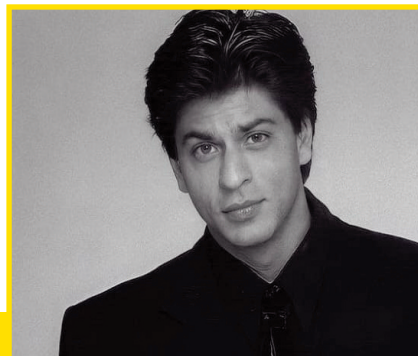


ROYAL HARBINGER

Reporting Fact of the Matter

Weekly



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Shah Rukh Khan Wins His First National Award for 'Jawan...**

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Mewar Set to Celebrate Raksha Bandhan on August 9 with Grandeur and Devotion

From Royal Palaces to Ancient Temples and Bustling Bazaars, the Region Prepares to Honour the Sacred Bond of Protection

Udaipur. As the auspicious festival of Raksha Bandhan approaches on August 9, the entire region of Mewar is immersed in festive preparations. More than just a celebration of the bond between brothers and sisters, Raksha Bandhan in Mewar is a deep-rooted cultural tradition that echoes through the palaces, temples, and homes of this historic land. This year too, the anticipation is palpable across Udaipur, Chittorgarh, Nathdwara, Rajsamand, and surrounding towns and villages. Markets are buzzing, rituals are being rehearsed, and a wave of emotion is sweeping through families and communities. The festival, as always, promises to be a blend of heartfelt sentiments, glorious traditions, and collective pride.

A Tale That Lives Through Centuries: Rani Karnavati's Rakhi to Humayun

One of the most iconic stories associated with Raksha Bandhan has its roots in the soil of Mewar. The legend of Rani Karnavati and Mughal Emperor Humayun is not just a tale of political alliance but a timeless testimony to the sacred value of the rakhi.

In the 16th century, when Chittorgarh was threatened by an attack from Bahadur Shah of Gujarat, Rani Karnavati, the brave widow of Rana Sanga, sent a rakhi to Humayun. Despite being a Mughal ruler and a Muslim king, Humayun was deeply moved by the gesture. He immediately set out to protect her honor. Though he arrived too late to save Chittorgarh, his act of responding to the rakhi with respect and urgency established Raksha Bandhan as a bond that transcends religion, politics, and geography.

This story remains etched in the collective memory of Mewar and continues to inspire

generations to treat the rakhi not merely as a ritual, but as a pledge of honor and duty.

Royal Traditions: Rakhi Celebrations at Udaipur's City Palace

True to its royal heritage, Udaipur's City Palace remains the heart of traditional Raksha



Bandhan celebrations. The descendants of the Sisodia dynasty, known for their bravery and unbroken lineage, observe the festival with age-old customs and regal splendor.

On the day of Raksha Bandhan, royal siblings gather within the grand courtyards of the palace. The sisters perform aarti, tie silken rakhis around their brothers' wrists, and apply the sacred tilak. In return, brothers present ceremonial gifts and renew their lifelong pledge of protection. The rituals reflect not just family bonding but a larger symbolism of safeguarding culture, dharma, and values.

This royal celebration is also a reflection of Mewar's deep-rooted commitment to preserving its traditions and honoring the legacy of its ancestors.

Spiritual Devotion: Temples of Eklingji and Shrinathji Draw Devotees

Spirituality forms the core of Mewar's identity, and Raksha Bandhan is no exception. Temples like Eklingji, the ruling deity of Mewar, and Shrinathji in Nathdwara witness a surge

in devotees during this period.

Sisters, as a gesture of divine faith, tie symbolic rakhis to the deities, seeking blessings for their brothers' safety, prosperity, and strength. This sacred act highlights the belief that beyond the physical, it is divine protection that nurtures and guards loved ones.

Many families begin their Raksha Bandhan day with temple visits, offering prasad, performing puja, and expressing gratitude for the spiritual bonds that guide and protect them.

Markets Overflow with Color and Culture
In the lead-up to August 9, the streets and markets of Udaipur are decked out in festive brilliance.

Ashok Nagar, Hathipole, and Surajpole are brimming with activity. Shops are stocked with an incredible range of rakhis—from handcrafted threads to ornate designer pieces. Vendors showcase traditional thalis blended with ughar (ritual offerings), packed with roli, chawal, diya, and sweets.

Local artisans, known for their miniature art and painting traditions, are offering Shrivani Kumar-inspired paper paintings, paying homage to the mythological son who carried his blind parents on a pilgrimage—an eternal symbol of devotion and duty.

Sweet shops have rolled out their special Rakhi boxes, featuring mawakachori, ghevar, motichoorladdoos, and other delicacies that are integral to the celebration.

Unique Mewar Ritual: Thandi Rakhi on August 10

Mewar also observes a deeply moving and unique tradition known as "Thandi Rakhi", celebrated a day after Raksha Bandhan. This ritual is for families who have lost a close member—be it a brother, sister, parent, or spouse—in the past calendar year.

Instead of celebrating on the main day, these families observe the rituals in a subdued man-

ner on the next day, offering prayers for peace and remembrance. The emotion of the festival lives on through reflection and remembrance rather than celebration.

A special fair, the Thandi Rakhi Mela, is organized at Amrakhi Mahadev Temple located on the Udaipur-Eklingji road. Hundreds gather here to pay tribute to their departed loved ones while participating in a shared community of prayer and support.

Modern Adaptations: Rakhis for Soldiers and Societal Guardians

In recent years, Raksha Bandhan in Mewar has found new expressions. Social organizations and schools have started organizing events where rakhis are tied to soldiers, police officers, home guards, and other protectors of society.

These gestures not only honor the selfless service of these individuals but also extend the idea of siblinghood to all those who uphold safety, peace, and order in the community. It is a modern reflection of ancient values—love, duty, and unity.

A Living Tradition Rooted in History and Emotion

As Mewar prepares to celebrate Raksha Bandhan on August 9, the festival once again reaffirms the region's deep cultural consciousness. It is not just about tying a thread; it is about reviving the legacy of protection, respect, and reverence that has defined Mewar for centuries.

From the majestic City Palace to the divine aura of Eklingji, from decorated city roads to the sacred Thandi Rakhi Mela, Raksha Bandhan in Mewar is a soul-stirring experience. It binds the past to the present, the personal to the collective, and the ritual to the emotion—making it one of the most heartwarming celebrations in the region's cultural calendar.

Lokmanya Tilak College Marks Sixty Years

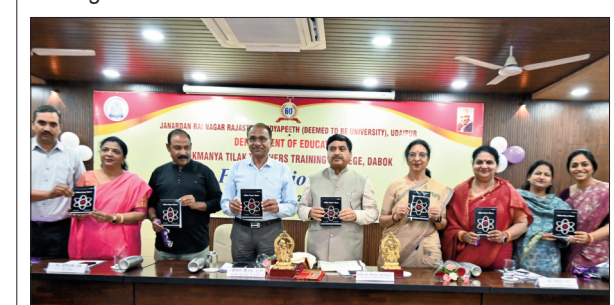
Udaipur: Lokmanya Tilak Teachers' Training College, a constituent of Rajasthan Vidyapeeth University, joyfully celebrated its 60th Foundation Day on Tuesday, highlighting the importance of ethics and values in education and society.

Chief Guest and Vice-Chancellor Prof. Shiv Singh Sarangdevot emphasized value-based education and preserving cultural traditions through quality teaching. He recalled the vision of founder Pandit Janardan Rai Nagar, who started the college in 1966 with 80 students, a number that has grown to over 2,500 annually. Many alumni now serve in government and private sectors, showcasing the institution's dedication to building a responsible society.

Chancellor Bhanwar Lal Gurjar, who presided over the event, lauded the institution's unwavering commitment to educational values amid modern academic challenges and praised the legacy of the founding members.

A major highlight of the day was the launch of a new book on Physics Education authored by Dr. Rachna Rathore and Dr. Indu Bala Acharya, unveiled in the presence of dignitaries.

Principal Prof. Saroj Garg, in her welcome address, outlined the institution's 59-year journey, achievements, and future goals, reaffirming its mission of academic excellence in teacher training.



Notable academicians including Dr. Balidan Jain, Dr. Ami Rathore, Dr. B. L. Shrimali, Dr. Amiya Goswami, Dr. Aparna Srivastava, and others graced the occasion. Faculty, administrative staff, and students participated actively.

The event was coordinated by Dr. Harish Chaubisa and concluded with a vote of thanks by Dr. Rachna Rathore.

CPS & Rockwoods Chairperson Mrs. Alka Sharma Honoured with Lifetime Achievement Award

Udaipur. In a proud moment for Udaipur, Mrs. Alka Sharma, Chairperson of Central Public Sr. Sec. School, Rockwoods High School, and Rockwoods International School, was felicitated with the prestigious 'Lifetime Achievement Award' at the Global Education Awards 2025.

The award ceremony was held on August 2, 2025, at the Hotel Clarks Amer, Jaipur, in the presence of renowned educators, administrators, and dignitaries from across the country and abroad. This distinguished honor reflects Mrs. Sharma's unwavering dedication to the field of education for over three decades.



Throughout her journey, Mrs. Sharma has pioneered innovation in teaching methods, ensured access to excellent academic resources, and remained steadfast in her mission of nurturing holistic student development. Her vision has transformed

educational institutions into nurturing grounds for values, intellect, and global competence. To celebrate this momentous achievement, a felicitation ceremony was held on the school campus, where students, staff, and management welcomed her with floral showers and enthusiastic applause. The joyful atmosphere resonated with pride and admiration.

In her heartfelt address, Mrs. Sharma shared, "My life has been devoted to the holistic development and upliftment of students. This award is not just mine, but a recognition of the collective journey of our school family, our teachers, parents, and students."

The entire school community, including the management committee, faculty, staff, and students, extended their warm congratulations and best wishes to Mrs. Alka Sharma on this well-deserved honor.

SPIC MACAY's Melodious Flute Concert at SPSU



SPSU, Udaipur, in association with SPIC MACAY, resonated with the melodious strains of Indian classical music on August 5, 2025, as flute maestro Pandit Rupak Kulkarni performed alongside tabla virtuoso Mithilesh Jha and flute accompanist Mr. Litesh Jetwa. The event was held as part of the university's ongoing cultural initiatives to bring students closer to the rich heritage of Indian classical music. The Hon'ble President and Vice Chancellor, SPSU, Prof. (Dr.) Prithvi Yadav, felicitated the artists and appreciated their dedication to the preservation and promotion of Indian classical music. Pandit Rupak Kulkarni, a senior disciple of the legendary Pandit Hariprasad Chaurasia, is celebrated worldwide for his innovative playing style that seamlessly blends technical brilliance with emotional depth. With numerous albums, international performances, and collaborations to his credit, Pandit Kulkarni has emerged as one of the foremost torchbearers of the Maihar Gharana.

The performance received an overwhelming response from students and faculty alike. Many students expressed their admiration for the artist's skill and the emotive power of the flute recital. The soothing melodies and rhythmic nuances created an atmosphere of reflection and serenity, offering students a unique and memorable cultural experience beyond the classroom. The event was organized under the guidance of Prof. D.S. Chouhan, SPIC MACAY Coordinator and Deputy Dean, Student Welfare and Mr. DK Gupta, SPIC MACAY Coordinator Udaipur Chapter as part of SPSU's ongoing commitment to promoting Indian art and culture on campus. The performance not only introduced students to the beauty of Indian classical music but also encouraged them to appreciate the timeless traditions that continue to inspire generations. The event was also graced by Prof. Prasun Chakraborti, Pro Vice Chancellor, Col. H.P. Singh, Campus Director, Registrar, Deans and faculty members, who joined the students in appreciating the captivating performance.

Successful Organization of SPSU Marathon & Walkathon 2025

Udaipur: With a strong emphasis on promoting physical fitness and mental well-being, Sir Padampat Singhania University (SPSU) successfully organized the SPSU Marathon & Walkathon 2025 on campus. The event saw enthusiastic participation from students, faculty members, and administrative staff, reflecting the university's commitment to a healthy and active lifestyle.

The event was graced by the Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, Prof. (Dr.) Prithvi Yadav, as the Chief Guest.

He felicitated the winners and runners-up and commended all participants for their spirited involvement. In his address, Prof. Yadav emphasized that such events cultivate physical endurance, mental agility, enthusiasm, and energy—key components of holistic personality development.

Campus Director Col. H. P. Singh, extended a warm welcome to all attendees. The Proctor Prof. Sadananda Prusty, and faculty members from various departments also participated in the event and attended the prize distribution ceremony as well.

Dr. Kuldeep Singh Jhala, Director,



Sports, briefed that the initiative was part of SPSU's larger 'Physical Fitness and Wellness Program', designed to promote a culture of health and well-being across the university.

He explicated that the Marathon was held for students, while the Walkathon was organized for faculty and staff, thereby engaging the entire campus community.

Mr. Praveen Singh Jhala, the Marathon Coordinator, ensured the smooth execution of the event by providing neces-

sary guidelines to participants. Mr. Mukesh Chandra Mishra played a significant role in operational support. The Students' Council also contributed wholeheartedly, helping to make the event a resounding success.

Results of the Event:

Marathon (Student—Male Category):

Winner: Kaushal Chauhan,

Runner-up: P. Naresh

Marathon (Student—Female Category):

Winner: Khushboo Chauhan,

Runner-up: K. Tulsi Chaudhary

Walkathon (Staff—Male Category):

Winner: Mr. Arun Kumar, Runner-

up: Mr. Brijesh Kumar Sharma

Walkathon (Staff—Female Category):

Winner: Dr. Archana Gajbaiye

The SPSU Marathon & Walkathon

2025 cultivated a spirit of discipline,

camaraderie, and commitment to health

among all participants. The university

administration reaffirmed its commitment

to continue organizing such fitness-orien-

ted initiatives in the future.

Dr. Kuldeep Singh Jhala extended

heartfelt gratitude to Hon'ble Vice

Chancellor Prof. (Dr.) Prithvi Yadav,

Campus Director Col. H. P. Singh, Proctor

Dr. Sadananda Prusty, all faculty, staff, and

student volunteers for their invaluable sup-

port in ensuring the smooth coordination

and success of the event.

Prakhar Singhvi Scripts History, Secures First Place for India at Copernicus Olympiad 2025



est and exceptional aptitude in the fields of Science and Mathematics. For the Olympiad, Prakhar prepared through a blend of online learning platforms, international test series, and expert mentorship—a combination that laid the foundation for his global success. Coming from a family that values education, Prakhar's journey was continuously encouraged and nurtured. His father is a businessman and his mother, a dedicated teacher. Both played a pivotal role in cultivating his passion for learning and exploration. Speaking with humility and gratitude after his victory, Prakhar said, "This feels like a dream come true. I never imagined I'd be representing India on such a prestigious stage like Columbia University. This achievement is dedicated to my parents, and my beloved city of Udaipur." The magnitude of Prakhar's achievement extends beyond personal success. It signals a powerful message: extraordinary talent resides not just in metro cities, but also in smaller towns like Udaipur, where, with the right mentorship and exposure, young minds can rise to global prominence.

The announcement of his victory has sparked a wave of celebration across the city. His school staff, fellow students, and proud parents celebrated with sweets, heartfelt congratulations, and spontaneous applause. The school management has announced a special felicitation ceremony to honor Prakhar's remarkable success. This milestone is not just a feather in the cap for Prakhar Singhvi, but a beacon of inspiration for millions of students across India. His journey proves that with dedication, discipline, and vision, no dream is beyond reach. As the city of Udaipur basks in this proud moment, the nation celebrates a young scholar whose light now shines on the world stage.

Udaipur: In a moment that brought immense pride to the city of Udaipur and the entire nation, local prodigy Prakhar Singhvi achieved a historic feat by securing first place for India at the Copernicus Olympiad 2025, an internationally acclaimed academic competition hosted at Columbia University, New York, USA. Competing against some of the brightest minds from around the globe, Prakhar showcased extraordinary brilliance, outshining participants from various countries.

The Olympiad, known for its rigorous structure and intellectual challenges, assessed students on multiple fronts including Science, Mathematics, Logical Reasoning, and Innovation. It tested the participants' analytical thinking, problem-solving skills, and ability to apply conceptual knowledge to real-world scenarios.

Prakhar's victory was not merely a stroke of luck, but the result of years of focused preparation, tireless dedication, and strategic mentorship. Currently studying in a reputed school in Udaipur, he has consistently displayed a deep interest in learning and exploration. Speaking with humility and gratitude after his victory, Prakhar said, "This feels like a dream come true. I never imagined I'd be representing India on such a prestigious stage like Columbia University. This achievement is dedicated to my parents, and my beloved city of Udaipur." The magnitude of Prakhar's achievement extends beyond personal success. It signals a powerful message: extraordinary talent resides not just in metro cities, but also in smaller towns like Udaipur, where, with the right mentorship and exposure, young minds can rise to global prominence.

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