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UDAIPUR | MONDAY, AUGUST 25, 2025 | PAGE 1 - 4 | PRICE : 5.00* (Vol. 11, No. 21)



Bohara Ganesh: Faith, Festivity, and Beginnings

As Udaipur prepares to welcome Ganesh Chaturthi on 27th August, the spotlight once again falls on Bohara Ganesh Ji, a centuries-old shrine that holds a unique place in the city's spiritual and cultural life. This revered temple is not just a site of worship, but also the centre of a living tradition that connects faith. community, and celebration.

A Temple with a **Purpose**

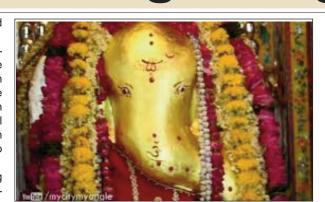
The shrine earned the name Bohara Ganesh from an ancient custom. In earlier times, locals would borrow money from the temple before important undertakings—such as farming, business, or construction—believing that Lord

Ganesh's blessings ensured

Once their work was completed, they returned the money with gratitude through a poojan ceremony. Over the years, this symbolic tradition transformed into a spiritual belief that any task begun with Ganesh's blessings leads to prosperity and fulfillment.

Even today, before starting major life events like marriages, housewarming ceremonies, or new ventures, families invite Lord Ganesh from this temple in symbolic form. Once the work is completed, the idol is respectfully returned with offerings, continuing a tradition of devotion and

Why Ganesh



Comes First

In Hindu tradition, Lord Ganesh is revered as Vighnaharta—the remover of obstacles. Scriptures narrate how Ganesh, the son of Lord Shiva and Goddess Parvati, was blessed with the boon that no ritual, ceremony, or auspi-

cious work would begin without invoking his name first. This origin explains why he is called Pratham Pujya (the first to be worshipped), and why his presence is sought before every new journey in life.

The Colourful **Bohara Ganesh**

Mela

The annual Bohara Ganesh Mela, held around Ganesh Chaturthi, adds a festive dimension to this devotion. Thousands of devotees throng the temple to offer prayers, buy sweets, and participate in joyous activities.

The mela is not just a religious gathering—it is also a social celebration where families come together, stalls line the streets, and cultural programs bring the community alive with colour and sound.

Children enjoy swings and toys, while elders take part in devotional singing and poojas. The aroma of traditional sweets like modaks and laddoos fills the air, symbolizing offerings to Lord Ganesh. For Udaipur,

the mela is as much about cultural bonding as it is about wor

Faith That Endures

What makes Bohara Ganesh Ji special is not just its ancient rituals, but the way it continues to inspire faith across generations. In times when traditions often fade, this temple stands as a living example of how spiritual practices evolve yet remain rooted in their original essence.

As the city readies itself for Ganesh Chaturthi. Bohara Ganesh becomes a beacon of devotion-reminding everyone that with Ganesh's blessings, no beginning is too small, and no challenge too big.

Media Must Play Vital Role in **Disseminating Welfare** Schemes - Babulal Kharadi

Udaipur. The Press Information Bureau (PIB), Jaipur, under $the\,Ministry\,of\,Information\,\&\,Broadcasting,\,Government\,of\,India,$ organized the regional media workshop "Vartalap" in Udaipur. On this occasion, Rajasthan's Minister for Tribal Area Development, Shri Babulal Kharadi, along with Udaipur City MLA Shri Tarachand Jain, inaugurated the exhibition showcasing 11 years of achievements of the Central Government.

More than 100 print and electronic journalists from Udaipur city and nearby rural regions actively participated in the day-



Addressing as the chief guest, Minister Shri Kharadi urged the media to focus on fact-based reporting to enhance their credibility in society.

He emphasized that the dissemination of welfare schemes of the government largely depends on the media, ensuring that benefits reach the common people. Highlighting the success of Operation Sindoor and the strength of the Indian Army, he said that under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, India has emerged stronger in every sector.

Speaking as the special guest, MLA Shri Tarachand Jain pointed out the issue of misleading content spread on social media during Operation Sindoor, which upon verification by official sources, was found to be false. He added that in the last eleven years, under Prime Minister Modi's leadership, India has strengthened its global standing and risen to become the world's third-largest economy.

On this occasion, Additional Director General, PIB Jaipur, Smt. Ritu Shukla, delivered a presentation on the objectives of "Vartalap," stressing the importance of empowering districtlevel journalists with information about government schemes and contemporary issues.

She also shared details about the Press Services Portal the Central Bureau of Communication's advertisement token system, and the Journalist Welfare Fund.

During the technical session, Shri Ajit Kumar, Additional Central Provident Fund Commissioner, Rajasthan, highlighted the Pradhan Mantri Viksit Bharat Rojgar Yojana, describing it as independent India's largest employment scheme with an outlay of ₹1 lakh crore and a target of generating over 35 million jobs by 2027.

Smt. Kanika Kalia, Head of Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS), Rajasthan, underlined the critical role of media in consumer empowerment and standardization. She informed that over 600 Standard Clubs have been established in Rajasthan, engaging more than 3 lakh students.

Shri Rajkumar Meena, General Manager, Bank of Baroda. and Convener, State Level Bankers' Committee, elaborated on financial inclusion, digital transactions, and social security

He introduced the Financial Inclusion Saturation Scheme launched on 1st July 2025 to ensure wider reach of banking benefits and welfare schemes through financial institutions. He also urged the media to raise awareness about preventing cyber

The workshop concluded with remarks by Shri Dharmesh Bharti, Deputy Director, PIB Jaipur, and was anchored by Shri Rameshwar Lal Meena, Assistant Director, Central Bureau of Communication.

Children's Literature: A Movement, **Not a Memory**

Udaipur witnessed the 16th edition of the Children's Literature Conference, an event dedicated to nurturing the fast-disappearing genre of children's literature. Dr. Munesh Arora opened the discussion with a heartfelt observation that once-celebrated publications like Nandan and Bal Hans have faded away. The rise of television, and later mobile phones, has created a new world for children—often pushing them toward distraction, anxiety, and even depression. Dr. Arora emphasized that children's literature has the power to uplift young minds, but parental awareness and guidance remain inadequate.

The conference was organized by Dr. Vimla Bhandari, a distinguished writer originally from Salumbar, who has authored several influential works. Among her notable books are Aurat Ka Sach, Udne Wale Joote, America Se Mulakat, Swadharm Rachna Dharmita, and Prerna Dayak Bal Kahaniyan. Her latest release, Salil Pravah, was launched during this year's conference



tations into digital or visual media.

Speaking to Dr. Arora, Dr. Bhandari expressed her firm belief that children's literature is not declining, but rather evolving. While traditional magazines may have ceased publication, numerous children's books and picture books continue to be published in abundance. She stressed that the real challenge lies in ensuring these works actually reach children, rather than remaining limited to book launches and reviews.

Dr. Bhandari highlighted children's literature as a form of national service, shaping future citizens with sensitivity, moral responsibility, and patriotism. She explained how stories and values imparted at home once inspired great leaders like Maharana Pratap, Shivaji, and Mahatma Gandhi. For her, literature is not merely entertainment but a cultural seedbed that nurtures values, emotions, and identity in the younger generation.

The discussion also touched upon the changing mediums of storytelling from traditional magazines and comic books like Chacha Chaudhary to tele-

vision, animation, and digital platforms such as YouTube. While these new formats are engaging, Dr. Bhandari emphasized that the root still lies in strong writing, which forms the foundation for adap-

This year's conference was attended by 60–70 literary figures, educators, parents, children, and officials from across seven states and ten districts. Notably, writer Devendra Kumar Shriyastayatrayeled over 22 hours from Basti near Avodhya to attend. The presence of Vice Chancellor Dr. Ajit Kumar, along with academics, administrators, and journalists, reflected the wide

Under the Salila initiative, nine competitions have already been organized, each resulting in published works. Looking ahead, Dr. Bhandari shared plans to expand into translations and include multiple Indian languages, ensuring that children's literature resonates nationally rather than regionally.

In closing, she expressed her commitment to continue working tirelessly: "Children's literature is a nursery of values. Our responsibility as parents, educators, and writers never ends. Even a small

contribution in this field is a vital one, for it shapes not just individual minds but the future of the nation."

The conference thus stood as a reminder that while challenges exist in the age of screens, children's literature remains a powerful medium to create responsible, sensitive, and visionary citizens for tomorrow.

- Mohsina Bano **RH Team**

Fatehsagar Lake All Set to Overflow, Udaipur Gears **Up for Festive Gathering**

Udaipur: The pride of Udaipur, the world-famous Fatehsagar Lake, is all set to overflow, filling the city with excitement and anticipation. With water levels steadily rising due to continuous rainfall and inflows from interconnected lakes, the lake touched 12 feet 10 inches on Tuesday afternoon against its full capacity of 13 feet. Officials from the Water Resources Department have indicated that the gates are likely to be opened by late evening, turning the day into a festive occasion for the city. On the eve of Ganesh Chaturthi, elaborate plans have been put in place for the ceremonial gate opening. Udaipur City MLA Tara Chand Jain, Udaipur Rural MLA Phool Singh Meena, Divisional Commissioner Ms. Pragya Kevalramani, District Collector Namit Mehta, UDA Commissioner Rahul Jain, and social worker Gajpal Singh are expected to join thousands of citizens at the Paal to witness the grand moment. Security arrangements have been tightened, with sirens set to sound before the release and personnel stationed downstream to ensure safety. A ceremonial coconut-breaking and floral offering to the water deity will precede the opening of the gates.

City Prepares for a Joyous Gathering - Excitement is already visible along the lakeside. Citizens and tourists have started gathering at the Paal, taking photographs and videos in anticipation of the spectacle. The overflowing of Fatehsagar is not merely a natural event but a cherished tradition in Udaipur, celebrated with chants, slogans, and community

Leaders Extend Greetings and Caution - Public representatives and administrative officials have extended warm greetings to the people of Udaipur, expressing that the overflowing lakes, dams, and reservoirs symbolize prosperity and happiness. At the same time, they have appealed to citizens to enjoy the event responsibly and remain cautious near water bodies. Earlier Than Last Year - Residents eagerly await this

sight every year, considering it an auspicious occurrence. This year, Fatehsagar is set to overflow nearly two weeks earlier than last year, when the gates were opened on September 7, 2024, coinciding with Ganesh Chaturthi. The early overflow has added an extra layer of joy and festive spirit to the city's celebrations.

Indradhanushi Rashmiyan: A Reflection of Society and Life

Udaipur: Senior writer Sulekha Shrivastava's second poetry collection "Indradhanushi Rashmiyan" (Rainbow Rays) was published in 2024 by Himanshu Publications (Udaipur-Delhi). The book, comprising 82 poems, all beautifully blends social realities, problems, pains, other human emotions, spirituality and the enchanting imagery of nature.

Poems Adorned with Diverse Moods

The verses mirror society itself — at times exposing its struggles and sorrows, at other times offering glimpses of spiritual depth or celebrating the splendor of nature. Having begun her literary journey in adolescence, Shrivastava's maturity of thought adds an emotional depth that makes these poems profoundly engaging.

Strong Voice on Nation and Society

Poems like "Shakti Pradarshan" depicts the turbulence created by political realities, hopes and the anguish of common people. Shrivastava writes in stirring words:

Phir shakti pradarshan karte hain. Taiyaar jo bikne ko baithe hain, Woh desh ki baatein karte hain."

"Haan, shakti pradarshan karte hain,

Similarly, in "Ye Voter Hai" she expresses the pain and helplessness of the common voter who bears the burden of hope and responsibility both:

"Takdeer apni banane mein, Auron ki likh deta hai. Behtari ki aas mein,

Bagdor sambhlata hai."

The Magical Charm of Nature-

Nature-inspired poems transport readers into a realm of beauty and tranquility. In "Prakrati ka Jadoo" she captures the essence of natural harmony:

"Hawa ke jhonke pe geet koi likh dein. Geet ke har bhaav ko sangeet naya dein. Kaisa jadoo kya maya sab bhool jaayein, Shaant is saundarya per jeevan nisaar dein." These lines reflect the poet's vision of surrendering to

the serenity and charm of nature. The Harsh Truth of Time

In "Kaisa Samay Hai" Shrivastava portrays the contradictions and moral decay of the present era with biting irony:

"Murli ki dhun suni nahin, Sangeet sikhate hain. Buddhi pe taale jinke, Woh gyaan sikhate hain. Jhooth mein aakanth doobe, Satya batate hain.

Do raahe pe khade hain, Kab se raah batate hain.'

The poem reflects a society where deception often parades as truth and wisdom is delivered by those who themselves lack

Simple Language, Deep Impact

Written in a straight forward and lucid manner, the poems leaves great impression on reader's heart. Free from complexity, they convey their themes in plain yet powerful tones, making them both relatable and impactful.

Book Details

•Title: Indradhanushi Rashmiyan (Poetery Collection)

 Author: Sulekha Shrivastava • Publisher: Himanshu Publications, Udaipur-Delhi

• Price: ₹285 Pages: 110

• ISBN: 978-93-87201-12-5 (in box)

About the Author

Born on March 3, 1957, in Agra, Uttar Pradesh, Sulekha Shrivastava holds degrees of M.A. in both Hindi and English languages, along with B.Ed.. She began writing at the age of



13 and has since contributed consistently to journals and magazines in both Hindi and English languages across multiple genres.

Her previously published works includes "Rang Badalti Dhara" (poetry collection), "Muktak Bindu" (collection of couplets), On a Holy Voyage and Mani Darshan (both based on spritual themes). She also runs and maintains her own channel "Apni Talash Sulekha." Many of her works are broadcasted

regularly on All India Radio's programs. She also participated in yugdhara programme run bypoetic organization, she has also participated in different prestigious institutions across the counrty i.e, UP, Jaipur(Rajasthan), Cuttack (Odisha), Haridwar (Uttarakhand), Rameshwarm (Tamilnadu), Dwarka (Gujrat) and other's. She has been honored by them all for her contribution - Dr.Prabhat Singhal