

CANVAS CALLED HOME

Curated by Our Better Planet in collaboration with Orange Tree, Jubilee Hills, the two-day showcase blended sustainable design, tactile craftsmanship, and evocative art to explore the emotional language of home

VENNAPUSALA RAMYA

AMID warm lighting, textured cushions, and thoughtfully crafted home décor, stood a gentleman, Jim Tharakan, waiting to take the audience on an artistic ride. His statement, “Places like this, a home setting, makes an art piece more real and relatable than viewing it in a stark, white gallery,” during a conversation with *CE* changed our entire perspective on the pieces on display at ‘Memories of Home’, curated by Our Better Planet in collaboration with Orange Tree, Jubilee Hills.

The two-day pop-up show brought the warmth of Indian craftsmanship, the quiet power of memory, and the evolving language of conscious design of objects, art, and stories that shape our idea of ‘home’. From slow-made décor to tactile tex-



“Memories on Canvas”, an interactive workshop

tiles and evocative utility pieces, every item in this showcase invites pause, reflection, and connection.

Pallavi Srivastava, founder and CEO of Our Better Planet, shared, “We currently have over 200 brands listed on our platform. But we believe the online medium by itself is not enough. For products that are made for the planet and by people, offline interactions are essential.

That’s why we also curate offline events under the name ‘Conscious Souk’. We’ve done about 30 Conscious Souk events across nine cities.”

She added that the trunk show was an effort to bring sustainable brands to an audience in Hyderabad. “It was a smaller format event and our second one. The first was in Jaipur. We’ve curated over eight home-grown brands that specialise in

home décor products,” Pallavi noted.

The venue, Orange Tree, is a home store that primarily offers furniture. Our Better Planet wanted to bring in complementary products like bookstands, tableware, soft furnishings like cushion covers and bed linen, trays, and so on.

The idea was to create a cohesive atmosphere that helps people make better decisions and

buy better, more conscious products, said Pallavi. All the brands on display followed ethical practices and used natural materials. The products were fairly priced and the brands worked with artisans and clusters that specialise in traditional crafts. “That’s how they align with our larger sustainability and conscious living message,” Pallavi pointed out. “This collaboration with Our



Better Planet is rooted in a shared belief that design is not just seen, it’s felt,” said Preeyaa Jain, vice president of Orange Tree, adding, “‘Memories of Home’ is a tribute to the enduring intimacy between memory, craftsmanship, and space.”

In addition, there were a few interesting art pieces on display, brought together by Jim Tharakan, founder of Arteflick. He stated, “In partnership with Pallavi from Our Better Planet, we curated a workshop titled ‘Memories on Canvas.’ I showcased about 10 artists’ works, offering a good variety: oil on canvas, acrylic on canvas, etching, charcoal on paper, a couple of watercolours, and even pen on canvas. I intentionally brought in many different mediums to show the diversity of how art can be created. What added depth to this curation was that I personally know these artists, their influences, their creative processes, and what drives them.”

There were about 25 different works from these 10 artists — two are from Hyderabad, including Maredu Ramu, and others from across India — Lucknow, Maharashtra, Chennai, Kerala, Bengaluru, and so on.

Jim explained, “I come from a place where I believe artists should be celebrated while they’re alive, not after they’re gone. Take MF Hussain, for instance — he’s passed on, but his works are being sold for ₹4

crore, ₹10 crore, and so on. My focus is: how do we support and celebrate living artists?” The art collector also wants to build the awareness that art can be an asset, just like land. He believes it shouldn’t be valued only for aesthetics, something that ‘looks good in the house’. It should also carry meaning, identity, and intention.

“And in a space like this (Orange Tree), where art blends with home décor, viewers — whether they’re buyers, collectors, or just art lovers — can actually see how a piece might look in a home setting. That’s different from viewing it in a stark, white gallery. Here, it becomes more real and relatable,” he added.

Alongside that, he also offered an art appreciation space to help people understand how to look at art. The session was designed to help people see and understand art differently and maybe even start viewing it as an asset worth collecting.

Jim said that the idea is to go beyond just, “Oh, that looks nice”, and dive deeper into what the artwork communicates. “Ideally, I would have loved for participants to draw, express, and share visually, but this time it was a conversational setup. We spoke about how they experience art and how they can deepen that experience. It’s about shifting the way we see and engage with art,” he expressed.



Escape. Indulge. Transform.



Narapusetty Shravya Shetty and Narapusetty Abhinaya

DARSHITA JAIN

NOT every beauty studio feels like a dream. But Cynthia Glamhouse, a beauty salon nestled deep inside the beautiful lanes of Jubilee Hills, is exactly that...a moonlit dream come true. Founded by sisters Narapusetty Shravya Shetty and Narapusetty Abhinaya, the space is more than just a beauty destination; it’s a heartfelt project shaped by passion, precision, and sisterhood.

“I’ve been into makeup for the past seven to eight years. Initially, I was crazy about working with celebrities — movies, fashion, all of that. But somehow, I ended up being a bridal makeup artist, and surprisingly, I loved it.

Freelancing was going great, and I slowly started dreaming of my own studio,” Shravya shares. But Cynthia wasn’t just born out of ambition, it was also born to address a problem. “There was no place that offered everything — hair, nails, facials, and semi-permanent makeup (SPMU) — under one roof with great technicians. We wanted to change that,” she further adds.

For Abhinaya, the journey took a different route. “I got into this field through my sister, who’s been into makeup for a while. She’s my role model. Though I did my master’s in engineering management and business analytics from the US, I’ve been doing makeup for the last three and a half years. My background in human resources and business analytics really helps me with the management side of the business, especially when it comes to technical terms, scheduling, and communicating with employees,” she says, smiling as she shares her journey.

The sisters spent months

fine-tuning every inch of the space. “We always imagined a villa, not a commercial space. We wanted something private, cosy, like the studios you see in Bali,” says Abhinaya, adding, “When we found this one, we knew this was it.”

Cynthia is not only a salon but also a makeup training academy. “Before this, I used to rent conference halls for workshops,” expresses Shravya, noting, “Now we have our own space. We offer courses in basic and advanced makeup, high-fashion makeup, basic and bridal hairstyling. Courses range from 10 days to one and a half months.”

And when they say ‘everything under one roof’, they mean it. “People don’t have time to go from one place to another for different services, so we offer head-to-toe care — hair, nails, skin, makeup, SPMU, even a cosy café,” shares Shravya, laughing.

Their SPMU artist, who is from Mizoram, is one of India’s most reputed trainers and customises every service, be it microblading, lip tinting, lash lifting, or so on...you name it, and she can get it done.

The attention to detail extends to every service. “We worked closely with a dermatologist to curate luxe facials that aren’t your regular salon facials. Our pedicure room is my favourite. People actually come here just to unwind,” explains the founder, also recalling a client experience, “She was flying to LA that evening. She got her root touch-up done, sat in the café, opened her laptop, and said, ‘I’m so glad I found this place.’ That meant the world to us.”

The name Cynthia wasn’t random either. Shravya explains, “Cynthia means moon goddess in French. In Telugu weddings, we treat the bride like a goddess. It just felt right. And I later realised my star sign is ruled by the moon, so it felt destined.”

With brides from Hyderabad to Bengaluru and beyond, the sisters’ signature style remains consistent. “We keep the base natural and enhance the eyes. That is our signature bridal look, with smoked-out liner and volume lashes. We want every bride to look like herself, but just more magical,” Shravya says.

So, if you’re looking for more than just a salon, somewhere you can unwind, sip coffee, get pampered head to toe, and leave feeling like a goddess, Cynthia is that place for you. As the sisters put it, “It’s not just beauty, it’s an experience.”

Reliving soul of Telugu cuisine

SHREYA VERONICA

A bright sunny afternoon saw people gather to celebrate the rich culinary heritage of the Telugu states. Onamaalu, which began its journey in 2024, has now returned with *Telangana Kathalu*, a celebration of food and the stories that come with it. Food experts, chefs, and bloggers came together, eager to experience and learn more about the flavours and traditions of Telangana.

As we explored the venue, we were amazed by the live setup showcasing *Telugu Ruchulu* (Telugu flavours) in all their glory. From the spicy mutton curry paired with *sarvapindi* and chutney, to the warm, delicious *bakshalu* lovingly prepared and served by rural women, every dish carried authenticity and heart. The women, seated patiently, served the piping hot food with grace, embodying the spirit of home-cooked warmth. Unable to resist, we indulged in the *bakshalu* to satisfy our sweet cravings...and they truly melted in the mouth. You could taste the love in every bite.

While enjoying the food and engaging conversations, we met actress and educationist Geetha Bhaskar, fondly remembered for her annual summer *Avakaya* (pickle) party. She moved through the crowd with warmth, greeting everyone with a smile and sharing nostalgic stories about Telugu cuisine. She even offered her homemade pickles — a crowd favourite that had people gathering joyfully around her.

Photographer and blogger Arvind, seen capturing vi-



Event also showcased the mesmerising Gussadi dance of the Gonds and Mahua communities

brant moments on video, shared, “It’s amazing how different Telangana food is. I have a neighbour who cooks these delicacies, and it’s always a delight. What’s special is that each dish here tells a story. There’s so much more to learn, and I feel privileged to be part of this celebration.”

The event also showcased the mesmerising *Gussadi* dance of the Gonds and Mahua communities, a performance that has gained global attention, especially after being featured during the Miss World celebrations in

our state.

Gopi Byluppala, CEO of The Culinary Lounge, reflected on the purpose of the event, saying, “Telugu isn’t just a story — it can’t be told in a single, generic tone. We want to preserve the forgotten narratives of the Telugu states, and its rich cuisine is a vital part of that history. People should know the depth of our culture and food and that’s what *Telugu Kathalu* is all about.”

The event, which began on a lively afternoon, concluded in the calm of the evening with full hearts, satisfied appetites, and bright smiles all around, celebrating the timeless flavours of Telugu cuisine.



HYDERABAD DIGEST

Stonecraft Group starts Phase II of Woods Shamsabad

Stonecraft Group, a leader in integrated biophilic real estate, conceived and designed sustainable city living, has announced the launch of Woods Shamsabad Phase-II. This marks an expansion of the world’s largest Miyawaki forest. While the project hit a record high for Phase I, which had 4.5 lakh trees across 18 acres, Phase II will plant a whopping 6.5 lakh trees on 25+ acres, spreading Stonecraft Group’s promise of green living and infrastructure for sustainable living.

PMS Tirumalagiri organises SAKSHAM 2025

SAKSHAM 2025, a flagship conference championing inclusive education, concluded with resounding success at Pallavi Model School, Tirumalagiri. The landmark event brought together educators, doctors, researchers, parents, and policymakers in a full-day dialogue on equity, access, and innovation in education.



KLH GBS launches Certificate Programme in Digital Marketing with AI

KLH Global Business School (KLH GBS), Hyderabad, has announced the launch of its pioneering Certificate Programme in Digital Marketing with AI. This programme is specifically designed to cultivate future-ready professionals equipped to thrive in the rapidly evolving digital economy, expertly blending the power of AI with essential digital marketing techniques. The one-month, hybrid-format programme is set to commence on June 15, 2025. It features 30 intensive online sessions, complemented by a unique four-day immersive campus experience at the modern KLH GBS campus in Kondapur.