City savours modaks of oats, cream cheese

Several Devotees Offer Exotic Variations As Prasad

Bella Jaisinghani | TNN

a niche segment of Mumbaikars has been purchasing exotic modaks prepared from oats, cream cheese, hazelnut and blueberry to place before the deity as prasad

A specialized European kitchen in Mumbai Central is concocting such experimental modaks. Its chefs blend rose cream cheese with cashew nut and pair peanut butter or white peppermint with dark chocolate to create exotic sweetmeats. Owner Neha Manekia says, "We are adapting non-Indian ingredients to create a familiar

taste. For instance, dark chocolate coating over peanut butter tastes like salted caramel. Our clients include people who have been invited

shan as well as devotees who install the deity at home. They buy up to five or six kgs

A 90-year-old caterer of authenticated Indian delicacies offers various options for different folks. "In Juhu we get customers who wish to



and sugar. For them we preas the main ingredient. Chil-

love very sweet kaju, pista, kesar and strawberry modaks," says Deepti Chawla, director of the firm. A store in Bandra prepares kiwi fruit, sugar-free cranber-

ry mixed with cashew paste, blueberry as well as chocolate brownie modaks. These modaks are priced

chip and coconut while kiwi

fruit and gulkand are popular

too. Meanwhile, in Ghatko-

par, Gujaratis and Marwaris

anywhere between Rs 650 and Rs 1,500 a kg compared with basic mawa varieties that are available for Rs 400-450.

Yet, a eatery beside Siddhivinayak temple that prepares classic 'ukdiche modak' all year round has never felt the need to extend its rep-

ertoire. "Now we po-

ur ghee over the split modak the way it is served traditionally. Orders are taken a month in advance," says spokesperson Go-pal Balgi.

"We are trying to ensure the crowds remain organized and the control room officer stavs in continuous contact with station officers at crucial points to ensure there are no bottlenecks," said Chhering Dorje, deputy commissioner of police.

The police, for one, have Tuesday," said an officer.

The officer further said that in the past, they had received several terror threat alerts and instructed Ganpati mandals to

Keeping in mind the terror threat inputs received in the past, the city police have roped in the Border Security Force and Central Industrial Security Force to assist them during the 10-day Ganpati

Cops watch immersion points via **CCTVs**

Vijay V Singh | TNN

Mumbai: The police are making use of CCTV cameras to keep a watch on the city's busiest immersion points to identify miscreants and possible terror suspects, if any.

Local and traffic police have installed CCTVs at crucial points at Girgaum Chowpatty, Dadar Chowpatty, Juhu Chowpatty and Malad Marve. These also help them monitor bottlenecks and crowds.

The police plan to take the help of Ganpati mandals to control the crowds and discipline them. They have set up temporary control rooms at the shoreline to monitor the crowds. "This will help us identify terror suspects and miscreant easily," said an officer.

Last year, approximately 1.83 lakh idols were immersed across the city and the number is expected to rise this year. On Tuesday, 7,800 Ganpati idols were immersed in Juhu Chowpatty alone. The police expect heavy crowds on Friday, Sunday and the last day of the im-

set up a temporary control room at Juhu Chowpatty. "Our better monitoring and coordination helped smooth flow of traffic on the road close to the Chowpatty on

keep an eye out for suspects.

CITY PANDALS AT THEIR CREATIVE BEST

The inaugural round of judging for the annual Times Utsav Moorti Sanman began on Thursday



AZAD NAGAR SARVAJANIK UTSAV SAMITI OR ANDHERICHA RAJA

USP | Devotees who have completed the Ashtavinayak yatra will instantly recognize this wooden replica of the Ranjangaon mandir with 30-odd pillars. The 48-year-old mandal has replaced the silver 'mooshak' that was placed before the deity with a golden elephant crafted by a jeweller from Pune. The Raia also wears two new 'kadas' or bangles gifted by Sudhakar Puiari from Hong Kong. Pujari's prayer for a son was granted in January this year. Filmmaker Madhur Bhandarkar arrived just in time for the 12,30pm aarti

and joined in with cheer. Little child volunteers were unrelenting about security even as they kept a perfect beat on the cymbals.



KHETWADI 12TH LANE SARVAJANIK GANESHOTSAV MANDAL

LOCATION | Khetwadi, Girgaum USP | An artist's dream of a Jaipur Rajmahal or royal palace has transformed this dusty neighbourhood. The 12th Lane pandal often wins prizes for its regal 14-ft idol that is carved from the same mould each year but whose charm does not diminish. The techno-savvy mandal already had a web site and has now unveiled a mobile app that allows for live darshan and aarti. Participating in the judging for the UMS awards, MP Milind Deora, who has had the good fortune to visit this site in

earlier years as well, could not help marvel at the setting.

GSB SEVA MANDAL

LOCATION | King's Circle **USP** | The richest mandal in the city does everything on a grand scale, whether it be adorning its deity with crores of rupees

worth of gold

ornaments or seeking THE TIMES OF INDIA insurance to the tune of Rs 223 crore. Hundreds of

saffron-clad volunteers have been joining police personnel to chaperone thousands of visitors who arrive even on weekdays. Young Rupa Bhat was performing 'seva' by regulating the crowds since 3am without food. Special counters are set up to book pujas, offer prasad and keep devotees' belongings. This year, a special makeshift skywalk has been constructed for people seeking quick darshan. Those who enter usually opt to join lunch prasad and offer puja. The mandal is a regular A-lister on the UMS scroll, and on Thursday, actor Amrita Rao arrived to pay respects to the deity.



FORT VIBHAG SARVAJANIK GANESHOTSAV MANDAL

USP | Members are elated about the fact that the

LOCATION | Opp GPO, Fort

GPO junction will be named Ichhapurti Ganesh Chowk on September 15. They claim this is the first time a street corner has been named after a Ganpati mandal Indeed, the reputation has been built over years of

hard work. This season, too, the marvellous Mysore palace that rises on the site is a work of art. The structure is cast in fibreglass and entirely handpainted by 110 artistes from Rajasthan who staved here for three months, observing the entire Ramzan fast at the pandal. On Thursday, each hand that rose to take pictures made it a point to capture the exquisite murals on the ceiling. President Ravindra Surve informed celebrity judge Atul Kasbekar that



Sharmila Ganesan-Ram | TNN

Mumbai: Every time there

is a loud sound, Vashi's Ajay

Marathe cringes. An animal

lover, he cannot bear to see his

pets-six cats and one dog-

For the past six years, Mar-

athe has been working hard to

create a less noisy environme-

nt for them and has succeeded

to an extent. "It is my pets'

suffering that prodded me to

complain to the authorities

against noise pollution in my

area." With his regular follow-

ups, he has managed to even

get a school in the vicinity to

stop the use of loudspeakers.

animal welfare officer, said,

Marathe, who works as an

traumatized by noise.

s a child, Rama Shah used to roll out close to 60 chapatis within an hour. This, she didn't know at the time, was a preordained rehearsal for her calling that would come years later.

Then, one night in March 2000, the Sion resident saw a vision of her favourite God. Lord Ganesha, reclining maestically on a cushion perate to immortalize this dream, the Jain housewife

naaptol..com

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contractors, hobbyists & individuals



decided to create a Ganesha idol during her handicraft class. Today, within the span of those 60 chapatis of childhood, her deft hands churn out over 180 idols, even

when her eves are shut.

"It is a form of meditation for me," adds Shah who uses only her fingers, an empty ball pen refill and her imagination to shape the idols. She paints on

Measuring Gadget

tive hobby has spawned several national and international records such as the one she received for preparing 9,999 idols in 99 days in 2000 to her recent attempt at creating 999 idols in 24 hours. Shah also holds shows where people watch her create idols blindfolded. Comments such as "I could feel the positive vibrations in your house" adorn the 20-odd guestbooks in the living room of Shah, whose album hoasts everyone from Raj Thackeray to Shah Rukh Khan receiving an idol

IRCTC launches Windows app

for Windows phones and Windows 8 devices that allows access to services, including other than the existing portal.

Deadline for univ Oct exam form is Sept 20

Bar girl, kin booked for abetting suicide

wife's suicide

he Malwani police on Thursday arrested a man on charges of abetting his wife's suicide and allegedly harassing her with demands of dowry.

Youth booked for rape

on Thursday pressed rape charges against a bus driver (21) after he allegedly reneged on his promise of marrying her.

'Revive dead permits'

aximen's Union, led by A L Ouadros, has demanded that all the 15,000 dead permits be issued to black-and-yellow taxis and not fleet cabs.

Warrant against Zinta

he Andheri court on Thursday issued a nonin a cheque bouncing case.

Devotees to protest blocking of Mount Mary access road

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Mumbai: Devotees plan to hold a protest on Saturday if the traditional Cement Road to Mount Mary Bandra (West), is not opened for easy access to the church during its annual fair. The road runs along Hindi cinema actor Shahrukh Khan's bungalow Mannat. The Bandra police have barricaded the road

"A bus stop was made by the BMC at the bandstand end of the Cement Road years before the actor came to stay especially for pilgrims and other visitors to the Mount Mary Fair. The road was church property and a comfortable arrangement for senior citizens (the road belongs to the BMC now)," said Dolphy D'Souza,

Shibu Thomas TNN

Mumbai: A group of doctors

who have completed postgrad-

uate medical diplomas have

approached the Bombay high

court against the Maharash-

tra government's order ask-

ing them to serve mandatory

stints in rural and tribal areas.

The doctors have urged the



The police have barricaded Cement Road, which leads to Bandra's Mount Mary Church and runs along actor Shahrukh Khan's house

Watchdog spokesperson. Foundation.

Devotees say that the other access points (from Kane Road and Mount Mary Road) are steep. Vehicular access is restricted during the festival and the Bandra Fair. making it difficult for peo-

Doctors with diplomas want

rural stint deferred, move HC

mentioned the matter before a

division bench headed by

Chief Justice Mohit Shah.

The case will come up for hear-

ing before a division bench

headed by Jusice Dhananjay

Chandrachud, who is also

hearing a PIL about malnutri-

tion deaths in Melghat and

other tribal regions, which is

compounded by a lack of doc-

ple to access the church. Saturday's demonstration will be supported by

Watchdog Foundation. Wake up Bandra, CROSS, Mobai Gaothan Panchavat Perry Road Resident's Association. Save Our Land and several other organizations

The petition claimed that

mandatory rural service was

allowed to be deferred for

MBBS doctors who wanted to

pursue postgraduate courses

and for postgraduate doctors

who wanted to complete su-

per-specialty courses. The pet-

ition has referred to a letter by

the director of medical educa-

tion and research dated Au-

stored here. It is all stored on a central server ing repaired and the hall leads to

A senior passport official

Theft at Worli

passport office,

monitors stolen

Mumbai: Three computer mon-

itors were stolen from the pass-

port head office in Worli during

the Ganesh Chaturthi holiday

from September 8 to 10. While

the police said sensitive data was

missing from the office, a senior

stolen. Not even the CPUs were

taken. No sensitive data is stored

here. It is all on a central server.

which is also not here." he said

The official said an air condi-

tioner in the waiting hall was be

The CPUs have not

no sensitive data is

been taken. Also

Only the monitors were

passport official denied it.

the regional passport officer's cabin. "The AC had been removed and the opening was closed with a board. The thieves broke it to gain access. We have given the CCTV image to the police." A source said, "The theft apparently took place on Tuesday. A recce was done two days earlier, shows CCTV footage." Additional commissioner Praveen Salunkhe said an FIR has been registered.

WEATHER

Sunrise: Sat: 0626hrs Sunset: Fri: 1843hrs Forecast: Rain or thunder showers would occur in parts of city /suburbs to-Relative humidity: Santa Cruz Colaba 82%, Santa Cruz

Colaba: 1.2mm rainfall: Colaba: 2,109mm

32.2°/ 24.5° 81% Thursday's rainfall: Santa Cruz: 3mm Season's total

Santa Cruz: 2.265mm

court to direct the governgust 2013 informing colleges tors willing to serve in these ment to return their certifithat diploma holders who Advocate Pooja Thorat passed in June-July 2013 cates so that they can apply for SMS naaptol should be asked to complete postgraduate medical degree said the case was against the bailable warrant against actress courses and have sought their state's discriminatory attigovernment-service stints: Priety Zinta for failing to appear bond period to be deferred. tude towards doctors who had only thereafter will their orig Keep your postal pin code ready • Pay Cash on Home Delivery Advocate Pooja Thorat done postgraduate diplomas. inal documents be returned.

enjoy modaks without the excessive sweetness of mawa pare fried modaks using oats dren love tutti-frutti, choco

Citizens map noise levels to

raise awareness, bring change "I have collected all Supreme Court and high court judgments on noise pollution as well as affidavits filed by the state government in court. I have used them judiciously in my

> fight against noise pollution. Three years ago, he started recording sound levels with a noise meter. He, along with his wife, would go around Vashi measuring decibels. Today, he has downloaded an app on his mobile with which he records the decibels.

Elsewhere, Anand Pendharkar runs an NGO called Sprouts in Andheri East, which works to create environmental awareness and ecological documentation. The team has inspired several col-

map for the city." Pendharkar said the objective is to create awareness about noise levels among individuals and bring

about behavioural change.

lege students from Bhavan's.

Ismail Yusuf, Ruparel and

Ruia as well school students

from Parle Tilak Vidvalava

to download the Noise Watch

ing noise levels since Janma-

shtami. All these readings

recorded by different people

at different times are up-

loaded on our Facebook page

'Citizens' Noisemap'. We have

recorded noise levels from Vi-

rar, Ghatkopar, Kurla, Colaba

and even Pune. We are work-

ing towards creating a noise

"We have started record-

app on their mobiles.

In the past 13 years, she has created over 2.5 lakh Ganesha idols. Every night since her dream, the 52-year-old homemaker has been locking herself up in her bedroom, preparing idols while listening to Navkar mantra and chanting to herself.

the details the next day.

Over the years, her medita

Digital

Display

METRO DIGEST

RCTC has launched a new app booking e-tickets, through ways

ue to technical problems in uploading forms for TYBCom, BA and BSc semester V exams in October, submission date is now September 20.

he Dahisar police booked a bar girl and her relative for abetting the suicide of a man (25). They were reportedly pressuring him to get back her gold that he sold off.

Man held after

19-year-old domestic help