



Inauguration by Padma Shri Nana Patekar

Nana Patekar, one of India's most respected actors, is known for his powerful performances and grounded personality. A rare achiever, he has won three National Awards for Best Actor, Best Supporting Actor, and Best Feature Film. Nana began his artistic journey in Marathi theatre, where he developed the strong acting discipline and emotional depth that define his style today. His early stage experiences shaped his realistic approach and continue to influence his work. He later delivered acclaimed performances in films like Parinda, Krantiveer, Khamoshi, Ab Tak Chhappan, and Welcome. Beyond cinema, he is actively involved in social work. Through the Naam Foundation, which he co-founded with Makarand Anaspure, he supports farmers affected by drought in Maharashtra. Known for his simplicity, honesty, and commitment to social causes, Nana Patekar continues to inspire the youth of India with his values and dedication.

AIU's 39th Inter-University Central Zone Youth Festival @ MGM University

Over 1,300 students across 25 universities to compete in 27 events

CHH. SAMBHAJINAGAR

MGM University is hosting the AIU's 39th Inter-University Central Zone Youth Festival (UNIFEST), marking a significant milestone for the institution as it hosts this prestigious event for the first time.

The five-day festival, scheduled from November 25 to 29, 2025, brings together more than 1,300 student-artists from 22 universities across Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Vidarbha, and Marathwada, creating a vibrant platform for cultural exchange and artistic expression.

The inauguration ceremony is being held today at the Rukmini Auditorium, graced by Padma Shri Nana Patekar as the chief guest. The event is also attended by Dr. P. M. Jadhav (Vice President, MGM), Shri Ankushrao Kadam (Chancellor, MGM University), Dr. Vilas Sapkal (Vice Chancellor), Dr. Ashish Gadekar (Registrar), along with deans, directors, faculty members, students, and distinguished

guests. Organised annually by the Association of Indian Universities (AIU) since 1985, UNIFEST stands as one of India's most celebrated cultural platforms, providing a national stage for youth talent and diversity from nearly 45,000 affiliated colleges.

This year's UNIFEST theme "Celebrating Waves of Youthful Energy with Cultural Expressions" highlights the dynamism and cultural richness of Indian youth.

Through dance, drama, music, literature, and fine arts, participants are showcasing their creativity and exploring cultural narratives from across the nation. The festival features 27 competitive events across five categories: Music (9), Dance (3), Literary Arts (5), Theatre (4), and Fine Arts (6). These events are providing young artists a platform to present their skills, originality, and cultural heritage.

University officials shared that MGM University has ensured comprehensive arrangements for

accommodation, transportation, meals, practice spaces, and security reflecting the university's commitment to smooth and successful event management.

The festival will conclude on November 29, 2025, with a valedictory ceremony at Rukmini Auditorium in the presence of renowned actor Upendra Limaye and other invited dignitaries. Known for its excellence in education, research, sports, arts, and multidisciplinary growth, MGM University continues to promote platforms that encourage creativity, cultural harmony, and holistic student development.

Known for delivering large-scale events with excellence, MGM University aims to uphold its reputation for grand, systematic, and student-friendly event management. University officials stated that the campus is fully prepared to host this mega event.

UNIFEST 2025 stands as a celebration of youth talent and the spirit of collaboration across the Central Zone.

EVENT HIGHLIGHTS

- **Host:** MGM University, Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar
- **Dates:** Nov 25th to 29th, 2025
- **Participants:** 1,300+ students
- **Universities:** 25
- **Competitions:** 27 events
- **Categories:** Music, Dance, Literary Arts, Theatre, Fine Arts
- **Theme:** "Celebrating Waves of Youthful Energy with Cultural Expressions"
- **Inauguration By:** Padma Shri Nana Patekar
- **Valedictory Guest:** Upendra Limaye

Metta: Spirit of AIU's 39th Central Zone Youth Festival

39th AIU Central Zone Youth Festival, hosted by MGM University, Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar embraces the inspiring theme of "Metta" a timeless Buddhist principle symbolizing loving-kindness, goodwill, and universal friendship. Rooted in Buddhist philosophy, Metta (Pāli), or Maitrī in Sanskrit, represents benevolence and sincere goodwill toward all beings. It is one of the Four Sublime States (Brahmavihāras) alongside Karuṇā (compassion), Mudita (joy in others' happiness), and Upekkhā (equanimity). Together, these virtues guide individuals toward harmony, emotional balance, and a deep



sense of interconnectedness. By centering this year's festival around Metta, MGM University aims to inspire youth to view art and culture as pathways to peace, empathy, and unity.

The theme resonates with the festival's mission bringing students from diverse universities together to celebrate creativity, forge friendships, and nurture mutual respect. As participants showcase their talent in theatre, music, dance, literature, and fine arts, Metta serves as a gentle reminder that true artistic expression flows from kindness, understanding, and the shared spirit of humanity.

“MGMU METTA 2025 is more than a festival it is a celebration of youthful energy, creativity, and cultural harmony. We are honoured to welcome universities from across the Central Zone as we come together to showcase talent, nurture friendships, and uphold the spirit of unity in diversity. We warmly welcome every participant to this grand cultural journey.”

- Dr. Shivdarshan Kadam, Organizing Secretary, MGM University



MGM University: Empowering Generations, Empowering Nations

Guided by this profound philosophy of Mahatma Gandhi, the Mahatma Gandhi Mission (MGM) Educational Trust was established in 1982 under the leadership of former Education Minister Shri Kamalkishore Kadam and a group of visionary academicians.

The Trust began its journey in the historic city of Chhatrapati Sambhajnagar home to the world-renowned Ajanta and Ellora caves, yet once lacking premier educational institutions. For over four decades, MGM has been a leader in academic excellence and state-of-the-art healthcare services. With its dynamic approach, modern infrastructure, and commitment to quality education, The Trust strongly upholds the belief that “Literary education is of no value if it is not able to build up a sound character.” MGM has developed a vast educational ecosystem from primary schools to postgraduate and doctoral programs across diverse fields. The Trust has also played a significant role in promoting classical dance and music, arts, culture, heritage, and

creativity. Its ultramodern sports facilities and lush green campus create an ideal environment for holistic learning and personal development.

Over the years, MGM has grown into one of India’s premier educational and healthcare charitable trusts, with 6 campuses hosting more than 70 colleges, institutions, and centers. MGM is also home to several incubation centers, and MGM Khadi stands as one of the nation’s leading production and research hubs for Khadi and Paithani sarees. Continuing its legacy of delivering value-based education, the Trust has established the self-financed private “MGM University” at Chhatrapati Sambhajnagar. The University was instituted with the approval of the Government of Maharashtra following the enactment of the MGM University Act 2019 by the Maharashtra Legislative Assembly and Legislative Council. Today, MGM University continues to shape future-ready global citizens empowered with knowledge, character, and a commitment to nation-building.



“अत्ता ही अत्तनो ना थो, अत्ता ही अत्तनो गत्ति.” These timeless words of the Buddha remind us that the present moment shapes our destiny. Through mindful thoughts and actions, we become the creators and guardians of our own path. I hope this Youth Festival inspires every participant to look within, discover their potential, and step forward with confidence to contribute meaningfully to society.

— Shri Ankushrao Kadam,
Chancellor, MGM University

“Youth festivals are not just competitions they are a celebration of creativity, culture, and fellowship. UNIFEST brings together the finest young talents from across the Central Zone, each expression weaving the beautiful tapestry of India’s diversity and unity. At MGM University, we believe education extends beyond classrooms into spaces that encourage self-discovery, free expression, and meaningful contribution. It is our privilege to host Youth Festival, and we are fully prepared to offer exceptional arrangements for every participant. May these five days inspire bold thinking, passionate performances, lasting friendships, and cherished memories.”

— Prof. Dr. Vilas Sapkal,
Vice Chancellor, MGM University



ASSOCIATION OF INDIAN UNIVERSITIES

100 years of Higher Education Reforms and Youth Development



Established in 1925, the Association of Indian Universities (AIU) has grown into one of India’s most influential national bodies in higher education, playing a pivotal role in academic coordination, policy support, and youth development. Founded as the Inter-University Board of India, Mumbai, it was created to provide a national platform where universities could collaborate, address emerging challenges, and enhance academic standards. Initially comprising Vice-Chancellors from various Indian universities, the Board later included institutions in Ceylon (now Sri Lanka). Headquartered in New Delhi, AIU today supports over 1,100 member universities Central, State, Private, and Institutions of National Importance along with 18 overseas universities. For nearly a century, it has served as an

apex advisory body on higher education mandated by the Ministry of Education. A key responsibility of AIU is evaluating and determining equivalence for foreign degrees, ensuring smooth academic mobility for students returning from abroad. The organization also promotes cooperation among universities, curriculum improvement, standardization of academic practices, and the advancement of research and innovation

AIU has been guided by eminent national leaders such as Dr. S. Radhakrishnan, Dr. Zakir Hussain, and Dr. Syama Prasad Mukherjee, who contributed to strengthening its intellectual foundation. It is also the country’s sole nodal agency for organizing Inter-University Youth Festivals, or UNIFESTS, launched in 1985. These festivals at zonal and national levels bring together thousands of student artists, performers, and youth leaders, fostering cultural exchange and national identity. Nearly 45,000 affiliated colleges participate, reaching over 40 million students across India’s higher education landscape. To expand its youth development initiatives, AIU has introduced

AUFEST, International Youth Festivals, the National Women Student Parliament, the National Moot Court Competition, and the National Qawwali Competition. Recently, India was reorganized into eight youth zones to streamline these programs. As global higher education evolves, AIU remains a strategic bridge between universities and the broader educational ecosystem, promoting collaboration, reform, and innovation to strengthen India’s place in the global knowledge economy.

“UNIFESTs celebrate the creativity, energy, and dynamism of our young minds. They embody Bharat’s cultural diversity and the spirit of unity. I congratulate MGM University for hosting the 39th Central Zone Youth Festival and encourage all students to participate with enthusiasm, collaboration, and pride.”

— Prof. Vinay Kumar Pathak,
President, AIU & Vice Chancellor,
CSM University, Kanpur

<div><div>DAY 1</div><div>25 NOVEMBER, 2025</div><div><div>9:30 AM</div><div>• Manager’s Meet</div><div>Venue: Einstein Hall</div></div><div><div>11:00 AM</div><div>• Inauguration Ceremony</div><div>Venue: JNEC Lawns Stage</div></div><div><div>5:00 PM</div><div>• Folk Orchestra</div><div>Venue: JNEC Lawns Stage</div></div><div><div>DAY 5</div><div>29 NOVEMBER, 2025</div><div><div>10:00 AM</div><div>• Valedictory Ceremony</div><div>Venue: JNEC Lawns Stage</div></div></div></div>	<div><div>DAY 2</div><div>26 NOVEMBER, 2025</div><div><div>9:30 AM</div><div>• One Act Play</div><div>Venue: Rukmini Sabhagruh</div><div>• Western Vocol (Solo)</div><div>Venue: JNEC Lawns Stage</div><div>• Classical Instrumental solo</div><div>Venue: Aryabhat Hall</div><div>• On the Spot Painting</div><div>Venue: Design Building</div></div><div><div>1:30 PM</div><div>• Collage</div><div>Venue: Design Building</div></div><div><div>2:00 PM</div><div>• Group Song (Indian)</div><div>Venue: JNEC Lawns Stage</div></div><div><div>4:00 PM</div><div>• General Quiz-Prelims</div><div>Venue: Einstein Hall</div></div><div><div>5:00 PM</div><div>• Creative Choreography</div><div>Venue: Rukmini Sabhagruh</div></div></div>	<div><div>DAY 3</div><div>27 NOVEMBER, 2025</div><div><div>9:30 AM</div><div>• One Act Play</div><div>Venue: Rukmini Sabhagruh</div><div>• Group Song (Western)</div><div>Venue: JNEC Lawns Stage</div><div>• Classical Instrumental solo</div><div>Venue: Aryabhat Hall</div><div>• Debate (English)</div><div>Venue: Einstein Hall</div><div>• Cartooning</div><div>Venue: Design Building</div></div><div><div>1:30 PM</div><div>• Poster Making</div><div>Venue: Design Building</div><div>• Skit</div><div>Venue: Rukmini Sabhagruh</div></div><div><div>2:00 PM</div><div>• Vagmita (Hindi Elocution)</div><div>Venue: Einstein Hall</div></div><div><div>2:30 PM</div><div>• Classical Dance (Indian)</div><div>Venue: JNEC Lawns Stage</div></div><div><div>4:00 PM</div><div>• General Quiz-Mains</div><div>Venue: Einstein Hall</div></div></div>	<div><div>DAY 4</div><div>28 NOVEMBER, 2025</div><div><div>9:30 AM</div><div>• Light Vocal (Indian)</div><div>Venue: JNEC Lawns Stage</div><div>• Western Instrumental (Solo)</div><div>Venue: Aryabhat Hall</div><div>• Clay Modeling</div><div>Venue: Design Building</div></div><div><div>10:00 AM</div><div>• Mime</div><div>Venue: Rukmini Sabhagruh</div></div><div><div>1:30 PM</div><div>• Rangoli</div><div>Venue: Design Building</div></div><div><div>2:00 PM</div><div>• Mimicry</div><div>Venue: Rukmini Sabhagruh</div><div>• Folk/Traditional (Indian)</div><div>Venue: JNEC Lawns Stage</div><div>• Classical Vocal Solo</div><div>Venue: Aryabhat Hall</div></div></div>
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