



# THINK LABOR

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## Our PAL Gems at the Cinematic Ramoji

Hyderabad, the *City of Pearls* has a lot to offer to first-timers like us. From sipping Irani tea in the hustling streets near Charminar to witnessing the enormous statue of equality with its magnetic outlook in the twilight, has been mesmerizing. The *City of Nawabs* is every foodie's dream come true! Influences of Nawabs and Mughals were seen in the famous Hyderabadi biryani and Telangana curries with all sweet and sour flavors. Nevertheless, a spectacular getaway a little outside the city of Hyderabad is foolish to miss, yes, it's the Ramoji Film City. It is another world altogether as certified as the World's largest Film Studio Complex by the Guinness Book of World Records. However, the hero of our story is not the Film city but the **people**, who made it possible to cater to more than 10,000 visitors every day.

*"Pratham and Ramoji have a collaboration of over 10+ years"* as reiterated by Mr. Zafar, who is working in the capacity of Corporate Training Manager at Ramoji. Mr. Zafar goes on to prize Pratham students and their commitment to work. He says *"Pratham students are eager to learn, they put their best foot forward, and thus the retention rate of the students is also 90% and above."* Pratham has been imparting hospitality training to the youth in one of Pratham's own premises in Shadnagar, which is approximately 60 km from the city of Hyderabad.

It was satisfying to watch our students working in one of the largest kitchens in India, Hotel Sahara in Ramoji. Sahara Hotel's General Manager Mr. Venkat introduced us to all the latest technologies being used in the kitchen along with a special mention of our students who work with it. We met a cohort of Pratham students who were working in the kitchen across the chopping and cold storage department and after due diligence, it felt gratifying to hear about their experiences. It was assuring to hear that the students were earning a decent salary with perks like food and accommodation. Before bidding adieu Mr. Venkat, with a smile on his face said, *"Students who graduated from Pratham work efficiently and effectively."*

Further, a 2 minutes walk led us to the famous Ramoji Ice cream factory, wherein we were pleased to meet one of our students preparing the famous Ramoji mango ice cream. As a sweet tooth himself, he was extremely happy and cheerful being working in the ice cream plant. On asking about his experience, he softly states in Telugu *"Ikkaḍa nāku cālā iṣṭam"* which means *"I like it here very much"*. Besides, the team was kind enough to treat us to the ice cream prepared by our student. It was the highlight of the day.

While sipping hot tea, in building Samrat which houses the Learning & Development wing of Ramoji, discussions related to future collaborations were held with Mr. Zafar. He remained supremely confident about students trained across Pratham skill training centers.

Events, interactions, discussions, and in-person touch like this make us realize the true purpose of imparting life skills to our students. The students are the bedrock via which we can measure the sea level i.e., the industry in this case. We felt highly elated to witness the work of our Pratham Alumni gems in the cinematic & magical Ramoji Film city.



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