

## Udaipur's Collective Efforts: ESG Awareness

**Udaipur :** A media awareness workshop on Environment, Social, Governance (ESG) was organized on Wednesday at Van Bhawan Auditorium in Udaipur under the hospitality of RK Jain, Chief Forest Conservator Udaipur. The workshop aimed to discuss the concept of ESG and engage in discussions on collective efforts to make Udaipur ESG-friendly.

At the beginning of the event, Rahul Bhatnagar, President and retired IFS of Green People Society, gave a warm welcome and provided a general introduction. He emphasized the significance of ESG, stating that it will become an essential criterion in various fields, including business, shortly. He highlighted the need for early preparedness. In line with this, Green People Society, Hello Kisan, Geetanjali Institute of Training, and University have initiated a campaign to raise awareness about ESG in Udaipur. The

event was coordinated by Sharad Srivastava of the Operating Society. Present at the workshop were retired IAS officer Vikram Singh, Vice

explained that ESG has been globally accepted to address issues related to climate change, promote responsible resource consumption, and



President of the society VS Rana, Indrajit Mathur, Pratapsingh Chundawat, Ismail Ali Durwa, Aashu Garg, Prof. Sharad Srivastava, Dr. Kamlesh Sharma, Arun Soni, along with representatives of media institutions.

### Understanding ESG and Its Importance:

Mukesh Gupta, an expert from Jaipur and former UNICEF-associated S.N. Dube

ensure the fulfilment of social responsibilities. The concept of ESG was initiated by the United Nations nearly 20 years ago and later integrated with sustainable development goals. The Indian government has also expressed its commitment to ESG by assigning the responsibility to SEBI. Based on market capitalisation, SEBI has mandated the top 1000 companies in India to

obtain ESG ratings. Additionally, regulations have been introduced to establish an ESG rating agency. Companies must meet environmental, social, and governance criteria within their organizations and undergo audits. Based on this, they will be issued ratings such as A, AA, AAA, B, BB, C, or CC. These ratings will reflect the overall credibility of the organization and contribute to its business growth. In the future, businesses will heavily rely on ESG standards and good will.

### The Significance of Going Local:

During his address at the workshop, RK Jain, CCF (Wildlife), highlighted that while a person's thoughts may be global, action should start at the local level. The same principle applies to ESG. ESG is a global concept, but its implementation should begin locally. If everyone comes together and collaborates, it can be made possible. He emphasized

the importance of the environment and stated that the value of a tree is often measured monetarily, such as the price of wood when a tree is cut down. However, the indirect benefits, such as the oxygen, climate control, and biodiversity conservation provided by trees, are often overlooked. According to established standards, a tree's direct and indirect benefits amount to approximately 3.7 million rupees. In a lifetime, an individual consumes the resources of eight trees. Therefore, each person should aim to plant at least eight trees to fully repay their debt to Mother Earth, as it is a spiritual obligation and a path to salvation.

### Training for Business Institutions:

During the workshop, Prof. NS Rathore of Geetanjali Institute explained that Geetanjali Institute and Rajasthan Vidyapeeth would be responsible for training programs related to ESG in

Udaipur. To achieve this, business and educational institutions must come together. Along with training, the institute will provide research systems to educate the local community about ESG. Experts highlighted that the implementation of ESG will create new employment opportunities worldwide. In India alone, it is estimated that the top 1000 companies will generate an average of 40 to 50 new job opportunities. It will provide young people with the chance to pursue green careers.

The workshop concluded with a call to unite professional institutions, educational institutions, and the general public to raise awareness about ESG. The experts emphasized that ESG is a comprehensive approach that needs to be adopted locally to address global challenges. They urged media institutions to educate commercial organizations, the general public, and other stakeholders about ESG.

## Dr. Mahendra Bhanawat Honored by Rajasthan Sahitya Academy

**Udaipur.** Recognizing the relentless dedication of the pen and paper, the prominent folklorist, Dr. Mahendra Bhanawat, was recently honoured by the Rajasthan Sahitya Academy.



The President of the Academy, Dularam Saharan, and Secretary Basant Solanki visited his residence. They presented him with a cheque of fifty-one thousand rupees, a shawl, and a certificate of recognition. Dr. Bhanawat has been honoured as a distinguished literary figure by the Academy

for his remarkable contributions to literature, folklore, and atomic philosophy. To date, he has authored a hundred and six books on various literary and cultural aspects.

Having witnessed the spring of life, Dr. Bhanawat continues to flourish as a creative soul in the comfort of his home. On this occasion, the President of the Sahitya Academy, Dularam Saharan, expressed that it is a tradition of the Academy to honor senior and accomplished authors. Such felicitations are regarded as a virtuous tradition that bequeaths respect upon the honored author. Secretary Basant Solanki presented a shawl to Dr. Bhanawat and extended wishes for his good health and longevity. Not long ago, Saharan had also bestowed similar recognition upon distinguished litterateur Govardhan Singh Shekhawat at his residence in Sikar.

Renowned literary figure Kishan Dadheech praised Saharan's way of carrying out these honors, stating that the Academy is honoured itself when it pays homage to authors at their homes. Dadheech emphasized that this honour is not only for Dr. Bhanawat but also reflects the reverence for the entire Mewar region. It is worth mentioning that Dr. Bhanawat was previously awarded the prestigious honour of Rs. 1.51 lakh by the Uttar Pradesh Hindi Sansthan.

In acknowledgement of the Academy's gesture, Dr. Bhanawat expressed his gratitude and highlighted how society has always regarded folklore as second-class literature. However, he feels content knowing that he has written over fifty research papers on the topic he first wrote about. During the ceremony, Dr. Bhanawat also presented a book to Academy President Saharan, "Lokdevata Veer Kallaji Rathore," and another one, "Nirbhay Miran." He further explained how his quest for Meera's connection with Lord Krishna led him to explore the various regions during his six provincial journeys.

The event commenced with a warm welcome from Dr. Bhanawat's family, Dr. Tuktak, and Ranjana, to the esteemed guests.

## Boat of Faith: Sundarkand Recitation

**Udaipur :** Fatehsagar Lake was brimming with serenity in the enchanting city of Udaipur, captivating the hearts of all who beheld its beauty. During the auspicious Purushottam Mas, a momentous occasion unfolded, and the Neem Foundation of Udaipur decided to commemorate this joyful event with utmost fervour.

Once upon a time, when the lake was dry, the Neem Foundation organized a Sundarkand recitation to pray for its restoration. As the lake shimmered with water, their prayers seemed to be answered, and the devotees' delight knew no bounds.

The foundation's founder, Roshni Barot, enthusiastically envisioned a unique celebration to mark this transformation. She concocted a plan to host a spiritual boat ride on the tranquil waters of Fatehsagar Lake, coupled with the recitation of the soul-soothing Sundarkand, an enchanting episode from the epic Ramayana, extolling the valour of Lord Hanuman.

Gathered near the lakeside, the devotees eagerly awaited the commencement of the spiritual journey. The adorned boat, adorned with fragrant garlands and aromatic incense, awaited its passengers. Excitement brimmed as the devotees boarded the boat, eager to experience the magical union of spirituality and serenity.

The devout worshipper of Lord Ram at Mahakaleshwar Temple, Chetan, along with his companions Dalchand, Ashutosh, Romit Sharma, Balveer, Prince, Uma, Ranjit Singh, Yashoda, Kavita, and others, formed the devoted group leading the Sundarkand recitation. As the boat set sail, melodious chants filled the air, accompanied by the rhythmic beats of the dholak and the soothing sounds of the manjeera.

Under the golden hues of the setting sun, the boat glided gracefully on the shimmering waters, and the enchanting verses of Sundarkand resonated through the lake. The divine ambience immersed the devotees, filling their hearts with peace and devotion. As the verses reverberated, a spiritual aura enveloped the entire congregation.



Amidst the gentle swaying of the boat, the devotees were transported to a realm of divinity. The verses of Sundarkand seemed to transcend time and space, connecting the worshippers with the divine presence of Lord Hanuman and Lord Rama.

As the recitation concluded, profound joy and tranquility pervaded the boat. The devotees expressed heartfelt gratitude for the successful event, the lake's restoration, and the divine blessings they felt throughout the journey.

Post the recitation, the devotees offered aarti to Lord Rama and the holy river Ganga, thanking them for their benevolence. Prasad, the sacred offering, was distributed among all, symbolizing the unity and blessings bestowed upon the congregation.

The boat of faith returned to the shore, leaving behind a trail of hope and happiness. The event celebrated divine grace and strengthened the bond between the devotees and their beloved deities. With hearts brimming with gratitude and bliss, the devotees departed from Fatehsagar Lake, carrying with them cherished memories of the boat ride and the sacred Sundarkand recitation. The experience had left an indelible mark on their souls, forever reminding them of their divine connection with the tranquil waters.

## Swearing-in ceremony of Fateh Singh Rathore

**Udaipur :** The newly appointed Udaipur City District Congress Committee President, Fateh Singh Rathore, held the swearing-in ceremony at the Residency School auditorium. The Udaipur All India Congress Committee and Rajasthan Pradesh Congress Committee made the appointment. The event commenced with the ceremonial garlanding of Mother Saraswati on the stage, followed by the traditional lighting of the lamp. All the present leaders were warmly welcomed and adorned with Mewari turbans and garlands. Gopal Krishna Sharma, the former President of Udaipur City District Congress Committee, handed over the reins to the enthusiastic and energetic new president, expressing confidence that under his leadership, the Congress party in Udaipur would become stronger and emerge victorious in all future elections.

Dr. Girija Vyas, former Union Minister, addressed the gathering and praised the youth force entrusted with the leadership in Udaipur. Fateh Singh Rathore has been an active Congress party worker since his childhood and possesses in-depth knowledge about the booth-level workers in the entire Udaipur region. Dr. Vyas expressed her optimism that under his guidance, the Congress in Udaipur would grow stronger and achieve new milestones. Fateh Singh Rathore's mother is also a Congress leader, and his passion for serving the country and strengthening the party further adds to his credibility.

Prominent Congress leaders such as Gopal Krishna Sharma, Dinesh Shrimali, Pankaj Sharma, Trilok Purbia, Dr. Madhusudan Sharma, Nilima Sukhadia, Someshwar Meena, Ajay Singh, Rajeev Suwalka, Arun Tak, Janab Sharafat Khan, and others addressed the event. The program was efficiently conducted by Hina Khan, a senior Congress leader, and former General Secretary Dinesh Dave conducted the ceremony of thanksgiving.

Numerous Congress members, representing various communities, graced the event, including Suresh Shrimali, Prakash Shrimali, Khub Lal Menaria, Mohsin Khan, Pankaj Paliwal, Abdul Qadir, Tirath Singh Kherolia, Chandrasinh Kothari, Najma Mevafarosh, Shalendra Odichay, Chanda Suwalka, Madhu Salvi, Usha Gupta, and many others.

Members from Rajput Samaj, Muslim Samaj, Bohra Samaj, Haila Samaj, Sahu Samaj, Mewada Kalar Samaj, Sahasra Audichya Samaj, Lohar Samaj, Kuma Vat Samaj, Valmiki Samaj, Aggarwal Samaj, Sindhi Samaj, Paliwal Samaj, Sanadhya Samaj, Shrimali Samaj, Dhakai Gurjar Samaj, Muslim Chhipa Samaj, Tribal Samaj, and many other community representatives extended a warm welcome to the newly appointed president by garlanding him and presenting him with Mewari turbans.

The event also paid tribute to the birth anniversary of freedom struggle legend Chandrashekar Azad with a two-minute silence. Overall, the ceremony celebrated the new leadership and exuded enthusiasm for the future of the Congress party in Udaipur under the guidance of Fateh Singh Rathore.



## The Health Check-Up and Water Conservation

**Udaipur :** Just a day ago, at Kendriya Vidyalaya Pratapnagar, a health check-up camp was organized for all the students under Dr P.C. Jain, a renowned physician. During the check-up, many students came forward to discuss their health concerns, which Dr. Jain diligently addressed. Alongside the medical examination, the importance of clean water was also discussed in each classroom.

Chants of "Save Water, Save Life" echoed through the school as students were encouraged to spread the message in every household. Dr. Jain also instructed students with low Total Dissolved Solids (TDS) in their drinking water, advising them to increase it as low TDS water could deprive the body of essential minerals.

Some students were curious about rooftop rainwater harvesting, and to help them understand the process better, a tube well was brought to the school premises. The students were shown how rainwater could be collected and utilized for various purposes, fostering a sense of responsibility towards water conservation.

As the discussion on water conservation continued, students came up with innovative suggestions. One young student proposed that saving water was crucial not just for extinguishing fires but also to ensure trees had enough water to grow and produce oxygen, which is vital for sustaining life.

Principal D.S. Meena expressed heartfelt gratitude to Dr. Jain for conducting the health check-up and appreciated the active involvement of the nursing staff, Ms. Puja, the psychologist, Ms. Darshana, and the health examination in-charge, Mr. B.P. Meena.

The health check-up camp and water conservation campaign left a lasting impression on the students, instilling a sense of responsibility towards their health and the environment. They pledged to continue advocating for water conservation and spread awareness throughout their community.

With newfound knowledge and determination, the students of Kendriya Vidyalaya Pratapnagar embarked on a journey to create a better and healthier world, one step at a time, knowing that even their small actions could significantly impact the planet. And so, the seeds of change were sown, promising a greener and brighter future for generations to come.



## NGT Forms New Assessment Committee on Ahar River Concretization

**Udaipur :** The NGT, while hearing the petition filed by Jheel Sanrakshan Samiti (through Dr. Tej Razdan), has dismissed the report submitted by the committee of the District Collector, Udaipur, Water Resources Department, Udaipur, and the State Pollution Control Board. The NGT has instead constituted a new committee comprising officers from the Ministry of Environment, Government of India, river hydrology experts nominated by the Vice-Chancellor of the University of Roorkie, representatives from the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), and river hydrology experts nominated by the Central Water Commission, Government of India.

The NGT Court had previously directed the local joint committee to present a factual report on the Ahar River issue. However, upon reviewing the committee's report submitted on April 17, 2023, Senior Advocate Rahul Chowdhary, representing the petitioner, raised objections to the technical and legal flaws in the report. Specifically, he highlighted that the district collector, being on the board of Udaipur Smart City Limited, is an interested party and hence could not be on the committee.

The NGT bench, comprising Judge Sudhir Aggarwal and expert member Dr. Afroz Ahmed acknowledged it and ordered for fresh, factual assessment.

## A Blessing for Humanity: Message Conveyed Through Street Play

**Udaipur :** Tree Plantation Campaign@ The Jito Ladies' and Men's Wing, in collaboration with the Social Organization Jeeto Ladies' Wing, organized a tree plantation program at Sukher's Witty International School, emphasizing the importance of tree conservation as an essential environmental mission.

The event commenced with the lighting of a lamp by Chief Guest IFS Rajkumar Jain, Chairman of Jito Organization (Udaipur Chapter), Vinod Kumar Jain, and Sonali Maru, Coordinator of Rajasthan Zone Jeeto Mahila Wing, along with the recitation of the Namō Kar Mantra.

Principal Bijou Kurian and C.A.I.E Coordinator Deepa Chakravarti warmly welcomed all the guests. During the program, students passionately presented beautiful songs and dances highlighting trees' significance and preservation. Moreover, through an inspiring street play, they conveyed the message of greening the environment and keeping it clean and green.

As a part of the tree plantation campaign, the students wholeheartedly pledged to adorn the Earth with greenery. The program concluded with the esteemed guests sharing their blessings and explaining the meaning of the word "tree" through a Sanskrit verse, emphasizing that trees are the shelter of the Earth.

The occasion inspired the students to actively participate in the campaign to plant

more trees, whether on their birthdays or their parents' birthdays. By planting trees, not only will they contribute to environmental preservation, but they will also create a beautiful future for the coming generations. Furthermore, the school distributed saplings to students to encourage tree planting within the school premises.

## A Remarkable Initiative by Udaipur's Ameet Mitra Mandal

Udaipur's Ameet Mitra Mandal comprising active members took the initiative to plant 51 saplings at the Central School, Pratap Nagar, Udaipur. This endeavour emphasizes the crucial role of environmental conservation in safeguarding life on our planet, which remains a responsibility primarily in the hands of humanity. Tree plantation stands as a significant step towards achieving this objective.

During the event, the Principal, Vice Principal, and students of the Central School enthusiastically participated in planting various types of shade-giving trees. Shri Hansraj Bohra, the Chairman, informed the school authorities that Ameet Friends Trust was initially formed as a friendly organization for travellers from Ameet Nagar, which has now transformed into a public charitable trust dedicated to social welfare activities.

The Trust Secretary, Shri Vinodji Kachhara, was present at the tree plantation program and extended special thanks to fellow members, Shri Bhupeshji Khamesara, Shri Sushilji Kothari, Shri Rajendraji Chandalia, and the school management for their valuable contributions.

During the program, Trust member Shri Arjun Lalji Dangi suggested that students take up the responsibility of nurturing plants as a hobby. Shri Tejpalji, the Tree Plantation Coordinator of the school, proposed the installation of a drip irrigation system for regular watering of the plants.

Dr. P.C. Jain, the Water Harvesting expert from the Roof Top Rain Water Harvesting Charitable Trust, provided insights on water conservation techniques to ensure adequate plant water supply.

The Principal of Central School, Shri Dil Bahadurji Meena, warmly welcomed all members of Ameet Friends Trust, acknowledging their commendable initiative. The program's organizer, Shri Bhupeshji Khamesara, expressed heartfelt gratitude to all the members of Ameet Friends Trust for their united efforts and dedication in making the event successful. The active presence of Shri Vikram Pagaria, Shri Ashok Chordiya, Shri Chetan Prakash Shakhadiya, Shri Vipin Bafana, Shri Vinay Sharma, Dr. Gaurav Sharma, Shri Manish Nagori, Smt. Sarita Bamab, Smt. Shilpa Shakhadiya, Smt. Kalpana Kothari, Smt. Seema Khamesara and Shri Rajesh Bamab added vibrancy to the program.

## Campaign for Literature Conservation and Promotion, Literature Gallery for Mewar's Writers

**Udaipur :** A literature gallery for Mewar's

writers is being established at the Information Center in Udaipur, to benefit local youth readers and journalists by preserving creative works produced by Mevad's literary artists. The gallery will showcase various literary compositions, allowing young readers to be impressed by Mevad's literature. Mevad's writers are also supporting this initiative and contributing their books to the gallery. On Thursday, renowned literary artist Kundan Mali, representing the Mevad region, presented his representative works to Dr. Kamlesh Sharma, the Joint Director of the Information Center, inviting the youth readers to make productive use of these literary creations. Dr. Sharma explained that these literary compositions, based on Mevad's historical context and culture, will provide valuable information to readers and contribute uniquely to the conservation and promotion of literature. He invited other Mevad writers to come forward and contribute their compositions to enrich the gallery so that writers and researchers could utilize it. Dr. Sharma mentioned that the works presented by Kundan Mali include significant compositions such as "Duniya Tumhare Baad," "Vastutah Ghar Ek Naam Bharose Ki," "Tatparay," "Kavita Ki Gullak," "Jag Ro Lekho," "Kavitanama," "Vishwanath Prasad Ki Talvi Kavita," "Samkalika Rajasthan Kavya: Samvedan Ar Silp," "Sarjan Ka Antarang," "Itne Din Tak," "Anjal Pani," among others. It is noteworthy that Kundan Mali, a resident of Tekari in Udaipur, is a retired professor of English from Gujarat University. He has been awarded by the Central Literary Academy, Rajasthan Literary Academy, New Delhi Literary Academy, and Gujarat Hindi Literary Academy for his critical works.