



# City First

JAIPUR, FRIDAY | JUNE 20, 2025



## GLOWS IN PRIDE COLOURS!

As part of Pride Month celebrations, a vibrant Pride Car Rally was organised under the 'Rainbow Riot Fest' on Thursday, promoting awareness, acceptance, and inclusivity for the LGBTQ+ community. P11



Stunning Wildcard Winners: (L-R) Manika Suthar, Wachi Pareek, Roosh Sindhu, Saanvi Sharma, Riddhi Kumar, Mehak Dhingra, Himanshi Singh, Akanksha Choudhary, Asmita Chowdhury, Lekana Hegde, Raksha Jaiswal, Ojasvi Sharma, Sanjana Sood, Shivin Ganesan, Varshini Murugan, Samiksha Singh, Saumya Verma and Divyanshi Sachi

**Glamanand Group Crowns Ravitanya Sharma and Sheena Parashar as Miss Universe Punjab and Rajasthan 2025 at Grand Finale in Delhi**

Miss Universe India 2025 state level pageants, presented by Bharat24 and First India Newspaper, were held on June 15 at Opulent Hotel by Ferns and Petals, New Delhi. City First brings exclusive glimpses of this glamorous event curated by Glamanand Group.

# STARS in Making



**Mitali Dusad**

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Punjab 2025, while Sheena Parashar claimed the title of Miss Universe Rajasthan 2025. The event was a true blend of glamour and purpose, curated under the visionary leadership of Nikhil Anand, Chairman and Founder of Glamanand Group and the National Director of Miss Universe India. The judging panel, comprising stalwarts from the fashion and lifestyle world, ensured that excellence was honoured in every round.

testants captivated the audience with their poise, personality and vision for change.

Alongside Ravitanya Sharma, Kriti Singhal was crowned First Runner-up and Muskan Bhai was named Second Runner-up in the Miss Universe Punjab finale. In the Rajasthan edition, Akanksha Choudhary and Navya Shekhawat secured the positions of First and Second Runner-up respectively.

The event reinforced Glamanand Group's commitment to providing a national platform for state-level talent and empowering young women to become global ambassadors of beauty, intellect and purpose.

The Opulent Hotel by Ferns and Petals, New Delhi, witnessed a dazzling celebration of beauty, intelligence and grace as the Glamanand Group hosted the grand finale of Miss Universe Punjab and Miss Universe Rajasthan 2025. The glittering evening brought together 40 contestants, 20 from each state, who showcased their charisma and confidence across multiple segments, vying for a prestigious gateway to the national stage of Miss Universe India.

Ravitanya Sharma emerged victorious as Miss Universe



(L-R) Roosh Sindhu, Aashka Singha & Pranjal Priya



(L-R) Manika Suthar, Sheena Parashar and Rhea Singha



Clockwise: Lucky Barrot, Ravitanya Sharma, Saachi Kudale, Bhavni Bhardwaj & Sheena Parashar



CM Bhajan Lal Sharma doing shramdaan during the inauguration of the "Vande Ganga Jal Sanrakshan-Jan Abhiyan"



CM Bhajan Lal Sharma, along with Cabinet Ministers Sanjay Sharma, Jogaram Patel and Balmukund Acharya, planted a sapling during the inauguration ceremony

**Reviving Rajasthan's Lifelines through Vande Ganga Jal Sanrakshan-Jan Abhiyan**

# VEIN OF THE Earth

Launched on June 5, coinciding with World Environment Day and Ganga Dussehra, the Vande Ganga Jal Sanrakshan-Jan Abhiyan continued till today, June 20, inspiring a state-wide movement for water conservation. As the campaign concludes, Rajasthan reflects on a remarkable journey of revival—restoring water bodies, rekindling traditional wisdom, and reaffirming its commitment to a sustainable future.



**Kunal Vashisht**  
Asst Public Relations Officer at DIPR

2019, as both initiatives are rooted in the belief that water security is essential for human development and ecological balance. Water, often invisible in its significance until it disappears, flows not just through our land but through our collective memory, our culture, and our survival. Rajasthan, with its harsh summers and historic water scarcity, has long struggled against the tide of depletion. Yet, it is also a land that understands the value of conservation; home to ancient barons (stepwells), johads (water harvesting structures), and a legacy of water wisdom.

ment, and sustainable growth. Over the past weeks, the campaign has not only mobilized citizens but has also etched a profound legacy in the state's fight for water conservation.

Under the visionary leadership of Chief Minister Bhajan Lal Sharma, this campaign has rekindled the spirit of collective responsibility and revitalized our most precious resource: water. His leadership reflects a rare blend of vision, cultural sensitivity, and administrative will. In a time where climate change and erratic rainfall pose severe threats, his proactive stance underlines a vital truth: water security is not a luxury; it is a responsibility. By tying the campaign to the revered Ganga, he invokes not just ecological urgency but spiritual duty an appeal that resonates deeply in the hearts of citizens. The very name of the campaign Vande Ganga Jalsanrakshan Jalabhiyan evokes a deep connection

to the sacred rivers of India, with the Ganga symbolizing purity, life, and continuity. It reminds us that water, the lifeblood of the earth, is not merely a resource; it is a link between our past, our present, and our future. Today, on the final day of the campaign, we reflect on the tremendous strides we have made in restoring the water bodies that sustain us. From the desilting of rivers, the cleaning of lakes and ponds, the campaign has successfully mobilized thousands of volunteers, students, local bodies, and panchayats.



A heartwarming moment as a little girl welcomed CM Bhajan Lal Sharma with a traditional tilak during the event. Also seen is Gulab Kothari



Gathering of people took part in the Vande Ganga Jal Sanrakshan-Jan Abhiyan

tion. Bhajan Lal Sharma's commitment to sustainable water management has earned him the admiration of many. His vision transcends immediate needs, looking toward long-term solutions that are deeply rooted in Rajasthan's unique environmental challenges. As we bid farewell to this phase of the campaign, let us carry forward the lessons it has imparted. Water is the lifeblood of our land the veins of the Earth, pumping life into every corner of our society, culture, and environment.

Rajasthan's story is being rewritten with water, with wisdom, and with unwavering commitment.

**ECHOES OF WATER WISDOM**

Vande Ganga Jalsanrakshan Jalabhiyan has given us the tools to not just conserve water but to embrace it as a sacred responsibility. It is a reminder that the health of a state is measured not just in GDP, but in groundwater levels, clean rivers, and the resilience of its ecosystems.

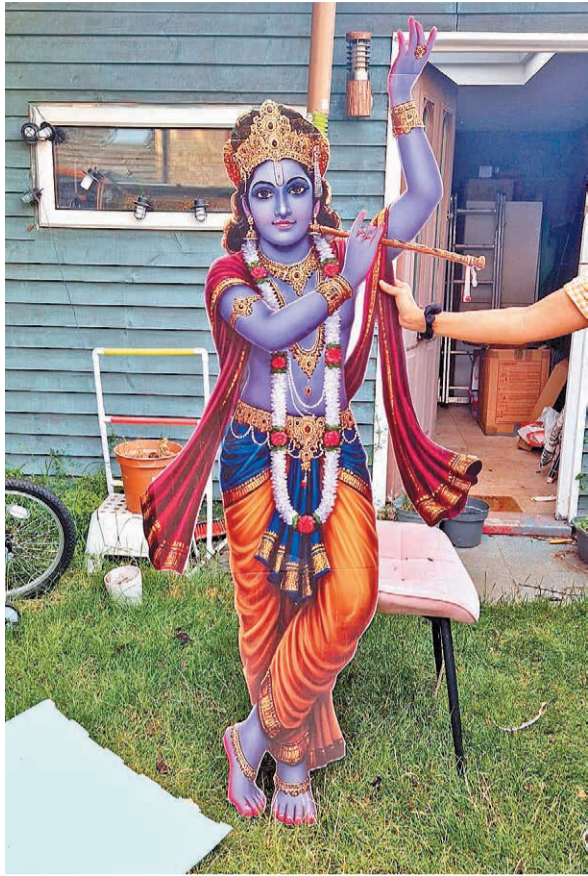


CM Bhajan Lal Sharma addressed the audience during the inauguration ceremony



CM Bhajan Lal Sharma received a heartfelt welcome from women in vibrant traditional attire

# RAJASTHANI TRADITIONS GO GLOBAL



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**T**he Rajasthan Association UK (RAUK) proudly announces the return of London Jeeman 2025, the UK's largest celebration of Rajasthani culture, to be held on June 22 at the Sattavis Pattidar Centre, Wembley. Now in its 9th edition, the event celebrates Rajasthan's rich traditions through vibrant folk music, dance, décor, traditional competitions, and an extravagant photo booth. A culinary feast featuring authentic Rajasthani delicacies like dal bati churma will treat attendees to a true taste of home. The major attraction this year is the Rajasthani-



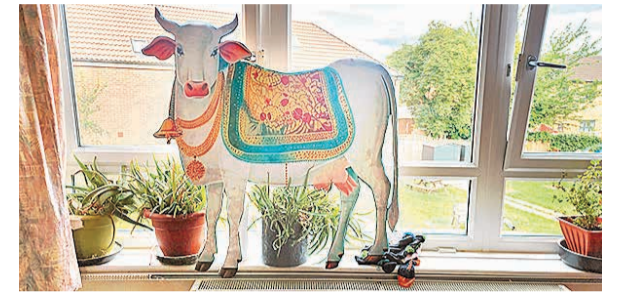
A lavishly designed photo booth reflected the essence of traditional heritage

themed fashion show 'Mhari Jodi - Mhari Shaan', where participants will walk the ramp with their partners, children, or friends, proudly showcasing their traditional attire. Honoured guests from India and the UK—including key figures from politics, social work, and

community leadership—will grace the occasion. With over 1,000 guests expected and supported by a dedicated team of 100+ volunteers, London



An eye-catching art décor showcased creativity and cultural elegance



Jeeman 2025 continues to be a vibrant platform for cultural pride, and celebration of Rajasthani heritage abroad.



## Pride on

(L-R) Gaurika, Rosie Baloria, Priya Sharma, Pooja Shekhawat, Mona Sharma, Flowria, Pooja Rathore & Noor Shekhawat

# WHEELS



**Divya Kanwaliya**

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support gender diversity. Starting from the Rajasthan International Center, Jhalana, the decorated cars followed a colourful route via Mahal Road to NRI Circle, Pratap Nagar, and returned to the RIC. Each vehicle was adorned in rainbow hues, celebrating love, visibility and pride on the streets of Pink City.

Chief Guest Dr Nakul Somani, a plastic and cosmetic surgeon, addressed the gathering, stating, "Being LGBTQ+ is not an illness. They are just as human as anyone else." He emphasized that acceptance and understanding are vital for a progressive society.

Mona Sharma, founder and director of Vasudha Jan Vikas Sansthan, proudly shared, "This is the first Pride Car Rally of its kind in India, and people from all walks of life are standing in solidarity." She further stated sexual identity should not lead to social dis-



Nandini, Priya, Gaurika, Dr Nakul Somani, Flowria, Noor, Ritika, Aditi & Shashank during the flag-off of the car rally, celebrating with vibrant rainbow colours

crimination, and anyone, even from our own families, can be gay, lesbian, or transgender.

Guest of Honour entrepreneur Aditi Sharma, NCC Officer Pooja Shekhawat, Rosie Borolia, India's first passport-holding transgender person, Nandini Singh, Ritika Singh, and other LGBTQ rights activists. Participants from across India gathered here. The message was clear



Noor displayed a slogan during the car rally

The celebration will continue with a talk show and music party over the weekend, aiming to further engage and unite society.

## Jaipur's Cake Maestro

**B**ringing pride to India, Jaipur-based cake designer Monika Shah was recently honoured with the prestigious Master Cake Artist Oscar at the Asia Cake Oscars 2025, held in Sri Lanka. Competing against top cake artists from across Asia, Shah stood out for her exceptional creativity, craftsmanship, and commitment to excellence. Founder of the luxury cake brand MONICAKE, established in 2020, she specializes in 100% eggless, handcrafted designer cakes made with premium ingredients. Known for her intricate techniques like rice paper art, fondant work, and palette knife designing, she also trains budding artists through her certified masterclasses. Monika's journey from homemaker to internationally recognized cake artist is a true testament to passion, precision, and purpose.



Monika Shah



## Innovate with SKIT



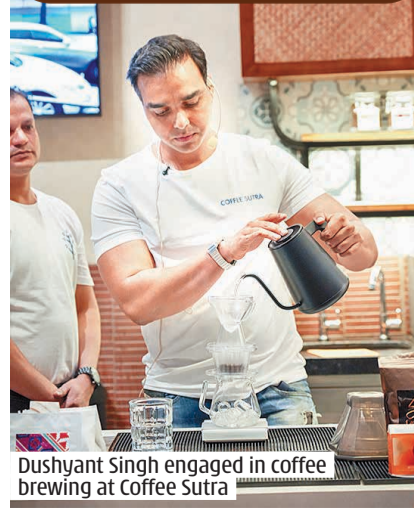
**S**wami Keshvanand Institute of Technology, Management & Gramothan (SKIT), Jaipur, has recently launched two specialized summer internship programs from June 19 to August 1, through its Department of Computer Science and Engineering. The IoT Center of Excellence Internship offers hands-on training guided by experts from Nagarro and IITs. Simultaneously, a Data Science internship covers Python, Pandas, NumPy, and Data Engineering basics. Head of Department Prof Mehul Mahrishi emphasized the program's role in bridging critical skill gaps. With expert coordination by Dr Yogendra Gupta, Dinesh Kumar and Vikram Khandelwal, the initiative strengthens SKIT's role in shaping Industry 4.0-ready engineers.

## CINEMATIC ART JOURNEY

Jaipur Centre for Art (JCA) is set to launch Artist's Cinema / Artists' Cinema, a six-week immersive film programme from June 20 to July 31 at the City Palace complex. Curated by Dr Shwetal Ashwin Patel, the event will feature over 150 bold and boundary-pushing films from India and across the globe. Alongside afternoon and evening screenings, highlights include the Bombay Talkies photo exhibition and The Modern Baithak installation. Supported by the Goethe-Institut, French Institut, PVR Inox, and others, the programme invites Jaipur to engage with cinema as art and community..



## Coffee Sutra Launches Third Café in Jaipur



Dushyant Singh engaged in coffee brewing at Coffee Sutra

## BREWED TO PERFECTION

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**C**offee Sutra, the acclaimed speciality coffee brand founded by culinary visionary Dushyant Singh, recently celebrated the grand opening of its third café in Malviya Nagar, Jaipur. Known for its commitment to quality, sustainability, and cultural storytelling, the new outlet offers a sensory

journey into global coffee craftsmanship. Guests can enjoy single-origin coffees like Colombian and Peru Geisha, roasted in-house, alongside all-day breakfast, continental fare, and artisan bakes.

The café features rare international brewing equipment including the Korean Gabi Drip Master, Cold Brew Drip Tower, and Paragon Nucleus—elevating the art of brewing. With elegant interiors inspired by

Jaipur's royal heritage, the café seats 85-90 guests and runs daily from 8 AM to 11 PM.

Singh shared, "With this outlet, we're deepening our vision to revolutionize India's coffee culture." Through Coffee Lab workshops and masterclasses, the space fosters learning and community. Coffee Sutra continues redefining café culture, blending global innovation with local charm.



**GLITTERING CELEBRATION HONOURS MISS UNIVERSE RAJASTHAN 2025**

# Sheena's Sparkling Win



Gaurav Gaur and Akanksha Bhalla congratulated Sheena Parashar on being crowned Miss Universe Rajasthan 2025



Sheena Parashar with (L-R) Payal Khandelwal, Bhavya Kumawat, Somya Anand, Gareema Singh, Roshni, Vanshika, Nisha Chouhan, Muskan Mishree, Kanika, Neha Meena, and Anushka Gupta



Sheena Parashar Miss Universe Rajasthan 2025

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**A** grand success party was held on Wednesday at Oslo Jaipur to honour Sheena Parashar, who was recently crowned Miss Universe Rajasthan 2025. The celebration began with a heart-warming video presentation capturing Sheena's inspiring journey, followed by a joyous cake-cutting ceremony that set the tone for an evening filled with admiration, cheers, and celebration.

Sheena's journey in pageantry began with Elite Miss Rajasthan, one of the state's

most prestigious grooming platforms. In 2022, during Season 9, she won hearts with her grace and determination, earning the Second Runner-up title.

In 2024, Sheena took India to the international stage by representing the country at Miss Elite World in Egypt, gaining invaluable global exposure. Her recent win at Miss Universe Rajasthan came after a highly competitive audition that saw participation from 53 contestants in Delhi.

Sheena will now represent Rajasthan at the Miss Universe India finale, marking a significant milestone in her rising career.

"Sheena has been one of the most hardworking and focused talents we've seen," said Gaurav Gaur, Founder & Director of Elite Miss Rajasthan. "Her commitment and consistency have brought her to where



Sheena Parashar, Nisha, Tanu Choudhary, Varunavi Singh, and Bhavya Kumawat were captured in a candid moment during the celebratory cake-cutting festivities

she is today, and we are extremely proud of her."

The event was attended by EMR Supermodels and notable guests including Nisha Chauhan, Tanu Choudhary, Varunavi Singh, Akanksha Bhalla, Muskan Mishree, Bhavya Kumawat, Neha Meena, Gareema Singh, Somya Anand, Payal

Khandelwal, Roshni, Vanshika, Kanika, Anushka Gupta, Santosh Sharma, Rakesh Rathi, Amit Chandak, Manoj Malani, and Raj Suroliya.

The evening was hosted by Gaurav Gaur and Ranveer Choudhary, marking yet another glorious chapter in Sheena's incredible journey.

**COURTESY MEETING!**



Pawan Arora, CEO and Managing Editor of First India News, met Rajasthan's Health Minister Gajendra Singh Khimsar at his Civil Lines residence on Wednesday. Pawan Arora extended his deepest condolences to the minister over the recent demise of his wife Late Preeti Kumari, who passed away suddenly on June 5. Health Minister Khimsar had returned to Jaipur late on June 17, nearly 12 days after the personal loss. **SANTOSH SHARMA**

**MEET & GREET!**

Dr Devendra Pathak, National Business Head of Bharat24, was greeted by JP Agarwal, Chairman of Geetanjali University, in Udaipur, Rajasthan, on Wednesday. During the meeting, Dr Pathak extended his congratulations to Agarwal for the world-class infrastructure developed at Geetanjali Hospital, Jaipur, commending the institution's commitment to excellence in healthcare and medical education.



**CORDIAL MEET!**

Renowned poet, lyricist and screenwriter Javed Akhtar was on a personal visit to the Pink City, where he spent a leisurely day soaking in its charm. During his visit on Wednesday, Akhtar met with Ajay Chopra and Swati Chopra, engaging in warm conversations that reflected his deep appreciation for Jaipur's rich cultural and literary heritage. His presence added a special touch to the city's vibrant artistic circles.



**YOGA & TREE PLANTATION**



Ahead of International Yoga Day on June 21, MLA Kalicharan Saraf participated in a group yoga session with Malviya Nagar Mandal workers at JDA Park near WTP on Wednesday. Program coordinator Juhi Kedia informed that yoga expert Rajendra Kumar conducted the session. MLA Saraf also planted trees along with officials and workers. Notable attendees included Suman Sharma, Om Prakash Swami, Harish Khadia, Mohit Mulchandani, DD Saini, Rajesh Sharma, Natwar Kumawat, and several other dignitaries and participants.

**DEVOTION IN BLOOM**

The vibrant Phoolbangala Utsav and Bhajan Sandhya took place on Tuesday, at Nahar ke Ganeshji Temple, Brahmmapuri. Pt Manav Sharma shared under Mahant Pt Jai Sharma's guidance, Lord Ganpati was adorned with Mogra, Juhi, Hazara, and more. Devotees viewed the floral tableau from 5 PM till late. Renowned singers and instrumentalists performed devotional music. Stage was managed by RD Agarwal and team. Summer camp achievers were also honoured by Ved Swadhyay Peeth.



MUKESH KIRADOO

**BUSINESS MINDS UNITE**

Corporate Connections (CC), a global business networking platform, will inaugurate its third Jaipur chapter, CC Jaipur-3, on June 20, 2025. The event will host members from Jaipur's existing chapters and CC leaders from across India. Led by Executive Directors Akshaya Goyal, Nitin Poddar, and Namit Soni, CC fosters strategic partnerships, leadership, and innovation. With members from diverse sectors like infrastructure, textiles, and healthcare, the launch marks a new milestone in collaborative business leadership for Jaipur.



## YOGA FOR HEALTH & PEACE

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**I**n a press conference held on Thursday, Vice Chancellor of the National Institute of Ayurveda (NIA), Prof Sanjeev Sharma, stated that yoga is not just a physical activity but a complete philosophy that promotes holistic health, mental peace, and spiritual upliftment. He announced Yoga Sangam 2025, a grand celebration jointly organised by the Ministry of AYUSH and NIA, to be held on June 21 at the historic Jantar Mantar, Jaipur, marking the 11th International Yoga Day. Prof Durgavati Devi, Head of the Yoga Department, emphasized that yoga instils discipline, balance, and introspection. The event will include participation from NIA students across India and 12 countries. Special observers from Sri Lanka, Brazil, and South Africa will attend under the "Yoga Bandhan" initiative.



(L-R) Dr Rakesh Nagar, Prof Sanjeev Sharma & Prof Durgavati Devi



Participants engaged in yoga sessions ahead of International Yoga Day

MUKESH KIRADOO

**ANIMATION WORKSHOP CONCLUDES**



A 15-day workshop on stop motion animation, organised by Rajasthan Lalit Kala Academy in collaboration with Attunes Creations, concluded on Tuesday at the academy premises. Secretary Dr Rajnish Harsh highlighted the participants' enthusiasm throughout. Trainers Abhilasha Bharti and Swapnil Tank guided students in animation and clay modelling, supported by associate animators Jahnvi Taneja and Aayushi Kasera. The theme "Art is Life" was portrayed through participants' animation clips. The workshop emphasized creativity, teamwork, and career opportunities in animation. Participants received certificates and appreciation for their efforts. **MUKESH KIRADOO**

**INNOVATIVE YOGA SESSION**

The JITO Jaipur Ladies Wing organised a refreshing and energizing yoga session titled "Yoga with Scarf", aimed at promoting holistic wellness through innovative scarf-assisted yoga techniques. The session was expertly conducted by renowned yoga expert Tina Kothari, who guided participants through mindful postures, breathing exercises, and unique stretches using scarves. A total of 25 participants enthusiastically joined the session, appreciating its creative approach to fitness and mental well-being. Key attendees included Meghna Jain (Chairperson), Prierna Ranka (Chief Secretary), Shalini Lodha (Vice President & Programme Convener), and Samridhhi Baxi (Programme Co-Convener). The session concluded with gratitude and positive feedback.

