

Colors of Tradition: Holi Celebrations in Udaipur

A Historical Prelude to Vibrant Festivities

Udaipur, nestled in the heart of Rajasthan, is not just a city of palaces and lakes but also a cradle of rich cultural heritage. Its history is adorned with tales of valor, romance, and tradition. Among the plethora of festivals celebrated here, Holi holds a special place, weaving together the threads of history and festivity.

Udaipur, often referred to as the "City of Lakes," boasts a regal past marked by the valor of its rulers and the splendor of its palaces. From the reign of the Mewar dynasty to the era of British colonialism, every epoch has left its indelible mark on the city's cultural tapestry. Holi, with its riot of colors and joyous revelry, finds its roots intertwined with the annals of Udaipur's history.

The celebration of Holi in Udaipur is not merely a contemporary phenomenon but a continuation of centuries-old traditions.

In ancient times, the festival was observed as a spring festival, commemorating the arrival of the season of harvest and renewal. Over the years, it evolved into a cultural extravaganza, blending indigenous customs with influences from neighboring regions.

Splashes of Color: Holi in Modern Udaipur

As the vibrant festival of Holi approaches, the streets of Udaipur come alive with anticipation and excitement. Locals and tourists alike eagerly await the spectacle of colors that will adorn every nook and cranny of the city. From the majestic City Palace to the bustling markets of Hathipole, the spir-



it of Holi permeates every corner.

The festivities commence with Holika Dahan, a symbolic bonfire that signifies the triumph of good over evil. Families gather around the pyre, offering prayers and seeking blessings for prosperity and happiness. As the flames leap into the night sky, echoes of laughter and joy reverberate through the air, heralding the arrival of Holi.

The following day, the real celebration begins, as people take to the streets armed with colored powders and water guns, ready to drench each other in hues of red, green, yellow, and blue. It's a day of uninhibited revelry, where age, gender, and social status are forgotten, and all are equal in the pursuit of fun and merriment.

Echoes of Tradition: Cultural Extravaganza

On the day of Holi, the streets of Udaipur transform into a kaleidoscope of colors, as people of all ages come together to partake in the revelry. From traditional folk songs to spirited dances, every corner resonates with the rhythm of celebration. The aroma of mouthwatering delicacies fills

the air, as families exchange sweets and greetings.

One of the highlights of Holi in Udaipur is the grand procession of the Maharana, adorned in resplendent attire, riding atop a lavishly decorated elephant.

Accompanied by a retinue of courtiers and musicians, the Maharana leads the procession through the city, showering revelers with flower petals and colored powder.

Throughout the day, various cultural performances take place in different parts of the city, showcasing the rich tapestry of Rajasthani art and music. From traditional folk dances like Ghoomar and Kalbelia to soul-stirring renditions of classical music, Holi in Udaipur is a feast for the senses, captivating both locals and visitors alike.

Bonds of Unity: Holi Across Communities

Holi in Udaipur transcends barriers of caste, creed, and religion, fostering a sense of unity and camaraderie among its inhabitants. Hindus, Muslims, Sikhs, and Christians come together to celebrate the festival with equal fervor, embodying the spirit of secularism and harmony that defines the city.

In the midst of the festivities, old grievances are forgotten, and new friendships are forged. Neighbors exchange greetings and gifts, spreading love and goodwill in abundance. As the day draws to a close, the echoes of laughter fade into the night, leaving behind memories that will be cherished for years to come.

Conclusion:
In Udaipur, Holi is not just a festival; it is a celebration of life itself—a testament to the city's vibrant culture and timeless traditions. As the colors of Holi fade away, they leave behind a legacy of joy, unity, and harmony that continues to resonate throughout the city, year after year.

Colors, Culture, and Community in Udaipur

Rotary Club Meera's Vibrant Holi Celebration

In a jubilant affair at Hotel Prathiniya, Rotary Club Meera of Udaipur orchestrated a lively Holi celebration. Led by President Sangita Mundra, members joyously engaged in "Phoolon ki Holi," playing games, singing Holi songs, and relishing delectable dishes. They also pledged to conserve water, echoing an essential message for sustainable living. The event witnessed the presence of esteemed members like Ranjana Choudhary, Sangita Detha, and Rajkumari Gandhi, among others, along with Secretary Kavita Shrivastava and Chairperson Sonu Jain.

Tilak Holi: A Nostalgic Reunion

Simultaneously, the Science Committee of Udaipur and former student council members of MB College celebrated Tilak Holi, adorning each other with colored powder and heartfelt wishes. The joint event, graced by Dr. KP Talsara and Dr. Mahip Bhatnagar, aimed to revive nostalgic sentiments from the seventies.

Secretary Shanti Lal Bhandari highlighted the enduring significance of Holi, fostering cherished memories and enduring relationships. The event, chaired by Vardhman Mehta, concluded with a vote of thanks by R.K. Khokhawati, attended by esteemed members from both institutions.

JK Lakshmi Cement's Festive Gathering

At Marval Water Park, officers and vendors of JK Lakshmi Cement congregated for a vibrant Holi celebration. Rajasthan head Chanchal Shrivastav emphasized the cultural significance of festivals in binding communities together. Regional Head Vijendra Singh Rathore underscored the role of festivities in strengthening human bonds. The event featured knowledge-enhancing competitions, sports events, and mesmerizing performances by local artists, welcoming approximately 400 guests.

Colorful Extravaganza at Oriental Palace

Nand Bhawan within Oriental Palace became the epicenter of a vibrant cultural extravaganza, jointly organized by the Gattani Foundation, Muskaan Club, and Matrushi Club. Mrs. Kaushalya Gattani and Mrs. Shraddha Gattani spearhead-

ed the event, marked by a Ganapati Vandana and garlanding ceremony of Mr. K.G. Gattani's portrait. Through captivating performances, including classical dances and comedy skits, attendees immersed themselves in the spirit of Holi, fostering joy and camaraderie. The evening culminated in a sumptuous feast, expressing gratitude to all participants for their invaluable contributions.

Empowering Entrepreneurs: Holi Approaches

In anticipation of Holi, residents of Bassi-Samchot prepared to celebrate in a unique manner.

Having acquired new skills in baking during training sessions, individuals like Kalul Meghwal and Rekha Meghwal envisioned starting their own businesses, catering to the high demand for snacks during festivals. Recognizing the nutritional value of coarse grains, they planned to incorporate them into their products, ensuring sustenance and prosperity throughout the year.

With determination and newfound knowledge, they looked forward to earning a few pennies during Holi, laying the foundation for sustainable entrepreneurship and community development.

As Holi approaches, Udaipur resonates with the spirit of unity, joy, and renewal, exemplified by the diverse array of celebrations and initiatives undertaken by its residents. From traditional festivities to innovative endeavors, the city embraces the essence of Holi, fostering bonds of friendship and solidarity that endure beyond the colorful festivities.

As the infection continues to increase, so does the medication: Sisam Conservation

Udaipur. In a survey conducted on Saturday in the city and surrounding areas under the Sisam Conservation Campaign initiated by the Society for Microvita Research and Integrated



Medicine (SMRIM), Udaipur, it was revealed that as much effort is being made to save the sisam trees, an equal number of sisam trees are being cut down. Society President Dr. S.K. Varma revealed that

in the past few years, the number of sisam trees cut down this year is astonishing, compared to the relatively lesser impact of the coronavirus on sisam trees.

Along with this, the value of sisam has also increased from Rs. 1000 to 1500/-. What's surprising is that a very large sisam tree, approximately 45-50 feet tall, which was passing through its flowering cycle, was seen shedding tears in anticipation of being burnt on the highest Holi bonfire in the city. It is obvious that if it has been cut down during its flowering phase, it has not only ended the possibility of fruit and seed germination but also halted the natural conservation of a species.

Secretary of the society, Dr. Vartika Jain, said that the society has continuously presented alternative options at the location of sisam, including using iron for Holi, cow dung cakes for Holi, etc., but the intellectual class is still not accepting it, and its transformation will result in the extinction of sisam from southern Rajasthan in the coming years. Society members have resolved to continuously plant and protect new sisam saplings for the success of the sisam conservation campaign and suggested that in this campaign, cooperation should also be sought from the Forest Department to impose a ban on sisam cutting.

Workers Must Achieve Targets Without Rest: CP Joshi

Udaipur (Dr. Munesh Arora) : Speaking at a meeting of BJP's clusters from three Lok Sabha constituencies, Chief Minister Bhajan Lal Sharma emphasized the importance of workers completing their targets without resting. "Having worked with in the organization for a considerable period, I understand the value of hard work and assure that public welfare remains our priority," stated Chief Minister Bhajan Lal Sharma during the gathering.

He further criticized the previous Congress government, accusing it of betraying the trust of the youth and families. "Our government is committed to taking swift action to prevent incidents such as paper leaks and gang wars," he asserted. "We have already formed an SIT to investigate paper leaks, leading to the arrest of 63 individuals responsible for shattering the dreams of our youth."



Chief Minister Bhajan Lal Sharma highlighted several initiatives undertaken by the BJP government in Rajasthan, including raising the Kisan Samman Nidhi amount, increasing support prices for wheat, and enhancing social security pensions. Additionally, he mentioned efforts to alleviate the burden of rising fuel prices through VAT reductions.

BJP State President CP Joshi echoed the sentiment, emphasizing the need for diligent work from nomination to vote counting. "We must ensure that every action plan is followed through, and we won't rest until our targets are achieved," he affirmed.

The meeting also saw the participation of various party leaders, including Cabinet Minister Prabhu Lal Saini and Rajya Sabha MP Chunnilal Garasia, who provided insights into the government's welfare schemes. The event was organized by Pramod Samar, the State President of the Cooperative Cell and Udaipur Lok Sabha convener.

The gathering underscored the BJP's commitment to governance and its determination to fulfill promises made to the people of Rajasthan.

BJP vs. Congress: Electoral Maneuvers Ahead of Lok Sabha Polls

As Lok Sabha elections loom, both BJP and Congress unveil their third candidate lists, reshaping political dynamics in Rajasthan and Tamil Nadu. Congress strategically nominates five candidates in Rajasthan, including notable figures like Sunil Sharma and Kuldeep Indora. BJP suffers a setback with prominent Gujarat leader Prahlad Gunjal defecting to Congress, citing disillusionment with PM Modi's leadership. BJP appoints Vinay Sahastrabudhe as Rajasthan state in-charge, while Congress courts dissatisfied BJP leaders like Rahul Kaswan. With meticulous candidate selection and strategic maneuvering underway, the political canvas amidst Holi celebrations reflects the uncertainty of Rajasthan's electoral future.

Poetry: A Testament to Time

Poetry Day in Kota witnessed a celebration at the public



library, highlighting the timeless essence of poetic expression. Satis Gautam and Prof. K.B. Bharatiya led discussions on poetry's contemporary relevance. Renowned litterateur Jitendra Nirmohi emphasized poetry's role as a cultural document. Ajay Purushottam, Gopal Namendra, and Dr. Prabhakar Kumar Singhal shared insights, while literary readings and hymns enriched the event. The occasion also marked the release of "Ladbaai," a Hindi translation of Jitendra Nirmohi's novel.

Khatushyam Ji's Laksi Fair

The Laksi Mela-2024 at Baba Khatushyam Ji's shrine in Rajasthan is currently in full swing, drawing millions of devotees from across the country and around the world. Scheduled for Ekadashi on Wednesday, March 20th, this annual fair, held from Shukla Shashthi to Baras in the month of Phalgun, commemorates the revered figure of Baba Khatushyam Ji.

Legend has it that Baba Khatushyam Ji is none other than Barbarik, the great archer and grandson of Bhima from the Mahabharata era. Barbarik, son of Ghatotkacha, earned Lord Krishna's blessing during the Kurukshetra war and was bestowed with the name 'Shyam' for worship in the Kaliyuga.

The city of Khatu is resounding with chants of Baba Shyam as devotees flock to seek his blessings. Thousands have already visited the shrine, with the numbers swelling as Ekadashi approaches.

According to Pratap Singh Chauhan, Chairman of Khatu Shyam Ji Mandir Mandal, the influx of devotees intensifies as Ekadashi draws nearer. Groups of devotees arrive from all corners of the country, chanting praises of Baba Shyam.



The vibrant Phalguni fair enchants devotees, with Khatu Dham witnessing a sea of devotees, adorned with signs and saffron flags, chanting the name of Baba Shyam.

The annual Laksi fair sees a continuous stream of devotees from Ringas to Khatu Dham, where Baba Shyam is beautifully adorned with colorful flowers. Devotees queue up to catch a glimpse of the deity amidst the new temple arrangements, while every street of Khatu bustles with devotees.

Khatu Shyam Mandir, situated in the village of Khatu, 43 km from Sikar, Rajasthan, is an ancient pilgrimage site linked to Lord Krishna and Barbarik from the Mahabharata. Devotees believe that the temple houses the real head of Barbarik, who sacrificed himself during the Mahabharata war.

The tale of Khatu Shyam Ji traces back to the Mahabharata era, where Barbarik's selfless sacrifice earned him Lord Krishna's blessings. Even today, devotees across the globe revere Khatu Shyam Ji, the Kalyugi incarnation of Lord Krishna.

The ongoing Laksi fair not only celebrates the legacy of Baba Shyam but also serves as a reminder of the unparalleled devotion and sacrifice epitomized by Barbarik, inspiring millions to seek solace and strength in his divine presence.

-Dr. Gopendra Bhatt

NIMS University Welcomes Economic Delegation

NIMS University in Jaipur hosted a significant event welcoming a delegation from the Indian Economic Association. Led by former Vice-Chancellor Prof. Amerika Singh, discussions revolved around the upcoming 107th International Conference on "Developed India: Challenges and Opportunities." Highlighting the crucial role of youth and higher education, Prof. Singh emphasized India's vision of development.



The conference aims to outline a roadmap for economic growth, focusing on sustainability and inclusivity. Prominent figures like Dr. Manmohan Singh and Prof. Amartya Sen have previously led the association, shaping India's economic discourse. The event stressed the integration of economic development with social welfare, underscoring the pivotal role of technology in India's global leadership aspirations.

Arvind Kejriwal's Arrest and Its Impact on Indian Politics

The recent arrest of Arvind Kejriwal, the Chief Minister of Delhi, in connection with a liquor policy case has sent shockwaves through India's political landscape. Amidst the backdrop of the impending Lok Sabha elections, this development has added a new layer of complexity and intrigue to the unfolding political drama.

Political Turmoil Amidst Election Preparations:

Kejriwal's arrest comes at a crucial juncture as political parties gear up for the Lok Sabha elections. With candidates being announced and campaign strategies being devised, the sudden arrest of a prominent figure like Kejriwal has injected uncertainty and chaos into the political arena.

BJP and Congress Candidate Announcements:

While the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has released its fourth list of candidates, including names from Tamil Nadu and Puducherry, the Congress party is yet to finalize its remaining candidates, particularly for Rajasthan. Speculation is rife regarding potential candidates from Rajasthan, adding to the anticipation surrounding the election process.

Potential Candidates for Rajasthan:

The Congress party is expected to announce significant names from Rajasthan in its upcoming candidate list. These potential candidates could play a crucial role in shaping the electoral landscape of the state and influencing voter sentiment.

Lok Sabha Election Schedule:

The Lok Sabha elections are scheduled to be held in seven phases, spanning from April 19 to June 1, with vote counting set for June 4. Against this backdrop, Kejriwal's arrest has intensified the political discourse, with parties scrambling to navigate the evolving situation.

Allegations and Defense:

Kejriwal's arrest is accompanied by allegations of his involvement in a liquor scam, with accusations of misuse of funds during the Goa elections. However, Kejriwal's defense, presented by Congress leader Abhishek Manu Singhvi, asserts his innocence and challenges the validity of the charges against him.

Seeking Justice Amidst Political Unrest:

In response to Kejriwal's arrest, leaders of the India Alliance have approached the Election Commission, seeking justice and fair treatment in light of the unfolding events. The arrest has ignited debates surrounding political integrity and accountability, further shaping the contours of the electoral discourse.

Conclusion:

As India braces itself for the Lok Sabha elections, the arrest of Arvind Kejriwal has added an unexpected twist to the political narrative. With parties jostling for supremacy and voters voicing their concerns, the impact of Kejriwal's arrest on the electoral outcome remains to be seen. However, one thing is certain: the coming days will witness heightened political fervor and intense scrutiny as the nation embarks on its democratic journey.



Dialogue for Patriotism: Martyrs Remembered

In honor of the courageous sacrifices of Bhagat Singh, Sukhdev, and Rajguru, a dialogue program on fostering patriotism in youth was held in Kota. Dr. Amrita Duhan, Police Commissioner, emphasized the power of literature in shaping national confidence. Esteemed speakers like Vijay Joshi and Jitendra Nirmohi shared insights, while youth writer Kishan Pranay showcased Bhagat Singh's ideology. Exhibitions on freedom fighters were also featured, emphasizing the importance of nationalist education. Dr. Deepak Kumar Srivastava highlighted the role of intellectuals in guiding youth, fostering unity in society.

