

# Galleries celebrate 5th edition of Prayas

**KOLKATA, OCT 31 /--/** Smita Art & Chemould Art Gallery today announced the launch and preview of "PRAYAS 2017" an art exhibition at the Satyajit Ray Auditorium, Rabindranath Tagore Centre, ICCR. The event saw presence of Sri. Chhatrapati Dutta (Principal of Govt. College of Arts & Crafts), Sri. Shankar Sen (MD, Senco Gold) and Sri. Arindam Sil (Eminent Actor & Film Director) as Guests of Honour. The exhibition will be held at the Chemould Art Gallery from 26th October till 4th December on Park Street, Kolkata and will be open to all. This year has marked the 5th edition of PRAYAS which started its journey from the year 2013 and till date is continuing its genuine endeavour to support young artists who are part of the contemporary art community and its working towards giving Kolkata and Bengal an organic art experience. The idea which motivated Smita Art & Chemould Art gallery to come up with PRAYAS back in 2013 was to primarily create a platform for young budding artists to showcase their talents. PRAYAS 2017, as curated by Smita Art & Chemould Art Gallery is showcasing and highlighting paintings, sculptures, graphics, photography by more than 100 upcoming artists from all over West Bengal and India. This year the exhibition is exhibiting various forms of art including landscape, abstract, figurative, realistic, semi realistic etc. Distinguished abstract art works on display using various language of shape, form, color and line which has created a composition to enthrall the viewers. At the same time some amazing figurative form of art is gracing the collection which was captured and derived from real life giving the audience a mesmerizing experience of a lifetime.

Noted artists and sculptors like Sri. Nikhilesh Das, Sri. Apurba Pal, Sri. Partha Pratim Deb and Sri. Niranjan Pradhan received Lifetime Achievement Awards on this platform. The programme saw the presence of eminent Indian artists like Sri. Subrata Gangopadhyay. The evening



was made even more memorable with the soulful music by an upcoming young artist Kaushiki Bhattacharya. To celebrate the 5th edition of PRAYAS 2017, Smita Art & Chemould Art Gallery aims to share these proceeds of some of the best art pieces and donate it for social needs towards Swachh Bharat Projects and other sanitation programs. The event concluded with the PRAYAS 2017 prize distribution ceremony where the renowned artist Sri. Subrata Gangopadhyay

handed over 3rd prize to winners Guru kinkar, Asim Pal, Sanjay Banerjee, Sri. Chhatrapati Dutta handed over 2nd prize to Barun Pramanik and Dipankar Ray. Senior artist Sri. Rabin Mandal handed over the 1st prize to Jayanta Naskar who has been declared PRAYAS 2017 winner. Speaking on this occasion, Mr. Amartya Chakravarty from Chemould Art Gallery said, "We are really happy and proud to host PRAYAS for the 5th year in a row considering the immense response from art enthusiasts from every corner of India. Our primary idea was to promote young budding talents who have the potential to carry the tradition ahead and enrich our culture with new insightful work of art. This is a platform where both professional senior artists as well as amateur artists bond together by participating in the exhibition seeking each other's knowledge. We are expecting more and more participants to register with us and take this initiative ahead year on year." (EOIC)

# Rare Raj Pink diamond at Sothebys upcoming jewels sale

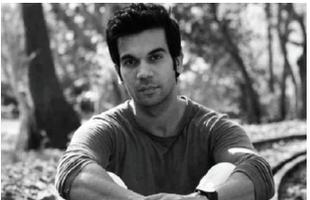
**GENEVA, OCT 31 /--/** A rare 37.30 carats diamond will go under the hammer at Sothebys upcoming Magnificent Jewels and Noble Jewels sale on November 15 here. The Raj Pink which is the worlds largest known Fancy Intense Pink diamond, is estimated at USD 20 - 30 million (Rs 129.48 - 194.22 cr approx). "The discovery of any pink diamond is exceptional, but the Raj Pinks remarkable size and intensity of colour places it in the rarefied company of the most important pink diamonds known," David Bennett, Worldwide Chairman of Sothebys International Jewellery Division, said. The Raj Pink, which gets its name from the Sanskrit word for king, has been characterised as an "astounding stone" by the Gemological Institute of America (GIA), which also certified the diamond.

"Its hue is a very bright and ravishing fancy intense pink color," GIA said. "For a diamond to display strong, unmodified pink color like that observed in The Raj Pink is rare, particularly at so considerable a weight," it added. It also noted that less than 0.02 per cent of all the diamonds submitted to the GIA each year are predominantly pink. The rough diamond which yielded The Raj Pink was studied for over a year after



its discovery in 2015. It was then entrusted to a master cutter, who brought the diamonds innermost beauty to full display by crafting it into a sparkling cushion-modified brilliant cut. The diamond, which has already been exhibited in London, Singapore, Hong Kong and Taiwan, will now travel to New York (November 3-4), followed by a show here between November 11 and 14, where the auction at Mandarin Oriental here. (PTI)

## CREATIVE WORLD It'll be fun: Rajkummar on collaborating with David Dhawan



**MUMBAI, OCT 31 /--/** Filmmaker David Dhawan was impressed by Rajkummar Rao's performance in 'Bareilly Ki Barfi' so much so that he expressed his desire to work with him and the actor says it would be "fun" whenever he collaborates with the director. Recently at a session, Varun Dhawan had revealed that his father, David, was blown away by Rajkummar's performance and was keen to work with the actor. In an interview with PTI, Rajkummar says, "I am a big fan of David Dhawan's films. I grew up watching his amazing comedies, it would be great to work with him. He had called me after 'Bareilly...' and we spoke at length. He is a senior from FTII so we had that connection as well."

"He told me 'hum saath me kaam karege to toh phaad dega' (If we work together you will rock it). He really liked my comic timing in the film. It would be great whenever we collaborate together, it'll be a different experience. I'll try and bring something different to the table, combined with his sensibility, it'll be just fun". The 33-year-old actor is equally in awe of Varun, who is maintaining a fine balance in his films by acting in both commercial entertainers and content driven cinema. "Varun has been really supportive, he is very sweet and I have immense respect for him. The fine balance that he is maintaining doing a massy entertainer like 'Judwaa 2' but also a dark film like 'Badlapur', and working with Shoojit Sircar. I think it's a great balance for an actor."

So far for every "Trapped" and a "Newton" Rajkummar has had a "Behen Hogi Teri" and "Bareilly Ki Barfi" but the actor insists he does not think about "commercial prospects" while signing a film. "For me it's the story that matters. Nobody knows what's going to happen at the box office but you can give two months of your life to a script which you've really liked." With such releases, he has been touted as the performer of the year, though Rajkummar says he does not let this go to his head. "I don't think about it at all. I've been working non-stop, I've really enjoyed what I did. So all my focus and energy is on the work. It's a great feeling when people say 'It has been his year, he has done a wonderful job' but I feel fortunate that I got to be a part of all these scripts. Most of them worked, some didn't. But that's ok, the ratio isn't bad." Rajkummar believes filmmakers have now started trusting him as an artist. "I am sure there would've been people earlier as well who wanted to make a film with me but for some reason thought investing this much money on me would probably be a risk. But now they know, his films are making money, there is a definite audience who watches his films. They also feel confident and probably that's why my next films are bigger ones with a really wonderful story attached." "Shaadi Mein Zaroor Aana" is set to release on November 10. (PTI)

## Actor Tyler Cornell accuses former APA agent of sodomy

**LOS ANGELES, OCT 31 /--/** Actor Tyler Cornell has filed a report with the Los Angeles Police Department accusing former APA agent Tyler Grasham of sodomising him earlier this year. LAPD spokesperson Deadline saying, "We did take a crime report against Tyler Grasham. It was a sodomy crime report." The 20-year-old actor is the fifth young man to come forward accusing Grasham of sexual harassment or assault. Grasham was fired from the Hollywood agency on October 20 after two other young men accused the agent of sexually assaulting them.

Grasham's other accusers include former child actor Blake Godbe Lipman, 28, who says he assaulted him 10 years ago; Lucas Ozarowski, a 27-year-old film and TV editor, who filed a police complaint saying that he was sexually harassed by him last year; Michael Podraza, legal affairs manager at Lionsgate, who accused him of offering to help him break into the industry in exchange for sex and Brady Lindsey, an aspiring actor who said the former agent touched him inappropriately. APA has launched its own investigation into the charges. (PTI)

## Varun Dhawan's 'October' to release in April next

**MUMBAI, OCT 31 /--/** Actor Varun Dhawan's "October", directed by Shoojit Sircar, will release on April 13 next year. The 30-year-old actor took to Twitter to announce the release date and share his first look from the film, which was majorly shot in Delhi. "As October comes to an end it arrives earlier next year. #October releases on 13 th April now," Varun tweeted. In the picture Varun is seen running in despair. A Rising Sun Films production, the slice-of-life love story is written by Sircar's frequent collaborator Juhu Chaturvedi. Newbie Banita Sandhu has been cast opposite Varun in the film. "October" was earlier scheduled to release on June 1 next year. (PTI)

# Twinkle Khanna defends Akshay's controversial 'bajao' comment

**MUMBAI, OCT 31 /--/** Actor-turned-writer Twinkle Khanna has defended her husband, actor Akshay Kumar, in the wake of a controversy which erupted after he passed what was seen as an off-colour remark at stand-up comic Mallika Dua on a TV show. According to reports, Mallika wanted to ring a bell to appreciate an act on "The Great Indian Laughter Challenge", a practice followed by the show. Akshay had then said, "Aap bell bajao, main aap ko bajata hun". The colloquial word 'bajao' is believed to carry violent or sexual undertones.

Twinkle, however, argued that "bajao" was a "phrase that both men and women use" and called it a "pun on the words and actions related to ringing of the bell". She posted a lengthy statement on Twitter, saying that she wanted to "address the controversy" on the sets of "The Laughter Challenge" "It's a colloquial phrase that both men and women use - for instance, 'I am going to bajao him/her' or 'I got bajaoed', Red FM even has a tagline 'Bajate Raho' all without sexist connotations," she said. Akshay's comment had



prompted Mallika's father, journalist Vinod Dua, to slam the actor on his Facebook page.

The post has since been removed by the website. "Mr Vinod Dua, Ms Dua's father, had written a post - it's been taken down now, stating, 'I am going to screw this cretin Akshay Kumar.' Should Mr Dua's statement also be taken literally or interpreted in context," Twinkle wrote. Twinkle added she always supported "freedom within comedy" and asked people to stop dragging her into the controversy. "I have always stood up

for freedom within comedy including defending AIB's infamous roast on numerous occasions in the past and that is my stance even today, so kindly stop tagging me in this debate," she concluded. Akshay's comment made headlines after a video of comic Shyam Ranganella mimicking Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Congress vice-president Rahul Gandhi was leaked on social media. Mallika, along with comedians Zakir Khan and Hussain Dalal, was reportedly fired from the show earlier this month. (PTI)

## 'Stranger Things' creators already writing season 3

**LOS ANGELES, OCT 31 /--/** "Stranger Things" co-creators Matt and Ross Duffer revealed that they have already started penning the script for the third season of the show. The confirmation by Duffer brothers comes after the successful launch of the season two of the Netflix show this week.

"The hardest thing with this story is that we were tracking these multiple storylines and having them sort of build about at the same pace as to crescendo at the same time. It's always the hardest part as we move into writing. 'Like we're starting on season three now, it's always the most difficult thing just to get those to build simultaneously. It's always a challenge, and so we're still learning. I mean, we're trying to do this eight-hour, nine-hour movie so to get that pacing just right, you know, it's always hard," Ross told Deadline. (PTI)

## Toy train service resumes in Matheran

**MUMBAI, OCT 31 /--/** The toy train, a big attraction for tourists visiting the picturesque Matheran hill station near here, has once again resumed its journey after being halted for over one year following a couple of mishaps. The services of the 110-year-old toy train, synonymous with the tourist spot located in the Western Ghats of the neighbouring Raigad district, were suspended in May last year following two incidents of derailments that month. "The Central Railway (CR) has resumed the toy train services between Aman lodge and Matheran hill station this morning. It received a tremendous response from locals," CRs Chief PRO Sunil Udasi said.

"We are hopeful that the toy train services on the (complete) 21-km hilly stretch of Aman Lodge to Neral would start as soon as possible," Udasi said. Following the two derailments, the then railway minister, Suresh Prabhu, had stopped the services till the safety measures were not ensured as per the parameters. After the toy train was halted, the tourism industry was hit adversely following which a delegation of residents of Matheran had demanded resumption of the service. "Considering the demands of the locals, we have started our services on one stretch," Udasi said. As the toy train resumed its service today, the locals gathered in large numbers, burst crackers and played music to rejoice the happy occasion. The operation of the narrow gauge heritage train has posed challenges for the Central Railway as its stretch not only passes through a sloppy zigzag and forest road, but has also not been economically viable. (PTI)

## Odisha govt may apply for GI tag on hand-woven ethnic shawl

**KORAPUT (ODISHA), OCT 31 /--/** The Odisha government was planning to apply for a GI certificate and create a national market for the hand-woven ethnic shawls made by Dongria Kondh, a tribal group of Odisha. Mostly crafted by women for their own use and to present to guests as a mark of respect and affection, the embroidered shawls are entirely handmade. In view of the unique process employed to weave these shawls, the authorities are planning to file an application for a GI tag on this rare tribal handicraft.

Rayagada district collector Guha Poonam Tapas Kumar said. A GI (geographical indication) tag is a sign used on products that have a specific geographical location and possess qualities or a reputation that correspond to that origin. "In collaboration with the handloom department, we want to create a national market for the product. The products originality will be maintained and no machines will be used in preparing it," the collector said.

Efforts are also on to popularise the Dongria Kondh art by replicating the embroidery designs on bags, mobile phone covers and conference pads, she said. "The process of weaving and preparing a shawl is very time-consuming and has to be done with utmost precision. One can weave only three to four shawls in a month," said



Sindhe Wadeka, a veteran woman weaver of the community. Threads of only four colours are used in knitting the shawls. While green colour signifies environment, red is for religious belief, yellow for peace and brown symbolises their local goddesses, said Wadeka. "Our culture and tradition reflects in our shawls," she said. The changing dress patterns of the tribals, however, have significantly reduced the use of these traditional shawls. To tackle this problem, the district administration recently launched a three-month programme to train more weavers. "As many as 235 women of the community will be trained under this programme," said an administration official. Members of Dongria Kondh, a particularly vulnerable tribal group, live in Niyamgiri hills in Rayagada and Kalahandi districts of Odisha. (PTI)