

## A Troubling Exit for Parliamentary Democracy

The sudden resignation of Jagdeep Dhankhar as Vice-President and Chairman of the Rajya Sabha marks a troubling moment for India's parliamentary democracy. While his official statement cited health reasons, the timing and circumstances suggest deeper political and institutional tensions—particularly with the executive.

Mr. Dhankhar's exit is unprecedented. Unlike previous Vice-Presidents who stepped down only to assume higher office, his resignation came abruptly, just a day after he presided over the opening of the monsoon session and released a full week's schedule of public engagements. The key trigger appears to be his decision to entertain Opposition-led motions for the removal of two High Court judges—decisions that reportedly diverged from the government's plan, particularly in the case of a Delhi judge facing corruption charges.

His tenure was marked by controversy. His partisan approach as Chair led to an Opposition-led motion seeking his removal—another first in India's history. His open support for debates on dropping the words "secular" and "socialist" from the Constitution, and his public criticism of the judiciary's role, often placed him at odds with constitutional decorum.

Yet, Mr. Dhankhar also stood firm on the principles of judicial accountability and parliamentary supremacy. His willingness to act on judicial misconduct—regardless of political discomfort—was consistent with his stated belief in institutional checks and balances. That this commitment led to his political isolation, and ultimately to his resignation, is alarming.

The Vice-President's role is to act as a constitutional guardian of parliamentary fairness and decorum. Mr. Dhankhar's departure under opaque and controversial circumstances undermines that ideal. It signals the growing strain between key democratic institutions and reinforces the need for a clear and respectful separation of powers.

India's democracy is poorer for this resignation.

## Gauri Shelgavkar Leads in Beendni

Promises Emotion and Rajasthani Essence

**Jaipur:** Actress Gauri Shelgavkar has been revealed as the lead in Sun Neo's upcoming show 'Prathao Ki Odhe Chunar: Beendni'. She will portray the emotionally layered character Ghevar, named after the iconic Rajasthani sweet, reflecting depth and cultural symbolism.

The newly released promo captures Ghevar in a desert at sunset, discovering a mysterious photo frame in the sand. As she lifts a crying baby from a nearby cradle, the scene leaves viewers with questions—who is the baby and what binds him to Ghevar?

Gauri expressed, "I've been waiting for a role like this. The story's Rajasthani setting, powerful emotions, and Raghuvir Shekhawat Sir's vision made this irresistible."

Set against Rajasthan's rich cultural backdrop, Beendni blends mystery, emotion, and women-centric strength. With Shelgavkar in the lead and an evocative storyline, the show aims to connect deeply with audiences and celebrate tradition, resilience, and identity.

## Shadows of Memory Stuns Jaipur

Parchhaiyan Pays Tribute to Sahir



**Jaipur:** Parchhaiyan (AeShareefInsano), a stirring dance-drama based on Sahir Ludhianvi's anti-war masterpiece, left audiences spellbound at the Rajasthan India International Centre, Jaipur. Conceived by Dr. Prem Bhandari and directed with Dr. Laiq Hussain, the 90-minute production powerfully revived Sahir's haunting call for peace and humanity.

Presented by the India International Centre Jaipur and The Performers Culture Society, Udaipur, this second staging after its Udaipur debut featured 30 performers in a seamless fusion of poetry, music, and movement, capturing the despair of war and hope for peace. With vocals by Dr. Bhandari, Sadhana Sargam, and Dr. Pami Bhandari Modi, choreography by Shipra Chatterjee, and music by Asit Desai and others, the production stood as a heartfelt tribute. Eminent guests including Nihal Chand Goel, K.C. Maloo, and Manoj Bhatnagar honored the team. Parchhaiyan proved not just timeless—but transformational.

## Airtel, Perplexity Launch AI Alliance

360 Million Users Get Pro Access

**Udaipur:** In a groundbreaking move, Bharti Airtel has partnered with Perplexity, an AI-powered search and answer engine, to provide Perplexity Pro subscriptions free for one year to all 360 million of its users across Mobile, Wi-Fi, and DTH services.

Valued at ₹17,000 annually, Perplexity Pro offers advanced AI tools like GPT-4.1, Claude, image generation, file analysis, deep research capabilities, and Perplexity Labs—a space to develop creative ideas. Users can access this offer via the Airtel Thanks App.

"This Gen-AI collaboration will empower our users with cutting-edge knowledge tools at no cost," said Gopal Vittal, MD & VC, Airtel. Perplexity CEO Aravind Srinivas added, "This makes professional-grade AI accessible to everyone in India."

From helping students in Rajkot conduct research to assisting homemakers in Kanyakumari with daily tasks, and professionals planning travel, the partnership aims to transform digital experiences across India.

## RAFFLES LAKESHORE UDAIPUR OPENS ON UDAI SAGAR LAKE

**Udaipur:** J Raffles Hotels

& Resorts proudly unveils Raffles Lakeshore Udaipur, its newest luxury retreat located on the serene banks of Uda Sagar Lake. Complementing its iconic island property, this lakeside sanctuary ushers in a new chapter of understated grandeur and cultural immersion in the heart of Rajasthan.

Designed to blend colonial charm with contemporary sophistication, Raffles Lakeshore Udaipur features 36 elegant accommodations—28 rooms and 8 suites—each showcasing Rajasthani craftsmanship, curated furnishings, and calming lake vistas. The suites offer freestanding bathtubs and tranquil interiors that reflect the hotel's commitment to comfort and artistry.

Guests are welcomed

through The Great Hall, adorned with soaring ceilings, hand-painted frescoes, and grand chandeliers. The venue is also home to a locally inspired reinterpretation of the signature Raffles Afternoon Tea, blending tradition with regional flavors.

The property introduces four distinctive culinary experiences:

The Trellis Room—Indian cuisine with a modern twist, served indoors or alfresco.

The Tea Room—An elegant haven for tea connoisseurs.

The Marble Hall—Classic European cocktails in an opulent setting.

The Belvedere—A rooftop dining space offering shared plates and scenic sunsets.

"Raffles Lakeshore Udaipur

marks a milestone in our journey to elevate luxury hospitality in Udaipur. It embodies our devotion to crafting extraordinary experiences while embracing the cultural soul of this enchanting city," said Rajesh Namby, General Manager, Raffles Udaipur.

Beyond dining, the property invites guests to unwind by the infinity-edge pool, stroll through manicured gardens, and connect with nature on meandering lakeside pathways.

**About Raffles Udaipur**

With 137 rooms and suites—101 on its private island and 36 along the lakeshore—Raffles Udaipur is a destination that celebrates regal heritage, serene landscapes, and mindful luxury. Guests begin their journey at



Raffles Lakeshore before a tranquil boat ride transports them to the island retreat.

Experiences include open-air yoga, wellness rituals at the Raffles Spa, and encounters

with over 100 bird species in a biodiversity-rich ecosystem. The property boasts two scenic pools, ten dining experiences, and six event venues, including an intimate island temple.

From tennis courts and children's activities to the legendary Raffles Butler service, the property promises moments of joy, reflection, and connection.

## Deputy CM Diya Kumari Visits Nand Ghar in Jaipur

**Jaipur:**—Rajasthan's Deputy Chief Minister Diya Kumari paid a special visit to the Nand Ghar centre located in Vidhyadhar Nagar, Jaipur, where she experienced firsthand the transformative changes being brought about by Vedanta's flagship social initiative. The Deputy CM commended the modernized Anganwadi model that aims to reshape early childhood care and women's empowerment across rural India.



Ghar's holistic approach.

Reiterating her commitment to rural development, Deputy CM Diya Kumari lauded the initiative and emphasized the importance of public-private partnerships in realizing the vision of a malnutrition-free, educated, and empowered India. She highlighted the potential of such models to scale across the state and contribute meaningfully to national development goals.

In Rajasthan, Vedanta has already signed an MoU to establish 25,000 Nand Ghars, aiming to significantly strengthen early childhood care, maternal health, and rural women empowerment throughout the state.

## Speaking on the occasion, Mr. Shashi Arora, CEO of Nand Ghar, said:

"It was an honor to welcome Deputy CM Diya Kumari and present the community-level work we are doing through Nand Ghar. Her appreciation inspires us to deepen our impact. With strong support from the government and active community engagement, we are committed to offering scalable solutions in education, nutrition, health, and women's economic empowerment."

Presently, Nand Ghar operates in 15 states through a network of over 8,500 centers, serving as a vital extension of the Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS). In Rajasthan, the initiative has also introduced the Balvardhan Project in Dholpur, a scientific and data-driven model for enhancing early childhood development outcomes. Implemented in collaboration with partners like John Snow Inc. (JSI) and Rocket Learning, the project focuses on impact measurement, digital innovation, and skill enhancement for Anganwadi workers.

This landmark visit by Deputy CM Diya Kumari reaffirms the shared resolve between the Government of Rajasthan and Vedanta to build a stronger, healthier, and more inclusive India—aligned with national programs such as POSHAN 2.0, Beti Bachao Beti Padhao, and the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

## Udaipur's Nakul Roshan Sahdev Makes Bollywood Debut with 'Murderbaad'



proud parents, Anil Sahdev and his mother, were also present at the event.

**Udaipur:** Rising talent from Udaipur, Nakul Roshan Sahdev, is all set to make his Bollywood debut with the thriller 'Murderbaad', which will be released across cinemas in India on July 18, 2025.

Addressing a press conference today at Madhushree Auditorium, Ashoka Palace, Nakul shared that the film is directed by Arnab Chatterjee, produced under the banner of Akzi Entertainment, and presented by Reliance Entertainment. The film's cinematography is by acclaimed director of photography Binod Pradhan, and action direction is by Shyam Kaushal.

Nakul, visibly emotional, said, "I was born and raised in Udaipur, and returning here to promote my first film is a moment of immense pride and deep emotion." He also mentioned that a major part of the film was shot in Jaipur, Rajasthan, offering audiences a unique cinematic experience rooted in local visuals and storytelling.

'Murderbaad' also features a stellar cast including Kanika Kapoor, Manish Chaudhary, Sharib Hashmi, Amole Gupte, Saloni Batra, and Raveena Sharma in key roles.

Prior to the press meet, Nakul Roshan Sahdev was warmly welcomed and felicitated with a traditional pagdi and uparna by members of the cultural group Suro Ki Mandali, including founder Mukesh Madhwani, Narayan, and Kailash Kevliya. Nakul's

## Musical Evening to Mark Birth Anniversary of Playback Legend Mukesh Chandra Mathur on July 22

**Udaipur:** To commemorate the birth anniversary of legendary Bollywood playback singer Mukesh Chandra Mathur, a soulful musical evening will be hosted by Suro Ki Mandali on Tuesday, July 22, 2025, at Madhushree Banquet Hall, Udaipur, from 5:00 PM to 7:00 PM.

Founder of Suro Ki Mandali, Mukesh Madhwani, shared that the evening will feature heart-touching musical performances by 25 senior participants, celebrating the timeless voice of Mukesh who gave immortal songs like "Awara Hoon," "Jeena Yahan Marna Yahan," and "Dost Dost Na Raha."

Queen Mary, the event coordinator, informed that former Mayor of Udaipur, Mr. Yudhishtir Kumawat, will grace the occasion as Chief Guest, while Madhuri Sharma of News 91 will be the Guest Anchor.

According to Media Coordinator Prof. Vimal Sharma, the event has been in preparation for over a month, with rehearsals held every Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday under the guidance and support of team members Hema Joshi, Brij Lal Soni, Himmat Singh Sisodia, Ambalal Sahu, Vimal Sharma, Queen Mary, H. Qazi, Bhumi Trivedi, and Premilata Kumawat. Mukesh Madhwani has appealed to the people of Udaipur to attend in large numbers and pay tribute to the voice that brought unparalleled emotion and depth to Hindi cinema's golden era.



## Vedanta Zinc Marathon Returns Stronger

Run Through Udaipur's Scenic Beauty

**Udaipur:** The Vedanta Zinc City Half Marathon is back with its second edition on 21st September 2025, promising an unforgettable experience through the iconic Fateh Sagar Lake and Aravalli Hills. Organized by Hindustan Zinc Limited, this AIMS-certified international event invites runners from across India and beyond to race in one of the country's most picturesque routes.

Building on last year's overwhelming success of 5,200 participants, this year's marathon will include four categories: Half Marathon (21 km), Cool Run (10 km), Dream Run (5 km) and the inspiring Race with Champions, featuring specially-abled children.

Early bird registrations with a 30% discount are open till 31st July at Townscript. Enhanced support includes hydration points, medical stations, and physiotherapists.

CEO Arun Misra highlighted the event's focus on community spirit, inclusivity, and promoting health. Udaipur's rich zinc legacy and heritage make it India's most beautiful marathon destination.

## Mock Drill at Chanderiya Plant

Preparedness for Emergencies Successfully Tested



**Chittorgarh:** A comprehensive mock drill was conducted on Wednesday morning at Hindustan Zinc's Chanderiya Lead-Zinc Smelter to assess emergency preparedness. The drill simulated a propane gas leak at the Pyro Plant's storage area, triggering swift activation of in-house fire, rescue, and ambulance teams.

Under the NDMA framework, operations were led by Location Head Manas Tyagi and Safety Head Balchand Patidar. Incident Controllers Pushpendra Meena and Rakesh Durgawat coordinated onsite containment, supported by district authorities including Collector Alok Ranjan and SP Sudhir Joshi.

The situation was efficiently controlled before external help arrived. Teams from Birla Cement, IOCL Jhalampara, Civil Defence, and multiple local agencies participated actively.

Senior officials present appreciated the readiness and lauded the coordination.

Key attendees included Ankit Kulhari (IOCL), Anoop Kumar (HR), Amit Surana, G. Malesham (Security), and members of the Safety Department. The drill was declared successful and exemplary.

## HDFC Bank Q1 FY26 Results: ₹181.6B PAT, ₹5 Dividend, 1:1 Bonus

**Udaipur:** HDFC Bank reported a 12.2% YoY rise in Q1 FY26 PAT to ₹181.6 billion, driven by core business growth and ₹91.3 billion gain from partial stake sale in HDB Financial Services. Net revenue rose to ₹531.7 billion; net interest income grew 5.4% to ₹314.4 billion. Gross advances reached ₹26.5 trillion, led by 8.1% growth in retail loans. CASA ratio stood at 33.9%. Asset quality remained strong with GNPA at 1.40%.

The Board declared a ₹5/share special interim dividend and approved a 1:1 bonus issue. Subsidiaries also posted strong results: HDFC Life PAT ₹5.5B (+14.4%), HDFC AMC ₹7.5B (+23.8%), HDFC ERGO ₹2.1B (+56.4%). The bank now operates 9,499 branches, 21,251 ATMs, and employs over 2.18 lakh staff. HDFC Bank continues to maintain robust growth, profitability, and asset quality across verticals.

## Reliance Retail's Yousta Launches in Jaipur, Udaipur

**Jaipur:** Reliance Retail's youth fashion brand Yousta has expanded into Rajasthan with new stores in Jaipur and Udaipur, following its debut in Alwar. The Jaipur outlet is located near Haldi Ghati Gate, Pratap Nagar, while Udaipur's store is at Blessing Tower, 100 Ft Road, Shobhagpura.

Targeting Gen Z shoppers, Yousta offers unisex collections, trend-led styles, and character merchandise starting at ₹179. Weekly fashion drops every Thursday, self-checkout kiosks, mobile charging stations, and interactive in-store features enhance the shopping experience. The brand's influencer programme invites young consumers to represent Yousta and promote their unique style. In support of sustainability, local NGO partnerships will lead clothing donation drives across Rajasthan.