



A Home That Has It All, Including Your Heart



## From the **President's Desk**

As we step into the new year of 2025, I extend my warmest wishes to all of you and your families for a year filled with health, happiness, and success. January marks the beginning of new opportunities, and I am confident that together, we can make this year remarkable for our club.

Bhogi day was celebrated at our club with vibrant energy as large gatherings attended.. Children wore colorful dresses, bringing an extra dose of joy to the festivities, while girls and ladies showcased their elegance in new attire. Boys and men looked dashing in their finest clothes, adding to the charm of the occasion. The entire atmosphere felt lively and cheerful, making Bhogi a true celebration of togetherness and tradition.

I encourage every member to participate actively in the forthcoming events.

Wishing you all a joyous and prosperous year ahead!

Warm regards,



Best Regards **K. Vamsi Kishore** (V-168) 98491 66669

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## Vice-President's Message

A very Happy New Year to you all! As we usher in 2025, I feel immense pride in being part of this wonderful community that has always prioritized unity, learning, and togetherness.

I am so happy for the encouragement given by all of you by participating large number in all our club events conducted in January month. Let us strive to make our club a beacon of inspiration and excellence for others.

I will be more happy if large members contribute your talent to our waltair times.

Looking forward to an extraordinary year with you all!

**Mr. Sista Srinivasa Murthy (Vasu)** (S-422) 9848191313

## **Editors** Message

Dear Members,

A warm welcome to the January 2025 edition of our house journal! As we embark on a new year, I am thrilled to present this issue, which reflects the energy and enthusiasm of our club members.

This edition highlights the remarkable moments of the past year while setting the stage for the exciting plans ahead. From thought-provoking articles and member contributions to glimpses of upcoming events, this journal is a testament to the talent and creativity within our community.

I encourage all members to share their thoughts, ideas, and stories for future editions. Your voices are what make this journal vibrant and meaningful. Let us work together to make this year's publications even more engaging and inspiring.

Wishing you all a prosperous and joyful New Year!

Dr.M.Ramjee R-267 98480 40655





Waltair Times ///

## Hon. Secretary's Message

Greetings to you all as we welcome the first month of 2025! It is both a privilege and a pleasure to serve as the Secretary of our esteemed club. I extend my heartfelt thanks to every member for their unwavering support and active participation in 2024.

January is a month of fresh beginnings and renewed enthusiasm. Our calendar is brimming with activities that cater to diverse interests.

I extend my thanks to all our members and their family members for the encouragement you have given. The large gathering on Bhogi day is an example.

I urge all members to mark your calendars and join us in these endeavours. Your involvement is what makes our club a thriving and dynamic community. Let us make 2025 a memorable year together!

Warm regards,

Secretary

**V.Seetharamaiah** (S-225) 9849691188



## **CAKE SHOP INAUGURATION**





Your Feedback helps us understand what we are doing well and where we can enhance your experience

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## The Flame of New Beginnings: A Modern BHOGI Festival Tale

Once upon a time, in the vibrant land of Andhra Pradesh, there lived a humble farmer named Ramu. He was deeply rooted in his traditions and believed that the Bhogi festival held a special place in cleansing not only homes but also hearts. Bhogi, celebrated on the day preceding Makar Sankranti, symbolized the end of the old and the beginning of the new.

Ramu often narrated the origins of Bhogi to his children. He explained how, in ancient times, Bhogi was celebrated celebrate the festival. Instead of burning plastics or harmful materials in the traditional bonfire, Ramu encouraged them to use dried cow dung cakes, fallen tree branches, and organic waste. The bonfire, now glowing with natural materials, symbolized a pure and harmonious connection with nature.

Children danced around the fire, singing traditional Bhogi songs. Women adorned their homes with beautiful muggu (rangoli) designs, using natural powders and flower petals. Ramu's wife, Lakshmi, prepared a delicious feast, including dishes like pulihora, garelu, and payasam, filling the air with the aroma of festive delights.

As the flames flickered in the night, Ramu addressed the gathering. "Bhogi is not just about burning old things," he said. "It's about burning away old grudges, outdated habits, and negativity from our lives. It's a time to reflect, reset, and rekindle the spirit of togetherness and hope."



to honour Lord Indra, the God of rain and prosperity. Farmers would gather, offering prayers and burning old, unwanted belongings in a bonfire as a symbolic gesture of letting go of the past. It was believed that this act cleared the way for new beginnings, prosperity, and harmony. However, in the modern era, the essence of Bhogi had slightly shifted. With growing concerns about the environment, people began to reimagining the way they celebrated the festival. Ramu, an advocate of sustainable living, decided to inspire his village to celebrate Bhogi in a more eco-friendly manner.

The morning of Bhogi was filled with enthusiasm. As the first rays of the sun painted the sky, villagers gathered to

Inspired by Ramu's words, the villagers pledged to embrace the festival's true essence. They began planting trees as a gesture of renewal and prosperity, vowing to leave a cleaner, greener legacy for future generations.

And so, the modern Bhogi festival became a celebration of harmony, sustainability, and the eternal flame of hope. With every year, the traditions grew richer in spirit, bridging the wisdom of the past with the consciousness of the future, making Bhogi a festival that truly united the hearts of Andhra Pradesh. Festivals are not just about customs but also about evolving to preserve their true essence. Let us celebrate Bhogi every year with responsibly, honouring both tradition and our planet.

## The Kite of Dreams: A Modern Makara Sankranti Tale

In the picturesque villages of Andhra Pradesh, Makara Sankranti has always been a festival of joy, marking the transition of the sun into Makara Rashi (Capricorn) and the end of winter. For centuries, it symbolized the renewal of life, the harvest of crops, and the journey towards longer, brighter days. But this year, for little Megha, a city girl visiting her grandparents in the village where Sankranti was about more than traditions-it was a lesson in community and gratitude. with vibrant powders, giggling as she tried to create her own patterns.

Next came the kite-flying. The village sky turned into a canvas of colours as hundreds of kites soared, their strings cutting through the cool breeze. Megha, guided by her cousins, learned to fly her first kite. "Every kite is like a dream," her cousin told her. "You guide it, let it soar, and protect it from getting cut."

In the afternoon, the family gathered for a sumptuous feast. Megha's grandmother served steaming plates of pulihora (tamarind rice), garelu (lentil fritters), and sweet pongal, a dish made from newly harvested rice and jaggery. Megha marvelled at the flavours, realizing how each dish told a story of the earth's bounty and the farmers' hard work.

The next day, Kanuma, was dedicated to the cattle that played a crucial role in the farmers' lives. The cows and bulls, adorned with colourful garlands and bells, were paraded through the village. Megha couldn't stop admiring



As the first rays of the sun kissed the earth, Megha's grandfather, Raghavaiah, narrated the origins of Sankranti. "Long ago," he began, "it was believed that Sankranti marked the day when the Sun God blessed the earth with warmth and light. For farmers, this was a time of celebration because it meant their hard work had paid off, and the fields were ready for harvest. Over time, this day became a grand festival, symbolizing gratitude to nature."

Megha listened with wide-eyed wonder, eager to experience the festival for the first time in the village. The morning was a riot of colours as the women of the household decorated the courtyard with intricate muggu (rangoli) designs, made with rice flour and adorned with fresh flower petals. Megha joined them, her hands dusty their beauty and joined the other children in feeding them jaggery and bananas.

As the festival came to an end, Megha realized that Sankranti was more than just a celebration. It was a time to connect-with family, nature, and oneself. She promised herself to carry the spirit of Sankranti wherever she went.

On their journey back to the city, Megha told her parents, "Sankranti is like flying a kite. It's about aiming high, letting go of fears, and being thankful for the winds that lift you."

Festivals like Makara Sankranti remind us to cherish the simple joys of life, express gratitude for nature's blessings, and celebrate community and togetherness. Let us carry this spirit forward in everything we do.



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# The Spirit of **KANUMA**:

A Modern Tale of Gratitude



In the serene villages in Andhra Pradesh, Kanuma was not just a festival-it was a day of deep connection and gratitude. For 12-year-old Vasu, who had spent most of his life in a bustling city, Kanuma was a mystery waiting to unfold. This year, his parents had brought him to his ancestral village to experience the festival firsthand.

It was the third day of the grand Sankranti celebrations. Vasu woke up to the rhythmic jingling of bells and the soothing hum of cows mooing. As he stepped outside, the sight left him awestruck. The entire village was alive with festivity-farmers decorating their cattle with colourful garlands, turmeric paste, and kumkum on their foreheads. The cattle, adorned with bright cloths and bells, stood as proud as kings of the fields.

Over breakfast, Vasu's grandfather, Subbaraju, shared the origins of Kanuma. "Kanuma," he began, "is a day dedicated to our cattle, the unsung heroes of farming. Without their toil in plowing the fields, carrying harvests, and providing



milk, our lives would be incomplete. It's our way of thanking them for their service."

The morning's highlight was the Gopuja (cow worship). Villagers gathered near the temple, and Vasu watched in amazement as his cousins performed rituals to honour the cattle. They circled the cows with harathi (a plate with a lamp), offered bananas



and jaggery, and lovingly patted their heads. "Why are we feeding them sweets?" Vasu asked his grandmother. She smiled and said, "Just like we celebrate festivals with sweets, they deserve a treat too!"

As the sun set, the village held a procession. The cattle, now fully adorned and glowing under the golden light, were paraded through the streets. Children like Vasu followed, singing folk songs and playing with the bells tied



to the cows' necks. The procession ended with a bonfire, where the elders shared stories of how Kanuma fostered unity and gratitude among villagers.

By the end of the day, Vasu felt a newfound respect for the bond between humans and animals. "Grandfather," he said as they sat under a starlit sky, "I've never thought about how much cows and bulls do for us. Kanuma is not just a festival-it's a lesson in gratitude."

Subbaraju smiled, his eyes twinkling. "That's the spirit of Kanuma, my boy. It teaches us to honour the smallest contributions in our lives, to recognize that everything we have is a gift."

Kanuma reminds us to respect and value the contributions of animals, especially those that play a vital role in our lives. It's a festival of gratitude, unity, and celebration of the harmony between humans and nature. Let us carry these values forward in our modern world.





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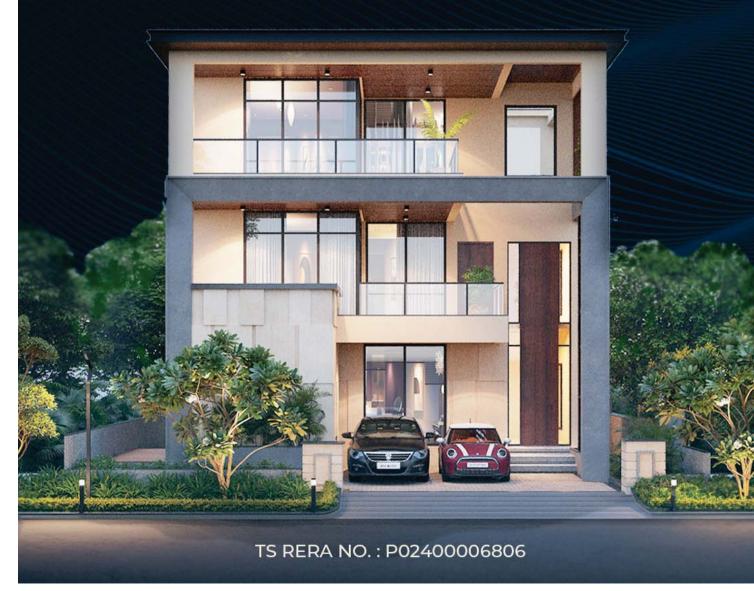


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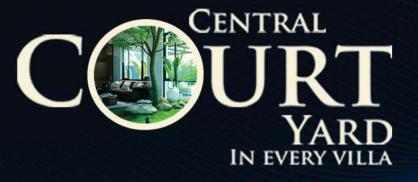
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## Snippets of New Year Celebration

#### on 22nd January 2025.

New year was celebrated grandly on the 22nd of January 2025. It was indeed akin to a festive occasion when distinguished senior citizens gathered to celebrate yet another glorious year adding immeasurable value to their life and to the lives of those around them. To borrow a quote from C S Lewis: "you are never too old to set another goal or to dream a new dream"

The distinguished members have set new goals for the younger generation to follow and emulate. A glimpse into the various activities validates the same.

The entire program was compered by Dr Kalpana. She kept the gathering glued to their seats with her excellent walk through of the events and activities in throughout the evening.

Mrs.Valli Ramgopal the chairman welcomed the gathering with a pleasant and happy demeanor setting the tone for the commencement of the events.

The donors were felicitated and honoured for their generosity, without whose contribution and without whom there would have been no program. The donor names are as follows:

Sri A S N Prasad Dr. Peda Somulu Sri A H N Venkat Rao Sri S V K Raju Sri Muppidi Prabhakar Mrs. Padma T V S Rao Sri Rolland Williams Smt Rama Satyam Smt Mallika Grandhi

Smt Sarvalakshmi and Sri Vijayam

The dancers from Manju Sree Academy mesmerised the audience with their graceful folk dances.

Mind tickling games were conducted by Kavita, Asha and Shobha. The games made the evening lively and merry.

Any occasion stays dull without melodious songs. 'Guess the song and sing' competition was conducted by Kalpana and Shobha.

Guess the Hamper Game was conducted by Kavitha and Sunitha. The game kept the participants agile and on their feet.

Melodious songs in Telugu and Hindi were sung by Mr Prasanna and Mr Murali Krishna and the event was organized by Usha Reddy.

The evergreen Tambola game was organised by Kavita and Asha. Tasty snacks and a delicious, sumptuous dinner kept the spirits high.

Bonfire was the highlight of the event which kept the New Year zeal soaring high.

A delightful number of people spent their precious time at the gathering and stayed till the end of the lively program, enjoying every minute of their stay.

Members of the Senior Citizens Committee participated actively in all the programs of the day.



The Waltair Club Management Committee extended excellent support in organising the event and all the staff members, with their courteous manner rendered faultless service.



## The Torchbearers of the Republic

The morning of January 26th dawned crisp and clear in the bustling city of Hyderabad. As the nation celebrated its 76th Republic Day, Riya, a young entrepreneur and tech enthusiast, stood in her balcony, watching her neighbours hoist the tricolour. The national anthem echoed through the air, filling her heart with pride and stirring a deep sense of responsibility.

Riya was no stranger to the stories of India's freedom struggle, told by her grandfather who had marched alongside leaders like Sardar Patel and Subhas Chandra Bose. But this Republic Day felt different. As she scrolled through her social media feed, she saw countless posts about patriotism, yet also a disturbing number of issues plaguing the modern youth: apathy, brain drain, and the growing allure of comfort over contribution.

Determined to do something impactful, Riya called her closest friends-Arjun, a journalist, Meera, a teacher, and Karan, a software engineer. They decided to spend the day not in leisure, but in action.

Their first stop was a local government school. With Meera taking the lead, they spoke to the students about the significance of Republic Day, the Constitution of India, and the responsibility every citizen holds in shaping the nation. They handed out small booklets filled with stories of unsung heroes of India's freedom struggle, urging the children to draw parallels between the sacrifices of the past and the challenges of the present.

Next, they visited a nearby slum, where Riya and Karan conducted a workshop on basic digital skills, teaching the youth how to use smartphones and the internet to access educational resources. Arjun, with his storytelling prowess,



engaged the residents with tales of resilience and hope, reminding them that every small step towards self-reliance contributes to the nation's progress.

By evening, the group had gathered at a public park where they had organized a unique event-"The Torchbearer's Pledge." Young professionals, students, and families joined them, lighting candles as a symbol of their commitment to India's future. Riya addressed the crowd with a heartfelt speech:

"Republic Day is not just about commemorating the past; it's about envisioning the future. Our forefathers built this

> nation with their sweat and blood. Now, it's up to us, the youth, to carry their legacy forward. Let us not be mere spectators in our country's journey. Let us innovate, educate, and contribute. The India of tomorrow depends on the choices we make today."

> As the candles flickered in the evening breeze, a palpable sense of purpose filled the air. The attendees pledged to dedicate their time and skills to causes close to their hearts-whether it was volunteering in education, working towards environmental conservation, or mentoring underprivileged youth.

> That night, as Riya sat in her room, reflecting on the day's events, she felt a profound sense of fulfillment.

Republic Day was no longer just a ceremonial occasion; it had become a day of action, of rekindling the spirit of patriotism among the modern youth.

And so, the torch was passed-not as a relic of the past, but as a beacon for the future. For Riya and her friends, January 26th became the day they realized that the true essence of being a republic lies in the hands of its peopleespecially the youth, who have the power to redefine its destiny. The strength of a nation lies not just in its history, but in the hands of its people, especially its youth. Every step towards progress, no matter how small, lights the path for a brighter future.



## **Republic Day Celebrations**



#### Waltair Times ///

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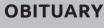






#### **CLUB CALENDAR**

07.02.2025	Friday	Movie	6:30 pm
09.02.2025	Sunday	Sunday Special Tambola	12 noon
14.02.2025	Friday	Movie	6:30 pm
21.02.2025	Friday	Movie	6:30 pm
22.02.2025	Saturday	Tambola	7:30 pm
28.02.2025	Friday	Movie	6:30 pm





We regret to announce the sad demise our member.

Mr. M.S. Raju (S-190) 26-01-2025

#### **STAFF DAY**

















## The Rise of Artificial Intelligence: Friend or Foe?

It was a quiet evening at the Waltair Club when a heated discussion erupted among a group of members. The topic? Artificial Intelligence (AI) and its impact on our daily lives.

Some were excited about the endless possibilities AI offered, while others were sceptical-was it truly a friend, or would it replace human intelligence?

#### A World Transformed by AI

To settle the debate, Mr. Sharma, a retired professor, decided to take everyone on a journey through real-life AI transformations.

#### 1. Healthcare Miracles

In 2016, IBM's AI system, Watson, helped doctors in Tokyo diagnose a rare type of leukaemia in a 60-year-old woman. Traditional methods had failed to identify her condition accurately. Watson analysed20 million medical records in just 10 minutes and found the right treatment, saving her life.

Impact: AI in healthcare is now used for early disease detection, robotic surgeries, and personalized medicine. AI tools like Google's DeepMind are also helping diagnose eye diseases and cancers more efficiently.

#### 2. AI and Disaster Prediction: Preventing Cyclone Casualties

In 2020, Google introduced AI-powered flood forecasting in India. This system analyses weather data and sends early warnings about floods, helping millions of people prepare and evacuate safely.

Impact: AI is being used to predict earthquakes, cyclones, and even pandemics. The AI system BlueDot was one of the first to detect the COVID-19 outbreak, even before the WHO announced it.

#### 3. AI in Self-Driving Cars: A Life-Changing Experience

A blind man named Steve Mahan became one of the first people to experience true freedom with a self-driving car. Steve, who lost 95% of his vision, was able to "drive" a Google Waymo autonomous car without any human assistance.

Impact: AI-powered autonomous vehicles are expected to reduce road accidents, improve traffic management, and make transportation accessible to people with disabilities.

#### 4. in Finance: Detecting Fraud in Seconds

Banks like JPMorgan Chase and HSBC use AI to analyse millions of financial transactions in real time to detect fraud. AI can identify unusual patterns, such as multiple transactions from different locations in a short time, which could indicate fraud.

Impact: AI has saved billions of dollars by preventing cyber fraud and enhancing financial security.

#### 5. AI and Art: Painting Like a Master

In 2018, an AI system called "Obvious" created a painting called Portrait of Edmond de Belamy, which was sold for \$432,500 at an auction. AI-generated art is now being used in movies, digital designs, and even in music composition.

Impact: AI is redefining creativity by assisting artists, musicians, and designers in new ways. Tools like DALL·E and MidJourney can create stunning digital artwork from simple text prompts.

#### 6. AI in Agriculture: Feeding the World Smarter

Farmers in India and Africa are using AI-powered apps like Plantix to detect crop diseases and get treatment suggestions just by taking a photo of the affected plants. AI drones are also being used for precision farming, improving crop yields, and reducing pesticide use.

Impact: AI is helping to increase food production while minimizing waste and resource consumption.

### 7. AI in Education: Personalized Learning for Every Student

Platforms like Khan Academy, Duolingo, and Coursera use AI to provide personalized learning experiences. AI tracks students' progress and adapts lessons to match their learning speed and style.

Impact: AI-powered tutors and chatbots help students learn better and make education more accessible worldwide.

#### 8. AI in Customer Service: The Virtual Assistant Revolution

Companies like Amazon, Google, and Apple have changed how we interact with technology using AI-powered assistants like Alexa, Google Assistant, and Siri. These assistants can schedule appointments, play music, answer questions, and even control smart home devices.

Impact: AI chatbots are also revolutionizing customer service, making it faster and more efficient. Banks and airlines now use AI to handle customer inquiries 24/7.

#### 9. More Real Stories about AI

" Mrs. Rao, a homemaker, chimed in, "We already use AI every day! My Alexa reminds me of my doctor's appointments, suggests recipes, and even plays my favourite songs."

" Smart assistants like Alexa, Siri, and Google Assistant have quietly become part of our families.

" AI Saves Lives in a Remote Village - Thousands of miles away, in a small village in Andhra Pradesh, a pregnant woman named Lakshmi was in distress. She was experiencing complications, but the nearest hospital was miles away. Her family had no idea what to do-until a telemedicine AI platform named "Arogya AI" intervened.

The AI system, equipped with machine learning algorithms, analysed her symptoms through a simple mobile app and advised the village health worker to take immediate action. It provided real-time consultation with doctors from a city hospital, who guided the delivery process. Thanks to AIdriven healthcare, Lakshmi safely delivered her baby, and both mother and child survived what could have been a fatal situation.

continued on next issue





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