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MYLAPORE TIMES

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Celebrating Thiruvalluvar

Last Sunday morning (Jan.22), a large group of people, mostly women, took out a procession from Valluvar statue on Royapettah High Road, to the temple dedicated to Valluvar in Mylapore, to mark Thiruvalluvar Day. 108 women carried pots filled with milk and at the temple, an abishekam was conducted. This event, organised annually by the Ulaga Valluvar Kula Sangam could not be held on Thiruvalluvar Day because permission for the procession was late in coming.



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NOOKS

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Name of the shop: Selvi Stores
Address: 66, North Mada Street, Mylapore. Owner: S Raja
Phone no: 9444386118, 9551600725 Timings: 10 am to 8 pm. (all days).



Selvi Stores sells the traditional grinding stones that are manually used in the kitchen and made out of stone.

Endiram-thirugai also called chakki or raaikkal and items like aattural, ammi are available in varying sizes that can be fitted/ placed in your kitchen or in the backyard of your house. The endiram with the rotating handle is used to make paruppu podi, idli podi, to make coarse dhal and grain rava, various powders and to halve whole pulses. The handy mortar pestle, called idi kal, to crush spices, made of stone is also available in various sizes. Also sold here are miniatures of all these items - you can display these in show cases or let kids play with them or use them for pooja purposes. A 10 inch thirugai endiram costs Rs 1500. These stone items are sourced from Coimbatore region.

The store also sells kalchatti used for cooking - to make kuzhambu - and eeyachombu, made out of tin, for making rasam.

- Report by V. Soundararani

📧 **SHARE details of your area's Nook that may be useful to all. Mail 3 lines - mytimesedit@gmail.com**

CHECK THIS

DANCES AT SRI KAPALI TEMPLE

Watch some of India's best classical dancers perform in Mylapore. At Sri Kapali Temple. A dance festival hosted by Sridevi Nrithyalaya. On Jan.28, 7 pm is Neena Prasad's Mohiniattam, on Jan.29 is Shreejith Krishna's dance repertory's Bharatanatyam production, 7 pm and on Jan.30 is the host's popular dance drama, 'Sivamayam', directed by guru Sheela Unnikrishnan. Open to all.



NEW VOICES IN CARNATIC MUSIC

If you want to listen to some new talent in Carnatic music then head to the concerts of the 37th anniversary festival of Sarvani Sangeetha Sabha being held at Raga Sudha Hall, Luz, starting Friday. Concerts at 4 pm and 6 pm on the weekend. On Sunday, from 6 pm, there is Thyagaraja Raga Ratnamalika, a thematic tribute to saint-composer Thyagaraja by the Ranjani group from Hyderabad. 12 artistes will perform in this special concert.



ON LIFE AND PHILOSOPHY

This is the focus of a talk themed 'Facets of Inquiry, Into the Self and the World' by swami Chidananda, trustee, Krishnamurti Foundation of India. It is on at the KFI campus, Vasant Vihar - at 124, Greenways Road. On Jan.28, 5.30 pm onwards. The talk will be followed by questions from the audience. Open to all.

ON PADAMS AND JAVALIS

Madhuradhwani hosts a presentation on 'Padams and Javalis' by artistes Kiranavali Vidyasankar, Chitravina P Ganesh and Akshara Samskriti, with Arunachala Karthika on violin and Man-narkoil J Balaji on mridangam. At Arkay Centre, Luz. Open to all. On Feb.2, 6.15 pm onwards.

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Sri Madhava Perumal Temple: Balalayam event postponed

By S. Prabhu

The Balalayam event at Sri Madhava Perumal temple that had been fixed for February 1 has been postponed. This would signal the start for renovation work on this temple.

Chief Priest Sundara Bhattar who had earlier this month told *Mylapore Times* about the event being fixed for Feb 1 confirmed on Thursday that it had been postponed and would not be held next Wednesday.

An official at the temple told *Mylapore Times* on Friday morning that the HR & CE minister P. Sekar Babu who is currently in Palani for the consecration event is expected to be present for the Balalayam and the date would be fixed



File photo

accordingly but he confirmed that this event would be take place in Thai and that the renovation activities would start soon after.

A source indicated that the Balalayam event may be held on Feb 3 or 10.

The TVS group's promoter Venu Srinivasan would be carrying out the renovation work.

Srinivasa Ladies Club's annual day on Feb.4



The 52nd anniversary celebrations of Srinivasa Ladies Club functioning from Jeth Nagar is to be held on February 4 evening at Kalyan Nagar Association in Mandavelipakkam. Actor-story-teller Revathi Sankkaran is the chief guest.

Contact Hemamalini Ramakrishnan, secretary – 98847 50196

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VINCENT's JOTTINGS

By VINCENT D' SOUZA

When we resided off Mount Road in the 1960s and 70s, there were a few places I haunted. New Elphinstone Theatre, Bata showroom, Mount Road Post office, Christ Church School, Buharis restaurant and Higginbothams.

The walk from home to Higginbothams took about 20 minutes and there were many eye-catchers along the way which took our minds off the sweat. You could spend as much time as you wanted in this bookstore, even read a few pages of a book you liked and nobody asked you nasty questions!

Some years ago, when I dropped in at the vintage bookstore, there was a dullness all around. Work on Chennai Metro was on at a furious pace and this had disrupted all the businesses on Mount Road, now called Anna Salai.

"We hope the new rail line will bring us new customers," the store manager had told me. What he was hoping for was for book-lovers from all parts of the city visiting Higginbothams once access by the Metro was made easy and simple and cheap.

Mount Road has revived but it is not anymore, the buzz road that it once was.

Chennai Metro projects are underway in many zones of our city. Phase Two is an ambitious one, with one line running north-south and another, east-west. And once these lines are in operation, mobility is going to be great.

What interests me, and will for all those who take great interest in this city, are the changes that are brought about by such large civic projects. They change the face of our neighbourhoods.

Earlier this week, I had to shop at a place in the middle of TTK Road in Alwarpet. I got there close to 7 p.m. There was a strange silence all around me, this in a zone which was not too long ago a bustling channel of vehicles and a hub for retail stores. Massive barricades on two sides of the road enclosed civil work on the local station for Chennai Metro that would come up, two buildings had been brought down and many more would be shaved off in the weeks to follow.

Changes are also taking place in Luz and on Kutcheri Road, on Luz Church Road and off TTK Road, as they are in other parts of the city. And if you are familiar with these areas, you may have noticed that shops you frequented, apartments where your friends used to reside and hawkers who used to serve your needs have all gone or will soon disappear.

The Marina off Queen Mary's College and the TN Police Headquarters is already looking different, with giant cranes and massive barricades dominating this skyline. Imagine what this beach area will look like when the Metro stations, parking lots and newly-designed zones come up.

The changes are immense. Reason why I have been asking city-based freelance photographers to document the changes that are taking place in the city because of Chennai Metro. Can you imagine what Luz Circle (which is to be the intersection of two Metro rail lines) will look like in 2025?



LETTERS FROM READERS

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

Lovely Quilts

I was among the privileged ones to visit the Quilt Exhibition at Sri Sankara Hall, Alwarpet. The theme at the entrance read - 'Lonely Planet.' The thirty plus exhibits that included the Lode Star representations and the competition entries made me wonder how lovely it is to be in the midst of such remarkable quilters, who are passionate about their art.

The square inch quilts by the 'Inchworms' were simply mind boggling and left me and my friends in quite a trance.

Kudos to the organising team and the hobbyists whom we had the opportunity to meet at the venue.

- Hema Ravi



Mylapore Festival: traffic regulations needed

As usual the organisers of Mylapore Festival did a reasonably good job in conducting this festival. As usual, the best were the kolam competitions held in North Mada Street.

The only snag was the organisers opened traffic in North Mada Street at 5 p.m., instead of 6 p.m. and the kolangs became alankolams in no time.

Moreover, two-way traffic was allowed on all the Mada Streets and even on Mathalakaran Street, which affected pedestrians. Traffic Police could devise ways to regulate traffic during the Mylapore Festival.

- N. Mahadevan,

Ambulances cause noise pollution here

There is intense noise pollution in and around Luz Church Road mostly contributed by passing ambulances. This is true at all times of day and night. Some kind of regulation is urgently required to tackle this issue. It affects people who reside here.

- K. Shanti Kumar

Plea to MTC: bus shelter

The bus stop on 2nd Main Road, R A Puram from the Madaveli to Nandanam/Guindy side definitely needs a good shelter. The commuters here find it very difficult to stand on the platform under the sun or during rain, while waiting for MTC buses.

We request MTC authorities to provide a bus shelter there for the benefit of all.

- S. S. Krishnan

Issues at Sri Kapali Temple

Recently, the authorities at Sri Kapaleeswarar Temple set up barricades between the entry and exit points in the Kapaleeshwarar and Karpagambal sannidhis and so, devotees were not able to make more than one pradhakshanam. This is not right. We ask the staff to stick to the old arrangement.

- Bhaskaran Pattabiraman

Lonely senior citizens

There are many senior citizens living all by themselves in apartments in the neighbourhood, be it R. A. Puram, Alwarpet or Mylapore and San Thome. Many are single. While they can source food and medicines and rations, these people do not have company. They would like to step out for some fresh air and conversation. They would like to walk around a park with some physical help. Also, meet some friendly people.

But they need young volunteers who can lend a hand. And we don't have them. I wonder if a voluntary group can be launched on an experimental basis in our area to address this issue.

- R. Usha

MY STORY



My Experiences at the Mylapore Festival

By NANDINI KOUSHIK

"Let's visit the Mylapore Festival this year!," said my mom with a beaming face.

I was puzzled as to what it was all about. I had been there when I was much younger, but I didn't remember much. I was looking forward to the experience.

I went there on a Friday evening (the Festival was held from Jan.5 to 8) with my mom, my grandmother and my li'l sister.

With stalls on both sides of the road, and a festive atmosphere throughout, it was a sight to watch. We had some snacks at the Food Street (on Sundareswarar Street) and also clicked a

photo at the photobooth, watched the concert that was on at the main stage and walked through all the four Mada Streets. It was fun! The next day, from the list of events for kids, I was interested in the Storytelling session for kids by historian Pradeep Chakravathy

at the Kapaleeshwarar Temple.

'As the tour hasn't started yet, why don't we go and see the Kolam competition?' suggested my mother. A section of North Mada Street was decorated with Kolams on both sides, both white rice kolams and ones with colours. Loved the designs and symmetry of the kolams on display!

The storytelling event started at the temple and Pradeep Chakravathy Sir started with some super interesting stories about the Hindu gods. He spoke on how according to the Rig Veda, Indra and Agni were the first gods and in the later

versions of the Vedas, Shiva and Vishnu were considered the first Gods. Interesting!

He also spoke about how Lord Shiva's temple in Mylapore came to be known as Kapaleeshwarar Temple, about Thirugnanasambandar poems on the area, and lots more. I listened to them with rapt attention and had many questions, of course!

He told us about the Punnai tree, how Nature teaches us, humans, lessons and lots more. In the end, I also drew a sketch of the temple mandapam and showed it to my folks at home! 'Thank you for the interesting stories, sir. We really enjoyed them,' I told Pradeep Sir.

We went through some other streets that we missed the previous days, took home some lovely and simple toys for my sister and me, and loads of happy memories! This experience remains fresh in my mind and I can't wait to visit this Festival next year too!

● Nandini Koushik is a 9-year-old based in Delhi. She loves reading books, playing football and trying new tunes on her keyboard.



Jambunathan and Visalakshi honoured by MLA for community work

By Baskar Seshadri

Jambunathan and his wife Visalakshi were recently honoured by Mylapore MLA, Dha Velu at the Pongal celebrations of the community at Kallukaran Street, Mylapore.

Also honoured on this occasion was Appu, a social worker who runs an NGO. Jambunathan is a senior citizen and keen civic activist; with a small residents group including Appu, has changed the face of his street and a lane adjoining it, which used to stink, was unclean and had limited lighting.

His wife works alongside him in their local projects. Jambusir, as he is fondly called, was an employee of State Bank of India and Visalakshi was a chemistry teacher at Vidya Mandir.

Seethamma Colony community organises Pongal mela



Seethamma Colony Residents Association (SCRA) hosted a community Pongal celebration on January 15 evening.

The entire colony wore a festive look. Residents, the young, the adults and seniors competed in fun games like sack races, lemon and spoon and skipping .

The Association had also organised snacks stalls and fun activities like balloon shooting and bouncing castle for children. Professional artistes then performed tharai thappattai and folk dances, the highlight of the evening.

The chief guest for the event was Chennai Corporation Commissioner, Gagandeep Singh Bedi; other officials from GCC were also present.

The Association and residents thanked the state government and Bedi for solving the two-decade-long flooding problem that plagued the colony by implementing a technically sound stormwater drainage network.

The Association received sponsorship for this event from Dr. M. G. R. Educational and Research Institute.

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PONGAL CREATIONS

Mylapore Times announced a surprise contest for the best designed kolams / rangolis on Pongal festival day. Some 50 entries were received. Six people / teams were chosen for a prize - an ink illustration of Mylapore landmark. Here are the people who created great designs.

- Jayanthi of MRC Nagar
- Lavanya and Team at S&S Ishaan, R.H. Road, Mylapore
- Saraswathy Velmurugan, Mandaveli.
- Rajee Prakash, Kennedy 1st St.,
- Children at GRN Jeevan Bheema Enclave, Rajasekaran Street, Mylapore
- Annapoorna C., Nadu Street, Mylapore



Obituary

Arts promoter, curator and the man who was best known for the annual December Season Concerts Guide, **S. Kannan** passed away on Jan. 26.

He was a resident of Mylapore.

A Bank of Baroda staffer, Kannan was deeply involved in the classical performing arts and in heritage projects and was a member of a few city-based arts organisations. Besides directing the paths of the bodies he was involved in, he would also emcee events and help some sabhas to curate their festivals.

But his foremost labour of love was to compile and publish in one pocket-book of some 200 pages, all the music concerts of all the sabhas in the city who held festivals during the December Season. In course of time, arts promoter Nalli Kuppaswamy lent support to publish and circulate this book. This was the must-have book for rasikas.

Said artiste Ramkumar R. in an online tribute – Kannan Sathyamurthy S sir's passing away today is like the end of an era. He selflessly and passionately worked every year to bring out the Nalli Season Reckoner that was referred to by so many for December music season concert schedules. He was even called Nalli Kannan by many. Vikram K. Raghavan and I had the good fortune of working with him and assisting him in bringing out the book for a few years when we were running kutcheris.com.

Added Ramakrishnan of Arkay Centre, "Kannan was our asthana vidwan and helped us curate music festivals and he did this very quietly."

Kannan was also a founding member of Tamil Heritage Trust and of Natyarangam, the dance wing of Narada Gana Sabha.

Said K. Harishankar of Narada Gana Sabha, "He had a good eye to spot young talented artists and attended almost all music and dance concerts by youngsters who were mostly unknown to him. He also used to recommend them to organisers."

He lived in Sundaram Apartments, Anandapuram, off Dr. Ranga Road, Mylapore.

Lions Club hosts Pongal event for students of CSI School for the Deaf

Lions Club of Chennai Pattinam celebrated Pongal festival at CSI School for the Deaf at San Thome on January 13. Club members organised Rangoli and Pongal-making competitions for the students; their parents and teachers participated.

An inter-school volley ball competition was also held at this campus, Teams of St Bedes, St Marys and Don Bosco participated and the Don Bosco school team was the winner.

The traditional uri breaking competition was also held and it generated some fun. The Club presented awards and prizes to the winners of the competitions.

The club also presented a geyser to the school hostel at the event.





Teppam in Chitrakulam

By S. Prabhu

Last Saturday evening, Sri Athi Kesava Perumal made his way from the temple on a procession to the Chitrakulam for the start of the five-day Thai Theppotsavam (January 21 to 25). A steady stream of devotees had the darshan of the Lord on the float for well over an hour.

The Sripatham personnel helped a few devotees get on to the float on the south side to have a closer darshan of Kesava Perumal.

Since there is sufficient water in the temple tank, holding the float festival was easy.

A fire engine was stationed on the west side of the Chitrakulam as a safeguard measure to meet any emergency.



Chilled ilaneer payasam, cold filter coffee

Photo V. Soundararani



- Report by V. Soundararani

Hak & Chill, a two-month old venture, sells chilled ilaneer payasam, special Badam milk and cold filter coffee in 200 ml plastic bottles, providing Mylaporeans shopping on South Mada Street a place to cool off.

These are the only items sold here. The space is neat and well-designed too. The beverages cooling refrigeration boxes here are stocked with the bottles.

The drinks can be carried home or one can enjoy them here. Each 200 ml bottle of any type costs Rs 80. Ilaneer payasam is made from tender coconut water, tender coconut kernel and milk and sugar.

Badam milk is from badam, carrot, milk and sugar. Cold coffee has 85/15 coffee chicory filter decoction.

The shop's caretaker says the drinks can be kept unrefrigerated for two hours before consuming and needed deep freezing to preserve. "This is because no preservative is used. All that we use are natural ingredients", says the owner of the shop, M. A. Kaliesraj.

He says they use Heritage full cream milk.

This business is an extension of the famed MAK Bajji shop in Triplicane. The Mylapore shop is open all days of the week from 10 am to 8.30 pm. At 11, South Mada Street (close to Narasu's Coffee), Mylapore. Phone: 48640153.

Note: There is also a 'MAK n Patksan' shop belonging to the same business next door; this place sells traditional murukku and thattai, sweets and snacks and podis and thokku.

The Children's Club Society
213, Venkatachalam Street, Mylapore, Chennai 600004

Annual Open Competitions for Children
February 4, 2023 – Saturday
Story-telling – Junior (Std. I to IV)
Vocal Bhajan - Junior & Senior
Folk Music – Senior Group (Std. V to IX)
February 5, 2023 – Sunday
Vocal Carnatic – Junior & Senior
Violin / Flute Carnatic – Senior
Poetry Recitation - Senior
Entries close on January 31, 2023
For entry forms & other details please contact:
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Visit : www.childrenclubchennai.in
E mail: childrenclub1947@gmail.com

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2023 - Sri Rama Navami Celebration

Date	Discouse	Topic
27.1.23 to 4.2.23	Brahma Sri Dr. B. Sundar Kumar	Vyasa Bharatham (Contd.)
6.2.23 to 11.2.23	Smt Dr. Sudha Seshyan	Abhirami Andhadhi
12.2.23 to 19.2.23	Sengalipuram Brahmasri Damodhara Dikshithar	Sri Rudram
20.2.23 to 28.2.23	Sengalipuram Brahmasri Sankara Rama Dikshithar	Desavatharam
1.3.23 to 9.3.23	Thirumylai Karpagalakshmi Suresh	Saptha Aadhara Sthalangal
10.3.23 to 16.3.23	Sri Kidambi Narayanan	Srimad Bhagavatham - Dasamaskandham
17.3.23 to 22.3.23	Sri Krishna Ganapadigal	Srimad Valmiki Ramayanam
23.3.23 to 29.3.23	Sengalipuram Brahmasri Damodhara Dikshithar	Sani Peyarchi Programme
30.3.23	Sri Krishna Ganapadigal	Sri Rama Pattabishekam

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- **CORNER** plot old house 3400 sq.ft., R. A. Puram, near Sangeetha hotel. Contact: 7550028101, 9445313939, 9840142678
- **MYLAPORE**, New Street, 678 sq.ft., individual house, builtup area ground plus 1st floor, 1200 sq.ft., 2 borepumps, V. Good condition, Rs. 1.33 crore. Contact: 7358692101
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- GOPALAPURAM, near DAV School, 1600 sq.ft., 3 BHK, first floor, 1 CCP, Rs. 45K. Alwarpet, gated community flat, 2 BHK, 1000 sq.ft., 1 CP, Rs. 35K. Ph: 9884137904
- R. A. PURAM, 1700 sq.ft., 3 BR, CCP, lift, power backup, Rs. 45000. 1000 sq.ft., 2 BR, lift, CP, Rs. 31000. Mylapore, 900 sq.ft., 2 BR, lift, Rs. 20000. 1000 sq.ft., 3 BR, Rs. 22000. 680 sq.ft., 2 BR, Rs. 15000. Ph: 9841983231
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How Scrabble is making students at QMC excited, better skilled

The college principal and faculty hosted a Scrabble Grandmaster who sees the game as activity based learning

By Our Edit Team

Can the game of Scrabble improve skills among college students who hail from rural and semi-rural areas? Faculty at the English Department at Queen Mary's College, Mylapore say 'yes'.

Their positive outlook flows from the outcome of a campus-based Scrabble tournament held recently.



The M.K. Subramaniam Memorial Inter-departmental Tournament was held at QMC on December 29 and was organised with a view to provide an opportunity for beginners in Scrabble to take stock of their prowess in the game.

Head of the English Department, Maria Preethi Srinivasan says Scrabble literacy arrived on campus in August 2022, when Scrabble Grandmaster Ranganatha Chakravarthy visited the campus on a Scrabble mission, as it were.

Chakravarthy who is currently ranked 4th in India and was ranked 16th in the World Scrabble Championship held in Nairobi in 2017, visits schools and colleges to impress upon teaching faculty the significance of Scrabble as "activity based learning".

He explains how the game is played and the skills involved. When he visited Queen Mary's College, the Principal Dr. B. Uma Maheswari recognized an opportunity to make students actively involve themselves in vocabulary acquisition.

Maria Preethi says it took just a few minutes of playing Scrabble with Chakravarthy for the principal and the faculty of the Department of English to realize that Scrabble literacy had to be pursued seriously on campus.

Currently 1600 of the 6000 students on campus are Scrabble literate, thanks to the regular visits of Chakravarthy. The plan which was unfolded is to follow up every phase of the Scrabble Literacy Programme (SLP) with a Train the Trainer (TTT) for students who want to hone their skills in Scrabble.

The Train the Trainer was held in September 2022. Between August and December 2022, a group of Scrabble enthusiasts had emerged and the M.K. Subramaniam Memorial Scrabble Tournament witnessed enthusiastic participation from 82 students across various disciplines in QMC.

Cash prizes to the tune of Rs. 5000 were distributed among the top ten and the M.K. Subramaniam Rolling Trophy went to the department with the most winners in the tourney. The trophy for 2022-'23 went to the Department of English.

This event is slated to be an annual event.

Maria Preethi, HoD of English, says Scrabble has transformed the 'eduscape' at QMC. "The transformation of students, who were once oblivious of the dictionary as a treasure, to logophiles, is indeed an achievement worth talking about," she adds.



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Photo: Venkateswaran Radhaswamy

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