

PALM EXPO 2026 POWERS INDIA'S LIVE SOUND AND LIGHTING REVOLUTION

India's Biggest Pro Audio and Entertainment Lighting Stage Delivers Another Ambitious Edition

With an impressive overall footfall of 65,000+, PALM Expo 2026 marked yet another expansive edition, sprawling across over 40,000 sqm of exhibition space. Spread across four dynamic halls, complemented by exhibit and demo features including the high-octane HARMAN Live Arena and three purpose-built Demo Qubes, the show floor pulsed with energy, innovation, and intent at every turn. "The Vibe" by N-Labs in Grande B+ C, added another live demonstration zone to the mix, giving attendees the rare opportunity to hear and compare solutions in real-world acoustic conditions rather than controlled booth environments.

Across three days, the PALM Expo Conference 2026 program brought together the *crème de la crème* of the industry through a dynamic mix of technical and industry-focused sessions. This year stood apart with several first-time initiatives and more interactive formats, with sessions pushing boundaries through concepts not explored before—such as an all-women panel, a dedicated discussion on advertising mixing, and an immersive hands-on session using real IEMs, enabling participants to directly engage with and better understand the subject matter.

The PALM x EESA Rigging Trussing workshop also featured several key players and authorities in the live sound safety industry.

This record-breaking scale was more than just a numbers game, it reflected the unmistakable momentum of an industry in rapid ascent. Driven by rising domestic demand, a steadily maturing talent ecosystem, and a decisive shift toward indigenous innovation and manufacturing, India's pro audio sector is clearly stepping into a new era of confidence and capability. No longer playing catch-up, it is emerging as a serious global contender. PALM Expo Magazine has been tracking India's Live Entertainment Boom for a while now, and PALM Expo 2026 personified the growth story that we've been hearing about for so long. India's pro audio and lighting industry is being pulled forward by something far more visceral than market projections, rather a sector in full-scale eruption. India's live entertainment sector grew by 17% last year, hosting 34,086 live events in 2025 alone, spanning concerts, tours and music festivals, as evinced in our *Market Analysis: Live Sound Industry* in the May-June 2026 edition of PALM Expo Magazine. The year marked a clear shift in how international touring artists viewed India, from an occasional stop to a core market in Asia, alongside Japan, South Korea, and Singapore.

That momentum was unmistakable at PALM Expo 2026, in the live sound technology commanding the show floor, in the conversations happening between rental companies and distributors, and in the record footfall at the HARMAN Live Arena, where crowds gathered not

out of curiosity but out of professional urgency. The technology on display weren't aspirational; they were already needed.

A strong contingent of homegrown manufacturers took centre stage, unveiling solutions that matched global benchmarks in both performance and design. Alongside them, distributors and solution providers demonstrated technologies finely tuned to the demands of India's thriving live events, install, and production landscape. Together, they reinforced the growing impact of the 'Make in India' movement, where ambition is now matched by execution.

The scale of participation mirrored this optimism. Close to 285 exhibitors representing over 1,000 brands showcased an extensive range of solutions, from live sound, immersive live technology, studio and music production, entertainment and intelligent lighting, audio installation systems and display, conference and AV technology. Adding further dynamism to the mix, 40 first-time exhibitors made their debut, signalling a steady influx of new players eager to tap into the evolving Indian market.

From its launch in 2001 to its 24th edition in 2026, PALM Expo has charted a remarkable journey to become Asia's leading trade show for pro audio and lighting. Held at NESCO, Mumbai from 28th to 30th May, the Expo reaffirmed its position as a key platform for industry dialogue, innovation, and the future growth of India's live and installed sound and lighting sectors.



The Expo was inaugurated by David Lynn, Chief Executive Officer, InD, Yogesh Mudras, Managing Director, Informa Markets India; and Anil Chopra, Founding Director, PALM AV-ICN Expo, and Ramesh Chetwani, Project Director, PALM AV-ICN Expo along with key exhibitors and stakeholders.

YOGESH MUDRAS, Managing Director, Informa Markets in India, said, "India's professional audio, AV integration, and entertainment lighting industry is entering a high-growth phase, driven by the convergence of digital infrastructure expansion, experiential consumption, smart venues, and large-scale public and private investments in entertainment, retail, hospitality, education, and live events. With India's live events industry projected to surpass INR 15,000 crore over the next few years and the Pro-AV market steadily expanding across enterprise, government, and experiential applications, the demand for integrated, intelligent, and immersive technology solutions is accelerating rapidly. As part of this growth vision, we are also expanding the PALM brand footprint with the launch of PALM Expo Delhi in January 2027 at Bharat Mandapam. North India today accounts for nearly 40–45% of India's AV hardware market, making it one of the country's most significant growth regions for professional audio, visual, and lighting technologies. The Delhi edition will create a focused business platform closer to this rapidly expanding market and further strengthen industry engagement across North India."



ANIL CHOPRA, Founding Director, PALM AV-ICN Expo, emphasised, "India's music landscape has undergone an extraordinary transformation over the last 10 years, with live stage performances and concerts emerging as a powerful cultural and economic force across metro cities as well as tier 2 and tier 3 markets. From audiences of 20,000 and 30,000 at regional concerts to stadiums filled with over 1 lakh music fans, India's concert industry has reached an unprecedented scale. For the past 20 years, PALM AV-ICN Expo has stood as the mother show for India's professional sound and live entertainment industry, uniting the entire ecosystem from studio recording and live sound engineering to cutting edge stage technologies, speakers, amplifiers, and immersive audio solutions."



What unfolded across the halls was a technology-rich spectacle. From cutting-edge PA systems and amplifiers to next-generation mixing consoles, DSPs, microphones, and audio interfaces, right through to stage trussing, motorised rigging, cables, and advanced lighting systems, the sheer breadth of innovation on display created a vibrant, fast-paced preview of the future of pro audio and entertainment lighting technology.

ACTION ON THE SHOWFLOOR

Encompassing the full spectrum of professional audio and entertainment lighting technology, PALM Expo 2026 highlighted a decisive industry pivot toward integrated, intelligent systems, where the lines between live sound, installed AV, and experiential design are increasingly blurred.

Acting as a launch pad for the growing network of distributors catering to international brands, the show floor was focused on raising the standard for India's live sound network. Booth after booth reflected a sharpened seriousness of purpose, not just presenting products, but articulating solutions. For distributors and integrators alike, PALM Expo 2026 was less a showcase and more a statement: that India's professional Audio and Lighting community has the appetite, the expertise, and the infrastructure to engage with the best the world has to offer, and, increasingly, to build it too. We are highlighting the presence of just a few out of many esteemed exhibitors from the dynamic show-floor this year.

Ansata delivered a focused showcase of premium audio technologies at their booth, headlined by **d&b audiotechnik's CCL compact cardioid line array** and the Indian debut of the **U Series**. The booth highlighted networked audio workflows through Dante integration, alongside live sound solutions from **Avid's S6L** systems and the **Waves LV1 Classic** console. **DPA microphones**, including the **DDK4000 kit** and **4099 Core+**, drew strong interest, while Trinnov demonstrations showcased advanced optimisation. The d&b Soundscape experience further reinforced the growing demand for immersive audio among India's professional sound community.

At their booth, **Audio Plus** showcased a dynamic portfolio of **Studiomaster Professional** products, drawing strong attention from visitors and industry professionals. Key highlights included the **DJA 12000 power amplifier**, **Eos 24.6 live mixing console**, **Clio LA219 line array system**, **Clio 24M and 56M monitor speakers**, and **XSM series mid-bass transducers**. The booth also offered a preview of upcoming products such as the **Play 900 portable PA system** and the **Clio K25 passive loudspeaker**.

Bosch delivered an engaging showcase centred on **Electro-Voice's** new **EVF/EVH G2 series**, with live demonstrations across all three days at its booth. The next-generation point-source loudspeakers, redesigned with new transducers, advanced waveguides, and improved crossover efficiency, attracted strong interest for their enhanced output, precise coverage, and versatility across indoor and outdoor applications, reinforcing Electro-Voice's legacy in installed sound solutions.

Circle Pro Audio made a notable impression at their booth with the launch of its **CPA 60 Channel Patch Panel System**, a robust solution engineered for seamless signal management across live, broadcast, and touring environments. Designed with a 60-channel balanced architecture split across modular stage boxes, the system emphasises clarity, speed, and reliability in high-pressure workflows. Features such as colour-coded looms and phantom power indicators enhance usability, while its rugged build ensures durability.

Eminent AV spotlighted the **Amate Audio XCELLENCE XA209**, a compact yet high-performance line array system. Featuring Dante integration, a 3000W Class D amplifier, advanced waveguide design, and lightweight neodymium component, the XA209 impressed with its clarity, control, and efficiency, positioning it as a powerful solution for modern live sound applications.

One of the largest players in India's trussing landscape, **Giant Truss**, introduced **Giant Stage**, an aluminium staging system designed for strength, flexibility and quick deployment. Constructed from high grade 6082 T6 aluminium, the modular platform combines high load capacity with a lightweight build, making it ideal for concerts, weddings and large-scale events. Available in 4×4 ft, 4×8 ft and 1×2 m modules, the system allows customised layouts



Ahuja Radios' booth showcased cutting-edge technologies this year



Audio Plus displayed a portfolio of Studiomaster Professional's solutions at their booth



HARMAN in conjunction with the Live Arena stunned visitors with latest launches from their expansive portfolios



Hi-Tech Audio & Image hosted India's 1st ever Grand MA3 Programming contest at their booth, while showcasing cutting-edge live sound solutions



Narain Audio brought Nx Audio's latest amplifier innovations at their booth



Circle Pro Audio along with Circle Flex showcased solutions across live, broadcast & touring applications



CKS Acoustics displayed several of their indigenously manufactured solutions at the show-floor



Comcon debuted the EDGE Series at their booth, along with several other solutions



Pink Noise turned heads with Aftab Khan's live Apogee Symphony MKII Anniversary Edition demos and the India debut of EAW's ANNA & OTTO loudspeakers

with adjustable heights.

Making their PALM Expo debut this year, **Hitech Audio Video Systems**, a first-time exhibitor, highlighted their newly associated **HK Audio** brand, with the **HK Audio POLAR 12** serving as their hero product, at their booth. Visitors also experienced the **Outline Superfly**, a world-class line array system from Outline, for which Hitech is the exclusive distributor in India. Rounding out their showcase was a premium partnership with **Yamaha Digital Consoles**, further cementing their commitment to delivering industry-leading audio solutions.

4 Square Corporation showcased a curated range of professional power distribution and connectivity solutions under the **Contrik (Germany)** brand. The display featured **Contrik's XO Power Bar (XO CPB-T1-T3-NNSC)**, **Power Turtle (CPTX-T1-T7)**, and **Power Strip (CPPSF3RD-TT)**, highlighting modular, safety-focused power management for live sound, touring, and AV installations. Also on display was Contrik power cables, **CKPE50-ASAS-M200**, **M300**, and **M400**.

At PALM Expo 2026, **Nx Audio** unveiled its new **DDJ Series Class D SMPS amplifiers**, including the **DDJ9004** and **DDJ12004**. Designed in a sleek 1U format, these compact, lightweight amplifiers deliver high power efficiency with outputs of 900W and 1200W per channel respectively. Featuring built-in variable crossovers, bridge mode, and comprehensive protection systems, the series offers versatility for touring, DJ, club, cinema, and installation applications, all within a rugged, durable chassis built for demanding professional use.

Pink Noise Professionals made a strong impression at PALM Expo 2026, packing their booth with exclusive activity across the three-day show. Renowned mixing and mastering engineer **Aftab Khan** joined on Days 2 and 3 to deliver live demonstrations centred around the **Apogee Symphony MKII Anniversary Edition**, breaking down tracks from *Bhoomi 2024* and *2025* — including **Arijit Singh's "Sukoon"** and **Shreya Ghoshal and Sunidhi Chauhan's "Chhaila"** — and sharing insights into his mixing and mastering workflow. The booth also marked the India debut of the **EAW ANNA** and **Otto loudspeaker systems**, which were being showcased in the country for the very first time, drawing considerable interest from audio professionals, system integrators, and consultants alike.

At their **Demo Qube**, **POPE Professional** showcased their newly launched **TT** and **V Series line array** systems to visitors. The **TT Series** was demonstrated for its controlled coverage and sonic consistency, while the **V Series** highlighted its Audio over IP readiness with **AES67**, **Dante**, and **RAVENNA** compatibility.

Rishabh Incorporated showcased **ISOCAB**, an audio isolation cable designed to eliminate hum and ground loop noise, delivering clean, high-fidelity sound. Available with **Neutrik** or **REAN** connectors and premium cable options, it ensures reliable performance, protects sensitive equipment, and simplifies installations without altering volume—only enhancing signal clarity.

Sennheiser showcased a comprehensive range of next-generation audio

solutions, headlined by **Spectera**, its wideband bidirectional digital wireless ecosystem, alongside the India preview of the upcoming **Spectera SKM** handheld transmitter. Visitors also explored the new **HD 480 PRO headphones** and **SoundBase wireless** management platform, along with trusted systems like **Digital 6000** and **EW-DX**, reinforcing Sennheiser's focus on intelligent, scalable, audio workflows.

Sonotone and **Stagemix Technologies** brought an impressive dual-booth presence to PALM Expo 2026, collectively representing some of the most respected names in professional audio. The Sonotone booth spotlighted **P.Audio**, **Dynatech**, **JTS**, **Unika**, and **Marani** across loudspeakers, **DSPs**, microphones, mixers, amplifiers, and wireless systems. Across the aisle, Stagemix showcased **Genelec**, **LD Systems**, **DAS Audio**, **Solid State Logic**, **Midas**, **Lab Gruppen**, **Tannoy**, **Lake**, and **Gravity Stands** — spanning studio monitors, PA systems, digital mixing consoles, amplification, and accessories. Together, the two booths offered visitors a remarkably comprehensive sweep of solutions for live sound, installation, and studio environments.

Sound Solutions showcased the **A-Plus IEM4**, a high-performance 4-channel stereo in-ear monitoring system designed for professional applications. Featuring UHF wireless transmission, low latency, and 24-bit/48kHz audio quality, the system delivers clear, reliable monitoring, supported by robust build quality, flexible connectivity, and up to 80 metres operating range for demanding live environments.

Trimac participated in PALM Expo 2026 representing different genres of pro audio products including line array equipment, podcasting equipment, recording equipment, broadcast, accessories and cabling solutions.

Yamaha Music India commanded attention at PALM Expo 2026 with their "Experience The Next Wave" concept at Hall 6, drawing visitors into five immersive experience zones spanning content creation, business solutions, event audio, live sound, and touring and broadcast. From the newly launched **DXR/CXR/DXS/CXS mk3 Series** and **MGX** and **URX Series** to the flagship **RIVAGE PM** and **DM7** digital mixing systems, the booth offered a compelling journey through Yamaha's professional audio ecosystem.

Encompassing the full spectrum of professional audio and entertainment lighting technology, PALM Expo 2026 highlighted a decisive industry pivot toward integrated, intelligent systems, where the lines between live sound, installed AV, and experiential design are increasingly blurred

Another standout highlight of PALM Expo 2026 was the commanding presence of N-Labs, which activated a massive footprint across Grande Halls B and C.

N-LABS SETS “THE VIBE” IN GRANDE B + C

If there was one experience that truly stood apart at PALM Expo 2026, it was “The Vibe by N-Labs”. Spread across the expansive Grande B & C halls, the showcase transformed the traditional exhibition format into a fully immersive professional audio destination bringing together live performances, cinematic demonstrations, technical education, and next-generation Network AV technologies under one unified ecosystem. Designed as more than just a product display, “The Vibe” delivered a carefully curated experience that blended emotion, engineering, and innovation at every level. Across all three days of the exhibition, the venue witnessed consistently packed sessions and strong engagement from system integrators, consultants, rental companies, audio engineers, musicians, and technology professionals from across the country. The overwhelming response established “The Vibe” as one of the most talked-about experiences of the entire exhibition. A major highlight of the showcase was the large-format live demonstration environment, where visitors experienced the depth, clarity, and scale of N-Labs professional audio systems through specially curated performances. From the richness of classical Indian music to dynamic western live sessions and immersive flute performances, each presentation was designed to demonstrate the emotional impact and precision achievable through mod-



Live performances and Audio-over-IP innovations at The Vibe by N-Labs, delivered a multi-sensory journey with trainings and demos

ern sound reinforcement technologies.

Beyond the performances, N-Labs also hosted dedicated technical sessions and guided tech tours focused on the future of Audio-over-IP and Network AV ecosystems. Visitors explored advanced workflows and open-network technologies including Milan AVB, AES67, Dante-enabled systems, PoE audio solutions, and scalable networked infrastructures designed for next-generation AV deployments. These demonstrations generated exceptional interest among industry professionals and reflected the rapidly growing shift toward intelligent and fully networked AV environments. With thousands of visitors, continuous footfall, packed demo sessions, and overwhelming industry appreciation throughout the

exhibition, The Vibe by N-Labs stood as more than just a showcase it became a benchmark for how experiential presentation, technical innovation, and immersive storytelling can redefine the modern pro-audio exhibition experience.

The undeniable epicentre of sonic energy at PALM Expo 2026 was the HARMAN Live Arena, which returned this year bigger, louder, and far more ambitious.

HARMAN LIVE ARENA RAISES THE BAR ONCE AGAIN

For three days at NESCO Mumbai, the HARMAN Live Arena at PALM Expo 2026 operated not merely as a performance venue, but as a fully realised, large-scale demonstration of HARMAN's integrated audio and lighting ecosystem. Conceived as a controlled yet demanding real-world deployment, the arena provided a continuous test environment for multiple PA configurations, immersive processing workflows, and synchronised lighting systems working in tandem across a densely programmed schedule.

At its core, the arena was structured as a layered system design exercise, enabling engineers, rental providers, and production specialists to evaluate how different loudspeaker platforms and processing environments perform under live conditions.

The arena's audio infrastructure was structured across three distinct systems, each assigned to specific acts across the three-day schedule, a deliberate choice that allowed audiences and professionals alike to evaluate each system's character and capability in real performance conditions.

The arena's audio design was divided into three functional deployment layers, each representing a different application class, which allowed audiences and professionals alike to evaluate each system's character and capability in real performance conditions.

- **Primary LR System:** JBL SRX910LA + SRX928S
- **Immersive System Layer:** SPAT Revolution spatial engine + distributed loudspeaker topology JBL SRX 922 and SRX 9189SF subwoofers, JBL VTX A8 / A6 with B28 subs



With the exception of opening acts running on the SRX left-right system, all performances in the Live Arena were routed through SPAT Revolution's spatial engine this year

Primary System: JBL SRX Series

The opening acts on each day were powered by a conventional left-right PA system built around the JBL SRX910LA line array paired with SRX928S subwoofers. This configuration provided a familiar reference point for attendees, demonstrating the system's capability as a scalable solution for small to mid-sized productions.

The SRX system carried the opening performances across the three-day programme, beginning with 43 LA on Day 1, followed by Time Travel on Day

2, and culminating in **The DRS Project** on Day 3, with **Chirag Jaisinghani** at the FOH position for the final set.

Despite its positioning as the entry tier, the system delivered notable consistency in tonal balance and coverage, offering a clear baseline against which the more advanced deployments in the arena could be judged.

Touring System Core: JBL VTX A-Series

The next system for the majority of the programme was the **JBL VTX A8** and **A6 line array**, supported by **B28 subwoofers**. Representing HARMAN's touring-grade offering, this system formed the backbone of the Live Arena's sonic identity.

This system carried **NIMAD's Under The Neem Tree** and **Ojas Adhiya's Tabla Symphony** on Day 1, the latter with FOH engineer **Parikshit Kulkarni** at the desk. Day 2 brought **Shadow and Light, In Between Sessions**, programmed by **Riyasdeen Riyan**, who also developed several of the immersive elements for the performance, and **Shanka Tribe**, with **Sachin Savio** on FOH. Day 3 featured **Galactic Polygons** and **Jatayu**, with **Ishit Kuberkar** handling FOH for the latter.

From a system performance perspective, the VTX deployment demonstrated strong control over dispersion, consistent SPL distribution, and the ability to transition seamlessly between acoustically sensitive performances and high-energy electronic material—validating its versatility as a flagship touring solution.

The Immersive Shift: SPAT Revolution Takes Centre Stage

The defining technical evolution at the HARMAN Live Arena in 2026 was the full-scale integration of **SPAT Revolution** as the primary audio processing environment.

In previous years, immersive audio featured as a concluding showcase. This year, it became the operational default.

With the exception of opening acts running on the SRX left-right system, all performances were routed through SPAT Revolution's spatial engine. This fundamentally transformed the listening experience from a channel-based reinforcement model into an object-based spatial sound field, enabling precise localisation, depth rendering, and dynamic movement of audio sources within

"I tend to do a lot of research on the artists and bands I'm working with, so I can design the look and feel accordingly. All the shows were designed prior to the expo in my studio, with my team, using a custom AI agent workflow that I designed and engineered myself. The rig comprised 300-plus lights from the Martin family — and while working at that scale isn't new to me, having a portfolio of fixtures that are so cohesive and complementary to each other was a genuinely good feeling. My favourite fixture from the lineup was the Martin MAC ONE, and my favourite feature across the entire rig was the Raven XIP — the ability to control the pixels individually made it significantly easier to project video onto the screen, which is a facet of design that is central to my personal style. We also timecoded several shows across the three days using the MA3 lighting console."

— **BECKETT TUNDATIL**, Lighting Designer,
HARMAN Live Arena



Martin Professional's lighting rig shaped the visual narrative and elevated every moment in the arena

a three-dimensional space.

The spatial workflow was anchored by **MT Aditya**, HARMAN's in-house sound engineer, who managed system calibration and spatial integration across all three days.

Crucially, the consistency of spatial imaging across such a wide range of content demonstrated that immersive audio is no longer an experimental layer, but a scalable and reliable solution for mainstream live production.

The Centre Zone: A New Dimension

Adding another layer to the immersive experience was a dedicated installation at the centre of the audience area, a secondary speaker cluster built around the newly launched **JBL SRX 922** and **SRX 9189SF subwoofers**. From this position, **DJ Himanshu** performed a set that was fully synchronised with time-coded lighting, collapsing the separation between sound and visual design into a single, unified experience. It was among the most technically precise demonstrations at the Expo, and one of the most viscerally effective. On the final day the band **Funk Assassin**, performed a set on the very same rig.

The Lighting Design

Complementing the audio architecture was a **Martin Professional** lighting rig of considerable depth, designed and operated by **Beckett Tundatil** of **Fireflies**. The fixture inventory spanned the full range of **Martin's MAC series**: the **MAC Aura Raven XIP** and **MAC Aura PXL** for wash and pixel-mapped effects; the **MAC ONE Beam** and **MAC ONE** for precision beam work; the **MAC Viper XIP** and **MAC Ultra Performance** for high-output movement and gobo work; and the **Martin Macula** system, managed through the **Martin P3-175 system controller**.

The **Martin Lighting Workshop**, "Light It Up!" on Day 2 offered attendees a structured look at the technology underpinning what they had been watching from the floor, a thoughtful piece of programming that connected the product demonstration to the live application happening just outside the workshop space.

What the HARMAN Live Arena made across its three-day run was not merely a product showcase, it was an argument. That live sound in India is ready for spatial audio as a default, not a novelty. That a single, coherent technical vision, anchored by the VTX system, expanded by SPAT Revolution, punctuated by the SRX centre cluster, and lit by Martin's MAC series, can hold across genres as varied as *tabla*, electronic, and live band performance without compromise. For rental companies, FOH engineers, and system designers, the implications were clear: immersive audio, distributed system design, and tightly integrated lighting are no longer future concepts, they are immediately deployable standards, and the benchmark has decisively shifted.

PALM EXPO CONFERENCE & SEMINAR PROGRAMME 2026

Beyond the high-decibel demonstrations and product showcases, PALM Expo 2026 continued to serve as a vital platform for knowledge exchange and industry dialogue through its comprehensive conference programme and technical workshops.

The **PALM Expo Conference Series 2026** lived up to its reputation as the industry's foremost platform for knowledge exchange, drawing rockstar speakers across recording, live sound, lighting design, and audiovisual integration over three packed days at the Expo with **HARMAN** as the **Audio Partner**.

Day One centred on music production and studio sound, opening with **Donal Whelan** (CEO & Founder, **Hafod Mastering UK**) and **Gethin John** (Chief Sound Engineer, **Hafod Mastering**), delivering the session **"AI-Powered Efficiency: Transforming Studio Operations"**, they shared a practical view of AI in studio workflows, from mastering assistance and file management to business operations. While highlighting its usefulness, they also questioned its limitations, offering a balanced, sceptical perspective that set a thoughtful tone for the day.

"Sound Editing for Film & Television", the next session, brought **Vijay Rathinam** (Founder, **The Audioville**) to the stage for a thorough walk-through of the sound editing pipeline — from spotting sessions to final delivery. Rathinam outlined how to develop a cohesive sound design language for individual projects, addressed surround audio workflows, and made a compelling case for REAPER as a viable, if unconventional, tool in professional film sound editing, backed by real-world case studies from his own recent work.

Sreejesh Nair (Re-recording Mixer & Audio Application Specialist, Avid) followed with the third session of the day: **"How to Mix a Film"**, focusing on theatrical mixing standards. From initial session setup and console configuration through to final delivery, Nair walked attendees through the complete mixing workflow, sharing industry techniques applicable not just to cinema but to streaming and other delivery formats.

"The Sound of Selling", presented by **Purple Haze Studios**, was a gamechanger this year, as it was PALM's first session focused on advertisement mixing. A lively panel consisting of veterans from the advertising mixing, voice-over and post-production world, namely **Kunal Dabholkar** (Founder, **Sonic Bliss Studio**), **P.P. Bajaj** (Actor & Voice Over), **Ninad Lad** (Sound Designer & Mixing Engineer), **Jiten Solanki** (Founding Partner/CEO, **Boing Recording Studios LLP**), **François Castellino** (Voice Actor, Actor & Singer), and moderated by **Abhay Rumde** (Chief Sound Engineer, **Purple Haze Studios**), explored how sound design and mixing build brand identity across markets. Each panellist shared standout campaign clips from their careers, revealing to the audience what sells, and what doesn't.

Closing the first day, the **AES**-partnered session **"AI in Music Creation and Production: Assistant, Collaborator, or Disruptor?"** opened a broader debate. Moderated by **Stan Alvares**, the panel, **Vijay Dayal**, **DJ Phukan**, **Vijay Thomas Kurien**, **Naveen Kumar PMK** and **Monty Sharma**, examined whether AI is genuinely enhancing creativity or eroding the musical understanding and skill development that define the craft. It was one of the conference's most spirited exchanges.

Day Two opened with a panel: **"Audio and Sound Engineering: Training, Retention & Human Resource Development"**, presented by **Universal AI University**. Moderated by **Pramod Chandorkar** of **Soundideaz Academy**, the session tackled one of the industry's most pressing structural challenges, the shortage of skilled engineers, with panellists **Mujeeb Dadarkar** (Co-Founder, **Odble Consultants**), **Sudarshan Srinivasan** (Director, **Lewminadio Techversity**), **Kallol Nath** (GM - Applications **Sun Infonet**), **Nirdosh Aggarwal** (Managing Partner, **Hi-Tech Audio & Image**) and **Manjunath Kambalimath** (Director, **HARMAN**) covering retention strategies, and bridging the gap between academia and industry demand.

In the **Mix: Women in Live Sound**, partnered with **EvenTech Academy**, was among the most discussed sessions of the series. Moderated by **Warren D'Souza** (Founder, **SOUND.COM**) an accomplished panel of women professionals from across the live sound ecosystem — spanning touring, rental, and technical roles — spoke candidly about navigating technical and leadership spaces, building credibility, and the resources and networks that have supported their careers. **Heena Golani** (Director, **Pink Noise Professionals & Erthpot**),



Vijay Rathinam makes a case for REAPER & talks about the sound editing pipeline



Sreejesh Nair dives into mixing sound for films and streaming, followed by an intensive Q and A



PALM Expo's first Panel Discussion on Advertisement Mixing dissected workflows with novel insights



The AES partnered panel discussion on AI in Music Production captured audiences



Presented by Universal AI, the panel discussion focused on industry challenges in Sound Engineering



Mantra for Indian Pro Audio discussed India's growing market momentum



Vijay Sabhlok dissected what it takes to engineer immersive experiences



Panel from Haffod Mastering discussed AI workflows in the studio

Annu Jamloki (Director, **Lewminadio**), **Simran Nasre**, Sound Engineer & Owner, **Focusvision**), **Prerna Talreja** (Applications Engineer, **SOUND.COM** & **Gear House**) and **Khushi Motwani** (Sound Engineer & Market Development Specialist, **Luminex**) kept the room engaged with fresh perspectives and insights.

The next session; "Mantra for Indian Pro Audio Market Growth", moderated by **Anil Chopra** Founder of **PALM & AV-ICN Expo**, took a strategic lens to the domestic market — examining how to design for Indian touring conditions. The panel consisting: **Sachit Subramanian** (Co-Founder & MD, **Circle Pro Audio** & **CircleFlex**), **Gaurav Agarwal** (Director, **Comcon Technologies**), **Rajan Gupta** (CEO & Founder, **Hi-Tech Audio & Image**) and **Hemal Bhatt** (Founder & CEO, **N-Labs**) discussed the rise of modular systems, expanding opportunity across tier-2 and tier-3 cities as festivals and experiential events grow.



PALM Expo's pioneering all women panel on women in live Sound offered fresh perspectives



Future of Entertainment Lighting had the panel discussing different aspects of the lighting industry



Fireside chat on Trussing broke down ROI, safety and rental models of trusses in live entertainment



Andrea Salvioli unpacked dbTechnologies' A2Net system, closing the Programme on a high note

"Future of Entertainment Lighting" moderated by **Viraf Pocha** (Director, **Landmark Productions Pvt Ltd**), the panel - **Wouter Verlinden** (Product Manager, **Martin Professional**), **Rasesh Parekh** (Founder & Proprietor, **Integrated Entertainment Solutions**), **Naveen Deshpande** (Founder and Director, **Ground Control**), **Ulhas Sahasrabuddhe** (Founder, **SSL Media Tech**) surveyed the landscape of LED innovation, pixel mapping, AI-driven automation, and sustainable solutions reshaping modern stage production.

Vijay Sabhlok (Principal Synthesist and CXO, **Empact Studio**) ended Day Two with a practitioner's framework for "Immersion Without Intelligence Is Just Noise", a sharp dissection of what genuine immersive experience actually requires, and why presence must be engineered rather than merely staged.

Day Three covered the business and technical ends of the spectrum in equal

measure. Beginning the day with a fireside chat, **“Trussing: New Technology, ROI, and Rental Models.”** Warren D’Souza took to the stage once more, with Arvind Singh (CEO & Founder, Giant Truss), Manish Mavani (Director, Sound & Light Professionals) enthralled attendees with a session which analysed both technical and industry topics. The conversation broke down pricing strategy, market positioning, India’s live events sector’s rapid scale, mounting pressure to adopt newer technology and more.

“Binaural Science: Integrating KLANG in the Monitor World” offered engineers a genuinely immersive hands-on exploration. Piyush Joshi (Touring Monitor and Engineer) walked attendees through integrating the KLANG system into modern monitor workflows. Crucially, the session drew on actual

SAFETY FIRST WITH THE PALM X EESA LIVE RIGGING & TRUSSING WORKSHOP

Along with the spectacle of sound and lighting, PALM Expo 2026 focused to the critical foundation that underpins every successful live production: Safety.

At PALM, we donned our safety helmets, for the most preliminary step of every live event. Setting up the trusses, the steel overhead, the motors in the grid, the distribution boards humming at the back of the venue.

The **Live Rigging & Trussing Workshop**, organised in partnership with EESA, returned for another edition as one of the expo’s most practically focused features, and arguably its most consequential. Across three full days of programming, the workshop brought together trussing and lighting riggers, sound and projection specialists, rental company owners, and the next generation of live production professionals for a programme built around a single, non-negotiable principle: that safety is not a compliance checkbox, it is a craft.

The Leap of Faith

No description of this workshop is complete without addressing what became its defining recurring moment. Interspersed across all three days, the Leap of Faith simulation, delivered by Team Natura of Natura Outdoor Education & Training Solutions, invited participants to suit up, step off a 20-foot platform, and experience real fall dynamics under controlled safety arrest. It is one thing to discuss fall loads in a classroom. It is another to feel them. The simulation made the physics of rigging safety visceral and immediate in a way that no slide deck can replicate, and its placement between sessions throughout each day ensured that the theoretical and the experiential remained tightly connected.

Day One: Foundations and Power

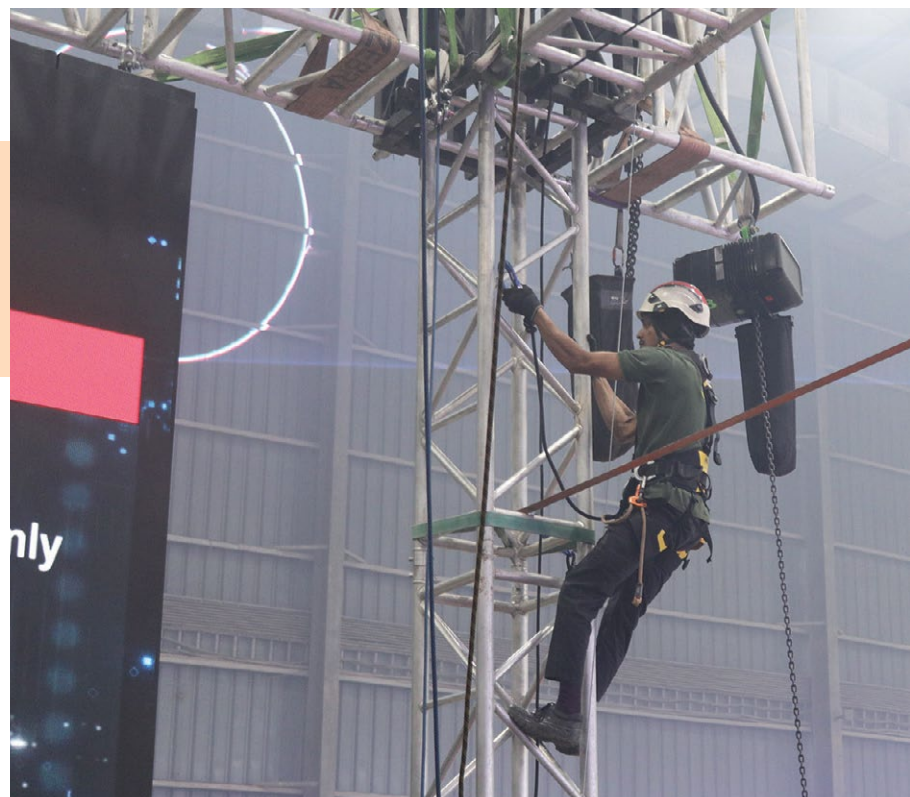
The workshop opened each morning with the **“Work At Heights”** programme — a pre-registered, limited-seat session run by Avishkar Tendle of Natura, covering truss climbing techniques, fall load dynamics, and real-world safety protocols across trussing, lighting, sound, and AV rigging. The session set the tone for everything that followed.

Dedicated sessions on the fundamentals of safety in trussing and temporary structures; covering ground support systems, rigging hardware, ballast, and guy wires were delivered in practical, checklist-driven terms. Prabhakar M S of Sugandar Light House introduced ICEMAN, a platform purpose-built for the rental industry, with a live demonstration of how connected systems can replace the scattered spreadsheets and phone coordination that still define too many operational workflows. Vaibhav Kapoor of Third Wave Services conducted a session on temporary power and electrical distribution, one of the most under-discussed risk areas in live production, addressed here with the directness it deserves. Urs Koch of GIS and Akshay Singh of Giant Truss rounded out Day 1 with a deep dive into hoists in live entertainment, covering control, synchronisation, and the technology shaping next-generation lifting systems.

show files and workflows from major tours and festival productions, giving attendees the kind of practical, in-the-trenches insight that online tutorials rarely provide.

The 2026 Conference series concluded with Andrea Salvioli (Applications Engineer, dBTechnologies) presenting **“A2Net: Control and Digital Audio in a Single Cable.”** Salvioli unpacked the A2Net system, dB Technologies’ own invention that builds on the capabilities of their established RDnet platform, enabling digital audio to be transported directly to connected speakers without any modification to existing wiring.

To view the entire conference sessions packed with learnings and interactive Q and A’s, head to **PALM Expo’s Official YouTube channel**.



Three days of learning, collaboration, and hands-on live production expertise in the Rigging Trussing Workshop

Day Two: Structures, Scale, and the Business of Safety

Day 2 introduced new perspectives alongside recurring themes. Sameer Sawant presented a session on stability certification for temporary structures — grounded in case studies that illustrated precisely what can go wrong when structural sign-off is treated as a formality rather than a safeguard. Singh returned and shifted register entirely, sharing the company’s growth journey and the business strategies behind scaling a rental operation responsibly — a session that spoke as directly to company owners as it did to engineers. K.P. George of Coatsman conducted a session on the safe build of scaffolding and stage systems, covering certified quick-build decking that meets international standards. The hoist session with Koch and Singh returned to close Day 2, its repeat placement across the programme a deliberate signal of how central lifting operations are to safe live production.

Day Three: Rounding Out the Picture

The final day consolidated the week’s learning. The workshop closed with a session that few rigging-focused programmes ever address: equipment and crew insurance. Gaurav Vasani of PROADVICE Wealth IMF walked attendees through the risk exposures specific to equipment vendors, illustrated through claim case studies covering equipment damage, worker injury, and vendor negligence, and offered one-to-one risk and insurance audits for those who wanted to go further. It was a fitting close to a programme that had spent three days making the case that professional rigour extends beyond the build itself, all the way to the paper trail that protects the people doing the work.

Across all three days, the Live Rigging & Trussing Workshop made a compelling argument — that in an industry scaling as rapidly as India’s live entertainment sector, the infrastructure of safety must scale with it.

PALM SOUND AND LIGHT AWARDS

In addition to the technology and innovation on display, PALM Expo 2026 also took a moment to celebrate the people and achievements driving the industry forward.

While the show floor captured the present and future, the awards celebrated the milestones that brought the industry here. This year, we hosted two awards, the **Indian Recording Arts Awards (IRAA)** and the **PALM Sound and Light awards**. IRAA focused on the sound engineers, recording artists and music producers from India's music production landscape and took place two days prior to the PALM Expo. Complete coverage on [page no 62](#).

Among the most anticipated highlights of PALM Expo 2026, the PALM Sound & Light Awards returned with renewed energy as the industry's most celebrated evening of recognition. Organised by **Informa Markets**, the ceremony brought together the finest names across India's professional audio and lighting landscape — from trailblazing rental companies and innovative brands to iconic live event producers and organizers and the sound and lighting engineers and technicians who make the impossible possible.

Against a backdrop of high anticipation and a packed house, the awards unfolded across 18 categories, each one a testament to the relentless standards this industry holds itself to. From technically groundbreaking audio deployments to visually breathtaking lighting executions, every accolade represented not just a winning company or individual, but a milestone in India's rapidly evolving live entertainment story.

The PALM Sound & Light Awards 2026 did what it does every year, paused the industry's relentless forward motion for one evening, and invited it to look

back at how far it has come. Congratulations to all our winners! See winner gallery below

CONCLUSION:

The live events boom is real, the appetite is enormous, and once again, it fell to us to track it, every launch, every partnership, every shift in the market, and hold the definitive pulse of pro audio and entertainment lighting in India.

What made this edition resonate wasn't just the volume of launches or the density of the show floor, it was the quality of intent in every corner of it. Decision-makers arrived with purpose, exhibitors delivered with conviction, and the conversations that unfolded across conference rooms, and crowded aisles were the kind that actually move industries forward. With the announcement of **PALM Expo Delhi in January 2027** the platform's ambitions are clearly expanding to match the moment.

For PALM Expo Magazine, covering this edition felt like documenting an inflection point — the show where India's entertainment technology community stopped asking "are we ready?" and started answering with hardware, horsepower, and hard-won expertise.

PALM Expo Mumbai will be back in 2027 from **27th to 29th May**. So will the industry. Bigger, bolder, and louder than ever. See you there!



Outstanding Distribution for Pro Audio Award – Ansata



Corporate Executive Excellence In Indian Pro Sound & Light Industry Award – Amar Subhash



Contribution To Live Sound Industry Award – Giant Truss



Best Distributor Award – Hi-Tech & Audio Image



Pioneering Pro Audio Video Manufacturer Of The Year Award – N-Labs



Contribution To Live Sound Rental Industry Award – Audio Design



Outstanding FOH Engineer Of The Year Award – Nikhil Pai



Outstanding Audio Monitor Mix Engineer Of The Year Award – Ajay Parkhe



Outstanding Audio Systems Engineer Of The Year Award – Sudarshan Srinivasan



Outstanding Event Promoter Of The Year Award – Team Innovation



Outstanding Technical Production Of Live Events Award – Vincent Samuel



Outstanding Sound Rental Company Of The Year Award – Mega Sound India



Outstanding Video Display Rental Company Award – MSS World



Outstanding Lighting Rental Company Of The Year Award – SSL Media Tech



System Design And Integration Award – Sound Redefined



Audio Technology For Live Sound Award – Eastern Acoustic Works (EAW)



Audio Technology For Studio Award – Genelec



Immersive Sound Technology Award – Sound xR By Yamaha Music India



Indigenous Manufacturing Of Pro Audio Award – CKS Acoustics



Indigenous Manufacturing Of Pro Audio Equipment Award – Circle Flex



Lighting Technology For AV Lighting Award – Leksa Lighting



Lighting Technology For Entertainment Lighting Award – Martin Professional
MAC One Beam & MAC Aura Raven XIP



Outstanding Lighting Designer Of The Year Award – Satvinder Singh



AV Architect Of The Year Award – Abhimanyu Gupta



Outstanding Projection Mapping Technology Company Award – Christie Digital



Outstanding Systems Integrator Of The Year Award – Havi Design