



CityMatters

CUTS International 

Curbing Crimes against Females



www.google.com

When questioned about crimes against women by wayward youth, the former Chief Minister of UP, Mulayam Singh Yadav once nonchalantly said that kids can commit mistakes, rather than condemn it. On the other hand, our Prime Minister, Narendra Modi once said that we don't ask our sons, when returning home at night, as to why they are late or where they have been, but daughters are grilled. These are two contrasting statements worth thinking about if we have to change the situation.



The brutality of the rape of our daughters: Nirbhaya, Kathua and Hathras refuse to fade away from our minds. The pain is only deepening further with the number of cases increasing at an alarming rate and its brutality getting severe, leaving behind destroyed people. National Crime Record's Bureau 2019 data indicates India faces about 88 rapes every single day. The number is worrisome also because sexual abuse reported on minors and even infants is on the high rise. Rajasthan is in the top spots per lakh population with one of the highest reported numbers of rapes and sexual abuse.

The state administration cites ease of reporting to be one of the factors for the increased number of cases reported in comparison to states like Uttar Pradesh that records less reporting than previous years. Though only reported numbers are not a true portrayal of the problem as the conviction rate remains very low. Only 27 percent of cases got a conviction decree in the year 2018. Nearly three-quarter devils got away scot-free.

One of the major findings of a study by the Women and Child Ministry in 2007 is that 50 percent of abusers are persons known to the child or in a position of trust and responsibility. Besides, politicisation of cases, threatening victims, blaming and shaming them and insensitive media coverage and unsure of justice discourages rape survivors and victim's families to report the case.

Who can forget Bhanwari Devi's case in Rajasthan about 25 years ago that lead to the formulation of prevention against sexual harassment at workplace law? Bhanwari Devi was taught a 'lesson' of preventing a child's marriage. Thus, the crime of child marriage in the region also continued unabated.

The case stormed the nation but the caste dynamics strongly prevails and the unfortunate Harthras case not only reflects that we as a society have not changed a bit but the process also remains as complex as it was. Particularly, the discrimination the victim's family faces in reporting the case against those in a power position.

Noticeably, this is further fueled by statements made by people in leadership and political positions often defending such acts by men and boys by blaming and shaming women in their quest for equality.

We need to introspect deeply on where we as individuals and a society are failing. It is important to realise that the problem of abuse and rape against women is deep-rooted and relates closely with the status of women in society, which continues to deteriorate. We need to promote gender empowerment more actively and educate our leaders accordingly.


Pradeep S Mehta, Secretary General

P.S. Our gratitude to esteemed subscribers.

INSIDE

- ◆ From Kolkata to London via bus
- ◆ Godmother of cardiology passed away
- ◆ Papad as cure for coronavirus
- ◆ Virus, a fatal blow to tongas
- ◆ Durga Puja celebrations go virtual in Jaipur

Flying colours: Butterfly boom

A good monsoon has come as a boon for desert district Jaisalmer of Rajasthan, India with thousands of butterflies seen fluttering after many years. About 41 species of butterflies out of the 1,500 were recorded in Jaisalmer.

Due to the ongoing breeding season, lakhs of butterflies have come to Jaisalmer, which is being considered as a good indication.

September is celebrated as the butterfly month in the entire country, wherein many programmes, awareness campaigns, etc. are organised across the country.

(Tol, 29.09.20)

First Indian to get a memorial plaque



Britain's World War II spy, Noor Inayat Khan became the first Indian-origin woman to be honoured with a memorial Blue Plaque at her former family home in central London.

The Blue Plaque scheme, run by the English Heritage charity, honours notable people and organisations connected with particular buildings across London.

Noor, the daughter of Indian Sufi saint Hazrat Inayat Khan and a descendant of the 18th century Mysore ruler Tipu Sultan, went on to be killed at Dachau concentration camp in 1944, having revealed nothing to her captors, not even her real name. (TT, 28.08.20)

Social distancing hat creates buzz

The 'new normal' due to the COVID-19 pandemic has seen a lot of changes. Neha Shukla, a 15-year-old Indian origin



Neha Shukla got a spot on the Nasdaq billboard. She also featured in a New York Times profile on how girls are "stepping up to entrepreneurship"

girl in the US, has invented something similar: A cap that ensures social distancing.

It beeps and vibrates when someone breaches the six-feet perimeter. She had applied to the 'Girls with Impact' programme in the US that teaches entrepreneurial skills to young girls.

(HT, 28.08.20)

Couple feeds 1,500 people

When students at Zeal School, a small five-room set-up in densely packed Ambhujwadi of Malwani in Malad, told their principal they would not be able to pay fees during the lockdown, she decided to give them a three-month waiver.

Mizga Shaikh, the principal, spoke to her husband Faiyaz, and the couple decided to donate rations in the neighbourhood, where many residents are daily wagers.

Four months down the line, they have spent ₹4 lakh they had saved to buy a house and reached out to 1,500 people. Faiyaz has also dipped into his provident fund.

(Tol, 24.07.20)

From Kolkata to London via bus



Did you know that there was a bus that used to run in the 1960s from Kolkata (then Calcutta) in India to London in England? The double-decker bus was known as Albert and the trips covered by it were called Albert tours.

Interestingly, this was the world's longest bus route and one side travel between London and Kolkata on it would cost £145 (around ₹13518), which was undoubtedly a whopping amount in those days.

Rare pictures of the historical bus are now doing rounds on social media and the netizens are loving them.

(www.curlytales.com, 06.07.20)

No walkie while talkie

Japan's Yamato city has submitted a bill to authorities to prevent people from using mobile phones while walking.



The move has been made after the number of accidents had increased due to the use of smartphones.

The ban may come into effect with officials insisting that they will set up an awareness campaign to warn citizens about the dangers of being on call while walking the streets. The bill, if passed, will be the first in Japan.

(www.wionews.com, 01.07.20)

World's 1st gold-plated hotel

A one-of-its-kind hotel is open for business in Hanoi, Vietnam, where guests can have their coffees in a gold cup and bathe in gilded splendour.

It is the world's first self-proclaimed gold-plated hotel and its Vietnamese owners insist they have the 'Midas touch' despite the restrictions on global travel amid the coronavirus pandemic.

The official website mentions the properties of gold for health which might hint towards meals containing gold too at this hotel.

(HT, 04.07.20)

Goat 'talks', settle ownership dispute

In a bizarre incident, the cops in Udaipur, Rajasthan, India managed to settle an ownership dispute over a goat between two claimants. They let the goat do the talking, quite literally.

The case came up before the cops when one Babru Ravat of Dholakot village and Unkarlal Ravat of Masingpura village claimed ownership over a goat.

When both men remained adamant, the cops asked them for evidence in support of their claims. Both men said they had kids of the goat. Policemen asked both of them to bring the kids and goat to the police station.

Both the kids were left near the goat. The mother went towards the kid brought by Babru and licked it while she pushed away from the other kid which belonged to Unkarlal. The cops permitted Babru to take away his goat.

(HT, 10.08.20)

Super wealthy to face virus tax

A group of 83 millionaires urged governments around the world to tax the super-wealthy much more to help fund the global recovery from the coronavirus.

In an open letter, the group, calling themselves "Millionaires for Humanity", said they should be taxed higher, "immediately, substantially, permanently".

Signatories included Ben and Jerry's co-founder Jerry Greenfield, Notting Hill screenwriter Richard Curtis and Walt Disney Co heiress Abigail Disney.

(CNBC, 14.07.20)



'Tenzing Norgay Award' for army man

Sansarpur village in Punjab's Jalandhar district now has another, rather unusual, record to its credit. It will be the first time that a native of the village will be given the highest honour for adventure sports.

Colonel Sarfraz Singh has been selected for 2020's Tenzing Norgay Award, the highest honour for adventure sports in India. He is a skydiver, a combat free-faller and a certified scuba rescue diver besides being an avid mountaineer.

(Tol, 22.08.20)

Diamonds sparkling on masks

There is something in the bling that Surtis can't seem to resist and find all convenient spots to get one fitted for the extra sparkle. So, now in COVID times' new 'sanitised' normal, they found a 'tad' to add swag even to a humble protective gear – diamond-studded face masks!



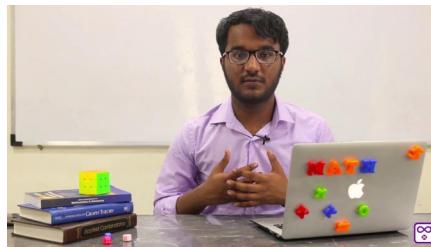
Masks with N95 rating certification and 3-ply protection, studded with real and synthetic diamonds, are the latest craze in the COVID market.

According to the jewellers, diamonds – both real and synthetic –

adorn the borders of the N95 masks. That's not all – some even have an extra dangling diamond strip on the side for that extra bling! (Tol, 11.07.20)

World's fastest human calculator

When asked why he prefers his mental ability to arrive at answers to complex mathematical problems when



there is a calculator for such things, Neelakantha Bhanu Prakash nonchalantly replies, "Why does Usain Bolt run when he has a car?"

And then he elaborates, "It's simple. Exhibiting a global dominance in terms of physical achievement inspires a generation that wants to adopt Bolt's way of life. That is what I want to do with mental maths from India."

At the age of 20, he is the "world's fastest human calculator". On August 15, he became the first Indian in the last 23 years to win a gold medal at the "Mental Calculation World Championship" in the Mind Sports Olympiad 2020 in London.

(Tol, 27.08.20)

Man gets ₹3.71 crore power bill

Pemaram Mana Dangi, a farmer in Gingla village of Salumber block in Udaipur district, became an overnight

sensation. The Ajmer Vidyut Vitran Nigam Ltd as well as the state government are being trolled for sending him a bill of over ₹3 crore for just two months.

The State Power Department charged a whooping ₹3,71,61,507 for June and July that was billed in August and had to be paid by September 03, 2020. The bill mentioned a late payment fee of ₹7.16 lakh if the amount was not paid by the stipulated date.

When the shocked peasant contacted the power supply office, the officials told him that it was a misprint and a new bill of around ₹6,000 has been generated after corrections. The peasant breathed some relief. He ultimately paid the revised bill without a late fee.

(Tol, 09.09.20)

First woman to head CRPF

IGP Charu Sinha, an IPS officer of the 1996 batch from the Telangana cadre, will now head the Srinagar sector for CRPF as inspector-general, the first woman to do so in Kashmir.



Sinha is the first woman CRPF IG to command sectors for anti-Naxal operations (in Bihar) and anti-terrorist operations (in Jammu). Before being deputed to the CRPF, she handled different positions in Telangana and Andhra Pradesh.

She has also served as director, anti-corruption bureau, Telangana and DIG for Anantapur range handling extremely violent factional feuds, communalism and other issues in the region.

(Tol, 02.09.20)

Godmother of cardiology passed away

Born on June 20, 1917, in the dusty town of Magwe in central British Burma, the young Sivaramakrishna Iyer Padmavati was one of the brightest students at the Rangoon Medical College, graduating MBBS 'magna cum laude'.

However, Japan's invasion of Burma in 1942 forced Padmavati, her mother and sisters to flee Magwe for Coimbatore, leaving the menfolk behind.

It's probably these experiences and her indomitable spirit that went on to shape her career in cardiology.

Such was her contribution that it earned her sobriquet of the 'Godmother of Cardiology'. Many will mourn her death at the age of 103. (Tol, 31.08.20)



Ties that Confine

The Indore Bench of the Madhya Pradesh High Court has granted bail to a man accused of sexual harassment on the condition that he will request the complainant to tie a 'rakhi' on him with a promise to protect her "to the



best of his ability for all times to come".

The man was ordered to pay ₹11,000 to the complainant as a 'customary ritual usually offered by brothers to sisters' on Raksha Bandhan and seek her blessings while visiting her with his wife and a box of sweets.

The court directed the accused to take photographs and receipts of payment made to the complainant and her son, which should be filed through his lawyer for placing on record of the case before the Registry. (TH, 03.08.20)

Papad as cure for coronavirus

Union Minister Arjun Ram Meghwal drew the ire of social media after a promotional video went viral where he reportedly claimed that consuming a certain brand of papad would help a person produce antibodies to fight the novel coronavirus.



Under the Atma Nirbhar Bharat campaign, a papad manufacturer has come up with a brand of crisps called Bhabhi Ji papad.

The manufacturing company is from Bikaner in Rajasthan and claims that the edible product has giloy and other immunity-boosting ingredients.

The minister has been criticised for making misleading and "unscientific claims" on coronavirus treatment.

(HP, 24.07.20)

Is it a flying paramedic?

Paramedics in England's remote, rugged Lake District region have been testing a jet suit that gets them to people in danger or distress in a fraction of the time it would take to travel by car or on foot.

In scenes reminiscent of a James Bond movie, test pilot and suit inventor Richard Browning hovers and moves a few metres above the rough terrain with the help of small jets mounted on his arms and back.

Developed by UK-based Gravity Industries, the technology drastically reduces response times in rough terrain, potentially saving lives.

(Reuters, 30.09.20)

Manmade knife from frozen poop

Eren, an anthropologist, who decided to test an old urban legend by creating a knife out of frozen poop has been awarded a 2020 Ig Nobel Prize.

The Ig Nobels, given out annually at a ceremony usually held at Harvard University, are a satirical award given to humorous yet thought-provoking scientific, medical, and technological experiments and achievements.

This in-depth and slightly gross research is certainly worthy of the honor. (www.bolde.com, 21.09.20)

Life right next door to earth

Scientists have detected gas in the clouds of Venus that, on Earth, is produced by microbial life.

The mystery raises the astonishing possibility that Venus, the planet that comes closest to Earth as it whizzes around the sun, might have some kind of life flourishing more than 30 miles up in its yellow, hazy clouds.

Nothing could live on what passes for land on Venus; its smooth volcanic plains are a scorching hellscape hot enough to melt lead, where the temperatures exceed 800 degrees Fahrenheit. (www.npr.org, 14.09.20)

Transparent public toilets in parks

The idea of using a public bathroom with see-through walls may sound like the stuff of nightmares.

But a famous Japanese architect is hoping to change that view, using vibrant colors and new technology to



make restrooms in Tokyo parks more inviting.

Transparent walls can address both of those worries, Ban says, by showing people what awaits them inside. After users enter the restroom and lock the door, the powder room's walls turn a powdery pastel shade — and are no longer see-through.

(www.npr.org, 19.08.20)

Woman cheated in a Ludo game

A 24-year-old woman has approached a family court after she lost a Ludo game to her father. The daughter said that she has been experiencing alienation from her father ever since the outcome of the board game.



The woman has lost respect for her father and even felt hesitation in calling him "father". The father-daughter relation was better earlier and only the board game defeat led to the crisis.

(www.mid-day.com, 28.09.20)

Divorce from a 'perfect' husband

The woman has approached a Sharia court for divorce just 18 months after her marriage. The woman claimed that her husband's love was 'suffocating' her.

"He does not shout at me and neither has he upset me on any issue. He even cooks for me and also helps me in performing household chores," she told the court.

The court rejected her plea for divorce, terming it as frivolous. Meanwhile, the woman's husband said he loved his wife and always wanted to keep her happy. (www.mid-day.com, 21.08.20)

Dream of Owning a House

Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot said his government is committed to fulfill every person's dream of having a house of their own.

He asked the Rajasthan Housing Board to work with full dedication in

this direction while focusing on quality and timeline.

Gehlot laid the foundation stone for seven

projects and launched 18 housing schemes.

The Chief Minister said providing quality housing to the economically weaker and minority sections of society is also a part of good governance and the Housing Board has a big role to play in this. (www.news18.com, 22.08.20)

App to monitor water projects

The Public Health Engineering Department (PHED) will use an app for monitoring every phase of drinking water projects in the state.

The app, developed under the 'Pro-MIS' module, will capture photographs with geo-tagging at each stage of the projects.

PHED Principal Secretary Rajesh Yadav directed to roll out this app at the regular review meeting held at the office of Water and Sanitation Support Organisation at Jhalana.

In addition to this app, the Department has also developed another app named 'JIMS' (GIMS-Government Instant Messaging System) for messaging to executive engineers and junior chemist-level officers. (Tol, 07.07.20)

Vendors to apply for loans online

Under the PM Street Vendor's Atma Nirbhar Nidhi, now the street vendors, who have lost their businesses during the lockdown period, can apply for loans online.

To apply for this, vendors will have to submit their Aadhaar card, voter ID card and savings bank account passbook. It is also necessary for the street vendors to link their mobile numbers and bank account with Aadhaar.

The scheme will open up new opportunities for this sector to move up the economic ladder. (Tol, 13.08.20)

Jaipur-Delhi rail electrification



The much-awaited electrification of Jaipur-Delhi and Jaipur-Sawai Madhopur is likely to be completed soon.

Also, the completion of Jaipur to Delhi electrification will open Jaipur-Agra electrified route via Bandikui. After completion, travel time between Jaipur and Delhi will be curtailed by at least 20 minutes.

Presently, work is in progress on the Jaipur yard and its four out of six lines. The work includes poles, laying of cables and connectors. (Tol, 20.09.20)

Parking woes continue

The parking problem in the city is a never-ending issue. Jaipur Municipal Corporation (JMC) has 36 parking lots out of which only 11 have been tendered while the others without any regulations have become a nuisance.

In the Kishanpole market, tender for the parking lot was floated four years ago. Since then, people are finding it difficult to get a space to park their cars in the market.

At Chandpol Market, the parking lot has been encroached by street vendors and there is no regulation.

(Tol, 19.09.20)

Garbage disposal, a perennial problem

In Vidhyadhar Nagar, garbage vehicles are coming every two days, which means a collection of trash on pavements and along the roadside.



In the Nahri ka Nakka area, residents are complaining that vehicles are coming on main roads but inner lanes are being ignored. On the outskirts of the city, the situation is even worse.

JMC, Greater and Heritage have 550 garbage vehicles instead of 750 that is required. It has been a long-standing demand of Jaipur city that the number of vehicles should be increased. (Tol, 17.09.20)

First fleet of bike ambulances

Strengthening ambulance services, the state government has launched bike ambulance (First Responder Vehicle) services in the city. A private company has provided five bike ambulances to the Health Department under the Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiative.



The Health Department handed over the bike ambulances to Chief Medical Health Officer Jaipur-I which will issue an emergency number on which the needy patient will call to avail the service.

The Health Department will provide training to its selected nursing staff who will ride the bike ambulance and transport patients to hospitals. These bike ambulances are equipped with all ultramodern facilities. (Tol, 17.09.20)

Virus, a fatal blow to tongas

For the tonga-wallahs of Jaipur, who were already fighting a lost battle for existence, the coronavirus pandemic



has turned out to be the last straw. There were nine tongas in Jaipur, that served as a tourist attraction at Albert Hall.

Due to the adverse impact on tourism, five of the tonga owners have sold their horses and the remaining are also planning to do the same.

Around 20 years back, there used to be 4,000 tongas in Jaipur. With the development in transportation, minibusses, electric rickshaws, the craze for the tongas faded away and their numbers came down. (Tol, 26.07.20)

Footpath encroachment by vendors

Encroaching of footpaths by street vendors has become a major issue in the city. Many hawkers are selling various items on footpath and roadside near Birla Temple and Rajasthan University, making it difficult for the commuters.



Many idol sellers and snack vendors have made the area adjacent to the Rajasthan University boundary at Shanti Path their permanent spot. In the evening, it becomes difficult to cross the area due to the crowd that gathers around them.

Enforcement officer, JMC said that they are chalking out a plan to remove the vendors.

(Tol, 17.09.20)

Bisalpur pipeline to affect flyover

The underground pipeline laid to supply Bisalpur water may cause a hindrance to the construction of the ambitious elevated road project, proposed to ease traffic congestion.

It was revealed during the pre-feasibility survey, carried out by a private firm. A senior official said, "As



shifting a water pipeline from the area is a herculean task, the JDA would explore other possibilities. Digging and piling in the area will not be possible as it could damage the pipeline."

As the elevated corridor is proposed on a narrow stretch, the possibility to change the alignment also looks bleak.

(Tol, 31.07.20)

Jaipurites will get another park

Jaipurites will soon get another park as big as Central Park. The Rajasthan Housing Board (RHB) is all set to develop the new park on around 52 acres in the Mansarovar area, which is expected to benefit more than 50 colonies developed there.

The track of the park will be developed as per the Sports Authority of India guidelines. The park will add to the quality of life of the residents.

The Board plans to plant 21,000 trees of 32 different species in the area. The jogging track will be 3.5 km long, slightly shorter than Central Park.

However, the size of the park is claimed to be bigger than Central Park, which is 42 acres.

(Tol, 07.07.20)

Promoting new education policy

The BJP has launched its campaign for New Education Policy (NEP) in Rajasthan to popularise it across the state. It is part of its nation-wide campaign in non-BJP states.



Considering the importance of the policy, 44 NEP coordinators in the state are appointed to spread awareness on NEP.

The message of the NEP needs to be taken via a series of webinars and virtual summits to ensure that it is widely understood by the masses.

(Tol, 17.09.20)

Combating rabies and saving strays

If you are ever a victim of a dog bite in this city, it may be of some comfort to know that the chance of contracting rabies is negligible, thanks to Help in Suffering, a 40-year-old Jaipur-based charity that has been vaccinating the canines for the past 25 years.

Over the last quarter of a century, the charity has vaccinated and sterilised more than 80,000 strays through its ambitious Animal Birth Control Programme.

According to the Indian Journal of Medical Research, 17 million people are

bitten by dogs each year in India and 20,000 dies because of rabies.

In Jaipur, there's a reverse trend with just 2.7 people being bitten by dogs per 1,000 population in 2018 compared to 7.2 in 1998. There are around 35,000 strays in the city.

(Tol, 07.07.20)

JMC rolls back one-time UDT

JMC has rolled back the order that allowed residents to pay urban development tax at one go.

People who made alterations in their properties after paying the advance tax will be charged again accordingly as the order is now been rolled back.



Any property that is still in the same form as it was when the advance tax was paid, will not be charged anything till the 8-year term expires.

The government wanted to motivate people to pay more tax even that included a one-time payment.

(Tol, 22.09.20)

Roads unfriendly for cyclists

With the majority of the city roads encroached and vehicular traffic increasing, earmarking a dedicated cycle corridor for safe movement remains a challenge for city planners.

The civic agencies, including Jaipur Smart City Limited, are promoting cycling, but in absence of space on many major roads, providing a safe passage will be a difficult task after traffic resumes completely, post-COVID.

At present, in the absence of safe passage, only seven percent of people



ride cycle in the city. However, as per the National Urban Transport Policy, the city traffic should comprise 31 percent cyclists and pedestrians.

(Tol, 11.08.20)

City Briefs

Airport privatisation postponed

The privatisation of Jaipur airport has been postponed again till March because of the pandemic.



Earlier, it was decided that six airports including Jaipur were to be handed over to Adani Group on public-private partnership mode. However, Jaipur airport was yet to receive any approval in this regard from the Centre.

Authorities claimed that Adani Group had to pay an asset transfer fee of ₹1,000 crore for these three airports. The work of the new building is still pending. Only bidding was done as there was no Union cabinet approval on this.

(Tol, 21.07.20)

Metro back on track

Jaipur metro resumed operations after a gap of around six months due to the nationwide lockdown imposed due to the ongoing COVID pandemic.

Gehlot digitally inaugurated the extended underground stretch of the existing Mansarovar-Chandpole metro line with which the network is now extended to Chandpole in Jaipur's old city areas.

The Jaipur Metro laid down its underground 2.12-km track and built the sole underground station at Chandpole under its phase I-B plans. The new line would now cater to the people also in the old city area enabling them to reach Mansarovar 12 km away in around 26 minutes.

(www.metrorailnews.in, 23.09.20)

New impetus to make cities green

Rajasthan Renewable Energy Corporation Ltd has issued guidelines to create green energy cities in all the district headquarters providing subsidy up to 40 percent of the cost of equipment.

Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot had announced a "Green Energy City" initiative in the Budget 2020-21 to develop 300 MW rooftop solar power to promote green energy and discourage polluting thermal power.

As per the RRECL policy, a budget provision of ₹20 crore for the subsidy would be created every year for 60 MW for reaching the 300 MW target in the next five years. (Tol, 30.09.20)

2 rooftop applied for fire NOC

Rooftop restaurant bylaws were implemented almost nine months ago but so far only two restaurants have applied to JMC for fire no-objection certificate (NOC).



Urban Housing and Development (UDH) Department had implemented these bylaws to regularise more than 500 rooftop restaurants in the city all of which had been running without fire NOC and safety norms.

Constructing another floor on a rooftop was illegal according to the building bylaws. But with the rooftop restaurant bylaws, the government made rules and regulations which allowed rooftop restaurants to function but only after getting NOC from relevant authorities. (Tol, 30.09.20)

Durga Puja celebrations go virtual in Jaipur

The ongoing pandemic might have changed the way we celebrate festivals this year, but it has not dampened the spirits of people.

Celebrating the festival in all its fervour, Spagia Foundation, which has been organising Durga Puja Mahotsav in Jaipur for many years, has decided to go for virtual puja this year.

Spagia Foundation is a social initiative by Vinnie and Saurabh Kakkar. It is making an effort to create a visible difference by engaging and empowering young minds with various skills and also fostering economic independence and promoting art and culture.

The short musical film on Maa Durga titled 'Dashobuja' has been created by the Foundation and screened online on Ashtami, October 23, 2020. The film has been conceptualised by Vinnie Kakkar.

Directed by Arindam Sil, it has tabla by maestro Bickram Ghosh while Padma Bhushan Pt Vishwa Mohan Bhatt has

done Raag Durga for a part of the film. Sonal Mansingh has recited the Sanskrit shlokas and narration.

Noted singers Usha Uthup, Iman Chakraborty and Somchanda Bhattacharya have lent their voices to the short film whose script is written by Sugato Guha and choreographed by Arnab Bandhopadhyay. Ayan Sil contributed as the director of photography.

Vinnie Kakkar, chairperson Spagia Foundation, said that the spirits have not dampened, only the celebrations have a different flavour this year. In the Bengali version of this film, MP Nusrat Jahan and actor Rituparna Sengupta have given the narration.

She further added that the film revolves around ten astros or weapons of Maa Durga which are represented by ten women. Each woman representing each astra performs and at the end of which they present the Astra to the little girl as Chandi Paath continues. (Tol, 23.10.20)



Indira Rasoi Yojna Launched

The Indira Rasoi Scheme by the State Government was launched in Jaipur. The scheme will provide meals at ₹8 around 213 urban cities in the state.



Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot started an initiative 'Indira Rasoi kitchen' scheme with a motive of 'Nobody Starved Sleep'. The scheme is named after former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi.

The government will give a grant of ₹12 on every plate with a budget of 100 crores every year. The state government has provided ₹4.87 lakh to each operator. Every year, a grant of ₹2 lakh will be provided.

The JMC has decided on 20 places in Jaipur to set up these kitchens. It will be started at ten places each in the Jaipur Greater and Jaipur Heritage. One kitchen will be started at 12 local bodies of the Jaipur district, and 358 places all over the state.

Under this scheme, people will get food for only ₹8. In a plate of ₹8, 100 grams of pulses, 100 grams of vegetables, 250 grams of chapati and pickles will be given. The cost will be ₹20 per plate, however, it will be provided at subsidised rates while the customer has to pay the only ₹8 for a single plate.

The monitoring of the scheme will be done using the latest technology. CCTV cameras will be installed for monitoring. The customers having mobile phones will receive a coupon via SMS. The operators will also maintain social distancing and sanitise the kitchen.

The District Administration and Local Self Government will handle the quality of the food. They can also change the menu as per the local requirement. The customers who are not satisfied with the quality of the food may complain at the toll-free number 18001806127.

The news item appeared in <https://www.jaipurstuff.com>, on August 21, 2020

No one should sleep hungry

The Disabled People Organisation (DPO) promoted by CUTS Centre for Human Development under Disability Social Inclusion Programme has launched the *Indira Kitchen*, Scheme of Government of Rajasthan in three different locations, viz Government Hospital, Bus Stand and Chanderiya Industrial area in Chittorgarh.

The objective is to provide quality and nutritious meals to the needy on concessional rates twice a day. The price of each plate is ₹20 - the state government pays a subsidy of ₹12 per plate and the remaining ₹8 is borne by the customer.

The Kitchen was inaugurated by Udai Lal Anjana, Cabinet Minister, Government of Rajasthan along with District Collector, Additional District Magistrate, Commissioner, Municipality, District Supply Officer on August 20, 2020.

In each plate of food, people will get chapatis, pulses, vegetables, and pickles. The basic idea behind the scheme is to ensure that no one sleeps hungry in the state.

Pradeep S Mehta, Secretary General and Ajit Singh, Secretary of CUTS International visited one of the canteens on August 26, 2020. They also had the opportunity to meet DPO members and customers to obtain their feedback about the kitchen.



Sources: CNBC: Consumer News and Business Channel; ET: The Economic Times; HP: Huffington Post; HT: Hindustan Times; NDTV: New Delhi Television Limited; TH: The Hindu; Tol: Times of India; TT: The Tribune; UPI: United Press International

The news/articles in this Newsletter are compressed from several newspapers. The sources given are to be used as a reference for further information, and do not indicate the literal transcript of a particular news/story. CUTS International is a not-for-profit organisation and the listing of paid news/articles is for informative and educative purposes only.

CityMatters is a quarterly newsletter published by Consumer Unity & Trust Society (CUTS), D-217, Bhaskar Marg, Bani Park, Jaipur 302016, India, Phone: 91.141.2282821, Fax: 91.141.2282485, Email: cuts@cuts.org, Web site: www.cuts-international.org, and printed by MS Printers, Jaipur, India. CUTS offices also at Kolkata, Chittorgarh and New Delhi (India); Lusaka (Zambia); Nairobi (Kenya); Accra (Ghana); Hanoi (Vietnam); Geneva (Switzerland) and Washington DC (USA).