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Vol. 28, No. 11

May 20 - 26, 2023

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Kolams

learnt

by freshers

A kolam workshop conducted by kolam scholar Gayathri Shankarnarayan at her residence in CIT Colony Mylapore was attended by a small group of children. It was held over a week from May 8.

The participants learnt to design puli kolams, rice-paste kolams and some special techniques. At the finale, held on May 13 evening, the girls drew a set of kolams on the pavement alongside Gayathri's residence opposite the local park.

– Report by Preetha Rengaswamy

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Name of the shop: Raji Framing Works
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Timings: Monday to Saturday - 9.30 am to 9.30 pm.
Sunday - 10 am to 2 pm.



You can get wall hangings, craftwork, paintings and photos framed at Raji Framing Works. Anbu, who runs the shop, also frames Thanjavur and Chettinad art.

With an experience of 25 years, Anbu has a variety of services. "Lamination is also done here. I can fit LED lights along the frame to enhance the look on visuals of gods," he says. His customers include artists and craftspeople.

Anbu also visits a customer's house to attend to their framing needs, if they are extensive. The shop has a large stock of carved teakwood, beaded and trendy synthetic frames. Prices vary.

Anbu says he also customises trays for various purposes, with the chosen visual as the base.

The cost of frames ranges from Rs.100 for synthetic (of 6x4 inches size) to Rs.1200 for teakwood decorative frames (15x12 inches size.)

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

THAMIZH DRAMA FEST

Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan, Mylapore is presenting its annual Thamizh Drama Festival for 2023 between May 19 and 31. The drama festival consisting of nine plays and is being hosted in association with Nalli Silks.

21st May – "Thiru-Arangan"
 (By Theatre Marina)
 22nd May – "Andrum Indrum"
 (By Gurukulam – The Original Boys' Company 95)



Here is the schedule –
 19th May – "Bakkunnu Pathikichu"
 (By Legally Yours)
 20th May – "Narai Koodi" (By Dummies Drama)

25th May –
 "Thaayumanavan" (By Prasiddhi Creation)
 27th May- "Thazhhall Veeram" (By S. Sruthi's Naatya Naadha Nataka Sangamam)
 29th May –
 "Acham Enbathu Illayel!"
 (By Mali's Stage)
 30th May- "Karuppu Telephone Kadhavu Enn 12" (By Augusto Creations)
 31st May-
 "Jugalbandhi"
 (By Stage Creations).

The dramas will be staged every day at 6.30 pm. Free and open to all.

Photo used here is of Augusto Creations' play – 'Karuppu Telephone Kadhavu Enn 12'

REMEMBERING MAESTRO M. D. RAMANATHAN

The focus at this Carnatic music fest is on maestro MDR, as M. D. Ramanathan was known. May 20 marks MDR's birth anniversary.

Kedaram is the host of this concert series on May 20 at Raga Sudha Hall, Luz.

Nanditha Kannan sings at 4 p.m.. Then, at 6 p.m. mridangist Bombay Balaji will talk on 'MDR and his Music'. At 6.15 p.m. is the vocal concert by G. Ravikiran. Open to all.

■ Have info to share here?
 Mail - mytimesedit@gmail.com

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Vasantha Utsavam: Singaravelar provides darshan in different Thiru Kolams: stories for devotees

By S. Prabhu

A big highlight this week from the Vasantha Utsavam for Singaravelar that concluded on Friday at Sri Kapaleeswarar Temple was the presentation of the lord in different Thiru Kolams bringing to life, episodes from various his-torical events relating to lord Muruga.

On the ninth day of the utsavam, Singaravelar pre-sented himself as a saintly old man with a walking stick to lure Valli who, touched by his true love, agreed to marry him.

On Monday evening, he was seen in a Thi-ru Kolam subduing a rampant goat that had gone berserk after emerging out of an imper-fect conducted homam by the devas (*shown in the photo here*).

On the fifth day, the historical episode from Kazhugumalai of lord Muruga, seen with a bow and arrow, killing Darasuran was presented. A special feature of this Thiru

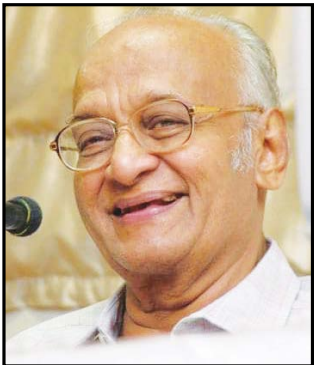


Photo: S Prabhu

Kolam was that the peacock was seen to the left of the lord as against the usual posture of the lord's vehicle being to his right.

Hereditary priest E Venkatasubramanian Shivachariar told *Mylapore Times* that the idea behind the Thiru Kolams was to kindle the curiosity of the devotees and educate them of various historical epi-sodes in the form of interesting Thiru Kolams during the 14-day Vasantha utsavam.

Tribute meet to remember Randor Guy



A meeting to pay tributes to Randor Guy alias Ranga-durai, well-known historian, writer and story-teller who passed away recently, will be held at a hall at P. S. Hr. Sec. School campus, R. K. Mutt Road, Mylapore on May 20 evening.

The meet is at Vivekanan-da Hall in this campus and starts at 6.30 p.m.

Organised by well-wishers and fans of Randor Guy, at this meet, writers, film per-sons and well-known people

in different walks of life like journalism, law and entertainment will share their life experiences with Randor. Open to all. Contact S. G. Sridharan – 98400 69507.

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VINCENT's JOTTINGS

By VINCENT D' SOUZA

I discovered my own Malgudi in recent times.
In a biggish village in south Kanara.

On the trips that I make to that spot along the west coast, the local bus station is my hang-out. I need to buy my daily newspapers there, that is if the few that are supplied don't run out. I can sit here and sip a cup of tea and just look long. Even blankly.

I noticed an old post box tied to the pillar of the bus station office. Thoughts floated in me. Maybe I could walk up to the local post office which was also in that zone, buy some inland letters and write randomly to friends whose addresses I had on record.

Just write what I saw here - even about the students who jumped off the bus, bought ice-cream sticks and made their way to school.



I got talking to the drivers of the local auto stand. They had many little stories to share but they would bolt the moment they got a customer. More later, they would say.

I would ask them - but why aren't there any autos in this place after seven in the evening?

Nobody needs autos and buses then, one said.
Another half-smiled.

We too need a break, he chimed.

Some of them would meet at the watering hole on the edge of the bus station. Order their tetra-packed drinks, lick the freshly-made mango pickle and zoom home after an hour of unwinding.

I have notes for a little book now!

I carry my Pigma Micron pens with me since I have begun to doodle.

In the mood, I pulled out a pen and tried to draw the bus station scene before me. Rows of buses with fancy, colourful legends stuck to their sides.

I felt good on that afternoon in early May.

At *Mylapore Times*, we launched the Online Magazine for young people last weekend. We have been doing this for a year or two now. Since our neighbourhood teens are on a big break and some creative souls may want others to read, admire and react to their work, we want students to contribute their poems and short, real short stories, artworks and cartoons, anecdotes and essays, short essays may they be, to this Magazine.

On the weekend, we received two contributions. One from a student of Vidya Mandir: she has already published a book and it is sold online. The other, from a Sivaswami Kalalaya student, who showcased her 'animated' art.

Both are posted online - at the Magazine link at www.mylaporetimes.com

You have three weeks to send your creative work to us.

The details of what you can do and how you must send it are all there, online.

All of you who write well, or paint or doodle, or are poets in the making can contribute. Or even jot down scenes of your holiday or of life around you. All this and more can find a place in this Magazine.

It feels good to be published. To be read by people.

Start young; start now. This newspaper is offering you the platform.

LETTERS FROM READERS

E-MAIL your letters to - mytimesedit@gmail.com. Or WHATSAPP to: 8015005628.
Provide full name and short address.

Avenue tree poses danger; GCC does not react

Photo: C. Varadarajan

A tree on C. P. Ramaswamy Road, Alwarpet near the Spencer's store is jutting out and is very dry. It poses danger to pedestrians and motorists. A complaint with GCC weeks ago did not get any reaction.

- C. Varadarajan



Indian Bank's ATM in East Abiramapuram needs attention

The gate provided for the ATM of Indian Bank, East Abiramapuram branch is 4-feet low in height with sharp spikes on the top. The entrance step is steep and uneven and there is also a protruding man-hole cover above the floor level. It is risky for all, especially senior citizens. I request bank officials to set this right.

- D. Selvarajan



Inform consumers of power cuts via SMS

There is always a shortage of electricity supply especially during the summer season. There are also the monthly power cuts from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. or even upto 5 p.m., in the name of maintenance. There was no intimation about the power cut on May 12 for Mundakanni Amman Koil Street, Mylapore. Earlier, they used to publish details about the power cut, at least a day in advance, in the newspapers. They also used to send SMS to individual mobile numbers about the power cuts. This allowed us to finish our chores for the day before 9 a.m.

On May 12, we got the SMS at 12.57 pm and the power supply resumed at 14.55pm. I request the TANGEDCO officials to be customer-friendly.

- N. Mahadevan

Tribute to J. V. Ramanujam

Very sad to know that chartered accountant and arts promoter J. V. Ramanujam passed away on May 9. JVR was always a source of inspiration for younger professionals and students. He was also keen in promoting classical music. My heartfelt condolences to his family.

- H. Kumar Balasubramanian

On Randor Guy

It is a Himalayan loss for fans of Randor Guy sir whose writing and style attracted large number of readers. I met him a few years ago at his Ayanavaram residence. He was a humble and simple and nice man to know.

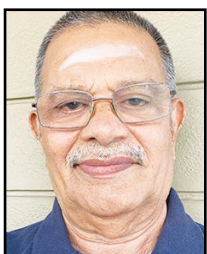
- V. T. Seshan

Half-open manholes near Nageswara Park

The condition of the pavement around Nageswara Rao Park in Luz needs immediate attention. Pavements are periodically re-laid but there is no maintenance. Manholes are not covered properly or their seals are broken - which will prove dangerous for all.

- Shoba Ramakrishnan

MY STORY



The good a colony's assn can do

By Dr. R. CHANDRASEKARAN

Raja Annamalaipuram Residents Association (RAPRA), a registered society which was started in 2012 is now a 500 members-plus and growing RWA, providing civic care, health camps, scholarships and celebrating key days like Republic Day and Independence Day every year.

There are a few projects that we are proud of.

One - during the Covid years, the RAPRA team helped residents to have free vaccination. Also, free, dry rations and monetary doles were provided to the needy around us. RAPRA also donated one lakh rupees each to Chief Minister's Fund and and Prime Minister's Fund during the pandemic.

Two - when the demonetisation policy was

announced, many residents were in a quandary. RAPRA roped in State Bank of India and helped residents to draw money and this was done at their doorstep.

Three - The R A Puram Newsletter, which is a quarterly issue, is distributed free, with articles of interest; a separate page is set apart for important contact number of service providers.

This newsletter has been commended by many who benefitted with the useful information in times of emergency.

Four - RAPRA also conducts an annual distribution of scholarships to the neighbourhood's needy school students and provides free computers to the needy.

There is much more that we do - on the health side, we hold periodical, free medical camps and at the eye-screening camps, we distribute spectacles free of cost. Recently, about 30 women were screened for breast cancer in an air-conditioned coach with consultation by expert doctors.

RAPRA maintains around 60 roadside trees with

the help of a gardener and the GCC park on 7th Main Road now has a modern open-air gym and the cost for this was incurred by RAPRA.

Two memorable incidents:

Two years ago, a cow calf was separated from the mother cow in our street. Throughout night, the mother was seen running through all streets and mooing in distress. RAPRA immediately swung into action, called state police officer Jayagowri, now IGP, who helped to locate the calf in Thiruvellore - it had been stolen. It was reunited with its mother.

During the peak Covid season, RAPRA arranged vaccination at the doorsteps for very senior people - a 90 plus person living in 6th Main and a 103-year-old on 2nd Cross.

Going forward, RAPRA wants to increase bonhomie among the members and improve the interaction between families for a healthy, community living. And credit for all we have done goes to the RAPRA team. Community efforts succeed if the team is good.

● Dr. R. Chandrasekaran retired as professor of anaesthesia from Madras Medical College and later, retired as emeritus professor at The TN Dr. MGR Medical University. Contact - chan.rao@gmail.com

Minister visits KVB Gardens where residents protested about severe power supply breakdown

By Baskar Seshadri

The loud protests against power outage, earlier this week, made by residents of KVB Gardens, a densely-habited colony on Kamaraj Salai in R. A. Puram, got some special attention.

The Mylapore MLA had to act. He got the electricity supply minister Senthil Balaji down to the area and the two, with local people, walked around to get some feedback on the power supply problems.

The minister is said to have promised to follow-up on this issue. He says the drawal of power is high this summer season.



■ **REPORT** major power supply problems in your area to this newspaper. **WHATSAPP** your report to : 8015005628

Vaikasi utsavam at Sri Velleeswarar Temple. May 25 onwards

By S. Prabhu

The annual ten-day Vaikasi utsavam at Sri Velleeswarar Temple, Mylapore will start on May 25 with flag hoisting between 8am and 9am.



Adikaara Nandi procession will start at 6am on May 27 while Rishabham procession will begin at 9pm on May 29.

The chariot procession will start at 7.25am on May 31.

Thiru Kalyanam will take place between 8.30pm and 9.15pm on June 3 and will be followed by *kodi erakkam* later that night.

There will be music kutcheris for 10 days, every evening starting June 5 as part of the Vidayatri Utsavam.

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SUMMER CAMPS SNAPSHOTS

■ Additional reporting by Smruthy Mahesh, a student trainee at Mylapore Times



St Bede's Sport Foundation is conducting a football coaching camp at the St. Bede's playground, Mylapore.

It started on April 15 and goes on till May 30. There are about 50 boys at the camp. Besides football coaching, the boys undergo drill, fitness training, agility and speed training and balance exercises. Bhaskar Ignatius is in charge here.



Sri Ramakrishna Math's camp under its Balamandir banner has been for children aged between 8 to 13 years and offered learning of shlokas, storytelling and yoga.



National Boys & Girls Education Society, Mylapore hosted free, short-term courses in Origami, story-telling, shlokas, table tennis, chess and carrom at the Radha Swami Centre of Excellence in Mandavelipakkam.



Galilee Academy, San Thome is hosting its holiday season music camp through May. It offers training in keyboard, guitar, flute, vocal Western music, drums and keyboard.

Kuppuswami Sastri Research Institute: 75 years celebrations begin on May 24

Kuppuswami Sastri Research Institute situated inside the Madras Sanskrit College campus, Mylapore will be celebrating its 75th anniversary during 2023 - '24.

The inaugural function of the celebration is to be held on May 24. at 5 p.m.. in the Madras Sanskrit College auditorium, Mylapore.

Retired IFS officer T. S. Tirumurti will release a few books and honour authors. Scholar and public speaker Dr Sudha Seshayyan will deliver a talk. Dr. R. K. Raghavan, president of the institute will participate, among others.

This institute is one of the premier institutions in the world in the field of Sanskrit and Indological research.

It has published around 100 books and houses one of the best libraries of its kind in the world consisting of more than 60,000 books, many of which are very rare and old. It also has more than 1300 ancient palm-leaf manuscripts well preserved.

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PLUS TWO EXAM TOPPERS

■ Reporting by Smruthy Mahesh, a student trainee at Mylapore Times

Roopam lost his dad on commerce exam day. But he sat for the paper, then went home for funeral and has scored 100



Roopam



Riyazudeen

The results of the Plus Two exams have shown up some extraordinary stories; of achievements made under stress, tragedy, pain and sickness.

Here is one warm story. Of a student of P. S. Higher Secondary School, Mylapore.

Roopam is from the commerce group. He lost his father on the day of the commerce exam. But he attended the exam, answered it well and went home to perform the rites of his dead father. Now, he has scored 100 marks in commerce.

In this school, 242 students appeared for the exam and the results recorded 95% pass.

Says the assistant headmaster, “At least five students in every class either work in a shop or distribute newspapers and then come to school. That’s how hard they work and study.”

The school topper in the exam was Riyazudeen.

St. Bede’s toppers



Kanishk J. K.

St. Bede’s Anglo-Indian Hr. Sec. School, San Thome has a pass percentage of 100% in the Plus Two exam results.

All 211 students who appeared for the exam passed and 21 students have secured centums in various subjects.

The school topper is Kanishk J. K., who secured 589/600. The school second is Jude Peniel J who secured 583/609. The school third is Sheikh Mohammed Rifah.

These students of Lady Sivaswami Ayyar Girls School fought odds and scored well

Students of Lady Sivaswami Ayyar Girls School, Mylapore who were toppers in the Plus Two exams have come out with some extraordinary results. The school’s pass percentage is 98%.

“Most of the students are from poor backgrounds and they all have done well,” said K. G. Pushpavalli, assistant headmistress.

Here are some heart-warming stories.



the subjects and has scored 276/600.

V. Swetha Vijaya Raghavan lost her father six weeks before the public exam. She lost her mother long ago. She lives all by herself. After completing her exams she moved to a relative’s house. She has passed in all



S. Shadja the second ranker in the school. She is from the commerce group. She got 100 in commerce and accountancy. She joined this school after losing her father who was a BJP politician. She got 574/600.



her mother is a housewife.

M. Nithya Sri secured the first rank in the school. She is from the commerce group. She scored 100 in accountancy and in business maths. She got 595 / 600 marks. She comes from a poor family – she lost her father and



P. M. Maheshwari secured the third rank in school. She is from the Thamizh medium, having studied history, geography and advanced Thamizh. She got 99 in history and geography. She topped in English – 92 marks. She got 572/600.

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SUMMER's
NATURAL TREATS

Even in the heart of a metro neighbourhood, there are people who serve us nungus and tender coconuts, buttermilk and natural juices and koozhu. To keep ourselves cool. Here is a brief list of where you can get some of Nature's treats.



● BUTTERMILK, KOOZHU, Madha Church Road
At Raju's shop called Sri Foods, you get fresh buttermilk, fermented rice (palaya soru) and home-made koozhu served with dollops of chutneys. About Rs.20/25 each item. Plus, free water having herbs in it. Sales wind up by noon. Location: on Madha Church Rd., opp. St. Anthony's Girls School.

WATCH SHORT
Video of Mylapore's Summer treats.
www.youtube.com/mylaporetv



● TENDER COCONUTS, Luz
This pavement hawker sources from wholesale suppliers, so fruit is fresh. The tender, green ones are from Cuddalore. Prices - Rs 40 to 50. The Pollachi coconuts, orange-yellow ones, priced at Rs 50/60. Available through the day. Located opp. Amrutanjan.

● SUGARCANE JUICE. Mylapore
This roadside sugarcane juice hawker stall is made fresh. A glass costs Rs 20. On Venkatesa Agraharam St., near Saibaba Temple. Open till 5pm.



● MILK MIXES. Kutchery Road
Rajendhran's cart stall sells three different kinds of cold milk with flavours of pista, badham and scented rose. Locate him near the Jain temple; open till 3pm. Rs 25/- per glass.



● MUSK MELON MIX. R. K. Mutt Road
Delicious musk melon juice (kinni pazham), made fresh at this hawker stall. Melons sold at Rs.50 /kg. A glass of melon juice - Rs 20. On till 3pm. On R. K. Mutt Road, opp. Rani Meyyammai Girls School.

● PALM JUICE, NUNGU. Luz
This seller of palm fruit (ice apple / nungu) also offers freshly-tapped padhaneer. Costs Rs.100 for one litre. Off Luz Avenue, near Nageswara Rao Park rear gate.



● PALM FRUIT NUNGU, Madha Church Road.
Nungu (palm fruit/ ice apple) is on sale at Madha Church Road, near Aavin milk booth here. Rate - 8pcs - Rs 100; Daily - 8am - 5pm, or as long as stocks last.

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Srinivasa Ladies Club: 52 and focussed

By Preetha K.

Srinivasa Ladies Club's celebration of its 52nd anniversary recently at Kalyana Nagar Association, Mandavelipakkam may have been a low-profile one. The multi-faceted artiste Revathi Sankaran presided over the function and made this an enjoyable evening. But the close-knit club has been focused in its journey.

Hemamalini Ramakrishnan, secretary of the club, while sharing details about the event said that the A-day was well-attended and the event was an enjoyable one.

Srinivasa Ladies Club has 165 members as of now, their age ranging between 40 and 90 years, says Hemamalini.

Classes on the Ramayanam, Bhagavatam, Thevaram and Thirupughazh are held every day at the club, though the primary focus is to help people around, she added.

"Annadanam is done during the Aruvathumooavar festival. On Women's Day, we made a donation to P. S. High School. We extend help to mentally retarded people," she said.

The members of this registered club meet once a month.

So what are the Club's plans for the year? Said Hemamalini, "Our donations for education and marriages will continue."

HOW TO JOIN

< There is no location constraint. Anyone in the city can join the club.

< The annual subscription is Rs 500.

< You must be a member for 2 / 3 years.

< Contact: Srinivasa Ladies Club, No 7, 1st Main Road, Jeth Nagar, Chennai – 600028. Ph: Hemamalini Ramakrishnan - 98847 50196

Civil society groups ask state to release fishers now in jail



Civic workers clearing hawkers stalls on Marina Loop Road which had encroached - in April.

By Our Edit Team

Civil society groups have petitioned the chief minister and the chairman of the TN Urban Habitat Development Board to release from jail four fishermen of Nochikuppam who were arrested by police recently when they protested against what they say is arbitrary allotment of new flats that have been built for fishers in plots of the old blocks.

The petition also asks that flats be allotted to fishers as per the agreement and not to residents of other kuppams as is said to have been done, causing friction.

The four fishers and the activists say that –

The tenements that are the subject of controversy and conflict are 1188 houses constructed under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana – 2015; for Nochikuppam, Nochinagar residents and their expanded families. However, out of the 1188 houses earmarked for these two hamlets, only 108 was allotted to designated residents; 216 homes were handed to residents from other areas creating conditions of unnecessary bitterness and conflict among fishers.

Fishers are accusing Mylapore MLA Dha Velu of interfering in the flats allocation process agreed on by the Habitat Board and of allotting some flats to residents of another kuppam. The MLA did not comment when asked for

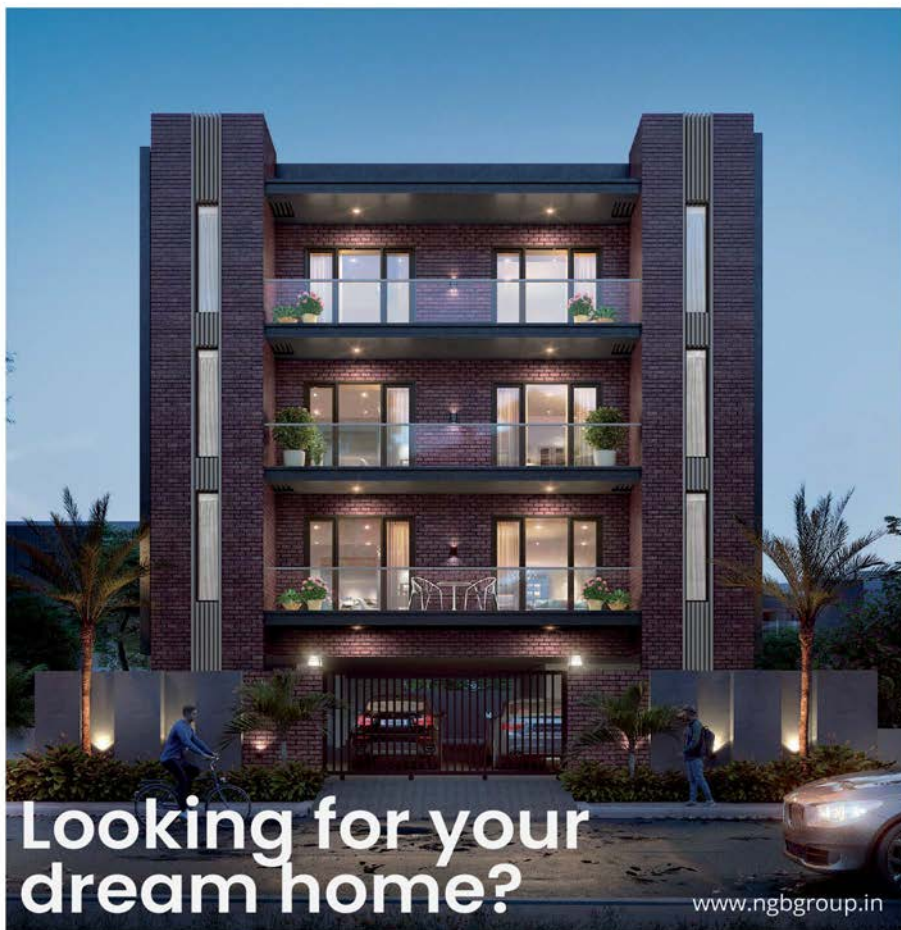
his reaction.

Besides seeking release of the detained fishers, the activists ask for the following – 1. Allot the promised housing to Nochikuppam and Nochinagar villages. 2. Address the immediate housing needs of the residents of Loop Road by providing in-situ housing. 3. Comply with the CRZ notification by preparing and publishing long-term housing plans for and CZMPs that earmark and protect the livelihood commons of the fishers along the entire coast of Tamil Nadu.

This issue comes against the backdrop of the recent case heard by the Madras High Court on clearing fish hawkers from Marina Loop Road and restraining them to the modern fish market that is now being built here.

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