

#EVENT

## Splashes of Art

As many as 50 paintings and sculptures of around 25 artists from across the country are on display at the WelcomArt Gallery of ITC Rajputana as a part of the 'Splashes of Art' Exhibition. On till 26 March, the exhibition invites viewers to explore new ways of being and form their own contemplative judgment amidst the exuberant display of art works.



Guests admire the art work by Unvashi Kanwar which are a tribute to her native place, Himachal Pradesh.

**Tusharika Singh**  
Freelancer  
writer and city blogger



Art Work by Kirti Yadav

As a child, it was almost an everyday ritual for me and my family to visit temples and pray. The highlight of my visit to the temples would be the ringing of the bell and the sound of 'ohm'. These calming sounds and vibrations used to fill my body with sheer joy and positivity. These are the emotions that I have translated in my art works," shares Aditi Gemini, an artist from Ahmedabad who has made a series of paintings depicting vibrant temple bells and her spiritual and religious journey.

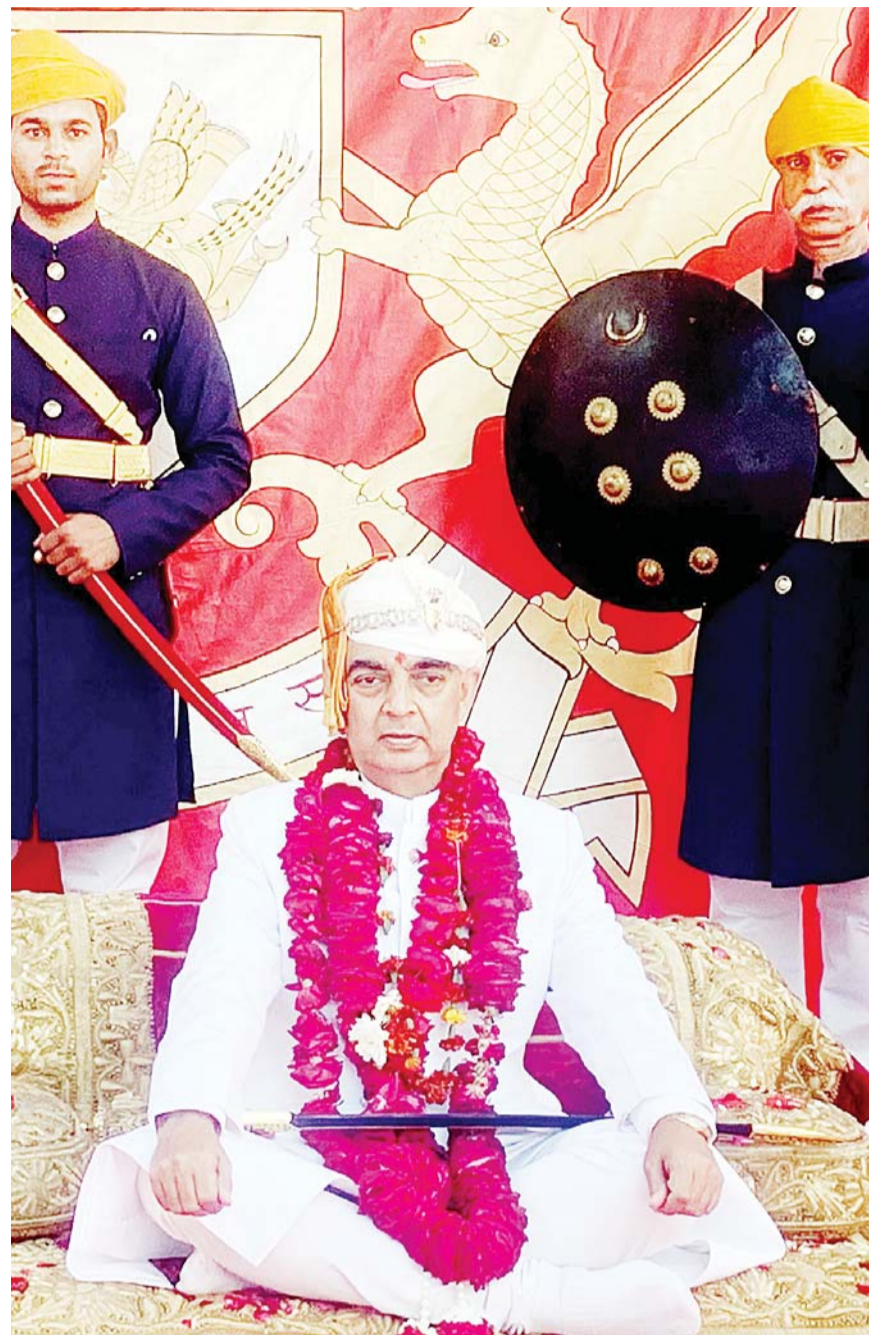


Art work by Atul Gendle

Her works are currently being exhibited at the week-long art exhibition, 'Splashes of Art - A Journey of Aesthetics' being held at the WelcomArt Gallery of ITC Rajputana. Curated by Pallavi Baheti and organized by Hem Rana and Jasbeer Kaur, the exhibition has on display as many as 50 paintings and sculptures of around 25 artists from across the country. Similarly, artist Atul Gendle from Pune also takes inspiration from his childhood days in the village 'Beed' in Maharashtra. His serene landscapes coupled with subtle and earthy tones show how the peace of nature is subjugated by everyday life. Artist Kavita Rathore from Jaipur also showcases her



Art Works by Abhijit Biswas.



MM Iyjaraj Singh the 19th Maharao of Kotah.

According to Randhir Vikram Singh Mandawa, President of the Heritage Hotels Association of India, "The Heritage Tourism movement in India that was spearheaded from Rajasthan has actually enhanced the revival of the old traditions, arts, crafts and music, which had slowly begun to fade away due to lack of patronage. The Royal and feudal families have been continuing to practice and safeguard the age-old traditions, customs or the celebration of festivals, and this was further enhanced once the tourist flow started to throng Rajasthan." He further adds, "The discerning traveller, be it Indian or International, who is able to relive the grandeur and opulent lifestyle through his stay at a deluxe, luxurious heritage palace is incomparable to any other experience he can acquire at a regular – modern, 5 star deluxe property."

**Sanjay Singh Badnor**  
Wonderlust, travel writer  
and an acclaimed photo journalist

"Tradition is not the worship of ashes, but the preservation of fire."

-Gustav

The Rajyabhishek or the anointing ceremony of HH Maharao Iyjaraj Singh held in Kotah recently was a resplendent display of Royal Rituals and pageantry steeped in Rajput tradition. Though India became Independent 75 years ago, yet the private ceremony held at the Rajmahal complex in the city's Kotah-Garh complex was attended by approximately 250 Jagirdars, representing over 50 erstwhile Thikhanas of the former State of Kotah. It evidently reflects that the institution of the ruler or king is still socially relevant and remains sacrosanct even today.

(Retd) Admiral Madhvendra Singh (Ex-Chief of Naval Staff) is of the opinion, "Our traditions and customs have been there for centuries, and I firmly believe that we should continue to maintain them. Kings and Kingdoms, Rajas and Maharajas with their pomp & pageantry have been omnipresent in India since Lord Ram, perhaps that is why Air India chose the 'Happy Maharaja' as its mascot. While our Princes and the nobility, willingly acceded their kingdoms and lands to merge into the Indian Union certainly did not give up their customs and traditions which they believe should be maintained. One such is the Rajyabhishek or the Paag Dastur that signifies the passing of baton from one generation to the next. As the old adage goes 'The King is

## 'Long Live The King'

### ##TRUE TALES

per the norm I offered the Satkar and a Gold Mohur to the newly anointed Maharao. Maharao Saheb returned the Gold Mohur back to me and also offered me a Paan Beeda (Beele nut leaf). The Paan or Beele nut leaf is considered highly auspicious and thus is offered on such special occasions. The other Jagirdars present also all offered the Nazar as per their hierarchical order."

The erstwhile kingdom of Kotah, founded in 1579 AD, was a 17-Gun salute state and amongst the largest of 22 states that comprised pre-independence Rajputana. The Maharao's of Kotah hails from the Hada clan, an off-shoot of the Chauhan dynasty and trace their ancestry to the illustrious Prithviraj Chauhan. In 1948, the state of Kotah was integrated with the Union of India by its last ruler, HH Maharao Bhim Singhji, who signed the instrument of accession of his state into India. Approximately 565 princely states were merged with the Union of India, and as per the constitution they were permitted to retain their titles, accorded special status and privileges along with the entitlement to an annual privy purse that was determined according to the annual revenue generated by the state at that time.

**Constitutional Betrayal**  
In 1971, Indira Gandhi, the then Prime Minister of India, brought about an amendment to the constitution in Parliament by way of the 26th amendment act thereby abolishing the privy purse, titles and all special privileges that had been accorded to the princes. This was a major blow to the Princely class and a constitutional betrayal on the part of the Indian Government who in exchange of their accession to the Privity Purse as well as special privileges, which was incorporated into the Constitution too.

India Gandhi felt the Royals posed a threat to her and tried to smear their reputation by manipulating the media into creating an anti – Royal atmosphere, and even going to the extent of labelling them as anti-democratic. Overnight, the Royals were stripped off their titles, and they started being referred to as ex rulers or former and erstwhile Maharajas by the Press. However, socially the Princes continued to be regarded by the public at large in high esteem, and enjoyed their royal status. Many of them successfully entered politics while others turned hoteliers.



The Raj Tilak of the Late Maharao Brijraj Singhji that took place at the Umed Bhawan Palace on 04th August 1991.

### BABY BLUES



### ZITS



Presentation of the Nazar to Maharao Iyjaraj Singh by the Jagirdars – an indicative of a symbolic acceptance of the Titular Maharao of Kotah. The Kotah Paag worn by the Jagirdars on the occasion of the Raj Tilak ceremony – Tied in its own characteristic style it remains a unique symbol of the culture of Kotah.

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While the 70's was a decade when the country was going through the anti-Royal phase, the Princes were recouping from the sudden jolt of the constitutional betrayal. However, the 80's emerged as the decade of resurgence. Many Royal families converted their palaces and stately homes into luxurious hotels, their imposing forts into museums. In fact, the Royalty of Rajasthan can be called pioneers in promoting the concept of Heritage tourism.

**Embracing the Identity**  
Brijraj Singhji has also been a staunch proponent of the Kotah Paag and always encouraged the people of Kotah to embrace their identity by donning the Paag. The headgear in Rajasthan is associated with regional identification thus the Kotah Paag remains a unique symbol of the culture of Kotah State and its age-old traditions. So, it was particularly heart warming to see that almost all the members of the august gathering attending the Rajtilak at the Kotah-Garh were wearing the Kotah Paag. It could not have been a more befitting a tribute to the Late HH Maharao Brijraj Singhji.

Maharao Brijraj Singhji breathed his last on 28th January 2022, thereafter his son and heir, MK Iyjaraj Singh was anointed the 19th Maharao of Kotah. An alumnus of Mayo College, Iyjaraj Singh graduated from the prestigious Ivy League college - The Brown University, and later pursued MBA from Columbia University in the USA. He has represented Kotah as the Member of Parliament from 2004-2008. His wife Maharani Kalpana Devi is currently a member of the Rajasthan Legislative Assembly representing the Ladpura constituency.

Maharao Iyjaraj Singh strongly believes, "Our traditions and customs are a set of shared beliefs and values that foster a sense of belonging and unity, and defines our identity. They are also a link to our past and constantly remind us of our heritage." | | | |

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After HH Maharao Bhim Singhji's demise his son MK Brijraj Singhji ascended to the Gaddi in the year 1991. An augmentative proponent of social change, Brijraj Singhji entered politics in 1962 and represented the Jhalawar parliamentary constituency for 3 consecutive terms. In 1970, he converted a section of the Historic 13th century Kotah-Garh or the City Palace into a museum and opened its doors to the public. The Rao Madho Singh Museum houses a fine collection of the Royal regalia, arms and armour, textiles and object d'art. Also on display are the world renowned and exquisite, minia-

MM Iyjaraj Singh with son Jaidev Singh.

### World Water Day

Water Day is an annual event that looks at the global issues surrounding access to clean, safe drinking water and sanitation. This year's Water Day is focusing on the link between water and climate change. Water is such a precious commodity that many take for granted. World Water Day is a chance to think about those people and places where water needs are still paramount, and seek to work together to find a solution.

### #MIND&BODY

Human experience is continuous, but psychologists believe, based on observations of people's behaviour, that memories are divided by the brain into distinct events, a concept known as event segmentation.



## How Brain Makes Memories

In a study led by Cedars-Sinai, researchers have discovered two types of brain cells that play a key role in dividing continuous human experience into distinct segments that can be recalled later. The discovery provides new promise as a path toward development of novel treatments for memory disorders such as dementia and Alzheimer's disease.

The study part of a multi-institutional BRAIN Initiative consortium funded by the National Institutes of Health and led by Cedars-Sinai, was published in the peer-reviewed journal Nature Neuroscience. As part of ongoing research into how memory works, Ueli Rutishauser, PhD, professor of Neurosurgery, Neurology, and Biomedical Sciences at Cedars-Sinai, and co-investigators looked at how brain cells react as memories are formed.

**Event Segmentation**  
Human experience is continuous, but psychologists believe, based on observations of people's behaviour, that memories are divided by the brain into distinct events, a concept known as event segmentation. Working with 19 patients with drug-resistant epilepsy, Rutishauser and his team were able to study how neurons perform during this process. Patients participating in the study had electrodes surgically inserted into their brains to help locate the focus of their epileptic seizures, allowing investigators to record the activity of individual neurons while the patients viewed film clips that included cognitive boundaries.

While these boundaries in daily life are nuanced, for research purposes, the investigators focused on 'hard' and 'soft' boundaries. An example of a soft boundary would be a scene with two people walking down a hallway and talking, and in the next scene, a third person joins them, but it is still part of the same overall narrative," said Rutishauser.

In the case of a hard boundary, the second scene might involve a completely different set of people riding in a car. "The difference between hard and soft boundaries is in the size of the deviation from the ongoing narrative," Rutishauser said. "Is it a totally different story, or like a new scene from the same story?"

When study participants watched film clips, investigators noted that certain neurons in the brain, which they labelled 'bound-

ary cells', increased their activity after both hard and soft boundaries. Another group of neurons labelled 'event cells', increased their activity only in response to hard boundaries, but not soft boundaries.

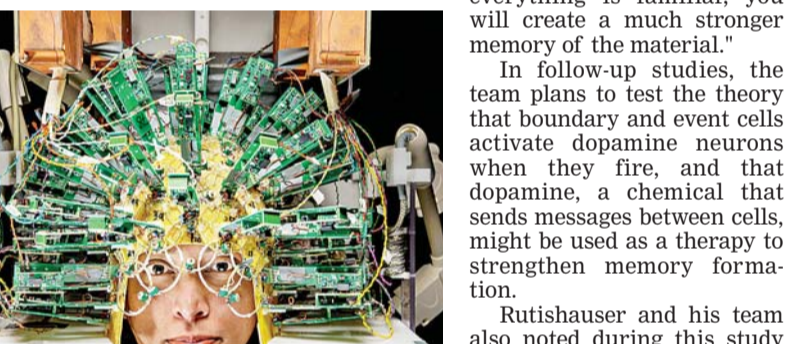
**Mental Time Travel**  
Rutishauser and his co-investigators theorize that peaks in the activity of boundary and event cells-which are highest after hard boundaries, when both types of cells fire-send the brain into the proper state for initiating a new memory. To retrieve memories, the brain uses boundary peaks as what

everything is familiar, you will create a much stronger memory of the material."

In follow-up studies, the team plans to test the theory that boundary and event cells activate dopamine neurons when they fire, and that dopamine, a chemical that sends messages between cells, might be used as a therapy to strengthen memory formation.

Rutishauser and his team also noted during this study that when event cells fired in time with one of the brain's internal rhythms, the theta rhythm-a repetitive pattern of activity linked to learning, memory and navigation-subjects were better able to remember the order of images they had seen. This is an important new insight because it shows that deep brain stimulation that adjusts theta rhythms could prove therapeutic for memory disorders.

"Theta rhythms are thought to be the 'temporal glue' for episodic memory," said Zheng, first author of the study. "We think that firing of event cells in synchrony with the theta rhythm builds time-based links across different memory folders."



Rutishauser calls 'anchors for mental time travel'.

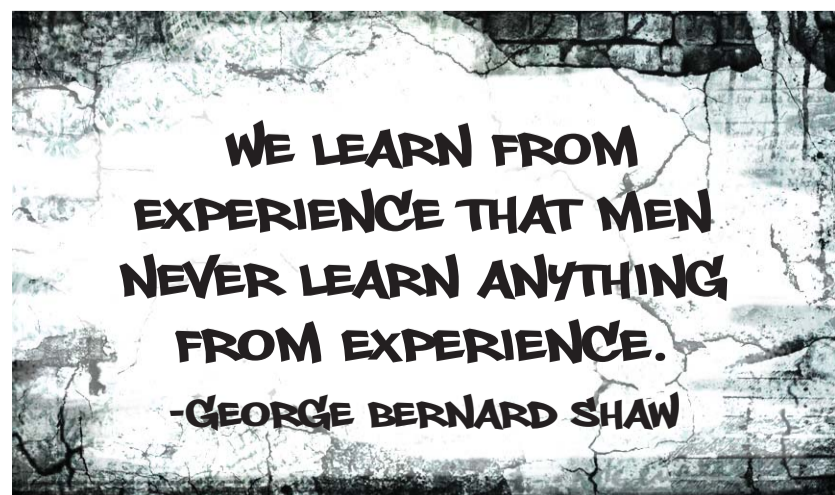
"When you try to remember something, it causes brain cells to fire," Rutishauser said. "The memory system then compares this pattern of activity to all the previous firing peaks that happened shortly after boundaries. If it finds one that is similar, it opens that folder. You go back for a few seconds to that point in time, and things that happened then come into focus."

To test their theory, investigators gave study participants two memory tests.

They first showed participants a series of still images and asked them whether or not they had seen them in the film clips they were



### THE WALL



By Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott

By Jerry Scott & Jim Borgman