Preparing for School

On the eve of the re-opening of schools, local stores which sells books and stationery, bags and water bottles are packed with children and their parents buying stuff they will need for the new academic year. This was the scene at one shop on South Mada Street, Mylapore.

Photo: Madhan Kumar
**EVENTS**

**June 1**

Sai Bhajans by Mandaveli Samithi at V-Ecel Educational Trust, 10/23, Thiruvengadam Street, R. A. Puram, 6.30 p.m. Open to all.

Karik Fine Arts 30th Kodai Nataka Vizha awards function. At Narada Gana Sabha, T. T. K. Road, 4.45 p.m. Thamizh play will follow event. Open to all.

Pallavi-based Carnatic music contest. Hosted by Carnatica Archival Centre and Sri Parthasarathy Swami Sabha. At Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan, Mylapore. 9 a.m. onwards.

Talk by Shapathi Kumar Guruparan on ‘Restoration of Thiruvellarai Temple gopuram’. At Arka Center, Luz, 5.30 p.m.

A special lecture to commemorate the 79th birth anniversary of noted musicologist Dr. S. A. K. Durga. Talk by Dr. Suvarnalata Rao. Theme: “Music and Medicine.” At YMIA, R. H. Road, Mylapore, 6 p.m.

**June 2**

‘Mikesless’ vocal Carnatic music concert by K. Varsha. At Nageswara Rao Park, Luz, 6.30 a.m. to 7.30 a.m. At Chees Square. Hosted by Sundaram Finance. To audition for this monthly concert series, contact S. Prabhu at 9444040478

Bhagavat Gita discourse by R. Aravinda. At Dr. Sivanthi Adithanar Memorial Hall, George Avenue, Poets Garden, 10.30 a.m. For details call 9480409040.

Pallavi Jam - interactive Carnatic music, pallavi-focussed event. By Carnatica Archival Centre and Sri Parthasarathy Swami Sabha. At Mylapore Fine Arts Club, Mylapore. 3.15 p.m. onwards.

Valedictory function of Pallavi Darbar 2019 Carnatic music series. At Mylapore Fine Arts Club, Mylapore. 6.30 p.m.

Bhajan sadhana camp by Sri Satya Sai Seva Organisations, Tanimudru. At ‘Sundaram’, R.A. Puram. 7.30 a.m.

Talk by Dr Srinar Parasarun on ‘Rangam mayamalavagowli’ and its vargas. At Arka Centre, Luz, 10 a.m.

**June 4**


**June 6**

Musical tribute to Saints of India. Hosted by Arama-jeevi Potti Sreeramulu Samithi at Arka Center, Luz. 6.15 p.m.
RESIDENTS CAN BOOK SMALLER WATER TANKERS SOON
By Our Staff Reporter

Metro Water recently announced that residents can book 2000 and 3000 litre water tankers on the payment of a fee.

The Metro Water AE, Zone 9 last week said, “So far, we have been supplying 6000, 9000 and 12000 litre tankers to residents. Tankers with a capacity of 16000 and 24000 litres are sent to places where there is a bulk need like hospitals, railway and police quarters. Small residential complexes in the Mylapore area can utilize this facility.

At disadvantaged areas, water will be supplied free.”

On May 20, the AE said, “We are still working out the details regarding the bookings, the computer servers are getting ready. A date on which the bookings will be open has not been decided yet. Meetings are being held with top officials and we hope to get things ready soon. Once the bookings are open, the same will be reflected on our website”.

To make a booking, call the centralized number 45674567 or book online at https://chennaimetrowater.tn.gov.in/

CIVIC STAFF REMOVE BARRICADES OUTSIDE SRI KAPALI TEMPLE. BUT THEY ARE RE-INSTALLED HOURS LATER
By Our Staff Reporter

Chennai Corporation officials arranged for the removal of the metal barricades which had been erected in the western side of Sannidhi Street.

On May 28, civic workers removed the barricades which were put up a few weeks ago to prevent parking of vehicles, reported Baskar Seshadri, a community activist.

But within hours, the metal barricades were re-installed, obviously by workers of Sri Kapali Temple.

The installation of barricades by the temple management had come in for a lot of criticism from many quarters. Local Traffic Police personnel said that they were not consulted on the barricade plans. Nor were civic officials briefed.

Obviously, Sri Kapali Temple management has been keen to barricade the zone for smooth conduct of processions and rituals throughout the year. This space is hijacked by hawkers and treated as a parking lot.
1. At the ‘Glow in the dark’ art workshop organised by Mojo Canvas, based at D’Silva Road, Mylapore, children explored their creative side by painting on black canvases with special paint. They created personalized fridge magnets, nameboards, starscapes and dot paintings.

2. A acrylic camp was recently held at Kalakaar Studio, Alwarpet. The students learnt the art of mixing colours, drawing and painting. Komal Savla, who runs the space, says, “The children went home with six canvas paintings at the end of this 20 hour camp. We have also been conducting classes for children all throughout the year and we plan to showcase their work at our annual art show, Rang De, at C. P. Art Centre in June”.

3. At Rani Meyammal Towers, MRC Nagar, for the fourth year in a row, three teens Ananya Ganesh, Adithi Sharan and Akshara Uppuluri held a camp for the little ones at their apartment community. They had fireless cooking, camping, crafts, book reading sessions and fun activities based on space and time travel.

4. At Jus Drums School of Percussion, children learnt the basics of drumming. Percussionist Murali Krishnan runs this school. He says, “At the end of the 20 session module, the children learnt how to handle the kit and also play a few beats to the rhythm”.

5. The ten day aeroscience workshop held for children at Kea Mind Studio, San Thome was conducted by the Vayu Shastra team from IIT, Madras. Poornima M. S. owns the studio. She says, “The way it works is that we use a combination of story-telling and science to make learning more interactive”.

“For example, for certain concepts an aeronautical engineer worked with a theatre artist to make sure the science concepts are fun to learn. If children like cartoons, we use that too to explain science”. More than 20 students attended this workshop, they all went home with models of their work.
Serving the thirsty

Devotees of Sathya Sai Baba who belong to Sai Seva Samithis have been taking turns to help quench the thirst of people moving about the neighbourhood as the summer temperature crossed 40 degrees.

The Mylapore group made and served buttermilk to hundreds of people from a point on Dr. Ranga Road. Youths and seniors lent a hand. Similarly, the Samithi of R. A. Puram has also been doing its bit.

Malini Kalyanam, a volunteer says this community service has been carried out in turns through May.

Appeal to Mylaporeans to donate to scholarships programme

Mylapore Times Charitable Trust (MTCT) appeals to Mylaporeans to donate freely to its annual scholarships programme.

The Trust has been awarding funds to economically poor students who excel in the Plus Two / Std.10 exams and are keen to pursue their studies but lack the money to pay for the first phase of their studies.

Last year, about Rs.4 lakhs was granted to over 25 students.

The Trust invites Mylaporeans to donate for this specific purpose. Beneficiaries are chosen based on background checks and support documents from the schools.

This past fortnight, these were the donors - Janaki Nathan, CIT Colony - Rs. 5000. Saseendran, Luz Avenue - Rs.3000.

Donations enjoy IT exemption. You may call 24982244 and ask for staff to collect your donation.
CHECK THIS OUT

MISCELLANEOUS

CARNIVAL IN LUZ
Midtown Flea market is holding Midtown Carnival, an event at Luz House, Mylapore. There will be stuff to buy, games to play, music, food and soft entertainment. It is on June 1, noon onwards. For details call 9700814612.

SHARE YOUR TRAVEL TALES
Share memorable moments from your summer travels at ‘Travel Stories Unleashed’, a workshop for adults. At Curio Play Anandha Road, Alwarpet, on June 2, from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m.

MUSIC

CARNATIC MUSIC FEST
Carnatica’s annual Pallavi Durbar music fest is on at two venues in Mylapore. The fest focuses on the ‘pallavi’ in Carnatic music. While contests are being held at Bhavans, Mylapore - on June 1 and 2, the concerts are at MFAC sabha.

WORKSHOPS

ART
Chennai Weekend Artists will hold an art workshop comprising of art theory and practice. It will be held at Dream Zone, 5th floor, CAID Centre, Dr. Radhakrishnan Road, Mylapore, on June 2, 9.30 a.m. Participants will share workshop expenses. Registration is a must.
Call 9840820988. Open to all.

FUN WITH CLAY
Children can learn to make items with clay at this clay modelling fridge magnet workshop. It is for children over 7 years. On June 1 from 12 noon to 2 p.m. Fees is Rs. 600. At Kalaa Manjari, 6/12, First Street, Venus Colony, Alwarpet. Call 9840225570 to register.

PAINTING LESSONS FOR KIDS
Starry Night is an acrylic painting workshop for kids above 7 years. The workshop is on June 1 from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. Fees is Rs. 750. at Kalaa Manjari, 6/12, First Street, Venus Colony, Alwarpet. Call 9840225570 to register.

CALLIGRAPHY
Interested in learning calligraphy? Metallic calligraphy workshop meant for beginners will be conducted by Mridula Ganesan on June 1. At the Madras Art Store, Mookambika Complex, C. P. Ramaswamy Road, 1.30 p.m. to 5.30 p.m. Basic strokes of calligraphy and more advanced techniques will be taught.

TERRARIUM GARDENING
Archana Krishnamurthy will conduct a workshop on the art of Terrarium Gardening. It will be held at Curio Play, Anandha Road, Alwarpet, on June 1 and 2 at 10 a.m. All materials will be provided. Participants will have to pay a fee.
Contact 09840917714

MYLAPORE TIMES
June 1 - 7, 2019

STAND-UP COMEDY
Sumit Anand will present a comedy show ‘Chennai: Nothing about Godzilla’ on June 7 at 8 p.m. At 16, 1st Cross Street Co-operative Colony, Sri Ram Nagar, Alwarpet. Ticketed event

SOLO STAND UP SHOW
Evam presents ‘Pure Veg Jokes’, a solo stand-up show by Saikiran on June 2. It is a clean comedy in English, says a promo line.
At Bay 146, Savera Hotel, Mylapore. Ticketed event. 7.30 p.m.

TICKLE YOURSELF
Counter Culture Comedy Club will hold a weekend comedy show featuring Abhish Mathew, Uruj, Asfaq and Saurav Mehta on June 1 and 2, 8 p.m. The show is at 16, 1st Cross Street Co-operative Colony, Sri Ram Nagar, Alwarpet. Ticketed event. Call 8220832419.

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On June 1, evening concerts are by Mahaithi, Gayatri Venkataraghavan and Pantula Rama. On June 2, on stage are Akkarai Sisters and Saketharaman. Pallavi-based music contests are on June 1 and 2 at Bhavans, East Mada Street, Mylapore.
Call 9444018269

YOUNG ARTISTES ON STAGE
Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan in association with Aanmajyothi (cultural wing of Saraswathi Viyalaya) presents ‘Rising Stars’, a series of Carnatic music concerts featuring young talented artistes. The event is at Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan, Mylapore from June 1 to 6, 5 p.m. daily.

ART
Chennai Weekend Artists will hold an art workshop comprising of art theory and practice. It will be held at Dream Zone, 5th floor, CAID Centre, Dr. Radhakrishnan Road, Mylapore, on June 2, 9.30 a.m. Participants will share workshop expenses. Registration is a must.
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Contact 09840917714

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79th Birth Anniversary of Late Dr. S. A. K. Durga
Special Commemorative Lecture on Music and Medicine by Dr. S. K. Chandilya
Programming Head-Indian Music, Senior Consultant Therapist, Apollo Hrudayalaya, Mumbai, will moderate the Q&A session.
Dr. Annie Besant Centenary Hall, TMIA, 54-57/2 RH Road, Ch- 4, Today at 6:00 pm.

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Opening soon in Perungudi, OMR.
NGO holds ‘Know Your Rights’ meet

By Our Staff Reporter

Over 100 people took part in Arappor Iyakkam’s ‘Know Your Rights’ programme which was held at Srinivasa Sastri Hall in Luz last weekend.

This meet was intended for Mylaporeans who live in Ward 123.

Arappor Iyakkam is a city-based NGO which intends to drive transparency and accountability in governance and is keen on participative democracy.

At the weekend meeting in Luz, members of the NGO spoke on how people could deal with local civic issues and how best they could use the resolution mechanism available to citizens.

Speakers also touched on Chennai Corporation grievance-redressal mechanism, on how people can make use of the provisions under Right to Information (RTI), on the structure of constitutional bodies, the taxation structures of state agencies, and how to deal with local police on law and order/crime issues.

Says David Manohar of Arappor Iyakkam, “The aim of these meetings is to create better-informed citizens and to create ward-level committees to address local issues and monitor public works locally.”

The team for Ward 123 is being formed.

And similar meets and team formation for other wards in Mylapore will happen in course of time, says Manohar.

Ward 123 covers areas around TTK Road, a section of Eldams Road, Musiri Subramanian Road, Thiru Vi Ka Road, section of R. K. Mutt Road and Kapali Thottam.

WANT TO BE PART OF YOUR WARD’s TEAM?

Arappor Iyakkam says it is on a mission to create Ward teams from residents who want to play a role in public life in their backyards. The chosen ones will have to locate and highlight serious civic issues, keep a tab on civic projects rolled out in the area and follow-up on responses of state agencies.

If you wish to be part of Ward teams in Mylapore zone, call 9941142188/7200020099.

NEW PUBLIC GYM IN R. A. PURAM

Chennai Corporation will open a public gymnasium next to Amma Unavagam on San Thome High Road. It was under construction since January. Now, the outer wall of this block has been painted. A catchy slogan and colourful visuals highlight the walls. “A storeroom and washroom facility will also be available here. It will open in a few weeks time,” said a Corporation official of ward 126.

UPANYASAM SERIES

A three day upanyasam vaibhavam has been organised by Kartik Fine Arts from June 3 to 5. A discourse on ‘Manam, thooi-maiya Mozhi’ by Velukkudi Krishnan will be a part of the series. At Narada Gana Sabha, Alwarpet, 6.30 p.m. onwards.

MUSIC COURSE: AT MUSIC ACADEMY

Applications for a three year music course at the Advanced School of Carnatic Music at Music Academy, Alwarpet will be issued from June 1. Faculty members include noted musicians R. Vedavalli, Trichur Ramachandran, Suguna Varadachari, Neyveli Santhanagopalan, Sriram Parasuram and several others. The Academy also offers part time courses in instrumental music (mridangam, veena and violin) and vocal classes for beginners (four years). Last date to submit the filled in forms is June 30. For details contact 28112231, 28115162.

Remembering a passionate Carnatic music rasika

There are hundreds of concerts of Carnatic music that are hosted in Mylapore. And attending them round the year are some very passionate rasikas. Rasikas who know their music, spend quality time and then share feedback with the artistes. Straight feedback.

Venkateswaran was one such rasika. He passed away some years ago.

On Sunday, June 2 his friends are hosting a special concert in his memory at Raga Sudha Hall, Luz.

A vocal concert by Pantula Rama, 6 p.m. onwards.

Kannan, Venkateswaran’s friend says this man would be found in all the Chennai auditoriums listening to music, vocal or instrumental. Says Kannan, “He commuted all the way from interior Mambalam and attended concerts in any part of the city. He could not accept mediocrity and would express his views upfront to the artiste and the organiser. He had an abiding interest in the compositions of Thyagaraja and Pattanam Subramanya Iyer and could analyse them threadbare.”
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PREDICTIONS, Marriage matching near Chitralukam, North Street, Mylapore, Friday to Sunday. 11 to 10 pm. Contact: 9962510388 / 18.


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Organically-grown mangoes on sale

Organically-grown mangoes from a well-known farmer of Arambakkam near Tada in Andhra Pradesh on Tamil Nadu border are now on sale in a place off Dr. Radhakrishnan Salai, Mylapore.

Suresh Ranka who has arranged for sourcing and sale says that “the mangoes are grown without using fertilizers or chemicals but by ancient methods of using cow manure and disinfectant like haldi (manjal) to prevent pests. Nets are used to stop bats from eating the fruits.”

The retail sale is made at the office of Judge Jambulingam Road Residents Association located at: M/s. Sugan Consultants, Svastika, 9, Judge Jambulingam Road, Mylapore.

Three varieties of mangoes are available now. Banganapally mangoes – Rs.150/- per kg. Javaadh mangoes – Rs.150/- per kg. Himampasand mangoes – Rs.250/- per kg

Contact Suresh Ranka at 9444357575.

KUMBABHISHEKAM DAY AT SRI KARANESWARAR TEMPLE

On June 12, ‘Kumbabhishhekam Dina Vizha’ at Sri Karaneswarar Temple, Mylapore will be marked by a 108 sangu abhishekam in the morning. In the evening, after the maha deepa aradhanai, the deity will be taken on a veedu purappadu on the rishaba vahanam. At Bazaar Road, Mylapore, 8 a.m. onwards.

FREE SANSKRIT CLASSES

Free Sanskrit classes, starting from the basics, will be offered for adults from June 9 at Alwarpet. For details contact Shanta Srinivasan at 9884313214.
HOW CAN YOU GIVE YOUR MESSY STREET A NEW LOOK?

A community effort in R. A. Puram has set an example that others can follow

By Preeti Srivatsan

For years, the part of Sringeri Mutt Road, R. A. Puram which runs along the Buckingham Canal and is home to Chennai High School was a place frequented by anti-social elements.

Everybody cribbed about the mess, the stink and the dirt.

Then some people decided to act.

Three groups - Thiruveedhi Amman Koil Street Residents Association (TAKSRA), Institute for Transportation and Development Policy (ITDP) and the Chennai Traffic Police - came together to clean the area and make it accessible to residents.

K. L. Bala, an active member of TAKSRA, says, “The wall along the canal was broken. Very often, people would drink and leave their bottles behind the vehicles that were constantly parked there. We first sought the help of the police to remove the cars parked there and then decided to beautify the place. We roped in HDFC Bank and a NGO, Kar-pam Korpom to help us paint the walls. We had a lot of help from students of local schools. The residents of R. K. Nagar pitched in too, they helped cover the shortfall in costs”.

Soon after that, a process called ‘Tactical Urbanisation’ was adopted wherein the roads were painted and plants and ropes were used to clearly demarcate pedestrian space from vehicular traffic.

Bala continues, “The auto and van drivers in the area were of the opinion that a public toilet nearby would be useful. We hope to find a sponsor who will fund the toilet and maintain it”.

How did the police address this issue?

Shree Abhinav, DCP Traffic, says, “We had a lot of parking issues. Cars and vans drivers who parked there would remove the vehicle when we asked them to and then would do come back the next day to park the vehicle. We had to strictly enforce this and had to constantly keep a watch to ensure that rules are followed”.

These simple steps have improved street conditions here. But the effort will have to prolong.

HOW CAN A COMMUNITY COPY THIS EFFORT?

Residents first need to identify the area that needs improvement. List the issues.

Try to arrange sponsor/s: several companies are most willing to do this as their CSR activity. Develop relations with banks / finance companies / brands

Once the work starts, constant monitoring is required. This is best done by local residents.

Residents need to set up a system in place where irregularities can be reported immediately and appropriate action is taken.

For details contact Bala at 7010848668.
Government Estate had to be on my beat when I used to report on Tamil Nadu in the 1980s. The hostel for MLAs were here and so were some government offices. If you hung around in the evenings you would be bound to run into politicians who had stories to share.

There were three people who I often checked out—Durai Murugan of the DMK, Salem’ Kannan of AIADMK and R. Umanath of the Community party. Kannan used to occupy a small room in the Old Hostel and since he was close to Jayalalithaa and seen as a key back-room player in the AIADMK party, his room would always have visitors. So I would have to wait till late to have a conversation with him.

With Umanath, you just kept the appointment. He had already served two terms as member of parliament and was later a two-time MLA. He lodged in the New MLAs Hostel and whenever I went there to talk to him, he would either be writing or reading something.

There is one meeting that pops up in my mind whenever election results are in the news. I think it was after the 1991 Tamil Nadu Assembly elections. The AIADMK-Congress alliance swept the polls, post the Rajiv Gandhi assasination. And Umanath’s wife, Pappa Umanath, also a senior Left leader who had contested in this poll had lost.

“Do people really consider the candidate when they cast their vote?” I had asked him. We spoke at length on that. I cannot recall what his answer was. In sum though he seemed to say that a man or woman may have done great work as MLA or MP in his / her constituency and it may have been highly appreciated by the people but when there was a big swing affecting an election, even such reps fell by the wayside. That people had their own ways of choosing their rep.

Elections 2019 have sunk people who took their places for granted for long years and voted people who have shown great promise. And now that the results are public and our MPs will take their place in Parliament, our job is not over.

Ours has just begun.

If you want your Member of Parliament to be your voice, to work for you, to deliver, then you too have a role to play. And that role has not ended with the list of ‘Things To Do’ that the candidates in April last.

This is the time to set the conversation going with the local MP. In the case of Mylapore, it has to be with Thamizhachi Thangapandian of the DMK.

One of the first decisions made by the newly-elected MP of Madurai, Su. Venkatesan, a well known writer and member of the CPI(M) is to create an advisory team for the implementation of the MPs Area Development Fund. This is part of the promises Venkatesan made in his poll manifesto. He says that people from all walks of life in Madurai must be part of this team and that their inputs will be valuable when it comes to listing support for local projects.

Besides opening a local office in the Mylapore zone (Chennai South constituency is quite a unwieldy one - from Velachery to Mylapore, from Saidapet to T. Nagar and Virugambakkam) the new MP may well want to borrow Venkatesan’s idea right away.

One of the major shortcomings of the previous MP here, Dr. Jesavurthai was his poor communication. He had good intentions and worked on some key projects for the constituency but people did not know what was on his mind, what was on the drawing board and what was being implemented. Perhaps, his successor who is known to be a good orator will learn from this past.

MPs who are educated and supported by their constituents have a better chance of doing well in their terms. People who work with their reps have better profits to make.

Water is a big issue for this city. Almost all the candidates of the Chennai constituencies declared they would set up more desalination plants. But did they really know what they were talking about?

Desal plants cost a bomb. And that bomb has to be paid for by you and me. If you look closely at the bomb that Metro Water is tackling with the existing desal plants, you will furiously debate this issue. Debate it with Thangapandian who also supports this ‘magic’ solution to the water crisis.

Chennai South has lots of issues that need debate, discussion and collaboration. And it has to be two-way. We don’t have to wait for your MP to ring the bell. Better for you and me to ring it.

Sewage from private residences spills on to Solaiyappan Street

Raw sewage has been flowing out into the open on Solaiyappan Street from Door No.52, a private property and this is creating a mess in our area. This is a direct result of apathy of the residents at that address inspite of the best efforts of the local Metrowater staff to clear the mess.

This is not the first time this is happening. This is a recurring issue that blows up every 3 to 4 months. And yet the residents from where it leaks have not found a way to solve the problem permanently.

These flats were built out of a space which is located at the end of a long narrow alley as the only entry/exit point. In spite of building 6 flats, the builders have not upgraded the sewage line; the old line was meant to handle the waste of just one house.

We feel the residents are happy to let out sewage rather than spend money to fix their internal sewage line interface.

Whenever we call Metrowater, the staff employ a sewer suction / jet rodding machine to clear the block through the nearest manhole junction. But the solution last for a few weeks and the overflow begins again.

- S. Srinivasan, Solaiyappan Street, Mylapore

Promote urban horticulture

I have been practicing and promoting green initiatives at my house at 33, Krishnapuri, R. A. Puram for over three decades - by growing coconut, jack fruit and narthangai.

I am now experimenting with hydroponics gardening equipment for growing greens and cucumber. We also compost dry leaves.

I think it is time we promote urban horticulture and green initiatives in every household.

- H. K. Lakshman Rao, R. A. Puram

Thirsty birds

While we are all trying to handle the water crisis situation in the city in different ways think of the birds who must also be looking far and wide for water.

The water crisis is highlighted well when you see many birds flying into the tank of Sri Kapali Temple in Mylapore which now has only small pools of water here and there. But even this is enough for the thirsty birds.

- Subha V. Dilip, Mylapore

SLICE OF LIFE

Adyar Poonga in R. A. Puram is a haven for birds. In this severe summer season they are happy to quench their thirst in the small pools of water here.

Srinath Venkatesh of Valleswaran Gardens, Mandaveli shot this photo on the fringe of the Poonga recently.

MYLAPORE TIMES invites unusual photos of Mylapore life for this page. Mail to - mlylaresedti@gmail.com.

Add a caption and your full name.
WATER. WATER.

Ramakrishna Puram’s women bear the brunt of poor quality and limited supply

By Dheepthi O. J.

On May 16 evening, Residents of Ramakrishna Puram, a colony located off Kutcheri Road and on the banks of the Buckingham Canal are restless.

“No water has come since morning,” says Angamma, a flower vendor, even as she is tying malli-poo at Ramakrishna Puram Main Road. Six streets run perpendicular to a wide main road. Tightly packed huts and small apartment blocks have filled the streets on land said to have been donated by Ramakrishna Math, Mylapore.

This colony has over 700 families. Lower-middle and middle-class families reside here. J. Anand, a resident of this colony was on his toes. “This is the third (6000 1) lorry that we have called since morning. The first two served the residents of Ramakrishna Puram 1st and 6th Streets. This one will serve the 5th Street,” says Anand.

The lorry water is supplied free to the residents, and this community offers tea and biscuits to the lorry driver along with a tip. Unlike other colonies, the residents of this area are not restrained by community regs to collect a certain number of pots (kodams). “If there is a crowd (people from other areas) we limit it to 5 or 6 kodams per family. Other-Radha’s children were seen drinking water from a half-filled bottle. “Drink this water now. We never know when we will get good water next,” said the elder one as she handed the bottle to her younger sister after having a sip.

On the days when there is no water supply in any of the pumps, it is a run for the residents on their bicycle cycles in search of water. The residents say the water from the lone hand pump outside Lalith Thottam comes handy on these occasions.

“But they will allow us to collect water only after all the residents in their colony finish collecting water. By the time we collect, sometimes the supply gets over, or we will be able to collect only 2 to 3 kodams,” says C. Devdas, who has a clothes ironing shop.

His friend Rajesh says, “Also when local political party members of our colony order for the lorry water, they dominate and allow us to collect water only after all their acquaintances finish collecting water. Many people like me are suffering,” he says.

For the residents on Ramakrishna Puram 5th Street, who have their lorry's water on the Buckingham Canal, contamination of drinking water with drain water is yet another problem. “We have made a number of complaints regarding this to the Corporation officials. But no action has been taken,” says K. Vijaya, who runs a tiffin shop and works as a domestic helper.

Recently, during the election campaign, the DMK promised to change the pipes, and some immediate action took place.

But after two days, the water was again contaminated. Now, we dread using that pump,” she says.

Since there is no supply from this pump, residents have to collect water from the common borewell pump.

“But the handle of the borewell hand pump is big. Even if we boil, the smell stays. And the water from borewell is unusable. So we are forced to buy packaged water for drinking,” she says.

“We buy a can spending Rs.30 whenever possible. At least for the sake of our children’s health, we spend on can water for drinking and cooking,” says Radha.

“Since there is no supply only after all the residents in their colony finish collecting water. By the time we collect, sometimes the supply gets over, or we will be able to collect only 2 to 3 kodams,” says S.Vijaya, a resident of the 5th Street, who have their washroom in the middle of this street - but it often does not work.

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Kanchi acharya honours Vedic scholar Swaminatha Ganapadigal

By Our Staff Reporter

Swaminatha Ganapadigal, a resident of Mylapore and teacher at the Veda Padasala on Pitchu Pillai Street, Mylapore, has been awarded ‘Veda Prachara Rathnam’ by Sri Vijayendra Saraswathi Swamigal, the Kanchi acharya who was camping at a school in Thoraipakkam till recently.

Sri Lakshmi Narashima Trust honoured nine Vedic scholars on May 15 – they have excelled in the Vedas and contributed towards dharmic welfare. Among them was Swaminatha Ganapadigal – awarded for strengthening the vaidheega community by way of bringing up a number of disciples who have gained name and fame for their clarity in Veda chanting.

Ganapadigal’s family said that at the award event, the Kanchi acharya also recalled the efforts they took to open the Mylapore padasala. Krishnamoorthy Sasthrigal, principal of Madras Sanskrit College, graced the event.

Swaminatha Ganapadigal practised Vedha adhyayanam since his early childhood. He became the vediyiar of Pitchu Pillai Street padasala at the age of 26. Kanchi mahaperiyaval Sri Chandrasekarendra Saraswathi swamigal insisted that he teach at the padasala. He managed the padasala for 35 years. Now, he is also the advisor here.

He has travelled across India and has been recognised for his scholarship and teaching.

He was also closely associated with Kanchi Mahaperiyava Sri Chandrasekarendra Saraswathi swamigal and on whose advice he followed – to visit many villages and spread the Vedas there. He has some 50 sishyas in Chennai and outside.

He is now 65 years old.

Ganapadigal’s address is – No. 7/27, J Apartments, Devadi Street, (behind Sukumar Associates), Mylapore. Cell: 9444047296.

CONCERTS BY ‘RISING STARS’ OF CARNATIC MUSIC

Aanmajothi, a body which promotes Indian culture and Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan, Mylapore, is hosting a series of concerts featuring what the curators say are some of the best, young talent in Carnatic music.

This festival of concerts is on from June 1 to 6 at the Bhavans, Mylapore with two concerts every evening, 5.30 p.m. onwards.

Among the artistes featured are V Deepika and V. Nandhika (violinists), vocalist Bharat Narayanan, mandolin artiste H. Vishnu and vocalist Anchan and Samarvi.

CALL TO ‘OLD BOYS’ OF RAJA MUTHIAH HIGH SCHOOL

Raja Muthiah High School in R. A. Puram will be hosting a meet of all its ‘old students’ on June 9.

S. Sivakumar, vice president at Sundaram Finance who studied here says he wants all those who studied at this school to be present at this meet. He is co-ordinating the event. Contact – 9444026573.