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PAGE 2 :
Web Series 'Paan Parda Zarda' Completes Shooting ...

PAGE 3 :
Rajeev Datta Promises New Platform for Wrestling Talent ...



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A Grand Welcome to the Hindu New Year: A Celebration of Faith, Culture, and Tradition

As the vibrant hues of spring envelop the air with renewal and vitality, the Hindu New Year is all set to be celebrated with grandeur on the upcoming Sunday. This auspicious day, marked by festivals such as Chaitra Navratri, Cheti Chand, and Gudi Padwa, signifies a time of new beginnings, devotion, and cultural richness across different communities in India. The preparations have begun in full swing, with homes being decorated, traditional sweets being prepared, and devotees readying themselves for days of worship and festivity.

Chaitra Navratri: Nine Days of Divine Devotion

Chaitra Navratri, one of the most spiritually significant celebrations, marks the beginning of the Hindu calendar. Devotees across the country observe fasting and worship the nine forms of Goddess Durga. Temples are adorned with flowers, and the air resonates with the sacred chants of mantras. The festival culminates with Ram Navami, the birth anniversary of Lord Rama, bringing a wave of joy and spiritual fulfillment.

Cheti Chand: The Sindhi New Year

For the Sindhi community, Cheti Chand marks the birth of their revered saint, Jhulelal. The day is observed with prayers, processions, and

community feasts. Sindhi households prepare special delicacies like tahiri (sweet rice) and sindhi kadhi. Devotees offer prayers near water bodies, symbolizing the blessings of Jhulelal, the deity of rivers and prosperity.

Gudi Padwa: A Maharashtrian Tradition

Maharashtra welcomes the new year with Gudi Padwa, a festival symbolizing victory and prosperity. The highlight of the celebration is the hoisting of the 'Gudi'—a bamboo stick adorned with silk cloth, neem leaves, and a garland, topped with an inverted silver or copper pot. This tradition is believed to bring good luck and ward off evil. Families prepare



delectable dishes like puran poli and shrikhand, while homes are decorated with intricate rangoli patterns.

The Mythological Essence The Hindu New Year is deeply rooted in mythology. According to ancient scrip-

tures, this day is believed to be the creation day of the universe by Lord Brahma. Chaitra Navratri is associated with Goddess Durga's victory over Mahishasura, while Gudi Padwa commemorates Lord Rama's return to Ayodhya after

defeating Ravana. Cheti Chand, on the other hand, celebrates the divine intervention of Jhulelal in protecting the Sindhi community from oppression.

Festive Preparations Across India

Markets are bustling with activity as people shop for new clothes, traditional sweets, and decorative items. Homes are undergoing thorough cleaning, and temples are being illuminated with diyas and fresh flowers. Many families perform special rituals and prayers to invoke divine blessings for a prosperous year ahead.

Eid-ul-Fitr: A Celebration of Gratitude and

Brotherhood As the Hindu New Year is welcomed with joy, the festival of Eid-ul-Fitr follows closely, set to be celebrated on March 31st. Eid marks the end of Ramadan, a month of fasting, prayer, and reflection for the Muslim community. The festival is observed with special prayers at mosques, the giving of charity (Zakat al-Fitr), and grand feasts that include delicacies such as seviyan, biryani, and kebabs. Families and friends come together to exchange greetings, gifts, and blessings, fostering a spirit of unity and compassion. The joyous occasion serves as a reminder of the values of gratitude, generosity, and togeth-

ness, making it a fitting complement to the season of renewal and festivity.

As the Hindu New Year dawns, it brings with it a promise of hope, renewal, and spiritual enlightenment. Whether it's the fervent devotion of Chaitra Navratri, the communal spirit of Cheti Chand, the vibrant grandeur of Gudi Padwa, or the brotherhood of Eid, the festivals unite people in a common thread of faith and festivity.

This Sunday, let us welcome the New Year with open hearts and joyous spirits, embracing the rich cultural legacy that makes India's festivals truly special.

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Arvind Singh Mewar – A Legacy of Heritage and Leadership

A Profound Loss for Udaipur and Cultural Conservation

The passing of Arvind Singh Mewar marks the end of an era—one defined by his unwavering dedication to heritage, tradition, and the cultural legacy of Mewar. As the 76th custodian of the Mewar dynasty, he was not just a descendant of the great Maharana Pratap but a steadfast guardian of Udaipur's historic identity. His life was devoted to preserving the values of resilience, independence, and honor that have shaped Mewar for over 1,400 years.

His demise is not only a personal loss to the royal family but a moment of mourning for Rajasthan, India, and the global heritage community. His relentless efforts in heritage conservation, tourism

development, and cultural education have left an indelible mark on Udaipur and beyond.

A Life Dedicated to Preservation

Arvind Singh Mewar walked a delicate path between tradition and modernity. Despite legal battles over ancestral properties, he remained committed to his role as the head of the House of Mewar. His devotion to temple traditions, ceremonial duties, and cultural rituals reinforced his status as a protector of history. His influence extended beyond his royal lineage. Under his leadership, Udaipur emerged as a global heritage destination. He pioneered the luxury heritage tourism sector, revitalized lake tourism, and balanced conservation with commercial viability. His initiatives, such as Nayika Bihar luxury boat rides and the Vintage Car Museum, seamlessly blend-

ed history with modern experiences.

Through the Maharana Mewar Charitable Foundation, he promoted heritage education, instituted prestigious cultural awards, and spearheaded the restoration of historical landmarks. The Light and Sound Show at the City Palace, a visionary project under his guidance, transformed the way Mewar's history is narrated, making it engaging for new generations.

A Visionary in Heritage and Tourism

Unlike many who inherit legacies but fail to protect them, Arvind Singh Mewar upheld his responsibilities with dedication and foresight. His contributions to Udaipur's recognition as a premier global tourist destination are unparalleled. Under his stewardship, the City Palace evolved into one of India's most celebrated heritage sites, attracting dignitaries, his-

torians, and travelers from across the world. His commitment to cultural authenticity was unwavering. His opposition to the film Padmaavat was not driven by sentiment alone but by a deep-seated belief in historical accuracy and the integrity of Mewar's legacy. To him, Mewar was more than a historical kingdom—it was a living symbol of valor and sacrifice that deserved to be portrayed with truth and respect.

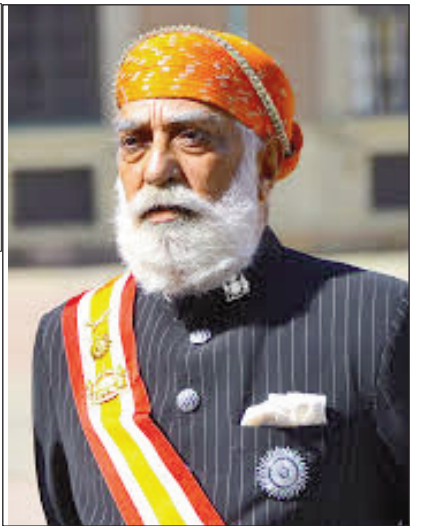
Beyond heritage, he had a profound love for sports, particularly cricket and polo. He played a key role in bringing the Indian cricket team to Udaipur and fostering the connection between royalty and sports.

Udaipur Mourns Its Guardian - The grief in Udaipur is immense. His final journey, as announced by his son Lakshyaraj Singh Mewar, will see the city pay its

respects as his funeral procession moves through the historic streets he tirelessly worked to protect. From the grandeur of Shambhu Niwas to the sacred Mahasatiya cremation grounds, Udaipur will bid farewell to a leader who dedicated his life to its preservation.

With his passing, Udaipur loses not just a custodian but a visionary who embodied the essence of Mewar. His legacy will live on in the palaces he protected, the lakes he safeguarded, and the traditions he upheld. His vision of a modern yet historically rich Mewar will continue to inspire generations to come.

A Tribute to an Icon - Avid Group extends its deepest condolences to the Mewar family and the people of Rajasthan. The void left by Arvind Singh Mewar is irreplaceable, but his contributions remain immortal—etched in the grandeur of



Udaipur and the hearts of those who cherish history.

In his honor, let us commit to safeguarding and celebrating our cultural heritage with the same passion and dedication that defined his extraordinary life.

May his soul rest in eternal peace.

Editorial

SPSU Launched MBA - Sustainability Management in the International Research Convention 2025



Udaipur: Sir Padampat Singhania University, Udaipur organized International Research Convention on 'Recent Trends in Sustainable Development, Science and Technology' on March 19-20, 2025. During this grand event, SPSU launched the uniquely designed MBA in Sustainability Management. It is noteworthy that SPSU is the first university in Rajasthan to introduce this innovative program,

integrating environmental leadership, corporate social responsibility and sustainable economic growth into its curriculum.

The Honourable Vice Chancellor, Prof. (Dr.) Prithvi Yadav in the inaugural address highlighted the need for sustainable management and impactful research that addresses real-world challenges, encouraging collaboration and critical thinking. He further accentuated

that the launch of MBA - Sustainability Management aligns with SPSU's vision of equipping future leaders with the knowledge and skills required to drive sustainable development initiatives across industries, aligning with global sustainability goals and emerging business trends. The Guest of Honour, Col. (Dr.) Sanjay Sinha, Vice President and Head of Education, JK Cement Education Vertical, emphasized the importance of pursuing meaningful research while upholding the sacrosanct values of equity, inclusivity and social justice.

He stressed on assimilating sustainability into research to drive innovative, responsible solutions that address environ-



mental and societal challenges creating a resilient and equitable future.

With a constellation of esteemed professors including luminaries like Prof. Parasuraman Jaishankar, Chief Scientist, CSIR-IICB, Kolkata, Dr. Sameer Sharma, CEO, SWAAHA, Indore, Prof. Meghanshu Vashista, IIT BHU, Prof. K. Raghavan, IIT Gandhinagar, Prof. Upendra Nongthomba, IISC Bangalore,

Prof. Vikas Pandey, NIPS Japan, Prof. Chin Sheih, National Kaohsiung University of Science & Technology, Taiwan, Prof. Sreevas Sahasraman, University of Glasgow UK, Prof. Narendra K Sharma, IIT Kanpur, Prof. Bhuvan Unhelkar, University of South Florida, USA, Dr. Sivaneasan Bala Krishnan, Singapore Institute of Technology, Prof. M. P. Gupta, IIT Delhi, Prof. Narendra S. Chaudhari, IIT Indore, Prof. Anurag Sharma, Newcastle University Singapore Campus, Prof. Bui Thanh Hung Industrial University of Ho Chi Minh City Vietnam, Prof. Shishir Purohit, IPR Gandhinagar and Prof. Ananda Shankar Hati, IIT (ISM) Dhanbad among others

enlightened the audience with their erudition and expertise and enriched the discourse with their profound research insights. The convention received an overwhelming response, with over 100 abstracts with innovative ideas and transformative research.

The sessions focused on emerging trends, ethical practices and real-world applications, highlighting technology integration, sustainable development and inclusive growth to tackle global challenges. The programme received the guidance of Prof. Prasun Chakrabarti, Dean Research and was coordinated by Prof. Deepak Vyas, Dr. Om Prakash Suwalka, Dr. Tulika Chakraborty and Dr. Prithvi Singh.

Rajasthan's Socialist Party and Its Political Struggles

Udaipur: The Socialist Party has played a significant role in Rajasthan's public struggles and has maintained cooperative relations with leftist parties. Despite once being as strong as the Jana Sangh in Madhya Pradesh, its influence in Rajasthan weakened after 1977, and its grassroots expansion remained limited. However, ideological work continued in Udaipur and Kota.

These views were expressed by Prof. Arun Chaturvedi, former Head of the Political Science Department at Mohanlal Sukhadia University, during a seminar commemorating Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia. He emphasized the lack of historical documentation on socialist contributions and noted that post-1991 globalization weakened labor and farmer movements, impacting the Socialist Party.

Veteran journalist Himmat Seth provided insights into Dr. Lohia's life, detailing the Socialist Party's evolution from Congress and its key leaders in Rajasthan, including Prof. Kedar (Ganganagar), Mahavir Bhai, Radheshyam Sharma, Harishankar Goyal (Alwar), Ramkishan, Girraj Prasad Tiwari (Bharatpur), Mama Baleshwar Dayal (Banswara), Narendra Pal Singh Choudhary (Udaipur), and others.

Arjun Detha, President of Rajasthan Loktantrik Morcha, critiqued the party's elitism, stating that despite its stronghold in Banswara's tribal areas, no Dalit or tribal leader was made a minister when in power. Comrade Shankar Lal Choudhary (CPI-ML) called for leftist unity to counter right-wing dominance. The event, chaired by Dr. Farhat Bano (AIPWA), stressed the evaluation of women's participation in socialist movements. Discussions featured Ram Chandra Salvi, Piyush Joshi, Mahesh Sharma, and others, urging self-reflection to learn from past mistakes.

Sojatia Lucky Draw: Car Won for the 10th Time!

Udaipur: The much-awaited Diwali Lucky Draw at Sojatia Jewelers was held today, bringing joy to many customers. The draw was conducted in the presence of customers by Sojatia's founder, Prof. Ranjeet Singh Sojatia, who announced the grand prize winner.

The first prize, a car, was won by Lalita Mali. Upon hearing the news, Lalita expressed immense happiness and excitement. She shared that she has always trusted Sojatia Jewelers for their purity of gold, hallmark jewelry, exquisite designs, and reasonable making charges. She also mentioned that Sojatia offers jewelry suitable for every member of her family. Dr. Mahendra Sojatia revealed that apart from the grand prize, 500 other prizes are being distributed to customers, who are being informed individually. Over the years, Sojatia Jewelers has gifted a total of 9 cars to lucky customers, making this the 10th car giveaway.

Dr. Dhruv Sojatia highlighted their collection, which includes 916 hallmark jewelry, Rajwadi collection, diamond polki jewelry, antique designs, and the latest Kolkata designs. Meanwhile, Nehal Sojatia shared that their store has been honored with India's Trusted Retail Jeweler Award and an Authenticity Award from IGI for Diamond Jewelry. The Sojatia family extended their gratitude to customers from Udaipur, Mewar, Rajasthan, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai, Bengaluru, and Hyderabad for their unwavering trust and support.



Vikrant University and Help U Trust Sign MoU

Lucknow: A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between Vikrant University, Gwalior, and Help U Educational & Charitable Trust, Lucknow, aiming to collaborate in social development, sports, and music.

Established in 2012, Help U Trust has emerged as a leading welfare organization, guided by Padma Bhushan Late Gopal Das Neeraj, Padma Shri Late Anwar Jalalpur, and Padma Shri Anup Jalota. The trust works towards education, cultural promotion, and social upliftment, aligning with PM Narendra Modi's vision of 'Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas'.

The trust conducts initiatives such as clothing distribution, blood donation drives, Bal Gopal Education Scheme, and honor ceremonies.

During COVID-19, it provided food, masks, and sanitizers through the Help U Corona Warriors initiative. It also promotes literature and spirituality through



book publications and plans to establish orphanages, old age homes, and a Bhagavad Gita Center.

The MoU was signed by Prof. Amarika Singh, Vice-Chancellor of Vikrant University, and Dr. Harsh Vardhan Agarwal, Managing Trustee of Help U Trust. The event was attended by several distinguished trustees and advisory members. Both institutions expressed confidence that this collaboration will enhance social welfare and youth development, fostering creativity and talent.