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Ready for the Teppam

The final round of work on the float for the Thai Poosam teppam was going on on Friday. The three-day Teppotsavam at Sri Kapali Temple is on from February 5 to 7 this year. People will be allowed entry into the temple tank through some gates; they can sit on the top sections of the steps of the tank but cannot get into the float.

Photo: Madhan Kumar





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- Report by V. Soundararani
- SHARE details of your area's Nook that may be useful to all. Mail 3 lines - mytimesedit@gmail.com

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CHECK THIS

EXHIBITION: WORKS OF WELL-KNOWN ARTIST P. PERUMAL

Ashvita's art gallery is presenting 'Picturising the Rural' by artist P. Perumal from February 1 to 5.

Perumal's work is synonymous with the exploration of the life and people of a rural milieu. His engagement with this subject is reflective of his childhood days spent in the picturesque Koomapatti village near Srivilliputtur, Tamil Nadu, states a note from the gallery.

Over the course of his lifetime, Perumal won many awards, notably the Madras State Lalit Akademi award (1963 and 1967), the Tamil Nadu Ovia Nunkalai Kuzhu award (1979) and the National Award (1990-91).

These awards and accolades were yet another acknowledgement of the artist's prowess. Ashvita's will be featuring 26 of his works ranging across various rural themes. The exhibition is on till February 5 from 10 am to 6 pm. Open to all.

For the past year, Ashvita's has been focusing on displaying modern art from Madras.





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'MIKE-LESS' CONCERT IN PARK

Parvathi Subramanian, a student of Sri Sankara Senior Secondary School, Adyar will perform at the monthly 'mikeless' concert at. Nageswara Rao Park this Sunday, Feb.5. The one-hour long concert, from 7am is held at the Chess Square at the rear of the park and mikes and speakers are not used.

Parvathi has been learning Carnatic music from S P Ramh, Suma Venkatesh and from Vidya Subramanian, her mother. She is 14. This is a Sundaram Finance event, an extension of the management and maintenance of the park which the company has been at for many years now.



MYLAPORE TIMES

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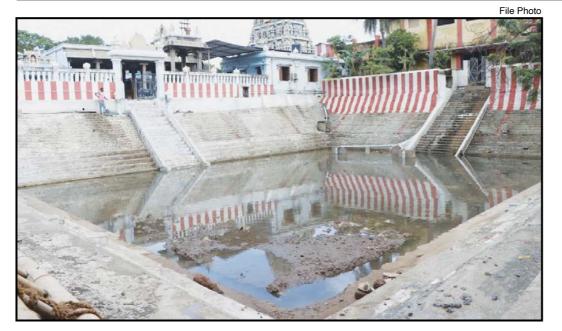
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Sri Madhava Perumal Temple: Balalayam confirmed for Feb 10.

By S. Prabhu

The Balalayam event at Sri Madhava Perumal Temple has now been confirmed for February 10. It will be on from 9 a.m. onwards.

Mylapore Times had reported last week about the postponement of the event that had originally been scheduled for Feb 1.

The sacred event will take place between 9am and 10.30am on Feb. 9, an official of the temple told *Mylapore Times* on Thursday evening.

There will be a four-kaalam pooja starting on the evening of Feb 8, he said.

The renovation and repair works of this temple that will commence after the Balalayam event will be undertaken by TVS' Venu Srinivasan and is expected to take a few months.

Men urinate into temple tank edges

By Baskar Seshadri

The fence on the western side of the tank of Sri Kapaleeswarar Temple in Mylapore is being treated like an open urinal by men.

Throughout the day and after dusk, men urinate against the fence and often, into the tank premises.

The MTC bus stops here being busy ones, has lots of people waiting for buses and the stink of urine is nauseating.

Local workers of Chennai Corporation have now put out a banner requesting people to keep the place neat and clean and not to urinate, this being holy ground.

Another spot that stinks



to the high heavens is diagonally opposite the tank. Next to the gates of Vishwa Kamal Apartments. A long-closed building's gates are being treated as a urinal by hundreds of people, 24 x 7.

Civic workers spray some cleansing powder now and then but local stall owners say that the stink is ruining their business.

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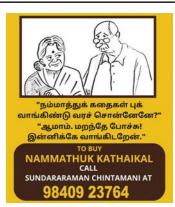


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முதுமை, விபத்து மட்டுமின்றி பல்வேறு காரணங்களால் பற்களை இழந்தவர்களுக்கு, நிரந்தரப் பற்கள் பொருத்தும் இம்ப்ளான்ட் சிகிச்சை உலகம் முழுவதும் மிகவும் பிரபலமடைந்து வருகிறது.

வசதியும் வாய்ப்பும் உள்ளவர்கள் மட்டுமே பயன் பெற்றுவரும் இந்த ஹைடெக் சிகிச்சையை, இலவசமாக வழங்க, டாக்டர் பி.பி.ராஜன் (Dr B. P. Rajan Trust) அறக்கட்டளை முன்வந்துள்ளது.

இலவசமாக நிரந்தரப் பற்கள் தரும் இம்ப்ளான்ட் சிகிச்சை பெற விரும்புபவர்கள், கீழ்க்கண்ட என்னை தொடர்பு கொண்டு முன் பதிவு பெறலாம்.



டாக்டர் B. P. RAJAN அறக்கட்டளை, எண்.56, டாக்டர் ராதாகிருஷ்ணன் சாலை, மைலாப்பூர், சென்னை - 600004.

VINCENT'S JOTTINGS

By VINCENT D' SOUZA

I have been travelling across parts of south Kanara in Karnataka this past week. And one of my stops yesterday was at a Kannada medium co-ed school in a village that is some 23 kms from Mangaluru, or Kudla as people here would like to call it. Members of my mother's side studied here; it was then a Girls School. 1940s and 50s times.

The nuns showed me around even as students queued up to get their lunch served: part of the free lunch scheme of the state government here. I got to see the small items of craftwork the students had made out of waste material and of the

artworks pinned on to the wall.

Only the poor and the migrant families send their children to these 'vernacular' schools. 'Convent' and private schools are for



the Aspirational Gen. And the fallout of this trend is that very few, big-bank-account people stop by to make a donation or lend a hand. Teachers are paid low, roofs are leaking and the furniture is dull vintage.

But the teachers and nuns seem committed and many a flower has bloomed on this campus. The sparks have created a fire. I volunteered to speak to my artist friends in Mangalore and arrange for a Sketching and Drawing Camp in the new academic year. And a talk on the art study centres to go to and the work prospects for those who are artistically drawn.

Grassroot education is in turmoil. New Gen school promoters are ripping First Gen families with fancy facilities and tall claims, leaving legacy schools battling for life. The latter are doing good solely on the commitment of teachers and well-wishers.

This scenario is not limited to the rural outbacks. It prevails in parts, in the city of Chennai. Even in Chennai Corporation-managed schools, though the civic body has been rolling out modern infrastructure, smart education and many incentives.

The civic body is not able to really address core, worrying issues at these schools. And community groups around such schools rarely step in and lend a hand - perhaps run Spoken English classes or computer literacy sessions or even host fun events in the playgrounds.

Many years of travel, pit-stops and interactions with communities on the East Coast Road (ECR) convince me the need for setting up Coastal Polytechnics. Small educational and hands-on training centres related to the sea, fisheries and coastal agriculture.

Why are we torturing our teens at dull campuses, forcing them into Arts and Sciences and Bio-sciences when, with their native knowledge and experience, they can be trained to excel in Fisheries, Maritime Tech and Shipping?

Over to the Tamil Nadu Skills Development Corporation.

LETTERS FROM READERS

Letters to the Editor must carry the complete postal address of the correspondent.

Mail to - mytimesedit@gmail.com

Why are traffic signals in Alwarpet non-functional for months?

It has been three months since traffic diversions were effected across a major section of Alwarpet till Billroth Hospital. Even prior to the changes, the local traffic signals were not working. I have written to Chennai Traffic Police on Twitter highlighting the issue of non working signals from Billroth Hospital junction till



Kirtilals Jewellery junction, but the issue hasn't elicited any response on ground and the traffic is chaotic during peak hours, even if personnel are posted at these areas.

I request the Traffic Police to make all the signals functional as early as possible to ensure that traffic is managed and ensure least hassles for the public.

- Allen Joe

TANGEDCO staff repairing streetlights need safety gear

TANGEDCO staff face some dangers when they have to change street lamps and



bulbs. This past week, I saw men at work at West Circular Road in Mandaveli.

At a height of around thirty feet, these men risk their life whenever they engage in such a

work - they are lifted up by some contraption used for this purpose but I am surprised why these men do not use any safety gear that will keep them safe when they are at work at that height.

- Baskar Seshadri

Oh! Where do we park?

Finding parking space in busy areas like the Mada Streets, in and around Kapaleeswarar Temple, Mylapore is a challenge. The big headache is posed by the

parallel parking by cars and scooters, some parked on footpaths.

Less said about the shops utilising the footpaths for display of their wares is better.

Strict vigilance and hefty penalties is the only solution to putting an end to traffic headaches.

- N. Mahadevan

Remembering S. Kannan

I felt very sad to read the Obituary of S. Kannan. His wife Sathya was my colleague in Canara Bank at the Mylapore branch. Hence I knew both. I used to get a copy of the December Season concerts guide that Kannan collated and published.

In exchange, I would give him the KutcheriBuzz guide book. He used to feel very happy at this.

- V. Vasantha

Amma Canteen pollution

At the Amma Canteen situated at Greenways Road opposite to MRTS railway station, the drain water from its kitchen sink is flooding the road adjacent to the canteen leading to stagnation, stink and mosquito breeding. Will the local GCC authorities address this issue?

- K. V. K. Ramachandhiran

MY STORY



Kathakali and floor paintings: part of my journey

By CHANTAL JUMEL

As a lifelong traveller, I landed in South-India many, many years ago.

Kathakali and floor paintings have been part of my journey.

I also learnt to draw the vibrant kolam designs decorating the thresholds of Tamil houses.

I arrived in Chennai in 2010 to participate in the exclusive kolam competition during the annual *Mylapore Festival* and have been back ever since, except for the last two years.

A vast carpet of kolams along North Mada: intricate dots echoing other dots, enmeshed lines with crossings made up of false twists and dead ends with astonishing eloquence.

I was captivated at first sight by its modest $% \left\{ 1,2,...,4,...\right\}$

form and the sparkle of its contours.

Since then I have been exploring the streets around Mylapore and the women, intrigued by my daily presence, shared their skills with me and explained the meaning of the different patterns they were drawing.

From my base in a hotel in Mylapore, I set out every morning in December / January and walk down the inner streets and lanes of Mylapore to learn, listen to stories and document the various kola's.

To me, kolams perfectly illustrate the idea of time where creation and destruction alternate, giving rhythm to the universe and human life.

In my personal creations, I weave together

the spirit of kolam and various symbols and draw the kolam whenever I exhibit my drawings.

I also write articles on my blog which is dedicated entirely to the traditions of floor paintings in India and elsewhere. My posts echo religious festivals, global events, and social causes for which women are very inventive in creating kolams.

When kolam rhymes with body perfume, it becomes 'Shades of Kolam'; an olfactory adventure initiated by the brand Issey Miyake and for which I had the pleasure of bringing together several artists who participated in this project in Tamil-Nadu.

The journey does not end there: there is always this exhilarating pleasure to discover a unique, unseen kolam, sitting there, on the threshold of a house and distilling the fragrances - delicate, enchantment, patience, humility and serenity.

• Chantal Jumel is a graduate of Sorbonne University. She is a freelance researcher, traveller, artist, and writer, specialised in Indian visual and performing art. Author of two books; one on kolams and ephemeral drawings in India. Contact - chantal.jumel@gmail.com

CHENNAI METRO

Preliminary work on the

Royapettah - R. A. Puram section intensifies

FOCUS ON R. K. MUTT ROAD ZONE



The Metro's underground rail line to be constructed in the section between Mandaveli Street (Post Office junction) and MTC bus terminus zone will see work in a densely populated area. People living here will need to watch the status of their houses (for cracks, etc) when work is in full swing.



Soil tests conducted earlier along sections of this south side of this busy road seem to be over now. But will the rail line run almost under the R. K. Mutt Road section or take a slightly different route?



Soil tests are now on in areas on the east side of the road. This indicates Metro's engineers are keen to study another zone after the tests carried out along R. K. Mutt Road. Test centres will pop up in many streets here.



Residents in Raja Street and elsewhere want Metro to be transparent in sharing information in case the project could affect houses / apartments. Two meetings scheduled by Metro have been postponed recently.

By Our Edit Team

Chennai Metro workers have been, in recent weeks, undertaking soil tests in areas off R. K. Mutt Road, on the south east side and this seems to indicate the possibility of change in plans of the rail tunnels.

Though soil tests were carried out on R. K. Mutt Road long ago, the teams began tests in streets like Raja Street and Velayudha Raja Street and this intrigued local residents.

Information informally shared by local teams at

work indicate that these new tests are on now because the ones done on the main road have not been too positive for the next plans of Chennai Metro.

The indication is that soils tests will follow in other inner streets like Roberston Lane.

Some markings made on buildings have made residents curious and keen to question Metro engineers.

Residents said a meeting between engineers and residents' association heads was scheduled to take place where the Metro team may brief residents on what Metro is doing here and why. But the meetings were

QUESTIONS PEOPLE WANT ANSWERED

Residents of areas on either side of R. K. Mutt Road (south side) have a few nagging questions related to Chennai Metro project. And they hope a face-to-face meeting with project senior officials will clear their doubts.

Here are some issues a few community leaders have raised -

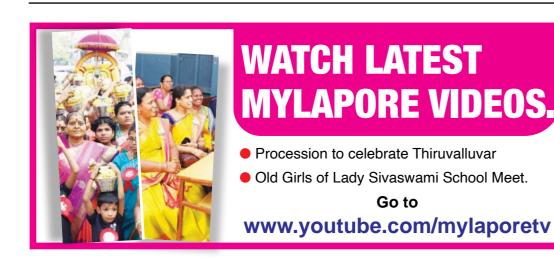
- < Why was the rail alignment changed from main R K Mutt Road to the inner roads? Was it because of soil test failure there? If the soil tests report positively, will underground work affect residents?
- < What will be the impact on old houses/ blocks in the area under which tunnelling is going to take place?
- < For how many years after the Metro rail construction is CMRL liable to compensate if there is any damage to a property due to slow movement of soil above the tunnel post CMRL work?
- < Is there any land acquisition plan in the inner roads? In which areas have land acquisitions been done in local area?
- < Has Chennai Metro stepped up safety measures after the mishap in Bangalore Metro rail project?
- < How will this work affect our borewell water supply? After the CMRL work is completed how will the water table be affected and will it affect the quality and quantity of the groundwater supply

postponed at short notice, though they were informal ones.

The Phase II project, which covers the north-south rail line passing through R. H. Road, Luz, Mandaveli and R. A. Puram will be in some densely populated areas of the city.

Luz will be the major work zone because of the twin stations to be built underground here. The north-south line and the east-west line will have junctions

Last year, contract staff of Chennai Metro surveyed all the built-up areas and houses / flats on the rail line zone to record their civil condition. Detailed studies have been undertaken. However, the communities are yet to get any communication on what to expect when major works begin.







WHEN STUDENTS LEARN BASICS OF RETAIL BUSINESS

A unique project was executed at Lady Sivaswamy Ayyar Girls Hr. Sec. School in Mylapore recently. This was part of CSR initiatives of Madras Management Association (MMA)

By V. Soundararani

When a section of a school turns into a bazaar, a visitor here may wonder what is going on. And it would be hard to convince him or her that the practical side of life lessons are unfolding here. The bazaar held at Lady Sivaswamy Ayyar Girls Hr. Sec. School in Mylapore on top of this week was a rousing event.

Close to 130 students of Class 9, working in small groups had put out stalls in the indoor assembly and play zone of the school campus. Stalls where the girls sold all kinds of stuff - colourful hand-crafted items, utility and decorative goods and eatables.



As they set up the decorated stalls that Monday morning, what would be a quiet zone in normal time resounded to the chatter and calls familiar at a bazaar.

This bazaar was held at the end of a 15-day training programme organised by the Madras Management Association (MMA), aimed at instilling ideas of business, sales and marketing in the young minds.

The programme was which was offered complimentary for the students was a CSR initiative of Madras Management Association (MMA) and supported by ACSYS Investments & AS Trust.

Said R. Venkataraman, general manager of MMA, "To encourage the students put up stalls, they are formed into groups and are provided 'seed money' to purchase the necessary raw materials to set up the business."

Painted cloth and paper bags, greeting cards, fashion accessories, jotting pads, wall hangers, picture frames and snacks like bhel and pani puri, cakes, sweets and savouries snacks were on sale at the different stalls, with each group designing their own, handmade banners and placards.

Kanisha, a student said, "I learnt to make stuff that was different from the rest. I also got a lot of new ideas by looking at what my



classmates did." Kanisha had done crochet work and made simple decorative items. "She is from a simple family and was quick to learn and adapted well," said Padmaja, CEO of Victory Insights, who is the knowledge imparter and trainer, the link between MMA and these projects.

"Sustainable entrepreneurship is the theme, and up-cyclable, eco-friendly materials were mostly used. Giving a new look to the old and worn out articles inspired the girls a lot," said Padmaja.

Said student Manju Bhargavi says, "We got to make cheese cakes and pastries and in doing so, we learnt how cheap it is to make this and sell, compared to the prices bakeries charge. This has enthused me to learn and make many snacks all by myself."

Added Mutheeswari, another student, "We learnt to not only make the stuff, but also realised the costs, learnt to fix sale prices, how to keep accounts. This course gave us an idea of the business strategies we must use. We bought the raw materials from Parry's Corner where prices are lower than the stuff sold in Mylapore." Said Ezhilalarasi, a teacher who monitored the students in this project, "Our students have taken the project seriously, and it was an interesting experience away from the classroom. Their mood is to healthily compete with other groups in making the finished products look good and innovative."

The school's student band welcomed the guests of MMA and others and once the stalls opened, business took over. Other students and elders were allowed to shop at the bazaar.

REPORT TO MYLAPORE TIMES interesting projects in local area schools. Teachers / students can report.

WATCH video at www.youtube.com/mylaporetv





G Vasantha, aged 83 years, passed away on January 17.

She was a long time resident of R A Puram. She was the mother of Shankar, Ravi and Sheela.

Her family said that despite losing her husband early in life, she lived her life fully. She enjoyed travel and visited many temples and places all over India.

She supported the cause of renovation of old temples, supporting it in her own

small ways, her family said.

Free breast screening camp for women at R. A. Puram

Kauvery Hospital, Alwarpet and RAPRA, the R A Puram community body, are jointly organising a free breast screening camp for women in this area. This camp will be held on Sunday, Feb. 5, in front of the R. A. Puram Chennai Corporation park in 7th Main Road from 10 am to 3 pm.

A team of women specialists will be conducting this camp in an air conditioned van. Prior registration is compulsory to participate in this camp. For registration contact: 9840390903/9884043225 / 9841030040

Remembering arts promoter S. Kannan



Madhuradhwani and Tamil Heritage Trust are hosting a Shradhanjali for arts curator and compiler of the annual December Season Music Concerts handbook, S. Kannan who passed away last week.

This event is on Feb.8, 6 p.m. onwards at Arkay Centre, Luz.

The persons who will share their memories of their association with Kannan are Nalli Kuppuswami

Chetti, R T Chari, Prof. Swaminathan, K Harishankar, Dr.Sudha Seshayyan, Sujatha Vijayaraghavan, Neyveli Santhanagopalan, Dr.Chitra Madhavan and Arkay Ramak-

Math to celebrate Vivekananda Navaratri

Sri Ramakrishna Math is celebrating Vivekananda Navaratri next week. A note from the Math states that 'after the historic Chicago Address (1893), when swami Vivekananda returned to India, he stayed from Feb. 6 to 14, 1897 at Vivekanandar Illam in Madras.

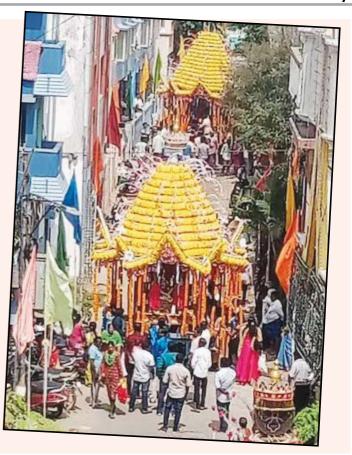
This nine-day stay of swami Vivekananda is being celebrated every year as 'Vivekananda Navaratri'. This year also happens to be the 125th year of inception of Sri Ramakrishna Math, Chennai.

The Math has arranged various cultural programmes – bhajans, dramas, Bommalattam, classical dances, and spiritual discourses by eminent personalities from Feb. 6 to 14. One set of events are at Vivekananda Illam, the other at the Math in Mylapore.

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Band music and nagaswaram part of church feast procession in R. A. Puram



By Juliana Sridhar

Our Lady of Guidance Church in R. A. Puram, also known as saint Lazarus Church celebrated the 441st feast of saint Lazarus on January 28 and 29 in a grand manner.

The church was lit up and decorated. The streets surrounding the church were also lit up and wore a festive look

Last Saturday evening, after the Holy Mass celebrated by Fr. Manuel, the nine cars (thers) that carry the statues of saints were blessed by the priests before being taken out in procession in the streets surrounding the church.

Fr. Y. F. Bosco, parish priest, said that this year, the



cars were newly-made from teakwood.

The nine statues taken out in procession were archangel Michael, saint Santiago, saint Sebastian, saint Francis Xavier, saint Roche, saint Anthony of Padua, saint Joseph, saint Lazarus and Our Lady (Nakshatra Madha).

The band music was provided by Leo Band and this year there was a nagaswaram troupe too. Crackers were burst along the way.

The procession got back to the church around midnight.

On Sunday morning, after the English Mass at 9.15, all the nine statues were again taken out in procession.



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COLOURFUL FEAST THAT ONCE DREW THOUSANDS



This annual feast at saint Lazarus Church has been celebrated for many, many decades and was once the destination for Catholics of the city. Families recall times in the 1950s when they would travel by bull-ock carts from the central and north areas of the city. They would pitch tents in what were groves around the church; these were times when Foreshore Estate was a beach.

A large hawkers market would come up around the church and this would be a buzzing hub at festival time. Pilgrims even cooked food as they attended the car procession and stayed overnight for the feast Holy Mass.

This year, the street hawkers market was back after the pandemic break. Though limited in stalls, the sales were good.



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unfurling of the national flag by the residents; the competition followed.

12 teams of five members each participated in the competition and by the end of the event Raja Street was a colourful carpet of rangolis.

This year there were not only teams from Raja Street zone but also from R. K. Nagar, Tondiarpet, Perungudi and Madhavaram.

The competition was followed by cultural events by residents - dances and singing of patriotic songs.

Special guests of the event were Kalpana Vummidi, Priya Kannan, Savitha Suresh Kanna and Revathy Sankaran.

The first prize winner of the competition was Team Sange Muzhangu from Tondiarpet. Other winners were Team Akai of Raja Street and Team Azhagiya Tamil Magal from Perungudi.

Sakkarai pongal and venn pongal and goli soda was served by the RWA to all guests and residents.

Themed rangoli contest marks R-Day event of this Mandaveli community

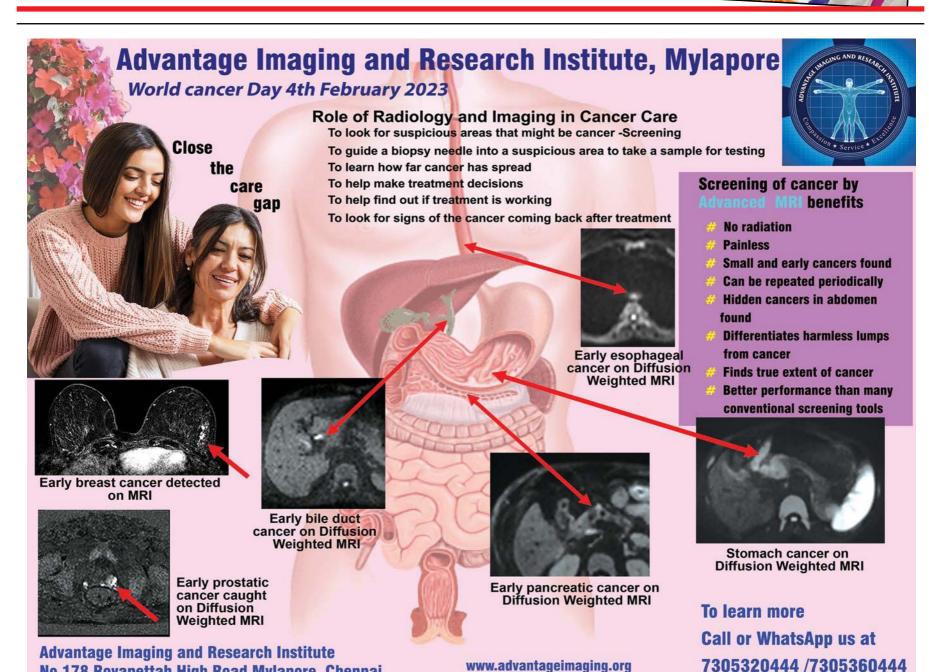
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By Ganga Sridhar

Mandaveli Raja Street RWA celebrated the 74th Republic Day on January 26 in their street and the event was highlighted by a theme-based kolam/ rangoli competition; the theme was Moovanna Muzhakkam "The Tricolour Rage".

The event started with the





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The Queen Mary's College cultural team won the first prize in the Republic Day parade held on January 26 morning on the Marina beach road, alongside Labour

The team of girls performed a medley of state folk dances in front of the gallery of the state governor and chief minister and for other VIPs, including ministers. The QMC team has been a regular participant in the R-Day parade and has won prizes on many occasions, said a faculty member who was part of this team. Photo shows the core team members receiving the prize from TN chief minister M. K. Stalin and state governor R. N. Ravi.





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