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The Festival of Harvest and New Beginnings

Makar Sankranti

Makar Sankranti, celebrated annually on January 14th, marks the transition of the Sun into the zodiac sign of Capricorn (Makara) and signifies the end of the winter solstice. It is one of the most auspicious festivals in India, celebrated with great enthusiasm and devotion across the country. Known as the harvest festival, it is a time to express gratitude to nature for bountiful crops and welcome longer days of sunshine.

Cultural Significance
Makar Sankranti is deeply rooted in India's agrarian tra-

ditions. It is a time of joy for farmers as they reap the rewards of their hard work with the harvest season. The festival also symbolizes the victory of light over darkness and the renewal of energy and positivity. It is believed that on this day, taking a holy dip in sacred rivers such as the Ganga, Yamuna, Godavari, or Kaveri can cleanse one's sins and lead to spiritual growth.

Regional Variations
Makar Sankranti is celebrated under various names and customs across India:
• Pongal in Tamil Nadu: A four-day festival dedicated to



the Sun God, marked by the preparation of the traditional dish 'Pongal.'

• Lohri in Punjab: A night of bonfires and folk songs celebrating the harvest of sugar-

cane.
• Uttarayan in Gujarat: Famous for its kite-flying tra-

dition, painting the skies with vibrant colors.

• Bihu in Assam: A joyous celebration with traditional dances and feasts.

• Khichdi Parv in Uttar Pradesh and Bihar: Marked by charity, feasts of khichdi, and rituals.

Traditional Practices

• Kite Flying: One of the most iconic aspects of Makar Sankranti, especially in Gujarat and Rajasthan, where the skies are filled with colorful kites symbolizing freedom and festivity.

• Special Delicacies: The festival is incomplete without sweet treats made of sesame

seeds (til) and jaggery (gur), such as tilgul, gajak, and laddoos, symbolizing togetherness and sweetness in relationships.

• Charity and Rituals: People donate food, clothes, and money to the underprivileged, embodying the spirit of sharing and caring.

A Time of Joy and Togetherness

Makar Sankranti is not just a festival but a celebration of life, nature, and relationships. Families come together to

enjoy the festive spirit, fly kites, prepare special dishes, and engage in prayers.

It marks a new beginning, encouraging people to embrace positivity, harmony, and gratitude. As the Sun begins its northward journey, Makar Sankranti reminds us of the eternal cycle of life and the importance of aligning ourselves with the rhythms of nature.

It is a festival that unites diverse communities under the common thread of joy and gratitude, making it a cherished occasion for all.

- Sulekha shrivastava

Professor Amarika Singh Visits Nathdwara, Offers Prayers

Udaipur: Professor Amarika Singh, Vice Chancellor of Vikrant University and former Vice Chancellor of Mohanlal Sukhadia University (MLSU), visited the revered Shri Nathji Temple in Nathdwara to offer prayers for the welfare of the public. During his visit, he met with Sudhakar Shastri Ji, a temple official, and discussed matters of spiritual and social significance.

An Illustrious Career with Remarkable Achievements
Previously serving as the Vice Chancellor of MLSU, Professor Singh's tenure was marked by transformative initiatives. He was honored with the prestigious Chancellor Award for his outstanding contributions.

Despite the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, Professor Singh spearheaded impactful projects, including:

• Constructing a grand main gate, India's first Constitution Park, and Constitution Pillar through CSR efforts.

• Introducing Architecture and Engineering programs and modernizing courses such as Fashion Technology and Social Work.

Professor Singh also achieved extraordinary milestones, such as:

• Hosting 151 webinars in a single day.
• Launching the Tribal Milap Scheme and connecting 155 institutions under Maharana Pratap's name.
• Securing ₹1.11 crore in internal funding for the state government during the pandemic.
• Regularizing 102 faculty members in a single day and ensuring timely retirement payouts.

Current Role in Global Academia

Professor Singh's contributions extend beyond national boundaries. As an executive committee member of the Association of Universities of Asia and the Pacific, he continues to make significant strides in fostering global academic collaborations. His visit to Nathdwara reflects his commitment to both spiritual and public service, resonating with his illustrious legacy of leadership and innovation.

"Honoring Champions of Cleanliness: A Step Towards a Cleaner Udaipur"

Udaipur: A grand ceremony was held at the Sukhadia Rangmanch, Udaipur, under the auspices of the Udaipur Municipal Corporation and Mewar Jan Shakti Dal, to honor individuals for their exceptional contributions to the field of cleanliness. The event, titled "Aap Aur Hum Ek Kadam Swachhata Ki Aur", was graced by the Tribal Regional Development Minister, Shri Babulal Kharadi as the Chief Guest. It also saw the blessings and presence of Mahatma Shri Shri 1008 Swami Hiteshwaranand Ji Saraswati of Katwala Mahadev, along with Udaipur Rural MLA Phoolsingh Meena, Swachh Bharat Mission Coordinator K.K. Gupta, and M Square Group Director Mukesh Madhwani.

In his speech, Swami Hiteshwaranand stressed that cleanliness is not just a task but a responsibility. He shared, "When service is done with a pure heart for the benefit of society, the individual receives divine blessings." He encouraged all to contribute to the nation's welfare with noble actions.

Minister Shri Babulal Kharadi congratulated the awardees, recognizing their invaluable services towards cleanliness. He highlighted the success of the Swachh Bharat Mission, launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, which has transformed the nation, instilling awareness and a sense of responsibility among every citizen. The Minister also expressed pride in how the mission has been successfully implemented in Rajasthan, bringing about significant change.

Special Honors: Among the honored were Shri Yash Kanwar Paliwal, a 90-year-old woman from Udaipur who has written "Ram Ram" over 3.5 crore times as part of her dedication to the Swachh Bharat Mission. Other notable recipients of the Mewar Ratna Award for their exceptional contributions to the mission included K.K. Gupta, Dr. Govind Singh Bhardwaj, Dheerendra Sachan, Kartavya Shukla, Neeraj Paliwal, and Nareish Sharma from Shantiraj Hospital.

The awards also acknowledged the efforts of social activists, including Advocate Nirmal Pandit, Magician Aanchal Kumawat, Manjeet Singh Gehlot, Kishan Vande Sensei, and Girish Joshi. SK Khetan, Director of SK Khetan Group, and the Mewar Jan Shakti Dal were also recognized for their dedication to the cause of cleanliness and social service.

"Job Creators to Drive India Towards Becoming the Third Largest Economy – Tribal Minister"



Udaipur: At the closing ceremony of the India Industrial Fair 2025 held at DPS Grounds, Rajasthan's Minister of Tribal Development, Babulal Kharadi, reiterated India's goal to become the world's third-largest economy by 2027. He emphasized that this ambitious goal can only be achieved through the collective efforts of industries and entrepre-

neurs. The minister encouraged the youth to become job creators instead of job seekers and urged them to pursue entrepreneurship. He highlighted the critical role of small-scale industries in driving economic growth, stressing that the health of an economy depends on the perseverance and innovation of entrepreneurs.

Minister Kharadi also pointed out the significance of maintaining quality in products, warning against the dangers of adulteration and the negative impact it could have on public health.

Reviving Udaipur's Trade Heritage: Manoj Joshi, President of Laghu Udyog Bharati, Udaipur, spoke about the rich trading history of

Udaipur, tracing its roots back to the Ahar civilization, which made the city a major trade hub in ancient times. He stressed that the primary objective of IIF-2025 is to re-establish Udaipur as a prominent trade center, facilitating stronger connections between local and external entrepreneurs. The event generated a business turnover of ₹100-125 crore and attracted over 1.25 lakh visitors over its four-day span.

Support for Small Enterprises: Hemendra Shrimali, RSS's Divisional Head, called upon entrepreneurs to actively contribute to the nation's development. Govind Agrawal, Metropolitan

RSS Head, reinforced the importance of empowering small-scale industries, highlighting their vital role in the economy.

Initiatives by Laghu Udyog Bharati: Yogendra Sharma, State Secretary of Laghu Udyog Bharati, set a target to increase the Rajasthan chapter's membership to 25,000 from its current 15,000. He also shared key policy changes, such as a thorough investigation before arrests in industrial accidents and the introduction of the "One Station-One Product" initiative at railway stations across India.

Event Highlights: The event began with a warm welcome from Fair Coordinator

Tarun Dave and concluded with a vote of thanks by Co-Coordinator Mukesh Sinha. Acknowledging the hard work of volunteers and contributors, the organizers presented mementos to show appreciation.

Engagement with Educational Institutions: The fair saw strong participation from students from schools and colleges like MG College, St. Paul's, St. Anthony's, and DPS, who attended workshops on entrepreneurship and innovation. The fair's successful run marks a significant step toward boosting Udaipur's position as a key player in India's industrial and economic growth.

- Mohsina Bano

"Empowering Women: A New Era for India's Cooperative Movement"

Udaipur: The transformative power of cooperatives was celebrated as Shrimati Vijaya K. Rahatkar, Chairperson of the National Commission for Women, delivered an impactful lecture on women's significant role in strengthening the cooperative movement. The event, held at the Udaipur Dairy Plant in Govardhan Vilas, was organized by the Udaipur Milk Producers Union.

Shrimati Rahatkar spoke on how the concept of cooperation, which started as an idea and evolved into a movement, is now a symbol of empowerment, largely driven by the active participation of women.

In her address, Shrimati Rahatkar stated that cooperatives have played a crucial role in organizing farmers during the freedom struggle and have since developed into a powerful sector supporting economic prosperity. She highlighted that UNESCO's declaration of 2025 as the International Year of Cooperatives reflects the increasing importance of this sector on a global scale. The formation of the Ministry of Cooperation by the government was also mentioned as a significant step towards strengthening cooperatives at the national level. With cooperatives linking information technology, they are now facilitating the welfare of farmers and livestock owners.



Shri Rahatkar emphasized the vital contribution of women in dairy farming, animal husbandry, and beekeeping, stressing that their participation in these fields has been instrumental in shaping the cooperative landscape in India. She called upon the people of Rajasthan to encourage more women to be a part of the cooperative movement, inspiring them to take a leading role in nation-building.

Shri Gautam Dak, the Cooperation Minister of Rajasthan, spoke at length about the government's efforts to promote cooperative prosperity. He affirmed that under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home and Cooperation Minister Amit Shah, India is steadily moving toward a cooperative-based economy. He applauded Rajasthan's Chief Minister Bhajanlal Sharma for taking effective steps to enhance women's participation in cooperatives and agriculture, contributing to the state's overall progress. Shri Dak mentioned that government policies are continuously working to create a more inclusive and thriving agricultural community.

The event was also graced by Udaipur MP Dr. Mannalal Rawat and Rural MLA Phoolsingh Meena, who emphasized the importance of cooperative models in fostering economic growth. They acknowledged the role of women in driving local economies and commended the government's ongoing initiatives.

Ravindra Shrimali, Chandragupt Singh Chauhan, Pramod Samar, Paras Singvi, and other notable dignitaries were present at the event, recognizing the significance of

the event underscored the power of collaboration in the cooperative movement, especially by empowering women and farmers, making it clear that the future of India's economic prosperity lies in the strengthening of cooperative societies across the nation.

- Dr. Munesh Arora

Dr. Vinay Bhanawat Honored with Bharat Bhushan National Award



Udaipur: Dr. Vinay Bhanawat, popularly known as the "Currency Man" of Lake City, has been awarded the Bharat Bhushan National Award-2024 by the National Anti-Harassment Foundation for his exemplary contributions. The award ceremony was held in Udaipur, where Mrs. Vijaya Tai Rahatkar, Chairperson of the National Commission for Women, presented him with a certificate, memento, and medal as a token of recognition.

Dr. Bhanawat received this prestigious honor for his expertise in notaphily (the study and collection of currency) and his efforts toward promoting communal harmony. The dignitaries present at the event applauded his remarkable contributions and extended their best wishes for his bright future.

Known for his passion for collecting and preserving Indian currency, Dr. Bhanawat has brought recognition to Udaipur and India on a national scale. His dedication to this unique field has made him a source of inspiration for many, and his achievements continue to instill pride among the residents of Udaipur.

Celebrating the Young and Inspiring Talents at Udaipur's Tales Event

The Tales event in Udaipur witnessed the incredible talent of young storytellers who demonstrated their passion and creativity, impressing everyone with their captivating performances. These students from various schools not only showcased their storytelling skills but also excelled in their positions. Let's celebrate their remarkable achievements:



1. Manvi Swarnkar (1st, Central Academy Sardarpura) – A true inspiration for her peers, Manvi secured the first position, showcasing her exceptional storytelling skills.

2. Avanthika Nair (1st, Seedling Modern Public School) – With her imaginative narrative, Avanthika earned the second position, capturing the audience's attention with every word.

3. Hiren Kiplani (4th, St Anthony's School Hiran Magri) – Hiren's creativity shone through as he took the first position, leaving everyone in awe with his unique approach.

4. Vaibhavi Singh Shaktawat (3rd, St Anthony's School Goverdhan Villas) – Vaibhavi's brilliant storytelling earned her the second position, with her expressive delivery resonating deeply with the audience.

5. Mahi Oad (6th, Seedling Modern Public School) – Mahi's natural flair for storytelling brought her the first position, making her a standout performer in her category.

6. Litya Sharma (5th, Neeraj Modi Public School) – Litya secured the first position, demonstrating immense talent with her engaging story.

7. Sharav Jain (5th, Seedling The World School) – Sharav's ability to captivate the audience with his powerful storytelling earned him the second position.

8. Kanishka Agarwal (8th, St Anthony's School Hiran Magri) – Kanishka clinched the first position, sharing her inspiring story with grace and poise.

9. Garvita Gandhi (9th, St Anthony's School Hiran Magri) – Garvita secured the second position, impressing the judges with her clarity and confidence in storytelling.

10. Lakshita Mali (11th, Seedling Modern Public School) – Lakshita's storytelling talent won her the first position, as her engaging narrative captivated the audience.

11. Jeenal Jain (10th, St Anthony's School Goverdhan Villas) – Jeenal's excellent storytelling skills earned her the second position, making her a true inspiration for future storytellers.

These young individuals demonstrated exceptional talent and creativity at the Tales event, showing that the future of storytelling is in great hands. Their hard work and dedication are an inspiration to all. Keep shining!