

ROYAL HARBINGER

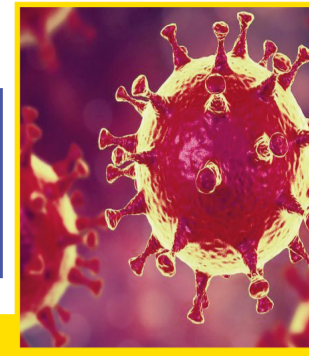
Reporting Fact of the Matter

Weekly



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Concert For Hope – Sarod Concerto 'Samaagam'...

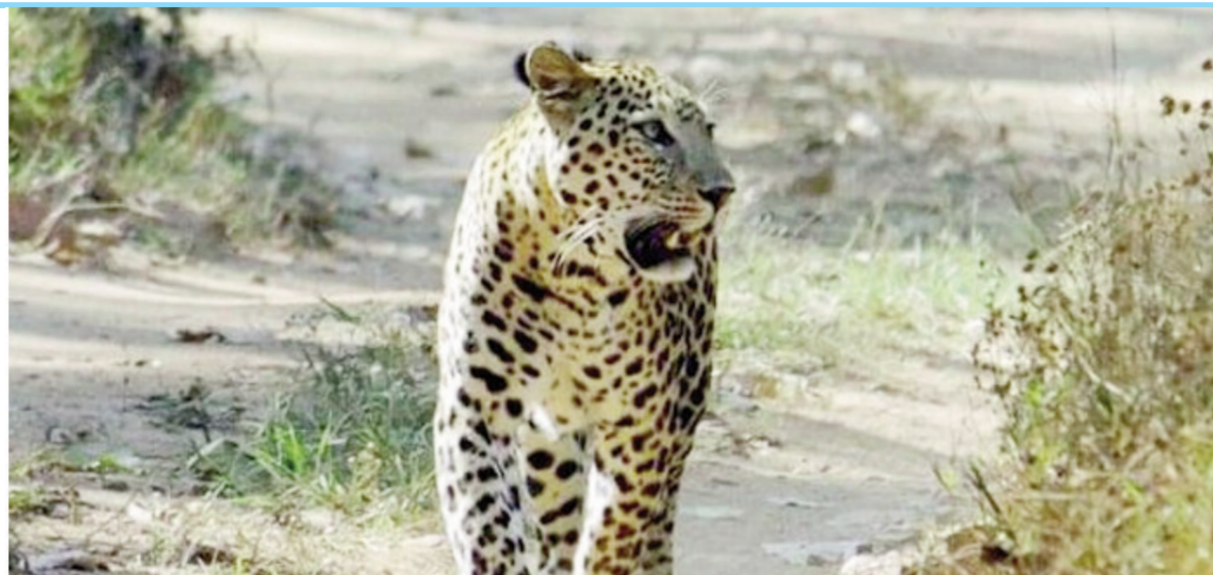
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Q & A on coronaviruses (COVID-19).....



UDAIPUR | MONDAY, APRIL 27, 2020 | PAGE 1 - 4 | PRICE : 5.00* (Vol. 06, No. 05) Postal Registration No.RJ/UD/ 29-134/2017-2019

Sajjangarh Wildlife Sanctuary

Once covered with dense forest and hunting ground for rulers of Mewar, the 936-meter-high hill Bansdara is just 5 km. from Udaipur. The Sajjangarh Wildlife Sanctuary that surrounds the Sajjangarh Palace spreads over approx. 5 sq. km. To facilitate hunting and to have an excellent view of the forest area, 5 shooting boxes were built around the hillock. The aim was to show how the area was rich in wildlife. Due to excessive biotic pressure the forest cover was degraded and the hillock was almost devoid of any vegetation by 1986. Looking to its strategic location and importance from ecological and environmental point of view, this area was declared as sanctuary in the year 1987. To start with, a 'pukka' wall was constructed in an area of 60 hectare on the Eastern slope facing Udaipur city. This area is the catchment area of Fatehsagar and Picchola Lake systems that provide drinking water to Udaipur city. It is known for its scenic beauty. After closure the area responded extremely well and developed into an ideal habitat for wildlife. A deer safari was created and a huge variety of animals were re-introduced. The wall was extended and now the entire hillock has been fenced and that has improved the vegetal cover of the sanctuary area.



In the safari park herbivores like chital, sambar, blue-bull, wild boar etc. have been reintroduced to provide a view of the animals from close quarters. A network of forest roads has been built to reach different parts of the safari park. Situated on the western aspect of Bansdara hill is a perennial source of water JHAR waterhole, that is surrounded by a number of ancient Mahua trees. In close vicinity of this sacred Grove is a temple of Lord Shiva. One can experi-

ence the effect of microclimate created by the surrounding forest area at this place. During rainy season the springs flowing through the area add to the beauty many more times.

Trekking facilities are also available from GORELLA view point. One can track to Badi Lake through this nature trail and can study the beautiful geographical features of Aravalli Hills along with flora and fauna present in the area. Moreover, during winters, a large variety of aquat-

ic birds can also be seen at Badi Lake. There are other trekking routes like Sanctuary Gate-Safari Park- Sajjangarh (3 km), Gorella-Sajjangarh-Badi Lake (5 km), Sajjangarh Safari-Gorella (4 km), Sanctuary Gate-Safari-JHAR Mahadev (5 km) and Sanctuary Gate Gorella view Badi Lake (6 km).

To promote eco-tourism elephant and horse safari were started in the year 2002. Being the highest point around Udaipur Sajjangarh attracts a big number of vis-

itors for viewing sunrise and sunset. The sunrise provides unique views of the lakes, hills and historical places that makes it a memorable event. The cool fresh and fragrant-breeze of this hour makes one feel energetic. At sunset the crimson rays of the sun seem to bid farewell to the hills and lustrous lakes. After sunset the mesmerizing view of the illuminated Udaipur is an exhilarating experience. A true representative of dry deciduous forest, the sanctuary has a rich floral diversity. Found in abundance here is the rare and endangered species Gugal. Apart from several species of grasses, ferns, etc. 79 species of flowering and 4 species of non-flowering plants are found here. Yellow colour Ginia and red colour wild Gaienda flowers add to the attraction of the place. Mahua grooves also abound here.

The panther can be easily sighted here. Hyena jackals, jungle cat, and common fox are some other carnivores that are found here. Among the herbivores are chital, sambar, wild boar, blue-bull, common hare, common langur, civets, mongoose etc. The most remarkable animal to be found here is rusty spotted cat, the smallest of its species. It looks like a small panther and weighs about 1.6 kg. and gives birth to just one kitten at a time. It can also climb trees. Among rep-

tiles, cobra, python, rat snake, crate and viper are common. Rare animals found here include fast running slender racer snake and blind snake that comes out only at night and barn owl with the heart shaped face. The cliffs and rocks at high elevation serve as ideal nesting and roosting places for Egyptian vulture, long billed and white backed vulture, kites and martins. The sanctuary is a center of breeding of indigenous rare and endangered fauna of Aravallis and also as a translocation centre cum orphanage for wild animals of this region. It has also become centre for education about wildlife for children, youth and tourist.

- Ashok Mathur

1. How was the Bansdara hill changed into a wildlife sanctuary?
2. Which are the trekking routes?
3. What are the views like at sunrise and sunset?
4. What is the floral variety here?
5. Which animals are found here?
6. Which birds can be seen here?

Dear Viewers,

We have great pleasure in presenting an article out of over thirty posted so far on veteran journalist Ashok Mathur's blog (ashokmathuronudaipur.com).

Your comments on this and other articles are most welcome.

Why MPs did not demand the central government to increase the quota of wheat

Udaipur (Dr. Munesh Arora): The state government has decided to distribute 10-10 kg of wheat free of cost to 60 lakh needy people from May 1, so that no person has to starve in the Lockdown.

In the state, Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot Government is making adequate arrangements for food grains; on the other hand, the Central Government has also come down on step behavior in it. It is to say of Raghuvir Meena, member of Congress Working Committee and former MP. He said that the entire 25 MPs from Rajasthan belong to BJP. Despite this, in such a difficult time, the Rajasthan government has to buy wheat from the central government at the rate of Rs 21 per kg, which is a matter of great misfortune for the state and its people.

The people who sent the entire 25 MPs to the center, but with those MPs, today it was possible for the same people to buy wheat from the central government at the market price. To date, no MP has written a letter to the Central Government demanding an increase in wheat quota, so today we got to see such situations. The central government is currently allocating wheat to the state as the basis of the 2011 census.

Still, in all these years, 54 lakh people have come in the field of food security, then to give relief to such people, from May 1, 10-10 kg wheat free. The state government has decided to distribute. About 54 lakh eligible people deprived of food security scheme, nearly 60 lakh needy people, including destitute and those without ration card, will get the benefit.

Rajasthan tourism industry on ventilator: Palace on Virals lost million

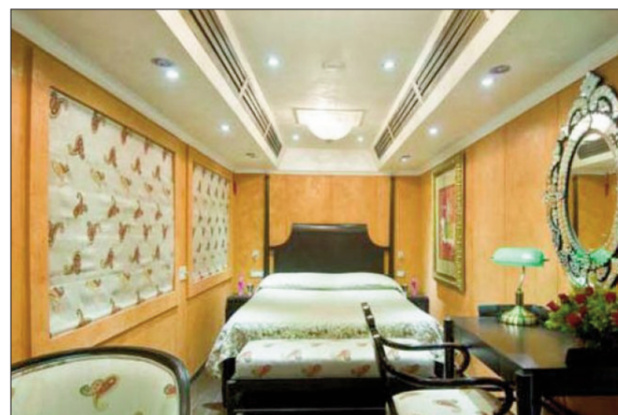
New Delhi: Rajasthan tourism industry has its own special place on the tourism map of the world. Due to Corona (Covid-19) it has reached a ventilator in these days.

The world-class train is known as 'Pahiyon per Raj mahal'. The royal train 'Palace on Wheels' with majestic and modern amenities has resulted in a loss of millions due to coronavirus with Prime Minister Narendra Modi announcing the lock-down of the entire country under the global epidemic of Corona in India on March 25, all the predetermined bookings of this train were canceled while the rail was to run for the entire April month. This world-famous royal train, which has been running for more than 38 years, is a joint venture of the Indian Railways and the Rajasthan Tourism Development Corporation (RTDC). The tourists departing from New Delhi every Wednesday from September to April every year. After visiting the famous tourist places of Rajasthan, train returned to Delhi after a week via Agra.

For tourists traveling in this royal train with a capacity of 64 passengers, the tourist season rent is the US \$ 550 per person i.e. 40 thousand rupees according to Indian Rupee. The daily fare is more than that. In the offseason September and April, the fare is \$ 450. This count would result in millions of rupees has suffered losses to Rajasthan tourism and Indian Railways.

According to tourism sources, there has not been a single journey reservation for the next tourist season of the train from September 2020 to April 2021. In such a situation, the train will have to suffer even more damage.

Every third foreign tourist visiting the country with the Delhi-



Jaipur-Agra Golden Tri-Angle, but due to the coronavirus, other industries in the entire country, and the world, as well as the tourism industry of State, have been destroyed. The relief for Rated is that the off-season of tourism starts here due to increasing heat after March, due to which there is less tourist movement from April to September in Rajasthan.

Rated is world-renowned for its art-culture, rituals, food, handicrafts, architecture, and historical heritage. Rajasthan is the main attraction for domestic and foreign tourists and for this reason, lakhs of people are directly and indirectly connected with this tourism business and this is also the main medium of livelihood in the state or, say, the tourism industry. Protection is the backbone of the economy.

The motto (logo) of "Padharo Mhara Desh" is a symbol of the world-famous hospitality of Rajasthan.

At present, our country is also facing a problem of COVID - 19 along with other countries of the world and since this epidemic is spread due to people coming from outside, due to this the tourism business will be completely disrupted in the coming time. Hotels, restaurant owners, guides, touristic travel, jewelry and textiles, handicraft markers, artists, craftsmen, folkloric dancers, etc. have all come into the trouble in their business profession and a livelihood crisis has arisen for the people associated with the region. The Chief Minister of Rajasthan is also said to be concerned with these conditions and the tourism minister Vishvendra Singh that he wanted to reach new heights of tourism in the state, now he will have to compete with hard work.

In such an adverse situation, Rajasamand MP Diyakumari Jaipur requested the government to give a special relief grant, keeping in mind the revival of the tourism industry and the livelihood of the people associated with the region, this major center of employment of the residents of the state and Occupied this business. Provide relief to the public while giving them an exemption to all taxes related etc.

Diyakumari has sent a letter in this regard to Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot demanding a special package for the revival of the stalled state's tourism industry along with exemption of all taxes. In this regard, she will also attract the attention of the Prime Minister, the Union Minister of Finance, and the Union Minister for Tourism and Culture.

- Neeti Gopendra Bhatt

Vishwas Mehta Leading from Front in Kerala's Fight against COVID-19



In the war against Corona, Dr Vishwas Mehta has commanded the state of Kerala under the leadership of Pinarayi Vijayan, Chief Minister, Kerala as a model state.

Amidst the Coronavirus pandemic, Kerala, also known as the 'God's Own Country' and famous for its medical tourism, is in discussion these days for its effective measures taken by Dr Vishwas Mehta, Additional Chief Secretary, Department of Home Affairs, Kerala, to contain COVID-19 pandemic under the leadership of Pinarayi Vijayan, Chief Minister of Kerala.

Dr Mehta, a 1986-Batch IAS officer, is a native of Dungarpur town in Udaipur division of Southern Rajasthan. Dr Mehta talks about the success story of Kerala to fight COVID-19 stating that in recent years the state has faced tough times like the floods claiming many lives. These days Coronavirus has impacted the state hard and since then we have been taking strict measures to fight the pandemic. And, the combined efforts of the CM; KK Shailaja, Health Minister; Tom Joss, Chief Secretary; and Dr Rajan N Khobragad, Principal Health Secretary among other key representatives have made it possible to control the viral pandemic.

Dr Mehta said, as early as in January we got our first case. A few medical students who returned from the city of Wuhan, China were showing symptoms of COVID-19. As soon as we got the information, the Government of India, as well as the Government of Kerala, immediately came into action and the suspected students were quarantined. We began their medical treatment and after a few days of social isolation and medical treatment they recovered and were discharged from the hospital, he added.

The State upscaled the efforts to contain the pandemic after two deaths were reported due to COVID-19. Although, Kerala was one of the worst-hit states but our effective efforts and strict measures the number was brought down by more than 50 percent. Also, we have been successful in preventing any further deaths. Also, Dr Mehta said, there are four control rooms in the state functioning round the clock. The control rooms help in monitoring medical equipment, supplies of essential commodities, vegetables and ration supplies, also that Migrant Labourers Called as "Guest Workers" are provided food and other amenities.

The approach with which Kerala is fighting the pandemic has set an example for other states.

The prior experiences of Dr Vishwas Mehta had been of great help in the fight against COVID-19, who was Health Secretary in Kerala for 4 years and also worked for 3 years as Joint Secretary Medical Education in Ministry Of Health & Family Welfare Govt Of India.

State had taken proactive and effective measures at the time of swine flu outbreak and Ebola so Protocols And Systems we're in place.

During the lockdown period, the state has been constantly focusing on monitoring the lockdown norms and contact tracing of people found positive of the viral infection. Dr Mehta said that around kept 1.72 lakh people were under surveillance. Extensive and continuous testing was conducted and as a result, the people under surveillance are reduced to 88,885 today. This was possible only because the 14-day quarantine was strictly followed in the state, Dr Mehta added.

Out of the total 394 cases in the state, only 147 cases were found positive. Hence, as of April 18, there are only 140 cases under medical supervision and being treated. Whereas, 252 people have recovered and reached their homes safely. Despite over 42 lakh people above 60 years of age in Kerala, only 2 deaths have been reported as of yet.

Kerala has a long list of achievements when it comes to fighting COVID-19. The state reports 0.58 percent death rate which is the lowest death in the world. Also, the state has conducted the most tests in India based on the population density. Moreover, Kerala is the first Indian state to establish Covid Testing Kiosks (WISK) and also is the first to try Plasma Therapy even before many countries. In Kerala, every district has at least two Special hospitals for COVID-19. Kerala is also the first state to make law on epidemic control - Kerala Epidemic Diseases Act. It is also the first to start Telemedicine service.

In this critical time of COVID-19, Kerala started 'No one without Food' campaign and opened 1,400 community kitchens across the state becoming the first Indian state to do so. In addition, the state also houses over 5,500 Migrant Labour Camps which is highest in the entire country. Kerala has been proactive in fighting the pandemic and was the first state to deploy over 300 doctors and more than 400 health inspectors on a war footing within 24 hours. Kerala is also the first India state to declare stimulus package of Rs 20,000 crore as financial aid.

Kerala, in its efforts to spread awareness among people regarding the significance of hygiene in fighting COVID-19, started 'Break the Chain' campaign for handwashing, sanitizing and social distancing. Furthermore, Kerala was the first in India to provide Mid Day Meal at home for Kindergartens (Anganwadi's) and the first to expand Internet bandwidth and connectivity during lockdown.

- Dr Gopendra Bhatt