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Contents



4C FOCUS

HYDERABAD IS GROOVING TO LIVE MUSIC BANDS LIKE NEVER BEFORE, WHAT WITH CLUBS AND CONCERT VENUES GOING PACKED. We talk to the top and new live music bands, DJs and some indie artists who are regaling the city with their beats. What's Hyderabad listening to and what's driving the trend



THREE NEW SASSY NIGHTCLUBS OPENED IN JUNE – UNDERDOGGS, RADIO BAR AND VETO BAR & KITCHEN. We tell you what's special about them. Plus, our party insider Deepti Alapati's afterhours round up in the Cocktail Confidential column

18 стту

IN START-UP, WE TALK ABOUT SITHA APP THAT CONNECTS WOMEN LOOKING FOR FLEXI JOBS WITH POTENTIAL EMPLOYERS. We profile the young chess champion Divith Reddy in our Sports section, as chess turns out to be the nation's new sporting obsession. Find out more about the Fragile X Society of India that works for awareness about a rare genetic disorder in Cause

16 upcoming

E V E N T S HERE'S OUR CURATED LIST OF THE MOST BUZZ-WORTHY EVENTS in the city that you should catch this month 52 Wellne

WE VISIT TRĒ, A CURATIVE WELLNESS FACILITY, which puts

together the triad of mind, body and spirit for better health



26

FOOD

WE REVIEW DOKII DOKII, THE LATEST PAN ASIAN VENUE FROM THE TEAM THAT GAVE YOU

HASHI. Read about Lazeez Affaire which is all about Indian fine dining; Inzyy: a DIY food service; the cloud kitchen Fruit Custard, Naughty Kodi, and Ta.Ma.Sha. Plus, all about the food festivals and new menus in What's New

SHOPPING

WE CHECK OUT AROMATHERAPY STORE AREZOU BY ISHITA SAXENA, AND THE UNIQUE DÉCOR STORE: THE ARTISANIA. Plus, we explore Chitrakaari which creates animal-themed wallpaper, and Anamika Ananth's Penmai collection. We give you five stores to pick handcrafted items; A Gen Z college-goer breaks down her look And, a shopping essentials



TRENDS



HERE IS A LIST OF ONLINE FINDS AND LITTLE NOOKS to shop for some back to college swag

58 arts

A SNEAK PREVIEW OF GALLERY **G'S TRAVELLING EXHIBITION** FEATURING WORKS OF KCS PANIKER TO HUSAIN; Also, what to expect at the Dawn of a New Expression exhibition at Kalakriti and artworks on display at the Metro stations in the city



A TOUR OF A BEAUTIFUL HOME BY SRIPRIYA REDDY and how it blends European minimalism with Indian nostalgia



ENTERTAINMENT





THIS JULY, DIVE INTO OUR CURATED LIST OF BINGE-WORTHY WEB SERIES, MOVIES THAT ARE MAKING A BUZZ AND BOOKS THAT YOU MUST READ. Plus, get your monthly dose of starry chatter from our snippets

PEOPLE



DIRECTOR SEKHAR KAMMULA ON WHY THE FEMALE CHARACTERS IN HIS **MOVIES ALWAYS HAVE AGENCY;** In conversation with the pretty and talented Preity Mukundan and her role as a warrior princess in *Kannappa*



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Making Education Gentle, Joyful and Meaningful



The educational landscape is changing with the world demanding individuals whose capacities go far beyond academics. **Thraya**, a newly established **Waldorf inspired school** in Hyderabad, recognises this purpose of education and prepares children to thrive in life in a wholesome way.

Guided by this insight, Thraya's approach to education focuses on cultivating three

- essential qualities in every child:
- confidence to face challenges
- clarity to make wise choices, and
- compassion to connect with sensitivity to the world around them.

HOW THRAYA CAME INTO BEING

Thraya is born of the Founders' deep longing to create a space where children are seen in the wholeness of their being, and where learning keeps pace with their development. At the core of the school's endeavour lies an enduring commitment to nurture the body, soul, and spirit in harmony.

PRESERVING CHILDHOOD

Thraya draws inspiration from the century-old Waldorf philosophy—a movement that upholds the sanctity of childhood through education that is

artistic, thoughtful, and deeply human. This approach inspires every aspect of school life and guides Thraya to embrace a curriculum that is in rhythm with the child's growth and development. Learning at Thraya unfolds in a gentle, unhurried and natural rhythm, woven with play and work, creativity and connection. Art and games also evolve to keep pace with a child's developmental stage, aligning with their needs to support overall growth and well-being.

TEACHERS - THE QUIET STRENGTH

Teachers at Thraya are a steady presence in each child's life. Their warmth, love, and thoughtfulness, offer a deep sense of security and trust that children can lean on. They consistently strive to understand the needs of the growing child, and evolve in rhythm with the child's development. At every stage, their awareness of each child's strengths, challenges, and unique potential help to nurture individuality.



A CAMPUS THAT INSPIRES LEARNING

The campus surrounds children with the beauty of nature through local plants and trees, and artistic elements that bring life to the learning environment. Classrooms are naturally well-ventilated and well-lit creating a warm and welcoming ambience.

Our academic approach weaves nature into school life, with respect for local conditions, while giving children the freedom to engage with their surroundings. Thraya is a dream that has been realised together with others who have the shared intent, courage and commitment to build something meaningful for children and for the future.

– Meenu Talasila 🌗

Schools have a responsibility to create an environment where children can be the best version of themselves without fear of failure. This is what we are trying to achieve at Thraya.

– Bharath Pavuluri



MEET THE FOUNDERS

Thraya has been shaped by the untiring efforts and commitment of its Founders, *Meenu Talasila and Bharath Pavuluri*.

Meenu, with an MPhil in education from Cambridge University, has worked in the education sector in various capacities. Her wealth of knowledge and experience steer Thraya's vision.

Bharath, an engineering graduate from The Ohio State University, brings professional experience of over a decade to guide and anchor Thraya's mission.



Thraya is open for Kindergarten admissions.

Scan to know more

Glimpses of a day at Thraya from a recently held Rhythm & Craft Experience



<u>this month</u>

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Our guide to the exciting happenings in town



PLAY TIME JULY 19

A contemporary adaptation of a renowned Bengali play, *Octopus Limited Estd. 2024* follows an unmarried couple. They unexpectedly encounter an agent from a powerful corporate organization who makes them an offer they can't refuse. Three decades old, this adaptation is a sharp satire on capitalism. Directed by Praloy, with a cast that includes actors Soham, Smita, Rounak, and Praloy etc.

Venue: Rangbhoomi Spaces & Events Timings: 7 pm onwards Ticket: Rs 300 onwards (bookmyshow.com)

MINI STANDUP

Take a rib-tickling journey with comic sensation Aiyyo Shraddha as she kicks off her uproarious **Aiyyo So Mini Things Tour**. With this 90-minute extravaganza, comedian Shradhha Jain promises an entertaining exploration of the mundane and chaotic aspects of everyday life.

Venue: Shilpakala Vedika, HITEC City Timings: 4 pm onwards Ticket: Rs 899 onwards (bookmyshow.com)





CALLING ALL DIRECTIONERS

Music sensation One Direction is being celebrated with a 1D-themed fan event in Hyderabad this month. Called **Directionia – A One Direction Themed Fan Event**, the program promises an exciting coming together of Directioners (the band's fans) with an evening that boasts unforgettable anthems, late-night singalongs, and all the nostalgic feels from the former boy band's albums.

Venue: To be announced Timings: 5 pm onwards Ticket: Rs 499 onwards (bookmyshow.com)



MUSIC LEGEND JULY 26

Music legend Kumar Sanu is all set to mesmerize Hyderabad audiences with his soulful voice. With hits like *Tujhe Dekha Toh* and *Ab Tere Bina*, his concert, **Kumar Sanu Live in Hyderabad**, aims to deliver an unforgettable experience.

Venue: To be announced Timings: 5:30 pm onwards Ticket: Rs 999 onwards (bookmyshow.com)

AN EVENING OF COMEDY JULY 26

Best known for *Flirting with the LinkedIn Algorithm*, comedian Harshit Mahawar's sharp wit and clever humor have made him a rising star in standup comedy. With the event *LinkedInPark: Standup Comedy by Harshit Mahawar*, the joke maker comes to our city.

Venue: Aaromale – Café & Creative Community, Film Nagar Timings: 5 pm onwards Ticket: Rs 299 onwards (bookmyshow.com)





THE ART OF PIZZA MAKING JULY 5

Master the art of pizza-making with a focused and hands-on session where you will learn to make delicious pizzas using the traditional poolish fermented method. This **Poolish Pizza Workshop** is perfect for pizza lovers who want to explore better texture, flavor, and crusty quality using time-tested techniques.

Venue: 100 Folds Academy, Jubilee Hills Timings: 10 am onwards Ticket: Rs 2660 onwards (bookmyshow.com)



STAND-UP ACT JULY 19

Young Adult! Featuring Gurleen Pannu is a stand-up act that explores a 20-something entering adulthood and juggling life. Reflective, the show has Gurleen making relatable observations as she shares stories from her own experiences.

Venue: KLN Prasad Auditorium – FTCCI, Lakdikapul Timings: 7 pm onwards Ticket: Rs 499 onwards (bookmyshow.com)

KUCHIPUDI WORKSHOP

Exciting classical dance workshop alert! Beginner friendly with no age limit, this **Kuchipudi Workshop** at Align Hub by Padmaja Penmetsa promises interactive sessions with a classical dance performance on the iconic song *Swagatham Krishna* from the movie *Agnyaathavaasi*.

Venue: Align Hub by Padmaja Penmetsa, Film Nagar Timings: 4 pm onwards Ticket: Rs 800 onwards



MOVE IT! JULY 5 ONWARDS

Step into the rhythm and let the music guide your moves at the **Weekend Dance Workshop**. Make your weekend extra fun with this workshop that offers Bollywood and Tollywood sessions that bring energy and joy with every beat.

Venue: 1 Hundred Dance Studio, Madhapur Duration: 1 hour Ticket: Rs 350 onwards (bookmyshow.com)



FLEA MARKET

Get ready for the **Kala Vistara Flea Market** set to take place on the weekend. It will be bursting with creativity, colors, and quirky finds – from handcrafted magnets to dreamy thread paintings and chocolates that are sure to get you hooked.

Venue: Panchatantra, Begumpet Tel: 98200 52588, 97003 56177 Timings: 2 pm to 9 pm

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.



START-UP

The **SITHA** app, a new initiative by Swathi Nelabhatla, the founder of SHE Jobs, connects women-led services and products with vendors for flexible work opportunities

Flexible Work for Women

When Hyderabad-based anchor Shruti needed more clients for her emceeing gigs, she uploaded her profile to the newly launched **SITHA** app. Within days, she was matched with event managers in her area – no middlemen, no commissions, and full control over her price. That's the power of SITHA: a women-only gig marketplace built for flexibility, dignity, and financial independence. SITHA stands for She is Always the Hero.

FROM MOTHERHOOD TO A MISSION

SITHA is the brainchild of Swathi Nelabhatla, a software engineer turned entrepreneur. As a mother of a child with special needs, Swathi found the demands of a corporate job overwhelming. "I wanted to work, but also be there for my son," she says. This need for flexibility without compromising ambition sparked her first venture: SHE Jobs, a platform for women in tech seeking flexible IT jobs. "The idea is simple," she says. "Don't wait for women to find work. Let work find them – on their terms," says Swathi.

SCALING UP FROM SHE JOBS

While SHE Jobs (since 2021) helped hundreds of women find tech roles, Swathi saw a wider opportunity: skilled

women in non-tech domains - beauty, wellness, consulting, childcare, and education - were underrepresented and underserved. SITHA, launched in June this year, expands the scope by enabling women across domains to offer services based on their skills, list their own prices, and get matched to gigs near them through AI-powered recommendations. The app encourages users to list their skills and services, from making handpainted sarees, fashion jewelry, to rangoli, mehndi and handmade paintings or cooking and tailoring, women can put a price on their services and offer them to other professionals who need it.

WHAT SITHA OFFERS

The app hosts gigs across health, home services, teaching, events, digital consulting, rural crafts, wellness, legal services, and more. Women-led businesses or individuals can sign up for free (for now), showcase their offerings, and get discovered by local and global clients. It's also geo-smart. for instance, if someone needs a mehendi artist in a specific area, the app prioritizes nearby talent for logistical ease. "With over 200 million women in India looking for flexible work, SITHA aims to bridge the gap – and empower 1 million women entrepreneurs by 2027," she adds.

BOOTSTRAPPED BUT BOLD

SITHA is currently bootstrapped with a few crores, funded through Swathi's original company, SHE Jobs. After laying the groundwork last June, the app launched this year with a full-scale rollout. The company plans to hire 25 people this month and is eyeing the US expansion later this year. Government partnerships are also in the pipeline to support women-led services at scale.

Though open to all, Swathi is clear: "This platform is built for women first. There's a gap, and SITHA is here to close it." ■ MANJU

Available on Play Store as SITHA app No registration or commission as of now for women who sign up with their services

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SPORTS

Even as Grandmaster Gukesh's win goes viral, Hyderabad has its own rising star, **Divith Reddy Adulla**, who clinched gold in the Under-8 Open, globally

Making The Knight Moves



With Indian Grandmaster D Gukesh breaking records, winning hearts, and making chess a cool, aspirational sport - a new wave of excitement is sweeping through India's chess circles, especially among the youth. Riding that wave is Hyderabad's very own prodigy: Divith Reddy Adulla, who won gold in the Under-8 Open category at the 2024 World Cadet Chess Championship held in Montesilvano, Italy. Scoring a spectacular 10/11, he defeated top contenders including compatriot Sattwik Swain. Even after mid-tournament losses, Divith bounced back with five consecutive wins to seize the title - making his mark as a talent to watch.

OPENING MOVES

The son of Gachibowli-based software engineers Mahesh Adulla and Sindhuja Palla, nine-year-old Divith showed early signs of promise at age five, cracking shortmate puzzles. "Like most kids, he wanted to impress us. Puzzles became his way of doing it," shares Mahesh. The family's encouragement deepened his interest, and after a disappointing run at the Under-8 Nationals in Vijayawada, they enrolled him for professional coaching at age six.

"Unless you're in the top 30 globally, it's hard to earn from this game" – Mahesh Adulla

MASTERING THE MIDGAME

Divith follows a rigorous training schedule – two hours of daily online coaching, plus self-practice on Chess.com and Lichess.org. A dedicated, quiet space at home gives him the environment he needs to focus, especially during weekends and holidays.

MENTORS AND MILESTONES

Between June 2022 and November 2024, he trained under coach Ramakrishna P. Since December 2024, he has been mentored by FIDE Master Ramu Kandi.

STRENGTH AND STAMINA

What sets Divith apart? A sharp mind, an obsession with puzzles, and fierce determination. "He trained for nearly 12 hours a day (excluding breaks) during his first year – even skipping school to focus on chess," says Mahesh. "No matter how bad or equal the board looks, I always push for a win," confesses Divith.

THE LONGTERM VISION

Divith is aiming for a 2200 rating by year-end, which would open doors to international tournaments as the next step toward his International Master and Grand Master titles.

THE BIGGER PICTURE

Despite the Gukesh-led boom, financial sustainability in chess remains tough. "Unless you're in the top 30 globally, it's hard to earn from this game. Unlike cricket, chess brilliance isn't widely understood or celebrated," Mahesh points out. Integrating chess into school curricula could build appreciation – and an audience.

THE TELANGANA SCENARIO

Though Telangana is rich in talent, it lacks a strong support system. "Tamil Nadu is far ahead in incentives and recognition. Young talents like Divith deserve more," says Mahesh. MANJU



CAUSE

July 22, World Fragile X Awareness Day, is a good time to understand India's most underdiagnosed cause of intellectual disability

One Test can Change a Life

"Can you light up a building – in teal?" That's the unusual request Shalini Kedia has made to almost everyone she knows since April, especially CEOs and head honchos of hospitals, universities and hotels. But behind this ask lies a pressing mission – to spark awareness about the Fragile X Syndrome (FXS), a little-known genetic condition linked to speech delays, ADD, ADHD, and behavior and sensory processing disorders. The idea is to get more people to pause and ask, "What exactly is Fragile X Syndrome?" says Shalini, chairperson of the Fragile X Society of India.

MORE ABOUT FXS

Given that the worldwide ratio is one in 5,000 individuals being affected by the Fragile X Syndrome, it is safe to say we have four lakh children impacted in India alone, most of whom are undiagnosed and untreated. FXS is the most commonly inherited, single-gene cause of intellectual disability and autism worldwide.

THE SYMPTOMS

FXS can cause intellectual disabilities, attention deficit disorder and hyperactivity, autism, autistic features, and speech delay. Seizures affect about 25 percent of boys with FXS. It is a genetically defined inherited condition that a DNA blood test can diagnose. The Fragile X Society of India is the only national organization dedicated to raising awareness, promoting research, and providing support for families affected by FXS. The Society ensures that every individual with FXS receives an accurate diagnosis, appropriate education, and the resources they need to thrive.

IN MAINSTREAM MEDIA

Interestingly, Bollywood actor Aamir Khan's latest release *Sitaare Zameen Par* features a neurodivergent actor, Rishabh Jain, who has FXS, in the cast. There are also millions of carriers of the genetic permutation who are at risk for one of the other Fragile X-associated disorders. "We are creating dialogue and awareness about it, since a simple blood test can detect it. July 22 is Fragile X Awareness Day," informs Shalini.

FUTURE FORWARD

The Fragile X Society of India has sent messages to 76,000 IVF specialists about the connection between infertility and FXS. Their mission now is to get the media, medical journals, and eminent people to talk about it and create awareness. "More awareness means empowering families to make informed medical decisions," says Shalini.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

- Talk about it: Share information about FXS to create a wider circle of awareness.
- Recommend screening: Encourage testing for all children diagnosed with intellectual disability or autism, and for couples planning to conceive.
- Seek genetic counselling: Those with a family history of the condition should seek expert advice.
- Support the cause: Your support can fund vital research and family support programmes.
- Be inclusive: Show kindness and support for individuals and families living with FXS.

5 FACTS ABOUT FRAGILE X

- Fragile X can pass silently through generations until someone in the family is affected.
- A DNA blood test is more than 99 percent accurate for diagnosing FXS.
- All children diagnosed with an intellectual disability/autism should be tested for FXS.
- Female carriers of the gene premutation can be at risk for related disorders, including infertility and early menopause. Furthermore, there is a 50 percent risk of them passing it on to each child they have.
- Males who carry the permutation will pass it on to all their daughters and one of their sons.

 MANJU

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You just need one video, one role, and everything shifts From a viral sensation to Nemali, the warrior princess in *Kannappa*, newbie **Preity Mukundhan** is claiming her crown

More than just a Preity face

Preity Mukundhan burst into the spotlight with her mesmerizing performance in the viral Tamil video *Aasa Kooda*, where her effortless grace and power-packed expressions made the internet sit up and take notice. She followed it up with *Morni*, a sleek Hindi music video alongside Badshah and Sharvi Yadav, sealing her image as the next big sensation.

A Bharatanatyam dancer since age five and an NIT Trichy alumnus, Preity made the leap from ad films into cinema with the quirky Telugu hit *Om Bheem Bush* and then landed a high-profile role in the Telugu epic *Kannappa* (starring Manchu Vishnu, Mohan Babu and Prabhas in a special role), and a lead role in the Tamil film *Star* opposite Kavin. Up next? A Malayalam debut in *Maine Pyar Kiya*.

With her viral stardom, classical roots, and pan-India dreams, Preity isn't just here to act – she's here to conquer. And if her journey so far is any proof, she's just getting started. Between look and screen tests, she talks to WOW! from Mumbai over the phone:

HOW DID IT ALL BEGIN?

I am a Tamil girl who studied at NIT Thiruchirapalli in Tamil Nadu, and trained in Bharatanatyam since I was five. The performing arts were always my calling. It felt like catharsis. I started modelling at 18, but my parents encouraged me to go beyond that. Acting wasn't immediate. It was a slow process of persistence and carving a space. My first big opportunity came when a director who had seen my ad work offered me a danceheavy role in *Aasa Kooda*.

YOU'VE BEEN PART OF *KANNAPPA*. HOW DID THAT CHANGE THINGS?

I was a newbie when I signed on, but the role of Nemali – vulnerable yet powerful – stays throughout the film. It's larger-than-life and swamped me with learning. Honestly, it's been the biggest turning point in my career so far. I was in Hyderabad for two months, trained in Kalari for three weeks... it opened up my body, my mind, my process. I even shot for parts of the film in New Zealand.



QUICK TAKE

- Three hashtags that define you: #IDontKnowAnyHashtags #LetMeAskChatGpt #FoundThem
- Your hang out café when in Hyderabad: Olive Bistro
- Three things you love about Hyderabad (besides food): The weather, city's infrastructure, and of course, the people
- Three apps that you use constantly: Spotify, ChatGPT, Crosswords
- Social media for you is: A platform to connect with my well wishers

YOU'VE DONE TAMIL FILMS AND NOW TELUGU. WHAT'S THE PLAN?

Yes, I've done a Tamil star project and have three more in Tamil lined up. I don't want to rush into anything, but wait for something extraordinary. I want to explore every role, even overacting – if it teaches me something! (laughs)

WHAT'S YOUR EXPERIENCE OF AUDITIONS AND CASTING BEEN LIKE?

It's fascinating. You get a call from a casting director, but often you're not told the full script. You show up for look tests, costume trials, and whatever the director wants. For *Kannappa*, there were a couple of rounds over three weeks. Once people see your work – especially on social media or through word of mouth – it travels. Now, the same casting directors have me in their heads for future roles.

WE OFTEN HEAR GRITTY TALES OF STRUGGLERS – NEWCOMERS WITH NO FILM CONNECTIONS, SCRAPING BY ON MAGGI NOODLES, CHASING ROLES WHILE DODGING RENT NOTICES. WAS IT THAT HARD FOR YOU?

Fortunately, I've had the cushion of living with my parents, and their support has been my quiet strength during the quieter months – though I haven't hit rock bottom yet. But make no mistake – safety net or not, I'd have leapt into this world headfirst. For me, it's always been going big or going home. And I came here to go big.

BETWEEN MOVIE RELEASES (IN SOME CASES, DELAYS) AND WAITING FOR SOMETHING TO COME TO YOU, HOW DO YOU STAY GROUNDED?

Trust the process. Believe in yourself. Talent matters, yes, but you also have to bring people to the theaters. It's about winning hearts. This industry is tight-knit – one thing leads to another. You just need one video, one role, and everything shifts. **MANJU**



Classy director **Sekhar Kammula**, known for blockbusters such as Love Story and Kuberaa, on authenticity, new-age cinema and why his heroines are always power women

"In my world, women are the decision makers"

Director Sekhar Kammula is back with a bang – and a bangerwith *Kuberaa*. The National Award-winning filmmaker, known for his realistic storytelling, strong female leads, and middle-class sensibilities, made his debut with *Dollar Dreams* (1999), which won the National Award for Best First Film. His breakthrough came with *Anand* (2004), followed by hits like *Godavari, Leader, Happy Days, Life is Beautiful, Fidaa*, and *Love Story*. His films delve into relationships, youth, and cultural roots with quiet emotional depth. In *Kubera*, he steps away from casting newcomers to lead a star-studded cast – Dhanush, Nagarjuna, and Rashmika – in a gripping tale of need versus greed. As he speaks his heart out before the release of the movie, WOW! listens in.

YOUR FILMS ARE SIMPLE AND EMOTIONAL. WHAT INSPIRES YOU?

It comes from observation. *Chinnappudu nenu chusina* reallife characters – amma, akka, classmates – their pain, love, disappointment... everything gets stored somewhere. When I write, these emotions come out naturally. I believe even the smallest moment can make a big impact.

"I'm not drawn to extravagance. When you show relatable struggles – college fees, job tensions, first crush – the audience feels connected"

YOU'RE CREDITED FOR CREATING A SPACE FOR MIDDLE-CLASS STORIES. WAS THAT INTENTIONAL?

Yes. I come from that background. I'm not drawn to extravagance. When you show relatable struggles – college fees, job tensions, first crush – the audience feels connected. *Anand, Godavari, Happy Days...*they all came from people I met or was inspired by.





YOUR FEMALE CHARACTERS ARE UNUSUALLY STRONG AND INDEPENDENT FOR TELUGU CINEMA. WHY IS THAT IMPORTANT TO YOU?

That's because I was nurtured by strong women. My mother was a teacher. My sister was fierce. In my world, women are decision-makers. They leave, they question, they choose. That's why, even if there's no 'hero', the story works.

DO YOU THINK TODAY'S FILMMAKERS HAVE IT EASIER OR HARDER?

Content-wise, they have freedom. Distribution and market access are easier with OTTs. But the pressure to go viral or commercialize is high. There is immense pressure to show emotion in one-minute reels. It takes away from storytelling.

WHAT'S YOUR WRITING PROCESS LIKE?

Painfully slow. I take long walks. Scribble ideas on paper. And once I find the 'why' of the story, I start building scenes around that. Music inspires me too. Ilaiyaraaja songs give me entire plots!

YOUR NEXT PROJECT IS WITH NEWCOMERS AGAIN. WHY NOT BIG STARS?

Stars are great, but newcomers bring freshness. The audience watch the star's expressions, but they watch the character when it's played by freshers. I love to take that risk and discovering talent.

WHAT ADVICE WOULD YOU GIVE TO ASPIRING STORYTELLERS?

Don't chase trends. Tell stories you know. When you speak the truth, the audience will connect with you. Be honest. Be patient. And never write thinking about Instagram edits!

MANJU



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Bridging the North South divide, this well-known Delhi brand opens its doors in our city

FAMILIAR YET CURRENT

Integrating traditional sensibilities with contemporary expressions is Lazeez Affaire – a classy joint from the late nineties that recently made its way down South from Delhi. Juxtaposing its culinary identity that is rooted in familiarity, quality, and precision with an inclination for experimenting, the restaurant prides itself on its ability to churn out a meticulously prepared spread that is both grounded and elevated.



"At Lazeez Affaire, every dish is a balance of tradition and technique," says Chef Siva. "We stay true to the roots of North Indian cuisine while enhancing it with precision and elegance. It is about creating flavors that comfort, surprise, and stay with you long after the meal is over."

TRADITIONAL ECHOES

Brown, yellow, and white come together to create rustic charm across its indoor, semi-outdoor, and outdoor areas. The traditional vibe is enhanced further with classical instrumentals like the sitar and tabla playing in the background. We take our seat indoors where a very prompt and efficient staff ensures a smooth dining experience.

CONTEMPORARY TOUCH

Murgh Lazeez Tikka, Patthar Ka Ghosht, Shaadi Ka Laal Chicken, and Punjabi Rarra Mutton are just some of the must-haves at Lazeez. Additional items just as rich in taste include the Tamatar Shorba, Shahi Dum Ka Aloo, Bhatti Ka Paneer, and the Nawabi Tarkari Biryani.

We paired our meal with drinks like Aath and Das – the former made of fresh citrus, kaffir lime, elderflower, and fizz, and the latter with guava, chilli, and salt – and ended it with the dessert Doodh Kalakand with Rose Rabri, milk fudge squares served with rose-scented rabri for a floral and fragrant finale. IPSHITA

Meal For Two: Rs 2,000 onwards

Cable Bridge Road, CBI Colony, Jubilee Hills **Tel:** 90590 55121 **Timings:** 12 pm to 3:30 pm and 7 pm to 11:30 pm (Sunday to Thursday), and 7 pm to 12:30 am (Friday and Saturday)

CHEF'S SPECIAL

Chef Suresh D C is reinventing southern classics with fire and flair at the newly-opened **Tuya** in Jubilee Hills

Twist of Taste





WOW! Recommends Green Tamarind Prawns

WE LOVED YOUR FOOD. TELL US MORE ABOUT YOU AND YOUR FOOD!

I'm the founder, chef and flavor chaser at Tuya. We launched in June 2025 with a single goal: to give South Indian food a fresh spin without losing its soul.

TUYA? WHAT DOES IT MEAN AND WHY?

Tuya means purity – the kind that goes into each dish, and the intent behind it. It's also a blend of mine and my wife Divya's passions. Before this, I stirred up flavors at Alchemy in Bengaluru and Hosa in Goa.

CHEF SURESH'S QUICK BIO WOULD BE?

Chef of the Year (*Times Food & Nightlife*), and featured in *Culinary Culture* and World's 50 Best Discoveries. Let's just say I cook with ambition and a ladle full of love.

THE SOUTH REIMAGINED. WHAT DOES THAT MEAN?

We keep the roots, but play with the branches. Our Avocado Sarva Pindi is a crunchy classic dressed up with avocado gojju, mint roti pachadi, and roasted peanuts. The Green Chilli Chicken? Pure fire from the Nilgiris.

WHAT'S THE STORY BEHIND THE AMBIENCE?

It's earthy meets elegant in 3,352 sq.ft. of terracotta, ikat and design elements from the five southern states. It's warm, inviting and pairs well with everything on the menu.

FIVE MUST-HAVES AT TUYA?

Jackfruit Gassi, Green Tamarind Prawns, Egg Chicken Cutlet, Curried Idiyappam with Kadala Curry, and Rajahmundry Rose Milk Frozen. Everything you've eaten earlier, but also nothing like what you've eaten before! MANJU

Meal for two: Rs 3,000

Plot No. 95, Road No. 44A, Jubilee Hills **Tel:** 90084 10690 **Timings:** 12 pm to 11 pm



With a trendsetting approach to vegetarian dining, this Asian café is all about bold flavors and cozy charm

BOLD FLAVORS

Creating a sensory *tamasha*, is the newly transformed vegetarian Asian café, **Ta.Ma.Sha**. Born from the vision of Mahender Vyas and championed by AK Solanky, Ta.Ma.Sha – known for its cozy charm and its reimagining of what vegetarian food can be – unveils a fresh look to match its expanding menu that is bigger, bolder and bursting with more flavor than ever.

VIBE

Attracting young folk, the Instagrammable space opens to a vibrant 2,500 sq.ft. area covered in faux green foliage and natural light. We plop ourselves down on their super comfy seats overlooking the city and flip open their extensive menu which includes Indo-Chinese, Korean, and Thai food.

FOOD

We indulge in a lineup that includes the

crispy yet soft Burmese Veg Parcel, a vegetables-filled dish wrapped in a thin pastry dough; the spicy Dragon Baby Corn; Indo-Chinese dish, Paneer Katsu; and the Ta.Ma.Sha Special Ramen, a flavor-rich dish influenced by Sichuan pepper corn and chilli oil.

We paired the spicy and savoury combos with mocktails – the edgy Cool Cucumber, and the sweet and delicate, Rose Gold. Their cool and creamy Ice Cream Bun and their seasonal fruitsinspired Mango Mousse and Sticky Rice with Mango concluded our lunch that left us feeling fully satiated. IPSHITA

Meal for Two: Rs 800 onwards

Supreme Enclave, Madhapur Road, Sri Rama Colony, Jubilee Hills Tel: 73865 23634 Timings: 11 am to 11 pm





Spice up your evening with bold South Indian flavors at this crowd-puller

GET NAUGHTY

Get a taste of all that is naughty and nice at Hyderabad's latest food sensation, Naughty Kodi. Too hot to handle, this South Indian restaurant draws you into a spicy affair with a medley of flavors and bold bites, blending tradition with edge.

VIBE CHECK

A treat for the eyes and ears, Naughty Kodi lavishes you with a grand entrance, eccentric décor, and a 6,000 sq.ft. expanse that spreads across two floors, all bathed in foot-tapping instrumental music. A hospitable staff welcomes us and shows us to our table set in front of the bar. We sink into our plush seats as we await our exciting spread.

THE SPREAD

We begin our meal with the super spicy Thotakoora Liver Fry, the flavorful Thamalapaku Kattu Charu soup, and the Avakaya Corn Cigars which we pair with drinks named Mohabbat Ka Sharbat and Guava Mary. Additionally, other signature dishes recommended are Mutton Marag, Thoda Kottu Chinna, and the Thalappakatti Mutton Pulao, and signature cocktails like the whisky-based Guntur Karam, vodkabased Gajala from Washington DC and Gunapam – That Long Iron Rod.

Finally, we overloaded on the delicious sweetmeat Bangala Bow Bow – best described as a royal twist of gulab jamuns placed atop a creamy bed of delight, evoking a celebration on a plate. ■ IPSHITA

Meal For Two: Rs 1,000 onwards

Road No. 36, Jubilee Hills **Tel:** 79959 99730/1 **Timings:** 12 pm to 12 am





A meal kit food service that simplifies cooking for busy professionals

Instant and Easy

Three friends, also young, working professionals, were tired of eating out every night and craved the comfort of homemade meals. Through their new venture, they found a way to enjoy fresh, preservative-free, home-style food without the hassle of grocery runs or long prep times.

Inzyy – a take on instant and easy – was launched in April 2025. The founders, Sai Chaitanya, Sravan Gogineni, and Vijay Kumar, built Inzyy with a clear focus: to serve busy working professionals who are short on time but still want to eat homemade food.

How is Inzyy different from other DIY food kits? Says Chaitanya, "Our kits are freshly prepared every day – even the ingredients are sourced the same day. The shelf life of our kits is 12 to 16 hours only. We don't use tasting salts or preservatives. You only have to follow the recipe and make the dish. We even send the salt, oil and the spices as required in the recipe."

The quantity of ingredients is enough to make a meal for two or four, depending on your order. Items like the chicken for the biryani come marinated so you save time.

Currently their range includes nine options like biryanis in veg and chicken versions, Butter Fried Chicken, Pav Bhaji, Chicken & Veg burgers, Paneer Butter Masala with Roti, Sambar Rice, Pav Bhaji, etc. They plan to add 15 more recipes, including Continental options, and expand their delivery network.

Inzyy's kitchen is located near JNTU and they currently deliver to areas like HITEC City, Kondapur, Madhapur, Jubilee Hills, Banjara Hills, Kukatpally, Nizampet, Miyapur and Bachupally.

With weekly and monthly subscription plans as part of the expansion plan, and reasonable prices, Inzyy is a boon for those who miss their mother's cooking or want to make their own food.
MINAL

Prices: Rs 124 onwards [free delivery over Rs 199]

To order: www.inzyy.com

WHAT'S NEW

NEW MENU AT ONE8 COMMUNE

One8 Commune Hyderabad launched a new menu to celebrate its first anniversary. Highlights include tostadas (Mexican fried tortillas) with mushroom pepper fry and a gochujang chicken version, Lime Chilli Pickled Prawns, Rawa-Crusted Fish



In Pumpkin Coconut Curry, Champaran Mutton, Mutton Dalcha and Prunes Walnut Kofta Curry. Among the new cocktails are the Jazz Mango (mango-jasmine gin with a mango jelly rice cracker) and Matinee Magic (popcorn, Aperol and vanilla) that offer playful narratives, while the Grape Expedition and Paradise Punch are fresh and citrusy. Our personal favorite is the Mango Picante, with tequila, jalapeño honey, and an aam papad.

Tel: 95590 71818

MANGOLICIOUS AT CAFÉ DELHI HEIGHTS

Café Delhi Heights is hosting the Mangolicious festival spotlighting mangoes in every form. The menu features the Wild Mango Lassi with saffron and sabja seeds, a spicy Green Mango Aam-Ras, the breezy No-Hangover Mango Mojito, a Berry Mango Shake, and

the Basil Mango Passionate. The savory bites include Classic Hummus with Mango Salsa, mango-topped quesadillas, a light Mango Poke Bowl, Mango Chicken/Fish with salsa verde, and intriguingly, Mangolicious Pizza. Our pick is the creamy Mango Cheesecake.

Tel: 092810 54033

FRENCH HOT DOG AT THE AIRPORT

French gourmet hot dog brand Frank Famous Hot Dog launched its first Indian outlet at the Rajiv Gandhi International Airport. Located



in the Arrival terminal of RGIA, the menu features Roll-Dogs, a gourmet reinterpretation of the traditional hot dog, crafted with premium ingredients and bold European flair. The roll-dogs come with fries, beverages and vegetarian options customized for the Indian palate.

@frankshotdogindia on Instagram

A hearty fruit custard by Chethan and Surya ought to be your go-to, home-delivered dessert when you are in an indulgent mood

In Fruit-forward Mode

A chilled bowl of fruit custard on a humid Hyderabad day? Feels just right. Thick, creamy vanilla custard loaded with chunks of mango, blueberry and dragon fruit – it's dessert, sure, but honestly, it can pass for lunch. That's the idea behind **Fruit Custard**, a homegrown, Madhapurbased cloud kitchen that keeps it simple: fresh fruits, large portions, and just the right amount of sweetness.



FRUITYLICIOUS BOWLS

Their custards are generously fruity, the oats shakes come in pretty pastel shades (we're partial to the blueberry one), and the cold-pressed juices are a good add-on if you're trying to keep things light. Needless to say, digging into the exotic custard with fruit toppings is eminently Grammable! They also have another version called Fruit Delights, jars of goodness with a layer each of fruit, bread and pudding. Our pick is the Apricot Delight, inspired by mana Qubani Ka Meeta.

OATS AND MORE

Yelma Chethan Reddy and his friend Ganga Sai Surya, two 24-year-olds, began with a street cart in 2022. "Love at first bite is how we define Fruit Custard. Today, besides a physical store in Madhapur, we have 10+ kitchens across Hyderabad and even automated WhatsApp processes to make ordering smoother," says Chethan. Besides custards, they've got oats-based dishes, seasonal desserts (hello, apricot and lemon!), and fruit-based ice creams coming soon. Their products come in glass jars and hence are easy to slip into your bag and polish them off in the cab on your way to work or home. ■ MANJU

Meal for two: Rs 300

Ground Floor, beside Manasa Supermarket, Ayyappa Society, Madhapur Tel: 86886 41919 Timings: 8 am to 2 am





WOW! Recommends Burrata Snow

Dokii Dokii – the sound of a heart beat – and the newest Pan Asian venue on the block is ideal for an outing with family or friends

Dhak Dhak Karne Laga

From the team that gave you Hashi, comes **Dokii Dokii** – meaning dhak dhak or doki doki – the sound of the heartbeat in Japanese. Its brightly lit interiors and comfortable seating, with an informal atmosphere are warm and inviting. The scene stealers are the innovative menu, the zero alcohol cocktails and the efficient and friendly staff.

THE DRINKS

Unusual ingredients like a pad Thai sauce, bananas, cucumbers, apple pie notes etc. – blended synergistically with the Sober brand of rum, gin and whiskey – give you the feel of alcohol without the buzz. These zero-proof spirits are the base for the cocktails, made with as much intricacy as their alcoholic counterparts. Go for the pad Thai if spice and sour notes is your thing.

THE FOOD

A vast menu with interesting options for vegetarians and non-vegetarians includes small plates, Asian tacos and pizzettes, sushi, dimsums, ramen and poke bowls. We tried the Burrata Snow made with creamy Burrata on a bed of rocket leaves and tomato snow. A must-have to start a meal.

The Enoki Explosion Sushi Roll and the Firecracker Prawn Dimsums are also worthy contenders as portions are large enough to be shared. The Spicy Miso Ramen with noodles and miso broth packs quite a punch. If you want something familiar, go for the Smokin Malay Street Noods or Char Kway Teow as they are better known.

To finish, have the Midori Frost – a refreshing finish to a meal unlike any we've had. Paper thin slices of green apple, drizzled with citrus and topped with a lemon sorbet. A true flavor bomb to end the meal. MINAL

Meal for two: Rs 2,000

Ground floor, Plot No. 1335/H, Cable Bridge Road, Nandagiri Hills, Jubilee Hills **Tel:** 90003 35107 **Timings:** 12 pm to 3.30 pm; 7 pm to 11 pm



From the Nagaland panel that was the highlight of Bollywood diva Sonam Kapoor's Mumbai home to a divine, bronze Kalpravriksha, **The Artisania** has them all

4 Statement Pieces to Own

If you loved the striking Nagaland panel in Bollywood actor and style diva Sonam Kapoor's living room in Mumbai, you'll find a similar architectural statement at **The Artisania - Furniture, Home Décor & Lighting**. This new design space showcases tribal craftsmanship, reclaimed materials, and one-of-a-kind furniture, all curated to bring a touch of storytelling into urban homes. The store that opened in May in Banjara Hills, is a passion project by SM Spurthi, a chartered accountant turned artist who has actively practiced oil, acrylic, watercolor and Tanjore painting over the past decade. "The items are presented without overt promotion – each piece carries its own story and aesthetic presence. The store (with online operations) attracts interior designers, design-conscious homeowners and collectors," she adds.

HERE ARE FOUR CONVERSATION STARTERS TO CHECK OUT:

- A royal throne reborn from the heart of a vintage bullock cart – bold, storied, and steeped in drama. *Price:* Rs 95,000
- A fierce, whimsical pair of tiger chairs – carved from mango wood and brought to life in bold oil strokes by regional artists, roaring with character and charm.
 Price: Rs 51,000 per piece
- A teak wood trunk with brass accents and intricate flower motifs that can be a decorative statement and a practical storage piece.
 Price: Rs 175,000
- A bronze Kalpavriksha, an intricate representation of the divine wishgranting tree with a Banarasi silk cloth as the backdrop and framed in wood.
 Price: Rs 48,600

Price: Rs 5,000 onwards

First Floor, Road No. 12, opposite Pizza Hut, Sri Ram Nagar Colony, Banjara Hills Tel: 88972 86263 Timings: 10.30 am to 7:30 pm MANJU

Experience holistic wellness with the aid of essential oil blends mindfully handcrafted by this self-care brand

PAMPER YOUR SENSES

Guiding you to a peaceful night's sleep and helping you maintain great skin is Hyderabad-based Arezou by Ishita Saxena, a self-care brand that promises holistic wellness through its aromatherapy-infused products. Tailored to address your individual skin concerns at every stage of your life, Arezou's therapeutic essential oil blends help to elevate your physical, mental and emotional well-being through smell, touch, and sight.

CUSTOMIZATION

Established in 2023, Arezou (meaning desire in Persian) is a women-led brand that includes a team of five. It was transitioning to motherhood that initially served as a catalyst for Founder and Certified Aromatherapist Ishita Saxena to learn and implement her knowledge of aromatherapy to create her own blends. These met her emotional and physical needs and helped her immensely in this pivotal phase of her life, leading her to share them with her family and friends. "Soon, I was busy addressing individual needs and creating customized blends for people across age groups," Ishita explains.

OFFERINGS

Catering to both women and men and addressing issues like ageing, pigmentation, wrinkle repair, mental health and more, Arezou's therapeutic essential oils and organic carrier oilsinfused handmade and vegan products include aromatic skincare oils, wellness blends, and soaps. The therapeutic blend we tried included sunflower carrier oil and, lavender and geranium essential oils.

Available on their website, and Amazon and Myntra, the brand's product lineup also includes premium scented candles, and the ultimate face massaging tool – the kansa wand that helps with uplifting skin, reducing fine lines and puffiness in the face. IPSHITA

Price: Rs 300 onwards

Tel: 78384 18641 Website: arezou.in





Chitrakaari launched a collection of playful hand-illustrated animals to bring life to your walls

Bringing home the Zoo

A casual visit to the zoo with her children sparked something unexpected in designer Surbhi N Bagla. Seeing their wonder at elephants, lions, and monkeys, she imagined capturing that joy in spaces where children spend their time – their rooms and homes. The result: **Zoo-tiful Chaos**, the latest wallpaper collection from her design label, Chitrakaari, the luxury online wallpaper store.

Blending watercolor artistry with whimsical storytelling, the collection features hand-illustrated animals – playful squirrels, gentle bears, majestic lions, and even dolphins – brought to life in earthy tones. "In our earlier collection, nature was the hero. This time, the animals take centerstage," says Surbhi.

ART ON THE WALL

The journey of each design in the collection begins with hours of observing real-life animals in motion – studying their postures, expressions, and movements.

Based on the child's age, the animals' features and colors are then thoughtfully tuned – sometimes whimsical and playful, other times more natural – to foster a meaningful connection.

HANDCRAFTED MAGIC

"These references are meticulously translated into hand-drawn sketches and rendered in delicate watercolors. The artworks are then digitally refined - not only to adapt them to larger wall surfaces, but also to fine-tune composition, enhance clarity, and preserve subtle textures," she explains. Once refined, the designs are printed on textured feathered paper, adding a tactile quality that deepens their visual richness. While ideal for nurseries and kids' rooms, the wallpapers have found fans among adults too, especially in casual lounges, libraries, and even powder rooms. MANJU

Price: Rs 150 per sq meter onwards Instagram: @chitrakaari.design





The eponymous label Anamika Ananth unveils its debut collection, Penmai

CELEBRATING WOMEN

Launched in the end of 2024, the Hyderabad-based label Anamika Ananth is where old-world charm meets cuttingedge cool. Think handlooms and heritage crafts reimagined with 3D printing, bold silhouettes, and rule-breaking pattern play. Anamika isn't afraid to blur boundaries - between the wearable and the art-worthy. It's all about finding harmony in contrast – mixing the familiar with the unexpected. Their pieces are a nod to India's rich cultural roots while pushing the envelope with futuristic forms and experimental detailing.

"Penmai creates a space where women and their everyday lives are celebrated in all their mundane glory"

STYLE INSPIRATION

Anamika draws inspiration from her South Indian upbringing steeped in Telugu and Tamil traditions. "Growing up immersed in both Tamil and Telugu cultures, I've developed a deep respect for what sets them apart and what connects them. I believe that when you



HAIR ACCESSORIES: COLLECTION FROM CHILDHOOD; RS 500

NECKLACE: VIVENNE WESTWOOD; RS 18,000

TOP: MAX; RS 700

SIDE CHAIN: DIY BEADED; RS 1,000

BAG: DAVID JONES PARIS; RS 8,000

BOWS & CHARMS: MINISO; RS 800

SHOES: ERIDANI; RS 2,000

engage with a culture sincerely and respectfully, it gives you the freedom to interpret it in a way that feels personal and meaningful," she explains.

ESSENCE OF WOMANHOOD

The label's debut collection Penmai - that translates to femininity or the essence of being female - honors the quiet strength of women and seeks to reflect the understated authenticity at the core of womanhood. "I've always been fascinated by the beauty of the mundane," Anamika shares. "The kind that hides in plain sight, quietly adding meaning and joy to our lives while often going unnoticed. Penmai creates a space where women and their everyday lives are celebrated in all their mundane glory."

Explaining in detail the role honest representation plays in the creation of the collection, Anamika adds, "A collection usually begins with a question - the kind that gnaws at you until you finally give it attention. This particular collection began with my frustration that typical representations of South Asian women didn't reflect the women I knew and saw around me."



BREATHEASY FABRICS

The collection includes trousers, skirts, tops, jackets, blazers, pantsuits, and dresses. Crafted using cotton, ahimsa and commercial silk, bamboo lyocell, and tencel, each piece aims for comfort, breathability, and thoughtful sourcing. Reflecting the grace and warmth of South India, the color palette used includes jet black, decoction brown, malai, terracotta, and Madras multicolors - each tone resonating everyday life. IPSHITA

Price: Rs 8,000 onwards

Tel: 93462 86179 Timinas: 10.30 am to 7 pm Instagram: anamikaananth

STYLE FILE

A Gen Z student breaks down her look and share her shopping hacks with us

Sustainability is a thing"

NAME: SUBHASHI GUMPULA AGE: 21 YEARS **PROFESSION: UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT** AT A COLLEGE IN RAJENDRANAGAR

OUTFIT DETAILS

The look: I am heavily inspired by Y2K fashion while also leaning towards Harajuku fashion from Japan for hair clips. The floral theme and pink accents were also inspired by the fashion in the late 2000's show Winx, which ties it all together.

MY SHOPPING HACKS

- Invest in a plain white shirt as you can pair it up with anything. Choose good fabric as you are going to use it a lot. Sustainability is a thing, you know!
- Compare the price of the product on different online platforms to buy at the best price.
- Track prices on Google to see when the product is sold at a low price.
- Thrifting online on Instagram can help to get your hands on some unique or vintage / Y2K clothing at a pocket-friendly price.
- Invest in good and comfortable shoes as your shoe size won't change, unlike your body in adulthood, and is a long-term investment. **E** KARTHEEKA

In a world of mass-made goods using technology, WOW! seeks out handcrafted treasures made from the heart, with creativity at their core

Handcrafted Gems in our Backyard



TROVE STORE

This store is part of the Crafts Council of Telangana (CCT) space, where the walls are covered with arts and crafts from all over India. Terracotta and woven cane baskets from West Bengal, hand-painted steelware, carved shells and murals from Kerala, the Ganguar dolls from Rajasthan, Pattachitra from Odisha, Dokhra from Jharkhand, and Lippan and brassware from Gujarat. "These pieces are designed inhouse or with small changes made to the product with paints to keep up with the trends forecast, or they send materials so the artisans can experiment with mediums to produce their crafts," says founder Nayantara Quader.

Pin: 1st Floor, CCT space, Road No.12, Banjara Hills Tel: 73960 18574

MANGLAM HANDICRAFT BOUTIQUE

Two statement metal lions welcome you at the entrance of this two-storied store filled with different metalware artifacts. These range from small brassware keychains and lockets to a life-sized artwork that can cover an entire wall. These works date back to different artisans from different ages, as some of them are antique and priced in lakhs. They have unique pieces in marble, stone, wood, brass and bronze. They also have a big collection of Pashmina shawls, Kashmiri carpets and Tanjore canvas paintings. *Pin:* Near Axis bank, Road No.12, Banjara Hills *Tel:* 98665 02424

SOHRVI

A store situated in the humble abode of the passionate owner and artist, Krish Sohrvi, it is popular for its Cheriyal masks and wooden artifacts sourced from artisans and handpainted by the owner. The store shifted to mostly online sales after the pandemic hit most small businesses, but customers are welcome to visit to buy some products anytime.

Pin: Flat No: G01, 1st floor, Srinivasa Nilayam, Phase 9, KPHB **Tel:** 63047 79341







INDIROOTZ

This store connects Indians to their roots and acts as a platform between the artisans and customers, as each purchase reflects directly in the income of the artisans. It also aims to create awareness and a creative experience among Gen Z and adults forgetting their heritage in modern life. Crafts like metal items from Uttar Pradesh, terracotta, and Dokhra accessories, handwoven muslin sarees, Madhubani painted kettles, and a diverse range of fashion and utility products are sourced. They support more than 2500 artisan families spanning across India with verified clusters and GI tag-authenticated products sold at affordable and governmentapproved prices. It is a collaborative effort along with the government and the founder Abhishek Mazumdar.

Pin: 1st Floor, Amrutha Mall, Somajiguda Circle **Tel:** 91009 43533

THE BOMBAY STORE

From silver jewelry to Kalamkari clothes, beaded bags, and artful stationery, they have it all, sourced directly from artisans. The Kannamani dolls were the most appealing and inclusive designs for little ones stole our hearts. ■ KARTHEEKA

Pin: Sarath City Capital Mall, Kondapur Tel: 86574 32320





As colleges reopen, WOW! revisits the unmatched street shopping experience, while also exploring online finds

COLLEGE SWAG



CHAOTIC CHARM

The charm of street shopping lies in the chaos it offers, and on this particular Sunday, the charm was tenfold. Forcing our way through hasty passersby, excited hagglers, loud vendors and their bustling stalls at **Sultan Bazaar**, we made hard-won discoveries when we stumbled upon beautiful finds. This included intricately crafted Banarasi bags starting from Rs 200, ornate earrings that cost upwards of Rs 100, and exquisitely designed mojris and men's shoes that are priced at Rs 500 and Rs 650 respectively.

We also made a quick visit to the bazaars in Ameerpet and came across a lineup of ethereal dupattas that start at Rs 200, and colorful wristwear available for Rs 150.



ONLINE FINDS

You can find trendy steals online on websites such as Bewakoof. com which have super casual contemporary and nostalgic graphic prints. We loved this women's green What's Up Buttercup oversized T-shirt; and at H&M, for men, we found a Nirvana fit printed hoodie, a double-layered wrapover hood made from a cotton blend, featuring a kangaroo pocket and ribbing at the cuffs and hem; and a boxy-style oversized t-shirt with baggy pants.

Accessories to check out include the printed silk scarf, a soft mulberry silk square, and aviator-style sunglasses

ZARA

At **Zara** we chanced upon comfortable pieces for men like a simple textured polo shirt with a lapel collar and front button fastening, paired with trousers; and for women, a short blouse with cutwork embroidery – featuring long sleeves finished with a ruffle and teamed with jeans, and a comfortable round neck top, made from a 30 percent wool blend yarn.

For a fragrant cherry on the top, try on Zara's Lightly Bloom – an elegant, captivating and comfortable scent that includes notes of lotus flower, peony and musk. ■ IPSHITA

BLOOM



FURNITURE LIGHTING FLOORING ACCESSORIES FINE ART

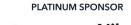
SAVE THE DATE 5/6/7 SEPTEMBER 2025 HYDERABAD'S BIGGEST DESIGN SHOW

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WOW! gives you five reasons to make Radio Bar a must-visit spot for your next night out in town

Radio Ga Ga

The latest night spot to hit HITEC City is Radio Bar which launched last month. A well-known Mumbai brand from the Aspect Hospitality group, its tag line "Radio Bar isn't just a place, it's an emotion" lives up to the claim.

THE AMBIENCE:

Vinyl records along with cassettes, vintage radios and tape recorders on display, sound wave themed wall-décor and neon signs make you nostalgic. A spacious 120-seater, it has a live music console and a small dance floor next to the bar.

THE VIBE:

WOW!

Green Fizz

For the millennials and Gen Zs who are curious about the music their parents grew up with, here is the OG Bollywood vibe. The retro hits from 50 years ago which are still hot favorites are played in keeping with the radio theme.



Cocktails like the Gulabo Margarita, Tandoori Twist, Green Fizz, Radio Jockey – all made from various liquors – are delightful enough to get you into the mood. There are mocktails too for the friend driving the rest of you home.

THE FOOD:

A vast menu spanning cuisines includes veg and non-veg options ranging from grills, Italian, Indian and bistro style bites with some tweaking to suit the Hyderabadi palate. From the Guntur Chilli **Recommends:** Chicken Tikka to the RB's Ultimate Kodi Chips, Firecracker Paneer Vepudu and Achari Aloo Tikka, besides several prawn and mutton delicacies, you can choose from small plates to mains.

A BITE OF NOSTALGIA

No matter what your age, old Bollywood hits, live music and its ample choices in drinks and food, make it a hotspot for a good time. MINAL

Meal for two: Rs 2,000 [excluding alcohol] Ground Floor, Tower 30, RMZ Nexity, Silpa Gram Craft Village, HITEC City Tel: 89770 42065 / +91 89770 42068 Timings: Sunday to Thursday: 12 Noon to 11.30 pm; Friday & Saturday: 12 pm to 12.30 am, Instagram: @radiobar_hyderabad/

COCKTAIL CONFIDENTIAL

Old favorites and a surprise draft beer stopover, plus tons of beats marked the month of lune



SISTERHOOD ON **THE DANCE FLOOR**

It's been a hectic month, and truth be told, I haven't been able to step out as much as I usually do. But hey – when you live and breathe the nightlife, the updates find their way to you. Let's just say, a nightlife sleuth always has her informers... and in my case, some very well-connected friends!

SIS CODE ON

First up, I Am Jamie lit up BigBull nightclub on the 19th of June with her electrifying Afro music set. The energy was surreal – especially from the women in the crowd who danced and cheered like they were celebrating one of their own. It was more than just a gig; it felt like a moment of sisterhood on the dance floor.

Then came a wave of nostalgia and energy with DJ Ageel, also at BigBull. It was a house full of fans – and he did not disappoint. It felt like a glorious comeback, with a mix of his signature Bollywood remixes and crowd favorites like Lamborghini that had everyone grooving.

BACK TO CLASSICS

Another standout night was at Quake, where Mika Singh took over the stage - and the room - with a performance in front of a 4,000-strong crowd. From Damadam Mast Kalandar to Subah Hone Na De and, of course, the ever-iconic Sawan Mein Lag Gayi Aag, Mika reminded everyone why he still owns the stage after all these years.

And finally, a pleasant surprise: an impromptu visit to Red Rhino. I wasn't expecting much, but their in-house draft beer absolutely blew me away. Underrated? 100 percent. If you're a beer enthusiast looking for something fresh and flavorful, Red Rhino deserves a stop on your list.

So, while this month was a bit low on outings for me, the city sure didn't sleep - and these are just a few of the best nights that proved it. DEEPTI ALAPATI



This spacious bar and kitchen set the right mood for a night out with friends or family

FAM JAM

Veto Bar & Kitchen in Kondapur lives up to its promise of a contemporary resto bar with a vibrant and energetic ambience. Started by entrepreneur Vikram Kolukuluri, the 7,000 sq.ft. space draws, corporate groups, live music crowds, and family diners into its inviting environs. The interiors done up by Raghu Reddy blends industrial chic – think geometric ceilings, warm lighting, plush seating – with creative flair.

HERE'S WHAT WE WOULD GO BACK FOR:

The Water Chestnuts starter was a surprising delight, crunchy and subtly spiced, perfect for nibbling with a pint or cocktail. The BBQ Chicken Pizza was another hit – thin-crust, smoky-spiced chicken chunks, melted cheese, and that signature tang from the barbecued base. The mini slider burgers are an excellent choice, we had the veg patty version (with some excellent potato wedges throw in) and thoroughly enjoyed it.

For mains, the Butter Chicken was luxuriously creamy and rich, balancing tomato sweetness with just the right amount of garam masala. The Beer Battered Fish and Chips is a favorite and one bite tells you exactly why – it gives a fresh spin on the tried and tested combo with delicious flavor permeating every bite.

THE SPIRITS

We also tried some signature cocktails creatively christened The Pink Pear – a refreshing blend of gin, grapefruit and a hint of pear. Skip the Pistachio-tini (vodka plus pistachio extract) and try the Pina Podi, tangy and complex, married tamarind syrup, chili-infused tequila, and a hint of idli karam podi.

For dessert, we had the Biscoff Cheesecake which was indulgent without being overly sweet – a smooth, creamy filling balanced by the rich caramel notes of Biscoff and a perfectly crumbly biscuit base. A satisfying end to the meal. MINAL



PS: Watch out for their ladies' night, every Wednesday.

Meal for two: Rs 2,000 to Rs 2,500

4th Floor, F968+2CJ, Land Mark Residency, Prashanth Nagar Colony, Kondapur **Tel:** 70329 41919 **Timings:** 12 pm to 11:45 pm Sunday to Thursday; 12 pm to 1 am Friday and Saturday

For an eclectic combination of innovative cocktails, food and a great vibe, **Underdoggs** is the latest venue to get it right

Game for a Good Time



Underdoggs Sports Bar & Grill is one of the latest entrants on the nightlife scene. It is spaciously designed with booths, high tables, a large bar and pool tables, sports memorabilia adorning its walls and 30 plus giant TV screens. There is also an interactive arcade zone to play basketball for a nominal price.

Underdoggs offers happy hours from 12

noon to 7 pm every day. So you can grab a quiet drink and a tasty meal without any enthusiastic sports fans around in the middle of the day.

THE DRINKS:

Cocktails innovatively named after milestone matches and victories in rugby, cricket, tennis, football etc., with names like The Ice Man, Foxes Run and Lords of '83 – where Kapil Dev and his men won the World Cup – are some of the bestsellers. We tried the Flying Fairy, named after PT Usha where she lost an Olympic medal by 1/100th of a second – made with tequila, coriander, habanero pepper, agave nectar and jalapenos. It was refreshing and the underlying spice gave it an extra kick.

THE FOOD:

The food is a mix of cuisines with burgers and wraps, pastas, dimsums, pizzas, grills etc. – and plenty of vegetarian options. Bestsellers include the Veg Mezze Platter, Andhra Chilli Chicken, Prawn Dynamite, Kundhapur Ghee Roast, and Rayalseema Mutton Sukkah.

THE VIBE:

The place has a relaxed feel; food prices are pocket friendly and the drinks are competitively priced. A sports fan or not, there is something for everyone here.

Meal for two: Rs 2,000 [excluding alcohol]

Sy No. 83/1 Tower 1, Ground Floor, Sattva Knowledge Park, Raidurg **Tel:** 9517061008 **Timings:** 12 pm to 12 am from Monday to Thursday: 12 pm to 1 am Friday to Sunday

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FROM RETRO REVIVALS TO AFROHOUSE DROPS, HYDERABAD'S 2025 MUSIC SCENE IS BOLD, LOCAL, AND BUZZING. Live bands, OG DJs, and fresh acts are setting the stage on fire – from Telugu medleys to techno grooves. Here's who's playing, where, and why they're killing it

Music:

BYLINE: MANJU LATHA KALANIDHI

LOVED AND LOUDER

E GIG BY THE DECCAN PROJECT, ONE E TOP LIVE MUSIC BANDS IN THE CITY

It was a chilly April evening in the quaint Irish village of Kilrickle in County Galway. Inside Broderick's, a 200-year-old Irish pub, something unexpected was brewing. A few pints in, a man with a guitar started strumming the unmistakable melody of *Putteney Prema*. Locals were puzzled. Then came the voice. It was Ram Miriyala – frontman of the band Unplanned – visiting Ireland and jamming, unplanned as always. As he began singing in Telugu, the pub's atmosphere transformed. A curious crowd gathered, phones out, some swaying. As he hit the chorus, the magic of live music transcended language. "You could stream it on Spotify," someone whispered, "but this hits different, bro."

BEATS, BREWS AND BUSTLING NIGHTS

Back in Hyderabad, that same energy flows across lounges, pubs, breweries, cafés, and even wedding sangeets. Picture this: A four-member band takes the stage at an open-air terrace bar in Jubilee Hills. One on the mic, another on keys, one strumming a guitar, and a drummer in the zone. The music starts mellow – think retro Ilaiyaraaja – and slowly climbs to folk-rock mashups. Glasses clink, heads nod. By the second medley, the tables are empty – everyone's on their feet. Couples dance, strangers high-five, and suddenly it's not just a band gig; it's a movement.

A SCENE, TWO DECADES IN THE MAKING

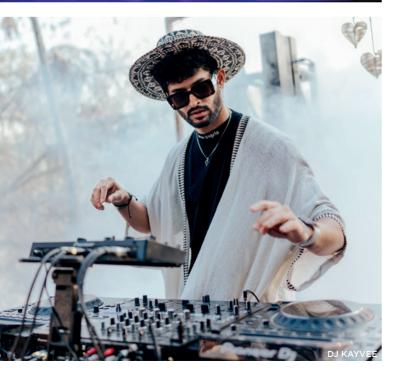
Hyderabad's love affair with live music began tentatively about 20 years ago, with hotel lounges and college bands experimenting with formats. But post-Covid, a cultural hunger exploded. People were desperate for realness, raw energy, and music that pulsed with identity. That's when bands like Capricio led the charge, reviving classic Telugu songs with a contemporary twist and introducing them into the city's nightlife.

Hyderabad's love affair with live music began tentatively about 20 years ago, with hotel lounges and college bands experimenting with formats









THE OLD GUARDS AND NEW VIBES

Threeory and Chowrasta (which later got disbanded) pioneered the live music scene in the city that seemed to catch up post-Covid.

Capricio, the OG of the live Telugu music scene, is known for seamless medleys and acoustic flavor. Drawing inspiration from Ilaiyaraaja, Mani Sharma and Rahman, they pioneered the idea that regional language could rule the nightlife.

Merakee, another crowd favorite, blend classical with mass Tollywood hits, adding flair and emotion to every performance. They add their signature style depending on the genre – rock gets more guitar, folk gets more soul.

And then there's a revival happening. The legendary Warsi Brothers, famed Qawwals of Hyderabad, were recently seen performing at Akhil Akkineni's wedding and even at a glitzy Karan Johar event hosted by a luxury jewelry label.

NEW SOUNDWAVES: MEET THE YOUNG GUNS

Elyzium adds a dose of alt-rock to the city's soundscape. Their originals and Coldplay-like vibe draw in younger crowds.

Niraval brings a strong Carnatic fusion sensibility, mixing raagas with storytelling and unplugged instrumentation.

Nawab Gang, Hyderabad's answer to Tolly-Hop (Telugu rap), gives regional slang the swagger of global hip-hop.

The Deccan Project experiments with jazz, Urdu poetry, and Indian classical. A niche act, but unforgettable.

Jammers, who started in college, are all about feel-good nostalgia. Their originals nod to '60s melodies, and their covers are often better than the real thing.

And, of course, there's Unplanned, Ram Miryala's experimental juggernaut that can go from unplugged to full-on folk-rock madness in one set.

THE DJS THAT KEEP IT LIT

When bands wrap up, the DJs take over. DJ Kayvee is the city's high-octane vibe machine – playing his favorite genre, Afrobeat. DJ Murthovic, the godfather of Hyderabad's electronic music scene, blends tribal, cinematic, and progressive beats. You'll hear his work at art exhibitions, fashion shows, and underground raves.



MOVERS & SHAKERS OF THE MUSIC SCENE

Band Capricio: From Small Gigs to Global Stages

What started as a trio of passionate musicians jamming for fun is now a Telugu live music phenomenon. On New Year's Eve 2023, Capricio rocked Hyderabad's HITEX with a mind-blowing crowd of 16,000. That's not just a show – it's a movement.

TELUGU GOES GLOBAL

They've hit more international stages than any other Telugu band – six US tours, two in Australia, and eight in the UK. Capricio isn't just traveling; they're trailblazing.

MEDLEY MAGIC, NO RETAKES

Their signature? High-octane medleys like *Yamaho Nagari* meets *Madhura Madhura*. No lip-syncs. No pre-records. Just pure, unfiltered energy. Each gig is custom-crafted to vibe with the audience. Think of it as a playlist that reads your mind.

CLASSICALLY TRAINED, UNCLASSICALLY PLAYED

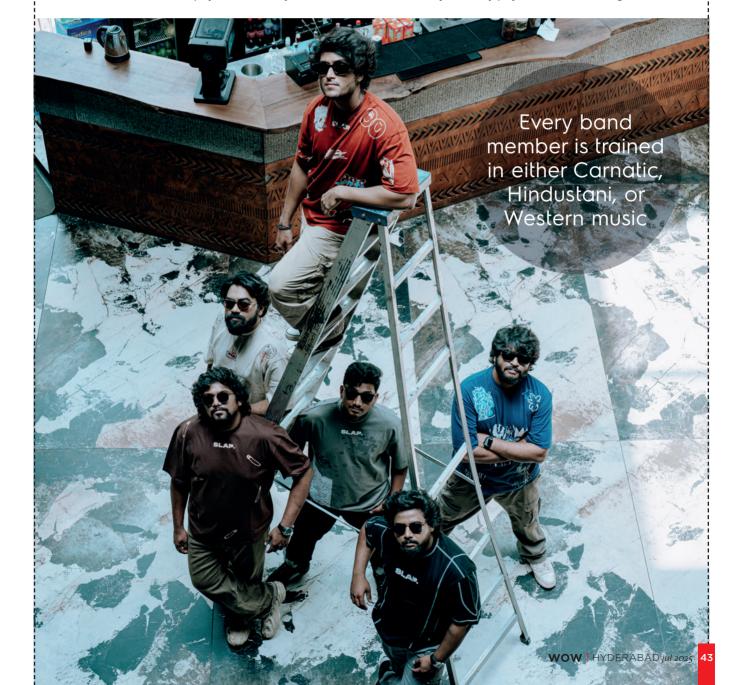
Capricio's secret sauce? Every band member is trained in either Carnatic, Hindustani, or Western music. But they don't play it by the book – they flip the script.

JAMROOM VIBES, NO FILTERS

At their Ayyappa Society studio, Capricio's 'Jamroom Sessions' are raw, real, and ridiculously good. No edits, no make-up – just heart, hustle, and harmony. It's music *dil se*.

FROM PASSION PROJECT TO POWERHOUSE

With support from the People's Media Factory and a growing global fanbase, Capricio is redefining what Telugu live music can be. Their name means whimsical and spontaneous – and that's exactly how they play: wild, soulful, unforgettable.



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WHO'S PLAYING WHERE

The popular outlets for live music are Akan, Raasta, The Rabbit Hole Lounge, The Moonshine Project, Tabula Rasa, Quake Arena, Hard Rock Café, Big Bull and other upscale places in Gachibowli and the Financial District. You can also catch large-scale Sufi nights at Taramati Baradari. Rooftop bars in Gachibowli, curated music evenings at art galleries, destination weddings, college fests, even political soirees – they're all fair game. While many bands rely on medleys of hit Telugu, Hindi, and Tamil songs, several are now putting out original tracks. Capricio, Merakee, and Jammers have original EPs on Spotify. Merakee often teases unreleased tracks during gigs, turning live shows into focus groups.

DO THE MATH

"As an event organizer, I can tell you the math makes sense. A sold-out night at venues such as EXT by The Moonshine Project with just 350 people at Rs 1,000 a ticket brings in around Rs 3.5 lakh – perfect for city bands. Take a premium venue like Prism's Odeum, which seats over 800; at Rs 1,500 to Rs 2,000 a ticket, you're easily looking at Rs 12–16 lakh a night. That's why Hyderabad's live music scene isn't just buzzing – it's booming," says Siddharth Reddy who runs his own live music organizing firm in the city.

FUELLING THE SCENE: WHAT'S HELPING

Social media virality (thanks reels), wedding-industrial-complex bookings, the brewery culture, and a rising pride in regional identity have made Telugu live music cool. Add to that, a city full of millennials and Gen Zs craving cultural expression and experience. Even film songs are now being composed with bands in mind – music directors know that a good gig can make a song viral faster than any radio station.

BLOCKBUSTERS YOU CAN DANCE TO

Movies may rise and fall at the box office, but in Hyderabad, live bands are having a blockbuster run. Whether you're dancing barefoot at a farmhouse gig or swaying with a cocktail in hand at a microbrewery, the verdict is clear: Live music hits different, bro. ⁶⁶ A sold-out night at venues such as EXT by The Moonshine Project with just 350 people at Rs 1,000 a ticket brings in around Rs 3.5 lakh perfect for city bands" – Siddharth Reddy, Live Music Show Consultant



Merakee: Music from the Heart

Vocalist Ganesh Krovvidi started Merakee in 2018 with his cousin and music enthusiast Vidya Sivalenka, inspired by the Greek word meaning to 'pour your heart into what you love'. Rooted in Telugu and Tamil heritage, Merakee has reimagined classics with fusion-style arrangements influenced by AR Rahman and Ilaiyaraaja. "In 2019, we launched Micless with Merakee – a sing-along experience that began with 40 people and now draws over 2,500. We've performed across Hyderabad's top venues, collaborated with S Thaman, curated SPB tributes, and become a wedding favorite. Once, a couple even scheduled their mehendi around our availability! That kind of love is our biggest milestone," informs Ganesh.

MICLESS: A CROWD-SOURCED HIT

"I was inspired by a video of Motta Maadi music – a terrace sing-along in Chennai. I loved the vibe, met its founder Badhri, and got his permission to bring a Telugu version to Hyderabad. That's how Micless with Merakee began. It clicked instantly – it's a heartfelt, community-led concept and our audience made it grow. Yes, Micless is our IP, but the format is now being copied by many," says Vidya Sivalenka, Micless' Curator.

WHY THEY STAND OUT

"We're not childhood buddies or a college jam band," says Vidya. "We came together purely through music – and that's what makes it intentional." Each band member is a full-time professional with over five years of live experience. That depth shows – in the sound, on stage, and in every collaboration. We came together purely through music – and that's what makes it intentional
 Vidya Sivalenka, Curator, Micless

WHERE TO CATCH THEM

At CU2, Posh Nosh (reopening soon) and the upcoming Micless gig on July 5. "We're making Micless a regular thing," confirms Ganesh.

ARTIST CLUB:

The band recently launched Artist Club, a monthly meetup for Hyderabad's music talent. "It's a jam space, networking zone, and creative pitstop all rolled into one," says Vidya. Think collabs, talent hunts, and shared resources – all rooted in the city's indie spirit.



DJ Kayvee: The AfroHouse Alchemist

ΚΑΨ-ΥΣΣ

An automobile engineer from Vizag, Kalyan Verma aka DJ Kayvee moved to Hyderabad in 2017 with nothing but passion. Self-taught via YouTube, his big break came when he walked into a local club – Mustang in Gachibowli – and asked for an opportunity to play a sample set. That one night at the night club changed everything. Today, he's one of India's top five DJs.

BREAKING BEATS, NOT RULES

Kayvee brought AfroHouse – South African deep house – to India before it was cool. Known for its percussive layers and vocal drops, the genre has become his signature. "Even DJs in Africa know me now," he says, recalling a set in Johannesburg where the crowd chanted, "Kayvee, we wanna party!"

CATCH HIM AT

Olive Bistro and Xora over the weekends; occasionally at Diablo. He chills on Monday and Tuesday and works five days a week. He's played sets in Amsterdam, Budapest, Kenya, and South Africa. Once, he performed at a sundowner in Hyderabad, a sunrise set in Goa, and another sundowner in Delhi – all within 24 hours. This month alone? Chennai (where composer Anirudh Ravichandar was also an invitee), Bengaluru, and Hyderabad.

SUNDOWNER KING

His shows like 'Afro Takeover' at The Leela or sold-out weekends at Diablo are proof of his rising demand. He's also seen occasionally in Delhi, Mumbai, and Goa.

THE MAN BEHIND THE MUSIC

No manager, no stylist, no PR team – Kayvee handles it all. He curates each show like a wedding – lights, sound, even pest control – because everything contributes to the final vibe. "I only plan my opening track. The rest? I read the room."

NUMBERS THAT MAKE NOISE

From earning Rs 30,000 a month to charging Rs 1.5L per gig, he's had a phenomenal journey. Not just a DJ, he's the Rajamouli of the live music scene as he works on a percentage of the billing. "I know what I bring to the table," he says.

MYTH-BREAKER, VIBE-MAKER

He's on a mission to change the perception around DJs. "I don't drink or do drugs when I perform. I only drink water. Discipline and values help me grow," he says.

HOW TO BE THE #1

Do it like there's no going back. No side hustles. No distractions. No Plan Bs. Just one mission: To give it your best.

" I only plan my opening track. The rest? I read the room " - Kayvee, DJ

Threeory: Started at Three, Grown to Nine

HOW IT STARTED VS. HOW IT'S GOING

Threeory began in 2013 with just three members – hence the name. Today, they are a nine-member powerhouse. "We wrapped a 13-city US tour and followed it up with a 2023 run in Australia. Career highs? A cameo in *Animal*, playing that iconic Ranbir Kapoor entry track. Opening for Bryan Adams. And being crowned Best Live Act by the Indian Nightlife Convention and Awards," says founder Parsa Datta Sai. Threeory Studios opened their own place in the city and has exciting collaborations in the works.

THE CURRENT VIBE

They sing in English, Hindi, Telugu, Punjabi, Kannada, Tamil – you name it and they can sing it. Genre-wise, it's an Eastmeets-West blend of pop-rock and Indian classical, powered by a one-of-a-kind lineup: sitar, tabla, violin alongside electric guitars and drums. "Our signature? Multilingual sets, fusion, and crowd-favorite Telugu tributes – especially electric in our hometown, Hyderabad," he says.

MEET THE BAND

- Akhileshwar Chennu Vocals
- Syntyche Mongro Vocals
- Parsa Datta Sai Violin
- Sentilong Ao Guitar
- Irfan Ahmed Khan Sitar
- Tarun Vishal Drums
- Imti Jamir Bass
- M S Pavan Kumar Tabla / Percussion
- Stanley Sajeev Keyboard

WHAT SETS THREEORY APART

- **1.** Multilingual, high-energy live sets
- 2. Fusion of rock/pop with Indian classical instruments
- 3. Their jugalbandi magic sitar, tabla, violin taking turns in spontaneous brilliance

HYDERABAD: THE MUSIC HUB

"From cozy venues to mega-stages, this city gives bands like ours room to grow. The audience? Always tuned in and totally charged up – our best collaborators."

PAYOUTS, PERKS & THE HUSTLE

They are all full-time musicians, and Hyderabad has made it possible to turn passion into a sustainable career. The secret? Consistency, creativity, and community. The biggest perk? Pure love – from fans, peers, and the scene.

Our signature? Multilingual sets, fusion, and crowdfavorite Telugu tributes – Parsa Datta Sai, Founder, Threeory



focus

Jammers: Nostalgia Meets New-Age Indie

Born out of a college jam session, Jammers have carved a unique space for themselves on Hyderabad's live music scene. They mix retro Telugu charm with fresh indie vibes, often blending originals with soulful renditions of old favorites.

ORIGINALS WITH SOUI

Their breakout track *Valalo* is a perfect example – it revives a 1960s Telugu tune with a funky twist. "It sounds like something off an old radio, but with a modern groove," says frontman Krishna Tejasvi. Their sound is deeply rooted in regional nostalgia, reimagined for today's crowd.

WHERE TO CATCH THEM

You'll find Jammers lighting up The Moonshine Project, Taberna, Raasta, The Rabbit Hole Lounge, and college fests like GITAM.

WHAT'S NEV

They've launched a new IP, The Quiet Set – a mellow, weekdayfriendly show designed for small venues. "We want people to vibe, even while working," they say. Last year, they hit Spotify's Telugu Indie Playlist and rocked a 1,000-strong crowd in Bengaluru in May while winning hearts for a special tribute to the actor, the late Puneet Rajkumar.

They mix retro Telugu charm with fresh indie vibes, often blending originals with soulful renditions of old favorites



How the OGs started it all

Music producer and events consultant Tabeer Osmani started championing live music in Hyderabad 12 years ago – long before it was cool. "Back then, there were barely even college bands. With my band MicroTone, even getting paid was a big deal. By the mid-2000s, I shifted into event production, pushing live music from the margins to the mainstage," he adds.

THE HCC REVOLUTION

Joining the Heart Cup Coffee group in 2014, Tabeer brought in the festival energy from Mumbai. HCC Jubilee Hills and later Kondapur became the go-to venues for homegrown talent, packing houses every Thursday. "We built a live culture in the F&B space," says Tabeer, now a respected music consultant.

FROM ENGLISH COVERS TO TELUGU ORIGINALS

The scene evolved – from English-heavy sets to original Telugu content. Post-pandemic, artists like Ram Miryala, Nawab Gang, and Kalakaari brought local language and identity into the spotlight.

NOW PLAYING: HYDERABAD'S NEW SOUND

From indie and Qawwali (Warsi Bros) to rap and sufi (Bhuvin, Hanumankind, Siddhart Bendi), the city is alive with new voices. Visual storytellers like Arpit Chourey and bands like Collective Insanity round out the roster.

DJS DOMINATE TOO

While live music grew, DJs like KayVee, Murthovic and Ajay carved out a scene of their own. "They did a better job commercially," admits Tabeer. And yes, 90s nostalgia is officially back on the decks.

OVER 250 LIVE BANDS IN 2025

"The live event scene in Hyderabad began taking shape around 2015, with Heart Cup Coffee serving as an incubator for emerging talent. Today, the city boasts over 250 bands playing at venues across town," says Sakshi Atree, Founder - Buzz Kya Entertainment. What started with English live bands soon expanded: Air Live brought Bollywood bands into the spotlight, and then Tabula Rasa championed Telugu

Tuning Up the Town

JAMMERS – Feel-good college band turned crowd-favorite, blending retro with funky originals.

KALAKAARI – Known for their storytelling formats and art-collab concerts.

NIRAVAL – A Carnatic-fusion powerhouse that marries tradition and groove.

ELYZIUM – Indie-alt band with stadium energy and bedroom lyrics.

MERAKEE – Mass songs meet emotional depth with their adaptable genre-bending sets.

CAPRICIO – The pioneers of Telugu medleys with melodies.

NAWAB GANG – Tolly-hop originators putting Hyderabad on the hip-hop map.

THREEORY – Jazz and Indian classical fusion with experimental soundscapes.

UNPLANNED – Ram Miryala's jam-anywhere collective redefining spontaneity.

DJ KAYVEE – Party starter bringing in the vibe with Afro beats.

DJ KARTIK SHEKAR – The deep techno and hypnotic techno wizard who now plays in the Mumbai circuit.

DJ MURTHOVIC – The maestro of mood with cinematic and progressive house beats.

(Based on observations by city's music lovers)





bands, leading to a citywide wave of performances in the local language. Now, we're seeing a revival of English bands, with rock making a strong comeback. "I moved to the city in 2012 and was associated with the very first NH7 Weekender in Hyderabad in 2015 – an experience that put me at the center of the city's art and culture scene. Since then, I've seen it grow, shift, and adapt," she adds.





WOW! participates in the three-hour weekend coffee tasting and brewing workshop at **Roast CCX**

ESPRESSO YOURSELF

Perched on a bar stool at **Roast CCX**, you're handed 16 vials of aromas, a spoon, a notepad and your ticket into the world of specialty coffee. Whether your grind is French Press, AeroPress, or Turkish Ibrik, the first hour is a full-bodied experience in understanding your palate. You swirl, sniff, slurp – and suddenly, words like "bright acidity" and "stone fruit finish" aren't just café chatter. And yes, the reward is real: a chilled tender coconut-infused cold brew that hits the sweet spot after all that serious sipping.

BECOME A BREW MASTER

"At Roast CCX, coffee isn't just a beverage, it's a journey. These CX (culinary experience) workshops are crafted for everyone – from those with zero brew-cred to aspiring baristas, home brewers, and café dreamers," says founder Naini Hanumanth. Roast CCX, India's largest café, has an entire floor dedicated for such specialty experiences. Leading the grind is Urvaksh Bharucha, the café's Head Roaster and Beverage Manager. He's a certified coffee whisperer from the Specialty Coffee Association, deeply fluent in everything from green bean grading to roasting profiles, latte art and sensory science. With a BSc in Hospitality & Hotel Administration and a background in wines and spirits, Urvaksh shapes memorable experiences for guests and students alike, one cup at a time.

BREW IT LIKE YOU MEAN IT

In the session, he breaks down how our tongue detects different notes (with a helpful map of the tongue and the tasting zones), the difference between Arabica and Robusta, roast levels, and what each brewing method does to the bean. Participants get to brew their coffee from scratch – choosing the powder, the quantity, the apparatus, the method, even the duration they want. Don't forget to capture this proud moment with a selfie with your brew. Plus, you'll walk out knowing your percolator from your pour-over and slinging phrases like "clean finish" and "balanced cup" with ease.

FROM ROAST TO TOAST

Each session ends with a tasting of their signature eats and innovative brews – from coconut-coffee fusions to cold-pressed experiments that put your regular cappuccino to shame.

GAR, Laxmi Pinnacle, Venkat Nagar, (Lane next to Birthplace), Banjara Hills Tel: 091333 01860 Duration: Weekends, Three-hour sessions Price: Rs 2,000 per person Group Size: 10 participants Custom Workshops: Available for corporates, families & friends (Minimum six participants) Check @roastcafe.in on Instagram for announcements on these workshops

SUB SESSIONS AT THE WORKSHOP

These sessions cover multiple formats such as:

- Fundamentals of Manual Brewing
- Latte Art Making
- Sensory Evaluation Workshops
- Barista Skills Training
- The Coffee Roasting Journey



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Trē, the new curative health wellness retreat has unique nature-led healing therapies and science-backed routines to rejuvenate you

Food, Flow and a Full-Body Fix

One of the first surprises at **Trē**, an integrative wellness retreat near Vikarabad, is what they don't serve. No water at mealtimes. No salt and pepper shakers. Not even a side of salad with your cooked food. But every omission is intentional. Rooted in the principles of naturopathy, Trē believes that our health is shaped by what we eat and how we live. From when you sip water to how much dal lands on your plate, everything is guided by this science of mindful living.

CURATIVE AT THE CORE

"We're not a spa or a luxury resort. We're a healing space rooted in the triad of wellness – mind, body, and spirit. That's what Trē stands for," says Lakshmi Reddy, the spirited founder of this integrative retreat. Launched just six months ago, Trē is deeply personal for Lakshmi, who turned to naturopathy after conventional medicine failed to ease her arthritis. "My visit to a naturopathy retreat a few years ago changed everything – my health, my perspective, my energy. I knew I had to bring that experience closer to home."

Supported by her son Siddharth and daughter Poojitha, both passionate wellness advocates, Trē is now a familyled mission to reimagine holistic healing. Reclaim your balance is the credo. "Another reason to visit us is that we have best AQI (Air Quality Index) in this area," adds Siddharth.

EXPERIENCE ELEVATED LIVING

Check-in starts with a health form (filled out the previous day), followed by a

personal consultation with Dr Shiny Benedict, one of their experienced doctors, who recommends therapies based on your body type. Dietician Kabita Jana then explains your upcoming diet. The day starts at 5 am with a brisk walk around its lush 5-acre campus. Post Shatraka (cleansing of eyes with rose water and the nasal passage with saline water), guests head to yoga and sip on a health drink by 7 am. Breakfast is fresh fruit or a smoothie, just before the massage sessions. A crunchy salad at 11 am (the cauliflower one is a hit) leads into a light, tasty lunch - think jowar roti with beetroot curry or palak khichdi. The rest of the day includes wellness therapies, meditation and a light dinner, with a soothing health drink delivered to your room (mine was turmeric tea on the patio!). Lights go out by 9 pm. Highlights? Art therapy games and a brilliant wellness library whenever you are free.

THE WELLNESS QUOTIENT

The therapies, lasting 40–90 minutes, are intense, detailed, and handled by skilled professionals. They work best when paired with rest, light stretches, walks, and a nutrient-rich diet – you'll feel lighter and fresher within a day of checking in, with the food playing a key role. Packages range from a six-to-nine-day mini detox to a 21-day lifestyle management plan. From stress relief to metabolic correction and disease management, Trē offers tailored programs featuring over 100 therapies – from classic full-body massages to unique options like Bamboo Therapy and Salt Glow. ■ MANJU



Price: Rs 12,000 onwards, including stay, food and therapies

Survey No. 121A, Kolkunda, Mominpet (Take the Sadashivpet turn from Hyderabad, 75 kms from Jubilee Hills Checkpost) **Tel:** 87126 23060

5 THINGS TO REMEMBER

- Live demos of healthy, therapeutic cooking in the evenings
- Guests are encouraged to unplug and soak in the calm
- Suites with private outdoor showers, pool and jacuzzi coming up soon
- They also have supportive therapies like acupuncture and physiotherapy, making it an intergrative wellness space
- Only herbal tea is served on the campus



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TEAM ONE OAK

living

Principal architect/Designer: Sripriya Reddy Design team: Raamu, Shalini Vendor credits: Bay Window, House of Things, Hatsu

K



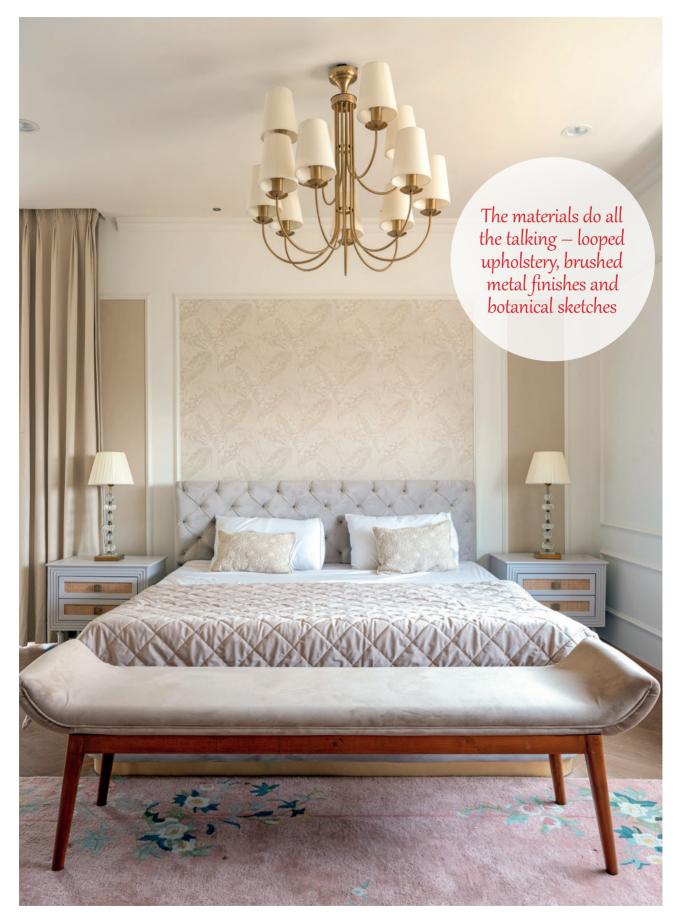
Step into the **One Oak Apartment** – designed by **Sripriya Reddy Studio** – is like wrapping yourself in a pashmina shawl on a cold morning: warm, refined and soul-soothing

Modernism Meets Minimalism

When European minimalism flirts with Indian nostalgia, you get **One Oak Apartment**, a serene home that speaks softly but leaves a lasting impression. Designed by Sripriya Reddy Studio, this 6,000-sq-feet space is an ode to subtle sophistication, cultural rootedness and everyday elegance. The interior designer is known for her cutting-edge designs in cafés such as Mexarosa, the classy Taro and Caracara at Dasapalla among other things.







SPATIAL PLACEMENT: OPEN, YET INTIMATE

The brief was clear: calm, not cold; refined, not rigid. Think muted peaches, soft beiges, and creamy whites. Smart spatial planning with clever partitions (hello, modern jaalis!) makes the apartment feel like one continuous breath. The cane-and-wood screens don't just look good; they filter light, offer privacy, and keep the space airy without blocking energy or movement. Each space transitions naturally to the next, making it ideal for both quiet evenings and convivial gatherings.

FUNCTION WITH FLAIR

"If furniture could talk, every piece in this home would whisper poetry. Ribbed cabinets, cane-backed chairs, and artisanal consoles double as functional sculptures," says Sripriya. From a carved wooden bench that invites pause to a sleek black dining table that boldly anchors the dining zone – there's intention in every inch. Even the hidden storage and fluted consoles prove that utility and beauty can be best friends.

HANDMADE, HEARTFELT

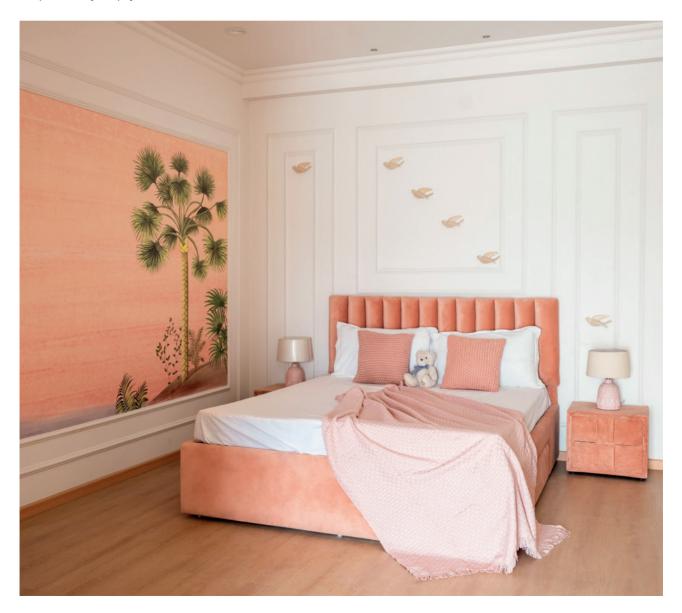
Traditional Indian elements like carved wood, handwoven cane and natural stone are reimagined with contemporary restraint. The materials do all the talking – looped upholstery, brushed metal finishes and botanical sketches create a tactile story that unfolds with every step. You feel the heritage, but you're never weighed down by it.

DRAMA IN A WHISPER

Sculptural brass chandeliers hang like exclamation points, if you know what we mean. With a nod to art deco and a wink at old Indian mansions, these fixtures add just the right touch of drama without disturbing the calm. Daylight, meanwhile, is cleverly amplified using reflective surfaces and orientation tricks, ensuring the home glows at all hours – even where structural constraints limit window size.

THE FINAL FLOURISH

Botanical prints, abstract art, woven baskets with textiles, and quiet corners with just the right amount of imperfection – every element feels curated, not crowded. There's a beautiful tension between matte and gloss, dark and light, soft and structured. It's the kind of home where a brass lamp beside a framed sketch tells you everything about the homeowner's sensibilities – elegant, but never fussy. MANJU







From K C S Paniker to Husain, this travelling exhibition brings all the great artists for viewing under one roof

Masterpieces on Tour

TRAVELLING ART

On the Go is Gallery G's travelling exhibition created to bring India's finest masters and modernists to new cultural hubs across the country. It invites audiences to engage with museumquality art outside the confines of a traditional gallery.

THE ROAD MAP

After a successful debut in Kochi in May, Hyderabad marks the second stop in this evolving journey. A third South Indian destination is already in the works and will be announced at the closing of this chapter.

WHAT TO EXPECT

You can feast your eyes through a thoughtfully curated experience – masterpieces by iconic Indian artists, rare Tanjore paintings, and collectible furniture that bridges heritage and design. It's a three-day window into a world where every piece tells a story, carefully brought together to engage both, seasoned collectors and firsttime buyers. The organizers say that many Hyderabadis have long been their patrons. This time, they wanted to bring the experience to them – and that's exactly how On the Go: Hyderabad was conceived.

THEME AND TIME

The theme remains "Timeless Masters and Modernists," but each city brings its own flavor. In Hyderabad, the spotlight is on South Indian aesthetics and artists rarely – if ever – shown in the city before, each handpicked from fantastic provenances. It's a collector's delight. The works are well priced – an eclectic collection for homes or offices, perfect for both first-time buyers and seasoned collectors.

ARTISTS ON BOARD

The show features a powerful line-up: K C S Paniker, S M Pandit, M F Husain, V S Gaitonde, Yusuf Arakkal, Surya Prakash, Reddappa Naidu – alongside contemporary voices like Rabin Dutta, Nandita Chaudhuri, and Ganapati Hegde. Expect a diverse mix: paintings, works on paper, oils on canvas, mixed media, inks, and handpicked sculptural furniture – all curated to create a layered and immersive experience. MANJU

The exhibition will be held from the 11th to the 13th of July.

The Garden Room, Taj Krishna @gallery_g_arts on Instagram **Timings:** 10 am to 7 pm

The City's Art Scene

"Hyderabad is a city where legacy and contemporary sensibilities thrive side by side. The art scene here is refined, culturally rooted and eager for nuance. For me, Hyderabad offers the perfect backdrop for a show that celebrates both the historic and the avant-garde. It's a city that doesn't just appreciate art — it forms lasting connections with it"

– Gallery G's Founder, Gitanjali Maini, about the city's art scene





CURTAIN RAISER

An exhibition where folk, form and flair collide on canvas

New Age Expressions

The exhibition, *Dawn of a New Expression* is a group show that brings together a diverse group of contemporary artists from Maharashtra featuring works by Amol Pawar, Dinakar Jadhav, Mamta Mondkar Shingade, Monica Ghule, Sachin Sagare, Sanjay Tikkal, Shrikant Kadam, Umakant Kanade, Vivek Kumavat and Vivek Nimbolkar. It celebrates artistic voices that blend tradition with experimentation.

WHAT'S SPECIAL:

Maharashtra has long been a cultural powerhouse with deep-rooted artistic traditions. This show captures the evolution of that heritage through the

You can spend some time looking at artworks by Konda Srinivasa Rao at this Metro station

Brush Tales

Hyderabad Metro is doing more than just connecting places – it's connecting people to art. If you're hopping off the metro after a long day or chilling at the mall post a shopping spree, don't rush past the **HMAF Art Exhibition** at Premia Mall. Stop, look, and soak in some art. It's free, vibrant, and very Hyderabad.

IT'S ON NOW

As part of the Hyderabad Metro Art Fest (HMAF) 2025, L&T Metro Rail Hyderabad and IGA Galleria transformed the central lobby of the Premia Mall into an open gallery. The ongoing exhibition (till July 15) features works by Konda Srinivas Rao.

AUTO TO ART

Konda Srinivasa Rao is a self-taught artist from East Godavari. Once an

lens of each artist's individual journey. From abstraction and symbolism to figuratives and folk-infused contemporary forms, the artists interpret personal, social, and spiritual narratives with unique stylistic choices and mediums.

FORM AND FORMAT

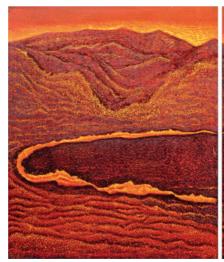
The exhibition highlights the shifts in artistic thought – whether in the expressive figuration of Sachin Sagare, the spiritual minimalism of Shrikant Kadam, or the vivid symbolism in Amol Pawar's mythological reimagination. Artists like Dinakar Jadhav and Umakant Kanade bring bold colors and energetic "Dawn of a New Expression presents a fresh wave of artistic thought emerging from Maharashtra – a dynamic blend of identity, renewal, and innovation. This exhibition brings together diverse voices to reveal a new visual language that is redefining the contours of contemporary Indian art"

– Ruchi Sharma, Curator

brushstrokes, while Monica Ghule and Mamta Shingade infuse their work with sensitivity and feminine perspectives. Vivek Nimbolkar and Vivek Kumavat push boundaries of form and texture, adding a contemporary pulse to traditional contexts. ■ MANJU

The exhibition is on till the 9th of July.

Kalakriti Art Gallery, Road No 4, near Hyatt Place, Banjara Hills **Tel:** 99517 40000 **Timings:** 11 am to 7 pm



auto driver, now an admired abstract landscape artist, Konda's journey is as textured as his canvases. His vivid compositions play with color, line, and space – bringing nature and emotion together in striking forms.

His debut show – Vision at Kalahita (2008) – marked his rise as an artist. Today, his work at HMAF blends his



personal story, artistic freedom, and a powerful visual language depicting nature landscapes. All right by your metro stop.
MANJU

The exhibition is on till 15th July.

Central Lobby, Premia Mall, Irrum Manzil Tel: 040 42767884 Timings: 10 am to 11 pm

tourist info

Step away from a life that is in overdrive, to blow off some steam at this adventure park

Adrenaline Rush!

If you are on the lookout for activities that get the adrenaline flowing, you might want to take a look at Red Rush Adventure Park situated along the rugged trails of The Wilderness Retreat in Gandipet. The open skies and nature all around offer a much-needed respite from an otherwise raucous city life, and Red Rush takes things further by promising you a perfect mix of sports, adventure, games, and celebrations.

"Unlike other parks in the city that do not get out of their predefined roles, we get down to the customers' requirements and give them a customized offering so that they have optimum fun in the budget they want," shares the owner, Kailashnath Yadav.

A SENSORY RUSH

A breath of fresh air, the expansive outdoors of Red Rush is sensorially overwhelming just like its range that includes thrills in paintball, ATV rides, dirt bikes, archery, shooting, and axe throw etc. They also host corporate team outings, birthday parties, family get-togethers, and school and college reunions.

We tried our hand at archery and rifle shooting, both exciting activities which demand precision and complete focus. Seemingly effortless when executed by the instructor, they proved challenging when we performed them. For instance, while practicing archery, we struggled to release the arrow from the bow, and even as we held the super-heavy rifle, it took us forever to find our target - both ending in hilarious, laughout-loud moments.

ACTIVITY HIGHLIGHTS

PAINTBALL: Battle it out with this competitive shooting game in which players eliminate their opponent by hitting them with paintballs. It includes:

- Full protective gear (helmet, vest, gloves)
- State-of-the-art paintball guns and ammo
- Strategically designed combat zones
- Game modes for all skill levels from capture the flag to last-man-standing

ATV RIDES: Feel the rush with this activity that involves the use of all-terrain vehicles (ATVs) for exploring various terrains. Highlights include:

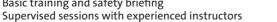
- Powerful, easy-to-handle ATVs
- Safe and scenic off-road track
- Guided sessions with safety gear included
- Solo rides or group rides available

DIRT BIKES: Own the trail and unleash your inner rider, tearing through the terrain at Red Rush. The sport includes:

- High-performance dirt bikes
- Off-road tracks with turns, jumps and bumps
- Full safety gear and trained instructors
- Solo rides and timed laps made available

ARCHERY: Channel your inner archer and hit the bullseye with this activity that demands your complete attention. It includes:

- Professional-grade bows and arrows
- Targets set at multiple distances
- Basic training and safety briefing





SHOOTING: Take aim, stay focused and test your precision with the shooting experience here. This super cool activity comes with:

- A safe and controlled shooting range
- Air rifles or soft pellet guns
- Target-based scoring for friendly competition

AXE THROW: Strike like a pro and revel in the powerful and unforgettable experience of axe throwing that features:

- Premium wooden targets and pro-style axes
- Guided sessions with safety-first instruction
- Competitive scoring for individuals and groups
- Safe, enclosed throwing lanes IPSHITA

Price: Rs 100 onwards

Survey No. 41, Treasure Island, beside The Golconda Resorts and Spa, Gandipet Tel: 77377 38866

Timings: 11 am to 2 am

WHAT MAKES RED RUSH ADVENTURE **PARK SPECIAL?**

- 1. Its wide mix of sports and adventure activities
- 2. Beautiful outdoor setup with nature all around
- 3. Perfect for parties, reunions, and team outings
- 4. Friendly staff and well-maintained equipment
- Aims to create lasting memories



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entertainment

MOVIES

In theaters



GHAATI (TELUGU)

Starring Anushka Shetty in the lead role, alongside Vikram Prabhu, Ramya Krishna and Jagapathi Babu, *Ghaati* is an action crime drama that follows the story of a victim who turns into a criminal and later becomes a legend. Highly anticipated, it is directed by filmmaker Krish Jagarlamudi and is set to release in the cinemas this month.

Date: 11th July



3BHK (TAMIL, TELUGU)

Written and directed by Sri Ganesh, *3BHK* portrays the lives of Prabhu and his family. It explores their dream to buy a home in the city, their efforts despite multiple obstacles, and fight against failures and heartbreaks. Starring actors Siddharth, R. Sarathkumar, and Devayani etc., the film raises the question of whether this collective familial dream is even achievable.

Date: 4th July



JURASSIC WORLD: REBIRTH (ENGLISH)

Jurassic World: Rebirth follows the events of *Jurassic World Dominion* five years later. Directed by Gareth Edwards, with an exciting, revamped cast in Scarlett Johansson, Mahershala Ali, Rupert Friend, and Jonathan Bailey, this dinosaur spectacle follows Zora Bennett who leads a team of skilled operatives to the most dangerous place on earth, an island research facility for the original Jurassic Park. Their mission is to secure genetic material from dinosaurs whose DNA can provide life-saving benefits to mankind.

Date: 4th July

THAMMUDU (TELUGU)

Thammudu is an action drama that delves into the bond between a brother and sister. With life throwing unexpected challenges their way, the story showcases the brother's unwavering resolve to protect his sister, making sacrifices and standing strong through misunderstandings and emotional trials. The story is brough to life by its director, Venu Sriram.

Date: 4th July



METRO... IN DINO (HINDI)

Written and directed by Indian auteur Anurag Basu, and starring Sara Ali Khan, Aditya Roy Kapoor, Anupam Kher, Neena Gupta, Pankaj Tripathi, Konkona Sen Sharma, Ali Fazal, and Fatima Sana Shaik, the anthology *Metro... In Dino* is the spiritual companion of Basu's 2007 film *Life in a... Metro* that explores love in a contemporary urban world.

Date: 4th July



FANTASTIC FOUR: FIRST STEPS (ENGLISH)

The Fantastic Four franchise is back with an all-new cast in Pedro Pascal, Vanessa Kirby, Joseph Quinn, Ebon Moss-Bachrach, Julia Garner, Natasha Lyonne, and Paul Walter Hauser. Directed by Matt Shakman, *Fantastic Four: First Steps* follows Mister Fantastic, Invisible Woman, Human Torch and the Thing as they face their most daunting challenge yet, defending the planet from Galactus and Silver Surfer.

Date: 25th July



SERIES

Streaming Online



THE HUNT: THE RAJIV GANDHI ASSASSINATION CASE (HINDI)

SONY LIV

The Hunt: The Rajiv Gandhi Assassination Case is a gripping political thriller based on the book Ninety Days by Anirudhya Mitra and directed by National-award winning filmmaker Nagesh Kukunoor. The film delves deep into a world of espionage, blurred loyalties, intelligence breakdowns, and the sheer human cost of justice. The cast includes Amit Sial, Bagavathi Perumal, Sahil Vaid, and Girish Sharma.



Vir Das: Fool Volume (English) Netflix

Global comedy icon Vir Das is back — and this time, he's turning the volume all the way up with his brand-new special premiering on July 18. Known for making the world laugh, think, and occasionally text their therapist, the International Emmy® Award winner returns sharper and louder than ever. This is a show rewritten in silence and performed without rehearsal across the world. Turns out the voice in your head is way crazier than the one in your throat. A special that asks the important question: How much happiness do you share when it comes back? What does it mean for any of us to REALLY use our voice?



THE SANDMAN: SEASON 2 (ENGLISH) NETFLIX

The much-awaited Season 2 of *The Sandman* will be released in two parts. Part one arrives on July 3. The show includes a fine cast in Tom Sturridge – as the title character, Boyd Holbrook, Vivienne Acheampong, and Patton Oswalt, will expand the story of Dream (Sturridge) this season, how his identity affects those around him, while introducing new characters and conflicts.



THE SUMMER I TURNED PRETTY: SEASON 3 (ENGLISH) PRIME VIDEO

Among the most anticipated seasons of television this year is Season 3 of *The Summer I Turned Pretty*. Based on the books by Jenny Han, the show's latest season will see protagonist Belly Conklin's love triangle between the Fisher brothers Conrad and Jeremiah reaching its conclusion. Consisting of 11 episodes, the show stars Lola Tung, Christopher Briney, Gavin Casalegno, and Sean Kaufman. IPSHITA

SPECIAL OPS: SEASON 2 (HINDI) JIOHOTSTAR

Created, written, and directed by Neeraj Pandey and starring Kay Kay Menon, Vinay Pathak, Karan Tacker, Vipul Gupta and more, *Special Ops* is back for a second season. This series has action-packed episodes with Himmat Singh and his squad all set to fight against cyber terrorism while dealing with the dangers associated with artificial intelligence (AI).



entertainment



Acting Busy, Dodging Cupid

Actor Vijay Deverakonda is the king of the cool shrug when it comes to dating rumors. While the gossip mills churn out stories about his alleged love life, Vijay stays laser-focused on his work films, business ventures, and fan love. It's almost like he's mastered the art of the silent wink: letting people guess while not confirming a thing! That kind of calm confidence is what sets top stars apart. No drama, no declarations - just dedication. In an age of oversharing, Vijay proves that mystery, paired with mad talent, is still magnetic. And honestly, who doesn't love a little "will-he-won'the" suspense?

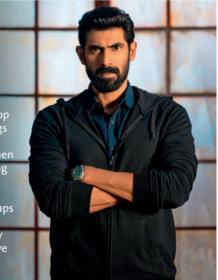
High on Success and Spirits

Triptii Dimri is riding high! With Deepika Padukone suddenly bowing out of Sandeep Reddy Vanga's Spirit – reportedly over her 20-crore fee and shoot-day terms-Triptii swooped in as the exciting new lead. A familiar face to Vanga fans after her bold turn in Animal, she's now officially part of his Telugu-Hindi crime thriller, playing a doctor, no less. At a reported fee of around 4 crores, it's a huge career moment. Deepika's "loss is her gain" indeed! And with Vanga's unpredictable casting style stirring chatter, Triptii's star is definitely on the rise.



Masala and Machismo

Rana Daggubati struts his stuff in Rana Naidu 2 on Netflix, serving up masala and macho vibes! As the no-nonsense fixer who's as likely to drop a swear word as a truth bomb, he brings serious spunk – and one brutally stern glare – that demands attention. And then there's the real-life family angle: hurling expletives at his uncle Venkatesh? Awkward, hilarious, bold move – pure OTT gold. This crime–action thriller wraps raw swagger, foul-mouth finesse, and that "watch-through-the-night" energy into a perfect Netflix binge. Did you love Rana's dark, spicy act?





Comeback Loading

Pooja Hegde was the glam queen riding high on the blockbuster wave till 2020– churning out hits, dazzling in dance numbers, and ruling hearts. But lately, she's been more blink-and-miss than blockbuster. We caught a glimpse of her retro magic in *Deva* (yep, those dance moves are still fire!), but Telugu fans are still waiting for her big comeback down South. When asked about it, she gave a coy smile and said, "It's happening..." but didn't spill much. Classic Pooja – giving just enough to keep the buzz alive. Fingers crossed her next Telugu outing brings the sparkle back! MANJU

MEKONG

Tender Coconut Pudding

Some say this recipe has been passed down through generations, shared only with the family's most trusted chefs. Each spoonful of this velvety dessert evokes memories of lazy afternoons, swaying palm trees and the calm of dipping your toes into clear waters.

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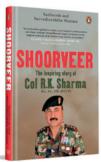
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entertainment

BOOKS

SHOORVEER -THE INSPIRING STORY OF COL. RK SHARMA

By Sarfarosh Sharma and Sarvashreshtha Sharma



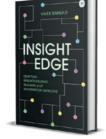
The only person to be decorated with the Kirti Chakra and the Shaurya Chakra in the same investiture ceremony, Col. RK Sharma's army career is what legends are made of. He served in the Kargil War, where

he won back Point 5465 for the country; and the volatile North East, where his tenure was marked by extraordinary successes in counter-insurgency operations as well as in redefining the relationship of Assam Rifles with the local people. Going beyond stereotypical narratives about soldiers fighting their way through everything, Shoorveer is the story of a man who embraced the challenges life threw at him and overcame them with sheer determination and grit. An intimate look at what it means to serve as a soldier and lead as an officer, this is the story of every army personnel out there.

Rs 699; Penguin Random House India

INSIGHT EDGE: CRAFTING BREAKTHROUGHS IN A WORLD OF INFORMATION OVERLOAD By Vivek Banerii

As Artificial Intelligence reshapes industries, one question looms large: Where does human ingenuity fit? Drawing on decades of experience at organizations such as Insight Dojo,



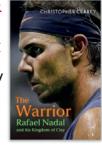
McKinsey and PepsiCo, Vivek Banerji urges us to embrace the dynamic interplay of art and science, imagination and pragmatism, theory, and practice – and to draw inspiration from diverse disciplines, whether it is machine learning, design, statistics, psychology, music, art, or sports.

Insight Edge makes a compelling case that information alone does not create insight. With real-world examples and actionable frameworks, this book equips leaders and professionals – CEOs, marketers, customer insights experts, strategists, non-profit executives, entrepreneurs, and data analysts – to move beyond algorithms and tap into the irreplaceable power of human insight.

Price: Rs 799; Hachette India

THE WARRIOR - RAFAEL NADAL AND HIS KINGDOM OF CLAY By Christopher Clarey

Legendary sports reporter and bestselling author Christopher Clarey



has interviewed Rafael Nadal and his coaches from his first French Open victory at 19, marking his debut as a rising star on the premier claycourt event in the world, to his most recent victory in 2022, closing out an astonishing career as one of the greatest players of all time. Brimming with behind-the-scenes insight into the story of a global sporting icon, *The Warrior* is a mustread account for the loyal sports fan – and anyone interested in the evolution of excellence.

Clarey has covered international sports for nearly 30 years for *New York Times* and *International Herald Tribune*, where he was chief sports correspondent and a longtime columnist. He is the author of *The Master: The Brilliant Career of Roger Federer* which was a *New York Times* bestseller.

Rs 2,293, Hachette India

Marikonni Kathalu is creating an in-person collab zone for writers, translators, performers and culture lovers

Creative Souls' Meetup



If you love art, music, cinema and life in general, Marikonni Kathalu may be your kind of hangout. Marikonni

Kathalu is a unique forum that is bringing together artists, performers, writers, and cultural enthusiasts to discuss the personal, professional, and political dimensions of art. "This monthly meetup fosters meaningful conversations about literature, drama, storytelling and the evolving cultural landscape, with a focus on creating a thriving arts community in Hyderabad," says Venkata Siddareddy, Co-founder of Anvikshiki Publishers who is leading the pack. Cinema, *Sangeetam, Sahityam* is how he sums it up in three words in Telugu.

COLLAB MODE

The forum with more than 400 members, meets on the first Sunday of

every month. It also serves as a platform for engaging venue owners, event organizers, and performers to explore collaborations. Each session features insightful discussions led by prominent artists and moderators, delving into contemporary narratives, and the impact of arts and culture in society. The forum also celebrates the multifaceted talents of artists, emphasizing the value of exploring diverse creative fields. In June, one of the sessions was about the 'Challenges of translation from Telugu to English'. ■ MANJU

Price: Free for now and all the events are also accompanied by a curated meal by some celebrated chefs, but in future the events may become ticketed experiences

By invitation only Registration: bit.ly/MKKGuests





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DR MOUNIKA K

Glow Goals

June 14, Raidurgam

Dr Mounika Ketha's Arna Dermatology & Aesthetics gave a chic preview of high-end skin care. The day was all about pampering, partying, and polished vibes.

AKHIL AKKINENI AND ZAINAB RAVDJEE

Starry Soirée

AMALA, ZAINAB, NAGARJUNA AND AKHIL

THI REDDY PRIYA

June 6, Annapurna Studios

Actor Akhil Akkineni tied the knot with Zainab Ravdjee amidst a close group of loved ones.

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the bhargavikunam.studio



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GOPI BYLUPPALA AND JAYESH RANJAN

Heart For Art

June 21, The Culinary Lounge The city's art lovers turned up in style as Sushma Thota hosted a soulful fundraiser with art, performances, and ethnic bites – all to support education for the indigenous children of

Nachiketa Tapovan.

маніка

THOTA VAIKUNTAM

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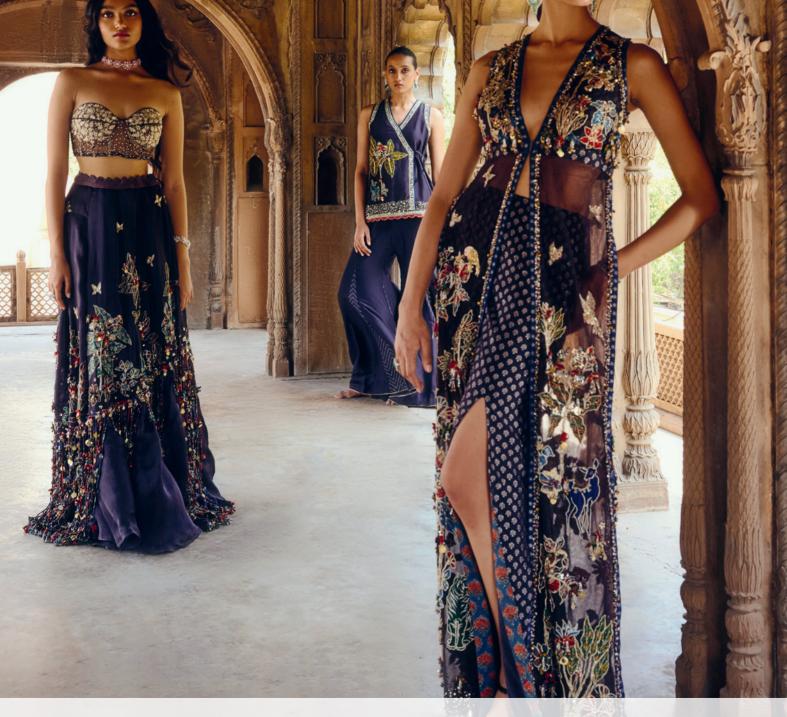
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ESHA HINDOCHA

SANIKA





Double Delight

June 9, Sattva Knowledge Park

Downtown Hyderabad pulsed with energy as Kyma, a swanky Mumbai restaurant, and Butterfly High, a glitzy Bollywood nightclub, threw open their doors on the same day.

nord



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