

MIST LGBTQ NEWSLETTER



September 2024

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Empowering Social Entrepreneurs: Mist LGBTQ Foundation at Boot Camp Training for Sustainable Growth

Team Mist LGBTQ Foundation participated in an intensive three-day boot camp training, designed to enhance their organizational capacity and fundraising expertise.

Day one focused on crafting a compelling brand story and launching a retail campaign, led by experts Vandana R Jaikumar and Santosh Abraham.

On day two, Saloni Gupta shared insights on CSR funding readiness, enabling participants to create effective pitch decks.

The final day featured mock pitching sessions with CSR panelists, providing valuable feedback on fundraising strategies.

Through interactive masterclasses, working sessions, and peer learning, Team Mist LGBTQ Foundation gained practical knowledge and skills to secure corporate partnerships, strengthen their brand narrative, and drive sustainable growth.



Mist LGBTQ Foundation Celebrates **Ganesh Chaturthi** with Pride and Inclusivity



Mist LGBTQ Foundation celebrated Ganesh Chaturthi and Ganpati Visarjan with great enthusiasm and inclusivity at Stories Cafe, a community-owned space.

The festivities showcased the foundation's commitment to promoting diversity, social acceptance, and unity.

On September 7, 2024, the team, along with friends from the LGBTQ community and allies, performed the Ganpati Sthapana and puja, marking the beginning of the celebrations.

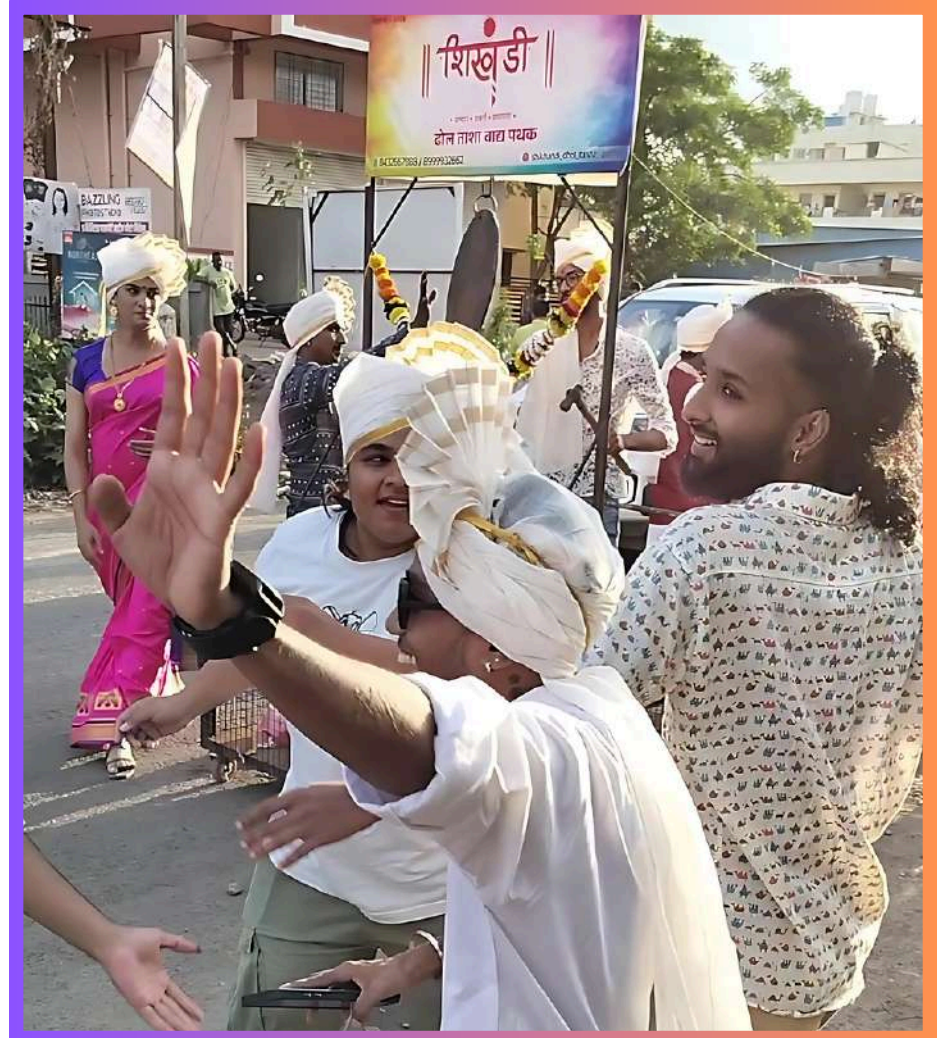
The eco-friendly Ganpati idol, meticulously crafted by Sajid Bhatti, former employee of Mist LGBTQ Foundation, using clay, was a majestic centerpiece, beautifully decorated and radiating divine energy.

The celebrations continued on September 8, 2024, with the Ganpati Visarjan, featuring a special performance by Shikhandi Band, Maharashtra's pioneering transgender dhol tasha pathak band. Their energetic performance added to the joyous atmosphere as the community bid farewell to Lord Ganesha.



Both events saw enthusiastic participation from the LGBTQ community, allies, and spectators. By hosting these events, Mist LGBTQ Foundation reinforced its dedication to fostering a supportive environment where everyone could thrive.

The festivities demonstrated the power of unity, love, and acceptance, reflecting the foundation's mission to create a more inclusive society. Mist LGBTQ Foundation provided a platform for the community to come together, celebrate, and assert their identity, promoting a sense of belonging and social acceptance.



Empowering LGBTQ Entrepreneurs: QueerBazaar at IBM Bangalore Flea Market



QueerBazaar proudly represented the LGBTQ community at IBM Bangalore's Flea Market, empowering diverse voices through commerce. Five talented entrepreneurs showcased their innovative products, showcasing the community's creativity and resilience. This inclusive event celebrated self-made entrepreneurs, fostering social acceptance and economic empowerment. QueerBazaar is honored to have played a part in this journey, providing a platform for marginalized voices to shine. By promoting LGBTQ-led businesses, we strive to create a more inclusive economy.

QueerBazaar Represents LGBTQ+ Pride at ANDE Annual Conference in Bangkok

QueerBazaar, an initiative of Mist LGBTQ Foundation, is honored to participate in the prestigious Aspen Network for Development Entrepreneurs (ANDE) Annual Conference in Bangkok. This global platform brings together social entrepreneurs and industry leaders. Showcasing our inclusive merchandise and apparel, we proudly represent the LGBTQ+ community. Our presence highlights the importance of diversity and inclusivity in entrepreneurship. By sharing our story, we aim to inspire and empower marginalized communities



Aakruti Patel Leads Charge at Transgender Visibility Programme, Advocates Policy Change

Renowned social activist Aakruti Patel, Outreach & Advocacy Manager at Mist LGBTQ Foundation and Gujarat State TG Board member, participated in the State Level Transgender Visibility Programme at Ambedkar Community Hall, Gandhinagar, on September 20, 2024. Emphasizing unity and advocacy, Aakruti stressed the need for regular community meetups and policy reforms benefiting trans individuals. Her tireless efforts have amplified transgender voices, pushing for equal rights. Lakshya Trust's event was a testament to the power of collective action.



Mist LGBTQ Foundation Participates in Mukta Charitable Trust's Samvad Summit



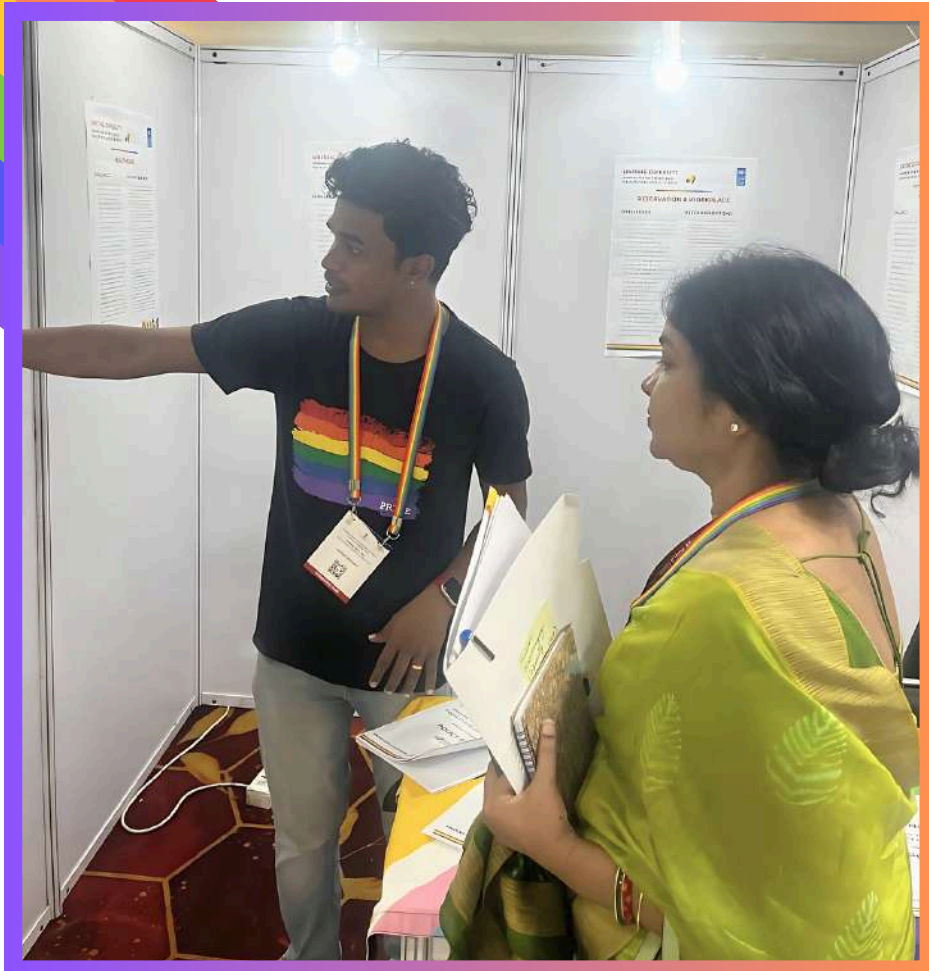
Mist LGBTQ Foundation proudly participated in Samvad, a summit of NGOs organized by Mukta Charitable Trust. Our QueerBazaar department showcased our mission to promote inclusivity and diversity at the Flea Market. Mukta, dedicated to mental health since 2005, provided valuable insights. Renowned experts Dr. Mohan Agashe and Dr. Achyut Godbole shared their expertise. The event fostered collaboration and knowledge sharing among social workers, strengthening the collective effort to create a more inclusive society.

Historic LGBTQI+ Health Conference Advances Inclusive Healthcare in Asia-Pacific



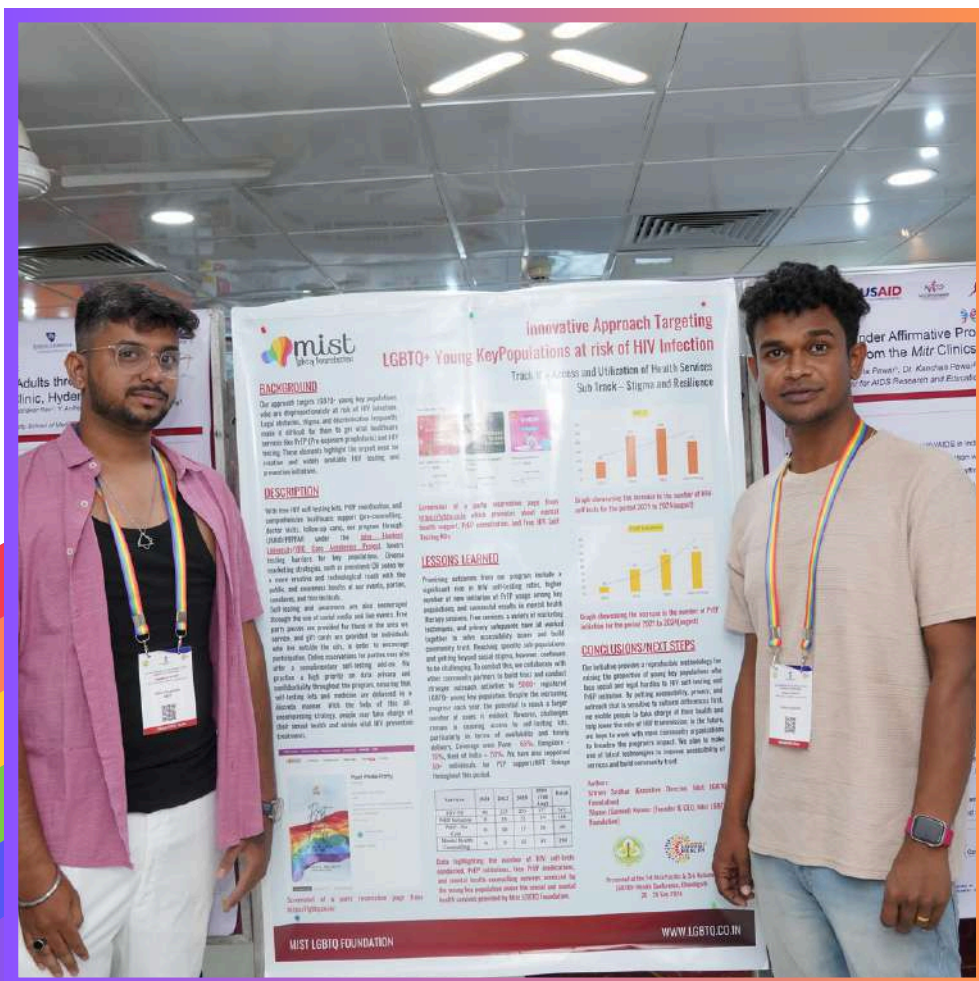
The recent LGBTQI+ Health Conference, held at PGIMER in Chandigarh from September 26th to 28th, 2024, marked a significant milestone in promoting healthcare for LGBTQI+ individuals across the Asia-Pacific region. Organized by PGIMER in collaboration with Humsafar Trust, C-SHaRP, PEPFAR, USAID, UNAIDS, and UNDP, the conference brought together over 200 in-person attendees, including 50 from Asia-Pacific nations, and 500 virtual participants.

Experts addressed critical health issues, including HIV prevention, mental health, and gender-affirmative care. Radhika Chakravarthy presented the Ayushman Bharat TG Plus card, providing yearly health coverage for transgender individuals. Other notable speakers included Dr. Niraj Kumar, Mr. Nicky Suwandini, and UNAIDS Director Eamonn Murphy.



Mist LGBTQI+ Foundation played a vital role in the conference's success, managing logistics, displaying ongoing initiatives through poster presentations, and ensuring sessions ran smoothly. Their joint efforts with Humsafar Trust and PGIMER guaranteed a seamless and rewarding experience for all attendees.

The conference emphasized the need to move beyond heteronormative paradigms and establish inclusive frameworks for LGBTQI+ healthcare. Its collaborative approach and commitment to leaving no one behind made it a trailblazing event in promoting discussion among LGBTQI+ groups, scholars, health professionals, and government departments.



Maya Bazaar 2024: Empowering Marginalized Communities, Celebrating Diversity

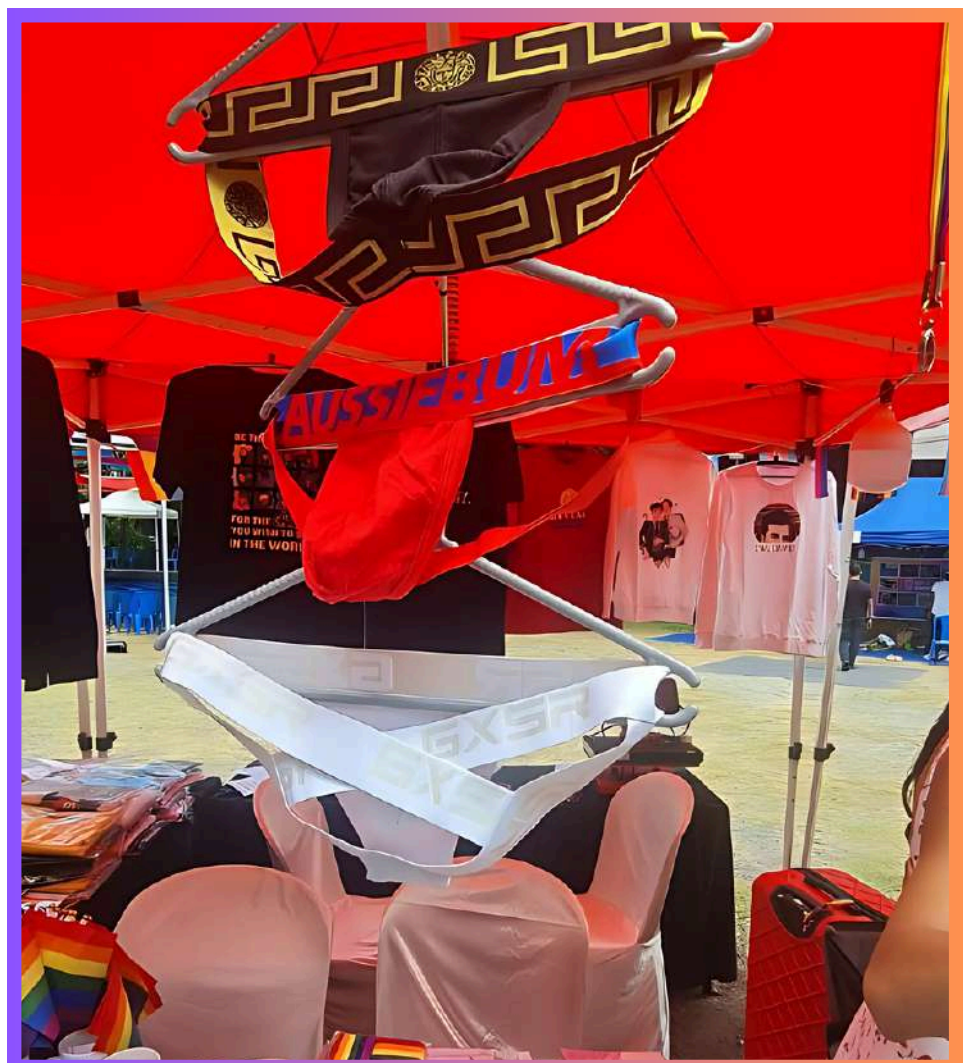


Bengaluru's Maya Bazaar returned for its fifth edition, expanding its inclusive platform to welcome persons with disabilities (PwD), Dalit, Bahujan, and Adivasi (DBA) communities, alongside LGBTQIA+ individuals. Founders Sanam Dembla and Veena Kulkarni aimed to create a space for marginalized voices, fostering diversity and acceptance.

Over 150 stalls showcased innovative products from queer, women-owned, and ally businesses. Highlights included India's first queer musical, panel discussions, and community workshops.

MIST LGBTQ Foundation's QueerBazaar stall stole the show, attracting new customers with its customized apparel, merchandise, and decor. The Health department of Mist additionally provided free HIV testing services and self testing kits, keeping in mind its mission to prevent HIV.

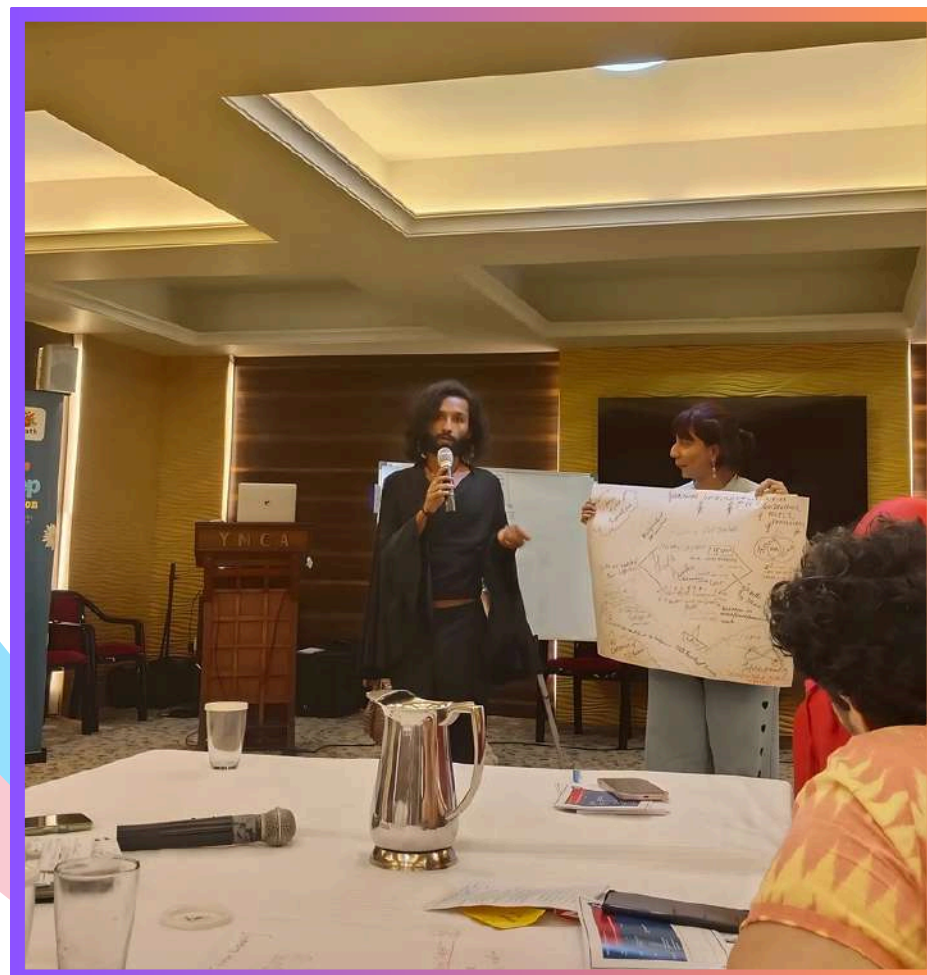
Maya Bazaar has made a significant impact on marginalized communities, providing a safe space for self-expression and empowerment. Attendees praised the event's welcoming atmosphere, citing newfound confidence and perspective.



TransMHPrep: Forging Trans-Inclusive Psychosocial Care in Public Health Emergencies

The COVID-19 pandemic exacerbated vulnerabilities of the trans and gender-diverse (TGD) community, prompting Sangath Bhopal Hub's TransMHPrep initiative. Aiming to develop trans-responsive best practices for psychosocial care, a consultation was held at Mumbai's YMCA International House. Fifty attendees, including TGD individuals, social workers, healthcare professionals, and researchers, shared experiences and concerns.

Panelists, including Neel Kanaujiya, Urmi Jhadhav, and Kris Chudwala, highlighted issues like colonial healthcare practices, discrimination, and inaccessible aid.



Group discussions identified key areas for improvement: psychosocial care provision, provider training, and emergency relief measures.

Susmit from Mist LGBTQI+ Foundation contributed to the discussion, emphasizing the need for sensitization, community involvement in research and policy development, and accessible healthcare services. This consultation fostered connections, discussions, and a platform for TGD individuals to voice concerns and suggestions. TransMHPrep aims to inform trans-inclusive policies and resources, promoting emergency preparedness through community-led efforts.