



SHOP TILL YOU DROP AND CELEBRATE EVERY OCCASION AT THIS SHOPPING MALL

Hyderabad is fast becoming one of the most preferred shopping destinations in the country and adding yet another name to its already flourishing list of avenues is Hyderabad Next Galleria Mall — the newest destination for shoppers in Hyderabad to indulge in some retail therapy.

Situated at three locations in the city — Punjagutta, Hitec City and Irrumanzil, the brand is a part of one of Asia's largest PPP projects — L&T Metro Rail Hyderabad Limited (LTHMRL).

In an endeavour to make a mark among the Hyderabad buyers, the commercial centres have hosted a slew of events in the recent past. Be it the 'The Next Big Door' — a one-of-a-kind do that offers weekly and monthly bumper prizes to patrons, or fashion shows and events such as the 'Hyderabad Singing Talents' on special occasions such as Independence Day and Ugadi, the brand has given customers and retailers in the city a lot of reasons to rejoice in the recent past.

The meet-and-greet event with the heroes of the Hyderabad Franchise during the IPL season to packed stand-up comedy shows, regular events have been huge draws among Hyderabadis at the malls. Not to forget the Diwali and Dasara celebrations, where the commercial centres offer weekly prizes to its patrons and saw one bumper prize winner win a Honda Amaze car last year. Cultural performances during Bathukamma and other activities such as dandiya workshops, diya painting and storytelling have brought various festivals alive throughout the year at the malls. One can never forget the Green Ganesh activity where various celebs visited the malls and interacted with the guests. Be it denizens or visiting tourists, the malls have attracted a sea of customers since they opened in February 2018.

Be it Thanksgiving, Christmas or New Year, the live band performances in the malls too have been a hit with the guests during the winter holidays. And how can one not remember the flat 50% off deals and stunning decorations during



MV Krishna Rao



P Ravi Shankar

Sankranti and Republic Day celebrations? The malls have also been the go-to place during socially-responsible events such as Kargil Vijay Diwas and World Heart Day for their community events such as eye and health check-ups, zumba sessions, cyclathon and mini-marathons, among others. The malls have also been a venue for families to bond during special occasions.

Speaking about the Hyderabad Next Galleria malls, P Ravi Shankar, Vice President & Head — Transit Oriented Development, Project Planning, Control & Contracts, said, "These malls have the intrinsic advantage of strategic location and metrorail interconnect, making them the happening places for premium retail and entertainment."

The malls regularly host the customers with buzzing shopping options, world's yummiest cuisines of food on offer and memorable entertainment experiences! Speaking of which, MV Krishna Rao, Head of Operations and Leasing, said, "We at LTHMRL firmly believe in inclusive growth, which is being achieved through various marketing and customer engagement activity. Since we opened the malls for customers, we are witnessing more than 28% increase in foot falls to our malls every month and businesses have also increased substantially. We are fully confident that all our upcoming events and promotions, loaded with fun and surprises, will entertain our customers. We are also happy to announce that we are opening one more mall at Moosarambagh soon."



Guests at the lucky draw

10 Ways to give your office desk a makeover

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When at work, you spend most of the time at your desk/cubicle. So, instead of letting it look monotonous, why not decorate it like you would deck up your home? Here are a few tips that can help you make your workstation more lively and vibrant.

1 ADD SOME LIGHT
Despite having a brightly lit office, it's a good idea to invest in a nice little lamp to add more warmth and mood lighting to your space. Turning it on even when your office's overhead lights are on will give your desk a completely different feel.

2 KEEP A SHELF FOR DÉCOR
If you have a designated cubicle, cabin or desk, try to have an aesthetic shelf. Put some wicker, coloured paper or crochet balls to give a refreshing appeal to your workspace.

3 HANG FRAMED ART AND PHOTOS
Pin your favourite photos of your family and friends to your cubicle wall. Also, since you spend a considerable amount of time at work, you will need some inspiring, pretty items to gaze upon throughout the day. Choose a variety of sizes of simple, contemporary frames, and fill them with artwork of your choice.

4 ADD FLOWERS FOR FRESHNESS
Fresh blooms add instant beautification to a drab office desk. Try to change them every three-four days. They not only look fresh and pretty, but also act as a mood-lifter.

5 THROW IN A PILLOW
Even if your office chair is comfortable, having your own little pillow changes the game. If the cushion colour is bright-coloured, it brightens up the space. Around 3 pm, when you've been sitting at your desk all day, extra back support seems like a blessing.

6 CHOOSE A COLOUR SCHEME
If you want your work station to stand out, give it a décor colour



BEING SURROUNDED BY YOUR FAVOURITE BOOKS GIVES JOY AND ENCOURAGES BOOKWORMS, WHO ALSO GET A CHANCE TO CRACK THEM OPEN DURING FREE TIME

scheme. For instance, if blue is your favourite colour, make sure everything you buy, from stationary and lamp to artwork should be blue.

7 GET A PLANT
When at work, you might miss soaking in that glorious sunshine and budding greenery outside. So, let the nature come to you. Plants are a perfect way to spruce up the corporate dreariness. Research suggests that plants in offices increase happiness and productivity. Opt for cubicle-friendly plants that are low on

maintenance. For instance, succulents are good for office, because they can adapt to low light and require little maintenance.

8 PERSONAL MUG
To make your cubicle or desk feel your own, have your tea/coffee in a personal mug. You can also bring in a French press. You can set yourself up a little refreshment station for those extra rough hours that call for it.

9 HAVE A FANCY CALENDAR
Most of us have calendars on our desks to keep track of time, remember appointments and follow up with plans. Try to be slightly creative and buy fun calendars to give your workstation a creative touch. From Lego calendars, to those with different geometric shapes, famous paintings or origami — there's no limit to creativity.

10 GET BOOKED
Even if your desk or cubicle is cramped, booklovers will surely find some space that can stack their hardbound friends. Being surrounded by your favourite books gives joy and encourages bookworms, who also get a chance to crack them open during free time. So stack a few of your favourites and current reads and you can completely transform your office space into a sophisticated study.



Here's what you should do with your old spices



If you are cooking something pungent in the kitchen, clear it out afterwards by boiling some oil spices in water. Often the pantry is filled with old dry mustard powder and paprika of doubtful age and origin. And while you may think that it is time to turn it into compost, think again! They might still have some uses around the house.

Spices and herbs change phase states easily and once a spice is harvested, the clock begins ticking as the compounds turn from liquid to gas, reports a study. After a spice is created, it loses much of its potency in a year; and by three years, it needs to be replaced.

However, it does not necessarily mean that old spices should always be discarded. Adding heat can transform the product, enhancing its smell and taste. Often the pantry is filled with old dry mustard powder and paprika of doubtful age and origin. And while you may think that it is time to turn it into compost, think again! They might still have some uses around the house. For attires and books, sachets full of old spice give off their smell over time. For example, spices like cinnamon trick the mind into thinking that it is warmer than it actually is. Similarly, for summer clothes, try dried mint, coriander, or other spices that taste 'cool' to you.

One can also throw the sachets in with stinky clothes

to help bring down the stink. This also works wonderfully well with carpets. One can mix baking soda and spice in a ratio of two parts baking soda to one part spices. Shake it over the carpet, and vacuum it up after a few minutes. If you dislike the smell of vinegar, add a small amount of spices to your homemade cleaner to give it a lift. You can spice up your candles as well, using the infused oils we've described above. Just pour them in with the liquid wax.

Also, dried whole herbs can be used on their own as decoration, and can remain fragrant for a surprisingly long time. They can also be used as colouring agents. One can mix together one cup of flour, 1.25 cups of cold water, and a tablespoon of neutral oil until it's thick enough to paint with. These paints are children-friendly and have a good aroma as well. Some spices, like turmeric, can also be used as dye.

—ANI

Important facts about spices



- India is responsible for 70% of the global spice production. The majority of people in the world have some sort of spice in their home from India!
- In the 4th century bc, black pepper had immense value. The Greeks referred to it as 'black gold'. At this time about 120 ships a year full of spices were consumed by Romans.
- Most historians and scholars agree that Portugal was the first country to discover India. It is said that Vasco de Gama reached India in 1492. He started importing spices from India and would encounter pirates when going back to Portugal. There was a time when spices were more valuable than gold.
- Salt has been produced in India for over 5000 years. During the time of the Spice Route many Roman soldiers were paid their salaries in Salt! This gave birth to the term 'salary'. The phrase 'worth his salt' was also derived from the same context.
- During the 18 Century and after America had established itself as a strong independent country its citizens started dealing directly with Indian farmers in order to bring spices to the west.
- Malaysian and Indonesian food have deep roots in Indian cooking. During the spice route, Indian merchants travelled to these countries and introduced these spices. This accounts for the similarities in many South East Asian dishes.
- When the Arabs took control over Kerala, India during the 6th century BC, they took over the major channel of the spice route. Arab traders kept the profit margin high when selling to their own people and would make up stories about how they got them to deter others from going to India. Legend as it that some Arab merchants told their own citizens that they travelled through jungles and encountered winged creatures and poisonous snakes that they had to fight off in order to get spices.

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