

COLLEGE ATMOSPHERE ALIVE WITH MUSIC AND JOY

Inter-University Youth Festival Turns JNEC Lawns Into a Festive Musical Carnival

CHH. SAMBAJINAGAR

During 39th AIU Central Zone Inter-University Youth Festival MGM University's expansive JNEC Lawns came alive with the sounds of Indian folk tradition. The "Indian Group Song" competition drew eighteen universities from Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh, each bringing a unique blend of traditional and modern instruments to the stage. The mix of tabla, harmonium, ektara, dolki and khaddi with piano and guitar created a rare fusion that filled the entire venue with the fragrance of the soil they represented.

The evening brought a vibrant celebration of Indian folk culture, transforming the venue into a space of rhythmic energy, bright costumes and cultural pride. Universities from across the country took turns presenting their musical traditions with spirited enthusiasm. Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Marathwada University opened the showcase, setting a warm, festive tone for what was to follow. Their act was succeeded by back-to-back performances from Raipur, Amravati, Nagpur, Gwalior and Bhopal, each team experimenting with refreshing musical pairings. Tabla conversed with guitar, dolki merged with piano, and the rustic charm of ektara, khaddi and harmonium elevated the folk essence, creating a beautiful bridge between classical roots and youthful energy.



The cultural flow continued as fusion performance, blending Gondwana University, Indira Kala Sangeet Vishwavidyalaya, Vasantrao Naik Marathwada Krishi Vidyapeeth and several others from Ujjain, Gwalior, Indore, Nanded and Bhopal took the stage one after another, ensuring the momentum never dipped for even a moment. Performers arrived with varied styles — some steeped in pure folk rhythm, others experimenting boldly with modern arrangements — offering the audience a constantly evolving musical landscape to experience.

The host, MGM University, added an explosive touch with its Western Tunes Light Up the Festival

Western Group Songs competition brought fresh energy to the 39th Central Zone Youth Festival where students showcased a spectrum of Western genres—from soft rock and blues to contemporary pop—mesmerizing the audience with harmonious vocals and dynamic performances.

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ART, EFFORT, AND IMAGINATION BLENDED SEAMLESSLY.....

RANGOLI RHYTHMS: A Vibrant Festival of Colors and Creativity

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The Youth Festival at MGM University was not just a celebration of art—it was a testament to how young talent can blend tradition, innovation, and personal expression. Among the many events, the Rangoli Competition stood out as a vibrant showcase of imagination and cultural pride, bringing together students from universities across

Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, and Chhattisgarh.

Participants found the event empowering, seeing it as an opportunity to blend tradition and innovation, and explore skills beyond their academic studies. Kusum Nishad from Pt. Ravishankar Shukla University called the experience "amazing and enriching," while Vaishnavi Duratkar from VNMKV Parbhani emphasized how the

creative platform helped her discover new skills and gain confidence.

The students successfully combined cultural awareness with creativity, creating intricate, eco-friendly rangolis that reflected regional stories and values. The festival, lauded by participants and the AIU, reinforced its mission to nurture collaboration, confidence, & cultural understanding young artists.

SILENT STORIES SPEAK LOUDLY: Engaging Mime Performances Highlight Important Social Messages

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ultimately transforming into Durga to defeat injustice. The performance carried a powerful message: women are not weak; when provoked, they possess the strength to overcome oppression.

Rabindranath Tagore University, Raisen, explored the modern challenge of mobile phone addiction. The performance illustrated how constant phone usage gradually turns into an addiction, distancing individuals from reality.

Rani Durgavati Vishwavidyalay, Jabalpur, opened the mime segment by portraying Dr. B.R. Ambedkar's monumental contribution to India—the drafting of the Constitution.

Through expressive movements, the performers highlighted how Ambedkar's vision guided the nation toward equality, development, and prosperity, emphasizing that the Constitution is not merely a book but a guiding light for the country.

Devi Ahilya Vishwavidyalaya, Indore, presented the brave and challenging life of a firefighter.

The mime captured the danger firefighters face daily, risking their lives to save others. The performance conveyed that firefighters are not just employees but the protective shield of every home, facing fear yet never retreating.

Barkatullah University, Bhopal, showcased a gripping narrative of a girl subjected to societal oppression from birth.

The mime revealed her struggles within the family and society,

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AIU's 39th INTER-UNIVERSITY CENTRAL ZONE YOUTH FESTIVAL



GEN-Z GOES CLASICAL.....

Solo Performances Strike Chord at Aryabhata Hall

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The competition showcased the talents of young instrumentalists, who presented traditional ragas, complex taals, and demonstrated immaculate command over their chosen instruments, offering a testament to the discipline and depth of Indian classical music.

A total of 14 universities participated in the competition, representing a diverse geographical and musical landscape: Devi Ahilya Vishwavidyalaya (Indore), MGM University (Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar), AKS University (Satna), Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Marathwada University (Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar), Barkatullah University (Bhopal), Pt. Ravishankar Shukla University (Raipur), Indira Kala Sangeet Vishwavidyalaya (Khairagarh), Samrat Vikramaditya University (Ujjain), Rajiv Gandhi Proudyogiki Vishwavidyalaya (Bhopal), Sant Gadge

Baba Amravati University (Amravati), Rashtrasant Tukadoji Maharaj University (Nagpur), Lakshmi Bai National Institute of Physical Education (Gwalior), Raja Mansingh Tomar Music & Arts University (Gwalior), and Swami Ramanand Teerth Marathwada University (Nanded).

The event was a confluence of varied classical styles. Devi Ahilya Vishwavidyalaya, Indore, impressed the judges and audience with precise and classical renditions in Teen Taal and Pancham Sawari. MGM University, Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar, offered melodic harmony through a captivating bansuri-table jugalbandi. AKS University, Satna, performed a piece rooted deeply in Madhya Pradesh's traditional musical ethos. Pt. Ravishankar Shukla University, Raipur, provided a refined instrumental performance, reflecting Chhattisgarh's classical discipline. Sant Gadge Baba Amravati University delivered a graceful classical solo rooted in the

Maharashtrian tradition. Rashtrasant Tukadoji Maharaj University, Nagpur, stood out for their impressive mastery of rhythm and melody. Lakshmi Bai National Institute of Physical Education, Gwalior, earned appreciation for their tonal clarity and expression in Raga Bageshwari. Raja Mansingh Tomar Music & Arts University, Gwalior, showcased their expertise with a classical solo, highlighting the university's strong musical legacy.

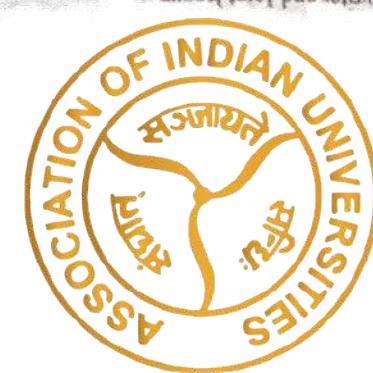
Indira Kala Sangeet Vishwavidyalaya, Khairagarh, delivered a polished presentation enriched with classical purity. Samrat Vikramaditya University, Ujjain, presented a traditional instrumental solo that vividly reflected Malwa's cultural heritage.

Performers from BAMU, BU Bhopal, RGPV Bhopal, and SRTMUN Nanded also added significant diversity and depth with their unique individual instrumental styles.





R-UNIVERSITY FESTIVAL 2025-26 (UNIFEST)



Soulful Notes and Sufi Magic Enchant the Audience

CHH. SAMBAJINAGAR

Aryabhatta Hall at MGM University came alive as the Light Vocal (Indian) music competition of the 39th AIU Central Zone Inter-University Youth Festival unfolded in an atmosphere charged with melody and youthful creativity. With just five minutes of preparation time and an eight-to-ten-minute performance window, singers from across Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh stepped onto the stage carrying harmoniums, tablas, dholkis, flutes and guitars, ready to bring classical, devotional and semi-classical traditions to life. The hall soon resonated with heartfelt renditions of Hindi songs, Marathi bhavgeet, ghazals, abhangas and poetic compositions, creating an evening steeped in India's rich musical heritage.

Nineteen universities participated in this vibrant contest from Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh. Together these universities painted the musical canvas

of the evening with bhajans such as "Baje Re Muraliya," "Mere Baanke Bihari Sawariya," and a variety of soulful kajris, supported by traditional accompaniment on harmonium, tabla and dholki.

Amid the diverse performances, the soulful Sufi presentation by Raja Mansingh Tomar Music and Arts University stood out, captivating the audience with its emotional intensity. Their rendition of "Aaya Bura Jo Waqt To Chehre Badal Gaye" filled the hall with spiritual warmth. Singer Jagrati Jha delivered the composition with heartfelt depth, while Akshat Mishra used the harmonium to enrich its melodic soul. Shorya Mishra displayed excellent control on the tabla, and Parth Upadhyay's dholak added a powerful rhythmic layer. The themes of time, change and inner resilience embedded in the Sufi piece struck a chord with the audience, earning warm applause and appreciation from judges and guests.

Each participating university showcased not just musical ability but

also discipline, confidence and cultural understanding shaped by their respective institutions. As the night progressed, Aryabhatta Hall became a shared space where devotional serenity, classical finesse and youthful enthusiasm coexisted, turning the competition into a memorable celebration of India's musical diversity.

The 39th Association of Indian Universities (AIU) Youth Festival continues its vibrant journey, showcasing an unparalleled commitment to fostering artistic expression, cultural exchange, and inter-university camaraderie. As the host institution, MGM University is once again reaffirming its significant role as a dynamic cultural hub for talented young performers hailing from across the Central Zone of India. This multi-day festival serves as a critical platform where students from various universities converge to compete, collaborate, and celebrate the rich diversity of India's youth culture.

A Tapestry of Tradition: Students Weave Culture Into Colourful Collages

The vibrant corridors of the Leonardo da Vinci School of Design, MGM University, came alive as students transformed simple pieces of coloured paper into stunning visual narratives of India's traditional attire. The Collage Competition, organized as part of the 39th Inter university Central Zone Youth Festival of the Association of Indian Universities (AIU), became a celebration of creativity, culture, and youthful artistry.

What began as blank sheets and scattered craft materials soon blossomed into a vivid tapestry of India's sartorial heritage. Guided by the theme "Traditional Attire," students were tasked with crafting a portrait collage using coloured paper, cutting tools, and a limited timeframe.

Each participant first sketched a pencil outline and then carefully layered paper pieces, building depth and detail with patient precision. As

the collages took shape, India's cultural mosaic unfolded across the tables—Punjabi salwar suits, South Indian silk traditions, and a range of regional garments emerged in striking hues and textures. Some students chose symbolic motifs to represent heritage, while others focused on harmony of colours and the elegance of form. Every artwork told a story.

Judges evaluated the pieces on creativity, thematic clarity, aesthetic expression, originality, and overall visual impact. And the results were nothing short of captivating. Each collage reflected not just artistic skill, but an emotional connection to the roots of Indian culture. More than a competition, the event served as a creative window into the country's rich traditions. It offered students a platform to express identity, explore heritage, and reinterpret traditional attire through their own artistic lens.

Young Artists celebrate Culture and Creativity through Eco-Friendly Ganesh Art

The AIU Central Zone Youth Festival witnessed a beautiful blend of tradition, imagination, and environmental consciousness as 18 young artists from various universities participated in the Clay Modelling event at School of design.

With Eco-Friendly Ganesh Festival as the central theme, the event aimed not only to celebrate Maharashtra's cultural identity—where Lord Ganesha is revered as the presiding deity—but also to encourage sustainable artistic practices. MGM University was transformed into a vibrant creative studio as clay, colours, natural materials, and imagination came together in the hands of emerging artists. The energetic ambiance of the campus, participants crafted intricate representations of Lord Ganesha using clay and natural materials. The competition arena turned into a lively creative studio, with students deeply engrossed in sculpting, chiseling, shaping, and blending tradition with

modern artistic ideas. Each artwork carried a unique interpretation of Ganesh Utsav—some focusing on devotion, others on community celebration, and several highlighting the urgent need to adopt eco-friendly practices during the festival. The atmosphere buzzed with excitement as students carved, painted, and conceptualised their artworks, each piece narrating a unique story of devotion and environmental awareness. For many, the theme struck a personal chord, blending childhood memories of Ganesh Utsav with the growing call for ecological responsibility.

As the artworks came together, they collectively echoed a powerful message—that culture thrives best when it cares for the environment. Through clay idols, paintings, and mixed-media expressions, the participants not only celebrated Ganesh Utsav but also envisioned a greener, more mindful future for the festival.

VOICES FROM THE CANVAS: Participants Share Their Journey

“I created an artwork on Ganpati Festival with a lot of joy. I am enjoying the beauty of this campus and the entire atmosphere around the event,” she said.

Anshika Jain
Jiwaji University, BLIS Student

“For the Ganesh Utsav theme, I created a Ganesh idol. I gave my 100 percent. I feel I could have done even better, but now it depends on the judges,” he shared, eagerly awaiting the results.

Amar Vishwakarma
AKS University, Satna (M.P.)

“For Uday, the competition was an enriching artistic journey. “The Ganesh Utsav theme gave me a great experience. I truly enjoyed working on it and being part of this creative event,” he said.

Uday Gulhane

Rashtrasant Tukadoji Maharaj Nagpur University

“We begin every auspicious task with Lord Ganesha, so I included figures carrying Ganpati lovingly,” She shared that the experience was “wonderful” and allowed her to pour her passion into every detail.

Preeti Dadarao Kadam

Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Marathwada University, Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar

Melodies Without Words: Folk Instruments steal the show

Student orchestras delivered powerful, vocal-free performances featuring traditional instruments, celebrating India's cultural identity at the Folk Orchestra competition in AIU's 39th Inter University Central Zone Youth Festival (UNIFESTS)

JNEC Lawns came alive as universities from Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, and Chhattisgarh participated in a vibrant Folk Orchestra competition. The event strictly prohibited singing, allowing only instrumental performances, which highlighted the rich diversity of traditional Indian music.

Students performed in colourful, region-specific attire, using a wide range of folk instruments such as dhol, dholki, bansuri, daf, nagada, manjira, tasha, harmonium, nal, and several tribal percussions. Teams from Devi Ahilya Vishwavidyalaya (Indore), AKS University (Satna), SRTM University (Nanded), BAMU (Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar), Indira Kala Sangeet

Vishwavidyalaya (Khairagarh), Sant Gadge Baba Amravati University, Pt. Ravi Shankar Shukla University (Raipur), Rajiv Gandhi Proudyogiki Vishwavidyalaya (Bhopal), RTMNU (Nagpur), and Rabindranath Tagore University (Raisen) presented orchestral pieces reflecting their unique cultural identities.

From pahadi dhuns and Rajasthani classical rhythms to Chhattisgarhi folk melodies and Maharashtrian traditional tunes, the evening offered an immersive journey into India's folk music traditions. The event concluded with thunderous applause, celebrating the unity of cultures through pure instrumental artistry.

Mimicry Competition Steals the Spotlight Laughter and Talent light up the stage

GM University witnessed a unique blend of humor, observation, and performance as the Mimicry Competition lit up Rukmani Auditorium. Seventeen universities brought their best performers to the stage, creating an atmosphere charged with laughter, admiration, and sheer energy. From the first act, it was clear that the audience was in for a memorable experience.

The event opened with flawless impersonations of beloved cartoon characters. Students mimicked the voices and expressions of Doraemon, Motu Patlu, and other animated icons with such precision that the auditorium erupted in applause and giggles from the very first moments. The combination of vocal accuracy and animated gestures instantly drew the audience into the playful world of mimicry.

As the competition progressed, students took on legendary Bollywood personalities. Imitations of Nana Patekar, Makrand Anaspure, Siddharth Jadhav, Mithun Chakraborty,



Dharmendra, Ajay Devgan, and Salman Khan captured their unique mannerisms, expressions, and dialogue delivery with uncanny precision.

The timing of voice modulations, subtle gestures, and facial expressions was so convincing that the audience often felt the stars themselves had taken the stage.

Political mimicry added a clever and humorous twist to the performances. Impersonations of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Sharad Pawar showcased the performers' attention to speech rhythm, pauses, and characteristic expressions, leaving the crowd both amused and impressed.

