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Hariyali Amavasya 2025: A Festival of Devotion, Nature, and Culture

Celebrated on 24th July, Dedicated to Lord Shiva and Goddess Parvati



anhood.

Administration and Safety Measures

The Nagar Nigam Udaipur, along with the district administration, works diligently to manage the fair. Stalls are allotted via auction to maintain fairness, and the law and order teams ensure safety and smooth functioning. CCTV monitoring, traffic control, and medical response teams are on full alert throughout the event.

Hariyali Amavasya in Udaipur, also known locally as Asha Amavasya, is a perfect blend of faith, festivity, and environmental reverence. It not only brings people together but also spreads a strong message of sustainability, tradition, and unity—making it one of Mewar's most cherished celebrations.

Hariyali Amavasya, also known as Sawan Amavasya or Shravan Amavasya, is a significant Hindu festival celebrated on 24th July 2025. Dedicated to Lord Shiva and Goddess Parvati, the day is marked by rituals of devotion, prayers for prosperity, and reverence for nature. It falls three days before Hariyali Teej in the Shravan month, the fifth month in the Hindu lunar calendar, which is especially sacred to Lord Shiva.

Spiritual and Environmental Significance

This auspicious day marks the onset of the monsoon season and is believed to ensure a good harvest and protect against drought. A key ritual involves worshipping the Peepal tree, symbolizing the connection between humans and nature. Devotees begin the day with a holy dip in sacred rivers or ponds, followed by puja, fasting, and offerings to deities, primarily Shiva-Parvati.

Celebrations Across India

Hariyali Amavasya is celebrated with great enthusiasm in North India, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Goa, and Andhra Pradesh. Cultural events and fairs mark the day in many regions.

Grand Festivities in Udaipur, Rajasthan

In Udaipur, Rajasthan, three-day-long celebrations make Hariyali Amavasya truly exceptional. The festival here blends devotion, nature worship, and vibrant tradition. The highlight is the grand Hariyali Amavasya Mela organized at Saheliyon-ki-Bari and Fatehsagar Lake, drawing thousands of visitors. Folk dances, music, traditional foods, swings, and artisan stalls create a festive atmosphere.

Significantly, the second day of the fair is exclusively reserved for women. Only women are allowed entry to enjoy the festivities, fostering a sense of celebration, empowerment, and joy. Gents are strictly prohibited on this day. Women in green attire, adorned with mehendi, fill the fairgrounds in celebration of fertility, nature, and wom-

Assembly Speaker Devnani Inspects Rain-Hit Ajmer, Orders Emergency Relief Measures

Ajmer: Rajasthan Assembly Speaker Vasudev Devnani visited several rain-affected areas in Ajmer on Saturday as the city experienced rainfall nearly double that of last year. Accompanied

the use of earthen sacks to divert water toward Khanpura pond. He reviewed water drainage efforts at Sagar Vihar, near the Deaf School, and Chaudhary Colony, ordering urgent cleaning of choked drains. Officials reported a decrease in inflow from Chaurasiyas and Varun Sagar, with Ana Sagar Lake being regularly drained to maintain water levels.

Inspecting Varun Sagar Lake, Devnani recommended annual desilting before monsoons. He also ordered reinforcement of the Boraj pond dam.

Over 1,000 relief kits have been distributed so far. SDRF, Civil Defence, and Municipal teams remain active. Tata Power has been asked to maintain uninterrupted electricity, especially in vulnerable areas.

Devnani warned against illegal encroachments on drainage paths and urged citizens to cooperate. A detailed drainage proposal has been sent to the state government for long-term flood prevention. All departments remain on alert, with relief efforts ongoing.



by District Collector Lok Bandhu and officials from the Municipal Corporation and ADA, Devnani personally surveyed flood-hit colonies, wading through waterlogged streets to assess the damage.

He directed officials to operate mud pumps round-the-clock to drain stagnant water and ensure immediate distribution of food packets, milk, and drinking water—especially for children and the elderly. He also ordered the evacuation of residents from submerged colonies to seven active relief shelters.

At Anasagar Escape Channel, Devnani instructed

Plantation Drive and Horse Riding at SPSU



Udaipur: Sir Padampat Singhania University (SPSU), Udaipur organized a Tree Plantation drive and Horse-riding event on July 20th, 2025. Conducted under the banner of the National Service Scheme (NSS) and NCC Unit, the event aimed to promote environmental awareness, physical wellness, and community engagement. This drive is an extension of ongoing NCC camp in the university.

The event was held in the esteemed presence of Hon'ble President and Vice Chancellor, Prof. (Dr.) Prithvi Yadav whose inspiring words encouraged participants to actively contribute towards a cleaner and greener environment. Mrs. Savita Yadav too encouraged the students, faculty, staff, and their family members who participated wholeheartedly, making the event lively. The presence and motivation of Commanding Officer, Col. Prakash Kumar N, 2 Raj. R&V Regt. Navania, further added to the dignity and purpose of the occasion, reinforcing the importance of a greener environment and community-led initiatives. The horse-riding activity offered a unique and joyful experience, especially for children and first-time riders. The tree plantation drive highlighted the importance of ecological balance and collective efforts in nurturing nature. It also instilled a sense of responsibility and pride among participants towards preserving the environment.



The event was also graced by Pro President Prof. Prasun Chakrabarti, Campus Director Col. HP Singh, Proctor and Dean, School of Management Prof. Sadananda Prusty and Dean FDSA Prof. Gaur Saha. Their presence and active involvement reflected the university's unified commitment to sustainability and holistic development.

The event was successfully coordinated by Dr. Manish Dadhich and Dr. Harish Tiwari (NSS Coordinators) and NCC Coordinator and Deputy Dean, Student Welfare Lt. Dr. D.S. Chouhan exemplifying SPSU's ongoing dedication to instilling values of care, wellness, and unity through meaningful campus activities.

Rajasthani Language Echoes Globally: Lakshyaraj Singh Mewar



Udaipur's City Palace hosted the inauguration of the 7-day "Third Rajasthani Summer School," where Dr. Lakshyaraj Singh Mewar highlighted the growing global appeal of the Rajasthani language. Organized by the Maharana Mewar Charitable Foundation and Rajasthani Bhasha Academy, the workshop emphasized preserving linguistic heritage. Dr. Mewar likened Rajasthani's respectful tone to a cultural treasure. Scholars including Dr. Deepthi Kheda and Vishesh Kothari shared insights into Rajasthani folk art, literature, and history. The academy, backed by global experts, is committed to reviving and promoting Rajasthani through education and cultural programs. Dr. Mewar praised the initiative and engaged warmly with participants.

Turning Silence into Strength

An Interview with Mime Maestro Vilas Janve By Dr. Munesh Arora

In a world flooded with sound, it is rare to come across an art form that expresses the deepest emotions without uttering a single word. Mime — a language of silence — is not merely performance; it is poetry in motion. And one man has mastered this poetic expression with unmatched dedication: Vilas Janve.



A respected figure in Indian theatre and recipient of the Sangeet Natak Akademi Award, Vilas Janve has not only practiced mime but lived it. From Chandigarh to Udaipur, and later as a cultural pillar of West Zone Cultural Centre and Shilpgram, his journey is a testament to silent expression's power and purpose.

As someone who had the pleasure of living next door to him in Ravindra Nagar, I, Dr. Munesh Arora, witnessed his unwavering passion firsthand. Today, I feel privileged to bring you this exclusive conversation—a deep dive into the world of mime and the mind behind its

enduring magic.

What is Mime, and How Do You Define It?

Vilas Janve: Mime, or Mookabhinay, is not simply acting without words. It is a language in itself — one where gestures, body movements, and facial expressions speak louder than spoken dialogue. From anger to compassion, joy to sorrow — every human emotion can be conveyed through this silent form.

It uses physicality and nuance to communicate universally, across age, language, and culture.

Does Mime Have Roots in Indian Theatre?

Absolutely. In Bharatmuni's Natyashastra, we find four types of Abhinaya: Angik, Vachik, Aharaya and Satvik. The old classic dramas of Kalidasa and Bhasa included mimes to avoid huge properties on stage. Elaborate scenes like chariot rides, storms, hunting in jungle, rains of fire or battles scenes were expressed through mime movements. Mime has always been part of our theatrical DNA—it just wasn't labelled separately.

Mime as a Medium for Social Change—Mime should go beyond entertainment. My work has always aimed to reflect societal concerns. Productions like Rakshason Ko To Rakho Pani (on water conservation) or Plantation Week v/s Plantation Weak (on environmental negligence) or Dust free Dustbin (on cleanliness), Road Heros (on road safety) were created

to educate and inspire through healthy entertainment. In a noisy world, mime gives people a chance to reflect — not just watch. Me and my wife Kiran Janve (who herself is a senior artist) are disciples of Padmashree Niranjan Goswami who is founder of Indian Mime theater and National Mime Institute, Kolkata.

Why the Signature White Face Paint?

Because mime has no dialogue, about 40% of expressive communication is naturally lost. The white makeup compensates by highlighting facial expressions, making them visible even to those in the last row. We accentuate eyebrows, lips, and lines turning the face into a mobile mask. Every emotion — love, anger, heroism, laughter or sympathy — must register clearly on the face.

Reviving Vanishing Traditions Like Bahurupiya While mime remains my core art, I also felt compelled to revive fading folk forms like Bahurupiya — traditional Indian impersonators. While working with West Zone Cultural Centre I organized a workshop on the art of Bahurupias where they exposed to various experts of performing arts to enhance their skills. Through Martand Foundation, Udaipur I collaborated National Bahurupa Festival (Vyakti ek roop Anek) with Indira Gandhi National Centre for Arts, New Delhi, in 2018. I have contributed in many documentaries on this art form. I intend to bring an elaborated monograph on Bahurupia art. Where we brought together three generations of artists (Shivraj Bhand, grandfather, Firoz, son and Arman, grandson on one stage, offering visibility and dignity to an almost forgotten tradition. These forms need more than memory; they need active celebration.

The Mime Philosophy:

Expression, Not Exaggeration Today's media often confuses shouting with acting. But real performance is rooted in control, subtlety, and natural emotion. Mime teaches discipline. As an artist, your job is to make the audience feel, not just react. The audience today is intelligent — they don't want melodrama; they seek meaning. 28 Years at Shilpgram: A Cultural Pilgrimage Serving as Programme Officer at the West Zone Cultural Centre, Shilpgram, was a spiritual and professional journey. For over 28 years, I worked to nurture folk, tribal, and classical arts. I even wrote the Shilpgram Anthem, calling it a "pilgrimage for artists and artisans." Shilpgram became more than a venue — it became a cultural sanctuary.

Sangeet Natak Akademi Honour:

A Milestone In 2021, I was humbled to receive the Sangeet Natak Akademi Award at the Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi from the President of Bharat. It was not just an individual honour but recognition of mime as an important national art form. Awards like these inspire responsibility — to give more, teach more, preserve more.

Message to Young Artists Learn to observe. Master silence. Know that acting is not about ego — it is about empathy. Mime teaches us to listen — to people, to society, to ourselves. If understood deeply, it not only shapes better performers but also better human beings.

Dr. Munesh Arora: Thank you, Janve ji, for your time and insights. You have proven that true expression doesn't require words — only sincerity, skill, and silence. Your journey continues to inspire generations of performers and citizens alike.

-Edited and compiled by
Mohsina bano

Sukhadia University Organizes One-Day Workshop on NEP 2020

Udaipur: A one-day workshop on the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 and the new examination system was organized at the Bappa Rawal Auditorium of Mohanlal Sukhadia University. The event aimed to provide training to the principals and their representatives from all affiliated colleges regarding NEP 2020 and the updated examination methodology.



Following the inauguration of the workshop, Controller of Examinations Dr. P.S. Rajput welcomed the guests and participants. He emphasized the relevance and need for such a workshop, adding that the insights shared during the session would help accelerate the university's future operations.

Presiding over the workshop, Vice-Chancellor Prof. Sunita Mishra stressed the importance of executing college-level academic affairs with sincerity, timeliness, and commitment. She also launched a new online portal enabling students who missed applying for exams to submit their forms before the examinations commence. She added that the university is in the process of starting an online application system for documents such as migration certificates, revised mark sheets, provisional degrees, and transcripts. This system will enable students to receive these documents within a stipulated time frame by submitting their requests and fees online.

NEP-2020 Nodal Officer Prof. K.B. Joshi explained that under the new policy, in addition to the selected subjects in undergraduate courses, one skill paper per semester is mandatory. While the first and third-semester skill papers are prescribed by the state government, for the fourth, fifth, and sixth semesters, students may choose a skill paper from any of the streams—Arts, Science, or Commerce—offered by their respective colleges. Dr. N.K. Pareek elaborated on the features and need for a depository system. He provided a detailed explanation of the entire process involved in uploading and downloading various forms via the university's website.

A total of 130 principals and college representatives from affiliated institutions participated in the workshop. In his closing remarks, Dr. P.S. Rajput extended a vote of thanks and urged all participants to implement the knowledge gained from the workshop in practical settings to benefit their respective institutions.

Rain Couldn't Stop Eye Donation in Bhawanimandi

Bhawanimandi witnessed its 145th eye donation despite heavy rainfall, following the sudden demise of local businessman Vimal Sethia due to a heart attack. His family, led by son Rahul Sethia, consented to the noble act, fulfilling Vimal's long-held wish. Shine India Foundation's Kamlesh Dalal coordinated the process, and Dr. Kulwant Gaur arrived from Kota with the "Jyoti Rath" at midnight to complete the donation. The family's participation inspired onlookers, dispelling doubts about eye donation. The gesture was supported by relatives and friends, reflecting rising awareness and commitment to eye donation in the region.