



## ANCIENT ART AND MODERN ANGUSIH: Gen Z Reimagines Mythology & Modern Struggles

TRADITION BATTLES INJUSTICE

CHH. SAMBHAJINAGAR

The stage at Rukmini Auditorium became a canvas for powerful storytelling on Wednesday, November 26, as university teams from across the region competed in the Creative Choreography Dance category. Far from being simple entertainment, the performances served as a mirror to society, blending classical aesthetics with urgent modern commentaries ranging from national pride to the safety of women.

The event celebrated the region's deep cultural roots with MGM University's piece, "The Art of Ajanta Comes Alive." In a mesmerizing fusion, dancers portrayed ancient sculptures awakening to interact with a modern couple, effectively bridging the gap between the static beauty of heritage and the dynamic energy of the present generation.

Swami Ramanand Teerth Marathwada University, Nanded, delivered a highly emotional tribute to the Indian armed forces. Through expressive choreography, they chronicled the various stages of a soldier's life, capturing the unwavering determination and courage required to protect the nation.

A significant portion of the competition focused on the pressing issue of women's safety, often invoking Indian mythology as a call to arms. Sant Gadge Baba Amravati University presented a fusion of



Kathak, Bharatnatyam, and Odissi to interpret the concept of Navadurga, arguing that in the modern era, women must embody Shakti to destroy societal evils.

Similarly, AKS University, Satna, referenced the humiliation of Draupadi to ask a haunting question: "Krishna came for Draupadi, but who will come today?" The performance was a plea for women to become self-reliant. This sentiment was echoed by Rabindranath Tagore University, Raisen, who combined the fierce imagery of Mahakali and the Norta folk dance to emphasize that a woman's best protection is her own strength. Devi Ahilya Vishwavidyalaya's intense performance, depicting a vulnerable woman confronting abuse and social pressure, earned great appreciation.

Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar

Marathwada University (BAMU) expanded on this with "Save the Girl Child," juxtaposing female icons like Mary Kom against the tragedy of violence victims, set to Dhol-Tasha. Jiwaji University, Gwalior, took a symbolic approach to the horrors of child abuse.

Depicting a society desensitized and turned to stone, the dancers eventually broke out of their petrified forms to fight for justice, using a semi-classical style to drive home the message that atrocities must end. Other teams addressed environmental and psychological challenges. Rashtrasant Tukadoji Maharaj Nagpur University tackled the "digital pandemic" of mobile addiction. In simple white costumes, the group depicted how youth are lost to social media, urging a return to mindful living.

Vocalists vie for supremacy at the National Youth Festival

## Western Music takes Center Stage @ AIU's 39th Inter-University Youth festival

CHH. SAMBHAJINAGAR

At the AIU's 39th Inter-University Central Zone Youth Festival, leading universities from Central India showcased their exceptional talent in Western music, captivating the audience with expressive and technically precise performances. The festival highlighted not only the students' musical expertise but also the depth of training and artistic guidance provided by their respective institutions.

A total of 17 universities participated, delivering captivating

vocal performances spanning various styles of Western music. The universities included Rabindranath Tagore University (Raisen, MP), Indira Kala Sangeet Vishwavidyalaya (Khairagarh, Chhattisgarh), Rajiv Gandhi Proudyogiki Vishwavidyalaya (Bhopal, MP), Swami Ramanand Teerth Marathwada University (Nanded, MH), MGM University (Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar, MH), Vikram University (Ujjain, MP), Jiwaji University (Gwalior, MP), Madhav Institute of Technology and Science (Gwalior, MP), Devi Ahilya

Vishwavidyalaya (Indore, MP), Gondwana University (Gadchiroli, Maharashtra), Rashtrasant Tukadoji Maharaj Nagpur University (Nagpur, Maharashtra), AKS University (Satna, MP), Lakshmibai National Institute of Physical Education (Gwalior, MP), Raja Mansingh Tomar Music & Arts University (Gwalior, MP), Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Marathwada University (Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar, MH), Sant Gadge Baba Amravati University (Amravati, MH), and ITM University (Gwalior, MP). With impressive vocal clarity

and emotion, the students showcased the rising standard of Western music in Central India. The performances highlighted exceptional vocal control and the rapid growth of Western music in Central India.

The event reinforced the importance of inter-university platforms in fostering musical talent and cultural exchange, leaving the audience inspired by the region's artistic excellence.



STORIES, LAUGHTER, AND REAL-LIFE DRAMA LIVE ON STAGE.

Dramatic Narratives Shine at One-Act Play Event @ Rukmini Auditorium

CHH. SAMBHAJINAGAR

The stage at Rukmini Auditorium recently became a vibrant showcase of theatrical talent during the One-Act Play competition, a key part of AIU’s 39th Inter-University Central Zone Youth festival 2025-26 (UNIFEST). Universities from Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, and Chhattisgarh participated, presenting diverse themes that spanned social issues, cherished folklore, and contemporary dilemmas.

Vasantrao Naik Marathwada Krishi Vidyapeeth, Parbhani, captivated the audience with Chalo, Nikalne Ka Samay Hua Hai. The play offered a profound depiction of a soul’s journey post-death, exploring human attachment, the concept of karma, and the cosmic balance of good and evil, underscoring the enduring imprint of every action.

Jagran Lake City University, Bhopal, brought a touch of humor with Bhagvadajjukam. This witty performance satirized the modern tendency to overemphasize rationality



while neglecting practical, everyday behavior, encouraging self-awareness and reflection.

Indira Kala Sangeet Vishwavidyalaya, Khairagarh, presented Dwidha, a poignant portrayal of the struggles faced by a rural Rajasthani woman. The production skillfully blended Chhattisgarhi folk music with artistic elements from Maharashtra

to convey a universal message about the shared hardships and resilience of women across different regions.

Rashtrasant Tukadoji Maharaj University, Nagpur, staged Dikhnaa Bhoot, a timely commentary on the dual nature of mobile phones, highlighting them as both useful tools and potentially modern-day traps, urging viewers to maintain a balanced usage.

Rani Durgavati Vishwavidyalaya, Jabalpur, presented Virangana, drawing parallels between the historical sufferings of women in the Mahabharata and contemporary female struggles, ultimately emphasizing the timeless resilience of women despite changing circumstances.

A particularly compelling performance came from Devi Ahilya Vishwavidyalaya, Indore, which explored the challenging life of a third-gender (Kinner) child in a Rajasthani royal family. Through powerful monologues and dramatic interactions, the play sensitively depicted themes of societal exclusion, the quest for personal identity, and longing.

The competition served as a compelling glimpse into India’s rich and diverse social narratives, successfully blending folklore, humor, and critical contemporary issues. The event left the audience both thoroughly entertained and deeply contemplative about the world around them. Indeed, stories, laughter, and real-life drama lived on stage at UNIFEST 2025-26.

MGM CAPTURED ON CANVAS: Creativity flows at Chintan Gaah



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Enthusiastic display of creativity unfolded at Chintan Gah as the on-the-spot painting competition commenced at 10:00 AM on 26th November. The event saw participation from 20 talented students representing various universities, each eager to showcase their artistic skills during AIU’s 39th Inter-University Central Zone Youth Festival 2025-26 (UNIFEST).

The competition challenged participants to depict landscapes as seen from Chintangah, allowing them to capture the essence of the surroundings. Interpretations varied widely—some artists illustrated the iconic Mahatma

Gandhi’s Statue, others focused on the majestic Satyamev Jayate Stambh, while many celebrated the lush greenery and serene ambience of the campus.

Throughout the session, students exhibited intense focus, creativity, and passion, making the event both vibrant and engaging. By the conclusion, participants proudly displayed their works, and the atmosphere was filled with appreciation and delight.

The competition not only encouraged artistic expression but also provided a platform for young talents to interpret and celebrate the beauty of their surroundings, reinforcing the festival’s spirit of creativity and cultural engagement.

Students from across India present fresh perspectives at Elocution Competition

CHH. SAMBHAJINAGAR

The national-level elocution competition, held today at the Einstein Auditorium as part of the 39th Central Zone Youth Festival of the Association of Indian Universities (AIU), concluded with remarkable enthusiasm and intellectual vibrancy.

Students from various universities across the country captivated the audience as they presented compelling arguments on two English topics — ‘Swadeshi 2.0: Building a Self-Reliant India for Viksit Bharat 2047’ and ‘Is Tariff Escalation a Necessary Evil for Realising India’s Make in India Ambitions?’ — and two Hindi topics — “Kya Bharat ki Maujooda Videsh aur Arthik Neeti Use Vaishvik Shakti ke Kendra Mein Sthapit Kar Sakti Hai?” and “Sanskritik Vividhata: Bharat ki Asli Shakti.”

Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Marathwada University’s Sanj Ghughe highlighted the importance of self-reliance for a developed India by 2047. He emphasized that energy security, indigenous technology, robust employment generation, stable trade balance, and the ability to influence global norms form the backbone of true economic sovereignty.

Tania Mishra (Hemchand

Yadav University) emphasized the social dimension of Swadeshi, invoking Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj and Mahatma Gandhi to describe self-reliance as an enduring ethical guide. The discussion moved toward strategic and legal frameworks with Sonia Meena of Rabindranath Tagore University, Raipur, MP, shed light on the strategic vulnerabilities posed by global supply chains. Referring to India’s dependence on electronics imports, the Semiconductor Mission, and rising defence exports, she argued that Swadeshi 2.0 is not driven by emotion but by strategic national interest.. Khushali Dalal (Rashtrasant Tukadoji Maharaj Nagpur University) further expanded the scope, asserting that Swadeshi extends to the justice system, with indigenous concepts like Public Interest Litigations (PILs) reflecting India’s intellectual imprint.

The diverse perspectives presented by the participants gave the audience a comprehensive view of the modernization of Swadeshi, the necessity of Aatmanirbhar Bharat, and India’s long-term developmental vision for 2047. The audience responded with appreciation, applauding the articulate and insightful presentations of all speakers.

“We’ve been a part of AIU for the past eight years, and last time we became national winners. We’re fully prepared and confident of clinching the first prize again just like last year.”

- Lucky Singh, Team Manager, AKS University (MP)

“It’s the first time MGM is hosting this event, and as a student of this University I’m incredibly excited. I’ve done theatre before, but representing the university brings a whole new pressure and thrill.”

- Abhijeet Tangde, MGMU, Chh Sambhajinagar

