

There's something for everyone at the Hindustan Times Kala Ghoda Arts Festival. What will you attend? What will you take away? What memories will you treasure most? Write in and let us know

### talktous

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# Reimagining Maximum City

**DAY 4** At the fest, architect PK Das explores how Mumbai could tackle shortage of land and create affordable houses

Jayati Bhola

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**MUMBAI:** "Urbanisation and city planning aren't synonymous," architect PK Das said on Tuesday, delivering a lecture titled 'Housing matters: Cities with a future' at Max Mueller Bhavan.

"We cannot talk about social housing unless we talk about the understanding of the slums and redevelopment of slum land," Das added, speaking at an event held in conjunction with the State of Housing Exhibition, as part of the Hindustan Times Kala Ghoda Arts Festival's urban design and architecture section.

The lecture was followed by a discussion moderated by Rohan Shivkumar.

Even villages have urban conditions, Das said, but Mumbai with 60 per cent of its population living in the slums is still a sub-urban city.

"We can easily create at least 9 lakh units of affordable housing by reserving slum land for affordable housing even after accommodating the existing population, which would take away the deficit in affordable housing," he added. "The question isn't about the shortage of land, but the misuse and exploitation by private builders. It is important to create equality and justice through inclusive development planning. Let the land be state-owned like in the Netherlands and Singapore, to achieve the democratisation of cities."

Kirtana Contractor, 22, an architect from Dadar, was in the audience and said she was going home with a lot to think about. "I attended the lecture to educate myself and Das has touched upon several issues relating to affordable housing in Mumbai, which is neglected due to political and financial pressure. It is not helping Mumbai urbanise in a way that is integrative and is skewed towards the privileged," she said.

For Dhruv Vairagi, 22, a final-year architecture student from Navi Mumbai, the talk was a chance to hear a master talk on the subject of holistic development. "We need to build with a sense of social responsibility to the city and to the lowest strata of society in our city," he said. "There are no incentives and no policies for architects to design socially responsible residences. It was good to hear a talk by an architect one can look up to."



Understanding art, attending events or to take selfies - the reasons were different, but the sentiment at the HT Kala Ghoda Arts Festival was the same. SATISH BATE/HT PHOTO

## From conflict-ridden Pak to KGAF: Music travels

**MUMBAI:** How do you shoot a documentary about music, involving young girls in a conflict-ridden district in Pakistan, with filmmakers working across borders?

Well, that's the story of Lyari Notes, directed by India's Miriam Chand Menachery and Pakistan's Maheen Zia. The film was screened as part of Hindustan Times Kala Ghoda Arts Festival's cinema section presented by &Prive, followed by a lively discussion with

Menachery. "Through music, you can find a means of expression and a way out of violence. It's a way of addressing reality and finding a way to survive. It's an important avenue for the youngsters to use," Menachery said.

"Shooting was a challenge," she added, "since we were on either side of the border between India and Pakistan... We were working with minors, in an area which sees a lot of violence. We shot the

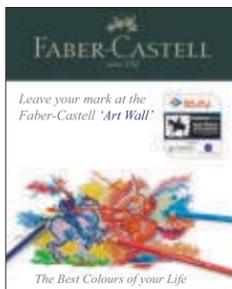
film in a way that was protective of the group of girls too." For the audience, the film was a rare glimpse into life in Pakistan. "Pakistan is not that different from India, and it was easy to empathise with kids," said Snehal Shetty, 31, an event manager from Santacruz.

The documentary surprises everyone, Menachery said, smiling. "We've screened around the world, and the one thing that comes out of it is how the audi-

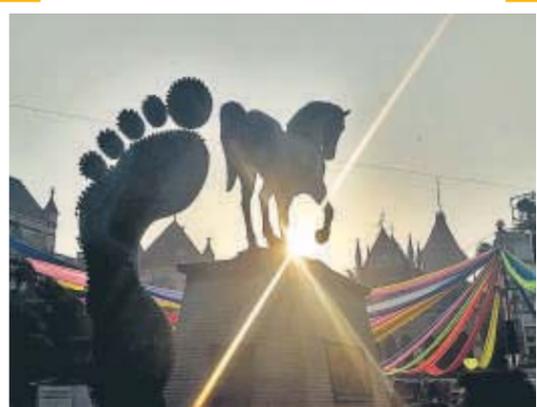
ence is able to see Pakistan in a new light." A lot of the questions from the audience related to whether the girls were okay, and Menachery was happy to assure everyone they had secured scholarships to study further. "It's a happy film," she added. For Coral Ghosh, 22, a freelance writer from Borivli, the most moving moment was when the father of one of the girls cried. "There's so much more to Pakistan." **JAYATI BHOLA**

We can easily create at least 9 lakh units of affordable housing by reserving slum land for affordable housing even after accommodating the existing population.

PK DAS, architect



### PHOTO OF THE DAY



TAKE YOUR SHOT AT THE HT PHOTO OF THE DAY CONTEST



Are you having fun at the fest? Send us a picture of your favourite moment, and you could win prizes.

Email your best photograph of the day to [htmetro@hindustantimes.com](mailto:htmetro@hindustantimes.com) by 6 pm. Every day, we'll pick one HTKGAF picture for publication in the next day's edition - and the person who sent it in will win a Flipkart voucher worth ₹1,000. So go on, take your best shot. Today's winner is Mahesh Kulkarni

## Getting booked: How to keep regional lit relevant

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**MUMBAI:** What needs to change about regional-language literature in order to enable it to remain relevant in a world of instant communication and social media?

That was the central theme of a lively discussion held as part of the Hindustan Times Kala Ghoda Arts Festival on Tuesday evening, featuring journalist Kumar Ketkar and publicist Dhananjay Gangal.

The discussion looked back on the Granthali Movement of 1970s Maharashtra, which began with the aim of contemporary writers and their works to the masses.

"Granthali was more of a reader's movement than a publisher's movement. Literature in the 1970s was very elitist and belonged to writers of pre- and post-Independence India. The contemporary writing was missing," Ketkar said.

Ketkar was one of the four founding members of that movement, which worked to encourage readers and writers in the remotest parts of the state.

It was not just a readers' movement but also a cultural movement in Maharashtra, Gangal added.

While the revolution flourished until the mid-1980s, TV and then the internet and social media slowed its momentum.

"All forms of media are undergoing a radical change right now and we have to move with the audience in order to survive," Ketkar said, adding that it wasn't just books but also theatre and film that were undergoing change.

"When we started Granthali, rural Maharashtra had barely any forms of



A panel interaction featuring journalist Kumar Ketkar, publicist Dhananjay Gangal and Avinash Sapre on Tuesday. HEMANSHI KAMANI/HT

communication. Today, even a child owns a mobile phone in any part of the country," Ketkar added.

The movement's current leaders are doing everything they can to ensure it survives, Gangal added. "Converting books to audio books is one of the options we have at present," he said.

That made a lot of sense to some of the younger people in the audience, who were eager to see more regional-language literature brought onto social media platforms.

"Just like books in English, publishers should work towards making regional literature available in soft copy, on Kindle. That way it would be more accessible to all," said Rishi Bhatnagar, 28, a content writer from Powai.

"Regional literature has been translated into various languages but the essence of Marathi literature lies in the language," added Balchandra More, 55, a retired teacher from Shivaji Park.

"Hopefully regional literature will once again see a revival soon."

### SCHEDULE HIGHLIGHTS: FEBRUARY 7

All events are free and open to all. To view the full schedule, go to [kalaghodaassociation.com](http://kalaghodaassociation.com)

#### HERITAGE WALKS PRESENTED BY BAJAJ ELECTRICALS

Skoda presents The Architectural Jewels and The Queen's Necklace: Walk around the green open space that links the 19th and 20th centuries and celebrate what was once called the Esplanade, a green lung that became a fantastic setting for a transition in urban composition from Victorian Gothic to Art Deco ensemble. Conducted by: Kruti Garg, Sanaya Vandrewala and Neha Parulekar. Meeting point: Regal Circle; Assembly time: 4.15pm

#### FOOD FESTIVAL POWERED BY BERTOLLI

Bajaj Electricals presents Back to Basics - Cooking with Ayurveda, a session with Amrita Rana. At Wisk, from 5pm to 6pm  
Bertolli presents a healthy culinary ride with celebrity chef Gautum Mehrishi. At Westside, from 6.30pm to 7.30pm

#### CINEMA FESTIVAL PRESENTED BY &PRIVE

Poorna (Feature; Hindi): The true story of how a 13-year-old Adivasi from Telangana became the youngest girl to climb Mount Everest. Followed by an audience interaction with director Rahul Bose. At the Coomaraswamy Hall, CSMVS, from 3pm to 5.30pm  
Kadvi Hawa (Feature; Hindi): A film on true stories from Bundelkhand, Odisha and Chambal region of Rajasthan. At BNHS, from 2pm to 3.40pm

#### URBAN DESIGN & ARCHITECTURE

Explore design, interiors and domesticity with Zameer and Ayaz Basrai of the Busride Design Studio and Roohad Shroff of RS A+D, at Max Mueller Bhavan, from 8.30pm to 9.30pm

NOTE: Events that were scheduled to be held at Cross Maidan have been moved as follows: Food workshops will be held at Westside; music performances at the Horniman Circle gardens; and dance performances at the HVB Global Academy auditorium at Marine Drive. Please refer to the website for the full updated schedules.



### overheardatkgaf

#### DATE NIGHT

The screening of the documentary Lyari Notes was clearly a first date for one young couple, and they left looking visibly happy. As she walked out, the woman turned to her companion and grinned, "I'm happy you convinced me to come to this." He grinned back and replied, "I hope I won't have to wait another year for a second date." Ah, young love...

#### DAD TO THE RESCUE

A woman was scolding her son for not taking 'good photos' of her at the festival, until finally the youngster gave up and began grumbling under his breath about feeling nagged. That was probably not a very smart thing to do. "You know daddy couldn't make it this year. So you better update him on WhatsApp. Send him these photos and let's see what he thinks of them," she shot back. The son immediately dropped his attitude and got to work with his camera phone. Now those are some serious mommy skills, right there.

#### UNINVITED VISITORS

The audience was all ears during an animated discussion at the David Sassoon Library gardens on Tuesday evening, on the need for regional-language literature to be promoted and translated better. Towards the end of the discussion, when one of the panelists asked for a microphone to be passed to a member of the audience, the visitor quipped, "Please pass some mosquito repellent as well!" making for a humorous moment in the midst of a serious talk.



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