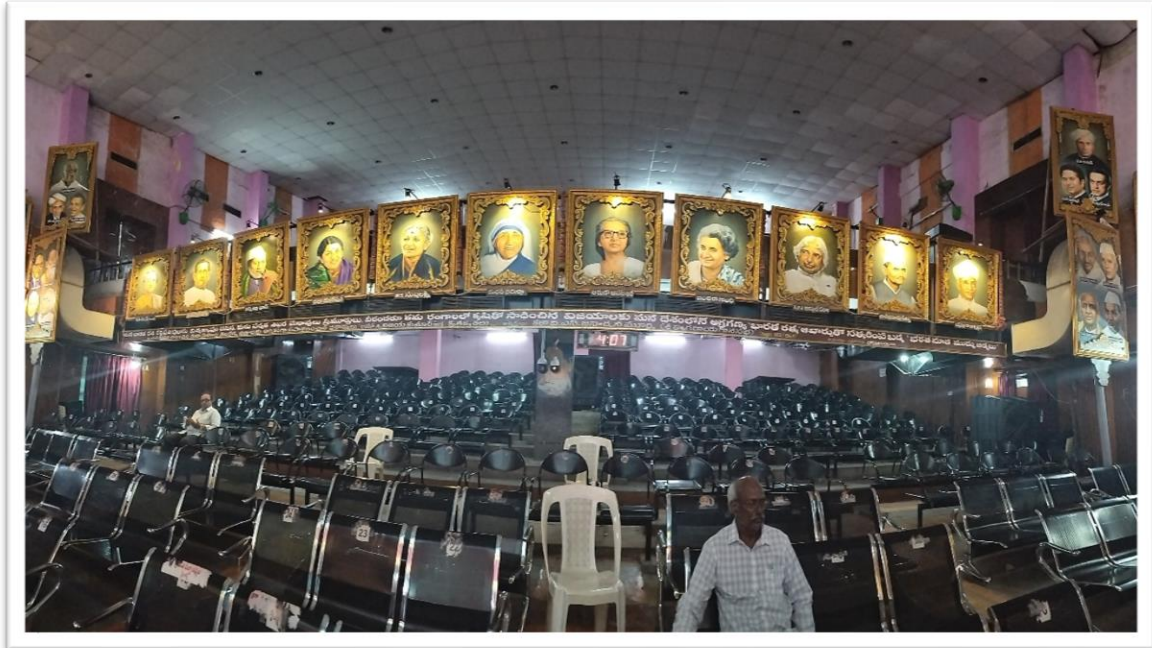


Lion Dr. Arigapudi Vijay Kumar: A Beacon of Philanthropy and Cultural Promotion at Sri Thyagaraya Gana Sabha



A panoramic view of the art installation by Lion Dr Vijay Kumar at Sri Thyagaraya Gana Sabha, Hyderabad.

Introduction:

Lion Dr. Arigapudi Vijay Kumar is one of the rare people who personify their given names – He has seen Vijay (success) with every task he has undertaken in every field he has been associated with. His philanthropy extends not only to the upliftment of the poor and downtrodden but also to the field of art and culture. In view of his unstinting efforts in the field of Social Service and promotion of Art and Culture, Lion Dr. A. Vijay Kumar was felicitated by Vamsee Art Theaters and was conferred the title of “Seva Saarbhauma” and “Vadaanya Varenya”. He has continuously received several such awards over the years.

He has extended support to various socio-cultural organisations to help them in succeeding in their endeavours to protect and promote the Indian Art-and Culture. He is the chief Patron for several such organisations too. One such eminent organization is Sri Thyagaraya Gana Sabha in Hyderabad, Telangana.

Overview of the Sri Thyagaraya Gana Sabha: A Cultural Hub in Hyderabad

Established in 1966, Sri Thyagaraya Gana Sabha is a renowned cultural institution established in Chikkadpalli, Hyderabad. It is celebrated for its vibrant classical music, dance performances, and diverse cultural programs.

The Sabha has an auditorium and kalavedika and is known for the performance by eminent classical singers, the regularly organised classes in performing arts and awards related to music and dance. Kuchipudi performances in particular are quite prolific, and held here every month. There are also regular Telugu literary programmes and theatrical performances.

Sri Thyagaraya Ganasabha has been often quoted as a cultural Multiplex as it offers a single platform for multiple cultural programme formats. More information about the organization can be found at <https://srithyagarayaganasabha.org/>

Facilities at Sri Thyagaraya Ganasabha:

The Sabha has 4 mini-auditoriums which are provided “free of cost” around the year:

- Kala Subbarao Kala Vedika
- Kala Lalitha Kala Vedika
- Gundavarapu Hanumanta Rao Kala Vedika
- Kala Dikshitulu Kala Vedika

The Sabha encourages artists to come forward for performing and conducting various cultural activities like Kuchipudi, Vocal performance, Mrudangam, Literature, Mimicry, Skits, Book release functions, Harikatha and so on.

With the noble intention of supporting artists from all walks of life, the Sabha offers all halls free of cost round the year, because of which, the Thyagaraya Ganasabha incurs an expenditure of a whopping 1 crore rupees per year.

Inspite of this monumental expenditure, Sri Thyagaraya Gana Sabha continues to excel as a beacon of hope for every artist.



Poster detailing services offered by Sri Thyagaraya Ganasabha



- Telugu literary programs.
- Summer classes offering free classical music lessons for children.

Medical services to the community:

The Sabha organizes various free camps for the poor such as eye checkup camps, health checkup camps, free medical camps, HIV awareness camps, in places like Padmarao Nagar, Malkajgiri, Alwal, Ranigunj, Lingampally, Patancheru and Charminar etc.

Free eye check up camps, eye-glasses donation as prescribed by the doctors, financial support for needy patients are some of the commonly seen medical services by the Sabha.

In the year 2006-07, approximately 68 lakhs was spent on providing free medical camps while, in the year 2007-08, an amount to the tune of 85 lakhs was spent. . About 300 patients have been identified

Programs and Activities at the Thyagaraya Ganasabha:

Sri Thyagaraya Ganasabha has been conducting about 70 programmes jointly and 30 programmes independently every month. The Sabha is known for:

- Regular Kuchipudi dance performances.

with heart issues and the Sabha management says that they keep coming back with gratitude and thanks.

Community Impact of the Sabha:

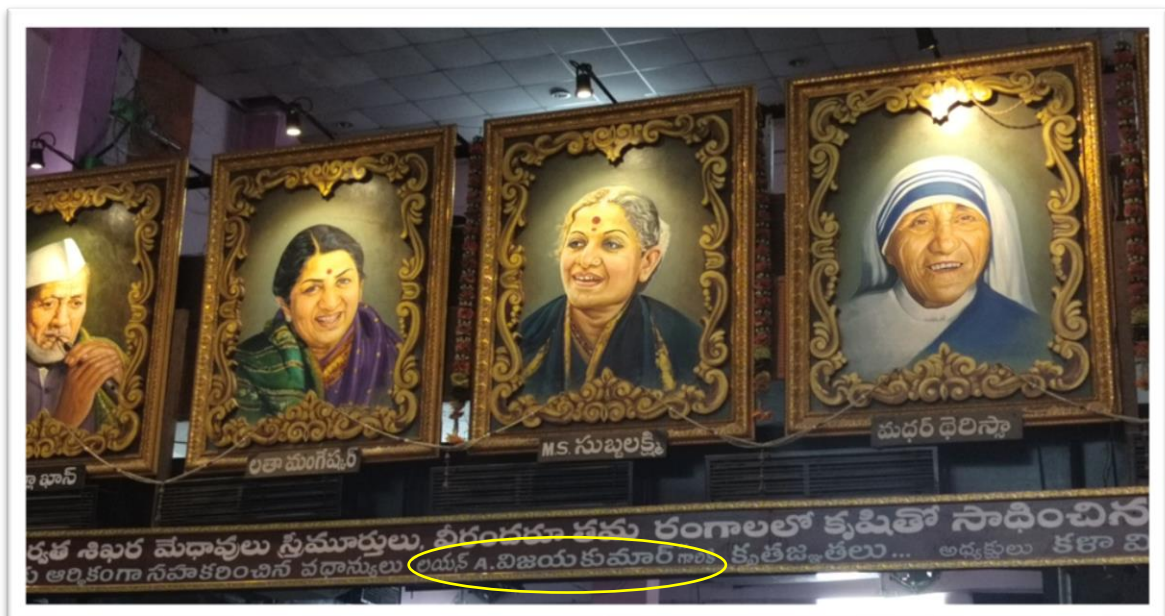
Though primarily frequented by city-based organizations, Sri Thyagaraya Gana Sabha remains a pivotal venue for promoting and preserving classical arts and culture in Hyderabad.

Right within the Sabha premises, one can see the 32 Feet Prasannanjaneya Swamy Statue established in the year 2005.

The Sabha even has an elevator for elderly audience who cannot take stairs to attend programme in the 1st floor at Gundavarapu Hanumantha Rao A/C Hall.

Equipped with these facilities and powered by a motto of serving the arts, the Thyagaraya Gana Sabha attracted the attention of Arigapudi Vijaya Kumar who as been working passionately towards promoting arts and culture.

Arigapudi Vijay Kumar's Contributions to Sri Thyagaraya Gana Sabha



The inscription underscoring the art installation clearly calls out Lion AVK's name.

The "Human with a heart", Lion Dr AVK is a great art lover and has supported many upcoming painters through his/ her struggling years.

One of the significant endeavours in this area is the large-scale art installation at the Thyagaraya Gana Sabha, particularly through commissioned artwork depicting Vaggeyakarulu, the revered composer-saints of Carnatic music. These paintings celebrate the legacy and cultural heritage of these musical maestros.

Dr. A Vijay Kumar once visited the Thyagaraya Gana Sabha and was quite taken in with the idea of adorning these halls with paintings which would befit the walls.

Thus was born the idea of commissioning 25 paintings. These include paintings of the prestigious Bharat Ratna awardees, "Vaggeyakarulu"- Classical Lyricists as well as "Saahithivethalu"- Literary icons.

The Paintings were commissioned to a Master Artist at an expense of Rs 25 Lakhs which was borne by Ln Dr A Vijay Kumar. In 2017, these 25 paintings were put up on the walls of Thyagaraya Gana Sabha much to the delight of visiting dignitaries and the public.

This gesture has resulted in:

Cultural Promotion: These paintings not only beautify the Sabha but also serve as educational tools, inspiring visitors and young artists alike.

Impact: His works have enhanced the Sabha's role as a cultural bastion, preserving and promoting the rich traditions of Carnatic music. The vivid portrayal of these historical figures contributes to the Sabha's mission of fostering an appreciation for classical arts.

Inspired by this magnanimous gesture, the Sabha management continues to offer the 5 performance halls to support artists and do not focus on profit as a principle.



It is famously quoted in the Sabha circles that, if LN. Dr. A. Vijay Kumar's generosity or 'Daanam' has to be accounted for in rupees, it would be easily to the tune of 300 crores.

The saying goes- 'One good deed begets another'. This has come true in the case of Lion Dr. Arigapudi Vijaya Kumar.