

## Banning Firecrackers for the Greater Good

Once again, the unchecked explosion of firecrackers during Diwali has cast New Delhi into the grips of a hazardous gas chamber, exemplified by a staggering air quality index exceeding 400 on Monday morning. Despite the recent clarification by the Supreme Court that the ban on certain chemicals in firecrackers is applicable across the nation, the orders were flouted in various cities, from Delhi and Gurugram to Chandigarh, Kolkata, and Mumbai. Banned firecrackers found their way into the market, sold and ignited with impunity, rendering the court's efforts ineffective.

The court's initial move in October 2018 to limit the production and sale of firecrackers to environmentally friendly and reduced-emission varieties fell short. Even after claims by the Council of Scientific & Industrial Research of developing cost-effective, less-polluting firecrackers, the ground reality remains bleak. Highly polluting crackers, including illegally imported Chinese products with a deceptive 'Made in India' label, continue to inundate the market. Moreover, doubts persist regarding the actual efficacy of so-called green alternatives in mitigating pollution. The designated two-hour window for bursting crackers also proved futile due to lax enforcement.

### Editorial

It is abundantly clear that the campaign for the 'greenification' of firecrackers has not yielded the desired results. To

address the urgent issue of toxic air quality, nothing short of a comprehensive ban on all types of firecrackers is warranted. While the Supreme Court has refrained from taking this decisive step out of respect for religious traditions and sentiments, it is imperative to recognize that preserving an unhealthy tradition at the expense of exposing people to hazardous air is untenable in the interest of public welfare.

Enforcing a blanket ban should be accompanied by a well-thought-out package to compensate the fireworks industry and facilitate the rehabilitation of its labor force. Striking a balance between public health concerns and economic considerations is undeniably challenging, but the imperative to safeguard the well-being of citizens must take precedence. The time has come for a resolute and unwavering stance against the environmental toll of firecrackers, in pursuit of a safer, healthier future for all.

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## Governor Applauds Remarkable Initiatives in MPUAT's Smart Villages

**Udaipur:** The Maharaja Pratap Agriculture and Technology University (MPUAT) in Udaipur received accolades from the Governor of Rajasthan for its commendable work in selected villages, Madar and Brahmanon Ki Hunder, in the third phase of the 2023-24 distribution initiatives. Under the University Social Responsibility (USR) program, every state-supported university in the state is actively transforming villages into smart villages.

In addition to the transformative efforts, in the year 2021-22, MPUAT's Smart Village

secured the first position among all state-run universities in fostering positive change within rural communities. These endeavors led to significant improvements in agriculture, social welfare, economics, and education sectors.

This program involves the active participation of various governmental and non-governmental institutions, aiming to enhance agriculture, livestock management, education, health, and rural development. Moreover, MPUAT has scheduled a series of activities for this purpose, which include the sowing of neem,

bamboo, ashoka, and other conducted by Rajasthan



trees in these villages.

Furthermore, 22 farmers across 4.4 hectares of land in each region planted the first row of maize as part of the "All-India Maize Research Project"

Agriculture University, Udaipur. The initiative aimed to combat pests and diseases, and farmers were provided with advanced maize variety, C.P. 555, and pesticide solutions to

ensure the best crop yield.

As part of these initiatives, the universities also participated in awareness programs, skill development workshops, and training sessions for rural farmers. The efforts have yielded promising results and have contributed to the overall development and welfare of the Smart Villages.

In recognition of these achievements, the Governor visited the University and examined the progress and execution of the development plans in these villages on three different occasions. MPUAT's experts have showcased var-

ious technical equipment and machinery developed at the university in these villages.

This program has led to significant agricultural advancements, and 629 farmers, including women, benefited from eight one-day training sessions conducted by MPUAT's scientists and officials.

The efforts directed toward the Smart Villages of MPUAT highlight the transformational impact of a collaborative approach, uniting various government institutions and organizations in their shared mission to empower rural communities.

## "Man Ke Jeete Jeet Hai" - Sangam University Hosts Substance-Free Event

**Bhilwara:** Sangam University, in collaboration with the National Social Security Institute, New Delhi, successfully organized a two-day "Capacity Building Program on Substance Abuse Awareness" on October 30th and 31st, 2023. The event witnessed the participation of Dr. Anukriti Rao from the School of Social Work, Janardan Rai Nagar Rajasthan Vidyapeeth University, along with Mr. Vipalav and several enthusiastic students.

On the first day of the program, Professor Manas Ranjan Panigrahi, the Pro-President of Sangam University, emphasized the alarming societal consequences of substance abuse and stressed the importance of creating awareness among the youth.

He noted that by spreading awareness, soci-



ety can be saved from the quagmire of addiction.

The chief guest for the program, Professor K.K. Sharma, highlighted the significance of such events, explaining that their true purpose is realized when participants take the knowledge gained here and disseminate it in society to raise awareness.

The program's special guests, Mr. Rajkumar

Shrimalli and Mr. Prakash Shrimalli from the Heartfulness Institute, provided an in-depth discussion about substance abuse and its effects.

Dr. Manoj Kumawat, Deputy Director of the Center for Entrepreneurship, conducted an insightful practical session for participants. He encouraged them to perform a SWOT analysis, identifying their strengths and weaknesses and then using practical methods to strengthen their abilities and address their limitations.

The event was skillfully coordinated by Dr. Abhishek Srivastava, Dr. Jorawar Singh Ranawat, and Dr. Hitkarn Singh. On the second day, students and faculty from the School of Social Work visited the "New Directions Substance-Free Institute" in Bhilwara. The institute's director, Narendra Soni, introduced

participants to the various resources and practices employed in the pursuit of substance-free living. Mr. Soni shared his personal experiences and those of individuals in recovery, providing participants with insights and satisfying their inquiries.

The program concluded with a closing ceremony and feedback session. The event was executed with the invaluable support and involvement of students, including Jeet Naraniya, Rishabh, Sofia, Mayank, Ajay, Khushal, and many others.

This initiative demonstrated the commitment of Sangam University in raising awareness about substance abuse and addiction, emphasizing the importance of a substance-free life for a healthier society.

## Sangam University Promotes Voter Awareness Through a Rally



**Bhilwara:** In a bid to raise voter awareness and promote the importance of voting, students, faculty, and staff of Sangam University in Bhilwara organized a Voter Awareness Rally. As part of the rally, participants took an oath to encourage informed voting.

Lieutenant Rajkumar Jain, the Nodal Officer for Voter Awareness Forms and the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan at the university, led the initiative. He emphasized the significance of exercising one's right to vote, especially for those over 18 years of age, and highlighted the impact a single vote can have in choosing the right candidates to improve the region.

Under the guidance of the university's Vice-Chancellor, Professor Manas Ranjan, Registrar Professor Rajeev Mehta, Professor Vineesh Agrawal, and Dr. Shweta Bohra, participants pledged to promote voter awareness. After taking the oath, students and staff conducted a rally in the nearby village of Gathilkhera, where they used various mediums to inform and engage citizens, young and old alike, in the importance of voting.

First-time voters from the university showed remarkable enthusiasm, realizing the significance of their votes in choosing suitable candidates for the betterment of their communities.

The Social and Green Society played a key role in organizing this event, with special contributions from students such as Mohit Neel, Devaraj, Shristiraj, and others. Lieutenant Rajkumar Jain applauded this unique initiative and shared plans for upcoming sessions where students will be educated about casting votes via EVM machines.

## Cochlear Implant Surgery is a Blessing for Deaf Children" - Padma Shri Dr. Hans

**Udaipur:** When a child is born with congenital hearing loss, the resulting deafness has far-reaching implications beyond physical disability. Children born with hearing impairment face challenges in speech and communication. This makes it difficult for them to learn to read and write, and they often encounter various obstacles in their future. Cochlear implants are a game-changer for these children, as explained by the renowned Padma Shri Dr. Hans. Dr. Hans introduced a new technique, "Electronic Free Implant," through live surgery at the Padmavibhushan Professor L.H. Hiranandani AOI National Midterm Congress organized by the Pacific Medical College and Hospital in collaboration with the Department of Otolaryngology and the Mevad Research Foundation on Saturday. During the cochlear implant live surgery at the conference, Dr. Hans highlighted that in the past, a substantial cavity needed to be created in the scalp during the surgery.

## National Conference on Women Empowerment and Digital Education Concludes

**Udaipur:** The two-day National Conference organized by Pacific University and the National Academy of Sciences, India (Rajasthan Chapter) concluded with a focus on the role of science and technology in creating an ecosystem for women's empowerment, fostering entrepreneurial development, and advancing digital education.

The event witnessed the participation of scientific experts from across the country, who engaged in in-depth discussions on how to unite women, promote digital education, and seek government support to empower women.

Organizing Secretary, Prof. S.D. Purohit, shared that on the second day of the conference, Prof. Alok Dhawan, Director of the Lucknow Biomedical Research Center, provided comprehensive insights into innovation in science and technology, with a particular focus on risk and self-reliant India. Prof. Padma Shri Vastav of IIM Ahmedabad discussed the importance of artificial intelligence in neurology, while Dr. Medhavi Gautam shed light on the significance of nutrition and the role it plays in empowering women and promoting the development of healthy, robust products. Dr. Sudipti Arora deliberated on the journey from the laboratory to the market, emphasizing the role of science and art, and Dr. Sunil Dubey, Rajesh Ojha, Archit Dashora, Kamalendra Singh Rathore explored the collection, processing, and conservation of fruits, honey, custard apple, jamun, and amla by rural women, as well as their contribution to women's empowerment.

The event highlighted that women can earn higher profits by adding value to their products through science and technology. Empowering women ensures a better and prosperous life for their families, society, and the nation as a whole. Concluding the session, Prof. Hemant Kothari thanked all participants on behalf of the organizing committee and expressed gratitude to Prof. SD Purohit for his role in organizing the conference. The program was closed with the presentation of certificates to Dr. Rakhie Mehta, Dr. Shikha Varma, Dr. Naresh Menaria, and Prof. Seema Kothari by NASI, along with presenting mementos to Prof. Hemant Kothari and Prof. SD Purohit. The event was steered by Prof. SD Purohit, and the organizing committee comprised Dr. Rakhie Mehta, Dr. Shikha Varma, Dr. Naresh Menaria, and Prof. Seema Kothari. This conference served as a platform to explore the pivotal role of science and technology in women's empowerment and encouraged the integration of women with science and technology to achieve more substantial gains in product development, financial independence, and social well-being.

## A Grand Inauguration of the Three-Day Annual Exhibition 'Master Strokes'



**Udaipur:** The Department of Fine Arts of Bhopal Nobles Postgraduate College inaugurated the splendid three-day (November 2-4) annual exhibition "Master Strokes" at the haveli of the Western Region Cultural Center, Bagore. The event was graced by Colonel Prof. Shiv Singh Sarangdevot, Chairman of Bhopal Nobles University, Dr. Mahendra Singh Agariya, President,

Mohabbat Singh Rathore, Registrar, Shakti Singh Karohi, Finance Minister of the Vidya Pracharini Sabha, Naval Singh Chundawat, former Student Union Secretary, Bhanu Pratap Singh, and special guest Prof. Shail Choyal, a renowned artist. The occasion was lit with the ceremonial lamp by the chief guest Prof. Lakshmi Lal Varma. Principal Dr. Renu Rathore provided insights, stating that various artworks using different media, such as tissue, wool, acrylic colors, oil colors, P.O.P, and watercolors, were prepared for this exhibition. The city's well-known artists, including Dr. Yugalkishor, Shri Chhotu Lal, Dr. Basant Kashyap, Dr. P.S. Meena, Dr. Ram Singh, and convener of the Arts Department, Dr. Prem Singh Rawalot, were present during the event. The exhibition showcases subjects like human emotions through art, inner struggle, women and strength, cultural and traditional art, festivals, history, and more. Dr. Ritu Tomar, Dr. Sangeeta Rathore, Dr. Asha Aroda, Dr. Sumedha Sharma, and all department members were also in attendance. This exhibition will continue until November 4. The main attractions included Radhika Baveja's puppetry-themed painting, Deepak Salvi's Christmas theme, Chitra Rathore's Mandal art on earthen pots, and Ranveer Patel's painting with a modern devil theme. Jyoti Sharma, Shiv Pratap Singh, Dinesh Wagariya, Priyanka Sharma, Raunak Chundawat, and Ishwar, among others, showcased their paintings.

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