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Weekly



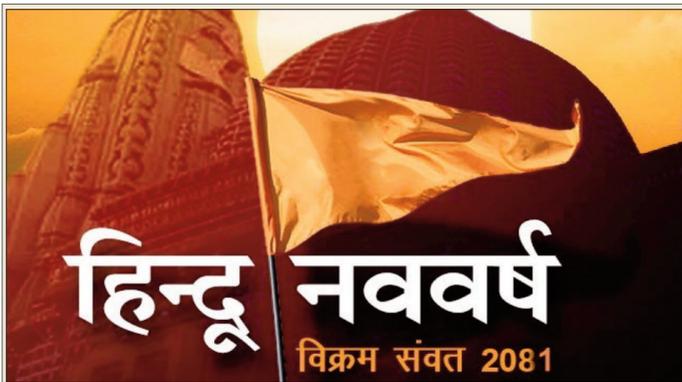
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A Melange of Festivities : Celebrating Chaitra Navratri, Eid, Cheti Chand, Gangaur and Hindu New Year in Mewar



In the heartland of Mewar, where history intertwines with tradition, the arrival of spring heralds not just the blossoming of flowers but also a kaleidoscope of festivities that illuminate the region with joy, color, and spiritual fervor. This year, the calendar bestows upon us a rare convergence of celebrations, where Chaitra Navratri, Eid, Cheti Chand, Gangaur, and Hindu New Year come together in a harmonious symphony of cultural richness and communal harmony.

Navratri in Mewar:

In Mewar, Navratri is celebrated with unparalleled fer-

vor and grandeur, reflecting the region's deep-rooted devotion to Goddess Durga. The nine nights are marked by elaborate rituals, colorful processions, and mesmerizing cultural performances that captivate both locals and visitors alike.

The festivities kick off with the ritual of Ghatasthapana, where a pot symbolizing the presence of the Goddess is established in homes and temples. Each day of Navratri is dedicated to the worship of a different manifestation of Goddess Durga, known as Navadurga. From Shailaputri

to Siddhidatri, devotees offer prayers, perform aarti, and recite hymns in honor of the divine feminine energy that permeates the universe.

One of the highlights of Navratri in Mewar is the tradition of Dandiya and Garba Raas, where men and women dressed in traditional attire gather in large numbers to dance to the rhythmic beats of folk music. The air resonates with joyous melodies as dancers twirl gracefully, their colorful attire adding to the festive ambiance.

Another significant aspect of Navratri in Mewar is the

observance of Kanya Pujan, where young girls representing the nine forms of Goddess Durga are worshipped and offered prasad. It is believed that by honoring these girls, one can invoke the blessings of the Goddess and attain spiritual merit.

As Navratri culminates with the celebration of Vijaydashami, the victory of good over evil is commemorated with the burning of effigies of Ravana, symbolizing the triumph of righteousness.

Gangaur in Mewar: Gangaur holds a special place in the hearts of the people of Mewar, where it is celebrated with unparalleled zeal and enthusiasm. The festival is dedicated to Goddess Parvati, consort of Lord Shiva, and is observed primarily by married women who pray for the well-being and longevity of their husbands.

In the weeks leading up to Gangaur, women engage in elaborate preparations, crafting clay idols of the Goddess adorned with intricate designs and vibrant colors. The idols are then ceremonially installed in homes and adorned with flowers, jewelry, and other auspicious offerings.

The highlight of Gangaur in Mewar is the grand procession that winds its way through the streets of Udaipur, the historic capital of the region. Bedecked elephants, horses, and camels, accompanied by musicians and dancers, lead the procession, carrying the idols of Gangaur and Isar (Lord Shiva) on elaborately decorated palanquins.

Women dressed in traditional attire, their hands adorned with intricate mehndi designs, participate in the procession, carrying earthen pots filled with water on their heads, symbolizing fertility and abundance. The air is filled with the melodious strains of folk songs and the rhythmic beats of drums, creating a spectacle that is both visually stunning and spiritually uplifting.

As the procession culminates at Gangaur Ghat, on the banks of Lake Pichola, the idols of Gangaur and Isar are ceremonially immersed in the waters amidst chanting of hymns and offerings of prayers. It is a moment of profound reverence and devotion, as devotees bid farewell to the Goddess, confident in her benevolent blessings for the well-being of their families and



the prosperity of Mewar.

Eid-ul-Fitr:

As the crescent moon graces the sky, marking the end of Ramadan, the Muslim community of Mewar joins hands in celebration of Eid-ul-Fitr. Amidst the bustling markets adorned with colorful decorations, families gather to offer prayers, exchange greetings, and share sumptuous feasts that reflect the region's culinary diversity. It is a time of reflection, gratitude, and communal harmony, where the spirit of generosity and compassion fills the hearts of all who partake in the festivities.

Cheti Chand:

For the vibrant Sindhi community of Mewar, Cheti Chand holds a special significance as they come together to celebrate the birth anniversary of Lord Jhulelal. From the melodious chants of devotional songs to the vibrant proces-



sions carrying the idol of Jhulelal, adorned with flowers and jewels, every moment is steeped in reverence and joy. It is a time of new beginnings, prosperity, and the enduring spirit of unity that binds the Sindhi community together in a tapestry of faith and tradition.

Hindu New Year:

As the festive week draws to a close, the people of Mewar welcome the dawn of a new year with open arms and hopeful hearts.

From the colorful decorations adorning homes and temples to the traditional delicacies prepared with love and care, every moment is infused with the promise of new beginnings and prosperity. It is a time of reflection, gratitude, and optimism, as families come together to seek the blessings of the divine and embark on a journey of renewal and growth.

A Week of Unity and Harmony:

As we revel in the splendor of Chaitra Navratri, Eid-ul-Fitr, Cheti Chand, Gangaur, and Hindu New Year, we are reminded of the rich tapestry of Mewar's cultural heritage, where diversity is celebrated as a source of strength. These festivals transcend religious and regional boundaries, uniting people from all walks of life in a shared spirit of joy, compassion, and harmony. In a world often beset by division and discord, the collective celebration of these festivals serves as a poignant reminder of the power of unity and the beauty of coexistence.

In Mewar, where history meets tradition, the convergence of festivals is not merely a celebration; it is a testament to the enduring spirit of the region and its people. Through the vibrant colors, melodious rhythms, and heartfelt prayers that fill the air, Mewar continues to shine as a beacon of cultural richness and communal harmony, inspiring generations to come with its timeless legacy of love, faith, and togetherness.

Former President Kovind celebrates seniors' value

Udaipur: Former President Ram Nath Kovind will arrive in Udaipur by plane at 2:15 pm on April 7th. He will spend the night at a private hotel. On April 8th, at 10:55 am, he will visit the Maa Dropti Devi Anand Elderly Home in Sector 14, Hiran Magri, to participate as the chief guest in the program organized to mark the completion of 12 years of the elderly home. He will visit Nathdwara in the evening and participate in pre-scheduled programs on April 9th. Former President Kovind will depart for Delhi by plane at 3:00 pm on April 10th.

District Collector Arvind Poswal has instructed all relevant officials to ensure the complete implementation of the ideal conduct code, including security, escort, carcade, traffic, fire safety, and other arrangements, while observing this journey.

"Seniors are not a burden, but assets," says Ram Nath



Kovind. Speaking at the grand ceremony marking the completion of 12 years of the Tara Sansthan in Udaipur on Monday, the 14th President of the country, Ram Nath Kovind, expressed his views. In this regard, the founding chairperson of the Tara Sansthan, Kalpana Goyal, and the founding secretary, Deepesh Mittal, welcomed the former president. Kovind said, "Every family has its own stories. Some stories are small, some are big. Our lives pass by listening to and telling these stories. Therefore, we should think about what we have given to society, not just what we have

taken. The day you feel like giving, believe me, you will get double the joy you were getting from just taking."

Highlighting the greatness of the holyland of Mewar, he said that great personalities like Maharana Pratap, Bhamashah, and Meera Bai have been born on this land. Their greatness is not only in India but also recognized in the world. The people of Udaipur never step back for their culture and civilization. The stories of this land are inspirational. Maharana Pratap, Bhamashah, and Meera Bai hold the highest place in Indian history. They have lived and nurtured the best traditions of human life in their own way. Maharana Pratap protected the nation and religious culture along with his subjects. Bhamashah, while using his

wealth, donated all his wealth for the protection of the nation and religious culture. He wanted no one to remain hungry and no one to leave their religion due to poverty. Meera Bai's devotional tradition was so high that she believed only in Shri Krishna, even if she had to drink poison. The sentiment of service to humanity and religious culture of Mewar has always impressed them. Serving the poor and distressed is like serving God.

The former president said, "The operators of Tara Sansthan also seem to be descendants of them who are engaged in serving the elderly and the needy at such a high level today." He said that in today's era, due to increasing disintegration and the aspirations of physical comforts and luxuries, the youth of the family often leave their elderly parents alone and go for employment and economic benefits.

Physical aspirations force them to do so. There is no fault in this. They have to do this for livelihood. In the same way, another reason for the elderly to stay alone in the family is that earlier the tradition of the joint family used to be in our society, but gradually this tradition has almost ended. We need to ponder over this. The beginning of this has to be done by oneself. Social and family responsibilities also need to be understood. Kalpana Goyal, the founding chairperson of Tara Sansthan, welcoming the dignitaries, said that the inspiration to do such a noble work came from her father. Earlier, she used to be very emotional after seeing the condition of the elderly, but gradually, after staying with them and getting the opportunity to serve them, now she has gained courage and morale, and she enjoys serving them. Earlier, its inception was done in a small form,

and today it is before everyone in a big form. Narayan Seva Sansthan founder Kailash Manav also expressed his thoughts at the event. The program was conducted by the founding secretary Deepesh Mittal. Before this, former President Ram Nath Kovind met each of the seniors at the Tara Sansthan and talked to them. He visited the medical ward of the Sansthan where he learned about all the medical facilities and inquired about the health of the seniors. When he met Brijkishor Sharma, an elderly person in the ward, and learned about his well-being, he started leaving from there, then he realized that he sings very well. After listening to this, Ram Nath Kovind smiled and said that this song does not apply to you. After hearing this, he sang another song, "Leave the whole world, it's not suitable for anyone, but for humans.

Former Professor of IIM appointed as President, SPSU

In a momentous occasion marked by pride and anticipation, Sir Padampat Singhania University (SPSU) proudly welcomes esteemed Prof. (Dr.) Prithvi Yadav as its President and Vice Chancellor. Prof. Yadav, a distinguished academician



with a stellar career spanning across prestigious institutions including IITs, IIMs, Symbiosis, NMIMS, among others, brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to SPSU. Having pioneered the first skill University in the country, Prof. Yadav's visionary leadership has laid the groundwork for skill education in Higher Education Institutions (HEIs). His extensive involvement and significant contributions to national-level committees such as NAAC, UGC, AICTE, ICAR, MHRD/MOE, AIU highlight his unwavering dedication to advancing education and experiential learning. With a reputation for academic excellence and a commitment to nurturing holistic development, SPSU stands poised for unprecedented growth under Prof. Yadav's guidance. United in purpose, the university community is prepared not only to mould the future leaders of our global society but also to advocate for their comprehensive well-being and growth.

Congress Unveils "Nyaya Patra" Manifesto for Lok Sabha Elections 2024



The Congress party has unveiled its manifesto, titled "Nyaya Patra," for the 2024 Lok Sabha elections, under the leadership of Mallikarjun Kharge and Rahul Gandhi. This manifesto lays out a comprehensive vision for addressing the diverse needs and aspirations of the Indian populace. It promises significant reforms across various sectors, including the reinstatement of the Planning Commission, automatic disqualification for party-switching legislators, and a strong emphasis on justice and

equity for all sections of society.

Key highlights of the manifesto include police and legal reforms, transparent public engagement through rallies, and adherence to democratic principles. With ten pillars focusing on job creation, reservation quotas, economic restructuring, social welfare, women's empowerment, agricultural development, education initiatives, electoral and parliamentary reforms, the manifesto sets a benchmark for accountability and responsiveness in governance. In contrast to its previous "Jan-Awaaz" manifesto of 2019, the "Nyaya Patra" manifesto reflects grassroots feedback and aims to address pressing issues while championing the values of justice and equity in Indian society.

Conclusion

Congress's "Nyaya Patra" manifesto represents a comprehensive vision for a more just and equitable society, aiming to address the diverse needs and aspirations of the Indian populace. As the political landscape evolves, the manifesto sets a benchmark for accountability and responsiveness to public demands.

- Dr. Munesh Arora

BJP's Tiffin Meeting Campaign: Deputy Chief Minister Diya Kumari Participates

In a series of "Tiffin Meetings" organized by the organization to establish dialogue with grassroots-level workers and implement strategies for the upcoming Lok Sabha elections, today, on April 5, 2024, Deputy Chief Minister Diya Kumari participated in the "Tiffin Meeting" of booth numbers 107/108 of the BJP Sardar Patel Mandal, Udaipur (City).



During this occasion, Diya Kumari said that the Bharatiya Janata Party is not just a political organization but a family branch for every worker, and the organization of the "Tiffin Meeting" at the state level today is indicative of our sense of belonging to this very family! Today, the entire nation has been influenced by Modi ji's actions and has already made up its mind to re-elect the Modi government for the third time!

During the Tiffin Meeting, Lok Sabha Coordinator Pramod Samar, District President Ravindra Shrimali, City MLA Tarachand Jain, former MLA Vandana Meena, former Mayor Rajni Dang, District Minister Gajpal Singh, Manoj Meghwal, District Minister Deepak Boliya, Mandal President Hazari Jain, Minister Jayant Ojha, Councilor Chandrakala Boliya, Santosh Menaria, Bhawar Singh Deora, Chhagalal Bhoje, former Councilor Rajesh Vairagi, Hansa Mali, Vice President Rajesh Agrawal, Sushila, Minister Dinesh Dave, Nemichand Acharya, Sangita Mali, Vaibhav Bhandari (Youth Wing President), Pushkar Meghwal (SC Wing President), Saurabh Sukhwal (Farmers' Wing President), Kuldeep Chaudhary (OBC Wing Minister), Meenakshi Garg of the Women's Wing, along with members of the Mandal, including Rajkumar Khandelwal, Pavitra Chaudhary, Prithvi Singh, Nirmal Paliwal, Kamalesh Oad, Pratyush, Kamalesh Salvi, Prashant Meghwal, Umrao Singh, Vinayak Sharma, and others, including office bearers and women power, activists, were present!