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Governor urges technology-driven farming at Agrivision-2026

Udaipur: Rajasthan Governor HaribhauBagde on Saturday urged young people to view agriculture not merely as a traditional occupation but as a dynamic sector driven by technology, research, innovation and entrepreneurship.

Inaugurating the second North-West Regional Conference of Agrivision-2026 at Rajasthan College of Agriculture, affiliated with MaharanaPratap University of Agriculture and Technology (MPUAT), Bagde said agriculture and allied sectors remain the backbone of India's economy and must become a stronger source of employment and prosperity.

Addressing students, researchers, entrepreneurs and agricultural experts, he said the next phase of agricultural growth should be led by scientific thinking, startups, processing industries and value addition. "Young people should connect agriculture with innovation, technology, research and enterprise," he said, adding that modern agri-technologies can create significant opportunities for rural development.

Bagde also linked contemporary agricultural challenges with India's knowledge heritage, referring to scholars Aryabhata, Bhaskaracharya and Maharishi Parashara. He said India's long tradition of scientific inquiry continues to inspire innovation. Invoking MaharanaPratap, he noted that the ruler's legacy included efforts to protect agriculture and improve people's lives, making him a symbol of self-reliance and dignity for the younger generation.

During the program, the governor released the Agrivision souvenir and a booklet highlighting the achievements of MPUAT. He visited an exhibition on the life and teachings of SantRavidas, paid floral tributes to the statues of MaharanaPratap and Bharat Mata, and planted a sapling under the Hariyalo Rajasthan campaign, calling for greater public participation in environmental conservation.

The two-day conference focused on practical pathways for transforming rural economies. Sessions on agricultural entrepreneurship covered tribal knowledge systems, organic farming, agri-technology and startup innovation, encouraging students to adopt scientific methods and digital tools.

A major attraction was the address by Pasha Patel, chairman of the Maharashtra State Agricultural Price Commission and popularly known as the Bamboo Man of India. He highlighted bamboo cultivation as a sustainable model for increasing farmers' income, generating rural employment and supporting ecological restoration.The conference also emphasized women's leadership in agriculture. Dr.VimlaDoonkwal spoke on the expanding role of women in farming, value-added enterprises and agricultural entrepreneurship, stressing that rural development depends significantly on women's economic empowerment.

Presenting the conference report, co-organizing secretary Dr.Amit Kumar said research papers were presented across 15 sub-themes related to agriculture and allied sectors, with 624 participants attending the event.

In the valedictory session, MPUAT Vice-Chancellor Dr.Pratap Singh emerged as a key voice behind the conference's broader vision. He said agricultural education must go beyond classrooms and become a catalyst for social transformation and national development. Singh said the university is committed to nurturing agri-professionals who combine scientific excellence with an understanding of farmers' realities and environmental responsibility. He urged students to become creators of opportunities rather than seekers of jobs and emphasized stronger links between research, innovation, entrepreneurship and rural livelihoods.

Chief guest Dr.Paras Tank said agriculture offers vast possibilities for employment, self-employment and enterprise creation. Special guest Vikram Singh Farswan said Agrivision has played an important role in efforts to secure recognition of the agriculture degree as a professional degree and noted that nearly 150 entrepreneurs have emerged through Agrivision initiatives.

The conference concluded with the collective singing of VandeMataram and the presentation of awards for outstanding research papers, poster presentations, youth parliament participation and exhibition performances, reinforcing the message of innovation, sustainability and nation-building through agriculture.

Nadda, Bhajanlal launch Tiranga rally in Jaipur

JAIPUR, Union Health and Family Welfare Minister JagatPrakashNadda and Rajasthan Chief Minister Bhajanlal Sharma on Sunday flagged off the state-level Tiranga Rally under the "HarGharTiranga" campaign from Albert Hall to BadiChaupar in Jaipur.

Despite light rain, both leaders joined the march carrying the national flag as residents showered flowers on participants at several points along the route.

Addressing the gathering, Nadda said the Tricolor is not merely a flag but a symbol of India's pride, dignity and the emotions of millions of citizens. He urged people to uphold its honor and described the Prevention of Insults to National Honors Amendment Act, 2026, as an important step toward strengthening respect for national symbols. He said the national anthem, national song, national flag and Constitution are integral to India's identity.

Chief Minister Sharma said the Tricolor represents self-respect, patriotism and national pride. He said the HarGharTiranga campaign launched under Prime Minister NarendraModi's leadership has become a people's movement that is deepening patriotic values among the younger generation.

Referring to the 80th anniversary of India's Independence on Aug. 15, Sharma said the occasion should inspire citizens to remember the sacrifices of freedom fighters and martyrs. He also highlighted Rajasthan's historical connection with the national flag.

Nadda and Sharma later paid tribute to martyrs at the Amar JawanJyoti by laying wreaths. Several senior ministers, MPs, officials and citizens attended the event.

Reservation Lottery Set to Trigger Udaipur Civic Battled

Udaipur: As Rajasthan enters a decisive phase of preparations for the proposed urban local body elections, political activity in Udaipur is expected to intensify sharply with the reservation lottery scheduled for August 13 and 14. The exercise will determine the reservation status of wards as well as key posts such as Mayor, Chairman and Chairperson, and is likely to reshape the calculations of every serious aspirant in the city.

The ward reservation lottery will be conducted on August 13 under the supervision of district collectors, while the Department of Local Bodies will hold the lottery for top civic posts on August 14. Once the reservation pattern is announced, many prospective candidates may have to reconsider their wards, alliances and campaign strategies.In Udaipur, however, the contest is already acquiring the tone of a high-stakes political battle even before the reservation picture becomes clear.The BharatiyaJanata Party is attempting to retain control of the Udaipur Municipal Corporation for a sixth consecutive term, a feat that would reinforce its long-standing dominance in the city. The party enters the contest with the advantage of an established organisational network and incumbency, but it is also confronting visible internal strains.

The Congress is working aggressively to wrest control of the civic body from the BJP, sensing an opportunity in anti-incumbency sentiment and factional tensions within the ruling party. Local political observers say that resentment among some BJP workers over leadership issues and ticket distribution could become a significant factor once the reservation lottery is completed.

The political atmosphere has also been influenced by controversies raised by opposition leaders and civic activists, including allegations related to the "Udaipur Files" narrative, the 272-plot scam issue and other urban governance concerns, which the Congress is expected to use to target the BJP during the campaign.

A key development on the Congress side is the emergence of Fateh Singh as the new city Congress president. Though relatively new in the post, he is being viewed within the party as a leader capable of mobilising workers and reconnecting with sections of urban voters. His ability to convert organisational enthusiasm into electoral momentum will be closely watched in the coming weeks.

Beyond the city, Congress leaders are also looking to strengthen their position through coordination with influential rural leadership. Raghuveer Singh Meena continues to be regarded as a stalwart leader in the rural belt, and his organisational influence could become important if the party seeks to build a broader political narrative linking urban and rural dissatisfaction.

For now, much depends on the outcome of the reservation lottery. Once the ward-wise and mayoral reservation pattern is announced, the real contest will begin: aspirants will lobby for tickets, factions will test their strength, and political equations may shift rapidly.In Udaipur, therefore, the August 13-14 exercise is not merely an administrative formality. It is the moment that could decide who gets a ticket, who changes wards, which faction gains the upper hand—and whether the BJP extends its civic dominance or the Congress succeeds in mounting its strongest challenge in years.

Udaipur observes August Kranti Day and World Tribal Day with tributes, seminars and Mangarh demand

Udaipur: Udaipur observed August Kranti Day and World Tribal Day through a series of tribute ceremonies, academic discussions and political programs that highlighted the legacy of India's freedom movement, the contribution of tribal communities and the demand for national memorial status for MangarhDham.

The main tribute program was held at Mahatma Gandhi's statue in GulabBagh, where Congress leaders, social workers and citizens offered floral tributes to Gandhi and remembered the martyrs of the freedom struggle. The ceremony began with the lighting of the ceremonial lamp by Pankaj Kumar Sharma, General Secretary and Spokesperson of the Rajasthan Pradesh Congress Committee and District Convenor of the Mahatma Gandhi JeevanDarshanSamiti. Participants collectively sang Gandhi's favorite devotional hymns, including "RaghupatiRaghav Raja Ram" and "Vaishnav Jan ToTeneKahiye."

Addressing the gathering, Pankaj Kumar Sharma said that Aug. 9, 1942, marked the launch of the Quit India Movement and Mahatma Gandhi's historic "Do or Die" call, which gave a decisive direction to India's struggle for independence. He also said that World Tribal Day was an opportunity to remember the traditions, culture and struggles of tribal communities and acknowledge their important contribution to the freedom movement and social justice.

During the program, senior citizen Anwar Ali was honored with a Gandhi cap and a cotton garland. Participants also took a pledge to follow Gandhian ideals of truth, non-violence, equality and social harmony. Among those present were Firoz Ahmed Sheikh, Abdul Aziz, SandeepGarg, OmkarSolanki, NilpeshGarasia, Simran, Rajni, Mahesh, Robin, Mohit and NiteshSarraf.

Later, a separate meeting was organized at the Congress Media Centre in Dhanmandi to mark the 20th death anniversary of former Rajasthan minister Late KhemrajKatara. Congress leaders and workers paid floral tributes and remembered his public service and commitment to the welfare of all sections of society.

At ManikyaLalVermaShramjeevi College, the Department of Political Science organized an extended lecture and discussion on tribal culture, constitutional rights and contemporary tribal issues. The program was welcomed by Dr.EktaHussain. Professor G. S. Kumpawat discussed the history of World Tribal Day, tribal development schemes and constitutional safeguards under the Fifth Schedule. Professor Malay Paneri said society could learn unity, cooperation and collective responsibility from tribal communities, while Prof. Dr.PankajRawat spoke on the historical and social structure of tribal communities. Dr. C. L. Bhagora addressed contemporary tribal issues. The program was conducted by HimaniKharol in the presence of Dr. Rajesh Sharma, Dr.MamtaPaneri, Dr.Kusum, Dr. Rani Prabha, Dr.MamtaPurbia, Dr.Shaili Mehta, Dr.ShahidHussain, Dr.Aarti, PreetiYadav, Dr.Bindiya and research scholar JyotiDamor.

In another major program, the Udaipur Rural and City District Congress Committees demanded that MangarhDham be declared a National Memorial. Addressing the gathering, Raghuveer Singh Meena said Mangarh was a shared heritage of tribal communities of Rajasthan, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra. Program convener TarachandMeena said the Congress would continue its struggle for national memorial status, while Fateh Singh Rathore also paid tribute to the tribal martyrs of Mangarh.

The Congress leaders later submitted a memorandum to the President of India through the district administration seeking early declaration of MangarhDham as a National Memorial.

Karni Sena Opposes UGC Rules

Udaipur: Kshatriya KarniSena founder and national president Dr. Raj Shekhawat on Friday called for a "decisive struggle" against the UGC Regulation Act-2026 and urged people from across the country to gather in New Delhi on Aug. 23 for a SavarnAakroshMahapanchayat at Shah Auditorium.

Addressing a press conference in Udaipur, Shekhawat said he has been leading a public awareness and invitation yatra since Aug. 5 through several districts of Rajasthan. He alleged that the UGC regulations contain serious anomalies and demanded that the government withdraw what he described as an unjust law.

He announced a 15,000-km nationwide awareness campaign to mobilize students, parents and academicians before the Delhi gathering.Shekhawat also announced the formation of the AkhandaKarni Party, saying it would contest upcoming elections.

KarniSena leaders said the movement seeks equality, impartiality and protection of students' rights in higher education.

Shri Khatu Shyam Katha Begins

Udaipur: A five-day ShriKhatuShyam Katha organized by Krishna SevaSansthan began with devotion and spiritual fervor at ShriRajrajeshwarMahadev Temple in Tekri on Sunday.

The event commenced with a grand KalashYatra, in which women devotees carried sacred kalashs while singing bhajans and dancing to chants of Shyam Baba. The procession passed through TekriChauraha, Santosh Nagar and Gayariyawas before returning to the temple.

The katha is being narrated by PujyaSantShiromaniShri Krishna Sanjay JiMaharaj, Peethadhish of Mohan GokuldhamPeeth, Haridwar. After ceremonial worship of the VyasPeeth, he began the discourse based on the SkandaPurana, describing the sacrifice, valor, compassion and spiritual significance of ShriKhatuShyamJi.

Bhajans and Vedic rituals created a deeply devotional atmosphere. The katha will continue daily from Aug. 10 to Aug. 13, 3:30 p.m. to 7 p.m.