

ROYAL HARBINGER

Reporting Fact of the Matter

Weekly



PAGE 2 :
Hate Platforms Disintegrating the Nation...

PAGE 3 :
Light weight jewelry launched on Pushya Nakshatra at Sojatia ...



UDAIPUR | THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 04, 2021 | PAGE 1 - 4 | PRICE : 5.00* (Vol. 07, No. 32) Postal Registration No.RJ/UD/ 29-134/2017-2019

DIWALI IN UDAIPUR

That the five-day-fiesta Deepawali is round the corner is evident when the Kumbhars in Kumbharwada, near Mukherjee Chowk, begin to make earthen 'diyas' and the markets are abuzz with shoppers. The day that ushers in the festivities is Dhanteras that falls two days before Diwali and is a celebration of prosperity and good fortune.

Dhanteras is considered a highly auspicious day for 'Muhurat' of new houses and shops. 'Akhandiyo' for three days is lit. In the evening goddess Laxmi, old coins and ornaments are worshipped. Getting money is considered to be good but not so incurring expenses. First of all Laxmi Puja used to be performed in the stores of the royal palace. The Maharana would go to Mahalaxmi Mandir in Bhatiyani Choutta for Darshan.

Various temples spread all over the city, celebrate Diwali in their own way. Mahalaxmi

Mandir situated at Bhatiyani Chouta between Jagdish Chowk and Gulab Bagh and built by Maharana Shambhusingh about 400 years ago when he returned from a battle, is thronged by lakhs of devotees during Diwali festival. Built with white stone and exquisite glass work, the temple was given the present form by Maharana Jagatsingh and was then handed over to the local Shrimali Samaj as Mahalaxmi is the Kuldevi of this community. There are special celebrations from Dhanteras to Annakoot. Dhanteras begins with early morning 'abhishek' and the 'poshaks' offered by the devotees are changed four times. Devotees keep coming till midnight. Similarly, on Roop Choudas there is early morning 'Puja' and 'aarti' and dresses are changed four times during the day. The 'darshan' in Sinha Lagna on Diwali midnight is considered to be most auspicious and brings prosperity in the family. On Annakoot, 'prasad' is prepared in huge quantity and offered to Mahalaxmi while the doors are

closed. For the next three days, it is distributed among devotees.

On Diwali Udaipurites are naturally in a mood to make merry. All the 'bazzars' in the town get a facelift. The multi-coloured rustling buntings, resplendent festoons, and myriad tiny bulbs of innumerable hues give the market a sort of other worldly look. The houses are spruced and white-washed. Ladies beautify their homes with rangoli mandanas, the folk craft of making various designs at the threshold of the house on the doors and walls using red sand and white lime paste. Every festival has designs unique to it. The design of Laxmiji ka Mandana includes images of oil lamps at the top followed by the designs of coins and propitious feet of Laxmiji. To save time and labour stencils are also used nowadays. Laxmi and Ganesh puja is performed in the evening when tiny clay Diyas are lit to drive away the shadows of evil spirits. Bhajans in her praise are sung and traditional sweets are offered. In some houses Lord Dhanwantari is also worshipped reverently. On a board made of mango wood a Swastik is made with turmeric and a Supari that is con-

sidered to be a form of the Lord is also placed. Then the whole family worships it. Lighting a 'diya' made of wet flour and putting it on some grain at the entrance of the house, is believed to please Lord Yama, and thus give long life and prevent untimely death. To appease Kuber, the god of wealth, a 'deepak' is lit in the main 'puja' of the house.

It is believed that on this day as a result of 'Samundra manthan', Dhanwantari, the god of health, emerged from the ocean with a pot of elixir. So the festival has been named also as Dhanwantri Jayanti. To keep good health, he suggested several measures such as waking up before sunrise, brushing of teeth, daily bath and exercise, proper clothes, remembering one's Ista, favourite god, and adequate sleep. Among measures for mental health are sharing social responsibility whole heartedly, be non-violent, truthful and generous, not being greedy, be respectful towards elders and indifference to sensual pleasures. To capitalize on the tradition of buying utensils and items such as gold, silver, diamonds, electronic goods etc. on this auspicious day, the markets come out with lucrative schemes. Dealers of elec-

tronic items offer prizes through lottery. Combo offers provide rebate on buying two or more things. Rate concessions and reduced making charges are provided by jewellers. As people like to purchase new vehicles, automobile companies offer free gold coins, free registration or warranty for longer periods. Clothes can also be bought at lower prices. No Diwali is complete without fireworks. So they are in great demand. The trend of buying eco-friendly crackers made from recycled paper that have low decibel and emit less smoke is catching up. In addition to traditional sweets made with 'mawa', those using dry fruits are also becoming popular.

The day after Dhanteras is called Narakchaturdasi as it is said that Lord Krishna had slayed the demon Narkasur on this fateful day. It is also called Roop Chaturdashi as it is believed that anyone who wakes up in the wee hours, bathes and offers prayers to the goddess Tulsi by lighting a Diya before her, gets enticing beauty, both physical and spiritual. Square shaped oil Diyas are lit in front of the houses as it is believed that 'Pitras' visit homes on this day. Doing so also pleases Yamraj. In some homes Sundarkand and Hanuman Chalisa are recited as it is believed that Anjali gave birth to Hanuman on this day. The day is also called Choti Diwali as it precedes the big Diwali day. On Kartik Amavasya, there used to be a feast by the Maharana in the morning. A 'Durbar' was held in Naginavadi in the afternoon. The Maharana used to wear special dress and ornaments. He worshipped goddess Laxmi. There was parade by horses and a programme of music played on musical instruments. The Hatsu of Rajmahal was lit up with 'Diyas'. Courtiers present in Darikhana were given sugarcane. After bidding farewell to courtiers, the Maharana would perform the ritual of Heed-sichwana with his relations in the Janana Mahal. Sugarcane was sent to be houses of Sardars

and Umraos who were not present in the court. They were also sent to the Resident in case he was present in the capital. As per tradition the Maharana sent 'Diyas', oil and

to the next shop. This work is being done mostly on the basis of annual contract. Now in most cases Khatabahi is purchased only for purpose of performing a ritual on the occa-

It was stuffed with fire-crackers, covered with paper and then painted. In the evening the Maharana would go to Chougan to watch the elephant fight. Then the figure



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.

vedanta
transforming elements

HINDUSTAN ZINC
Zinc & Silver of India

इस दिवाली मिलकर प्रगति की रोशनी जगमाएँ,
त्यौहार की खरीदारी अपने लोकल बाज़ार से करें।



हिन्दुस्तान जिंक की ओर से
समृद्ध और सुरक्षित दिवाली की शुभकामनाएँ

Hindustan Zinc Limited

Yashad Bhawan | Near Swaroop Sagar | Udaipur - 313004 | Rajasthan | India

P : +91 294-6604000-02 | www.hzindia.com | CIN - L27204RJ1906PLC001208

www.facebook.com/HindustanZinc | www.twitter.com/CEO_HZL

www.twitter.com/Hindustan_Zinc | www.linkedin.com/companyhindustanzinc

Petrol price cut by Rs 6.07, diesel by Rs 11.75 per litre

New Delhi: Petrol price on Thursday was cut by Rs 6.07 per litre and diesel price by Rs 11.75 in Delhi as oil companies passed on a record reduction in excise duty rates to consumers.

Buckling under pressure, the government had on Wednesday cut excise duty on petrol by Rs 5 per litre and that on diesel by Rs 10 a litre to give reprieve to consumers battered by record high retail fuel prices. Since states charge local sales tax or VAT not just on the base price but also on the excise duty levied by the centre, the total incidence of price reduction is higher.

Petrol will cost Rs 103.97 per litre in Delhi against Rs 110.04 per litre, according to a price notification of state-owned fuel retailers.

Diesel rates accordingly will reduce to Rs 86.67 per litre from Rs 98.42 per litre. In Mumbai, petrol price has been cut by Rs 5.87 to Rs 109.98 per litre and diesel by Rs 12.48 to Rs 94.14 per litre. Kolkata saw the price of diesel being reduced by Rs 5.82 to Rs 104.67 per litre and that of diesel by Rs 11.77 to Rs 89.79 per litre. Petrol price in Chennai has been reduced by Rs 5.26 to Rs 101.40 per litre and diesel by Rs 11.16 to Rs 91.43 per litre. VAT rates differ from state to state, leading to differential rates of fuel. The excise duty cut announced on Wednesday night is the highest-ever reduction in excise duty. It rolls back a part of the Rs 13 and Rs 16 per litre increase in taxes on petrol and diesel effected between March 2020 and May 2020 to avoid passing on to consumers the sharp fall in international oil prices. The hike in excise duty had taken central taxes on petrol to their highest level of Rs 32.90 per litre and that on diesel to Rs 31.80 a litre. Reducing the excise duty, the Union government also urged states to commensurately reduce VAT on petrol and diesel to give relief to consumers. Six BJP-ruled states of Uttar Pradesh, Goa, Karnataka, Uttarakhand, Tripura and Bihar reduced VAT.

