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TIMES

YOUR NEIGHBOURHOOD NEWSPAPER

Vol. 28, No. 42

Jan 13 - 19, 2024

16 pages Free Circulation

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Award winning photographer Balasubramanian G. Velu clicked this visual of the Kolam Contest at the 2024 edition of Sundaram Finance Mylapore Festival last weekend on North Mada Street.

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## NOOKS

### NATIVE MEDICINES

**Name of the shop:** New Shiva Nattu Mooligai Marundu Kadai  
**Address:** No.133, Bazaar Road, Mylapore  
**Owner:** S. Rajendran  
**Phone:** 24670098, 9791192875  
**Timings:** all days 10 am to 9.30 pm.



This shop is run by R Prakash, the descendant of Sivapoosanam Chettiar and an engineering graduate.

"This is a branch of a native drug store started 90 years ago by my grandfather Sivapoosanam Chettiar. I have grown up in this background and am well aware about the products we offer," says Prakash.

The shop has diabetic medicines with herbs like sirukurinjaan, aavarampoo, seeds of jamun fruits and methi seeds. Snaana powder, herbal shikakai powder, hair powders to deal with lice and dandruff are among the other products sold under the shop's own brand – Shiva Herbals.

A packet of shikakai powder weighing 200 grams costs Rs 100. "We have herbal medicines for common ailments. Veppaalai thailam is effective for all skin related issues. Karunjeeragam omam vendhayam podi is brought frequently. We have 150 types of herbal podis and thailams," said Prakash.

The store also sells all items needed for pooja and homam.

Report by V. Soundararani

**WATCH VIDEOS** on Nooks -  
[www.youtube.com/mylaporetv](http://www.youtube.com/mylaporetv)

## CHECK THIS



### PONGAL FOOD PHOTO CONTEST. FOR MYLAPOREANS

**Mylapore Times** is hosting a simple contest for Pongal. All you need to do is place the pot / cooker / vessel of freshly-made pongal on a table, decorate the area with sugarcane, flowers, leaves, colours, etc, shoot one great photo ( it must have location, date/time inside the frame you shoot) and WhatsApp it to Mylapore Times - 99444 59912. Send only one great photo. Add your name and address and phone number.

Do this on January 15 - 9 am to 5 pm only.

The best designed pongal table decorated photos get prizes from **Mylapore Times**.

(Photos above are samples for you to shoot with your pongal)



### TEPPAM FEST OF SRI KAPALI TEMPLE

On January 25, 26 and 27.

The teppam will be held in the evenings on all three days of the festival of thai poosam. People are allowed into the tank on some sides, they can sit on the top level steps and watch the teppam. But people are not allowed into the teppam, which will make the rounds on all four sides.

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Report local community events / share pictures -

**mytimesedit@gmail.com**

### TALK ON SWAMI VIVEKANANDA

The Triplicane Cultural Academy & P.S. Institute of Music, Arts and Culture jointly organise a special lecture coinciding with National Youth Day.

Swami Bodhamayanandaji Adhyaksha, Ramakrishna Math, Hyderabad will deliver this lecture on "Swami Vivekananda and India's Resurgence" on Jan. 18 at 10.15 a.m. at TAG- P.S. Dakshinamurthi Auditorium, P. S. Hr. Sec. School, Mylapore. Open to all.

### MYLAPORE TIMES

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# Dhanalakshmi of R. A. Puram shines at Asian Masters Athletics in Philippines

By Juliana Sridhar

R. Dhanalakshmi, an advocate practising in the Madras High Court and resident of Periyapalli Street in R. A. Puram was part of the athletics team that won a silver medal in the 22nd Asian Masters Athletics Championships held at Philippines in November 2023.

Chennai were invited by the state sports minister, Udhayanidhi Stalin after the team returned, to his office and the athletes were felicitated.

Dhanalakshmi also took part in the 100 metres, 200 metres and long jump events but she came sixth in the 100 and 200 metres events and fifth in

■ IS THERE A CHAMPION in your colony who is making news? Tell this newspaper! Now.



She was part of the 4x100 mts relay team that bagged the silver medal. The other members of the team were Tessie Joseph, Deepa and Jemma Joseph.

Athletes in the age group of 30 to 100 years are eligible to participate in the championship. This event is held once in two years and this is the first time that Dhanalakshmi has taken part in it.

“It was a dream come true for me and I had a great experience,” said the champion athlete.

Dhanalakshmi and 10 other medallists from

the long jump.

Some 300 athletes from India took part and India topped the championship with 209 medals including 68 gold medals.

The next stage is the World Meet at Sweden to be held sometime in August 2024.

Dhanalakshmi has set her sights on that event and she will get back to some intense training soon. She has won medals in state and national level meets for seniors.



In the first photo here Dhanalakshmi is seen on extreme left

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## VINCENT's JOTTINGS

By VINCENT D' SOUZA

Her four-feet plus frame was weighed down by two large bags on her shoulders.

Am I late for the kolam contest? she asked.

Don't worry, we said and showed her her space on North Mada Street, Mylapore.

I came from Tiruchi for this, she said.

We just smiled.

This was on the afternoon of the first Kolam and rangoli contest of the annual Sundaram Finance Mylapore Festival.

When the contest was over, she came over to the desk.

Wish I had come early. I could have done better, she said.

We asked her if she'd like some coffee. She declined.

I must head to Egmore station, she said.

We helped her into an auto.

Kolam and rangoli Contest Two was delayed. It was drizzling.

The Met guys were spot on; the drizzle kept on. 65-plus people were ready to draw kolams. 20 others for rangoli.

The moment the grey skies got driven away by strong winds, we rolled out the contest. The men and women drew even as the drizzle teased us.

12 of them won our special trophy - a kolam design on cloth (produced by Paalaguttapalle, stretched on wood frames).

One woman with a kid by her side, said hello to me.

I came from Madurantankam for this contest, she said.

She was on North Mada Street despite the rain.

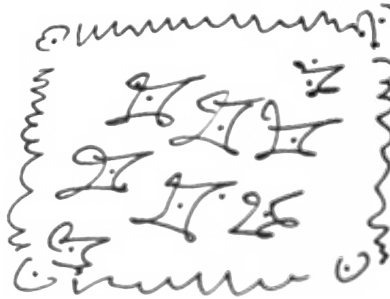
She was among the winners in the Rangoli contest.

Even as members of the Rangavalli group, a passionate community of kolam designers, braved the steady, light rain and designed ten large kolams as part of a display, friends at the spot shared unique pictures.

One was of our volunteer holding up an umbrella over the head of a child who was designing a kolam, steadily.

These are just a few scapes of life that the Mylapore Festival holds up and is proud of. A people's street cultural festival in the heritage precinct of Mylapore.

The 20th edition has just got over. The last of the Main Stages shows on Sannidhi Street square were washed off. We got wet in the rain, had a cup of hot coffee and went home.



## LETTERS FROM READERS

E-MAIL your letters to - mytimesedit@gmail.com. Or WHATSAPP to: 8015005628.

Provide full name and short address.

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



### Metro: can Thiruvengadam St. handle heavy traffic?

Thiruvengadam Street has become a busy bus route due to traffic diversion. I have seen the metamorphosis of the street since 1954. In the recent past, the main street was dug up for various reasons. The left side has been topped up with concrete.

GCC should have re-laid the road for heavy vehicular traffic. Speed breakers should have been built and 25 kmph speed limitation sign boards and blinking red light at sharp bends should have been installed.

- R.Raman

way' due to Chennai Metro work, we see many motorists flouting the rules. Local volunteer groups must be formed and traffic regulated in inner streets.

- K. R. Jambunathan

### Metro traffic changes: Thiruvengadam St.

Traffic diversions have come into effect on R K Mutt Road and V K Road. Vehicles parked on Thiruvengadam Street must be cleared off since this is the 'diversion' route now.

- Sreenath Ganapathy

### Were not MRTS services enough? Why Metro?

The protest against Metro rail by traders in Mylapore and Mandaveli areas and by residents is understandable. Where is the need to cover these areas when it is already being serviced by MRTS?

MRTS is reportedly being taken over by CMRL and the connection will be up to St. Thomas Mount. In that case, residents will have full Metro rail connectivity.

- L. Rangarajan

### Metro traffic changes: who is to regulate?

With many roads being declared as 'one

### Metro work: preparatory work skipped?

Why didn't the authorities focus on the MRTS line and easily convert it to the Metro line which could have saved crores of public money with zero nuisance to the public?

Before implementing traffic diversions, did the authorities clear off all unauthorised constructions, petty shops on platforms, parked vehicles blocking road usage, widening narrow roads, filling the potholes and making the passage roadworthy?

Did the authorities plan in advance to provide parking to vehicles on the new diverted roads?

- Dr. S. Jagannath

## MY STORY



### A literary journey: from Mylapore to Mamallapuram

By ASHWIN PRABHU

My very first attempt at writing for a public audience, in 2005, was in Mylapore, and quite appropriately for *Mylapore Times*. The editor had coaxed me then to begin what we had quite simply called "The Mylapore Social History Project".

The project eventually took the shape of a modest oral history archive built on interviews with several long-time residents of the neighbourhood and had resulted in a series of articles published in the paper – on Palathope and its lawyers, Vidya Mandir and its beginnings, Luz Avenue, and so on.

Over the years, my interest in history has

persisted, and so has my good fortune of benefiting from local institutions.

I found myself being pulled towards the Tamil Heritage Trust, a volunteer-driven, non-profit history interest group, co-founded by Prof. S. Swaminathan, a retired professor from IIT-Delhi from his D'Silva Road residence.

After attending several public talks and participating in an intensive training program to be a docent (volunteer guide) for Mamallapuram, I found that I had well and truly fallen in love with this magical Pallava site.

More reading followed, along with some

experiments on creative ways of introducing children to the subject at the school I was teaching at then (The School KFI).

It is this engagement which has now resulted in another of my writing projects. My book 'Sculpted Stones – Mysteries of Mamallapuram' was published last month by Tulika Books and aims to give children a gentle introduction to the place and its wonders without overwhelming them with facts and dates.

In reflection, my rather unlikely journey in writing which had its origin nearly two decades ago in this very newspaper, has now meandered its way along the coast to Mamallapuram.

I'll pause here to catch my breath, enjoy the sea view, and say a little prayer of gratitude to all the generous friendships which have made this journey possible.

● Ashwin Prabhu is an Abhiramapuram resident. His new book is available on the Tulika Books website – [www.tulikabooks.com](http://www.tulikabooks.com).





This was a margazhi month *bhajana sampradaya* procession with a difference. The participants not only sang but also danced to the songs of Andal's pasurams. And all this took place in the Chitrkulam zone of Mylapore on December 31 morning.

A contrast, in small ways, from the groups that sing, pray and chant on the mada streets around Sri Kapali Temple. Padma S. Raghavan, the artistic director of the

Bharatanatyam dance school, Silambam Mylapore, curated this event. It was themed on 'The Dream of Andal' - Varanamayiram - enacting the wedding of Andal.

Teens and adults were seen dancing in the Bharatanatyam style and also performing *kummi* and *kolattam* as the procession moved on.

Others sang bhajans. Artiste Sasirekha will presented a *katha kalakshepam* themed on Andal.

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Source: Bloomberg, Computation: In-house. Data from Jan 2010 to Sep 2023. Rolling Returns calculated on a daily basis. Multi asset model portfolio considers theoretical allocation of 25% to Gold, 10% to 10Y G-secs and the rest towards Nifty 50. Equity allocation to Nifty 50 ranges from 50% to 65% based on asset allocation framework using market valuations. Past performance may or may not be sustained in the future. The index used is CPI combined (2012 base).

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The 4 instances highlighted in the table are examples of this:			
		Nifty 50(%)	Gold(%)
Taper tantrum	Jun '13 to Aug '13	-6.3	24.6
Correction post election rally	Mar '15 to Feb '16	-17.7	11.2
Covid pandemic	Jan '20 to Mar '20	-28.6	0.7
Ukraine-Russia conflict	Jan '22 to Jun '22	-9.0	6.3

Source: Bloomberg, In-house computation. Gold returns based on MCK Gold Index. Data from Jan 2010 to Sep 2023. Past performance may or may not be sustained in the future.

**Benchmark**

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NIFTY 50 (2012 = 100)

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# This quiz was themed on Mylapore

By Our Edit Team

Professional public speaker, tech consultant and corporate trainer Sundararaman Chintamani, resident of St. Mary's Road volunteered to conduct the Mylapore Quiz as part of the Sundaram Finance MYLAPORE FESTIVAL

2024, on Sunday, Jan.7  
The quiz, held at Ranade Library in Luz focussed on various facts and trivia related to Mylapore neighbourhood. ( This space was provided by SINA – Hemnath is secretary – as part of its support for such events).

3rd prize - V. Annapurani & N. Nithya.  
4th prize – N. Ganesh & K. Bhaskar

15 teams, comprising 30 participants, engaged in the quiz.



The following were the winners:-  
1st prize – Rajagopalan V. & Jayakamala.  
2nd prize – Prashanth & Shankar.

## TAKE THIS MYLAPORE QUIZ

This is a Mylapore Quiz Teaser for all those who could not make it to the Sunday Quiz. Keep answers brief. WhatsApp answers to - **9841049155**. Mention your name/ phone number. **Contest closes - Jan.14 midnight**. 3 prizes for best scores. (Lots drawn in case of tie/s)

1. On entering Nageswara Rao Park through its main gate, a flex display features a legendary musician. Name this musician.
2. On R. A. Puram 2nd Main Road, you find busts of Rajiv Gandhi and Vazhappadi Ramamoorthy. Which shop is behind these busts?
3. Indian Oil has introduced a B2B Diesel post meant exclusively for business-to-business transactions, not for public use. Where is it available?
4. The slide in the children's play area of Nageswara Rao Park is designed in the form of an animal. Which animal?
5. What is the opening time of the Sri Ramakrishna Temple within the Ramakrishna Math premises?
6. To which Mylapore celebrity does the house named 'Sree Bhag' belong?
7. If someone intends to purchase silk sarees from Srinivasa Silks, which bazaar should they visit?
8. Which bank has positioned its ATM in front of Thiru-Mylai MRTS station?
9. What is the name of the association affiliated with Ranade Library?
10. When you travel towards Madras Beach station on the MRTS, what station comes after Thirumylai?

AVISHYA

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Pongal PHOTO CONTEST for MYLAPOREANS

Mylapore Times is hosting a simple contest for Pongal.

All you need to do is place the pot / cooker / vessel of freshly-made pongal on a table, decorate the area with sugarcane, flowers, leaves, colours, etc, shoot one great photo (it must have location, date/time inside the frame you shoot) and WhatsApp it to Mylapore Times - 99444 59912.

Photos given here are samples for you.

Send only one great photo. Add your name and address and phone number. Do this on January 15 - 9 am to 5 pm only.

The best designed pongal table photos get prizes from Mylapore Times.



# NOW, SPECIAL VEG FOOD IN BUCKETS

Pongal specials on the menu at this Mylapore restaurant - *sakkarai pongal* and *ven pongal* - are sold in 1, 3, 4.5 litre buckets.

By V. Soundararani

The recently-launched Kittu Mamas Veetu Tiffin in Mylapore has now announced its own version of food in a bucket; just the way bucket biriyani are sold hot on weekends.

This vegetarian restaurant that was started a month ago, now also offers ‘Bucket Sapaadu’.



“We can pack South Indian meals for even a small group or a family in buckets. This makes it better than packing in dozens of containers,” says Krishnamoorthy, the restaurant’s promoter.

Sambar sadam, poriyal, kootu and more can be packed in separate buckets. Each bucket of food has a price tag and needs to be ordered separately. Customers can order anything of their choice - vegetable biryani, pulav, gobi manchurian . . .

Also the buckets come with a serving laddle, disposable plates and water cups: we are told the buckets are all food grade plastic and reusable at houses.

South Indian, Chinese and Continental food is on the menu here.

Buckets available are in 3 litre and 4.5 lit volumes. Poriyal and kootu can be had in 300 ml buckets. 3 litre sambar sadam ( rice) will cost between Rs. 550 to 650.

Pongal specials on the menu here - sakkarai pongal and ven pongal - available in 1, 3, 4.5 litre buckets.

Call Veena at 9840276377 a day in advance to book your ‘bucket’ food. Even an order of just one bucket is accepted.

It can be home-delivered within a radius of 3 kms from this food joint, which is at 114, PS Sivaswamy Salai, Mylapore.

## Sriman S. wins top prize in state-level Bhagavad Gita recitation contest

By Our Edit Team

Sriman S., a student of Vidya Mandir school and a resident of Mylapore, won the first place in a state level Bhagavad Gita recitation competition held recently.



He recited the 4th chapter of the Gita in Sanskrit and was rewarded for doing it well. Chinmaya Mission has been conducting this competition for 30 years now.

This year, over 1500 children across various schools in Chennai participated in the preliminary round.

The state level competition was held at Chinmaya Vidyalaya, Tiruchirappalli on January 7, where 39 selected children from 13 districts competed.

Sriman says he is grateful to his guru, N. Srividhya, for her guidance.

## Pongal events to be held at local churches

The community at Our Lady of Guidance Church in R. A. Puram popularly known as Saint Lazarus Church will be celebrating the harvest festival of Pongal on January 15.

Parish Priest Fr Y.F. Bosco said that a kolam competition will be held from 6 to 7 am. It will be followed by Mass; then, pongal will be distributed to the congregation after Mass.

At San Thome Cathedral, the Pongal event will be celebrated on January 18; special Mass will be said and Pongal events held in the campus.

### Online Sloka Classes for Kids

Gurukul Sloka Classes Chennai shall be starting a new batch on Jan 18th for Online teaching of Sanskrit Slokas for Kids. 12 classes shall be conducted per month and the Fees shall be Rs 600.

For Details Contact S.Sriram @ 9382513825 or visit [www.gurukulsloka.com](http://www.gurukulsloka.com)

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# War in Gaza encircled Christmas crib of the Chandrans

By Preetha K.

How and why did the war in Gaza become part of a crib that Dr. V D G Chandran and Sashikala of San Thome created on the eve of Christmas?

"We wanted to bring back the focus on peace," said the Chandrans, whose crib was among nine other cribs that won prizes in the Mylapore Times Crib Contest held in late December 2023.

How did the couple design this theme crib?

"My daughter got some dolls and items from the US, ten years ago. My husband and I decided to make the best use of it by creating this crib. We wanted to depict the war zone and so, showed soldiers of Israel and militants of Hamas fighting with each other," said Sashikala.

She told us that the news of Christmas celebrations being cancelled in Bethlehem and innocent people killed in the war and families being displaced impacted her. The conceptualisation and setting up of the crib were done by Dr. Chandran.

"Tying the sarees for effects and writing the placards was my work," added his wife.

The couple said that 2023 marks the 800th anniversary of the idea of the crib. The first one was made in



1223 by St Francis of Assisi. Recycled Items Used

Sashikala says she did not spend too much on setting up the crib.

"Most of the items were already available at home. Some of the toys are 10 years old. We used brown rods which come with kitchen towels to design tunnels. Many things were made out of recycled items," says Sashikala, whose family has been setting up the crib for the last 50 years.

The family's crib in 2022 showcased Santa Claus' village. "It was fully 'snow white' and I made a white Christmas tree out of paper," says Sashikala, who has been in the choir at San Thome Cathedral for 40 years.

She is also part of the Madras Youth Choir. Sashikala says she plays Christian songs on the veena and uploads it on YouTube. Well after the feast of Epiphany in early January, guests continue to drop in at the Chandrans' apartment to see the thematic crib.

It will be kept in place till Kannum Pongal. If you wish to drop in and see it, call the family to plan a visit.

The Chandrans reside at C1, Ananti Apartments, San Thome High Road, San Thome. Ph: 98844 50394



**WATCH 2 VIDEOS**  
of prize-winning Cribs -  
[www.youtube.com/mylaporetv](http://www.youtube.com/mylaporetv)



## Temple washroom messy

By Our Edit Team

Regulars at Sri Kapali Temple, Mylapore say that the washroom located next to the footwear safe-room (east side, outside temple) is messy.

Tissues and used diapers are seen thrown on the floor though this gets cleared off and on. The door to the women's washroom hangs loosely.

"Women have not been able to use it for days," says a social activist who wishes to remain anonymous.

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**Prema Mani** (Radha Prema) aged 67 passed away in California, USA on 2nd January 2024 after a brief hospitalization leaving behind a legion of grieving family members and friends, who will all miss her sorely.

Prema is survived by her husband Dr R.S. Mani, their daughter Hema, Son-in-law Ramesh and grand-daughters Ria and Nina .

Prema's aged mother and Prema's younger brother and 2 younger sisters and their families who are based in India are inconsolable at this cruel blow of Fate .

The Family lives (since 1971) at "Nanda Vihar" 4th Street Abhiramapuram and can be reached at 98400 09430 or venkatvrv@hotmail.com .

Prema had her schooling at Vanavani and later on in the Kendriya Vidyalaya at IIT Madras Campus. She went on to do her BSc – Home Science from SIET College at Teynampet before getting married at a young age of 19 .

During the next few years in Tamil Nadu while her husband taught Chemistry, Prema acquired a couple of Degrees - an M.A and then an M.Phil but soon after both Mani and Prema went to the USA: he to do his Ph.D in Organic Chemistry as she Prema set about getting her Masters in Nutrition and then going on to qualify as a Registered Dietician.



She quickly established a name for herself as a practicing RD across 3 states in the US in a career that spanned more than 3 decades. Her dedication and commitment to her chosen profession drew universal accolades from her colleagues. She was quoted in newspapers as a "well regarded Dietitian."

What defined her was her fondness for Carnatic Music, her passion for

Lalita Sahasranamam (Prema's panacea for any trouble bothering anyone), her deep attachment to her family especially her granddaughters for whom she loved cooking.

Prema would religiously call her mother each Wednesday and Saturday to catch up on the latter's health and news of her siblings and their families.

In her passing we have lost a dutiful daughter, a devoted mother, an affectionate mother-in-law, a loving grand-mother, a caring wife and a protective elder sister who braved several odds and health issues to accomplish many things .

Prema symbolized gentleness, kindness and innocence.

We will cherish her forever.

**"Death leaves a heartache no one can heal.  
Love leaves a memory, no one can steal"**





# Kuppuswami Sastri Research Institute seeks donations, asap

Books, records, furniture and digital devices affected, damaged during recent flooding

By Edit Team

This is a SOS for help. From Kuppuswami Sastri Research Institute, situated inside the premises of Madras Sanskrit College, Mylapore - a world-renowned institution in the field of Sanskritic and Indological studies for the past 75 years. The recent record rainfall and subsequent flooding in this zone badly affected and damaged many books and records. “Due to recent rains, the Institute (and

before in the history of the Institute or at the Madras Sanskrit College (which was established in 1906),” says Dr. Sita. Under the expert supervision of the officials from state archives and Connemara Library and Tanjore Saraswathi Mahal Library, the Institute’s team is trying to retrieve the books/journals that were soaked in the water for four days. This is a very cumbersome process that requires not only great patience and expertise but also considerable money, says the secretary.

The Institute does not receive any grants from the Central or State governments and has been thriving on the contributions from some philanthropists and corporate sectors, we are told. It is estimated that around one crore rupees would be required for mending the books, purchasing furniture including almirahs to keep books / journals, electrical work, purchase of new computers and digital devices. Reason why the Institute has put out an appeal to seek generous financial assistance. Donations to this Institute are 100% exempt from income tax under section 35 (i)(iii) of the Income Tax Act. for corporates and other companies.

For individuals 100% exemption can be claimed under section 80GGA. Cheques / DDs may be in favour of The Kuppuswami Sastri Research Institute,. Online remittances can be made. Donations are requested only in Indian rupees from Indian citizens. The Kuppuswami Sastri Research Institute, 84, Thiru. Vi. Ka. Road, Mylapore. Email: ksrinst@gmail.com Phone: 24985320; 29505320 / Mobile: 9884899716 / 9789809640



the Madras Sanskrit College) was inundated with water for four days and the water had entered the ground floor of the institute affecting hundreds of books/journals and a lots of furniture,” said Dr Sita Sundar Ram, secretary. A key activity of the Institute is maintaining and preserving valuable ancient books and palm leaf manuscripts in its library. The library consists of 65,000 rare books and 1300 ancient palm leaf manuscripts and is one of the best of its kind in the world. “Such a calamity has never happened

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- ALWARPET, 3 bedroom, luxury flat, 1700 sqft, 2nd floor, east facing, 100 percent vastu, one open car park. Ph: 9445955012, 9941908412
- ALWARPET, Oliver Road, 2 BHK, new flat, 1100sqft, 41000. East Abhiramapuram, 2 BHK, flat, 1200sqft, 42000. Alwarpet, D silva road, 3 BHK, 2800 sqft, 1lakhs. Ph: 8939936055
- MYLAPORE, Muthuraman Street, 1800 sqft, first floor, no lift, only vegetarian. RENT Rs.18000 plus maintenance, Contact: R.Soundaravalli 9840940693. S. Srivathsan: 9840670472.
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- MYLAPORE, Ranga Road, 3 BHK flat, 1900 sq.ft., 2nd floor, no lift, Rs. 42K, near V. V. College, 2 BHK, 650 sq.ft., fully furnished, Rs. 30K, bachelors also. Ph: 9841350607
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- MYLAPORE near Madava perumal temple, 1000 sqft, independent, 1st floor, old house with car parking. 25000. S. John: 9444360000, 9710360000
- MYLAPORE, CIT colony, 4BHK, Modern apartment, 3000 sqft, 1st floor, lift, 3 CCP, power backup, 1.1lakh. Alwarpet, Seethammal colony, 3BHK, 1st floor, 1400 sqft, lift, 1CCP, 42K rental. Ph: 7401677318, 9283230107
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# CHENNAI METRO TRAFFIC CHANGES PEOPLE's VOICES

These are notes made by people from the ground and people who observed from their areas after traffic changes were made across Mylapore zone for Chennai Metro work from Jan.7 morning.



## ● SAIBABA TEMPLE ZONE

L&T has agreed to level the road near the Saibaba Temple since the rains have made the road slushy near the recent CMWSSB pipe-laying location. Neither the CMWSSB nor the GCC have bothered to address this issue.

– Sridhar Venkataraman

## ● P. S. SENIOR SCHOOL COMMUNITY REACTS

Quick feedback from the marshalls near Saibaba Temple. Many P S Senior School parents who came by car to drop their kids on Monday morning, came in their two-wheelers to pick up their kids that afternoon. Good sign of people adapting to the situation.

– Sridhar Venkataraman



## ● MUNDAGAKANNI AMMAN STATION ZONE MUST BE 'CLEAR WAY'

Mundagakanni Amman MRTS Station zone is important now, given the Luz junction is closed. Suggest the vehicles dumped on both sides of the road, outside this station and on Kalvi Varu Street be cleared and the sidewalks made walkable at least.

– Jai

## ● CMRL / TRAFFIC POLICE : KEY ISSUES OF NORTH MADA STREET

North Mada Street has lots of encroachments on the left side. Vijaya Stores, NAC, Nithya Amirtham and others all use the road space for their business – time to ask them all to respect rules.

Local shops, businesses have taken over newly-laid road space – outside Dubba Chetty and Giri Convention Centre. This must be cleared.

– Baskar Seshadri

## ● PLEA TO MTC – RUN MINI BUSES

MTC must run some mini buses from Luz zone and Mandaveli zone because the MRTS station and MTC terminus is shut off for Metro work.

– C R Balaji

## ● GCC, RELAY STREETS THAT TAKE HEAVY FLOW OF TRAFFIC

Chennai Corporation should have finished relaying School View Road before the diversions took place, the inner roads (right from Srinivasa Avenue) which are taking the heavy traffic flow have been left milled waiting to be laid. GCC must relay / patch up all roads that are going to take the heavy flow of traffic.

– Ganga Sridhar



– Ganga Sridhar

## ● NORTON STREET, SRINIVASA AVENUE FLOW

Norton Street is bearing the traffic flow from Mylapore to Mandaveli. Marshals managing the outbound traffic to Adyar coming via Srinivasa Avenue well and traffic coming from main R K Mutt Road

Srinivasa Avenue Road is 'one way' for outgoing traffic and is being managed well by traffic marshalls.

## ● WARREN ROAD, V. C. GARDENS PROBLEMS

Warren Road is now a bus route. Traffic Police will probably review the situation in a week.

The main issue in V C Gardens is, most of the houses there don't have a parking space. So cars and bikes of such houses are parked on the road. With shops all along the side, vehicles get parked in front of them. It becomes a nightmare to ride down this road. The same is the case with Warren Road which is also an alternative route to reach Mylapore/ Mandaveli. With too many shops there and two wheelers parked, it gets difficult to ride freely here.

– Sid



## MANDAVELIPAKKAM VOICES?

Residents of Mandaveli / Mandavelipakkam met at a private hall on Jan.10 evening at a hurriedly-called meet by Chennai Metro staff and local area police to discuss issues arising out of traffic movement changes that have been set on past Sunday.

The focus was local – Mandaveli and Mandavelipakkam. Doctors who manage clinics / hospitals in this zone highlighted their woes –

BSS Hospital's Dr Harish said access to BSS is cut off now. A patient suffered heart attack in Mandaveli He had to be redirected to Billroth and was attended him there

Dr Biswakumar said access to his clinic in R K Mutt Road ( Mandaveli section) is cut off; he suggests that traffic be allowed from Solaiappan Mudali street into R K Mutt Road , then take a right to reach the R K Mutt road junction. Better access, he suggested.

Dr Narendran said that he has now observed that from South Canal Bank Road to Greenways Road – while in the past it took 10 minutes, now it takes 50 minutes. He sought a better solution.

Traffic police say they will visit all the possible route diversions suggested by doctors and residents, work along with CMRL and look at offering a better facility.

## WHY PUBLIC MEETS AT SHORT NOTICE?

Mandaveli resident Ravi Nandyala says – the intent of the Mandavelipakkam meeting was good. But if such a meeting is called for in a matter of few hours and the public is expected to come with the problems and solutions, I think it is very unreasonable. Either they make a note of the issues and go back to their drawing boards or give adequate time for people to think through the solutions.

Such meets can be held on weekends when people can take time off from office / home and air their grievances.

## WHERE IS THE MLA? WHERE IS GCC OFFICERS?

Nothing much is spoken about having citizens' feedback meets in other zones of Mylapore; one meet was held in Luz, focussed on hawkers / shop owners' issues. But meets for people of Abiramapuram / Alwarpet, R. H. Road and Mylapore?

This far, Chennai Metro seems to have paid little attention on how its must reach out to communities even as its rolls out its plans. It does not have a Community Officer to collaborate with residents. The Mylapore MLA and councillors are not seen yet in the middle of the issue. Chennai Corporation's zone officers are not in the middle of this.

## WHAT CANNOT GREENWAYS ROAD BE USED?

Every other Mylaporean engaged with the Metro issues ask - why isn't traffic routed through the Greenways Road - TTK Road corridor which is wide and free. Is it because this zone of VIPs and state ministers is being saved of heavy traffic and pollution? Metro and Police officers are silent on this.







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## Prayer, games and treats: for parish children

By Juliana Sridhar

Children had the day for themselves at this church in the last week of 2023; for some prayer and some fun and games and then, treats.

Our Lady of Guidance Church in R. A. Puram observed Holy Innocents Day on Dec.28, a day in the Catholic church calendar marked in remembrance of what was a mass killing of babies in Bethlehem ordered by king Herod in his quest to locate baby Jesus and have him killed.

There was a special Mass conducted for the children of the parish.

Parish priest Fr Y. F. Bosco said that some 80 children attended Mass. The children's choir sang at the Mass. It was followed by carol singing.

In the evening, games were conducted for the children. The programme began with a prayer led by deacon Thomas Deepak. The children indulged in games like Bombing the City, Musical Chairs, Treasure Hunt, Lemon and Spoon.

Later, a Bible Quiz was conducted by deacon Thomas Deepak.

Present at this event were the catechism teachers, parents of the students and the youths of the parish who helped out as volunteers.

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