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Speculation Grows Over Kuldip Maity's BJP Entry

Kolkata: Speculation over a possible political entry by Kuldip Maity, Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of VFS Capital Ltd., has gained momentum in West Bengal, with sources indicating that he may soon join the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP). However, neither the BJP nor Maity has issued an official statement confirming the development.

According to sources, discussions are underway regarding his induction into the party, which could reportedly take place in the presence of senior BJP leaders, including party president J.P. Nadda or Union Home Minister Amit Shah. The reports have sparked political interest amid continuing speculation over shifts in West Bengal's political landscape ahead of the Assembly elections.

Maity is widely recognised for his work in the microfinance sector. As the head of VFS Capital Ltd., he has overseen the institution's expansion across eastern India, with the organisation currently serving more than four lakh women borrowers through around 280 branches spread across 14 States. The company is also expanding into affordable housing finance and MSME lending.

Holding two Master's degrees in Business Administration and a doctorate, Maity has spent over two decades working towards the financial empowerment of women and economically weaker sections. He serves on the board of Sa-Dhaan, is Assistant Secretary of the Village Welfare Society, and is a founding member of the West Bengal Micro Finance Institutions Association. He has also received several honours for his contributions to inclusive finance and social entrepreneurship.

While the reports have fuelled political speculation, there has been no official confirmation from either the BJP or Maity. The developments are being closely watched in political circles as attention remains focused on any possible realignment in West Bengal's political landscape.

Isha Ambani Champions Indian Luxury at Manish Malhotra's Historic Paris Haute Couture Debut

Paris: Reliance Retail Executive Director Isha Ambani attended celebrated fashion designer Manish Malhotra's Autumn/Winter 2026 Haute Couture presentation during Paris Haute Couture Week, reinforcing Reliance Retail's commitment to promoting Indian luxury brands on the global stage.

Ambani's presence at the prestigious event reflected her continued support for Indian designers with international aspirations. As Executive Director of Reliance Retail, she has played a key role in expanding the global footprint of Indian luxury brands while preserving the country's rich heritage of craftsmanship and design.

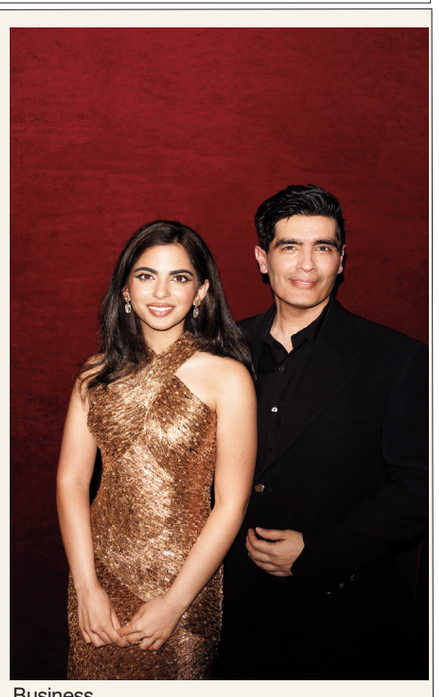
During Paris Haute Couture Week, Ambani attended the exclusive presentations of Manish Malhotra and Rahul Mishra, underscoring her vision of building globally recognised Indian luxury houses and creating greater opportunities for Indian designers and artisans.

For the occasion, Ambani wore a bespoke couture gown by Manish Malhotra, created in collaboration with stylist Andrew Mukamal. Inspired by "MAA", Malhotra's tribute to the strength, grace and love of women across generations, the gown featured a sculpted corseted silhouette inspired by Western eveningwear while celebrating Indian craftsmanship through intricate hand embroidery using vintage salli and taban sequins, hand-set crystals and meticulous detailing.

The couture creation was conceived, embroidered and handcrafted at the House of Manish Malhotra's Mumbai atelier, requiring more than 700 hours of artisanal work. She completed the look with 50-carat nude diamond earrings and a 12-carat pear-shaped nude diamond ring by Lorraine Schwartz.

Beyond fashion, Ambani continues to champion Indian creativity through her leadership at Reliance Retail and her involvement in arts and culture initiatives.

A graduate of Yale University and Stanford



Business School, Isha Ambani is also the driving force behind the Nita Mukesh Ambani Cultural Centre (NMACC), alongside Nita Ambani. She serves on the Advisory Board of the Yale Schwarzman Center and is a Trustee of the Smithsonian's National Museum of Asian Art and the Dia Art Foundation. She has been recognised in TIME100 Next, received Harper's Bazaar Icon of the Year 2024, and was honoured as Newsmaker of the Year at the Express Awards for Women Entrepreneurs 2025.

As Executive Director of Reliance Retail and Director of Reliance Foundation, Ambani continues to lead strategic initiatives focused on women empowerment, education, children and the arts, while promoting Indian creativity on the global stage.

Srijan Unveils Vision for Art Academy

Udaipur: Udaipur will host an evening celebrating art, music and culture as Srijan – The Spark unveils its vision for a proposed world-class Art and Music Academy. A presentation highlighting the academy's concept, ongoing construction and future plans will be held at Hotel JuSTa on Sajjangarh Road, followed by musical performances by the organization's artists. President Rajendra Sharma said the academy aims to nurture young talent, promote fine arts and music, and establish Udaipur as a leading cultural tourism destination. The event will be attended by artists, cultural enthusiasts, social leaders and the organization's chief patron, Prasanna Kumar Khamesra.

Fire Safety in Focus: Udaipur Strengthens Preparedness Amid Rising National Concern

Udaipur: With a series of devastating fire incidents reported across India in recent months—including accidents in hospitals, coaching institutes, commercial buildings, and high-rise structures—fire safety has emerged as a top priority for governments, civic bodies, and corporate organizations. The incidents have highlighted the urgent need for stronger fire prevention measures, regular safety audits, and public awareness.

Speaking on the issue, Udaipur Chief Fire Officer Babulal Chaudhary said that both the Central and Rajasthan Governments have introduced stricter fire safety regulations to enhance public safety. A comprehensive fire safety chapter under the updated Building Bye-Laws came into force in Rajasthan in June 2026, following national efforts to modernize fire safety standards.

Fire Safety Becomes a Corporate Responsibility

Across the corporate sector, fire safety is no longer viewed merely as a legal compliance requirement but as a key aspect of employee welfare and business continuity. Companies are increasingly conducting fire audits, emergency evacuation drills, electrical safety inspections, and employee training programs to reduce risks.Industry experts note that corporate offices, hotels, malls, hospitals, educational institutions, and manufacturing units must ensure that fire extinguishers, alarm systems, emergency exits, sprinkler systems, and evacuation plans remain functional at all times.

Udaipur's Fire Department Intensifies Awareness Drive

According to Chaudhary, the Udaipur Fire Department has been conducting awareness campaigns and meetings with hotel associations, industries, private schools, coaching institutes, and business organizations to encourage compliance with fire safety norms.The department has also initiated surveys of high-rise buildings, hospitals, and public establishments. Buildings found lacking mandatory fire safety systems are being issued notices, with strict legal action planned against those failing to comply.

Major Cause: Electrical Faults

The Chief Fire Officer revealed that nearly 80% of fire incidents originate from electrical short circuits, often caused by overloaded wiring, poor maintenance, substandard electrical equipment, and unauthorized electrical modifications.

He advised property owners to:

- Conduct annual electrical safety audits.
- Use ISI-certified electrical equipment.
- Upgrade wiring whenever electrical loads increase.
- Service air conditioners and electrical appliances regularly.
- Install and maintain fire extinguishers in homes and workplaces.

Faster Emergency Response

The Udaipur Fire Department currently operates six fire stations across the city with a centralized control room. Officials said the average emergency response time is 5–7 minutes within city limits, supported by additional fire resources from nearby industrial units and the airport when required. Special fire bikes and compact fire tenders are also being introduced to improve access in congested areas of the old city.

A National Reminder

As India continues to urbanize with taller buildings and expanding infrastructure, experts believe that fire safety must become a shared responsibility between authorities, businesses, and citizens. Regular fire audits, staff training, strict compliance with safety norms, and public awareness are essential to preventing tragedies and protecting lives.

Seva Bharati to Inaugurate Naturopathy Centre

Udaipur: Seva Bharati, Udaipur, will inaugurate its Prakritik Arogya Kendra (Natural Health Centre) on July 16 at 10:30 a.m. at Haridas Ji Ki Magri, Subhash Chauraha. The centre aims to promote holistic healthcare through Indian systems of medicine and natural therapies while addressing lifestyle-related health issues.

Speaking at a press conference, Seva Bharati Chittor Prant President Vivek Bohra said the inauguration will be attended by former RSS Sarkaryavah Suresh Joshi (Bhaiyyaji) as the chief speaker, while Rajasthan Deputy Chief Minister Prem Chand Bairwa will be the chief guest.

The centre will offer Ayurveda, naturopathy, yoga, pranayama, hydrotherapy, mud therapy, physiotherapy, acupuncture, acupressure, therapeutic massage, dietary counselling, and treatment support for obesity, diabetes, hypertension, thyroid disorders, joint ailments, and mental wellness.

Bohra said Seva Bharati currently runs over 1,610 service projects across Rajasthan in education, healthcare, skill development, women's empowerment, and social welfare. He described the new centre as a significant initiative to promote preventive healthcare and build a healthier, more self-reliant society through affordable and natural treatment.

Udaipur's Young Author Nikhil Rawal Brings a Modern Fantasy Twist to Indian Mythology

Udaipur: Young author Nikhil Rawal from Udaipur is making waves with his debut novel, Kalachakra: The Cursed Prophecy, a compelling fusion of Indian mythology and modern fantasy. Inspired by India's rich cultural, philosophical, and mythological heritage, the novel reimagines ancient legends through a contemporary storytelling approach.

Nikhil first conceived the idea for the novel during his student years. While pursuing his education, he began developing the story and continued writing alongside the demands of his professional career. After years of research, writing, and multiple revisions, the novel has finally been published in its present form.

According to the author, Kalachakra: The Cursed Prophecy draws its primary inspiration from the timeless Indian epics, the Ramayana and the Mahabharata. At the same time, the interconnected storytelling style of the Marvel Cinematic Universe (MCU) influenced his creative vision. By combining these inspirations, he has crafted a fictional universe that seamlessly blends India's mythological legacy with the excitement and scale of modern fantasy.

Kalachakra: The Cursed Prophecy is an Indian mythological fantasy novel that weaves together mystery, adventure, philosophy, and enduring human values. Through a gripping narrative, it explores timeless themes such as the eternal struggle between good and evil, destiny, self-discovery, and humanity, presenting them in a fresh and contemporary context.

Professionally, Nikhil Rawal works as a Business Analyst. He believes that the stories of India's epics and Puranas never lose their relevance; instead, each generation interprets them through its own perspective. This belief inspired him to create the Kalachakra series, bringing together the depth of Indian mythology and the imagination of modern fantasy.

Published nationally, Kalachakra: The Cursed Prophecy is available through major online bookstores and has been receiving encouraging feedback from readers. Nikhil Rawal's achievement as a young author from Udaipur reflects the city's growing literary talent. His innovative approach to presenting Indian mythology through the lens of modern fantasy also highlights the expanding creative possibilities within contemporary Indian literature.

GBH Performs First Successful Kidney Transplant

Udaipur: GBH General Hospital has successfully performed its first kidney transplant, marking a significant milestone in advanced healthcare in the region. The life-saving procedure gave 38-year-old Bhilwara resident Yuvraj, who had been battling end-stage kidney disease, a new lease on life.

Diagnosed with complete kidney failure in November 2025 after persistent back pain, Yuvraj underwent dialysis while seeking treatment at several hospitals.

Doctors eventually advised a kidney transplant as the only long-term solution. His younger brother, Dilip, volunteered to donate a kidney after compatibility tests confirmed he was a suitable donor.

The six-hour transplant surgery was successfully carried out by the multidisciplinary transplant team at GBH General Hospital. Dilip was discharged in good health within four days, while Yuvraj's transplanted kidney began functioning normally, eliminating the need for dialysis.

Yuvraj's wife, Mamta, expressed gratitude to the medical team, saying the successful transplant had given their family a fresh start and secured the future of their two young children.The hospital said the transplant was conducted after completing all legal and medical protocols. The procedure involved nephrologists Dr. Mukesh Badjatya, Dr. Anurag Jain, Dr. Mahesh Desai, urologists Dr. Pradeep Sharma, Dr. Vivek Sharma, anaesthesiologists and other specialists. Hospital officials described the achievement as a major step in expanding advanced organ transplant services and a testament to the life-saving impact of organ donation.

Jio Unveils ₹55 TV Pack

New Delhi: Reliance Jio has introduced the ₹55 JioTV Pro Pack, offering subscribers access to 1,000+ live TV channels for 30 days through the JioTV app.

The entertainment-focused plan includes over 150 premium channels across 16+ languages, featuring movies, entertainment, news, kids, lifestyle, and regional content. Sports channels from JioStar and Sony are excluded. Available to active Jio prepaid and postpaid users, the pack requires no separate activation and can be accessed by logging into the JioTV app with the registered Jio number.