

NOVEMBER, 2022 | ISSUE 1

## DIALOGUE OF RAISINA HOUSE

Raisina House in collaboration with the Australia High Commission hosted a seminar titled Promoting Diversity in the Workforce at The LaLiT in the DEI space. At the seminar as part of the panel Akshay Tyagi shared KSF journey. The dialogue explored the future of work and attempted to navigate the opportunities and constraints that lie ahead for promoting diversity in workforce.



## SPECIAL OLYMPICS BHARAT

Special Olympics Bharat's Youth Fest hosted a seminar at the YMCA, New Delhi. Akshay Tyagi shared about our initiatives for people with disabilities and the opportunities that The LaLiT offers to the people with disabilities. The LaLiT has also been "The Happiness Partner" for Special Olympic Bharat.



## PHD CHAMBER SEMINAR

Keshav Suri Foundation were invited to be part of a discussion on the 'Role of Fast Track Courts/Special Courts in Delivering Justice to Women' at the PHD Chamber of Commerce, New Delhi. Mr. Akshay Tyagi spoke about the role of corporates in spreading legal awareness and its impact on civil society.



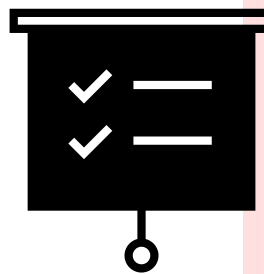
## TRANS INCLUSIVE SUMMIT 2022

The Trans Inclusive Summit 2022, was held on 12th November! It was marked with meaningful panel discussions, sharing of life journeys, launch of a special fellowship for transgender persons, and much more! The Pride bazaar and the experience corner set up by people from the trans community had our hearts. And last but not the least, the event ended on an emotional note with people from the community sharing their stories as part of the Human Library, of which Mohul Sharma from our team was a part.



## BUILDING INCLUSIVITY AT ROOP AUTOS, SOHNA MANESAR

In our efforts to sensitise more & more corporate organisations, KSF conducted four sessions with the Roop Auto Limited at their Sohna and Manesar centers.



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## SPREADING SMILES BY SHARING MEALS

KSF and The LaLiT New Delhi distributed food packets at Brave Souls Foundation, Naz Foundation, and Garima Greh. These are non-governmental organizations and work for acid attack survivors, children living with HIV, and the transgender community, respectively.



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## INDIA WORKPLACE EQUALITY INDEX 2022

IWEI2022 was held on 24th November this year at The LaLiT Ashok Bangalore. IWEI, or India Workplace Equality Index, was established by KSF, Pride Circle, and Stonewall UK in 2020, and is the country's FIRST comprehensive bench-marking tool for employers to measure their progress on LGBT+ inclusion in the workplace.



## QUEERING MENTAL HEALTH

Another successful mental health discussion was held on 26th November at The LaLiT Ashok Bangalore. Mr. Deepak Kashyap discussed about generational trauma, mental health, and how to be mindful.



## MR. KESHAV SURI RECOGNIZED AS AN LGBT+ ROLE MODEL

Mr. Keshav Suri, (Executive Director, The LaLiT Suri Hospitality Group) was once again recognized amongst the top 100 Outstanding LGBT+ Executives Lists 2022 supported by Yahoo Finance for the 3rd consecutive year. This is a recognition for business leaders who are breaking down barriers and creating more inclusive workplaces.



## CELEBRATING THE TRANS WOMEN COMMUNITY AT MISS TRANS NORTH-EAST

KSF was a proud sponsor of Miss Trans North-East and Conclave 2022, a celebration of gender diversity and creative expression. Miss Trans NE Conclave was the first such event to be held in Assam, with the agenda of discussing transgender persons' rights and issues. The beauty pageant brought dozens of transgender models on stage in Guwahati.



## Celebrating our PwD Team on World Disability Day

3rd December



## Visit to The LaLiT Suri Hospitality School, Badkal



An awareness session was held at The LaLiT Suri Hospitality School, Badkal, on 7th December. Mr. Akshay Tyagi from our team spoke about the basics of diversity, equity, and inclusion. Zayn Khan from our team also shared his experience of being a trans man with the audience.

We celebrated the International Day of Disabled Persons with our team, their families, representatives from Step By Step School, and Ms. Ira Singhal, the first person with disability to top the civil services exam. The event was dedicated to our team members with disability who inspire and impress us every single day. Ms. Ira Singhal motivated us and our team members with her inspiring words. Ms. Divya Suri Singh and Mr. Keshav Suri, Executive Directors at The LaLiT Suri Hospitality Group, also spoke about our commitment to making The LaLiT a more accessible, safe, and inclusive place for people with disabilities. We also had some of the family members discuss their experiences.

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## Welcoming Mr. Alan Gemmell



The LaLiT New Delhi hosted Mr. Alan Gemmell, the British High Commissioner in Mumbai on 11th December. He was welcomed with our signature DEI welcome in sign language. Mr. Gemmell is an out and proud member of the LGBTQ+ community.

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## 1ST RITU SURI MEMORIAL ADAPTIVE ATHLETIC INTER SCHOOL MEET 2022-23 AT STEP BY STEP SCHOOL, NOIDA

We attended the Inter School Meet at Step By Step School, Noida on 20th December. It was a beautiful event! Started in the memory of Mrs.

Ritu Suri, the athletic meet kickstarted with the lighting of the lamp, and was followed by a beautiful dance performance by kids from Step By Step. Ms. Anita Prasad, Head of the Special Education Needs Department, also shared a few words. Sitting in the bleachers, the students were so full of life! It was truly amazing to see how children with special needs actually require just a little more compassion, a little more attention, and a little more love to excel at activities. Participating in various events like races and other athletics, it was heartwarming to see the children enjoying themselves and just being happy!



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## Christmas at Muskaan NGO

We celebrated Christmas at Muskaan, an NGO that works with children and adults with cognitive disabilities, for their annual Christmas celebration! True to the name, the event was filled with smiles and joyful laughter! There was singing, dancing, and much more! Mr. Anish from our team even jumped in for an impromptu performance!



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## WOMEN ECONOMIC FORUM 2022



Mr. Keshav Suri was invited by the Women Economic Forum as one of the speakers at their 84th Global Edition on December 27, 2022. He, along with Ms. Aradhana Lal, from the Lemon Tree Hotels, and Mr. Puri from the Indian School of Hospitality, spoke about diversity in the hospitality industry. “We have to make D&I the DNA of a company”, Mr. Suri said.

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## Kolkata Pride 2022

Kolkata had its Pride walk on December 18, 2022 and we were there to witness the joy and colors!



## Recruiting acid attack survivors under Project Prahari

In our bid to encourage and empower our people from marginalized communities we are constantly taking active steps. Therefore, we are honored to extend our support under the Prahari Project to the Brave Souls Foundation in Kolkata. The Prahari Project is an initiative by Vir Marwah to help acid attack survivors find employment opportunities. We recruited two members from the Brave Souls Foundation to join The LaLiT Great Eastern Kolkata as trainees! We are proud to welcome them onboard!





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## MAJOR NEWS AROUND THE WORLD

Queer candidates winning in US midterm elections.



### **Maura Healey**

The first woman and the first openly gay governor of Massachusetts, United States.

### **James Roesener**

The first Transgender man elected to a state legislature in the United States.



### **Becca Balint**

She is the first woman and openly gay person to be elected to the house or senate from Vermont State, USA.

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## ANNE JAKKAPONG JAKRAJUTATIP OWNING THE MISS UNIVERSE BEAUTY PEGEANT



Anne Jakrajutatip, a Thai transgender businesswoman purchased the Miss Universe pageant for \$20 million.

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## KIT CONNOR FORCED TO COME OUT



Kit Connor came out as bisexual in a tweet, saying he felt pressured by fans to publicly label his sexuality. Connor, who stars in *Heartstopper*, had previously spoken out against "forcing" actors to discuss their sexuality.

The '**One Love**' LGBTQ Rights Armband is causing a stir at the Qatar World Cup. The soccer captains of seven European teams were set to wear rainbow armbands during Qatar's World Cup to promote a message of LGBTQ inclusion in a nation where homosexuality is illegal.



**Pratik Permey**, an openly gender fluid tribal person from the north-east of India recently became the president of the student body at the Tata Institute of Social Sciences (**TISS**) in Mumbai. They have been elected to lead what is being touted as the most diverse student body in the history of the institution.

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## **TRANS WOMAN PERFORMS KATHAKALI IN KERALA, CALLS IT A DREAM COME TRUE.**



Renjumol Mohan, a 2nd-year undergraduate student of Kathakali at the RLV College of Music and Fine Arts, Tripunithura, Kerala, performed her arangettam, the first performance of a student of Indian classical dance, on November 10. According to Kathakali exponents, this is the first performance of the art form by an 'out' trans person.

## **PAKISTAN: CENSOR BOARD REVIEW COMMITTEE CLEARS FILM 'JOYLAND' FOR RELEASE**



**Reshma**, who was at the forefront of transgender community's struggle for dignity in Kashmir and carved out a respectable status for herself, died early November 6, 2022.

## **SINGAPORE PARLIAMENT REPEALS SECTION 377A, BUT PROTECTS DEFINITION OF MARRIAGE**



Singapore parliament on 29th November, 2022 passed two Bills to repeal Section 377A of the Penal Code, which criminalises sex between men, and to amend the Constitution to protect the definition of marriage as being between a man and a woman.

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## DISNEY RELEASING THEIR LGBTQ+ MOVIE ON 23RD NOVEMBER AT THEATRE



While "Strange World" explores a fantastical environment full of mysterious creatures and flora, including flying fish and walking rock columns, the action-adventure film also includes a first for Walt Disney Animation Studios: a gay teen romance.

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## GERMANY'S PLAYERS COVER MOUTHS DURING TEAM PHOTO TO PROTECT FIFA'S RAINBOW ARMBAND RULE



## COLORADO CLUB MASS SHOOTING



COLORADO SPRINGS, Nov 20 - A gunman opened fire inside a LGBTQ nightspot in Colorado Springs late on Saturday, killing at least five people and injuring 25 others before being stopped by "heroic" clubgoers, police said.

It unfolded as LGBTQ communities and allies around the world prepared to mark the Transgender Day of Remembrance on Sunday, an annual observance to honor victims of transphobic violence.

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## SINGAPORE PARLIAMENT REPEALS SECTION 377A BUT PROTECTS DEFINITION OF MARRIAGE



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## **JOE BIDEN SIGNS "RESPECT FOR MARRIAGE ACT" LAW, CALLS IT 'A BLOW AGAINST HATE'**



America's President Joe Biden created history by signing on "Respect for Marriage Act", which safeguards rights and protections for same-sex and interracial couples.

"This law and the love it defends strike a blow against hate in all its forms," Biden said on the South Lawn of the White House. "And that's why this law matters to every single American."

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## **TOILETS FOR TRANS PERSONS MUST IN FUTURE PROJECTS IN NEW DELHI**



## **DELHI GOT THE FIRST-EVER TRANSGENDER COUNCILLOR OF THE NATIONAL CAPITAL : MEET BOOBY KINNAR, AAP'S ONLY TRANSGENDER CANDIDATE WHO WON FROM SULTANPUR**



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## **LEO VARADKAR, AN OPENLY GAY, INDIAN-ORIGIN PERSON BECOMES IRISH PRIME MINISTER FOR SECOND TIME!**



Leo varadkar who is openly gay and is still one of Ireland's youngest ever leaders even in his second stint in the role, steps up from deputy premier.

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## MY SEXUALITY DOES NOT SAY EVERYTHING ABOUT WHO I REALLY AM - SAURABH KIRPAL, AN OPENLY GAY ADVOCATE



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## SPAIN PASSES NEW TRANSGENDER LAW, TO ALLOW ANYONE ABOVE 16 TO CHANGE LEGAL GENDER.



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## CAMBRIDGE DICTIONARY ALTERS THE DEFINITION OF 'MAN' AND 'WOMAN'



Cambridge Dictionary now states that as well as definitions including an “adult female human being”, a woman can also be “an adult who lives and identifies as female though they may have been said to have a different sex at birth”.

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## TELUGU STATE GETS ITS FIRST TRANSGENDER PASTOR



Anjali Kalyanapu was raised as a boy, but was discriminated against at home, bullied at school, and forced to beg on the streets as a result of insensitivity. The circumstances did not cause India's first transgender evangelist to lose her core strength; rather, they strengthened her.

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## PARVATHY FROM KOLLAM IS THE FIRST TRANS POSTWOMAN EVER



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## SOCIAL MEDIA HIGHLIGHTS

### Trans Awareness Week Highlights



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## TRANSTORIES - YUG PRATAP

(Front Office, The LaLiT New Delhi)

I was a teenager when my parents first objected to my dressing sense and hair style. They would force me to walk, talk, and dress like a girl. I felt suffocated but couldn't gather the courage to describe who I really am from inside. Thought they wouldn't understand anyway.

I came out to my family when I first discovered the word 'Transgender'. I told my father and he just flipped. He couldn't believe his ears. He never spoke to me after that day and advised my siblings to break all ties with me. I was helpless and alone. I stopped eating and my condition deteriorated and I had to be admitted to a hospital. I went back home but nothing changed.

Even now, after 4 years, it is only my mother who talks to me. My siblings pretend that I never existed and my father said that he would only talk to me if I get married.

But my life took a different turn when one of my friends told me about The LaLiT. I interviewed with them with the help of Mr. Akshay Tyagi and got an offer letter. I finally had a reason to smile but I was teary eyed.

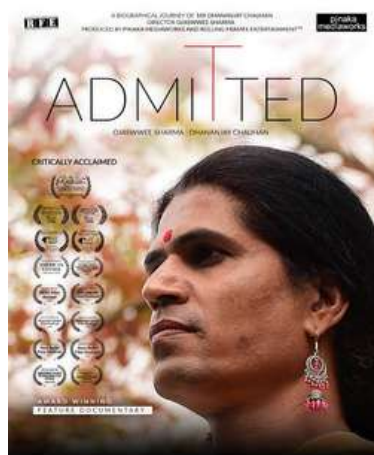
The LaLiT accepted me as I am and loved me for embracing my real identity. I have finally found a new family. I just want to learn and grow here. Some days I don't even want to leave the office and go home.

**I am a proud trans man and I will never change.**

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## MOVIE OF THE MONTH



### **Admitted (2020)**

**by Ojaswwee Sharma.**

A biographical docudrama on the controversial life of Dhananjay Chauhan- the first transgender student of Panjab University in India. The film shows her life journey with thrust on education along with her gender identity.

## ARTIST OF THE MONTH



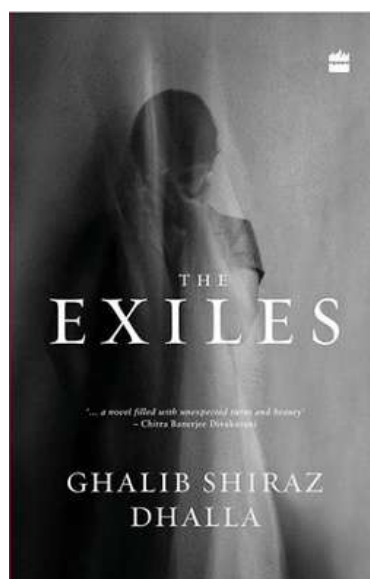
### **Miyu**

**(@vimiyui on twitter)**

A Filipino queer muslim artist, with ASD. They make comics about their complex sexuality, experience with Autism, as well as mental health struggles.

## Book of the Month

**The Exiles by Ghalib Shiraz Dhalla.**



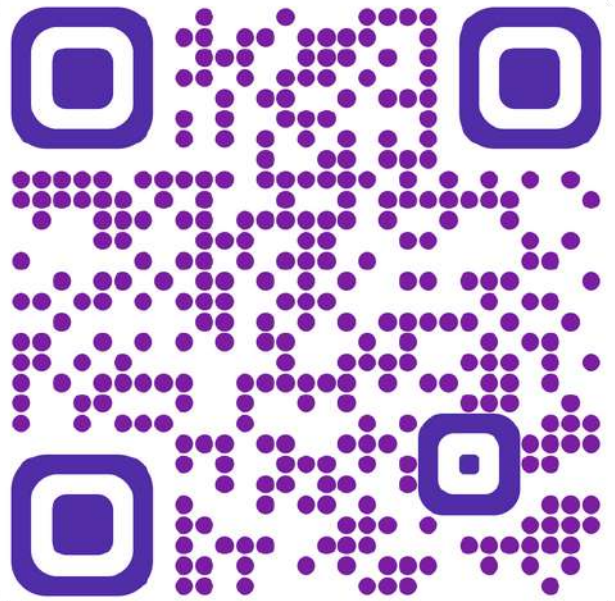
About the Book: Pooja Kapoor, a betrayed wife and mother, begins to question her beliefs and marriage when she discovers that her husband Rahul has fallen in love with a young Muslim man. Lonely and desperate for divine intervention, she is forced to confront painful truths about the past to make sense of the present. Narrated from the perspective of the wife, husband and lover, The Exiles is a classic tale of love and loss set in Kenya, India and finally, Los Angeles.



**“We believe in power of PureLove. Pure Love is not specific to any community, race and gender—it is for everybody, not just the marginalized sections.”**

**-KESHAV SURI**

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