

## Why Only "Caste-Based Census"?

Why stop at a "caste-based census"? Why not include a comprehensive tally of various societal contributions that impact the nation's development?

A census of "caste-based criminals" would shed light on societal issues. Similarly, counting "caste-based taxpayers" would highlight the contributors to the economy.

Why not include the "caste-based subsidy" receivers and those who benefit from them? Furthermore, tracking "caste-based organ donors" and recipients within hospitals would bring more transparency to social welfare programs.

We must also consider the "caste-based bullies" causing harm and contrast them with those who contribute positively to society, such as those working for community welfare and harmony.

In fact, a thorough "caste-based census" can offer a more complete picture of how different segments of society contribute to the nation's progress, creating an understanding of the true contributors to national development.

The citizens of this country deserve to know who contributes how and to what extent for the betterment of the nation. Every aspect of caste-related activities needs a deeper evaluation for a true picture of societal growth and cooperation.

## Bastar – The Naxal Story: A Tale of Valor and National Pride

**Mumbai:** Get ready for a powerful narrative of resilience and patriotism as *Bastar - The Naxal Story* is all set for its premiere on & pictures on Sat, 23rd Nov at 9.30 PM. This riveting film, directed by Sudipto Sen and starring Adah Sharma, sheds light on one of the most critical yet untold stories of India's fights against the Naxals.

Director Sudipto Sen sharing his thoughts said, "This film isn't just about conflict; it's about the spirit of India's people who rise to protect their nation, no matter the odds. *Bastar - The Naxal Story* is a tribute to every brave soul fighting for the nation's integrity, and with its premiere on & pictures, I believe it will awaken a deep sense of pride and patriotism in every viewer."

Lead actress Adah Sharma mentioned, "Playing a part in this story has been a humbling experience. *Bastar - The Naxal Story* is a reminder of the sacrifices made by our jawans for our country we call home. I hope the premiere on & pictures inspires the audiences to think about the value of freedom and the lengths our brave hearts go to protect it."

Set against the backdrop of the Bastar region, the story follows a young tribal woman along with a driven IPS officer played by Adah, fighting the growing influence of radical ideologies and external interference and how they confront the exploitation of their people by these Naxals. The film underscores the importance of safeguarding national unity and its sovereignty from forces that seek to divide and disrupt.

Don't miss the premiere of *Bastar - The Naxal Story* on & pictures on Sat, 23rd Nov at 9.30 PM!

## Ample Mission Awards 2024: Celebrating Everyday Heroes

The Ample Mission Awards of Inspiration 2024, founded by philanthropist Dr. Aneel Kashi Murarka, honored India's unsung heroes at the NESCO Exhibition Centre, Goregaon East. Since its inception in 2014, the awards have celebrated resilience, selflessness, and dedication across various fields, building a more inclusive society.

This year introduced the Laughter Luminaries Awards as a tribute to late comedian Raju Srivastava, recognizing comedians like Sunil Pal, mimicry artists Nitin Bhandarkar and Uday Dahia, with Srivastava's wife, Shikha Srivastava, present at the event.

Awardees included trailblazers like Sridevi Prakash Londhe, Mumbai's first transgender graduate; Yogita Tambe, a blind musician mastering 50 instruments; and Anand Shinde, the 'Elephant Whisperer.' Other honorees were disability rights advocate Khushi Ganatra, blind cricketer Deepmala Pande, marathoner Pradeep Kumbhar, and MCPO Ramesh JS Chandra, a former Navy officer turned social worker. Heroes like firemen Shashikant Phalke and Ravin Vighne, Kargil War veteran Wing Commander Anand Tiwari, and eco-warrior Colonel Chandra Shekhar Unni were also celebrated.

"This platform highlights true heroes, proving greatness lies in serving others," remarked Dr. Murarka, inspiring all to contribute towards a kinder world.

-Nandni Vishwanathan

## Ravi Yadav Seeks Blessings at Vrindavan

Actor Ravi Yadav, fondly known as "Chambal Boy," recently visited the Banke Bihari Temple in Vrindavan to offer prayers and seek blessings. Accompanied by Commissioner Shashank Dinkar, Yadav prayed for the prosperity of the Bhojpuri film industry and the preservation of its language.

Currently, Ravi is gearing up for his musical presentation "Mohabbat," produced by Azam Khan. Rising from a humble background in Uttar Pradesh's Bundelkhand, Yadav's journey reflects hard work and dedication, making him a prominent figure in Bhojpuri cinema.

## Parth Recites Dinkar Poem on KBC

**Mumbai:** On Kaun Banega Crorepati 16, young contestant Parth Upadhyay, known as #MythoKing, impressed Amitabh Bachchan with his recitation of Ramdhari Singh Dinkar's 'Veer Ras Ki Rashmi Rathi.' Parth's flawless delivery left Bachchan nostalgic, recalling Dinkar's bond with his father, Harivansh Rai Bachchan. Praising Parth's diction and energy, Bachchan shared fond memories of the legendary poet. Tune in to KBC Juniors Week, airing weekdays at 9 PM on Sony TV, for more inspiring moments!

# Freedom of Expression Undermined at IX Udaipur Film Festival

The IX Udaipur Film Festival, a symbol of cinematic resistance, was disrupted on its second day, revealing the increasing influence of non-state actors over democratic institutions. On November 16, 2024, a group claiming allegiance to the RSS pressured the Principal of Ravindra Nath Tagore Medical College, Udaipur, to revoke the permission granted to the Udaipur Film Society for the festival. Despite prior approval and payment of ₹30,000, screenings were abruptly halted, showcasing the administration's inability to uphold the organizers' rights.

The opposition stemmed from the festival's dedication to Palestinian children and the late Prof. G.N. Saibaba, a move misinterpreted by the protestors. Ignorant of Prof. Saibaba's acquittal and India's historical support for Palestine, the protestors threatened violence, forcing the organizers to seek an alternative venue.

Undeterred, the organizing team, led by Comrade Mahesh Sharma, relocated the festival to his campus, where screenings continued on the third day. Although audience numbers dwindled due to the venue shift, the festival's spirit remained unbroken.

This was not the first time the Udaipur Film Festival faced such challenges. In 2015, opposition to its dedication to Rohith Vemula prompted a venue change. Similarly, a seminar on Mahatma Gandhi, scheduled at Vardhman Mahaveer Open University, was canceled last minute by its Vice-Chancellor. Such incidents highlight growing intolerance and threats to democratic freedoms.

**Festival Highlights**

The festival showcased 24 films, including feature films, documentaries, and experi-

mental cinema, focusing on themes of caste, gender, and social justice. A curated package of Palestinian films, presented by Vineet Agrawal of Oralities Foundation, highlighted global struggles.

Young filmmakers from Rajasthan were given a platform, with 14 selected entries from 130 submissions. Noteworthy among these was *Silicosis*, a film by Kishan Salvi that explored the plight of arti-

sans suffering from this fatal disease. Another impactful entry was *Thank You* by B.A. student Palash Sharma, delving into the psyche of contemporary Indian youth. Bhpender Singh's *Dheere Dheere Jeevan*, a biopic on poet Prabhat, set new standards for cinematic storytelling.

The disruption occurred during the screening of *Shabnam Virmani's Had Anhad*, a poignant exploration



The festival also featured *A Night of Knowing Nothing* by Payal Kapadia, which chronicled university movements crushed by authoritarianism, with Kanhaiya Kumar's speeches echoing calls for resistance.

A *Movement of Resistance* The festival, part of the

Cinema of Resistance movement, has organized 73 such events across India to foster dialogue on societal issues. Convenor Rinku Prihar emphasized that these attacks are not just on the festival but on democratic values. Core team members, including National Convenor



Sanjay Joshi, vowed to continue using meaningful cinema as a tool for awareness and resistance. Despite opposition, the IX Udaipur Film Festival stood as a testament to resilience, reaffirming the power of art in challenging oppressive narratives.

-Dr. Hemendra Chandala

## MAJOR SHAITAN SINGH PARAM VEER CHAKRA REMEMBERED

### ON 62ND MARTYRDOM IN JODHPUR

The 62nd Martyrdom of the Hero of 1962 Sino Indian war Major Shaitan Singh, Param Veer Chakra was celebrated with full Military Honours on 18 Nov 2024 at Param Veer Circle, Paota, Jodhpur.

A brief of his heroics was given out to the audience. He was paid floral tribute by Military officers, retired Defence personnel and civilians. 40 students of Chaupsini School, where Major Shaitan Singh,

Param Veer Chakra studied in his school days also reached the memorial in saffron turbans and offered tribute to the brave son of the soil. Grand daughter of Major Shaitan Singh, PVC was also present to pay tribute to the brave heart.

Immaculately turned out guard of Mechanised infantry organised a wreath laying ceremony and offered a silent tribute to the martyr with inverted rifles.

Major Shaitan Singh was commanding a company of 13 KUMAON at Rezag La in

Jammu & Kashmir at a height of about 17,000 feet. On 18 November 1962, Chinese troops attacked his location with overwhelming strength. Major Shaitan Singh dominated the scene of operations and moved from one platoon post to another at great personal risk, maintaining the morale of his troops. Despite being grievously wounded he continued to encourage and lead his men, who, following his brave example fought gallantly and inflicted heavy casualties on the enemy. When his



men tried to evacuate him, he refused and kept motivating them to keep fighting, till he breathed his last. For his conspicuous bravery, Inspiring leadership and supreme sacrifice, he was awarded the Param Veer Chakra (Posthumous).

## In Focus: Actress Shraddha Singh



The Gujarati show *Shyam Dhun Laagi*, aired on Colors Channel, has become a huge hit with audiences. Actress Shraddha Singh plays an important role in the show, and her heartfelt performances have made her a topic of much discussion. Originally from Ahmedabad, Shraddha Singh currently resides in Mumbai, where she is actively building a distinctive image for herself in the acting world.

Shraddha has appeared in TV shows, short films, music videos, web series, and films in both Hindi and Gujarati. She has acted in several Gujarati films, including *Hoo Chhu Ne*, *Haaththal*, and *Amma*. Her short films such as *Matha No Malajo*, *Single Mother*, *Risamane Bethali Bahu*, as well as the Hindi film *Mumbai to Agra*, have been well-received. She has also acted in popular Hindi TV serials like *Kismat Ki Lakiron Se*, *Rajmahal*, *Palkon Ki Chhaon Mein*, and *Suhag*.

Looking ahead, Shraddha has a Hindi film and a web series lined up. A seasoned performer on stage as well, Shraddha says she believes that the more diligently she works, the better her acting skills will become with experience. She excels at portraying a wide range of characters but particularly enjoys playing strong, emotional roles.

Before entering the acting industry, Shraddha also worked as a model and participated in the Mrs. India contest. She has been part of several ramp shows, advertisements, and bridal jewelry shoots. Shraddha is passionate about traveling, dancing, reading, and cooking. She aspires to work with renowned directors like Sanjay Leela Bhansali and Madhur Bhandarkar. Having been interested in acting since childhood, Shraddha considers her father as her role model. She admires actors Amitabh Bachchan, Shah Rukh Khan, Ajay Devgn, and Manoj Bajpayee, and hopes to hone her acting skills to the level where she can work alongside her favorite stars. Currently, Shraddha is focusing on working in good and major projects to further advance her career.

## Udaipur Hosts Eleventh Industrial Fair

The 11th India Industrial Fair will be held from January 10-13, 2025, at DPS Udaipur grounds. Industry Minister Rajyavardhan Singh Rathore unveiled the event poster in Jaipur. Featuring four grand domes and 400+ stalls, the fair will showcase engineering, marble, handicrafts, and more. Organized by Laghu Udyog Bharati, it promises a significant boost to Udaipur's trade, attracting entrepreneurs nationwide. Preparations are in full swing to ensure a grand exhibition.



## Toyota Glanza Launches Limited Edition

Toyota Kirloskar Motor introduces the Special Limited Edition for Glanza, Urban Cruiser Taisor, and Hyryder, offering Toyota Genuine Accessory (TGA) packages for personalization. Customers can choose between upgraded models or exclusive year-end benefits exceeding ₹1 lakh on select vehicles. Vice President Sabari Manohar highlights Toyota's commitment to premium styling and advanced features, ensuring an elevated ownership experience. Offers valid until December 31, 2024, promise to make year-end purchases memorable for car

buyers.

## Tira Unveils Luxury Flagship Store

**Mumbai:** Tira, Reliance Retail's beauty chain, has launched its flagship store at Jio World Plaza, offering a 6200 sq ft luxury shopping experience. Featuring 15 shop-in-shop boutiques with global brands like Dior, YSL, and Armani, it also offers exclusive Augustinus Bader facials and signature services. Highlights include a Scent Room for fragrances, the Tira Beauty Suite, and a Tira Café with bespoke refreshments. Tira integrates technology with virtual try-ons, redefining luxury beauty retail in India. Tira

## Megha Shah Crowned Mrs. India 2024

Ahmedabad's Megha Shah, a 39-year-old lawyer and entrepreneur, won the Mrs. India Director's Choice 2024 title at the UMB Beauty Pageant in Delhi. A mother, baker, and fitness enthusiast, Megha also holds a World Book of Records title for a group bike ride in Andaman. Known as *HEELS on Wheels* on Instagram, Megha aims to inspire women globally, blending boldness and beauty, as she prepares to represent India internationally.

## Dr. Cheetah Shetty's Record

buyers.

## Triumphs

Martial arts legend Dr. Cheetah Yagnyesh Shetty shattered three world records, including a Guinness World Record, at Nepal's Girls Self-Defense Program. Held in Birgunj, the event saw 18,000 attendees, marking a historic moment in self-defense training. Known for training Bollywood superstars and empowering over 1.05 million women, Dr. Shetty continues to inspire global recognition through his Cheetah Jeet Kune Do Global Sports Federation, promoting women's safety and martial arts excellence worldwide.

## Strengthening Early Warning Systems

Reliance Foundation and UN India hosted a convening in Odisha, focusing on enhancing early warning systems for disaster management. The event, titled 'Early Warning to Early Action,' brought together stakeholders from across the Global South to discuss multi-hazard, multi-stakeholder approaches to disaster preparedness. Odisha's leadership in early warning, particularly in coastal areas, was highlighted. Experts from disaster management agencies, UN organizations, and academia shared insights on integrating socio-demographic data with meteorological information. The event aimed to capture best practices and innovations for better disaster response and resilience, with an emphasis on livelihoods and gender.

-Arkaprava Das

## Art is also a tough penance; artists are no less than soldiers," says Kavita Seth

**Udaipur:** Renowned Bollywood playback singer Kavita Seth, famous for songs like *Ik Tara* and *Tumhi Ho Bandhu Sakha Tumhi*, visited Udaipur during her tour. Representatives of the Kashthi Foundation, dedicated to preserving and promoting art and culture, met with Kavita, honored her, and engaged in a detailed discussion about art, music, and culture.

During the interaction, Kavita shared her perspective on the struggles of artists, likening them to soldiers who face various battles in life. Originally from Bareilly, Kavita recounted her journey from resigning from a teaching job at DPS post-marriage to captivating audiences with her voice at All India Radio and Doodarshan in Delhi. These early performances opened new doors for her musical talent. Currently leading the Sufi musical group *Karwaan*, Kavita continues to mesmerize audiences with songs, ghazals, and folk music, having performed in London, Scotland, Oslo, and Berlin.

Interacting with Kashthi Foundation representatives, Kavita emphasized the importance of inspiring the youth to pursue art. She praised the Foundation's efforts to provide platforms for young artists, including children from five government schools, and expressed her interest in associating with such initiatives. Kavita highlighted the need to protect and nurture art and artists, calling for adequate opportunities and recognition for them. Sharing her own experience of transitioning from a school teacher to a celebrated singer, she encouraged everyone to pursue their passion for the arts.

On behalf of Kashthi Foundation, Hemant Joshi, Dr. Kamlesh Sharma, Sandeep Rathore, and Neelefer Munir shared insights about the Foundation's activities and presented Kavita with a memento as a token of appreciation.

Notably, Kavita Seth has released two Sufi ghazal albums, *Woh Ek Lamha* and *Dil-e-Nadan*, alongside others like *Sufiana* and *Hazrat*. Her contributions to music have earned her prestigious accolades such as the *Star Screen Award* and the *International Indian Film Academy Award*.

## Rangotsav – An Opening of Padmashree Tilak Gitai Art Gallery in Jaipur

-Arkaprava Das

Its only a few days left from the inaugural opening of Padmashree Tilak Gitai Art Gallery at Jaipur, capital city of Rajasthan, India. The art gallery is owned and presented by India's eminent miniature artist and royal court painter, Padmashree Shri Tilak Gitai. It welcomes and will conduct international public exhibitions and displays. Bringing out the vision of this distinctive art composer, happens yet another inspiring endeavour of Shri Sandeep Rawal, well-known and acclaimed artist himself. The event Rangotsav – International Art Exhibition is going to commence from 22nd to 24th November, 2024. Inaugural opening of this art gallery will display the works of eminent and emerging artists from India and all over the world. Altogether, artists from 14 countries of the world are taking part in this event and will show the diverse creative expressions to its visitors. Artists from traditional, modern, photography, digital art, sculpture making, fusion, handicrafts and every other facets are welcomed in this event to participate. Shri Sandeep Rawal, the devoted art curator and self-taught artist, as he is popularly known makes it happen once again through his potency of expansive and ambitious vision of creative unification. This 3-days exhibition will include live talk show, competitions for emerging and student artists and live art demonstrations from distinctive senior artists.

## HDFC Bank Wins Prestigious Award

HDFC Bank has been named the 'Best Private Bank in India' at the Global Private Banking Awards 2024 by Professional Wealth Management (PWM), a Financial Times publication. The award recognizes the bank's customer-centric approach, innovative "hub-and-spoke" business model, and SmartWealth application. Rakesh K Singh, Group Head, emphasized the bank's dedication to tailored financial solutions, leveraging technology, and investing in its team across 923 locations nationwide.