



An initiative of CHAUDHARY FOUNDATION

# NEWSLETTER

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Dear UNNATI family and Well Wishers ,

We express our heartfelt gratitude for your unwavering support. Each edition of our newsletter is a testament to our collective efforts, celebrating the accomplishments and the impactful journey we've shared together. We believe in the power of art to connect people, preserve heritage, and inspire change. As we continue our journey, we honor Nepal's rich traditions by nurturing creativity, empowering communities, and celebrating the timeless spirit of craftsmanship.



As the year comes to a close, we extend our heartfelt gratitude to all our supporters for their encouragement and belief in our mission. Wishing you a Happy New Year filled with joy, prosperity, and creativity! Here's to an even more impactful year ahead.

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## DASHAIN & TIHAR UTSAV 2024

26th Oct 2024

The Dashain & Tihar Utsav 2024 at Unnati Cultural Village, Nawalpur, celebrated Nepal's rich heritage and sustainable tourism. Inaugurated by Mr. Baburam Biswokarma and Mr. Chakrapani Kadel, the event featured the art exhibition "Unveiled Visions" (Oct 26–Dec 26), showcasing works by 13 young Nepali artists, and an art competition themed "Breaking Barriers: Women Overcoming Obstacles," with 32 students from 9 schools. Vibrant stalls highlighted traditional crafts, textiles, and festive decor, benefitting 55 artisans and attracting over 200 attendees.

The event was co-partnered by Siddhartha Bank, QFX Cinemas, and CG Beverages.



### ART EXHIBITION "UNVEILED VISIONS"

This group art exhibition aims to encourage, promote, and provide a platform for Nepal's budding contemporary artists. The exhibition explores Nepali modern, exploratory, socio-cultural, traditional, and contemporary art, weaving a compelling visual narrative of everyday life and addressing pertinent issues.





## ART COMPETITION THEMED “BREAKING BARRIERS: WOMEN OVERCOMING OBSTACLES TO ACHIEVE THEIR DREAMS

Throughout history, women have faced numerous societal, cultural, and personal obstacles that sought to limit their potential. Yet, time and again, they have shattered these barriers, showcasing extraordinary resilience, courage, and determination—a sentiment beautifully captured in the students' artwork.



The Utsav continued Unnati's tradition of celebrating the festive season with cultural vibrancy, stalls and community impact.



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## ART AND POTTERY WORKSHOP ON THARU COMMUNITY CULTURE

14th Nov, 2024

An impactful art and pottery workshop was held with the participation of 11 students from the USA, who delved into the lifestyle, culture, traditions, and crafts of the Tharu community. Through their creative expressions, the students reflected these rich experiences in their artwork.

This workshop played a key role in promoting and sharing our cultural heritage, providing a unique platform for cross-cultural exchange while fostering appreciation for the Tharu community's traditions.



## BIO-FERTILIZER TRAINING: TURNING LEAVES INTO LIFE

21st, 22nd Nov, 2024

A transformative Bio-Fertilizer Training was conducted by Mr. Sagar Karki and Ms. Tulasi Gyawali, bringing sustainable agricultural practices to life for 15 community women from Nawalpur. This hands-on training focused on converting organic materials, like fallen leaves and kitchen waste into bio-fertilizers to enhance soil health and agricultural productivity.

This initiative equipped 15 community women with vital skills to improve their livelihoods, foster environmental stewardship, and promote sustainable agriculture. By turning organic waste into eco-friendly fertilizers, these women are contributing to:

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- Environmental Conservation: Reducing chemical inputs in farming.
- Improved Productivity: Enhancing soil health for better crop yields.
- Sustainability: Encouraging long-term, eco-friendly agricultural practices.



This training not only strengthened the participants' capacity for sustainable farming but also underscored the importance of environmental responsibility, creating ripple effects for a greener, more resilient future in the community.

## PRODUCT DESIGN AND DIVERSIFICATION IN NATURAL FIBRE CRAFTS

26th Nov to 06th Dec 2024

From November 26th to December 6th, Unnati Cultural Village hosted a transformative 10-day training on Product Design and Diversification in Natural Fiber Crafts. The training empowered 16 women from the Amaltarai Tharu Hastakala Women Group, equipping them with innovative skills to create sustainable and marketable crafts. Expert trainers Ms. Rajini Chitrakar and Ms. Ganga Biswakarma guided the participants on this enriching journey.

The training introduced participants to the creative use of locally available resources, enabling them to produce high-end products. The program also added value to their existing skills and knowledge, focusing on product diversification, branding, and providing market linkages, ensuring their crafts meet modern market demands.







In the closing program the Honorable Minister of Gandaki Province, Ms. Bindu Poudel's appreciation and encouragement for future collaboration reinforce our commitment to empowering communities.

The key initiate and focus of the training is to empower women with new skills, promoting sustainable craftsmanship, fostering community development and providing market linkage.

### **BRAND IN HANDS PROGRAM FACILITATION**

**23rd Nov 2024**

Unnati Cultural Village proudly facilitated the Brand in Hands program, organized by the BioTechnique Society of Nepal and Robotic Association of Nepal, by providing expert trainers, empower 30 participants with valuable skills.





Ms. Ganga Neharu led a hands-on session on banana fibre extraction and product development, teaching sustainable crafting techniques. Ms. Janaki contributed by providing insights into Entrepreneurship Development, guiding participants on how to turn their skills into thriving businesses.

Empowering participants with sustainable skills and entrepreneurial knowledge to create and promote their own businesses.

## UNNATI'S PARTICIPATION IN EVENTS



Our Teej Stall at Vivanta Kathmandu celebrates women artisans to promote local craftsmanship, and foster sustainable economic growth.



During the festival of lights, Tihar, a special stall showcased beautiful diyas and festive products crafted by the talented local community women



Unnatis stall at Pimbahal during the Kutumba Band performance proudly showcased sustainable crafts, supported local artisans, and engaged an audience passionate about art, culture, and heritage.





Showcasing the remarkable artwork and crafts created by Local Artisan and producer group at the Centre for Asian Philanthropy and Society (CAPS) meeting at Meghauri Serai, Chitwan.



Unnati's participation in Chittaur Kacheheri 2.0 showcased craft products of community women artisans, along with live pottery demonstrations.

## **DISTINGUISHED GUEST VISITS**



During World Tourism Day, we had the distinct honor of welcoming His Excellency G. Rajapaksa, Former President of Sri Lanka, accompanied by Mrs. Ioma Rajapaksa, as well as H.E. Air Chief Marshal Sudarshana Pathirana (Retd) and Mrs. Pathirana, to Unnati Cultural Village. It was a true privilege to host such esteemed guests and share the beauty, culture, and significance of our vibrant space.





We had the privilege of welcoming the Former President of Sri Lanka, Mr. Ranil Wickremesinghe, and his wife, Professor Maithree Wickremesinghe, to Unnati Cultural Village, along with the esteemed Ms. Sarika Chaudhary, Secretary of Chaudhary Foundation.

### **GLIMPSE OF 2024 UNNATI CULTURAL VILLAGE VISITS**

Glimpses of vibrant student visits to Unnati Cultural Village, exploring art, culture, craft, tradition, pottery, ceramics, and museum. A journey of discovery and inspiration!







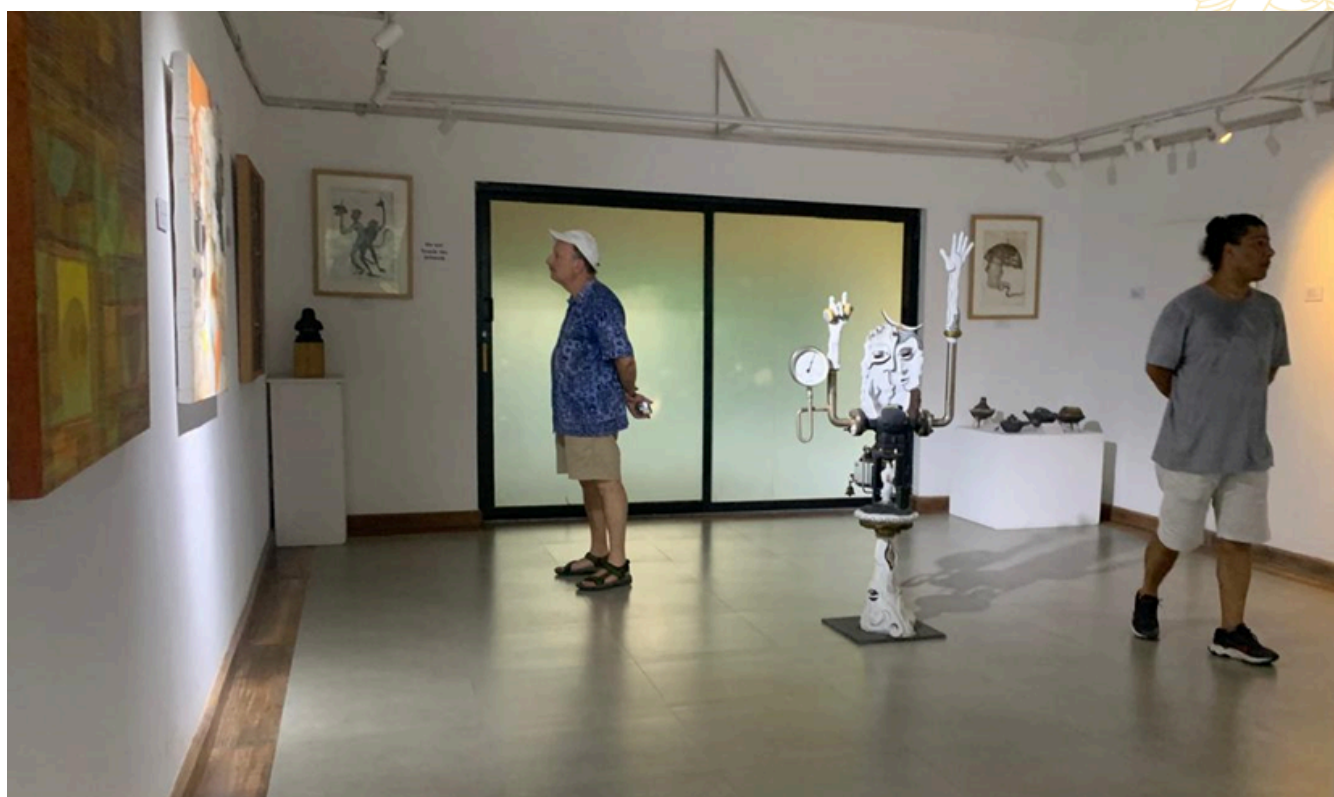
*Mr. Kiran Man Chitrakar visited UCV with the primary goal of showcasing over 100 years of Nepalese photographs.*

*Mr. Vijay GC, Provincial Monitoring and Coordination Specialist from UNDP and members of Green Society Nepal (Initiator of Elephant Dunk Paper crafts) visited Unnati Cultural Village.*





*HAN Nawalpur Chairperson Mr. Santosh Rana, Secretary Mr. Yam Pd. Neupane and Nawalpur Tourism Committee Chair person Mr. Phans Ram Mahato*



Mr. Sally Altschuler, author from Denmark, along with Mr. Rajeev, Founder Director of Kathalaya, enjoyed and were impressed by the art, culture, craft, and sculptures at Unnati Cultural Village.