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Noida: Rakhi designs take flight of fancy, from fan to flag

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NOIDA: Ahead of Raksha Bandhan, the markets in Noida have brightened up with different types and colours of rakhi. Some of the creative rakhis this year include one with a fan, given the extended heat wave and humid conditions. The rakhi operates as a fan once taken off from the hand and has gained popularity with the kids. Others include rakhis made from discarded buttons from a garment factory in Noida, tiranga Rakhi in keeping with Independence Day and rakhis made from recycled plastic and flowers.

Indrajeet Chauhan, a rakhi seller at the Brahmaputra Market, said, "I have been selling rakhi for the last 17 years. The fan rakhi is a new concept, which I bought from Delhi traders. I purchased it for Rs 70, and are selling it at Rs 100. Apart from the fan rakhi, I also have puppet rakhi. Kids are loving these rakhis. I have sold around 100 fan rakhi already".

Avacayam, an NGO in Noida has also come up with some innovative rakhi designs. They have made rakhis from waste paper, plastic rings of the bottle cap, wool and silk threads discarded from a garment factory.

Dr Madhumita Puri, a member of Avacayam NGO, said, "Every year we try to make some creative and innovative rakhis. We are experimenting with other materials like waste paper. Similarly, we made rakhis with discarded plastics, and waste papers while giving them cute cartoon shapes. By training people with disabilities, we have been able to create beautiful products for all ages. This year the sale of rakhis touched a record high of 3,250 rakhis".

On the other hand, to give rakhis a patriotic feel, various women from the Centre for Social Change have given a touch of the national flag in the rakhi. Dr Bani Bora, Founder Centre for Social Change, said, "We have included our national flag colour to our Rakhis. Also, we will be making rakhis out of fresh flowers on the festival day. Though we have not got any demands for our rakhis till now."