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MUSIC, DANCE, PLAYS. SABHA HALLS ARE COMING ALIVE. SLOWLY.



By Our Staff Reporter

Sabha halls have begun to resound to music and plays. And some classical dance too. This, when pandemic time regulations are softer now for such events to be held across Mylapore.

Rasika Ranjani Sabha in Mylapore has begun to open its doors to concerts.

The sabha which hosted a few private arangetrams, open only to guests of the artiste, has begun to host concerts.

On Sept.18 evening, the sabha had a double combo – vocalist Nisha Rajagopal sang first and then Vishaka Hari presented a musical discourse.

The concerts were open to sabha members only. Each person was checked at the main door, asked to keep using masks through the concerts and then encouraged to take only the seats that were marked vacant, so there was sufficient space between two people.

Some 80 rasikas were present when Vishaka's discourse began at about 6 p.m. And many welcomed the re-start of live concerts.

More programmes with guests and audience at sabha halls in the neighbourhood are slated to begin from October 1.

Narada Gana Sabha in Alwarpet will open its doors to its members and guests from Oct.1 when Komal Theatre stages a play in Thamizh, with the first show repeated on the next two evenings under the banner of other sabhas.

Narada Gana Sabha's Harishankar says that there are at least two other events of his sabha listed for October as of now.

"Our sabha members have been calling to ask when shows will re-start and we are making sure all the protocols required will be followed," he says. "Our staff have been vaccinated."

The last time such live shows were held at this venue were in mid-March this year. In recent times, a few music concert recordings have taken place in this auditorium.

Navaratri music fest planned

Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan in Mylapore intends to host its annual Navaratri festival music festival at its main auditorium now that pandemic-time regulations have eased.

The fest is funded by an endowment from the Parasaran family.

K. N. Ramaswamy, director of the Bhavan says that he will feature young artistes at this fest and holding it in the main hall allows his team to space out the rasikas inside.

Also, he will not have a full house since the top stars will not be featured now.



Bhavan's auditorium is under repairs now and will host an event on Sept.30 – for Kartik Fine Arts' annual awards evening.

Arkay Convention Centre, that cosy little space in Luz has been hosting concerts, though online through the year. In recent times, rasikas are being allowed. "I can take in some 40 people but rasikas are taking time to make it a habit now," says Ramakrishnan here.

At a recent concert by vocalist Brindha Manickavasagan, there were some 10 people in the space. For the artistes though, the opportunity to perform on stage is welcome now.

Arkay hosted over 100 concerts, mostly online through 2020 and will exceed that number this year.

Ramakrishnan says he hardly gets donations from rasikas to fund the online webcast effort but he isn't suspending his calendar of concerts.

WHAT PLANS FOR DECEMBER SEASON 2021?

So what will be the shape of this year's December Season?

A few sabhas have optimistic plans, based on the pandemic trends today.

The Federation of City Sabhas, an umbrella body, may opt for a hybrid model for the Season; some live concerts, some online events, all paid for. Its team is debating the finer points of the plan.

Last year, it webcast a choice set of pre-recorded concerts which were shot at two sabha halls.

Ramakrishnan of Arkay Centre, Luz says he will not go overboard and stick to two evening concerts daily and if the mood is good, add a morning concert on weekends.

Ramaswamy of Bhavans has two options on his hands - if conditions are good, host concerts in the main hall but grant admission only to a limited number of people. And if this happens, he may not want to feature the top-rung artistes so that he saves the bother of crowd-management.

He may also fall back on what Bhavans did last Season - host open-air concerts at their campus in Kilpauk, where people can drive in and even listen from inside their cars. This though costs a bit to set up but this option is very much on Ramaswamy's mind.



R. K. Nagar community is on a 'greening' drive

By Our Staff Reporter



Residents of R. K. Nagar in R. A. Puram were out in the colony as the sun rose last Sunday, to further green their public spaces.

They planted some 10 saplings. This drive is into the 4th week now.

"Till now, we have planted more than 60-plus saplings in our neighbourhood. We have formed the R K Nagarra Garden Club and we have volunteers joining every Sunday for gardening work. Momentum is catching up," said a lead member of this community body that has done some great work here.

Residents are particular about specific flowering tree saplings. So they make choices and are given ownership to maintain these.

T. M. Krishna live concert to raise funds for a cause. Donor cards available.

Sunaadalahari, the musical wing of Indira Ranganathan Trust located in Alwarpet is hosting a live concert of T M Krishna on Oct.3 evening.

This solo concert is being organised as a fundraising event to support 'marginalised' artistes impacted by Covid-19. The venue is the open air space on C P Ramaswamy Road near the Nilgiris store.

Only limited admissions planned.

(*In-person only event – no live streaming)
| Register using the link – www.tikkl.com/



sunaadalahari.c/TMKUnplugged

Entry is nallowed only for people with a vaccination certificate or negative RTPCR Test.

A note from the organiser says 'this is a fundraising event – all funds raised

will go towards supporting marginalised artists through the Sumanasa Foundation.'

Sunaadalahari, Indira Ranganathan Trust, #52, C P Ramasamy Road, Alwarpet, Chennai 18

For questions/clarifications, email: info@sunaadalahari.org

Sharath now heads Indian juniors cricket selection committee

By S. Prabhu

Tamil Nadu's one-time cricket's run machine in the 1990s and the first TN cricketer to play 100 Ranji matches, 48 year old S Sharath has been appointed the chairman of the national junior selection committee of the BCCI.

He had previously served as the chairman of the TN cricket team selection committee and is currently a match referee of the BCCI.

This is the first time he is receiving national recognition in cricket.

Talking to Mylapore Times from the Guru Nanak College ground where he was watching the VAP cricket tourney match, Sharath said that he was delighted to be bestowed with the responsibility for the first time at the national level. He said that it was a two year engagement and that he would give his best over the next couple of years.

Shortly after his success in the under-19 Tests in the early 1990s, he made his Ranji debut and had a solid first year for TN. And then all of a sudden on the evening of Dec 7, 1993, his cricketing life was pushed back by a major road accident.

After having missed the entire Ranji season in 1993-'94, he returned to the Ranji team and was never dropped in his career – for runs flowed from his bat the following decade as he went on to become the first cricketer from Tamil Nadu to play 100 Ranji matches topping 8000 runs.

He was one of the most consistent batsmen for the state but his strong match-winning performances in the Ranji, Duleep and Deodhar Trophy were not enough to break into the India team in the 1990s.

Throughout his 15-year cricketing career, he placed a high value on his wicket. A majority of his big knocks were played under pressure when the team had lost early wickets. With his consistency, he created a 'presence' for himself in the team with the opponents always wanting to get his wicket. A match was never safe for the opposition till the time Sharath was there in the middle.

Sharath has been a resident of Karaneswarar Koil Street, Mylapore from childhood.

Photo: Prabhu



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Poli and phulkas make this new food joint in Mylapore a buzzing spot

By Our Staff Reporter

There is a new food joint in Mylapore which is not only getting eyeballs but drawing hungry foodies.

R. S. Bhavan is a 10?10 nook hugging a building on Ponambala Vadyar Street, that links South Mada Street to Sri Kapali Temple but it has already made many Mylaporeans its regulars in two months time.



Why?

Because, as its promoter R. Subramanian says – its food sticks to age-old, home-made recipes and he does not compromise on the ingredients.

Later, Subs, as we call him, let's us know the real secret – the recipes are of his mother R. Mangalam, a celebrated cook herself in West Mambalam.

For now, the food joint is open from about 3 p.m. serving evening snacks and sweets. The hot seller – three varieties of polis. The dry coconut used is processed at home, skipping the use of readymade stuff. Get these hot-sellers here after 4 p.m.

The sweets are also the home-made variety and fresh, says Subs.

By 7 p.m., the phulkas and curries roll out and they sell hot for dinner. Mostly parcels for home. Four phulkas and two side dishes – Rs.50. Mylaporeans like Malini Mannath say the phulka combo is a steal and good too.

Subs has been running a restaurant by the same name on TTK Road in Alwarpet, opposite Home Centre store. This one caters to office-goers and people who frequent this area.

Once he settles down, he hopes to offer breakfast and meals at the Mylapore nook.

This food joint is near the famed Janal Bajji Kadai. Contact 9790770777.

This Inner Wheel Club held health camp at Home for disadvantaged kids

Photo: Anitha



Chennapuri Annadana Samajam is an orphanage home and has been engaged for more than a century in feeding, clothing, and housing poor, orphaned children. At R. A. Puram, this trust runs the P. V. Rao School which provides education and food to several children.

They also have a hostel which houses about 200 children who are supported by sponsorship received by the trust.

Inner Wheel Club of Madras Central conducted a health camp at this Home on Sept.16.

At this camp, there was a dental checkup, vision test and blood grouping of 167 children in the school. The club will be helping children who require vision correction and those who need further support to take care of their dental issues by sponsoring their treatment.

For those children requiring corrective glasses, this need will be fulfilled by Inner Wheel Club of Madras Central. Similarly, dental issues faced by the children will be taken care of by the Club.

The Club was supported in these efforts by Radhatri Nethralaya (for the vision camp) and Mahesh Dental Care (for the dental camp). Blood grouping was done by Gopi Labs. The children were also provided breakfast, snacks and lunch.

Anitha Balachander is president of Inner Wheel Club of Madras Central. Contact 9841460080

Noon annadhanam resumes at Sri Kapali Temple after 18 months



By S. Prabhu

The daily annadhanam arranged at noontime at Sri Kapaleeswarar Temple resumed today after a break of 18 months.

Last Monday (Sept.20) was a special day as it marked the Pournami day in Puratasi. The temple was decorated with fruits and vegetables. There was a procession inside the temple that evening - of Lord Chandrasekar.

There was a rush by the people to make their way into the dining room as everyone pressed forward with their tokens. The long queue extended upto the full length of the Navarathri mandapam.

The temple's executive officer D. Kaveri was present on the occasion and served rice to the first set of devotees at the tables.

The traditional meal, with poriyal and kootu is served on banana leaves. Pandemic time regulations are followed despite the rush here, with staff making sure everything is in order.

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Andamans' new bishop feted by church community in R. A. Puram to which he once belonged

By Our Staff Reporter

The recently-consecrated bishop of Port Blair, Andamans, Rev. Visuvasam Selvaraj was feted at Our Lady of Guidance Church on Lazarus Church Road, R A Puram on Sept.16 at a small function held in this campus.

Earlier, the bishop who was born and grew up in this area, opened a grotto of

saint Joseph on the church campus and celebrated Holy Mass.

The bishop has been visiting his alma mater and places associated with his life and career after he formally took charge in the island.

Fr. Bosco, parish priest and his church team hosted this event. Fr. Louis and Fr. Lourdes Marcel joined Fr Bosco at the bishop's Mass.

Disposed!

Rekha Suresh Kumar shot this picture in the Boat Club area of R. A. Puram.

You too can contribute photos of interesting sidelights of life in Mylapore zone. Mail to - mytimesedit@gmail.com - with a caption.



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Sunday Sandhai

Sunny Bee, the chain store for vegetables, fruits and home needs, says that its Sandhai sale held on Sunday last at its TTK Road, Alwarpet store was a success.

The Sandhai arranged for vegetables and fruits grown in Kodaikanal to be transported here and sold; this was done overnight. Some Kodai farmers were present at the store.

A Sunny Bee staff said that the success of this sale has encouraged the store's promoters to plan more such sales on Sundays. The store is located near Crowne Plaza Hotel.

