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DID YOU KNOW?

New centre to coach youth in civil services exams

The archdiocese of Madras-Mylapore is launching the John Demonte Academy of Excellence in San Thome to provide coaching and guidance to youth who wish to appear for the public service commission exams held by the state and by the centre for jobs at both levels.

This academy's courses are primarily meant for Catholics but the day-scholar programme planned in San Thome will also accommodate non-Catholics.

The coaching programmes vary for different exams - covering state public services, union public services, railways, police, insurance and banking.

Candidates who wish to apply must be either doing their final year of an under-graduate course or be under-grads who have passed a course. They must be in the 19 - 35 years age group.

There are wholly residential programmes, with boarding to be provided in a San Thome campus, day-time only programmes and weekend coaching programmes which will be



held at nine centres spread across the city and fringe zones covered by the diocese, this to enable local youth who want easy access to attend weekend classes.

A core team of faculty will handle the coaching, supported by retired officers from various professional streams who will give special lectures. Mentors are being appointed to closely guide a set of students through the programme they attend.

The fees will be far lower than what are charged by private, well-known coaching centres, to make the courses viable for youths from the middle-income group, says Fr. Anthony Sebastian, the director of this centre who doubles

up as principal of Christ College, Kilachery. Free, introductory sessions are being launched now to acquaint youths on the various courses available to them and the main courses will be launched in June this year.

Contacts: E-mail - jdacademy2021@gmail.com.
Web site URL - www.jdacademyofexcellence.in

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SRI KAPALI TEMPLE BRAHMOTSAVAM

Flag hoisting on March 9 will be launch of full-fledged festival

By S. Prabhu

This year's Panguni brahmotsavam will start at Sri Kapaleswarar Temple on March 9 with the flag hoisting on that day.

The popular Adikaara Nandhi procession will take place on the morning of March 11 while one of the other eagerly-awaited processions of the entire utsavam – the Rishabha Vahana- will take place on Sunday, March 13 night. Thiru Kalyanam will be held on March 18.

The specifics of the brahmotsavam including the timing on each of these days including the Rishabha Vahana procession will be read out this Saturday evening (Feb.12) at 7pm by the hereditary priest of the temple as part of the Lagna Patrikai recital event at the swami sannidhi.

Hereditary priest E. Venkatasubramanian Shivachariar confirmed to *Mylapore Times* that the plan as of now is to organize a full fledged chariot / ther (on March 15) as well as the arubathumoovar (on March 16) processions with the participation of people.



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VINCENT'S JOTTINGS

By VINCENT D' SOUZA

Kamakshi Subramanian *patti* is the new poster woman south of the Adyar, the river. Because at 93, she is contesting the elections to the city council. And as an independent. So everybody who knows her, knows of her and has worked in parts with her is going ga-ga - posting news reports on her, sharing pictures of her, spreading the good news. And even offering prayers.

Kamakshi will need much, much more than love, WhatsApp forwards and newspaper reportage to get elected. For, the game of elections, even at the local level, does not provide leaders of community service a big advantage, a big lead. On that day, the day of voting, it is all about - how many voters can you get to the booths and get them to tick for your candidate. So if Kamakshi *patti's* well-wishers are serious about seeing their poster woman win, they need to sweat it out alongside her to ensure they have the numbers.

Kamakshi Subramanian, a senior Besant Nagarite has been hyperactive as a community worker for many decades. She has been tough on engineers and officers when they shirk their responsibility. Relaying of streets, maintaining public parks and greenery, clearance of garbage, discipline on Bessie Beach . . . And she is also fun and charming, giving credit where it is due and ready to offer you a cup of filter kappi.

But all along she has had thin support. The community has run to her when its backyard has been on fire. It has not sustained her in all her community campaigns. Nor have her well-wishers grown roots in their civic wards to strengthen the community-based movement.

Had one or two political parties acknowledged her work and put her up as a common candidate, this ward in Adyar would have shown up a unique example in politics for common good. That's a Utopian idea.

Though a few women have decided to contest as independents in this local urban body election, contesting in wards reserved for women, they face a tough task out there. For two reasons.

One, political parties, keen to notch up victories in every kind of election have the tactics, the foot-soldiers, the money and the muscle to make the votes count on their side. Given the limited electorate in a ward, a party that can swing its cadres, their families and their well-wishers has won much of the race in a space where a mere 50% or about actually cast the ballot.

Two, community leaders are less politically-driven and too closeted with civic campaigns alone - which does not earn great rewards at the hustings. Neither do they have large support banks in the ward, or from people who say they want 'good' reps but refrain from canvassing and voting. And our political parties will never support independent 'independents'.

The big plus is that 'independents' are keen to contest in this election. Enthused and excited. If the community is equally enthused, changes will take place.

LETTERS FROM READERS

Letters to the Editor must carry the complete postal address of the correspondent.
Mail to - mytimesedit@gmail.com



R. A. Puram traffic signal 'dead' for months

The traffic signal located adjacent to Billroth Hospitals at the junction of 3rd Cross Street and 2nd Main Road, R. A. Puram has been defunct for some five months. No action has been taken so far on getting this signal repaired. A number of minor accidents and close calls have taken place in this intersection.

We request the Traffic Police to get the signal functioning at the earliest.

- Allen Joe

Needed: walk path inside Alphonsa ground

As a Mandavelipakkam resident, I have been requesting a good walking path built around the perimeter of the GCC playground opposite the Air Tel office (also called Alphonsa ground). This will be a boon to residents and reduce the crowd walking inside the 5th Cross Street park which is mostly used by senior citizens.

We request MLA Dha. Velu to take this up.

- Veeraswami Venkataraman

P. S. School alumni rewinds, offers help

I was excited to learn that the alumni association of P. S. School is active. I completed my SSLC at P S High School in 1951. I want to donate to a cause now. I was thinking of establishing a charitable Trust to support poor students. How can I help? (The association may contact me)

After studies at the school, I went to Govt. Arts College, and to Univ of Mysore for post-graduate degree in statistics, to Univ. of Delhi for MA Economics and Univ. of Chicago for Ph D in Economics, worked in various places and retired from the ILO in Geneva in 1995 as senior economist and am now settled in the USA.

- S. V. Sethuraman. svsethuraman@comcast.net

'Sinking' roads

This refers to news on a section of the P. S. Sivaswami Salai sinking all over again. Roads sinking is becoming a common issue in Mandaveli and Mylapore areas. Currently, this problem persists in the Mandaveli market road opposite to Ayyappan Temple and also on R K Mutt Road, opposite the R K Nagar BSNL office.

- Rahul B. Viswanathan

Tribute to a Doc

I read a tribute on Dr. Nageswaran in this newspaper (online). He was my doctor for many years and helped me in a very difficult situation by recommending me to the right specialist for my surgery. I owe him a lot for that.

- Anu

Booster shot from GCC: a senior's woes

I am 82 years old and wanted to avail the service of getting vaccinated (booster dose) at my doorstep. I connected to the helpline number on Jan.19 and was promised a response in two days. On Jan.21, I got a call asking for the location of my home. Nobody came. On Jan. 22, I rang up the helpline and was told teams were busy with mega vaccine camps.

I gave up a few days later and got my booster shot at a private hospital on payment. I hope GCC plans its services for seniors well so we are not put to much stress. Even mobile clinics targeting large campuses can be arranged for seniors who reside there.

- P. S. H. Y. Raju, TTK Road

MY STORY



Remembering a much-loved Doc

By J. MOHAN

The year 2021 marked the 100th birth anniversary of the late Dr. R. Jayaraman. He was my father and a well-known Mylapore icon whose medical practice drew people from Mylapore, Alwarpet, Abiramapuram, Royapettah, CIT Colony, Triplicane and areas beyond.

Why was he so popular?

Well, he had that special touch that made people well, he did not prescribe a heavy dose of medicines and he cared for the people who did not have the money to pay him. He was so popular that years after his death, we had his patients who knocked on our door and ask 'Doctor ayya irukkara?'

It was my grand-father, Dr. M. R Chander who set up medical practice in Mylapore. Chander's Pharmacy (and the clinic) stood on Royapettah High Road, next to where Luz Studio stood till some years



ago. Today, that place is an open plot. Our family used to reside in Pelathope, the famed colony of Mylapore for lawyers. It was a joint family with 6 adults and 14 children plus guests from time to time. From there, they moved to a house near Vidya Mandir. My father studied at P. S. High School, at MCC in Tambaram and then at Stanley Medical College and got into practice as a general practitioner.

Chander's Pharmacy (and clinic) later moved into the building that is now partly rented to the booksellers, Motilal Banarasi-dass. We used to reside on the top floor.

A major part of his professional services were rendered free of charge; his fees were anyway nominal, some of which often remained unpaid but that did not deter him from his social mission. As a doctor, he was on call 24x7 and attended to callers even at odd hours.

His patients from economically weaker sections of society were provided free treatment besides generous handouts of sample drugs and medicines. Dr. Jayaraman refused fees from people whom he

knew did not have the money, while not embarrassing them on their financial plight.

A few former residents of Mylapore, who have gone on to do very well in their lives vividly recall his continuous support during their youth when they needed attention and money was hard to come by and refer to him as their 'lifesaver'.

I recall one Mylaporean who described my father's reputation and skills thus: In many cases of people on their deathbed, it was a straight fight between Yama yanking the person's hand on one side and Dr. Jayaraman holding the other hand tightly and not letting go. He was blessed with the healing touch.

He also served Ramakrishna Mission Students Home, Mylapore for many decades on a pro bono basis.

Always dressed in whites, he had little interest in material possessions or accumulation of wealth. Diabetes and ischemic heart disease combined to fell him at the age of 72 in 1993. But we know he continues to live in the hearts of many in Mylapore and beyond.

● J. Mohan is a retired banker and resides in Thiruvanniyur.
Contact - jayaramanmohan@gmail.com



1980 batch of San Thome School meet up at city club

By Our Staff Reporter

The year-end season is also a time for 'old boys and girls' to meet up.

The first 10+2 batch of San Thome Higher Secondary School met at a city club on Dec. 26, 2021 with attendance topping 40. This is the 1980 batch.

Most of the 82 members of this group have made and kept contact over the past decades - from their days at Montfort School and then, at San Thome High School.

The group is connected through WhatsApp and managed by B. Kamaraj, a renowned Ma-

dras High Court lawyer and national athlete. The group includes former Indian cricket team bowling coach B. Arun, well-known violin artiste M. A. Krishnaswamy, over half-a-dozen doctors and several engineers who currently reside locally and also in countries across the world including the United States, Canada, Singapore and UAE.

The group meets often and has at least a couple of meetings per year. B. Suresh and P. S. Aravind came from the USA for last weekend's meet as did Jawahar from the UAE. B. Suresh says this alumni group has also been providing much service not only to San Thome

School but also to the local community.

Some highlights are listed here - they were done in co-ordination with the school headmaster.

- Rs. 2,000 for 25 students on one occasion and Rs. 1,000 for 30 students who could not afford fees. - Shoes and socks for 40 students. - Financial help to students to obtain T/C so they can attend college.

The group is also currently talking to the nuns at Little Flower School to provide uniforms to blind girl students.

To connect with this group, contact B. Suresh - 94400 86214.

This R. A. Puram community honours three residents

By Our Staff Reporter

This was an occasion to honour leaders of this R. A. Puram community.


At the recent AGM, Raja Annamalaipuram West Residents' Society (RAPRA) honoured with a citation and shawl the senior citizen couple, K. V. Rajan and Hema Rajan as well as senior K. Gopalan. Selvaraj of Aruanchala Impex was given the RAPRAITE of the Year award.



The 6th Annual General Body Meeting was held on December 19 at Raja Muthiah School, Srinivasa Avenue, R. A. Puram. Society president Dr. R. Chandrasekaran listed the activities carried out during the year and spoke on the plans ahead for RAPRA. M. Lakshikantham, former headmaster of Raja Muthiah School who was nominated the returning officer announced that the present team of office bearers was elected unopposed for another term.

This was a low-key AGM. Before the start of official business, members visited various stalls set up for the occasion. Horticulture and Sungudi saree sales stalls were the attractions.


Inputs for this report came from RAPRA. You too can mail reports on local area events to Mylapore Times. - mytimesedit@gmail.com



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Obituary

Longtime resident of Pattammal Street, Mandaveli, **G. Rukmani** passed away on January 27. Known to family and friends as *Rukku patti*, she was a resident at 9, Pattammal Street from 1958.



She was born in Kizhnatam village, near Tirunelveli. She lost her parents very early and had no known recollection of them. She was brought up as a child by her grandfather and later, by her elder brothers. She was

married to V. Gopalan from Thirukurungudi in 1942, and after staying in Madurai till the early 50s, moved to Gopalapuram, Madras and eventually to Pattammal Street in 1958.

After the loss of her husband in 1967, she independently managed the running of the house and raising her children. The door to the house at 5, Pattammal Street was always open to cousins, aunts, friends and extended family.

Rukku paati believed that a good summer's day should never be wasted and laid out wonderful *vadaams* in the backyard to be distributed later on to the family. Every family event was marked with her trademark *kolams*.

She is survived by her three children and their families.

Condolences can be shared with G. Venkataraman (9677188591) or G. Srinivasan (9444027202),

- Tribute by Srivatsan Parthasarathy

Lakshmi Venkatraman, independent writer on art and music, curator of art shows and art gallery promoter passed away on January 24.



Her family's roots ran deep in Mylapore and although, in recent years she had to move to its fringe, she yearned to get back to her backyard.

Lakshmi wrote on art, artists and art events for many, many years for various publications, notably for *The Hindu*. She closely followed the national art scene and would be present at most launches of art exhibitions in the city. She also curated art shows and guided younger artists who needed a leg up.

Her grandfather was the well-known Justice P. R. Sundaram Iyer (a road near Nageswara Rao Park is named after him). The family lived in the palatial Sri Baugh mansion near Nageswara Rao Park until the time it moved to another sprawling residence on Eldams Road.

When Lakshmi got charge of the property here, a classic art deco house, she turned it into an art gallery, called Sri Parvati. The ground floor was also used for socials, concerts and meetings. Then came a time to sell off the property.

Lakshmi recently donated an apartment she owned in Alwarpet to a leading NGO, Sevalaya and moved to Royapettah to live there.



Yvonne Gomez, a retired teacher of St. Bede's AI Hr. Secondary School, San Thome passed away on January 16.

She joined St. Bede's School in 1968 and retired in 1999.

She taught students of 6th to 8th standards in math and science.

After school hours, she used to tutor the boarders here. For a while, she also taught at St. Dominic's.

She even taught the boarders post-retirement. She was on the OBA Selection Committee where she helped the Old Bedeans Association identify deserving students of the school in order to render support to them.

She was very fond of the boarders and was like a mother to them, said one Old Bedean.

The family's address - 24, Sardar Jung Garden Tank Street, Royapettah, Chennai 600014. Contact - Preston Gomez - 95006 13019

- Report by
Stafford Mantel



Longtime resident of Mylapore, **Samuel Thomas** passed away on January 25 at his son's residence elsewhere in the city. He was 74.

Samuel served the government of Tamil Nadu in various capacities, working for many years at the Fort St. George campus. He retired as deputy secretary in the elections department.

Samuel traced his roots to Jaffna, north Sri Lanka where his father had migrated to, from Tiruchi. The family moved to Madras and Samuel completed his schooling at St. Mary's AI Hr. Sec. School in George Town and went to Loyola College before joining the state government service.

The family resided for decades on Thalayari Street, now renamed Prof. Sanjeevi Street, off Sri Karaneeswarar Temple zone.

Samuel was an active member in religious and social outreach activities at the St Thomas Cathedral in San Thome, continuing this work here after retirement.

His funeral was held at St. Lazarus Church, R A Puram and the burial at Quibble Island cemetery.

He leaves behind his wife and two sons, Joy Aravind and Mathew Jayakar.

Contact Joy at 9444439330.



K. Vezhavendhan, a state minister in the DMK government in the late 1960s passed away on January 26. He was a resident of Dr. Radhakrishnan Salai, Mylapore. He was 86.

He was a senior member of the DMK and inducted into the cabinet of M. Karunanidhi.

He was also a well-known poet and was recognised by various institutions. He authored some fifty books, all in Thamizh.

He studied law, began his political activity in the DMK early in life and was an MLA for more than ten years.

The family said that he came into prominence after he won a legal battle in favour of state farmers. He is survived by his wife Bhanumathy and two sons, Dr. Vetrivendhan and Dr. Ezhilvendhan.

- Reported by Baskar Seshadri



P. Mani (friends called him Pazha Mani) passed away on January 24.

He was brilliant in academics and offered tuitions to many children in his locality. He was a product of Besant School, Adyar. He Joined Railways in the early 80s and served there in various capacities at railway stations and rose to the position of a station master.

He is survived by his wife, a son and a daughter.

The family resides on M. K. Amman Kovil Street. Contact - 96001 41004

- Reported by C. S. Seshadri



Nalina Santhanagopalan, a nearly 60-year-resident of Mylapore, passed away on January 28. She was 83.

She is survived by three sons and two daughters, who were born and brought up in the locality.

Her family said that during her last days, when asked by the doctor at the hospital what she liked to eat, she quipped, "Give me some Mylapore oxygen! I have lived there for 50 years plus and that's the only place I know".

A home maker in married life, she lived all her years in the heart of Mylapore and knew every little shop, nook and corner of the neighbourhood.

The Mada Streets were her happiest hunting ground and she was a familiar face in all the temples in the locality.

Her late husband was a former LIC employee and a regular on bus routes 21 and 21N for 30 years.

Her sons lived in Mylapore, having studied at P. S. group of schools, Savitri Ammal and at Vivekananda College, while the daughters went to St. Raphael's and Lady Sivaswamy Girls School before moving on with their lives.

The bereaved family resides in Abhirampuram. Contact 7358578821/ 9884029865/ 7358318021.

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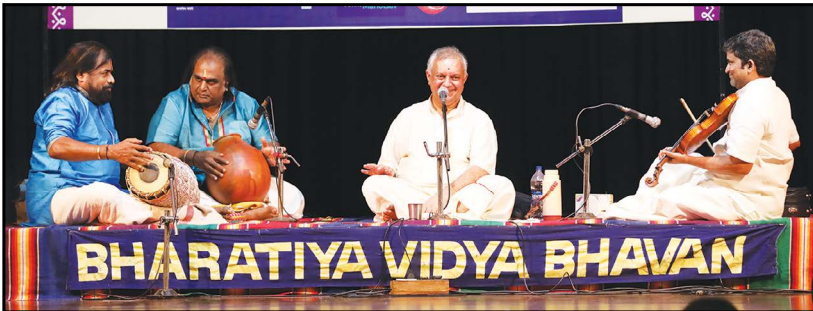
Dancers of Meenakshi Chittaranjan

Happy to be 'live' on stage

Concerts which are open to people have pepped up artistes in recent time

By Our Staff Reporter

On Christmas evening, in December 2021 as senior Bharatanatyam dancer Narthaki Nataraj prepared for the final piece of her recital at Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan in Mylapore, her sishya who compered the event specially thanked the host and the rasikas. "We are on stage after close to two years and it is special," she said as the dancer nodded backstage.



Vocalist Rama Varma at Bhavans

Earlier that week here, artistes Gopika Varma and Srekala Bharath who performed at Bhavan's main auditorium for its annual dance festival made it a point to express their 'thank you' on stage.

Ever since Mylapore's performance spaces were opened last December to musicians, singers and dancers, many have expressed their gratitude for being able to perform 'live'. And before an audience. Coming alive some 18 months since early 2020 when the pandemic brought life to a standstill.

At Bhavan's music festival held earlier in December, a few lead artistes said how great they felt to perform on stage before rasikas. Vocalist Rama Varma took a break between songs to express his sentiments.

"Performing is our elixir," says dance teacher Padma Raghavan who runs an academy in Mylapore and learnt dance from

guru Sudharani Raghupathy. Her students, Sandhya and Sivaranjani also performed at Bhavans' festival. "I cannot express the feelings one had after a live concert." Padma was excited because her guru made time to watch the recital.

Though the December Season has been a hybrid one, with most recitals recorded and then webcast (free to Sabha members and charged for others), organisers like Arkay Centre, R. R. Sabha and Bhavans chose

to host concerts festivals open to rasikas who were asked to follow pandemic-time regulations.

Though the halls have not been full-house at venues that do not ticket rasikas and the December Sea-

son spirit is missing, artistes have enjoyed the windows of opportunity.

At one recent dance recital at Bhavans, dancer and teacher Meenakshi Chittaranjan followed up the opening 'Mallari' piece by her group with her solo. It was a special one - a varnam of the Thanjavur Quartet, a tribute to Vyjayanthimala Bali who was seated in the VIP row that evening.

Meenakshi told the audience that she had watched Vyjayanthimala perform this pada-Varnam at Bharat Kalachar's stage some years ago, was moved by it and chose to practice and now perform it, inviting her inspiration to be present.

It was an emotional moment for the dancer and for Vyjayanthimala.

✉ IF YOU PERFORMED recently at a live concert, SHARE your experience. Mail - mytimesedit@gmail.com.



File photo

Desilting plan of tank of Sri Kapali Temple called off

By S. Prabhu

The officer of Sri Kapali Temple has called off plans to implement the recent desilting plan recommended after a detailed study was undertaken last year by the Anna University.

This plan entailed removal of the clay bed, putting a bio membrane sheet and relaying the soil filling with clay once again. The inputs for this was available only in Delhi and was to cost over Rs. 1 crore.

Temple executive officer D. Kaveri told Mylapore Times that while the report had recommended a desilting exercise and the plan was to start this after the Teppotsavam in thai, the water level had held on after the heavy rains in November much to the surprise of everyone.

"Srikanth (the volunteer who maintains the nandavanam around the tank) told us that he has observed the water level holding up for the first time in many years and that this level may not go down anytime soon. Based on our discussion with other experts, we have decided to call off the plan to go in for the extensive exercise that we had planned for later this month," Kaveri said.

Ahead of the monsoon, a cleaning exercise was undertaken at the tank and the water level has not gone down in the last two months.

Kaveri said that if the water level recedes and if the tank becomes dry in summer, they may undertake another round of cleaning up and filling up of the soil but they are unlikely to go back to the recommendations of Anna University.

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CITY COUNCIL ELECTIONS

Candidates focus on door-to-door campaigning



DMK's Vimala Krishnamurthy



Candidate Amirthavarshini



Saraswathi of CPI-M



BJP's R. Rama

Amudha of AMMK



By Our Staff Reporter

Local area campaigning by candidates contesting in the elections to the city council picked up since Sunday last. And all candidates prefer door-to-door campaigning since it seems more effective at the local level.

On one weekday evening, the BJP's R. Rama who is contesting the seat of Ward 125 walked down the streets off Bazaar Road and down Devadi Street, meeting shopkeepers, housewives and families who stepped out of their homes when they heard the shrill slogans.

On another work-day morning, as early as 7.30 a.m. the Congress candidate Amirta Varshini for Ward 126 walked in and out of the little, congested lanes off the Marina Loop Road to meet families in the Nocchi Nagar zone.

For this resident of Karpagam Avenue 3rd Street, this must have been a challenge even as resident women performed arati and some chatted with her. She had more to do - meet the families in the multi-storeyed blocks here, where most fisherfolks reside.

The Congress is an ally of the DMK and in this campaigning group, there were a few DMK men.

That same morning, the DMK's Vimala Krishnamurthy who is contesting in Ward 124 did the rounds of Mosque Street and Chittrakulam zone, along with some men and women cadres of the DMK.

A small group of women, carrying the Rising Sun symbol accompanied Vimala, who resides in the Nagathamman Temple zone. She handed out pamphlets to every person she greeted.

Speakers fitted on autos or two-piece band boys signal the arrival of a candidate and drum up some attention. The weekends provide lots of time for the candidates to go that extra mile.

We followed the CPI-M's Saraswathi who has been named the candidate for ward 123, that covers broadly the Luz - Abiramapuram - R. A. Puram zone.

Saraswathi, who we are told has been in the Left party for many years and resides in Teynampet says she has also worked at the local level.

Her caravan was on the streets at 7 a.m. With her, were five cadres of the CPI-M and DMK party, of the local units. A speaker fixed to an auto-rickshaw blared the campaign's slogans.

Saraswathi had chosen to wear a sari that sported the party's symbol. She clutched a sheaf of handbills, stopped to talk and greet street hawkers, women at water taps and men at street corners. "People living in Slum Board blocks have many issues. Sewage and water supply are also issues," Saraswathi told us.

She took a long walk around the thickly-populated Palakkumanyam Nagar, off Luz Church Road where Slum Board-developed blocks house over 1000 families. The votes of these people are vital to any candidate; there are some here who swear by a political party, there are some who vibe with a certain party.

Saraswathi spent much time here. It is a key zone for her as it will be for all other candidates contesting in Ward 123 of the Mylapore zone.

All parties have put up candidates in the seven wards that make up the Mylapore zone. Six are reserved for women. On Thursday, Amudha, who is a popular hawker of veggies and raw mangoes on South Mada Street was out campaigning on the Mada Streets, having got the ticket from the AMMK party to contest in ward 124.

Elsewhere, community activist Mary Dhiva of San Thome, a social work-educated woman dropped off handbills popularising her 'guitar' symbol, contesting in ward 126. Volunteers of Makkal Needhi Maiam were dropping off handbills in the post boxes in residential campuses. And AIADMK candidates, along with small groups of men and women cadres did the rounds of the wards. Naam Tamilar Katchi (NTK) has put up candidates in all the wards and there are many independents too.

Hardly any contestant has outlined clearly, concisely his/her plans for their wards. It is all about telling people who they are and which party they stand for and in which ward. The campaigns though are muted.

Polling is on Feb.19.



Event to felicitate writer-poet Sirpi Balasubramaniam

Well-known writer, poet and translator Sirpi Balasubramaniam who has been chosen for the Padma Shri award recently is to be felicitated at an event in Mylapore on Feb.13, Sunday. The event is at 5 p.m. at the Kaviko Manram premises in CIT Colony and is open to all.

Sirpi Balasubramaniam, now in his 80s and hailing from the Pollachi region has written over 150 books - stories, poetry, essays and translations.

He is the recipient of two awards from the prestigious Sahitya Akademi - one for his work in Thamizh and one for translation.

Contact the Manram at 9940067000.

Parks open to the public all over again



By Our Staff Reporter

Parks are now open to the public since the pandemic time regulations have been eased. Walkers were back in good number at the popular Nageswara Rao Park in Luz now. This park's timings are - 6 a.m. to 10.30 a.m. and from 3 to 7 p.m.

Seniors had in the past suggested to the Mylapore MLA that the morning timings be extended so that they could go on their walks after 9 a.m. and this plea has been accommodated, we are told.

📧 **WHAT IS THE STATE OF YOUR LOCAL PARK?**
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📺 **WATCH VIDEO of the campaigning at**
www.youtube.com/mylaporetv



Women trained as drivers: project of former Mylapore MLA

By Our Staff Reporter

Driving licenses approved and issued by RTO were recently handed over to a small group of women who were trained in driving under a project initiated by the former Mylapore MLA, R. Nataraj.

Nataraj says that the purpose of this welfare measure is to ensure these young women get gainful employment.

“They are ready to work as drivers,” he said. “Already three have been placed as drivers. I have approached nationalised banks to provide loans so that some women can purchase good, second-hand cars and can be part of Ola or Uber services too.”

Nataraj says that this is an ongoing project and women will be trained every now and then in driving.

Mylaporeans who want the driving services of these women can contact Nataraj’s office assistant, Satish on 7358-418871. He will connect you to the woman driver who wishes to apply for the job.

This is a joint initiative of Dhanvidya Dheeraj Vora Trust, Single Teacher School Trust and Ramakalam Trust (which is managed by Nataraj’s family).

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