

ROYAL HARBINGER

Reporting Fact of the Matter

Weekly



PAGE 2 :
Farmers Interaction Meet Cum Training Programme ...

PAGE 3 :
The thrill of district-level women's cricket competition ...



UDAIPUR | MONDAY, MARCH 14, 2022 | PAGE 1 - 4 | PRICE : 5.00* (Vol. 08, No. 03) Postal Registration No.RJ/UD/ 29-134/2017-2019

Holi

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

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 Swarupsingh, 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 'dulanid' 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

the 'semal' tree is set up in the middle and it is surrounded by small branches, twigs, pieces of plywood, hay and cowdung

tionately. 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 'thal'. Holi songs are sung. Purnpoli 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, feats 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.

- Ashok Mathur
(Content Courtesy Dr. Rajendra Purohit)

Veteran journalist Ashok Mathur's blog (ashokmathuronudaipur.com) with over 100 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.

Two day seminar on Folk Ballads: Folk Ballads Travel Across National Boundaries



Folk Ballads are such popular narratives which are sung and travel across national boundaries. They reach beyond the language in which they are composed and get a new form in another language. There is a need to preserve the tradition of the folk ballad singers who are leading a tough life.

There is an equal need to document, digitalize and preserve these literary forms. These conclusions were drawn at the end of two-day seminar on Folk Ballads jointly organized by Bhartiya Lok Kala Mandal, Udaipur and Kendriya Sahitya Academy, New Delhi on 12-13 March, 2022.

The inaugural function was

chaired by the former Chairman of Rajasthan Sahitya and Sanskriti Academy, Dr. Dev Kothari. In his speech he mentioned popular folk ballads like Pabu Ji, Dhola Maru and Galaleng. The Chief Guest of the function was Prof. K.K. Sharma, former HoD, Department of Hindi, M.L.Sukhadia University, Udaipur. He stated his experiences with folk ballad singers while his research on Folk Ballads was going on in 1964-65. On the Inaugural day Ms. Vandana Joshi and Dr. Reena Menariya Presented their papers. Director of the Seminar Dr. Laik Hussain presented the welcome address.

The second day sessions were chaired by Prof.

Satyendra Tripathi who dwelt on Bhojpuri Folk Ballads at length and said that the singing of folk ballads in his village continued for days together. The session began with the presentation of Kanu Bhai Patel from Anand, Gujarat. He said that when a story is sung it becomes a Gatha. He classified folk ballads into four categories namely Prem Pradhan, Virakt Vyanjan, Pouranik and Bhakti parak. He recited some parts of a Gujarati folk ballad titled Charan Kanya written by Javer Chand Meghani. He was followed by Dr. Nandini Panjwani from Jaipur who spoke about Singhi Folk Ballads and said that the folk ballads popular in Punjab like Sohni Mahiwal, Heer Ranjha

etc. have reached Sindh in Pakistan and are sung in Sindhi. Jayendra Bhai, a theatre personality from Gujarat said that folk ballads have contributed a lot to theatre and cinema in Gujarat. He said that almost every folk ballad has been made into a film in Gujarat. Senior journalist and theatre personality from Rajasthan Ashok Rahi talked about the folk ballads of Mewar region which he said is called Kala Pahad. Talking about the popularity and belief of people in folk ballads and their magical powers he said that in the region where he lives Bagdawati is sung to cure the disease of oxen. This was followed by a presentation by Prof. Hemendra Chandalia

who presented the role of instruments particularly Dhol in the performance of folk ballads in Rajasthan. He said that it is perhaps the oldest percussion instrument which can be traced back to the year 3000 B.C. Dr. Kamla Goklani from Ajmer explained some of the folk ballads of Sindh and said that Sindhis are people without a homeland and therefore there is a greater need to preserve literature of Sindhi language. The seminar concluded with the remarks of Director of Bhartiya Lok Kala Mandal Dr. Laik Hussain who promised that the papers presented in the seminar will be published in Rangayan, the Journal of Bhartiya Lok Kala Mandal

- Dr.H.S.Chandalia

GST reduced from 18% to 5% for domestic Maintenance, Repair and Overhaul (MRO) services

The average number of the passenger carried in the pre-Covid financial year (2019-20) was around 4 lakh per day. On 6th March 2022, domestic airlines in India carried around 3.7 lakh passengers. The number of daily air passengers may cross pre-COVID levels in a few months.

The Government has taken several steps to meet the increasing demand in aviation sector in future, some of which include the following:

(i) AAI has taken up development of new and existing airports with a projected capital expenditure of around Rs. 25,000 crores in next five years. This includes construction of new terminals, expansion and modification of existing terminals, expansion and/ or strengthening of existing runways, aprons, Airport Navigation Services (ANS) infrastructure, control towers and technical blocks etc.

(ii) The Public Private Partnership (PPP) airports at Delhi, Hyderabad and Bengaluru are undertaking major expansion projects of around Rs. 30,000 crores by 2025. Additionally, Rs. 36,000 crores have been planned for investment in the development of new Greenfield airports across the country under PPP mode.



(iii) Government of India has accorded 'in-principle' approval for setting up of 21 Greenfield Airports across the country. So far, eight Greenfield airports namely, Sindhudurg and Shirdi in Maharashtra, Durgapur in West Bengal, Pakyong in Sikkim, Kannur in Kerala, Orvakal in Andhra Pradesh, Kalaburagi in Karnataka and Kushinagar in Uttar Pradesh have been operationalized.

(iv) Under Regional Connectivity Scheme (RCS)- UdeDesh ka Aam Nagrik (UDAN), 403 routes connecting 65 airports (including 8 heliports and 2 water aerodromes) have been operationalised as on 31 January 2022.

(v) Goods and Services Tax (GST) rate has been reduced from 18% to 5% for domestic Maintenance, Repair and Overhaul (MRO) services.

(vi) A conducive aircraft leasing and financing environment has been enabled. (vii) Improvement in air navigation infrastructure at Indian airports is being carried out.

The issue of reduction of Value Added Tax (VAT) on Aviation Turbine Fuel (ATF) has been taken up with the States and the UTs. The following 11 States/UTs have reduced the VAT on ATF to below 5%:

Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Dadar & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu, Gujarat, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Ladakh, Madhya Pradesh, Tripura, Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand. This information was given by the Minister of State in the Ministry Of Civil Aviation (Gen. (Dr) V. K. Singh Retd) in a written reply to a question in Rajya Sabha today.

21st National Para-Swimming Competition on March 25 to 27 in the Udaipur

Udaipur: Under the aegis of the Paralympic Committee of India, Udaipur, the 21st National Para-swimming



Competition from 25 to March 27, 2022, will organize at Maharana Pratap Khelgaon Udaipur by Narayan Seva Sansthan.

Institute President Prashant Aggarwal informed that more than 400 divyang

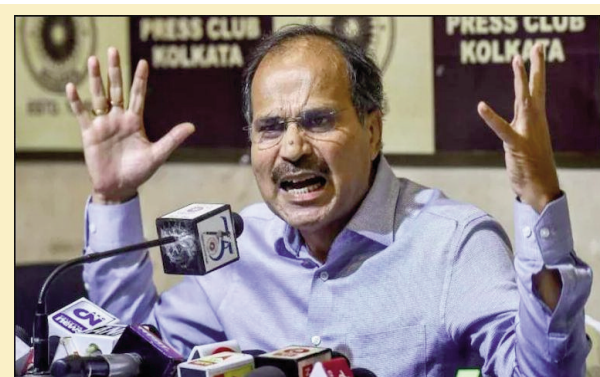
swimmers from different categories from across India would participate in this three-day competition. Before this, the Institute had organized the National Para-Swimming Competition for the first time in 2017 in which differently-abled participants from 18 states showed their potential. PM recalled it in his 'Mann Ki Baat' program.

Mamata Banerjee helped BJP beat Congress in Goa: Adhir Ranjan

New Delhi: Mamata Banerjee contested the Goa elections to please the BJP, Congress MP Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury said in a fresh attack on its rival. The Congress and the Trinamool Congress have been at loggerheads for a while now, with

the war between the two escalating further when the TMC declared its Goa bid.

"As of today, the Congress has 700 MLAs across India. Congress won a 20 per cent vote share of the opposition. Mamata Banerjee is trying to please the BJP, to be its 'dalal (agent)'. That is why she is saying many things today", Chowdhury said in a sharp attack today. He was at a dharna to protest against the killing of Bengal student leader Anish Khan. On Friday, after the counting of results in five states, Mamata Banerjee said, "There was loot and malpractice of Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs). SP chief Akhilesh Yadav should not be disheartened and should ensure the EVMs are put through forensic tests." Not one to hold back, Chowdhury responded, "She has no relevance in national politics. Hence, she is sometimes blaming the EVM



and sometimes the Congress. Why are you blaming the Congress? Become the prime minister on your own."

"You went to Goa to make the BJP happy. Mogambo khush ho gaya! You defeated the Congress there to increase your ratings with the BJP. Everyone knows Mamata Banerjee broke the Congress in Goa," Adhir Chowdhury said, questioning the party's performance. "In these five states, how many seats did TMC get?" "Congress has been fail-

ing to prove itself since 2014. Congress was defeated badly in Punjab and in Bihar earlier. How is it possible that the TMC helped the BJP beat Congress? Last time in Goa, Congress MLAs defected to the BJP.

They failed to save their own. We got a six per cent vote share in Goa. 2024 is far now. Our policy for the Lok Sabha election is that all anti-BJP, democratic and progressive parties should come together. Let's talk," Trinamool

spokesperson Kunal Ghosh said, rebutting Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury's remarks.

Rajasthan Studio to organize three-day Art Experience Workshops at JLF

Jaipur: Good news for the literature and art lovers of Jaipur. This year, the onground sessions of the Jaipur Literature Festival (JLF) to be held at Clarks Amer from 10 March will witness a fusion of art & literature. Described as the 'Greatest Literary Show on Earth', JLF, startups like Rajasthan Studio and Rooftop App providing authentic art experiences to art lovers will be participating. This information was given by Mr. Kartik Gaggar, Founder and CEO, Rajasthan Studio and Rooftop App on Thursday.