



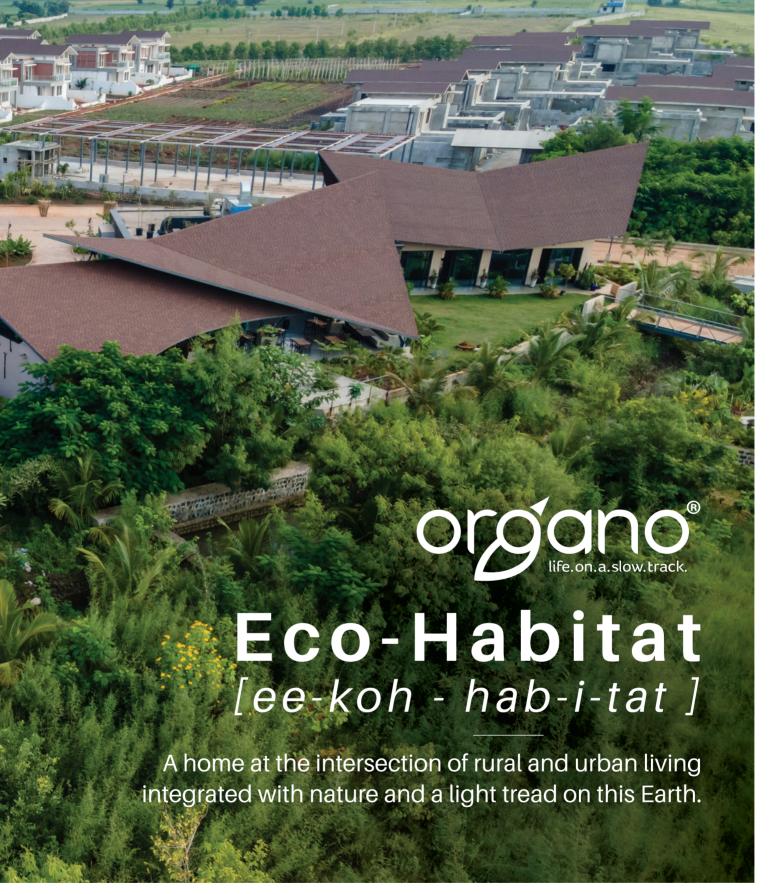
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Contents

nightlife

PEOPLE



WOW! INTERVIEWS BREAKOUT STAR ASHIKA RANGANATH, who is making waves across south cinema with her ability to balance glamor roles with those of a women of substance



WOW! VISITS AN ANCIENT TEMPLE that has been maintained by Wanaparthy royal family, and where Aditi Rao got married recently



WATERING HOLES TERRASO SKYBAR AND **HOIST OPEN** and we give you all the deets from food, ambiance and drinks

LOOKS LIKE READING IS OUTDATED. Our editor pens a thoughtful editorial on how the reading culture has evolved and why it is necessary to nurture all things cerebral. In Startup, we meet a young team doing their bit to safeguard the environment. In Cause, we introduce an initiative that reduces waste. In Sports, read about the young shooter who overcame physical challenges to make his mark

DO YOU WANT TO LEARN **BAKING OR ARE YOU LOOKING** FOR SOME MUCH-NEEDED **DANCE THERAPY?** We round up some great options for you

ALL THAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT THE CITY'S ART, cultural and social scene this month

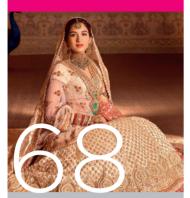


WE CHECK OUT SOME EXCELLENT PLACES FOR **GREAT GRUB – A CHIC BAKERY INSPIRED BY DANISH BAKES**, a time-honored destination for all things sweet in Sindhi Colony or a new adda for Turkish food among others, so that you can plan your next great meal!

CHECK OUT SOME OF THE BEST NEW **HAUNTS FOR** SHOPPING THAT HAVE **OPENED LATELY.** A store that stocks bespoke luxury goods to custommade Indian wear and quirky stationery amongst others. We visit them so you know what to expect when you drop in



TRENDS



WHAT HAVE BEEN THE BIG FASHION MOMENTS THIS YEAR? From stunning moments to amazing clothes, feast on some eye candy that made a splash in 2024

64 LIVING

IT IS EVERYONE'S FANTASY TO LIVE IN A SANCTUARY AWAY FROM THE CITY'S HUSTLE-BUSTLE. We find out someone who does — and give you the story of a house that is built around a courtyard. Also, we talk to design expert Sunita Kohli to understand the new tidings in interior design

70 arts

THE INDIAN PHOTO FESTIVAL (IPF)
IS BACK FOR ITS TENTH EDITION
and has a stellar line-up of
great photographers from
across the world, apart from
interesting talks and workshops

62 WELLNESS

A SPA THAT SPECIALIZES IN HYDRA-FACIAL TREATMENTS, an enterprising duo selling healthy drinks to morning walkers; a sanctuary that transforms your body and soul; and fitness tips from an expert – we got you covered for all things healthy



ENTERTAINMENT

74



IF YOU ARE CURIOUS ABOUT THE BIG MOVIE AND OTT RELEASES THIS MONTH, WE HAVE YOU COVERED. We enlist the hot and happening shows so that you have the info handy. Also, learn about the latest gupshup in the movie world along with the must-read books launched this month



A ROUND UP OF THE HOT PARTIES THIS SEASON and the hip folks who attended it



FOCUS

WHAT DOES A MODERN-DAY COUPLE WHO ARE ENTERING INTO A LIFETIME OF COMMITMENT WANT? From designers to décor and *mehndi* to venue, we got them all covered so that you get the one-stop wedding guide to help plan your perfect wedding



ON THE COVER
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this month

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Our guide to the exciting happenings in town

QADIR ALI BAIG THEATRE FESTIVAL NOVEMBER 6 TO 10



The nineteenth edition of Hyderabad's and South India's iconic theater event, the **Qadir Ali Baig Theatre Festival** offers performances, master classes and workshops for theater and performing arts lovers. It's a tribute to theater legend Qadir Ali Baig by his son actor Padmasri Mohammad Ali Baig.

EVENTS AT THE FESTIVAL

VITTHAL KAANYA (ENGLISH/ HINDI) NOVEMBER 6

Ashish Vidyarthi's stand-up comedy act aims to take audiences through life's highs and lows.

Show Timings: 7.30 pm

MIRACLE ON MATUNGA STREET (HINDI) NOVEMBER 7

A satire adapted from *Miracle on South Division Street* a Tom Dudzick play, featuring Ila Arun and KK Raina.

Show Timings: 7.30 pm

FARIDA (HINDI) NOVEMBER 8

Nadira Babbar's *Farida* is a poignant love story set in Kashmir, (by Ekjute Theater group Mumbai).

Show Timings: 7.30 pm

HELIOS (ENGLISH) NOVEMBER 9

International award-winning storytellers Alexander Wright and Phil Grainger from the UK turn the ancient Greek tale into a modern-day myth.

Show Timings: 5 pm

THYAGARAJA HRUTH SADHANA (TELUGU) NOVEMBER 9

A confluence of theater, music and dance that envisions the essence of Rama, the cherished dweller within Thyagaraja's devout heart (by Chithkala School of Dance, Bengaluru).

Show Timings: 7.30 pm



A VISUAL TREAT NOVEMBER 7

If you are inclined towards spirituality and dance and *natyashastra*, witness the grand **Ekam Ardhanarishwaram 6.0** - a multilingual dance journey from form to formlessness of Shiva Shakti through the *Sthala Puranas* of Kashi, Tuljapur, Madurai, Kolkata and Alampur.

Venue: Ravindra Bharathi, Lakdikapul Timings: 2 pm onwards Ticket: Rs 200 onwards (bookmyshow.

JEENA ISI KA NAAM HAI (HINDI) NOVEMBER 10

Featuring Himani Shivpuri and Rajendra Gupta, the play is inspired by Arbuzov's original Russian play 'Do You Turn Somersault'. It revels in a delicate relationship and new prospects that old age holds.

Show Timings: 5 pm

MYSTICAL FRAGRANCE -AN ODE TO MOTHERHOOD (ENGLISH/URDU) NOVEMBER 10

Watch classical singer and musician Zila Khan in concert with Mohammad Ali Baig and Dolly Thakore reciting poetry of renowned Indian and international poets like Ali Sardar Jafri, Edgar Allan Poe and Rudyard Kipling.

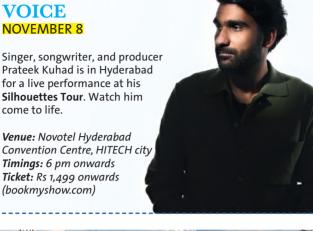
Show Timings: 7.30 pm

Venue: All the events at Taramati Baradari, Hyderabad Tel: 93913 36181 Tickets: Available on Bookmyshow

SOULFUL VOICE

Prateek Kuhad is in Hyderabad for a live performance at his Silhouettes Tour. Watch him come to life.

Venue: Novotel Hyderabad Convention Centre, HITECH city Timings: 6 pm onwards Ticket: Rs 1,499 onwards





NATURE WALK **NOVEMBER 10**

Take an environmentally conscious getaway at Arbor Road Estate. The nature walk will include, forest bathing, the exploration of the flora fauna in the bio-diverse zone which once was a barren land, and also walks along village roads crossing paddy fields to the neighboring Wargal lake.

Venue: Arbor Road Estate, Guntepalli Village, Wargal Mandal

Tel: 90592 22612

Timings: 6.30 am to 9.30 am

Ticket: Rs 600 per head (includes breakfast), Rs 300 for kids

(5-11 years)



COMIC CON IS BACK! **NOVEMBER 15 TO 17**

Clear your schedule for the ultimate comic book geek extravaganza with the return of Comic Con India. Promising to be bigger than ever, the big three-day event is slated to feature some of the best cosplayers from India and across the globe. It well feature exclusive merchandise, immersive experiences and international and Indian artists like Josh Baylock, Indusverse, Lilorosh, Corporate Comics among more.

Venue: HITEX Exhibition Center, Izzathnagar

Timings: 11 am onwards

Ticket: Rs 899 onwards (insider.in)

PUNJABI NOVEMBER 30

Punjabi superstar Guru Randhawa is all set to visit Hyderabad as part of his Indian Tour. Guru Randhawa - Moon Rise Tour, Brace vourself for the fun-filled event that promises electrifying performances exclusive setlists and surprise fan interactions.

Venue: Aahwanam Resort, Gandipet Timings: 6 pm onwards Ticket: Rs 499 onwards (bookmyshow.com)





CANDLELIGHT MUSIC CONCERT

NOVEMBER 15

Candlelight: A Tribute to Coldplay, promises a live, multi-sensory musical experience. Take a walk down memory lane and recapture the spirit of the early aughts with Coldplay's iconic songs under the glow of candlelight.

Venue: Radisson Blu Plaza Hotel, Banjara Hills

Timings: 5 pm onwards

Ticket: Rs 1,399 onwards (liveyourcity.com)

this month

MANAM THEATRE FESTIVAL

NOVEMBER 15 TO DECEMBER 15

After last year's triumphant success, Manam Theatre Festival is back for the second edition of celebration of performing arts with troupes from across the country and abroad. Presented by The We Us Collective (an Almond House Foundation initiative). Passes are available on Zomato Insider.

HERE'S WHAT YOU CAN EXPECT AT THIS YEAR'S FESTIVITIES:

- Shows at multiple venues The We Us House, NIFT Auditorium, Rangbhoomi Spaces, Glendale Academy; Five visiting troupes; and 24 performances over five weekends.
- · Fringe events during the week, which include panel discussions and theater workshops by visiting troupes.
- Performances in multiple languages for diverse audiences.
- · Collaboration with 'Hyderabad Children's Theatre Festival' for a week of performances.
- "Welcome Home" a day filled with arts and community-building activities to inaugurate The We Us House.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE FESTIVAL

PROJECT DARLING by **NIRDIGANTHA** (KANNADA, BENGALURU) **NOVEMBER 17**

The play traces the journey of a group of performers who set out on a search for their ancestry - women performers on whose shoulders their work stands. In their search, they hear about the legend of Chenni. While trying to find her, they meet several other actresses who have their own stories to share.

Directed by: Sharanya Ramprakash; Cast: Matangi Prasan, Shobhana Kumari, Shrunga BV, Shashank Rajashekar and Surabhi Vasisht

Venue: NIFT, Madhapur Timings: 4 pm and 8 pm

NIDRAVATHWAM by ADISHAKTI THEATRE (ENGLISH, PUDUCHERRY) **NOVEMBER 23**

The play brings timeless Ramayana characters into focus, exploring how their mystical boons become unintended curses. Kumbakarna and Lakshmana, brothers to the two protagonists of the



Ramayana, are connected by boons that dramatically alter their cycles of sleep and wakefulness.

Directed by: Nimmy Raphel; Cast: Nimmy Raphel Venue: NIFT, Madhapur Timings: 4 pm and 8 pm

INDIE ROCK NOVEMBER 23

American Pride Soda presents a thrilling concert series with one of India's most dynamic indie rock bands, Thaikkudam **Bridge**. Get ready for a musical journey where genres blend seamlessly, and the energy is off the charts.

Venue: Odeum by Prism, Financial District Timings: 8 pm onwards Ticket: Rs 499 onwards (bookmyshow.com)

URMILA by ADISHAKTI THEATRE (ENGLISH, PUDUCHERRY) **NOVEMBER 24**

A play that delves into the complex ethical and gender-related issues that have been woven into the fabric of society throughout history. Set in the

ancient land of Ayodhya, the play centers on the Ramayana character Urmila, a woman whose life is dramatically altered by a seemingly innocuous command from her husband, Lakshmana.

Directed by: Nimmy Raphel; Cast: Nimmy Raphel, Sooraj S, Vinay Kumar

Venue: NIFT, Madhapur Timings: 4 pm and 8 pm

THE GENTLEMEN'S CLUB by PATCHWORKS ENSEMBLE (ENGLISH, MUMBAI) **NOVEMBER 30**

The play invites the audiences to enter Mumbai's pulsating underground club scene and follow the exhilarating lives of the city's drag kings, headlined by the enigmatic Rocky, also known as Shammsher. Rocky's act is a tribute to the legendary Shammi Kapoor and the golden era of Hindi cinema.

Directed by: Sheena Khalid and Puja Sarup

Venue: NIFT, Madhapur Timings: 4 pm and 8 pm

Ticket: Passes available at Zomato Insider Website: manamtheatrefestival.com

If you'd like your event listed in the WOW! events' calendar, please mail it to wowhyderabad2023@gmail.com for the following month, before the 20th.



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FROM THE EDITOR

Does Anyone Read Anymore?



We have no comparable statistics in India, but a recent report released in USA said that reading levels among adults in the country had fallen by almost 50 per cent since the 70s. Fewer adults had read anything like a work of fiction for pleasure in the preceding year. If it's this dismal among adults one can only guess how the reading levels have fallen in schools, and children can barely put words together or string a sentence. In major colleges, even those who do courses in English literature, a New York Times article said, balked at the idea of reading a whole Jane Austen novel leave alone all of her works.

For me personally, reading has been a major pleasure, and I remember how in high school I had this goal of reading one classic a week, as a result of which I rapidly ran out of books, since there were no public and school libraries in the Hyderabad I grew up in, from where we could borrow books. A major place I remember raiding for books was the Secunderabad Club Library that to this day is a well-kept secret (as few, except the older lot visit the library to browse

and borrow). With no bestseller lists or recommendations that we have these days, I would go through row upon rows of books to come by serendipity on novels that have stayed with me over the years. This is how I picked my all-time favorite book, Michael Ondatje's, English Patient. I was as moved by the various levels at which the novel shifted, as its evocative language. Of course, I subsequently met Ondatje at the Jaipur Lit Fest and told him how I like to read a page from his book every morning as a form of prayer.

Social media is a colorful and addictive world, I agree (if I don't stop myself, I too tend to get drowned in scrolling endlessly to read all sorts of useless information). But we need to realize, reading quick, click-bait, funny notes on insta cannot be considered, "reading"

I am saying all this not because I want to prove I read, but the joy it brings me, the worlds it opens, and the people so unlike me that I meet. I am also saying this because so many friends I know, very proudly declare that they don't like reading or that they don't have the patience to go through a 300-page novel! I guess we are so busy with our careers and housework, (for many of us, social commitments as well) that we have little time to pick up a book and bury ourselves in it. Which may not be entirely true as we have to admit, we all have any amount of time to scroll social media, and read the short notes. Social media is a colorful and addictive world, I agree (if I don't stop myself, I too tend to get drowned in scrolling endlessly to read all sorts of useless information). But we need to realize, reading quick, click-bait, funny notes on insta cannot be considered, "reading".

It's been suggested in countries across the world that youngsters should not be given smartphones. I feel, even we as adults should limit our cell phone usage. More damage has been wrought to our cognitive abilities by smartphones than any other single device in the world.

Even a decade ago, we had lots of time to read, not just books but newspapers. These days, we folks in the media are singing the dirge of the newspaper and magazines for this very reason, that no one wants to read a paper or a magazine. Kids will say they get all the news on their phones but how do we tell them the pleasure of reading the daily newspaper that is flung at the gate by a fast-moving newspaper boy? And mostly we would read papers along with a steaming cup of hot filter coffee. For me morning coffee and the smell of newsprint are synonymous, as it is to many in my generation.

One of the nicest things in the US are the ubiquitous public libraries in each county. Sadly, it's mostly the elderly who hang around these libraries, though I do see storytelling sessions of the young, as a way of drawing them to reading. Even in kindergarten schools they now have little libraries where kids are encouraged to have their cards to borrow a book to read at home!

In India of course, we are prouder of making our kids computer literate than 'literate'. I guess it has upended the skills of one whole generation, but we are finding more and more people not able to read bills, tax receipts, leave alone a simple item of news. How dangerous this would be, if a whole generation ended up not reading, and is brainwashed with dangerous ideas.

Happily, in Hyderabad too, I see recent, and growing trend towards book clubs. A unique group has sprung recently, called Hyderabad Reads, which meets at KBR and other parks for an hour where people are encouraged to bring their books and read quietly. Lot of people may think it's a waste of a Saturday evening, but at least a few of them are reading without distractions. And for the sheer pleasure of reading. Which is what it has always been for me.

■ RATNA RAO SHEKAR





START-UP

Innovative compostable bags transforming the packaging landscape

Pioneering a plastic-free future



With the aim of combating the global plastic crisis, **BioReform** emerged as a beacon of hope, offering solutions that balance functionality, affordability, and eco-friendliness.

BIOREFORM'S BACKSTORY

The spark for BioReform was ignited on August 15, 2019, during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Independence Day speech, where he emphasized making India free from single-use plastics by 2025. Azhar Mohiuddin, founder, BioReform, recalls that moment as a turning point, "I knew then that if the government is taking such steps, we must contribute as responsible entrepreneurs." However, despite growing awareness, bans on plastics were failing globally due to a lack of viable alternatives that were both eco-friendly and affordable. Realizing that common substitutes like cloth and paper were unsustainable, BioReform set out to create a better solution – one that was functional. affordable, and truly eco-friendly.

THE JOURNEY SO FAR

The COVID-19 pandemic posed significant challenges for many businesses, but for BioReform, it was an opportunity. With time on their hands during the lockdown, Azhar took bold steps to lay the groundwork for the company. They traveled to Gujarat, even during travel restrictions, to source machines and equipment. "We didn't

know much about manufacturing or the machines we needed," says Azhar, "but we learned as we went, facing each challenge head-on." Their persistence paid off, and BioReform began its journey, using corn waste and biopolymers to produce affordable compostable bags.

THE IMPACT AND GROWTH

Since its inception, BioReform has made a significant impact. They have replaced over six million plastic bags with eco-friendly alternatives, over a span of 24 months.

The company offers a sustainable and cost-effective solution for businesses

looking to transition away from plastic. This impact, however, goes beyond numbers. The Founder highlights, "Every bag we produce means one less plastic bag entering our oceans, landfills, or bloodstreams. Our success is measured in the lives and environment we protect."

FUNDING AND INCUBATION

In terms of growth, BioReform received crucial support through funding from the Edventure Park incubator program, securing approximately 1 crore rupees. This funding helped the company scale its operations, purchase essential machinery, and expand its reach. The team's innovative thinking and streetsmart instincts have driven them to grow, positioning BioReform as a leader in sustainable packaging.

LOOKING AHEAD

As BioReform looks toward the future, Azhar and his team are committed to expanding their product line and increasing production. They aim to make compostable packaging the norm, not the exception. With a strong team, including key contributors like Abdul Rab, Rehan, Abdul Kareem in operations, the media duo Ikram and Shoaib Khan and the factory guys, BioReform is well-positioned to lead the way towards a greener future, one bag at a time.

MALLIK

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CAUSE

A sustainable Initiative that leverages steel utensils for community events

Use, wash, repeat



In a bid to reduce plastic pollution, the Utensils Bank of Hyderabad offers a simple yet impactful solution: free, reusable utensils for community events.

Plastic pollution has become a global crisis, and while many of us are aware of the problem, few people take tangible steps to combat it. Hyderabad-based classical dancer and educator **Prerna Agrawal** is one of those few people trying to work on it. Prerna's journey started in Goa in 2018, where she first launched the Utensils Bank of Goa. It is a not-for-profit community service aimed at reducing plastic waste by offering reusable utensils for free. Inspired by the success there, she extended the idea to Hyderabad.

COMMUNITY-LED SUSTAINABILITY

This initiative is a part of her broader mission to contribute to a greener, more sustainable Hyderabad. With the city's festivals, weddings, and community gatherings often generating tons of single-use plastic waste, Prerna saw an opportunity to make a difference.

"The idea came from the sheer volume of plastic plates, cups, and spoons that are used in every small gathering. Even if it's just 100 people, that's 100 plates, 100 glasses, and all of that goes straight to the dump. The waste created in one event can be staggering, and I knew we had to find an alternative"

Prerna explains.

The Utensils Bank of Hyderabad is stocked with 100 dinner plates, 200 bowls, 100 glasses, 50 small plates for snacks, and 100 spoons. Residents can borrow these utensils for their parties and return them after use, at no cost. "We just ask that people clean the utensils and bring them back so they're ready for the next event," says Prerna.

GROWING IN LEAPS AND BOUNDS

In just two and a half years, the initiative has made a significant impact. During the recent Ganesh festival, a local colony used the utensils for nine days, saving between Rs 25,000 to Rs 30,000 in disposable costs. The response has been overwhelmingly positive, with more communities joining in the effort to reduce plastic waste.

"People are realizing that this is not just about saving money — it's about reducing the enormous environmental impact of disposables," Prerna points out. "If more colonies adopt this, we can reduce so much waste."

The concept of a Utensils Bank may be simple, but it addresses a massive issue – overconsumption of single-use plastics. It offers an accessible solution that encourages community involvement, sustainability, and responsible consumption.

"It's not about starting a franchise," she clarifies. "I encourage people to start their own utensils banks within their communities. This isn't something I want to control – it's something I want to see spread."

WHAT YOU CAN DO

You can join hands with them and start your own utensil bank in your community.

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SPORTS

Mastering the art of focus and precision, this young Air Rifle Shooter continues to break records

SHOOTING STAR

At only 22, Hyderabad-born Air Rifle Shooter Dhanush Srikanth has set the bar impressively high with his achievements thus far. The continued gold medal haul casts a spotlight not only on athletic prowess but more importantly on the resilience of a young man with a hearing impairment who remains undeterred from his goals — a testament to the human spirit.

FORMATIVE YEARS

His love for sports started in his formative years. "Running and Long Jump were my favorites," he shares through his mother, Asha Srikanth. Despite being born with a hearing impairment (for which he wears a cochlear implant) Dhanush was never made to feel any different. He went to a regular school and participated in various sports activities, including Taekwondo, bringing home several medals.

Additionally, he showed interest in shooting even as a child, as Asha shares, "He used to shoot toy guns at home as a kid. He would hang a target on the door and shoot for hours."

GUNNING FOR GLORY

It was when London Olympic Bronze medalist Gagan Narang's Gun for Glory Shooting Academy opened in Trimulgherry in 2015 that Dhanush joined and really got into professional shooting. He was mentored by Gagan Narang and expert rifle Coach Neha Chavan on his journey to reach the pinnacle. Reflecting on when he first learned of Dhanush's situation, Gagan shares, "I was initially in a dilemma and started thinking how we would overcome this challenge. We eventually developed a shooting sign language to communicate with Dhanush."

BREAKING WORLD RECORDS

Among his numerous accomplishments, Dhanush has won gold in the 2019 *Khelo* India Games, making him the first deaf person to win a medal there. In 2019 at the Asian Championship in Doha, he won three gold medals in the able body category, followed by a team gold medal in the 2021 ISSF Junior World Championship in Lima, Peru.

Dhanush also became the first Indian athlete to win a gold medal at the Deaflympics in 2022, held in Brazil. And in 2024, he won a hat-trick of golds in the 10-meter Air Rifle events at the World Deaf Shooting Championships in Hanover, Germany. He broke the world record in qualification with a score of 632.7 and set yet another world record with a total of 251.7 in the 10-meter Individual Men's Air Rifle event.

DIET AND FITNESS ROUTINE

Dhanush avoids "junk food" and sticks to vegetarian food when he is at home.



Additionally, his daily fitness routine includes a one-hour exercise which mostly involves yoga in the mornings and S&C (Strength and Conditioning) exercise in the evenings.

VISION FOR THE FUTURE

"Dhanush was training for the Paris 2024 Olympics and even though it did not happen for him, we are happy to see him shift target to the 2028 LA Olympics," Asha reveals. ■ IPSHITA







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people

With over 15 movies in Kannada in the last eight years, actor Ashika Ranganath who debuted in Telugu opposite Nagarjuna in Naa Saami Ranga this year is now making news for her role of a warrior princess in Vishwambara with Chiranjeevi. The enterprising girl talks about her journey

I am a workaholic



This year was special for actor Ashika Ranganath when three top production houses from three movie industries - Telugu, Kannada and Tamil - released her first look posters on her birthday. For a middle-class girl, releases with three superstars - Chiranjeevi in Telugu, Dushyanth in Kannada and Karthi in Tamil, is a feather in her cap.

The 28-year-old actor grew up in Tumkur, Karnataka, in a close-knit family. Her father, a civil contractor, and her mother, a homemaker, encouraged Ashika and her sister, Anusha, to pursue their passions. Dance was a major part of their upbringing, and the two often participated in cultural events

and pageants. Ashika believes that winning the 2014 Fresh Face Contest in college in Bengaluru was the first step to recognition in showbiz.

Her breakthrough came when director Mahesh Babu noticed her pictures on Facebook and cast her in Crazy Boy. "Once I saw how the audience responded to my first film, I knew acting was my calling," she says. Since then, she has starred in a mix of Kannada, Telugu, and Tamil films, enjoying the learning curve that each project brings. After an impressive debut in Telugu this year in Naa Saami Ranga opposite Nagarjuna, all eyes are on Ashika.

HOW DO YOU BALANCE SUCH A HECTIC SCHEDULE?

I am a workaholic! Being busy keeps me active and energized. An average day comprises shoots, workouts, look tests, photo shoots, social media updates and even listening to scripts. All in a day's work!

HOW WAS YOUR EXPERIENCE WORKING FOR THE **TELUGU INDUSTRY?**

It's been amazing! My next Telugu movie Vishwambara is a fantasy film, where I play a warrior princess – this role has been so special, and I even trained in archery for it! The Telugu industry has been so welcoming. The directors and crew are co-operative. By the way, I have learned three Telugu words: Chala istam, Yem maatladutunnaru and Naaku kavali!

WHAT ADVICE WOULD YOU GIVE TO **ASPIRING ACTORS?**

Be ambitious, not desperate; Don't lose your principles while chasing success. Maintain a close circle of well-wishers – family and friends who you can fall back on. ■ MANJU

QUICK TAKE

Three hashtags that define you: #Strong #Adaptable #Confident

Favorite cafes in Hyderabad: I order food rather than visit. I always ask for Andhra Meals from Kakatiya Mess in Ameerpet, Apricot Delight at Spicy Venue and Sweet Buns from Niloufer Cafe, Banjara Hills

Favorite hangout spot:

Durgam Cheruvu Bridge after sunset

A secret talent you have: Not many know I am a multitasker. I can travel overnight but still organize a breakfast meetup with friends within few minutes

Three favourite apps: Cult Fitness, Insight Timer (meditation app) and Snapchat

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At 24MM Best Photography, we approach photography as an art of storytelling. Led by Ashok Bhupathiraju, a photographer known for his celebrity shoots and an eye for exclusivity in weddings, our team crafts each frame to capture the essence of life's most cherished moments. From intimate wedding vows to high-energy fashion scenes, we provide an experience that feels uniquely tailored, elevating each moment with cinematic elegance and timeless depth.

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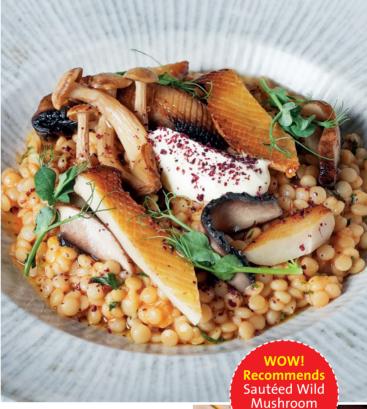
"From 'I Do' to the runway—capturing your story, frame by frame."





food





Couscous

Risotto

Experience a Symphony of Flavors as French Flair Meets Indian Palette

Delight in every bite

One of Hyderabad's gourmet culinary ventures, Nosh Epicure, is all set to carve a niche for itself with its fine food sensibilities. The philosophy of Nosh strives to make food more approachable without compromising on the indigenous palate. The ambience is elegant with clay and terracotta and light on the eyes with warm hues, giving you the perfectly fine dining experience without the fuss!

The young chefs Pehal Sreewastav and Abhishek Thorat, trained at the prestigious Le Cordon Bleu, bring their refined technical skills of cooking French food and intersect them with the ingredients and masalas found in Indian kitchens. The menu crafted by the Michelin star Chef Amit Kumar gives you the thrill of being adventurous with your choices but not wandering too far from what feels safe and familiar.

THE FOOD

Every plate screams fashionably French in its appearance. Here are our top picks from all we tasted. We started with slathering green *thecha* butter, a brilliant mix of flavors, on chunks of crusty bread. Next up was a blend of textures in the delicately crafted Baked Camembert nestled in the perfect flaky, cheesy and pesto seasoned layers of Filo. The Sautéed Wild Mushroom Couscous Risotto truly stole the show; substituting the original arborio short grained rice with pearl Couscous was such a fantastic idea. It truly captures the spirit of experimental cooking that Nosh showcases.

Their twist on a savory donut deserves praise, the pulled Barbacoa Lamb complimented the fluffy texture of the donut

very well. The dessert menu is short and sweet and we look forward to seeing more in this section. Nosh Epicure gives you the perfect opportunity to treat yourself to a meal that narrates a story about flavors new to your palate but in a language we understand. The aesthetics, the food and the philosophy is tour-de-forcel

BEVERAGES

Nosh does not serve alcohol and we didn't miss any as we sipped on Kombucha. The fabulous Pomegranate Fizz made with pomegranate molasses was refreshing and also doubled up as a palate cleanser between courses.

■ SUPRIYA

Meal for Two: Rs 3,000 onwards

Building No. 1, Lumbini Enclave, HITECH City

Tel: 89777 34513

Timings: Lunch - Saturday & Sunday only 12 pm to 3 pm,

Dinner - Tuesday to Sunday 7 pm to 11 pm

A café that prides on its minimalist and eggless artisanal desserts

More than a Cakery

Sozo Cakery & Café has all the right elements which make for a happy café experience. Abundant natural light through the glass facades, a giant neem tree over the atrium ceiling creating the perfect cover of sun and shade, some pretty carved woodwork on the roof panels, greenery in corners and their bakery on the first floor.

"Sozo, means 'create' in Japanese, here we intend to craft artisanal egg-free cakes and desserts with minimalist embellishments. So, when you have

WOW!

Recommend

Mawa Cake

Guava Chilli

Cheesecake.

Avocado

Fries

our cakes, say Mawa or Ginger Berry Compote or Date and Walnut Cake, you will get a taste of exactly those ingredients," shares Prabhjyot Bhargav, pastry chef and co-partner of Sozo.

SHORT EATS, BIG BITES

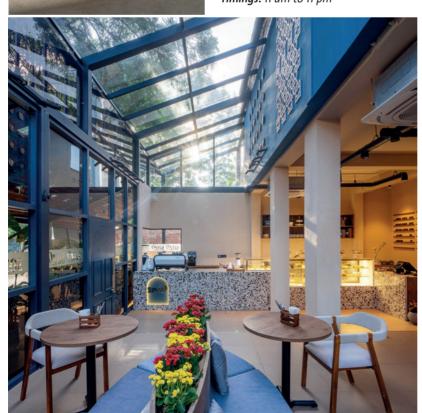
"Here you can have a slice or more of the cake, instead of ordering the whole one," chips in co-partner restaurateur Vishal Lalwani, who has crafted the café menu. "Since Sozo is more than a cakery, we have both short eats and bigger bites like rice bowls on the menu," he adds.

The Avocado Fries are a must-try, fried crisp like tempura, the avocado inside is soft and mushy, paired with a delightful citrus soya dip. We tried the Pesto Cheddar Tomato Baguette, the Rajma Shammi Slider and the Tibetan Manchurian Bowl which were terrific. There are pizzas in thin crust and puff versions, and the Truffle oil & Mushroom ones are recommended. The Guava Chilli Cheesecake is another offbeat dessert offering.

SWATI

Meal for two: Rs 1,500 onwards

Opp HDFC Bank, Asha Hospital Lane, GS Nagar, Road No. 14, Banjara Hills Tel: 90303 33597 Timings: 11 am to 11 pm





QUICK BITES

What's New

CHICKEN TREATS

Glass House - Progressive Kitchen & Cocktail Bar unveiled a new menu. It comprises an innovative KFC pan, a crispy fried chicken surprise, and savors the tangy twist of *Avakai* Oil Fried Rice. For dessert there is Liquid Cheesecake with a nostalgic Osmania biscuit crunch. "Bitter Sweet" and the tropical "Johny Jaggery" are the new signature cocktails.

Tel: 91214 44124

ORIENTAL TOUCHES

Mrs. Mage, the open-air poolside restaurant at . Hyatt Gachibowli has introduced a selection of oriental-inspired dishes including Mrs. Mage Chilli Pork, Gosht Reshedaar kebab, Chitta Butter Chicken, Rampuri Raan, and Szechwan Peppercorn Tiramisu skillfully reimagined with a contemporary twist. "The restaurant draws inspiration from a fictional globetrotter whose worldwide adventures influence each dish on the menu," explains Executive Chef Yogendar Pal.

Tel: 81429 33388

TASTE WITH A TWIST

Tiger Lily Bistro in Jubilee Hills has introduced a new menu, and they are proud of their Italian Bowl with Aubergine Parmigiana, Cheese Wheel Pasta,

Butter Truffle Mushroom Scented *Galouti*, and Grilled Lobster Thermidor. The bistro promises 36 new dishes on the menu. There's Praline Mousse and Berry Dome in the desserts section!

Tel: 91000 76767





Elevated comfort of South Indian dishes that meet culinary creativity

Quick bites and Fine dinning

Cafe Kaadhale, a charming blend of quick bites and fine dining, offers a delightful South Indian feast with a few North Indian and Chinese touches. While the ground floor caters to those looking for quick self-service meals, the first-floor fine dining area provides a more relaxed experience.

SAVOR THE SOUTH

We chose to indulge in the authentic South Indian offerings and were not disappointed. The *Dakshin Bhojanam Thali* was a vibrant array of flavors, from the tangy mix-veg

sambar to the hearty pepper rasam, perfectly complemented by pooris, beerakaya tomato curry, cabbage vepudu, and creamy semiya payasam. The thali also included podi (gunpowder and nalla karam) and pickles like gongura and avakai. Each bite felt homely.

For a lighter snack, the Guntur Karam Ghee Podi Idli offered a spiced kick, while the Venna Cotton Dosa delivered a soft texture, beautifully topped with makhan. The Chitti Masala Ghee Idli was an absolute must-try, packing a punch with every bite. We also tried the Roti Basket with the Veg Madras Railway Curry. The meal was rounded off with a sweet lime soda, perfectly

cutting through the richness of the dishes.

INSIDER'S PICK

Siddhanth, the co-founder, mentioned that while their Dakshin dishes have garnered praise, the Gongura Kaju Pulao and Chettinad Ghee Masala Dosa, paired with their signature filter coffee, remain crowd favorites.

MALLIK

Meal for Two: Rs 700 onwards

Sarojini Devi Road, opp. Clock Tower, Shivaji Nagar, Secunderabad Tel: 88857 01851 Timings: 7 am to 11 pm

WOW! DISCOVERS

Discover the legacy of authentic Gujarati delights in the heart of Hyderabad

Gujarati Goodies

When customers are willing to overlook the lack of modern amenities like parking, digital payments, or online delivery, you know the food must be extraordinary. Mamta Sweets, nestled on the bustling main road of Sindhi Colony, is just that—a modest 200 sq. ft. sweet stall brimming with flavors of Gujarat that are hard to find elsewhere in Hyderabad.

Established by a Gujarati family 55 years ago to serve the city's small but vibrant Gujarati community, Mamta Sweets is famed for its *dhokla, khandvi, khakhra* and other dry snacks. Every day, by 3.30 pm, a fresh batch of sweets and savories is laid out, and it's often sold out within hours. Their *khandvi* served with a refreshing grated carrot salad and coriander chutney is most popular that customers frequently ask for extra salad to pack along. *Samosas, kachoris, ghaati* and *jalebis* also fly off the shelves, thanks to their fresh, authentic flavors.

WORD OF MOUTH ONLY

Despite its popularity, Mamta Sweets hasn't fully embraced the digital age. They prefer cash payments, with online transfers accepted only for larger orders, which sometimes frustrates customers. Additionally, the staff is particular about discouraging photo or video shoots, as they believe it disrupts their work. To enjoy the full experience, the best approach is to park at a nearby supermarket, walk over, and pay in cash to savor all the delightful treats Mamta has to offer.

MANJU

Meal for two: Rs 300

PG Road, Opposite Sunshine Hospital, Bhaskar Residency, Sindhi Colony, Secunderabad



WOW!

Recommends

Guntur Karam Ghee Podi Idli



KITCHEN & BAR

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NRT

TOKYO

BANGKOK

 \rightarrow BKK

Round 2

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Experience a cuisine that is a feast for the senses

Italian Elegance is Back

The once popular, Via Milano has made a come back. This charming Italian restaurant boasts of a classy ambiance and spacious seating, perfect for intimate gatherings.

GOURMET AT ITS BEST

Our journey into gourmet Italian heaven started with Code di Gamber, a house marinated grilled prawns and scallions dressed in a mustard dressing followed by a delectable Fritto Misto; a light batter fried medley of seafood accompanied with a wasabi mayo.

We kickstarted the main course with Primavera, a wood-fired pizza followed by Tortellini di Pollo Brasato; tortellini stuffed with braised chicken, a creamy mushroom sauce, chives and sundried tomatoes and the Carre' di agnello, a rack

of lamb with red wine and garlic fondue.

ITALIAN ARRAY

Indulge in a delightful array of Italian cuisine here including wood-fired pizzas and creamy tortellini. Signature appetizers like Basil-Pesto Dips and Grilled Prawns set the stage for an unforgettable meal. The exquisite desserts here are not to be missed, particularly the melt-in-your-mouth Tiramisu and soft luscious Panna Cotta. Via Milano promises a culinary journey that will satisfy any Italian food lover's cravings. SHRUTI

Meal for two: Rs 1500

1st Floor, Apurupa Towers, Metro pillar No. 1636, Road No. 36, Jubilee Hills, Hyderabad Tel: 97310 25723 Timings: Lunch: 11.45 am to 3.30 pm, Dinner: 6.45 pm to 11.00 pm







A taste of kebaps in the city of kebabs

A Slice of Turkey

Having wowed food enthusiasts in Chennai, Bengaluru and Dubai, **Kebapchi** opened its first outlet in Hyderabad. The brightly lit structure with its Prussian blue door frames is an elegant dining space. A pretty fountain at the entrance and the elegant floor tiles set a tranquil tone for the meal. Most spices and raw materials are sourced from Turkey to stay true to the flavors.

THE FOOD

We started off with the very flavorful Mutton Shorba followed by assorted kebabs including three varieties of Adana kebabs (graded by spice levels) and Inge kebaps (an acquired taste). The Mutton Mandi served in a handi had a deliciously different flavor from the ones commonly available. Our top picks were the Cihan Kebap, a thick fat mincemeat patty stuffed with

cheese that bubbled out in a molten lava when cut; Urfa Ribs, the mildly smokey flavor was great and Mutton *Mandi* with pieces of well-cooked meat on a bed of extremely flavorful *Basmati*. We also relished the *Pide*, a Turkish pizza. While pide has made an appearance on several menus across the city, this one was one of the best.

For dessert, we tried a big fat slice of Galata cheesecake — a version of the Basque cheesecake, baked with four kinds of Turkish cheese. This was served with a drizzle of melted chocolate and was divine! A live Baklava station is on the cards as well. ■ SUPRIYA

Meal for Two: Rs 2,000

Road No. 7, adjacent to Meridian School Lane, Zahara Nagar, Banjara Hills Tel: 70903 77366 Timings: 12.30 pm to 12.30 am

MEKONG



Hotel Avasa, Hitech City, Hyderabad. Ph: 95151 17705 Marigold Hotel, Greenlands, Hyderabad. Ph: 99511 22214

Hotel Greenpark, Waltair Main Road, Visakhapatnam, Ph. 0891 661 5151

associated with wealth and prosperity. In the 20th century, chefs blended the umami-rich profile of truffles with the

nutty flavour of edamame to make it priceless.

Discover more such stories at Mekong.

Now open at Avasa.

food



Traditional Danish pastries and great food at the new cafe that's gaining popularity

A Taste of Denmark

If you are looking for a refreshing meal then Danish Café is the place to visit. A snug café spread over 1500 sq. ft. with its wicker chairs and tastefully done up interiors that are pleasing on the eye. It was started by Kakulamarri Navya Rao, trained pastry chef from the Institute of Culinary Education, New York. She worked for Labonel before opening the place with her husband Surabhi Pavan Kumar.

THE STORY BEHIND IT

"We named the place after the Danish pastry that originated in Denmark in the 19th century. It was influenced by Austrian bakers who introduced a technique of layering dough with butter during a labor strike. "Danish" refers to its country of origin, and these pastries are often filled with ingredients like fruit, cream cheese, or almond paste, making them popular as both breakfast items and desserts. We are proud to say we make the best sweet and savory Danish in the city," shares Navya.

DELICIOUS DELECTABLES

We started with the Chilli Cheese Toast which was good and as crisp as they come. The Fish Fingers are another great option which is filling and appetizing. There is a lot to choose from including burgers, pizzas and sandwiches. We opted for Pink Pasta which was the perfect combination of creamy and tangy and the lasagna too made a grade. Meat lovers should not miss the Mexican Rice with Grilled Chicken which is filling and hits the right spice mix.

They have a wide selection of drinks and desserts too including the excellent cheesecake. The Danish signature drinks are what we surely recommend to foodies. ■ MALLIK

Meal for two: Rs 1,000 onwards

Hitech City Main Rd, Surya Enclave, HiTec City

Tel: 80086 01934 Timings: 8 am to 10 pm Instagram: danishcafe_hyd



Signature

drink





Minimalism meets luxury shopping

Doors open for Dori experience

The Delhi-based luxury brand Nappa Dori has finally made its mark in Hyderabad, offering a unique blend of art, design, and tradition that beautifully mirrors the city's rich cultural landscape. The expansive 4,000-square-foot store has an open floor plan that draws inspiration from the minimalist architecture movement. The clean lines, warm tones, and sophisticated details create an inviting space that encourages exploration. Shades of brown, evocative of rich leather, dominate the color palette.

"Our expansive store will let customers dive into everything we create, from Leather Goods to our new *Dori* Clothing line, which combines old techniques with fresh styles. We focus on simple, stylish, and functional designs, making sure each product looks great and serves a purpose," says Gautam Sinha, the founder of the brand. His words echo throughout the store's layout, where every corner invites you to discover something special.

From their bestselling travel equipment to bespoke leather bags, accessories, and home accents, each item tells its own story, embodying the brand's dedication to craftsmanship. The experience center also showcases the expanding repertoire

 diaries and bags, footwear, stationery, clothing line, serve ware, and assorted home goods.

The store also houses the iconic Café Dori, making it the first fully seated café in the chain. "It's designed to create a cozy spot where shopping meets relaxation and help build a community atmosphere," Gautam shares, highlighting how this café brings another layer to the Nappa Dori experience.

With its Scandinavian minimalism and a stunning glass facade that floods the room with natural light, Café Dori is the perfect spot to unwind. The café's indoor and outdoor seating options further elevate the ambiance, offering visitors a peaceful escape from the city's hustle and bustle. Apart from small eats, try their coffees, from strong Expressos to cold coffees (from frappes to pour-overs), which add a zing to your shopping experience.

By seamlessly blending retail and recreation, Nappa Dori has designed a concept store that appeals to the modern consumer. As Gautam puts it, "Hyderabad, with its amazing cultural vibe and people who appreciate quality, was a great fit for what we offer." With its unique offerings and subtle shopping

experience, the store is a must-visit, especially for those looking for products that can double up as great gifts.

MALLIK

Price: Rs 250 onwards

Road No. 10, Jubilee Hills Tel: 84483 82771 Timings: 11 am to 8 pm (open all days)





shopping

Walk down the aisle in an enchanting piece this wedding season

BRIDAL BLISS!



With wedding season upon us, getting your hands on the perfect attire can prove to be a Himalayan task, but with the right guidance it need not be so. Managing Director Swathi Veldandi has the flair to gauge her clients and their varied vision and help them realize it.

HITTING THE SWEET SPOT

Tired of the nine-to-five like routine, Swati aligned herself with her passion and let her creative instincts lead her. She ventured into the world of event management, turned makeup artist, and finally struck gold with her label.

TOUR OF THE BRIDAL STUDIO

Opened in November of '23, the 4,200 sq. ft. bridal studio is akin to an art gallery. It has a colorful display of customizable handmade pieces and artfully designed curved walls that house them. Targeted mostly towards the younger demographic, specifically ages 16 to 35, the vibrant selection for women includes, among others, pre-draped and Kanjeevaram sarees, anarkalis, cape sets, palazzo sets, kurti sets and majestic lehengas, including ones from their latest collection, Mirza. They come predominantly in fabrics silk, organza and net, and can be paired with displayed glittering potlis. For men, the regal sherwanis, bandi sets and pattu panchas can be perfectly accessorized with the label's impressive selection of turbans and shoes.

Price: On Request

8-2-617/A/2, Road No. 11, Mithila Nagar, Banjara Hills Tel: 70139 69597 Timings: 11 am to 8 pm

A Family Affair Transforming Crafts into Cherished Keepsakes

From whim to craft

WOW!
Recommends:
Floral acrylic bookmarks

cal me can bo you cree

HA
Th
usi cla be

Forestberry began as a creative venture during the COVID-19 pandemic when Ananya Mullapudi turned her passion for crafts into a small business. Encouraged by her family, she started selling handmade products like stickers

and postcards, despite having no prior experience in promotion or branding. What began on a whim soon gained momentum, with Ananya's growing collection of items ranging from resin bookmarks to themed merchandise inspired by popular shows. She

calls it her 'passion project'. Think memo pads, funky keychains, stickers, cards, quilt box pouches, book sleeves, bookmarks, tote bags and what have you! All things cute, colorful and creative.

HANDMADE WITH LOVE

The products are handcrafted, using materials like paper, fabric, clay and resin. Her creativity goes beyond standard stationery, offering custom items such as resin-preserved bookmarks and trays. "Forestberry is a family-driven business, with my parents and grandmother helping pack orders, while friends and relatives source materials and brainstorm ideas," says Ananya. Although she

dreams of expanding into more stores, her products are available in regular pop-ups at Luna Bookstore, and The Dogears Bookshop in Goa, as well as at pop-up markets like Sunday Soul Sante.

EXPANDING HORIZONS

Most of the sales come from her website, but Ananya is eager to grow her presence in Hyderabad by stocking her products in more local stores. Among her popular offerings are resin preservation pieces, where customers' items of sentimental value are crafted into beautiful keepsakes. Looking ahead, Ananya is exploring more bespoke merchandise collaborations, like her recent project with Tai Tai Creamery, and aims to offer personalized gift hampers and wedding invitations.

MANJU

Price: Rs 50 onwards

Tel: 91000 13999 Timings: 10 am to 7 pm Instagram: @forestberr.y



Redefining Occasion Wear with Versatility and Style

Elevated Elegance!

Defined by a fashion sensibility that values versatility, **SAMOH** is, as described by the minds behind the creative venture, an 'elevated occasion wear brand' by Trent. The two-storey flagship store stands bold and elegant, giving off a Zen-like quality in the face of much heat from the bustling streets.

THE FLAGSHIP STORE

The store opens to a colorful display of contemporary and festive wear. We are guided through the sizable space of 4,000 sq. ft. which holds ten collections, or "stories" as we are explained. Every fifteen days a new story is added.

ARTISTICALLY DISPLAYED

The space houses a diverse selection of contemporary and festive pieces. They are creatively placed together and only separated by a variety of colors, which includes green, wine, teal, beige, among more. Their wide-ranging selection made available in multiple colors enables customers to opt for a piece based on their favorite color without feeling restricted.

The ground floor showcases women's wear purely, while the first floor incorporates both women's and men's wear. For women, the pieces include *lehengas*, *kaftan* dresses and tops, sarees, *kurta* sets, corsets, co-ord sets, jumpsuits among more, which come in fabrics like viscose, crepe, georgette, and jacquard (a fabric they are most associated with). For men, on display you will find *kurtas*, shirts and bottoms in viscose, cotton and crepe fabrics.

The piece we loved was the orange *lehenga* set that doubles as a saree. Made from crepe, georgette and jacquard, the frilly piece perfectly captures the versatility that SAMOH offers.

IPSHITA

Price: Rs 1,500 onwards

702/A, Road No. 36, Aditya Enclave, Venkatagiri, Jubilee Hills **Timings:** 11 am to 9.30 pm

The Nizam collection that will have you feeling like royalty

ART TO WEAR

WOW!
Recommends:
Nizam:
Manorma
Ivory/ Peach



Situated in the heart of the city, Delhi-based eponymous label Rajdeep Ranawat opened its fourth flagship store in Hyderabad in October. An exclusive luxury brand, RR is first and foremost an artistic endeavor spearheaded by a leader whose creations reflect a singular vision. "My sensibility is very European, so I fuse European and English sensibilities with Indian mindsets and crafts," he shares. Rajdeep Ranawat draws inspiration from his travels and values consistent and slow growth in fashion.

DESIGNER'S VISION

Going from strength to strength, Rajdeep graduated from NIFT in 2000, became head designer for fashion houses in both Paris and New York, and finally founded his label in 2004, driven by a desire to use his artistic skills to transform his vision into wearable art. What began as a passion project at the back of his house with two tailors in the early to mid-aughts, is today a celebrated brand that releases 12 collections a year.

STORE VISIT

A wide-ranging collection of outfits in vibrant hues and fabrics silk, dupion silk and silk chiffon among more, catch our attention in the cozy 700 sq. ft. store. For women you will find kaftans, lehengas, sarees, dresses, jackets, jumpsuits and more. For men, kurta sets, shirts, bandis among others. They also have accessories, which include Nizami hats, jewelry and handbags. Additionally, the store houses home furnishing including cushions, napkins, scrolls and table runners all meticulously crafted and ideal for a luxurious home.

WHAT WOW-ED US

The outfit we could not take our eyes off was from the Nizam collection: Manorma Ivory/ Peach. The beautiful set includes a duchess satin jacket, a Lycra crop top, a modal satin draped skirt, and a stunning Nizami hat. IPSHITA

Price: Rs 12,500 onwards

8-2-418, Krishnama House, Road No. 7, Banjara Hills **Tel:** 90632 82709

Timings: 10.30 am to 7.30 pm



ARTISTICALLY **ALLURING**ETERNALLY **EXQUISITE**

What happens when graceful design meets timeless luxury? You get a space that speaks for itself. Our premium sofa, chic side & center tables and stunning wall panels aren't just décor—they're statements. So, the only question left is... Are you ready to make your space unforgettable?



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WEDDING SPECIAL

THE INDIAN WEDDING IS UNDERGOING A MAJOR TRANSFORMATION, SHIFTING FROM LAVISH, OVER-THE-TOP EVENTS TO INTIMATE, PURPOSE-DRIVEN CELEBRATIONS. Brides are trading traditional lehengas and heavyweight cholis for minimalist and modern outfits like crop tops, jackets and corsets. Weddings in 2024-25 have a fresh feel, and WOW! explores the latest trends in bridal and groom wear, along with must-know info on venues, photographers, and more. Delve deeper into our definitive annual wedding special

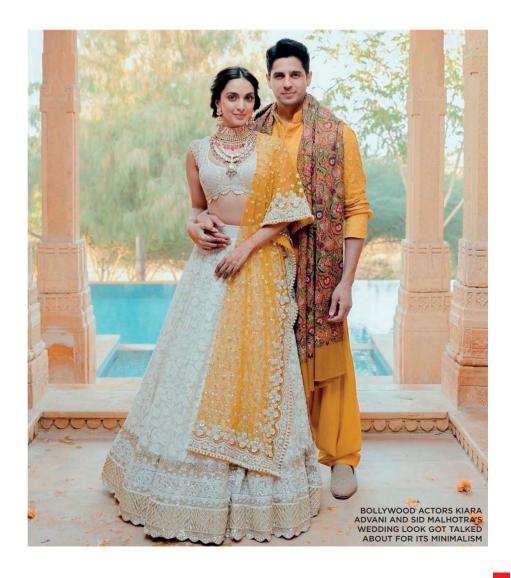
TEXT: MANJU LATHA KALANIDHI WITH INPUTS FROM MALLIK THATIPALLI AND IPSHITA RAMAN

NEW AGE BRIDE:

Modern, Minimalist, Magical

Two recent instances from millennial mindsest stand out when you say weddings. First is actress Aditi Rao who wore a traditional saree accomapanied by Siddhath in a dhoti kurta at her family's temple, was a testament to this shift, where understated elegance trumped extravagance. The other is actress Sobhita Dhulipala's engagement to Naga Chaitanya. She exuded minimalism with a blushpink Manish Malhotra saree inspired by the Telugu artist Bapu and floral motifs like the kanakambaram. Both brides embraced subtle touches with jasmines in hair and simple plaited hair rooted in Telugu heritage.

These high-profile celebrations reflect a growing trend among brides to honor their heritage through thoughtful personal touches. By embracing traditional attire, accessories, and customs, they create a meaningful connection to their cultural roots while maintaining a modern elegance. Out the gaudy mirroradorned sarees and blingy lehengas, that are replaced by simplicity and practicality. How things have changed!



focus

We talk to some top designers to understand how the bride and groom look has evolved in recent times.

GAURAV GUPTA

For me, the top bridal trends are sculpted silhouettes with their fluid yet structured form. I'm also excited to see brides embracing bolder color choicesmany are opting for our signature shades like electric blue, malachite or comet blue, moving beyond traditional palettes. Finally, intricate embroidery and metallic embellishments are making a statement, adding a futuristic touch while still honoring the craftsmanship at the core of couture, creating a look that's both daring and refined.

Tel: 83744 84175







ASMITA MARWA

The bride is no longer a clotheshorse who bows to traditions that she doesn't believe in, rather she is embracing a look that is comfortable, practical and very her. Brides want to look like the best version of themselves and a minimalist look actually enhances her personal charm. The shift from heavy ghagra-cholis and Kanjeevaram is giving way to lighter linen drapes and comfortable crop tops, in solid colors layered with eclectic pieces of jewelry. For instance, I have put together a look of a lightweight pre-stitched dhoti-saree that you zip up in two minutes. I have given the saree a cowl drape instead of regular pleats. The choli is airy, accentuating her back and shoulders. The other is a light pink saree with a Sumatran belt giving it a fusion look with Turkish and Moroccan lucky charms. The simple look makes her look stunning.

Tel: 82977 88182

ANAND KABRA

Minimalism in bridal wear is a thoughtful design movement, driven by a new generation with a clear vision and the right priorities. We've seen excess in grander clothes and bigger diamonds, but now there's a shift towards mindful choices—sustainability, subtlety, and repeat value. Brides and their families are asking important process.

Brides and their families are asking important questions: What's next for this outfit? How do we repurpose it? Slowly and steadily, this movement is gaining momentum.

Instagram: anand.kabra



WOW! catches up with ace men's wear designer Kunal Rawal who dressed the likes of Shahid Kapor (on his wedding) among numerous others

Neutrals and timeless ivories will rule groomwear

WHAT ARE SOME TRENDS YOU'RE SEEING FOR GROOMS AT WEDDINGS TODAY?

Grooms are taking center stage and enjoying the process of dressing up just as much as brides. We've moved away from the old idea that someone else should decide their outfit, and now grooms are involved in every aspect of their attire. They're making their own choices and leaning towards smart design and understanding luxury.

WHAT COLORS AND CUTS SHOULD GROOMS FOCUS ON FOR 2025 WEDDINGS?

For 2025, I'm a big advocate for neutrals and timeless tones like ivories. Shorter hems are in – anything below the knee is no longer fashionable. Tone-on-tone detailing, whether through threadwork or micro-motifs, is another key trend. It adds texture and elegance without overpowering the look.

WHAT ARE THE MUST-HAVE ACCESSORIES FOR GROOMS THIS SEASON?

Less is more when it comes to accessories. Let the drama be in the construction of the outfit rather than over-accessorizing. Micro-motifs and simpler stoles add a modern edge. Wearing stoles in a more relaxed way, instead of draped heavily over the shoulders. It also helps maintain a youthful, elegant look.

HOW IMPORTANT IS FUNCTIONALITY IN GROOM FASHION TODAY?

Functionality is crucial. Grooms today are looking for versatile outfits that they can re-wear and restyle. We often encourage our clients to bring back their outfits, and we help repurpose them into new looks. It's about creating designs that stand the test of time and can be worn on multiple occasions.

THE SHAAKUNTALAM MEETS CHANEL LOOK

- TEJASWI MADIWADA Actor and cover girl

"I have rarely seen a happy, chilled out bride as they are always weighed down by the heavy clothes, jewelry and the braid, etc. I want to enjoy my wedding — walk around, eat, laugh and maybe even dance. So, I dream of a modern, minimalist, comfy look. I may go for a classy, but elegant dazzling diamond necklace instead of heavy gold chokers. I would avoid those heavy floral poola jada, rather have a bun with a few roses tucked into the hair. Everyone will try to impose a look on you, but I want to do my own thing. I love the look that designer Asmita Marwa has given me. The white outfit has a 'Shaakuntalam meets Chanel' look and the best part is that it took barely 20 minutes for me to get ready including hair and makeup. A few curls and a loose braid. That's the sophisticated look I want to go for."



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HAIR and MAKE-UP

Lock in your makeup and hairstyle look early with a trial to avoid stress and ensure a smooth, fast prep on your wedding

BRIDAL GLAM GUIDE

SOUL: Soul offers a range of spa and salon services including bridal packages.

Tel: 93460 65095

TATTVA: Tattva spa offers a range of rejuvenating spa and beauty services to help you relax and de-stress.

Tel: 99991 20413

JIVA SPA: Taj Falaknuma's JIVA Spa is one of the best in the city. They offer a range of luxurious treatments and therapies especially for the bride or bridegroom to be.

Tel: 040 66298585

MAKE-UP ARTISTS & HAIR STYLISTS

If you're anxious about looking your best on your wedding day, don't be; you can reach any of these experts to enhance your attractiveness and make you stand out.

SANDY: He has worked his make-up artistry on many famous

and well-known people, his clientele includes celebrities and even sports persons. He is known to create looks that are particularly suited for you.

Tel: 99596 22240

ALIYA BAIG: Quite a popular name in the make-up industry not just here but abroad as well. She is related to Shahnaz Hussain and trained by world renowned Huda Kattan.



Tel: 98858 03119

TAMANNA MAKEUP: Their bridal make up is quite famed. They are known to create great looks that match the style and culture of the bride.

Tel: 88866 77121

DORIS MAKE UP ARTISTRY: They are great not just for bridal make up but can also help your guests look their best, having worked on 100 plus guests for a single wedding.

Tel: 87128 52032

Edward Siro talks about how to contour, highlight and use foundation

Getting the right look

Young brides are sure of what they want. Mostly it is open hair with light curls, beads and classy maang tikas. For makeup, they want a natural skin finish which looks great in real life and also wedding videos. For eyes, the brides want nude eyes with a well-defined kajal lined look. For lips, natural brown and soft pink are in, surprisingly, not red. Everyone is conscious of their look in wedding photographs and the colors are modern.

Instagram: edwardmakeupartist

THREE MAKEUP MISTAKES TO AVOID

- · Don't lighten the complexion, stick to the best version of your color
- Don't overdo the foundation as it becomes cakey and looks bizarre under the flashlights
- Don't do too much contouring / highlighting as your face looks overly sculpted and bony



INTERVIEW

Nikshitha Rao, founder, Naoki, shares few make-up and hair tips to ensure you become the cynosure of all eyes on your D-day

KEY BRIDAL MAKEUP & SKINCARE TIPS



Here are a few tips from Nikshitha that you can follow to be sure you glow on your wedding day.

LYMPHATIC FACE MASSAGE — A relaxing face massage that depuffs and brightens skin, giving you a natural glow.

ICE FACIAL BEFORE MAKEUP — Dip your face in ice water to tighten pores, depuff, and refresh your skin for a flawless makeup base.

DON'T RUSH YOUR MAKEUP — Allow your makeup artist enough time and space. Have a bridesmaid handle calls and time distractions.

NO DRASTIC CHANGES — Avoid trying new hair colors, lash extensions, or skin treatments close to your wedding.

HYDRATION IS KEY — Follow a good hydration routine and moisturize well before applying makeup for a fresh, glowing look

TRENDING BRIDAL HAIRSTYLING TIPS

SLEEK BUNS — Perfect for modern, minimalist looks at weddings or cocktail events.

GOTTA PATTI HAIRSTYLES — Chic and trendy, ideal for *mehndi* or wedding ceremonies.

CENTER-PARTED HAIRSTYLES — Pair with pearls or stones for a stylish, elegant touch.

VOLUME CURLS WITH SPARKLE — Timeless, voluminous curls with a side pin add a touch of glamor.

HAIRSTYLES FOR DIFFERENT FACE SHAPES

ROUND FACES — Add volume with layered waves or high ponytails. Sleek buns enhance facial angles.

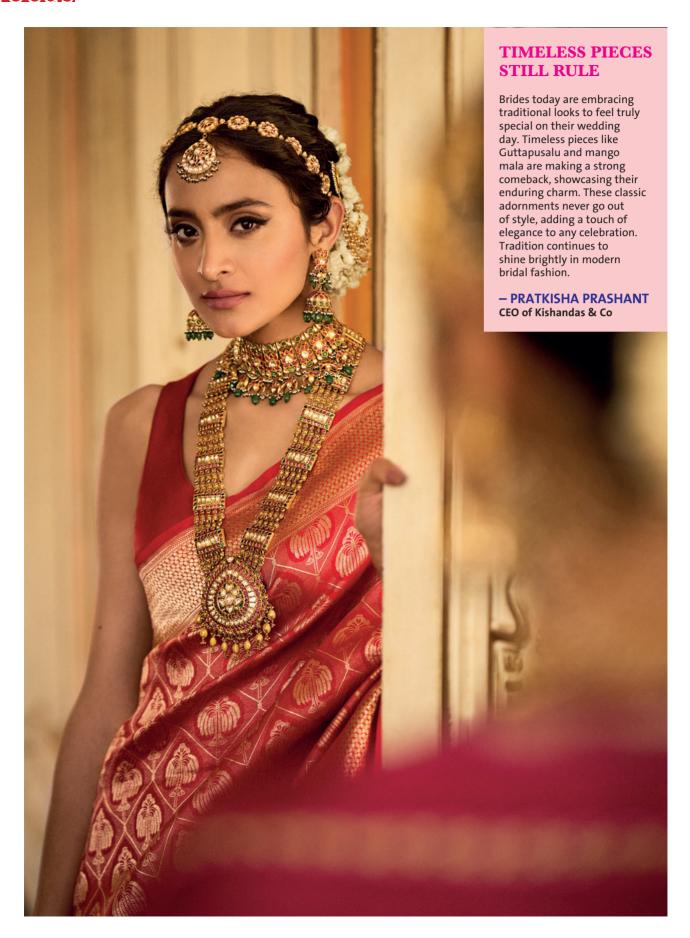
OVAL / LONG FACES — Soft waves, center-parts, and messy buns suit perfectly.

ALL FACE SHAPES — Half-up twists, blowout waves, or messy braids with flowers work for everyone.

D-DAY HAIR — Use texture spray or extensions for volume. Nourish hair with masks and add flair with floral or sparkly accessories.



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LEANING TOWARDS CLASSICS

Traditional jewelers such as Kishandas & Co have a special new bridal collection that is classy and modern.

Tel: 70457 92992

GO TRADITIONAL

Accentuate your appearance with pieces grounded in tradition from Bangalore-based **Kushal's Fashion Jewellery's** exquisite temple collection.

Tel: 73374 41897



PUT A RING ON IT

Get bejeweled for wedding festivities with help from legacy brand **Kirtilals** who have brought exclusivity to diamond jewelry like no other.

Tel: 89781 61699

GET A ROYAL TREATMENT

Walk down the aisle on your big day looking like royalty in the over-a-century-old **Musaddilal Jewellers** breathtaking jewelry that reflects timeless beauty and heritage.

Tel: 99510 00900

RADIATE IN PEARLS

A lover of pearls? Try on some of **Krishna Pearls & Jewellers** gorgeous pearl pieces and add a touch of understated elegance to your overall look.

Tel: 95339 93390

EXUDE SOUTHERN CHARM

Elevate your look with jewelry pieces that ooze sophistication and luxury from **South India Jewellers** stunning designs.

Tel: 63027 39187, 72072 07964

GO CRIMSON

Celebrate yourself with **TaraSri Jewellers**' *The Crimson Bride* Collection that delicately blends tradition with personal expression.

Tel: 99899 44400



WEDDING VENUES

Hyderabadis are redefining wedding celebrations by balancing the luxury of city venues with the allure of destination weddings.

Whether it's a city wedding at a stunning Hyderabad venue or an exotic beach destination, Hyderabadis are blending local charm with global appeal, ensuring their special day is one to remember. Here's a peek into some popular city and other destination wedding options.

HOME TURF

TAJ FALAKNUMA PALACE — A symbol of grandeur, this heritage hotel offers a royal wedding experience with its majestic interiors, sprawling gardens.

Tel: 040 66298585



THE WESTIN Hyderabad Mindspace — Modern and sophisticated, they provide contemporary banquet halls and outdoor spaces, making it a favorite for urban weddings.

Tel: 040 67676767

FORT GRAND — If you are looking for a fort for large gatherings then Fort Grand with its historical charm and modern amenities is a great option.

Tel: 80089 03360

CHOWMAHALLA PALACE — Once home to the Asaf Jahi dynasty, Chowmahalla Palace provides an exquisite royal backdrop, making it a top choice for regal weddings.

Tel: 040 24522032



RAMOJI FILM CITY — Offering a wide variety of themes and settings, Ramoji Film City provides a cinematic wedding experience, perfect for those seeking a unique celebration.

Tel: 96598 76598, 99127 72233

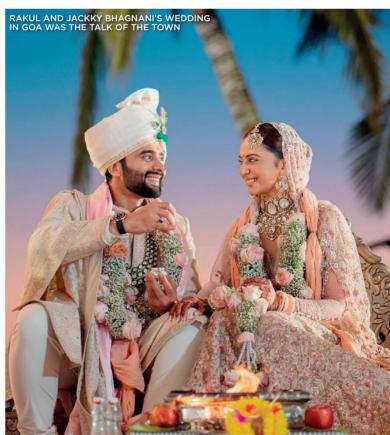
NOVOTEL Hyderabad Convention Centre — Known for its top-notch facilities, Novotel is a reliable choice for weddings of all sizes, offering both indoor and outdoor options.

Tel: 040 66824422

REDEFINING EXTRAVAGANCE WITH NATIONAL DESTINATION WEDDINGS

While Hyderabad offers stunning wedding venues, destination weddings remain a popular choice for many couples. Inspired by the likes of Kiara Advani and Sidharth Malhotra, who opted for a Jaisalmer palace, destination weddings in India are gaining traction. PM Modi's call to promote domestic tourism has further fueled this trend, encouraging weddings at Indian locations like Lakshadweep, a picturesque island now being developed as a tourism hotspot.

Rakul Preet Singh and Jackky Bhagnani's decision to shift their wedding from an international location to Goa, following PM Modi's appeal, reflects a growing desire to celebrate in India. This shift is also mirrored in the grand Udaipur wedding of Isha Ambani and Anand Piramal, which showcased the possibilities of luxury weddings within India's borders after their Lake Como engagement.





INNOVATIONS IN WEDDINGS

FOREST WEDDINGS: Rajkumar Rao married his long-time actor girlfriend Patralekha at The Oberoi Sukhvilas Spa Resort in November 2021. A 30-minute drive from Chandigarh, this property is surrounded by 8,000 acre of protected forest in the foothills of Himalayas. Forests are the new venues, even OTT stars Surbhi Jyoti and Amit Suri got married at the Jim Corbett National Park. Closer to home, one can get married at Pench National Park.

Note: You need to seek permission from forest officer. There are restrictions on sound, light and music.

Price: Rs 15 lakh per day **Tel:** 97593 63344

STEPWELL WEDDINGS: Venues like Bansilal Stepwell can turn to be quaint venues for intimate weddings (with less than 50 people). Places like Ayruvan Waterside near Gandipet are also giving new options for those who want to try out offbeat venues.

Tel: 098490 53991





NATIONAL FAVORITES

THE BACKWATERS OF KERALA – Perfect for an offbeat yet serene wedding.

ANDAMAN AND NICOBAR ISLANDS – A tropical beach wedding in India.

GOA – Known for its lively beaches and vibrant atmosphere, Goa is a perennial favorite for couples seeking a laid-back yet stylish beach wedding.

PALACES IN RAJASTHAN – The regal charm of Udaipur, Jaipur, and Jaisalmer provides the perfect backdrop for a royal wedding with heritage and elegance.

SHIMLA AND MANALI – For those wanting a picturesque hill station wedding with stunning mountain views.

RISHIKESH – Ideal for couples looking for a spiritual riverside wedding by the Ganges.



UNSCRIPTED HEROES

Although candid photography is still quite popular, these photographers are renowned for their creative themes and concepts that will capture the essence of your special day forever.

RAVI STUDIOS: Veterans of the crafts known for their OG shoots.

Tel: 0402340 4363, 96421 11128

JOSEPH RADHIK: A native of the city, he rose to prominence as one of India's top wedding photographers and is well-known for his destination-specific pre-wedding picture sessions.

Email: joseph.radhik@gmail.com





RUSHI TAMBE: This photographer is well-liked by the younger crowd because of his keen eye for detail and ability to perfectly capture the wedding moments.

Email: rushikeshtambe@gmail.com

KISHOR KRISHNAMOORTHI: With vast experience in Telugu wedding rituals and a keen eye for documenting candid moments, Kishor is adept at creating timeless portraits.

Tel: 99082 28822

INTERVIEW

Candid Photographer Ashwin Kireet tells us about the top trends in wedding photography this season. They reflect a broader move towards realism and storytelling in photography



TOP 3 TRENDS IN CANDID WEDDING PHOTOGRAPHY

EMBRACING IMPERFECTIONS: The trend of capturing real, unfiltered moments is growing. People are increasingly drawn to images that showcase authentic emotions, flaws, and raw beauty, as they tell more powerful stories. This includes spontaneous reactions, laughter, and emotional vulnerability, which make the photograph feel genuine and relatable.

DOCUMENTARY-STYLE STORYTELLING: Instead of just individual portraits, candid photography now focuses on creating a narrative. Photographers capture a series of moments that, when viewed together, narrate a complete story, such as a wedding day or a travel experience. This trend emphasizes subtle transitions between moments, adding depth and context to the images.

NATURAL LIGHTING AND MINIMAL POST-

PROCESSING: There's a shift towards using natural lighting to enhance the authenticity of candid shots. Photographers are moving away from heavy editing or staged lighting, embracing soft, ambient light to create mood and highlight subjects. The minimal post-processing approach preserves the natural tones and textures of the image, keeping the focus on the raw moments captured.

TOP 3 TECH ADVANCEMENTS THAT ARE REVOLUTIONIZING **PHOTOGRAPHY**

AI-POWERED EDITING: Artificial Intelligence (AI) tools are revolutionizing post-processing. With Al-based software, photographers can now quickly enhance images, adjust lighting, remove distractions, and even apply creative effects all while maintaining the natural look of candid shots. This speeds up the workflow and allows for more consistency in large batches of photos.

DRONES FOR AERIAL SHOTS: Drones have become essential in wedding photography, providing unique aerial perspectives that were once impossible. They allow photographers to capture wide, sweeping landscapes and group shots from above, adding a cinematic touch to wedding albums and giving a fresh angle to candid moments.

MIRRORLESS CAMERAS: These are gaining popularity for their compact size, speed, and silent shooting capabilities perfect for candid photography. These cameras offer fast autofocus, excellent image quality, and the ability to shoot discreetly without interrupting moments, making them ideal for capturing weddings and spontaneous events.

Tel: 90000 03838 **Instagram:** ashwinkireet





Love stories via drone shows

These choreographed aerial performances light up the sky, creating mesmerizing visual storytelling moments that encapsulate key milestones of a couple's journey. This February, Diya Goud and Arya Rathod's wedding was held in Nandi Hills in Karnataka and BotLab Dynamics, a startup incubated in IIT Delhi played their love story based in London and Bengaluru via 250 drones and lighting up the sky for the Sangeet.

Note: Permissions are necessary to fly drones for such events from local police and venue authorities, especially if it's a

lakeside venue. *Price:* On request *Tel:* 97114 91975



Bridgerton-Themed Brunches

The Bridgerton craze has made its mark on Indian weddings, inspiring Victorian-style brunches set in elegant garden venues. Some weddings even go the extra mile with "Lady Whistledown-inspired" newsletters—beautifully crafted, vintage-styled bulletins that entertain guests with humorous anecdotes, much like the mysterious narrator from the Netflix series.

Price: Rs 12 lakh onwards Tel: 90043 50476

Company: Momente Weddings

Interactive Experiences: Tea Bars, Custom Perfumes and Calligraphy

Custom perfume-making stations, where guests can create personalized fragrances, and live tea bars featuring artisan blends, are popular. Adding to the sense of occasion, personalized calligraphy on menus and table cards heightens the bespoke feel of these gatherings. Each of these elements allow guests to become part of the event, leaving them with unforgettable, tangible keepsakes.

Price: On request

Website: komalandcolor.com

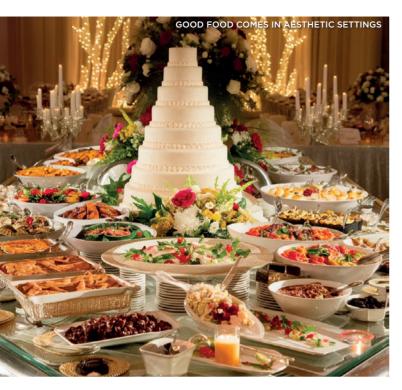


The Bartan Company

Perfect for eco-conscious weddings and pre-wedding ceremonies, this firm ensures that your dream of a sustainable wedding where no waste is generated comes true.

Tel: 97047 70887





Top caterers in Hyderabad

From forgotten local recipes to handcrafted cocktails, exclusive vegan wedding meals or exotic dishes such as Curry Spiced Butternut Chicken with Ambemohar Rice Cake, one can order anything that one wants for a wedding from caterers in Hyderabad. Most of them have websites or apps that feature the details. Heres a list of some top ones:

GAURAV CATERERS

Renowned for their fusion cuisine and a mix of exotic dishes from Asia and Europe, they also offer excellent vegetarian North Indian *thalis*.

Tel: 98851 01010

NILGIRIS CATERERS

With over a decade of experience, they are known for setting the standard with traditional Indian cuisine and mouthwatering *chaat* counters.

Tel: 92462 02122

SPICY VENUE

They specialize in authentic Andhra cuisine.

Tel: 72070 95522

IQBAL CATERERS

Experts in crafting authentic Hyderabadi dishes like *Biryani* and *Patthar ka Gosht*.

Tel: 92465 22847

SAGE SAFFRON BOUTIQUE CATERERS

They are well known for their eclectic range of cuisine.

Instagram: sagesaffron

Wedding apps

Here are some top trending apps that can help you plan a wedding

WEDMEGOOD

This comprehensive app offers vendor listings, inspiration, budget tools, and a detailed checklist for all your wedding needs. It's a one-stop-shop for finding venues, photographers, makeup artists, pandits and more.

WEDDINGWIRE INDIA

With access to thousands of vendors and tools for budgeting, guest management, and seating arrangements, WeddingWire India simplifies wedding planning from start to finish.

BRIDEBOOK

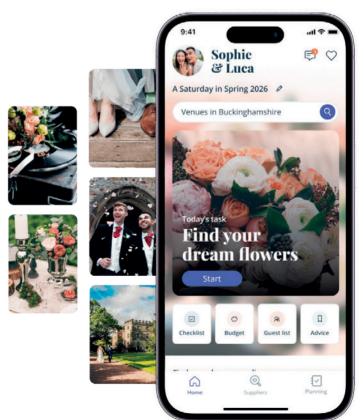
Bridebook is perfect for managing everything from your budget to vendor bookings. It also allows you to track RSVPs and create a wedding timeline.

SHAADISAGA

This app is great for discovering local vendors and managing your guest list. It also has a "Real Weddings" section to help inspire your big day.

APPY COUPLE

Create a personalized wedding website and app to manage RSVPs, guest communications, and event schedules in style. It's especially great for coordinating multi-day celebrations.



APPS FOR EASIER WEDDING ORGANIZATION



From Cocktails to Beats

Offering a panoramic view of the city's skyline, Teraso Sky Bar is the latest creation from the founders of Aidu and Noho. While Aidu serves up southern spice and Noho offers a pan-Asian fare, Teraso, perched above them both, aspires to be Hyderabad's new party hotspot with its borderless flavors, innovative mixology and energetic beats.

THE VIBE

Situated on the third floor, Teraso's doors open to a charming 5,000 sq. ft. space. Contemporary music plays as we enter and are led to a curved corner seating area that overlooks the breathtaking view of the city. Comfortable seating, a spacious bar area and an arresting retractable skylight make up the look of the space. Additionally, green foliage spread across softens Teraso's sophisticated appearance and breathes life into it.

FOOD

To begin, Chef Ismail offers us some bar

nibbles in the spicy kaffir lime togarashi popcorn. Small plates include a creamy, saucy and juicy selection featuring Mac N Cheese Balls, Seasonal Quesadillas, Olive Chicken Tikka and Joojeh Kebab. We transition to the mains with the delicious Grilled Cottage Cheese, and the rich Chicken Stroganoff, both served with soft parley buns. To round off our meal, Teraso whips up some Crème Brûlée for us, prepared with coconut, almond flakes and berries.

DRINKS

The mixologist prepares cocktails - the OG tequila-based Picante and the classic vodka-based Porn Star Martini for us at the bar above which a large art structure hangs adding to the charm of the rooftop bar.

Prepared using Jose Cuervo tequila, mango blossom cordial, citrus, jalapeño, kaffir lime and hibiscus salt, the Picante offers a zesty taste and is comparatively heavier. The Porn Star Martini is crafted

with Ketel One vodka, passion fruit syrup, lemon juice, vanilla syrup and sparkling wine. This martini is delicious and happened to become our favorite.

MUSIC

Vibrant contemporary music plays during the day, but it is at night that Teraso comes alive. The in-house DJ puts on a show each evening, including Fridays and Saturdays which happens to be Bollywood and Techno nights respectively. The retractable skylight opens up, and once the clock strikes eight a portion of the rooftop bar that overlooks the DJ console is transformed into a dance floor where partygoers flock and let their hair down as the DJ fires up a storm. ■ IPSHITA

Meal for Two: Rs 1,500 onwards

3rd Floor, Plot No. 1057, Nandagiri Hills, Jubilee Hills Tel: 85848 58428, 85848 58461 Timings: 12 pm to 12.30 am



Resto-Bar with a Vibrant Euro-Asian cuisine

Savor the Vibe

Lunch with your kids, a beer with your buddy or a cocktail with your beau - a relaxing afternoon lounge, or pre-dinner drinks, Hoist adapts seamlessly. As the moon rises so does the tempo, the atmosphere transforms into a lively, highenergy space. The space is spread over two floors with a mezzanine floor. The first floor is a great place for fam-jam and small get-togethers.

FOOD

We started off with the Yogurt Spheres with delicious contrasting textures of crisp katafi noodles with soft, spiced yogurt discs that reminded us of Dilli ki chaat. Our top starter picks are, Saffron Joojeh Kebab, Deconstructed Shawarma and *Pahadi* Fish Tikka. Burrata Cheese *Saaq* served with a layered Pudina Paratha stood out in the mains and the Coconut Crème Brûlée, in dried khopra bowls is a must try in desserts.

COCKTAILS

The cocktails, designed by a Delhi-based mixologist, were delightful. We tried the vodka based Burj Legendary, which is mixed for two and is infused with subtle notes of rose from gulkand and dry rose petals.

The in-house DJ plays a freestyle blend of electronic beats, Bollywood, and Western music. The tempo rises with guest

wow!

Buri

DJ's taking over the console on the weekends. The music is mellow till 9.00 pm so guests can enjoy a conversation over a drink. Recommends: The big screen serves as a perfect backdrop for sports Legendary enthusiasts to catch the highlights of an ongoing match. Check their Instagram page for the music action planned for the

weekend. SUPRIYA

Meal for two: Rs 2,500 onwards

Road No. 2, beside TDP office, Park View Enclave, Banjara Hills Tel: 95050 88556 Timings: 12 pm to 12 am weekdays and 12 pm to 1 am on weekends

Akhilesh Manideep, 28, entrepreneur, talks about the city's party spirit

City nightlife has potential

WHAT DO YOU THINK OF THE HYDERABADI NIGHTLIFE?

There's a unique balance between tradition and innovation here. People seek spaces that offer both excitement and comfort. While the city's nightlife scene is buzzing, I believe there's still untapped potential, especially in providing diverse, high-quality experiences tailored to different tastes.

HOW DOES IT COMPARE TO THE NIGHTLIFE IN OTHER INDIAN CITIES?

Other metro cities may have a more polished, larger-scale vibe, but here, there's an opportunity for brands to shape the scene with concepts that prioritize authenticity.

ONE THING THAT'S MISSING IN THE PARTY SCENE IN HYDERABAD?

The lack of variety in nightlife options that cater to different moods. Cities like Mumbai. Delhi, and Goa have really raised the bar with their seamless integration of nightlife and lifestyle experiences—whether it's beachside sundowners, rooftop parties that go beyond just drinks, or even exclusive after-hour events that cater to a more diverse crowd. Hyderabad has the potential, but we need to up the game!

ONE PLACE YOU WOULD SHOW OFF TO FRIENDS FROM OUTSIDE AND WHY?

Mexarosa. Hyderabad is known for its rich culinary heritage, but what it lacked until recently was a truly authentic Mexican dining.

THREE WORDS TO DESCRIBE THE NIGHTLIFE IN TOWN?

Emerging, untapped, evolving.

WHERE WOULD YOU GO

For drinks: Hodds, Room Two, Ru For ambience: Jamun, Jewels of Nizam

For the music: Cara Cara, One8 Commune ■ MANJU



leisure

Looking for some much-needed dance therapy? This November, let your hair down and get your groove back with help from a varied selection of dance classes

LET'S DANCE!



SIZZLING MOVES

Master choreographer,

Spartacus Chinnappan leaves Hyderabadis spoilt for choice with an exciting lineup of dance styles ranging from Bollywood, Hip Hop, Afro, Salsa, Bachata and Kizomba. He also offers wedding choreography.

Prabhu Deva, Michael Jackson and his father are the ultimate inspirations. An MJ impersonator himself, Spartacus hails from Tamil Nadu and has been called "Tamil Nadu's Michael Jackson". His passion for the art form drew him in and his drive to share his knowledge with others naturally led him to teaching.

This wedding season, special workshops on popular dance songs will be held every weekend in November. Participants would need to pre-register to partake in the three-hour session.

Price: Rs 2,500 for 8 sessions (Bollywood, Hip Hop, Freestyle & Cinematic), Rs 3,500 (Salsa, Bachata, Kizomba) VIBE, Pedamma Gudi, Hyderabad Tel: 63813 35132 (call), 72006 20962 (WhatsApp) Instagram: spartacus spartdaddy

DANCE & FITNESS

Nicy Joseph Dance & Fitness offers a plethora of ongoing dance classes, ones you can jump aboard this November. For ages two and above, the styles offered include Contemporary, Bollywood, Hip Hop, Dance Fitness and Tollywood. They have also created a space for Wedding Choreography, AcroYoga and influencerled workshops.

At 19, artist and luxury wedding choreographer Nicy Joseph worked as an instructor with the celebrated choreographer Shiamak Davar for a



decade and finally opened her dance studio in 2020. She has since gone on to work with the who's who of Hyderabad and Tollywood.

The sessions offer fresh choreography to music from the 90s and 2000s, while keeping the hook steps intact. Besides this, their other unique class includes Dance Fitness - a one-hour instructor-led high intensity cardio session that involves grooving to a varied genre of songs.

Price: Rs 3,999 per month 2nd Floor, Alcazar Mall, Road No. 36, Jubilee Hills Tel: 86393 02410 Instagram: nicyjosephdanceandfitness



CONTEMPORARY MEETS TRADITION

Shivansh School of Arts offers a focus on Bharatnatyam. Additionally, they provide carnatic music classes, martial arts in Kalaripayattu, and yoga. During the first week of November a new batch of classes is slated to begin for ages six and above.

Shedding some light on her approach to teaching, Founder and Artistic Director, Maithri Rao shares, "To get the present-day generation kids to learn something which is very traditional, you need to change the environment of learning. We have a lot of young teachers, so the classes are very lively compared to a traditional Bharatanatyam class."

Trained in Bharatnatyam for over 20 years and originally from Karnataka, Maithri's vision is to cultivate a sustainable ecosystem for dancers and help make a full-time dance career a reality. As a team they have done corporate shows and have also put together two productions which narrate stories of Hyderabad, showcasing a fresh and unique approach to the art form.

PSHITA

Price: On Request **Branches in:** Suncity, Kondapur and Road No. 3, Banjara hills **Tel:** 93470 02640

Instagram: shivanshschoolofarts and maithrirao.m



What this pastry chef can teach you in two months

Make It or Bake It

For over a decade, baker and pastry chef, Arundati Rao has redefined the landscape of Hyderabad's baking scene with her **Escapades Baking and Culinary Academy.** She brought skills that were practiced at a global level. Having done the courses of famous chefs including Dominique Ansel and Karim Bourgi apart from others, the baker teaches – from a delicious croissant to cheesecakes. Arundati has a new 2,500 sq. ft. state-of-the art studio now.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

She adds, "We teach a wide gamut of skills, ranging from special lectures from baking superstars to ensuring that a thorough grounding is available in baking skills from desserts, pastries, puff pastries or decorative skills like fondant. We go beyond recipes and help people figure out what needs to be done to be successful, be it setting up a kitchen, cost optimization or learning best practices in the industry."

COURSES AND CERTIFICATIONS

They provide internationally recognized certification from the London-based City and Guilds organization. Her certified courses (that run over two months for a batch of 16 students) are ideal for those who are interested in serious baking and have dreams of turning professionals. There is also a weekend course for enthusiasts which is ideal to indulge in a passion you are keen about. As she continues to inspire and empower bakers, Arundati is ensuring that she is elevating Hyderabad's baking scene to international standards! ■ MANJU

Price: On request **Tel:** 99592 02255

Timings: 10 am to 5.30 pm

Instagram: escapadesculinarystudio (Check for November batch details)



Weddings, Wonderfully Captured

Celebrating the vibrancy of your love story

At STUDIO CAPTURE LIFE, we specialize in preserving precious moments, allowing you to forever treasure the joy, love, and emotions of your wedding day.

Studio Capture Life, a photo and videography studio in Hyderabad, is the brainchild of our founder, Namrata Rupani. The studio has been exceeding expectations in wedding photography for the past 14+ years. The team has created happy memories for over 100 weddings, including an international footprint in Malaysia and Bahrain.

Our Services

- Wedding Photo & Videography
- **Engagement Shoots**
- Pre Wedding Shoots





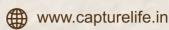


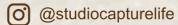


Weddings
Portraits
Coffee Table Books
Albums & Fine Art Printing
Maternity Shoots













Renowned aesthetic skincare brand from the US comes to Hyderabad!

NOT JUST SKIN DEEP

Founded by Chaitanya Kenchammanahoskote in 2012 in the US, Maya Medi Spa opened its latest branch in Banjara Hills this June, following five years of successful sojourn in Bengaluru. Maya Medi Spa is a sanctuary where skin is understood, and skincare runs deep. The team here focuses on long-term skin wellness, ensuring the clients walk out of a session not only looking their best but feeling their best.

THE WALK IN

Located on the second floor of Tirath Towers, Banjara Hills, the spa opens to a 1,400 sq. ft. space. The white terrazzo flooring, earthy white walls and brass-colored accents, all create an inviting and luxurious atmosphere inside. There are five treatment rooms, each featuring a unique lighting scheme to meet the needs of the space and functionality.

SERVICES OFFERED

Maya provides a wide range of distinctive and exclusive services. Some of these premium services include: Hydrafacials; Pigmentation Peels; Botox; Fillers; the Rejuran Healer, which uses salmon DNA (PDRN) to enhance skin texture, radiance, and firmness; Fotona 4D Facelift, a non-invasive facelift utilizing four laser technologies (SmoothLiftin, FRAC3, PIANO, SupErficial); and the Fotona Laser Treatments, a versatile laser system that addresses wrinkles, scars, acne, and unwanted hair.

HYDRAFACIAL TREATMENT

What is a Hydrafacial?: Going beyond a

typical facial, the Hydrafacial at Maya's is a multi-step skincare treatment that uses a vortex technology which sucks up everything from dirt, dead skin and black heads, leaving you feeling refreshed and glowing.

How it is done: We lie down on the facial bed and relax as a staff member, Vismitha, begins the Hydrafacial treatment. The Murad Vitamin C Booster Hydrafacial is recommended to us. This multi-step process includes a very thorough cleansing, exfoliation (including a chemical and mechanical exfoliation) that helps bring dead skin, black heads, etc., to the surface, which in turn helps in performing the final steps, extraction and infusion. "In between we have customized a bit further, we added a little bit of a massage and a mask depending on your skin needs," explains Chaitanya.

Benefits: It keeps your skin healthy and helps your at-home skincare products penetrate and work a lot better. Furthermore, it addresses and helps curb acne and pigmentation related issues. This is recommended as a once-a-month treatment to see its real benefits.

■ IPSHITA

Price: On request

2nd floor, Tirath Towers, Road No. 7, opposite The Hilltop @7, Resham Bagh, Banjara Hills Tel: 81257 47845 Timings: 10.30 am to 7 pm (by appointment only) Women Entrepreneurs launch health drink business to inspire change

Healthy dreams brew success



In September this year, two women combined their skills to launch Arogyam, a health drink business, driven by determination and teamwork. Vani, who works in beauty products, and Lavanya, a housewife who was inspired by her daughter's belief. "I've always dreamt of earning to support my children with my own money," Vani shares. They share a strong desire to show that women can achieve anything with hard work. This led them to take the leap into entrepreneurship.

A PASSION FOR HEALTH

Their business offers a wide range of healthy beverages, including detox drinks, *Ragi* java, *Jonna* java, sprouts, and ABC juice, alongside other fresh juices. They also plan to expand into evening snacks. In less than a week, they've already earned praise and secured bookings for events. "We sell around 15-20 glasses of *Ragi* and 10 of the *Ragi-Jonna* javas mix each day," says Vani, proud of their initial success.

EXPANDING HORIZONS

Though it's just the two of them for now, Vani is optimistic. "If things keep going this way, we'll be expanding and hiring soon." Their goal is to focus entirely on healthy food options, creating a bigger impact. "I want to show society that women can be strong, independent, and successful," Vani adds. Looking ahead, they are determined to establish their presence, one nutritious beverage at a time.

MALLIK

Price: Rs 30 onwards

Available at KBR Park's second gate Tel: 82476 40543 Timings: 6 am to 10 am



Discover your unique path to functional fitness, injury prevention and sustainable lifestyle

Move smart, Live well

Meet Faiyaz Ali Khan, 50, one of Hyderabad's first personal trainers. He currently also trains the Under 19 Telangana Boxing team for strength and conditioning. We caught up with Faiyaz to know the important aspects of fitness that helps one not only to get fit but also sustain it in the long run.

HOLISTIC WAY OF LIFE

Fitness is not a quick fix. It is a lifestyle. Fitness is about wellbeing, attaining peace, relieving stress and reaching your desired body correctly. The fitness industry sees flashy new fads ever so often but everybody is made differently and should be treated so. One has to understand that there are things which you want to do and others that you don't. It is important to listen to your body when it says no. Fitness fads will come and go so it's better to stay safe than be sorry. Holistic wellness is here to stay.

A sanctuary that transforms lives through Yoga for mind, body, and soul

Embrace slow living

An ex-model and athlete, Neelam Mangat has long been a believer in the healing powers of yoga. Since 2016, she has worked with thousands of people creating a positive change through her classes. Her latest wellness center Adika (that translates into 'a lot'), in Kompally reflects the ethos and her belief in holistic wellness.

A HOLISTIC SPACE

Spread over an acre, the center is built around a 75-year-old Neem tree that is at the heart of the space. The yogshala, built with natural materials like mud and bamboo, is the perfect place to give your body a rest. Neelam shares, "Every part of the building showcases our belief in the natural self. The Pilates space is built without a pillar and in the shape of a dome while all the other structures are sustainable. We want to bring back slow living into people's lives where they can come for a few hours and recharge themselves."

TAILORED FOR PEOPLE

Everything about the spaces translates into well-being for the body and soul. They have a variety of classes ranging from yoga, Pilates, aqua yoga and meditation which are taken by

MOVE THAT BODY!

If you want to reach your desired goals of attaining a healthy and functional 'you' then you must most importantly focus on not getting hurt or overworking out. While exercising there are chances of falling in a trap of injuries and being demotivated. Peeps, that can be a recipe for disaster. Hence, the suggestion is to be functional at work, at home and at the gym. For that, have a larger picture in mind and remember to work smart. Do not push beyond the limitations that come with age, stress levels and work schedules. To attain a well-toned body, one does not have to slog in the gym for hours. You don't need that if you are smart and workout according to your physiological aspect. It's good if the body does even 25-30 minutes of workouts.

WORKOUT SENSIBLY

Functional fitness can be described as basic moves, moderate intensity, that fits your daily routine, like sitting, climbing stairs, walking to your car without panting and sweating like a pig. Be assured that wellness comes through sensible workouts. It doesn't have to be high impact. The key being consistency and watching your diet which is one of the most significant factors in affecting your lifestyle.

DIFFERENT STROKES FOR DIFFERENT FOLKS

One enjoys running, the other cycling and another will feel accomplished doing hardcore weight training. Personal trainers and health coaches are equipped with all the knowledge and experience to help you achieve your goals without falling prey to injuries and most importantly enjoy the activity which you can continue for life.

AS TOLD TO MALLIK

ALWAYS KEEP IN MIND

- to use moderate and light weights for upper body
- to mix and match your routine
- to stretch after your workout and always sip water



experts. Neelam adds, "We understand the issues of the people and prescribe the classes accordingly. Working on problems holistically will ensure that there are no side effects in the longer run. We also follow different practices like lyengar yoga and aerial yoga for healing." ■ MALLIK

Price: Rs 5,000 onwards

Satyam Enclave, Kompally Tel: 99490 01606 Timings: 6 am to 5 pm (Mon-Fri); 7.30 am to 5 pm (Sat)

living





66 The spaces have a calmness that ground you and make you experience life - Charu, Home Owner



The house with the courtyards

A Sanctuary in Stone and Green

A fifteen-feet imposing gray gate marks the entrance to the Srinivasan farmhouse at the peripheral edge of a winding cul-de-sac on the outskirts of the city. However, once inside one is heralded into a lovely expanse of stone and green, which is a sight to behold.

Home to Charu and Srinivasan Chandrasekar, the couple bought the two-acre plot in 2013. They reached out to architects Lalith and Jyothi Mitta (who also worked on their villa in Gachibowli) to build a home away from the madding crowd.

NATURE MEETS DESIGN

"We wanted a sanctuary that reflects the abundance in our lives, our sensibilities and who we are as a family" smiles Charu and adds, "This was a barren piece of land that was transformed into a multi-generational home that gives each person their own space while also connecting them to ensure that there is an organic interaction with the family. The transformation happened over years and the home manifested with all the energy brought into the spaces by the architect, the crew and the family."

Catering to three generations (Charu's parents, Narayanan and Indu stay at the home as well as her children Sharanya and Nithin, who are currently based in the US), this home is a representation of the past, present and future of the family. Lalith adds, "A lot of things evolved on the site in response to the needs of the family. This process of evolution is core to design, and the outcomes are then the manifested forms and not some random preconceived notional perceptions."

An L-shaped Miyawaki forest abuts the property along with a pathway (ideal to get those 10000 steps a day) that is garlanded by a canopy of trees. The Jaisalmer sandstone used as flooring throughout apart from black granite is a perfect complimentary adjunct to the harmonious landscape of the home.



LIGHT FILLED SPACE

An admirer of legendary architect Geoffrey Bawa's tropical modernism, Charu wanted a home that reflected Bawa's philosophy. The result is a stunning mediation of open to semi open to closed spatial configuration - where the whispers of modernism are playfully balanced by traditional elements.



As one enters the home from the verdant courtyard outside (central to which is a temple tree) one steps into the formal living room. The beauty of the space lies in its simplicity and the fact that it remains free of clutter and chaos. A vibrant runner from Kutch on the coffee table adds a dash of color while mandala art in arresting tones of black and white stands out in the area.

Charu shares, "The spaces have a calmness that ground you and make you experience life. The home's sense of being was motivated by the emotions that went into its making or perhaps responses to those emotions. In essence, it is a sum total of both these emotions and their responses."

ECHOES OF TRADITION

As one walks through the formal areas, the family temple area is on to the left while the central courtyard is to the right. The family temple is flanked with 150-year-old monolithic rosewood pillars from Tamil Nadu and a pyramidal roof ensuring that no one walks over the space preserving its sanctity. The flame finished black granite floor that has a fresh maavu kolam for every special occasion. The profusion of greens surrounding the entrance and the Parijatham blooms from the garden that adorn the deities envelops the visitor in a blanket of serenity and connects one with the divine.



living

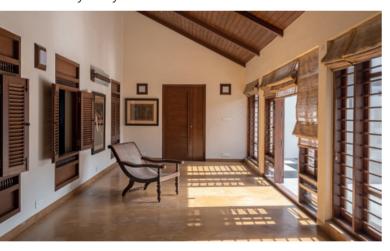
The courtyard is the heart of the home. The temple tree in full bloom at the center, the antique wooden pillars from Telangana or the pitched roof in terracotta tiles (where birds have already built their nests) make it an oasis for the family. The serenity of the space is only punctuated by bird song at all times of the day evoking a spirit of centuries past — of homes in traditional villages and lives spent amid nature.

ELEGANT SIMPLICITY

The family living room with its reclining wooden chairs, minimal African artefacts and pencil sketches of the Seattle skyline is where the family converges for a cozy conversation. A long corridor separates the bedrooms and the central courtyard. The bedrooms, in keeping with the minimalistic ethos of the house. are comfortable interludes to the personalities of the owners. The highlight of the master bedroom is the windows that allow a peek of the gorgeous courtyard.

The long corridor allows the space to pause and is used as an art gallery for the house where Srinivasan's pictures and art collected from their travels are mounted. Most of the furniture is custom made inside the house including the wooden swing that sits snug at the entrance to the upper level that houses the gym.

The furnishings and the art too speak of a house rooted in tradition and timeless elegance. As Charu shares, "The realization is that this home has never been about discrete elements, specific materials or features but the merging of all these elements to create an experience — an experience that is core to me in terms of values that I cherish for myself and my family."



INTERCONNECTED IDEAS

The home is a stunning nature inspired palette which blends into the site's natural landscape. Boulders from the original site find a place in the garden. Greens, both indoors and outdoors, envelop the house with a charm that belies words.

What makes it special are the tiny nooks that make a house a home. The East verandah where the family eats out overlooking the bonsai trees, the stone sitting area near the central courtyard where one can just see rain drops fall or the incidental spaces in the indoor corridor where sunlight plays hide and seek, all these spaces provide a refuge to the inhabitants of the home.

"We love to celebrate life," smiles Charu and adds, "The home is a celebration of our spirit and what we value. It re-connects us with all the truly special people in our lives. It brings us all



back home after a long journey. The deeper meaning of home came alive during the collaboration with architects who truly understand the role architecture plays in people's lives."

SPACE THAT RECHARGES

Indeed, the house is the perfect canvas for the family's life — this is where all the ceremonies for Charu's daughter's wedding were held, it is the ideal backdrop to have Carnatic soirees that the family loves or small events during Dusshera and Diwali. It expands and contracts as per the family's needs.

Lalith adds, "This home is anchored around the central court and everything else emerges from the core of this space. The inherent character of these open to sky spaces is a powerful reminder of our connection with nature."

Sustainability is another key aspect of the home in keeping with the ethos that embodies it. Be it the hidden rainwater harvesting pit that is adjacent to the Balinese garden outdoors or the repurposed wood used throughout the space, there is an intrinsic connection with natural elements.

One can well imagine the home at dusk with the evening breeze floating in and the chirping of the birds providing a sylvan setting for the family. When Charu confesses that the 'space recharges her' we readily agree with her — what can be more beautiful than a home that not only offers a respite from the world but also nourishes the soul? MALLIK THATIPALLI



Sunita Kohli's Impact on India's Architectural Landscape

Celebrating a Legacy

Sunita Kohli a legend of the architectural landscape, is recognized for her contributions to sustainable practices in design. With a career spanning several decades, she has been instrumental in elevating the field of interior design through her innovative approach and commitment to heritage conservation. An educator and author, Kohli inspires aspiring designers while advocating the importance of preserving India's architectural heritage. She has received numerous accolades, including the Padma Shri for Excellence in Design.

Sunita Kohli has restored and decorated the Rashtrapati Bhavan, Parliament House Colonnade, the Prime Minister's Office and is known to have been commissioned to restore the Hyderabad House in Delhi.

WOW! Caught up with her in Hyderabad and here are excerpts from that conversation.

WHAT WAS YOUR ARCHITECTURAL VISION AND ARTISTIC LENS BEHIND THE HYDERABAD HOUSE PROIECT?

My primary aim was to follow the design vision of Sir Edwin Lutyens, the architect of this building. This was the first major complete restoration, conservation and interior design project that was ever undertaken of this historic building.

The aim was that in a few years, the house with its sensitive additions would appear an extension of Lutyens's work, without anybody ever realizing that there had been a deep intervention by an interior designer / architectural conservationist like myself. An example is the Mughal Dining Room which was never completed in terms of its interior architectural elements. So, I worked on completing the capitals and bases of the columns in this handsome room which is frequently used."

HAVE YOUR PERSONAL EXPERIENCES OR CULTURAL INFLUENCES SIGNIFICANTLY SHAPED YOUR APPROACH TO DESIGN?

"My career in design came about because of my parents, particularly my father. We would go to auctions held in Lucknow looking at beautiful glass lamps. It was a beautiful city architecturally with its indo-saracenic architecture. The amalgamation of Hindu and Islamic art forms together overlaid with British influences impacted my visual vocabulary. I also come from a multicultural family and the fact that I am a Hindu who was brought up in a Muslim city and studied in a Roman Catholic convent; I think that has always informed my design and me as a person."

HOW DOES ARCHITECTURE CONTRIBUTE TO THE MENTAL WELL-BEING OF ITS INHABITANTS?

Well-designed architectural spaces reduce stress and anxiety and improve one's mood and cognitive functions. Few things to keep in mind are to see that natural light and proper ventilation is there, maintain indoor outdoor aspects and make sure the circulatory parts are clear. Also, an important thing is that all public spaces should be designed with inclusivity, as they would enhance overall wellbeing and foster a sense of belonging and of community.

SOMETHING ABOUT YOU THAT NOT MANY PEOPLE KNOW?

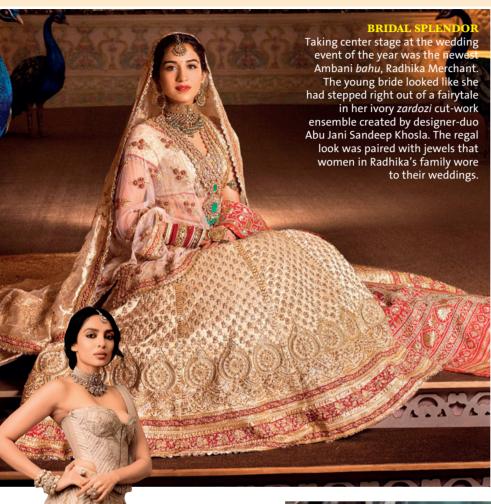
I have studied *Hindustani* classical music and have a *Visharad* in it from Allahabad University as a private student. ■ SUPRIYA



trends

As we inch closer to the end of the year, WOW! reflects on some of the best looks from 2024

FASHION REWOUND





TIMELESS

ELEGANCE Sobhita Dhulipala looked stunning in an elegant Tarun Tahiliani piece for the Ambani wedding festivities. She wore the eponymous label's Art Deco-inspired embroidered corset and lehenga and accessorized the look with rajwada bangles, a statement diamond necklace and matching maangtikka.



DELICATE & ROMANTIC

Dripping in jewels, Alia Bhatt attended the Super Bowl of fashion in a custom Sabyasachi saree looking radiant as ever. Featuring precious gemstones and a 23-footlong train, the intricately handcrafted mint-green saree took around 1,965 hours to create by a team of 163 people.







THE PINK FINALE

The 2024 Golden Globes marked a return to Barbie Land for Margot Robbie. Channeling the 1977 Superstar Barbie Doll in Giorgio Armani Privé, Robbie's ultimate hot-pink nod to her beloved Barbie character was likely her best look yet.

LOOKING DAPPER

Vicky Kaushal was in attendance for one of the wedding festivities, looking dapper in custom Manish Malhotra. Styled by Amandeep Kaur, the actor wore a classic resham embroidered black sherwani paired with a kurta and pants.



SOUTHERN CHARM

The charming Mahesh Babu showcased his impeccable style in a dark blue outfit by designer Manish Malhotra at the Ambani wedding. The charismatic Tollywood star grabbed the attention, making his presence felt at the grand soirée. ■ IPSHITA





Bridging cultures and exploring humanity through the lens of global photography

Capturing Perspectives







The Indian Photo Festival (IPF) 2024 is back, bringing together a diverse array of photography from around the globe. Promising to be a vibrant platform for established and emerging photographers alike, it showcases a wide range of photographic genres through a rich variety of events, including exhibitions, workshops, portfolio reviews, and engaging discussions.

Aquin Matthews, Festival Director shares, "Since our inception in 2015, the Indian Photo Festival has evolved significantly, embodying our mission to bring art to the public. We've hosted exhibitions in spaces like KBR Park, Durgam Cheruvu Lake, metro stations, airports, and malls, ensuring that everyone can engage with photography. Our pioneering mobile exhibition gallery travels to communities, colleges, and schools, allowing those who may not visit traditional galleries to experience art firsthand."

THE LINE UP

The festival's 2024 edition being held between November 21 to January 5, 2025 will feature a blend of print and digital exhibitions, further broadening its accessibility. With names such as Frans Lanting, of National Geographic hailed as one of the great photographers of our time taking part, this year's edition promises to push the boundaries further.

With participation from artists like Antonio Aragón Renuncio from Spain, Pablo Albarenga from Uruguay/Brazil, and Sujata Setia from India, the line-up promises a showcase of work that spans continents and cultures. This diversity of perspectives makes the festival an enriching experience for both participants and attendees.

VOICES FROM AROUND THE WORLD

Clara Watt, a Senegalese Canadian Documentary Photographer who is presenting her work at the festival shares, "I am excited to showcase my work at the Indian Photo Festival. The series I will be presenting documents the passing of an anti-LGBTQ bill in Ghana. Through portraits and collages, I hope to draw global attention to human rights violations and advocate for social change and the protection of LGBTQ communities in Ghana and beyond."

The festival will feature a wide range of photography across various genres, highlighting both emerging talents and established masters. Notably, it will host a retrospective exhibition of the late Navroze Contractor's works, titled 'Photography Strictly Prohibited'. Also attendees can look forward to enriching sessions aimed at enhancing their photographic skills. For instance, a masterclass with Magnum photographer Matt Black is scheduled at the festival.

Another highlight is the facilitation of insightful conversations with renowned photographers and industry experts, fostering a deeper understanding of photography's role in contemporary society.

A TREAT FOR THE SENSES

Indrajit Khambe who is showcasing his work 'The Morning in the Home Garden,' says, "My work focuses on my children, their upbringing, and the documentation of their childhood amidst the serene landscapes of Sindhudurg. I began my journey in 2012 with the arrival of my daughter, and now I capture the shared experiences of my children in the same landscapes I once explored. Reliving my childhood through every precious moment in the stunning natural beauty of Sindhudurg, which has remained my artistic sanctuary."

A UNIQUE FESTIVAL

The festival also aims to engage the public through a variety of interactive events, such as workshops and screenings, providing attendees with opportunities to learn and collaborate with professionals in the field. Hyderabad, known for its rich cultural heritage, offers an ideal backdrop for this convergence of photography and culture.

Aquin remarks on the evolution of the festival when he says, "We have embraced the digital format, offering many programs online, thus reaching a wider audience. Collaborations that matter, such as our partnership with National Geographic for workshops and portfolio reviews, have enriched the photographic community tremendously. Surviving a decade, especially after the challenges of the pandemic, is a significant achievement."

IPF is not just a celebration of photography, but a movement that promotes artistic dialogue and community engagement. Its impact on the global photography landscape continues to grow, fostering both emerging talent and the appreciation of photography as a vital form of cultural expression.

MALLIK





HIGHLIGHTS

Keynote by Frans Lanting

Frans Lanting has documented wildlife and wild places from the Amazon to Antarctica for more than three decades. Through his images, he promotes understanding of the earth and its natural history, conveying a passion for nature and a sense of wonder about our living planet.



Street Photography Workshop with Matt Stuart This workshop will focus primarily on practical, hands-on experiences in the vibrant streets of Hyderabad, offering participants a unique opportunity to engage with the city's rich culture and dynamic atmosphere.

Portfolio Reviews with National GeographicPhotographers' work will be reviewed and critiqued by Program Officers from National Geographic, emphasizing storytelling.

New Educational Initiatives with the International Center of Photography (ICP), New York
The festival will offer additional workshops and portfolio reviews in partnership with ICP New York, the world's leading photography museum and school.





tourist info



WOW! drops into a historic temple that was the setting of the recent wedding of actors Aditi Rao Hydari and Siddharth

From Folklore to Faith

The majestic Ranganayaka Swamy Temple built by the *Rajas* of Wanaparthy stands as a symbol of devotion and architectural grandeur. Dedicated to Lord Ranganatha, a form of Lord Vishnu, the temple was inspired by the famous Sri Ranganathaswamy Temple in Srirangam, Tamil Nadu. Situated on the banks of the Ratna Pushkarini Lake, the temple complex is surrounded by lush greenery and tranquil waters, offering a picturesque setting that attracts visitors and pilgrims alike.

A BLEND OF ARCHITECTURE AND NATURE

The temple was built in 1670 by the Raja of Wanaparthy Ashtabasha Gopal Rao, based on the dream he had in which Lord Vishnu guided him to follow an eagle to the site where the original idols of Vishnu, Sridevi and Bhudevi made of black stone were found. Around 200 years later, Rani Shankaramma the ruler of Wanaparthy expanded the temple installing the large idol of the reclining Vishnu and constructing the pillars, and stone carvings that one can see today.

Krishnadev Rao of the Wanaparthy royal family shares that when Rani Shankaramma decided to expand the temple, many stone sculptors came from different parts of the Peninsula and were set a test of an indelible mark on large blocks of stone. The sculptors were told which figure was to be carved and where exactly the indelible mark should appear. He adds, "The sculptors were given a month to work on the black stones. It was a team of master sculptors from Thanjavur who passed the test to the satisfaction of Rani Shankaramma, and were awarded the contract."

UNIQUE ARCHITECTURAL FEATURES

The temple's architecture reflects grandeur in its large *gopurams* (temple towers), intricately carved pillars, and high ceilings. The inner sanctum houses the reclining idol of Lord Ranganatha, accompanied by deities of Sreedevi and Bhoodevi, forming a spiritual triangle of reverence.

In October 1998, after a particularly fierce onslaught of the monsoon rains, where it rained non-stop for five days, the huge wall on one side of the temple fell into the lake. The stones scattered over half a kilometer into the water. It looked like the whole temple was in danger of collapsing into the lake, but fortunately, the rains stopped and revealed a surprise. Krishnadev Rao shares, "The collapse of the wall revealed an interesting stone spiral staircase which had been hidden for centuries and led to three large rooms. Once the wall was carefully rebuilt, over a year, instead of leaving these rooms empty, I decided to fill them with relevant and beautiful art. The temple, therefore, now houses about a hundred unique Tanjore paintings open to the public to view whenever they visit the temple." Each year, the temple hosts grand festivals, including the Koti Utsavalu during Sankranti and the divine Kalyanam of the deity, drawing in devotees from across Telangana and neighbouring states.

With its blend of legend, natural beauty, and intricate architecture, Sri Ranganayaka Swamy Temple continues to be a place of spiritual importance and cultural heritage in



Telangana. So, whether you're visiting for religious purposes or to admire the historical architecture this temple promises a peaceful and enriching experience.

LOCATION AND TIMMING

The Sri Ranganayaka Swamy Temple is located approximately 24 kilometres from Wanaparthy and takes about three hours from Hyderabad. It is open from 6 am to 12 pm and 4 pm to 8 pm. Plan your trip accordingly. ■ MALLIK

Pro-tip: Carry your own food as there are very few options to eat near the temple. However, the Wanaparthy town has many options.

PHOTOS: SADHANA RAMCHANDER

entertainment

MOVIES

In theatres



MATKA (TELUGU)

Varun Tej returns after a hiatus, starring in his most ambitious project yet, revolving around the gambling scams during the 60s and 70s across Andhra Pradesh and Telangana. Written and directed by Karuna Kumar, the film also stars Meenakshi Chaudhary and Nora Fatehi among others with GV Prakash providing the score.

Date: 14th November



KANGUVA

Suriya's big-ticket pan-India film finally releases this month, with Siva directing a project touted to be worth Rs. 300-crore. The film co-stars Bobby Deol as the antagonist and Disha Patani as the female lead along with Kiccha Sudeep, Jagapathi Babu and Yogi Babu among others. The music is provided by Devi Sri Prasad while the film is produced and distributed under the Studio Green banner.

Date: 14th November

GLADIATOR II (ENGLISH)

Ridley Scott returns to direct the sequel to the 2000 epichistorical blockbuster which landed Russell Crowe his Academy Award. It is set 20 years after the first and revolves around the son of Maximus and how he is inspired by the story of his father. Scott brings in a massive cast of Pedro Pascal,



Denzel Washington, Joseph Quinn, Connie Nelson and Paul Mescal in the lead with Nelson and Derek Jacobi reprising their roles from the first film.

Date: 15th November

RED ONE

(ENGLISH)

Dwayne Johnson's big-budget film with his long-time filmmaker Jake Kasda, finally hits the screens this winter season. Johnson teams up with Chris Evans and Lucy Liu, to find Santa Claus, played by J.K. Simmons, who has been kidnapped. The film is meant to be the first in a Christmas franchise. It blends the action-spectacle and the season greetings into a motion picture and hopefully provides Johnson the much-needed boost at the box-office.

Date: 15th November





SINGHAM AGAIN

The third film in the franchise and Ajay Devgn is back in all his glory as Bajirao Singham. The plot continues from *Sooryavanshi's* climax, with Devgn in pursuit of Jackie Shroff. The star cast is one of the largest in recent times, with Kareena Kapoor Khan, Akshay Kumar, Ranveer Singh, Deepika Padukone, Tiger Shroff and Arjun Kapoor, as Rohit Shetty returns to direct the film.

Date: 1st November

BHOOL BHULAIYAA 3

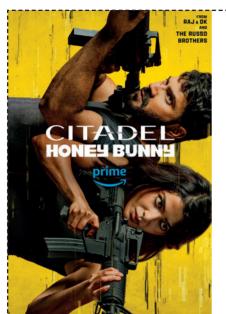
(HINDI)

The second sequel in the franchise marks the return of Anees Bazmee and Karthik Aryan. They venture into a haunted mansion in Kolkata in the middle of a clash between two vengeful spirits claiming to be Manjulika – played by Vidya Balan and Madhuri Dixit. The film co-stars Tripti Dimri, Vijay Raaz, Rajpal Yadav and Sanjay Mishra among others and is the most expensive film in Aryan's career.

Date: 1st November



OTT SHOWS



CITADEL: **HONEY BUNNY**

(HINDI) AMAZON PRIME VIDEO

Samantha and Varun Dhawan team up in the Indian version of the globe-touting spythriller series produced by The Russo Brothers and directed by Raj & DK. The lead actors take on their toughest and most serious characters yet, blending spy-thrills and bigbudget action set pieces, to deliver entertainment. The show also stars Kay Kay Menon and Sikander Kher among others and is co-written by Sita Menon.



MY PERFECT HUSBAND

(TAMIL) Disney+ Hotstar

Starring the one and only Sathyaraj in the lead and supported by Seetha and Rekha Harris, this series revolves around a wife who considers her husband to be ideal. Things take a turn when their son falls in love with the daughter of someone he loved back in school. The series was directed by Thamira, who passed away in 2021.



DO PATTI (HINDI)

Netflix

Making her debut as a producer and in a double role for the first time. Kriti Sanon teams up with Shashanka Chaturvedi in his debut film as a filmmaker and writer Kanika Dhillon. The thriller is about a policewoman – played by Kajol, investigating the case of twin sisters with contrasting personalities. Dhillon is also the co-producer of the film while television actor Shaheer Sheikh is the male lead. This is the second film Sanon and Kajol are in after the movie Dilwale.



FREEDOM AT **MIDNIGHT**

(HINDI) Sony LIV

Nikkhil Advani, who gave us Rocket Boys, returns to bring us the most pivotal point in Indian history. It is based upon the 1975 book of the same name. Delving deep into the proceedings which led to the partition of India and Pakistan. The series stars Sidhant Gupta as Jawaharlal Nehru, Chirag Vohra as Mahatma Gandhi and Arif Zakaria as Mohammad Ali Jinnah. Advani has directed all the episodes and this one is bound to be historic.



Based on the iconic novels written by James Patterson, the legendary detective Alex Cross who uses forensic psychology to analyse killers' minds to identify murders, gets his own TV show. Aldis Hodge is portraying the lead role with Ben Watkins being the creative force. Watkins is known for working on series such as Burn Notice and New York Undercover while Hodge is known for the Black Adam movie starring Dwayne Johnson and voicing Green Lantern in the recent DC animated movies.

■ CHANDRAMOULI

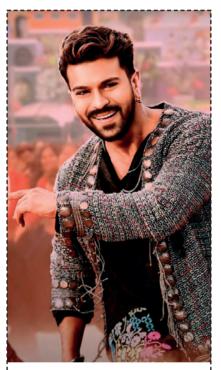


entertainment



NAYA DAUR

Kartik Aaryan is expanding beyond acting by venturing into production. The actor, who has been enjoying a successful run with films like *Bhool Bhulaiyaa* 3, is reportedly exploring the possibility of producing a few small-budget films under his banner. His fans are curious to see how this move will shape his career going forward.



ICE ICE BABY!

Samantha Ruth Prabhu has recently shared her enthusiasm for ice baths as part of her wellness routine. The actress, who often posts about her fitness journey, has embraced this trend, which she claims helps her recover faster from intense workouts and maintain her energy levels.



GAME CHANGER

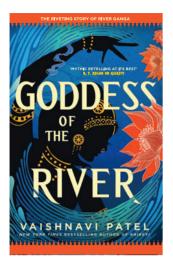
Ram Charan is gearing up for the grand release of Game Changer during Sankranti 2025. The political thriller has the actor in dual roles, and the release is highly anticipated after the success of its songs 'Jaragandi' and 'Macha Macha'. The team promises an immersive experience,vv and this could solidify Ram Charan's global stardom. With father Chiranjeevi postponing the release of his magnum opus, Vishwambhara, to avoid a clash with his son's film, decks are cleared for Charan to strike it hot at the box office.



BALAYYA IS BACK

After three successful seasons, Nandamuri Balakrishna, who is celebrating an impressive 50 years in the film industry, and has captivated audiences with his hosting skills on the reality show *Unstoppable* is back with season four of his talk show. The trailer was well-received and fans can look forward to seeing Tollywood stars, politicians and other entertainers indulge in a tete-a-tete with the actor which is sure to be a must watch for Telugu movie lovers. ■ MALLIK

BOOKS



GODDESS OF THE RIVER

Vaishnavi Patel

After the stupendous success of her earlier work on *Kaikeyi*, Patel returns to mythology for another gripping tale.
A goddess turned mortal, Ganga marries King Shantanu to free herself from a curse, but leaves behind her son, Devavrata. As the prince vows to never claim the throne, it sets in motion a tragic war. This epic tale explores fate, duty, and a mother-son bond tested by destiny.

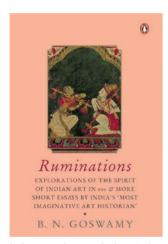
FROM THE KING'S TABLE TO STREET FOOD: A FOOD HISTORY OF DELHI

Pushpesh Pant

Who is an 'asli Dilliwala' – a true-blue Delhizen – and what is his cuisine? Pushpesh Pant, food historian and raconteur par excellence, takes us on a culinary journey from Mahabharata's Indraprastha – the first city of Delhi – to the present day, through



the Sultanate, the Mughal Empire and the British Raj. An excellent romp through the food history of the capital.



RUMINATIONS

BN Goswamy

This book is the most lucid, comprehensive and engaging primer on art in India and South Asia. It celebrates the illustrations to La Fontaine's fables produced in Lahore and the Jain legend of llaputra who was driven to the edge of renunciation. It explores the world map drawn by Turkish admiral, Piri Reis, while admiring the embroideries in the Calico Museum and chronicles of royalty that

belong to the Mughal period. It focuses on Timurid kitabkhanas, the Tibetan sand-mandalas and much more.

BEYOND BIRYANI

Dinesh C. Sharma

Sharma paints a vivid picture of the city's evolution, from its origins as a pearl-trading hub to its status as a modern tech metropolis. He explores Hyderabad's unique blend of old and new, where historic monuments like Charminar stand side by side with cutting-edge IT parks. With focus on the city's diverse cultural influences, including Mughal, Persian, and Telugu



legacies as well as the people, festivals, and food that shape Hyderabad's vibrant identity.



WINNING LAURELS

South Korean author Han Kang won the 2024 Nobel Prize in Literature for her book *Human Acts* that addresses historical traumas while highlighting the fragility of human life. This recognition solidifies her as one of contemporary literature's most powerful voices, drawing attention to the emotional and psychological scars left by significant moments in Korean history. In South Korea, Han's win has sparked increased interest in K-literature, positioning her as a monumental figure in modern storytelling.

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European tapestry. Heard at the party - "Ab fab collection"!





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