

An evening full of laughter in the Pink City

It was an evening full of entertainment for Jaipurites as the city folks enjoyed the 'Standup Comedy Night' on July 22, held at Maharana Pratap Auditorium.

Jeeveshu Ahluwalia was the star of the evening. Known for his spontaneous one-liners and quirky jokes, Jeeveshu left the audience in splits with his fun-packed performance at the show.

The evening also witnessed the presence of talented RJs from Radio Mirchi, including RJ Manoj and RJ Sarah, who entertained the audience with interactive performances.

Powered by Shri Ajab Sweets and Namkeen - A Real Taste of Rajasthan, the event was filled with sweet and crispy performances.

The event was an initiative by Radio Mirchi 98.3 FM.



(L-R) RJ Sarah, Jeeveshu Ahluwalia and RJ Manoj at the event



Ameya Dabli and Dada JP Vaswani

On a musical odyssey

Internationally acclaimed singer Ameya Dabli launched his music album *Ekam Satt - One Truth, One Humanity, World Music* at the hands of global humanitarian and spiritual leader Rev Dada JP Vaswani as part of the latter's centenary birthday celebrations in Pune. The album is available on all digital platforms through Times Music.

Inspired by respected Dada's message of selfless love and service for humanity, the album features the works of legendary poets and saints such as Kabirdas, Mirabai, Narsinh Mehta, Guru Nanak Dev, Khwaja Garib Nawaz, Buddha, Tukaram, TulSIDAS, Gospels and others.

Given the continuous stress and turmoil that individuals across the globe face, there is an urgent need for each of us to pause, reflect and connect with each other, cutting across our religious, social and cultural beliefs. The album's songs focus on this precise



The launch was attended by a large number of people

theme that eventually it is a 'one world family' and showcases the best of sufi, folk and contemporary world music across different genres. The album has foot tapping numbers covering Indian and international musical forms to appeal to audiences across age groups. With an aim to spread the message of love and unity across cultures and society globally, Ameya Dabli and his business partner Purvi Soali quit their successful corporate careers to become social entrepreneurs.

A versatile singer, Ameya has performed over 1,500 concerts across 15 countries. The music from the album is already a rage with live renditions by Ameya across 25 locations including for large corporates like Aditya Birla Group and at the Indian High Commission in London. He is currently touring India, US and Dubai for his other musical concept 'Heart 2 Heart' covering melodious ghazals and folk music.

His 10 city 'Heart 2 Heart' tour covering melodious ghazals kicked off in Mumbai yesterday and will further move to Bangalore, Pune, Hyderabad, Kolkata and other cities.

A grand welcome awaits Varun at his hometown

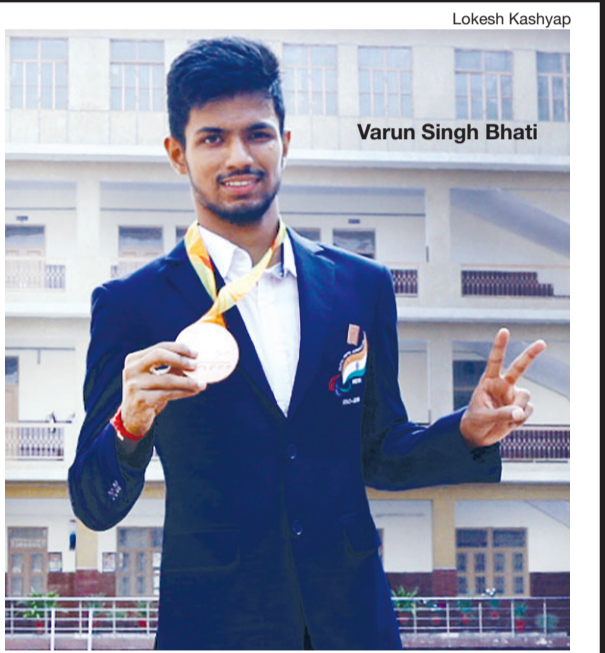
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A fellow Indian jumper Sharad Kumar took home the silver medal in the same category with a jump of 1.84m. Happy about the team's performance, Varun says, "I'm happy that as a team we have given our best performance so far."

The Indian contingent has won five medals at the championships so far - including a gold. Before this, the best medal haul by India at the World Para Athletics Championships was two silvers in 2013. Varun, who was afflicted by polio as a kid, holds the Asian high jump record for para-athletes, and has won gold at the Asia-Oceania Championship earlier last year, apart

from the Rio Paralympic bronze.

Back home in Greater Noida's Chi Phi Sector, Varun's family says they were confident of him winning a medal. His uncle Teekam Bhati says, "He was nervous because he hurt his leg during the practice before the competition. Also, much of his time was spent in felicitations and he felt bad about missing practice as a result. He felt his preparation wasn't at the same level as it had been for Rio. But all of us were confident that he would do well, and he has." The family says that now they are planning another grand welcome for Varun when he returns from the UK.



Lokesh Kashyap

Varun Singh Bhati

—Abhimanyu.Mathur@timesgroup.com

Jamai Raja actors cry foul over non-payment of dues

Cine and TV Artistes' Association has issued a non-cooperation directive against producer Meenakshi Sagar



Mouli Ganguly



Sara Arfeen Khan

It's been four months since the TV show *Jamai Raja* ended, but majority of the cast and crew is still waiting for their dues to be cleared. They approached Cine and TV Artistes' Association (CINTAA) for a meeting, where producer Meenakshi Sagar promised to clear everyone's dues. However, she failed to do so and hence, CINTAA has issued a non-cooperation directive against her. The directive prevents all CINTAA members from providing their services to any venture undertaken by Meenakshi.

Sushant Singh, general secretary of the association, confirms, "After repeated attempts to convince the production house to settle the payment, we decided to stop all cooperation with

them. The members have been instructed not to provide their services to the production house or any of their other banners."

Actress Mouli Ganguly, who was part of the show, says, "I've received only a part of my payment. They stopped us from depositing the post-dated cheques. I wasn't even given a copy of my contract in spite of repeated requests. Around seven actors had approached CINTAA before the shoot wrapped up. We were assured that we would be paid. On that condition, we resumed the shoot, but the

dues still haven't been cleared."

Mouli's co-actor from the show, Sara Arfeen Khan, adds, "After regular follow-ups and incessant calls, I was issued two post-dated cheques after seven months, and even they bounced, leaving me with no choice but to file a case. I feel cheated as I used to travel three hours to reach the set at Naigaon and had also put in extra hours on several occasions."

On her part, Meenakshi says, "No cheques have bounced. There is just a delay in payment. Every business goes through ups and downs. CINTAA can't make a one-sided decision. They are harassing and bullying me because I am a woman. Why haven't they taken into account those who have been paid? My own association IMPPA isn't concurring with their decision. We treat these actors like family and this is what we get in return. If I were to open the mentioned actors' agreements vis-a-vis the amount of adjustments made for them, they'll have to pay me money!"

Meanwhile, Meenakshi has sent legal notice to CINTAA accusing them of extortion, criminal intimidation, threats and defamation.

Her advocate Rizwan Siddiquee tells us, "CINTAA is a Trade Union and they have to follow the Trade Union Laws. CINTAA cannot act as a recovery agent and therefore any threats, criminal intimidation or acts of defamation indulged in by CINTAA to put pressure on any producer and recover dues of actors, is not only illegal but also criminal in nature. Despite this, they haven't withdrawn the directive or tendered a written apology. I therefore plan to take the matter to court."

—Neha.Maheshwari@timesgroup.com

International beauties are flaunting straw bags

No longer just for beachy days, the straw bag has had a hot make-over



Alexa Chung goes casual, pairing her straw bag with a pin-striped tunic



Lily Aldridge gives a girly spin to her raffia bag by wearing a cherry blossom dress

Straw bags have been given somewhat of a sleek make-over this season, and it seems they're not only for holidays, or carrying your beachy essentials.

These trending bags are a big hit on the high street, and even celebs have been spotted with the must-have arm-candy too.

Whether your bag be soft straw, rugged raffia or neatly woven and structured, there's a style to suit all tastes and summer occasions.

Paired with a floral dress, palm print jumpsuit, or simply with a pair of embroidered jeans and cold shoulder tee, they're the perfect addition to any wardrobe.

—Daily Mirror

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