

sunday pioneer

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Siddaramaiah built house on site allotted to Dalit


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India committed to developing **RESILIENT** agri systems: Minister



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Scaling heights of **WORLD** music with LSD



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QUOTE OF THE DAY

The 'Sreeja Milk Production Center' is an associate of former Minister T. Harish Rao's proxy and the frauds he committed using that are coming to light one by one. The Congress Government is striving for the development of Mother Dairy. Collectors will ensure that Mother Dairy's products are supplied to all government offices. I told Endowment Minister Konda Surekha to buy the ghee required to make Yadagirigutta Lakshmi Narasimha Swamy Temple's laddu from Mother Dairy



- Minister Komatireddy Venkat Reddy

DON'T MISS...

POP Ganesh Idol immersion...

The Telangana High Court, in its order, stated that 'Idols made of Plaster of Paris (POP) are to be immersed in baby ponds already constructed by the GHMC or in separate area ponds that do not contribute to water pollution in the main water body. There shall be no permission to immerse Ganesh idols from the Tank Bund side of the Hussain Sagar Lake. Immersion of non-POP idols, which do not contain synthetic paint, is only allowed from the other side of the...

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Conflict is over internal ...

Two BRS MLAs are fighting and blaming Congress government, said Minister for Information Technology and Industries D Sridhar Babu on Saturday. He further said that the two MLAs Padi Kaushik Reddy and Arekapudi Gandhi clashed because of internal problems in the BRS. The BRS leaders tried to attribute a motive to the Congress when the two BRS MKAs clashed, he said. The Congress party has nothing to do with what had happened, he made it very clear...

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'No competition between Hindi...

There can never be a competition between Hindi and other Indian languages as they are friends and complement each other, Union Home Minister Amit Shah said on Saturday. Addressing the fourth Akhil Bharatiya Rajbhasha Sammelan on Hindi Diwas, Shah said the promotion of Hindi cannot happen until all other Indian languages are strengthened and the official language establishes a dialogue with all of them. 'There can never be a competition between Hindi and local languages because Hindi is a...

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'Duty hike on oils to hugely benefit...

The government's decision to hike customs duty on crude palm and refined sunflower oil to 20 per cent and 32.5 per cent, respectively will 'hugely' benefit farmers as it will increase their income, a senior official said on Saturday. The government official also said that the decision to remove minimum export price and slashing of export duty on onion too would help farmers of the country. According to a finance ministry notification, the basic customs duty on crude palm, soybean and sunflower seed oil has been increased from nil to 20 per cent. Basic customs duty on refined palm, soybean and sunflower oil has been hiked from 12.5 per cent to 32.5 per cent. The effective duty on these crude and refined oils will increase from 5.5 per cent to...

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PROPERTY, WATER TAX, WASTE COLLECTION

TG proposes monthly tax

CONGRESS GOVT WANTS TO SIMPLIFY THE SYSTEM

NAVEENA GHANATE
naveena.ghanate@gmail.com
■ HYDERABAD

The Telangana Government plans to simplify the tax and billing system in the Greater Hyderabad area by introducing a monthly billing system for property tax, water and waste collection.

Property tax is collected by the GHMC every six months, and the Hyderabad Water Board issues bills once every two months at present. Residents in the GHMC area receive around 20,000 litres of drinking water free every month. Apartments which exceed this limit are charged accordingly. Some areas charge Rs 50 for door-to-door waste collection.

Chief Minister Revanth Reddy discussed with officials the need for a system that allows citizens to



Chief Minister Revanth Reddy discussed with officials the need for a system that allows citizens to make easier, smaller monthly payments. He noted how DISCOMs currently issue electricity bills every month with consumers paying using UPI or other online platforms

discounts or other rewards to those who consistently pay on time. For example, citizens who maintain a good payment record could receive a discount on their last bill of the financial year, or entire colonies could be rewarded with special gifts for achieving high compliance rates.

The Chief Minister stressed that municipal officials must take responsibility for delivering reliable services to the public. He said the billing system for property tax and water should have clear deadlines, and penalties for late payments — such as late fees or service disconnection — should be enforced.

The Chief Minister also said that income generated through LRS (Layout Regularisation Scheme) should be deposited directly into the bank accounts of local corporations to ensure that the funds are used for development.

GREEN POWER

TG to produce 20,000 MW by 2029-30: Bhatti

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Telangana government aims to generate 20,000 MW of green energy by fiscal 2029-30, Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka Mallu said.

Speaking at a public meeting at Dharmaram in Peddapalli district on Saturday, he said the Congress government's commitment to delivering uninterrupted, quality power across the state is a sharp rebuttal of predictions of power shortages under Congress rule.

In a major move to support the agricultural sector, Bhatti said that solar power panels are being installed to power farmers' pumps in 25 to 30 villages as a pilot project. The initiative, fully funded by the government, will enable farmers to generate solar power in addition to raising crops. The electricity generated



will be linked to the grid and the government will purchase the surplus power, offering farmers an additional source of income.

Moreover, the Congress government has been supplying free electricity up to 200 units. In select villages, solar panels will be set up on residential buildings, allowing households to generate and sell surplus power back to the grid, Bhatti added.

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Conspiracy to damage Hyd's image

Will not tolerate trouble makers, warns Minister Ponnam

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Transport Minister Ponnam Prabhakar said that a conspiracy is going on to damage Hyderabad's brand image. The government will not spare anyone who tries to create law and order problems in Hyderabad, he warned.

Speaking to the media at the Gandhi Bhavan on Saturday, Ponnam said the Congress never criticised people coming from various states living in Hyderabad. One cannot remain silent if they (the KTR family) which hails from Vijayanagaram tries to dominate Hyderabad, he said.

Ponnam said that BRS leaders



have been saying from the very beginning that the law and order situation will get disturbed if the Congress comes to power. However, they will have to show that there were problems during the ongoing

Ganesh festival.

He said the Congress government gave freedom to opposition parties to stage dharnas democratically. But BRS MLA (Padi Kaushik Reddy) challenged Serilingampally MLA Arekapudi Gandhi and said that he would fly the BRS flag on the latter's residence.

Is it not wrong, Ponnam asked. Physical attacks are not proper personally or on behalf of a political party, he said, making it clear that the government will take action.

He said that strong action would be taken if anyone creates trouble in Hyderabad and made it clear that the law would take its own course in case anyone broke the law.

KTR blasts CM for giving KLIP to Megha & Ponguleti

BRS to lead two-day visit to Palamuru Project sites

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

KTR lashed out at the Revanth Reddy government and questioned its decision to hand over the Rs 4,350 crore Kodangal Lift Irrigation Project (KLIP) to Megha Engineering even though the company is involved in many controversies.

Referring to the accident at Sunkishala, KTR demanded that Megha Engineering should be blacklisted.

'We have been warning about this company for a long time, but despite the incident, the Kodangal



Project was handed over to Megha,' KTR said.

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Attempt to murder case against Arikepudi


PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Gachibowli Police registered a case against Serilingampally MLA Arekapudi Gandhi and others for allegedly attempting to murder BRS Legislator Padi Kaushik Reddy on Thursday.

A group of people led by Congress MLA Arekapudi Gandhi and others trespassed into the house of Kaushik Reddy, damaged furniture and other articles on Thursday after a stand-off between Gandhi and Kaushik.

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It is three dynasties versus youth, says Modi in J-K



P5

Sreeja Milk Center is Harish's proxy biz: Venkat

'Konda Surekha told to buy Mother Dairy ghee for making Yadagirigutta Sri Lakshmi Narasimha Swamy Temple laddus'

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Roads and Buildings Minister Komatireddy Venkat Reddy said that the 'Sreeja Milk Production Center' is BRS MLA T. Harish Rao's proxy enterprise and that the frauds Harish committed using that are coming out one by one.

He said the BRS government had looted not only in the name of buffaloes and sheep but also through

the production of milk. However, the Congress admin is trying to develop Mother Dairy, he said.

Elections were held in Mother Dairy, the dairy of the farmers of Nalgonda and Rangareddy districts on Saturday. Gudipati Madhusudhan Reddy was elected as the chairman of Mother Dairy. Minister Venkat handed over certificates to the winners.

Speaking on the occasion, Venkat said the Congress won all the six director posts. He directed Collectors to supply Mother Dairy products to all government offices.

He also asked Endowment Minister Konda Surekha to buy the ghee needed to make Yadagirigutta Lakshmi Narasimha Swamy Temple's laddus from Mother Dairy and to scrap the GO issued by the BRS government regarding this.

TELANGANA CABINET MEETING ON 20TH

HYDRAA, flood relief may come up for discussion

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

The Telangana Cabinet is scheduled to meet on September 20 at the Secretariat, under the chairmanship of Chief Minister Revanth Reddy. The meeting will commence at 4 pm and is expected to address many pressing issues.

Among the top priorities are floods and the aid expected from the Centre for relief operations. With the monsoon damaging infrastructure and agriculture, the Cabinet will focus on restoring normalcy in affected areas. The meeting will also examine HYDRAA's operational strategies, with special emphasis on its ordinance for its legalisation aimed at enhancing disaster response mechanisms.

The Cabinet will also discuss BC reservations, the long-pending caste census, and the formation of 200 new gram panchayats, which would strengthen local governance and decentralization efforts in the state.

Financial issues, including the implementation of a comprehensive loan waiver scheme and farmer insurance programmes, are expected to be major topics of discussion.

Among the top priorities are floods and the aid expected from the Centre for relief operations. With the monsoon damaging infrastructure and agriculture, the Cabinet will focus on restoring normalcy in affected areas

These initiatives are considered crucial for the agricultural sector and are likely to receive detailed attention. As the state grapples with a range of socio-economic challenges, this Cabinet meeting is expected to be a pivotal one in outlining strategies for upcoming months.

Centre acts on TG's request

Hikes import duty on crude palm oil from 5.5% to 27.5%

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

Agriculture Minister Tummala Nageshwara Rao thanked Union Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan on behalf of Telangana's palm oil farmers for increasing the import duty on crude palm oil from 5.5 per cent to 27.5 per cent.

In a statement issued here on Saturday, Tummala said that the scrapping of import duty on crude palm oil had not only disappoint-



ed TG farmers as it brought down

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the price of palm oil in the Indian market but had also impacted farmers who wanted to cultivate oil palms. Keeping this in mind, Tummala had recently requested the Centre to re-impose the import duty on crude palm oil and help domestic palm oil farmers.

Tummala and oil palm farmers had requested Union Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan to take appropriate action regarding this.



773 irrigation tanks breached, Govt intensifies repair drive

PNS ■ HYDERABAD

After the heavy rains and floods, the Telangana government has ramped up efforts to repair the breaches in 773 irrigation tanks. Officials said that around 483 tanks have already been significantly rehabilitated.

The government, in coordination with disaster management teams, has shifted its focus to rapid repair and restoration, aiming to prevent further damage to agricultural lands and rural communities.

The Irrigation Department has been working relentlessly to ensure



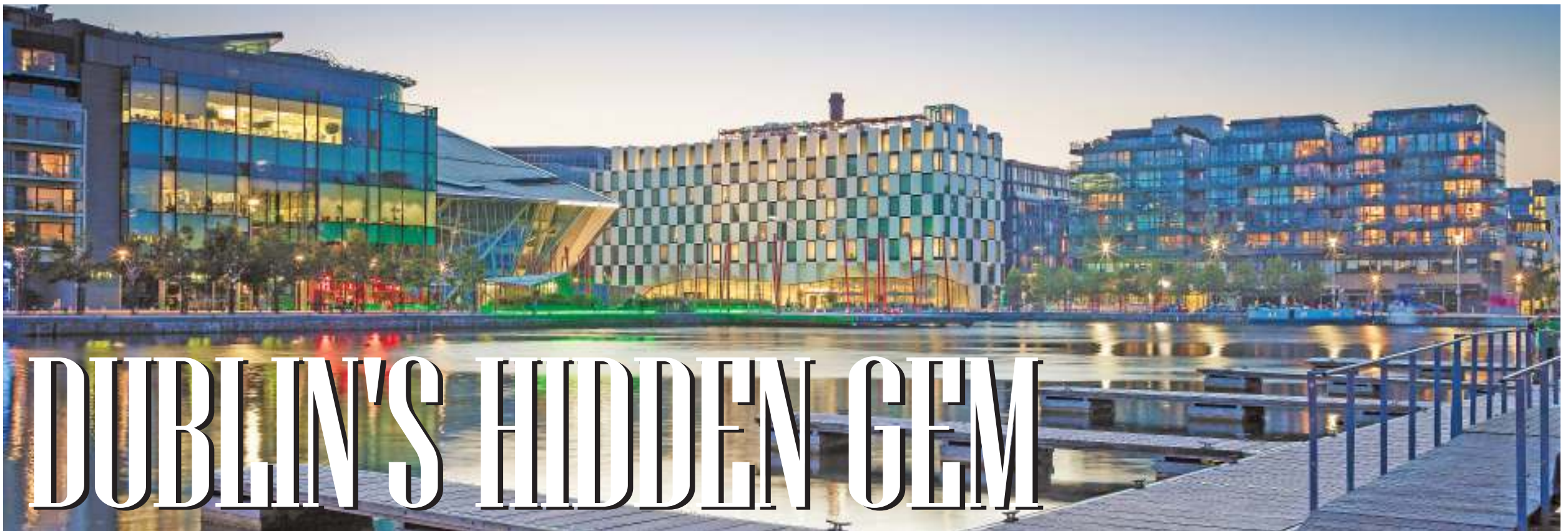
The Irrigation Department has been working relentlessly to ensure that damaged embankments and sluices are restored to normalcy

that damaged embankments and sluices are restored to normalcy. Irrigation Minister Uttam Kumar Reddy will be visiting Kodad and Huzurnagar to review repairs on

Sunday. Khammam, Mulugu and Mahbubabad have been particularly affected by the surge in water levels, forcing officials to initiate a swift response.

A comprehensive survey has shown that over 75 per cent of the restoration efforts have concentrated on irrigation structures, with key repair works expected to be completed soon. A notable area of concern is the breach in the left sluice of the Tummachandra Vagu, which poses the risk of flooding downstream.

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DUBLIN'S HIDDEN GEM

Discover a hidden gem in the Irish capital overlooking the water in the revitalised Silicone Docks. Here, a unique facet of Dublin unfolds, where the historic charm of the city seamlessly intertwines with modern vibrancy

BY AKANKSHA DEAN

MODERN ELEGANCE AWAITS

Even for locals, this area feels distinctly refreshing, offering a different perspective of Dublin while ensuring that all of its iconic landmarks remain conveniently accessible. Embrace the fusion of old and Dublin's Docklands, affectionately dubbed the 'Silicon Docks,' serve as the European headquarters for tech giants like Facebook, Google, and Airbnb. At the heart of this dynamic district stands Anantara The Marker Hotel, a striking geometric marvel that has become its unofficial emblem. The name 'The Marker' pays homage to the Grand Canal's rich trading history. The canal, stretching 82 miles, was once adorned with cast iron markers indicating the distance to the journey's end. The hotel stands proudly at the site of the last of these markers. Situated on the south bank of the river Liffey, the hotel commands stunning views of Grand Canal Dock and the vibrant Grand Canal Square, featuring the striking Bord Gais Energy Theatre, designed by Daniel Libeskind. At night, the plaza comes alive, illuminated in captivating hues of red and green. This dynamic locale is at the heart of Dublin's thriving tech industry, with one area even dubbed 'Googletown'. Conveniently, the hotel is just a 20-minute drive from Dublin Airport and a mere 15-minute stroll to the city centre, making it an ideal base for exploring the capital's rich offerings.

All the design elements at Anantara The Marker tell a story, much like the vibrant neighbourhood surrounding it. The Docklands continues to evolve as a thriving part of the city. As I step into The Marker, I'm immediately struck by its vibrant atmosphere that resonates throughout. The luminous lobby leads into colour-infused bedrooms, each exuding modern elegance. I notice young Dubliners gathering in the atrium for drinks, fostering a lively social scene that pulses with energy. On sunlit days, the rooftop bar becomes a buzzing hub, offering breath-taking views—a perfect retreat amid the city's bustle. Originally opened in 2013 and recently rebranded under Anantara in 2023 after an extensive renovation, this hotel stands as a beacon of modernity. Its striking chequerboard façade, inspired by the Cliffs of Moher, welcomes me into a mesmerizing 67-meter-long atrium with a cantilevered ceiling reminiscent of the Giant's Causeway, where public spaces, including a bar, lounge, and restaurant, invite relaxation and enjoyment. Embodying the Anantara philosophy, the hotel seamlessly integrates the brand's three core pillars—Indigenous, Expertise, and Authentic Luxury—throughout its offerings. Each of the 187 rooms and suites offers breath-taking views of the city, Grand Canal, Dublin Bay, or the mountains, enhanced by floor-to-ceiling windows. The accommodations are thoughtfully designed with ergonomic furnishings, cutting-edge



technology, and luxurious bathrooms for an indulgent experience. The Junior Corner Suite proved to be the perfect refuge for my stay. With ample space to work, unwind, or simply relax, I enjoyed the gentle sunlight streaming onto my Eames-style chair at the desk. A freshly brewed espresso awaited me, a delightful touch to start my day. I was pleasantly surprised to find a bar of Co Wexford's Bean and Goose chocolate by my bedside, boxy on the breakfast menu, and an 'Irish Wine Geese' section on the wine list. The fusion of striking architecture and local storytelling in this 187-bed haven feels refreshingly new. I balanced work and rejuvenation effortlessly. Prioritizing wellness, the award-winning spa provides an array of rejuvenating body treatments and massages, complemented by a 75-foot indoor infinity pool, a steam room, a eucalyptus-infused sauna, and a whirlpool tub. This was the perfect way to begin my mornings before venturing out. One of my favourite retreats was the chic rooftop bar and terrace, which



boasts breath-taking panoramic views. Each evening, I found myself captivated by the skyline, capturing the stunning sunsets that bathed the city in warm orange hues. At the heart of Marker's culinary journey is the vibrant new Forbes Street by Gareth Mullins. As a fan of Gareth's weekly cooking segment, I eagerly anticipated the experience. I began with exquisite Flaggy Shore oysters on crushed ice paired with a delightful Bloody Mary. Next, the marbled rib-eye, flawlessly seared, accompanied by zingy Chimichurri, house-cut chips, and a rocket salad, was a delight. For dessert, creatively

presented North County Dublin rhubarb, with smoked vanilla and crispy potatoes, encapsulated the essence of simple yet exceptional dining.

STORIES OF DUBLIN

Unlike the traditional luxury of the Merriem, Westbury, and Shelbourne, The Marker embraces bold architecture while ensuring substance accompanies its style. Anantara's mantra, 'Life is a journey,' resonates through its various activities like docklands walks and sea swimming. What truly distinguishes are its unforgettable bespoke experiences, meticulously designed to immerse visitors in the local culture and lifestyle. For food enthusiasts, the signature Spice Spoons journey with Executive Chef Gareth Mullins is a delightful highlight. Guests spend the day with Mullins exploring the charming fishing village of Howth, just 30 minutes from Dublin, and embark on a chartered fishing boat around Dublin Bay, where they might spot dolphins and seals. Afterward, a visit to Kish Fish, one of Ireland's

premier salmon smokehouses, precedes an enriching lesson in baking traditional Irish soda bread back at the hotel. Other curated experiences include Wild Swimming in a popular local spot under the guidance of an open-sea coach, an insightful deep dive into equine culture at the Irish National Stud and Gardens with a renowned horse trainer, and Afternoon Tea: Poetry and Places, which celebrates Ireland's literary heritage. For me, the highlight was the Docklands Storytelling Tour led by Derek Brennan, the hotel's Irish storyteller and guest experience manager. His captivating narratives weave together the rich history of the Docklands, bringing the area's past to life through his engaging tales, a connection forged since the hotel's inception in 2013.

SIP, STROLL, EXPLORE

A trip to Dublin is incomplete without exploring its rich offerings. A must-visit is EPIC The Irish Emigration Museum, conveniently located within walking distance of the hotel. This interactive museum delves into the history of the Irish

diaspora and emigration. Just around the corner lies The Ferryman Townhouse, a lively pub where locals warmly welcome visitors, eager to share a table and demonstrate the art of enjoying a pint in under ten seconds. For those with a sense of adventure, Grafton Street, The Temple Bar, and Trinity College Dublin are a leisurely 30-minute stroll away. Be sure to reserve an evening for the renowned Guinness Storehouse, where a guided tour reveals the brewing process, and guests can even create a 'stoutie,' a selfie on the frothy beer head. This fusion of modernity and community encapsulates the essence of Dublin's evolving urban landscape, making it a must-visit destination for locals and travellers alike.

Akanksha Dean is an independent food & travel writer, a chef and a catalyst and is the first Indian to have trained at Osteria Francescana, in Modena, Italy, rated as the world's best restaurant in the World's 50 Best Restaurants, in 2016 and 2018 and currently in the Best of The Best Category.

CELEBRATING 15 YEARS OF INDIAN ACCENT

A Journey Through Taste and Tradition

Indian Accent's 15th anniversary marked a memorable evening, celebrating its rich legacy with a blend of nostalgic classics and inventive culinary creations, says SAKSHI PRIYA

As Indian Accent New Delhi celebrated its 15th anniversary, the occasion paid tribute to its remarkable culinary journey. With softly dimmed lighting and elegant candlelit tables, the ambiance set a warm and inviting tone for the evening. The sophisticated atmosphere, combined with a touch of nostalgia, created a perfect backdrop for a dining experience that was both refined and memorable. Walking into Indian Accent felt like stepping into a space where the charm of tradition and the excitement of modernity seamlessly merged, crafting an unforgettable experience.

The evening featured a nostalgic look back at Indian Accent's inaugural tasting menu from 2009, allowing guests to revisit beloved classics that had been instrumental in shaping the restaurant's journey. Dishes like the Whole Wheat and Semolina Puchkas, Paneer Tikka Chaat and Khakra Mille Feuille served as a heartwarming reminder of the restaurant's evolution and enduring appeal. The journey began with Chef Shantanu Mehrotra at the helm, who crafted a menu that would soon become a

sensation. Reflecting on those early days, Chef Mehrotra recalls the excitement and challenges of the original menu. While some dishes met with mixed reviews, others quickly captured the hearts of diners. Today, Indian Accent is celebrated for its pivotal role in bringing modern Indian cuisine to the global stage.

The celebration commenced with a sensory feast, beginning with the Blue Cheese Naan. This dish was a revelation, a delightful twist on a classic favourite. The crisp texture combined with the bold, creamy blue cheese offered a unique start to the evening. Paired with the Mushroom Shawarma, subtly spiced with garam masala, it was a comforting yet adventurous introduction that set the tone for the meal to come. The evening begins with a nod to the beloved classics that had been instrumental in shaping the restaurant's journey. Dishes like the Whole Wheat and Semolina Puchkas Chaat and Khakra Mille Feuille served as a heartwarming reminder of the restaurant's evolution and enduring appeal. The journey began with Chef Shantanu Mehrotra at the helm, who crafted a menu that would soon become a



traditional elements with modern sophistication. Chef Shantanu Mehrotra's talent was unmistakable throughout the tasting menu. His creations, such as the Paneer Tikka Chaat and Khakra Mille Feuille, were perfect examples of his ability to blend textures and flavours in imaginative and delightful ways. The Beetroot and Peanut Tikki with Caper Wasabi Chutney was particularly memorable, showcasing his knack for transforming humble ingredients into something truly remarkable. The main courses continued to impress with their inventive twists on both classic and global flavours. The Bharwan Mirch with Goat



Cheese Mousse and Chilli Aam Papad Chutney was a revelation, blending bold flavours with finesse. The Paneer Lasagna with Smoked Aubergine and Goji Berry Makhni offered a creative and comforting take on a beloved classic. The Turkish Sultanas and CousCous Ki Tahiri with Anar Avocado Raita was a brilliant example of how global influences can be seamlessly integrated into modern Indian cuisine. The grand finale of the evening was nothing short of a dessert lover's dream come true. The Indian Accent Kulfi Sorbet was like a refreshing burst of icy goodness, cleansing the palate with a playful, creamy touch. But hold on tight,

things got even sweeter with the Kinnaur Apple Shakarpara Crumble. Imagine the crunch of perfectly baked apple crumble mingling with the smooth, homemade vanilla bean ice cream—every bite was a joyous celebration of texture and flavour. And just when you thought it couldn't get any better, the Coconut and Jaggery Brulee with Ruby Grapefruit Pops Amarula Ki Chuski arrived, turning dessert into an art form. The rich brulee, with its luscious coconut and jaggery notes, paired with zesty grapefruit pops and a hint of Amarula, was an explosion of taste that left us craving more. Complementing this sweet finale was the Daulat Ki Chaat, which emerged as a standout. Its saffron-infused elegance, adorned with almonds and a hint of sugar, was both a visual delight and a burst of refined flavours. This dish exemplified the restaurant's commitment to creative excellence and its ability to elevate even the most familiar flavours into something extraordinary. Each dessert was a playful, indulgent end to a meal that was nothing short of spectacular! Reflecting on this milestone, it

became clear that the 15th anniversary was not just a celebration of Indian Accent's rich history but also a vibrant showcase of its future. The event honoured the restaurant's legacy while highlighting its ongoing dedication to culinary excellence and innovation. Chef Shantanu Mehrotra's passion and creativity were evident in every dish, underscoring the restaurant's status as one of New Delhi's most cherished culinary destinations. Indian Accent's 15th anniversary celebration was a memorable reflection on its past, with a touch of nostalgia, while also offering a glimpse into its future. The evening was all about elegance, creativity and exceptional flavours. Chef Shantanu Mehrotra's innovative approach and remarkable talent shone through in every dish, proving that Indian Accent is more than just a restaurant - it's a symbol of innovation and sophistication in the culinary world. This anniversary wasn't just a milestone, it was a celebration of a remarkable journey filled with flavour, creativity and lasting excellence.





Photo: Pankaj Kumar

FROM WHEELS TO WINGS

The story of transport through time is showcased meticulously at the *Heritage Transport Museum* and is a nostalgic journey for the grownups and curious potent for the young, writes **GYANESHWAR DAYAL**

Nestled in the heart of Gurugram, the Heritage Transport Museum offers a vivid glimpse into India's rich transport history. It is not merely a museum but a living narrative of how India's transportation systems have evolved over the years. From early bullock carts to vintage cars, each display in the museum is a portal to a time when travel wasn't just about the destination but the experience itself. India's transport history offers a vivid reflection of the country's broader cultural and social transformations. The evolution of transportation—from traditional bullock carts and hand-pulled rickshaws to modern vehicles and advanced public transit—parallels significant societal, technological, and economic changes. Various modes of transport illustrate the evolution of cultural practices and daily life. For example, traditional transport methods like palanquins and bullock carts reveal historical social structures and regional customs, while the advent of motorized vehicles signifies a shift toward modernization and globalization. The Heritage Transport Museum is a treasure trove of historical gems, each piece providing a unique window into India's transport legacy. The Museum in Gurugram offers a fascinating glimpse into the evolution of transportation in India. As India's first comprehensive transport museum, it showcases a wide array of unique items that reflect the country's rich history in this sector.

Among the standout exhibits is an extensive collection of vintage cars, including iconic models like the Ford Model T and the Rolls-Royce Phantom. Each vehicle tells a story, with plaques detailing their origins, ownership histories, and their journeys through India's roads.

The museum also houses an impressive collection of two-wheelers, featuring everything from early Royal Enfield bikes to classic Vespa scooters. These vehicles capture the changing dynamics of transportation in India, from rural commutes to urban lifestyles.

A particularly unique feature is the railway exhibit, which includes vintage carriages,

We hope to instil a respect for our heritage: Tarun Thakral

Tarun Thakral, the founder & managing trustee of Heritage Transport Museum is also the Executive Director at CJ International Hotels Ltd, New Delhi that owns and manages Le Meridien New Delhi. Tarun started his career in the Hospitality business in 1986. In 1990, he won the French Government scholarship to pursue MBA program in International Hospitality Management from 'Institut de Hotelier Management International', Paris. To pursue his hobby and passion in vintage and classic cars, in 1996 Tarun founded Heritage Transportation Trust (HTT) - a registered not-for-profit trust to promote the preservation of modes of transportation that have been used in India. As its Founder and Managing Trustee, HTT has developed India's first comprehensive Transport Museum, Heritage Transport Museum, which opened to visitors in December 2013. Since its opening Museum won many prestigious awards - The National Tourism Award for being the most innovative and unique tourism project in the country, the 2016 and 2018 Travellers Choice Award by TripAdvisor, International PATWA award for innovation at ITB, Germany, the BITB Tourism Excellence Award, SATTE Tourism award for innovation, and more. He talked to Gyaneshwar Dayal about his

passion and labour of love, The Heritage Transport Museum: **What inspired you to create the Heritage Transport Museum? Was there a specific moment or experience that ignited your passion for preserving India's transport history?** India did not have a comprehensive transport museum until the Heritage Transport Museum opened its doors to visitors. Given the presence of remarkable transport museums worldwide, I often wondered why India didn't have one of its own. As my personal collection of transport memorabilia expanded, managing it became increasingly difficult. We launched the Heritage Transport Museum in December 2013, and it remains India's sole transport museum to this day. **How did you go about collecting such an impressive and diverse array of transport artefacts? Were there any particularly challenging or memorable acquisitions?** In 1994, I purchased my first vintage car from Ramgarh Shekhawati, Rajasthan, which was in a state of disrepair. The process of restoring this vehicle over nearly a year brought me immense joy and ignited a passion for collecting and preserving vehicles from being scrapped. My collection soon grew to include cars, two-wheelers, bicycles, carriages, and carts. In 2002, I came across an advertisement from Indian



Railways about scrapping several 1930s railway saloons. I quickly contacted the Railway Board, expressing my interest in purchasing and preserving one of these saloons. Since the Railways had never before sold such items to private individuals, it took over a year of negotiations. Ultimately, I succeeded in acquiring and restoring the saloon, which now proudly stands at the museum on a recreated vintage railway platform. **What criteria do you use to select the items displayed in the museum?** The Heritage Transport Museum features a diverse array of transportation modes used for both private and public transport throughout history. Our aim is to display the full range of transportation, encompassing cars,

buses, two-wheelers, traditional transport methods, non-motorized vehicles, railways, trams, aviation, and maritime. We choose items based on their historical importance, popularity, and how they complement our existing collection. We also carefully evaluate how each object will engage and benefit our visitors. **What are the biggest challenges you've faced in preserving and restoring some of the older or more delicate items in the museum's collection?** Many items, especially those that are decades or even centuries old, face natural deterioration over time. Components can become fragile or worn, making the restoration process both meticulous and delicate. For vintage vehicles and machinery,

locating original or compatible parts can be extremely challenging, often necessitating custom fabrication or innovative solutions to replace missing or damaged components. Restoring complex items, such as early aviation or railway equipment, requires specialized knowledge and skills, and finding experts with the necessary experience can be difficult. **What are your future plans for the Heritage Transport Museum? Are there any upcoming exhibitions or expansions that visitors can look forward to?** We have several exciting initiatives in store for the Heritage Transport Museum to enrich its offerings and continue captivating our visitors. One of our key plans is to introduce an experience centre that will provide a unique, multisensory experience. We're also expanding our exhibitions to feature rare artefacts that showcase various aspects of transportation history. To keep up with the latest technological advancements, we aim to incorporate more interactive and immersive technologies, such as virtual reality, augmented reality, and advanced simulation tools, to make the exploration of transport history even more engaging. **What drives your passion for curating and expanding the museum's collection? How do you stay motivated in continuing this labour of love?**

A deep passion for history, culture, and education, coupled with a strong commitment to preserving and sharing important stories and artefacts for future generations. The continual excitement and inspiration of discovering new ways to present these treasures and enhance the museum's narrative. The joys of seeing visitors engage with, learn from, and appreciate the museum's offerings. The profound personal fulfilment derived from working in a field I genuinely love and enjoy. And, of course, the pride in contributing to the museum's enduring legacy. **What kind of experience do you hope visitors take away from the museum? Is there a particular message or feeling you want them to leave with?** One of the greatest compliments we've received is being recognized as a world-class museum in India. Many visitors leave with a profound sense of nostalgia, feeling moved, inspired, and reflective. They depart with a deeper understanding of the evolution of transport, and the museum continues to ignite curiosity and further interest in its visitors. We hope to instil a respect for our heritage, encouraging visitors to think about ways to preserve it for future generations. For younger visitors, we aspire to inspire them to develop hobbies that bring them fulfilment and satisfaction.

signaling systems, and detailed replicas of early Indian trains. Visitors can explore the interior of these carriages and get a sense of the grandeur of rail travel during the colonial period.

For aviation enthusiasts, the museum features models and artifacts from India's early civil aviation history, including scaled replicas of early Indian aircraft. Another intriguing exhibit is a full-size 1950s Piper J3C Cub aircraft, providing a rare close-up view of mid-20th-century aviation.

One of the more immersive experiences is the display of

maritime memorabilia, with detailed models of ships and boats that were integral to India's naval history and trade routes. The museum's art and design installations also deserve mention, with sections devoted to the design evolution of vehicles, showcasing how aesthetics and functionality have shaped modern transport. Besides, the Museum has also a 3D virtual reality ride on a rickshaw over the China wall which is a big hit with the children and elders alike.

The development of transportation also mirrors India's economic progress. The transition

from horse-drawn carriages to trains and automobiles highlights the country's industrial growth and enhanced connectivity, which has facilitated trade and mobility. Additionally, transportation innovations have been crucial in driving social change. The introduction of public transportation systems such as buses and metro rails has influenced urbanization, accessibility, and social integration, affecting how people live and work.

The Heritage Transport Museum plays a crucial role in enriching our understanding of India's

history by preserving and showcasing these transportation milestones. Through its diverse collection of transport artifacts, the museum offers visitors insights into how transportation has both shaped and been shaped by the broader socio-cultural context. It effectively connects the past with the present, providing a tangible link to India's rich history and its ongoing evolution. The museum houses an impressive collection, thoughtfully curated to spark fascination. The assortment ranges from classic vintage cars to steam engines, traditional

bicycles, and even airplanes. Visitors can explore artifacts that depict the evolution of transport—centuries old, others representative of the industrial age. There is also a segment dedicated to maritime history, complete with beautifully preserved models of ships, giving the experience an almost encyclopaedic richness. What truly sets the Heritage Transport Museum apart is the meticulous passion with which it has been curated. The layout of the museum is designed not just to showcase relics but to narrate stories. Interactive displays,

lifelike dioramas, and thematic galleries transport visitors into the very eras these machines were part of. Each exhibit is placed within a larger cultural and social context, enabling visitors to appreciate its significance beyond the mechanics. It's not just a collection of vehicles; it's a carefully woven tapestry of India's transport evolution, enhanced by attention to detail. For anyone with an interest in history, innovation, or transport, the Heritage Transport Museum is a must-visit, where every exhibit is a labour of love, offering a journey through time.

THE MONSOON'S WHISPER IN EVERY NOTE

Vidushi Sunanda Sharma's *Boondan Phuhaar* concert celebrated the monsoon with enchanting Indian classical music, says **SAKSHI PRIYA**

There is something undeniably timeless and evocative about Indian classical music, especially when performed by an artist as deeply rooted in tradition as Vidushi Sunanda Sharma. On a beautiful evening at the Stein Auditorium in New Delhi, Sharma brought the monsoon season to life with her performance, 'Boondan Phuhaar.' The concert was not merely a display of musical mastery but a heartfelt celebration of nature, tradition and the human spirit. Sharma, a vocalist of the Banaras Gharana, captivated her audience with her soulful

voice that seemed to capture the very essence of the rainy season. Each note felt like a raindrop, each melody a breeze dancing through the trees. She was accompanied by a gifted ensemble, including Pt. Vinay Mishra on the harmonium, Pt. Mithilesh Kumar Jha on the tabla and U. Ghulam Ali on the sarangi, who together created an atmosphere that was almost spiritual. Their performance reminded everyone present of the unique power of live music to evoke deep emotions and transport listeners to another world. What stood out most was not just the technical excellence on display but the depth of



Photo: Pankaj Kumar

feeling in every note. There was a genuine joy and emotional connection to the monsoon season that resonated throughout the performance, making the audience feel the beauty and poignancy of the rains. In a world that often feels dominated by digital and impersonal entertainment, this concert was a poignant reminder of the impact of live music and its ability to make people feel truly alive. The evening was also a celebration of India's rich cultural heritage. Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha's reflections on Varanasi's spirit and its deep-rooted connection to the classical

arts underscored the importance of preserving these traditions. Sunanda Sharma's commitment to her craft and her work with the Girija Darshan Trust, named after her revered Gurus, Smt. Girija Devi ji and Pt. Sudarshan Sharma, is commendable. Through her efforts to nurture young talent and provide a platform for established artists, she ensures that this exquisite form of music remains vibrant and relevant, not just a relic of the past. More than just a concert, 'Boondan Phuhaar' felt like a journey into the heart of the monsoon - a gentle escape from the rush of daily life.

The performance offered a rare chance to slow down, to be present and to savour the profound beauty of music that is so intricately connected to nature. Sunanda Sharma's devotion to her heritage and artistry was evident in every note, making the evening a memorable and moving experience. In an age where life often moves at a relentless pace, this event was a timely reminder of the importance of taking a moment to appreciate the simple, yet profound joys - a rain-soaked evening, a beautiful melody and a shared experience that brings people closer to the essence of life itself.

the pioneer agenda

"Despite hanging up my racing wheels over a decade ago, I still get a buzz when we enter an Olympic and Paralympic year"
— Tanni Grey-Thompson



PARIS PARALYMPICS

PARA ATHLETES BASK IN GLORY AND GOLD

The accomplishments of para athletes at Paris Paralympics are not just sporting success but a story of grit and determination, a story of indomitable spirit that soars high despite hardships and challenges, writes RISHABH MALIK

The Paris 2024 Paralympics will go down as one of the most celebrated sporting moments in India's history. The Indian contingent's extraordinary performances were not just a display of athletic prowess but also a powerful reminder of human resilience, willpower, and the ability to triumph against all odds. From setting new records to inspiring millions, the Indian athletes left a remarkable imprint on the global stage. India's Paralympians wasted no time in making their presence felt at Paris 2024. In 12 days of competition India registered 29 medals including 7 gold, 9 silver, and 13 bronze. India's medal count marked significant landmark and breakthroughs in Indian history of Paralympics.

India's first medal in the Paralympics came in the 1972 Games, with Murlikant Petkar winning a gold medal in swimming. Up to the recent 2024 Games, India have won 60 medals across all Paralympic Games, with the most successful Paralympic campaign being the Paris 2024 Games with 29 medals. Shooting has traditionally been one of India's strong suits in both the Olympic and Paralympic arenas. In Paris, India's para-shooters continued their stellar run from previous Games. Avani Lekhara, a name that had already become synonymous with Indian Paralympic shooting, won gold in the women's 10m air rifle standing SH1 category. Avani's calm demeanor and laser-focused concentration were on full display as she once again climbed to the top of the podium. This win made her a two-time Paralympic champion and reinforced her place among the world's elite shooters.

India's shooting success didn't end there. Manish Narwal, competing in the men's 10m air SH1 pistol event, clinched silver, narrowly missing out on gold. His performance was another testament to India's dominance in precision sports, along with Rubina Francis in the same women's 10m air pistol category clinched bronze in shooting. India witnessed some historic milestones in the Paralympics event. For the first time India won 17 medals in athletics, with Dharambir winning gold and Pranav Soorma taking silver in the men's club throw F51 event. Dharambir also established a new Asian record of 34.92 metres. Later, Praveen Kumar set an Asian record by winning the high jump T64 championship, giving India its sixth gold medal at the Paralympics. Mariyappan Thangavelu became the first Indian to win medals at three successive Paralympic Games when he won a bronze in the T42 high jump event. He took home silver in Tokyo 2020 and gold in Rio 2016. With a personal best time, Preethi Pal won bronze in the women's 100-meter T35 competition. It was the first-ever medal for India in a Paralympic track event. Being the only athlete from India to win two medals at the Games, her bronze in the 200m made her the most successful competitor. India finished the



Paris 2024 track season with four medals overall. Among them was Deepthi Jeevanji, who won a bronze in the women's 400m T20 class to become the first intellectually disabled Indian athlete to earn a Paralympic medal. In archery, records were also broken. In the ranking round, armless archer Sheetal Devi in short time broke the world record before coming in second. However, she later joined up with Rakesh Kumar to win the compound mixed team qualifying event with a world record score. Together with Rakesh, Sheetal, at just 17 years old, won bronze in the mixed team event to become the youngest medalist from India ever. Eventually, Harvinder Singh became the first-ever Paralympic archery champion for India.

Another athlete who made headlines was Sumit Antil, the javelin thrower who had previously set a world record in Tokyo 2020. In Paris, Sumit not only defended his title but also shattered his own record, throwing an unbelievable 70 meters in the F64 category. His performance earned him his second consecutive Paralympic gold, establishing him as a global force in the sport.

Delhi boy Navdeep Singh genetically short in height 4ft tall



“ DELHI BOY NAVDEEP SINGH GENETICALLY SHORT IN HEIGHT 4FT TALL (DWARFISM) NAVDEEP WHO HAILS FROM HARYANA EMPLOYED AS INSPECTOR IN THE INCOME TAX DEPARTMENT. THE 23 YEAR OLD WON A HISTORIC GOLD IN DAY BEFORE THE CLOSING CEREMONY OF PARIS PARALYMPICS. FROM BEING BULLIED TO NATIONAL CHAMPION AT F41 JAVELIN THROW EVENT WHICH WAS A ASTONISHING TURN OF EVENT BEFORE THE PODIUM AFTER HE WAS CONFIRMED TO SILVER MEDAL HIS IRANIAN COMPETITOR GOT DISQUALIFIED BEFORE HIS THROW WHICH AUTOMATICALLY UPGRADED HIM TO GOLD MEDAL. ”

(Dwarfism) Navdeep who hails from Haryana employed as Inspector in the Income Tax Department. The 23 year old won a historic gold in day before the closing ceremony of Paris Paralympics. From being bullied to national champion at F41 Javelin throw event which was a astonishing turn of event before the podium after he was awarded to silver medal his Iranian competitor got disqualified before his throw which automatically upgraded him to gold medal. There are ups and downs, there are also descents, Suyash Jadhav, (Asian para games gold medalist) in the men's 50m butterfly (S7) fell short in the competition finished fifth in Heat 1 with time 33.47 although he didn't qualify for final but his fight against the strong contenders from the U.S. and Ukraine gave a solid remark of ginger to younger athletes. IAS officer Suhas Yathiraj came in Paris to achieve the previous best in Tokyo Paralympics 2020 but restricted to silver medal in SL4 badminton. After returning from Paris on Tuesday with India's best ever medal tally ever (29) and ranked 18th on team's tally athletes received grand welcome surrounded



by huge numbers of supporters greeted with showering of flowers on them. The Indian contingent met Prime Minister Narendra Modi at his residence on Thursday in New Delhi, where PM Modi interacted with all para-athletes of Indian contingent and congratulating the medal winners of Paris Paralympics 2024. Athletes shared their journeys and challenges to overcome the stereotypes of the society. Paralympic Gold Medalist Avani Lekhara gifted her signed jersey to PM Modi. Rewards were announced by Union Sports Minister Mansukh Mandaviya of 75 lakh to gold-medallists, 50 lakh to silver winners and 30 lakh to bronze-medallists in the games and pledges full support from Government for the LA 2028 campaign. While the Paris 2024 Paralympics was a roaring success for India, it also showed the challenges that continue to plague the country's para-sporting ecosystem. Access to training, medical support, and sponsorships remains uneven, with athletes in rural areas particularly disadvantaged. A Movement, not just Medals Paris 2024 Paralympics should not be seen as an isolated success but as part of a larger movement towards inclusion, empowerment, and equality. India's Paralympians have shown that they are not defined by their disabilities but by their abilities. Their victories are symbolic of a changing India, one that is slowly

but surely starting to embrace diversity in all its forms. As India commemorates this new chapter in athletic prowess, the effect of these players will continue to resonate, pushing the Government to provide greater support, recognition, and growth for para-sports. India's achievement at the Paralympics is more than simply a moment of glory; it is the start of a future in which the country's differently-abled athletes will continue to smash barriers, demonstrating that with spirit and drive, nothing is impossible. Famous Columnist Akhileshwar Sahay stated in his article Khel Vaani India's Paralympic Rise: A Beacon for a More Inclusive Future

NEXT STOP: MISSION TOP FIVE AND MISSION INCLUSIVE REVOLUTION
It's time to jumpstart two missions to be accomplished in four years: Mission Top Five Rank at Los Angeles and Mission Inclusive Revolution to make India disabled-friendly. For the first mission, India must broaden its participation base across the 550 events—both in terms of events participated in and the number of sportspersons per event. No country has a larger pool of disabled individuals than India, with "55 to 90 million," according to a recent World Bank estimate. This demographic presents a potential goldmine of "Khojo-Paralympians" and a driving force for "Khelo Paralympics". The lowest-hanging fruit? Track and field events, where the investment per sportsperson is low and the potential return high. All Bharat needs to join the elite Top 5 club is 100 medals at the Los Angeles 2028 Paralympics. It's eminently doable, and the time starts now. Considering that in the last three years (2021-2024), between Tokyo and Paris, Indian Paralympians have amassed 48 medals, 100 medals in 2028 is not a far-fetched dream.

VENKATAGIRI LOOMS REAWAKEN

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Venkatagiri, a small town in Tirupati district that has a history stretching back to the 1700s, was formerly well-known for producing fine-count cotton sarees, sometimes referred to as “woven air.” These sarees have borne high as the 200s. In order to revitalise the Venkatagiri cluster, WeaverStory has collaborated with Tata Trusts’ Antaran for a number of months. In the first stage of this project, team Antaran collaborated with past Venkatagiri saree purchasers and conducted archive and museum research in order to document the revival designs in Andhra Pradesh. The cluster’s lost design language is being revived along with the recreation of these sarees with the help of what’s known to be as *The Venkatagiri Revival Project*.

Nishant Malhotra, CEO of WeaverStory, points out in an exclusive interview that “Tata Trust had long-term plans for the Venkatagiri project. In order to gather information, they essentially began to establish archives, go over some old designs that were found in a few books, or make contact with persons who had possessed a portion of Venkatagiri throughout their lifetime. Therefore, it was intriguing that Venkatagiri itself was being taken over, as documentation is a crucial component that is lacking in the majority of clusters. As a result, the tradition that you are familiar with erodes with each weaver or craftsman that continues to do so. Thus, the craft involves a number of people. Thus, it’s not only a weaver; you also know how the pattern was intended to be made, how the loom was set up and what the dyeing and other processes entail. Every situation presents a difficulty. Each of them therefore needs a specific set of skills and what made them intriguing was that they were prepared to put in the

time and energy to have that documented. We have therefore endeavoured to bring back to life a few more weaving traditions in Banaras and other states as well. It was noteworthy that the Tata Sons had started these weaving traditions in the southern region of India and that they had been chronicled.”

The cluster was eventually exposed to the Jamdani weaving technique, which the weavers took up and adapted to become their own. They created a distinctive language of buttas with flora and fauna that covered cotton fabrics in the Jamdani style, taking inspiration from commonplace objects. “Ann buttas” became the nickname for these unusual buttas. In order for the design he selected to succeed, it required a steady market. Therefore, even when it is produced and documented by CSR funding, if there is no means of support, it will remain a one-time event and eventually perish. That is what he kind of did, saying that since that is his area of expertise and he has connections in 20 various countries, Nikhil used to reunite with hands in order to bring that presentation and documentation to life and to an increasing number of individuals, which is how he has been involved in this entire adventure. “While Venkatagiri, originally known as

Kalimiri, is known for its weaving and the cluster has a rich history of its own, many of the forms and weaves that I previously mentioned have been lost to time or burned because they were unsure if it was grafts that they had inherited. Some of them, due to their age, had pure zari. Having said that, the tradition for its revival that we carried out was that Venkatagiri was typically worn by very powerful individuals due to its high cost and the usage of gold zaris. As a result, there was a clear distinction that anyone wearing Venkatagiri belonged to the officer class or hierarchy throughout the ecosystem. That’s why I believe Tata Trust also took the initiative to contact the owners of those, working with the Craft Council to gather samples and

gain an understanding of their culture.” However, a lot of it cannot be immediately replicated in the current structure for the craftsman’s speed because it requires a lot of work and skill to weave a 300 count cotton sari; as a result, they have progressed him from a 70 to 100 count right now. They therefore have some modern adaptations, but as Nikhil pointed out, they are still in the process of getting there because the handlooms that are currently in use were made using a structure that requires some time to develop because few people are able to create the same handloom using the same structure. They discovered that the Tata Trust was able to find a single individual who, you know, made them a loom. After that individual became skilled enough to utilise the loom to manufacture an increasing amount, they increased the quantity. Therefore, the process of bringing it back will require several levels of intervention, and it will take time. That is not the conclusion.

The Venkatagiri weavers lost contact with their traditional design language due to the introduction of the powerloom, the drop in cotton’s value, and a change in market preference toward Banarasi, Kanchipuram and Paithani patterns. In order to fit within the budget of a typical cotton saree, they were obliged to switch to weaving silks, completely giving up real zari and lowering the quality of their cotton to thicker counts, which ultimately led to their demise. When they decided the designs they wanted to work on and learned the backstories of each design, they came together. The decision to intervene and create something in silk was made jointly since silk is more widely accepted. Moreover, we hear, “Some of the interventions we made included designing the designs in silk rather than cotton to give them a more modern feel and we thought carefully about the colour palettes we selected, taking into account what is more likely to be worn by people in general and by Kanchivaram wearers in particular. The other aspect is that, as I already mentioned, the majority of empty caskets used to contain solely pure zari, or actual, genuine gold and silver.”

The weavers who have stopped weaving, or those who have always believed that Venkatagiri is no longer alive, are restricted to weaving the standard sarees that they are currently making, which resemble toggles and everything else they weave. They have returned to their own origins and all those things have changed. An increasing number of weavers are being taught how to set up the loom used to make Venkatagiri sarees now. In practice, the social and especially the economic impact will be widely apparent if it becomes a large-scale project, on which they are currently working.



WEEKLY HOROSCOPE

SEPTEMBER 15 - 21



ARIES
Keep calm with siblings. Your drive ensures success. Emotions may affect health, so stay mindful. Stay focused and communicate effectively to avoid setbacks.

TAURUS
Your charm attracts others and your loyalty brings support. Stay calm in emotional situations and manage insecurity. Be cautious with money in the coming trips.

GEMINI
Your generosity attracts others, but avoid pessimism. Focus on introspection for joy. Balance moneymaking with creativity. Students should prioritize their studies.

CANCER
Improve communication with siblings to avoid conflicts. Prioritize health, work, and family time. Stay focused, avoid rash decisions, and use your energy wisely.

LEO
Relax as your hard work pays off. Stay calm, avoid emotional blowups, and focus on self-care. Women enjoy appreciation, and it’s time to express love.

VIRGO
You’re energetic and successful. Beware of impulsive spending and relationship issues. Stay hopeful, take a break and focus on meaningful connections.

LIBRA
Your energy attracts others, but avoid laziness. Offer support and stay self-reliant. Your efforts may be misunderstood; recognition will come eventually.

SCORPIO
Your support benefits others and yourself. Avoid rash actions and ego-driven behaviour. Stay positive and define goals. Balance freedom with responsibilities.

SAGITTARIUS
Your tenacity drives success, but expect challenges and delays. Co-workers will support your goals. Focus on health and financial planning for better outcomes.

CAPRICORN
Your restlessness hinders harmony. Siblings support your dreams and family time is key. Resolve spousal misunderstandings and embrace new opportunities.

AQUARIUS
Be cautious of newfound attractions; they may cloud judgment. Focus on self-improvement and address relationship boredom. Watch out for health issues.

PISCES
Be cautious with new attractions and verify before committing. If life feels chaotic, reflect calmly. Offer support to dear ones and address relationship doubts.



SCULPTURAL CANDLE COLLECTION
Seva Home proudly presents its latest collaboration with the celebrated artist Viraj Khanna. This exclusive partnership has birthed a limited edition of sculptural candles, where art meets functionality, seamlessly blending tradition with modernity. It is a confluence of tradition and modernity.

PAYAL SINGHAL X MYARAA BY NAMRATA LODHA
Designer Payal Singhal partners with Myaraa to unveil the exquisite ‘Blossom’ hats collection, merging Myaraa’s innovative headwear design with her aesthetic of timeless Indian artistry. This partnership brings the best of Myaraa’s contemporary hat design with Singhal’s signature blend of heritage and modernity, resulting in a collection that’s both stylish and sustainable. The ‘Blossom’ collection is more than just headwear—it is a statement that celebrates nature’s beauty, Indian craftsmanship and contemporary design.

BIO-ESSENCE AGE’ LUXE PRO-INTENSIVE EYE+ THERAPY
Experience Bio-essence Age’ Luxe Pro-Intensive Eye+ Therapy, a rejuvenating 3-minute boost for tired eyes. The Duo LED Applicator, featuring red and blue lights, reduces eye bags in just 8 days. Red light enhances circulation, diminishing wrinkles, while blue light promotes antibacterial benefits for smoother eye contours.

MRP: INR 4599

YARDLEY LONDON’S FLORAL GIFT COLLECTION
The Yardley London Floral Gift Collection is a delightful assortment of fragrant products designed to immerse you in the beauty of blooming flowers. Each item has been meticulously crafted to provide an indulgent experience.

MRP: INR 799

WHAT’S NEW

JEANNOT CEUTICALS INTENSE FIRING AMPOULE
Experience transformative radiance with Jeannot Ceuticals Intensive Skin Renewal Ampoule. Unleash the power of rejuvenation with this ampoule, a skincare marvel designed to visibly transform your skin and elevate its vitality. It goes beyond traditional skincare, offering a multi-faceted approach that deeply hydrates, plumps, smoothens and firms your skin.

Price - Rs 1,340

MICHAEL KORS’S EXCLUSIVE COLLECTION
In a groundbreaking move that redefines the luxury watch landscape in India, Bollywood’s leading actor and Michael Kors watch ambassador Anushka Sharma unveiled her exclusive limited-edition timepiece. The collaboration marks a historic moment as it is the first time a female Indian celebrity has launched a commercially available signature watch.

SUSTAINABLE LUXURY WITH PRACTICALITY
Marigold Satchel Bag by EUME, is a perfect blend of sustainable luxury and practicality. Meticulously crafted from premium vegan leather and lined with jacquard polysatin, this handbag offers both elegance and durability while being eco-conscious. The sophisticated design is highlighted by dome stud embellishments, adding a refined touch to any festive outfit.

CHARMING GROOMING GIFT
The Enchanteur Charming Gift Bag is a stylish, easy-to-carry pouch packed with their most loved bath and body essentials.

MRP: INR 799



CHAT-O-CINO

EVENT COVERAGE

|| MUKTI MOHAN: || SEQUEL TO GYAARAH GYAARAH UNDERWAY!

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Actress Mukti Mohan has been trying out some extreme appearances. Well, into the world of the web, she's already creating a mark, especially with her latest performance in Zee5 original series *Gyaarah Gyaarah*.

"I really wanted to give my performance in *Gyaarah Gyaarah* more nuance," reveals Mukti, in an exclusive chat with *The Pioneer*, as she candidly speaks to us about the series, which also stars Dhairya Karwa and Raghav Juyal. "Readers, let me tell you that I am from Delhi and that I completely comprehend the feelings and experiences that ladies have when they cannot walk freely through the streets. That over there is scary, dude! Why women are not safe in our country is something I detest. Why, in your opinion, are so many Me Too and Hema Committee reports making a comeback? For the character, I was living in a similar parallel universe and worrying about what would happen to me in a bad situation." Yes, that's how far an actor is sometimes expected to go to really inhabit the part.

However, she is a very upbeat woman in real life! She needed to actually feel unsafe in order to proceed with the depiction. For the actress, Dhairya Karwa's entire plot of the series added to its intensity. Through the combination of dancing and death, the director allowed her to pass away in the series like a phoenix! He is the one who brought popularity to this series, feels the choreographer-turned-actress.

"If the truth is to be known, I had no projects under my belt at the start of last year. My plate was empty! The very first project that I shot and signed was *Gyaarah Gyaarah*. Who

Actress Mukti Mohan, who has currently been making some remarkable appearances, speaks to *The Pioneer* about getting on board for her latest *Gyaarah Gyaarah* series and more around it

would refuse Karan Johar or Guneeet Monga? Go check out their filmography, please. I just signed *Gyaarah Gyaarah* without knowing how many scenes there would be or what role I would play. I basically jumped right in, giving my story an emotional twist and the idea of time travel," shared *Life the Hill Gayi* fame.

She continues, "Filmmakers are now noticing me at my plays, but before that, I used to wonder why I wasn't making it through the audition process. It caused me to doubt my abilities! I began to realise that it was time for me to take grooming classes. But in terms of successful meetings and auditions, last year proved to be a good run for me. In the past month, three of my series were released back-to-back, thanks to a series of miracles."

She had chills when shooting *Gyaarah Gyaarah* in the rugged environment! While at Mussorie, she saw everything from the flurry of activity to an abrupt quiet. She admired the numerous waterfalls there once more. She felt the water shoot shiver down her spine. The excitement of being abducted was greatly increased by that atmosphere. She chuckled, saying that the location would never be the same for her because a little Mukti who used to visit and adore Kempt Falls is now afraid of it.

The actress concludes by saying, "*Gyaarah Gyaarah* took years to be formed. I can personally attest that, despite being a Korean remake, it is far superior to the original! My director substituted a character for me in the original and it worked out well for us. A sequel is on the way for all of you!

However, I'm done with this persona."



Three-day conclave showcases art, innovation & sustainability

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Attending the Transforming India Conclave at SSVN Institutions in Coimbatore was nothing short of extraordinary. The three-day event was a dazzling display of creativity, culture and intellectual discourse, wrapped in the overarching theme of "Resilient Today, Sustainable Tomorrow." As I walked through the gates, the air was charged with anticipation and it was clear that something truly special was about to unfold.

The event kicked off with a grand inauguration by none other than Wing Commander Rakesh Sharma, India's first astronaut. Listening to him share his incredible journey into space felt surreal, as if he was transporting us beyond the earth's atmosphere with each word.

The day also featured an insightful session by Palki Sharma, the renowned journalist, who spoke about the power of storytelling in shaping our world. Her experiences in the field were eye-opening, reminding us of the impact media can have.

Dr. Manimekalai Mohan, the founder and managing trustee of SSVN Group of Institutions, also took the stage to passionately advocate for environmental responsibility. Her words resonated deeply, emphasising the urgency of sustainable actions for our planet's future.

Each speaker brought a unique perspective, making the first day a remarkable blend of history, innovation and a call to action for a sustainable tomorrow.

From there, the event only soared higher. The first performance I witnessed was by "The Miracle on Wheels" company. Watching these extraordinary individuals perform intricate dance routines on wheelchairs was nothing short of breathtaking. Their fluid movements, combined with sheer determination, embodied the essence of resilience. I found myself deeply moved, realising that they were not just dancing—they were redefining the boundaries of possibility.

The event then took a beautifully traditional turn with a fusion dance performance that blended the grace of Bharatnatyam with contemporary dance. The dancers moved with such precision and emotion that I could almost feel the energy pulsating through the air. It was a visual and cultural feast, perfectly balancing tradition with modernity.

One of the most visually stunning moments was the multi-sensory, multimedia act. It was more than just a performance; it was an immersive experience that engaged all my senses. The integration of light, sound, and movement was seamless, creating a spectacle that was both mesmerising and mind-bending. It felt like being transported into another dimension—a true feast for the eyes and soul.

The artistic flair of the event was further enriched by the "Art for Change" installations by Sylvi. Each piece was a conversation starter, using art to provoke thought and inspire change. As I wandered through the installations, I found myself engaging with the narratives they presented—each one challenging me to reflect on the world in new ways.

Workshops at the event were just as inspiring. Rajiv Kriplani's session on next-level content creation was a masterclass in creativity and innovation. His insights into the evolving digital landscape were not only informative but also deeply motivating, sparking new ideas on how to approach content creation in this ever-changing world.

"Power Up with Nature" by Arun Rebero was another stand-out workshop, offering a refreshing take on the connection between nature and human well-being. Through hands-on activities and insightful discussions, I was reminded of the importance of reconnecting with the natural world—a message that feels more urgent than ever in our technology-driven lives.



The evening reached a soothing crescendo with Voctronica's performance. Their harmonies were enchanting, blending seamlessly to create an auditory experience that was both calming and exhilarating. It was a moment of pure musical bliss, leaving me in a state of serene contentment.

For those passionate about photography, Amar Ramesh's workshop was an absolute gem. His ability to blend technical knowledge with artistic vision was inspiring, making it clear that photography is not just about capturing a moment but about telling a story. I left the workshop eager to apply his teachings to my own work.

As the event continued, Rakesh Sharma's words resonated through the halls: "There's an American expression called 'gobsmacked,' and ever since I've arrived here, that's exactly how I feel." His sentiment was shared by everyone present, as we marveled at the grandeur and inspiration that the conclave had to offer.

The second day brought even more wonder. It

began with an engaging sand art performance by Nitish Bharathi, once again captivating the audience with his storytelling in sand. His ability to convey complex narratives through such a simple medium was nothing short of magical. It was as if he were painting with grains of time, meticulously crafting the entire journey of SSVN in sand. His artistry was mesmerising, with each flick of sand revealing intricate images that told the story of the institution's history and achievements. The silence in the room was palpable, broken only by the collective gasp as his masterpiece unfolded.

Timothy Pinnow's session on the differences and similarities between studying in India and abroad was another enlightening experience. His talk urged us to broaden our horizons, to think beyond borders and to embrace the global opportunities that education can offer.

The day also included a unique photography workshop that blended science and art in a way that was both enlightening and engaging. It was a reminder of the intricate balance between technical skill and creative vision—an enriching experience for photographers of all levels. Environmental conservation took center stage with Arun Krishnamurthy's session. His journey from Google to cleaning India's lakes was both inspiring and eye-opening. His wit and wisdom made the session not just educational but also deeply personal, as he shared his passion for protecting our ecosystems.



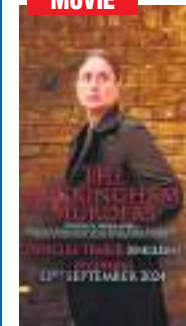


Another workshop, "No Oil, No Boil" by Siva Kumar-Padyal, was a culinary revelation. He demonstrated how delicious and nutritious meals can be prepared without oil or boiling, offering a fresh perspective on healthy cooking. It was an eye-opener for health-conscious participants, including myself.

The second day of the Transforming India Conclave at SSVN Institutions was just as compelling, bringing together luminaries from diverse fields. The day kicked off with Srikanth Bolla, the renowned industrialist from his very own Machilipatnam, who delivered an inspiring lecture. His journey, from overcoming personal challenges to leading a successful enterprise, was a proof of resilience and determination. Listening to him, I couldn't help but feel a surge of motivation as he shared valuable insights on leadership and innovation. But the true crescendo of the event came with Suhani Seth's performance. The mentalist, magician, and YouTube sensation delivered a spellbinding act that blended mind games with magic, leaving us all both entertained and astounded. Her charisma and skill were unmatched, making her performance the perfect end to an extraordinary event.

Adding a literary flair to the day, Dr. Shashi Tharoor virtually launched his latest book, *A Wonderland of Words: Around the Word in 101 Essays*. His conversation with Ms. Shoma Chaudhury was profound, emphasising the power of ideas and the role of thought leadership in building a resilient nation. His words left us with much to ponder, reminding us that resilience is as much about intellectual and moral strength as it is about material prosperity.

As the curtains fell on the Transforming India Conclave, I was filled with a renewed sense of purpose. SSVN Institutions had created not just an event but a platform where ideas flourished, dreams were nurtured and the seeds of a sustainable future were sown. The experience was nothing short of transformative—a celebration of the resilience and creativity that will undoubtedly shape our tomorrow.



TRENDING	<p>PERSON</p> <p>ARVIND KEJRIWAL</p>  <p>The Supreme Court on Friday granted bail to Delhi chief minister Arvind Kejriwal in the excise policy case.</p>	<p>VIDEO</p> <p>UNEQUAL TREATMENT AT LALBAUGHCHA RAJA</p>  <p>In one video, a long line of devotees was filmed being shoved and manhandled by workers at the Lalbaughcha Raja Sarvajani Ganeshotsav Mandar, while a VIP family leisurely took pictures in front of the iconic idol.</p>	<p>MOVIE</p> <p>THE BUCKINGHAM MURDERS</p>  <p>In <i>The Buckingham Murders</i>, an English-Hindi thriller centred on motherhood, mourning and murder, there is nary a flaw in Kareena Kapoor's performance. She nails the role with admirable felicity.</p>	<p>SONG</p> <p>MANASILAYO</p>  <p><i>Manasilayo</i> release has been met with enthusiastic praise, particularly highlighting Manju Warrier's dynamic presence.</p>	<p>PICTURE</p> <p>ASTRONAUT CAPTURED IMAGE OF NYC FROM SPACE AFTER 9/11 ATTACK</p>  <p>On the 23rd anniversary of the September 11 attacks, NASA released a letter from the only American astronaut in space at the time who was reflecting on witnessing the tragedy from ISS.</p>
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Scaling heights of world music

with LSD



WHEN HOME WAS INVADED & BURNED

Our home was invaded and set on fire in 1958 during the racial riots. We left everything behind as we escaped Sri Lanka and made our way back to Madras. We had to flee since everything was so awful and we made our way to a military facility by walking through a forest. One of the daughters of military officers was being taught by my father. During the severe riots, we spent a month there before departing for India and arriving in Madras. That was in 1958.



GREW UP IN LOVING AND TRANQUIL HOME

As a child, I was quite composed. My mother would show me the moon while holding me by the waist. She used to show birds to me. She used to feed me rice after feeding the birds, one grain at a time. With an indulgent mother, I grew up in a really loving and tranquil home. Except for music, I never did well in school; I never enjoyed learning and I had no desire to attend college or university. I used to be Loyola College's number fifty-eighth out of sixty. However, I consistently represented our college and won accolades in every music competition. Thus, I managed to get away with it. They made me study physics because my father wanted me to have a second career. However, I never really liked it and thought it was a waste of time because I wanted to dedicate more time to music. The issue, in my opinion, is that parents in India and other cultures occasionally want their children to pursue their own goals. Really, you just have to let them be. Painting, art, poetry and music are all things we should support in children. For me, in order to be free to pursue my musical goals, I had to leave India. My father -- whom I do not hold responsible -- wanted to make sure that I had a backup career even though I was playing a lot in India.



My mother is from Ernakulam, my father is from Alleppey and I am from Kerala. All of my grandparents originated in Kerala. Thus, I was there for a long time. However, I also spent a few years growing up in Sri Lanka from the age of three, while my father was a professor at Jaffna College of Music. Later, I relocated to Madras (now Chennai). My father was a violinist and vocalist, while my mother was a singer and veena musician. His brothers, who are all musicians, were all trained by him. In addition, he instructed thousands of students from other locations. Thus, music was played throughout day and night. It resembled a musical temple.

HOME A TEMPLE OF MUSIC

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LOWEST POINT OF HIS LIFE

The world stopped during the Covid pandemic, everything halted and my musical tour was cancelled, which was the lowest point. After working with numerous superstar musicians and progressive rock musicians to finish my album *Chapleeri Dream*, my record company informed me that I could not go on tour at this time. Nevertheless, I put the CD out. Although a lot of shows were postponed, it was the lowest point but studio work continued and the music continued.



STUDIED ETHNOMUSICOLOGY FOR HIS PH D

Everyone was trying to be the first to get things going or be competitive, which is why there was so much turmoil at once. For me, there was never any rivalry because everything I needed was already there; all I had to do was to continue honing my craft, pursue my love and practice a lot. I believe that everyone is part of God's plan. I just went after what I wanted. I have always been fascinated by the cooperation between world music's east and west as well as south and north. Because my father exposed me to a wide variety of music, I have always educated myself. In addition, I studied ethnomusicology for my Ph D, learning about the music of other cultures. There is a wealth of music available in every culture and nation; no system is greater than the others. Only two types of musicians exist: excellent and terrible. Among the best systems are others and Indian music. Learning all these many elements would undoubtedly strengthen someone's ability to develop into a unique, innovative and creative musician. My father urged me to take in elements of both south Indian and north Indian music traditions. I had been exposed to a variety of Western genres since my early teens, including rock and pop music and he was also counseled to familiarise myself with Western classical music. I studied world music and became familiar with several cultural musical systems while attending Wesleyan University.

RAPID FIRE

Your pinch-me moment of life: When I had to leave to the US for the first time, leaving my family...
 The latest thing you discovered about yourself: I enjoy cooking, I'm not a great cook but it's a peaceful time and that makes me happy.
 A musician that inspires you: Elvis Presley, Palghat Mani Iyer
 Proudest moment of your career: Every time I play a concert, that's the proudest moment for me.
 Favourite city/country to stay in: I have lived in so many countries, but the stage is my favourite place to be.

INVENTING CUSTOM STEREOPHONIC DOUBLE VIOLIN

I over-dubbed my vocals, violin, viola, cello and bass when I was in a London studio recording my first solo album for Zappa Records, which was produced by Frank Zappa. I used to own several violins for my various musical endeavours, including classical music for Shakti and other rock bands. Having to carry so much equipment was challenging. In order to play on the same instrument for every genre, I intended to design a single instrument. For this reason, I created the LSD, or L. Shankar's Double Violin! I spent two years perfecting the prototype's angle and separation between the two necks. It can produce the full spectrum of an orchestra in addition to the sounds of many other instruments, like the flute, guitar and synthesiser. I have the ability to play on one neck while the other produces a sympathetic sound. For many years, it has been such a wonderful instrument. I currently own the fourth edition of it. The instrument was first heard on Shankar's album *Who's to Know* and Phil Collins' critically acclaimed solo album *Face Value* in 1981. He ensured that both necks were equally robust to prevent a tendency to play on one more often than the other after he and Parker tested a variety of materials and shapes for hours. When playing, the horizontal rib can be placed under the chin or, in the Indian manner, pressed up against the chest. The bowing was different because of the instrument's wider angle and I added new methods, such as playing on both necks at once. Because the double violin can simulate the sound of an entire orchestra, it can be used for both pop and jazz genres as well as traditional classical performances. The double violin has been commissioned by Shankar four times to date; the most recent version was created by luthier John Jordan and is available now.



FIRST CONCERT AT NALLUR KANDASWAMY TEMPLE

At the age of two, I started singing lessons with my father. I was able to hum intricate lines from classical Indian melodies in less than a year. My father, who can sing in five and a half octaves, frequently stresses the value of vocal training in addition to mastering an instrument in order to better understand Indian music's embellishments. "It makes you a better performer if you learn vocals and instruments and get an all-around education in music," he underlines often. I was five years old when I got my first violin and when I started playing, I rehearsed vocal melodies that I had learnt. My first public performance was at the Nallur Kandaswamy temple in Jaffna at a festival when I was seven years old. Until the age of 12 years, I pursued professional mridangam playing in addition to singing and violin playing. My father was adamant that you learn percussion in addition to your melodic instrument. However, as I started to get calluses on my hands, I had to stop at my father's advice!



CHEATED WITHIN MUSIC BUSINESS

Although there are always wonderful people in the world, the music business is also full of crooks! Young musicians should frequently seek guidance if they are unsure, as they are frequently taken advantage of and the record business essentially keeps all the money while the musicians receive none. They must become knowledgeable about copyright, song registration and consulting with lawyers to ensure that they are not deceived into believing that someone else is the singer. With my music, I have also been cheated and taken advantage of a lot. These things regrettably do occur and at the time I was quite innocent and focused solely on writing, composition and music. I would like to know the opposite viewpoint. The fact that your music cannot be taken away is a plus. I consider myself to be a full-fledged musician as I have always been at ease with writing, creating, arranging, and playing the violin. Both the music and I have been served by it.

MEETING JOHN LENNON

I'll tell you about John Lennon. I met him during George Harrison's tour at a party at the Plaza Hotel. It was amazing to meet every single one of the stars and throngs of people that were present. This occurred following the Madison Square Garden event! We are all different sections of the same tree, which makes me feel extremely at ease with the media. They are educating the public in the same way that I am and they are also doing a fantastic job of sharing the information with the public in order to help me promote my music. They hold great significance.



CHART TOPPERS & LEGENDARY COLLABS

My talam-bending *Pancha Nadai Pallavi* CD from 1990 is the first traditional Indian record to hit the top ten world music chart on Billboard for three months. My 1995 album *Raga Abheri* received a Grammy Award nomination for Best World Music Album. I collaborated with Peter Gabriel on Peter Scorsese's *The Last Temptation of Christ* (1988) soundtrack, Mel Gibson's *The Passion of the Christ* (2004), which took home the Instrumental Album of the Year Dove Award at the 36th GMA Dove Awards and the Grammy-winning album *Passion* (1989). Alongside Jonathan Davis and Richard Gibbs, I recorded eight songs for the *Queen of the Damned* soundtrack in 2002; five of those songs were chosen for the feature. In addition, Wendy & Lisa and I worked together on the original soundtrack for the popular TV show *Heroes* on NBC.



HOLIDAYS BEST TIMES OF HIS LIFE

The best times to be with a large family are always during the holidays, New Year's Day, *Deepavali* and other occasions to celebrate. My mother prepared the festive delicacies every time and it was wonderful to spend time as a family. Those were the enjoyable times, but I always understood that my parents were the center of the family as long as they were living. Individuals are similar to distinct fingers on a single hand. Thus, it is possible to have members of the same family who are polar opposites. It becomes difficult to keep your parents together when they move away. That's the way life is!



DAD TAUGHT HIM A LOT ABOUT THE BRITISH IN INDIA

I learned a lot about the British in India from my father. They, in my opinion, exploited India to a great extent and robbed the nation of its wealth and glory. I am aware that they built the railroads and everything else, but they also deserted India, which led to widespread uncertainty among the populace. There were always a lot of Muslims, Hindus amid the unrest. It has always led me to believe that, in one way or another, people are the same everywhere you go. Everybody is the same. Hindus, Muslim and Christians coexisted peacefully in India for ages, but the British attempted to use this situation and devastate the nation. Things were hardly tranquil during the war years while my father lived.



DOESN'T CARE ABOUT AWARDS!

With a busy touring schedule, I spend a lot of time travelling for rehearsals and recording sessions. But I stayed with the same guy within. Because I had no intention of being famous or wealthy when I first started! I don't care about awards and I don't hold onto them. Everything in my storage, including platinum records, accolades and the like, is stored far away. I am just a regular man. There will always be someone better than you, therefore in order to advance, you must put in a lot of practice, dedicate time to your music and work hard. Being at the beach, surrounded by birds and eagles, content, creative and quiet while working on your music is how my blissful weekend looks like. Usually, I work on that at my studio, which is just in front of the water. There, I occasionally have musicians perform with me and it is such a lovely place. Typically, on a tour, you don't have plenty of time, as you will be travelling.

