

ROYAL HARBINGER

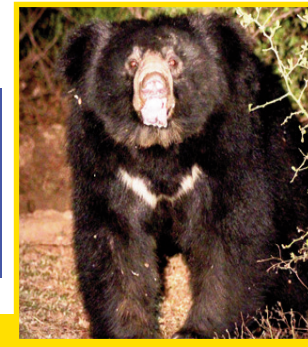
Reporting Fact of the Matter

Weekly



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Holi in Udaipur

‘Celebrated with gay abandon by all sects of Hindus with fascinating rituals, the festival of Holi brings people together’

-Ashok Mathur

Like other parts of Rajasthan, Mewar is well known the world over for its fascinating festivals, traditions and rituals. With the change of season is celebrated Holi that provides opportunities for enjoying together, worshipping together, singing together, eating together and the like. All this adds colour to the drab life of the people.

In the State time on the 14th Phagun Shukla, in the morning the Maharana used to play Holi with his courtiers in Badi Mahal. As Phagun advanced, the Bacchanalian mirth increased. Groups of people used to continually patrol the streets, throw crimson powder at each other or eject a solution of it from syringes, so that the garments and visages were one mass of crimson. On the 8th Phagun Shukla, called the Phag, the Maharana would join the queens and their attendants in the palace, when all restraint was removed and there was unlimited mirth. Each Chief who chose to join had plentiful supply of missiles, formed of thin plates of mica or talc enclosing this crimson powder, called 'abira'. With the most graceful and dextrous horsemanship they used to dart the missiles at each other, pursuing, and jesting. In the reign of Maharana Swarup Singh, Holi was celebrated in a special way. On a large number of elephants were mounted all the 'thakurs' and elite of Udaipur. The Maharana would also mount an elephant. Every one threw the red powder at each other till great clouds of red dust rose.

After this the Maharana would play Holi with the public in the main streets of the town and go to Naulakha in Sajjan Niwas Bagh where a feast was arranged by him. Then he would return to his palace, have a bath, change his dress and hold a 'darbar' at Naginabadi in the afternoon. All the 'durbars' present there were given 'Khande', wooden swords and coconuts.

After this, according to 'muharat', the Maharana would perform 'pujan' and light the Holi fire and later on after the 'pujan' of Holi of Bada Chowk he would light the Holi fire. Only after this, Holi fire could be lit by the public. The Maharani would get dress and money from the Maharana. The next day on 'dulandi' the Maharana would stay in the palace and the employees were allowed to go home and enjoy with their family and friends. Puja of Kamdeo was also performed by 'jyotishis' in the Rajmahal.

Now a days, the whole city begins to vibrate with joyous festive vibes days in advance. On the main streets can be seen persons of Vagaria and other communised singing and dancing on the beats of 'chang' and 'thal' and asking for 'shagun' money. The shops are crowded by excited children buying 'pichkaris' of different sizes and shapes with stickers of political leaders, film stars and characters of tv serials. An interesting development during the last couple of year is the replacement of chemical colours by the, sweet smelling natural colours prepared with flowers and leaves by the tribals of neighbouring area that has in turn become a source of income

for them. This 'gula' is in great demand in India and abroad.

With the beginning of Holastak, a week before Holi, special celebrations start attracting devotees to the temples in Udaipur. Parties of singers from Nathdwara Srinath temple come to the Srinath Mandir, Udaipur to sing 'rasia' songs. So also those from Brij to sing songs composed by poet Raskhan Jagdish Mandir also draws a large number of devotees from far and near to participate enthusiastically in 'bhajan' singing and other programmes. According to an old tradition, thousands of villagers of Pherapheri do not work on Ekadashi and visit this Mandir to worship the Lord.

As the time for Holi Dahan approaches, people start gathering at spots where Holikas have been set up. A branch of the 'semal' tree is set up in the middle and it is surrounded by small branches, twigs, pieces of plywood, hay and cowdung 'uplas' made by girls and women. Firecrackers are also put in the middle. At the appointed auspicious time, some rituals are performed and the fire lit. There is a feeling of elation as the flames go up. People go round the fire and start greeting one another. Dhoond ceremony of the new-born babies is performed for their good health and welfare. On the day after Holika Dahan comes Dulandi when the whole town goes gay, smearing faces with 'gula' and colours and sprinkling water. Revelry is in the air. Old differences are forgotten and people hug each other affectionately.

On the third day is celebrated Bhaiya Dooj when brother-sister relations are revived. The festival is also known as Yamadwitiya. As the legend goes, after creating the universe, Lord Brahma asked Dharmaraj to keep an account of the deeds performed by all the human beings. To help the latter in this stupendous task the Lord created Chitrugupta from his 'kaya' so he was also called Kayasth. As Kayasth community keeps the record using a pen, it is as important for them as the sword is for the Rajputs. Chitrugupta with his pen and inkpot is reverently worshipped by the Kayasthas on Yamadwitiya.

The Sindhi community of Udaipur has some fascination traditions. Pieces of wheat dough are baked on burning coal to make 'Koki'. Sindhi 'ghewar' is offered as 'prasad' after Holi 'pujan'. Ghewars in auspicious numbers are sent to daughters and sisters. Bereaved families are offered 'ghewar' to end the period of 'shok'.

The Marathi community celebrates Holi on Rang Panchami in their native state. However, after being in Udaipur for a long time it celebrates Holi on Dhulandi. Garlands made of cowdung, home made 'pakvans' and sugar 'batashai' are offered to the Holi fire. They go round the fire with a 'lota' full of water placed in a 'thali'. Holi songs are sung. Purnapoli is a part of dinner. The Bengali Samaj pays respect to the elders



by putting 'gula' at their feet. They play with water on Dhulandi evening. For dinner they have 'malpua', 'puri', 'dumalu' etc. They meet at Bung Bhawan after the festival. The people of Pravasi Agrawal Samaj visit their relations on Dhulandi. Later on in the Sneh Sammelan there is a lot of fun and frolic. There is a lot of singing among the Uttarakhand Samaj. During Khadi Holi celebrations, pieces of cloth are collected from the families out of which a stick is made that is circulated among the families and finally offered to the Holi fire. Songs are sung by the people of Bhattmewada Samaj in the Mahalaxmi Mandir. They visit homes where someone had died in the preceding year for condolence. There is a 'mela' like scene in the Juna Basti where Banjara community from different parts of the city assemble.

During Holi Mewar becomes the venue of fascinating scenes. In Menar drum beating goes on all the day long at Onkareshwar Chouraha. The people with swords tied round the waist and carrying swords and guns in their hands come together. Groups of people followed by women carrying Kalash on the head and singing songs of valour converge at the main chowk. Guns are fired in the air, feasts with swords are performed and the history of Menar village and Menaria Samaj is read out. Tamatar Rad, tomato fight, in which tomatoes are thrown by two parties of young men is organized in Dedarwada. In village Bhiluda two parties used to indulge in a stone throwing competition at each other but it has been stopped now. Over ten thousand tribal folks perform Ger dance in the premises of the famous Tripura Sundari Mandir near Banswara.

The fun-filled festival of Holi is not only an occasion to enjoy oneself fully and freely but also end enmity and live in harmony. (Content Courtesy Dr. Rajendra Purohit)

NAND GHAR CONFERRED WITH BEST CSR INITIATIVE BY RAJASTHAN GOVERNMENT



Udaipur: Vedanta Nand Ghar, an Anil Agarwal Foundation Initiative, has been awarded the Best Corporate Social Responsibility Initiative under the 'Indira Mahila Shakti Protsahan Evam Samman Yojana' by the Rajasthan Government.

As part of the International Women's day celebrations, the award was given by Honourable Minister of State, Smt. Mamta Bhupesh, Women and Child Development, Govt. of Rajasthan at the Amrita Haat in Jaipur on 14th March 2021, at a state level festival organized by the Department Women and Child Development, Govt of Rajasthan, that aims to promote entrepreneurial abilities among rural women.

Smt. Mamta Bhupesh, Minister for Women and Child Development, Govt. of Rajasthan appreciated Nand Ghar for its contribution towards the development of the community and also recognized Nand Ghar's work towards the upliftment of children, women, and the community in the state.

Nand Ghar has 1185 centres spread across 12 districts in Rajasthan that provide best in class facilities to the children and women for their overall growth and development.

The journey of Nand Ghar started in 2015 as a dream project of the Vedanta Chairman, Shri Anil Agarwal. A network of model anganwadis, Nand Ghar provides pre-school education through e-learning, BaLa designs and smart kits. Along with education, children are also provided with nutritious meals and health facilities for their unhindered growth. Nand Ghar also aims to strengthen skill and entrepreneurship among rural women. With the Vision to transform the lives of 8.5 crore children and 2 crore women across 13.7 lakh anganwadis the Nand Ghars are set up in a collaboration with the Union Ministry of Women & Child Development.

With more than 2100 centres, the Nand Ghar project is now spread across 10 states—Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Odisha, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, Karnataka, Punjab, Assam, Himanchal Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh. The project aims to touch the lives of 4 million community members while directly impacting around 2 lakh children and 1.8 lakh women on an annual basis. Nand Ghars are equipped with solar panels to ensure 24X7 electricity, water purifiers, clean toilets and smart television sets, and have become a model resource centre for the local communities. Pre-school education is provided to children in the age group of 3-6 years. Nutritious meals and take-home rations are being provided for children, pregnant and lactating women. Primary healthcare services are rendered through mobile health vans & telemedicine facilities and women are empowered through skilling, credit linkage and enterprise development.

Daughter of Dungarpur doing laudable work at USA

-Neeti Gopendra Bhatt

Dr. Priti Pandya, M.D., D.M. (Gastroenterology) is doing a highly commendable work at America. Besides fighting valiantly with dreadful epidemic Covid like a true fighter, simultaneously, she is currently promoting a public awareness campaign stressing need, especially, for senior people to remain aware against Colorectal Cancer and imparts vital information on the issue. March is observed as the National Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month in America.

Colorectal cancer is cancer of colon or rectum and second and second major cause of the mortality by cancer and third the most common cancer men and women in USA.



In a recently published article in a leading magazine-Smarna Vining Lifestyle at the site 'CityLife.com/SmarnaVinings' Dr. Priti has to say that awareness helps to prevention of the disease and is the prime mission of the National Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month. According to her Colorectal cancer often develops from precancerous polyps in the colon or rectum and with regular screening can be detected and removed these prior turn cancerous. She emphasizes that colonoscopy is the standard and the best process to detect at early stage and treatment works at its best.

Among eminent GI specialists of the Georgis state, Dr. Priti further stresses that the screening must began when the person at an average risk turns fifty, but can be carried as early as 40 or 45 years of the age depending upon family history, ethnicity etc. According to Dr. Priti to increase awareness of the campaign people should know the symptoms of the disease that may be change in bowel movement, alternative diarrhea or constipation, abdominal spasms, bloating or discomfort. Georgia State and Board Certified physician Dr. Priti continues to render her relentless services to Smyrna/Vinings residents in the capital city Atlanta of the Georgia State and a largest chain of hospitals. Born at her grand Najaji Bhatt Kanti Nath Sharma's divine home, Daughter of Dungarpur Dr. Priti well groomed by her parents Triloki Nath and Kusum Dixit, completes her MBBS from SMS Medical College, Jaipur, earns MD and the most challenging and coveted specialization-DM at America is incredible. Chairman of parliamentary external committee P P Chaudhary has given compliments to Dr Preeti Pandya and said that We all the Indians take you in a high pride to bring glory to India for outstanding services Dr. Priti and wish that you continue to society with your earnest medical care.

Miraj Cinemas gift to residents of Pink City



Jaipur Miraj Group, one of the leading business conglomerates of the country, launched its Multiplex Cinemas in Jaipur to provide a new cinema experience to the residents of Pink City at the famous Cinemas Entertainment Paradise located at Jawaharlal Nehru Marg, Jawahar Circle in Jaipur, which has introduced three multiplex cinemas simultaneously. This will be the 154th screen of Miraj Cinemas in the capital Jaipur, where viewers will experience a great experience in the entertainment world. With this launch, Miraj Cinemas has also acquired Jaipur's famous Entertainment Paradise. Currently, Miraj Cinemas has 154 screens in 53 cinemas across 38 cities in 14 states of India. It is the fifth-largest multiplex cinema chain in the country.

On this occasion, the Chairman of Miraj Group, Mr. Madan Paliwal, said, "Today is a happy moment for the entire Miraj family that they are going to provide a great film experience of cinema to the people of Jaipur. Our main objective is to show films as well as provide customer satisfaction. We are thankful to all those people who have stayed and supported us in our journey till now. Our identity is the trust of our customers."

Mantraraj Paliwal, vice chairman of Miraj Group, said that Miraj Cinemas is moving fast. The audience likes our cinemas. We expect the development of Miraj Cinema to be very rapid, and by the end of 2021, we will reach a significant figure of 200 screens.

Speaking on occasion, Miraj Cinemas director Amit Sharma said that Entertainment Paradise's new presentation in Jaipur would provide a unique experience to the cinematic audience.

Experience recliner seats with state-of-the-art screen and sound

To give viewers a premium experience of cinema, three multiplex screens of Luxury Miraj Cinemas have a total seating capacity of 1000 spectators in each a-d. Where the audience will get a great experience of seating as well as state-of-the-art screen and sound system. This theater has a good sound system with state-of-the-art, and 3D projection is also provided in each avenue, Giving viewers a new and fantastic cinema experience. Apart from this, comfortable recliner seats have also been installed in every A / D for the audience.

Viewers of the live kitchen setup will enjoy- To give the audience a great entertainment experience, they can also enjoy delicious cuisine; for this, Miraj Cinemas has also arranged a live kitchen setup. The viewers who watch the film can offer their favorite thing. Viewers will be able to order pizza, burgers, sandwiches, etc., on the live kitchen setup.

717 Crore Satluj and Beas River Pollution Control Schemes To Launch In 14 Punjab Cities



Launch of INR 717 Crore Pollution Abatement Schemes in 14 cities of Punjab gives indicative assurance to the immediate need of Satluj and Beas river water resource conservation from harmful pollutants that are rising to alarming level day by day. On Thursday, March 18, 2021, Union Minister of State for Jal Shakti, Rattan Lal Kataria has made this point clear in Lok Sabha in answer to Rajasthan MP Hanuman Beniwal's concern on the contamination of Rajasthan's canals due to continual discharge of polluted water through Punjab's Harike Barrage constructed in the junction of Beas and Satluj rivers.

The current disturbing phase is not an instant's occurrence, but a result of long negligence, lack of awareness and badly operated Sewage or Industrial Effluent Treatment Units that kept throwing untreated or semi-treated wastes from these 14 cities into Satluj, Beas and their tributaries. In this way, the impurities have gone so hugely up to be the reason of a number of health and environmental threats, if not checked at once.

The Union Minister explained it that these Schemes are undertaken under Centrally Sponsored National River Conservation Plan (NRCP) as a serious preventive measure to control water pollution. Additionally, Sewage Treatment Units with capacity of over 648 million litres per day are operated in these cities. Jalandhar, Phillaur, Ludhiana, Kapurthala, Phagwara and Sultanpur Lodhi are the main areas where these Sewage Plants are now being functional. These initiatives will be adequately maintained and surveyed to improve water resources of these vast affected areas and adjacent parts of the country.

- Arkaprava Das