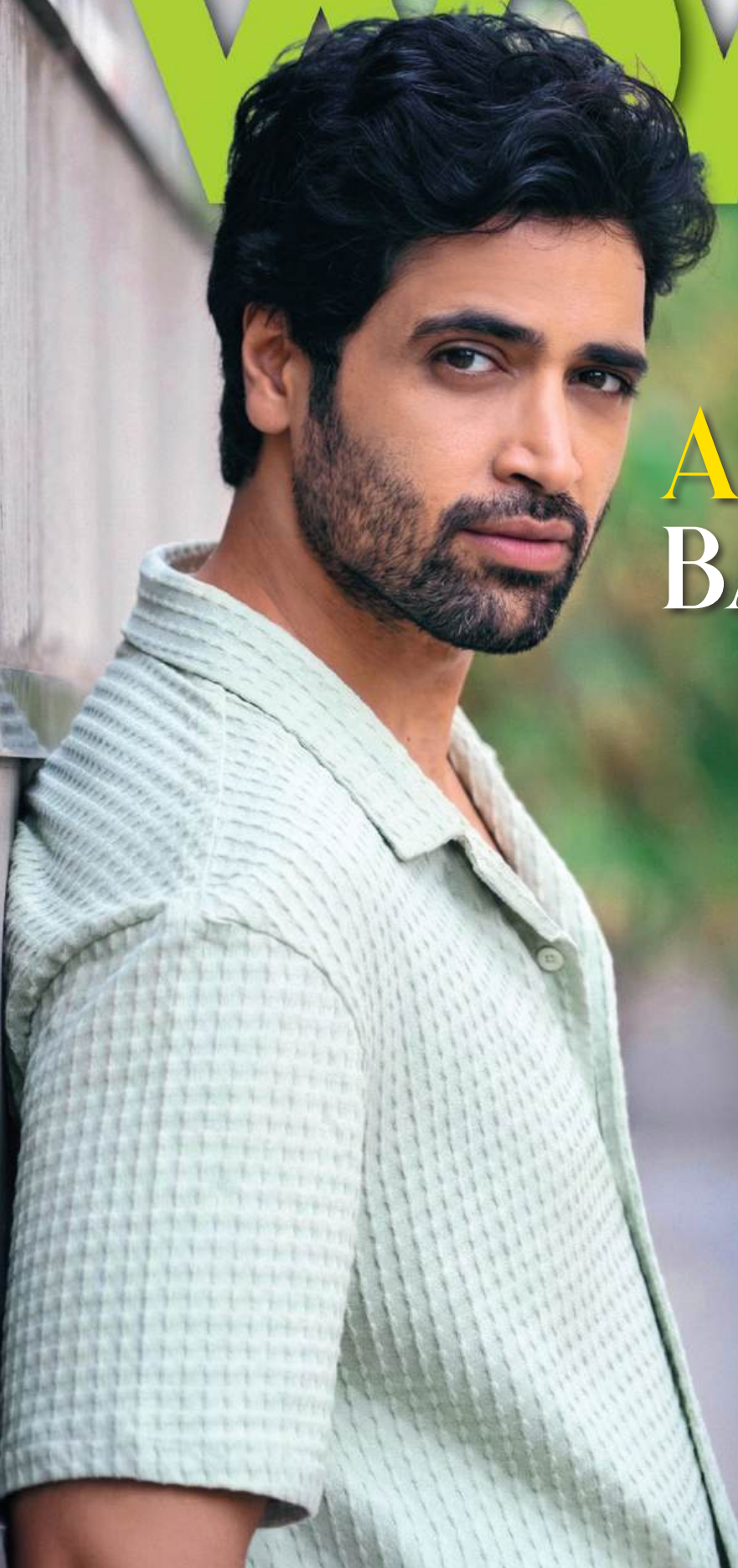


# WOW!

HYDERABAD



## Adivi Sesh: BACK WITH A BANG

*focus*

COOL ACTIVITIES  
FOR HOT DAYS

*food*

AN ART-FORWARD  
CANTONESE PLACE

*nightlife*

A RETRO SPEAKEASY  
WITH PERFECT PIZZA

SPOTTED  
PARTIES THAT  
MADE NEWS

Be it Weddings or any celebrations,



one destination for all trends

## SANGEET,

When style finds its rhythm  
The Sangeet Edit is designed for nights that move,  
sparkle, and steal the spotlight.

## HALDI,

Wrapped in Joy, Washed in Yellow  
A celebration of laughter, rituals,  
and radiant hues. The Haldi Edit brings  
tradition to life with a breezy, sunlit charm.



Andhra Pradesh | Telangana | Karnataka



Shop Online 24x7 @ [www.SISMO.in](http://www.SISMO.in) Follow us on: [f](#) SouthIndiaShoppingMalls [i](#) SouthIndiaShopping



# wedding Mahotsav

Crafted for the Moment. Styled for Forever.  
All your Wedding Shopping, beautifully done.

**THE WEDDING,**  
Dressed in Heritage,  
Bound by Forever  
Step into your sacred moment  
adorned in stories woven through  
generations.

**RECEPTION,**  
End on an Iconic Note  
Where celebration meets  
contemporary glamour.

Come, let's welcome the celebrations.



**SOUTH INDIA**  
shopping mall

Andhra Pradesh | Telangana | Karnataka

© 2018 South India



organo<sup>®</sup>  
ALLOOR

YOUR STORY INKED BY NATURE

Live immersed  
in nature's scents  
& colours



ARTISTIC IMPRESSION OF ORGANO ALOOR  
This advertisement with plans, specifications, images and details are purely conceptual and representative, and do not form part of the legal offering. Refer to TS RERA WEBSITE to know more.

Garden living eco-habitats | Upto 4 BHK

 Chevella

**Book Your Private Tour Now**

+91 87490 93000 | [www.organo.co.in](http://www.organo.co.in)



\*Customisable/personalised interiors available. T&C apply.

TS RERA No. P02400009308



CRAFTING BETTER SPACES



# ONE

by **MSN**

NEOPOLIS

## STEP INTO THE EXPERIENCE LOUNGE

### ONE OF A KIND 4 BHK EXPANSIVE RESIDENCES

5,250 - 7,460 SFT

LUXURY  
STARTS FROM **7.2 CR\***



SCAN FOR LOCATION

RESERVE YOUR PRIVATE VIEWING

☎ **9142 135 135**

[www.msnrealty.com](http://www.msnrealty.com)



SCAN FOR WEBSITE

**CORPORATE OFFICE:**

MSN Realty H. No. 2-91/10 & 11, Laxmi Cyber City, Whitefields, Kondapur, Hyderabad, Telangana, India - 500084

**SITE ADDRESS:**

ONE by MSN, Plot No 1, NEOPOLIS, Kokapet, Hyderabad, Telangana - 500075

Member

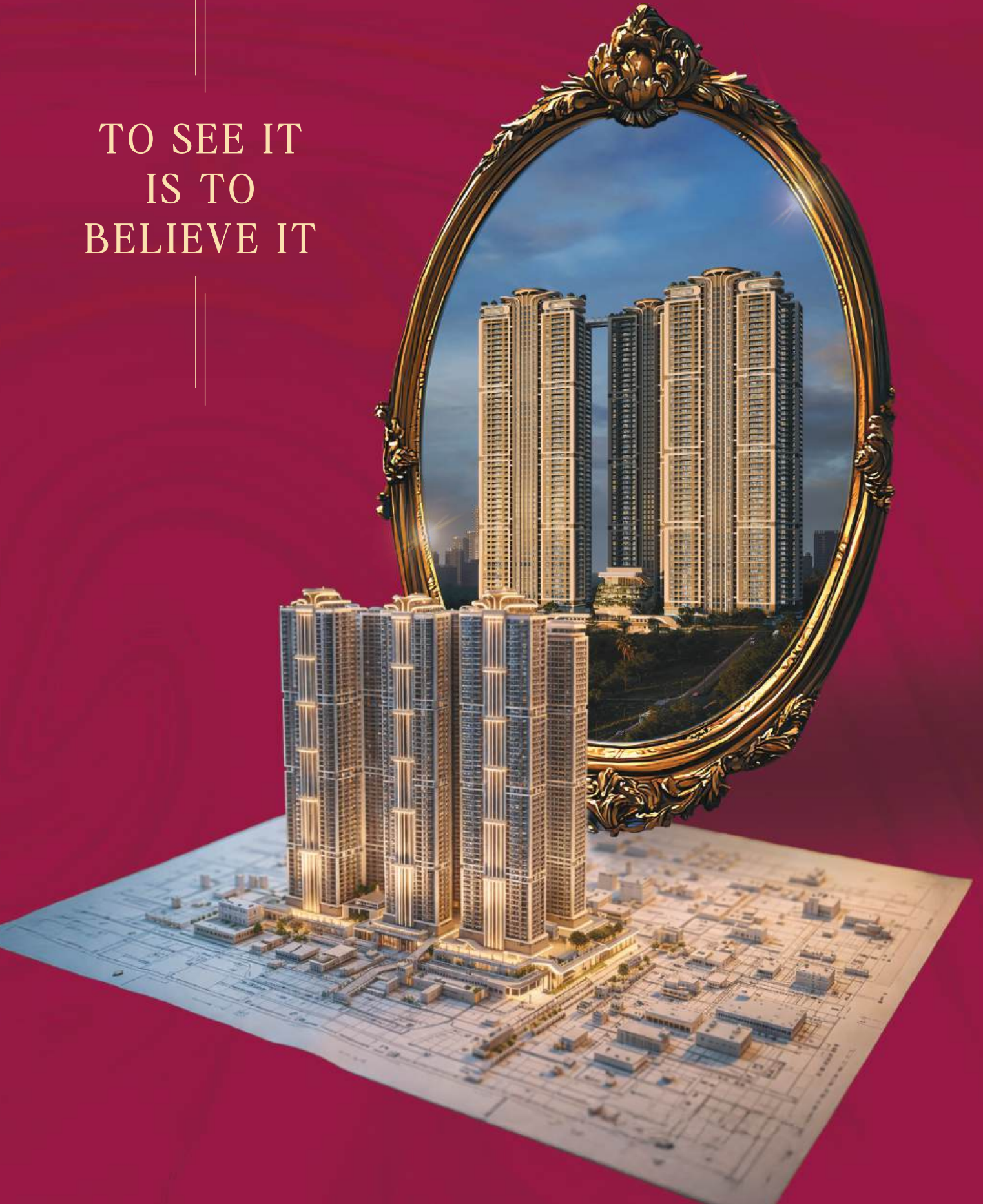


Member of



DISCLAIMER: All norms and requirements pertaining to the environment, fire services, HMDA rules and regulations have been adhered to while designing One by MSN. The pictorial representation herein are merely creative imagination. Actual product may differ from what is indicated herein. The photographs contained herein may be stock/rendered photography used for illustrative purposes only. MSN Urban Ventures LLP reserves all rights on this offer & can change terms without any intimation/notice.

TO SEE IT  
IS TO  
BELIEVE IT



STYLE UP WITH A  
*FRESH LOOK*



# HI LIFE

EXHIBITION




Fashion | Style | Decor | Luxury

OVER 350+ TOP LABELS

APRIL | *10.11.12* | 2026

# NOVOTEL

HYDERABAD CONVENTION CENTRE

[www.hilifeexhibitions.in](http://www.hilifeexhibitions.in) | Follow us on   

10 am - 8 pm



# Contents

nightlife 50



## FOCUS

**SUMMER IS HERE, AND WE'VE CURATED A LIST OF ENGAGING ACTIVITIES YOU CAN EXPLORE WITH YOUR KIDS OR SIGN THEM UP FOR.** Plus, moms share how they keep their children meaningfully engaged during the summer months



**IT'S A SECRET, BUT WE STILL TELL YOU ABOUT THE CITY'S** most happening speakeasy bar Suprnova

## 16 CITY

**IN START-UP, WE TELL YOU HOW TO MAKE MONEY FROM A PIECE OF LAND.** In Sports, we talk to cricketer Pranavi Chandra; Cause features People Helping Children. Plus, an inspiring profile of ISB trailblazer Shravaya Kanithi

## 52 WELLNESS

**CHECK OUT THE NEW KOREAN SCALP MASSAGE; HAIR COLORS THAT WILL MAKE YOU FEEL GREAT.** Indulge in a mindful wellness session at Vyana and we review the exclusive Vault by Virat gym. Plus, we decode the Korean Skin Science Magic

## 14 UPCOMING EVENTS

**OUR LIST OF THE MOST HAPPENING EVENTS IN THE CITY,** from live concerts to flea markets and food pop-ups



## 26 FOOD

**WE VISITED LILI, ADHIRA & APPA, KUNOOZ FARMS, YELLOW STRAW, CHEAT CLEAN, ALWAYS SUNDAY, KISSA COFFEE AND CULINARY CONCEPT TELUGU ROUTES** and tell you all about their food and beverage offerings

## SHOPPING

**WE CHECK OUT DESIGNER ASHDEEN'S PARSİ GARA WORK, THE SUSTAINABLE LUXURY BRAND GREEN HERMITAGE;** the home and office solutions store Vanto; and a quick fit check with young fashion influencer Devesh



TRENDS



THE FASHION WAVE THAT EMERGED AT THE LAKME FASHION WEEK recently are must-haves for your wardrobe

60 ARTS

ALL ABOUT WOMENSCAPES, A PHOTO EXHIBITION BY RAMESH BABU, WINGS OF CONCRETE BY PHOTOGRAPHER RAGHUVAMSH. And, the impressive works of the Threadarte duo; plus the painting exhibition by the girls at Spandana Children's Home



56 LIVING

WHAT WENT INTO THE MAKING OF SWETHA REDDY'S HOME by the Within Design duo



ENTERTAINMENT

66



OUR RECOMMENDATIONS ON MOVIES AND STREAMING SHOWS THIS MONTH, and about the new trend of vertical series catching up in the OTT circuit. Plus, books you must read this April

PEOPLE

20



WE TALK TO ACTOR ADIVI SESH TO KNOW MORE ABOUT HIS UPCOMING MOVIE DACOIT. And Ashok Galla talks about his journey in Tollywood so far and his latest release VISA

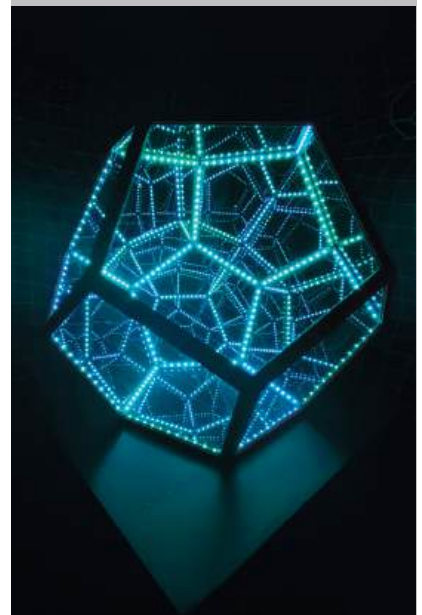


70

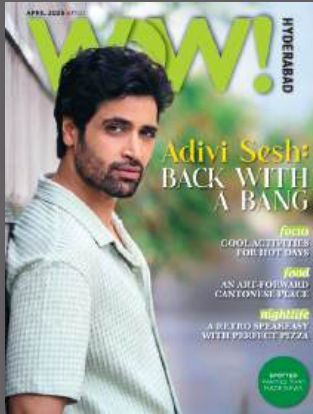
spotted A ROUNDUP OF THE MOST HAPPENING PARTIES this month

TOURIST INFO

64



WE TELL YOU WHY THE PARADOX MUSEUM is the coolest place to check out this summer



ON THE COVER: ADIVI SESH

**MANAGING EDITOR**  
Deepti Reddy

**EDITOR**  
Manju Latha Kalanidhi

**FEATURE WRITER**  
Ipshita Raman

**COPY EDITOR**  
Minal Khona

**DESIGN**  
Vijay Narang

**MARKETING**  
K V Krishna

**CIRCULATION & ACCOUNTS**  
Subbarao Swamy

**EDITORIAL & MARKETING OFFICE**  
WOW! Hyderabad  
7-1-27, Third floor, (Next to Green Park)  
Ameerpet, Hyderabad-16  
Tel: 6651 1956  
email@wowhyderabad.com

**FOR ADVERTISING ENQUIRIES**  
98499 23888

**DISTRIBUTED BY**  
Margadarsi Marketing Pvt Ltd,  
Hyderabad

VOLUME 24 ISSUE 5

Published by Deepti Reddy, on behalf of Shraya Publications Pvt. Ltd., and Printed at Kala Jyothi Process Pvt. Ltd., RTC 'X' Roads, Hyderabad and Published at 7-1-27, 3rd Floor, Greenlands (beside Green Park Hotel), Ameerpet, Hyderabad - 500 016.



Free online access!



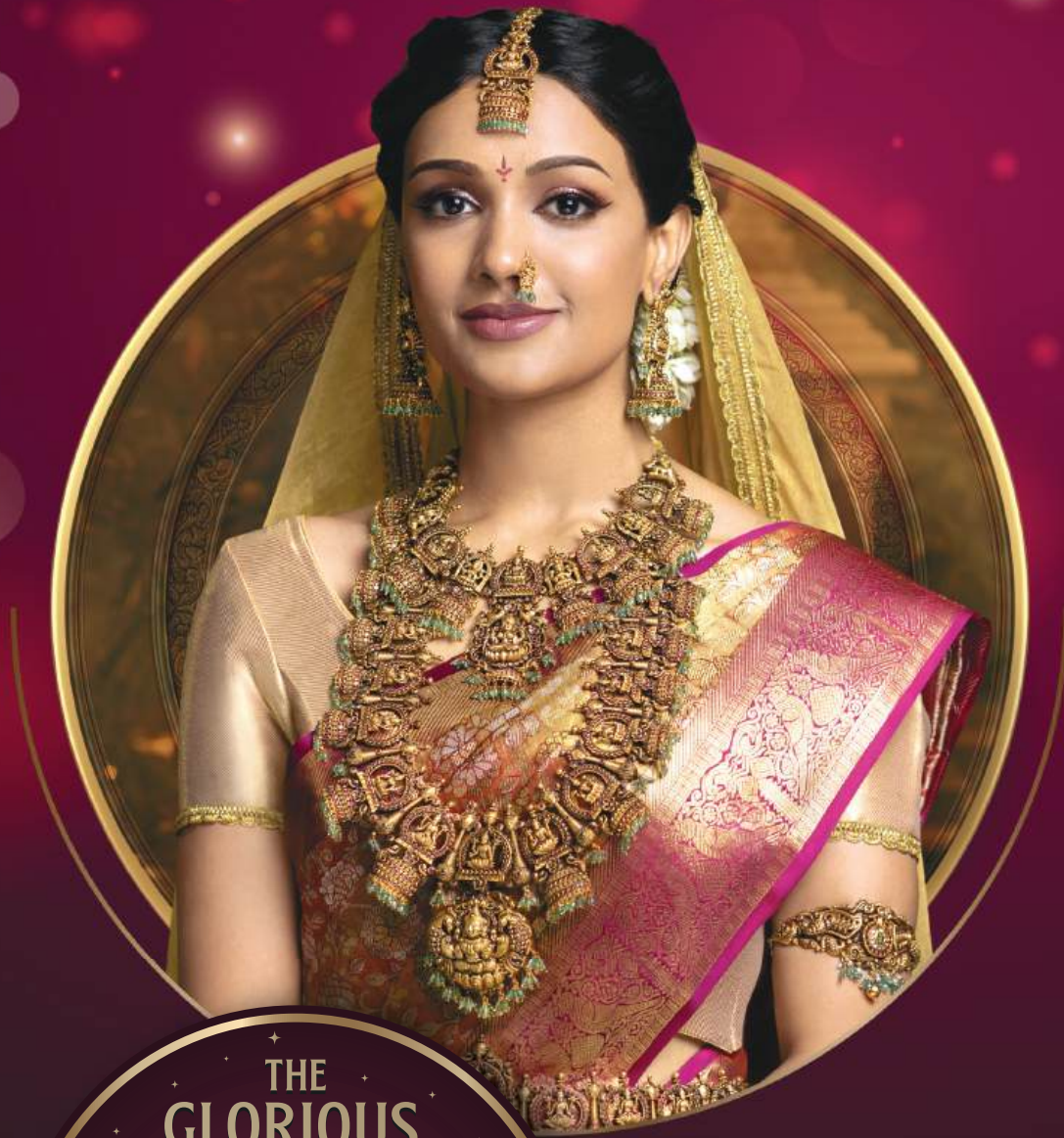
**Online Access:**

<https://www.wowhyderabad.com>

**Check out our e-magazine**

**Follow us on Facebook and Instagram**

**YOUR SUBSCRIPTION WILL BE EFFECTIVE FROM THE FOLLOWING MONTH.**



THE  
GLORIOUS  
BRIDAL  
JEWELLERY  
SHOWCASE



Craft your  
bridal journey  
with us

Complete Gold Bridal Set  
Starting ₹60 Lakh\*

\*T&C Apply



*Sri Krishna Jewellers*

SINCE 1967

Rd. 10, Banjara Hills, Hyderabad



SRIKRISHNAJEWELLERS

Vizag: VIP Road, AP | USA: Dallas, Texas

+91 96399 96399

@srikrishnajewellers

srikrishna.com

# upcoming events

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Our guide to the exciting happenings in town



### FOR THE LOVE OF FOOD

APRIL 4

YK Antiques Home Museum and Off the Shelf present the launch of *Akka Cheti Vanta*, a recipe book. This culinary work celebrates tradition, memory, and home cooking. The event will be held in the intimate spaces of Off the Shelf, followed by a thoughtful discussion.

**Venue:** Off The Shelf, The Loft, HITEC City  
**Timings:** 5 pm onwards  
**Price:** Entry Free

### EFFORTLESS HUMOR

APRIL 5

A frustrated software engineer from Uttar Pradesh, Pratyush Chaubey, who left his job to pursue his passion for comedy, is known for his sharp wit, sarcasm, and satirical puns. With his latest stand-up special, he puts his effortless comedic chops on display.

**Venue:** The Comedy Theater, Gachibowli  
**Timings:** 6 pm onwards  
**Price:** Rs 499 onwards (bookmyshow.com)



### THE ULTIMATE SING ALONG EXPERIENCE

APRIL 18

Not just a concert but a celebration of music, memories, and collective energy, *Micless with Merakee* offers a space for your voice to shine. Microphones take a backseat and your voice becomes the main attraction. From timeless Telugu chart-topping hits, you get to choose your favorite and sing along with a crowd of 2,000 plus music lovers.

**Venue:** Shilpakala Vedika, HITEC City  
**Timings:** 5 pm onwards  
**Price:** Rs 199 onwards (bookmyshow.com)

### MEANINGFUL COMEDY

APRIL 5

Through impactful comedy, Punit Pania takes an unflinching look at violence and apathy in relation to our identities. Titled *Fresh Violence*, his latest special takes the audience on a journey across the country through the eyes of a hopeful artist.

**Venue:** District 150, Madhapur  
**Timings:** 6 pm onwards  
**Price:** Rs 499 onwards (bookmyshow.com)





## STEP INTO A WORLD OF MUSIC

APRIL 19

Described as being more than just a concert, *The Bhuwin Experience* is set to take you on an intimate journey through sound, emotions, and live-looping magic. Singer Bhuwin Khursija promises melodies that resonate with the soul, showcasing originals and blending qawaali and Bollywood influences into a unique sonic experience.

**Venue:** Shilpakala Vedika, HITEC City  
**Timings:** 7 pm onwards  
**Price:** Rs 1,199 onwards (bookmyshow.com)



## THE POWER OF MUSIC

APRIL 24 TO 25

Formed by lead vocalist and harmonium virtuoso Sarjeev Tamta, *Rehmat-e-Nusrat* reimagines the timeless tradition of qawaali with powerful originals, Sufiyana kalaams, and Kabir bhajans. Praised for its raw intensity and magnetic stage presence, the ensemble is set to deliver performances that are both moving and spiritual.

**Venue:** Windmills Craftworks, Madhapur  
**Timings:** 7:30 pm onwards  
**Price:** Rs 999 onwards (bookmyshow.com)



## UNLEARNING SHAME

APRIL 19

Unlearning shame with Meetu Sharma is a two-hour reflective, journaling and art circle inspired by the cult book *The Artist's Way*. This event invites you to explore the concept of shame and the quiet voice behind it that implies you are either not enough, too much, or compels you to hide yourself. The session provides a space to pause, reflect, and put that voice on paper.

**Venue:** Luna Books, Jubilee Hills  
**Timings:** 11 am to 1 pm  
**Price:** Entry Free



## BUILDING MEANINGFUL CONNECTIONS

TILL APRIL 26

Be a part of an evening filled with warmth, laughter, and soulful discussions. This meetup, *Roobaru*, offers a platform for you to share heartfelt stories, exchange ideas, and build meaningful connections. Whether it is about life, travel career, or passion, with every conversation the event aims to contribute a new chapter to your journey.

**Venue:** Trailing Ivy Café, Madhapur  
**Timings:** 7 pm onwards  
**Price:** Rs 99 onwards (bookmyshow.com)

If you'd like your event listed in the WOW! events' calendar, please mail it to [wowhyderabad2023@gmail.com](mailto:wowhyderabad2023@gmail.com) for the following month, before the 20<sup>th</sup>.

**START-UP**

**Agripreneur Dr Raghavendra Kavali** is reimagining farming as a lifestyle, livelihood, and a sustainable urban aspiration

# Turning Small Plots into Purposeful Farms



On the outskirts of Hyderabad, where the city thins into stretches of cultivable land, a quiet shift is taking root. It is not industrial farming or large-scale agribusiness, but something far more intimate: individuals reclaiming land, reconnecting with soil, and rediscovering food. At the center of this movement is Dr Raghavendra Kavali, an agri-entrepreneur who is helping turn scattered acres into thriving, self-sustaining ecosystems through his new start-up called **Sairadhya Organics**.

**THE IDEA OF PURPOSEFUL LAND**

Raghavendra's work begins with a simple premise: land, no matter how small, can be meaningful. "Even if it is half an acre, it is fine if your purpose is internal," he explains. For him, farming is not always about scale or profit, but about intent.

His projects range from compact one-acre farmhouses to larger integrated farms. His approach blends practicality with vision, helping landowners understand what their land can truly offer. "You can develop a good farmhouse in one acre and grow 10 to 15 different fruit crops," he says.

**BUILDING FROM THE GROUND UP**

The journey typically begins with a consultation. Raghavendra and his team map the land, study water availability, and design a layout tailored to the client's goals. "We give a complete layout... where to plant fruits, vegetables, and leafy greens," he notes. This initial blueprint becomes the foundation for everything that follows. Investment varies, but he keeps expectations realistic. "You can develop a good farmhouse in Rs 10 to 12 lakh," he

says. For many urban clients, especially those from Hyderabad's premium neighborhoods, this is less about returns and more about reclaiming control over what they consume.

**THE SCIENCE OF PATIENCE**

Agriculture, as Raghavendra emphasizes is a game of timelines. Leafy vegetables can be harvested within 40 to 45 days, while fruit crops demand patience, sometimes taking years to mature. "If you go for fruit crops, it may take two to three years depending on the type," he explains. April and May is the perfect time to act on the dream of a green farmland so that the land and seeds are ready for the first rains in June, he adds.

Yet, there are ways to balance short-term gains with long-term growth. His integrated farming models often combine quick-yield vegetables with slower fruit crops and even livestock. "We have made complete integrated farming systems with fruits, vegetables, cows, and goats," he says.

**START TO FINISH**

What sets Raghavendra apart is the end-to-end nature of his service. From and before sourcing: testing of soil and guiding and supplying the suitable organic inputs for healthy crop growth, sourcing seeds and plants to deploying labor for initial setup, his team ensures that clients are not left navigating the complexities alone. "We provide everything... even planting if required," he says.

However, he is clear about one aspect: farming demands commitment. "You need a person dedicated to managing it daily," he points out, underlining the importance of consistent care.

**HARVESTING MORE THAN CROPS**

For many of his clients, the returns are not purely financial. While he estimates minimum returns of around Rs 25,000 to Rs 1 lakh per acre in certain models, the larger reward lies in sustainability and self-sufficiency. "They are not just earning money, they are also using it for their families," he says.

In smaller spaces too, the impact is visible. From multi-vegetable gardens in compact plots to medicinal crop ventures that generate an income within months, Raghavendra's work is redefining what modern farming can look like. ■ MANJU

Tel: 73372 25886

## SPORTS

From being a late starter to league-hopping cricketer, **Pranavi Chandra** is building her story, one season at a time

# Playing the Game with Quiet Fire



At 5:30 in the morning, while most of the city is still negotiating sleep, Pranavi is already on the move. The roads of Madhapur become her first training ground, the silence sharpening her focus before the rhythm of nets, gym sessions and long days take over. It is a routine that mirrors her journey in cricket: disciplined, self-built, and quietly relentless.

### A DIFFERENT BEGINNING

Unlike many professional cricketers, Pranavi did not grow up inside an academy system. "I started playing

as a kid with my cousins, just gully cricket during summers," she recalls. The idea of cricket as a career arrived much later, almost by accident. "I never really thought about taking it up professionally," she says.

It was only after stepping into a summer camp towards the end of her school years that things shifted. Encouraged by coaches who spotted her potential, she pushed against expectations shaped by academics. "I wanted to give cricket a try," she says. "Fortunately, my mother convinced the rest of my family to let me go for it."

### FINDING STRUCTURE, FINDING SELF

Her formal cricketing journey began in 2018, a relatively late start in a sport where many peak early. She started playing after 11th grade under coach V Chamundeswaranath. Within a year, she found herself in the middle of Hyderabad's selection circuits and under the guidance of coach Jamundes Varnath. That mentorship proved decisive.

"I trust his instinct because I know he thinks about what's best for me," she says. It is a partnership that continues to shape her decisions, from team selections to long-term planning.

Training now is a full-time commitment. Mornings begin with runs, followed by net sessions at the Rama Naidu Cricket Academy and strength work later in the day. "My day starts off around 5.30... I find the mornings a lot more peaceful," she explains. Yet, there is balance too – B-School prep, a part-time role in sports marketing, and even time carved out for a newly adopted dog.

### MOVING ACROSS TEAMS

Pranavi's domestic journey has taken her across teams and roles. After three seasons with Hyderabad, including a stint as an U19 captain and Under-23 vice-captain, she moved as a guest player to Jharkhand and later to Kerala. Each shift came with its own learning curve.

"It doesn't matter what team I represent. I just want to be able to contribute," she says. The clarity is striking, especially in a system where opportunities can be fleeting.

### LOOKING AHEAD

Representing India and featuring in the Women's Premier League remain key goals, but she is careful not to rush the timeline. "I've been taking cricket one year at a time," she says. "For however long I play, I just want to enjoy it and contribute as much as I can."

Beyond the field, she imagines a future in sports management, possibly after an MBA abroad. The idea is not just to transition, but to give back. "I'd love to set up something that helps identify and guide young talent," she says. "For someone who started at 16, I could not be happier with where I am today," she reflects.

As she prepares for another tournament, another season, the approach remains unchanged: show up early, put in the work, and let the game unfold. In a career built without shortcuts, that may be her greatest strength. ■ MANJU



## CITIZEN SPEAK

A visually impaired leader and ISB trailblazer – **Shravya Kanithi** is reshaping how we understand ability, ambition and inclusion

# Identity, On Her Own Terms

Spend a few minutes with Shravya Kanithi and you find yourself quietly re-evaluating your own definitions of courage and choice. A Senior AVP at Wells Fargo, Hyderabad; ISB alumna, trained Carnatic singer, and solo traveller, she has built a life that refuses to be reduced to a single narrative. “Visually impaired, yes, but never defined by it,” she says.

What stands out is not just what she has done, but how deliberately she has chosen every step. She owns her story fully, contradictions and all.

*“My life can be documented as before and after ISB,” she says. “After ISB, you can put me anywhere and I will survive”*

### WHERE INCLUSION BEGAN

Born in Visakhapatnam, Shravya’s early years were shaped by her parents’ determination to find the right support.

That journey led them to Hyderabad and to spaces that didn’t always know how to include her. “Inclusiveness is real only when there is willingness,” she reflects.

That willingness finally arrived at Nasr School. Teachers experimented, adapted, and showed up. A math teacher created tactile diagrams with buttons pressed into paper. Classmates recorded lessons for her. “That made all the difference,” she says simply.

### THE ISB INFLECTION POINT

Her fascination with ISB began early. “It had the best of the world, and it was in Hyderabad,” she recalls.

After a B.Com and a stint at Uber, she walked into ISB as its first visually impaired student – and walked out transformed. Friends coached her exam scribe before every test. She won student council elections with 441 votes. She became a State Icon for the Telangana Election Commission.

*“My life can be documented as before and after ISB,” she says. “After ISB, you can put me anywhere and I will survive.”*

### REDEFINING REAL INCLUSION

Today, in corporate corridors, Shravya speaks with clarity that cuts through tokenism. On one work trip, a colleague who initially offered help later described it as a burden. The suggested solution? Limit Shravya’s travel. Nobody asked her what she needed. “Because I am travelling alone, doesn’t mean I don’t need help. I do. But let me be who I want to be, while giving me the help I ask for.”

For her, inclusion is not about good intentions, it is about informed participation. “Make us part of the solution,” she insists.

### BEYOND INSPIRATION

Shravya resists being romanticized. “I am against drawing inspiration from suffering,” she says candidly. Yet one moment stays with her: A cab driver who, seeing her journey, found hope for his visually impaired daughter.

“If this is inspiration,” she says, “these are the people I want to inspire.”

### THE EXPLORER WITHIN

Shravya calls herself an explorer and it fits. She navigates the world and herself with equal curiosity, constantly asking better questions. Not about limitations, but about possibilities. ■ PRAGNA SREE





to empower children, especially those in tribal and rural areas.

The Drive for Change program is committed to transforming the lives of vulnerable children and marginalized communities across India by advocating for their rights, tackling issues such as malnutrition, homelessness, child labor, lack of access to education, and inadequate living conditions. They distributed food to 50,000 plus children during the Covid-19 lockdown, and organized motorcycle campaigns against child labor in Telangana, Karnataka, and Maharashtra.

The Disaster Relief Program offers effective assistance to individuals and communities affected by natural disasters and health emergencies. Through timely intervention, essential supplies, and collaborative efforts, PHC aims to alleviate suffering, restore livelihoods, and foster resilience.

■ IPSHITA

## CAUSE

This NGO has been at the forefront of change, transforming lives, and empowering children and women with basic rights

# SAVING FUTURES

Guided by the belief that every child deserves to live a full life, **People Helping Children** (PHC) works toward creating an environment that respects children's dignity, justice, and equity. Which in turn enables them to grow up happy, healthy, and creative.

The registered NGO also aims to empower adolescent girls and women in rural and tribal areas across the country.

### HOW IT BEGAN

Established in 2018, PHC is rooted in Founder Santhosh Bogam's personal journey as a child laborer – one marked by resilience, determination, and compassion. Witnessing injustices firsthand motivated Santhosh to fight for young lives by creating a platform that would address educational, social, and economic disparities.

A graduate of the Roda Mistry College of Social Work and Research Center in Gachibowli, Santhosh shares, "The main inspiration to start PHC was that a child should not miss their childhood."

### PROGRAMS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

With support from a team that includes

212 active members and over 2,000 registered volunteers, PHC has several programs titled Caring and Giving, Saving Lives, Enlightening Lives, Drive for Change, and Disaster Relief Aid etc.

The Caring and Giving Program includes access to good health, nutrition-rich food, and education. Thus far, 500 plus childcare institutions in Telangana and Andhra Pradesh have been impacted by its sustained efforts, two lakh meals have been distributed all over India in underprivileged communities, and one-and-a-half lakh children have benefitted through this program.

The Saving Lives Program is committed to providing urgent medical aid to children with life-threatening medical conditions. Over seven crore rupees have been raised to fund critical healthcare services, and more than 500 children have received help.

With the Enlightening Lives program, PHC provides access to education, essential learning resources, and holistic support. Through initiatives such as Learning Centers, Cycles for Girls, Gift a School Kit, and School Adoption, they aim

### WHAT YOU CAN DO:

- Volunteer
- Donate
- Spread the word

Tel: 86869 00800

Website: [peoplehelpingchildren.in](http://peoplehelpingchildren.in)

Instagram: [phc\\_india](https://www.instagram.com/phc_india)

### MISSION

Access to basic rights given by the self-funded NGO include:

- Food and nutrition
- Health and well-being
- Education
- Child safety, security and livelihood skills



“If you're not okay with not knowing what happens tomorrow, you shouldn't be in showbiz. It's unsteady”



Actor-writer **Adivi Sesh** on connection, content and coming back after a gap, with *Dacoit* releasing on April 10 in Telugu and Hindi

## “My love for cinema never wavered”

Adivi Sesh is one of Telugu cinema’s most compelling multi-hyphenates — an actor, writer and storyteller known for crafting intelligent, genre-defying films. From the gritty realism of *Kshanam* to the emotional heft of *Major*, the 40-year-old actor-writer, a college dropout from the US, has built a reputation for backing content over convention. With a career marked by long gaps but sharp, impactful releases, he returns with *Dacoit* and *G2*, balancing scale with substance. In this conversation, he opens up about the chaos before a film’s release, creative control and the unpredictability of cinema.

### WHAT’S THE MOOD, MADNESS AND INTENSITY A WEEK BEFORE THE MOVIE RELEASE?

The pace is maddening, but also fun as it’s a passion project and it’s two different films that we’re delivering — a true-blue Telugu and an authentic Hindi film. And, everything from marketing, to mixing, to dubbing, to grade, is all happening at the same time. I’m not sure what to do when.

### OKAY, BUT YOU’VE DONE THIS BEFORE FOR YOUR OTHER MOVIES TOO, RIGHT?

Sort of; during *Major* we had six months’ time for post-production due to COVID. Here we have two months. I’m just not used to that. It’s a very new thing for me. And we have an extremely talented but very young team. So, you’ve got these cool kids who have cutting-edge sensibilities, but they don’t know the basics of protocol. Overall, it’s an interesting time.

“At one point, I lost all my savings on a single film and I didn’t know how I’d pay the next month’s bills”

### GIVE US A GLIMPSE OF WHAT AN ACTOR’S LIFE IS LIKE WHEN A MOVIE IS RELEASING TWO WEEKS OR A WEEK FROM NOW AND EVERYTHING IS AT STAKE.

Well, I can only speak for myself because every actor’s life is different. I’m the actor and the writer of this film. My best friend is directing, and we’re doing this together because he doesn’t speak Telugu which is my first language, and Hindi is his. It’s almost like we need to be in this together. His sense of what works in Hindi is great, my sense of what works in Telugu is greater just because of the lines. So, what dubbing needs to come in when becomes my choice for Telugu. Hindi is based on what he says. Plus, we are making a Hindi film from Hyderabad and marketing it everywhere from UP to Bengaluru. It is just maddening and on a big scale for sure.



### DOES IT FEEL DIFFERENT WHEN THERE IS A LONG GAP? ARE PEOPLE MISSING YOU ON SCREEN? DO YOU NEED TO DO ANYTHING EXTRA? HOW DOES IT WORK?

Well, for me, I never really stopped working. I wrote both *Dacoit* and *G2* for about a year-and-a-half. I was continuously working every day — no day off in three years, really. But for the audience, obviously it seems like, “Oh, I didn’t see him on the screen.”

It depends on the kind of movies you last left the audience with. If you left them with bad movies, they’re glad you’re gone. If you left them with beautiful ones, they can’t wait to see you again. The audience really is that simple. Everyone is busy with their own lives. The goal is to make them feel something beautiful. If you do that and come back after a gap, you’re that one relative they really missed.

### HOW DID A DAPPER-LOOKING SESH TRANSFORM INTO A RUGGED AND RUSTIC HARI FOR *DACOIT*?

I had to make my skin seem dry. It was important I didn’t sport a tan in a filmy way — we wanted it to look natural, like having spent 13 years in the sun. We did about six makeup tests to get it right. It was a continuous two-to-three-year process of working on a Madanapalle (in Rayalaseema) accent. Accents

WITH MRUNAL THAKUR IN *DACOIT*

are tricky! Two people from the same town can sound different but still belong to that place. So, finding that nuance and for a wider audience was important. Alongside that, balancing easy Hindi for the Hindi audience was also a challenge.

#### WHAT'S THE STORY BEHIND PITCHING *DACOIT* TO ANURAG KASHYAP AT A WEDDING?

It's absolutely true. I was at my friend and co-star Shobhita's wedding. Director Anurag Kashyap (who cast her in *Raman Raghav*) was also there. I told him I had a story. He said, "Tell me now." We sat in a tent and I narrated it as the wedding rituals were going on. He loved it and agreed on the spot. It validated me as a writer. There's also an emotional connection. He has a long association with *Dacoit*'s producer, Supriya Yarlagadda's family. Anurag was the Assistant Director for Ramgopal Varma's movies produced by Annapurna Studios.

#### WHAT CAN WE EXPECT FROM THE FILM?

I play Hari, who is a very outspoken, brash character. Whatever he feels, you see it on his face. I got the chance to be carefree and reckless, unlike a very restrained performance in *Major*. Also, I got to dance, which was fun.

#### HAVE YOU GOTTEN USED TO THE UNPREDICTABILITY OF CINEMA?

If you're not okay with not knowing what happens tomorrow, you shouldn't be in this business. It's very unsteady. Especially for newcomers, they don't even know where the next paycheck is coming from. You do it for your heart.

#### WHAT KIND OF STRUGGLES DID YOU FACE?

I was lucky in some ways, as I had the option to go back to the US. But I hail from outside the industry and was learning the ropes. My cousin was just starting too. At one point, I lost all my savings on a single film and I didn't know how I'd pay the next month's bills. But my love for cinema never wavered.

One feels terrible, unsteady, unsatisfied, unstable... but then a beautiful Mohammad Rafi song like *Tere Mere Sapne* plays and all the pain vanishes. And the song inspires me to bounce back and keep going. ■ MANJU

#### QUICK TAKE

**Three hashtags that define you:**

#Passionate #Dignified #Hardworking

**Three apps you use regularly:**

Twitter, BookMyShow, Pinterest

**Tell us a fun fact about yourself:** I was named Sessa Sunny Chandra. In the US, Sunny was common, Sesh was unique. So, I kept Sesh

**Best biryani in Hyderabad:** I'm vegetarian, so I can't answer that as veg biryani is pulav

**Where would you take a date in Hyderabad:** I would never! It would be all over the news!

**What's the song playing right now:**

*Chichubuddi* from *Dacoit*

**Favorite Hyderabad word:** *Nakko*

**Favorite monument:** Birla Mandir, as I spent my childhood two lanes away

**Message to the girls crushing on you:** My first love story *Dacoit* is releasing on April 10th. Watch it to see how I love you

# Signature Bridal Collection '26

Your Bridal Dreams Perfected with piece  
of Art & Lifelong Treasure!

Light Weight Designer Jewellery | Pearl | Gemstones | Kundan | Polki | Gold | Diamond Jewellery

• Shop by Video Call • Try Jewellery At Home • Regularly Sanitized Jewellery • Doorstep Delivery Service • Open All Days

**HYDERABAD :** • M.G. ROAD • DR. A . S. RAO NAGAR : Main Road

• GACHIBOWLI : Near Inox : Prism Mall **BENGALURU:** • Lulu Mall

Shop Online at [www.jpearls.com](http://www.jpearls.com) Tel: 95553 00600 WhatsApp: 72077 74202



Scan for Instagram

**Ashok Galla** comes with talent and a legacy, he hopes to prove himself as an actor with his upcoming romcom *VISA*

# Finding His Own Space

Ashok Galla may come from a legacy synonymous with Telugu cinema, but this newcomer speaks with a certain deliberateness – aware of the weight of his surname, yet intent on carving out his own niche. After having acted in *Hero* and *Devaki Nandana Vasudeva*, Ashok is back with a romcom titled *VISA – Vintara Saradaga*, set for a summer release. **WOW!** catches up with the young actor to find out more about how things are going.

“There are expectations; visibility and scrutiny. You need mental strength to deal with both success and setbacks”

## YOUR ACTING CAREER – HOW DID IT BEGIN AND HOW IT’S GOING?

My first experience was when I was eight, in my grandfather Krishna garu’s *Pandanti Samsaram*. At that point, I was just excited to bunk school. But things changed when I worked in my uncle (my mother Padmavathi’s brother) Mahesh Babu’s blockbuster movie *Naani* at 12. I started enjoying the process more consciously. I remember shooting a long stretch for the climax – almost 20 hours – and not feeling tired at all. That’s when it clicked that I genuinely loved being on set.

## HOW DID THAT EARLY SPARK EVOLVE INTO A SERIOUS CAREER CHOICE?

I moved to Singapore for school and studied theater there. That environment really helped – performing, getting feedback, building confidence. By the end of it, I knew this was something I wanted to pursue seriously, not just something I had grown up around.

## YOUR DEBUT FILM, *VISA*, SEEMS ROOTED IN EVERYDAY EXPERIENCES. WHAT DREW YOU TO THE SCRIPT?

It felt relatable. It’s set in the US and looks at the lives of young people figuring things out – careers, relationships and identity. I play a graduate student navigating that phase. It’s not overly dramatic; it reflects a kind of life many people recognize, especially those who’ve lived or studied abroad.

## GROWING UP AROUND STALWARTS LIKE KRISHNA AND MAHESH BABU, AND YOUR FATHER JAYADEV, A VETERAN POLITICIAN, WHAT HAS STAYED WITH YOU THE MOST?

From all of them, I learnt to be resilient. To stay grounded and keep going regardless of how things unfold. My uncle, in particular, has always encouraged me to trust my instincts and focus on the work.



## YOUR FILMI JOURNEY HASN’T BEEN IMMEDIATE. HOW DID YOU NAVIGATE THE DELAYS?

It took time – education, preparation, then just waiting for the right opportunity. And of course, the pandemic set things back further. It’s not a straightforward path. You put in the effort, but results don’t always follow immediately. You have to be okay with that.

## WHAT ABOUT THE PRESSURE OF COMING FROM A HIGH-PROFILE FAMILY?

It’s constant. There are expectations; visibility and scrutiny. You need mental strength to deal with both success and setbacks. It’s something I’ve seen everyone in my family handle in their own way.

## WITH YOUR BIRTHDAY COMING UP IN APRIL, WHAT ARE YOU HOPING FOR THIS YEAR?

I think this year, more than anything else, I just want *VISA* to really connect with audiences. Birthdays usually come with personal wishes, but this time it feels tied to my work. If the film finds its space and people respond to it, that would mean a lot. I guess, in a way, that would make it a memorable year for me. ■ MANJU


# Not Every Dream Announces Itself

Some take time, care and the right expertise to unfold into something extraordinary.



*Bringing you closer to  
the family you imagine.*



 Hyderabad | Guntur | Vizag | Kurnool | Nagpur

 Appointment: +91 70098 77009  Toll-free: 1800 202 7009



Lili is where Chinese delights meet a design-forward cozy dining room

## All You Can, Cantonese

Any place that uses the shape of a dim sum as décor already signals a certain playfulness. At Lili, that detail doesn't just sit pretty – some diners are already treating it as part of the experience, posing and interacting with it, setting the tone even before the first plate arrives.

Located in Jubilee Hills, Lili is a 45-seater contemporary Cantonese kitchen and bar by the House of Tequileria, spread across a compact 1,000 square feet. We loved the intimate diner vibe – tables close enough for energy, but not noise; service paced without urgency; a room that encourages lingering. Interestingly, the name is inspired by Li, the second name of the Chinese folk!

### ART-FORWARD RESTO-BAR

The interiors, designed by artist Siddharth Kerkar (known for Soka, Bengaluru), make a clear decision: art is not an afterthought here. Hand-beaten copper, ceramic, wood, metal and fabric come together with hand-painted sculptures that anchor the room rather than decorate it. Sand and sawdust work depicting the Great Wall of China. Other works such as a man with dim sum hair, the Noodle Man and Mandarin phrases on the walls add to the Chinese drama. The crimson red palette of the restaurant evokes a quaint Cantonese charm.

Lili is backed by a strong team comprising Abhilasha Oruganti, known for Fat Pigeon and Chubby Cho; Naveen Krishna, whose commercial and operational experience anchors the brand, and Navyatha Reddy, whose global exposure and technical acumen add a measured, contemporary perspective.

“The idea, as it stands, is fairly clear: a tighter, more focused take on Cantonese dining, something that sits between authenticity and adaptation without leaning too heavily on either,” says Abhilasha.

### DIM SUM DELIGHTS

In the kitchen, Chef Tarun Bhatia who draws from over a decade of experience across fine dining and Michelin-starred environments, sent across a flavorful Cilantro Seafood Broth to begin with (white fish, prawns, carb and Bonito Flakes) and prawn crackers to munch on. He then asked us to savor those one-bite dim sum that were as tasty as they were colorful.

### CHINA-INSPIRED COCKTAILS

The bar, curated by Gaurav Dhyani (World Class India Winner 2018), follows a similar philosophy. The drinks are built to complement, not compete. Cocktails here draw from Chinese folklore and Cantonese ideas of balance. Our favorite was Flip Death, rich in herbal and cherry liqueur. We wrapped up our spirited session with Sichuan Opera made with a controlled tension of chilli heat, pepper tingle, yuzu sharpness and tequila.

We continued our meal with the Phyllo Spring Rolls served with a zingy dip; it lured us further into the main course where we savored the Chorizo Fennel Fried Rice, a meat crossover of Goan and Mexican flavors.

Their handmade dessert Yuzu Chilli Chocolate Wedge, was the perfect wrap for the Cantonese night. There's nothing a beautiful Cantonese dinner cannot! ■ MANJU

**Meal for two: Rs 5,000 (with alcohol)**

Plot No. 1069, Road No. 45, Jubilee Hills  
Tel: 81438 20055

**Timings:** Two slots for lunch and dinner: 12 pm to 4 pm; 7 pm to 11 pm  
**Reservation is mandatory**



NAVYATHA REDDY, NAVEEN KRISHNA AND ABHILASHA ORUGANTI



An intimate Ugadi experience where food, art and memories come together in quiet luxury

# Telugu Routes: A Journey Back Home

The third Sunday of March turned out to be a slower Ugadi, by design. It started with a drive out of Hyderabad, into the lush greenery of Vikarabad. As the city thinned into quieter roads and eventually into forest-lined stretches near Shankarpalli, the pace shifted almost instinctively. By the time we arrived at Simha Gadi, a heritage home, Ugadi has already begun – not as an event, but as a feeling.

Conceptualized by Gopi Byluppala, the founder of The Culinary Lounge in Film Nagar, **Telugu Routes** is built on a simple but deliberate idea: to bring back the texture of a traditional Telugu life, without dilution or spectacle. “Luxury today is not about scale,” says Gopi. “It is about access – to something real, something rooted, something you cannot replicate anywhere else.”

Limited to just 50 guests, the experience unfolds like a day in an old Telugu home – only more considered, more immersive, and quietly indulgent. From foreign diplomats to investment bankers, it was a diverse guest list.

## BREAKFAST AND BEGINNINGS

The morning opened with the unmistakable sound of *nadaswaram*, easing guests into a Rayalaseema festive breakfast with *uggani*, *bajji* and more. It felt both familiar and elevated. There was no rush, no rigid schedule – just a gentle progression into the day.

As the sun shone gently, the courtyard transformed into a stage for *Perini Tandavam*, the ancient Kakatiya warrior dance. It was both powerful and grounding, a reminder that culture is not performed, but inherited.

## CONVERSATIONS THAT LINGER

The day moved into a series of intimate discussions – less panel, more dialogue. Actor and writer Tanikella Bharani anchored a session that wove food, literature and mythology with the ease of a lived experience. Gopi frames it simply: “We didn’t want this to feel like programming. We wanted conversations that stay with you, the kind you carry back home.”

A parallel thread runs through the space – a living display of antique Telugu kitchen tools by YK Antiques and Zishta, alongside a functioning ganuga oil press. Freshly extracted oil, served with warm rice, becomes one of the day’s most quietly memorable moments.

## A FEAST WITH MEMORY

Lunch was served on silver platters, curated by Sandhya Linga of The Rasam Room, and was as much about memory as it was about flavor. Each dish was drawn from heirloom recipes



rooted in Telangana’s agrarian traditions.



“For me, this is about preserving recipes as they were meant to be experienced – seasonal, simple, and deeply connected to the land,” says Sandhya. From delicacies such as *Balusaku Fry* to *Chamdumpa Aaku Koor*a and classic *Vankaya Pachadi*, it spanned the best of flavors. The vegetables came from Sandhya’s organic farm.

## CINEMA, CULTURE AND PAUSE

The afternoon turned reflective with a session inspired by the cult Telugu classic *Sankarabharanam*. The film became a lens to explore how language, music and storytelling have shaped Telugu identity. It was less a discussion and more a shared recall of a cultural moment that continues to resonate.

## HIGH TEA AND THE JOURNEY BACK

As evening settled in, high tea arrived from the kitchens of Coastal and North Andhra – *Gavvalu* and *Punugulu* and a quirky savory called *Utinkalu*. No one waited as soon as Gopi announced that we could fill our bags with the goodies and take them home. ■ MANJU

Check @theculinarylounge for the next Telugu Routes event

Price: Rs 15,000 per person

Tel: 90000 10770

Timings: 7 am to 4 pm, typically within an hour’s driving distance from Jubilee Hills Checkpost

Lychee or apple honey, **Kunooz Farms** offers a range of honey, shaped by geography and the flowers it comes from

## From Hive to Table

Not all honey begins in a supermarket aisle. Some of it starts high in the Himalayas, or in the quieter valleys of Kashmir – collected in small quantities, shaped by the flowers it comes from, and often sent far beyond the country before making its way back.

**Kunooz Farms** is built on this idea of return. The Hyderabad-based venture brings together honey and a small selection of region-specific produce sourced from across India, with a focus on origin rather than scale. Kunooz means ‘treasures’ in Arabic.

Co-founder Aziza Zainab says the intent was as much about access as it was about awareness. “These products are often exported in large quantities and return to India at a much higher price point. This is our way of retaining and sharing what we consider our own Indian treasures,” she says.

### STUDY IN FLAVORS

They have over 20 varieties of honey, each shaped by geography and the flowers bees return to. There is the lightness of multi-flora, the subtle sweetness of apple blossom, the distinct notes of lychee, and darker forest honeys from regions such as the Himalayas and Madhya Pradesh.

None of it is flavored or infused. Instead, the differences come from placement. “In the case of lychee honey, bees are placed near lychee farms so they draw nectar primarily from those flowers,” says Zainab. “We don’t alter anything artificially.” Cold-pressed apricot and lavender oils, dried lavender buds, and regional rajma, including the visually distinctive Chitra rajma are available too.

### EXPERIENCE CENTER

The brand’s retail space is designed less like a store and more like an experience center. Rows of glass jars, fitted with taps, allow visitors to taste before choosing – moving from one variety to another, noticing shifts in color, texture and aftertaste. Kahwa and ghee are also offered for sampling, extending the idea of slow, considered consumption.



**WOW!**  
 Recommends  
 Lychee Honey

### QUIETER APPROACH

Kunooz Farms remains a family-led venture, developed after a few years of research before opening a store. Zainab, a medical student, brings both curiosity and structure to the process, shaped in part by growing up in a business-oriented household. The brand does not follow large-scale production, choosing instead to work within the limits of its sourcing. It is a slower model, but a deliberate one. “Authenticity is important to us,” Zainab says. “If we are making a claim about origin and quality, we have to be consistent with it.” ■ MANJU

*Price: Multiple sizes; smaller bottles: Rs 1,000 onwards and going up to Rs 3,000 for one kg. Prices vary depending on the flavor of honey*

*SAFAH Eminence, Plot No. 299, Road No. 14, GS Nagar, Nandi Nagar, Banjara Hills  
 Timings: 7 am to 11 pm*





## COFFEE SHOTS

**Adhira & Appa** has fusion options ranging from vadas as waffles to appams in a taco

## Old favorites Get New Twists

### WHAT: ADHIRA & APPA COFFEE

**The Quirky Name:** The name brings together Adhira – symbolizing the brilliance of a thunderbolt and a forward-looking spirit with Appa, meaning father, reflecting a legacy rooted in tradition and quality.

**Ambience:** The vibe is modern and South Indian with murals of Kathakali and coffee vines adding a pop of color to the understated elegance. The outdoor space with patio umbrellas is ideal for summer nights. As you leisurely watch the Gachibowli traffic pass by, the twinkling lights amidst the plants around add some quirk to the evenings.

**The Backstory:** This Kochi-based brand opened its first outlet in Hyderabad this year, with another opening at Banjara Hills later this year. The café chain operating in Bengaluru and Mumbai has tweaked the regular South Indian menu to appeal to a Gen Z pan-Indian audience. For those who love their regular South Indian fare, they have the classics from dosa to idli in place.

**Chef's Take:** “Crafted with heritage and passion, we’re more than a coffee brand, we’re a community that celebrates slow brewing, meaningful conversations, and shared experiences,” says chef Veerendranath Pasupuleti.

### WHAT WE TRIED:

- Palak Paneer Ravioli: Quirky, innovative, and cheesy
- Noorccini Pasta: A fettuccine in Yakhni preparation
- Goli Bajji Popovers: Hot and steamy outside, soft and creamy inside
- Medu Vada Waffle: Wada with a western upgrade, looks different but tastes the same

- Appam Tacos: Pulled pepper in soft appam taco shell with house slaw, yum and classic
- Coorg Cappuccino: Strong classic coffee with a Coorgi soul
- Kanthari mocktail: Chilli Guava in a salt-rimmed glass, definitely 8/10
- Bulletproof Kaapi: This pure ghee filter coffee espresso shot hits the right spots from the word go ■ MANJU

**Meal for two: Rs 1,500**

*Block B, Kondapur, Sri Ramnagar - Block C, Gachibowli*

**Timings:** 8 am to 11 pm

**Instagram:** @adhiraandappa\_coffee

**Soma**  
The World of Block Prints

Home • Bed • Table • Apparel  
Plot No. 217, Road 16, Jubilee Hills, Hyderabad,  
500033, Ph. +91 8306863300  
Instagram: somablockprints Facebook: somablockprints  
Shop Online: [www.somashop.com](http://www.somashop.com)

**WOW!**  
Recommends  
Medu Vada  
Waffle



HEALTHY OPTIONS

**Yellow Straw** serves multiple healthy options for the techies at Sattva Knowledge City

## Of Immunity Boosters and Detox Drinks

**WOW!**  
Recommends  
Fruity Delight  
Smoothie  
Bowl

Tucked into Sattva Knowledge City, this Kolkata-based clean beverage brand's newest outlet doesn't feel like a big, glossy affair. **Yellow Straw** is the kind of place you notice after a couple of visits. The focus is clearly on making healthier eating a regular goal in the midst of a busy workday.

### FRESH, NO SHORTCUTS

Everything is made to order, and you can actually see it getting made in the display kitchen. There's a clear emphasis on skipping preservatives, refined sugar and artificial additives, while still keeping things approachable rather than overly strict.

### IMMUNITY BOOSTERS TO DETOX DRINKS

The juices are cold-pressed and split into simple categories. You've got single-fruit options when you want something basic,

and mixes positioned as immunity boosters or detox drinks, where fruits are combined with other ingredients. The food menu is split into regular and gourmet, mostly depending on the kind of ingredients used. There are enough choices available, from familiar combinations to experimental ones with exotic fruits and vegetables.

### SALADS GALORE

Salads are available in both fruit and vegetable options, and you can tweak them depending on how much protein or fiber you want. Add-ons like quinoa, sprouts and bread make it easy to turn a light bowl into a more filling lunch. For proper meals, choose from grilled brown bread sandwiches, whole wheat wraps, and simple Indian options like upma and poha. Nothing too complicated, which works well if you're dropping in between meetings.

### SWEET INDULGENCES

The smoothie bowls are made with Greek yoghurt and feel substantial enough to count as a meal. There's also room for indulgence, with chocolate-based options and Oreo milkshakes that don't pretend to be anything but a treat.

We tried the Watermelon Grilled Paneer Salad, Cheese, Corn & Capsicum Sandwich and the Fruity Delight Smoothie Bowl. The juice was refreshing, especially in the afternoon heat. The salad was light yet filling, and the sandwich leaned more towards comfort food than a healthy snack. The smoothie bowl stood out for its freshness and texture. Being inside an IT park means it's already a convenient stop for a quick breakfast or a lighter dinner after work. ■ KARTHEEKA

**Meal for two: Rs 400**

Plot No. 2, Sattva Knowledge City, Raidurg  
Tel: 98314 53845. Timings: 9 am to 10 pm

This new dessert venue offers a quick sugar fix with guilt-free and indulgent options

## For Cheat Days and More

**Cheat Clean** is a small and cozy place offering a dessert menu that satisfies your cravings on cheat days and those when you eat mindfully. The owner, Manaswi Panuganti, started experimenting with different ingredients to create gluten-free desserts, aimed at making healthy dessert options that are tasty as well.

Their desserts are made with almond flour and sweetened with dates, along with ganache made from plant-based milk and Couverture chocolate; without any refined sugars or butter. While their cheat menu consists of brownies and cakes made with sugar, butter and chocolate. All the items on both menus are made in-house; with the exception of breads. The cheat menu has brownie and cookie options, while their clean menu offers cake tubs and cupcakes.

We tried the Pistachio Kunafa Brownie, a popular flavor paired with a Matcha latte. The guilt and gluten-free Hazelnut Cake Tub is a must-try, topped with rich and decadent chocolate. The alcohol free and rich in flavor tiramisu, has layers of coffee-soaked cake, cream and is coated with cocoa powder. ■ KARTHEEKA

**Meal for two: Rs 400**

Plot No. 51, Khanamet, Madhapur  
Tel: 95532 62022  
Timings: 12 pm to 12 am



**WOW!**  
Recommends  
Pistachio  
Kunafa  
Brownie

Pure by **Monin** introduced the wellness community to their plant-based extract range

## No Added Sugars

The French flavor brand **Monin**, which has more than 200 flavors in syrups, fruit mixes, sauces and frappés, introduced **PURE**, their no-added-sugar range made with 100 percent natural fruit and plant-based extracts for those who believe in sugar-free food and drinks. **PURE** doesn't contain any artificial sweeteners or colorants.

Keeping in line with its new focus on everything natural, Monin's Mixdown Morning at Last House Café last month featured a live DJ set, a tasting of the Pure range, a hydration bar, and a curated menu of signature beverages. This was aimed at the fitness community after their morning run on a bright, weekend. Hyderabad runners got to taste their flavors from mint and red fruits to green apple and peach apricot. ■ MANJU



@MoninIndia

**Always Sunday** is where matcha meets benne dosa with a dash of wasabi

## #WeekendVibes

This new place is filled with the weekend energy that makes you forget that it's a dreaded weekday. **Always Sunday**, a new café at Khajaguda offers a variety in the menu from the South Indian benne dosa to the Japanese Ramen bowl to a mix and match. Their menu consists of artisanal soups and salads, toasts, hot Asian and Mediterranean bowls, and ample dessert options to choose from. They offer a variety of matchas, iced teas, and hot chocolates along with their unique blend of coffee options.

### MANGA-INSPIRED DÉCOR

The café has a large wall filled with images of old superhero cartoons, Indian comics and manga covers, which make one nostalgic about the weekends of our childhood. Another wall consists of fun graphic merchandize of their own brand, with a fun-loving monkey as a mascot, which you can also spot as a décor element on multiple corners. The green and yellow accented interiors reinforce the refreshing energy of the place with a retro feel.

### WASABI OR AVOCADO?

They offer the classic benne dosa with unique twists like wasabi, avocado and chicken or Mutton Pepper Fry served with a podi spread and three classic chutneys. The Sunday Café Ramen is packed with veggies, slurpy noodles and comforting broth.

This new café is all about giving an experimental twist to classic comfort food and brews

## Kissa Coffee Ka



**WOW!**  
Recommends  
Gochujang  
Chicken  
Pakoda



**WOW!**  
Recommends  
Pesto Chicken

We recommend the Pesto Chicken as a must-try, made with their in-house pesto sauce and loaded with microgreens. The food can be paired with innovative drinks, like the refreshing and zesty Orange Espresso and their signature Blackberry Cold Brew, which typically takes 12 or more hours to steep in the refrigerator for the coffee component. The café is a great option to try unique coffee blends and beverages, along with their comfort food. ■ KARTHEEKA

**Meal for two: Rs 1,500**

Access Towers, Prashant Hills, Road No. 2, Manikonda

Tel: 91744 40000

Timings: Monday to Friday 11 am to 12 am, Saturday and Sunday 8 am to 12 am

An elegant and serene house-turned-café, **Kissa Coffee House** in Jubilee Hills, filled with the aroma of freshly brewing coffee, is a great place to wind down and enjoy your day. It has indoor and outdoor seating.

They offer a wide choice of coffees from the classic menu to their craft range, which includes brews, highballs and tonics. The Strawberry Spanish Coffee is a delight; the bitterness of the coffee pairs well with sweet and tart strawberries; another option is a hot cup of Hazelnut Latte to sip on while grabbing a bite.

The Gochujang Chicken Pakoda is a must-try – made with a savory Korean twist. Vegetarians could do well with the Neapolitana Pizza Burrata Sandwich is a pizza base cut in two and folded into a unique sandwich, filled with toppings and served with coleslaw salad. Try the Bheja Fry Sourdough Toast if you're a hardcore non-veg lover, as the soft meat pairs well with the contrasting texture of the toast. The menu also has special vegan options.

Among desserts, the Matcha Cheesecake is light and melts in your mouth. On the other hand, the Apricot Tres Leches is a sweet and moist cake paired with a blend of cream and tart apricot. This place is perfect if you wish to grab a bite while catching up with your friends, or even go by yourself.

■ KARTHEEKA

**Meal for two: Rs 1,600**

House No.347, Road No. 22, Jubilee Hills

Tel: 85180 47143

Timings: 8 am to 11 pm



**WOW!**  
**Recommends**  
 Pick a Punch  
 Pizza

**THE EXTRA BITE**

The **PUP** café offers puppy love along with its brews for pet lovers

# Simply Pawsome

**PUP**, short for **Paws, Unleash, Play**, is a new experiential place which offers patrons a paw-some time with amazing food alongside a space to unleash your inner creativity and try out new activities.

At this three-storied café, each floor offering a new experience, puppies are the stars. The floor has a space designated for puppies to play and unwind with customers. You can experience life with a pet for a brief while without the commitment and responsibilities required, especially if you like dogs but are unable to keep a pet. It also has a graffiti-style dining area where you can enjoy freshly baked food and drinks.

As these young puppies are a few months old, special care is taken to give them rest and not overwhelm or exhaust them. They have a 15-minute play time per person, which can be reserved ahead of your visit for 500 rupees, redeemable for food and beverages.

**SIP, PAINT, REPEAT**

The second floor is covered with paintings and is dedicated to unleashing your creativity. There are also a fully equipped dance studio and a mirror wall to discover your inner dancer, get fit and have fun with Zumba. Or sit in silence and

read a new book with the book club. Several events are also hosted here, from sports screenings to game nights organized by PUP that you can attend based on your preferences.

**MOCK MEAT AND MORE**

The top floor is a relaxing rooftop covered with greenery and perfect for a date with privacy or a peaceful meal.

The menu has mock meat options and other unique vegetarian alternatives to try. We started with their plant based Smash Burger which has a mock meat patty served with a signature sauce and sweet potato fries. We also had a warm cup of rich hot chocolate along with their Pick a Punch Pizza which had an amazingly thin crust. It was freshly baked and slathered with marinara sauce; with mushrooms, walnuts and roasted peppers for toppings. Their deconstructed sushi bowl filled with veggies and seasoned rice with a toned-down version of wasabi was packed with umami; you will be coming back for more. The perfect ending was the Pecan Pie for dessert.

■ KARTHEEKA

**Meal for two: Rs 1,000**

Road No. 51, Jubilee Hills  
 Tel: 77027 35454  
 Timings: 10.30 am to 11 pm

**WHAT'S NEW**

**Chef Krishna Rana** adds a new menu at The Leela's pan-Asian restaurant

## Chinese Delights at Tiga



**WOW!**  
**Recommends**  
 Sichuan Spiced  
 Chicken Crunch,  
 Pandan Leaves  
 Crème Brulee

**Tiga** has added a new menu to their pan-Asian range, featuring Chinese dishes along with their Malaysian and Singaporean cuisine. Chef Krishna Rana brings his expertise in these cuisines and curates them for the Hyderabad palate, while ensuring an authentic dining experience. The Chinese-inspired interiors and motifs, Oriental décor and vases add to the ambience with creatively plated aromatic and soulful food.

**STAR OF THE PLATTER**

Their Sichuan Spiced Chicken Crunch, nursing a nutty flavor with spice from the Sichuan chillis, and chewy meat, is a must-try starter. For vegetarians, the crispy Fried Lotus Root with a sesame chilli garlic glaze, is a good option. Their assorted plate of dim sums, with the carrot-shaped ones – being the stars of the platter – soft and melt-in-the-mouth, are served with three different dipping sauces.

The Cantonese-style Steamed Fish is soothing and aromatic; it pairs well with the ginger-fried rice, wok-tossed noodles and stir-fried asparagus in ginger and soy sauce; with a skewered Satay Chicken for the main course.

For dessert, we had their Singapore River Mud Cake, a rich and decadent cake covered with hot dark chocolate and the Pandan leaves Crème Brulee, a creamy pandan flavored custard topped with a sugar crust. ■ KARTHEEKA

**Meal for two: Rs 3,800**

9th Floor, The Leela, Road No. 2, Sagar Society, Sri Nagar Colony  
 Tel: 87126 88651  
 Timings: 12.30 pm to 3.30 pm, 7 pm to 11 pm

Lawrence & Mayo  
*Boutique*

SUMMER OF '26  
the summer i turned cool.



\*T&C APPLY

SUMMEREDIT

UPTO **20%**<sup>\*</sup>  
OFF

ON SUNGLASSES

Anushka Plaza, Road No. 12 Banjara Hills, Hyderabad

+91 91540 71877 / 040 2339 9133

CHENNAI | DELHI | HYDERABAD | KOLKATA



Reinventing and reviving the Parsi Gara tradition, this eponymous label's latest collection presents timeless pieces inspired by mid-century salon-style fashion shows

## MODERN HEIRLOOMS

Unapologetically feminine, contemporary revivalist label **Ashdeen** focuses on hand-embroidered sarees, garments and accessories crafted in the Parsi Gara tradition. "Every piece we

create has been designed as a modern heirloom that holds value over time. Real handcrafted luxury is at the heart of our brand," shares the designer, Ashdeen Lilaowala.

**WOW!**  
Recommends:  
Flock of  
Cranes



### ABOUT ASHDEEN

Ashdeen was aware of the luminescent Parsi Garas embellished with intricate hand embroidery, since childhood. Wonderstruck, he quietly observed and learned how they were taken care of and treasured by the women in his family.

Ashdeen went on to study textile design at the National Institute of Design, Ahmedabad, experiencing, "The tactility of working with cloth, and traditional Indian techniques through workshops and visits to craft clusters." He adds, "After graduation, I travelled across India, China, and Iran with the Parzor Foundation, tracing the roots of the Gara."

### WALKING IN BEAUTY

Named after a lyrical poem by British poet Lord Byron, Ashdeen's latest collection is titled *She Walks in Beauty*. This Spring-Summer Edit is inspired by mid-century salon-style fashion shows. These intimate retroesque showcases were characterized by detailed narration, and close viewing – garments examined up close rather than from a distant runway. "As an ode to this nostalgic storytelling device, the name also echoes an actual fashion presentation titled *She Walks in Beauty* that was held at the Savoy Hotel, London, in 1951," Ashdeen explains.

Drawn from the label's Parsi Gara archives, the new collection features sarees with stellar motifs. The Wheel of Seasons saree comes alive with hand-embroidered buttas, featuring the karolia or spider motif. The Flock of Cranes saree finishes with a feature of cranes, representing their presence in the natural environment.

Ruby red, opal green, alphonso, emerald green, wine, carnation, royal blue, and violet make up the color palette. These hues are then introduced to fabrics like crepe, crepe jacquards and satin, with embroidery stitches like the French Knot used.

"While we were researching our archives, we went by instinct and chose motifs and designs that called out to us and felt relevant in this current moment. But we also chose motifs and designs that were unique. Together, the result was electric and led to the creation of *She Walks in Beauty*," Ashdeen concludes. ■ IPSHITA

**Price:** Rs 1,21,000 onwards

Anahita, Road No. 7, Banjara Hills  
Tel: 99632 84563  
Timings: 10 am to 8 pm

First Ever Factory Outlet

— Less Expense More Saving —



MUKUNDA<sup>®</sup>

JEWELLERY

DIAMONDS • GOLD • SILVER



V.A. 2-12%

NO MAKING CHARGES

HALLMARK GOLD JEWELLERY

GET 65% EXCHANGE VALUE ON ALL STONES

KUKATPALLY

KHAMMAM

KOTHAPET

SOMAJIGUDA

HANAMKONDA

SUCHITRA

CHANDA NAGAR

JUBILEE HILLS

VIZAG  
(VISAKHAPATNAM)

PURVI @KPHB



040-28 99 99 99

Environmentally conscious, the Delhi-based brand **Green Hermitage** shows how a sustainable luxury brand can be impact-driven and commercially viable

## MINDFUL GREEN LUXURY



Established in 2022, the Delhi-based sustainable luxury brand **Green Hermitage** is not just a fashion label, but a platform for meaningful change. With operations primarily online, the label was conceptualized by the Founder, Gayatri Varun, with the goal of creating beautiful products while doing right by the planet.

### ABOUT THE FOUNDER

A reflection of the journey that shaped Gayatri as a person, Green Hermitage is rooted in her time spent in Africa working closely with farmer communities on climate-related initiatives. "Living and working in those environments made environmental challenges very real to me – it was no longer theory, it was people's daily lives," says Gayatri.

The experience influenced how she

began to think about consumption, responsibility, and the role businesses can play in creating change.

### THE INSPIRATION

"The inspiration for Green Hermitage came from a growing awareness that the fashion and luxury industry, while beautiful on the surface, often comes with hidden environmental and ethical costs. Leather production in particular raised many questions for me – about animal welfare, the environmental impact, and the kind of future we were collectively creating," shares Gayatri.

She continues, "It was never just about creating products, but about creating an alternative – one that celebrates beautiful design while also respecting animals, supporting artisans,

and encouraging people to move toward more conscious, meaningful consumption."

### TIMELESS CRAFTS

In collaboration with artisans based in Bihar and Jharkhand, Green Hermitage crafts timeless lifestyle accessories designed for everyday use. Reflecting the brand's philosophy of slow fashion, the collections made from sustainable materials include handbags, laptop sleeves, travel accessories, wallets, organizers, and work essentials.

Thoughtfully designed to balance functionality, durability, and understated luxury, Green Hermitage aims to create pieces people can use for years.

### THE HYDERABAD EXPERIENCE

Through various pop-ups, Green Hermitage has brought along and showcased its products in Hyderabad as well. An experience, Gayatri tells WOW! has been very rewarding.

"We've had many meaningful conversations during these pop-ups, which is something online retail cannot fully replicate. It's always wonderful to see how people respond to the idea of slow, thoughtful fashion. We absolutely love the energy and atmosphere of Hyderabad. Many of our loyal customers come from the city, and we've had some truly thoughtful, human-first conversations with them during our visits. Hyderabadis seem to really understand the philosophy behind our brand," Gayatri concludes. ■ IPSHITA

Price: Rs 1,105

Tel: 97170 40222

Instagram: @greenhermitage

Website: greenhermitage.com



**WOW!**  
Recommends:  
Work  
Essentials  
collection



**Vanto** offers innovative home and office furniture solutions



## Design Meets Purpose

The design and furniture brand **Vanto** has opened its 50,000 sq. ft. store in Jubilee Hills, bringing together a range of solutions for homes and offices under one roof. Building on the legacy of Furniture World and led by second-generation entrepreneur Adith Linga, the space integrates kitchens, wardrobes, doors, and furniture within a single, cohesive environment.

The store focuses on global design perspectives adapted to contemporary lifestyles. “The idea is to offer solutions that align with how people live today,” says Adith.

Customizable offerings form the core of the brand, spanning doors, kitchens, wardrobes, furniture, and fixtures. The first floor features a wide selection of loose furniture, combining leather and fabric in both muted and vibrant palettes, with an emphasis on varied textures and finishes.

The second floor houses kitchens, wardrobes, and doors, where design detailing meets functional innovation, including smart accessories and integrated systems.

Upper levels extend into living, dining, and bedroom concepts, beginning with a 25-foot door installation and continuing into modern door systems, cabinetry, wall paneling, vanity units, and furnishings. “Luxury today is less about excess and more about comfort, experience, and personalization,” he adds.

■ MANJU

**Price: Rs 3,000 onwards**

Masthan Nagar, Road No. 45, CBI Colony, Jubilee Hills

Tel: 9957 76629

Timings: 10 am to 9 pm

## FIT CHECK

Hyderabad’s popular fashion influencer, **Devesh Reddy Vemula**, shares his take on minimal style, relaxed fits, and summer dressing

## “Style should feel natural”

With 212K followers on Instagram, Devesh Vemula Reddy keeps his fashion simple and consistent. Having worked with brands such as Zara, Van Heusen, Rare Rabbit, Westside, Adidas, Nike and more, he keeps himself abreast of the top trends in the fashion circuit. We chat with him about personal style, relaxed fits, and why comfort always comes first.



### WHAT DOES FASHION MEAN TO YOU?

Fashion isn’t just a flashy term or limited to the youth – it’s for all ages. Being well-dressed boosts confidence, commands respect, and shapes perception. You carry an aura – and people feel it. It opens doors in business and relationships.

### HOW IMPORTANT IS FASHION AND CLOTHING FOR PEOPLE?

Super important. What you wear affects your mood, attitude, and energy. When you feel good, it shows. And the best fabrics? Linen and cotton.

### WHAT GOT YOU INTERESTED IN FASHION AND BECOMING AN INFLUENCER?

Fashion started as self-expression a decade ago. I’ve always believed how you present yourself speaks before you do. I began documenting my style, and social media naturally became a space to connect with people who resonate with my aesthetic.

### YOUR GO-TO OUTFITS FOR A SUMMER EVENING OUTING IN THE CITY?

Clean, minimal, sharp. A linen or soft cotton shirt with relaxed trousers or denims, finished with sneakers. I love co-ord sets – I own around 20.

### WHAT’S THE COOLEST FASHION TREND YOU’VE SEEN IN RECENT TIMES (IN WOMEN AND MEN)?

Relaxed fits and minimal luxury styling – simple, effortless, and actually wearable.

### HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE THE HYDERABAD FASHION SCENE? WHICH ARE YOUR FAVORITE LABELS IN HYDERABAD AND SOME BEYOND THE CITY?

Hyderabad’s fashion scene is diverse and expressive. It blends traditional, festive, and modern styles beautifully – people dress with intention. It’s vibrant, colorful, and full of individuality.

### ONE FASHION TIP/SECRET FROM YOU:

When in doubt, go for full whites, or white and beige combination. Full black or co-ords are my other go-tos. ■ MANJU

## Crafted, not built.

From **concept to completion**, we deliver corporate spaces defined by identity and innovation.

Trusted by national hospital chains, real estate royalties and hospitality icons alike, our **end-to-end expertise** shapes environments that inspire and endure.

**A decade strong**, we continue forward with renewed confidence and lasting partnerships.

### Portfolio





Opp. Atrium Mall, Gachibowli | 99888 57777  
homeexperts.co |    

End-To-End Interior Services • Statement Furniture • Modular Concepts • Residential & Commercial Interiors

WOW! recommends looks from the LFW that need to be part of your wardrobe

# WHAT WE LOVED @LFW2026

The Lakmé Fashion Week 2026, which took place from March 19-22 in Mumbai, is a significant part of India's growing fashion movement and design. These are the trends that made us go wow and are worth adding to your wardrobe right off the runway!



### DOUBLE DENIM

Denim makes a comeback, but we see double. Designers leaned into full denim looks, pairing structured jackets with matching jeans, skirts with knitted accents and badges to elevate the look. The key to creating various looks was playing with washes, textures and silhouetting the humble fabric into high fashion statements. It's safe to bet that denim is definitely trending this season in a big way.



### MONOCHROME SUIT SETS

Monochrome suit sets bring a sense of quiet luxury and effortless chic to the runway. Whether it is classic whites or bold reds, these coordinated looks give confidence and clarity to the look. Sharp tailoring meets fluid fabric to create ensembles that transition seamlessly from boardroom chic to evening elegance.





### FRINGE AND TRIMS

Movement was a major theme this season, with layering and the use of fringe and trim accents to achieve this effect. From delicate tassels lining hemlines to dramatic frayed overlays, these embellishments create rhythm and add flair to every step and make use of yarn and threads the best to elevate the look.



### CUTWORK EMBROIDERY

A wildcard entry this season are the complete cutwork pieces, which are intricate and a mark of craftsmanship. Flora and fauna patterns were a popular choice on the runway. The garments played peek-a-boo along the contrast of skin or build layering without obstruction of the layer underneath.



### KHAKI

While blue and white dominated the runway, Khaki stepped out of its usual military or utilitarian roots. It was in the spotlight as expressive streetwear. Spotted across dresses, co-ord sets and outerwear, this tone brought understated sophistication as the background with accessories as accents. ■ KARTHEEKA



**SCHOOL'S OUT, AND SUMMER BRINGS LONG, UNSTRUCTURED DAYS FOR YOUNG MINDS. ACROSS HYDERABAD, A THRIVING NETWORK OF CREATIVE COMMUNITIES IS TURNING THAT FREE TIME INTO SOMETHING FAR MORE MEANINGFUL – OFFERING EXPERIENCES THAT ENGAGE, INSPIRE, AND ENERGIZE.**

From art sessions and djembe circles to public speaking workshops, horse riding and even pizza-making, this curated edit has something for every curious learner.

Text: Ipshita Raman with inputs from Manju Latha Kalanidhi

# Hot Days + Cool Plans



EXPAT STUDENTS IN HYDERABAD FOR THE SUMMER WORKSHOP

## ACTIVITY: ART SESSIONS

### WHAT'S IT ABOUT:

Local art studio, **Mystic Palette**, aims to unleash the artist in you by providing you with a space for creative freedom and mindful guidance. Whether you are a seasoned professional or a beginner, you will walk away from the experience feeling a little lighter than when you started.

“Mystic Palette is a sanctuary for people who want to explore their creativity while having a relaxing time,” explains the Founder, Swathi Miryala, who established the art studio last year.

### WHY JOIN:

To find the artist in you. With artistic freedom at its root, this studio holds multiple classes, workshops, and summer camps. This April will see them celebrating their second camp. Inviting children from ages four to 12, the event will be made up of two batches a day with approximately 20 participants in each.

The summer camp is set to go on till July and children can take part in activities ranging from texture art (abstract and boho style), acrylic painting (multiple surfaces – canvas sheets, canvas pouches, MDF boards, wood), decoupage on wood, fluid art, modeling clay (foam, air dry, and terracotta clay), crafts, art related games, etc.

**Where:** Mystic Palette, Journalist Colony, Jubilee Hills

**When:** April 20 to July 31

**Tel:** 91103 53840

**Timings:** 11 am to 1.30 pm (Monday to Friday)

**Fees:** Rs 8,999 per month; Rs 2,499 per week

**Instagram:** mysticpaletttestudio





## ACTIVITY: THE DJEMBE DRUM CIRCLE

### WHAT'S IT ABOUT:

Founded in 2022 in the UK by a musician of 15 years and Reiki healer, YKGN Sai Kumar and his partner and psychologist Prerana Simha, **Djembe Circle** blend West Africa's best-known instrument, the drums, with the chakra healing system.

"Playing the drums is related to the Muladhara Chakra which is the root chakra of your entire system. When you focus on healing the root chakra, all the other chakras align," says Prerana describing one of the biggest benefits of this hour-long fusion-inspired musical activity that entertains and heals those who play the drums.

### WHY JOIN:

To engage in the therapeutic sound of music. A blend of psychology and music, Djembe Circle is an inspired creative platform for collective artistic expression that invariably becomes a great source of healing stress and anxiety, and physical exercise.

Beginner-friendly and open to all ages, Djembe Circle has so far conducted 275 events across the globe with more in the offing. It has previously held events at the Hyderabad Literary Festival in collaboration with Goethe-Zentrum Hyderabad, and is now planning to hold one more this summer.

A showcase of talent on a big scale, the event will see Sai Kumar set the tone by singing Carnatic and African songs while playing the drums with participants following his lead. Discussing the upcoming activity, an excited Prerana shares, "In April we are planning to do a mega event where almost 600 to 700 drums will be played at a time. No one has attempted something like this until now. It is going to be really amazing."

**Where:** Rangbhoomi Cultural Spaces and Events, Gachibowli

**When:** May 3

**Tel:** 85209 88496

**Timings:** 6 pm to 7 pm

**Fees:** Rs 599 onwards

**Instagram:** thedjembecircle



## VOICES OF HYDERABAD

“Learning life skills in a summer camp”

Deepti Akki, Owner of Hyderabad Honey Badgers

Arihan, my 11-year-old, and I both enjoy nature, treks, the calm and exploring cafés in various parts of the world.

So, we always plan our travel around these. Last year, we explored the Black Forest of Germany and the year before that, we trekked a few mountains around Kyoto in Japan and savored the sushis and Japanese food!

This year, Arihan will also be joining a summer workshop called School of Life in Hyderabad that teaches life skills such as banking basics, financial literacy and entrepreneurship to children and young adults.





**ACTIVITY: KIDS SUMMER CAMP**

**WHAT'S IT ABOUT:**

This summer, **Orange Figs** is introducing a two-week, hands-on culinary summer camp where children will learn how to cook Italian, Asian, and Telugu dishes.

**WHY JOIN:**

For the rare opportunity to learn cooking under expert guidance. Held for ages eight and above, the event aims to attract young Hyderabadi who are curious, creative, and excited about learning cooking in a fun and safe environment. Conceptualized with the vision to build confidence, independence, creativity, and essential life skills, the summer camp encourages teamwork, patience, and a willingness to try new foods – skills crucial not just for the kitchen, but for a globalized world.

To make the experience more exciting, the little ones will also have exclusive exposure to professional restaurant kitchens like Theta Theta Telugu and Doki Doki.

**Where:** Plot No. 15, Bharani Layout, Narne Road, Jubilee Hills

**When:** April 27 onwards

**Tel:** 90000 10770

**Timings:** 10 am to 1 pm (Monday to Friday)

**Fee:** Rs 599 onwards

**Instagram:** orangefigsofficial

**ACTIVITY: A WALK THROUGH THE BRITISH RESIDENCY**

**WHAT'S IT ABOUT:**

The **British Residency** is a palatial monument established during the Nizam's reign two centuries ago. This gem was constructed by local artisans, blending locally sourced materials with Palladian and classical portico flourishes.

**WHY VISIT:**

For the sheer novelty of the experience. The structure's 22 marble stairs lead you up to the porch where majestic columns stand almost 40 feet tall. Inside, the hallway is designed with stairs on either side. It heads up to the grand Durbar Hall – the British Residency's main draw which features 200-year-old Burma teakwood flooring, a papier-mâché ceiling, and chandeliers and mirrors imported from France and Belgium. This is a live history lesson for the kids and a great way to beat the heat. On the way back, stop by at the popular Gokul Chaat for some snacks.

**FUN FACT**

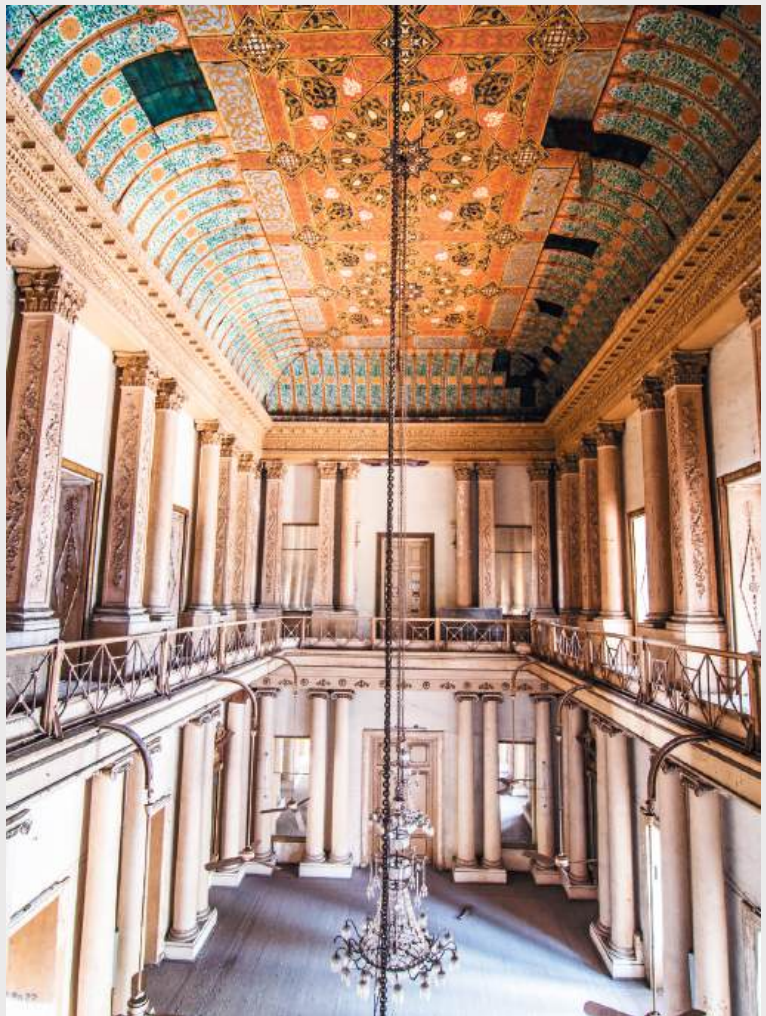
The historic space recently played host to designer Tarun Tahiliani's work. Marking three decades of shaping India's contemporary fashion vocabulary, the prolific designer celebrated the 30-year milestone with a landmark couture show.

**Where:** The British Residency, Koti

**Timings:** 10 am to 5 pm

**Fee:** Rs 100 onwards

**Instagram:** theresidency\_hyd



## **VOICES OF HYDERABAD**

“Need summer camps focussing on carpentry, cooking...”

**Dr Pragnya Chigurupati,**  
Consultant Breast Oncoplastic Surgeon

### **WHAT KIND OF SUMMER ACTIVITIES DO YOU SIGN UP YOUR KIDS FOR?**

Life at home is anything but quiet with two energetic boys. My older son, Jeh, 4.5, enjoys a range of activities currently – from swimming and karate to football, tennis, and chess – approaching each with curiosity and enthusiasm. My younger son, Vir, nearly two, loves to dance to all sorts of music and is just as active, happily following his brother, dancing and running through the day.

We encourage plenty of free play alongside a few structured activities like summer camps, where they can stay active, interact with other children, and build independence – something I fondly remember enjoying at Jeh’s age myself.

### **WHAT KIND OF IMPACT DID IT HAVE ON THEM PREVIOUSLY?**

Vir mirrors Jeh in almost everything – except perhaps the dance factor, which Jeh isn’t naturally inclined towards. Yet, their little morning dance routine before school has become a joyful ritual, helping them loosen up and start the day on a positive note.

What stands out most with Jeh through all these activities is his inquisitiveness – the constant “why” that drives him to understand and engage more deeply. Introducing him to a variety of activities from as early as two has helped him discover his preferences (and dislikes – skating, for instance) while also giving him the confidence to explore. Beyond the skills, it’s the friendships he forms and the joy he finds in these shared spaces that truly make it worthwhile.

### **WHAT ARE THEY DOING THIS SUMMER?**

We’ve just introduced Jeh to chess while he continues with swimming and tennis classes. I’m also hoping to find the right kind of summer camp where he can experience the same kind of joyful summers that my sister and I cherished growing up. With Vir, we want to him to let loose and dance his time away.

### **WHAT IS ONE SUMMER ACTIVITY FOR CHILDREN THAT YOU FEEL HYDERABAD IS CURRENTLY MISSING?**

Given the summer heat, I prefer indoor activities for kids. However, what I find lacking are camps that focus on practical life skills such as carpentry, woodworking, building, gardening, or cooking.

A recent visit to our farm showed just how valuable these experiences can be. The boys loved learning how vegetables are sown, grown, and harvested, and thoroughly enjoyed horse riding on our little pony. Even small activities like Jeh making something as simple as lemonade and setting up



a little stand to sell it to friends can teach early lessons in independence and understanding money. I hope to see more such hands-on, experiential learning opportunities available within Hyderabad.



**ACTIVITY: POTTERY SESSIONS**

**WHAT'S IT ABOUT:**

Bringing people together for a playful session of pottery, **The Pottery Circle** aims to help people slow down and reconnect with nature, themselves, and each other.

“Built around the idea of blending creativity, nature, and human connection, it (The Pottery Circle) offers an experience that goes beyond just learning a skill – it’s about being present, creating with your hands, and sharing meaningful moments,” explains Nazish Mirza, who established The Pottery Circle with co-founder Basheer Khan in 2017. Nazish focuses on the therapeutic and mindful aspects of pottery, while Basheer brings a strong design sensibility and artistic vision to the space.

**WHY JOIN:**

This summer, The Pottery Circle is introducing specially curated group sessions for couples, singles, families, and parent-child experiences. Open to all ages, these sessions will have participants explore both wheel pottery and hand-building techniques. Additional activities are also set to include terracotta pot painting. The key highlight this summer will be the introduction of The Pottery Circle’s dedicated session formats that will make each experience more engaging.

**BENEFITS OF CRAFTING POTTERY:**

- Encourages mindfulness and helps you stay present
- Has a calming, therapeutic effect that reduces stress
- Enhances creativity and self-expression
- Creates a grounding, sensory connection through working with clay
- Builds patience and focus
- Helps people reconnect with themselves in a meaningful way

**Where:** The Pottery Circle (multiple locations)

**When:** April and May (Saturday and Sunday)

**Tel:** 95020 25786

**Timings:** 11 am to 1 pm, 1 pm to 3 pm

**Fees:** On Request

**Instagram:** thepotterycircle

**ACTIVITY: FAMILY OUTING AT THE BANSILALPET STEPWELL**



**WHAT'S IT ABOUT:**

The **Bansilalpet Stepwell** was built during the Kakatiya dynasty’s rule in the 17th century. The historic stepwell went into a state of ruin around the 1970s, but with help from the local government, today it stands revived, reflecting its former glory.

**WHY VISIT:**

Restored in 2022, this gem of a place incorporates a new lit up arch, three galleries, a garden area, an amphitheater, and soulful live music, etc. The peaceful ambience makes it a perfect spot for families to relax and spend some quality time together.

**Where:** The Bansilalpet Stepwell, Secunderabad

**Timings:** 10 am to 1 pm, 4 pm to 8 pm

**Fees:** Rs 50 onwards

**Instagram:** bansilalpetstepwell



## ACTIVITY: ENTREPRENEUR WORKSHOP

### WHAT'S IT ABOUT:

The Bower School of Entrepreneurship's **SEED Summer Camp 2026** is for students from Grade three and above to help them learn the ropes of being an entrepreneur early in life. This three-week program introduces young minds to entrepreneurship, finance, design thinking, and Generative AI, through hands-on activities, industry visits, and interactive microsimulations.

### WHY JOIN:

Students get to learn about finance and budget management, ideation and creating pitch decks for business ideas, building and testing prototypes, etc.

**Where:** Bower School of Entrepreneurship, 8th Floor, WeWork, RMZ Spire, B103, Silpa Gram Craft Village, HITEC City

**When:** April 21 onwards

**Tel:** 88850 45645

**Timings:** 9 am to 4 pm, Sunday closed

**Fees:** Rs 75,000 onwards for grades 3-5



## VOICES OF HYDERABAD

“The kids learned to build a mud house”

Priya Passary Agarwal, designer

Summer is the time to slow things down and rethink how my children will spend their time. I focus on a balance of creative and physical engagement. This year, it includes creative writing to help them express themselves, along with yoga and swimming to keep them active.

We also spend a significant part of the break at our farmhouse, where they connect with nature – watering plants, walking barefoot, and simply being outdoors. Last year, they even worked with locals to build a mud house, which was a deeply immersive experience.

Travel is another important part of our summer plans; we're hoping to spend time in Europe, exploring museums and local culture. More than structured activities, I value unhurried time – moments that allow them to observe, interact, and build real-world connections beyond their immediate circles.



## ACTIVITY: KALARIPAYATTU

### WHAT'S IT ABOUT:

The world's most ancient martial art is the ultimate way to develop not just physical strength, endurance, and flexibility, but also body-mind connection, focus, resilience, and flow. No prior training is required.

### WHY JOIN:

It enhances physical strength, flexibility, and endurance while improving reflexes and body coordination. It also instills discipline, mental resilience, and self-defense skills, making it a holistic practice for both physical and mental well-being.

**Where:** Our Sacred Space, Adjacent to Himalaya Book World, Sardar Patel Road, beside Orchids Flower Shop, Marredpally

**When:** April 8 to April 12

**Tel:** 90306 13344 @our-sacred-space

**Timings:** 5 am to 9 am, 5 pm to 6 pm;

Classes available in two slots

**Fees:** Rs 4,000 onwards



**ACTIVITY: PUBLIC SPEAKING**

**WHAT'S IT ABOUT:**

A platform to ditch the fear of talking in front of an audience. From regular conversations to TedX talks, students, under the guidance of expert corporate trainers, get to practice various speech formats, speech prep techniques, the right usage of vocabulary, voice modulation, etc.

**WHY JOIN:**

Public speaking boosts confidence and communication skills.

**Where:** Kalpataru/Ankuram Hobby Hub, Lane No. 12, MLA Colony, Banjara Hills

**When:** April 1 onwards

**Tel:** 98499 83371

**Timings:** 10 am to 11.30 am

**Fees:** Rs 8,000 onwards

**ACTIVITY: HORSE RIDING CLASSES**

**WHAT'S IT ABOUT:**

If you are an animal and nature lover, this is the perfect summer activity in Hyderabad. You can team up with your child and go riding together. Bonding during sunrises and sunsets amidst nature and horses is a blissful experience.

**WHY JOIN:**

Horse riding is known to energize the mind, body and soul as horses are known to be empathetic beings that can soothe you if you are agitated.

**Where:** Hyderabad Polo Riding Club, Near Mrugavani Resort and Spa, Aziz Nagar Village, Gandipet

**When:** April and May

**Tel:** 91770 00056

**Website:** www.hprc.in

**Timings:** Four batches: 6.30 am to 10 am and 5 pm to 7 pm

**Fees:** Temporary membership: Rs 2 lakh; Permanent Membership: Rs 10 lakh [A member can recommend you as a guest and you can take the class. It costs Rs 16,999 for 24 classes [for non-members]. Rs 6,000 for members. Open for anyone above the age of six years. The duration of each class is 30 minutes held at the club's premises.]



**VOICES OF HYDERABAD**

“Piano, football and discovering what gives them joy”

**Gulnar Virk, Co-founder, Hashtag Marketing; and active mom of two kids**

This summer is about slowing down and paying attention to the little moments that matter and discovering what they love. Between piano practice and football sessions, my son Nirvaan is exploring his interests while picking up a sense of discipline along the way. Beyond the activities, it's the quieter in-between moments that stand out – time spent with his younger brother Aayuveer, building their own bond, and our morning walks where we ease into the day, talking about everything and nothing. No rush, no pressure – just a season shaped by growth, ease, and togetherness.



## ACTIVITY: GYMNASTICS AND DANCE CLASSES

### WHAT'S IT ABOUT:

This 45-day dance workshop channelizes energy and creativity in children into a fun, aerobic activity. Many finalists at dance reality shows at the state and national level, including our beloved Tollywood dancing queen Sai Pallavi have honed their dance skills at such summer workshops.

### WHY JOIN:

An activity that keeps them fit and energized.

**Where:** 1 Hundred Dance Studio, Second Floor, RR Building, 100, Jai Hind Gandhi Road, VIP Hills, Mega Hills, Madhapur

**When:** April 21 to May 30

**Tel:** 84639 98396

**Timings:** 9.30 am to 1 pm

**Fees:** Rs 6,500



## ACTIVITY: SUSHI/PIZZA MAKING

### WHAT'S IT ABOUT:

Secunderabadis who love the unpretentious homestyle pizza served here, can now learn the same in two hours on any afternoon. The pizzeria's chef, Vaibhavi Roy, will teach you the hacks and also provide you with the dough, the toppings, sauces, gloves and even the apron.

### WHY JOIN:

Learning to cook is a life skill and creating our own personalized pizza is not just a creative, but a culinary accomplishment too. Besides, you might end up saving money every time you crave for a pizza as you can now make one yourself.

**Where:** Roy's Pizzeria, No. 1, 78 P&T Colony, Ground floor, Gate [gate number missing], behind Navjeevan Hospital, Secunderabad

**When:** April and May [you can book a class as per convenience]

**Tel:** 96527 31022

**Timings:** 2 pm to 4 pm (except Mondays)

**Fees:** Rs 5,000 per person



## VOICES OF HYDERABAD

“Freewheeling during summers plus a vacation”

**Seema Boppana,**  
Director, Srichaitanya Educational Institutions

Summers tend to be especially hectic at work, which means I don't always get as much time with my nine and 12-year-old as I'd like. I often take them along to the office during the holidays – it's my way of letting them see, first-hand, what keeps me so occupied most days. I hope it gives them a sense of what I do, and perhaps even sparks an interest in joining me someday. That said, it's not all work and no play. In the last ten days of their break, when things ease up, I make it a point to plan a holiday – time that's reserved entirely for us.



Suprnova is for those who love the retro vibe

# 5 reasons this speakeasy works



WOW!  
Recommends:  
Spice Ice Baby

**1 YOUR LITTLE BIG SECRET**  
Suprnova isn't the kind of place you spot and walk into. This 90s-inspired nightlife spot makes you earn it, in the best way. You pass through another restaurant's kitchen, take a tucked-away staircase, and suddenly you're somewhere else. It's the kind of place someone has to lead you to. All we'll say is, it's in Jubilee Hills and very much an IYKYK scene.

**2 THE SPEAKEASY VIBE**  
A lot of places throw around the word 'speakeasy,' but here, it actually means something. You plan your night, book your slot (no walk-ins), and you show up knowing you're in for something more curated than chaotic. Speakeasy bars originated in the United States during the 1920s' Prohibition era, when alcohol was banned and hidden bars operated in secret. Today, they recreate that sense of exclusivity with intimate settings, curated music and crafted drinks.

**3 THE 90S NOSTALGIA**  
The red color palette of the décor with neon signs and A3 size posters of Michael Jordan and The Hulk at Suprnova instantly reminds you

of – Nokia phones with the snake game and hours spent playing Super Mario. You step in and hear artists straight out of your teenage years – Britney Spears, Ricky Martin, Backstreet Boys and all those 90s tracks you didn't realize you still remembered word for word. The superhero comic book menu format adds to the vibe.

**4 TWO SLOTS, TWO VIBES**  
Early evenings (7 pm to 9 pm) are for the easy crowd. Chill, laid-back, good conversations, and music that doesn't overpower your table talk. It's perfect for easing into the night with pizza and cocktails. Then comes the 9 pm to 12 am slot, when the music gets louder and groovier and the night really kicks in. That "just one drink" plan? Yeah, not happening. It turns into a full-on 90s flashback with everyone a little more animated, a little louder, and fully into it. DJ Murthovic and DJ Zam are regulars here.

For the drinks, we tried the Cheesy Little Thing Called Love, a fun mix of gin, pineapple Campari and cherry vermouth, and the Spice


Ice Baby, which brings together tequila, green apple, chilli and a hint of coriander. This is spicy and chatakedaar! Both were playful, slightly unexpected and total conversation starters. Food-wise, you can keep it easy with fries, burgers and pizzas, or go a little indulgent with the Burrata Panna Cotta, which is rich, elaborate and absolutely worth it, along with some really satisfying fried chicken.

**5 LIVING ROOM SUNDAYS**  
If you like your Sundays slow and vibey, Livingroom Sundays are where it's at. It feels more intimate, almost like hanging out at a friend's place – with great music, of course. Round tables, lounge seating, card and board games, Jenga, music, pizza and drinks. Sunday done right. ■ MANJU

**Meal for two: Rs 3,000 with alcohol**  
Rs 500 per table (or a booth) to book a two-hour slot and they hold the table for 20 minutes for slots booked online

**Timings:** Happy Hours (Third Wheel) 2 + 1 drinks offer from 7 pm to 9 pm on Tuesdays through Thursdays  
@suprnova.slice on Instagram

# A LOVE STORY SET IN STONE AND SKY



Some places host weddings. Others make them timeless.

At Golkonda Resorts & Spa, every celebration feels destined – set by serene waters, wrapped in history and designed to linger.

Because here, it's not just a wedding. It's a story that stays.

To know more or to make reservations, please call us at +91 73311 44727

**Florian Hurel Hair Couture & Spa's** scalp analysis and massage make you feel that the right care can make every day a good hair day

## Tech-enabled High End Massage



Let's admit it. We've always focused on our hair and ignored the scalp. We know of good hair days, but it should be good scalp days too! As long as it looks good on the outside, we assume everything underneath is fine. Turns out, that's not how it works. At **Florian Hurel Hair Couture & Spa** in Jubilee Hills, the newly-opened luxury hair couture spa and salon in the city, that assumption was gently, but firmly, challenged.

Housed in a sprawling 15,000 sq. ft. bungalow, the space feels more like a beauty residence than a salon. But what really shifts your perspective is the way they begin – with your scalp, not your strands.

### THE EXPERIENCE

The session starts with a Korean scalp analysis. My therapist, Appy, used a handheld device connected to a high-definition screen, magnifying my scalp nearly 100 times. What showed up was unexpectedly detailed – pores, build-up, texture, density. It's not alarming, but it is eye-opening. As Clinton Kingham, General Manager at the Hyderabad outpost, puts it, "Most people treat hair as the focus, but the scalp is where everything begins. Once you understand it, the rest becomes easier to manage."

The analysis breaks down your scalp health into readable insights, helping customize what comes next. Mine, as

it turned out, was fairly average but needed better upkeep.

### THE TOOLS & THE TECHNIQUES

The Meridian, ARBO and HAUZAIDE massagers, crystal balls, a waterfall shower and of course, the therapist Kim's hands work together on the scalp to cleanse and rejuvenate it. The Korean scalp ritual is structured, starting with a deep cleanse to remove build-up, followed by exfoliation, targeted serums, and a massage that strikes a balance between therapeutic and relaxing.

There's a gentle jet-spray rinse that feels almost meditative, washing everything down without rushing the process. It's not just about feeling good; it feels purposeful. A careful blow-dry brings everything together, and you step out with hair that feels noticeably lighter and fresher. You can reward yourself with a fresh indulgence at the in-house café.

You walk in thinking it's about your hair. You walk out realizing it all begins with your scalp. ■ MANJU

**Price:** Hair and face treatments from Rs 4,800 onwards

**Phase 111, Plot No. 553 Road No. 92, Exit Gate, opposite Apollo Hospitals, Jubilee Hills**  
**Tel:** 77940 74422  
**Timings:** 11 am to 8 pm

### FLORIAN HUREL: THE CELEB HAIR EXPERT

Founded by Florian Hurel, a name synonymous with high-fashion hair, the label brings together over two decades of global experience. His work spans red carpets and magazine covers, with clients like Deepika Padukone, Katrina Kaif, Kareena Kapoor Khan, Anushka Sharma and Alia Bhatt. "This space is designed to bring together technique, technology and experience in one seamless journey," adds Clinton.

Beyond the Korean scalp treatment, the salon offers a wide range of services – from AI-powered hair and skin diagnostics to advanced facials, global hair rituals, coloring, bridal, makeup, nail services, and even couple spa experiences.



Rediscover your own rhythm with mindful wellness sessions held close to nature

## Going with the Flow

The art of flow, **Vyana** (one of the five *prana vayus*) refers to a life force that circulates throughout the body while distributing energy and maintaining balance. Taking inspiration from this idea, the Founder, Bhargavi Nandam, has initiated Vyana to conduct nature-inspired activities that seek to create a flow of awareness, community, and mindful living in everyday life.

### THE INCEPTION

“Doing yoga indoors is good, but you gain 50 percent more energy by doing it in nature,” Bhargavi shares.

Vyana was born in 2025 from the desire to broaden personal wellness horizons and share that growing space with like-minded enthusiasts.

Leading up to Vyana’s inception, Bhargavi, a yoga practitioner, spent six years perfecting her craft in a concentrated effort to tackle her health-related issues. At the end of the initial six-month period, she noted that the novelty of the experience was beginning to wear off. This led her to quickly introduce newer activities alongside yoga to stay motivated and to keep the practice evolving. It was this experience, and the desire to no longer be alone in it,

that made Bhargavi entertain the idea of sharing her learnings with others.

### FLOW OF ACTIVITIES

Vyana’s activities are held every Sunday, interchangeably at Ficus Garden, Jubilee Hills, and Forest Trek Park, Narsingi, for approximately three hours, with close to 30 to 40 participants.

The sessions include multiple activities. They begin with meditation – a calming opener that relaxes overstimulated minds and sets the pace for the rest of the session. Next, yoga asanas are practiced for an hour; followed by painting – like Mandala Art. Finally, the nature walks help participants relax, connect with others and they are also encouraged to collect some of the natural elements they stumble upon to create art.

Note: All activities cater to ages ten and above, with art-related activities (like Mandala Art) available to children as young as five. ■ IPSHITA

**Fees: Rs 400 per person**

**Tel: 99668 65848**

**Instagram: vyana\_online**

**Timings: 6.30 am to 9.30 am**

**Vault by Virat Kohli** boasts of several fitness firsts

## The Glute Builder Machine is Here



**Vault by Virat Kohli** opened in Hyderabad a few weeks ago with focus on structured, almost athlete-like discipline rather than a casual workout routine. Workouts here are guided, goal-based, and built around functional strength, conditioning, and mobility – closer to how professional athletes train than a typical free-weight floor. “The focus is less on random machines and more on coached sessions that track progress and form, say owners Mahesh and Naveen Erra.

Listing out some of their firsts, the duo informs WOW! that the fitness venue has Recovery Zone by Hyperize, an advanced training wall, Thor accessories, Torque CrossFit training, Zumba, strength and conditioning, yoga, hot and cold therapy showers besides India’s first Glute Builder machine and Precor international equipment

“There’s also a strong emphasis on recovery and overall wellness – think mobility work, cooldown routines, and therapy tools integrated into the experience, not treated as an afterthought,” they say. ■ MANJU

**Membership fees: On request**

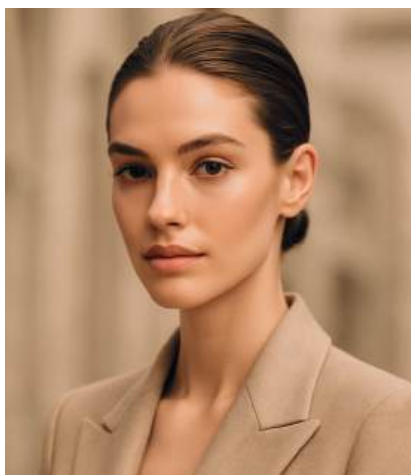
**No. 1201, 2nd floor, Sukanya Summit, Road No. 59, Jubilee Hills**

**Tel: 99891 20044**

**Timings: 5.30 am to 10.30 pm**

At the **VCare Centre of Excellence** in Jubilee Hills, advanced treatments like 7L+3D and AI-powered diagnostics such as MEICET are redefining the future of skincare. Managing Director, Caroline Prabha Reddy, and the CEO, Mukundan Narayanan, answer crucial questions about the treatments

# Korean Skin Science Magic in Hyderabad



## WHAT DOES THE VCARE CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE STAND FOR IN THE BEAUTY AND COSMETIC MAP OF HYDERABAD? HOW DIFFERENT IS IT FROM THE EXISTING BRANDS?

We at the VCare Centre of Excellence in Hyderabad have introduced a unique approach to skin treatment, grounded in Korean skin science. We address common fears around laser skin treatments while offering a comprehensive one-day transformation package. Unlike typical treatments where patients may hesitate to undergo even a single laser procedure, this package incorporates seven different laser treatments and 3-dimensional additional aesthetic technologies. We call it the 7L + 3D treatment in short.

This integrated approach aims to deliver a complete facial transformation within a single day, marking a significant innovation in patient experience and treatment scope. We have state-of-the-art equipment that holds USFDA approval, ensuring high safety and efficacy standards. This approach is novel to Hyderabad thanks to the advanced technology we have and the treatment protocols that are not previously available in the city.

## CAN YOU RUN US THROUGH THE WHOLE PROCEDURE THE

### ONE-DAY FACE ARCHITECTURAL PROGRAM PROCEDURE?

The single day transformation package is available to the public with minimal restrictions. Major contraindications apply only to individuals with severe life-threatening conditions or serious skin disorders where the skin barrier is completely damaged. Approximately 80 percent of people are eligible for this service. The service is generally recommended for individuals over 18 years of age.

### INITIAL CLIENT ENGAGEMENT AND PROCESS OVERVIEW:

- The process begins when a client expresses interest in the 7L plus 3D package.
- Clients are provided with information regarding the duration and the necessity of a detailed skin analysis.
- An appointment is scheduled to proceed with the service.
- Upon arrival at the clinic, clients undergo a comprehensive skin analysis.
- This analysis is conducted using an AI-influenced diagnostic tool named MEICET that measures approximately 82 different skin characteristics, providing a detailed assessment of the client's skin condition.
- The diagnostic system evaluates close to 82 parameters related to skin health.
- Based on which the treatment will be designed / customized.

### WHAT ARE THE SAFETY AND POST TREATMENT PROTOCOLS TO BE FOLLOWED WHILE SIGNING UP FOR THESE TREATMENTS, ESPECIALLY THE 7L + 3D TREATMENT.

**Strict adherence to Post-Care:** The efficacy of this procedure depends heavily on diligent aftercare. It is imperative to use the prescribed sunscreen and topical treatments as instructed. Failure to protect the skin post-treatment can lead to adverse reactions, including hyperpigmentation or skin damage.



MUKUNDAN NARAYANAN, CEO



CAROLINE PRABHA REDDY, MD

**Medical Transparency:** Clients should provide a comprehensive health history prior to their session. It is vital that you disclose any pre-existing medical conditions or medications. This information allows us to customize the treatment to your specific needs and ensure your safety.

**Contraindications:** Individuals with serious or life-threatening health conditions should avoid this specific treatment. If you have concerns regarding a particular diagnosis, please consult with our specialists during your assessment.

We also provide treatments targeting specific skin disorders, including acne, pigmentation, scars, stretch marks and sagging skin.

### WHAT LIES AHEAD IN 2026?

Expect a sharper shift towards advanced, science-led treatments. Mesotherapy-based therapies will continue to evolve, alongside innovations in microneedling and microneedling radiofrequency, with newer, more targeted combinations. There's also growing research around exosomes and PDRN (polydeoxyribonucleotide), showing promise in addressing pigmentation concerns as well as a spectrum of inflammation-related conditions. ■

MANJU

### CLINIC LOCATIONS

**Hyderabad:** 3rd Floor, Plot No. 702, Aditya Enclave, Venkatagiri, Road No. 36, Jubilee Hills, Hyderabad, Telangana; Tel: 95519 33333

**Chennai:** Old No:50, New No.16, Chevalier Sivaji Ganesan Road (South Boag Road), T. Nagar, Chennai – 600017; Tel: 95519 33333

**Bangalore:** Esteem Plaza, No. 356/20, 13th Cross, 4th Main, 1st Floor, Sadashivanagar, Bengaluru, Karnataka – 560080; Tel: 95519 33333

Website: [www.vcarecoe.com](http://www.vcarecoe.com)



Hair color expert **Lucas Chinnappa** decodes the biggest hair color trends, techniques and care tips for 2026

## Color Me Current

The **Lucas Academy and Salon** that opened in Jubilee Hills, focuses on sustainable hair color and treatments. WOW! caught up with Lucas Chinnappa, the Founder of the salon and academy, who comes with 21 years of experience and a Master's in color and texture change services from Sassoon Academy. He talks about what's trending and what actually works when it comes to hair transformations.

### WHICH HAIR COLORS ARE BIG FOR 2026?

We'll see bold, playful shades like bright plum and wine making a comeback in the first half of the year. As the year progresses, softer tones like sand, beige and golden blondes will take over, followed by richer hues like caramel,

honey and walnut towards the end.

### WHAT TECHNIQUES ARE TRENDING RIGHT NOW?

Balayage, classic highlights and global color continue to stay popular. What's new is a twist on the air-touch technique, along with baby highlights in dual tones, which are emerging as a fresh take on global color.

### HOW DO YOU HELP CLIENTS PICK THE RIGHT SHADE?

It starts with understanding skin tone. Most Indian skin tones fall into warm or cool categories. Warm tones work well with browns, auburns and plums, while cooler tones suit shades like ash blonde, sand, platinum and silver. Lifestyle and hair texture also play a role in making the final choice.

### WHAT'S THE BASIC CARE ROUTINE FOR COLORED HAIR?

Stick to what your stylist recommends. A good shampoo, conditioner and mask can make a big difference. Adding a monthly hair spa helps detox the scalp and keeps the hair looking healthy.

### DO SALON TREATMENTS REALLY MAKE A DIFFERENCE?

Absolutely. With newer formulations like vegan, PPD-free and low-ammonia colors, the process is much gentler now. Color today isn't just about change; it also adds noticeable shine and improves overall hair texture.

### HOW OFTEN SHOULD YOU REFRESH YOUR COLOR?

Root touch-ups every four to six weeks work well. If you're going for a full color change, once every six months is a good balance to maintain the look without damaging the hair. ■ KARTHEEKA

*Price: Hair color: Rs 8,800 onwards; Treatments: Rs 9,200 onwards*

*4th Floor, Fortune Atrium, Road No. 36, opp. Chutneys Restaurant, Jubilee Hills  
Tel: 91773 11266  
Timings: 11 am to 9 pm*





# THE GRACE OF GREYS

In Jubilee Hills, homeowner **Swetha Reddy** collaborates with designers **Sonal** and **Bobbi Tuli** on a three-level residence that balances color, space and material warmth with everyday living





Tucked into the quiet lanes of Jubilee Hills, the ART House, designed by Within Design studio's Sonal and Bobbi Tuli, is a three-level residence that explores the intersection of art, materiality and lived comfort. Conceptualized for Swetha Reddy, the brief called for a home that felt warm and deeply personal, while accommodating a visible and meaningful engagement with art.

#### CURATED COCOONS AND CONNECTED SPACES

Rather than approaching art as an accessory layered onto a finished space, the designers integrate it into the spatial narrative itself. The house unfolds as a sequence of rooms that feel intentionally enclosed yet connected – what the designers describe as “curated cocoons.” This approach allows each zone to hold a distinct identity without disrupting the overall continuity of the home. Hyderabadis who visited the India Design Show in 2026 may be familiar with the couple's creative designs and also at their bespoke, art, furniture and sculpture store in Hyderabad two years ago.

#### CLASSICS GALORE

“Circulation spaces, often treated as transitional, are given particular attention here. The lobbies emerge as defining moments – intimate galleries where artworks are not just displayed but allowed visual pause, encouraging interaction rather than passive viewing,” explains Sonal. Our favorite corner was right at the entrance. A black-and-white poster from a Hollywood classic on the wall as the backdrop adds drama to the living room vibe, which features a quirky grey chair with birds-and-plant motifs in white.

#### MATERIAL RESTRAINT AND WARMTH

Materiality plays a central role in shaping this atmosphere. A restrained palette of natural stone, wood, and veneer forms the architectural base, while wicker and woven elements soften the experience. “These touch-and-feel surfaces lend a sense of quiet luxury without overwhelming the senses,” adds Bobbi. Instead of high contrast or overt statements, the home leans into subtle shifts in texture and finish that reveal

themselves gradually. This restraint helps balance the presence of art, ensuring that neither the objects nor the interiors compete for attention.

### PLANNING FOR FLUID LIVING

The spatial planning across three floors supports both privacy and openness. While private areas remain inward-looking and calm, the common spaces encourage movement and visual continuity. There is a noticeable absence of rigid formal zones; instead, the design allows for a more fluid lifestyle, where spaces adapt to the rhythms of daily living. Light, both natural and artificial, is handled with care – used to highlight surfaces and artworks without creating theatricality.

### ALIGNED INTENT, LIVED-IN OUTCOME

What becomes evident through the home is a consistent alignment between client and designer intent. The ART House reflects a homeowner invested in aesthetic detail, but equally in comfort and usability. It avoids the pitfalls of over-curation that often accompany art-led homes, maintaining a lived-in quality throughout.

Ultimately, the project is less about spectacle and more about immersion. It demonstrates how a home can hold art not as a statement, but as an integral part of everyday experience – quietly shaping how spaces are perceived, inhabited, and remembered. ■ MANJU

*“These touch-and-feel surfaces lend a sense of quiet luxury without overwhelming the senses”*  
– Bobbi Tuli





*“To me, this busy sky looked like a giant painting coming to life above the famous monument”*  
- Raghuvamsh Chavali

Photographer **Raghuvamsh Chavali's Wings Over Concrete** juxtaposes birds with urban environments to capture the skyscape

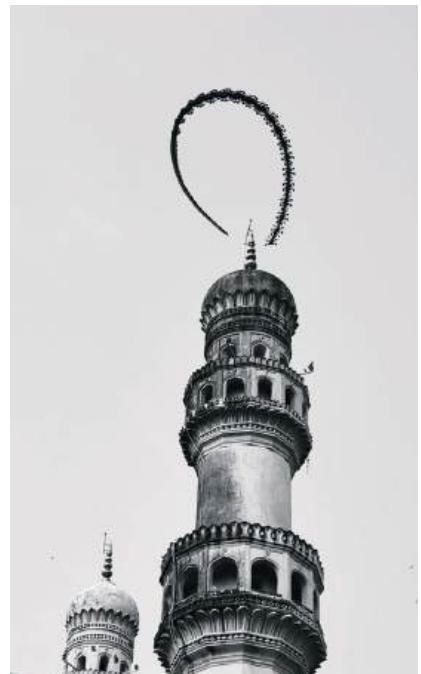
## A Bird's Eye View

**Wings Over Concrete** is a long-term fine art photography project that explores how birds navigate and adapt to urban environments shaped by human design. “Rather than presenting cities as hostile or unnatural spaces, the project observes moments where movement, architecture, and instinct coexist in quiet balance,” says photographer Raghuvamsh Chavali, who shuttles between Hyderabad and Canada.

Urban birds move through streets, buildings, and infrastructure with an intelligence shaped by repetition and memory. By observing these repeated paths, the project reveals invisible routes that exist above and between the rigid structures of the city, he adds. These flight patterns form an alternative visual language, one that challenges how urban space is perceived.

The work does not focus on birds as isolated subjects, but as active participants within the city. Their movement becomes a form of drawing, briefly reshaping the urban landscape before disappearing again. Through this approach, *Wings Over Concrete* reflects on coexistence and the silent negotiations between nature and modern life. Initiated in 2023, it remains an ongoing body of work, shares the photographer, who is also a music composer.

“I took a walk to take photographs around Charminar. I didn't just look at the building or the people; I kept looking up. Above the busy streets, many birds moved across the sky. I saw pigeons, hawks, and small swifts. Some flew in straight lines, while others circled the tall towers. For a few



seconds, they made beautiful shapes in the air. To me, this busy sky looked like a giant painting coming to life above the famous monument.

“It made me realize something we often miss. Just as people have lived near Charminar for a long time, these birds have made it their home too. They rest inside the stone walls and build nests in the corners. Every day, thousands of people walk by, and the birds quietly live right there with them,” says Raghuvamsh.

His works are available on [www.raghuvamsh.com](http://www.raghuvamsh.com) and an exhibition will be held in the city this summer. ■ MANJU





**Threadarte's** exhibition invites audiences to pause and reconsider the familiar language of fabric

## Threading Through Life



**Threadarte** by Rahul and Gunjan collaborates with Art Connect to present a compelling exhibition that explores the relationship between textiles, memory, and storytelling. At the intersection of craft and contemporary art, the show brings together works that view thread not merely as material, but as a carrier of histories, migrations, and quiet personal narratives.

The exhibition invites audiences to pause and reconsider the familiar language of fabric. Through layered textures, stitched interventions, and conceptual installations, the participating artists examine how textiles move across geographies, communities, and generations sometimes subtly, sometimes visibly shaping identity and belonging.

Threadarte's practice has long been rooted in exploring the poetic and political possibilities of textiles. In collaboration with Art Connect's commitment to fostering dialog between artists and audiences, this exhibition becomes a space where craft traditions meet contemporary inquiry.

Visitors can expect an immersive viewing experience, one that moves beyond aesthetics into the realms of memory, labor, displacement, and continuity. Much like threads in a tapestry, the works collectively weave together stories that are both deeply personal and universally resonant. ■ MANJU

The exhibition will be on from April 15-19

Road No. 79, Phase III, Film Nagar, near Ramanaidu Studios, Jubilee Hills  
Timings: 10 am to 8 pm

A unique exhibition where children from **Spandana Children's Home** presented artworks created during an art therapy program

## Art as Therapy

Recently, Film Nagar came alive with the infectious energy of 24 young women from Spandana Children's Home. The excitement was well-earned – it marked the first public showcase of artworks they created during a six-month art therapy program. Facilitated by dedicated volunteer Kristin Factor and hosted at the art space Spirit Connect, the initiative culminated in a moving display of creativity, expression and personal growth.

"Over the past year, the girls at Spandana have been on an extraordinary journey with Kristin, a certified art therapist who has generously volunteered her time and heart to them," says Anjali Daryanani who works with the society.

Kristin lives in Hyderabad, where her husband serves as a manager at the U.S. Consulate General, Hyderabad. Having lived in Mumbai in India, Poland, and several other countries, she has consistently dedicated herself to supporting children in NGOs and care homes, using art therapy to help them build self-worth, confidence, and a safe space to process stress and trauma. Also, Kristin was the winner of the 2024 US Secretary of State Award for Outstanding Volunteerism Abroad (SOSA) for her service with the Sharanam Shelter for Girls in Mumbai.

"When she moved to Hyderabad in December 2024, she found us because of the relationship I had built between Spandana and the U.S. Consulate over time. Through that connection, she reached out directly and offered to work with our girls. What began as twice-weekly, two-hour sessions soon grew into something far more meaningful," recalls Anjali. Working in small groups of six, Kristin has guided 24 of the girls through a structured six-month program that gently unlocked their voices, their stories, and their sense of possibility. The transformation has been deeply moving.

Drawing inspiration from artists such as Frida Kahlo, Claude Monet, and Indian masters like Sangita Jogi and Jamini Roy, the girls didn't just learn techniques – they discovered new ways to see themselves. Through color, texture, and form, they explored identity, memory, hope, and healing. Many of them, for the first time, found a way to express feelings they had never been able to put into words.

For the girls, it was more than an art show – it was a moment of recognition. A moment where they stand proudly beside their creations, feeling seen, celebrated, and valued. For them, this is not just about art. It is about being heard. ■ MANJU





This month-long exhibition by **Kandukuri Ramesh Babu** celebrates women like never before

## Oh Womaniya!

### WHAT IS WOMANSCAPE ABOUT?

Kandukuri Ramesh Babu's photography exhibition reads like a quiet, unfolding meditation on womanhood – intimate, observational, and rooted in lived experience. Rather than offering fixed conclusions, it opens up a space for reflection.

### WHAT MAKES THE APPROACH UNIQUE?

The work draws from women the artist knows personally, lending each frame a sense of familiarity and emotional truth. This proximity allows the images to feel deeply personal while still striking a universal chord.

### WHAT ARE THE THEMES THAT EMERGE?

Across the series, we see a textured interplay of care, conflict, resilience, and quiet endurance. *Womanhood* is not presented as a static identity, but as something fluid, evolving, and layered.

### IS THERE A DEFINING NARRATIVE?

Yes, Vennela's story stands out. Traced across life stages, from a young rag picker to a mother, her presence brings



a poignant sense of continuity and transformation, anchoring the exhibition emotionally.

### HOW ARE WOMEN REPRESENTED?

Not as archetypes, but as individuals. The images move away from stereotype, focusing instead on complexity, agency, and lived realities.

### WHAT STAYS WITH YOU?

A delicate balance of poetry and reportage. Ramesh Babu's lens is empathetic yet unflinching, creating work that feels both socially aware and deeply human – an ode to the quiet strength and expansiveness of women.

■ MANJU

The exhibition is on view till April 10

Goethe-Zentrum Hyderabad, No. 20, Banjara Hills Road No.3, North H Block, Journalist Colony, VST Colony, Banjara Hills

*Timings: Weekdays: 3 to 6 pm;  
Saturdays: 11 am to 6 pm  
Closed on public holidays and Sundays*



# Capturing Love as It Truly Feels

Keeping the feeling alive,  
forever

At Studio Capture Life, we don't just take photos, we tell stories. Your story! Every wedding is a canvas of love, joy and heartfelt moments, and we're here to turn them into timeless memories.

With over 14 years of experience and a global presence across Malaysia and Bahrain, we've perfected the art of preserving the magic of your special day. From dreamy pre-wedding shoots to breathtaking wedding photography and videography, our expert team ensures every smile, every tear, and every embrace is beautifully captured.

100+ weddings. Countless memories. Endless love. Based in Hyderabad and Mumbai, we're here to make your moments last forever.

## ..... Our Services .....

 Wedding Photo & Videography


 Engagement Shoots

 Pre - Wedding Shoots



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

 +91 86918 72681

 [www.capturelife.in](http://www.capturelife.in)

 @studiocapturelife

Visit Us: BS Spaces, 8-2-686/4/A, First Floor, Road No 12, Banjara Hills, Hyderabad - 500034 Telangana

**Let us capture your love story the way it deserves to be remembered.**



Puzzling illusions offer a new perspective on life at this trippy new museum

## MIND-BENDING REALITY

A portal to a world of illusions, the **Paradox Museum Hyderabad** reimagines the traditional guided museum walk-through experience by including you in its showcases and taking you on a trippy psychedelic-style adventure.

Offering wide-ranging, interactive, illusion-based activities, Paradox aims to entertain people by challenging them and their realities, allowing them to experience life from a new perspective.

### INSIDE THE PARADOX

Covering two floors, Paradox is split into two sections. The visit lasts an hour, with a good 30 minutes dedicated to each section. Friendly crew members on standby offer their assistance to those who are bound to find themselves scratching their heads at some point when trying to navigate the kooky place.

### THE KOOKY EXPERIENCE

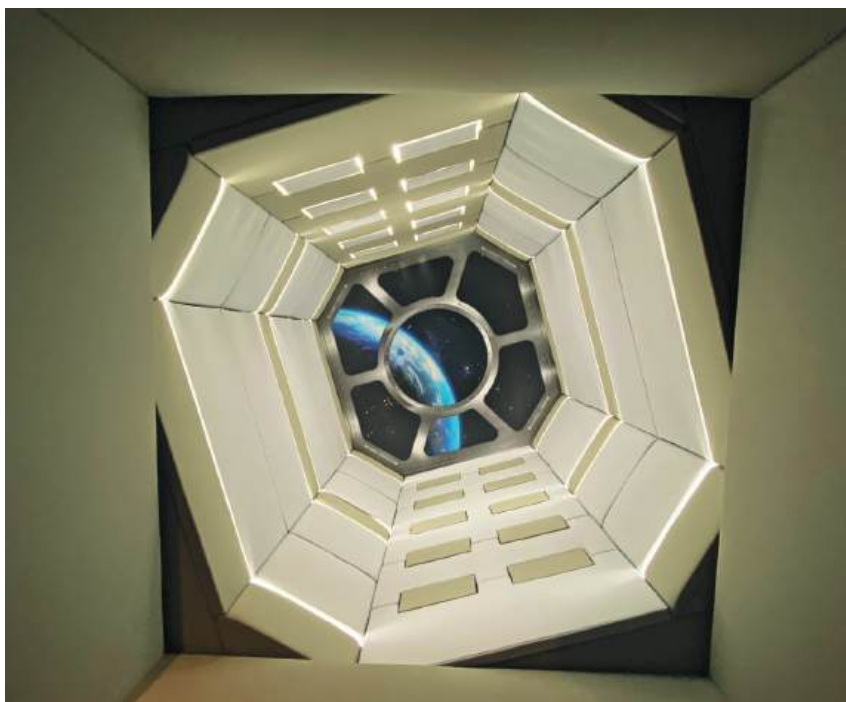
Some of the tour's highlights include:

- The Paradox Tunnel that distorts your sense of direction and offers a gravity-defying experience.
- A 3D Camouflage Room in which you eerily blend into your surroundings with help from hooded clothing that reflects the design of the room.
- A Paradox Sofa that makes it look like

- your body is split in two.
- A Walk-in Kaleidoscope that wraps vibrant colors and endless symmetry around you.
- An Infinity Well that tricks you into thinking that you are falling into an endless abyss.
- And, the futuristic Zero Gravity that lets you live out the fantasy of experiencing space like an astronaut, where you feel you are floating weightlessly.

**Note:** Some of the activities, including the Zero Gravity Room and Paradox Tunnel, can cause a sense of imbalance, dizziness, nausea, and vertigo. ■ IPSHITA

**Price:** Rs 550 onwards  
**Pranava One Hyderabad, Pillar No. 1139, Somajiguda**  
**Timings:** 11 am to 8 pm (Monday to Friday), 11 am to 8.45 pm (Saturday and Sunday)  
**Instagram:** [hyderabad.paradoxmuseum](https://www.instagram.com/hyderabad.paradoxmuseum)





# GLORIOUS SUMMER SUNSET

WOW! captures the golden sunset by the peaceful waters of the Hussain Sagar Lake  
Photo: Srinivasa Prasath

## MOVIES

In theaters

### THE DRAMA (ENGLISH)

Starring Zendaya and Robert Pattinson as Emma Harwood and Charlie Thompson, a happily engaged couple who face a dilemma a week before their big day. A drunken game reveals something unexpected about Emma, which leads them on a journey of questioning their unconditional love for each other in a dark and comedic twist, while they decide to go ahead with their wedding or not.



Date: 3<sup>rd</sup> April



### READY OR NOT: HERE I COME (ENGLISH)

After surviving a gruelling game in the first film, Grace's survival triggers another game in which the four influential families from around the world gather to hunt her and her sister for a night. The

condition is that if she wins the hunt, she can claim the throne and influence the entire world, or die alongside her sister Faith. She needs to keep herself and Faith alive for a night, or will the hunters win this strange game that unfolds in a new aristocratic mansion.

Date: 3<sup>rd</sup> April

### MaatruBhumi: May War Rest in Peace (HINDI)

An action war drama based on true events, directed by Apoorva Lakhia, the film stars Salman Khan as Colonel Santosh Babu. It is a cinematic retelling of the June 2020 clashes between Indian and Chinese troops in the Galwan Valley of eastern Ladakh. The film focuses on the emotional and physical toll of the war, with a philosophical interpretation of humanity over conflict, showcasing the action-filled battlefield and the personal life of the soldier.

Date: 17<sup>th</sup> April



### Dacoit (TELUGU, HINDI)

The plot revolves around Adivi Sesh, playing a wrongfully convicted man; and Mrunal Thakur as his former lover, who he believes betrayed him. They reunite after he escapes from prison. They are chased by a fierce cop played by Anurag Kashyap, making his Telugu debut. The film co-stars Prakash Raj, Sunil, Atul Kulkarni, and Zayn Marie Khan and is directed by Shaneil Deo, with the story and screenplay co-written by Deo and Adivi Sesh.

Date: 10<sup>th</sup> April

### PEDDI (TELUGU)

A high-action sports thriller directed by Buchi Babu Sana, the film is set in rural Andhra Pradesh in the 1980s. Ram Charan plays a passionate young man who unites the village to defend their pride against a powerful, oppressive rival in a cricket tournament. The cast includes Janhvi Kapoor as the female lead, playing a bold and lively woman, and has Jagapathi Babu and Divyendu Sharma as part of the cast.

Date: 30<sup>th</sup> April





ACTOR MADHOO, DIRECTOR RAGHAVENDRA AND PRODUCER PRATHYUSHA

Quick, easy-to-swipe-up stories are booming in Telugu OTT, with *Love in Pahalgam* elevating the space through rich visuals and emotional depth that match the big screen quality and sensibility

## The Rise of Two-Minute, Vertical Storytelling

At first sight, or rather swipe, you may think *Love in Pahalgam* is a love story shot in the Himalayas. But as you continue to savor it, you know it's a cinematic love story unfolding across 21 chapters, proving that vertical storytelling can be as immersive as cinema. In a digital ecosystem crowded with quick gags and formula-driven vertical videos, this series is attempting something unusual – bringing the scale, craft, and emotional depth of cinema into a two-minute storytelling format.

Produced by Zoon Productions Pvt. Ltd. and streaming on Chai Shots, a Telugu OTT channel, the series unfolds across 21 tightly structured episodes, each running for approximately two minutes. Yet despite its compact format, the creators insist that the project was conceived and executed with the sensibility and discipline of a feature film.

### A FEATURE FILM MINDSET IN A VERTICAL FORMAT

“From development to post-production, the series was treated less like social media content and more like a cinematic project. Every stage – from writing and cinematography to editing and music – was approached with the intention of delivering an emotionally immersive narrative within a compact runtime,” says the director Raghavendra Hegde.

The series boasts VFX sequences lasting

nearly two minutes. “In a space where vertical storytelling usually prioritizes speed over visual scale, these sequences aim to create moments of cinematic spectacle within the short-form format. The creators describe the show as “Miniature cinema designed for the vertical screen,” according to Hyderabad-based producer Prathyusha Sharma.

### NO CRINGE PLEASE

The creators approached the project with a clear principle – no gimmicks and no cringe-driven storytelling. Instead, the series leans into subtle performances, visual atmosphere, and emotional storytelling, allowing the narrative and the natural beauty of Kashmir to carry the experience. “The result is a tone that feels closer to a short romantic film unfolding across chapters, rather than a typical digital series,” says Prathyusha.

The series is a love story that happens during the Pahalgam attack, the incident that shook the nation. Many tourists were rescued by locals and sheltered. This series is a small effort to create an impression talking about the warmth and hospitality in real Kashmiri people.

### MUSIC CREATED EXCLUSIVELY FOR THE SERIES

Another defining feature of the show is its original music, composed exclusively for the narrative. Rather than relying on stock tracks or pre-existing songs, the

creators developed custom compositions that mirror the emotional journey of the characters. “Across the 21 episodes, moments of longing, discovery, conflict, and tenderness gradually unfold, building emotional depth within the short format,” she adds.

### THE VISION BEHIND THE PROJECT

The series in Telugu and Hindi is produced by Chai Shots and show run not clear – above it says streaming on chai shots and produced by Prathyusha Sharma, an experienced film producer and production consultant with over nine years of work across Indian and international cinema. With this series, she seeks to push the boundaries of vertical storytelling while maintaining the visual and emotional quality associated with traditional filmmaking. “If cinema is ultimately about emotion and immersion, does the format really matter,” the director and producer ask in unison.

“For those who love number crunching, here’s something to chew on. *Love in Pahalgam* spans two shoot days, 25 locations, lasts two minutes per episode, spread over 21 episodes, with two minutes of Vfx shots and two original songs,” says Prathyusha. ■ MANJU

*Love in Pahalgam* is available on the ChaiShots app



## SERIES

Streaming Online



### THE BOYS SEASON 5

(ENGLISH)  
AMAZON PRIME

The fascist rule and supremacy of Homelander continue over the US as he tries to gain immortality with his pursuit of the original Compound V. This leads Butcher and his team to unleash a lethal virus to destroy the supes to make a last effort. They do this despite knowing the dangers and the struggles of Starlight to form an underground resistance to fight against the Supe forces. The final series shows an all-out war from all sides, with the possibility of the deaths of major characters.



### EUPHORIA SEASON 3

(ENGLISH)  
JIOHOTSTAR

The series follows the characters after five years as they explore adulthood. Rue works to pay her debt and struggles, Cassie becomes an adult content creator and is engaged to Nate, who now works in construction. Jules is exploring her future in an arts school, and Maddy and Lexi work in the entertainment industry. Chaos always ensues as the cast meets up, but this time it's riskier as they tangle themselves in the shady business of underground crime figures and film noir, as it's shot entirely on 35mm and 65mm Kodak film stock.

### Maamla Legal Hai Season 2

(Hindi)  
NETFLIX

The series follows the chaotic court of Patparganj District, where Ravi Kishan returns as V.D. Tyagi, an ambitious and unconventional lawyer who's being promoted to a judge. He must solve bizarre cases as he learns to manage his new authority while navigating local politics and courtroom absurdity. The cast features Nidhi Bisht, Naila Grrewal, Kusha Kapila and Dinesh Lal Yadav.

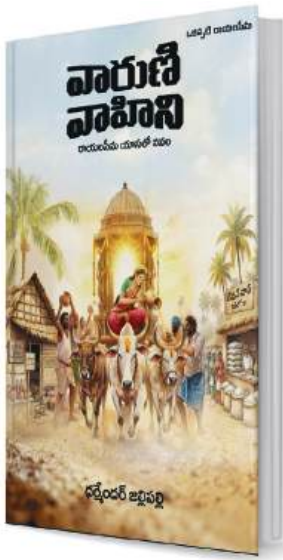


### WIDOW'S BAY

(ENGLISH)  
APPLE TV

The new mayor of Widow's Bay, Tom Loftis, played by Matthew Rhys, wants to change the small island on the coast of New England into a tourist destination. He wants to get rid of the rumors to help the struggling community and build a better future for his son as he gains respect and authority from the locals. He succeeds in his mission only to find that the old rumors by the locals about the island being cursed become true as he must face the horrors and find a solution in this horror-comedic series. ■ KARTHEEKA

**BOOKS**



**VAARUNI VAAHINI**  
Dharmender Jallipalli, Scratch Book Publishers, Rs 399

A socio-political novel that reflects the regional identity of Rayalaseema, *Vaaruni Vaahini* is set against the rural backdrop of Kadapa district. The story portrays drought, faction conflicts, the influence of illicit liquor, and the realities of village life with striking authenticity.

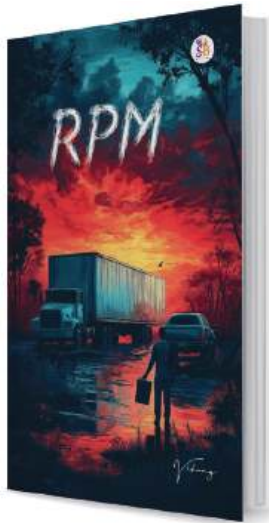
It follows Gaja, a middle-class village youth whose circumstances push him into trade and politics, where he faces intense struggles and gradually rises as a leader. Through love, family bonds, moral dilemmas, and the rise and fall of power, the narrative stays engaging. Using the symbolic idea of “12 snakes” from Snakes and Ladders, the novel delivers a strong, motivational message about overcoming obstacles to achieve one’s goal.



**THE ZEN PARENT**  
Yen Ooi, Hachette India, Rs 665 on Kindle

Zen philosophy is often associated with finding peace within ourselves, but in this new book, East Asian scholar Dr Yen Ooi shows how ancient Zen wisdom can help us practice Zen while being a parent. It discusses improving

our relationships with our children and finding harmony in parenting. In Zen texts, the concept of Sottaku Douji is exemplified by the moment when a chick hatches out of its egg. Using Sottaku Douji and other insights from ancient philosophy, Ooi shows how we can apply these ideas to our own lives, from working collaboratively with our children more and priming them for the future to building patience and letting go of anxiety.



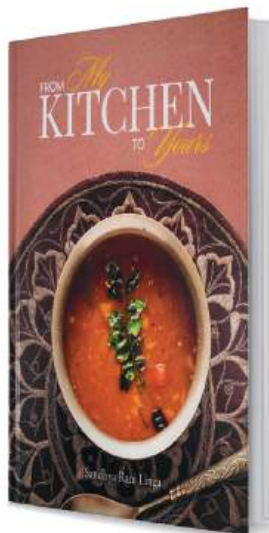
**RPM**  
Vihang, Scratch Book Publishers, Rs 249

*RPM* is a fast-paced thriller that follows Shiva, an e-commerce delivery executive whose ordinary workday turns into a deadly nightmare. After noticing that someone dies at every location where he completes a delivery, Shiva realizes he is trapped in a sinister game. As a mysterious truck relentlessly chases him through the city, every route becomes a dangerous maze. With no one to trust and time running out, he must uncover the truth behind the eerie pattern before he becomes the next victim. Blending high stakes, psychological tension, and intense suspense, *RPM* explores survival, fate, and the terrifying cost of being in the wrong place.



**SANKARABHARANAM**  
Vamsy, Sahithi Prachuranalu, Rs 200

The book is a nostalgic and deeply reflective tribute to K. Viswanath’s cinematic classic *Sankarabharanam*. Blending memoir, observation, and cultural commentary, Vamsy revisits the film’s timeless exploration of classical music, devotion, and societal change. Through evocative anecdotes and personal insights, he captures the emotional resonance and artistic purity that made the film iconic. The book also delves into the era it emerged from, offering readers a layered understanding of its legacy – both as cinema and as a cultural milestone that continues to inspire generations. ■ MANJU



**FROM MY KITCHEN TO YOURS**  
Sandhya Rani, Linga Publishers, Rs 1,599

The book is a heartfelt ode to the humble rasam, reimagined through memory, tradition, and quiet innovation. Drawing from her journey across homes and generations, the book brings together 40 distinctive rasam recipes, each rooted in culture yet open to interpretation.

More than a cookbook, it is a sensory narrative of comfort, nostalgia, and the rituals of everyday cooking. With warmth and simplicity, Sandhya invites readers into her kitchen, where flavor becomes storytelling and the most unassuming dish transforms into an enduring expression of home.

JAYASUDHA AND NAGARJUNA AKKINENI



KAMAL HAASAN AND NAGARJUNA AKKINENI



NAGA CHAITANYA AND RAM CHARAN



# Tollywood Time

March 19, HITEX Convention Center

The Telangana Gaddar Film Awards 2025 event was a glamorous evening celebrating Telugu cinema excellence. Naga Chaitanya and Rashmika Mandanna took home the Best Actor and Best Actress trophies respectively.

CM REVANTH REDDY, CHIRANJEEVI AND MADHURI DIXIT



RASHMIKA MANDANNA AND RAM CHARAN





## Trending and Traditional

March 15, Shankarpally

The Culinary Lounge celebrated Ugadi with a day-long premium experience for 50 select guests. The event included music, dance, flowers, art, culture, cinema, a book reading and authentic Telugu food to create some fond memories.



## Stylish Sundowner

March 24, Banjara Hills

Designer Abhishek Sharma and stylist Deepti Alapati collaborated to showcase his new collected titled Ratiaranya which was about the tranquil transition between spirit and body.

spotted



GULSHAN, NILOUFER, SHRADDHA, AANCHAL AND SOUMYA



PRAPTI

TANISHA



## The Irish Vibe

March 12, Madhapur

An evening imbued with the spirit of camaraderie and Irish music made up the launch of Irish Trail by Royal Challenge at Cock & Bull. Guests were treated to interactive showcase zones, branded pub games, live Irish singalongs, and curated cocktails.

SHIKHA AND FRIEND



PHOTOS: BHAVIK MONANI

SRIPRIYA



RUCHIKA



SHIVANI





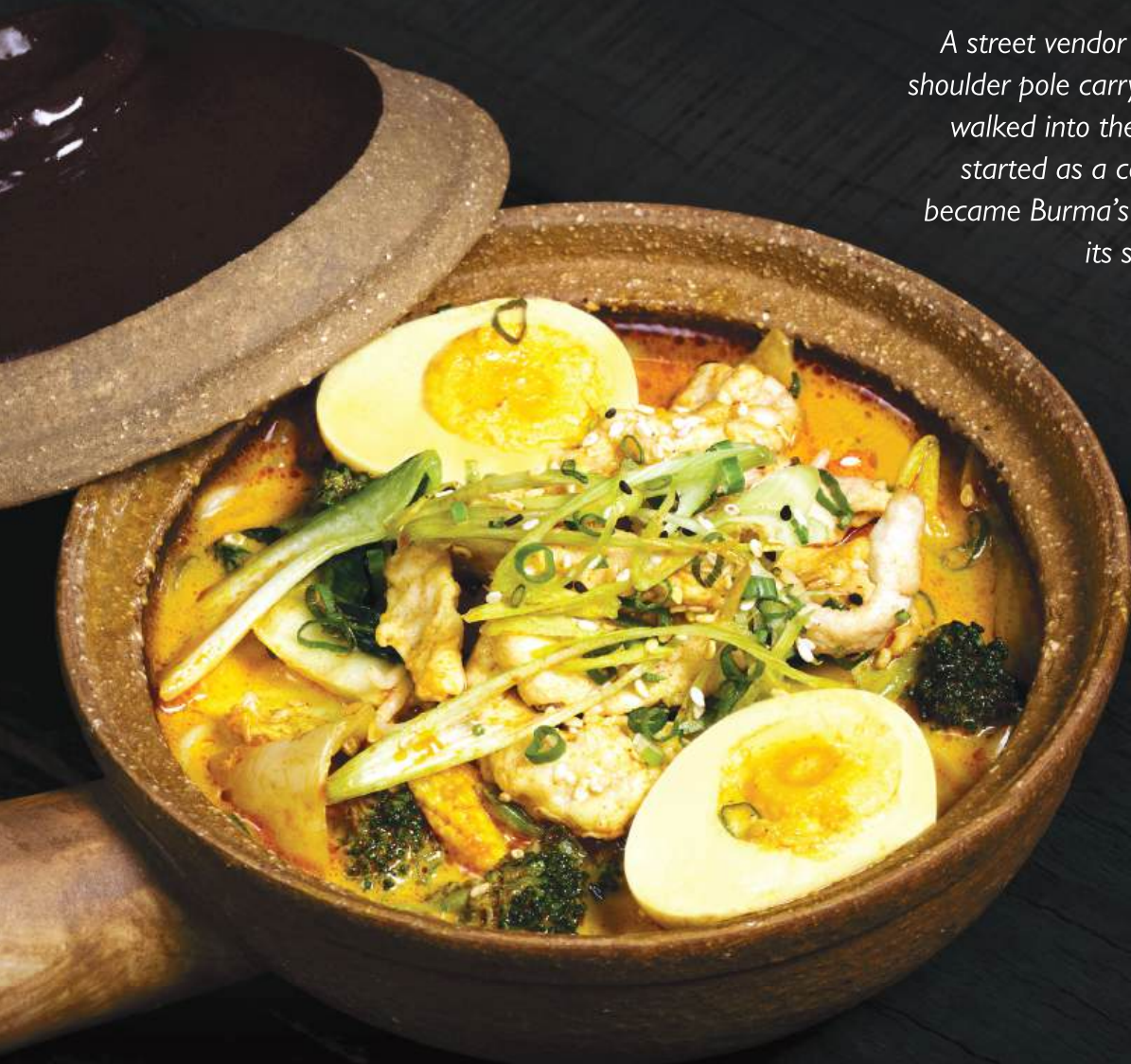
REGION IN FOCUS

# BURMA



March - May at Avasa & Marigold

Mohinga

*A street vendor with a cauldron on a shoulder pole carrying simple fish broth walked into the hall of fame. What started as a commoner's dish soon became Burma's national treasure for its simplicity and flavour.*



## MEKONG

 mekong\_panasian  
 mekong

Hotel Avasa, Hitech City, Hyderabad. Ph: 95151 17705  
Marigold Hotel, Greenlands, Hyderabad. Ph: 99511 22214  
Hotel Greenpark, Waltair Main Road, Visakhapatnam. Ph: 0891 661 5151

# Keeping it Vintage

March 14, Jubilee Hills

Titled Banti Puvvu, the evening brought together fashion, tradition and joy under one roof. Guests sipped on South Indian-inspired cocktails, explored the exclusive showcase of garments designed by Sourav Das and enjoyed a day full of elegance, laughter and Pink Phool magic.



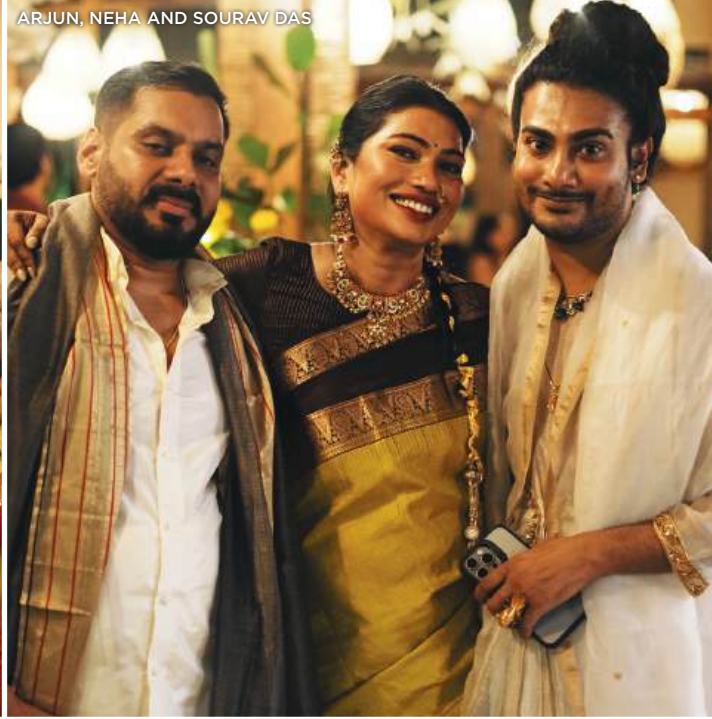
THORANI AND PREETAM JHUKALKAR



TANYA AND HANDY PASWET



NIHARIKA SOOD



ARJUN, NEHA AND SOURAV DAS



AISHWARYA, PRIYANKA, NAVYA, BHAVANA, SREELAKSHMI AND BHAVYA

THE STAGE IS SET FOR  
YOUR BIGGEST DAY.



 **MOMENTOUS**  
WEDDINGS/  
/CONVENTION

KOMPALLY | 97030 46666  
[www.momentous.in](http://www.momentous.in)



2000+ SEATING  
CAPACITY



DEDICATED  
EVENT PLANNERS



EXCLUSIVE  
CATERING






LUXURY  
SUITES



TARA SRI

by **TIBARUMAL** gemz & jewlz

Crafting Everlasting Memories

   tarasri.tibarumals    [www.tarasri.in](http://www.tarasri.in)    +914040329900

4 & 5, Lumbini Jewel Mall, Road No.2, Banjara Hills, Hyderabad, Telangana 500034