



Meet India's first sports director

PG 4

DAY'S DIARY

Plane hijacked

Pan Am Flight 73 from Mumbai with 358 people on board was hijacked at Karachi International Airport on this day in 1986

THE INCIDENT

At around 6 AM, passengers were boarding in Karachi when four heavily armed men dressed as security personnel stormed the plane, firing shots in the air



RESCUE MISSION

The crew of Pan Am flight 73 saved countless lives by demonstrating remarkable bravery and composure in the face of mortal danger

A BRAVEHEART

Senior flight attendant Neerja Bhanot was posthumously recognised by the Indian government with the Ashoka Chakra



TEACHING ART AS LIFE SKILL

THIS TEACHERS' DAY, AROUND 54 SCHOOL TEACHERS FROM ACROSS THE STATE WILL RECEIVE THE STATE'S BEST TEACHER 2023 AWARD, TO BE PRESENTED BY THE CHIEF MINISTER



SHRIMANSI KAUSHIK

WITH parents hailing from underprivileged backgrounds and holding daily-wage jobs, including that of a painter, Kishan Kappari acquired his artistic skills through keen observation of those around him. He is one of the 54 teachers selected by the Telangana government to be presented with the 'Best Teacher 2023' award on September 05 at Ravindra Bharathi. He is a senior art teacher at Jawahar Bal Bhavan, Public Gardens, Nampally. Growing up in Saidabad, he had the opportunity to witness artists creating images of deities on the walls of the Hanuman temple in Jail Garden. He reminisces, "My school would get over at 12 o'clock. Following that, I would head to Jail Garden to play Gilli Danda or Cricket. It was during these moments that I closely observed these artists meticulously crafting their images, paying careful attention to the various shades they employed." Inspired by these painters, he began experimenting with a variety of canvases, ranging from notebook covers and chart papers to biology projects and even school walls. Occasions like Independence Day celebrations and school functions served as his canvases, allowing him to explore and develop his artistic talents. Gradually, his friends and teachers took notice of his exceptional abilities and encouraged him to consider pursuing art as a serious profession. He pursued a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree at Karnataka University.

In 1993, he began sharing his knowledge and passion for art with children. Over the course of the past three decades, he has played a pivotal role in guiding numerous students towards successful careers rooted in their artistic skills. Some of his former students have gone on to become award-winning artists, while others have chosen career paths in architecture, interior design, and various other professions where art plays a central role. As for his own medium of art, his versatility is visible on paper, canvas, wood and murals of various sizes. "While one section of his body of work concentrates upon the traditionally attired, dusky damsels of Telangana the other works are based on recreating the spiritual and meditative strengths of Buddha. Both series of works are rendered in stark, clear linear quality and a flamboyant colour palette. The popular festival of Bathukamma is often portrayed in his works along with the ritual in which the women carry a huge mound of iridescent flowers to present to the goddess," says Palak Dubey, artist and writer about his work. Taking inspiration from Thota Vaikuntam and Shivanad Basavanthappa, Kishan grew as an artist while teaching students to observe the world around them. "Vaikuntam's art is inspired by rural Telangana and despite being from the city, I was deeply interested in rural life. I observed how beautifully

girls make their hairstyles and that was reflected in my works. This is the premise on which I work with my students, I encourage them to observe the world around them. We start with one particular theme and they do their expression of it. Then they start with some colour-filling, shading and sketching exercises and focus on simple subjects like flowers, etc.," he said. He further added, "We also hold exhibitions for children. Festivals play an important role in exploring various shapes and forms. I first talk to them about festivals such as Sankranti or Bonalu, and try to get their experience out of them. I first inject the idea into their mind. Then I give them the confidence to express themselves. Slowly, we move towards the accuracy of the drawings." Bal Bhavan being a space where children's creative abilities are harnessed, allows them to engage in various forms of creative pursuits: classical dance, music, literature, crafts, cinema and games. With Kishan, students recently learned how to make their own storybooks, right from cover designs and illustrations to writing and binding these books. He also encourages them to opt for art wherever possible, like making greeting cards as, he says, "it brings more happiness to life." Kishan believes that talent can help one become a master of a profession. "With art, there



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Kishan Kappari, senior art instructor, Jawahar Bal Bhavan

are so many career options, architecture, interior designing, fashion designing, animation, publication... Even when one doesn't get the job they want, they should not leave their passion behind. Art will take them somewhere, eventually," he concluded.

ART BEYOND DEFINITION

SHRIMANSI KAUSHIK

HYDERABAD has come alive with yet another vibrant celebration of colour, imagination and artistic innovation. Eikowa Art Gallery hosts an exhibition showcasing the creative brilliance of Vinita Dasgupta, a multifaceted artist whose work transcends boundaries and challenges conventional definitions of art. Raised in a household steeped in cultural pursuits, she inherited a deep appreciation for the arts from her parents. Her father, a classical singer and musician and her mother, an artist, sowed the seeds of artistic curiosity within her from an early age. While her upbringing exposed her to various forms of art, Vinita painting as a profession, specifically, to pursue "new media" as an artistic style, as it offered abundant opportunities for exploration and development. "Within the space of a square frame, I try to build a world that is undeniably separate from the one we live in. What fascinates me about any artistic medium is that it can pull the viewer out of a logical and common world, and place them within a space that is more alive. I am not in love with any particular medium of art as much as I am in love with visually representing the stories I have in my mind. There is a particular feeling to all of my artworks, one that touches on the juxtaposition of the real yet surreal, a fantasy and a dream yet riddled with reality," said Vinita Dasgupta. "As a painter, I find inspiration in fragments of nature held close for reflection. My work varies from representational to abstract and I am continuously moving along the continuum between the two. I am using found plant material and the availability changes with the seasons. Moving from stencils of plants to actual plants used as stencils, I am exploring the dialogue between photography and painting, despite the fact that I am not using a camera. I use coke cans against canvas rolls to create a contrast," she added. Renowned art historian, curator and writer Elizabeth Rogers who also curated the present exhibition, aptly explains Vinita Dasgupta's artistic journey. "Vinita melds her Bengali heritage and cultural inspirations with transnational iconography and ever-evolved, more in-depth artistic endeavours. From provoking global pop imagery and diverse iconographic scans, her works have expanded through intensive multi-stage creative processes, to a more recent embrace of flora and botanica imagery in recognition of climatic crises," she said. While categorising Dasgupta's work in fixed domains is not possible, according to Rogers, her work captures this very movement from traditional to new forms of art. "One sees Dasgupta's work of art in a changed context, freed from the curtain of traditional aesthetics which separated absolutely art from non-art. Now she is embracing more naturalistic metaphors and abstract compositions. One that continues to push the boundaries of definition. It realigns, mixing the abstract and the unknown with the energy, effort and inner processes. It depends just as much on the recognition and diffusion of novel and known ideas. Allegory plays a heightened role in Dasgupta's perception. Drawing upon idiosyncratic aesthetics and imagery, she weaves her own tapestries," she concluded.



Chromatic testimonials



Vinita Dasgupta

Artist Vinita Dasgupta's works, curated under the title *Spirit of Chromatic Metaphors*, are on display at Eikowa Art Gallery, Jubilee Hills. She presents a multi-layered ensemble of global and Indian themes comprising elements taken from nature, pop culture, classical Indian dance and more

XPRESS FOCUS

Innovative technologies like AI can help solve issues with waste management: Ashok Chaturvedi

New Delhi: Highlighting the need for effective and sustainable use of technology to support waste collection and management, Mr. Ashok Chaturvedi, Founder, Chairman, and Managing Director, UFlex Group spoke about innovative solutions being explored by the flexible packaging industry. At the keynote address at the 10th Speciality Films & Flexible Packaging Global Summit 2023, Mr. Ashok Chaturvedi recommended the use of machinery and AI to collect and sort waste rather than allowing waste workers to do that manually. He stressed that the biggest challenge for effective recycling was the lack of adequate access to post-consumer waste, especially in India where there are challenges with source segregation. He further highlighted how technologies like artificial intelligence, machine learning, and enzymatic processing can accelerate sustainable innovation in flexible packaging. Reflecting on the evolution of the plastics industry, he said, "Back in the 1960s, when chemical companies were developing large-scale plastic production facilities, they coined the slogan: If you want to save the planet, use plastic. We truly believe that today, if producers can reach consumers globally, it is possible only because of flexible packaging. Historically, when chemical companies were producing plastic in the 60s, they had to struggle with their selling proposition, and the production size used to be 1500 tons per year. Today, the production size has increased to a million tons per year. MLP (multi-layer plastic) as opposed to mono-material packaging, coupled with a robust recycling ecosystem and bio-enzyme technology will propel the industry to the next phase of growth". "Today, whatever we are producing needs to be recycled. At UFlex, we have made significant investments in industrial and MLP (multi-layer mixed plastic) waste recycling facilities across



our global locations and very recently, in enzyme-based delamination and recycling technology for aseptic packaging. We should continue to focus on mechanical recycling. Chemical recycling may not be happening today but will happen in the future", he added. Mr. Chaturvedi reiterated that it is critical to recognize that it is not the process of recycling that presents the most significant hurdle in addressing plastic pollution. Rather, it is the efficient and holistic collection and management of plastic waste that emerges as the cornerstone of the battle. With India's flexible packaging market on the verge of a substantial growth of USD 18.65 billion by 2027, there is a golden opportunity for producers, traders, converters, and end-users to explore the vibrant packaging landscape. The Elite Global Summit, being held at the prestigious Reliance Jio World Convention Centre in Mumbai, India, featured discussions on the Indian economic landscape, current trends in the FMCG sector, and the impact on packaging. The event features specialized sessions dedicated to sustainability with panel discussions on the critical issues facing the industry with eminent speakers from the

Central Pollution Control Board of India (CPCB), the Ministry of Environment and Forests (MOEF), and the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) of the Government of India. The summit also showcased over 100 exhibitors at the venue, attracting a strong presence of brand owners. With ten meticulously designed business sessions, attendees gained valuable insights from industry leaders, including Raw Material Manufacturers, Machinery Manufacturers, Manufacturers of Auxiliary Machineries, and leading converters specializing in mono and multilayer Films, Biaxial films, and Brand Owners. The 10th Speciality Films & Flexible Packaging Global Summit 2023 included keynote addresses by Mr. Ashok Chaturvedi, Founder, Chairman & Managing Director, UFlex Group, Mr. Nilesh Shah, Group President & MD, Kotak Mahindra Asset Management Co. Ltd., Mr. Prabh Das, Managing Director & CEO, HPCL-Mittal Energy Ltd., Ms. Prabha Narasimhan, Managing Director & CEO, Colgate-Palmolive (India) Ltd., and Mr. Harsh Mariwala, Founder and Chairman, Marico Ltd. It also showcases more than 100 exhibitors and a strong presence of most brand owners.