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YOUR NEIGHBOURHOOD NEWSPAPER

Vol. 29, No. 17

July 27 - August 2, 2024

12 pages Free Circulation

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Aadi

An Amman shrine created at the base of a neem tree on North Mada Street, Mylapore is getting extra attention this Aadi season. Women of this area conduct rituals here. On the first Sunday of Aadi, they cooked koozhu, made an offering and then shared it.

● Photo: Madhan Kumar

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The weekly Mylapore Times feature - NOOKS - has come to a close.  
100 Nooks were featured in this series on this page.  
Information on all of them are available at our web site - [www.mylaporetimes.com](http://www.mylaporetimes.com)

## CHECK THIS



### MUSIRI CHAMBER CONCERT: BHARAT SUNDAR

Vocalist Bharat Sundar is set to perform at the July edition of the Musiri Chamber concert series. It is on Sunday, July 28, starting 4.01 p.m. Alongside him will be Sayee Rakshith on violin and N C Bharadwaj on mridangam.  
This is a chamber music kind of concert event where people sit on the floor around the artistes though chairs are provided to seniors. Limited space, so first-come first-serve works well.  
Venue: "Musiri House", 48/2, Musiri Subramaniam Road, Mylapore (opp. Sri Anjaneya Temple). Tel: 94440 28677 / 94444 19465  
For the benefit of outstation rasikas and those who cannot travel to the venue, the concert is webcast. You can watch it at <https://youtube.com/live/OfU5Liz9Ves?feature=share>

### AWARD TO EPIGRAPHER: TALK ON PANDYA COUNTRY



Tamil Heritage Trust will present the V Venkayya Epigraphy Award 2024 to Dr V. Vedachalam, eminent Tamil epigrapher and historian. The annual award aims to recognise exceptional individual contributions, in any Indian language, towards the discovery of unrecorded inscriptions, and interpretation of inscriptions.

The chief guest for this event is V Muralidharan, founder & managing trustee, Sevalaya.

Dr. Vedachalam will then speak on 'Historical and Political Geography of the Pandya Country'.

At Arkay Centre, Luz. July 27, 6 pm onwards.

### SALE: HANDWOVEN SILKS

Akella Fashion is a specialist in fine handwoven silk sarees from across India. It is hosting an exhibition and sale of these silk sarees sourced directly from the weavers in Kanchipuram, Uppada and Pochampally. Also on sale are cotton kurtis, handicrafts and lifestyle accessories. At C P Arts Center, Alwarpet. On July 27 and 28, from 11 am - 8 pm

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**Editorial & Publishing Office:**  
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Phone: 4766 2029 Office/Advt.  
9445764499 Editorial/Advt.  
Email IDs : mylaporetimes@gmail.com (Adverts)  
mytimesedit@gmail.com (Edit)

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Mylapore Times is published every Saturday, is given free in the Mylapore area and has a circulation of 25,000 copies.

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# Savitri Ammal Oriental School launches web site

By Our Edit Team

Savitri Ammal Oriental Higher Secondary School, Mylapore has got a brand new web site; it was inaugurated recently by N. Gopalaswami, former chief election commissioner of India.

The school management says this web site is a one-stop source of all information about the school - on academics (subjects offered), on campus events: like sports day, annual day, etc., on extra-curricular activities; on the school staff and team members and on the campus infrastructure and facilities

This website was developed by Pravyuha Tech Solutions LLP, a company run by one



of the school's alumni. The website will also be supported and maintained by this company.

In recent years, the alumni members have been closely interacting and collaborating with the school and the campus is now a hub of activities too.

# Church group donates money to fund studies of poor students



By Juliana Sridhar

Members of St Vincent de Paul Society unit of Our Lady of Guidance Church in R.A. Puram has donated for the educational needs of a set of school students in the area.

The group handed over a cheque amounting to Rs.51,000 to the head of St Antony's Girls Higher School on Mada Church Road.

This amount will serve 15 students from poor families who will use it to pay school fees.

The members - Vincent, Previn, Chandra Bose, Arpudanadan, John and Helen - met the school's headmistress Sr. Elizabeth Rani and the beneficiaries.

The Society has been carrying out social service projects for many years now - supporting poor students is part of this work.

# R. A. Puram residents' body to hold AGM

The ninth annual general body meeting of Raja Annamalaipuram (West) Residents Society will be held on August 11 at 9.30 am at Raja Muthiah Boys School, R A Puram.

Preceding this meeting, scholarships will be presented to forty school students of Chennai and Government -aided schools of the neighbourhood.

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## VINCENT's JOTTINGS

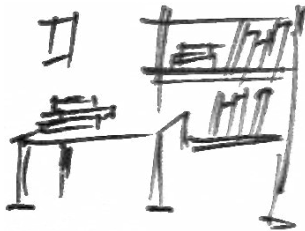
By VINCENT D' SOUZA

"Are you making money?", I asked Anand. He laughed.

"We make money and money moves out of our hands too," he said.

Anand markets insurance.

And he is one of the few people I know in Adyar who have lived in this neighbourhood for ages. He has been here for over five decades. And so, Anand is someone I can turn to when I want a dose of social history of the city.



But I had called him not for my insulin or to sign up for an insurance package.

I wanted him to consider initiating something tangible at the local government-funded library in our backyard, which was now frequented by 51/2 people.

In the December monsoon, a huge tree in the library's premises had crashed and it had brought down the boundary wall too. Now, many months later, the newly-constructed wall and the fresh coat of paint and white-wash had given this place a new lease of life.

But inside, the same 5 1/2 people poured into the newspapers or borrowed some books and the bored librarian amused herself by chatting with maids who stopped by.

I coaxed Anand, as a senior resident, to step in and activate this public library, with the promise that I would support in small ways.

He warmed up to the idea - perhaps hold story-telling sessions for kids, invite writers to share their thoughts, have book review sessions, create a nook for children's books...

If you look around you, you will notice that there are many public utilities that we have not cared to support. Be it playgrounds, parks, libraries...

These are there with money that we have contributed. These are there for all of us. And yet, we do not seem to play a role in that middle.

Ages ago, I recall a community group of Padmanabha Nagar in Adyar seeking ways to clear up huts that had come up on what was park/playground space for that nagar.

These residents had chosen to sit tight, let public space be taken over and woken up when their lives were unsettled by some people who resided in the huts.

Sustained community action led to the removal of the encroachers and a park being laid out and today, people enjoy the green space.

## 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.



### Overflowing drain in Mandaveli

The drains in front of CUB bank's branch of Mandaveli are overflowing all the time. It is extremely difficult for pedestrians to walk in this area as the dirty water stagnates. Recently, the eastern side was also flooded. Metrowater's local unit must address this issue now.

- Natarajan

### TANGEDCO: this Alwarpet area has serious problem

There is a faulty cable in the transformer located on C V Raman Road, opposite Aarti Scan centre, near Aishwarya Palace. This triggers fluctuation in the power supply, from 2 to 5 a.m. The power input is low, causing damage to electrical appliances. This has been a persistent issue.

Local area TANGEDCO officials should solve this problem for good instead of quick-fix solutions which they resort to whenever there is an issue of a cable bursting or an power outage.

- Padmasini

### Relay pavements in San Thome

Pavements in the San Thome area are badly damaged and are unsafe for senior pedestrians.

There are slabs which have sunk in and there are uneven surfaces which makes mobility difficult for all, especially for senior citizens. GCC has to look into this immediately.

- Shanmugaperumal

### Chennai Metro-related traffic changes: violations by motorists

Every single road in Mylapore, Mandaveli, Abhiramapuram and R A Puram is laden with potholes. It is a nightmare to drive on Thiruvengadam Street. Chennai Metro has to ensure that private traffic marshals it has hired are present on all 'one-way' roads. Vehicles are constantly violating the one-way traffic rule. Schoolchildren who walk to Vidya Mandir school suffer because motorists violate the 'one-way' rule in this zone.

- Kalyani Muralidharan

### Mylapore Hindu Permanent Fund: depositors must keep pressure

Now that a group of depositors of the Mylapore Fund is getting all affected people to complain formally to the TN Police, it is advisable for all such people to flood the police desk with complaints and ask the officers to act. Let us not heed the words of some who advise restraint and compromise.

- R. V. S. Mohan

## MY STORY



### Bringing up Jessica and Janice

By CINTHIA JUDE

I have been a resident of Mandavelipakkam for three years now: earlier, I used to reside in San Thome.

Married for 18 years, we have two teen daughters. My elder daughter Jessica is pursuing her under-grad English literature course while my little girl Janice is in school, in Class IX.

When they were infants, my husband worked in shifts and helped me in those challenging years. My parents and my in-laws also supported us. Later, I had to put them at the day-care in the college where I worked. Later, I paid my friendly neighbour to take care of my little one.

Being a working woman with two small girls to look after, I had to wake up quite early, cook breakfast and lunch and pack the food in dabbas for all of us. And though I was dead tired at the end of a work-day, I enjoyed being with the girls in the evening, making kutti pizza dosas or chocolate pancakes, and helping with their homework.

I put them to sleep as early as 7 so that they could wake up early the next morning and I could do some of my homework. All this was tiring but I had no choice. I had to keep my teaching job, so I found ways to manage.

Today, I have to handle adolescent daughters. I think I have become diplomatic and tackle them differently. There are often debates and arguments.

As a mom, I have to let go at times, adjust, explain or at times even raise my voice to prove my point. We have disagreements but we make

peace at the end of the day - and on a weekend, all of us sit together and watch a movie at home.

Jessica did pretty well in school and hasn't faced any tough tests this far in college. The junior sings in the school choir and is also a drummer and has less time for studies. But I have not restricted her in music; we must let the girls do what they love.

I have some concerns, of late. The girls have been sharing troubling stories that their friends discuss. Of teen girls being harassed or killed or raped in different parts of our country. I ask my daughters to be careful and sensible.

When my elder daughter spoke about suicide cases, I explained to her the situations that drive people to the edge and of how we can listen to them and ease their lives.

These are times when we must make time for our children, listen to them and have conversations.

● Cinthia Jude is a professor at a city college and an avid traveller.



# THIS ACADEMY IN CIT COLONY TRAINS PEOPLE IN SCUBA DIVING



By Preetha K.

Want to learn scuba diving? You could turn to Naik Scuba Academy located in CIT colony, Mylapore. This academy, started in March 2024, is an affiliated training facility of Scuba Schools International (SSI) and a provider of Professional Association of Diving Instructors (PADI) programs, focusing on making scuba diving accessible and enjoyable for all.

“Our primary aim is to cultivate a passion for scuba diving by offering high-quality training programs,” says Arunkumar Naik, managing director, Naik Scuba Academy.

“We focus on developing students’ skills and knowledge, ensuring they are well-prepared to explore the underwater world. By promoting scuba diving as a recreational sport, we hope to inspire more people to experience the beauty and excitement of the ocean,” adds Arunkumar.

The Academy emphasises on thorough theoretical and skill development in Chennai before people can venture into ocean destinations.

“We travel to Andaman Islands, Netrani Island, Lakshadweep and the Maldives for diving. By combining the

convenience of city training with the thrill of high-quality ocean dives, we offer a seamless and enriching scuba diving journey,” says Arunkumar.

Naik Scuba Academy was born out of Arunkumar’s passion for the sport and the aspiration to kindle the same passion in others. “People are curious, are enquiring, are considering and I believe that it is a matter of time before people adapt to this sport,” he says.

He says Chennai’s coastline does not provide ideal conditions for scuba diving and exploration. “The absence of natural coral reefs near the shore, poor visibility in the waters, and strong currents make it challenging for divers, especially beginners. These tough conditions have contributed to the scarcity of scuba diving operations in the city,” adds Arunkumar.

Naik Scuba Academy has comprehensive courses, quality equipment and dive trips for individuals aged 14 and above. They have a hybrid training model which allows ample practice time. A team of three manages the daily operations and training sessions at the Academy.

The details of the courses are available on <https://www.naikscubaacademy.com>.

Naik Scuba Academy, No. 4, 2nd Cross Street, CIT Colony, Mylapore. Ph: 7538887078

## Q & A / Arunkumar Naik

### < Why this academy?

I aspire to attract like-minded professionals who value the ambitions of our academy and can work towards fostering a community of responsible, safe and inspired scuba divers here in Chennai.

### < The journey, this far

While I was in The School, KFI in Chennai, I participated in swimming competitions and was very comfortable in the water. After school, I studied hotel management and worked at Taj Hotels. Later, I worked for TCS. The turning point in my life came in 2018 when I moved to the Philippines. There, I met a group of divers who invited me to join them for the dive. One dip into the ocean and I knew that this was my destination.

Becoming a professional scuba diving instructor was challenging. Each step required rigorous training, dedication, and countless hours of diving across diverse locations in the Philippines, Maldives, and India. I started as a PADI Open Water Scuba Instructor, then became a Master Scuba Diver Trainer and an Advanced Open Water Instructor with SSI.

### < Mylapore as location for the venture

Mylapore is home. I grew up here, and my parents still live here. Following in the footsteps of my parents – Padma Naik and Shrinivas Naik, who ran a popular bakery – Padmashri Foods - here for over two decades, I am fortunate to benefit from the goodwill they generated over the years. This legacy now supports me in the early stages of my new endeavour. The former premises of my parents’ bakery proved to be the ideal location for this venture.



## Jambu’s Mylapore

K. R. Jambunathan takes us through nooks and corners of the Mylapore he knows best in this video series. This is a weekly series. WATCH VIDEOS at [www.youtube.com/mylaporetv](http://www.youtube.com/mylaporetv)

## Vinayaga Nagar

Vinayaga Nagar is a residential area located off Kutchery Road and opposite the Mylapore police station, which grew in the old tradition. There were row houses only on one side of the main, private road. Opposite them was vast, open land that stretched as far as near the Canal.

The only street through this nagar would end up then, on North Mada Street, near where Nithya Amirtham restaurant is today.

If there was one colony that symbolised the quiet, contended life of Mylaporeans who also stuck to all their traditions, then Vinayaga Nagar was a great example.

Even today, once you turn into the area from the busy Kutchery Road, you step into a quiet oasis.

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## The 'Kathadi' tradition for new play

By Our Edit Team

This is a tradition that theatre and movie artiste Kathadi Ramamurthy follows; every new theatre production begins with presenting the script at the sanctums of Sri Kapaleeswarar and Sri Karpagambal at the temple in Mylapore.

And so, for the next play, titled 'Sikkal Sivaraman', Ramamurthy, script writer-director S L Nanu and the core artistes of the group, Stage Creations, gathered at the temple some days ago and sought the grace of the gods.

They then headed to Ramamurthy's

residence and had their first reading of the script.

"This is a practice we have followed for decades," said Nanu who has written this script and dialogues for the new play that has its launch on August 2.

The group gives itself about three weeks of rehearsals for a new play.

This play comes two years after 'Jugal-bandhi' which premiered in 2022.

"Kathadi was busy with his film shoot commitments and some of our artistes were tied down with weddings in their families so we could not produce a play last year," said Nanu.

## Play on Swami Ramakrishnananda, founder of Sri Ramakrishna Math, Chennai

By Our Edit Team

Sri Ramakrishna Math, Chennai, which is completing 127 years of service, is producing a Thamizh play based on the life and work of Swami Ramakrishnananda, one of the 16 disciples of bhagavan Sri Ramakrishna

Paramahansa, who was the founder of Sri Ramakrishna Math, Chennai and pioneer in establishing the Ramakrishna movement in South India.

The play is titled 'Sarvam Gurumayam Swami Ramakrishnananda' and it will be staged on Sunday, July 28 at 6.30pm in Narada Gana Sabha's main hall.

Prayatna group director Vivekshankar has written and directed the play. Music is by 'Sadaga Paravaigal' Sankar and senior artiste 'Kathadi' Ramamurthy plays an important role in this drama. The play is open to all.



## Kural broadcast

On Royapettah High Road, Mylapore, the statue of Thiruvalluvar and the traffic island inside which it stands wears a

new look.

Mylapore MLA Dha Velu initiated this project and he formally opened the renovated space this week.

The walkways are relaid, there are fresh lawns and plants inside this space and it is well lit.

The added feature here is a new clock tower; at the hour, a Kural couplet is broadcast in Thamizh; though in the heavy traffic buzz, you have to be close to the statue zone in order to hear it.



## New priests take charge of churches in San Thome, Luz



Fr. Vincent Chinnadurai ( left) and Fr. Bernard Lawrence

Fr. Vincent Chinnadurai has taken charge as parish priest and rector at St. Thomas Cathedral, San Thome. He was heading the team of priests at Annai Vailankanni Shrine in Besant Nagar in his previous posting.

A senior diocesan priest, Fr. Chinnadurai said he is studying the needs of the San Thome parish and looking at ways in which the experience of pilgrims and tourists who visit this world-famous place can be improved.

Fr. Bernard Lawrence has taken over as the parish priest at Our Lady of Light parish in Luz. Earlier, he was the parish priest of Holy Family Shrine at Nazareth Nagar near Moolakadai.

Fr Bernard was born and brought up in Nimmo Road, San Thome. He was ordained a priest at the St. Thomas Cathedral on May 4, 1986.

He said that the management of the parish in Luz is well-planned and that he will continue with the spiritual activities followed here.

The parish will be celebrating its annual feast from August 6 to 15.

- Inputs by Juliana Sridhar

## Mylapore Times Trust: more students supported

Mylapore Times Charitable Trust is making its final round of funding for the new academic season, with support for students from the CSI School for the Deaf, San Thome.

A few individuals who had received funding for first year under-grad studies have also been supported for second year study; they get paid part of the fees.

The Trust also meets monthly bills of a few projects in local schools - serving kanji breakfast at one school, support for computer classes at another.

Donations for these needs are welcome. Donors can contact Mylapore Times' Shanthi at 24982244.

This past week, Deivanai of CIT Colony, Mylapore, donated Rs.10000/-

**Chaturmasya Vratam update**

His Holiness Sri Sri Satchidanandha Tirtha Swamigal ( Bilaspur Swamigal ) is observing Chaturmasya Vratam at Amara Bharathi Kalyana Mandap, Thiruvannamiyur from 21st July to 18th September 2024.

Maha Tripurasundari Sametha Chandramouliswarar pooja, Teertha Prasadam, Pada Puja and Bhikshavandanam are performed daily from 9 am to 11 am.

All are invited to participate in the same and obtain His Blessings.

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# This wedding choir promises to sustain traditions that are waning

By Our Edit Team

Music played at wedding ceremonies has definitely changed a lot. In many cases, the host nowadays engages a DJ. In some, they prefer artistes who can provide some sizzling pep. Losing out are the string of traditional songs that are so special at weddings.

To provide families the option of turning to artistes who can provide traditional wedding music when they plan the marriage of their children, Carnatic music teacher and vocal artiste, Dr Subha Ganesan has trained a group in this genre.

“Our group is ready to perform traditional marriage songs in wedding ceremonies,” says Subha.

This group is called ‘Kalyana Vaibogame’.

Says Subha, who manages a Carnatic music learning academy in Mandaveli called Hamsanadam, “There are innumerable songs for every occasion, such as onjal, aarthi,



nalangu, mangalam and so on. These simple songs rendered in ceremonial wed-

dings sustain our wonderful culture and we must support it.” The team of young singers can perform at onjal ceremonies and in marriage receptions, rendering Carnatic, semi-classical and devotional songs that suit the occasion.

To contact the group, call 9176197223/ 9444922234

This group can render Carnatic, semi-classical and devotional songs that suit the occasion



# Nellai Karupatti Coffee shop comes to Mandaveli. Besides coffee and tea, offers puttu, sundal

By Preetha K.

Nellai Karupatti Coffee - Mandaveli on Venkatakrishnan Road in R. A. Puram is a four-month-old shop which has a wide variety of healthy food options.



On its menu - Karupatti coffee, Karupatti tea, Nattu sakkarai coffee, Nattu sakkarai tea, sukku milk, sukku coffee, sukku tea, lemon tea, ginger tea and mint tea.

The shop is the venture of a young couple, Sathish and Hemalatha.

“I was working in an automobile company. I resigned from the job and obtained the franchisee of Nellai Karupatti Coffee to



pursue my business dreams. My wife also helps in managing the shop,” says N. Sathish. Both Sathish and Hemalatha are engineering graduates.

The shop offers three varieties of puttu – thinai, kezhvaragu and sigappu arisi.

It also offers navadhanya sundal, vazhaipoo vadai, keera vada, innipu kozhakattai and kara kozhakattai. Paneer samosas, varieties of halwas and cashew and ghee are stocked here.

There are karupatti chocolates and a variety of savouries. Palkova bun made from Srivilliputhur palkova and bun butter jam is available throughout the day.

A wide variety of pickles and thokkus are available here.

The shop opens at 6.30 in the morning and puttu is available from 7.30 onwards. The shop can seat seven. You can also place orders through Swiggy and Zomato. Bulk and party orders are also undertaken.

Nellai Karupatti Coffee shop is at No 39/16, Venkatakrishnan Road. (Opposite Girias store, near Kovai Pazhamudir Nilayam). Ph: 8825468096 / 31372201

# BLOOD DONATION CAMP; JULY 28

A blood donation camp is being organised on Sunday, July 28, at P. S. Matric Hr. Sec. School, Mylapore - from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. It is organized by the Arjuna Scout Group and P. S. Matric School and is open to all people who wish to donate blood.

For more information, contact 9884373 or 8056041070

# TALK ON ANCIENT TEMPLES OF TN

‘Ancient Temples of Tamil Nadu’ is the umbrella theme of this ongoing series of talks hosted by Tattvaloka and presented by Dr Chithra Madhavan (writer, historian) and the next talk is on July 27, 6 pm onwards at Tattvaloka, 76, Eldams Road, Teynampet. Open to all.

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- WANTED 2 to 3 grounds in R A Puram, Mylapore, Adyar, Besant Nagar, Thiruvanmiyur, Kalakshetra Colony, Kasturiba Nagar, Gandhi Nagar, Shstri Nagar; immediate settlement. Contact: 9500049167

REAL ESTATE SELLING

- POES GARDEN, 4 bedroom flat, 4800 sq.ft., 3 car park, UDS 2650, Rate 14 crores, nego. R A Puram, near Greenways Road, 1.3 ground, Price 13 crores. Adyar, 1 ground, 2 ground. Ph: 9840789797 / 9498448868
- ADYAR Kasturibai Nagar, 3 bedroom flat, 1520 sq.ft., second floor, 2 carpark, power backup, Price 2 crores. Adyar, near M G Road, new flat, 2 bedroom, study, 1150 sq.ft., 1250 sq.ft., covered car park, power backup. Ph: 9840789797 / 9498448868
- R A PURAM, 2 bedroom flat, 1000 sq.ft., 1st floor, lift, car park, UDS 550 sq.ft., Price 1.50 crores. Ph: 9841188817
- 1750 SQ.FT., flat Sri Puram, Royapettah, 20 years Price 2.70 crores, 1350 sq.ft., flat, judge Jambulingam Street, Price 2.50 crores, 1750 sq.ft., new flat Mylapore, Price 3.50 crores. Ph: 9840630359
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- MANDAVELI, 3 BHK, brand new flat, 4th floor, 1500 sqft, north facing, lift, power backup, 1 covered car park, 2.75 crores. MRC Nagar, 3 BHK, multi story flat, 1620 sqft, 2nd floor, east facing, 1 car park , 2.20 crores. RMT, gated community flat, 3 BHK, 2200 sqft, 3.50crores. Ph: 9884984545
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- LAND with old houses for sale in Mylapore, Mandaveli, Royapettah, Teynampet, T. Nagar, Adyar and Besant Nagar. Contact: 9171829442.
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- MANDAVELI, R K Nagar, IInd Cross St, flat, 1650 sqft, UDS 900, lift, power pack, 2 car park, 8years old, 2.8crore. Ph: 9884464769.
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- MYLAPORE, near Thiruvalluvar Kovil, 2300 sqft land with old building, 4.9cr (neg). Swami Iyer Realty: 98840 84762
- R.A.PURAM, posh locality, 1000 sqft, 2 BHK, 1.39crore. 55% UDS, 100% vaasthu, hall, dining, lift, CP, near C P Ramaswamy Road. Ph: 7010257539
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- MYLAPORE, Balakrishna Road, 775 sqft builtup area, 505 sqft UDS, ground floor, 2BHK, apartment for sale, Price 85 lakhs. Owner: 9626267368.
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- SAN THOME, ground floor, independent house, 4 BHK, 4 bath, and office room, fully furnished, AC, security. Agent: 9841297975
- R A PURAM, 1200 sq.ft., 2 bedroom, with study, CP, lift, Rs. 35000, Bheemasena Garden, 1350 sq.ft., 3 BHK, CP, Rs. 36000, C I T Colony, 1200 sq.ft., 2 BHK, CCP, lift, Rs. 35000, Nageshwara Rao Park, 900 sq.ft., 2 BHK, north facing, Rs. 25000. Ph: 9841983231
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## Obituary



**R. Ponnammal**, a decorated writer of books for children and on spiritual themes, passed away recently. She was 87. She had lived in Mylapore for over five decades.

Ponnammal (born May 21, 1937 in

Tiruvallikeni) was educated only upto Std.8 but since she was a keen and voracious reader of Thamizh magazines and books, the habit introduced her to literature and language.

Soon, her friends who often listened to her stories, encouraged her to write and send these stories to magazines: these got published off and on.

Her writing took a long break when she got married and had children. In 1976, she reignited her passion and submitted her story for a short story competition organised by the Tamil Nadu Children's Writers Association in association with Dinamani weekly; it won a prize.

Then on, Ponnammal wrote steadily, mostly for children and for spiritual/religious theme magazines. Some of her writings were on women, their lives and issues.

Her first book, 'Kadavulin Karunai', was a volume of children's short stories published by Palaniappa Brothers. Her best book is considered to be 'Panduranga Makhimai' which

is over one thousand pages and has been published by Giri Trading Company.

She has written over 200 books – including books on astrology, temple-circuit travelogues and contemporary interpretations for classical poetry anthologies like 4000 Divya Pasurams and 12 Thirumuraigal.

She was decorated with many awards including Tamil Nadu Government's Child Writer Award.

She is survived by two sons and their families. Contact address – 12, Kesavaperumal East Street, Mylapore. Phone: 24951854

**Sundaram**, secretary of Mylapore - Luz Newspaper Vendors Association passed away on July 21.



He collapsed at a family function.

As a newspaper agent for the Mylapore zone, he was handling the circulation of Deccan Chronicle and Dinakaran newspapers.

Sundaram was a resident of V C Gardens. He was 58 years old.

The Mylapore zone newspaper distributors now operate at the east end of Venkatesa Agraharam, after they had to move out of Luz Circle due to Chennai Metro work.

Sundaram's family contact - 9940351842.

## Discussion on Budget 2024

The Triplicane Cultural Academy and The Kasturi Srinivasan Library along with Federation of Industry & Management Association (FIMA) are organising a discussion on Union Budget 2024 on Sunday, July 28 at Dr. Annie Besant Centenary Hall, Young Men's Indian Association, 54-57/2, Royapettah High Road, Mylapore.

The event starts at 10.30 am.

M.R. Sivaraman IAS (retd), former revenue secretary, Dr. Gopal Krishna Raju, partner, M/s. Gopal Rao & Co and K. Puhazhendi, entrepreneur will speak as part of the panel. R. Anand, Triplicane Cultural Academy will moderate. R. K. Raghavan, president, Triplicane Cultural Academy will preside. Open to all. Contact - 8056002464 - Whatsapp.

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# CATTLE-PAKKAM

By Charan R. Swaminathan

Residents of West Circular Road in Mandavelipakkam around the Metrowater office have been forced to live with a serious civic issue facing which has disrupted the tranquility of this once-peaceful neighborhood.

Cows, which are reared locally are tied to many street-lamps and poles along the local area roads and these are their sheds all through the year. The spots are filled with dung and urine and food waste, they breed mosquitoes and always stink.

The animals are frequently tethered close to houses and apartments and their movements obstruct the entryways, causing inconvenience to residents - so access to their houses becomes a frustrating exercise.

Every day, the residents of this area of Mandavelipakkam have to navigate around cow dung and urine. The foul odor is intolerable.

The situation is made even worse by a few individuals who treat this area as an open-air lavatory - the shocking state of the Metrowater office compound wall is evidence of the mess.

Despite multiple complaints to Chennai Corporation staff, no steps have been taken to address this matter.

The residents have repeatedly brought up this issue, yet no action has been taken. Children and the elderly face the risk of illness too.

■ Charan R. Swaminathan is a Mandavelipakkam resident

## GCC, MLA, COUNCILLOR HAVE NOT TREATED THIS ISSUE WITH SERIOUSNESS

By Our Edit Team

The misuse of public space by cattle owners in Mandaveli zone is an issue that has been taken to the GCC, the Mylapore MLA and area councillor many times. They make some promises and have never treated the serious issue with an urgency.

Both the MLA and the local councillor have kept saying they and GCC have been looking out for an area to create a cattle shed. But nothing has come of these promises.

The reality is cattle-owners refuse to shift their animals. They misuse open space and are rarely fined.

In some instances, when the GCC's cattle-trapping van moves through Mylapore and Mandaveli market zones, cattle-owners quickly round up the animals and tie them to a post to prevent 'arrest' by GCC staff, who go away with one or two animals in the van. It is clear that such acts are merely for the record.



## Skating rink planned

By Baskar Seshadri

Greater Chennai Corporation has proposed to construct a skating rink in the GCC's Alphonso playground campus off South Canal Bank Road, Mandavelipakkam.

The existing one in the Marina Beach area is out of bounds since Chennai Metro Rail work is on.

The plan includes fitting flood lights for the rink, CCTV cameras and power back-up .

The project has been suggested by Mylapore MLA Dha Velu who is sharing funds from his constituency development fund.

The budget is Rs.48 lakhs.

## Another popular Luz place shuts down

By Baskar Seshadri

One of Mylapore's long-standing restaurants for non-vegetarian food has shut down.

Hotel Select in Luz pulled down the shutters for good recently: perhaps its business was badly hit by the barricading of this area in Luz Circle for Chennai Metro work and very limited access to its premises.

Select was known for its tea and samosas by people who wanted to refresh themselves when they were in this area. For those who sought mutton/ chicken biryani or rotis and curries, this was their choice destination.

Old-timers recall the 1970s time, when they would stop here for a cup of tea after a night film show in the area.

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The station zones on the proposed Chennai Metro network in the Mylapore neighbourhood present a landscape that few may have imagined. With some built-up spaces knocked down for this project, some nooks are not recognizable. Here is a bird's eye of the area on Luz Church Road, Alwarpet, (near M. Ct. M. School) which will be the train station on this sector.

## When you buy podi, masala from Deepak you boost his confidence

By Our Edit Team

Lazarus Church Road resident Shoba Shanmugham had been considering a few simple ideas that would engage her son Deepak.

The young man is a 'special' person, living with some

disabilities. And his mother was keen to involve him in simple activities.

On the eve of the last Deepavali festival, she brought home some earthen lamps and sat with Deepak to paint them in different colours. The duo then packed them well and offered them for sale. These were snapped by well-wishers of the family.

Recently, Shoba began a new project at her residence; making and selling podis and masalas.

"While I get my son to fry the chillies and the dhal, I do the rest," says Shoba.

This simple routine has encouraged Deepak to slowly do more things in the kitchen - like working on the grinder/mixie.

Once a podi is made, the duo sit at a table to pack it in small quantities. "Deepak also does the packing," says his mother. "These are small ways in which to skill such people and get them engaged."

Currently, the Shanmugams are prepared to sell home-made podis and masalas in small packets. You can contact 9444953733. The packs can be couriered too.



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