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Shades of Victory in Laal Paar Saree

Angela and Chandana

Bengaluru: After two years of hiatus owing to Covid, this year, the Bengalee Association Ulsoor, one of the oldest associations in Bangalore, invoked Goddess Durga through traditional "Debi Baran" rituals as part of their 73rd Durga Puja anniversary in Bangalore. The groundwork for the festival began two months ago. Artists Samir Paul and Sourav Ghosh have worked tirelessly to decorate the pandal or 'mandap' with the traditional ingredients used in "Baran," making this puja an unforgettable experience.

"We have a theme this year 'Baran'. Baran means to welcome, like welcoming a new bride or daughter coming back home from her in-law's place. So this is the homecoming of Durga this time. Durga is coming back from her mother's place with her children. With materials like "Gamcha" (a soft cloth towel widely used in Bengal), Laal Paar Saree (White and red border traditional saree worn by the women of Bengal), and quaint replicas of Jamini Roy painting, the pandal is looking vibrant, colourful and unique," explained Sudipa Ray, a member of the organisation.

Ray said to the beacon that this year's celebration brought together the founders of the organisation. "We are just carrying this from there, but still they join us," she added.

When asked if festivals like Durga puja would blur the differences between the states and cultures, Ray said the festival has led many devotees hailing from different cultural backgrounds to unite and celebrate the "Baran" of goddess Durga.

Retd chief photographer recounts story behind lens

Chandru and Jesbilin

Campus: Contrary to popular belief, photojournalists are not usually greeted with red carpets but are chased like mad dogs, said a leading photojournalist K Gopinathan on Saturday, at St. Joseph's University.

The Institute of Communication and Media Studies [ICMS] and the Josephite Media Forum and Images organised a workshop with K. Gopinathan, a retired chief photographer at The Hindu. The session had discussions around photojournalism, life struggles in the field and the art of storytelling through a lens.

Narrating his experiences on-field, Gopinathan explained the conduct of editors and reporters and the necessity of a photographer to multitask. "In the editor's dictionary, there is no word called an excuse. He only needs the result; start to think



Story telling through lens

differently if you want to stand out in a crowd," he said. While explaining the stories behind the award-winning photographs, he said, "Photographers are like monkeys; be ready to climb walls and be ready to do whatever is needed," he said. News

journalism is mostly about politics, and a news photographer should be an all-rounder.

He slipped through the security check, and the police officers threw him out, he said, referring to an incident after the assassination of Indira Gandhi. He shared his experience

of covering the Tamil actor-turned-politician, MG Ramachandran. Facing many hurdles when he reached the press gallery, he fell down and to his surprise, saw MGR sobbing. From the ground level with a 2mm camera lens, he captured MGR crying. Gopinathan also recount-

ed the adventure of snapping photographs for the newspaper called 'The City Tab', where he captured shots of injured Amitabh Bachchan being carried in an ambulance amidst tight security and his subsequent resentment with the editor for not getting a byline for his efforts.

Patriarchy had a beginning, so does it end

Meghana and Parnika

Bengaluru: Taking a cue from the celebrated work of leading Marxist thinker and co-founder of Marxism, Frederick Engels, The Origin of Family, Private Property and State, Dr HG Jayalakshmi on Saturday said, social institutions, far from being eternal, come into being, evolve and pass out of existence.

On the occasion of Frederick Engels' birth anniversary, the translated version of his book "Evugala Ugama" was launched.

Dr Jayalakshmi, who translated the work into Kan-



Release of Evugala Ugama

nada, explained that the tradition of family and marriage we see today has not been this way. The concept of marriage has evolved from group marriages to monogamous marriages due to various restrictions. She wondered why we addressed certain people the way we do. "Af-

ter thinking and questioning, nobody knew the answer. I always wondered about the traditions. After reading Engels' work, I found my answers," she said.

Referring to Hindu scriptures, she pointed out the change from polyandry to monogamy. "The change in

Mahabharata where Draupadi had many husbands to Ramayana where one husband and one wife came into the picture," she explained while pointing out the evolution of marriage relationships.

Dwelling on the emergence of private property and male dominance, she said, this had a beginning as well. "In the future, private property will not exist... There was no private property in the past. Women's exploitation did not exist either. However, women will step up and will earn equally as men. The state exists to protect women and private property."

Udupi celebrates first-of-its-kind Uchila Dasara

Aasline and Kavya

The festival celebrating the victory of good over evil, 'Dasara' is celebrated for the first time at Uchila Sri Mahalakshmi Temple, Udupi, from Sept 26 to Oct 5.

The 'Uchila Dasara-2022' is organised by the Dakshina Kannada Mogaveera Mahajana Sangha (DKMMS), Uchila. The temple serves as an important place of worship for the fishermen's community of the coastal bay.

According to The Hindu, the ten-day celebrations will conclude with a grand Shobhayathra of the nine Goddesses. The temple started witnessing a large number of devotees after its renovation and Brahmakalasha in April this year.

The honorary advisor of DKMMS, G Shankar, as reported by Daijiworld Media Network, said the Shobhayathra procession would be held on Oct 5 where the idols, post-procession, will be immersed at Kapu beach premises, accompanied by various events. Media correspondent Prakash Samaga tweeted, "Back to the glorious days of Veena this Navratri festival, where a total of hundred performers play the Veena at Uchila Sri Mahalakshmi Temple.

Walk through park with lines, words

Abhirami and Jesbilin

Bengaluru: Expressing that Cubbon Park was close to her heart, author Roo-pa Pai launched her latest book, "Cubbon Park: The Green Heart of Bangalore". Pai's book is the first-ever book on Cubbon Park.

Pai launched her book amidst a gathering of book lovers at Blossoms Book House, Church Street, Sunday evening. It was launched in the presence of renowned naturalist Vijay Thiruvady and journalist-author Ramjee Chandran.

Pai recounted how Cubbon Park used to be a park of the "Janata" (people) from the beginning, while Lalbagh belonged to the elite. Cubbon Park is a landmark lung space in Bengaluru city. The author talked about the green city and her fond memories associated with it. She had never written a book on Bangalore, and as she brainstormed, she realised how Cubbon Park was "a constant in her life". She explained how Cubbon Park had been the centre as

it lay between the British Cantonment and Bangalore Peta of Maharaja Mysore.

"You can ride your scooter on the footpath and even drive on the wrong side, but try cutting a branch in public, and some guys are going to give you a hard look," said the host of the podcast The Literary City, Ramjee Chandran. He commented how "Greenery is a part of every Bangalorean's DNA". Chandran praised the book and mentioned he would love to read it again.

Police fleece rideshare drivers

Anirudh and Kaustub

Bengaluru: It's not an easy ride for Ola and Uber drivers when it comes to dealing with the administration. rideshare drivers on Sunday said that the government treats them disrespectfully. They alleged that police fleece them on various pretexts.

The drivers were speaking at a panel discussion hosted by Sarayu Natarajan at Bangalore International Centre. Anand Gowda, an Ola driver, pointed out that the police were very strict with them and fined them for minor

violations. This, apart from shelling out a lot for obtaining a licence and insurance. "We are not looking for hand-outs from the government. We are willing to work hard. We want to be allowed to do business," he added.

On the other hand, the drivers were happy with the job. They were earning more working as a driver for such platforms than they had in their previous jobs. However, they said that the business had gone down during the pandemic and has not returned to what it used to be.