



Nukkad-Aala 2026: Where Theatre Became the Voice of Change



PURVI MANGLA

The Tecnia Institute of Advanced Studies (TIAS) witnessed an inspiring celebration of creativity, culture, and social awareness as the Cultural Club, in collaboration with the Department of Journalism and Mass Communication, successfully organized Nukkad-Aala 2026, the institute's annual inter-college street play competition, on 4 May 2026. Bringing together some of the finest theatre groups from colleges across Delhi and beyond, the event transformed the campus into a vibrant platform where art met activism, proving once again that street theatre remains one of the most impactful forms of public communication.

Street theatre, popularly known as Nukkad Natak, has long served as a powerful medium to spread awareness about pressing social issues. It engages audiences through direct interaction, compelling storytelling, and emotionally charged performances. Keeping this spirit alive, Nukkad-Aala 2026 provided students with an opportunity to use theatre not only as a form of entertainment but also as a means to question societal norms, inspire positive change, and encourage critical thinking.

The competition attracted enthusiastic participation from prestigious institutions, including Maharaja Agrasen Institute of Management Studies (MAIMS), Mata Sundri College, Shivaji College, Ram Lal Anand College, Rajdhani College, Shyam Lal College, Indraprastha College for Women (IPCW), RDIAS, and NIIT University, Rajasthan.



Each participating team brought its unique style, energy, and perspective, making the event a remarkable showcase of talent, creativity, and commitment.

Throughout the day, audiences were captivated by a series of thought-provoking performances addressing a wide range of contemporary social concerns. Themes such as gender equality, mental health, environmental conservation, corruption, education, digital addiction, women's empowerment, and social justice were presented with remarkable sensitivity and artistic brilliance. The performances featured powerful dialogues, energetic choreography, soulful music, synchronized movements, and impactful expressions that resonated deeply with the audience.

What made the event truly memorable was the passion and conviction displayed by every participant. Each team used minimal props and simple costumes, relying instead on expressive acting, strong vocal delivery, rhythmic coordination, and audience engagement to communicate their message effectively.

The performances reflected months of dedication, rehearsals, and teamwork, highlighting the immense potential of young artists to use theatre as a catalyst for social transformation.

After an exciting day of intense competition, the winners were announced. Samagra from Maharaja Agrasen Institute of Management Studies (MAIMS) secured the First Position for its exceptional performance, which impressed both the judges and the audience with its compelling narrative, flawless execution, and strong social message. Parindey from Mata Sundri College claimed the Second Position, delivering a captivating presentation that combined emotional depth with outstanding theatrical skills. The Third Position was jointly awarded to Vayam from Shivaji College and Abhivyakti from Indraprastha College for Women (IPCW), both of which showcased remarkable creativity and impactful storytelling.

In addition to recognizing outstanding team performances, the event also celebrated individual excellence. Ratish from Shyam Lal College was honoured with the Best Actor Award for his commanding stage presence.

expressive performance, and ability to connect with the audience. Nishika from RDIAS received the Best Actress Award for her exceptional acting skills, emotional portrayal, and confident stage performance. Their achievements highlighted the immense talent and dedication of the participating students.

The successful organization of Nukkad-Aala 2026 was made possible through the dedicated efforts of the Cultural Club and the Department of Journalism and Mass Communication under the guidance of Dr. Upasana Khurana, In-charge of the Cultural Club. Faculty members, organizing committees, student volunteers, and technical teams worked tirelessly to ensure the smooth execution of every aspect of the event, from registration and stage management to audience coordination and hospitality. Their collective efforts created a welcoming and professionally managed environment for all participants and guests.



AI in Journalism, Revolutionizing Newsrooms While Redefining the Reporting



ADHYA SISODIA

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is no longer a futuristic concept - it has become an integral part of modern journalism. From automating routine news reports to assisting journalists in fact-checking, data analysis, content personalization, and multimedia production, AI is transforming the way news is gathered, produced, and consumed. While this technological advancement offers unprecedented opportunities for efficiency and innovation, it also raises important questions about ethics, credibility, and the irreplaceable role of human.

Over the past few years, news organizations across the globe have increasingly embraced AI-powered tools to enhance newsroom productivity. Media houses use AI to analyze massive datasets within seconds, monitor breaking news across multiple platforms, transcribe interviews, generate subtitles, translate content into multiple languages, and even draft basic news reports on subjects such as sports, weather, and financial markets. These developments have significantly reduced the time spent on repetitive tasks, allowing journalists to focus on investigative reporting,

storytelling, and in-depth analysis. One of AI's greatest contributions to journalism is its ability to process vast amounts of information quickly. In today's digital age, where information is generated every second, journalists often struggle to filter relevant facts from the overwhelming flow of data. AI-powered algorithms can scan thousands of documents, social

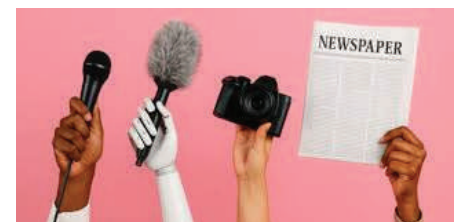
media posts, official reports, and online sources in real time, helping reporters identify trends, verify facts, and detect misinformation more efficiently than ever before. Artificial Intelligence is also reshaping audience engagement through personalized news delivery. Digital news platforms increasingly rely on AI-driven recommendation systems that analyze readers' interests and browsing behavior to suggest stories tailored to their preferences. This personalized experience enhances user engagement and allows audiences to access relevant content more efficiently. However, experts also caution that excessive personalization may create "filter bubbles," where readers are exposed only to viewpoints that align with their existing beliefs, limiting diverse perspectives.



The integration of AI has also transformed multimedia journalism. Modern AI applications assist journalists in editing videos, generating voiceovers, creating infographics, designing visual content, and producing podcasts. AI-powered transcription software can convert lengthy interviews into text within minutes, while language translation tools enable news organizations to reach multilingual audiences. Such innovations have made journalism more accessible, efficient, and globally connected. Despite these remarkable advancements, AI also presents several challenges that require careful

consideration. One of the primary concerns is the spread of AI-generated misinformation. Sophisticated technologies such as deepfakes and synthetic media can create highly realistic but entirely fabricated videos, images, and audio recordings. These manipulated materials pose significant threats to public trust, making it increasingly difficult for audiences to distinguish between authentic and false information. Consequently, journalists must remain vigilant in verifying digital content before publication. Another concern revolves around ethics and accountability. AI systems learn from existing data, which may contain biases that influence their outputs. If these biases are not identified and addressed, AI-generated content may unintentionally reinforce stereotypes or present incomplete narratives. Since AI lacks emotional intelligence, contextual understanding, and ethical reasoning, it cannot independently make responsible editorial decisions. Therefore, editorial oversight by trained journalists remains indispensable. The growing adoption of AI has also sparked debates about employment in the media industry. While some fear that automation may replace journalism jobs, many experts believe AI is more likely to redefine rather than eliminate journalistic roles. Instead of replacing reporters, AI is expected to handle repetitive and data-intensive tasks, allowing journalists to devote more time to investigative reporting, interviews, analysis, and meaningful storytelling. In this evolving landscape, media professionals will increasingly require digital literacy, data analysis skills, and technological adaptability alongside traditional reporting.

Educational institutions offering journalism and mass communication programs have recognized the importance of preparing students for this technological transformation. Journalism curricula are gradually incorporating AI, data journalism, digital verification techniques, multimedia storytelling, and ethical AI practices to equip future journalists with the knowledge and skills required in modern newsrooms.



As journalism continues to evolve alongside technological advancements, the future of the profession will depend on achieving the right balance between innovation and ethics. Artificial Intelligence has undoubtedly revolutionized newsrooms, but it cannot replace the curiosity, empathy, critical thinking, and integrity that define exceptional journalism. Human journalists remain the storytellers who provide context, ask difficult questions, verify facts, and uphold democratic values.

The future of journalism is therefore not a contest between humans and machines but a partnership in which technology supports journalists in delivering faster, more accurate, and more engaging news. By embracing AI responsibly while preserving the core values of ethical reporting, the media industry can continue to inform, educate, and empower society in the digital era.

Environment Conservation, A Collective Responsibility for a Sustainable Future



PRGYANSH TIWARI



As the world continues to grapple with the challenges of climate change, pollution, biodiversity loss, and resource depletion, environmental conservation has emerged as one of the most pressing global priorities. From rising temperatures and extreme weather events to shrinking forests and increasing plastic waste, the signs of environmental degradation are becoming more evident each passing year. Experts emphasize that protecting the environment is no longer just the responsibility of governments and environmental organizations; it is a collective duty that requires active participation from every individual, institution, and community.

The environment provides essential resources that sustain life, including clean air, fresh water, fertile soil, forests, and diverse ecosystems. However, rapid industrialization, urbanization, deforestation, and unsustainable consumption patterns have placed immense pressure on natural resources. According to environmental studies, greenhouse gas emissions continue to contribute significantly to global warming, leading to melting glaciers, rising sea levels, irregular rainfall, and frequent natural disasters such as floods, droughts, and heatwaves.

One of the most visible environmental concerns today is air pollution. In many urban areas, increasing vehicle emissions, industrial activities, and construction work have severely affected air quality. Poor air quality not only damages the environment but also poses serious health risks, including respiratory diseases,

cardiovascular problems, and allergies. Environmental experts stress the importance of adopting cleaner energy sources, promoting public transportation, encouraging the use of electric vehicles to reduce pollution levels. Plastic pollution has also become a growing environmental crisis. Millions of tonnes of plastic waste enter rivers, oceans and landfills every year, threatening marine life and ecosystems. Single-use plastics such as bags, bottles, straws, and packaging materials often take hundreds of years to decompose. Wildlife frequently mistakes plastic waste for food, leading to injury or death. The governments, educational institutions, and the environmental organizations are increasingly promoting reusable alternatives, effective waste segregation, and recycling initiatives to minimize plastic pollution.

Deforestation remains another major challenge affecting ecological balance. Forests play a crucial role in absorbing carbon dioxide, conserving biodiversity, regulating climate, and maintaining water cycles. However, large-scale tree cutting for the urban development, agriculture, and infrastructure projects has significantly reduced forest cover in many parts of the world. Environmentalists advocate for large-scale afforestation, sustainable forest land management, full compliance and enforcement of conservation laws to protect these vital ecosystems. Water conservation has become equally important as freshwater resources face increasing pressure due to population growth, pollution, and excessive consumption.

Many regions experience water shortages during

summer months, highlighting the urgent need for responsible water management. Water harvesting, efficient irrigation systems, wastewater treatment, and public awareness campaigns are among the key measures being promoted to ensure sustainable use of water resources.

Educational institutions have emerged as the powerful platforms for the promoting environmental awareness among young people. Schools and colleges across the country regularly organize tree plantation drives, cleanliness campaigns, ensuring recycling initiatives, eco-club activities, awareness rallies, and seminars on climate action. These programs encourage students to adopt environmentally responsible lifestyles while inspiring them to become future leaders in sustainability conservation.



60-Second Reels, How Short-Form Videos Are Reshaping Young Minds



RASHI



In the age of smartphones and social media, 60-second reels have become an integral part of daily life, particularly among young people. Platforms such as Instagram, YouTube Shorts, and Facebook Reels have revolutionized the way people consume content by offering quick, engaging, and highly personalized videos. While these short-form videos provide entertainment, education, and opportunities for creativity, mental health experts and researchers are increasingly raising concerns about their long-term impact on attention span, emotional well-being, and cognitive development.

The popularity of reels lies in their ability to deliver instant gratification. Users can watch dozens of videos within a few minutes, covering topics ranging from comedy, fashion, fitness, and cooking to education and current affairs. The continuous flow of fresh content keeps users engaged, often leading them to spend far more time scrolling than they initially intended. According to psychologists, the rapid consumption of short videos stimulates the brain's reward system by releasing

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dopamine—a neurotransmitter associated with pleasure and motivation. Every entertaining or surprising video provides a small reward, encouraging users to keep scrolling in anticipation of the next enjoyable clip. While this mechanism enhances user engagement, excessive exposure can gradually make the brain accustomed to constant stimulation, making slower activities such as reading books, attending lectures, or studying for extended periods feel less engaging.

One of the most discussed concerns surrounding reels is their effect on attention span. Since most videos last less than a minute, the brain becomes conditioned to process information in small, rapidly changing segments. Experts suggest that prolonged exposure to such content may reduce the ability to focus on complex tasks requiring sustained concentration. Students, in particular, often report difficulty maintaining attention during classes or while preparing for examinations after spending significant time on short-video platforms. Mental health professionals have also highlighted the emotional impact of excessive reel consumption. Social media algorithms frequently present carefully edited and idealized versions of people's lives, showcasing luxury lifestyles, fitness transformations, travel experiences, and personal achievements. Constant exposure to such content can lead users to compare themselves with unrealistic

standards, potentially contributing to low self-esteem, anxiety, stress, and feelings of inadequacy. Young users are especially vulnerable as they are still developing their identity and self-confidence.

Sleep patterns have also been affected by the growing popularity of short-form videos. Many individuals continue scrolling through reels late into the night, delaying bedtime and reducing overall sleep quality. Blue light emitted by smartphone screens further interferes with the body's natural sleep cycle by suppressing the production of melatonin, the hormone responsible for regulating sleep. Poor sleep has been linked to reduced concentration, mood swings, decreased academic performance. Another growing concern is digital addiction. Social media platforms use sophisticated recommendation algorithms that continuously analyze user preferences and display highly personalized content. This endless stream of engaging videos makes it difficult for users to stop scrolling. Many people unknowingly spend several hours each day consuming short-form content, reducing the time available for physical activity, face-to-face interactions, hobbies, and productive learning. However, experts emphasize that reels are not entirely harmful. When used responsibly, short-form videos can be valuable educational tools. Students use reels to learn languages, understand scientific concepts, improve communication skills,

discover career opportunities, and access quick tutorials on various subjects

Educational institutions, professionals, and educators increasingly create informative content that simplifies complex topics into easily understandable formats, making learning more accessible and engaging. Content creators have also found reels to be powerful platforms for creativity and entrepreneurship. Artists, musicians, photographers, journalists, educators, and small business owners use short videos to showcase their talent, reach wider audiences, and build successful careers. For many young creators, reels have become an effective medium for personal branding and professional growth.

The key challenge lies in maintaining a healthy balance between digital engagement and real-life activities. Psychologists recommend setting daily screen-time limits, disabling unnecessary notifications, taking regular breaks from social media, and practicing mindful content consumption. Spending time outdoors, exercising, reading books, participating in cultural activities, and engaging in meaningful conversations can help maintain cognitive health and emotional well-being.

