



# Purple Umbrella Festival 2025 – New Delhi

9th November



# Purple Umbrella Festival –2025

*Telling Stories. Building Solutions. Inspiring Change.*



## Empowering Students through Theatre, Climate Action & Creativity

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### Message from the Festival Director,

Dear Educators,

It gives me immense joy to invite you to be part of the **Purple Umbrella Festival 2025**. As we stand at the crossroads of climate urgency and the need for creative action, we believe that schools and students can be powerful storytellers and agents of change.

This festival is not just about performance, it's about purpose. It's about nurturing empathy, confidence, leadership, and a deep connection to the world we live in. Through theatre, we are not only building stages – we're building futures.

I welcome your school to join hands with us and be part of a movement that inspires, educates, and transforms.

Warm regards,

**Neeraj Kumar**

Festival Director

Purple Umbrella Festival

[www.purplefest.in](http://www.purplefest.in)



## Introduction: Why This Festival Matters

The **Purple Umbrella Festival** is a one-of-a-kind platform that empowers school students to express their creativity while addressing some of the most urgent challenges of our time — **climate change, sustainability, and social justice.**

Scheduled from **9th November 2025** in **New Delhi**, this festival invites schools across India to engage their students in the **art of storytelling**, using theatre as a transformative tool to raise awareness, provoke thought, and drive action.



We believe that **students are not just the leaders of tomorrow — they are the changemakers of today.** The festival brings together education, performance, and purpose in one powerful experience.

## Festival Theme: Climate Action

All participating schools are invited to stage original plays inspired by the broad theme of **climate action**. This includes sub-themes like:

- **Conservation & sustainability**



- Pollution & waste
- Renewable energy
- Water, forest & wildlife protection
- Climate justice & youth action

- **Hope, resilience & imagination for the future**



## What's In It For Your School?

### Rs. 1,00,000 Cash Prize for the Winning Team

The winning school team will receive a Rs. **1 lakh cash prize**, in recognition of their powerful, creative, and inspiring performance.

### Medals & Participation Certificates for All Participating Students

Each participating student will receive:

#### A Certificate of Participation



#### A custom-designed medal





## Trophy & Winner Certificate for the School

The winning school will receive **the Purple Umbrella Winner's Trophy**



Along with a **framed certificate of recognition** from the festival organizers

## Additional Benefits for Participating Schools

### Mentorship by Theatre & Climate Experts

Your students will have the option to attend mentorship sessions with:

- Award-winning theatre directors
- Climate educators & sustainability professionals
- Youth leaders in environmental action

### Exclusive Eco-Theatre Toolkit

Every participating school will receive a digital toolkit that includes:

- Climate-themed script ideas & story starters
- Workshop plans for teachers
- Eco-friendly stage and set design tips
- Fun student activity sheets



**SDG–Aligned Educational Experience**

The festival aligns with the **UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDG 13 – Climate Action)**, enabling schools to integrate global citizenship and sustainability education in a hands-on, performative way.



**Media & Social Media Promotion**

All participating schools will be:

- Featured on our website and newsletters
- Highlighted on our social media handles
- Eligible for coverage in festival press releases

**Be Part of a National Youth Movement**

By participating, your school joins a growing network of climate-aware schools, educators, and youth from across India who are shaping tomorrow’s climate narrative — today.

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**Quick Festival Facts**

Detail	Info
Dates	9th November 2025
Location	Central Delhi venue (to be announced)
Participants	Students from Grades 6–9
Performance Duration	Duration 15 - 20 minutes
Language	English / Hindi / Bilingual
Team Size	Up to 10 students per school



# Meet the Festival Team

## Executive Leadership

### Sudipto Sen – Festival Patron



Sudipto is an Indian filmmaker and writer, known for tackling sensitive socio-political themes. With a background in Physics and a Master's in Applied Psychology from the University of Calcutta, he began his career with the award-winning documentary *The Other Wealth* (1997). His film *The Last Monk* (2006) premiered at Cannes and won accolades for cinematography.

He gained national attention for *The Kerala Story* (2023), a controversial film exploring themes of religious conversion, sparking both acclaim and criticism. His other works include *Akhnoor*, *Lucknow Times*, *In the Name of Love!*, and *Bastar: The Naxal Story* (2024). A proud Bengali, he enjoys cooking and traveling, but keeps his personal life largely private.

### Nandita Puri – Festival Patron



Nandita is a former English literature student who began her career in journalism, contributing to leading publications like *The Statesman*, *The Telegraph*, and the *TOI* group. She wrote a popular film column for nearly a decade with *Midday* and *Dainik Bhaskar*. A broadcaster for *AIR* and *Mark Tully's* radio network, she has served on the script committees of *NFDC* and *CFSI* and has been a *TEDx* speaker.

Nandita has written for television and films, and her published works include *Nine on Nine*, the biography *Unlikely Hero: Om Puri*, and the international bestseller *Jennifer*, which explores child trafficking and adoption and is soon to be adapted into a film. In 2017, she launched the *Om Puri Foundation* at the 70th Cannes Film Festival in memory of her husband to uphold his legacy. She currently serves as Chairperson of the foundation.



### **Neeraj Kumar – Festival Director**



Founder and Festival Director of Purple Umbrella Festival, passionate about empowering youth and using storytelling as a tool for social change. Neeraj is a dreamer, doer, and entrepreneur with a passion for impact-driven innovation. A speaker at SXSW Austin, he was nominated for the British Council's Young Creative Entrepreneur Award. He has produced many award-winning plays, including the National Award-winning Play "Uske Hothon ki Chup" by Kusum Ansal.

An avid traveller, he has explored 53 countries and counting, drawing inspiration from cultures around the world. His journey blends vision, action, and a commitment to creating meaningful change.

### **Creative and Program Team**

#### **Gouri Nilakantan Mehta – Artistic Director**



Gouri holds a Masters degree from Miami University and is currently pursuing her PhD in theatre from the dept of Arts and Aesthetics at JNU Delhi. She has over 23 publications to her credit and has presented several papers at international conferences at Japan, Pakistan, Dubai and America. She was awarded the best graduate student award by Miami University. She has also directed over 12 plays and has produced more than 25.

#### **Dr.Nidhi Nijhawan – Director, School Operations**



Nidhi is a seasoned educationist with over 28 years of experience in leading reputed schools across India, including GD Goenka, DAV, Prudence, Presidium, and Global Indian International School. An alumna of Jesus and Mary College, Delhi University, she holds a postgraduate degree in English and has co-authored Igniting Minds while working as a Civics Subject Expert with Educomp Solutions. Passionate about creativity and lifelong learning, she is currently writing a series of short stories for children. For her, creativity is the cornerstone of a fulfilling life, best captured in Robert Frost's words: "I have miles to go before I sleep."



### **Kritika Mansingh – Program Coordinator**



Kritika is an accomplished educator with over 20 years of experience, specializing in the Foundational Stage. Currently Headmistress at a day-cum-boarding school in Dehradun, she is known for creating inclusive and tech-savvy learning environments. A passionate cyber safety advocate, she conducts workshops on digital literacy and responsible internet use for parents and educators.

As a Certified Parenting Coach, Kritika guides families in fostering positive communication and supportive relationships. She also trains teachers in innovative strategies to engage young learners effectively.

**Creative & Climate Advisory Board** – Comprising educators, environmentalists, and performing arts professionals guiding the festival’s vision and direction.

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## **Let’s Build the Future Together**

We invite your school to be part of a powerful celebration of youth talent and purpose.

This isn’t just a competition — it’s a movement.

A space where **every voice matters**, and **every story inspires change**.

**Be part of the Purple Umbrella movement. Let your students shine on stage — and lead the change off stage**



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### **Donate : Purple Umbrella Foundation**

#### **Bank Transfers**

**Account Name:** Purple Umbrella Foundation

**Account No.** 258130816877

**Bank Name:** IndusInd Bank

**IFSC Code:** INDB0001482



Or pay using



**PURPLE UMBRELLA  
FOUNDATION**

Purple Umbrella Festival

**BHIM**  
UNIFIED PAYMENTS INTERFACE

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SCAN & PAY WITH ANY UPI APP

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**You can reach out to:**

**Dr.Nidhi Nijhawan** | Director – School Operation

+91-8527215634 | [schools@purplefest.in](mailto:schools@purplefest.in)

[www.purplefest.in](http://www.purplefest.in)



# FAQs – Purple Umbrella Festival (For Schools)

*Helping You Prepare, Participate & Perform with Confidence*

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## 1. What is the Purple Umbrella Festival all about?

The Purple Umbrella Festival is a national-level creative platform for school students to perform original plays on climate change and sustainability. It promotes awareness, storytelling, and action – all through theatre.

## 2. Who can participate from our school?

Students from Grades 6 to 9 are eligible. Each school can nominate a team of up to 10 students, along with at least one teacher coordinator.

## 3. What is the theme for the performances?

The 2025 theme is “Climate Action”. Sub-themes may include:

- Renewable energy
- Pollution and plastic
- Forests, water, and wildlife
- Climate justice
- Local environmental issues
- Youth-led solutions

## 4. Are there any restrictions on the type of play or language?

No. The play can be in **English, Hindi, or bilingual**.

It must be **original**, within **10–15 minutes**, and respectful of all communities.

## 5. What will the school receive in return?

- **Rs. 1,00,000 cash prize** for the **winning team**
- **Medals** and **participation certificates** for all students
- Winner’s **trophy and certificate** for the school
- Exclusive **Eco-Theatre Toolkit**
- Access to **mentorship workshops**
- School’s performance featured on our **social media & festival website**



## 6. Where and when will the festival be held?

**Location:** Central Delhi (venue to be announced)

**Dates:** 9th November 2025

## 7. Do we need to travel or make our own arrangements?

Yes. Schools are expected to make their **own travel and accommodation arrangements**. However, we will offer guidance and suggest budget-friendly accommodation options if needed.

## 8. Will there be rehearsal time or support?

Yes. Schools will be assigned a **slot for stage familiarization/rehearsal** at the venue. Mentorship sessions (optional) will be organized **online or in hybrid mode** before the festival.

## 9. Can we use props, music, or AV elements?

Yes, simple props and music can be used. Schools must inform the organizers in advance if AV support (e.g., projector, mic) is needed. We encourage **eco-friendly and minimal stage setups**.

## 10. How can we register?

- Fill out the School Participation Form
- Agree to the Terms & Conditions
- Submit your entry by August 15, 2025
- Pay the registration fee via the provided payment link

## 11. Festival Partner Contribution

Yes. A Festival Partner Contribution of **₹20,000 per participating school** applies. This helps cover logistical support, workshop access, media features, and participation kits.



## 12.How to Pay the Festival Partner Contribution ?

- **Account Name:** Purple Umbrella Foundation
- **Account No.** 258130816877
- **Bank Name:** IndusInd Bank
- **IFSC Code:** INDB0001482

## 13. Can more than one team from the same school participate?

At the moment, we are accepting **one team per school** to ensure diverse representation. If space allows, we may consider a second entry — do get in touch with us to discuss.

## 14. Who can we contact for queries or support?

You can reach out to:

**Dr.Nidhi Nijhawan** | Director – School Operation  
+91-8527215634 | [schools@purplefest.in](mailto:schools@purplefest.in)  
[www.purplefest.in](http://www.purplefest.in)

We're happy to assist with any questions regarding registration, scripting, or logistics.





**Let your school raise the Purple Umbrella.  
Let your students become storytellers of change.  
Let their voices be heard, loud and clear.**



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