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### SALE OF POWDERS FOR KOLAM, RANGOLI

Kolam and Rangoli powders are on sale at the hawkers stalls on the Mada Streets around Sri Kapali Temple, Mylapore and also in the Mandaveli market zone. These are available in two packs - the small ones priced at Rs.10 and the big ones at Rs.30. For creating Rangolis, about twenty different colours are on sale. A few stores which sell A to Z goods also stock these powders for the margazhi season.

### MARGAZHI THEME SESSIONS FOR CHILDREN



Shiksha Viharam is an After-School learning space for children. It operates from the RadhaSwamy Center of Excellence, Mandaveli. Shiksha Viharam has curated a special series of events on all margazhi Saturday evenings. The focus is to instill the spirit of margazhi in children through kolams, traditional games, stories, songs, bhajans, and abhinayams, inspired by Thiruppavai. The margazhi sessions are conducted by a professional dancer and a scholar in Vaishnavism. The founders, Geetha Sriram and Lavanya Ashwin, can be reached at 9384108025.

### EVENTS FOR SENIORS

Dignity Foundation's events for senior citizens are held 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 - Dec. 23 (Tuesday) - Singing for Pleasure (Theme - 1970s songs) - will be held online - (4 pm to 5 pm) . Dec. 24 (Wednesday) - Yoga sessions (11 am to 12 pm)

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### TIRUPPAVAI DISCOURSES

Tiruppavai discourses for the margazhi season are being held in Narada Gana Sabha, Alwarpet since Dec. 16 and are on till January 14., 2026, daily morning 7.15am to 8.15am. Kidambi Narayanan delivers the lectures and after the discourse, prasadam is distributed everyday.

### ART & DRAMA WORKSHOP FOR CHILDREN



A two-day Art and Drama Workshop is being hosted in San Thome to encourage creativity, confidence, and performance skills among children. Scheduled for December 27 and 28, the workshop invites the young aged 6 to 15 years old. Conducted by Tasneem Unjhawala of Talk Act Productions, the programme 'brings together artistic exploration and structured drama exercises. The workshop combines art-based activities with theatre elements, giving children an opportunity to explore their imagination while developing essential communication skills. The workshop will feature: facilitated play reading session, hands-on creative activities, materials and a handbook provided to all participants and preparation for a short performance. The sessions will be conducted at Third Environment, San Thome, from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. on both days. For registrations or further details, contact: 9025146101

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# These meters monitor flooding conditions



By Our Edit Team

State agencies have installed flood monitoring meters on P. S. Sivaswamy Salai in Mylapore. These meters record the level of floodwater in this road and transmit the data to the control room of the agency, which will help it to initiate measures to address serious flooding.

The meters are seen alongside the pavement off Vivekananda College on one end of this road and opposite Chaitra restaurant where this road links with Royapettah High Road.

This road / zone is one of the places which floods during a steady and long spell of rain. New drains laid here which channel the water into the Buckingham Canal on the eastern side of the area have prevented flooding in recent times.

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## VINCENT's JOTTINGS

By VINCENT D' SOUZA

Two giant JCBs are being worked on in the muck in the Buckingham Canal. We stand on the Kutcheri Road bridge and watch the men and machines at work.

With me is Jambunathan. We are doing some home-work for Jambu's Walk for the annual Sundaram Finance Mylapore Festival. It is planned for the morning of January 4, a Sunday. Jambu collaborated with Mylapore Times to produce a 12-part video series on less-known facets of Mylapore. I felt that theme was apt for a Heritage Walk.

At the Canal site, we get to see the contours of a well-designed colonial-time bridge; something most people will not see unless they step on to the banks and look under the bridge.

We made about 10 stops that evening on our recce. At an area where keera thottams flourished. At a colony which was the hub of jewel-making acharis. We go inside two aghrahams; time seems to stand still in these zones at 3.30 that day.

The annual Mylapore Festival is to be held in two parts - on January 3 and 4, which will offer a few events. And the main festival from January 8 to 11.

Preparing for this street cultural festival allows me to re-look at Mylapore, its spaces, its landmarks.

Sridhar Venkataraman will be back with his favourite Food Walk - to take foodies to some popular and some new snacks joints and share his experiences with people who join him.

We hope to offer seven Heritage Walks and two will be very interesting ones - one on the Muslim roots in the area and another on the early days of Mandavelipakkam.

Planning a festival which needs public spaces in and around Sri Kapaleeswarar Temple is a challenge. There are always some hurdles here and there and we try to work around them.

So Shreya Suraj jumps up when she surveys a street corner space we intend to use to hold simple craft-making workshops for children, on the weekend of the festival. Where teens can turn plastic bottles and recycled materials into simple crafts for their homes.

Yes, we will host the popular Kolam and Rangoli contests on the mada street on the weekend. This is an event which began as a simple contest over 22 years ago when judges visited the houses of people who registered, to look at their kolams. It was a crazy effort but it was executed.

An effort that led to the creation of the Mylapore Festival. Check out [www.mylaporefestival.in](http://www.mylaporefestival.in)



## LETTERS FROM READERS

E-MAIL your letters to - [mytimesedit@gmail.com](mailto:mytimesedit@gmail.com).  
Provide full name and short address.

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

### Features on Heritage welcome

■ The full-page feature in *Mylapore Times* dated Dec.13, 2025 on 'Life in a part of R. A. Puram in the 1960s' by Yamuna Dasarathy has been written so well and beautifully with minute/vivid details on the subject interspersed with



File photo

autobio-graphical anecdotes/ snippets. that it will make even a person with Ph.D in journalism proud of the quality and at

the same time jealous as to how a Ph.D. in science stream could write such an article, Well done Yamuna Dasarathy - hats off - we enjoyed reading it multiple times.

- S. Viswanathan

■ The feature on 'Life in R. A. Puram in the 1960s' made great reading. It took us to an era when this part of Mylapore held a charm of its own, with coconut groves and small houses - some even tiled and some thatched. We would love to read more such features on other areas which detail the local geography and social life and hopefully, carry photos of those times.

- T. Parthiban

### On margazhi bhajans . . .

The photos and videos of the margazhi bhajan groups on the Mada Streets posted on *Mylapore Times* web site and social media pages were vivid and brought the mood and sights closer to us. I am now encouraged to plan a visit to the area one weekend to soak in the tradition.

- P. Uma

### Accessing sabha halls difficult

Work on Chennai Metro stations and underground systems, with barricades and traffic diversions has made it difficult for music and dance rasikas to easily access sabha halls in and around Mylapore. We have to travel in circles to access places like Arkay Centre, Raga Sudha Hall and Sastri Hall.

- K. Sajith Kumar

### Woes of middle-class family 'house hunting' in Mylapore

Our family has been living in Mylapore for three generations. We have been living in rented houses all these years. Right now we are house hunting and we are shocked at the rental rates which have spiked up tremendously. Also, contrary to the government instructions, many owners are demanding 10 month's rent as advance.

Most houses are routed through brokers who charge a month's rent as a commission. I understand that the market rate has increased but Rs.20,000 rent for a 1BHK flat with Rs.2.0 lakh advance is shocking.

I write this with a heavy heart because I am forced to move out of this area which is close to our family for decades together. The people here, Sri Kapali Temple, the festivals, the mada veeidhis and my friends will be missed for sure if we have to move out. It would be great if flat owners can consider rentals suitable for small, middle-class families.

- Aishwarya S.

### On Thaneer Thurai Market

A recent issue of *Mylapore Times* carried an Obituary on a person whose father had managed the famed Thaneer Thurai Market on R. H. Road. I used to frequent this market in its final days. A feature on this market will make good reading.

- R. Ashok Kumar

## MYLAPORE REWIND

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

### Deputy Speaker of TN Assembly has links to Mylapore (May 25, 1996)

By S. Janaky

39-year-old Parithi Ilamvazhuthi, is now the new deputy speaker of the Tamil Nadu state Assembly. His father was an MLC. Parithi is an MLA from the Egmore reserved constituency. Born in Kailasapuram (located behind the TN Police state headquarters), Parithi joined the DMK during the Emergency days and became close to M. K. Stalin. He left Mylapore early in life when he moved to live with his uncle. But he says he still has connections with Mylapore, where he has many friends and where he marks his presence at weddings and social functions.

DMK leader M. Karunanidhi felicitates Parithi Ilamvazhuthi



### Srinivasa Ladies Club presents dance, drama (May 25, 1996)

Srinivasa Ladies Club is hosting two events on May 28 at R. R. Sabha, Mylapore. At 5.30 p.m., students of Bharatanatyam dancer and teacher Jayanthi Subramaniam will perform. Then, Crazy Mohan's Crazy Creations will stage their drama, 'Satellite Samiyar'. Tickets of Rs.25 and Rs.10 will be on sale at the venue. The club operates from Srinivasan Street, R. A. Puram.

### Sapthaswara returns to R. H. Road (June 1, 1996)

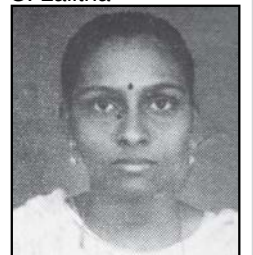
The popular Sapthaswara Musicals shop returns to its original location on Royapettah High Road from its temporary home on Sullivans Garden Road. Sapthaswara operated from Sullivans Garden Road for 18 months while the original place was being renovated. Founded in 1979, the new shop is now three times the original size, now covering 1,500 sq ft, as against the 500 sq ft it earlier was, according to its proprietor M. N. Lal. The renovated showroom

is soundproof, facilitating testing instruments in a quiet atmosphere for customers. Two of its eight employees can demonstrate instruments. The shop has acquired Roland electronic keyboards, which are not easily available in the city.

### Rosary School topper in Board exams is Lalitha (June 1, 1996)

Rosary Matric School's topper in the state Board exams is S. Lalitha, daughter of company secretary Sivasubramaniam. Lalitha said she expected to do very well and called her 97.1 overall percentage a dream come true. She said she put in at least three hours of studies every day and that she did not attend any coaching classes. She plans to do B.Com and ACS together, with perhaps an MBA to follow. Lalitha stood third in the school in the X standard Board exams.

Rosary School's S. Lalitha



● This column is curated by Kanaka Cadambi.







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## MFAC sabha honours two artistes

Of all the launch events of city sabhas' December Season festivals that took place the past fortnight, the one at Mylapore Fine Arts Club in Mylapore (it was the sabha's 74th edition of the fest) seemed meaningful.

The two guests who felicitated the artistes who were decorated with awards by the MFAC sabha on Dec.17 evening spoke in depth and were focussed in their speeches.

It was an evening to honour mridangam vidwan Thiruvavarur Bhaktavatsalam and Bharatanatyam dance teacher Kanchana Janardhanan with awards.

That evening, vidwan Aleppey Venkatesan spoke at length on the career and artistry of Bhaktavatsalam, illustrating the points with

anecdotes and educating the audience on Bhaktavatsalam's unique style.

Later, special guest Mhadhumathi Prakash spoke on the character and work style of dance guru Kanchana Janardhanan who was recognised, telling guests at the event that Kanchana followed the classical dance tradition the way it should be, that she did not make compromises and that she treated her sishyas as family.

The two speeches got a good listen.

And so did Bhaktavatsalam's acceptance speech in which he touched on the role of art criticism.

The evening closed with a dance drama concert by sishyas of Roja Kannan.

## Crib Contest welcomes entries

By Our Edit Team

The first set of entries for the Mylapore Times Christmas Crib Contest have come in.

This contest is open to families in the Mylapore - San Thome - R. A. Puram - Alwarpet - Luz zone.

You need to shoot and submit three sharp photos of your crib set, shot from different angles - e-mail them to the newspaper.

Mail ID > mytimesedit@gmail.com. Please mention in subject line - CRIB CONTEST

Cribs which have been creatively designed, even used recycled / simple materials and illumination, will get bonus marks. The contest ends on Dec.29 night. There are prizes for the best 10 cribs. The sponsors for the contest are - Children's Choice,



Deepam Sweet & Karam and Uyir Organic Farmers Market.

More details are in the advert posted online at [www.mylaporetimes.com](http://www.mylaporetimes.com)

● Photo of crib used here was made by the 2024 contest winner, Joy Francis of Periya Palli Street, Mandaveli

## Cakes for Christmas



McRennett bakery on Venkatakrisna Road in Mandaveli is now stocked with a variety of cakes, pastries and goodies for the Christmas and New Year season. Besides the popular rich plum cakes and walnut pound cakes packed in special boxes, on sale are marzipan, almond scones, chocolate fudge balls and choco-almond donuts. The bakery is close to the old MTC bus terminus.

## Carols evening at church in Luz

By Juliana Sridhar

The community of Our Lady of Light Church in Luz will get together on Saturday, December 20, at 6 pm for Holy Mass. Following the Mass there will be some Christmas-themed events. A nativity skit will be performed by the Catechism class children. The children will later sing Christmas carols. Fr. Bernard Lawrence, parish priest said that a group of parishioners of Our Lady of Visitation Church, Abiramapuram will also sing carols.

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## Charity at Christmas time

By Our Edit Team

Inside the St Thomas Cathedral in San Thome, in the altar space, is a Christmas tree. Besides the decorations on it, are hung here and there, small rolls of paper you are encouraged to pick.

Each paper piece lists a donation you may make for the not-so-well-off people of this parish - a sari or a shirt or a Tee, some sugar or rice. To be given to people on Christmas eve.

There is also a box kept at the foot of the tree - where you may drop off Christmas gifts for the poor.

Parish priest Fr. Vincent Chinnadurai said that one non-Christian visitor who noticed the appeal, went out and bought three shirts and handed them over at the church office.

## CHRISTMAS SHOPPING AT STORE IN SAN THOME

The store run by nuns inside the St Thomas Cathedral campus in San Thome is just the place to do your last-minute Christmas shopping. Crib sets of all sizes, Christmas trees, buntings and decorations, greeting cards and music, souvenirs and more are on sale here. Open through the day. Located on the left side block from the main gate.







A giant, illuminated Christmas tree at St Thomas Cathedral

### Christmas services in churches

By Our Edit Team

Churches in the Mylapore zone will host Holy Masses on Christmas eve and on Christmas day ( Dec.25).

At the San Thome Cathedral, the English Mass on Dec.24 will be at 10.30 p.m. at the St. Bede's School auditorium, San Thome. Carols will be sung 10 p.m. onwards.

That day, at 11.30 p.m. is Holy Mass in Tamil and will be held in the open air in the campus of the cathedral. It will be celebrated by archbishop Rev. George Antonysamy. Holy Masses are held here through the morning on Dec.25.

Christmas-eve Holy Mass at Our Lady of Guidance Church in R. A. Puram is in Tamil and at 11.30 a.m. preceded by carols. Christmas-eve Holy Masses at Our Lady of Light Church, Luz are in English at 9 p.m. and in Tamil at midnight. Carols will be sung before the Masses.

At CSI St. Thomas Tamil Church, San Thome there is a midnight service and one the next morning.

At CSI St. Thomas English Church, San Thome, on Dec.21, 6 p.m. onwards is a concert of Christmas music.



### Hindustani music concerts this weekend

By Our Edit Team

A three-day festival of Hindustani music opened at the mini hall of Narada Gana Sabha, TTK Road, Alwarpet on Friday, Dec.19 with two concerts, featuring sishyas of greats like Kishori Amonkar and of a guru who studied under pandit Bhimsen Joshi.

The 26th Swami Haridas Sangeet Samaroh fest is curated by city-based pandit Janardan Mitta and supported by Voora companies. It will feature two vocal concerts on Dec.20, starting at 5.30 p.m. and an awards event on Sunday, Dec.21 at 5 p.m. followed by a sarod concert and then, a vocal concert. Senior artistes will perform. The concerts are open to all.

Shri Gurubhyo Namah



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## Do you have old photos shot in Mylapore?

By Our Edit Team

Do you have a photo shot in the 1960s or 1970s in the Mylapore zone - of a school cricket match or a wedding procession or of your colony's festival event?

You could share it with *Mylapore Times*.

For the 2026 edition of *Sundaram Finance Mylapore Festival*, an exhibition of photos of Mylapore's social and local life in the 1960s - 1980s period is planned.

This far, the collection of pho-



The main block of St. Isabel's Hospital

tos include those of St. Isabel's Hospital, of a procession of musicians on Dr. Ranga Road, sports day at Rani Meyyammai School, a special event at Kamadhenu

Theatre, cricket played in the ground off P. S. School, a colony in MRC Nagar and the interior of a local photo studio in Luz.

The organiser of this show needs at least 20 more interesting photos.

They can be of any quality and size. They can be shared or copied for use at the exhibition.

If you want to share a photo, call *Mylapore Times* photographer Madhan Kumar at 9941772334 or *Mylapore Times* office - 24982244.

## Special meet of alumni of P. S. Senior School. On Dec 20

By Our Edit Team

P. S. Senior Secondary School is hosting a special Alumni Meet to mark the school's golden jubilee year.

It is on Saturday, December 20. Events start at 5 p.m. on the school premises in Alamelumangapuram, Mylapore.

The first session is informal - to allow alumni to meet and mingle. Then follows an instrumental music concert by R. S. Advait and group and a screening of a short film. The formal event where key guests will speak follows and dinner will be served at around 8 p.m.

## Ayyappa mandala pooja celebrations in Mandavelipakkam from Dec.21

By Our Edit Team

The 65th mandala pooja hosted by Ayyappa Bhaktha Samajam in Mandavelipakkam will be held from December 21 to 27, featuring several special poojas and homam.

The festival this year begins with the Lalitha Sahasranama homam, followed by the maha rudram yagnam on Dec.22

The highlight of the mandala pooja will be on December 25, with laksharchana, karamarchana, sasthapreethi and annadhanam.

Everyday, prasadam will be given to people attending the event. The special annadhanam for sastha on Dec.25 is sponsored solely by K. Hariharan of Ayyappa Marriage Catering. The Mandala Pooja will culminate on Dec.27 with a grand procession of the deities.

In the evenings, there will be two music concerts daily, 5 p.m. onwards for six days. Artists such as Udayalur Kalyanarama Bhagavathar, Cuddalore Gopi Bhagavathar, Senkottai Hari Bhagavathar, Sattanatha Bhagavathar, Srinath Das Maharaj and Chittur C S Subramanian will perform namasankeerthanam and bhajans. All concerts are open to all.

The Samajam's president C. V. Viswananthan and secretary K. Hariharan have planned the celebration.

The venue - The Kalyana Nagar Association premises, 29 West Circular Road, Mandaveli.

Contact :94440 37204.





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This is a *Mylapore Times* event.





## Vivekananda College's Global Alumni Meet on Dec.20. 400 people confirm participation

By Our Edit Team

The third Global Alumni Meet (GAM) of Ramakrishna Mission Vivekananda College, Mylapore is to be held on Saturday, December 20, from 3 p.m. to 7 p.m., at the college auditorium.

The organisers say over 400 alumni have confirmed their participation. The confirmed overseas participation stands at about 25. They said they expect about 700 alumni to attend.

One part of the event is themed Social Hour (for about 90 minutes). Colour-coded wristbands will be given to alumni, differentiated by the decade when they studied at this college, to facilitate networking.

A specially designed T-shirt is, being released and there are 'Namma Viveka selfie corners, souvenir sales and donor acceptance stalls.

There is also to be a Tech Corner to promote industry-academia collaboration among alumni and faculty.

This session will end with snacks for the guests. The official programme will run for over two hours. Highlights include honouring the gurus and release of the souvenir commemorating 80 years of the college.

Dignitaries for this event include E.S.L. Narasimhan, former governor of Chhattisgarh, Andhra Pradesh, and Telangana, and Hariharan, who is the single biggest alumni donor from the USA. He will speak on 'The Joy of Giving Back and Alumni Responsibility towards the Alma Mater'.

Also taking part are swami Dhyanaagamyana Maharaj, secretary of the college, the principal and the governing Board members. R. Seshasayee (alumnus, 1966), currently chairman of Asian Paints and vice chairman of the Hinduja Group and 1976 batch alumnus, R.Varadarajan, former CMD of BPCL have confirmed their participation in this event.

Contact V.Krishnan, chief alumni coordinator, RKMVC Alumni Governing Board - 918939644333

File photo



## Search for Dec. Season concerts info online

For the December Season, St. Mary's Road resident and professional corporate trainer Sundararaman Chintamani has launched an online portal that allows rasikas to search for details on concerts / artistes they wish to attend or listen to.

"I built this solution using AI technologies," said Sundararaman.

Based on data that covers 3,000+ concerts, 45 sabhas in the city, featuring 2,300 artistes and covering 79 days of concerts, this portal attempts to offer a free service to the rasika, online.

"A user can filter data by sabha, artiste, genre, location of venue and find exactly what he or she is looking for," he said.

However, using this facility on a cellphone can be a tad challenging for seniors; using it on desktops or laptops is advised.

Access all this at [www.karnatikbuzz.com](http://www.karnatikbuzz.com)



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- R.A.PURAM, 2.6 ground, independent bungalow, north facing, Rs. 36 crores. 1.75 ground, 2.5 ground, Rs. 15 crores. Rs. 25 crores. Adyar, 4300 sq.ft., Rs. 10 crores. Alwarpet, 1.75 ground, Rs. 15 crores. S A Reality: 9840015106
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- MYLAPORE, 3 BHK flat, 3rd floor, no lift, 1000 sq.ft., 24 year's old, unapproved, Rs. 70 lakhs. Ph: 9841279554
- INDIVIDUAL house for sale in Mylapore, 800 sq.ft., Rs. 1.8 crores, brokers excuse. Ph: RBN Real Estate 9841279554
- T NAGAR house for sale land, 1800 sq.ft., build up area, 5000 sq.ft., G+2 floor, 30 ft road, Rs. 6.5 crores. Ph: RBN Real Estate 9841279554
- MANDAVELI, 1360 sq.ft., 2 BHK, Rate 2.40 crore, 600 sq.ft., UDS, pooja, lift, 2 CCP, security. Ph: 7010257539
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• MANDAVELI near Bus Stand, 1700 sq.ft., 1st floor, 3 BHK, east facing, two covered car parking, lift, power backup, Rent 65K only veg. Contact: 9840398626

• MYLAPORE, No. 10, Thachi Arunachalam Street, 3 BHK, Rs. 35000, two wheeler parking, 1st floor with lift, 3 BHK, no lift, Rs. 30000, 1 BHK, 10000, veg only. Ph: 9444335468 / 8248025900

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• ALWARPET, brand new, 1650 sq.ft., 3 BHK, Rs. 75K. Mandaveli, 2200 sq.ft., 3 BHK, Rs. 1.2L. Ph: 7010115015

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# CLASSIFIEDS ▶

## Jobs

### **JOBS AVAILABLE**

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- YOUTUBE Cooking channel - Idea person required looking for someone to give cooking content ideas & video suggestions, location Perungudi. Contact: 8939392999
- LOOKING for office assistant / peon to support daily office work in Mylapore. Ph: 9894653623

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- COMMERCE Graduates with good working knowledge of Tally required for Trust in Raja Annamalai Puram, Mandaveli. Ph: 8778803774 / 9940080629
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Fresher or Experienced

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**(Office @ Mylapore)**  
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**9500033322**

- WANTED Female staff for admin and telecalling speaking Hindi or Malayalam with Computer knowledge, good salary. Contact: 7845824499 / 9884527679
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# A PHOTOGRAPHER'S TRIBUTE TO DANCERS

By Our Edit Team

If you walk into the campus of the Narada Gana Sabha auditorium off TTK Road, Alwarpet, this margazhi season, slow down to enjoy a visual treat. Large-size photographs of 40 leading Indian classical dancers, all in black and white, have been put up on one boundary wall on the south side, on the top-floor facade of the auditorium, above the side steps leading to the main doors and in the lobby too. These photos have been shot by well-known city-based photographer Amar Ramesh. Amar says he shot over 40 dancers the past year, some in his city studio called Studio A, some at the homes of the artistes and some in landmarks of the city - one stark visual has the dancer stepping into

a pool of water on Anna Salai ( Mount Road) with the iconic LIC building in the backdrop. Said Amar, “Abroad, you see fantastic visuals and displays of artistes at cultural centers but in our city that is not the case. So I decided to undertake this project and give the artistes the place they deserve.” Last year, Amar focussed on classical music artistes and shot some 50 of them, from the senior vidwans like Prof. T. V. Gopalakrishnan to the ones rasikas now follow closely, like Lalgudi GJR Krishnan and Vijayalakshmi. These too were displayed at Narada Gana Sabha.



Amar has been shooting performing arts events and artistes, folk, classical and the others, all over the state and beyond and has a large collection of visuals. He plans to collate the best and feature them in a book that is planned for next year. His recent book features drishti paintings of Tamil Nadu. In the pipeline is a book on Mylapore.



**TRADITIONAL GAMES**  
Venue: Lady Sivaswamy Girls School, Mylapore

**JAN 3 | 4 pm**  
**DAYAKATTAM**  
CONTEST

- Please bring shells/ seeds needed for the game
- The organiser will provide Dayakattam sheets. Some spare shells / seeds are also available at venue.
- The contest is common to adults and children
- Pre-Registration not required.
- Prizes will be given after the Festival.

**JAN 4 | 1.45 pm**  
**PALLANKUZHI**  
CONTEST

- Please bring Pallankuzhi set. Also shells/ seeds/sozhi needed for the game.
- The organiser has only a few, spare Pallankuzhi sets and spare shells / seeds at venue.
- The contest is common to adults and children.
- Pre-Registration not required.
- Prizes will be given after the Festival.

**WALKS**

**JAN 3 | 4.30 pm**

**SNACKS JOINTS**  
**A FOOD WALK**

led by Sridhar Venkataraman.

Starts at Indian Bank gate, west end of North Mada Street., Mylapore.

- For about 90mins. | Free and open to all.
- Pre-registration not needed
- Pay for what you order to eat!

**JAN 4 | 7.30 am**

**NOOKS OF MYLAPORE WALK**

Led by K. R. Jambunathan

Start Point: Opposite Mylapore Police Station, Kutchery Rd.

- Explores less-known corners of Mylapore - keerali-thotams, agra-harams, achari sectors and temple yards.Free.
- Duration - 100mins.
- Free and open to all.

**JAN 4 | 4 pm**  
**THE MYLAPORE QUIZ**

By Sundararaman Chintamani

Venue: Lady Sivaswamy Girls School, Mylapore

- Open to Teams of two
- Pre-registration not needed. Walk in.
- All questions on Mylapore!

**OTHER EVENTS OF THE FEST**

Jan. 8 to 11

- KOLAM, RANGOLI CONTESTS
- HERITAGE WALKS
- FOOD STALLS & CRAFTS SALES
- TEMPLE KUTCHERIS
- DANCE-DRAMAS
- FOLK SHOWS
- CHOIR & VINTAGE FILM MUSIC
- CHESS CONTEST FOR KIDS
- CRAFT WORKSHOP FOR KIDS
- SOUVENIRS SALE

[www.mylaporefestival.in](http://www.mylaporefestival.in)  
Contact - 7305630727





# Mada Streets at Margazhi

The Mada Streets around Sri Kapali Temple in Mylapore were abuzz even before the crack of dawn last Tuesday, December 16, when the first day of margazhi set in.

At various points on these streets, men, women and children assembled and then began the margazhi bhajans even as they walked down the streets, with traces of mist in the air.

One group, made up mostly of children and teens, dressed in traditional attire, were led by Carnatic music vocalist Saketharaman. He teaches lots of children at his music school and encourages them to be part of the margazhi rounds here. Since the school children have tests and exams, the group does the rounds on weekends, not daily.

Elsewhere on these streets, we spotted two small groups of women, chanting as they did the rounds.

The post midnight temperature in the city has dipped to a low of 21 degrees the past few days and the chill could be felt in the air. But the members of each group had come well-warmed – some wearing light sweaters, some monkey caps and most women in pattu saris.

Being a working day,

groups completed their rounds by 7.30 a.m. and left.

Through the season of margazhi, four or five groups will be regularly doing the rounds of the streets here. People are welcome to join any of them. The groups are large on Sundays and some arrange for breakfast for their members and guests.



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## Narada Gana Sabha honours artistes

By Our Edit Team

Three senior artistes were decorated with awards at the launch of Narada Gana Sabha's annual December Season festival at the sabha's auditorium in Alwarpet on December 13.

They were senior vocalist and music teacher Seetha Narayanan, mridangist Thiruvavur Bhaktavatsalam and nagaswaram artiste SRGS Mohandass.

Vidwan Prof. T. V. Gopalakrishnan was the chief guest. TVG, as friends call him fondly, is one artiste who loves to coax the audience to put their hands together to cheer an awardee or acknowledge their milestones. He did so even at this event.

Bhaktavatsalam made a long acceptance speech, tracing his early days in Madras, his first set of concerts and his meetings with the vidwans of that time.

Besides endowment awards which were given to artistes, prizes for music students who had won in the sabha's annual competitions, were also given at this event.

Later, there was a concert by violinists A. Kanyakumari and her sishyas, Embar Kannan and Sayee Rakshith, with mridangist K V Prasad, morsing artiste B. Rajasekar and ghatam artiste Guru Prasanna.



While the key concerts held in the post-lunch session are held in the main hall, and ticketed, concerts

are held from 10 a.m. onwards in the small hall. These are open to all rasikas.

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