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ONCE A BUSINESS. NOW IT IS HOME BAKING.

Padma Naik has not given up on her passion though the business the Naiks ran in CIT Colony had to be closed.



By Our Staff Reporter

For over two decades, Padmashri Foods in C. I. T. Colony has quietly served customers on snacks and cakes that have a special touch. The touch from baker Padma Naik.

The food joint was located in the basement of a complex on 2nd Cross Street.

Change has overtaken this little food business.

One cause has been the pandemic of 2020. Two, the Naiks are calling time on running their business as they seek to breathe easy in this period of life.

But they have not closed down.

How can a baker just do that anyway!

So the Naiks, since the past months now manage a home-baking business. Their menu is limited to their best bakes and orders must be placed in advance and you arrange the pick-up.

"It works well for us," says Shrinivas Naik. "Padma wakes up early to do the baking and

pick-ups can be done as early as 10 a.m."

So one recent morning, Padma baked an eggless banana walnut cake for a client.

"The orders come from our regulars and we don't mind if they are small," says Naik.

The creamless cakes list includes Brownies, Plum Cakes, Banana Fudge Cake and Mississippi Mud Cake. The eggless creams cakes list includes Banana Walnut, Honey Cake and Apple country sugar Raisin. In this section of the menu, the cakes are available with atta and country sugar.

Nail says that since the restaurant was closed and hence, staff had to be sent off, they chose to turn to home baking in the same building where they reside on the second floor.

"Cream cakes call for more hours of work and we decided to skip it," says Naik. "Orders must be placed at least 24 hours in advance."

Padmashri Foods is at No.4, 2nd Cross, C. I. T. Colony, Mylapore. Call 2499 7567 / 9941404678.

Kartik Fine Arts' December Season is an online fest: tickets on sale now

By Our Staff Reporter

For this December Season 2021, Kartik

Fine Arts sabha is going fully online with concerts – music and dance, starting December 1,

with shows streamed at Kalakendra (www.kalakendra.com) and this year, presenting

the fest independently.

"Last year we joined hands with the Federation of City Sabhas but this year we wanted to stand alone for some reasons," said the sabha's team member.

Concerts are to go live in stages from Dec.1 to 12, some 3 to 4 per day and they can be accessed

till December 31 by all those who get an access key from the sabha.

While access will be free for the sabha's members, others must buy tickets – a special offer of Rs.1999 (USD 27) closed on Nov.15 midnight and now, the fee is Rs.2500 for a pass.

Many a top-ranking artiste is listed on the Musically Margazhi fest – from Sheik Mahaboob Subhani and Kaleeshabi Mahaboob (nagaswaram) to Ramakrishnan Murthy, from Sanjay Subrahmanyam and Vijay Siva to Abhishek Raghuram, Sikkil Gurucharan and Gayatri Venka-

taraghavan besides the Mysore Brothers, the violinists

Dancers to be featured include guru Rhadha, Aniruddha Knight, Roja Kannan and group and Srekala Bharat besides a few others.

Also to be web-streamed for this fest is a discourse by Vishaka Hari, a bhajan concert and staging of Cho's play, Sambavami Yuge Yuge.

The festival calendar is posted on the Kalakendra website.

Call D. S. Rajagopalan of the sabha at 9840928049 for more information.

Photo: S. Prabhu



Mylapore Azhvaar's birthday celebrated at Sri Kesava Perumal Temple

By S. Prabhu

Aipasi Sathayam (Nov. 13) was a long day of celebration at Sri Kesava Perumal Temple for it marked the birthday of the Mylapore-born Vaishnavite saint-poet Pey Azhvaar.

Trustee N. C. Sridhar who was suspended a few months back was seen in the thick of action through the day anchoring the birthday celebrations. The temple office remain closed through the day.

The evening session was packed with events. Following the Thirumanjanam, the prabhandham members presented the final verses of Thiru Mangai Azhvaar's Prabhandham – Thiru Kurunthandagam and Thiru Nedunthandagam.

It was past 10 p.m. and the Sripatham had not yet turned up and it required a reminder call from the Trustee to get them into the temple for the final procession of the ten-day Avathara Utsavam.

Just after 10.30 p.m., the personnel from Sri Parthasarathy Temple turned up with the Mariyathai for Pey Azhvaar to the chanting of Ramanuja Nootranthathi verses.

It was well past 11 p.m. when the Prabhandham members, who showed much devotion through the ten days presenting the entire 4000 verses, began the presentation of the final Canto of Nam Azhvaar's Tiruvoimozhi verses.

The clock had ticked past midnight by the time the final verses were recited bringing to end Pey Azhvaar's birthday celebrations.

Typically, this would have a day of street processions including to the Azhvaar's Avathara Sthalam.

However, given the restrictions on processions, the entire celebration was conducted inside the temple complex with devotees staying back in good numbers right till the end.



Sri Ayyappa Devotees

People who are undertaking the pilgrimage to the shrine of Sri Ayyappa in Sabarimala in Kerala get initiated at the Sri Ayyappa Temple in MRC Nagar on November 17.

There was a steady stream of Sri Ayyappa devotees here as the season of preparations for the pilgrimage began. People visiting this temple are asked to follow pandemic-time protocols.

Photo: Madhan Kumar

Arkay celebrates 11th anniversary with week-long music concerts



File Photo

By Our Staff Reporter

Arkay Convention Center in Luz will be celebrating its eleventh anniversary with a series of Carnatic music concerts by some top-ranking artistes.

The festival is from Nov. 20 to 30 and is open to all. The concerts will be live both on Arkay's FaceBook and YouTube channels.

Here is the festival schedule – 20th Nov.

3.30 pm
G.K Raghuraman – Nadaswaram & R Devaraj – Nadaswaram

6.15 pm
Palghat R Ramprasad - Vocal. S Varadarajan - Violin. Neyveli Narayanan - Mridangam. V Suresh - Ghatam

21st Nov

4.00pm
J B Keerthana Shriram - vocal. R Raghul - Violin. B Ganapathyraman - Mridangam. Sunilkumar - Kanjira

6.15pm
Jugalbandi - Sriram Parasuram - Violin. Ramana Balachandharan - Veena. Vijay Natesan - Mridangam. Karthik Bhat - Tabla

22nd Nov

4.00 pm
Akshay Padmanabhan - Vocal. V S Gokul - Violin. Akshay Anand - Mridangam. Sivaramakrishnan - Kanjira

6.15pm
Nisha Rajagopal - Vocal. H N Bhaskar - Violin. Manoj Siva - Mridangam. B S Purushotham - Kanjira

23rd Nov

4.00 pm
Spoorthi Rao - Vocal. V S Gokul - Violin. K H Vineeth - Mridangam. K V Gopalakrishnan - Kanjira

6.15pm
Sruti Sagar - Flute. B Ananthakrishnan - Violin. Delhi Sairam - Mridangam. Sai Subramaniam - Morsing

24th November

4.00pm
Archana and Aarathi - Vocal Duet. V Deepika - Violin. Arjun Ganesh - Mridangam. Sainath - Ghatam

6.15pm
Sikkil Gurucharan - Vocal. L Ramakrishnan - Violin. K V Prasad - Mridangam. Krishna - Ghatam

25th November

4.00 pm
Prarthana Sai Narasimhan - Vocal. Karai Venkatasubramaniam - Violin. Mannarkoil Balaji - Mridangam. D V Venkatasubramaniam - Ghatam

6.15 pm
Shertallai K. N.Renganatha Sharma - vocal. B U Ganesh Prasad - Violin. Patri Satish Kumar - Mridangam. S Karthick - Ghatam

Arkay Centre is at 146, Royapettah High Road, Luz. Call – 9381007317

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Photo : R. V. Ramani



Sanjay's second concert after long break gets full house

By Our Staff Reporter

Carnatic music vocalist Sanjay Subrahmanyan had his second concert after his 18 months break due to the pandemic, at Srinivasa Sastri Hall in Luz last Friday.

And the privately-curated show that was ticketed, got a houseful attendance.

The hall has always been a great venue for concerts and it holds memories of the masters of yore performing here: for Sanjay's concert, the curators designed and lit up the intimate space well besides using the best audio systems.

Sanjay, who has been reinventing himself in the digital space lately, aided by curator and producer Bhargavii Mani puts out his songs list for every concert and a teaser note or video too.

Plus, the October concert at Medai, a new space in Alwarpet and this one were ticketed.

Rasikas have already begun to post snide remarks on the stiff ticket prices, one saying 'this is now you alienate rasikas of Carnatic music' but for Sanjay, who is regarded as one of the top-notch artistes of this era and also has a huge fan following, tickets are sold out quickly.

Sanjay says that the last time he sang at Sastri Hall was in 2014.

He wrote then - 'Srinivasa Sastri Hall, located on the first floor of the Ranade Library in Luz in Chennai is one of the most hallowed Carnatic music venues....' This was noted in his blog. You can read Sanjay's full note shared on his FB page - <https://www.facebook.com/sanjaysubmusic/>

Nageswara Rao Park becomes aaratha kuttai once again



By Our Staff Reporter

Nageswara Rao Park turned into the kuttai that it originally was. But now, water seems to have drained off, slowly.

Since the night rain battered the city, the water flooded in patches to start with, and then the entire campus held rising waters, not just the rain that fell here but it was receiving floodwater flowing from the streets that border it.

Vidya, the head of the horticulture firm which manages this verdant park for Sundaram Finance which has taken care of the green space for many years says her workers could only look on as the rain-water filled up.

The photo used here was among many shared by her team.

This park has witnessed the worst of the weather. It was laid bare, almost in one cyclone and it needed devoted replanting and care to green it the way it is today.

Historians say that when the rains are heavy the park is bound to fill up, since it has been a natural 'kuttai' space. The aaratha kuttai as locals called it.

Historian Venkatesh Ramakrishnan notes that Desodharaka K. Nageswara Rao Pantulu, founder of the Amrutanjan balm brand who bought the Sribagh property nearby, also owned part of the kuttai and donated it to the civic body when it was decided to convert it into a park. "The floodwaters from the Mambalam Tank would flow into the kuttai and overflow into the P. S. School campus zone," Venkatesh notes.

In a way, the flow still takes place at monsoon time. Flows that end up in the temple tanks of central Mylapore.

Even as the sun shone hard top of the week, the walk paths remained slushy – walkers were advised to avoid the park for walks.

Children's Day

Children's Day celebrations were held on November 14 at Ragamalika Apartments in Mandaveli and since the community which resides here is large, a good number of children (some 75 plus) took part in the day's fun and games with the fancy dress contest evoking laughs and merriment. Earlier, a few contests had been held for the children.

Winners were given medals. The rest got gifts. All those who were present at the Nov.14 event got a treat too, says Kalyani Muralidharan, a key motivator of this event.



ONE MORE COFFEE PLACE

Mylapore's Mada Streets still has space for this favourite



Ravi Vinayagam at Mylai Coffee

By Our Staff Reporter

How many coffee joints can the heart of Mylapore take? Be it the ones that grind your combo for fresh coffee powder or the nooks

that offer you a cup of steaming cup.

On the ground, there are many.

You may count at least a dozen on the Mada Streets.

The number though did not discourage Ravi Vinayagam when he had to decide on how he wanted to develop a part of his property on East Mada Street where his family has resided since the 1950s.

"Food was on my mind," says Ravi on a sunny morning when the monsoon has taken a break. "I decided it had to be coffee. After all this is Mylapore."

So when Mylai Coffee opened on Vijayadasami day (opposite Bharatiya Vidya

Bhavan), Ravi's first set of customers gave him an approving nod. And he says he knew he had got his strategy right. He had taken time to fix the right combo in the coffee powder and to source fresh milk and get it supplied to sustain a whole day's operation (the place is open from 6 am to 10 pm).

Today, Ravi says almost 80% of sales come from coffee. Yes, while he offers cookies and dry snacks in the mornings, there is bajji and vada served in the evenings.

Yes, customers have nudged him on the pricing. A dabara of coffee here costs Rs.30 and the pushy drinkers have pointed to another popular coffee joint round the bend that sells at Rs.12 per cup. So Mylai Coffee offers a mini cup for Rs.20 now. "With what milk costs today we cannot sell at 12 and 15 rupees," says Ravi.

Ravi, who has one foot in the world of cinema, writing scripts and assisting directors says he chose to design and light up his space to make it inviting. "I want people to enjoy their cup of coffee here," he says.

He spends time here in the mornings while his wife and sis-in-law manage in the evenings. "This far I am extremely pleased with the people's response," he says.

DO YOU HAVE A FAVOURITE COFFEE PLACE? Tell us.

Many streets were under sewage-polluted water

MLA says pumping station in Mandaveli broke down

By Our Staff Reporter

After the rains of the past week came the stink.

The sewage drains topped up, sewage over-flowed and ran into the rainwater. This happened in many streets, places where flooding was severe.

So residents were forced to wade through sewage-polluted water standing on the streets in many parts of Mylapore zone and this because some key civic services broke down.

When it became unbearable for residents off Demonte Street that is the key link for the seaside colonies to San Thome High Road, to negotiate the stinking, dirty waters on the main and side streets, some called up the MLA, others began to live with the mess.

Sewage from the lines was flowing in reverse and spreading all over. The lines were choked; in San Thome, Mandaveli, St. Marys Road, R. K. Mutt Road and in Teynampet zone.

Mylapore MLA Dha. Velu said this happened due to the breakdown at the Metrowater pumping station off St Mary's Road. It appears that the main pipes have burst, that the lines could not take the overload.

The MLA said that repair work went on through the night to set things right.

Metrowater's teams have been seen at work at many spots. Jet-rodging lorries are deployed. But its social pages in recent days do not reflect Mylapore's messy situation. On the sewage polluting many a street.



KVB Gardens girl excels in Silambam

By Our Staff Reporter

Nivethidha, a class 6 student of Sir Sivaswami Kalalaya Matric Higher Secondary School, Mylapore has excelled in a state-level Silambam championship, said a note from K. A. Sumathi, vice principal.

The championship was held in Erukkancherry on October 23.

Nivethidha is from KVB Gardens, R. A. Puram.

She has been trained for the past one and a half years by her gurus, Jagadeesan and Aadi Kesavan. She says she started the training only during the pandemic time last year and learnt quickly because of her guru's motivation and support.

She says the school PT head, S. Prakash, has also been encouraging her.



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