

MIST LGBTQ NEWSLETTER



October 2024

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Queer Karaoke Night at Stories Cafe

Pune's LGBTQ+ community came together for a night of music, laughter, and connection at Stories Cafe, a safe space owned by Mist LGBTQ Foundation. On October 5, 2024, over 20 community members gathered for a thrilling Karaoke evening, organized by Abhishek Satam.

The event saw enthusiastic participants belting out popular English, Bollywood, and regional tunes. Post-singing, attendees bonded over snacks and conversation. The successful event celebrated self-expression and inclusivity, solidifying Stories Cafe's reputation as a vibrant hub for queer camaraderie. Kudos to Abhishek and Mist for fostering a welcoming space.



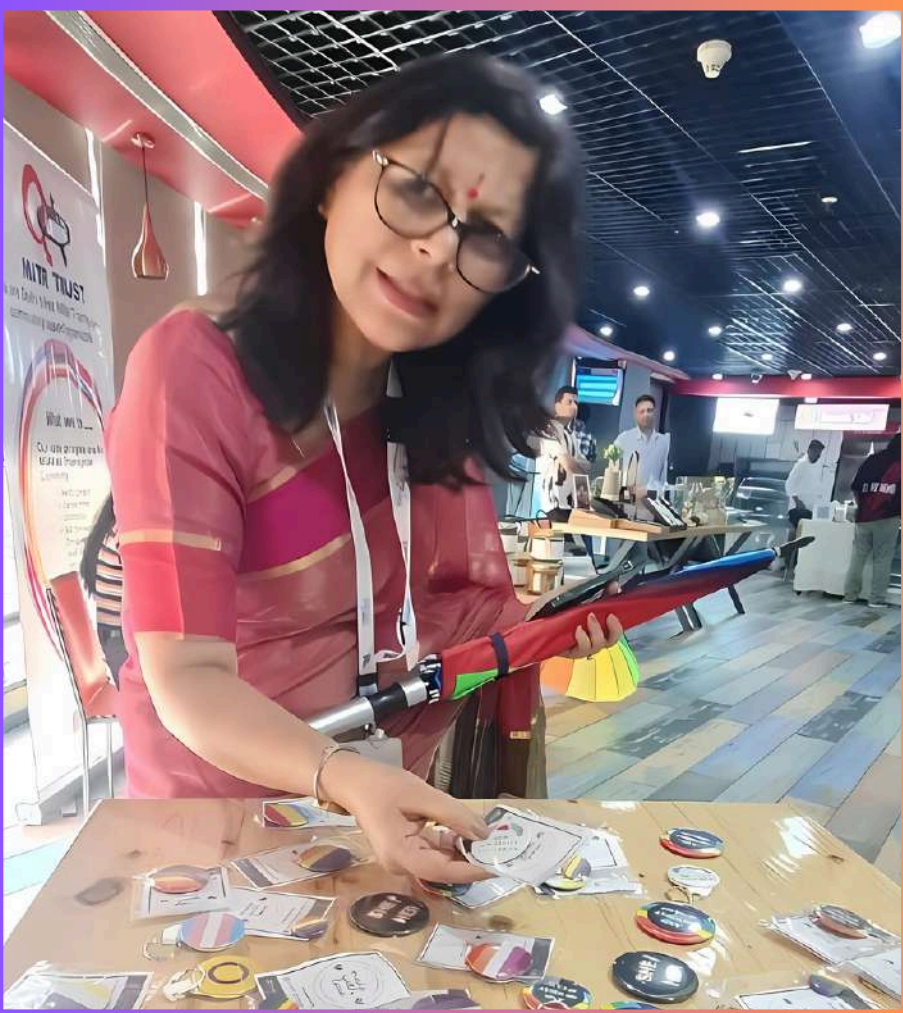
Mist LGBTQ Foundation Extends Heartfelt Gratitude to IBM for Platform Support and Inclusivity Leadership



We would like to extend our sincere appreciation to IBM for providing us with your platform. Preeti Jain and team, your support has been instrumental in facilitating our endeavours, and we are truly grateful for your contribution.

We are particularly impressed by IBM's commitment to inclusivity, exemplified by the thoughtful integration of LGBTQ+ inclusivity initiatives into your career fairs and workplace culture.

By making inclusion an integral part of everyday work, IBM sets a shining example for fostering diversity, equity, and belonging.



City-Level Consultation on LGBTQIA+ Rights and Policy Held in Stories Cafe

On October 15, 2024, Mist LGBTQ Foundation hosted a city-level consultation on LGBTQIA+ rights and policy at Stories Café in Lohegaon, Pune. The event brought together individuals from the gender and sexually diverse community, advocates, and organizations to discuss current challenges, concerns, and suggestions for policy development.

Facilitated by Susmit Bansode and Tejas Kshatriya, the consultation highlighted key issues in healthcare, law enforcement, and government policies. Participants shared personal experiences of discrimination and proposed solutions, including awareness consultations, anti-discriminatory laws, and inclusive education.

Key takeaways from the discussion included:

- Hospital visitation rights for non-heteronormative partners and chosen family members
- Custody rights for queer individuals
- Sensitization of law enforcers, healthcare providers, and education providers
- Affordable healthcare and guidelines for gender-affirmative care





- Horizontal reservation in government and private workplaces
- Anti-discriminatory laws and enforcement

The consultation concluded with a call to action, urging participants to submit additional concerns and suggestions for policy reform.

Mist LGBTQ Foundation aims to compile these recommendations and submit them to the government, advocating for a more inclusive and equitable society.

This consultation marked a crucial step towards amplifying LGBTQIA+ voices and promoting policy change in Pune.



Aakruti Patel Celebrates 10 Years of **Transition** and **Triumph**

Mist LGBTQ Foundation's Aakruti Patel marked 10 years since her SRS, celebrating alignment, love, and acceptance. A renowned social activist, Aakruti inspires trans individuals with her courage and resilience.

"Today, I celebrate 10 years of being me," she shared. MIST LGBTQ Foundation congratulates Aakruti on this milestone, honoring her dedication to LGBTQ+ advocacy.



ZS Associates Hosts **Inclusive Cultural Program** in Pune



ZS Associates, Kharadi, Pune, made a significant gesture of inclusivity by inviting members of the LGBTQ+ community to their cultural program in October 2024.

Team MIST LGBTQ Foundation and Shikhandi Band, Maharashtra's first transgender Dhol Tasha Pathak band, were honored guests. Shikhandi's energetic performance left the audience mesmerized.

The event provided a platform for the LGBTQIA+ community to showcase their talent and promote awareness.

MIST LGBTQ Foundation applauds ZS Associates for fostering diversity and inclusivity.

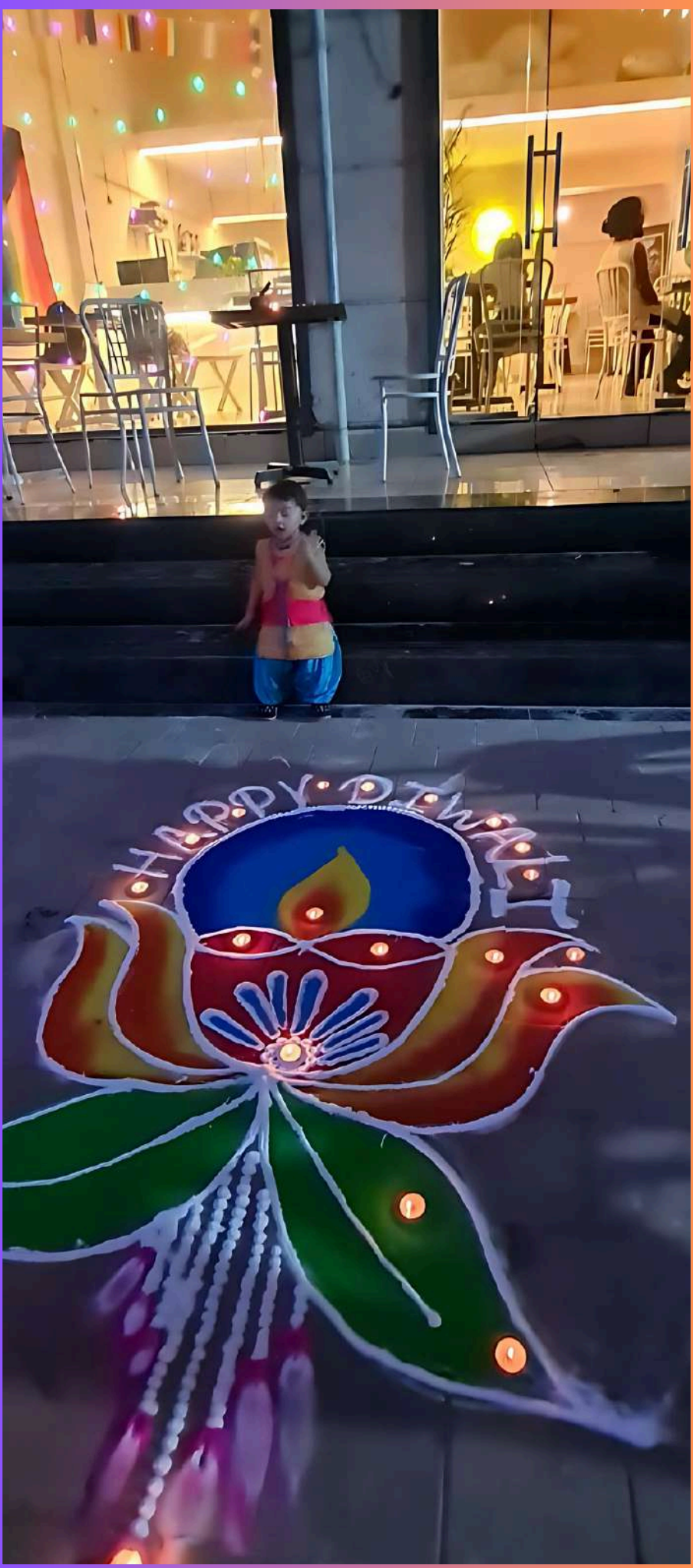
Mist LGBTQ Foundation Spreads Diwali Cheer Among Transgender Community

This Diwali, Team Mist LGBTQ Foundation brought joy and warmth to the transgender community at Kinnar Ashmita Foundation's Transgender Garima Grah Kalyan Maharashtra. Alongside transwomen and transmen, they celebrated with gift-sharing, Diwali shagun, and heartfelt connections. The day was filled with laughter and togetherness through games like musical chairs and housie, and a creative diya-painting session. Dilbara Didi's delicious lunch added to the festive spirit.

For many transgender individuals, Diwali can be a difficult time, spent away from family and society. Seeing the happiness on everyone's faces made this Diwali unforgettable. Mist LGBTQ Foundation extends gratitude to ZS Associates for their financial support in making this corporate event possible. This initiative reaffirms Mist's commitment to inclusivity and community building.



Diwali Delight: Mist LGBTQ Foundation Celebrates the Festive Season at Stories Cafe



Mist LGBTQ Foundation hosted a joyous Diwali celebration on 31st October, 2024 bringing together friends and acquaintances from the community. The festive evening was filled with laughter, excitement, and warmth.

Attendees enjoyed burning crackers, engaging in lively games, and savoring delicious snacks. The casual setting encouraged meaningful conversations, fostering connections and a sense of belonging.

The event's success was evident in the smiles and joyful spirits of all who attended. Mist LGBTQ Foundation looks forward to continuing such initiatives, spreading love, acceptance, and happiness.

