



A LEGACY OF SERVICE!

The Maharana Pratap Welfare Foundation organised the Swaraj Samman Samaroh 2026 with grandeur at the Constitution Club of Rajasthan on Saturday. **P12**



Miss Universe India 2025 Manika Vishwakarma with the 52 finalists of Miss Universe India; Aarya Mardikar, Aditi Prabhu, Ahina Datta, Annie Sharma, Anshika Choudhary, Anshulaa Baruah, Anubha Vashisth, Anushri Satavlekar, Chandrima Das, Devu Suresh, Diksha Jangra, Diksha Pandey, Dipali Riya, Fasiha Nauman, Harshita Sahu, Hasitha Narayanabhatta, Karishma Mehra, Kaziah Liz Mejo, Kumari Nikita, Lalrinchhiani, Lekana Hegde, Liz Jaimon Jacob, Mannat Sharma, Pema Choden Bhutia, Pinky Basumatary, Poonam Maharana, Pramiti Rana, Preeti Yadav, Pura Sumpi, Ritambhara, Riya Tirkey, Roshni Ghosh, Rupali Bhushan, Sakshi Wadaskar, Sanwaka Surong, Sanya Singhal, Sezer Pathania, Shreya Bediya, Simar Khaneja, Snehal Rawat, Spoorthi Shetty, Srishthi Kaninde, Sritara Pasricha, Swati Rana, Tanishka Sharma, Tejasvi Soni, Tejaswini Shrivastava, Thadoi Yumnam, Tsurila Yimkhiong, Umanga Kumawat and Vaishnavi Ganesh

An exquisite gala dinner celebrates beauty, confidence and the journey to the Miss Universe India 2026 crown

A Royal Prelude

City First brings you exclusive glimpses from a spectacular gala dinner hosted for the 52 finalists of Miss Universe India 2026, presented by Bharat24: Vision of New India, at the iconic Rambagh Palace, Jaipur, on Friday evening, ahead of the prestigious grand finale to be held on August 23, 2026 at Zee Studios, Jaipur!



Dr Jagdeesh Chandra with (L-R) Nikhil Anand (National Director, Miss Universe India), Manika Vishwakarma (Miss Universe India 2025) and Divya Wadhwa (Miss Teen International India 2025)

The grandeur of Jaipur's iconic Rambagh Palace set the stage for an unforgettable evening as glamour, grace and celebration came together at the exclusive gala dinner hosted for the 52 finalists of Miss Universe India 2026, presented by Bharat24: Vision of New India. Organised by Nikhil Anand, National Director of Miss Universe India and Chairman of the Glamanand Group, the elegant soirée marked the countdown to the highly anticipated grand finale, scheduled to be held on August 23 at Zee Studios, Jaipur.

Dr Jagdeesh Chandra graced the occasion, adding prestige to the evening. He was accorded a warm floral welcome by Nikhil



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Vision of New India

Anand, Manika Vishwakarma, Miss Universe India, and Divya Wadhwa, Miss Teen International India 2025. Pradip Kumar, Hotel Manager, Rambagh Palace Jaipur, also welcomed the dignitaries, setting the tone for a memorable celebration. Representing every corner of the country, the 52 finalists brought together India's remarkable diversity, confidence and aspirations under one roof. The contestants spent the evening soaking in the regal ambience of the former royal residence, admiring its majestic architecture, sprawling gardens and timeless heritage while capturing memorable moments across the palace.

Turn to pg 10-11



Top To Bottom: Anshika Choudhary, Snehal Rawat, Dipali Riya and Sanwaka Surong



THE GRAND GALA... where elegance met ambition

From Pg 09...

One of the high-lights of the evening was the interaction between the finalists and Manika Vishwakarma, who candidly shared her journey, preparation and experiences after winning the coveted national crown.

The contestants engaged in insightful conversations with her, seeking guidance on confidence, stage presence, personal growth and representing India on the global platform. They also interacted with Dr Jagdeesh Chandra, who encouraged them to embrace their individuality, remain grounded and make the most of the life-changing opportunity before them.

The evening also turned into a celebration of culture and hospitality as the finalists relished an elaborate spread of authentic Rajasthani delicacies alongside international cuisine. They praised Jaipur's warmth, the royal hospitality of Ram-bagh Palace and the exquisite culinary experience, describing it as one of the most memorable moments of their Miss Universe India journey.

Addressing the gathering, Nikhil Anand said, "This gala dinner is not just a celebration but a moment of togetherness before our finalists step onto the national stage. I sincerely thank Dr Jagdeesh Chandra for his constant encouragement and gracious presence, which has made the evening



Thadai Yumnani



Tsurila Yimkhiang



Sezer Pathania



Riya Turkey



Pramiti Rana



Pinky Basumatary



Kumari Nikita

THE CROWN CONTENDERS

Contestant	State/Region
Aarya Mardikar	Maharashtra
Dr Aditi Prabhu	Maharashtra
Ahina Datta	Tripura
Annie Sharma	New Delhi
Anshika Choudhary	Rajasthan
Anshulaa Baruah	Assam
Anubha Vashisth	Uttarakhand
Anushri Satavlekar	Gujarat
Chandrima Das	West Bengal
Devu Suresh	Kolkata
Diksha Jangra	NRI/OCI, Haryana
Diksha Pandey	Uttar Pradesh
Dipali Riya	Jharkhand
Fasiha Nauman	Andhra Pradesh
Harshita Sahu	Madhya Pradesh
Hasitha Narayanabhatta	Telangana
Karishma Mehra	Chhattisgarh
Kaziah Liz Mejo	Kerala
Kumari Nikita	Bihar
Lalrinchhiani	Mizoram
Lekana Hegde	Karnataka
Liz Jaimon Jacob	Kerala
Mannat Sharma	Punjab
Pema Choden Bhutia	Sikkim
Pinky Basumatary	Assam
Poonam Maharana	Odisha
Pramiti Rana	New Delhi
Preeti Yadav	Goa
Pura Sumpi	Arunachal Pradesh
Dr Ritambhara	Haryana
Riya Turkey	Jharkhand
Roshni Ghosh	New Delhi
Rupali Bhushan	Bihar
Sakshi Wadaskar	Maharashtra
Sanwaka Surong	Meghalaya
Sanya Singhal	Karnataka
Sezer Pathania	Himachal Pradesh
Shreya Bediya	Madhya Pradesh
Simar Khaneja	Union Territory
Sneh Ticku	Jammu & Kashmir
Snehal Rawat	Himachal Pradesh
Spoorthi Shetty	Karnataka
Srishti Kaninde	Telangana
Sritara Pasricha	Haryana
Swati Rana	Himachal Pradesh
Tanishka Sharma	Uttar Pradesh
Tejasvi Soni	Gujarat
Tejaswini Shrivastava	Maharashtra
Thadai Yumnani	Manipur
Tsurila Yimkhiang	Nagaland
Umanga Kumawat	Madhya Pradesh
Vaishnavi Ganesh	Tamil Nadu

Pradipt Kumar extends a warm welcome to Manika Vishwakarma (Miss Universe India 2025) and Nikhil Anand



Spoorthi Shetty, Srishti Kaninde and Kaziah Liz Mejo add charm to the gala dinner



Preeti Yadav, Poonam Maharana, Shreya Bediya and Dr Aditi Prabhu make a stylish appearance at the gala dinner

Clockwise: Simar Khaneja, Manika Vishwakarma, Fasiha Nauman, Lalrinchhiani and Swati Rana

Counterclockwise: Tejasvi Soni, Kaziah Liz Mejo, Srishti Kaninde, Sritara Pasricha and Tejaswini Shrivastava