

Hariyali Amavasya Fair-2019

A celebration is a way of life for Udaipurites. Fairs and festivals are the occasions for them to de-stress themselves and make merry. And there seems to be no better time for enjoyment than the end of the sweltering heat of the summer and the advent of the much-awaited refreshing rainy days. As the name indicates Hariyali Amavasya falls on the moonless night of the month of Sawan when the earth and Aravali hills are clad in a velvet green 'hariyali' sheet.

About the beginning of the fair there is a fascinating story. It is said that while passing through Dewali and Motimagri area, Maharana Fatehsingh, who liked very much to visit places around Udaipur, saw that there was a small lake, the water of which was not being used. He thought of expanding the waterbody so that the water could be used for irrigation. He persuaded erstwhile Prince of England, the Duke of Connaught to lay the foundation. The lake was named Shivsagar and the main dam was called Connaught Dam. However, later on, as desired by the Duke, it was called Fateh Sagar after the Maharana's name.

After the dam was completed the Maharana came to visit the waterbody on Hariyali Amavasya in a procession accompanied by his umraos and Sardars. In attendance were musicians and bands. To express their gratitude to the Maharana for building the beautiful dam, the public thronged to the place in large numbers. After giving 'darshan' to the public, the Maharana accompanied by Maharani Chandi, went up the neighboring hill to worship the highly revered Neemaj Mata. On the way back, the Maharani told the Maharana that she had enjoyed the fair immensely but only one day was not enough. She suggested that



it should be a two-day event and on the second day, it should be open to only ladies so that they could enjoy themselves fully and more freely. No wonder, the Maharana liked her proposal, and since 1899 women have a full day to themselves to make merry.

Halwais and shopkeepers of the town were called to the palace through a public announcement and given provisions from the storehouse of the palace. They were asked to set up shops in the fair.

It is said that in the beginning a fair was held at Neemaj Mata and people used to go up the hill for 'darshan'. Men, women, and children wore green dresses on this day. The Maharana would go to the residence of the Rajpurohit where there was a big feast. Sometimes there was also a feast in Saheliyon ki Badi.

Big groups of from tribals distant places also come to the fair. Adivasi young men wearing dhotis tucked up high, kurta, turbans, colored

handkerchiefs tied around the neck, and sticks in hands throng to Udaipur. They are joined by girls and women dressed up in gaily colored attires. They come singing and dancing with Dhols. Not to be left behind Udaipurites also join the fun. Some come with their family while others with their friends. Fatehsagar 'paal' and Saheliyon ki Badi road vibrate with monsoon melodies. Entertaining the crowds can be seen, folk artists. The hundreds of stalls set up by the shopkeepers from different parts of the country have a huge variety of items on sale. Toys, cosmetics, etc. have a bumper sales. A local dish 'malpua', 'gulabjamun', 'Jalebi', 'chat' are favorites Bhuttas, maize corn, roasted on glowing coal sell like hotcakes. On the day following Hariyali Amavasya the fair is open only for women. A milling crowd of women both rural and urban can be seen enjoying themselves fully on this occasion. Children are visibly excited riding Chakri-dolar while ladies get busy on other swings. Getting tattooed in the fair is quite

common, especially with village bellies. For tourists, it is a unique occasion to closely watch a queer mix of the rural and urban culture of Mewar. They enjoy themselves fully and their cameras keep clicking to capture memories of their visit to Lake City.

So popular has the fair become that songs have been composed on it, saying that one should prepare lunch early to go to the fair as there would be a big crowd there.

Saheliyon ki Badi, a huge ornamental garden originally built as a relaxing area for the amusement of the royal ladies is flooded by people coming to the fair. A lot of people, especially from outside Udaipur who prefer a less crowded place go to Gulab Bagh, the spectacular rose garden built by Maharana Sajjan Singh. Located atop a hill Moti Magari, overlooking the Fateh Sagar lake is visited by a large number of people. The adventurous persons climb up the Neemaj Mata hill to have the Devi's Darshan. One of the most crowded places on the occasion is Sukhadia Circle, a favorite spot for foodies, where children enjoy boating in the colorful pedal boats.

An eagerly awaited festival, especially by women, Hariyali Amavasya is an occasion when people from neighboring areas and Udaipur get together, go gay and enjoy themselves fully.

- Ashok Mathur

Veteran journalist Ashok Mathur's blog (ashokmathuronudaipur.com) with over forty articles on Udaipur's palaces, temples, lakes, gardens, festivals, fairs, wildlife etc. is getting very popular. It has interesting content for Udaipurites as well as tourists.

Challenges Before Women Leadership in Panchayati Raj

The "Bollywoodified" feel good versions of Indian villages ranging from green pastures lands to mud houses, to cows grazing, to water flowing in streams, to happy people dancing in their fields (as if they have no other job), if you want to believe in this dreamland I recommend not to visit any village during Panchayat Elections.

Panchayati Raj Institutions were introduced with 73rd Amendment in Indian Constitution to formalize the system of Local Self-government in India. It tried to create a system of local self-governance which is based on the principles of non-discrimination and equal opportunities. In a patriarchal society like India which was/is heavily dominated by the casteism, it is not hard to understand that these bodies are mainly dominated by the so called 'upper caste' male members of the society.

In order to increase the participation of the women, the Act introduced 33 per cent reservation for women and later it was raised to 50 per cent in various Indian states. It seems they thought that by saying the words "this is your seat" the men living in thousands old patriarchy will say "Oops! This is her seat now so let us make way", though I seriously wished we lived in such a utopia. But the ground reality is much different. Here are some glimpses.

Maintaining Family Ties

If you are a woman and want to contest election and win you have to go through a four step plan.

Step One- Take permission from everyone around you which includes father, mother, husband, brother, brother in law, mother in law, father in law, husband, uncle, aunt, neighbours because as a women can't afford doing things without permissions.

Step Two- Ensure that none of the family members or relatives are contesting from the same seat.

Step Three- If someone in your family is contesting withdraw immediately. Don't forget you are here to make sacrifices.

Step Four- Ensure you have support of all the male members of your family because they are the one who will run the show.

During the visit two type of women leaders could be seen- first, the ones who follow the four step plan even if they are "the clueless" proxy candidates who basically have no idea of what is happening and what will happen if they got elected. They have a much more higher chance of being elected.

Second ones, who are "fierce leaders" who understand the processes, have a clear idea of why they want to be in power, but don't bother to follow the four step plan.

Education and Children

When I was taking a stroll in the green meadows one lady in her mid-forties mistook me for someone who worked with election commission and started shouting "why this law is introduced suddenly? Why was she not informed when she was giving birth to her child? Where was the government at that time?" She was referring to the law about number of children permissible for elections. Everybody looked at this as something hilarious and people around were laughing and trying to calm her down but it was a poignant truth for which no one had an answer.

In a patriarchal society like India these are the two things women still don't have an agency on, how many children she will have and up to which class she will study. These are things someone else, mainly the male members of their family will decide. Introducing these two clause in the Panchayat election is a major setback to the women leadership though education clause is removed the other clause still remained a question. Meeting potential women leaders revealed that this was one of the major thing they were upset and frustrated about.

Money Matters!

In these places free and fair elections is a myth. Money mat-

ters a lot. The actual expense includes different activities like campaign, free gifts, distributing cash or liquor. This means the one who control the resources wins elections and women do not possess this control. When I asked one of the members from ST community "why are you taking money, all this is wrong think of your future". He brought me back on earth told me- madam all this sounds good when you have a full belly; everyone is the same no one will do anything for us but this is a "season to earn and be merry".

Some of the villagers whom I asked why they want to vote for a particular candidate the answer came very promptly because they are financially strong so they can spend money on village development and infrastructure. The candidate who won in the village; her husband opened a separate office in the village that works 12 hours and two people on his payroll sitting there all the time to take care of all grievances.

Violence

During my ten days visits I observed the green pastures turned red for women as the candidates mainly women leaders goes through a tremendous amount of mental and emotional turmoil. Just because of the fact that you are a woman the expectation pressure is very high. People make sarcastic comments and give judgmental glances at you, secondly people of opposition follow you physically on your every move, phone calls from influential people keep coming asking you to back-off in a threatening tone, even the family members in many cases instead of giving support blame you for bringing all this on yourself.

To conclude, we need to build a support system during elections for all the women candidates in the form of a woman agency and along with an effort to make a women friendly environment before, during and after the election.

- Charu Bhati

Badola hyundai Udaipur brings Hyundai Hygiene camp for Hyundai customers

Udaipur: Badola hyundai Udaipur brings Hyundai Hygiene camp for Hyundai customers, the camp gives opportunity to customers to avail discounts on smoke sanitization, exterior dry wash starting Rs. 350, free 50 point check, high touch point sanitization, offers on new car purchases and much more. Customers are also informed about Hyundai Care app, through which they can keep getting updates about their vehicle. Over 200 customers have already taken the benefit from the camp which started from 15 July and ends 31 July. Its time to visit Badola Hyundai & book convenient appointment at 8279092021 for seamless transition, we at Badola Hyundai ensure customer safety & hygiene to provide most convenient experience.

COVID-19 and Homeopathy book released

Udaipur: The 11th book entitled "Covid 19 and Homeopathy" by Dr. Anant Prakash Gupta of Homeopathy Medical College, the constituent of JRN, was released on Tuesday jointly by Vice-Chancellor Prof. S.S. Sarangdevot, Kul Pramukh Bhanwar Lal Gurjar,



Dr. Amia Goswami, Dr. Rajan Sood, Dr. AP Gupta, Sports Board Secretary Dr. Bhawanipal Singh. On this occasion, Prof. Sarangdevot said that in this book, full information about the global epidemic corona and the means of increasing immunity in the general population through homeopathy medicine had been given. Writer Dr. Gupta said that arsenic album, Bryonia, Belladonna, Gelcium, etc. have proved to be effective in increasing immunity in the general public.

Yoga at Home continues

Udaipur: Corona-19 As part of the public awareness campaign to prevent global epidemics and increase immunity, Facebook Live Yoga practice class is continuing from June 25 at the Government Model Ayurveda dispensary. Dr. Shobhalal Audichya, Senior Ayurveda Medical Officer of Ayurveda Department said that Yoga and Ayurveda lovers are regularly meditated on Yogasan, Pranayama, and meditation by experienced yoga instructors of the city through Facebook Live class from 6.30 am to 7.30 pm. In addition,

special information is also being given to prevent the corona epidemic.

He told that experienced yoga teachers Yogi Ashok Jain, Jignesh Sharma, Gopal Dangi, Devaram Rajpurohit, Darab Singh Baghel, Umesh Shrimali, Dr. Rohit Kumawat, Prem Jain, Suresh Paliwal, Dr. Iqbal Khan Gauri, Devi Singh Chauhan, Dr. Narendra Kumar, Jamashankar Parasar, Dr. Sapna Nagauri, Sawant Nagauri, Kamlesh Bhavsar, Kavita Vyas, Dr. Preeti Sumeria, Pallavi Sumeria, Pooran Singh Rathore, Meera Upadhyay, Sharda Jalora, Kirti Jalora, Nirmala Paliwal, Dr. Sanjay Maheshwari, Shubha Surana, Dr. Rakesh Dashora, Vijay Bahadur Yadav, etc. is offering his services.

Children of Neerja Modi School celebrated Kargil Victory Day

Udaipur: On the completion of 21 years of the Kargil Vijay Diwas, the children celebrated the Day with great enthusiasm in the Neerja Modi School.

Director Sakshi Sojatia said that it is a significant day for all the citizens of independent India. It is celebrated every year on July 26 in India. The Kargil War between India and Pakistan's armies lasted for almost 40 days and ended on July 24, and India was conquered. Kargil Victory Day is dedicated to honoring the Indian soldiers who were martyred in the war.

She told me that the students of NMS celebrated the victory of 21 years in the school premises by showering their love and respect for our country India and the Indian Army. With



a sense of patriotism in his heart, he made attractive flashcards and shared his inspiring messages remembering the sacrifices made by our soldiers. We salute the courage and patience of our soldiers. Recognizing the sons of this heroic land, encouraged the students to serve the country at all times. On this occasion, Principal George A. Thomas paid tribute to every brave soldier who defended the country and the service he offered, encouraging the children to become soldiers.

Neha Taya Chairperson Tabassum Saifi Pathan becomes Secretary

Udaipur: In the annual meeting of Udaipur United Ladies Circle India-171 held for the year 2020-21, Neha Taya was chosen as Chairperson. Ankita Singhvi was vice-chairperson Tabassum Saifi Pathan Secretary and Aditi Dhada as Treasurer. Neha Taya said that Ladies Circle India is known for building classrooms in schools in the country.

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BOOK REVIEW

Killing Gandhi : Living Gandhi

Dr. Hemendra Singh Chandalia and Dr. Mehzeen Sadiwala, Killing Gandhi: Living Gandhi Jaipur, YKING BOOKS, 2020.

What ought to be in the mainstream- love and compassion or violence and hatred? Contemporary order seems to be inclined towards the latter. The recent attacks on Gandhi and his philosophy and the celebration of men like Godse are a testimony to this. The propagation of the ideology celebrating Godse is a direct attack on pluralism, unity and equality in the nation. Democracy, federalism and equality are India's foundational principles. These fundamental precepts are essential to maintain and sustain unity and equality among various religions, communities and groups. Deliberate attempts on the part of extremist organizations would infringe these principles, which would essentially lead to the collapse of the pluralistic structure of society. Dr. Chandalia and Dr. Sadiwala in their recent book, Killing Gandhi, Living Gandhi, talk of the continuing project of killing the thought of Gandhi; killing all the possibilities of 'living' Gandhi. The title throws light on how in the recent times, some extremist forces have emerged, swaying public opinion against Gandhi, thereby attempting to dismantle and disfigure him.

Dr. Hemendra Singh Chandalia is an acclaimed writer, both in English and in Hindi. Known for his deep thinking, scholarship and sensitivity for the marginalized, Dr. Chandalia has to his credit sixteen books and forty-four research papers. His recent publication, Tribal Literature, Culture and Knowledge Systems was greatly appreciated for the attention it draws towards the oral tradition of literature and knowledge systems of the tribal people. For the writing of this book, Dr. Chandalia visited some of the remote areas of southern Rajasthan, including the hills, forests, rivers, wildlife and places of worship of local deities. His recently published book, Killing Gandhi: Living Gandhi in collaboration with Dr. Sadiwala is a critical work containing twenty-nine well-researched papers which present various representations of Gandhi in literary genres, films and popular culture. Dr. Sadiwala has presented/ published more than twenty-one papers in a number of national/international seminars/conferences/journals. She has also published three books covering various areas including language and communication skills.

In her well-researched article, "Kasturba's Gandhi: A Reappraisal" Prof. Rajul Bhargava traces different layers of Kasturba's personality, her awareness of the stern authority of the Mahatma, yet her desire and attempts to resist it. Bhargava attempts to bring into notice the disregarded life of Kasturba. In their articles, Devendra Rankawat, Jaysree Singh, Rinku Hiran and Urmila Purohit expound upon the strong presence of Gandhi as a symbol, thought and ideology in the works of Indian English writers including Mulk Raj Anand, Raja Rao and R K Narayan.

These writers present Gandhi's philosophy as transcending life itself where he becomes a true apostle of peace and humanity. In his perceptive article "Barrister At-Law: A Play on the South-African Sojourn of M K Gandhi" Dr. H S Chandalia brings into forefront Khwaja Ahmed Abbas's play Barrister At-Law, centered around the young barrister Gandhi facing discrimination in the colonial regime. In his attempt to revisit Gandhi through this play, Dr. Chandalia seeks to offer an alternative to the brutal fabric of capitalism. He believes that a fine blend of Marxism and Gandhism can provide a better model for development. Is it possible to produce cinema in the Indian subcontinent without direct or indirect presence of the figure of Gandhi? From Neecha Nagar to the most recent Mulk, Gandhian precepts have been the sinews of the Indian cinema. In their critical articles on Gandhi and cinema, Anant Dadhich, Payod Joshi, K S Kang, and Kavita Parulkar, examine how Indian Cinema was and continues to be strongly impacted by Gandhi and his ideals. Through the study of the perceptive work of Jayaprakash Chowksey Mahatma Gandhi and Cinema, Anant Dadhich and Payod Joshi's article emphasizes that in the present era of intolerance and extremism, themes such as untouchability and secularism pertaining to Gandhian philosophy could no longer be followed. According to Chowksey, films like Achhut Kanya or Chandidas cannot be remade or replicated. The book contains various articles explicating Gandhi's philosophy including untouchability, his views on the education system, etc by revisiting and analyzing his representation in literature, cinema and popular culture.

Thus this work, Killing Gandhi: Living Gandhi is a relevant effort as it presents Gandhi's ideas of non-violence and peace as significant alternatives to the present atmosphere of hatred and violence.

- Dr. Anant Dadheech

Webinar on Biodiversity in Rajasthan and Assam : Need for Conservation

Udaipur. On World Nature Conservation Day, 28 July, 2020, a Webinar on 'Biodiversity in Rajasthan and Assam : Need for Conservation' was organized by Ek Bharat Shrestha Bharat (EBBS) Club and NSS of Govt. Meera Girls College, Udaipur for Faculty members as well as for students. Principal, M.G. College, Dr. Nidhi Shrivastava inaugurated the webinar and motivated students to work for biodiversity conservation.

Convener of EBBS club, Dr. Sweta Vyas welcomed the participants and introduced the Speaker of the webinar Dr. Vartika Jain who is working as Assistant Professor in Department of Botany, Govt. Meera Girls' College, Udaipur.

Dr. Jain told that diversity is the law of nature and both Assam and Rajasthan are rich in biological diversity. She gave examples of some rare, threatened and endangered plant and animal species of both the states along with endemic flora and fauna. She also discussed some threats to biodiversity and the measures taken up by the Governments in the form of protected areas like Wildlife Sanctuaries, National Parks and Biosphere Reserves. She emphasized that the existence of each and every living species on the earth is important for our own survival and that is why we have to work together to protect biodiversity through all means.

In the end, NSS Coordinator Dr. Farhat Banu concluded the session emphasizing the role of protected areas for biodiversity conservation and some unique aspects of National Parks of Rajasthan.

EBBS coordinator Dr. Sweta gave thanks to Dr. Vartika for the informative lecture. A quiz based on the lecture was also conducted at the end of the webinar. The Program was conducted with help of Dr. Shruti Tandon, Dr. Ritu Dubey, Dr.