

## Wall Art Painting, Mehram Nagar Tunnel

### **Brief Bio of Principal Coordinator: Kusum Pandey**

Kusum Pandey is a trailblazer in the world of Indian Fine Arts, notably as the first woman artist from Uttarakhand to be honored with the prestigious Lalit Kala National Akademi Award. Her journey in the realm of art is marked by passion, dedication, and an unyielding commitment to the cultural heritage and natural beauty of India.

Born and raised in the picturesque state of Uttarakhand, Kusum Pandey was always surrounded by nature's splendor, which deeply influenced her artistic inclinations. Her early fascination with the natural world is evident in the meticulous detail and vibrant life she brings to her work. She pursued her formal education in art at the College of Art, Delhi University, where she obtained her Master's Degree in Printmaking Graphics. Her academic journey was not just about mastering techniques but also about finding a voice that could resonate with the environmental and cultural ethos of her homeland.

Kusum Pandey's career is a testament to her versatility and profound connection to the themes of nature and heritage. Over the years, she has showcased her work in numerous national and international exhibitions, each time drawing audiences into the delicate interplay of colors, forms, and textures that define her art. Her ability to capture the essence of natural landscapes and the intricacies of ecological diversity has won her acclaim and admiration from art connoisseurs and environmentalists alike.

One of her most notable accomplishments is receiving the Lalit Kala National Akademi Award, a recognition that underscores her contributions to the field of Fine Arts in India. Beyond this, she has also been instrumental in organizing several international and national art camps and workshops, fostering a community of artists who are passionate about exploring and preserving natural heritage through their work.

- **Theme of the Artwork-** Seven UNSECO Natural Heritage Sites in India
- **Description about the Artwork-** India is an iconic land of natural beauty and ecological diversity. The seven UNSECO Natural Heritage Sites of India have got global recognition because of their diverse and unique biodiversity, ecological importance and geology contributing to global heritage and conservation efforts. These sites are protected to save their ecological significance and cultural importance. These sites offer a glimpse into the rich

natural heritage of India, ranging from high-altitude mountain ranges to lush tropical forests, and they contribute to the conservation efforts towards the global biodiversity.

The seven UNSECO Natural Heritage Sites of India and details about their flora and fauna that has been shown in this mural are:

- 1. Great Himalayan National Park Conservation Area** - Stretching across several countries of South Asia - are renowned for their majestic peaks, diverse ecosystems, and rich biodiversity. The intricate illustrations of the unique plant species found here are shown in this mural. A wide variety of plants and trees that have been depicted have been divided into two parts:
  - 1.** The Lower elevations feature dense forests of pine, oak, and rhododendron. As one ascends, these give way to alpine meadows adorned with a diverse array of wildflowers.
  - 2.** On the high-altitude they have shown as mosses and lichens.  
The team has shown animal species coexisting in harmony like Snow leopard, Himalayan blue sheep (bharal), Himalayan tahr, and musk deer. The vibrant and majestic bird species like the Himalayan monal (the national bird of Nepal), blood pheasant, and various species of eagles and vultures have also been shown beautifully.
- 2. Nanda Devi National Park and Valley of Flowers-** The site consists of two core areas Nanda Devi National Park and Valley of Flowers National Park. The unparalleled and iconic beauty of the Nanda Devi Peak and the flowering paradise that is the Valley of Flowers, are the reasons why the site is also one of the most visited in the country. Known for spectacular mountain wilderness and scenic meadows. Rich in endemic flora, especially alpine flowers, and diverse fauna.
- 3. Keoladeo National Park (Rajasthan)-** is famous for its diverse birdlife and rich biodiversity. The mural shows the famous animals like the Spotted Deer, Nilgai, and Wild Boar that are found in this area. The beautiful flora and fauna that has painted includes water lilies, lotus flowers, and reed beds. The iconic bird species of this area such as the Siberian Crane, Sarus Crane, Painted Stork, and Indian Peafowl have been shown beautifully showcasing

the migratory and resident bird species that make the park a birdwatcher's paradise.

- 4. Western Ghats-** is a mountain range along the western coast of India known for its rich biodiversity. The Western Ghats are a hotspot of biodiversity and conservation efforts are crucial to protect this unique ecosystem. A diverse range of animals including the Bengal Tiger, Indian Elephant, Indian Gaur, Nilgiri Tahr, Lion-tailed Macaque, Malabar Giant Squirrel, and the Malabar Pit Viper. Some notable fauna include the Malabar Gliding Frog, Malabar Tree Toad, and the Malabar Spiny Dormouse. Birds: The region is a paradise for birdwatchers with over 500 species of birds. Some of the famous birds found in the Western Ghats include the Malabar Trogon, Nilgiri Wood Pigeon, Malabar Parakeet, Nilgiri Pipit, and the Great Hornbill. Flora found in the Western Ghats include the Nilgiri Tahr, Neelakurinji (*Strobilanthes kunthiana*) which blooms once in 12 years, and various species of orchids, rhododendrons, and medicinal plants.
- 5. Kaziranga National Park -** is located in the north-eastern state of Assam. It is home to the largest population of the Indian one-horned rhinoceros, as well as a wide variety of flora and fauna such as the greater adjutant stork and the Bengal florican.
- 6. Manas Wildlife Sanctuary -** is in the state of Assam. It is known for its rich biodiversity and unique ecosystem that supports a wide variety of flora and fauna. This sanctuary has wide range of species including mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians, and plants. The park's diverse habitats such as grasslands, forests, wetlands, and rivers support this rich variety of flora and fauna. Through this mural the artist wants to highlight the unique features of endangered species like: Indian Rhinoceros, Asian Elephants. Birds like Great Hornbill, Bengal Florican, White-winged Wood Duck have been beautifully shown in the mural. Sal Trees, Water Lilie have also been shown.
- 7. Sundarban National Park-** located in the delta region of West Bengal, is a unique and biodiverse ecosystem renowned for its mangrove forests and rich wildlife. The famous animals, birds, flora, and fauna of Sundarbans have been shown to educate and inspire visitors about the importance of this

fragile ecosystem. The mural highlights the resilience of the mangrove ecosystem and the diverse species that thrive in this dynamic environment. Iconic species such as the Royal Bengal Tiger, Estuarine Crocodile and Spotted Deer have been shown. The Colorful and diverse bird species like the White-bellied Sea Eagle, Kingfishers, Herons, and Ospreys have also been shown. The intricate root systems of mangrove trees, vibrant flowers like Sundari and Gewa, and unique species like the Sundri tree crab have also been beautifully shown.

- **Location of the Artwork** - Mehram Nagar Tunnel
- **Principal Artist (Coordinator)** - Smt. Kusum Pandey along with Dr. Maninder Singh Dhunna, Shri Papil Mann, Shri. Priyom Talukdar
- **Name of Team Members (No.40)** – Radha Singh, Meenu Rani, Khasti Palari, Vertika Dubey, Priya Singh Suryavanshi, Ritika Bhatt, Jyoti Shri, Shanu Sharma, Rashmi Arya, Sapna Kuniyal, Sucheta, Anjali Meena, Aparna Paneru, Deepak Kumar Rai, Bheem Singh, Ajay Baidh, Adarsh Yadav, Shivam, Virender Nath, Nitin Kohli, Tribhuwan Singh Negi, Chhuttan Lal Meena, Chetan Joshi, Anil Nayak, Avinash Chandra Pal, Khilanand Mandavi, Anmol Goel, Devender Suryavanshi, Vishal Kumar, Kaveesh Nabiyal, Bhupendra Singh, Ravi Paikra, Rohan Narayan, Bipesh Chandra, Keshav Patel, Ujjwal Khushwaha, Shivay, Rituraj Singh, Govind Paikra
- **Technical Support** - Manoj Pandey