

Rendezvous with Udaipur



Udaipur: From being a lesser known small city, with its palaces bustling with almost a hundred different ballads narrating its prestigious position in history as one of the most cherished kingdoms of Mewar, the

beloved land of the valiant Rajput rulers of the past, Udaipur has gradually ascended to being one of the most famous tourist destinations and a preferred place for big fat destination weddings in India.

In history, the city never saw an autumn of gloom but many springs of victory and joy. Ever since this historical capital of Mewar was founded in 1558 by Maharana Udai Singh-2, it has remained a source of poetic inspiration and a miniature heaven in a world of disillusionment.

The palaces in the city resonate with the notes of "KesariyaBalam" and the city duly glitters in its unparalleled magnificence, akin to an evergreen tree covered in the leaves of bliss. Men with traditional turbans and women clad in beautiful ethnic Mewari wear would greet you and with their hospitality, make you feel home.

Once one enters the city, the city casts its spell over the person and hence, bidding goodbyes as the vacation ends becomes difficult for the visitors. Men and women from foreign lands rejoice the beats of "Ghoomar" and often join in the nimble-footed dancers in their poetic performances. They apply

heena to their hands and legs and with immense happiness purchase the much acclaimed jewelry, mirror-work ghaghras and other souvenirs. The "KachiGhodi Dance" is a delight to the eye and so are the artefacts and musical performances in the widely visited "Shilp Gram".

Recently while travelling to Udaipur from Ajmer in a train, I was elated to meet a group of Australian visitors who were keenly discussing the tales they had heard of the beauty of the city and its ability to make home in the hearts of anybody who seeks to venture it.

The weather here is never oppressive, with moderately cold winters and similar summers, it is just suitable for relishing famous seasonal delicacies in the vicinity of the many lakes, that form a part of the city. Encircled by the "Aravalis" like a mother embraces a child, calling the city an embodiment of beauty wouldn't be an exaggeration.

The images of the "FatehSagar" and the "Pichola Lake" have never ceased to break the internet and always tickle the travel bug. A sense of connection and a feeling of oneness with the elements of nature would embrace you while in boating in the midst of shining waters.

While travelling to the city, one must not miss out the chance of visiting the following places:

1. The Lakes: The lakes are a treasure to behold. Connected like pearls in a necklace, most of these lakes are in a close proximity to each other and a great source of recreation, fun and frolic.

2. The Palaces: The residence of the ancient rulers, these are the sites known for exquisite architectural brilliance and intricately carved engravings. Anybody who visits the city must visit at least the City Palace, the Taj Lake Palace and the Monsoon Palace.

3. Regal Gardens and Museums: In the lap of nature, every-

thing seems to be more beautiful and more meaningful. The "MotiMagri" is one such site and "Saheliyon Ki Bari" is another. The City Museum is a delightful preserver of the history of the city comprising of the various weapons, paintings, artefacts, etc. of historical importance.

4. Handicrafts: Having to its credit one of the largest markets dealing in handicrafts and one of the few places in the country reflecting such diversity in the market ranging from traditional handicrafts and marble statues and stone crafts to paintings depicting the beauty of the place painted by renowned painters.

5. Temples: The "Jagdish Temple" is one of the famous temples of the city. Temples are much frequented by tourists for primarily the sculptures and wall art and secondarily for the unprecedented calmness and tranquility they provide.

Apart from the various mentioned epicenters attracting tourists from around the world to the city, the city is famous for the surprises it provides one at each step. One may be astonished to see a peacock serenely sitting somewhere relishing its freedom or a rare bird chirruping in full bloom.

Exploring the entire city requires a lifetime, but cherishing the charismatic streets and the bustling bazaars along with the congenial folks and of course, the silent babble of the lakes is a treasure to behold! If the earth were a canvas, and God, the artist, I bet He would have taken the maximum time to paint this glorious city in the most vibrant colours of beauty mingled with an air of everlasting happiness and serenity.

In conclusion, my love for this city goes beyond infinity. One travels to enjoy and Udaipur ensures it provides joy and happiness blended with enjoyment to all its visitors!

I LOVE YOU MY CITY, MY DEAREST UDAIPUR!

- Rithvik Singh Rathore

Book on Aantarik Suraksha Aur Aapada Prabandhan released

Udaipur: Colonel Deepak Rampal, the winner of Kargil war, said that books and magazines prove very helpful in the success of the competitive examinations for the candidates. Mediocrity they play a key role in achieving success in the children of.

He was addressing the function organized on the occasion of the publication of book Aantarik Suraksha Aur Aapada Prabandhan written by retired IPS TC Damor at Dr. Anushka Law College on Wednesday. He said that the role of magazines cannot be underestimated in success.

would be to keep on helping people to play with this (Jawa). We have to do something different. If I have 10 models of Jawa, I don't think so that's right," implying that Jawa will take the customization route to expand its portfolio.

Currently, there are two models - Jawa and Forty Two - on sale. Perak, a 'bobber' will join by next year. And there will be more such models. "What I should do is I should encourage factory customs, I should encourage more with what we did with Perak. It is a factory custom but it's not just a cosmetic job

Renault Kwid launched in Udaipur at Rs.2.67 lakh

Udaipur: Four-wheeler maker Renault Kwid launched a new vehicle with new advanced features in Udaipur jointly by India's regional manager Sandeep Kheda at Reno Divakar Motors, local dealer Diwakar Motors President Rajiv Namjoshi said in a press conference held said. Mechanically and cosmetically, the Kwid remains unchanged. It is powered by the same 54hp, 0.8-litre, and 68hp, 1.0-litre petrol engine options found in the outgoing models. Both engines are mated to 5-speed manual gearboxes as standard, although the 1.0-litre also gets the option of a 5-speed automatic gearbox. In 2019 Kwid features an enhanced infotainment system and additional safety kit as part of the update. The 7.0-inch touchscreen unit has been upgraded with Apple CarPlay and Android Auto connectivity, making the Kwid the most affordable car with the feature. The infotainment system now supports video playback via USB and gets a push-to-talk feature.

Renault Kwid is priced the same as the outgoing model, with prices starting at Rs. 2.67 lakh. The top-spec 1.0 Climber AMT also costs the same at Rs. 4.63 lakh. (Renault) In terms of safety features, the new Kwid gets driver's side airbag, ABS with EBD, a driver and passenger seatbelt reminder and a speed alert system as standard across all variants. Pictured here are the interiors of the Climber variant of Renault Kwid

VEDANTA GRABS TOP HONOURS IN THE SPORTS DEVELOPMENT CATEGORY

Udaipur: Vedanta Limited was awarded for its work in Sports Development at the ETNOW presents CSR Leadership Awards, organized by World CSR Day. The glittering awards function, which was held in Mumbai, had the top names in the country in the Corporate Social Responsibility space in attendance and saw Vedanta Limited recognized for its initiatives to develop grassroots football in the country.

World CSR Day is an independent and not-for-profit, guided by the Advisory Council. Its purpose is to make "work and working lives better". Through its initiatives - Hindustan Zinc's program me Zinc Football in Udaipur and Sesa Football Academy in Goa, Vedanta Limited has pledged its support to the development of Indian Football with particular emphasis on social and economic upliftment, youth development, community building, women empowerment and promoting healthy living. Hindustan Zinc's programme Zinc Football, is a one-of-a-kind initiative in the country which lays emphasis on promoting grassroots football in India by providing coaching to over 2500 passionate children by skilled football trainers at 64 community football centres in Rajasthan. At the heart of this initiative is a residential academy at Zawar, near Udaipur, with world-class facilities and the country's first ever 'technology-hinged football training'. The academy is currently training its first batch of 32 children, all of whom are under 14 years.

The other grassroots development project, SESA Football Academy in Goa which started in 1999, provides youngsters an elite football training programme to groom them into professional footballers. The programme runs two state-of-the-art residential academies in Goa, training 70 boys who have come from various parts of the country. The academies also train over 250 kids on a non-residential basis. The initiative also has a significant community outreach programme with Vedanta Football Schools covering over 500 kids in 16 villages in Goa.

Mr. Annanya Agarwal, President of Vedanta Football Project, said, "We are really proud of this achievement and I thank World CSR Day for this wonderful award. This is another stepping stone towards the sports development initiatives that Vedanta Limited has taken over the years. Recognitions such as these motivate and inspire us to work harder to achieve the goal of



holistic development of the local youth through football. We will keep the spirit of football alive in India and keep nurturing players at the grass root level."

Udaipur-Indore and Udaipur-Bhopal flights to start from April

Udaipur: Udaipur will be connected via flights with both Indore and Bhopal. The flights will start from April as per the summer schedule released by airlines. Jet Airways will operate a direct flight between Udaipur and Indore. This would give a relief to both students and tourists. Currently, travellers have to either take a connecting flight or travel via road/rail to reach Indore. Similarly, Jet Airways and Spice Jet will both start a direct flight from Udaipur to Bhopal. With this, Udaipur will now, for the first time, have 3 flights connecting to Madhya Pradesh.

Udaipur girl to feature in Yash Raj Film's movie

Udaipur: Hridaya Gupta, a 6-year old girl from Udaipur will feature in upcoming movie produced by Yash Raj Films. The movie is titled Shamsheera and is set to release on July 31, 2020. The action-adventure movie will star Ranbir Kapoor, Sanjay Dutt and Vaani Kapoor. The movie is produced by Aditya Chopra and directed by Karan Malhotra.

ijiMaa. Besides she had also played roles in a short movie and documentary related to child awareness.

HDFC Bank opens 5,000th branch

Udaipur: HDFC Bank today opened its 5,000th branch in the country. In a double milestone, this branch was launched on the same day that it commenced operations in 1995, marking the start of its 25th year. The first branch was launched in Mumbai at Sandoz House, Worli.

Mr Aditya Puri, Managing Director, HDFC Bank inaugurated the 5,000th branch in MIDC, Andheri, Mumbai accompanied by school children from a nearby school and senior colleagues from the Bank. In 1994, the Bank came into being as India opened its economy through liberalisation. Right from the launch of its first branch, the Bank has remained steadfast in its endeavour to provide not just convenience but an experience to customers. Be it branch network, innovative products and services or leveraging technology to offer different ways of banking, the Bank has believed in making a difference.

This effort to make a difference is not just reflected in its business, but also in the attempt to invoke a change in the society it operates in. Parivartan, the umbrella name for the Bank's CSR means change. It's a reinforcement of the belief that for any business to grow, it has to partner and be an enabler of growth of the society. "It is a nostalgic and emotional moment for me and my 95,000 colleagues at the Bank. We have seen India change in the last quarter century to emerge as the world's fastest-growing economy. We have of course benefited from this growth. But what gives us greater satisfaction is that every branch opened acts as a catalyst for social change. We have already made a difference in the lives of 3.5 crore Indians through our social initiatives under the Parivartan umbrella. Going forward, we will continue to in our effort to not just take banking to every part of the country but also make a difference to the society," said Mr. Puri. While the landmark branch is in Mumbai, about half of the bank's branches are in the semi urban and rural areas. "We also thank our stakeholders who have partnered with the bank in its journey and reaffirm our commitment to them. We promise to all of you that we will continue to adhere to the same high standards of fairness, transparency, prudence and corporate governance that you have known us for," said Mr. Puri.

Gehlot Govt throws the Gujjar quota ball into Centre's court

Jaipur: In a situation where reservations for Gujjars has failed to pass judicial scrutiny in the past with the Rajasthan High Court, on three earlier occasions, quashing the quota given to Gujjars and four other communities, the Ashok Gehlot government has worked out a solution to pacify the agitating Gujjars by giving them five percent reservation and by simultaneously passing a pledge (Sankalp) in the Assembly asking the Centre to raise the total reservation percentage. This can be done only by convening a special session of Parliament and by passing a bill for higher quotas to the Gujjars in the line of the constitutional amendment creating a 10 per cent quota for economically weaker sections.

The central reservations now stand at 59 per cent and in some states, the quotas have crossed the 60 per cent mark. In Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu, the quota is just a tad short of the 80 per cent mark. With each state having its own priority and amid the clamour for higher OBC quota, the Supreme Court-directed 50 per cent upper ceiling on quota has become a big hindrance in providing reservation to various backward communities who are demanding reservations in government jobs and in educational institutions.

The Ashok Gehlot government amended the Rajasthan Backward Classes Act (reservation of seats in an educational institution in the state and of appointments and posts in government services).

The Amendment of Section 3 of Rajasthan Act No 38 of 2017 was substituted by two new amendments relating to annual permitted strength for admission into such educational institutions and courses in the state. A new category of More Backward Classes has been introduced. For this new category, reservation in appointments and educational institutions will be five per cent.

Apart from the Gujjars, certain castes like the Banjaras (nomads), Baidiya, Labana, Gadiyalohar, Gadoliya, Raika, Rebari, Debasi, Gadariya, Gadri, Gayari, are now specially categorised as More Backward Classes. They were provided with just one per cent reservation from within the 50 per cent limit, but now after the amendment, they would be provided with a total of five per cent reservation. The total reservation of backward classes as a whole would become 26 per cent from 21 per cent.

The existing 16 per cent for SCs and 12 per cent for the STs will remain unchanged.

Economically weaker sections (EWS) would get 10 per cent quota as approved by the Centre after the constitutional amendments. The Rajasthan Vidhan Sabha also passed this and it will be implemented immediately.

But, this will take total reservation upwards of 64 per cent which is far more than the constitutional provision. This requires the amendment of the Constitution to become effective. The Assembly passed a pledge resolution (Sankalp) urging the Union government to include this five per cent quota in the Ninth Schedule through a constitutional amendment. The Gujjars have been fighting for quota since 2006 and in the past 13 years, they have been given reservation five times. On four occasions, the bills were introduced in the Vidhan Sabha. In 2008, the Congress government headed by Ashok Gehlot gave five per cent reservation to the Gujjars and 14 per cent to the economically backward general category persons. This quota became effective in January 2009 but was stayed by the Rajasthan High Court within seven days. Again in the year 2012, on the recommendation of the Other Backward Class Commission, the Ashok Gehlot government gave a reservation of one per cent to the More Backward Classes.

On the third occasion, in the year 2015, the BJP government passed a Bill where, apart from Gujjars, five other communities were given five per cent reservation. But in 2016, the High Court again quashed the quota. The then Vasundhara Raje government went to the Supreme Court to challenge the order where the matter is still pending.

The erstwhile Raje government, in December, 2017, without waiting for the orders on the Special Leave Petition (SLP), brought a Bill and gave the Gujjars and other communities one per cent reservation as More Backward Classes which they are still getting. The present Congress state government, under the Rajasthan Backward Classes (Reservation of seats in educational institutions in the state and of appointments and posts in services under the state (Amendment) Bill, 2019, which has now become an Act, has the power to prescribe percentage of reservation.

"Article 38 of the Constitution enjoins upon the State that it shall strive to promote the welfare of the people by securing and protecting as effectively as it may, a social order in which justice, social, economic and political, shall inform all the institutions of national life. It further mandates that the State shall, in particular, strive to minimise inequalities in income and endeavour to eliminate inequalities in status, facilities and opportunities, not only amongst individuals but also amongst groups of people residing in different areas or engaged in different vocations. Article 46 of the Constitution also mandates that the State shall promote, with special care, the educational and economic interest of the weaker sections of the society," said Law and Parliamentary Affairs Minister Shanti Dharwal. Though the principle of proportionality is not applicable under Articles 330 and 332, however, the proportion of the backward classes to the total population of the State is a relevant factor while determining the extent of the reservation.

"When the Central government provided reservation to backward classes in the year 1993, the proportion of the population of backward classes at the national level was 52 per cent and the reservation provided was 27 per cent. Since the population of the backward classes in the state of Rajasthan is estimated by the State Backwards Classes Commission to be about 52 per cent, therefore looking to the volume of the population, the percentage of reservation for the backward classes need to be increased. Since all the castes included in the list of backward classes are at different stages of social and educational development and therefore the objectives of directive principles of the State policy mandated in the Act cannot be fully achieved unless these classes are sub-divided in backward and More Backward Classes (MBC) according to the level of their social and educational development.

Gully Boy Ranveer Singh reaches Udaipur

Udaipur: The success of "Gully Boy" is followed by a celebration for actor Ranveer Singh. The actor is in Udaipur for the wedding of a friend. He has been spotted dancing to the tunes of Gully Boy on stage. In one other video, he was seen dancing with girls to the hit song from Simmba. The dance videos and the ceremony videos are reportedly available online.

There have been reports of Umar Abdullah's sons Zamir and Zahir also being in Udaipur for the same wedding. All guests are probably staying in Taj Aravali Hotel and police security has also been provided.