

First

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Dr Jagdeesh Chandra with Parul, Jyoti, Monica, Debasmrita, Yavi, Shirhsti, Akanksha, Ishmeet, Priyanshi, Yuvika, Divya, Bhavya and a furry companion at the Jaipur Dog Show 2026

500+ Canine Stars Take Over Jaipur's Dusshera at the Grand Jaipur Dog Show 2026

Pawfect Show

City First brings you vibrant glimpses from the 27th Jaipur Dog Show 2026, held on Sunday, at Dussehra Ground, Raja Park, Jaipur, where over 500 champion dogs, international judges and enthusiastic Jaipurites came together in a grand canine celebration!



Parul posed gracefully with her Golden Retriever



Jaipurites witnessed a heartwarming and high-energy spectacle as the 27th edition of the Jaipur Dog Show 2026 unfolded at Dussehra Ground, Raja Park, drawing massive crowds over the weekend. Organised by the Kennel Club of Rajasthan under the aegis of the Kennel Club of India (KCI), in association with Bharat24: Vision of New India as the official media partner, the two-ring championship show brought together more than 500 dogs from across the country. The prestigious event featured participation from states including Rajasthan, Delhi, Haryana, Punjab, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Assam and Karnataka, showcasing an extraordinary range of breeds such as Siberian Husky, Afghan Hound, French Bulldog, Alaskan Malamute, Shih Tzu, Samoyed and several other exotic and indigenous varieties. Dogs were judged



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on international parameters including movement, structure, height, temperament and overall breed standards.

Dr Jagdeesh Chandra graced the evening as the Chief Guest. Expressing his deep affection for animals, Dr Chandra said, "Dogs are not just pets; they are family. My love for fur babies and animals comes from the belief that compassion defines a society. Events like the Jaipur Dog Show celebrate not just championships, but empathy, care and coexistence." His presence added a warm, personal touch to the event, reflecting his long-standing commitment to animal welfare.

Judging duties were carried out by renowned international judges Tony Wu and Hsin-Hsiung Wu from Taiwan, who brought global expertise to the championship. Viren Sharma, Secretary, Kennel Club of Rajasthan, shared that the judges followed strin-



Viren Sharma with Esha Sharma and little Viha

gent international standards, making the competition both challenging and prestigious.

One of the most talked-about participants was Gabbar, the courageous dog who had once chased away

a panther to protect his home. Owned by Abhi Goswami, Gabbar became an instant crowd favourite, with visitors eager to hear his heroic story. Adding to the fun quotient, famous dog mimicry artist Deepak Tilli entertained audiences with spot-on canine sounds, while Jaipurites happily clicked photos with their favourite breeds. Despite the winter chill, coolers were arranged for cold-climate breeds accustomed to sub-zero temperatures.

Beyond glamour and competition, the show carried a strong message of compassion. An adoption camp saw over 90 indie puppies find loving homes, supported by DCC Animal Hospital, which offered free vaccinations and medicines. With its perfect blend of championship spirit, quirky moments and heartfelt stories, Jaipur Dog Show 2026 proved once again why it remains one of India's most loved canine celebrations.

**MUKESH KIRADOO
NAIM KHAN**



More in City
First tomorrow



Monika and her Tibetan Mastiff stole the spotlight

Young India *versus* Violence

National Youth Day: When India's Young Minds Rise Against Gender Based Violence and Inequality



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observed on January 12, National Youth Day commemorates the birth anniversary of Swami Vivekananda, whose timeless message continues to inspire generations of young Indians. As the country reflects on the power, promise and responsibility of its youth, City First turns the spotlight on a critical issue that demands urgent attention—gender-based violence—and the role young people must play in confronting it. Through the insights of a leading expert, the focus shifts from celebration alone to action, examining how youth engagement can challenge entrenched inequalities and help build a more just and safe society.

Nearly 65 per cent of India's population is under the age of 35. From innovation and entrepreneurship to sports, science and social service, young Indians are shaping a confident, self-reliant nation. Their energy fuels digital transformation, start-up culture and grassroots change across urban and rural landscapes. Yet, alongside these achievements, India faces deep-rooted social challenges that demand youth leadership — among them, the persistent and alarming prevalence of violence against women.

On National Youth Day, the focus turns not only to celebration, but

also to responsibility. How can India's youth influence real change beyond symbolic awareness?

Poonam Muttreja, Executive Director of the Population Foundation of India, believes young people must be seen as active partners in ending gender-based violence. "Gender-based violence is often seen as an abnormality, when it is actually embedded in society through social norms, unequal power relations, and a culture of silence that young people risk absorbing," she says. "Ideas around masculinity, femininity, consent and entitlement begin taking shape in adolescence and early adulthood. Engaging young people early helps prevent them from adopting these harmful notions."

According to her, youth are uniquely positioned to influence peers, families and communities. When youth question regressive norms, reject violence and control as markers of masculinity, and speak up for gender equality, they help achieve outcomes where laws alone fall short.

Swami Vivekananda had envisioned youth as torchbearers of both knowledge and compassion. Today, that vision translates into educating young minds about consent, respect and equality from an early age. Poonam emphasises that these conversations must begin well before adolescence.

It should evolve in an age-appropriate way throughout an individual's life. Schools have a major role, but they cannot be held responsible alone. Families, communities, pop culture and digital spaces also influence young minds deeply. Engaging at all these levels is essential while empowering young people to become proponents of change.



WHEN VIOLENCE IS NORMALISED: RAJASTHAN'S SILENT CRISIS

The urgency of this approach becomes clearer when regional realities are examined. In Rajasthan, for instance, NFHS-5 data show that around 26 per cent of women aged 18–49 have experienced physical or sexual violence from husbands or partners. Yet only about 13 per cent seek help. “This is likely

an underestimation, as GBV is highly underreported in patriarchal societies. Rajasthan is deeply patriarchal, where early marriage and restrictions on girls' mobility are common. Young men are raised with notions of honour and often associate masculinity with violence or control. Women are largely seen as mothers and wives, with curtailed freedoms, making them more vulnerable."

CHILD MARRIAGE AND YOUTH: RECLAIMING CHOICE, EDUCATION AND SAFETY

In such contexts, youth participation becomes even more critical. Child marriage, closely linked to gender-based violence, continues in several parts of India. Poonam believes young people are already challenging these practices.

Young women who continue their education influence families and

households. Young men have a role in supporting partners' education and opposing early marriage. By highlighting the benefits of delaying marriage, youth collectives and student organisations can help shift community attitudes.

WHEN VIOLENCE GOES DIGITAL

Another growing concern is digital harassment. Social media and online platforms, while empow-



Numbers That Alarm: Violence Against Women in an Evolving Digital Landscape

According to the UN Women 2025 report, Facts and Figures: Ending Violence against Women, nearly 263 million women globally have experienced sexual violence by a non-partner at least once in their lifetime. In India, the National Crime Records Bureau recorded 4,45,256 cases of crimes against women in 2022, marking an increase of over four per cent from the previous year. With no updated national data since then, assessing the current reality becomes difficult. Experts believe that expanding digital spaces and technological access have further complicated the landscape, giving rise to new forms of harassment and abuse.

“We must invest in gender-responsive

education, safe public and digital spaces, survivor-centred justice systems and community-based prevention. Gender-based violence must be recognised as a public health issue.

Poonam Muttreja, Executive Director of the Population Foundation of India



ering, have also become spaces of intimidation, stalking and abuse. Poonam feels that current systems are inadequate.

Many young people are unaware of their rights, unsure where to report abuse, or fear stigma and retaliation. Support systems are often inaccessible or intimidating, leading many, especially young women, to withdraw from online spaces, she explains. Digital violence must be treated with the same seriousness as offline violence.

She calls for stronger awareness, survivor-centred reporting mechanisms, responsive digital platforms and widespread digital literacy so that youth can navigate online spaces safely.

As India looks to harness its demographic dividend, the question remains: what kind of environment are young people growing up in?

"India's demographic dividend cannot be built on fear and insecurity," Poonam asserts. "We must invest in gender-responsive education, safe

public and digital spaces, survivor-centred justice systems and community-based prevention. Gender-based violence must be recognised as a public health issue.”

YOUTH: THE NEW CHANGEMAKERS

Most importantly, she believes youth must not be seen merely as beneficiaries of policy, but as partners in shaping solutions. "When young people grow up in environments that value dignity, equality and choice, they are better positioned to contribute productively to society," she concludes.

Swami Vivekananda once said, "Arise, awake and stop not till the goal is reached." On National Youth Day, that goal extends beyond personal success to building a society free from fear, discrimination and violence. It calls upon every young Indian to dream fearlessly, work honestly and serve selflessly — ensuring that India's future remains not only strong and prosperous, but also just and humane.



Mumal Chaudhary in a still from her performance during the talent round

Geetanjali Hospital, Jaipur, inaugurated its Adult Vaccination Centre, aimed at preventing infectious diseases, boosting immunity, and ensuring long-term health. The event was graced by Dr Jagdish Modi, President of the Rajasthan Medical Council, who emphasised the importance of adult vaccination in today's lifestyle and infection-prone environment. Dr Ashok Gupta welcomed attendees, while Anurag Jain highlighted the hospital's preventive healthcare initiatives. Dr Rahul Ahluwalia presented on respiratory infection prevention. The launch poster was unveiled, marking a step toward healthier adults and safer communities.

Kite Festival-2026, organised by the Shilpi Foundation at Jyoti Nagar, went beyond traditional celebrations to spread the message of world peace, harmony and social unity. Held for the past 11 years, the festival featured kites carrying social messages on the theme "World Peace." Nearly 1,000 women participated, highlighting women empowerment. Sunayna Badi, Deepa Dutta, Manju Agrawal, Payal Sharma and Shivani Singh were among the winners. Prominent attendees included Akhil Shukla, Jitendra Shirmali, Dr Rajeev Sharma, Vijay Garg, Sudhanshu Mathur and Sunita Agrawal. Over 50 former student leaders from Rajasthan University were also present.

The Sanatan Naad Trust organised a two-day Kathak dance workshop, which concluded on Sunday at Bhav Sur Taa's Om Auditorium. Renowned international Kathak guru Dr Jyoti Bharti Goswami conducted the workshop, imparting training in the technical aspects of Jaipur Gharana Kathak, including tatkaar, todes, chakkardar todes and tihai in Teentaal. She also discussed essential qualities of a good dancer and highlighted the relevance of learning classical Kathak in the modern era. Trust officials Dr Ankit Parik, Dr Taruna Jangid and Rajendra Sharma felicitated Dr Goswami and awarded certificates to participants.

with trophies, certificates and cash prizes. The event witnessed the presence of a large number of yoga instructors, parents and yoga enthusiasts. The Roshan Foundation reaffirmed its commitment to promoting public health awareness through similar yoga and wellness initiatives in the future.

