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Our Lady of Guidance Church in R. A. Puram hosted the 29th edition of Chriscar, an inter- parish carols competition on December 7 evening. Eleven choirs from city parishes participated. The carols were a mix of vintage and new. The rolling trophy for best choir went to St. Mark's Church, Adambakkam. The event was organised by Guidance Friends, the youth group of the parish led by its president Joaquim Arul Prakash.



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WEEKEND JAPANESE COURSES. ONLINE, OFFLINE

The Indo-Japan Chamber of Commerce and Industry (IJCCI) will launch two new weekend Japanese-language courses for beginners starting December 2025.



Online Course: Weekend classes (Saturday & Sunday), delivered online — covering spoken and written Japanese, everyday conversation, writing, business etiquette, and Japanese culture. This fast-track programme aims to prepare participants to take the Japanese Language Proficiency Test

JLPT N4 level (December 2026.)

Offline Course: IJCCI's Japanese-Language School located at 21, K.B. Dasan Road, Teynampet also offers in-person beginner classes. These classes are designed to build a solid foundation in reading, writing, and speaking Japanese under structured classroom instruction and prepare students for JLPT N5 examination (July 2026)=

To encourage young learners, IJCCI will offer a discount for college students who enrol in either the online or offline course. For more information or to register, students may contact IJCCI at 98842 00505 , 98843 94717 or email indo-japan@ijcci.com

FREE COURSE IN COMPUTER BASICS. FOR POOR YOUTH, SENIOR CITIZENS

Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan's Gandhi Institute of Computer Education and Information Technology Centre at Mylapore offers free education in the basics of computer skills to educated unemployed youth belonging to the economically backward sections of society. These are job-oriented courses - they cover MS-Office with Tally and DTP. These courses have helped many students to secure employment at various levels.

There is also a course for senior citizens - it covers skills in Microsoft Word, Excel and Internet. Apply by December 26. For more details, contact the office staff in person. (#18-22, East Mada Street, Mylapore). Tel. No. 24611312, 24643420

FREE EVENTS FOR SENIORS

Dignity Foundation's events for senior citizens continue under the Tehneer Arangam banner.

They are held at Srinivasa Gandhi Nilayam, No.332, Ambujammal Street, TTK Road, Alwarpet and are open to all and free. Next week's programmes are here -

Dec. 15 (Monday) - Legal session by Dyaneshwar (4 pm to 5 pm).
Dec. 17 (Wednesday) - Yoga (11 am to 12 noon).
Dec. 18 (Thursday) - Margazhi Thiruvizha event (4 pm to 5 pm)

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NATYA DARSHAN: LEC-DEMS, CONCERTS. THEME - TAMIL & DANCE

The 2025 edition of Natya Darshan hosted by Kartik Fine Arts sabha is on December 12, 13 and 14. This event focusses on the academic and learning side of classical dance, with lec-dems and talks by experts and artistes in the morning and dance recitals in the evenings. Senior Bharatanatyam dancer Narthaki Nataraj is the convenor of Naya Darshan.

This year's Natya Darshan invites people to reflect upon and celebrate the classical Indian arts through the lens of Tamil — a language of antiquity and refined aesthetic culture.

Natya Darshan opened on Dec.12 evening with a formal event, awards function and a dance drama ' Kanda Sashti Kava-cham' at Narada Gana Sabha.

Over the next two mornings, Dec.13 and 14 in Mylapore, senior artistes, scholars and dancers will make presentations on themes associated with various aspects of Tamil literary heritage — like Thirupugazh, Kuravanji, Thiruporchunam, Silappadikaram and Sangam literature. Convenor Narthaki Nataraj says that she has invited dancers from outside Tamil Nadu to present recitals that will partly be based on Tamil literature sources / songs / verses which were shared with them months ago and resource people were linked up for guidance.

Dec.13 and 14 – Lec-Dems and Dance concerts – at Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan main hall, Mylapore. Lec-Dem sessions in the mornings are open to all. Evening concerts are ticketed.



Narthaki Nataraj

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Four senior artistes were honoured with awards at the launch of the December Season festival of music and dance jointly hosted by Brahma Gana Sabha and Rasika Ranjani Sabha Foundation on December 11 evening. They were Mannargudi A. Easwaran, Meenakshi Chitharanjan, Neyveli Santhanagopalan and 'Mappilai' Ganesh. (left to right) The chief guest was T. S. Krishnamurthy, former chief election commissioner of India. The event was held at R. R. Sabha's main auditorium.

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VINCENT'S JOTTINGS

By VINCENT D' SOUZA

The four, decorated, coloured candles placed near the altar for Advent Holy Mass at the San Thome Cathedral last Sunday had me thinking.

Is there a Christmas-land in our city?

Is there an area where I could get a sense of this festival if I were to merely walk up and down some of the streets here?

That evening, I asked Shan Eugene, a Stella Maris College lecturer in the department of history and tourism, who resides in Madhavaram, what Christmas was like in that area. And she had lots to tell me.

Perambur, once the big hub of Anglo Indians, was Christmasland in the decades gone by. Over time, many people who resided here moved to Madhavaram and beyond. Apartments and houses were cheaper to buy or to rent. Among them were many Christians of various denominations.

In their new hearths, these families celebrated Christmas the way they have always done in the past.

The early preparations are often in three parts and they start after the boxes which hold all the Christmas needs are taken out from the storage spaces.

First up is the Christmas tree - some may have a tree that is just two feet tall, some may have a tree they sourced from the Gulf or from Singapore, a big one. Decorating the tree is an art by itself and illuminating it has become a tad easy, now that the market offers a multitude of bulbs and serial sets of all kinds.

Next up, is the crib which symbolises the scenes of the birth of Jesus. For children, the engaging part of making the crib is debating how it must be designed - much depends on space. Can we create a grassland that leads to rugged hillsides? How do we create a skyline and have stars across it? Can we use recycled paper and board too?

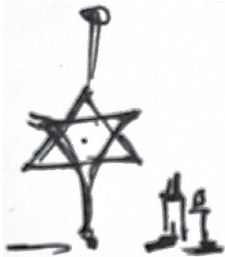
Much of all this is akin to the way families create theme sets around the Navaratri Kolu!

Finally, comes the decoration of the drawing room and the spaces outside the apartment or the house.

Shaan told me that many families had started putting up the decorations and that if I came by after Christmas eve, her area would be the Christmasland I was thinking of.

In our childhood years, Moore Market was the Christmasland in this city. Now, I hope I can go around Madhavaram to experience something different.

Would you be putting up a Christmas star on the balcony or above the porch?



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.

Woes of users of Post Offices of Mandaveli and R. A. Puram

The entry to the R. A. Puram Post Office situated in R. K. Mutt Road is jam packed with parked vehicles. Also, the post box which is located on the right side of the entrance is not easily accessible - with parked vehicles, a tall pavement / platform and an awfully stinking public garbage bin bang in front of the post box. Sometimes, the bin overflows with garbage effectively blocking the approach to the post box.



This post office is very popular and patronized by senior citizens because the operations take place in the ground floor and operations start at 9 am. The Mandaveli Post Office, even though close to residents of this area, is far from accessible to the elderly because it operates from the first floor onwards and the steps are too steep for the elderly and the disabled to climb. Postal authorities should address all these issues keeping in mind the needs of its clients.

- R. Ramesh

Rasikas who reserve seats . . .

This refers to Vincent's Jottings column in Mylapore Times dated Dec.6 issue where there was a mention of some rasikas having their favourite spots in an auditorium. I must add that there are a set of rasikas who, having settled down in their preferred seats, immediately 'book' a vacant seat next to theirs for a friend or a relative. They place on it a bag, a kerchief or a programme sheet. Often

such a 'reserved' seat remains unoccupied till the end of the concert, unless the rasika withdraws the material after having lost hope of the friend or relative turning up.

- N. Rama Rao



Footpath 'taken over' in R. A. Puram

Workers of Chennai Corporation have taken over and barricaded the entire pedestrian footpath near Sangeetha Hotel, R. A. Puram — between Sangeetha and Chennai Corporation's ration shop/ building.

This new obstruction forces people to walk on the road and risk their safety.

- Manikandan

Prices at sabha canteens are stiff

Sabha canteens will soon offer some attractive food which draws lots of people. But we hope the caterers will be mindful in fixing prices. The prices have been stiff even for a simple 'tiffin' of bajji and coffee. Prices of noontime 'sappadu' have been around Rs.350 and 450.

- Usha Raman

MYLAPORE REWIND

This column carries excerpts from Mylapore Times, 1996 onwards. This week, we focus on May, 1996

25th show of Bosskey's new play (May 25, 1996)

The 25th show of Bosskey's latest stage comedy titled 'Reel Machi Reel' was staged on May 19 at Rani Seethai Hall, Gemini Circle. It starred characters like a look-alike of actor-dancer Prabhu Deva, a fake samiyar and a Singapore convict now in the city. Bosskey said that he writes plays which have the audience laughing all the time so that they can forget their worries and slip into a relaxed state in the auditorium. Stage Priyas members staged this play. T. D. Balu is the director.

Scene from Bosskey's play



Civic issue of Kalvi Varu Street bothers residents (May 25, 1996)

Residents of Kalvi Varu Street have complained to the local officials of Chennai Corporation that huts have come up under the elevated

structure of the MRTS rail line alongside the Buckingham Canal. They say this encroachment also affects traffic movement on this key link street used by students.

They said that huts on the banks of the Canal were removed before the MRTS project work started and now, they have been erected again. Residents in the huts say that they are working on the MRTS project but people of this area fear that once the work is over, others will move in.

Magazine on weddings (May 25, 1996)

San Thome resident Somasundaram publishes a magazine that is devoted to weddings. It is called 'Nichayathamboolam'. The contents are a mix of short features on wedding practices and traditions followed, anecdotes on marriage

customs and utility information on wedding halls and facilities available, on caterers and related services.

Though the publication does not have a professional touch to it, it serves a niche purpose. Somasundaram resides in D'Monte Street.

Alwarpet resident gets senior post in Lions Club (May 25, 1996)

R. Natesan of Alwarpet has been appointed vice district governor of Lions Club International.

R. Natesan



A senior advocate, he has been a Lions Club member for many years and held various posts. 'Traffic Discipline' is the theme of the project he has chosen to focus on this year.

He resides in Bheemanna Garden Street.

Dayakattam, Pallankuzhi Contests

By Our Edit Team

The 2026 edition of the annual Sundaram Finance MYLAPORE FESTIVAL will be held from January 8 to 11, 2026.

This time, there are a few events which will be held during the previous weekend.

Traditional games is one. The Dayakattam contest is on Jan.3, Saturday at 4 p.m. and the Pallankuzhi contest is on Jan.4, Sunday, 1.45 p.m. onwards.

The venue - Lady Sivaswami Ayyar Girls School's prayer hall.

These contests are open to all in Chennai and will not be age-specific. Children, adults and seniors play together.

You are encouraged to bring the playthings needed for the event; a few sets will be available for use at the venue.

Ten winners in each contest will be sent prizes after the festival.

Sign up for Crib Contest

Mylapore Times is holding a Christmas Crib Contest. It is open to families in the Mylapore - San Thome - R. A. Puram - Alwarpet - Luz zone.

You need to submit three sharp photos shot from different angles to the newspaper by e-mail. Cribbs which have been creatively designed, even used recycled materials and illumination, will get bonus marks.

The contest ends on Dec.29 night. There are prizes for the best 10 cribbs.

More details are in the advert on page 8 in this newspaper.

Mylapore Quiz. Jan.4

By Our Edit Team

The MYLAPORE QUIZ is to be held as part of the 2026 edition of the annual Sundaram Finance MYLAPORE FESTIVAL (January 8 to 11, 2026.)

This quiz is to be held on January 4, Sunday, 4 p.m. onwards at the prayer hall of Lady Sivaswami Ayyar Girls School, Mylapore. It is open to teams of two, from anywhere in the city. The questions will be only on Mylapore - events, people, places, landmarks and quirks. Sundararaman Chinramani is the quizmaster. Free admission.

Written prelim round and a final round for top four teams.

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Full house concerts

Some concerts are drawing a full house at Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan in Mylapore.

Vocalist Sid Sriram's vocal concert on Sunday evening (Dec.7) at the Bhavan was fully packed and rasikas who came a tad late were allowed to sit on the stage, around the artistes. Most rasikas remained inside till the end.

On Monday, Dec.8 evening, Vishaka Hari's concert was also packed to the edges of the huge auditorium and had some 30 /

40 people on stage. Some 40 others sat in the foyer of the hall and watched the event beamed on a large TV screen

Vishaka's Harikatha was themed on Karpagambal, the deity of the Mylapore temple. Abishekh Raghuram's concert last week was housefull too. The Bhavan features some top-line artistes at its December Season fest, the first of three parts which is on now at its main auditorium. Also, all concerts are free. So many keen rasikas attend almost all the concerts here

Hanuman jayanthi event

A one-day laksha arachai celebration and pushpa alankaram of lord Anjeneyar on the occasion of Hanuman jayanthi day, on Friday, December 19 has been arranged by Vada Sabari Sri Swamy Ayyappan Alaya Nirvagam, at Sri Ayyappa swamy Temple in Raja Annamalai-puram.

The programme will take place from 5:30 a.m. to 12:30 pm and from 4-30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at the Anjaneyar sannidhi of this temple in MRC Nagar.

Open to all. Contact – 88386 22690 / 94454 32736 – T.S. Ramesh gurukkal

MYLAPORE TIMES' December Season: Online

This section posts news, videos and photos daily.

Go to -

<https://season.mylaporetimes.com/>

Alumni Club carnival gets good response



By Our Edit Team

The annual Christmas Carnival of the Alumni Club in R. A. Puram was a platform for many women entrepreneurs to showcase their products and sell them. This day-long event, held on December 7 had over 100 stalls.

Sheila D' Souza, who was part of the host team said that the stall owners who were participating in such an event for the first time were enthused by the sales and said they will take part in other such sales.

Said Lakshmi of Laksara Collection, a stall holder, "This carnival was a wonderful opportunity and it was a valuable learning experience."

"The venue had a steady stream of visitors," said Sheila D' Souza. Her husband, Allan donned the Santa Claus costume and amused guests and stall-holders.

The Alumni Club's Shoba was the key driver of this carnival.

Free breast, cervical cancer screening camp. Dec.21

Nandalala Medical Foundation, in association with Sri Ramachandra Institute of Higher Education and Research, is organising a free breast and cervical cancer awareness and screening camp in Abiramapuram.

'It is on Sunday, December 21 from 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. at 'Thoppu', 3rd Floor, No. 2/64, Dr. Ranga Road, Abhiramapuram. (near Mangalam Motors). Mammogram and pap smear tests will be done as per doctor's advice. This is an exclusive camp for women.

For details, contact: 9003090320, 9444668537, 9444068537.



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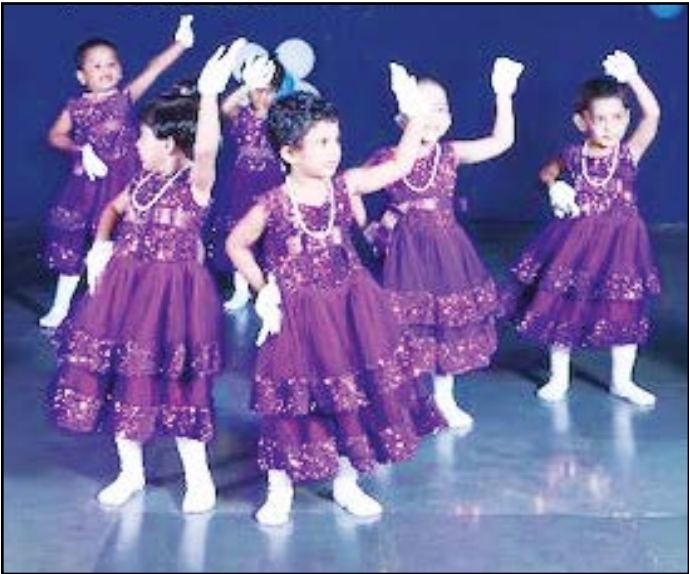
Jan 3 Dayakattam CONTEST
4 pm @ Lady Sivaswamy Ayyar Girls School, Mylapore

Jan 4 வல்லாங்குத்து CONTEST
1.45 pm @ Lady Sivaswamy Ayyar Girls School, Mylapore



The 29th edition of the annual inter-school volleyball tournament for girls for Maharaja Sri Vijayarama Gajapathi rolling trophy was hosted by Lady Sivaswami Ayyar Girls School, Mylapore in held in the school's campus in late November. City school teams took part in this two-day tourney. The winners were the host school's team

Annual day of Glowing Minds Montessori Preschool held



Glowing Minds Montessori Preschool, Mylapore, held its annual day on Nov.21 at the Kalyan Nagar Association premises.

The guests were Dr. Arya Moly Vinay, dentist, Dr. Sumathi Chandrasekaran, physiologist and A. Revathi, councillor for Mylapore ward 125.

The children of this school presented a variety of cultural performances.

The founder and head of this school, Dr. R. Vijayalakshmi and her team planned and executed this show.

The school has two centres – on Nadu Street and on Appu Street, Mylapore. Contact 9884728805.

■ Report local community events / share pictures - mytimesedit@gmail.com

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Recognition for teachers

The teachers union of Lady Sivaswami Ayyar Girls School, Mylapore held an event in the prayer hall of the school to recognise teachers and staff on the verge of retirement, those who were completing their silver jubilee service and their decenary on campus.

The event was held on December 11 morning. Dr. Vathsala

Narayanswami, secretary of the Society which manages this school was present.

The retiring staff: S. Jayanthi, R. Vasuki, K.Selvamani, S. Biruntha, Bhuvana Venkatesan and E. Murugammal. The silver jubilarian: R.Ruckmaji Rao and the decenarian: A. Ponni. This event is a long-standing tradition of the school.

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Top artistes to perform at music fest presented by violinist Dr. L. Subramaniam

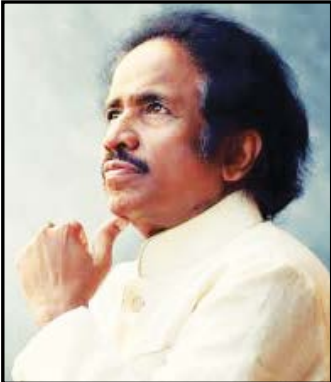
On December 20 & 21 at R. R. Sabha

By Our Edit Team

The Lakshminarayana Global Music Festival (LGMF), one of India's longest-running and prestigious festival celebrating global music, returns with its 35th edition in Chennai on December 20 and 21 at R. R. Sabha, Mylapore. The festival will be inaugurated by R. N. Ravi, governor of Tamil Nadu on Dec. 20.

Founded by well-known violinist Dr. L. Subramaniam in 1992 in memory of his father and guru, Prof. V. Lakshminarayana, this fest has had performances in 30 countries.

The first phase of the 35th edition will be held in collaboration with Rasika Ranjani Sabha and presented by HCL Concerts and the Jai Ram Foundation. Concerts will be held through the two days. It features many acclaimed artistes - Mysore Nagaraj & Karthik Nagaraj (violin duet), Dr. N. Rajam & Ragini Shankar (violin duet), Shashank Subra-




Dr. L. Subramaniam

maniam (flute), Jayanthi Kumaresh (veena), Lalgudi GJR Krishnan & Vijayalakshmi (violin duet), Pandit Sajan Mishra & Swaransh Mishra (Hindustani vocals) and Dr. L. Subramaniam, Ambi Subramaniam, Mahati Subramaniam (violin trio).

Admission is open to all. In a special pre-festival event, on December 15, LGMF will present the Lakshminarayana International Award by Dr. L. Subramaniam to music director A.R. Rahman, honouring his contributions to world music.

The chief guests are film director Mani Ratnam and film person Suhasini Maniratnam; they will release a short film on the Lakshminarayana Global Music Festival.

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18.12.25 - Shri. Calcutta Shankar - **Vocal**
19.12.25 - **3. 00 pm** - Mrs. Divya Yanmanyra - **Vocal**
19.12.25 - Ms. Gayathri Mani - **Vocal**
6.30 pm to 8.30 pm concerts
13.12.25 - Kalaimamani Dr. OS Arun - **Vocal**
14.12.25 - Smt. Nisha Rajagopal - **Vocal**
15.12.25 - Smt. Rajini Hariharan - **Vocal**
16.12.25 - Kalaimamani Dr. Nithyashree Mahadevan - **Vocal**
17.12.25 - Ms. Anahita and Apporva - **Vocal**
18.12.25 - Brahmashri Kalaimamani Dr. Udayalur K Kalyanaraman & team - **Namasankeertanam**
19.12.25 - Kalaimamani Dr. R. Suryaprakash - **Vocal**
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- PLOTS for sale, Maraimalai Nagar, Rs. 3199 per sq.ft., Melmaruvathur, Rs. 599 per sq.ft., Acharapakkam, Rs. 555 per sq.ft., Details contact: 98412 82115
- FLAT, 1st floor, St. Mary's Road for sale, 1 BHK, near schools, colleges, bus stop, temples, market, railway station, Rs. 40 lakhs, negotiable. Contact: 8939291720
- FOR sale, land, 400 sq.ft., ground floor, first floor, second floor, third floor, fourth floor, Kamarajar Street, Teynampet, rental income Rs. 1 lakhs. Contact: 6383589509
- POES GARDEN, 4 bedroom flat, 1st floor, 4318 sq.ft., swimming pool, gym, play area, gated community, Rate 13.50 crore, Adyar, Gandhi Nagar, 4 bedroom, 5000 sq.ft., duplex, 3 car park, 2400 sq.ft., Rate 8 crores. Ph: 9840789797 / 9884998686
- ABHIRAMAPURAM, 1 ground, old house, Rate 6.50 crores, Kottur Garden, independent house, built up 3000 sq.ft., 3 bedroom, old house, 1 ground, Rate 7 crores, Besant Nagar, independent house, 3 bedroom, builtup area, 2000 sq.ft., old house, 1 ground, Rate 6.50 crores. Ph: 9840789797 / 9884998686
- TEYNAMPET, 2 BHK flat, 9 years old, 900 sq.ft., car parking, Rate 1.65 crores, nego. Ph: 8148443452 / 7010316706
- MYLAPORE, Ranga Road, 2 BHK flat, 770 sq.ft., UDS 360 sq.ft., 2 nd floor, no lift, two wheeler parking, 30 years old, Rs. 80 lakhs, Ph: Agent 9841139576
- BESANT NAGAR, new apartment, 2600 sq.ft., 4 BHK plus 470 sq.ft., private terrace on looking beautiful greenery. Rate. Rs.7.70 crores. 3100 sq.ft., 4 BHK, 8.35 crores. Price including taxes and registration. Ph: 9710424456

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Including registration.
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- MYLAPORE, near Karaneeswarar Koil Street, 1800 sq.ft., land north facing, 30 ft road, Rate 3.75 crore, Mandaveli Market, 650 sq.ft., commercial land, Rate 1.90 crore, Royapettah High Road, 3100 sq.ft., commercial land, north east corner, Rate 8.50 crores. Ph: 9841058333
- ECR Palavakkam, sea side, land area, 1200 sq.ft., (30x40) approved with old house, west facing. Ph: 9840032784
- NEELANKARAI near PDN Kalyana Mandapam, 3.80 grounds, (63x145) approved vacant plot, 33 feet road, north facing, 50 metres from the Main Road. Contact: 9500049167
- ABHIRAMAPURAM, 1 BHK, 620 sq.ft., 1st floor, UDS 300 sq.ft., 2 wheeler parking, 20 years old, Rate 65 lakhs. Ph: 9841350607 / 9841320406
- LAND for sale, 32/41 malar constructions, New no: 31, Bheemanna Mudali, 1st Street, Alwarpet, Chennai, final Rate 2.6 crores, negotiable. Ph: 9884464769 / 9884064767

Apartments for Sale

Teynampet 3 BHK, 2nd Floor,
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 East Facing Rs. 3 Cr

Mylapore 4 BHK, 2nd Floor
 Builtup 2332 sqft, Uds 810 sqft, North Facing Rs. 5.16 Cr
 + Gst & Regn

Mylapore 3 BHK, 1st floor,
 Builtup 1725 sqft, Uds 994 sqft,
 East Facing, Rs. 3.80 Cr (all

MRC Nagar 3 BHK, 2nd Floor
 Builtup 2100 sqft, Uds 700 sqft
 North Facing, Rs. 5.45 Cr
 + GST & Regn

Mylapore 3 BHK, 1500 sqft,
 Uds 640sqft, Rs.2.40 Cr

R A PURAM 4 BHK, 1986 sqft
 1st Floor, Uds 714 sqft
 East Facing, Rs. 5.25 Cr + Regn

Nanmangalam 2 BHK, 876 sqft
 Uds 378, North Facing Rs. 55 Lac

CONTACT : 98412 82115

- MYLAPORE near Kapaleeswarar Temple, East Tower Street, house G+1 land extent, 925 sq.ft., south facing. Ph: 9884958743
- MANDAVELI, near Malaiappan Street, 1st floor flat, 1100 sq.ft., UDS 500, 2.5 BHK, lift, CCP, 15 yrs old, Rate 1.55 crores, New Street, 2 BHK, 1 floor, two wheeler parking, 724 sq.ft., UDS 314 Rate 72 lakhs, 15yrs old. Ph: 7401677318 / 9283230107
- ABIRAMAPURAM, 2000 sq.ft., 3 bedroom, 3 bathroom, 1 floor, 10 years, UDS 900 sq.ft., lift, CCP, power backup. Ph: 9003186674
- MRC Nagar, near Karpagam Avenue, 2100 sq.ft., 1st floor, 19 years old, 4 BHK, 2 covered car parking, lift, power back up, UDS 1045 sq.ft., Rate 3.55 crores, negotiable. Contact: 9840398626
- R A PURAM, signal on the Main Road, 2 BHK, ground floor, flat 1340 sq.ft., UDS 380 sq.ft., east facing, lift, 1 car park, Rate 2.10 crores. Alwarpet, Venus Colony, 4 BHK, 2450 sq.ft., UDS 1450 sq.ft., 2nd floor, north facing, lift, full woodwork, power backup, gym, 2 car park, Rate 5.30 crores. Ph: 8939596955

- ST. MARYS Road, 3 BHK, 3 balcony, 4th floor, 1502 sq.ft., UDS 678, 11yrs, CCP, lift, Rate 2.30 crore, nego, Contact: 9884949275
- NEW FLAT, 2yrs, Vidya Mandir, Rate 1.30C, new flats, 3 BHK, Rs. 2.4C, 2 BHK, Rs. 1.60C, Greenways Road, 3 BHK, 2800 sq.ft., Rs. 4.5C. Abiramapuram, 3 BHK, Rs. 5.5C, R A Puram, 2 BHK, 1000 sq.ft., Rs. 1.5 C, 2 BHK, Rs. 65/90 lakhs. Ph: 8148903697 / 9551729534
- MYLAPORE individual property, 1200 sq.ft., Rs. 3.5C, 730 sq.ft., Rs.1.70C, R A Puram, 1 ground, Rs. 6.5C, Karpagam Avenue, 1 ground, Rs. 7C, Mandaveli, 1800 sq.ft., Rs. 4C, 500 sq.ft., to 10 grounds. Ph: 8072203977 / 9551729534
- MYLAPORE ,1400 sq.ft., land with 3000 sq.ft., built-up, 10 BHK, Rs. 4.36 crore, east facing, frontage 20'70, 20 feet road, near Dr. Ranga Road & CP Ramaswamy Road. Ph: 7010257539

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- MYLAPORE near Nanadalala Temple, 1950 sq.ft., 3 bedroom, 1st floor, with lift, 2 CCP, genset, UDS 950 sq.ft., Rs. 3.40 crore. Ph: Danish Realty 9884239783
- ROYAPETTAH, 210 sq.ft., sale, Rs. 30 lakhs, 2000 sq.ft., old building, Ice House, Rs. 3.50 crore, 1220 sq.ft., open area, T. Nagar, Rs. 2 crore. Ph: 9840480379 / 7305349780
- ROYAPETTAH, near Music Academy, 2nd floor, no lift, 2 wheeler parking, 900 sq.ft., 450 UDS, 20 years old, Price 90L. Ph: Sri Sai Reality 9840994567
- MYLAPORE near Kutchery Road, independent house, G+2 land 1188 sq.ft., 33'36, income, Rs. 70K, Rs. 3.50 crores, negotiable. Ph: 8637481837
- THIRUVANMIYUR, new apartment, 1970 sq.ft., 3 BHK, 2 covered car parks, Rs. 2.8 crores + registration and taxes. Ph: 9710424456
- ABHIRAMAPURAM, 1850 sq.ft., 3 BHK apartment with car park, lift, genset. Ph: 9543600999
- MYLAPORE, near Madava Perumal Temple, 1.25 ground land, built up area, 5500 sq.ft., 9 years old, car parking, calm location. Ph: S. John 9444360000 / 9710360000
- TRIPLICANE house for sale 1053 sq.ft., UDS 359.17 sq.ft., prime location, double bedrooms, 3rd floor. Un Approved but for approval, money paid, Rate 72 lakhs. Cash party only, negotiable. Contact: 9940654589

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- WANTED Abhiramapuram, Mylapore, Mandaveli, R.A.Puram, Alwarpet, Gopalapuram, Adyar, Kasturibhai Nagar, Indra Nagar, 2,3 BHK, independent house. Ph: 8667066894, 9790719749
- LOOKING for showroom / office space of around 800 sq.ft., in and around Mandaveli and Mylapore and nearby. Ph: 9841033888
- WANTED 2,3,4 bedroom apartment, 4,5,6 bedroom independent bungalows for reputed clients around Gopalapuram, Alwarpet, R A Puram, Kotturpuram, Adyar area. Contact: 9840588336
- REQUIRED approximately 1500 sq.ft., space for setting up a dental clinic in or around Murrays Gate Road. Preferred lease period: 2-3 years. Contact: 9940234621

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2 BHK Flat - Ground Floor OR with lift, near Alwarpet, Mylapore, Mandaveli, Santhome, vegetarian family, No brokers please. immediate or later occupation

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RENTAL

- MYLAPORE, Kesava Perumal Kovil East Street, individual house, ground floor,1 BHK, Rs. 17K. Ph: 9940025205
- ALWARPET, 1500 sq.ft., 3 bedroom, 2 bathroom, south facing, 1 AC, 3 floor, lift, CCP, veg, no broker, Rs. 45000. Contact: 9003186674
- R.A.PURAM near Billroth Hospital, 1600 sq.ft., 3 BHK, 1st floor, lift, north facing, woodworks, 1 CCP, only veg, Rs. 45K. Mukesh Realtors: 8939519299
- GOPALAPURAM near DAV, NPS, 2000 sq.ft., 4th floor, lift, covered car parking, north facing, 3 BHK, power backup, rent Rs. 90K, 3 months advance. Contact: 9840398626
- SAN THOME, 1650 sq.ft., 3 BHK, Rs. 55000. 1450 sq.ft., 3 BHK, Rs. 45000. Greenways Road, 2600 sq.ft., 3 BHK, Rs. 1,25,000. Subramani Street, 1000 sq.ft., 2 BHK, Rs. 35000. Contact: 8015184176, 9884214816
- ABIRAMAPURAM, flat 1200 sq.ft., 2 BHK, 2 bath, 1 CCP, Rs. 36K. Alwarpet, 2200 sq.ft., 3 BHK, 3 bath, 2 CCP, Rs. 80K. Abhiramapuram, 1750 sq.ft., 3 BHK, 3 bath, 1 CCP, Rs. 65K. Ph: 6380844247
- KOTTURPURAM, 3 BHK, 2nd floor, north facing, 3 CCP, Rate 1.1 lakhs. R.A.Puram, 3 BHK, 4th floor, Rate 1.1 lakhs. Abiramapuram, 3 BHK, east facing, 4th floor, Rate 1.75 lakhs. R.A.Puram, 3 BHK, Rs. 50K. S A Reality: 9840015106
- ALWARPET, 2000 sq.ft., fully furnished, 3 BHK, 3 bath, lift, 1st floor, 2 CCP, power backup, Rs. 90K plus maintenance. Ph: 7299141164
- 3 BHK, 1850 sq.ft., semi furnished, 3rd floor, car park, lift, modular kitchen, 3 bathroom for rent in Alwarpet, behind Kauvery hospital, suitable for company, guest house also, rent Rs. 70K, maintenance Rs. 5K. Focus Realty: 9500045600
- ABIRAMAPURAM, No. 20/49, Subramaniam Street, 800 sq.ft., 2 BHK, first floor flat, with covered car park, Rs.35K negotiable, vegetarians, residential only. Owner: 9444163060

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- MYLAPORE near Vivekananda College, brand-new, 1150 sq.ft., 1st floor, lift, small car parking, Rs. 55K, near Isabel hospital, Rs. 22K, bachelor's also. Ph: 9841350607
- 1500 SQ.FT., 2 floor with lift, covered car parking, power backup, Dr Ranga Road, Rs. 35K, rent. Contact: 9345694459
- BISHOP Garden, 3 BHK, 2300 sq.ft., veg only, Rs. 85K. Mandaveli, 3 BHK, 2200 sq.ft., Rs. 80K. Mandavelipakkam, 2 BHK, Rs. 40K, veg only. Ph: 9884137904
- ALWARPET, near Rain Tree, posh, new 3 BHK flat, 2500 sq.ft., servant room, 2 CCP, genset / behind Crown Plaza, penthouse, 2700 sq.ft., 3 BHK, flat, 2 CCP, servant room. Ph: 9841571836
- ABIRAMAPURAM, 1600 sq.ft., 3 BHK, Rs. 60K, modular kitchen, service area, wardrobe, CCP, near CP Ramaswamy Road. Ph: 9384351931
- R.A.PURAM, near Grand sweets, 1600 sq.ft., 3 bedroom, CCP, genset, Rs. 60000, AC, pooja room, 3 years old, East Abiramapuram, 1600 sq.ft., 3 bedroom, CCP, Rs. 55000. 1800 sq.ft., 3 bedroom, Rs. 70000, AC. Ph: 9840736132, 9003621068
- MYLAPORE, Ranga Road, 1 BHK flat, 600 sq.ft., 2 nd floor, no lift, wood work, two wheeler parking, Rs. 18K. Agent: 9841139576
- BRAND NEW, Abiramapuram, 1700 sq.ft., 3 bedroom, CCP, genset, AC, Rs. 70000 + maintenance. Venues Colony, 2200 sq.ft., 3 bedroom, CCP, genset, Rs. 90000 + maintenance. Ph: 9840736132, 9003621068
- MYLAPORE, Mandaveli, San Thome, 3 BHK flats, Rs. 60K, 50K, 40K, 2 BHK, Rs. 35K, 30K, 25K, 1 BHK, Rs. 20K, Rs. 18K, bachelors also. Ph: 6374721876
- MYLAPORE, Alamelumangapuram, brand new, 1900 sq.ft., 1 floor, 3 BHK, 2 car parking, Rs. 80K, Jeth Nagar, 2nd floor, 3 BHK, 1 car park, 1600 sq.ft., Rs. 65K. Ph: 9380063177
- ABHIRAMAPURAM, 2 BHK, 900 sq.ft., first floor, Rs. 35K, vegetarians, CCP. Ph: 9841188817
- MANDAVELI, individual house, first and second floor, three bedroom, open terrace, vegetarian, no car park, office cum residence also, Rs. 32K. Ph: Agent 9500064655
- FOR rent, Abhiramapuram, individual house, 2nd floor, 1 BHK, 24 hours water, Rent 15K. Ph: 9710090318
- ORTHODOX house, near Srinivasar Kesavar Temple, rental 1 BHK, Rs. 14K, single room, Rs. 12K, well water, 3 phase. Ph: Owner 9790836524 / 42036524
- MYLAPORE, near Kutchery Road, post office, 2nd floor, 3 bedroom, 1500 sq.ft., woodwork, two wheeler parking, Rs. 35K, negotiable. Ph: 9940415778
- MYLAPORE, AC, non AC rooms available on monthly and daily basis. Contact: 7200009527
- ABHIRAMAPURAM, 1 BHK for rent near Mind Screen and Vels Kids school, Rs. 15000 + EB. Contact: 7708605995
- MYLAPORE, opposite Dr.R.K Salai near Yellow Pages, 1500 sq.ft., 3 bedroom, Rs. 35000, lift. New 2400 sq.ft., 4 bedroom, lift, car park, semi furnished, rent Rs. 1,10,000. Contact: 9382509090 / 9566024633
- 2 MONTH advance, Rs.14000,1 BHK, 1st floor & 2nd floor, road site balcony, K.M.N.Street, near Antony's School & Lazarus Church, Mandavelipakkam. Ph: Owner 7358622277 R. Prassadraj

- MYLAPORE, San Thome, Mandaveli, 1 BHK, 2 BHK and 3 BHK, 15K, 20K, 25K, 30K, 35K, 40K, 50K and 70K Ph: 7401677318 / 9283230107
- MYLAPORE, 2 BHK flat, ground floor, cupboard, car parking, Rs. 35000. Abiramapuram, 3 BHK, 1st floor, individual house, Rs. 45000, veg and non veg allowed. Ph: 9840246208 / 9840758123
- MYLAPORE, posh, 3 BHK, Vidya Mandir, Rs. 70K, St. John's, 2 BHK, Rs. 40K, Mylapore, Mandaveli, R A Puram, Alwarpet, 2 / 3 / 4 BHK, 35K, 45K, 60K, 1 lakhs. Lease 25 lakhs. Ph: 9551729534 / 8072203977
- MYLAPORE near Nageshwara Rao Park, 1700 sq.ft., 3 bedroom, 1st floor, with lift, 2 CCP, genset, 2 CCP, veg, rent Rs. 55K. Ph: Danish Antony 9884239783
- MYLAPORE, 2 BHK flat, 1000, PV Kovil Street, 1st floor, rent Rs. 28K, Mylapore, Keshav Perumal Kovil, 1 BHK, 650 sq.ft., ground floor, rent 16K. Ph: Sri Sai Realty 9840994567
- RAPURAM, Bishop Garden, Ceebors, flat, 4 BHK, 2300 sq.ft., 2nd floor, west facing, lift, 2 car park, rent Rs. 85000. RAPURAM, brand new flat, 3 B HK, 2200 sq.ft., 2nd floor, east facing, lift, power backup, 2 car park, Rs. 1. 25 lakhs. Ph: 8939936055
- ABHIRAMAPURAM, RAPuram, Mylapore, Mandaveli, San Thome, Gopalapuram, 2, 3 BHK, new flat, independent house, Rs. 15K -1 lakhs, furniture, office, godown, bachelor, lease, commercial. Ph: 8667066894 / 9790719749

RENTAL / COMMERCIAL

- LOCATION, Mandaveli, R.K.Mutt Road, opposite to CSI Lucas Church and BSNL office - Appavu Gramani Street, 500 sq.ft., 3 rooms, ground floor for commercial purpose only, such as tuition centres, doctor clinic, lawyer, auditor office, etc., generator available, two wheeler parking, Rs. 25000 per month. Contact: 9841823122, 9841281693
- NEAR Chamiers Road, Co-operative Colony, 1000 sq.ft., ground floor, 2 BHK, office, godown, 40 ft road, Rs. 45K. Contact: 9841024677, 9171557799
- MYLAPORE, prime location, commercial office space, cabin size 75 sq.ft., and 100 sq.ft., in first floor, 240 sq.ft., and 780 sq.ft., in second floor, available for rent. Contact: 9625925599
- COMMERCIAL, 400 sq.ft., ground floor, suitable for clinic, godown, office in Fourth Trust Cross Street, rent Rs. 22K. Owner: 9952043234
- SHOP for rent at No.45, 2nd Trust Main Road, near Airtel office, Mandavelipakkam, 200 sq.ft., Godown also. Ph: 9566261003, 9003152234
- COMMERCIAL space for rent, 1700 x 2 sq.ft., approximately, ground floor, and 1st floor with lift, good car parking available, Mylapore, P.S.Sivaswami Road, suitable for banks, clinic, insurance and super Market. Contact: 91762 69195
- COMMERCIAL space, frontside of posh bungalow, Mandaveli, about 160 sq.ft., air conditioner, Rs. 25000 pm, 10 month advance. Ph: 9840177092
- ADYAR Gandhinagar, 3rd Main Road, commercial space, 1100 sq.ft., with 120 sq.ft., balcony attached 2 toilets fully air conditioned, 2nd floor, ready to occupy. Ph: 9025472447
- MANDAVELI, R K Mutt Road, Opposite BSNL, second floor, 700 sq.ft., ideal for cloud kitchen, dance class, tuition class, Rent 25000. Ph: 9500062347

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- MYLAPORE near Tank, 2 BHK, 700 sq.ft., 1st floor, Rate 20 lakhs. Ph: 9841862077

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- NEAR Kavery hospital, 1800 sq.ft., 3 bedroom, CCP, modular kitchen, Rs. 65K. Ph: 8610173098, 7904804359

- NEAR Kapaleeswarar Temple, new 2200 sq.ft., 3 bedroom, 1st floor, 2 CCP, east facing, modular kitchen, 5ACs, 4 balconies, Rs. 90K, nego. Ph: 8610173098, 7904804359
- SAN THOME, near Church, 1200 sq.ft., 3 BHK, 4th floor, with lift, covered car parking, Rent 35000, advance 6 months. K. Gopalakrishnan: 9380964793
- 1 BHK, New Street, Mylapore, rent Rs. 17500, vegetarians only. Ph: 9791192712, 9790233455
- ABIRAMAPURAM, 2 BHK, 1000 sq.ft., 2nd floor, semi furnished, east facing, lift, CCP, Rental, 35K. Ph: 9884011105
- MYLAPORE, near Radhakrishnan Salai, 2 BHK flat, 1st floor, lift, semi furnished, east facing, Rent 25K etc. Contact Agent: 6383563425

- EAST Abhiramapuram, new flat, 1150 sq.ft., 2 BHK + one study room, 3rd floor, east facing, covered car park, Rent 50K. Ph: 8939665277
- BRAND new flat, Abhiramapuram, 2400 sq.ft., spacious, 3 BHK, pooja room, balconies, woodwork done, full power backup, 2 covered car parking, Rent 1.35 lakhs, nego, only vegetarian. Ph: 9962433183
- ALWARPET, 2600 sq.ft., 3400 sq.ft., 3 BHK, balconies, woodwork full, power backup, 2 covered car parking, pet friendly, Rent 1.35L and 1.50L nego. Ph: 9962433183
- LUZ near Vidya Mandir school, 1250 sq.ft., 2 bedroom, pooja, 1st floor, covered car park, Rs. 30K neg. Ph: Swami Iyer Reality 98840 84762

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- SREE Balaji paint company, require billing staff with basic knowledge of Tally and Computer, near Mylapore. Contact: 9840027782
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- PART TIME Liason officer required, should be without health issues, educated and retired from a decent job. Contact by WhatsApp: 9841286399, R.A.Puram
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Ecumenical Christmas carols service held at Good Shepherd church

By Juliana Sridhar



CSI Church of the Good Shepherd in Mylapore hosted its ecumenical Christmas Carols event on November 29 evening and set the tone for the season of Christmas.

In spite of the heavy rain, many youth choirs from across the city took part in the event. It was an evening of Christmas music and fellowship.

Each team was dressed in colour coordinated outfits. They sang traditional and contemporary carols to the accomplishment of live music. The event was organised by the Youth Fellowship group of the parish under the guidance of the church pastor Rev. D. S. A. Samuel.

Youth leaders Benita Sherlin J and Brightus played hosts, along with their young colleagues.

People design rangolis, lamps at R. A. Puram temple



By V. Gopalan

This Karthigai Deepam, the artistic earthen lamps display at Sri Sakthi Vinayagar Temple located at Kesavapuram on Greenways Road in R. A. Puram caught the eye of all the people who visited the place.

The kolams and rangolis and the lamp decorations were done by devotees and volunteers. All the earthen lamps were lit by people visiting the temple.

This temple is located opposite the Greenways Road MRTS Railway Station and is close to TANGEDCO's substation.


The temple is maintained well by the priest, Ekambara Kurukkal and is managed by a private Trust.


Gopalan resides in this temple zone and mailed this report. You too can mail reports and photos of events in your zone.

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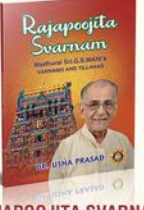
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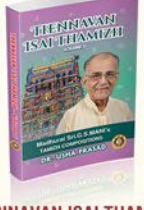


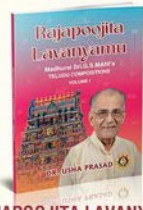



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23rd December, Tuesday

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MYLAPORE SOCIAL HISTORY

Life in one part of R. A. Puram in the 1960s

‘Old student’ Yamuna who studied in Rani Meyyammai Girls’ High School in the 1960s rewinds to that era.

By YAMUNA DASARATHY

It was a hot summer’s day in July 1964. We had just moved from Mambalam to a housing complex located at Ramakrishna Nagar, Raja An-namalai Puram, Chennai, Tamil Nadu 600028.

When the Tamil Nadu Housing Board started constructing here, the plan was to build 10 MIG (Middle Income Group) buildings with 60 flats and 3 LIG (Low Income Group) buildings with 18 flats. There were detached garages available for sale with the flat and a lot of space for playgrounds.



We were in one of the first built buildings and there was a lot of empty space where other buildings were slowly coming up. There were no gates, and everything was wide open. My brothers used to play cricket in the playground. I learnt my bicycling in that summer on my own. Later, the colony, as we used to call it, was fenced in with gates on both sides for entry and exit, with a security guard posted here.

Most of the people living in the colony belonged to the middle to upper middle class sections. There were a few single-family bungalow style gated homes as well in the neighborhood.

Thiruveedhi Amman Temple was a prominent landmark. A few years later, around that area new buildings without indoor water plumbing were put up by the government, to house poor families. The road leading from the colony to Venkatakrishna Road became waterlogged sometimes - because of poor sanitation. The Buckingham Canal added another dimension to the neighborhood. The closest hospital was Andhra Mahila Sabha’s hospital where my brother was born. There were no other hospitals in this area. Today, that R.K. Nagar colony is no more - the old buildings have been demolished, and new ones like Ragamalika Apartments have been built by L& T company.

Joining a new School

I had finished my 8th standard and was looking forward to joining the new school in the new neighborhood. With all the unoccupied space, it was a straight five-minute walk from our house! At that time the school was called “The Girls’ High School, R. A. Puram”.

My father took me to the new school to meet with the principal (HM), Mrs. Saraswathi Srinivasan. She asked me my name, what my special interests were and my favorite subject and a few other questions. I mumbled something and was admitted to the ninth standard. That was it!

No entrance exam, no test, no donation, nothing! Compared to what one must go through

to secure admission in a school nowadays, it felt like I was entitled to an education!

The school had one main concrete yellow building where the HM had her office, and the rest were all classrooms with thatched roofs where most of my classes were held.

There were no lights or fans in the thatched rooms. We were learning under natural surroundings and all classes were conducted during the daylight time. I think there were about 40 kids in my class. We all sat on rows of long wooden benches. The medium of instruction was either Tamil or English. All English medium students were in “A” section and the rest of us belonged to B, C or D section.

A majority of the students were middle class Hindu kids. A few Christians and Muslims added diversity to the student body. There was no intra-faith tension then and I don’t think anyone really cared about the religion of other kids. If there was, it was not palpable.

Classes under Trees

Occasionally, we had science classes under the big trees – my favorite place. Once a squirrel jumped into one of the girl’s skirt and she was seen running amok, terrified. Laughter aside, it was a memorable scene that stayed with me - even to this day!

The school was a progressive institution, celebrating all holidays irrespective of religion. We had Thai style candle dances for Diwali, Thirupavai bhajans, and Christmas carols in Tamil. I remember waiting in line to get a piece of the Christmas cake. We also studied Seerapuranam, a Muslim

literature depicting the biography of the prophet.

We celebrated other holidays as well - such as the Independence Day and the Republic Day - when the whole school assembled in front of the HM’s office. The student leader would hoist the Indian flag, and we sang the National anthem. After the HM’s speech, we got candies and went home.

Children’s day was special too. All school children used to assemble in the playground, and we listened to speeches about Jawaharlal Nehru and his childhood. As a newly elected literary and debating association secretary, I had to give my first impromptu speech in front of about 500 kids about Ne hrul! I had no idea what I was saying!

Sports day was full of competitions - in net ball, javelin, discus throw, tennikoit, throw ball and a few others. Annual days were celebrated with entertainment including some plays, music performances, and dances after which there were a lot of awards and certificates for the best students in each subject category. As a Tamil aficionado, I got one for Tamil every year. We also had some literary competitions including reciting a few chapters from Bhagavad Gita, essays on Bharathiyar etc.

Civic Pride: support for Indian Army

My introduction to politics and civic pride was in 1965 I think, when we took part in a parade rallying support for the Indian military against Pakistan at that time. I remember that my teacher assembled a group of us from the school, bused us to some place where we joined girls from other schools, and we were all parading and shouting slogans like “Death to Ayub Khan”.

The school was egalitarian. Uniforms - a long maroon skirt, white blouse, and a half sari - were mandatory. Younger kids wore similar uniforms too but without the half sari. Ours

was a Higher Secondary school (grades 6 through 11). We had no elementary school students. 11th grade was completed after taking and passing the SSLC (Secondary School Licensing Certificate) exam, equivalent to high school graduation.

Many of us went ahead to do PUC (Pre-University Course) in a college after which the 3-year BA/BSc. or professional degree programs started.

We had students from all economic backgrounds from the nearby areas including R.A Puram, Adyar and Mandaveli. One of my classmates was from a low-income family living in a nearby hut! I also knew some of my friends were living in big bungalows. The school had a bare ground for a gym! But we had a net for playing netball, just outside the HM’s office and a lot of open space for throw ball, tennikoit and a few tag games.

My favorite subject was Tamil. I strongly believe that my values and attitudes were formed and solidified because of the progressive school environment and the Tamil poems we were assigned to read including Nanmanikkatigai, Bharathiyar poems and Silappadhikaram.

One specific quote by Arya Padai Kadandha Nedunchezjian in Tamil was etched in my mind and was the harbinger of what my life was going to be. He said, “An educated person transcends status. Even if you belong to a disadvantaged community, if you are a scholar, even the king will listen to your counsel”. I heeded his advice and got my higher education in India and then some in the United States where I’ve been living for the past four decades

Most of my friends came from middle-class sections like me and we really didn’t have any tight money issues per se or never really talked about it. Since our house was so close to the school, a lot of my friends came with me to our house to have lunch and play with my little brother who was only a year old. Everyone brought their own lunch except for one girl who never brought her lunch. My mom always fed her and none of us ever asked her why she never had her own lunch, or if she had money issues at home.

The one student I mentioned who lived in a hut, whom I visited much later after graduation, had already married, and had a child as well. She was just fifteen! I was devastated to see that the child had bowed legs, probably due to lack of proper pre-natal nutrition. After joining college, I lost touch with her although I think about her and her situation often.

The goal of becoming a doctor or an engineer was a constant even then. Just like computer science is the profession everyone now wants to get into; in my days getting a job in a bank was a dream come true. Since getting into a medical school proved elusive, I was the odd one wanting to become a scientist, which I pursued and became one, much to the chagrin of my father who wanted me to become a bank officer.

One of my friends became a doctor and she is doing exemplary volunteer work within the community. Another one went to a bank and became an officer. I learnt later that one of our friends died of a rare blood disorder a few years after she left school.

Since I learnt biking, I used to rent a bike from the nearby cycle repair shop after school and go to my friend’s house close by. Either we used to just hang around or study for the next test. I had classical music lessons after school so that took a big slice of my time as well.

Life in R. K. Nagar

The R.K. Nagar colony was like a microcosm and a world of its own. After all the buildings were built in a few years and fully occupied, everyone knew almost everyone, and it was a growing community with its own life revolving around the occupants and their lives. Windows were always open, and one could hear if any big function was going on somewhere in the building.

In a typical middle class Brahmin family, most of our lives revolved around home, extended relatives, friends, and family. We teens had no money of our own. With zero purchasing power, not much shopping could be done, no TV to watch, and no cell phone for social media - unlike today! My sisters who are a few years younger remind me that they had more of a social life - going to eat out with friends after window shopping! Luz Corner and Sri Kapali Temple tank were some of the favourite places to hang out with friends for some people.

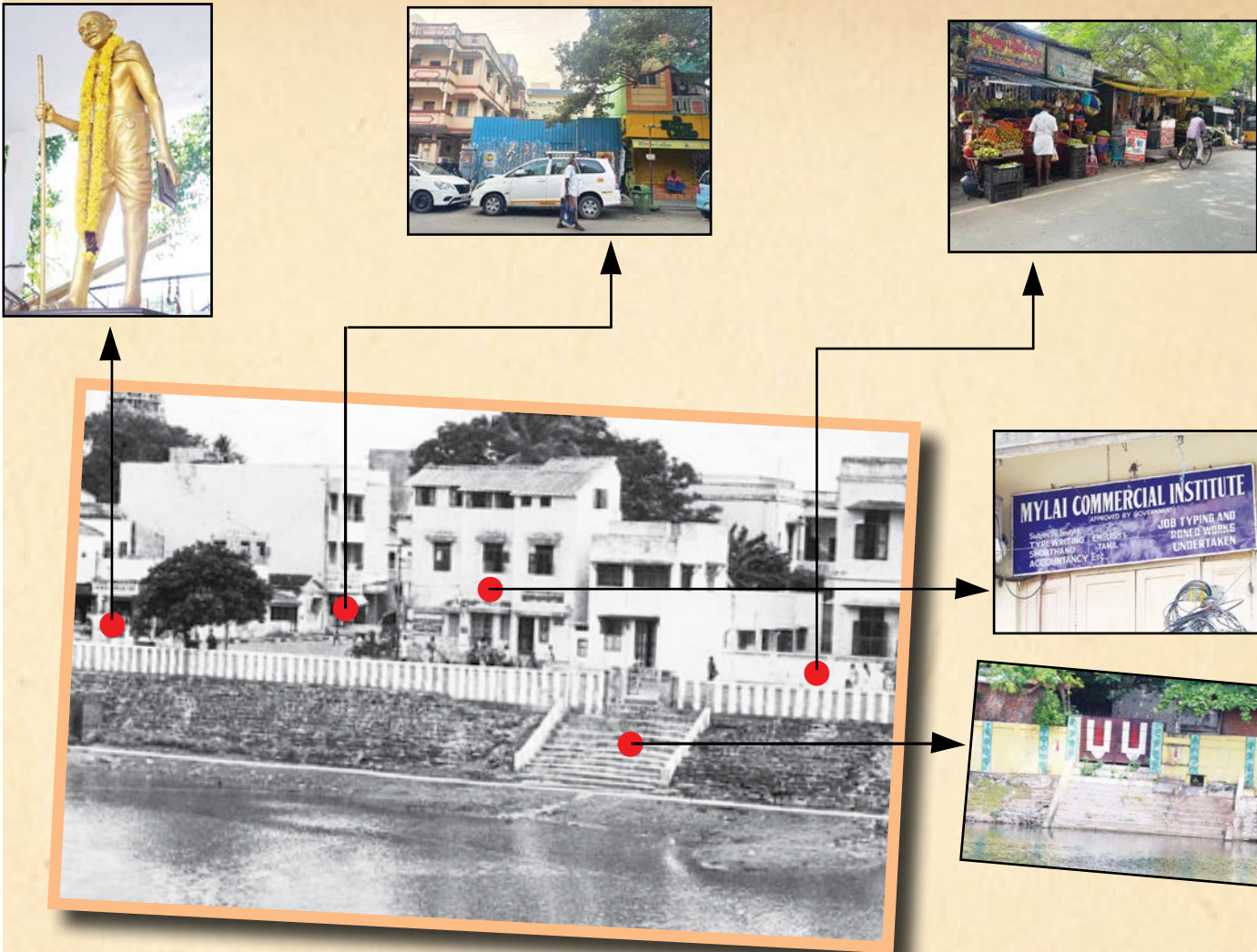
Some of my uncles and aunts lived in the Mambalam area at that time and some still do. Extended relatives used to drop by anytime unannounced and were always well received. No need to call ahead or make plans and no one was complaining! Well, maybe not to their face. Kapaleeswarar Temple was one of the favorite places to visit although those days the surrounding area was not kept as clean as today. On the tank’s sides were street vendors, selling produce and was the most visited place during religious festivities for shopping.

Then there was Foreshore Estate which was treated as a garbage dumping ground in the sixties. Kamadhenu and Kabali theaters were the landmarks in Mandaveli, and I remember seeing a few movies with my mom. For a few paise, kids could sit on the floor in front of the big screen and people who could afford a bit more paid more and got to sit on chairs in the back. All movies ended with the Indian national anthem.

● Yamuna studied at the Rani Meyyammai Girls’ High School from 1964 to 1967. She lives in the USA. Her contact email is - ydasarathy@gmail.com

SHARE YOUR OLD MYLAPORE STORY.

Like Yamuna, you or your family may want to share the old times in Mylapore. Mail us a short note and we can work out a longer story. Mail - mytimesedit@gmail.com



are a few trees here today but the area is a hawk-ers zone. This statue was formally opened in 1970 by the then Congress leader K. Kamaraj.

Beyond, you spot the south end of East Mada Street; it still had tiled houses. Recalls Mani. "I used to pass by this area almost daily in my school and college years."

At one end, was the well-known Band Box laundry.

It was then patronised by the well-off Mylapore-ans to get their pattu saris and silks, costly trousers and coats washed and dry-cleaned.

Further up, was Burma Stores, a popular provisions store. It is said it was managed by a Burma refugee.

The buildings of what must be inside the campus of Lady Sivaswamy Ayyar Girls School can also be seen across the 'kulam'.

One cannot miss the cycle-rickshaws at one corner - they were a popular mode of transport over short distances for Mylaporeans.

STORIES OLD PHOTOS HOLD

Old photographs hold many little stories. And this one does.

This photo, shot from the south side of the Chitrakulam, was shared by heritage buff Parantharami Mani some weeks ago. This former commissioner, ESIC, Govt. of India and a resident of Justice Sundaram Road keeps digging into the Net to locate and share photos and notes on 'old' Madras.

So what does this photo tell us? Would it have been shot in the 1960s?

The steps of the temple look irregular; perhaps they were not restored over time then?

Very stark though is the quiet Chitrakulam north street, very few people seen . . . and a clear view of the tank from that side, as it was from all other sides.

Today, over a dozen bunk shops hug the tank's edge and make walking and driving a task.

The buildings on this street survive. One notable place here was a Mylai Commercial Institute, popular in Mylapore.

It offered classes in typewriting, shorthand and accountancy. It survived till about a year ago -

its old signboard remains on the first floor today.

The photo shows a giant tree and a statue of Gandhi-ji (today, the statue is in a large enclosure). There

■ IF THIS PHOTO EVOKES MEMORIES, do share them - mail - mytimsedit@gmail.com Or WhatsApp - 7305630727

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Senior Carnatic music vocalist Rama Ravi was decorated with an award on December 7 at the inauguration of the December Season music festival of Sunaadalahari at its garden-venue on C. P. Ramaswamy Road, Alwarpet. Dance guru Padma Subrahmanyam did the honours. Concerts are held here through this month. Go to <https://season.mylaporetimes.com/> for daily reportage and visuals.

Rent TV, fridge, geyser . . . Prakash is your go-to man

By Baskar Seshadri

Do you need to hire an air-conditioner or a refrigerator? Are you having guests who may need a mixer or a washing machine?

For these and other needs, you can turn to Prakash Seshadri, a resident of Mandaveli. Prakash has been in the white goods / household needs rental business for the past decade.

He operates from his place where he stocks a variety of domestic gadgets and home appliances. The items include air-conditioners, fridges, washing machines, geysers and dining tables.

He says that some people who are here on short-stay or those who host guests for a few weeks and are residing independently next door, seek his services.

The minimum period of rental of the goods is one month and Prakash takes the responsibility to supply and install the hired goods.

Prakash also rents smart TVs, utility furniture and

even treadmills.

He said that many NRIs who are in Chennai during marriage period for the December Season concerts patronise his services. "They rent an apartment or a part of a house and hire goods that help them to cook at home and get clothes washed," said Prakash.

Besides charging a fee for the hired goods, he col-

lects a caution deposit amount that is refundable.

Prakash Seshadri can be reached on 89395 81818. His office is at Vikram Nest in Jeth Nagar, Mandaveli



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