

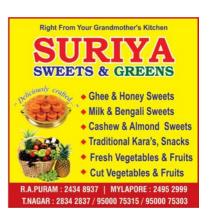
MYLAPORE TIMES

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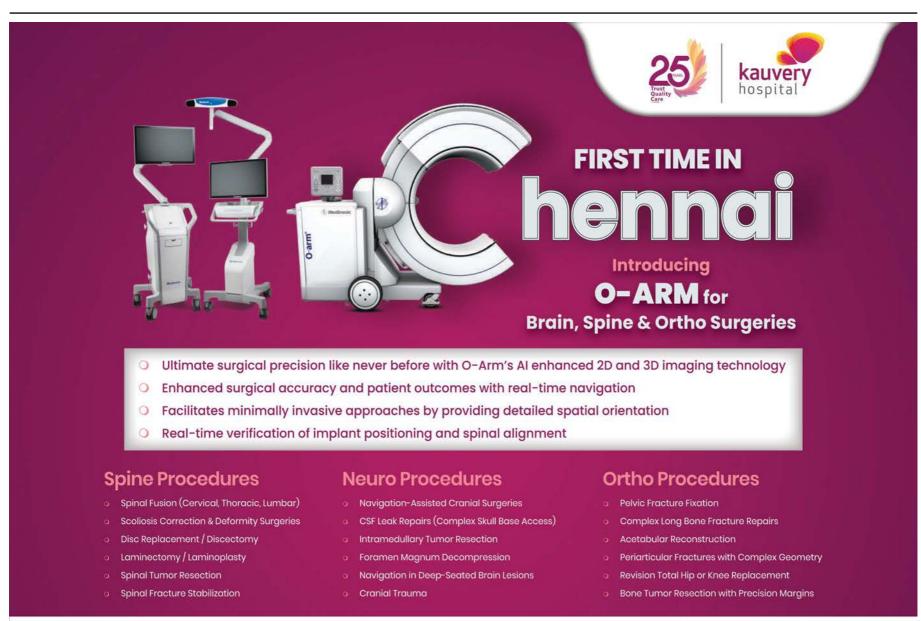
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The college principal, faculty and students of Queen Mary's College campus celebrated the 111th anniversary of this college by the Marina on July 14. A blue-white combo of balloons-decorated backdrop was the setting for the simple event held near the Pillayar temple. The event was organised by the SOAS (Staff and Old Students Association) of QMC and is an annual affair.















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MADRAS-COLOMBO REGATTA: JULY 19

The 84th Madras-Colombo Regatta is being hosted by Madras Boat Club on Saturday, July 19 from 2 p.m. onwards.

One of the world's oldest inter-club rowing events, this regatta will see a historic on-water rivalry between India and Sri Lanka sportspeople. First held in 1898, the Madras-Colombo Regatta is widely regarded as one of the oldest international inter-club rowing regattas in the world, preceded only by the Oxford–Cambridge and Harvard–Yale races.

This year's regatta will feature fiercely contested races in the men's and women's categories across single scull, double scull, coxless pair, and the coxed fours.

PERCUSSION STUDENTS ON STAGE



The 23rd annual celebrations of Jus Drums School of Percussion, based in Alwarpet is a two-day affair: on July 18 and 19 at TAG-MFAC auditorium, Mylapore.

On July 19, 6.30 pm onwards, seniors and juniir students of Jus Drums will perform on stage. All are welcome

COMPETITIONS FOR COLLEGE STUDENTS

The Mylapore Academy is conducting inter-collegiate oratorical competitions at Sringeri Pravachana Mandiram, R. A. Puram (near Mandaveli MRTS Station). Six topics given include 1. Non Violence and Ahimsa –Its Relevance in the Modern Age 2. Corruption free India – What needs to be done? 3. Is India emerging as a Global Economic Power? The contests are in English, Tamil, Telugu, Malayalam and in Hindi. On Aug. 2, 3 and 4.

There are also contests in Carnatic music and in Sanskrit recitation.

Apply/ for details - themylaporeacademy@gmail.com

SANJAY SUBRAHMANYAN CONCERT: FUNDRAISER. JULY 20



'Nalam Tharum Nadam' is a themed concert by Sanjay Subrahmanyan who will be performing at Narada Gana Sabha main hall on July 20 evening 5 to 7:30pm.

This is a fundraiser to support Thirumalai Mission Hospital (TMH), in Ranipet.

Tickets are on sale at www.mdnd.in

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EVENTS FOR SENIORS. AT ALWARPET

Dignity Foundation events for seniors continue through the week. They all start at 11 a.m. Here is a check list -

July 22 (Tuesday) - Fun Games July 23 (Wednesday) -Yoga. July 24 (Thursday) -My Favourite Book & Author - discussion. July 25 (Friday) -My Childhood Memories (online event).

At Srinivasa Gandhi Nilayam, No.332, Ambujammal street, off TTK Road. Registration is free. Contact -7395938954, 7550207456

CONCERT BY ANAHITA & APOORVA

One of the concerts at Arkay Centre, Luz. On Saturday, July 19, 6.15pm

Madhuradhwani presents a concert themed on Oothukkadu Venkata Subbaiyer compositions.

Anahita and Apoorva - vocal duet / Deepika Venkatraman / violin /Kishore Ramesh mridangam / H. Prasanna ghatam

MYLAPORE TIMES

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Lots of religious items collected at special drive

By Baskar Seshadri

The effort to collect old religious items last Sunday was a success with a big response . This was evident in the boxes of materials piled up at the venue – Subbi Chetty Choultry in Chitrakulam zone, Myl-

Most donations were photo frames, calendars, painting works and pooja items. Four lorries were hired to ship the items to a place in Tambaram where they will be sorted out and recycled.



Many volunteers were from Bangalore, some IT professionals. The collection centre hall was packed by noon time.

The event was organised by Kamakshi Samskriti Trust and a Rotary unit of Bengaluru The trustees said they wish to conduct similar events in other parts of Chennai like Nanganallur and Triplicane in the days to come if they get a sponsor to support the event.

New public library for R. A. Puram

By Baskar Seshadri

A new library complex has been planned in place of the existing one in R. A. Puram, the location diagonally opposite Sangeetha restaurant. The plan shows this new block to be a ground plus one building.

The old library block was demolished and a puja was held recently to start work on the Authority (LLA) manages all these libraries.

The MLA, who was present at the puja, ect. State minister Sekar Babu, who is in charge of CMDA, inaugurated the bhoomi

The construction is expected to be over in



new project planned by CMDA. Local Library said he has allotted funds for this proj-

January 2026

ஸ்ரீ ராஜராஜேஸ்வரி அருள்வாக்கு சித்தர் பீடம் ஸ்ரீலஸ்ரீ ரகுராம அடிகாளர்

சென்னை மைலாப்பூர் விஜயம் பிரதி திங்கள், செவ்வாய், புதன், வியாழன் மட்டும் **இ**டம் : ஓட்டல் கற்பகம், தெற்கு மாடவீதி, குளக்கரை எதிரில், மைலாப்பூர், சென்னை கல்வி, பதவி, தொழில், திருமணம், வாரிசு, குடும்ப ஒற்றுமை, செல்வச்செழிப்பு, கடன் நிவர்த்தி, வியாதிகள் அகல,

சொந்த தொழில் லாபம் பெடுக, உயர் பதவியும், அதிசீக்கிரத்தில் கஷ்டங்கள் அகலவும், ஜாதகத்தில் உள்ள அனைத்து தோஷங்கள் அகலவும், சகல நலன்கள் பெறவும். ஜாதகம்**, அ**டுள்வாக்கு தரிசனம் பெற உடனே பதிவு செய்து வரவும்.

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VINCENT's JOTTINGS

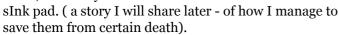
By VINCENT D' SOUZA

There's a bit of animal and bird life in all our backyards. Step out of your apartment or house and walk around, noiselessly. Observe. Give this time. After all, we aren't in the Vandalur Zoo or inside Guindy Park now.

The ants are all over in my small campus of apartments. They are not running wild. They have order. Some

wild. They have order. Some at the feet of the wild bamboo. Some on and off the north boundary wall, some on the trunk of the lone mango tree . . .

The spiders seem to choose jolly spaces - imagine catching them inside the cooker and the kadai, left to dry on the kitchen



The fish in the two cement troughs outside our kitchen window seem jolly too when we drop some feed; but I suspect the pesky pigeons who excrete like oil pumps, snap up the coloured fish even as they satiate their thirst. (I have been introducing now and then, twenty-rupees orange-coloured fish whose name I do not want to know or remember, to see them live long but they disappear!

The garden lizards sometimes stun me; it has been that way since my childhood days when their heads turned red and their stares got me. They seem to have a procreating season which I have not studied. All that I have observed as I break from writing and walk around the campus are some baby lizards whose tails match their body size.

The butterflies are all solo. As are the bees.

I don't think we can count the lizards inside flats as part of this world. By the looks of it, I've got a Ruskin Bond-kinda story worming its way between social media posts.

Meanwhile, the rains have washed up those pesky snails that everybody dislikes. Are these the ones that somehow migrated from South America?

Birder-author-historian Theodore Baskaran posted last week that some 15 years ago, on the outskirts of Bangalore where they resided, they counted 46 birds; today, that list is limited. You have stories on what it is like in Chennai?

LETTERS FROM READERS

E-MAIL your letters to - mytimesedit@gmail.com.
Provide full name and short address.
This column also contains comments posted on our social media pages.

Roadside eateries mushroom in temple zone

The surge of roadside eateries, particularly near the east side of Sri Kapaleeshwar Temple, is spoiling the sanctity of the place. While convenient,



their unchecked growth creates visual pollution from litter, environmental degradation from improper waste disposal, and disrupts the peaceful atmosphere.

onus is more on the customers who must be mindful about where they buy food, avoiding stalls too close to the temple. They must prioritise vendors with visible

hygiene, demand proper waste disposal, and consider carrying reusable items to reduce waste. Vendors must act responsibly with respect to the place they serve.

- Karthikeyan G.

Sangeetha restaurant's 40 years

■ Many congratulations to Sangeetha restaurant on completing 40 years. My all-time favourite at Mylapore is the cone ice cream.

- Dhanalakshmi D. G.

■ Congratulations Sangeetha, for the fabulous forty. My first visit to Sangeetha was in April 1989. They never disappoint even after 40 years. The Mylapore outlet remains my favourite, especially Pongal, medu vadai and coffee.

- Sudhakar Srinivasan

■ Sangeetha in Mylapore is our family's favourite spot and I think it is the best restaurant in this area.

- Shanthi Vijayan

Remembering Jaya teacher

My hearty congratulations to my dear Jaya teacher (Prof. N. S. Jayalakshmi) who is the kindest and friendliest dance teacher I have personally encountered. She was a dear friend to several of her students at Kalakshetra since the 1950s.

- P. N. Srkant

Stiff school fees: poor cannot afford

I wish to raise the issue of exorbitant fees charged by the government-aided / private schools in San Thome area, in recent times. This was not the case many years ago, when I was a student at St. Antony's in the 1980s. Most of these schools are now patronised by families from the lower income group, who are unable to afford the fees, but are forced to borrow heavily to pay.

For example, San Thome High School charges Rs. 20,000 for Standard VI - and asks for the whole amount to be paid in May itself. For Std. X - the fee is Rs. 19,000. Fatima School (inside Our Lady of Guidance Church campus) charges Rs. 25,000 for Standard IV - and it can be paid in instalments.

Bon Secours School (Eng. medium; located next to St. Anthony's School) is charging Rs. 30,000 for Std VI. St. Antony's seems to be the most affordable and lenient of the lot - charging Rs. 15,000 for Std IV - but those who cannot afford, can pay Rs. 5000 initially and the rest of the amount later.

- Fabiola Jacob

You can WhatsApp Letters to this Newspaper. But mention name and short address in the Letter.

Our WA contact: 7305630727

MYLAPORE REWIND

This column carries excerpts from Mylapore Times, 1995 onwards. This week, we focus on Dec.1995 - Jan.1996

New Year sales frenzy in Mylapore (Dec. 30, 1995–Jan. 5, 1996)

The New Year sale frenzy has descended on Mylaporeans, with shops in Mylapore having a lot on offer. At Vivek & Co. on R H Road, it will be a one-day affair on January 1. Said Konthadaraman Shetty, owner of Vivek & Co., "It will be a no-profit sale. We want to do something for our customers." According to him, washing machines top the purchase list, followed by colour TVs, refrigerators, music systems and mixies. Smaller, newer outlet G R Enterprises on Venkatesa Agraharam Road, Mylapore, opened its "cost price only sale" on December 22. Vasanth & Co, Luz Corner

(Kutchery Road side), is offering gifts to customers. Its manager T. Krishnadas said it was the first time the Mylapore branch was joining the New Year sale game.

Conman uses tamarind to

cheat people (Dec. 30, 1995–Jan. 5, 1996)
A Mylapore resident wrote to Mylapore Times about a conman who can make limbs of vigrahams move. He wins people's confidence by getting the limbs of a brass Vinayakar vigraham to move. He makes predictions and charges a fee for it. He

then performs a small exercise, soaking a small tamarind ball with a tiny piece of jewellery such as a ring or a gold coin in a stainless vessel filled with water, the let-

ter said. He then sprinkles water and vibhuti on the tamarind ball. Next, he asks for another ball of tamarind into which to transfer the jewellery. He asks his guests to close their eyes. And when the transfixed people open their eyes, the jewellery has been transferred to the trickster's pocket and he slips away.

Wisdom Award for Mylaporean,

(Dec. 30, 1995–Jan. 5, 1996)

Mylaporean K. Devanarayanan was among those honoured with the Wisdom Award in Alwarpet recently. The Wisdom Award is given to

K. Devanarayanan receiving Wisdom award

people from varied fields. Devanarayanan received the honour at the Wisdom Awards Festival held on Dec. 15 at Narada Gana Sabha hall. The awards function was presided over by Justice S. Mohan, former judge of the Supreme Court of India. It was inaugurated by Channa Reddy, the governor of Tamil Nadu. The Wisdom Star of India and Sangita Kala Ratna titles were conferred on Carnatic music senior, D. K. Pattammal.

Rotary award for Mani Krishnaswamy (Dec. 30, 1995–Jan. 5, 1996)

Senior Carnatic vocalist Mani Krishnaswamy is in the spotlight - performing and receiving awards this music season. Rotary's 'For the Sake of Honour' is the latest award to come her way. Rotary Club of Madras Marina has honoured her with this award. She was felicitated at a function in Hotel Savera. The Sangita Kalanidhi and Kalaimamani titles decorate Mani Krishnaswamy.

Raapathu utsavam for Vaikunta Ekadasi (Dec. 30, 1995–Jan. 5, 1996)

On the occasion of Vaikunta Ekadasi on January 1, a Raapathu utsavam is being organised at the Madhava Perumal Koil. The utsavam will begin at 7 pm every day. The Raapathu utsavam is a ten-day festival. On January 1, the Paramapada Vaasal Sevai will begin at 5.30 in the morning. The Adi Kesava Perumal, located in Mylapore, is also organising Raapathu on the same days.

This column is curated by Kanaka Cadambi.



Kuppuswami Sastri Research Institute: scholars present papers at Nepal conference

By Our Edit Team

A team of eight scholars from the Kuppuswami Sastri Research Institute (KSRI), Mylapore, was selected to present their original research papers across a wide range of Sanskrit subdisciplines at the 19th World Sanskrit Conference held in late June in Kathmandu, Nepal.

Lots of researchers, educators, and practitioners from over 50 countries participated.

KSRI says that the participation of the Institute's scholars underscores KSRI's strong commitment to advancing Sanskrit scholarship at an international level. These were the scholars and themes of papers presented.

Dr. Yamuna Devi, Direc-

tor-Research - Maintenance and Care of Orphans sans Orphanages - Ancient Indian Laws. Dr. P. C. Muralidharan, Assistant Professor -"Why this Enchanting Smile, O! Lord Rama!" - Query of the Mandasmita Ramayana. Dr. V. Preethi, Assistant Professor - Stridhana - A Concept in Dharmasastra

Dr. K. Vidyuta, assistant professor - Devouts as Divinities: Agama Sanctioned Socio Cultural Metamorphosis. J. Lalitha, former librarian - Strategies for Preserving Our Old Traditions (Palm Leaf Manuscripts). Dr. Annapurna, research associate - Preparation of Mercury from the Text nandakanda Gayathri, Ph.D. scholar – Sammarjani Satakam and the Political Cleansing System.

Bhuvaneswari, Prospective Ph.D. scholar - Pharmacodynamics of Phytoconstituents of Herbal Antidotes to Snakes (Kashyapa Samhita)

In recognition of KSRI's academic merit, Central Sanskrit University (CSU), New Delhi, extended full sponsorship to all eight scholars.

This is the first time in the annals of the KSRI that so many scholars have been given this privilege by the organisers and the CSU, New Delhi, said a note from KSRI









This shop on Mada Street repairs all kinds of electronic goods



By Baskar Seshadri

Pixel Service in Mylapore repairs all kinds of electronic goods like Smart / LCD TVs , Yamaha keyboard , microwave ovens, the Carvaan player, tape recorders and music systems of any brand.

Started in 1991 in Ponnambala Vadhyar Street, Mylapore, this service is managed by brothers Babu and Vedakumar.

Having earned a wide circle of customers with their good and prompt service, Pixel has become a busy spot and now operates on North Mada Street, Mylapore (near Mangollai).

The shop also arranges for staff to visit a residence to examine a product and suggest repairs – for people who cannot transport large TV sets or are seniors who have limited resources.

The shop is open from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. Pixel Service is situated at No 1, North Mada Street, Mylapore. Call 94440 52617 / 99418 62120 . Open on Sunday, mornings only.



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Architect and senior teacher and mentor, **Prof. Solomon Devanand Vedamuthu**, aged 71, a long-time resident of R. A. Puram, passed away on June 25.

Born on February 10, 1954, to George Chelliah Vedamuthu and Margaret Vedamuthu, Solomon spent his early years

in Chennai. His father worked as a private contractor, while his mother ran Veda Kalvi Nilayam, a school in Royapettah that was active until the early 1980s.

His formative years were deeply shaped by his paternal aunts, Ida and Jemima Vedamuthu, both educators, musicians, and former principals of CSI Monahan Girls Higher Secondary School, Royaoettah.

"Their influence sparked my father's lifelong love for music, dance, and the fine arts." says his only daughter, Ishita Vedamuthu.

Solomon completed his schooling at M.C.C. School, Chetpet, followed by Pre-University studies at Madras Christian College. He then pursued architecture at the School of Architecture and Planning in Chennai, where he met Ranee Menezes and married her in 1982.

Solomon began his career with architect Jasper Dawson in Hyderabad before co-founding Peter Rajappa Solomon, a well-regarded architecture firm, with his college friends.

In 1984, he established his own practice, Solomon Vedamuthu Associates (SVA). Some of his 'most beloved' projects include residences, a four-star hotel in Pondicherry, and a church in Chittoor.

A defining moment in his life came when he coached a young student, Vijayaram, to prepare for the entrance exam to CEPT, Ahmedabad.

This experience, his family said, revealed his deep calling as a teacher and mentor. In 1989, he founded DVS' (D. V. Solomon's) Centre for Design and Delineation, a training academy for aspiring designers.

"DVS Centre quickly became known as Saulie's class. I used to sit in his classes from the time I could sit up. I grew up watching him build that community from scratch. It wasn't like any other class, and kids loved coming there." says his daughter.

"My dad was never a conventional teacher. In fact, he actively resisted traditional methods. There were no notes, no fixed syllabus. Everything came from his intuition and years of learning, and unlearning, which he passed on with incredible generosity. Saulie's class was a space where you could be yourself, and I know many people found themselves there.," she adds.

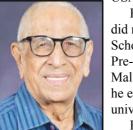
"He was the foundation course you couldn't find anywhere else. In a culture where pursuing the arts often wasn't considered a real choice, he made it one. I truly believe that hundreds, maybe even thousands, of architects and designers in this city and across the world would say their love for design, for architecture, began with him. He didn't believe in rules for the sake of rules, and he built a world where you were allowed, expected even, to question everything 'she adds.

Ishita Vedamuthu says her father was a one-man brand. And for many, the reason they found their path. "He'll be remembered for his curiosity, his imagination, and the way he made learning feel like an adventure," she says.

The family can be reached at 9962996392.

Neelakantan Krishnan, 83, a long-time resident of Alwarpet, passed away on April 24, in Boston,

USA.



Born in 1942 in Chennai, he did most of his schooling at SSI School in Mumbai, followed by Pre-University studies at Kirori Mal College in Delhi, where he earned the distinction of the university topper.

He then pursued both his B.Tech and M.Tech at IIT

Madras, establishing himself as an exceptional engineer and thinker.

His professional life took him to Calcutta and later to Bombay before he eventually settled down in Alwarpet, Chennai around the late 1970s.

"My father was a lover of numbers, logic, and loved solving complex puzzles — especially Sudoku. Never one to get angry or raise his voice, he was always willing to help others and endeared himself to all who knew him.

Having recently lost his wife and his son two years ago, he continued to remain strong for his family, never letting sorrow dull his warmth,"," says Srividya, his daughter, who lives in Boston, MA.

Neelakantan Krishnan had many passions—he devoured books across genres and had a keen interest

in astrology. Though not formally trained in music, he had a deep appreciation for classical Carnatic music and could identify many ragas. He was also a cricket enthusiast and a foodie.

His happiest moments were spent with his grandchildren, Anirudh and Ananya, solving problems and riddles, playing games, story-telling and more, his family said.

His favourite neighbourhood place was the park in CIT Colony, Mylapore.

His daughter, Srividya can be contacted at +1-860-910-8222.

Vimala Anbudaiyan, a long-time resident of Mada Church Road, Mandavelipakkam, passed away on July 13. She was 91.



Vimala was the younger daughter of Rao Sahib K. A. Walker, retired Deputy Collector, Madras was also a resident of San Thome and Mandavelipakkam. Being the wife of late W. D. M. Anbudaiyan, chief engineer, Konkan Railways, Ratnagiri, went with him

wherever he was posted by Indian Railways.

A home-maker by choice, Vimala was an excellent cook, said her son Thomas Walker in a tribute note he shared.

She was good at baking and making sweets and savouries too. Sewing was her hobby, making dresses and hand embroidery too. She used to embroider on table cloths, bed sheets, pillow cases and hand towels, said her son.

Vimala was a member of CSI St. Thomas English Church, San Thome since she moved back to Chennai in 1991. She was very kind and generous and helped people financially when they approached her in their times of need. She was a great counsellor too, a church member said.

She was totally immersed in curating Bible quizzes and she loved singing gospel songs, her family said.

Vimala is survived by her three children – Malini Abraham, Thomas Walker and Ranjini Inbaraj and their families.

She was interred in the Quibble Island Cemetery, R. A. Puram on July 15.

Contact: 96770 32790 / Ranjini Inbaraj,

This is how Pitchu Pillai Street, Mylapore looked like on Friday, July 18 morning. GCC-designated civic workers hammered down and broke up the cemented street from end to end, leaving residents, small business owners and temple-goers frustrated. Was there a need to break up and relay a fairly good street, asked one resident.

- Photo and input: Baskar Seshadri



QMC, Rotary clean up section of Marina beach



By Our Edit Team

Rotary International District 3234 joined hands with over 500 college students from Queen Mary's College to undertake a large-scale beach cleanup operation recently. This event was held on the Marina at Foreshore Estate and it coincided with International Plastic Bag Free Day. "It is encouraging to see young people showing such keen interest in environmental protection," said Rotarian Vinod Saraogi, district governor, RI District 3234, who presided.

Dr. B. Uma Maheswari, principal of Queen Mary's College, said, "The event not only helped to clean our beach but also raised awareness about the harmful effects of plastic bags on our environment."

The event was attended by Nandakumar, Inspector of Police, Foreshore Estate, who praised the environmental initiative.

Participants collected over 500 kilograms of waste, significantly improving the condition of the beach, said Rotarian Dr. K. P. Vijayakumar



Sports competitions were held for residents of the Senior Citizens Home of Andhra Mahila Sabha located off Greenways Road, R. A. Puram, Contests were held in carrom, chess, Ludo, Palankuzhi and Snakes and Ladders. Prizes were awarded on July 14, said Seshashayee K. N., an organiser.

One-way violations on Luz Church Road pose danger

By Baskar Seshadri

One-way violations on the east end barricaded section of Luz Church Road are posing dangers to pedestrians and motorists. But violators care less.

The violators who seek quick and easy access to banks, stores and other places off Luz Circle, zip from the Nageswara Rao Park side, eastwards, posing a risk to vehicles that head to the park side from the Luz Circle side



Since the road is heavily barricaded and takes turns, the violations pose serious danger. In recent days, Chennai Metro has appointed a contract staff near the IOB bank side to curb these violations during peak hours.

CMRL had also provided a handrail from the point where Kamadhenu theatre once stood, till Navasakthi Vinayakar Temple for the sake of the safety of the pedestrians. This arrangement has been appreciated by the public.

TUCS' new wedding hall in Chitrakulam zone

By Baskar Seshadri

A few months ago, a branch of TNSC Bank was opened in Chitrakulam South Street; in a new building that came up in a plot where TUCS functioned.

Recently, on the first floor. a small kalyana mandapam has opened.

This TUCSowned mandapam has two floors - one for the marriage ceremonies and the other for dining. The hall has a seating



capacity of 200 people and the dining area can seat 120 people, we are told.

Rental fee is Rs. 38,600 (includes GST) for half a day and Rs 59,000 (inc. GST) for a full day. Charges for electricity, cleaning and maintenance will be extra. Non-vegetarian food is not allowed here.

Contact hall manager Anand at 99405 77584.

Sivaswami Kalalaya Matric School's 25 years; finale event

Sir SivaswamI Kalalaya Matriculation Higher Secondary School is having its silver jubilee celebration's grand finale on Saturday, July 19 at Lady Sivaswami Ayyar Girls Higher Secondary School, Mylapore.

The event starts at 4.30 pm.

The chief guest is Ramesh Krishnan, former champion tennis star and India Davis Cup player

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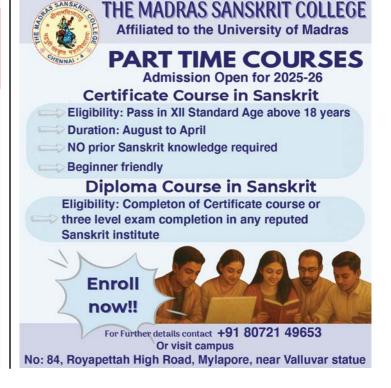


- · Club Campaign at Nageswara Rao Park on 20th Jul 2025 at 7
- · 225th Milestone Meeting is on 26th Jul 2025 at 8.30 am at Utopia World, Abiramapuram

Contact 98410 10142 / 99401 45874



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Devotees streamed into Sri Mundagakanni Amman Temple, Mylapore on Friday, July 18 morning which marked the first Friday of the aadi season. They performed rituals and offered prayers.

Thattaivadai Settu, Madurai Butter Bun: new snacks joint in Alwarpet



By Baskar Seshadri

Thattaivadai Settu, that famed snack Salem is known for, among other snacks, can now be had in Alwarpet. At Madras Munch Box, which opened in late June at the junction of C. V. Raman Road near C. P. Ramasamy Road, in the place when the Jamoon shop was (its jamoons were good but the menu wasn't a draw)

Swathi and Niranjani and a third partner who wishes to remain anonymous, got to know each other through their children. The idea of a snacks business bore into them and the Munch Box was launched.

The other specials here are the popular Madurai Butter Bun and momos. $\,$

Its location offers people on the move to stop and have a quick snack. Burgers and French fries, tea and coffee, are on the menu, which will enlarge as the buzz gets going.

Swathi says she plans to open a filter coffee counter at dawn. "There are many walkers in the Alwarpet zone and we found they would like a cup of coffee offered in this zone," she said.

The shop now opens at 11~a.m. and closes around 10~p.m. Madras Munch Box can be reached on 9500~773~303

South Mada Street pavement being improved

By Madhan Kumar

Chennai Corporationengaged workmen are erecting metal handrails all along the pavement of South Mada Street, alongside the tank of Sri Kapali Temple, Mylapore.

This work will cover the pavement from the R. K.Mutt Road point to the East Tank Street point off the mada street.

Mylaporeans who care for civic betterment say they hope the bunk shops, junk and waste here will be removed for good and violators tackled. They want GCC to stop food and other hawkers from hijacking the space.



If you have lived in a city long enough, you know the many ways in which the city speaks to you. She is constantly telling you her story, if we choose to listen. This workshop we take that leap of faith with city-based author, Praveena Shivram. Join us as we explore the many facets of a city through fiction, and work with theelements of storytelling in a very Madras-esque context. We allow the quietness of a w a page to build the life-breath of a city, and hopefully, through her story we find a littlebit of ourselves. Praveena Shivram is an independent writer. Over the past two decades, both her fiction and non-fiction have been widely published. Read more at praveenashivram.com AUG 10. 3.30pm to 5pm Venue: Ranade Library, Luz Register at: themadrasday@gmail.com



MFAC sabha's annual drama fest from July 20

Mylapore Fine Arts Club (MFAC) sabha is hosting its annual Tamil Drama Festival from July 20 to 24, featuring five plays.

The launch is on July 20. Sunday at 6pm when Nalli Kuppuswami, arts promoter, honours writerdirector-actor T. V. Radhakrishnan with an award.

That evening, at 6.45 pm, Three presents 'Kalavu Neekiya Padalam', a play by V. Sreevathson.

On July 21, is 'Thoorathu Pachai', on July 22 is 'Ennadi Penne', on July 23 is 'Agnipraveysamm' and on July 24 is 'Varutha Padadha Vayodhikar Sangam'.

The plays are open

Senior Bharatanatyam dancer and teacher Roja Kannan and her disciples presented a lord Krishna theme based-dance drama on stage on July 17 for an hour.

This show was specially curated for children with special needs and was held under the Tarang banner of V- Excel, a premier centre that addresses needs of special children and has its headquarters in Mandaveli.

The show was at Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan,

Mylapore and the children who attend V-Excel's various schools were present with their teachers and guardians.

'Tarang' shows are held once every month at Bhavans, with artistes giving their time and talent to entertain these children.



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- MYLAPORE, 6BHK, independent bungalow. Sriperumbudur, 2105 sqft, vacant land. Besant Nagar, 11 grounds. Mylapore, 1600 sqft, land with old building. Agent: 9176974357, 9840444100
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The under-19 years football team of St Anthony's School, Madha Church Road, R. A. Puram was a winner in the city-level, Teynampet zone football tourney for state Board schools. The team is now qualified to take part at the next level.

The school's PT teacher is Kavitha and the coaching is provided by Nirmal, who runs a private football coaching academy with training in Pattinapakkam.

Auto-driver Kumaraguru is a black belt in karate. He holds free classes in his backyard

By Preetha K.

R. Kumaraguru, a resident of Mundagakanni Amman Street is not just an autodriver. He is also a black belt

in karate. For some time now, he has been teaching this skill to children of his area, free of cost. He said he learnt karate from R. K. Venkat, who is an international referee.

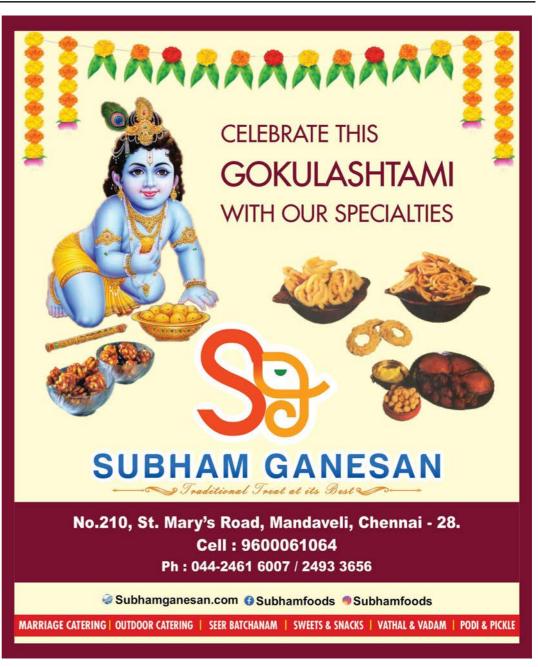
"I started in 1996 and am a fifth-time black belt holder. Some children wish to learn but they cannot afford to go to karate classes. I teach such students free of cost, "he said.

There is one class weekly – every Saturday from 5 to 6 p.m., held in the open space just behind Kallukaran Street.

"I also take them to karate competitions," says Kumaraguru, who studied in P. S. Higher Secondary School, Mylapore.

Anyone interested to learn karate, can contact Kumaraguru at 9841620076







Kalakshetra stalwart 'inspiring presence' at ABHAI's A-day

By Our Edit team

There were some touching moments on and off the stage at the 36th Annual Day celebrations of the Assn. of Bharatanatyam Artistes (ABHAI) held at Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan, Mylapore on July 5 evening.

Perhaps, much love and respect went out to the senior-most of the awardee of the day – dance teacher N S Jayalakshmi, one of the doyens of Kalakshetra's faculty.

"Her presence was very inspiring," said ABHAI president, Priya Murle.

The show was well planned. The awardsgiving parts were interspersed with performances; and the speeches were crisp.

> There were performances in the foyer: a kolattam and Kai kotti kali group from Kasargod who was here for the event attracted many people.

> The consul general of Malaysia and the Chennai Head of Lalit Kala Akademi were special guests.

The awardees for 2025 are – N. S. Jayalakshmi, Krishnakumari Narendran, Datuk Ramli Ibrahim, Roja Kannan, L. Narendra Kumar,

Nandini Anand, Thilagavathi Palani, Sai Shruthi Krishnaswamy and Aishwarya Rajkumar.

NAC Jewellers sponsored medals for the awardees.





At the Varahi Navaratri celebrations held recently at Nandalala Centre on Dr. Ranga Road, known as Pujyashri Mathioli Saraswathi Brindavan, teen disciples of N. Subasri presented a Harikatha concert themed on 'Meenakshi Kalyanam'.

To mark the 145th birth anniversary of Helen Keller, International Day of Deafblindness was observed on June 27 at Clarke School for the Deaf, Mylapore.

The chief guest was M. Lakshmi, IAS, commissioner for the welfare of the differently



abled. The event featured a skit performed by children with multiple disabilities.

PowerPoint presentations were made and highlighted here, was deafblindness - a disability that often goes unnoticed, with affected children sometimes mistakenly grouped under intellectual disability (M.R.).

R. A. Puram community rescues cat after much drama

By Our Edit Team

On July 8, a stray cat had climbed a tall, roadside tree on R A Puram's Third Main Road's west and got stuck there, not knowing how to get down.

It continu-

ously meowed from atop to draw attention.

Some residents who sighted the predicament of the cat called the Fire Service. The men rushed to the spot but struggled for three hours and couldn't make much headway.

Members of Raja Annamalaipuram Residents Association (RAPRA) then contacted Chennai Corporation's street light division assistant engineer (AE) and requested him to spare a crane that is used to repair street light faults. The AE obliged.

Anbu, a watchman of the apartment near the site of the drama climbed the ladder of the crane, struggled for quite some time and unmindful of the sudden downpour, caught the beleaguered cat by its neck and brought it down.

Applause rent the air when the cat was brought down by Raju The dehydrated feline was immediately rushed to a nearby Vet clinic for observation and rehydration.

TELL US LOCAL STORIES LIKE THIS ONE – mail – mytimesedit@gmail.com. SHARE photos too.

Post!

Leela Kalaivani is based at the Mandaveli Post Office. One morning spent with her reveals her daily life

By Akshita K.

At 6:45 every morning, while the city is still stretching awake, Leela Kalaivani steps out of her home in Tambaram. With her uniform neatly pressed and her lunch packed, she boards the 21G bus to R.A. Puram, reaching the Mandaveli post office by 8:30 a.m.

Leela is a postwoman here.

Her day officially begins at 9, sorting letters with her colleagues. At 11:00, she mounts her cycle and starts on her regular delivery route, covering the stretch from Raja Annamalai Puram to MGR Janaki College in the far south of the zone.

Each day, come harsh sun or sudden downpour, she delivers 30 to 35 letters. Her route has become a familiar cycle, like the old-time policeman's beat, punctuated by small talk and pleasantries with people she delivers letters to.

I spent some time one morning in May with her, cycling alongside. The resident of the first house she visits welcomes her with a warm smile and a steel tumbler of cool *mor*. "The heat can break your spirit," Leela says, "but a kind gesture like this puts it back together" as she delivers the post to the woman in the house.

The second delivery is always a bit of a toss — a locked door in a quiet apartment block. She dials the number written on the envelope and waits. Today, someone picked up. They asked her to leave the letter with the watchman, and she did.

At the next stop, an apartment building, she carefully drops letters into individual mailboxes. She ensures each post is tucked in,that they remain safe.

Then comes the stop at a house with a dog which has a loud bark. She tells me she used to be cautious: but now she simply calls out and waits until someone arrives. The dog

continues to bark; Leela waits and hands the post to the woman who walks out to collect it.

The final house is on this lane, a quiet, tiled-roof quarter. It is locked. Leela smiles to herself, drops the post into the box, and pedals onward. This is her rhythm - steady and unwavering.

Leela says that the strength to be at this job comes from home. She is a mother of two - her children wait for her stories every evening. Her mother-in-law, ever supportive, takes care of them during the day. Her husband works outside the country.

"She's my backbone," Leela says of her mother-in-law. "Without her, I couldn't do this job."

Years ago, Leela had dreamed of becoming a teacher. Instead, life led her to India Post and the postmaster's chair in Aralikkottai. After clearing the postal exams, she was transferred to Mandaveli, where she now serves with quiet pride.

She dreams of growing further in the department and giving her children the

education she once
longed for. Her colleagues, she says, are
her second family.

Leela believes the
postal system can
improve—with
delivery vehicles, better
weather gear,
and more
recognition.

In a fastpaced world, Leela Kalaivani pedals - at a steady pace. Serving a neighbourhood.

■ Akshita K. was an intern at Mylapore Times

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Madras Day contest for schools: StreetScapes

For Madras Day 2025, My; apore Times has announced its annual project contest for school teams.

The theme of this contest is 'Streetscapes'; it calls teams of three to choose a street with some character and heritage, study its naming, its background, its facades of the houses and shops / sign boards and the people who made the street and the street as it is today.

This research will have to be presented as a PowerPoint presentation on the contest day (Eng/ Tamil) - August 8 at Ranade Library, Luz. The top three teams get prizes.

In 2024, the team from TI School, Ambattur bagged the top prize and rolling shield.

Details are at www.themadrasday.in





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bet 11 am and 5 pm.

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New boutique on Mada Street offers customised sarees, salwars

By Preetha K.

There is a new boutique on North Mada Street - Athyusha's Boutique. Run by Vidhya Subramanian, the shop stocks customised sarees and salwars.

Vidhya was working in the

business operations department of an IT company. "I made the shift to entrepreneurship, thanks to my passion and creativity," she said.

She started this business six months ago by displaying her designs and fabrics at city exhibitions. "The overwhelming response I received encouraged me to set up shop," said Vidhya, who is a resident of Mandaveli.

Vidhya has tied up with weavers across India and says she sources authentic fabric. "There is no synthetic or polyester mix in the fabrics I offer.

Most times, I source plain fabric, design it and print it in Chennai. Every saree is customised. I don't do more than twi sarees in the same design," adds Vidhya.

Khadi and Mangalgiri cotton, Mangalgiri without zari, Tussar, Jamdani cotton, Kanchi sarees and mull cotton sarees are some of the fabric she deals with, apart from original Sungudi sets and cotton sets from Amritsar and Jaipur.

Readymade kurtas and crop tops are also available here. She says she



can undertake orders for annual business meets and corporate events and wedding gifts.

She also ships her products across India and to the US as well. The store is open from 11 am to 2 pm and from 4 pm to 8 pm.

Athyusha's Boutique is at 56, North Mada Street, Mylapore. (next to NAC Jewellers). Ph: 9025868940/ 7358793380

Mylapore Times Trust donates over Rs.9 lakhs to 102 students

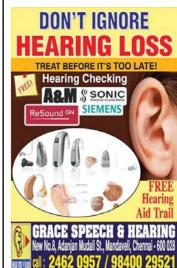
This year, Mylapore Times Charitable Trust (MTCT) has awarded funding to 102 students of the area. The total amount granted is Rs.9,38,500. This was made possible by donations by Mylaporeans, well-wishers and Mylapore Times.

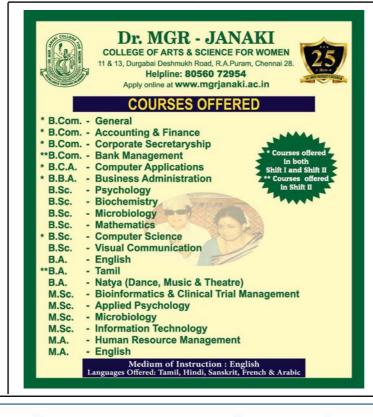
The final set of funding was for the following: Chennai High School, V. P. Koil St. / 1 student - Rs. 4000. P. S. School / 7 students - Rs. 56000. Kesari School / 1 student - Rs. 5000. St. Francis Xavier's Mat. School / 1 student - Rs. 12000.

San Thome Hr.Sec. School / 1 student
- Rs. 8000. Lady Sivaswami School / 4
students - Rs.36000. St. Raphael's School
/ 1 student - Rs. 5000. St. Ebba's School
/ 1 student - Rs. 4000. St. John's Hr.Sec.
School / 1 student - Rs. 10000.
Ramakrishna Mission School / 1 Student
- 5000.

The past week, Raja Mohamed, Mandaveli donated Rs.2500. Donations are welcome to support small projects through the year. Call 2498 2244 for guidance.











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