

# When the River Speaks: Lessons from Ayad's Wrath



A single day of flood in the Ayad River has delivered a lesson far louder than any public debate or expert opinion could have. On September 6, the river swept away slabs,

walls, and gardens erected under the Smart City project—works that had been paraded as symbols of “beautification” and progress. What the water left behind was not merely

debris, but a powerful reminder: nature cannot be forced into submission.

## The Folly of Concrete Over Rivers

Environmentalists have long warned that pouring concrete into a river's bed and narrowing its natural course is an invitation to disaster. Yet, the call of reason was ignored. RCC walls were built, heavy stone slabs were cemented with chemicals, and ornamental gardens were laid

across the flow. The project consumed crores of rupees of public money—taxpayers' money. And what happened? In just one day, the river dismantled it, undoing months of construction in a matter of hours.

## A Repeat of Predictable Failure

This is not the first warning. Last year, when slabs had already begun shifting, officials tried to secure them with iron clips, hoping to outsmart the

current. The result is before us—clips broken, slabs uprooted, soil eroded, and gardens destroyed. One more round of wasted money, one more round of misplaced confidence.

## The True Cost of Vanity Projects

Beautification projects look impressive on paper and even more glamorous in glossy presentations, but when they disregard ecological wisdom, they become nothing more than vanity projects. What was mar-

keted as progress has turned into an open-air exhibit of negligence. Every broken slab and every washed-away garden is a symbol of how public funds were squandered, while genuine river restoration remained neglected.

## Stop the Whitewashing

And yet, astonishingly, the Smart City machinery has rushed once more to “repair” the damage, as though patchwork could fool the river. This is not repair; this is denial. To

repeat the same mistake while expecting a different outcome is the very definition of folly.

A Call for Humility  
The Ayad River has spoken, and her message is clear: let the river be. Environmentalists are right in demanding that rubble, slabs, and artificial gardens be removed, and the river restored to her natural form. What is required now is not construction, but collective repentance—a sincere acknowledgment that we erred by trying to “beautify” what was already beautiful in its natural

state.

## Let Rivers Flow, Let Wisdom Prevail

If there is a real lesson from this episode, it is this: rivers cannot be tamed by concrete, nor can they be beautified by ornamental projects. They demand respect, space, and humility. Any development that disregards this truth is not progress—it is a waste, both of money and of trust.

## Cambridge Scientists Deliver Lecture at Vidya Bhavan on “What Makes Us Human”



**Udaipur:** A thought-provoking lecture on “What Makes Us Human” was organized at the Vidya Bhavan Auditorium, where two eminent scientists from Cambridge University—Prof. Anna Philpott and Prof. Benjamin Simons—presented groundbreaking research in human developmental biology, cancer, and neurological diseases.

Prof. Philpott, Pro Vice-Chancellor of Cambridge University, explained her pioneering work comparing frog and human embryos. She emphasized the role of the ASCL1 protein in balancing cell growth, which has shown potential in childhood cancer diagnosis and treatment. Prof. Simons, Director of the Gurdon Institute, highlighted milestones from the birth of the first test-tube baby to modern gene-editing and stem cell technologies. He underlined how life can theoretically be developed from a single cell, while acknowledging the uniqueness of humans in size, tempo, and longevity.

The program began with a welcome by Dr. J.K. Tayalia, President of Vidya Bhavan Society, and Director Rajendra Bhatt, who described the event as a privilege. Educationist Dr. Shashank Vira introduced the theme. Academic leaders including Prof. Janat Shah, Chetan Singh Chauhan, and Dr. K.C. Sodani extended greetings. The lecture drew doctors, researchers, and citizens eager to explore new frontiers of medical science. The event was anchored by Prof. Kanika Sharma, Director of VBRI.

## Alakh Nayan Mandir Eye Institute Observes World Sight Day with Free Camps for Auto Drivers



**Udaipur:** To mark World Sight Day, Alakh Nayan Mandir Eye Institute organized a two-day free eye health camp for auto drivers across the city, including locations at Kachchi Basti opposite the Railway Station, Beeda, and near Hotel Venkatesh. The initiative aimed to raise awareness on vision care while providing essential eye check-ups to a community often exposed to long working hours, sunlight, dust, and night driving.

The camp was inaugurated by District President Firdous Ahmed with support from the Ekta Auto Union. A team of ophthalmologists and optometrists conducted comprehensive examinations, offered preventive guidance, and distributed protective eyewear.

Medical Director Dr. L.S. Jhala emphasized that many eye diseases remain symptomless until advanced stages, making regular check-ups vital to preventing avoidable blindness. Managing Trustee Dr. Laxmi Jhala and Executive Trustee Mrs. Meenakshi Chundawat urged drivers to adopt proactive steps for healthy eyesight.

World Sight Day, observed globally on the second Thursday of October, highlights that over 2.2 billion people suffer from vision impairment, nearly half of which is preventable. Through initiatives like this, the Institute continues its mission of community service, reinforcing the message that healthy eyes are essential for a safe and productive life.

## National Conference on Sustainable Plant Protection Concludes in Udaipur

**Udaipur:** A three-day national conference on “Advancing Sustainable Plant Protection in Changing Agricultural Landscapes” was organized, drawing eminent agricultural scientists, pest management experts, and private sector leaders. The event spotlighted innovative strategies for plant protection, sustainable farming, and long-term food security. Experts emphasized boosting crop and pulse production to meet the needs of India's projected 1.75 billion population and the world's 10.8 billion by 2050. Discussions also explored cutting-edge pest management solutions and eco-friendly practices. The conference provided a vital platform for farmers, researchers, and policymakers to collaborate on advancing sustainable, productive, and environmentally responsible agriculture.

## Interstate Quiz Inspires Medical Students

**Udaipur:** The 6th Interstate Undergraduate Quiz 2025 was successfully organized by the Department of Community Medicine at Geetanjali Medical College and Hospital, Udaipur.



With the theme “Healthy Beginning, Healthy Future,” 25 teams from Maharashtra, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, and Rajasthan participated. Ananta Institute, Rajsamand secured first place, followed by Geetanjali Medical College and RNT Medical College, Udaipur. Dignitaries including Mr. Ankit Agarwal, Dr. R.K. Vyas, Dr. Sangeeta Gupta, and Mr. Rishi Kapoor graced the event. Guided by Quiz Masters Dr. Medha Mathur and Dr. Anjana Verma, the competition concluded with winners being awarded cash prizes, books, and certificates, marking a vibrant academic celebration.

## National Book Fair and Excellence Awards Shine in Lucknow



**Lucknow:** The National Book Exhibition and the Sixth Annual Excellence Awards, hosted by The Lucknow Tribune, concluded at Balrampur Garden, Lucknow. Eminent academicians, doctors,

industrialists, and intellectuals from across India participated. Awards were presented to distinguished achievers in education, medicine, sports, startups, Indian knowledge tradition, technical education, and industrial development. Six Vice Chancellors received special recognition, including Prof. Amarika Singh, former Vice Chancellor of Mohanlal Sukhadia University, Udaipur, honored for his 48 years of academic leadership and global student exchange initiatives. The chief guest was Prof. M.L.B. Bhatt, with senior dignitaries adding prestige to the event.

## World Physiotherapy Day Marked Grandly

**Udaipur:** Pacific College of Physiotherapy at Pacific Medical University celebrated World Physiotherapy Day with a grand program combined with the freshers' welcome for new students. President Dr. M.M. Mangal and PMCH Principal Dr. Ummed Singh Parihar extended greetings, while Dean Dr. Jafar Khan highlighted physiotherapy's growing role in health-care. Chairman Rahul Agrawal, Executive Director Aman Agrawal, and CEO Sharad Kothari conveyed best wishes. Faculty and students participated enthusiastically in cultural events, motivational talks, and welcome activities. The occasion blended academic tradition, professional commitment, and youthful energy, inspiring students to dedicate themselves to the service of society.

## St. Mary's Udaipur Girls Crowned CBSE National Champions

**Udaipur:** The U-14 girls' basketball team of St. Mary's Convent Sr. Sec. School, New Fatehpura, scripted history by winning the CBSE National Basketball Championship. Held from September 9–13 at Tagore Sr. Sec. School, Mahendragarh (Haryana), the event saw top cluster-winning teams compete. Guided by coaches Narendra Singh Chauhan and Nitin Menaria, St. Mary's showcased discipline, strategy, and teamwork to clinch the national title. Principal Sister Kiran Jojo lauded the team's dedication during the school's 75th Diamond Jubilee celebrations. A felicitation marked the golden victory, as the champions now gear up to represent at the SGFI National Games.

## Paras Health Udaipur Hosts “Knee-O-Thon” for Joint Wellness

**Udaipur:** On World Physiotherapy Day, Paras Health Udaipur organized “Knee-O-Thon: Walk for Fit Joints,” a fitness walk from Rajiv Gandhi Park to Jain Farm on Rani Road, drawing over 300 participants. Led by Dr. Ashish Singhal, Orthopedics and Joint Replacement Consultant, the initiative promoted preventive care, physiotherapy techniques, and lifestyle tips for joint health. Supported by 94.3 MY FM and partners, the event underscored the rising prevalence of osteoarthritis in India's elderly. Facility Director Dr. Prasoon Kumar highlighted the hospital's commitment to community awareness, advanced orthopedic care, and encouraging healthier living through such impactful programs.



## Shaping the Future of Farming: Udaipur to Host National Conference on Sustainable Plant Protection

**Udaipur:** The Rajasthan College of Agriculture, Udaipur is set to become the epicenter of agricultural innovation as it hosts a three-day National Conference on “Advances in Sustainable Plant Protection under Changing Agricultural Scenario” from September 18–20, 2025. Organized jointly by Maharana Pratap University of Agriculture and Technology (MPUAT), the Entomological Research Association, and the Crop Care Federation of India, the conference promises to address one of the most pressing concerns of modern agriculture—protecting crops while safeguarding human and environmental health.



**Leaders and Experts to Converge** - The inaugural ceremony will feature distinguished dignitaries including Union Minister of State for Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare Shri Chaudhary as Chief Guest, and Rajasthan Agriculture Minister

Dr. Kiri Lal Meena. Eminent scientists such as Dr. M.L. Jat (Director General, ICAR, online), Dr. J.P. Singh (Plant Protection Advisor, GoI), Dr. Poonam Jasotia (ADG, ICAR), and Dr. S.N. Sushil (Director, ICAR-NBAIR) will be among the key participants. Over 350 delegates comprising more than 200 scientists, 100 academicians, policymakers, and industry leaders from companies such as UPL, Aristo Biotech, Best Agro, and Sumitomo are expected to join the dialogue.

**Tackling Crop Losses and Climate Change**  
India's agricultural output has crossed 353 million tonnes, yet nearly 39% of produce is lost to pests, diseases, and post-harvest factors. Of this, 13–14% is directly due to insect pests.

**The conference will focus on:**

- Climate change and shifting pest dynamics
- Eco-friendly alternatives to conventional pesticides
- Nanotechnology applications in crop protection
- Biological control and beneficial insects
- Farmer-centric innovations to reduce losses and increase resilience

## Message on Water Conservation

**Udaipur:** At the two-day regional women's meet of the Bharat Vikas Parishad, Northwest Region, being held at Solitaire Resort, Udaipur, women conveyed a strong message on water conservation through a drama.

The drama depicted the problems faced by five women—one cannot wash her hair with shampoo, another cannot serve tea to guests, the third's husband is ill and there is no water at home, the fourth cannot prepare breakfast while her children are ready for school, and the fifth has to fetch water from the local well for the swimming pool because the neighborhood hand pump has dried up. The women start arguing over who should fill water first. Meanwhile, Dr. Manju Jain arrives and explains that rainwater harvesting on rooftops and recharging tube wells can prevent water shortages at home, resolving conflicts. The senior women then administer a water pledge to all participants, promising to save water throughout their lives.

In the next part, Rekha Dhakad highlighted the importance of virtual water (hidden water). For instance, producing 1 kilogram of sugar consumes 1,700 liters of water, a sari requires 5,000 liters, and 1 kilogram of chocolate uses 17,000 liters of water. She emphasized that buying unnecessary items also leads to water

wastage. The drama concluded with the honoring of Mrs. Tripta Chawla, known for annual tree-planting efforts, who received the Vikas Ratna award.

The performance featured Rekha Dhakad, Dr. Manju Jain, Sushil Agrawal, Santosh Goyal, Sudha Agrawal, Kiran Dashora, and Tripta Chawla. The drama was conceptualized and written by water conservationists Dr. P. C. Jain and Rekha Dhakad.

## Smart Scholar Exam – First Position in Western Region

**Udaipur:** Vansh Talesra, a Class 9 student of Maharana Mewar Public School, City Palace, brought pride to the institution by securing the first position in the Smart Scholar Exam (Session 2024–25) of the Extramarks STEM Competition in the Western Region.

He achieved this distinction by ranking first among 8,000 participants from 190 schools across India. Vansh earned the award by demonstrating exceptional academic skills in various grade-level assessments.

The school's Honorary Director, Satish Kumar Sharma, along with Extramarks expert Manoj Kumawat, presented him with an Apple iPad and a certificate of participation as a token of recognition.

Congratulating the student on his

## National Seminar on ‘Women in Indian Thought’ Held in Udaipur



**Udaipur:** A national seminar on “Women in Indian Thought” was organized at the IT Auditorium, Pratapnagar, under the joint aegis of Janardan Rai Nagar Rajasthan Vidyapeeth University and Pragma Pravah. The seminar brought together academicians, jurists, writers, and social thinkers to deliberate on women's role in Indian philosophy, culture, and contemporary society. Chief Guest Diya Kumari, Deputy Chief Minister of Rajasthan, emphasized that Indian civilization has always revered women as symbols of creativity, intellect, and devotion. She expressed concern that modern influences are distancing youth from cultural roots and urged renewed efforts to connect them with India's spiritual heritage.

Vice-Chancellor Prof. S.S. Sarangdevot underlined that women in India have historically contributed to education, politics, spirituality, and nation-building. J. Nanda Kumar, National Convenor of Pragma Pravah, stated that despite invasions and distortions, Indian consciousness has preserved women's central role as sources of knowledge and creation.

Speakers cited exemplary figures such as Mirabai, Pannadhyay, Rani Lakshmbai, Kasturba Gandhi, Sarojini Naidu, and Indira Gandhi. Technical sessions addressed themes including women in law, politics, medicine, culture, and human rights.

A special highlight was the release of the book “Python Programming” by Prof. Sarangdevot and Dr. Chandresh Chhatlani. The seminar concluded with a vote of thanks by Dr. Yuvaraj Singh Rathore.

## Neerja Modi School Empowers Leaders



**Udaipur:** The Investiture Ceremony 2025–26 was held with grandeur at Neerja Modi School, Udaipur, managed by the Sojatia Group. Students from all four houses—Neer, Agni, Vayu, and Prithvi—participated with enthusiasm. Chairman Dr. Mahendra Sojatia, CEO Reena Sojatia, Secretary Dr. Dhruv Sojatia, and Trustee Nehal Sojatia graced the event. Newly elected leaders, including Head Boy Jivyanang Dangi, Head Girl Hani Chawla, and others, were conferred badges and sashes, followed by an oath administered by Director Ms. Sakshi Sojatia. The ceremony highlighted leadership, discipline, and responsibility, inspiring students to uphold values and bring glory to the institution.