

# ONE ACT, MANY VOICES

## Youth Theatre Ignites Powerful Stories

CHH. SAMBHAJINAGAR

One Act Play competition brought together diverse narratives, bold themes, and exceptional performances in Youth Festival.

The event opened with Vasantao Naik Marathwada Krishi Vidyapeeth, whose play “Chalo, Nikalne Ka Samay Hua Hai” explored the journey of the soul after death. Under the direction of Krishnakant, the play depicted how a spirit struggles to accept its own demise while a divine guide evaluates the soul’s deeds with the message that life is not just physical existence—each action leaves a lasting mark on the soul.

A deeply emotional portrayal of family bonds, support systems, and the strength that loved ones provide during difficult times. The play by MGM University illustrated how small gestures, comforting words, and collective effort can help a family withstand any crisis.

Jagran Lakecity University, followed with a humorous adaptation of Bodhāyana’s directed by Ashutosh Mishra, the play offered a satirical take on individuals who claim to be



logical and intelligent yet behave irrationally. The team encouraged introspection about our beliefs, behaviour, and misconceptions. Performance by Indira Kala Sangeet Vishwavidyalaya, brought forward the emotional struggles of rural Rajasthani women in “Virangana” directed by Anurag Prakash Panda, the play portrayed a woman’s journey through objectification, emotional emptiness, and a loveless marriage. The team from Rashtrasant Tukadoji Maharaj Nagpur University presented “Disnara Bhut (Visible Ghost)” an inventive portrayal of the modern “visible ghost”—the mobile phone. The play emphasized how the device, though useful, silently traps individuals into addiction. The message resonated

strongly: one must use the phone, but not become enslaved by it. Rani Durgavati University, Jabalpur showcased “Virangana” a powerful fusion of Mahabharata’s female narratives with the struggles of contemporary women. Directed by Sumit Pathak, the play highlighted how, despite changing times and stories, the challenges faced by women remain painfully relevant. Devi Ahilya Vishwavidyalay, addressed the often-overlooked struggles of the third gender community. Set in a Rajasthani royal family, the play depicted a young prince who identified as a girl but was hidden for ten years. The performance of Kinner left the audience deeply reflective about gender identity and societal prejudice.



# Grace, Rhythm, Tradition Unite

## Divine Dance and Cultural Brilliance

### Steal the Spotlight on Day 3



CHH. SAMBHAJINAGAR

On the third day of the 39th AIU Central Zone Inter-University Youth Festival, the JNEC lawns of MGM University transformed into a breathtaking celebration of India’s classical dance heritage.

Students from various universities captivated the audience with stellar performances in Kathak, Bharatanatyam, and other traditional dance forms that reflect India’s rich cultural legacy. Devi Ahilya University presented a powerful Kathak performance portraying the episode of the Pandava-Kaurava Doot Krida and Lord Krishna protecting Draupadi during the Vastraharan incident.

Pt. Ravishankar Shukla University, Raipur, and Rani Durgavati University, Jabalpur also earned

huge applause with their elegant Kathak presentations. Rajiv Gandhi Proudyogiki Vishwavidyalaya (RGPV), Bhopal showcased the subtle grace of Bharatanatyam with tender expressions depicting the loving memories shared between Radha and Krishna. AKS University, Satna, and Vikram University, Ujjain performed brilliant Kathak sequences. Vikram University particularly stood out with a beautiful portrayal of Devi Stuti and playful interactions of Krishna and Radha.

MGM University, Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar, and Rashtrasant Tukadoji Maharaj Nagpur University highlighted the traditional beauty of Bharatanatyam through their performances. Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Marathwada University (BAMU), Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar showcased divine moments like Shiva’s Tandav, Samudra Manthan, and Vishapan through powerful Bharatanatyam storytelling. Indira Kala Sangeet Vishwavidyalaya brought a vibrant visual treat with Kathak performances featuring Kali Stuti, playful Radha-Krishna moments, and the spirited festival of Holi.

The third day’s classical dance competition beautifully blended the elegance of Indian culture, mythological narratives, and expressive artistry. These diverse and captivating performances left an unforgettable mark of cultural heritage on the JNEC lawns.



Curtains Up, Minds Awake: Students ignite social change through Skit!

Yesterday Rukmini Auditorium witnessed an inspiring Inter University Youth Festival where teams from Maharashtra, Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh presented powerful performances on contemporary social issues. Each university offered a unique perspective, blending creativity with meaningful messages that deeply resonated with the audience.

Indira Kala Vishwavidyalaya opened the event with “Mobile Ki Maya,” a satirical take on society’s growing mobile addiction, reminding viewers to use technology wisely. Rani Durgavati Vishwavidyalaya,



Jabalpur, explored digital dependency and its impact on public decision-making through a dramatic narrative on governance and behaviour. Devi Ahilya Vishwavidyalaya, Indore, delivered a light yet meaningful performance set in a fictional dog kingdom, highlighting loyalty and humane qualities often found

more in animals than in humans. Rajiv Gandhi Proud yogiki Vishwavidyalaya, Bhopal, addressed rising discrimination and hatred through the journey of two detectives investigating roots of conflict and fear. Vikram Vishwavidyalaya, Ujjain, shed light on the struggles of people forced into

begging, urging empathy over indifference. Pt. Ravishankar Shukla University focused on the declining cultural sincerity among Ramleela artists, stressing the values of “Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam.” Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Marathwada University presented a powerful piece on systemic failures in addressing violence against women, reminding society that forgetting victims is a collective injustice.

Lakshmbai National Institute of Physical Education, Gwalior, portrayed how societal pressure affects children’s confidence, promoting self-belief and independence.

MGM University delivered a multi-layered narrative on unemployment, exploitation and political manipulation, including the grim reality of minors pushed into begging. Rabindranath Tagore University used symbolism to depict the monotony of daily life, comparing it to a circus and urging people to break free from societal controls. AKS University concluded with a reflective portrayal of diverse social realities through imaginative storytelling

The festival stood out for its meaningful themes, creative storytelling and impactful performances uniting students across states.

Trophies and Awards at AIU’s 39<sup>th</sup> Inter-University Central Zone Youth Festival

Association of Indian Universities (AIU) has unveiled an extensive award framework for the 39th Inter-University Central Zonal Youth Festival (UNIFEST) 2025–26, ensuring comprehensive recognition for excellence across all cultural, literary, fine arts, theatre, music, and dance categories. The merit award includes overall trophies, event trophies, medals, and certificates for merit and participation, reflecting the festival’s commitment to encouraging talent and fostering competitive spirit among university students.



<b>Overall Championship Trophies for top performing universities</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Overall Champion</li><li>Overall First Runners-up</li><li>Overall Second Runners-up</li><li>Overall Third Runners-up</li><li>Overall Fourth Runners-up</li></ul>	<b>Category-wise overall trophies</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Music</li><li>Dance</li><li>Theatre</li><li>Fine Arts</li><li>Literary</li><li>Cultural</li><li>Procession</li></ul>	<b>Event-Level Trophies and Medals</b> <p>All 27 competitive events will have a uniform award structure including trophy and medals for First, Second, and Third Positions</p> <b>Medals:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Gold (First Position)</li><li>Silver (Second Position)</li><li>Bronze (Third Position)</li></ul>
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Canvas of Dreams Colour burst at UNIFEST! Poster Makers Turn Ideas Into Art



Poster Making competition, held under the Fine Arts category, took place at the Design Building on 27 November 2025. The event brought together creative minds from various institutions, setting an enthusiastic tone for the

festival. A total of 20 universities took part in the competition, showcasing creativity, originality, and artistic expression.

The draw for performance sequence decided the order in which each university participated. Prominent universities included Dr Babasaheb Ambedkar Marathwada University (Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar), Gondwana University (Gadchiroli), Rajiv Gandhi Proud yogiki Vishwavidyalaya (Bhopal), Pt. Ravishankar Shukla University (Raipur), ITM University (Gwalior), Vikram University (Ujjain), Sant Gadge Baba Amravati University, Rashtrasant Tukadoji Maharaj University (Nagpur) and others.

Participants displayed posters on diverse themes, merging creativity with social awareness. The artworks reflected a wide range of ideas, emphasising thoughtful messages through innovative designs.

The use of colours, detailing, and conceptual clarity added strength to each poster presented. The Poster Making competition successfully highlighted the artistic talent and creative thinking of students from various universities, with strong participation, meaningful themes, and commendable presentation, the event added significant value to UNIFEST 2025-26 and set a positive momentum for the upcoming competitions.

“It’s my first experience and I’m genuinely enjoying every bit of it. I’ve done theatre in my college before, but representing the University feels completely different and exciting. I’m participating in Theatre, One Act and Skit, and the arrangements here stay, food, everything are excellent. With such great facilities and atmosphere, my expectations from this competition are naturally high.”

- Abdul Kareem  
AKS University  
Satna (Madhya Pradesh)

“I’m representing Hemchand Yadav University and participating in English Elocution and Debate both give me a chance to express myself and sharpen my communication skills. I was nervous coming from another state, but the warm and supportive atmosphere at MGM University made me feel at home instantly. The energy of this event is inspiring, I’m learning, growing, and truly grateful for this opportunity.”

-Taniya Mishra  
Student Representative,  
Hemchand Yadav Vishwavidyalaya,  
Chhattisgarh

