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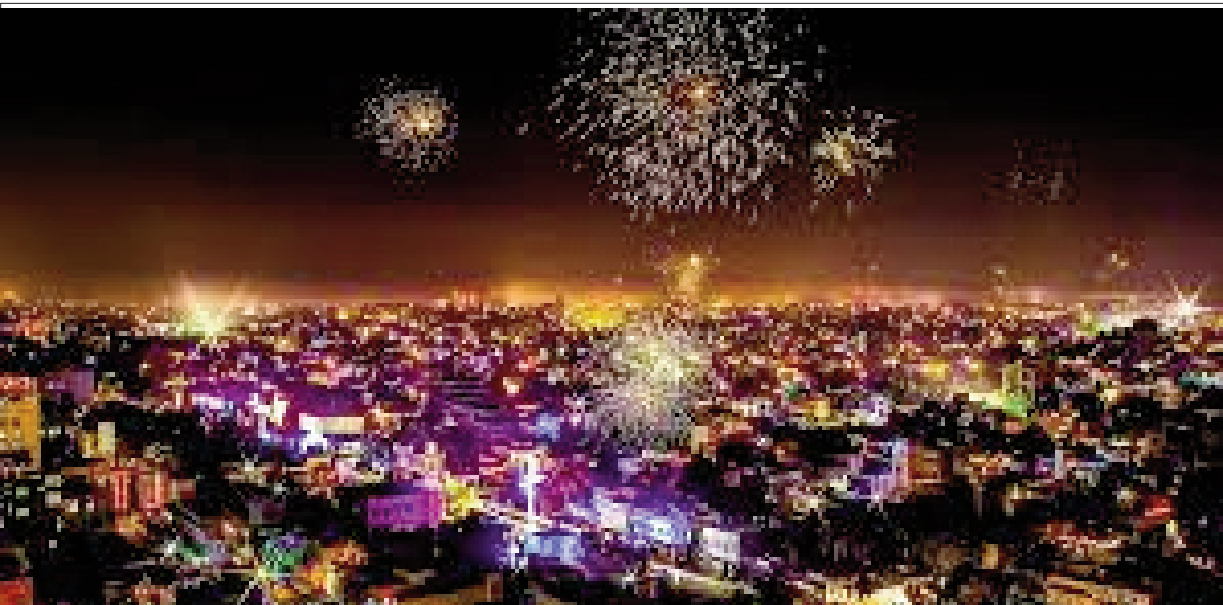
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UDAIPUR | MONDAY, OCTOBER 13, 2025 | PAGE 1 - 4 | PRICE : 5.00* (Vol. 11, No. 27)

Diwali 2025: Udaipur Glimmers in the Festival of Lights



Udaipur: As the vibrant city of Udaipur prepares for Diwali 2025 on Monday, October 20, the air is filled with excitement, devotion, and anticipation. Coinciding with KartikAmavasya, this Festival of Lights epitomizes the victory of good over evil, light over darkness, and knowledge over ignorance, while reinforcing the bonds of family, community, and culture. Across homes, streets, markets, and offices, preparations are in full swing, turning Udaipur into a kaleidoscope of colors, lights, and devotion.

Diwali Muhurat 2025

- Date: Monday, 20 October 2025
 - Lakshmi Puja Muhurat: 07:08 PM – 08:18 PM
 - Duration: 1 Hour 10 Minutes
- This sacred timing is observed for Maha Lakshmi Puja, invoking prosperity, happiness, and divine blessings into homes and workplaces across the city.

The Mythology and Significance of Diwali

Diwali, derived from the Sanskrit Deepavali meaning "row of lights," is a festival with layers of historical, spiritual, and cultural significance. It commemorates:

- The return of Lord Rama to Ayodhya after defeating Ravana, celebrated by light-

ing earthen lamps across the city.

- Goddess Lakshmi's incarnation, who emerged during the SamudraManthan, symbolizing wealth, prosperity, and divine grace.

- Lord Krishna's victory over Narakasura, rescuing 16,000 women from captivity.

- The Pandavas' return from exile in the Mahabharata, celebrated with lighting lamps along their path.
- The coronation of King Vikramaditya, marking the festival as historically auspicious.

Other communities observe Diwali for unique milestones: Sikhs commemorate Guru Hargobindji's release from Gwalior Fort and the foundation of the Golden Temple, Jains celebrate Lord Mahavir attaining Nirvana, AryaSamaj followers honor Maharshi Dayanand, and Buddhists remember Emperor Ashoka's conversion to Buddhism.

Diwali is also a harvest festival, when farmers worship Goddess Lakshmi, offering portions of freshly harvested crops to express gratitude for nature's bounty.

Udaipur's Festive Preparations

The city streets, markets, and lake-

sides are abuzz with energy and devotion. Homes are being meticulously cleaned and decorated with rangolis, flowers, fairy lights, and diyas, while offices, including Avid Web Solutions, have fully embraced the festive spirit with lights, floral arrangements, and preparations for the Kalam-Dawat Poojan on Bhaidooj.

Major bazaars are alive with festive fervor:

- Sahvani Bazar – known for traditional jewelry and handicrafts.
- Moti Chhoti Bada Bazar – a hub for clothes and household goods.
- Hathipol – famous for sweets, footwear, and colorful fabrics.
- Babu Bazaar, Fatehsagar Road, and Surajpol – offering vibrant stalls and Diwali gifts.

Sweet shops overflow with laddoos, barfis, kajukati, pedas, and gujiyas, while bakeries introduce fusion sweets. Firework shops brim with sparklers, flower pots, and crackers, preparing families for dazzling Diwali nights.

District Magistrate Namit Mehta has directed civic authorities to illuminate public streets, lakesides, and marketplaces with magnificent lighting, ensuring a safe yet spectacular festive experience. Devotees have been visiting Bhatiyani Chohatta Temple for Lakshmi

Puja, while queues at Bohra Ganesh Temple trace back to Navratri, reflecting the city's deep-rooted spiritual traditions.

Institutions like ASG Eye Hospital are contributing to the festival's benevolent spirit, offering free eye treatments for children up to 15 years, while MB Hospital, under Principal Vipin Mathur, is on alert for firework-related incidents to ensure public safety.

The Five Days of Diwali

1. Dhanteras – October 18
The festival begins with Dhanteras, dedicated to Lord Dhantantari and Goddess Lakshmi. People clean homes, buy gold, silver, utensils, and gifts, and light lamps for Yamraj to pray for longevity and health.

2. Choti Diwali / Narak Chaturdashi – October 19
Also called Roop Chaudas, it marks Krishna's victory over Narakasura. Early morning oil baths, home decorations, and minor pujas prepare households for the main day of Diwali.

3. Maha Lakshmi Puja – October 20
On Kartik Amavasya, families worship Goddess Lakshmi, Lord Ganesha, and Kubera, light diyas and candles, burst fireworks, and exchange gifts and sweets. This day symbolizes prosperity, spiritual enlightenment, and communal joy.

4. Govardhan Puja – October 22
Devotees recreate Mount Govardhan using soil and cow dung, decorate it with flowers and lamps, and offer Annakut to express gratitude to Lord Krishna for his protection. This festival emphasizes harmony between humans and nature.

5. Bhaidooj / Yama Dwititya – October 23
Siblings strengthen bonds through tilak ceremonies, gifts, and prayers. Corporate offices, such as Avid Web Solutions, celebrate with the Kalam-Dawat Poojan, blending devotion, tradition, and workplace camaraderie.

Diwali Puja Vidhi at Home

1. Place a Kalash with water, mango

leaves, coconut, betel nut, rice, coin, and marigold flower.

2. Position idols or images of Lakshmi, Ganesha, Saraswati, and Kubera around the Kalash.

3. Offer panchamrit, haldi, kumkum, flowers, fruits, sweets, and coins.

4. Recite Sri Sukta, Lakshmi Sukta, and Kanakdhara Stotra, followed by Aarti to complete the worship. Each diya symbolizes the Sun, representing cosmic light and energy.

A Theological Note: Eternal Prosperity

Diwali's light is more than decorative—it represents knowledge, truth, righteousness, and divine energy. During Samudra Manthan, treasures including Goddess Lakshmi, Kaustubh gem, Kamadhenu, and Airavata emerged, symbolizing that true wealth comes from devotion, wisdom, and dharma. Lighting diyas, offering prayers, and celebrating with loved ones ensures that prosperity flows through every facet of life.

Celebrations Across India and Beyond

From Udaipur's illuminated bazaars to Jaipur, Jodhpur, Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata, and Chennai, the festival lights up India in a spectacular display of culture and



devotion. Internationally, communities in Nepal, Sri Lanka, Singapore, Malaysia, Indonesia, Mauritius, Suriname, Trinidad, and South Africa join in the festivities, showcasing Diwali as a unifying cultural phenomenon.

The Spirit of Diwali

Diwali is not merely a festival of lights. It is a celebration of knowledge, devotion, unity, compassion, and prosperity. From hustle bustle in Bazaars to aloof standing tranquil temples from decorated offices to neighborhood homes, Diwali 2025 promises joy, safety, enlightenment, and shared happiness. The festival reminds us that preparation, devotion, celebration, and community spirit together illuminate the path to a brighter, harmonious future.

Udaipur, with its gleaming lakes, decorated bazaars, spiritual temples, and lively homes, exemplifies the heart of Diwali, offering an unforgettable experience for every citizen and visitor.



PM Modi Launches ₹35,440 Crore Agricultural Schemes — Interacts with Farmers in Krishi Programme

“Sustainable agricultural practices can serve as a model for the nation” – Prime Minister Narendra Modi

New Delhi: In a significant stride towards strengthening India's agricultural landscape, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi today launched two major schemes in the agriculture sector worth ₹35,440 crore, during an interactive Krishi programme held at the Indian Agricultural Research Institute, New Delhi.

The Prime Minister reaffirmed his government's unwavering commitment to farmers' welfare, sustainable farming, and rural empowerment. He also interacted with farmers from across the country, listening to their experiences, challenges, and innovations in modern agriculture.

Two Landmark Schemes for Agricultural Growth

- At the event, Prime Minister Modi launched:
- PM Dhan Dhaanya Krishi Yojana with an outlay of ₹24,000 crore, aimed at boosting productivity, irrigation efficiency, and value-chain integration.
 - Mission for Aatmanirbharata in Pulses with an investment of ₹11,440 crore, to make India self-reliant in pulse production and enhance nutritional security.
- Additionally, he inaugurated and dedicated projects worth ₹5,450 crore in agriculture, animal husbandry, fisheries, and food processing sectors, while laying the foundation stones for projects worth ₹815 crore.

Farmers Share Success Stories of Innovation and Self-Reliance

During the live interaction, farmers shared inspiring stories



that exemplified India's transition toward sustainable and profitable agriculture.

A farmer from Hisar, Haryana, who began cultivating Kabuli chana (chickpeas) four years ago, shared how pulse farming helped him achieve better soil fertility and consistent yields. "Growing pulses like chana enriches the soil with nitrogen, leading to better yields for other crops," he said.

The Prime Minister lauded these sustainable practices, remarking that such methods "can serve as a model for farmers across the country."

Another farmer from Haryana, who expanded from one acre to fourteen acres of chickpea farming, attributed his success to quality seeds and modern techniques, emphasizing how "each year, income rose with better seed selection and improved productivity."

Empowering Rural Women and Entrepreneurship

A unique story came from a Chartered Accountant-turned-farmer from Haryana, who founded the 'Dugari Wale' brand. Through self-help groups of 20 women, his initiative produces chana-based snacks, papad, and garlic products, now listed

on the Government e-Marketplace (GeM).

"Our products are being purchased by Army personnel and are gaining popularity nationwide," he shared proudly. The Prime Minister commended the effort, highlighting it as a model of rural entrepreneurship and women empowerment.

Another woman farmer shared how PM-Kisan Samman Nidhi helped her start moong cultivation on 5 bighas of land. "The ₹6,000 annual support has been a blessing—it helps us buy seeds and sow on time," she said.

Focus on Millets and Group Farming

Discussing millet cultivation, the Prime Minister said, "Where water is scarce, millets are a lifeline. The global market for millets is growing rapidly."

He encouraged farmers to adopt group farming, pooling small landholdings to reduce costs and increase profitability through high-value crops and market linkages.

A farmer shared an inspiring case where 1,200 acres are now under residue-free Kabuli chana farming, leading to higher income and collective prosperity.

Natural Farming and Smart Innovation

The Prime Minister emphasized a balanced approach to natural farming: "Adopt it gradually—test on part of the land while continuing traditional practices to build confidence."

Innovative projects such as aeroponic potato farming in Jabalpur, organic cumin and Isabgol cultivation in Jaisalmer, and millet-based nutrition supplies for defence forces from Mirzapur highlighted how Indian farmers are blending technology with tradition.

Growth Through Livestock, Fisheries, and Dairy

Farmers also shared success stories supported by PM Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY) and Animal Husbandry subsidies—encouraging entrepreneurs employing local youth

to dairy collectives empowering thousands of women.

The Prime Minister was particularly moved by the 'Sakhi Organization', which grew from 20 women to 90,000 dairy entrepreneurs, with 14,000 'Lakhpadi Dis' now earning sustainable livelihoods. "This is a real miracle," he said, applauding their dedication.

From Local Success to National Impact

A farmer from Jharkhand shared his story of adopting 125 tribal families into integrated organic farming, inspired by the PM's message to "be job givers, not job seekers."

Another participant, once a hotel employee, is now managing a gaushala with 250 Gir cows, thanks to a 50% subsidy from the government.

An FPO from Gujarat managing 1,700 farmers reported consistent annual dividends of 20%, supported by ₹2 crore collateral-free loans under the Credit Guarantee Scheme. Similarly, an FPO from Rajasthan exporting organic cumin and Isabgol drew the PM's interest when he humorously suggested developing Isabgol ice cream.

A Vision for India's Agrarian Future

From Kashmir's apple farmers benefiting from rail connectivity to Uttar Pradesh's aquaculture entrepreneurs employing youth, the stories reflected the transformational change across India's rural landscape.

The Prime Minister concluded by expressing heartfelt appreciation for India's farmers:

"Every farmer represents the strength and spirit of India. Their resilience, innovation, and dedication will make India the global leader in sustainable agriculture."

With the launch of these new initiatives, the Government of India has reaffirmed its vision to build an agriculture ecosystem that is modern, self-reliant, inclusive, and globally competitive—ensuring that the light of prosperity shines in every farmer's home.