

Natrang Young Artists Honoured by IIM

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
JAMMU, FEB 08

The young artists of Natrang were honoured today by the Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Jammu in recognition of their outstanding performance of the play *Aap Hamaare Hain Kaun*, written and directed by Padma Shri Balwant Thakur. The felicitation marked a significant moment for both institutions, celebrating theatre as a powerful medium of artistic expression, social engagement, and education.

The award ceremony was held at Rangmandapam, IIM Jammu, where the vibrant ensemble of Natrang presented a highly charged and emotionally resonant performance. The production held the audience spellbound from beginning to end, drawing repeated applause throughout the play and culminating in a well-deserved standing ovation. The energy, precision, and commitment of the young actors created an electrifying atmosphere, reaffirming Natrang's legacy of excellence in contemporary Indian theatre.

The performance at IIM Jammu was part of a special series of shows being presented at different venues as the team prepares to leave for the world's largest international theatre festival. A six-show series is currently underway with the support of the J&K Academy of Art, Culture and Languages; the North Zone Cultural Centre; and Jal Jeevan Mission, Jammu & Kashmir. The series will conclude on Monday, 9 February 2026, at



5:00 pm at Abhinav Theatre, Jammu. Audiences who missed this mesmerising performance will have the opportunity to witness it on that day. These performances aim to further refine the production while sharing its powerful social and artistic message with diverse audiences.

A key highlight of the occasion was the acknowledgement of the immense contribution of Padma Shri Balwant Thakur, whose pioneering efforts have played a crucial role in introducing and nurturing theatre at IIM Jammu. Through his sustained engagement with the institute, he has successfully integrated theatre into the academic and cultural ecosystem of IIM, exposing future managers and leaders to creative thinking, empathy, and social awareness through the performing arts.

Special appreciation was also extended to Prof. B. S.

Sahay, whose visionary leadership and steadfast encouragement have been instrumental in promoting theatre and cultural activities among IIM Jammu students. His belief in the transformative role of the arts in management education has created an enabling environment where creativity, critical thinking, and human values can flourish alongside academic excellence.

On the occasion, Padma Shri Balwant Thakur personally thanked Prof. Sahay for his unwavering support and commitment to theatre.

The presentation of *Aap Hamaare Hain Kaun* was particularly notable for being completely unconventional in both content and form. Departing from linear storytelling and traditional theatrical structures, the play employed innovative dramaturgy, bold visual imagery, and dynamic actor-audience interaction.

It fearlessly addressed contemporary social realities, provoking reflection while maintaining strong artistic integrity and emotional depth.

By honouring the young artists of Natrang, IIM Jammu reaffirmed its commitment to holistic education through meaningful engagement with art and culture. The event stood as a celebration of youthful creativity, visionary leadership, and the enduring relevance of theatre in modern times.

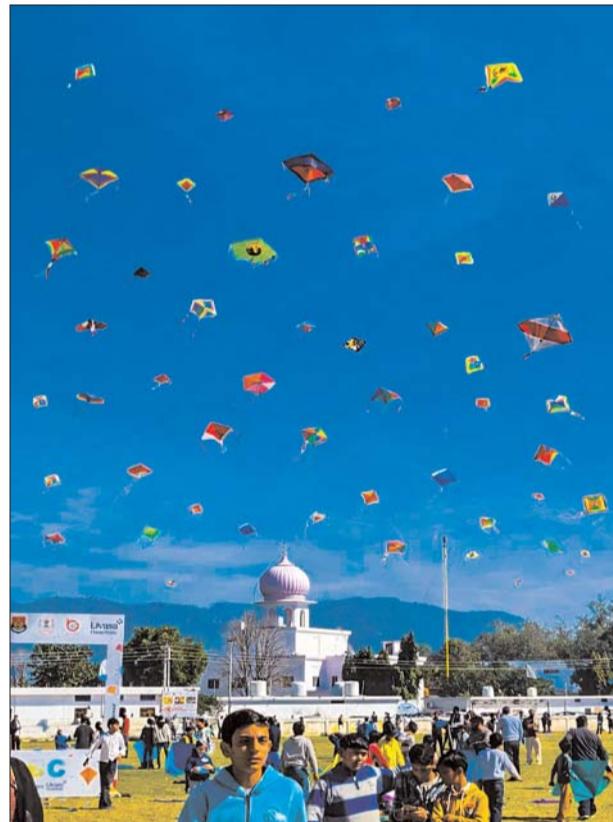
The artists honoured on the occasion included Aanandita Dutt, Samaira Raina, Dwijesh Dutta, Aadhwika Gupta, Mahira Gupta, Anmol Sharma, Aditya Sharma, Ruhaan Chandan, Kavish Sharma, Rishaan Marhatta, Suhani Sareen, Priyal Ashok Gupta, Supria Gorka, Aarohi Singh, Aradhaya Thakur, Sanchetas Anand, Aaraya Shan, and Gautam Bhagat.

Livasa Hospitals Backs Nangal Kite Fest

CHANDIGARH, FEB 08: Livasa Hospitals backed the vibrant Nangal Kite Fest 2026, which witnessed the participation of over 1,500 people who came together to celebrate community spirit with colourful kite flying and family-friendly activities.

A major highlight of the event was the enthusiastic participation of children, with 140 young artists taking part in a drawing competition, showcasing themes of health, environment, and social awareness. The fest was further graced by esteemed dignitaries and prominent biker clubs, adding energy and excitement to the celebrations. Spreading an important social message, the festival promoted the campaign "Say No to China Dor", encouraging citizens to opt for safe and eco-friendly kite strings to prevent injuries to birds and people.

Reinforcing its commitment to preventive healthcare, Livasa Hospitals organised a free health camp at the venue, offering doctor



consultations, blood sugar testing, and blood pressure screening. Medical teams from Livasa Hospitals, Mohali and Hoshiarpur, were present to guide attendees

on lifestyle management and early detection of diseases.

An Organ Donation Awareness Drive was also conducted to educate the

public about the life-saving potential of organ donation and encourage pledge registrations.

Anurag Yadav, CEO, Livasa Hospitals, said, "Community initiatives like the Nangal Kite Fest allow us to engage with people beyond hospital settings. At Livasa Hospitals, we believe healthcare goes beyond treatment, it is about awareness, prevention, and inspiring citizens to take proactive steps toward their well-being. We are proud to support events that promote health, safety, and social responsibility."

Livasa Hospitals is a growing chain of multi-speciality hospitals across Punjab, with a strong presence in Mohali, Amritsar, Hoshiarpur, Nawanshahr, and Khanna.

With a focus on advanced medical care, preventive healthcare, and community outreach, the network remains committed to delivering accessible, quality healthcare services across the region.

IIT Jammu organises Pragyaan

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IIT Jammu successfully organised Pragyaan 2026 & Udyamitsav 2026 from 7-8 February 2026 at its campus, celebrating curiosity, innovation, and entrepreneurship. The two-day event brought together a vibrant ecosystem of student-led initiatives, cutting-edge research, startups, industry leaders, educators, and young innovators, all sharing insights on exploration, innovation, and the future of human potential.

Students of The Pathseekers International School participated enthusiastically in this enriching learning journey. The event offered them a unique platform to witness emerging technologies, interact with innovators, and exchange knowledge in a dynamic



academic environment. Exposure to real-world innovations inspired the students to think creatively and envision their role in shaping the future.

More than 50 students from Pathseekers International School, accompanied by three faculty members, took part in the visit as part

of the school's experiential learning initiative. The experience reinforced the institution's commitment to nurturing curiosity and transforming it into meaningful creation.

Pathseekers at IIT Jammu embodied the spirit of the theme — "From curious minds to creative

innovators — where ideas take flight and future leaders are made."

The participation marked another milestone in the school's mission to connect classroom learning with real-world innovation and to prepare students for the challenges and opportunities of tomorrow.

92.7 BIG FM to present 'BIG Laughter Fest' at Abhinav Theatre

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92.7 BIG FM is all set to present a grand entertainment evening titled "BIG Laughter Fest" featuring internationally acclaimed stand-up comedian and The Kapil Sharma Show fame Rajiv Thakur on 15th February, 2026 at Abhinav Theatre, Jammu, commencing at 4:00 PM.

The event is Co-Powered by Nice Gems and Aracot Constructors. Skoda by Wheelocty Motors joins as the Auto Partner, Mahavir Watch Co and Sansar Mills as Associate Partners, Holiday Makers & Earn My Trip as the Travel Partner, and F Salon by FTV Gandhi Nagar as the Salon Partner. With the support of its valued partners, the event is poised to offer a premium entertainment experience to the audience. The evening promises to be a vibrant celebration of humour and live entertainment, bringing together families, youth and comedy enthusiasts for an unforgettable cultural experience.



ence. The organisers have invited the public to be a part of this unique evening dedicated to laughter and positivity. Passes can be booked through BookMyShow, and for further information, interested persons may contact 9906048670.

Rajiv Thakur, widely recognised for his appearances on The Kapil Sharma Show, is known for his impeccable comic timing, spontaneous wit and clean, relatable humour. His performances on national television and major comedy platforms have earned him

immense popularity across the country and abroad. With his effortless stage presence and ability to connect with audiences of all age groups, he has carved a special niche in the Indian comedy circuit. His live performance in Jammu is expected to create an electrifying atmosphere filled with laughter and cheer.

"BIG Laughter Fest" aims to enrich the cultural and entertainment landscape of Jammu by offering a refreshing and wholesome live experience. At a time when audiences are increasingly drawn toward digital entertainment, such live events provide a unique opportunity to experience the magic of stage performance and shared laughter in a collective setting.

As per the handout issued, BIG FM has consistently remained committed to bringing quality entertainment and meaningful engagement to the people of Jammu. It was stated that the initiative is a sincere effort to provide a joyful and memorable experience to Jammuites and further strengthen the cultural vibrancy of the city.

Indian Army Organizes Awam Meet at Marhote Company Operating Base

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An ongoing effort to strengthen the bond between the Indian Army and the local community, an AWAM meet was organized at the Marhote Company Operating Base. The event saw active participation from 29 civilians, including Sarpanches, ward members, numberdars, and VDGs.

The discussions focused on key issues affecting the local populace, such as the rising concern of drug abuse among the youth, grievances raised by Panchayats, the challenges faced by individuals due to heavy snowfall, and the maintenance of dhoks in the region.

Beyond addressing these pressing concerns,



the meet also acted as a community-building platform.

hearing.

The event reinforced the commitment of the Indian Army to stand by the people of Jammu and Kashmir and continue to work hand-in-hand with them for the betterment of the

region.

This initiative highlights the Indian Army's unwavering support for the community, emphasizing their role in fostering unity and development in the region.

Muay Thai Association of J&K Organises Advanced Waikru

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The Muay Thai Association of Jammu and Kashmir (MAJK) today successfully organised a Muay Thai Advanced Training Waikru / Mai Muay Seminar, witnessing the enthusiastic participation of 80 students from various districts of the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir.

The seminar aimed at enhancing technical skills, discipline, and traditional understanding of Muay Thai, with special emphasis on Waikru and Mai Muay, which form the cultural and foundational aspects of the sport. Participants underwent intensive training sessions focusing on advanced



techniques, posture, movement, and traditional rituals associated with Muay Thai.

The closing ceremony

was graced by Mr. Sahil Agarwal, Chief Patron, MAJK, as the Chief Guest, along with prominent dignitaries including Sh. Amit Singh, President, MAJK, and Sh. Vikas Dhar, Chief Organiser, MAJK. Also present on the occasion were Mr. Mohit Singh (National Judge & Coach), Mr. Surjeet Dogra (Coach), Mr. Abhimanyu Singh (Coach), and Mr. Neeraj Singh Manhas (Coach), who played a key role in conducting and supervising the training sessions.

Speaking on the occasion, the officials highlighted the growing popularity of Muay Thai in Jammu and Kashmir and reiterated MAJK's commitment towards nurturing young talent and promoting the sport at grassroots as well as competitive

levels. The association emphasized that such advanced training seminars are crucial for preparing athletes for national and international competitions.

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