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Temple Economy Enters Academic Spotlight With Dimpy Suhalka's Research

UDAIPUR: Temples in India have traditionally been viewed as centres of faith, devotion and spirituality. But a new doctoral study from Mohanlal Sukhadia University seeks to examine another dimension of these institutions—their role in driving economic activity, generating livelihoods and shaping regional economies.

Dimpy Suhalka has been awarded a Ph.D. for her research titled "Economies of Temple: A Study of Selected Indian Temples of Mewar and Malwa Region." She completed the research under the guidance of Prof. (Dr.) Anil Kothari of the Faculty of Management Studies.

The research examines the economic ecosystem surrounding some of the region's most prominent temples, including Shrinathji Temple, Sanwaliya Seth Ji Temple, Shri Mahakaleshwar Jyotirlinga Temple in Ujjain and Shri Omkareshwar Jyotirlinga Temple.

The study also looks at the wider economic significance of pilgrimage centres such as Shri Eklingji, Maa Tripura Sundari Temple in Banswara, and Shri Pavapuri Jain Tirth and Jeev Maitri Dham in Sirohi.

Rather than looking at temples only as places of worship, the research explores their wider economic footprint—from pilgrimage-related tourism and hospitality to transportation, local markets, retail, food services, handicrafts and employment. Pilgrimage centres often create a chain of economic activity extending far beyond the temple premises, connecting priests, traders, transport operators, hotels, restaurants, artisans, guides and thousands of local service providers.

The research argues that the economic influence of major temples can extend from the local and regional level to the state and national economy. It also places India's centuries-old temple tradition within the broader framework of livelihoods, trade, commerce and community development.

The achievement is being described by those associated with the study as a significant contribution to academic discussion on the economic dimensions of India's temple ecosystem. The claim that it is the world's first Ph.D. specifically on the economy of temples, however, should be understood as a claim associated with the achievement rather than an independently verified global academic record.

Expressing gratitude, Suhalka said she considered herself fortunate to have received the opportunity to undertake research on the temples of the Divine. She credited Mahadev, her parents, guru, family members and well-wishers for her achievement.

The study opens an important academic conversation: India's temples may be places of faith, but the communities and economic ecosystems that grow around them reveal another powerful story—one of livelihoods, enterprise, tourism and regional development.

Different Circumstances, Common Aspirations: Youth Can Build a Sustainable Future

UDAIPUR: The Department of Environmental Sciences at Mohanlal Sukhadia University and ShantipeethSansthan jointly organized an inspiring programme on International Youth Day on the theme "Different Circumstances, Common Aspirations."

The programme was chaired by Vice-Chancellor Prof. Kailash Daga, while Faculty of Arts Dean Prof. Neeraj Sharma and ShantipeethSansthan founder Anant Ganesh Trivedi were key speakers.

Trivedi said that despite different circumstances, young people share common aspirations for a better future, dignified life and positive social change. He urged youth to channel their energy through discipline, sensitivity and creativity while drawing inspiration from Mewar's traditions.

Prof. Daga said youth are not only the future but also an important force for change today. He encouraged students to set clear goals and use their knowledge and skills for society and the nation.

A special feature was the Vice-Chancellor's direct interaction with students and research scholars, during which he discussed their aspirations, concerns and future plans.

Dr. Anuya Verma highlighted the importance of youth participation in environmental protection and sustainable development. Dr. Devendra Singh Rathore emphasized the role of youth in addressing climate change, biodiversity loss, water scarcity and conservation of natural resources.

The programme concluded with the National Anthem, reinforcing the message that collective youth action can create a safe, inclusive and sustainable future.

Maharana Mewar School Marks Independence Day

UDAIPUR: The 80th Independence Day was celebrated with patriotic fervour at Maharana Mewar Public School, Udaipur, at the historic Manak Chowk in the City Palace.

The celebrations began with the hoisting of the National Flag, followed by the National Anthem and an impressive parade by NCC, Scouts and Guides. Students presented a series of patriotic performances highlighting their love for the nation.

As part of the "Har Ghar Tiranga" campaign, students formed a human representation of the map of India, conveying a message of unity and national pride. A Tiranga Rally was also organised.

The celebrations concluded with the collective singing of "Vande Mataram," filling the historic venue with patriotic spirit and pride.

SPSU Marks 80th Independence Day With Patriotic Fervour

UDAIPUR: Sir Padampat Singhania University (SPSU), Udaipur, celebrated the 80th Independence Day with patriotic fervour and a renewed call for youth to contribute to nation-building.

The celebrations began with a Guard of Honour presented by NCC cadets to SPSU President Dr. Sanjay Sinha, FRSA, followed by the hoisting of the National Flag. Welcoming the gathering, Proctor Dr. Anandkumar Atalbihari Bhaskar highlighted the responsibilities of the younger generation in building a technologically advanced, innovative, sustainable, inclusive and self-reliant India.

Addressing students, Dr. Sinha reflected on India's journey since Independence, recalling challenges such as food scarcity and highlighting the role of agricultural innovation and the Green Revolution in achieving food security.

He urged students to contribute to the vision of Viksit Bharat through excellence, innovation, discipline, integrity and leadership. He stressed that young citizens must use their knowledge for the larger good of society and play an active role in protecting and strengthening the nation.

Patriotic and cultural performances by Himanshi Rathore, Chakra and Danisha added to the celebrations. Students, faculty and staff were also felicitated for their achievements and contributions.

The programme concluded with a "Har Ghar Tiranga" Rally led by NCC cadets, reinforcing messages of patriotism, unity and respect for the Tricolour.

The event was coordinated by Deputy Dean Student Welfare Lt. (Dr.) D.S. Chouhan and attended by the Pro Vice Chancellor, Registrar, Deans, faculty members, students and members of the SPSU fraternity.

MPUAT Celebrates Independence Day With Dignity

UDAIPUR: Maharana Pratap University of Agriculture and Technology (MPUAT) celebrated the 80th Independence Day with enthusiasm and patriotic fervour, with former Swami Keshwanand Rajasthan Agricultural University Vice-Chancellor Dr. B.R. Chhipa attending as chief guest.

University Registrar Ashok Kumar welcomed Vice-Chancellor Dr. Pratap Singh, who unfurled the National Flag at 9:15 a.m. after an impressive march-past by NCC cadets. The ceremony was followed by the patriotic song and National Anthem.

Addressing the gathering, Dr. Singh said the true meaning of freedom lies in "self-governance" and stressed that independence also brings responsibilities towards the nation. He highlighted the role of agriculture, education, research and technological innovation in India's development.

Dr. Singh said MPUAT has emerged as a leading agricultural university in Rajasthan and currently ranks first among the state's agricultural universities in NIRF rankings. He credited faculty, staff, officers and students for the achievement.

Highlighting the university's 2025-26 achievements, he said 281 students secured placements, two voluntary centres were approved, four patent designs were developed, straw-based batteries were produced, 59 Packages of Practices were recommended and the university's Scopus H-index reached 90.

The university also produced 35,669 quintals of seeds, 2.50 lakh planting materials, 206 lakh spawn, 3.97 lakh fingerlings and other agricultural inputs.

A total of 46 individuals and teams were honoured for academic, research, administrative and agricultural achievements, including faculty members, employees, students, university teams and 16 progressive farmers.

Independence Day celebrations were also held across university colleges and directorates. Senior officials later planted saplings on campus, followed by sports competitions for students and employees.

Goenka Sangam 2026 to Reconnect Community With Roots

JAIPUR: The Goenka community will gather at its ancestral temple, Shree Beera Barjee Temple in Fatehpur Shekhawati, from September 7 to 11 for "Goenka Sangam 2026," a five-day annual gathering aimed at reconnecting younger generations of business families with their ancestral roots, traditions and cultural heritage.

Organised by the Shree Shakti Goenka Trust, Kolkata, the gathering is held annually on Bhadrapad Amavasya. Around 600 members of the Goenka community and their families from India and abroad are expected to participate. The event will include religious rituals, traditional Marwari cuisine and attire, yoga sessions, networking meetings, seminars and motivational workshops.Prominent business leaders expected to attend include Zee Group Chairman Subhash Chandra, Emami Group Co-Chairman R.S. Goenka, Tally Group Chairman Bharat Goenka, Pashupati Group Chairman Vishnu Goenka, Golden Goenka Group Chairman Girdhari Lal Goenka and GoldieeMasale Director Akash Goenka.On September 10, awards will be presented to outstanding members of the community for contributions in business, social service, art, science, sports, education, literature and healthcare. Chief Minister Bhajan Lal Sharma is scheduled to attend as chief guest, while Minister of State Jhabar Singh Kharra will preside over the ceremony.The awards were instituted by the Trust in 2019. Award entries are being invited through the Trust's official website, with winners to be selected by a three-member jury.Spiritual narrator Sadhvi Shraddha Gopal Saraswati Didi Ji will deliver religious discourses from September 6 to 8, with local residents invited to attend and receive prasadam.The organisers said the gathering seeks to preserve the community's heritage while creating stronger connections between younger generations and their ancestral homeland.

Geetanjali's Green Initiative: From a Seed to a Tree, a Tree to a Forest, and the Vision of an Amazon-Like Jungle — Launch of 'Beejotsav 2.0'

UDAIPUR: Geetanjali University, Udaipur, in collaboration with the Haveli Family, launched 'Beejotsav 2.0' on August 12 at Amritam Bagh Resort. The campaign aims to transform environmental conservation into a mass movement through seed balls and to inspire people to make as many areas green as possible.Assistant Conservator of Forests Tarun Meena graced the event as the chief guest. Dr. Sangeeta Gupta, Dean of Geetanjali Medical College and Hospital, was also present on the occasion.

The theme of the campaign is "One Tree, Many Lives." Under this initiative, a pledge was taken to green barren and desolate lands using seed balls prepared from the seeds of fruit-bearing and shade-giving trees, while also enhancing public awareness about environmental protection. The initiative seeks to promote the natural growth of plants through seed balls and plans to scale this endeavor widely.

As part of Beejotsav 2.0, an environmental awareness program was also organized on August 13 at the Rotary Club of Udaipur Pannadhay. Club members were educated on the importance of seed balls, tree plantation, and environmental conservation. Participants pledged to actively engage in environmental protection and contribute to building a greener environment.Distinguished guests and environmental enthusiasts attended the event, including Pradhyumn Singh Rathore, Bhanu Pratap Singh, Rajesh Kumar Mali, Jayraj Singh, Ayush Lodha, and Sanjay Nagda from the Haveli Family, alongside Rotary Club of Udaipur Pannadhay members Arun Bagadiya (District Governor 2026–27), Nirmal Singhvi (Past District Governor), and Deepak Sukhadia (District Governor Elect).

Organizers shared that Beejotsav 2.0 will be expanded on a large scale in partnership with schools, colleges, and various social organizations to raise awareness among a broader audience for environmental conservation and a sustainable future.

Speaking on the occasion, Kalpesh Chand Rajbar, Head of Marketing at Geetanjali Hospital, appealed:"I urge everyone to unite for this vital initiative and contribute to greening our surroundings. A single seed ball can grow into a tree, and thousands of such seed balls together can transform a barren landscape into a lush forest. Let us take a small step today to build a green and healthy future for generations to come."

Paras Health Udaipur Performs Complex Jaw Reconstruction

UDAIPUR : Paras Health Udaipur has successfully performed a complex jaw reconstruction surgery on a patient who had previously undergone extensive oral cancer surgery. The procedure used a microvascular free fibula flap to rebuild the missing portion of the jaw and improve facial structure and oral function.

Senior plastic surgeon Dr. Sumit Singhal performed the reconstruction using bone, skin and blood vessels taken from the patient's own leg. The fibula bone was shaped to replace the missing jaw segment and secured with plates and screws.

A key challenge was restoring blood circulation to the transplanted tissue. Using a high-powered microscope and extremely fine sutures, the surgical team connected the flap's blood vessels to vessels in the neck, restoring blood supply to the reconstructed jaw.

The reconstruction also created a strong foundation for permanent dental rehabilitation. Following recovery, artificial teeth were placed, helping restore dental alignment and oral function.

Dr. Singhal said reconstructive surgery after oral cancer aims not only to restore physical structures but also essential functions and patient confidence, particularly the ability to eat, speak and socialise.

Paras Health Udaipur Facility Director Anubhav Sukhwani said such complex procedures require specialised expertise, advanced infrastructure and coordinated multidisciplinary care. The hospital aims to provide advanced reconstructive treatment closer to home for patients from Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and surrounding regions.

GMCH Performs First EUS-Guided Varix Treatment

UDAIPUR: Geetanjali Medical College & Hospital has successfully performed Udaipur's first EUS-guided coil and glue therapy for treating life-threatening gastric varices, marking an advancement in specialised gastrointestinal care in the city.The procedure was performed by gastroenterologist Dr. Kartikeya Mathur on a middle-aged woman diagnosed with Extrahepatic Portal Vein Obstruction (EHPVO) and large gastric varices. EHPVO can increase pressure in the portal circulation, causing enlarged veins in the stomach and oesophagus that may rupture and result in severe bleeding.

Using Endoscopic Ultrasound guidance, doctors precisely identified the abnormal veins and assessed blood flow before placing specially designed coils followed by medical glue. The combined technique blocks the abnormal vessels while allowing targeted treatment.

Dr. Mathur said the coil helps retain the glue at the treatment site, potentially reducing the amount of glue required and improving procedural precision while lowering the risk of glue embolisation and procedure-related bleeding.

He noted that portal hypertension can occur without liver cirrhosis, including in conditions such as EHPVO. Complications may include vomiting blood and black, tarry stools.While BRTO remains an established treatment option, it may not be suitable for every patient. In selected cases, EUS-guided coil and glue therapy can offer a minimally invasive alternative.The successful procedure provides patients with complex gastric varices in Udaipur access to advanced gastrointestinal treatment closer to home.

Delhi Powerlifter Shivankar Singh Qualifies For Bhutan

NEW DELHI: Delhi-based powerlifter Shivankar Singh has secured selection for the International Bodybuilding and Powerlifting Championship scheduled in Bhutan on August 15, 2026, under the World Power Sports Federation.

The selection trials were held in Gurugram, Haryana, where athletes competed across disciplines including powerlifting, bench press, squat and deadlift. Competing in the Sub-Junior category, Shivankar delivered an impressive performance to win the gold medal and earn his place at the international championship.

The World Power Sports Federation aims to identify and encourage talented athletes from across India and prepare them for international competitions.

Following his achievement, Shivankar's family and relatives congratulated him and expressed confidence that he would continue his hard work and perform strongly at the international level. They also accorded him a warm welcome and wished him success in his sporting career.

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