

Deepak, Sapru, Jain, Mohan reach Katra to grace the Mega Final of AIDSC

10 singers made their entry into Semi Final

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
JAMMU, OCT 19

In an interaction with media here at Katra Rakesh Wazir Chairman Navrtra Festival's All India Devotional Song Competition Committee & President Hotel & Restaurant Association,Katra while introducing the film personalities to media including Actor Deepak Prasr known for films like Insaaf Ka Tarazu,Nikaah,Sharaabi etc.,Actress Preeti Sapru often known as super star of Punjabi Films and actress of films like Qurbani Jat

Di,Lawaris,Nimmo,Yaari Jat Di,Avtaar,Serpanch etc.Ganesh Jain Managing Director Venus Records & Tapes Ltd. and maker of more than 50 movies including Baazigar,Bad-shaah,Dhadkan,Josh,Main Khiladi Tu Anaari etc.,and whose recent movie Dhadkan 2 ie releasing shortly,Kumar Mohan famous film Trade analyst and maker of films like Libaas,Aarzoo,Adhura Aadmi etc.said that all these personalities in addition to other Media tycoons will grace the Mega Final of All India Devotional Song Competition to be held on 19th Oct.

All India Devotional Song Competition as a part of Navratra Festival 2026 is being organized by SMVD Shrine Board, Deptt. of J&K Tourism, PTC Netwrok in association with SMVD Narayana Super Speciality Hospital, J&K Bank, Nice Gems, Nidheesh Builders Jammu



Pvt. Ltd. Hotel & Restaurant Association,Katra,PHD Chamber of Commerce & Industry Jammu Region, Yog Ashram Complex with active support of District Administration.

Mr.Wazir while speaking on the occasion said that it is Silver Jubilee of this Competition and the main aim of this competition is to promote the devotional songs of Maa Vaishnodevi ji and provide platform to the singers from all over the India in the holy township of Katra/besides promotion of the tourism in J&K.

The live telecast of the event will be available on PTC Punjabi Gold from 9 PM onwards and the entry for this event will be free to all at Yog Ashram Complex,Katra the vanue of the competition and besides the live performances of the singers who have reached the finals, the people will see the live performances of renowned singers like Inderjit Nikku,Shanker Sawhney,Sonali

Dogra,Laisel Roy,Ravi Kumar.

This All India Devotional Song Competition have contributed a lot to the country and Union Territory in particular and have given platform to many Singers in the film industry including Himani Kapoor,Sonali Dogra, Mool Raj,Naveen Punjabi, Rajan Gill,Ravi Kumar, Sanjeet Kumar,Anjusha,Vanshkia Jaral,Ananya etc.Himani Kapoor sung in the films like Dil Diya Hai, Chingari, Oye Lucky Oye, Fool & Final, Bachna Ae Hasino etc.like wise others winners are also doing well in the film Industry and most of them won many reality shows like Zee TV Sa Re Ga Ma Pa,Voice of Punjab,Awaz Punjab di and are doings wonders in their field.

He said that these film industry people have contributed a lot to this All India Devotional Song Competition and their presence is the main source of attraction for most of the singers who come in this competition. 1st Prize of this com-

petition is Gold worth Rs 3 Lakh besides recording contract to the winner of this competition with Venus World Wide, and likewise the 2nd prize is 1 lac and the third prize is 50,000/- to be awarded on the day of finals.

Whereas in the quarter Final Addl.SP Katra Kameshwar Puri, was Chief Guest whereas renowned Folk Singer Ustad Swarn Singh Yamla,Former Winner of AIDSC Kiran Baba,renowned Cartoonist Sagar Kumar,Dy.SP Bhisham Dubey were distinguished guests. 20 participants competed among each other in this quarter final for their entry into Semi Final and out of which 10 singers including Stanzin,Mohinder Soni,Aarav Wazir,Ayati Sharma,Vicky Gill,Ojasvi Sharma,Anshu Krottra,Mukesh Kumar,Ne-tra Tickoo & Manjeet got their entry into Mega Final.

Famous Folk Singer Ustad Swarn Singh Yamla and Kiran Baba also sang on the occasion as guest singers voices.

India's cuisine, culinary diversity & Bollywood take centre stage at New York City's biggest food festival

NEW YORK, OCT 18: Flavours and aroma of Indian cuisine took centre stage at New York City's biggest food festival, as hundreds of people gathered here to savour delicacies served by leading chefs showcasing the rich diversity of India's culinary palette.

Indian-American chef, team captain on Food Network's 'BBQ Brawl' and two-time winner of Tournament of Champions, Maneet Chauhan and Chef Vijaya Kumar, the James Beard Award-winning chef behind New York City's acclaimed Michelin-starred restaurant Semma, hosted 'Flavours of Bollywood' at the widely popular NYC Wine and Food Festival (NYCWFF) on Friday.

Co-organised by The Culture Tree, which promotes South Asian culture through educational and enrichment programmes, the special 'Flavours of Bollywood' event brought together some of New York City's best Indian restaurants and chefs, offering the gathering a diverse range of regional specialties, street food favourites and contemporary dishes showcasing the depth and diversity of Indian cuisine.

Chauhan, among the most celebrated and pioneering Indian-origin chefs in the US and a James Beard Foundation Broadcast Media awardee, recalled that when she moved to America in 1998, the Indian food scene was "dismal".

"It's incredible to see how things have grown," Chauhan told PTI.

She said the young and upcoming chefs are proud of what they are serving, showcasing the food and ingredients they have grown up with. "It's incredible to see that. And I just love it. We are coming



into our own, we are enjoying it, and are so proud of it - who we are, how we dress, what we eat, and we are loving to serve that to people," she said.

Underscoring the diversity of Indian food, Chauhan said, "Even if I learn Indian cooking for the rest of my life, I would have still scratched the surface because the vastness of Indian food is incredible."

Highlighting the Portuguese, French, Chinese and Mughal influence in the Indian palette, she said, "It's absolutely incredible and regional, and now people are celebrating that. Proud to be a part of that.

"I think that one of the biggest ways to pay respect to any culture is to try their food, and you'll realise how beautiful the food is. Therefore, the people who are making it are even more beautiful, and it'll make it just a happy place to be in," she said.

Kumar said that Indian cuisine is finally being recognised not just in New York City but around the country. "I am so happy and glad, but we still have a long way to go. Indian cuisine will touch greater heights, and this is just the beginning," he told PTI.

His message to the young and upcoming chefs was "just be authentic, true

to yourself."

At the event celebrating food, culture and flavour, Founder and CEO of The Culture Tree Anu Sehgal told PTI, "This is an exciting new chapter for Indian cultural representation.

Having a sold-out event at the Food Network New York City Wine & Food Festival is a moment of pride for our entire community. "Bringing together some of the finest Indian chefs under one roof, each showcasing the incredible diversity of Indian cuisine, is a powerful celebration of our culture and culinary heritage. It shows just how far Indian food has come in being recognised and celebrated on a global stage," Sehgal said.

With popular Indian movie songs playing in the backdrop, guests lined up to enjoy a variety of dishes and experiences, including mouth-watering 'idlis', 'butter chicken', 'malai ice cream' and 'paan'. Supplies at several food counters at the event emptied out, highlighting their popularity and high demand for Indian flavours among the gathering. People had travelled from as far as Virginia, Washington, DC, Pennsylvania and other states to attend the event.

As the diaspora gears up for Diwali, the event kicked off the festive season with traditions, music and cul-

ture. "With Diwali, the Festival of Lights, just weeks away, Flavours of Bollywood kicks off the season with an unforgettable night inspired by the glamour, music and excitement of Bollywood," NYCWFF said.

The annual New York City Wine & Food Festival (NYCWFF) showcases the talents of the world's most renowned wine and spirits producers, chefs, culinary personalities and America's iconic television chefs through more than 50 events.

The 19th edition of NYCWFF runs from October 15-18 and features 500 chefs and thousands of attendees.

Among the city's leading restaurants and path-breaking chefs participating in the 'Flavours of Bollywood' showcase were Chef Gaurav Bathla of the vibrant new Indian bistro 'Passerine', Pooja Bavishi, who is the Founder and CEO of ice cream company 'Malai' that infuses traditional South Asian ingredients into innovative flavours.

Executive Chef at 'Junoon' Akshay Bhardwaj, Chef Hakikat Dhawan who leads 'Kashi Indian Cuisine & Bar', Executive Chef of 'Gupshup' Zahir Khan, Chef and founder of 'LORE' Jay Kumar, award-winning veteran chef Regi Mathew who helms 'Chatti by Regi Mathew'.

Mehul Patel, recognised globally as 'Mr. Paanwala', founder and CEO of 'IN-DAY'; Basu Ratnam, Executive Chef of 'Kidilum NYC'; Vinu Raveendran, New York-based chef, entrepreneur, television personality and founder of 'Dravida'; Aarthi Sampath; and Chef Sujan Sarkar, who helms 'Butter Chicken Social' and 'Indienne New York'. (PTI)

Dr Vikas, Deepak, Keshav releases Devotional Bhajan 'Har Har Mahadev Goonje'

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
JAMMU, OCT 19

A devotional bhajan titled "Har Har Mahadev Goonje," featuring six-year-old child and young singer Aadvik Verma, was released today by Dr. Vikas Gupta, JKAS, Director Tourism Jammu, Deepak Dubey, JKAS, Joint Director Information, and Keshav Chopra, Social Activist and Chairman of Samvedna Society ,at the Press Club of Jammu. The programme was organised by Samvedna Society with the objective of promoting devotional music and encouraging emerging local talent.

The bhajan has been sung by Aadvik Verma, with lyrics penned by Prem Lal Sharma and music composed and produced by Maheep Singh. The video has been created by Sidharth Films. The devotional composition celebrates devotion to Lord Shiva and aims to spread a message of spirituality, positivity and faith among people.

Speaking on the occasion, Chief Guest Dr. Vikas Gupta appreciated the efforts of the entire team and congratulated young Aadvik Verma on his performance. He said devotional music plays an important role in preserving India's



rich cultural and spiritual traditions. He also lauded Samvedna Society for providing a platform to young artists and encouraging local talent. He added that such initiatives help showcase Jammu and Kashmir's cultural heritage and can contribute to promoting religious and cultural tourism in the region.

Deepak Dubey, Joint Director Information, congratulated the singer, lyricist, composer and production team on the release. He observed that music is a powerful medium for conveying positive messages and connecting people with their cultural roots. He appreciated Samvedna Society's efforts to support emerging artists and emphasised the importance of providing young talent with opportunities to showcase their abilities.

Keshav Chopra, Social

Activist and Chairman of Samvedna Society, expressed gratitude to Dr. Vikas Gupta and Deepak Dubey for attending the programme and encouraging the young singer and the creative team. He said Samvedna Society has consistently worked towards promoting local talent, cultural activities and constructive engagement among youth.

Chopra emphasised that devotional music strengthens spiritual values while spreading peace, positivity and cultural awareness. He said the society would continue to support deserving artists and encourage young people to channel their energy and abilities into productive pursuits.

He further stressed the need to protect young people from the menace of drug abuse by motivating them to participate in music, sports, art and other

constructive activities. He reiterated the society's commitment to promoting a healthy, creative and drug-free society.

The programme concluded with appreciation for everyone associated with "Har Har Mahadev Goonje," particularly young singer Aadvik Verma, whose performance at the age of just six highlights the promising talent emerging from Jammu and Kashmir. The release marked another initiative towards encouraging young artists and promoting the region's devotional and cultural traditions.

Deepak Kumar, Deepak Raghuvanshi,Janashvee, Neha Sahil Rajput, Poonam Sharma,Rajesh Kumar, Heena Mahajan, Palak Sharma Kohli, Sunakshi Balgotra,Aanya Verma, Sahil Rajput and others were also present.

Bargotra, Bhalwal biradari congregation on Oct 20

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JAMMU, OCT 18

The annual congregation of Bargotra and Bhalwal biradaris would be celebrated at the holy devsthan of Baba Badgal Dev ji at Kot-Bhalwal here on October 20.

In a statement issued here today, Biradari president Jaswant Singh Bhalwal, vice-president Vijay Kumar Sharma, general secretary Dr Jaswant Singh and cashier Shiv Kumar Bargotra said that akhand paath of Ramcharit Manas would be held on October 19 on the eve of Ram Navmi from 8 am to

8 am the next day, ie October 20.

After the end of akhand paath on October 20 morning, hawan would start at 9 am and end with poorna ahuti & collective prayer at 11.15 am, they said.

It would be followed by a bhajan-kirtan event at 11.30 am, they added,

The committee members said bhandra would start from 12 noon onwards.

They made an appeal to all the members of the two biradaris and others to visit the Baba Badgal temple at Kot-Bhalwal on October 20 to seek the blessings of the highly revered Kul-Devta.

Couple, 3 children found dead in Greater Noida; poisoning suspected

NOIDA, OCT 18 : A couple and their children were found dead at their home in a village in Greater Noida on Saturday morning, police said, as an investigation was launched into the suspected poisoning case.

The Dalit family was financially weak, according to locals.

Initially, citing preliminary information, police said the case appeared to be of food poisoning. However, later food safety officials suggested it could be a case of poisoning. Both departments though said the exact cause could be ascertained only after the post-mortem.

Amid Navratri festivities in the area, locals were in for a shock this morning when daily wage earner Mahesh (37), his wife Lalita (35), their daughter Mishti (7), and sons Laddu (11) and Sakshat (3) were found dead in a room of their home in Nagla Shri Padam village around 8 am.

The kids were to go to school, but the doors of the house remained shut.

Seeing the unusual, some neighbours got curious and went in to check on the family only to find them all lying motionless

in the room. Soon, the police and other authorities were alerted. Forensic officials and a team from the Food Safety Department reached the spot to collect evidence and samples.

The family had gone to a local fair on Friday evening and returned around 10 pm, after which they consumed noodles for dinner, according to locals and Mahesh's mother.Browse Reference

"The exact cause of the deaths is not known yet, and further legal action would be taken based on the post-mortem reports and forensic findings," DCP Shravan Kumar Singh said.

"Prima facie, it seems to be a case of food poisoning. The post-mortem report will reveal the fact. We are sending the items recovered for examination," he said.

BJP's Jewar MLA Dharendra Singh, who visited the spot, said he has apprised the chief minister's office about the tragic incident.

"Particular attention is being paid to determine whether any toxic substance was present in the food consumed by the family or whether the deaths occurred due to some other reasons. The exact cause of

the deaths can be confirmed only after the post-mortem reports are received," he said.

"The untimely death of five members of a family, including three children, in such circumstances is deeply painful and heart-wrenching. The police, administration and food department teams are engaged in the investigation," Singh said.

"I expect every aspect of the incident to be investigated impartially. It should be clarified at the earliest what exactly led to the tragic loss of the entire family," he added.Find Grief Support

Bahujan Samaj Party chief Mayawati termed the incident "extremely heart-breaking" and a matter of concern.

In a post on X in Hindi, Mayawati said, "The news of the death of five members of the same family due to possibly consuming poisonous food in Greater Noida is extremely heart-breaking and also a matter of grave concern.

"The government must ensure a thorough investigation into the incident and take strict action against those responsible."

The Samajwadi Party claimed that under Chief

Minister Yogi Adityanath and the BJP, adulterated food products, contaminated edibles, and toxic vegetables and fruits are being sold rampantly in the state.

"Those behind these trades in poisonous and counterfeit food items are all affiliated with the BJP. Just think how the BJP government is killing us all one by one. If the BJP remains in power, will everyone end up losing their lives?" it asked in an X post.

Food safety officials who inspected the spot said the incident appeared to be a case of poisoning, rather than food poisoning.Review City Plans

Food Safety Officer O P Singh said the team examined food wrappers and other materials found at the spot but did not find any expired items.

"It does not appear to be a case of food poisoning. We suspect it is a case of poisoning involving a toxic substance," Singh told PTI Videos.

He said no information had emerged about the deceased suffering from vomiting or diarrhoea, symptoms commonly associated with food poisoning.