

MIST LGBTQ NEWSLETTER



February 2025

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Satrangi Mela 2025: QueerBazaar Exhibits Unique Offerings, Forges New Connections



We're thrilled to announce that QueerBazaar had a phenomenal outing at the recent Satrangi Mela held on 9th February 2025 at FC Social, Pune! As one of the esteemed stalls at the bi-monthly rainbow bazaar, we showcased our unique, customized accessories and apparel, which were a huge hit among attendees.

Our Senior Associate, Anil Malla, represented QueerBazaar at the event, connecting with new clients and potential partners. We're delighted to report impressive sales and a significant expansion of our customer base. Satrangi Mela's inclusive and empowering atmosphere made it the perfect platform for us to showcase our brand's values and mission. We're grateful for the opportunity and look forward to future collaborations!



Tango Takes Center Stage at Stories Cafe!

On Valentine's Day, Stories Cafe, owned by Mist LGBTQ Foundation, hosted an enchanting Argentine Tango Basics class. Led by Shrek, a seasoned practitioner and queer artist, the event drew 16 participants. Amidst the intimate setting, attendees discovered the magic of connection through dance. Shrek's creative approach and expert guidance made for an unforgettable evening.

Participants praised the event, thanking Shrek for an amazing experience. The evening was a testament to the power of dance in fostering connection and self-expression. Stories Cafe proved to be the perfect venue, providing a warm and welcoming space for the community to come together and celebrate the beauty of Argentine Tango.



Mist LGBTQ Foundation Proudly Partners with **Kuch Sapney Apne!**

We're thrilled to have been a community partner for the groundbreaking film *Kuch Sapney Apne*, India's first-ever sequel to a queer film! As a proud advocate for the LGBTQIA+ community, we promoted the movie in Pune and Bangalore, encouraging our thousands of social media followers to catch this heartwarming story.

On release day, February 21st, 2025, our team attended a special screening with community members.



Velvet Valentine Rendezvous: A Night to Remember!

Mist LGBTQ Foundation and Pink Passport hosted a spectacular Valentine's theme queer party, Velvet Valentine Rendezvous, on February 15th, 2025.

Over 300 attendees made the evening unforgettable! Guests enjoyed musical chairs, with lucky winners receiving free tickets to the movie *Kuch Sapney Apne*. QueerBazaar added to the romance, selling special Valentine's greeting cards and roses.

The event was a testament to the power of love and inclusivity, celebrating the LGBTQIA+ community in style!



Mist LGBTQ Represents at **Pride Not Prejudice**

2.0 Panel Discussion



On February 28th, 2025, Mist LGBTQ's founder, Samuel (Shyam) Konnur, participated in a pivotal panel discussion at Pride Not Prejudice 2.0, hosted by Symbiosis School of Economics. Joined by esteemed experts, the conversation explored India's progress toward inclusivity, cultural acceptance, and the crucial role of allyship. The discussion underscored the need for education, policy reform, and genuine representation to drive meaningful change. Mist LGBTQ is proud to have contributed to this vital conversation, promoting a more inclusive and accepting society.

Mist LGBTQ's Founder Advocates for PrEP Awareness at **Chandigarh AIDS Conference 2025**

Mist LGBTQ's founder, Shyam Konnur, participated in the Chandigarh AIDS Conference 2025 in February. Shyam emphasized the importance of Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP) medicine in preventing AIDS.

He also shared insights into Mist LGBTQ's initiatives that encourage and support PrEP use within the community.

By promoting awareness and education, Mist LGBTQ aims to reduce the stigma surrounding PrEP and empower individuals to take control of their health.

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Stories Cafe Hosts Pune Queer Sports Club's Chess Tournament and Karaoke Night



On February 22nd, 2025, Stories Cafe proudly hosted the Pune Queer Sports Club's chess tournament and Karaoke night. The event was a resounding success, featuring an intense chess competition followed by a fun-filled Karaoke and board game session.

Stories Cafe is committed to providing a safe and welcoming space for the Queer community to socialize and host events without fear of stigma. The cafe's inclusive atmosphere made for a memorable evening, fostering connections and community bonding.



Support Mist LGBTQ Foundation: Donate Now to Sustain Critical Operations Amidst Uncertain Times

*When Support Fades,
Solidarity Shines Brighter*

The rollback of DEI policies in the U.S. threatens global support for LGBTQ+ initiatives, including Indian organizations like ours. To sustain our work in healthcare, employment, and advocacy, we seek your support.



Account Name - Mist LGBTQ Foundation
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Bangalore - 560001
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DONATE

In India, where LGBTQ+ rights are still evolving, and legal protections are limited, the withdrawal of global support could set back many community-driven initiatives that rely on external funding.

As we face uncertain times, we rely on your support to sustain our operations. Mist LGBTQ Foundation has been at the forefront of promoting LGBTQ+ rights and inclusivity in India. Donate to us today and help us continue our critical work, including advocacy, community support, and education.

Your contribution will make a tangible difference in the lives of LGBTQ+ individuals in India.