



City First

JAIPUR, WEDNESDAY | AUGUST 20, 2025

TRADITION INSPIRES MODERNITY!

Rajasthan Forum, in collaboration with ITC Rajputana, presented its Desert Soul Series, featuring a dialogue between renowned artist Dr Nathu Lal Verma and eminent academician Dr Vidhya Sagar Upadhyay. P12



SANTOSH SHARMA & SUNIL SHARMA

Dr Jagdeesh Chandra alongside Nikhil Anand, Urvashi Rautela and Rhea Singha (Miss Universe India 2024) felicitate the Miss Universe India 2025 winners. Seen here with (L-R) Sarangthem Nirupama (4th Runner-up), Mehak Dhingra (2nd Runner-up), Manika Vishwakarma (Winner), Tanya Sharma (1st Runner-up) and Amishi Kaushik (3rd Runner-up)

Jaipur Sparkles as Rajasthan's Manika Vishwakarma Crowned Miss Universe India 2025 in a Night of Fashion and Empowerment

Tears of Joy, Dreams of Glory

The Miss Universe India 2025 Grand Finale was held on Monday at Zee Studios, Jaipur, where **Manika Vishwakarma** from Sri Ganganagar, Rajasthan, was crowned the winner, with Tanya Sharma, Mehak Dhingra, Amishi Kaushik & Sarangthem Nirupama emerging as runners-up in a dazzling celebration of beauty and talent. City First brings to you some glimpses!

Jaipur witnessed a historic evening of fashion, talent and empowerment as the much-awaited Miss Universe India 2025 Grand Finale unfolded on Monday night at Zee Studios, Jaipur. Presented by the Glamanand Group, with Bharat24: Vision of New India and First India as proud media partners, the event brought together 48 dazzling finalists from across the nation. The evening culminated in the crowning of Manika Vishwakarma as Miss Universe India 2025, while Tanya Sharma was declared 1st Runner-up, Mehak Dhingra as 2nd Runner-up, Amishi Kaushik as 3rd Runner-up and Sarangthem Nirupama as 4th Runner-up, in an emotionally charged moment.

Dr Jagdeesh Chandra, newly appointed CEO of Miss Universe India Fashion, graced the evening as the Chief Guest, making it more memorable. Welcoming guests to Pinkcity, including Urvashi Rautela, Nikhil Anand, Chairman of Glamanand Group and National Director of Miss Universe India, Dr Sandeep Bakshi – Chancellor, JNU, sponsors and



Mitali Dusad
mitalidusad@firstindia.co.in

dignitaries, Dr Chandra shared, "It is a proud moment for Rajasthan, and especially Jaipur, to host such a magnificent

has redefined the standards of pageantry. This crown is not merely a symbol of beauty, but a cause, a pride and a global platform of limitless possibilities. Each finalist here is a changemaker, embodying national integration and women empowerment. With over 300 million views, this is testimony to India's growing influence. I propose that the government should extend structured support, even creating a Ministry of Fashion alongside Art and Culture, to nurture such platforms. Miss Universe India reflects empowerment, resilience and the dreams of India's youth, and I am honoured to witness this milestone edition in Jaipur."

The show opened with a breathtaking dance sequence that set the tone for the night of glamour. Hosts Asmita Chakraborty and Chayanika Debnath steered the event with elegance, leading into the introduction round, where all 48 contestants charmed the audience.

I am deeply grateful to Glamanand, Bharat24, First India, my mentors, and supporters. Winning Miss Universe India 2025 is a dream come true, and I dedicate this crown to everyone who believed in me.

Manika Vishwakarma from Rajasthan, Winner, Miss Universe India 2025

event. My visionary friend Nikhil Anand, the youngest pageant director in the country,

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Top to Bottom: Manika Vishwakarma (Miss Universe India 2025), Sarangthem Nirupama (4th Runner-up), Amishi Kaushik (3rd Runner-up), Tanya Sharma (1st Runner-up) & Mehak Dhingra (2nd Runner-up)





With grace and charm, Urvashi Rautela added sparkle & elegance to the evening



Dr Jagdeesh Chandra & Urvashi Rautela with (L-R) Akanksha Bhalha, Nikhil Anand & Nishant Anand



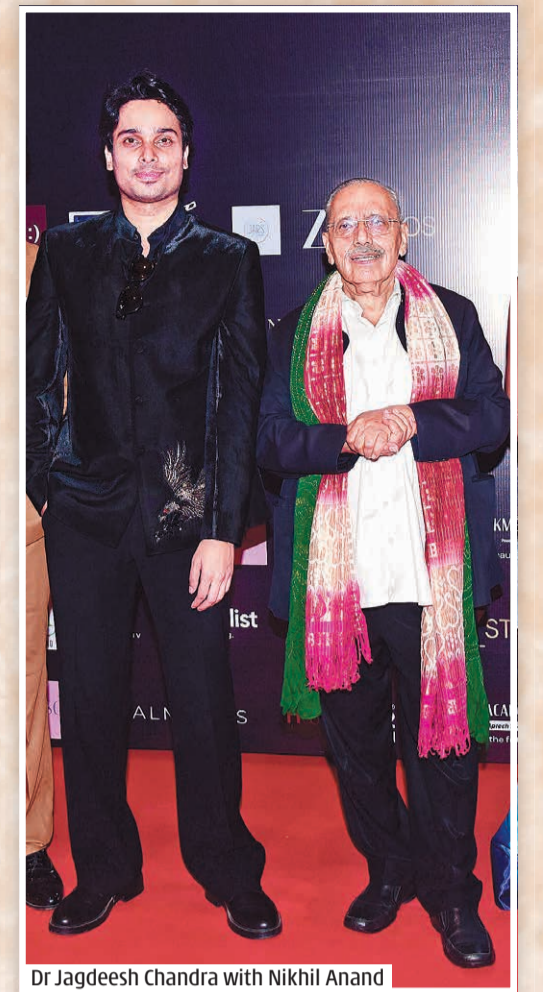
Dr Jagdeesh Chandra, on behalf of First India, presents Media Choice Awards of ₹1 lakh each to Rizul Singh, Asmita Chowdhury, and Saanvi Sharma; Rizul and Saanvi to walk the prestigious London Fashion Week this year. Seen in frame: Saanvi Sharma and Rizul Singh



Asmita Chowdhury



Dr Jagdeesh Chandra with (L-R) Anshika Choudhary, Akanksha Bhalha, Kirti Rathore, Shivangi Singh Rao, Kavita Chauhan & Mitali Dusad



Dr Jagdeesh Chandra with Nikhil Anand



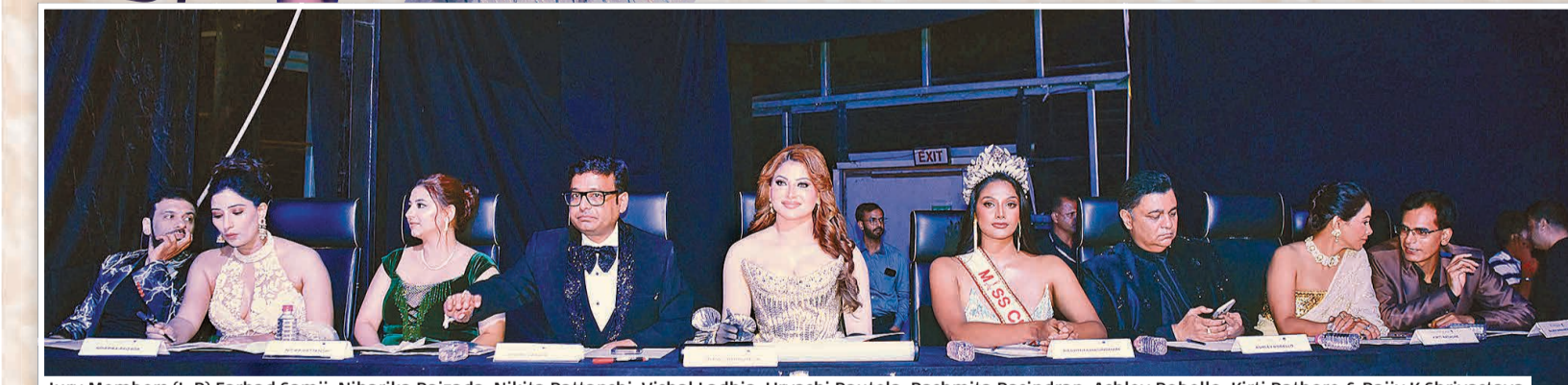
Vaamshi Uday Ojasvi Sharma



Urvashi Rautela joins Rhea Singha in celebrating Manika Vishwakarma's victory as Miss Universe India 2025 at the grand finale in Jaipur



Beautiful Hosts of the evening: Asmita Chakraborty and Chayanika Deb Nath



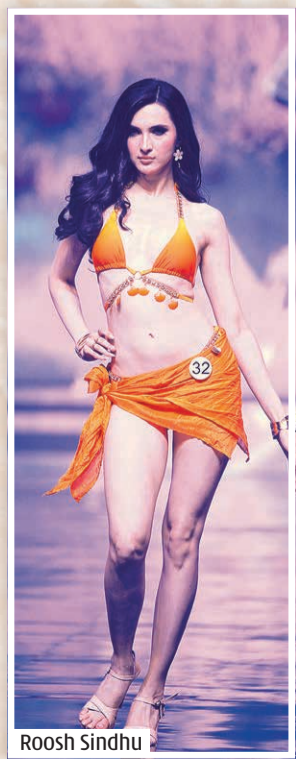
Jury Members (L-R) Farhad Samji, Niharika Raizada, Nikita Rattanshi, Vishal Ladhia, Urvashi Rautela, Rashmita Rasindran, Ashley Robello, Kirti Rathore & Rajiv K Shrivastava



Qazi Touqeer in a still from his performance



Somya Gupta



Roosh Sindhu



Aanchal Bohra



Jaan Kumar Sanu enthralled the audience with his melodious voice

Where Dreams Meet Destiny...

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From there, the tension rose as the Top 20 finalists were announced and subtle winners were honoured, reflecting the multifaceted talents of the participants.

The energy soared during the swimsuit round, accompanied by live performances, followed by the announcement of the Top 11 contestants. The evening gown round, with exquisite designs by Nhamot, was a highlight of the evening, showcasing grace and poise. The Q&A round tested the top 6 finalists on intellect and eloquence, lead-

ing to the decisive crowning moment, with soulful renditions by Kashmiri singer Qazi Touqeer and a captivating performance by Jaan Kumar Sanu, keeping the audience spellbound. The jury panel added immense prestige to the event, comprising Niharika Raizada, Farhad Samji, Vishal Ladhia, Urvashi Rautela, Ashley Robello, Rajiv K. Shrivastava, Kirti Rathore, and Nikhil Anand. The crowning moments were deeply emotional as reigning queens Rhea Singha (Miss Universe India 2024), Ruopfuzhano Whiso, Sushmita Roy and

Pranjal Priya gracefully passed on their titles, symbolizing legacy and continuity.

The winners were fully crowned in an atmosphere filled with pride and celebration, as Bharat24: Vision of New India announced a winning cash prize of ₹5 lakh for the titleholder and ₹1 lakh each for the runners-up. Adding further sparkle to the evening, First India conferred its prestigious Media Choice Awards of ₹1 lakh each to Rizul Singh, Asmita Chowdhury and Saanvi Sharma—while Rizul and Saanvi also earned the remarkable opportunity to walk at the London Fashion Week this

year.

In another highlight, State Directors of the top 11 participants were felicitated, with the Best State Director award presented to Karnataka's Nandini Nagaraj by Nishant Anand, Director of Glamanand Group. The grand finale sparkled with the presence of eminent guests, including Meera Rautela (mother of Urvashi Rautela), actress and supermodel Akanksha Bhalha (Lifetime Achievement in Fashion Awardee), Keylyn Trajano (Universal Woman Arabia 2025), Elite Miss Rajasthan models Alfirudh Khan & Mitali Kumawat, Miss Rajasthan su-

permodel & Lifetime Achievement Awardee Aanchal Bohra along with her mother Sharmila, and Miss & Mrs India Glam models Somya Gupta (Lifetime Achievement in Fashion Awardee) & Ronak Kanodia, among other prominent personalities. Anshika Choudhary, event coordinator was also present. As the night drew to a close, Jaipur stood proud, having crowned its new Universe Queen in a celebration that blended glamour, ambition and empowerment, leaving an indelible mark on the history of Indian pageantry.



Rhea Singha, Miss Universe India 2024 addressing the audience

L-R: Ruopfuzhano Whiso (Miss Universe India 2024- 4th RU), Sushmita Roy (Miss Universe India 2024- 3rd RU) & Pranjal Priya (Miss Universe India 2024- 1st RU)



Dr Jagdeesh Chandra with Meera Rautela



(L-R) Akanksha Bhalha, Alfirudh Khan & Mitali Kumawat



Nishant Anand felicitate Nandini Nagaraj as Best State Director (Karnataka)



Clockwise: Riddhi Kumar, Wachi Pareek & Keylyn Trajano



A still from the swimsuit round



Nikhil Anand and Urvashi Rautela with (L-R) Roosh Sindhu, Sarangthem Nirupama, Mehak Dhingra, Manika Vishwakarma, Rhea Singha, Tanya Sharma & Amishi Kaushik



(L-R) Riddhi Kumar, Riya Tirkey, Rizul Singh & Roosh Sindhu during the introduction round



Top 6 finalists (L-R) Sarangthem Nirupama, Tanya Sharma, Mehak Dhingra, Roosh Sindhu, Amishi Kaushik & Manika Vishwakarma



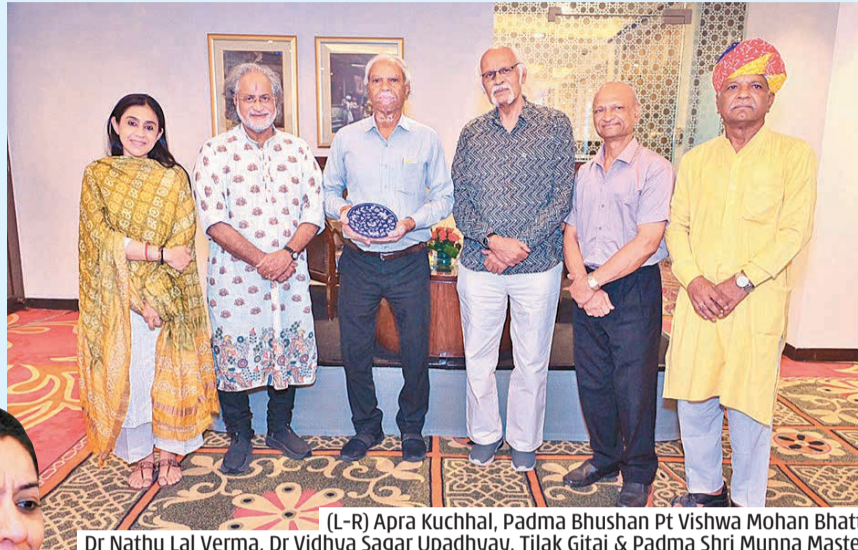
Finalists during the opening dance sequence

ART BEYOND BOUNDARIES

The Desert Soul Series unveiled an artistic confluence where tradition met modernity, showcasing miniature art, creative dialogues and a celebration of heritage through colours, philosophy and cultural narratives.



Dr Nathu Lal Verma (L) & Vidhya Sagar Upadhyay (R) during the conversation



(L-R) Apra Kuchhal, Padma Bhushan Pt Vishwa Mohan Bhatt, Dr Nathu Lal Verma, Dr Vidhya Sagar Upadhyay, Tilak Gitai & Padma Shri Munna Master

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 cityfirst@firstindia.co.in

Rajasthan Forum, in collaboration with ITC Rajputana, hosted its signature Desert Soul Series, featuring a stimulating dialogue between renowned

miniature artist Dr Nathu Lal Verma and eminent painter-academician Dr Vidhya Sagar Upadhyay. The evening opened with an address by Apra Kuchhal, Honorary Secretary of Rajasthan Forum, and a welcome by Parul Kapoor from ITC Rajputana. The ses-



Parul Kapoor addressing the audience

sion drew art connoisseurs, cultural enthusiasts, and creative fraternity members. Dr Verma, trained under Padma Shri Kripal Singh Shekhawat, reflected on his journey, blending traditional miniature art with modern sensibilities, covering themes from Geet Govind and Ragamala to contem-

porary issues. Engaging in dialogue, Dr Upadhyay highlighted the cultural and philosophical depth of his work. The event concluded with a Q&A and a felicitation by Padma Bhushan Pt Vishwa Mohan Bhatt, Padma Shri Tilak Gitai, and Padma Shri Munna Master, honouring Dr Verma's artistic contributions.

MEET & GREET!



Dr Jagdeesh Chandra was greeted by Riya Morihar and Angel Kataria, students of the Department of Media Studies, JNU, during a courtesy visit at the former's residence on Tuesday. During the meeting, the students presented a book titled "Capturing 78 Years of Change, Culture and Communication", a compilation of 58 articles, and sought Dr Chandra's guidance for this publication. The interaction reflected the students' keen interest in research and media studies under the mentorship of eminent personalities.

JAMDADE HONOURED



At the Lokmat Global Economic Convention in London on Tuesday, Veerendra Jamdade, CEO of Vritti Solutions Limited, was honoured with the Maharashtra Ratna Award for his contributions to India's IT sector. The event focused on India's journey toward a \$5 trillion economy, global trade, technology, and green energy. Jamdade, joined by his wife Sangeeta Jamdade and daughter Vaishnavi Jamdade, has developed India's Passenger Audio Announcement System and advanced "Made in India" software, including Petrosoft, Aadhat, Simplify Practice, and Ekattm ERP, supporting the Digital India vision.

UNIVERSAL VICTORY

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Rajasthan's pride, Manika Vishwakarma, created history by earning the honour of representing India at Miss Universe 2025, the world's biggest beauty pageant, on Monday. To mark this remarkable achievement, a special media interaction was organised at The Palace Hotel by Park Jewels Hotels & Resorts on Tuesday. Media professionals attended the event, gaining exclusive coverage and personal interview opportunities with Manika.



MANIKA KHAN

Several prominent personalities from the media fraternity were present, making the evening both memorable and celebratory. The gathering applauded Manika's jour-

ney, hailing her as an inspiration for the youth. Carrying India's name with pride and grace, Manika's historic feat is set to make the nation shine on the global stage.

Divya Kanwaliya
 cityfirst@firstindia.co.in

Leheriya Fest Season 3 will be organised by Empress Club on 23rd August at Mahal Rajwada Resort, Vaishali Nagar, Jaipur, with First India Plus OTT as media partner. A press conference was held at Hotel Grand Safari on Tuesday. Poster was launched by Pawan Goyal, Khushboo Sharma, Neeta Agarwal, Shweta Mehta Modi, Vartika Jain and Bhim Singh Kasnia. Khushboo Sharma, president stated Leheriya is not

TRADITION ALIVE



MANIKA KHAN

just attire, but the soul of Rajasthan, symbolizing unity, culture, and timeless beauty.

Vartika Jain added, "First India is proud to support this fest as media partner, promoting Rajasthan's traditions and rituals among the masses." TV actress Lata Sabharwal will be chief guest. Over 800 women will participate.

FUTURE PATHWAYS



MUKESH KIRADOO

(L-R) Dr Ramesh Arora, Dr Lalit K Panwar and Dr Satish Batra

A career guidance conference titled "Main Kya Karu, Kaise Karu" was organised at Prakrit Bharti Chikitsalaya by Dr Lalit K Panwar, Retd. IAS, to provide youth a roadmap from school/college to workplace. He highlighted education, values, skills, employment and meaningful life as key aspects, stressing "Hunar hai to kadam hai." Dr Panwar advised students to base career on interests, aptitude, abilities and skills, suggesting psychometric and biometric tests to ensure. He pointed to new opportunities in drone technology, cloud computing and prompt engineering. Around 150 students attended. Dr Ramesh Kumar Arora and Dr Satish Batra were also present. **DIVYA KANWALIYA**

CONSERVATION DRIVE



Renewable Energy Day was celebrated at Subodh Girls College, on the birth anniversary of former PM Late Rajiv Gandhi on Tuesday. Around 50 students participated in poster-making and slogan competitions highlighting renewable energy. Dr Sunita Mahawar, an educationist from Rajasthan University, delivered the keynote, stressing the need for alternative energy sources and conservation. Principal Dr Swati Jain declared the winners, while convener Dr Rakesh Heerawat highlighted the college's state energy conservation award. Dr Ruchi, Dr Tara Chand & Shalini concluded with gratitude.

FASHIONED LEARNINGS



The JITO Jaipur Ladies Wing organised an enriching industrial visit to Pinjore India, a luxury lifestyle studio founded by Chirag Daga, at Adarsh Nagar. Over 70 participants explored premium home furnishings, block-printed apparel, and bridal couture, gaining insights into fabric identification, pricing, and textile evolution. The program was executed by Shruti Sethi, moderated by Megha Jain, and managed by Niharika Shrimal, under the leadership of Chairperson Meghna Jain and Chief Secretary Prerna Ranka. The interactive session ended with lively discussions and shopping.

MISS OCEAN WORLD 2025 FINALE WEEK BEGINS IN JAIPUR



Miss Ocean World contestants from Poland, Turkey, Zimbabwe, Bangladesh, Ecuador, Ethiopia, South Africa, and South Sudan came together for a graceful group capture

The final week of Miss Ocean World 2025 began with a grand Welcome and Sash Ceremony at Grassfield Valley, Jaipur. Event organisers Yogesh Mishra and Nimisha Mishra, Directors of Fusion Group, announced that the Finale will be held on August 24 at Grassfield Valley, Delhi Road. Participants from 20 countries, including the United Kingdom, Turkey, Japan, Ethiopia, South Sudan, Ghana, Czech Republic, Zimbabwe, Zambia, Albania,

Latvia, Poland, Afghanistan, India, Tajikistan, Bangladesh, Tanzania, and South Africa, are competing. Today will feature the Photogenic Round and Evening Gown Round, while the third day includes a Jaipur Heritage Tour. Miss Ocean World Director CP Rathore emphasised the event's cultural importance, while Grassfield Valley founders Sunil & Divyanshi Bansal announced Alisa Miskovska of Latvia will grace the Crown Ceremony.

LITTLE KANHAS & MOTHERS DAZZLE AT JAIPUR'S NATKHAT KANHA-2025



Pavika Chawla dressed as Kanha

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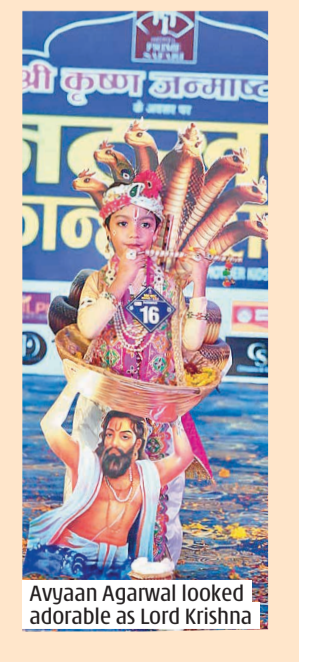
On Janmashtami, Jaipur celebrated 'Natkhath Kanha-2025', the city's largest Mother-Kid Ramp Walk Show, at Hotel Prime Safari. Over 100 children, accompanied by their mothers, showcased Radha-Krishna-themed performances, bringing the spirit of Vrindavan alive. Event conveners Pramod Goyal and Pawan Goyal highlighted the Vrindavan-themed décor, Raas Leela acts, and kids' troupe performances. Winners received cash prizes and bicycles, while all participants enjoyed gifts and instant photo shoots. The event was graced by JD Maheshwari, Shiv Singh Shekhawat, Pankaj Ojha, and Ashok Chhabra, with celebrity anchor Ankit Khandelwal and food stalls enhancing the festive celebrations.



Pawan Goyal, Raghav Goyal, Ashok Jain & Tarun Jain celebrated the moment with children



Inaisha Agarwal with her mother during the Natkhath Kanha ramp show



Avyaan Agarwal looked adorable as Lord Krishna