a recruitment drive to fill 70,000 positions, providing a significant boost to the state's workforce. This initiative aligns with the government's commitment to fostering economic growth and creating opportunities for its citizens. As per constitutional provisions, this interim budget, presented under Article 116, serves as a vote on account to meet essential government expenditure for a limited period until the full budget for 2024-25 is presented in July. The forward-looking policies and strategic allocations outlined in this interim budget set the stage for a transformative year ahead, promising a more equitable and prosperous Rajasthan.

- Shabnam Bano

Embracing the Arrival of Spring : A Deep Dive into the Celebrations of Basant Panchami

Introduction: Basant Panchami, a festival celebrated with zest and enthusiasm, holds a special place in the hearts of millions across India. This vibrant occasion, observed on the fifth day of the bright half of the Hindu month of Magha, not only marks the transition from winter to spring but also serves as a cultural tapestry woven with threads of knowledge, art, and spirituality.

Worship of Goddess Saraswati: At the epicenter of Basant Panchami lies the venerable worship of Goddess Saraswati, the embodiment of wisdom, knowledge, and the arts. Devotees, clad in resplendent yellow attire, gather in temples, educational institutions, and homes to pay

homage to the goddess. The color yellow, symbolizing vibrancy and energy, adorns the idols and altars, creating a visual spectacle that mirrors the exuberance of the festival.

Saraswati Puja: A pivotal ritual of Basant Panchami, Saraswati Puja involves the meticulous arrangement of an altar graced with the presence of Goddess Saraswati. Flowers, fruits, and offerings are laid out, and fervent prayers are offered to seek the blessings of the goddess. Educational institutions play



a crucial role in these celebrations, organizing special events and Saraswati Puja ceremonies to instill a sense of reverence for knowledge and education among students.

Cultural Significance:

Basant Panchami transcends religious boundaries, becoming a celebration that resonates with diverse communities across India. It signifies the conclusion of winter and the onset of spring, symbolizing renewal, growth, and the blossoming of nature. Kite flying, an integral part of the festivities, transforms the sky into a canvas of colors as families and friends engage in friendly competitions, showcasing their skill in navigating and cutting the strings of rival kites.

The Arrival of Spring: Basant Panchami serves as a cultural bridge between the harshness of winter and the warmth of spring. The mustard fields, resplendent in shades of yellow, serve as a living testament to the spirit of the festival. The vibrant flowers and the sweet fragrance of blooming nature contribute to the festive ambiance, inviting people to revel in the beauty of life's cyclical nature.

Regional Variations:

While the core essence of Basant Panchami remains constant, the festival unfolds in diverse ways across different regions of India. In Punjab, the festival is intertwined with the harvest season, and the air is filled with the energetic beats of Bhangra dances. Meanwhile, West Bengal observes Saraswati Puja on a grand scale, with elaborate decorations, cultural performances, and an infectious sense of jubilation.

Basant Panchami, with its kaleidoscope of colors, cultural rituals, and expressions of joy, serves as a poignant reminder of the perpetual cycle of life. Beyond its religious underpinnings, the festival unites communities in a shared appreciation for knowledge, art, and the rejuvenation of nature. As the melodious chants of Saraswati Vandana resonate, Basant Panchami beckons us to embrace the warmth of spring and the promise of new beginnings with open hearts and a sense of collective celebration.

- Suleka Shrivastava

Literary Extravaganza : Diverse Books Showcase

The literary spectacle featured a diverse array of books, spanning genres to captivate bibliophiles. Attendees explored self-help, fiction, science fiction, crime mystery, business, biography, classics, Hindi novels, spirituality, mythology, and children's books. Exclusive displays highlighted Swami Vivekananda and Swami Ramakrishna's works, enriching the event. Esteemed publishers, including Harper Collins, Penguin Random House, and Bloomsbury, underscored its significance. Renowned authors like James Clear and J.K. Rowling shared shelves with local talents, celebrating a rich tapestry of voices. Over 100 local writers, showcased in an exhibition, illustrated the literary richness within the community. Key booksellers contributed to the event's success, fostering a shared appreciation for diverse voices in literature.