

Celebrating Contributions: A Deserving Trio for the Bharat Ratna

In a commendable decision, the Central Government has chosen to posthumously confer the Bharat Ratna, India's highest civilian honour, on three stalwarts whose contributions have left an indelible mark on the nation. The recognition of former prime ministers PV Narasimha Rao and Charan Singh, along with the eminent agricultural scientist MS Swaminathan, reflects the diverse yet impactful areas in which these leaders have excelled.

While political observers may scrutinize the timing of the decision in an election year, it is crucial to focus on the substantial contributions of the awardees. The Modi government's move to honor PV Narasimha Rao has stirred political waters, with the ruling BJP asserting that the Gandhi

Editorial

family had unfairly treated this senior party leader. Regardless of the political lens through which one may view this decision, Rao's leadership during a critical period in India's economic history cannot be denied.

As Prime Minister, Rao, in collaboration with then Finance Minister Manmohan Singh, spearheaded bold economic reforms. These policies dismantled decades-old controls, paving the way for globalization, privatization, and deregulation. The resultant economic growth catapulted India into becoming the fastest-growing major economy in the world today. The Bharat Ratna for Rao is a fitting acknowledgment of his role in shaping the destiny of the nation through visionary economic policies.

Joining Rao in this prestigious recognition is Charan Singh, whose advocacy for pro-farmer measures has earned him a place in the hearts of the farming community. By focusing on initiatives such as loan waivers and remunerative prices, Singh championed the cause of the agricultural sector, underscoring the government's commitment to the welfare of farmers. This decision resonates especially in a time when the agricultural community is at the forefront of national attention.

In the realm of scientific contributions, MS Swaminathan's pivotal role in the Green Revolution cannot be overstated. His unwavering commitment to advocating scientific methods for boosting agricultural productivity resulted in the development of high-yielding crop varieties. This transformation turned India into a self-sufficient food producer, alleviating hunger and poverty. Swaminathan's legacy lives on in the fields of the nation, and the Bharat Ratna rightfully honors his pioneering work in agricultural science.

The editorial would be incomplete without acknowledging the revolutionary contributions of Verghese Kurien to India's dairy industry. His innovative approach, encapsulated in the cooperative movement, transformed the landscape of dairy farming. Kurien's exemplary work stands as a testament to his dedication to uplifting rural communities through sustainable and cooperative practices.

In conferring the Bharat Ratna upon these distinguished individuals, the government has rightly recognized their transformative contributions to the economic, agricultural, and dairy sectors. This celebration of excellence goes beyond political considerations, underscoring the need to honor those whose vision and efforts have shaped the nation's trajectory. As we applaud these posthumous honors, we celebrate the enduring legacies of Rao, Singh, Swaminathan, and Kurien, each a beacon in their respective fields.

Neha Bandyopadhyay: Art and Philanthropy

Mumbai: Neha Bandyopadhyay garners attention with the successful organization of the Indian Folk Art Exhibition at Mumbai's Jehangir Art Gallery. Hailing from Bengal, Jharkhand, and Maharashtra, Neha is a celebrated fashion designer, artist, and granddaughter of Indian cinema's founding father, Dadasaheb Phalke.



Honored with the 'Great Indian Woman Award 2021' and 'Saraswati Dadasaheb Phalke International Iconic Award 2021,' she actively supports Madhubani and Warli artists.

As head of a fashion institution, Neha oversees substantial growth, emphasizing art's transformative power. Described as soft-spoken and compassionate, she champions art education and community development.

Veena Music Receives International Recognition

Rajasthan's Veena Music earns the International Prime Awards 2024 for its global promotion of Rajasthani music. Hemjit Malu, Managing Director, accepted the honor at the ceremony hosted by The International Prime Awards in Goa.

Recognized for exceptional contributions, Veena Music, under President KC Malu's guidance, preserves and popularizes Rajasthani folk songs. KC Malu, honored with the Rajasthan Ratna award, dedicates efforts to revive various folk genres. The awards celebrate excellence in diverse fields, including Business, Entrepreneurship, and Innovation. Veena Music continues to play a pivotal role in showcasing Rajasthan's cultural richness on the global stage.



Ramesh Bhandari's FMD Music Channel Achieves Millions of Views

In just a year, FMD Music Channel, led by Ramesh Bhandari, has become a music hub with millions of views and over one lakh subscribers. Featuring hit songs, the channel, including Regional Channels like Bengali, South, Haryanvi, Bhojpuri & Bhakti, has gained immense popularity. Songs like "Saathiya," "Nachle Nachle," and "Lapata" have crossed the million-views mark, with "Saathiya" standing out as a massive hit. Beyond music, FMD is involved in film productions, and their short film "Hide & Seek" has won over 10 international awards. With continuous releases planned, FMD Music Channel is set for further success.

200th Birth Anniversary of Maharishi Dayanand Saraswati

Tankara, Gujarat, The President of India, Mrs. Draupadi Murmu, participated in the celebration of the 200th birth anniversary of Maharishi Dayanand Saraswati - Gyan Jyoti Parv - Commemoration Festival. President Mrs. Draupadi Murmu, along with the Governor Mr. Acharya Devvrat and Chief Minister Mr. Bhupendrabhai Patel, took part in the ceremony held at the Yajnashala in the premises of Karsanji, Tankara.

After offering oblations in the Yajna, President Mrs. Draupadi Murmu, Governor Mr. Acharya Devvrat, and Chief Minister Mr. Bhupendrabhai Patel witnessed an exhibition showcasing the life and teachings of Maharishi Dayanand Saraswati. The President laid the foundation stone of the Knowledge Beacon Teerth, spread over 15 acres, in mem-

ory of Swamiji. Governor Mr. Acharya Devvrat provided detailed information about the research center, school, library, and scenic surroundings that will be developed in the Teerth.

Speaking at the three-day commemoration event, President Mrs. Draupadi Murmu stated that the 200th birth anniversary of Maharishi Dayanand Saraswati is a historic occasion for the entire nation. She emphasized the profound impact of Maharishi's extraordinary talents on the Indian soil. Recognizing the contributions of Arya Samaj, she noted that nearly 10,000 centers across the country are actively working towards human development and welfare.

President Mrs. Draupadi Murmu highlighted the influence of great revolutionaries like Lokmanya Tilak and La-



Hansraj, who were inspired by Swami Ji's ideals. She expressed admiration for Arya Samaj's commitment to social reform and its role in fostering a new consciousness among the people. She drew parallels between the birthplaces of Maharishi Dayanand Saraswati and Mahatma Gandhi, both rooted in

Kathiawad, underscoring their profound impact on Indian society.

Reflecting on Maharishi Dayanand's contributions, the President lauded his efforts to dispel superstitions prevalent in 19th-century Indian society. She acknowledged the enduring legacy of Maharishi's teachings, which continue to guide

the nation and humanity at large.

President Mrs. Draupadi Murmu also commended Arya Samaj's initiatives, such as schools and skill development centers in tribal areas, promoting education and empowerment for tribal youth. She emphasized the pivotal role of Arya Samaj in upholding women's education and dignity, citing the establishment of Kanya Mahavidyalayas and higher education institutions.

Referring to Mahatma Gandhi's endorsement of Maharishi Dayanand's campaign against untouchability, the President underscored the importance of Arya Samaj's ongoing efforts in social upliftment. She encouraged all Arya Samaj members to actively contribute to Swami Ji's vision for a better world on the occasion of Arya Samaj's 150th

anniversary next year.

In conclusion, President Mrs. Draupadi Murmu expressed her gratitude for being part of the sacred occasion in Tankara. She paid homage to Maharishi Dayanand Saraswati on behalf of the entire nation and praised the organizing bodies, including Delhi Arya Pradini Sabha, Shri Maharishi Dayanand Saraswati Memorial Trust-Tankara, and all Arya Samaj organizations.

The event witnessed a warm welcome for President Mrs. Draupadi Murmu by dignitaries, including Mr. Acharya Devvrat and Mr. Bhupendrabhai Patel. The gathering acknowledged the honest efforts of Governor Mr. Acharya Devvrat in promoting organic farming, recognizing its significance for human health and climate resilience."

Radisson Blu Palace Resort & Spa, Udaipur, Elevates Guest Recreation with Game Galaxy

Udaipur: Radisson Blu Palace Resort & Spa, Udaipur, a distinguished property under the Radisson Hotels international chain, has introduced a cutting-edge gaming arcade, Game Galaxy, spanning 10,000 square feet on its premises. This innovative facility, a first-of-its-kind within a hotel in Udaipur, aims to enhance guests' experiences with a variety of indoor and outdoor games, featuring VR-driven games as a highlight. From classic favorites like bowling and car racing to VR-Cricket and outdoor adventures like paintball, Game Galaxy caters to all age groups, offering competitive pricing and unlimited gaming packages. Chairman and MD, Mr. Somesh Agarwal, emphasized the brand's commitment to providing unparalleled recreational experiences, combining luxury and entertainment seamlessly. The addition of Game Galaxy sets a new standard for entertainment in Udaipur.



UNESCO Temple to Goddess Saraswati

In a groundbreaking endeavor, Gopal Lal Mali, a devoted follower of Goddess Saraswati and a social activist, has erected the first-ever UNESCO Temple dedicated to the goddess in Vastur Nagari Bhiwar. Located in Devchhaya Vihar Colony, this sacred space not only radiates positive energy but also bestows blessings on visitors seeking guidance in their life pursuits. Celebrating its first anniversary, the Saraswati Temple on Kota Road in Eran stands as a hub for educational, economic, and social development, reflecting Mali's vision for inclusivity.

The temple's unique design, housing an impressive idol of Goddess Saraswati alongside Hanuman and Radha-Krishna sculptures, underscores its significance in fostering spiritual positivity. Gopal Lal Mali's personal investment of over 5 million INR highlights his commitment to creating a sanctuary that transcends religious boundaries, emphasizing the potential of religious spaces to contribute to holistic community development. The upcoming UNESCO Temple Spring Fair is poised to draw a multitude of devotees, underscoring the enduring role of such temples in promoting social, educational, and spiritual upliftment.



SBI General Insurance Expands Presence

Udaipur: SBI General Insurance Company Limited has inaugurated a new branch in Udaipur, reinforcing its commitment to enhancing customer service. The strategically located branch at Raj Tower aims to cater to the evolving needs of the community, offering a range of premium insurance solutions. Attended by key officials, including Kishor Kumar Poludasu, MD, and CEO, the ceremony emphasized SBI General Insurance's dedication to providing affordable coverage and an improved customer experience. This expansion represents a pivotal step in the company's journey, aligning with IRDAI's vision of making insurance accessible to all by 2047, strengthening its position as a trusted insurance provider in Udaipur.



Japan Debut

Six Senses Kyoto is set to mark the brand's debut in Japan, opening its doors in late April 2024. Nestled in Kyoto's historic Higashiyama district, the hotel boasts 81 well-designed guest rooms and suites offering views of the central courtyard, Toyokuni Shrine gardens, or the city panorama. The visionary designs by BLINK Design Group seamlessly blend authentic Japanese traditions with modern elegance. Guests can indulge in immersive experiences, a rejuvenating spa, and culinary delights that embrace local, seasonal flavors. The hotel, easily accessible from major airports, adds an exciting chapter to IHG's luxury and lifestyle portfolio.

Clay Craft India Revolutionizes Tableware with Digital Printing

Clay Craft India Private Limited achieves a pioneering feat as the first Indian ceramic tableware manufacturer to introduce Digital Printing, sourced from Spain's KeraJet. This technological leap promises to redefine tableware aesthetics, aligning with evolving consumer tastes. Digital printing reduces water and paper usage, aligning with sustainable practices, and offers a rapid 10-minute design-to-print process. The elimination of minimum orders enables cost-effective production for single pieces, empowering businesses like hotels and restaurants to incorporate personal designs without additional costs. Clay Craft's Director, Mr. Bharat Agarwal, emphasizes their commitment to innovation and quality in revolutionizing the Indian ceramic industry.

Pichwaiwala Narendra Art: Cultural Marvel

Pichwaiwala Narendra Art, showcased at the India Art Festival in Mumbai, mesmerized attendees with its traditional yet innovative Pichwai paintings. Originating in Mewar, Rajasthan, this captivating art form reflects daily life in Lord Krishna's routine. The Pichwaiwala family, dedicated to this craft for seven decades, including Rahul Kumar Soni, set world records with their intricate work. Rahul Soni, inspired by his mother's miniature art, introduced Micro-Pichwai and Micro-Miniature Art, breaking traditional size constraints. His creations, like a Kingfisher's beak on a mustard seed, mark a new era in Pichwai art, blending history and innovation.



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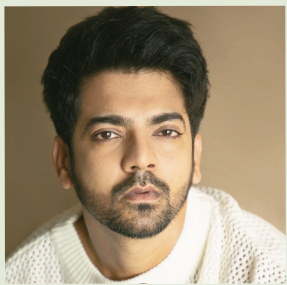
"Bathroom Singer" in Udaipur

Empowered

Udaipur's Shshuron Ki Mandalish, founded by Mukesh Madhwani, introduces a program offering free music training to aspiring singers, fondly known as "bathroom singers." The initiative includes monthly workshops on the 23rd, providing specialized training at various city locations, aiming to enhance musical skills. The free workshops aim to familiarize participants with the art of music, nurturing future talents. Interested individuals can contact Shshuron Ki Mandalish through social media or phone. Mukesh Madhwani envisions preparing confident singers who can proudly showcase their talents on platforms like Indian Idol, bringing recognition to Udaipur.

"Parvarish" Actor Love Patwa Advocates Transformation

Love Patwa, renowned for his roles in "Parvarish" and prominent commercials, asserts that acting not only unveils inner beauty and hard work but also molds individuals into superior artists and better humans. Based in



Mumbai for a decade, Love, originally from Dhariyawad, launched Lovekush Productions in 2021, producing the acclaimed short film "Climax." A Udaipur native, Love envisions contributing to quality content by collaborating with esteemed production houses. His transformative journey from Udaipur to Mumbai reflects a commitment to both personal and professional growth in the entertainment industry.

Amodini Film Festival: Discussions and Screenings Galore

The Amodini International Film Festival's second day in Jaipur witnessed engaging panel discussions and screenings. Director Ashok Pandit enlightened the audience on cinema and theater, addressing inquiries. Dedicated to promoting multilingual cinema, the festival showcased films like "Doansh," "Kanhaiya," "Bharat Circus," and "Maa Alap." Four panel discussions explored topics like the evolving cinema landscape, filmmaking, and acting. Panel leaders included Somendra Sengupta, Girendra Pratap Singh, Dr. Ashok Pandit, and Shweta Mehta. The festival's organizer, Deviyoti Ray, highlighted the upcoming awards night, recognizing outstanding contributions in theater and film. Fifteen films in various languages graced the two-day event.

'Article 370' Hits Theaters on February 23

Presentation: Kali Das Pandey

Jio Studios and B62 Studios are all set to release the action-packed political drama 'Article 370' in theaters on February 23. Produced by Jyoti Deshpande, Aditya Dhar, and Lokesh Dhar, and directed by Aditya Jambhale, the film stars Yami Gautam in the lead role, supported by Priyamani. The dynamic trailer has heightened anticipation for this impactful movie. 'Article 370' follows a secret agent (Yami Gautam) and a PMO bureaucrat (Priyamani) as they unravel a complex web of terrorism, exploring the consequences of abolishing Article 370 in Kashmir. This collaboration of Yami Gautam and Aditya Dhar marks their return after 'Uri: The Surgical Strike.'



HDFC Bank Raises \$300 Million in Maiden Sustainable Finance Bond

HDFC Bank Limited successfully raised \$300 million in its first-ever sustainable finance bond issue, as part of a total \$750 million Regulation S Bonds issuance. The three-year sustainable bond achieved the tightest credit spread by an Indian issuer for its size, with a spread of 95 basis points over US Treasury. Another \$450 million was raised for a five-year senior unsecured bond with a spread of 108 basis points. The funds will be used for green and social loans, prioritizing areas like electric vehicles, SMEs, and affordable housing, while the remainder supports general banking activities.

Dimension Music Makes Waves with Triple Valentine's Release

Dimension Music, led by Liaquat Gola, debuted in the Indian Hindi music scene with a spectacular launch event in Mumbai, unveiling three Bollywood hits - "Mahi Mera," "Mohabbat," and "Khuda Hafiz." Celebrating the essence of love in the ongoing Valentine's week, the label showcased the talents of Fahmi Khan, Salman Ali, and Altamash Faridi. Liaquat Gola expressed pride in entering the music industry, emphasizing Dimension Music's commitment to promoting both established and emerging talents. The songs promise enchanting melodies, offering a musical backdrop for romantic expressions during the Valentine's week.