

Sukoon: A Mission of Sharing and Sustainability

In today's consumer-driven world, our ever-expanding needs have fostered a culture of unnecessary purchases, increasing manufacturing demands and contributing to rising carbon emissions. This has posed a significant threat to our environment and humanity. Amid these challenges, a unique mission, "Sukoon", initiated by Sampat Bapna in 2014, has emerged as a beacon of hope.

Sukoon is more than just a platform—it's a revolutionary concept promoting the sharing of resources. The ini-

tiative encourages individuals to donate items lying unused in their homes, shops, or offices to people who genuinely need them. These items, ranging from clothes to furniture, books to electronics, are distributed free of charge. What started as a modest venture in Fatehpura has now grown into a massive multi-story showroom in Shobhagpura, Udaipur—the largest of its kind in the country.

The donated items are thoughtfully displayed in the showroom. Visitors from both urban and rural areas can



explore and choose items that meet their needs, ensuring every donated item finds a meaningful purpose. What sets Sukoon apart is its simplicity

and integrity—no money, medicines, or receipts are involved. Sampat Bapna personally funds the entire operation, ensuring the mission remains



free of any organizational or bureaucratic constraints.

With the support of around 150 dedicated volunteers, Sukoon thrives as a movement of selfless service. Items donated include clothes, books, toys, utensils, furniture, electronics, and even vehicles. This act of sharing not only fulfills the immediate needs of individuals and organizations but also instills a

sense of community and compassion.

A Ray of Hope Amidst Global Warming

As global warming continues to escalate, initiatives like Sukoon offer a much-needed solution to mitigate environmental harm. Carbon emissions have soared to nearly 40 billion metric tons annually, primarily due to human activities such as deforestation and manufacturing. Alarming phe-

nomena like melting glaciers, rising sea levels, and threats to marine and wildlife biodiversity are stark reminders of the urgent need for change.

To counter these challenges, adopting sustainable habits is crucial. The concept of RRR—Reduce, Reuse, Recycle—forms the core of Sukoon's philosophy. By encouraging the reuse of existing resources, Sukoon reduces the demand for new manufacturing, thereby minimizing carbon footprints.

Additionally, Sukoon inspires individuals to adopt

eco-friendly practices like tree planting, water conservation, and reducing plastic usage. It serves as a reminder that small steps, like recycling or donating unused items, can collectively make a significant impact on preserving our planet.

Sukoon is more than just a mission; it is a testament to how compassion, sustainability, and innovation can create ripples of positive change. Sampat Bapna's vision exemplifies the power of collective action in building a greener and kinder world for generations to come.

Education Minister Madan Dilawar: Inclusion is Vital for National Progress



Udaipur: Education and Panchayati Raj Minister Shri Madan Dilawar emphasized that separating from the mainstream causes harm to the nation and society. He urged all sections of society to stay united and underscored the importance of integrating values into education, stating that education without values

loses its essence. Shri Dilawar made these remarks during a Winter Kit Distribution Ceremony at Government Girls Higher Secondary School, Residency, organized by the IIFL Foundation, where he was the chief guest.

Flow and Charity Ensure Purity - The minister highlighted that stagnation leads to loss, while continuous flow ensures purity. He encouraged charitable activities, suggesting that a portion of one's earnings should benefit society. Praising cow's milk, he stated that it contributes to intelligence and continuous growth in children.

Massive Plantation Targets and Plastic-Free Pledge - Shri Dilawar reported that over seven crore trees were planted this year, with

a target of ten crore plantations set for the next monsoon. He called for a collective commitment to avoid plastic usage, expressing confidence in Mewar's dedication to this cause.

Rural Cleanliness and Sanitation Drive - He emphasized achieving 100% toilet usage in Rajasthan's villages, eliminating open defecation. Over 4,000 panchayats have already issued work orders for cleanliness, bringing the vision of a cleaner Rajasthan closer to reality.

Honoring Mewar's Legacy and Sports Promotion - Addressing the media, Shri Dilawar praised Mewar's patriotic legacy, citing figures like Maharana Pratap and Panna Dhai. He reiterated the government's efforts to ensure every school has a playground and

support for students' interests.

During the event, he interacted with cricketer prodigy Susheela Meena from Pratapgarh via video call, commending her bowling skills, which were recently praised by cricket legend Sachin Tendulkar. Shri Dilawar assured her of government support for her education and sporting journey.

Interaction with Public and Prominent Figures - Earlier, the minister held a public hearing at the Circuit House and engaged with intellectuals and educators at the residence of social activist Pankaj Mehta. Prominent attendees included Udaipur Rural MLA Phool Singh Meena, former Udaipur UIT Chairman Ravindra Shrivastava, and several social workers, showcasing the event's broad significance.

Library and Information Science Students Visit Libraries in Delhi



The Department of Library and Information Science at Mohanlal Sukhadia University organized an educational trip. During this five-day tour, students visited libraries at national institutions in Delhi to study the modern services and functions provided by library and information science centers. They visited libraries at IIT Delhi, NASDAQ, Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Library at JNU, ICSSR, National Academy of Literature and Arts, Music Arts Academy, the Prime Minister's Museum and Library, where they explored new techniques for preserving various forms and traditional information sources.

The organizer of this educational trip and head of the Library and Information Science Department, Dr. P.S. Rajput, shared that 69 postgraduate students participated. The tour was designed for an in-depth study of renowned national institutions, heritage sites, and libraries in New Delhi. Students also gained knowledge about national heritage sites such as Qutub Minar, the Prime Minister's Museum, Red Fort, and Raj Ghat.

This educational tour, which helps students understand the advancements and global status of their field, is encouraged by the new National Education Policy. It serves as a great means for students to learn about the ongoing changes and innovations in library and information centers. Through this visit, students observed the services provided by modern technologies and studied the utility of new resources for preserving and securing information in the future.

The tour was attended by the department's faculty members including Anuj Yadav, Mahendra Patel, Jitendra Meghwal, Shrawan Shrivastava, Raviranjay Raj Singh, Narayan Salvi, Kemi Verma, Bharti, Komal Sahu, and others.

Ph- Paddle

8th Edition of Paddle-to-Jungle: A 60 km Journey Through the Valleys of Wagad

Banswara: The second day of the 8th edition of Paddle-to-Jungle, organized to promote eco-tourism in Rajasthan, began on Saturday from the Delwada Forest Checkpost in the Ghatol Range of Banswara district. The event was held under the joint aegis of Green People Society, Forest Department, Tourism Department, and the World Wildlife Fund India. The Chief Conservator of Forests of Banswara, Abhishek Sharma, and retired IAS officer Vikram Singh flagged off the event.

Cyclists traversed through the forests of Umarjhala Plateau, Khamera, Undavela, and Bhungra, enjoying the natural beauty along the Mahi Dam, and reached Chacha Kota, one of the most scenic spots in Banswara. During the 60 km journey through the Aravalli hills and forests, nature enthusiasts learned about the local wildlife and plant species. In the evening, they were treated to a mesmerizing performance of the traditional Gair dance by local artists.

Rahul Bhattnagar, President of Green People Society, shared that on the third day, December 22, retired IAS officer Vikram Singh and Dr. Kamlesh Sharma, Joint Director of the Department of Information and Public Relations, will interact with the participants at Chachakota, near Mahi Dam, before they continue the journey.

The thrilling journey will culminate in the Shyampura Forest Block in Banswara, where the closing ceremony will take place, and participants will receive certificates. The event's chief guests will include IG Mrs. S. Parimla, Banswara District Collector Indrajeet Yadav, CCF Udaipur Sunil Chhetri, and former royal family member Jagmal Singh.

Dr. Deepak Shrivastava's Vision for Inclusive Libraries

Dr. Deepak Kumar Shrivastava, Nodal Officer (Public Libraries-Kota Region), Divisional Librarian, and Head of the Government Public Divisional Library, Kota, delivered an inspiring keynote at the two-day residential training program for librarians on December 19-20, 2024, at the District Institute of Education and Training (DIET), Kota. Dr. Shrivastava focused on the theme of "Library Services for the Visually Impaired, Assistive Technology, Government of India's Digital Initiatives, National Education Policy 2020, National Digital Library, and Story Weaver." He highlighted the transformative role libraries play in the modern era. He emphasized the importance of using advanced technologies to offer accessible services to visually impaired and differently-abled readers. Dr. Shrivastava detailed various digital platforms, including SWAYAM, NROER, e-PG Pathshala, DIKSHA, Shodhganga, Shodhgangotri, SHERNI, INFED, and INFISTAT, describing them as key tools in democratizing education and knowledge dissemination across India. In his address, Dr. Shrivastava urged librarians to focus on upskilling and reskilling to stay relevant in the rapidly changing knowledge landscape. He emphasized the need for libraries to evolve from traditional book repositories to dynamic hubs of innovation, education, and research that meet the diverse needs of readers.

Assembly Speaker Devanani Meets Om Birla

Rajasthan Assembly Speaker Vasudev Devanani met Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla at his official residence in New Delhi today. During the meeting, they discussed various topics. Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla congratulated Devanani on completing one year of his successful tenure as Assembly Speaker, which will conclude on December 21. He also praised Devanani for implementing several innovations during his term.

Earlier, Devanani also paid courtesy visits to Union Minister of Information and Broadcasting, Railways, and Information Technology Ashwini Vaishnaw, and the Chairperson of the National Commission for Women, Vijaya Rohatkar.

Hindustan Zinc Empowers Farmers with INR 5 Cr Revenue

Udaipur: Hindustan Zinc's Samadhan initiative has helped over 30,000 farmer families across Rajasthan achieve remarkable success. Through training in sustainable agriculture, modern irrigation methods, and collective enterprises, the initiative has supported five Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs), generating nearly INR 5 crore in revenue during FY24. One such success story is Shri Panna Lal, a generational farmer, who increased his income by 60% through the adoption of solar-powered irrigation and modern guava cultivation techniques. The Samadhan initiative has also transformed the lives of farmers like Shyamubai, who transitioned from subsistence farming to a thriving dairy producer with daily milk production rising from 5 liters to 25 liters. This success is driven by access to veterinary care, quality feed, and insemination support. Additionally, the initiative has fostered micro-enterprises such as dairy processing units, further strengthening rural economies. Hindustan Zinc's CSR efforts extend beyond agriculture, with programs in education, healthcare, women's empowerment, and infrastructure. Initiatives like Shiksha Sambal and Unchi Udaan have positively impacted nearly 20 lakh people in over 3,700 villages. Hindustan Zinc's dedication to sustainable and inclusive growth continues to create lasting change in farming communities.

Artist Om Prakash Soni Honored with Honorary Doctor of Philosophy Degree

Udaipur: Renowned city-based artist Om Prakash Soni from Bijolia was awarded the honorary degree of "Doctor of Philosophy" at the 8th convocation ceremony of Mewar University. Soni was recognized for his exceptional contributions to the fields of painting, calligraphy, and the study of ancient manuscripts.

The convocation ceremony was held in Gangrar, with Dr. Ashok Kumar Gadia, Chairperson of Mewar University, industry leader and philanthropist Motilal Oswal, MD of Motilal Oswal Financial Services, and Vice Chancellor Alok Mishra gracing the event as guests. The award of the honorary degree to Soni has been widely celebrated in the art community.

Inner Wheel Club Promotes Handicraft Art

Udaipur: The Inner Wheel Club of Udaipur Divas organized a special event to promote handicraft art. Club President Nayana Jain shared that during the event, the founder of Sunshine Educational Society, Upasana Dashottar, along with Hanu Dashottar, their associate Soma Lal Ji, and the team were warmly welcomed with shawls.

The Sunshine Educational Society trains tribal rural women in handicraft skills, providing them with employment opportunities. Over the years, the society has built a thriving community of 854 artisans, promoting sustainable livelihoods. Founder Rekha Bhanawat mentioned that the members observed the workshops run by the society, where items such as crocheted children's clothes, shoes, ladies' bags,

toys, and more were created. This event played a significant role in promoting handicraft art and empowering tribal rural women. The program was attended by Asha Shrivastava, Sameeksha Khandelwal, Shashi Mehta, Lalita Bapna, Anita Kothari, Leena Dangi, Sunita Bokadia, Bela Vyas, Saroj Sharma, and others.

Paras Health Successfully Saves a 56-Year-Old Patient with Complex Neurosurgery

Udaipur: Paras Health in Udaipur has given new hope to a 56-year-old patient by successfully performing a complex neurosurgery. The patient was suffering from a large brain tumor that had severely affected his speech and movement in his limbs.

In 2016, the patient had attempted surgery, but excessive blood loss forced doctors to halt the procedure. Recently, experiencing worsening symptoms, he consulted senior neurosurgeon Dr. Amitendu Shekhar at Paras Health.

Dr. Shekhar and his team utilized advanced neurosurgical techniques, including an ultrasound tumor aspirator, to safely and effectively remove the tumor. The procedure resulted in minimal blood loss, ensuring the patient's safety and significantly reducing risks.

Post-surgery, the patient has shown remarkable improvement in speech, and his hands are now functioning normally. While there is some lingering pain in his legs, it is expected to subside as he recovers.

Dr. Amitendu Shekhar emphasized the importance of advanced techniques in managing complex neurosurgical cases. He said, "Handling such cases requires meticulous planning and the use of innovative tools like the ultrasound tumor aspirator. This approach

ensured the safest tumor removal and the best possible outcome. We are delighted to see the patient recovering so well." Paras Health remains committed to advancing neurosurgical care with state-of-the-art technology, ensuring the safest and most effective treatments for patients.

Hindustan Zinc Among Top 50 Companies with Great Managers in India

Udaipur: Hindustan Zinc Limited has been recognized as one of India's Top 50 Companies with Great Managers for 2024, a prestigious award presented by People Business Consulting. This recognition highlights the company's commitment to building a high-performance, inclusive, and equal-opportunity workplace. Additionally, three of Hindustan Zinc's leaders have been named among India's Top 100 Great Managers for 2024.

The rigorous evaluation process involved extensive team feedback and interviews by a panel of industry experts. Arun Misra, CEO and Whole-time Director, expressed pride in the recognition, emphasizing Hindustan Zinc's unique combination of global business practices with the agility of a start-up, fostering great managers across the organization.

The company's merit-first, gender-agnostic approach has created an environment for employees to thrive professionally and personally. Hindustan Zinc prioritizes progressive policies such as flexible work hours, spouse hiring, sabbaticals for childcare, and a strong focus on employees' mental and physical health. The company also offers numerous programs for skilling, upskilling, and reskilling employees, ensuring they stay at the forefront of job enrichment.

Workshop Highlights Role of Electrical Engineers in E-Mobility and Smart Grids

Udaipur: The Institution of Engineers (India), Udaipur Local Centre, organized a workshop on electrical engineers' roles in e-mobility and smart grids. Engr. Purushottam Paliwal addressed challenges in charging infrastructure and grid integration. Keynote speaker Dr. Ritesh Tirole highlighted Virtual Power Plants (VPP) as transformative energy solutions, optimizing decentralized energy resources for grid efficiency. Prof. Neha Tak from BITS Pilani discussed renewable energy, smart grids, and India's growing EV adoption, emphasizing sustainability challenges like battery disposal. The workshop underscored the critical role of electrical engineers in shaping a greener, more efficient energy future, concluding with a vote of thanks by Engr. Piyush Javeria.

Seismology's Role in Mining and Blasting Highlighted

Udaipur: Dr. Jagdish Chandra Vyas, Senior Scientist at the Institute of Mine Seismology, Australia, highlighted seismology's applications in mining, tunneling, and blasting during a seminar at Janardan Rai Nagar Rajasthan Vidyapeeth. Speaking on "Advancements in Seismology," Dr. Vyas explained the use of seismic waves and the Doppler Effect in distinguishing earthquakes from nuclear activities. Vice-Chancellor Colonel Prof. Shiv Singh Sarangdevot emphasized seismology's importance in understanding and mitigating earthquakes, noting that 20,000 occur annually worldwide. Organized by the Faculty of Science, the seminar featured expert insights, cultural rituals, and participation from esteemed faculty and students.

Youth Festival Aarohan to Debut in Udaipur

Udaipur will host its first two-day youth festival, "Aarohan," on December 24-25 at Mohanlal Sukhadia University, organized by the Divine India Youth Association (DIYA), UNICEF, and the university. The festival aims to inspire youth towards national development and expects over 8,000 participants. Highlights include state-level competitions, debates, creative contests, and discussions on youth challenges, with performances, yoga, and exhibitions.

As a part of the Vedanta Group, Hindustan Zinc is also recognized for its sustainability efforts, including being the world's most sustainable company in metals and mining, with a goal of achieving Net Zero emissions by 2050.

Alok Fatehpurra Alumni Meet Celebrates Legacy and Unity

Udaipur: The Alumni Association of Alok School Fatehpurra hosted "Memories of the Past - Part 3" at Occasion Garden's Darbar Hall. Chief Guest Narayan Lal Sharma, Director Dr. Pradeep Kumawat, and other dignitaries inaugurated the event, attended by 800 alumni from batches 1984-2010, including those from India and abroad. Cultural performances, tributes to former educators, and a historical film added vibrancy. A sum of ₹51,000 was pledged to support the family of late Devaraj Mochi. Alumni expressed pride in their alma mater's values, while the association announced plans for social service initiatives. The event

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