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Vol. 29, No. 44

Feb 1 - 7, 2025

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The teppam utsavam of Sri Adi Kesavaperumal Temple got underway in Mylapore on January 29. It will go on till Feb.2. On the first evening, after the deities, brought here in procession, were seated inside the float, people gathered in some of the spaces off the tank to pray and enjoy the teppam. Sri Perumal is taken around, in the teppam on three evenings, then it is Sri Rama and finally, Peyalwar.



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CHETTINAD VIDYASHRAM A-DAY SHOW. FEB.1

Chettinad Vidyashram in R A Puram hosts its 38th annual day with its signature dance-drama production titled 'Jambudweepa Spandanam - Arcane Asia', a medley of the music, dance and culture of south and south-east Asian nations.

Starts 4 pm at the Kumararajah M A M Muthiah Hall in the school campus. For students, parents and guests.

MUSICAL TALK, CONCERT

Two events of the many at Arkay Centre, Luz.

On Wednesday, 5th Feb., 6.15pm

Madhuradhwani & Anmajothi present the latest on the

continuing talk series on Tamil

Moovar by Dr Sudha Seshayyan.

On stage are Santhosh Subramaniam - vocal, V Bhargav Vignesh

- violin and Vamsidara Anand - mridangam

On Thursday, 6th Feb., 6.15pm

Madhuradhwani presents a

concert - Mudikondan S N Ramesh

on veena, R Sowmya - veena

Shertalai R Ananthkrishnan

- mridangam and Trichy Murali on

ghatam



Courtesy: Daily Thanthi

DISCOURSE ON GITA. FEB. 2 TO 9

A week-long Bhagavad

Gita discourse is on at Narada

Gana Sabha's hall, Feb.2 to 9,

6.30 pm daily.

The speaker is Ramana-

charana Tirtha (Nochur)

swami. Focus is on Chapters 1

and 2 of the Gita. Open to all.

THYAGARAJA ARADHANA: FEB.2

The annual Thyagaraja

Aradhana of Narada Gana

Sabha is to be held on Feb.2

at its main hall.

Starts with puja and veda

parayanam.

This will be followed by

senior artistes and others

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The event is open to all.

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 On Saturdays, bet 11 am and 5 pm.

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Rosary Matric School celebrates diamond jubilee. Simple event

By Our Edit Team

Rosary Matriculation School in San Thome celebrated its diamond jubilee last Saturday (January 25) on its campus. It was a simple event.

Nuns of the FMM congregation which manages this school among others like

St. Raphael's Girls School and Stella Maris College, gathered at the school auditorium for a special Holy Mass that morning. They were joined by some parents of students, some students and well-wishers.

Rev. George Antony, archbishop of Madras-Mylapore diocese was the lead celebrant of the Mass, and a few other priests co-celebrated. A formal jubilee event was held after the Mass.

Started in 1950 with the intention of offering young girls of the Mylapore-San Thome zone, English-medium school education of the state syllabus, Rosary was the preferred school in the 1950s to 70s period.



DO YOU WANT TO SHARE YOUR MEMORIES OF STUDYING AT THIS SCHOOL? Mail 5 lines - mytimesedit@gmail.com

Skills training for kids at After-School centre

Thejomaya, an After School academic centre in R. A. Puram, is commencing the next batch of Olympiad training sessions from Feb 17. These sessions are for students in classes 1 to 7 and have been designed to enhance the child's problem solving skills and foster a deeper understanding of various subjects.

This 16-year-old centre has programmes like Homework Buddies, Olympiad Training

Classes, Phonetics and Reading Program and Global Art for students in ages 4 to 15.

"We conduct programmes to match the individual needs of a child - be it foundational skills or advanced enrichment in a secure, hygienic environment," says Uma Yogesh, founder of Thejomaya.

Thejomaya is at Cedarwoods, 4th Main Road, R. A. Puram. Ph: 9381329450

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VINCENT'S JOTTINGS

By VINCENT D' SOUZA

I have some favourite spots in public and semi-public spaces. Be it a church, a playground, a park or shopping plaza.

My spot inside Nageswara Rao Park in Luz used to be on the north-west side, flanked by the trunks of two large trees, one of which, when in bloom, would magically drop flowers in slow motion. The tree trunks created a sort of privacy and yet gave me a view of the world around, which I love observing.

I abandoned that spot some years ago, following the pandemic, the monsoon season and the rumble of the work on the Chennai Metro project.

Now we hear that a major renovation of the park is being discussed and will be effected. Hopefully, for good.

What bothers me and should others too, is the manner in which such large, neighbourhood projects that are essentially for you and me, are taken through.

Some weeks ago, at a meet hosted by the local MLA, the architects of a firm which claims to have produced a 'working' design, outlined it to some people in the park. Feedback was welcomed.

Later, the firm says its first-cut design is based on long conversations with users of the park.

Very few people who are regulars at this popular park recall meeting or seeing youths who queried them about the park. The Mylapore MLA, if he was in the know, does not make an effort to broadbase the pre-design field work so that inputs from people who know stuff flows in. Neither does the local ward councillor share any information on this development.

Neither does GCC, the city's civic body, make an effort to create some buzz.

Civic projects are top-down deals. That is it. Weak efforts are made to provide a platform, listen to and incorporate the ideas / suggestions / objections of people connected to a project. Not that all ideas / issues are sensible. Some are downright selfish and at odds. A kids play area in a large park will be welcomed. But not courts to play shuttle - this facility is suited for a playground.

Two ideas made by the architect, who clearly seems out of touch with Chennai reality, showed the shallowness of the exercise. Suggesting two water bodies and a water fountain. And, suggesting food kiosks.

We do not have the water to feed/ sustain the first nor a budget marked to maintain demanding features, and the second is superfluous.

Of course, public spaces are happy hunting grounds for the newly elected. One MLA sets up an outdoor gym, another builds an indoor gym, and a third may want to set up a community hall or a creche.



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.

Road to ThiruMayilai station is full of potholes



The approach road to ThiruMayilai station from Venkatesa Agraharam Road has numerous potholes and water gets stagnated there during the rains. With Venkatesa Agraharam Road having been made one-way due to ongoing Chennai Metro work, this approach road is being frequently used. This has been the state of the road for many years. We ask Metro and GCC authorities to address this issue.

- Balaji Raman

Thank you, Metrowater

I thank the Asst. Engineer of Ward 123 Metrowater for rectifying the damaged sewage chamber on Abhirampuram First street after it was highlighted in Mylapore Times. Hope potholes around it will also be filled up quickly to avoid accidents.

- R. Kannan

Re-design of Nageswara Rao Park: many opinions

- A small reading corner in the park with a bookshelf and seats around would be useful to all.

- Kannan

- No need for spaces for any games/ sports. Enrich the existing facilities.

- Venkataraman K.

- Mylaporeans want a clean and green space (as it was) to enjoy walking, playing area for kids, maybe badminton/volleyball

for kids and adults alike. Please do not open any food court.

- S. Sharadha

- Existing park is very good; no need for major changes. Use this money for schools in this area.

People are already playing shuttle, doing yoga / dancing, so there is no need for a new stage.

- Urvashi Rajmohan

- Greenery is the need of the hour; this park should remain a park for walkers. No need for amusement spots. We need to realise the value of a park in the neighbourhood.

- Malini Kalyanam

- Let it remain a park for walking, without any extra fittings. Food kiosks would ruin the place. Why destroy something already good and then redevelop it? Restore the walking area.

- Jayashree Arvind

MYLAPORE REWIND

This column carries excerpts from Mylapore Times, 1995 onwards. This week, we focus on April 1995

Facelift for Nageswara Rao Park (Apr 22-28, 1995)

The heads of a newly formed Nageswara Rao Park Walkers' Association brainstormed to draft a plan for the development of Nageswara Rao Park. Led by the president S. Nagarajan and vice president S. P. Vairavan Chettiar, the group plans on working closely with Corporation officials to get the walker's path relaid, improve lighting and put up revolving gates. Plans are also afoot to create a rain shelter inside the park.

Indian Bank sponsors Sishu Vihar's A-Day (Apr 15-21, 1995)

By Chitra Sivakumar

Indian Bank sponsored the annual day of the Chennai Corporation primary school, Nageswara Sishu Vihar, in Luz Avenue. Rasheeda Banu, the assistant commissioner of GCC gave the championship prizes to students Suguna and Sasikala. The event was organised by the school's Parent Teachers Association.

Aishwarya Rai with Ganesan's daughter-in-law Shanthi Sridhar



Recognition for

Alwarpet publisher (Apr 22-28, 1995)

R. Muthukumaraswamy, the managing director of Alwarpet's The South India Saiva Siddhanta Works Publishing Society, was honoured with the Distinguished Publisher Award for his significant contribution to publishing in the Tamil language.

Muthukumaraswamy has published more than 2,000 authentic and rare works in Tamil. His publishing company has sold more than 15 lakh copies of the Thirukural with a commentary by Dr. M. Varadarajan - this is a record of sorts.

Senior journalist Rajagopalan passes away (Apr 15-21, 1995)

Alwarpet resident and former editor of the Animal Welfare Board publication, T. Rajagopalan passed away on April 9. He is survived by his wife Kamala.

He was the chief

news editor of Deccan Chronicle. He was earlier associated with The Hindu and the MLJ Kalaimagal Press.

Amaravathi group launches Freeze Zone (Apr 22-28, 1995)

The Amaravathi group of hotels has opened a new ice-cream parlour at 33, TTK Road. Apart from the Italian machines being used and the fact that global ice cream maker Capigan is its brand promoter, Freeze Zone is attracting kids with its jazzed up decor that has revolving chairs and rag dolls hung all over the place.

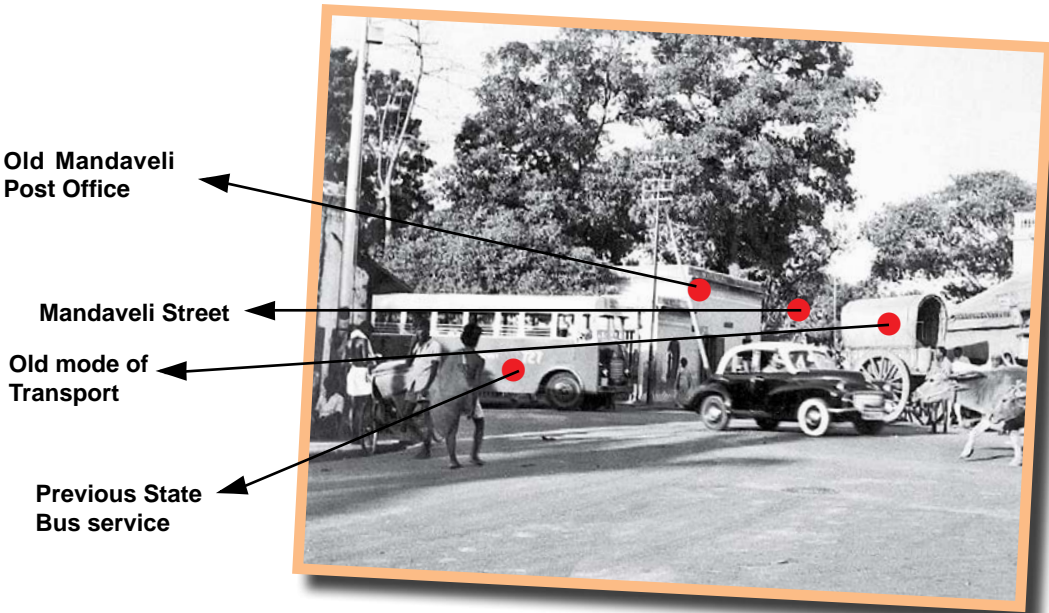
Ms. World visits a Mylaporean family (Apr 8-14, 1995)

By R. Maheshwari

Aishwarya Rai, the current Ms. World, visited the Ganesan's home in Urvashi Apartments on Srinivasan Street, Mandaveli. The beauty queen was on the last leg of an all-India campaign which brought her to Chennai. By winning a Pepsi slogan contest, the Ganesans became eligible for the celebrity visit.

● This column is curated by Kanaka Cadambi.

THEN AND NOW



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IDBI Bank donates computers, office needs to two Chennai schools



By Our Edit Team

The IDBI Bank's Alwarpet branch donated computers and xerox machines to Chennai Higher Secondary School located in Bheemana Street in Alwarpet

The formal event was held on January 21 in the school campus. This gesture was part of the bank's corporate social responsibility (CSR) activity to support government schools, IDBI Bank's regional office which manages 31 retail branches in Chennai, is supporting local area schools this season.

On behalf of the bank's Alwarpet branch, three desktop computers and a UPS and a xerox machine were donated to Chennai Higher Secondary School Alwarpet.

Also donated that afternoon were a bureau to use in the office and two bookshelves for Chennai Primary School located on Canal Bank Road in R. A. Puram.

The bank's senior regional head, Saravanan G. handed over the donations to the Alwarpet school headmistress.

Contact Christo Jasper, bank manager at IDBI bank, Alwarpet - 7010160128

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Creative Theme Kolu Sets

One of the new features of the Mylapore Festival for 2025 that just got over was the Theme Kolu Sets exhibition.

A show to showcase the creative skills of families who work hard to set up theme sets alongside the main kolu at Navaratri time.

Be it a temple or a village square, a Bessie Beach games session or a city landmark or a set themed on religious topics.

Show co-ordinator Ramya Mani did all she could to encourage 12 people, including a group of students and teachers of Lady Sivaswami Girls School (where the show was held on a weekend) to participate.

Here are three people who express their experience.

Vidya Viswanath, Alwarpet

Our kolu was themed on an 'ideal school' where a contemporary school can derive inspiration from the Patashala system and give high quality education to the toddlers at the foundation level. People who saw it liked it but I wish there were more posters to announce to the public about the show.

In our house, it is a tradition to keep a kolu every Navarathri and we have done it for more than 30 years.

R. Suria Prabha, Mylapore

Our kolu was themed on agri-

culture in an Indian village. It was my daughter's choice. She wanted to showcase farmers and their work as it was Pongal time. All the visitors liked our display. This was a great opportunity to explore our talents. At our house, we keep the kolu every Navarathri.

Prema Narayanan, Mylapore

My kolu was themed on the 11 Garuda Sevai of Thirunangur. I had always wanted to do a thematic kolu on Perumal and this opportunity came at the right time. People liked my presentation and I felt very happy. We have been following the tradition of kolu display (at home) for the last 35 years. I love kolu hopping too. Our family visits many houses to look at the different displays.

Vijayalakshmi Sailapathi, Mandaveli

My kolu was themed on the sport of frisbee. At the show, we explained the features to visitors and they appreciated our efforts. I liked the overall experience. For the last 52 years at our house, we have been upholding the tradition of kolu display. Some of my dolls are over 100 years old.



The Thiagaraja Sangeeth Vidwath Samaj, Mylapore held its annual Thyagaraja aradhana fest from Jan 17 to 26. The gosti singing of Thyagaraja's pancharatna kritis was on Jan.18 morning. From Jan.19 to 25, 6 to 8 pm, artistes took turns to sing for about ten minutes.

On Jan.26 evening was the aradhana mahotsavam finale: artistes and rasikas took out a procession through the streets around the Samajam premises carrying the portrait of saint Thyagaraja. The Samajam is located near Sri Madhava Perumal Temple.

Some green, some wood along Marina Loop Road

By Our Edit Team

The now-cleaned sand side of Marina Loop Road will soon sport palm tree saplings, from the Light House point to the Srinivasapuram end.



This part of the city's civic body's Marina improvement drive.

Some 100-plus palm saplings, best suited for this geography, are to be planted; the work started some days ago.

Late last year, wooden benches were set up on the sand side; functional and useful.

Lighting is average in these parts and

will have to be improved, say beach-goers. Also, people want the push cart hawkers to be regulated. Parking has not been clearly designated nor enforced.

After Chennai Metro took over the Gandhi statue zone for its project; where two underground rail lines will link up, Marina regulars lost much of the beach zone. The Loop Road area off Nochikuppam, well maintained by GCC's machines and men, is a welcome spot now.

Two sections of this shore side once used to be an informal fish market for ages; some selling seafood sourced from the Kasimedu fishing harbour; others hawking fish caught

in small quantities locally.

Members of the Light House - Nochikuppam community of hawkers were moved into the modern fish market GCC built off this road at great cost. But teething problems continue, with hawkers adopting their own ways to sell fish, rendering the designed elements wasted.



WANT TO SHARE YOUR OBSERVATIONS

if you have been to this Marina side recently?
Mail them - mytimesedit@gmail.com

Home-based, Bhagyalakshmi offers tailoring services. She has been in this business for 18 years

By Preetha K.

Bhagyalakshmi Nagarajan, who lives on TP Scheme Road, Mandaveli, has been a ladies tailor for over 18 years. She works from home, and has kept a low-profile.

Now, she has decided to advertise her skills and services as a tailor and build her home-based business.

"I learnt training from an institute in Mylapore twenty years ago. Now, that institute is closed. In the first two years, I stitched for myself and my daughter. Then I started getting work from friends and family," she says.

The home front kept her tied down and she did not have much time to develop this business in a big way.

"Now my son and daughter have grown up and I have more time. I wish to take up more orders now," says Bhagyalakshmi, a native of Tiruchi and who moved to Chennai before her wedding.

Bhagyalakshmi's husband is into program (priest who performs rituals).

She is open to picking up orders from customers' homes in case they are old or have other restrictions.

"I can pick it up if it is in and around the Mylapore zone," says Bhagyalakshmi, who also loves cooking and designing



kolams. She says she has participated in the Mylapore Festival many times.

Bhagyalakshmi charges Rs 300 for churidar without lining, Rs 550 for churidar with lining, Rs 200 for blouse without lining, Rs 500 with lining and Rs 80 for falls and stitching the corners of the saree.

She also undertakes clothes alteration work and charges vary as per the desired outcome.

Bhagyalakshmi's contact - 8610950824.



Church of the Good Shepherd CSI Church celebrates its 126th annual day

By Juliana Sridhar

The community at CSI Church of the Good Shepherd in Mylapore, led by its pastor Rev Enose Magimaidoss celebrated the 126th anniversary of the church on January 26.

That morning, the pastor hoisted the national flag in the church compound, as it was also Republic Day. A single, combined religious service followed.

After the service, breakfast was served, the annual meeting and a cultural programme held.

The secretary of the pastorate committee K. Sudhakar Immanuel and treasurer E. Sugirson as well as secretaries and treasurers who served the community in the past, were honoured by Rev. Enose Magimaidoss and Rev Jacquin Jothi.

Toppers of the Class 12 exam for the academic year 2024 were awarded prizes. The event wound up with fellowship lunch.

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• JV / flat resale, RA Puram, Abhiramapuram, Alwarpet, no brokers, kindly Contact: 9841024677

• WANTED, 1 to 2 grounds, vacant plot in OMR Road, Perungudi, Thoraipakkam, Seevaram, Sholinganallur, Karapakkam, Navalur, Siruseri, Kelambakkam, Thaiyur, Karani, Polachery, Sithalapakkam, Vengadamangalam, Kayarambedu, Kannivakkam, immediate settlement. Contact: 9500049167

REAL ESTATE SELLING

• ECR Akkarai, TVS avenue, 6 ground (80/180), east facing, 40 feet road, approved land, price 21cr, neg. Ph: 7299141164

• R.A.PURAM, MRC Nagar, gated community flat, Rani Meyyammai towers, 4 BHK flat, 2900 sqft, 3rd floor, west facing, lift, power backup, gym, play area, party hall, swimming pool, 2 car park, 4.30crores. Ph: 9884984545

• ABIRAMPURAM, flat, 2450sqft, 3BHK, 3bath, 2CCP, 1st floor (2). Alwarpet, 2300 sqft, 3BHK, 3bath, 2CCP, 3rd floor, north facing, vastu, price 5.53cr, nego. Ph: 7299141164

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• MANDAVELIPAKKAM, posh, 3 bedroom flat, 1450 sqft, second floor, 8 years old, UDS 707, east facing, power backup, covered car parking, Rs.2.20cr. West Circular Road, 2 bedroom, 850 sqft, 3rd floor, 550 UDS, lift, CP, 29years old, Rs.1cr, negotiable. Ph: 9841630593

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• ALWARPET, 1800 sqft, 3 BHK, north facing, 2 car parks, lift, power back up. Contact: 9543600999

• KOTTURPURAM, posh location, 4 BHK, 3280 sqft, 4 attached bath room, 2 CCP, lift, power backup, ev charging, price 16000 per sqft, nego, Ph: 9363757776, no brokers.

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• NEHRU Nagar, Main Road, Saligramam, east facing, 4BHK, new duplex house, land 1240 sqft, built-up 2300 sqft, frontage 22feet approx. Contact: 93615 66477, 98846 13360

• MYLAPORE, new flat, near Nageshwararao park, 1700 sqft, 3BHK, 3cr. Near Vivekananda College, 2BHK, flat, 1050 sqft, 2.10cr. Ph: 9841571836

• 1700 sqft, new flat, Mylapore, 3.25crs. 900 sqft, new flat, Mandaveli. Ph: 9840630359

• APARTMENT for sale in Oragadam, 2 BHK, 985 sqft, UDS 330.5 sqft, 7th floor, 25 lakhs. Contact: 8248707493.

• SANTHOME, 754 sq.ft., land, built up area, 2000 sq.ft., 9 units, monthly income Rs. 1.15 lakhs, 3 phase EB, metro, bore water, car park, Rs. 2.60 crores. Contact: 7358692101

• SANTHOME, near Registrar office, 2450 sq.ft., flat, 940 sq.ft., UDS, 2 car parking, 30 feet road, Rate 3.50 crores. Agent: 9841139576

• ECR very near MGM Muttukadu adjacent, green coconut resort, two plots, each 80x80, totally 12800 sq.ft., 24 feet road, north facing, Per ground Rs. 1.1 crores, no brokers. Ph: 9841024677

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• ADYAR, Kasturiba Nagar, near Railway Station, land area, 4000 sq.ft., (59x69) with old building, south west corner. Contact: 9500049167

• MYLAPORE, near Kesavaperumal koil, independent house, 1800 sq.ft., new flat, Abhiramapuram, Warren Road, 1750 sq.ft., 2450 sq.ft., 3 bedroom, lift, covered car parking, power backup. Ph: 8667066894 / 9382323877

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• R A PURAM, 4 BHK, 1st floor, Rate 1.5 lakhs, Abhiramapuram, 3 BHK, 2nd & 4th floor, Rs. 60k. Alwarpet, 4 BHK, Rate 1.6 crore, Adyar, Gandhi Nagar, 3 BHK, 3 bed floor, Rate 1.4 crore. Ph: S A Realty 9840015106

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• MYLAPORE, land sale, 700 sq.ft., 1.45 crore. R.A.Puram, K. V. B. Garden, Individual house, sale, G+3, 400 sq.ft., 62 lakhs. Ph: 9840994567

• 2 BHK, new flat, Kapali koil, 830 sq.ft., 1.2 crore, 3 BHK, flat posh gated community, 1900 sq.ft., UDS 900 sq.ft., 3.25 crore. Individual house, 1250 sq.ft., kapali koil, 3.30 crore. Mandaveli, 1300 sq.ft., 3.5 crore. Mylapore, 750 sq.ft., and 850 sq.ft., buildup, 2500 sq.ft., 2 BHK, 60 lakhs, 85 lakhs, 1 ground, 5 crore. Triplicane, 1500 sq.ft., individual 3 crore. Royapettah, 2500 sq.ft., Rate 5.50 crore. Ph: 8148903697 / 9551729534.

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- LUZ Avenue, 2500 sqft, 3BHK, 95000. CV Raman Road, 1700 sqft, 3BHK, 63000. Northern Road, 1250 sqft, 3BHK, 37000. Luz, 1000 sqft, 2BHK, 28000, only veg. Contact: 8015184176, 9884214816

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- R.A.PURAM, near Sangeetha hotel, 4 BHK, 2200 sqft, 2nd floor, east facing, 55K, 1CCP, 55K. Ph: 7338962950
- MYLAPORE, near Vivekananda College, 2000 sqft, first floor, lift, car parking, north facing, 3BHK, 60K rent. Contact: 9840398626
- 3BHK, 1350 sqft, first floor, posh location, fully furnished, preferred working professionals, ladies, vegetarian, Abiramapuram. Ph: 8879821182.

- MANDAVELI, near Chaitanya, 2 bedroom, ground floor, 850 sqft, car park, Rs.30000. Near Sivaswamy School, new, 1 bedroom flat, first floor, Rs. 20000, only veg. Ph: 9841630593
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- MANDAVELI, near Devanathan Street, 1 BHK flat, lift, two wheeler parking, Rs. 21000, bachelors or small family. Contact: Agent 9841139576

- MYLAPORE, near Vivekananda College, 2 BHK house, Rs. 25K. 2 BHK flat, Rs. 25K. 1 BHK, house Rs. 18K, fully furnished, bachelors also. Ph: 9841350607

- RAMAKRISHNA Mutt Road, 1 BHK, independent house, 430 sq.ft., ground floor, Rs. 12000. Ph: R. Gnanaprakasam 9444220950

- MYLAPORE, Luz, 1200 sq.ft., 3 bedroom, 2nd floor, lift, with car parking. Abhiramapuram, 900 sq.ft., 2 bedroom, 1st floor, car parking, Rs. 28K, both office & lease. Ph: 8667066894 / 9382323877

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Obituary

Veteran make-up artiste, **K Sethumadhavan**, 90, passed away on January 13. He worked closely with dance and theatre artistes and some of them were India's top names.



With an experience of 66 years, he worked with many classical dancers across generations. He started his makeup journey in the time of legendary Y. G. Parathasarathy and Yamini Krishnamurthi.

His family said Sethumadhavan had seen it all in the makeup field – from turmeric and castor oil to pancakes consisting of zincwhite and glycerine.

He had worked with artistes like Srinidhi Chidambaram, Sudharani Regupathy, Srikala Bharath, Chitra Visweswaran and many others

“My father made all the products with his own hands. It was never once store-bought. This included cosmetic powders like pancakes to accessories like the flower chendu. He usually stayed with the dancers until the end of the programme. He never confined himself to makeup, he also took great effort in ensuring the costumes and accessories were all in place,” said Guruskanthan, his first son.

Sethumadhavan always used makeup shades based on the lighting and never fixed a shade based on the skin tone. He believed light settings made all the difference to the makeup. He also played a small role in the Tamil movie Meenda Sorgam.

Once, at Peravurani near Thanjavur, the drama ‘Sivakamiyin Sabadham’ was to be staged and Sethumadhavan was there to assist the troupe. The make-up artiste did not turn up. The artistes were in a fix and asked for his help. He had only the foundation and nothing else. So, he went to a local shop to buy zinc white. There, he saw jute threads and suddenly an idea struck him. He bought the jute threads and converted them into a beard and moustache. They looked like original ones and he was appreciated for this. He managed to do the make-up for the entire troupe successfully.

The appreciation by maestro dancer Kelucharan Mohapatra was very dear to his heart, his family said.

He had to do make-up of Naganandhi, a male character in ‘Sivakamiyin Sabadham’, to a female. So, he had to cover the lady's long hair. Also, the female role of Sivakami was done by a male. He had to make adjustments for that.

He also won appreciation for his work in Chandrakantha's troupe.

Sethumadhavan was given the title of ‘Oppanai Ratnam’ by Pakkirisamy Pillai and dance guru Sudharani Reghupathy honoured him with a certificate of appreciation. He always got mementos at the end of performances.

Sethumadhavan was saddened that neither the central nor the state government recognised the make-up professionals. He used to say, “ICCR does not recognise us as artistes; we get treated as technicians. So, we do not receive concessions for travel abroad. I wish the government would recognize our field.”

Born in Watrap near Srivilliputhur, Sethumadhavan used to dine only once a day and he never ate at night. This habit of his started when Lal Bahadur Shastri introduced the ‘Miss a Meal’ concept.

“Shastri's Miss a Meal” was a campaign launched by India's late prime minister Shastri during the 1965 India-Pakistan war, where he urged citizens to voluntarily skip one meal a week to show solidarity and support for the nation during a food shortage crisis

Sethumadhavan is survived by his wife Bhanu, two sons – S Guruskanthan and S Ragothaman, one daughter – S Sukanya. The family resides at 27, San Thome High Road. Contact - 9840237057.

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Thai poosam fest at Sri Kapali Temple from Feb.12

By Our Edit Team

The annual Thai Poosam pournami tep-pam utchavam of Sri Kapali Temple will be celebrated on three days. On Feb.12, 13 and 14.

On Day One, lord Siva-Chandrashekar will be taken around in five rounds around the tank; on the next two evenings, it will be lord Singaravelar and his consorts; in seven and nine rounds respectively.

While entry to the teppam is restricted for security reasons, people can enter the tank and sit on the steps and watch the festivities. This can be best done after 6.30 pm.



File photo

Temple officials advise people not to throw plastic, paper or waste in the tank premises.

Entry will be from the east, west and south side of the tank, at the gates.

Sundaram Finance winds up its contract with GCC on Nageswara Rao Park

Sundaram Finance has wound up its responsibility with Greater Chennai Corporation (GCC) of taking care of Nageswara Rao Park in Luz. The company had maintained this park for some 20 years.

It has also stopped the famed 'Mikeless Kutcheri in the Park' series which ran for about 17 years. This first-Sunday-of-the-month event provided a platform for young artistes from the city and outside.

A busy and well-used park, maintaining it was a thankless job for the company. The hiccups included some walkers making off with saplings planted in different corners and vandalism by local youths of playthings and plants.

The significant development that the company did was to restore many old trees that were shaken up in a nasty cyclone that



File photo

ravaged the city. This was done using professional assistance from professionals, thus saving the green cover in the park.

Over time, the park turned into a play-space too – with people converting lawns and sands into play zones and loud music played in the Chess Square by private people who ran dance classes



Suriya Sweets creates Pongal feel at its store

By Our Edit Team

Suriya Sweets, a popular store in R. A. Puram got up a vibrant, colourful Pongal celebration outside its premises.

Kolams, vazhai thoranams and a cow and a calf around the store recreated a rural, festival feel.

Karumbu charu was served to guests even as the store staff enjoyed the 'uri adi' sport on the side.

The spotlight was the kummi dance presented by the women staff at Suriya Sweets.

Sakkarai pongal, venn pongal and ezhu kari kootu was cooked in earthen pots and served to all the guests..

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Senior artistes, music students and rasikas gathered at this old Mylapore house located on Mathala Narayanan Street, Mylapore to mark the annual Thyagaraja aradhana event. The aradhana, which celebrates the music of saint-composer Thyagaraja, has been held in this house for over 80 years

Hamsanadam Music School celebrates its 30th A-Day

By Our Edit Team

Hamsanadam Music School of Dr Shubha Ganesan celebrated its milestone of three decades of Carnatic music teaching with an event held on January 26 at Raga Sudha Hall, Luz. Vidushi Suguna Varadhachari was the chief guest.

Certificates and medals were given to outstanding students who were regular at music classes. For students abroad, who learn music online, their relatives / family received the certificates on behalf of their grandchildren.

Veerasami Venkatraman of Mandavelipakkam who is here from the USA,

collected the certificate meant for his daughter Lavanya Meena Ravi who is in Virginia (USA) and is learning from Shubha Ganesan.



Figure March was eye-catcher at this school sports meet

The annual school sports meet of M. Ct. M. Chidambaram Chettyar School, Alwarpet was held on January 24. The principal of CBSE school, Jayashree Kiran was the guest at the opening ceremony.

The march past followed. There was a silambam demo and a show of a fusion of yoga and dance.

The eye-catcher of the day was the Figure March by students – a visual treat with the students displaying beautiful patterns as they marched and moved on the field. The overall championship trophy was bagged by Kailash House.



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