

HRH NEWS

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Gajner Palace, Gajner, Bikaner



Events of the month



Extracts from Shriji's diary



Official engagements of
Princess Padmaja Kumari Mewar of Udaipur





Shriji Arvind Singh Mewar of Udaipur, photographed by Vikrant Kumar for Vanity Fair On Time

Extracts from Shriji's diary

Mr. Nick Foulkes, Editor of *Vanity Fair On Time* from the UK talks to...

In an interview with *Vanity Fair On Time* Shriji Arvind Singh Mewar of Udaipur told "We measure time in terms of family generations not in terms of seconds, minutes, hours or years" explains the 76th Maharana Shriji Arvind Singh Mewar of Udaipur. "This is a critical factor when you are carrying out heritage work because it never finishes: you are not working for today, or tomorrow, but for the next 25 generations."

Born on December 13, 1944, three years before India's independence, the Maharana has a unique perspective on time. After 1947, his grandfather and father continued their duties and obligations as custodians of Mewar, as in an earlier time bound tradition, but in 1971 the constitution was amended and the Maharajas and Rajas suddenly became ordinary citizens, stripped of their earlier privileges. However, Shriji's rich family history is ever-present in the Maharana's day to day life, insuring the preservation of the culture of his land and restoring his ancestral palaces into commercially viable luxury hotels under the HRH brand: Historic Resort Hotels. Interestingly, Shriji continues to find himself drawn to the past. "I am very fond of my cultural and material heritage: old cars, horse carriages, and watches. My Grandfather was very fond of pocket watches and I have inherited a big collection." Among them is a particularly cherished time piece, which the Maharana holds in this photograph, inscribed "Hamilton Calcutta, Swiss Made", and that he wears attached to a chain with a medallion sporting a picture of

his Grandfather. The rayon du solein work, so characteristic of fine Swiss watchmaking, takes on an additional significance for its owner: "it looks like the rays of the sun; as a worshipper of the sun I find that inspiring."

A Photographic Exhibition at Bagore-ki-Haveli

A photographic exhibition 'Champaner - A Medieval Capital' by Mr. Varun Maira was inaugurated by His Excellency Shri S K Singh, Governor of Rajasthan on the 7th October, 2007 at Bagore-ki-Haveli, Udaipur. Mr. Maira is an IAS Officer from Gujarat and amateur photographer. He provides a glimpse of Islamic, Hindu and Gujarati culture in his photography. His Book, 'Champaner' was also released on this occasion as he presented a copy to Shriji Arvind Singh Mewar of Udaipur who attended the event accompanied by Maharaj Kumar Lakshyaraj Singh Mewar of Udaipur.

Mercedes Benz - The India Trail Car Rally

Daimler Chrysler India Pvt. Ltd. Co-ordinated a 'Mercedes Benz - The India Trail Car Rally' which started from Pune on the 27th September 2007. The rally comprised of seven Mercedes covering a distance of approximately forty thousand kilometres stopping over in Panaji, Belgaum, Bangalore, Chennai, Hyderabad and Mumbai before reaching Udaipur on the 7th October. Here the rally was officially flagged off by Shriji Arvind Singh Mewar of Udaipur from the Shikarabadi Hotel, Udaipur. Maharaj Kumar Lakshyaraj Singh Mewar of Udaipur was also present at the Flag-off. Managing Director Mr. Wilfred Alber updated the audience on the proficiency of the company's new range of cars available in India.



Shriji Arvind Singh Mewar of Udaipur waiting to Flag off the Mercedes-Benz-The Indian Trail Car Rally

HelpAge India holds seminar at the Durbar Hall, Fateh Prakash Palace

Shriji Arvind Singh Mewar inaugurated a function at The Durbar Hall, Fateh Prakash Palace organised to discuss the needs of the elderly. The research, 'As Friendly Cities - Advantages and Barriers in Udaipur' was carried out by HelpAge India supported by the World Health Organisation. The function was presided over by The Collector of the District, Udaipur, Mr. Shikhar Agrawal.



Shriji Arvind Singh Mewar of Udaipur inaugurating the launch of the research, 'As Friendly Cities - Advantages and Barriers in Udaipur'

Mr. Mathew Chariyan, Chief Executive, HelpAge India told the audience that in a census taken recently covering 33 cities in 22 countries, Udaipur, particularly in the old part of the town, where families remain closely knit, is considered an age friendly city. Shriji stressed the importance of these programmes to highlight care for the elderly.

Cocktails hosted for members of IDFC at Shambhu Niwas

Shriji Arvind Singh Mewar of Udaipur hosted a cocktail party followed by dinner for Board members of the Infrastructure Development Finance Company Limited at Shambhu Niwas Palace, Udaipur on October 14, 2007. Delegates applauded the initiatives taken by Shriji to preserve his heritage in tune with the demands of the modern world.



Shriji Arvind Singh Mewar of Udaipur (second from the right) with the members of IDFC

Around the world in a solar taxi

Mr. Louis Palmer, Tour Director of The Solar Taxi - Around the world sponsored by Q-Cells visited Udaipur during his Around the World Tour in a Solar Taxi. Q-Cells started as a small firm six years ago manufacturing Photovoltaic panels. Due to the dynamic commitment of its team the company has now become an international player working on alternative sources of natural energy.

A renowned Swiss adventurer Mr. Palmer left Lucerne on the 3rd July embarking on a journey of 50,000 kilometres that will take him around the world in 15 months. He plans to cross 50 countries and 5 continents. Solar Taxi Around the World is powered by Q cells.

Mr. Palmer met Shriji Arvind Singh Mewar of Udaipur at Shambhu Niwas Palace during his visit to Udaipur on the 28th October 2007 when they discussed their mutual interest and commitment towards the preservation of the environment and heritage. Mr. Palmer applauded the success of the Maharana of Mewar Charitable Foundation's initiative to develop solar rickshaws and promoting solar power as an alternative source of energy. The Mewar Solar Cell organized 3 international rallies in 2003, 2004 and 2005 to demonstrate the viability of the Solar Rickshaw.



From Left: Mr. Louis Palmer and Shriji Arvind Singh Mewar of Udaipur