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MYLAPORE TIMES

YOUR NEIGHBOURHOOD NEWSPAPER

Vol. 29, No. 21

August 24 - 30, 2024

12 pages Free Circulation

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Yajur Upakarma was conducted at The Kalyana Nagar Association, TMS Road, Mandavelipakkam on August 19. Since there were lots of people who signed up to participate, it was held in two batches. About 300 people participated, said K. Parthasarathy, secretary of the association




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CHECK THIS

TALK BY CHITHRA MADHAVAN

Ancient Temples of Tamil Nadu is the theme of an illustrated lecture series by Dr. Chithra Madhavan (historian) that is organized by Tattvaloka.

Date : Saturday, August 24. Time : 6 pm
Venue : Tattvaloka, 76, Eldams Road.
All are welcome

TALK ON SRI KRISHNA. AUG.26

Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan, Mylapore celebrates "Janmashtami" on August 26 at 6.30 pm. A special discourse will be delivered by Dr. Sudha Seshayyan on "Sri Krishna". All are welcome

DANCE, MUSIC CONCERTS

Founded in 1987 by dancer and teacher Revathi Ramachandran, Kala Sadhanalaya has focussed on the education and training of Bharatanatyam, in the Melattur style.

Its annual festival "Bhaavaarpanam", dedicated to guru Mangudi Dorairaja Iyer, is curated by Revathi and co-curated by Manasvini.

The 2024 fest is on Aug.28 and 29 at R R Sabha, Mylapore. 6.15 p.m.

On Aug.28, Manasvini presents as a solo dance recital, 'Pluti' an allegorical exposition on the generative process of living beings - Tat Atma, Tat Satyam'.

A concept that integrates five animals into a narrative woven interestingly together. Music has been composed by Lalgudi GJR Krishnan. On Aug.29, is a music concert titled 'Tal Fry' by an ensemble of six artistes, fusing classical and folk traditions.



'MAKE A CLAY GANESHA' WORKSHOP

'My Friend Ganesha' is a natural clay Ganesha idol making workshop for parents and children in Alwarpet.

Date: August 31. Time: 3:30 PM - 6:30 p.m.
Venue: Eko-Lyfe Café, No.3, Ananda Road, Alwarpet, Chennai - 18. Open to Ages: 5+

Workshop Fee: Rs. 1999/- (Entry for one parent & one child)

Register here: tiny.cc/ganesha2024 Contact: 95000-50776

The workshop will be led by Ahila, Karpagavalli and Ambujavalli, who are passionate nature lovers with a mission to make Indian festivals fun for children through workshops under the label 'Fabulous Fundigais'.

UPANYASAM ON MUTHUSWAMY DIKSHITAR THEME

As part of the 250th birth anniversary of Carnatic music composer Muthuswamy Dikshitar, the Veenavaadhini Sampradaya Sangit Trust presents an upanyasam by Dushyanth Sridhar titled 'Guru guh Ananda'.

On Friday, August 30 at Narada Gana Sabha main hall. Open to all.

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Report local community events / share pictures -
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MOUNT ROAD RASIKAS WALK
Sunday, August 25 evening.
Starts at gate of The Hindu newspaper. 5pm. For one hour.
Vincent D'Souza, journalist-editor-Madras Day catalyst, lived on Mount Road for 22 years. He leads this fun Walk, will share his local stories and invites everybody who loves/d Mount Road to this event, to share their own stories. This invite also goes out to people who want to love this iconic road.
Walk ends at Hotel Buharis.
Free. No pre-registration.
A MADRAS DAY EVENT



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With Mylapore Fund office sealed, people who have lockers here are in quandary

By Our Edit Team

The sealing of the main office of The Mylapore Hindu Permanent Benefit Fund Nidhi Ltd in Mylapore has created a worry for people who 'own' lockers here and want to use the facility now.

C. V. Dhanasekaran who lives in Abhiramapuram and earlier lived in

Sealed Fund office in Myapore



South Mada Street, Mylapore and has availed the locker facility in MHPFNL is worried at the turn of events.

He said that jewels which have been kept for safe-keeping in the Fund's lockers and are now needed for his daughter's marriage are now stuck inside the sealed Fund premises.

He states in an e-mail, "I am only a locker-user client of the Fund, with no banking account in the Fund's main branch and I have kept the jewels intended for my daughter's marriage in the locker and I am unable to retrieve the jewels from the locker for no fault of mine."

People who are leading the campaign to address issues related to the Fund, seeking relief and justice, say that unless the police complete the core probe, relief like opening lockers cannot be done. They want depositors to be patient.

Meanwhile, EOW police have seized material and money and sealed associate operations of the Fund's MD. Police are keen to seize all documents of the Fund to probe deep, campaigners said.



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VINCENT'S JOTTINGS

By VINCENT D' SOUZA

What about the stories of the not-so-famous people of this city?

That's a question that friend Mohan Gopalakrishnan threw at me even as I shared the Madras Day events with him. I see all kinds of VIPs and famous people talking about the city and of the city but what about the others, he pushed.

Mohan did make a point.

The stories of many, many people of this city also tell the story of Madras we now call Chennai.

How do we get a platform for them?

Many years ago, I recall reading a feature in an American newspaper of this project where people who travelled by the local trains could walk into a booth manned by volunteers and record their rail-life experiences. And these went on to become part of social history archives.

And I thought to myself - what if the *Mylapore Times* could set up a temporary, mobile booth at a junction off the Mada Streets and invite people who had lived all their 50 or 60 years in the Mylapore zone, to record their stories?

The doctors and nurses, the teachers and bankers, the musicians and dancers, the hawkers and shop-keepers.

Imagine the massive collection of local social histories we could generate if we got four or five people every day, to record their life stories.

As we celebrate the 2024 edition of *Madras Day* (www.themadrasday.in), I am going to revisit the thought and explore ways in which we could make this possible locally.

We need smart, intelligent and dedicated volunteers to get this done.

People who are retired and can man the booth, for two hours every evening.

We would also need some tech-savvy people who can create a mobile and smart recording booth for this purpose, battling the cacophony of the Mylapore streets.

We at the '*Mylapore Times*', in our own small ways, have been documenting little social histories. Jambunathan's Mylapore video series is a recent example. But if we have a few smart hands to work on this kind of a project, we could do more.

The hundreds of photos that our photographer Madhan Kumar has shot of the Chennai Metro project in our backyard, is already making a good archive.

How will Luz and Mandaveli, Alwarpet and the Marina look once the Metro is up and running?



LETTERS FROM READERS

E-MAIL your letters to - mytimesedit@gmail.com.
Provide full name and short address.

This column also contains comments posted on our social media pages.

Builder uses 50% of Abiramapuram street to stock materials

The builder / contractor of a new construction at the junction of Abiramapuram 1st Street and 3rd Street has stacked all their construction materials right on the road.

This has blocked half of the road leading to traffic chaos during peak hours. With a school on 3rd Street, the road is utterly chaotic during the opening and closing hours of the school.

Will the GCC authorities act to check this nuisance?

- R. Kannan



'Wow' moments of Madras Day events

I attended the 'Fun stories of Madras city' event at Ranade Hall, Luz, for Madras Day. All the six speakers were lively, with their humorous narration - ranging from prasadam in temples, house brokers and the city traffic.

I was also part of the Fort St. George heritage walk led by Vincent D' Souza. His narrative was in detail. The tour was for about two hours and he was energetic till the end and managed the group very well. It was my first visit to this fort even though I have been in Chennai for more than 60 years.

- M. Ganesh

How to curb this mess?

On Rama Rao Road, East Abiramapuram, in recent times, I see people selling tea/ coffee/ biscuits in a two-wheeler/ bicycle. Most often, they do not carry garbage covers to collect the empty teacups and biscuit covers. The used teacups are thrown on the road and this creates a mess, daily.

Can local GCC officials check this practice?

- Ramya

Speeding buses in inner streets pose dangers

It is so scary to walk / commute in Mylapore these days. MTC buses are driven at top speed in the narrow streets and in places like Dr. Ranga Road, Thiruvengadam Street and Venkatesa Agraharam (Saibaba temple zone). This is due to diversions made for Chennai Metro work.

These roads must be relaid.

- Madhumathi A.

Cats in park

People who come to Nageswara Rao Park in Luz for walks regularly also provide food for the many cats and kittens which roam around here. The cats would have taken shelter in some buildings and quit the park they found they did not get food here.

- Bala V. Gowri

MY STORY



Madras Social History Stories: here are two

By MOHAN GOPALAKRISHNAN

The city is celebrating Madras Day. And I feel personal histories are important and need to be told as much as the histories of the famous and those who stood out.

So I will share two stories here -

The first has to do with the 1971 war.

Watching the play 'Operation Vijay 1971' brought back memories of what happened during that period. I was living in Madras at that time in our house in Mandaveli (where I live now). We had one from our family who participated in that war - Group Captain R. Shankar - he was married to my cousin. He was our war hero and our entire family prayed for his safe return which he did.

The War began on Dec 3, 1971 with Pakistan bombing our North Indian "A" Cities (Agra, Ambala and Amritsar and a few more). Except for those who left to fight, we in Madras did not experience the war.

In abundant caution, the government decided to have trial blackouts. The EB did not switch power off and instead asked us to turn off the lights in our homes and the shops even sold black

shades. The siren went on and the lights went out and Home Guards patrolled from house to house to make sure people switched off their lights.

A lot of people did not take it seriously and would keep one light on. Everyone was sure the Pakistanis would not raid Madras. As kids, we accompanied the Home Guards and scream at homes where we could see a light on. Of course no one took us seriously.

We followed the news of the war by reading the newspapers; they gave graphic details - of men killed, planes shot down, etc.

One evening, around 4 30 p.m. while I was having tiffin in a friend's house in a parallel street, the surrender happened. We heard the commentary of it on All India Radio (I assume). I was all of 10 years old then but this was nevertheless my war!

N. Krishnan, the vice admiral who had blown up the Pakistan submarine called Ghazi had a brother, N. Ganapathi residing in the R K Nagar area. After the war, when he visited his brother (he came on a two-wheeler) he signed an auto-

graph for me (which I have since lost).

For a whole year we affixed a five-paisa refugee relief stamp on all our letters. No one grudged giving that five paisa.

My second Madras social history story has to do with local area doctors.

Last week, I went to meet my 70 years-something physician in Mandaveli (Dr Ravindran) to ask him about the medical treatment that was practised here decades ago.

Some I distinctly remember - the doctors I consulted had a compounder; there was an examination where the doctor ran a stethoscope and examined our throat. He would then write something on a piece of paper, legible only to the compounder, who would then a mixture in a bottle and stick a longish paper on the bottle to indicate what amount each dose would be.

Dr Ravindran disclosed some secrets to me. The base of the mixture that treated coughs and colds was called Bromptons mixture - reconstituted with hot water. Its ingredients were elaichi and bicarbonate (note - no English medicines). The same was used for stomach ailments too thanks to the bicarbonate.

My doctor tells me the original Bromptons mixture contained cocaine, morphine and ethyl alcohol and was used to soothe terminally ill patients.

● Mohan Gopalakrishnan is an IT consultant and entrepreneur. He has lived in Mandaveli for the past 60 years.



Church in Luz celebrates annual feast

By Juliana Sridhar

The community at the Shrine of Our Lady of Light in Luz celebrated the 508th edition of their parish feast from August 6 to 15 under the guidance of parish priest Fr. Bernard Lawrence and his assistant, Fr. Justin Diraviam.

It commenced with the flag hoisting. On August 11, 17 children of the parish received First Holy Communion and the parish priest celebrated Mass.

The grand car procession took place on August 15 after the evening Mass. The beautifully decorated statue of Mary was taken out in procession from the church via Luz Church Road, Karpagambal Nagar and Oliver Road.

MADRAS DAY TALK. Aug.24

‘Cosmopolitan Contributions to Madras’ is the theme of the Madras Day talk by writer-historian Venkatesh Ramakrishnan.

At C. P. Ramaswamy Aiyar Foundation hall, Eldams Road, Alwarpet. Aug.24, 10.30 am.
Open to all.



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MADRAS DAY SNAPSHOTS

1. Prabha Sridevan, former judge, Madras High Court, was one of the speakers at the Madras series of talks hosted at Arkay Centre, Luz.

R. A. Puram based Krishna-macharya Yoga Mandiram. The event was held at a hall inside P. S. School campus.

was held at Ranade Library, courtesy SINA.

2. The winning school teams in the quiz in Thamizh held at Ranade Library, Luz

5. Parantharami Mani, a judge for the Heritage of Chennai contest for city schools, awards the top winner, TISchool. This event

6. A city band performed in the open-air at Nageswara Rao Park, Luz as part of The Hindu's Made of Chennai celebration.

3. Guests from Toastmasters who spoke on their Chennai life experiences at Ranade Library, Luz.

4. At KSA Trust's annual Champions of Chennai award event, one of the 'champions' chosen for an award was the



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P S Educational Society Golden Jubilee, 2024

P.S.Educational Society, Mylapore, Chennai is holding an Alumni Meet at 8.30 am on Sunday, the 1st September, 2024 at TAG - P.S. Dakshinamurthi Auditorium, 215, R.K.Math Road, Mylapore, Chennai -04. Alumni of its Senior and Higher Secondary Schools are Welcome. To Register your attendance, Please send a mail to : psmatic2010@gmail.com or WhatsApp Message to 9363240995

Registration on a first come, first Served basis.

Vegan Food Fest in Alwarpet. Aug.24 and 25

A two-day Vegan Food Festival is to be held at The Grove School campus, 1, Eldams Road, Alwarpet, on Saturday and Sunday – August 24 & 25, from 10.30 a.m. to 7.00 p.m.

Over 20 stalls will offer food stuff, millets, protein-rich leafy vegetables, lentils, legumes, beans, mushroom, sweets and snacks at this mela, all vegan in nature.

Visitors can sample, buy and snack at the mela.

C. P. R. Environmental Education Centre (CPREEC) with the support of the Karuna Foundation is implementing a project titled Food and the Environment – Eat Healthy and Go Green in the states of Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Telangana and Odisha. This mela is part of the project.



Images of lord Krishna are now on sale by hawkers on North Mada Street, Mylapore. Prices range from Rs.100 to Rs.2,000

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Contests for Sri Krishna Jayanthi

By MYLAPORE TIMES

Here are **TWO CONTESTS** for Mylapore's families for Sri Krishna jayanthi.

CONTEST ONE - Shoot ONE good photo of your best creative decoration of Krishna for the festival, in your home. Mail it to - mytimesedit@gmail.com. In the mail, the Subject line must be - **MT Contest; Decoration**. Mention name, address and phone number.

CONTEST TWO - Shoot ONE good photo of your child / children dressed as Krishna in costume - simple, creative and neat. Mail it to - mytimesedit@gmail.com. In the mail, the Subject line must be - **MT Contest; Kutti Krishna**. Mention name, address and phone number.

CONTEST CLOSES on August 27, 7 pm.

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Jambu's Mylapore

K. R. Jambunathan takes us through nooks and corners of the Mylapore he knows best in this video series. This is a weekly series. WATCH VIDEOS at www.youtube.com/mylaporetv

India Coffee House

Of the many landmarks around Luz Circle was India Coffee House. It was located in a building on the north-east end of the circle.

The restaurant was on the first floor and its stewards stood out in their 'maharaja-era' uniforms, turban and all.

The table-tops were circular stones and had a colonial-era design.

Three popular things on its menu were coffee, omelette and bread-butter jam.

From what I have seen, the bread-butter-jam combo was very popular.

Those were the years when I used to be working in the local State Bank branch.

Not everybody came to this place. So there was space for all; many of us just sipped coffee and chatted.

The view of Luz Circle from that place was superb

Goodies for Sri Krishna jayanthi

By Preetha K.

To cater to the needs of people who celebrate Sri Krishna Jayanthi and prefer to have a full set of prasadam for neivediyam, Deepam Sweet and Karam shop in R A Puram is offering customized jute bags with 11 items including uppu seedai, vella seedai, kai murukku, kadala urundai, aval, manoharam and adhirasam.



The goodies from Deepam

People can also buy individual Krishna Jayanthi prasadam items from this store.

The bags are in two sizes – one for Rs 600 and another for Rs 300.

R. Maniraju, proprietor of Deepam says uppu seedai, vella seedai and kai murukku is his specialty and his team is of 10 traditional cooks.

Deepam is at the Chennai Corporation Shopping Complex, 3rd Cross Street, R A Puram. Ph:9444130312

Other shops which are also offering festival specials are Surya Sweets in R. A. Puram and in Mylapore, Subham Sweets on St Mary's Road, Mandaveli and Sri Krishna Sweets, Mylapore.

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• WANTED experienced person with admin, Tally, MS Office experience, Contact: SAS Apartments Pvt Ltd, 10/64, 2nd Main Road, R A Puram, Chennai 600028, 9884484784 / 9791152456

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Thiruvengadam Street: patchwork repairs are poor. People want street to be fully relaid

Photo: Baskar Seshadri



By Baskar Seshadri

Why is Thiruvengadam Street being treated by civic agencies and Chennai Metro so ham-handedly when it comes to having a key roadway in the best condition since it take a huge load of traffic following the diversions?

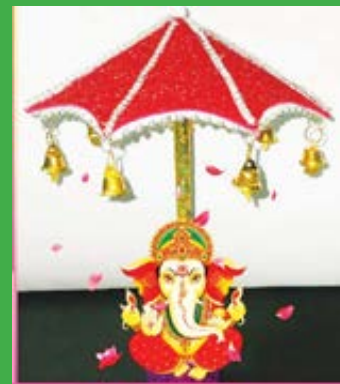
Because every effort they make is a shoddy execution, if one goes by the evidence on the street.

On August 21, the potholes on this street that links traffic from R. K. Mutt Road to Venkatakrisnan Road had been covered. But the patchwork was of average quality; it seemed to have been done in a hurry.

It had been carried out late at night with good intentions. But motorists say it is no good.

Civic activists have raised the issue with Chennai Metro, whose officers have in the past said that they will oversee and address any civic issue arising from the Metro project.

What this street needs is a fresh and complete relay of the entire section, end to end; not patchwork.



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As always, the cultural shows presented by students of P. S. Senior Secondary School at the school's 48 th Annual Day celebrations were colourful, varied and joyful. They showcased the talents of children who study here.

The event was held across two evenings - on August 5 and 6 at the Narada Gana Sabha auditorium.

The chief guest on August 5 was Dr. S. Sowmya, vice-chancellor of The Tamil Nadu Dr. J Jayalalithaa Music and Fine Arts University and a well-known Carnatic music artiste. She is also an alumnus of the school.

The chief guest for the function on August 6 was K. Alamelu, director, Bharathi Vidyalaya Senior Secondary School, former principal of P. S. Senior and recipient of the President's Best Teacher Award for 1990.

She spoke about the development of the school in its formative years and congratulated the staff and the



CULTURAL SHOW HIGHLIGHT OF ANNUAL DAY EVENTS OF P. S. SENIOR SCHOOL

students for their achievements in curricular, sports and co-curricular areas. She also presented prizes to the

'best' students in academics and in co-curricular activities. The students' key show on stage was themed on the

'Ramayana' which had elements of music, dance, narration and Namasankeerthanam.



Sri Krishna jayanthi at Nandalala. Aug. 25 & 26

Sri Krishna jayanthi celebrations have been lined up at the Sri Nandalala Cultural Centre, 2 & 4 Dr. Ranga Road, Mylapore.

Here is the schedule -
 Aug. 25, Sunday
 8.30 am - 11.00 am - Kalyana utsavam (Srinivasa Kalyanam)
 6.00 pm - 8.00 pm - Namasankeerthanam by Manjapura Mohan Bhagavathar and group
 Aug. 26, Monday
 5.00 pm - 9.00 pm - Sri Krishna janana vaibhavam and darshan

Have you seen this dog?



By Our Edit Team

The owner of a street dog in Dr Radhakrishnan Salai, Mylapore has 'lost' his pet. Darshan says the dog is a small-medium sized Indie - female, it responds to the name Meenu and was wearing a blue patterned collar when last seen on August 5 / 6 in and around 9th Street, Dr. Radhakrishnan Salai. Darshan says he has received calls from a few people but all these leads were not positive. "Meenu is a street dog and mostly white in colour and this is a common feature of such dogs. But I am sure it will respond if you call its name...it may just look up," he said. Darshan, who emailed this SOS, said a reward will be provided for finding Meenu. Call 8939899399

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Karpagam Avenue community joins hands with NGO to add colour to local park



By Our Edit Team

The public park on Karpagam Avenue 4th Street wears an attractive, thematic look now.

Seniors and children who spend time here enjoy a visual panorama. The walls of the park have been 'beautified', thanks to the efforts taken by the Karpagam Avenue Association.

On the walls are visuals that hold up local culture and life - musicians and dancers, farmers and folk artistes, landmarks and common people of the city.

"The park was looking dull and we decided to give it a lively look. We invited the team from Karam Korpom Foundation to assess and let us know the costs and we liked what they suggested,"

says Shahul Appavu, vice-president of the association.

Team Karam Korpom is led by artist S. Shivkumar of R. A. Puram and when it gets involved in such projects it invites residents to join in the design and painting.

15 residents, mostly youth, volunteered for the assignment which was undertaken on a weekend.

Mother and child combos also lent a hand. As did some seniors.

Said Shivkumar, "Although the vast area and uneven walls posed difficulties, KKF thrives on overcoming such obstacles. The chosen theme for the wall art was a blend of tradition and nature. One side of the artwork featured traditional performances and sports, while the other side

conveyed messages about the environment, nature, and wildlife.

Shivkumar launched his Foundation with the campaign slogan - stop abusing public spaces.

He and his team have undertaken hundreds of projects, small and big. Some are executed with internal funds, most get the support of companies, well-wishers and communities.

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