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Business & Entertainment

Mann Ki Baat and the Fight Against Addiction

Editorial

Addiction is no longer an issue confined to a particular age group or section of society. From substance abuse to excessive dependence on digital platforms, addiction is increasingly affecting young people, families and communities. In this context, the repeated focus on addiction and healthy lifestyles in Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Mann Ki Baat has relevance beyond a monthly radio programme.

One of the strongest messages emerging from such public conversations is that addiction cannot be addressed through punishment or awareness campaigns alone. It requires families, schools, communities, healthcare professionals and governments to work together. Young people, in particular, need opportunities for education, sports, creativity and meaningful social engagement.

The conversation around addiction must also move away from stigma. A person struggling with dependency needs support, counselling and access to treatment rather than social isolation. Families, too, need guidance to recognise warning signs and seek professional help early.

Mann Ki Baat has the ability to take important social issues from policy discussions into households across the country. Its greatest value lies in encouraging citizens to see social challenges as shared responsibilities.

The fight against addiction will not be won by speeches alone. It will require sustained prevention, accessible treatment, stronger community networks and, above all, empathy. If the message of a healthier and addiction-free India is to become a reality, every family and community must become part of that effort.

Geetanjali Medical College & Hospital Partners with Vedanta Zinc City Half Marathon 2026, Bringing Health to Udaipur's Zinc City Story

Udaipur: From a city shaped by the legacy of zinc to a city now celebrating health, fitness and community, Udaipur is preparing for another landmark sporting celebration as Geetanjali Medical College & Hospital (GMCH) joins the Vedanta Zinc City Half Marathon 2026 as the official Healthcare Partner.

The third edition of the marathon, organised by Hindustan Zinc, a Vedanta Group company, in association with Anybody Can Run (ABCR), will take place on September 6, 2026, at Field Club, Udaipur. The event has emerged as one of the city's most prominent sporting platforms, bringing together thousands of runners while showcasing Udaipur as India's Most Beautiful Marathon destination.

The official poster for the 2026 edition was unveiled in the presence of Amarendu Prakash, CEO & Whole-time Director, Hindustan Zinc; Dr. Manoj Soni; Kalpesh Chand Rajbar, Marketing Head, Geetanjali Medical College & Hospital, and other representatives associated with the event.

The Zinc City identity carries a special significance for Udaipur. For decades, Hindustan Zinc and the wider Vedanta Group have been closely associated with the region's mining and metals story, with zinc becoming an important part of Udaipur's industrial identity. The Vedanta Zinc City Half Marathon takes that legacy forward in a new and contemporary way—transforming the idea of the Zinc City from one associated with industry and mineral wealth into a celebration of human energy, wellbeing and community spirit.

The marathon reflects this evolution beautifully. Against the backdrop of Udaipur's iconic lakes, Aravalli hills and heritage landmarks, runners from across India and beyond come together not only to compete, but to celebrate a healthier and more active way of life.

This year's event will feature 5 km, 10 km and 21.097 km Half Marathon categories, making it accessible to first-time runners, families, fitness enthusiasts as well as professional athletes. The event is AIMS-certified and affiliated with World Athletics, further strengthening its stature as a recognised running event.

As Healthcare Partner, Geetanjali Medical College & Hospital and Geetanjali College of Physiotherapy will provide medical and physiotherapy support for participants, helping ensure that runners have access to essential healthcare assistance throughout the event.

The partnership adds another important dimension to the Vedanta Zinc City Half Marathon's larger vision. While Hindustan Zinc and Vedanta bring the legacy of Zinc City and the power of purpose-led community development, Geetanjali brings its expertise in healthcare, physiotherapy and wellness—creating a partnership centred on the well-being of the people who make the city what it is.

More than a marathon, the event represents the changing story of Udaipur: a city with a rich industrial legacy, a remarkable natural identity and an increasingly vibrant culture of health and fitness.

On September 6, as thousands of runners take to the streets, every stride will carry a part of that story—from Vedanta's legacy of Zinc City to a shared vision of a healthier, stronger and more active community.

Yash's 'Toxic' Advance Bookings Open to Strong Response

Mumbai: Anticipation is building for Rocking Star Yash's 'Toxic: A Fairy Tale for Grown-Ups' as advance bookings for the much-awaited film have officially opened ahead of its worldwide theatrical release on August 26, 2026.

To mark the booking launch, the makers released a special video featuring Yash, director Geetu Mohandas and the ensemble cast. Nayanthara, Kiara Advani, Tara Sutaria, Rukmini Vasanth, Huma Qureshi, Akshay Oberoi and Sudev Nair share their experiences of working on the film and offer glimpses into its distinctive world and unconventional storytelling.The strong early response to advance bookings reflects the considerable anticipation surrounding Yash's return to the big screen following the phenomenal success of the KGF franchise. KGF: Chapter 2 went on to gross more than ₹1,200 crore worldwide, establishing Yash among Indian cinema's biggest stars.Unlike a franchise sequel, Toxic is an original story, building its anticipation around Yash's star power, Mohandas' distinctive cinematic vision and the film's ambitious world.Shot simultaneously in Kannada and English, Toxic will also release in Hindi, Telugu, Tamil and Malayalam, taking the film to audiences across multiple language markets.

With advance bookings now underway and an encouraging initial response, Toxic: A Fairy Tale for Grown-Ups is poised for a major worldwide theatrical release on August 26.

'Pratishodh' Trailer Promises a New Wave for Bhojpuri Cinema

Mumbai: The official trailer of 'Pratishodh', produced by Jayant Films & Entertainment, has been released on the Rudra Movies Official YouTube channel, promising an intense story centred on social realities, relationships and injustice.

Producer Jayant Srivastava said the film aims to offer Bhojpuri audiences meaningful storytelling, clean entertainment and strong performances while taking Bhojpuri cinema to audiences across India and overseas.Starring Gaurav Jha and Ritu Singh in the lead, the film also features Sanjay Pandey, Amit Shukla, Dev Singh, Saurabh Srivastava, Anu Pandey and others in pivotal roles. Child artistes Master Siddharth and Master Shivansh are also part of the cast.Directed by Satyarth Sinha, with M. Satya Dubey as associate director, the film has a story by Vidya Shukla. Music is composed by Aman Shlok, with lyrics by Rajesh Mishra, Arvind Tiwari, Vinod Srivastava, Shekhar Madhu, Pradeep Dubey and Deepika Jha.Srivastava expressed confidence that audiences would embrace the film and said the entire team had worked extensively to bring the story to the screen.'Pratishodh' is slated for a theatrical release soon.

BVI Seeks Stronger Financial Services and Investment Ties with India: Premier Wheatley

New Delhi: The British Virgin Islands (BVI) is looking to deepen its financial services, investment and legal cooperation with India, with a focus on supporting cross-border investment, global expansion and emerging areas including fintech, artificial intelligence, ESG and energy transition.

The move was highlighted during a high-level interaction hosted by the Society of Indian Law Firms (SILF) for a BVI delegation led by Dr Natalio D. Wheatley, Premier and Minister of Finance, and Lorna Smith, OBE, Minister for Financial Services, Economic Development and Digital Transformation.

The discussions explored opportunities to strengthen trade and commerce, investment and cross-border legal cooperation, while building greater professional engagement between the two jurisdictions.

Wheatley said the visit marked the BVI's first dedicated trade mission and roadshow in India focused on engaging the country's financial services sector. He noted that BVI financial services have supported India's international investment activity for more than two decades and said the BVI could play a larger role as Indian businesses expand overseas and investors seek international opportunities.

He highlighted the BVI's flexible corporate framework, common-law legal system and professional services ecosystem, and proposed deeper partnerships with Indian institutions, including GIFT City, with the long-term objective of developing a BVI–India investment corridor.

Bohurupi Returns With a Bang

Mumbai: Windows Production has unveiled the official teaser of Bohurupi – The Golden Daku, the much-awaited sequel to the 2024 blockbuster Bohurupi. The teaser has crossed 1 million views within an hour, creating strong buzz ahead of its Durga Puja 2026 release.

Shiboprosad Mukherjee returns as Bikram Pramanik, facing Jisshu Sengupta in an intense cop-versus-robber showdown. The sequel promises greater scale, action and emotional depth while retaining Bengal's rich folk traditions, including performances by Gambhira artists from Malda.

Directed by Nandita Roy and Shiboprosad Mukherjee, the film also stars Koushani Mukherjee and Sohini Sarkar. Produced by Windows Production, Bohurupi – The Golden Daku releases on October 15, 2026.

29 Films Bring World Cinema to Jaipur Students

Jaipur: The 9th Aryan International Children's Film Festival of Jaipur (AICFF 2026) and 11th Sixteen International Film Festival (16IFF 2026), organised by the Jaipur International Film Festival Trust, screened 29 films for students at Ryan International School and Dolphins High School.

Featuring films from India, South Korea, Iran, Palestine-US, Austria, Norway, Pakistan, Australia, Greece, Russia, France and the USA, the programme explored themes of family, courage, nature, culture and human values. A special highlight was the Rajasthani film 'Water', created using AI technology under Ekta Kapoor's banner and focusing on water scarcity. Filmmakers were also honoured during the programme, giving students an opportunity to engage directly with cinema and emerging filmmaking technologies.

UCCI Holds Seminar on MOOWR and GST

Udaipur: The Udaipur Chamber of Commerce and Industry (UCCI) organised an awareness and interactive seminar on Manufacturing and Other Operations in Warehouse Regulations (MOOWR) and Goods and Services Tax (GST) at UCCI Bhawan on Saturday.

The session was led by Sanjay Gupta, a retired Indian Revenue Service officer, former CGST and Customs official, and founder of Precise GST & Customs Solutions.Welcoming the participants, UCCI President Sandeep Bapna said the programme aimed to help businesses understand key provisions, compliance requirements and opportunities under MOOWR and GST, enabling more informed financial and operational decisions.

Gupta explained the MOOWR framework, its procedures and facilities, and its relevance for industries under the Make in India initiative. He also highlighted its potential benefits for customs clearance and strategic working-capital management.

The GST session covered audits, refunds, investigations and litigation, along with key precautions businesses should take to ensure compliance.

The programme included an interactive question-and-answer session, with Gupta addressing queries from participants on various practical aspects of taxation and customs regulations.

Motul India Brings 'Sehat Ki Samriddhi' Health Camps to Udaipur

Udaipur: Motul India, a leading manufacturer of premium engine and industrial lubricants, has brought its 'Sehat Ki Samriddhi' healthcare initiative to Udaipur, extending preventive healthcare support to auto mechanics and their families.

The nationwide initiative features 108 health camps across 27 districts from April to December 2026 and is expected to benefit more than 21,000 people. The Udaipur camp is part of this ongoing rollout, providing communities with access to medical consultations, diagnostic screenings and essential medicines.

The camps offer health check-ups, blood sugar and haemoglobin testing, medicines and first-aid kits. Motul employees and distributors also support registration, vital checks and coordination at the camps.Motul India has also conducted a Sehat Ki Samriddhi camp in Jodhpur, further expanding the initiative's reach across Rajasthan.Nagendra Pai, CEO, Motul India and South Asia, said the initiative reflects Motul's commitment to improving healthcare access for the people who play an important role in keeping India's automotive ecosystem moving. He added that the programme aims to bring preventive healthcare closer to auto mechanics and their families.Santanu Mishra, Co-founder, Smile Foundation, said the initiative addresses the often-overlooked occupational health risks faced by auto mechanics by bringing doctors, diagnostics and preventive screenings directly to their communities.Since its launch in 2024, Sehat Ki Samriddhi has reached more than 18,300 people nationwide, with the programme continuing to expand its healthcare outreach through December 2026.

Six Projects, One Powerhouse Partnership

Mumbai: Actress Taapsee Pannu and writer-producer Kanika Dhillon have built one of contemporary Hindi cinema's most distinctive creative partnerships, combining unconventional storytelling with powerful female-led narratives across genres.

Their journey began with Anurag Kashyap's Manmarziyaan (2018), where Pannu played the free-spirited Rumi. They reunited with the dark thriller Haseen Dillruba (2021), followed by the sports drama Rashmi Rocket, in which Pannu portrayed an athlete confronting gender discrimination and controversial gender-testing practices.

The partnership expanded with Rajkumar Hirani's immigration drama Dunki (2023) and the sequel PhirAayi Haseen Dillruba (2024), further showcasing their versatility across contrasting storytelling formats.

Now, the duo is joining forces for their sixth project, Gandhari, marking their move into the high-octane revenge action-thriller genre. Pannu plays a mother who embarks on a relentless mission for justice and revenge after her child is taken from her.

Dhillon has described Gandhari as an intense, emotionally charged mother-led action thriller and her first collaboration with Pannu in the raw action genre. She has also praised Pannu's commitment to the role, saying the actress has brought her "heart and soul" to every frame.

From romance and dark thrillers to sports, immigration and revenge action, the six collaborations reflect the creative chemistry and willingness to experiment that have come to define the Pannu-Dhillon partnership.

With Gandhari, the duo once again places a complex woman at the heart of an unconventional story—this time armed with fury, determination and a mother's fight for justice.

Zinc Football Academy's Sonam Ghosh Selected for India U-17 Women's Team

Udaipur: Zinc Football Academy goalkeeper Sonam Ghosh has been selected for the India U-17 Women's National Team for friendly matches against Uzbekistan in Tashkent on August 27 and 30.

The 15-year-old has impressed throughout the season, helping ZFA win the Rajasthan Senior Women's League and reach the AIFF U-17 Women's Youth League semi-finals. A member of ZFA's first girls' batch launched in 2025, Sonam has attended two national camps.

Her selection highlights the academy's growing impact on Indian women's football. Hindustan Zinc, a Vedanta Group company, launched India's first residential girls' football academy to nurture talent from rural communities. Since 2018, Zinc Football Academy has produced several India age-group players, reinforcing Hindustan Zinc's commitment to grassroots sports and inclusive community development.